

Marine Life Protection Act Initiative



Military Use Areas and Pending Military Closures – Key Guidance

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Key Guidance Needed for Round 1

- Guidance for the MLPA South Coast Regional Stakeholder Group (SCRSG)
 - Should the SCRSG propose MPAs in military use areas on the mainland?
 - Should the SCRSG propose MPAs in military use areas on the islands?
 - Should the SCRSG include pending military closures at San Clemente and San Nicolas islands in their marine protected area (MPA) proposals?



Key Guidance Needed for Round 1

- Guidance for External MPA Proposals
 - Should MPAs proposed in some external proposals within military use areas be evaluated?



Key Guidance Needed for Round 1

- Guidance for the MLPA Master Plan Science Advisory Team (SAT)
 - What level of protection should be assigned to MPAs proposed within military use areas?
 - If pending military closures are included within MPA proposals, how should they be evaluated?



Staff Recommendation for Round 1

Proposed Guidance for the SCRSG

- For the Mainland
 - Allow regional stakeholder group to propose MPAs within military use areas on the mainland (in their two “draft MPA arrays”)
 - Resolve any conflicts with military uses in later rounds
- For the Islands
 - Allow regional stakeholder group to propose MPAs within military use areas at the islands in one of two “draft MPA arrays” within their gem work group
 - Direct SCRSG to include only pending military closures in the second of two “draft MPA arrays” within their gem work group
 - Resolve any conflicts with military uses in later rounds



Staff Recommendation for Round 1

Proposed Guidance For External Proposals

- Do not include pending military closures in external MPA proposals and evaluate any proposed MPAs in military use areas as submitted



Staff Recommendation for Round 1

Proposed Guidance for the SAT

- Direct the SAT to evaluate MPAs proposed within military use areas with a level of protection based on proposed allowed uses (i.e. not considering military activities in level of protection)
- Direct the SAT to evaluate pending military closures with a level of protection of “very high” (analogous to a state marine reserve), since no fishing is allowed



Staff Recommendation for Next Rounds

- Consider results of evaluation of SCRSG draft MPA arrays and draft external MPA proposals
- Continue discussion of military use areas and pending military closures
- Discuss and consider any proposed MPAs within military use areas on the mainland and at the islands
- Provide further guidance on three decision points outlined