

GULF *of* ALASKA

NAVY TRAINING ACTIVITIES

ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT STATEMENT/
OVERSEAS ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT STATEMENT

1

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**Gulf of Alaska Navy Training Activities
Preliminary Final Environmental Impact Statement/
Overseas Environmental Impact Statement**

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COVER SHEET
**ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT STATEMENT/
OVERSEAS ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT STATEMENT**
GULF OF ALASKA NAVY TRAINING ACTIVITIES

Lead Agency for the EIS: U.S. Department of the Navy

Title of the Proposed Action: Gulf of Alaska Navy Training Activities

Designation: Environmental Impact Statement/Overseas Environmental Impact Statement

Abstract

This Environmental Impact Statement/Overseas Environmental Impact Statement (EIS/OEIS) has been prepared by the United States (U.S.) Department of the Navy in compliance with the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) of 1969 (42 United States 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.] §§ 1500-1508); U.S. Department of the Navy Procedures for Implementing NEPA (32 C.F.R. § 775); and Executive Order 12114, *Environmental Effects Abroad of Major Federal Actions*. The Headquarters of the National Marine Fisheries Service is a cooperating agency on this EIS/OEIS. The Navy has identified the need to support and conduct current, emerging, and future training activities in the Gulf of Alaska. Three alternatives are analyzed in this EIS/OEIS. The No Action Alternative will continue training activities of the same types, and at the same levels of training intensity as currently conducted, without change in the nature or scope of military activities in the EIS/OEIS Study Area. Alternative 1, in addition to accommodating training activities addressed in the No Action Alternative, would support an increase in training activities, as well as the inclusion of Anti-Submarine Warfare activities to include the use of active sonar. Alternative 1 also proposes training required by force structure changes to be implemented for new weapons systems, instrumentation, and technology as well as new classes of ships, submarines, and new types of aircraft. In addition, specific training instrumentation enhancements would be implemented, to include development and use of the portable undersea tracking range. Alternative 2 would include all elements of Alternative 1. In addition, under Alternative 2, one additional joint force exercise would occur during the summer months (April through October), as well as up to two sinking exercises.

This EIS/OEIS addresses the potential environmental impacts that result or could result from activities under the No Action Alternative, Alternative 1, and Alternative 2. Environmental resource topics evaluated include air quality, expended materials, water resources, acoustic environment (airborne), marine plants and invertebrates, fish, sea turtles, marine mammals, birds, cultural resources, transportation and circulation, socioeconomics, environmental justice and protection of children, and public safety.

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