

California Marine Life Protection Act Initiative

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To: MLPA Blue Ribbon Task Force
From: MLPA I-Team
Subject: Military Use Areas in the MLPA South Coast Study Region
Date: December 4, 2008

Proposed Action

In coordination with the U.S. Department of Defense, the MLPA Initiative team is recommending your approval of guiding language addressing military operations in the MLPA South Coast Study Region.

Background

A lesson learned from the MLPA Central Coast Project was that having knowledge about areas of potential concern for the United States Department of Defense (DoD) is more helpful in the early stages of the planning process rather than waiting until stakeholders are in the midst of developing alternative marine protected area proposals. To that end, MLPA Initiative and California Department of Fish and Game staff requested a meeting with DoD stakeholder representative Michael Huber, along with his counsel, Mary Kay Faryan. This meeting started a collaborative process of bringing forward a proposal, which was followed by a telephone conference between Secretary for Resources Mike Chrisman and Navy Rear Admiral Len Hering, who were both supportive of our efforts for early consultation.

We recommend that you adopt a motion that references the attached map which shows a geographic approximation of military activities in the study region, especially in the San Diego area where some boundaries are shared with the California Department of Parks and Recreation. Detailed GIS maps will be added to the south coast regional profile and online mapping tool so that this information is available to stakeholders in their deliberations.

We propose that you seek public comment and discuss the proposed motion at your December 10, 2008 meeting, with a final decision at your January 22, 2009 meeting.

Recommended Motion

Marine protected areas should not be considered in areas identified by the United States Department of Defense on the map dated December 4, 2008, as live fire, training minefields and amphibious operation areas. Legally permitted fishing will continue to be allowed in the same manner as now in these areas, which is currently estimated at over 80% of the time.

Other areas in the MLPA South Coast Study Region utilized by the military may be appropriate for marine protected areas depending on the missions conducted in those areas. Compelling scientific information will always be given consideration in the process.

