



# United States Department of the Interior

## FISH AND WILDLIFE SERVICE

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## NATIONAL WETLAND INVENTORY

### NOTES TO USERS

Off Shore Islands - Southern California

#### 1:100,000 SCALE MAPS COVERED

Point Conception  
Santa Rosa Island  
Laguna Harbor  
San Nicolas Island

~~Santa Maria II~~  
~~Santa Maria III~~  
Long Beach NW  
Long Beach SW

# NATIONAL WETLANDS INVENTORY

## NOTES TO USERS

### Off Shore Islands - Southern California

#### 1. PURPOSE

The purpose of Notes to Users is to provide general information regarding the production of National Wetlands Inventory (NWI) maps and wetlands found within a relatively similar geographic area. Notes to users are not intended to include descriptions of all wetlands found in the area nor complete plant species information.

#### 2. AREA COVERED

The area covered is defined by the Santa Rosa Island, Laguna Harbor, San Nicolas Island and offshore portions of the Point Conception and Santa Barbara U.S.G.S. 1:100,000 intermediate scale maps (see attached index map). The area is off the Southern California coast between approximately 33' and 34' N latitude.

According to Bailey's ecoregions, the area is in the humid temperate domain, Mediterranean Division, California chapparral Province. The climate is Mediterranean with mild temperatures, rainy winters, and dry summers. Annual precipitation ranges from 7 to 20 inches. The 1970 National Atlas lists the freeze-free period from February through December.

#### 3. MAP PREPARATION

Wetland classification for the NWI maps is in accordance with "Classification of Wetlands and Deep-Water Habitats of the United States (An Operational Draft)," Cowardin, et al, 1977.1/

Wetland classification and delineations were produced by air photointerpretation of high level aerial photography. The following aerial photography was used:

1/The classification system was published in 1979: Cowardin, Lewis M., Virginia Carter, Francis C. Golet, and Edward T. LaRoe. 1979. Classification of Wetlands and Deepwater Habitats of the United States, Fish and Wildlife Service, U.S. Department of the Interior, Washington, DC, December 1979.

<u>MAP</u>	<u>SCALE</u>	<u>FILM</u>	<u>DATE</u>
Laguna Harbor	1:80,000	Black and White	1977
	1:120,000	Color infrared	1974
San Nicolas Island	1:130,000	Color infrared	1977
Santa Rosa Island	1:130,000	Color infrared	1977
Santa Barbara	1:120,000	Color infrared	1974
	1:130,000	Color infrared	1977
Pt. Conception	1:130,000	Color infrared	1977

The aerial photographs were viewed stereoscopically at 6X magnification. Delineations were enlarged to a scale of 1:24,000 using a zoom-transfer scope to fit the USGS 7-1/2' topographic map series. The 1:100,000 scale wetland maps were prepared from the 7-1/2' series. Since USGS 1:100,000 scale base maps are not yet available for the area, the NWI 1:100,000 scale base maps were prepared by enlarging and then quartering the 1:250,000 scale map series. Large-scale NWI wetland maps (1:24,000 scale) are available for the USGS 7-1/2' topographic sheets indicated on the index map.

The Project Officer for production of the wetland maps was Dennis Peters, Regional Wetlands Coordinator, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, Region 1, Lloyd 500 Building, 500 NE Multnomah Street, Portland, Oregon 97232, telephone (503)-231-6154. Aerial photo interpretation was completed by Area Information Systems (AIS), Crestline, California. Maps were prepared by the NWI National Team in St. Petersburg, Florida.

#### 4. USER CAUTION

The map documents were prepared primarily by stereoscopic analysis of high altitude aerial photographs. Wetlands were identified on the photographs based on vegetation, visible hydrology, and geography. The aerial photographs typically reflected conditions during the specific year and season when they were taken. In addition, there is a margin of error inherent in the use of aerial photographs. Thus a detailed on-the-ground and historical analysis of a single site may result in photographic interpretation. In addition, some small wetlands and those obscured by dense forest cover may not be included on the map document.

Federal, State, and local regulatory agencies with jurisdiction over wetlands may define and describe wetlands in a different manner than that used in this inventory. There is no attempt, in either the design or products of this inventory, to define limits of proprietary jurisdiction of any Federal, State, or local government or to establish the geographical scope of regulatory programs of government agencies. Persons intending to engage in activities involving modifications within or adjacent to wetland areas should seek the advice of appropriate Federal, State, or local agencies concerning specific agency regulatory programs and proprietary jurisdictions that may affect such activities.

#### 5. WETLANDS AND DEEP-WATER HABITATS

Wetlands and deep-water habitats on the Southern California Islands are generally limited to the Marine, Riverine, and Palustrine systems.

Deep-water habitats in the Marine system include the open ocean and kelp beds. The open ocean is characterized by water on the aerial photography and classified as open water (M1OWL). The kelp beds are composed of Macroceptes spp. and are classified as aquatic bed (M2ABL). Rocky shores are wetland environments characterized by substrates of bedrock, stones, or boulders; beach/bar wetlands are characterized cobble, gravel, sand, and mud.

Interior wetlands are generally restricted to stream corridors and artificially created ponds.

Wetlands delineated in the Riverine system are intermittent streambeds (R4SBW). Intermittent streambeds are usually unvegetated although they may be lined with willow (Salix spp.), baccharis (Baccharis spp.), cottonwood (Populus spp.), and/or sage (Artemisia spp.). Where this vegetation canopy could not be separately delineated from the streambed on the aerial photography, the units were classified in the Palustrine system as linear scrub/shrub wetlands.

The Palustrine scrub/shrub wetlands (PSS/EMW), dominated by the above noted vegetation with an understory of various grasses, are found as stream side "riparian strips."

Several small artificial impoundments are included on the wetland maps. These are classified as Palustrine open water (POWKZ, POWKY) or Palustrine flat (PFLKW), depending on the presence or absence of water visible on the aerial photography.

### Modifiers

The small-scale (1:100,000) NWI maps' legends do not include water regime modifiers. Mapping codes for these modifiers are indicated in parentheses in the discussion that follows.

Hydrologic characteristics are an important aspect of wetlands. The water regime modifiers describe in general terms the duration and timing of surface inundation, as well as groundwater fluctuations. These modifiers are grouped under two major headings: Tidal and Nontidal.

### Tidal

Subtidal (L) The substrate is permanently flooded with tidal water.

Irregularly Exposed (M) The land surface is exposed by tides less often than daily.

Regularly Flooded (N) Tidal water alternately floods and exposes the land surface at least once daily.

Irregularly Flooded (P) Tidal Water floods the land surface less often than daily.

### Nontidal

For the purpose of mapping, nontidal water regime modifiers have been lumped into three broad categories. These are:

Intermittently flooded--temporarily flooded (W) The substrate is usually exposed, but surface water is present for variable periods without detectable seasonal periodicity, or surface water is present for extended periods especially early in the growing season but is absent by the end of the season in most years, or surface water persists throughout the growing season in most years.

Saturated/Seasonally--flooded/Sempermanently flooded (Y) The substrate is saturated to the surface for extended periods during the growing season, or surface water is present for extended periods especially early in the growing season but is absent by the end of the season in most years, or surface water persists throughout the growing season in most years.

Intermittently exposed/Permanently flooded (Z) Surface water is present throughout the year except in years of extreme drought, or water covers land surface throughout the year in all years.

An artificially flooded (K) water regime modifier can be applied with all water regime modifiers. In this case, flooding is under the direct and purposeful control of man.

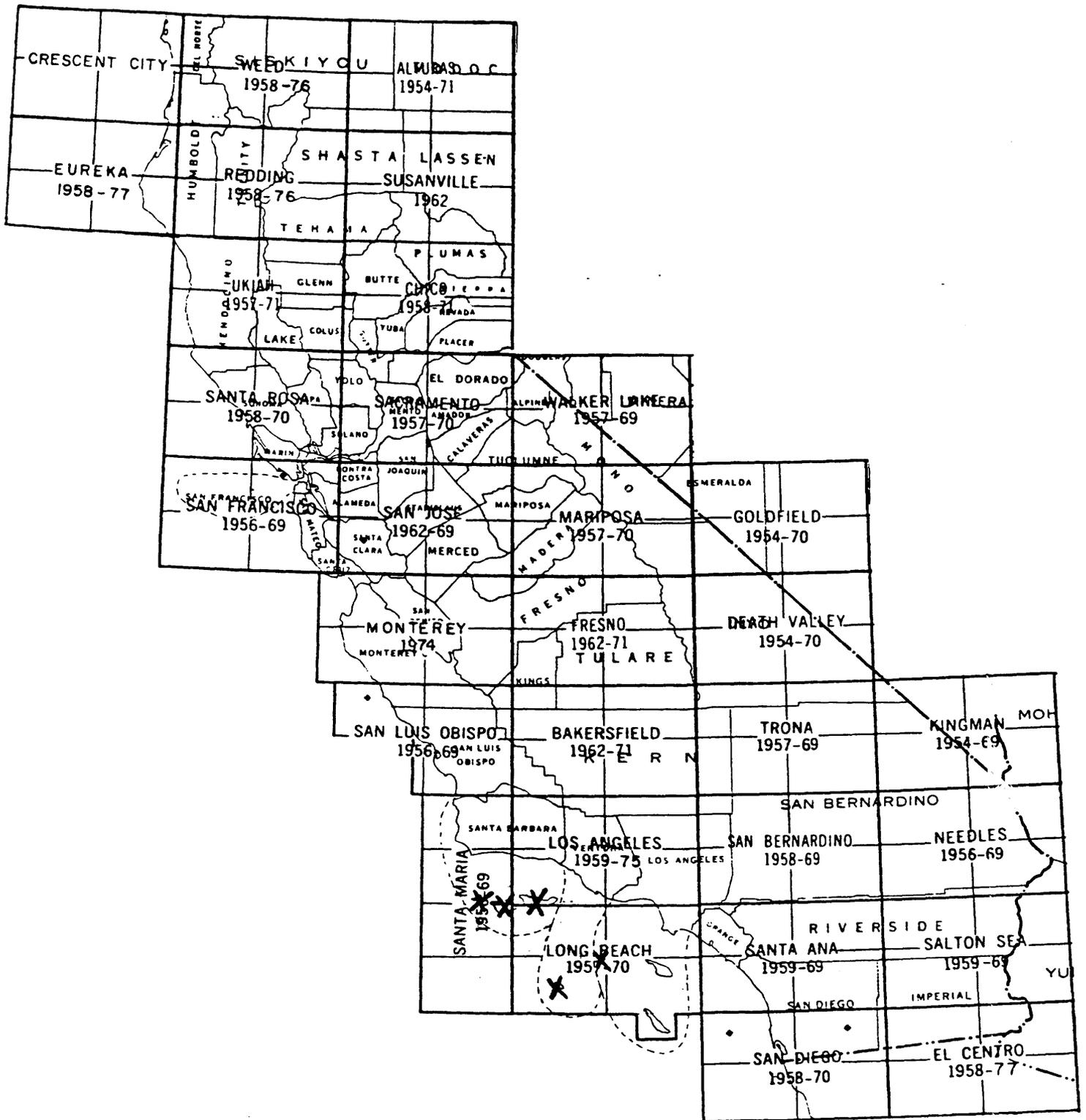
## 6. SOURCES OF ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

Since the purpose of the Notes to Users is to provide a general overview of a relatively large geographic area, it is important to be aware of sources of additional information. While the following list of reports is not all-inclusive, it provides general and site-specific information for some areas of special concern.

Bailey, Robert G. 1978. Description of the ecoregions of the United States. U.S. Forest Service, USDA, Ogden, Utah.

Cowardin, Lewis M., Virginia Carter, Francis C. Golet, and Edward T. LaRoe. 1977. Classification of wetlands and deep-water habitats of the United States (An Operational Draft), U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, October 1977.

U.S. Army Corps of Engineers. 1978. Preliminary guide to wetlands of the west coast. Technical Report Y-78-4, U.S. Army Engineer Waterways Experiment Station, Vicksburg, MS.



SANTA MARIA

POINT CONCEPTION 7A

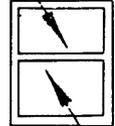
SANTA BARBARA

REARRA CHANNEL

SANTA ROSA ISLAND

LAGUNA HARBOR

Channel Islands National Monument  
1973



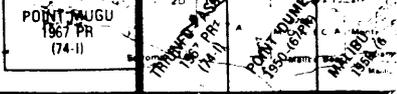
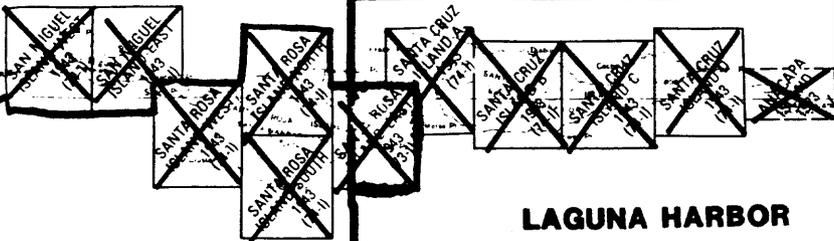
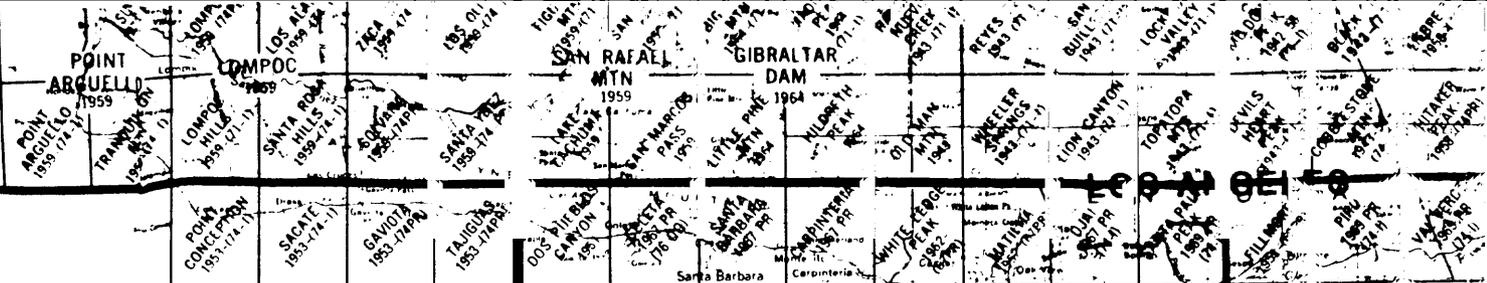
THIS MAP COMPRISES ANACAPA ISLAND  
AND SANTA BARBARA ISLAND

LONG BEACH

SAN NICOLAS ISLAND



SANT



C

C

F

A

N