

**Northwest Training and Testing  
Draft Environmental Impact Statement/Overseas Environmental Impact Statement  
Public Involvement Summary Report  
January 2014 to March 2014**

This report summarizes the public involvement and stakeholder outreach activities conducted for the Northwest Training and Testing (NWTT) Draft Environmental Impact Statement/Overseas Environmental Impact Statement (EIS/OEIS). The purpose of public involvement was to notify and inform stakeholders and the public about the availability of the Draft EIS/OEIS and solicit input on the environmental analysis. Efforts to notify and inform the public about the document and the public meetings were conducted in accordance with the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA), and were focused on the project Study Area, which included Washington, Oregon, California and Alaska.

**Summary of Activities Conducted for the Draft EIS/OEIS**

The Draft EIS/OEIS was made available, through direct mailings and at information repositories (libraries), for public review on Jan. 24, 2014, and public comments were accepted from Jan. 24, 2014, to March 25, 2014. The Navy provided a 21-day public comment extension, bringing the comment deadline to April 15, 2014. Eight public meetings were held in Washington, Oregon, California and Alaska from Feb. 26, 2014, to March 11, 2014.

**A. Notification Activities**

All public notifications included information about the Proposed Action, availability of the Draft EIS/OEIS, comment period and commenting methods, website and public meetings. Notifications that occurred after the public meetings included an announcement of the comment period extension, Proposed Action, comment period and commenting methods, and website.

***Federal Register Notices***

The Notice of Availability, Notice of Public Meetings and Notice of Extension of Comment Period were published in the Federal Register on Jan. 24, 2014, Jan. 31, 2014 and March 25, 2014, respectively.

***Advertisements***

Three series of display advertisements were placed in major print publications in Washington, Oregon, northern coastal California and southeast Alaska. As listed below, the first series of newspaper advertisements was published on or as soon as possible after the opening date of the comment period. The first series announced the availability of the Draft EIS/OEIS, opportunity for public comment, and project and public meeting information. Advertisements were tailored to Washington, Oregon, California and Alaska to include the pertinent meeting information for each state.

The second series of the same advertisement was published during the week of each public meeting. This series was published for three consecutive days prior to the public meetings, including the day of the public meeting, with the exception of the weekly, bi-weekly and monthly newspapers.

The third series was a legal advertisement that was published at the soonest possible date to announce the comment period extension. The legal advertisement was published in the eight papers of the public meeting locations.

*Newspaper Display Advertisement Run Dates*

<b>COVERAGE</b>	<b>NEWSPAPER</b>	<b>ADVERTISEMENT DATES</b>
King County, WA; statewide	<i>The Seattle Times (Daily)</i>	Friday, Jan. 24, 2014 <sup>1</sup> Saturday, Feb. 22, 2014 <sup>2</sup> Wednesday, Feb. 26, 2014 <sup>2</sup> Thursday, Feb. 27, 2014 <sup>2</sup>
Snohomish County, WA	<i>The Daily Herald (Daily)</i>	Friday, Jan. 24, 2014 <sup>1</sup> Sunday, Feb. 23, 2014 <sup>2</sup> Wednesday, Feb. 26, 2014 <sup>2</sup> Thursday, Feb. 27, 2014 <sup>2</sup> Thursday, March 27, 2014 <sup>3</sup>
Island County, WA	<i>Whidbey News-Times (Bi-weekly)</i>	Saturday, Jan. 25, 2014 <sup>1</sup> Wednesday, Feb. 19, 2014 <sup>2</sup> Saturday, Feb. 22, 2014 <sup>2</sup> Wednesday, Feb. 26, 2014 <sup>2</sup> Saturday, March 29, 2014 <sup>3</sup>
Kitsap County, WA	<i>The Kitsap Sun (Daily)</i>	Friday, Jan. 24, 2014 <sup>1</sup> Sunday, Feb. 23, 2014 <sup>2</sup> Thursday, Feb. 27, 2014 <sup>2</sup> Friday, Feb. 28, 2014 <sup>2</sup> Wednesday, March 26, 2014 <sup>3</sup>
Clallam County and Jefferson County, WA	<i>Peninsula Daily News (Daily, except Saturday)</i>	Friday, Jan. 24, 2014 <sup>1</sup> Sunday, Feb. 23, 2014 <sup>2</sup> Thursday, Feb. 27, 2014 <sup>2</sup> Friday, Feb. 28, 2014 <sup>2</sup>
Jefferson County, WA	<i>Port Townsend and Jefferson County Leader (weekly)</i>	Wednesday, Jan. 29, 2014 <sup>1</sup> Wednesday, Feb. 12, 2014 <sup>2</sup> Wednesday, Feb. 19, 2014 <sup>2</sup> Wednesday, Feb. 26, 2014 <sup>2</sup>
Grays Harbor County, WA	<i>The Daily World (Tri-weekly)</i>	Saturday, Jan. 25, 2014 <sup>1</sup>
Oregon; statewide	<i>The Oregonian (Weekends, Wednesday)</i>	Friday, Jan. 24, 2014 <sup>1</sup> Friday, Feb. 28, 2014 <sup>2</sup> Saturday, March 1, 2014 <sup>2</sup> Sunday, March 2, 2014 <sup>2</sup>
Clatsop County, OR	<i>The Daily Astorian (Weekdays only)</i>	Friday, Jan. 24, 2014 <sup>1</sup> Thursday, Feb. 27, 2014 <sup>2</sup> Friday, Feb. 28, 2014 <sup>2</sup> Monday, March 3, 2014 <sup>2</sup> Thursday, March 27, 2014 <sup>3</sup>
Newport, OR	<i>Newport News-Times (Bi-weekly)</i>	Friday, Jan. 24, 2014 <sup>1</sup> Friday, Feb. 21, 2014 <sup>2</sup> Wednesday, Feb. 26, 2014 <sup>2</sup> Friday, Feb. 28, 2014 <sup>2</sup> Friday, March 28, 2014 <sup>3</sup>

COVERAGE	NEWSPAPER	ADVERTISEMENT DATES
Eureka, CA	<i>Eureka Times-Standard (Daily, except Monday)</i>	Friday, Jan. 24, 2014 <sup>1</sup> Sunday, March 2, 2014 <sup>2</sup> Wednesday, March 5, 2014 <sup>2</sup> Thursday, March 6, 2014 <sup>2</sup> Thursday, March 27, 2014 <sup>3</sup>
Fort Bragg, CA	<i>Fort Bragg Advocate-News (Weekly)</i>	Thursday, Jan. 30, 2014 <sup>1</sup> Thursday, Feb. 20, 2014 <sup>2</sup> Thursday, Feb. 27, 2014 <sup>2</sup> Thursday, March 6, 2014 <sup>2</sup> Thursday, April 3, 2014 <sup>3</sup>
Juneau, AK	<i>The Juneau Empire (Daily, except Saturday)</i>	Friday, Jan. 24, 2014 <sup>1</sup> Sunday, March 9, 2014 <sup>2</sup> Monday, March 10, 2014 <sup>2</sup> Tuesday, March 11, 2014 <sup>2</sup>
Ketchikan, AK	<i>Ketchikan Daily News (Daily, except Sunday)</i>	Friday, Jan. 24, 2014 <sup>1</sup> Saturday, March 8, 2014 <sup>2</sup> Monday, March 10, 2014 <sup>2</sup> Tuesday, March 11, 2014 <sup>2</sup> Thursday, March 27, 2014 <sup>3</sup>

<sup>1</sup>Series 1: Display advertisement

<sup>2</sup>Series 2: Display advertisement

<sup>3</sup>Series 3: Comment period extension announcement legal advertisement

### **Notification Letters**

Six distinct notification letters were sent to stakeholders and federally-recognized tribes and nations during the review period of the Draft EIS/OEIS. A generic notification letter without a CD enclosure, signed by L.M. Foster, Director of the Fleet Environmental Readiness Division for Commander, U.S. Pacific Fleet, was mailed to 668 federal and local elected officials, government agencies, community and business groups, and federally-recognized tribe staff on the project mailing list between Jan. 16, 2014, and Jan. 21, 2014. A generic notification letter with a CD enclosure, also signed by L.M. Foster, was mailed to 161 state government agencies, libraries and individuals who requested a copy on the project mailing list between Jan. 16, 2014, and Jan. 21, 2014.

A personalized notification letter, signed by Captain Thomas Zwolfer, Commanding Officer of U.S. Naval Base Kitsap, was mailed to the Suquamish federally-recognized tribe chair between Jan. 16, 2014, and Jan. 21, 2014, to initiate a formal government-to-government consultation process. A personalized notification letter, also signed by Captain Thomas Zwolfer, was mailed to 13 treaty federally-recognized tribe chairs between Jan. 16, 2014, and Jan. 21, 2014.

A personalized notification letter, signed by Captain M.K. Nortier, Commanding Officer of U.S. Naval Air Station Whidbey Island, was mailed to 18 treaty federally-recognized tribe chairs between Jan. 16, 2014, and Jan. 21, 2014. A personalized notification letter, also signed by Captain M.K. Nortier, was mailed to 23 non-treaty federally-recognized tribe chairs between Jan. 16, 2014, and Jan. 21, 2014.

### **News Releases and Public Service Announcements**

Three news releases were distributed by the Navy Region Northwest Public Affairs Office to print, online and broadcast media outlets in Washington, Oregon, California and Alaska. The news releases supported the public review and comment period for the Draft EIS/OEIS, the public meetings and comment period

extension. The Notice of Availability (NOA) news release was distributed on Jan. 24, 2014, and announced the availability of the Draft EIS/OEIS for public review. A Notice of Public Meetings (NOPM) news release was distributed on Feb. 18, 2014, to announce information about the scheduled public meetings. The Extension of Public Comment Period news release was distributed on March 21, 2014, to announce a 21-day comment period extension.

Four public service announcements (PSAs) were distributed by the Navy Region Northwest Public Affairs Office to print, online and broadcast media outlets in Washington, Oregon, California and Alaska on Feb. 18, 2014. Each PSA was state-specific and included the meeting information for local meetings.

**Postcard Mailers**

Two postcards were prepared for recipients on the project mailing list. The first postcard was mailed to 1,200 individuals on the project mailing list on Jan. 17, 2014. The second postcard, announcing the comment period extension, was mailed to 2,153 elected officials, government agencies, federally-recognized tribes and individuals on March 28, 2014.

**Fliers**

A public meeting flier was mailed to various distribution locations on Feb. 7, 2014.

**B. Public Meetings and Informational Materials**

Eight public meetings were held at the following locations, dates and times.

*Public Meetings*

MEETING LOCATION	VENUE	DATE	TIME
Oak Harbor, WA	Oak Harbor High School Student Union Building	Wednesday, Feb. 26, 2014	5 to 8 p.m.
Everett, WA	Cascade High School Student Commons	Thursday, Feb. 27, 2014	5 to 8 p.m.
Poulsbo, WA	North Kitsap High School Commons	Friday, Feb. 28, 2014	5 to 8 p.m.
Astoria, OR	Astoria High School Student Commons	Monday, March 3, 2014	5 to 8 p.m.
Newport, OR	Isaac Newton Magnet School Commons/Gym	Tuesday, March 4, 2014	5 to 8 p.m.
Eureka, CA	Red Lion Hotel Redwood Ballroom and Pacific Room	Thursday, March 6, 2014	5 to 8 p.m.
Fort Bragg, CA	Redwood Coast Senior Center West Room	Friday, March 7, 2014	5 to 8 p.m.
Ketchikan, AK	Southeast Alaska Discovery Center	Tuesday, March 11, 2014	5 to 8 p.m.

The public meetings were held in a dual format, where members of the public could arrive to view the informational poster stations at any time during the three-hour meetings. A scheduled oral presentation by the project team was given at each meeting, after which a verbal public comment session was offered. Navy team members often stayed after the close of the public meeting to accommodate

additional questions at the poster stations during the open house and all public testimony during the verbal public comment session. Staffers at the welcome station greeted guests, provided them with informational materials and encouraged meeting attendees to sign in to receive future notifications. Comment forms, speaker request cards and a fact sheet booklet were distributed to attendees, along with verbal direction on the organization and flow of the poster stations arranged around the room. A Mitigation and Monitoring handout was also available at the marine resources poster station. At the meeting in Ketchikan, Alaska, in addition to all the project materials mentioned above, a fact sheet about the Southeast Alaska Acoustic Measurement Facility (SEAFAC) was also distributed. A court reporter was made available for verbal public comment for the entirety of the meeting. The court reporter recorded one-on-one oral comments, the project presentation and the verbal comment session.

The fact sheet booklet included the following topics:

- (1) Navy training and testing in the Pacific Northwest
- (2) Meeting future training and testing requirements
- (3) Importance of training and testing with active explosives
- (4) Summary of Draft EIS/OEIS impact analysis
- (5) The Navy's ongoing marine mitigation measures
- (6) Protection of wildlife and habitat
- (7) Public safety measures
- (8) Northwest Navy Tribal Council
- (9) NEPA process and public involvement

The poster stations each included at least one poster and extra fact sheet booklets and comment forms. Subject matter experts from the Navy and project consultants staffed each poster station to answer questions and provide project information. Poster stations covered the following topics:

- (1) Welcome and sign-in
- (2) Importance of training and testing in the Pacific Northwest/SEAFAC
- (3) Proposed Action and Alternatives
- (4) NEPA
- (5) Training and testing with active sonar and explosives
- (6) Navy Acoustic Effects Model (NAEMO)
- (7) Marine resource protection
- (8) Draft EIS/OEIS Impact Analysis
- (9) Public access and safety
- (10) Environmental stewardship programs

Three videos were continuously available on looped playback throughout each public meeting, and covered the following topics:

- (1) Project overview
- (2) NAEMO
- (3) Environmental stewardship programs

Comment collection stations, which included tables, chairs, pens, comment forms, a secure comment collection box and a court reporter for verbal comments, was also set up to facilitate the submission of written and oral comments from the public. Attendees were encouraged to provide comments for consideration in the development of the Final EIS/OEIS. Individuals could submit comments at the meeting, mail them to the address provided or submit them online at [www.NWTTEIS.com](http://www.NWTTEIS.com).

### ***Attendance and Comments***

The information below reflects the number of meeting attendees who chose to sign in at the welcome table, and verbal and written comments received at the meetings. Media attendance reflects the persons who identified themselves as media. In total, 403 people signed in.

- Meeting 1: Oak Harbor, WA – Oak Harbor High School: Forty (40) attendees; eight (8) verbal comments; one (1) written comment
  - Media:
    - *Whidbey News-Times*
  - Federal and local government representation included staff from:
    - Brent Norberg, National Marine Fisheries Service, Cooperating Agency
  - Elected officials representation included:
    - Jill Johnson, Island County Commissioner
  - Nongovernmental organization representation included:
    - Whidbey Audubon
    - Citizens of Ebey's Reserve
    - The Whale Museum (Friday Harbor)
    - Navy League
    - Concerned Island Citizens
    - Whidbey North Citizens (WNC)
    - Embry-Riddle Aeronautical University
- Meeting 2: Everett, WA – Cascade High School: Seven (7) attendees; one (1) verbal comment
  - Federal and local government representation included staff from:
    - Lynne Barre, National Marine Fisheries Service, Cooperating Agency
  - Elected officials representation included:
    - Pat McClain, City of Everett Governmental Affairs Director
  - Nongovernmental organization representation included:
    - Whale Scout (whalescout.org)
- Meeting 3: Poulsbo, WA – North Kitsap High School: Thirty-two (32) attendees; six (6) verbal comments; three (3) written comments
  - Media:
    - *Whidbey News-Times*
  - Federal and local government representation included staff from:
    - U.S. Fish and Wildlife
    - Port Gamble S'Klallam Tribe
    - Point No Point Treaty Council
  - Nongovernmental organization representation included:
    - Pleasant Harbor Marina
    - Navy League
    - Sierra Club
    - Port Townsend Marine Science Center
- Meeting 4: Astoria, OR – Astoria High School: Twenty-six (26) attendees; ten (10) verbal comments
  - Media:
    - *The Daily Astorian*
    - Independent video blogger
  - Federal and local government representation included staff from:
    - Astoria City Council

- Nongovernmental organization representation included:
  - Northwest Evaluation Association
  - Columbia River Crab Fisherman's Association
  - Clatsop Animal Advocates
  - Willapa-Grays Harbor Oyster Growers
  - Champions for Cetaceans
  - Save the Blood Dolphins
  - Oregon Fishermen's Cable Committee
- Meeting 5: Newport, OR – Isaac Newton Magnet School: Thirty-seven (37) attendees; two (2) verbal comments; three (3) written comments
  - Elected officials representation included:
    - Lincoln County Commissioner and Chair, Board of Commissioners Terry Thompson
  - Federal and local government representation included staff from:
    - Oregon State Parks
    - Lincoln County Board of Commissioners
  - Nongovernmental organization representation included:
    - Oregon State University Marine Mammal Institute and Hatfield Marine Science Center (graduate students, marine mammal stranding coordinators, and researchers)
    - Oregon Salmon and Albacore Commissioners
    - Ocean Haven Corporation
- Meeting 6: Eureka, CA – Red Lion Hotel Redwood Ballroom: One hundred forty-five (145) attendees; twenty-nine (29) verbal comments; twenty-two (22) written comments
  - Media:
    - *Eureka Times-Standard*
    - *KMUD Radio*
    - *Humboldt State University Lumberjack* (student newspaper)
    - Freelance videographer for Humboldt Cable public access.
  - Elected officials representation included:
    - John Driscoll, Staffer for Congressman Jared Huffman (D-District 2 San Rafael)
  - Federal and local government representation included staff from:
    - InterTribal Sinkyone Wilderness Council
  - Nongovernmental organization representation included:
    - Klamath River Keeper
    - Northcoast Environmental Center
    - Mattole Salmon Group, Lost Coast League
    - Bird Alley X
    - Humboldt Surfriders
    - Commercial Fishermen Association
    - Green Party of Humboldt County
    - Reef Check
    - Environmental Protection Information Center
    - Humboldt State University
    - Lost Foods
    - College of the Redwoods
    - National Rifle Association
    - International Association of Machinists & Aerospace Workers union

- Geezer Hiking Group
  - California Lost Fishing Gear Recovery Project
  - SeaDoc Society at University of California at Davis
  - Veterans for Peace
  - Mattole Restoration Council
  - PacOut Green Team
- Meeting 7: Fort Bragg, CA – Redwood Coast Senior Center: One hundred and two (102) attendees; thirty (30) verbal comments; twelve (12) written comments
  - Media:
    - *Fort Bragg Advocate News*
    - *KMUD Radio*
    - *Mendocino TV*
  - Elected officials representation included:
    - Heidi Dickerson, Staffer for Congressman Jared Huffman (D-District 2 San Rafael)
    - Dan Gjerde, Mendocino County Board of Supervisors 4th District
  - Federal and local government representation included staff from:
    - California State Department of Fish and Wildlife (Fish and Game Warden)
    - InterTribal Sinkyone Wilderness Council
  - Nongovernmental organization representation included:
    - Ocean Protection Coalition
    - National Resources Defense Council
    - Fort Bragg Grange
    - Occupy Mendocino
- Meeting 8: Ketchikan, AK – Southeast Alaska Discovery Center: Fourteen (14) attendees; one (1) verbal comment
  - Elected officials representation included:
    - Mariah Cogswell, Loring Service Area Board Member (Ketchikan Gateway Borough Service Area)
  - Nongovernmental organization representation included:
    - Commercial Fishermen
    - Southeast Exposure Tours

Throughout the public review and comment period, website and written comments were accepted. A total of 737 website comments were submitted using the electronic comment form on the project website. A total of 94 written comments were also mailed or submitted via email. Additionally, the Navy received 9,705 copies of a form letter comment and a petition comment with 6,203 signatures.

### **C. Project Website**

Public notification materials directed the public to the project website, [www.NWTTTEIS.com](http://www.NWTTTEIS.com), to learn about the project and provide comments on the Draft EIS/OEIS. The project website, which has been live since the Notice of Intent was published in February 2012, provides project information and materials for download, such as the Draft EIS/OEIS, project fact sheet booklet, informational posters, frequently asked questions and past notifications. The project website also includes a project overview video and information on Navy training and testing activities, natural resources and public involvement opportunities, such as the public meeting and commenting information. Interested individuals can sign up to receive email notifications when new information or updates are available and posted to the project website.