

## Marine Life Protection Act Initiative



### Update on Military Use Areas and Pending Military Closures

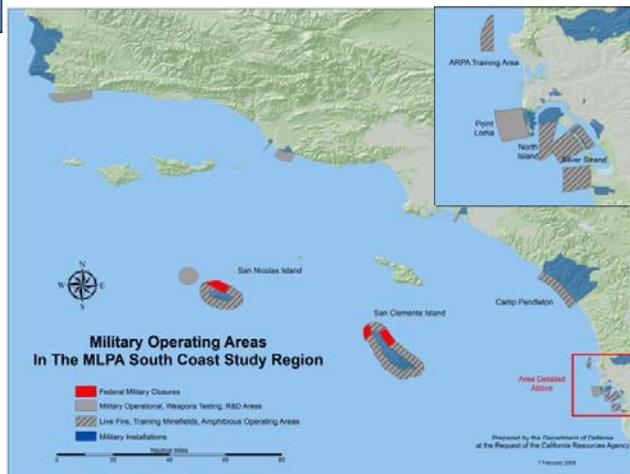
Presentation to the MLPA South Coast Science Advisory Team  
April 1, 2009 • Los Angeles, CA

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## Military Use Areas and Pending Closures

- Military Use Areas
  - Portions of the study region where military activities occur and where the U.S. Department of Defense has requested that no marine protected areas (MPAs) be sited
- Pending Military Closures
  - Three areas (two at San Clemente Island and one at San Nicolas Island) where existing and pending regulations may preclude fishing activities

## Military Use Areas and Pending Closures

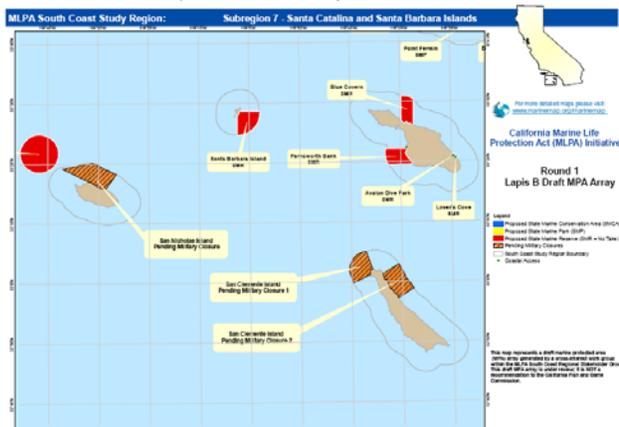


## Consideration in Round 1

- In Draft MPA Arrays and Draft External MPA Proposals
  - MPAs proposed in some military use areas on mainland and offshore islands
  - Pending military closures included in some draft arrays and proposals
  - Round 1 is focused on information gathering and evaluation of options; MLPA Blue Ribbon Task Force (BRTF) looking for MLPA Master Plan Science Advisory Team (SAT) feedback on varied designs

## Consideration in Round 1

### Example Draft Array from Round 1



## BRTF Direction to SAT for Round 1

- Evaluate MPAs proposed within military use areas with a level of protection (LOP) based on proposed allowed uses
- Evaluate pending military closures with a level of protection of “very high” (analogous to a state marine reserve), since no fishing is allowed

## Important Caveats

- BRTF interim guidance is specifically for Round 1 evaluations and does not constitute a final decision
- BRTF guidance is consistent with past practice of SAT assigning LOPs based on activities regulated by the California Fish and Game Commission
- BRTF requested additional policy and legal analyses and will continue discussion on April 16, 2009
- BRTF awaiting initial SAT evaluation of draft MPA arrays and proposals (including pending military closures) to better inform policy decisions

## Round 1 SAT Evaluations

- Round 1 SAT evaluations have been conducted following guidance from the BRTF regarding assigning levels of protection
- SAT members presenting results of Round 1 evaluations to the BRTF should be prepared to address components of the evaluation that can be attributed to pending military closures

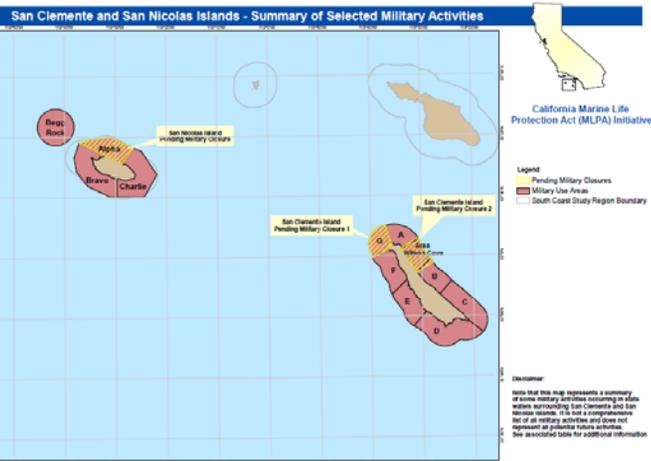
## Additional Request from Staff

- Provide information regarding how ecosystem protection goals (MLPA goals 1, 2, 4 and 6) may be affected by military activities occurring in state waters surrounding San Clemente and San Nicolas islands
- Assessment should reference particular areas and categories of military activities
- Feedback should be prepared in time for review by SAT on May 5, 2009

## Rationale for Staff Request

- Provides additional information to the BRTF and stakeholders regarding how pending military closures may contribute toward meeting the goals of the MLPA
- Provides feedback to the BRTF and stakeholders regarding the potential effectiveness of any proposed MPAs sited within military use areas
- Addresses military activities in a manner consistent with other activities not regulated by the California Fish and Game Commission

## Activities at Military Islands



## Next Steps and Timeline

- April 15-16
  - SAT presents Round 1 evaluations to BRTF
  - Includes information on components of the analyses that can be attributed to pending military closures
  - SAT receives guidance from BRTF for conducting evaluations in Round 2
- May 5
  - SAT to review and forward feedback on impact of military activities on meeting goals of the MLPA
- Week of May 11
  - BRTF to consider additional feedback from SAT regarding impact of military activities on meeting the goals of the MLPA