

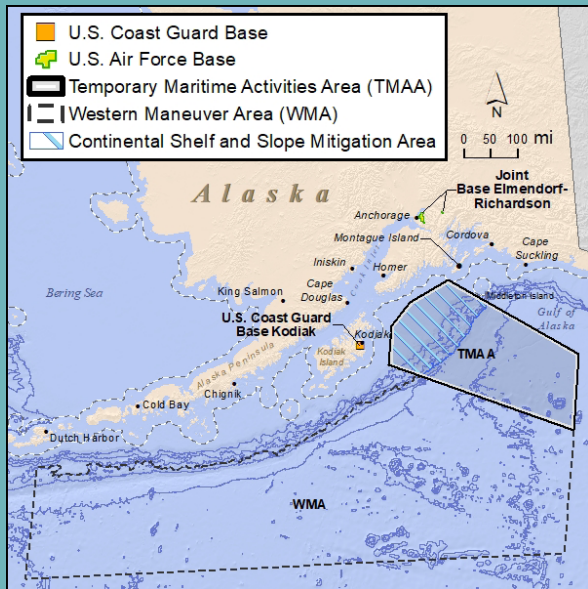


# GULF of ALASKA

SUPPLEMENT TO THE GULF OF ALASKA NAVY TRAINING ACTIVITIES DRAFT SUPPLEMENTAL EIS/OEIS

The U.S. Navy is preparing a Supplement to the December 2020 Gulf of Alaska Navy Training Activities Draft Supplemental Environmental Impact Statement/Overseas Environmental Impact Statement (EIS/OEIS). This Supplement will address a change in the Study Area and the addition of a new Continental Shelf and Slope Mitigation Area.

Since the release of the 2020 Draft Supplemental EIS/OEIS and completion of Northern Edge 2021, the Navy recognized that the size and shape of the Temporary Maritime Activities Area (TMAA) no longer provides sufficient space for realistic maneuvering of vessels and aircraft during training exercises. Proposed changes to the Study Area include additional airspace and sea space, called the Western Maneuver Area (WMA), for vessel and aircraft maneuvering. No new or increased number of training activities are proposed, and the use of sonar or explosives would not occur in the WMA.



## New Continental Shelf and Slope Mitigation Area

In direct response to agency, tribal, and public comments, the Navy also proposes implementing a new mitigation area within the continental shelf and shelf slope area of the TMAA. The Navy would restrict the use of explosives during training (up to 10,000 feet altitude) in this area. The proposed mitigation area would minimize impacts on marine mammals, fish, and marine birds and would be positive for marine species, fisheries, Alaska Native tribes, the regional economy, and the people of Alaska.

## Public Involvement

The Supplement is expected to be available for public review and comment in March 2022. Public comments received during the 2020 Draft Supplemental EIS/OEIS comment period are still valid and are being considered in the development of the Final Supplemental EIS/OEIS. Previously submitted comments do not need to be resubmitted.

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