



United States Navy Kelp Harvest San Nicolas & San Clemente Islands

05 November 2014



Presented to:
State of California
Fish and Game Commission
Marine Subcommittee

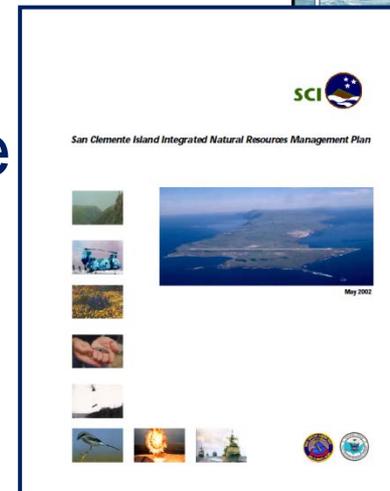
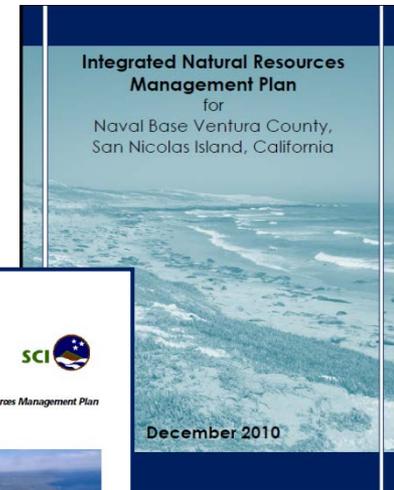
Presented by:
John Ugoretz

Marine Biologist, NAVAIR Ranges



Partners In Management

- Sikes Act – (16 USC, Ch. 5, §§670-670f)
 - Natural resources conservation & rehabilitation on DoD lands
- Requires Integrated Natural Resources Management Plans (INRMPs)
 - Prepared in cooperation with Federal, State and local agencies
 - Reflects mutual agreement on management of fish and wildlife resources
 - CDFW is signatory





Navy Islands – Southern CA

- Critical DoD Assets
- Provide unique test and training environments
 - San Nicolas Island
 - Cornerstone of largest and most extensively instrumented over-water range
 - Unique in the world for ability to conduct missile test and training operations
 - San Clemente Island
 - Supports largest concentration of naval forces in the world to include all eight warfare areas across the entire training continuum
 - Provides only west coast location for coordinated naval gunfire and amphibious landing training
 - One-of-a kind Naval Special Warfare (NSW) training; supports mission critical skills of every SEAL



San Nicolas Island

Provides full life-cycle support of naval aviation aircraft, weapons and systems operated by Sailors and Marines

Extensive capabilities to support:

- Air weapons test and evaluation
- Maritime testing and training operations
- Ballistic missile defense tests
- Directed energy testing
- Joint forces exercises



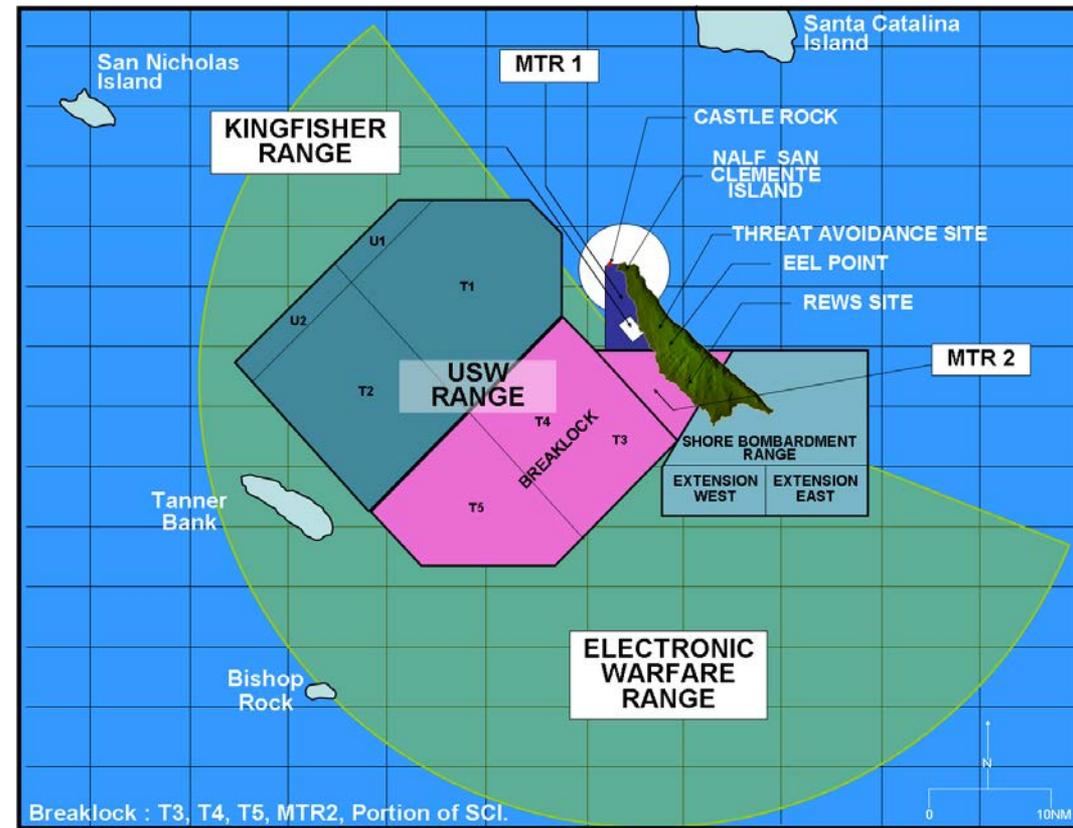
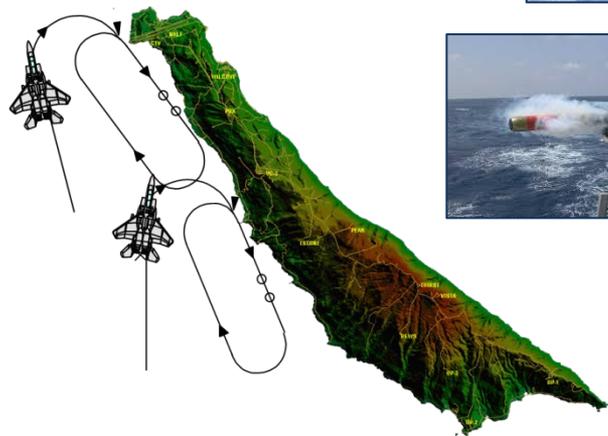


San Clemente Island

Provides the U.S. Pacific Fleet a safe, realistic, state-of-the-art training environment that supports the operational requirements of Naval units and Strike Groups in all warfare areas.

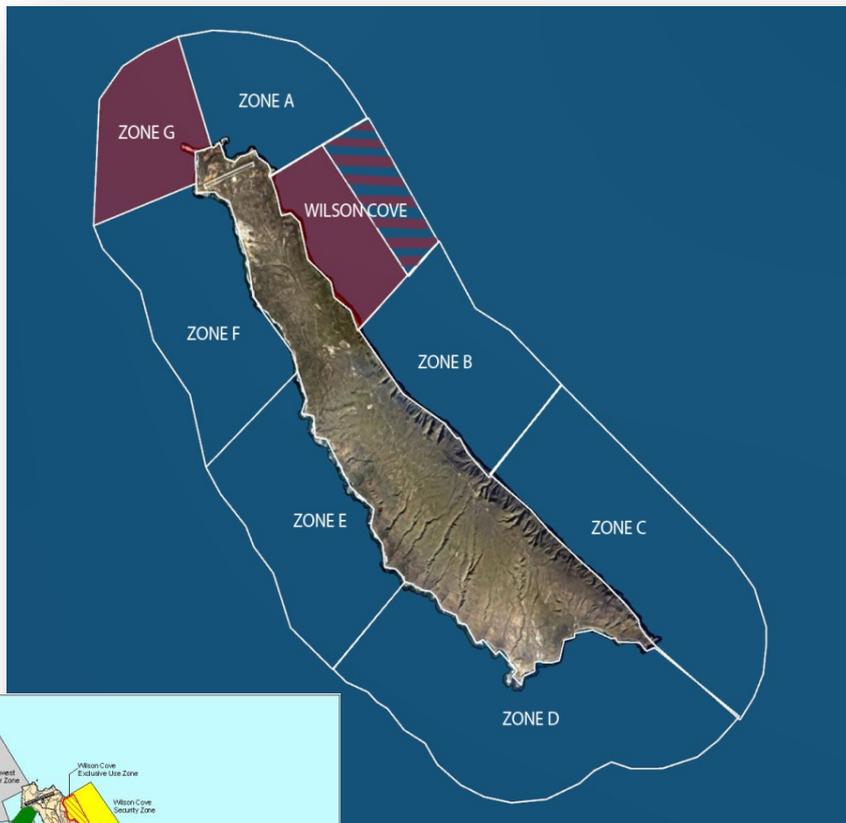
Nearshore Training Activities (Live and Inert Ordnance):

- Ship-to-shore bombing
- Air-to-ground
- Underwater detonations
- Offensive & Defensive Mining
- Torpedo exercises
- Sonobuoy tests

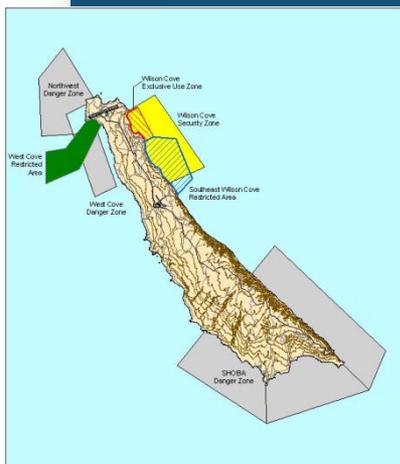
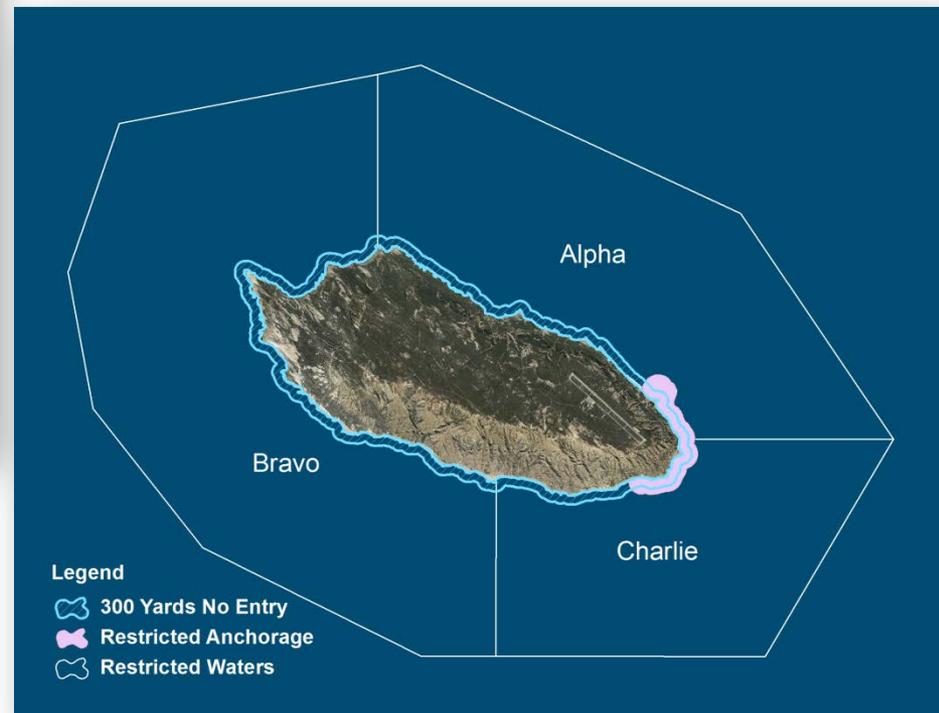




Safety Zones/Restricted Waters



- **Some Permanent closures**
 - **Wilson cove - classified**
 - **Section G - high op tempo live fire danger zone**
- **SCI Op tempo extremely high**

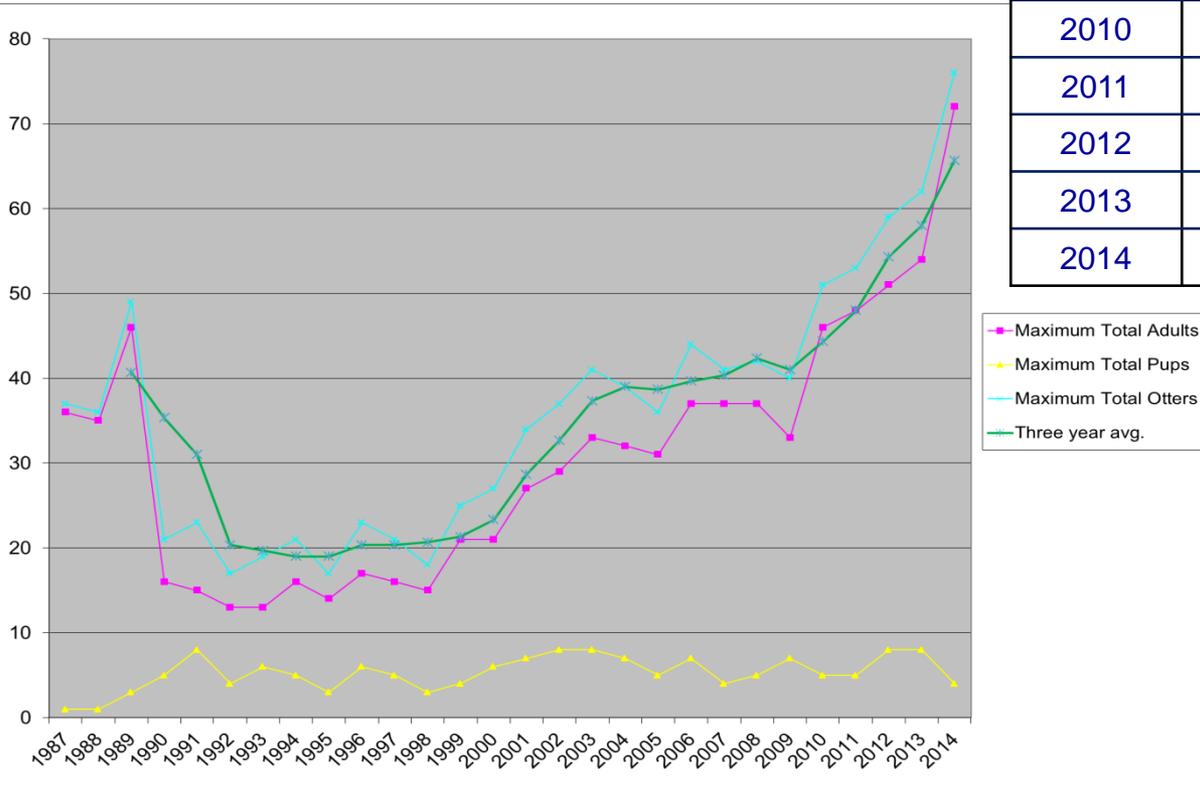




Southern Sea Otter

- San Nicolas population increasing
- Healthiest otters in CA
- Potential for disturbance from large-scale kelp harvest

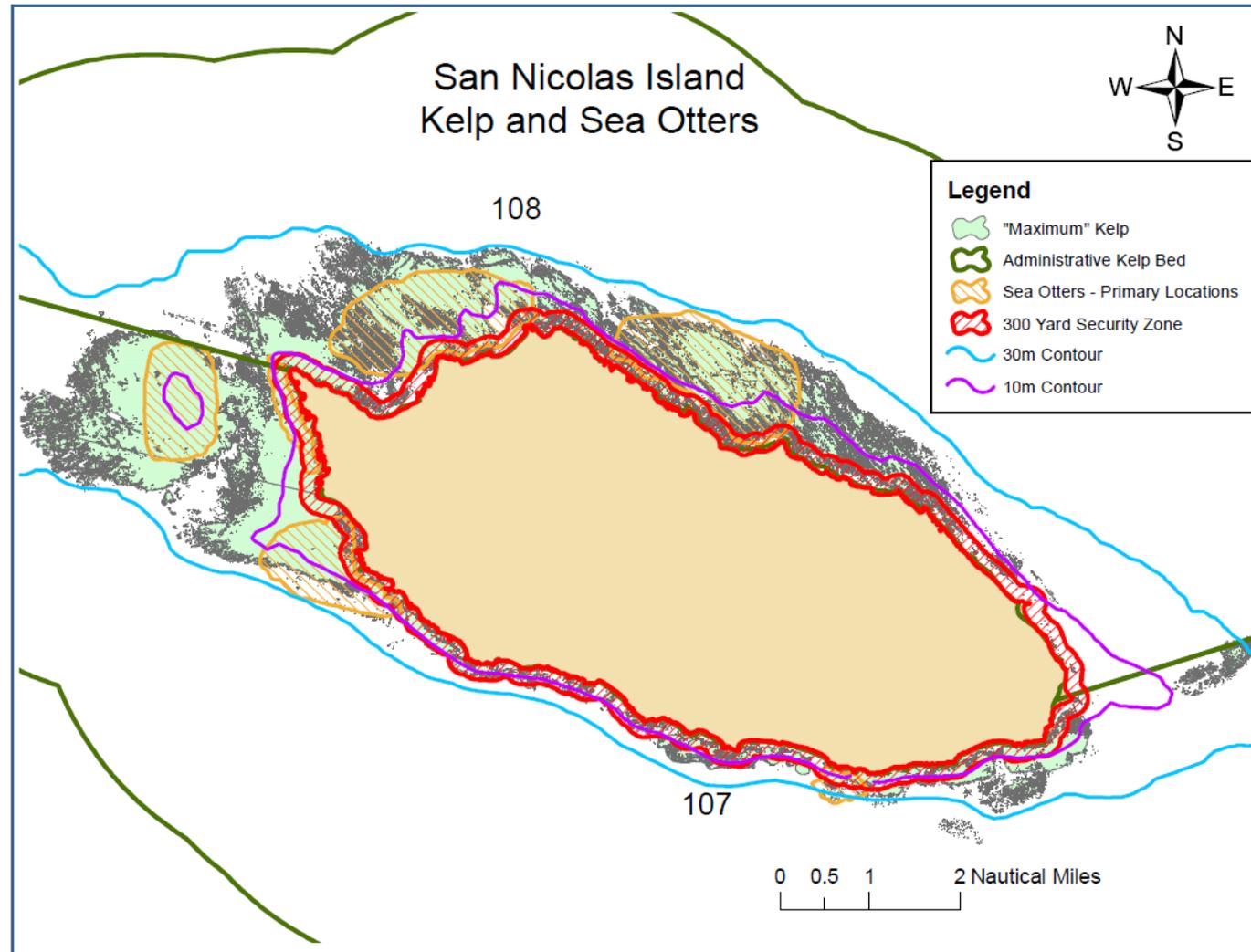
Year	Adults	Juveniles	Total
2005	31	5	36
2006	37	7	44
2007	37	4	41
2008	37	5	42
2009	33	7	40
2010	38	7	45
2011	48	5	53
2012	51	8	59
2013	54	8	62
2014	72	4	76





Kelp Resource - SNI

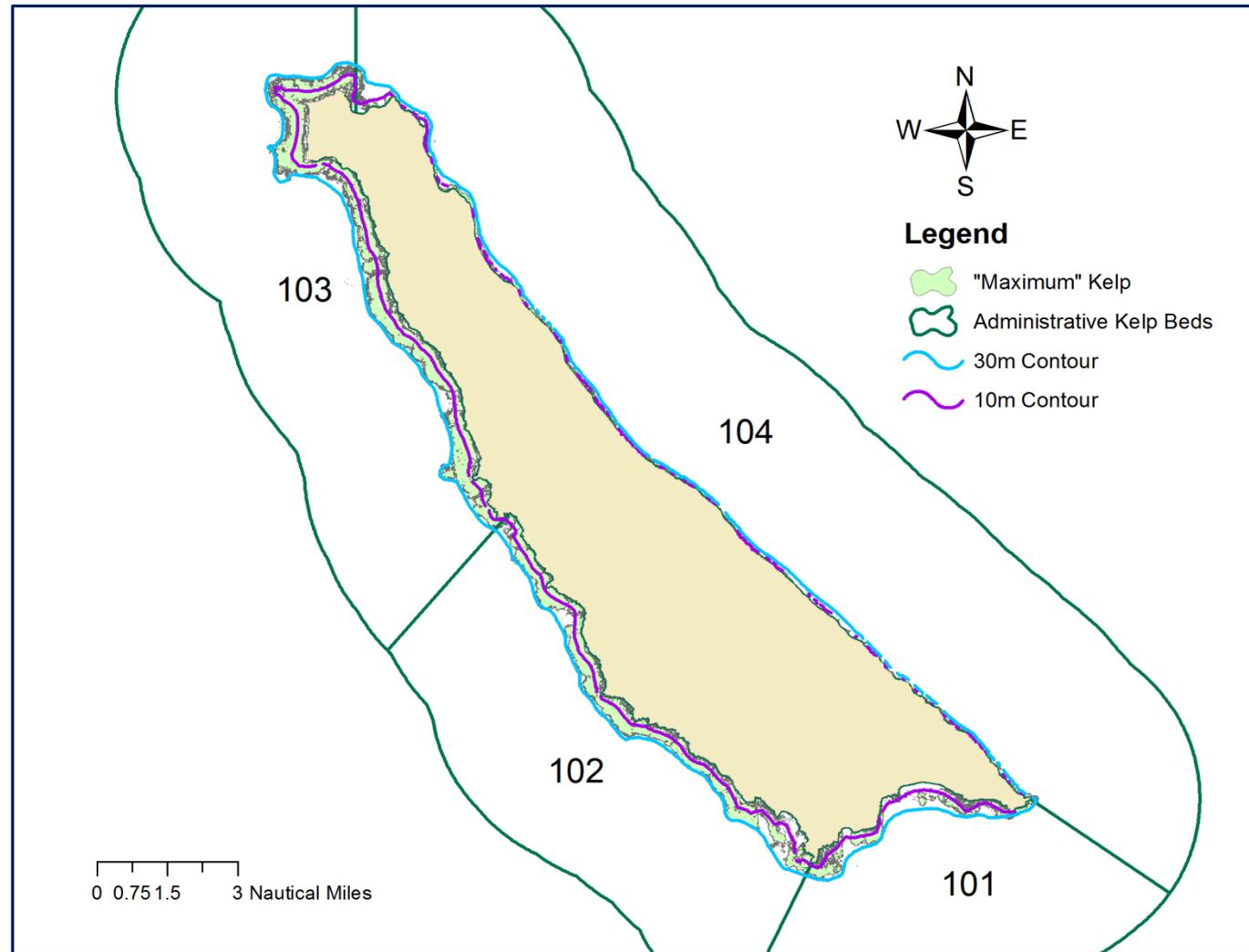
- Limited kelp outside preferred otter locations
- Bulk of kelp inside launch hazard areas
- Weather will prohibit access on many days





Kelp Resource - SCI

- Kelp densest along south, west, and north sides
- High training tempo will restrict access
- Access must be scheduled with the Navy





Proposal Concerns

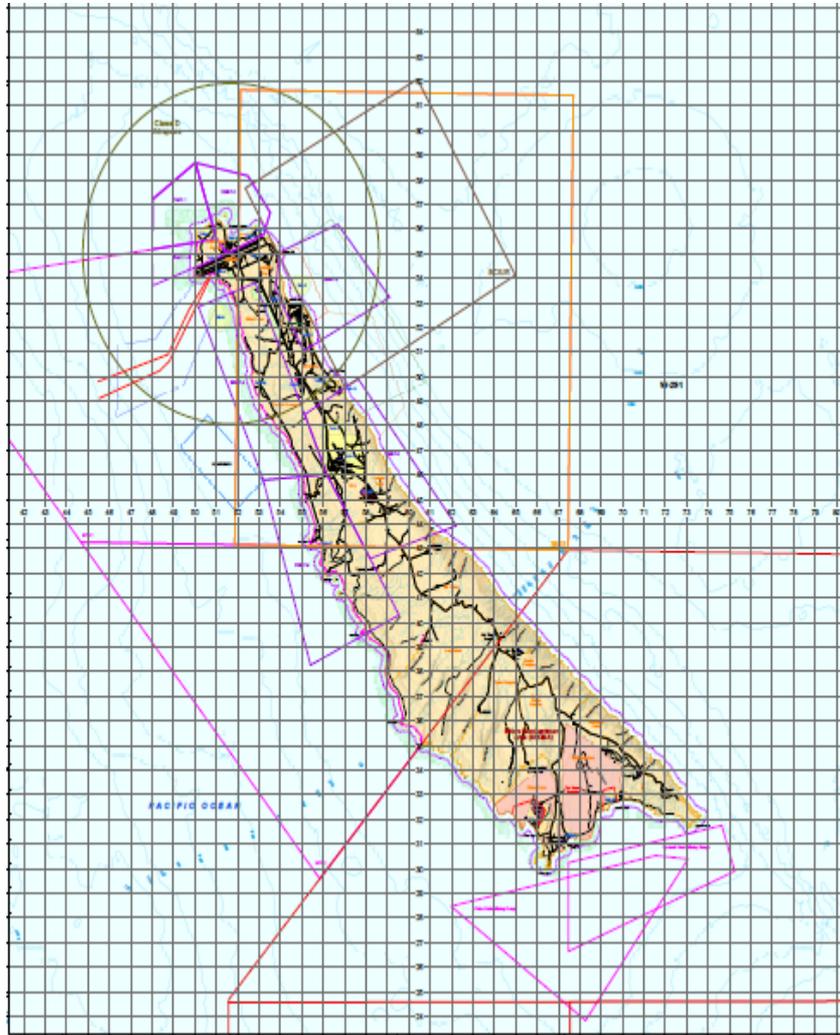
- Significant need for coordination
 - Operational impacts / High Operating Tempo
 - Mission has changed since ISP Alginates
 - New restricted areas / safety zones / closures
 - Increases in range fouling by non-military at San Clemente Island
- Potential biological resources impacts
 - ESA consultation with USFWS?
 - EFH consultation with NMFS?
- Ongoing partnership with Department should be maintained
 - INRMPs cover offshore resources to 3 nm
 - Activities proposed around DoD lands require continued discussion



Backup Material



Near Shore Ranges - SCI



Ranges

- Shore Bombardment Area (SHOBA)
- Naval Special Warfare Training Areas (SWAT 1-6)
- Naval Special Warfare Training Areas & Ranges (TAR)
- Mine Training Ranges (MTR) 1 and 2
- Kingfisher Mine Detection/Avoidance Range
- Undersea Warfare Ranges
- Shallow Water Training Range
- San Clemente Island Underwater Range (SCIUR)

Operations

- Naval Special Warfare
- Naval Surface Fire Support Exercises
- USMC Amphibious Operations
- Torpedo and tracking Operations
- Offensive Mining
- Air Strikes and Close Air Support
- MINEX and Mine Readiness
- Small Object Avoidance
- Sonobuoy testing
- Acoustic testing
- Research & Development