

**California MLPA South Coast Project**  
**Proposed MPAs and Pending Military Closures at San Nicolas and San Clemente Islands**  
*Revised March 26, 2009*

MPA Name	MPA ID	Bioregion	MPA Boundaries (Exact or Approximate)	Designation	Level of Protection	Proposed Take Regulations	Other Proposed Regulations	Regional Goals/ Objectives
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**Draft MPA Array Lapis A**

San Nicolas Pending Military Closure	5617	West Channel Islands	See MarineMap	Undesignated	Very High	All take is prohibited	No entry.	None Specified
San Clemente Pending Military Closures 1	5615	East Channel Islands	See MarineMap	Undesignated	Very High	All take is prohibited	No entry.	None Specified
San Clemente Pending Military Closures 2	5612	East Channel Islands	See MarineMap	Undesignated	Very High	All take is prohibited	No entry.	None Specified

**Draft MPA Array Lapis B**

Begg_Rock_SMR_LAP_B_1	5619	West Channel Islands	All state waters around Begg Rock.	SMR	Very High	All take is prohibited	None Specified	G1: (O-1,O-2,O-3,O-4,O-5), G2: (O-1,O-2,O-3), G3: (O-1,O-2,O-3), G4: (O-1,O-2), G5: (O-1,O-2,O-3,O-4,O-5), G6: (O-1,O-3,O-4)
San Nicolas Pending Military Closure	5618	West Channel Islands	See MarineMap	Undesignated	Very High	All take is prohibited, no entry	None Specified	None Specified
San Clemente Pending Military Closures 1	5616	East Channel Islands	See MarineMap	Undesignated	Very High	All take is prohibited, no entry	None Specified	None Specified
San Clemente Pending Military Closures 2	5614	East Channel Islands	See MarineMap	Undesignated	Very High	All take is prohibited, no entry	None Specified	None Specified

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MPA Name	Site Specific Rationale	Other Considerations
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**Draft MPA Array Lapis A**

San Nicolas Pending Military Closure	This is an APPROXIMATE polygon representing the Federal Closure at San Nicolas Island called Area Alpha	None Specified
San Clemente Pending Military Closures 1	This is an APPROXIMATE polygon representing the Federal closure on San Clemente Island called SWAT-1	None Specified
San Clemente Pending Military Closures 2	This is an APPROXIMATE polygon representing the Federal Closure located on the east side of San Clemente Island called SWAT-2.	None Specified

**Draft MPA Array Lapis B**

Begg_Rock_SMR_LAP_B_1	A unique portion of west islands bioregion due to its southwesterly position exposed to cold California current from north and lesser warm-water influences from SoCal Eddy. An offshore pinnacle with steep ridges, deep water soft and hard bottom habitat. Purple hydrocoral population. Entire rock is surrounded by an ASBS and is already part of the California Coastal National Monument.	None Specified
San Nicolas Pending Military Closure	This is an APPROXIMATE polygon representing the Federal Closure at San Nicolas Island called Area Alpha	None Specified
San Clemente Pending Military Closures 1	This is an APPROXIMATE polygon representing the Federal closure on San Clemente Island called SWAT-1	None Specified
San Clemente Pending Military Closures 2	This is an APPROXIMATE polygon representing the Federal Closure located on the east side of San Clemente Island called SWAT-2.	None Specified

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**Draft MPA Array Opal A**

Pending Military Closure SNI_01	5291	West Channel Islands	See MarineMap	Undesignated	Very High	No take, no entry	None Specified	G1: (O-1,O-2,O-3,O-4,O-5), G2: (O-1,O-2,O-3), G3: (O-2,O-3), G4: (O-1,O-2), G5: (O-1,O-4,O-5), G6: (O-3,O-4)
Pending Military Closures SCI 1_01	5292	East Channel Islands	See MarineMap	Undesignated	Very High	No take, no entry	None Specified	G1: (O-1,O-2,O-3,O-4,O-5), G2: (O-1,O-2,O-3,O-4), G3: (O-2,O-3), G4: (O-1,O-2), G5: (O-1,O-2,O-3), G6: (O-3,O-4)
Pending Military Closures SCI 2_01	5289	East Channel Islands	See MarineMap	Undesignated	Very High	No take, no entry	None Specified	G1: (O-1,O-2,O-3,O-4,O-5), G2: (O-1,O-2,O-3,O-4), G3: (O-2), G4: (O-1,O-2), G5: (O-1,O-2,O-3,O-5), G6: (O-1,O-3,O-4)

**Draft MPA Array Opal B**

Begg Rock SMR OPA_B_1	5588	West Channel Islands	See MarineMap	SMR	Very High	All take is prohibited	None Specified	None Specified
San Nicholas SMR OPA_B_1	4092	West Channel Islands	See MarineMap	SMR	Very High	All take is prohibited	None Specified	None Specified
SWAT 1 SMR OPA_B_1	5590	East Channel Islands	See MarineMap	SMR	Very High	All take is prohibited	None Specified	None Specified
Wilson SMR OPA_B_1	5589	East Channel Islands	See MarineMap	SMR	Very High	All take is prohibited	None Specified	G1: (O-1,O-2,O-3,O-4,O-5), G2: (O-1,O-2,O-3), G3: (O-2), G4: (O-1,O-2), G5: (O-1,O-2,O-3,O-5), G6: (O-1,O-3,O-4)
China Point_SMR_OPA_B_1	3032	East Channel Islands	See MarineMap	SMR	Very High	All take is prohibited	None Specified	None Specified

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MPA Name	Site Specific Rationale	Other Considerations
<b>Draft MPA Array Opal A</b>		
Pending Military Closure SNI_01	Area is presently off-limits due to the activities of the Pacific Missile Range and activities of San Nicolas Island Naval Installation. Area has extensive kelp beds and rocky structure that has been preserved in a pristine state. Large populations of sheepshead, whitefish and shallow water rockfishes have been preserved at this site. An isolated population of southern sea otter survive at San Nicolas Island.	Area appears to be a bridging habitat between the Northern Channel Islands and the Southern Channel Islands. Area is monitored and enforced by Naval authorities.
Pending Military Closures SCI 1_01	This MPA provides larval connectivity in combination with Wilson for longer PLD dispersers to other islands as well as strong local retention. It is an area that is already closed to public access and is therefore an artificially low cost yet high value area as an SMR. It's true intended designation is as a Federal Military Closure (FMC)	See Wilson, except that this is a Weatherward coastline with high relief rocky habitat and submerged pinnacles.
Pending Military Closures SCI 2_01	Full preservation, addresses all goals including Goal 5, as this area is to be closed by the Department of Defense as a Federal Military Closure. It is intended that FMC be its designation. Inasmuch as that is not yet selectable it is as an SMR	This MPA captures a leeward and unique island coastline with its included habitats. It does so at a low socio-economic cost as an MPA because the public has lost access to this site due to other considerations already, and there are no additional enforcement costs as this area is to be enforced under an alternate authority.
<b>Draft MPA Array Opal B</b>		
Begg Rock SMR OPA_B_1	Protect subtidal habitats around Begg Rock.	Consider military uses in this area.
San Nicholas SMR OPA_B_1	This area is intended to protect the extensive kelp forest habitat on the northeast corner of San Nicolas. This is one of the largest kelp beds in California waters. There are extensive pinniped colonies located in this proposed reserve area.	Consider military uses in this area. This shape includes parts of two existing safety zones used by the military.
SWAT 1 SMR OPA_B_1	This is an APPROXIMATE polygon representing the Federal closure on San Clemente Island called SWAT-1	Consider military uses in this area.
Wilson SMR OPA_B_1	This shape is intended to represent the Federal Military Closure (FMC) here. Full preservation, addresses all goals including Goal 5, as this area is to be closed by the Department of Defense as a Federal Military Closure. It is intended that FMC be its designation. Inasmuch as that is not yet selectable it is as an SMR.	This MPA captures a leeward and unique island coastline with its included habitats. It does so at a low socio-economic cost as an MPA because the public has lost access to this site due to other considerations already, and there are no additional enforcement costs as this area is to be enforced under an alternate authority. Consider military uses in this area.
China Point_SMR_OPA_B_1	Includes shallow rock and a kelp bed.	Allows for use by military. This is the only place where the military can conduct ship to shore bombardment. Significant use or ordinance in this area.

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<b>Draft MPA Array Topaz A</b>								
Begg Rock SMR_TopA_01	5373	West Channel Islands	See MarineMap	SMR	Very High	All take is prohibited	None Specified	G1: (O-1,O-3,O-4,O-5), G2: (O-1,O-2,O-3), G3: (O-2), G4: (O-1,O-2), G5: (O-1,O-3,O-5), G6: (O-3,O-4)
San Nicolas Island SMR_TopA_01	5369	West Channel Islands	See MarineMap	SMR	Very High	All take is prohibited	None Specified	G1: (O-1,O-2,O-3,O-4,O-5), G2: (O-1,O-2,O-3), G3: (O-2,O-3), G4: (O-1,O-2), G5: (O-1,O-2,O-3,O-5), G6: (O-3,O-4)
Castle Rock SMR TopA 01	5371	East Channel Islands	See MarineMap	SMR	Very High	All take is prohibited	None Specified	G1: (O-1,O-2,O-3,O-4,O-5), G2: (O-1,O-2,O-3), G3: (O-2), G4: (O-1,O-2), G5: (O-1,O-3,O-5), G6: (O-3,O-4)
West San Clemente Island SMR TopA 01	5370	East Channel Islands	See MarineMap	SMR	Very High	All take is prohibited	None Specified	G1: (O-1,O-2,O-3,O-4,O-5), G2: (O-1,O-2,O-3), G3: (O-2), G4: (O-1,O-2), G5: (O-1,O-3,O-5), G6: (O-3,O-4)

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MPA Name	Site Specific Rationale	Other Considerations
<b>Draft MPA Array Topaz A</b>		
Begg Rock SMR_TopA_01	Unique, highly-exposed offshore rock/pinnacle ecosystem w/razor back ridges; Deepwater hard & soft bottom habitats; rare lumpy form of purple hydrocoral; Enhance rockfish, other large fishes, and rock scallops; CA Coastal National Monument; ASBS; minimal socio-economic impacts.	Scientific value: Ideal location to compare natural offshore, high relief communities with those on oil platforms. Shape/size designed to capture "key habitat" pinnacles and allow potential to link with NW San Nicolas MPA through federal waters, yet minimize socio-economic impacts by keeping area to smallest effective and practical size. MPA recommended here by CA Parks (2001). Considered by many divers and u/w photographers to be premier dive spot in San Nicolas area, when weather permits.
San Nicolas Island SMR_TopA_01	Highly diverse habitats & communities, including differing exposures, 6% of SoCal kelp forests, valuable extent of 0-100m hard bottom, significant endangered white and black abalone habitat, primary foraging habitat for the only resident population of endangered sea otters, pinnipeds (all SoCal species), and sea birds; ecologically important rocky intertidal communities; ASBS; Protection for giant sea bass (from bycatch) & host of other overfished species; Key bioregion linkage; minimize overlap with commercial and recreational fishing areas;	Includes primary sea otter foraging area, allowing unprecedented opportunity to compare kelp forest ecosystem with sea otters against those without. Designed MPA to provide inside/outside sites for ongoing monitoring of intertidal, subtidal, and black abalone communities. Includes portions of both sides of island, yet avoids much of the commercial fishing areas for lobsters, urchins, cucumbers, and spot prawn. Avoids lee areas used as anchorages, for sport fishing, and military supply pier. Utilizes whole minutes of lat/lon, plus 3-mile offshore to capture significant deep-water habitats and allow possibility for future MPA connection to Begg Rock through federal waters.
Castle Rock SMR TopA 01	NW end of San Clemente Island hosts high diversity of habitats and communities representing western portion of east islands bioregion. Offshore islets, pinnacles, & reefs add to biodiversity, and include significant populations of rare habitat-forming purple hydrocoral. Contains significant amounts of highly productive key habitat giant and deepwater elk kelp forests, and marine mammal and sea bird foraging habitats. Will protect and enhance fishes and invertebrates, including sea bass, rockfishes, sheephead, kelp bass, abalone, lobster, and rock scallops. Includes endangered white and black abalone habitat, surfgrass, and diverse rocky intertidal assemblages.	Designed to minimize conflict with military activities (e.g., by avoiding NW Harbor). Emphasized area that is closed periodically by military, hence fishing activities already are partially limited here. Avoids sheltered area used as anchorages (NW Harbor) and military mooring/supply pier areas (Wilson Cove). Includes kelp forest monitoring site outside NW Harbor.
West San Clemente Island SMR TopA 01	SW side of San Clemente Island hosts high diversity of coastal habitats and communities representing western portion of east islands bioregion. Offshore islets, pinnacles, & reefs add to biodiversity, and include populations of rare habitat-forming purple hydrocoral. Contains significant amounts of highly productive key habitat giant and likely deepwater elk kelp forests, and important marine mammal and sea bird foraging habitats. Will protect and enhance fishes and invertebrates, including sea bass, rockfishes, sheephead, kelp bass, abalone, lobster, and rock scallops. Includes significant endangered white and black abalone habitat, surfgrass, and diverse, ecologically important rocky intertidal assemblages.	Designed to minimize conflict with military activities (e.g., by avoiding China & West Pyramid Coves). Emphasized area that is closed periodically by military, hence fishing activities already are partially limited here. Avoids sheltered area used as anchorages (West Pyramid Cove). Includes kelp forest monitoring site at Eel Point.

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**Draft MPA Array Topaz A**  
**(continued)**

Pyramid Head SMR TopA 01	5390	East Channel Islands	See MarineMap	SMR	Very High	All take is prohibited	None Specified	G1: (O-1,O-2,O-3,O-4,O-5), G2: (O-1,O-2,O-3), G3: (O-2), G4: (O-1,O-2), G5: (O-1,O-3,O-5), G6: (O-3,O-4)
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**Draft MPA Array Topaz B**

Pending Military Closure SNI_01	5512	West Channel Islands	See MarineMap	Undesignated	Very High	No take, no entry	None Specified	None Specified
Pending Military Closures SCI 1_01	5513	East Channel Islands	See MarineMap	Undesignated	Very High	No take, no entry	None Specified	None Specified
Pending Military Closures SCI 2_01	5514	East Channel Islands	See MarineMap	Undesignated	Very High	No take, no entry	None Specified	None Specified

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MPA Name	Site Specific Rationale	Other Considerations
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**Draft MPA Array Topaz A**  
**(continued)**

Pyramid Head SMR TopA 01	SE corner of San Clemente Island hosts high diversity of coastal habitats and communities representing warm-water portion of east islands bioregion. Pinnacles, reef and sheltered sand habitats add to biodiversity. Contains forests of giant kelp, special sand habitat form of deepwater elk kelp, and relatively rare island eelgrass meadows that expand biogenic habitat on sand bottoms. Contains some of most extensive surfgrass beds at Channel Islands that serve as nurseries for lobster. Will protect and enhance fishes and invertebrates, including sea bass, rockfishes, sheephead, kelp bass, abalone, lobster, and rock scallops. Includes endangered black (& likely white) abalone habitat, surfgrass, and diverse, ecologically important rocky intertidal assemblages.	Designed to minimize conflict with military activities (e.g., by avoiding West Pyramid Coves). Emphasized area that is closed periodically by military, hence fishing activities already are partially limited here. Avoids sheltered area used as anchorages (West Pyramid Cove. Comparisons can be made with openly-fished kelp forest monitoring site at Horse Beach. Kept close to shore to minimize problems with fishing vessel transit (with catch).
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**Draft MPA Array Topaz B**

Pending Military Closure SNI_01	None Specified	None Specified
Pending Military Closures SCI 1_01	None Specified	None Specified
Pending Military Closures SCI 2_01	None Specified	None Specified



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**Draft MPA Proposal**

**External A**

Pending Military Closures SCI 1_copy	5979	East Channel Islands	See MarineMap	Undesignated	Very High	None Specified	None Specified	None Specified
Pending Military Closures SCI 2_copy	5981	East Channel Islands	See MarineMap	Undesignated	Very High	None Specified	None Specified	None Specified

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**Draft MPA Proposal**

**External A**

Pending Military Closures SCI 1_copy	None Specified	None Specified
Pending Military Closures SCI 2_copy	None Specified	None Specified

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**Draft MPA Proposal**

**External B**

Pending Military Closure SNI_01	5512	West Channel Islands	See MarineMap	Undesignated	Very High	No take, no entry	None Specified	None Specified
Pending Military Closures SCI 1_01	5513	East Channel Islands	See MarineMap	Undesignated	Very High	No take, no entry	None Specified	None Specified
Pending Military Closures SCI 2_01	5514	East Channel Islands	See MarineMap	Undesignated	Very High	No take, no entry	None Specified	None Specified

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**Draft MPA Proposal**  
**External B**

Pending Military Closure SNI_01	None Specified	None Specified
Pending Military Closures SCI 1_01	None Specified	None Specified
Pending Military Closures SCI 2_01	None Specified	None Specified

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<b>Draft MPA Proposal</b>								
<b>External C</b>								
West San Nicolas	5486	West Channel Islands	See MarineMap	SMR	Very High	All take is prohibited	None Specified	G1: (O-1,O-2,O-3,O-4,O-5), G2: (O-1,O-2,O-3), G3: (O-1,O-2,O-3), G4: (O-1,O-2), G5: (O-1,O-2,O-3,O-4,O-5), G6: (O-1,O-2,O-3,O-4)
Begg Rock	5504	West Channel Islands	See MarineMap	SMR	Very High	All take is prohibited	None Specified	G1: (O-1,O-2,O-3,O-4,O-5), G2: (O-1,O-2,O-3), G3: (O-1,O-2,O-3), G4: (O-1,O-2), G5: (O-1,O-2,O-5), G6: (O-1,O-2)
North End	5488	East Channel Islands	See MarineMap	SMR	Very High	All take is prohibited	None Specified	G1: (O-1,O-2,O-3,O-4,O-5), G2: (O-1,O-2,O-3), G3: (O-1,O-2,O-3), G4: (O-1,O-2), G5: (O-2,O-3,O-4,O-5), G6: (O-1,O-2,O-3,O-4)
China Point	5487	East Channel Islands	See MarineMap	SMR	Very High	All take is prohibited	None Specified	G1: (O-1,O-2,O-3,O-4,O-5), G2: (O-1,O-2,O-3), G3: (O-1,O-2,O-3), G4: (O-1,O-2), G5: (O-1,O-2,O-3,O-4,O-5), G6: (O-1,O-2,O-3,O-4)

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MPA Name	Site Specific Rationale	Other Considerations
<b>Draft MPA Proposal External C</b>		
West San Nicolas	This SMR includes a high diversity of habitats and marine communities representing both the leeward and windward sides of the island, a large portion of all the kelp forest habitat in the entire study region and kelp found at deeper depths, shallow and deep hard bottom habitats, rich rocky intertidal habitat, significant white and black abalone habitat, resident population of endangered sea otters, foraging habitat for pinnipeds and seabirds, and includes major pinniped rookeries and haulout sites. San Nicholas Island has high water quality due to its distance from the mainland and the ASBS that exists around the entire island and this SMR includes several established intertidal and subtidal research monitoring sites (black abalone, otters) and would provide future opportunities for research on sea otter/kelp interactions in the absence of fishing pressure. Represents a unique portion of the "west islands" bioregion due to its southwesterly position and exposure to the cold northern currents and the warmer southern currents.	This SMR does not appear to have any conflicts with existing Navy operations and in fact overlaps with the proposed "Area Alpha" closure put forth by the Navy. It has been sited to represent both the lee and windward sides of the island while avoiding much of the commercial fishing areas for urchin, spot prawn, sea cucumbers, and lobster. Siting the SMR in this location would allow for recreational and commercial activities to continue on the southern portion of the island, which includes diverse, high relief reefs, significant rocky intertidal and eelgrass habitats, and black sea bass.
Begg Rock	Begg Rock is surrounded by an ASBS and is a unique, offshore pinnacle with steep ridges, deep water soft and hard bottom habitats, purple hydrocoral, and is located within the "west islands" bioregion. It is part of a California Coastal Monument provides great opportunities for recreational activities such as diving and underwater photography during good weather.	This SMR does not appear to have any conflicts with the existing military operations currently occurring on San Nicholas Island. Due to the remoteness of the SMR, its economic impact on fisheries is predicted to be low while allowing for populations of species such as rockfish and rock scallops to rebuild.
North End	This SMR is located within the "east islands" bioregion and incorporates a wide diversity of habitats and exposures over a small area including offshore rocks and pinnacles (Castle Rock and 9 Fathom Bank), numerous highly productive rocky reefs, purple hydrocoral, giant kelp forests (Macrocystis), deep water elk kelp (Pelagophycus), rich rocky intertidal, significant habitat for black, white, green and pink abalone, surfgrass, foraging, rookery, and haul out sites for pinnipeds and foraging areas for seabirds. This SMR also provides representation of marine communities on both the lee and windward sides of the northern portion of the island and includes an existing kelp forest research monitoring site.	This SMR overlaps with both of the proposed Navy closures at SWAT 1 and Wilson Cove. Because a portion of the SMR area near Wilson Cove is already periodically closed for military activities, fishing in this location is currently limited and socio-economic impacts to fishing as a result of an SMR there are predicted to be low. Placing this SMR at the northwestern tip of the island allows for a portion of the windward side of the island to remain available for recreational fishing and commercial fishing for sea cucumbers, urchin, lobster, squid, and coastal pelagics.
China Point	This SMR represents colder water marine assemblages in the "east islands" bioregion and the community and habitat composition of the windward side of the island including rocky reefs, offshore rocks, pinnacles, purple hydrocoral, giant kelp beds (Macrocystis), deep water elk kelp (Pelagophycus), surfgrass, pinniped haulouts and rookeries, foraging habitat for pinnipeds and seabirds, and white sea bass aggregations. This SMR also includes a kelp forest research monitoring site at Eel Point.	This SMR has been located to avoid Pyramid Cove, recognizing the importance of this area as the only protected anchorage for fishing or diving activities at San Clemente Island. Additionally, avoiding Pyramid Cove will minimize conflicts with military activities as the Navy uses this location for live fire and other exercises. The location of the SMR has been sited to allow for at least half of the windward side of the island to remain available for recreational fishing and commercial fishing for sea cucumbers, urchin, lobster, squid, and coastal pelagics.

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**Draft MPA Proposal**  
**External C (continued)**

Pyramid Head	5472	East Channel Islands	See MarineMap	SMR	Very High	All take is prohibited	None Specified	G1: (O-1,O-2,O-3,O-4,O-5), G2: (O-1,O-2,O-3), G3: (O-1,O-2,O-3), G4: (O-1,O-2), G5: (O-1,O-2,O-3,O-4,O-5), G6: (O-1,O-2,O-3,O-4)
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MPA Name	Site Specific Rationale	Other Considerations
<b>Draft MPA Proposal</b> <b>External C (continued)</b>		
Pyramid Head	This SMR represents warmer water marine assemblages associated with the Southern California Countercurrent within the "east islands" bioregion and includes a wide diversity of productive habitats such as steeply-sloping walls, pinnacles, high relief, nearshore reefs, eelgrass beds, giant kelp forests (Macrocystis), deep water elk kelp (Pelagophycus), extensive surfgrass that serves as a lobster nursery, black, white, green and pink abalone habitat, and foraging habitat for pinnipeds and seabirds. The SMR also overlaps with the ASBS which surrounds all of San Clemente Island.	This SMR has been located to avoid Pyramid Cove, recognizing the importance of this area as the only protected anchorage for fishing or diving activities at San Clemente Island. Additionally, avoiding Pyramid Cove will minimize conflicts with military activities as the Navy uses this location for live fire and other exercises.