

Review of Proposed Alternative Site adjacent to Summerland

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This proposed alternative site is located within state waters of California, adjacent to Summerland (Figure 1). The bounding coordinates for the proposed alternative site delineate an area of 1,402.61 acres. The Port of Ventura is more than 16 nm from the eastern-most point of the proposed alternative site. Depths within the proposed site range from 36 to 46 m (118.11 - 140.919 feet; Figure 2).

The proposed alternative site intersects a submarine electrical power line (and a 500-m radius encompassing the footprint of the cable) connecting shore-based infrastructure with a drilling platform in the Santa Barbara Channel (Figure 3). The proposed alternative site does not intersect existing drilling platforms, active oil and gas leases, oil and gas pipelines, or ocean disposal sites. The proposed alternative site is within proximity of habitat areas of particular concern (HAPC) and known distribution of hardbottom habitat (intersecting an area of known hardbottom habitat in the southeast corner; Figure 4). The proposed alternative site does not intersect areas of known deep sea coral distribution. The proposed alternative site does not intersect the areas corresponding to aids to navigation, artificial reefs, wrecks and obstructions, anchorage areas, maintained channels, or shipping lanes (Figure 5). The proposed alternative site appears to be in an area of similar low vessel traffic as VSE alternative #1. The proposed alternative site does not intersect military considerations, including danger zones and restricted areas, Point Mugu Sea Range, or the San Pedro Channel Operating Area (Figure 6). Trawl fishery interactions are similar in quantity between the proposed alternative site and VSE alternative #1 (Figure 7). The proposed alternative site does not appear to intersect California Department of Fish and Wildlife microblocks associated with squid fishery harvest between 2012-2017. The proposed alternative site is located within a California Department of Fish and Wildlife fishery landings receipt block with the lowest observed quantity of total landings across the 9 adjacent blocks for which data was available for during the period of 2012-2017.

As previously described, the major interactions with the proposed alternative site include the intersection of the proposed site with the submarine electrical power line servicing a drilling platform in the Santa Barbara Channel and existing areas of known hardbottom habitat distribution. Importantly, as the coordinates provided do not represent a uniform rectangular shape or area, reconfiguration or expansion of the boundary into one that is compatible with the requirements of the VSE proposed project would yield further interaction with the submarine electrical power line in the south and west directions, and further interaction with areas of known hardbottom habitat in the north and east directions.

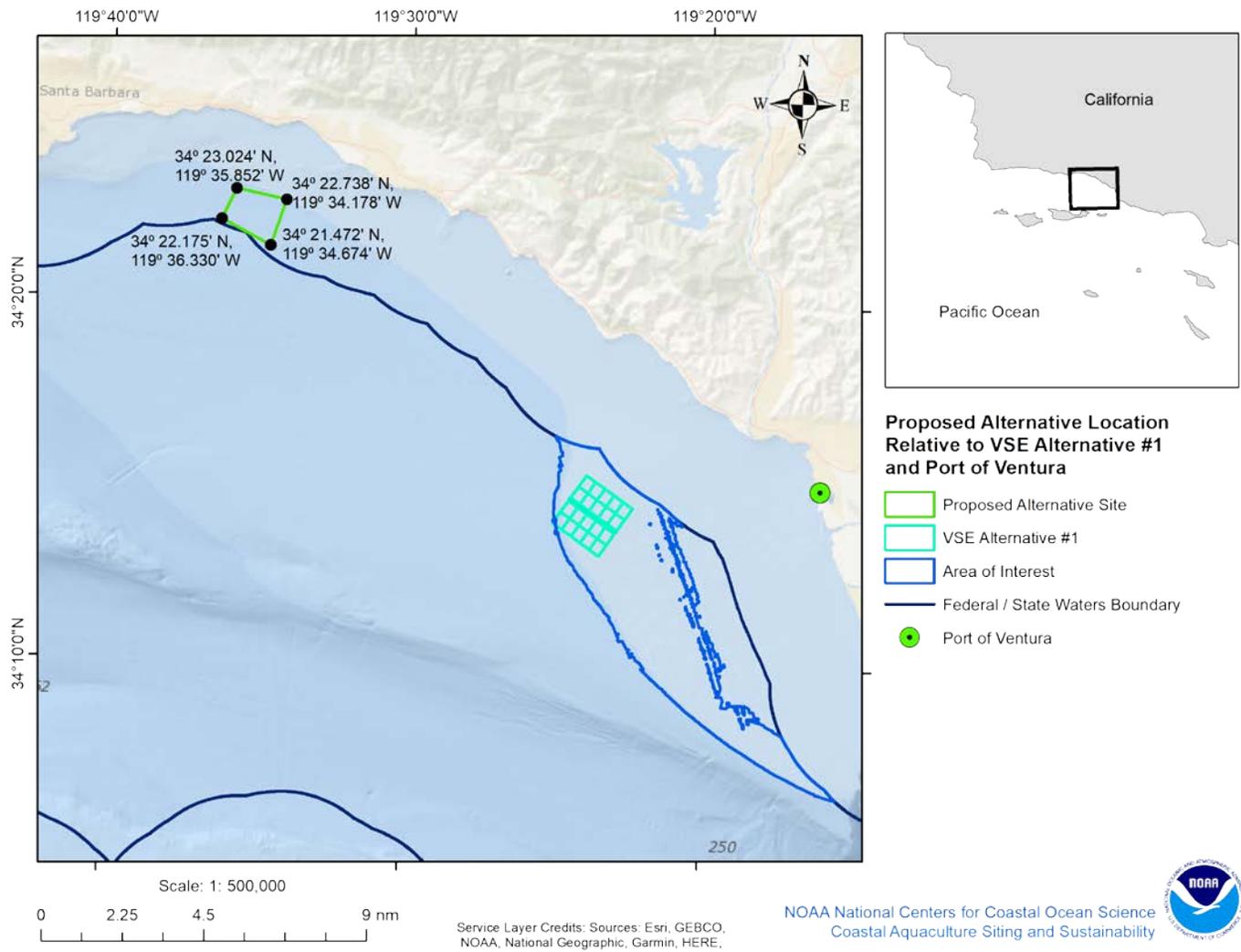


Figure 1. Location of the proposed alternative location relative to VSE Alternative #1 and the Port of Ventura. Bounding coordinates as provided are detailed within the map.

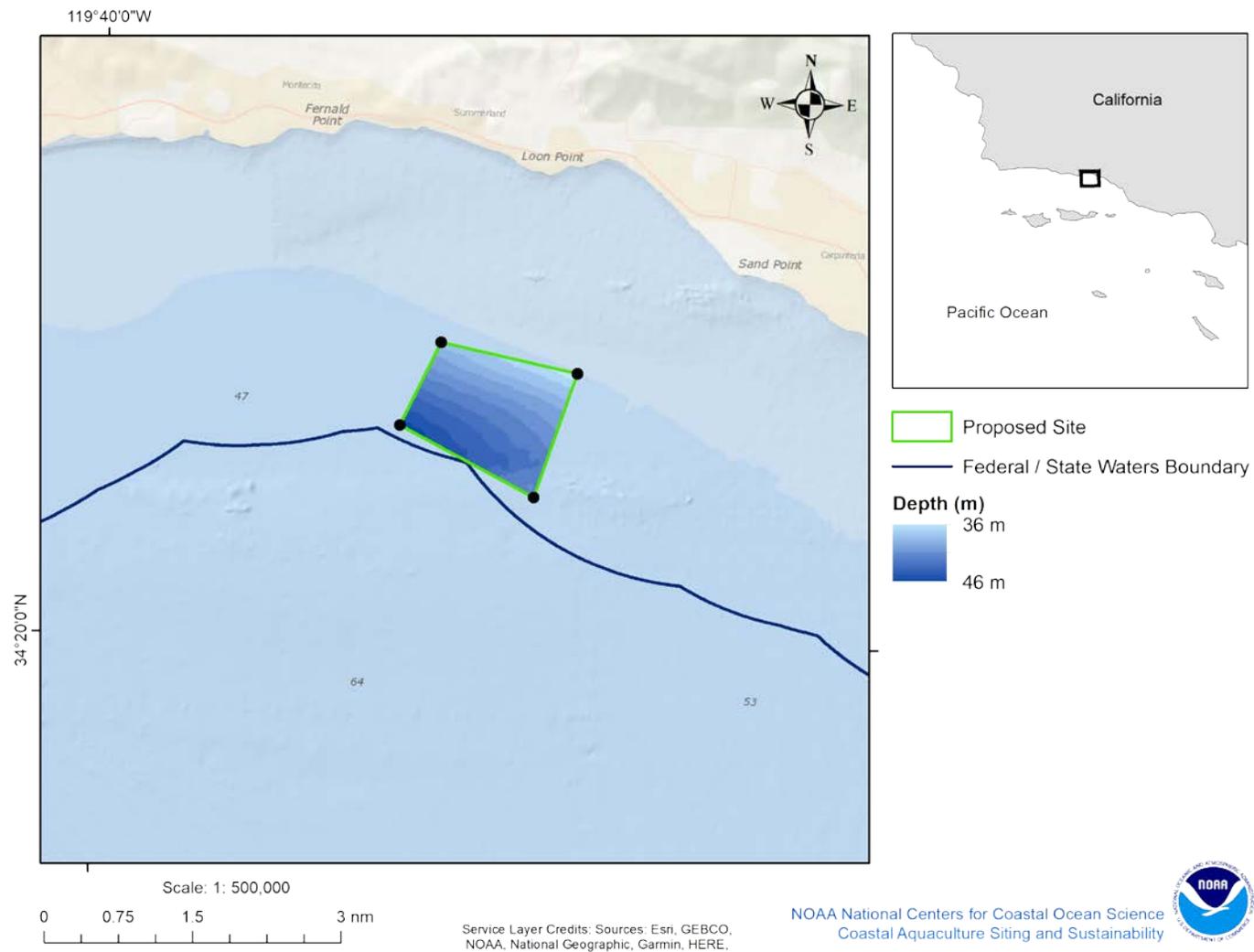


Figure 2. Depth range within the proposed alternative location.

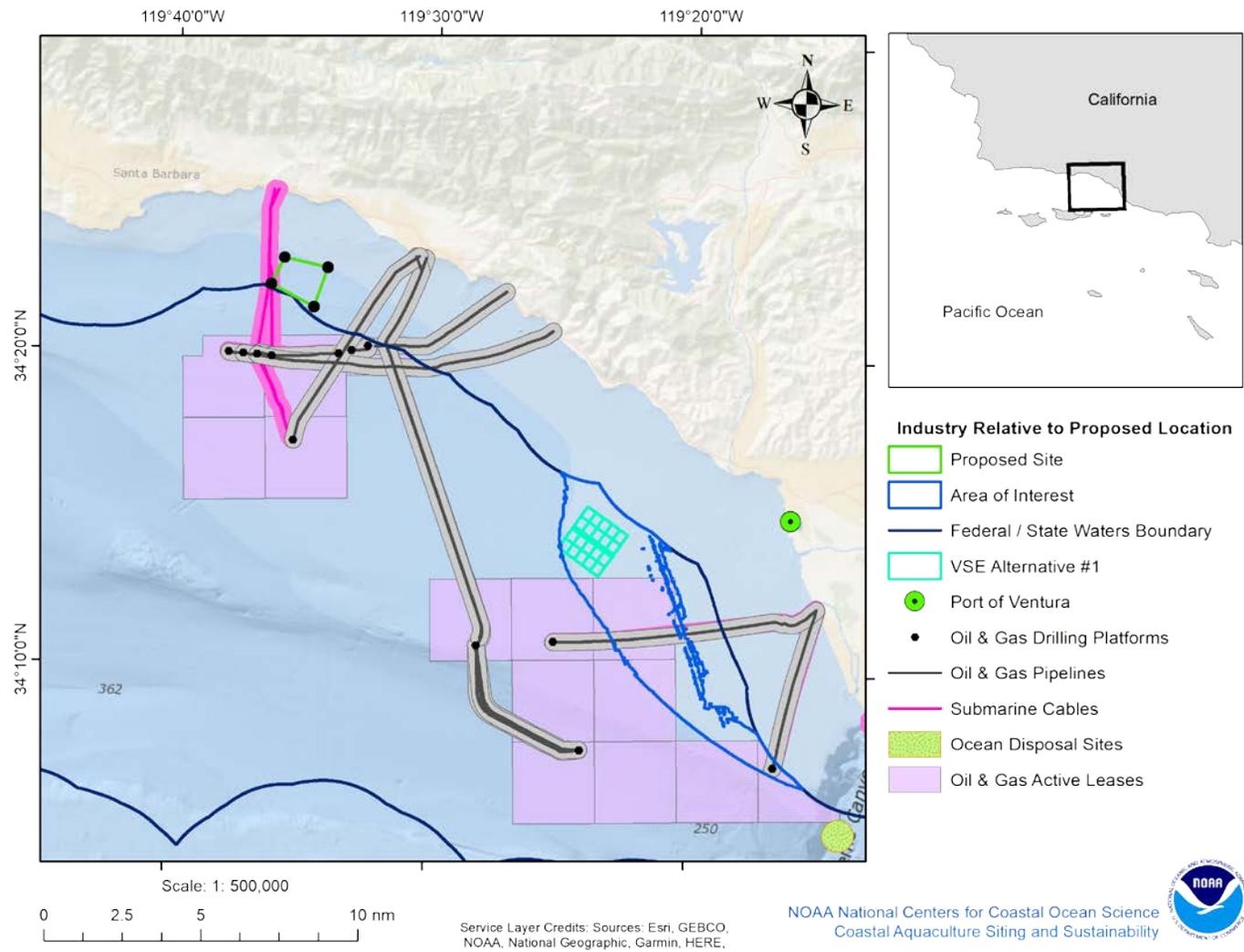


Figure 3. Industry interactions with the proposed alternative location relative to VSE Alternative #1. Note that the southwest corner of the proposed alternative location intersects the submarine power cable to a drilling platform in the Santa Barbara Channel.

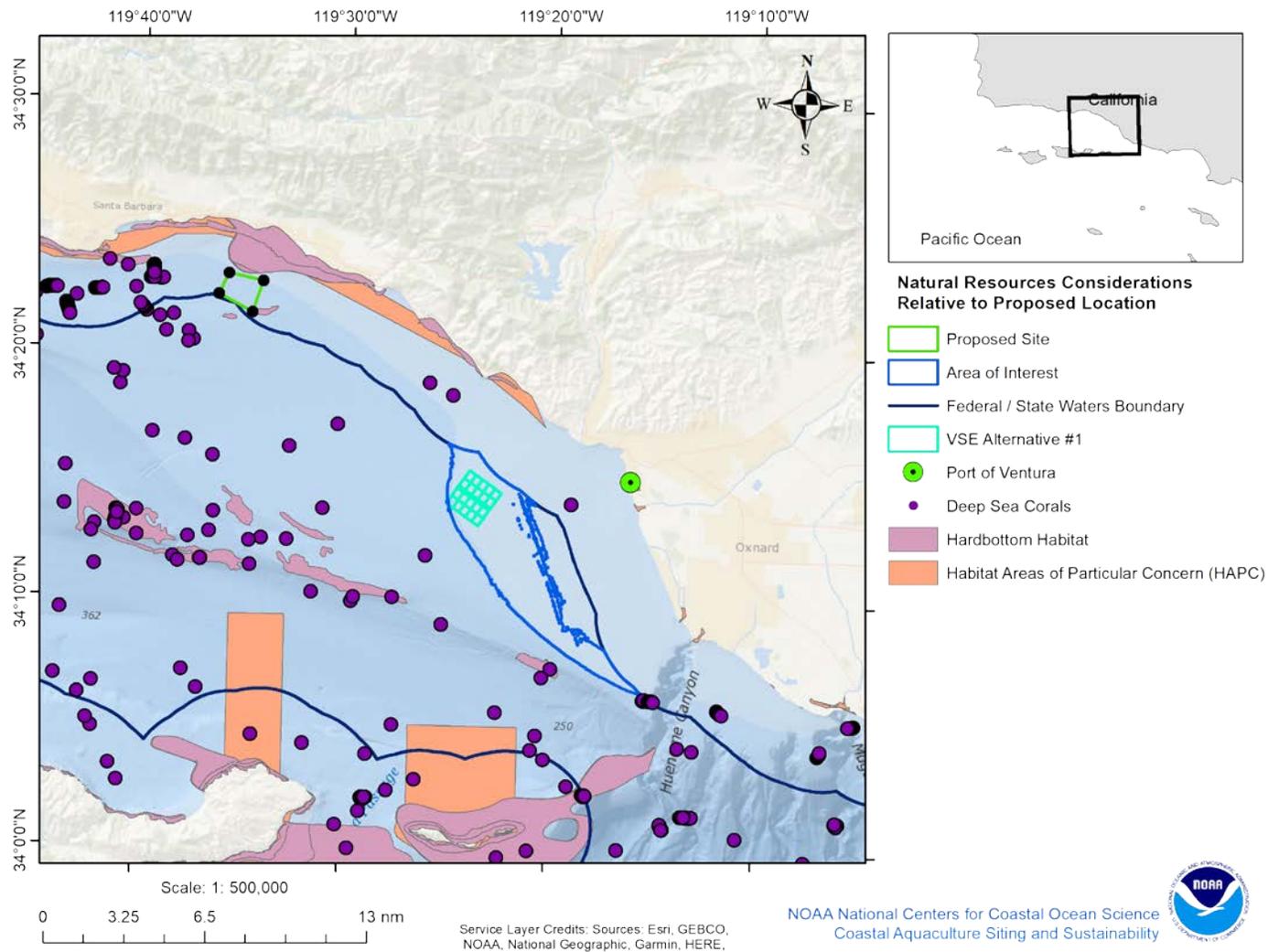


Figure 4. Natural resource considerations with the proposed alternative location relative to VSE Alternative #1. Note that the southeast corner of the proposed alternative location intersects a known area of hardbottom habitat.

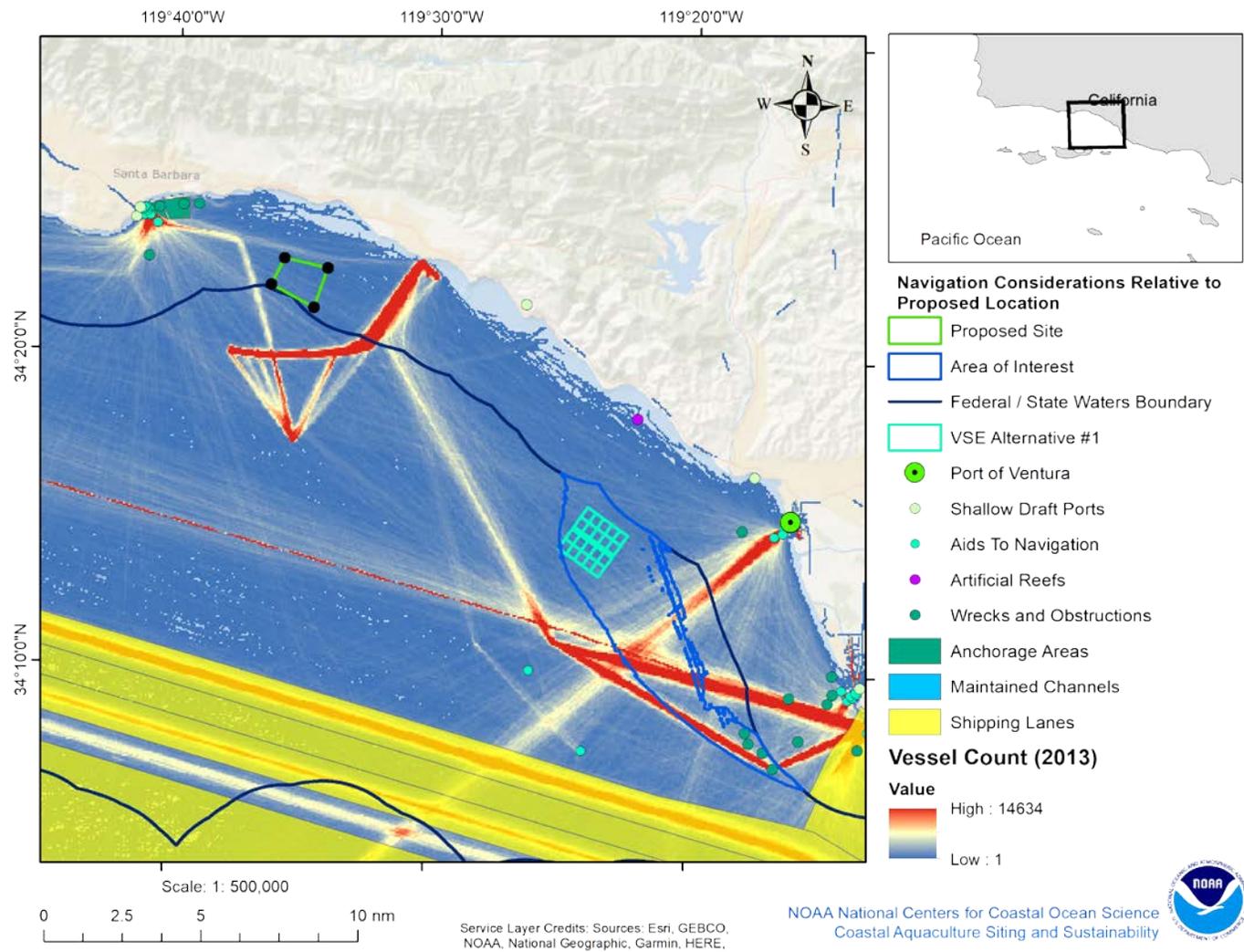


Figure 5. Navigation interactions with the proposed alternative location relative to VSE Alternative #1.

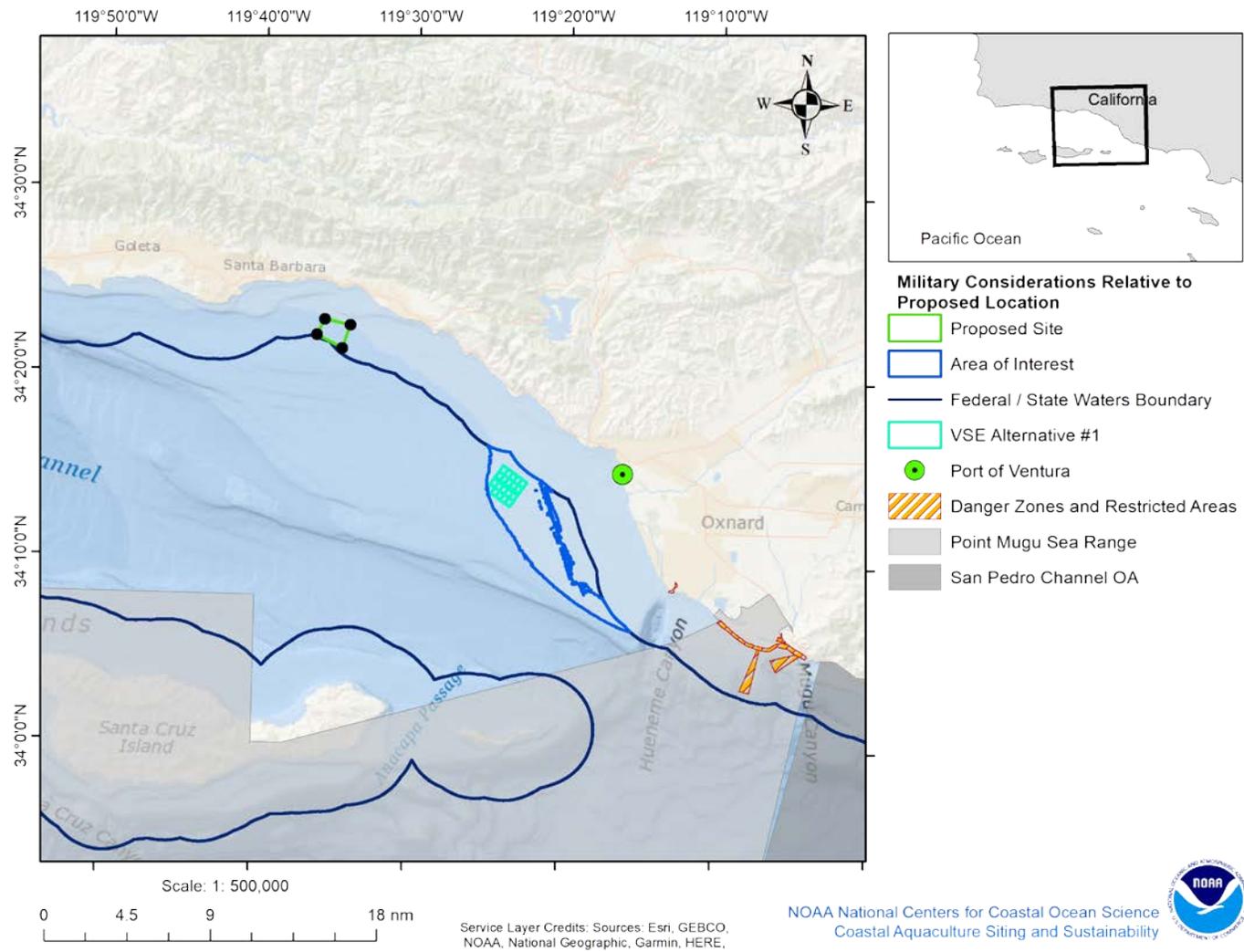


Figure 6. Military considerations with the proposed alternative location relative to VSE Alternative #1.

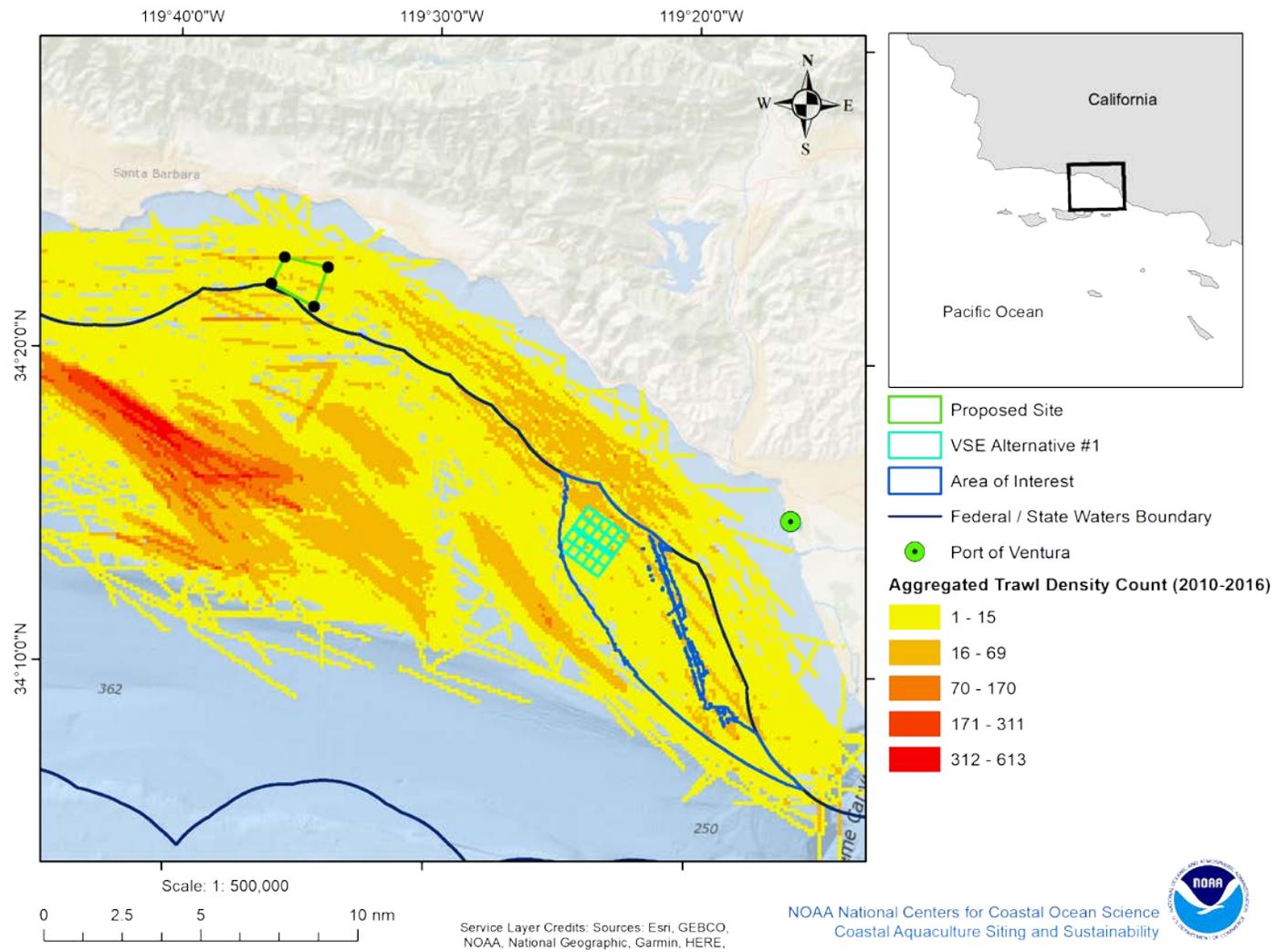


Figure 7. Trawl fishery interactions with the proposed alternative location relative to VSE Alternative #1.

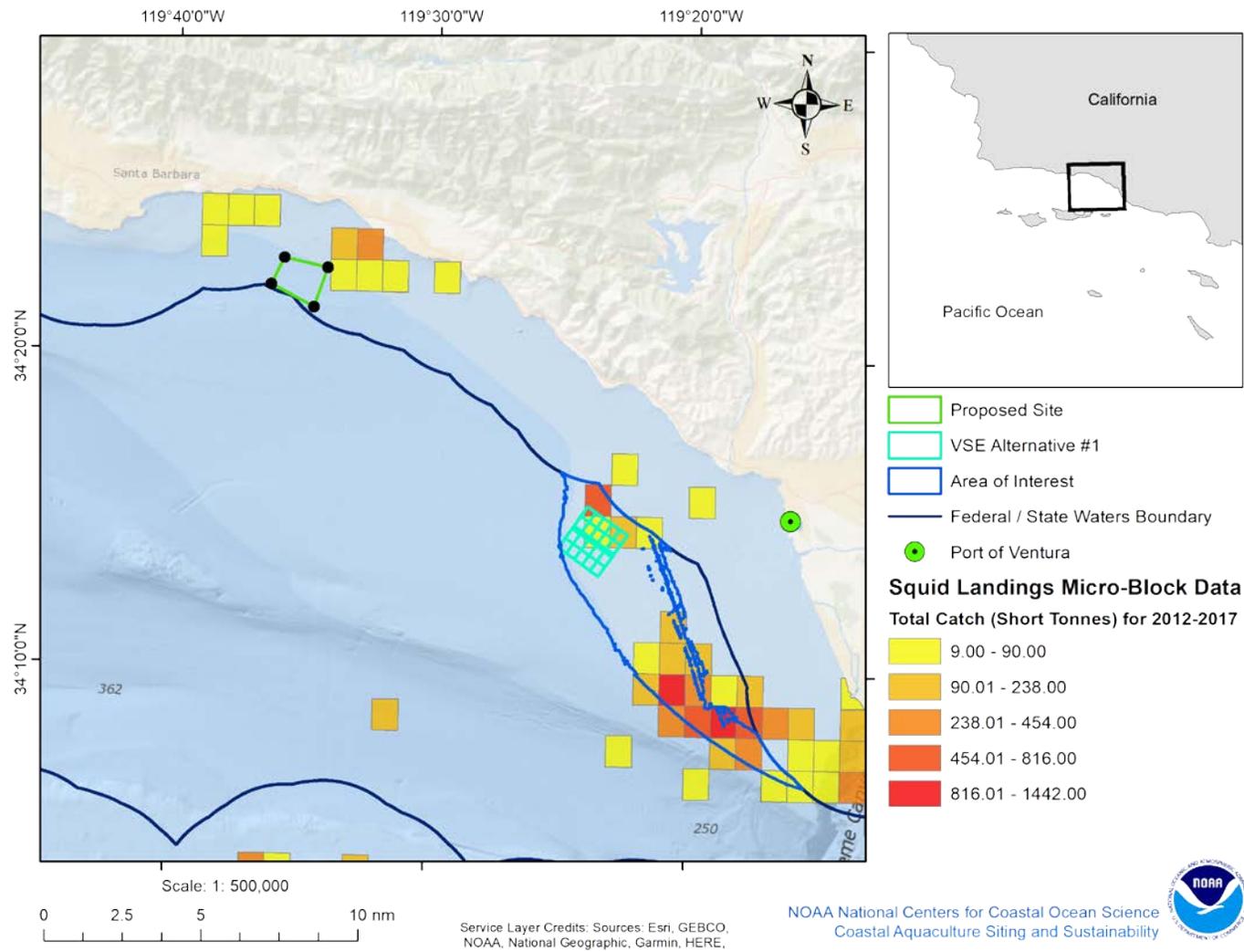


Figure 8. Squid fishery interactions with the proposed alternative location relative to VSE Alternative #1.

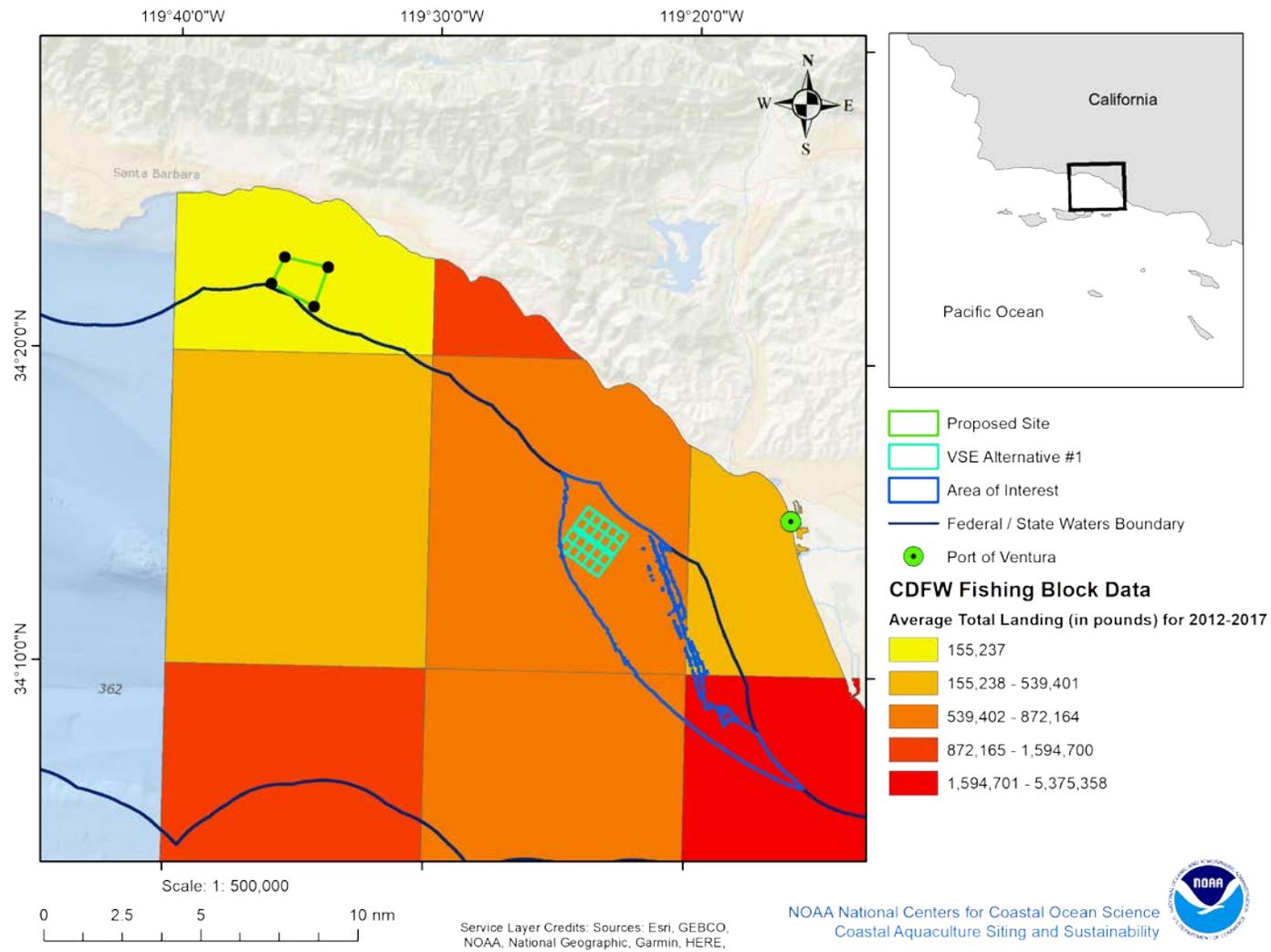


Figure 9. Average total landings (in pounds) for the period of 2012-2017 based on California Department of Fish and Wildlife landings receipt data for blocks relative to the proposed alternative site and VSE alternative #1.