

NAVY

Hawaii-Southern California Training and Testing EIS/OEIS

Commercial Fishing and Recreational Interests | Access and Public Safety

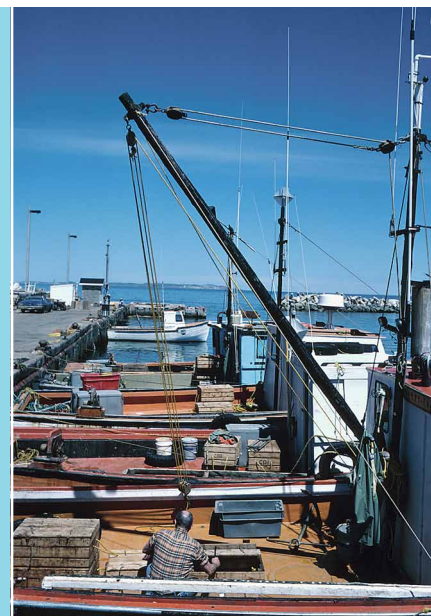
Many people in Hawaii and Southern California use and depend on the ocean for commercial and recreational purposes. The ocean areas within the Hawaii Range Complex, for example, are used for a variety of commercial and recreational activities, such as boat charters and tours, canoe paddling, surfing, fishing and diving. The ocean and nearshore areas are also used for subsistence fishing by local residents. The ocean areas within the Southern California Range Complex are popular for commercial and sport fishing, diving and other recreational activities of social and economic importance. These industries support large numbers of fishermen, boat operators and recreational boaters. The ocean areas of both range complexes also support other important activities related to shipping, scientific, cultural and institutional functions.



Ocean areas of U.S. Navy range complexes are not restricted on a continuous basis and, when not in use by the Navy, are accessible to the public. However, some access restrictions must occur for the safety of commercial and recreational users.

Commercial Fishing and Sport Fishing Interests in Southern California

The commercial fishing industry in the nearshore and offshore waters of Southern California has been very productive over the years for fish, squid, crab, lobster and sea urchins. Commercial fisheries within Southern California marine waters account for a significant portion of California's tuna catch, including skipjack, yellowfin, bluefin and albacore. Salt-water sport fishing also is centered around numerous productive fishing areas in Southern California. Major sport fish species caught include yellowfin and bluefin, yellowtail, rockfish, kelp bass, California sheephead, whitefish, dorado, marlin, barracuda and lingcod.



Public Safety Measures. The Navy understands the importance of the ocean areas around Hawaii and Southern California and during training and testing activities, strives to protect all users, including commercial and recreational users and military personnel. The Navy conducts its activities in a manner compatible with commercial and recreational ocean and airspace users. The Navy is committed to providing continued access to surface water and airspace in offshore areas of Hawaii and Southern California. However, for the public's safety, the use of certain ocean areas must be temporarily limited during some Navy training and testing activities. With the exception of exclusive use or restricted areas, the public has access during periods when military activities are not ongoing.

The Navy provides advance notice of its training and testing schedules to federal agencies, which helps the public to plan accordingly and increases safety. Ocean users are able to access the U.S. Coast Guard's Local Notice to Mariners website at <http://www.navcen.uscg.gov/>. The published schedules notify members of the public of Navy training and testing and allow them to adjust their routes to avoid temporarily restricted areas. Temporary access restrictions (usually lasting between two to six hours) occur when the Navy restricts public use of certain ocean areas during training or testing activities for the safety of commercial and recreational users.

If civilian vessels are within a restricted area at the time of a scheduled activity, Navy personnel will proceed and avoid the vessels if it is safe and possible to do so. If avoidance is not safe or possible, the Navy activity may relocate or be delayed. In some instances where safety requires exclusive use of a specific area, civilian users in the area will be asked to relocate to a safer area for the duration of the activity.

PUBLIC ACCESS IN HAWAII

On Kauai, U.S. residents who apply and complete a national background check can obtain an annual Pacific Missile Range Facility recreation pass, which allows access to approximately two miles of shoreline for fishing, surfing and general beach use daily from 5 a.m. to 10 p.m. at the main base.



PUBLIC ACCESS IN SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA

Many ocean areas around San Clemente Island are accessible to the public for recreational and commercial purposes. The U.S. Navy is committed to public safety during training and testing to minimize risk to its personnel, island users, and commercial and recreational enthusiasts.

The Navy has a public website, <http://www.scisland.org>, to provide scheduling information to fishermen, boaters, divers and other users of areas around San Clemente Island. By accessing this website, users can better plan their routes to avoid areas temporarily restricted because of Navy activity.



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AUGUST 2010

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