

SUPPLEMENTAL DRAFT ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT STATEMENT/OVERSEAS ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT STATEMENT for GULF OF ALASKA NAVY TRAINING ACTIVITIES

Lead Agency: United States Department of the Navy
Cooperating Agency: National Marine Fisheries Service
Title of the Proposed Action: Gulf of Alaska Navy Training Activities
Designation: Supplemental Draft Environmental Impact Statement/Overseas Environmental Impact Statement

Abstract

The United States (U.S.) Department of the Navy (Navy) prepared this Supplemental Environmental Impact Statement (EIS)/Overseas EIS (OEIS) in compliance with the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) of 1969 (42 U.S. Code §4321 et seq.); the Council on Environmental Quality Regulations for Implementing the Procedural Provisions of NEPA (Title 40 Code of Federal Regulations [C.F.R.] §§1500 et seq.); Navy Procedures for Implementing NEPA (32 C.F.R. §775); and Executive Order (EO) 12114, *Environmental Effects Abroad of Major Federal Actions*. The Navy identified its need to continue to support and conduct current, emerging, and future training activities in the Gulf of Alaska in order to support U.S. Pacific Command, Northern Command and Joint Task Force commander training requirements to achieve and maintain Fleet readiness, as required by Title 10 of the U.S. Code.

The Navy is not substantially changing the proposed action alternative selected in the May 2011 Record of Decision. The purpose of this Supplemental EIS/OEIS is to supplement the environmental information and analysis contained in the 2011 GOA Final EIS/OEIS with the best available scientific data and analysis techniques. Subsequently, the alternatives analyzed in this Supplemental EIS/OEIS are the same alternatives analyzed in the 2011 GOA Final EIS/OEIS, as follows:

- The No Action Alternative is to continue baseline training activities of the types and levels of training intensity conducted prior to 2011, which did not include Anti-submarine Warfare (ASW) training activities involving the use of active sonar.
- Alternative 1 includes adjustments to the types and levels of activities from the baseline, as necessary, to support current and planned Navy training requirements, including:
 - All training activities addressed in the No Action Alternative and an increase in training activities
 - Conducting one large-scale carrier strike group (CSG) exercise, plus ASW training activities and the use of active sonar, occurring over a maximum time period of up to 21 consecutive days during the April–October timeframe.
 - Training required by force structure changes for new weapons systems, instrumentation, and technology as well as new classes of ships, submarines, and types of aircraft
 - Development and use of the portable undersea tracking range
- Alternative 2 includes all elements of Alternative 1 plus one additional CSG exercise during the summer months (April–October). Additionally, Alternative 2 includes conducting one sinking exercise per CSG exercise for a total of two per year.

In this Supplemental EIS/OEIS, the Navy analyzes potential environmental impacts that result or could result from activities occurring in the Temporary Maritime Activities Area under the Proposed Action. Resource areas of marine mammals and threatened and endangered species are addressed in this supplement due to new information and analytical methods relevant to the potential effects upon those resources. The following resources were considered, but not carried forward for alternatives re-analysis

because there were no new circumstances or information relevant to those environmental concerns from the 2011 GOA Final EIS/OEIS that would require re-analysis in this Supplemental EIS/OEIS: air quality, expended materials, water resources, acoustic environment (airborne), marine plants and invertebrates, fish, sea turtles, birds, cultural resources, transportation and circulation, socioeconomics, environmental justice and protection of children, and public safety.

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