

DRAFT ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT STATEMENT/OVERSEAS ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT STATEMENT for NORTHWEST TRAINING AND TESTING ACTIVITIES

Lead Agency: United States Department of the Navy
Cooperating Agency: National Marine Fisheries Service
United States Coast Guard
Title of the Proposed Action: Northwest Training and Testing Activities
Designation: Draft Environmental Impact Statement/Overseas Environmental Impact Statement

Abstract

The United States Department of the Navy (Navy) prepared this Environmental Impact Statement (EIS)/Overseas EIS (OEIS) 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 et seq.); Navy Procedures for Implementing NEPA (32 C.F.R. § 775); and Executive Order (EO) 12114, *Environmental Effects Abroad of Major Federal Actions*. The Navy identified its need to support and conduct current, emerging, and future training and testing activities in the Northwest Training and Testing Study Area (Study Area), which is made up of air and sea space in the eastern north Pacific Ocean region, located adjacent to the Northwest coast of the United States, to include the Strait of Juan de Fuca, Puget Sound (including Hood Canal), and Western Behm Canal in southeastern Alaska. Three alternatives are analyzed in this EIS/OEIS:

- The No Action Alternative represents baseline training and testing activities as defined by existing Navy environmental planning documents, including the *Northwest Training Range Complex EIS/OEIS*, the *Naval Undersea Warfare Center Keyport Range Complex Extension EIS/OEIS*, and the *Southeast Alaska Acoustic Measurement Facility EIS*. The baseline testing activities also include other testing events that historically occur in the Study Area and have been subject to previous analysis pursuant to NEPA and EO 12114.
- Alternative 1 includes the training and testing activities addressed in the No Action Alternative, plus adjustments to types and levels of activities from the baseline as necessary to support current and planned Department of the Navy training and testing requirements.
- Alternative 2 includes all elements of Alternative 1 plus adjustments to tempo of activities. Training activities would generally remain the same as proposed under Alternative 1, while testing activities would increase, on average, about 12 percent over those in Alternative 1.

In this EIS/OEIS, the Navy analyzes potential environmental impacts that result or could result from activities under the No Action Alternative, Alternative 1, and Alternative 2. Resource areas that will be addressed include, but are not limited to, sediments and water quality, air quality, marine habitats, marine mammals, sea turtles, birds, marine vegetation, marine invertebrates, fish, cultural resources, Native American and Native Alaskan traditional resources, socioeconomic resources, and public health and safety.

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