
Appendix C: Public Participation

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APPENDIX C PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

This appendix includes information about the public's participation in the development of the Gulf of Alaska (GOA) Navy Training Activities Supplemental Environmental Impact Statement (EIS)/Overseas EIS (Supplemental EIS/OEIS).

C.1 PROJECT WEBSITE

A public website was established specifically for this project (<http://www.GOAEIS.com/>). This website address was published in the *Notice of Intent to Prepare a Supplement to the Gulf of Alaska Navy Training Activities Environmental Impact Statement and Overseas Impact Statement and to Announce Public Scoping* (Notice of Intent [NOI]) and has subsequently been re-printed in all newspaper advertisements, agency letters, and public postcards. Project Fact Sheets and various other materials will be available on the project website throughout the course of the project.

C.2 GENERAL SUMMARY OF THE SCOPING PERIOD

In accordance with the Council on Environmental Quality regulations for implementing the requirements of the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA), scoping is not required for a Supplemental EIS/OEIS; however, in an effort to maximize public participation and ensure the public's concerns are addressed, the United States (U.S.) Department of the Navy (Navy) chose to conduct a scoping period for this Supplemental EIS/OEIS. The public scoping period began with the issuance of the NOI in the *Federal Register* on 16 January 2013. This notice included a project description and scoping meeting dates and locations. The scoping period lasted 60 days, concluding on 18 March 2013. Sections C.2.1 and C.2.2 describe the Navy's notification efforts during scoping. The scoping period allowed a variety of opportunities for the public to comment on the scope of the Supplemental EIS/OEIS.

C.2.1 TRIBAL NOTIFICATION LETTERS

Tribal letters were mailed on 11 January 2013 to 12 Alaska Native federally-recognized tribes. Recipients included:

- Yakutat Tlingit Tribe
- Tangirnaq Native Village
- Sun'aq Tribe of Kodiak
- Native Village of Tatitlek
- Native Village of Port Lions
- Native Village of Port Graham
- Native Village of Ouzinkie
- Native Village of Old Harbor
- Native Village of Eyak
- Native Village of Chenega
- Native Village of Afognak
- Kaguyak Village

Additionally, personalized tribal notification letters were distributed to 28 tribal chairpersons and staff, including presidents, environmental coordinators, and natural resource managers.

C.2.2 PUBLIC SCOPING NOTIFICATION

The Navy made significant efforts at notifying the public to ensure maximum public participation during the scoping process. A summary of these efforts follows.

C.2.2.1 Scoping Notification Letters

NOI/Notice of Scoping period letters were distributed on 11 January 2013 to 164 federal, state, and local elected officials and government agencies. Recipients included:

Federal

U.S. Senators (Alaska) and Staff

U.S. Representative (Alaska At-Large District) and Staff

Alaska Maritime National Wildlife Refuge

Alaska Science Center

Bureau of Indian Affairs

Bureau of Land Management, Alaska State Office

Federal Aviation Administration

Washington, D.C., Headquarters

Regional Administrator, Alaska Region

Alaska Air Traffic Representative

Air Defense Liaison Officer, Headquarters North American Aerospace Defense Command

Northwest Mountain Region

Office of Aviation Services

Alaska Regional Director

U.S. Army Corps of Engineers

Environmental Special Programs Director

Alaska District Commander and District Engineer

Executive Office

U.S. Department of Agriculture, Forest Service

Director, Alaska Region

Ranger, Chugach National Forest

Biologist, Chugach National Forest

Forest Supervisor, Chugach National Forest

U.S. Department of Commerce

Acting Secretary, Washington, D.C., Headquarters

National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration

Supervisory Fishery Research Biologist, Kodiak, Alaska

Fishery Resource Management Specialist, Juneau, Alaska

Alaska Fisheries Science Center, Seattle, Washington

Director, Kasitsna Bay Lab, Homer, Alaska

National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS)

Alaska Regional Administrator

Assistant Regional Administrator, Office of Protected Resources

Deputy Regional Administrator

Alaska Fisheries Science Center

Alaska Regional Habitat Conservation Division

Alaska Habitat Conservation Division

Office of Protected Resources

Office of Protect Resources Alaska Region
 Sustainable Fisheries Division
 North Pacific Fisheries Management Council
 U.S. Department of Homeland Security
 U.S. Coast Guard
 Office of Environmental Management
 Chief
 Environmental Planning Team Lead
 Office of Operating and Environmental Standards
 U.S. Department of the Interior
 Special Assistant to the Secretary
 Bureau of Indian Affairs
 Bureau of Land Management
 Bureau of Ocean Energy Management, Regulation, and Enforcement
 Director
 Regional Director
 Regional Supervisor, Leasing and Environment
 Office of Environmental Policy and Compliance
 Regional Environmental Officer
 U.S. Environmental Protection Agency
 Anchorage Operations Office
 NEPA Compliance Division, Washington, D.C.
 Region X, Juneau, Alaska
 Region X NEPA Review Unit Office, Seattle, Washington
 U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service
 Alaska Regional Office
 Kodiak National Wildlife Refuge
 Branch Chief, Conservation Planning Assistance, Anchorage Field Office
 Field Supervisor, Anchorage Field Office
 U.S. Geological Survey
 Alaska Science Center
 Western Fisheries Research Center
 U.S. National Park Service
 Alaska Regional Aviation Manager
 Alaska Regional Director
 Wildlife Biologist, Humpback Whale Monitoring Program, Glacier Bay National Park and Preserve

State of Alaska

Governor and Staff
 State Senators (Districts A, B, C, E, G, N, O, P, Q, R, and S) and Staff
 State Representatives (Districts 2–7, 9–11, 13, 14, 16, and 27–37) and Staff
 Alaska Marine Highway
 Department of Natural Resources
 Division of Forestry
 Division of Geological and Geophysical Surveys
 Division of Mining, Land and Water Anchorage
 Division of Oil and Gas

Division of Parks and Outdoor Recreation
Public Information Center
Department of Commerce
Community and Economic Development
Division of Community and Regional Affairs
Department of Environmental Conservation
Commissioner's Office
Division of Administrative Services
Division of Air Quality
Division of Environmental Health
Division of Spill and Prevention Response
Department of Fish and Game
Commercial Fisheries Division
Division of Wildlife Conservation
Habitat Division
Sport Fisheries Division (Anchorage and Fairbanks)
Sportfishing Division (Glen Allen Office)
Statewide Subsistence Division
Subsistence Division (Anchorage)
Department of Military and Veterans Affairs
Department of Transportation and Public Facilities
North Region Fairbanks
Ports and Harbors Division (Juneau Office)
Statewide Aviation Office
Kachemak Bay Conservation Society
Regulatory Commission of Alaska

Local – Alaska

City and Borough of Juneau
City of Cordova
Fairbanks North Star Borough
Kenai Peninsula Borough
Kodiak Island Borough
Matanuska-Susitna Borough
Municipality of Anchorage

C.2.2.2 Postcard Mailers

On 11 January 2013, postcards were mailed to 399 nongovernmental organizations; community, business, fishing, aviation, recreation and marina groups; government agencies; elected officials; and individuals on the project mailing list. Postcards included the scoping period dates and comment instructions.

C.2.2.3 Press Releases

One press release was distributed by the Navy Region Northwest Public Affairs Office to media outlets, elected officials, and other potentially interested parties. The news release was distributed on 15 January 2013 and announced the intent to prepare a Supplemental EIS/OEIS. The press releases

included information about the Proposed Action and its purpose and need, and project website and comment submittal information.

C.2.2.4 Newspaper Display Advertisements

Five display advertisements were published in each of the following newspapers: *Anchorage Daily News*, *Cordova Times*, *Juneau Empire*, *Kodiak Daily Mirror*, and *Peninsula Clarion*. The first series of newspaper advertisements ran concurrently with the NOI publication in the *Federal Register* on 16 January 2013, and ran for 3 consecutive days, with the exception of the weekly-published *Cordova Times*, which ran on the first 3 days the newspaper was scheduled to publish. The second and third series of advertisements were published on 2 additional days during the middle and end of the scoping period.

Anchorage, Alaska <i>Anchorage Daily News (daily)</i> Wednesday, Jan. 16, 2013 Thursday, Jan. 17, 2013 Friday, Jan. 18, 2013 Wednesday, Feb. 13, 2013 Wednesday, Mar. 6, 2013	Juneau, Alaska <i>Juneau Empire (daily)</i> Wednesday, Jan. 16, 2013 Thursday, Jan. 17, 2013 Friday, Jan. 18, 2013 Wednesday, Feb. 13, 2013 Wednesday, Mar. 6, 2013	Anchorage and Kenai Peninsula Alaska <i>Peninsula Clarion (daily)</i> Wednesday, Jan. 16, 2013 Thursday, Jan. 17, 2013 Friday, Jan. 18, 2013 Wednesday, Feb. 13, 2013 Wednesday, Mar. 6, 2013
Cordova, Alaska <i>Cordova Times (weekly – Friday)</i> Friday, Jan. 18, 2013 Friday, Jan. 25, 2013 Friday, Feb. 1, 2013 Friday, Feb. 15, 2013 Friday, Mar. 8, 2013	Kodiak and Anchorage, Alaska <i>Kodiak Daily Mirror (daily)</i> Wednesday, Jan. 16, 2013 Thursday, Jan. 17, 2013 Friday, Jan. 18, 2013 Wednesday, Feb. 13, 2013 Wednesday, Mar. 6, 2013	

C.2.3 SCOPING MEETINGS

Given that the Navy's Proposed Action and Alternatives have not changed from the 2011 GOA Final EIS/OEIS, public scoping meetings were not held, but public comments were accepted during the scoping period from 16 January 2013 to 18 March 2013.

C.2.4 PUBLIC SCOPING COMMENTS

Scoping participants submitted comments in three ways:

- Written letters (received any time during the public comment period)
- Electronic mail (received any time during the public comment period)
- Comments submitted directly on the project website (received any time during the public comment period)

In total, the Navy received 13 comment submissions from individuals, groups, agencies, and elected officials. Six comment submissions were submitted via the project website, five comment submissions were submitted via postal mail, and two comment submissions were submitted via e-mail. Table C-1 provides a breakdown of areas of concern based on comments received during scoping. Because many of the comment submissions addressed more than one issue, the total number of issues raised is greater than the 13 comment submissions received. However, as the general theme of some of the comments

remained the same, they have been consolidated into areas of concern. The summary following Table C-1 provides an overview of comments and is organized by area of concern.

Table C-1: Public Scoping Comment Summary

Area of Concern	Count	Percent of Total
Impacts on Marine Species	6	42.8%
Impacts on Airspace	1	7.2%
Impacts on Fisheries	3	21.4%
Issues Regarding the 2011 GOA Final EIS/OEIS	3	21.4%
General	1	7.2%
TOTAL	14	100.0%

Notes: EIS/OEIS = Environmental Impact Statement/Overseas Environmental Impact Statement, GOA = Gulf of Alaska

C.2.4.1 Impacts on Marine Species

- Concern about how military training in the area would impact various marine species
- Opposition to acoustic training in sensitive waters of the Gulf of Alaska
- Opposition to the issuance of any federal permits or authorizations
- Concern about how marine species would be impacted by hazardous substances, bioaccumulation, chemical pollutants, and the use of sonar
- Need to study cumulative impacts on marine mammals from military training, warming waters, and oil drilling
- Belief that the Navy harms animals and people wherever it trains

C.2.4.2 Impacts on Airspace

- Concern about the impacts military training in the Gulf of Alaska would have on special use airspace

C.2.4.3 Impacts on Fisheries

- Request to eliminate Navy training activities within 100 nautical miles of commercial, sport, and subsistence fisheries
- Concern for potential effects proposed training activities would have on NMFS trust resources
- Discussion of NMFS as a cooperating agency at both the local and headquarters levels

C.2.4.4 Issues Regarding the 2011 Gulf of Alaska Final Environmental Impact Statement/Overseas Environmental Impact Statement

- Dissatisfaction with how public and agency comments were addressed in the 2011 GOA Final EIS/OEIS
- Belief that the Navy presented flawed counts of species density in the 2011 GOA Final EIS/OEIS and need to fix density counts in the Supplemental EIS/OEIS
- Belief that it is unnecessary to conduct a Supplemental EIS/OEIS when the Final EIS/OEIS was recently completed

C.2.4.5 General

- Support for Navy training within the Gulf of Alaska to maintain readiness