

# Marine Life Protection Act Initiative



## Marine Birds and Mammals Evaluation Methods Update

Presentation to the MLPA Master Plan Science Advisory Team  
May 5, 2009 • Conference Call

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# Updates Outline

- Neritic foraging update
- Addition of southern sea otter component



# Neritic Foraging Hot Spots



## Neritic Foraging Hot Spot

- Areas over the continental shelf that attract large numbers of birds and mammals

## Benefits of Protection at Hot Spots

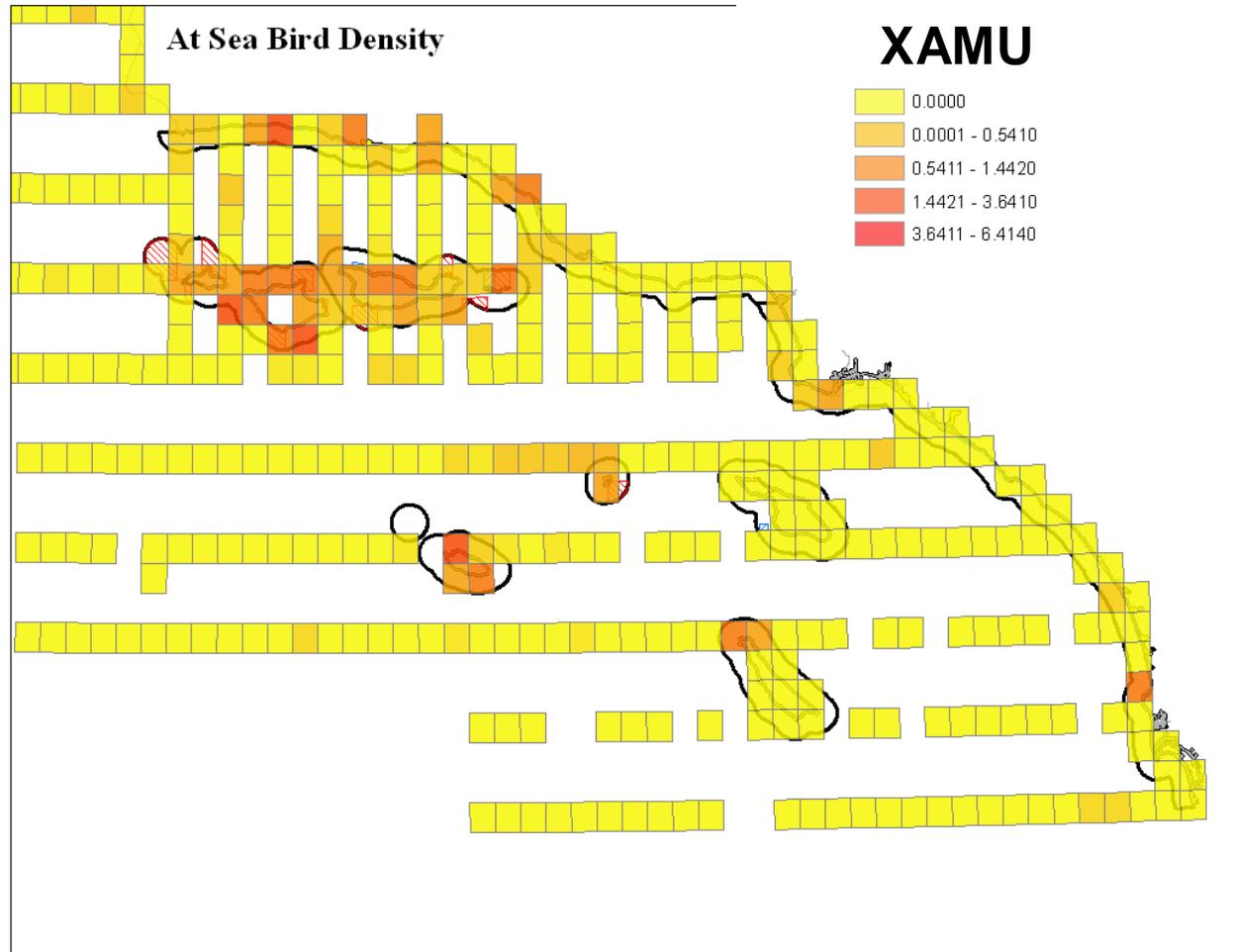
- Decreased interactions with humans (e.g., bycatch, gear entanglement, light attraction).

## Created Composite Map of Hot Spots

- Used at-sea densities of 11 marine birds and 2 marine mammals.
- Surveys conducted Jan, May, Sept from 1999 to 2002

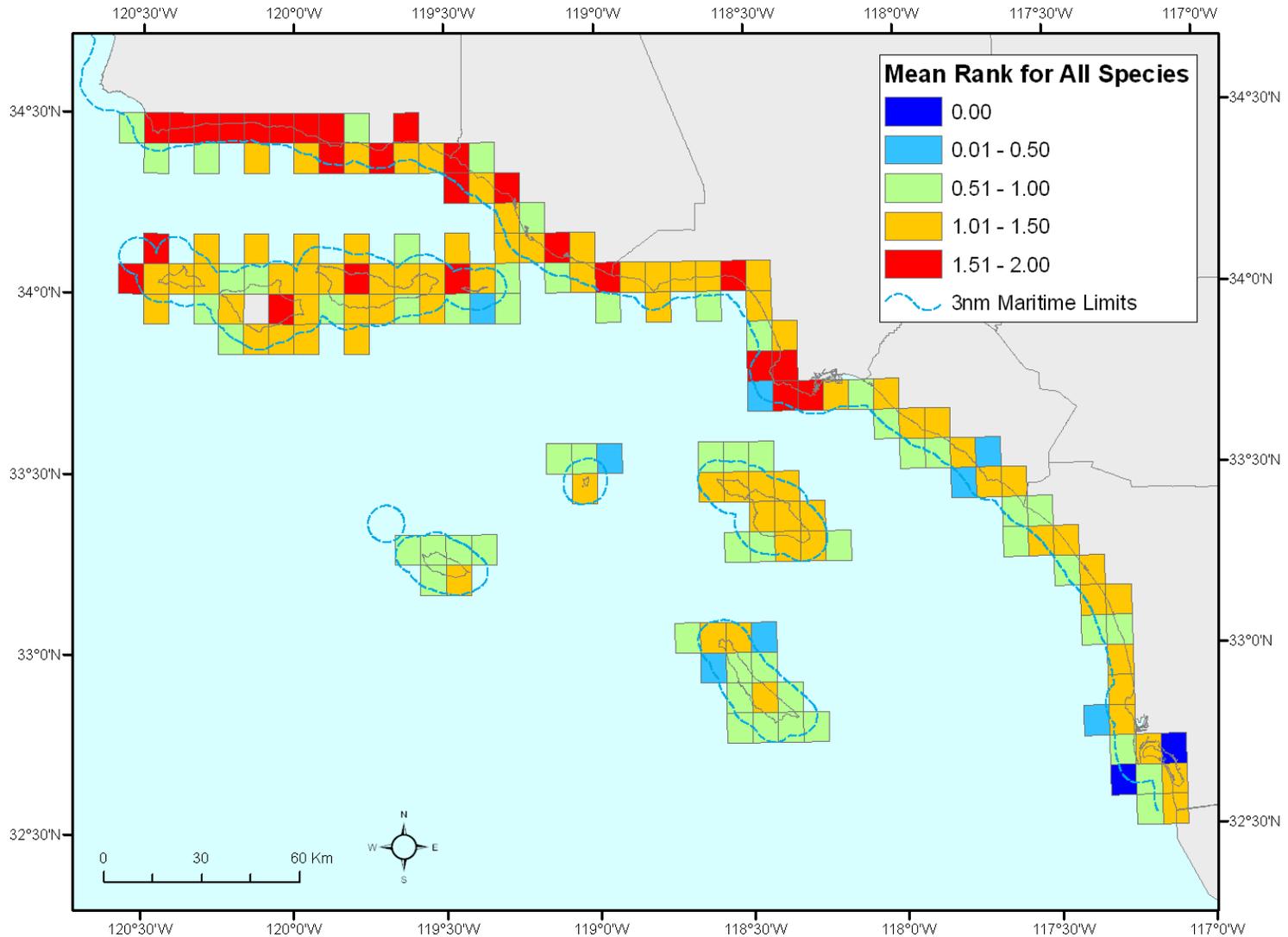


# Sample Data – Xantus’s Murrelet



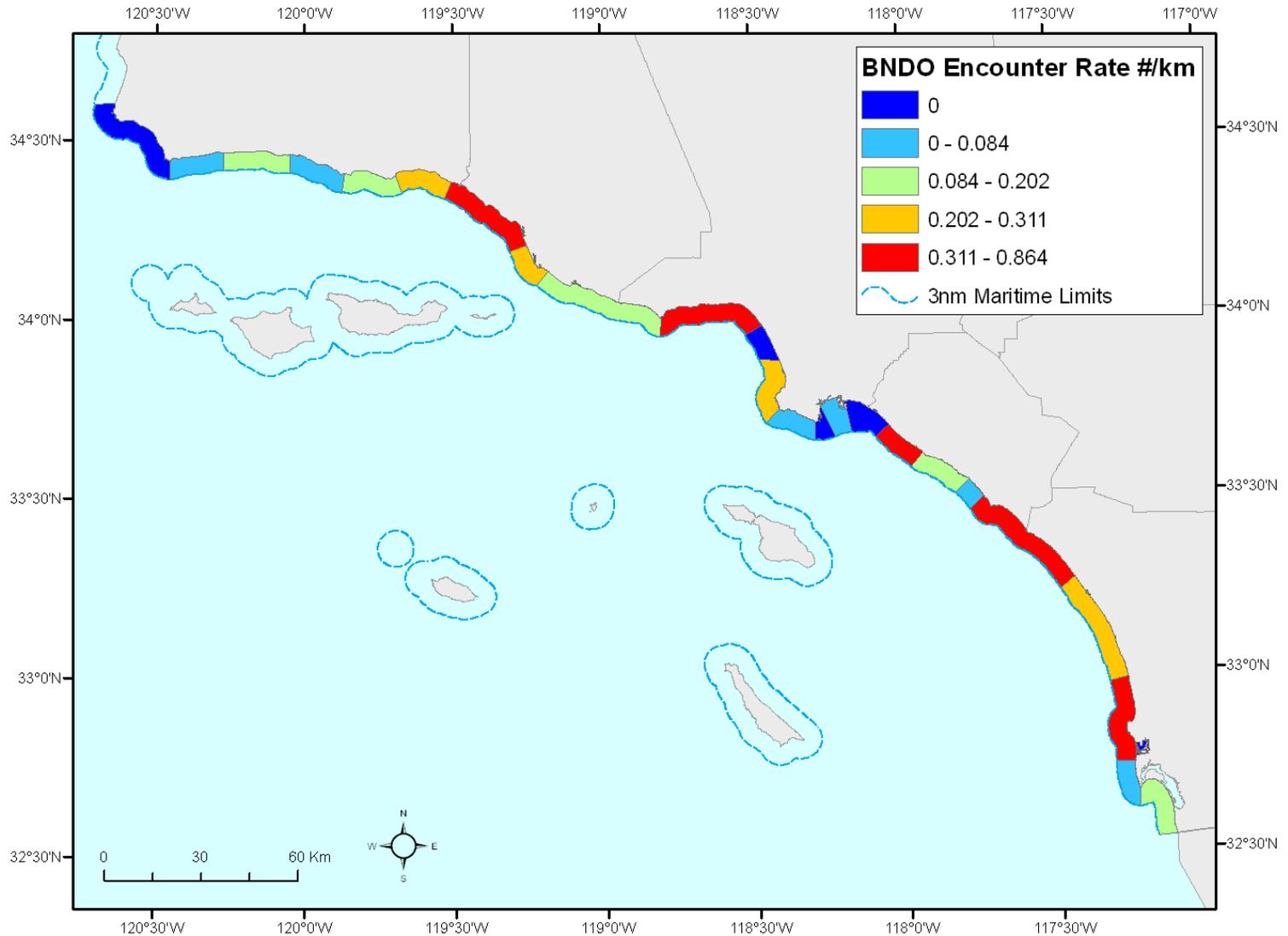


# Composite Map – 11 Birds & 2 Mammals



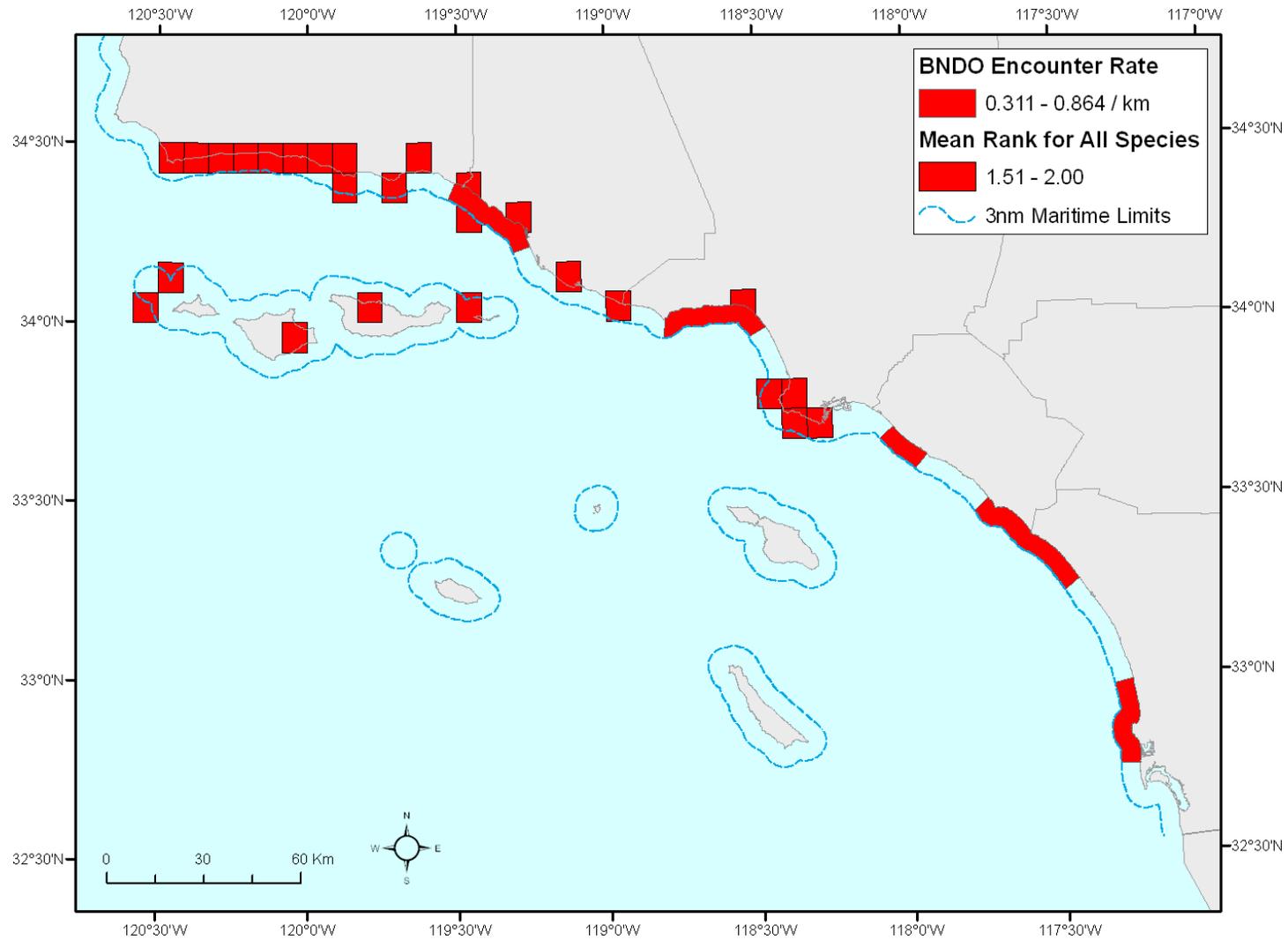


# Coastal Bottlenose Dolphin Hot Spots



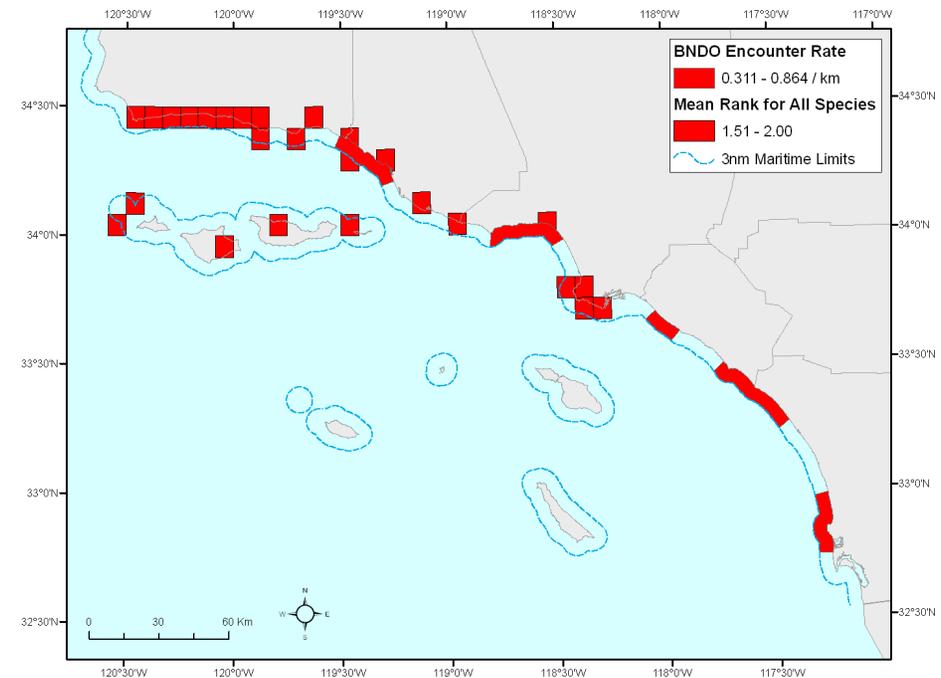


# Composite Seabird and Dolphin Map



# Approach To Be Used

1. Calculate % of available Hot Spot area protected by proposed MPAs by bioregion
2. Analyze north and south mainland bioregions only





# Add Sea Otters To Evaluation

## Species Likely to Benefit

1. Removals: No
2. Disturbance: No
3. Feature association: Kelp
4. Limited home range: Yes
5. Depressed population: Yes; Endangered

## Distribution

1. San Nicolas Island: only breeding population in SCSR
2. Point Conception to Goleta Point

## Evaluation

1. Identify which proposed MPA, SMRs capture the areas used by sea otters