
Executive Summary

**Gulf of Alaska Navy Training Activities
Draft Supplemental Environmental Impact Statement/
Overseas Environmental Impact Statement**

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ES Executive Summary

ES.1 Introduction

The United States (U.S.) Department of the Navy (Navy) has prepared this Draft Supplemental Environmental Impact Statement (SEIS)/Overseas Environmental Impact Statement (OEIS) to supplement the impact analysis contained in the Final Gulf of Alaska (GOA) Navy Training Activities Environmental Impact Statement (EIS)/OEIS (U.S. Department of the Navy, 2011) (hereinafter referred to as the 2011 GOA Final EIS/OEIS) and contained in the GOA Final Navy Training Activities SEIS/OEIS (U.S. Department of the Navy, 2016) (hereinafter referred to as the 2016 GOA Final SEIS/OEIS) pursuant to 40 Code of Federal Regulations (CFR) Section 1502.9(c) (2019), and Executive Order 12114. This SEIS/OEIS considers ongoing and future activities conducted at sea, updates training requirements, incorporates new information from an updated acoustic effects model, updates marine mammal density data, and incorporates evolving and emergent best available science. It also supports the issuance of federal regulatory permits and authorizations under the Marine Mammal Protection Act (MMPA) and the Endangered Species Act (ESA) using the most current and best available science and analytical methods to assess potential environmental impacts on the species covered by those regulations. The at-sea training area in this SEIS/OEIS is referred to as the GOA Temporary Maritime Activities Area (TMAA) (Figure ES-1) and is the same at-sea training area analyzed in the 2011 GOA Final EIS/OEIS and 2016 GOA Final SEIS/OEIS. The Proposed Action comprises the military continuing training activities previously conducted and described in the 2016 GOA Final SEIS/OEIS, for which a Record of Decision (ROD) was issued. Although the types of activities and number of events in the Proposed Action are the same as in the previous documents (Alternative 1 in both the 2011 GOA Final EIS/OEIS and 2016 GOA Final SEIS/OEIS), there have been changes in the platforms and systems used as part of those activities (e.g., EA-6B aircraft and frigate, and their associated systems, have been replaced with the EA-18G, Littoral Combat Ship, and Destroyer). Consistent with the previous analyses for Alternative 1, the sinking exercise activity will not be part of the Proposed Action for this SEIS/OEIS. The Proposed Action is to conduct an annual exercise, historically referred to as Northern Edge, over a maximum time period of up to 21 consecutive days during the months of April to October.

ES.2 Purpose of and Need for Proposed Military Readiness Training Activities

As identified in the 2011 GOA Final EIS/OEIS and the 2016 GOA Final SEIS/OEIS, the purpose of the Navy's Proposed Action is to use the TMAA (a portion of the Joint Pacific Alaska Range Complex, previously referred to as the Alaska Training Areas) to support and conduct current, emerging, and future training activities. This action is needed to achieve and maintain fleet readiness to ensure the Navy's continued, effective protection of U.S. national security.

ES.3 Scope and Content of the Environmental Impact Statement/Overseas Environmental Impact Statement

In this SEIS/OEIS, the Navy reevaluated potential impacts from the ongoing military training activities in the GOA TMAA. The GOA TMAA supports opportunistic experimentation and testing activities when conducted as part of training activities and when considered to be consistent with the proposed training activities. These activities could occur as part of large-scale exercises or as independent events. Therefore, there is no separate discussion or analysis for testing activities that may occur as part of the proposed military readiness activities in the TMAA.

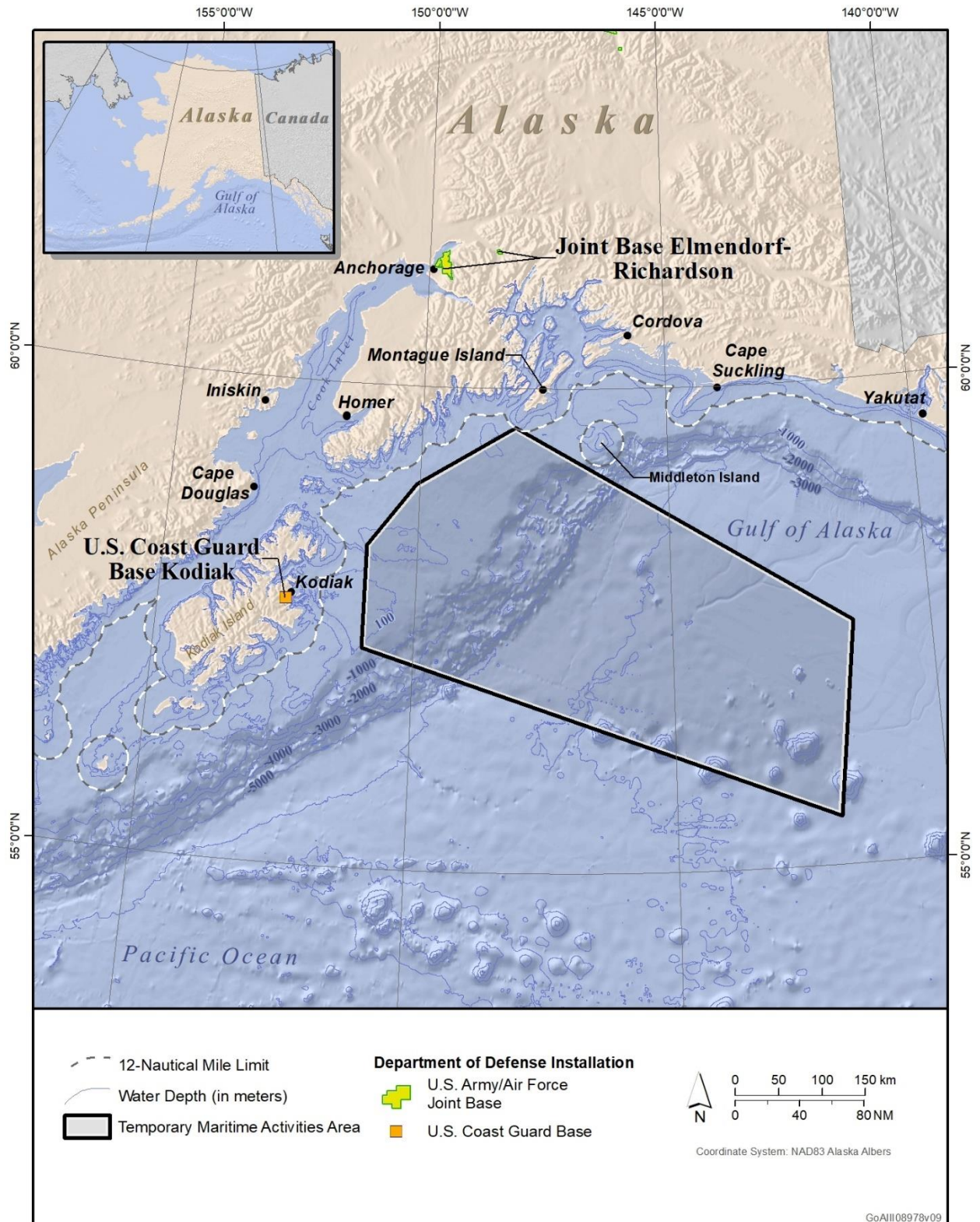


Figure ES-1: Gulf of Alaska Navy Temporary Maritime Activities Area

This Draft SEIS/OEIS assesses potential impacts of the Proposed Action on the environment. The Proposed Action is consistent with the Proposed Action presented in the 2011 GOA Final EIS/OEIS and 2016 GOA Final SEIS/OEIS, for which a ROD was issued, and entails the military continuing training activities previously conducted and described in the 2011 GOA Final EIS/OEIS and 2016 GOA Final SEIS/OEIS. This Draft SEIS/OEIS assessed potential impacts of the alternatives (Alternative 1 and the No Action Alternative). The resources evaluated include fishes, sea turtles, marine mammals, birds, and socioeconomic resources and environmental justice. Since the completion of the 2016 GOA Final SEIS/OEIS, new information has become available and is incorporated in this analysis. New information specifically addressed in this SEIS/OEIS includes updates to training requirements, an updated acoustic effects model, updated marine mammal density data and sea turtle hearing criteria, and other emergent best available science.

In this SEIS/OEIS, the Navy analyzes acoustic and explosive impacts on marine mammals, fishes, birds, and sea turtles; direct, indirect, cumulative, short-term, and long-term impacts; and the irreversible and irretrievable commitment of resources that may result from the Proposed Action.

The Navy is the lead agency for the Proposed Action and is responsible for the scope and content of this SEIS/OEIS. The National Oceanic Atmospheric Administration's National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS) is serving as a cooperating agency pursuant to 40 CFR Section 1501.6 because of its expertise and regulatory authority over marine resources. Additionally, this document will serve as NMFS' environmental planning documentation for the rule-making process under the MMPA. In accordance with the Council on Environmental Quality (CEQ) Regulations, 40 CFR part 1505.2, the Navy will issue a ROD that provides the rationale for choosing one of the alternatives.

ES.4 Government and Public Involvement

ES.4.1 Scoping Process

In an effort to maximize public participation and ensure the public's input is considered, the Navy conducted scoping for this SEIS/OEIS. Public scoping began with the issuance of the Notice of Intent in the *Federal Register* (FR) on February 10, 2020 (85 FR 7538). To further notify the public of the scoping period, the Navy published advertisements in 5 newspapers, distributed press releases, mailed notification letters (24 tribal chairpersons of federally recognized tribes and 128 federal, state, and local elected officials and government agencies) and postcards (556 individuals, community groups, tribal staff, and nongovernmental organizations) to key stakeholders and parties previously expressing an interest in this project, and provided notification via the project website (<https://goaeis.com/>) and email.

In accordance with the CEQ regulations for implementing the requirements of the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA), scoping is not required for an SEIS (40 CFR Section 1502.9(c)(4)). However, in an effort to maximize public participation and ensure the public's concerns are addressed, the Navy chose to conduct a scoping period for this SEIS/OEIS.

Given that the Navy's Proposed Action has not changed, public scoping meetings were not held, but public comments were accepted during the scoping period from February 10, 2020 to March 11, 2020. In total, the Navy received 25 comment submissions from individuals, groups, and agencies. The Navy considered all scoping comments in preparing this SEIS/OEIS.

ES.4.2 Additional Outreach

Prior to the start of the Alaska Command sponsored exercise, Northern Edge 15 (June 2015), the Navy and representatives from Alaska Command conducted a series of town meetings with the Alaskan communities of Cordova, Kodiak, and Homer. During those meetings, concerns were expressed about impacts on fish and the fishing community. The representatives reiterated to the public that the best available science indicated that training activities will not compromise the productivity of fish or affect their habitat. Additionally, it was reemphasized that fishermen will also see little to no change, associated with training activities.

Navy personnel have participated in public outreach and community events since 2016, such as post-Northern Edge coastal community meetings; Navy band events; Alaska Federation of Natives Convention; Alaska Marine Science Symposium; Alaska Forum on the Environment; ComFish; and Pacific Marine Exposition in Anchorage, Cordova, Seward, Kodiak and Fairbanks, Alaska, and Seattle, Washington. Expanded outreach will continue into the foreseeable future to ensure stakeholders are kept informed of the Navy's training activities in the TMAA.

ES.5 Proposed Action and Alternatives

Through this Draft SEIS/OEIS, the Navy:

- Presents the results of the evaluation of relevant new information, which has been incorporated into revised analyses where appropriate. Each resource area analyzed within the 2011 GOA Final EIS/OEIS and the 2016 GOA Final SEIS/OEIS has been evaluated to determine the need for re-analysis within this SEIS/OEIS.
- Updates environmental analyses with the best available science and most current acoustic analysis methods to evaluate the potential effects of training activities on the marine environment.
- Supports authorization of incidental takes of marine mammals under the MMPA and incidental takes of threatened and endangered marine species under the ESA.

ES.5.1 No Action Alternative

The No Action Alternative is required by CEQ regulations as a baseline against which the impacts of the Proposed Action are compared. CEQ guidance identifies two approaches in developing the No Action Alternative (46 FR 18026). One approach for activities that have been ongoing for long periods of time is for the No Action Alternative to be thought of in terms of continuing the present course of action, or current management direction or intensity, such as the continuing Navy training at sea in the TMAA at current levels, even if renewed authorizations under the MMPA and ESA are required. Under this approach, which was used in the 2016 GOA Final SEIS/OEIS, the analysis compares the effects of continuing current activity levels (i.e., the "status quo") with the effects of the Proposed Action. The second approach depicts a scenario where no authorizations or permits are issued, in which the Proposed Action does not take place, and the resulting environmental effects from taking no action are compared with the effects of implementing the Proposed Action. The Navy applied the second approach in this SEIS/OEIS to further support NMFS' regulatory process by presenting the scenario where no authorization would be issued.

Cessation of military at-sea training activities in the TMAA would mean that the Navy would not meet its statutory requirements and would be unable to properly defend itself and the United States from enemy forces, unable to successfully detect enemy submarines, and unable to safely and effectively use its weapons systems or defensive countermeasures. Navy personnel would essentially not obtain the

unique skills or be prepared to safely and effectively use sensors, weapons, and technologies in realistic scenarios required to accomplish the overall mission. Consequently, the No Action Alternative is unreasonable because it does not meet the purpose and need.

ES.5.2 Alternative 1 (Preferred Alternative)

Alternative 1 is the Preferred Alternative. Alternative 1 is a Status Quo Alternative based on the 2016 GOA Final SEIS/OEIS and 2017 GOA ROD. Under this alternative, the Navy would continue the present course of action (continuation of Navy training in the TMAA at current levels documented in the 2017 GOA ROD) even if separate legal authorizations under the MMPA and ESA are required. The Navy could continue to conduct training activities, at the level and scope of activities necessary to fulfill its Title 10 responsibilities described in the Purpose and Need of the Proposed Action. In the GOA TMAA, a Status Quo Alternative would allow the Navy to meet current and future training requirements necessary to achieve and maintain fleet readiness.

ES.6 Summary of Environmental Impacts

Table ES-1 provides a listing of the potential environmental impacts of the Proposed Action. The same resources that were identified and analyzed in the 2011 GOA Final EIS/OEIS and the 2016 GOA Final SEIS/OEIS were considered for reanalysis for this SEIS/OEIS and for reanalysis of cumulative impacts. Those physical resources include air quality, expended materials, water resources, and acoustic environment (airborne). Biological resources considered include marine plants and invertebrates, fish, sea turtles, marine mammals, and birds. Human resources and issues considered include cultural resources, transportation and circulation, socioeconomics, environmental justice and protection of children, and public safety.

For purposes of consistency across all environmental compliance planning conducted under the Navy's At-Sea Policy (see Section 1.2, The Navy's Environmental Compliance and At-Sea Policy), the Navy realigned the resources in this SEIS/OEIS with those of other Navy at-sea projects. The same resources were analyzed, but that analysis in some instances has been shifted into new or renamed resource sections. The following resource sections remain unchanged: Section 3.1 (Air Quality), Section 3.7 (Sea Turtles), Section 3.8 (Marine Mammals), Section 3.9 (Birds), and Section 3.10 (Cultural Resources). See Table 3.0-1 in Section 3.0 of this SEIS/OEIS for a full description of the current organization of resources.

No new Navy training activities are proposed in the TMAA in this SEIS/OEIS, and, for several of the resources, the existing baseline conditions have not changed appreciably. The Navy determined that new research, literature, laws, and regulatory guidance addressed in this SEIS/OEIS resulted in little or no change to the findings of the impact analyses in the 2016 GOA Final SEIS/OEIS. Therefore, the impact assessments from the 2016 GOA Final SEIS/OEIS are incorporated by reference for each of the following resource areas (section numbers and names align with the new organization of sections described above): air quality, sediments and water quality, marine habitats, marine vegetation, marine invertebrates, cultural resources, and public health and safety. These resources are not analyzed further in this SEIS/OEIS and are therefore not included in the summary of impacts in Table ES-1 below.

Table ES-1: Summary of Environmental Impacts for the Proposed Action

<i>Resource Category</i>	<i>Alternatives</i>	<i>Summary of Impacts</i>	<i>Explanation of Differences from 2016 SEIS/OEIS</i>
Fishes	Alt 1	<p><i>Impacts from acoustic and explosive stressors:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Conclusions for fishes made for Alternative 1 that were analyzed in the 2011 GOA Final EIS/OEIS and the 2016 GOA Final SEIS/OEIS remain unchanged in this SEIS/OEIS. • Pursuant to the ESA, the use of explosives, sonar and other transducers, vessel noise, aircraft noise, and weapon noise may affect ESA-listed salmonid species and green sturgeon. 	Reanalyzed acoustics and explosives for ESA-listed salmonid species (two new salmonid evolutionarily significant units are candidate species and may become ESA-listed in the near future) and the green sturgeon as new evidence suggests that ESA-listed green sturgeon may be present in the TMAA where they were not previously anticipated to occur.
Sea Turtles	Alt 1	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Overall, due to a low density estimate, zero leatherback sea turtle impacts were estimated to occur from the use of acoustic and explosive sources under Alternative 1 of the Proposed Action. 	The Navy Acoustic Effects Model was utilized to estimate impacts on leatherback sea turtles. There was no change to stressors, and modeling indicated no impacts, so the 2011 GOA Final EIS/OEIS and 2016 GOA Final SEIS/OEIS analysis remains valid.
Marine Mammals	Alt 1	<p><i>Impacts from acoustic and explosive stressors:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The modeling and post-modeling analyses predict marine mammal exposures to acoustic and explosive sources resulting in Level B harassment and exposures resulting in Level A harassment. • The modeling and post-modeling analyses predict no marine mammal mortalities as a result of explosive sources. 	Reanalyzed acoustics and explosives stressors for marine mammals in the TMAA. The Navy determined (U.S. Department of the Navy, 2017) and NMFS agreed (82 FR 19530; 82 FR 24679; National Marine Fisheries Service (2017)) that for Navy activities in the TMAA, only acoustics and explosives could potentially result in the incidental taking of marine mammals.

Table ES-1: Summary of Environmental Impacts for the Proposed Action (continued)

<i>Resource Category</i>	<i>Alternatives</i>	<i>Summary of Impacts</i>	<i>Explanation of Differences from 2016 SEIS/OEIS</i>
Birds	Alt 1	<p><i>Impacts from acoustic and explosive stressors:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Under the Migratory Bird Treaty Act (MBTA) regulations applicable to military readiness activities (50 Code of Federal Regulations [CFR] Part 21), the impacts from explosives, sonar and other transducers, vessel noise, aircraft noise, and weapon noise during training activities described under Alternative 1 would not result in a significant adverse effect on populations of seabirds, shorebirds, and other birds protected under the MBTA. 	Updated sound exposure criteria and acoustic effects modeling. Incorporated new information on ESA-listed short-tailed albatross presence in the TMAA, where the species was previously not anticipated to occur.
Socioeconomic Resources and Environmental Justice	Alt 1	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> No adverse impacts on commercial/recreational fishing, fisheries research/management, civilian access, or tourism would occur as a result of Alternative 1. Under Alternative 1, Navy activities were considered and would be consistent with those analyzed in the previous environmental documentation (U.S. Department of the Air Force, 1995, 2007; U.S. Department of the Army, 1999, 2004; U.S. Department of the Navy, 2011, 2016). These documents concluded that no significant impacts related to socioeconomics would occur. Overflights would not result in adverse effects to commercial shipping, commercial fishing, recreation, or tourism. 	No change from the 2011 GOA Final EIS/OEIS and 2016 GOA Final SEIS/OEIS.

Notes: Alt = Alternative, EIS/OEIS = Environmental Impact Statement/Overseas Environmental Impact Statement, ESA = Endangered Species Act, FR = Federal Register, GOA = Gulf of Alaska, NMFS = National Marine Fisheries Service, SEIS = Supplemental Environmental Impact Statement, TMAA = Temporary Maritime Activities Area.

ES.7 Cumulative Impacts

Marine mammals are the primary resource considered in the cumulative impacts analysis. Marine mammal species occurring in the TMAA may be impacted by multiple ongoing and future actions related to human activities. Explosive detonations and non-impulsive sources such as sonar under Alternative 1 have the potential to disturb or injure marine mammals; however, there are very few injuries and no mortalities expected or predicted by the modeling.

The Proposed Action would contribute to cumulative impacts, but the relative contribution to overall cumulative impacts would be small compared to other human actions, such as commercial ship strikes, bycatch, entanglement, and ocean pollution. The predicted annual takes from the Proposed Action will have no measurable population-level effects when evaluated independently and incrementally with other actions.

For the remaining resource categories, the 2011 GOA Final EIS/OEIS and 2016 GOA Final SEIS/OEIS conclusions are still valid. Additionally, as described in Chapter 4 (Cumulative Impacts) of the 2011 GOA Final EIS/OEIS and 2016 GOA Final SEIS/OEIS, the potential cumulative impacts of the Proposed Action on the remaining resource categories would be negligible or not cumulatively significant.

ES.8 Standard Operating Procedures, Mitigation, and Monitoring

Within the Study Area, the Navy implements standard operating procedures, mitigation measures, and marine species monitoring and reporting. Navy standard operating procedures have the indirect benefit of reducing potential impacts on marine resources. Mitigation measures are designed to help reduce or avoid potential impacts on marine or cultural resources. Marine species monitoring efforts are designed to track compliance with take authorizations under the MMPA and ESA, evaluate the effectiveness of mitigation measures, and improve understanding of the effects training activities have on marine resources.

ES.8.1 Standard Operating Procedures

The Navy currently employs standard practices to provide for the safety of Navy and non-Navy personnel and equipment, including ships and aircraft, as well as the success of the training activities. In many cases there are incidental environmental, socioeconomic, and cultural benefits resulting from standard operating procedures. Standard operating procedures serve the primary purpose of providing for safety and mission success, and are implemented regardless of their secondary benefits. Because standard operating procedures are crucial to safety and mission success, the Navy will not modify them as a way to further reduce effects to environmental resources. Due to their importance for maintaining safety and mission success, standard operating procedures have been considered as part of the Proposed Action, and therefore are included in the Chapter 3 (Affected Environment and Environmental Consequences) environmental analyses for each applicable resource.

ES.8.2 Mitigation

The Navy recognizes that the Proposed Action has the potential to impact the environment. Unlike standard operating procedures, which are established for reasons other than environmental benefit, mitigation measures are modifications to the Proposed Action that are implemented for the sole purpose of reducing a specific potential environmental impact on a particular resource. The Navy is coordinating with NMFS and the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS) on these measures through the consultation and permitting processes. The new Navy ROD will document all mitigation measures the Navy will implement under the Proposed Action. The NMFS ROD, MMPA Regulations and Letter of

Authorization, ESA Biological Opinions, and other applicable consultation documents will include the mitigation measures applicable to the resources for which the Navy consults.

For the purposes of the ESA Section 7 consultation, the mitigation measures proposed in this SEIS/OEIS may be considered by NMFS and USFWS as beneficial actions taken by the Federal agency or applicant (50 CFR 402.14[g][8]). If necessary to satisfy requirements of the ESA, NMFS and USFWS may develop an additional set of measures contained in reasonable and prudent alternatives, reasonable and prudent measures, or conservation recommendations in any Biological Opinion issued for this Proposed Action.

Pursuant to the Navy's government-to-government consultations with federally recognized Alaska Native Tribes, agreements, both formal and informal, on protocols or tribal mitigations may be developed to reduce or eliminate impacts on protected tribal treaty reserved rights and protected tribal resources.

Mitigation measures that the military will implement under the Proposed Action are organized into two categories: procedural mitigation and mitigation areas. Procedural mitigation is mitigation that will be implemented whenever and wherever an applicable military readiness activity takes place within the TMAA. Mitigation areas are geographic locations within the TMAA where the military will implement additional mitigation (i.e., in addition to procedural mitigation) to further avoid or reduce potential impacts on marine mammals and fishery resources from active sonar, explosives, and physical disturbance and strike stressors.

ES.8.3 Mitigation Measures Considered but Eliminated

A number of possible additional mitigation measures were suggested during the public scoping period of this Draft SEIS/OEIS, as well as during comment periods of previous Navy environmental documents. Section 5.5 (Mitigation Measures Considered but Eliminated) contains information on measures that did not meet the appropriate balance between being effective and practical to implement, and therefore will not be implemented under the Proposed Action.

ES.8.4 Monitoring and Reporting

As described in the 2011 GOA Final EIS/OEIS and 2016 GOA Final SEIS/OEIS, the Navy remains committed to demonstrating environmental stewardship while executing its national security mission, complying with the suite of federal environmental laws and regulations, and providing required and relevant reports to appropriate regulatory agencies. Since 2006 across all Navy range complexes (in the Marianas, Pacific, Atlantic, Gulf of Mexico, and Gulf of Alaska), the Navy has produced various reports (Major Exercise Reports, Annual Exercise Reports, and Monitoring Reports) submitted to NMFS. These reports are aimed at understanding the Navy's impact on the environment as it carries out military readiness activities to accomplish its mission. As a complement to the Navy's commitment to avoiding and reducing impacts of the Proposed Action through mitigation, the Navy will undertake monitoring efforts to track compliance with take authorizations, help investigate the effectiveness of implemented mitigation measures, and better understand the impacts of the Proposed Action on marine resources. Taken together, mitigation and monitoring comprise the Navy's integrated approach for reducing environmental impacts from the Proposed Action. The Navy's overall monitoring approach will seek to leverage and build on existing research efforts whenever possible.

Consistent with the cooperating agency agreement with NMFS, mitigation and monitoring measures presented in this SEIS/OEIS focus on the requirements for protection and management of marine resources. Since monitoring will be required for compliance with the Final Rule issued for the Proposed

Action under the MMPA, details of the monitoring program are being developed in coordination with NMFS through the regulatory process.

The Navy developed the Integrated Comprehensive Monitoring Program to serve as the overarching framework for coordinating its marine species monitoring efforts and as a planning tool to focus its monitoring priorities pursuant to ESA and MMPA requirements (U.S. Department of the Navy, 2010). The purpose of the Integrated Comprehensive Monitoring Program is to coordinate monitoring efforts across all regions and to allocate the most appropriate level and type of monitoring effort for each range complex based on a set of standardized objectives, regional expertise, and resource availability. Additional information about the U.S. Navy Marine Species Monitoring Program, including an introduction to adaptive management and strategic planning, is provided in Section 5.1.2.2.1 (Marine Species Research and Monitoring Programs).

The Navy is committed to documenting and reporting relevant aspects of its military readiness activities in order to reduce potential environmental impacts and improve future environmental assessments. Initiatives include training activity reporting and incident reporting. Additional information is available on the U.S. Navy Marine Species Monitoring Program website, <https://www.navy-marinespeciesmonitoring.us/>.

ES.8.5 Other Considerations

ES.8.5.1 Consistency with Other Federal, State, and Local Plans, Policies, and Regulations

Based on an evaluation of consistency with statutory obligations, the Navy's proposed training and testing activities would not conflict with the objectives or requirements of federal, state, regional, or local plans, policies, or legal requirements. The Navy is consulting, and will continue to consult, with regulatory agencies as appropriate during the NEPA process and prior to implementation of the Proposed Action to ensure all legal requirements are met.

ES.8.5.2 Relationship Between Short-Term Use of the Human Environment and Maintenance and Enhancement of Long-Term Productivity

In accordance with NEPA, this SEIS/OEIS provides an analysis of the relationship between a project's short-term impacts on the environment and the effects that these impacts may have on the maintenance and enhancement of the long-term productivity of the affected environment. The Proposed Action may result in both short- and long-term environmental effects. However, the Proposed Action would not be expected to result in any impacts that would reduce environmental productivity; permanently narrow the range of beneficial uses of the environment; or pose long-term risks to health, safety, or the general welfare of the public.

ES.8.5.3 Irreversible or Irrecoverable Commitment of Resources

For the Proposed Action, most resource commitments are neither irreversible nor irretrievable. Most impacts are short-term and temporary or, if long lasting, are negligible. No habitat associated with threatened or endangered species would be lost as a result of implementation of the Proposed Action. Since there would be no building or facility construction, the consumption of materials typically associated with such construction (e.g., concrete, metal, sand, fuel) would not occur. Energy typically associated with construction activities would not be expended and irreversibly lost.

Implementation of the Proposed Action would require the use of fuels by aircraft and ships. Since fixed- and rotary-wing flight and ship activities would occur but are not expected to increase, this nonrenewable resource would be considered irretrievably lost.

ES.8.5.4 Energy Requirements and Conservation Potential of Alternatives and Mitigation Measures

Resources that will be permanently and continually consumed by project implementation include water, electricity, natural gas, and fossil fuels; however, the amount and rate of consumption of these resources would not result in significant environmental impacts or the unnecessary, inefficient, or wasteful use of resources. Prevention of the introduction of potential contaminants is an important component of mitigation of the Proposed Action's adverse impacts. To the extent practicable, considerations for the prevention of introduction of potential contaminants are included.

Sustainable range management practices are in place that protect and conserve natural and cultural resources and preserve access to training areas for current and future training requirements while addressing potential encroachments that threaten to impact range and training area capabilities.

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