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## Appendix E Agency Correspondence



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

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## **Appendix E      Agency Correspondence**

This appendix contains correspondence between the Navy and relevant government agencies.

## E.1 National Marine Fisheries Service Cooperating Agency Status



**UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE**  
**National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration**  
NATIONAL MARINE FISHERIES SERVICE  
1315 East-West Highway  
Silver Spring, Maryland 20910  
THE DIRECTOR

Dr. Susan T. Goodfellow  
Director, Energy and  
Environmental and Readiness Division  
Department of the Navy  
2000 Navy Pentagon  
Washington, DC 20350-2000

Dear Dr. Goodfellow:

Thank you for your letter requesting the National Marine Fisheries Service (NOAA Fisheries) be a cooperating agency in the preparation of a Supplemental Environmental Impact Statement/Overseas Environmental Impact Statement (SEIS/OEIS) to evaluate potential environmental effects in the Department of the Navy's (Navy) Gulf of Alaska (GOA) Training Study Area. Activities conducted in the GOA Training Study Area will achieve and maintain military readiness and include current, emerging, and future training activities (Phase III). We support the Navy's decision to prepare a SEIS/OEIS on this activity and agree to be a cooperating agency, due, in part, to our responsibilities under section 101(a)(5)(A) of the Marine Mammal Protection Act and under section 7 of the Endangered Species Act. NOAA Fisheries will make every effort to support the Navy in the development of a SEIS/OEIS, including:

- Participating, as necessary, in meetings hosted by the Navy for the discussion of issues related to the Phase III SEIS/OEIS;
- Providing timely comments on working drafts of the Phase III SEIS/OEIS in accordance with the approved project schedule and commenting protocols;
- Responding to Navy requests for information, in particular, those related to review of the acoustic effects analysis and evaluation of the effectiveness of protection and mitigation measures; and
- Adhering to the overall schedule as set forth by the Navy in coordination with NMFS.

THE ASSISTANT ADMINISTRATOR  
FOR FISHERIES



If you need any additional information, please contact Jolie Harrison at (301) 427-8420.

Sincerely,

RAUCH.SAMUEL.D.II.1365850948  
Samuel D. Rauch III  
Deputy Assistant Administrator for  
Regulatory Programs  
National Marine Fisheries Service

Digitally signed by  
RAUCH.SAMUEL.D.II.1365850948  
Date: 2020.03.23 15:10:12 -0400

cc: Jim Balsiger, NMFS AKRO  
Vicki Wedell, NMFS HQ NMS  
Steve Leathery, NMFS HQ NEPA  
Ron Carmichael, Navy  
Brian Ward, Navy

## E.2 U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service Consultation

**From:** Spegon, Jennifer <jennifer\_j\_spegon@fws.gov>  
**Sent:** Thursday, February 20, 2020 3:52 PM  
**To:** Kler, Kimberly H CIV USN (USA)  
**Subject:** [Non-DoD Source] Notice of Intent to prepare a Supplemental Environmental Impact Statement and Overseas Environmental Impact Statement, Gulf of Alaska, Alaska

Ms. Kimberly Kler

Thank you for your letter, January 24, 2020, indicating the Department of the Navy's (Navy's) proposal to continue military training activities in the Gulf of Alaska, and the Notice of Intent to prepare a Supplemental Environmental Impact Statement and Overseas Environmental Impact Statement as posted in the Federal Register, February 10, 2020.

The letter indicates the Navy is not proposing new activities or an increase from current levels. The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (Service) previously reviewed these activities under Consultation 07CAAN00-2010-I-0075 and 07CAAN00-2010-I-0075-R001. It appears there are no changes to the previous activities, the geographic parameters, or levels of activities occurring in the area previously subject to consultation with the Service. If this is case then, reinitiation of consultation under section 7 of the Endangered Species Act would not be required. Our previous findings discussed in those consultations remain valid.

However, if new information reveals project impacts that may affect listed species or critical habitat in a manner or to an extent not previously considered, or if this action is subsequently modified in a manner which was not previously considered, section 7 consultation must be reinitiated.

Thank you for your coordination in meeting our joint responsibilities under the ESA. For more information or if you have any questions please contact me at the number below.

Thank you,  
Jennifer Spegon

Jennifer Spegon  
Ecological Services  
Anchorage Fish and Wildlife Field Office  
U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service  
4700 BLM Road  
Anchorage, AK 99507  
Phone: (907) 271-2768  
FAX: (907) 271-2786  
[jennifer\\_j\\_spegon@fws.gov](mailto:jennifer_j_spegon@fws.gov)