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# Executive Summary



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## EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

### ES.1 INTRODUCTION

The United States (U.S.) Department of the Navy (Navy) prepared this Final Supplemental Environmental Impact Statement (EIS)/Overseas EIS (OEIS) to supplement the impact analysis contained in the *Final Gulf of Alaska Navy Training Activities Environmental Impact Statement/Overseas Environmental Impact Statement* (U.S. Department of the Navy 2011a), hereinafter referred to as the 2011 GOA Final EIS/OEIS, pursuant to 40 Code of Federal Regulations (C.F.R.) §1502.9(c), which states that agencies:

- (1) Shall prepare supplements to either draft or final environmental impact statements if:
  - (i) The agency makes substantial changes in the proposed action that are relevant to environmental concerns or
  - (ii) There are significant new circumstances or information relevant to environmental concerns and bearing on the proposed action or its impacts.
- (2) May also prepare supplements when the agency determines that the purposes of the Act will be furthered by doing so.
- (3) Shall adopt procedures for introducing a supplement into its formal administrative record, if such a record exists.
- (4) Shall prepare, circulate, and file a supplement to a statement in the same fashion (exclusive of scoping) as a draft and final statement unless alternative procedures are approved by the Council.

In accordance with 40 C.F.R. §1502.9(c), this Supplemental EIS/OEIS is being conducted because new information and analytical methods have emerged since the 2011 GOA Final EIS/OEIS relevant to environmental concerns and bearing on the Proposed Action or its impacts. Additionally, this Supplement is being prepared because the National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS) issued Marine Mammal Protection Act (MMPA) Letters of Authorization (LOAs) for Navy training activities in the GOA (17 May 2011 through 16 May 2013, and 16 May 2013 through 4 May 2016) will expire in 2016. As such, this Supplemental EIS/OEIS supports issuance of a new LOA.

The at-sea training area in this Supplemental EIS/OEIS is referred to as the GOA Temporary Maritime Activities Area (TMAA) Study Area (Study Area) (Figure ES-1) and is the same at-sea training area analyzed in the 2011 GOA Final EIS/OEIS. Additionally, no new or additional Navy training activities are being proposed in the Study Area in this Supplemental EIS/OEIS. Furthermore, no increases to training activity levels, from that stated in the 2011 Record of Decision (ROD), are being proposed in this Supplemental EIS/OEIS.

### ES.2 PURPOSE OF AND NEED FOR PROPOSED MILITARY READINESS TRAINING ACTIVITIES

As identified in the 2011 GOA Final EIS/OEIS, the purpose of the Navy's Proposed Action is to achieve and maintain fleet readiness using the Alaska Training Areas<sup>1</sup> (now termed the Joint Pacific Alaska Range Complex) to support and conduct current, emerging, and future training activities.

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<sup>1</sup> In the 2011 GOA Final EIS/OEIS, the Navy defined these three training areas as the Alaska Training Areas (ATAs). After the publication of the ROD for the 2011 GOA Final EIS/OEIS, the U.S. Departments of the Army and Air Force published a Final EIS, titled *Modernization and Enhancement of Ranges, Airspace, and Training Areas in the Joint Pacific Alaska Range Complex (JPARC) in Alaska* (June 2013), for which a ROD was approved and signed on 6 August 2013. The EIS included the ATAs, and other training areas, and labeled them the JPARC. As such, the Navy has adopted the term "JPARC" when referring to the ATAs.

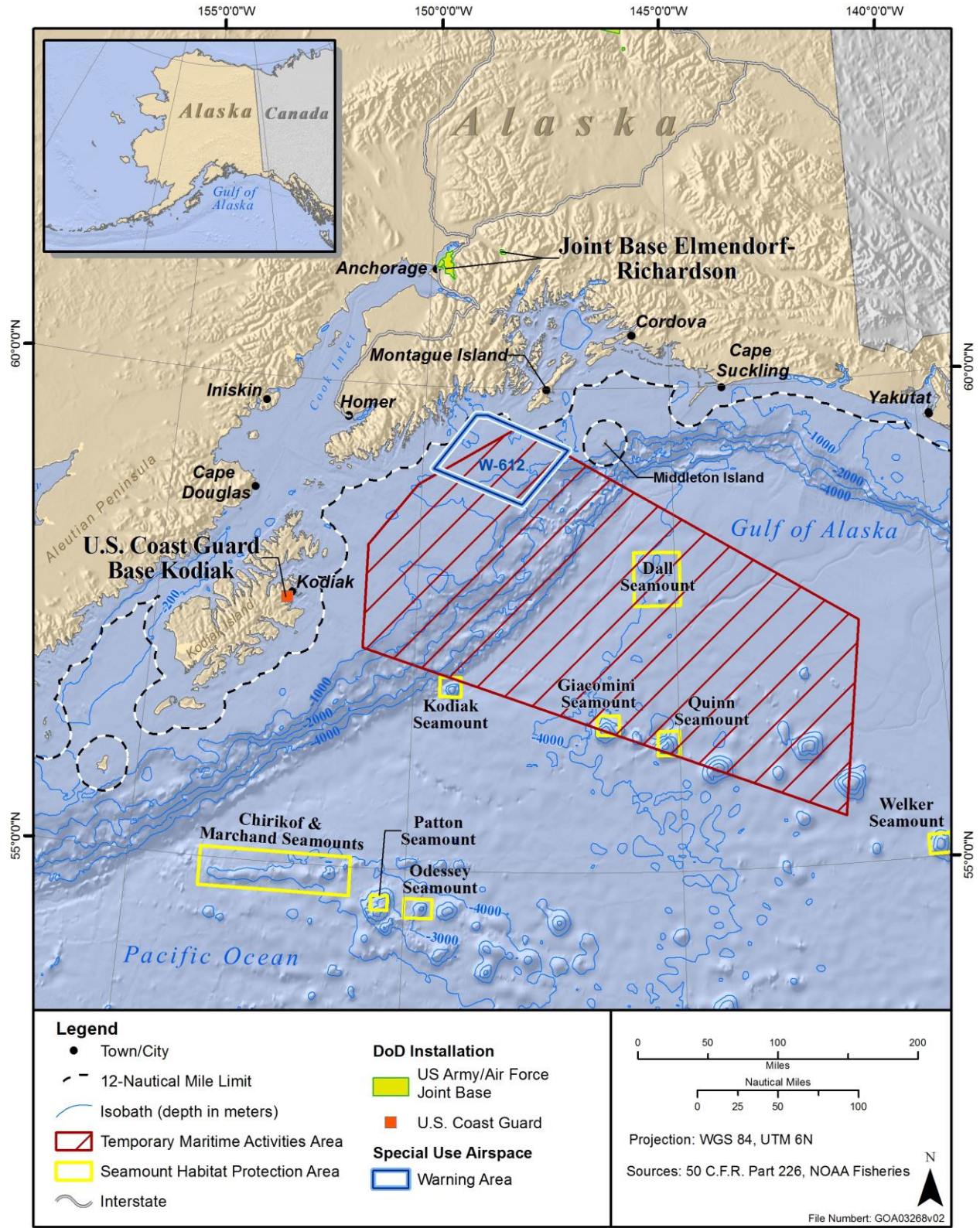


Figure ES-1: Gulf of Alaska Temporary Maritime Activities Area

### **ES.3 SCOPE AND CONTENT OF THE SUPPLEMENTAL ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT STATEMENT/OVERSEAS ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT STATEMENT**

In this Supplemental EIS/OEIS, the Navy reevaluated potential impacts from the ongoing military training activities in the TMAA. The alternatives analysis presented in the 2011 GOA Final EIS/OEIS and ROD remains relevant for the majority of the resource areas, and as such, those resource areas are not carried forward for full reanalysis in this Supplemental EIS/OEIS. Through the application of new scientific information and Navy Acoustics Effects Model (NAEMO), the Navy reanalyzed direct, indirect, cumulative, short-term, long-term, irreversible, and irretrievable impacts that have the potential to occur from the Navy's training activities upon marine mammal resources in this Supplemental EIS/OEIS. The Proposed Action is the continuation of the training as described in the Preferred Alternative (Alternative 2) in the 2011 GOA Final EIS/OEIS. In this Supplemental EIS/OEIS, all three alternatives—the No Action Alternative, Alternative 1, and Alternative 2—were re-analyzed for their impacts to marine mammals. The Navy is the lead agency for the Proposed Action and is responsible for the scope and content of this Supplemental EIS/OEIS. NMFS is a cooperating agency pursuant to 40 C.F.R. §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 C.F.R. §1505.2, upon completion of the Final Supplemental EIS/OEIS, the Navy will issue a ROD that will present the Navy's decision on which alternative to choose in light of the new information. The decision will be based on factors analyzed in this Supplemental EIS/OEIS, including military training objectives, best available science and modeling data, potential environmental impacts, and public input.

### **ES.4 PUBLIC INVOLVEMENT**

The first step in the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) process for an EIS is to prepare a Notice of Intent (NOI) to develop an EIS. The Navy published an NOI in the *Federal Register* (Volume 78, No. 11) on 16 January 2013, and ran five NOI display advertisements in five separate newspapers starting on 16 January 2013 through 8 March 2013. In addition, NOI/Notice of Scoping Meeting Letters were distributed to more than 590 federal, state, and local elected officials, federally-recognized Alaska Native Tribes, and government agencies. The NOI provided an overview of the Proposed Action and the scope of the Supplemental EIS, and initiated the scoping process.

#### **ES.4.1 SCOPING PROCESS**

In accordance with the CEQ regulations for implementing the requirements of NEPA, scoping is not required for a Supplemental EIS (40 C.F.R. §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 Supplemental EIS.

Given that the Navy's Proposed Action and Alternatives have not changed, public scoping meetings were not held, but public comments were accepted during the scoping period from 16 January 2013 to 18 March 2013. In total, the Navy received 13 comment submissions from individuals, groups, agencies, and elected officials. The Navy considered all scoping comments in preparing this Supplemental EIS/OEIS.

#### **ES.4.2 DRAFT SUPPLEMENTAL ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT STATEMENT/OVERSEAS ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT STATEMENT**

A Draft Supplemental EIS/OEIS was prepared in August 2014 to assess potential impacts of the Proposed Action on the environment. The Proposed Action is the same as the Proposed Action presented in the 2011 GOA Final EIS/OEIS, for which a ROD was issued, and entails the military continuing training activities previously conducted and as described in the 2011 GOA Final EIS/OEIS. The Draft Supplemental EIS/OEIS assessed potential impacts of all the alternatives (Alternative 1, Alternative 2 [Preferred Alternative], and the No Action Alternative). On 22 August 2014, a Notice of Availability was published in the *Federal Register*, and notices were placed in local and regional newspapers announcing the availability of the Draft Supplemental EIS/OEIS. The Draft Supplemental EIS/OEIS was circulated for review and comment, and five public meetings were held in Alaska (8 September 2014, Kodiak, AK; 9 September 2014, Anchorage, AK; 10 September 2014, Homer, AK; 11 September 2014, Juneau, AK; and 12 September 2014, Cordova, AK).

#### **ES.4.3 FINAL SUPPLEMENTAL ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT STATEMENT/OVERSEAS ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT STATEMENT/RECORD OF DECISION**

This Final Supplemental EIS/OEIS addresses all public comments received on the Draft Supplemental EIS/OEIS. Responses to public comments may include correction of data, clarifications of and modifications to analytical approaches, and inclusion of new or additional data or analyses. The decision-maker will issue a ROD no earlier than 30 days after this Final Supplemental EIS/OEIS is made available to the public.

#### **ES.5 PROPOSED ACTION AND ALTERNATIVES**

Through this Final Supplemental EIS/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 has been evaluated to determine the need for re-analysis within the Supplemental EIS/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.

The three alternatives re-analyzed in this Supplemental EIS/OEIS are the same alternatives analyzed in the 2011 GOA Final EIS/OEIS, which are:

- **No Action Alternative:** Baseline training activities of the types and levels of training intensity as conducted prior to 2011, which did not include Anti-Submarine Warfare training activities involving the use of active sonar.
- **Alternative 1:** Adjustments to types and levels of activities, from the baseline as necessary to support current and planned Navy training requirements. This alternative includes:
  - all training activities addressed in the No Action Alternative and an increase in training activities.
  - conducting one large-scale carrier strike group (CSG) exercise, as well as the inclusion of Anti-Submarine Warfare activities and the use of active sonar, occurring over a



maximum time period of up to 21 consecutive days during the summer months (April–October).

- training required by force structure changes for new weapons systems, instrumentation, and technology as well as new classes of ships, submarines, and new types of aircraft.
- deployment and use of the portable undersea tracking range.
- **Alternative 2 (Preferred Alternative):** Included all elements of Alternative 1 plus:
  - one additional CSG exercise during the summer months (April–October).
  - one sinking exercise (SINKEX) to be conducted during each CSG exercise for a total of two per year.<sup>2</sup>

## ES.6 SUMMARY OF ENVIRONMENTAL EFFECTS

Environmental effects which might result from the implementation of the Navy's Proposed Action have been analyzed in this Supplemental EIS/OEIS. Physical resources that were considered for re-evaluation in this Supplemental EIS/OEIS are the same as those that were analyzed in the 2011 GOA Final EIS/OEIS and include air quality, expended materials, water resources, and acoustic environment (airborne). Biological resources (including threatened and endangered species) considered include marine plants and invertebrates, fish, sea turtles, marine mammals, and birds. Human resources considered in this Supplemental EIS/OEIS include cultural resources, transportation and circulation, socioeconomics, environmental justice and protection of children, public safety, and cumulative impacts.

However, as stated previously, this Supplemental EIS/OEIS is being conducted because there is new information and analytical methods relevant to environmental concerns and bearing on the Proposed Action or its impacts. Using the best available science and analytical methodologies, this Supplemental EIS/OEIS presents a re-analysis of training activities involving the use of sonar, other active acoustic sources, and underwater explosives. Since training activities involving sonar and other active acoustic sources and underwater explosives occur in the TMAA, this Supplemental EIS/OEIS analyzes impacts associated with these acoustic stressors to marine mammals within the TMAA. Other activities beyond those that potentially cause underwater acoustic impacts were not fully re-evaluated as the potential impacts from those activities are expected to remain the same as described in the 2011 GOA Final EIS/OEIS.

Prior to the start of the Alaska Command (ALCOM) sponsored exercise, Northern Edge 15 (June 2015), the Navy and representatives from ALCOM conducted a series of town meetings with the Alaskan communities of Cordova, Kodiak, and Homer. During those meetings, concerns were expressed about impacts to 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.

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<sup>2</sup> See U.S. Department of the Navy, Chief, Naval Operations Instr. 1541.5, General Policy for Sinking Exercise Approval (29 July 2011) (hereinafter OPNAVINST 1541.5). "The Chief of Naval Operations shall approve or disapprove all valid SINKEX requests contingent upon availability of funding to complete environmental preparations." OPNAVINST 1541.5 para. 4a. "Further, SINKEX events are limited to those required to satisfy requirements for ship survivability or weapons lethality evaluation, major joint or multi-national exercises, or the evaluation of significant new multi-unit tactics or tactics and weapons combinations." OPNAVINST 1541.5 para. 2. The Navy recognizes that the likelihood of there being two SINKEX events in any one year in the TMAA is presently unlikely. In order to ensure flexibility to meet potential Fleet training requirements, however, this Supplemental EIS/OEIS conservatively analyzes the potential impacts of conducting up to two SINKEX events per year in the TMAA, (see Chapter 5 of the Supplemental EIS/OEIS for details on SINKEX mitigation measures).

Table ES-1 provides a listing of the potential environmental impacts of the Proposed Action. All sections of the 2011 GOA Final EIS/OEIS were reviewed to determine if there was relevant best available science that needed to be updated/incorporated into the Supplemental EIS/OEIS. To the extent there was, it is reflected in each of the chapters. There was also a re-assessment of effects determinations, which is reflected in Table ES-1 below. In general, the acoustic impacts provided in table ES-1 are less (79 percent less) than the impacts predicted in the 2011 GOA Final EIS/OEIS.

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

Resource Category	Alternatives	Summary of Impacts
Air Quality	NAA/Alt 1/Alt 2	No change from the 2011 GOA Final EIS/OEIS
Expended Materials	NAA/Alt 1/Alt 2	No change from the 2011 GOA Final EIS/OEIS
Water Resources	NAA/Alt 1/Alt 2	No change from the 2011 GOA Final EIS/OEIS
Acoustic Environment (Airborne)	NAA/Alt 1/Alt 2	No change from the 2011 GOA Final EIS/OEIS
Marine plants and Invertebrates	NAA/Alt 1/Alt 2	No change from the 2011 GOA Final EIS/OEIS
Fish	NAA/Alt 1/Alt 2	No change from the 2011 GOA Final EIS/OEIS
Sea Turtles	NAA/Alt 1/Alt 2	No change from the 2011 GOA Final EIS/OEIS
Marine Mammals	NAA	Impacts from sonar and other active acoustic sources: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Not Applicable</li> </ul> Impacts from explosives: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The acoustic modeling and post-modeling analyses predicts an estimated 23 exposures to Dall's porpoises from explosives resulting in Level B harassment and no exposures resulting in Level A harassment</li> </ul>
	Alt 1	Impacts from sonar and other active acoustic sources: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The acoustic modeling and post-modeling analyses predict 18,195 marine mammal exposures to sonar and other active acoustic sources resulting in Level B harassment and 1 exposure resulting in Level A harassment.</li> </ul> Impacts from explosives: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The acoustic modeling and post-modeling analyses predicts 55 exposures to Dall's porpoises from explosives resulting in Level B harassment and no exposures resulting in Level A harassment</li> </ul>
	Alt 2	Impacts from sonar and other active acoustic sources: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The acoustic modeling and post-modeling analyses predict 36,411 marine mammal exposures to sonar and other active acoustic sources resulting in Level B harassment and 3 exposures resulting in Level A harassment.</li> </ul> Impacts from explosives: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The acoustic modeling and post-modeling analyses predicts 111 exposures to Dall's porpoises from explosives resulting in Level B harassment and 2 exposures resulting in Level A harassment.</li> </ul>
Birds	NAA/Alt 1/Alt 2	No change from the 2011 GOA Final EIS/OEIS
Cultural Resources	NAA/Alt 1/Alt 2	No change from the 2011 GOA Final EIS/OEIS
Transportation and Circulation	NAA/Alt 1/Alt 2	No change from the 2011 GOA Final EIS/OEIS

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

Resource Category	Alternatives	Summary of Impacts
Socioeconomics	NAA/Alt 1/Alt 2	No change from the 2011 GOA Final EIS/OEIS
Environmental Justice and Protection of Children	NAA/Alt 1/Alt 2	No change from the 2011 GOA Final EIS/OEIS
Public Safety	NAA/Alt 1/Alt 2	No change from the 2011 GOA Final EIS/OEIS

Notes: Alt = Alternative, EIS/OEIS = Environmental Impact Statement/Overseas Environmental Impact Statement, GOA = Gulf of Alaska, NAA = No Action Alternative

## ES.7 CUMULATIVE IMPACTS

Marine mammals are the primary resource of concern for the cumulative impacts analysis. Marine mammal species occurring in the Study Area may be impacted by multiple ongoing and future actions. Explosive detonations and non-impulsive sources such as sonar under the No Action Alternative, Alternative 1, and Alternative 2 have the potential to disturb, injure, or kill marine mammals; however, there are very few injuries and no mortalities expected or predicted by the acoustic effect modeling.

The No Action Alternative, Alternative 1, and Alternative 2 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 injuries from the Proposed Action (the maximum of five potential predicted injuries [a permanent loss of hearing sensitivity] to Dall's porpoises) will have no measurable population-level effects, particularly when combined with the other human causes previously noted.

For the remaining resource categories, the 2011 GOA Final EIS/OEIS conclusions are still valid. Additionally, as described in Chapter 4 (Cumulative Impacts) of the 2011 GOA Final EIS/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, MONITORING, AND REPORTING

Within the Study Area, the Navy implements standard operating procedures (SOPs), mitigation measures, and marine species monitoring and reporting. Navy SOPs have the indirect benefit of reducing potential impacts on marine resources. Navy recognizes these measures will not eliminate all potential impacts. These measures have been developed as the best balance between effective measures that protect resources while still maintaining the Navy's ability to meet training mission requirements. Mitigation measures are designed to reduce or avoid potential impacts on marine resources. Marine species reporting efforts are designed to track compliance with take authorizations, evaluate the effectiveness of mitigation measures, and improve understanding of the impacts of training and testing activities on marine resources.

### ES.8.1 STANDARD OPERATING PROCEDURES

The Navy currently employs SOPs to provide for the safety of personnel and equipment, including ships and aircraft, as well as the success of the training (and testing) activities. In many cases, throughout the Navy's areas of operations, there are incidental environmental, socioeconomic, and cultural benefits resulting from SOPs. Standard operating procedures serve the primary purpose of providing for safety and mission success, and are implemented regardless of their secondary benefits. Because of their

importance for maintaining safety and mission success, SOPs have been considered as part of the Proposed Action, and therefore are included in the environmental analyses for each resource.

### **ES.8.2 MITIGATION**

The Navy recognizes that the Proposed Action has the potential to impact the environment. Unlike SOPs, 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. These measures have been coordinated with NMFS through the consultation and permitting processes for this Supplemental EIS/OEIS. The mitigation measures presented have been previously and recently analyzed and approved in consultation pursuant to the Endangered Species Act and via the rulemaking process pursuant to the Marine Mammal Protection Act (see for example National Marine Fisheries Service 2013; National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration 2013) for identical Navy training activities in other locations, with the exception of those measures that are specific to the TMAA. The ROD for this Supplemental EIS/OEIS will address any additional mitigation measures that may result from any ongoing final regulatory processes.

Area and activity specific mitigation measures identified during the Supplemental EIS/OEIS and consultation processes include: (1) Establishing a North Pacific Right Whale Cautionary Area in the June to September timeframe precluding use of surface ship hull mounted mid-frequency sonar or explosives unless otherwise required and approved; (2) Precluding any SINKEX activities within NMFS-identified Habitat Areas of Particular Concern; and (3) In the Portlock Bank area, precluding the use of explosives. Details regarding these specific measures are provided in Chapter 5 (see for example, Section 5.4.1, Area and Activity Specific Mitigation Measures in the TMAA).

### **ES.8.3 MONITORING**

The Navy is committed to demonstrating environmental stewardship while executing its National Defense Mission, complying with all federal environmental laws and regulations, and providing required and relevant reports to appropriate regulatory agencies. Since 2006 across all Navy Range Complexes (in the Pacific, Atlantic, Gulf of Mexico, and Gulf of Alaska), there have been over 80 reports (Major Exercise Reports, Annual Exercise Reports, and Monitoring Reports) submitted to National Marine Fisheries Service to further research goals aimed at understanding the Navy's impact on the environment as it carries out its mission to train and test. As a complement to the Navy's commitment to avoiding and reducing impacts of the Proposed Action through mitigation, the Navy will continue to undertake exercise 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 seeks to leverage and build on existing research efforts whenever possible.

### **ES.8.4 REPORTING**

The Navy is committed to documenting and reporting relevant aspects of training activities in order to reduce environmental impacts and improve future environmental assessments. Initiatives include exercise and monitoring reporting, which informs stranding response planning, and bird strike reporting.

## **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 activities would not conflict with the objectives or requirements of applicable 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 planning process and prior to implementation of the Proposed Action to ensure all legal requirements are met. Additionally, the Navy invited and conducted government-to-government consultation with federally-recognized Alaska Native Tribes that have traditional use areas and resources in the TMAA Study Area to address tribal concerns regarding the Proposed Action (see Section 6.1.3).

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

In accordance with NEPA, this Supplemental EIS/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 is not 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. No commitment of resources to construction is proposed as part of this action.

Implementation of the Proposed Action would require fuels used by aircraft and vessels. However, since the Navy is not proposing any new or increased activities for fixed- and rotary-wing aircraft or ship activities, total fuel use would not increase relative to the baseline. Therefore, total fuel consumption would not increase under the Proposed Action, and this nonrenewable resource would not be considered irretrievably lost. Additionally, the Navy has initiated programs that are expected to greatly reduce consumption of fossil fuels and reduce greenhouse gas emissions. Included among these are Navy plans to deploy by 2016 a green strike group (a "great green fleet") composed of nuclear vessels and ships powered by biofuel in local operations and with aircraft flying only with biofuels.

### **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 in 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.

## **REFERENCES CITED AND CONSIDERED**

- National Marine Fisheries Service. (2013). National Marine Fisheries Service Endangered Species Act Section 7 Consultation Biological and Conference Opinion; The U.S. Navy's Training Exercises and Testing Activities in the Hawaii-Southern California Training and Testing Study Area from December 2013 through December 2018. Manuscript on file.
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