Northwest Training and Testing

Final Environmental Impact Statement/ Overseas Environmental Impact Statement

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Northwest Training and Testing Activities Final Environmental Impact Statement/ Overseas Environmental Impact Statement

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I.5 SUPPLEMENT TO THE DRAFT ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT STATEMENT/OVERSEAS ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT STATEMENT

Since the release of the NWTT Draft EIS/OEIS on Jan. 24, 2014, the U.S. Navy determined that updated training requirements or new information relevant to environmental concerns would result in changes to the Proposed Action or analysis, and warranted the preparation of a Supplement to the NWTT Draft EIS/OEIS. The scoping period was initiated on Oct. 24, 2014. The NWTT Supplement to the Draft EIS/OEIS was released to the public on 19 December 2014 with the issuance of the Notice of Availability and a Notice of Public Meetings in the *Federal Register* (79 FR 75800, also in Appendix B – Federal Register Notices).

I.5.1 DISTRIBUTION OF THE SUPPLEMENT TO THE DRAFT ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT STATEMENT/OVERSEAS ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT STATEMENT

The Supplement to the Draft EIS/OEIS was made available for viewing or download from the project website at www.NWTTEIS.com. Postcards providing notification of the availability of the Supplement on the website were mailed to 2,557 federal and local elected officials, government agencies, community and business groups, and tribal staff. Hard copy versions of the Supplement were sent to information repositories (typically libraries) and some members of the public that specifically requested a hard copy version of the document.

I.5.2 PUBLIC COMMENT PERIOD FOR THE SUPPLEMENT TO THE DRAFT ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT STATEMENT/ OVERSEAS ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT STATEMENT

The 45-day public comment period on the Supplement began on 19 December 2014 with the issuance of the Notice of Availability. The Navy made significant efforts to notify the public to ensure maximum public participation during the public comment period, including using postcards, press releases, and newspaper display advertisements.

The Notice of Public Meetings included a project description and dates and locations of the four public meetings. The public comment period allowed a variety of opportunities for the public to comment on the Supplement. Copies of the Supplement were provided to libraries in Washington, Oregon, California, and Alaska, and the document was available on the project website for review. Navy representatives were available during the open house public meetings to provide information and answer questions one-on-one. Comment sheets were made available to attendees.

I.5.3 PUBLIC COMMENTS AND NAVY RESPONSES

Comments on the Supplement to the Draft EIS/OEIS were received via mail, at the public meetings either in writing or orally, and via the project website. Comments covered a wide spectrum of thoughts, opinions, ideas, and concerns. The most commonly addressed themes were similar to those expressed in comments to the Draft EIS/OEIS. In addition, comments on the Supplement include concerns about increases in expended sonobuoys and the proposed continuation of flight activities above the Olympic Peninsula.

Each row in the following tables presents the identification of the commenter, the comment, and the Navy's response to the comment. Because many commenters touched on more than one topic, in some cases the commenter's topics were separated into individual comments, assigned a number, and responded to separately.

Table I.5-1 contains comments from federal agencies received during the public comment period and the Navy's response to those comments.

Table I.5-1: Responses to Comments from Federal Agencies

Commenter	Comment	Navy Response
Olympic Coast National Marine Sanctuary (OCNMS)-01	The National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration's Olympic Cost National Marine Sanctuary (OCNMS or sanctuary) has reviewed the Supplemental Northwest Training and Testing (NWTT) Environmental Impact Statement (DEIS)/Overseas EIS (OEIS) and would like to provide some brief comments. We found it difficult to review the EIS due to the size of the NWTT Study Area and the fact that activities are not broken out by area; specifically we cannot determine which of the activities would take place in OCNMS. We will be providing more detailed comments, through National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS), who will be providing them directly to the US Navy in their role as a cooperating agency.	The Navy consulted with the OCNMS regarding the effects of the Proposed Action on Sanctuary resources. The Navy concludes its activities are not likely to result in the loss, destruction, or adverse changes to the viability of Sanctuary resources. All activities are listed in Tables 2.8-1, 2.8-2, and 2.8-3 of the Draft EIS/OEIS and Final EIS/OEIS. Less than two percent of proposed training and 15 percent of proposed testing activities would occur within or immediately adjacent to the OCNMS. Also, listed in Section 6.1.2.1 of the Draft EIS/OEIS and the Final EIS/OEIS are the general categories of activities that could occur in the OCNMS. Section 6.1.2.1 was not included in the Supplement to the Draft EIS/OEIS because there was no change to that section from the Draft EIS/OEIS.
OCNMS-02	We would like to take this opportunity to remind the US Navy that while at the time of sanctuary designation certain pre-existing military activities were exempted from sanctuary prohibitions, this was done with the understanding that these activities would be carried out in a manner that avoids to the maximum extent practicable any adverse impacts on sanctuary resources and qualities. We look forward to continuing consultations to ensure that both our agencies can meet their respective obligations to the American public.	As mentioned in the EIS/OEIS, in Table 6.1-1, Table 6.1-2, and in Section 6.1.2.1, all DoD military activities that may occur in the Sanctuary currently are and would continue to be carried out in a manner that avoids to the maximum extent practicable any adverse impacts on Sanctuary resources and qualities.
United States Environmental Protection Agency (USEPA)-01	"We have reviewed the Navy's Northwest Training and Testing Supplement to the Draft Environmental Impact Statement/Overseas Environmental Impact Statement (Supplement). Our review was conducted in accordance with the EPA's responsibilities under the National Environmental Policy Act and Section 309 of the Clean Air Act. Section 309 specifically directs the EPA to review and comment in writing on the environmental impacts associated with all major federal actions. Our review of the Supplement prepared for the proposed action considers expected environmental impacts and the adequacy of the EIS in meeting procedural and public disclosure requirements of the NEPA. Project Summary The Navy's Northwest Training and Testing EIS/OEIS analyzes the potential environmental impacts that could result from current, emerging, and future training and testing activities in the Northwest Training and Testing Study Area. The NWTT Study Area is composed of established maritime operating areas and warning areas in the eastern North Pacific Ocean. The NWTT Study Area includes four existing range complexes and facilities: the Northwest Training Range Complex, Naval Undersea Warfare Center Keyport Range Complex, Carr Inlet Operations Area, and Southeast Alaska Acoustic Measurement Facility; the Strait of Juan de Fuca, Puget Sound, and the Western Behm Canal in southeastern Alaska; air and water space within and outside Washington state waters; air and water space outside state waters	Thank you for your comments. Individual comments are responded to below.

Table I.5-1: Responses to Comments from Federal Agencies (continued)

Commenter	Comment	Navy Response
	of Oregon and Northern California; and , Navy pier-side locations where sonar maintenance and testing occur. The Navy determined that a Supplement to the Draft EIS/OEIS was warranted for two reasons. First one activity, known as Tracking Exercise (TRACKEX) - Maritime Patrol (Extended Echo Ranging Sonobuoys), is revised, resulting in a substantial change to the type and number of sonobuoys used. Second, new information relevant to air quality emissions of inland water vessel movements associated with Maritime Security Operations (MSO) warrants further consideration."	
USEPA-02	Environmental concerns and rating We are rating the Supplement Environmental Concerns- Adequate, “EC-1”. This is the same rating we provided for the January 2014 Draft EIS/OEIS. Our rating has not changed because our concerns about adverse effects to marine mammals, including Endangered Species Act listed marine mammals, remains. In fact, our concerns have increased because the numbers of predicted effects to some marine mammals will increase as a result of changes in the Proposed Action. Rather than exposing marine mammals to 24,199 instances of Level B harassment from the use of sonar and other active acoustic sources, the Supplement's Proposed Action increases Level B harassment exposure to 107,062 times. To address this ongoing environmental concern, we reiterate our recommendation that the Navy continue to pursue the development of a well-designed mitigation and monitoring program in coordination with the National Marine Fisheries Service.	The Navy is currently engaged with the National Marine Fisheries Service in the execution of an adaptive management program (please see Section 5.5.1.1 of the EIS/OEIS, Integrated Comprehensive Monitoring Plan Top-Level Goals). The Navy believes the conservative assumptions used in assessing impacts on marine resources, including marine mammals, have ensured that the level of impact described is a maximum and likely an overestimate. In addition, the vast majority of behavioral disturbances will be of short duration and easily recoverable. In accordance with ESA requirements, the Navy has completed consultation under Section 7 of the ESA with NMFS and USFWS and will adhere to the Letters of Authorization and Biological Opinions issued by those agencies. Final marine mammal consultation results for ESA and MMPA will be included in the ROD.
USEPA-03	Marine debris and military expended materials Marine debris is one of the most widespread pollution problems currently facing the world's oceans and waterways. While we appreciate that the probability of military expended materials striking marine mammals or sea turtles under all of the alternatives is very low, less than .00025 percent per year[1], as well as the Navy's efforts to understand and disclose the impacts of metals in military expended materials in the marine environment - we are concerned about the increased number of expended sonobuoys under changes to the proposed action. To address our concern about adding to the marine debris problem, we recommend that the Final EIS/OEIS consider including sonobuoy retrieval. We would also encourage consideration of additional mitigation options such as participating in the National Marine Debris Monitoring Program. [1]Supplemental Draft EIS, p. 3-18"	Retrieval of expended sonobuoys is not feasible. After use, sonobuoys scuttle and sink rapidly to the seafloor, spread out across thousands of square miles of ocean bottom. The technology does not exist to effectively find, much less recover sonobuoys on the ocean floor. Most sonobuoys are deployed over deep water (greater than 3 nm from shore) where potential environmental impacts to biological and physical resources are minimal. In the Supplement to the Draft EIS/OEIS, and in this Final EIS/OEIS, the Navy has considered the increase in sonobuoys. The Navy’s original proposal in the Draft EIS/OEIS includes the annual deployment of approximately 9,200 sonobuoys of various types. The increase of 700 sonobuoys described in the Supplement is an increase of less than 8 percent. With this increase, the analysis described in Section 3.1.3.2 (Metals) remains accurate. In that analysis, sonobuoy components include metal housing, batteries and battery electrodes, lead solder, copper wire, and lead used for ballast.

Table I.5-1: Responses to Comments from Federal Agencies (continued)

Commenter	Comment	Navy Response
		Thermal batteries in sonobuoys are contained in a hermetically sealed and welded stainless steel case that is 0.03 to 0.1 in. (0.07 to 0.25 cm) thick and resistant to the battery electrolytes (Naval Facilities Engineering Command 1993). The 1993 Navy study concluded that constituents released by saltwater batteries used in sonobuoys as well as from the decomposition of other sonobuoy components did not exceed state or federal standards, and that the reaction products are short-lived in seawater (see Section 3.1.3.2.3 Impacts of Metals). Please refer to Section 3.1.3.2.3.1 (Lead) and Section 3.1.3.2.3.3 (Lithium) for additional information describing potential effects from sonobuoy batteries."
USEPA-04	Cumulative Impacts Climate change On December 18, 2014, the Council on Environmental Quality (CEQ) released revised draft guidance for public comment that describes how Federal departments and agencies should consider the effects of greenhouse gas emission and climate change in the NEPA reviews.[2] The revised draft guidance addresses comparisons of greenhouse gas emissions from individual agency actions to total greenhouse gas emissions. CEQ recognizes that many agency NEPA analyses to date have concluded that GHG emissions from an individual agency action will have small, if any, potential climate change effects. Government action occurs incrementally, program-by-program and step-by-step, and climate impacts are not attributable to any single action, but are exacerbated by a series of smaller decisions, including decisions made by the government. Therefore, the statement that emissions from a government action or approval represents only a small fraction of global emissions is more a statement about the nature of the climate change challenge, and is not an appropriate basis for deciding whether to consider climate impacts under NEPA. Moreover, these comparisons are not an appropriate method for characterizing the potential impacts associated with a proposed action and its alternatives and mitigations.[3] With this revised draft guidance in mind, we are concerned that the Draft EIS/OEIS's and Supplement's greenhouse gas analysis focuses on comparing the proposed action's greenhouse gas emissions to total U.S. greenhouse gas emissions- "Even though emission from the Proposed Action increase significantly, as a result of modifications to the activities, the contribution of the total remains insignificant"[4]. To improve the greenhouse gas analysis, we recommend that the Final EIS/OEIS focus on how the proposed action meets applicable Federal, state, tribal or local goals for greenhouse gas emission reductions. The revised draft guidance	Section 4.4 (Resource-Specific Cumulative Impacts) in the Final EIS/OEIS has been revised in response to the most current laws, executive orders, and policies. The most recent of these is Executive Order 13693, Planning for Federal Sustainability in the Next Decade, issued March 2015. Executive Order 13693 shifts the way the government operates by establishing target greenhouse gas reduction goals for federal agencies. As outlined in the policy, goals shall be achieved by increasing efficiency, reducing energy use, and finding renewable or alternative energy solutions. The Navy is committed to improving energy security and environmental stewardship by reducing reliance on fossil fuels and implementing policies, plans, and programs to prepare for the impacts of climate change on the Navy's mission. The Navy is actively developing and participating in energy, environmental, and climate change initiatives that will increase use of alternative energy and help conserve the world's resources for future generations.

Table I.5-1: Responses to Comments from Federal Agencies (continued)

Commenter	Comment	Navy Response
	encourages agencies to provide greenhouse gas goals as a frame of reference. Finally, when discussing GHG emissions, as for all environmental impacts, it can be helpful to provide the decision maker and the public with a frame of reference. To provide a frame of reference, agencies can incorporate by reference applicable agency emissions targets such as applicable Federal, state, tribal, or local goals for GHG emission reductions to provide a frame of reference and make it clear whether the emissions being discussed are consistent with such goals.[5] Key applicable goals are already identified in the Draft EIS/OEIS - consider Executive Order 13514 's 34 percent reduction by 2020 target for the Department of Defense, Executive Order 13423 's energy intensity goals, the Navy's Climate Change Roadmap, the Incentivized Energy Conservation Program, NAVSEA's Fleet Readiness, Research and Development Program, as well as the ""great green fleet"". Given broad policy direction to reduce greenhouse gas emissions we are interested in the specific actions entities within the NWTT's four existing range complexes are taking to address greenhouse gas emissions, consistent with broad policy direction. We believe additional focus on how the action alternatives, and/or Navy actions in the project area, will contribute to meeting greenhouse gas goals will lead to a more meaningful analysis than comparisons of project greenhouse gas emissions to U.S. totals." [2] Council on Environmental Quality. Guidance on Considering Climate Change in NEPA Reviews. Dec. 2014. Print. [3] Council on Environmental Quality. Guidance on Considering Climate Change in NEPA Reviews. Dec. 2014. Print. [4] Supplemental Draft EIS/OEIS, p. 4-1 [5] Council on Environmental Quality. Guidance on Considering Climate Change in NEPA Reviews. Dec. 2014. Print.	
USEPA-05	Air quality We recommend that the information in Supplement section 4.1 Air Quality be edited for clarity and accuracy. The incremental contribution of Alternatives 1 or 2 to cumulative impacts may be low, but it is not - as the Draft and Supplemental Draft EIS/OEISs explain - because air emissions sources are mobile sources, there are few stationary offshore air pollutant emission sources, or commercial shipping vessels are switching to lower-sulfur fuel. Mobile sources do impact attainment status because attainment status is determined by measuring atmospheric concentrations of air pollutants at a particular time and location, air pollution relevant to attainment status comes from both mobile and stationary sources. The fact that there are few stationary sources offshore is not a reason why the action alternatives have a low incremental contribution to air pollution; instead, it is only a reason why there is a low contribution of air pollution	Navy's bulk contribution of criteria components is small relative to the basin-wide totals. The Navy is not proposing to add a significant number of new sources (that have not already been captured in the attainment status) or significantly increase the hours of use of its sources, and is on a general program to improve fuel economy, thus also reducing criteria pollutant emissions. Therefore the training and testing activities in the Proposed Action, any alternative, would not have a significant impact on air quality.

Table I.5-1: Responses to Comments from Federal Agencies (continued)

Commenter	Comment	Navy Response
	from stationary sources. With regard to international regulations by the International Maritime Organization, we recommend that the Final EIS/OEIS address the applicability of new low sulfur fuel requirements for Navy vessels.	
USEPA-06	Marine mammals We are concerned about the Draft and Supplemental EIS/OEISs' characterization of cumulative impacts to marine mammals. The conclusion that the Alternatives' relative contribution to cumulative impacts on marine mammals is "... low compared to other actions"[6] is a description of the nature of cumulative impacts more than an analytical tool for understanding and disclosing the significance of an impact. We believe that a more helpful tool would be to provide a frame of reference, such as an applicable national goal or regulation. In the case of marine mammals, consider using applicable thresholds from the ongoing coordination with NMFS for Marine Mammal Protection Act incidental take authorizations as a frame of reference for determining the significance of the action alternatives' incremental contribution to cumulative effects. "Thank you for this opportunity to comment and if you have any questions please contact me. Enclosure: 1. EPA Rating System for Draft Environmental Impact Statements" [6] Supplemental Draft EIS/OEIS, p. 4-4	The Navy continues to work with NMFS and help meet NMFS' goals for managing marine mammal species. Most marine mammal species continue to thrive in the Study Area as well as in other areas where Navy training and testing activities are more extensive, such as Hawaii and Southern California. Therefore, the Navy's analysis of potential impacts is supported by empirical data pertaining to marine mammal species population size and health. The Navy will continue to coordinate with NMFS on criteria and thresholds for assessing impacts to marine mammals, including cumulative impacts. Final marine mammal consultation results for ESA and MMPA will be included in the ROD.
United States Department of the Interior (USDOI)-01	The U.S. Department of the Interior (Department) has reviewed the Draft Supplemental Environmental Impact Statement/Overseas Environmental Impact Statement (DSEIS/OEIS) prepared by the Department of the Navy (Navy) for the Northwest Training and Testing Study Area. In a letter dated March 24, 2014, the Department submitted comments on the DEIS/OEIS, and this letter was followed by additional comments from the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (Service) on April 11, 2014. The comments in these letters should be considered along with the following comments to the DSEIS/OEIS addressing issues related to hatchery operations: 1. The section addressing summer chum suggests that the Quilcene National Fish Hatchery (NFH) still raises summer chum. However, this hatchery does not currently raise summer chum salmon. Rather, it helps monitor returning adult summer chum salmon. The Department requests that the Navy revise this section accordingly.	The Quilcene National Fish Hatchery has been removed from the list of Hood Canal Summer-run Chum salmon artificial propagation programs in the Final EIS/OEIS.
USDOI-02	2. The sections discussing the timing of fish migrations are very generic. More detailed information exists regarding the timing and migration patterns for a majority of the fish runs in Hood Canal. The Department suggests that the Navy use more detailed information to assess the timing of testing/training in order to minimize or avoid impacts to migrating fish.	The level of detail regarding timing and migration patterns is adequate considering the proposed activities occur throughout the year. Considering seasonal migration patterns would not increase or decrease the impacts found in this EIS/OEIS. Even at peak fish presence and peak Navy activity, the nature of the activities has very low impacts on individual fish and no impacts on fish populations.

Table I.5-1: Responses to Comments from Federal Agencies (continued)

Commenter	Comment	Navy Response
USDOI-03	3. Because propellants remain in the water after torpedo testing, the Department recommends that the Navy address the effects of these propellants on organisms. This could be a concern in fjord-type estuarine areas such as Hood Canal that rely on the flushing action of winter storms.	Torpedo propellants and their potential impacts are analyzed in the EIS/OEIS, Section 3.1.3.3.7.2 (Otto Fuel II and Combustion Byproducts). Combustion byproducts of torpedo fuel would be released into the ocean where they would dissolve, dissociate, or be dispersed and diluted in the water column. Except for hydrogen cyanide, combustion byproducts are not a concern, with specific reasons described in Section 3.1.3.3.7.2 (Otto Fuel II and Combustion Byproducts). Compared to recommendations of the USEPA of 1.0 µg/L (1.0 ppb) (U.S. Environmental Protection Agency 2010), hydrogen cyanide released from torpedo fuel combustion would result in ambient concentrations ranging from 140 to 150 ppb (U.S. Department of the Navy 1996b), well above recommended levels. However, because hydrogen cyanide is soluble in seawater, it would be diluted to less than 1 µg/L (1.0 ppb) at a distance of 18 ft. (5.5 m) from the center of the unmanned underwater vehicle's (UUV's) path when first discharged. Additional dilution would occur thereafter, with the rate of dilution depending, in part, upon the overall circulation patterns in the vicinity of the discharge. Navy wide, approximately 30,000 exercise tests of the MK48 torpedo have been conducted over the last 25 years. Most of these launches have been on U.S. Navy test ranges, where there have been no reports of harmful impacts on water quality from torpedo fuel or its combustion products. Furthermore, Navy studies conducted at torpedo test ranges that have lower flushing rates than the open ocean did not detect residual torpedo fuel in the marine environment (U.S. Department of the Navy 1996a, b).
USDOI-04	4. The Department recommends that the final EIS provide a more detailed analysis regarding the potential differences in effects between training and testing in shallow versus deep-water testing areas on fish and mammals.	The EIS/OEIS provides a combined analysis of impacts for both shallow-water and deep-water training and testing. Only when the impacts could be different are they discussed separately.
USDOI-05	5. The Department recommends that the final EIS contain more details regarding the methodology and duration of monitoring the effects of testing and training activities. For instance, monitoring should be designed in a manner such that delayed mortality of fish and mammals can be detected.	The Final EIS/OEIS contains the specific information requested in the comment regarding monitoring efforts. In addition to the Navy's Integrated Comprehensive Monitoring Program, activity specific monitoring is described in Section 5.5 of the Final EIS/OEIS. The Navy's monitoring efforts are coordinated with the applicable regulatory agency (NMFS or USFWS). The Navy's monitoring plans are applied through an adaptive management program so that as better techniques become available or past results indicate new efforts

Table I.5-1: Responses to Comments from Federal Agencies (continued)

Commenter	Comment	Navy Response
		are needed, the monitoring program can be modified.
USDOI-06	6. The Department recommends that the final EIS include a thorough discussion on the importance of fish, habitat, and mammals to tribal trust responsibilities. If you have any questions regarding these comments, or if the Navy would like to meet with representatives from the Service, please contact Denise Hawkins at (360) 753-9509 or Ron Wong at (360) 765-3334.	The Draft and Final EIS/OEIS provide this information in Section 3.11 (American Indian and Alaska Native Traditional Resources).

Table I.5-2 contains comments on the NWTT Draft EIS/OEIS from American Indian Tribes, nations, and tribal organizations.

Table I.5-2: Responses to Comments from American Indian Tribes, Nations, and Tribal Organizations

Commenter	Comment	Navy Response
FEDERALLY RECOGNIZED AMERICAN INDIAN TRIBES/NATIONS		
Port Gamble S'Klallam Tribe (PGST)-01	Thank you for the opportunity to comment on the U.S. Navy's Supplement to the Draft Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) for the Northwest Training and Testing Activities. The Port Gamble S'Klallam Tribe's Natural Resources Department provides the following comments regarding potential impacts to the Tribe's resources and access to its usual and accustomed fishing grounds. We request a formal government-to-government consultation with the Tribe's Chair or other elected official(s) to discuss this proposed project and the Navy's other proposed projects and their potential impacts to tribal resources.	Thank you for the comment letter. The Commanding Officer of Naval Base Kitsap invited both the Jamestown S'Klallam Tribe and the Port Gamble S'Klallam Tribe to consider initiation of government-to-government consultation in letters dated January 17, 2014. The Navy appreciates the initiation of government-to-government consultation on this proposed action and remains committed to fulfilling its government-to-government consultation responsibilities in accordance with Navy policies. The Navy and the Tribes have held government–to-government consultation and staff level consultation meetings with the Port Gamble S'Klallam Tribe and the Jamestown S'Klallam Tribes to discuss details of the entire EIS/OEIS project (including the Supplement to the Draft EIS/OEIS) and Tribal concerns. Government-to-government consultation for the proposed action is ongoing.
PGST-02	Background on the Tribe's Treaty Fisheries The Port Gamble S'Klallam Tribe is the successor in interest to Indian bands and tribes signatory to the 1855 Treaty of Point No Point, 12 Stat. 933. According to S'Klallam oral traditions, the ancestral village of the Port Gamble people lived in the area of the level, sandy spit on the west shore of the mouth of Port Gamble Bay. Like other Washington treaty tribes, the S'Klallam people relied on their fisheries for much of their food supply, pre-dating the signing of the treaty by thousands of years. The tribes used all available species of fish, including all six species of salmon, herring and other smaller fish, and shellfish. Tribal customs and traditions reflected the importance of the fisheries by proscribing waste, regulating distribution of the catch, and discouraging water pollution. An annual First Salmon ceremony expressed the people's appreciation for their harvest. Trade in fish was a major element of the tribal economy, and the tribes developed a vibrant cultural life based on the wealth of their fisheries. Each summer the S'Klallam dispersed by canoe to camps where they fished and met family and friends. The Treaty reserved to the S'Klallam the right to take fish at all these "usual and accustomed grounds and stations" (U&A)—an area roughly centered on Port Gamble Bay that includes all of the bay, most of the Hood Canal watersheds, and extends west along the Strait of Juan de Fuca to the Sekiu River, north to the San Juan Islands, east to Whidbey Island, and south through Hood Canal. Within these areas, the Port Gamble S'Klallam and other tribes that share the U&A are entitled to take half the harvestable fish and shellfish, and retain the right to access private property to fish and to shellfish. Today, over 150 years after signing the Treaty of Point No Point, the Tribe retains deep cultural	The Navy appreciates the time taken by the Port Gamble S'Klallam Tribe to provide the background on the Tribe's history, culture, and Treaty Fisheries.

Table I.5-2: Responses to Comments from American Indian Tribes, Nations, and Tribal Organizations (continued)

Commenter	Comment	Navy Response
FEDERALLY RECOGNIZED AMERICAN INDIAN TRIBES/NATIONS		
	and economic ties to the surrounding waters and to their fisheries. Many tribal members earn all or a portion of their livelihood working as commercial salmon and shellfish fishers. Specifically, based on the Tribe's licensing and catch reporting data from 2008 to 2012, more than 100 tribal members earned all or a portion of their livelihood working as commercial salmon fishermen, just over 50 tribal members earned all or a portion of their income working as commercial geoduck divers, and over 150 tribal members earned income participating in commercial shellfish harvest including clams, oysters, crab and shrimp. In addition, the Tribe conducts fisheries in its U&A to obtain fish for ceremonial use. Subsistence harvests from the Tribe's U&A are a key element of the diet of many tribal members.	
PGST-03	Essential Components of the Tribe's Fishery: Access to Fishing Places, Sufficient Harvests, and Necessary Fish Habitat. As stated in our DEIS comments, more than a century of federal court decisions have fleshed out the components of the treaty right, including the right of access to places, the right to a share of harvest to meet tribal moderate living needs, and the right to protection of fish habitat. The Navy's training and testing activities in Puget Sound have the potential to adversely affect each of these components, particularly when combined with the Navy's numerous other activities in the region. The treaty fishing right applies to every "usual and accustomed" area (U&A). Tribal U&A have been defined broadly by reference to entire water bodies. This practice is consistent with the treaty language, which speaks not only of specific fishing "stations," but of general fishing "grounds." The broad treatment of U&A is also consistent with the nature of the treaty fishing right—a reservation of preexisting rights. The Port Gamble S'Klallam Tribe's U&A encompass the marine and nearshore areas of naval Base Kitsap – Bangor, Carderock Division at Bangor, Dabob Bay Range Complex, Hood Canal EOD Training Range, Admiralty Bay Chinook A and B, Navy 7 Operations Area, northern Whidbey Island and surrounding marine and nearshore areas. The right of the Tribe to access and fish at these places exists regardless of who owns the land beside or beneath the waterway. The ability to access all potential fishing places has been and remains crucial for the Tribe to maintain harvest stability in the face of unpredictable local variations in the supply of fish. Maintaining access to the entire terrestrial and marine landscape that was used by tribal ancestors is also of critical cultural importance, and helps to define the Tribe's identity.	The Navy generally agrees with the statements regarding the existence and extent of off reservation fishing tribal treaty rights. With respect to the issue of habitat protection, the Navy acknowledges the decision of the federal district court in the sub-proceeding of United States v. Washington regarding culverts. However, the Navy notes that the court's decision is on appeal and the existence and parameters of a right of habitat protection (also referred to as habitat degradation) are subject to interpretation and evolving court decisions. Additionally, the Navy notes that a *de minimis* interference with treaty rights is not necessarily a treaty violation. (See Lummi v. Cunningham, No. C92-1023, Western District of WA unpublished decision 1992).
PGST-04	Supplement to the DEIS Analysis of Effects of Training and Testing Activities on Treaty Rights and Tribal Resources The Navy's Supplement to the DEIS states the following with regard to the effects of naval training and testing exercises on treaty rights: American Indian tribes would be given a notice approximately one hour prior to each TPS event. American Indians would	The Navy acknowledges the potential for impacts to American Indian tribal resources. The Navy is in consultation with the Port Gamble S'Klallam Tribe so that the Navy's Proposed Action can be fully understood by the tribe, and impacts to the tribe can be fully understood by the Navy.

Table I.5-2: Responses to Comments from American Indian Tribes, Nations, and Tribal Organizations (continued)

Commenter	Comment	Navy Response
	have minimal time to adjust plans to sustain their fishing schedules. Tribal fishing vessels, commercial or private, which are on the water during a MSO may be required to temporarily abandon fishing gear in place and move to remain out of the security zone establish by the security vessels. Although this displacement may be for only short distance and a brief duration, after which the fishing vessel can return, the fishing vessel may have used more fuel than expected, damage or loss of fishing gear may have occurred, and fish or shellfish harvest may be reduced for that day. When MSO activities coincide with a limited opening of a particular fishing season, loss of harvest could occur. The Navy is conducting government-to-government consultation with potentially affected tribes to improve coordination and communications so impacts to tribal fishing are minimized or eliminated. American Indian traditional resources could be impacted if proposed activities altered fish and other marine species populations and habitat to such an extent that tribes could no longer sustain treaty fisheries. Furthermore, tribal elders traditionally teach their children and grandchildren to fish in traditional use areas where they were taught by their ancestors. The changes in tribal access to U&A fishing ground and stations could be impacted if loss of income, revenue, employment or cultural knowledge is lost. While we greatly appreciate the Navy's inclusion of these paragraphs describing potential impacts to tribal fisheries, the analysis falls far short of describing the full extent of impacts that would likely occur. Port Gamble fishers actively fish throughout Hood Canal and other parts of Puget Sound within the Tribe's U&A. Fishing activities include crabbing, shrimping, salmon fishing, intertidal clam and oyster gathering, dive fisheries for geoduck and other species and shore-anchored and vessel-based net and line fisheries for salmon and other finfish. The Navy's training and testing exercises can seriously impede these activities for several reasons, and to a degree, that the DEIS and its Supplement do not disclose. For example, a one-hour notification prior to a TPS event would not give tribal divers adequate time to return to the surface and to remove boats and equipment from the area. The minimal time allotted for this activity would pose a safety risk to divers, as well as a risk of tribal fishers losing gear and adequate daily catch during the scheduled fishing window. While the Navy and the Tribe have generally worked well together to minimize the number of these occurrences resulting from training and testing exercises, it is entirely inappropriate for the Navy to fail to disclose or discount the true impacts from its actions.	
PGST-05	Cumulative Effects of the Navy's Plans for Numerous Projects and Operational Changes The detrimental effect of the Navy's projects on treaty rights and tribal resources when examined in the aggregate cannot be overstated. Since locating in Puget Sound, the Navy has armored significant shoreline, built massive overwater structures, permanently destroyed acres upon acres of seafloor, spilled great amounts of oil, and greatly increased vessel traffic and vessel exclusion zones. These activities result in degraded habitat, diminished fish production, collisions with and loss of crab pots and other gear, increased fishing effort, temporary or long term avoidance of traditional fishing areas, and	The Navy acknowledges and respects the reserved treaty rights of the Port Gamble S'Klallam Tribe and other tribes and remains committed to fulfilling its government-to-government consultation responsibilities and addressing Tribal concerns as part of its ongoing consultations with the Port Gamble S'Klallam Tribe. As part of these consultations, the Navy and the Tribe are addressing the issue of improving notifications, communications and coordination between the Navy and the Tribes and their tribal fishers.

Table I.5-2: Responses to Comments from American Indian Tribes, Nations, and Tribal Organizations (continued)

Commenter	Comment	Navy Response
	diminished harvest, at a time when the Tribe's fisheries are already greatly diminished and are not providing the Tribe with a moderate living. These injuries to the treaty rights will grow if the Navy proceeds with its plans to increase the frequency and geographic scope of training and testing exercises in Puget Sound. When combined with the numerous other construction projects and submarine reassignment proposals of which the Tribe is aware, these impacts are simply too great for the Navy to simultaneously meet its obligations under the Treaty and trust responsibilities to the Tribe. The Bangor waterfront alone currently includes seven major structures and supports significant naval vessel operations. In the past four years, the Navy has proposed—and, in some cases, has begun to implement—at least eleven additional major construction projects or operational shifts within the Port Gamble S'Klallam Tribe's U&A. These projects include: • Repair and replacement of 138 piles at the first Explosives Handling Wharf; • Construction of and operations at a second Explosives Handling Wharf (EHW-2), including 6.3 acres of overwater structure, 1,250 piles, and additional vessel traffic in Hood Canal; • Permanent moorage of a new research barge, which is half an acre in size and five times the size of the existing research barge, and construction of new mooring facilities; • Construction of and operations at the proposed Service Pier Extension, adding up to 1.82 acres of overwater structure and up to 700 more pilings to the already massive Service Pier; • Relocation of the SEAWOLF Class submarine SSN-21 (SEAWOLF) submarine from NBK-Bremerton to NBK-Bangor, which will result in even more vessel traffic from the submarines and their security convoys in Hood Canal and destruction of more tribal fishing gear; • Relocation of the SEAWOLF Class submarine SSN-22 (CONNECTICUT) submarine from NBK-Bremerton to NBK-Bangor, which will result in even more vessel traffic from the submarines and their security convoys in Hood Canal and destruction of more tribal fishing gear; • Construction of the Land-Water Interface, including in-water fill, up to 136 pilings, two large overwater structures, and a terrestrial structure in the middle of the Bangor Beach, where a cooperative agreement with the Navy is in place and tribal shell-fishing activities are ongoing; • Construction and operation of the Electromagnetic Management Range (EMMR), which will interrupt tribal fishing with little to no prior notice to tribal fishermen and permanently destroy a portion of an actively harvested geoduck bed; • Construction of a Coast Guard Station dock in Port Angeles Harbor, which will increase vessel activity in the Harbor and permanently destroy important rock fish habitat; • Indian Island piling replacement, which will impact forage fish spawning habitat; and • Testing and training exercises occurring throughout tribal U&A, which results in closures of U&A, increased vessel traffic, and gear loss, among other impacts. All of these projects occur within the Port Gamble S'Klallam Tribe's usual and accustomed fishing areas, and all of the projects affect the Tribe's treaty rights in one way or another. Most of the projects have obvious detrimental effects on tribal resources and treaty rights, and these effects are likely to last for decades into the future. For example, the proposed EMMR threatens to displace tribal fishermen from frequently used	The Navy has revised the Cumulative Impacts chapter in the Final EIS/OEIS, which includes the cumulative impacts of the Navy's proposed training and testing activities with respect to each of the projects listed in the comment. Many of the listed projects include mitigations measures as part of those individual projects. The Final EIS/OEIS has been revised throughout Section 3.11 (American Indian and Alaska Native Traditional Resources) to acknowledge the impacts of projects identified as described in the comment.

Table I.5-2: Responses to Comments from American Indian Tribes, Nations, and Tribal Organizations (continued)

Commenter	Comment	Navy Response
	fishing grounds with little to no prior notice before a submarine and its safety detail enter the course. As described earlier, submarines and their entourages regularly run over and destroy crab pots and other fishing gear. Moreover, naval convoys disrupt fishing activities during limited openings. Other projects recently proposed also detrimentally affect treaty fishing and tribal resources. For instance, the proposed Service Pier Extension threatens to destroy even more nearshore habitat, harming juvenile and adult salmonid migration and benthic species, and the proposed Land Water Interface threatens to destroy or make inaccessible shellfish beds currently harvested by tribal members. This is just a sampling of long-term impacts to tribal resources and treaty rights even without increased training and testing exercises in Puget Sound. In addition, impacts from infrastructure construction—such as in-water noise, sediment transfer, and increased construction vessel traffic—are likely to be acute over the next few years. Standing alone, each of the construction projects, operational shifts, and naval exercises mentioned above has a significant effect on treaty rights and natural resources. The impacts are amplified when examined collectively. Over the past few decades, Puget Sound, and especially Hood Canal, has become increasingly industrialized, its shoreline increasingly hardened and shaded, and its waters increasingly congested. The Navy's infrastructure and operations contribute greatly to these trends. Tribal fishers feel these impacts when there are not enough salmon to harvest, when fishing is disrupted or gear lost as a result of naval vessel traffic and operational activities, and when shellfish beds are closed for security or contamination reasons. Because the Navy's cumulative impacts analysis does not fully disclose the deleterious impact the Navy's projects have had on treaty rights in the aggregate, the DEIS fails to comply with NEPA.	
PGST-06	The Tribe is extremely concerned that the Navy's past, present, and proposed activities in its Usual and Accustomed Areas, including increasing training and testing exercises, incrementally threaten the Tribe's treaty right. As the Tribe's trustee, the Navy cannot allow that to happen. To summarize, the treaty fishing rights of the Port Gamble S'Klallam are a "sacred entitlement" promised to them in exchange for their part of the vast territory that is now Washington State. Having promised to secure the Tribes their fisheries, the United States, including the Navy, has a fiduciary duty to fulfill that promise and protect the Tribe's treaty rights. Exercising that trust responsibility requires the Navy to analyze and select action alternatives that do not add to the already great collective impact of the Navy's actions on the Port Gamble S'Klallam Tribe's treaty rights. Consequently, the Tribe believes government-to-government consultation is necessary to discuss mitigation needed to redress the Navy's significantly increased training and testing activities in the Tribe's U&A. Thank you for your consideration of these comments. Please contact me at romac@pgst.nsn.us or (360) 297-6293 with any questions or to provide any additional information about the proposed NWTT project. Sincerely, Roma Call Environmental Coordinator Natural Resources Department Port Gamble S'Klallam Tribe	The Navy and the Tribes have held government–to-government consultation and staff level consultation meetings with the Port Gamble S'Klallam Tribe and the Jamestown S'Klallam Tribes to discuss details of the entire EIS/OEIS project (including the Supplement to the Draft EIS/OEIS) and tribal concerns. The Navy remains committed to fulfilling our government-to-government consultation.

Table I.5-2: Responses to Comments from American Indian Tribes, Nations, and Tribal Organizations (continued)

Commenter	Comment	Navy Response
Tribal Historic Preservation Office Natural Resources Department Port Gamble S'Klallam Tribe	Thank you for contacting the Port Gamble S'Klallam Tribal Historic Preservation Office for review of the Supplement to the Environmental/Overseas Environmental Impact Statement for proposed increase in Naval Training and Testing Exercises (NWTT). Port Gamble S'Klallam Tribal Resolution 11-A-073 outlines the Port Gamble S'Klallam Tribe's definition and management priorities concerning cultural resources within the Tribes Adjudicated Usual and Accustomed Area and Traditional and Historic Use Areas. Tribal Resolution 11-A- 73 was passed to protect historic properties, including archeological resources and other cultural resources as defined by the Port Gamble Tribe in resolution 11-A-073. Pursuant to resolution 11-A-073 and Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act the Port Gamble S'Klallam Tribal Historic Preservation Office reviews proposed project activities within the Tribe's Adjudicated Usual and Accustomed Area in consideration of the impacts that proposed undertakings may have on cultural resources. As stated in my comments regarding the Draft EIS/OEIS for the NWTT, the Tribe looks forward to working closely with the United States Navy through the Section 106 consultation process in the development of the Area of Potential Effect in order to provide the greatest degree of protection for Port Gamble S'Klallam cultural sites, and traditional resources throughout the proposed training and testing area. Should Cultural Resources be impacted through this proposed undertaking the Port Gamble S'Klallam Tribal Historic Preservation Office will exercise its legal right under Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act to participate as a consulting party and provide direction and comments on this proposed undertaking. My comments for the Draft EIS/OEIS also apply to the Supplement to the Draft EIS/OEIS as follows: Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act (NHPA) of 1966, as amended (16 U.S.C. §§ 4 70 et. seq.) requires federal agencies to identify historic properties (which include archeological sites, Traditional Cultural Properties, and Traditional Native American Cultural Landscapes) within a proposed project's Area of Potential Effect (APE). 36 C.F.R. § 800.4(a) states that an APE is to be determined in consultation with the SHPO/THPO. An APE is defined in§ 800.16(d) as: "The geographic area, or areas within which an undertaking may directly or indirectly cause alterations in the character or use of historic properties, if any such properties exist. The area of potential effects is influenced by the scale and nature of an undertaking and may be different for different kinds of effects caused by the undertaking." The Advisory Council on Historic Preservation (ACHP) offers further clarification of the definition of an APE stating that In developing the APE for an undertaking, consideration must be given to those effects that will occur immediately and directly as well as those that are reasonably foreseeable and may occur later in time, be farther removed in distance or be cumulative, but still resulting from the undertaking.	The Navy has initiated the National Historic Property Act Section 106 process and has defined the area of potential effect (APE) for NWTT as the entire area proposed for training and testing (aka the NEPA study area) and is consulting with interested parties and affected tribes to further refine the APE. The Navy will solicit information about specific properties of religious or cultural importance to the Port Gamble S'Klallam Tribe where the NWTT APE overlaps the tribe's traditional territory. The Navy also acknowledges the PGST 's opinion that project-by-project and APE-specific consultation under the Section 106 process are not an adequate framework to address direct, indirect, and particularly cumulative effects with regard to properties of traditional importance, especially those that are part of their traditional maritime landscape. Additionally, the Tribe has indicated a desire for a more holistic approach in regard to overall Navy environmental planning. Other tribes, agencies, regulators, and NEPA and NHPA practitioners are currently struggling with the same challenges, exacerbated by the fact that (1) landscapes are not currently eligible for listing in the National Register, (2) that the National Park Service and Advisory Council on Historic Preservation are attempting to formally define traditional landscapes, and (3) there is a current lack of specific regulations or actionable guidance for how to address traditional cultural landscapes within the Section 106 framework. A framework that may be inadequate to fully address a holistic tribal world where places, resources, plants, animals, people, traditional ecological knowledge, culture, etc. are interrelated and attempts to identify, analyze, and evaluate them separately are inadequate and possibly inappropriate. Accordingly, at a staff level at least, the Navy acknowledges that these challenging issues would be better addressed separately in a framework outside individual projects or Navy actions. There are a number of options for the THPO and Navy to consider, e.g., a NHPA 106 Programmatic Agreement pursuant to 800.14(b). The Navy looks forward to continuing this dialog with tribal staff.

Table I.5-2: Responses to Comments from American Indian Tribes, Nations, and Tribal Organizations (continued)

Commenter	Comment	Navy Response
	The APE is not static but should be adjusted as a federal agency further develops the details of the undertaking and learns more about potential historic properties, and how they may be affected. The input of the consulting parties is crucial to this informed revision and refinement of the APE throughout Section 106 review2 1 The ACHP is an independent federal agency that promotes the preservation, enhancement, and productive use of our nation's resources when their actions affect historic properties. The ACHP is the only legal entity with the responsibility to encourage federal agencies to factor historic preservation into federal project requirements. 2 www.achp.gov/archguide The Port Gamble S'Klallam Reservation is located on the eastern shore of Port Gamble Bay on the eastside of the northern part of Hood Canal within the testing and training area. The Tribe's usual and accustomed fishing areas are spread throughout the proposed testing and training area. From Hood Canal and through the Strait of Juan De Fuca there are multiple intertidal and sub tidal and marine cultural resource sites that offer unique historic insights into S'Klallam history and are of paramount cultural importance for the Port Gamble S'Klallam Tribe. These sites are also critical habitat for traditional resources. Many of these sites derive cultural and historic integrity from their critical role as gathering sites based on their unique habitats. Port Gamble S'Klallam Tribal members maintain deep cultural, historical and ecological knowledge about a wide range of traditional harvest sites and areas throughout their usual and accustomed area. Consequently the marine waters used by Tribal fishers are composed of a network of cultural sites traditional resources and traditional resource harvest sites that are also cultural sites eligible for the National Register Eligible as Traditional Cultural Properties and Traditional Native American Cultural Landscapes. Cultural features within the Port Gamble S'Klallam maritime cultural landscape, spread throughout the proposed Northwest testing and training area spread throughout the proposed Northwest Testing and Training area and are located in submerged, near shore, intertidal, and marine settings. Cultural features include but are not limited to clam and oyster beds and fishing stations, landmarks, and camps, underwater outcroppings, reefs, kelp beds. Many Traditional Cultural Properties are natural objects, or appear to have had little or no visible modification by humans. Yet a natural object, a traditional salmon set net site, shellfish beds, a yew tree, a kelp bed, or an underwater rock outcropping may be eligible for the National Historic Register based on local cultural and historic significance. The National Register Bulletin for Evaluating Traditional Cultural Properties (Parker and King 1998) states that the integrity of Traditional Cultural Properties are grounded in the relationship a community maintains with a site, feature, object or district. It is the identified property that is evaluated for its eligibility to the National Register, not the cultural practice. Yet, it is the relationship that a community maintains with the identified property that gives a potential property its integrity that qualifies it for the National Register of Historic Properties. It is the active engagement with a property by a	

Table I.5-2: Responses to Comments from American Indian Tribes, Nations, and Tribal Organizations (continued)

Commenter	Comment	Navy Response
	community that gives the property its cultural integrity. Across the testing and training area are different sites that have unique cultural and historical distinctiveness for Port Gamble S'Klallam tribal members. Some sites have distinct and clear associations with important aspects of tribal history. Other sites have particular associations with particular Port Gamble S'Klallam families and significant associations with historic individuals significant in Port Gamble S'Klallam history. Other significant harvest sites may appear to lack individual distinction but are an integral part of broader traditional cultural network of maritime and marine cultural sites. The unique qualities of many of these sites meet multiple National Register Criteria as set forth in the National Register regulations (36 CFR Part 60) It is for this reason and others that such sites are such an integral dimension of Port Gamble S'Klallam identity and Being. It is the opinion of The Port Gamble S'Klallam Tribal Historic Preservation Office that the that the proposed expansion of training activities and testing exercises have the potential to cause inadvertent impacts on cultural resources and Native American Traditional Resources that are harvested from intertidal, sub tidal and marine cultural landscape features that are also traditional cultural properties and Native American traditional cultural landscapes. The Tribe looks forward to working with the U.S. Navy through the Section 106 consultation process to address potential impacts to maritime cultural resources and to assist the Navy fulfill its obligation to the National Historic Preservation Act and in order to protect national security.	
Port Gamble S'Klallam Tribe Natural Resources Department (PGSTNRD)-01	Thank you for the opportunity to comment on the U.S. Navy's Supplement to the Draft Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) for the Northwest Training and Testing Activities. The Port Gamble S'Klallam Tribe's Natural Resources Department provides the following comments regarding potential impacts to the Tribe's resources and access to its usual and accustomed fishing grounds. We request a formal government-to-government consultation with the Tribe's Chair or other elected official(s) to discuss this proposed project and the Navy's other proposed projects and their potential impacts to tribal resources.	The Commanding Officer of Naval Base Kitsap invited the Port Gamble S'Klallam Tribe to consider initiation of government-to-government consultation (letters dated January 17, 2014). Following the completion of the Supplement to the Draft EIS/OEIS, the Navy and the Port Gamble S'Klallam Tribe held government-to-government consultation to discuss the entire EIS/OEIS project (including the Supplement to the Draft EIS/OEIS) and tribal concerns. The Navy appreciates the initiation of government-to- government consultation by both Tribes on this proposed action. The Navy remains committed to fulfilling our government-to-government consultation.
PGSTNRD-02	Background on the Tribe's Treaty Fisheries The Port Gamble S'Klallam Tribe is the successor in interest to Indian bands and tribes signatory to the 1855 Treaty of Point No Point, 12 Stat. 933.1 According to S'Klallam oral traditions, the ancestral village of the Port Gamble people lived in the area of the level, sandy spit on the west shore of the mouth of Port Gamble Bay. Like other Washington treaty tribes, the S'Klallam people relied on their fisheries for much of their food supply, pre-dating the signing of the treaty by thousands of years.2 The tribes used all available	The Navy appreciates the time taken by the PGST to provide the background on the Tribe's history, culture, and Treaty Fisheries.

Table I.5-2: Responses to Comments from American Indian Tribes, Nations, and Tribal Organizations (continued)

Commenter	Comment	Navy Response
	species of fish, including all six species of salmon, herring and other smaller fish, and shellfish.3 Tribal customs and traditions reflected the importance of the fisheries by proscribing waste, regulating distribution of the catch, and discouraging water pollution.4 An annual First Salmon ceremony expressed the people's appreciation for their harvest.5 Trade in fish was a major element of the tribal economy, and the tribes developed a vibrant cultural life based on the wealth of their fisheries.6 1 United States v. Washington, 459 F. Supp. 1020, 1039 (W.D. Wash. 1978) (hereinafter Boldt II). 2 See United States v. Washington, 384 F. Supp. 312, 350-53 (W.D. Wash. 1974), aff'd 520 F.2d 676 (9th Cir. 1975), aff'd sub nom. Washington v. Wash. Commercial Passenger Fishing Vessel Ass'n, 443 U.S. 658 (1979) (hereinafter Boldt I). 3 Id. 4 Id. at 351, 357. 5 Id. at 351. 6 United States v. Washington, 626 F. Supp. 1405, 1433 (W.D. Wash. 1985); Boldt I, 384 F. Supp. at 350. Each summer the S'Klallam dispersed by canoe to camps where they fished and met family and friends.7 The Treaty reserved to the S'Klallam the right to take fish at all these "usual and accustomed grounds and stations" (U&A)—an area roughly centered on Port Gamble Bay that includes all of the bay, most of the Hood Canal watersheds, and extends west along the Strait of Juan de Fuca to the Sekiu River, north to the San Juan Islands, east to Whidbey Island, and south through Hood Canal.8 Within these areas, the Port Gamble S'Klallam and other tribes that share the U&A are entitled to take half the harvestable fish and shellfish, and retain the right to access private property to fish and to shellfish.9 7 United States v. Washington, 626 F. Supp. at 1442; Boldt I, 384 F. Supp. at 350-51. 8 See United States v. Washington, 626 F. Supp. at 1442; Boldt II, 459 F. Supp. at 1041. 9 See, e.g., United States v. Washington, 873 F. Supp. 1422, 1444-45 (W.D. Wash. 1994) (hereinafter Shellfish I). Today, over 150 years after signing the Treaty of Point No Point, the Tribe retains deep cultural and economic ties to the surrounding waters and to their fisheries. Many tribal members earn all or a portion of their livelihood working as commercial salmon and shellfish fishers. Specifically, based on the Tribe's licensing and catch reporting data from 2008 to 2012, more than 100 tribal members earned all or a portion of their livelihood working as commercial salmon fishermen, just over 50 tribal members earned all or a portion of their income working as commercial geoduck divers, and over 150 tribal members earned income participating in commercial shellfish harvest including clams, oysters, crab and shrimp. In addition, the Tribe conducts fisheries in its U&A to obtain fish for ceremonial use. Subsistence harvests from the Tribe's U&A are a key element of the diet of many tribal members.	
PGSTNRD-03	Essential Components of the Tribe's Fishery: Access to Fishing Places, Sufficient Harvests, and Necessary Fish Habitat. As stated in our DEIS comments, more than a century of federal court decisions have fleshed out the components of the treaty right, including the right of access to places, the	The Navy generally agrees with the statements regarding the existence and extent of off reservation fishing tribal treaty rights. With respect to the issue of habitat protection, the Navy acknowledges the decision of the federal district court in the sub-proceeding of United States v. Washington regarding culverts. However, the Navy notes that the

Table I.5-2: Responses to Comments from American Indian Tribes, Nations, and Tribal Organizations (continued)

Commenter	Comment	Navy Response
	right to a share of harvest to meet tribal moderate living needs, and the right to protection of fish habitat. The Navy's training and testing activities in Puget Sound have the potential to adversely affect each of these components, particularly when combined with the Navy's numerous other activities in the region. The treaty fishing right applies to every "usual and accustomed" area (U&A).10 Tribal U&A have been defined broadly by reference to entire water bodies.11 This practice is consistent with the treaty language, which speaks not only of specific fishing "stations," but of general fishing "grounds."12 The broad treatment of U&A is also consistent with the nature of the treaty fishing right—a reservation of preexisting rights. The Port Gamble S'Klallam Tribe's U&A encompass the marine and nearshore areas of naval Base Kitsap – Bangor, Carderock Division at Bangor, Dabob Bay Range Complex, Hood Canal EOD Training Range, Admiralty Bay Chinook A and B, Navy 7 Operations Area, northern Whidbey Island and surrounding marine and nearshore areas. The right of the Tribe to access and fish at these places exists regardless of who owns the land beside or beneath the waterway.13 The ability to access all potential fishing places has been and remains crucial for the Tribe to maintain harvest stability in the face of unpredictable local variations in the supply of fish.14 Maintaining access to the entire terrestrial and marine landscape that was used by tribal ancestors is also of critical cultural importance, and helps to define the Tribe's identity. 10 Muckleshoot Tribe v. Hall, 698 F. Supp. 1504, 1511 (W.D. Wash. 1988) [hereinafter Muckleshoot] (citing Washington v. Wash. St. Commercial Passenger Fishing Vessel Ass'n, 443 U.S. 658, 674 (1979) [hereinafter Fishing Vessel] and Boldt I, 384 F. Supp. at 332). 11 Boldt I, 384 F. Supp. at 402; see, e.g., United States v. Washington, 626 F. Supp. at 1442. 12 See Boldt I, 384 F. Supp. at 332 (distinguishing "grounds" from "stations"). 13 Winans, 198 U.S. 371 (right to cross fenced, private upland to reach fishing water); United States v. Washington 157 F.3d 630, 644-47 (9th Cir. 1998). 14 See BoldtI, 384 F.Supp. at 351-52 (local fish supplies varied, so tribes traditionally shifted fishery locations in response to relative abundance).	court's decision is on appeal and the existence and parameters of a right of habitat protection (also referred to as habitat degradation) are subject to interpretation and evolving court decisions. Additionally, the Navy notes that a *de minimis* interference with treaty rights is not necessarily a treaty violation. (See Lummi v. Cunningham, No. C92-1023, Western District of WA unpublished decision 1992).
PGSTNRD-04	Supplement to the DEIS Analysis of Effects of Training and Testing Activities on Treaty Rights and Tribal Resources The Navy's Supplement to the DEIS states the following with regard to the effects of naval training and testing exercises on treaty rights: American Indian tribes would be given a notice approximately one hour prior to each TPS event. American Indians would have minimal time to adjust plans to sustain their fishing schedules. Tribal fishing vessels, commercial or private, which are on the water during a MSO may be required to temporarily abandon fishing gear in place and move to remain out of the security zone establish by the security vessels. Although this displacement may be for only short distance and a brief duration, after which the fishing vessel can return, the fishing vessel may have used more fuel than expected, damage or loss of fishing gear may have occurred, and fish or shellfish harvest may be reduced for that	The Navy acknowledges the potential for impacts to American Indian tribal resources. The Navy is in consultation with the Port Gamble S'Klallam Tribe so that the Navy's Proposed Action can be fully understood by the tribe, and impacts to the tribe can be fully understood by the Navy. The Navy currently coordinates with the Port Gamble S'Klallam Tribe for all fisheries, including geoduck harvests. As part of the improved coordination, the Tribes have included geoduck fishers (divers, equipment, hose, and boat configurations) as part of the training the tribes give to Navy staff (tribes have been training personnel). The Navy provides text messages to Tribal fisheries enforcement officers to inform them of submarine escort movements as soon as allowed. The Navy is very aware of geoduck divers and is equally concerned for their

Table I.5-2: Responses to Comments from American Indian Tribes, Nations, and Tribal Organizations (continued)

Commenter	Comment	Navy Response
	day. When MSO activities coincide with a limited opening of a particular fishing season, loss of harvest could occur. The Navy is conducting government-to-government consultation with potentially affected tribes to improve coordination and communications so impacts to tribal fishing are minimized or eliminated. American Indian traditional resources could be impacted if proposed activities altered fish and other marine species populations and habitat to such an extent that tribes could no longer sustain treaty fisheries. Furthermore, tribal elders traditionally teach their children and grandchildren to fish in traditional use areas where they were taught by their ancestors. The changes in tribal access to U&A fishing ground and stations could be impacted if loss of income, revenue, employment or cultural knowledge is lost. While we greatly appreciate the Navy's inclusion of these paragraphs describing potential impacts to tribal fisheries, the analysis falls far short of describing the full extent of impacts that would likely occur. Port Gamble fishers actively fish throughout Hood Canal and other parts of Puget Sound within the Tribe's U&A. Fishing activities include crabbing, shrimping, salmon fishing, intertidal clam and oyster gathering, dive fisheries for geoduck and other species and shore-anchored and vessel-based net and line fisheries for salmon and other finfish. The Navy's training and testing exercises can seriously impede these activities for several reasons, and to a degree, that the DEIS and its Supplement do not disclose. For example, a one-hour notification prior to a TPS event would not give tribal divers adequate time to return to the surface and to remove boats and equipment from the area. The minimal time allotted for this activity would pose a safety risk to divers, as well as a risk of tribal fishers losing gear and adequate daily catch during the scheduled fishing window. While the Navy and the Tribe have generally worked well together to minimize the number of these occurrences resulting from training and testing exercises, it is entirely inappropriate for the Navy to fail to disclose or discount the true impacts from its actions.	safety. The geoduck beds are located in nearshore areas and outside the main channel so they are not in conflict with the moving security zone.
PGSTNRD-05	Cumulative Effects of the Navy's Plans for Numerous Projects and Operational Changes The detrimental effect of the Navy's projects on treaty rights and tribal resources when examined in the aggregate cannot be overstated. Since locating in Puget Sound, the Navy has armored significant shoreline, built massive overwater structures, permanently destroyed acres upon acres of seafloor, spilled great amounts of oil, and greatly increased vessel traffic and vessel exclusion zones. These activities result in degraded habitat, diminished fish production, collisions with and loss of crab pots and other gear, increased fishing effort, temporary or long term avoidance of traditional fishing areas, and diminished harvest, at a time when the Tribe's fisheries are already greatly diminished and are not providing the Tribe with a moderate living. These injuries to the treaty rights will grow if the Navy proceeds with its plans to increase the frequency and geographic scope of training and testing exercises in Puget Sound. When combined with the	The Navy acknowledges and respects the reserved treaty rights of the Port Gamble S'Klallam Tribe and other tribes and remains committed to fulfilling its government-to-government consultation responsibilities and addressing Tribal concerns as part of its ongoing consultations with the Port Gamble S'Klallam Tribe. As part of these consultations, the Navy and the Tribe are addressing the issue of improving notifications, communications, and coordination between the Navy and the Tribes and their tribal fishers. The Navy has revised the Cumulative Impacts chapter in the Final EIS/OEIS, which includes the cumulative impacts of the Navy's proposed training and testing activities with respect to each of the projects listed in the comment. Many of the listed projects include

Table I.5-2: Responses to Comments from American Indian Tribes, Nations, and Tribal Organizations (continued)

Commenter	Comment	Navy Response
	numerous other construction projects and submarine reassignment proposals of which the Tribe is aware, these impacts are simply too great for the Navy to simultaneously meet its obligations under the Treaty and trust responsibilities to the Tribe. The Bangor waterfront alone currently includes seven major structures and supports significant naval vessel operations. In the past four years, the Navy has proposed—and, in some cases, has begun to implement—at least eleven additional major construction projects or operational shifts within the Port Gamble S'Klallam Tribe's U&A. These projects include: • Repair and replacement of 138 piles at the first Explosives Handling Wharf; • Construction of and operations at a second Explosives Handling Wharf (EHW-2), including 6.3 acres of overwater structure, 1,250 piles, and additional vessel traffic in Hood Canal; • Permanent moorage of a new research barge, which is half an acre in size and five times the size of the existing research barge, and construction of new mooring facilities; • Construction of and operations at the proposed Service Pier Extension, adding up to 1.82 acres of overwater structure and up to 700 more pilings to the already massive Service Pier; • Relocation of the SEAWOLF Class submarine SSN-21 (SEAWOLF) submarine from NBK-Bremerton to NBK-Bangor, which will result in even more vessel traffic from the submarines and their security convoys in Hood Canal and destruction of more tribal fishing gear; • Relocation of the SEAWOLF Class submarine SSN-22 (CONNECTICUT) submarine from NBK-Bremerton to NBK-Bangor, which will result in even more vessel traffic from the submarines and their security convoys in Hood Canal and destruction of more tribal fishing gear; • Construction of the Land-Water Interface, including in-water fill, up to 136 pilings, two large overwater structures, and a terrestrial structure in the middle of the Bangor Beach, where a cooperative agreement with the Navy is in place and tribal shell-fishing activities are ongoing; • Construction and operation of the Electromagnetic Management Range (EMMR), which will interrupt tribal fishing with little to no prior notice to tribal fishermen and permanently destroy a portion of an actively harvested geoduck bed; • Construction of a Coast Guard Station dock in Port Angeles Harbor, which will increase vessel activity in the Harbor and permanently destroy important rock fish habitat; • Indian Island piling replacement, which will impact forage fish spawning habitat; and • Testing and training exercises occurring throughout tribal U&A, which results in closures of U&A, increased vessel traffic, and gear loss, among other impacts.	mitigations measures as part of those individual projects. The Final EIS/OEIS has been revised throughout Section 3.11 (American Indian and Alaska Native Traditional Resources) to acknowledge the impacts of projects identified as described in the comment.

Table I.5-2: Responses to Comments from American Indian Tribes, Nations, and Tribal Organizations (continued)

Commenter	Comment	Navy Response
	All of these projects occur within the Port Gamble S'Klallam Tribe's usual and accustomed fishing areas, and all of the projects affect the Tribe's treaty rights in one way or another. Most of the projects have obvious detrimental effects on tribal resources and treaty rights, and these effects are likely to last for decades into the future. For example, the proposed EMMR threatens to displace tribal fishermen from frequently used fishing grounds with little to no prior notice before a submarine and its safety detail enter the course. As described earlier, submarines and their entourages regularly run over and destroy crab pots and other fishing gear. Moreover, naval convoys disrupt fishing activities during limited openings. Other projects recently proposed also detrimentally affect treaty fishing and tribal resources. For instance, the proposed Service Pier Extension threatens to destroy even more nearshore habitat, harming juvenile and adult salmonid migration and benthic species, and the proposed Land Water Interface threatens to destroy or make inaccessible shellfish beds currently harvested by tribal members. This is just a sampling of long-term impacts to tribal resources and treaty rights even without increased training and testing exercises in Puget Sound. In addition, impacts from infrastructure construction—such as in-water noise, sediment transfer, and increased construction vessel traffic—are likely to be acute over the next few years. Standing alone, each of the construction projects, operational shifts, and naval exercises mentioned above has a significant effect on treaty rights and natural resources. The impacts are amplified when examined collectively. Over the past few decades, Puget Sound, and especially Hood Canal, has become increasingly industrialized, its shoreline increasingly hardened and shaded, and its waters increasingly congested. The Navy's infrastructure and operations contribute greatly to these trends. Tribal fishers feel these impacts when there are not enough salmon to harvest, when fishing is disrupted or gear lost as a result of naval vessel traffic and operational activities, and when shellfish beds are closed for security or contamination reasons. Because the Navy's cumulative impacts analysis does not fully disclose the deleterious impact the Navy's projects have had on treaty rights in the aggregate, the DEIS fails to comply with NEPA.	
PGSTNRD-06	The Tribe is extremely concerned that the Navy's past, present, and proposed activities in its Usual and Accustomed Areas, including increasing training and testing exercises, incrementally threaten the Tribe's treaty right. As the Tribe's trustee, the Navy cannot allow that to happen. To summarize, the treaty fishing rights of the Port Gamble S'Klallam are a "sacred entitlement" promised to them in exchange for their part of the vast territory that is now Washington State.15 Shellfish I, 873 F. Supp. at 1435. Having promised to secure the Tribes their fisheries, the United States, including the Navy, has a fiduciary duty to fulfill that promise and protect the Tribe's treaty rights. Exercising that trust responsibility requires the Navy to analyze and select action alternatives that do not add to the already great collective impact of the Navy's actions on the Port Gamble S'Klallam Tribe's treaty rights. Consequently, the Tribe believes government-to-government consultation is necessary to discuss mitigation needed to	The Commanding Officer of Naval Base Kitsap invited both the Jamestown S'Klallam Tribe and the Port Gamble S'Klallam Tribe to consider initiation of government-to-government consultation (letters dated January 17, 2014). Following the completion of the Supplement to the Draft EIS/OEIS, the Navy and the Port Gamble S'Klallam Tribe held government-to-government consultation to discuss the entire EIS/OEIS project (including the Supplement to the Draft EIS/OEIS) and tribal concerns. The Navy appreciates the initiation of government-to-government consultation by both Tribes on this proposed action. The Navy appreciates the initiation of government-to- government consultation by both Tribes on this proposed action. The Navy remains committed to fulfilling our government-to-government consultation.

Table I.5-2: Responses to Comments from American Indian Tribes, Nations, and Tribal Organizations (continued)

Commenter	Comment	Navy Response
	redress the Navy's significantly increased training and testing activities in the Tribe's U&A. Thank you for your consideration of these comments. Please contact me at romac@pgst.nsn.us or (360) 297-6293 with any questions or to provide any additional information about the proposed NWTT project.	
Quileute Tribal Council (QTC)-01	These are the comments of the Quileute Tribe regarding the referenced supplemental Draft EIS. While not an "Inland Water" Tribe, our concerns derive from the process being recommended for them and how that can impact us in the future. The document states that under the Navy's preferred alternative, tribes in the "Inland Waters" are likely to face interruptions to their treaty fishing. Further, to resolve what that entails, the Navy has already commenced consultation with these affected tribes (pages ES-2, and 3-26-3.28). We observe (from p. 3- 27) that treaty fishing cannot occur in the path of Navy operations and that notice is very brief. Further, for these tribes under this proposal, fishing rights might even be lost. We cite: Notices to Mariners (NTMs) are issued in advance of TPS events only on a case-by-case basis due to national security reasons. If present, all other vessels would be required to exit the security zone in accordance with general regulations in 33 Code of Federal Regulations (C.F.R.) Section 165, Subpart D. Along the route between the homeport and the dive/surface point, tribal fishing vessels could be required to move outside the security zone surrounding the designated Navy vessel. Most often, this would mean relocating to a point closer to the shoreline. The impact to non-participating vessels would last until the transiting vessels have passed. American Indian tribes would be given a notice approximately *one hour* [*emphasis added*) prior to each TPS event. American Indians would have minimal time to adjust plans to sustain their fishing schedules. Tribal fishing vessels, commercial or private, which are on the water during a MSO may be required to temporarily abandon fishing gear in place and move to remain out of the security zone established by the security vessels. Although this displacement may be for only short distance and a brief duration, after which the fishing vessel can return, the fishing vessel may have used more fuel than expected, damage or loss of fishing gear may have occurred, and fish or shellfish harvest may be reduced for that day. When MSO activities coincide with a limited opening of a particular fishing season, loss of harvest could occur. The Navy is conducting government-to-government consultation with potentially affected tribes to improve coordination and communications so impacts to tribal fishing are minimized or eliminated. American Indian traditional resources could be impacted if proposed activities altered fish and other marine species populations and habitat to such an extent that tribes could no longer sustain treaty fisheries. Furthermore, tribal elders traditionally teach their children and grandchildren to fish in traditional use areas where they were taught by their	The Navy remains committed to fulfilling its government-to-government consultation responsibilities and addressing Tribal concerns as part of its ongoing consultations with the Quileute Tribe. As part of these consultations, the Navy and the Tribe are addressing the issue of improving notifications, communications and coordination between the Navy and the Tribes. For example, the Navy and the Quileute Tribe conducted a staff level call and agreed to use the Navy Region Northwest biologist as a point of contact to coordinate tribal fisheries openings to assist in avoiding potential co-use of fishing areas and to discuss future concerns. It is important to note that those proposed activities relevant to Tribal concerns are merely the continuation of ongoing activities that have been occurring in this same area for years. As the Navy will not be permanently shutting off access to fishing grounds but rather will be minimizing access issues to the maximum extent practicable, the Navy does not expect alternative fishing grounds to be necessary. The Navy acknowledges and respects the reserved rights established in all treaties. The proposed increase in the one type of sonobuoy equates to a less than 8 percent increase in the proposed use of all sonobuoy types. As has been the Navy's practice, for the Navy's activities proposed to occur in the Pacific Ocean in the area described in the comment (between latitude 48° 07' 36" N and 47° 31' 42" N), absent any unusual circumstances, the Navy has the flexibility to move its events and would not prevent the use of the area by fishing vessels or any other nonparticipants. As stated in the EIS/OEIS in Section 3.13.2.2.1 (Offshore Area), "Inability to obtain a 'clear range' could cause an event to be delayed, cancelled, or relocated." This is especially true of any potentially hazardous events, such as missile firing activities. The Navy confirms that, due to security requirements, a 1-hour notification is the most that can be provided.

Table I.5-2: Responses to Comments from American Indian Tribes, Nations, and Tribal Organizations (continued)

Commenter	Comment	Navy Response
	ancestors. [Emphasis added.] The changes in tribal access to U&A fishing ground and stations could be impacted if loss of income, revenue, employment, or cultural knowledge is lost. What is implicit but not expressly stated: There are no alternative fishing grounds to one's U&A per U.S. v. Washington. This could terminate a tribe's treaty fishing rights. However, treaties are the highest law of the land per Article VI of the U.S. Constitution. This document leaves us unclear as to the potential for interruption of treaty fishing to the four tribes with a Pacific U&A, of which Quileute is one. We observe from the various tables in the subject document that the number of sonobuoys in the Pacific will significantly increase. We are unsure how or if that can impact access to our fishery while the Navy is training or testing. Should we rely on the Navy to revise the EIS again, should it deem our fishery may be interrupted and set up consultation with us? It is hard to answer that question, unilaterally. Are we to be noticed, under this particular EIS, to quit fishing?	
QTC-02	Here is what we think the Navy must know, to help it work with us. While most of our fishing seasons extend for several months, if not a year, commercial halibut fishing is different. It can be for extremely short windows, such as 48 hours or less. This is to manage the Total Allowable Catch of a diminishing but valuable fishery. Some sample regulations from previous years are attached to illustrate the point. Presently the federal district court has approved a management plan that allows for last minute changes in the opener in the event of severe weather in the Pacific. Perhaps we need to go to court to modify this, to provide for last minute notice from the Navy. Before we engage in this costly and multi-tribe step, in court, it would be helpful to have a staff-to-staff meeting or conference call, at a mutually agreeable time. Please contact the Director of Natural Resources, Mel Moon, to commence this process for us, at (360)-374-3133 or mel.moon@guileutenation.org. However, we reserve the right to have consultation on a government-to-government basis if it appears this matter is more urgent than first appears. We would find the loss of our treaty fishing rights to be an unacceptable alternative. Thank you for this notice and the opportunity to comment. Fishery: Restricted Commercial Fisheries Target Species: Halibut Management Period: OPENS: March 8, 2014-November 7, 2014 Management Area: Sand Point 48° 07' 36" N Latitude to Queets River 47° 31' 42" N Latitude Season: March 20, 2014 10:00am—March 21, 2014 4:00pm Gear Restriction: Longline Gear	Thank you for this information. As stated above, the Navy's activities would not prevent the use of the area by fishing vessels or any other nonparticipants. The Navy remains committed to fulfilling its government-to-government consultation responsibilities and addressing Tribal concerns as part of its ongoing consultations with the Quileute Tribe.

Table I.5-2: Responses to Comments from American Indian Tribes, Nations, and Tribal Organizations (continued)

Commenter	Comment	Navy Response
	Other Restrictions: 2011 Management Measures as per court order Allocation: 500 pound/24 hours trip limit, TAC 58,425 lbs. Assessment Meetings: Tribal Conference call March 24, 2014 10:00am SUBSTISTENCE: During the commercial management period from March 8, 2014 until the end of this period, there is a four legal sized halibut per vessel per day limit restriction. You must report all Subsistence take home on fish tickets. During all non-commercial management periods Subsistence is open year round, (two halibut per person/per day). FISHERY: Commercial TARGET SPECIES: Halibut MANAGEMENT PERIOD: March 8, 2014 through November 7, 2014 MANAGEMENT AREA: Sand Point 48° 07' 36" N to Queets River 47° 31' 42" N SEASON: 10 hour opener OPENS: May 8, 2014 at 8:00 am CLOSES: May 8, 2014 at 6:00 pm ALLOCATION: 400 lbs/10 hr trip limit. Remaining TAC = 20,932 lbs. LEGAL GEAR: Longline Gear SUBSISTENCE: During the commercial management period from March 8111 until the end of this period, there is a limit of four legal size Halibut per day/per vessel. You must report all C&S take home on fish tickets. During all non-commercial management periods C&S is open year round, (2 per person per day). NOTE: This regulation supercedes all other previous postings. Operators participating in the halibut fishery shall maintain an accurate log book (provided by IPHC). Recording halibut fishing operations in compliance with federal regulations.	
Suquamish Tribe-01	This letter transmits comments from the Suquamish Tribe (Suquamish) on the U.S. Navy's Northwest Training and Testing (NWTT) Supplement to the Draft Environmental Impact Statement/Overseas Environmental Impact Statement (SEIS). Suquamish submitted comments on the Draft EIS for the NWTT in April 2014. Those comments remain relevant. Suquamish provided comments on an earlier Navy expansion (NUWC Keyport Range Complex Extension EIS/OEIS) in a letter submitted to the Navy in March 2009. With respect to the current proposed NWTT, Suquamish submitted a letter to the Navy in April 2012 requesting a government-to-government consultation. In January 2014, Suquamish received notification from the Navy of the availability of the NWTT DEIS, and a response to the Suquamish request for government-to-government consultation, identifying the need to coordinate such a meeting. The Navy has yet to fulfill Suquamish's request for government-to-government consultation on this subject. As a	Thank you for the letter. The Commanding Officer of Naval Base Kitsap invited the Suquamish Tribe to consider initiation of government-to-government consultation (letter dated January 17, 2014). The Navy appreciates the initiation of government-to-government consultation by the Suquamish Tribe on this proposed action. The Navy remains committed to fulfilling our government-to-government consultation responsibilities with the federally recognized Tribes in accordance with Navy policies. In the EIS/OEIS, the Navy conducted a thorough analysis of potential impacts to fisheries. As stated in Section 3.12.3.4 (Secondary Impacts), "Analyses in Sections 3.4 (Marine Mammals), 3.8 (Marine Invertebrates), and 3.9 (Fish) concluded that impacts on marine

Table I.5-2: Responses to Comments from American Indian Tribes, Nations, and Tribal Organizations (continued)

Commenter	Comment	Navy Response
	signatory to the 1855 Treaty of Point Elliott, Suquamish has reserved (not granted) rights to take fish at all "usual and accustomed [U&A] fishing grounds and stations" within its adjudicated U&A. Navy actions proposed by the NWTT EIS/OEIS and SEIS would take place within the adjudicated U&A of the Suquamish, which includes marine waters of Puget Sound from the northern tip of Vashon Island to the Fraser River in Canada, including Haro and Rosario Straits, the streams draining into the western side of Puget Sound and also Hood Canal. Suquamish is concerned that proposed Navy actions covered in the SEIS may significantly impact treaty reserved fisheries for finfish and shellfish, and potentially harm fish and other marine organisms and their habitats that the tribe depends on for its fisheries and way of life.	species from training and testing activities are not anticipated. Based on these conclusions, secondary impacts on commercial transportation or shipping, commercial or recreational fishing, subsistence use, or tourism are not anticipated." The discussion in the Final EIS/OEIS has been revised in Section 3.11.3 (Environmental Consequences) to acknowledge there is a potential that the Proposed Action will temporarily and intermittently interfere with U&A access (e.g., during transit protection, an important national security concern).
Suquamish-02	COMMENTS Suquamish's comments below focus on the potential impacts on Suquamish treaty reserved fisheries from MSOs within Inland Waters of the Puget Sound region (note: Suquamish may have additional comments based on consultation with the Navy): Impacts to Treaty Reserved Fishing Although the SEIS states that MSOs currently take place, what remains unclear is how many current MSO events take place per year, and how impacts associated with the current number and nature of these activities compare with that proposed in Alternatives 1 and 2. Suquamish's primary concern is with how the current and proposed vessel traffic specific to MSOs, as described in the SEIS, potentially impact and interfere with treaty fishing activities. The SEIS acknowledges these impacts in several locations, including Table ES-2 (p. ES-6), and in 3.11 (p. 3-26): "Modifications to activities in the Inland Waters may affect protected tribal resources of some federally-recognized tribes with treaty rights and traditional resources in the Inland Waters. The MSO activities involve vessel movements potentially impacting tribal access to treaty rights and access to usual and accustomed fishing grounds and stations within the Inland Waters." In 3.11.1.1 (p. 3-27): "The tribes of Puget Sound and the Strait of Juan de Fuca have usual and accustomed (U&A) fishing grounds and stations to which their perpetual access is affirmed through treaties and court decisions. Tribes harvest fish and shellfish for commercial, ceremonial and subsistence purposes. All of the Inland Waters of the NWTT Study Area are in co-use areas that include one or more tribes' U&A fishing grounds and stations. For most Inland Waters activity except MSO (italics added for emphasis), the Navy would continue to provide a NTM to the USCG in advance to support shared use of Puget Sound. The NTM allows American Indians to adjust their plans and sustain their fishing schedules. In addition, the Navy would continue the protocol to visually scan an area in order to ensure that non-participants are not present before initiating any training activity. These training activities in the Inland Waters could reduce tribal access to portions of their U&As. The Navy is conducting government-to-government consultation with potentially affected tribes regarding Navy activities that may have the potential to significantly affect protected tribal treaty rights and resources (italics added for emphasis). American Indian tribes would be given a notice approximately one hour prior to each TPS event. American Indians would have minimal	The Navy has revised the language in the Final EIS/OEIS to clarify that the number of Transit Protection System activities proposed under Alternative 1 and Alternative 2 is the same level of activity that is occurring now. The other component of MSO involves the Coastal Riverine Group (CRG) training. While those are new activities not occurring now, they are not expected to impact fishing activities or any other tribal resources. An NTM is broadcast 1 hour in advance of the anticipated escort movement, whether in the Strait of Juan de Fuca or Hood Canal, departing from the homeport piers. Depending on the location of the Tribal fishing or diving activity, the actual time that the security zone and escort vessel passes by a given location could be several hours after this notification. For example, if the fishing activity is in Hood Canal, and the vessel movement is starting at Bangor, the advance notification could be as little as 1 hour. If the vessel movement is starting in the Strait of Juan de Fuca, the notification would occur potentially 5–7 hours before the security zone would be at the fishing location. Additionally, the USCG is reaching out to the Tribes to stay abreast of the limited openings of a particular fishing season.

Table I.5-2: Responses to Comments from American Indian Tribes, Nations, and Tribal Organizations (continued)

Commenter	Comment	Navy Response
	time to adjust plans to sustain their fishing schedules. Tribal fishing vessels, commercial or private, which are on the water during a MSO may be required to temporarily abandon fishing gear in place and move to remain out of the security zone established by the security vessels. Although this displacement may be for only short distance and a brief duration, after which the fishing vessel can return, the fishing vessel may have used more fuel than expected, damage or loss of fishing gear may have occurred, and fish or shellfish harvest may be reduced for that day. When MSO activities coincide with a limited opening of a particular fishing season, loss of harvest could occur. The Navy is conducting government-to-government consultation with potentially affected tribes to improve coordination and communications so impacts to tribal fishing are minimized or eliminated (italics added for emphasis). American Indian traditional resources could be impacted if proposed activities altered fish and other marine species populations and habitat to such an extent that tribes could no longer sustain treaty fisheries. Furthermore, tribal elders traditionally teach their children and grandchildren to fish in traditional use areas where they were taught by their ancestors. The changes in tribal access to U&A fishing ground and stations could be impacted if loss of income, revenue, employment, or cultural knowledge is lost (italics added for emphasis)." In 3.11.2: "MSO activities could impact American Indian traditional resources and access to fishing grounds in the Inland Waters of the NWTT Study Area as identified in tribal treaties. The Navy has an active consultation process in place and will continue to consult on a government-to-government basis with potentially affected American Indian tribes regarding Navy activities that may have the potential to significantly affect protected tribal treaty rights and resources. This is a change from the Draft EIS/OEIS, where no impact to American Indian protected tribal resources or other traditional resources was expected under any alternative." Changes to the Proposed Action addressed by the SEIS Since the release of the NWTT Draft EIS/OEIS in January 2014, the Navy determined that updated training requirements and new information warranted a Supplement to the DEIS. Therefore, the SEIS includes the following proposed activities that were not in the Draft EIS: 1) Tracking Exercises – Maritime Patrol: This affects only offshore areas (generally at least 12 nm off the outer coasts of Washington, Oregon, and California); and 2) Maritime Security Operations (MSOs): This affects inland waters of Puget Sound. Brief Description of Proposed Actions As described in 2.2 (p. 2-1) of the SEIS: "Maritime Security Operations (MSO) is an ongoing activity in the NWTT Study Area that was not previously analyzed (italics added for emphasis)…MSO activities are a suite of events including Transit Protection System (TPS) and Coastal Riverine Group (CRG) training that provide maritime security escorts for Navy vessels such as Fleet Ballistic Missile Submarines (SSBNs). Other MSO events include: Visit, Board, Search, and Seizure exercises; Maritime Interdiction Operations; Force Protection exercises; and Anti-Piracy Operations." Table 2-1 in the SEIS describes 226 TPS and 60 CRG events per year (notes: more than one event can happen in a single day) for Alternatives 1 and 2. The amount of ordnance involved in	

Table I.5-2: Responses to Comments from American Indian Tribes, Nations, and Tribal Organizations (continued)

Commenter	Comment	Navy Response
	both alternatives is 1,800 small caliber rounds (all blanks) per year. Section 3.11.1 (p. 3-26) describes one component of a MSO, Transit Protection System (TPS): "Each TPS event includes up to nine security vessels moving within Puget Sound and the Strait of Juan de Fuca. U.S. Coast Guard (USCG) personnel and their ancillary equipment and weapons systems are involved in these events. Generally, the escorts establish a moving perimeter (security zone) around the vessel to prevent other vessels from entering that security zone. Depending on the type of vessel escort being conducted and other conditions, the security zone could be from a 100-yard to a 1,000-yard radius around the escorted vessel. Other vessels might be ordered to move. Every two years, a TPS training event occurs which involves up to 16 vessels transiting from Hood Canal to Admiralty Inlet. During this biennial event, boat crews train to engage surface targets by firing small caliber (blank) weapons." Further down in Section 3.11.1 (p. 3-26) is the following description: "Notices to Mariners (NTMs) are issued in advance of TPS events only on a case-by-case basis due to national security reasons. If present, all other vessels would be required to exit the security zone in accordance with general regulations in 33 Code of Federal Regulations (C.F.R.) Section 165, Subpart D. Along the route between the homeport and the dive/surface point, tribal fishing vessels could be required to move outside the security zone surrounding the designated Navy vessel. Most often, this would mean relocating to a point closer to the shoreline. The impact to non-participating vessels would last until the transiting vessels have passed." (italics added for emphasis) In Cumulative Impacts to American Indian and Alaska Native Traditional Resources in 4.4.13.1 (p. 4-6): "… Alternatives 1 and 2 could result in impacts on American Indian protected tribal resources and other traditional resources, because inaccessibility to areas of co-use such as usual and accustomed fishing grounds, even of short duration, may prevent fishing for a limited time. …stressors that could impact American Indian and Alaska Native Traditional resources include accessibility, airborne acoustics, vessel and in-water device strikes, deposition of military expended materials, and changes to the availability of marine resources. Impacts on American Indian protected tribal resources would occur under Alternative 1, and Alternative 2, because of in-water device strikes and the inaccessibility to areas of co-use, such as usual and accustomed fishing grounds and stations, even if they are of short duration, during training activities."	
Suquamish-03	Mitigation In 4.4.13.1 (p. 4-6): "The Navy also would strive to maintain safety and accommodate, to the extent possible, access to tribes' usual and accustomed fishing grounds and stations. The Navy provides the U.S. Coast Guard with information on the locations of potentially hazardous training or testing activities at sea so they can issue Notices to Mariners. In some instances, the Navy has directly notified affected American Indian tribes and nations to ensure that their activities in usual and accustomed fishing grounds and stations can avoid any potentially hazardous training or testing locations at sea. The changes in tribal access to usual and accustomed fishing grounds and stations	The Navy looks forward to the continuation of government-to-government consultations with the Suquamish Tribe to discuss these issues. As stated above, the number of TPS activities proposed under Alternative 1 and Alternative 2 is the same level of activity that is occurring now. Also worth restating, the Navy conducted a thorough analysis of

Table I.5-2: Responses to Comments from American Indian Tribes, Nations, and Tribal Organizations (continued)

Commenter	Comment	Navy Response
	could be impacted if income, revenue, employment, or cultural knowledge is lost." And in 4.4.13.3 (p. 4-7): "The success of American Indian tribal fisheries has been impacted by long-term changes in the environment which have reduced fish stocks due to impacted water quality, reduced habitat, especially spawning habitat for salmon runs, and increased commercial harvests. The Navy has an active consultation process in place and will continue to consult on a government-to-government basis with potentially affected American Indian tribes regarding Navy activities that may have the potential to significantly affect protected tribal treaty rights and resources. The Navy's other measures to prevent pollution from its own operations and sustain or improve habitat value help to offset some of the cumulative impacts." The Navy's proposed mitigation and protective measures may reduce some impacts to tribal treaty fishing and to natural resources, but these proposed mitigation measures fall well short of fully compensating for the proposed impacts. Suquamish proposes consultation with the Navy in identifying the most effective means to avoid, minimize, and fully mitigate for any and all unavoidable impacts to treaty fishing activities and treaty resources, including finfish and shellfish. In closing, Suquamish needs to better understand the implications of the Navy's proposed activities to its treaty reserved fisheries. We are concerned about potential impacts to our treaty-reserved fishing rights, including access to usual and accustomed fishing grounds and stations, that would result from the proposed increases in the Navy's training and testing activities, and "closures" (even if temporary) to fishing waters. The Navy has not proposed any mitigation measures to off-set these impacts. Tribal Government-to-Government Consultation Suquamish continues its request to further discussion with the Navy, including Government-to-Government consultation, to discuss potential impacts and interference with the Tribe's treaty rights from increased Navy Training and Testing Activities, including MSOs, and particularly the implications for treaty reserved fishing. Please contact me at 360-394-8667 / stodd@suquamish.nsn.us to coordinate a meeting. Regarding issues of cultural resources, including archaeological sites, please contact Dennis Lewarch at 360-394-8529 / dlewarch@suquamish.nsn.us. Thank you for your commitment to effective communication and coordination between the Navy and the Suquamish Tribe. The Tribe looks forward to constructive government-to-government consultation on this subject in the near future.	potential impacts to fisheries, and no impacts to fishery stocks or their habitats are anticipated.
AMERICAN INDIAN TRIBAL ORGANIZATIONS		
Point No Point Treaty Council (PNPTC)-01	Thank you for requesting comments for the Navy's Northwest Testing and Training (NWTT) Supplement to the Draft Environmental Impact Statement/Overseas Environmental Impact statement for the proposed increase in tempo for the Naval testing and training exercises. The Point No Point Treaty Council (PNPTC) is concerned about the significant adverse effects on our Tribes' Treaty Rights and natural resources with the increased activities and some of the information included in the Supplement.	Thank you for the comment letter. The Commanding Officer of Naval Base Kitsap invited both the Jamestown S'Klallam Tribe and the Port Gamble S'Klallam Tribe to consider initiation of government-to-government consultation (letters dated January 17, 2014). The Navy appreciates the initiation of government-to-government consultation by both Tribes on this proposed action. The Navy and the Tribes have

Table I.5-2: Responses to Comments from American Indian Tribes, Nations, and Tribal Organizations (continued)

Commenter	Comment	Navy Response
		held government–to-government consultation and staff level consultation meetings with the Port Gamble S'Klallam Tribe and the Jamestown S'Klallam Tribes to discuss details of the entire EIS/OEIS project (including the Supplement to the Draft EIS/OEIS) and Tribal concerns. The Navy remains committed to fulfilling its government-to-government consultation responsibilities with the federally recognized Tribes in accordance with Navy policies.
PNPTC-02	The PNPTC is a tribal organization that provides fisheries support services to the Jamestown S'Klallam and Port Gamble S'Klallam Tribes, whom have Usual and Accustomed Fishing Areas in Hood Canal, Strait of Juan de Fuca, Admiralty Inlet, the Puget Sound and as far north as the San Juan Islands. The Usual and Accustomed (U&A) fishing grounds for both tribes includes many areas in the proposed testing and training zones. The Tribes rely on the healthy habitat conditions that sustain critical finfish and shellfish populations which support fishing activities that are fundamental to the economies and cultures of our tribal communities. As previously mentioned in the PNPTC comments to the Navy regarding the NWTT Draft Environmental Impact Statement (4/15/2014) for these activities; our Tribes look forward to working closely with the Navy through the Government to Government consultation process. We also support the comment letters put forth by the Port Gamble S'Klallam Tribe's Natural Resources Department (1/28/2015) regarding Treaty Rights, Historic Preservation (Section 106), and Tribal natural resource concerns.	The Navy's government-to-government consultation with the Jamestown S'Klallam Tribe and Port Gamble S'Klallam Tribe is ongoing. The DoD and Navy policy is to conduct government-to-government consultation with each federally recognized tribes unless a tribe formally delegates its government-to-government authorities to another tribe or tribal organization. The Navy remains committed to fulfilling its government-to-government consultation responsibilities and is committed to addressing Tribal concerns as part of its consultations with its two member Tribes.
PNPTC-03	The Treaty of Point No Point The Treaty of Point No Point reserves perpetual Fishing Rights to the S'Klallam Tribes. The connection to Treaty fishing rights should begin with the history and purpose of the Treaty. In Article I of the Treaty of Point No Point, the S'Klallam people ceded to the United States most of their rights in their land. However, the Treaty reserves the right of the Tribes to take fish "at usual and accustomed grounds and stations." Treaty of Point No Point, 12 Stat. 933, Article IV.	The Navy's government–to-government consultation with the Jamestown S'Klallam Tribe and Port Gamble S'Klallam Tribe is ongoing. The Navy remains committed to fulfilling its government-to-government consultation responsibilities and addressing Tribal concerns as part of its ongoing consultations.
PNPTC-04	The right is not created by the Treaty; rather, the Treaty "secures" pre-existing Indian fishing rights. [1] In other words, the Treaty of Point No Point did not grant fishing, hunting, and gathering rights to the Tribes; rather, it reserved to the Tribes its pre-existing rights to engage in those activities. This reservation of rights was intended to permanently secure the full breadth of pre-treaty resource procurement practices. [2] Nothing in the treaty language or negotiations suggested, and neither side anticipated, that non-Indian development would ever hinder Indian fishing or deplete the seemingly inexhaustible abundance of resources.[3]	The Navy acknowledges that treaty rights are not created by the treaty, but are secured by the treaty.
PNPTC-05	The Treaty of Point No Point protects three essential components of our Tribes' fisheries: 1) Access to Fishing Places; 2) Access to Sufficient Harvests; 3) Access to necessary,	The Navy appreciates the comments and looks forward to continued consultation with the member tribes of the PNPTC to address tribal

Table I.5-2: Responses to Comments from American Indian Tribes, Nations, and Tribal Organizations (continued)

Commenter	Comment	Navy Response
	healthy fish habitat. Over one hundred years of federal court decisions have supported and defended each of these components of the Treaty Right. The Jamestown S'Klallam Tribe and Port Gamble S'Klallam Tribe both have Usual and Accustomed Fishing Areas that encompass (but not limited to) the marine and nearshore areas of Bangor's Naval Base in Kitsap, Carderock Division at Bangor, Dabob Bay Range Complex, Hood Canal EOD Training Range, Admiralty Bay Chinook A and B, Navy 7 Operations Area, Strait of Juan de Fuca, northern Whidbey Island and surrounding marine and nearshore areas. The right of the Tribes' to access and fish at these places exists regardless of who owns the land beside or beneath the waterway. 4 The Navy's proposal to continue and increase the use of the Hood Canal, Strait of Juan de Fuca, and portions of the Puget Sound for training and testing activities will adversely affect each of these aspects of the Treaty Right. Below, we have briefly described some of the issues with the Supplement to the Draft Environmental Impact Statement (D.E.I.S) for the NWTT. First, we are concerned that the proposed facility would impact our Tribes ability to access their Usual and Accustomed fishing grounds for shellfish, finfish and other species, which is our Tribes' Treaty Right under the Treaty of Point No Point. Second, we have concerns regarding the cumulative environmental impacts in these areas and its disturbances that need more investigation. The following comments should be considered as the Navy continues to develop its plans for increased tempo for the new and old testing and training activities. Because of the limited time frame to review the impacts for these proposed activities, we look forward to the continued consultation with the Navy as the process continues.	concerns. The Navy acknowledges and respects the reserved rights established in the Treaty of Point No Point and all Treaties. The Navy remains committed to fulfilling its government-to-government consultation responsibilities and addressing Tribal concerns as part of its ongoing consultations with the Jamestown S'Klallam Tribe and Port Gamble S'Klallam Tribe. As part of these consultations, the Navy and the Tribes are addressing the issue of improving notifications, communications, and coordination between the Navy and the Tribes and their tribal fishers.
PNPTC-06	1. Impacts to Court-Affirmed Treaty Fishing Rights and Better Analysis Needed: The Tribes are concerned that the impacts to Tribal fishing activities and Treaty Rights has not been adequately addressed by this Supplement. In Section 3.11.1.1 (pg 3-27), in the Supplement to the NWTT DEIS, the Navy states the following outcomes regarding training and testing exercises and its effects on Tribal Treaty Rights: American Indian tribes would be given a notice approximately one hour prior to each TPS event. American Indians would have minimal time to adjust plans to sustain their fishing schedules. Tribal fishing vessels, commercial or private, which are on the water during a MSO may be required to temporarily abandon fishing gear in place and move to remain out of the security zone establish by the security vessels. Although this displacement may be for only short distance and a brief duration, after which the fishing vessel can return, the fishing vessel may have used more fuel than expected, damage or loss of fishing gear may have occurred, and fish or shellfish harvest may be reduced for that day. When MSO activities coincide with a limited opening of a particular fishing season, loss of harvest could occur. The Navy is conducting government-to-government consultation with potentially affected tribes to	Thank you for presenting your concerns in detail. The Navy entered into government-to-government consultation with the Port Gamble S'Klallam Tribe and has been able to discuss these concerns in greater depth. The Navy has demonstrated in the Final EIS/OEIS that: (1) The combined effects of the proposed training and testing would not diminish the ability of soft shores, soft bottoms, hard shores, hard bottoms, or artificial substrates to function as habitat (Section 3.3.3.3); (2) Although potential impacts to certain fish species from the Proposed Action may include injury or mortality, impacts are not expected to decrease the overall fitness of any given population (Section 3.9.4.1, Combined Impacts of All Stressors); and (3) Regarding effects to shellfish, the Navy's proposed activities are unlikely to impact populations (Section 3.8.3, Environmental Consequences). The Navy will continue to work with all the tribes with usual and accustomed fishing areas in the Study Area to improve communication with the tribes about activity in these areas. The Navy uses the best available science in reaching the conclusions in the EIS/OEIS. Additionally, the Navy has conducted similar activities

Table I.5-2: Responses to Comments from American Indian Tribes, Nations, and Tribal Organizations (continued)

Commenter	Comment	Navy Response
	improve coordination and communications so impacts to tribal fishing are minimized or eliminated. American Indian traditional resources could be impacted if proposed activities altered fish and other marine species populations and habitat to such an extent that tribes could no longer sustain treaty fisheries. Furthermore, tribal elders traditionally teach their children and grandchildren to fish in traditional use areas where they were taught by their ancestors. The changes in tribal access to U&A fishing ground and stations could be impacted if loss of income, revenue, employment or cultural knowledge is lost. While PNPTC appreciates the addition of this paragraph of information that describes the potential impacts to tribal fisheries, the analysis breaks down at describing the full extent and ramifications that these impacts would likely incur. S'Klallam fishers actively fish in all the regions of their U&A. Activities include salmon and halibut fishing, crabbing, shrimping, intertidal clam and oyster gathering (and seeding), dive fisheries (such as geoduck and other invertebrates), shore-anchored fisheries, vessel-based net and line fisheries and other active fisheries. The Supplement does not assess nor does it include the full range of detrimental effects on shellfish habitat and salmonid/finfish habitat. The Navy's training and testing exercises can seriously impede Tribal fishing activities for several reasons, and the Supplement does not fully disclose that information. For instance, a one-hour notification prior to a TPS event would not give tribal divers adequate time to return to the surface and remove boats and equipment from the area. This would pose a serious safety risk to the divers as well as an increased potential to losing gear that may put fishers out for the season (which may have a very short window). The Navy and Tribes have generally worked together to minimize the number of occurrences; however, these impacts need to be reflected in the final assessment.	for decades here and in other Navy range complexes, with no indication of harm to any marine habitats or species.
PNPTC-07	2. Cumulative Effects of the Navy's plans for major construction projects and operational changes including increased frequency and geographic scope of the proposed training and testing activities The detrimental effect of the Navy's series of major projects on Treaty Rights cannot be overstated. Since locating in Puget Sound, the Navy has armored significant shoreline, built massive overwater structures, permanently destroyed acres of seafloor, spilled oil, and greatly increased vessel traffic and vessel exclusion zones. These activities have resulted in degraded habitat, diminished fish production, collisions with and loss of crab pots and other gear, increased fishing effort, temporary or long-term avoidance of traditional fishing areas, and diminished harvest, at a time when the Tribe's fisheries are already greatly diminished and are not providing the Tribe with a moderate living. These injuries to the Treaty Rights will grow if the Navy proceeds with its plans to increase the frequency and geographic scope of training and testing exercises in Puget Sound and	The Navy acknowledges and respects the reserved treaty rights of the Port Gamble S'Klallam Tribe and other tribes and remains committed to fulfilling its government-to-government consultation responsibilities and addressing Tribal concerns as part of its ongoing consultations with the Port Gamble S'Klallam Tribe. As part of these consultations, the Navy and the Tribe are addressing the issue of improving notifications, communications and coordination between the Navy and the Tribes and their tribal fishers. The Navy has revised the Cumulative Impacts chapter in the Final EIS/OEIS, which includes the cumulative impacts of the Navy's proposed training and testing activities with respect to each of the projects listed in the comment. Many of the listed projects include mitigations measures as part of those individual projects.

Table I.5-2: Responses to Comments from American Indian Tribes, Nations, and Tribal Organizations (continued)

Commenter	Comment	Navy Response
	beyond. When combined with the numerous other construction project and submarine reassignment proposals of which the Tribes are aware, these impacts are too great for the Navy to simultaneously meet its Trust responsibilities to the Tribes under the Point No Point Treaty. In the aggregate, the Navy should include an analysis of the cumulative effects of these activities on Treaty Rights and its effect on tribal fisheries. It also should take into account the effects on timing, location, quality and quantity of harvest for tribal members. The Supplement should include an examination of the cumulative effects of these projects that the Navy has proposed in last few years. A sampling of Navy projects that should be included in the Cumulative Impacts Section of the Supplement and/or Final Environmental Impact Statement for the NWTT is included in the Table 1 below: Navy Projects-Cumulative Impacts to Tribes and Community EHW1-Repair and replacement of 138 piles EHW2-Construction of and operations at a new Explosives Handling Wharf, including 6.3 acres of overwater structure, 1,250 piles, and additional vessel traffic in Hood Canal Barge Mooring Facility-Permanent moorage of a new research barge, which is half an acre in size and five times the size of the existing research barge, and construction of new mooring facilities SPE-Construction of and operations of a Service Pier Extension, adding up to 1.82 acres of overwater structure and up to 700 more pilings to the already massive Service Pier Relocate SEAWOLF to Bangor-Relocation of the SEAWOLF Class submarine SSN-21 (SEAWOLF) submarine from NBK-Bremerton to NBK-Bangor, which will result in even more vessel traffic from the submarines and their security convoys in Hood Canal and destruction of more tribal fishing gear Relocate Connecticut to Bangor-Relocation of the SEAWOLF Class submarine SSN-22 (CONNECTICUT) submarine from NBK-Bremerton to NBK-Bangor, which will result in even more vessel traffic from the submarines and their security convoys in Hood Canal and destruction of more tribal fishing gear. LWI-Construction of the Land-Water Interface, including in-water fill, up to 136 pilings, two large overwater structures, and a terrestrial structure in the middle of the Bangor Beach, where a cooperative agreement with the Navy is in place and tribal shell-fishing activities are ongoing EMMR-Construction and operation of the Electromagnetic Management Range (EMMR), which will interrupt tribal fishing with little to no prior notice to tribal fishermen and permanently destroy a portion of an actively harvested geoduck bed Port Angeles Coast Guard Dock-Construction of a Coast Guard Station dock in Port	The discussion in the Final EIS/OEIS has been revised in Section 3.11.3 (Environmental Consequences) to acknowledge that training activities have the potential to impede Tribal access to U&A fishing grounds (e.g., during transit protection, an important national security concern). Regarding the Port Angeles Coast Guard dock construction, no preferred alternative has yet been selected.

Table I.5-2: Responses to Comments from American Indian Tribes, Nations, and Tribal Organizations (continued)

Commenter	Comment	Navy Response
	Angeles Harbor, which will increase vessel activity in the Harbor and permanently destroy important rock fish habitat reef; Indian Island-Indian Island piling replacement, which will impact forage fish spawning habitat NWTT-Testing and training exercises occurring throughout S'Klallam Tribal U&A, which results in closures of U&A, interrupting fisheries, increased vessel traffic, and gear loss, among other impacts	
PNPTC-08	Emerging climate change data should also be included in concert with the cumulative impacts section (including all Navy activities and projects). New climate data suggests that species (such as shellfish, oysters and clams) could be particularly vulnerable to ocean acidity, especially if these populations are already undergoing stress. The increased development and increased tempo of activities in aggregate that stresses these shellfish populations, along with changing ocean and temperature conditions can cumulatively diminish the survival of these species.	The Navy does acknowledge the potential impacts of climate change and ocean acidification as important aspects of the affected environment in which the Navy proposes to conduct its activities. These topics are mentioned in various sections of Chapter 3 (Affected Environment and Environmental Consequences), and in the Cumulative Impacts chapter. However, as stated in Section 4.3.5.8 (Ocean Acidification Effects on Noise in the Ocean), the Navy's proposed activities are not expected to contribute significantly to ocean acidification.
PNPTC-09	We request that the Navy notify us directly and with ample time to comment on documents related to this project and other upcoming projects. This process is ongoing and our Tribes need ample time to consider the cultural, historical, environmental, and economic effects of this project to both of the Point No Point Treaty Council Tribes. Thank you for the opportunity to comment on the Supplement to the Draft Environmental Impact Assessment for the Northwest Training and Testing exercises document. The Navy has a Treaty Trust responsibility that should include analyzing and selecting alternatives that do not already add to the collective impact to the Jamestown S'Klallam Tribe and Port Gamble S'Klallam Tribe's Usual and Accustomed Fishing Area. Our Tribes request government to government consultation regarding this project and the proposed increase in tempo of already existing naval exercises. Please do not hesitate to contact me at crossi@pnptc.org or at 360-297-6534 with any questions or to provide additional information regarding the NWTT.	The Navy acknowledges and respects the reserved rights established in the Treaty of Point No Point and all Treaties. The Navy remains committed to fulfilling its government-to-government consultation responsibilities and addressing Tribal concerns as part of its ongoing consultations with the Port Gamble S'Klallam Tribe. As part of these consultations, the Navy and the Tribe are addressing the issue of improving notifications, communications, and coordination between the Navy and the Tribes and their tribal fishers.
Swinomish Indian Senate	The Swinomish Indian Tribal Community, ("Swinomish"), a federally recognized Indian Tribe organized pursuant to Section 16 of the Indian Reorganization Act of 1934, requests that the U.S. Navy engage in formal Government-to-Government consultation with Swinomish regarding the effects of the proposed action, including consultation regarding impacts to treaty fishing rights and resources.	The Navy conducted a government-to-government meeting with the Swinomish Indian Tribal Community on May 22, 2015.

Table I.5-3 contains comments from non-governmental organizations received during the public comment period and the Navy's response. Responses to these comments were prepared and reviewed for scientific and technical accuracy and completeness.

Table I.5-3: Responses to Comments from Organizations

Commenter	Comment	Navy Response
Citizens Opposed to Weaponizing Oregon Coast	Please accept this list of activities our Citizens Opposed to Weaponizing Oregon Coast have participated in for seven years. Every item listed has a media or other document from which the item was taken. We are talking about more than 100 pages. We need your or someone else's advice on whether to send all this documentation. A member surmised that perhaps the Navy might have collected all the refered to documents. I franky doubt this. Year 2008 Mills four page report on WA, OR, and CA newspapers not notified eraly or accurately at all about the 2009 Public Hearings aobut the NWTT-Northwest Training and Testing program. Also listed the seven Library Repositories which either did not receive the two volumes EIS (Environmental Impact Statement), received only one volume, 5 misaddressed maillings or received no volumes. Report also provided tally of low numbers who attended six locations; Population of the six cities - 102,600. Number of citizens who attended six hearings - 12+12+17+15+17+66=169. Year 2009 Feb. 13 - Newport News Times- PLL- Navy's tactics worry fishermen. Feb. 13 - Citizens report on Navy's failure to comply with NEPA. Feb 6 - News Times Pl Navy draws intense criticism. Feb. 2 - Portland Oregonian Pl - Navy launches tug of war. Photos and two-page story. Feb. 6 - Oregon Congreesional Committee letter to Secretary of Navy Thomas Winter to extend public comment period and add two new locations for hearings. Instead, Navy canceled hearings. Feb. 22 - Citizens Opposed write letters to Oregon's Congressional Delegatoin explaining Navy's proposed NWTT program and how the Navy "failed to comply" with NEPA (National Environmental Policy Act) about Public Hearings, Library Notices, Media Notifications and EIS (Environmental Impact Statments) reported but never made. Requested delegation to contact Secretary of Navy to cancel Feb 26 Hearing and reference Oregon Blue Book to find state's authority found in Ocean and Coastal Services section as well as other requests. Feb. 26 - Newport News Times - Letter to Editor explaining about 18 other areas where Testing and Training Program were to take place in a five-year period. Also reported on Navy's next five year program on "takings" of 32 marine mammal species listed in the Endangered Speices Act. Most serious was explaining why our earlier Freedom of	Thank you for participating in the NEPA process. However, this comment on past projects is outside the scope of the Supplement to the Draft EIS/OEIS. Please see Chapters 1 and 2 of the EIS/OEIS for a clear definition of the scope of this project.

Table I.5-3: Responses to Comments from Organizations (continued)

Commenter	Comment	Navy Response
	Information request was being denied stating that Names and Budget Information would be "an invasion of personal privacy" and "competitive harm to contractors." To we the taxpaying public, this seemed inappropriate positions. June 2009 - The PeaceWorker Newsletter - Challenge to Weapons Testing in Pacific Continues. Article examines "Species genocide," Environmental Impact Statement, Navy "takings" proposal to cause "negligible impacts," and Navy decision to not use depleted uranium (half-life 10,000 years) because of public comment. Feb. 16 - Mills writes Navy General counsel about her December 2008 Freedom of Information request for information about Budget and Identification of Contractors. She reports receiving 194 pages all redacted except for three pages. Response stated: 1) Budget costs would cause "competitive harm" to SRS Parsons Joint Venture and 2) Contractor's identification constitutes "unwarrented invasion of person privacy." As in above Feb. 26 report, our group draws the difference between independent, commercial or non-profit businesses and Navy contractors. Contractors who are being paid by public taxpayers. March 13 - News Times ViewPoint: Opposed to Weaponizing Oregon Coast. Signed by Mills. Apil 15 - Lincoln City News Guard Newspaper: Senators join in on Navy debate. Quote Senators Ron Wyden and Jeff Merkley comments about Navy proposals could impact commercial and recreational fishing, sonar activitiey could impact marine mammals, live munitions could damage fish and hard-bottom habitats and radioactive use linked to health problems in military personel and civilians. Drated EIS was extended by Wydenand Merkley to April 13. Dec. 16 - Navy Commander W. M. Boland responds to Mills on her Freedom of Information request: As reported earlier, Identification of contractors is "priviledged" and Providing costs and hours would cause "competitive harm" to contractors. Year 2010 Jan. 22 - Greenspace Article: NOAA may prohibit Navy sonar testing at marine mammal "hot spots." Cities sonar sounds can cause whales to flee, dive deep and sometimes beach and letter by NOAA Administrator Jane Lubchenco to White House Council of Environment Quality stating her concerns for marine mammals resulting from Navy's trianing excercises. Oct. 15 - Navy Deputy General Counsel Thomas Ledvina writes Mills about her requests for Public Hearing Expenses: Printing and design costs; Production of giant full-color monster posters; Trianing costs for "Tiger Teams;" Training costs for five-year training programs; descriptions of inland and offshore programs. Ledvina also writes a three-page denial abot reconsidering the original Freedom of Information request citing information is "priviledged" and "would cause competitive	

Table I.5-3: Responses to Comments from Organizations (continued)

Commenter	Comment	Navy Response
	harm" to Parsons Joints Venture. Surprisingly, Ledvina added "Budget Measures for the five-year program have not yet been determined." Year 2012 March 13 - Letter to Dr. Jane Lubchenco Administrator of NOAA from 12 Environmental Ocean Groups stating the Scooping Process and Impact Statement by the Navy's Training and Testing program were inadequate and requested a "staff meeting" to discuss concerns. Groups included National Resources Defense Council, Friends of Earth, Inter-Tribal Wilderness Council (10 tribes) Sierra Club of Washington State Chapter and Seattle Audubon. March 22 - News Times Viewpoint: Opposed to weaponizing Oregon Coast. Quote Cousteau on "what we let happen to the whales and all ocean life today will inevidtably happen to us tomorrow." Lists twelve issues found in Federal Register but not in Navy's media and hearings about weapons intended and depleted uranium use; 24 other trianing locations from Marianna Islands to Bermuda; NOAA's authorization of "takings" of 32 marine species; Naming PR firm KATZ of San Diego as the firm that failed to list newspapers and libraries that were to receive two volumes of the Navy's Training and Testing Programs. Depleted uranium was lter canceled because of citizen oppositions. March 30 - News Times Pl Stroy of two pages: More groups criticize Navy's process. Cited inadequate notification; lack of public input; Navy's "war games" testing un-identified weapons; and "Navy officials" simply treading water attempting to fulfill just the bare minium of NEPA requirement for notification and inpit." Year 2014 Feb. 28 - Oregon Ocean news release: Welcome to the Oregon Marine Reserves Webcite - A two-page release discusses five Marine Reserves in Oregon much covered by state media yet completely omitted in Navy's EIS (Environmental Impact Statement). Listed five Reserves: Redfish Rocks, Otter Rock, Cape Perpetua, Cascade Head and Cape Falcon. Feb. 28 - News Times Overviwe: Navy is at it again. Comments on Oregon's D.C. delegation contacting Secretary of Navy resulting in Navy's training and testing program called off; "Takings" of 32 marine mammal species being ended; Acknowledged that Navy members don't make policy but Military Weapons Manufactures do; Calls attention to extravagent, full-color Navy promotional featuring a bizzarre claim "Keeping waterways from piracy, trafficing and terrorism." Local readers were bewildered or are still laughing. April 15 - Citizens Opposed to Weaponing Oregon Coast sned letter to Sheila Murray and Kimberly Kler both attached to Navy Information Center in Silverdale WA. Sent selective items form including redacted pages in Freedom of Information request; Oregon congressional delegation letter to Secretary of Navy Winter; Poor attendence numbers in six sites of 2009 Public Hearings; and Map of 25 Range Complex Hearing	

Table I.5-3: Responses to Comments from Organizations (continued)

Commenter	Comment	Navy Response
	Sites; Marianna Islands to Boston Range Complex. Special Document Received dated Feb. 20, 2009 A flyer about KATZ and Associates being hired by the Navy to place Public Hearings ads about Navy's Public Hearings and provide EIS (Environmental Impact Statement) to Library "repositories" in 2008. KATZ has four divisions; San Diego, Sacramento, Orange• County CA and Seattle WA. Finding this flyer explained why so many mixups happened in 2008 and perhaps later. KATZ hired by the Navy, had failed to correctly and or adequately inform the Public Hearing sites about locations and dates, KATZ had also misinformed the seven Library Repository sites about plans for each to receive the two-volume EIS (Environmental Impact Statement) well before the Public Hearings for the public to become familiar with the issues. Our Citizen's Group contacted the libraries and learned it was a combination of errors by KATZ. One library received only one volume, five were misaddressed and one received no volume. Finding this flyer explained why there was low attendance tally to the six 2008 Public Hearings sites. Our Citizen's Group as taxpayers honors and respects members of the U.S. Navy who carry out Congressional and Administrative. However, after our group has spent seven years dealing with the Northwest Training and Testing proposals, it urges the Navy to hire a competent PR contractor or develop its own staff to inform the public about its vitally important programs. Although these seven years have been difficult and demanding, our group often takes on other –volunteer information and problem-solving activities for other organizations. And they often admit it gives them a certain kind of pleasure	
Earthrace Conservation Organization USA	According to the very latest research published just this January of 2015, San Diego State University biologist Ted W. Cranford and University of California, San Diego engineer Petr Krysl Cranford have for the first time found (through studying a beached whale skull) that baleen whales direct sound through their bones to their ear canals and may have a particular susceptibility to the negative effects from loud noises such as from underwater explosions. They also conclude that many baleen whales produce vocalizations that are of the same frequency range as human made noises, and overly loud noises such as from sonar or explosions could limit distances the whales are able to communicate about vital life sustaining information such as food and mates. This includes whales which (to us) appear to be extremely far apart since low frequency sounds travel so far in the ocean. Please include this recent ground-breaking research in your study of this subject.	Thank you for the information and for participating in the NEPA process. The Navy has reviewed this study (Cranford, T. W. & Krysl, P., (2015), "Fin Whale Sound Reception Mechanisms: Skull Vibration Enables Low-Frequency Hearing"; PLoS ONE 10(1):e0116222. doi:10.1371/journal.pone.0116222; 19 pages.) which was published online on 29 January 2015. The findings presented in this study are consistent with the information and analysis already presented in the EIS/OEIS. However, this new reference has now been added to the References Cited and Considered section of the Marine Mammals chapter as a result of this comment. Please note that the Navy has conducted training and testing activities in the Study Area for decades, and there is no evidence that routine Navy training and testing has negatively impacted marine mammal populations in the Study Area or at any Navy Range Complex. Based

Table I.5-3: Responses to Comments from Organizations (continued)

Commenter	Comment	Navy Response
		on the best available science summarized in the EIS/OEIS Section 3.4.4.1 (Summary of Monitoring and Observations During Navy Activities), long-term consequences for marine mammal populations are unlikely to result from Navy training and testing activities in the Study Area.
EcoTours of Oregon	We know that whales are harmed by loud noises and sonar in the ocean. We recommend your "No Action" plan on this. Thanks.	The Navy shares your concern for marine life, but this concern must be balanced with the purpose and need for Navy training and testing as detailed in Chapter 2 (Description of Proposed Action and Alternatives) of the EIS/OEIS. The Navy has conducted active sonar training and testing activities in the Study Area for decades, and there is no evidence that routine Navy training and testing has negatively impacted marine mammal populations in the Study Area or at any Navy Range Complex. Out of caution and based on conservative overestimates, the Navy is seeking take authorizations and working with NMFS to monitor marine mammals and take adaptive management measures. Based on the best available science summarized in the EIS/OEIS Section 3.4.4.1 (Summary of Monitoring and Observations During Navy Activities), long-term consequences for marine mammal populations are unlikely to result from Navy training and testing activities in the Study Area. Please also refer to Chapter 5 (Standard Operating Procedures, Mitigation, and Monitoring) of the EIS/OEIS, detailing the procedures and mitigation measures during its training and testing activities designed to reduce impacts to marine mammals from Navy activities.
EMF Safety Network (EMFSN)-01	Comments on the Supplement to the Draft NWTT EIS/OEIS Previously submitted comments: 2-27-14 Comments on the letter of authorization to the National Marine Fisheries Service on Incidental Take 10-31-14 Comments on Pacific Northwest Electronic Warfare Range Environmental Assessment 11-28-14 Comments and supplemental documents on Pacific Northwest Electronic Warfare Range Environmental Assessment, Part 2 This Navy proposal affects all coastal residents and all those who visit the ocean, and who care about the ocean, its inhabitants and its health. This does not just affect Northern California residents, and as such there should have been meetings scheduled in the Los Angeles area and in San Francisco. Many stakeholders have no idea this is planned -- the fishing industry, tourism industry, natural resource and wildlife protection organizations, elected officials, Native American tribes, and the public. These are U.S. coastal waters, so there should have been hearings in major population centers in the states most affected. Why didn't that happen? No notification was even given of the Eureka meeting to California residents so that, if they could travel many hours to attend	The Navy executed a robust plan for informing the public and obtaining input on the NWTT Supplement to the Draft EIS/OEIS. The Navy made significant efforts to notify the public to ensure maximum public participation during the public comment period, including using postcards, press releases, and newspaper display advertisements. The public could download and review the document, and make comments to it, on the website (www.NWTTEIS.com). The Navy held four public meetings in three states to inform the public and receive their comments on the Supplement to the Draft EIS/OEIS. Because of the large size of the NWTT Study Area for this EIS/OEIS, it is not feasible to hold a public meeting in every location where there may be public interest. Generally, the Navy has tried to locate public meetings in locations central to training or testing areas and potentially affected communities. In the case of the Supplement, the activities analyzed occur almost exclusively in Washington waters or off the

Table I.5-3: Responses to Comments from Organizations (continued)

Commenter	Comment	Navy Response
	the Eureka hearing, they could do so.	coast of Washington.
EMFSN-02	Instead of these plans being treated as a whole, cumulative impact by the U.S. Navy, this is yet another piece, another separate element of the larger project. Scientifically, this is unsupportable. Impacts are cumulative. This Navy plan must be taken as a whole, and evaluated as a whole by the public. That evaluation can only be done with appropriate noticing, which has not happened. Misinformation: Navy spokespeople say, “There will be no harm”, when the Navy has already admitted there will be impacts. Why are they lying? Investigations by the public into other aspects of the Navy’s plans have yielded quite a bit of information at odds with Navy claims. What other aspects of these plans are misinformation? Though this supplement mentions the frequencies of the buoys, I didn’t see the power densities of emissions, and I didn’t see mention of the impact from the frequencies coming from ships. This is a similar situation to the EA for the electronic weapons range, which failed to mention the frequencies coming from the planes involved in the training. How can a project be evaluated without all the data? How can it be evaluated without all the pieces being examined? The parachute drops of the buoys are the worst possible way to deploy any type of buoy. They ensure that many marine animals will become entangled now and into the future. And the sheer number of them planned is staggering.	The Navy prepares Environmental Impact Statements (EIS) and Environmental Assessments (EA) in order to comply with the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA). These NEPA documents are intended to ensure decision makers consider the potential environmental effects of a proposed action and its alternatives, provide an opportunity for public involvement, and promote transparency by informing the public of these potential environmental effects. Each NEPA document addresses a specific proposed action, separated from other actions by its purpose and need, independent utility, timing, and geographic location. Some NEPA documents are stand-alone documents; others tier off or expand the analyses of other NEPA documents. NEPA documents for training and testing, including this EIS/OEIS, focus on training and testing activities occurring within a range complex or military operation area and involve different types of aircraft, ships, and range complex enhancements. NEPA documents for aircraft homebasing actions focus on aircraft operations in and around the airfield and their facility needs. NEPA documents for installations focus on infrastructure enhancements for host and tenant command missions. Importantly, every environmental document considers the cumulative impacts to the environment from other relevant past, present, and reasonably foreseeable future actions (federal, state, local, and private) in addition to the proposed action. The NWTT EIS/OEIS includes a thorough analysis of the potential impacts resulting from the Navy’s proposed activities. The Navy used the best available science to conduct this analysis and is not aware of any reliable, scientifically-based information that disputes the Navy’s conclusions. Acoustic frequency ranges of all proposed sound sources are included in the Draft and Final EIS/OEIS in Table 3.0-5 in Section 3.0.4.2.3 (Classification of Acoustic and Explosive Sources). Regarding the concern about decelerator/parachute entanglement, please see the analysis in the EIS/OEIS in the appropriate section, depending on resource. For example, for entanglement issues with fish, see Section 3.9 (Fish), specifically Section 3.9.3.4 (Entanglement Stressors).
EMFSN-03	Sonar has had a devastating impact on marine life. This is not a benign technology. The sonar buoys themselves will have an incredibly harmful impact on all marine life. The yardage given as an impact area or observation zone is laughable, when the frequencies	The Navy shares your concern for marine life, but this concern must be balanced with the purpose and need for Navy training and testing as detailed in Chapter 2 (Description of Proposed Action and

Table I.5-3: Responses to Comments from Organizations (continued)

Commenter	Comment	Navy Response
	used by the Navy are used because they travel long distances. For how many miles can these frequencies be heard by animals in the sea, animals sensitive to tiny changes in their environment and very sensitive to sound? And how many humans and other animals on land will be able to detect these frequencies? That already happens along the coast, with health impacts, yet there was no mention of impacts to humans from these frequencies. Humans who skin-dive will also be affected. This is yet another harmful element in a environmentally devastating plan in an ocean already severely harmed by past U.S. Navy activities. I oppose this element, and I oppose the Navy's entire NWTT proposal. CA Monterey Bay representative, EMF Safety Network (www.emfsafetynetwork.org)	Alternatives) of the EIS/OEIS. The Navy has conducted active sonar training and testing activities in the Study Area for decades, and there is no evidence that routine Navy training and testing has negatively impacted marine mammal populations or humans in the Study Area or at any Navy Range Complex. Based on the best available science summarized in the EIS/OEIS Section 3.4.4.1 (Summary of Monitoring and Observations During Navy Activities), long-term consequences for marine mammal populations are unlikely to result from Navy training and testing activities in the Study Area. Regarding potential for sonar to impact human safety, please refer to the Draft or Final EIS/OEIS, Section 3.13.2.6 (Sound Navigation and Ranging Safety). Please also refer to Chapter 5 (Standard Operating Procedures, Mitigation, and Monitoring) of the EIS/OEIS, detailing the procedures and mitigation measures during its training and testing activities designed to reduce impacts to marine mammals from Navy activities.
Environmental Voices (EV)-01	Environmental Voices is requesting that the U.S. Navy and the Department of Defense cancel all of their plans to expand Warfare Testing in California, Oregon, Washington and Idaho, which includes any supplements to the EIS, for the following reasons: 1) Toxic Chemicals will affect human health, destroy marine life, algae (our primary source of oxygen), trees (our second source of oxygen), agriculture and wildlife by polluting our water, soil and air. Chemicals that will be used like aluminum, depleted uranium, white phosphorus and others are deadly. We have to stop polluting our environment with toxic chemicals.	The proposed activities in the Draft Supplement to the NWTT EIS/OEIS do not include activities in Idaho. The Navy does not propose the use of ordnance containing depleted uranium or phosphorus. As stated in Section 5.1.10 (Best Management Practices), "Best management practices include measures that regulate operations to ensure compliance with pollution emission requirements and general resource conservation goals." Navy policies and procedures identified in Navy instructions such as the Environmental Readiness Program Manual, include directives regarding waste management, pollution prevention, and recycling, all of which minimize the Navy's impact on ocean resources. Any procedures or practices that benefit ocean sediments and water quality in turn benefit all marine life in the ocean, from plants and invertebrates, to fish and marine mammals. Please see Section 3.1 (Sediments and Water Quality) for a complete discussion of materials proposed for use by the Navy and their potential impacts.
EV-02	2) Sonic testing in the Pacific Ocean may trigger earthquakes causing death and devastation.	There is no evidence to suggest that any of the Navy's activities could trigger earthquakes. In fact, the U.S. Geological Survey (USGS) dismisses the likelihood of even nuclear explosions triggering earthquakes (see USGS Frequently Asked Questions - http://www.usgs.gov/faq/categories/9839/3339).

Table I.5-3: Responses to Comments from Organizations (continued)

Commenter	Comment	Navy Response
EV-03	3) The public health and environmental affects of using toxic chemicals and heavy metals in these programs has not properly been disclosed.	The Navy, in the NWTT EIS/OEIS has disclosed the potential impacts associated with its proposed activities based on the best available science. Please see Section 3.1 (Sediments and Water Quality) for a complete discussion of materials proposed for use by the Navy and their potential impacts.
EV-04	4) The EIS fails to truthfully identify all of the air quality, water quality and soils impacts of their programs.	The Navy, in the NWTT EIS/OEIS has disclosed the potential impacts associated with its proposed activities based on the best available science. Please see Section 3.1 (Sediments and Water Quality) and Section 3.2 (Air Quality) for a complete discussion of potential impacts.
EV-05	Environmental Voices would like to be notified about any future public hearings regarding the Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) to expand warfare testing in California, Oregon, Washington and Idaho.	Environmental Voices has been added to the NWTT stakeholder mailing list and will be notified of any future meetings or announcements regarding the NWTT EIS/OEIS project.
Hard Wired for Safety (HWS)-01	Hard Wired for Safety (HWS) is a non-profit corporation registered in the State of Washington. We have participated in the Navy's hearings, public meetings, and taken opportunities to comment since these plans became known to us last October. We have read literally hundred of pages of your documents going back several years. They shamefully understate impacts such as the quantity, direction and biologic effects of electromagnetic radiation. I submit this report on behalf of HWS as its Secretary. Recent documents and proposals for use of Strait of Juan de Fuca and Port Angeles Harbor vastly extend the scope of your proposal and require a full and integrated NEPA EIS. We are particularly concerned that the training ground be removed from proximity to Olympic National Park with its World Heritage status, square inch of silence, its biosphere reserve. We are almost equally concerned that airplane noise be quantified and strictly limited for residential areas, National Forests and Park. Alternative locations to Whidby Island for basing the planes as well as their electromagnetic activities, such as Mountain Home must be fully analyzed: convenience is not an acceptable excuse for great damages which apparently are not even being given serious consideration. When the turtles are gone and their food supply proliferates will we have a viable ocean capable of producing fish? When this training exercise goes in (evident even now) will we still have habitable homes? Noise from planes already wakes up some of our members at night, others develop ringing of the ears after the passage of Growlers which may persist for hours.Will there be a local economy when no one wants to visit or move here? Will there still be a democracy under that Military Operations Air space overhead?? For the purposes of this scoping we ask that all of our comments , those of PPF and the following comments submitted by Mr. Richards for Protect the Peninsula's Future be included as if they were our own.	The Navy prepares Environmental Impact Statements (EIS) and Environmental Assessments (EA) in order to comply with the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA). These NEPA documents are intended to ensure decision makers consider the potential environmental effects of a proposed action and its alternatives, provide an opportunity for public involvement, and promote transparency by informing the public of these potential environmental effects. Each NEPA document addresses a specific proposed action, separated from other actions by its purpose and need, independent utility, timing, and geographic location. Some NEPA documents are stand-alone documents; others tier off or expand the analyses of other NEPA documents. NEPA documents for training and testing, including this EIS/OEIS, focus on training and testing activities occurring within a range complex or military operation area and involve different types of aircraft, ships, and range complex enhancements. NEPA documents for aircraft homebasing actions focus on aircraft operations in and around the airfield and their facility needs. NEPA documents for installations focus on infrastructure enhancements for host and tenant command missions. Importantly, every environmental document considers the cumulative impacts to the environment from other relevant past, present, and reasonably foreseeable future actions (federal, state, local, and private) in addition to the proposed action. There are no weapons testing activities proposed in the Olympic National Forest. The Navy has been training in the Olympic Military Operations Area (MOA) for over 40 years, and the Navy has not proposed any

Table I.5-3: Responses to Comments from Organizations (continued)

Commenter	Comment	Navy Response
		significant changes to the way aircrew train in the MOA. The Navy recently analyzed plans to enhance existing training by adding one fixed transmitter at Pacific Beach and three mobile transmitter vehicles that would operate on existing logging roads and pull-out areas on U.S. Forest Service land. The Navy has not proposed to use National Park Service land. EW training and EW Range enhancements were analyzed in the Navy's Northwest Training Range Complex (NWTRC) EIS/OEIS, completed in 2010. When more information became available on mobile and fixed signal transmitters for the EW Range, the Navy prepared the EW Range EA to analyze placement and operation of those transmitters. The Navy completed the EA and issued a Finding of No Significant Impact on August 28, 2014. The introduction of the land-based transmitters to enhance existing training will not harm people, animals, or the environment. The Navy has decades of experience building and operating signal equipment, with no adverse effects to people, animals, or the environment. Though there is a proposed increase in EW training events associated with the range enhancements and analyzed in this EIS/OEIS, the increase in events does not equate to a comparable increase in the number of aircraft flights or in the duration of flights. EW training flights are already occurring in the Olympic MOAs, and it is estimated that this proposal will only result in an approximately 10 percent annual increase in actual flights, which equates to approximately one additional flight per day. This is because each flight will be able to accommodate multiple EW training events. The Navy proposes to home base up to 36 additional EA-18G aircraft at NAS Whidbey Island. The Navy announced the preparation of that separate Whidbey EIS on September 5, 2013, and invited the public to participate in the NEPA process by submitting comments to define the scope of the Draft Whidbey EIS analysis. On October 10, 2014, the Navy revised the scope of the on-going Whidbey EIS and invited the public to submit additional scoping comments. The Navy is currently preparing its Draft Whidbey EIS, which is scheduled to be released in spring 2016. For more information, please visit the project website at www.whidbeyeis.com. This NWTT EIS/OEIS considered the Whidbey EIS proposal in its analysis of cumulative impacts in Chapter 4.
HWS-02	PLEASE INCORPORATE THE FOLLOWING: Re: Comments on the Supplement to the Draft NWTT EIS/OEIS (Supplement) Protect the Peninsula's Future (PPF) is a non-profit, public benefit corporation registered in Washington State since 1973. I am on the Board of Directors of PPF, and I have been designated as its EWR Lead. Many of our	The Navy prepares Environmental Impact Statements (EIS) and Environmental Assessments (EA) in order to comply with the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA). These NEPA documents are intended to ensure decision makers consider the potential

Table I.5-3: Responses to Comments from Organizations (continued)

Commenter	Comment	Navy Response
	members live, work, recreate, hike, fish, or travel in areas of Olympic National Park, Olympic National Forest, and Clallam, Jefferson, Grays Harbor, Island, and San Juan Counties that will be adversely affected by the activities that are being conducted, and are proposed to be conducted, by the U.S. Navy in the study areas covered by the 2010 Northwest Training Range Complex (NWTRC) EIS, the Pacific Northwest Electronic Warfare Range (EWR) EA, and the Northwest Training and Testing (NWTT) DEIS and its Supplement. PPF believes that most of these activities have not been sufficiently evaluated in any environmental document. The time has come for that to be done, especially since the EWR EA, as discussed below, promised so in respect to the impacts of aircraft on the EWR.	environmental effects of a proposed action and its alternatives, provide an opportunity for public involvement, and promote transparency by informing the public of these potential environmental effects. Each NEPA document addresses a specific proposed action, separated from other actions by its purpose and need, independent utility, timing, and geographic location. Some NEPA documents are stand-alone documents; others tier off or expand the analyses of other NEPA documents. NEPA documents for training and testing, including this EIS/OEIS, focus on training and testing activities occurring within a range complex or military operation area and involve different types of aircraft, ships, and range complex enhancements. NEPA documents for aircraft homebasing actions focus on aircraft operations in and around the airfield and their facility needs. NEPA documents for installations focus on infrastructure enhancements for host and tenant command missions. Importantly, every environmental document considers the cumulative impacts to the environment from other relevant past, present, and reasonably foreseeable future actions (federal, state, local, and private) in addition to the proposed action. The Navy has been training in the Olympic Military Operations Area (MOA) for over 40 years, and the Navy has not proposed any significant changes to the way aircrew train in the MOA. The Navy recently analyzed plans to enhance existing training by adding one fixed transmitter at Pacific Beach and three mobile transmitter vehicles that would operate on existing logging roads and pull-out areas on U.S. Forest Service land. The Navy has not proposed to use National Park Service land. EW training and EW Range enhancements were analyzed in the Navy's Northwest Training Range Complex (NWTRC) EIS/OEIS, completed in 2010. When more information became available on mobile and fixed signal transmitters for the EW Range, the Navy prepared the EW Range EA to analyze placement and operation of those transmitters. The Navy completed the EA and issued a Finding of No Significant Impact on August 28, 2014. The introduction of the land-based transmitters to enhance existing training will not harm people, animals, or the environment. The Navy has decades of experience building and operating signal equipment, with no adverse effects to people, animals, or the environment. Though there is a proposed increase in EW training events associated with the range enhancements and analyzed in this EIS/OEIS, the increase in events does not equate to a comparable increase in the number of aircraft flights or in the duration of flights. EW training flights are already occurring in the Olympic MOAs, and it is estimated that this

Table I.5-3: Responses to Comments from Organizations (continued)

Commenter	Comment	Navy Response
		proposal will only result in an approximately 10 percent annual increase in actual flights, which equates to approximately one additional flight per day. This is because each flight will be able to accommodate multiple EW training events.
HWS-03	Page 2-8 of the EWR EA states: "All of the EW training activities and locations that would be associated with the implementation of the Pacific Northwest EW Range were analyzed in the NWTRC EIS/OEIS. The NWTRC EIS/OEIS has an October 2010 Record of Decision that approved an alternative that included EW training activities associated with the establishment of a fixed emitter in the Pacific Beach area. Current training levels in the Olympic MOAs and W-237 will remain the same as per the NWTRC EIS/OEIS, and any changes to the type or tempo of training conducted in the Olympic MOAs and W-237 will be addressed in the Northwest Training and Testing (NWTT) EIS/OEIS." However, neither underlined statement is accurate. That the NWTRC EIS does not evaluate the activities contemplated by the proposed EWR is apparent from the following tables: Table 3.2-2 lists the emission sources for all training activities evaluated by the NWTRC EIS. The only emission sources listed for Electronic Combat are from aircraft and ships or boats. There are no emission sources listed for ground based mobile emitters. Had the activities contemplated by the proposed EWR been evaluated by the NWTRC EIS, the ground based mobile emitters should have been listed here as an emission source.	The Navy has been training in the Olympic Military Operations Area (MOA) for over 40 years, and the Navy has not proposed any significant changes to the way aircrew train in the MOA. The Navy recently analyzed plans to enhance existing training by adding one fixed transmitter at Pacific Beach and three mobile transmitter vehicles that would operate on existing logging roads and pull-out areas on U.S. Forest Service land. The Navy has not proposed to use National Park Service land. EW training and EW Range enhancements were analyzed in the Navy's Northwest Training Range Complex (NWTRC) EIS/OEIS, completed in 2010. When more information became available on mobile and fixed signal transmitters for the EW Range, the Navy prepared the EW Range EA to analyze placement and operation of those transmitters. The Navy completed the EA and issued a Finding of No Significant Impact on August 28, 2014. The introduction of the land-based transmitters to enhance existing training will not harm people, animals, or the environment. The Navy has decades of experience building and operating signal equipment, with no adverse effects to people, animals, or the environment. Though there is a proposed increase in EW training events associated with the range enhancements and analyzed in this EIS/OEIS, the increase in events does not equate to a comparable increase in the number of aircraft flights or in the duration of flights. EW training flights are already occurring in the Olympic MOA, and it is estimated that this proposal will only result in an approximately 10 percent annual increase in actual flights, which equates to approximately one additional flight per day. This is because each flight will be able to accommodate multiple EW training events.
HWS-04	Table 3.3-8 lists by activity and training area, the stressors and hazardous materials that would be associated with the activities evaluated by the NWTRC EIS. For Electronic Combat the only areas listed are the Darrington Area and W-237. Had the activities contemplated by the proposed EWR been evaluated by the NWTRC EIS, the Olympic MOAs should have been listed here as a training area. Table 3.16-1 lists by Range and Training Site, the training environment and the type of training activity covered by the NWTRC EIS. For Electronic Combat the only area listed is W-237. Had the activities contemplated by the proposed EWR been evaluated by the NWTRC EIS, the Olympic MOAs should have been listed here as a training area. Table 3.16-2 lists by warfare type	The NWTRC EIS/OEIS evaluated activities occurring in the Olympic MOAs. The Electronic Combat (EC, or referred to as EW in the NWTT EIS/OEIS) Exercises evaluated in the NWTRC EIS/OEIS are shown in Table 2-9 to occur in both the Offshore Area and the Inshore Area. As shown in Table 2-3, the Inshore Area includes the Olympic MOAs. As described in Section 1.2 (The Navy's Environmental Compliance and At-Sea Policy), the NWTT EIS/OEIS is part of the second phase of environmental planning for training and testing activities and

Table I.5-3: Responses to Comments from Organizations (continued)

Commenter	Comment	Navy Response
	the area in which it would be conducted. For Electronic Combat the only areas listed are W-237a and the Darrington Area. Had the activities contemplated by the proposed EWR been evaluated by the NWTRC EIS, the Olympic MOAs would should have been listed here as a training area.	analyzes aircraft training in the Olympic MOAs, as shown in Table 2.8-1.
HWS-05	That the NWTT DEIS did not evaluate the activities contemplated by the proposed EWR is apparent from the following statements: At Page 2-3 it says "The land resources affected by the use of the Olympic MOAs A and B will be evaluated as they are directly impacted by overflights for at-sea activities." To emphasize the obvious, only overflights of the MOAs for training at sea was contemplated in the NWTT EIS. No mention is made of impacts on the Olympic MOAs from Electronic Combat training there. At Page 3.6-18 it says "The training activities involving aircraft in the Olympic MOAs evaluated in this EIS/OEIS are similar to the training evaluated in the NWTRC EIS." With Electronic Combat training in the Olympic MOAs not having been evaluated in the NWTRC EIS, this sentence demonstrates it was not evaluated in the NWTT EIS either.	As described in Chapters 2 (Description of Proposed Action and Alternatives), 3 (Affected Environment and Environmental Consequences), and 4 (Cumulative Impacts), the NWTT EIS/OEIS evaluates increased events associated with the EW Range enhancements. The EW Range EA, tiered from the NWTRC EIS, fully analyzed potential impacts of the enhancements. The introduction of the land-based transmitters to enhance existing training will not harm people, animals, or the environment. The Navy has decades of experience building and operating signal equipment, with no adverse effects to people, animals, or the environment.
HWS-06	The clarification at Page 2-5 of the Supplement that the eastern boundary of the Study Area abuts the coastline also demonstrates that the NWTT DEIS did not evaluate the activities contemplated by the proposed EWR. Those activities would be in the over land portion of the Olympic MOA which this clarification makes obvious is not in the Study Area.	The clarification on Page 2-5 of the Supplement is referring only to the at-sea portion of the NWTT Study Area, or the "Offshore Area." The Olympic MOAs are clearly included in the NWTT Study Area as shown in Section 2.1.1.1 (Airspace) of the EIS/OEIS, where the Olympic MOAs are described.
HWS-07	That the over land portion of the Olympic MOA is omitted from the Study Area is also evident from Table ES-2, Summary of Environmental Impacts. In that Table, under Cultural Resources, it states that "no World Heritage sites would be affected." That can only be true if the over land portions of the Olympic MOAs are excluded from the Study Area, because large portions of Olympic National Park, a World Heritage site, are located under the Olympic MOAs.	In the Final EIS/OEIS, the Navy completed an analysis of the Olympic National Park as a World Heritage Site (Appendix K – World Heritage Site Analysis).
HWS-08	With the activities that are being conducted, and are proposed to be conducted, by the U.S. Navy in the study areas covered by the 2010 Northwest Training Range Complex (NWTRC) EIS, the Pacific Northwest Electronic Warfare Range (EWR) EA, and the Northwest Training and Testing (NWTT) DEIS not having been sufficiently evaluated in any environmental document, and not proposed to be evaluated in the Fall 2014 U.S. Navy EIS for the EA-18G Growler Airfield Operations at Naval Air Station (NAS) Whidbey Island (36 Growlers EIS), those activities should have been evaluated in the Supplement. Consequently, PPF's suggestions and criticisms regarding the EWR EA and the 36 Growlers EIS are equally applicable to the Supplement. These suggestions and criticisms are set forth below and incorporated herein. A suggestion or criticism regarding the EWR EA, or regarding the scoping proceedings for the 36 Growlers EIS, should be considered a suggestion or criticism regarding the Supplement.	The purpose of the Supplement to the NWTT Draft EIS/OEIS was described in its Abstract, Executive Summary, and Chapter 1 (Purpose and Need). Only changes related to certain activities were covered. All other activities, including flights conducted for the purpose of EW training, were unchanged from the NWTT Draft EIS/OEIS. The Navy prepares Environmental Impact Statements (EIS) and Environmental Assessments (EA) in order to comply with the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA). These NEPA documents are intended to ensure decision makers consider the potential environmental effects of a proposed action and its alternatives, provide an opportunity for public involvement, and promote transparency by informing the public of these potential environmental effects. Each NEPA document addresses a specific proposed action, separated

Table I.5-3: Responses to Comments from Organizations (continued)

Commenter	Comment	Navy Response
		from other actions by its purpose and need, independent utility, timing, and geographic location. Some NEPA documents are stand-alone documents; others tier off or expand the analyses of other NEPA documents. NEPA documents for training and testing, including this EIS/OEIS, focus on training and testing activities occurring within a range complex or military operation area and involve different types of aircraft, ships, and range complex enhancements. NEPA documents for aircraft homebasing actions focus on aircraft operations in and around the airfield and their facility needs. NEPA documents for installations focus on infrastructure enhancements for host and tenant command missions. Importantly, every environmental document considers the cumulative impacts to the environment from other relevant past, present, and reasonably foreseeable future actions (federal, state, local, and private) in addition to the proposed action. The Navy has been training in the Olympic Military Operations Area (MOA) for over 40 years, and the Navy has not proposed any significant changes to the way aircrew train in the MOA. The Navy recently analyzed plans to enhance existing training by adding one fixed transmitter at Pacific Beach and three mobile transmitter vehicles that would operate on existing logging roads and pull-out areas on U.S. Forest Service land. The Navy has not proposed to use National Park Service land. EW training and EW Range enhancements were analyzed in the Navy's Northwest Training Range Complex (NWTRC) EIS/OEIS, completed in 2010. When more information became available on mobile and fixed signal transmitters for the EW Range, the Navy prepared the EW Range EA to analyze placement and operation of those transmitters. The Navy completed the EA and issued a Finding of No Significant Impact on August 28, 2014. The introduction of the land-based transmitters to enhance existing training will not harm people, animals, or the environment. The Navy has decades of experience building and operating signal equipment, with no adverse effects to people, animals, or the environment. Though there is a proposed increase in EW training events associated with the range enhancements and analyzed in this EIS/OEIS, the increase in events does not equate to a comparable increase in the number of aircraft flights or in the duration of flights. EW training flights are already occurring in the Olympic MOAs, and it is estimated that this proposal will only result in an approximately 10 percent annual increase in actual flights, which equates to approximately one additional flight per day. This is because each flight will be able to

Table I.5-3: Responses to Comments from Organizations (continued)

Commenter	Comment	Navy Response
		accommodate multiple EW training events. The Navy proposes to home base up to 36 additional EA-18G aircraft at NAS Whidbey Island. The Navy announced the preparation of that separate Whidbey EIS on September 5, 2013, and invited the public to participate in the NEPA process by submitting comments to define the scope of the Draft Whidbey EIS analysis. On October 10, 2014, the Navy revised the scope of the on-going Whidbey EIS and invited the public to submit additional scoping comments. The Navy is currently preparing its Draft Whidbey EIS, which is scheduled to be released in spring 2016. For more information, please visit the project website at www.whidbeyeis.com. This NWTT EIS/OEIS considered the Whidbey EIS proposal in its analysis of cumulative impacts in Chapter 4.
HWS-09	Before getting to those, however, a few other comments on the Supplement are in order, and most are applicable as well to all of the Navy's environmental documents regarding its activities in the Study Area covered by the EWR EA and the NWTT DEIS. 1. What constitutes an "event" or an "activity" is never specifically defined. As such, it is simply impossible to determine the true environmental impacts of the Navy's proposed actions. We know that the EA-18G Growlers typically operate in groups of three. An "event" involving Growlers would therefore typically involve at least three aircraft flights, and perhaps a lot more. Section 3.4.3.2.5.2 of the NWTT DEIS discusses a Civilian Port Defense activity, listed as only one "activity," that lasts several days and would include multiple helicopter flights every day. At page 3.4-286 a Submarine Commander Course involving three surface ships and a submarine using mid-frequency sonar over the span of the multiple day event is discussed. Thus it is, what the environmental documents innocently refer to as one "event" are in fact probably multiple events involving multiple assets and perhaps lasting multiple days.	The Navy has revised Section 2.7.1.4 (Electronic Warfare) of the Final EIS/OEIS to add clarifying language about the relationship between an activity and number of aircraft involved. A description of the Civilian Port Defense activity (listed as Maritime Homeland Defense/Security Mine Countermeasures Exercise) is included in Appendix A, p. A-22 of the EIS/OEIS. An event is one entire iteration of an activity. The activity may be simple and require less than an hour to complete, or it may be complex and require several days to complete. In many cases, as described now in the Final NWTT EIS/OEIS in Section 2.7.1.4, a single aircraft flight could include more than one event. The method of analysis accounts for the complexity of the activity. The Navy paid special attention to capturing this complexity when analyzing impacts to marine mammals, as described in the technical report on the modeling.
HWS-10	2. Table 3-8 of the Supplement lists 8,040 events including aircraft movement under Alternative 2 in the Offshore Area, and 117 events including aircraft in the Inland Waters. The difference between 8,040 and 117 is 7, 923. It would appear that the aircraft involved in these 7, 923 events would have to overfly the Inland Waters from NASWI to reach the Offshore Area. The impacts associated with those over flights must be evaluated.	The aircraft that train in the Olympic MOAs arrive in the MOA airspace via FAA flight routes and flight handling. That phase of each flight is under control of the FAA and is not analyzed as training activities in the NWTT EIS. The cumulative impacts of the transits to the MOA are analyzed in Chapter 4 (Cumulative Impacts) of the NWTT EIS/OEIS. Though there is a proposed increase in EW training events associated with the range enhancements and analyzed in this EIS/OEIS, the increase in events does not equate to a comparable increase in the number of aircraft flights or in the duration of flights. EW training flights are already occurring in the Olympic MOA, and it is estimated that this proposal will only result in an approximately ten percent annual

Table I.5-3: Responses to Comments from Organizations (continued)

Commenter	Comment	Navy Response
		increase in actual flights, which equates to approximately one additional flight per day. This is because each flight will be able to accommodate multiple EW training events.
HWS-11	3. An FAQ document (recently removed from the NASWI web site) stated, for example, that "[t]he average number of flights in the Olympic Military Operations Area is 1,250 annually. Section 3.6.3.2.1.1 of the NWTT DEIS, however, sets the baseline of flights at 3,836 events per year in the OPAREA/Olympic MOAs, and states that most of these would occur in W-237. These varying, indefinite, and imprecise statistics preclude any meaningful analysis of the impacts on any one area, especially so since the MOAs cover both land and sea and a flight over the sea portion would have different impacts compared with a flight over the land portion. There is a crying need for sound data defining the true number of flights, ship movements, drone movements, and other asset movements that have historically taken place and that will take place in the future, by each area impacted by the Navy's plans, before any meaningful environmental evaluation can be accomplished. 4. The Inland Waters are defined to "include all waters of the Strait of Juan de Fuca, the Puget Sound (including Hood Canal), and the Strait of Georgia." There is language throughout the NWTT DEIS and the Supplement that describes certain areas within the Inland Waters where the Navy conducts specific training activities. However, there is also language throughout those documents that implies the proposed activities could occur anywhere in the Inland Waters. Just where each activity is slated to occur must be well defined before any meaningful environmental evaluation can be accomplished. For example, a diagram on the right side of the "Growler Operations" page of the 36 Growlers EIS Scoping Meeting Guide, shows a detailed portrayal of the flight paths of Growlers using the OLF for Field Carrier Landing Practice (FCLP). That same specificity should be required for the analysis of both aircraft and ship movement with respect to any resource that can be adversely impacted by the Navy's proposed activities.	The number of activities analyzed in the NWTT EIS/OEIS is based on several factors, to include historical data and conservative overestimates. The analysis of potential impacts accounts for the size and potential variety of locations in which training and testing activities could occur, in order to provide the decision maker with a thorough understanding of potential impacts. As described above, clarifying language has been added regarding the relationship between an activity and number of aircraft involved. The locations proposed for the Navy's activities are described with as much detail as possible, given uncertainties about future activities, and in some cases, security requirements that prevent disclosure of specific times and locations.
HWS-12	5. As further comment on the previous paragraph, please consider the example of a prime fishing area located out from Cape Flattery (near North 48.06, West 125.26) and known as the "Prairie." The bathymetry of that area creates an ideal location for bait fish to accumulate; the bait fish attract salmon and other fish; and the salmon and other fish attract birds, and both marine mammals and land based mammals, the latter known as fishermen. A Navy exercise located on the Prairie would have a huge impact on a number of resources required to be studied by NEPA; a Navy exercise located away from there could have fewer impacts. The environmental impacts of the Navy's proposed actions on the Prairie cannot be evaluated without knowing the proximity of the Navy's proposed actions to the Prairie. The same is true for a multitude of areas throughout the NWTT Study Area. Each of those areas needs to be identified and studied with specificity to know the true environmental impacts of the Navy's proposed activities.	The specific area described as the "Prairie" lies beneath W-237B in the Offshore Area of the NWTT Study Area, and also lies within the Olympic Coast National Marine Sanctuary (OCNMS). The analysis contained within the NWTT EIS/OEIS considers all areas within the Study Area, and concluded that proposed activities would not have a significant impact on any resources, including those activities and resources around the "Prairie." The analysis concluded that the Navy's activities would not affect fish populations in a significant way, and would not affect fish habitat. For more information about potential impacts to fish habitat, please see the Essential Fish Habitat (EFH) Assessment on the NWTTEIS.com website. The Navy conducted consultation with NMFS regarding the EFH Assessment and NMFS

Table I.5-3: Responses to Comments from Organizations (continued)

Commenter	Comment	Navy Response
	6. As further comment on the two previous paragraphs, the consideration of alternatives and mitigating measures as required by NEPA cannot be accomplished without the specificity called for therein. For example, a reasonable alternative to the proposed action could be to redefine the Offshore Area and the Inland Waters to exclude the areas such as the Prairie from the areas in which the Navy's proposed activities could be conducted. Also, for example, a mitigating condition would be to keep the Navy's resources at least 1000 yards (or the distance of the moving security zone) away from any of those areas such as the Prairie, and the routes fishermen take to those areas, so that neither fish, birds, marine mammals, nor fishermen therein would be affected by the Navy's activities.	concurred with the Navy's conclusions. Also, because the "Prairie" is within the OCNMS, it is afforded additional protections, such as the prohibition against Navy bombing exercises. Finally, as has been the Navy's practice, absent any unusual circumstances, the Navy has the flexibility to move its events and would not prevent the use of the area by fishing vessels or any other non-Navy vessels. As stated in the EIS/OEIS in Section 3.13.2.2.1 (Offshore Area), "Inability to obtain a 'clear range' could cause an event to be delayed, cancelled, or relocated." This is especially true of any potentially hazardous events, such as missile firing activities. For hazardous events, the Navy advises the U.S. Coast Guard who issues Notices to Mariners. Also, as described in Section 5.3.1.2.2.6 (Bombing Exercises [Explosive]), the Navy's high explosive bombing activities occur well beyond 50 miles from shore, which is generally past the continental shelf edge throughout the NWTT Study Area.
HWS-13	7. The Supplement considers the impacts of ongoing activities in the NWTT Study Area that were not previously analyzed. For example, see ES.2.2 Maritime Security Operations, and Table 2-4, Submarine Mine Exercise. This idea is commendable, although the actual evaluation of those impacts is lacking. As importantly, however, the impacts of the ongoing aircraft and other activities in the MOAs, which have never previously been analyzed, should also be evaluated. In the interim those activities should be stopped.	The Navy complies with all applicable environmental laws, including NEPA. As such, the Navy developed the Supplement to the Draft EIS/OEIS to meet the requirements of these laws. The full analysis of the new activities was made using the best available science and is included in the Supplement to the Draft EIS/OEIS and also in the Final EIS/OEIS throughout Chapter 3 (Affected Environment and Environmental Consequences). The impacts of ongoing activities in the Olympic MOAs were analyzed previously in the 2010 NWTRC EIS/OEIS. The Electronic Combat (EC, or referred to as EW in the NWTT EIS/OEIS) Exercises evaluated in the NWTRC EIS/OEIS are shown in Table 2-9 to occur in both the Offshore Area and the Inshore Area. As shown in Table 2-3, the Inshore Area includes the Olympic MOAs. Similarly, the activities conducted in the Olympic MOAs are covered in the NWTT EIS/OEIS, as shown in Table 2.8-1. The Navy completed an airspace noise analysis for current and proposed activities in the Olympic MOAs. The analysis concluded there is virtually no change in the cumulative noise levels from the current level of activity to that proposed by the Navy.
HWS-14	8. The Bonneville Power Administration, in an attempt to mitigate adverse impacts of the Columbia River Basin dams, funds habitat improvements and other mitigating measures throughout the Northwest. The Navy's proposed actions will have an impact on	The Navy at-sea training and testing activities do not reduce available habitat, nor do they significantly reduce marine species populations. Therefore, replacement for lost habitat is not considered in this

Table I.5-3: Responses to Comments from Organizations (continued)

Commenter	Comment	Navy Response
	endangered species, including birds, salmon and marine mammals, and on the fishermen, whether commercial or sports, who catch the salmon. These impacts, to whatever degree they will occur, could be mitigated to some extent, by increasing the number of salmon in the Study Area. To do this, the Navy could fund habitat improvements, just as does the Bonneville Power Administration. 9. The Hood Canal Bridge has been identified as a likely culprit in the decline of the Hood Canal salmon and steelhead runs. See the article in PLoS One. 2013; 8(9): e73427, Published online 2013 Sep 5. doi: 10.1371/journal.pone.0073427 , PMCID: PMC3764116, entitled "A Floating Bridge Disrupts Seaward Migration and Increases Mortality of Steelhead Smolts in Hood Canal, Washington State." The theory is that for most stocks, except outbound Chum Salmon that migrate deeper than the bridge's pontoons, the bridge acts as a barrier and exposes outbound smolts to more predation by predatory birds and fish. One habitat improvement that the Navy could fund as a mitigating measure would be the reconstruction of the Hood Canal Bridge so that it no longer serves as a barrier to salmon migration. This would increase the food available to birds, marine mammals, and fishermen, and offset the take of birds and marine mammals that would otherwise occur under the Navy's proposal. Depending upon how the reconstruction would take place, it could also reduce the impact of the Navy's activities on automobile traffic wanting to cross Hood Canal.	EIS/OEIS. The Navy's activities may affect commercial, recreational, or tribal fishermen in the Inland Waters by temporarily displacing them from localized fishing sites. The Navy has on-going projects in cooperation with the tribes of Puget Sound related to fish and shellfish stocking and habitat. Because the Navy's activities would not reduce fish populations, no consideration is given of replacing the Hood Canal Bridge. Also, given the nature and purpose of bridge closures during security escorts, vehicle traffic would still be required to remain off the bridge.
HWS-15	10. The activities proposed in the Supplement add a stunning number of instances to the total of marine mammal takes disclosed in the NWTT DEIS, and a stunning increase in CO and other emissions of air pollutants (which correspond to a similar increase in aircraft and vessel activity). Despite these huge increases, very little study is given to the resulting impacts and very little is proposed for increased mitigation measures. Most impacts are just dismissed out of hand. NEPA requires more.	Please see the Final EIS/OEIS, Section 3.4.3.1.18 (Application of the Marine Mammal Protection Act to Potential Acoustic and Explosive Effects) for a description of "take" and note that the overwhelming majority of takes are behavioral harassments. Based on years of analysis and best available science, and in coordination with the regulators, the Navy is confident in its assessment that the proposed training and testing activities will not result in long-term population effects. Chapter 3 (Affected Environment and Environmental Consequences) of the EIS/OEIS provides a thorough analysis of the potential impacts. As presented in Chapter 5 (Standard Operating Procedures, Mitigation, and Monitoring) mitigation measures are tailored to an activity to reduce a specific environmental impact on a particular resource.
Johns Monroe Mitsunaga Kolouškovà PLLC (JMMK)-01	This office represents Hood Canal Sand and Gravel, LLC, a property owner and business which may be affected by the Navy's activity under review as provided for in the NWTT DEIS/OEIS. We provide you with the following comments related to specific assertions and assumptions in the DEIS. We also ask that you consider comments contained in our March 25, 2014, letter which is attached hereto and incorporated herein	The Navy completed its purchase of a bedlands easement in Hood Canal in July 2015, and the State of Washington has denied Hood Canal Sand and Gravel's Joint Aquatic Resource Permit Application for its proposed project. Therefore, the Hood Canal Sand and Gravel pit to pier project is no longer reasonably foreseeable and has been

Table I.5-3: Responses to Comments from Organizations (continued)

Commenter	Comment	Navy Response
	by this reference. The Navy has acknowledged in two prior EIS(s) our intention to have up to six vessels daily call upon our proposed facility "Pit to Pier" in the north Hood Canal. (2010 US Navy NAVSEA NUWC Keyport FEIS; 2012 US Navy NBK Bangor EHW-2 FEIS). We are aware of the existing restrictions on vessel traffic in Hood Canal, as set forth in the Code of Federal Regulations, associated with the existing components of the Dabob Bay Range Complex. While the Navy's DEIS proposes expanding the operating area for the Dabob Bay Range Complex, we understand that the Navy has not proposed any new restrictions on vessel operations in Hood Canal. We also understand that the constitutionally protected use of the waters of the United States - including the Hood Canal - for navigation and commerce may only be restricted under authority of an act of Congress, and no such act has authorized further restrictions on vessel operations in Hood Canal. Thank you for the opportunity to provide these comments. This office represents Hood Canal Sand and Gravel, LLC, a property owner and business which may be affected by the Navy's activity under review as provided for in the NWTT DEIS/OEIS. We provide you with the following comments and correction related to specific assertions and assumptions in the DEIS. We have found that the NWTT DEIS makes several erroneous assumptions in Volume 2, 4-18, Section 4.3.6 'Other Environmental Considerations'. We have cited the pertinent subsection language, below, with our corrections set forth in italics. 4.3.6.1 Fred Hill Materials Thorndyke Resource (Pit-to-Pier) Project DEIS Statement: Fred Hill Materials, a materials supply firm based in Poulsbo, Correction: the entity is Hood Canal Sand and Gravel, LLC which has active applications in process for Condition Use Permit and attendant permits and approvals for the identified activities. DEIS Statement: constructed a 4-mile (mi.) (6.4-kilometer [km]) conveyor belt connecting a 781 ac. (316 ha) inland gravel mine to 1,100 ft. (335 m) long, 80 ft. (24 m) high pier and 900 ft. (274 m) long moorage dock. Correction: 520-acre extraction area + 100-acre Operations Hub, 990 ft. Long, 90 ft. high pier and six 20x20 ft. breasting dolphins and two 20x20 ft. mooring dolphins, spaced evenly apart, with the distance from end-to-end approx. 920 ft. DEIS Statement: The shipping facility is on the west shore of Hood Canal, 5 mi. (8 km) south of the Highway 104 Hood Canal Bridge. When fully operational the "pit to pier" operation would mine, transport, and ship an estimated 60.000 tons (54.432 metric tons) of gravel loading into barges and ships bound for domestic and foreign ports. Correction: the projected tonnage is 6. 75 million tons annually, subject to market demand, of sand and gravel loading into barges and ships. Hood Canal Sand and	removed from our cumulative impact analysis.

Table I.5-3: Responses to Comments from Organizations (continued)

Commenter	Comment	Navy Response
	Gravel has never asserted any intention to serve foreign markets: all vessels are to be US flagged. DEIS Statement: Operations would be 24 hours a day and each vessel would travel under or through the opening of the floating Hood Canal Bridge. There is considerable uncertainty as to whether this project will be implemented. Correction: Hood Canal Sand and Gravel strongly disagrees as to the assertion of uncertainly. Permits and approvals are underway and the project is economically viable. Please be advised that Hood Canal Sand and Gravel's operations are viable and an ongoing business interest. The project is undergoing active environmental review and a DEIS under the Washington State Environmental Policy Act is expected later this spring In addition to the foregoing, we provide you with a copy of our analysis related to an ongoing effort on the part of Washington State Department of Natural Resources to explore a lease or the grant of an easement to the US Navy for aquatic land. Thank you for the opportunity to provide these comments. We request that you make all necessary corrections to your environmental documentation and incorporate these comments, with your attendance corrections, into the final EIS. We understand there is an ongoing effort on the part of Washington State Department of Natural Resources to explore a lease or the grant of an easement to the US Navy for aquatic land adjacent to your property. We provide you with the following discussion of DNR's lack of authority in this respect and likely DNR liability in the event it were to enter into such a lease or easement as currently proposed. We understand you may share this correspondence with others. Any reader is advised that circulation of this letter shall in no way be deemed a waiver of attorney-client privilege or of the attorney-client work product privilege since this letter was not intended as a confidential communication. Washington State legislative history describes DNR's role in managing aquatic lands as one of supporting "a balance of goals, including the encouragement of public access, the fostering of water-dependent uses, the utilization of renewable resources, and the generation of revenue." This expression of legislative intent regarding DNR's role is consistent with legislative findings that "water-dependent industries and activities have played a major role in the history of the state and will continue to be important in the future." RCW 79.105.010. All DNR activity, including the lease of land, must be performed consistent with this legislative intent. Consistent with this legislative history, DNR "shall" manage state-owned aquatic lands to "preserve and enhance water dependent uses." RCW 79.105.210. The Washington legislature has gone so far as to instruct DNR by law that "Water-dependent uses shall be favored over other uses in state-owned aquatic land planning and in resolving conflicts between competing lease applications:· Id. This language is unequivocal, binding on DNR's authority and restricts the scope of leases and easements that DNR has authority to enter into.	

Table I.5-3: Responses to Comments from Organizations (continued)

Commenter	Comment	Navy Response
	Water dependent uses are precisely those which Hood Canal Sand and Gravel, LLC, proposes to develop as part of its pier project. A water-dependent use is one which cannot logically exist in any location but on the water. Washington State law expressly defines water-dependent uses as encompassing terminal and transfer facilities and waterborne commerce. RCW 79.105.060. Contrary to the foregoing legislative history and statutory authority, DNR 's interest in leasing aquatic land adjacent to the land owned by Hood Canal Sand and Gravel, LLC appears intended to directly result in discourage and prevent water-dependent uses and industry, and restrict generation of revenue. It is appropriate here to break down further DNR's authority to enter into easements and leases of state-owned aquatic lands. DNR only has the express authority given it by Washington statute. DNR cannot engage in activity or conduct not expressly authorized by statute. DNR has authority to enter into easements for such purposes as roads and bridges, railroad crossings, utility lines, irrigation, drainage. RCW 79.110.11 O; RCW 79.110.200, RCW 79.110.300. DNR does not have legal authority to enter into a lease or 'restrictive' easement, which has the effect of deliberately barring a water-dependent use. Likewise, DNR 's ability to enter into a lease or easement is restricted to m:tivity which would be consistent with its management directive of favoring water-dependent uses, i.e. terminal and transfer facilities as well as commerce. RCW 79.105.210. Further, DNR may enter into a lease or easement only if the abutting private property is not already improved or occupied for residential or commercial purposes. RCW 79.130.010. As is readily evident, Hood Canal Sand and Gravel, LLC, is actively occupying and improving its property for commercial purposes, i.e., the commerce of sand and gravel. Furthermore, DNR may not use a lease to modify any provisions of the Washington State Constitution. RCW 79.130.010. In other words, DNR may not use a lease or easement to effectuate a taking of private property or other violation of a private property owner's substantive due process rights. DNR's objective in pursuing a lease or an easement with the US Navy is not consistent with DNR's leasing or easement authority. Despite numerous requests. DNR has never been able to identify any legal authority for its proposed lease or an easement. No authority exists within Washington State law to support a lease or an easement of state-owned aquatic lands which would have the direct effect of restricting water-dependent uses. We also note that, where the Washington State legislature has found US Navy activity to be consistent with public purposes supporting DNR activity, the legislature has adopted express legislation indicating such purpose and DNR's authority in such regard. See e.g. RCW 79.130.050-.060. The Washington State legislature has not adopted any similar public policy statement or given authority to DNR to enter into a lease or other	

Table I.5-3: Responses to Comments from Organizations (continued)

Commenter	Comment	Navy Response
	arrangement related to US Navy activity off shore from the Hood Canal Sand and Gravel, LLC property. In the event DNR persists with a lease or easement despite its lack of legal authority, you certainly would ha\'c the right to legally challenge that lease and litigate DNR · s authority. Based on even the summarized foregoing analysis, we believe a Court would likely find DNR lacks the authority to enter into such a lease. It is significant that the Washington State legislature has taken the extra precaution of expressly preserving adjacent land owners' rights to challenge DNR lease activities. RCW 79.105.160. While Washington Courts have not yet reviewed a DNR action as extreme as DNR's proposed lease, the Washington State Supreme Court has previously held DNR 's agency predecessor and liable for an unlawful taking and damage to private property. See e.g. Boyer v. State, 19 Wn.2d 134 (1943). We believe a Court would not hesitate to find that DNR lacks authority to enter into either a lease or an easement as has been proposed, or to find that DNR's agreement is an unconstitutional taking of private property and violation of substantive due process rights.	
National Parks Conservation Association (NPCA)-01	February 2, 2015 Comments on the Supplement to Draft NWTT EIS/OEIS http://nwtteis.com/GetInvolved/OnlineCommentForm.aspx On behalf of the National Parks Conservation Association (NPCA) and our nearly 1 million members and supporters, I respectfully submit the following comments on the Supplement to the Draft Environmental Impact Statement/ Overseas Environmental Impact Statement (DEIS) for the Navy's continued training and testing activities in the Pacific Northwest (NWTT). NPCA is concerned that the Navy's activities in the Northwest Training and Testing (NWTT) Study Area pose a significant risk to whales, fish, and other wildlife. The increased sonar activity outlined in the Supplement and the cumulative impacts of stressors and greenhouse gases will have an increased significant negative impact on the marine environment. NPCA is especially concerned with impacts to the coastal areas of Olympic National Park and the wildlife that depends on those areas for key habitat. The NWTT plans proposed in the EIS/OEIS are intensified by the large percentage of additional activity and previously unexamined environmental effects outlined in the Supplement.	The NWTT EIS/OEIS describes adjustments in activities off the coast of Washington and in the Olympic MOA. The quantity of marine mammal impacts estimated goes up from previous assessments because (1) the Navy is including a number of activities which have long occurred in the northwest but which have not been previously assessed, and (2) because the science supporting modeling of impacts to marine mammals has advanced. Based on a reading of the remainder of the NPCA comment letter (in the entries below), the Navy would like to note that the issues raised are fully discussed and analyzed in the Draft EIS/OEIS. The Supplement to the Draft EIS/OEIS that is the subject of this comment is just that; it supplements the Draft EIS/OEIS. The information requested in the comment was, in every case, contained in the Draft EIS/OEIS, as referenced throughout the Supplement. This Final EIS/OEIS contains the full analysis.
NPCA-02	The long-term, cumulative impacts of all of these activities on marine wildlife and habitat have not been adequately addressed in the Supplement.	As described above, the long-term, cumulative impacts of all the Navy's proposed activities were addressed in the Draft EIS/OEIS, and are re-evaluated in this Final EIS/OEIS.
NPCA-03	NPCA is also troubled by the thousands of injuries and deaths to and of marine mammals, sea turtles, fish and birds that will result due the activities outlined in this proposal.	There would not be "thousands of injuries and deaths" to marine life as the comment asserts. For example, please see the Final EIS/OEIS, Section 3.4.3.1.18 (Application of the Marine Mammal Protection Act to Potential Acoustic and Explosive Effects) for a description of "take" and note that the overwhelming majority of takes are behavioral harassments. Based on years of analysis and best available science,

Table I.5-3: Responses to Comments from Organizations (continued)

Commenter	Comment	Navy Response
		and in coordination with the regulators, the Navy is confident in its assessment that behavioral harassments do not result in long-term population effects.
NPCA-04	Further, the lack of consideration of exclusion zones, geographic alternatives to the southern Puget Sound and seasonal restrictions are glaring omissions.	See Section 5.3.4 (Mitigation Measures Considered but Eliminated) detailing the consideration of exclusion zones, seasonal restrictions, and other area restrictions.
NPCA-05	All of the Alternatives propose year round, unrestricted use without regard to seasonal variations in marine mammal and fish abundance. This is true despite the well-documented seasonal migrations of numerous endangered species and the identification of biologically important areas. The Navy's failure to develop meaningful alternatives or mitigation of this increased harm is a clear shortcoming of this document and the plan itself. The Navy should make every effort to avoid activities in critical marine habitats and areas near the wilderness of Olympic National Park coast that would exclude sonar and explosives testing and schedule training to avoid times of the year when sensitive species are present in these area.	Seasonal or geographic exclusions are treated by the Navy as mitigation measures, not alternatives. As described in Chapter 5 (Standard Operating Procedures, Mitigation, and Monitoring) of the Draft and Final EIS/OEIS, the Navy evaluated the effectiveness and practicability of a number of potential mitigation measures including the avoidance of specific areas; see specifically, Section 5.3.4 (Mitigation Measures Considered but Eliminated). The Navy coordinated its analysis with USFWS and NMFS to get authorizations that balance protection of species with the Navy's requirement to train and test. Final marine mammal consultation results for ESA and MMPA will be included in the ROD.
NPCA-06	NPCA again would like to express our disappointment in the Navy's involvement of the public in the planning process of four different documents. It almost appears that the Navy has purposely attempted to confuse and limit public input. If this was the function of the 4 different documents with limited opportunities for public comment and confusion as to which document addresses which impacts, it has been successful. Four clearly-linked documents have been spread out in their introduction to the public over the last year and a half. This has had the effect of separating ground-based, air-based and sea-based naval activities as if they were not linked. This misleads the public into considering smaller spheres of influence of Navy actions in myriad localities. This strategy, or decision, to break up an obviously unified plan may in fact be in violation of federal law. The four proposals were: 1) Scoping comments on ongoing and planned EA-18G Growler airfield operations at NAS Whidbey Island's Ault Field and Outlying Landing Field (OLF) (December 2013). 2) This comment period, covering the Northwest Training and Testing EIS/OEIS (January 2014) that discusses the sea-based training and testing plans stretching from Alaska to California featuring a proposed increase is the use of sonar and explosives in offshore areas and the Sound. 3) The Pacific Northwest Electronic Warfare Range Environmental Assessment (August 2014) and the National Forest Service Special Use Permit proposal. 4) Scoping period revision of the future U.S. Navy Environmental Impact Statement for the EA-18G Growler Airfield Operations at Naval Air Station (NAS) Whidbey Island November 2014. NPCA would have preferred the Navy present these activities the way they are perceived – as one	The Navy prepares Environmental Impact Statements (EIS) and Environmental Assessments (EA) in order to comply with the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA). These NEPA documents are intended to ensure decision makers consider the potential environmental effects of a proposed action and its alternatives, provide an opportunity for public involvement, and promote transparency by informing the public of these potential environmental effects. Each NEPA document addresses a specific proposed action, separated from other actions by its purpose and need, independent utility, timing, and geographic location. Some NEPA documents are stand-alone documents; others tier off or expand the analyses of other NEPA documents. NEPA documents for training and testing, including this EIS/OEIS, focus on training and testing activities occurring within a range complex or military operation area and involve different types of aircraft, ships, and range complex enhancements. NEPA documents for aircraft homebasing actions focus on aircraft operations in and around the airfield and their facility needs. NEPA documents for installations focus on infrastructure enhancements for host and tenant command missions. Importantly, every environmental document considers the cumulative impacts to the environment from other relevant past, present, and reasonably foreseeable future actions

Table I.5-3: Responses to Comments from Organizations (continued)

Commenter	Comment	Navy Response
	massive Navy plan for a large region of the Pacific Northwest, the Puget Sound, and Olympic National Park. Thank you for considering these comments. Sincerely, David G. Graves Northwest Program Manager, NW Regional Office National Parks Conservation Association 1200 5th Ave Suite 1925 Seattle, WA 98101 o: 206.903.1645 c: 206.462.0821 dgraves@npca.org npca.org	(federal, state, local, and private) in addition to the proposed action. The Navy has been training in the Olympic Military Operations Area (MOA) for over 40 years, and the Navy has not proposed any significant changes to the way aircrew train in the MOA. The Navy recently analyzed plans to enhance existing training by adding one fixed transmitter at Pacific Beach and three mobile transmitter vehicles that would operate on existing logging roads and pull-out areas on U.S. Forest Service land. The Navy has not proposed to use National Park Service land. EW training and EW Range enhancements were analyzed in the Navy's Northwest Training Range Complex (NWTRC) EIS/OEIS, completed in 2010. When more information became available on mobile and fixed signal transmitters for the EW Range, the Navy prepared the EW Range EA to analyze placement and operation of those transmitters. The Navy completed the EA and issued a Finding of No Significant Impact on August 28, 2014. The introduction of the land-based transmitters to enhance existing training will not harm people, animals, or the environment. The Navy has decades of experience building and operating signal equipment, with no adverse effects to people, animals, or the environment. Though there is a proposed increase in EW training events associated with the range enhancements and analyzed in this EIS/OEIS, the increase in events does not equate to a comparable increase in the number of aircraft flights or in the duration of flights. EW training flights are already occurring in the Olympic MOAs, and it is estimated that this proposal will only result in an approximately 10 percent annual increase in actual flights, which equates to approximately one additional flight per day. This is because each flight will be able to accommodate multiple EW training events. The Navy proposes to home base up to 36 additional EA-18G aircraft at NAS Whidbey Island. The Navy announced the preparation of that separate Whidbey EIS on September 5, 2013, and invited the public to participate in the NEPA process by submitting comments to define the scope of the Draft Whidbey EIS analysis. On October 10, 2014, the Navy revised the scope of the on-going Whidbey EIS and invited the public to submit additional scoping comments. The Navy is currently preparing its Draft Whidbey EIS, which is scheduled to be released in spring 2016. For more information, please visit the project website at www.whidbeyeis.com. This NWTT EIS/OEIS considered the Whidbey EIS proposal in its analysis of cumulative impacts in Chapter 4.
Natural	On behalf of our organizations and our millions of members, activists, and supporters,	The analysis in the Supplement was in fact at the appropriate level. As

Table I.5-3: Responses to Comments from Organizations (continued)

Commenter	Comment	Navy Response
Resources Defense Council (NRDC)-01	we write to submit comments on the Navy's Supplement to the Draft Environmental Impact Statement/ Overseas Environmental Impact Statement ("Supplement") (December 2014) for its training and testing activities in the Pacific Northwest. The Supplement discusses two changes to the Navy's proposed training and testing activities made after release of the Draft Environmental Impact Statement/ Overseas Environmental Impact Statement ("DEIS") in January, 2014. Because the Supplement incorporates and continues to rely on the DEIS in all other respects, we reiterate and hereby incorporate by reference previous comments to that document submitted April 15, 2014.[1] Please include these comments in the administrative record.[2] As we have explained, the Navy's compliance with the National Environmental Policy Act ("NEPA"), 42 U.S.C. 4321 et seq., is vital to ensuring that whales, dolphins, and other marine life are protected from unnecessary harm from the Navy's activities. The DEIS, however, included a picture of unremitting and inadequately mitigated harm: more than 500,000 instances of marine mammal "take" (significant behavioral disruptions and injury) over five years (from 2015 to 2020), including almost 275,000 instances of temporary hearing loss, and more than 600 instances of permanent hearing loss from the use of sonar and explosives. See DEIS at 3.4-150 to 151; 3.4-158 to 159. While these projections are shocking—and, we believe, still underestimate the harm to marine mammals from the Navy's activities—they confirm what stranding events have evidenced, scientists have studied, and the public has believed for years: Navy training and testing activities endanger whales and dolphins at intolerable levels. The activities included in the Supplement add almost 415,000 instances (about 83,000/year for five years) of marine mammal take to this total – nearly doubling the total disclosed in the DEIS. See Supplement at 3-21. This massive increase in exposures and commensurate behavioral disruption and injury to marine mammals, however, is not accompanied by an appropriate level of analysis or mitigation. Indeed, the Navy proposes no new or additional mitigation to avoid or alleviate any of the projected harm to marine mammals from the increase in sonar use disclosed in the Supplement. Instead, the Navy tersely concludes that "these increases do not result in any long-term consequences for any marine mammal population or species," and leaves unchanged its analysis and conclusions in the DEIS. Id. at 3-22. 1 See Letter from Animal Welfare Institute, Center for Biological Diversity, Cetacean Society International, Earthjustice, Environmental Protection Information Center, Friends of the Earth, Friends of Miller Peninsula State Park, Friends of the San Juans, The Humane Society of the United States, Humboldt Baykeeper, International Fund for Animal Welfare, InterTribal Sinkyone Wilderness Council, Klamath Forest Alliance, Natural Resources Defense Council, North Olympic Group Sierra Club, Northcoast Environmental Center, Ocean Mammal Institute, Orca Network, Surfrider Foundation Humboldt Chapter, Surfrider Foundation, Mendocino Coast Chapter, and Whale and Dolphin Conservation to Naval Facilities Engineering Command, Northwest (Attention: Ms. Kimberly Kler – NWTT EIS/OEIS Project Manager) dated April 15, 2014. 2 We are aware that comments may be submitted separately by government agencies, individual scientists, environmental organizations, and the public. All of these comments are hereby incorporated by reference.	stated in the Supplement on p. 3-18, "The revised level of acoustic activity in the Proposed Action was analyzed using the same method described in the Draft EIS/OEIS (see Section 3.4.3.1 – Acoustic Stressors). Although the number of predicted effects developed through the analysis (modeling combined with post-modeling analysis) changes for some species, the relative importance of those effects to the marine mammal populations does not change substantially. As described in the EIS/OEIS (see Section 3.4.3.2 (Impact Analysis for Acoustic Stressors) and due to the nature of the proposed training activities, these predicted effects are unlikely to cause long-term consequences for individual animals or populations." Please note that "take" is by no means equivalent to "unremitting harm." Please see the Final EIS/OEIS, Section 3.4.3.1.18 (Application of the Marine Mammal Protection Act to Potential Acoustic and Explosive Effects) for a description of "take" and note that the overwhelming majority of take are behavioral harassments that are unlikely to have long-term consequences to populations of marine mammals. It is also important to note that the meaning of the term "hearing loss" does not equate to "deafness." Please see Section 3.4.3.1.3 (Hearing Loss) of the EIS/OEIS for a full explanation of this term. The Navy's proposed mitigation is also at the appropriate level. As presented in Chapter 5 (Standard Operating Procedures, Mitigation, and Monitoring) of the Draft and Final EIS/OEIS, the mitigation measures are implemented for each activity and therefore the mitigation scales up as the activity level scales up. The Navy continues to work with NMFS to establish appropriate mitigation.

Table I.5-3: Responses to Comments from Organizations (continued)

Commenter	Comment	Navy Response
NRDC-02	While the scale of these combined impacts does not change the Navy's obligations under NEPA, it highlights why it so important that the Navy fully comply with both the letter and spirit of the law. Congress intended the NEPA process to inform the Navy's decisions on its proposed activities; after reviewing the DEIS, decision makers must understand the breadth of harm to impacted species, must be able to choose a course of action from a range of alternatives that provide options for meeting the Navy's goals while still reducing harm to species, and must have at their disposal a range of mitigation measures that will significantly lessen environmental impacts. The DEIS and the Supplement fail to meet these requirements and do so in such a way that the failures cannot be remedied through the issuance of a final EIS. Accordingly, we continue to believe that the document must be thoroughly revised and reissued as a draft for further public review and comment.	The Navy complies with all applicable environmental laws, including NEPA. As such, the Navy has developed this EIS/OEIS to meet the requirements of these laws. Please see Chapter 2 (Description of Proposed Action and Alternatives), which includes selection criteria and alternatives considered but eliminated (Section 2.5.1 Alternatives Eliminated from Further Consideration). Please see Chapter 3 (Affected Environment and Environmental Consequences) for the description of the affected environment and environmental consequences of the Navy's Proposed Action. Chapter 4 (Cumulative Impacts) contains a comprehensive cumulative impacts analysis. Information on mitigation measures can be found in Chapter 5 (Standard Operating Procedures, Mitigation, and Monitoring) of the EIS/OEIS. Please see *Criteria and Thresholds for U.S. Navy Acoustic and Explosive Effects Analysis* technical report on the project web site for a discussion of the acoustic impact modeling approach, which addresses the scientifically established criteria for injury, mortality, and harassment under the MMPA. As discussed in detail in the document, the evidence indicates that strandings are not expected to result from the continuation of training and testing in the NWTT Study Area. As summarized in Section 3.4.4.1 (Summary of Monitoring and Observations During Navy Activities) and based on almost 8 years of focused scientific monitoring and research, long-term consequences to populations of marine mammals as a result of the Proposed Action in the NWTT Study Area are not expected.
NRDC-03	I. THE SUPPLEMENT FAILS TO TAKE A HARD LOOK AT LEVEL B HARASSMENT The Supplement continues to dismiss the significant impact Level B harassment has on marine mammals, even when faced with a 16-fold increase in takes for harbor porpoises, a species the Navy and the National Marine Fisheries Service recognize as being "especially sensitive to sound." DEIS at 3.4-104. Nonetheless, the Navy continues to conclude that for harbor porpoises and other marine mammals the projected impacts are "unlikely to cause long-term consequences for individual animals or populations." Supplement at 3-18. This conclusion is not supported by the best available science or the Navy's analysis.[3] For military readiness activities, Level B harassment is defined as "any act that disturbs or is likely to disturb a marine mammal or marine mammal stock in the wild by causing disruption of natural behavior patterns, including, but not limited to, migration, surfacing, nursing, breeding, feeding, or sheltering, to a point where such behavioral patterns are abandoned or significantly altered." 16 U.S.C. § 1362 (18)(B)(ii) (emphasis added). In	As stated in 50 C.F.R. section 216.1049a)(6), the Navy must estimate "the number of marine mammals (by species) that may be taken by each type of taking." No methodology currently exists that would allow the Navy to numerically estimate each type of potential response to sonar, predict any long-term consequences for the affected animals, and limit its take request to only the most severe responses and consequences qualifying as Level B take under the statute. This is because the nature of an animal's response to sonar, if any, is a function of a range of variables that presently cannot be reduced to a mathematical formula. While the NWTT EIS/OEIS does provide a numerical estimate for Level B takes, the Navy examines the numerical model output and available literature to provide a qualitative assessment on the likely nature and severity of behavioral responses for individual members and population for each species. Overall, the Navy concludes that the majority of Level B takes are in the form of

Table I.5-3: Responses to Comments from Organizations (continued)

Commenter	Comment	Navy Response
	other words, over the course of five years, marine mammals in the Pacific Northwest will be subjected to more than 900,000 instances of exposure that will or are likely to cause the affected animal to significantly alter or abandon essential breeding, feeding, or migration behaviors. This is far from trivial, as the best available science shows. The scientific literature cited by the Navy in the DEIS (e.g., Southall et al. 2007, Goldbogen et al. 2013, Miller et al. 2012, New et al. 2013, etc.) demonstrates that such disturbances are far from minor or "fleeting" and many can have long-term consequences for individual animals and populations. Nonetheless, the DEIS and the Supplement fail to analyze the consequences of repeated behavioral disruptions, especially those that have the greatest potential for population-level effects. The treatment of harbor porpoises is particularly troubling and illustrative of the Navy's overall failure to take a hard look at the impact significant behavioral disruptions will have on individual fitness and populations. The Navy's modeling, after taking mitigation and behavioral avoidance into account, projects nearly 35,000 annual instances of significant behavioral disruption for a population of harbor porpoises that numbers less than 16,000 and more than 50,000 annual instances of harm for a population numbering less than 40,000. These projections show the possibility of every member of entire populations abandoning or significantly altering essential life behaviors. The Supplement fails to assess what impact this will have on these harbor porpoise populations, sweeping aside disruptions like temporary hearing loss, the separation of mothers and calves, prolonged cessation of vocal behavior, and long-term avoidance of an area as fleeting and "unlikely to cause long-term consequences for individual animals or populations." Supplement at 3-18. Such conclusions are unsupported by the best available science and contradict the Navy's cooperating agency, the National Marine Fisheries Service, which has stated that temporary hearing loss "sustained during [a] time when communication is critical for successful mother/calf interactions" may have "serious impacts." 78 Fed. Reg. 6978, 6998 (Jan. 31, 2013); see also id. at 7002 (explaining that long-term "disruptions of mother/calf pairs or mating displays have the potential to affect the growth and survival or reproductive effort/success of individuals"). 3 The Supplement's conclusions on ship strikes are similarly flawed. Mentioning a relevant factor and considering it rationally in light of the evidence are not the same thing. The fact that "large marine mammals occur less frequently" does not mean that "the risk of a vessel strike is minimal." Supplement at 3-18. Large whales do occur in Puget Sound and, apparently, may be struck in the Sound (see, e.g., Biologists say dead whale found at Seattle ferry dock was struck by propeller of large vessel, available at http://www.foxnews.com/us/2015/01/24/biologists-say-dead-whale-found-at-seattle-ferry-dock-was-struck-by-propeller/. The Navy cannot so easily dismiss the threat to whales from ship strikes in Inland Waters. Conclusory statements do not substitute for reasoned consideration.	avoidance of the sound source; temporary changes in vocalizations or dive patterns; temporary avoidance of an area; temporary disruption of feeding, migrating, or reproductive behaviors; and relatively mild temporary threshold shift in some animals. It is wrong to assume that the modeled estimates all represent severe reactions. As a qualitative matter, after assessing all of the best available literature, the Navy anticipates that most, if not all, of the behavioral disturbances in NWTT are likely insignificant in that they are temporary or minor disturbances of behavior and do not accumulate to any long term, population level impacts. This conclusion is not altered by Goldbogen, Miller, New, or Southall, nor by the increase in behavioral takes assessed in the Supplement. Please see the Draft or Final EIS/OEIS and the information presented in Section 3.4.3.1.6 (Behavioral Reactions), Section 3.4.1.9 (Long-Term Consequences to the Individual and the Population), and Section 3.4.4.1 (Summary of Monitoring and Observations During Navy Activities) to understand the science and analysis presented. Note that Navy discussion of all the science and all the possibilities of behavioral reactions and what could happen in particular circumstances should not be taken to mean that all such consequences are likely to occur. As explained in Section 3.4.3.1.14 (Quantitative Analysis), the Navy took a very conservative approach to the prediction of effects and the analysis purposefully over-predicts effects to account for unknowns and uncertainty (see specifically Section 3.4.3.1.14.4 (Model Assumptions and Limitations). Regarding the citations in the comment to "Southall et al. 2007, Goldbogen et al. 2013, Miller et al. 2012, New et al. 2013, etc.", please refer to Section 3.4.3.1.6.2 (Behavioral Reactions to Sonar and Other Active Acoustic Sources) for the discussion of the findings from those publications to understand how that science contributes to the analysis. For example, New et al. (2013) developed a mathematical model simulating a functional link between foraging energetics and requirements for survival and reproduction of 21 species of beaked whale. Although New et al. (2013b) reported "reasonable confidence" in their model, approximately 29 percent (6 of 21 beaked whale species modeled) failed to survive or reproduce, which the authors attribute to possible inaccuracies in the underlying parameter values. In short this experimental ecological modeling, meant to explore ecological processes, does not demonstrate there will be long-term consequences to beaked whales or other marine mammals as a result

Table I.5-3: Responses to Comments from Organizations (continued)

Commenter	Comment	Navy Response
		of the continuation of Navy activities that have been occurring for decades. Please also note the impacts on marine mammals presented in the NWTT EIS/OEIS are less than the currently authorized number of Level B harassments, which were the subject of the NWTRC EIS/OEIS competed in 2010. The comment's footnote #3 citing to a commercial vessel strike of a whale has no relationship whatsoever to Navy activities or the best available science used in the analysis. The occurrence or frequency of commercial vessel strikes to whales in Puget Sound is not in any way comparable to Navy activities given that annually there are thousands of large vessels docking there and the difference made by Navy's standard operating procedures or implemented mitigation measures. This was explained in detail in Section 3.4.3.4.1 (Impacts from Vessel Strikes).
NRDC-04	The Navy's failure is compounded by the fact that many of these marine mammal populations are relatively naïve to sonar harassment. As the Navy has previously noted, sonar use in the Pacific Northwest has been limited in comparison to other ranges. And this history informs the Supplement's adoption of the DEIS's conclusion that the impacts will not have any "long-term consequences for any marine mammal population or species." Supplement at 3-22 (citing to "8 years of observations, research, and 80+ monitoring reports"). This conclusion fails to recognize the large increase in activities and consequent take outlined in the Supplement, especially in the context of such relatively naïve populations. In comments to the Navy on its activities in Hawaii and Southern California, Dr. Robin Baird noted that such populations may be particularly vulnerable, yet the "analysis" in the DEIS and Supplement fails to account for this vulnerability.[4] It is simply not enough to identify avenues of harm, how such harm has impacted other animals or may hurt animals generally, without taking the analysis further. NEPA's "hard look" requires more. The Supplement should have presented a specific analysis of the projected impact to these animals from the proposed increase in activities, including the impact the projected significant behavioral disruptions may have on individual animals or populations. The Supplement and DEIS should be withdrawn and revised to address this failure. 4 See Letter from Robin Baird to HSTT EIS/OEIS Project Manager, Naval Facilities Engineering Command, Pacific dated October 27, 2013 ("Marine mammal individuals and populations that are only rarely exposed to MFA sonar exposure are likely more vulnerable than populations that regularly are exposed to MFA sonar (Falcone et al. 2009; Baird et al. 2011)"), attached.	As described in the EIS/OEIS in Section 3.4.4.1 (Summary of Monitoring and Observations During Navy Activities), the majority of the training and testing using sonar that Navy is proposing for the next 5 years is similar if not identical to what has been occurring in the same locations for decades. Specifically, the mid-frequency sonar system on the cruisers, DDGs, and frigates has the same sonar system components in the water as was first deployed in the 1970s. Given this, Navy disagrees with the assumption that there may be "naïve populations" of marine mammals in areas where sonar use has been occurring for 40 years. Also note that Dr. Baird's comments do not apply to the NWTT EIS/OEIS or the Study Area given that he specifically states that he was, "writing to comment on the Hawai'i-Southern California Training and Testing Final EIS/OEIS (EIS/OEIS)" and that his comments, "… specifically relate to the need for mitigation areas for small resident populations of protected species of marine mammals around the main Hawaiian Islands." In short, the populations Dr. Baird suggests may be particularly vulnerable (in Hawaii) are not present in or anywhere near the NWTT Study Area.
NRDC-05	II. THE SUPPLEMENT FAILS TO PROPOSE OR ANALYZE NECESSARY,	As described in Chapter 5 (Standard Operating Procedures,

Table I.5-3: Responses to Comments from Organizations (continued)

Commenter	Comment	Navy Response
	REASONABLE, AND MEANINGFUL MITIGATION ACTIONS Our overriding concern with the Supplement is the Navy's continued failure to protect biologically important areas for marine mammals within the Northwest Training and Testing ("NWTT") Study Area. There is a general consensus among the scientific community, as NOAA has recognized, that "[p]rotecting marine mammal habitat is…the most effective mitigation measure currently available" to reduce the harmful impacts of mid-frequency sonar on marine mammals.[5] Nonetheless, the Supplement, like the DEIS, does not consider establishing any protection zones in the NWTT Study Area where training or testing could be limited or excluded, despite the common-sense efficacy of such measures. In all, the NWTT Study Area encompasses air, surface, and subsurface operating areas, including a more than 120,000 square nautical mile offshore area extending approximately 250 nautical miles into the Pacific Ocean from the coastlines of Washington, Oregon, and Northern California, an area the size of the state of Montana. While the Supplement "clarifies" that the eastern boundary of this area is generally 12 nm from the coastline, the Navy admits that the range extends to the shoreline in a large portion of Washington State – including within the Olympic National Marine Sanctuary. Supplement at 2-5. Regardless of the precise boundaries of this large area, the Navy has again failed even to consider minimizing harm to marine life by refraining from training and testing in a single square yard of this vast area of ocean. 5 See Letter from Jane Lubchenco, Under Secretary of Commerce for Oceans and Atmosphere to Nancy Sutley, Chair, Council on Environmental Quality dated Jan. 19, 2010, available at http://www.nrdc.org/media/docs/100119.pdf)	Mitigation, and Monitoring) of the Final EIS/OEIS, the Navy evaluated the effectiveness and practicability of a number of potential mitigation measures. Through consultation and permitting with NMFS, the Navy refined the mitigation measures, which are now presented in Chapter 5 (Standard Operating Procedures, Mitigation, and Monitoring) of this Final EIS/OEIS. Through careful exploration of all mitigation measures to determine which were the most effective, the Navy has chosen the measures to mitigate potential impacts to marine mammals while still being able to meet its operational needs to train for real-world conditions. Specific mitigation measures are outlined in Section 5.3.1 (Lookout Procedural Measures) and Section 5.3.2 (Mitigation Zone Procedural Measures). Please see Section 3.4.4.1 (Summary of Monitoring and Observations During Navy Activities) regarding the likely long-term consequences from the proposed activities. There is no direct evidence that routine Navy training and testing spanning decades has negatively impacted marine mammal populations at any Navy Range Complex. There is, therefore, no scientific basis for avoiding use of mid-frequency sonar in as yet undefined (draft) protection areas within the NWTT Study Area. Please see Section 5.2.2.1 (Lessons Learned from Previous Environmental Impact Statements/Overseas Environmental Impact Statements) and Section 5.3 (Mitigation Assessment) regarding the changes made in the previous mitigation measures since 2010. Please see Section 5.3.2 (Mitigation Zone Procedural Measures) describing the mitigation zones established for each activity, which have been designed solely for the purpose of reducing potential impacts on marine species from training and testing activities. These measures apply throughout the NWTT Study Area.
NRDC-06	The Navy's failure to do is particularly troubling in light of the emerging information on potentially important habitat for marine mammal populations in the NWTT Study Area. Over the last few years, the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration ("NOAA") has been guiding the work of two working groups to improve the tools available to agencies, including the Navy, to evaluate and mitigate the impacts of anthropogenic noise on marine mammals. The Working Groups' draft products were recently released and one key product of this effort was the Cetacean Density and Distribution Mapping Working Group's (CetMap) identification of density and distribution maps for marine mammal populations in the Pacific Northwest—potentially important habitat for marine mammals. Nonetheless, this information was not incorporated into the Navy's analysis through the development of reasonable alternatives or examined as possible mitigation	As part of the Navy's effects analysis, the Navy considers all the science that identifies locations where certain cetacean populations or individuals are known to engage in feeding, breeding, or other biologically important activities at certain times of year. Recently, NMFS has taken steps to begin formally identifying some of these areas and naming them Biologically Important Areas (BIAs). The Navy has considered these areas as part of its analysis in this Final EIS/OEIS when discussing particular species in Chapter 3 (Affected Environment and Environmental Consequences) as well as in considering whether limitations on Navy activities in these areas are warranted as mitigation in discussion in Chapter 5 (see Section 5.3.4.1.11, Avoiding Marine Species Habitats and Biologically

Table I.5-3: Responses to Comments from Organizations (continued)

Commenter	Comment	Navy Response
	measures based on limiting or excluding training and testing activities in these areas.[6] 6 While the Navy's examination of potentially important habitat should inform its identification and analysis of mitigation, the usefulness of CetMap's tools extends beyond designing protective measure. The Navy should also analyze and incorporate this and other information when developing reasonable alternatives.	Important Areas). The Navy thoroughly considered the humpback and gray whale feeding areas identified recently in its analysis and whether avoidance as mitigation was appropriate. Given the impact avoidance would have on military readiness activities and lack of biological benefit, avoidance is not warranted. Please see Section 5.3.4.1.11 (Avoiding Marine Species Habitats and Biologically Important Areas). However, Navy is proposing to provide reporting of generally low use of sonar in some of these areas to NMFS as part of classified annual reports to help inform future adaptive management related to impacts in these areas.. At time of release of this Final EIS/OEIS, NMFS and Navy are in ongoing discussion regarding mitigation for MMPA purposes. Should additional mitigation to that which Navy has proposed be identified in the MMPA rule making and authorization, it will be indicated in the ROD. It is important to note that the BIAs were not meant to define exclusionary zones, nor critical habitat with regulatory management, nor were they meant to be locations that serve as sanctuaries from human activity, or areas analogous to marine protected areas. The NMFS-identified BIAs do not have direct or immediate regulatory consequences and the BIAs located within the NWTT Study Area are not the only areas used for feeding, migrating, or reproductive activity for these cetaceans in a species' entire range and habitat. The stated intention is for the BIAs to serve as a resource management tool and their currently identified boundaries be considered dynamic and subject to change based on any new information as well as, "existing density estimates, range-wide distribution data, information on population trends and life history parameters, known threats to the population, and other relevant information." There is a lack of science supporting identification of any additional BIAs at this time for the Pacific. The Navy and NMFS have supported and will continue to support the Cetacean and Sound Mapping project, including providing representation on the Cetacean Density and Distribution Mapping Working Group (CetMap), which informed NMFS' identification of BIAs. The same marine mammal density data present in the Navy's Density Database Technical Report, and used in the analysis for this EIS/OEIS, was used in the development of BIAs. The final products, including U.S. West Coast BIAs from this mapping effort, were completed and published in March 2015. The Navy is adapting. For example, the Navy moved the eastern

Table I.5-3: Responses to Comments from Organizations (continued)

Commenter	Comment	Navy Response
		border of the Study Area from the coast to 12 nm offshore at California, Oregon, and southern Washington because training typically does not occur that close to shore in that part of the range complex. This change moved the Study Area outside the main gray whale migration corridor.
NRDC-07	Indeed, the Navy continues to rely largely on visual detection and power-down protocols to mitigate for its activities. As we have described many times in the past, while these methods may reduce some of the potential for harmful exposures from sonar and other activities as part of a comprehensive mitigation scheme, they are by themselves a wholly inadequate basis for reducing the amount and severity of impacts to marine mammals. See Comments on DEIS at 30-31 (describing limits of visual detection). The Navy's reliance on visual detection also suffers from the fact that visual detection, is at best, designed to detect animals at close distances where exposure to sound levels is most likely to result in permanent physical injury or death. It is extremely ineffective at distances where exposure results in temporary hearing loss and significant behavioral disruption (Level B harassment). Thus, the Navy's entire mitigation proposal is designed to reduce the incidences of only one kind of harm and harassment. NEPA does not allow an agency to examine mitigation for only one category of harm while ignoring others.	As described in Chapter 5 (Standard Operating Procedures, Mitigation, and Monitoring) of the Final EIS/OEIS, the Navy evaluated the effectiveness and practicability of numerous potential mitigation measures. Section 5.3.1.2.4.1 (Detection Probabilities of Marine Mammals in the Study Area) has a detailed discussion of available literature on the sightability of marine mammals. Note that Navy does not employ only visual monitoring and makes use of passive acoustic detection when available and appropriate. The Navy's reliance on visual mitigation has been demonstrated to be effective over the eight years of monitoring associated with Navy training and testing at sea in publically available reports submitted to NMFS since 2006 and accessible on the NMFS Office of Protected Resources website.
NRDC-08	The Navy's mitigation scheme also fails to address the disproportionate impact projected harms from increased activities may have on relatively naïve and particularly sensitive populations. For example, in the case of harbor porpoises, which are extremely sensitive to lower dB sounds, the Navy fails to examine any mitigation designed to limit the tens of thousands of incidences of Level B harassment, which will cause these animals to significantly alter or abandon essential breeding, feeding, or migration behaviors. Especially now that the Navy is proposing to nearly double the number of takes in the NWTT area through the increased use of sonobuoys, it is even more vital to analyze all new information and develop alternatives and mitigation measures in a wholesale revision of the DEIS. As we stated in our previous comments, effective mitigation measures should include barring or limiting the use of sonar or other training in areas with high biological value and provide a buffer for marine mammals that limits the received level of sound. See DEIS Comments at 30-32. As noted above, NOAA has completed a series of workshops designed to learn more about important marine mammal habitats. The results of these workshops are available and the Navy must assess the information and develop mitigation measures based on protecting such areas. In addition, we continue to believe that the Olympic Coast National Marine Sanctuary should be just that, a sanctuary for the marine environment and marine life from the harms associated with human activity, including the Navy's training and testing.	As presented in the Draft EIS/OEIS Section 3.4.3.1.14.4 (Model Assumptions and Limitations), the model presents a conservative overestimate of the predicted impacts. As presented in Section 3.4.3.1.12.1(Sonar and Other Active Acoustic Sources, Subsection "Harbor Porpoises"), the Navy has established a behavioral threshold that uniquely addresses harbor porpoise sensitivities. The Navy anticipates that most, if not all, of the behavioral disturbances in NWTT are likely insignificant in that they are temporary or minor disturbances of behavior and do not accumulate to any long term, population level impacts. Please note that while the number of takes has increased from the Draft EIS/OEIS to those presented in the Supplement, the impacts on marine mammals presented in the Draft, Supplement, and Final NWTT EIS/OEISs are less than the currently authorized number of takes pursuant to an analysis under MMPA and which were the subject of the NWTRC EIS/OEIS competed in 2010. As presented in Chapter 5, the mitigation measures are implemented for each activity and therefore any increase in the number of activities such as TRACKEX using MAC sonobuoys will result in an increase in implemented mitigation. It does not follow that because there are more of the same activities, that some new mitigation measure must be

Table I.5-3: Responses to Comments from Organizations (continued)

Commenter	Comment	Navy Response
		created. As part of the Navy's effects analysis, the Navy considers all the science that identifies locations where certain cetacean populations or individuals are known to engage in feeding, breeding, or other biologically important activities at certain times of year. Recently, NMFS has taken steps to begin formally identifying some of these areas and naming them Biologically Important Areas (BIAs). The Navy has considered these areas as part of its analysis in this Final EIS/OEIS when discussing particular species in Chapter 3 (Affected Environment and Environmental Consequences) as well as in considering whether limitations on Navy activities in these areas are warranted as mitigation in discussion in Chapter 5 (see Section 5.3.4.1.11, Avoiding Marine Species Habitats and Biologically Important Areas). The Navy thoroughly considered the humpback and gray whale feeding areas identified recently in its analysis and whether avoidance as mitigation was appropriate. Given the impact avoidance would have on military readiness activities and lack of biological benefit, avoidance is not warranted. Please see Section 5.3.4.1.11 (Avoiding Marine Species Habitats and Biologically Important Areas). However, Navy is proposing to provide reporting of generally low use of sonar in some of these areas to NMFS as part of classified annual reports to help inform future adaptive management related to impacts in these areas. At time of release of this Final EIS/OEIS, NMFS and Navy are in ongoing discussion regarding mitigation for MMPA purposes. Should additional mitigation to that which Navy has proposed be identified in the MMPA rule making and authorization, it will be indicated in the ROD. It is important to note that the BIAs were not meant to define exclusionary zones, nor critical habitat with regulatory management, nor were they meant to be locations that serve as sanctuaries from human activity, or areas analogous to marine protected areas. The NMFS-identified BIAs do not have direct or immediate regulatory consequences and the BIAs located within the NWTT Study Area are not the only areas used for feeding, migrating, or reproductive activity for these cetaceans in a species' entire range and habitat. The stated intention is for the BIAs to serve as a resource management tool and their currently identified boundaries be considered dynamic and subject to change based on any new information as well as, "existing density estimates, range-wide distribution data, information on population trends and life history parameters, known threats to the population, and other relevant

Table I.5-3: Responses to Comments from Organizations (continued)

Commenter	Comment	Navy Response
		information." There is a lack of science supporting identification of any additional BIAs at this time for the Pacific. The Navy and NMFS have supported and will continue to support the Cetacean and Sound Mapping project, including providing representation on the Cetacean Density and Distribution Mapping Working Group (CetMap), which informed NMFS' identification of BIAs. The same marine mammal density data present in the Navy's Density Database Technical Report, and used in the analysis for this EIS/OEIS, was used in the development of BIAs. The final products, including U.S. West Coast BIAs from this mapping effort, were completed and published in March 2015. The U.S. Navy has conducted active sonar training and testing activities for decades in the sea space depicted in the Study Area with no evidence to indicate any meaningful impacts to marine habitats in the area. The Navy and NMFS jointly are still in ongoing consultation with the OCNMS regarding the effects of the Proposed Action on Sanctuary resources. The Navy concludes its continued activities are not likely to result in the loss, destruction, or adverse changes to the viability of Sanctuary resources. Several points support this determination: • Less than two percent of proposed training and 15 percent of proposed testing activities would occur within or immediately adjacent to the OCNMS. • The NWTT Final EIS/OEIS shows that training and testing activities have minimal temporary impacts on the quantity or quality of the Study Area's physical environment, and minor to no impacts on marine or shore birds, fish, sea turtles, or invertebrate marine life. • Although explosives have the potential to affect the physical and biological resources, the Navy does not use explosives within the OCNMS. • The Navy concludes any marine mammal behavioral reactions to NWTT training and testing activities would be transitory, infrequent, non-cumulative, and impacts are not expected to decrease overall individual fitness or result in long-term population-level impacts on any given population, and consequently will not result in any adverse changes to the sanctuary. Finally, all Department of Defense (DoD) military activities shall be carried out in a manner that avoids to the maximum extent practicable

Table I.5-3: Responses to Comments from Organizations (continued)

Commenter	Comment	Navy Response
		any adverse impacts on Sanctuary resources and qualities.
NRDC-09	III. THE NAVY MUST COMPREHENSIVELY EVALUATE THE IMPACTS OF ITS INTERCONNECTED AND INTERRELATED ACTIONS The release of the Supplement represents the third time in the past five years that the Navy has announced an incremental increase in the intensity of its training actions in this sensitive area. Starting in 2010, the Navy announced a 17% increase in the use of its mid-frequency active sonar. It announced an even larger increase – of approximately 225% -- in the DEIS in January 2014. The Supplement now increases this amount of sonar by an additional 16%. During this same period, the Navy has proposed and elsewhere evaluated other new or increased training proposals including increasing the number of EA-18G Growlers and Growler squadrons at Whidbey Naval Air Station, and an electronic warfare action on the Olympic Peninsula.[7] The individual increases in activity have not gone unnoticed by the public, but has so far been unaccompanied by any programmatic disclosure or analysis for what is evidently a decision or series of decisions to increase the Navy's training activities in the Pacific Northwest. NEPA requires the scope of a federal agency's analysis to include "connected actions" that "automatically trigger other actions," "cannot or will not proceed unless other actions are taken previously," or "are interdependent parts of a larger action and depend on the larger action for their justification." 40 C.F.R. § 1508.25. NEPA also requires federal agencies to consider the cumulative environmental impacts of their actions in their environmental analyses. 40 C.F.R. § 1508.25(c). A cumulative impact is defined as: the impact on the environment which results from the incremental impact of the action when added to other past, present, and reasonably foreseeable future actions regardless of what agency (Federal or non-federal) or person undertakes such other actions. Cumulative impacts can result from individually minor but collectively significant actions taking place over a period of time. 40 C.F.R. § 1508.7. Although each of the Navy's activities affects the same area, many of the same resources, and likely would not occur but for the Navy's continued conduct of other actions, the Navy has not considered them in a single or programmatic analysis, nor has it evaluated their specific impacts together as interdependent and interrelated activities or as cumulative impacts.[8] This type of complete and comprehensive analysis is necessary if the public and Navy decision-makers are to be fully informed, can meaningfully evaluate the Navy's proposed actions, and can ensure that the Navy is not making decisions without considering the larger picture. CONCLUSION Our organizations continue to recognize the Navy's vital role in ensuring national	The Navy prepares Environmental Impact Statements (EIS) and Environmental Assessments (EA) in order to comply with the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA). These NEPA documents are intended to ensure decision makers consider the potential environmental effects of a proposed action and its alternatives, provide an opportunity for public involvement, and promote transparency by informing the public of these potential environmental effects. Each NEPA document addresses a specific proposed action, separated from other actions by its purpose and need, independent utility, timing, and geographic location. Some NEPA documents are stand-alone documents; others tier off or expand the analyses of other NEPA documents. NEPA documents for training and testing, including this EIS/OEIS, focus on training and testing activities occurring within a range complex or military operation area and involve different types of aircraft, ships, and range complex enhancements. NEPA documents for aircraft homebasing actions focus on aircraft operations in and around the airfield and their facility needs. NEPA documents for installations focus on infrastructure enhancements for host and tenant command missions. Importantly, every environmental document considers the cumulative impacts to the environment from other relevant past, present, and reasonably foreseeable future actions (federal, state, local, and private) in addition to the proposed action. The Navy has been training in the Olympic, Military Operations Area (MOA) for over 40 years, and the Navy has not proposed any significant changes to the way aircrew train in the MOA. The Navy recently analyzed plans to enhance existing training by adding one fixed transmitter at Pacific Beach and three mobile transmitter vehicles that would operate on existing logging roads and pull-out areas on U.S. Forest Service land. The Navy has not proposed to use National Park Service land. EW training and EW Range enhancements were analyzed in the Navy's Northwest Training Range Complex (NWTRC) EIS/OEIS, completed in 2010. When more information became available on mobile and fixed signal transmitters for the EW Range, the Navy prepared the EW Range EA to analyze placement and operation of those transmitters. The Navy completed the EA and issued a Finding of No Significant Impact on August 28, 2014. The introduction of the land-based transmitters to enhance existing training will not harm people, animals, or the environment. The Navy has decades of experience building and operating signal equipment, with

Table I.5-3: Responses to Comments from Organizations (continued)

Commenter	Comment	Navy Response
	security. We also value the security a clean and healthy environment provides. National security and environmental integrity are not mutually exclusive, and we encourage the Navy to train and test in ways that protect the Pacific Northwest's valuable natural resources. We urge the Navy to satisfy its obligations under NEPA and other applicable laws by substantially revising its DEIS, taking a "hard look" at impacts, reasonable alternatives, and mitigation measures that will significantly reduce the impact to the marine environment, and by providing an opportunity for public comment. Thank you for your consideration of our comments; we welcome the opportunity to discuss this matter with you at any time. 7 See http://www.whidbeyeis.com/ (EIS for proposed addition of up to 36 aircraft to NAS Whidbey Island); http://www.cnic.navy.mil/regions/cnrnw/om/environmental_support/EIC_TOC/electronic-warefare-facts-and-review-infomration.html (Environmental Assessment for electronic warfare training on Olympic Peninsula). 8 For example, although the Navy states that its Olympic Peninsula electronic warfare activity "is being addressed in the NWTT EIS/OEIS," neither the DEIS nor the Supplement adequately analyze these specific activities. Environmental Assessment for electronic warfare training on Olympic Peninsula at 2-8. Nor were these increased electronic warfare activities adequately addressed (even on a programmatic level) in the previous 2010 NWTRC EIS.	no adverse effects to people, animals, or the environment. Though there is a proposed increase in EW training events associated with the range enhancements and analyzed in this EIS/OEIS, the increase in events does not equate to a comparable increase in the number of aircraft flights or in the duration of flights. EW training flights are already occurring in the Olympic MOA, and it is estimated that this proposal will only result in an approximately ten percent annual increase in actual flights, which equates to approximately one additional flight per day. This is because each flight will be able to accommodate multiple EW training events. The Navy proposes to home base up to 36 additional EA-18G aircraft at NAS Whidbey Island. The Navy announced the preparation of that separate Whidbey EIS on September 5, 2013, and invited the public to participate in the NEPA process by submitting comments to define the scope of the Draft Whidbey EIS analysis. On October 10, 2014, the Navy revised the scope of the on-going Whidbey EIS and invited the public to submit additional scoping comments. The Navy is currently preparing its Draft Whidbey EIS, which is scheduled to be released in spring 2016. For more information, please visit the project website at www.whidbeyeis.com. This NWTT EIS/OEIS considered the Whidbey EIS proposal in its analysis of cumulative impacts in Chapter 4.
The Northcoast Environmental Center (NEC)-01	The Northcoast Environmental Center has long served to steward California's northernmost coastal region and ensure the voices of coastal advocates are heard. We reiterate our initial concerns regarding the Navy's planned activities: -The proposed activities are expected to injure, disturb or kill more than 100,000 individual animals, including 29 different marine mammal species protected under the Marine Mammal Act.	The Navy disagrees with the summary of impacts proposed in the comment. The analysis in the EIS/OEIS shows that the Navy may cause behavioral responses of large numbers of marine mammals (e.g., temporary changes in vocalizations or dive patterns; temporary avoidance of an area; temporary disruption of feeding, migrating, or reproductive behaviors; and relatively mild temporary threshold shift in some animals), but that only small numbers of marine mammals, fish, birds and other marine life are expected to be injured, and mortalities are only predicted for fish which may be in the vicinity of an explosive detonation. None of the impacts on individual marine animals are expected to cause population effects for any species of marine mammal, endangered species, fish, bird, or other marine life.
NEC-02	-The proposed activities can cause whales and dolphins to abandon important habitat, halt foraging behavior and forgo critical feeding opportunities needed to survive.	The comment presents one possible outcome of disturbing marine mammals. However, as discussed in the EIS/OEIS, the vast majority of behavioral effects are expected to consist of temporary changes in vocalizations or dive patterns; temporary avoidance of an area; temporary disruption of feeding, migrating, or reproductive behaviors; and relatively mild temporary threshold shift in some animals.

Table I.5-3: Responses to Comments from Organizations (continued)

Commenter	Comment	Navy Response
NEC-03	-Similar testing and training projects have resulted in mass strandings elsewhere, which is not adequately addressed in the EIS.	The Navy reviewed the discussion on strandings in the EIS/OEIS and finds that it adequately addresses the potential link between Navy activity and marine mammal strandings. The Navy has conducted active sonar training and testing activities in the Study Area for decades, and there is no evidence that routine Navy training and testing has negatively impacted marine mammal populations in the Study Area or at any Navy Range Complex.
NEC-04	-This proposal does not ensure adequate mitigation to prevent harm to sea life. -In particular, on-ship "lookouts" are an insufficient means of detecting nearby marine mammals.	Please see Chapter 5 (Standard Operating Procedures, Mitigation, and Monitoring) of the EIS/OEIS for a full discussion on the Navy's proposed mitigation measures. Mitigation for impacts to marine mammals and ESA species is being coordinated with regulatory agencies.
NEC-05	With regards to the supplemental updated activities: -The additional activities have added impacts to leatherback sea turtles listed under the Endangered Species Act. -The supplement states that entanglement from the use of fiber optic cables, guidance wires and decelerator/parachutes during training and testing activities may affect ESA-listed leatherback turtles. -Because decelerator parachutes may resemble jellyfish, leatherback turtles may make the fatal mistake of mistaking equipment for food.	Because of the additional activities, the acoustic model predicted that one instance of a temporary threshold shift could occur to a leatherback sea turtle. Because of this increase, the ESA conclusions stated in the EIS/OEIS will change to "may affect, likely to adversely affect." However, because model-predicted impacts are conservative and any impacts would be short term, potential impacts are not expected to result in substantial changes to behavior, growth, survival, annual reproductive success, lifetime reproductive success (fitness), or species recruitment, and are not expected to result in population-level impacts. The Navy is in consultation with NMFS as the regulator regarding ESA issues for sea turtles. NMFS is also a cooperating agency for the NWTT EIS/OEIS as defined in regulations administering NEPA. Regarding the concern about entanglement, please see the analysis in the Draft or Final EIS/OEIS in Section 3.5.3.4 (Entanglement Stressors). While the research supports the possibility that leatherback sea turtles could mistake a decelerator/parachute for a jellyfish, as described in the EIS/OEIS, the extremely low likelihood that a sea turtle would encounter a decelerator/parachute in the water column makes it unlikely to occur.
NEC-06	We respect the need for national security and are not asking the Navy to cease activities necessary for U.S. safety, but we know that common sense options to better protect marine mammals and other sea life exists, specifically: -Areas of critical habitat, foraging and feeding have been identified and should be	As part of the Navy's effects analysis, the Navy considers all the science that identifies locations where certain cetacean populations or individuals are known to engage in feeding, breeding, or other biologically important activities at certain times of year. Recently, NMFS has taken steps to begin formally identifying some of these

Table I.5-3: Responses to Comments from Organizations (continued)

Commenter	Comment	Navy Response
	avoided. -Establishment of "exclusion zones" around these areas would go a long way to protecting endangered species, such as the blue whale. We also encourage the Navy to explore more progressive alternatives to traditional training and testing. While simulations are not the answer to everything, the use of non-harmful training methods should be emphasized and utilized to the maximum degree.	areas and naming them Biologically Important Areas (BIAs). The Navy has considered these areas as part of its analysis in this Final EIS/OEIS when discussing particular species in Chapter 3 (Affected Environment and Environmental Consequences) as well as in considering whether limitations on Navy activities in these areas are warranted as mitigation in discussion in Chapter 5 (see Section 5.3.4.1.11, Avoiding Marine Species Habitats and Biologically Important Areas). The Navy thoroughly considered the humpback and gray whale feeding areas identified recently in its analysis and whether avoidance as mitigation was appropriate. Given the impact avoidance would have on military readiness activities and lack of biological benefit, avoidance is not warranted. Please see Section 5.3.4.1.11 (Avoiding Marine Species Habitats and Biologically Important Areas). However, Navy is proposing to provide reporting of generally low use of sonar in some of these areas to NMFS as part of classified annual reports to help inform future adaptive management related to impacts in these areas. At time of release of this Final EIS/OEIS, NMFS and Navy are in ongoing discussion regarding mitigation for MMPA purposes. Should additional mitigation to that which Navy has proposed be identified in the MMPA rule making and authorization, it will be indicated in the ROD. It is important to note that the BIAs were not meant to define exclusionary zones, nor critical habitat with regulatory management, nor were they meant to be locations that serve as sanctuaries from human activity, or areas analogous to marine protected areas. The NMFS-identified BIAs do not have direct or immediate regulatory consequences and the BIAs located within the NWTT Study Area are not the only areas used for feeding, migrating, or reproductive activity for these cetaceans in a species' entire range and habitat. The stated intention is for the BIAs to serve as a resource management tool and their currently identified boundaries be considered dynamic and subject to change based on any new information as well as, "existing density estimates, range-wide distribution data, information on population trends and life history parameters, known threats to the population, and other relevant information." There is a lack of science supporting identification of any additional BIAs at this time for the Pacific. The Navy and NMFS have supported and will continue to support the Cetacean and Sound Mapping project, including providing representation on the Cetacean Density and Distribution Mapping Working Group (CetMap), which informed NMFS' identification of BIAs. The same marine mammal density data present

Table I.5-3: Responses to Comments from Organizations (continued)

Commenter	Comment	Navy Response
		in the Navy's Density Database Technical Report, and used in the analysis for this EIS/OEIS, was used in the development of BIAs. The final products, including U.S. West Coast BIAs from this mapping effort, were completed and published in March 2015.
Northwest Environmental Defense Center (NEDC)-01	The Northwest Environmental Defense Center (NEDC) respectfully submits the following comments on the Department of the Navy's Supplement to the Draft Northwest Training and Testing (NWTT) Environmental Impact Statement (EIS)/Overseas Environmental Impact Statement (OEIS) (hereafter "Supplement"), prepared pursuant to the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA), 42 U.S.C. § 4321 et seq. NEDC is an independent, environmental non-profit based in Portland, Oregon. The organization was established by a group of professors, law students, and attorney alumni at Lewis & Clark Law School in 1969. NEDC's mission is to protect the environment and natural resources of the Pacific Northwest. NEDC provides legal support to individuals and grassroots organizations with environmental concerns and engages in litigation independently or in conjunction with other environmental groups. NEDC's membership consists of citizens interested in protecting the environment through legal means. Members of the organization derive educational, scientific, recreational, and spiritual benefits from the protection of natural resources, including wildlife, in the Pacific Northwest. NEDC is concerned about the negative environmental effects of NWTT activities off the coasts of Oregon and Washington. Previously, NEDC has submitted comments to the National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS) regarding these operations and that agency's authorization for the Navy to take marine mammals incidental to NWTT activities under the Endangered Species Act (ESA). NEDC acknowledges that training and testing exercises are necessary for military readiness and national defense. However, NEDC encourages the implementation of such exercises in a way that minimizes negative environmental impacts. The Supplement as written does not achieve that goal. The proposed activities will result in adverse impacts to water quality, air quality, marine habitats, cultural resources, socioeconomic resources, and climate change, among others.	The Navy disagrees that the Proposed Action would result in adverse impacts to water quality, air quality, marine habitats, cultural resources, and climate change. The analysis shows that the Proposed Action would have some impacts on Socioeconomic resources and on American Indians in Washington. However, these are not new impacts, just newly analyzed. Please see the applicable sections of the Draft or Final EIS/OEIS for a full analysis of impacts to: water quality (Section 3.1), air quality (Section 3.2), marine habitats (Section 3.3), cultural resources (Section 3.10), socioeconomic resources (Section 3.12), and climate change (Sections 3.2.1.3 and 4.4.4).
NEDC-02	These comments, however, focus specifically on adverse impacts to marine mammals and sea turtles. In sum, NEDC asks that the Navy (1) consider a broader range of alternatives that reduce the number of proposed sonobuoys for the NWTT, (2) propose mitigation measures to avoid adversely affecting species, and (3) assure that consultation with NMFS and any ensuing Biological Opinion appropriately reflects the impacts of the proposed activity.	The number of sonobuoys required is dictated by strategic decisions about military capabilities. It is not in the purview of the Action Proponents to change these requirements. Please see Chapter 5 (Standard Operating Procedures, Mitigation, and Monitoring) of the EIS/OEIS for a full discussion on the Navy's proposed mitigation measures. The change in the number of sonobuoys proposed in the Supplement resulted in only minor changes to the mitigations addressed in the Draft EIS/OEIS, so only those changes were included in the Supplement. The Navy is in consultation with NMFS as the regulator regarding

Table I.5-3: Responses to Comments from Organizations (continued)

Commenter	Comment	Navy Response
		MMPA and ESA issues. NMFS is also a cooperating agency for the NWTT EIS/OEIS as defined in regulations administering NEPA.
NEDC-03	I. Introduction On January 24, 2014, the Navy released a Draft NWTT EIS/OEIS (hereafter "DEIS") with a purpose and need of "conduct[ing] training and testing activities to ensure that the Navy meets its mission …" DEIS, ES-1. In the two action alternatives, the Navy proposed to adjust the type and levels of activities and to adjust the tempo of activities. Recognizing that the changes represent "major Federal actions significantly affecting the quality of the human environment," the Navy prepared a DEIS. See 42 U.S.C. § 4332(C). The comment period for the DEIS ran until April 15, 2014. The Navy released the Supplement that is the subject of this comment in December of 2014. The Supplement makes corrections to the DEIS and analyzes air impacts for Maritime Security Operations (MSO). Supplement, ES-1. Significantly, the SIES also updates the kind and quantity of sonobuoys proposed for use, reflecting a substantial shift in the scope of the proposed NWTT activities. Supplement, ES-1. While the action alternatives in the Supplement propose to eliminate the use of SSQ-110 Improved Extended Echo Ranging (IEER) sonobuoys from 150 per year, it dramatically increases the number of proposed SSQ-125 non-explosive Multistatic Active Coherent (MAC) sonobuoys from 20 to 720 per year. Id. Overall, the action alternatives in the Supplement propose to increase sonobuoy use by 550 from the DEIS. This change is significant, as recognized by the Navy and its decision to prepare this Supplement. See 40 C.F.R. § 1502.9. Considering the adverse impacts to sea turtles and marine mammals posed by increased use of sonobuoys, the Navy should now make a decision that is "based on understanding of environmental consequences, and take [an] action[to] protect, restore, and enhance the environment," pursuant to NEPA. 40 C.F.R. §§ 1500.1(b), (c). II. The NWTT activities will adversely impact leatherback sea turtles. The endangered leatherback sea turtle is the "largest, deepest diving, and most migratory and wide ranging of all sea turtles." U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (FWS), "Leatherback Sea Turtle (Dermochelys coriacea)" (Dec. 2012), available at http://www.fws.gov/northflorida/seaturtles/turtle%20factsheets/PDF/Leatherback-Sea-Turtle.pdf (last accessed Jan. 30, 2015). Globally, and in the Pacific Ocean in particular, leatherback populations have undergone a historic decline. Recognizing this fact, the leatherback was listed under the ESA as endangered throughout its range nearly 45 years ago. Id. Despite this protection, leatherback populations in the Pacific have continued to decline in the Pacific and at present, "as few as 2,300 adult females now remain." World Wildlife Fund, "Leatherback turtle," available at http://wwf.panda.org/what_we_do/endangered_species/marine_turtles/leatherback_turtle (last accessed Jan. 30, 2015). The National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) has repeatedly elected to establish critical habitat for the species—though not required by the statute—in areas "essential to the conservation of the species." 16 U.S.C. § 1532(5)(A). Critical habitat exists for the species along the U.S. Virgin Islands,	The Navy agrees that the additional activities changed the estimated impact on sea turtles from zero to one. However, the Navy disagrees that the impact will adversely affect the species as a whole. While the research supports the possibility that leatherback sea turtles could mistake a decelerator/parachute for a jellyfish, the Navy is not aware of any research indicating that leatherback sea turtles "often mistake decelerator/parachutes for the jellyfish upon which they feed." As described in the EIS/OEIS, the extremely low likelihood that a sea turtle would encounter a decelerator/parachute in the water column makes it unlikely this occurs "often."

Table I.5-3: Responses to Comments from Organizations (continued)

Commenter	Comment	Navy Response
	California, and recently along the coasts of Oregon and Washington. Id.; NOAA, "NOAA designates additional critical habitat for leatherback sea turtles off West Coast," (Jan. 27, 2012), available at http://www.noaanews.noaa.gov/stories2012/20120120_leatherback.html (last accessed Feb. 2, 2015). The recently designated critical habitat in the Pacific Northwest represents a substantial portion of the Study Area for the NWTT activities. Supplement, 2-4. Despite the leatherback's imperiled status, and recent efforts to protect critical habitat in the Pacific Northwest, the Navy proposes NWTT activities that will adversely impact the species. The modifications in proposed alternatives in the Supplement result in changes to the impacts predicted in the DEIS in four areas: acoustic, physical disturbance and strike, entanglement, and ingestion. These modifications, and the resulting determination of adverse impact, trigger requirements under the ESA. A. The Navy's Supplement indicates that the modified NWTT activities will result in additional adverse impacts to leatherback turtles. First, the Navy improperly concludes in the Supplement that entanglement and ingestion, under all three of the alternatives, would not adversely affect leatherback turtles. ES-6. However, an increase of 550 sonobuoys and associated decelerator/parachutes would lead to important changes in the action alternatives. Supplement, 3-23. In a 1997 Recovery Plan authored by NMFS, the agency cited entanglement and ingestion of marine debris, including parachutes, as a factor that "potentially threatens the survival of leatherback turtles in the eastern Pacific." NMFS, "Recovery Plan for U.S. Pacific Populations of the Leatherback Turtle (Dermochelys coriacea)," 24 (Dec. 23, 1997) available at http://www.nmfs.noaa.gov/pr/pdfs/recovery/turtle_leatherback_pacific.pdf (last accessed Feb. 2, 2015). The Supplement contemplates the use of 8,952 decelerator/parachutes expended annually in offshore areas through training activities in either of the action alternatives. Supplement, 3-8. Over 1,000 additional decelerator/parachutes would be expended annually in offshore areas in testing operations for either of the two action alternatives. Id. In contrast, the "No Action" alternative contemplates the use of 17 expended decelerator/parachutes annually in offshore areas. Id. Leatherback sea turtles often mistake decelerator/parachutes for the jellyfish upon which they feed. Yet the Supplement dismisses any potentially negative effects due to the rate at which the decelerator/parachutes sink and the "general improbability" of a sea turtle being in the precise location near the decelerator/parachutes. Supplement 3-23. The presence of critical habitat extremely near the offshore area coupled with the devastating effects of entanglement and ingestion of marine debris among sea turtles caution against such a swift dismissal of impacts. Compare Supplement, 2-4 with Critical habitat for leatherback turtles (Dermochelys coriacea), 50 C.F.R. § 226.207.	
NEDC-04	Second, under the two action alternatives, by the Navy's own admission, physical disturbance and strike and acoustic impacts "may affect, and [are] likely to adversely affect, leatherback turtles." ES-6. While physical disturbance and strike were anticipated	For leatherback turtles, please see Section 3.5 (Sea Turtles) of the Draft EIS/OEIS and note that the increase in acoustic effects (other than negligible) presented in the Supplemental EIS/OEIS was only by

Table I.5-3: Responses to Comments from Organizations (continued)

Commenter	Comment	Navy Response
	to have an adverse effect on endangered sea turtles in the DEIS, the adverse determination for acoustic impacts are new in the Supplement. DEIS, ES-13–14; Supplement, ES-5–6. A recent study conducted by the Bureau of Ocean Energy Management (BOEM) within the U.S. Department of the Interior found that leatherback sea turtles have acoustic sensitivity to habitat stressors, including low-frequency sonar, and further investigation is warranted to determine the "potential psychological and behavioral impacts." Dow Piniak, W.E., et al., BOEM, "Underwater hearing sensitivity of the leatherback sea turtle (Dermochelys coriacea)," vii (Sept. 2012) available at www.data.boem.gov/PI/PDFImages/ESPIS/5/5279.pdf (last accessed Feb. 2, 2015). B. ESA Requirements for Changes in Impacts Section 7(a)(2) of the ESA establishes a procedural requirement for a Federal agency to consult with either FWS or NOAA to determine whether its proposed action is likely to jeopardize any endangered or threatened species. 16 U.S.C. § 1536(a)(2). Before any agency can begin an action, section 7(a)(2) requires an inquiry into whether any listed species are present in the proposed action area. Because endangered leatherback sea turtles are listed as present in the area, the Navy should ensure that consultation with NMFS appropriately considers new adverse impacts to leatherbacks before embarking upon the NWTT activities. The DEIS, released in January 2014, and the Supplement, released in December 2014, differ markedly in their stated effects on leatherback turtles. First, the DEIS stated that the NWTT action alternatives is not likely to adversely affect listed leatherback sea turtles. DEIS, ES-13-14. Subsequently, the Supplement states that "[p]ursuant to the ESA, sonar and other active acoustic sources associated with training activities under Alternative 1 may affect, and are likely to adversely affect leatherback sea turtles." Supplement, 3-25 (emphasis added). Because the Supplement was created to assess the Navy's proposed changes in NWTT activities, and particularly the increase of MAC sonobuoys to 720, the Navy must ensure that subsequent consultation with NMFS assesses the impact of its new proposed activities, pursuant to the ESA. 16 U.S.C. § 1536(2)(a). If such consultation is lacking, the Navy will not met its obligations under the ESA regarding new, adverse acoustic impacts to endangered leatherback sea turtles.	one (1) temporary threshold shift (TTS) annually to a leatherback sea turtle. The Navy has reviewed Piniak et al. and has included this among its references cited in the analysis. The Biological Evaluation (BE) that the Navy prepared and sent to NMFS for consultation in the creation of their Biological Opinion included the increased number of sonobuoys and the conclusion of "may affect, likely to adversely affect." The Navy, in submitting this BE, is consulting with NMFS utilizing the most recent data and conclusions available.
NEDC-05	III. The NWTT activities will adversely impact marine mammals. Many species of marine mammals rely on underwater sound to survive. Southern resident killer whales, for example, rely on sound to utilize echolocation to find Chinook salmon, upon which the species feeds. Tampering with the fine-tuned auditory sense of marine mammals through the use of underwater sonar in NWTT activities could disrupt essential behaviors. The testing and training activities alter feeding patterns for whales and could, in turn, cause habitat displacement. Without the ability to find food, whales may move to new and different areas in a search for nourishment. A report released by the military of the United Kingdom found that such detrimental impacts were possible even while using low-level sonar. Cressey, Daniel, Nature, "Sonar does affect whales, military report	Thank you for participating in the NEPA process, however, the comment does not provide any new information over what has been presented, discussed, and otherwise already incorporated into the analysis in Section 3.4 (Marine Mammals) and Section 3.5 (Sea Turtles) of the Final EIS/OEIS. With regard to physical disturbance and strike stressors, see Section 3.4.3.4 in the Final EIS/OEIS. Based on the facts that there has never been a whale strike by a Navy vessel during the proposed training and testing activities, that the MSO activities have been ongoing for years, and that there are fewer large whales in inland waters, it is reasonable to conclude that a Navy

Table I.5-3: Responses to Comments from Organizations (continued)

Commenter	Comment	Navy Response
	confirms," (Aug. 1, 2008), available at http://www.nature.com/news/2008/080801/full/news.2008.997.html (last accessed Feb. 2, 2015). Further, sonar activities could elicit a startling response, disorienting whales. This disorientation caused by manmade acoustic stressors has been shown to cause mass strandings. The NWTT activities proposed in the Supplement exacerbate negative impacts to marine mammals associated with sonar activity. The NWTT activities will also negatively impact marine mammals through acoustic stress and physical disturbance and strike. The Supplement improperly and summarily dismisses physical disturbance and strike impacts to marine mammals due to increased vessel movement during MSO events, stating, "large mammals occur less frequently" in those areas. Supplement 3-18. On the other hand, the Supplement does recognize that acoustic stressors in the action alternatives will constitute "Level B behavioral harassment under the Marine Mammal Protection Act (MMPA)," will "result in inadvertent takes of marine mammals in the Study Area," and "may affect, and is likely to adversely affect, humpback whale, blue whale, fin whale, sperm whale, southern resident killer whale, and Guadalupe fur seal" (all listed species under the ESA). 3-18, 3-21, 3-22. Under the two action alternatives in the proposed NWTT activity plan, the Supplement represents a dramatic increase in the potential exposure of marine mammals to Level B harassment under the MMPA—from 24,199 proposed annual events in the DEIS to 107,062 annual events in the Supplement. This more than four-fold increase in annual events represents a remarkable increase in the anticipation of events that may cause "disruption of behavioral patterns, including, but not limited to, migration, breathing, nursing, breeding, feeding, or sheltering…" 50 C.F.R. § 216.3. The change is so dramatic, in fact, that it may constitute Level A harassment ("potential to injure a marine mammal") under the MMPA or additional takes ("harass, harm…") under the ESA. Id.; 16 U.S.C. § 1532. Regardless, the Supplement underestimates negative effects of harassment and the subsequent consequences to the species that are likely to flow. As with the leatherback sea turtles described above, the change in the number and type of sonobuoys used will have a corresponding change in the effects on marine mammals. Though both the DEIS and Supplement found that the NWTT actions were likely to adversely effect various listed marine mammal species, the magnitude of the change requires consultation with NMFS, and a Biological Opinion that appropriately reflects the impacts of the proposed actions. IV. Conclusion The Supplement proposes to dramatically increase the number of sonobuoys in use for training and testing activities and thereby creates or exacerbates detrimental impacts to both leatherback sea turtles and marine mammals. As explained above, the analysis of impacts and ensuing steps to minimize adverse effects to these species in the Supplement are inadequate. To remedy this inadequacy, the Navy should consider a broader range of alternatives that reduce the number of proposed sonobuoys for the NWTT, propose mitigation measures to avoid adversely affecting species, and assure that consultation with NMFS and any ensuing Biological Opinion appropriately reflects the impacts of the proposed activity.	vessel strike to large whale remains unlikely. As described in the EIS/OEIS in Section 3.4.3.4.1 (Impacts from Vessel Strikes), a number of features of U.S. Navy ships improves their ability to detect and avoid collisions with marine mammals, when compared to commercial vessels. These include ship design, crew size, and crew training. Please note that there are not 24,199 annual events in the DEIS or 107,062 in the Supplement. These are model-based estimates of annual marine mammal Level B exposures. The number of sonobuoys required is dictated by strategic decisions about military capabilities. It is not in the purview of the Action Proponents to change these requirements.

Table I.5-3: Responses to Comments from Organizations (continued)

Commenter	Comment	Navy Response
Ocean Protection Coalition (Written) (OPC)-01	The Navy has omitted Fort Bragg, Calif. from proposed meeting sites to allow review of the new Draft EIS/OEIS. In order for you to meet the commitment of the Navy to allow public information and discuss the original draft and the supplement to that draft, it is important that you schedule a local meeting in Fort Bragg. This meeting must afford the public the opportunity for a public hearing with questions from the attendees allowed. We are also asking our local and national representatives to hold hearings on this new draft.	The Navy held four public meetings in three states to inform the public and receive their comments on the Supplement to the Draft EIS/OEIS. Because of the large size of the NWTT Study Area for this EIS/OEIS, it is not feasible to hold a public meeting in every location where there may be public interest. Generally, the Navy has tried to locate public meetings in locations central to training or testing areas and potentially affected communities. In the case of the Supplement, the activities analyzed occur almost exclusively in Washington waters or off the coast of Washington; therefore, the meeting locations were chosen based on location to the revised activities. Regarding the format of the Navy's meetings, everyone who attended the public meetings had the opportunity to speak individually with subject matter experts to have their questions answered.
OPC-02	There are many troubling aspects to the Supplement to the Draft EIS/OEIS. The increase of the placement of 720 Sona Buoys, instead of the 20 that were previously used, is of great concern. Neither location nor further information on these Sona Buoys was included in the Navy draft document. The use of the National Forests for the testing of Sonar and Air Space is also being requested of the Forest Service, which would set a president for our local forests becoming a Navy testing ground. The effect on wild life and humans in these forests of the use of this technology has not been documented by the Navy. This huge increase in technology shows that the Navy will be using the ocean, the forests and its wildlife as a big experiment There is no data supporting this increase of using 700 Sona Buoy or the effects on human and wildlife in our National Forests.. The coast of California, Washington and Oregon are now in the important phase of watching the migration of the Grey Whale to its birthing areas in Mexico. Such experiments with ocean life by the Navy is unacceptable to the Ocean Protection Coalition and the residents of this community.	In several places in the Supplement, the location for the use of the sonobuoys was described as the Offshore Area. As described in the Supplement in Section 3.4.2 (Marine Mammal Summary), the proposed increase in the use of SSQ-125 sonobuoys would "not result in any long-term consequences for any marine mammal population or species; therefore, the conclusions stated in the Draft EIS/OEIS remain unchanged." There are no testing activities proposed in the Olympic National Forest in the Supplement to the Draft EIS/OEIS.
Olympic Environmental Council	Olympic Environmental Council (OEC) is a 501.c.3 organization that for the past 25 years has represented the interests of the people of the Olympic Peninsula and the organisms, and ecosystems that support them. Our mission is to protect and preserve the natural environment and ecosystems of the Olympic Peninsula, and to educate regarding threats to the ecosystems of the Olympic Peninsula and the range of actions possible for addressing those threats. OEC is an “umbrella organization” made up of groups and individuals addressing a broad spectrum of environmental issues facing the Olympic Peninsula. and we have considerable experience in reviewing and assisting in agency processes, from watershed planning and instream flow (to ensure fish population survival in our rivers) to the cleanup of the Navy’s own hazardous waste dumps. We believe that this is our organization’s first formal comment on any of the NAVY’s NWTR EIS components though our members have previously commented and we hope that these comments have helped the NAVY understand that their responsibilities to the	The Navy complies with all applicable environmental laws, including NEPA. As such, the Navy has developed this EIS/OEIS to meet the requirements of these laws. Please see Chapter 2 (Description of Proposed Action and Alternatives), which includes selection criteria and alternatives considered but eliminated (Section 2.5.1, Alternatives Eliminated from Further Consideration). Please see Chapter 3 (Affected Environment and Environmental Consequences) for the description of the affected environment and environmental consequences of the Navy's Proposed Action. Chapter 4 (Cumulative Impacts) contains a comprehensive cumulative impacts analysis. Information on mitigation measures can be found in Chapter 5 (Standard Operating Procedures, Mitigation, and Monitoring) of the

Table I.5-3: Responses to Comments from Organizations (continued)

Commenter	Comment	Navy Response
	American people are not well served by what appear to be attempts at circumventing regulations that are intended to guide their actions in defense of the environment and the living world. The segmented approach taken by the NAVY in this multipart EIS for the NWTR is deeply flawed and fails to meet the intent of NEPA, or the standard of “hard look” at the impacts of the buildup of the NWTR because it precludes realistic consideration by the public and by agency reviewers of both direct and cumulative impacts, and therefore precludes reasonable consideration of either the impacts or the effectiveness of mitigation proposals. We ask: how can the disruptive impacts on protected threatened or endangered wildlife populations be evaluated based on isolated instances if the impacts are not considered with other disruptions from other activities occurring simultaneously or in close temporal and geographic proximity? A table showing precise timing (time of day, day of week, etc.), geographic location in range, and predicted impacts (SPL, etc.) of ALL planned activities would be required, at minimum, merely to allow an assessment of direct impacts of the interactions of the direct impacts of these actions. Cumulative effects are defined by the Council on Environmental Quality as "the impact on the environment which results from the incremental impact of the action when added to other past, present, and reasonably foreseeable future actions regardless of what agency (Federal or non-Federal) or person undertakes such other actions. Cumulative impacts can result from individually minor but collectively significant actions taking place over a period of time." 40 C.F.R. § 1508.7. Deferring analysis of impacts that the NAVY knows will occur in the future, and decoupling and isolating “actions” that are in fact components of the same “action” are both contrary to the teachings of NEPA. This segmentation has led to temporal disconnecting of the environmental review of what is in fact a much larger project composed of interconnected projects, each of which are “actions” or “collections of actions” with impacts that overlap, and individual discussion of these actions does not constitute a complete discussion of the issues involved. In the immediate EIS/OEIS for the NWTT, the NAVY cannot be said to have taken a "hard look" at the problem when it considers only the incremental impacts of the changes in testing and equipment in this area of the Northwest Training Range, when it has not considered or even revealed the total impact that will result from the entire collection of interconnected projects, when taken as a whole. The weapons systems involved in testing and training activities at NWTT and the adjacent MOAs on the Olympic Peninsula and elsewhere have existed or been under development for many years, and these actions have been planned far in advance of the release of these EIS segments that present only isolated impacts. The agencies that must review the impacts of the NAVY’s actions and mitigations are required to use the “best available scientific and commercial information” in their evaluations, but this is not identical to using ‘only the information provided by the NAVY in the particular document under review’ when more complete information already exists,	EIS/OEIS. The Navy prepares Environmental Impact Statements (EIS) and Environmental Assessments (EA) in order to comply with the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA). These NEPA documents are intended to ensure decision makers consider the potential environmental effects of a proposed action and its alternatives, provide an opportunity for public involvement, and promote transparency by informing the public of these potential environmental effects. Each NEPA document addresses a specific proposed action, separated from other actions by its purpose and need, independent utility, timing, and geographic location. Some NEPA documents are stand-alone documents; others tier off or expand the analyses of other NEPA documents. NEPA documents for training and testing, including this EIS/OEIS, focus on training and testing activities occurring within a range complex or military operation area and involve different types of aircraft, ships, and range complex enhancements. NEPA documents for aircraft homebasing actions focus on aircraft operations in and around the airfield and their facility needs. NEPA documents for installations focus on infrastructure enhancements for host and tenant command missions. Importantly, every environmental document considers the cumulative impacts to the environment from other relevant past, present, and reasonably foreseeable future actions (federal, state, local, and private) in addition to the proposed action. The Navy cannot fully predict which combination of activities will be needed in any given year to support training and testing requirements. Therefore, the Navy has conducted an analysis of the broadest spectrum of training and testing reasonably anticipated. While this method overestimates impacts, it also allows the Navy to consider the cumulative impacts of these events more clearly than if each event was assessed for its site-specific impacts a few weeks before it occurred. It is not possible to be both cumulative in assessment and precise in planning the timing and locations of events when considering events projected almost a decade into the future. The Supplement is not an all-inclusive document of the Navy’s proposed activities; it only supplements the NWTT Draft EIS/OEIS based on recent changes. The Navy used the best available science and a comprehensive review of past, present, and reasonably foreseeable actions to develop the Cumulative Impacts analysis. The Navy has returned to the analysis in Chapter 4 (Cumulative Impacts) due to concerns raised in

Table I.5-3: Responses to Comments from Organizations (continued)

Commenter	Comment	Navy Response
	that, had it been included in the EIS, rather than excluded from review by segmentation would have substantially changed the picture presented to the reviewers and to the public. When these actions are evaluated individually, in isolation from one another, both the direct effects of the interactions of the effects these actions and the cumulative effects of the interactions of the actions are shielded from view, and consideration of their impacts is obstructed. This is approach is in fact contrary to law. Since the 1980's, the basic test of an EIS under the Administrative Procedures Act has been "whether the EIS's form, content and preparation foster both informed decision-making and informed public participation." NEPA further teaches, and the courts have repeatedly agreed, that all of a project's components that are "actions" that are linked economically and by other considerations to the degree that one cannot exist without the other must be considered in a single EIS. The courts have made a distinction between the requirement to analyze cumulative actions and the requirement for an analysis of cumulative impacts. Specifically, with respect to cumulative actions, the courts have noted that CEQ scoping regulations require connected, cumulative, and similar actions to be considered together in the same EIS - where proposals up for decision are functionally or economically related, those proposals must be considered in one EIS. The Administrative Procedure Act, 5 U.S.C. § 706(2)(D), directs courts to set aside an agency action if taken `without observance of procedure required by law . . . .' Under this standard, the court employs a "rule of reason" that inquires: (1) whether the EIS contains "a reasonably thorough discussion of the significant aspects of the probable environmental consequences, and (2) whether the EIS's "form, content and preparation foster both informed decision-making and informed public participation. See, most recently, Delaware Riverkeeper Network v. Federal Energy Regulatory Comm'n. No. 13-1015 (D.C. Cir. Jun 06, 2014) for a very clear discussion of the inadequacy of an EIS when segmentation precluded a thorough evaluation of environmental impacts that were in fact know to the agency at the time that the EIS was prepared. Direct effects are those which are caused by the action and occur at the same time and place. Indirect effects are those which are caused by the action and are later in time or farther removed in distance, but are still reasonably foreseeable. 40 CFR §1508.8(a)-(b). Cumulative impacts are impacts from "past, present and reasonably foreseeable future actions regardless of what agency (Federal or non-Federal) or person undertakes such other actions." 40 CFR § 1508.7. This means that even if one or more of the "actions" that are components of a larger project - in common sense language a plan - might be considered insignificant in the absence of the others (such as the impacts of installation of EW transmitter trucks, which the public does not consider insignificant but which DoN has claimed are insignificant in an EA), they must be considered together with other component parts and related actions in scoping, because without the Growlers flying	public comments, and the Chapter has been revised in response to those public comments. The literature on ocean acidification has been reviewed, and is now discussed in Section 4.4.4 (Climate Change), of Chapter 4 (Cumulative Impacts) in the Final EIS/OEIS.

Table I.5-3: Responses to Comments from Organizations (continued)

Commenter	Comment	Navy Response
	missions in the air, the truck-mounted transmitters on the ground in the National Forest have no purpose whatsoever. Absent such consideration, evaluation of both direct and cumulative impacts of the collected actions encompassed in the larger project can simply not be correctly characterized or adequately considered, let alone mitigated. REMEDY REQUESTED Until such time as the entire NWTR project has been recombined into a single detailed description, the segmented EIS provides inadequate discussion of impacts because the interactions of its components cannot be discussed and decisions on how to assess the impacts on the environment and if necessary, mitigate the impacts of these actions, cannot be realistically evaluated, by the NAVY, by the public, or by those other agencies with jurisdiction in impacted areas. Sincerely Olympic Environmental Council Port Townsend, Washington	
Oregon Green Energy Coalition	Your plan to use sonar 36 times more intense strength is not acceptable. You have gone way beyond the norm for ocean life to exist especially whales already impacted by your sonar technologies which has been well documented. End your plan to go forward with this.	The Navy is not proposing to use sonar that is “36 times more intense strength.” The only change proposed in the Supplement is that the number of one type of sonobuoys is 720 per year, which is an increase over the 20 per year analyzed in the Draft EIS/OEIS. The increase of 700 sonobuoys described in the Supplement is an increase of less than 8 percent of all sonobuoys proposed for use in the Draft EIS/OEIS. The Navy shares your concern for marine life, but this concern must be balanced with the purpose and need for Navy training and testing as detailed in Chapter 2 (Description of Proposed Action and Alternatives) of the EIS/OEIS. The Navy has conducted active sonar training and testing activities in the Study Area for decades, and there is no evidence that routine Navy training and testing has negatively impacted marine mammal populations in the Study Area or at any Navy Range Complex. Based on the best available science summarized in the EIS/OEIS Section 3.4.4.1 (Summary of Monitoring and Observations During Navy Activities), long-term consequences for marine mammal populations are unlikely to result from Navy training and testing activities in the Study Area. Please also refer to Chapter 5 (Standard Operating Procedures, Mitigation, and Monitoring) of the EIS/OEIS, detailing the procedures and mitigation measures during its training and testing activities designed to reduce impacts to marine mammals from Navy activities.
Oregon Wild (OW)-01	On behalf of Oregon Wild and our approximately 15,000 members and email activists, we request that the comments below be incorporated into the administrative record and considered for the Navy’s Northwest Training and Testing Supplement to the Draft EIS/OEIS, dated December 2014. The proposed activities will result in significant harm to dolphins, whales, fish, turtles,	In response to several assertions by Oregon Wild that the Navy failed to provide adequate information explaining its analysis, it is important to note that the Supplement does not contain all the analysis, but supplements the Draft EIS/OEIS. The information requested in the comment is, in every case, contained in the Draft EIS/OEIS, as

Table I.5-3: Responses to Comments from Organizations (continued)

Commenter	Comment	Navy Response
	and other marine life. The Supplement to the Draft EIS/OEIS contemplates a substantial change in the type and number of sonobuoys used, but fails to provide basic information necessary to adequately analyze the impacts of the proposed activities.	referenced throughout the Supplementt. The full analysis can be found in the Final EIS/OEIS.
OW-02	The Supplement to the Draft EIS/OEIS also fails to provide adequate measures to mitigate the harmful effects of increased sonar activity on marine mammals and other wildlife.	Please see Chapter 5 (Standard Operating Procedures, Mitigation, and Monitoring) detailing the proposed measures to mitigate impacts from the continuation of Navy's training and testing activities in the NWTT Study Area, which includes the use of sonar. The Navy evaluated the effectiveness and practicability of a number of potential mitigation measures and refined them through consultation and permitting with NMFS and USFWS.
OW-03	Under Alternatives 1 and 2 proposed in the Supplement to the Draft EIS/OEIS, there will be 36 times more sonobuoys than originally contemplated in the Draft EIS/OEIS. Specifically, the number of SSQ-125 Multistatic Active Coherent sonobuoys will be increased from 20 to 720. By the Navy's own admission, the individual impacts to marine mammals will increase under Alternatives 1 and 2. These impacts include acoustic harassment, electromagnetic interference, physical disturbance and strike, entanglement, ingestion of materials, and other secondary stressors. The Supplement to the Draft EIS/OEIS suggests that these increased impacts "are not expected to decrease the overall fitness of any marine mammal population." However, nowhere in the Supplement does the Navy provide the basis for this assessment, nor does it disclose the total number of species that will be adversely affected. Without this information, it is impossible to assess the cumulative impacts of the project and provide meaningful comments and recommendations.	The Navy is not proposing to increase the annual number of sonobuoys by a factor of 36. The Navy's original proposal in the Draft EIS/OEIS includes the annual deployment of approximately 9,200 sonobuoys of various types. The increase of 700 sonobuoys described in the Supplement is an increase of less than 8 percent of all sonobuoys proposed for use in the Draft EIS/OEIS. Electromagnetic (EM) energy is a stressor only for the Maritime Homeland Defense/Security Mine Countermeasures Integrated Exercise and is not associated with sonobuoy use. Sonobuoy use is unlikely to result in other than negligible increased chance of physical disturbance and strike, entanglement, ingestion of materials, or impacts related to secondary stressors. Regarding the basis for the assessment of impacts to marine mammals, see Section 3.4.3.1.9 (Long-Term Consequences to the Individual and the Population) and Section 3.4.4.1 (Summary of Monitoring and Observations During Navy Activities). This summary section describes over 8 years of monitoring and research, using the best available science, conducted at intensively used range complexes in the Pacific. In these areas where Navy training and testing have been occurring year-round for decades, there is no evidence that would indicate Navy activities have had any impact on marine mammal populations in areas.
OW-04	Additionally, to the extent that threatened or endangered species -- including leatherback turtles, humpback and sperm whales -- are negatively impacted, the proposed activities may result in violations of the Endangered Species Act.	As described in the EIS/OEIS, the Navy is in consultation with the agencies regulating the ESA concerning the potential for the Proposed Action to incidentally affect listed species and anticipates a Biological Opinion and incidental take statement at the conclusion of consultation.

Table I.5-3: Responses to Comments from Organizations (continued)

Commenter	Comment	Navy Response
OW-05	With respect to leatherback turtles, the Supplement acknowledges that Alternatives 1 and 2 are "likely to adversely affect" the species. The adverse effects to leatherback turtles include increased acoustic harassment, electromagnetic interference, physical disturbance and strike, entanglement, ingestion of materials, and other secondary stressors. Despite the acknowledged increase in impacts to endangered leatherback turtles, the Supplement asserts these impacts "are not expected to decrease the overall fitness of any sea turtle population."	The additional activities changed the estimated impact on sea turtles from zero to one. The Navy is in consultation with NMFS as the regulator regarding ESA issues for sea turtles. NMFS is also a cooperating agency for the NWTT EIS/OEIS as defined in regulations administering NEPA. Regarding the concern about entanglement, please see the analysis in the Draft or Final EIS/OEIS in Section 3.5.3.4 (Entanglement Stressors). While the research supports the possibility that leatherback sea turtles could mistake a decelerator/parachute for a jellyfish, as described in the EIS/OEIS, the extremely low likelihood that a sea turtle would encounter a decelerator/parachute in the water column makes it unlikely to occur..
OW-06	As above, the Supplement does not provide the scientific basis for this assessment, nor does it disclose the total number of individuals that will be adversely affected. The Supplement to the Draft EIS/OEIS fails to adequately analyze the impacts on marine mammals. The proposed alternatives involve new and expanded activities that include the use of sonar, unmanned vehicles with acoustic sensors, and explosives. In addition to the adverse impacts discussed above, under the proposed alternatives, marine mammals will be exposed 107,062 times annually (up from 24,199 in the original Draft) to sound levels that would be considered Level B harassment.	With regard to the comment that the Navy does not, "… disclose the total number of species that will be adversely affected," since this follows a sentence regarding marine mammals, please see the EIS/OEIS Section 3.4.4.3 (Endangered Species Act Determinations) and Table 3.4-31 where the determination for each marine mammal species is presented; there are seven total marine mammal species predicted to have "adverse effects" as defined by the Endangered Species Act (ESA). Please see the other resource chapters (such as Section 3.9 [Fish]) for information regarding other marine life.
OW-07	Also, the proposed alternatives are deemed "likely to adversely affect, humpback whale, blue whale, fin whale, sperm whale, southern resident killer whale, and Guadalupe fur seal." Again, the Supplement asserts that these impacts will not have long-term consequences for any marine mammal species, but fails to provide the scientific basis for this assertion.	As shown in Section 3.4.4.3 (Endangered Species Act Determinations) and Table 3.4-31, the full list of marine mammal species likely to be adversely affected under the proposed action would be humpback whale, blue whale, fin whale, sei whale, sperm whale, southern resident killer whale, and Guadalupe fur seal. The Supplement provides only the additional information needed to discuss the changes from the Draft EIS/OEIS. The analysis of long term impacts did not change from that given in the Draft EIS/OEIS; therefore, it was not copied into the Supplement. The full analysis will be united in the Final EIS/OEIS. Regarding the basis for the assessment of long term consequences to marine mammals, see the EIS/OEIS, Section 3.4.3.1.9 (Long-Term Consequences to the Individual and the Population) and Section 3.4.4.1 (Summary of Monitoring and Observations During Navy Activities).

Table I.5-3: Responses to Comments from Organizations (continued)

Commenter	Comment	Navy Response
OW-08	The mitigation measures contemplated in the Supplement to the Draft EIS/OEIS are wholly inadequate to address the harmful impacts to marine mammals and other wildlife. Despite the acknowledged substantial increase in sonar equipment and activities, the Supplement does not alter its conclusions or provide increased mitigation measures. Mitigation focuses on using lookouts and fish finders to reduce impacts to marine mammals. However, these activities are ineffective to protect marine life, as sonar can travel beyond the detection ability of human lookouts and fish finders. The Supplement to the Draft EIS/OEIS substantially increases the number of sonar devices and activities. Although the Supplement acknowledges a correlated increase in adverse impacts, it does not alter or provide the scientific basis for its conclusions. Finally, because the proposed mitigation measures do not change in proportion to the increase in sonar devices and activities, but continue to focus on human lookouts and fish finders, they are inadequate to address the increased impacts to marine life. We strongly urge the Navy to consider an alternative that puts critical habitat areas off limits to testing and training activities, and that adequately mitigates and reduces the impacts of training and testing on marine wildlife.	No use of “fish finders” is proposed as a mitigation or part of the Proposed Action; see Chapter 5 (Standard Operating Procedures, Mitigation, and Monitoring) detailing the proposed measures. Navy has already considered in that chapter all the effective potential mitigation measures and will implement mitigation measures for increased MAC sonobuoy use directly in proportion to that increase. Critical habitat is established based on certain characteristics of the environment. The Navy has assessed its actions for impacts to the specific characteristics defined for each critical habitat within the Study Area. Based on the analysis, the Proposed Action would not alter the characteristics of the critical habitat; the nature of the activity does not alter the habitat element, which is considered critical by the designating agency. Given these conclusions presented in the EIS/OEIS (see Table ES-2), there is no reason to consider an “alternative that puts critical habitat areas off limits” to the continuation of Navy training and testing activities when it would have an unacceptable impact on military readiness activities. Also regarding consideration of placing other areas off-limits, see Section 5.3.4 (Mitigation Measures Considered but Eliminated).
Pacific Rainforest Wildlife Guardians	Please, I support a No Action alternative on behalf of our members. Increasing sonar and explosions underwater would finish off an already rapidly deteriorating under sea ecosystem. Do nothing to contribute to take of endangered, threatened or candidate species or marine mammals and fish. They are not your enemy. You are the enemy of every living being in the sea if you do. You must not sacrifice the whales, dolphins, Sea Otters, Sea Turtles and diving birds. There's a limit and it has already been passed. Thank you.	Thank you for participating in the NEPA process. The Navy shares your concern for marine life, but this concern must be balanced with the purpose and need for Navy training and testing as detailed in Chapter 2 (Description of Proposed Action and Alternatives) of the EIS/OEIS. The Navy has conducted active sonar training and testing activities in the Study Area for decades, and there is no evidence that routine Navy training and testing has negatively impacted marine mammal populations in the Study Area or at any Navy Range Complex. Based on the best available science summarized in the EIS/OEIS Section 3.4.4.1 (Summary of Monitoring and Observations During Navy Activities), long-term consequences for marine mammal populations are unlikely to result from Navy training and testing activities in the Study Area.
Peaceful Skies Coalition (PSC) -01	February 1, 2015 TO: Kimberly Kler, Environmental Planner Peaceful Skies Coalition (PSC) is submitting comments on the Supplement to Draft NWTT EIS/OEIS Northwest Training and Testing (NWTT) Environmental Impact Statement (EIS)/Overseas Environmental Impact Statement (OEIS), hereinafter referred to as the Supplemental. Please include these comments in the administrative record. Both this Supplemental Draft EIS and the foundational basis for it, EIS/OEIS Northwest Training and Testing (NWTT) Environmental Impact Statement (EIS)/Overseas Environmental Impact	The Navy prepares Environmental Impact Statements (EIS) and Environmental Assessments (EA) in order to comply with the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA). These NEPA documents are intended to ensure decision makers consider the potential environmental effects of a proposed action and its alternatives, provide an opportunity for public involvement, and promote transparency by informing the public of these potential environmental effects. Each

Table I.5-3: Responses to Comments from Organizations (continued)

Commenter	Comment	Navy Response
	Statement (OEIS), are so greatly out of compliance with NEPA that they must be withdrawn until a new bioregion-wide EIS is done for all proposed military activities along the Pacific Coast. The Supplemental is expecting the public to suspend disbelief that increasing the number of sonobuoys from 20 to 720 will not change the "data" already provided. An increase of this magnitude requires that the project be suspended until a new EIS is completed. Peaceful Skies Coalition has identified a large number, but not all, military expansions of land, water, air and seaspace underway right now across the United States. Expansions of military activity are occurring on both the Pacific and Atlantic coasts. With regard to the subject of this comment, the website of the Commander, Navy Installations Command (CNIC), lists current NEPA proposals "in the Navy Region Northwest area of responsibility." • Electronic Warfare Range EA • EA-18G Growler EIS • Northwest Training and Testing - Supplement to the Draft EIS/OEIS Federal case law rulings and the regulations are very clear that the government cannot isolate a proposed project, viewing it in a vacuum. (40 C.F.R. § 1508.25(a)) The federal courts have consistently upheld this requirement. The Navy has not made the slightest effort to uphold this regulation. Instead, a proposed large increase in military activity in and around Puget Sound, the Olympic Peninsula, and the Pacific Coastline of the United States has been divided into multiple, smaller in scope NEPA actions. The military has failed to provide the public with the totality of its plans. For example, Joint Base Lewis-McChord shares the same bioregion and its projects are not considered at the same time as those of the Navy. In order for the public to provide informed comment on the NWTT, the public needs to be provided all information about adjacent and other proposed federal projects; whether in the ocean, on public lands, private lands, military land, or airspace. Protecting the oceans and all of the life they contain, requires an exceptional degree of study and analysis.	NEPA document addresses a specific proposed action, separated from other actions by its purpose and need, independent utility, timing, and geographic location. Some NEPA documents are stand-alone documents; others tier off or expand the analyses of other NEPA documents. NEPA documents for training and testing, including this EIS/OEIS, focus on training and testing activities occurring within a range complex or military operation area and involve different types of aircraft, ships, and range complex enhancements. NEPA documents for aircraft homebasing actions focus on aircraft operations in and around the airfield and their facility needs. NEPA documents for installations focus on infrastructure enhancements for host and tenant command missions. Importantly, every environmental document considers the cumulative impacts to the environment from other relevant past, present, and reasonably foreseeable future actions (federal, state, local, and private) in addition to the proposed action. The comment's request that a new EIS be completed describes exactly the purpose of the Supplement to the Draft EIS/OEIS. The Supplement reevaluated the original Draft EIS/OEIS analysis with the new information; in this case, the potential impacts of using 700 additional SSQ-125 sonobuoys annually. As described in the Supplement in Section 3.4.2 (Marine Mammal Summary), the proposed increase in the use of SSQ-125 sonobuoys would "not result in any long-term consequences for any marine mammal population or species; therefore, the conclusions stated in the Draft EIS/OEIS remain unchanged." The Navy has conducted active sonar training and testing activities in the Study Area for decades, and there is no evidence that routine Navy training and testing has negatively impacted marine mammal populations in the Study Area or at any Navy Range Complex. Based on the best available science summarized in the EIS/OEIS Section 3.4.4.1 (Summary of Monitoring and Observations During Navy Activities), long-term consequences for marine mammal populations are unlikely to result from Navy training and testing activities in the Study Area. The NWTT EIS/OEIS considers other past, present, and reasonably foreseeable future actions within the geographic boundaries described in Section 4.2.3 (Define the Geographic Boundaries and Timeframe for Analysis) as "the entire Northwest Training and Testing (NWTT) Study Area." The Council on Environmental Quality provides guidance on cumulative impact analysis in *Considering Cumulative Impacts under*

Table I.5-3: Responses to Comments from Organizations (continued)

Commenter	Comment	Navy Response
		the National Environmental Policy Act (Council on Environmental Quality 1997). As the Council on Environmental Quality guidelines observe, "[it] is not practical to analyze cumulative impacts of an action on the universe." The Study Area is appropriate in this case based on the resources the Navy's Proposed Action could impact.
PSC-02	As affirmed by international treaties and conventions, the oceans belong to everyone. The proposed activities are likely to result in violations of the Endangered Species Act through cumulative, negative impacts to threatened or endangered species, including humpback and sperm whales, and leatherback turtles. It is very well documented that sonar can result in debilitating and even fatal injuries for marine mammals. Numerous comments have already been submitted by agencies and organizations with high levels of expertise in ocean health and the protections of sea life. These experts provide great detail on the habitats and migratory paths of many threatened and endangered species likely to be harmed by the activities described in the Supplemental. The California Coastal Commission has voted to reject the proposal for the harm it will cause. The Commission has asked that the Navy create safety zones that would guarantee that no high-intensity sonar activity occur near marine sanctuaries and protected areas nor in locations that experience a high concentration of blue, fin and gray whales seasonally. The Commission staff has recommended that one kilometer from shore should be off-limits from sonar activities in order to protect bottlenose dolphins. The commission set out similar conditions to the Navy in 2007 and 2009, but the Navy refuses to adopt training methodologies that protect the environment and sea life. As stated by other commenters, the lack of consideration of exclusion zones, geographic alternatives to the southern Puget Sound and seasonal restrictions are still glaring omissions. All of the Alternatives propose year-round, unrestricted use without regard to seasonal variations in marine mammal and fish abundance. This is true despite the well- documented seasonal migrations of numerous endangered species and the identification of biologically important areas. We hope you find these comments helpful, informative, and useful in your efforts to bring this proposal into compliance with the NEPA and other substantive statutes. Peaceful Skies Coalition requests that Carol Miller, an officer of the coalition, be placed on the recipient list for notices of any developments in Northwest Training and Testing (NWTT) Environmental Impact Statement (EIS)/OEIS as it moves forward.	The Navy considered the best available science in preparing this EIS/OEIS. The findings of the analysis are that individual marine animals could be affected by the Proposed Action, but that the majority of the impacts would be brief, low intensity, and temporary. The populations of marine species in the Study Area, and their habitat, would not be significantly altered by the Proposed Action. For the activities that would impact individual marine animals, the Navy has proposed and is working with regulators to refine mitigation measures. The Navy is also working with regulators (USFWS and NMFS) to ensure continued compliance with the Marine Mammal Protection Act and the Endangered Species Act. In accordance with ESA requirements, the Navy will complete consultation under Section 7 of the ESA with NMFS and USFWS and adhere to the Letter of Authorization and Biological Opinion issued by those agencies. Regarding the comment about the California Coastal Commission and exclusion zones, the California Coastal Commission has concurred with the Navy's Negative Determination, in which the Commission agrees that it does not appear reasonably foreseeable that the proposed activities would affect California coastal zone resources. See Section 5.3.4 (Mitigation Measures Considered but Eliminated) detailing the consideration of exclusion zones, seasonal restrictions, and other area restrictions. Ms. Miller has been added to the NWTT project mailing list.
Pender Ocean Defenders	I am commenting as a Canadian citizen. I live on an island (Pender) in the Salish Sea. I am opposed to the Navy testing sonar warfare in marine protected areas offshore in Washington State. The marine mammals who inhabit these waters, know no citizenship, therefore I feel compelled to speak out. JPod is on the endangered species list, and even with the recent birth of J50, this pod has not realized an increase in numbers of individuals in 30 years. Naval activity disrupts their feeding, breeding and communication. It is imperative that the Navy NOT conduct testing in known whale	The Navy shares your concern for marine life, but this concern must be balanced with the purpose and need for Navy training and testing as detailed in Chapter 2 (Description of Proposed Action and Alternatives) of the EIS/OEIS. The Navy has conducted active sonar training and testing activities in the Study Area for decades, and there is no evidence that routine Navy training and testing has negatively impacted marine mammal populations in the Study Area or at any

Table I.5-3: Responses to Comments from Organizations (continued)

Commenter	Comment	Navy Response
	feeding grounds. As well, a few weeks ago, hundreds of residents were subjected to the Growlers disturbance which sounded like thunder. This continued for a day. I can only imagine what this terror sounded like underwater.	Navy Range Complex. Based on the best available science summarized in the EIS/OEIS Section 3.4.4.1 (Summary of Monitoring and Observations During Navy Activities), long-term consequences for marine mammal populations are unlikely to result from Navy training and testing activities in the Study Area. Please also refer to Chapter 5 (Standard Operating Procedures, Mitigation, and Monitoring) of the EIS/OEIS, detailing the procedures and mitigation measures during its training and testing activities designed to reduce impacts to marine mammals from Navy activities.
Port Townsend Peace Movement	Greetings: My wife and I have participated many times regarding EIS/Naval growth of mission and consistently feel betrayed by the Navy, especially on this latest addition to a series of Navy proposals that, taken in their whole, constitute a region-wide militarization and damage to our parks, towns and way of life, and the living world of which we are a part. The decision to divide the growing Navy impact on the Olympic Peninsula into separate EIS processes seems to us a crass manipulation of the EIS process. There has been an overwhelming number of proposals since late in 2013 rolled out to the public in a piecemeal fashion. Five calls for comments on clearly-linked documents have been spread out in their introduction to the public over the last year and a half. Ground-based, (Electronic warfare range), air-based (Two growler scoping documents) and sea-based naval activities (these two NWTT documents) have been dropped onto the region as if they were not linked. The separate comment periods and the separate documents minimize the larger picture of impacts on the area. Is it even legal in regards to Federal Law, specifically NEPA? Please redo this chopped-up public process with a comprehensive Environmental Impact Statement that includes all of the activities in the region. These huge changes that affect wildlife, real estate values, allow precedent-setting incursions into the peace of our national parks, national forest, wilderness, state parks and state lands, should be discussed as a whole, not split into so many fractured pieces that the residents of this region cannot know what they are actually facing. It is grossly unfortunate that the Navy is able to decide if critical questions raised by the public are significant or not. When the best minds of our generation propose critical commonsense precautions to guard the right of other species to survive and their comments are dismissed as non-significant what are we to understand? Our concerns have no weight for the EIS process is broken and is now a sham? This particular Supplement (December 2014) to the Navy's Draft Environmental Impact Statement/ Overseas Environmental Impact Statement (DEIS), dated January 2014, for its continued training and testing activities in the Pacific Northwest (NWTT) is a good example of the Navy's studied contempt for the Northwest peoples and the web of life where we live. The proposed increases in this Supplement of marine exercises and additional use of sonar and explosives will only increase the damage done to marine mammals, sea turtles, fish and birds. It's obvious that the Southern Resident Killer	The Navy prepares Environmental Impact Statements (EIS) and Environmental Assessments (EA) in order to comply with the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA). These NEPA documents are intended to ensure decision makers consider the potential environmental effects of a proposed action and its alternatives, provide an opportunity for public involvement, and promote transparency by informing the public of these potential environmental effects. Each NEPA document addresses a specific proposed action, separated from other actions by its purpose and need, independent utility, timing, and geographic location. Some NEPA documents are stand-alone documents; others tier off or expand the analyses of other NEPA documents. NEPA documents for training and testing, including this EIS/OEIS, focus on training and testing activities occurring within a range complex or military operation area and involve different types of aircraft, ships, and range complex enhancements. NEPA documents for aircraft homebasing actions focus on aircraft operations in and around the airfield and their facility needs. NEPA documents for installations focus on infrastructure enhancements for host and tenant command missions. Importantly, every environmental document considers the cumulative impacts to the environment from other relevant past, present, and reasonably foreseeable future actions (federal, state, local, and private) in addition to the proposed action. The Navy has been training in the Olympic Military Operations Area (MOA) for over 40 years, and the Navy has not proposed any significant changes to the way aircrew train in the MOA. The Navy recently analyzed plans to enhance existing training by adding one fixed transmitter at Pacific Beach and three mobile transmitter vehicles that would operate on existing logging roads and pull-out areas on U.S. Forest Service land. The Navy has not proposed to use National Park Service land. EW training and EW Range enhancements were analyzed in the Navy's Northwest Training Range Complex (NWTRC)

Table I.5-3: Responses to Comments from Organizations (continued)

Commenter	Comment	Navy Response
	Whale's dwindling population needs enhanced protection in accord with their endangered status. There is little consideration of exclusion zones, geographic alternatives to the southern Puget Sound and seasonal restrictions of exercises. All of the Alternatives propose year-round, unrestricted use without regard to seasonal variations in marine mammal and fish abundance. This is true despite the well-documented seasonal migrations of numerous endangered species and the identification of biologically important areas. The Navy should put critical marine habitats off-limits to sonar and explosives testing and schedule training to avoid times of the year when sensitive species are present especially in places like the Olympic Coast National Marine Sanctuary. Though this supplement admits increased sonar and explosive testing (TRACKEX) and finally addresses the MSO maneuvers there is no additional mitigation mentioned. Nowhere is it outlined whether visual patrols will increase as a result of this new activity, nor does the Supplement address real concerns over whether or not visual patrol is adequate at times of night or rough seas. No acoustic monitoring or avoidance strategies are included. This is a serious omission to a document that intended to address the inadequate science and mitigation plans of the original draft. We find this unacceptable. Given the choice between augmenting the navy's taking of what we hold precious and iconic or protecting the whales we much prefer more whales, less Navy. So, EIS analysts working for the Navy: do your duty – Shrink your impact! Develop alternative action plans that take the good hearted advice of scientists who see ways to protect the whales.	EIS/OEIS, completed in 2010. When more information became available on mobile and fixed signal transmitters for the EW Range, the Navy prepared the EW Range EA to analyze placement and operation of those transmitters. The Navy completed the EA and issued a Finding of No Significant Impact on August 28, 2014. The introduction of the land-based transmitters to enhance existing training will not harm people, animals, or the environment. The Navy has decades of experience building and operating signal equipment, with no adverse effects to people, animals, or the environment. Though there is a proposed increase in EW training events associated with the range enhancements and analyzed in this EIS/OEIS, the increase in events does not equate to a comparable increase in the number of aircraft flights or in the duration of flights. EW training flights are already occurring in the Olympic MOAs, and it is estimated that this proposal will only result in an approximately 10 percent annual increase in actual flights, which equates to approximately one additional flight per day. This is because each flight will be able to accommodate multiple EW training events. The Navy proposes to home base up to 36 additional EA-18G aircraft at NAS Whidbey Island. The Navy announced the preparation of that separate Whidbey EIS on September 5, 2013, and invited the public to participate in the NEPA process by submitting comments to define the scope of the Draft Whidbey EIS analysis. On October 10, 2014, the Navy revised the scope of the on-going Whidbey EIS and invited the public to submit additional scoping comments. The Navy is currently preparing its Draft Whidbey EIS, which is scheduled to be released in spring 2016. For more information, please visit the project website at www.whidbeyeis.com. This NWTT EIS/OEIS considered the Whidbey EIS proposal in its analysis of cumulative impacts in Chapter 4. As described in the Supplement in Section 3.4.2 (Marine Mammal Summary), the proposed increase in the use of SSQ-125 sonobuoys would "not result in any long-term consequences for any marine mammal population or species; therefore, the conclusions stated in the Draft EIS/OEIS remain unchanged." The Navy shares your concern for marine life, but this concern must be balanced with the purpose and need for Navy training and testing as detailed in Chapter 2 (Description of Proposed Action and Alternatives) of the EIS/OEIS. The Navy has conducted active sonar training and testing activities in the Study Area for decades, and there is no evidence that routine Navy training and testing has negatively

Table I.5-3: Responses to Comments from Organizations (continued)

Commenter	Comment	Navy Response
		impacted marine mammal populations in the Study Area or at any Navy Range Complex. Based on the best available science summarized in the EIS/OEIS Section 3.4.4.1 (Summary of Monitoring and Observations During Navy Activities), long-term consequences for marine mammal populations are unlikely to result from Navy training and testing activities in the Study Area. Please also refer to Chapter 5 (Standard Operating Procedures, Mitigation, and Monitoring) of the EIS/OEIS, detailing the procedures and mitigation measures during its training and testing activities designed to reduce impacts to marine mammals from Navy activities. As part of the Navy's effects analysis, the Navy considers all the science that identifies locations where certain cetacean populations or individuals are known to engage in feeding, breeding, or other biologically important activities at certain times of year. Recently, NMFS has taken steps to begin formally identifying some of these areas and naming them Biologically Important Areas (BIAs). The Navy has considered these areas as part of its analysis in this Final EIS/OEIS when discussing particular species in Chapter 3 (Affected Environment and Environmental Consequences) as well as in considering whether limitations on Navy activities in these areas are warranted as mitigation in discussion in Chapter 5 (see Section 5.3.4.1.11, Avoiding Marine Species Habitats and Biologically Important Areas). The Navy thoroughly considered the humpback and gray whale feeding areas identified recently in its analysis and whether avoidance as mitigation was appropriate. Given the impact avoidance would have on military readiness activities and lack of biological benefit, avoidance is not warranted. Please see Section 5.3.4.1.11 (Avoiding Marine Species Habitats and Biologically Important Areas). However, Navy is proposing to provide reporting of generally low use of sonar in some of these areas to NMFS as part of classified annual reports to help inform future adaptive management related to impacts in these areas. At time of release of this Final EIS/OEIS, NMFS and Navy are in ongoing discussion regarding mitigation for MMPA purposes. Should additional mitigation to that which Navy has proposed be identified in the MMPA rule making and authorization, it will be indicated in the ROD. It is important to note that the BIAs were not meant to define exclusionary zones, nor critical habitat with regulatory management, nor were they meant to be locations that serve as sanctuaries from human activity, or areas analogous to marine protected areas. The NMFS-identified BIAs do not have direct or immediate regulatory consequences and the BIAs located within the

Table I.5-3: Responses to Comments from Organizations (continued)

Commenter	Comment	Navy Response
		NWTT Study Area are not the only areas used for feeding, migrating, or reproductive activity for these cetaceans in a species' entire range and habitat. The stated intention is for the BIAs to serve as a resource management tool and their currently identified boundaries be considered dynamic and subject to change based on any new information as well as, "existing density estimates, range-wide distribution data, information on population trends and life history parameters, known threats to the population, and other relevant information." There is a lack of science supporting identification of any additional BIAs at this time for the Pacific. The Navy and NMFS have supported and will continue to support the Cetacean and Sound Mapping project, including providing representation on the Cetacean Density and Distribution Mapping Working Group (CetMap), which informed NMFS' identification of BIAs. The same marine mammal density data present in the Navy's Density Database Technical Report, and used in the analysis for this EIS/OEIS, was used in the development of BIAs. The final products, including U.S. West Coast BIAs from this mapping effort, were completed and published in March 2015. As described in Chapter 5 (Standard Operating Procedures, Mitigation, and Monitoring) of the EIS/OEIS, the Navy will implement mitigation measures during the use of sonobuoys. The mitigation measures are implemented for each activity and therefore the mitigation scales up as the activity level scales up. As discussed in various locations in Chapter 5 (Standard Operating Procedures, Mitigation, and Monitoring; for an example see specifically Section 5.3.2.1.2.1) of the EIS/OEIS, the Navy already makes use of passive acoustic detection when available and appropriate. Passive acoustic monitoring would be conducted with Navy assets, such as passive ship sonar systems or sonobuoys, already participating in the activity. There are also no weapons testing activities proposed in the Olympic National Forest in the Supplement to the Draft EIS/OEIS. As described in Section 3.10 (Cultural Resources), Section 3.12 (Socioeconomics), and Section 3.13 (Public Health and Safety) of the EIS/OEIS, the Navy's proposed activities are not expected to impact cultural resources, socioeconomic resources, or public health and safety. The Navy used the best available science and a comprehensive review of past, present, and reasonably foreseeable actions to develop

Table I.5-3: Responses to Comments from Organizations (continued)

Commenter	Comment	Navy Response
		a robust Cumulative Impacts analysis. See Chapter 4 (Cumulative Impacts) of the EIS/OEIS, which has been updated for the Final EIS/OEIS. The MSO activities do not include the use of sonar or live gun firing. The U.S. Navy has conducted active sonar training and testing activities for decades in the seaspace depicted in the Study Area with no evidence to indicate any meaningful impacts to marine habitats in the area. The Navy and NMFS jointly are still in ongoing consultation with the OCNMS regarding the effects of the Proposed Action on Sanctuary resources. The Navy concludes its continued activities are not likely to result in the loss, destruction, or adverse changes to the viability of Sanctuary resources. Several points support this determination: • Less than two percent of proposed training and 15 percent of proposed testing activities would occur within or immediately adjacent to the OCNMS. • The NWTT Final EIS/OEIS shows that training and testing activities have minimal temporary impacts on the quantity or quality of the Study Area's physical environment, and minor to no impacts on marine or shore birds, fish, sea turtles, or invertebrate marine life. • Although explosives have the potential to affect the physical and biological resources, the Navy does not use explosives within the OCNMS. • The Navy concludes any marine mammal behavioral reactions to NWTT training and testing activities would be transitory, infrequent, non-cumulative, and impacts are not expected to decrease overall individual fitness or result in long-term population-level impacts on any given population, and consequently will not result in any adverse changes to the sanctuary. Finally, all Department of Defense (DoD) military activities shall be carried out in a manner that avoids to the maximum extent practicable any adverse impacts on Sanctuary resources and qualities.
Protect the Peninsula's Future, Inc. (PPF)-01	Protect the Peninsula's Future (PPF) is a non-profit, public benefit corporation registered in Washington State since 1973. I am on the Board of Directors of PPF, and I have been designated as its EWR Lead. Many of our members live, work, recreate, hike, fish, or travel in areas of Olympic National Park, Olympic National Forest, and Clallam, Jefferson, Grays Harbor, Island, and San Juan Counties that will be adversely affected by the activities that are being conducted, and are proposed to be conducted, by the	The Navy prepares Environmental Impact Statements (EIS) and Environmental Assessments (EA) in order to comply with the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA). These NEPA documents are intended to ensure decision makers consider the potential environmental effects of a proposed action and its alternatives, provide an opportunity for public involvement, and promote transparency by

Table I.5-3: Responses to Comments from Organizations (continued)

Commenter	Comment	Navy Response
	U.S. Navy in the study areas covered by the 2010 Northwest Training Range Complex (NWTRC) EIS, the Pacific Northwest Electronic Warfare Range (EWR) EA, and the Northwest Training and Testing (NWTT) DEIS and its Supplement. PPF believes that most of these activities have not been sufficiently evaluated in any environmental document. The time has come for that to be done, especially since the EWR EA, as discussed below, promised so in respect to the impacts of aircraft on the EWR.	informing the public of these potential environmental effects. Each NEPA document addresses a specific proposed action, separated from other actions by its purpose and need, independent utility, timing, and geographic location. Some NEPA documents are stand-alone documents; others tier off or expand the analyses of other NEPA documents. NEPA documents for training and testing, including this EIS/OEIS, focus on training and testing activities occurring within a range complex or military operation area and involve different types of aircraft, ships, and range complex enhancements. NEPA documents for aircraft homebasing actions focus on aircraft operations in and around the airfield and their facility needs. NEPA documents for installations focus on infrastructure enhancements for host and tenant command missions. Importantly, every environmental document considers the cumulative impacts to the environment from other relevant past, present, and reasonably foreseeable future actions (federal, state, local, and private) in addition to the proposed action. The Navy has been training in the Olympic Military Operations Area (MOA) for over 40 years, and the Navy has not proposed any significant changes to the way aircrew train in the MOA. The Navy recently analyzed plans to enhance existing training by adding one fixed transmitter at Pacific Beach and three mobile transmitter vehicles that would operate on existing logging roads and pull-out areas on U.S. Forest Service land. The Navy has not proposed to use National Park Service land. EW training and EW Range enhancements were analyzed in the Navy's Northwest Training Range Complex (NWTRC) EIS/OEIS, completed in 2010. When more information became available on mobile and fixed signal transmitters for the EW Range, the Navy prepared the EW Range EA to analyze placement and operation of those transmitters. The Navy completed the EA and issued a Finding of No Significant Impact on August 28, 2014. The introduction of the land-based transmitters to enhance existing training will not harm people, animals, or the environment. The Navy has decades of experience building and operating signal equipment, with no adverse effects to people, animals, or the environment. Though there is a proposed increase in EW training events associated with the range enhancements and analyzed in this EIS/OEIS, the increase in events does not equate to a comparable increase in the number of aircraft flights or in the duration of flights. EW training flights are already occurring in the Olympic MOAs, and it is estimated that this proposal will only result in an approximately 10 percent annual increase in actual flights, which equates to approximately one

Table I.5-3: Responses to Comments from Organizations (continued)

Commenter	Comment	Navy Response
		additional flight per day. This is because each flight will be able to accommodate multiple EW training events.
PPF-02	Page 2-8 of the EWR EA states: "All of the EW training activities and locations that would be associated with the implementation of the Pacific Northwest EW Range were analyzed in the NWTRC EIS/OEIS. The NWTRC EIS/OEIS has an October 2010 Record of Decision that approved an alternative that included EW training activities associated with the establishment of a fixed emitter in the Pacific Beach area. Current training levels in the Olympic MOAs and W-237 will remain the same as per the NWTRC EIS/OEIS, and any changes to the type or tempo of training conducted in the Olympic MOAs and W-237 will be addressed in the Northwest Training and Testing (NWTT) EIS/OEIS." However, neither underlined statement is accurate. That the NWTRC EIS does not evaluate the activities contemplated by the proposed EWR is apparent from the following tables: Table 3.2-2 lists the emission sources for all training activities evaluated by the NWTRC EIS. The only emission sources listed for Electronic Combat are from aircraft and ships or boats. There are no emission sources listed for ground based mobile emitters. Had the activities contemplated by the proposed EWR been evaluated by the NWTRC EIS, the ground based mobile emitters should have been listed here as an emission source.	The Navy has been training in the Olympic Military Operations Area (MOA) for over 40 years, and the Navy has not proposed any significant changes to the way aircrew train in the MOA. The Navy recently analyzed plans to enhance existing training by adding one fixed transmitter at Pacific Beach and three mobile transmitter vehicles that would operate on existing logging roads and pull-out areas on U.S. Forest Service land. The Navy has not proposed to use National Park Service land. EW training and EW Range enhancements were analyzed in the Navy's Northwest Training Range Complex (NWTRC) EIS/OEIS, completed in 2010. When more information became available on mobile and fixed signal transmitters for the EW Range, the Navy prepared the EW Range EA to analyze placement and operation of those transmitters. The Navy completed the EA and issued a Finding of No Significant Impact on August 28, 2014. The introduction of the land-based transmitters to enhance existing training will not harm people, animals, or the environment. The Navy has decades of experience building and operating signal equipment, with no adverse effects to people, animals, or the environment. Though there is a proposed increase in EW training events associated with the range enhancements and analyzed in this EIS/OEIS, the increase in events does not equate to a comparable increase in the number of aircraft flights or in the duration of flights. EW training flights are already occurring in the Olympic MOA, and it is estimated that this proposal will only result in an approximately 10 percent annual increase in actual flights, which equates to approximately one additional flight per day. This is because each flight will be able to accommodate multiple EW training events.
PPF-03	Table 3.3-8 lists by activity and training area, the stressors and hazardous materials that would be associated with the activities evaluated by the NWTRC EIS. For Electronic Combat the only areas listed are the Darrington Area and W-237. Had the activities contemplated by the proposed EWR been evaluated by the NWTRC EIS, the Olympic MOAs should have been listed here as a training area. Table 3.16-1 lists by Range and Training Site, the training environment and the type of training activity covered by the NWTRC EIS. For Electronic Combat the only area listed is W-237. Had the activities contemplated by the proposed EWR been evaluated by the NWTRC EIS, the Olympic MOAs should have been listed here as a training area. Table 3.16-2 lists by warfare type the area in which it would be conducted. For Electronic	The NWTRC EIS/OEIS evaluated activities occurring in the Olympic MOAs. The Electronic Combat (EC, or referred to as EW in the NWTT EIS/OEIS) Exercises evaluated in the NWTRC EIS/OEIS are shown in Table 2-9 to occur in both the Offshore Area and the Inshore Area. As shown in Table 2-3, the Inshore Area includes the Olympic MOAs. As described in Section 1.2 (The Navy's Environmental Compliance and At-Sea Policy), the NWTT EIS/OEIS is part of the second phase of environmental planning for training and testing activities and analyzes aircraft training in the Olympic MOAs, as shown in Table 2.8-1.

Table I.5-3: Responses to Comments from Organizations (continued)

Commenter	Comment	Navy Response
	Combat the only areas listed are W-237a and the Darrington Area. Had the activities contemplated by the proposed EWR been evaluated by the NWTRC EIS, the Olympic MOAs would should have been listed here as a training area.	
PPF-04	That the NWTT DEIS did not evaluate the activities contemplated by the proposed EWR is apparent from the following statements: At Page 2-3 it says "The land resources affected by the use of the Olympic MOAs A and B will be evaluated as they are directly impacted by overflights for at-sea activities." To emphasize the obvious, only overflights of the MOAs for training at sea was contemplated in the NWTT EIS. No mention is made of impacts on the Olympic MOAs from Electronic Combat training there. At Page 3.6-18 it says "The training activities involving aircraft in the Olympic MOAs evaluated in this EIS/OEIS are similar to the training evaluated in the NWTRC EIS." With Electronic Combat training in the Olympic MOAs not having been evaluated in the NWTRC EIS, this sentence demonstrates it was not evaluated in the NWTT EIS either.	As described in Chapters 2 (Description of Proposed Action and Alternatives), 3 (Affected Environment and Environmental Consequences), and 4 (Cumulative Impacts), the NWTT EIS/OEIS evaluates increased events associated with the EW Range enhancements. The EW Range EA, tiered from the NWTRC EIS, fully analyzed potential impacts of the enhancements. The introduction of the land-based transmitters to enhance existing training will not harm people, animals, or the environment. The Navy has decades of experience building and operating signal equipment, with no adverse effects to people, animals, or the environment.
PPF-05	The clarification at Page 2-5 of the Supplement that the eastern boundary of the Study Area abuts the coastline also demonstrates that the NWTT DEIS did not evaluate the activities contemplated by the proposed EWR. Those activities would be in the over land portion of the Olympic MOA which this clarification makes obvious is not in the Study Area.	The clarification on Page 2-5 of the Supplement is referring only to the at-sea portion of the NWTT Study Area, or the “Offshore Area.” The Olympic MOAs are clearly included in the NWTT Study Area as shown in Section 2.1.1.1 (Airspace) of the Draft EIS/OEIS, where the Olympic MOAs are described.
PPF-06	That the over land portion of the Olympic MOA is omitted from the Study Area is also evident from Table ES-2, Summary of Environmental Impacts. In that Table, under Cultural Resources, it states that "'no World Heritage sites would be affected." That can only be true if the over land portions of the Olympic MOAs are excluded from the Study Area, because large portions of Olympic National Park, a World Heritage site, are located under the Olympic MOAs.	The only activities proposed in the NWTT EIS/OEIS in or near a World Heritage site are the flight activities conducted in the Olympic MOAs. In the Final EIS/OEIS, the Navy completed an analysis of the Olympic National Park as a World Heritage Site (Appendix K – World Heritage Site Analysis).
PPF-07	With the activities that are being conducted, and are proposed to be conducted, by the U.S. Navy in the study areas covered by the 2010 Northwest Training Range Complex (NWTRC) EIS, the Pacific Northwest Electronic Warfare Range (EWR) EA, and the Northwest Training and Testing (NWTT) DEIS not having been sufficiently evaluated in any environmental document, and not proposed to be evaluated in the Fall 2014 U.S. Navy EIS for the EA-18G Growler Airfield Operations at Naval Air Station (NAS) Whidbey Island (36 Growlers EIS), those activities should have been evaluated in the Supplement. Consequently, PPF's suggestions and criticisms regarding the EWR EA and the 36 Growlers EIS are equally applicable to the Supplement. These suggestions and criticisms are set forth below and incorporated herein. A suggestion or criticism regarding the EWR EA, or regarding the scoping proceedings for the 36 Growlers EIS, should be considered a suggestion or criticism regarding the Supplement.	The purpose of the Supplement to the NWTT Draft EIS/OEIS was described in its Abstract, Executive Summary, and Chapter 1 (Introduction to the Supplement). Only changes related to certain activities were covered. All other activities, including flights conducted for the purpose of EW training, were unchanged from the NWTT Draft EIS/OEIS. The Navy prepares Environmental Impact Statements (EIS) and Environmental Assessments (EA) in order to comply with the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA). These NEPA documents are intended to ensure decision makers consider the potential environmental effects of a proposed action and its alternatives, provide an opportunity for public involvement, and promote transparency by

Table I.5-3: Responses to Comments from Organizations (continued)

Commenter	Comment	Navy Response
		informing the public of these potential environmental effects. Each NEPA document addresses a specific proposed action, separated from other actions by its purpose and need, independent utility, timing, and geographic location. Some NEPA documents are stand-alone documents; others tier off or expand the analyses of other NEPA documents. NEPA documents for training and testing, including this EIS/OEIS, focus on training and testing activities occurring within a range complex or military operation area and involve different types of aircraft, ships, and range complex enhancements. NEPA documents for aircraft homebasing actions focus on aircraft operations in and around the airfield and their facility needs. NEPA documents for installations focus on infrastructure enhancements for host and tenant command missions. Importantly, every environmental document considers the cumulative impacts to the environment from other relevant past, present, and reasonably foreseeable future actions (federal, state, local, and private), in addition to the proposed action. The Navy has been training in the Olympic Military Operations Area (MOA) for over 40 years, and the Navy has not proposed any significant changes to the way aircrew train in the MOA. The Navy recently analyzed plans to enhance existing training by adding one fixed transmitter at Pacific Beach and three mobile transmitter vehicles that would operate on existing logging roads and pull-out areas on U.S. Forest Service land. The Navy has not proposed to use National Park Service land. EW training and EW Range enhancements were analyzed in the Navy's Northwest Training Range Complex (NWTRC) EIS/OEIS, completed in 2010. When more information became available on mobile and fixed signal transmitters for the EW Range, the Navy prepared the EW Range EA to analyze placement and operation of those transmitters. The Navy completed the EA and issued a Finding of No Significant Impact on August 28, 2014. The introduction of the land-based transmitters to enhance existing training will not harm people, animals, or the environment. The Navy has decades of experience building and operating signal equipment, with no adverse effects to people, animals, or the environment. Though there is a proposed increase in EW training events associated with the range enhancements and analyzed in this EIS/OEIS, the increase in events does not equate to a comparable increase in the number of aircraft flights or in the duration of flights. EW training flights are already occurring in the Olympic MOAs, and it is estimated that this proposal will only result in an approximately 10 percent annual increase in actual flights, which equates to approximately one

Table I.5-3: Responses to Comments from Organizations (continued)

Commenter	Comment	Navy Response
		additional flight per day. This is because each flight will be able to accommodate multiple EW training events. The Navy proposes to home base up to 36 additional EA-18G aircraft at NAS Whidbey Island. The Navy announced the preparation of that separate Whidbey EIS on September 5, 2013, and invited the public to participate in the NEPA process by submitting comments to define the scope of the Draft Whidbey EIS analysis. On October 10, 2014, the Navy revised the scope of the on-going Whidbey EIS and invited the public to submit additional scoping comments. The Navy is currently preparing its Draft Whidbey EIS, which is scheduled to be released in spring 2016. For more information, please visit the project website at www.whidbeyeis.com. This NWTT EIS/OEIS considered the Whidbey EIS proposal in its analysis of cumulative impacts in Chapter 4.
PPF-08	Before getting to those, however, a few other comments on the Supplement are in order, and most are applicable as well to all of the Navy's environmental documents regarding its activities in the Study Area covered by the EWR EA and the NWTT DEIS. 1. What constitutes an "event" or an "'activity" is never specifically defined. As such, it is simply impossible to determine the true environmental impacts of the Navy's proposed actions. We know that the EA-18G Growlers typically operate in groups of three. An "event" involving Growlers would therefore typically involve at least three aircraft flights, and perhaps a lot more. Section 3.4.3.2.5.2 of the NWTT DEIS discusses a Civilian Port Defense activity, listed as only one "activity," that lasts several days and would include multiple helicopter flights every day. At page 3.4-286 a Submarine Commander Course involving three surface ships and a submarine using mid-frequency sonar "over the span of the multiple day event is discussed." Thus it is, what the environmental documents innocently refer to as one "event" are in fact probably multiple events involving multiple assets and perhaps lasting multiple days.	The Navy has revised Section 2.7.1.4 (Electronic Warfare) of the Final EIS/OEIS to add clarifying language about the relationship between an activity and number of aircraft involved. A description of the Civilian Port Defense activity (listed as Maritime Homeland Defense/Security Mine Countermeasures Exercise) is included in Appendix A, p. A-22 of the EIS/OEIS. An event is one entire iteration of an activity. The activity may be simple and require less than an hour to complete, or it may be complex and require several days to complete. In many cases, as described now in the Final NWTT EIS/OEIS in Section 2.7.1.4, a single aircraft flight could include more than one event. The method of analysis accounts for the complexity of the activity. The Navy paid special attention to capturing this complexity when analyzing impacts to marine mammals, as described in the technical report on the modeling.
PPF-09	2. Table 3-8 of the Supplement lists 8,040 events including aircraft movement under Alternative 2 in the Offshore Area, and 117 events including aircraft in the Inland Waters. The difference between 8,040 and 117 is 7,923. It would appear that the aircraft involved in these 7,923 events would have to overfly the Inland Waters from NASWI to reach the Offshore Area. The impacts associated with those over flights must be evaluated.	The aircraft that train in the Olympic MOAs arrive in the MOA airspace via FAA flight routes and flight handling. That phase of each flight is under control of the FAA and is not analyzed as training activities in the NWTT EIS. The cumulative impacts of the transits to the MOA are analyzed in Chapter 4 (Cumulative Impacts) of the NWTT EIS/OEIS.
PPF-10	3. An FAQ document (recently removed from the NASWI web site) stated, for example, that "[t]he average number of flights in the Olympic Military Operations Area is 1,250 annually. Section 3.6.3.2.1.1 of the NWTT DEIS, however, sets the baseline of flights at 3,836 events per year in the OPAREA/Olympic MOAs, and states that most of these would occur in W-237. These varying, indefinite, and imprecise statistics preclude any	The number of activities analyzed in the NWTT EIS/OEIS is based on several factors, to include historical data and conservative overestimates. The analysis of potential impacts accounts for the size and potential variety of locations in which training and testing activities could occur, in order to provide the decision maker with a thorough

Table I.5-3: Responses to Comments from Organizations (continued)

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	meaningful analysis of the impacts on any one area, especially so since the MOAs cover both land and sea and a flight over the sea portion would have different impacts compared with a flight over the land portion. There is a crying need for sound data defining the true number of flights, ship movements, drone movements, and other asset movements that have historically taken place and that will take place in the future, by each area impacted by the Navy's plans, before any meaningful environmental evaluation can be accomplished. 4. The Inland Waters are defined to "include alt waters of the Strait of Juan de Fuca, the Puget Sound (including Hood Canal), and the Strait of Georgia." There is language throughout the NWTT DEIS and the Supplement that describes certain areas within the Inland Waters where the Navy conducts specific training activities. However, there is also language throughout those documents that implies the proposed activities could occur anywhere in the Inland Waters. Just where each activity is slated to occur must be well defined before any meaningful environmental evaluation can be accomplished. For example, a diagram on the right side of the "Growler Operations" page of the 36 Growlers EIS Scoping Meeting Guide, shows a detailed portrayal of the flight paths of Growlers using the OLF for Field Carrier Landing Practice (FCLP). That same specificity should be required for the analysis of both aircraft and ship movement with respect to any resource that can be adversely impacted by the Navy's proposed activities.	understanding of potential impacts. As described above, clarifying language has been added regarding the relationship between an activity and number of aircraft involved. The locations proposed for the Navy's activities are described with as much detail as possible, given uncertainties about future activities, and in some cases, security requirements that prevent disclosure of specific times and locations.
PPF-11	5. As further comment on the previous paragraph, please consider the example of a prime fishing area located out from Cape Flattery (near North 48.06, West 125.26) and known as the "Prairie." The bathymetry of that area creates an ideal location for bait fish to accumulate; the bait fish attract salmon and other fish; and the salmon and other fish attract birds, and both marine mammals and land based mammals, the latter known as fishermen. A Navy exercise located on the Prairie would have a huge impact on a number of resources required to be studied by NEPA; a Navy exercise located away from there could have fewer impacts. The environmental impacts of the Navy's proposed actions on the Prairie cannot be evaluated without knowing the proximity of the Navy's proposed actions to the Prairie. The same is true for a multitude of areas throughout the NWTT Study Area. Each of those areas needs to be identified and studied with specificity co know the true environmental impacts of the Navy's proposed activities. 6. As further comment on the two previous paragraphs, the consideration of alternatives and mitigating measures as required by NEPA cannot be accomplished without the specificity called for therein. For example, a reasonable alternative to the proposed action could be to redefine the Off Shore Area and the Inland waters to exclude the areas such as the Prairie from the areas in which the Navy's proposed activities could be conducted. Also, for example, a mitigating condition would be to keep the Navy's resources at least 1000 yards (or the distance of the moving security zone) away from any of those areas such as the Prairie, and the routes fishermen take to those areas, so that neither fish, birds, marine mammals, nor fishermen therein Would be affected by the	The specific area described as the "Prairie" lies beneath W-237B in the Offshore Area of the NWTT Study Area, and also lies within the Olympic Coast National Marine Sanctuary (OCNMS). The analysis contained within the NWTT EIS/OEIS considers all areas within the Study Area, and concluded that proposed activities would not have a significant impact on any resources, including those activities and resources around the "Prairie." The analysis concluded that the Navy's activities would not affect fish populations in a significant way, and would not affect fish habitat. For more information about potential impacts to fish habitat, please see the Essential Fish Habitat (EFH) Assessment on the NWTTEIS.com website. The Navy conducted consultation with NMFS regarding the EFH Assessment and NMFS concurred with the Navy's conclusions. Also, because the "Prairie" is within the OCNMS, it is afforded additional protections, such as the prohibition against Navy bombing exercises. Finally, as has been the Navy's practice, absent any unusual circumstances, the Navy has the flexibility to move its events and would not prevent the use of the area by fishing vessels or any other non-Navy vessels. As stated in the EIS/OEIS in Section 3.13.2.2.1 (Offshore Area), "Inability to obtain a 'clear range' could cause an event to be delayed, cancelled, or relocated." This is

Table I.5-3: Responses to Comments from Organizations (continued)

Commenter	Comment	Navy Response
	Navy's activities.	especially true of any potentially hazardous events, such as missile firing activities. For hazardous events, the Navy advises the U.S. Coast Guard who issues Notices to Mariners.
PPF-12	7. The Supplement considers the impacts of ongoing activities in the NWTT Study Area that were not previously analyzed. For example, see ES.2.2 Maritime Security Operations, and Table 2-4, Submarine Mine Exercise. This idea is commendable, although the actual evaluation of those impacts is lacking. As importantly, however, the impacts of the ongoing aircraft and other activities in the MO As, which have never previously been analyzed, should also be evaluated. In the interim those activities should be stopped.	The Navy complies with all applicable environmental laws, including NEPA. As such, the Navy developed the Supplement to the Draft EIS/OEIS to meet the requirements of these laws. The full analysis of the new activities was made using the best available science and is included in the Supplement to the Draft EIS/OEIS and also in the Final EIS/OEIS throughout Chapter 3 (Affected Environment and Environmental Consequences). The impacts of ongoing activities in the Olympic MOAs were analyzed previously in the 2010 NWTRC EIS/OEIS. The Electronic Combat (EC, or referred to as EW in the NWTT EIS/OEIS) Exercises evaluated in the NWTRC EIS/OEIS are shown in Table 2-9 to occur in both the Offshore Area and the Inshore Area. As shown in Table 2-3, the Inshore Area includes the Olympic MOAs. Similarly, the activities conducted in the Olympic MOAs are covered in the NWTT EIS/OEIS, as shown in Table 2.8-1.
PPF-13	8. The Bonneville Power Administration, in an attempt to mitigate adverse impacts of the Columbia River Basin dams, funds habitat improvements and other mitigating measures throughout the North\vest. The Navy's proposed actions will have an impact on endangered species, including birds, salmon and marine mammals, and on the fishermen, whether commercial or sports, who catch the salmon. These impacts, to whatever degree they will occur, could be mitigated to some extent, by increasing the number of salmon in the Study Area. To do this, the Navy could fund habitat improvements, just as does the Bonneville Power Administration. 9. The Hood Canal Bridge has been identified as a likely culprit in the decline of the Hood Canal salmon and steelhead runs. See the article in PLoS One. 2013; 8(9): e73427, Published online 2013 Sep 5. doi: 10 1371/ioumal,none 0073427 , PMCID: PMC3764 I 16, entitled "A Floating Bridge Disrupts Seaward Migration and Increases Mortality of Steelhead Smolts in Hood Canal, Washington State." The theory is that for most stocks, except outbound Chum Salmon that migrate deeper than the bridge's pontoons, the bridge acts as a barrier and exposes outbound smolts to more predation by predatory birds and fish. One habitat improvement that the Navy could fund as a mitigating measure would be the reconstruction of the Hood Canal Bridge so that it no longer serves as a barrier to salmon migration. This would increase the food available to birds, marine mammals, and fishermen, and offset the take of birds and marine mammals that would otherwise occur under the Navy's proposal. Depending upon how the reconstruction would take place, it could also reduce the impact of the Navy's	The Navy at-sea training and testing activities do not reduce available habitat, nor do they significantly reduce marine species populations. Therefore, replacement for lost habitat is not considered in this EIS/OEIS. The Navy's activities may affect commercial, recreational, or tribal fishermen in the Inland Waters by temporarily displacing them from localized fishing sites. The Navy has on-going projects in cooperation with the tribes of Puget Sound related to fish and shellfish stocking and habitat. Because the Navy's activities would not reduce fish populations, no consideration is given of replacing the Hood Canal Bridge. Also, given the nature and purpose of bridge closures during security escorts, vehicle traffic would still be required to remain off the bridge.

Table I.5-3: Responses to Comments from Organizations (continued)

Commenter	Comment	Navy Response
	activities on automobile traffic wanting to cross Hood Canal.	
PPF-14	10. The activities proposed in the Supplement add a stunning number of instances to the total of marine mammal takes disclosed in the NWTT DEIS, and a stunning increase in CO and other emissions of air pollutants (which correspond to a similar increase in aircraft and vessel activity). Despite these huge increases, very little study is given to the resulting impacts and very little is proposed for increased mitigation measures. Most impacts are just dismissed out of hand. NEPA requires more.	Please see the Final EIS/OEIS, Section 3.4.3.1.18 (Application of the Marine Mammal Protection Act to Potential Acoustic and Explosive Effects) for a description of “take” and note that the overwhelming majority of takes are behavioral harassments. Based on years of analysis and best available science, and in coordination with the regulators, the Navy is confident in its assessment that the proposed training and testing activities will not result in long term population effects. Chapter 3 (Affected Environment and Environmental Consequences) of the EIS/OEIS provides a thorough analysis of the potential impacts. As presented in Chapter 5 (Standard Operating Procedures, Mitigation, and Monitoring), mitigation measures are tailored to an activity to reduce a specific environmental impact on a particular resource.
Sierra Club (SC)-01	On behalf of Sierra Club North Olympic Group and its nine hundred members we are writing to submit comments on the Supplement (December 2014) to the Navy's Draft Environmental Impact Statement/ Overseas Environmental Impact Statement (DEIS), dated January 2014, for its continued training and testing activities in the Pacific Northwest (NWTT). Please include these comments in the administrative record. The Navy's activities in the Northwest Training and Testing (NWTT) Study Area poses significant risks to whales, fish, and other wildlife that depend on a peaceful environment for breeding, feeding, navigating, and avoiding predators-in short, for their survival. The increased sonar activity outlined in the Supplement - the Tracking Exercise Maritime Patrol (TRACKEX), and the previously unreported Maritime Security Operations effects, and the cumulative impacts of stressors and greenhouse gases will have increased significant negative impacts on the marine environment. All of the Sierra Club's previous outlined concerns regarding the NWTT plans proposed in the EIS/OEIS are only intensified by the increased negative effect of the larger percentages of additional activity (TRACKEX) and previously unexamined environmental effects (MSO, GHG) outlined in the Supplement. The long-term, cumulative impacts of all of these activities on marine wildlife have only been cursorily assessed in this Supplement.	The Navy shares your concern for the environment and specifically marine life. The analysis and the science shows that there are not significant risks to whales, fish, and other wildlife as a result of sound associated with Navy training and testing activities. Based on the analysis in the Supplement to the Draft EIS/OEIS and monitoring conducted during actual training events, the proposed training will not pose a risk to whales, fish, and other wildlife given that these same activities have been conducted for many years here and in other Range Complexes with no indications of broad-scale impacts that are either injurious or of significant biological impact to marine mammals, fish, or wildlife at those locations. Please see the recent results supporting this as presented in training ranges monitoring reports available at the Navy website (www.navymarinespeciesmonitoring.us/) and from the NMFS Office of Protected Resources website (www.nmfs.noaa.gov/pr/permits/incidental.htm#applications). The Navy used the best available science and a comprehensive review of past, present, and reasonably foreseeable actions to develop a robust Cumulative Impacts analysis. See Chapter 4 (Cumulative Impacts) of the EIS/OEIS, which has been updated for the Final EIS/OEIS.
SC-02	KEY CONCERNS PREVIOUSLY COMMENTED ON We wish to take this opportunity to reiterate key concerns previously submitted on this	The Navy's analysis in Chapter 3 (Affected Environment and Environmental Consequences) of the EIS/OEIS does not indicate that

Table I.5-3: Responses to Comments from Organizations (continued)

Commenter	Comment	Navy Response
	proposal in April 2014 and note that this Supplement worsens the picture regarding all of them: •The thousands of injuries and deaths (takes) to and of marine mammals, sea turtles, fish and birds is further increased.	"thousands" of injury or mortality takes would occur. The Navy's quantitative analysis in Section 3.4 (Marine Mammals) shows that sonar may result in approximately 126 PTS exposures (i.e., a permanent loss of hearing sensitivity to certain frequencies of underwater sound). No mortality exposure are predicted. Two PTS exposures are predicted from the use of explosives during training and testing activities. No other injury and no mortality takes are predicted (see Tables 3.4-17, 3.4-18, 3.4-25, and 3.4-26). No injury takes to leatherback sea turtles (the only species present in the Study Area) are predicted from quantitative analysis presented in Section 3.5 (Sea Turtles). Although potential impacts to certain fish and bird species may include injury or mortality, impacts are not expected to decrease the overall fitness of any given population, including ESA-listed species.
SC-03	•The lack of sensitivity to the Southern Resident Killer Whale's dwindling population and its need for a protected home in accord with its endangered status remains a critical concern. 'Training should be excluded from their critical habitat. Proximity to Naval bases for the convenience of sailors and their families, or interesting underwater topography taken as a rationale for continuing southern Puget Sound exercises does not warrant even one '"take" of this species.	The analysis presented in Section 3.4 (Marine Mammals) considers Southern Resident killer whale critical habitat. As presented in Section 3.4.2.1.5.1 (Status and Management) for Southern Resident killer whale, the Navy is aware of the Primary Constituent Elements supporting Southern Resident killer whale critical habitat and concludes in Section 3.4.3 (Environmental Consequences) that the Navy's proposed actions, including activities using sonar and explosives, will not affect critical habitat or the defined Primary Constituent Elements. Specifically, a total of 4 behavioral "takes" or exposures of Southern Resident killer whales from sonar and other active acoustic sources are predicted by the Navy's Acoustic Effects Model (see Section 3.4.3.2.1.5 [Alternative 1, Training Activities and similar sections]. Minor behavioral reactions would not have any substantial or long term effects on individual or the population of Southern Resident killer whales.
SC-04	• The lack of consideration of exclusion zones, geographic alternatives to the southern Puget Sound and seasonal restrictions are still glaring omissions. All of the Alternatives propose year round unrestricted use without regard to seasonal variations in marine mammal and fish abundance. This is true despite the well- documented seasonal migrations of numerous endangered species and the identification of biologically important areas.	As described in Chapter 5 (Standard Operating Procedures, Mitigation, and Monitoring) of the Final EIS/OEIS, the Navy evaluated the effectiveness and practicability of a number of potential mitigation measures including the avoidance of specific areas. The Navy thoroughly considered the humpback and gray whale feeding areas identified recently in its analysis and whether avoidance as mitigation was appropriate. Given the impact avoidance would have on military readiness activities and lack of biological benefit, avoidance is not warranted. Please see Section 5.3.4.1.11 (Avoiding Marine Species Habitats and Biologically Important Areas). However, Navy is proposing to provide reporting of generally low use of sonar in some of

Table I.5-3: Responses to Comments from Organizations (continued)

Commenter	Comment	Navy Response
		these areas to NMFS as part of classified annual reports to help inform future adaptive management related to impacts in these areas. The Navy has undertaken consultation with NMFS for the proposed and ongoing activities in the NWTT Study Area. As a result of consultation with NMFS, the final mitigation measures are now presented in Chapter 5 (Standard Operating Procedures, Mitigation, and Monitoring) of this Final EIS/OEIS. Through careful exploration of all mitigation measures to determine which were the most effective, the Navy chose the measures to mitigate potential impacts to marine mammals while still being able to meet its operational needs to train for real-world conditions. The Navy and NMFS will use the Adaptive Management process to assess whether any additional mitigation should be considered in identified biologically important areas.
SC-05	• Our concern regarding the apparent lack of any plans for the Navy to use the Cetacean Density and Distribution Mapping Working Group's data (CetMap) for marine mammal populations in the Pacific Northwest to mitigate harm and protect habitat remains.	The Navy and NMFS have supported and will continue to support the Cetacean and Sound Mapping project, including providing representation on the Cetacean Density and Distribution Mapping Working Group (CetMap) developing the biologically important areas (BIAs). The final products including U.S. West Coast BIAs from this mapping effort were completed and published in March 2015 (Aquatic Mammals 2015; Calambokidis et al. 2015; Ferguson et al. 2015a, 2015b; Van Parijs 2015). A review of the final BIAs for humpback whales and gray whales against areas where most acoustic activities are conducted in the NWTT study area (especially those that involve ASW hull mounted sonar, sonobuoys, and use of explosive munitions) reveals that there is no spatial overlap. For the remaining activities, any spatial or temporal overlap between Navy activities within the NWTT Study Area and BIAs would be small, infrequent, and therefore biologically insignificant since Navy's proposed training and testing events are unlikely to significantly affect the marine mammal activities for which the BIAs were designated. It is important to note that the BIAs were not meant to define exclusionary zones, nor were they meant to be locations that serve as sanctuaries from human activity, or areas analogous to marine protected areas (see Ferguson et al. (2015a) regarding the envisioned purpose for the BIA designations). These areas are not critical habitat and are not intended to have any regulatory management. The delineation of BIAs does not have direct or immediate regulatory consequences. The intention was that the BIAs would serve as resource management tools and their boundaries be dynamic and considered along with any new information as well as, "existing density

Table I.5-3: Responses to Comments from Organizations (continued)

Commenter	Comment	Navy Response
		estimates, range-wide distribution data, information on population trends and life history parameters, known threats to the population, and other relevant information" (Van Parijs 2015).
SC-06	• The Navy's failure to develop meaningful alternatives and strategies to MITIGATE this increased harm is unacceptable--particularly because the Navy's plan fails to adopt commonsense measures that would dramatically reduce these injuries and deaths without compromising national security. Most importantly, the Navy should put critical marine habitats off-limits to sonar and explosives testing and schedule training to avoid times of the year when sensitive species are present in places like the Olympic Coast National Marine Sanctuary, something it is not willing to do despite the scientific community's view that these would be the most effective means of reducing harm.	As described in Chapter 5 (Standard Operating Procedures, Mitigation, and Monitoring) of the Final EIS/OEIS, the Navy evaluated the effectiveness and practicability of a number of potential mitigation measures including the avoidance of specific areas. The Navy has undertaken consultation with NMFS for the proposed and ongoing activities in the NWTT Study Area. As a result of consultation with NMFS, the final mitigation measures are now presented in Chapter 5 (Standard Operating Procedures, Mitigation, and Monitoring) of this Final EIS/OEIS. Through careful exploration of all mitigation measures to determine which were the most effective, the Navy chose the measures to mitigate potential impacts to marine mammals while still being able to meet its operational needs to train for real-world conditions. The Navy and NMFS will use the Adaptive Management process to assess whether any additional mitigation should be considered in identified biologically important areas. The U.S. Navy has conducted active sonar training and testing activities for decades in the seaspace depicted in the Study Area with no evidence to indicate any meaningful impacts to marine habitats in the area. The Navy and NMFS jointly are still in ongoing consultation with the OCNMS regarding the effects of the Proposed Action on Sanctuary resources. The Navy concludes its continued activities are not likely to result in the loss, destruction, or adverse changes to the viability of Sanctuary resources. Several points support this determination: • Less than two percent of proposed training and 15 percent of proposed testing activities would occur within or immediately adjacent to the OCNMS. • The NWTT Final EIS/OEIS shows that training and testing activities have minimal temporary impacts on the quantity or quality of the Study Area's physical environment, and minor to no impacts on marine or shore birds, fish, sea turtles, or invertebrate marine life. • Although explosives have the potential to affect the physical and biological resources, the Navy does not use explosives within the OCNMS. • The Navy concludes any marine mammal behavioral reactions to NWTT training and testing activities would be transitory, infrequent,

Table I.5-3: Responses to Comments from Organizations (continued)

Commenter	Comment	Navy Response
		non-cumulative, and impacts are not expected to decrease overall individual fitness or result in long-term population-level impacts on any given population, and consequently will not result in any adverse changes to the sanctuary. Please see Section 5.3.1 (Lookout Procedural Measures) and Section 5.3.2 (Mitigation Zone Procedural Measures) for descriptions of the mitigation measures the Navy proposes.
SC-07	A noticeable lack of increased mitigation plans in accord with the increased damage that is likely from additional sonar activity is unacceptable. Nowhere is it outlined whether visual patrols will increase as a result of this new activity, nor does the Supplement address real concerns over whether or not visual patrol is adequate at times of night or rough seas. No acoustic monitoring, or avoidance strategies are included. This is a serious omission to a document that intended to address the inadequate science and mitigation plans of the original draft. Mitigation must be addressed more fully.	As presented in Chapter 5 (Standard Operating Procedures, Mitigation, and Monitoring) of the Draft and Final EIS/OEIS, the mitigation measures are implemented for each activity and therefore the mitigation scales up as the activity level scales up. The Navy considers the mitigation described in Chapter 5 (Standard Operating Procedures, Mitigation, and Monitoring) of the Final EIS/OEIS to be as effective as is practical at mitigating impacts to marine mammals, including the additional exposures predicted as a result of the change to training activities in the proposed action. As noted in Section 5.3.1 (Lookout Procedural Measures) and described in Section 5.3.2.1.2.1 (Improved Extended Echo Ranging Sonobuoys) and other activities using explosives, passive acoustic monitoring methods will be used when available to supplement visual observation of marine mammals. As mentioned in Section 5.1.2 Vessel Safety, lookouts are trained in nighttime visual observation techniques, which may include the use of night vision devices.
SC-08	NEW CONCERNS The opportunity to comment on this Supplement at this time allows the North Olympic Group Sierra Club to add very important criticisms of this proposal. • Earlier comments submitted by our group and others called for an examination of cumulative impacts of sonar testing, stressors, and climate change concerns. This Supplement has merely mentioned these concerns and then claims them to be non-significant. As these questions are paramount and important to the future of the region these proclamations of non-significance are unsupported and are dismissive.	The Supplement only supplemented the more complete analysis contained in the Draft EIS/OEIS, where a full examination of cumulative impacts of sonar testing, stressors, and climate change can be found. For example, consideration of climate change is discussed in Section 4.4.4 (Climate Change). The Navy used the best available science and a comprehensive review of past, present, and reasonably foreseeable actions to develop a robust Cumulative Impacts analysis. See Chapter 4 (Cumulative Impacts) of the EIS/OEIS, which has been updated for the Final EIS/OEIS.
SC-09	•It has become evident that the Navy has embarked on a strategy of handling public comment that appears out of sync with federal NEPA requirements. Four clearly-linked documents have been spread out in their introduction to the public over the last year and a half. This has had the effect of separating ground-based, air-based and sea-based naval activities as if they were not linked. This misleads the public into considering	The Navy prepares Environmental Impact Statements (EIS) and Environmental Assessments (EA) in order to comply with the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA). These NEPA documents are intended to ensure decision makers consider the potential environmental effects of a proposed action and its alternatives, provide

Table I.5-3: Responses to Comments from Organizations (continued)

Commenter	Comment	Navy Response
	smaller spheres of influence of Navy actions in myriad localities. This strategy, or decision, to break up an obviously unified plan may in fact be in violation of federal law. The four proposals were: •An initial call for Scoping Comments to evaluate the potential environmental effects associated with ongoing and planned EA-18G Growler airfield operations at NAS Whidbey Island's Ault Field and Outlying Landing Field (OLF) (December 2013). •The Northwest Training and Testing EIS/OEIS (January 2014): covering the sea-based training and testing plans stretching from Alaska to California that features a proposed increase of the use of sonar and explosives in offshore areas and the Sound. • The Pacific North\vest Electronic Warfare Range Environmental Assessment (August 2014) and the National Forest Service Special Use Permit proposal. •The most recent Scoping period revision of the future U.S. Navy Environmental Impact Statement for the EA-18G Growler Airfield Operations at Naval Air Station (NAS) Whidbey Island November 2014. This significant upward revision of numbers of Growlers proposed was the most recent opportunity to comment.	an opportunity for public involvement, and promote transparency by informing the public of these potential environmental effects. Each NEPA document addresses a specific proposed action, separated from other actions by its purpose and need, independent utility, timing, and geographic location. Some NEPA documents are stand-alone documents; others tier off or expand the analyses of other NEPA documents. NEPA documents for training and testing, including this EIS/OEIS, focus on training and testing activities occurring within a range complex or military operation area and involve different types of aircraft, ships, and range complex enhancements. NEPA documents for aircraft homebasing actions focus on aircraft operations in and around the airfield and their facility needs. NEPA documents for installations focus on infrastructure enhancements for host and tenant command missions. Importantly, every environmental document considers the cumulative impacts to the environment from other relevant past, present, and reasonably foreseeable future actions (federal, state, local, and private) in addition to the proposed action. The Navy has been training in the Olympic Military Operations Area (MOA) for over 40 years, and the Navy has not proposed any significant changes to the way aircrew train in the MOA. The Navy recently analyzed plans to enhance existing training by adding one fixed transmitter at Pacific Beach and three mobile transmitter vehicles that would operate on existing logging roads and pull-out areas on U.S. Forest Service land. The Navy has not proposed to use National Park Service land. EW training and EW Range enhancements were analyzed in the Navy's Northwest Training Range Complex (NWTRC) EIS/OEIS, completed in 2010. When more information became available on mobile and fixed signal transmitters for the EW Range, the Navy prepared the EW Range EA to analyze placement and operation of those transmitters. The Navy completed the EA and issued a Finding of No Significant Impact on August 28, 2014. The introduction of the land-based transmitters to enhance existing training will not harm people, animals, or the environment. The Navy has decades of experience building and operating signal equipment, with no adverse effects to people, animals, or the environment. Though there is a proposed increase in EW training events associated with the range enhancements and analyzed in this EIS/OEIS, the increase in events does not equate to a comparable increase in the number of aircraft flights or in the duration of flights. EW training flights are already occurring in the Olympic MOAs, and it is estimated that this proposal will only result in an approximately 10 percent annual

Table I.5-3: Responses to Comments from Organizations (continued)

Commenter	Comment	Navy Response
		increase in actual flights, which equates to approximately one additional flight per day. This is because each flight will be able to accommodate multiple EW training events. The Navy proposes to home base up to 36 additional EA-18G aircraft at NAS Whidbey Island. The Navy announced the preparation of that separate Whidbey EIS on September 5, 2013, and invited the public to participate in the NEPA process by submitting comments to define the scope of the Draft Whidbey EIS analysis. On October 10, 2014, the Navy revised the scope of the on-going Whidbey EIS and invited the public to submit additional scoping comments. The Navy is currently preparing its Draft Whidbey EIS, which is scheduled to be released in spring 2016. For more information, please visit the project website at www.whidbeyeis.com. This NWTT EIS/OEIS considered the Whidbey EIS proposal in its analysis of cumulative impacts in Chapter 4.
SC-10	Importantly, as regards the current NWTT Supplement, the Navy's engagement in the process of informing the public has been extremely flawed and piecemeal. The Navy has not been forthright nor clear about its overall aims and has been lax in its exploration of alternatives and available scientific resources. There is an obligation to present this fragmented series of proposals as it clearly has been planned - as one massive Navy plan for a large region of the Pacific Northwest and the Puget Sound. It has enormous consequences for all that live here.	The Navy executed a robust plan for informing the public and obtaining input on the NWTT Supplement to the Draft EIS/OEIS. The Navy made significant efforts to notify the public to ensure maximum public participation during the public comment period, including using postcards, press releases, and newspaper display advertisements. The public could download and review the document, and make comments to it, on the website (www.NWTTEIS.com).
SC-11	Our waters are already showing evidence of harm from climate change, habitat degradation, and ocean acidification and the Navy's current plans will result in further deterioration of this precious resource that contributes to the economic vitality and beauty of our Pacific Northwest. Our airways, waterways, parks and wilderness areas, homes and the entire region depend on all of us, including the Navy, to protect the region from further damage.	The Final EIS/OEIS considers climate change, habitat degradation, and ocean acidification. There is a Navy-wide energy program that targets reducing the Navy's carbon footprint and minimizing energy consumption, thereby reducing contributions to climate change and ocean acidification.
Stranded No More (SNM)-01	We are writing to express a strong opposition to the proposed EIS by the US Navy in regard to NORTHWEST TRAINING AND TESTING. The EIS has several very serious problems that could potentially lead to severe underestimation of the potential impact from proposed activities. 1. The US Navy should disclose all potential conflicts of interests and specify explicitly what scientists and studies have been funded by the Navy. For example, the EIS uses a quote from Dr. Ketten (2012) not once but twice in its EIS (p. 3.4-68 and p. 3.4-91)without specifying when, how much and how often Dr. Ketten was funded by the US Navy to conduct research. This omission of information and failure to disclose the conflict of interest is not trivial as research indicated that "Primary papers are 2.3 times more likely to be cited in the reviews as concluding no effect of noise if the research was militarily-funded than if not." (Wade et al., 2010. p.	The commenter's assertion that there is a conflict of interest whenever Navy funds research is based on a misunderstanding of how research is funded and the reliance on the referenced Wade et al. (2010) article. The basic premise of the assertion and the Wade et al. (2010) article is flawed given that in almost all cases, Navy is only one of many contributors to the total research budget on a particular scientific project, with additional sources of funding and support provided by universities, research organizations, research institutes, and independent scientists. Given this large number of independent universities, organizations, and researchers involved in the annual volume of science touched by a Navy source of funding, there is no basis for the assertion that scientists or research partially funded by

Table I.5-3: Responses to Comments from Organizations (continued)

Commenter	Comment	Navy Response
	320, not cited in EIS).	Navy are biased in favor of the Navy.
SNM-02	2. Even though the EIS has a section on strandings and embolism it failed to mention that the current stranding response protocol does not include any mandatory rapid in situ embolism testing, even though the low cost methodology for such testing is available and has been described in detail in peer-reviewed literature (Quiros et al., 2011, not cited in EIS) 3. The EIS does not discuss in detail complete mayhem and disarray of the US stranding response field. The field is underfunded, the response is not systematic, is haphazard, there is no unifying protocol, like for example, in situ embolism testing is not required. The data is not transparent, not publicly available, the Navy is not transparent about its activities. No immediate information is available to link strandings to the Navy activities, especially when it comes to independent organizations and observers.	The investigation of strandings is not a mission of the Navy and necropsy research by Navy is not part of the proposed action. There are three citations of Bernaldo de Quiros in the Final EIS/OEIS to this author's work (see for example Section 3.4.3.1.2.5 (Bubble Formation (Acoustically Induced))), one of which includes more recent follow-on work from the 2011 publication. NMFS is in charge of the Marine Mammal Health and Stranding Response Program. While the Navy provides support when and where possible, it is not the Navy's mission to review, manage, or implement this program. Regarding the availability of data on the location of U.S. Navy activities, that information is classified for purposes of national security. There are, however, scientists at NMFS with the appropriate security clearance, and when appropriate, the Navy provides NMFS the data needed to investigate a stranding.
SNM-03	4. The EIS does not provide comprehensive overview of all relevant and available literature on a subject of sound and marine mammals. Below are the studies that have not been included, even though they are highly relevant as they show how vulnerable marine mammals are to the anthropogenic sound: a) Brownell, R.L. et al., (2008), Hunting cetaceans with sound: a worldwide review, b) Miller et al., 2011, Developing dose-response relationships for the onset of avoidance of sonar by free-ranging killer whales(Orcinus orca), c). Parsons et al., (2008), Navy sonar and cetaceans: Just how much does the gun need to smoke before we act? d). Report on the mass stranding and rescue of common dolphins in Porth Creek, the Percuil River, Falmouth, SW England, June 2008 e).Weilgart L, Whitehead H, Rendell L, Calambokidis J. Signal-to-noise: funding structure versus ethics as a solution to conflict-of-interest.	It is never the case in science or in a NEPA document that "all relevant and all available literature" needs to be cited for there to be a complete review and analysis of the topics being discussed. As per the guidance on NEPA from the Council on Environmental Quality (see 40 C.F.R. §1500.1(b)) the Navy's EIS/OEIS concentrates on issues and references that are truly significant to the proposed action "rather than amassing needless detail" as would be present if it included all available literature on the subject of sound and marine mammals. For the NWTT Final EIS/OEIS, Navy has continued to update the discussion and analysis by considering new, emergent science published in peer-reviewed scientific journals and other verifiable sources. Comments received on the Draft EIS/OEIS were also reviewed for any citation to references not otherwise listed in the draft document, and all such references were reviewed to determine if they constituted significant, relevant, and widely-respected additions to the field for possible inclusion into the Final EIS/OEIS. Upon review and although it does not in any way alter the analysis, the citation to Brownell et al. (2008) has been added to the document as a result of this comment and as it pertains to the discussion of avoidance of anthropogenic activity. Some comments cited newspapers, website blogs, conference abstracts, or reports from workshops, which have generally not been included in the EIS/OEIS since those references did not go through the peer-review process, which is the standard for validating research and results in the scientific community. In general, the Navy did not include references that lack the indicia of scientific

Table I.5-3: Responses to Comments from Organizations (continued)

Commenter	Comment	Navy Response
		reliability or finality (beyond speculation or unsupported hypothesis) and therefore do not warrant consideration at this time. References found to enhance the analysis or that update the information previously presented have been added to Section 3.4 (Marine Mammals - References Cited and Considered) for this Final EIS/OEIS. Note also that the following references were considered in the development of the Final EIS/OEIS: 1) Miller et al. (2014), Dose-response relationships for the onset of avoidance of sonar by free ranging killer whales; and 2) Parsons et al., (2008), Navy sonar and cetaceans: Just how much does the gun need to smoke before we act?
SNM-04	5. The EIS does not discuss all ways of how marine mammals can be negative impacted and by doing so provides inaccurate and potentially wrong and misleading evaluation of mortalities and negative impacts. EIS application completely ignores severe and far reaching consequences of live strandings. For example, a study by Wade et al. (2012) indicated how removal of key individuals can affect the entire populations. They key individuals often die during mass or single strandings and their death affects the entire population because these individuals are either leaders, or important for mating and reproduction or important for knowledge transfer that takes place in species like sperm whales, pilot whales and potentially many other species. Hence, EIS does not make the accurate estimation of actual damage their activities will result in. 6. Similarly, EIS failed to mention how strandings might not reflect the true extent of mortalities resulted from the Navy activities. For example, the experimental study that did controlled carcasses release offshore found that only 8% of experimentally released carcasses made it to shore. (Peltier et al., 2012). This could indicate that many animals affected will not wash ashore and will die offshore, never to be seen or counted. The Navy is grossly underestimated the actual impact of its activities. It capitalizes on conflict of interest, cherry-picking of data and studies, lack of resources for independent studies and investigation, and dismal state of the US stranding network that cannot produce any compelling evidence for Navy's role in strandings not because there is none, but because stranding field lacks resources, training, coordination and frankly desire to investigate and to find the cause for increasing strandings in the US. References: Bernaldo De Quirós, et al (2012). Decompression vs. Decomposition: Distribution, Amount, and Gas Composition of Bubbles in Stranded Marine Mammals. Peltier, et al. (2012). The significance of stranding data as indicators of cetacean populations at sea: Modelling the drift of cetacean carcasses. Wade et al 2012 “Social and Behavioural Factors in Cetacean Responses to Overexploitation: Are Odontocetes Less “Resilient” Than Mysticetes?	Thank you for providing information regarding specific references. Please see the analysis presented in the EIS/OEIS in Section 3.4 (Marine Mammals) regarding strandings and the science upon which the analysis is based. Please note that the citations provided in the comment were either previously considered or cited in the EIS/OEIS. Precisely because stranding data may not be indicative of the total impacts to marine mammals in a given area, the Navy has relied on predictive modeling of acoustic impacts and the science summarized in the EIS/OEIS Section 3.4.4.1 (Summary of Monitoring and Observations During Navy Activities) based on the results of over 8 years of scientific monitoring, research, and scientific investigations where the Navy has been training and testing for decades. This has included many instances of monitoring, tagging, and observation of marine mammals before, during, and after Navy training and testing events or exposure to sonar have occurred. As a result of the information in the EIS/OEIS, long-term consequences for marine mammal populations are unlikely to result from the continuation of Navy training and testing activities in the Study Area. Please also refer to Chapter 5 (Standard Operating Procedures, Mitigation, and Monitoring) of the EIS/OEIS, detailing the procedures and mitigation measures during its training and testing activities designed to reduce impacts to marine mammals from Navy activities.
Sibylline	1) Sonars and other active acoustic sources are not simply harmful, they are killers and not just for cetaceans, for all marine life, invertebrates included. 2) Navy has to consider	The Navy shares your concern for marine life, but this concern must be balanced with the purpose and need for Navy training and testing

Table I.5-3: Responses to Comments from Organizations (continued)

Commenter	Comment	Navy Response
Oceans	the consequences of its actions. Killing our oceans is killing ourselves. It's opposite to the Defense purpose. 3) For animals impacted on a long distance : harmed and stranded on our beaches with the possibility to be rescued, there is N0 center able to hospitalize a whale because there is NO money. So, why waste money in this kind of military training ? 4) The proof of the welfare of whales and dolphins when the navy exercises stop : no more mass stranding on our shores (ej. : Canaries, Spain). Conclusion : we ask you to stop the irresponsibility of this "war game" and we urge you to please follow the scientific community recomendations. There is nothing virtual in the consequences and our first debt is to protect our heritage."	as detailed in Chapter 2 (Description of Proposed Action and Alternatives) of the EIS/OEIS. The Navy has conducted active sonar training and testing activities in the Study Area for decades, and there is no evidence that routine Navy training and testing has negatively impacted marine mammal populations in the Study Area or at any Navy Range Complex. Based on the best available science summarized in the EIS/OEIS Section 3.4.4.1 (Summary of Monitoring and Observations During Navy Activities), long-term consequences for marine mammal populations are unlikely to result from Navy training and testing activities in the Study Area. Please also refer to Chapter 5 (Standard Operating Procedures, Mitigation, and Monitoring) of the EIS/OEIS, detailing the procedures and mitigation measures during its training and testing activities designed to reduce impacts to marine mammals from Navy activities. Regarding previous strandings, see Section 3.4.3.1.8 (Stranding) and the referenced technical report "Marine Mammal Strandings Associated with U.S. Navy Sonar Activities" (U.S. Department of the Navy 2013c). The report can be found on the NWTT project website at: http://nwtteis.com/DocumentsandReferences/NWTTDocuments/SupportingTechnicalDocuments.aspx
Whale and Dolphin Conservation (WDC)-01	Whale and Dolphin Conservation, WDC, is signatory on more detailed comments on the Supplement to the Draft Environmental Impact Statement (DEIS) in a separate joint letter submitted by the Natural Resources Defense Council (NRDC), but is also submitting additional comments specific to the critically endangered Southern Resident killer whales, whose habitat is within the Northwest Training and Testing range: the summer range and critical habitat in Puget Sound and the Strait of Juan de Fuca; winter range and proposed critical habitat in the coastal waters of Washington, Oregon, and California, including the Olympic National Marine Sanctuary. The National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS) released a Recovery Plan in 2008 for the critically endangered Southern Resident population, in which anthropogenic noise, including sonar, is recognized as a threat to this population[1]. Noise has "the potential to mask echolocation and other signals used by the species, as well as to temporarily or permanently damage hearing sensitivity.[2]" The recent 10-year report released by the NMFS named vessels and noise as one of the top three major threats to recovery of this distinct population segment[3]. Southern Resident killer whales rely on their acoustic sensory system for navigation, foraging, communicating with pod members, and socializing. An increase of anthropogenic noise in their habitat will interfere with the whales' ability to forage and communicate; prey depletion is another top threat to this population, and any activity that disrupts hunting and foraging behavior will negatively	The Navy recommends review of the EIS/OEIS, Section 3.4.3.2.14 (Killer Whale (Orcinus orca)) and discussions regarding the various stressors as they apply to killer whales presented in Section 3.4.3 (Environmental Consequences). See the discussion in Section 3.4.3.1 (Acoustic Stressors) providing the basis for the conclusions regarding ignoring, alerting, altering movement, and avoidance of sound sources as well as discussion of other potential impacts such as the masking communications (in Section 3.4.3.1.4 (Auditory Masking). See Section 3.4.3.7 (Impacts from Secondary Stressors), Section 3.4.4 (Summary of Impacts (Combined Impacts of all Stressors) on Marine Mammals), and Chapter 4 (Cumulative Impacts) regarding the analysis in this regard.

Table I.5-3: Responses to Comments from Organizations (continued)

Commenter	Comment	Navy Response
	impact the Southern Residents. Additionally, the cumulative impacts of stress caused by noise and prey depletion will result in impaired immune and reproductive systems[4]. 1 National Marine Fisheries Service. 2008. Recovery Plan for Southern Resident Killer Whales (Orcinus orca). National Marine Fisheries Service, Northwest Region, Seattle, Washington. 2 Ibid. 3 National Marine Fisheries Service. 2014. Southern Resident Killer Whales: 10 years of research and conservation. National Marine Fisheries Service, Northwest Region, Seattle. 4 National Marine Fisheries Service. 2008. Recovery Plan for Southern Resident Killer Whales (Orcinus orca). National Marine Fisheries Service, Northwest Region, Seattle, Washington.	
WDC-02	In the same 10-year report, the NMFS confirmed that this population utilizes the coastal waters within the Northwest Training and Testing range in the fall, winter, and spring months – spending "well over 50% of their time on the outer coast[5]." The Supplement to the DEIS includes a significant increase in sonar activities within the coastal range of the Southern Resident population; the number of sonobuoys used increases from 20 to 720 (a 36-fold escalation) in 41% more events per year (17 to 24 activities). The preferred Alternative (Alternative 1) recognizes that the use of sonar "may affect, and is likely to adversely affect" Southern Resident killer whales, but concludes that the predicted effects would not result in any long-term consequences. They reach this determination based on their monitoring results from the Hawaii and Southern California training and testing ranges, which does not apply to the Northwest region nor the species found there. Previous training and testing exercises in the Southern Residents' habitat, when the whales were nearby, disrupted their normal behavior and caused the whales to flee, indicating they are sensitive to sonar activity[6]. For a population that is on the verge of extinction, any additional adverse effects will have a long-term consequence. 5 National Marine Fisheries Service. 2014. Southern Resident Killer Whales: 10 years of research and conservation. National Marine Fisheries Service, Northwest Region, Seattle. 6 U.S. Navy, Pacific Fleet. 2004. Report on the results of the inquiry into allegations of marine mammal impacts surrounding the use of active sonar by USS Shoup (DDG 86) in the Haro Strait on or about 5 May 2003.	The Navy is not proposing to increase the annual number of sonobuoys by a factor of 36. The Navy's original proposal in the Draft EIS/OEIS includes the annual deployment of approximately 9,200 sonobuoys of various types. The increase of 700 sonobuoys described in the Supplement is an increase of less than 8 percent. The Navy's conclusions in the EIS/OEIS are not based solely on monitoring results in other Navy ranges. The conclusions are based on a number of factors, including years of monitoring in the NWTT Study Area. Please see the Draft or Final EIS/OEIS and the information presented in Section 3.4.3.1.6 (Behavioral Reactions), Section 3.4.1.9 (Long-Term Consequences to the Individual and the Population), and Section 3.4.4.1 (Summary of Monitoring and Observations During Navy Activities) to understand the science and analysis presented. Note that Navy discussion of all the science and all the possibilities of behavioral reactions and what could happen in particular circumstances should not be taken to mean that all such consequences are likely to occur. As explained in Section 3.4.3.1.14 (Quantitative Analysis), the Navy took a very conservative approach to the prediction of effects and the analysis purposefully over-predicts effects to account for unknowns and uncertainty (see specifically Section 3.4.3.1.14.4 (Model Assumptions and Limitations). Also note that while the increase in the number of sonobuoys presented in the Supplement to the Draft EIS/OEIS results in increased exposures to marine mammals, the total is still less than Navy's currently authorized MMPA and ESA exposures for the NWTT Study Area.
WDC-03	A recent petition submitted to the NMFS by the Center for Biological Diversity for the revision of critical habitat for the Southern Residents involved a provision to include sound as a primary constituent element (PCE) for critical habitat[7]. The NMFS accepted the petition as warranted and recognized that the information presented was "relevant to	The Navy has completed ESA consultation with NMFS with full consideration of the current critical habitat of southern resident killer whales. Please note that the Navy has conducted training and testing activities in the Study Area for decades, and there is no evidence that

Table I.5-3: Responses to Comments from Organizations (continued)

Commenter	Comment	Navy Response
	consideration of sound as a new essential feature." While a final designation has yet to be made for Southern Resident critical habitat, the NMFS included sound as a PCE in its recent critical habitat designation for beluga whales in Cook Inlet[8] - indicating that sound is an anthropogenic impact of increasing concern for endangered marine mammals. The Supplement's additional analysis of Maritime Security Operations includes 286 annual activities all conducted within inland waters and in the critical habitat of the Southern Resident population. As previously stated, any additional anthropogenic noise in the Southern Residents' range, from vessel noise or sonar activities, will have a negative impact on this population. The annual census of the entire Southern Resident population allows an accurate count to be maintained and close observation of births and losses. As of the end of 2014, the Southern Resident community numbered only 77 individuals, ten fewer than is listed in the initial DEIS and 12 fewer than the most recent peak of 89 individuals in 2011. The Navy's proposed increases in sonar and vessel activity within the range of this critically endangered population will cause additional stress and negative impacts on this struggling community. We urge the Navy to reconsider the impacts of its proposed activities on the Southern Residents and to examine alternatives and additional mitigation measures to ensure the protection and recovery of this population. Please do not hesitate to contact us with any questions or concerns. 7 79 Fed. Reg. 22.933 8 76 Fed. Reg. 20.180	routine Navy training and testing has negatively impacted marine mammal populations in the Study Area or at any Navy Range Complex. Based on the best available science summarized in the EIS/OEIS Section 3.4.4.1 (Summary of Monitoring and Observations During Navy Activities), long-term consequences for marine mammal populations are unlikely to result from Navy training and testing activities in the Study Area. With regard to Maritime Security Operations, which are included in the environmental analysis, it is important to note that these activities have been ongoing for years, and contribute a small fraction of the total vessel noise in Puget Sound. The MSO activities do not include the use of sonar or live gun firing.
The Whale Museum (WM)-01 (Electronic)	Incorporate better techniques to improve detection rates of marine mammals (MMs), extend exclusion zones around detected MMs, and utilize exclusion zones based on specific areas & times in mitigation strategies. We do not support the change in mitigation zones (MZ), which should remain at 1000 yds, active transmissions should cont to cease at 1000 yds. MZ should not change from 1000 yds to 200 yds for Low-Freq and Hull-Mounted Mid-Freq sonar. MZ during sonobuoy testing should remain at 1000 yds, not proposed 600 yds. The sounds (active sonar, explosions, vessel/aircraft noise) generated with increasing frequency as part of training activities on the NWTRC will likely have significant impacts MMs. While considerable research has been conducted on the impacts of some of these sources, especially active sonar, the Navy's estimates of zones of influence are too small and not conservative enough. Much of the modeling relies on tests conducted on a few species in captivity and probably do not accurately reflect the hearing ability & physiological impact on wild populations that inhabit the NWTRC. To appropriately mitigate noise impacts that the Navy wishes to generate in the NWTRC, they need to: • Improve ability to detect all MMs, paying special attention to the endangered Southern Resident killer whales (SRKWs). Involve passive acoustic arrays and high elevation	There were no changes to mitigation zones expressed in the Supplement to the Draft EIS/OEIS. Regarding mitigation zones described in the EIS/OEIS, please see Section 5 (Standard Operating Procedures, Mitigation, and Monitoring) for a description of the mitigation measures proposed. The Navy considered the best available science in preparation of this EIS/OEIS and is in consultation with NMFS as the regulator and a cooperating agency with regard to the proposed action and any resultant mitigation measures as conditions of anticipated authorizations under the MMPA or reasonable and prudent measures resulting from issuance of a Biological Opinion under ESA. Navy will incorporate techniques that improve detection rates for marine mammals as those techniques become available and as long as they do not impact the primary training and testing mission, and are safe and practicable. To understand the basis behind the development and assessment of the mitigation measures, see Section 5.2.2 (Overview of Mitigation Approach) and Section 5.2.3 (Assessment Method). With regard to specific proposed mitigation zones, see Section 5.3.2 (Mitigation Zone

Table I.5-3: Responses to Comments from Organizations (continued)

Commenter	Comment	Navy Response
	(quiet) aerial over-flights for visual observations. The Navy can & should do better at knowing where MMs are within the training region. It is preferable that a 3rd party org conduct this monitoring; sightings should be made available to the scientific & management communities. • If MMs are sighted or detected within acoustic range, exercises should be shut down if in progress & postponed or moved elsewhere if the exercises have not yet started. Ex., an appropriate threshold for such a decision is whenever noise levels from naval operations as well as other sources at the location of SRKWs are expected to be greater than 130 dB re 1µPa. • Exercises that generate loud noise (active sonar, explosions) should not be conducted at night because visual detections of SRKWs or other MMs are not usually possible. • Exercises that generate loud noise (active sonar, explosions) should not be conducted in the inland waters (incl. Strait of Juan de Fuca) because these form critical habitat for ESA-listed SRKWs; this area already has many anthropogenic noise sources. Although current anthropogenic noise sources are not as acute as those due to naval training operations, they create long term stressors. Ex., Holt et al. (2009) found that SRKWs increase the amplitude of their calls to compensate for increased noise. Further increases of this stress are not acceptable for this endangered species. • The only reason the outer coast was not included as critical habitat for SRKWs is that there was not enough info about how regularly they use different areas on the outer coast. The Navy should support efforts to better understand habitat and resource use of all MMs in the NWTRC so they can avoid specific areas that are critical to these species. Special efforts should be made to survey the location and behavior of the SRKWs when they forage in & transit through the Olympic National Marine Sanctuary, avoiding ops that would create stress on the SRKWs while they are in the Sanctuary.	Procedural Measures) and specifically Table 5.3-2. There has been no change to the Mitigation Zone starting at 1,000 yard for Low-Frequency and Hull-Mounted Mid-Frequency sonar; The Navy is proposing to continue implementing the current measures for mid-frequency active sonar (see discussion presented in Section 5.3.2.1.1.1, Low-Frequency and Hull-Mounted Mid-Frequency Active Sonar). Regarding the mitigation zone for explosive sonobuoy testing, see Section 5.3.2.1.2.1 (Improved Extended Echo Ranging Sonobuoys), which explains the scientific basis for a 600 yard mitigation zone. The Navy is in the process of assessing Lookout effectiveness at detecting marine mammals during Navy exercises. Lookouts will not always be effective at avoiding impacts on all species. However, Lookouts are expected to increase the overall likelihood that certain marine mammal species and some sea turtles will be detected at the surface of the water, when compared to the likelihood that these same species would be detected if Lookouts are not used. The continued use of Lookouts contributes to helping reduce potential impacts on these species from training and testing activities. Results from the Lookout effectiveness study will be reviewed and any recommendations for improving Lookout effectiveness will be considered at that time. In the interim, please note that the Navy's visual mitigation has been demonstrated to be effective over the eight years of monitoring associated with Navy training and testing at sea in publically available reports submitted to NMFS since 2006 and accessible on the NMFS Office of Protected Resources website. Regarding the comment that the Navy should supplement its visual monitoring efforts with other measures, please see the discussion in Section 5.3.4.1.13 (Increasing visual and passive acoustic observations). For a discussion on the practicality of third-party observers, please see Section 5.3.4.1.15 (Conducting Visual Observations Using Third-Party Observers). The intention of the mitigation is to reduce the potential for injury to marine mammals. As presented in Section 3.4.3.2.1 (Range to Effects), for mid-frequency cetaceans, the PTS (injury; Level A harassment) range from even the SQS-53C sonar is only approximately 10 meters and therefore all stationary sources, which are all much less powerful, would require a sperm whale or beaked whale to be much closer to the source. As described in Section 3.4.3.2

Table I.5-3: Responses to Comments from Organizations (continued)

Commenter	Comment	Navy Response
		(Marine Mammal Avoidance of Sound Exposures), there are many activities for which it is unlikely a marine mammal will remain close enough to those activities for a Level A exposure to occur. The Navy does not expect that mitigation will eliminate all potential effects, but has proposed measures that are effective, practical, and safe to implement, and that do not impact the readiness objective underlying the purpose for the activity in the first place. As stated in Chapter 5 (Standard Operating Procedures, Mitigation, and Monitoring) of the EIS/OEIS, the Navy must train in the same manner as it will fight. Mid-frequency active sonar training is required year-round in all environments, including night and low visibility conditions. Training occurs over many hours or days, which requires large teams of personnel working together in shifts around the clock to work through a scenario. Training at night is vital because environmental differences between day and night affect the detection capabilities of sonar. Temperature layers that move up and down in the water column and ambient noise levels can vary significantly between night and day, which affects sound propagation and could affect how sonar systems are operated. Consequently, personnel must train during all hours of the day to ensure they identify and respond to changing environmental conditions, and not doing so would unacceptably decrease training effectiveness and reduce the crews' abilities. Therefore, the Navy cannot operate only in daylight hours or wait for the weather to clear before training. The information regarding southern resident killer whale vocalizations relative to the background noise has been added to the analysis in the Final EIS/OEIS. The U.S. Navy has conducted active sonar training and testing activities for decades in the sea space depicted in the Study Area with no evidence to indicate any meaningful impacts to marine habitats in the area. The Navy and NMFS jointly are still in ongoing consultation with the OCNMS regarding the effects of the Proposed Action on Sanctuary resources. The Navy concludes its continued activities are not likely to result in the loss, destruction, or adverse changes to the viability of Sanctuary resources. Several points support this determination: • Less than two percent of proposed training and 15 percent of proposed testing activities would occur within or immediately adjacent to the OCNMS.

Table I.5-3: Responses to Comments from Organizations (continued)

Commenter	Comment	Navy Response
		• The NWTT Final EIS/OEIS shows that training and testing activities have minimal temporary impacts on the quantity or quality of the Study Area's physical environment, and minor to no impacts on marine or shore birds, fish, sea turtles, or invertebrate marine life. • Although explosives have the potential to affect the physical and biological resources, the Navy does not use explosives within the OCNMS. • The Navy concludes any marine mammal behavioral reactions to NWTT training and testing activities would be transitory, infrequent, non-cumulative, and impacts are not expected to decrease overall individual fitness or result in long-term population-level impacts on any given population, and consequently will not result in any adverse changes to the sanctuary. Finally, all Department of Defense (DoD) military activities shall be carried out in a manner that avoids to the maximum extent practicable any adverse impacts on Sanctuary resources and qualities, including the SRKWs. As stated in Section 3.0.2.2 of the EIS/OEIS, "Since 2006, the Navy, as well as non-Navy marine mammal scientists and research institutions, has conducted scientific monitoring and research in and around ocean areas in the Atlantic and Pacific where the Navy has been training and testing and where it proposes to continue these activities. Data collected from Navy monitoring, scientific research findings, and annual reports provided to NMFS may inform the analysis of impacts on marine mammals for a variety of reasons, including species distribution, habitat use, and evaluation of potential responses to Navy activities. Monitoring is performed using various methods, including visual surveys from surface vessels and aircraft and passive acoustics. Navy monitoring can generally be divided into two types of efforts: (1) collecting long-term data on distribution, abundance, and habitat use patterns within Navy activity areas; and (2) collecting data during individual training or testing activities. Monitoring efforts during anti-submarine warfare and explosive events focus on observing individual animals in the vicinity of the event and documenting behavior and any observable responses. Although these monitoring events are very localized and short term, over time they will provide valuable information to support the impact analysis."
WM-02	• Noisy aircraft that are transiting any region containing the SRKWs should re-route their paths to avoid direct over-flights. Existing noise levels already cause SRKWs stress and	As described in Section 5.3.4.1.12 in the EIS/OEIS, "Exposure of marine protected area resources to aircraft overflights would be brief

Table I.5-3: Responses to Comments from Organizations (continued)

Commenter	Comment	Navy Response
	additional noise, especially startling noise, should be avoided. Two additional concerns are: increased Maritime Security Operations (MSO) would add vessel noise to an already noisy environment, putting additional stress on endangered SRKWs; and increasing the number of sonobuoys by 550 would add entanglement stressors (increased number of parachutes/decelerators, 1 per sonobuoy).	and is expected to cause only a minor and temporary behavioral reaction due to noise for marine mammals, sea turtles, birds, or fish that may be present in the area…Additional mitigation or avoidance of these marine protected areas would be unnecessary, and limiting passage through the areas would restrict direct access to training and testing locations. Such avoidance would ultimately increase transit time and for platforms with fuel restrictions (e.g., aircraft) would therefore result in an unacceptable increased risk to personnel safety." With regard to Maritime Security Operations, it is important to note that while these activities are being evaluated for environmental impacts for the first time in this document, they have been ongoing for years, and contribute a small fraction of the total vessel noise in Puget Sound. Regarding the concern about decelerator/parachute entanglement, please see the analysis in the Draft or Final EIS/OEIS in Section 3.4.3.5 (Entanglement Stressors). The increase by less than 8 percent in the number of decelerator/parachutes does not change the analysis, so the conclusions in the Draft EIS/OEIS remain valid and have been carried forward to this Final EIS/OEIS.
WM-03	Additionally, we are concerned that the Marine Mammal Section 3.4 of the DEIS has failed to incorporate findings and recommendations from the NMFS's Recovery Plan for SRKWs (2008)2, esp concerning impacts from explosives in DEIS Section 3.4.3.2.2, vessel noise in Section 3.4.3.2.4, weapons in Section 3.4.3.2.3, and aircraft noise in Section 3.4.3.2.5. The DEIS does make frequent reference to the NMFS's SRKW Critical Habitat Designation (2006), however the 2008 Recovery Plan is a significantly more comprehensive document addressing the US federal government's strategy for addressing the plight of this endangered population. We strongly suggest you address the 2008 Recovery Plan in your DEIS document, particularly addressing the 3rd risk factor: sound and disturbance from vessels. This risk factor covers obvious sub-topics for the DEIS, including: Military mid-freq sonar, Canadian activities in the Haro & Juan de Fuca Straits (which aren't addressed yet impact the same area) Vessel strikes and Oil spills. Thank you.	The Navy agrees that there was not specific citation to the recovery plan in the Draft EIS/OEIS, however, the information presented in the recovery plan was considered in the analysis presented in this Final EIS/OEIS. As a result of this comment, that citation has now been added to the Final EIS/OEIS. Note that the issues (such as the recovery plan's identification of "sound and disturbance from vessel traffic" as a risk) were discussed in detail in various sections of the Draft EIS/OEIS under the applicable stressor categories. See Section 3.4.1.6 (Behavioral Reactions) and the subsections below that covering impulsive, non-impulsive, and vessel noise. Also, see Section 3.4.3.4.1 (Impacts from Vessel Strikes) regarding a discussion of vessel strikes. Canadian activities (military or otherwise) are not part of the Proposed Action.
The Whale Museum (TWM)-01	The Board of Directors and the staff of The Whale Museum appreciate the opportunity to provide comments on the Navy's Draft Environmental Impact Statement/ Overseas Environmental Impact Statement ("DEIS") for the Northwest Training Range Complex ("NWTRC"). Please include the following comments in the administrative record. To be successful, conservation and recovery programs for endangered species need strategies that minimize threats or disturbances both in time and in space. This is one of the main reasons why recovery plans for endangered species include areas considered	As described in Chapter 5 (Standard Operating Procedures, Mitigation, and Monitoring) of the Final EIS/OEIS, the Navy evaluated the effectiveness and practicability of a number of potential mitigation measures including the avoidance of specific areas. The Navy has undertaken consultation with NMFS for the proposed and ongoing activities in the NWTT Study Area and the Navy refined the mitigation measures, which are now presented in Chapter 5 (Standard Operating

Table I.5-3: Responses to Comments from Organizations (continued)

Commenter	Comment	Navy Response
	critical habitat. The Navy DEIS only tries to provide these exclusion zones by protecting areas around marine mammals that have been detected. This strategy is heavily reliant on the Navy's ability to reliably detect marine mammals. We fee! strongly that the Navy needs to incorporate better techniques to improve their detection rates of marine mammals, extend their exclusion zones around detected marine mammals, and utilize exclusion zones based on specific areas and times in their mitigation strategies.	Procedures, Mitigation, and Monitoring) of this Final EIS/OEIS. Through careful exploration of all mitigation measures to determine which were the most effective, the Navy chose the measures to mitigate potential impacts to marine mammals while still being able to meet its operational needs to train for real-world conditions. The Navy's specific mitigation measures are outlined in the following sections: Section 5.3.1 (Lookout Procedural Measures), Section 5.3.2 (Mitigation Zone Procedural Measures), and Section 5.3.3 (Mitigation Areas). Specifically, Section 5.3.4 (Mitigation Measures Considered but Eliminated) presents Navy consideration of similar area restrictions. The Navy and NMFS will use the Adaptive Management process to assess whether any additional mitigation should be considered in identified biologically important areas.
TWM-02	We do not support the change in mitigation zones in the Supplemental Draft. The mitigation zone should remain at 1000 yards-active transmissions should continue to cease at 1000 yards. The mitigation zone should not change from 1000 yards to 200 yards for Low-Frequency and Hull-Mounted Mid -Frequency sonar. The mitigation zone during sonobuoy testing should also remain at 1000 yards, not 600 yards, as proposed.	The mitigation zones have not changed from those presented in the Draft EIS/OEIS. As shown in Table 5.3-2 of Chapter 5 (Standard Operating Procedures, Mitigation, and Monitoring) of the EIS/OEIS, the mitigation zones extend well beyond the predicted ranges to PTS and injury effects for all sound sources, and in many cases extend beyond the predicted ranges to TTS effects.
TWM-03	The sounds (active sonar, explosions, vessel/aircraft noise) that the Navy will be generating with increasing frequency as part of their training activities on the NWTRC will likely have significant impacts on marine mammals and other species within this area. While considerable research has been conducted on the impacts of some of these noise sources, especially active sonar, the Navy's estimates of zones of influence are too small and not conservative enough. Much of the modeling relies on tests conducted on a few species in captivity and probably do not accurately reflect the hearing ability and physiological impact on wild populations of the various species that inhabit the NWTRC.	The Navy shares your concern for marine life. All of the potential effects from Navy training and testing activities were analyzed in Chapter 3 (Affected Environment and Environmental Consequences) of the EIS/OEIS. Also, as described in Chapter 5 (Standard Operating Procedures, Mitigation, and Monitoring) of the EIS/OEIS, the Navy implements, to the maximum extent possible, mitigation measures during its training and testing activities. The U.S. Navy has conducted active sonar training and testing activities for decades in the sea space depicted in the Study Area with no documented proof of injuries to marine mammals. The Navy and NMFS relied upon best available science to derive the behavioral response function. The data used were based on one captive animal study and two studies that involved observations of wild animals exposed to sonar or sonar-like signals.
TWM-04	To appropriately mitigate the noise impacts that the Navy wishes to generate in the NWTRC we feel they need to do the following. • Improve their ability to detect all marine mammals, paying special attention to the endangered Southern Resident killer whales (SRKWs). This should involve passive acoustic arrays and high elevation (quiet) aerial over-flights for visual observations. The	The Navy is in the process of assessing Lookout effectiveness at detecting marine mammals during Navy exercises. Lookouts will not always be effective at avoiding impacts on all species. However, Lookouts are expected to increase the overall likelihood that certain marine mammal species and some sea turtles will be detected at the

Table I.5-3: Responses to Comments from Organizations (continued)

Commenter	Comment	Navy Response
	Navy can and should do better at knowing where marine mammals are within the Navy's training region. It is preferable that a third party organization conduct this monitoring and that the sightings be reported and made available to the scientific and management communities.	surface of the water, when compared to the likelihood that these same species would be detected if Lookouts are not used. The continued use of Lookouts contributes to helping reduce potential impacts on these species from training and testing activities. Results from the Lookout effectiveness study will be reviewed and any recommendations for improving Lookout effectiveness will be considered at that time. In the interim, please note that the Navy's visual mitigation has been demonstrated to be effective over the eight years of monitoring associated with Navy training and testing at sea in publically available reports submitted to NMFS since 2006 and accessible on the NMFS Office of Protected Resources website. Regarding the comment that the Navy should supplement its visual monitoring efforts with other measures, please see the discussion in Section 5.3.4.1.13 (Increasing visual and passive acoustic observations). For a discussion on the practicality of third-party observers, please see Section 5.3.4.1.15 (Conducting Visual Observations Using Third-Party Observers).
TWM-05	• If marine mammals are sighted or detected within acoustic range, then exercises should be shut down, if in progress, and postponed or moved elsewhere if the exercises have not yet started. For example, an appropriate threshold for such a decision is when ever noise levels from naval operations as well as other sources at the location of SRKWs are expected to be greater than 130 dB re 1μPa.	Please see the discussion in Section 3.4.3.1.10 (Thresholds and Criteria for Predicting Acoustic and Explosive Impacts on Marine Mammals) describing the development of the thresholds for impact, including mid-frequency cetaceans like the SRKWs. Note that as presented in Section 3.4.3.2.4 (Impacts from Vessel Noise), the ambient noise level in Puget Sound very often exceeds 130 dB across a broad spectrum of frequencies as a result of commercial vessel traffic so even absent any Navy activity, noise levels are often likely to exceed the threshold proposed in the comment. Also note that the intention of the Navy's mitigation is to reduce the potential for injury to marine mammals. As presented in Section 3.4.3.2.1 (Range to Effects), for mid-frequency cetaceans, the PTS (injury; Level A harassment) range from even the SQS-53C sonar is only approximately 10 meters and therefore all stationary sources, which are all much less powerful, would require a sperm whale or beaked whale to be much closer to the source. As described in Section 3.4.3.2 (Marine Mammal Avoidance of Sound Exposures), there are many activities for which it is unlikely a marine mammal will remain close enough to those activities for a Level A exposure to occur. The Navy does not expect that mitigation will eliminate all potential effects, but has proposed measures that are effective, practical, and safe to implement, and that do not impact the readiness objective underlying

Table I.5-3: Responses to Comments from Organizations (continued)

Commenter	Comment	Navy Response
		the purpose for the activity in the first place.
TWM-06	• Exercises that generate loud noise (active sonar, explosions) should not be conducted at night because visual detections of SRKWs or other marine mammals are not usually possible.	As stated in Chapter 5 (Standard Operating Procedures, Mitigation, and Monitoring) of the EIS/OEIS, the Navy must train in the same manner as it will fight. Mid-frequency active sonar training is required year-round in all environments, including night and low visibility conditions. Training occurs over many hours or days, which requires large teams of personnel working together in shifts around the clock to work through a scenario. Training at night is vital because environmental differences between day and night affect the detection capabilities of sonar. Temperature layers that move up and down in the water column and ambient noise levels can vary significantly between night and day, which affects sound propagation and could affect how sonar systems are operated. Consequently, personnel must train during all hours of the day to ensure they identify and respond to changing environmental conditions, and not doing so would unacceptably decrease training effectiveness and reduce the crews' abilities. Therefore, the Navy cannot operate only in daylight hours or wait for the weather to clear before training.
TWM-07	• Exercises that generate loud noise (active sonar, explosions) should not be conducted in the inland waters (including the Strait of Juan de Fuca) because these form critical habitat for endangered SRKWs and because this area already has so many anthropogenic noise sources. Although current anthropogenic noise sources are not as acute as those due to naval training operations, they do create long term stressors. For example Holt et al. (2009)(M. M. Holt et al. {2009). "Speaking up: Killer whales (Orcinus orca) increase their call amplitude in response to vessel noise," The Journal of the Acoustical Society of America 125 (1).) found that Southern Residents killer whales are increasing the amplitude of their calls to compensate for increased noise from boats. Further increases of this stress are not acceptable for this endangered species.	The information regarding killer whale vocalizations relative to the background noise has been added to the analysis in the Final EIS/OEIS in Section 3.4.3.1.6.3 (Behavioral Reactions to Vessels).
TWM-08	• The only reason the outer coast was not included as critical habitat for Southern Resident killer whales is that there was not enough information about how regularly they use different areas on the outer coast. The Navy should be supporting efforts to better understand habitat and resource use of all marine mammals in the NWTRC so that they can avoid specific areas or specific areas at certain times of the year that are critical to these species. Special efforts should be made to survey the location and behavior of the SRKWs when they forage in and transit through the Olympic National Marine Sanctuary and to avoid naval operations that would create stress on the SRKWs while they are in the Sanctuary.	The U.S. Navy has conducted active sonar training and testing activities for decades in the sea space depicted in the Study Area, with no evidence to indicate any meaningful impacts to marine habitats in the area. The Navy and NMFS jointly are still in ongoing consultation with the OCNMS regarding the effects of the Proposed Action on Sanctuary resources. The Navy concludes its continued activities are not likely to result in the loss, destruction, or adverse changes to the viability of Sanctuary resources. Several points support this determination: • Less than two percent of proposed training and 15 percent of proposed testing activities would occur within or immediately adjacent

Table I.5-3: Responses to Comments from Organizations (continued)

Commenter	Comment	Navy Response
		to the OCNMS. • The NWTT Final EIS/OEIS shows that training and testing activities have minimal temporary impacts on the quantity or quality of the Study Area's physical environment, and minor to no impacts on marine or shore birds, fish, sea turtles, or invertebrate marine life. • Although explosives have the potential to affect the physical and biological resources, the Navy does not use explosives within the OCNMS. • The Navy concludes any marine mammal behavioral reactions to NWTT training and testing activities would be transitory, infrequent, non-cumulative, and impacts are not expected to decrease overall individual fitness or result in long-term population-level impacts on any given population, and consequently will not result in any adverse changes to the sanctuary. Finally, all Department of Defense (DoD) military activities shall be carried out in a manner that avoids to the maximum extent practicable any adverse impacts on Sanctuary resources and qualities, including the SRKWs. As stated in Section 3.0.2.2 of the EIS/OEIS, "Since 2006, the Navy, as well as non-Navy marine mammal scientists and research institutions, has conducted scientific monitoring and research in and around ocean areas in the Atlantic and Pacific where the Navy has been training and testing and where it proposes to continue these activities. Data collected from Navy monitoring, scientific research findings, and annual reports provided to NMFS may inform the analysis of impacts on marine mammals for a variety of reasons, including species distribution, habitat use, and evaluation of potential responses to Navy activities. Monitoring is performed using various methods, including visual surveys from surface vessels and aircraft and passive acoustics. Navy monitoring can generally be divided into two types of efforts: (1) collecting long-term data on distribution, abundance, and habitat use patterns within Navy activity areas; and (2) collecting data during individual training or testing activities. Monitoring efforts during anti-submarine warfare and explosive events focus on observing individual animals in the vicinity of the event and documenting behavior and any observable responses. Although these monitoring events are very localized and short term, over time they will provide valuable information to support the impact analysis." Please see the recent results supporting this as presented in training

Table I.5-3: Responses to Comments from Organizations (continued)

Commenter	Comment	Navy Response
		ranges monitoring reports available at the Navy website (www.navymarinespeciesmonitoring.us/) and from the NMFS Office of Protected Resources website (www.nmfs.noaa.gov/pr/permits/incidental.htm#applications).
TWM-09	• Aircraft that are transiting any region containing the SRKWs should re-route their flight paths to avoid direct overflights by noisy aircraft. Existing noise levels already cause SRKWs stress and additional noise, especially additional startling noise, should be avoided.	The majority of proposed over-water aircraft flights would take place at higher altitudes, where disturbance of marine life would not occur. As described in Section 5.3.4.1.12 in the EIS/OEIS, "Exposure of marine protected area resources to aircraft overflights would be brief and is expected to cause only a minor and temporary behavioral reaction for marine mammals, sea turtles, birds, or fish that may be present in the area. Additional mitigation or avoidance of these marine protected areas would be unnecessary, and limiting passage through the areas would restrict direct access to training and testing locations. Such avoidance would ultimately increase transit time and for platforms with fuel restrictions (e.g., aircraft) would therefore result in an unacceptable increased risk to personnel safety."
TWM-10	Two additional concerns in the Supplemental Draft are as follows. Increased Maritime Security Operations (MSO) would add increased vessel noise to an already noisy environment and put additional stress on endangered SRKW's and increasing the number of sonobuoys by 550 would add more entanglement stressors (increased number of parachutes/decelerators, 1 per sonobuoy).	With regard to Maritime Security Operations, it is important to note that these activities have been ongoing for years, are not proposed to increase, and contribute a small fraction of the total vessel noise in Puget Sound. Regarding the concern about decelerator/parachute entanglement, please see the analysis in the Draft or Final EIS/OEIS in Section 3.4.3.5 (Entanglement Stressors). The increase by less than 8 percent in the number of decelerator/parachutes does not change the analysis, so the conclusions in the Draft EIS/OEIS remain valid.
TWM-11	Additionally, we are concerned that the Marine Mammal Section 3.4 of the DEIS has failed to incorporate findings and recommendations from the NMFS's Recovery Plan for Southern Resident Killer Whales (2008) (National Marine Fisheries Service. (2008). Recovery Plan for Southern Resident Killer Whales {Orcinus area). National Marine Fisheries Service, Northwest Region, Seattle, Washington. 251pp.)2, especially concerning impacts from explosives in DEIS Section 3.4.3.2.2, vessel noise in Section 3.4.3.2.4, weapons in Section 3.4.3.2.3, and aircraft noise in Section 3.4.3.2.5. The DEIS does make frequent reference to the NMFS's Southern Resident Killer Whale Critical Habitat Designation (2006), however the 2008 Recovery Plan is a significantly more comprehensive document addressing the United States federal government's strategy for addressing the plight of this endangered population. We strongly suggest you address the 2008 Recovery Plan in your DEIS document, particularly addressing the 3rd risk factor: sound and disturbance from vessels. This risk factor covers obvious sub-	The Navy agrees that there was not specific citation to the recovery plan in the Draft EIS/OEIS, however, the information presented in the recovery plan was considered in the analysis presented. As a result of this comment, that citation has now been added to the Final EIS/OEIS. Note that the issues (such as the recovery plan's identification of "sound and disturbance from vessel traffic" as a risk) were discussed in detail in various sections of the Draft EIS/OEIS under the applicable stressor categories. See Section 3.4.1.6 (Behavioral Reactions) and the subsections below that covering impulsive, non-impulsive, and vessel noise. Also, see Section 3.4.3.4.1 (Impacts from Vessel Strikes) regarding a discussion of vessel strikes. Canadian activities (military or otherwise) are not part of the Proposed Action.

Table I.5-3: Responses to Comments from Organizations (continued)

Commenter	Comment	Navy Response
	topics for the DEIS, including: Military mid-frequency sonar, Canadian activities in the Haro & Juan de Fuca Straits (which are not addressed in the DEIS yet impact the same area) Vessel strikes and Oil spills.	

Table I.5-4 contains comments from private individuals received during the public comment period and the Navy's response. Responses to these comments were prepared and reviewed for scientific and technical accuracy and completeness. Comments appear as they were submitted and have not been altered with the exception that expletives, addresses, and phone numbers have been removed, as necessary.

Table I.5-4: Responses to Comments from Private Individuals

Commenter	Comment	Navy Response
Adsit (Electronic)	please limit sonar & other sound to the lowest level possible.	The Navy shares your concern for marine life, but this concern must be balanced with the purpose and need for Navy training and testing as detailed in Chapter 2 (Description of Proposed Action and Alternatives) of the EIS/OEIS. The Navy has conducted active sonar training and testing activities in the Study Area for decades, and there is no evidence that routine Navy training and testing has negatively impacted marine mammal populations in the Study Area or at any Navy Range Complex. Based on the best available science summarized in the EIS/OEIS Section 3.4.4.1 (Summary of Monitoring and Observations During Navy Activities), long-term consequences for marine mammal populations are unlikely to result from Navy training and testing activities in the Study Area. Please also refer to Chapter 5 (Standard Operating Procedures, Mitigation, and Monitoring) of the EIS/OEIS, detailing the procedures and mitigation measures during its training and testing activities designed to reduce impacts to marine mammals from Navy activities.
Aickin (Electronic)	Actually, my comment is intended to cover much more than just one of the options afforded by this comment form. I've read the January 22, 2015 letter submitted by the Sierra Club to NFEC,NW with attention to Ms. Kimberly Kler, and I am in complete agreement with all issues and concerns raised by the Sierra Club. Please consider my comment to reflect those issues and concerns.	Thank you for participating in the NEPA process. The Sierra Club comments have been addressed.
Aiello (Electronic)	I have previously contacted the Forest Service and Derek Kilmer to oppose the proposed testing to be carried out in the Olympic National Forest. I am now contacting you to express my outrage and objection to this destructive use of the forest and to the increased disturbance from the escalation of plane activity.	Thank you for participating in the NEPA process.
P. Allen (Electronic)	I support our Navy but I strongly oppose the Northwest Training and Testing project, which will deploy sonar buoys in the waters around the Olympia Peninsula in WA State. There is no scientific evidence that proves there is no harm to marine mammals, particularly whales and porpoises from this type of equipment. More randomized, double blind, controlled studies are needed to prove the safety of the electronic warfare training equipment on all marine mammals, before deploying such equipment in these pristine waters.	The Navy shares your concern for marine life, but this concern must be balanced with the purpose and need for Navy training and testing as detailed in Chapter 2 (Description of Proposed Action and Alternatives) of the EIS/OEIS. The Navy has conducted active sonar training and testing activities in the Study Area for decades, and there is no evidence that routine Navy training and testing has negatively impacted marine mammal populations in the Study Area or at any Navy Range Complex. The Navy will continue to fund independent, peer-reviewed research.

Table I.5-4: Responses to Comments from Private Individuals (continued)

Commenter	Comment	Navy Response
R. Allen (Electronic)	I am writing you to implore you to reduce sonar activities off the Pacific Coast. The pain the impacted creatures go through is scarcely imaginable. Additionally, it compromises their ability to navigate and just exist and live a normal life. Sometimes it can result in immediate death, but more often than not, the symptoms are much more insidious, like deafness and irreparable harm. I just believe that in this day and age we can find better ways of testing military prowess. Thank you so much for your consideration, and I hope to see a solution that is mutually beneficial, or at the very least, not so detrimental.	The Navy shares your concern for marine life, but this concern must be balanced with the purpose and need for Navy training and testing as detailed in Chapter 2 (Description of Proposed Action and Alternatives) of the EIS/OEIS. The Navy has conducted active sonar training and testing activities in the Study Area for decades, and there is no evidence that routine Navy training and testing has negatively impacted marine mammal populations in the Study Area or at any Navy Range Complex. Based on the best available science summarized in the EIS/OEIS Section 3.4.4.1 (Summary of Monitoring and Observations During Navy Activities), long-term consequences for marine mammal populations are unlikely to result from Navy training and testing activities in the Study Area. Please also refer to Chapter 5 (Standard Operating Procedures, Mitigation, and Monitoring) of the EIS/OEIS, detailing the procedures and mitigation measures during its training and testing activities designed to reduce impacts to marine mammals from Navy activities.
B. Anderson-01 (Electronic)	Whales and other marine life needs to be a priority over military testing of sonar weapons/technology. Life is more important to this planet than any form of war. Marine life is more important than military testing of weapons. Life has priority on this plant, not war.	The Navy shares your concern for marine life, but this concern must be balanced with the purpose and need for Navy training and testing as detailed in Chapter 2 (Description of Proposed Action and Alternatives) of the EIS/OEIS. The Navy has conducted active sonar training and testing activities in the Study Area for decades, and there is no evidence that routine Navy training and testing has negatively impacted marine mammal populations in the Study Area or at any Navy Range Complex. Based on the best available science summarized in the EIS/OEIS Section 3.4.4.1 (Summary of Monitoring and Observations During Navy Activities), long-term consequences for marine mammal populations are unlikely to result from Navy training and testing activities in the Study Area. Please also refer to Chapter 5 (Standard Operating Procedures, Mitigation, and Monitoring) of the EIS/OEIS, detailing the procedures and mitigation measures during its training and testing activities designed to reduce impacts to marine mammals from Navy activities.
E. Anderson (Electronic)	Please refrain from any escalation in the use of sonar devices, explosives, high frequency and high amplitude acoustic emitters in conjunction with any U.S. Navy activities to avoid adverse effects on marine wildlife that are sensitive to such activity. Actions to halt or curb such activity are the true measure of our ability to preserve and defend what we hold most dear in ourselves and our nation. Thank you, Eric Anderson	The Navy shares your concern for marine life, but this concern must be balanced with the purpose and need for Navy training and testing as detailed in Chapter 2 (Description of Proposed Action and Alternatives) of the EIS/OEIS. The Navy has conducted active sonar training and testing activities in the Study Area for decades, and there is no evidence that routine Navy training and testing has negatively impacted marine mammal populations in the Study Area or at any

Table I.5-4: Responses to Comments from Private Individuals (continued)

Commenter	Comment	Navy Response
		Navy Range Complex. Based on the best available science summarized in the EIS/OEIS Section 3.4.4.1 (Summary of Monitoring and Observations During Navy Activities), long-term consequences for marine mammal populations are unlikely to result from Navy training and testing activities in the Study Area. Please also refer to Chapter 5 (Standard Operating Procedures, Mitigation, and Monitoring) of the EIS/OEIS, detailing the procedures and mitigation measures during its training and testing activities designed to reduce impacts to marine mammals from Navy activities.
M. Anderson (Electronic)	I have previously submitted a comment on April 14, 2014. I have become far more concerned about the taking of marine life for U. S. Navy sonar and explosives training. Lack of protection for our beloved endangered Southern Resident Killer Whales and consideration of seasonal migrations cannot be justified. Each horrific death of a whale is a negative reflection on the Navy and Americans. Our Canadian neighbors have complained creating an international issue. Has the process of making comments been made deliberately confusing to the public for the benefit of Navy deception? It is evident opportunities for comment are linked but presented as separate issues. The Electronic Warfare Range at the UNESCO Olympic National Peninsula, expansion at NAS Whidbey Island with increased frequency of flights, earsplitting noise and pollution of EA-18 G - Growlers and Navy use of sonar and explosives harming marine life in the ocean are not acceptable. How can the Navy consider the death of marine life to be of less importance than convenience of Navy families? These families made a choice marine life have none. It is my understanding sonobuoys are not retrieved when batteries lose power. I am concerned this will contribute to already grave pollution of the ocean. There is documented evidence of harm from climate change, acidification of the ocean and degraded habitat for marine and wildlife. Residents of the Pacific Northwest have lost tranquility the very reason many choose to live in the area. We have lost property values and quality of life with contamination of our air and water. Alternatives for training must be implemented that are proven safe for all life. Critical habitats for endangered marine life must be put off limits It is unconscionable for the Navy to turn our magnificent area into a war zone with destructive actions. Much of the ocean is a mystery that needs more scientific study. Any destruction of our ecosystem is significant. Civilian residents are acutely aware our area is targeted by the military to be available for conversion to an armed camp. There is no justification for this destruction in the name of defense, much less as an economic benefit. Misrepresentation by Congressman Rick Larsen and elected officials on Whidbey Island, many retired Navy stating we are military friendly is a fallacy that has been perpetuated since 1991. Conflict in our communities has been escalating with the steady unwelcome increase of aircraft and Navy personnel. We resent	As part of the Navy's effects analysis, the Navy considers all the science that identifies locations where certain cetacean populations or individuals are known to engage in feeding, breeding, or other biologically important activities at certain times of year. Recently, NMFS has taken steps to begin formally identifying some of these areas and naming them Biologically Important Areas (BIAs). The Navy has considered these areas as part of its analysis in this Final EIS/OEIS when discussing particular species in Chapter 3 (Affected Environment and Environmental Consequences) as well as in considering whether limitations on Navy activities in these areas are warranted as mitigation in discussion in Chapter 5 (see Section 5.3.4.1.11, Avoiding Marine Species Habitats and Biologically Important Areas). The Navy thoroughly considered the humpback and gray whale feeding areas identified recently in its analysis and whether avoidance as mitigation was appropriate. Given the impact avoidance would have on military readiness activities and lack of biological benefit, avoidance is not warranted. Please see Section 5.3.4.1.11 (Avoiding Marine Species Habitats and Biologically Important Areas). However, Navy is proposing to provide reporting of generally low use of sonar in some of these areas to NMFS as part of classified annual reports to help inform future adaptive management related to impacts in these areas. At time of release of this Final EIS/OEIS, NMFS and Navy are in ongoing discussion regarding mitigation for MMPA purposes. Should additional mitigation to that which Navy has proposed be identified in the MMPA rule making and authorization, it will be indicated in the ROD. It is important to note that the BIAs were not meant to define exclusionary zones, nor critical habitat with regulatory management, nor were they meant to be locations that serve as sanctuaries from human activity, or areas analogous to marine protected areas. The NMFS-identified BIAs do not have direct or immediate regulatory consequences and the BIAs located within the

Table I.5-4: Responses to Comments from Private Individuals (continued)

Commenter	Comment	Navy Response
	slander and accusations of lack of patriotism, vandalism of property, lack of respect for our heritage and sprawl changing our landscape. Navy personnel are not aware of the quality of life we have lost due to their presence. We recognize property values near a military reservation are far below other comparable areas. Residents have opposed NAS Whidbey for 28 years we are not about to accept this environmental and economic menace. How many Whales and Dolphins did U. S. Navy sonar kill today?	NWTT Study Area are not the only areas used for feeding, migrating, or reproductive activity for these cetaceans in a species' entire range and habitat. The stated intention is for the BIAs to serve as a resource management tool and their currently identified boundaries be considered dynamic and subject to change based on any new information as well as, "existing density estimates, range-wide distribution data, information on population trends and life history parameters, known threats to the population, and other relevant information." There is a lack of science supporting identification of any additional BIAs at this time for the Pacific. The Navy and NMFS have supported and will continue to support the Cetacean and Sound Mapping project, including providing representation on the Cetacean Density and Distribution Mapping Working Group (CetMap), which informed NMFS' identification of BIAs. The same marine mammal density data present in the Navy's Density Database Technical Report, and used in the analysis for this EIS/OEIS, was used in the development of BIAs. The final products, including U.S. West Coast BIAs from this mapping effort, were completed and published in March 2015. The Navy prepares Environmental Impact Statements (EIS) and Environmental Assessments (EA) in order to comply with the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA). These NEPA documents are intended to ensure decision makers consider the potential environmental effects of a proposed action and its alternatives, provide an opportunity for public involvement, and promote transparency by informing the public of these potential environmental effects. Each NEPA document addresses a specific proposed action, separated from other actions by its purpose and need, independent utility, timing, and geographic location. Some NEPA documents are stand-alone documents; others tier off or expand the analyses of other NEPA documents. NEPA documents for training and testing, including this EIS/OEIS, focus on training and testing activities occurring within a range complex or military operation area and involve different types of aircraft, ships, and range complex enhancements. NEPA documents for aircraft homebasing actions focus on aircraft operations in and around the airfield and their facility needs. NEPA documents for installations focus on infrastructure enhancements for host and tenant command missions. Importantly, every environmental document considers the cumulative impacts to the environment from other relevant past, present, and reasonably foreseeable future actions

Table I.5-4: Responses to Comments from Private Individuals (continued)

Commenter	Comment	Navy Response
		(federal, state, local, and private) in addition to the proposed action. The Navy has been training in the Olympic Military Operations Area (MOA) for over 40 years, and the Navy has not proposed any significant changes to the way aircrew train in the MOA. The Navy recently analyzed plans to enhance existing training by adding one fixed transmitter at Pacific Beach and three mobile transmitter vehicles that would operate on existing logging roads and pull-out areas on U.S. Forest Service land. The Navy has not proposed to use National Park Service land. EW training and EW Range enhancements were analyzed in the Navy's Northwest Training Range Complex (NWTRC) EIS/OEIS, completed in 2010. When more information became available on mobile and fixed signal transmitters for the EW Range, the Navy prepared the EW Range EA to analyze placement and operation of those transmitters. The Navy completed the EA and issued a Finding of No Significant Impact on August 28, 2014. The introduction of the land-based transmitters to enhance existing training will not harm people, animals, or the environment. The Navy has decades of experience building and operating signal equipment, with no adverse effects to people, animals, or the environment. Though there is a proposed increase in EW training events associated with the range enhancements and analyzed in this EIS/OEIS, the increase in events does not equate to a comparable increase in the number of aircraft flights or in the duration of flights. EW training flights are already occurring in the Olympic MOAs, and it is estimated that this proposal will only result in an approximately 10 percent annual increase in actual flights, which equates to approximately one additional flight per day. This is because each flight will be able to accommodate multiple EW training events. The Navy proposes to home base up to 36 additional EA-18G aircraft at NAS Whidbey Island. The Navy announced the preparation of that separate Whidbey EIS on September 5, 2013, and invited the public to participate in the NEPA process by submitting comments to define the scope of the Draft Whidbey EIS analysis. On October 10, 2014, the Navy revised the scope of the on-going Whidbey EIS and invited the public to submit additional scoping comments. The Navy is currently preparing its Draft Whidbey EIS, which is scheduled to be released in spring 2016. For more information, please visit the project website at www.whidbeyeis.com. This NWTT EIS/OEIS considered the Whidbey EIS proposal in its analysis of cumulative impacts in Chapter 4. The Navy has conducted active sonar training and testing activities in

Table I.5-4: Responses to Comments from Private Individuals (continued)

Commenter	Comment	Navy Response
		the Study Area for decades, and there is no evidence that routine Navy training and testing has negatively impacted marine mammal populations in the Study Area or at any Navy Range Complex. Based on the best available science summarized in the EIS/OEIS Section 3.4.4.1 (Summary of Monitoring and Observations During Navy Activities), long-term consequences for marine mammal populations are unlikely to result from Navy training and testing activities in the Study Area.
S. Anderson (Electronic)	I am very concerned about plans to use extensive sonar in places where ocean mammals are migrating or living. These animals are important to the ocean ecosystems, and may well be well along the intelligence spectrum. I really object to the idea that our warplans are more important than recognizing the rights to life of our fellow beings.	The Navy shares your concern for marine life, but this concern must be balanced with the purpose and need for Navy training and testing as detailed in Chapter 2 (Description of Proposed Action and Alternatives) of the EIS/OEIS. The Navy has conducted active sonar training and testing activities in the Study Area for decades, and there is no evidence that routine Navy training and testing has negatively impacted marine mammal populations in the Study Area or at any Navy Range Complex. Based on the best available science summarized in the EIS/OEIS Section 3.4.4.1 (Summary of Monitoring and Observations During Navy Activities), long-term consequences for marine mammal populations are unlikely to result from Navy training and testing activities in the Study Area. Please also refer to Chapter 5 (Standard Operating Procedures, Mitigation, and Monitoring) of the EIS/OEIS, detailing the procedures and mitigation measures during its training and testing activities designed to reduce impacts to marine mammals from Navy activities.
Antieau (Electronic)	The proposed placement of the sonobuoy are along the whale and leatherback turtle migratory pathways. The Navy admits that these devices will kill whales, dolphins and turtles. Those that are not killed will sustain hearing damage. This is not acceptable. Our oceans are already polluted beyond what is safe for us or sea life, and now you want to maim or kill some of the most amazing creatures on the planet to test equipment. It's not acceptable.	The Navy does not predict any marine mammal or sea turtle mortalities as a result of its proposed activities. Based on the analysis, there are no indications of broad-scale impacts that are either injurious or of significant biological impact to marine populations. The Navy has conducted active sonar training and testing activities in the Study Area for decades, and there is no evidence that routine Navy training and testing has negatively impacted individual sea turtles or sea turtle populations, or marine mammal populations in the Study Area or at any Navy Range Complex. Based on the best available science summarized in the EIS/OEIS Section 3.5.3.7.1 (Combined Impacts of All Stressors), “impacts are not expected to decrease the overall fitness or result in long-term population level impacts on any given population.”
Anonymous	We no longer live in a functioning democracy.	Thank you for participating in the NEPA process. This comment

Table I.5-4: Responses to Comments from Private Individuals (continued)

Commenter	Comment	Navy Response
(Written)	Western civilization is collapsing. The American infrastructure has collapsed. Peak oil in America happened in 1970. World peak oil happened in 2001. The American water supply is exhausted. The world food supply can't match up to population. Your grandchildren will never see the end of this century. It's about time you people start dealing with your impermanence- wake up- you are over. Don't feed this *[expletive deleted]* to people who don't even know how to even *[expletive deleted]* it means nothing but death. Don't perpetrate this crap on sentient human beings. You've wasted the land and now you are finishing off the seas. Non sequiter because you ain't got enough gumption, balls, moxie or courage to respond to this time.	addresses issues beyond the scope of the NWTT EIS/OEIS.
Aronson (Oral)	I'm a 45-year resident. Yeah, my understanding is that the Navy is required every five years to have a hearing or a public input session like today. I've attended one before. And my concern and comment is that they've heard before, they'll hear today some comments, and they hear in the future, legal, moral, ethical, and scientific comments and testimony from the public about why there should be curtailment of weapons systems testing, not only in the Pacific but elsewhere. And I'm here because I think that this public input is really a hoax; that it's not what it's purported to be, and that is an opportunity for public testimony to persuade the opinion on the decision of the extent of weapons testing and development in Pacific test zones and elsewhere. And that is simply because of the following: that no matter what public testimony is provided to the Navy, to NOAA, to the EPA, all of that will be trumped by the phrase "national security." All the powers that be have to do is to say that this naval training and testing of weapons systems are related to national security, and everything else is trumped. That's good enough.	Thank you for participating in the NEPA process. The Navy goes to great lengths to encourage public input, much of which influences the Navy's analysis and conclusions. The Navy conducts training and testing activities in compliance with all applicable environmental regulations and implements appropriate science-based protective measures to protect natural and human resources.
Askins (Electronic)	Sonar, weapons firing, explosives and other acoustic devices can cause debilitating and fatal injury to marine mammals. Surely even the Navy must be aware that marine mammals are extremely sensitive to noise. This proposed testing is	The Navy shares your concern for marine life, but this concern must be balanced with the purpose and need for Navy training and testing as detailed in Chapter 2 (Description of Proposed Action and Alternatives)

Table I.5-4: Responses to Comments from Private Individuals (continued)

Commenter	Comment	Navy Response
	unnecessary and the Navy is well aware of how these devices work, etc. Surely the Navy can find ways to spend its time and money in more constructive ways. The Navy may well find itself violating the endangered species act and I will certainly support rigorous investigation into any violation.	of the EIS/OEIS. The Navy has conducted active sonar training and testing activities in the Study Area for decades, and there is no evidence that routine Navy training and testing has negatively impacted marine mammal populations in the Study Area or at any Navy Range Complex. Based on the best available science summarized in the EIS/OEIS Section 3.4.4.1 (Summary of Monitoring and Observations During Navy Activities), long-term consequences for marine mammal populations are unlikely to result from Navy training and testing activities in the Study Area. Please also refer to Chapter 5 (Standard Operating Procedures, Mitigation, and Monitoring) of the EIS/OEIS, detailing the procedures and mitigation measures during its training and testing activities designed to reduce impacts to marine mammals from Navy activities. In accordance with ESA requirements, the Navy will complete consultation under Section 7 of the ESA with NMFS and USFWS and adhere to the Letter of Authorization and Biological Opinion issued by those agencies.
Athens (Electronic)	The Navy's proposed training and testing activities that include the use of sonar, explosives, weapons firing, and other acoustic devices have well known and well documented negative impacts on a number of whale species and porpoises, as well as other marine wildlife. The Navy admits the increase in the use of sonar devices "is likely to adversely affect"2 endangered leatherback turtles whose protected habitat along the Pacific Coast was only recently established in 2012. So, please reconsider these proposed activities and instead cut back on them to prevent what will be irreversible damage to our precious whales and other marine mammals.	The Navy shares your concern for marine life, but this concern must be balanced with the purpose and need for Navy training and testing as detailed in Chapter 2 (Description of Proposed Action and Alternatives) of the EIS/OEIS. The Navy has conducted active sonar training and testing activities in the Study Area for decades, and there is no evidence that routine Navy training and testing has negatively impacted marine mammal populations in the Study Area or at any Navy Range Complex. Based on the best available science summarized in the EIS/OEIS Section 3.4.4.1 (Summary of Monitoring and Observations During Navy Activities), long-term consequences for marine mammal populations are unlikely to result from Navy training and testing activities in the Study Area. As described in the Supplement in Section 3.5.2 (Sea Turtle Summary), the proposed increase in the use of SSQ-125 sonobuoys "are not expected to result in substantial changes to behavior, growth, survival, annual reproductive success, lifetime reproductive success (fitness), or species recruitment, and are not expected to result in population-level impacts." The Navy shares your concern for marine life, but this concern must be balanced with the purpose and need for Navy training and testing as detailed in Chapter 2 (Description of Proposed Action and Alternatives) of the EIS/OEIS. The Navy has conducted active sonar training and testing activities in the Study Area for decades, and there is no evidence that routine Navy training and

Table I.5-4: Responses to Comments from Private Individuals (continued)

Commenter	Comment	Navy Response
		testing has negatively impacted marine mammal populations in the Study Area or at any Navy Range Complex. Based on the best available science summarized in the EIS/OEIS Section 3.4.4.1 (Summary of Monitoring and Observations During Navy Activities), long-term consequences for marine mammal populations are unlikely to result from Navy training and testing activities in the Study Area. Please also refer to Chapter 5 (Standard Operating Procedures, Mitigation, and Monitoring) of the EIS/OEIS, detailing the procedures and mitigation measures during its training and testing activities designed to reduce impacts to marine mammals from Navy activities.
Aufray-Gauvrit (Electronic)	Sonars and other active acoustic sources are not simply harmful, they are killers and not just for cetaceans, for all marine life, invertebrates included.	The Navy shares your concern for marine life, but this concern must be balanced with the purpose and need for Navy training and testing as detailed in Chapter 2 (Description of Proposed Action and Alternatives) of the EIS/OEIS. The Navy has conducted active sonar training and testing activities in the Study Area for decades, and there is no evidence that routine Navy training and testing has negatively impacted marine mammal populations in the Study Area or at any Navy Range Complex. Based on the best available science summarized in the EIS/OEIS Section 3.4.4.1 (Summary of Monitoring and Observations During Navy Activities), long-term consequences for marine mammal populations are unlikely to result from Navy training and testing activities in the Study Area. Please also refer to Chapter 5 (Standard Operating Procedures, Mitigation, and Monitoring) of the EIS/OEIS, detailing the procedures and mitigation measures during its training and testing activities designed to reduce impacts to marine mammals from Navy activities.
Averett (Electronic)	I beg of you to limit the use of sonar - the whales are an important question species. It is the right thing to do.	The Navy shares your concern for marine life, but this concern must be balanced with the purpose and need for Navy training and testing as detailed in Chapter 2 (Description of Proposed Action and Alternatives) of the EIS/OEIS. The Navy has conducted active sonar training and testing activities in the Study Area for decades, and there is no evidence that routine Navy training and testing has negatively impacted marine mammal populations in the Study Area or at any Navy Range Complex. Based on the best available science summarized in the EIS/OEIS Section 3.4.4.1 (Summary of Monitoring and Observations During Navy Activities), long-term consequences for marine mammal populations are unlikely to result from Navy training and testing activities in the Study Area. Please also refer to Chapter 5 (Standard Operating Procedures, Mitigation, and Monitoring) of the EIS/OEIS, detailing the procedures and mitigation measures during its

Table I.5-4: Responses to Comments from Private Individuals (continued)

Commenter	Comment	Navy Response
		training and testing activities designed to reduce impacts to marine mammals from Navy activities.
Avila (Electronic)	With the health of our Marine Mammals in question, as to even the survival of our Resident Orca of which there are only a small amount left. It is not in our best intrest to wipe out our Ocean of its life. Sound has proven to be a death sentence for our Whale. I urge you to please follow the scientific community with their recomendations of not doing this insane action against our Ocean life. With todays technology there is no need to test and play war at our Marine Mammals expense. Our Oceans and its life are dying. Your Navy war games in Hawaii have left miles of Corral Reefs dead. Your excuse of powering down when animals are seen is not good enough. When you blow out a whales ears, or harass them to the point of removing themselves from natural habitat out of fear, You are directly harming our environment. I beg you to reconsider until further science can determine the effects your actions will have on our Marine Life. In the past you have not listened and species have suffered. You are not God.. Yes Defense is important but playing war is not. With technology today we can send men into space, travel and explore remote distant planets, You need to apply yourselves in a human matter and realize the consequences of your actions. If you continue to kill and mame our Marine Mammals as well as our Marine Environment you are adding to killing ourselves. What will you protect then? I am begging you to please consider the Southern Resident Orca whos population is almost to the point of no return. We are stewards of this world for our Children and that includes your actions for what rightfully belongs to them as well. Children have no voice against your actions. Protection of our Country is important but at what cost? We are the Greatest Nation on Earth. Think about what you are choosing to do. Public opinion is against your war games. My father and his friends did not practice for WWII. Real men, real heros, fight as well as save. Time for the Navy to remember who and what they are Saving. A war in any Ocean kills. Playing War also kills... Please for the love of Children stop this insanity. Find safer ways to test your equipment than in the homes of our Marine Mammals. Time to think about your actions..as well as un-action to protect. Thank you	The Navy shares your concern for marine life, but this concern must be balanced with the purpose and need for Navy training and testing as detailed in Chapter 2 (Description of Proposed Action and Alternatives) of the EIS/OEIS. The Navy has conducted active sonar training and testing activities in the Study Area for decades, and there is no evidence that routine Navy training and testing has negatively impacted marine mammal populations in the Study Area or at any Navy Range Complex. Based on the best available science summarized in the EIS/OEIS Section 3.4.4.1 (Summary of Monitoring and Observations During Navy Activities), long-term consequences for marine mammal populations are unlikely, to result from Navy training and testing activities in the Study Area. Please also refer to Chapter 5 (Standard Operating Procedures, Mitigation, and Monitoring) of the EIS/OEIS, detailing the procedures and mitigation measures during its training and testing activities designed to reduce impacts to marine mammals from Navy activities.
Aydelott (Electronic)	The Navy's current environmental analysis fails to provide basic information necessary to adequately evaluate the impacts of the proposed activities. This analysis also fails to provide adequate measures to mitigate the harmful effects of the proposed activities on marine mammals and other wildlife. Based on the information apparent in the environmental analysis, the Navy's "No Action Alternative" is the proposal with the most limited impact on wildlife. A drastic increase in sonar activity will negatively impact wildlife. Marine mammals are	The Navy shares your concern for marine life, but this concern must be balanced with the purpose and need for Navy training and testing as detailed in Chapter 2 (Description of Proposed Action and Alternatives) of the EIS/OEIS. The Navy has conducted active sonar training and testing activities in the Study Area for decades, and there is no evidence that routine Navy training and testing has negatively impacted marine mammal populations in the Study Area or at any

Table I.5-4: Responses to Comments from Private Individuals (continued)

Commenter	Comment	Navy Response
	extremely sensitive to noise, and sonar disrupts basic behaviors necessary for survival such as migration, surfacing, navigating, hearing, nursing, breeding and feeding. Sonar can result in debilitating and even fatal injuries for marine mammals. Scientists believe sonar activity can change whale diving behavior, confusing them to swim to depths their bodies cannot handle. Whales suspected to have beached themselves because of sonar activity show signs of physical trauma like bleeding around the brain, ears and other tissues and large bubbles in their organs – symptoms analogous to “the bends” in humans. To the extent that threatened or endangered species -- including humpback and sperm whales, and leatherback turtles -- are negatively impacted, the proposed activities may result in violations of the Endangered Species Act.	Navy Range Complex. Based on the best available science summarized in the EIS/OEIS Section 3.4.4.1 (Summary of Monitoring and Observations During Navy Activities), long-term consequences for marine mammal populations are unlikely to result from Navy training and testing activities in the Study Area. As described in the Supplement in Section 3.5.2 (Sea Turtle Summary), the proposed increase in the use of SSQ-125 sonobuoys "are not expected to result in substantial changes to behavior, growth, survival, annual reproductive success, lifetime reproductive success (fitness), or species recruitment, and are not expected to result in population-level impacts." The Navy shares your concern for marine life, but this concern must be balanced with the purpose and need for Navy training and testing as detailed in Chapter 2 (Description of Proposed Action and Alternatives) of the EIS/OEIS. In accordance with ESA requirements, the Navy will complete consultation under Section 7 of the ESA with NMFS and USFWS and adhere to the Letter of Authorization and Biological Opinion issued by those agencies.
Azeal (Electronic)	Dear US Navy Personnel: I do commend your efforts to do your duty as the US navy keeping oceans safe for commerce and securing borders to USA and providing safety to and passage to areas of world where disaster relief is needed. Please take a moment to stop unnecessary sonar testing. Please add additional safeguards to protect all sealife. We humans are not the only ones in the ocean. Whales and dolphins and many more creatures exist there. As a US citizen, I want tax dollars to be spent on projects that safeguard marine life such as whales and dolphins.	The Navy shares your concern for marine life, but this concern must be balanced with the purpose and need for Navy training and testing as detailed in Chapter 2 (Description of Proposed Action and Alternatives) of the EIS/OEIS. The Navy has conducted active sonar training and testing activities in the Study Area for decades, and there is no evidence that routine Navy training and testing has negatively impacted marine mammal populations in the Study Area or at any Navy Range Complex. Based on the best available science summarized in the EIS/OEIS Section 3.4.4.1 (Summary of Monitoring and Observations During Navy Activities), long-term consequences for marine mammal populations are unlikely to result from Navy training and testing activities in the Study Area. Please also refer to Chapter 5 (Standard Operating Procedures, Mitigation, and Monitoring) of the EIS/OEIS, detailing the procedures and mitigation measures during its training and testing activities designed to reduce impacts to marine mammals from Navy activities.
Bagshaw (Written)	I understand the navy is considering doing electromagnetic warfare training in olympic National Park. I am writing to express my dismay at this proposal. We need our national parks to be places of respite and recreation rather than being militerized.	Thank you for participating in the NEPA process. No training or testing has been proposed in the Olympic National Park. The Navy has been training in the Olympic Military Operations Area (MOA) for over 40 years, and the Navy has not proposed any significant changes to the way aircrew train in the MOA. The Navy

Table I.5-4: Responses to Comments from Private Individuals (continued)

Commenter	Comment	Navy Response
	Please, US Navy, do not turn our place of escape from modern life into yet another military installation.	recently analyzed plans to enhance existing training by adding one fixed transmitter at Pacific Beach and three mobile transmitter vehicles that would operate on existing logging roads and pull-out areas on U.S. Forest Service land. The Navy has not proposed to use National Park Service land. Electronic Warfare (EW) training and EW Range enhancements were analyzed in the Navy's Northwest Training Range Complex (NWTRC) EIS, completed in 2010. When more information became available on mobile and fixed signal transmitters for the EW Range, the Navy prepared the EW Range EA to analyze placement and operation of those transmitters. The Navy completed the EA and issued a Finding of No Significant Impact on August 28, 2014. The introduction of the land-based transmitters to enhance existing training will not harm people, animals, or the environment. The Navy has decades of experience building and operating signal equipment, with no adverse effects to people, animals, or the environment.
K. Baker (Electronic)	Dear Pacific Fleet Commander, I urge you to select the no action alternative for the Northwest Training and Testing (NWTT) Environmental Impact Statement (EIS)/Overseas Environmental Impact Statement (OEIS). The proposed drastic increase in sonar activity will cause great suffering to wildlife. Marine mammals are extremely sensitive to noise, and sonar disrupts basic behaviors necessary for survival. Sonar can result in debilitating and fatal injuries for marine mammals. Whales suspected to have beached themselves because of sonar activity show signs of physical trauma like bleeding around the brain, ears and other tissues and large bubbles in their organs. The use of sonar, explosives, weapons firing, and other acoustic devices have well known and well documented negative impacts on whales, porpoises, turtles and other marine life. The increase in the use of sonar devices "is likely to adversely affect"2 endangered leatherback turtles whose protected habitat along the Pacific Coast was only recently established in 2012. The Navy's activities will have significant impacts on critical habitat areas for marine mammals and other wildlife. High intensity-mid-frequency sonar -- along with activities like dumping debris, the use of toxic chemicals, and detonating explosives -- will degrade sensitive habitat necessary for the survival of marine mammal populations. The current environmental analysis fails to provide basic information necessary to adequately evaluate the impacts of the proposed activities. This analysis also fails to provide adequate mitigation measures to protect marine life. Based on the information apparent in the environmental analysis, the Navy's "No Action Alternative" is the most conscientious and humane alternative.	The Navy shares your concern for marine life, but this concern must be balanced with the purpose and need for Navy training and testing as detailed in Chapter 2 (Description of Proposed Action and Alternatives) of the EIS/OEIS. The Navy has conducted active sonar training and testing activities in the Study Area for decades, and there is no evidence that routine Navy training and testing has negatively impacted marine mammal populations in the Study Area or at any Navy Range Complex. Based on the best available science summarized in the EIS/OEIS Section 3.4.4.1 (Summary of Monitoring and Observations During Navy Activities), long-term consequences for marine mammal populations are unlikely to result from Navy training and testing activities in the Study Area. Please also refer to Chapter 5 (Standard Operating Procedures, Mitigation, and Monitoring) of the EIS/OEIS, detailing the procedures and mitigation measures during its training and testing activities designed to reduce impacts to marine mammals from Navy activities. As described in the Supplement in Section 3.5.2 (Sea Turtle Summary), the proposed increase in the use of SSQ-125 sonobuoys "are not expected to result in substantial changes to behavior, growth, survival, annual reproductive success, lifetime reproductive success (fitness), or species recruitment, and are not expected to result in population-level impacts." Regarding previous strandings, see Section 3.4.3.1.8 (Stranding) and the referenced technical report "Marine Mammal Strandings Associated with U.S. Navy Sonar Activities" (U.S. Department of the

Table I.5-4: Responses to Comments from Private Individuals (continued)

Commenter	Comment	Navy Response
		Navy 2013c). Based on the best available science summarized in the EIS/OEIS Section 3.4.4.1 (Summary of Monitoring and Observations During Navy Activities), long-term consequences for marine mammal populations are unlikely to result from Navy training and testing activities in the Study Area.
N. Baker, PhD-01 (Written)	This is the first time I have ever commented on proposals by the Navy. I am compelled for the first time to make comments on a whole suite of impacts the Navy has not adequately considered in their proposals for the Pacific Northwest. The impacts need to be considered as a whole suite of impacts and should not be divided. I want to comment on the Supplement (December 2014) to the Navy's Draft Environmental Impact Statement/ Overseas Environmental Impact Statement (DEIS), dated January 2014, for its continued training and testing activities in the Pacific Northwest (NWTT). Please include these comments in the administrative record. Effect on wildlife The proposed increases in this Supplement of marine exercises and additional use of sonar and explosives will only increase the damage done to marine mammals, sea turtles, fish and birds. Of particular concern to me is the Supplement and the EIS's lack of protections for the Southern Resident Killer Whale's dwindling population and the Marbled Murrelet population. These animals need a protected home in accord with their endangered status. In public sessions and in a radio interview the Navy's public relations personnel have been heard to say that the (MSO) and TRACKEX marine exercises save gas and allow personnel to be closer to their homes for these maneuvers. These considerations should not allow one single injury to any endangered Killer Whale population or seabird population.	The Navy shares your concern for marine life, but this concern must be balanced with the purpose and need for Navy training and testing as detailed in Chapter 2 (Description of Proposed Action and Alternatives) of the EIS/OEIS. The Navy has conducted training and testing activities in the Study Area for decades, and there is no evidence that routine Navy training and testing has negatively impacted marine mammal populations in the Study Area or at any Navy Range Complex. Based on the best available science summarized in the EIS/OEIS Section 3.4.4.1 (Summary of Monitoring and Observations During Navy Activities), long-term consequences for marine mammal populations are unlikely to result from Navy training and testing activities in the Study Area. Please also refer to Chapter 5 (Standard Operating Procedures, Mitigation, and Monitoring) of the EIS/OEIS, detailing the procedures and mitigation measures during its training and testing activities designed to reduce impacts to marine mammals from Navy activities. No injuries to killer whales or marbled murrelets are anticipated from the Navy's proposed MSO or TRACKEX activities.
N. Baker, PhD-02	Though this supplement admits increased sonar and explosive testing (TRACKEX) and finally addresses the MSO maneuvers there is no additional mitigation mentioned. Nowhere Is it outlined whether visual patrols will increase as a result of this new activity, nor does the Supplement address real concerns over whether or not visual patrol is adequate at times of night or rough seas. No acoustic monitoring or avoidance strategies are included. This is a serious omission to a document that intended to address the inadequate science and mitigation plans of the original draft and is unacceptable.	As described in Chapter 5 (Standard Operating Procedures, Mitigation, and Monitoring) of the EIS/OEIS, the Navy will implement mitigation measures during the use of sonobuoys. The mitigation measures are implemented for each activity and therefore the mitigation scales up as the activity level scales up. As described in Chapter 5 (Standard Operating Procedures, Mitigation, and Monitoring) of the EIS/OEIS, the Navy evaluated the effectiveness and practicability of a number of potential mitigation measures. Through consultation and permitting with NMFS and USFWS, the Navy refined the mitigation measures, which are now presented in Chapter 5 (Standard Operating Procedures, Mitigation, and Monitoring) of this Final EIS/OEIS.

Table I.5-4: Responses to Comments from Private Individuals (continued)

Commenter	Comment	Navy Response
		Section 5.3.1.2.5 (Effectiveness Assessment for Lookouts) acknowledges that, due to the various detection probabilities, levels of Lookout experience, and variability of sighting conditions, Lookouts will not always be effective at avoiding impacts on all species. However, Lookouts are expected to increase the overall likelihood that certain marine mammal species and some sea turtles will be detected at the surface of the water, when compared to the likelihood that these same species would be detected if Lookouts are not used. The continued use of Lookouts contributes to helping reduce potential impacts on these species from training and testing activities. While the range of the sonar's detection would travel beyond the distance that Lookouts can detect animals, the range at which sonar is predicted to be able to cause injury to a marine mammal is very short, within 10 meters of the sonar. At such short distances, it is likely any marine mammal would have been detected. The MSO activities do not include the use of sonar or live gun firing.
N. Baker, PhD-03	Lack of Science There is a profound lack of science in these proposals. There is little consideration of exclusion zones, geographic alternatives to the southern Puget Sound and seasonal restrictions of exercises. All of the Alternatives propose year-round, unrestricted use without regard to seasonal variations in marine mammal and fish abundance. This is true despite the well documented seasonal migrations of numerous endangered species and the identification of biologically important areas. The Navy should put critical marine habitats off-limits to sonar and explosives testing and schedule training to avoid times of the year when sensitive species are present in places like the Olympic Coast National Marine Sanctuary.	As described in Chapter 5 (Standard Operating Procedures, Mitigation, and Monitoring) of the Final EIS/OEIS, the Navy evaluated the effectiveness and practicability of a number of potential mitigation measures including the avoidance of specific areas. The Navy has undertaken consultation with NMFS for the proposed and ongoing activities in the NWTT Study Area and the Navy refined the mitigation measures, which are now presented in Chapter 5 (Standard Operating Procedures, Mitigation, and Monitoring) of this Final EIS/OEIS. Through careful exploration of all mitigation measures to determine which were the most effective, the Navy chose the measures to mitigate potential impacts to marine mammals while still being able to meet its operational needs to train for real-world conditions. The Navy's specific mitigation measures are outlined in the following sections: Section 5.3.1 (Lookout Procedural Measures), Section 5.3.2 (Mitigation Zone Procedural Measures), and Section 5.3.3 (Mitigation Areas). Specifically, Section 5.3.4 (Mitigation Measures Considered but Eliminated) presents Navy consideration of similar area restrictions. The Navy and NMFS will use the Adaptive Management process to assess whether any additional mitigation should be considered in identified biologically important areas.
N. Baker, PhD-04	Climate Change and Cumulative Impacts The Supplement document responds to calls to address these two big issues but it is very unclear that anything more than lip service was expended by deeming Navy	In response to several comments, the Navy has enhanced its analysis of climate change and cumulative impacts in this Final EIS/OEIS. The U.S. Navy has conducted active sonar training and testing

Table I.5-4: Responses to Comments from Private Individuals (continued)

Commenter	Comment	Navy Response
	activities to be of little significance.	activities for decades in the seaspace depicted in the Study Area with no evidence to indicate any meaningful impacts to marine habitats in the area. The Navy and NMFS jointly are still in ongoing consultation with the OCNMS regarding the effects of the Proposed Action on Sanctuary resources. The Navy concludes its continued activities are not likely to result in the loss, destruction, or adverse changes to the viability of Sanctuary resources. Several points support this determination: • Less than two percent of proposed training and 15 percent of proposed testing activities would occur within or immediately adjacent to the OCNMS. • The NWTT Final EIS/OEIS shows that training and testing activities have minimal temporary impacts on the quantity or quality of the Study Area's physical environment, and minor to no impacts on marine or shore birds, fish, sea turtles, or invertebrate marine life. • Although explosives have the potential to affect the physical and biological resources, the Navy does not use explosives within the OCNMS. • The Navy concludes any marine mammal behavioral reactions to NWTT training and testing activities would be transitory, infrequent, non-cumulative, and impacts are not expected to decrease overall individual fitness or result in long-term population-level impacts on any given population, and consequently will not result in any adverse changes to the sanctuary. Finally, all Department of Defense (DoD) military activities shall be carried out in a manner that avoids to the maximum extent practicable any adverse impacts on Sanctuary resources and qualities.
N. Baker, PhD-05	Public Process This is what concerns me most. There has been an overwhelming number of proposals since late in 2013 rolled out to the public in a piecemeal fashion. Five calls for comments on clearly linked documents have been spread out in their introduction to the public over the last year and a half. Ground-based, (Electronic warfare range), air-based (Two growler scoping documents) and sea-based naval activities (these two NWTT documents) have been dropped onto the region as if they were not linked. The separate comment periods and the separate documents minimize the larger picture of impacts on the area. In my opinion this is misleading. Is it even legal in regards to Federal Law, specifically NEPA? Please redo this chopped-up public process with a comprehensive Environmental	The Navy prepares Environmental Impact Statements (EIS) and Environmental Assessments (EA) in order to comply with the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA). These NEPA documents are intended to ensure decision makers consider the potential environmental effects of a proposed action and its alternatives, provide an opportunity for public involvement, and promote transparency by informing the public of these potential environmental effects. Each NEPA document addresses a specific proposed action, separated from other actions by its purpose and need, independent utility, timing, and geographic location. Some NEPA documents are stand-alone documents; others tier off or expand the analyses of other NEPA documents. NEPA documents for training and testing, including this

Table I.5-4: Responses to Comments from Private Individuals (continued)

Commenter	Comment	Navy Response
	Impact Statement that includes all of the activities in the region. These huge changes that affect wildlife, real estate values, allow precedent-setting incursions into the peace of our national parks, national forest, wilderness, state parks and state lands, should be discussed as a whole, not split into so many fractured pieces that the residents of this region cannot know what they are actually facing. Frankly, it is quite apparent to me the Navy has totally lost any recognition of the role our national parks have. Our national parks are for recreation, preservation of biodiversity and preservation of our ecosystem in an unmanaged state by mankind. Please redo these proposals and unite them into one large package with consistency and the scientific basis for each part.	EIS/OEIS, focus on training and testing activities occurring within a range complex or military operation area and involve different types of aircraft, ships, and range complex enhancements. NEPA documents for aircraft homebasing actions focus on aircraft operations in and around the airfield and their facility needs. NEPA documents for installations focus on infrastructure enhancements for host and tenant command missions. Importantly, every environmental document considers the cumulative impacts to the environment from other relevant past, present, and reasonably foreseeable future actions (federal, state, local, and private) in addition to the proposed action. The Navy has been training in the Olympic Military Operations Area (MOA) for over 40 years, and the Navy has not proposed any significant changes to the way aircrew train in the MOA. The Navy recently analyzed plans to enhance existing training by adding one fixed transmitter at Pacific Beach and three mobile transmitter vehicles that would operate on existing logging roads and pull-out areas on U.S. Forest Service land. The Navy has not proposed to use National Park Service land. EW training and EW Range enhancements were analyzed in the Navy's Northwest Training Range Complex (NWTRC) EIS/OEIS, completed in 2010. When more information became available on mobile and fixed signal transmitters for the EW Range, the Navy prepared the EW Range EA to analyze placement and operation of those transmitters. The Navy completed the EA and issued a Finding of No Significant Impact on August 28, 2014. The introduction of the land-based transmitters to enhance existing training will not harm people, animals, or the environment. The Navy has decades of experience building and operating signal equipment, with no adverse effects to people, animals, or the environment. The Navy proposes to home base up to 36 additional EA-18G aircraft at NAS Whidbey Island. The Navy announced the preparation of that separate Whidbey EIS on September 5, 2013, and invited the public to participate in the NEPA process by submitting comments to define the scope of the Draft Whidbey EIS analysis. On October 10, 2014, the Navy revised the scope of the on-going Whidbey EIS and invited the public to submit additional scoping comments. The Navy is currently preparing its Draft Whidbey EIS, which is scheduled to be released in spring 2016. For more information, please visit the project website at www.whidbeyeis.com. This NWTT EIS/OEIS considered the Whidbey EIS proposal in its analysis of cumulative impacts in Chapter 4.

Table I.5-4: Responses to Comments from Private Individuals (continued)

Commenter	Comment	Navy Response
U. Baker (Electronic)	Whales communicate via sound as we do via speech. Using sonar explosives would end communication between whales just as not being able to listen to words would end communication between humans.	The Navy shares your concern for marine life, but this concern must be balanced with the purpose and need for Navy training and testing as detailed in Chapter 2 (Description of Proposed Action and Alternatives) of the EIS/OEIS. The Navy has conducted active sonar training and testing activities in the Study Area for decades, and there is no evidence that routine Navy training and testing has negatively impacted marine mammal populations in the Study Area or at any Navy Range Complex. Based on the best available science summarized in the EIS/OEIS Section 3.4.4.1 (Summary of Monitoring and Observations During Navy Activities), long-term consequences for marine mammal populations are unlikely to result from Navy training and testing activities in the Study Area. Please also refer to Chapter 5 (Standard Operating Procedures, Mitigation, and Monitoring) of the EIS/OEIS, detailing the procedures and mitigation measures during its training and testing activities designed to reduce impacts to marine mammals from Navy activities.
Bamer-01 (Electronic)	First off, although I am glad for the opportunity to comment, I am very disappointed in how the Navy has been revealing its plans for the Puget Sound area in such a piecemeal fashion. I have only been able to comment on one other aspect of this enormous set of proposals, because I have received notice of them only in spits and bursts. Taken together, these various proposals for increased growlers, electromagnetic warfare, and increased sonar practice will have a tremendously negative impact on our region. Not only are the lands and waters of Puget Sound home to several threatened and endangered animals, it is also the natural beauty and fertility of this place which draws people to live and vacation here; the pristine beauty, wild creatures and unrivaled opportunities for solitude and quiet all form the backbone of an economic engine that affects the entire state and even the Nation. I must stress that the Navy's choice to release details of all these plans give the appearance of deceit. The vast majority of citizens are not aware of the project, or are only aware of one or perhaps two of the components. If more people understood the enormity of the project, many would stand against it. I now wish to take this opportunity to comment on the Supplement (December 2014) to the Navy's Draft Environmental Impact Statement/ Overseas Environmental Impact Statement (DEIS), dated January 2014, for its continued training and testing activities in the Pacific Northwest (NWTT). Please include these comments in the administrative record.	The Navy prepares Environmental Impact Statements (EIS) and Environmental Assessments (EA) in order to comply with the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA). These NEPA documents are intended to ensure decision makers consider the potential environmental effects of a proposed action and its alternatives, provide an opportunity for public involvement, and promote transparency by informing the public of these potential environmental effects. Each NEPA document addresses a specific proposed action, separated from other actions by its purpose and need, independent utility, timing, and geographic location. Some NEPA documents are stand-alone documents; others tier off or expand the analyses of other NEPA documents. NEPA documents for training and testing, including this EIS/OEIS, focus on training and testing activities occurring within a range complex or military operation area and involve different types of aircraft, ships, and range complex enhancements. NEPA documents for aircraft homebasing actions focus on aircraft operations in and around the airfield and their facility needs. NEPA documents for installations focus on infrastructure enhancements for host and tenant command missions. Importantly, every environmental document considers the cumulative impacts to the environment from other relevant past, present, and reasonably foreseeable future actions (federal, state, local, and private) in addition to the proposed action.
Bamer-02	Effect on wildlife	The Navy shares your concern for marine life, but this concern must be

Table I.5-4: Responses to Comments from Private Individuals (continued)

Commenter	Comment	Navy Response
	Every year I entertain out-of-state family and friends in Port Angeles, and the one thing they hope to see more than any other, is a glimpse of the orcas. The proposed increases in this Supplement of marine exercises and additional use of sonar and explosives will only increase the damage done to marine mammals, sea turtles, fish and birds. Of particular concern to me is the Supplement and the EIS's lack of protections for the Southern Resident Killer Whale's dwindling population. These animals need a protected home in accord with their endangered status. In public sessions and in a radio interview the Navy's public relations personnel have been heard to say that the (MSO) and TRACKEX marine exercises save gas and allow personnel to be closer to their homes for these maneuvers. These considerations should not allow one single injury to this endangered Killer Whale population. It is inappropriate to place human convenience, especially during training exercises, over the vital survival needs of wildlife, especially endangered wildlife.	balanced with the purpose and need for Navy training and testing as detailed in Chapter 2 (Description of Proposed Action and Alternatives) of the EIS/OEIS. The Navy has conducted active sonar training and testing activities in the Study Area for decades, and there is no evidence that routine Navy training and testing has negatively impacted marine mammal populations in the Study Area or at any Navy Range Complex. Based on the best available science summarized in the EIS/OEIS Section 3.4.4.1 (Summary of Monitoring and Observations During Navy Activities), long-term consequences for marine mammal populations are unlikely to result from Navy training and testing activities in the Study Area. Please also refer to Chapter 5 (Standard Operating Procedures, Mitigation, and Monitoring) of the EIS/OEIS, detailing the procedures and mitigation measures during its training and testing activities designed to reduce impacts to marine mammals from Navy activities. In accordance with ESA requirements, the Navy will complete consultation under Section 7 of the ESA with NMFS and USFWS and adhere to the Letter of Authorization and Biological Opinion issued by those agencies.
Bamer-03	Though this supplement admits increased sonar and explosive testing (TRACKEX) and finally addresses the MSO maneuvers there is no additional mitigation mentioned. Nowhere is it outlined whether visual patrols will increase as a result of this new activity, nor does the Supplement address real concerns over whether or not visual patrol is adequate at times of night or rough seas. No acoustic monitoring or avoidance strategies are included. This is a serious omission to a document that intended to address the inadequate science and mitigation plans of the original draft and is unacceptable.	As presented in Chapter 5 (Standard Operating Procedures, Mitigation, and Monitoring) of the Draft and Final EIS/OEIS, the mitigation measures are implemented for each activity and therefore the mitigation scales up as the activity level scales up. Also in Chapter 5 (Standard Operating Procedures, Mitigation, and Monitoring) of the EIS/OEIS, the Navy evaluated the effectiveness and practicability of a number of potential mitigation measures. Through consultation and permitting with NMFS and USFWS, the Navy refined the mitigation measures, which are now presented in Chapter 5 (Standard Operating Procedures, Mitigation, and Monitoring) of this Final EIS/OEIS. Section 5.3.1.2.5 (Effectiveness Assessment for Lookouts) acknowledges that, due to the various detection probabilities, levels of Lookout experience, and variability of sighting conditions, Lookouts will not always be effective at avoiding impacts on all species. However, Lookouts are expected to increase the overall likelihood that certain marine mammal species and some sea turtles will be detected at the surface of the water, when compared to the likelihood that these same species would be detected if Lookouts are not used. The continued use of Lookouts contributes to helping reduce potential impacts on

Table I.5-4: Responses to Comments from Private Individuals (continued)

Commenter	Comment	Navy Response
		these species from training and testing activities. While the range of the sonar's detection would travel beyond the distance that Lookouts can detect animals, the range at which sonar is predicted to be able to cause injury to a marine mammal is very short, within 10 meters of the sonar. At such short distances, it is likely any marine mammal would have been detected. The MSO activities do not include the use of sonar or live gun firing.
Bamer-04	Lack of Science There is little consideration of exclusion zones, geographic alternatives to the southern Puget Sound and seasonal restrictions of exercises. All of the Alternatives propose year-round, unrestricted use without regard to seasonal variations in marine mammal and fish abundance. This is true despite the well-documented seasonal migrations of numerous endangered species and the identification of biologically important areas. The Navy should put critical marine habitats off-limits to sonar and explosives testing and schedule training to avoid times of the year when sensitive species are present in places like the Olympic Coast National Marine Sanctuary. The Navy's lack of care for our natural world is shocking, given the easily-obtained scientific data which so far has been ignored in this Supplement.	As described in Chapter 5 (Standard Operating Procedures, Mitigation, and Monitoring) of the Final EIS/OEIS, the Navy evaluated the effectiveness and practicability of a number of potential mitigation measures including the avoidance of specific areas. The Navy has undertaken consultation with NMFS for the proposed and ongoing activities in the NWTT Study Area and the Navy refined the mitigation measures, which are now presented in Chapter 5 (Standard Operating Procedures, Mitigation, and Monitoring) of this Final EIS/OEIS. Through careful exploration of all mitigation measures to determine which were the most effective, the Navy chose the measures to mitigate potential impacts to marine mammals while still being able to meet its operational needs to train for real-world conditions. The Navy's specific mitigation measures are outlined in the following sections: Section 5.3.1 (Lookout Procedural Measures), Section 5.3.2 (Mitigation Zone Procedural Measures), and Section 5.3.3 (Mitigation Areas). Specifically, Section 5.3.4 (Mitigation Measures Considered but Eliminated) presents Navy consideration of similar area restrictions. The Navy and NMFS will use the Adaptive Management process to assess whether any additional mitigation should be considered in identified biologically important areas. The U.S. Navy has conducted active sonar training and testing activities for decades in the seaspace depicted in the Study Area with no evidence to indicate any meaningful impacts to marine habitats in the area. The Navy and NMFS jointly are still in ongoing consultation with the OCNMS regarding the effects of the Proposed Action on Sanctuary resources. The Navy concludes its continued activities are not likely to result in the loss, destruction, or adverse changes to the viability of Sanctuary resources. Several points support this determination: • Less than two percent of proposed training and 15 percent of proposed testing activities would occur within or immediately adjacent to the OCNMS.

Table I.5-4: Responses to Comments from Private Individuals (continued)

Commenter	Comment	Navy Response
		• The NWTT Final EIS/OEIS shows that training and testing activities have minimal temporary impacts on the quantity or quality of the Study Area's physical environment, and minor to no impacts on marine or shore birds, fish, sea turtles, or invertebrate marine life. • Although explosives have the potential to affect the physical and biological resources, the Navy does not use explosives within the OCNMS. • The Navy concludes any marine mammal behavioral reactions to NWTT training and testing activities would be transitory, infrequent, non-cumulative, and impacts are not expected to decrease overall individual fitness or result in long-term population-level impacts on any given population, and consequently will not result in any adverse changes to the sanctuary. Finally, all Department of Defense (DoD) military activities shall be carried out in a manner that avoids to the maximum extent practicable any adverse impacts on Sanctuary resources and qualities.
Bamer-05	Climate Change and Cumulative Impacts The Supplement document responds to calls to address these two big issues but it is very unclear that anything more than lip service was expended by deeming Navy activities to be of little significance.	In response to several comments, the Navy has enhanced its analysis of climate change and cumulative impacts in this Final EIS/OEIS.
Bamer-06	Public Process What most concerns me is this. There has been an overwhelming number of proposals since late in 2013 rolled out to the public in a piecemeal fashion. Five calls for comments on clearly-linked documents have been spread out in their introduction to the public over the last year and a half. Ground-based, (Electronic warfare range), air-based (Two growler scoping documents) and sea-based naval activities (these two NWTT documents) have been dropped onto the region as if they were not linked. The separate comment periods and the separate documents minimize the larger picture of impacts on the area. In my opinion this is misleading. Is it even legal in regards to Federal Law, specifically NEPA? Please redo this chopped-up public process with a comprehensive Environmental Impact Statement that includes all of the activities in the region. These huge changes that affect wildlife, real estate values, allow precedent-setting incursions into the peace of our national parks, national forest, wilderness, state parks and state lands, should be discussed as a whole, not split into so many fractured pieces that the residents of this region cannot know what they are actually facing.	The Navy prepares Environmental Impact Statements (EIS) and Environmental Assessments (EA) in order to comply with the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA). These NEPA documents are intended to ensure decision makers consider the potential environmental effects of a proposed action and its alternatives, provide an opportunity for public involvement, and promote transparency by informing the public of these potential environmental effects. Each NEPA document addresses a specific proposed action, separated from other actions by its purpose and need, independent utility, timing, and geographic location. Some NEPA documents are stand-alone documents; others tier off or expand the analyses of other NEPA documents. NEPA documents for training and testing, including this EIS/OEIS, focus on training and testing activities occurring within a range complex or military operation area and involve different types of aircraft, ships, and range complex enhancements. NEPA documents for aircraft homebasing actions focus on aircraft operations in and around the airfield and their facility needs. NEPA documents for installations focus on infrastructure enhancements for host and tenant

Table I.5-4: Responses to Comments from Private Individuals (continued)

Commenter	Comment	Navy Response
		command missions. Importantly, every environmental document considers the cumulative impacts to the environment from other relevant past, present, and reasonably foreseeable future actions (federal, state, local, and private) in addition to the proposed action.
Barnett (Electronic)	I object to the US Navy's planned bomb testing and sonar use over the next five years for the Pacific coastline from Alaska to California because it will endanger and potentially kill hundreds of dolphins and whales. Please hold all life as sacred and spend the taxpayers money on missions of peace and reconciliation rather than destruction and war. Thank you.	The Navy shares your concern for marine life, but this concern must be balanced with the purpose and need for Navy training and testing as detailed in Chapter 2 (Description of Proposed Action and Alternatives) of the EIS/OEIS. The Navy has conducted active sonar training and testing activities in the Study Area for decades, and there is no evidence that routine Navy training and testing has negatively impacted marine mammal populations in the Study Area or at any Navy Range Complex. Based on the best available science summarized in the EIS/OEIS Section 3.4.4.1 (Summary of Monitoring and Observations During Navy Activities), long-term consequences for marine mammal populations are unlikely to result from Navy training and testing activities in the Study Area. Please also refer to Chapter 5 (Standard Operating Procedures, Mitigation, and Monitoring) of the EIS/OEIS, detailing the procedures and mitigation measures during its training and testing activities designed to reduce impacts to marine mammals from Navy activities.
Barry (Electronic)	this may not be exact category, but the message is simple: how can anyone even consider initiating any activities that will further disturb the quality of life in what is the center of our existence? we cannot continue to treat our universe as our trashcan and expect no consequences. whales & dolphins are intelligent, sensitive & essential beings (unlike too many humans). we cannot sanction activities that are detrimental to the well-being of these wonderful creatures.	The Navy shares your concern for marine life, but this concern must be balanced with the purpose and need for Navy training and testing as detailed in Chapter 2 (Description of Proposed Action and Alternatives) of the EIS/OEIS. The Navy has conducted active sonar training and testing activities in the Study Area for decades, and there is no evidence that routine Navy training and testing has negatively impacted marine mammal populations in the Study Area or at any Navy Range Complex. Based on the best available science summarized in the EIS/OEIS Section 3.4.4.1 (Summary of Monitoring and Observations During Navy Activities), long-term consequences for marine mammal populations are unlikely to result from Navy training and testing activities in the Study Area. Please also refer to Chapter 5 (Standard Operating Procedures, Mitigation, and Monitoring) of the EIS/OEIS, detailing the procedures and mitigation measures during its training and testing activities designed to reduce impacts to marine mammals from Navy activities.
Bassett (Electronic)	I strongly oppose the Navy's use of any weapons that will harm or interfere with the normal life activities of our marine mammals or other sea life. Our oceans and other waters belong first and foremost to the creatures who dwell in them, and not to us	The Navy shares your concern for marine life, but this concern must be balanced with the purpose and need for Navy training and testing as detailed in Chapter 2 (Description of Proposed Action and Alternatives)

Table I.5-4: Responses to Comments from Private Individuals (continued)

Commenter	Comment	Navy Response
	humans--especially not to use for weapons in any way. We have no right to interfere with their lives and activities. Many of these creatures are endangered. Of those who are not endangered, they all suffer from human-caused stresses. Rather than increasing the stress, we should stop it completely. Our earth and the animal and plant systems on it support us all: you and me and everyone who is important to us in our lives. Ultimately, our human actions will destroy us too. We already have more than enough weapons to destroy all life as we know it on earth. To continue to develop and use weapons takes us closer and closer to the end of life as we know it on this planet. I strongly disagree with a single solitary penny of my tax money being used for weapons of war. Instead, the tax money ought to be used to stop the leaking of radiation from Fukushima or clean-up of the many serious sites contaminated by our prior activities.	of the EIS/OEIS. The Navy has conducted active sonar training and testing activities in the Study Area for decades, and there is no evidence that routine Navy training and testing has negatively impacted marine mammal populations in the Study Area or at any Navy Range Complex. Based on the best available science summarized in the EIS/OEIS Section 3.4.4.1 (Summary of Monitoring and Observations During Navy Activities), long-term consequences for marine mammal populations are unlikely to result from Navy training and testing activities in the Study Area. Please also refer to Chapter 5 (Standard Operating Procedures, Mitigation, and Monitoring) of the EIS/OEIS, detailing the procedures and mitigation measures during its training and testing activities designed to reduce impacts to marine mammals from Navy activities.
Battaglia (Electronic)	Our oceans are already struggling to survive the awful and overwhelming polution we have bestowed up them. Please don't add life threatening noise pollution on top of everything else.	The Navy shares your concern for marine life, but this concern must be balanced with the purpose and need for Navy training and testing as detailed in Chapter 2 (Description of Proposed Action and Alternatives) of the EIS/OEIS. The Navy has conducted active sonar training and testing activities in the Study Area for decades, and there is no evidence that routine Navy training and testing has negatively impacted marine mammal populations in the Study Area or at any Navy Range Complex. Based on the best available science summarized in the EIS/OEIS Section 3.4.4.1 (Summary of Monitoring and Observations During Navy Activities), long-term consequences for marine mammal populations are unlikely to result from Navy training and testing activities in the Study Area. Please also refer to Chapter 5 (Standard Operating Procedures, Mitigation, and Monitoring) of the EIS/OEIS, detailing the procedures and mitigation measures during its training and testing activities designed to reduce impacts to marine mammals from Navy activities.
Bauer (Electronic)	My comment in short: Marine life (not just mammals) already suffers from ocean pollution, acidification, human-generated noise, disrupted weather and warming, overfishing and human carelessness in general. The Navy must make all efforts to reduce the impact of the tests, and have fewer tests, so creating less noise, less pollution, and less suffering. Put more effort into developing alternatives to these destructive trials. Please make sure the personnel on lookout for marine life are alert and on task, not texting or otherwise distracted during their shift. No marine animals deserve to be caught up in this commotion. Even fish have sensitive nervous systems, sound can be damaging. There should be a "no accidents" policy, to be taken seriously.	The Navy shares your concern for marine life, but this concern must be balanced with the purpose and need for Navy training and testing as detailed in Chapter 2 (Description of Proposed Action and Alternatives) of the EIS/OEIS. The Navy has conducted active sonar training and testing activities in the Study Area for decades, and there is no evidence that routine Navy training and testing has negatively impacted marine mammal populations in the Study Area or at any Navy Range Complex. Based on the best available science summarized in the EIS/OEIS Section 3.4.4.1 (Summary of Monitoring and Observations During Navy Activities), long-term consequences for marine mammal populations are unlikely to result from Navy training

Table I.5-4: Responses to Comments from Private Individuals (continued)

Commenter	Comment	Navy Response
		and testing activities in the Study Area. Please also refer to Chapter 5 (Standard Operating Procedures, Mitigation, and Monitoring) of the EIS/OEIS, detailing the procedures and mitigation measures during its training and testing activities designed to reduce impacts to marine mammals from Navy activities.
Baumann (Electronic)	RE: proposed sonar testing in Pacific The Navy's current environmental analysis fails to adequately evaluate the impacts of the proposed activities on marine mammals and to provide adequate mitigation measures. Marine mammals are extremely sensitive to noise, and sonar disrupts basic behaviors necessary for survival such as migration, surfacing, navigating, hearing, nursing, breeding and feeding. The Navy's "No Action Alternative" is the proposal with the most limited impact on wildlife. Sonar can result in debilitating and even fatal injuries for marine mammals. Scientists believe sonar activity can change whale diving behavior, confusing them to swim to depths their bodies cannot handle. Whales suspected to have beached themselves because of sonar activity show signs of physical trauma like bleeding around the brain, ears and other tissues and large bubbles in their organs – symptoms analogous to "the bends" in humans. To the extent that threatened or endangered species including humpback and sperm whales, leatherback turtles are negatively impacted, the proposed activities may result in violations of the Endangered Species Act.	The Navy shares your concern for marine life, but this concern must be balanced with the purpose and need for Navy training and testing as detailed in Chapter 2 (Description of Proposed Action and Alternatives) of the EIS/OEIS. The Navy has conducted active sonar training and testing activities in the Study Area for decades, and there is no evidence that routine Navy training and testing has negatively impacted marine mammal populations in the Study Area or at any Navy Range Complex. Based on the best available science summarized in the EIS/OEIS Section 3.4.4.1 (Summary of Monitoring and Observations During Navy Activities), long-term consequences for marine mammal populations are unlikely to result from Navy training and testing activities in the Study Area. As described in the Supplement in Section 3.5.2 (Sea Turtle Summary), the proposed increase in the use of SSQ-125 sonobuoys "are not expected to result in substantial changes to behavior, growth, survival, annual reproductive success, lifetime reproductive success (fitness), or species recruitment, and are not expected to result in population-level impacts." Please also refer to Chapter 5 (Standard Operating Procedures, Mitigation, and Monitoring) of the EIS/OEIS, detailing the procedures and mitigation measures during its training and testing activities designed to reduce impacts to marine mammals from Navy activities.
Baymor (Electronic)	I am commenting once again (I commented in November)on the Navy's proposed activities on the Olympic Peninsula and its surrounding waters. In this case, I wish to comment on the Supplement (December 2014) to the Navy's Draft Environmental Impact Statement/ Overseas Environmental Impact Statement (DEIS), dated January 2014, for its continued training and testing activities in the Pacific Northwest (NWTT). Please include these comments in the administrative record. Effect on wildlife The proposed increases in this Supplement of marine exercises and additional use of sonar and explosives will only increase the damage done to marine mammals, sea turtles, fish and birds. Of particular concern to me is the Supplement and the EIS's lack of protections for the Southern Resident Killer Whale's dwindling population. These animals need a protected home in accord with their endangered status. In public sessions and in a radio interview the Navy's	The Navy shares your concern for marine life, but this concern must be balanced with the purpose and need for Navy training and testing as detailed in Chapter 2 (Description of Proposed Action and Alternatives) of the EIS/OEIS. The Navy has conducted training and testing activities in the Study Area for decades, and there is no evidence that routine Navy training and testing has negatively impacted marine mammal populations in the Study Area or at any Navy Range Complex. Based on the best available science summarized in the EIS/OEIS Section 3.4.4.1 (Summary of Monitoring and Observations During Navy Activities), long-term consequences for marine mammal populations are unlikely to result from Navy training and testing activities in the Study Area. Please also refer to Chapter 5 (Standard

Table I.5-4: Responses to Comments from Private Individuals (continued)

Commenter	Comment	Navy Response
	public relations personnel have been heard to say that the (MSO) and TRACKEX marine exercises save gas and allow personnel to be closer to their homes for these maneuvers. These considerations should not allow one single injury to this endangered Killer Whale population. Though this supplement admits increased sonar and explosive testing (TRACKEX) and finally addresses the MSO maneuvers there is no additional mitigation mentioned. Nowhere is it outlined whether visual patrols will increase as a result of this new activity, nor does the Supplement address real concerns over whether or not visual patrol is adequate at times of night or rough seas. No acoustic monitoring or avoidance strategies are included. This is a serious omission to a document that intended to address the inadequate science and mitigation plans of the original draft and is unacceptable. Lack of Science There is little consideration of exclusion zones, geographic alternatives to the southern Puget Sound and seasonal restrictions of exercises. All of the Alternatives propose year-round, unrestricted use without regard to seasonal variations in marine mammal and fish abundance. This is true despite the well-documented seasonal migrations of numerous endangered species and the identification of biologically important areas. The Navy should put critical marine habitats off-limits to sonar and explosives testing and schedule training to avoid times of the year when sensitive species are present in places like the Olympic Coast National Marine Sanctuary. Climate Change and Cumulative Impacts The Supplement document responds to calls to address these two big issues but it is very unclear that anything more than lip service was expended by deeming Navy activities to be of little significance. Public Process What most concerns me is this. There has been an overwhelming number of proposals since late in 2013 rolled out to the public in a piecemeal fashion. Five calls for comments on clearly-linked documents have been spread out in their introduction to the public over the last year and a half. Ground-based, (Electronic warfare range), air-based (Two growler scoping documents) and sea-based naval activities (these two NWTT documents) have been dropped onto the region as if they were not linked. The separate comment periods and the separate documents minimize the larger picture of impacts on the area. In my opinion this is misleading. Is it even legal in regards to Federal Law, specifically NEPA? Please redo this chopped-up public process with a comprehensive Environmental Impact Statement that includes all of the activities in the region. These huge changes that affect wildlife, real estate values, allow precedent-setting incursions into the peace of our national parks, national forest, wilderness, state parks and state lands, should be discussed as a whole, not split into so many fractured pieces that the residents of this region cannot know what they are actually facing. In short I think it is a terrible thing that you are planning to do to our Olympic Peninsula. This supplement puts the icing on the dirty little cake you have cooked up for us all, not to mention	Operating Procedures, Mitigation, and Monitoring) of the EIS/OEIS, detailing the procedures and mitigation measures during its training and testing activities designed to reduce impacts to marine mammals from Navy activities. As part of the Navy's effects analysis, the Navy considers all the science that identifies locations where certain cetacean populations or individuals are known to engage in feeding, breeding, or other biologically important activities at certain times of year. Recently, NMFS has taken steps to begin formally identifying some of these areas and naming them Biologically Important Areas (BIAs). The Navy has considered these areas as part of its analysis in this Final EIS/OEIS when discussing particular species in Chapter 3 (Affected Environment and Environmental Consequences) as well as in considering whether limitations on Navy activities in these areas are warranted as mitigation in discussion in Chapter 5 (see Section 5.3.4.1.11, Avoiding Marine Species Habitats and Biologically Important Areas). The Navy thoroughly considered the humpback and gray whale feeding areas identified recently in its analysis and whether avoidance as mitigation was appropriate. Given the impact avoidance would have on military readiness activities and lack of biological benefit, avoidance is not warranted. Please see Section 5.3.4.1.11 (Avoiding Marine Species Habitats and Biologically Important Areas). However, Navy is proposing to provide reporting of generally low use of sonar in some of these areas to NMFS as part of classified annual reports to help inform future adaptive management related to impacts in these areas. At time of release of this Final EIS/OEIS, NMFS and Navy are in ongoing discussion regarding mitigation for MMPA purposes. Should additional mitigation to that which Navy has proposed be identified in the MMPA rule making and authorization, it will be indicated in the ROD. It is important to note that the BIAs were not meant to define exclusionary zones, nor critical habitat with regulatory management, nor were they meant to be locations that serve as sanctuaries from human activity, or areas analogous to marine protected areas. The NMFS-identified BIAs do not have direct or immediate regulatory consequences and the BIAs located within the NWTT Study Area are not the only areas used for feeding, migrating, or reproductive activity for these cetaceans in a species' entire range and habitat. The stated intention is for the BIAs to serve as a resource management tool and their currently identified boundaries be considered dynamic and subject to change based on any new information as well as, "existing density estimates, range-wide

Table I.5-4: Responses to Comments from Private Individuals (continued)

Commenter	Comment	Navy Response
	our sea creatures. Isn't it time to stop this plume of violence. I realize that you all must feel like you are doing the right thing but I ask you to look deeply into your own personal human hearts and come up with a better answer to war and endless killing.	distribution data, information on population trends and life history parameters, known threats to the population, and other relevant information." There is a lack of science supporting identification of any additional BIAs at this time for the Pacific. The Navy and NMFS have supported and will continue to support the Cetacean and Sound Mapping project, including providing representation on the Cetacean Density and Distribution Mapping Working Group (CetMap), which informed NMFS' identification of BIAs. The same marine mammal density data present in the Navy's Density Database Technical Report, and used in the analysis for this EIS/OEIS, was used in the development of BIAs. The final products, including U.S. West Coast BIAs from this mapping effort, were completed and published in March 2015. As described in Chapter 5 (Standard Operating Procedures, Mitigation, and Monitoring) of the EIS/OEIS, the Navy will implement mitigation measures during the use of sonobuoys. The mitigation measures are implemented for each activity and therefore the mitigation scales up as the activity level scales up. Section 5.3.1.2.5 (Effectiveness Assessment for Lookouts) acknowledges that, due to the various detection probabilities, levels of Lookout experience, and variability of sighting conditions, Lookouts will not always be effective at avoiding impacts on all species. However, Lookouts are expected to increase the overall likelihood that certain marine mammal species and some sea turtles will be detected at the surface of the water, when compared to the likelihood that these same species would be detected if Lookouts are not used. The continued use of Lookouts contributes to helping reduce potential impacts on these species from training and testing activities. While the range of the sonar's detection would travel beyond the distance that Lookouts can detect animals, the range at which sonar is predicted to be able to cause injury to a marine mammal is very short, within 10 meters of the sonar. At such short distances, it is likely any marine mammal would have been detected. As described in Chapter 5 (Standard Operating Procedures, Mitigation, and Monitoring) of the Final EIS/OEIS, the Navy evaluated the effectiveness and practicability of a number of potential mitigation measures including the avoidance of specific areas. The Navy has undertaken consultation with NMFS for the proposed and ongoing activities in the NWTT Study Area and the Navy refined the mitigation

Table I.5-4: Responses to Comments from Private Individuals (continued)

Commenter	Comment	Navy Response
		measures, which are now presented in Chapter 5 (Standard Operating Procedures, Mitigation, and Monitoring) of this Final EIS/OEIS. Through careful exploration of all mitigation measures to determine which were the most effective, the Navy chose the measures to mitigate potential impacts to marine mammals while still being able to meet its operational needs to train for real-world conditions. The Navy's specific mitigation measures are outlined in the following sections: Section 5.3.1 (Lookout Procedural Measures), Section 5.3.2 (Mitigation Zone Procedural Measures), and Section 5.3.3 (Mitigation Areas). Specifically, Section 5.3.4 (Mitigation Measures Considered but Eliminated) presents Navy consideration of similar area restrictions. The Navy and NMFS will use the Adaptive Management process to assess whether any additional mitigation should be considered in identified biologically important areas. In response to several comments, the Navy has enhanced its analysis of climate change and cumulative impacts in this Final EIS/OEIS. The Navy prepares Environmental Impact Statements (EIS) and Environmental Assessments (EA) in order to comply with the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA). These NEPA documents are intended to ensure decision makers consider the potential environmental effects of a proposed action and its alternatives, provide an opportunity for public involvement, and promote transparency by informing the public of these potential environmental effects. Each NEPA document addresses a specific proposed action, separated from other actions by its purpose and need, independent utility, timing, and geographic location. Some NEPA documents are stand-alone documents; others tier off or expand the analyses of other NEPA documents. NEPA documents for training and testing, including this EIS/OEIS, focus on training and testing activities occurring within a range complex or military operation area and involve different types of aircraft, ships, and range complex enhancements. NEPA documents for aircraft homebasing actions focus on aircraft operations in and around the airfield and their facility needs. NEPA documents for installations focus on infrastructure enhancements for host and tenant command missions. Importantly, every environmental document considers the cumulative impacts to the environment from other relevant past, present, and reasonably foreseeable future actions (federal, state, local, and private) in addition to the proposed action. The Navy has been training in the Olympic Military Operations Area (MOA) for over 40 years, and the Navy has not proposed any

Table I.5-4: Responses to Comments from Private Individuals (continued)

Commenter	Comment	Navy Response
		significant changes to the way aircrew train in the MOA. The Navy recently analyzed plans to enhance existing training by adding one fixed transmitter at Pacific Beach and three mobile transmitter vehicles that would operate on existing logging roads and pull-out areas on U.S. Forest Service land. The Navy has not proposed to use National Park Service land. EW training and EW Range enhancements were analyzed in the Navy's Northwest Training Range Complex (NWTRC) EIS/OEIS, completed in 2010. When more information became available on mobile and fixed signal transmitters for the EW Range, the Navy prepared the EW Range EA to analyze placement and operation of those transmitters. The Navy completed the EA and issued a Finding of No Significant Impact on August 28, 2014. The introduction of the land-based transmitters to enhance existing training will not harm people, animals, or the environment. The Navy has decades of experience building and operating signal equipment, with no adverse effects to people, animals, or the environment. The Navy proposes to home base up to 36 additional EA-18G aircraft at NAS Whidbey Island. The Navy announced the preparation of that separate Whidbey EIS on September 5, 2013, and invited the public to participate in the NEPA process by submitting comments to define the scope of the Draft Whidbey EIS analysis. On October 10, 2014, the Navy revised the scope of the on-going Whidbey EIS and invited the public to submit additional scoping comments. The Navy is currently preparing its Draft Whidbey EIS, which is scheduled to be released in spring 2016. For more information, please visit the project website at www.whidbeyeis.com. This NWTT EIS/OEIS considered the Whidbey EIS proposal in its analysis of cumulative impacts in Chapter 4. The MSO activities do not include the use of sonar or live gun firing. The U.S. Navy has conducted active sonar training and testing activities for decades in the seaspace depicted in the Study Area with no evidence to indicate any meaningful impacts to marine habitats in the area. The Navy and NMFS jointly are still in ongoing consultation with the OCNMS regarding the effects of the Proposed Action on Sanctuary resources. The Navy concludes its continued activities are not likely to result in the loss, destruction, or adverse changes to the viability of Sanctuary resources. Several points support this determination: • Less than two percent of proposed training and 15 percent of proposed testing activities would occur within or immediately adjacent

Table I.5-4: Responses to Comments from Private Individuals (continued)

Commenter	Comment	Navy Response
		to the OCNMS. • The NWTT Final EIS/OEIS shows that training and testing activities have minimal temporary impacts on the quantity or quality of the Study Area's physical environment, and minor to no impacts on marine or shore birds, fish, sea turtles, or invertebrate marine life. • Although explosives have the potential to affect the physical and biological resources, the Navy does not use explosives within the OCNMS. • The Navy concludes any marine mammal behavioral reactions to NWTT training and testing activities would be transitory, infrequent, non-cumulative, and impacts are not expected to decrease overall individual fitness or result in long-term population-level impacts on any given population, and consequently will not result in any adverse changes to the sanctuary. Finally, all Department of Defense (DoD) military activities shall be carried out in a manner that avoids to the maximum extent practicable any adverse impacts on Sanctuary resources and qualities.
Bechmann (Electronic)	Sonar can result in debilitating and even fatal injuries for marine mammals. Scientists believe sonar activity can change whale diving behavior, confusing them to swim to depths their bodies cannot handle. Whales suspected to have beached themselves because of sonar activity show signs of physical trauma like bleeding around the brain, ears and other tissues and large bubbles in their organs – symptoms analogous to "the bends" in humans. •To the extent that threatened or endangered species -- including humpback and sperm whales, and leatherback turtles -- are negatively impacted, the proposed activities may result in violations of the Endangered Species Act.	The Navy shares your concern for marine life, but this concern must be balanced with the purpose and need for Navy training and testing as detailed in Chapter 2 (Description of Proposed Action and Alternatives) of the EIS/OEIS. The Navy has conducted active sonar training and testing activities in the Study Area for decades, and there is no evidence that routine Navy training and testing has negatively impacted marine mammal populations in the Study Area or at any Navy Range Complex. Based on the best available science summarized in the EIS/OEIS Section 3.4.4.1 (Summary of Monitoring and Observations During Navy Activities), long-term consequences for marine mammal populations are unlikely to result from Navy training and testing activities in the Study Area. Please also refer to Chapter 5 (Standard Operating Procedures, Mitigation, and Monitoring) of the EIS/OEIS, detailing the procedures and mitigation measures during its training and testing activities designed to reduce impacts to marine mammals from Navy activities. Regarding previous strandings, see Section 3.4.3.1.8 (Stranding) and the referenced technical report "Marine Mammal Strandings Associated with U.S. Navy Sonar Activities" (U.S. Department of the Navy 2013c).
Becker	The Navy's current environmental analysis fails to provide basic information	As described in the Supplement in Section 3.5.2 (Sea Turtle

Table I.5-4: Responses to Comments from Private Individuals (continued)

Commenter	Comment	Navy Response
(Electronic)	necessary to adequately evaluate the impacts of the proposed activities. This analysis also fails to provide adequate measures to mitigate the harmful effects of the proposed activities on marine mammals and other wildlife. Based on the information apparent in the environmental analysis, the Navy's "No Action Alternative" is the proposal with the most limited impact on wildlife. A drastic increase in sonar activity will negatively impact wildlife. Marine mammals are extremely sensitive to noise, and sonar disrupts basic behaviors necessary for survival such as migration, surfacing, navigating, hearing, nursing, breeding and feeding. Sonar can result in debilitating and even fatal injuries for marine mammals. Scientists believe sonar activity can change whale diving behavior, confusing them to swim to depths their bodies cannot handle. Whales suspected to have beached themselves because of sonar activity show signs of physical trauma like bleeding around the brain, ears and other tissues and large bubbles in their organs – symptoms analogous to "the bends" in humans. To the extent that threatened or endangered species -- including humpback and sperm whales, and leatherback turtles -- are negatively impacted, the proposed activities may result in violations of the Endangered Species Act.	Summary), the proposed increase in the use of SSQ-125 sonobuoys "are not expected to result in substantial changes to behavior, growth, survival, annual reproductive success, lifetime reproductive success (fitness), or species recruitment, and are not expected to result in population-level impacts." The Navy shares your concern for marine life, but this concern must be balanced with the purpose and need for Navy training and testing as detailed in Chapter 2 (Description of Proposed Action and Alternatives) of the EIS/OEIS. The Navy has conducted active sonar training and testing activities in the Study Area for decades, and there is no evidence that routine Navy training and testing has negatively impacted marine mammal populations in the Study Area or at any Navy Range Complex. Based on the best available science summarized in the EIS/OEIS Section 3.4.4.1 (Summary of Monitoring and Observations During Navy Activities), long-term consequences for marine mammal populations are unlikely to result from Navy training and testing activities in the Study Area. Please also refer to Chapter 5 (Standard Operating Procedures, Mitigation, and Monitoring) of the EIS/OEIS, detailing the procedures and mitigation measures during its training and testing activities designed to reduce impacts to marine mammals from Navy activities.
Beech (Electronic)	I am writing to submit comments on the Supplement to the Navy's Pacific Northwest Training and Testing draft 2014 EIS/OEIS. I am a resident of Clallam County and have been living, working and recreating in the Olympic National Park area for the last 52 years. I have many concerns about the Navy's apparent disregard of NEPA policy and the inadequate and confusing manner in which they present their activities, locations, and evidence for no significant adverse affects. Please include these comments in the administrative record. 1. The Navy has been handling public comment and notification in a manner that is not in accordance with NEPA guidelines. Specifically, from the NEPA regulations "§1508.25 Scope (3) Similar actions, which when viewed with other reasonably foreseeable or proposed agency actions, have similarities that provide a basis for evaluating their environmental consequences together, such as common timing or geography. An agency may wish to analyze these actions in the same impact statement. It should do so when the best way to assess adequately the combined impacts of similar actions or reasonable alternatives to such actions is to treat them in a single impact statement." The public has been inundated with numerous NEPA documents that require public comment in the last year. Four of these are linked by geography, timing, and function. The Navy's attempts to assess the combined impacts from these various activities has produced inadequate analyses. These four documents are: a) The Pacific Northwest Electronic Warfare Range 2014 EA b) The Pacific	The Navy prepares Environmental Impact Statements (EIS) and Environmental Assessments (EA) in order to comply with the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA). These NEPA documents are intended to ensure decision makers consider the potential environmental effects of a proposed action and its alternatives, provide an opportunity for public involvement, and promote transparency by informing the public of these potential environmental effects. Each NEPA document addresses a specific proposed action, separated from other actions by its purpose and need, independent utility, timing, and geographic location. Some NEPA documents are stand-alone documents; others tier off or expand the analyses of other NEPA documents. NEPA documents for training and testing, including this EIS/OEIS, focus on training and testing activities occurring within a range complex or military operation area and involve different types of aircraft, ships, and range complex enhancements. NEPA documents for aircraft homebasing actions focus on aircraft operations in and around the airfield and their facility needs. NEPA documents for installations focus on infrastructure enhancements for host and tenant command missions. Importantly, every environmental document considers the cumulative impacts to the environment from other

Table I.5-4: Responses to Comments from Private Individuals (continued)

Commenter	Comment	Navy Response
	Northwest Testing and Training draft 2014 EIS/OEIS c) Scoping comments for the addition of 36 EA18G Growler aircraft at Whidbey NAS, 2014 d) Supplement to the NWTT draft 2014 EIS/OEIS One result of separating these into different documents is that it is difficult, and often impossible, to determine what activities and locations have actually been analyzed for impacts. There are constant references in one document to analyses in other documents, but a close reading of that second document shows it omitted the analysis as well. This is clearly not allowed by NEPA. A case in point is the Pacific Northwest Electromagnetic Warfare Range EA. On page 2-8 of the EWR EA it states" "All of the EW training activities and locations that would be associated with the implementation of the Pacific Northwest EW Range were analyzed in the NWTRC EIS/OEIS. The NWTRC EIS/OEIS has an October 2010 Record of Decision that approved an alternative that included EW training activities associated with the establishment of a fixed emitter in the Pacific Beach area. Current training levels in the Olympic MOAs and W-237 will remain the same as per the NWTRC EIS/OEIS, and any changes to the type or tempo of training conducted in the Olympic MOAs and W-237 will be addressed in the Northwest Training and Testing (NWTT) EIS/OEIS." I and a group of others have combed these three documents, the NWTRC EIS, NWTT DEIS, and its Supplement, and found numerous tables, summaries, and analyses that did not include electromagnetic warfare training on the land portions of the Olympic MOA's where this training will take place. For instance, jet noise was not documented as a socioeconomic stressor even though the number of flights appears to be over 8700 per year. (They list 2,900 events/yr, and assuming each event requires 3 aircraft that gives us around 8,700). The Navy, by linking the EIS requirements for the EW Range EA with the current NWTT DEIS/Supplement allows me to include the EW Range EA in the scope of this letter. The EW Range activities and/or locations were not included in either the NWTRC 2010 EIS or the NWTT DEIS/Supplement. Those activities, which are currently being initiated, are illegal under NEPA and must be discontinued. All of the documents listed above need to be analyzed together under one NEPA document. 2. Please review the NEPA guidelines under paragraph §1508.27 "Significantly". Under this section the Navy is required to analyze the intensity of impacts concerning: "(3) Unique characteristics of the geographic area such as proximity to historic or cultural resources, park lands, prime farmlands, wetlands, wild and scenic rivers, or ecologically critical areas." The Study Areas in the NWTT draft/supplement and the EWR EA include areas directly on the borders of the Olympic National Park which is also a World Heritage Site protected by international treaty. Cumulative impacts on the environment, wildlife, visitor experience, soundscape, and tourism economics have been superficial or entirely absent. Findings of no significant impact have been made in the NWTT draft EIS, its Supplement, and the EWR EA without consultation with local Olympic Peninsula tourism businesses, UNESCO, or the National Park Service to discover the true	relevant past, present, and reasonably foreseeable future actions (federal, state, local, and private) in addition to the proposed action. The Navy has been training in the Olympic Military Operations Area (MOA) for over 40 years, and the Navy has not proposed any significant changes to the way aircrew train in the MOA. The Navy recently analyzed plans to enhance existing training by adding one fixed transmitter at Pacific Beach and three mobile transmitter vehicles that would operate on existing logging roads and pull-out areas on U.S. Forest Service land. The Navy has not proposed to use National Park Service land. EW training and EW Range enhancements were analyzed in the Navy's Northwest Training Range Complex (NWTRC) EIS/OEIS, completed in 2010. (The Electronic Combat (EC) activities referred to in the NWTRC EIS/OEIS are referred to as Electronic Warfare (EW) in the NWTT EIS/OEIS.) When more information became available on mobile and fixed signal transmitters for the EW Range, the Navy prepared the EW Range EA to analyze placement and operation of those transmitters. The Navy completed the EA and issued a Finding of No Significant Impact on August 28, 2014. The introduction of the land-based transmitters to enhance existing training will not harm people, animals, or the environment. The Navy has decades of experience building and operating signal equipment, with no adverse effects to people, animals, or the environment. The Navy proposes to home base up to 36 additional EA-18G aircraft at NAS Whidbey Island. The Navy announced the preparation of that separate Whidbey EIS on September 5, 2013, and invited the public to participate in the NEPA process by submitting comments to define the scope of the Draft Whidbey EIS analysis. On October 10, 2014, the Navy revised the scope of the on-going Whidbey EIS and invited the public to submit additional scoping comments. The Navy is currently preparing its Draft Whidbey EIS, which is scheduled to be released in spring 2016. For more information, please visit the project website at www.whidbeyeis.com. This NWTT EIS/OEIS considered the Whidbey EIS proposal in its analysis of cumulative impacts in Chapter 4. The Navy used the best available science and a comprehensive review of past, present, and reasonably foreseeable actions to develop a robust Cumulative Impacts analysis. The Navy has returned to the analysis in Chapter 4 (Cumulative Impacts) due to concerns raised in public comments, and the Chapter has been revised in response to those public comments. The literature on ocean acidification has been reviewed, and is now discussed in Section 4.4.4 (Climate Change), of

Table I.5-4: Responses to Comments from Private Individuals (continued)

Commenter	Comment	Navy Response
	intensity of impacts on this geographic area. The US is bound by international treaty to protect its WHS, and the Navy is bound by NEPA to analyze the intensity of impacts. By separating the EIS documents the effects of aircraft noise and pollution can be analyzed separately and appear less serious than when they are taken as a whole. It is imperative that these impacts be analyzed together with the involvement of the NPS, local businesses, and public. 3. The third result of this separation of related documents is that it is impossible to discover the details of Navy activities and locations which make it difficult to determine the adequacy of their analyses. a. Aircraft altitudes are sometimes listed as above sea level, and sometimes as above land level, with general lower and upper floor levels for the various areas listed differently. There needs to be consistency with this. As well, we need one document that give us: 1. number and type of aircraft for each event the Navy proposes in the Pacific Northwest; 2. actual altitude that will be used for each event – not, as is currently provided, a "typical" altitude. We need the non-typical altitudes as well, and analyses on human environment, socioeconomics, health and safety, and wildlife, especially endangered species, need to include all possible altitudes that will be used for these events; 3. duration of aircraft flights for each event; 4. flight paths for the entire time the aircraft is in the air – from take-off at Whidbey NAS, to its event location, and the flight path for the duration of the event, and return to base. Without this kind of documentation, the impact analyses in all four documents listed above are meaningless – it is just not possible to analyze impacts without knowing how much and where the stressors will be. This is not in accordance with NEPA regulations. b. Vessel movements and locations for all of the activities are not described fully. Some areas in Puget Sound, the Straits of Juan de Fuca and Pacific Ocean are more critical as regards numbers of marine mammals, fishing areas, recreational and commercial fishing/boating use, and seasonal migratory routes. An analysis of impacts that were done in an area of little use or low marine population would have a very different result than an analysis in a heavy use area. Without a full description of where vessels will be during testing and training activities, how many, what type, fuel use and duration of events, it is impossible to evaluate whether an adequate EIS was done. It would be easy to suggest that the Navy has been deliberate in this strategy of inundating the public with confusing analyses and multiple documents that should have been one inclusive EIS, but, it's also possible that they are just doing a sloppy job. Either way, this needs to be corrected. The Pacific Northwest harbors a unique and beautiful environment that both Presidents Roosevelt took specific action to protect. People live, work and recreate here and that needs to be protected as well. NEPA and UNESCO regulations were made to protect these areas and its people from the harmful impacts of government agencies. The Navy needs to respect these regulations and face the fact that perhaps they will not be able to do everything here that they wish.	Chapter 4 (Cumulative Impacts) of the EIS/OEIS. The Navy shares your concern for marine life, but this concern must be balanced with the purpose and need for Navy training and testing as detailed in Chapter 2 (Description of Proposed Action and Alternatives) of the EIS/OEIS. The Navy has conducted active sonar training and testing activities in the Study Area for decades, and there is no evidence that routine Navy training and testing has negatively impacted marine mammal populations in the Study Area or at any Navy Range Complex. Based on the best available science summarized in the EIS/OEIS Section 3.4.4.1 (Summary of Monitoring and Observations During Navy Activities), long-term consequences for marine mammal populations are unlikely to result from Navy training and testing activities in the Study Area. Please also refer to Chapter 5 (Standard Operating Procedures, Mitigation, and Monitoring) of the EIS/OEIS, detailing the procedures and mitigation measures during its training and testing activities designed to reduce impacts to marine mammals from Navy activities.

Table I.5-4: Responses to Comments from Private Individuals (continued)

Commenter	Comment	Navy Response
Beeler (Electronic)	I urge the Navy not to go forward with its proposed training and testing activities include the use of sonar, explosives, weapons firing, and other acoustic devices. These activities have well known and well documented negative impacts on a number of whale species and porpoises, as well as other marine wildlife. In addition, the Navy admits the increase in the use of sonar devices "is likely to adversely affect endangered leatherback turtles whose protected habitat along the Pacific Coast was only recently established in 2012. The Navy's activities will also have significant impacts on critical habitat areas for marine mammals and other wildlife. High intensity-mid-frequency sonar -- along with activities like dumping debris, the use of toxic chemicals, and detonating explosives -- will degrade sensitive habitat necessary for the survival of marine mammal populations.	Best management practices include measures that regulate operations to ensure compliance with pollution emission requirements and general resource conservation goals. Navy policies and procedures identified in Navy instructions such as the Environmental Readiness Program Manual, include directives regarding waste management, pollution prevention, and recycling, all of which benefit sediments and water quality in the ocean. Any procedures or practices that benefit ocean sediments and water quality in turn benefit all marine life in the ocean, from plants and invertebrates, to fish and marine mammals. As described in the Supplement in Section 3.5.2 (Sea Turtle Summary), the proposed increase in the use of SSQ-125 sonobuoys "are not expected to result in substantial changes to behavior, growth, survival, annual reproductive success, lifetime reproductive success (fitness), or species recruitment, and are not expected to result in population-level impacts." The Navy shares your concern for marine life, but this concern must be balanced with the purpose and need for Navy training and testing as detailed in Chapter 2 (Description of Proposed Action and Alternatives) of the EIS/OEIS. The Navy has conducted active sonar training and testing activities in the Study Area for decades, and there is no evidence that routine Navy training and testing has negatively impacted marine mammal populations in the Study Area or at any Navy Range Complex. Based on the best available science summarized in the EIS/OEIS Section 3.4.4.1 (Summary of Monitoring and Observations During Navy Activities), long-term consequences for marine mammal populations are unlikely to result from Navy training and testing activities in the Study Area. Please also refer to Chapter 5 (Standard Operating Procedures, Mitigation, and Monitoring) of the EIS/OEIS, detailing the procedures and mitigation measures during its training and testing activities designed to reduce impacts to marine mammals from Navy activities.
Beldin (Electronic)	I'm writing to oppose the Navy's plan to expand its training off of the Pacific Coast, suggesting 36 TIMES1 more sonar-emitting bouys as had been previously planned. This unexpected revision will drastically increase the impact on whales and other ocean wildlife. It is well known that marine mammals are extremely sensitive to noise, and sonar disrupts basic behaviors necessary for survival such as migration, surfacing, navigating, hearing, nursing, breeding and feeding. The Navy's current environmental analysis fails to provide basic information necessary to adequately evaluate the impacts of the proposed activities. This analysis also fails to provide	The Navy is not proposing to increase the annual number of sonobuoys by a factor of 36. The Navy's original proposal in the Draft EIS/OEIS includes the annual deployment of approximately 9,200 sonobuoys of various types. The increase of 700 sonobuoys described in the Supplement is an increase of less than 8 percent. The Navy shares your concern for marine life, but this concern must be balanced with the purpose and need for Navy training and testing as detailed in Chapter 2 (Description of Proposed Action and Alternatives)

Table I.5-4: Responses to Comments from Private Individuals (continued)

Commenter	Comment	Navy Response
	adequate measures to mitigate the harmful effects of the proposed activities on marine mammals and other wildlife. Based on the information apparent in the environmental analysis, the Navy's "No Action Alternative" is the proposal with the most limited impact on wildlife. A drastic increase in sonar activity will negatively impact wildlife. Sonar can result in debilitating and even fatal injuries for marine mammals. Scientists believe sonar activity can change whale diving behavior, confusing them to swim to depths their bodies cannot handle. Whales suspected to have beached themselves because of sonar activity show signs of physical trauma like bleeding around the brain, ears and other tissues and large bubbles in their organs – symptoms analogous to "the bends" in humans. To the extent that threatened or endangered species -- including humpback and sperm whales, and leatherback turtles -- are negatively impacted, the proposed activities may result in violations of the Endangered Species Act. It is impossible to monitor the effects of your sonar actions are having on under water mammals. Again, I ask that the Navy respect and acknowledge the importance of our marine environment and follow the "No Action Alternative". Thank you for your consideration of these concerns.	of the EIS/OEIS. The Navy has conducted active sonar training and testing activities in the Study Area for decades, and there is no evidence that routine Navy training and testing has negatively impacted marine mammal populations in the Study Area or at any Navy Range Complex. Based on the best available science summarized in the EIS/OEIS Section 3.4.4.1 (Summary of Monitoring and Observations During Navy Activities), long-term consequences for marine mammal populations are unlikely to result from Navy training and testing activities in the Study Area. As described in the Supplement in Section 3.5.2 (Sea Turtle Summary), the proposed increase in the use of SSQ-125 sonobuoys "are not expected to result in substantial changes to behavior, growth, survival, annual reproductive success, lifetime reproductive success (fitness), or species recruitment, and are not expected to result in population-level impacts." The Navy has conducted active sonar training and testing activities in the Study Area for decades, and there is no evidence that routine Navy training and testing has negatively impacted individual sea turtles or sea turtle populations in the Study Area or at any Navy Range Complex. Based on the best available science summarized in the EIS/OEIS Section 3.5.3.7.1 (Combined Impacts of All Stressors), "impacts are not expected to decrease the overall fitness or result in long-term population level impacts on any given population. In cases where potential impacts rise to a level that warrants mitigation, mitigation measures designed to reduce the potential impacts are discussed in Chapter 5 (Standard Operating Procedures, Mitigation, and Monitoring)."
Benassu (Electronic)	Please limit sonar placement and be sensitive to the needs of marine wildlife.	Thank you for participating in the NEPA process. The Navy shares your concern for marine life, but this concern must be balanced with the purpose and need for Navy training and testing as detailed in Chapter 2 (Description of Proposed Action and Alternatives) of the EIS/OEIS. The Navy has conducted active sonar training and testing activities in the Study Area for decades, and there is no evidence that routine Navy training and testing has negatively impacted marine mammal populations in the Study Area or at any Navy Range Complex. Based on the best available science summarized in the EIS/OEIS Section 3.4.4.1 (Summary of Monitoring and Observations During Navy Activities), long-term consequences for marine mammal populations are unlikely to result from Navy training and testing activities in the Study Area. Please also refer to Chapter 5 (Standard

Table I.5-4: Responses to Comments from Private Individuals (continued)

Commenter	Comment	Navy Response
		Operating Procedures, Mitigation, and Monitoring) of the EIS/OEIS, detailing the procedures and mitigation measures during its training and testing activities designed to reduce impacts to marine mammals from Navy activities.
Benesovsky (Electronic)	The Navy needs to limit it's activities in the Pacific ocean so that it is not making all the whales and other ocean creatures deaf!	The Navy shares your concern for marine life, but this concern must be balanced with the purpose and need for Navy training and testing as detailed in Chapter 2 (Description of Proposed Action and Alternatives) of the EIS/OEIS. The Navy has conducted active sonar training and testing activities in the Study Area for decades, and there is no evidence that routine Navy training and testing has negatively impacted marine mammal populations in the Study Area or at any Navy Range Complex. Based on the best available science summarized in the EIS/OEIS Section 3.4.4.1 (Summary of Monitoring and Observations During Navy Activities), long-term consequences for marine mammal populations are unlikely to result from Navy training and testing activities in the Study Area. Please also refer to Chapter 5 (Standard Operating Procedures, Mitigation, and Monitoring) of the EIS/OEIS, detailing the procedures and mitigation measures during its training and testing activities designed to reduce impacts to marine mammals from Navy activities.
Bennett (Electronic)	Thank you for holding public meetings on the NORTHWEST TRAINING AND TESTING EIS/OEIS. I appreciate the outreach. I understand the reason for the training and the desire to keep those who are training somewhat close to home. However, I am concerned about the proximity of training to the Olympic Coast Marine Sanctuary and areas nearby that are often frequented by Southern Resident Killer Whales, especially in the area designated as W-237. Members of J pod have been reported by NOAA Fisheries in this general area consistently since a satellite tag was placed on J 27 in late December. http://www.nwfsc.noaa.gov/research/divisions/cb/ecosystem/marinemammal/satellite_tagging/blog2015.cfm Prior to that, K pod and L pod were also tagged in the last few years and were also shown to frequent these same areas in winter months. I was happy to hear the proposal of changing the explosive IEER sonobuoys from 150 to zero per year, but not so happy about the increased numbers of non-explosive Multistatic Active Coherent (MAC) sonobuoys from 20 to 720. Mr. Erklens explained that research and monitoring efforts conducted in navy range complexes showed that the mid-frequency level of the sonobuoys would have little or no effect on marine mammals in the area. But, int he DEIS NORTHWEST TRAINING AND TESTING EIS/OEIS SUPPLEMENT TO THE DRAFT (DECEMBER 2014) Table ES-2: states that "Pursuant to the Endangered Species Act (ESA), sonar and other active acoustic sources and explosive (impulse) sources may affect and are likely to	Thank you for participating in the NEPA process. Please see Chapters 1 and 2 of the EIS/OEIS for a clear definition of the scope of this project. There are no weapons testing activities proposed in the Olympic National Forest in the Supplement to the Draft EIS/OEIS. It is also important to note that the proposed activities would not change how or where the Navy has been flying for decades. The Navy shares your concern for marine life, but this concern must be balanced with the purpose and need for Navy training and testing as detailed in Chapter 2 (Description of Proposed Action and Alternatives) of the EIS/OEIS. As described in the Supplement in Section 3.4.2 (Marine Mammal Summary), the proposed increase in the use of SSQ-125 sonobuoys would "not result in any long-term consequences for any marine mammal population or species; therefore, the conclusions stated in the Draft EIS/OEIS remain unchanged." The Navy has conducted active sonar training and testing activities in the Study Area for decades, and there is no evidence that routine Navy training and testing has negatively impacted marine mammal populations in the Study Area or at any Navy Range Complex. Based on the best available science summarized in the EIS/OEIS Section

Table I.5-4: Responses to Comments from Private Individuals (continued)

Commenter	Comment	Navy Response
	adversely affect certain ESA-listed marine mammals." In conclusion, I believe it is vital to do all we can do help the dwindling SRKW population. In recent years their numbers have continued to decline and recovery is now in question by NOAA and all scientists who are closely following the potential extinction of this important and beloved population.	3.4.4.1 (Summary of Monitoring and Observations During Navy Activities), long-term consequences for marine mammal populations are unlikely to result from Navy training and testing activities in the Study Area.
Beyda (Electronic)	Please limit testing with sonar, it kills and harms marine life!!	The Navy shares your concern for marine life, but this concern must be balanced with the purpose and need for Navy training and testing as detailed in Chapter 2 (Description of Proposed Action and Alternatives) of the EIS/OEIS. The Navy has conducted active sonar training and testing activities in the Study Area for decades, and there is no evidence that routine Navy training and testing has negatively impacted marine mammal populations in the Study Area or at any Navy Range Complex. Based on the best available science summarized in the EIS/OEIS Section 3.4.4.1 (Summary of Monitoring and Observations During Navy Activities), long-term consequences for marine mammal populations are unlikely to result from Navy training and testing activities in the Study Area. Please also refer to Chapter 5 (Standard Operating Procedures, Mitigation, and Monitoring) of the EIS/OEIS, detailing the procedures and mitigation measures during its training and testing activities designed to reduce impacts to marine mammals from Navy activities.
Bibbiins (Electronic)	Hello, I wanted to take few minutes and expand on some of the issues the navy is presently facing here on the Olympic peninsula. I am a war veteran as a merchant marine and am staunchly in favor of us maintaining a strong military backbone. There are many opinion and emotions caught up in the military , especially in a very liberal community. I will make my opinions brief and concise: Growlers- I have no issue with Growlers perusing the skies of Puget sound nor the training that goes into it. I understand that to have suitably trained pilots , we have to have them practice, If they don't practice around navy bases, where will they practice? The resistance to this seems to come from " NOT IN MY BACKYARD" , mentality. So its got to be in someones backyard. Im fine with growler runs in our backyard, I do think that running the planes from 1200 am to 7 am would be disruptive to people trying to sleep in these areas. Dumping fuel, maneuvering and practicing take offs and landings are part of training and I ve no iussue with that. Electronic Warfare- , Portable electromangentic units.- This seems very bizzare that these units would be used in a wildlife region where animals and humans and critters of everysize would be affected by electromagnetic radiation. altho , it may be necessary for the Navy to test this equipment, it seems prudent to do this in an area where there is minimal affect to animals and humans alike. There is substantial proof that being around an electromagnetic field can cause considerable long term harm to any life. Perhaps	There are no weapons testing activities proposed in the Olympic National Forest in the Supplement to the Draft EIS/OEIS. There are no activities involving the use of electronic radiation proposed in the Supplement to the Draft EIS/OEIS. The Navy prepares Environmental Impact Statements (EIS) and Environmental Assessments (EA) in order to comply with the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA). These NEPA documents are intended to ensure decision makers consider the potential environmental effects of a proposed action and its alternatives, provide an opportunity for public involvement, and promote transparency by informing the public of these potential environmental effects. Each NEPA document addresses a specific proposed action, separated from other actions by its purpose and need, independent utility, timing, and geographic location. Some NEPA documents are stand-alone documents; others tier off or expand the analyses of other NEPA documents. NEPA documents for training and testing, including this EIS/OEIS, focus on training and testing activities occurring within a range complex or military operation area and involve different types of

Table I.5-4: Responses to Comments from Private Individuals (continued)

Commenter	Comment	Navy Response
	this is something that can be done in the desert where affect of live animals and humans is minimal. The affects to el-mag radiation can show up at a celluar level and can cause genetic harm to fetuses of any animals. Bringing this type of physical disturbance and radiological disturbance to forest environment can damage the pristine nature of our surroundings, where people go to approach the oppostite. They go out to nature to hunt, fish, be alone , to be quiet, to watch a stream and to enjoy serenity vs. to get exposed to electromagnetic radiation and the subsequent health affects. Im sure electro-mag radiation has its role in naval warfare and land based warfare, but there seems to be plenty of other options where this can be exercised and tested, after -all, who will there be to defend if we are all messed up from radiation? Seems counter productive and misplaced in our national forest settings. No only that, but this can potentially disrupt the way of life for many people on the peninsula. explosives and underwater detonation practice: It seems basic and logical that one would exercise these practices in an area where mammals and all animals in the food chain of the Ocean or Puget SOund are minimized. so that we are not disturbing the web of life that keeps us alive and healthy.	aircraft, ships, and range complex enhancements. NEPA documents for aircraft homebasing actions focus on aircraft operations in and around the airfield and their facility needs. NEPA documents for installations focus on infrastructure enhancements for host and tenant command missions. Importantly, every environmental document considers the cumulative impacts to the environment from other relevant past, present, and reasonably foreseeable future actions (federal, state, local, and private) in addition to the proposed action. The Navy has been training in the Olympic Military Operations Area (MOA) for over 40 years, and the Navy has not proposed any significant changes to the way aircrew train in the MOA. The Navy recently analyzed plans to enhance existing training by adding one fixed transmitter at Pacific Beach and three mobile transmitter vehicles that would operate on existing logging roads and pull-out areas on U.S. Forest Service land. The Navy has not proposed to use National Park Service land. EW training and EW Range enhancements were analyzed in the Navy's Northwest Training Range Complex (NWTRC) EIS/OEIS, completed in 2010. When more information became available on mobile and fixed signal transmitters for the EW Range, the Navy prepared the EW Range EA to analyze placement and operation of those transmitters. The Navy completed the EA and issued a Finding of No Significant Impact on August 28, 2014. The introduction of the land-based transmitters to enhance existing training will not harm people, animals, or the environment. The Navy has decades of experience building and operating signal equipment, with no adverse effects to people, animals, or the environment. Though there is a proposed increase in EW training events associated with the range enhancements and analyzed in this EIS/OEIS, the increase in events does not equate to a comparable increase in the number of aircraft flights or in the duration of flights. EW training flights are already occurring in the Olympic MOAs, and it is estimated that this proposal will only result in an approximately 10 percent annual increase in actual flights, which equates to approximately one additional flight per day. This is because each flight will be able to accommodate multiple EW training events. The Navy proposes to home base up to 36 additional EA-18G aircraft at NAS Whidbey Island. The Navy announced the preparation of that separate Whidbey EIS on September 5, 2013, and invited the public to participate in the NEPA process by submitting comments to define the scope of the Draft Whidbey EIS analysis. On October 10, 2014, the

Table I.5-4: Responses to Comments from Private Individuals (continued)

Commenter	Comment	Navy Response
		Navy revised the scope of the on-going Whidbey EIS and invited the public to submit additional scoping comments. The Navy is currently preparing its Draft Whidbey EIS, which is scheduled to be released in spring 2016. For more information, please visit the project website at www.whidbeyeis.com. This NWTT EIS/OEIS considered the Whidbey EIS proposal in its analysis of cumulative impacts in Chapter 4.
Bilderback (Electronic)	To whom it may concern, I am very concerned about sonar weapons testing. I wish there was a way to change the Navy's course of action. I am not yet convinced that the electric sonobuoys are safer for marine mammals than the explosives. I don't believe that any of the "latest" science can tell us with certainty that these technologies are safe. I am concerned about the entire habitats of the testing areas. I have had the opportunity to observe and study both orcas (J-pod) and leatherback sea turtles, two of the most majestic creatures on our planet. Endangered marine species are vulnerable for many reasons, and it is outrageous to me that we would intentionally pose another risk to their well-being. Most people are aware that it is easy to buy whatever results one wishes for in today's world of "science." I realize that the Navy has sincere interests in protecting our national security and for this I am grateful. However I've never experienced such peace in my life as I did floating among the resting orcas of J-pod. I am a mother, and a teacher of children. I believe that these gentle giants offer us an opportunity to examine ourselves and inquire within," must we wage war in the name of peace?" The Navy is unintentionally doing so, I believe. How do we feel about the possibility that our grandchildren might not know the beauty, peace, strength, and wisdom of the orcas,turtles, and countless other species that may be affected? Can anyone explain the increased numbers of whales beaching themselves as the marine environment suffers more and more noise pollution? Orcas use their echolocation to find food, family, and to avoid danger. Disturbances in their environment can be disastrous. Please look within yourself and ask if you personally are doing everything possible to avoid harming these creatures. Please have real conversations with your colleagues and allow yourselves to admit that you don't yet know all of the answers. Please take a stand to protect our marine habitats and pursue a different course of action. If weapons testing must be done, perhaps some tax dollars could be redirected to from wars abroad to contain it. I thank you for your time and wish you peace and well-being from the bottom of my heart.	The Navy shares your concern for marine life, but this concern must be balanced with the purpose and need for Navy training and testing as detailed in Chapter 2 (Description of Proposed Action and Alternatives) of the EIS/OEIS. The Navy has conducted active sonar training and testing activities in the Study Area for decades, and there is no evidence that routine Navy training and testing has negatively impacted marine mammal populations in the Study Area or at any Navy Range Complex. Based on the best available science summarized in the EIS/OEIS Section 3.4.4.1 (Summary of Monitoring and Observations During Navy Activities), long-term consequences for marine mammal populations are unlikely to result from Navy training and testing activities in the Study Area. Please also refer to Chapter 5 (Standard Operating Procedures, Mitigation, and Monitoring) of the EIS/OEIS, detailing the procedures and mitigation measures during its training and testing activities designed to reduce impacts to marine mammals from Navy activities. Regarding previous strandings, see Section 3.4.3.1.8 (Stranding) and the referenced technical report “Marine Mammal Strandings Associated with U.S. Navy Sonar Activities” (U.S. Department of the Navy 2013c).
Birdsall (Written)	Please stop this sonar activity any kills are reason enough All of life is sacred the earth is sacred	The Navy shares your concern for marine life, but this concern must be balanced with the purpose and need for Navy training and testing as detailed in Chapter 2 (Description of Proposed Action and Alternatives) of the EIS/OEIS. The Navy has conducted active sonar training and testing activities in the Study Area for decades, and there is no evidence that routine Navy training and testing has negatively

Table I.5-4: Responses to Comments from Private Individuals (continued)

Commenter	Comment	Navy Response
	what you do to the earth, the ocean, the animals, you do to yourself, to all of us	impacted marine mammal populations in the Study Area or at any Navy Range Complex. Based on the best available science summarized in the EIS/OEIS Section 3.4.4.1 (Summary of Monitoring and Observations During Navy Activities), long-term consequences for marine mammal populations are unlikely to result from Navy training and testing activities in the Study Area. Please also refer to Chapter 5 (Standard Operating Procedures, Mitigation, and Monitoring) of the EIS/OEIS, detailing the procedures and mitigation measures during its training and testing activities designed to reduce impacts to marine mammals from Navy activities.
bishop (Electronic)	NWTT: Please, no more sonar bouys along the Pacific Coast. The Navy's current environmental analysis fails to provide basic information necessary to adequately evaluate the impacts of the proposed activities. This analysis also fails to provide adequate measures to mitigate the harmful effects of the proposed activities on marine mammals and other wildlife. Based on the information apparent in the environmental analysis, the Navy's "No Action Alternative" is the proposal with the most limited impact on wildlife. A drastic increase in sonar activity will negatively impact wildlife. Marine mammals are extremely sensitive to noise, and sonar disrupts basic behaviors necessary for survival such as migration, surfacing, navigating, hearing, nursing, breeding and feeding. Sonar can result in debilitating and even fatal injuries for marine mammals. Scientists believe sonar activity can change whale diving behavior, confusing them to swim to depths their bodies cannot handle. Whales suspected to have beached themselves because of sonar activity show signs of physical trauma like bleeding around the brain, ears and other tissues and large bubbles in their organs – symptoms analogous to "the bends" in humans. To the extent that threatened or endangered species -- including humpback and sperm whales, and leatherback turtles -- are negatively impacted, the proposed activities may result in violations of the Endangered Species Act. Thank you, Mike Bishop	As described in the Supplement in Section 3.5.2 (Sea Turtle Summary), the proposed increase in the use of SSQ-125 sonobuoys "are not expected to result in substantial changes to behavior, growth, survival, annual reproductive success, lifetime reproductive success (fitness), or species recruitment, and are not expected to result in population-level impacts." The Navy shares your concern for marine life, but this concern must be balanced with the purpose and need for Navy training and testing as detailed in Chapter 2 (Description of Proposed Action and Alternatives) of the EIS/OEIS. The Navy has conducted active sonar training and testing activities in the Study Area for decades, and there is no evidence that routine Navy training and testing has negatively impacted marine mammal populations in the Study Area or at any Navy Range Complex. Based on the best available science summarized in the EIS/OEIS Section 3.4.4.1 (Summary of Monitoring and Observations During Navy Activities), long-term consequences for marine mammal populations are unlikely to result from Navy training and testing activities in the Study Area. Please also refer to Chapter 5 (Standard Operating Procedures, Mitigation, and Monitoring) of the EIS/OEIS, detailing the procedures and mitigation measures during its training and testing activities designed to reduce impacts to marine mammals from Navy activities. The Navy thoroughly considered biologically important areas identified recently in its analysis and whether avoidance as mitigation was appropriate. Given the impact avoidance would have on military readiness activities and lack of biological benefit, avoidance is not warranted. Please see Section 5.3.4.1.11 (Avoiding Marine Species Habitats and Biologically Important Areas). However, Navy is proposing to provide reporting of generally low use of sonar in some of these areas to NMFS as part of classified annual reports to help inform future adaptive management related to impacts in these areas.

Table I.5-4: Responses to Comments from Private Individuals (continued)

Commenter	Comment	Navy Response
Blaha-01 (Electronic)	By separating the Navy's electromagnetic warfare game plans, growler jet flyovers and sonar plans off the coast of the Olympic Peninsula you are not looking at the environmental, wildlife and financial damaging effects of these 3 projects put together. Together there damage is greater than any one project and should be evaluated as such.	The Navy prepares Environmental Impact Statements (EIS) and Environmental Assessments (EA) in order to comply with the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA). These NEPA documents are intended to ensure decision makers consider the potential environmental effects of a proposed action and its alternatives, provide an opportunity for public involvement, and promote transparency by informing the public of these potential environmental effects. Each NEPA document addresses a specific proposed action, separated from other actions by its purpose and need, independent utility, timing, and geographic location. Some NEPA documents are stand-alone documents; others tier off or expand the analyses of other NEPA documents. NEPA documents for training and testing, including this EIS/OEIS, focus on training and testing activities occurring within a range complex or military operation area and involve different types of aircraft, ships, and range complex enhancements. NEPA documents for aircraft homebasing actions focus on aircraft operations in and around the airfield and their facility needs. NEPA documents for installations focus on infrastructure enhancements for host and tenant command missions. Importantly, every environmental document considers the cumulative impacts to the environment from other relevant past, present, and reasonably foreseeable future actions (federal, state, local, and private) in addition to the proposed action. The Navy has been training in the Olympic Military Operations Area (MOA) for over 40 years, and the Navy has not proposed any significant changes to the way aircrew train in the MOA. The Navy recently analyzed plans to enhance existing training by adding one fixed transmitter at Pacific Beach and three mobile transmitter vehicles that would operate on existing logging roads and pull-out areas on U.S. Forest Service land. The Navy has not proposed to use National Park Service land. EW training and EW Range enhancements were analyzed in the Navy's Northwest Training Range Complex (NWTRC) EIS/OEIS, completed in 2010. When more information became available on mobile and fixed signal transmitters for the EW Range, the Navy prepared the EW Range EA to analyze placement and operation of those transmitters. The Navy completed the EA and issued a Finding of No Significant Impact on August 28, 2014. The introduction of the land-based transmitters to enhance existing training will not harm people, animals, or the environment. The Navy has decades of experience building and operating signal equipment, with no adverse effects to people, animals, or the environment.

Table I.5-4: Responses to Comments from Private Individuals (continued)

Commenter	Comment	Navy Response
		Though there is a proposed increase in EW training events associated with the range enhancements and analyzed in this EIS/OEIS, the increase in events does not equate to a comparable increase in the number of aircraft flights or in the duration of flights. EW training flights are already occurring in the Olympic MOAs, and it is estimated that this proposal will only result in an approximately 10 percent annual increase in actual flights, which equates to approximately one additional flight per day. This is because each flight will be able to accommodate multiple EW training events. The Navy proposes to home base up to 36 additional EA-18G aircraft at NAS Whidbey Island. The Navy announced the preparation of that separate Whidbey EIS on September 5, 2013, and invited the public to participate in the NEPA process by submitting comments to define the scope of the Draft Whidbey EIS analysis. On October 10, 2014, the Navy revised the scope of the on-going Whidbey EIS and invited the public to submit additional scoping comments. The Navy is currently preparing its Draft Whidbey EIS, which is scheduled to be released in spring 2016. For more information, please visit the project website at www.whidbeyeis.com. This NWTT EIS/OEIS considered the Whidbey EIS proposal in its analysis of cumulative impacts in Chapter 4.
Blaha-02	The air quality and green house gas issues caused by growler jets are going to affect the larger populations of Seattle and surrounding areas. Although there has been some notification of Navy's Plans on the Olympic Peninsula, most people in the Seattle area are unaware of these plans. This is unfair as the greenhouse gasses and pollution, and air quality are going to affect a much greater population that is unaware of the Navy's plans and thus has been unable to comment on them.	The potential impacts from the proposed activities are discussed in Section 3.2 (Air Quality). Based on the analysis presented in Section 3.2 (Air Quality) and the analysis presented in Section 4.4.4.1 (Greenhouse Gases), the changes in air quality would be measurable, but would still be below applicable standards and guidelines; therefore, the incremental contribution of the proposed activities to cumulative greenhouse gas impacts would be low.
Blaha-03	Explosives in the water can be dangerous to fisherman, boats and cruises ships, as well as marine animals. Exon is planning to dock its ships in Seattle ports, how do we know these explosives will not damage these ships. The sonar is dangerous to marine mammals that use sound to navigate. The Navy is doing much more damage than good with all these proposals. More can be done with computer simulation that will not damage our environment and quality of life. The Navy need to find new ways of training with models and computers that does not cause so much damage to the environment and will save the Navy a lot of money as well. Please make this your priority. Our waters are already showing evidence of harm from climate change, habitat degradation, and ocean acidification and the Navy's current plans will result in further deterioration of this precious resource that contributes to the economic vitality and beauty of our Pacific Northwest.	As described in Section 3.10 (Cultural Resources), Section 3.12 (Socioeconomics), and Section 3.13 (Public Health and Safety) of the EIS/OEIS, the Navy's proposed activities are not expected to impact cultural resources, socioeconomic resources, or public health and safety. The EIS/OEIS fully considers the potential social and cultural impacts associated with the proposed activities. As explained in Section 2.5 (Alternatives Development) of the EIS/OEIS, the range of alternatives considered by the Navy must be reasonable alternatives. To be reasonable, an alternative must meet the stated purpose of and need for the Proposed Action. A curtailment or reduction in the number of training and testing activities would not meet the stated purpose of and need for the Proposed Action, and would therefore be

Table I.5-4: Responses to Comments from Private Individuals (continued)

Commenter	Comment	Navy Response
		unreasonable. The Navy shares your concern for marine life, but this concern must be balanced with the purpose and need for Navy training and testing as detailed in Chapter 2 (Description of Proposed Action and Alternatives) of the EIS/OEIS. The Navy has conducted active sonar training and testing activities in the Study Area for decades, and there is no evidence that routine Navy training and testing has negatively impacted marine mammal populations in the Study Area or at any Navy Range Complex. Based on the best available science summarized in the EIS/OEIS Section 3.4.4.1 (Summary of Monitoring and Observations During Navy Activities), long-term consequences for marine mammal populations are unlikely to result from Navy training and testing activities in the Study Area. Please also refer to Chapter 5 (Standard Operating Procedures, Mitigation, and Monitoring) of the EIS/OEIS, detailing the procedures and mitigation measures during its training and testing activities designed to reduce impacts to marine mammals from Navy activities. Regarding the use of simulation, Navy already uses simulation in training and testing whenever possible; please see the discussion presented in Section 5.3.4.1.2 (Replacing Training and Testing with Simulated Activities).
Bohnert (Electronic)	This is totally unnecessary - Defense?? give me real reason, please. Please do not let it continue or move forward.	Thank you for participating in the NEPA process.
Boisgard (Electronic)	The Navy's current environmental analysis fails to provide basic information necessary to adequately evaluate the impacts of the proposed activities. This analysis also fails to provide adequate measures to mitigate the harmful effects of the proposed activities on marine mammals and other wildlife. Based on the information apparent in the environmental analysis, the Navy's "No Action Alternative" is the proposal with the most limited impact on wildlife. A drastic increase in sonar activity will negatively impact wildlife. Marine mammals are extremely sensitive to noise, and sonar disrupts basic behaviors necessary for survival such as migration, surfacing, navigating, hearing, nursing, breeding and feeding. Sonar can result in debilitating and even fatal injuries for marine mammals. Scientists believe sonar activity can change whale diving behavior, confusing them to swim to depths their bodies cannot handle. Whales suspected to have beached themselves because of sonar activity show signs of physical trauma like bleeding around the brain, ears and other tissues and large bubbles in their organs –	The Navy shares your concern for marine life, but this concern must be balanced with the purpose and need for Navy training and testing as detailed in Chapter 2 (Description of Proposed Action and Alternatives) of the EIS/OEIS. The Navy has conducted active sonar training and testing activities in the Study Area for decades, and there is no evidence that routine Navy training and testing has negatively impacted marine mammal populations in the Study Area or at any Navy Range Complex. Based on the best available science summarized in the EIS/OEIS Section 3.4.4.1 (Summary of Monitoring and Observations During Navy Activities), long-term consequences for marine mammal populations are unlikely to result from Navy training and testing activities in the Study Area. Please also refer to Chapter 5 (Standard Operating Procedures, Mitigation, and Monitoring) of the EIS/OEIS, detailing the procedures and mitigation measures during its

Table I.5-4: Responses to Comments from Private Individuals (continued)

Commenter	Comment	Navy Response
	symptoms analogous to "the bends" in humans. To the extent that threatened or endangered species -- including humpback and sperm whales, and leatherback turtles -- are negatively impacted, the proposed activities may result in violations of the Endangered Species Act.	training and testing activities designed to reduce impacts to marine mammals from Navy activities. Regarding previous strandings, see Section 3.4.3.1.8 (Stranding) and the referenced technical report "Marine Mammal Strandings Associated with U.S. Navy Sonar Activities" (U.S. Department of the Navy 2013c).
Bostic (Electronic)	My request is that if we cannot eliminate seismic testing altogether, then we can at least decrease the activity. It disturbs me to know that such testing creates such a noise that interferes with dolphin and whale communications. As water carries sound and magnifies is impact on the creatures in the oceans, we should try to curb the use of explosives and such in this regard I would think.	Thank you for participating in the NEPA process. However this comment is outside the scope of the Supplement to the Draft EIS/OEIS. Please see Chapters 1 and 2 of the EIS/OEIS for a clear definition of the scope of this project. There are no seismic tests proposed in the Supplement to the Draft EIS/OEIS or Final EIS/OEIS.
Bosworth (Electronic)	Please limit the use of explosive detonations during your training work in the region of the Pacific coast. These detonations are extremely destructive of the health and safety of these increasingly rare creatures of the sea. Please find alternate means to train and perfect your procedures and equipment. Sincerely, Carol Bosworth Citizen	Thank you for participating in the NEPA process. The Navy shares your concern for marine life, but this concern must be balanced with the purpose and need for Navy training and testing as detailed in Chapter 2 (Description of Proposed Action and Alternatives) of the EIS/OEIS. The Navy has conducted similar explosives training and testing activities in the Study Area for decades, and there is no evidence that routine Navy training and testing has negatively impacted marine mammal populations in the Study Area or at any Navy Range Complex. Based on the best available science summarized in the EIS/OEIS Section 3.4.4.1 (Summary of Monitoring and Observations During Navy Activities), long-term consequences for marine mammal populations are unlikely to result from Navy training and testing activities in the Study Area. Please also refer to Chapter 5 (Standard Operating Procedures, Mitigation, and Monitoring) of the EIS/OEIS, detailing the procedures and mitigation measures during its training and testing activities designed to reduce impacts to marine mammals from Navy activities.
Bosworth-Cooper (Electronic)	Please reconsider the sound testing or any other testing in the Pacific Northwest. Our Orca Pods are now on the endangered species list, thier food Chinook Salmond is also endangered. We have has only 1 successful Orca birth this year and she is still only months old. We do not know the full impact on marine life in the Pacific Northwest from Japan, or the entire West Coast for that matter. Please do not add to the demise of our beloved Orcas and other marine life that makes up our unique ecosystem. Please do not add yourself to the list of reasons for dead Orcas. Instead take pride in this ecosystem & be involved in saving it. Do the Right Thing! Sincerely, Be Bosworth-Cooper	The Navy shares your concern for marine life, but this concern must be balanced with the purpose and need for Navy training and testing as detailed in Chapter 2 (Description of Proposed Action and Alternatives) of the EIS/OEIS. The Navy has conducted active sonar training and testing activities in the Study Area for decades, and there is no evidence that routine Navy training and testing has negatively impacted marine mammal populations in the Study Area or at any Navy Range Complex. Based on the best available science summarized in the EIS/OEIS Section 3.4.4.1 (Summary of Monitoring and Observations During Navy Activities), long-term consequences for marine mammal populations are unlikely to result from Navy training

Table I.5-4: Responses to Comments from Private Individuals (continued)

Commenter	Comment	Navy Response
		and testing activities in the Study Area. Please also refer to Chapter 5 (Standard Operating Procedures, Mitigation, and Monitoring) of the EIS/OEIS, detailing the procedures and mitigation measures during its training and testing activities designed to reduce impacts to marine mammals from Navy activities.
Bova (Electronic)	EMP's are not mentioned, very strange as they prob play a big role in this training, why not?	There are no activities involving the use of electromagnetic pulses proposed in the EIS/OEIS. Please see Chapter 2 (Description of Proposed Action and Alternatives), which lists all the proposed activities.
Bowen (Electronic)	Please stop Naval sonar testing in the critically endangered Southern Resident Killer Whale habitat.	Thank you for participating in the NEPA process. The Navy shares your concern for marine life, but this concern must be balanced with the purpose and need for Navy training and testing as detailed in Chapter 2 (Description of Proposed Action and Alternatives) of the EIS/OEIS. The Navy has conducted active sonar training and testing activities in the Study Area for decades, and there is no evidence that routine Navy training and testing has negatively impacted marine mammal populations in the Study Area or at any Navy Range Complex. Based on the best available science summarized in the EIS/OEIS Section 3.4.4.1 (Summary of Monitoring and Observations During Navy Activities), long-term consequences for marine mammal populations are unlikely to result from Navy training and testing activities in the Study Area. Please also refer to Chapter 5 (Standard Operating Procedures, Mitigation, and Monitoring) of the EIS/OEIS, detailing the procedures and mitigation measures during its training and testing activities designed to reduce impacts to marine mammals from Navy activities. Critical habitat is established based on certain characteristics of the environment. For the Southern Resident killer whales, these primary constituent elements have been identified as (1) water quality to support growth and development; (2) prey species of sufficient quantity, quality and availability to support individual growth, reproduction and development, as well as overall population growth; and (3) passage conditions to allow for migration, resting, and foraging. The Navy has assessed its actions for impacts to these primary constituent elements. Based on the analysis, the Proposed Action would not alter the characteristics of the critical habitat.
Boyd (Electronic)	No more sonobuoys! Leave our marine mammals alone. Take your war games elsewhere!	Thank you for participating in the NEPA process.

Table I.5-4: Responses to Comments from Private Individuals (continued)

Commenter	Comment	Navy Response
Bradley (Electronic)	The Navy's current environmental analysis fails to provide basic information necessary to adequately evaluate the impacts of the proposed activities. This analysis also fails to provide adequate measures to mitigate the harmful effects of the proposed activities on marine mammals and other wildlife. •Based on the information apparent in the environmental analysis, the Navy's "No Action Alternative" is the proposal with the most limited impact on wildlife. •A drastic increase in sonar activity will negatively impact wildlife. Marine mammals are extremely sensitive to noise, and sonar disrupts basic behaviors necessary for survival such as migration, surfacing, navigating, hearing, nursing, breeding and feeding. •Sonar can result in debilitating and even fatal injuries for marine mammals. Scientists believe sonar activity can change whale diving behavior, confusing them to swim to depths their bodies cannot handle. Whales suspected to have beached themselves because of sonar activity show signs of physical trauma like bleeding around the brain, ears and other tissues and large bubbles in their organs – symptoms analogous to "the bends" in humans. •To the extent that threatened or endangered species -- including humpback and sperm whales, and leatherback turtles -- are negatively impacted, the proposed activities may result in violations of the Endangered Species Act.	The Navy shares your concern for marine life, but this concern must be balanced with the purpose and need for Navy training and testing as detailed in Chapter 2 (Description of Proposed Action and Alternatives) of the EIS/OEIS. The Navy has conducted active sonar training and testing activities in the Study Area for decades, and there is no evidence that routine Navy training and testing has negatively impacted marine mammal populations in the Study Area or at any Navy Range Complex. Based on the best available science summarized in the EIS/OEIS Section 3.4.4.1 (Summary of Monitoring and Observations During Navy Activities), long-term consequences for marine mammal populations are unlikely to result from Navy training and testing activities in the Study Area. Please also refer to Chapter 5 (Standard Operating Procedures, Mitigation, and Monitoring) of the EIS/OEIS, detailing the procedures and mitigation measures during its training and testing activities designed to reduce impacts to marine mammals from Navy activities. Regarding previous strandings, see Section 3.4.3.1.8 (Stranding) and the referenced technical report "Marine Mammal Strandings Associated with U.S. Navy Sonar Activities" (U.S. Department of the Navy 2013c).
Brail (Electronic)	My comment is more about research. Has the U.S. Navy researched or are they researching other ways to locate and identify other subs and mines such as satelite detection? Can such detection be done into deep waters? I imagine the difficulty in this. There must be other possibilities for research. If a young person can find simple ways to rid the ocean of plastics, then it seems that research can find another way to detect other subs and mines anywhere in the ocean. Surely there are engineers and scientists who have by now figured this out? I just like to know how it is that new ways of detection are possible.	Thank you for participating in the NEPA process. However this comment is outside the scope of the Supplement to the Draft EIS/OEIS. Please see Chapters 1 and 2 of the EIS/OEIS for a clear definition of the scope of this project.
Branch-Dasch (Electronic)	Good day sir/ma'am, Whales rely on hearing for many of their basic functions, from navigating to communication. Much in the same way shining a bright light in our eyes can leave us disoriented, human-caused sonar activity can drastically affect whale behavior, leading them to beach themselves or dive to depths their bodies cannot handle, causing debilitating and even fatal injuries. This is why it is disconcerting that, at the last minute, the Navy has expanded its proposal for training off of the Pacific Coast, suggesting 36 times more sonar-emitting bouys as had been previously planned. This unexpected revision will drastically increase the negative impact on whales and other ocean wildlife. The Navy's proposed training and testing activities include the use of sonar, explosives, weapons firing, and other	The Navy is not proposing to increase the annual number of sonobuoys by a factor of 36. The Navy's original proposal in the Draft EIS/OEIS includes the annual deployment of approximately 9,200 sonobuoys of various types. The increase of 700 sonobuoys described in the Supplement is an increase of less than 8 percent. Best management practices include measures that regulate operations to ensure compliance with pollution emission requirements and general resource conservation goals. Navy policies and procedures identified in Navy instructions such as the Environmental Readiness

Table I.5-4: Responses to Comments from Private Individuals (continued)

Commenter	Comment	Navy Response
	acoustic devices. These activities have well known and well documented negative impacts on a number of whale species and porpoises, as well as other marine wildlife. In addition, the Navy admits the increase in the use of sonar devices "is likely to adversely affect" endangered leatherback turtles whose protected habitat along the Pacific Coast was only recently established in 2012. The Navy's activities will also have significant negative impacts on critical habitat areas for marine mammals and other wildlife. High intensity-mid-frequency sonar -- along with activities like dumping debris, the use of toxic chemicals, and detonating explosives -- will degrade sensitive habitat necessary for the survival of marine mammal populations. It is a concern that the Navy's current environmental analysis fails to provide basic information necessary to adequately evaluate the impacts of the proposed activities. This analysis also fails to provide adequate measures to mitigate the harmful effects of the proposed activities on marine mammals and other wildlife. It is a concern that a drastic increase in sonar activity will negatively impact wildlife. Marine mammals are extremely sensitive to noise, and sonar disrupts basic behaviors necessary for survival such as migration, surfacing, navigating, hearing, nursing, breeding and feeding. It is a concern that sonar can result in debilitating and even fatal injuries for marine mammals. Scientists believe sonar activity can change whale diving behavior, confusing them to swim to depths their bodies cannot handle. Whales suspected to have beached themselves because of sonar activity show signs of physical trauma like bleeding around the brain, ears and other tissues and large bubbles in their organs – symptoms analogous to "the bends" in humans. It is a concern that to the extent that threatened or endangered species -- including humpback and sperm whales, and leatherback turtles -- are negatively impacted, the proposed activities may result in violations of the Endangered Species Act. I would like to propose either extreme limits to the use of sonar, explosives, weapons firing, and other acoustic devices, or ideally the complete elimination of such practices. Thank you for your consideration.	Program Manual, include directives regarding waste management, pollution prevention, and recycling, all of which benefit sediments and water quality in the ocean. Any procedures or practices that benefit ocean sediments and water quality in turn benefit all marine life in the ocean, from plants and invertebrates, to fish and marine mammals. The Navy shares your concern for marine life, but this concern must be balanced with the purpose and need for Navy training and testing as detailed in Chapter 2 (Description of Proposed Action and Alternatives) of the EIS/OEIS. The Navy has conducted active sonar training and testing activities in the Study Area for decades, and there is no evidence that routine Navy training and testing has negatively impacted marine mammal populations in the Study Area or at any Navy Range Complex. Based on the best available science summarized in the EIS/OEIS Section 3.4.4.1 (Summary of Monitoring and Observations During Navy Activities), long-term consequences for marine mammal populations are unlikely to result from Navy training and testing activities in the Study Area. Please also refer to Chapter 5 (Standard Operating Procedures, Mitigation, and Monitoring) of the EIS/OEIS, detailing the procedures and mitigation measures during its training and testing activities designed to reduce impacts to marine mammals from Navy activities. Regarding previous strandings, see Section 3.4.3.1.8 (Stranding) and the referenced technical report "Marine Mammal Strandings Associated with U.S. Navy Sonar Activities" (U.S. Department of the Navy 2013c).
Brandenburg (Electronic)	Public Affairs Officer, I write to urge reconsideration of proposed changes to sonar levels allowed in training off the Pacific coast. The Navy's current environmental analysis fails to provide basic information necessary to adequately evaluate the impacts of the proposed activities. This analysis also fails to provide adequate measures to mitigate the harmful effects of the proposed activities on marine mammals and other wildlife. Based on the information apparent in the environmental analysis, the Navy's "No Action Alternative" is the proposal with the most limited impact on wildlife. A citizen, a veteran, a three war veteran's daughter, Christa Brandenburg	The Navy shares your concern for marine life, but this concern must be balanced with the purpose and need for Navy training and testing as detailed in Chapter 2 (Description of Proposed Action and Alternatives) of the EIS/OEIS. The Navy has conducted active sonar training and testing activities in the Study Area for decades, and there is no evidence that routine Navy training and testing has negatively impacted marine mammal populations in the Study Area or at any Navy Range Complex. Based on the best available science summarized in the EIS/OEIS Section 3.4.4.1 (Summary of Monitoring and Observations During Navy Activities), long-term consequences for marine mammal populations are unlikely to result from Navy training and testing activities in the Study Area. Please also refer to Chapter 5

Table I.5-4: Responses to Comments from Private Individuals (continued)

Commenter	Comment	Navy Response
		(Standard Operating Procedures, Mitigation, and Monitoring) of the EIS/OEIS, detailing the procedures and mitigation measures during its training and testing activities designed to reduce impacts to marine mammals from Navy activities.
Breakfield (Electronic)	I'm submitting a comment in relation to the the proposed Navy activities that would kill many dolphins and whales. Researchers are still trying to fully understand the effects of sonar on marine mammals, but they've found connections between sonar and recent mass whale strandings. Sonar has been known to damage hearing in marine mammals, which can prove fatal for creatures that rely on echolocation to move through the ocean and find food. I'm not arguing that the Navy doesn't need to train. I would ask the Navy to try to reduce the impact it's having on marine mammal populations.	The Navy shares your concern for marine life, but this concern must be balanced with the purpose and need for Navy training and testing as detailed in Chapter 2 (Description of Proposed Action and Alternatives) of the EIS/OEIS. The analysis in Chapter 3 (Affected Environment and Environmental Consequences) of the EIS/OEIS does not indicate that any marine mammal mortalities would occur. The Navy's quantitative analysis in Section 3.4 (Marine Mammals) shows that sonar may result in approximately 126 PTS exposures (i.e., a permanent loss of hearing sensitivity to certain frequencies of underwater sound). No mortality exposures are predicted. Two PTS exposures are predicted from the use of explosives during training and testing activities. No other injury and no mortality takes are predicted (see Tables 3.4-17, 3.4-18, 3.4-25, and 3.4-26). The Navy has conducted active sonar training and testing activities in the Study Area for decades, and there is no evidence that routine Navy training and testing has negatively impacted marine mammal populations in the Study Area or at any Navy Range Complex. Based on the best available science summarized in the EIS/OEIS Section 3.4.4.1 (Summary of Monitoring and Observations During Navy Activities), long-term consequences for marine mammal populations are unlikely to result from Navy training and testing activities in the Study Area. Please also refer to Chapter 5 (Standard Operating Procedures, Mitigation, and Monitoring) of the EIS/OEIS, detailing the procedures and mitigation measures during its training and testing activities designed to reduce impacts to marine mammals from Navy activities.
Bream (Electronic)	The Navy's current environmental analysis fails to provide basic information necessary to adequately evaluate the impacts of the proposed activities. This analysis also fails to provide adequate measures to mitigate the harmful effects of the proposed activities on marine mammals and other wildlife. Based on the information apparent in the environmental analysis, the Navy's "No Action Alternative" is the proposal with the most limited impact on wildlife. A drastic increase in sonar activity will negatively impact wildlife. Marine mammals are extremely sensitive to noise, and sonar disrupts basic behaviors necessary for survival such as migration, surfacing, navigating, hearing, nursing, breeding and	The Navy shares your concern for marine life, but this concern must be balanced with the purpose and need for Navy training and testing as detailed in Chapter 2 (Description of Proposed Action and Alternatives) of the EIS/OEIS. The Navy has conducted active sonar training and testing activities in the Study Area for decades, and there is no evidence that routine Navy training and testing has negatively impacted marine mammal populations in the Study Area or at any Navy Range Complex. Based on the best available science summarized in the EIS/OEIS Section 3.4.4.1 (Summary of Monitoring

Table I.5-4: Responses to Comments from Private Individuals (continued)

Commenter	Comment	Navy Response
	feeding. Sonar can result in debilitating and even fatal injuries for marine mammals. Scientists believe sonar activity can change whale diving behavior, confusing them to swim to depths their bodies cannot handle. Whales suspected to have beached themselves because of sonar activity show signs of physical trauma like bleeding around the brain, ears and other tissues and large bubbles in their organs – symptoms analogous to “the bends” in humans. To the extent that threatened or endangered species -- including humpback and sperm whales, and leatherback turtles -- are negatively impacted, the proposed activities may result in violations of the Endangered Species Act.	and Observations During Navy Activities), long-term consequences for marine mammal populations are unlikely to result from Navy training and testing activities in the Study Area. Please also refer to Chapter 5 (Standard Operating Procedures, Mitigation, and Monitoring) of the EIS/OEIS, detailing the procedures and mitigation measures during its training and testing activities designed to reduce impacts to marine mammals from Navy activities.
Brennan (Electronic)	Hello, Growing up the son of a Naval officer, I've spent most of my life living on the edge of our world's oceans. I've come to appreciate much about the ocean, including the creatures that use sound to communicate. While sonar may be a useful tool, it's also important to find balance between the need of the US military to spend money and the natural environment. I support the No Action Alternative. -J	The Navy shares your concern for marine life, but this concern must be balanced with the purpose and need for Navy training and testing as detailed in Chapter 2 (Description of Proposed Action and Alternatives) of the EIS/OEIS. The Navy has conducted active sonar training and testing activities in the Study Area for decades, and there is no evidence that routine Navy training and testing has negatively impacted marine mammal populations in the Study Area or at any Navy Range Complex. Based on the best available science summarized in the EIS/OEIS Section 3.4.4.1 (Summary of Monitoring and Observations During Navy Activities), long-term consequences for marine mammal populations are unlikely to result from Navy training and testing activities in the Study Area. Please also refer to Chapter 5 (Standard Operating Procedures, Mitigation, and Monitoring) of the EIS/OEIS, detailing the procedures and mitigation measures during its training and testing activities designed to reduce impacts to marine mammals from Navy activities.
Breskin (Electronic)	This is my second formal comment on one the NAVY’s NWTR EIS components. It is my hope that these comments will help the NAVY understand that their responsibilities to the American people are not well served by the segmented and fragmentary approach taken by the NAVY in this multipart EIS for the NWTR, because it precludes realistic consideration of both direct and cumulative impacts and therefore precludes reasonable consideration of the effectiveness of mitigation proposals. This EIS is presented like a broken mirror that fails to accurately reflect the scope of the issues, the severity of the impacts, and the inadequacy of the proposed mitigation. It is now clear that the public has been presented with some component parts of a much larger project and that although these parts have been engineered to interconnect, their connections have been ignored, or hidden in language that presents obstacles to evaluation or discussion of direct and cumulative impacts of the actions involved. Deferring analysis of impacts the NAVY knows will occur in the future, and decoupling and isolating “actions” that are in fact components of the same “action” are both contrary to the teachings of NEPA. The	The Navy prepares Environmental Impact Statements (EIS) and Environmental Assessments (EA) in order to comply with the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA). These NEPA documents are intended to ensure decision makers consider the potential environmental effects of a proposed action and its alternatives, provide an opportunity for public involvement, and promote transparency by informing the public of these potential environmental effects. Each NEPA document addresses a specific proposed action, separated from other actions by its purpose and need, independent utility, timing, and geographic location. Some NEPA documents are stand-alone documents; others tier off or expand the analyses of other NEPA documents. NEPA documents for training and testing, including this EIS/OEIS, focus on training and testing activities occurring within a range complex or military operation area and involve different types of aircraft, ships, and range complex enhancements. NEPA documents

Table I.5-4: Responses to Comments from Private Individuals (continued)

Commenter	Comment	Navy Response
	Fragmentation and segmentation has led to temporal disconnecting of environmental review of what is in fact a much larger project composed of interconnected projects, each of which are “actions” or collections of actions with impacts that overlap, and this does not constitute a complete discussion of the issues involved. When these actions are evaluated individually, in isolation from one another, both the direct effects of these interactions of these actions and the cumulative effects of the interactions of the actions are shielded from view and consideration of the impacts is obstructed. This is approach is in fact contrary to law. NEPA teaches, and the courts have repeatedly agreed, that all of a project’s components that are “actions” that are linked economically and by other considerations to the degree that one cannot exist without the other must be considered in a single EIS. See most recently Delaware Riverkeeper Network v. Federal Energy Regulatory Comm'n The courts have made a distinction between the requirement to analyze cumulative actions and the requirement for an analysis of cumulative impacts. Specifically, with respect to cumulative actions, the court noted that CEQ scoping regulations require connected, cumulative, and similar actions to be considered together in the same EIS - where proposals up for decision are functionally or economically related, those proposals must be considered in one EIS. "If proceeding with one project will, because of functional or economic dependence, foreclose options or irretrievably commit resources to future projects, the environmental consequences of the projects should be evaluated together.” This means that even if one or more of the “actions” that are components of a larger project - in common sense language a plan - might be considered insignificant in the absence of the others, they must be considered together in scoping. Absent such consideration, evaluation of both direct and cumulative impacts of the collected actions encompassed in the larger project can simply not be correctly characterized or adequately considered, let alone mitigated. Until such time as the entire mechanism of the NWTR project has been recombined into a single detailed map, the interactions of its components cannot be discussed and decisions on how to assess the impacts on the environment and if necessary, mitigate the impacts of these actions, cannot be realistically evaluated, by the NAVY, by the public, or by other agencies with jurisdiction in impacted areas.	for aircraft homebasing actions focus on aircraft operations in and around the airfield and their facility needs. NEPA documents for installations focus on infrastructure enhancements for host and tenant command missions. Importantly, every environmental document considers the cumulative impacts to the environment from other relevant past, present, and reasonably foreseeable future actions (federal, state, local, and private) in addition to the proposed action.
Bresky (Electronic)	The annual migration of the gray whales between Alaska and Mexico is among the world's most important mammal migrations. Slaughtered to near extinction by whalers, the North Pacific gray whale population is on the way to recovery due to decades of conservation efforts. However, climate change, killer whales, fishing nets, and pollution still threaten these magnificent animals today. Increased testing of sonic bouys by the Navy off the coast of Washington State could further jeopardize gray whale population recovery. Whale reserachers in Washington State have documented the deaths of many whales exposed to the damaging sound	The Navy shares your concern for marine life, but this concern must be balanced with the purpose and need for Navy training and testing as detailed in Chapter 2 (Description of Proposed Action and Alternatives) of the EIS/OEIS. The Navy has conducted active sonar training and testing activities in the Study Area for decades, and there is no evidence that routine Navy training and testing has negatively impacted marine mammal populations in the Study Area or at any Navy Range Complex. Based on the best available science

Table I.5-4: Responses to Comments from Private Individuals (continued)

Commenter	Comment	Navy Response
	waves produced by the Navy during their testing in the Bahamas and elsewhere around the world. Gray whales are not the only problem. The Makah tribe in Washington State harvests a small annual quota of whales that could be injured or killed by the Navy's sonic bouy testing plans off the Olympian peninsula.	summarized in the EIS/OEIS Section 3.4.4.1 (Summary of Monitoring and Observations During Navy Activities), long-term consequences for marine mammal populations are unlikely to result from Navy training and testing activities in the Study Area. Please also refer to Chapter 5 (Standard Operating Procedures, Mitigation, and Monitoring) of the EIS/OEIS, detailing the procedures and mitigation measures during its training and testing activities designed to reduce impacts to marine mammals from Navy activities. As described in Section 5.3.4.1.11 (Avoiding Marine Species Habitats and Biologically Important Areas), the area of potential gray whale occurrence that extends along the entire U.S. West Coast continental shelf as well as throughout Puget Sound is impractical to avoid. Neither the Navy nor any other user of the waters in the Study Area could completely avoid these areas. The Navy concludes that avoidance would be of little biological benefit to the gray whales and would negatively impact operational readiness.
A. Brewer (Electronic)	The Navy's current environmental analysis fails to provide basic information necessary to adequately evaluate the impacts of the proposed activities. This analysis also fails to provide adequate measures to mitigate the harmful effects of the proposed activities on marine mammals and other wildlife. Based on the information apparent in the environmental analysis, the Navy's "No Action Alternative" is the proposal with the most limited impact on wildlife. A drastic increase in sonar activity will negatively impact wildlife. Marine mammals are extremely sensitive to noise, and sonar disrupts basic behaviors necessary for survival such as migration, surfacing, navigating, hearing, nursing, breeding and feeding. Sonar can result in debilitating and even fatal injuries for marine mammals. Scientists believe sonar activity can change whale diving behavior, confusing them to swim to depths their bodies cannot handle. Whales suspected to have beached themselves because of sonar activity show signs of physical trauma like bleeding around the brain, ears and other tissues and large bubbles in their organs – symptoms analogous to "the bends" in humans. To the extent that threatened or endangered species -- including humpback and sperm whales, and leatherback turtles -- are negatively impacted, the proposed activities may result in violations of the Endangered Species Act.	As described in the Supplement in Section 3.5.2 (Sea Turtle Summary), the proposed increase in the use of SSQ-125 sonobuoys "are not expected to result in substantial changes to behavior, growth, survival, annual reproductive success, lifetime reproductive success (fitness), or species recruitment, and are not expected to result in population-level impacts." The Navy shares your concern for marine life, but this concern must be balanced with the purpose and need for Navy training and testing as detailed in Chapter 2 (Description of Proposed Action and Alternatives) of the EIS/OEIS. The Navy has conducted active sonar training and testing activities in the Study Area for decades, and there is no evidence that routine Navy training and testing has negatively impacted marine mammal populations in the Study Area or at any Navy Range Complex. Based on the best available science summarized in the EIS/OEIS Section 3.4.4.1 (Summary of Monitoring and Observations During Navy Activities), long-term consequences for marine mammal populations are unlikely to result from Navy training and testing activities in the Study Area. Please also refer to Chapter 5 (Standard Operating Procedures, Mitigation, and Monitoring) of the EIS/OEIS, detailing the procedures and mitigation measures during its training and testing activities designed to reduce impacts to marine mammals from Navy activities.
D. Brewer (Electronic)	Sonar can result in debilitating and even fatal injuries for marine mammals. Scientists believe sonar activity can change whale diving behavior, confusing them	The Navy shares your concern for marine life, but this concern must be balanced with the purpose and need for Navy training and testing as

Table I.5-4: Responses to Comments from Private Individuals (continued)

Commenter	Comment	Navy Response
	to swim to depths their bodies cannot handle. Whales suspected to have beached themselves because of sonar activity show signs of physical trauma like bleeding around the brain, ears and other tissues and large bubbles in their organs – symptoms analogous to "the bends" in humans. Please consider these issues as you plan future exercises.	detailed in Chapter 2 (Description of Proposed Action and Alternatives) of the EIS/OEIS. The Navy has conducted active sonar training and testing activities in the Study Area for decades, and there is no evidence that routine Navy training and testing has negatively impacted marine mammal populations in the Study Area or at any Navy Range Complex. Based on the best available science summarized in the EIS/OEIS Section 3.4.4.1 (Summary of Monitoring and Observations During Navy Activities), long-term consequences for marine mammal populations are unlikely to result from Navy training and testing activities in the Study Area. Please also refer to Chapter 5 (Standard Operating Procedures, Mitigation, and Monitoring) of the EIS/OEIS, detailing the procedures and mitigation measures during its training and testing activities designed to reduce impacts to marine mammals from Navy activities. Regarding previous strandings, see Section 3.4.3.1.8 (Stranding) and the referenced technical report "Marine Mammal Strandings Associated with U.S. Navy Sonar Activities" (U.S. Department of the Navy 2013c).
Brice (Electronic)	Please consider the timing of sonar activity with the whale and dolphin and turtle peak activities.	The Navy shares your concern for marine life, but this concern must be balanced with the purpose and need for Navy training and testing as detailed in Chapter 2 (Description of Proposed Action and Alternatives) of the EIS/OEIS. The Navy has conducted active sonar training and testing activities in the Study Area for decades, and there is no evidence that routine Navy training and testing has negatively impacted individual sea turtles or sea turtle populations, or marine mammal populations in the Study Area or at any Navy Range Complex. Based on the best available science summarized in the EIS/OEIS Section 3.4.4.1 (Summary of Monitoring and Observations During Navy Activities), long-term consequences for marine mammal populations are unlikely to result from Navy training and testing activities in the Study Area. Note that for sea turtles, as described in the EIS/OEIS Section 3.5.3.7.1 (Combined Impacts of All Stressors), "impacts are not expected to decrease the overall fitness or result in long-term population level impacts on any given population." Please also refer to Chapter 5 (Standard Operating Procedures, Mitigation, and Monitoring) of the EIS/OEIS, detailing the procedures and mitigation measures during its training and testing activities designed to reduce impacts to marine mammals from Navy activities.
B. Brown	My question and concern is why is geoengineering AICA chemtrails being done	Thank you for participating in the NEPA process. However this

Table I.5-4: Responses to Comments from Private Individuals (continued)

Commenter	Comment	Navy Response
(Electronic)	heavily not just locally here now, but nationally and globally without the citizens consent and without media coverage on the fact our air is being poisoned with alumunum barium and strontium. Why are our elected officials and autorities not standing up to address this most important issue?	comment is outside the scope of the Supplement to the Draft EIS/OEIS. Please see Chapters 1 and 2 of the EIS/OEIS for a clear definition of the scope of this project.
C. Brown (Electronic)	Regarding the increased use of sonar off the Washington State coast. Please dont. It's as simple as that.	Thank you for participating in the NEPA process.
C. L. Brown (Electronic)	I urge you to reconsider expansion of the existing training facility off the Pacific NW Coastline. There must be other locations where the navy can train that provide greater escape opportunities for sensitive migrating whales and local sea life. The Navy's current environmental analysis fails to provide basic information necessary to adequately evaluate the impacts of the proposed activities. This analysis also fails to provide adequate measures to mitigate the harmful effects of the proposed activities on marine mammals and other wildlife. Based on the information apparent in the environmental analysis, the Navy's "No Action Alternative" is the proposal with the most limited impact on wildlife. A drastic increase in sonar activity will negatively impact wildlife. Marine mammals are extremely sensitive to noise, and sonar disrupts basic behaviors necessary for survival such as migration, surfacing, navigating, hearing, nursing, breeding and feeding. Sonar can result in debilitating and even fatal injuries for marine mammals. Scientists believe sonar activity can change whale diving behavior, confusing them to swim to depths their bodies cannot handle. Whales suspected to have beached themselves because of sonar activity show signs of physical trauma like bleeding around the brain, ears and other tissues and large bubbles in their organs – symptoms analogous to "the bends" in humans. To the extent that threatened or endangered species -- including humpback and sperm whales, and leatherback turtles -- are negatively impacted, the proposed activities may result in violations of the Endangered Species Act.	As described in the Supplement in Section 3.5.2 (Sea Turtle Summary), the proposed increase in the use of SSQ-125 sonobuoys "are not expected to result in substantial changes to behavior, growth, survival, annual reproductive success, lifetime reproductive success (fitness), or species recruitment, and are not expected to result in population-level impacts." The Navy shares your concern for marine life, but this concern must be balanced with the purpose and need for Navy training and testing as detailed in Chapter 2 (Description of Proposed Action and Alternatives) of the EIS/OEIS. The Navy has conducted active sonar training and testing activities in the Study Area for decades, and there is no evidence that routine Navy training and testing has negatively impacted marine mammal populations in the Study Area or at any Navy Range Complex. Based on the best available science summarized in the EIS/OEIS Section 3.4.4.1 (Summary of Monitoring and Observations During Navy Activities), long-term consequences for marine mammal populations are unlikely to result from Navy training and testing activities in the Study Area. Please also refer to Chapter 5 (Standard Operating Procedures, Mitigation, and Monitoring) of the EIS/OEIS, detailing the procedures and mitigation measures during its training and testing activities designed to reduce impacts to marine mammals from Navy activities.
L. Brown (Electronic)	The proposed deploying of more buoys that will send out ultrasound or sonar waves is a horrible idea. I have already seen the dramatic reduction of wildlife traveling through the Puget Sound and I wish that you would just stop, now. There is no possible gain that is worth destroying the marine mammals that call our Salish Sea home. Please don't.	Thank you for participating in the NEPA process. The Navy shares your concern for marine life, but this concern must be balanced with the purpose and need for Navy training and testing as detailed in Chapter 2 (Description of Proposed Action and Alternatives) of the EIS/OEIS. The Navy has conducted active sonar training and testing activities in the Study Area for decades, and there is no evidence that routine Navy training and testing has negatively impacted marine mammal populations in the Study Area or at any Navy Range Complex. Based on the best available science summarized in the EIS/OEIS Section 3.4.4.1 (Summary of Monitoring and Observations

Table I.5-4: Responses to Comments from Private Individuals (continued)

Commenter	Comment	Navy Response
		During Navy Activities), long-term consequences for marine mammal populations are unlikely to result from Navy training and testing activities in the Study Area. Please also refer to Chapter 5 (Standard Operating Procedures, Mitigation, and Monitoring) of the EIS/OEIS, detailing the procedures and mitigation measures during its training and testing activities designed to reduce impacts to marine mammals from Navy activities.
Browne (Electronic)	At this critical juncture in our fragile environment, it is unconscionable to consider actions that will impact whales and endangered marine life. Please reconsider the testing of sonar and explosive devised on the pacific northwest coast of the US. Thankyou.	The Navy shares your concern for marine life, but this concern must be balanced with the purpose and need for Navy training and testing as detailed in Chapter 2 (Description of Proposed Action and Alternatives) of the EIS/OEIS. The Navy has conducted active sonar and explosives training and testing activities in the Study Area for decades, and there is no evidence that routine Navy training and testing has negatively impacted marine mammal populations in the Study Area or at any Navy Range Complex. Based on the best available science summarized in the EIS/OEIS Section 3.4.4.1 (Summary of Monitoring and Observations During Navy Activities), long-term consequences for marine mammal populations are unlikely to result from Navy training and testing activities in the Study Area. Please also refer to Chapter 5 (Standard Operating Procedures, Mitigation, and Monitoring) of the EIS/OEIS, detailing the procedures and mitigation measures during its training and testing activities designed to reduce impacts to marine mammals from Navy activities.
Bruning (Written)	I wish to take this opportunity to comment on the Supplement (December 2014) to the Navy's Draft Environmental Impact Statement/ overseas Environmental Impact Statement (DEIS), dated January 2014, for its continued training and testing activities in the Pacific Northwest (NWTT). Please include these comments in the administrative record. Effect on wildlife The proposed increases in this Supplement of marine exercises and additional use of sonar and explosives will only increase the damage done to marine mammals, sea turtles, fish and birds. Of particular concern to me is the Supplement and the EIS's lack of protections for the Southern Resident Killer Whale's dwindling population. These animals need a protected home in accord with their endangered status. In public sessions and in a radio interview the Navy's public relations personnel have been heard to say that the (MSO) and TRACKEX marine exercises save gas and allow personnel to be closer to their homes for these maneuvers. These considerations should not allow one single injury to this endangered Killer Whale population.	The Navy shares your concern for marine life, but this concern must be balanced with the purpose and need for Navy training and testing as detailed in Chapter 2 (Description of Proposed Action and Alternatives) of the EIS/OEIS. The Navy has conducted training and testing activities in the Study Area for decades, and there is no evidence that routine Navy training and testing has negatively impacted marine mammal populations in the Study Area or at any Navy Range Complex. Based on the best available science summarized in the EIS/OEIS Section 3.4.4.1 (Summary of Monitoring and Observations During Navy Activities), long-term consequences for marine mammal populations are unlikely to result from Navy training and testing activities in the Study Area. Please also refer to Chapter 5 (Standard Operating Procedures, Mitigation, and Monitoring) of the EIS/OEIS, detailing the procedures and mitigation measures during its training and testing activities designed to reduce impacts to marine mammals from Navy activities.

Table I.5-4: Responses to Comments from Private Individuals (continued)

Commenter	Comment	Navy Response
	Though this supplement admits increased sonar and explosive testing (TRACKEX) and finally addresses the MSO maneuvers there is no additional mitigation mentioned. Nowhere is it outlined whether visual patrols will increase as a result of this new activity, nor does the Supplement address real concerns over whether or not visual patrol is adequate at times of night or rough seas. No acoustic monitoring or avoidance strategies are included. This is a serious omission to a document that intended to address the inadequate science and mitigation plans of the original draft and is unacceptable. Lack of Science There is little consideration of exclusion zones, geographic alternatives to the southern Puget Sound and seasonal restrictions of exercises. All of the Alternatives propose year-round, unrestricted use without regard to seasonal variations in marine mammal and fish abundance. This is true despite the well-documented seasonal migrations of numerous endangered species and the identification of biologically important areas. The Navy should put critical marine habitats off-limits to sonar and explosives testing and schedule training to avoid times of the year when sensitive species are present in places like the Olympic Coast National Marine Sanctuary. Climate Change and Cumulative Impacts The Supplement document responds to calls to address these two big issues but it is very unclear that anything more than lip service was expended by deeming Navy activities to be of little significance. Public Process What most concerns me is this. There has been an overwhelming number of proposals since late in 2013 rotted out to the public in a piecemeal fashion. Five calls for comments on clearly-linked documents have been spread out in their introduction to the public over the last year and a half. Ground-based, (Electronic warfare range), air-based (Two growler scoping documents) and sea-based naval activities (these two NWTT documents) have been dropped onto the region as if they were not linked. The separate comment periods and the separate documents minimize the larger picture of impacts on the area. In my opinion this is misleading. Is it even legal in regards to Federal Law, specifically NEPA? Please redo this chopped-up public process with a comprehensive Environmental Impact Statement that includes all of the activities in the region. These huge changes that affect wildlife, real estate values, allow precedent-setting incursions into the peace of our national parks, national forest, wilderness, state parks and state lands, should be discussed as a whole, not split into so many fractured pieces that the residents of this region cannot know what they are actually facing.	No injuries to killer whales are anticipated from the Navy's proposed MSO or TRACKEX activities. The MSO activities do not include the use of sonar or live gun firing. As described in Chapter 5 (Standard Operating Procedures, Mitigation, and Monitoring) of the EIS/OEIS, the Navy will implement mitigation measures during the use of sonobuoys. The mitigation measures are implemented for each activity and therefore the mitigation scales up as the activity level scales up. Section 5.3.1.2.5 (Effectiveness Assessment for Lookouts) acknowledges that, due to the various detection probabilities, levels of Lookout experience, and variability of sighting conditions, Lookouts will not always be effective at avoiding impacts on all species. However, Lookouts are expected to increase the overall likelihood that certain marine mammal species and some sea turtles will be detected at the surface of the water, when compared to the likelihood that these same species would be detected if Lookouts are not used. The continued use of Lookouts contributes to helping reduce potential impacts on these species from training and testing activities. While the range of the sonar's detection would travel beyond the distance that Lookouts can detect animals, the range at which sonar is predicted to be able to cause injury to a marine mammal is very short, within 10 meters of the sonar. At such short distances, it is likely any marine mammal would have been detected. As described in Chapter 5 (Standard Operating Procedures, Mitigation, and Monitoring) of the Final EIS/OEIS, the Navy evaluated the effectiveness and practicability of a number of potential mitigation measures including the avoidance of specific areas. The Navy has undertaken consultation with NMFS for the proposed and ongoing activities in the NWTT Study Area and the Navy refined the mitigation measures, which are now presented in Chapter 5 (Standard Operating Procedures, Mitigation, and Monitoring) of this Final EIS/OEIS. Through careful exploration of all mitigation measures to determine which were the most effective, the Navy chose the measures to mitigate potential impacts to marine mammals while still being able to meet its operational needs to train for real-world conditions. The Navy's specific mitigation measures are outlined in the following sections: Section 5.3.1 (Lookout Procedural Measures), Section 5.3.2 (Mitigation Zone Procedural Measures), and Section 5.3.3 (Mitigation Areas). Specifically, Section 5.3.4 (Mitigation Measures Considered but Eliminated) presents Navy consideration of similar area

Table I.5-4: Responses to Comments from Private Individuals (continued)

Commenter	Comment	Navy Response
		restrictions. The Navy and NMFS will use the Adaptive Management process to assess whether any additional mitigation should be considered in identified biologically important areas. In response to several comments, the Navy has enhanced its analysis of climate change and cumulative impacts in this Final EIS/OEIS. The Navy prepares Environmental Impact Statements (EIS) and Environmental Assessments (EA) in order to comply with the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA). These NEPA documents are intended to ensure decision makers consider the potential environmental effects of a proposed action and its alternatives, provide an opportunity for public involvement, and promote transparency by informing the public of these potential environmental effects. Each NEPA document addresses a specific proposed action, separated from other actions by its purpose and need, independent utility, timing, and geographic location. Some NEPA documents are stand-alone documents; others tier off or expand the analyses of other NEPA documents. NEPA documents for training and testing, including this EIS/OEIS, focus on training and testing activities occurring within a range complex or military operation area and involve different types of aircraft, ships, and range complex enhancements. NEPA documents for aircraft homebasing actions focus on aircraft operations in and around the airfield and their facility needs. NEPA documents for installations focus on infrastructure enhancements for host and tenant command missions. Importantly, every environmental document considers the cumulative impacts to the environment from other relevant past, present, and reasonably foreseeable future actions (federal, state, local, and private) in addition to the proposed action. The Navy has been training in the Olympic Military Operations Area (MOA) for over 40 years, and the Navy has not proposed any significant changes to the way aircrew train in the MOA. The Navy recently analyzed plans to enhance existing training by adding one fixed transmitter at Pacific Beach and three mobile transmitter vehicles that would operate on existing logging roads and pull-out areas on U.S. Forest Service land. The Navy has not proposed to use National Park Service land. EW training and EW Range enhancements were analyzed in the Navy's Northwest Training Range Complex (NWTRC) EIS/OEIS, completed in 2010. When more information became available on mobile and fixed signal transmitters for the EW Range, the Navy prepared the EW Range EA to analyze placement and operation of those transmitters. The Navy completed the EA and

Table I.5-4: Responses to Comments from Private Individuals (continued)

Commenter	Comment	Navy Response
		issued a Finding of No Significant Impact on August 28, 2014. The introduction of the land-based transmitters to enhance existing training will not harm people, animals, or the environment. The Navy has decades of experience building and operating signal equipment, with no adverse effects to people, animals, or the environment. Though there is a proposed increase in EW training events associated with the range enhancements and analyzed in this EIS/OEIS, the increase in events does not equate to a comparable increase in the number of aircraft flights or in the duration of flights. EW training flights are already occurring in the Olympic MOAs, and it is estimated that this proposal will only result in an approximately 10 percent annual increase in actual flights, which equates to approximately one additional flight per day. This is because each flight will be able to accommodate multiple EW training events. The Navy proposes to home base up to 36 additional EA-18G aircraft at NAS Whidbey Island. The Navy announced the preparation of that separate Whidbey EIS on September 5, 2013, and invited the public to participate in the NEPA process by submitting comments to define the scope of the Draft Whidbey EIS analysis. On October 10, 2014, the Navy revised the scope of the on-going Whidbey EIS and invited the public to submit additional scoping comments. The Navy is currently preparing its Draft Whidbey EIS, which is scheduled to be released in spring 2016. For more information, please visit the project website at www.whidbeyeis.com. This NWTT EIS/OEIS considered the Whidbey EIS proposal in its analysis of cumulative impacts in Chapter 4. The U.S. Navy has conducted active sonar training and testing activities for decades in the seaspace depicted in the Study Area with no evidence to indicate any meaningful impacts to marine habitats in the area. The Navy and NMFS jointly are still in ongoing consultation with the OCNMS regarding the effects of the Proposed Action on Sanctuary resources. The Navy concludes its continued activities are not likely to result in the loss, destruction, or adverse changes to the viability of Sanctuary resources. Several points support this determination: • Less than two percent of proposed training and 15 percent of proposed testing activities would occur within or immediately adjacent to the OCNMS. • The NWTT Final EIS/OEIS shows that training and testing activities have minimal temporary impacts on the quantity or quality of the Study

Table I.5-4: Responses to Comments from Private Individuals (continued)

Commenter	Comment	Navy Response
		Area's physical environment, and minor to no impacts on marine or shore birds, fish, sea turtles, or invertebrate marine life. • Although explosives have the potential to affect the physical and biological resources, the Navy does not use explosives within the OCNMS. • The Navy concludes any marine mammal behavioral reactions to NWTT training and testing activities would be transitory, infrequent, non-cumulative, and impacts are not expected to decrease overall individual fitness or result in long-term population-level impacts on any given population, and consequently will not result in any adverse changes to the sanctuary. Finally, all Department of Defense (DoD) military activities shall be carried out in a manner that avoids to the maximum extent practicable any adverse impacts on Sanctuary resources and qualities.
Brunstad (Written)	Based on my decades-long familiarity with the activities addressed in the subject EIS coupled with my personal involvement in addressing concerns and identified impacts on the environment due to human activities, that have evolved over the past four decades, I am confident that the concerns and potential impacts associated with the proposed activities have been properly and adequately addressed. The proficiency training of our Naval forces and security of vessel movement in confined waters are critical to the nation's security. Accordingly, I support and recommend approval of the Draft NWTT EIS and supplement.	Thank you for participating in the NEPA process.
Bryan (Electronic)	The Navy's proposed training and testing activities include the use of sonar, explosives, weapons firing, and other acoustic devices. These activities have well known and well documented negative impacts on a number of whale species and porpoises, as well as other marine wildlife. In addition, the Navy admits the increase in the use of sonar devices "is likely to adversely affect"2 endangered leatherback turtles whose protected habitat along the Pacific Coast was only recently established in 2012. The Navy's activities will also have significant impacts on critical habitat areas for marine mammals and other wildlife. High intensity-mid-frequency sonar -- along with activities like dumping debris, the use of toxic chemicals, and detonating explosives -- will degrade sensitive habitat necessary for the survival of marine mammal populations.	As described in the Supplement in Section 3.5.2 (Sea Turtle Summary), the proposed increase in the use of SSQ-125 sonobuoys "are not expected to result in substantial changes to behavior, growth, survival, annual reproductive success, lifetime reproductive success (fitness), or species recruitment, and are not expected to result in population-level impacts." The Navy shares your concern for marine life, but this concern must be balanced with the purpose and need for Navy training and testing as detailed in Chapter 2 (Description of Proposed Action and Alternatives) of the EIS/OEIS. The Navy has conducted active sonar training and testing activities in the Study Area for decades, and there is no evidence that routine Navy training and testing has negatively impacted marine mammal populations in the Study Area or at any Navy Range Complex. Based on the best available science summarized in the EIS/OEIS Section 3.4.4.1 (Summary of Monitoring

Table I.5-4: Responses to Comments from Private Individuals (continued)

Commenter	Comment	Navy Response
		and Observations During Navy Activities), long-term consequences for marine mammal populations are unlikely to result from Navy training and testing activities in the Study Area. Please also refer to Chapter 5 (Standard Operating Procedures, Mitigation, and Monitoring) of the EIS/OEIS, detailing the procedures and mitigation measures during its training and testing activities designed to reduce impacts to marine mammals from Navy activities. Regarding previous strandings, see Section 3.4.3.1.8 (Stranding) and the referenced technical report “Marine Mammal Strandings Associated with U.S. Navy Sonar Activities” (U.S. Department of the Navy 2013c).
Bundy (Electronic)	Please do not harm leatherneck sea turtles and other ocean creatures with the proposed increase of sonobuoys along the Pacific coast. The additional plans for more "maritime security operations" also pose increased risks to marine wildlife. We need to take care of our oceans and the organisms who live there. Thank you, Robin	As described in the Supplement in Section 3.5.2 (Sea Turtle Summary), the proposed increase in the use of SSQ-125 sonobuoys "are not expected to result in substantial changes to behavior, growth, survival, annual reproductive success, lifetime reproductive success (fitness), or species recruitment, and are not expected to result in population-level impacts." The Navy has conducted active sonar training and testing activities in the Study Area for decades, and there is no evidence that routine Navy training and testing has negatively impacted marine life, individual sea turtles or sea turtle populations in the Study Area or at any Navy Range Complex. Based on the best available science summarized in the EIS/OEIS Section 3.5.3.7.1 (Combined Impacts of All Stressors) “impacts are not expected to decrease the overall fitness or result in long-term population level impacts on any given population. In cases where potential impacts rise to a level that warrants mitigation, mitigation measures designed to reduce the potential impacts are discussed in Chapter 5 (Standard Operating Procedures, Mitigation, and Monitoring)."
Burdick, MD (Electronic)	As a resident of Sequim, on the north Olympic Peninsula of Washington, I have grave concern about Naval training and testing in our area which adversely affects marine life and human recreational activities, and our marine environment. With the addition of your new Supplement to your Environmental Impact Statement, I feel compelled to express my concerns at this point. This e-mail is my comment on the Supplement (December 2014) to the Navy’s Draft Environmental Impact Statement/ Overseas Environmental Impact Statement (DEIS), dated January 2014, for its continued training and testing activities in the Pacific Northwest (NWTT). Please include these comments in the administrative record. 1. Effects on marine wildlife This Supplement details proposed increases in marine	The Navy shares your concern for marine life, but this concern must be balanced with the purpose and need for Navy training and testing as detailed in Chapter 2 (Description of Proposed Action and Alternatives) of the EIS/OEIS. The Navy has conducted training and testing activities in the Study Area for decades, and there is no evidence that routine Navy training and testing has negatively impacted marine mammal populations in the Study Area or at any Navy Range Complex. Based on the best available science summarized in the EIS/OEIS Section 3.4.4.1 (Summary of Monitoring and Observations During Navy Activities), long-term consequences for marine mammal

Table I.5-4: Responses to Comments from Private Individuals (continued)

Commenter	Comment	Navy Response
	exercises and additional use of sonar and explosives in our waters. This will only increase the damage done to marine mammals, sea turtles, fish and birds. I am especially concerned about the absence (in your DEIS) of protections for the Southern Resident Killer Whale's dwindling population. This endangered species should be allowed a protected. In public sessions and in a radio interview, the Navy's public relations personnel have been heard to say that the (MSO) and TRACKEX marine exercises save gas and allow personnel to be closer to their homes for these maneuvers. These considerations should not outweigh the significant risk of injury to this endangered Killer Whale population. Though this supplement admits increased sonar and explosive testing (TRACKEX) and finally addresses the MSO maneuvers there is no additional mitigation mentioned. Nowhere is it outlined whether visual patrols will increase as a result of this new activity, nor does the Supplement address address the adequacy of visual patrols at night or in rough seas. No acoustic monitoring or avoidance strategies are included. This is a serious omission from a document intended to address the inadequate science and mitigation plans of the original draft and is unacceptable. 2. Lack of Science There is little consideration of exclusion zones, geographic alternatives to the southern Puget Sound and seasonal restrictions of exercises. All of the Alternatives propose year-round, unrestricted use without regard to seasonal variations in marine mammal and fish abundance. This is true despite the well-documented seasonal migrations of numerous endangered species and the identification of biologically important areas. It is vital that the Navy make critical marine habitats off-limits to sonar and explosives testing, and schedule training to avoid times of the year when sensitive species are present in places like the Olympic Coast National Marine Sanctuary. 3. Climate Change and Cumulative Impacts The Supplement document deems Navy activities to be of little significance, yet does not offer any scientific back-up for this position. 4. Public Process A large number of proposals have been presented to the public in a piecemeal fashion since late 2013. Five calls for comments on clearly-linked documents have been spread out in their introduction to the public over the past 1 ½ years. Ground-based, (Electronic warfare range), air-based (Two growler scoping documents) and sea-based naval activities (these two NWTT documents) have been presented as being unrelated, which is deceptive. The separate comment periods and separate documents minimize the larger picture of impacts on the area, which I view as misleading. A comprehensive Environmental Impact Statement is needed, including all the activities in this region. The potential negative effects of these cumulative changes should be addressed as a whole, allowing reasonable dialog between the Navy and the residents of this region. The following issues MUST be addressed in this	populations are unlikely to result from Navy training and testing activities in the Study Area. Please also refer to Chapter 5 (Standard Operating Procedures, Mitigation, and Monitoring) of the EIS/OEIS, detailing the procedures and mitigation measures during its training and testing activities designed to reduce impacts to marine mammals from Navy activities. No injuries to killer whales are anticipated from the Navy's proposed MSO or TRACKEX activities. As described in Chapter 5 (Standard Operating Procedures, Mitigation, and Monitoring) of the EIS/OEIS, the Navy will implement mitigation measures during the use of sonobuoys. The mitigation measures are implemented for each activity and therefore the mitigation scales up as the activity level scales up. Section 5.3.1.2.5 (Effectiveness Assessment for Lookouts) acknowledges that, due to the various detection probabilities, levels of Lookout experience, and variability of sighting conditions, Lookouts will not always be effective at avoiding impacts on all species. However, Lookouts are expected to increase the overall likelihood that certain marine mammal species and some sea turtles will be detected at the surface of the water, when compared to the likelihood that these same species would be detected if Lookouts are not used. The continued use of Lookouts contributes to helping reduce potential impacts on these species from training and testing activities. While the range of the sonar's detection would travel beyond the distance that Lookouts can detect animals, the range at which sonar is predicted to be able to cause injury to a marine mammal is very short, within 10 meters of the sonar. At such short distances, it is likely any marine mammal would have been detected. As described in Chapter 5 (Standard Operating Procedures, Mitigation, and Monitoring) of the Final EIS/OEIS, the Navy evaluated the effectiveness and practicability of a number of potential mitigation measures including the avoidance of specific areas. The Navy has undertaken consultation with NMFS for the proposed and ongoing activities in the NWTT Study Area and the Navy refined the mitigation measures, which are now presented in Chapter 5 (Standard Operating Procedures, Mitigation, and Monitoring) of this Final EIS/OEIS. Through careful exploration of all mitigation measures to determine which were the most effective, the Navy chose the measures to mitigate potential impacts to marine mammals while still being able to

Table I.5-4: Responses to Comments from Private Individuals (continued)

Commenter	Comment	Navy Response
	comprehensive EIS, with opportunities for public comment and open dialog: • Adverse effects on wildlife • Damage to real estate values • Precedent-setting incursions into the peace of our national parks, national forest, wilderness, state parks and state lands. should be discussed as a whole, not split into so many fractured pieces that the residents of this region cannot know what they are actually facing. With grave concern.	meet its operational needs to train for real-world conditions. The Navy's specific mitigation measures are outlined in the following sections: Section 5.3.1 (Lookout Procedural Measures), Section 5.3.2 (Mitigation Zone Procedural Measures), and Section 5.3.3 (Mitigation Areas). Specifically, Section 5.3.4 (Mitigation Measures Considered but Eliminated) presents Navy consideration of similar area restrictions. At time of release of this Final EIS/OEIS, NMFS and Navy are in ongoing discussion regarding mitigation for MMPA purposes. Should additional mitigation to that which Navy has proposed be identified in the MMPA rule making and authorization, it will be indicated in the ROD. In response to several comments, the Navy has enhanced its analysis of climate change and cumulative impacts in this Final EIS/OEIS. The Navy prepares Environmental Impact Statements (EIS) and Environmental Assessments (EA) in order to comply with the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA). These NEPA documents are intended to ensure decision makers consider the potential environmental effects of a proposed action and its alternatives, provide an opportunity for public involvement, and promote transparency by informing the public of these potential environmental effects. Each NEPA document addresses a specific proposed action, separated from other actions by its purpose and need, independent utility, timing, and geographic location. Some NEPA documents are stand-alone documents; others tier off or expand the analyses of other NEPA documents. NEPA documents for training and testing, including this EIS/OEIS, focus on training and testing activities occurring within a range complex or military operation area and involve different types of aircraft, ships, and range complex enhancements. NEPA documents for aircraft homebasing actions focus on aircraft operations in and around the airfield and their facility needs. NEPA documents for installations focus on infrastructure enhancements for host and tenant command missions. Importantly, every environmental document considers the cumulative impacts to the environment from other relevant past, present, and reasonably foreseeable future actions (federal, state, local, and private) in addition to the proposed action. The MSO activities do not include the use of sonar or live gun firing. The U.S. Navy has conducted active sonar training and testing activities for decades in the seaspace depicted in the Study Area with no evidence to indicate any meaningful impacts to marine habitats in the area. The Navy and NMFS jointly are still in ongoing consultation

Table I.5-4: Responses to Comments from Private Individuals (continued)

Commenter	Comment	Navy Response
		with the OCNMS regarding the effects of the Proposed Action on Sanctuary resources. The Navy concludes its continued activities are not likely to result in the loss, destruction, or adverse changes to the viability of Sanctuary resources. Several points support this determination: • Less than two percent of proposed training and 15 percent of proposed testing activities would occur within or immediately adjacent to the OCNMS. • The NWTT Final EIS/OEIS shows that training and testing activities have minimal temporary impacts on the quantity or quality of the Study Area's physical environment, and minor to no impacts on marine or shore birds, fish, sea turtles, or invertebrate marine life. • Although explosives have the potential to affect the physical and biological resources, the Navy does not use explosives within the OCNMS. • The Navy concludes any marine mammal behavioral reactions to NWTT training and testing activities would be transitory, infrequent, non-cumulative, and impacts are not expected to decrease overall individual fitness or result in long-term population-level impacts on any given population, and consequently will not result in any adverse changes to the sanctuary. Finally, all Department of Defense (DoD) military activities shall be carried out in a manner that avoids to the maximum extent practicable any adverse impacts on Sanctuary resources and qualities.
Burkhart (Electronic)	"The Proposed Action would ensure the Navy accomplishes its mission to maintain, train and equip combat-ready military forces capable of winning wars, deterring aggression and maintaining freedom of the seas. This mission is achieved by conducting realistic training and testing activities in the Pacific Northwest. The Navy's Proposed Action and alternatives will be evaluated in the NWTT EIS/OEIS to assess potential environmental impacts from proposed training and testing activities." While I understand that the Navy feels the need to practice, The location that is chosen is a horrible choice. The Southern Resident Killer Whales are listed on the Endagered Species Act, and like other cetaceans, they use echolocation. Using sonar is likely to kill them, be it from the noise pollution, disorientation, or disrupting their hunting and eating. Please rethink your decision and leave our SRKWs to repopulate their Pods in peace.	The Navy shares your concern for marine life, but this concern must be balanced with the purpose and need for Navy training and testing as detailed in Chapter 2 (Description of Proposed Action and Alternatives) of the EIS/OEIS. The Navy has conducted active sonar training and testing activities in the Study Area for decades, and there is no evidence that routine Navy training and testing has negatively impacted marine mammal populations in the Study Area or at any Navy Range Complex. Based on the best available science summarized in the EIS/OEIS Section 3.4.4.1 (Summary of Monitoring and Observations During Navy Activities), long-term consequences for marine mammal populations are unlikely to result from Navy training and testing activities in the Study Area. Please also refer to Chapter 5 (Standard Operating Procedures, Mitigation, and Monitoring) of the EIS/OEIS, detailing the procedures and mitigation measures during its training and testing activities designed to reduce impacts to marine

Table I.5-4: Responses to Comments from Private Individuals (continued)

Commenter	Comment	Navy Response
		mammals from Navy activities.
Burns-01 (Written)	I have already commented on the Navy's proposed electronic warfare activities and the proposed increase in number of Growler jets and their flights. In this letter, I wish to comment on the December, 2014 Supplement to the Navy's Draft EIS/OEIS dated January, 2014, for its continued training and testing activities in the Pacific Northwest. Please include my comments in the administrative record. HOOD CANAL BRIDGE CLOSURES I believe Public Safety is at risk, and I want to give a couple examples from real-life experiences to show this. Please take a moment and imagine: 1--You are on the way home from a family reunion with your 80-year-old mother (or your 6-rnonth-old baby). It's a very hot summer afternoon. The traffic stops. There is no place for miles to use a bathroom. You use up your water supply. Your aged mother is visibly suffering, and you worry about heat-stroke (or your baby is crying miserably and needs another diaper change). You think traffic will surely move soon. But it becomes a 90 minute wait. No bathroom. No water. Hot. 2--You are on the way to the hospital for a critical heart procedure. You have waited 3 months to get this done, been on the required medications for several weeks prior. You are stopped for an hour or more, with no other route available. Because you cannot get to the hospital on time, the procedure is cancelled and the next time available is another 6-week wait. When the Navy has closed the bridge for its submarines and escort vessels to slowly parade through, we do not feel protected, we do not feel safe in circumstances like I have recounted. We feel traumatized, angry, treated badly. Situations like these have not been acceptable, and now the Navy proposes to make it worse. Real impacts to public health and safety and alternatives to these far-too-frequent long delays need to be studied arid included in your EIS. Hood Canal Bridge is a major PUBLIC highway and the ONLY way we have to cross the water, since your activities preclude adding a ferry option in that area. Yes, other boats cause closures, but none for the extended times that the Navy denies us access to the critical lifeline. Studies of impacts and alternatives have not been included in the EIS and this is unacceptable.	The Hood Canal Bridge closures related to the Navy's proposed activities are not expected to increase from those currently occurring. It is important to note that the MSO activities responsible for a number of those closures are an ongoing activity and are not increasing in frequency. Language has been added to the Final EIS/OEIS to point out that County and local emergency response services on either side of the bridge have built their response plans around bridge openings and the untimely nature of emergencies. Bridge openings associated with the Navy's proposed activities would not impact the effectiveness of these response plans.
Burns-02	POLLUTION The Supplement admits to an increase in criteria and hazardous air pollutants, but I see no attempts to mitigate the impacts of even the CURRENT levels. You have also not included a study of the cumulative effects of the increase in certain areas, such as here in Port Townsend where there are paper mill emissions, or impacts when combined with the Navy's hugely increased Growler flights in this area. The	As described above, the long-term, cumulative impacts of all the Navy's proposed activities were addressed in the Draft EIS/OEIS, and are re-evaluated in this Final EIS/OEIS. The Navy used the best available science and a comprehensive review of past, present, and reasonably foreseeable actions to develop a robust Cumulative Impacts analysis. The Navy has returned to the

Table I.5-4: Responses to Comments from Private Individuals (continued)

Commenter	Comment	Navy Response
	Navy's total pollution for all activities is listed at 405.7 TONS per year! With climate change now a very serious issue, this is unforgiveable. Include the full cumulative impact and plans for substantial mitigation or reduction in the EIS. MARINE LIFE AND BIRDS The Sierra Club has sent you comments on this very important issue, so I'll add that I support their views completely. NOISE The Navy plans an increase in the numbers of flights, vessel movements, explosives, and blanks being fired. Aircraft and weapons noise is obvious, but vessels also produce either outright motor noise or deeper hums and thrums that can be heard for MILES. An increase could make this near constant, which can have an adverse effect on mental health, etc. You have not addressed this at all. The Supplement has not addressed the Cumulative impact of the proposed noise increases added to the existing and future Growler jet noise over the same geographical area. The Supplement does not adequately address the economic impacts of the increased noise levels (including cumulative). Tourism in park and wilderness areas and in towns such as Port Townsend is affected and, like Coupeville, they may no longer be enjoyable destinations. The EIS needs to include a study of the REAL impacts of training and testing noise on humans, marine life, and economy. It must include impacts of CUMULATIVE Navy noise levels. It must study alternatives and ways to significantly mitigate impacts.	analysis in Chapter 4 (Cumulative Impacts) due to concerns raised in public comments, and the Chapter has been revised in response to those public comments. For example, the literature on ocean acidification has been reviewed, and is now discussed in Section 4.4.4 (Climate Change), of Chapter 4 (Cumulative Impacts) of the EIS/OEIS. Though there is a proposed increase in EW training events associated with the range enhancements and analyzed in this EIS/OEIS, the increase in events does not equate to a comparable increase in the number of aircraft flights or in the duration of flights. EW training flights are already occurring in the Olympic MOAs, and it is estimated that this proposal will only result in an approximately 10 percent annual increase in actual flights, which equates to approximately one additional flight per day. This is because each flight will be able to accommodate multiple EW training events. As provided in Section 2.5.2 (Alternatives Carried Forward), the No Action Alternative included training and testing activities as defined by existing Navy environmental planning documents. Under Alternatives 1 and 2, the analysis included current Navy training and testing requirements not yet analyzed under existing environmental planning documents as well as new future requirements. Therefore, most of the increase from the No Action Alternative in the number of activities involving vessel movement simply reflect an increase in the activities analyzed, not an increase in activities conducted. For example and as shown on Tables 2.8-1 and 2.8-2 for Alternative 1, Precision Anchoring (10 Events); Sonar Maintenance (35 events); and System, Subsystem and Component Testing (156 events) all involve vessel movement, all have historically occurred, but none were included in any previously existing Navy environmental planning documents and so were not part of the No Action Alternative analyzed in the NWTT Draft EIS/OEIS (0 events under the NAA vs. 201 under Alt 1). It is also important to note that an increase in events including vessel movement doesn't equate to an increase in actual vessel movement. The reality of Navy budgets would not allow for a significant increase in vessel movements. Instead, more events are being conducted during the same number or even decreasing number of vessel movements. Best management practices include measures that regulate operations to ensure compliance with pollution emission requirements and general resource conservation goals. Navy policies and procedures identified in Navy instructions such as the Environmental Readiness Program Manual, include directives regarding waste management,

Table I.5-4: Responses to Comments from Private Individuals (continued)

Commenter	Comment	Navy Response
		pollution prevention, and recycling, all of which benefit sediments and water quality in the ocean. Any procedures or practices that benefit ocean sediments and water quality in turn benefit all marine life in the ocean, from plants and invertebrates, to fish and marine mammals. As described in Section 3.10 (Cultural Resources), Section 3.12 (Socioeconomics), and Section 3.13 (Public Health and Safety) of the EIS/OEIS, the Navy's proposed activities are not expected to impact cultural resources, socioeconomic resources, or public health and safety.
Burns-03	ECONOMIC IMPACTS Of noise: I have addressed above. On Native American rights: I cannot see proof that it could be legal to deny them access to the fishing grounds that are theirs by Treaty with the U.S. Government, and I hope they take the Navy to court over this. With fuel use(which also adds to pollution): There would be an increase in what private vessels use when displaced by your "security" escorts and in fuel used by the Navy. We taxpayers have to pay for all the fuel the Navy uses. And we pay for all the aircraft, ships, buoys, ordnance, etc., at huge sacrifice to education, health, infrastructure, public safety. How does the Navy plan to mitigate the economic burdens it will put on the citizens?	As described in Section 3.10 (Cultural Resources), Section 3.12 (Socioeconomics), and Section 3.13 (Public Health and Safety) of the EIS/OEIS, the Navy's proposed activities are fully compatible with other uses of the ocean space around the Sound, such as tourism. The Navy used the best available science and a comprehensive review of past, present, and reasonably foreseeable actions to develop a robust Cumulative Impacts analysis. See Chapter 4 (Cumulative Impacts) of the EIS/OEIS, which has been updated for the Final EIS/OEIS. The Navy is consulting with all potentially affected American Indian tribes.
Burns-04	OTHER The Navy proposes in this Supplement to do "visit, board, and search" activities. The EIS should include proof of legality and protection of citizens' Fourth Amendment Rights. With all the proposed increases in numbers of flights, vessels, and various training and testing activities, the Navy needs to study and address the real and documented impacts on public safety, air and noise pollution, interference with human and marine life and citizen economies. It is not acceptable to claim impact is "negligible" or "insignificant." It is irresponsible and dismissive.	The Navy’s proposed training activities never include visit, board, or search of civilian vessels; but include training only with other Navy personnel and vessels. As described in Section 3.10 (Cultural Resources), Section 3.12 (Socioeconomics), and Section 3.13 (Public Health and Safety) of the EIS/OEIS, the Navy's proposed activities are not expected to impact cultural resources, socioeconomic resources, or public health and safety.
Burns-05	PUBLIC PROCESS There were no public meetings on this Supplement. A phone message left with you, Kim Kler, asking for clarification, was never returned. The Navy’s strategy for handling public comment is suspect and likely not in sync with NEPA requirements. I believe the Navy is trying to hide ALL this from the citizens. They have made it very difficult to get timely, accurate, complete and understandable information and to respond in a practical manner. I believe the Navy is being deceptive in its plan to	The Navy held four public meetings to allow opportunities for the public to engage with subject matter experts on the details of the Navy’s proposed activities and to receive comments from members of the public. The Navy executed a robust plan for informing the public of the availability of the NWTT Draft EIS/OEIS and the Supplement as well

Table I.5-4: Responses to Comments from Private Individuals (continued)

Commenter	Comment	Navy Response
	take over a very large region of the Northwest, including Puget Sound, that belongs to the citizens. I think this is utterly shameful. Please include my comments in the administrative record.	as the public meetings. The Navy has responded to every phone call where a return phone number was included.
bush (Electronic)	Stop it!	Thank you for participating in the NEPA process.
Busic (Electronic)	The Navy is dealing with a legacy of the Home-porting scheme in the 1950s and 1960s during a period of unrest and concern for military over-reach at home and abroad. Home-porting spread combat training/exercises beyond centralized activities (Annapolis, San Diego and outlying areas). Home-porting gained support from local boosters for what falls off the table in money for some housing and personnel recreation. This of course increased the negative results on islands and peninsulas used to peaceful co-existence with each other in their sometimes pristine environments. Before and during home-porting action Naval weapons activity created more than a few super-fund sites as would be expected on concentrated training and testing. We in the northwest still have a vibrant ecology and appreciation for natural beauty and all creatures easily disrupted and hassled however minimized by legalized propaganda as part of the National Defense Authorization Act. Reversing the negative home-port consequences by returning training and testing to areas previously compromised ecologically, may not be practical in the Navy's eyes, yet increases spelled out in the EIS and now this supplement to the EIS is fraught with compounding public outrage at the Navy's over-reach off the North Olympic Pacific Coast including the Olympic Coast National Marine Sanctuary, off Indian Island, and in the Strait of Juan de Fuca. We are opposed to the Navy's plans.	The issue of home porting locations is beyond the scope of the Supplement to the Draft EIS/OEIS.
Buslot (Electronic)	To whom it concerns, I urge the Navy to limit the amount of sonar activity used in training missions off the Pacific Coast because •The Navy's current environmental analysis fails to provide basic information necessary to adequately evaluate the impacts of the proposed activities. This analysis also fails to provide adequate measures to mitigate the harmful effects of the proposed activities on marine mammals and other wildlife. •Based on the information apparent in the environmental analysis, the Navy's "No Action Alternative" is the proposal with the most limited impact on wildlife. •A drastic increase in sonar activity will negatively impact wildlife. Marine mammals are extremely sensitive to noise, and sonar disrupts basic behaviors necessary for survival such as migration, surfacing, navigating, hearing, nursing, breeding and feeding. •Sonar can result in debilitating and even fatal injuries for marine mammals. Scientists believe sonar activity can change whale diving behavior, confusing them to swim to depths their bodies	As described in the Supplement in Section 3.5.2 (Sea Turtle Summary), the proposed increase in the use of SSQ-125 sonobuoys "are not expected to result in substantial changes to behavior, growth, survival, annual reproductive success, lifetime reproductive success (fitness), or species recruitment, and are not expected to result in population-level impacts." The Navy shares your concern for marine life, but this concern must be balanced with the purpose and need for Navy training and testing as detailed in Chapter 2 (Description of Proposed Action and Alternatives) of the EIS/OEIS. The Navy has conducted active sonar training and testing activities in the Study Area for decades, and there is no evidence that routine Navy training and testing has negatively impacted marine mammal populations in the Study Area or at any Navy Range Complex. Based on the best

Table I.5-4: Responses to Comments from Private Individuals (continued)

Commenter	Comment	Navy Response
	cannot handle. Whales suspected to have beached themselves because of sonar activity show signs of physical trauma like bleeding around the brain, ears and other tissues and large bubbles in their organs – symptoms analogous to "the bends" in humans. •To the extent that threatened or endangered species -- including humpback and sperm whales, and leatherback turtles -- are negatively impacted, the proposed activities may result in violations of the Endangered Species Act.	available science summarized in the EIS/OEIS Section 3.4.4.1 (Summary of Monitoring and Observations During Navy Activities), long-term consequences for marine mammal populations are unlikely to result from Navy training and testing activities in the Study Area. Please also refer to Chapter 5 (Standard Operating Procedures, Mitigation, and Monitoring) of the EIS/OEIS, detailing the procedures and mitigation measures during its training and testing activities designed to reduce impacts to marine mammals from Navy activities.
Butterfield (Oral)	I'm opposed to all the sonobuoys. I don't trust what the latest science tells us, because that doesn't -- that is limited to what has been studied. I'm concerned about all marine animals, not just mammals and the targeted species. We don't know what it's doing to the other species that live in the ocean. I support more simulated training, unless we are actively under attack. I guess that's it. In the last 50 years, the understanding of the current science on many things has changed drastically, and we should use the precautionary principle when we don't know what the effects will be. Okay.	The Navy shares your concern for marine life, but this concern must be balanced with the purpose and need for Navy training and testing as detailed in Chapter 2 (Description of Proposed Action and Alternatives) of the EIS/OEIS. The Navy has conducted active sonar training and testing activities in the Study Area for decades, and there is no evidence that routine Navy training and testing has negatively impacted marine mammal populations in the Study Area or at any Navy Range Complex. Based on the best available science summarized in the EIS/OEIS Section 3.4.4.1 (Summary of Monitoring and Observations During Navy Activities), long-term consequences for marine mammal populations are unlikely to result from Navy training and testing activities in the Study Area. Please also refer to Chapter 5 (Standard Operating Procedures, Mitigation, and Monitoring) of the EIS/OEIS, detailing the procedures and mitigation measures during its training and testing activities designed to reduce impacts to marine mammals from Navy activities. Regarding the use of simulation, Navy already uses simulation in training and testing whenever possible; please see the discussion presented in Section 5.3.4.1.2 (Replacing Training and Testing with Simulated Activities) of the EIS/OEIS.
C (Electronic)	I live near a marine sanctuary that is full of marine mammals. Whales pass through, also dolphins, sea otters and much more. Please please do not use your sonar equipment, especially in the Pacific Ocean. They are already endangered, and disturbing the balance, already very disturbed will eventually endanger the human species as well and the entire planet. Please respect our precious planet and do NOT do this. There is no point in destroying the entire planet to protect some people. If you really think about it, it makes no sense at all. Do the right thing.	The Navy shares your concern for marine life, but this concern must be balanced with the purpose and need for Navy training and testing as detailed in Chapter 2 (Description of Proposed Action and Alternatives) of the EIS/OEIS. The Navy has conducted active sonar training and testing activities in the Study Area for decades, and there is no evidence that routine Navy training and testing has negatively impacted marine mammal populations in the Study Area or at any Navy Range Complex. Based on the best available science summarized in the EIS/OEIS Section 3.4.4.1 (Summary of Monitoring and Observations During Navy Activities), long-term consequences for marine mammal populations are unlikely to result from Navy training

Table I.5-4: Responses to Comments from Private Individuals (continued)

Commenter	Comment	Navy Response
		and testing activities in the Study Area. Please also refer to Chapter 5 (Standard Operating Procedures, Mitigation, and Monitoring) of the EIS/OEIS, detailing the procedures and mitigation measures during its training and testing activities designed to reduce impacts to marine mammals from Navy activities.
Monty Caid (Oral)	Yeah, what I wanted to say is, what's the Navy doing to protect us from the current nuclear -- the nuclear disaster that's going on in the middle of the Pacific Ocean from the Fukushima nuclear power plant? And it seems like they should be protecting or focusing on that threat right now, instead of adding any other potential harm to the Pacific Ocean from testing and stuff. Then there's also, like, the giant plastic island floating of trash in the Pacific, that seems to be being ignored also, and I think that the Navy could take it upon themselves to clean up the Pacific Ocean and maybe restore it to a more healthy environment before they even consider any other damaging activities that could possibly happen with their trainings. So that's probably about it.	Thank you for participating in the NEPA process. However this comment is outside the scope of the Supplement to the Draft EIS/OEIS. Please see Chapters 1 and 2 of the EIS/OEIS for a clear definition of the scope of this project. The Navy used the best available science and a comprehensive review of past, present, and reasonably foreseeable actions to develop a robust Cumulative Impacts analysis. See Chapter 4 (Cumulative Impacts) of the EIS/OEIS, which has been updated for the Final EIS/OEIS.
Monterrey Caid (Written)	I would like to inform the Navy of new Scientific evidence that confirms that Sea Turtles hear sound. The threatened leatherback sea turtle will be affected by Sonar or other noise. The Navy informed me that sea turtles do not hear and will not be affected by any operations. The truth is, they do hear and being able to hear low sounds is very important to their survival. See attached article, "News of the Wild: SENDING SIGNALS: TIME TO HATCH! Turtles are neither deaf nor silent, as scientists long believed. In recent years, studies have confirmed that at least 47 species of turtle communicate via sounds. Now biologists have collected the first evidence that baby sea turtles rely on such sounds to initiate synchronized hatching even before they emerge from their eggs. In a study of leatherbacks in Oaxaca, Mexico, an international team of biologists monitored activity in several nests, beginning after 51 days of incubation- a time that coincides with development of ears in emerging hatchlings. In all, the researchers recorded more than 300 different sounds. "Our results reinforce the idea that sounds are important to coordinate group behavior in turtles," the team reported last summer in the journal Chelonian Conservation and Biology. "One of the reasons the sounds were not detected in the past was lack of proper recording equipment." says herpetologist and study coauthor Richard Vogt. The sounds, he notes, are at the lower end of the human audible range. "If hatchlings all leave the nest at once, there is safety in numbers, thus a few turtles will make it to the sea. Vogt adds. "Once there, they keep communicating to migrate off in groups, which is safer than	Please see Section 3.5.2.2 (Hearing and Vocalization), which discusses the auditory system of sea turtles and includes information on their auditory sensitivity, as well as an analysis in Section 3.5.3 (Environmental Consequences) of the impact of the Proposed Action to sea turtles. As described in the Supplement in Section 3.5.2 (Sea Turtle Summary), the proposed increase in the use of SSQ-125 sonobuoys "are not expected to result in substantial changes to behavior, growth, survival, annual reproductive success, lifetime reproductive success (fitness), or species recruitment, and are not expected to result in population-level impacts." The Navy has conducted active sonar training and testing activities in the Study Area for decades, and there is no evidence that routine Navy training and testing has negatively impacted individual sea turtles or sea turtle populations in the Study Area or at any Navy Range Complex. Based on the best available science summarized in the EIS/OEIS Section 3.5.3.7.1 (Combined Impacts of All Stressors), “impacts are not expected to decrease the overall fitness or result in long-term population level impacts on any given population. In cases where potential impacts rise to a level that warrants mitigation, mitigation measures designed to reduce the potential impacts are discussed in Chapter 5 (Standard Operating Procedures, Mitigation,

Table I.5-4: Responses to Comments from Private Individuals (continued)

Commenter	Comment	Navy Response
	trying it alone."	and Monitoring)."
Callaway (Electronic)	The Navy's current environmental analysis fails to provide basic information necessary to adequately evaluate the impacts of the proposed activities. This analysis also fails to provide adequate measures to mitigate the harmful effects of the proposed activities on marine mammals and other wildlife. Based on the information apparent in the environmental analysis, the Navy's "No Action Alternative" is the proposal with the most limited impact on wildlife. A drastic increase in sonar activity will negatively impact wildlife. Marine mammals are extremely sensitive to noise, and sonar disrupts basic behaviors necessary for survival such as migration, surfacing, navigating, hearing, nursing, breeding and feeding. Sonar can result in debilitating and even fatal injuries for marine mammals. Scientists believe sonar activity can change whale diving behavior, confusing them to swim to depths their bodies cannot handle. Whales suspected to have beached themselves because of sonar activity show signs of physical trauma like bleeding around the brain, ears and other tissues and large bubbles in their organs – symptoms analogous to "the bends" in humans. To the extent that threatened or endangered species -- including humpback and sperm whales, and leatherback turtles -- are negatively impacted, the proposed activities may result in violations of the Endangered Species Act.	The Navy shares your concern for marine life, but this concern must be balanced with the purpose and need for Navy training and testing as detailed in Chapter 2 (Description of Proposed Action and Alternatives) of the EIS/OEIS. The Navy has conducted active sonar training and testing activities in the Study Area for decades, and there is no evidence that routine Navy training and testing has negatively impacted marine mammal populations in the Study Area or at any Navy Range Complex. Based on the best available science summarized in the EIS/OEIS Section 3.4.4.1 (Summary of Monitoring and Observations During Navy Activities), long-term consequences for marine mammal populations are unlikely to result from Navy training and testing activities in the Study Area. Please also refer to Chapter 5 (Standard Operating Procedures, Mitigation, and Monitoring) of the EIS/OEIS, detailing the procedures and mitigation measures during its training and testing activities designed to reduce impacts to marine mammals from Navy activities.
Campbell (Electronic)	I am very much against the proposed increase in sonar use off the Pacific Coast. It is extremely damaging to marine mammals, disorienting and confusing them, as well as interfering with their communication.	The Navy shares your concern for marine life, but this concern must be balanced with the purpose and need for Navy training and testing as detailed in Chapter 2 (Description of Proposed Action and Alternatives) of the EIS/OEIS. The Navy has conducted active sonar training and testing activities in the Study Area for decades, and there is no evidence that routine Navy training and testing has negatively impacted marine mammal populations in the Study Area or at any Navy Range Complex. Based on the best available science summarized in the EIS/OEIS Section 3.4.4.1 (Summary of Monitoring and Observations During Navy Activities), long-term consequences for marine mammal populations are unlikely to result from Navy training and testing activities in the Study Area. Please also refer to Chapter 5 (Standard Operating Procedures, Mitigation, and Monitoring) of the EIS/OEIS, detailing the procedures and mitigation measures during its training and testing activities designed to reduce impacts to marine mammals from Navy activities.
Cappa (Electronic)	I am a very concerned citizen who wants to make clear my feelings about sonar testing and the horrible effects this has on marine life. We know for a fact that sonar testing causes whales and dolphins to have extreme pain and also causes them to go off course when they are migrating. To lose more mammals in the ocean	The Navy shares your concern for marine life, but this concern must be balanced with the purpose and need for Navy training and testing as detailed in Chapter 2 (Description of Proposed Action and Alternatives) of the EIS/OEIS. The Navy has conducted active sonar training and

Table I.5-4: Responses to Comments from Private Individuals (continued)

Commenter	Comment	Navy Response
	because of man made sonar testing is wrong in all ways. These mammals are under already severe stress with the oceans warming and the pollution that is killing them in all parts of the world. Over fishing and nets are also causes that kill these mammals that live in our oceans. The Navy has already done years of testing and knows what is out there in the ocean. To continue to kill these mammals when there are alternatives like computer models available is inhumane and wrong. Please do not use sonar and blasts with explosives to test the levels of land under the ocean. When you kill even one whale or dolphin or sea turtle or seal you are killing too many. The people of the world do not want this to continue and we ask for you to cease this practice now. Thank you	testing activities in the Study Area for decades, and there is no evidence that routine Navy training and testing has negatively impacted marine mammal populations in the Study Area or at any Navy Range Complex. Based on the best available science summarized in the EIS/OEIS Section 3.4.4.1 (Summary of Monitoring and Observations During Navy Activities), long-term consequences for marine mammal populations are unlikely to result from Navy training and testing activities in the Study Area. Please also refer to Chapter 5 (Standard Operating Procedures, Mitigation, and Monitoring) of the EIS/OEIS, detailing the procedures and mitigation measures during its training and testing activities designed to reduce impacts to marine mammals from Navy activities.
Carlone (Electronic)	PLEASE DO NOT PROCEED WITH CURRENT ATTEMPTS TO INCREASE USE OF SONAR IN OUR OCEANS The Navy's current environmental analysis fails to provide basic information necessary to adequately evaluate the impacts of the proposed activities. This analysis also fails to provide adequate measures to mitigate the harmful effects of the proposed activities on marine mammals and other wildlife. Based on the information apparent in the environmental analysis, the Navy's "No Action Alternative" is the proposal with the most limited impact on wildlife. A drastic increase in sonar activity will negatively impact wildlife. Marine mammals are extremely sensitive to noise, and sonar disrupts basic behaviors necessary for survival such as migration, surfacing, navigating, hearing, nursing, breeding and feeding. Sonar can result in debilitating and even fatal injuries for marine mammals. Scientists believe sonar activity can change whale diving behavior, confusing them to swim to depths their bodies cannot handle. Whales suspected to have beached themselves because of sonar activity show signs of physical trauma like bleeding around the brain, ears and other tissues and large bubbles in their organs – symptoms analogous to "the bends" in humans. To the extent that threatened or endangered species -- including humpback and sperm whales, and leatherback turtles -- are negatively impacted, the proposed activities may result in violations of the Endangered Species Act. THANK YOU	As described in the Supplement in Section 3.5.2 (Sea Turtle Summary), the proposed increase in the use of SSQ-125 sonobuoys "are not expected to result in substantial changes to behavior, growth, survival, annual reproductive success, lifetime reproductive success (fitness), or species recruitment, and are not expected to result in population-level impacts." The Navy shares your concern for marine life, but this concern must be balanced with the purpose and need for Navy training and testing as detailed in Chapter 2 (Description of Proposed Action and Alternatives) of the EIS/OEIS. The Navy has conducted active sonar training and testing activities in the Study Area for decades, and there is no evidence that routine Navy training and testing has negatively impacted marine mammal populations in the Study Area or at any Navy Range Complex. Based on the best available science summarized in the EIS/OEIS Section 3.4.4.1 (Summary of Monitoring and Observations During Navy Activities), long-term consequences for marine mammal populations are unlikely to result from Navy training and testing activities in the Study Area. Please also refer to Chapter 5 (Standard Operating Procedures, Mitigation, and Monitoring) of the EIS/OEIS, detailing the procedures and mitigation measures during its training and testing activities designed to reduce impacts to marine mammals from Navy activities.
Carlson-01 (Written)	It is my understanding that the Navy is accepting public comment on specific proposed alternatives to its marine weapons' testing and training program. However, I am taking this opportunity to voice my objection to the program altogether. The potential harm to the ocean and marine life outweighs any benefits of the testing.	The Navy shares your concern for marine life, but this concern must be balanced with the purpose and need for Navy training and testing as detailed in Chapter 2 (Description of Proposed Action and Alternatives) of the EIS/OEIS. The Navy has conducted training and testing activities in the Study Area for decades, and there is no evidence that routine Navy training and testing has negatively impacted marine resources in the Study Area or at any Navy Range Complex. Based on

Table I.5-4: Responses to Comments from Private Individuals (continued)

Commenter	Comment	Navy Response
		the best available science summarized in the EIS/OEIS Section 3.4.4.1 (Summary of Monitoring and Observations During Navy Activities), long-term consequences for marine mammal populations are unlikely to result from Navy training and testing activities in the Study Area. Please also refer to Chapter 5 (Standard Operating Procedures, Mitigation, and Monitoring) of the EIS/OEIS, detailing the procedures and mitigation measures during its training and testing activities designed to reduce impacts from Navy activities.
Carlson-02	Recent studies conclude that the oceans and marine life are precipitously vulnerable because of human activity: "[P]ublished Thursday in the journal Science, [the report] finds that habitat loss, mismanagement of oceanic resources, climate change, and the overall 'footprint of human ocean use' have resulted in a phenomenon known as 'defaunation'-a decline in animal species diversity and abundance." (Humans Have Brought World's Oceans to Brink of 'Major Extinction Event' But 'proactive intervention' could still avert marine disaster, researchers find, By Deirdre Fulton, January 16, 2015, published on Common Dreams); "[H]umans are on the verge of causing unprecedented damage to the oceans and the animals living in them." (Ocean Life Faces Mass Extinction, Broad Study Says, By Carl Zimmer, January 16, 2015 "ICH" - "NY Times"). Although the type of human activity conducted by the Navy was not identified as a factor in the articles mentioned above, piling such activity onto an already fragile system seems unwise. Additionally, a study published in the journal Nature Communications found that when dolphins and seals hunt at deep depths, arrhythmias occur in 70 percent of the animals studied raising questions about "[h]uman intrusions, such as sonars and noise from ships" triggering flight response setting them up for these arrhythmias. (The heart of exercise for marine mammals, by Samantha Clark, January 20, Times-Standard).	The referenced article published in the journal Nature Communications simply speculates on the consequences of disturbing a deep diving marine mammal (specifically bottlenose dolphins and Weddell seals), which is not the same as research demonstrating that sonar or another stressor associated with Navy activities that disturbs a marine mammal pursuing prey in at depth would result in harm to the marine mammal beyond the harm that may be caused by the natural occurrence of the arrhythmias. Comments citing newspapers, website blogs, conference abstracts, or reports from workshops have generally not been included in the EIS/OEIS since those references did not go through the peer-review process, which is the standard for validating research and results in the scientific community. In general, the Navy did not include references that lack the indicia of scientific reliability or finality (beyond speculation or unsupported hypothesis) and therefore do not warrant consideration at this time. References found to enhance the analysis or that update the information previously presented have been included in this EIS/OEIS.
Carlson-03	The importance of national security was emphasized not only by the Navy personnel at the public hearing in Eureka but also in an editorial in the local paper. However, it is more likely that the activities of the United States military, in general, have created a great deal of ill will in a number of places in the world resulting in heightened state of national security for Americans at home and abroad. For example, just the day before the hearing, it was reported that Navy Admiral Harry Harris apparently lied about the brutal deaths of detainees under his "care" at Guantanamo. (Did Gitmo "Suicides" Cover Up murder? U.S. Sgt. Speaks Out on Deaths & Prison's Secret CIA Site: A Guantanamo staff sergeant has written a new book about three prisoner deaths that happened in 2006. By Amy Goodman,	Thank you for participating in the NEPA process. However this comment is outside the scope of the Supplement to the Draft EIS/OEIS. Please see Chapters 1 and 2 of the EIS/OEIS for a clear definition of the scope of this project. The Navy used the best available science and a comprehensive review of past, present, and reasonably foreseeable actions to develop a robust Cumulative Impacts analysis. See Chapter 4 (Cumulative Impacts) of the EIS/OEIS, which has been updated for the Final EIS/OEIS.

Table I.5-4: Responses to Comments from Private Individuals (continued)

Commenter	Comment	Navy Response
	Nermeen Shaikh/ Democracy Now!, Jan. 15, 2015). Also, there is concern about defense contractor or other similar influence in establishing federal policy: "A second Navy captain pleaded guilty to conspiracy to commit bribery Thursday in a massive scheme involving a Malaysian defense contractor accused of bilking the U.S. military out of at least $20 million." (2nd Navy captain pleads guilty in $10 million bribery scheme, by Julie Watson, The Associated Press, January 16, 2015, Times-Standard). "[T]orture was used to produce false evidence to justify the invasion of Iraq." (From Drone Strikes to Black Sites, How U.S. Foreign Policy Runs Under a Cloak of Secrecy, January 5, 2015, Democracy Now!). In closing, the oceans, marine life, the environment, in general, have been imperiled because of human activity. The federal government, generally speaking, lacks credibility when making claims about the need for U.S. military action of any kind and, furthermore, because of U.S. military actions, Americans at home and abroad are substantially less safe than ever. In short the Navy testing program is not justified.	
Cassianna (Electronic)	Whales rely on hearing for many of their basic functions, from navigating to communication. Much in the same way shining a bright light in our eyes can leave us disoriented, human-caused sonar activity can drastically affect whale behavior, leading them to beach themselves or dive to depths their bodies cannot handle, causing debilitating and even fatal injuries. This is why it is disconcerting that, at the last minute, the Navy has expanded its proposal for training off of the Pacific Coast, suggesting 36 TIMES1 more sonar-emitting bouys as had been previously planned. This unexpected revision will drastically increase the impact on whales and other ocean wildlife.	The Navy is not proposing to increase the annual number of sonobuoys by a factor of 36. The Navy's original proposal in the Draft EIS/OEIS includes the annual deployment of approximately 9,200 sonobuoys of various types. The increase of 700 sonobuoys described in the Supplement is an increase of less than 8 percent. The Navy shares your concern for marine life, but this concern must be balanced with the purpose and need for Navy training and testing as detailed in Chapter 2 (Description of Proposed Action and Alternatives) of the EIS/OEIS. The Navy has conducted active sonar training and testing activities in the Study Area for decades, and there is no evidence that routine Navy training and testing has negatively impacted marine mammal populations in the Study Area or at any Navy Range Complex. Based on the best available science summarized in the EIS/OEIS Section 3.4.4.1 (Summary of Monitoring and Observations During Navy Activities), long-term consequences for marine mammal populations are unlikely to result from Navy training and testing activities in the Study Area. Please also refer to Chapter 5 (Standard Operating Procedures, Mitigation, and Monitoring) of the EIS/OEIS, detailing the procedures and mitigation measures during its training and testing activities designed to reduce impacts to marine mammals from Navy activities.
CERNY	Sonar testing has proven to be lethal to marine life and needs to be stopped. It is one thing to provide security, however the death of marine mammals in the process	The Navy shares your concern for marine life, but this concern must be balanced with the purpose and need for Navy training and testing as

Table I.5-4: Responses to Comments from Private Individuals (continued)

Commenter	Comment	Navy Response
(Electronic)	is unethical. This is outdated strategy and has been going on for too long. Please stop NOW!	detailed in Chapter 2 (Description of Proposed Action and Alternatives) of the EIS/OEIS. The Navy has conducted active sonar training and testing activities in the Study Area for decades, and there is no evidence that routine Navy training and testing has negatively impacted marine mammal populations in the Study Area or at any Navy Range Complex. Based on the best available science summarized in the EIS/OEIS Section 3.4.4.1 (Summary of Monitoring and Observations During Navy Activities), long-term consequences for marine mammal populations are unlikely to result from Navy training and testing activities in the Study Area. Please also refer to Chapter 5 (Standard Operating Procedures, Mitigation, and Monitoring) of the EIS/OEIS, detailing the procedures and mitigation measures during its training and testing activities designed to reduce impacts to marine mammals from Navy activities.
Cervera (Electronic)	Please, limit the amount of sonar activity used in training missions off the Pacific Coast. The Navy's current environmental analysis fails to provide basic information necessary to adequately evaluate the impacts of the proposed activities. This analysis also fails to provide adequate measures to mitigate the harmful effects of the proposed activities on marine mammals and other wildlife. Based on the information apparent in the environmental analysis, the Navy's "No Action Alternative" is the proposal with the most limited impact on wildlife. A drastic increase in sonar activity will negatively impact wildlife. Marine mammals are extremely sensitive to noise, and sonar disrupts basic behaviors necessary for survival such as migration, surfacing, navigating, hearing, nursing, breeding and feeding. Sonar can result in debilitating and even fatal injuries for marine mammals. Scientists believe sonar activity can change whale diving behavior, confusing them to swim to depths their bodies cannot handle. Whales suspected to have beached themselves because of sonar activity show signs of physical trauma like bleeding around the brain, ears and other tissues and large bubbles in their organs – symptoms analogous to "the bends" in humans. To the extent that threatened or endangered species -- including humpback and sperm whales, and leatherback turtles -- are negatively impacted, the proposed activities may result in violations of the Endangered Species Act.	As described in the Supplement in Section 3.5.2 (Sea Turtle Summary), the proposed increase in the use of SSQ-125 sonobuoys "are not expected to result in substantial changes to behavior, growth, survival, annual reproductive success, lifetime reproductive success (fitness), or species recruitment, and are not expected to result in population-level impacts." The Navy shares your concern for marine life, but this concern must be balanced with the purpose and need for Navy training and testing as detailed in Chapter 2 (Description of Proposed Action and Alternatives) of the EIS/OEIS. The Navy has conducted active sonar training and testing activities in the Study Area for decades, and there is no evidence that routine Navy training and testing has negatively impacted marine mammal populations in the Study Area or at any Navy Range Complex. Based on the best available science summarized in the EIS/OEIS Section 3.4.4.1 (Summary of Monitoring and Observations During Navy Activities), long-term consequences for marine mammal populations are unlikely to result from Navy training and testing activities in the Study Area. Please also refer to Chapter 5 (Standard Operating Procedures, Mitigation, and Monitoring) of the EIS/OEIS, detailing the procedures and mitigation measures during its training and testing activities designed to reduce impacts to marine mammals from Navy activities.
Chacon (Electronic)	Please stop seismic testing as it is hurtful to marine life.	Thank you for participating in the NEPA process. However this comment is outside the scope of the Supplement to the Draft EIS/OEIS. Please see Chapters 1 and 2 of the EIS/OEIS for a clear definition of the scope of this project.

Table I.5-4: Responses to Comments from Private Individuals (continued)

Commenter	Comment	Navy Response
		There are no seismic testing activities proposed in the Supplement to the Draft EIS/OEIS.
Chapman (Electronic)	Sonar is harmful to marine life and should be limited off the Pacific coast.	The Navy shares your concern for marine life, but this concern must be balanced with the purpose and need for Navy training and testing as detailed in Chapter 2 (Description of Proposed Action and Alternatives) of the EIS/OEIS. The Navy has conducted active sonar training and testing activities in the Study Area for decades, and there is no evidence that routine Navy training and testing has negatively impacted marine mammal populations in the Study Area or at any Navy Range Complex. Based on the best available science summarized in the EIS/OEIS Section 3.4.4.1 (Summary of Monitoring and Observations During Navy Activities), long-term consequences for marine mammal populations are unlikely to result from Navy training and testing activities in the Study Area. Please also refer to Chapter 5 (Standard Operating Procedures, Mitigation, and Monitoring) of the EIS/OEIS, detailing the procedures and mitigation measures during its training and testing activities designed to reduce impacts to marine mammals from Navy activities.
Chinburg (Electronic)	Whales rely on sonar to survive. Please do not add more sonar activity to their habitat in the Pacific Ocean. Your activity can disorient them leading to their death.	The Navy shares your concern for marine life, but this concern must be balanced with the purpose and need for Navy training and testing as detailed in Chapter 2 (Description of Proposed Action and Alternatives) of the EIS/OEIS. The Navy has conducted active sonar training and testing activities in the Study Area for decades, and there is no evidence that routine Navy training and testing has negatively impacted marine mammal populations in the Study Area or at any Navy Range Complex. Based on the best available science summarized in the EIS/OEIS Section 3.4.4.1 (Summary of Monitoring and Observations During Navy Activities), long-term consequences for marine mammal populations are unlikely to result from Navy training and testing activities in the Study Area. Please also refer to Chapter 5 (Standard Operating Procedures, Mitigation, and Monitoring) of the EIS/OEIS, detailing the procedures and mitigation measures during its training and testing activities designed to reduce impacts to marine mammals from Navy activities.
Christian (Electronic)	Please limit the damage to marine life as much as you possibly can.	Thank you for participating in the NEPA process.

Table I.5-4: Responses to Comments from Private Individuals (continued)

Commenter	Comment	Navy Response
Clarridge (Electronic)	I am writing to state that I am against the Navy draft EIS/OEIS. The damage that has been caused to Ocean life and habitat will only be increased by these new Navy weapons testing plans.	Thank you for participating in the NEPA process.
Clemmons (Electronic)	The Navy's current environmental analysis fails to provide basic information necessary to adequately evaluate the impacts of the proposed activities. This analysis also fails to provide adequate measures to mitigate the harmful effects of the proposed activities on marine mammals and other wildlife. Based on the information apparent in the environmental analysis, the Navy's "No Action Alternative" is the proposal with the most limited impact on wildlife. A drastic increase in sonar activity will negatively impact wildlife. Marine mammals are extremely sensitive to noise, and sonar disrupts basic behaviors necessary for survival such as migration, surfacing, navigating, hearing, nursing, breeding and feeding. Sonar can result in debilitating and even fatal injuries for marine mammals. Scientists believe sonar activity can change whale diving behavior, confusing them to swim to depths their bodies cannot handle. Whales suspected to have beached themselves because of sonar activity show signs of physical trauma like bleeding around the brain, ears and other tissues and large bubbles in their organs – symptoms analogous to "the bends" in humans. To the extent that threatened or endangered species -- including humpback and sperm whales, and leatherback turtles -- are negatively impacted, the proposed activities may result in violations of the Endangered Species Act.	The Navy shares your concern for marine life, but this concern must be balanced with the purpose and need for Navy training and testing as detailed in Chapter 2 (Description of Proposed Action and Alternatives) of the EIS/OEIS. The Navy has conducted active sonar training and testing activities in the Study Area for decades, and there is no evidence that routine Navy training and testing has negatively impacted marine mammal populations in the Study Area or at any Navy Range Complex. Based on the best available science summarized in the EIS/OEIS Section 3.4.4.1 (Summary of Monitoring and Observations During Navy Activities), long-term consequences for marine mammal populations are unlikely to result from Navy training and testing activities in the Study Area. Please also refer to Chapter 5 (Standard Operating Procedures, Mitigation, and Monitoring) of the EIS/OEIS, detailing the procedures and mitigation measures during its training and testing activities designed to reduce impacts to marine mammals from Navy activities.
Cochran (Electronic)	Putting that many of ANYTHING in the water has got to endanger everything for miles around! This action sounds rash, foolhardy and totally over the top! Please stop it now, for the good of every living creature in that ocean! What is the Navy thinking? Greed and megalomania with no regard for the balance and safety of our oceans! Do not proceed with this ridiculous action! Joyce Cochran A resident of the Oregon Coast	Thank you for participating in the NEPA process.
Cochrane-01 (Oral)	I'm concerned about all those buoys with saltwater-activated batteries that you're leaving on the bottom of the ocean. Are these biodegradable and harmless?	Regarding impacts to the ocean bottom from sonobuoys, please see Section 3.1 (Sediments and Water Quality), where there is a discussion of the potential impacts of all military expended materials. Best management practices include measures that regulate operations to ensure compliance with pollution emission requirements and general resource conservation goals. Navy policies and procedures identified in Navy instructions such as the Environmental Readiness Program Manual, include directives regarding waste management, pollution prevention, and recycling, all of which benefit sediments and water quality in the ocean. Any procedures or practices that benefit ocean sediments and water quality in turn benefit all marine life in the

Table I.5-4: Responses to Comments from Private Individuals (continued)

Commenter	Comment	Navy Response
		ocean, from plants and invertebrates, to fish and marine mammals.
Cochrane-02	I'm concerned about the increase in human-generated noise that will affect the exceptional environment on the west coast of the Olympic Peninsula and in particular will affect the, quote, one square inch of silence, end quote, near the Hoh. How are you protecting the silence of the Olympic Peninsula, and how are you measuring your impact on the Hoh?	Though there is a proposed increase in EW training events associated with the range enhancements and analyzed in this EIS/OEIS, the increase in events does not equate to a comparable increase in the number of aircraft flights or in the duration of flights. EW training flights are already occurring in the Olympic MOAs, and it is estimated that this proposal will only result in an approximately 10 percent annual increase in actual flights, which equates to approximately one additional flight per day. This is because each flight will be able to accommodate multiple EW training events. The minimum separation between an aircraft and the ground depends on the underlying topography. A review of the topography of the Olympic MOAs indicates that 80 percent of the topography under the MOAs is 2,000 ft. above mean sea level or lower, meaning that the minimum flight altitude is 4,000 ft. above ground level or greater. Only small portions of the topography underlying the extreme eastern edge of the MOA is greater than 3,000 ft. MSL. The highest elevation under the MOAs is a single peak at about 5,300 ft. mean sea level. Pilots generally avoid flying in these areas near MOA boundaries to prevent flying outside of the assigned airspace. Therefore, any overflight as low as 1,200 ft. AGL would be rare in the Olympic MOAs. Moreover, while actual flight altitudes depend on training requirements, many of the training activities conducted in the Olympic MOAs, such as Electronic Warfare training, are conducted more than 10,000 ft. above mean sea level. The Navy completed an airspace noise analysis for current and proposed activities in the Olympic MOAs (Appendix J – Airspace Noise Analysis for the Olympic Military Operations Areas). The analysis concluded there is virtually no change in the cumulative noise levels from the current level of activity to that proposed by the Navy.
Cochrane-03	So I guess my third concern is the increase in fossil fuels that will be used, that will be put in the air, et cetera, around the Olympic Peninsula that would increase our carbon footprint and increase climate change. How are you mitigating that increase in the carbon footprint? What is the Navy doing in other ways to lessen its carbon footprint so it's not just a huge increase? That's it.	The potential impacts from the proposed activities are discussed in Section 3.2 (Air Quality). Based on the analysis presented in Section 3.2 (Air Quality) and the analysis presented in Section 4.4.4.1 (Greenhouse Gases), the changes in air quality would be measurable, but would still be below applicable standards and guidelines; therefore, the incremental contribution of the proposed activities to cumulative greenhouse gas impacts would be low.

Table I.5-4: Responses to Comments from Private Individuals (continued)

Commenter	Comment	Navy Response
Colasurdo (Electronic)	I am writing regarding the proposed deployment of sonobuoys off the West Coast of North America. As an Oregonian concerned about the ongoing global loss of species (such as the endangered leatherback turtle) as well as the ever-increasing amount of pollution in our oceans I strongly urge the Navy to reconsider its "need" to deploy sonobuoys off the Oregon, California, Washington, and Alaska coastlines. Sonobuoys pollute the ocean, harm marine life, and are of arguable military importance. My tax dollars would be better spent in other ways than deploying sonobuoys. Thank you for your consideration.	The Navy shares your concern for marine life, but this concern must be balanced with the purpose and need for Navy training and testing as detailed in Chapter 2 (Description of Proposed Action and Alternatives) of the EIS/OEIS. The Navy has conducted active sonar training and testing activities in the Study Area for decades, and there is no evidence that routine Navy training and testing has negatively impacted marine mammal populations in the Study Area or at any Navy Range Complex. Based on the best available science summarized in the EIS/OEIS Section 3.4.4.1 (Summary of Monitoring and Observations During Navy Activities), long-term consequences for marine mammal populations are unlikely to result from Navy training and testing activities in the Study Area. Please also refer to Chapter 5 (Standard Operating Procedures, Mitigation, and Monitoring) of the EIS/OEIS, detailing the procedures and mitigation measures during its training and testing activities designed to reduce impacts to marine mammals from Navy activities.
Colburn (Electronic)	The Navy's current environmental analysis fails to provide basic information necessary to adequately evaluate the impacts of the proposed activities. This analysis also fails to provide adequate measures to mitigate the harmful effects of the proposed activities on marine mammals and other wildlife. Based on the information apparent in the environmental analysis, the Navy's "No Action Alternative" is the proposal with the most limited impact on wildlife. A drastic increase in sonar activity will negatively impact wildlife. Marine mammals are extremely sensitive to noise, and sonar disrupts basic behaviors necessary for survival such as migration, surfacing, navigating, hearing, nursing, breeding and feeding. Sonar can result in debilitating and even fatal injuries for marine mammals. Scientists believe sonar activity can change whale diving behavior, confusing them to swim to depths their bodies cannot handle. Whales suspected to have beached themselves because of sonar activity show signs of physical trauma like bleeding around the brain, ears and other tissues and large bubbles in their organs – symptoms analogous to "the bends" in humans. To the extent that threatened or endangered species -- including humpback and sperm whales, and leatherback turtles -- are negatively impacted, the proposed activities may result in violations of the Endangered Species Act. Than you for your attention to this matter, and for protecting those Fish and Water mammals that cannot protect themselves from your tests.	The Navy shares your concern for marine life, but this concern must be balanced with the purpose and need for Navy training and testing as detailed in Chapter 2 (Description of Proposed Action and Alternatives) of the EIS/OEIS. The Navy has conducted active sonar training and testing activities in the Study Area for decades, and there is no evidence that routine Navy training and testing has negatively impacted marine mammal populations in the Study Area or at any Navy Range Complex. Based on the best available science summarized in the EIS/OEIS Section 3.4.4.1 (Summary of Monitoring and Observations During Navy Activities), long-term consequences for marine mammal populations are unlikely to result from Navy training and testing activities in the Study Area. Please also refer to Chapter 5 (Standard Operating Procedures, Mitigation, and Monitoring) of the EIS/OEIS, detailing the procedures and mitigation measures during its training and testing activities designed to reduce impacts to marine mammals from Navy activities. Regarding previous strandings, see Section 3.4.3.1.8 (Stranding) and the referenced technical report "Marine Mammal Strandings Associated with U.S. Navy Sonar Activities" (U.S. Department of the Navy 2013c).
Cole (Electronic)	I have commented on other projects proposed by the Navy in recent months, including but not limited to, the increase in Growler activity on Whidbey Island and the Electromagnetic Warfare exercises on the Olympic Peninsula. Now here is	The Navy shares your concern for marine life, but this concern must be balanced with the purpose and need for Navy training and testing as detailed in Chapter 2 (Description of Proposed Action and Alternatives)

Table I.5-4: Responses to Comments from Private Individuals (continued)

Commenter	Comment	Navy Response
	another opportunity for me and the others of this area to 'comment' on yet another action. There are a whole suite of Navy impacts and it feels like they are divided and treated piecemeal by the Navy in order to diminish their impact and wear civilians down around all that is going on around our homes. I am appalled with the Navy's general disregard of LIFE of every kind and at every turn. Maybe it applies to all branches, but it is obvious to me that this branch of the military is out of control. I wish to take this opportunity to comment on the Supplement (December 2014) to the Navy's Draft Environmental Impact Statement/ Overseas Environmental Impact Statement (DEIS), dated January 2014, for its continued training and testing activities in the Pacific Northwest (NWTT). Please include these comments in the administrative record. Effect on wildlife The proposed increases in this Supplement of marine exercises and additional use of sonar and explosives will only increase the damage done to marine mammals, sea turtles, fish and birds. Of particular concern to me is the Supplement and the EIS's lack of protections for the Southern Resident Killer Whale's dwindling population. These animals need a protected home in accord with their endangered status. In public sessions and in a radio interview the Navy's public relations personnel have been heard to say that the (MSO) and TRACKEX marine exercises save gas and allow personnel to be closer to their homes for these maneuvers. These considerations should not allow one single injury to this endangered Killer Whale population. Though this supplement admits increased sonar and explosive testing (TRACKEX) and finally addresses the MSO maneuvers there is no additional mitigation mentioned. Nowhere is it outlined whether visual patrols will increase as a result of this new activity, nor does the Supplement address real concerns over whether or not visual patrol is adequate at times of night or rough seas. No acoustic monitoring or avoidance strategies are included. This is a serious omission to a document that intended to address the inadequate science and mitigation plans of the original draft and is unacceptable. Lack of Science There is little consideration of exclusion zones, geographic alternatives to the southern Puget Sound and seasonal restrictions of exercises. All of the Alternatives propose year-round, unrestricted use without regard to seasonal variations in marine mammal and fish abundance. This is true despite the well-documented seasonal migrations of numerous endangered species and the identification of biologically important areas. The Navy should put critical marine habitats off-limits to sonar and explosives testing and schedule training to avoid times of the year when sensitive species are present in places like the Olympic Coast National Marine Sanctuary. Climate Change and Cumulative Impacts The Supplement document responds to calls to address these two big issues but it is very unclear that anything more than lip service was expended by deeming Navy activities to be of little significance. Public Process What most concerns me is this. There has been an overwhelming number of proposals since late in 2013 rolled out to the public in a piecemeal fashion. Five calls for comments on clearly-linked	of the EIS/OEIS. The Navy has conducted active sonar training and testing activities in the Study Area for decades, and there is no evidence that routine Navy training and testing has negatively impacted marine mammal populations in the Study Area or at any Navy Range Complex. Based on the best available science summarized in the EIS/OEIS Section 3.4.4.1 (Summary of Monitoring and Observations During Navy Activities), long-term consequences for marine mammal populations are unlikely to result from Navy training and testing activities in the Study Area. Please also refer to Chapter 5 (Standard Operating Procedures, Mitigation, and Monitoring) of the EIS/OEIS, detailing the procedures and mitigation measures during its training and testing activities designed to reduce impacts to marine mammals from Navy activities. No injuries to killer whales are anticipated from the Navy's proposed MSO or TRACKEX activities. As described in Chapter 5 (Standard Operating Procedures, Mitigation, and Monitoring) of the EIS/OEIS, the Navy will implement mitigation measures during the use of sonobuoys. The mitigation measures are implemented for each activity and therefore the mitigation scales up as the activity level scales up. Also in Chapter 5 (Standard Operating Procedures, Mitigation, and Monitoring) of the EIS/OEIS, the Navy evaluated the effectiveness and practicability of a number of potential mitigation measures. Through consultation and permitting with NMFS and USFWS, the Navy refined the mitigation measures, which are now presented in Chapter 5 (Standard Operating Procedures, Mitigation, and Monitoring) of this Final EIS/OEIS. Section 5.3.1.2.5 (Effectiveness Assessment for Lookouts) acknowledges that, due to the various detection probabilities, levels of Lookout experience, and variability of sighting conditions, Lookouts will not always be effective at avoiding impacts on all species. However, Lookouts are expected to increase the overall likelihood that certain marine mammal species and some sea turtles will be detected at the surface of the water, when compared to the likelihood that these same species would be detected if Lookouts are not used. The continued use of Lookouts contributes to helping reduce potential impacts on these species from training and testing activities. While the range of the sonar's detection would travel beyond the distance that Lookouts can detect animals, the range at which sonar is

Table I.5-4: Responses to Comments from Private Individuals (continued)

Commenter	Comment	Navy Response
	documents have been spread out in their introduction to the public over the last year and a half. Ground-based, (Electronic warfare range), air-based (Two growler scoping documents) and sea-based naval activities (these two NWTT documents) have been dropped onto the region as if they were not linked. The separate comment periods and the separate documents minimize the larger picture of impacts on the area. In my opinion this is misleading. Is it even legal in regards to Federal Law, specifically NEPA? Please redo this chopped-up public process with a comprehensive Environmental Impact Statement that includes all of the activities in the region. These huge changes that affect wildlife, real estate values, allow precedent-setting incursions into the peace of our national parks, national forest, wilderness, state parks and state lands, should be discussed as a whole, not split into so many fractured pieces that the residents of this region cannot know what they are actually facing. . Sincerely, Joan Cole	predicted to be able to cause injury to a marine mammal is very short, within 10 meters of the sonar. At such short distances, it is likely any marine mammal would have been detected. As described in Chapter 5 (Standard Operating Procedures, Mitigation, and Monitoring) of the Final EIS/OEIS, the Navy evaluated the effectiveness and practicability of a number of potential mitigation measures including the avoidance of specific areas. The Navy has undertaken consultation with NMFS for the proposed and ongoing activities in the NWTT Study Area and the Navy refined the mitigation measures, which are now presented in Chapter 5 (Standard Operating Procedures, Mitigation, and Monitoring) of this Final EIS/OEIS. Through careful exploration of all mitigation measures to determine which were the most effective, the Navy chose the measures to mitigate potential impacts to marine mammals while still being able to meet its operational needs to train for real-world conditions. The Navy's specific mitigation measures are outlined in the following sections: Section 5.3.1 (Lookout Procedural Measures), Section 5.3.2 (Mitigation Zone Procedural Measures), and Section 5.3.3 (Mitigation Areas). Specifically, Section 5.3.4 (Mitigation Measures Considered but Eliminated) presents Navy consideration of similar area restrictions. The Navy and NMFS will use the Adaptive Management process to assess whether any additional mitigation should be considered in identified biologically important areas. In response to several comments, the Navy has enhanced its analysis of climate change and cumulative impacts in this Final EIS/OEIS. The Navy prepares Environmental Impact Statements (EIS) and Environmental Assessments (EA) in order to comply with the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA). These NEPA documents are intended to ensure decision makers consider the potential environmental effects of a proposed action and its alternatives, provide an opportunity for public involvement, and promote transparency by informing the public of these potential environmental effects. Each NEPA document addresses a specific proposed action, separated from other actions by its purpose and need, independent utility, timing, and geographic location. Some NEPA documents are stand-alone documents; others tier off or expand the analyses of other NEPA documents. NEPA documents for training and testing, including this EIS/OEIS, focus on training and testing activities occurring within a range complex or military operation area and involve different types of aircraft, ships, and range complex enhancements. NEPA documents

Table I.5-4: Responses to Comments from Private Individuals (continued)

Commenter	Comment	Navy Response
		for aircraft homebasing actions focus on aircraft operations in and around the airfield and their facility needs. NEPA documents for installations focus on infrastructure enhancements for host and tenant command missions. Importantly, every environmental document considers the cumulative impacts to the environment from other relevant past, present, and reasonably foreseeable future actions (federal, state, local, and private) in addition to the proposed action. The Navy has been training in the Olympic Military Operations Area (MOA) for over 40 years, and the Navy has not proposed any significant changes to the way aircrew train in the MOA. The Navy recently analyzed plans to enhance existing training by adding one fixed transmitter at Pacific Beach and three mobile transmitter vehicles that would operate on existing logging roads and pull-out areas on U.S. Forest Service land. The Navy has not proposed to use National Park Service land. EW training and EW Range enhancements were analyzed in the Navy's Northwest Training Range Complex (NWTRC) EIS/OEIS, completed in 2010. When more information became available on mobile and fixed signal transmitters for the EW Range, the Navy prepared the EW Range EA to analyze placement and operation of those transmitters. The Navy completed the EA and issued a Finding of No Significant Impact on August 28, 2014. The introduction of the land-based transmitters to enhance existing training will not harm people, animals, or the environment. The Navy has decades of experience building and operating signal equipment, with no adverse effects to people, animals, or the environment. Though there is a proposed increase in EW training events associated with the range enhancements and analyzed in this EIS/OEIS, the increase in events does not equate to a comparable increase in the number of aircraft flights or in the duration of flights. EW training flights are already occurring in the Olympic MOAs, and it is estimated that this proposal will only result in an approximately 10 percent annual increase in actual flights, which equates to approximately one additional flight per day. This is because each flight will be able to accommodate multiple EW training events. The Navy proposes to home base up to 36 additional EA-18G aircraft at NAS Whidbey Island. The Navy announced the preparation of that separate Whidbey EIS on September 5, 2013, and invited the public to participate in the NEPA process by submitting comments to define the scope of the Draft Whidbey EIS analysis. On October 10, 2014, the Navy revised the scope of the on-going Whidbey EIS and invited the

Table I.5-4: Responses to Comments from Private Individuals (continued)

Commenter	Comment	Navy Response
		public to submit additional scoping comments. The Navy is currently preparing its Draft Whidbey EIS, which is scheduled to be released in spring 2016. For more information, please visit the project website at www.whidbeyeis.com. This NWTT EIS/OEIS considered the Whidbey EIS proposal in its analysis of cumulative impacts in Chapter 4. The MSO activities do not include the use of sonar or live gun firing. The U.S. Navy has conducted active sonar training and testing activities for decades in the seaspace depicted in the Study Area with no evidence to indicate any meaningful impacts to marine habitats in the area. The Navy and NMFS jointly are still in ongoing consultation with the OCNMS regarding the effects of the Proposed Action on Sanctuary resources. The Navy concludes its continued activities are not likely to result in the loss, destruction, or adverse changes to the viability of Sanctuary resources. Several points support this determination: • Less than two percent of proposed training and 15 percent of proposed testing activities would occur within or immediately adjacent to the OCNMS. • The NWTT Final EIS/OEIS shows that training and testing activities have minimal temporary impacts on the quantity or quality of the Study Area's physical environment, and minor to no impacts on marine or shore birds, fish, sea turtles, or invertebrate marine life. • Although explosives have the potential to affect the physical and biological resources, the Navy does not use explosives within the OCNMS. • The Navy concludes any marine mammal behavioral reactions to NWTT training and testing activities would be transitory, infrequent, non-cumulative, and impacts are not expected to decrease overall individual fitness or result in long-term population-level impacts on any given population, and consequently will not result in any adverse changes to the sanctuary. Finally, all Department of Defense (DoD) military activities shall be carried out in a manner that avoids to the maximum extent practicable any adverse impacts on Sanctuary resources and qualities.
Coleman (Electronic)	I am extremely disappointed in the navy's continued use of sonar testing in the Salish Sea and Puget Sound. I believe the navy has done enough testing to gather and infer whatever type of information they need without further testing. I keep hearing of the testing happening when whales are nearby, despite the navy's	The Navy shares your concern for marine life, but this concern must be balanced with the purpose and need for Navy training and testing as detailed in Chapter 2 (Description of Proposed Action and Alternatives) of the EIS/OEIS. The Navy has conducted active sonar training and

Table I.5-4: Responses to Comments from Private Individuals (continued)

Commenter	Comment	Navy Response
	refusal of this. There is newer technology capable of detecting undersea formations that is not harmful to cetaceans. Sonar is a thing of the past and should be treated as such. With our precious orca population on the brink of extinction, eliminating this threat is just one step toward doing what is right for our region's environment. The fate of the Southern Resident Killer Whale population rests on the shoulders of ELEVEN reproductive females. Let's not make life any harder for them than it already is. End sonar in the Salish Sea and Puget Sound NOW!	testing activities in the Study Area for decades, and there is no evidence that routine Navy training and testing has negatively impacted marine mammal populations in the Study Area or at any Navy Range Complex. Based on the best available science summarized in the EIS/OEIS Section 3.4.4.1 (Summary of Monitoring and Observations During Navy Activities), long-term consequences for marine mammal populations are unlikely to result from Navy training and testing activities in the Study Area. Please also refer to Chapter 5 (Standard Operating Procedures, Mitigation, and Monitoring) of the EIS/OEIS, detailing the procedures and mitigation measures during its training and testing activities designed to reduce impacts to marine mammals from Navy activities.
Colley (Electronic)	Please, we don't need to destroy the hearing capacity of the great whales in order to defend our country.	The Navy shares your concern for marine life, but this concern must be balanced with the purpose and need for Navy training and testing as detailed in Chapter 2 (Description of Proposed Action and Alternatives) of the EIS/OEIS. The Navy has conducted active sonar training and testing activities in the Study Area for decades, and there is no evidence that routine Navy training and testing has negatively impacted marine mammal populations in the Study Area or at any Navy Range Complex. Based on the best available science summarized in the EIS/OEIS Section 3.4.4.1 (Summary of Monitoring and Observations During Navy Activities), long-term consequences for marine mammal populations are unlikely to result from Navy training and testing activities in the Study Area. Please also refer to Chapter 5 (Standard Operating Procedures, Mitigation, and Monitoring) of the EIS/OEIS, detailing the procedures and mitigation measures during its training and testing activities designed to reduce impacts to marine mammals from Navy activities.
Cook (Electronic)	As someone who works in marine wildlife and ecosystem conservation, I see this as extremely harmful to our Cetaceans! It's been scientifically proven by may marine biologists, NOAA, and other conservation agencies, these sonar blasts disturb migratory routes and the overall well-being of marine wildlife. Marine wildlife who use echolocation to communicate, feed, breed and migrate will be greatly impacted by these sonic mid ridge blasts. According to the draft, the Navy's research says the increased sonar devices, "may expose marine mammals up to 107,062 times annually during a maximum year to sound levels that would be considered Level B harassment, and may affect, and is likely to adversely affect, humpback whale, blue whale, fin whale, sperm whale, threatened southern resident Orcas, and Guadalupe fur seal." With this as your own research findings, I find it extremely irresponsible to put our fragile marine ecosystem at risk for a submarine threat that is highly	The Navy shares your concern for marine life, but this concern must be balanced with the purpose and need for Navy training and testing as detailed in Chapter 2 (Description of Proposed Action and Alternatives) of the EIS/OEIS. The Navy has conducted active sonar training and testing activities in the Study Area for decades, and there is no evidence that routine Navy training and testing has negatively impacted marine mammal populations in the Study Area or at any Navy Range Complex. Based on the best available science summarized in the EIS/OEIS Section 3.4.4.1 (Summary of Monitoring and Observations During Navy Activities), long-term consequences for marine mammal populations are unlikely to result from Navy training and testing activities in the Study Area. Please also refer to Chapter 5

Table I.5-4: Responses to Comments from Private Individuals (continued)

Commenter	Comment	Navy Response
	unlikely. Technology has advanced enough that we don't need these destructive, archaic practices to insure our coastline safety. I urge you to take your own studies into consideration and not bombard our marine species with sonic blasting. I strongly urge you to reconsider your plans to deploy these potentially destructive devices off our coastline. Respectfully, Dana Jo Cook. Sea Shepherd Conservation Society USA	(Standard Operating Procedures, Mitigation, and Monitoring) of the EIS/OEIS, detailing the procedures and mitigation measures during its training and testing activities designed to reduce impacts to marine mammals from Navy activities. As stated in 50 C.F.R. section 216.1049a)(6), the Navy must estimate "the number of marine mammals (by species) that may be taken by each type of taking." No methodology currently exists that would allow the Navy to numerically estimate each type of potential response to sonar, predict any long-term consequences for the affected animals, and limit its take request to only the most severe responses and consequences qualifying as Level B take under the statute. This is because the nature of an animal's response to sonar, if any, is a function of a range of variables that presently cannot be reduced to a mathematical formula. While the NWTT EIS/OEIS does provide a numerical estimate for Level B takes, the Navy examines the numerical model output and available literature to provide a qualitative assessment on the likely nature and severity of behavioral responses for individual members and population for each species. Overall, the Navy concludes that the majority of Level B takes are in the form of avoidance of the sound source; temporary changes in vocalizations or dive patterns; temporary avoidance of an area; temporary disruption of feeding, migrating, or reproductive behaviors; and relatively mild temporary threshold shift in some animals. It is wrong to assume that the modeled estimates all represent severe reactions.
Cooke (Electronic)	Please do not increase the use of sonobuoys, given that they have been shown to be adverse to the natural environment and especially negative in their impact on endangered leatherback turtles.	As described in the Supplement in Section 3.5.2 (Sea Turtle Summary), the proposed increase in the use of SSQ-125 sonobuoys "are not expected to result in substantial changes to behavior, growth, survival, annual reproductive success, lifetime reproductive success (fitness), or species recruitment, and are not expected to result in population-level impacts." Based on the best available science summarized in the EIS/OEIS Section 3.4.4.1 (Summary of Monitoring and Observations During Navy Activities), long-term consequences for marine mammal populations are unlikely to result from Navy training and testing activities in the Study Area.
E. Cooper (Electronic)	The resident Puget Sound Orca population has recently decreased and the whales are endangered. I am concerned that any potential harassment of these whales could have further detriment to their survival. Can the Navy adequately monitor them or be able to prove that the proposed exercises will not have such an effect? If there is any concern for potential harassment, the testing should not occur.	The Navy shares your concern for marine life, but this concern must be balanced with the purpose and need for Navy training and testing as detailed in Chapter 2 (Description of Proposed Action and Alternatives) of the EIS/OEIS. The Navy has conducted training and testing activities in the Study Area for decades, and there is no evidence that

Table I.5-4: Responses to Comments from Private Individuals (continued)

Commenter	Comment	Navy Response
		routine Navy training and testing has negatively impacted marine mammal populations in the Study Area or at any Navy Range Complex. Based on the best available science summarized in the EIS/OEIS Section 3.4.4.1 (Summary of Monitoring and Observations During Navy Activities), long-term consequences for marine mammal populations are unlikely to result from Navy training and testing activities in the Study Area. Please also refer to Chapter 5 (Standard Operating Procedures, Mitigation, and Monitoring) of the EIS/OEIS, detailing the procedures and mitigation measures during its training and testing activities designed to reduce impacts to marine mammals from Navy activities.
c. cooper (Electronic)	Please do not expand sonar use as suggested in Alternatives 1 and 2 in the NWTT Draft EIS/OEIS. Your own analysis indicates an increase in impacts to marine mammals, adverse impacts on leatherback turtles, impacts to Native American tribal resources, and additional releases of air pollutants.	The Navy shares your concern for marine life, but this concern must be balanced with the purpose and need for Navy training and testing as detailed in Chapter 2 (Description of Proposed Action and Alternatives) of the EIS/OEIS. The Navy has conducted active sonar training and testing activities in the Study Area for decades, and there is no evidence that routine Navy training and testing has negatively impacted individual sea turtles or sea turtle populations, or marine mammal populations in the Study Area or at any Navy Range Complex. Based on the best available science summarized in the EIS/OEIS Section 3.4.4.1 (Summary of Monitoring and Observations During Navy Activities), long-term consequences for marine mammal populations are unlikely to result from Navy training and testing activities in the Study Area. Note that for sea turtles, as described in the EIS/OEIS Section 3.5.3.7.1 (Combined Impacts of All Stressors), “impacts are not expected to decrease the overall fitness or result in long-term population level impacts on any given population.” Please also refer to Chapter 5 (Standard Operating Procedures, Mitigation, and Monitoring) of the EIS/OEIS, detailing the procedures and mitigation measures during its training and testing activities designed to reduce impacts to marine mammals from Navy activities. The potential impacts from the proposed activities are discussed in Section 3.2 (Air Quality). Based on the analysis presented in Section 3.2 (Air Quality) and the analysis presented in Section 4.4.4.1 (Greenhouse Gases), the changes in air quality would be measurable, but would still be below applicable standards and guidelines; therefore, the incremental contribution of the proposed activities to cumulative greenhouse gas impacts would be low.
Corley	please stop the sonar expansion	Thank you for participating in the NEPA process.

Table I.5-4: Responses to Comments from Private Individuals (continued)

Commenter	Comment	Navy Response
(Electronic)		
Cornelius (Electronic)	Please limit the amount of sonar activity on the Pacific coast. I have read that there is a proposal to expand training, and this will drastically increase the impact on whales and other ocean wildlife. Marine mammals are extremely sensitive to noise, and sonar disrupts basic behaviors necessary for survival such as migration, surfacing, navigating, hearing, nursing, breeding and feeding. Any activity that threatens an endangered species such as humpback and sperm whales and leatherback turtles may be in violation of the Endangered Species Act.	As described in the Supplement in Section 3.5.2 (Sea Turtle Summary), the proposed increase in the use of SSQ-125 sonobuoys "are not expected to result in substantial changes to behavior, growth, survival, annual reproductive success, lifetime reproductive success (fitness), or species recruitment, and are not expected to result in population-level impacts." The Navy shares your concern for marine life, but this concern must be balanced with the purpose and need for Navy training and testing as detailed in Chapter 2 (Description of Proposed Action and Alternatives) of the EIS/OEIS. The Navy has conducted active sonar training and testing activities in the Study Area for decades, and there is no evidence that routine Navy training and testing has negatively impacted marine mammal populations in the Study Area or at any Navy Range Complex. Based on the best available science summarized in the EIS/OEIS Section 3.4.4.1 (Summary of Monitoring and Observations During Navy Activities), long-term consequences for marine mammal populations are unlikely to result from Navy training and testing activities in the Study Area. Please also refer to Chapter 5 (Standard Operating Procedures, Mitigation, and Monitoring) of the EIS/OEIS, detailing the procedures and mitigation measures during its training and testing activities designed to reduce impacts to marine mammals from Navy activities.
Cotter (Electronic)	I so appreciate all the of the men and women who protect our shores. I encourage the Navy to keep the following points in mind and strive to find a balance that gives protection to our entire living community. The pacific ocean is home to many. Thank you for your attention and work in this area. The Navy's current environmental analysis fails to provide basic information necessary to adequately evaluate the impacts of the proposed activities. This analysis also fails to provide adequate measures to mitigate the harmful effects of the proposed activities on marine mammals and other wildlife. Based on the information apparent in the environmental analysis, the Navy's "No Action Alternative" is the proposal with the most limited impact on wildlife. A drastic increase in sonar activity will negatively impact wildlife. Marine mammals are extremely sensitive to noise, and sonar disrupts basic behaviors necessary for survival such as migration, surfacing, navigating, hearing, nursing, breeding and feeding. Sonar can result in debilitating and even fatal injuries for marine mammals. Scientists believe sonar activity can change whale diving behavior, confusing them to swim to depths their bodies cannot handle. Whales suspected to have beached themselves because of sonar	As described in the Supplement in Section 3.5.2 (Sea Turtle Summary), the proposed increase in the use of SSQ-125 sonobuoys "are not expected to result in substantial changes to behavior, growth, survival, annual reproductive success, lifetime reproductive success (fitness), or species recruitment, and are not expected to result in population-level impacts." The Navy shares your concern for marine life, but this concern must be balanced with the purpose and need for Navy training and testing as detailed in Chapter 2 (Description of Proposed Action and Alternatives) of the EIS/OEIS. The Navy has conducted active sonar training and testing activities in the Study Area for decades, and there is no evidence that routine Navy training and testing has negatively impacted marine mammal populations in the Study Area or at any Navy Range Complex. Based on the best available science summarized in the EIS/OEIS Section 3.4.4.1 (Summary of Monitoring and Observations During Navy Activities), long-term consequences for marine mammal populations are unlikely

Table I.5-4: Responses to Comments from Private Individuals (continued)

Commenter	Comment	Navy Response
	activity show signs of physical trauma like bleeding around the brain, ears and other tissues and large bubbles in their organs – symptoms analogous to "the bends" in humans. To the extent that threatened or endangered species -- including humpback and sperm whales, and leatherback turtles -- are negatively impacted, the proposed activities may result in violations of the Endangered Species Act. Thanks again. jc	to result from Navy training and testing activities in the Study Area. Please also refer to Chapter 5 (Standard Operating Procedures, Mitigation, and Monitoring) of the EIS/OEIS, detailing the procedures and mitigation measures during its training and testing activities designed to reduce impacts to marine mammals from Navy activities.
Coulter (Electronic)	please limit or stop sonar testing in the Pacific ocean as it is extremely destructive to the migration and habitat of many whales and other species	The Navy shares your concern for marine life, but this concern must be balanced with the purpose and need for Navy training and testing as detailed in Chapter 2 (Description of Proposed Action and Alternatives) of the EIS/OEIS. The Navy has conducted active sonar training and testing activities in the Study Area for decades, and there is no evidence that routine Navy training and testing has negatively impacted marine mammal populations in the Study Area or at any Navy Range Complex. Based on the best available science summarized in the EIS/OEIS Section 3.4.4.1 (Summary of Monitoring and Observations During Navy Activities), long-term consequences for marine mammal populations are unlikely to result from Navy training and testing activities in the Study Area. Please also refer to Chapter 5 (Standard Operating Procedures, Mitigation, and Monitoring) of the EIS/OEIS, detailing the procedures and mitigation measures during its training and testing activities designed to reduce impacts to marine mammals from Navy activities.
Crawford (Electronic)	The ends do not justify the means in this world in regards to the health and well being of our marine mammals and other sea life as they face daily perils in pollution, by catch, entanglement, ship strike, lack of food and climate change as it is. Please protect the treasure of our seas all over the world and do not harass and /or harm marine mammals with sonar , explosives and war exercises and excessive noise pollution and risk of toxic pollution. There also be ways to ward off their presence by warning sounds and giving them time to exit days before, and dead zones in the ocean where practice can be implemented. Please do not practice inadvertently harmful procedures where you will find wildlife, especially in or near sanctuaries. We are facing a perilous next 100 years for sea life and need to change our practices. Thank you!	Please see Chapter 3 (Affected Environment and Environmental Consequences) of the EIS/OEIS. The Navy shares your concern for marine life, but this concern must be balanced with the purpose and need for Navy training and testing as detailed in Chapter 2 (Description of Proposed Action and Alternatives) of the EIS/OEIS. The Navy has conducted training and testing activities in the Study Area for decades, and there is no evidence that routine Navy training and testing has negatively impacted marine mammal populations in the Study Area or at any Navy Range Complex. Based on the best available science summarized in the EIS/OEIS Section 3.4.4.1 (Summary of Monitoring and Observations During Navy Activities), long-term consequences for marine mammal populations are unlikely to result from Navy training and testing activities in the Study Area. Please also refer to Chapter 5 (Standard Operating Procedures, Mitigation, and Monitoring) of the EIS/OEIS, detailing the procedures and mitigation measures during its training and testing activities designed to reduce impacts to marine mammals

Table I.5-4: Responses to Comments from Private Individuals (continued)

Commenter	Comment	Navy Response
		from Navy activities.
Cromwell (Electronic)	I have over 15 years experience working with sea turtles, 5 as a Federally permitted sea turtle nest recovery beach responder and 7 as an educator with Sea Turtle Inc., South Padre Island, TX., retiring in April 2014. Expanding totals of these 36lb sonobouys from 20 to 720 is a very unwise and environmentally unsound mistake. Indeed, the admitted (by the Navy) adverse affect of the original 20 bouys on the most endangered sea turtle species in the world could be the last blow to the Leatherback in the Pacific. A scientifically educated guess as to the total population of Pacific Leatherbacks conducted in 2011 by the WWF (WOrld Wildlife Federation) indicated approximately 2300 nesting females left. This species is victim of poor fishing practices (long line operations) egg poaching, and pollution. Ten years ago there were about 100,000 Leatherbacks in the Pacific. At that time experts gave the species only about 10 years. Here's what the Pacific is likely to look like after the Leatherback goes belly up. Leaatherbacks eat only jellyfish. They eat their weight (upwards to 1000 lbs.) every day. When the Leatherback goes extinct nothing will be eating jellies. What will that mean? Very quickly the world will get to another question, What do jellyfish eat? The answer to that - the babies of everything else in the ocean. Do the math, fish stocks already severely depleted worldwide will collapse completely. I really don't think the Navy will be happy to defend its role in the leatherback sea turtle demise.	As described in the Supplement in Section 3.5.2 (Sea Turtle Summary), the proposed increase in the use of SSQ-125 sonobuoys "are not expected to result in substantial changes to behavior, growth, survival, annual reproductive success, lifetime reproductive success (fitness), or species recruitment, and are not expected to result in population-level impacts." The Navy has conducted active sonar training and testing activities in the Study Area for decades, and there is no evidence that routine Navy training and testing has negatively impacted individual sea turtles or sea turtle populations in the Study Area or at any Navy Range Complex. Based on the best available science summarized in the EIS/OEIS Section 3.5.3.7.1 (Combined Impacts of All Stressors), “impacts are not expected to decrease the overall fitness or result in long-term population level impacts on any given population. In cases where potential impacts rise to a level that warrants mitigation, mitigation measures designed to reduce the potential impacts are discussed in Chapter 5 (Standard Operating Procedures, Mitigation, and Monitoring)."
Crowe (Electronic)	Dear Sirs, I urge you to reconsider the Navy's plan to expand sonar testing off the Pacific coast. This testing will pose a significant danger to whales in that area. This type of damage to that animal population can have dire and unrecoverable consequences to the whale population and the species. With all of your brilliant scientist and experience in research, it is amazing to think that you cannot conduct research to gather the information that you need without endangering such an at risk population.	The Navy shares your concern for marine life, but this concern must be balanced with the purpose and need for Navy training and testing as detailed in Chapter 2 (Description of Proposed Action and Alternatives) of the EIS/OEIS. The Navy has conducted active sonar training and testing activities in the Study Area for decades, and there is no evidence that routine Navy training and testing has negatively impacted marine mammal populations in the Study Area or at any Navy Range Complex. Based on the best available science summarized in the EIS/OEIS Section 3.4.4.1 (Summary of Monitoring and Observations During Navy Activities), long-term consequences for marine mammal populations are unlikely to result from Navy training and testing activities in the Study Area. Please also refer to Chapter 5 (Standard Operating Procedures, Mitigation, and Monitoring) of the EIS/OEIS, detailing the procedures and mitigation measures during its training and testing activities designed to reduce impacts to marine mammals from Navy activities.
Cuk (Electronic)	The Navy’s current environmental analysis fails to provide basic information necessary to adequately evaluate the impacts of the proposed activities. This analysis also fails to provide adequate measures to mitigate the harmful effects of	As described in the Supplement in Section 3.5.2 (Sea Turtle Summary), the proposed increase in the use of SSQ-125 sonobuoys "are not expected to result in substantial changes to behavior, growth,

Table I.5-4: Responses to Comments from Private Individuals (continued)

Commenter	Comment	Navy Response
	the proposed activities on marine mammals and other wildlife. Based on the information apparent in the environmental analysis, the Navy's "No Action Alternative" is the proposal with the most limited impact on wildlife. A drastic increase in sonar activity will negatively impact wildlife. Marine mammals are extremely sensitive to noise, and sonar disrupts basic behaviors necessary for survival such as migration, surfacing, navigating, hearing, nursing, breeding and feeding. Sonar can result in debilitating and even fatal injuries for marine mammals. Scientists believe sonar activity can change whale diving behavior, confusing them to swim to depths their bodies cannot handle. Whales suspected to have beached themselves because of sonar activity show signs of physical trauma like bleeding around the brain, ears and other tissues and large bubbles in their organs – symptoms analogous to "the bends" in humans. To the extent that threatened or endangered species -- including humpback and sperm whales, and leatherback turtles -- are negatively impacted, the proposed activities may result in violations of the Endangered Species Act.	survival, annual reproductive success, lifetime reproductive success (fitness), or species recruitment, and are not expected to result in population-level impacts." The Navy shares your concern for marine life, but this concern must be balanced with the purpose and need for Navy training and testing as detailed in Chapter 2 (Description of Proposed Action and Alternatives) of the EIS/OEIS. The Navy has conducted active sonar training and testing activities in the Study Area for decades, and there is no evidence that routine Navy training and testing has negatively impacted marine mammal populations in the Study Area or at any Navy Range Complex. Based on the best available science summarized in the EIS/OEIS Section 3.4.4.1 (Summary of Monitoring and Observations During Navy Activities), long-term consequences for marine mammal populations are unlikely to result from Navy training and testing activities in the Study Area. Please also refer to Chapter 5 (Standard Operating Procedures, Mitigation, and Monitoring) of the EIS/OEIS, detailing the procedures and mitigation measures during its training and testing activities designed to reduce impacts to marine mammals from Navy activities.
Cummins (Electronic)	When you say the navy, do you mean our navy? The one people think of when there is talk about defending our shores from deadly attacks? Do whales represent that big of threat? Do we really need to protect ourselves from marine mammals such as Whales, Orcas, Dolphins? I know they are intelligent , but really I do not think they should be on our list of predators, or threats to the homeland. So really, what fears are we confronting in our search to find weapons designed to maim and kill entire pods of the most intelligent animals on earth? Does the USA government really believe that these harsh ultrasonic sounds are going to penetrate the walls of a submarine? No, I think that these horrible noises are so horrible and fatal that the same government who finds need for maiming land mines also finds a way to justify the horrible supersonic sounds that might kill anything, just in case. For instance there is a horrible sound in my ears right now. It does protect me from all the wandering fingers and hands that I deal with daily. But at a louder level it would probably ruin every Ear within miles. Let us consider the kinder,gentler days. Let us think of more ways to confront our enemies with kindness .	The Navy shares your concern for marine life, but this concern must be balanced with the purpose and need for Navy training and testing as detailed in Chapter 2 (Description of Proposed Action and Alternatives) of the EIS/OEIS. The Navy has conducted active sonar training and testing activities in the Study Area for decades, and there is no evidence that routine Navy training and testing has negatively impacted marine mammal populations in the Study Area or at any Navy Range Complex. Based on the best available science summarized in the EIS/OEIS Section 3.4.4.1 (Summary of Monitoring and Observations During Navy Activities), long-term consequences for marine mammal populations are unlikely to result from Navy training and testing activities in the Study Area. Please also refer to Chapter 5 (Standard Operating Procedures, Mitigation, and Monitoring) of the EIS/OEIS, detailing the procedures and mitigation measures during its training and testing activities designed to reduce impacts to marine mammals from Navy activities.
Currey (Electronic)	The Navy's current environmental analysis fails to provide basic information necessary to adequately evaluate the impacts of the proposed activities. This analysis also fails to provide adequate measures to mitigate the harmful effects of the proposed activities on marine mammals and other wildlife. Based on the information apparent in the environmental analysis, the Navy's "No Action Alternative" is the proposal with the most limited impact on wildlife. A drastic	The Navy shares your concern for marine life, but this concern must be balanced with the purpose and need for Navy training and testing as detailed in Chapter 2 (Description of Proposed Action and Alternatives) of the EIS/OEIS. The Navy has conducted active sonar training and testing activities in the Study Area for decades, and there is no evidence that routine Navy training and testing has negatively

Table I.5-4: Responses to Comments from Private Individuals (continued)

Commenter	Comment	Navy Response
	increase in sonar activity will negatively impact wildlife. Marine mammals are extremely sensitive to noise, and sonar disrupts basic behaviors necessary for survival such as migration, surfacing, navigating, hearing, nursing, breeding and feeding. Sonar can result in debilitating and even fatal injuries for marine mammals. Scientists believe sonar activity can change whale diving behavior, confusing them to swim to depths their bodies cannot handle. Whales suspected to have beached themselves because of sonar activity show signs of physical trauma like bleeding around the brain, ears and other tissues and large bubbles in their organs – symptoms analogous to “the bends” in humans. To the extent that threatened or endangered species -- including humpback and sperm whales, and leatherback turtles -- are negatively impacted, the proposed activities may result in violations of the Endangered Species Act.	impacted marine mammal populations in the Study Area or at any Navy Range Complex. Based on the best available science summarized in the EIS/OEIS Section 3.4.4.1 (Summary of Monitoring and Observations During Navy Activities), long-term consequences for marine mammal populations are unlikely to result from Navy training and testing activities in the Study Area. Please also refer to Chapter 5 (Standard Operating Procedures, Mitigation, and Monitoring) of the EIS/OEIS, detailing the procedures and mitigation measures during its training and testing activities designed to reduce impacts to marine mammals from Navy activities. Regarding previous strandings, see Section 3.4.3.1.8 (Stranding) and the referenced technical report “Marine Mammal Strandings Associated with U.S. Navy Sonar Activities” (U.S. Department of the Navy 2013c). Based on the best available science summarized in the EIS/OEIS Section 3.4.4.1 (Summary of Monitoring and Observations During Navy Activities), long-term consequences for marine mammal populations are unlikely to result from Navy training and testing activities in the Study Area.
Curtis (Electronic)	I heard months ago and petitioned against the navys admitted plan of saying they are PREPARED killing hundreds of thousands of sea life and mammals with their navy tail gunning. outraged ..I found some petitions..then i see the beached mysteriously mammals ..everywhere..then i see they are playing war games in sanctuaries Obama set for them ! like the sea shepards say oceans die, we die..you know like bees die, we die..this is so untoughtout and so sad to see such unsound unscientific procedures that do more harm than good. Like the Navy that was supposed to board and stop the overfishing and illegal fishing along with sea shepard ship thats been tailing the thunder in japan..for months and they havent been able to fish! the navy backed off and gave up. PLEASE THINK ABOUT THE DANGERS THE OCEANS ALREADY SUFFER. WE ARE SO ABTRUSIVE. The oceans cannot be raped any longer we are past the tipping point. it is time to listen to reason. THINK HARDER do no harm!	The Navy shares your concern for marine life, but this concern must be balanced with the purpose and need for Navy training and testing as detailed in Chapter 2 (Description of Proposed Action and Alternatives) of the EIS/OEIS. The Navy has conducted active sonar training and testing activities in the Study Area for decades, and there is no evidence that routine Navy training and testing has negatively impacted marine mammal populations in the Study Area or at any Navy Range Complex. Based on the best available science summarized in the EIS/OEIS Section 3.4.4.1 (Summary of Monitoring and Observations During Navy Activities), long-term consequences for marine mammal populations are unlikely to result from Navy training and testing activities in the Study Area. Please also refer to Chapter 5 (Standard Operating Procedures, Mitigation, and Monitoring) of the EIS/OEIS, detailing the procedures and mitigation measures during its training and testing activities designed to reduce impacts to marine mammals from Navy activities.
Daniels (Electronic)	I'm writing to urge support of the "no action alternative" to limit the amount of sonar used in training missions off the Pacific coast. The Navy’s current environmental analysis fails to provide basic information necessary to adequately evaluate the impacts of the proposed activities. This analysis also fails to provide adequate measures to mitigate the harmful effects of the proposed activities on marine	The Navy shares your concern for marine life, but this concern must be balanced with the purpose and need for Navy training and testing as detailed in Chapter 2 (Description of Proposed Action and Alternatives) of the EIS/OEIS. The Navy has conducted active sonar training and testing activities in the Study Area for decades, and there is no

Table I.5-4: Responses to Comments from Private Individuals (continued)

Commenter	Comment	Navy Response
	mammals and other wildlife. Based on the information apparent in the environmental analysis, the Navy's "No Action Alternative" is the proposal with the most limited impact on wildlife. A drastic increase in sonar activity will negatively impact wildlife. Marine mammals are extremely sensitive to noise, and sonar disrupts basic behaviors necessary for survival such as migration, surfacing, navigating, hearing, nursing, breeding and feeding. Sonar can result in debilitating and even fatal injuries for marine mammals. Scientists believe sonar activity can change whale diving behavior, confusing them to swim to depths their bodies cannot handle. Whales suspected to have beached themselves because of sonar activity show signs of physical trauma like bleeding around the brain, ears and other tissues and large bubbles in their organs – symptoms analogous to "the bends" in humans. To the extent that threatened or endangered species -- including humpback and sperm whales, and leatherback turtles -- are negatively impacted, the proposed activities may result in violations of the Endangered Species Act. Thank you for your consideration. Karen Daniels	evidence that routine Navy training and testing has negatively impacted marine mammal populations in the Study Area or at any Navy Range Complex. Based on the best available science summarized in the EIS/OEIS Section 3.4.4.1 (Summary of Monitoring and Observations During Navy Activities), long-term consequences for marine mammal populations are unlikely to result from Navy training and testing activities in the Study Area. Please also refer to Chapter 5 (Standard Operating Procedures, Mitigation, and Monitoring) of the EIS/OEIS, detailing the procedures and mitigation measures during its training and testing activities designed to reduce impacts to marine mammals from Navy activities. Regarding previous strandings, see Section 3.4.3.1.8 (Stranding) and the referenced technical report "Marine Mammal Strandings Associated with U.S. Navy Sonar Activities" (U.S. Department of the Navy 2013c). Based on the best available science summarized in the EIS/OEIS Section 3.4.4.1 (Summary of Monitoring and Observations During Navy Activities), long-term consequences for marine mammal populations are unlikely to result from Navy training and testing activities in the Study Area.
B. Davis (Electronic)	Please limit, or (better yet) abandon the plan to perform sonar testing in the Pacific Coast waters. The environmental analysis is not complete nor extensive enough. What is known is that this testing could harm or even kill marine mammals. Please reconsider this plan.	The Navy shares your concern for marine life, but this concern must be balanced with the purpose and need for Navy training and testing as detailed in Chapter 2 (Description of Proposed Action and Alternatives) of the EIS/OEIS. The Navy has conducted active sonar training and testing activities in the Study Area for decades, and there is no evidence that routine Navy training and testing has negatively impacted marine mammal populations in the Study Area or at any Navy Range Complex. Based on the best available science summarized in the EIS/OEIS Section 3.4.4.1 (Summary of Monitoring and Observations During Navy Activities), long-term consequences for marine mammal populations are unlikely to result from Navy training and testing activities in the Study Area. Please also refer to Chapter 5 (Standard Operating Procedures, Mitigation, and Monitoring) of the EIS/OEIS, detailing the procedures and mitigation measures during its training and testing activities designed to reduce impacts to marine mammals from Navy activities.
C. Davis (Electronic)	Please limit the U.S. Navy's use of sonar in our oceans, protect the whales for our children and future generations.	The Navy shares your concern for marine life, but this concern must be balanced with the purpose and need for Navy training and testing as detailed in Chapter 2 (Description of Proposed Action and Alternatives) of the EIS/OEIS. The Navy has conducted active sonar training and

Table I.5-4: Responses to Comments from Private Individuals (continued)

Commenter	Comment	Navy Response
		testing activities in the Study Area for decades, and there is no evidence that routine Navy training and testing has negatively impacted marine mammal populations in the Study Area or at any Navy Range Complex. Based on the best available science summarized in the EIS/OEIS Section 3.4.4.1 (Summary of Monitoring and Observations During Navy Activities), long-term consequences for marine mammal populations are unlikely to result from Navy training and testing activities in the Study Area. Please also refer to Chapter 5 (Standard Operating Procedures, Mitigation, and Monitoring) of the EIS/OEIS, detailing the procedures and mitigation measures during its training and testing activities designed to reduce impacts to marine mammals from Navy activities.
Dawson (Electronic)	It is outrageous that the Navy is considering increasing it's use of sonar testing in Oregon! Whales and other marine mammals deserve better. Public opinion should have a voice. Give the whales a break after all we have done to them!	The Navy shares your concern for marine life, but this concern must be balanced with the purpose and need for Navy training and testing as detailed in Chapter 2 (Description of Proposed Action and Alternatives) of the EIS/OEIS. The Navy has conducted active sonar training and testing activities in the Study Area for decades, and there is no evidence that routine Navy training and testing has negatively impacted marine mammal populations in the Study Area or at any Navy Range Complex. Based on the best available science summarized in the EIS/OEIS Section 3.4.4.1 (Summary of Monitoring and Observations During Navy Activities), long-term consequences for marine mammal populations are unlikely to result from Navy training and testing activities in the Study Area. Please also refer to Chapter 5 (Standard Operating Procedures, Mitigation, and Monitoring) of the EIS/OEIS, detailing the procedures and mitigation measures during its training and testing activities designed to reduce impacts to marine mammals from Navy activities.
Deering (Electronic)	Please limit the number of sound buoys to the minimum number necessary for testing. Marine mammals are very sensitive to underwater sound and it can disrupt their ability to communicate. Thank you, Robert Deering	The Navy shares your concern for marine life, but this concern must be balanced with the purpose and need for Navy training and testing as detailed in Chapter 2 (Description of Proposed Action and Alternatives) of the EIS/OEIS. The Navy has conducted active sonar training and testing activities in the Study Area for decades, and there is no evidence that routine Navy training and testing has negatively impacted marine mammal populations in the Study Area or at any Navy Range Complex. Based on the best available science summarized in the EIS/OEIS Section 3.4.4.1 (Summary of Monitoring and Observations During Navy Activities), long-term consequences for marine mammal populations are unlikely to result from Navy training and testing activities in the Study Area. Please also refer to Chapter 5

Table I.5-4: Responses to Comments from Private Individuals (continued)

Commenter	Comment	Navy Response
		(Standard Operating Procedures, Mitigation, and Monitoring) of the EIS/OEIS, detailing the procedures and mitigation measures during its training and testing activities designed to reduce impacts to marine mammals from Navy activities.
De Rooy (Oral)	I am not here to address the particulars of what your program is doing and has done to the ocean and its living inhabitants. Although there are others here who will be addressing those particular issues. Because again I assumed that there was going to be a public hearing. I have learned over the years that it's a waste of my time to do so. I have read Navy responses to public comments online and have seen that there is a consistent pattern in the responses, of absolute denial and deliberate obfuscation. There is word magic that is down to a science. You don't kill or torture, you take or harass. The Navy says, quote, "The vast majority, over 99 percent, of all modeled exposures to marine mammals for the Navy's training and testing in the Northwest are estimated to be behavioral responses ..." close quote. "Behavioral responses" is a fascinating way to describe beaked whales raising too hastily to the surface in response to sonar battering their ears, and ending up with bends and horrible, brutal death. What these hearings are is best described as a dog and pony show. You're required to go through the motions of taking public comment, but you're not required to use or respect those comments, because you have a bought-and-paid-for Congress who approve of your unnecessary and destructive practices because the armaments and equipment and other businesses will make huge money as a result of your so-called training exercises. It's business as usual. It's the American way. The bottom line here is that we are totally dependent on healthy oceans. Without them, we literally cannot exist. And for the sake of fattening the already bursting coffers of the fat cats, you will obediently do as your masters tell you to do and play your sad little part in this dog and pony show. That's it.	The Navy shares your concern for marine life, but this concern must be balanced with the purpose and need for Navy training and testing as detailed in Chapter 2 (Description of Proposed Action and Alternatives) of the EIS/OEIS. The Navy has conducted active sonar training and testing activities in the Study Area for decades, and there is no evidence that routine Navy training and testing has negatively impacted marine mammal populations in the Study Area or at any Navy Range Complex. Based on the best available science summarized in the EIS/OEIS Section 3.4.4.1 (Summary of Monitoring and Observations During Navy Activities), long-term consequences for marine mammal populations are unlikely to result from Navy training and testing activities in the Study Area. Please also refer to Chapter 5 (Standard Operating Procedures, Mitigation, and Monitoring) of the EIS/OEIS, detailing the procedures and mitigation measures during its training and testing activities designed to reduce impacts to marine mammals from Navy activities.
Dewey (Electronic)	I have just read that you are petitioning to increase sonar 38-fold. This is a terrible idea and will cause injury and/or death to whales and other marine mammals already on the verge of extinction. Please desist from this action.	The Navy is not proposing to increase the annual number of sonobuoys by a factor of 38. The Navy's original proposal in the Draft EIS/OEIS includes the annual deployment of approximately 9,200 sonobuoys of various types. The increase of 700 sonobuoys described in the Supplement is an increase of less than 8 percent of all sonobuoys proposed for use in the Draft EIS/OEIS. Please see Chapter 2 (Description of Proposed Action and Alternatives) for a

Table I.5-4: Responses to Comments from Private Individuals (continued)

Commenter	Comment	Navy Response
		description of the proposed activities. As described in the Supplement in Section 3.5.2 (Sea Turtle Summary), the proposed increase in the use of SSQ-125 sonobuoys "are not expected to result in substantial changes to behavior, growth, survival, annual reproductive success, lifetime reproductive success (fitness), or species recruitment, and are not expected to result in population-level impacts." The Navy shares your concern for marine life, but this concern must be balanced with the purpose and need for Navy training and testing as detailed in Chapter 2 (Description of Proposed Action and Alternatives) of the EIS/OEIS. The Navy has conducted active sonar training and testing activities in the Study Area for decades, and there is no evidence that routine Navy training and testing has negatively impacted marine mammal populations in the Study Area or at any Navy Range Complex. Based on the best available science summarized in the EIS/OEIS Section 3.4.4.1 (Summary of Monitoring and Observations During Navy Activities), long-term consequences for marine mammal populations are unlikely to result from Navy training and testing activities in the Study Area. Please also refer to Chapter 5 (Standard Operating Procedures, Mitigation, and Monitoring) of the EIS/OEIS, detailing the procedures and mitigation measures during its training and testing activities designed to reduce impacts to marine mammals from Navy activities.
Dickey (Electronic)	Please consider the No Action Alternative with regard to the amount of sonar used in training in the NW Pacific area. Years ago when marine mammal biology and ecology were unknow it was possible to thing that huge blasts of acoustics might not harm anything in the big wide ocean. It is now known to have adverse effects on marine mammals and fish throughout the water column. IF you must test your weapons figure out a way to do it in an environmentally responsible manner.	The Navy shares your concern for marine life, but this concern must be balanced with the purpose and need for Navy training and testing as detailed in Chapter 2 (Description of Proposed Action and Alternatives) of the EIS/OEIS. The Navy has conducted active sonar training and testing activities in the Study Area for decades, and there is no evidence that routine Navy training and testing has negatively impacted marine mammal populations in the Study Area or at any Navy Range Complex. Based on the best available science summarized in the EIS/OEIS Section 3.4.4.1 (Summary of Monitoring and Observations During Navy Activities), long-term consequences for marine mammal populations are unlikely to result from Navy training and testing activities in the Study Area. Please also refer to Chapter 5 (Standard Operating Procedures, Mitigation, and Monitoring) of the EIS/OEIS, detailing the procedures and mitigation measures during its training and testing activities designed to reduce impacts to marine mammals from Navy activities.
DiPaola	I am writing to urge the Navy to limit the amount of sonar activity used in training	Best management practices include measures that regulate operations

Table I.5-4: Responses to Comments from Private Individuals (continued)

Commenter	Comment	Navy Response
(Electronic)	missions off the Pacific Coast. The Navy's proposed training and testing activities include the use of sonar, explosives, weapons firing, and other acoustic devices. These activities have well known and well documented negative impacts on a number of whale species and porpoises, as well as other marine wildlife. We can only imagine the undocumented impacts. This dangerous destruction and poisoning of nature must stop: for the marine ecosystem and for mankind. It is not acceptable to subject our environment to these assaults. National security is meaningless if the planet cannot support life. The Navy must not implement expanded plans for these dangerous activities in the Pacific or anywhere. We know enough about the effects of some of these practices to know they are not defensible. High intensity-mid-frequency sonar, along with activities like dumping debris, the use of toxic chemicals, and detonating explosives -- are barbaric and anachronistic. It's time to support the life systems that support all life on earth. The Navy should be leading in this type of support - not actively destroying our home.	to ensure compliance with pollution emission requirements and general resource conservation goals. Navy policies and procedures identified in Navy instructions such as the Environmental Readiness Program Manual, include directives regarding waste management, pollution prevention, and recycling, all of which benefit sediments and water quality in the ocean. Any procedures or practices that benefit ocean sediments and water quality in turn benefit all marine life in the ocean, from plants and invertebrates, to fish and marine mammals. The Navy shares your concern for marine life, but this concern must be balanced with the purpose and need for Navy training and testing as detailed in Chapter 2 (Description of Proposed Action and Alternatives) of the EIS/OEIS. The Navy has conducted training and testing activities in the Study Area for decades, and there is no evidence that routine Navy training and testing has negatively impacted marine mammal populations in the Study Area or at any Navy Range Complex. Based on the best available science summarized in the EIS/OEIS Section 3.4.4.1 (Summary of Monitoring and Observations During Navy Activities), long-term consequences for marine mammal populations are unlikely to result from Navy training and testing activities in the Study Area. Please also refer to Chapter 5 (Standard Operating Procedures, Mitigation, and Monitoring) of the EIS/OEIS, detailing the procedures and mitigation measures during its training and testing activities designed to reduce impacts to marine mammals from Navy activities.
Dole, Jr (Electronic)	The Pacific Northwest is well known for its natural beauty ranging from glacial mountains to clear water, with green land in between. The Pacific Northwest is not known for military wargames, not should it be. The Navy is required by law to study environmental impacts of a proposed project, which for the NWTT it found no significant impact. Which lack of impact is the study referring to? Marine mammals, like like land animals, suffice on something called the food chain. Is it not likely that an increase of sonar use would affect marine life? The Pacific Northwest is an area that survives on its environment. It is an area where people grow products and where people hunt and fish. It seems likely that an increase in tests of explosives and sonobuoys would have a negative impact on the environment. The Pacific Northwest also survives on its tourist industry. It seems that an increase in wargames would have a negative impact on tourism, which directly affects socioeconomics. It seems that the impact of the NWTT proposal might be substantial. I oppose the NWTT as it is currently written.	The Navy shares your concern for marine life, but this concern must be balanced with the purpose and need for Navy training and testing as detailed in Chapter 2 (Description of Proposed Action and Alternatives) of the EIS/OEIS. The Navy has conducted training and testing activities in the Study Area for decades, and there is no evidence that routine Navy training and testing has negatively impacted marine mammal populations in the Study Area or at any Navy Range Complex. Based on the best available science summarized in the EIS/OEIS Section 3.4.4.1 (Summary of Monitoring and Observations During Navy Activities), long-term consequences for marine mammal populations are unlikely to result from Navy training and testing activities in the Study Area. Please also refer to Chapter 5 (Standard Operating Procedures, Mitigation, and Monitoring) of the EIS/OEIS, detailing the procedures and mitigation measures during its training and testing activities designed to reduce impacts to marine mammals from Navy activities.

Table I.5-4: Responses to Comments from Private Individuals (continued)

Commenter	Comment	Navy Response
		As described in Section 3.10 (Cultural Resources), Section 3.12 (Socioeconomics), and Section 3.13 (Public Health and Safety) of the EIS/OEIS, the Navy's proposed activities are not expected to impact cultural resources, socioeconomic resources, or public health and safety.
Domike (Written)	I am concerned about impacts to marine life, and also to local tribes. While your info sheets do acknowledge some effect, it is down-played. Tribal rights and treaties must be upheld. Marine wildlife need to be protected. Additionally, the excess fuel that is dumped over the ocean contributes to Ocean Acidification. Adding to greenhouse gases runs counter to our Governor's stated desires to lower WA state's emissions and to become a "Green State."	The Navy shares your concern for marine life, but this concern must be balanced with the purpose and need for Navy training and testing as detailed in Chapter 2 (Description of Proposed Action and Alternatives) of the EIS/OEIS. The Navy has conducted active sonar training and testing activities in the Study Area for decades, and there is no evidence that routine Navy training and testing has negatively impacted marine mammal populations in the Study Area or at any Navy Range Complex. Based on the best available science summarized in the EIS/OEIS Section 3.4.4.1 (Summary of Monitoring and Observations During Navy Activities), long-term consequences for marine mammal populations are unlikely to result from Navy training and testing activities in the Study Area. Please also refer to Chapter 5 (Standard Operating Procedures, Mitigation, and Monitoring) of the EIS/OEIS, detailing the procedures and mitigation measures during its training and testing activities designed to reduce impacts to marine mammals from Navy activities. Please see Section 3.11 (American Indian and Alaska Native Traditional Resources) for an analysis of potential impacts to American Indians and American Indian resources. Discussion of potential cumulative impacts to American Indian and Alaska Native traditional resources have been added to Section 4.4.13 (American Indian and Alaska Native Traditional Resources) in the EIS/OEIS. The Navy’s proposed activities do not include dumping of any materials, including explosives. The Navy does conduct training and testing with systems that can influence the chemical composition of the air in which they are used. The potential impacts from those activities are discussed in Section 3.2 (Air Quality). The Clean Air Act is also addressed in Section 3.2 (Air Quality).
Doolaeghe (Electronic)	les sonars tuent les cétacés qui finissent par agoniser sur les côtes ou en pleine mer. notre planète est en grande souffrance, parce que nous les hommes pensons être les propriétaires alors que nous ne sommes que locataires. Nous n'avons pas l'exclusivité sur cette terre, il est temps d'ouvrir nos consciences et de respecter la vie car: pas d'océan, pas de vie !la vie des hommes en dépend aussi, alors ne	[*Translated into English, the comment expresses concern about cetaceans dying on the coast or at sea, that we should open our minds and respect life, so do not pollute the ocean with destructive sonar, the cetaceans are already endangered.*]

Table I.5-4: Responses to Comments from Private Individuals (continued)

Commenter	Comment	Navy Response
	polluez pas les océans avec des sonars destructeurs pour les cétacées qui sont déjà bien en danger, merci de votre attention	The Navy shares your concern for marine life, but this concern must be balanced with the purpose and need for Navy training and testing as detailed in Chapter 2 (Description of Proposed Action and Alternatives) of the EIS/OEIS. The Navy has conducted active sonar training and testing activities in the Study Area for decades, and there is no evidence that routine Navy training and testing has negatively impacted marine mammal populations in the Study Area or at any Navy Range Complex. Based on the best available science summarized in the EIS/OEIS Section 3.4.4.1 (Summary of Monitoring and Observations During Navy Activities), long-term consequences for marine mammal populations are unlikely to result from Navy training and testing activities in the Study Area. Please also refer to Chapter 5 (Standard Operating Procedures, Mitigation, and Monitoring) of the EIS/OEIS, detailing the procedures and mitigation measures during its training and testing activities designed to reduce impacts to marine mammals from Navy activities.
Doyle (Electronic)	I support the Navy practicing, we all need that for a secure country. But, killing marine mammals is unconscionable. No animal should ever die as Collateral damage.	The analysis in Chapter 3 (Affected Environment and Environmental Consequences) of the EIS/OEIS does not indicate that any marine mammal mortalities would occur. The Navy's quantitative analysis in Section 3.4 (Marine Mammals) shows that sonar may result in approximately 126 PTS exposures (i.e., a permanent loss of hearing sensitivity to certain frequencies of underwater sound). No mortality exposures are predicted. Two PTS exposures are predicted from the use of explosives during training and testing activities. No other injury and no mortality takes are predicted (see Tables 3.4-17, 3.4-18, 3.4-25, and 3.4-26). The Navy shares your concern for marine life, but this concern must be balanced with the purpose and need for Navy training and testing as detailed in Chapter 2 (Description of Proposed Action and Alternatives) of the EIS/OEIS. The Navy has conducted active sonar training and testing activities in the Study Area for decades, and there is no evidence that routine Navy training and testing has negatively impacted marine mammal populations in the Study Area or at any Navy Range Complex. Based on the best available science summarized in the EIS/OEIS Section 3.4.4.1 (Summary of Monitoring and Observations During Navy Activities), long-term consequences for marine mammal populations are unlikely to result from Navy training and testing activities in the Study Area. Please also refer to Chapter 5 (Standard Operating Procedures, Mitigation, and Monitoring) of the EIS/OEIS, detailing the procedures and mitigation measures during its

Table I.5-4: Responses to Comments from Private Individuals (continued)

Commenter	Comment	Navy Response
		training and testing activities designed to reduce impacts to marine mammals from Navy activities.
Drobna (Electronic)	A drastic increase in sonar activity will negatively impact wildlife. Marine mammals are extremely sensitive to noise, and sonar disrupts basic behaviors necessary for survival such as migration, surfacing, navigating, hearing, nursing, breeding and feeding. Sonar can result in debilitating and even fatal injuries for marine mammals. Scientists believe sonar activity can change whale diving behavior, confusing them to swim to depths their bodies cannot handle. Whales suspected to have beached themselves because of sonar activity show signs of physical trauma like bleeding around the brain, ears and other tissues and large bubbles in their organs – symptoms analogous to “the bends” in humans. To the extent that threatened or endangered species -- including humpback and sperm whales, and leatherback turtles -- are negatively impacted, the proposed activities may result in violations of the Endangered Species Act. Please, limit the use of sonobuoys. Thank you.	As described in the Supplement in Section 3.5.2 (Sea Turtle Summary), the proposed increase in the use of SSQ-125 sonobuoys "are not expected to result in substantial changes to behavior, growth, survival, annual reproductive success, lifetime reproductive success (fitness), or species recruitment, and are not expected to result in population-level impacts." The Navy shares your concern for marine life, but this concern must be balanced with the purpose and need for Navy training and testing as detailed in Chapter 2 (Description of Proposed Action and Alternatives) of the EIS/OEIS. The Navy has conducted active sonar training and testing activities in the Study Area for decades, and there is no evidence that routine Navy training and testing has negatively impacted marine mammal populations in the Study Area or at any Navy Range Complex. Based on the best available science summarized in the EIS/OEIS Section 3.4.4.1 (Summary of Monitoring and Observations During Navy Activities), long-term consequences for marine mammal populations are unlikely to result from Navy training and testing activities in the Study Area. Please also refer to Chapter 5 (Standard Operating Procedures, Mitigation, and Monitoring) of the EIS/OEIS, detailing the procedures and mitigation measures during its training and testing activities designed to reduce impacts to marine mammals from Navy activities.
Drommond (Electronic)	I am quite concerned about the plans for sonobuoys off the Pacific Coast. Any action that will endanger threatened animals (such as sea turtles) or marine mammals is undesirable. I do not believe the defense rationale is worth the danger to marine life. Please do not proceed with this plan. In the past I have also been distressed at the sonar projects off the Pacific coast that are already negatively affecting whales and dolphins.	The Navy shares your concern for marine life, but this concern must be balanced with the purpose and need for Navy training and testing as detailed in Chapter 2 (Description of Proposed Action and Alternatives) of the EIS/OEIS. The Navy has conducted active sonar training and testing activities in the Study Area for decades, and there is no evidence that routine Navy training and testing has negatively impacted marine mammal populations in the Study Area or at any Navy Range Complex. Based on the best available science summarized in the EIS/OEIS Section 3.4.4.1 (Summary of Monitoring and Observations During Navy Activities), long-term consequences for marine mammal populations are unlikely to result from Navy training and testing activities in the Study Area. Please also refer to Chapter 5 (Standard Operating Procedures, Mitigation, and Monitoring) of the EIS/OEIS, detailing the procedures and mitigation measures during its training and testing activities designed to reduce impacts to marine mammals from Navy activities.

Table I.5-4: Responses to Comments from Private Individuals (continued)

Commenter	Comment	Navy Response
Dryden (Electronic)	I am writing to object to the Navy's plans for expansion of warfare activities re specifically, both noise and the electromagnetic effects on the Olympic National Park. No studies have been done by the Navy or the Forest Service re significant impacts on endangered species, even short of extinction-causing effects. It is common knowledge that jet noise is a serious health risk just for humans; wild creatures must do without medical aids that humans can obtain. The Wilderness Act purpose, in Sec. 2 is " . . . to assure . . . growing mechanization does not modify all areas of the US . . . leaving no lands protect(ed) in their natural condition . . . " Further, ". . . wilderness resource consists not only of physical aspects . . . but also the emotional and spiritual . . ." The Definition (c) a wilderness " . . . retain(s) its primeval character and influence . . . with the iprint of man's work substantially unnoticeable . . . (with) opportunities for solitude . . ." The Olympic National Park is part of the International System of Planetary Biosphere Reserves, which, inter alia, are to preserve ecosystems in perpetuity. To go ahead as planned, without proper notice and opportunity for citizen input and EIS studies, you will be in violation of state, federal and international law for which you would certainly be accountable. Thank you for your attention to this matter.	The Navy prepares Environmental Impact Statements (EIS) and Environmental Assessments (EA) in order to comply with the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA). These NEPA documents are intended to ensure decision makers consider the potential environmental effects of a proposed action and its alternatives, provide an opportunity for public involvement, and promote transparency by informing the public of these potential environmental effects. Each NEPA document addresses a specific proposed action, separated from other actions by its purpose and need, independent utility, timing, and geographic location. Some NEPA documents are stand-alone documents; others tier off or expand the analyses of other NEPA documents. NEPA documents for training and testing, including this EIS/OEIS, focus on training and testing activities occurring within a range complex or military operation area and involve different types of aircraft, ships, and range complex enhancements. NEPA documents for aircraft homebasing actions focus on aircraft operations in and around the airfield and their facility needs. NEPA documents for installations focus on infrastructure enhancements for host and tenant command missions. Importantly, every environmental document considers the cumulative impacts to the environment from other relevant past, present, and reasonably foreseeable future actions (federal, state, local, and private) in addition to the proposed action. The Navy has been training in the Olympic Military Operations Area (MOA) for over 40 years, and the Navy has not proposed any significant changes to the way aircrew train in the MOA. The Navy recently analyzed plans to enhance existing training by adding one fixed transmitter at Pacific Beach and three mobile transmitter vehicles that would operate on existing logging roads and pull-out areas on U.S. Forest Service land. The Navy has not proposed to use National Park Service land. EW training and EW Range enhancements were analyzed in the Navy's Northwest Training Range Complex (NWTRC) EIS/OEIS, completed in 2010. When more information became available on mobile and fixed signal transmitters for the EW Range, the Navy prepared the EW Range EA to analyze placement and operation of those transmitters. The Navy completed the EA and issued a Finding of No Significant Impact on August 28, 2014. The introduction of the land-based transmitters to enhance existing training will not harm people, animals, or the environment. The Navy has decades of experience building and operating signal equipment, with no adverse effects to people, animals, or the environment.

Table I.5-4: Responses to Comments from Private Individuals (continued)

Commenter	Comment	Navy Response
		Though there is a proposed increase in EW training events associated with the range enhancements and analyzed in this EIS/OEIS, the increase in events does not equate to a comparable increase in the number of aircraft flights or in the duration of flights. EW training flights are already occurring in the Olympic MOAs, and it is estimated that this proposal will only result in an approximately 10 percent annual increase in actual flights, which equates to approximately one additional flight per day. This is because each flight will be able to accommodate multiple EW training events. The Navy completed an airspace noise analysis for current and proposed activities in the Olympic MOAs. The analysis concluded there is virtually no change in the cumulative noise levels from the current level of activity to that proposed by the Navy.
Dugan (Electronic)	About 7-8 years ago, I went to Deception Pass and camped with my two young children. I put them to bed early in the tent and was met with the continuous and loud landing of military airplanes as they landed and took off over and over again. As we stared out towards Whidbey and the beautiful sunset, it was a sad thing to have to be subjected to the noise, the site and the inability to get my kids to sleep. And we were not that close. Natural surroundings and parks are places that people get away to. Will there no longer be a place for people to get away from it all? Will we kill all the wild animals with noise pollution and military testing? This land and these animals are so much a part of us and yet we treat them with such disrespect. Their numbers are slowly dwindling as we take more and more of their space and their food. Please leave us some nature and wildlife, because without it, there is nothing to protect. What can the Navy do to protect people and nature and wildlife? Surely this can be a bigger goal?	The Navy prepares Environmental Impact Statements (EIS) and Environmental Assessments (EA) in order to comply with the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA). These NEPA documents are intended to ensure decision makers consider the potential environmental effects of a proposed action and its alternatives, provide an opportunity for public involvement, and promote transparency by informing the public of these potential environmental effects. Each NEPA document addresses a specific proposed action, separated from other actions by its purpose and need, independent utility, timing, and geographic location. Some NEPA documents are stand-alone documents; others tier off or expand the analyses of other NEPA documents. NEPA documents for training and testing, including this EIS/OEIS, focus on training and testing activities occurring within a range complex or military operation area and involve different types of aircraft, ships, and range complex enhancements. NEPA documents for aircraft homebasing actions focus on aircraft operations in and around the airfield and their facility needs. NEPA documents for installations focus on infrastructure enhancements for host and tenant command missions. Importantly, every environmental document considers the cumulative impacts to the environment from other relevant past, present, and reasonably foreseeable future actions (federal, state, local, and private) in addition to the proposed action.
Dunn (Electronic)	Dear Fellow Americans, I have always been greatly saddened by sonar, sound buoys, etc. that emit frequencies that damage sea life in any way, especially off the rich aquatic zone of the Pacific Coast. Setting back the recently recovering	There is no 30-fold increase in sonar signal proposed in the EIS/OEIS. Please see Table 3.0-10 for the type and quantity of the sound sources proposed by the Navy.

Table I.5-4: Responses to Comments from Private Individuals (continued)

Commenter	Comment	Navy Response
	Leatherback turtle population is unbelievable! If you're trying to check sonar bounces off the seabed there must be possible detection modes that don't require the proposed 30 fold increase in signal. Our ocean wildlife has enough life challenges already without adding another obstacle to their survival. Please choose the "no action" option for your testing proposal. Thank you, Tom Dunn	As described in the Supplement in Section 3.5.2 (Sea Turtle Summary), the proposed increase in the use of SSQ-125 sonobuoys "are not expected to result in substantial changes to behavior, growth, survival, annual reproductive success, lifetime reproductive success (fitness), or species recruitment, and are not expected to result in population-level impacts." The Navy shares your concern for marine life, but this concern must be balanced with the purpose and need for Navy training and testing as detailed in Chapter 2 (Description of Proposed Action and Alternatives) of the EIS/OEIS. The Navy has conducted active sonar training and testing activities in the Study Area for decades, and there is no evidence that routine Navy training and testing has negatively impacted individual sea turtles or sea turtle populations, or marine mammal populations in the Study Area or at any Navy Range Complex. Based on the best available science summarized in the EIS/OEIS Section 3.4.4.1 (Summary of Monitoring and Observations During Navy Activities), long-term consequences for marine mammal populations are unlikely to result from Navy training and testing activities in the Study Area. Note that for sea turtles, as described in the EIS/OEIS Section 3.5.3.7.1 (Combined Impacts of All Stressors), “impacts are not expected to decrease the overall fitness or result in long-term population level impacts on any given population.” Please also refer to Chapter 5 (Standard Operating Procedures, Mitigation, and Monitoring) of the EIS/OEIS, detailing the procedures and mitigation measures during its training and testing activities designed to reduce impacts to marine mammals and sea turtles from Navy activities.
Dupont MD (Electronic)	Regarding the Navy's draft EIS statement pertaining to training and testing off the Washington coast; I urge the navy to move their training and testing site well away from the Olympic Coast National Marine Sanctuary and known areas of the SRKWs travel range. They are an endangered species as it is. Further, I urge the Navy to use warning tones repeatedly prior to full usage of any sonar, so that the marine mammals may adapt their 1- hearing, as per research from Dr. Natchigall at the Hawaii Institute of Marine Biology 2- Change their course.	As explained in Section 2.5 (Alternatives Development) of the EIS/OEIS, the range of alternatives considered by the Navy must be reasonable alternatives. To be reasonable, an alternative must meet the stated purpose of and need for the Proposed Action. A curtailment or reduction in the number of training and testing activities would not meet the stated purpose of and need for the Proposed Action, and would therefore be unreasonable. As described in Chapter 5 (Standard Operating Procedures, Mitigation, and Monitoring) of the Final EIS/OEIS, the Navy evaluated the effectiveness and practicability of a number of potential mitigation measures including the avoidance of specific areas. The Navy has undertaken consultation with NMFS for the proposed and ongoing activities in the NWTT Study Area and the Navy refined the mitigation measures, which are now presented in Chapter 5 (Standard Operating

Table I.5-4: Responses to Comments from Private Individuals (continued)

Commenter	Comment	Navy Response
		Procedures, Mitigation, and Monitoring) of this Final EIS/OEIS. Through careful exploration of all mitigation measures to determine which were the most effective, the Navy chose the measures to mitigate potential impacts to marine mammals while still being able to meet its operational needs to train for real-world conditions. The Navy's specific mitigation measures are outlined in the following sections: Section 5.3.1 (Lookout Procedural Measures), Section 5.3.2 (Mitigation Zone Procedural Measures), and Section 5.3.3 (Mitigation Areas). Specifically, Section 5.3.4 (Mitigation Measures Considered but Eliminated) presents Navy consideration of similar area restrictions. The Navy and NMFS will use the Adaptive Management process to assess whether any additional mitigation should be considered in identified biologically important areas.
Dutta (Electronic)	Greetings, The proposed EIS stated that the 20 buoys are known to "to adversely affect" Endangered Leatherback Sea Turtles. If that number is increased to 720, this significantly alters the original EIS and this project needs to reevaluated with that information. As members of the Executive Branch of the Federal Government the US Navy under the Department of Defense is required by law to protect Endangered Species. This proposal does not meet those requirements. Do your jobs to protect our natural resources as well as our citizens.	The comment's request that a new EIS be completed describes exactly the purpose of the Supplement to the Draft EIS/OEIS. The Supplement reevaluated the original Draft EIS/OEIS analysis with the new information; in this case, the potential impacts of using 700 additional SSQ-125 sonobuoys annually. As described in the Supplement in Section 3.5.2 (Sea Turtle Summary), the proposed increase in the use of SSQ-125 sonobuoys "are not expected to result in substantial changes to behavior, growth, survival, annual reproductive success, lifetime reproductive success (fitness), or species recruitment, and are not expected to result in population-level impacts." Based on the best available science summarized in the EIS/OEIS Section 3.4.4.1 (Summary of Monitoring and Observations During Navy Activities), long-term consequences for marine mammal populations are unlikely to result from Navy training and testing activities in the Study Area. The Navy is in ongoing consultations with NMFS and USFWS regarding endangered species.
Duvall (Electronic)	I strongly object to the use of sonar manipulations including explosions and other sound wave production in on shore forests and off shore marine habitats. I strongly suggest that you do not carry out these kinds of tests in any habitat where animals or humans may be affected. I urge you to stop these harmful activities on any public or private lands or waters. If you must test these kinds of weapons do so on military installations and in laboratories designed for such testing. Do not make tests in living environments. The Navy's current environmental analysis fails to provide basic information necessary to adequately evaluate the impacts of the proposed activities. This analysis also fails to provide adequate measures to mitigate the	The Navy shares your concern for marine life, but this concern must be balanced with the purpose and need for Navy training and testing as detailed in Chapter 2 (Description of Proposed Action and Alternatives) of the EIS/OEIS. The Navy has conducted active sonar training and testing activities in the Study Area for decades, and there is no evidence that routine Navy training and testing has negatively impacted marine mammal populations or sea turtles in the Study Area or at any Navy Range Complex. Based on the best available science summarized in the EIS/OEIS Section 3.4.4.1 (Summary of Monitoring

Table I.5-4: Responses to Comments from Private Individuals (continued)

Commenter	Comment	Navy Response
	harmful effects of the proposed activities on marine mammals and other wildlife. Based on the information apparent in the environmental analysis, the Navy's "No Action Alternative" is the proposal with the most limited impact on wildlife. A drastic increase in sonar activity will negatively impact wildlife. Marine mammals are extremely sensitive to noise, and sonar disrupts basic behaviors necessary for survival such as migration, surfacing, navigating, hearing, nursing, breeding and feeding. Sonar can result in debilitating and even fatal injuries for marine mammals. Scientists believe sonar activity can change whale diving behavior, confusing them to swim to depths their bodies cannot handle. Whales suspected to have beached themselves because of sonar activity show signs of physical trauma like bleeding around the brain, ears and other tissues and large bubbles in their organs – symptoms analogous to "the bends" in humans. To the extent that threatened or endangered species -- including humpback and sperm whales, and leatherback turtles -- are negatively impacted, the proposed activities may result in violations of the Endangered Species Act.	and Observations During Navy Activities), long-term consequences for marine mammal populations or sea turtles are unlikely to result from Navy training and testing activities in the Study Area. Please also refer to Chapter 5 (Standard Operating Procedures, Mitigation, and Monitoring) of the EIS/OEIS, detailing the procedures and mitigation measures during its training and testing activities designed to reduce impacts to marine mammals and sea turtles from Navy activities. Regarding previous strandings, see Section 3.4.3.1.8 (Stranding) and the referenced technical report "Marine Mammal Strandings Associated with U.S. Navy Sonar Activities" (U.S. Department of the Navy 2013c).
Eagle (Electronic)	What part of NO are you unclear about? You are inundated with citizen protests against these actions. Please stop all sonar NOW. Thank you.	Thank you for participating in the NEPA process.
Earnest (Electronic)	With permission of the Sierra Club North Olympic Group I am using their letter as a basis to submit comments on the Supplement (December 2014) to the Navy's Draft Environmental Impact Statement/ Overseas Environmental Impact Statement (DEIS), dated January 2014, for its continued training and testing activities in the Pacific Northwest (NWTT). Please include these comments in the administrative record. As I have added my own thoughts, this is no longer a "form letter." The Navy's activities in the Northwest Training and Testing (NWTT) Study Area poses significant risks to whales, fish, and other wildlife that depend on a peaceful environment for breeding, feeding, navigating, and avoiding predators—in short, for their survival. The increased sonar activity outlined in the Supplement — the Tracking Exercise Maritime Patrol (TRACKEX), and the previously unreported Maritime Security Operations effects, and the cumulative impacts of stressors and greenhouse gases will have increased significant negative impacts on the marine environment. All of the Sierra Club's previous outlined concerns regarding the NWTT plans proposed in the EIS/OEIS and mine are only intensified by the increased negative effect of the larger percentages of additional activity (TRACKEX) and previously unexamined environmental effects (MSO, GHG) outlined in the Supplement. The long-term, cumulative impacts of all of these activities on marine wildlife have only been cursorily assessed in this Supplement. What are your actual numbers for claiming your increased harassment (your word) and guaranteed maiming & death to some marine mammals? Of course it's an estimate but & sea	The Navy is completing this EIS/OEIS in compliance with current law, including the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA). In addition to NEPA, the Navy continues to comply with other applicable environmental laws and with a number of regulatory requirements, such as the Marine Mammal Protection Act, the Endangered Species Act, the Coastal Zone Management Act, and the Magnuson-Stevens Fishery Conservation and Management Act. As stated in 50 C.F.R. section 216.1049a)(6), the Navy must estimate "the number of marine mammals (by species) that may be taken by each type of taking." No methodology currently exists that would allow the Navy to numerically estimate each type of potential response to sonar, predict any long-term consequences for the affected animals, and limit its take request to only the most severe responses and consequences qualifying as Level B take under the statute. This is because the nature of an animal's response to sonar, if any, is a function of a range of variables that presently cannot be reduced to a mathematical formula. While the NWTT EIS/OEIS does provide a numerical estimate for Level B takes, the Navy examines the numerical model output and available literature to provide a qualitative assessment on the likely nature and severity of behavioral responses for individual members and population for each species. Overall, the

Table I.5-4: Responses to Comments from Private Individuals (continued)

Commenter	Comment	Navy Response
	turtles will not "adversely affect their critical habitat" of this wildlife. You state that your testing & training is "not expected to decrease the overall fitness of any marine mammal [or sea turtle] population." So, essentially, if one male & one female somewhere in the world of the same specie you all but kill off still lives and they are healthy, you can hold your claim as true. Clearly you can see it's spurious and your proposal needs further study & serious mitigation. If your Training and Testing (T'nT) is so safe, rather than in & around Puget Sound, hold it in the Chesapeake or Delaware Bay where it can be better observed by the Pentagon & interested parties on Capital Hill. KEY CONCERNS PREVIOUSLY COMMENTED ON Reiterating key concerns previously submitted on this proposal in 2014 and note that this Supplement worsens the picture regarding all of them: •The thousands of injuries and deaths (takes) to and of marine mammals, sea turtles, fish and birds is further increased. •The lack of sensitivity to the Southern Resident Killer Whale's dwindling population and its need for a protected home in accord with its endangered status remains a critical concern. Training should be excluded from their critical habitat. Proximity to Naval bases for the convenience of sailors and their families, or interesting underwater topography taken as a rationale for continuing southern Puget Sound exercises does not warrant even one "take" of this species. The lack of consideration of exclusion zones, geographic alternatives to the southern Puget Sound and seasonal restrictions are still glaring omissions. All of the Alternatives propose year- round, unrestricted use without regard to seasonal variations in marine mammal and fish abundance. This is true despite the well- documented seasonal migrations of numerous endangered species and the identification of biologically important areas. Your map in Fig 2.1 shows your MOA to coincide with the shipping lanes for Puget Sound & tracks between populated areas, all but touching both. You neglect to address how U.S citizen, our habitat, hearing, food crops, etc. will be adversely affected. I know who the National Marine Fisheries Service is. Who is the National Maritime Fisheries Service you claim to be your cooperating agency? • Our concern regarding the apparent lack of any plans for the Navy to use the Cetacean Density and Distribution Mapping Working Group's data (CetMap) for marine mammal populations in the Pacific Northwest to mitigate harm and protect habitat remains. • The Navy's failure to develop meaningful alternatives and strategies to MITIGATE this increased harm is unacceptable—particularly because the Navy's plan fails to adopt common- sense measures that would dramatically reduce these injuries and deaths without compromising national security. Most importantly, the Navy should put critical marine habitats off-limits to sonar and explosives testing and schedule training to avoid times of the year when sensitive species are present in places like the Olympic Coast National Marine Sanctuary, something it is not willing to do despite the scient	Navy concludes that the majority of Level B takes are in the form of avoidance of the sound source; temporary changes in vocalizations or dive patterns; temporary avoidance of an area; temporary disruption of feeding, migrating, or reproductive behaviors; and relatively mild temporary threshold shift in some animals. It is wrong to assume that the modeled estimates all represent severe reactions. The analysis in Chapter 3 (Affected Environment and Environmental Consequences) of the EIS/OEIS does not indicate that any marine mammal mortalities would occur. The Navy's quantitative analysis in Section 3.4 (Marine Mammals) shows that sonar may result in approximately 126 PTS exposures (i.e., a permanent loss of hearing sensitivity to certain frequencies of underwater sound). No mortality exposures are predicted. Two PTS exposures are predicted from the use of explosives during training and testing activities. No other injury and no mortality takes are predicted (see Tables 3.4-17, 3.4-18, 3.4-25, and 3.4-26). As described in Section 3.10 (Cultural Resources), Section 3.12 (Socioeconomics), and Section 3.13 (Public Health and Safety) of the EIS/OEIS, the Navy's proposed activities are not expected to impact cultural resources, socioeconomic resources, or public health and safety. The Draft and Final EIS/OEIS fully considers the potential social and cultural impacts associated with the proposed activities. As explained in Section 2.5 (Alternatives Development) of the EIS/OEIS, the range of alternatives considered by the Navy must be reasonable alternatives. To be reasonable, an alternative must meet the stated purpose of and need for the Proposed Action. A curtailment or reduction in the number of training and testing activities would not meet the stated purpose of and need for the Proposed Action, and would therefore be unreasonable. No injury takes to leatherback sea turtles (the only species present in the Study Area) are predicted from quantitative analysis presented in Section 3.5 (Sea Turtles). The Navy shares your concern for marine life, but this concern must be balanced with the purpose and need for Navy training and testing as detailed in Chapter 2 (Description of Proposed Action and Alternatives) of the EIS/OEIS. The Navy has conducted active sonar training and testing activities in the Study Area for decades, and there is no evidence that routine Navy training and testing has negatively impacted marine mammal populations or sea turtles in the Study Area or at any Navy Range Complex. Based on the best available science

Table I.5-4: Responses to Comments from Private Individuals (continued)

Commenter	Comment	Navy Response
		summarized in the EIS/OEIS Section 3.4.4.1 (Summary of Monitoring and Observations During Navy Activities), long-term consequences for marine mammal populations or sea turtles are unlikely to result from Navy training and testing activities in the Study Area. Please also refer to Chapter 5 (Standard Operating Procedures, Mitigation, and Monitoring) of the EIS/OEIS, detailing the procedures and mitigation measures during its training and testing activities designed to reduce impacts to marine mammals and sea turtles from Navy activities. As part of the Navy's effects analysis, the Navy considers all the science that identifies locations where certain cetacean populations or individuals are known to engage in feeding, breeding, or other biologically important activities at certain times of year. Recently, NMFS has taken steps to begin formally identifying some of these areas and naming them Biologically Important Areas (BIAs). The Navy has considered these areas as part of its analysis in this Final EIS/OEIS when discussing particular species in Chapter 3 (Affected Environment and Environmental Consequences) as well as in considering whether limitations on Navy activities in these areas are warranted as mitigation in discussion in Chapter 5 (see Section 5.3.4.1.11, Avoiding Marine Species Habitats and Biologically Important Areas). The Navy thoroughly considered the humpback and gray whale feeding areas identified recently in its analysis and whether avoidance as mitigation was appropriate. Given the impact avoidance would have on military readiness activities and lack of biological benefit, avoidance is not warranted. Please see Section 5.3.4.1.11 (Avoiding Marine Species Habitats and Biologically Important Areas). However, Navy is proposing to provide reporting of generally low use of sonar in some of these areas to NMFS as part of classified annual reports to help inform future adaptive management related to impacts in these areas. At time of release of this Final EIS/OEIS, NMFS and Navy are in ongoing discussion regarding mitigation for MMPA purposes. Should additional mitigation to that which Navy has proposed be identified in the MMPA rule making and authorization, it will be indicated in the ROD. It is important to note that the BIAs were not meant to define exclusionary zones, nor critical habitat with regulatory management, nor were they meant to be locations that serve as sanctuaries from human activity, or areas analogous to marine protected areas. The NMFS-identified BIAs do not have direct or immediate regulatory consequences and the BIAs located within the NWTT Study Area are not the only areas used for feeding, migrating, or reproductive activity for these cetaceans in a species' entire range

Table I.5-4: Responses to Comments from Private Individuals (continued)

Commenter	Comment	Navy Response
		and habitat. The stated intention is for the BIAs to serve as a resource management tool and their currently identified boundaries be considered dynamic and subject to change based on any new information as well as, "existing density estimates, range-wide distribution data, information on population trends and life history parameters, known threats to the population, and other relevant information." There is a lack of science supporting identification of any additional BIAs at this time for the Pacific. The Navy and NMFS have supported and will continue to support the Cetacean and Sound Mapping project, including providing representation on the Cetacean Density and Distribution Mapping Working Group (CetMap), which informed NMFS' identification of BIAs. The same marine mammal density data present in the Navy's Density Database Technical Report, and used in the analysis for this EIS/OEIS, was used in the development of BIAs. The final products, including U.S. West Coast BIAs from this mapping effort, were completed and published in March 2015. Lookouts can visually detect marine species so that potentially harmful impacts to marine mammals and sea turtles from explosives, sonar and other activities use can be avoided. Lookouts can more quickly and effectively relay sighting information so that corrective action can be taken. Support from aircrew and divers, if they are involved in the activity, will increase the probability of sightings, reducing the potential for impacts. For more information on Lookout Procedures, please see Chapter 5, Section 5.3.1 of the EIS/OEIS. When marine mammals have been sighted in the vicinity of the operation, all range participants increase vigilance and take reasonable and practicable actions to avoid collisions and activities that may result in close interaction of naval assets and marine mammals. Actions may include changing speed or direction, subject to environmental and other conditions (e.g., safety, weather). The Navy used the best available science and a comprehensive review of past, present, and reasonably foreseeable actions to develop a robust Cumulative Impacts analysis. See Chapter 4 (Cumulative Impacts) of the EIS/OEIS. As discussed in Chapter 1 (Purpose and Need), the proximity of the NWTT range complexes to naval homeports is strategically important to the Navy because the close access allows efficient execution of training activities and non-training maintenance functions. The proximity of training to homeports also ensures that Sailors and Marines do not have to routinely travel far

Table I.5-4: Responses to Comments from Private Individuals (continued)

Commenter	Comment	Navy Response
		from their families. Less time away from home is critical to military readiness, morale, and retention. The proximity of the testing ranges to technical centers of expertise (e.g., NUWC Keyport) is crucial to the successful completion of testing activities. The proximate availability of the NWTT range complexes is critical to Navy efforts in these areas. The U.S. Navy has conducted active sonar training and testing activities for decades in the seaspace depicted in the Study Area with no evidence to indicate any meaningful impacts to marine habitats in the area. The Navy and NMFS jointly are still in ongoing consultation with the OCNMS regarding the effects of the Proposed Action on Sanctuary resources. The Navy concludes its continued activities are not likely to result in the loss, destruction, or adverse changes to the viability of Sanctuary resources. Several points support this determination: • Less than two percent of proposed training and 15 percent of proposed testing activities would occur within or immediately adjacent to the OCNMS. • The NWTT Final EIS/OEIS shows that training and testing activities have minimal temporary impacts on the quantity or quality of the Study Area's physical environment, and minor to no impacts on marine or shore birds, fish, sea turtles, or invertebrate marine life. • Although explosives have the potential to affect the physical and biological resources, the Navy does not use explosives within the OCNMS. • The Navy concludes any marine mammal behavioral reactions to NWTT training and testing activities would be transitory, infrequent, non-cumulative, and impacts are not expected to decrease overall individual fitness or result in long-term population-level impacts on any given population, and consequently will not result in any adverse changes to the sanctuary. Finally, all Department of Defense (DoD) military activities shall be carried out in a manner that avoids to the maximum extent practicable any adverse impacts on Sanctuary resources and qualities.
Earnest-01 (Written)	With permission of the Sierra Club North Olympic Group I am using their letter as a basis to submit comments on the Supplement (December 2014) to the Navy's Draft Environmental Impact Statement/ Overseas Environmental Impact Statement (DEIS), dated January 2014, for its continued training and testing activities in the Pacific Northwest (NWTT). Please include these comments in the administrative	Thank you for participating in the NEPA process.

Table I.5-4: Responses to Comments from Private Individuals (continued)

Commenter	Comment	Navy Response
	record. As I have added my own thoughts, this is no longer a "form letter."	
Earnest-02	The Navy's activities in the Northwest Training and Testing (NWTT) Study Area poses significant risks to whales, fish, and other wildlife that depend on a peaceful environment for breeding, feeding, navigating, and avoiding predators-in short, for their survival. The increased sonar activity outlined in the Supplement - the Tracking Exercise Maritime Patrol (TRACKEX), and the previously unreported Maritime Security Operations effects, and the cumulative impacts of stressors and greenhouse gases will have increased significant negative impacts on the marine environment.	The Navy used the best available science and a comprehensive review of past, present, and reasonably foreseeable actions to develop a robust Cumulative Impacts analysis. See Chapter 4 (Cumulative Impacts) of the EIS/OEIS, which has been updated for the Final EIS/OEIS. The Navy shares your concern for marine life, but this concern must be balanced with the purpose and need for Navy training and testing as detailed in Chapter 2 (Description of Proposed Action and Alternatives) of the EIS/OEIS. The Navy has conducted active sonar training and testing activities in the Study Area for decades, and there is no evidence that routine Navy training and testing has negatively impacted marine mammal populations in the Study Area or at any Navy Range Complex. Based on the best available science summarized in the EIS/OEIS Section 3.4.4.1 (Summary of Monitoring and Observations During Navy Activities), long-term consequences for marine mammal populations are unlikely to result from Navy training and testing activities in the Study Area. Please also refer to Chapter 5 (Standard Operating Procedures, Mitigation, and Monitoring) of the EIS/OEIS, detailing the procedures and mitigation measures during its training and testing activities designed to reduce impacts to marine mammals from Navy activities.
Earnest-03	All of the Sierra Club's previous outlined concerns regarding the NWTT plans proposed in the EIS/OEIS and mine are only intensified by the increased negative effect of the larger percentages of additional activity (TRACKEX) and previously unexamined environmental effects (MSO, GHG) outlined in the Supplement. The long-term, cumulative impacts of all of these activities on marine wildlife have only been cursorily assessed in this Supplement. What are your actual numbers for claiming your increased harassment (your word) and guaranteed maiming & death to some marine mammals? Of course it's an estimate but & sea turtles will not "adversely affect their critical habitat" of this wildlife. You state that your testing & training is "not expected to decrease the overall fitness of any marine mammal [or sea turtle] population." So, essentially, if one male & one female somewhere in the world of the same specie you all but kill off still lives and they are healthy, you can hold your claim as true. Clearly you can see it's spurious and your proposal needs further study & serious mitigation. If your Training and Testing (TnT) is so safe, rather than in & around Puget Sound, hold it in the Chesapeake or Delaware Bay where it can be better observed by the Pentagon & interested parties on Capital Hill.	As described in the Supplement in Section 3.4.2 (Marine Mammal Summary), the proposed increase in the use of SSQ-125 sonobuoys would "not result in any long-term consequences for any marine mammal population or species; therefore, the conclusions stated in the Draft EIS/OEIS remain unchanged." For more detailed analysis please see Section 3.4.3 (Marine Mammals, Environmental Consequences). Similarly, as described in the Supplement in Section 3.5.2 (Sea Turtle Summary), the proposed increase in the use of SSQ-125 sonobuoys "are not expected to result in substantial changes to behavior, growth, survival, annual reproductive success, lifetime reproductive success (fitness), or species recruitment, and are not expected to result in population-level impacts." The Navy has conducted active sonar training and testing activities in the Study Area for decades, and there is no evidence that routine Navy training and testing has negatively impacted marine mammal populations or sea turtles in the Study Area or at any Navy Range Complex. Based on the best available science summarized in the

Table I.5-4: Responses to Comments from Private Individuals (continued)

Commenter	Comment	Navy Response
		EIS/OEIS Section 3.4.4.1 (Summary of Monitoring and Observations During Navy Activities), long-term consequences for marine mammal populations or sea turtles are unlikely to result from Navy training and testing activities in the Study Area.
Earnest-04	KEY CONCERNS PREVIOUSLY COMMENTED ON Reiterating key concerns previously submitted on this proposal in 2014 and note that this Supplement worsens the picture regarding all of them:	Thank you for participating in the NEPA process.
Earnest-05	·The thousands of injuries and deaths (takes) to and of marine mammals, sea turtles, fish and birds is further increased.	The Navy shares your concern for marine life, but this concern must be balanced with the purpose and need for Navy training and testing as detailed in Chapter 2 (Description of Proposed Action and Alternatives) of the EIS/OEIS. The Navy has conducted active sonar training and testing activities in the Study Area for decades, and there is no evidence that routine Navy training and testing has negatively impacted marine life in the Study Area or at any Navy Range Complex. Based on the best available science summarized in the EIS/OEIS Section 3.4.4.1 (Summary of Monitoring and Observations During Navy Activities), long-term consequences for marine mammal populations, sea turtles, fish, or birds are unlikely to result from Navy training and testing activities in the Study Area. Please also refer to Chapter 5 (Standard Operating Procedures, Mitigation, and Monitoring) of the EIS/OEIS, detailing the procedures and mitigation measures during its training and testing activities designed to reduce impacts from Navy activities.
Earnest-06	·The lack of sensitivity to the Southern Resident Killer Whale's dwindling population and its need for a protected home in accord with its endangered status remains a critical concern. Training should be excluded from their critical habitat. Proximity to Naval bases for the convenience of sailors and their families, or interesting underwater topography taken as a rationale for continuing southern Puget Sound exercises does not warrant even one "take" of this species. • The lack of consideration of exclusion zones, geographic alternatives to the southern Puget Sound and seasonal restrictions are still glaring omissions. All of the Alternatives propose year- round, unrestricted use without regard to seasonal variations in marine mammal and fish abundance. This is true despite the well-documented seasonal migrations of numerous endangered species and the identification of biologically important areas.	As part of the Navy's effects analysis, the Navy considers all the science that identifies locations where certain cetacean populations or individuals are known to engage in feeding, breeding, or other biologically important activities at certain times of year. Recently, NMFS has taken steps to begin formally identifying some of these areas and naming them Biologically Important Areas (BIAs). The Navy has considered these areas as part of its analysis in this Final EIS/OEIS when discussing particular species in Chapter 3 (Affected Environment and Environmental Consequences) as well as in considering whether limitations on Navy activities in these areas are warranted as mitigation in discussion in Chapter 5 (see Section 5.3.4.1.11, Avoiding Marine Species Habitats and Biologically Important Areas). The Navy thoroughly considered the humpback and gray whale feeding areas identified recently in its analysis and whether avoidance as mitigation was appropriate. Given the impact avoidance would have on military readiness activities and lack of biological

Table I.5-4: Responses to Comments from Private Individuals (continued)

Commenter	Comment	Navy Response
		benefit, avoidance is not warranted. Please see Section 5.3.4.1.11 (Avoiding Marine Species Habitats and Biologically Important Areas). However, Navy is proposing to provide reporting of generally low use of sonar in some of these areas to NMFS as part of classified annual reports to help inform future adaptive management related to impacts in these areas. At time of release of this Final EIS/OEIS, NMFS and Navy are in ongoing discussion regarding mitigation for MMPA purposes. Should additional mitigation to that which Navy has proposed be identified in the MMPA rule making and authorization, it will be indicated in the ROD. It is important to note that the BIAs were not meant to define exclusionary zones, nor critical habitat with regulatory management, nor were they meant to be locations that serve as sanctuaries from human activity, or areas analogous to marine protected areas. The NMFS-identified BIAs do not have direct or immediate regulatory consequences and the BIAs located within the NWTT Study Area are not the only areas used for feeding, migrating, or reproductive activity for these cetaceans in a species' entire range and habitat. The stated intention is for the BIAs to serve as a resource management tool and their currently identified boundaries be considered dynamic and subject to change based on any new information as well as, "existing density estimates, range-wide distribution data, information on population trends and life history parameters, known threats to the population, and other relevant information." There is a lack of science supporting identification of any additional BIAs at this time for the Pacific. The Navy and NMFS have supported and will continue to support the Cetacean and Sound Mapping project, including providing representation on the Cetacean Density and Distribution Mapping Working Group (CetMap), which informed NMFS' identification of BIAs. The same marine mammal density data present in the Navy's Density Database Technical Report, and used in the analysis for this EIS/OEIS, was used in the development of BIAs. The final products, including U.S. West Coast BIAs from this mapping effort, were completed and published in March 2015. The U.S. Navy has conducted active sonar training and testing activities for decades in the sea space depicted in the Study Area with no evidence to indicate any meaningful impacts to marine habitats in the area. The Navy and NMFS jointly are still in ongoing consultation with the OCNMS regarding the effects of the Proposed Action on Sanctuary resources. The Navy concludes its continued activities are

Table I.5-4: Responses to Comments from Private Individuals (continued)

Commenter	Comment	Navy Response
		not likely to result in the loss, destruction, or adverse changes to the viability of Sanctuary resources. Several points support this determination: • Less than two percent of proposed training and 15 percent of proposed testing activities would occur within or immediately adjacent to the OCNMS. • The NWTT Final EIS/OEIS shows that training and testing activities have minimal temporary impacts on the quantity or quality of the Study Area's physical environment, and minor to no impacts on marine or shore birds, fish, sea turtles, or invertebrate marine life. • Although explosives have the potential to affect the physical and biological resources, the Navy does not use explosives within the OCNMS. • The Navy concludes any marine mammal behavioral reactions to NWTT training and testing activities would be transitory, infrequent, non-cumulative, and impacts are not expected to decrease overall individual fitness or result in long-term population-level impacts on any given population, and consequently will not result in any adverse changes to the sanctuary. Finally, all Department of Defense (DoD) military activities shall be carried out in a manner that avoids to the maximum extent practicable any adverse impacts on Sanctuary resources and qualities, including the SRKWs.
Earnest-07	• Your map in Fig 2.1 shows your MOA to conclude with the shipping lanes for Puget Sound & tracks between populated areas, all but touching both. You neglect to address how U.S citizen, our habitat, hearing, food crops, etc. will be adversely affected.	As described in Section 3.10 (Cultural Resources), Section 3.12 (Socioeconomics), and Section 3.13 (Public Health and Safety) of the EIS/OEIS, the Navy's proposed activities are not expected to impact cultural resources, socioeconomic resources, or public health and safety.
Earnest-08	• I know who the National Marine Fisheries Service is. Who is the National Maritime Fisheries Service you claim to be your cooperating agency?	The Navy does not make this claim. As stated in Section 1.7 (Scope and Content) of the Draft and Final EIS/OEIS, NMFS is a cooperating agency because of its expertise and regulatory authority over marine resources.
Earnest-09	• Our concern regarding the apparent lack of any plans for the Navy to use the Cetacean Density and Distribution Mapping Working Group's data (CetMap) for marine mammal populations in the Pacific Northwest to mitigate harm and protect habitat remains.	As part of the Navy's effects analysis, the Navy considers all the science that identifies locations where certain cetacean populations or individuals are known to engage in feeding, breeding, or other biologically important activities at certain times of year. Recently, NMFS has taken steps to begin formally identifying some of these areas and naming them Biologically Important Areas (BIAs). The Navy

Table I.5-4: Responses to Comments from Private Individuals (continued)

Commenter	Comment	Navy Response
		has considered these areas as part of its analysis in this Final EIS/OEIS when discussing particular species in Chapter 3 (Affected Environment and Environmental Consequences) as well as in considering whether limitations on Navy activities in these areas are warranted as mitigation in discussion in Chapter 5 (see Section 5.3.4.1.11, Avoiding Marine Species Habitats and Biologically Important Areas). The Navy thoroughly considered the humpback and gray whale feeding areas identified recently in its analysis and whether avoidance as mitigation was appropriate. Given the impact avoidance would have on military readiness activities and lack of biological benefit, avoidance is not warranted. Please see Section 5.3.4.1.11 (Avoiding Marine Species Habitats and Biologically Important Areas). However, Navy is proposing to provide reporting of generally low use of sonar in some of these areas to NMFS as part of classified annual reports to help inform future adaptive management related to impacts in these areas. At time of release of this Final EIS/OEIS, NMFS and Navy are in ongoing discussion regarding mitigation for MMPA purposes. Should additional mitigation to that which Navy has proposed be identified in the MMPA rule making and authorization, it will be indicated in the ROD. It is important to note that the BIAs were not meant to define exclusionary zones, nor critical habitat with regulatory management, nor were they meant to be locations that serve as sanctuaries from human activity, or areas analogous to marine protected areas. The NMFS-identified BIAs do not have direct or immediate regulatory consequences and the BIAs located within the NWTT Study Area are not the only areas used for feeding, migrating, or reproductive activity for these cetaceans in a species' entire range and habitat. The stated intention is for the BIAs to serve as a resource management tool and their currently identified boundaries be considered dynamic and subject to change based on any new information as well as, "existing density estimates, range-wide distribution data, information on population trends and life history parameters, known threats to the population, and other relevant information." There is a lack of science supporting identification of any additional BIAs at this time for the Pacific. The Navy and NMFS have supported and will continue to support the Cetacean and Sound Mapping project, including providing representation on the Cetacean Density and Distribution Mapping Working Group (CetMap), which informed NMFS' identification of BIAs. The same marine mammal density data present in the Navy's Density Database Technical Report, and used in the

Table I.5-4: Responses to Comments from Private Individuals (continued)

Commenter	Comment	Navy Response
		analysis for this EIS/OEIS, was used in the development of BIAs. The final products, including U.S. West Coast BIAs from this mapping effort, were completed and published in March 2015. As described in Chapter 5 (Standard Operating Procedures, Mitigation, and Monitoring) of the Final EIS/OEIS, the Navy evaluated the effectiveness and practicability of a number of potential mitigation measures including the avoidance of specific areas. The Navy has undertaken consultation with NMFS for the proposed and ongoing activities in the NWTT Study Area and the Navy refined the mitigation measures, which are now presented in Chapter 5 (Standard Operating Procedures, Mitigation, and Monitoring) of this Final EIS/OEIS. Through careful exploration of all mitigation measures to determine which were the most effective, the Navy chose the measures to mitigate potential impacts to marine mammals while still being able to meet its operational needs to train for real-world conditions. The Navy's specific mitigation measures are outlined in the following sections: Section 5.3.1 (Lookout Procedural Measures), Section 5.3.2 (Mitigation Zone Procedural Measures), and Section 5.3.3 (Mitigation Areas). Specifically, Section 5.3.4 (Mitigation Measures Considered but Eliminated) presents Navy consideration of similar area restrictions. The Navy and NMFS will use the Adaptive Management process to assess whether any additional mitigation should be considered in identified biologically important areas. Please see Section 5.3.3 and 5.3.4, in which protection zones were considered and discussed. In addition, as described in Section 5.3.2 (Mitigation Zone Procedural Measures), the Navy has considered and established activity-specific mitigation zones for the protection of species that may be present no matter where the activity may occur.
Earnest-10	·The Navy's failure to develop meaningful alternatives and strategies to MITIGATE this increased harm is unacceptable-particularly because the Navy's plan fails to adopt commonsense measures that would dramatically reduce these injuries and deaths without compromising national security. Most importantly, the Navy should put critical marine habitats off-limits to sonar and explosives testing and schedule training to avoid times of the year when sensitive species are present in places like the Olympic Coast National Marine Sanctuary, something it is not willing to do despite the scientific community's view that these would be the most effective means of reducing harm.	As stated in the Final EIS/OEIS, Section 3.4.2.5 (Marine Mammal Density Estimates), already incorporated into the Navy's and NMFS' analysis of effects to marine mammals has been consideration of emergent science regarding locations where cetaceans are known to engage in activities at certain times of the year that are important to individual animals as well as populations of marine mammals. As part of the Navy's effects analysis, the Navy considers all the science that identifies locations where certain cetacean populations or individuals are known to engage in feeding, breeding, or other biologically important activities at certain times of year. Recently, NMFS has taken steps to begin formally identifying some of these

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Commenter	Comment	Navy Response
		areas and naming them Biologically Important Areas (BIAs). The Navy has considered these areas as part of its analysis in this Final EIS/OEIS when discussing particular species in Chapter 3 as well as in considering whether limitations on Navy activities in these areas are warranted as mitigation in discussion in Chapter 5 (see Section 5.3.4.1.11, Avoiding Marine Species Habitats and Biologically Important Areas). The Navy thoroughly considered the humpback and gray whale feeding areas identified recently in its analysis and whether avoidance as mitigation was appropriate. Given the impact avoidance would have on military readiness activities and lack of biological benefit, avoidance is not warranted. Please see Section 5.3.4.1.11 (Avoiding Marine Species Habitats and Biologically Important Areas). However, Navy is proposing to provide reporting of generally low use of sonar in some of these areas to NMFS as part of classified annual reports to help inform future adaptive management related to impacts in these areas. At time of release of this Final EIS/OEIS, NMFS and Navy are in ongoing discussion regarding mitigation for MMPA purposes. Should additional mitigation to that which Navy has proposed be identified in the MMPA rule making and authorization it will be indicated in the ROD. It is important to note that the BIAs were not meant to define exclusionary zones, nor critical habitat with regulatory management, nor were they meant to be locations that serve as sanctuaries from human activity, or areas analogous to marine protected areas. The NMFS-identified BIAs do not have direct or immediate regulatory consequences and the BIA's located within the NWTT Study Area are not the only areas used for feeding, migrating, or reproductive activity for these cetaceans in a species' entire range and habitat. The stated intention is for the BIAs to serve as a resource management tool and their currently identified boundaries be considered dynamic and subject to change based on any new information as well as, "existing density estimates, range-wide distribution data, information on population trends and life history parameters, known threats to the population, and other relevant information." There is a lack of science supporting identification of any additional BIAs at this time for the Pacific. The Navy and NMFS have supported and will continue to support the Cetacean and Sound Mapping project, including providing representation on the Cetacean Density and Distribution Mapping Working Group (CetMap), which informed NMFS' identification of BIAs. The same marine mammal density data present in the Navy's Density Database Technical Report and used in the

Table I.5-4: Responses to Comments from Private Individuals (continued)

Commenter	Comment	Navy Response
		analysis for this EIS/OEIS, was used in the development of BIAs. The final products, including U.S. West Coast BIAs from this mapping effort, were completed and published in March 2015. The Navy and NMFS jointly are still in ongoing consultation with the OCNMS regarding the effects of the Proposed Action on Sanctuary resources. The Navy concludes its continued activities are not likely to result in the loss, destruction, or adverse changes to the viability of Sanctuary resources. Several points support this determination: • Less than two percent of proposed training and 15 percent of proposed testing activities would occur within or immediately adjacent to the OCNMS. • The NWTT Final EIS/OEIS shows that training and testing activities have minimal temporary impacts on the quantity or quality of the Study Area's physical environment, and minor to no impacts on marine or shore birds, fish, sea turtles, or invertebrate marine life. • Although explosives have the potential to affect the physical and biological resources, the Navy does not use explosives within the OCNMS. • The Navy concludes any marine mammal behavioral reactions to NWTT training and testing activities would be transitory, infrequent, non-cumulative, and impacts are not expected to decrease overall individual fitness or result in long-term population-level impacts on any given population, and consequently will not result in any adverse changes to the sanctuary. Finally, all Department of Defense (DoD) military activities shall be carried out in a manner that avoids to the maximum extent practicable any adverse impacts on Sanctuary resources and qualities.
Earnest-11	A noticeable lack of increased mitigation plans in accord with the increased damage that is likely from additional sonar activity is unacceptable. Nowhere is it outlined whether visual patrols will increase as a result of this new activity, nor does the Supplement address real concerns over whether or not visual patrol is adequate at times of night or rough seas. No acoustic monitoring or avoidance strategies are included. This is a serious omission to a document that intended to address the inadequate science and mitigation plans of the original draft. Mitigation must be addressed more fully.	As described in Chapter 5 (Standard Operating Procedures, Mitigation, and Monitoring) of the EIS/OEIS, the Navy evaluated the effectiveness and practicability of a number of potential mitigation measures. Through consultation and permitting with NMFS and USFWS, the Navy refined the mitigation measures, which are now presented in Chapter 5 (Standard Operating Procedures, Mitigation, and Monitoring) of this Final EIS/OEIS. Section 5.3.1.2.5 (Effectiveness Assessment for Lookouts) acknowledges that, due to the various detection probabilities, levels of Lookout experience, and variability of sighting conditions, Lookouts will not always be effective at avoiding impacts on all species. However,

Table I.5-4: Responses to Comments from Private Individuals (continued)

Commenter	Comment	Navy Response
		Lookouts are expected to increase the overall likelihood that certain marine mammal species and some sea turtles will be detected at the surface of the water, when compared to the likelihood that these same species would be detected if Lookouts are not used. The continued use of Lookouts contributes to helping reduce potential impacts on these species from training and testing activities. While the range of the sonar's detection would travel beyond the distance that Lookouts can detect animals, the range at which sonar is predicted to be able to cause injury to a marine mammal is very short, within 10 meters of the sonar. At such short distances, it is likely any marine mammal would have been detected.
Earnest-12	NEW CONCERNS The opportunity to comment on this Supplement at this time allows the North Olympic Group Sierra Club to add very important criticisms of this proposal.	Thank you for participating in the NEPA process.
Earnest-13	• Earlier comments submitted by our group and others called for an examination of cumulative impacts of sonar testing, stressors, and climate change concerns. This Supplement has merely mentioned these concerns and then claims them to be non-significant. As these questions are paramount and important to the future of the region these proclamations of non-significance are unsupported and are dismissive.	The Navy used the best available science and a comprehensive review of past, present, and reasonably foreseeable actions to develop a robust Cumulative Impacts analysis. The Navy has returned to the analysis in Chapter 4 (Cumulative Impacts) due to concerns raised in public comments, and the Chapter has been revised in response to those public comments. The literature on ocean acidification has been reviewed, and is now discussed in Section 4.4.4 (Climate Change), of Chapter 4 (Cumulative Impacts) of the EIS/OEIS.
Earnest-14	• It has become evident that the Navy has embarked on a strategy of handling public comment that appears out of sync with federal NEPA requirements. Four clearly-linked documents have been spread out in their introduction to the public over the last year and a half. This has had the effect of separating ground-based, air-based and sea-based naval activities as if they were not linked. This misleads the public into considering smaller spheres of influence of Navy actions in myriad localities. This strategy, or decision, to break up an obviously unified plan may in fact be in violation of federal law. The four proposals were: • An initial call for Scoping Comments to evaluate the potential environmental effects associated with ongoing and planned EA-18G Growler airfield operations at NAS Whidbey Island's Ault Field and Outlying Landing Field (OLF) (December 2013). ·The Northwest Training and Testing EIS/OEIS (January 2014): covering the sea-based training and testing plans stretching from Alaska to California that features a proposed increase of the use of sonar and explosives in offshore areas and the	The Navy prepares Environmental Impact Statements (EIS) and Environmental Assessments (EA) in order to comply with the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA). These NEPA documents are intended to ensure decision makers consider the potential environmental effects of a proposed action and its alternatives, provide an opportunity for public involvement, and promote transparency by informing the public of these potential environmental effects. Each NEPA document addresses a specific proposed action, separated from other actions by its purpose and need, independent utility, timing, and geographic location. Some NEPA documents are stand-alone documents; others tier off or expand the analyses of other NEPA documents. NEPA documents for training and testing, including this EIS/OEIS, focus on training and testing activities occurring within a range complex or military operation area and involve different types of aircraft, ships, and range complex enhancements. NEPA documents for aircraft homebasing actions focus on aircraft operations in and

Table I.5-4: Responses to Comments from Private Individuals (continued)

Commenter	Comment	Navy Response
	Sound. ·The Pacific Northwest Electronic Warfare Range Environmental Assessment (August 2014) and the National Forest Service Special Use Permit proposal. .. a land operation . • The most recent Scoping period revision of the future U.S. Navy Environmental Impact Statement for the EA-18G Growler Airfield Operations at Naval Air Station (NAS) Whidbey Island November 2014. This significant upward revision of numbers of Growlers proposed was the most recent opportunity to comment.	around the airfield and their facility needs. NEPA documents for installations focus on infrastructure enhancements for host and tenant command missions. Importantly, every environmental document considers the cumulative impacts to the environment from other relevant past, present, and reasonably foreseeable future actions (federal, state, local, and private) in addition to the proposed action. The Navy has been training in the Olympic Military Operations Area (MOA) for over 40 years, and the Navy has not proposed any significant changes to the way aircrew train in the MOA. The Navy recently analyzed plans to enhance existing training by adding one fixed transmitter at Pacific Beach and three mobile transmitter vehicles that would operate on existing logging roads and pull-out areas on U.S. Forest Service land. The Navy has not proposed to use National Park Service land. EW training and EW Range enhancements were analyzed in the Navy's Northwest Training Range Complex (NWTRC) EIS/OEIS, completed in 2010. When more information became available on mobile and fixed signal transmitters for the EW Range, the Navy prepared the EW Range EA to analyze placement and operation of those transmitters. The Navy completed the EA and issued a Finding of No Significant Impact on August 28, 2014. The introduction of the land-based transmitters to enhance existing training will not harm people, animals, or the environment. The Navy has decades of experience building and operating signal equipment, with no adverse effects to people, animals, or the environment. Though there is a proposed increase in EW training events associated with the range enhancements and analyzed in this EIS/OEIS, the increase in events does not equate to a comparable increase in the number of aircraft flights or in the duration of flights. EW training flights are already occurring in the Olympic MOAs, and it is estimated that this proposal will only result in an approximately 10 percent annual increase in actual flights, which equates to approximately one additional flight per day. This is because each flight will be able to accommodate multiple EW training events. The Navy proposes to home base up to 36 additional EA-18G aircraft at NAS Whidbey Island. The Navy announced the preparation of that separate Whidbey EIS on September 5, 2013, and invited the public to participate in the NEPA process by submitting comments to define the scope of the Draft Whidbey EIS analysis. On October 10, 2014, the Navy revised the scope of the on-going Whidbey EIS and invited the public to submit additional scoping comments. The Navy is currently

Table I.5-4: Responses to Comments from Private Individuals (continued)

Commenter	Comment	Navy Response
		preparing its Draft Whidbey EIS, which is scheduled to be released in spring 2016. For more information, please visit the project website at www.whidbeyeis.com. This NWTT EIS/OEIS considered the Whidbey EIS proposal in its analysis of cumulative impacts in Chapter 4.
Earnest-15	• You've seemingly traded 150 SSQ-110 sonobuoys out for the same number of SSQ-125 sonobuoys ... and then added 550 more. What will you be sending out under the water to test launchers & the new sonobuoys' accuracy? What danger will that pose to marine life? To land life (humans & others? What neutral or EPA group will be heading that investigation?	This increase in the use of SSQ-125 sonobuoys will not pose an increased threat to marine life or land life. As described in the Supplement in Section 3.4.2 (Marine Mammal Summary), the proposed increase in the use of SSQ-125 sonobuoys would "not result in any long-term consequences for any marine mammal population or species; therefore, the conclusions stated in the Draft EIS/OEIS remain unchanged." The Navy has conducted active sonar training and testing activities in the Study Area for decades, and there is no evidence that routine Navy training and testing has negatively impacted marine mammal populations in the Study Area or at any Navy Range Complex. Based on the best available science summarized in the EIS/OEIS Section 3.4.4.1 (Summary of Monitoring and Observations During Navy Activities), long-term consequences for marine mammal populations are unlikely to result from Navy training and testing activities in the Study Area.
Earnest-16	Importantly, as regards the current NWTT Supplement, the Navy's engagement in the process to informing the public has been extremely flawed and piecemeal. The Navy has not been forthright nor clear about its overall aims and has been lax in its exploration of alternatives and available scientific resources. There is an obligation to present this fragmented series of proposals as it clearly has been planned - as one massive Navy plan for a large region of the Pacific Northwest and the Puget Sound. It has enormous consequences for all that live here. Our waters are already showing evidence of harm from climate change, habitat degradation, and ocean acidification and the Navy's current plans will result in further deterioration of this precious resource that contributes to the economic vitality and beauty of our Pacific Northwest. Our airways, waterways, parks and wilderness areas, homes and the entire region depend on allot us, including the Navy, to protect the region from further damage. May I say, what is the point of winning if in the training process you ruin what it is you're purporting to protect?	The Navy is committed to protecting the marine environment during the conduct of its training and testing activities. As described in Chapter 5 (Standard Operating Procedures, Mitigation, and Monitoring) of the EIS/OEIS, the Navy has used extensive measures to protect the marine environment while training and testing for nearly a decade. Please see Chapters 1 and 2 of the EIS/OEIS for a clear definition of the scope of this project. The Navy made significant efforts to notify the public to ensure maximum public participation during the public comment period, including using postcards, press releases, and newspaper display advertisements. The public could download and review the document, and make comments to it, on the website (www.NWTTEIS.com).
Ella (Electronic)	I cannot believe that the Navy would do this testing without regard to the disastrous effects it would have on marine animals! Please don't do this.	The Navy shares your concern for marine life, but this concern must be balanced with the purpose and need for Navy training and testing as detailed in Chapter 2 (Description of Proposed Action and Alternatives) of the EIS/OEIS. The Navy has conducted active sonar training and testing activities in the Study Area for decades, and there is no

Table I.5-4: Responses to Comments from Private Individuals (continued)

Commenter	Comment	Navy Response
		evidence that routine Navy training and testing has negatively impacted marine mammal populations in the Study Area or at any Navy Range Complex. Based on the best available science summarized in the EIS/OEIS Section 3.4.4.1 (Summary of Monitoring and Observations During Navy Activities), long-term consequences for marine mammal populations are unlikely to result from Navy training and testing activities in the Study Area. Please also refer to Chapter 5 (Standard Operating Procedures, Mitigation, and Monitoring) of the EIS/OEIS, detailing the procedures and mitigation measures during its training and testing activities designed to reduce impacts to marine mammals from Navy activities.
Elliott (Electronic)	The Navy's current environmental analysis fails to provide basic information necessary to adequately evaluate the impacts of the proposed activities. This analysis also fails to provide adequate measures to mitigate the harmful effects of the proposed activities on marine mammals and other wildlife. Based on the information apparent in the environmental analysis, the Navy's "No Action Alternative" is the proposal with the most limited impact on wildlife. A drastic increase in sonar activity will negatively impact wildlife. Marine mammals are extremely sensitive to noise, and sonar disrupts basic behaviors necessary for survival such as migration, surfacing, navigating, hearing, nursing, breeding and feeding. Sonar can result in debilitating and even fatal injuries for marine mammals. Scientists believe sonar activity can change whale diving behavior, confusing them to swim to depths their bodies cannot handle. Whales suspected to have beached themselves because of sonar activity show signs of physical trauma like bleeding around the brain, ears and other tissues and large bubbles in their organs – symptoms analogous to "the bends" in humans. To the extent that threatened or endangered species -- including humpback and sperm whales, and leatherback turtles -- are negatively impacted, the proposed activities may result in violations of the Endangered Species Act.	The Navy shares your concern for marine life, but this concern must be balanced with the purpose and need for Navy training and testing as detailed in Chapter 2 (Description of Proposed Action and Alternatives) of the EIS/OEIS. The Navy has conducted active sonar training and testing activities in the Study Area for decades, and there is no evidence that routine Navy training and testing has negatively impacted marine mammal populations or sea turtles in the Study Area or at any Navy Range Complex. Based on the best available science summarized in the EIS/OEIS Section 3.4.4.1 (Summary of Monitoring and Observations During Navy Activities), long-term consequences for marine mammal populations are unlikely to result from Navy training and testing activities in the Study Area. Please also refer to Chapter 5 (Standard Operating Procedures, Mitigation, and Monitoring) of the EIS/OEIS, detailing the procedures and mitigation measures during its training and testing activities designed to reduce impacts to marine mammals and sea turtles from Navy activities. Regarding previous strandings, see Section 3.4.3.1.8 (Stranding) and the referenced technical report "Marine Mammal Strandings Associated with U.S. Navy Sonar Activities" (U.S. Department of the Navy 2013c).
Emmanere (Electronic)	The Navy's current environmental analysis fails to provide basic information necessary to adequately evaluate the impacts of the proposed activities. This analysis also fails to provide adequate measures to mitigate the harmful effects of the proposed activities on marine mammals and other wildlife. Based on the information apparent in the environmental analysis, the Navy's "No Action Alternative" is the proposal with the most limited impact on wildlife. A drastic increase in sonar activity will negatively impact wildlife. Marine mammals are extremely sensitive to noise, and sonar disrupts basic behaviors necessary for	The Navy shares your concern for marine life, but this concern must be balanced with the purpose and need for Navy training and testing as detailed in Chapter 2 (Description of Proposed Action and Alternatives) of the EIS/OEIS. The Navy has conducted active sonar training and testing activities in the Study Area for decades, and there is no evidence that routine Navy training and testing has negatively impacted marine mammal populations or sea turtles in the Study Area or at any Navy Range Complex. Based on the best available science

Table I.5-4: Responses to Comments from Private Individuals (continued)

Commenter	Comment	Navy Response
	survival such as migration, surfacing, navigating, hearing, nursing, breeding and feeding. Sonar can result in debilitating and even fatal injuries for marine mammals. Scientists believe sonar activity can change whale diving behavior, confusing them to swim to depths their bodies cannot handle. Whales suspected to have beached themselves because of sonar activity show signs of physical trauma like bleeding around the brain, ears and other tissues and large bubbles in their organs – symptoms analogous to "the bends" in humans. To the extent that threatened or endangered species -- including humpback and sperm whales, and leatherback turtles -- are negatively impacted, the proposed activities may result in violations of the Endangered Species Act.	summarized in the EIS/OEIS Section 3.4.4.1 (Summary of Monitoring and Observations During Navy Activities), long-term consequences for marine mammal populations are unlikely to result from Navy training and testing activities in the Study Area. Please also refer to Chapter 5 (Standard Operating Procedures, Mitigation, and Monitoring) of the EIS/OEIS, detailing the procedures and mitigation measures during its training and testing activities designed to reduce impacts to marine mammals and sea turtles from Navy activities. Regarding previous strandings, see Section 3.4.3.1.8 (Stranding) and the referenced technical report "Marine Mammal Strandings Associated with U.S. Navy Sonar Activities" (U.S. Department of the Navy 2013c). Based on the best available science summarized in the EIS/OEIS Section 3.4.4.1 (Summary of Monitoring and Observations During Navy Activities), long-term consequences for marine mammal populations are unlikely to result from Navy training and testing activities in the Study Area.
Eng (Electronic)	Dear Mr. Matsunaga, The proposed testing to be conducted by the U.S. Navy will harm the sealife in these waters. The effect it will have will be far more damaging then it would be if it were done on human beings.	The Navy shares your concern for marine life, but this concern must be balanced with the purpose and need for Navy training and testing as detailed in Chapter 2 (Description of Proposed Action and Alternatives) of the EIS/OEIS. The Navy has conducted active sonar training and testing activities in the Study Area for decades, and there is no evidence that routine Navy training and testing has negatively impacted marine mammal populations in the Study Area or at any Navy Range Complex. Based on the best available science summarized in the EIS/OEIS Section 3.4.4.1 (Summary of Monitoring and Observations During Navy Activities), long-term consequences for marine mammal populations are unlikely to result from Navy training and testing activities in the Study Area. Please also refer to Chapter 5 (Standard Operating Procedures, Mitigation, and Monitoring) of the EIS/OEIS, detailing the procedures and mitigation measures during its training and testing activities designed to reduce impacts to marine mammals from Navy activities.
Engelbrecht (Electronic)	For whatever purpose the Navy intends to increase sonar buoys along the Pacific - the cost will be devastating to our relatives - all of the living things in our oceans - particularly, marine mammals and invertebrates. These living creatures are being assaulted by toxins, pollutants, plastic, and radiation, etc. Their well being is threatened as is that of all humans. Please STOP. The Navy's current environmental analysis fails to provide basic information necessary to adequately evaluate the impacts of the proposed activities. This analysis also fails to provide	The Navy shares your concern for marine life, but this concern must be balanced with the purpose and need for Navy training and testing as detailed in Chapter 2 (Description of Proposed Action and Alternatives) of the EIS/OEIS. The Navy has conducted active sonar training and testing activities in the Study Area for decades, and there is no evidence that routine Navy training and testing has negatively impacted marine mammal populations or sea turtles in the Study Area

Table I.5-4: Responses to Comments from Private Individuals (continued)

Commenter	Comment	Navy Response
	adequate measures to mitigate the harmful effects of the proposed activities on marine mammals and other wildlife. Based on the information apparent in the environmental analysis, the Navy's "No Action Alternative" is the proposal with the most limited impact on wildlife. A drastic increase in sonar activity will negatively impact wildlife. Marine mammals are extremely sensitive to noise, and sonar disrupts basic behaviors necessary for survival such as migration, surfacing, navigating, hearing, nursing, breeding and feeding. Sonar can result in debilitating and even fatal injuries for marine mammals. Scientists believe sonar activity can change whale diving behavior, confusing them to swim to depths their bodies cannot handle. Whales suspected to have beached themselves because of sonar activity show signs of physical trauma like bleeding around the brain, ears and other tissues and large bubbles in their organs – symptoms analogous to "the bends" in humans. Sincerely, Luz Engelbrecht dolfins7@yahoo.com To the extent that threatened or endangered species -- including humpback and sperm whales, and leatherback turtles -- are negatively impacted, the proposed activities may result in violations of the Endangered Species Act.	or at any Navy Range Complex. Based on the best available science summarized in the EIS/OEIS Section 3.4.4.1 (Summary of Monitoring and Observations During Navy Activities), long-term consequences for marine mammal populations are unlikely to result from Navy training and testing activities in the Study Area. Please also refer to Chapter 5 (Standard Operating Procedures, Mitigation, and Monitoring) of the EIS/OEIS, detailing the procedures and mitigation measures during its training and testing activities designed to reduce impacts to marine mammals and sea turtles from Navy activities. Regarding previous strandings, see Section 3.4.3.1.8 (Stranding) and the referenced technical report "Marine Mammal Strandings Associated with U.S. Navy Sonar Activities" (U.S. Department of the Navy 2013c). Based on the best available science summarized in the EIS/OEIS Section 3.4.4.1 (Summary of Monitoring and Observations During Navy Activities), long-term consequences for marine mammal populations are unlikely to result from Navy training and testing activities in the Study Area.
Ensign (Electronic)	Please limit the amount of sonar activity used in training missions off the Pacific Coast. The Navy's proposed activities have well known and well documented negative impacts on a number of whale species and porpoises, as well as other marine wildlife. Sonar can result in debilitating and even fatal injuries for marine mammals. Scientists believe sonar activity can change whale diving behavior, confusing them to swim to depths their bodies cannot handle. Whales suspected to have beached themselves because of sonar activity show signs of physical trauma like bleeding around the brain, ears and other tissues and large bubbles in their organs – symptoms analogous to "the bends" in humans. Sonar activity also disrupts basic behaviors necessary for survival such as migration, surfacing, navigating, hearing, nursing, breeding and feeding. To the extent that threatened or endangered species are negatively impacted, the proposed activities may also result in violations of the Endangered Species Act. The Navy's current environmental analysis fails to provide basic information necessary to adequately evaluate the impacts of the proposed activities. This analysis also fails to provide adequate measures to mitigate the harmful effects of the proposed activities. Based on the information apparent in the environmental analysis, the Navy's "No Action Alternative" is the proposal with the most limited impact on wildlife. Thank you for considering my comments.	The Navy shares your concern for marine life, but this concern must be balanced with the purpose and need for Navy training and testing as detailed in Chapter 2 (Description of Proposed Action and Alternatives) of the EIS/OEIS. The Navy has conducted active sonar training and testing activities in the Study Area for decades, and there is no evidence that routine Navy training and testing has negatively impacted marine mammal populations in the Study Area or at any Navy Range Complex. Based on the best available science summarized in the EIS/OEIS Section 3.4.4.1 (Summary of Monitoring and Observations During Navy Activities), long-term consequences for marine mammal populations are unlikely to result from Navy training and testing activities in the Study Area. Please also refer to Chapter 5 (Standard Operating Procedures, Mitigation, and Monitoring) of the EIS/OEIS, detailing the procedures and mitigation measures during its training and testing activities designed to reduce impacts to marine mammals from Navy activities.
Epstein (Electronic)	I am requesting that the Navy limit its use of sonar activity off the Pacific coast to protect wildlife in the ocean. Thank you.	Thank you for participating in the NEPA process.

Table I.5-4: Responses to Comments from Private Individuals (continued)

Commenter	Comment	Navy Response
Erbach (Electronic)	I have been submitting these petitions on behalf of those who cannot speak for so many years now I could write a book on this subject. We need to STOP all of our destructive behaviors before it is too late! These animals need our help, not our torture. How cruel can we be? How blinded by greed and fear do we need to get to before we recognize that we are ruining this earth? I think you know what the right thing to do is, respect this planet and its OTHER inhabitants and stop torturing them!!!!!!!	The Navy shares your concern for marine life, but this concern must be balanced with the purpose and need for Navy training and testing as detailed in Chapter 2 (Description of Proposed Action and Alternatives) of the EIS/OEIS. The Navy has conducted active sonar training and testing activities in the Study Area for decades, and there is no evidence that routine Navy training and testing has negatively impacted marine mammal populations in the Study Area or at any Navy Range Complex. Based on the best available science summarized in the EIS/OEIS Section 3.4.4.1 (Summary of Monitoring and Observations During Navy Activities), long-term consequences for marine mammal populations are unlikely to result from Navy training and testing activities in the Study Area. Please also refer to Chapter 5 (Standard Operating Procedures, Mitigation, and Monitoring) of the EIS/OEIS, detailing the procedures and mitigation measures during its training and testing activities designed to reduce impacts to marine mammals from Navy activities.
Ernstsen (Electronic)	I'm aware the bottom line mission of all the United States armed forces is to kill the enemy. I just cant get my head around whales, turtles, etc, being so scary. You boys better re-write your scripts. Thanks in advance.	Thank you for participating in the NEPA process.
Evenson (Oral)	I'm 69 years old. I've voted in every election I could possibly vote in. I've put in 35 years in salmon restoration here on the North Coast. What happens in the ocean affects something that I basically made my life work. I also raise cattle and do land management activities. But the loss of the salmon from our rivers is a major loss to us culturally as well as economically. The Navy training that goes on in the waters offshore has the potential to impact some species. I'm aware of the studies that have been done that lead to the opinion that there will not be undue impacts to the salmon, and that there will be some tens of thousands take, which means harass or harm, but not necessarily kill, species. But, in the case of the salmon, as even the best of fisheries biologists know, there's a lot that happens in the ocean that they do not know. The idea of explosives or disruption of the marine environment can have an impact on both plant and animal life in the ocean, which can ripple through the other habitats. Our salmon population is on the ropes. It is only by the bounty of the ocean that	While the EIS/OEIS concludes there may be impacts from the Proposed Action to fish, including salmon, those impacts do not translate into impacts to socioeconomic resources. Impacts analyzed in the EIS/OEIS consider the individual and the population. Impacts to single individuals do not translate to impacts on the entire population or the resource as a whole. The conclusions presented in the EIS/OEIS are fully supported in the analysis. Concerns of commercial fisherman were addressed in the EIS/OEIS (see Section 3.12.3, Environmental Consequences). Favored fishing areas change over time with fluctuations in fish populations and communities, preferred target species, or fishing modes and styles. Declines in fishing rates can be attributed to several factors both natural and anthropogenic. Section 3.9 (Fish) concluded no long-term impacts to fish populations are anticipated; therefore, Section 3.12 (Socioeconomic Resources) correctly concluded there would be no indirect impacts to commercial and recreational fishing.

Table I.5-4: Responses to Comments from Private Individuals (continued)

Commenter	Comment	Navy Response
	we're maintaining a remnant run. We've gone a long way to repairing our in-stream habitats. But we see now that the fate of the salmon is dependent on the ocean, where we have no control. We read every day about another impact to the oceans. It's like death by a thousand cuts. And we don't feel that the Navy should be responsible for any of those cuts. The fisheries biologist here admits that there's a limit to how much they can know, and that's --it's a honorable opinion. But, from what they do know, they don't think there'll be an impact. But what they don't know, they don't know. And in the case of medicine, the doctor's creed is to do no harm and use the cautionary principle in guiding activities. The salmon population is at a critical crisis. It means a lot to us beyond its economic component and its cultural component. It's something that links the land with the ocean in many ways that we don't know. So no impact is what's necessary, and a lessening of impacts that are ongoing. Now even if you take the point of view that whatever munitions are dumped in the ocean or whatever sonar pings are put out in these training exercises, just the mere fact of running these ships back and forth, with the attendant pollution -- because nobody ever says that you can operate a vehicle with fuel, fossil fuel, and not have an impact. Or churning of waters or any kind of impact. Just the fact of increasing the activities out in the ocean by ships is an impact. Second part of my problem with what's going on is that I don't feel any safer because of these training exercises. This isn't going to be addressed in this statement, and this is an opinion that carries no weight in the environmental impact that we're supposed to review. But it's an undeniable fact that in the last decade or so, the American people have not been safer because of the expenditure of its military resources. We've made more enemies by going outside our borders with military activity; and that a better way to train our military to be effective is to relieve the military of having to defend against so many enemies that we have made with our policies. Then the American people will feel safer. American people want to get along with the rest of the world.··Sometimes we have a hard time understanding why there are people in other cultures that want to do us harm.··But I think it's undeniable. In fact, it was reported in the Christian Science Monitor immediately after 9/11 happened, you know, in a series of articles of why do they hate us, it was really clear. Because we had military presence in the Middle East, where it was not necessary.	

Table I.5-4: Responses to Comments from Private Individuals (continued)

Commenter	Comment	Navy Response
	And had we heeded that, instead of getting further involved in the Middle East militarily, but looked for ways in which we could reduce our presence, not have troops in Mecca -- as certain sects in Saudi Arabia stated, I think it was back in the '50s -- that we would not be going down the road that we're going now, where we find training exercises necessary, that we find running ships up and down the coast and exploding munitions and pinging the waters to train operators to detect vessels, all those things wouldn't have been necessary. True, it's not in the environmental assessment, but it's something that the Navy needs to consider and to send up the chain of command so that we have a responsible defense policy. This is one aspect of our defense policy that isn't working. Thanks.	
Exel (Electronic)	Since March 2011 then Pacific Ocean is subjected to large quantities of irradiated run off from the Daiichi Nuclear power plants. The radioactive emissions have not only affected Navy sailors, but are affecting Marine life in the entire chain. Marine mammals are especially distressed when exposed to strong sources of noise, created through sonar, detonations and regular sounds from Navy crafts in operation. The human race, as the species with the most adverse impact on its environment, bears the responsibility to protect the marine life on this planet. With the increasing stress on the Pacific food chain through Fukushima, we cannot afford to expose higher marine life to additional stressors, created by activities originating from the testing of ever stronger sonar devices and practicing with live ammunition especially in areas and zones of protected marine life. Thank You for hearing my concerns.	The Navy used the best available science and a comprehensive review of past, present, and reasonably foreseeable actions to develop a robust Cumulative Impacts analysis. See Chapter 4 (Cumulative Impacts) of the EIS/OEIS, which has been updated for the Final EIS/OEIS. The Navy shares your concern for marine life, but this concern must be balanced with the purpose and need for Navy training and testing as detailed in Chapter 2 (Description of Proposed Action and Alternatives) of the EIS/OEIS. The Navy has conducted active sonar training and testing activities in the Study Area for decades, and there is no evidence that routine Navy training and testing has negatively impacted marine mammal populations in the Study Area or at any Navy Range Complex. Based on the best available science summarized in the EIS/OEIS Section 3.4.4.1 (Summary of Monitoring and Observations During Navy Activities), long-term consequences for marine mammal populations are unlikely to result from Navy training and testing activities in the Study Area. Please also refer to Chapter 5 (Standard Operating Procedures, Mitigation, and Monitoring) of the EIS/OEIS, detailing the procedures and mitigation measures during its training and testing activities designed to reduce impacts to marine mammals from Navy activities.
Exley (Electronic)	The Navy's current environmental analysis fails to provide basic information necessary to adequately evaluate the impacts of the proposed activities. This analysis also fails to provide adequate measures to mitigate the harmful effects of the proposed activities on marine mammals and other wildlife. •Based on the information apparent in the environmental analysis, the Navy's "No Action	The Navy shares your concern for marine life, but this concern must be balanced with the purpose and need for Navy training and testing as detailed in Chapter 2 (Description of Proposed Action and Alternatives) of the EIS/OEIS. The Navy has conducted active sonar training and testing activities in the Study Area for decades, and there is no

Table I.5-4: Responses to Comments from Private Individuals (continued)

Commenter	Comment	Navy Response
	Alternative" is the proposal with the most limited impact on wildlife. •A drastic increase in sonar activity will negatively impact wildlife. Marine mammals are extremely sensitive to noise, and sonar disrupts basic behaviors necessary for survival such as migration, surfacing, navigating, hearing, nursing, breeding and feeding. •Sonar can result in debilitating and even fatal injuries for marine mammals. Scientists believe sonar activity can change whale diving behavior, confusing them to swim to depths their bodies cannot handle. Whales suspected to have beached themselves because of sonar activity show signs of physical trauma like bleeding around the brain, ears and other tissues and large bubbles in their organs – symptoms analogous to "the bends" in humans. •To the extent that threatened or endangered species -- including humpback and sperm whales, and leatherback turtles -- are negatively impacted, the proposed activities may result in violations of the Endangered Species Act.	evidence that routine Navy training and testing has negatively impacted marine mammal populations or sea turtles in the Study Area or at any Navy Range Complex. Based on the best available science summarized in the EIS/OEIS Section 3.4.4.1 (Summary of Monitoring and Observations During Navy Activities), long-term consequences for marine mammal populations are unlikely to result from Navy training and testing activities in the Study Area. Please also refer to Chapter 5 (Standard Operating Procedures, Mitigation, and Monitoring) of the EIS/OEIS, detailing the procedures and mitigation measures during its training and testing activities designed to reduce impacts to marine mammals and sea turtles from Navy activities. Regarding previous strandings, see Section 3.4.3.1.8 (Stranding) and the referenced technical report "Marine Mammal Strandings Associated with U.S. Navy Sonar Activities" (U.S. Department of the Navy 2013c).
F (Electronic)	Yesterday as I walked 2 miles along the pristine coastline at Ebey's Landing National Seashore, something delightful occurred that is similar to what happens every time I approach our Salish Sea waterways. I was literally followed by a curious and beautiful sea lion for an hour! It is magical encounters like this that make life on earth worth living for me and so many of us who love and believe we must protect nature for its own sake; and for our children's sake too. Thank you for actually INTEGRATING this and other public comments in your life/death decision making process with this highly impactful NWTT project. I have lost faith and any sense of integrity when it comes to these public statements and needs of the general public relating to the Navy NW Training and Testing EIS process being respected thus far. So, I can only hope this does not fall on already ears already deaf due to inflexible decisions made long before any of our comments were entered to the record. In addition to "Sonar Explosives," I could have chosen any number of "My comment pertains to" subjects like Fish, Marine Habitat, Sea Turtle, Birds, Cultural Resources (Indigenous and Historical), Public Health + Safety, Cumulative Impacts because ALL of these and more will be irreversibly negatively impacted by this NWTT plan -but today I am choosing to focus on one of the most dramatically horrific of the impacts which is the effect upon MARINE MAMMALS. Marine Mammals -- approximately 1600 or more of whom will be deafened and thus tortured and killed (because there is no other way for Cetaceans to feed and survive than with perfect hearing) by these needless sonar test blasts. That's about the number of ALL of our whales and dolphins in the entire Salish Sea on any given day. Then we must consider the seals, sea otters, sea lions and other mammals and birds in the zones. This "TAKE" is absolutely NOT ACCEPTABLE. Our country has OUTLAWED intentional whale and dolphin kills. It is abhorrent and inhumane to	The Navy shares your concern for marine life, but this concern must be balanced with the purpose and need for Navy training and testing as detailed in Chapter 2 (Description of Proposed Action and Alternatives) of the EIS/OEIS. The Navy has conducted active sonar training and testing activities in the Study Area for decades, and there is no evidence that routine Navy training and testing has negatively impacted marine mammal populations or sea turtles in the Study Area or at any Navy Range Complex. Based on the best available science summarized in the EIS/OEIS Section 3.4.4.1 (Summary of Monitoring and Observations During Navy Activities), long-term consequences for marine mammal populations are unlikely to result from Navy training and testing activities in the Study Area. Please also refer to Chapter 5 (Standard Operating Procedures, Mitigation, and Monitoring) of the EIS/OEIS, detailing the procedures and mitigation measures during its training and testing activities designed to reduce impacts to marine mammals and sea turtles from Navy activities.

Table I.5-4: Responses to Comments from Private Individuals (continued)

Commenter	Comment	Navy Response
	intentionally and knowingly maim and destroy intelligent and essential sea life -- especially the extremely rare and highly valuable (for reasons of science, nature based tourism, real-estate and boating, ecological balance, leaving a legacy of diversity to our future generations and more) CETACEANS. We should instead be recognizing their rightful personage and creating a sanctuary and respectful "Bill of Rights" for veneration their safe livelihood. Consider the proposed Salish Sea Marine Sanctuary. You can see more detailed info about this at www.salishsea.org They state rightly that "International law manifests a growing sense of duty to whales and dolphins; contemporary ethical reflection brings new theoretical tools to bear on cetacean moral status; and scientific research gives us novel insights into the complexities of cetacean minds and societies. In light of this, scholars from the relevant disciplines drew together to spell out all the implications of such development, and to build a collective case for the attribution of basic moral and legal rights to cetaceans, great and small." (from www.cetaceanrights.org) Just because YOU who are reading this may not initially agree with some (or any) specific part of what is written here as relevant, accurate or factual; that does not mean that by allowing this KILLING to occur you are not also making the deadly mistake of ignoring the basic underlying premise of what thousands of citizens, naturalists and marine scientists and I are saying. We are saying, BEFORE ANY testing for warfare, you must FIRST VALUE and respect and protect ALL intelligent LIFE that LIVES HERE NOW for the benefit of our thriving future generations. And, I am sure you know of many many other ways to use your keen intelligence to defend and PROTECT, venerate and preserve OUR precious country, its people, lands and creatures than to treat our own populations to regular sonic doses of deadly violence. May God bless you and us all. The only real empire is love. Love for humanity, for our world and care for all its creatures, for ourselves and each other. Love and gratitude for the gift of life itself is the one and only principle that ensures the true health and safety of any society. PS. THIS type of image IS WHY I AM WRITING>>> Take a peek at this video to see the stunning beauty and majestic perfection of healthy Orca whales swimming freely in the wild. May it continue with out the deadly impacts of your Sonar Explosive Testing Plans. https://www.facebook.com/video.php?v=738741556159599	
L. F-01 (Electronic)	Sonar devices such as the proposed bouys have been shown to kill and injure marine mammals. These beings' lives matter. I will be proud to live in a country that respects them, or ashamed to live in one that does not.	As described in the Supplement in Section 3.4.2 (Marine Mammal Summary), the proposed increase in the use of SSQ-125 sonobuoys would "not result in any long-term consequences for any marine mammal population or species; therefore, the conclusions stated in the Draft EIS/OEIS remain unchanged." The Navy has conducted active sonar training and testing activities in the Study Area for decades, and there is no evidence that routine Navy training and testing has negatively impacted marine mammal

Table I.5-4: Responses to Comments from Private Individuals (continued)

Commenter	Comment	Navy Response
		populations in the Study Area or at any Navy Range Complex. Based on the best available science summarized in the EIS/OEIS Section 3.4.4.1 (Summary of Monitoring and Observations During Navy Activities), long-term consequences for marine mammal populations are unlikely to result from Navy training and testing activities in the Study Area.
L. F-02 (Electronic)	Sonar devices such as the proposed bouys have been shown to kill and injure marine mammals. These beings' lives matter. I will be proud to live in a country that respects them, or ashamed to live in one that does not.	As described in the Supplement in Section 3.4.2 (Marine Mammal Summary), the proposed increase in the use of SSQ-125 sonobuoys would "not result in any long-term consequences for any marine mammal population or species; therefore, the conclusions stated in the Draft EIS/OEIS remain unchanged." The Navy has conducted active sonar training and testing activities in the Study Area for decades, and there is no evidence that routine Navy training and testing has negatively impacted marine mammal populations in the Study Area or at any Navy Range Complex. Based on the best available science summarized in the EIS/OEIS Section 3.4.4.1 (Summary of Monitoring and Observations During Navy Activities), long-term consequences for marine mammal populations are unlikely to result from Navy training and testing activities in the Study Area.
farmer (Electronic)	I support the "NO ACTION ALTERNATIVE"-stop sonar activity in marine habitats and stop dumping chemicals and detonating explosives!!! Give the animals we share this earth with a chance.	Best management practices include measures that regulate operations to ensure compliance with pollution emission requirements and general resource conservation goals. Navy policies and procedures identified in Navy instructions such as the Environmental Readiness Program Manual, include directives regarding waste management, pollution prevention, and recycling, all of which benefit sediments and water quality in the ocean. Any procedures or practices that benefit ocean sediments and water quality in turn benefit all marine life in the ocean, from plants and invertebrates, to fish and marine mammals.
Faucheraux (Electronic)	Pas d'océan , pas de vie !	*[English translation equates to "No ocean, no life!"]* Thank you for participating in the NEPA process.
Fayet (Electronic)	"1) Sonars and other active acoustic sources are not simply harmful, they are killers and not just for cetaceans, for all marine life, invertebrates included. 2) Navy has to consider the consequences of its actions. Killing our oceans is killing ourselves. It's opposite to the Defense purpose. 3) For animals impacted on a long distance : harmed and stranded on our beaches with the possibility to be rescued, there is N0	The Navy shares your concern for marine life, but this concern must be balanced with the purpose and need for Navy training and testing as detailed in Chapter 2 (Description of Proposed Action and Alternatives) of the EIS/OEIS. The Navy has conducted active sonar training and testing activities in the Study Area for decades, and there is no

Table I.5-4: Responses to Comments from Private Individuals (continued)

Commenter	Comment	Navy Response
	center able to hospitalize a whale because there is NO money. So, why waste money in this kind of military training ? 4) The proof of the welfare of whales and dolphins when the navy exercises stop : no more mass stranding on our shores (ej. : Canaries, Spain). Conclusion : we ask you to stop the irresponsibility of this “war game” and we urge you to please follow the scientific community recomendations. There is nothing virtual in the consequences and our first debt is to protect our heritage."	evidence that routine Navy training and testing has negatively impacted marine mammal populations in the Study Area or at any Navy Range Complex. Based on the best available science summarized in the EIS/OEIS Section 3.4.4.1 (Summary of Monitoring and Observations During Navy Activities), long-term consequences for marine mammal populations are unlikely to result from Navy training and testing activities in the Study Area. Please also refer to Chapter 5 (Standard Operating Procedures, Mitigation, and Monitoring) of the EIS/OEIS, detailing the procedures and mitigation measures during its training and testing activities designed to reduce impacts to marine mammals from Navy activities.
Fazzari (Electronic)	Please limit the amount of sonar activity used in training missions off the Pacific Coast. The Navy’s current environmental analysis fails to provide basic information necessary to adequately evaluate the impacts of the proposed activities. This analysis also fails to provide adequate measures to mitigate the harmful effects of the proposed activities on marine mammals and other wildlife. Based on the information apparent in the environmental analysis, the Navy’s “No Action Alternative” is the proposal with the most limited impact on wildlife. A drastic increase in sonar activity will negatively impact wildlife. Marine mammals are extremely sensitive to noise, and sonar disrupts basic behaviors necessary for survival such as migration, surfacing, navigating, hearing, nursing, breeding and feeding. Sonar can result in debilitating and even fatal injuries for marine mammals. Scientists believe sonar activity can change whale diving behavior, confusing them to swim to depths their bodies cannot handle. Whales suspected to have beached themselves because of sonar activity show signs of physical trauma like bleeding around the brain, ears and other tissues and large bubbles in their organs – symptoms analogous to “the bends” in humans. To the extent that threatened or endangered species -- including humpback and sperm whales, and leatherback turtles -- are negatively impacted, the proposed activities may result in violations of the Endangered Species Act. Thank you for your time and consideration.	The Navy shares your concern for marine life, but this concern must be balanced with the purpose and need for Navy training and testing as detailed in Chapter 2 (Description of Proposed Action and Alternatives) of the EIS/OEIS. The Navy has conducted active sonar training and testing activities in the Study Area for decades, and there is no evidence that routine Navy training and testing has negatively impacted marine mammal populations or sea turtles in the Study Area or at any Navy Range Complex. Based on the best available science summarized in the EIS/OEIS Section 3.4.4.1 (Summary of Monitoring and Observations During Navy Activities), long-term consequences for marine mammal populations are unlikely to result from Navy training and testing activities in the Study Area. Please also refer to Chapter 5 (Standard Operating Procedures, Mitigation, and Monitoring) of the EIS/OEIS, detailing the procedures and mitigation measures during its training and testing activities designed to reduce impacts to marine mammals and sea turtles from Navy activities. Regarding previous strandings, see Section 3.4.3.1.8 (Stranding) and the referenced technical report “Marine Mammal Strandings Associated with U.S. Navy Sonar Activities” (U.S. Department of the Navy 2013c). Based on the best available science summarized in the EIS/OEIS Section 3.4.4.1 (Summary of Monitoring and Observations During Navy Activities), long-term consequences for marine mammal populations are unlikely to result from Navy training and testing activities in the Study Area.
Feely (Electronic)	Please stay out of the Olympic National Forest or over it. Please stay out of the coastal marine sanctuary or over it. Please leave all life on and around the Olympic Peninsula in peace. You have enough places to practice your war games and maneuvers. STAY OUT OUT OUT OUT OUT!!!! We love you, but you are not	The Navy has been training in the Olympic Military Operations Area (MOA) for over 40 years, and the Navy has not proposed any significant changes to the way aircrew train in the MOA. The Navy recently analyzed plans to enhance existing training by adding one

Table I.5-4: Responses to Comments from Private Individuals (continued)

Commenter	Comment	Navy Response
	welcome on the Olympic Peninsula. Shame on you for even considering it.	fixed transmitter at Pacific Beach and three mobile transmitter vehicles that would operate on existing logging roads and pull-out areas on U.S. Forest Service land. The Navy has not proposed to use National Park Service land. EW training and EW Range enhancements were analyzed in the Navy's Northwest Training Range Complex (NWTRC) EIS/OEIS, completed in 2010. When more information became available on mobile and fixed signal transmitters for the EW Range, the Navy prepared the EW Range EA to analyze placement and operation of those transmitters. The Navy completed the EA and issued a Finding of No Significant Impact on August 28, 2014. The introduction of the land-based transmitters to enhance existing training will not harm people, animals, or the environment. The Navy has decades of experience building and operating signal equipment, with no adverse effects to people, animals, or the environment. Though there is a proposed increase in EW training events associated with the range enhancements and analyzed in this EIS/OEIS, the increase in events does not equate to a comparable increase in the number of aircraft flights or in the duration of flights. EW training flights are already occurring in the Olympic MOAs, and it is estimated that this proposal will only result in an approximately 10 percent annual increase in actual flights, which equates to approximately one additional flight per day. This is because each flight will be able to accommodate multiple EW training events. The Navy proposes to home base up to 36 additional EA-18G aircraft at NAS Whidbey Island. The Navy announced the preparation of that separate Whidbey EIS on September 5, 2013, and invited the public to participate in the NEPA process by submitting comments to define the scope of the Draft Whidbey EIS analysis. On October 10, 2014, the Navy revised the scope of the on-going Whidbey EIS and invited the public to submit additional scoping comments. The Navy is currently preparing its Draft Whidbey EIS, which is scheduled to be released in spring 2016. For more information, please visit the project website at www.whidbeyeis.com. This NWTT EIS/OEIS considered the Whidbey EIS proposal in its analysis of cumulative impacts in Chapter 4.
Feely-Evans (Electronic)	I wish to comment on the Northwest Training and Testing (NWTT) Environmental Impact Statement (EIS)/Overseas Environmental Impact Statement (OEIS) and the increase of sonar off of the Oregon coast. I absolutely object to this increase. Whales are especially impacted by the Navy's sonar and this is the main migration route for whales between Alaska and California. The migrating whales go from feeding grounds to breedding grounds, bringing back baby whales along this route.	The Navy shares your concern for marine life, but this concern must be balanced with the purpose and need for Navy training and testing as detailed in Chapter 2 (Description of Proposed Action and Alternatives) of the EIS/OEIS. The Navy has conducted active sonar training and testing activities in the Study Area for decades, and there is no evidence that routine Navy training and testing has negatively

Table I.5-4: Responses to Comments from Private Individuals (continued)

Commenter	Comment	Navy Response
	An increase of the magnitude you are talking about would absolutely negatively impact whales and I do not support this proposed activity.	impacted marine mammal populations in the Study Area or at any Navy Range Complex. Based on the best available science summarized in the EIS/OEIS Section 3.4.4.1 (Summary of Monitoring and Observations During Navy Activities), long-term consequences for marine mammal populations are unlikely to result from Navy training and testing activities in the Study Area. Please also refer to Chapter 5 (Standard Operating Procedures, Mitigation, and Monitoring) of the EIS/OEIS, detailing the procedures and mitigation measures during its training and testing activities designed to reduce impacts to marine mammals from Navy activities.
Feltham (Electronic)	Thank you for requesting input about proposed use of explosives and sonar on and near the Olympic Peninsula by the Navy. I have written previously to express my concern for other Navy proposals on the Olympic Peninsula. I wish to take this opportunity to comment on the Supplement (December 2014) to the Navy's Draft Environmental Impact Statement/ Overseas Environmental Impact Statement (DEIS), dated January 2014, for its continued training and testing activities in the Pacific Northwest (NWTT). Please include these comments in the administrative record. I am concerned about the effect on wildlife The proposed increases in this Supplement of marine exercises and additional use of sonar and explosives will only increase the damage done to marine mammals, sea turtles, fish and birds. Of particular concern to me is the Supplement and the EIS's lack of protections for the Southern Resident Killer Whale's dwindling population. These animals need a protected home in accord with their endangered status. In public sessions and in a radio interview the Navy's public relations personnel have been heard to say that the (MSO) and TRACKEX marine exercises save gas and allow personnel to be closer to their homes for these maneuvers. These considerations should not allow one single injury to this endangered Killer Whale population. Though this supplement admits increased sonar and explosive testing (TRACKEX) and finally addresses the MSO maneuvers there is no additional mitigation mentioned. Nowhere is it outlined whether visual patrols will increase as a result of this new activity, nor does the Supplement address real concerns over whether or not visual patrol is adequate at times of night or rough seas. No acoustic monitoring or avoidance strategies are included. This is a serious omission to a document that intended to address the inadequate science and mitigation plans of the original draft and is unacceptable. I am worried about the lack of Science There is little consideration of exclusion zones, geographic alternatives to the southern Puget Sound and seasonal restrictions of exercises. All of the Alternatives propose year-round, unrestricted use without regard to seasonal variations in marine mammal and fish abundance. This is true despite the well-documented seasonal migrations of numerous endangered species and the identification of biologically important	The Navy shares your concern for marine life, but this concern must be balanced with the purpose and need for Navy training and testing as detailed in Chapter 2 (Description of Proposed Action and Alternatives) of the EIS/OEIS. The Navy has conducted training and testing activities in the Study Area for decades, and there is no evidence that routine Navy training and testing has negatively impacted marine mammal populations or sea turtles in the Study Area or at any Navy Range Complex. Based on the best available science summarized in the EIS/OEIS Section 3.4.4.1 (Summary of Monitoring and Observations During Navy Activities), long-term consequences for marine mammal populations are unlikely to result from Navy training and testing activities in the Study Area. Please also refer to Chapter 5 (Standard Operating Procedures, Mitigation, and Monitoring) of the EIS/OEIS, detailing the procedures and mitigation measures during its training and testing activities designed to reduce impacts to marine mammals and sea turtles from Navy activities. No injuries to killer whales are anticipated from the Navy's proposed MSO or TRACKEX activities. As described in Chapter 5 (Standard Operating Procedures, Mitigation, and Monitoring) of the EIS/OEIS, the Navy will implement mitigation measures during the use of sonobuoys. The mitigation measures are implemented for each activity and therefore the mitigation scales up as the activity level scales up. Also in Chapter 5 (Standard Operating Procedures, Mitigation, and Monitoring) of the EIS/OEIS, the Navy evaluated the effectiveness and practicability of a number of potential mitigation measures. Through consultation and permitting with NMFS and USFWS, the Navy refined the mitigation measures, which are now presented in Chapter 5 (Standard Operating Procedures, Mitigation, and Monitoring) of this

Table I.5-4: Responses to Comments from Private Individuals (continued)

Commenter	Comment	Navy Response
	areas. The Navy should put critical marine habitats off-limits to sonar and explosives testing and schedule training to avoid times of the year when sensitive species are present in places like the Olympic Coast National Marine Sanctuary. I fear the devastation from Climate Change and its Cumulative Impacts The Supplement document responds to calls to address these two big issues but it is very unclear that anything more than lip service was expended by deeming Navy activities to be of little significance. I am frustrated about Public Process What most concerns me is the overwhelming number of proposals since late in 2013 rolled out to the public in a piecemeal fashion. Five calls for comments on clearly-linked documents have been spread out in their introduction to the public over the last year and a half. Ground-based, (Electronic warfare range), air-based (Two growler scoping documents) and sea-based naval activities (these two NWTT documents) have been dropped onto the region as if they were not linked. The separate comment periods and the separate documents minimize the larger picture of impacts on the area. In my opinion this is misleading. Is it even legal in regards to Federal Law, specifically NEPA? Please redo this chopped-up public process with a comprehensive Environmental Impact Statement that includes all of the activities in the region. These huge changes that affect wildlife, real estate values, allow precedent-setting incursions into the peace of our national parks, national forest, wilderness, state parks and state lands, should be discussed as a whole, not split into so many fractured pieces that the residents of this region cannot know what they are actually facing.	Final EIS/OEIS. Section 5.3.1.2.5 (Effectiveness Assessment for Lookouts) acknowledges that, due to the various detection probabilities, levels of Lookout experience, and variability of sighting conditions, Lookouts will not always be effective at avoiding impacts on all species. However, Lookouts are expected to increase the overall likelihood that certain marine mammal species and some sea turtles will be detected at the surface of the water, when compared to the likelihood that these same species would be detected if Lookouts are not used. The continued use of Lookouts contributes to helping reduce potential impacts on these species from training and testing activities. While the range of the sonar's detection would travel beyond the distance that Lookouts can detect animals, the range at which sonar is predicted to be able to cause injury to a marine mammal is very short, within 10 meters of the sonar. At such short distances, it is likely any marine mammal would have been detected. As described in Chapter 5 (Standard Operating Procedures, Mitigation, and Monitoring) of the Final EIS/OEIS, the Navy evaluated the effectiveness and practicability of a number of potential mitigation measures including the avoidance of specific areas. The Navy has undertaken consultation with NMFS for the proposed and ongoing activities in the NWTT Study Area and the Navy refined the mitigation measures, which are now presented in Chapter 5 (Standard Operating Procedures, Mitigation, and Monitoring) of this Final EIS/OEIS. Through careful exploration of all mitigation measures to determine which were the most effective, the Navy chose the measures to mitigate potential impacts to marine mammals while still being able to meet its operational needs to train for real-world conditions. The Navy's specific mitigation measures are outlined in the following sections: Section 5.3.1 (Lookout Procedural Measures), Section 5.3.2 (Mitigation Zone Procedural Measures), and Section 5.3.3 (Mitigation Areas). Specifically, Section 5.3.4 (Mitigation Measures Considered but Eliminated) presents Navy consideration of similar area restrictions. The Navy and NMFS will use the Adaptive Management process to assess whether any additional mitigation should be considered in identified biologically important areas. In response to several comments, the Navy has enhanced its analysis of climate change and cumulative impacts in this Final EIS/OEIS. The Navy prepares Environmental Impact Statements (EIS) and

Table I.5-4: Responses to Comments from Private Individuals (continued)

Commenter	Comment	Navy Response
		Environmental Assessments (EA) in order to comply with the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA). These NEPA documents are intended to ensure decision makers consider the potential environmental effects of a proposed action and its alternatives, provide an opportunity for public involvement, and promote transparency by informing the public of these potential environmental effects. Each NEPA document addresses a specific proposed action, separated from other actions by its purpose and need, independent utility, timing, and geographic location. Some NEPA documents are stand-alone documents; others tier off or expand the analyses of other NEPA documents. NEPA documents for training and testing, including this EIS/OEIS, focus on training and testing activities occurring within a range complex or military operation area and involve different types of aircraft, ships, and range complex enhancements. NEPA documents for aircraft homebasing actions focus on aircraft operations in and around the airfield and their facility needs. NEPA documents for installations focus on infrastructure enhancements for host and tenant command missions. Importantly, every environmental document considers the cumulative impacts to the environment from other relevant past, present, and reasonably foreseeable future actions (federal, state, local, and private) in addition to the proposed action. The MSO activities do not include the use of sonar or live gun firing. The U.S. Navy has conducted active sonar training and testing activities for decades in the seaspace depicted in the Study Area with no evidence to indicate any meaningful impacts to marine habitats in the area. The Navy and NMFS jointly are still in ongoing consultation with the OCNMS regarding the effects of the Proposed Action on Sanctuary resources. The Navy concludes its continued activities are not likely to result in the loss, destruction, or adverse changes to the viability of Sanctuary resources. Several points support this determination: • Less than two percent of proposed training and 15 percent of proposed testing activities would occur within or immediately adjacent to the OCNMS. • The NWTT Final EIS/OEIS shows that training and testing activities have minimal temporary impacts on the quantity or quality of the Study Area's physical environment, and minor to no impacts on marine or shore birds, fish, sea turtles, or invertebrate marine life. • Although explosives have the potential to affect the physical and

Table I.5-4: Responses to Comments from Private Individuals (continued)

Commenter	Comment	Navy Response
		biological resources, the Navy does not use explosives within the OCNMS. • The Navy concludes any marine mammal behavioral reactions to NWTT training and testing activities would be transitory, infrequent, non-cumulative, and impacts are not expected to decrease overall individual fitness or result in long-term population-level impacts on any given population, and consequently will not result in any adverse changes to the sanctuary. Finally, all Department of Defense (DoD) military activities shall be carried out in a manner that avoids to the maximum extent practicable any adverse impacts on Sanctuary resources and qualities.
Fencl (Electronic)	The Navy's current environmental analysis fails to provide basic information necessary to adequately evaluate the impacts of the proposed activities. This analysis also fails to provide adequate measures to mitigate the harmful effects of the proposed activities on marine mammals and other wildlife. Based on the information apparent in the environmental analysis, the Navy's "No Action Alternative" is the proposal with the most limited impact on wildlife. A drastic increase in sonar activity will negatively impact wildlife. Marine mammals are extremely sensitive to noise, and sonar disrupts basic behaviors necessary for survival such as migration, surfacing, navigating, hearing, nursing, breeding and feeding. Sonar can result in debilitating and even fatal injuries for marine mammals. Scientists believe sonar activity can change whale diving behavior, confusing them to swim to depths their bodies cannot handle. Whales suspected to have beached themselves because of sonar activity show signs of physical trauma like bleeding around the brain, ears and other tissues and large bubbles in their organs – symptoms analogous to "the bends" in humans. To the extent that threatened or endangered species -- including humpback and sperm whales, and leatherback turtles -- are negatively impacted, the proposed activities may result in violations of the Endangered Species Act.	As described in the Supplement in Section 3.5.2 (Sea Turtle Summary), the proposed increase in the use of SSQ-125 sonobuoys "are not expected to result in substantial changes to behavior, growth, survival, annual reproductive success, lifetime reproductive success (fitness), or species recruitment, and are not expected to result in population-level impacts." The Navy shares your concern for marine life, but this concern must be balanced with the purpose and need for Navy training and testing as detailed in Chapter 2 (Description of Proposed Action and Alternatives) of the EIS/OEIS. The Navy has conducted active sonar training and testing activities in the Study Area for decades, and there is no evidence that routine Navy training and testing has negatively impacted marine mammal populations in the Study Area or at any Navy Range Complex. Based on the best available science summarized in the EIS/OEIS Section 3.4.4.1 (Summary of Monitoring and Observations During Navy Activities), long-term consequences for marine mammal populations are unlikely to result from Navy training and testing activities in the Study Area. Please also refer to Chapter 5 (Standard Operating Procedures, Mitigation, and Monitoring) of the EIS/OEIS, detailing the procedures and mitigation measures during its training and testing activities designed to reduce impacts to marine mammals from Navy activities.
Filipski (Electronic)	I am writing in the hopes that you would please consider limiting the amount of sonar activity used in training missions off the Pacific Coast and elsewhere. If you could just pause and ask if a particular activity is really necessary and if so, are there any alternatives to the sonar-emitting buoys or any technology that can be used to make the noise emitted by them less devastating to marine mammals . Please consider the impact on the oceans and on the human species in the long term. Thank you very much.	The Navy shares your concern for marine life, but this concern must be balanced with the purpose and need for Navy training and testing as detailed in Chapter 2 (Description of Proposed Action and Alternatives) of the EIS/OEIS. The Navy has conducted active sonar training and testing activities in the Study Area for decades, and there is no evidence that routine Navy training and testing has negatively impacted marine mammal populations in the Study Area or at any

Table I.5-4: Responses to Comments from Private Individuals (continued)

Commenter	Comment	Navy Response
		Navy Range Complex. Based on the best available science summarized in the EIS/OEIS Section 3.4.4.1 (Summary of Monitoring and Observations During Navy Activities), long-term consequences for marine mammal populations are unlikely to result from Navy training and testing activities in the Study Area. Please also refer to Chapter 5 (Standard Operating Procedures, Mitigation, and Monitoring) of the EIS/OEIS, detailing the procedures and mitigation measures during its training and testing activities designed to reduce impacts to marine mammals from Navy activities.
Finan (Electronic)	Please measure your impacts more before you decide to increase sonar activity in the waters. We aren't the only ones on the planet and even though whales aren't humans and can't talk doesn't make them less important to the balance and well-being of our planet and ecosystem as a whole.	The Navy shares your concern for marine life, but this concern must be balanced with the purpose and need for Navy training and testing as detailed in Chapter 2 (Description of Proposed Action and Alternatives) of the EIS/OEIS. The Navy has conducted active sonar training and testing activities in the Study Area for decades, and there is no evidence that routine Navy training and testing has negatively impacted marine mammal populations in the Study Area or at any Navy Range Complex. Based on the best available science summarized in the EIS/OEIS Section 3.4.4.1 (Summary of Monitoring and Observations During Navy Activities), long-term consequences for marine mammal populations are unlikely to result from Navy training and testing activities in the Study Area. Please also refer to Chapter 5 (Standard Operating Procedures, Mitigation, and Monitoring) of the EIS/OEIS, detailing the procedures and mitigation measures during its training and testing activities designed to reduce impacts to marine mammals from Navy activities.
Finley-01 (Written)	I. The Study Area. The study area of the EIS must include the entire San Juan Islands National Monument, where growlers are currently acoustically assaulting residents and visitors, as well as the Olympic Peninsula where war games are proposed. Because of reports on the sjcgis.org/aircraft-noise reporting website, it is clear that noise from the EA- 18G growlers affects a very large area, both noise from takeoffs and noise from flyovers.	Thank you for participating in the NEPA process. Please see Chapters 1 (Purpose and Need) and 2 (Description of Proposed Action and Alternatives) of the EIS/OEIS for a clear definition of the scope of this project. There are no weapons testing activities proposed in the Olympic National Forest in the Supplement to the Draft EIS/OEIS. It is also important to note that the proposed activities would not change how or where the Navy has been flying for decades. Analysis of airfield activities and relocation of aircraft and personnel is addressed in other environmental planning documents, such as the Draft Environmental Assessment for the Transition of Expeditionary EA-6B Prowler Squadrons to EA-18G Growler at Naval Air Station Whidbey Island, Oak Harbor, Washington (U.S. Department of the Navy, 2012).

Table I.5-4: Responses to Comments from Private Individuals (continued)

Commenter	Comment	Navy Response
Finley-02	II. Socio-Economic Impacts. A. Home Values. My son has already recommended that my husband and I try to sell our house on southern San Juan Island because of the growler noise. Unfortunately, it may already be too fate because we would have to warn any buyers about the noise. {I understand that there is already a lawsuit against a real estate company based on its failure to warn buyers about growler noise.} Does the navy intend to compensate landowners in the affected area for the diminished value of their homes due to growler noise?	As described in Section 3.10 (Cultural Resources), Section 3.12 (Socioeconomics), and Section 3.13 (Public Health and Safety) of the EIS/OEIS, the Navy's proposed activities are not expected to impact cultural resources, socioeconomic resources, or public health and safety.
Finley-03	B. Tourism. The San Juan Islands National Monument has 80,000 visitor days per year. The economy of the San Juan Islands Islands is heavily dependent on tourism. A tourist visiting American Camp National Historical Park said on the reporting system cited above that they couldn't believe that the growler noise would be allowed and that it ruined their visit to the island. {See report 239209) Indeed, it is difficult to see why anyone would want to spend their vacation in what sounds like a war zone {report 236810- "delightful sunny day walk with a war movie soundtrack, like a wedding ceremony with a jackhammer".) Once word spreads, tourism in the San Juan Islands will no doubt diminish. Is the navy going to compensate the tourist industry for its losses?	As described in Section 3.10 (Cultural Resources), Section 3.12 (Socioeconomics), and Section 3.13 (Public Health and Safety) of the EIS/OEIS, the Navy's proposed activities are not expected to impact cultural resources, socioeconomic resources, or public health and safety.
Finley-04	III. Wildlife. There is a group of sea lions on an island near Cattle Point on the south end of San Juan Is/and, near where we live. Last summer and early fall, they were quite vocal, but when the growlers would rev up, and for several hours thereafter, the sea lions were silent. I don't know whether this was cause and effect, but it should certainly be investigated. It may be that the menacing quality of the growler noise affects land based mammals as well as humans. In addition, the San Juan Islands National Monument is home to endangered orca whales. Any EIS should include studies of the effects of growler noise on the orcas.	The Navy shares your concern for marine life, but this concern must be balanced with the purpose and need for Navy training and testing as detailed in Chapter 2 (Description of Proposed Action and Alternatives) of the EIS/OEIS. The Navy has conducted training and testing activities in the Study Area for decades, and there is no evidence that routine Navy training and testing has negatively impacted marine mammal populations in the Study Area or at any Navy Range Complex. Based on the best available science summarized in the EIS/OEIS Section 3.4.4.1 (Summary of Monitoring and Observations During Navy Activities), long-term consequences for marine mammal populations are unlikely to result from Navy training and testing activities in the Study Area. Please also refer to Chapter 5 (Standard Operating Procedures, Mitigation, and Monitoring) of the EIS/OEIS, detailing the procedures and mitigation measures during its training and testing activities designed to reduce impacts to marine mammals from Navy activities.
Finley-05	IV. Incompatibility with Park Designations. The use of the area for activities that create a "war movie soundtrack" and the proposed use for war games, is incompatible with federal, state, and local land use	Thank you for participating in the NEPA process. However this comment is outside the scope of the Supplement to the Draft EIS/OEIS. Please see Chapters 1 and 2 of the EIS/OEIS for a clear

Table I.5-4: Responses to Comments from Private Individuals (continued)

Commenter	Comment	Navy Response
	designations. In addition to the San Juan Islands National Monument and the Olympic National Park, the area affected by growler noise includes American Camp National Historical Park, English Camp National Historical Park, Lime Kiln State Park, Moran State Park, James Island State Marine Park, Stuart Island State Marine Park, Freeman Island State Park, Jones Island State Park, Sucia Island State Park, Clark Island State Park, Cone Islands State Park, Doe Island State Marine Park, Odlin County Park, and San Juan County Parle AH of these parks are designated for recreational uses that growler noise makes impossible. v. Alternatives. While hush barns might help the revving up noise, they would not affect the noise from flyovers. Ideally, the navy would retrofit the growlers with quieter engines because no one should have to endure them. Failing that, the navy should find another home for the growlers, preferably one where there are very few people and wildlife. The desert is one possibility, especially given that most of our recent wars have been fought in deserts. If the navy wants seacoast, it should explore the possibility of the Aleutian Islands; as I remember there's an abandoned military base on one of them. Thank you for your attention.	definition of the scope of this project. Analysis of airfield activities and relocation of aircraft and personnel is addressed in other environmental planning documents, such as the Draft Environmental Assessment for the Transition of Expeditionary EA-6B Prowler Squadrons to EA-18G Growler at Naval Air Station Whidbey Island, Oak Harbor, Washington (U.S. Department of the Navy, 2012).
Fisher Williams (Electronic)	Heard in the news that here is a proposal for off-shore deployment of buoys emitting sonar, testing explosives and other acoustic devices in the Pacific Northwest waters. Just last week had a deceased grey whale wash ashore in Seattle with lacerations from ship propellers. We KNOW this is a migratory route for grey whales! WHAT ARE YOU THINKING? Even non-scientists know that they navigate and communicate by sound. This proposal would be equivalent to "enhanced interrogation techniques" ,also known as torture - and might even even lead to death (as we've seen with porpoises and bleeding ear drums.) I am strongly opposed to such deployment. Inga Fisher Williams Portland, Oregon	The Navy shares your concern for marine life, but this concern must be balanced with the purpose and need for Navy training and testing as detailed in Chapter 2 (Description of Proposed Action and Alternatives) of the EIS/OEIS. The Navy has conducted active sonar training and testing activities in the Study Area for decades, and there is no evidence that routine Navy training and testing has negatively impacted marine mammal populations in the Study Area or at any Navy Range Complex. Based on the best available science summarized in the EIS/OEIS Section 3.4.4.1 (Summary of Monitoring and Observations During Navy Activities), long-term consequences for marine mammal populations are unlikely to result from Navy training and testing activities in the Study Area. Please also refer to Chapter 5 (Standard Operating Procedures, Mitigation, and Monitoring) of the EIS/OEIS, detailing the procedures and mitigation measures during its training and testing activities designed to reduce impacts to marine mammals from Navy activities. Regarding previous strandings, see Section 3.4.3.1.8 (Stranding) and the referenced technical report “Marine Mammal Strandings Associated with U.S. Navy Sonar Activities” (U.S. Department of the Navy 2013c).
Fladager	The decibels used by the Navy for testing are injurious and often lethal to marine mammals. They become stressed and may self-strand in large groups. It is	Regarding previous strandings, see Section 3.4.3.1.8 (Stranding) and the referenced technical report “Marine Mammal Strandings

Table I.5-4: Responses to Comments from Private Individuals (continued)

Commenter	Comment	Navy Response
(Electronic)	documented that the animals sustain hemorrhagic damage in their ears and brains. The Navy sonar practices must be restricted in when and where they are held to avoid injury and death for dolphins and whales living in the Salish Sea (and beyond).	Associated with U.S. Navy Sonar Activities" (U.S. Department of the Navy 2013c). Based on the best available science summarized in the EIS/OEIS Section 3.4.4.1 (Summary of Monitoring and Observations During Navy Activities), long-term consequences for marine mammal populations are unlikely to result from Navy training and testing activities in the Study Area.
Fletcher-01 (Electronic)	What most concerns me is this. There has been an overwhelming number of proposals since late in 2013 rolled out to the public in a piecemeal fashion. Five calls for comments on clearly-linked documents have been spread out in their introduction to the public over the last year and a half. Ground-based, (Electronic warfare range), air-based (Two growler scoping documents) and sea-based naval activities (these two NWTT documents) have been dropped onto the region as if they were not linked. The separate comment periods and the separate documents minimize the larger picture of impacts on the area. In my opinion this is misleading. Is it even legal in regards to Federal Law, specifically NEPA? Please redo this chopped-up public process with a comprehensive Environmental Impact Statement that includes all of the activities in the region. These huge changes that affect wildlife, real estate values, allow precedent-setting incursions into the peace of our national parks, national forest, wilderness, state parks and state lands, should be discussed as a whole, not split into so many fractured pieces that the residents of this region cannot know what they are actually facing.	The Navy prepares Environmental Impact Statements (EIS) and Environmental Assessments (EA) in order to comply with the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA). These NEPA documents are intended to ensure decision makers consider the potential environmental effects of a proposed action and its alternatives, provide an opportunity for public involvement, and promote transparency by informing the public of these potential environmental effects. Each NEPA document addresses a specific proposed action, separated from other actions by its purpose and need, independent utility, timing, and geographic location. Some NEPA documents are stand-alone documents; others tier off or expand the analyses of other NEPA documents. NEPA documents for training and testing, including this EIS/OEIS, focus on training and testing activities occurring within a range complex or military operation area and involve different types of aircraft, ships, and range complex enhancements. NEPA documents for aircraft homebasing actions focus on aircraft operations in and around the airfield and their facility needs. NEPA documents for installations focus on infrastructure enhancements for host and tenant command missions. Importantly, every environmental document considers the cumulative impacts to the environment from other relevant past, present, and reasonably foreseeable future actions (federal, state, local, and private) in addition to the proposed action. The Navy has been training in the Olympic Military Operations Area (MOA) for over 40 years, and the Navy has not proposed any significant changes to the way aircrew train in the MOA. The Navy recently analyzed plans to enhance existing training by adding one fixed transmitter at Pacific Beach and three mobile transmitter vehicles that would operate on existing logging roads and pull-out areas on U.S. Forest Service land. The Navy has not proposed to use National Park Service land. EW training and EW Range enhancements were analyzed in the Navy's Northwest Training Range Complex (NWTRC) EIS/OEIS, completed in 2010. When more information became available on mobile and fixed signal transmitters for the EW Range, the Navy prepared the EW Range EA to analyze placement and

Table I.5-4: Responses to Comments from Private Individuals (continued)

Commenter	Comment	Navy Response
		operation of those transmitters. The Navy completed the EA and issued a Finding of No Significant Impact on August 28, 2014. The introduction of the land-based transmitters to enhance existing training will not harm people, animals, or the environment. The Navy has decades of experience building and operating signal equipment, with no adverse effects to people, animals, or the environment. Though there is a proposed increase in EW training events associated with the range enhancements and analyzed in this EIS/OEIS, the increase in events does not equate to a comparable increase in the number of aircraft flights or in the duration of flights. EW training flights are already occurring in the Olympic MOAs, and it is estimated that this proposal will only result in an approximately 10 percent annual increase in actual flights, which equates to approximately one additional flight per day. This is because each flight will be able to accommodate multiple EW training events. The Navy proposes to home base up to 36 additional EA-18G aircraft at NAS Whidbey Island. The Navy announced the preparation of that separate Whidbey EIS on September 5, 2013, and invited the public to participate in the NEPA process by submitting comments to define the scope of the Draft Whidbey EIS analysis. On October 10, 2014, the Navy revised the scope of the on-going Whidbey EIS and invited the public to submit additional scoping comments. The Navy is currently preparing its Draft Whidbey EIS, which is scheduled to be released in spring 2016. For more information, please visit the project website at www.whidbeyeis.com. This NWTT EIS/OEIS considered the Whidbey EIS proposal in its analysis of cumulative impacts in Chapter 4.
Fletcher-02	Though this supplement admits increased sonar and explosive testing (TRACKEX) and finally addresses the MSO maneuvers there is no additional mitigation mentioned. Nowhere is it outlined whether visual patrols will increase as a result of this new activity, nor does the Supplement address real concerns over whether or not visual patrol is adequate at times of night or rough seas. No acoustic monitoring, or avoidance strategies are included. This is a serious omission to a document that intended to address the inadequate science and mitigation plans of the original draft and is unacceptable.	As described in Chapter 5 (Standard Operating Procedures, Mitigation, and Monitoring) of the EIS/OEIS, the Navy evaluated the effectiveness and practicability of a number of potential mitigation measures. Through consultation and permitting with NMFS and USFWS, the Navy refined the mitigation measures, which are now presented in Chapter 5 (Standard Operating Procedures, Mitigation, and Monitoring) of this Final EIS/OEIS. Section 5.3.1.2.5 (Effectiveness Assessment for Lookouts) acknowledges that, due to the various detection probabilities, levels of Lookout experience, and variability of sighting conditions, Lookouts will not always be effective at avoiding impacts on all species. However, Lookouts are expected to increase the overall likelihood that certain marine mammal species and some sea turtles will be detected at the

Table I.5-4: Responses to Comments from Private Individuals (continued)

Commenter	Comment	Navy Response
		surface of the water, when compared to the likelihood that these same species would be detected if Lookouts are not used. The continued use of Lookouts contributes to helping reduce potential impacts on these species from training and testing activities. While the range of the sonar's detection would travel beyond the distance that Lookouts can detect animals, the range at which sonar is predicted to be able to cause injury to a marine mammal is very short, within 10 meters of the sonar. At such short distances, it is likely any marine mammal would have been detected. The MSO activities do not include the use of sonar or live gun firing.
Fletcher-03	Of particular concern to me is the Supplement and the EIS's lack of protections for the Southern Resident Killer Whale's dwindling population. These animals need a protected home in accord with their endangered status. In public sessions and in a radio interview the Navy's public relations personnel have been heard to say that the (MSO) and TRACKEX marine exercises save gas and allow personnel to be closer to their homes for these maneuvers. These considerations should not allow one single injury to this endangered Killer Whale population. Lack of Science: There is little consideration of exclusion zones, geographic alternatives to the southern Puget Sound and seasonal restrictions of exercises. All of the Alternatives propose year-round, unrestricted use without regard to seasonal variations in marine mammal and fish abundance. This is true despite the well- documented seasonal migrations of numerous endangered species and the identification of biologically important areas. The Navy should put critical marine habitats off-limits to sonar and explosives testing and schedule training to avoid times of the year when sensitive species are present in places like the Olympic Coast National Marine Sanctuary.	As part of the Navy's effects analysis, the Navy considers all the science that identifies locations where certain cetacean populations or individuals are known to engage in feeding, breeding, or other biologically important activities at certain times of year. Recently, NMFS has taken steps to begin formally identifying some of these areas and naming them Biologically Important Areas (BIAs). The Navy has considered these areas as part of its analysis in this Final EIS/OEIS when discussing particular species in Chapter 3 (Affected Environment and Environmental Consequences) as well as in considering whether limitations on Navy activities in these areas are warranted as mitigation in discussion in Chapter 5 (see Section 5.3.4.1.11, Avoiding Marine Species Habitats and Biologically Important Areas). The Navy thoroughly considered the humpback and gray whale feeding areas identified recently in its analysis and whether avoidance as mitigation was appropriate. Given the impact avoidance would have on military readiness activities and lack of biological benefit, avoidance is not warranted. Please see Section 5.3.4.1.11 (Avoiding Marine Species Habitats and Biologically Important Areas). However, Navy is proposing to provide reporting of generally low use of sonar in some of these areas to NMFS as part of classified annual reports to help inform future adaptive management related to impacts in these areas. At time of release of this Final EIS/OEIS, NMFS and Navy are in ongoing discussion regarding mitigation for MMPA purposes. Should additional mitigation to that which Navy has proposed be identified in the MMPA rule making and authorization, it will be indicated in the ROD. It is important to note that the BIAs were not meant to define exclusionary zones, nor critical habitat with regulatory management, nor were they meant to be locations that serve as sanctuaries from human activity, or areas analogous to marine protected areas. The NMFS-identified BIAs do not have direct

Table I.5-4: Responses to Comments from Private Individuals (continued)

Commenter	Comment	Navy Response
		or immediate regulatory consequences and the BIAs located within the NWTT Study Area are not the only areas used for feeding, migrating, or reproductive activity for these cetaceans in a species' entire range and habitat. The stated intention is for the BIAs to serve as a resource management tool and their currently identified boundaries be considered dynamic and subject to change based on any new information as well as, "existing density estimates, range-wide distribution data, information on population trends and life history parameters, known threats to the population, and other relevant information." There is a lack of science supporting identification of any additional BIAs at this time for the Pacific. The Navy and NMFS have supported and will continue to support the Cetacean and Sound Mapping project, including providing representation on the Cetacean Density and Distribution Mapping Working Group (CetMap), which informed NMFS' identification of BIAs. The same marine mammal density data present in the Navy's Density Database Technical Report, and used in the analysis for this EIS/OEIS, was used in the development of BIAs. The final products, including U.S. West Coast BIAs from this mapping effort, were completed and published in March 2015. The U.S. Navy has conducted active sonar training and testing activities for decades in the seaspace depicted in the Study Area with no evidence to indicate any meaningful impacts to marine habitats in the area. The Navy and NMFS jointly are still in ongoing consultation with the OCNMS regarding the effects of the Proposed Action on Sanctuary resources. The Navy concludes its continued activities are not likely to result in the loss, destruction, or adverse changes to the viability of Sanctuary resources. Several points support this determination: • Less than two percent of proposed training and 15 percent of proposed testing activities would occur within or immediately adjacent to the OCNMS. • The NWTT Final EIS/OEIS shows that training and testing activities have minimal temporary impacts on the quantity or quality of the Study Area's physical environment, and minor to no impacts on marine or shore birds, fish, sea turtles, or invertebrate marine life. • Although explosives have the potential to affect the physical and biological resources, the Navy does not use explosives within the OCNMS.

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Commenter	Comment	Navy Response
		• The Navy concludes any marine mammal behavioral reactions to NWTT training and testing activities would be transitory, infrequent, non-cumulative, and impacts are not expected to decrease overall individual fitness or result in long-term population-level impacts on any given population, and consequently will not result in any adverse changes to the sanctuary. Finally, all Department of Defense (DoD) military activities shall be carried out in a manner that avoids to the maximum extent practicable any adverse impacts on Sanctuary resources and qualities.
Fletcher-04	The last year and a half have seen numerous Navy proposals, comment periods, scoping sessions, supplemental information. What is going on here? This should all be covered in one EIS not little EAs, on EWRs and E-18s. This particular supplement is inadequate, and damaging to the region and the marine life in it. This is just one piece of the larger picture that is not being presented clearly. Re-do these piecemeal proposals in a new over-arching EIS that tells the truth about what is planned here for our parks, our homes, our wilderness and our future. Go back to the drawing board neighbors. Thank you for considering my comments.	The Navy prepares Environmental Impact Statements (EIS) and Environmental Assessments (EA) in order to comply with the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA). These NEPA documents are intended to ensure decision makers consider the potential environmental effects of a proposed action and its alternatives, provide an opportunity for public involvement, and promote transparency by informing the public of these potential environmental effects. Each NEPA document addresses a specific proposed action, separated from other actions by its purpose and need, independent utility, timing, and geographic location. Some NEPA documents are stand-alone documents; others tier off or expand the analyses of other NEPA documents. NEPA documents for training and testing, including this EIS/OEIS, focus on training and testing activities occurring within a range complex or military operation area and involve different types of aircraft, ships, and range complex enhancements. NEPA documents for aircraft homebasing actions focus on aircraft operations in and around the airfield and their facility needs. NEPA documents for installations focus on infrastructure enhancements for host and tenant command missions. Importantly, every environmental document considers the cumulative impacts to the environment from other relevant past, present, and reasonably foreseeable future actions (federal, state, local, and private) in addition to the proposed action. The Navy has been training in the Olympic Military Operations Area (MOA) for over 40 years, and the Navy has not proposed any significant changes to the way aircrew train in the MOA. The Navy recently analyzed plans to enhance existing training by adding one fixed transmitter at Pacific Beach and three mobile transmitter vehicles that would operate on existing logging roads and pull-out areas on U.S. Forest Service land. The Navy has not proposed to use National Park Service land. EW training and EW Range enhancements were analyzed in the Navy's Northwest Training Range Complex (NWTRC)

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Commenter	Comment	Navy Response
		EIS/OEIS, completed in 2010. When more information became available on mobile and fixed signal transmitters for the EW Range, the Navy prepared the EW Range EA to analyze placement and operation of those transmitters. The Navy completed the EA and issued a Finding of No Significant Impact on August 28, 2014. The introduction of the land-based transmitters to enhance existing training will not harm people, animals, or the environment. The Navy has decades of experience building and operating signal equipment, with no adverse effects to people, animals, or the environment. Though there is a proposed increase in EW training events associated with the range enhancements and analyzed in this EIS/OEIS, the increase in events does not equate to a comparable increase in the number of aircraft flights or in the duration of flights. EW training flights are already occurring in the Olympic MOAs, and it is estimated that this proposal will only result in an approximately 10 percent annual increase in actual flights, which equates to approximately one additional flight per day. This is because each flight will be able to accommodate multiple EW training events. The Navy proposes to home base up to 36 additional EA-18G aircraft at NAS Whidbey Island. The Navy announced the preparation of that separate Whidbey EIS on September 5, 2013, and invited the public to participate in the NEPA process by submitting comments to define the scope of the Draft Whidbey EIS analysis. On October 10, 2014, the Navy revised the scope of the on-going Whidbey EIS and invited the public to submit additional scoping comments. The Navy is currently preparing its Draft Whidbey EIS, which is scheduled to be released in spring 2016. For more information, please visit the project website at www.whidbeyeis.com. This NWTT EIS/OEIS considered the Whidbey EIS proposal in its analysis of cumulative impacts in Chapter 4.
Fletcher-05	Earlier comments have called for an examination by the Navy of cumulative impacts of sonar testing, stressors, and climate change concerns. This Supplement has merely mentioned these concerns and then claims them to be non-significant. As these questions are paramount and important to the future of the region these proclamations of non-significance are unsupported and are dismissive.	The Navy used the best available science and a comprehensive review of past, present, and reasonably foreseeable actions to develop a robust Cumulative Impacts analysis. The Navy has returned to the analysis in Chapter 4 (Cumulative Impacts) due to concerns raised in public comments, and the Chapter has been revised in response to those public comments. The literature on ocean acidification has been reviewed, and is now discussed in Section 4.4.4 (Climate Change), of Chapter 4 (Cumulative Impacts) of the EIS/OEIS.
Fletcher-06	It has become evident that the Navy has embarked on a strategy of handling public comment that appears out of sync with federal NEPA requirements. Four clearly-	The Navy completed the Supplement to the Draft EIS/OEIS in compliance with current law, including the National Environmental

Table I.5-4: Responses to Comments from Private Individuals (continued)

Commenter	Comment	Navy Response
	linked documents have been spread out in their introduction to the public over the last year and a half. This has had the effect of separating ground-based, air-based and sea-based naval activities as if they were not linked. This misleads the public into considering smaller spheres of influence of Navy actions in myriad localities. This strategy, or decision, to break up an obviously unified plan may in fact be in violation of federal law. The four proposals were: • An initial call for Scoping Comments to evaluate the potential environmental effects associated with ongoing and planned EA-18G Growler airfield operations at NAS Whidbey Island's Ault Field and Outlying Landing Field (OLF) (December 2013). • The Northwest Training and Testing EIS/OEIS (January 2014): covering the sea-based training and testing plans stretching from Alaska to California that features a proposed increase of the use of sonar and explosives in offshore areas and the Sound. • The Pacific Northwest Electronic Warfare Range Environmental Assessment (August 2014) and the National Forest Service Special Use Permit proposal. • The most recent Scoping period revision of the future U.S. Navy Environmental Impact Statement for the EA-18G Growler Airfield Operations at Naval Air Station (NAS) Whidbey Island November 2014. This significant upward revision of numbers of Growlers proposed was the most recent opportunity to comment. Importantly, as regards the current NWTT Supplement, the Navy's engagement in the process of informing the public has been extremely flawed and piecemeal. The Navy has not been forthright nor clear about its overall aims and has been lax in its exploration of alternatives and available scientific resources. There is an obligation to present this fragmented series of proposals as it clearly has been planned — as one massive Navy plan for a large region of the Pacific Northwest and the Puget Sound. It has enormous consequences for all that live here.	Policy Act (NEPA). In addition to NEPA, the Navy continues to comply with other applicable environmental laws and with a number of regulatory requirements, such as the Marine Mammal Protection Act, the Endangered Species Act, the Coastal Zone Management Act, and the Magnuson-Stevens Fishery Conservation and Management Act. The changes to the Draft EIS/OEIS are clearly described in the Supplement to the Draft EIS/OEIS. The Supplement to the Draft is in effect, a re-release of the Draft EIS/OEIS. Only those activities or analysis that changed is included to simplify the public's review. Analysis of airfield activities and relocation of aircraft and personnel is addressed in other environmental planning documents, such as the Draft Environmental Assessment for the Transition of Expeditionary EA-6B Prowler Squadrons to EA-18G Growler at Naval Air Station Whidbey Island, Oak Harbor, Washington (U.S. Department of the Navy, 2012). Therefore, the NWTT EIS/OEIS includes the analysis of activities only where those activities occur nor does it include activities commonly associated with an airfield, such as takeoffs and landings.
Flum (Electronic)	I have attended every meeting held in Fort Bragg California as have our membership. It is not possible for many in this area (Mendocino County) to attend a meeting in Eureka. I am asking that the Navy schedule a meeting here in Fort Bragg a.s.a.p. in order to meet the guidelines you have set up for public participation.. This appears to be a legal question and your limitations will certainly limit our participation in this county. We are concerned with the new guidelines you are going to follow and in particular the addition of many new sona-buoys.	The Navy held four public meetings in three states to inform the public and receive their comments on the Supplement to the Draft EIS/OEIS. Because of the large size of the NWTT Study Area for this EIS/OEIS, it is not feasible to hold a public meeting in every location where there may be public interest. Generally, the Navy has tried to locate public meetings in locations central to training or testing areas and potentially affected communities. In the case of the Supplement, the activities analyzed occur almost exclusively in Washington waters or off the coast of Washington.
Ford (Electronic)	Please stop using sonar blasting equipment where whales, dolphins and turtles are known to be. Some of these species are endangered and the blast from the noise will kill them fast or slowly depending on the noise level. Us people need to share the Earth with other species. The other species provide us with food and it is well known that biodiversity helps to preserve our own species. More efforts should be	The Navy shares your concern for marine life, but this concern must be balanced with the purpose and need for Navy training and testing as detailed in Chapter 2 (Description of Proposed Action and Alternatives) of the EIS/OEIS. The Navy has conducted active sonar training and testing activities in the Study Area for decades, and there is no evidence that routine Navy training and testing has negatively

Table I.5-4: Responses to Comments from Private Individuals (continued)

Commenter	Comment	Navy Response
	put into promoting Peace instead of warfare. Sincerely, Bonnie Ford	impacted marine mammal populations or sea turtles in the Study Area or at any Navy Range Complex. Based on the best available science summarized in the EIS/OEIS Section 3.4.4.1 (Summary of Monitoring and Observations During Navy Activities), long-term consequences for marine mammal populations are unlikely to result from Navy training and testing activities in the Study Area. Please also refer to Chapter 5 (Standard Operating Procedures, Mitigation, and Monitoring) of the EIS/OEIS, detailing the procedures and mitigation measures during its training and testing activities designed to reduce impacts to marine mammals and sea turtles from Navy activities.
Forlines-Forrest (Electronic)	Bio-Community - Marine Habitat - Salish Sea - Olympic Peninsula update Re: NWTTEIS with increased Sonobuoys and security - Dear All - I am vey concerned and not at all reassured about the effects of the activities outlined in the NWTTEIS on the inhabitants of the Salish Sea - including the Marine Mammals. Even in the [no activity alternative].... I am concerned and not at all reassured regarding the due respect forwarded to our Native American Communities as old as Communities in Europe or Africa, Asia. Maritime security operations: 2,800 small caliber rounds? I stand by the points listed in the letter below - sent regarding jet activity in particular and the Import of the Preserve in general. I reiterate the need for the right kind of defense that suppports a growing awareness that the peoples of the Earth had better start using energies and creative resources to renew habitats and rebuild/redesign infrastructures that make room for future generations of diversity. In the end - Engineering is exciting only if it meets these needs. I can see our Military meet some of that need. The Military should be guardians of the habitats of it's own country (big job - We have lost almost half of all species in the last 40 years) And - always striving for and maintaining Integrity - it/we must resist all attempts to be manipulated and abused by hardware profiting by anyone who sees personnel and our habitats as expendable. (peddling fear is a dead give away. as is poor care for veterans and active duty on food stamps (something I learned about in 2003)) So while I know that using the inland waters in this way throws up a red flag - I know we must see solution coming from the wider world communities as well as ourselves in achieving/maintaining protection status of our habitats - and equally important - inventing safely without overspending. To that end - in the meantime - perhaps other more suitable locales could accept the training excercise. ~~~

Table I.5-4: Responses to Comments from Private Individuals (continued)

Commenter	Comment	Navy Response
	were answered for a peaceful return. I brought back small flags given out that day - one for me, one for my father and two that were a part of the Candlelight Vigil and pre-planned (then expanded post 9/11) Installation at City Hall, Cincinnati in the fall of 2001. Returning to Whidbey Island in 2002 - I helped co-ordinate a deeply felt Commemoration - for grieving and healing purposes - on the first Anniversary of September 11 in Langley. [During the working summer of '96 in the New York City area - I had been to the viewing deck of the Twin Towers - where I took in the view for hours. I was back later - in 2000 - and was planning to co-ordinate an exhibition in the tower lobby.] A month after he passed from a long drawn-out illness - my dad's flag ended up in the Cincinnati Enquirer's 2008 Inaugural Special Edition. While we want to have a measure of defense of the right kind - We don't want to get out of hand - out of balance - and become the very thing we are wanting to protect ourselves from. The level of activity with prowlers (save the buildup to the very expensive and costly invasion of Iraq) - was livable, compatible, tolerable. Even to one who is awaiting (and working towards) experiencing the world budgets being used more and more for habitat regeneration and infrastructure redesign/renewal. So -- while I saw nothing but a room full of [honorable] service people in that hangar the day the Crew returned to NASW - I must concur that NAS Whidbey, The Complex, struggling-to-survive Marine Community of the Salish Sea-Puget Sound region - and The Olympic Peninsula area is not the place for training in these very expensive - and very loud - growler jets.	
Francisco (Electronic)	How many dead animals are OK? Where do you get off thinking even one is a good thing? Wake up, you're killing the planet and it's creatures, FOR WHAT? Surely there are other ways to find out if the big bad enemy is cruising around our GOD DAMN coastal waters. And what the heck are you so afraid of them finding?	The Navy shares your concern for marine life, but this concern must be balanced with the purpose and need for Navy training and testing as detailed in Chapter 2 (Description of Proposed Action and Alternatives) of the EIS/OEIS. The Navy has conducted active sonar training and testing activities in the Study Area for decades, and there is no evidence that routine Navy training and testing has negatively impacted marine mammal populations in the Study Area or at any Navy Range Complex. Based on the best available science summarized in the EIS/OEIS Section 3.4.4.1 (Summary of Monitoring and Observations During Navy Activities), long-term consequences for marine mammal populations are unlikely to result from Navy training and testing activities in the Study Area. Please also refer to Chapter 5 (Standard Operating Procedures, Mitigation, and Monitoring) of the EIS/OEIS, detailing the procedures and mitigation measures during its training and testing activities designed to reduce impacts to marine mammals from Navy activities.
Frank (Electronic)	In 2012 I visited the Olympic Peninsula for the first time. The wild beaches of the coast and the walks in the Olympics and Hoh rainforest introduced me to a landscape different than I'd ever seen. Being outdoors is my source of spiritual	The Navy prepares Environmental Impact Statements (EIS) and Environmental Assessments (EA) in order to comply with the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA). These NEPA documents are

Table I.5-4: Responses to Comments from Private Individuals (continued)

Commenter	Comment	Navy Response
	renewal. Fast forward two years, the right job came along, allowing me to move to Port Townsend and make the Peninsula my home. I am thankful for our varied and spectacular protected lands. I still enjoy quiet walks through the mountains, along coasts and deep in the trees. I chose the comment category Cumulative Impacts as it describes my fears related to the proposed EWR training over these areas. So few places are free from human-generated disruptions, noise. With training areas in other places, why add this here? I've read it's for cost savings. It's time for people to see the value of nature, and what it does for the human race, just as we put a value on resources we consume. I feel this process has been poorly laid out. Documents are ambiguous and difficult to read. Meetings were scarce. Comment periods skimpy. The People are talking, asking questions, sharing concerns. And the people are being steamrollered over by the wheels of our government. I understand the need for our military and sufficient training. I do not understand the need to practice such in such delicate, pristine and fragile places. Sonar training? In a crucial migratory ocean path for marine mammals and turtles? Come on! I see the increase of Navy presence on the Peninsula, including the proposed increase in Growler Jets (how that ruined a hike on Whidby Island one day, a place I will not return to for that reason), as an insult to the people who call this place home. These Growlers shook the walls of the home I lived in last year. Now, the repetitive flight sounds I hear at times. I've called into the noise line with no replies in return. The Navy agenda is being pushed forward, without forethought to long-term effects on all living things that inhabit this place. The thought of myself and others, walking through the Hoh rainforest or up in the mountains, visiting West Coast beaches, plagued by the sound of screaming jets, (because not all of us associate that with pleasant thoughts of patriotism) is saddening and indicative of mankind ignoring the needs of the planet we stand on. Please pay attention to what the People are saying.	intended to ensure decision makers consider the potential environmental effects of a proposed action and its alternatives, provide an opportunity for public involvement, and promote transparency by informing the public of these potential environmental effects. Each NEPA document addresses a specific proposed action, separated from other actions by its purpose and need, independent utility, timing, and geographic location. Some NEPA documents are stand-alone documents; others tier off or expand the analyses of other NEPA documents. NEPA documents for training and testing, including this EIS/OEIS, focus on training and testing activities occurring within a range complex or military operation area and involve different types of aircraft, ships, and range complex enhancements. NEPA documents for aircraft homebasing actions focus on aircraft operations in and around the airfield and their facility needs. NEPA documents for installations focus on infrastructure enhancements for host and tenant command missions. Importantly, every environmental document considers the cumulative impacts to the environment from other relevant past, present, and reasonably foreseeable future actions (federal, state, local, and private) in addition to the proposed action. The Navy has been training in the Olympic Military Operations Area (MOA) for over 40 years, and the Navy has not proposed any significant changes to the way aircrew train in the MOA. The Navy recently analyzed plans to enhance existing training by adding one fixed transmitter at Pacific Beach and three mobile transmitter vehicles that would operate on existing logging roads and pull-out areas on U.S. Forest Service land. The Navy has not proposed to use National Park Service land. EW training and EW Range enhancements were analyzed in the Navy's Northwest Training Range Complex (NWTRC) EIS/OEIS, completed in 2010. When more information became available on mobile and fixed signal transmitters for the EW Range, the Navy prepared the EW Range EA to analyze placement and operation of those transmitters. The Navy completed the EA and issued a Finding of No Significant Impact on August 28, 2014. The introduction of the land-based transmitters to enhance existing training will not harm people, animals, or the environment. The Navy has decades of experience building and operating signal equipment, with no adverse effects to people, animals, or the environment. Though there is a proposed increase in EW training events associated with the range enhancements and analyzed in this EIS/OEIS, the increase in events does not equate to a comparable increase in the

Table I.5-4: Responses to Comments from Private Individuals (continued)

Commenter	Comment	Navy Response
		number of aircraft flights or in the duration of flights. EW training flights are already occurring in the Olympic MOAs, and it is estimated that this proposal will only result in an approximately 10 percent annual increase in actual flights, which equates to approximately one additional flight per day. This is because each flight will be able to accommodate multiple EW training events. The Navy proposes to home base up to 36 additional EA-18G aircraft at NAS Whidbey Island. The Navy announced the preparation of that separate Whidbey EIS on September 5, 2013, and invited the public to participate in the NEPA process by submitting comments to define the scope of the Draft Whidbey EIS analysis. On October 10, 2014, the Navy revised the scope of the on-going Whidbey EIS and invited the public to submit additional scoping comments. The Navy is currently preparing its Draft Whidbey EIS, which is scheduled to be released in spring 2016. For more information, please visit the project website at www.whidbeyeis.com. This NWTT EIS/OEIS considered the Whidbey EIS proposal in its analysis of cumulative impacts in Chapter 4. The Navy shares your concern for marine life, but this concern must be balanced with the purpose and need for Navy training and testing as detailed in Chapter 2 (Description of Proposed Action and Alternatives) of the EIS/OEIS. The Navy has conducted active sonar training and testing activities in the Study Area for decades, and there is no evidence that routine Navy training and testing has negatively impacted marine mammal populations or sea turtles in the Study Area or at any Navy Range Complex. Based on the best available science summarized in the Draft EIS/OEIS Section 3.4.4.1 (Summary of Monitoring and Observations During Navy Activities), long-term consequences for marine mammal populations are unlikely to result from Navy training and testing activities in the Study Area. Please also refer to Chapter 5 (Standard Operating Procedures, Mitigation, and Monitoring) of the EIS/OEIS, detailing the procedures and mitigation measures during its training and testing activities designed to reduce impacts to marine mammals and sea turtles from Navy activities.
Franklin (Electronic)	Whales and other marine mammals use their hearing to maintain communication with each other...it is VERY important that our Navy NOT ruin their hearing with sonar blasts. PLEASE give thought to our "neighbors" in the ocean. We love them.	The Navy shares your concern for marine life, but this concern must be balanced with the purpose and need for Navy training and testing as detailed in Chapter 2 (Description of Proposed Action and Alternatives) of the EIS/OEIS. The Navy has conducted active sonar training and testing activities in the Study Area for decades, and there is no evidence that routine Navy training and testing has negatively impacted marine mammal populations in the Study Area or at any

Table I.5-4: Responses to Comments from Private Individuals (continued)

Commenter	Comment	Navy Response
		Navy Range Complex. Based on the best available science summarized in the EIS/OEIS Section 3.4.4.1 (Summary of Monitoring and Observations During Navy Activities), long-term consequences for marine mammal populations are unlikely to result from Navy training and testing activities in the Study Area. Please also refer to Chapter 5 (Standard Operating Procedures, Mitigation, and Monitoring) of the EIS/OEIS, detailing the procedures and mitigation measures during its training and testing activities designed to reduce impacts to marine mammals from Navy activities.
Franklin (Electronic)	I am writing in support of the Navy's "No Action Alternative" because it is the proposal with the most limited impact on wildlife. The Navy's current environmental analysis fails to provide adequate measures to mitigate the harmful effects of the proposed activities on marine mammals and other wildlife. As a tax paying American gravely concerned with ecological health, biodiversity, and conservation, an escalation in sonar activity will negatively impact wildlife. Sonar has shown to disrupt basic behaviors for marine mammals; behaviors that are necessary for their survival such as the ability to migrate, surface, navigate, hear, nurse, breed and feed. Scientists believe sonar activity can change whale diving behavior, confusing them to swim to depths their bodies cannot handle. Whales suspected to have beached themselves because of sonar activity show signs of physical trauma – symptoms analogous to “the bends” in humans. Furthermore, The Navy admits the increase in the use of sonar devices "is likely to adversely affect "2 endangered leatherback turtles whose protected habitat is along the Pacific Coast. Injury and death to any threatened or endangered species, which would include humpback and sperm whales, and leatherback turtles, is one too many, and the proposed activities may result in violations of the Endangered Species Act. All healthy ecosystems are contingent on thriving biodiversity, and one break in the chain can easily disrupt and threaten the whole. We have a responsibility of being responsible and ethical stewards of our environments for the benefit of all species, and generations to come. The only responsible choice is the "No Action Alternative." Thank you for your serious consideration.	As described in the Supplement in Section 3.5.2 (Sea Turtle Summary), the proposed increase in the use of SSQ-125 sonobuoys "are not expected to result in substantial changes to behavior, growth, survival, annual reproductive success, lifetime reproductive success (fitness), or species recruitment, and are not expected to result in population-level impacts." The Navy shares your concern for marine life, but this concern must be balanced with the purpose and need for Navy training and testing as detailed in Chapter 2 (Description of Proposed Action and Alternatives) of the EIS/OEIS. The Navy has conducted active sonar training and testing activities in the Study Area for decades, and there is no evidence that routine Navy training and testing has negatively impacted marine mammal populations in the Study Area or at any Navy Range Complex. Based on the best available science summarized in the EIS/OEIS Section 3.4.4.1 (Summary of Monitoring and Observations During Navy Activities), long-term consequences for marine mammal populations are unlikely to result from Navy training and testing activities in the Study Area. Please also refer to Chapter 5 (Standard Operating Procedures, Mitigation, and Monitoring) of the EIS/OEIS, detailing the procedures and mitigation measures during its training and testing activities designed to reduce impacts to marine mammals from Navy activities.
Franko (Electronic)	I have not commented previously on this issue. As a resident of the Olympic Peninsula and a neighbor to Olympic National Park I feel compelled to comment on the impacts of such activities. I wish to take this opportunity to comment on the Supplement (December 2014) to the Navy’s Draft Environmental Impact Statement/ Overseas Environmental Impact Statement (DEIS), dated January 2014, for its continued training and testing activities in the Pacific Northwest (NWTT). Please include these comments in the administrative record. Effect on wildlife The proposed increases in this Supplement of marine exercises and additional use of sonar and explosives will only increase the damage done to marine mammals, sea	The Navy shares your concern for marine life, but this concern must be balanced with the purpose and need for Navy training and testing as detailed in Chapter 2 (Description of Proposed Action and Alternatives) of the EIS/OEIS. The Navy has conducted active sonar training and testing activities in the Study Area for decades, and there is no evidence that routine Navy training and testing has negatively impacted marine mammal populations or sea turtles in the Study Area or at any Navy Range Complex. Based on the best available science summarized in the Draft EIS/OEIS Section 3.4.4.1 (Summary of

Table I.5-4: Responses to Comments from Private Individuals (continued)

Commenter	Comment	Navy Response
	turtles, fish and birds. Of particular concern to me is the Supplement and the EIS's lack of protections for the Southern Resident Killer Whale's dwindling population. These animals need a protected home in accord with their endangered status. In public sessions and in a radio interview the Navy's public relations personnel have been heard to say that the (MSO) and TRACKEX marine exercises save gas and allow personnel to be closer to their homes for these maneuvers. These considerations should not allow one single injury to this endangered Killer Whale population. Though this supplement admits increased sonar and explosive testing (TRACKEX) and finally addresses the MSO maneuvers there is no additional mitigation mentioned. Nowhere is it outlined whether visual patrols will increase as a result of this new activity, nor does the Supplement address real concerns over whether or not visual patrol is adequate at times of night or rough seas. No acoustic monitoring or avoidance strategies are included. This is a serious omission to a document that intended to address the inadequate science and mitigation plans of the original draft and is unacceptable. Lack of Science There is little consideration of exclusion zones, geographic alternatives to the southern Puget Sound and seasonal restrictions of exercises. All of the Alternatives propose year-round, unrestricted use without regard to seasonal variations in marine mammal and fish abundance. This is true despite the well-documented seasonal migrations of numerous endangered species and the identification of biologically important areas. The Navy should put critical marine habitats off-limits to sonar and explosives testing and schedule training to avoid times of the year when sensitive species are present in places like the Olympic Coast National Marine Sanctuary. Climate Change and Cumulative Impacts The Supplement document responds to calls to address these two big issues but it is very unclear that anything more than lip service was expended by deeming Navy activities to be of little significance. Public Process What most concerns me is this. There has been an overwhelming number of proposals since late in 2013 rolled out to the public in a piecemeal fashion. Five calls for comments on clearly-linked documents have been spread out in their introduction to the public over the last year and a half. Ground-based, (Electronic warfare range), air-based (Two growler scoping documents) and sea-based naval activities (these two NWTT documents) have been dropped onto the region as if they were not linked. The separate comment periods and the separate documents minimize the larger picture of impacts on the area. In my opinion this is misleading. Is it even legal in regards to Federal Law, specifically NEPA? Please redo this chopped-up public process with a comprehensive Environmental Impact Statement that includes all of the activities in the region. These huge changes that affect wildlife, real estate values, allow precedent-setting incursions into the peace of our national parks, national forest, wilderness, state parks and state lands, should be discussed as a whole, not split into so many fractured pieces that the residents of this region cannot know what they are actually facing.	Monitoring and Observations During Navy Activities), long-term consequences for marine mammal populations are unlikely to result from Navy training and testing activities in the Study Area. Please also refer to Chapter 5 (Standard Operating Procedures, Mitigation, and Monitoring) of the EIS/OEIS, detailing the procedures and mitigation measures during its training and testing activities designed to reduce impacts to marine mammals and sea turtles from Navy activities. No injuries to killer whales are anticipated from the Navy's proposed MSO or TRACKEX activities. As described in Chapter 5 (Standard Operating Procedures, Mitigation, and Monitoring) of the EIS/OEIS, the Navy will implement mitigation measures during the use of sonobuoys. The mitigation measures are implemented for each activity and therefore the mitigation scales up as the activity level scales up. Also in Chapter 5 (Standard Operating Procedures, Mitigation, and Monitoring) of the EIS/OEIS, the Navy evaluated the effectiveness and practicability of a number of potential mitigation measures. Through consultation and permitting with NMFS and USFWS, the Navy refined the mitigation measures, which are now presented in Chapter 5 (Standard Operating Procedures, Mitigation, and Monitoring) of this Final EIS/OEIS. Section 5.3.1.2.5 (Effectiveness Assessment for Lookouts) acknowledges that, due to the various detection probabilities, levels of Lookout experience, and variability of sighting conditions, Lookouts will not always be effective at avoiding impacts on all species. However, Lookouts are expected to increase the overall likelihood that certain marine mammal species and some sea turtles will be detected at the surface of the water, when compared to the likelihood that these same species would be detected if Lookouts are not used. The continued use of Lookouts contributes to helping reduce potential impacts on these species from training and testing activities. While the range of the sonar's detection would travel beyond the distance that Lookouts can detect animals, the range at which sonar is predicted to be able to cause injury to a marine mammal is very short, within 10 meters of the sonar. At such short distances, it is likely any marine mammal would have been detected. As described in Chapter 5 (Standard Operating Procedures, Mitigation, and Monitoring) of the Final EIS/OEIS, the Navy evaluated the effectiveness and practicability of a number of potential mitigation

Table I.5-4: Responses to Comments from Private Individuals (continued)

Commenter	Comment	Navy Response
		measures including the avoidance of specific areas. The Navy has undertaken consultation with NMFS for the proposed and ongoing activities in the NWTT Study Area and the Navy refined the mitigation measures, which are now presented in Chapter 5 (Standard Operating Procedures, Mitigation, and Monitoring) of this Final EIS/OEIS. Through careful exploration of all mitigation measures to determine which were the most effective, the Navy chose the measures to mitigate potential impacts to marine mammals while still being able to meet its operational needs to train for real-world conditions. The Navy's specific mitigation measures are outlined in the following sections: Section 5.3.1 (Lookout Procedural Measures), Section 5.3.2 (Mitigation Zone Procedural Measures), and Section 5.3.3 (Mitigation Areas). Specifically, Section 5.3.4 (Mitigation Measures Considered but Eliminated) presents Navy consideration of similar area restrictions. The Navy and NMFS will use the Adaptive Management process to assess whether any additional mitigation should be considered in identified biologically important areas. In response to several comments, the Navy has enhanced its analysis of climate change and cumulative impacts in this Final EIS/OEIS. The Navy prepares Environmental Impact Statements (EIS) and Environmental Assessments (EA) in order to comply with the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA). These NEPA documents are intended to ensure decision makers consider the potential environmental effects of a proposed action and its alternatives, provide an opportunity for public involvement, and promote transparency by informing the public of these potential environmental effects. Each NEPA document addresses a specific proposed action, separated from other actions by its purpose and need, independent utility, timing, and geographic location. Some NEPA documents are stand-alone documents; others tier off or expand the analyses of other NEPA documents. NEPA documents for training and testing, including this EIS/OEIS, focus on training and testing activities occurring within a range complex or military operation area and involve different types of aircraft, ships, and range complex enhancements. NEPA documents for aircraft homebasing actions focus on aircraft operations in and around the airfield and their facility needs. NEPA documents for installations focus on infrastructure enhancements for host and tenant command missions. Importantly, every environmental document considers the cumulative impacts to the environment from other relevant past, present, and reasonably foreseeable future actions

Table I.5-4: Responses to Comments from Private Individuals (continued)

Commenter	Comment	Navy Response
		(federal, state, local, and private) in addition to the proposed action. The MSO activities do not include the use of sonar or live gun firing. The U.S. Navy has conducted active sonar training and testing activities for decades in the seaspace depicted in the Study Area with no evidence to indicate any meaningful impacts to marine habitats in the area. The Navy and NMFS jointly are still in ongoing consultation with the OCNMS regarding the effects of the Proposed Action on Sanctuary resources. The Navy concludes its continued activities are not likely to result in the loss, destruction, or adverse changes to the viability of Sanctuary resources. Several points support this determination: • Less than two percent of proposed training and 15 percent of proposed testing activities would occur within or immediately adjacent to the OCNMS. • The NWTT Final EIS/OEIS shows that training and testing activities have minimal temporary impacts on the quantity or quality of the Study Area's physical environment, and minor to no impacts on marine or shore birds, fish, sea turtles, or invertebrate marine life. • Although explosives have the potential to affect the physical and biological resources, the Navy does not use explosives within the OCNMS. • The Navy concludes any marine mammal behavioral reactions to NWTT training and testing activities would be transitory, infrequent, non-cumulative, and impacts are not expected to decrease overall individual fitness or result in long-term population-level impacts on any given population, and consequently will not result in any adverse changes to the sanctuary. Finally, all Department of Defense (DoD) military activities shall be carried out in a manner that avoids to the maximum extent practicable any adverse impacts on Sanctuary resources and qualities.
Freedman (Electronic)	The Navy's current environmental analysis fails to provide basic information necessary to adequately evaluate the impacts of the proposed activities. This analysis also fails to provide adequate measures to mitigate the harmful effects of the proposed activities on marine mammals and other wildlife. Based on the information apparent in the environmental analysis, the Navy's "No Action Alternative" is the proposal with the most limited impact on wildlife. A drastic increase in sonar activity will negatively impact wildlife. Marine mammals are extremely sensitive to noise, and sonar disrupts basic behaviors necessary for	As described in the Supplement in Section 3.5.2 (Sea Turtle Summary), the proposed increase in the use of SSQ-125 sonobuoys "are not expected to result in substantial changes to behavior, growth, survival, annual reproductive success, lifetime reproductive success (fitness), or species recruitment, and are not expected to result in population-level impacts." The Navy shares your concern for marine life, but this concern must be balanced with the purpose and need for Navy training and testing as detailed in Chapter 2 (Description of

Table I.5-4: Responses to Comments from Private Individuals (continued)

Commenter	Comment	Navy Response
	survival such as migration, surfacing, navigating, hearing, nursing, breeding and feeding. Sonar can result in debilitating and even fatal injuries for marine mammals. Scientists believe sonar activity can change whale diving behavior, confusing them to swim to depths their bodies cannot handle. Whales suspected to have beached themselves because of sonar activity show signs of physical trauma like bleeding around the brain, ears and other tissues and large bubbles in their organs – symptoms analogous to “the bends” in humans. To the extent that threatened or endangered species -- including humpback and sperm whales, and leatherback turtles -- are negatively impacted, the proposed activities may result in violations of the Endangered Species Act.	Proposed Actions and Alternatives) of the EIS/OEIS. The Navy has conducted active sonar training and testing activities in the Study Area for decades, and there is no evidence that routine Navy training and testing has negatively impacted marine mammal populations or sea turtles in the Study Area or at any Navy Range Complex. Based on the best available science summarized in the Draft EIS/OEIS Section 3.4.4.1 (Summary of Monitoring and Observations During Navy Activities), long-term consequences for marine mammal populations are unlikely to result from Navy training and testing activities in the Study Area. Please also refer to Chapter 5 (Standard Operating Procedures, Mitigation, and Monitoring) of the EIS/OEIS, detailing the procedures and mitigation measures during its training and testing activities designed to reduce impacts to marine mammals and sea turtles from Navy activities.
Freudmann (Electronic)	Dear Navy - Northwest Training and Testing EIS/OEIS, I am extremely concerned about your plan to expand the use of sonar in the Pacific. Marine mammals are very much under threat from environmental degradation, commercial shipping and military tests/maneuvers/surveillance. The Navy’s current environmental analysis fails to provide basic information necessary to adequately evaluate the impacts of the proposed activities. This analysis also fails to provide adequate measures to mitigate the harmful effects of the proposed activities on marine mammals and other wildlife. Based on the information apparent in the environmental analysis, the Navy’s “No Action Alternative” is the proposal with the most limited impact on wildlife. A drastic increase in sonar activity will negatively impact wildlife. Marine mammals are extremely sensitive to noise, and sonar disrupts basic behaviors necessary for survival such as migration, surfacing, navigating, hearing, nursing, breeding and feeding. Sonar can result in debilitating and even fatal injuries for marine mammals. Scientists believe sonar activity can change whale diving behavior, confusing them to swim to depths their bodies cannot handle. Whales suspected to have beached themselves because of sonar activity show signs of physical trauma like bleeding around the brain, ears and other tissues and large bubbles in their organs – symptoms analogous to “the bends” in humans. To the extent that threatened or endangered species -- including humpback and sperm whales, and leatherback turtles -- are negatively impacted, the proposed activities may result in violations of the Endangered Species Act. Please adopt the "No Action Alternative." Thank you for your time and consideration.	The Navy shares your concern for marine life, but this concern must be balanced with the purpose and need for Navy training and testing as detailed in Chapter 2 (Description of Proposed Action and Alternatives) of the EIS/OEIS. The Navy has conducted active sonar training and testing activities in the Study Area for decades, and there is no evidence that routine Navy training and testing has negatively impacted marine mammal populations or sea turtles in the Study Area or at any Navy Range Complex. Based on the best available science summarized in the Draft EIS/OEIS Section 3.4.4.1 (Summary of Monitoring and Observations During Navy Activities), long-term consequences for marine mammal populations are unlikely to result from Navy training and testing activities in the Study Area. Please also refer to Chapter 5 (Standard Operating Procedures, Mitigation, and Monitoring) of the EIS/OEIS, detailing the procedures and mitigation measures during its training and testing activities designed to reduce impacts to marine mammals and sea turtles from Navy activities. Regarding previous strandings, see Section 3.4.3.1.8 (Stranding) and the referenced technical report “Marine Mammal Strandings Associated with U.S. Navy Sonar Activities” (U.S. Department of the Navy 2013c).
Frick-01 (Electronic)	Please do your best to limit marine mammals exposure to damaging sonar testing and drills. It is all of our responsibilities to protect those being that cannot protect themselves. Thank You for your consideration.	The Navy shares your concern for marine life, but this concern must be balanced with the purpose and need for Navy training and testing as detailed in Chapter 2 (Description of Proposed Action and Alternatives) of the EIS/OEIS. The Navy has conducted active sonar training and

Table I.5-4: Responses to Comments from Private Individuals (continued)

Commenter	Comment	Navy Response
		testing activities in the Study Area for decades, and there is no evidence that routine Navy training and testing has negatively impacted marine mammal populations in the Study Area or at any Navy Range Complex. Based on the best available science summarized in the EIS/OEIS Section 3.4.4.1 (Summary of Monitoring and Observations During Navy Activities), long-term consequences for marine mammal populations are unlikely to result from Navy training and testing activities in the Study Area. Please also refer to Chapter 5 (Standard Operating Procedures, Mitigation, and Monitoring) of the EIS/OEIS, detailing the procedures and mitigation measures during its training and testing activities designed to reduce impacts to marine mammals from Navy activities.
Frick-02	Please do your best to limit marine mammals exposure to damaging sonar testing and drills. It is all of our responsibilities to protect those beings that cannot protect themselves. Thank You for your consideration.	The Navy shares your concern for marine life, but this concern must be balanced with the purpose and need for Navy training and testing as detailed in Chapter 2 (Description of Proposed Action and Alternatives) of the EIS/OEIS. The Navy has conducted active sonar training and testing activities in the Study Area for decades, and there is no evidence that routine Navy training and testing has negatively impacted marine mammal populations in the Study Area or at any Navy Range Complex. Based on the best available science summarized in the EIS/OEIS Section 3.4.4.1 (Summary of Monitoring and Observations During Navy Activities), long-term consequences for marine mammal populations are unlikely to result from Navy training and testing activities in the Study Area. Please also refer to Chapter 5 (Standard Operating Procedures, Mitigation, and Monitoring) of the EIS/OEIS, detailing the procedures and mitigation measures during its training and testing activities designed to reduce impacts to marine mammals from Navy activities.
Friedman (Electronic)	I can't believe we've been protesting these actions for some 30 years and the navy is blind to the damage it is doing. Wake up before it's too late!	Thank you for participating in the NEPA process.
Frisella (Electronic)	I am requesting the Navy limits its use of sonar activity in training exercises in the Pacific. As you know, this activity along with explosives, weapons firing, and other acoustic devices have well documented negative impacts on a number of whale species and porpoises, as well as other marine wildlife. The sonar will also injure endangered leatherback turtles whose protected habitat established in 2012 is early in allowing these turtles to flourish. I request the Navy opt for the No Action Alternative. Protecting our wildlife is patriotic.	The Navy shares your concern for marine life, but this concern must be balanced with the purpose and need for Navy training and testing as detailed in Chapter 2 (Description of Proposed Action and Alternatives) of the EIS/OEIS. The Navy has conducted active sonar training and testing activities in the Study Area for decades, and there is no evidence that routine Navy training and testing has negatively impacted marine mammal populations or sea turtles in the Study Area

Table I.5-4: Responses to Comments from Private Individuals (continued)

Commenter	Comment	Navy Response
		or at any Navy Range Complex. Based on the best available science summarized in the Draft EIS/OEIS Section 3.4.4.1 (Summary of Monitoring and Observations During Navy Activities), long-term consequences for marine mammal populations are unlikely to result from Navy training and testing activities in the Study Area. Please also refer to Chapter 5 (Standard Operating Procedures, Mitigation, and Monitoring) of the EIS/OEIS, detailing the procedures and mitigation measures during its training and testing activities designed to reduce impacts to marine mammals and sea turtles from Navy activities.
Frohn (Electronic)	Make sure that sonar testing doesn't hurt marine mammals.	Thank you for participating in the NEPA process.
Fromherz (Electronic)	We are very concerned about the proposed increase in the use of sonobuoys. They have been shown--scientifically--to be detrimental to the natural environment and are especially adverse in relation to endangered leatherback turtles. Please find other ways--non-environmentally intrusive--to achieve your US Navy mission of making this a better world and a healthier planet.	As described in the Supplement in Section 3.4.2 (Marine Mammal Summary), the proposed increase in the use of SSQ-125 sonobuoys would "not result in any long-term consequences for any marine mammal population or species; therefore, the conclusions stated in the Draft EIS/OEIS remain unchanged." Similarly, as described in the Supplement in Section 3.5.2 (Sea Turtle Summary), the proposed increase in the use of SSQ-125 sonobuoys "are not expected to result in substantial changes to behavior, growth, survival, annual reproductive success, lifetime reproductive success (fitness), or species recruitment, and are not expected to result in population-level impacts." The Navy has conducted active sonar training and testing activities in the Study Area for decades, and there is no evidence that routine Navy training and testing has negatively impacted marine mammal populations or sea turtles in the Study Area or at any Navy Range Complex. Based on the best available science summarized in the EIS/OEIS Section 3.4.4.1 (Summary of Monitoring and Observations During Navy Activities), long-term consequences for marine mammal populations are unlikely to result from Navy training and testing activities in the Study Area.
Gaddy (Electronic)	The Navy's current environmental analysis fails to provide basic information necessary to adequately evaluate the impacts of the proposed activities. This analysis also fails to provide adequate measures to mitigate the harmful effects of the proposed activities on marine mammals and other wildlife. Based on the information apparent in the environmental analysis, the Navy's "No Action Alternative" is the proposal with the most limited impact on wildlife. A drastic	As described in the Supplement in Section 3.5.2 (Sea Turtle Summary), the proposed increase in the use of SSQ-125 sonobuoys "are not expected to result in substantial changes to behavior, growth, survival, annual reproductive success, lifetime reproductive success (fitness), or species recruitment, and are not expected to result in population-level impacts." The Navy shares your concern for marine

Table I.5-4: Responses to Comments from Private Individuals (continued)

Commenter	Comment	Navy Response
	increase in sonar activity will negatively impact wildlife. Marine mammals are extremely sensitive to noise, and sonar disrupts basic behaviors necessary for survival such as migration, surfacing, navigating, hearing, nursing, breeding and feeding. Sonar can result in debilitating and even fatal injuries for marine mammals. Scientists believe sonar activity can change whale diving behavior, confusing them to swim to depths their bodies cannot handle. Whales suspected to have beached themselves because of sonar activity show signs of physical trauma like bleeding around the brain, ears and other tissues and large bubbles in their organs – symptoms analogous to “the bends” in humans. To the extent that threatened or endangered species -- including humpback and sperm whales, and leatherback turtles -- are negatively impacted, the proposed activities may result in violations of the Endangered Species Act.	life, but this concern must be balanced with the purpose and need for Navy training and testing as detailed in Chapter 2 (Description of Proposed Action and Alternatives) of the EIS/OEIS. The Navy has conducted active sonar training and testing activities in the Study Area for decades, and there is no evidence that routine Navy training and testing has negatively impacted marine mammal populations in the Study Area or at any Navy Range Complex. Based on the best available science summarized in the EIS/OEIS Section 3.4.4.1 (Summary of Monitoring and Observations During Navy Activities), long-term consequences for marine mammal populations are unlikely to result from Navy training and testing activities in the Study Area. Please also refer to Chapter 5 (Standard Operating Procedures, Mitigation, and Monitoring) of the EIS/OEIS, detailing the procedures and mitigation measures during its training and testing activities designed to reduce impacts to marine mammals from Navy activities.
Gagnon (Electronic)	I am writing out of concern for the navy's overuse of sonar and it's affect on the whales, particularly during training exercises. Can't you limit your impact on undersea wildlife better than this? Other creatures should not be made to suffer so needlessly. Thank you for considering other options.	The Navy shares your concern for marine life, but this concern must be balanced with the purpose and need for Navy training and testing as detailed in Chapter 2 (Description of Proposed Action and Alternatives) of the EIS/OEIS. The Navy has conducted active sonar training and testing activities in the Study Area for decades, and there is no evidence that routine Navy training and testing has negatively impacted marine mammal populations in the Study Area or at any Navy Range Complex. Based on the best available science summarized in the EIS/OEIS Section 3.4.4.1 (Summary of Monitoring and Observations During Navy Activities), long-term consequences for marine mammal populations are unlikely to result from Navy training and testing activities in the Study Area. Please also refer to Chapter 5 (Standard Operating Procedures, Mitigation, and Monitoring) of the EIS/OEIS, detailing the procedures and mitigation measures during its training and testing activities designed to reduce impacts to marine mammals from Navy activities.
Galbi (Electronic)	Do not hurt the whales. They are sensitive to noise.	The Navy shares your concern for marine life, but this concern must be balanced with the purpose and need for Navy training and testing as detailed in Chapter 2 (Description of Proposed Action and Alternatives) of the EIS/OEIS. The Navy has conducted active sonar training and testing activities in the Study Area for decades, and there is no evidence that routine Navy training and testing has negatively impacted marine mammal populations in the Study Area or at any Navy Range Complex. Based on the best available science summarized in the EIS/OEIS Section 3.4.4.1 (Summary of Monitoring

Table I.5-4: Responses to Comments from Private Individuals (continued)

Commenter	Comment	Navy Response
		and Observations During Navy Activities), long-term consequences for marine mammal populations are unlikely to result from Navy training and testing activities in the Study Area. Please also refer to Chapter 5 (Standard Operating Procedures, Mitigation, and Monitoring) of the EIS/OEIS, detailing the procedures and mitigation measures during its training and testing activities designed to reduce impacts to marine mammals from Navy activities.
Gale (Electronic)	We work so very hard to provide protection and habitat restoration for our marine mammals. It is incomprehensible why the Navy would think it can deploy sonar buoys that will interfere with the echolocation-based activities of many species of these mammals. This is simply WRONG, and the US needs to find other ways to do whatever activities they feel are necessary to keep their killing skills honed. But surely, killing or threatening more of our precious marine mammals need not be part of your program.	Thank you for participating in the NEPA process. The Navy shares your concern for marine life, but this concern must be balanced with the purpose and need for Navy training and testing as detailed in Chapter 2 (Description of Proposed Action and Alternatives) of the EIS/OEIS. The Navy has conducted active sonar training and testing activities in the Study Area for decades, and there is no evidence that routine Navy training and testing has negatively impacted marine mammal populations in the Study Area or at any Navy Range Complex. Based on the best available science summarized in the EIS/OEIS Section 3.4.4.1 (Summary of Monitoring and Observations During Navy Activities), long-term consequences for marine mammal populations are unlikely to result from Navy training and testing activities in the Study Area. Please also refer to Chapter 5 (Standard Operating Procedures, Mitigation, and Monitoring) of the EIS/OEIS, detailing the procedures and mitigation measures during its training and testing activities designed to reduce impacts to marine mammals from Navy activities.
Ganley-01 (Electronic)	PLEASE DO NOT PROCEED WITH CURRENT ATTEMPTS TO INCREASE USE OF SONAR IN OUR OCEANS The Navy's current environmental analysis fails to provide basic information necessary to adequately evaluate the impacts of the proposed activities. This analysis also fails to provide adequate measures to mitigate the harmful effects of the proposed activities on marine mammals and other wildlife. Based on the information apparent in the environmental analysis, the Navy's "No Action Alternative" is the proposal with the most limited impact on wildlife. A drastic increase in sonar activity will negatively impact wildlife. Marine mammals are extremely sensitive to noise, and sonar disrupts basic behaviors necessary for survival such as migration, surfacing, navigating, hearing, nursing, breeding and feeding. Sonar can result in debilitating and even fatal injuries for marine mammals. Scientists believe sonar activity can change whale diving behavior, confusing them to swim to depths their bodies cannot handle. Whales suspected to have beached themselves because of sonar activity show signs of physical trauma like bleeding around the brain, ears and other tissues and large bubbles in their organs – symptoms analogous to "the bends" in humans. To the	The Navy shares your concern for marine life, but this concern must be balanced with the purpose and need for Navy training and testing as detailed in Chapter 2 (Description of Proposed Action and Alternatives) of the EIS/OEIS. The Navy has conducted active sonar training and testing activities in the Study Area for decades, and there is no evidence that routine Navy training and testing has negatively impacted individual sea turtles or sea turtle populations, or marine mammal populations in the Study Area or at any Navy Range Complex. Based on the best available science summarized in the EIS/OEIS Section 3.4.4.1 (Summary of Monitoring and Observations During Navy Activities), long-term consequences for marine mammal populations are unlikely to result from Navy training and testing activities in the Study Area. Note that for sea turtles, as described in the EIS/OEIS Section 3.5.3.7.1 (Combined Impacts of All Stressors), "impacts are not expected to decrease the overall fitness or result in

Table I.5-4: Responses to Comments from Private Individuals (continued)

Commenter	Comment	Navy Response
	extent that threatened or endangered species -- including humpback and sperm whales, and leatherback turtles -- are negatively impacted, the proposed activities may result in violations of the Endangered Species Act. THANK YOU	long-term population level impacts on any given population." Please also refer to Chapter 5 (Standard Operating Procedures, Mitigation, and Monitoring) of the EIS/OEIS, detailing the procedures and mitigation measures during its training and testing activities designed to reduce impacts to marine mammals and sea turtles from Navy activities. Regarding previous strandings, see Section 3.4.3.1.8 (Stranding) and the referenced technical report "Marine Mammal Strandings Associated with U.S. Navy Sonar Activities" (U.S. Department of the Navy 2013c).
Ganley-02	PLEASE DO NOT PROCEED WITH CURRENT ATTEMPTS TO INCREASE USE OF SONAR IN OUR OCEANS The Navy's current environmental analysis fails to provide basic information necessary to adequately evaluate the impacts of the proposed activities. This analysis also fails to provide adequate measures to mitigate the harmful effects of the proposed activities on marine mammals and other wildlife. Based on the information apparent in the environmental analysis, the Navy's "No Action Alternative" is the proposal with the most limited impact on wildlife. A drastic increase in sonar activity will negatively impact wildlife. Marine mammals are extremely sensitive to noise, and sonar disrupts basic behaviors necessary for survival such as migration, surfacing, navigating, hearing, nursing, breeding and feeding. Sonar can result in debilitating and even fatal injuries for marine mammals. Scientists believe sonar activity can change whale diving behavior, confusing them to swim to depths their bodies cannot handle. Whales suspected to have beached themselves because of sonar activity show signs of physical trauma like bleeding around the brain, ears and other tissues and large bubbles in their organs – symptoms analogous to "the bends" in humans. To the extent that threatened or endangered species -- including humpback and sperm whales, and leatherback turtles -- are negatively impacted, the proposed activities may result in violations of the Endangered Species Act. THANK YOU	The Navy shares your concern for marine life, but this concern must be balanced with the purpose and need for Navy training and testing as detailed in Chapter 2 (Description of Proposed Action and Alternatives) of the EIS/OEIS. The Navy has conducted active sonar training and testing activities in the Study Area for decades, and there is no evidence that routine Navy training and testing has negatively impacted individual sea turtles or sea turtle populations, or marine mammal populations in the Study Area or at any Navy Range Complex. Based on the best available science summarized in the EIS/OEIS Section 3.4.4.1 (Summary of Monitoring and Observations During Navy Activities), long-term consequences for marine mammal populations are unlikely to result from Navy training and testing activities in the Study Area. Note that for sea turtles, as described in the EIS/OEIS Section 3.5.3.7.1 (Combined Impacts of All Stressors), "impacts are not expected to decrease the overall fitness or result in long-term population level impacts on any given population." Please also refer to Chapter 5 (Standard Operating Procedures, Mitigation, and Monitoring) of the EIS/OEIS, detailing the procedures and mitigation measures during its training and testing activities designed to reduce impacts to marine mammals and sea turtles from Navy activities. Regarding previous strandings, see Section 3.4.3.1.8 (Stranding) and the referenced technical report "Marine Mammal Strandings Associated with U.S. Navy Sonar Activities" (U.S. Department of the Navy 2013c).
Gant (Electronic)	Very concerned about the UD Navy Sonar Testing. The cetaceans are already facing difficult times and you are going to be killing and injuring thousands of them. Please don't do this!	The Navy shares your concern for marine life, but this concern must be balanced with the purpose and need for Navy training and testing as detailed in Chapter 2 (Description of Proposed Action and Alternatives)

Table I.5-4: Responses to Comments from Private Individuals (continued)

Commenter	Comment	Navy Response
		of the EIS/OEIS. The Navy has conducted active sonar training and testing activities in the Study Area for decades, and there is no evidence that routine Navy training and testing has negatively impacted marine mammal populations in the Study Area or at any Navy Range Complex. Based on the best available science summarized in the EIS/OEIS Section 3.4.4.1 (Summary of Monitoring and Observations During Navy Activities), long-term consequences for marine mammal populations are unlikely to result from Navy training and testing activities in the Study Area. Please also refer to Chapter 5 (Standard Operating Procedures, Mitigation, and Monitoring) of the EIS/OEIS, detailing the procedures and mitigation measures during its training and testing activities designed to reduce impacts to marine mammals from Navy activities.
Garcia-Barrio (Electronic)	These harmful activities must end.	Thank you for participating in the NEPA process.
Garvett (Electronic)	Please stop using sonar which is detrimental to the lives of marine mammals. Do your testing in a laboratory, not in the environment where whales and dolphins live. Thank you.	The Navy shares your concern for marine life, but this concern must be balanced with the purpose and need for Navy training and testing as detailed in Chapter 2 (Description of Proposed Action and Alternatives) of the EIS/OEIS. The Navy has conducted active sonar training and testing activities in the Study Area for decades, and there is no evidence that routine Navy training and testing has negatively impacted marine mammal populations in the Study Area or at any Navy Range Complex. Based on the best available science summarized in the EIS/OEIS Section 3.4.4.1 (Summary of Monitoring and Observations During Navy Activities), long-term consequences for marine mammal populations are unlikely to result from Navy training and testing activities in the Study Area. Please also refer to Chapter 5 (Standard Operating Procedures, Mitigation, and Monitoring) of the EIS/OEIS, detailing the procedures and mitigation measures during its training and testing activities designed to reduce impacts to marine mammals from Navy activities.
Gerritsen-01 (Electronic)	Actually all the above would be a better response than General/Other. I have a beautiful home on Whidbey Island that I can no longer live in because of the introduction of the EA-18 Growler. These jets and the amount thereof have made our property unlivable and to spread this grief over such a wide span of one of the most beautiful and pristine parts of the earth is horrendous. You should not be making guinea pigs out of the people, animals and environment in the Pacific	Thank you for participating in the NEPA process. However this comment is outside the scope of the Supplement to the Draft EIS/OEIS. Please see Chapters 1 and 2 of the EIS/OEIS for a clear definition of the scope of this project. Analysis of airfield activities and relocation of aircraft and personnel is addressed in other environmental planning documents, such as the

Table I.5-4: Responses to Comments from Private Individuals (continued)

Commenter	Comment	Navy Response
	Northwest. Electronic Attack war games are not a safe activity and you all know it. Studies have been done and well documented on this subject to prove that this activity is in fact VERY harmful. Just DON'T do it!	Draft Environmental Assessment for the Transition of Expeditionary EA-6B Prowler Squadrons to EA-18G Growler at Naval Air Station Whidbey Island, Oak Harbor, Washington (U.S. Department of the Navy, 2012). Therefore, the NWTT EIS/OEIS includes the analysis of activities only where those activities occur nor does it include activities commonly associated with an airfield, such as takeoffs and landings.
Gerritsen-02	I have been very disturbed about prior proposals for naval expansion in the Pacific Northwest and loading on multiple EISes may not be even legal. I wish to take this opportunity to comment on the Supplement (December 2014) to the Navy's Draft Environmental Impact Statement/ Overseas Environmental Impact Statement (DEIS), dated January 2014, for its continued training and testing activities in the Pacific Northwest (NWTT). Please include these comments in the administrative record. Effect on wildlife The proposed increases in this Supplement of marine exercises and additional use of sonar and explosives will only increase the damage done to marine mammals, sea turtles, fish and birds. Of particular concern to me is the Supplement and the EIS's lack of protections for the Southern Resident Killer Whale's dwindling population. These animals need a protected home in accord with their endangered status. In public sessions and in a radio interview the Navy's public relations personnel have been heard to say that the (MSO) and TRACKEX marine exercises save gas and allow personnel to be closer to their homes for these maneuvers. These considerations should not allow one single injury to this endangered Killer Whale population. Though this supplement admits increased sonar and explosive testing (TRACKEX) and finally addresses the MSO maneuvers there is no additional mitigation mentioned. Nowhere is it outlined whether visual patrols will increase as a result of this new activity, nor does the Supplement address real concerns over whether or not visual patrol is adequate at times of night or rough seas. No acoustic monitoring or avoidance strategies are included. This is a serious omission to a document that intended to address the inadequate science and mitigation plans of the original draft and is unacceptable. Lack of Science There is little consideration of exclusion zones, geographic alternatives to the southern Puget Sound and seasonal restrictions of exercises. All of the Alternatives propose year-round, unrestricted use without regard to seasonal variations in marine mammal and fish abundance. This is true despite the well-documented seasonal migrations of numerous endangered species and the identification of biologically important areas. The Navy should put critical marine habitats off-limits to sonar and explosives testing and schedule training to avoid times of the year when sensitive species are present in places like the Olympic Coast National Marine Sanctuary. Climate Change and Cumulative Impacts The Supplement document responds to calls to address these two big issues but it is very unclear that anything more than lip service was expended by deeming Navy activities to be of little significance.	The Navy shares your concern for marine life, but this concern must be balanced with the purpose and need for Navy training and testing as detailed in Chapter 2 (Description of Proposed Action and Alternatives) of the EIS/OEIS. The Navy has conducted active sonar training and testing activities in the Study Area for decades, and there is no evidence that routine Navy training and testing has negatively impacted individual sea turtles or sea turtle populations, or marine mammal populations in the Study Area or at any Navy Range Complex. Based on the best available science summarized in the EIS/OEIS Section 3.4.4.1 (Summary of Monitoring and Observations During Navy Activities), long-term consequences for marine mammal populations are unlikely to result from Navy training and testing activities in the Study Area. Note that for sea turtles, as described in the EIS/OEIS Section 3.5.3.7.1 (Combined Impacts of All Stressors), "impacts are not expected to decrease the overall fitness or result in long-term population level impacts on any given population." Please also refer to Chapter 5 (Standard Operating Procedures, Mitigation, and Monitoring) of the EIS/OEIS, detailing the procedures and mitigation measures during its training and testing activities designed to reduce impacts to marine mammals and sea turtles from Navy activities. No injuries to killer whales are anticipated from the Navy's proposed MSO or TRACKEX activities. As described in Chapter 5 of the EIS/OEIS, the Navy will implement mitigation measures during the use of sonobuoys. The mitigation measures are implemented for each activity and therefore the mitigation scales up as the activity level scales up. Also in Chapter 5 (Standard Operating Procedures, Mitigation, and Monitoring) of the EIS/OEIS, the Navy evaluated the effectiveness and practicability of a number of potential mitigation measures. Through consultation and permitting with NMFS and USFWS, the Navy refined the mitigation measures, which are now presented in Chapter 5 (Standard Operating Procedures, Mitigation, and Monitoring) of this

Table I.5-4: Responses to Comments from Private Individuals (continued)

Commenter	Comment	Navy Response
	Public Process What most concerns me is this. There has been an overwhelming number of proposals since late in 2013 rolled out to the public in a piecemeal fashion. Five calls for comments on clearly-linked documents have been spread out in their introduction to the public over the last year and a half. Ground-based, (Electronic warfare range), air- based (Two growler scoping documents) and sea-based naval activities (these two NWTT documents) have been dropped onto the region as if they were not linked. The separate comment periods and the separate documents minimize the larger picture of impacts on the area. In my opinion this is misleading. Is it even legal in regards to Federal Law, specifically NEPA? Please redo this chopped-up public process with a comprehensive Environmental Impact Statement that includes all of the activities in the region. These huge changes that affect wildlife, real estate values, allow precedent-setting incursions into the peace of our national parks, national forest, wilderness, state parks and state lands, should be discussed as a whole, not split into so many fractured pieces that the residents of this region cannot know what they are actually facing.	Final EIS/OEIS. Section 5.3.1.2.5 (Effectiveness Assessment for Lookouts) acknowledges that, due to the various detection probabilities, levels of Lookout experience, and variability of sighting conditions, Lookouts will not always be effective at avoiding impacts on all species. However, Lookouts are expected to increase the overall likelihood that certain marine mammal species and some sea turtles will be detected at the surface of the water, when compared to the likelihood that these same species would be detected if Lookouts are not used. The continued use of Lookouts contributes to helping reduce potential impacts on these species from training and testing activities. While the range of the sonar's detection would travel beyond the distance that Lookouts can detect animals, the range at which sonar is predicted to be able to cause injury to a marine mammal is very short, within 10 meters of the sonar. At such short distances, it is likely any marine mammal would have been detected. As described in Chapter 5 (Standard Operating Procedures, Mitigation, and Monitoring) of the Final EIS/OEIS, the Navy evaluated the effectiveness and practicability of a number of potential mitigation measures including the avoidance of specific areas. The Navy has undertaken consultation with NMFS for the proposed and ongoing activities in the NWTT Study Area and the Navy refined the mitigation measures, which are now presented in Chapter 5 (Standard Operating Procedures, Mitigation, and Monitoring) of this Final EIS/OEIS. Through careful exploration of all mitigation measures to determine which were the most effective, the Navy chose the measures to mitigate potential impacts to marine mammals while still being able to meet its operational needs to train for real-world conditions. The Navy's specific mitigation measures are outlined in the following sections: Section 5.3.1 (Lookout Procedural Measures), Section 5.3.2 (Mitigation Zone Procedural Measures), and Section 5.3.3 (Mitigation Areas). Specifically, Section 5.3.4 (Mitigation Measures Considered but Eliminated) presents Navy consideration of similar area restrictions. The Navy and NMFS will use the Adaptive Management process to assess whether any additional mitigation should be considered in identified biologically important areas. In response to several comments, the Navy has enhanced its analysis of climate change and cumulative impacts in this Final EIS/OEIS. The Navy prepares Environmental Impact Statements (EIS) and

Table I.5-4: Responses to Comments from Private Individuals (continued)

Commenter	Comment	Navy Response
		Environmental Assessments (EA) in order to comply with the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA). These NEPA documents are intended to ensure decision makers consider the potential environmental effects of a proposed action and its alternatives, provide an opportunity for public involvement, and promote transparency by informing the public of these potential environmental effects. Each NEPA document addresses a specific proposed action, separated from other actions by its purpose and need, independent utility, timing, and geographic location. Some NEPA documents are stand-alone documents; others tier off or expand the analyses of other NEPA documents. NEPA documents for training and testing, including this EIS/OEIS, focus on training and testing activities occurring within a range complex or military operation area and involve different types of aircraft, ships, and range complex enhancements. NEPA documents for aircraft homebasing actions focus on aircraft operations in and around the airfield and their facility needs. NEPA documents for installations focus on infrastructure enhancements for host and tenant command missions. Importantly, every environmental document considers the cumulative impacts to the environment from other relevant past, present, and reasonably foreseeable future actions (federal, state, local, and private) in addition to the proposed action. The MSO activities do not include the use of sonar or live gun firing. The U.S. Navy has conducted active sonar training and testing activities for decades in the seaspace depicted in the Study Area with no evidence to indicate any meaningful impacts to marine habitats in the area. The Navy and NMFS jointly are still in ongoing consultation with the OCNMS regarding the effects of the Proposed Action on Sanctuary resources. The Navy concludes its continued activities are not likely to result in the loss, destruction, or adverse changes to the viability of Sanctuary resources. Several points support this determination: • Less than two percent of proposed training and 15 percent of proposed testing activities would occur within or immediately adjacent to the OCNMS. • The NWTT Final EIS/OEIS shows that training and testing activities have minimal temporary impacts on the quantity or quality of the Study Area's physical environment, and minor to no impacts on marine or shore birds, fish, sea turtles, or invertebrate marine life. • Although explosives have the potential to affect the physical and

Table I.5-4: Responses to Comments from Private Individuals (continued)

Commenter	Comment	Navy Response
		biological resources, the Navy does not use explosives within the OCNMS. • The Navy concludes any marine mammal behavioral reactions to NWTT training and testing activities would be transitory, infrequent, non-cumulative, and impacts are not expected to decrease overall individual fitness or result in long-term population-level impacts on any given population, and consequently will not result in any adverse changes to the sanctuary. Finally, all Department of Defense (DoD) military activities shall be carried out in a manner that avoids to the maximum extent practicable any adverse impacts on Sanctuary resources and qualities.
Gerth (Electronic)	I am writing to strongly encourage the Navy to adopt the "No Action Alternative" with regard to expanding training on the Pacific coast to include 36 times as many sonar-emitting buoys as originally planned. Sonar can result in debilitating and even fatal injuries for marine mammals. Scientists believe sonar activity can change whale diving behavior, confusing them to swim to depths their bodies cannot handle. Whales suspected to have beached themselves because of sonar activity show signs of physical trauma like bleeding around the brain, ears and other tissues and large bubbles in their organs – symptoms analogous to “the bends” in humans. The Navy’s current environmental analysis fails to provide basic information necessary to adequately evaluate the impacts of the proposed activities. This analysis also fails to provide adequate measures to mitigate the harmful effects of the proposed activities on marine mammals and other wildlife. A drastic increase in sonar activity will negatively impact wildlife. Marine mammals are extremely sensitive to noise, and sonar disrupts basic behaviors necessary for survival such as migration, surfacing, navigating, hearing, nursing, breeding and feeding. To the extent that threatened or endangered species -- including humpback and sperm whales, and leatherback turtles -- are negatively impacted, the proposed activities may result in violations of the Endangered Species Act.	The Navy is not proposing to increase the annual number of sonobuoys by a factor of 36. The Navy’s original proposal in the Draft EIS/OEIS includes the annual deployment of approximately 9,200 sonobuoys of various types. The increase of 700 sonobuoys described in the Supplement is an increase of less than 8 percent. As described in the Supplement in Section 3.5.2 (Sea Turtle Summary), the proposed increase in the use of SSQ-125 sonobuoys "are not expected to result in substantial changes to behavior, growth, survival, annual reproductive success, lifetime reproductive success (fitness), or species recruitment, and are not expected to result in population-level impacts." The Navy shares your concern for marine life, but this concern must be balanced with the purpose and need for Navy training and testing as detailed in Chapter 2 (Description of Proposed Action and Alternatives) of the EIS/OEIS. The Navy has conducted active sonar training and testing activities in the Study Area for decades, and there is no evidence that routine Navy training and testing has negatively impacted marine mammal populations in the Study Area or at any Navy Range Complex. Based on the best available science summarized in the EIS/OEIS Section 3.4.4.1 (Summary of Monitoring and Observations During Navy Activities), long-term consequences for marine mammal populations are unlikely to result from Navy training and testing activities in the Study Area. Please also refer to Chapter 5 (Standard Operating Procedures, Mitigation, and Monitoring) of the EIS/OEIS, detailing the procedures and mitigation measures during its training and testing activities designed to reduce impacts to marine mammals from Navy activities.
Giedt	I am writing to submit comments on the Supplement (Dec. 2014, to the Navy's Draft Environmental Impact statement/Overseas Environmental Impact Statement (DEIS)	The Navy is completing this EIS/OEIS in compliance with current law, including the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA). In addition to

Table I.5-4: Responses to Comments from Private Individuals (continued)

Commenter	Comment	Navy Response
(Electronic)	dated January 2014, for its continued training and testing activities in the Pacific Northwest (NWTT) Please include these comments in the administrative record. I have a magnitude of concerns over the Navy's plans, among them: the sonar effect on whales and other marine life, interrupting their communication and navigation and thereby threatening their survival; noise pollution in and over National Parks, affecting wildlife, and recreation; increased green house gases, increasing climate disruption and ocean acidification; accelerated species loss; plans presented in segments, instead of the whole (which is misleading); incomplete environmental impact statements, not examining the full consequences of these proposed actions taken together. In addition, I wish to remind the Navy of the interconnectedness of all life. Survival of any species is dependent on the well being of all species, including human beings. Human activities are driving many species to extinction at an alarming rate. At what point do we so undermine our support system (web of life) that we no longer have one? Do we really want to find out? Do we want to be the cause of our own extinction? I suggest that we need to come together and partner to enhance the health of our land, air and water and all of the species. Thus, we will support each other and our communities and thrive.	NEPA, the Navy continues to comply with other applicable environmental laws and with a number of regulatory requirements, such as the Marine Mammal Protection Act, the Endangered Species Act, the Coastal Zone Management Act, and the Magnuson-Stevens Fishery Conservation and Management Act. Best management practices include measures that regulate operations to ensure compliance with pollution emission requirements and general resource conservation goals. Navy policies and procedures identified in Navy instructions such as the Environmental Readiness Program Manual, include directives regarding waste management, pollution prevention, and recycling, all of which benefit sediments and water quality in the ocean. Any procedures or practices that benefit ocean sediments and water quality in turn benefit all marine life in the ocean, from plants and invertebrates, to fish and marine mammals. There are no weapons testing activities proposed in the Olympic National Forest in the Supplement to the Draft EIS/OEIS. The Navy shares your concern for marine life, but this concern must be balanced with the purpose and need for Navy training and testing as detailed in Chapter 2 (Description of Proposed Action and Alternatives) of the EIS/OEIS. The Navy has conducted active sonar training and testing activities in the Study Area for decades, and there is no evidence that routine Navy training and testing has negatively impacted marine mammal populations in the Study Area or at any Navy Range Complex. Based on the best available science summarized in the EIS/OEIS Section 3.4.4.1 (Summary of Monitoring and Observations During Navy Activities), long-term consequences for marine mammal populations are unlikely to result from Navy training and testing activities in the Study Area. Please also refer to Chapter 5 (Standard Operating Procedures, Mitigation, and Monitoring) of the EIS/OEIS, detailing the procedures and mitigation measures during its training and testing activities designed to reduce impacts to marine mammals from Navy activities.
Gilbert (Electronic)	Please limit the navy's training that would cause disruptions to marine mammals. This includes the use of sonar technologies that disrupt whales' skillfully to echolocate and communicate.	The Navy shares your concern for marine life, but this concern must be balanced with the purpose and need for Navy training and testing as detailed in Chapter 2 (Description of Proposed Action and Alternatives) of the EIS/OEIS. The Navy has conducted active sonar training and testing activities in the Study Area for decades, and there is no evidence that routine Navy training and testing has negatively impacted marine mammal populations in the Study Area or at any

Table I.5-4: Responses to Comments from Private Individuals (continued)

Commenter	Comment	Navy Response
		Navy Range Complex. Based on the best available science summarized in the EIS/OEIS Section 3.4.4.1 (Summary of Monitoring and Observations During Navy Activities), long-term consequences for marine mammal populations are unlikely to result from Navy training and testing activities in the Study Area. Please also refer to Chapter 5 (Standard Operating Procedures, Mitigation, and Monitoring) of the EIS/OEIS, detailing the procedures and mitigation measures during its training and testing activities designed to reduce impacts to marine mammals from Navy activities.
Goldie	Thank you for the opportunity to comment on the Supplement (December 2014) to the Navy's Draft Environmental Impact Statement/ Overseas Environmental Impact Statement (OEIS) of January 2014, for its continued training and testing activities in the Pacific Northwest (NWTT). Please include my comments in the administrative record. My husband and I live just east of Sequim. We moved here to enjoy a place than has long been a favorite location for rest and relaxation. It is profoundly disturbing to us that we are facing such shear disregard by the US Navy for the death and destruction of many aspects of life on the Olympic Peninsula. We find ourselves having to write letter after letter, just like this one, to address the separate processes that the Navy has created for "public comment." It is clear to us that they are really all the same issue; one which has been neatly divided into many pieces so as to either wear us down in our determination to not let any action by the US Navy go undetected, or to slip something passed public view. Nevertheless, whatever is the real reason for this maneuver and manipulation of the public trust, I submit the following comments for the record. 1. The National Environmental Policy Act does not allow that issues that are all related be considered independently. The issue of using Forest Service land for electromagnetic radiation emitters (ground), the increase in the number of Growler jets to be stationed at NASWI (air), and now the proposal to dramatically increase the number of sonobuoys (sea) are all related to the same issue, which will result in substantially increasing a military presence in an area of pristine wilderness, biological diversity, World Heritage Site, Marine Sanctuary and an International Biosphere Reserve. 2. The increase of sonobuoys in the pacific waters off the coast of Washington State, was not mentioned in the Draft EIS/OEIS. There are multiple sources of documentation of the amount of death and destruction to marine mammals, seabirds, fish, turtles and life forms that provide a balance in a healthy sea that are caused by underwater sonar activities. The Navy is requesting permission to "take" (kill!) numbers of a variety of animals. With so much public awareness regarding the delicate ocean balance of life, the importance to the future of the planet and the devastating economic effect for not only the tourist trade but especially for those whose livelihood is dependent on the sea, this project should go no further. 3. Alternatives have not been addressed. This is a	1. Thank you for participating in the NEPA process. Please see Chapters 1 and 2 of the EIS/OEIS for a clear definition of the scope of this project. There are no activities involving the use of electronic radiation proposed in the Supplement to the Draft EIS/OEIS. There are no weapons testing activities proposed in the Olympic National Forest in the Supplement to the Draft EIS/OEIS. It is also important to note that the proposed activities would not change how or where the Navy has been flying for decades. 2. As described in the Supplement in Section 3.4.2 (Marine Mammal Summary), the proposed increase in the use of SSQ-125 sonobuoys would "not result in any long-term consequences for any marine mammal population or species; therefore, the conclusions stated in the Draft EIS/OEIS remain unchanged." Similarly, as described in the Supplement in Section 3.5.2 (Sea Turtle Summary), the proposed increase in the use of SSQ-125 sonobuoys "are not expected to result in substantial changes to behavior, growth, survival, annual reproductive success, lifetime reproductive success (fitness), or species recruitment, and are not expected to result in population-level impacts." The Navy shares your concern for marine life, but this concern must be balanced with the purpose and need for Navy training and testing as detailed in Chapter 2 (Description of Proposed Action and Alternatives) of the EIS/OEIS. Based on the best available science summarized in the EIS/OEIS Section 3.4.4.1 (Summary of Monitoring and Observations During Navy Activities), long-term consequences for marine mammal populations are unlikely to result from Navy training and testing activities in the Study Area. Please also refer to Chapter 5 (Standard Operating Procedures, Mitigation, and Monitoring) of the EIS/OEIS The Navy shares your concern for marine life, but this concern must be balanced with the purpose and need for Navy training and testing as detailed in Chapter 2 (Description of Proposed Action and Alternatives)

Table I.5-4: Responses to Comments from Private Individuals (continued)

Commenter	Comment	Navy Response
	violation of several policies and laws. The Navy should be aware of these and made to follow them, as is the citizenry of the United States. Thank you for the opportunity to provide comment. It would have been much easier if all the issues were put into one EIS/OIES rather than separating them out like this. Please be aware that there is a rising tide of public awareness and therefore objection to US Navy activities. We find ourselves spending hours and hours every day, for months now, reading the unwieldy documents, deciphering the language, examining legal codes and reviewing scientific publications. This is not the public's responsibility, but one we have to take on since those in the "public trust" are no longer trustworthy.	of the EIS/OEIS. The Navy has conducted active sonar training and testing activities in the Study Area for decades, and there is no evidence that routine Navy training and testing has negatively impacted individual sea turtles or sea turtle populations, or marine mammal populations in the Study Area or at any Navy Range Complex. Note that for sea turtles, as described in the EIS/OEIS Section 3.5.3.7.1 (Combined Impacts of All Stressors), "impacts are not expected to decrease the overall fitness or result in long-term population level impacts on any given population." Please also refer to Chapter 5 (Standard Operating Procedures, Mitigation, and Monitoring) of the EIS/OEIS, detailing the procedures and mitigation measures during its training and testing activities designed to reduce impacts to marine mammals and sea turtles from Navy activities. As described in Section 3.10 (Cultural Resources), Section 3.12 (Socioeconomics), and Section 3.13 (Public Health and Safety) of the Draft EIS/OEIS, the Navy's proposed activities are not expected to impact cultural resources, socioeconomic resources, or public health and safety. 3. The Navy completed the Supplement to the Draft EIS/OEIS in compliance with current law, including the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA). In addition to NEPA, the Navy continues to comply with other applicable environmental laws and with a number of regulatory requirements, such as the Marine Mammal Protection Act, the Endangered Species Act, the Coastal Zone Management Act, and the Magnuson-Stevens Fishery Conservation and Management Act. As explained in Section 2.5 (Alternatives Development) of the Draft EIS/OEIS, the range of alternatives considered by the Navy must be reasonable alternatives. To be reasonable, an alternative must meet the stated purpose of and need for the Proposed Action. A curtailment or reduction in the number of training and testing activities would not meet the stated purpose of and need for the Proposed Action, and would therefore be unreasonable.
Goodall (Electronic)	Please include the following comment in the decisionmaking process. I support the no-action alternative for the following reasons: - The Navy's current environmental analysis fails to provide basic information necessary to adequately evaluate the impacts of the proposed activities. This analysis also fails to provide adequate measures to mitigate the harmful effects of the proposed activities on marine	The Navy shares your concern for marine life, but this concern must be balanced with the purpose and need for Navy training and testing as detailed in Chapter 2 (Description of Proposed Action and Alternatives) of the EIS/OEIS. The Navy has conducted active sonar training and testing activities in the Study Area for decades, and there is no

Table I.5-4: Responses to Comments from Private Individuals (continued)

Commenter	Comment	Navy Response
	mammals and other wildlife. - Based on the information apparent in the environmental analysis, the Navy's "No Action Alternative" is the proposal with the most limited impact on wildlife. A drastic increase in sonar activity will negatively impact wildlife. Marine mammals are extremely sensitive to noise, and sonar disrupts basic behaviors necessary for survival such as migration, surfacing, navigating, hearing, nursing, breeding and feeding. Sonar can result in debilitating and even fatal injuries for marine mammals. Scientists believe sonar activity can change whale diving behavior, confusing them to swim to depths their bodies cannot handle. Whales suspected to have beached themselves because of sonar activity show signs of physical trauma like bleeding around the brain, ears and other tissues and large bubbles in their organs – symptoms analogous to "the bends" in humans. To the extent that threatened or endangered species -- including humpback and sperm whales, and leatherback turtles -- are negatively impacted, the proposed activities may result in violations of the Endangered Species Act. - I would encourage the Navy to explore methods that will be less harmful to wildlife. I can understand the need to train military personnel and to test our hardware but since we need to share the planet with species we are not at war with, let's work on ways to live more in harmony with other species.	evidence that routine Navy training and testing has negatively impacted individual sea turtles or sea turtle populations, or marine mammal populations in the Study Area or at any Navy Range Complex. Based on the best available science summarized in the EIS/OEIS Section 3.4.4.1 (Summary of Monitoring and Observations During Navy Activities), long-term consequences for marine mammal populations are unlikely to result from Navy training and testing activities in the Study Area. Note that for sea turtles, as described in the EIS/OEIS Section 3.5.3.7.1 (Combined Impacts of All Stressors), "impacts are not expected to decrease the overall fitness or result in long-term population level impacts on any given population." Please also refer to Chapter 5 (Standard Operating Procedures, Mitigation, and Monitoring) of the EIS/OEIS, detailing the procedures and mitigation measures during its training and testing activities designed to reduce impacts to marine mammals and sea turtles from Navy activities. Regarding previous strandings, see Section 3.4.3.1.8 (Stranding) and the referenced technical report "Marine Mammal Strandings Associated with U.S. Navy Sonar Activities" (U.S. Department of the Navy 2013c).
Goodrum (Electronic)	I wish to take this opportunity to comment on the Supplement (December 2014) to the Navy's Draft Environmental Impact Statement/ Overseas Environmental Impact Statement (DEIS), dated January 2014, for its continued training and testing activities in the Pacific Northwest (NWTT). Please include these comments in the administrative record. I am very concerned about the proposal's detrimental effects on wildlife. The proposed increases in this Supplement of marine exercises and additional use of sonar and explosives will only increase the damage done to marine mammals, sea turtles, fish and birds. Of particular concern to me is the Supplement and the EIS's lack of protections for the Southern Resident Killer Whale's dwindling population. These animals need a protected home in accord with their endangered status. In public sessions and in a radio interview the Navy's public relations personnel have been heard to say that the (MSO) and TRACKEX marine exercises save gas and allow personnel to be closer to their homes for these maneuvers. These considerations should not allow one single injury to this endangered Killer Whale population. Though this supplement admits increased sonar and explosive testing (TRACKEX) and finally addresses the MSO maneuvers there is no additional mitigation mentioned. Nowhere is it outlined whether visual patrols will increase as a result of this new activity, nor does the Supplement address real concerns over whether or not visual patrol is adequate at times of night or rough seas. No acoustic monitoring or avoidance strategies are included. This is	The Navy is completing this EIS/OEIS in compliance with current law, including the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA). In addition to NEPA, the Navy continues to comply with other applicable environmental laws and with a number of regulatory requirements, such as the Marine Mammal Protection Act, the Endangered Species Act, the Coastal Zone Management Act, and the Magnuson-Stevens Fishery Conservation and Management Act. The Navy shares your concern for marine life, but this concern must be balanced with the purpose and need for Navy training and testing as detailed in Chapter 2 (Description of Proposed Action and Alternatives) of the EIS/OEIS. The Navy has conducted active sonar training and testing activities in the Study Area for decades, and there is no evidence that routine Navy training and testing has negatively impacted individual sea turtles or sea turtle populations, or marine mammal populations in the Study Area or at any Navy Range Complex. Based on the best available science summarized in the EIS/OEIS Section 3.4.4.1 (Summary of Monitoring and Observations During Navy Activities), long-term consequences for marine mammal populations are unlikely to result from Navy training and testing

Table I.5-4: Responses to Comments from Private Individuals (continued)

Commenter	Comment	Navy Response
	a serious omission to a document that intended to address the inadequate science and mitigation plans of the original draft and is unacceptable. Lack of Science There is little consideration of exclusion zones, geographic alternatives to the southern Puget Sound and seasonal restrictions of exercises. All of the Alternatives propose year-round, unrestricted use without regard to seasonal variations in marine mammal and fish abundance. This is true despite the well-documented seasonal migrations of numerous endangered species and the identification of biologically important areas. The Navy should put critical marine habitats off-limits to sonar and explosives testing and schedule training to avoid times of the year when sensitive species are present in places like the Olympic Coast National Marine Sanctuary. Climate Change and Cumulative Impacts The Supplement document responds to calls to address these two big issues but it is very unclear that anything more than lip service was expended by deeming Navy activities to be of little significance. Public Process What most concerns me is this. There has been an overwhelming number of proposals since late in 2013 rolled out to the public in a piecemeal fashion. Five calls for comments on clearly-linked documents have been spread out in their introduction to the public over the last year and a half. Ground-based, (Electronic warfare range), air-based (Two growler scoping documents) and sea-based naval activities (these two NWTT documents) have been dropped onto the region as if they were not linked. The separate comment periods and the separate documents minimize the larger picture of impacts on the area. In my opinion this is misleading. Is it even legal in regards to Federal Law, specifically NEPA? Please redo this chopped-up public process with a comprehensive Environmental Impact Statement that includes all of the activities in the region. These huge changes that affect wildlife, real estate values, allow precedent-setting incursions into the peace of our national parks, national forest, wilderness, state parks and state lands, should be discussed as a whole, not split into so many fractured pieces that the residents of this region cannot know what they are actually facing.	activities in the Study Area. Note that for sea turtles, as described in the EIS/OEIS Section 3.5.3.7.1 (Combined Impacts of All Stressors), “impacts are not expected to decrease the overall fitness or result in long-term population level impacts on any given population.” Please also refer to Chapter 5 (Standard Operating Procedures, Mitigation, and Monitoring) of the EIS/OEIS, detailing the procedures and mitigation measures during its training and testing activities designed to reduce impacts to marine mammals and sea turtles from Navy activities. The Navy prepares Environmental Impact Statements (EIS) and Environmental Assessments (EA) in order to comply with the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA). These NEPA documents are intended to ensure decision makers consider the potential environmental effects of a proposed action and its alternatives, provide an opportunity for public involvement, and promote transparency by informing the public of these potential environmental effects. Each NEPA document addresses a specific proposed action, separated from other actions by its purpose and need, independent utility, timing, and geographic location. Some NEPA documents are stand-alone documents; others tier off or expand the analyses of other NEPA documents. NEPA documents for training and testing, including this EIS/OEIS, focus on training and testing activities occurring within a range complex or military operation area and involve different types of aircraft, ships, and range complex enhancements. NEPA documents for aircraft homebasing actions focus on aircraft operations in and around the airfield and their facility needs. NEPA documents for installations focus on infrastructure enhancements for host and tenant command missions. Importantly, every environmental document considers the cumulative impacts to the environment from other relevant past, present, and reasonably foreseeable future actions (federal, state, local, and private) in addition to the proposed action. The Navy shares your concern for marine life, but this concern must be balanced with the purpose and need for Navy training and testing as detailed in Chapter 2 (Description of Proposed Action and Alternatives) of the EIS/OEIS. Please also refer to Chapter 5 (Standard Operating Procedures, Mitigation, and Monitoring) of the EIS/OEIS As stated in the Final EIS/OEIS, Section 3.4.2.5 (Marine Mammal Density Estimates), already incorporated into the Navy’s and NMFS’ analysis of effects to marine mammals has been consideration of emergent science regarding locations where cetaceans are known to

Table I.5-4: Responses to Comments from Private Individuals (continued)

Commenter	Comment	Navy Response
		engage in activities at certain times of the year that are important to individual animals as well as populations of marine mammals. Each such location was identified by NMFS as a Biologically Important Area (BIA). It is important to note that the BIAs were not meant to define exclusionary zones, nor were they meant to be locations that serve as sanctuaries from human activity, or areas analogous to marine protected areas. These areas are not critical habitat and are not intended to have any regulatory management. The NMFS-identified BIAs do not have direct or immediate regulatory consequences and these areas do not describe the totality of a species' range or habitat. The stated intention is for the BIAs to serve as a resource management tool and their currently identified boundaries to be considered dynamic and subject to change based on any new information as well as, "existing density estimates, range-wide distribution data, information on population trends and life history parameters, known threats to the population, and other relevant information." There is a lack of science supporting identification of any additional BIAs at this time for the Pacific. The Navy and NMFS have supported and will continue to support the Cetacean and Sound Mapping project, including providing representation on the Cetacean Density and Distribution Mapping Working Group (CetMap), which informed NMFS' identification of BIAs. The same marine mammal density data present in the Navy's Density Database Technical Report and used in the analysis for this EIS/OEIS was also used in the development of BIAs. The final products, including U.S. West Coast BIAs from this mapping effort, were completed and published in March 2015.Lookouts can visually detect marine species so that potentially harmful impacts to marine mammals and sea turtles from explosives, sonar and other activities use can be avoided. Lookouts can more quickly and effectively relay sighting information so that corrective action can be taken. Support from aircrew and divers, if they are involved in the activity, will increase the probability of sightings, reducing the potential for impacts. For more information on Lookout Procedures, please see Chapter 5, Section 5.3.1 of the EIS/OEIS. When marine mammals have been sighted in the vicinity of the operation, all range participants increase vigilance and take reasonable and practicable actions to avoid collisions and activities that may result in close interaction of naval assets and marine mammals. Actions may include changing speed or direction, subject to environmental and other conditions (e.g.,

Table I.5-4: Responses to Comments from Private Individuals (continued)

Commenter	Comment	Navy Response
		safety, weather). The Navy used the best available science and a comprehensive review of past, present, and reasonably foreseeable actions to develop a robust Cumulative Impacts analysis. See Chapter 4 (Cumulative Impacts) of the EIS/OEIS, which has been updated for the Final EIS/OEIS. As discussed in Chapter 1 (Purpose and Need), the proximity of the NWTT range complexes to naval homeports is strategically important to the Navy because the close access allows efficient execution of training activities and non-training maintenance functions. The proximity of training to homeports also ensures that Sailors and Marines do not have to routinely travel far from their families. Less time away from home is critical to military readiness, morale, and retention. The proximity of the testing ranges to technical centers of expertise (e.g., NUWC Keyport) is crucial to the successful completion of testing activities. The proximate availability of the NWTT range complexes is critical to Navy efforts in these areas. The MSO activities do not include the use of sonar or live gun firing. The U.S. Navy has conducted active sonar training and testing activities for decades in the seaspace depicted in the Study Area with no evidence to indicate any meaningful impacts to marine habitats in the area. The Navy and NMFS jointly are still in ongoing consultation with the OCNMS regarding the effects of the Proposed Action on Sanctuary resources. The Navy concludes its continued activities are not likely to result in the loss, destruction, or adverse changes to the viability of Sanctuary resources. Several points support this determination: • Less than two percent of proposed training and 15 percent of proposed testing activities would occur within or immediately adjacent to the OCNMS. • The NWTT Final EIS/OEIS shows that training and testing activities have minimal temporary impacts on the quantity or quality of the Study Area's physical environment, and minor to no impacts on marine or shore birds, fish, sea turtles, or invertebrate marine life. • Although explosives have the potential to affect the physical and biological resources, the Navy does not use explosives within the OCNMS. • The Navy concludes any marine mammal behavioral reactions to NWTT training and testing activities would be transitory, infrequent, non-cumulative, and impacts are not expected to decrease overall

Table I.5-4: Responses to Comments from Private Individuals (continued)

Commenter	Comment	Navy Response
		individual fitness or result in long-term population-level impacts on any given population, and consequently will not result in any adverse changes to the sanctuary. Finally, all Department of Defense (DoD) military activities shall be carried out in a manner that avoids to the maximum extent practicable any adverse impacts on Sanctuary resources and qualities.
Gorringe (Electronic)	Based on the information apparent in the environmental analysis, the Navy's "No Action Alternative" is the proposal with the most limited impact on wildlife. Sonar can result in debilitating and even fatal injuries for marine mammals. Scientists believe sonar activity can change whale diving behavior, confusing them to swim to depths their bodies cannot handle. Whales suspected to have beached themselves because of sonar activity show signs of physical trauma like bleeding around the brain, ears and other tissues and large bubbles in their organs – symptoms analogous to "the bends" in humans. The proposed activities may result in violations of the Endangered Species Act.	The Navy shares your concern for marine life, but this concern must be balanced with the purpose and need for Navy training and testing as detailed in Chapter 2 (Description of Proposed Action and Alternatives) of the EIS/OEIS. The Navy has conducted active sonar training and testing activities in the Study Area for decades, and there is no evidence that routine Navy training and testing has negatively impacted marine mammal populations in the Study Area or at any Navy Range Complex. Based on the best available science summarized in the EIS/OEIS Section 3.4.4.1 (Summary of Monitoring and Observations During Navy Activities) long-term consequences for marine mammal populations are unlikely to result from Navy training and testing activities in the Study Area. Please also refer to Chapter 5 (Standard Operating Procedures, Mitigation, and Monitoring) of the EIS/OEIS, detailing the procedures and mitigation measures during its training and testing activities designed to reduce impacts to marine mammals from Navy activities. Regarding previous strandings, see Section 3.4.3.1.8 (Stranding) and the referenced technical report "Marine Mammal Strandings Associated with U.S. Navy Sonar Activities" (U.S. Department of the Navy 2013c). Based on the best available science summarized in the EIS/OEIS Section 3.4.4.1 (Summary of Monitoring and Observations During Navy Activities), long-term consequences for marine mammal populations are unlikely to result from Navy training and testing activities in the Study Area.
Graham (Electronic)	PLEASE DO NOT PROCEED WITH CURRENT ATTEMPTS TO INCREASE USE OF SONAR IN OUR OCEANS The Navy's current environmental analysis fails to provide basic information necessary to adequately evaluate the impacts of the proposed activities. This analysis also fails to provide adequate measures to mitigate the harmful effects of the proposed activities on marine mammals and other wildlife. Based on the information apparent in the environmental analysis, the Navy's "No Action Alternative" is the proposal with the most limited impact on wildlife. A drastic increase in sonar activity will negatively impact wildlife. Marine mammals are extremely sensitive to noise, and sonar disrupts basic behaviors	As described in the Supplement in Section 3.5.2 (Sea Turtle Summary), the proposed increase in the use of SSQ-125 sonobuoys "are not expected to result in substantial changes to behavior, growth, survival, annual reproductive success, lifetime reproductive success (fitness), or species recruitment, and are not expected to result in population-level impacts." The Navy shares your concern for marine life, but this concern must be balanced with the purpose and need for Navy training and testing as detailed in Chapter 2 (Description of Proposed Action and Alternatives) of the EIS/OEIS. The Navy has

Table I.5-4: Responses to Comments from Private Individuals (continued)

Commenter	Comment	Navy Response
	necessary for survival such as migration, surfacing, navigating, hearing, nursing, breeding and feeding. Sonar can result in debilitating and even fatal injuries for marine mammals. Scientists believe sonar activity can change whale diving behavior, confusing them to swim to depths their bodies cannot handle. Whales suspected to have beached themselves because of sonar activity show signs of physical trauma like bleeding around the brain, ears and other tissues and large bubbles in their organs – symptoms analogous to “the bends” in humans. To the extent that threatened or endangered species -- including humpback and sperm whales, and leatherback turtles -- are negatively impacted, the proposed activities may result in violations of the Endangered Species Act. THANK YOU	conducted active sonar training and testing activities in the Study Area for decades, and there is no evidence that routine Navy training and testing has negatively impacted marine mammal populations in the Study Area or at any Navy Range Complex. Based on the best available science summarized in the EIS/OEIS Section 3.4.4.1 (Summary of Monitoring and Observations During Navy Activities) long-term consequences for marine mammal populations are unlikely to result from Navy training and testing activities in the Study Area. Please also refer to Chapter 5 (Standard Operating Procedures, Mitigation, and Monitoring) of the EIS/OEIS, detailing the procedures and mitigation measures during its training and testing activities designed to reduce impacts to marine mammals from Navy activities.
Graham-Gardner (Electronic)	Once the entire Marine habitat is killed the Planet will die..In the giant eco chain of this Planet, ALL links are a necessary element for its survival with one major exception, The Human Animal..The most dangerous and lethal animal on this poor blue Planet that will soon look like the Moon, if we don't stop the madness.	The Navy shares your concern for marine life, but this concern must be balanced with the purpose and need for Navy training and testing as detailed in Chapter 2 (Description of Proposed Action and Alternatives) of the EIS/OEIS. The Navy has conducted active sonar training and testing activities in the Study Area for decades, and there is no evidence that routine Navy training and testing has negatively impacted marine mammal populations in the Study Area or at any Navy Range Complex. Based on the best available science summarized in the EIS/OEIS Section 3.4.4.1 (Summary of Monitoring and Observations During Navy Activities) long-term consequences for marine mammal populations are unlikely to result from Navy training and testing activities in the Study Area. Please also refer to Chapter 5 (Standard Operating Procedures, Mitigation, and Monitoring) of the EIS/OEIS, detailing the procedures and mitigation measures during its training and testing activities designed to reduce impacts to marine mammals from Navy activities.
S. Green (Electronic)	I am concerned about the damage to sea animals including whales and dolphins that are damaged by sonar. I urge there be limits of the use of these devices to insure the continued health of the sea.	The Navy shares your concern for marine life, but this concern must be balanced with the purpose and need for Navy training and testing as detailed in Chapter 2 (Description of Proposed Action and Alternatives) of the EIS/OEIS. The Navy has conducted active sonar training and testing activities in the Study Area for decades, and there is no evidence that routine Navy training and testing has negatively impacted marine mammal populations in the Study Area or at any Navy Range Complex. Based on the best available science summarized in the EIS/OEIS Section 3.4.4.1 (Summary of Monitoring and Observations During Navy Activities) long-term consequences for marine mammal populations are unlikely to result from Navy training and testing activities in the Study Area. Please also refer to Chapter 5

Table I.5-4: Responses to Comments from Private Individuals (continued)

Commenter	Comment	Navy Response
		(Standard Operating Procedures, Mitigation, and Monitoring) of the EIS/OEIS, detailing the procedures and mitigation measures during its training and testing activities designed to reduce impacts to marine mammals from Navy activities.
V. Green-01 (Written)	Two sea turtles have washed up on our shores lately, nearly dead and way off course. I am concerned about the Navy's plan to put 720 new devices in the ocean that will probably interfere with their migration ability. Twenty are there now. I pray and hope you can find a way to keep both sea turtles and us safe-lights? Pathwrap like grid greenways monitored another way?	As described in the Supplement in Section 3.5.2 (Sea Turtle Summary), the proposed increase in the use of SSQ-125 sonobuoys "are not expected to result in substantial changes to behavior, growth, survival, annual reproductive success, lifetime reproductive success (fitness), or species recruitment, and are not expected to result in population-level impacts." The Navy has conducted active sonar training and testing activities in the Study Area for decades, and there is no evidence that routine Navy training and testing has negatively impacted individual sea turtles or sea turtle populations in the Study Area or at any Navy Range Complex. Based on the best available science summarized in the Draft EIS/OEIS Section 3.5.3.7.1 (Combined Impacts of All Stressors) “impacts are not expected to decrease the overall fitness or result in long-term population level impacts on any given population. In cases where potential impacts rise to a level that warrants mitigation, mitigation measures designed to reduce the potential impacts are discussed in Chapter 5 (Standard Operating Procedures, Mitigation, and Monitoring)."
V. Green-02	Thank you for your service and keeping us safe. You have been great! I have a question about a future plan to put detection devices (720) in the ocean that may harm sea turtles. What other sea life will be affected? Whales, dolphins, salmon? Please keep the turtles and sea life safe, too.	The Navy shares your concern for marine life, but this concern must be balanced with the purpose and need for Navy training and testing as detailed in Chapter 2 (Description of Proposed Action and Alternatives) of the EIS/OEIS. The Navy has conducted active sonar training and testing activities in the Study Area for decades, and there is no evidence that routine Navy training and testing has negatively impacted marine mammal populations in the Study Area or at any Navy Range Complex. Based on the best available science summarized in the EIS/OEIS Section 3.4.4.1 (Summary of Monitoring and Observations During Navy Activities) long-term consequences for marine mammal populations are unlikely to result from Navy training and testing activities in the Study Area. Please also refer to Chapter 5 (Standard Operating Procedures, Mitigation, and Monitoring) of the EIS/OEIS, detailing the procedures and mitigation measures during its training and testing activities designed to reduce impacts to marine mammals from Navy activities. As described in the Supplement in Section 3.5.2 (Sea Turtle

Table I.5-4: Responses to Comments from Private Individuals (continued)

Commenter	Comment	Navy Response
		Summary), the proposed increase in the use of SSQ-125 sonobuoys "are not expected to result in substantial changes to behavior, growth, survival, annual reproductive success, lifetime reproductive success (fitness), or species recruitment, and are not expected to result in population-level impacts." The Navy has conducted active sonar training and testing activities in the Study Area for decades, and there is no evidence that routine Navy training and testing has negatively impacted individual sea turtles or sea turtle populations in the Study Area or at any Navy Range Complex. Based on the best available science summarized in the Draft EIS/OEIS Section 3.5.3.7.1 (Combined Impacts of All Stressors) "impacts are not expected to decrease the overall fitness or result in long-term population level impacts on any given population. In cases where potential impacts rise to a level that warrants mitigation, mitigation measures designed to reduce the potential impacts are discussed in Chapter 5 (Standard Operating Procedures, Mitigation, and Monitoring)."
Greene (Electronic)	I oppose the use of sonar in the Pacific Ocean for the following reasons. Ocean mammals depend on hearing for navigation, feeding, and reproduction. Scientists have linked military sonar and live-fire activities to mass whale beaching, exploded eardrums, and even death. In 2004, during war games near Hawai‘i, the Navy's sonar was implicated in a mass stranding of up to 200 melon-headed whales in Hanalei Bay, Kaua‘i. The Navy and Fisheries Service estimate that, over the plan's five-year period, training and testing activities will result in thousands of animals suffering permanent hearing loss, lung injuries or death. Millions of animals will be exposed to temporary injuries and disturbances, with many subjected to multiple harmful exposures.	Regarding previous strandings, see Section 3.4.3.1.8 (Stranding) and the referenced technical report "Marine Mammal Strandings Associated with U.S. Navy Sonar Activities" (U.S. Department of the Navy 2013c). Based on the best available science summarized in the EIS/OEIS Section 3.4.4.1 (Summary of Monitoring and Observations During Navy Activities) long-term consequences for marine mammal populations are unlikely to result from Navy training and testing activities in the Study Area.
Gregory (Electronic)	The Navy's current environmental analysis fails to provide basic information necessary to adequately evaluate the impacts of the proposed activities. This analysis also fails to provide adequate measures to mitigate the harmful effects of the proposed activities on marine mammals and other wildlife. Based on the information apparent in the environmental analysis, the Navy's "No Action Alternative" is the proposal with the most limited impact on wildlife. A drastic increase in sonar activity will negatively impact wildlife. Marine mammals are extremely sensitive to noise, and sonar disrupts basic behaviors necessary for survival such as migration, surfacing, navigating, hearing, nursing, breeding and feeding. Sonar can result in debilitating and even fatal injuries for marine mammals. Scientists believe sonar activity can change whale diving behavior, confusing them to swim to depths their bodies cannot handle. Whales suspected to have beached	The Navy shares your concern for marine life, but this concern must be balanced with the purpose and need for Navy training and testing as detailed in Chapter 2 (Description of Proposed Action and Alternatives) of the EIS/OEIS. The Navy has conducted active sonar training and testing activities in the Study Area for decades, and there is no evidence that routine Navy training and testing has negatively impacted individual sea turtles or sea turtle populations, or marine mammal populations in the Study Area or at any Navy Range Complex. Note that for sea turtles, as described in the EIS/OEIS Section 3.5.3.7.1 (Combined Impacts of All Stressors), "impacts are not expected to decrease the overall fitness or result in long-term

Table I.5-4: Responses to Comments from Private Individuals (continued)

Commenter	Comment	Navy Response
	themselves because of sonar activity show signs of physical trauma like bleeding around the brain, ears and other tissues and large bubbles in their organs – symptoms analogous to "the bends" in humans. To the extent that threatened or endangered species -- including humpback and sperm whales, and leatherback turtles -- are negatively impacted, the proposed activities may result in violations of the Endangered Species Act.	population level impacts on any given population." Please also refer to Chapter 5 (Standard Operating Procedures, Mitigation, and Monitoring) of the EIS/OEIS, detailing the procedures and mitigation measures during its training and testing activities designed to reduce impacts to marine mammals and sea turtles from Navy activities.
Griggs-01 (Written)	Enclosed with my note is a copy of a letter sent to yon by Monica Fletcher, the chairperson of the North Olympic Group, Washington State Chapter, of the Sierra Club on behalf of its nine hundred members. I'm not a member of the Sierra Club but I fully support their position on the Navy's proposal.	Thank you for participating in the NEPA process.
Griggs-02	The intricately connected web of life in the ocean, on the land, and in the air is too delicate, too precious, and already under such extreme threat that I oppose any changes to existing Navy and military testing, exercises, etc., other than an overall decrease in existing activities.	Thank you for participating in the NEPA process. The Navy shares your concern for marine life, but this concern must be balanced with the purpose and need for Navy training and testing as detailed in Chapter 2 (Description of Proposed Action and Alternatives) of the EIS/OEIS. The Navy has conducted active sonar training and testing activities in the Study Area for decades, and there is no evidence that routine Navy training and testing has negatively impacted marine mammal populations in the Study Area or at any Navy Range Complex. Based on the best available science summarized in the EIS/OEIS Section 3.4.4.1 (Summary of Monitoring and Observations During Navy Activities) long-term consequences for marine mammal populations are unlikely to result from Navy training and testing activities in the Study Area. Please also refer to Chapter 5 (Standard Operating Procedures, Mitigation, and Monitoring) of the EIS/OEIS, detailing the procedures and mitigation measures during its training and testing activities designed to reduce impacts to marine mammals from Navy activities.
Griggs-03	I believe all of us - individuals, corporations, and every level of our military and government, has an obligation to care for the environment that sustains us as if doing so were an emergency ... because it is.	Thank you for participating in the NEPA process. The Navy is committed to protecting the marine environment during the conduct of its training and testing activities. As described in Chapter 5 (Standard Operating Procedures, Mitigation, and Monitoring) of the EIS/OEIS, the Navy has used extensive measures to protect the marine environment while training and testing for nearly a decade.
Gross-01 (Written)	Though I am unfortunately unable to attend tonight's meeting as I had intended, I wish nonetheless to register my absolute protest against any expansion of Naval exercises and weapons testing in the Pacific off our northern shores. The oceans are warming, they are polluted by tons of plastic waste and oil, their life is already horribly stressed. All life, including human life, not just the life of marine mammals,	Thank you for participating in the NEPA process. However this comment is outside the scope of the Supplement to the Draft EIS/OEIS. Please see Chapters 1 and 2 of the EIS/OEIS for a clear definition of the scope of this project.

Table I.5-4: Responses to Comments from Private Individuals (continued)

Commenter	Comment	Navy Response
	fish, and other sea life, for which you seem to have sadly little regard with your language of, "acceptable level of 'take'", depends on a living and healthy ocean. Perhaps you do not notice all the noise pollution in the human environment or have any concept of how wearing it is. It is unconscionable to add even more such pollution to the oceans where so many creatures rely on sound as a medium of communication and navigation even more than human beings do. What real need is there for any of these exercises? The money, materials, fuel, and human energy involved would be so much better spent in working for cooperation between nations to meet human and environmental needs instead of perpetual attempts to have dominance that only serves an elite. I hope you will seriously consider these issues. Thank you for your attention.	
Gross-02	I wish to take this opportunity to comment on the Supplement (December 2014) to the Navy's Draft Environmental Impact Statement/ Overseas Environmental Impact Statement (DEIS), dated January 2014, for its continued training and testing activities in the Pacific Northwest (NWTT). Please include these comments in the administrative record. Effect on wildlife The proposed increases in this Supplement of marine exercises and additional use of sonar and explosives will only increase the damage done to marine mammals, sea turtles, fish and birds. Of particular concern to me is the Supplement and the EIS's lack of protections for the Southern Resident Killer Whale's dwindling population. These animals need a protected home in accord with their endangered status. In public sessions and in a radio interview the Navy's public relations personnel have been heard to say that the (MSO) and TRACKEX marine exercises save gas and allow personnel to be closer to their homes for these maneuvers. These considerations should not allow one single injury to this endangered Killer Whale population.	The Navy shares your concern for marine life, but this concern must be balanced with the purpose and need for Navy training and testing as detailed in Chapter 2 (Description of Proposed Action and Alternatives) of the EIS/OEIS. The Navy has conducted active sonar training and testing activities in the Study Area for decades, and there is no evidence that routine Navy training and testing has negatively impacted individual sea turtles or sea turtle populations, or marine mammal populations in the Study Area or at any Navy Range Complex. Based on the best available science summarized in the EIS/OEIS Section 3.4.4.1 (Summary of Monitoring and Observations During Navy Activities), long-term consequences for marine mammal populations are unlikely to result from Navy training and testing activities in the Study Area. Note that for sea turtles, as described in the EIS/OEIS Section 3.5.3.7.1 (Combined Impacts of All Stressors), “impacts are not expected to decrease the overall fitness or result in long-term population level impacts on any given population.” Please also refer to Chapter 5 (Standard Operating Procedures, Mitigation, and Monitoring) of the EIS/OEIS, detailing the procedures and mitigation measures during its training and testing activities designed to reduce impacts to marine mammals and sea turtles from Navy activities. No injuries to killer whales are anticipated from the Navy’s proposed MSO or TRACKEX activities.
Gross-03	Though this supplement admits increased sonar and explosive testing (TRACKEX) and finally addresses the MSO maneuvers there is no additional mitigation mentioned. Nowhere is it outlined whether visual patrols will increase as a result of this new activity, nor does the Supplement address real concerns over whether or	As described in Chapter 5 (Standard Operating Procedures, Mitigation, and Monitoring) of the EIS/OEIS, the Navy will implement mitigation measures during the use of sonobuoys. The mitigation measures are implemented for each activity and therefore the mitigation scales up as

Table I.5-4: Responses to Comments from Private Individuals (continued)

Commenter	Comment	Navy Response
	not visual patrol is adequate at times of night or rough seas. No acoustic monitoring or avoidance strategies are included. This is a serious omission to a document that intended to address the inadequate science and mitigation plans of the original draft and is unacceptable.	the activity level scales up. Also in Chapter 5 (Standard Operating Procedures, Mitigation, and Monitoring) of the EIS/OEIS, the Navy evaluated the effectiveness and practicability of a number of potential mitigation measures. Through consultation and permitting with NMFS and USFWS, the Navy refined the mitigation measures, which are now presented in Chapter 5 (Standard Operating Procedures, Mitigation, and Monitoring) of this Final EIS/OEIS. Section 5.3.1.2.5 (Effectiveness Assessment for Lookouts) acknowledges that, due to the various detection probabilities, levels of Lookout experience, and variability of sighting conditions, Lookouts will not always be effective at avoiding impacts on all species. However, Lookouts are expected to increase the overall likelihood that certain marine mammal species and some sea turtles will be detected at the surface of the water, when compared to the likelihood that these same species would be detected if Lookouts are not used. The continued use of Lookouts contributes to helping reduce potential impacts on these species from training and testing activities. While the range of the sonar's detection would travel beyond the distance that Lookouts can detect animals, the range at which sonar is predicted to be able to cause injury to a marine mammal is very short, within 10 meters of the sonar. At such short distances, it is likely any marine mammal would have been detected. The MSO activities do not include the use of sonar or live gun firing.
Gross-04	Lack of Science There is little consideration of exclusion zones, geographic alternatives to the southern Puget Sound and seasonal restrictions of exercises. All of the Alternatives propose year-round, unrestricted use without regard to seasonal variations in marine mammal and fish abundance. This is true despite the well-documented seasonal migrations of numerous endangered species and the identification of biologically important areas. The Navy should put critical marine habitats off-limits to sonar and explosives testing and schedule training to avoid times of the year when sensitive species are present in places like the Olympic Coast National Marine Sanctuary.	As described in Chapter 5 (Standard Operating Procedures, Mitigation, and Monitoring) of the Final EIS/OEIS, the Navy evaluated the effectiveness and practicability of a number of potential mitigation measures including the avoidance of specific areas. The Navy has undertaken consultation with NMFS for the proposed and ongoing activities in the NWTT Study Area and the Navy refined the mitigation measures, which are now presented in Chapter 5 (Standard Operating Procedures, Mitigation, and Monitoring) of this Final EIS/OEIS. Through careful exploration of all mitigation measures to determine which were the most effective, the Navy chose the measures to mitigate potential impacts to marine mammals while still being able to meet its operational needs to train for real-world conditions. The Navy's specific mitigation measures are outlined in the following sections: Section 5.3.1 (Lookout Procedural Measures), Section 5.3.2 (Mitigation Zone Procedural Measures), and Section 5.3.3 (Mitigation

Table I.5-4: Responses to Comments from Private Individuals (continued)

Commenter	Comment	Navy Response
		Areas). Specifically, Section 5.3.4 (Mitigation Measures Considered but Eliminated) presents Navy consideration of similar area restrictions. At time of release of this Final EIS/OEIS, NMFS and Navy are in ongoing discussion regarding mitigation for MMPA purposes. Should additional mitigation to that which Navy has proposed be identified in the MMPA rule making and authorization, it will be indicated in the ROD. The U.S. Navy has conducted active sonar training and testing activities for decades in the seaspace depicted in the Study Area with no evidence to indicate any meaningful impacts to marine habitats in the area. The Navy and NMFS jointly are still in ongoing consultation with the OCNMS regarding the effects of the Proposed Action on Sanctuary resources. The Navy concludes its continued activities are not likely to result in the loss, destruction, or adverse changes to the viability of Sanctuary resources. Several points support this determination: • Less than two percent of proposed training and 15 percent of proposed testing activities would occur within or immediately adjacent to the OCNMS. • The NWTT Final EIS/OEIS shows that training and testing activities have minimal temporary impacts on the quantity or quality of the Study Area's physical environment, and minor to no impacts on marine or shore birds, fish, sea turtles, or invertebrate marine life. • Although explosives have the potential to affect the physical and biological resources, the Navy does not use explosives within the OCNMS. • The Navy concludes any marine mammal behavioral reactions to NWTT training and testing activities would be transitory, infrequent, non-cumulative, and impacts are not expected to decrease overall individual fitness or result in long-term population-level impacts on any given population, and consequently will not result in any adverse changes to the sanctuary. Finally, all Department of Defense (DoD) military activities shall be carried out in a manner that avoids to the maximum extent practicable any adverse impacts on Sanctuary resources and qualities.
Gross-05	Climate Change and Cumulative Impacts The Supplement document responds to calls to address these two big issues but it is very unclear that anything more than lip service was expended by deeming Navy activities to be of little significance.	In response to several comments, the Navy has enhanced its analysis of climate change and cumulative impacts in this Final EIS/OEIS.

Table I.5-4: Responses to Comments from Private Individuals (continued)

Commenter	Comment	Navy Response
Gross-06	Public Process What most concerns me is this. There has been an overwhelming number of proposals since late in 2013 rolled out to the public in a piecemeal fashion. Five calls for comments on clearly-linked documents have been spread out in their introduction to the public over the last year and a half. Ground-based, (Electronic warfare range), airbased (Two growler scoping documents) and sea-based naval activities (these two NWTT documents) have been dropped onto the region as if they were not linked. The separate comment periods and the separate documents minimize the larger picture of impacts on the area. In my opinion this is misleading. Is it even legal in regards to Federal Law, specifically NEPA? Please redo this chopped-up public process with a comprehensive Environmental Impact Statement that includes all of the activities in the region. These huge changes that affect wildlife, real estate values, allow precedent-setting incursions into the peace of our national parks, national forest, wilderness, state parks and state lands, should be discussed as a whole, not split into so many fractured pieces that the residents of this region cannot know what they are actually facing.	The Navy prepares Environmental Impact Statements (EIS) and Environmental Assessments (EA) in order to comply with the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA). These NEPA documents are intended to ensure decision makers consider the potential environmental effects of a proposed action and its alternatives, provide an opportunity for public involvement, and promote transparency by informing the public of these potential environmental effects. Each NEPA document addresses a specific proposed action, separated from other actions by its purpose and need, independent utility, timing, and geographic location. Some NEPA documents are stand-alone documents; others tier off or expand the analyses of other NEPA documents. NEPA documents for training and testing, including this EIS/OEIS, focus on training and testing activities occurring within a range complex or military operation area and involve different types of aircraft, ships, and range complex enhancements. NEPA documents for aircraft homebasing actions focus on aircraft operations in and around the airfield and their facility needs. NEPA documents for installations focus on infrastructure enhancements for host and tenant command missions. Importantly, every environmental document considers the cumulative impacts to the environment from other relevant past, present, and reasonably foreseeable future actions (federal, state, local, and private) in addition to the proposed action.
Grube-01 (Written)	I object to the Supplement to DEIR because, "the Navy" conclusions as to significance of the admitted impacts on the SUMMARY SHEET are that they would be "minor", "localized", would result in no "long-term consequences for any marine mammal populations or species." "Government to government" consultations do not eliminate impacts until an actual legal agreement is reached. The Navy is playing God: The Navy does not care about this environment and impacted species. The Navy does not know that turtles can hear and are threatened by noise. See attached wwf article ("NEWS OF THE WILD SENDING SIGNALS: TIME TO HATCH! Turtles are neither deaf nor silent, as scientists long believed. In recent years, studies have confirmed that at least 47 species of turtle communicate via sounds. Now biologists have collected the first evidence that baby sea turtles rely on such sounds to initiate synchronized hatching even before they emerge from their eggs. In a study of leatherbacks in Oaxaca, Mexico, an international team of biologists monitored activity in several nests, beginning after 51 days of incubation-a time that coincides with development of ears in emerging hatchlings. In all, the researchers recorded more than 300 different sounds. "Our results reinforce the Idea that	The Navy shares your concern for marine life, but this concern must be balanced with the purpose and need for Navy training and testing as detailed in Chapter 2 (Description of Proposed Action and Alternatives) of the EIS/OEIS. The Navy has conducted training and testing activities in the Study Area for decades, and there is no evidence that routine Navy training and testing has negatively impacted marine populations in the Study Area or at any Navy Range Complex. Section 3.5.2.2 (Hearing and Vocalization) addresses the current body of knowledge concerning sea turtle hearing. Impacts to sea turtles from acoustic stressors are analyzed in Section 3.5.3.1 (Acoustic Stressors) of the EIS.

Table I.5-4: Responses to Comments from Private Individuals (continued)

Commenter	Comment	Navy Response
	sounds are Important to coordinate group behavior in turtles," the team reported last summer In the journal Chelonian Conservation and Biology. "One of the reasons the sounds were not detected in the past was lack of proper recording equipment," says herpetologist and study coauthor Richard Vogt. The sounds, he notes, are at the lower end of the human audible range. "If hatchlings all leave the nest at once, there is safety in numbers, thus a few turtles will make it to the sea," Vogt adds. "Once there, they keep communicating to migrate off in groups, which Is safer than trying it alone." SONAR SABOTAGE Like other bats, Mexican free-railed bars use echolocation, or biological sonar, to find insects. The species lives in huge colonies with as many as a million individuals, leading to stiff competition for prey and, according to recent research, unique tactics to gain an advantage. When a bat detects the ultrasonic signal of a nearby member of the colony that is moving in for a kill, it sends out a counter signal that jams its rival's sonar. "Make the other guy miss, then you go in and take the insect," says Wake Forest University biologist William Conner, who, along with colleague Aaron Corcoran of the University of Maryland, discovered the jamming signal while analyzing recordings and film of the bats in Arizona. Writing last November in Science, the researchers report that the flying mammals often take turns jamming each other until one backs down. "They get into amazing aerial dogfights," says Conner. The discovery increases the number of known functions of bat calls to three: echolocation, communication and acoustic interference.")	
Grube-02	I have previously objected to the proposed Naval activity in the Olympic National Forest and I now am appalled to see the Navy's plans for sonar and explosive testing in our waters. I wish to take this opportunity to comment on the Supplement (December 2014) to the Navy's Draft Environmental Impact Statement/ Overseas Environmental Impact Statement (DEIS), dated January 2014, for its continued training and testing activities in the Pacific Northwest (NWTT). Please include these comments in the administrative record. Effect on wildlife The proposed increases in this Supplement of marine exercises and additional use of sonar and explosives will only increase the damage done to marine mammals, sea turtles, fish and birds. Of particular concern to me is the Supplement and the EIS's lack of protections for the Southern Resident Killer Whale's dwindling population. These animals need a protected home in accord with their endangered status. In public sessions and in a radio interview the Navy's	The Navy shares your concern for marine life, but this concern must be balanced with the purpose and need for Navy training and testing as detailed in Chapter 2 (Description of Proposed Action and Alternatives) of the EIS/OEIS. The Navy has conducted active sonar training and testing activities in the Study Area for decades, and there is no evidence that routine Navy training and testing has negatively impacted individual sea turtles or sea turtle populations, or marine mammal populations in the Study Area or at any Navy Range Complex. Based on the best available science summarized in the EIS/OEIS Section 3.4.4.1 (Summary of Monitoring and Observations During Navy Activities), long-term consequences for marine mammal populations are unlikely to result from Navy training and testing activities in the Study Area. Note that for sea turtles, as described in

Table I.5-4: Responses to Comments from Private Individuals (continued)

Commenter	Comment	Navy Response
	public relations personnel have been heard to say that the (MSO) and TRACKEX marine exercises save gas and allow personnel to be closer to their homes for these maneuvers. These considerations should not allow one single injury to this endangered Killer Whale population.	the EIS/OEIS Section 3.5.3.7.1 (Combined Impacts of All Stressors), "impacts are not expected to decrease the overall fitness or result in long-term population level impacts on any given population." Please also refer to Chapter 5 (Standard Operating Procedures, Mitigation, and Monitoring) of the EIS/OEIS, detailing the procedures and mitigation measures during its training and testing activities designed to reduce impacts to marine mammals and sea turtles from Navy activities. No injuries to killer whales are anticipated from the Navy's proposed MSO or TRACKEX activities.
Grube-03	Though this supplement admits increased sonar and explosive testing (TRACKEX) and finally addresses the MSO maneuvers there is no additional mitigation mentioned. Nowhere is it outlined whether visual patrols will increase as a result of this new activity, nor does the Supplement address real concerns over whether or not visual patrol is adequate at times of night or rough seas. No acoustic monitoring or avoidance strategies are included. This is a serious omission to a document that intended to address the inadequate science and mitigation plans of the original draft and is unacceptable.	As described in Chapter 5 (Standard Operating Procedures, Mitigation, and Monitoring) of the EIS/OEIS, the Navy will implement mitigation measures during the use of sonobuoys. The mitigation measures are implemented for each activity and therefore the mitigation scales up as the activity level scales up. Also in Chapter 5 (Standard Operating Procedures, Mitigation, and Monitoring) of the EIS/OEIS, the Navy evaluated the effectiveness and practicability of a number of potential mitigation measures. Through consultation and permitting with NMFS and USFWS, the Navy refined the mitigation measures, which are now presented in Chapter 5 (Standard Operating Procedures, Mitigation, and Monitoring) of this Final EIS/OEIS. Section 5.3.1.2.5 (Effectiveness Assessment for Lookouts) acknowledges that, due to the various detection probabilities, levels of Lookout experience, and variability of sighting conditions, Lookouts will not always be effective at avoiding impacts on all species. However, Lookouts are expected to increase the overall likelihood that certain marine mammal species and some sea turtles will be detected at the surface of the water, when compared to the likelihood that these same species would be detected if Lookouts are not used. The continued use of Lookouts contributes to helping reduce potential impacts on these species from training and testing activities. While the range of the sonar's detection would travel beyond the distance that Lookouts can detect animals, the range at which sonar is predicted to be able to cause injury to a marine mammal is very short, within 10 meters of the sonar. At such short distances, it is likely any marine mammal would have been detected. The MSO activities do not include the use of sonar or live gun firing.

Table I.5-4: Responses to Comments from Private Individuals (continued)

Commenter	Comment	Navy Response
Grube-04	Lack of Science There is little consideration of exclusion zones, geographic alternatives to the southern Puget Sound and seasonal restrictions of exercises. All of the Alternatives propose year-round, unrestricted use without regard to seasonal variations in marine mammal and fish abundance. This is true despite the well-documented seasonal migrations of numerous endangered species and the identification of biologically important areas. The Navy should put critical marine habitats off-limits to sonar and explosives testing and schedule training to avoid times of the year when sensitive species are present in places like the Olympic Coast National Marine Sanctuary.	As described in Chapter 5 (Standard Operating Procedures, Mitigation, and Monitoring) of the Final EIS/OEIS, the Navy evaluated the effectiveness and practicability of a number of potential mitigation measures including the avoidance of specific areas. The Navy has undertaken consultation with NMFS for the proposed and ongoing activities in the NWTT Study Area and the Navy refined the mitigation measures, which are now presented in Chapter 5 (Standard Operating Procedures, Mitigation, and Monitoring) of this Final EIS/OEIS. Through careful exploration of all mitigation measures to determine which were the most effective, the Navy chose the measures to mitigate potential impacts to marine mammals while still being able to meet its operational needs to train for real-world conditions. The Navy's specific mitigation measures are outlined in the following sections: Section 5.3.1 (Lookout Procedural Measures), Section 5.3.2 (Mitigation Zone Procedural Measures), and Section 5.3.3 (Mitigation Areas). Specifically, Section 5.3.4 (Mitigation Measures Considered but Eliminated) presents Navy consideration of similar area restrictions. The Navy and NMFS will use the Adaptive Management process to assess whether any additional mitigation should be considered in identified biologically important areas. The U.S. Navy has conducted active sonar training and testing activities for decades in the seaspace depicted in the Study Area with no evidence to indicate any meaningful impacts to marine habitats in the area. The Navy and NMFS jointly are still in ongoing consultation with the OCNMS regarding the effects of the Proposed Action on Sanctuary resources. The Navy concludes its continued activities are not likely to result in the loss, destruction, or adverse changes to the viability of Sanctuary resources. Several points support this determination: • Less than two percent of proposed training and 15 percent of proposed testing activities would occur within or immediately adjacent to the OCNMS. • The NWTT Final EIS/OEIS shows that training and testing activities have minimal temporary impacts on the quantity or quality of the Study Area's physical environment, and minor to no impacts on marine or shore birds, fish, sea turtles, or invertebrate marine life. • Although explosives have the potential to affect the physical and biological resources, the Navy does not use explosives within the OCNMS.

Table I.5-4: Responses to Comments from Private Individuals (continued)

Commenter	Comment	Navy Response
		• The Navy concludes any marine mammal behavioral reactions to NWTT training and testing activities would be transitory, infrequent, non-cumulative, and impacts are not expected to decrease overall individual fitness or result in long-term population-level impacts on any given population, and consequently will not result in any adverse changes to the sanctuary. Finally, all Department of Defense (DoD) military activities shall be carried out in a manner that avoids to the maximum extent practicable any adverse impacts on Sanctuary resources and qualities.
Grube-05	Climate Change and Cumulative Impacts The Supplement document responds to calls to address these two big issues but it is very unclear that anything more than lip service was expended by deeming Navy activities to be of little significance.	In response to several comments, the Navy has enhanced its analysis of climate change and cumulative impacts in this Final EIS/OEIS.
Grube-06	Public Process What most concerns me is this. There has been an overwhelming number of proposals since late in 2013 rolled out to the public in a piecemeal fashion. Five calls for comments on clearly-linked documents have been spread out in their introduction to the public over the last year and a half. Ground-based, (Electronic warfare range), airbased (Two growler scoping documents) and sea-based naval activities (these two NWTT documents) have been dropped onto the region as if they were not linked. The separate comment periods and the separate documents minimize the larger picture of impacts on the area. In my opinion this is misleading. Is it even legal in regards to Federal Law, specifically NEPA? Please redo this chopped-up public process with a comprehensive Environmental Impact Statement that includes all of the activities in the region. These huge changes that affect wildlife, real estate values, allow precedent-setting incursions into the peace of our national parks, national forest, wilderness, state parks and state lands, should be discussed as a whole, not split into so many fractured pieces that the residents of this region cannot know what they are actually facing.	The Navy prepares Environmental Impact Statements (EIS) and Environmental Assessments (EA) in order to comply with the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA). These NEPA documents are intended to ensure decision makers consider the potential environmental effects of a proposed action and its alternatives, provide an opportunity for public involvement, and promote transparency by informing the public of these potential environmental effects. Each NEPA document addresses a specific proposed action, separated from other actions by its purpose and need, independent utility, timing, and geographic location. Some NEPA documents are stand-alone documents; others tier off or expand the analyses of other NEPA documents. NEPA documents for training and testing, including this EIS/OEIS, focus on training and testing activities occurring within a range complex or military operation area and involve different types of aircraft, ships, and range complex enhancements. NEPA documents for aircraft homebasing actions focus on aircraft operations in and around the airfield and their facility needs. NEPA documents for installations focus on infrastructure enhancements for host and tenant command missions. Importantly, every environmental document considers the cumulative impacts to the environment from other relevant past, present, and reasonably foreseeable future actions (federal, state, local, and private) in addition to the proposed action.
Guest (Electronic)	I am so concerned about marine wildlife that gets affected. It's not just pollution, but it's also sound. Underwater noises like sonar is bad for marine mammals. It would also have a negative impact that disrupts and affects their behavior, such as	The Navy shares your concern for marine life, but this concern must be balanced with the purpose and need for Navy training and testing as detailed in Chapter 2 (Description of Proposed Action and Alternatives)

Table I.5-4: Responses to Comments from Private Individuals (continued)

Commenter	Comment	Navy Response
	migrating, hearing, navigating, and eating. An increase of sonar testing would be a huge threat and affect the necessary habitats for whales and other marine creatures for their survival.	of the EIS/OEIS. The Navy has conducted active sonar training and testing activities in the Study Area for decades, and there is no evidence that routine Navy training and testing has negatively impacted marine mammal populations in the Study Area or at any Navy Range Complex. Based on the best available science summarized in the EIS/OEIS Section 3.4.4.1 (Summary of Monitoring and Observations During Navy Activities), long-term consequences for marine mammal populations are unlikely to result from Navy training and testing activities in the Study Area. Please also refer to Chapter 5 (Standard Operating Procedures, Mitigation, and Monitoring) of the EIS/OEIS, detailing the procedures and mitigation measures during its training and testing activities designed to reduce impacts to marine mammals from Navy activities.
Gullickson (Electronic)	I am completely opposed to sonar and/or explosives in the home waters of our already ENDANGERED Southern Resident Killer Whales. Through scientific research we know without a doubt the effects of sonar and noise under water have nothing but a horribly negative impact on ocean life including killer whales. Not only does loud noise, especially sonar (due to its frequency) have the high potential of blowing out eardrums, causing blood clots in their brains and killing them, it also causes incredible amounts of stress and interference when they are hunting, trying to communicate, and at the very least just trying to survive. Noise under the water is one of THE BIGGEST threats to our ENDANGERED killer whales. Two of the most important activities they need to do to thrive, hunting and communicating, are directly and profoundly disturbed by sonar, explosives, or simply noise under the water. We are the only predator for these animals and they are endangered. Please don't make them extinct.	The Navy shares your concern for marine life, but this concern must be balanced with the purpose and need for Navy training and testing as detailed in Chapter 2 (Description of Proposed Action and Alternatives) of the EIS/OEIS. The Navy has conducted active sonar training and testing activities in the Study Area for decades, and there is no evidence that routine Navy training and testing has negatively impacted marine mammal populations in the Study Area or at any Navy Range Complex. Based on the best available science summarized in the EIS/OEIS Section 3.4.4.1 (Summary of Monitoring and Observations During Navy Activities) long-term consequences for marine mammal populations are unlikely to result from Navy training and testing activities in the Study Area. Please also refer to Chapter 5 (Standard Operating Procedures, Mitigation, and Monitoring) of the EIS/OEIS, detailing the procedures and mitigation measures during its training and testing activities designed to reduce impacts to marine mammals from Navy activities.
Guttormsen (Electronic)	My wife and I urge you to take the "No action alternative" regarding the Navy's plan to significantly increase the use of proposed training and testing activities including the use of sonar, explosives, weapons firing, and other acoustic devices. The Navy's current environmental analysis fails to provide basic information necessary to adequately evaluate the impacts of the proposed activities. This analysis also fails to provide adequate measures to mitigate the harmful effects of the proposed activities on marine mammals and other wildlife. Based on the information apparent in the environmental analysis, the Navy's "No Action Alternative" is the proposal with the most limited impact on wildlife. A drastic increase in sonar activity will negatively impact wildlife. Marine mammals are extremely sensitive to noise, and sonar disrupts basic behaviors necessary for survival such as migration, surfacing,	As described in the Supplement in Section 3.5.2 (Sea Turtle Summary), the proposed increase in the use of SSQ-125 sonobuoys "are not expected to result in substantial changes to behavior, growth, survival, annual reproductive success, lifetime reproductive success (fitness), or species recruitment, and are not expected to result in population-level impacts." The Navy shares your concern for marine life, but this concern must be balanced with the purpose and need for Navy training and testing as detailed in Chapter 2 (Description of Proposed Action and Alternatives) of the EIS/OEIS. The Navy has conducted active sonar training and testing activities in the Study Area for decades, and there is no evidence that routine Navy training and

Table I.5-4: Responses to Comments from Private Individuals (continued)

Commenter	Comment	Navy Response
	navigating, hearing, nursing, breeding and feeding. Sonar can result in debilitating and even fatal injuries for marine mammals. Scientists believe sonar activity can change whale diving behavior, confusing them to swim to depths their bodies cannot handle. Whales suspected to have beached themselves because of sonar activity show signs of physical trauma like bleeding around the brain, ears and other tissues and large bubbles in their organs – symptoms analogous to "the bends" in humans. To the extent that threatened or endangered species -- including humpback and sperm whales, and leatherback turtles -- are negatively impacted, the proposed activities may result in violations of the Endangered Species Act.	testing has negatively impacted marine mammal populations in the Study Area or at any Navy Range Complex. Based on the best available science summarized in the EIS/OEIS Section 3.4.4.1 (Summary of Monitoring and Observations During Navy Activities), long-term consequences for marine mammal populations are unlikely to result from Navy training and testing activities in the Study Area. Please also refer to Chapter 5 (Standard Operating Procedures, Mitigation, and Monitoring) of the EIS/OEIS, detailing the procedures and mitigation measures during its training and testing activities designed to reduce impacts to marine mammals from Navy activities.
Haasl (Electronic)	I wish to take this opportunity to comment on the Supplement (December 2014) to the Navy's Draft Environmental Impact Statement/ Overseas Environmental Impact Statement (DEIS), dated January 2014, for its continued training and testing activities in the Pacific Northwest (NWTT). Please include these comments in the administrative record. Stop all marine exercises and use of sonar and explosives that damage marine mammals, sea turtles, fish and birds in the Puget Sound region and the world. All year. Every year. Our Puget Sound resident killer whales need a protected home in accord with their endangered status, and our survival as a species is tied to all other species. The Supplement documents do not adequately respond to scientific calls to address climate change and cumulative impacts. Ground-based, (Electronic warfare range), air-based (Two growler scoping documents) and sea-based naval activities (these two NWTT documents) have been dropped onto the region as if they were not linked. I believe the separate comment periods and the separate documents violate the law. Please urge the Navy to stop making and practicing for war and instead become a force for good in the world, providing relief to countries suffering disasters and war, using peaceful solutions. Thank you.	The Navy is completing this EIS/OEIS in compliance with current law, including the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA). In addition to NEPA, the Navy continues to comply with other applicable environmental laws and with a number of regulatory requirements, such as the Marine Mammal Protection Act, the Endangered Species Act, the Coastal Zone Management Act, and the Magnuson-Stevens Fishery Conservation and Management Act. The Navy shares your concern for marine life, but this concern must be balanced with the purpose and need for Navy training and testing as detailed in Chapter 2 (Description of Proposed Action and Alternatives) of the EIS/OEIS. The Navy has conducted active sonar training and testing activities in the Study Area for decades, and there is no evidence that routine Navy training and testing has negatively impacted individual sea turtles or sea turtle populations, or marine mammal populations in the Study Area or at any Navy Range Complex. Based on the best available science summarized in the EIS/OEIS Section 3.4.4.1 (Summary of Monitoring and Observations During Navy Activities), long-term consequences for marine mammal populations are unlikely to result from Navy training and testing activities in the Study Area. Note that for sea turtles, as described in the EIS/OEIS Section 3.5.3.7.1 (Combined Impacts of All Stressors), "impacts are not expected to decrease the overall fitness or result in long-term population level impacts on any given population." Please also refer to Chapter 5 (Standard Operating Procedures, Mitigation, and Monitoring) of the EIS/OEIS, detailing the procedures and mitigation measures during its training and testing activities designed to reduce impacts to marine mammals and sea turtles from Navy activities.
Hale	This sonar testing will damage sea animal life and potentially drive many animals	Currently sonar is the best technology for locating small objects in the

Table I.5-4: Responses to Comments from Private Individuals (continued)

Commenter	Comment	Navy Response
(Electronic)	out of these areas entirely. There is insufficient research to determine what the outcomes will be. If this damaging and dangerous project were proposed on land, it wouldn't be allowed to take place. People could more easily see the effects and would stop it. The only solution is long-term: the research and development of technologies that are an alternative to sonar and that are not damaging and dangerous to sea animals.	water that we possess. The Navy is constantly evaluating and funding research to assess improved technologies that will achieve Navy mission goals while protecting resources on land and at sea. Evaluation of these technologies continues to be a Navy focus as is research into all technologies that will protect and defend the United States. The Navy shares your concern for marine life, but this concern must be balanced with the purpose and need for Navy training and testing as detailed in Chapter 2 (Description of Proposed Action and Alternatives) of the EIS/OEIS. The Navy has conducted active sonar training and testing activities in the Study Area for decades, and there is no evidence that routine Navy training and testing has negatively impacted marine mammal populations in the Study Area or at any Navy Range Complex. Based on the best available science summarized in the EIS/OEIS Section 3.4.4.1 (Summary of Monitoring and Observations During Navy Activities) long-term consequences for marine mammal populations are unlikely to result from Navy training and testing activities in the Study Area. Please also refer to Chapter 5 (Standard Operating Procedures, Mitigation, and Monitoring) of the EIS/OEIS, detailing the procedures and mitigation measures during its training and testing activities designed to reduce impacts to marine mammals from Navy activities.
Hamilton (Electronic)	Please implement a comprehensive plan to determine the locations of marine mammals prior to deployment of tests. This should include contacting orca monitoring organizations, researchers, scientific bases with hydrophones, and the vast military network of underwater listening devices.	The Navy shares your concern for marine life, but this concern must be balanced with the purpose and need for Navy training and testing as detailed in Chapter 2 (Description of Proposed Action and Alternatives) of the EIS/OEIS. The Navy has conducted active sonar training and testing activities in the Study Area for decades, and there is no evidence that routine Navy training and testing has negatively impacted marine mammal populations in the Study Area or at any Navy Range Complex. Based on the best available science summarized in the EIS/OEIS Section 3.4.4.1 (Summary of Monitoring and Observations During Navy Activities) long-term consequences for marine mammal populations are unlikely to result from Navy training and testing activities in the Study Area. Please also refer to Chapter 5 (Standard Operating Procedures, Mitigation, and Monitoring) of the EIS/OEIS, detailing the procedures and mitigation measures during its training and testing activities designed to reduce impacts to marine mammals from Navy activities.
Hangartner	2nd comment to previous letter on opposition to EMR Warfare. I wish to take this	The Navy shares your concern for marine life, but this concern must be

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Commenter	Comment	Navy Response
(Electronic)	opportunity to comment on the Supplement (December 2014) to the Navy's Draft Environmental Impact Statement/ Overseas Environmental Impact Statement (DEIS), dated January 2014, for its continued training and testing activities in the Pacific Northwest (NWTT). Please include these comments in the administrative record. Effect on wildlife The proposed increases in this Supplement of marine exercises and additional use of sonar and explosives will only increase the damage done to marine mammals, sea turtles, fish and birds. Of particular concern to me is the Supplement and the EIS's lack of protections for the Southern Resident Killer Whale's dwindling population. These animals need a protected home in accord with their endangered status. In public sessions and in a radio interview the Navy's public relations personnel have been heard to say that the (MSO) and TRACKEX marine exercises save gas and allow personnel to be closer to their homes for these maneuvers. These considerations should not allow one single injury to this endangered Killer Whale population. Though this supplement admits increased sonar and explosive testing (TRACKEX) and finally addresses the MSO maneuvers there is no additional mitigation mentioned. Nowhere is it outlined whether visual patrols will increase as a result of this new activity, nor does the Supplement address real concerns over whether or not visual patrol is adequate at times of night or rough seas. No acoustic monitoring or avoidance strategies are included. This is a serious omission to a document that intended to address the inadequate science and mitigation plans of the original draft and is unacceptable. Lack of Science There is little consideration of exclusion zones, geographic alternatives to the southern Puget Sound and seasonal restrictions of exercises. All of the Alternatives propose year-round, unrestricted use without regard to seasonal variations in marine mammal and fish abundance. This is true despite the well-documented seasonal migrations of numerous endangered species and the identification of biologically important areas. The Navy should put critical marine habitats off-limits to sonar and explosives testing and schedule training to avoid times of the year when sensitive species are present in places like the Olympic Coast National Marine Sanctuary. Climate Change and Cumulative Impacts The Supplement document responds to calls to address these two big issues but it is very unclear that anything more than lip service was expended by deeming Navy activities to be of little significance. Public Process What most concerns me is this. There has been an overwhelming number of proposals since late in 2013 rolled out to the public in a piecemeal fashion. Five calls for comments on clearly-linked documents have been spread out in their introduction to the public over the last year and a half. Ground-based, (Electronic warfare range), air-based (Two growler scoping documents) and sea-based naval activities (these two NWTT documents) have been dropped onto the region as if they were not linked. The separate comment periods and the separate documents minimize the larger picture of impacts on the area. In my opinion this is misleading. Is it even legal in regards to Federal Law, specifically NEPA? Please	balanced with the purpose and need for Navy training and testing as detailed in Chapter 2 (Description of Proposed Action and Alternatives) of the EIS/OEIS. The Navy has conducted active sonar training and testing activities in the Study Area for decades, and there is no evidence that routine Navy training and testing has negatively impacted individual sea turtles or sea turtle populations, or marine mammal populations in the Study Area or at any Navy Range Complex. Based on the best available science summarized in the EIS/OEIS Section 3.4.4.1 (Summary of Monitoring and Observations During Navy Activities), long-term consequences for marine mammal populations are unlikely to result from Navy training and testing activities in the Study Area. Note that for sea turtles, as described in the EIS/OEIS Section 3.5.3.7.1 (Combined Impacts of All Stressors), "impacts are not expected to decrease the overall fitness or result in long-term population level impacts on any given population." Please also refer to Chapter 5 (Standard Operating Procedures, Mitigation, and Monitoring) of the EIS/OEIS, detailing the procedures and mitigation measures during its training and testing activities designed to reduce impacts to marine mammals and sea turtles from Navy activities. No injuries to killer whales are anticipated from the Navy's proposed MSO or TRACKEX activities. As described in Chapter 5 (Standard Operating Procedures, Mitigation, and Monitoring) of the EIS/OEIS, the Navy will implement mitigation measures during the use of sonobuoys. The mitigation measures are implemented for each activity and therefore the mitigation scales up as the activity level scales up. Also in Chapter 5 of the EIS/OEIS, the Navy evaluated the effectiveness and practicability of a number of potential mitigation measures. Through consultation and permitting with NMFS and USFWS, the Navy refined the mitigation measures, which are now presented in Chapter 5 (Standard Operating Procedures, Mitigation, and Monitoring) of this Final EIS/OEIS. Section 5.3.1.2.5 (Effectiveness Assessment for Lookouts) acknowledges that, due to the various detection probabilities, levels of Lookout experience, and variability of sighting conditions, Lookouts will not always be effective at avoiding impacts on all species. However, Lookouts are expected to increase the overall likelihood that certain marine mammal species and some sea turtles will be detected at the

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Commenter	Comment	Navy Response
	redo this chopped-up public process with a comprehensive Environmental Impact Statement that includes all of the activities in the region. These huge changes that affect wildlife, real estate values, allow precedent-setting incursions into the peace of our national parks, national forest, wilderness, state parks and state lands, should be discussed as a whole, not split into so many fractured pieces that the residents of this region cannot know what they are actually facing.	surface of the water, when compared to the likelihood that these same species would be detected if Lookouts are not used. The continued use of Lookouts contributes to helping reduce potential impacts on these species from training and testing activities. While the range of the sonar's detection would travel beyond the distance that Lookouts can detect animals, the range at which sonar is predicted to be able to cause injury to a marine mammal is very short, within 10 meters of the sonar. At such short distances, it is likely any marine mammal would have been detected. As described in Chapter 5 (Standard Operating Procedures, Mitigation, and Monitoring) of the Final EIS/OEIS, the Navy evaluated the effectiveness and practicability of a number of potential mitigation measures including the avoidance of specific areas. The Navy has undertaken consultation with NMFS for the proposed and ongoing activities in the NWTT Study Area and the Navy refined the mitigation measures, which are now presented in Chapter 5 (Standard Operating Procedures, Mitigation, and Monitoring) of this Final EIS/OEIS. Through careful exploration of all mitigation measures to determine which were the most effective, the Navy chose the measures to mitigate potential impacts to marine mammals while still being able to meet its operational needs to train for real-world conditions. The Navy's specific mitigation measures are outlined in the following sections: Section 5.3.1 (Lookout Procedural Measures), Section 5.3.2 (Mitigation Zone Procedural Measures), and Section 5.3.3 (Mitigation Areas). Specifically, Section 5.3.4 (Mitigation Measures Considered but Eliminated) presents Navy consideration of similar area restrictions. The Navy and NMFS will use the Adaptive Management process to assess whether any additional mitigation should be considered in identified biologically important areas. In response to several comments, the Navy has enhanced its analysis of climate change and cumulative impacts in this Final EIS/OEIS. The Navy prepares Environmental Impact Statements (EIS) and Environmental Assessments (EA) in order to comply with the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA). These NEPA documents are intended to ensure decision makers consider the potential environmental effects of a proposed action and its alternatives, provide an opportunity for public involvement, and promote transparency by informing the public of these potential environmental effects. Each NEPA document addresses a specific proposed action, separated from other actions by its purpose and need, independent utility, timing, and

Table I.5-4: Responses to Comments from Private Individuals (continued)

Commenter	Comment	Navy Response
		geographic location. Some NEPA documents are stand-alone documents; others tier off or expand the analyses of other NEPA documents. NEPA documents for training and testing, including this EIS/OEIS, focus on training and testing activities occurring within a range complex or military operation area and involve different types of aircraft, ships, and range complex enhancements. NEPA documents for aircraft homebasing actions focus on aircraft operations in and around the airfield and their facility needs. NEPA documents for installations focus on infrastructure enhancements for host and tenant command missions. Importantly, every environmental document considers the cumulative impacts to the environment from other relevant past, present, and reasonably foreseeable future actions (federal, state, local, and private) in addition to the proposed action. The MSO activities do not include the use of sonar or live gun firing. The U.S. Navy has conducted active sonar training and testing activities for decades in the seaspace depicted in the Study Area with no evidence to indicate any meaningful impacts to marine habitats in the area. The Navy and NMFS jointly are still in ongoing consultation with the OCNMS regarding the effects of the Proposed Action on Sanctuary resources. The Navy concludes its continued activities are not likely to result in the loss, destruction, or adverse changes to the viability of Sanctuary resources. Several points support this determination: • Less than two percent of proposed training and 15 percent of proposed testing activities would occur within or immediately adjacent to the OCNMS. • The NWTT Final EIS/OEIS shows that training and testing activities have minimal temporary impacts on the quantity or quality of the Study Area's physical environment, and minor to no impacts on marine or shore birds, fish, sea turtles, or invertebrate marine life. • Although explosives have the potential to affect the physical and biological resources, the Navy does not use explosives within the OCNMS. • The Navy concludes any marine mammal behavioral reactions to NWTT training and testing activities would be transitory, infrequent, non-cumulative, and impacts are not expected to decrease overall individual fitness or result in long-term population-level impacts on any given population, and consequently will not result in any adverse changes to the sanctuary.

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Commenter	Comment	Navy Response
		Finally, all Department of Defense (DoD) military activities shall be carried out in a manner that avoids to the maximum extent practicable any adverse impacts on Sanctuary resources and qualities.
Hanlon (Electronic)	Big data use and analysis, laboratory-based and virtual reality simulations can certainly replace the proposed and current field-based training and testing done in the past, and this case, in marine ecosystems. Natural and wild environments are under assault from overfishing, toxics, warming, etc. I do not support continuing, increasing or beginning additional marine environment sonar, explosions or other tests that affect anadramous fish and orca whales specifically, and the ecosystems they need for survival generally. This region is defined by its productive marine and related forest/watershed environments. These places need to stay healthy, and the Navy's testing and training have harmed the health of them by negatively impacting species that rely on sonar to feed and survive in the wild.	Regarding the use of simulation, Navy already uses simulation in training and testing whenever possible; please see the discussion presented in Section 5.3.4.1.2 (Replacing Training and Testing with Simulated Activities) of the Draft EIS/OEIS. The Navy shares your concern for marine life, but this concern must be balanced with the purpose and need for Navy training and testing as detailed in Chapter 2 (Description of Proposed Action and Alternatives) of the EIS/OEIS. The Navy has conducted active sonar training and testing activities in the Study Area for decades, and there is no evidence that routine Navy training and testing has negatively impacted marine mammal populations in the Study Area or at any Navy Range Complex. Based on the best available science summarized in the EIS/OEIS Section 3.4.4.1 (Summary of Monitoring and Observations During Navy Activities), long-term consequences for marine mammal populations are unlikely to result from Navy training and testing activities in the Study Area. Please also refer to Chapter 5 (Standard Operating Procedures, Mitigation, and Monitoring) of the EIS/OEIS, detailing the procedures and mitigation measures during its training and testing activities designed to reduce impacts to marine mammals from Navy activities.
Hannagan (Electronic)	Please do not expand any sonar emitting buoys. This greatly affects whale and other ocean species.	The Navy shares your concern for marine life, but this concern must be balanced with the purpose and need for Navy training and testing as detailed in Chapter 2 (Description of Proposed Action and Alternatives) of the EIS/OEIS. The Navy has conducted active sonar training and testing activities in the Study Area for decades, and there is no evidence that routine Navy training and testing has negatively impacted marine mammal populations in the Study Area or at any Navy Range Complex. Based on the best available science summarized in the EIS/OEIS Section 3.4.4.1 (Summary of Monitoring and Observations During Navy Activities), long-term consequences for marine mammal populations are unlikely to result from Navy training and testing activities in the Study Area. Please also refer to Chapter 5 (Standard Operating Procedures, Mitigation, and Monitoring) of the EIS/OEIS, detailing the procedures and mitigation measures during its training and testing activities designed to reduce impacts to marine mammals from Navy activities.

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Commenter	Comment	Navy Response
Hanschen (Electronic)	http://www.kpbs.org/news/2013/aug/30/navy-says-its-probably-about-bomb-hundreds-dolph/ The killing of dolphins and whales and the behavioral changes as a result of underwater detonations and sonar is reprehensible. This is 2015; the Navy should have some sense of 21st century values about the environment and not be stuck in the values of of the 1930's.	The Navy shares your concern for marine life, but this concern must be balanced with the purpose and need for Navy training and testing as detailed in Chapter 2 (Description of Proposed Action and Alternatives) of the EIS/OEIS. The Navy has conducted active sonar training and testing activities in the Study Area for decades, and there is no evidence that routine Navy training and testing has negatively impacted marine mammal populations in the Study Area or at any Navy Range Complex. Based on the best available science summarized in the EIS/OEIS Section 3.4.4.1 (Summary of Monitoring and Observations During Navy Activities), long-term consequences for marine mammal populations are unlikely to result from Navy training and testing activities in the Study Area. Please also refer to Chapter 5 (Standard Operating Procedures, Mitigation, and Monitoring) of the EIS/OEIS, detailing the procedures and mitigation measures during its training and testing activities designed to reduce impacts to marine mammals from Navy activities.
Harding (Electronic)	I am strongly opposed to continued sonar and other testing activiites by the Navy. I am a marine mammal biologist and I have numerous colleagues whom I have spoken to, and whose papers I have read, in regards to the effects of sonar and explosives testings and there is conclusive evidence that these activities kill and/or seriously harm marine mammals. The Navy has faced opposition for decades about their sonar and has failed to alter these activities without severe public pressure. Has the Navy considered the impacts on marine mammals in its testing and has it ensured that the future health and well being of marine mammals and other marine life have been ensured safety in the protocols of its testing? STOP THIS MISUSE OF TECHNOLOGY AND PROTECT THE WELL BEING OF MARINE WILDLIFE. STOP THE TESTING NOW!!!!!!!!	As described in the Supplement in Section 3.4.2 (Marine Mammal Summary), the proposed increase in the use of SSQ-125 sonobuoys would "not result in any long-term consequences for any marine mammal population or species; therefore, the conclusions stated in the Draft EIS/OEIS remain unchanged." The Navy has conducted active sonar training and testing activities in the Study Area for decades, and there is no evidence that routine Navy training and testing has negatively impacted marine mammal populations in the Study Area or at any Navy Range Complex. Based on the best available science summarized in the EIS/OEIS Section 3.4.4.1 (Summary of Monitoring and Observations During Navy Activities), long-term consequences for marine mammal populations are unlikely to result from Navy training and testing activities in the Study Area.
A. Harris (Electronic)	Hello, I am writing to support the No Action Alternative. The Navy's current environmental analysis fails to provide basic information necessary to adequately evaluate the impacts of the proposed activities. This analysis also fails to provide adequate measures to mitigate the harmful effects of the proposed activities on marine mammals and other wildlife. Based on the information apparent in the environmental analysis, the Navy's "No Action Alternative" is the proposal with the most limited impact on wildlife. A drastic increase in sonar activity will negatively impact wildlife. Marine mammals are extremely sensitive to noise, and sonar disrupts basic behaviors necessary for survival such as migration, surfacing,	As described in the Supplement in Section 3.5.2 (Sea Turtle Summary), the proposed increase in the use of SSQ-125 sonobuoys "are not expected to result in substantial changes to behavior, growth, survival, annual reproductive success, lifetime reproductive success (fitness), or species recruitment, and are not expected to result in population-level impacts." The Navy shares your concern for marine life, but this concern must be balanced with the purpose and need for Navy training and testing as detailed in Chapter 2 (Description of Proposed Action and Alternatives) of the EIS/OEIS. The Navy has

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Commenter	Comment	Navy Response
	navigating, hearing, nursing, breeding and feeding. Sonar can result in debilitating and even fatal injuries for marine mammals. Scientists believe sonar activity can change whale diving behavior, confusing them to swim to depths their bodies cannot handle. Whales suspected to have beached themselves because of sonar activity show signs of physical trauma like bleeding around the brain, ears and other tissues and large bubbles in their organs – symptoms analogous to “the bends” in humans. To the extent that threatened or endangered species -- including humpback and sperm whales, and leatherback turtles -- are negatively impacted, the proposed activities may result in violations of the Endangered Species Act. Sincerely, Andrew Harris	conducted active sonar training and testing activities in the Study Area for decades, and there is no evidence that routine Navy training and testing has negatively impacted marine mammal populations in the Study Area or at any Navy Range Complex. Based on the best available science summarized in the EIS/OEIS Section 3.4.4.1 (Summary of Monitoring and Observations During Navy Activities), long-term consequences for marine mammal populations are unlikely to result from Navy training and testing activities in the Study Area. Please also refer to Chapter 5 (Standard Operating Procedures, Mitigation, and Monitoring) of the EIS/OEIS, detailing the procedures and mitigation measures during its training and testing activities designed to reduce impacts to marine mammals from Navy activities. In accordance with ESA requirements, the Navy will complete consultation under Section 7 of the ESA with NMFS and USFWS and adhere to the Letter of Authorization and Biological Opinion issued by those agencies.
C. Harris (Electronic)	This comment is regarding the Supplement to the Draft EIS/OEIS for the Olympic area, Washington State, with public comments due by 2/2/2015. I was born, raised and lived in Alaska for 43 years and now live in Florida. I still spend time in the area of this proposed exercise. In 2014 I spent 13 weeks in the area under this public comment period. I know it won't make a bit of difference, but I object to this project on just plain moral grounds that it is wrong and should be stopped. When is the USA going to stop developing systems like this, potentially causing severe health problems for the Citizens of Washington and the USA? It's totally incomprehensible, and there is no way to stop this project. I am a former City Councilwoman from Homer, Alaska, serving one 3-year term in 1989 to 1991. I know. I know this public input will be ignored, per usual, as nothing stops these types of projects with no regard to the health and safety of Washingtonians or the environment in the Olympic area. Thank you for your public service. My tax dollars pay your salary. Why don't bureaucrats listen to the Citizens they are called to serve? When do we count? Most sincerely, Cathy (Godfrey) Harris	Thank you for participating in the NEPA process.
J. Harrison (Electronic)	NO SONAR IN PACIFIC OCEAN. TOO DANGEROUS FOR SEA LIFE.	The Navy shares your concern for marine life, but this concern must be balanced with the purpose and need for Navy training and testing as detailed in Chapter 2 (Description of Proposed Action and Alternatives) of the EIS/OEIS. The Navy has conducted active sonar training and testing activities in the Study Area for decades, and there is no evidence that routine Navy training and testing has negatively impacted marine mammal populations in the Study Area or at any Navy Range Complex. Based on the best available science

Table I.5-4: Responses to Comments from Private Individuals (continued)

Commenter	Comment	Navy Response
		summarized in the EIS/OEIS Section 3.4.4.1 (Summary of Monitoring and Observations During Navy Activities), long-term consequences for marine mammal populations are unlikely to result from Navy training and testing activities in the Study Area. Please also refer to Chapter 5 (Standard Operating Procedures, Mitigation, and Monitoring) of the EIS/OEIS, detailing the procedures and mitigation measures during its training and testing activities designed to reduce impacts to marine mammals from Navy activities.
D. Harrison-01 (Electronic)	I object to increasing any activity that stresses the animals who live in the Salish Sea any more. Especially the endangered species, such as the beautiful Orca whales that use this place. Even just stressing them with your increased sonar activity should be scrupulously avoided. Because these beautiful creatures communicate with sonar, we must stop training and testing sonar here. The Navy should put more energy into training with simulators. There has been way too much damage to the earth already. If the Navy keeps destroying our ecosystem like this, there won't be anything worth defending left! Leave these beautiful creatures alone! God made them. We have no right to wipe them off the face of the earth, and any more stress on them threatens to do exactly that…	The Navy shares your concern for marine life, but this concern must be balanced with the purpose and need for Navy training and testing as detailed in Chapter 2 (Description of Proposed Action and Alternatives) of the EIS/OEIS. The Navy has conducted active sonar training and testing activities in the Study Area for decades, and there is no evidence that routine Navy training and testing has negatively impacted marine mammal populations in the Study Area or at any Navy Range Complex. Based on the best available science summarized in the EIS/OEIS Section 3.4.4.1 (Summary of Monitoring and Observations During Navy Activities), long-term consequences for marine mammal populations are unlikely to result from Navy training and testing activities in the Study Area. Please also refer to Chapter 5 (Standard Operating Procedures, Mitigation, and Monitoring) of the EIS/OEIS, detailing the procedures and mitigation measures during its training and testing activities designed to reduce impacts to marine mammals from Navy activities. The Navy currently uses computer simulation for training and testing whenever possible. However, there are significant limitations and its uses cannot completely substitute live training or testing.
D. Harrison-02	The lack of sensitivity to the Southern Resident Killer Whale's dwindling population and its need for a protected home in accord with its endangered status remains a critical concern. Training should be excluded from their critical habitat. Proximity to Naval bases for the convenience of sailors and their families, or interesting underwater topography taken as a rationale for continuing southern Puget Sound exercises does not warrant even one “take” of this species. I adamantly believe that these creatures, because they are threatened with extinction, must be given the creates priority and that training and testing in the Salish Sea should be prohibited, in order to save them	There are a number of reasons that training in proximity to naval bases makes sense; including safety and reducing emissions that impact air quality. Also, locations for training can be chosen because the underwater topography, or bathymetry, is critical to a specific training requirement. As part of the Navy’s effects analysis, the Navy considers all the science that identifies locations where certain cetacean populations or individuals are known to engage in feeding, breeding, or other biologically important activities at certain times of year. Recently, NMFS has taken steps to begin formally identifying some of these areas and naming them Biologically Important Areas (BIAs). The Navy has considered these areas as part of its analysis in this Final

Table I.5-4: Responses to Comments from Private Individuals (continued)

Commenter	Comment	Navy Response
		EIS/OEIS when discussing particular species in Chapter 3 (Affected Environment and Environmental Consequences) as well as in considering whether limitations on Navy activities in these areas are warranted as mitigation in discussion in Chapter 5 (see Section 5.3.4.1.11, Avoiding Marine Species Habitats and Biologically Important Areas). The Navy thoroughly considered the humpback and gray whale feeding areas identified recently in its analysis and whether avoidance as mitigation was appropriate. Given the impact avoidance would have on military readiness activities and lack of biological benefit, avoidance is not warranted. Please see Section 5.3.4.1.11 (Avoiding Marine Species Habitats and Biologically Important Areas). However, Navy is proposing to provide reporting of generally low use of sonar in some of these areas to NMFS as part of classified annual reports to help inform future adaptive management related to impacts in these areas. At time of release of this Final EIS/OEIS, NMFS and Navy are in ongoing discussion regarding mitigation for MMPA purposes. Should additional mitigation to that which Navy has proposed be identified in the MMPA rule making and authorization, it will be indicated in the ROD. It is important to note that the BIAs were not meant to define exclusionary zones, nor critical habitat with regulatory management, nor were they meant to be locations that serve as sanctuaries from human activity, or areas analogous to marine protected areas. The NMFS-identified BIAs do not have direct or immediate regulatory consequences and the BIAs located within the NWTT Study Area are not the only areas used for feeding, migrating, or reproductive activity for these cetaceans in a species' entire range and habitat. The stated intention is for the BIAs to serve as a resource management tool and their currently identified boundaries be considered dynamic and subject to change based on any new information as well as, "existing density estimates, range-wide distribution data, information on population trends and life history parameters, known threats to the population, and other relevant information." There is a lack of science supporting identification of any additional BIAs at this time for the Pacific. The Navy and NMFS have supported and will continue to support the Cetacean and Sound Mapping project, including providing representation on the Cetacean Density and Distribution Mapping Working Group (CetMap), which informed NMFS' identification of BIAs. The same marine mammal density data present in the Navy's Density Database Technical Report, and used in the analysis for this EIS/OEIS, was used in the development of BIAs. The

Table I.5-4: Responses to Comments from Private Individuals (continued)

Commenter	Comment	Navy Response
		final products, including U.S. West Coast BIAs from this mapping effort, were completed and published in March 2015. The Navy is in ongoing consultation with NMFS regarding potential impacts to endangered species.
D. Harrison-03	The lack of consideration of exclusion zones, geographic alternatives to the southern Puget Sound and seasonal restrictions are still glaring omissions. All of the Alternatives propose year- round, unrestricted use without regard to seasonal variations in marine mammal and fish abundance. This is true despite the well-documented seasonal migrations of numerous endangered species and the identification of biologically important areas.I don't understand why the Navy is allowed to ignore this science.	As part of the Navy's effects analysis, the Navy considers all the science that identifies locations where certain cetacean populations or individuals are known to engage in feeding, breeding, or other biologically important activities at certain times of year. Recently, NMFS has taken steps to begin formally identifying some of these areas and naming them Biologically Important Areas (BIAs). The Navy has considered these areas as part of its analysis in this Final EIS/OEIS when discussing particular species in Chapter 3 (Affected Environment and Environmental Consequences) as well as in considering whether limitations on Navy activities in these areas are warranted as mitigation in discussion in Chapter 5 (see Section 5.3.4.1.11, Avoiding Marine Species Habitats and Biologically Important Areas). The Navy thoroughly considered the humpback and gray whale feeding areas identified recently in its analysis and whether avoidance as mitigation was appropriate. Given the impact avoidance would have on military readiness activities and lack of biological benefit, avoidance is not warranted. Please see Section 5.3.4.1.11 (Avoiding Marine Species Habitats and Biologically Important Areas). However, Navy is proposing to provide reporting of generally low use of sonar in some of these areas to NMFS as part of classified annual reports to help inform future adaptive management related to impacts in these areas. At time of release of this Final EIS/OEIS, NMFS and Navy are in ongoing discussion regarding mitigation for MMPA purposes. Should additional mitigation to that which Navy has proposed be identified in the MMPA rule making and authorization, it will be indicated in the ROD. It is important to note that the BIAs were not meant to define exclusionary zones, nor critical habitat with regulatory management, nor were they meant to be locations that serve as sanctuaries from human activity, or areas analogous to marine protected areas. The NMFS-identified BIAs do not have direct or immediate regulatory consequences and the BIAs located within the NWTT Study Area are not the only areas used for feeding, migrating, or reproductive activity for these cetaceans in a species' entire range and habitat. The stated intention is for the BIAs to serve as a resource management tool and their currently identified boundaries be considered dynamic and subject to change based on any new

Table I.5-4: Responses to Comments from Private Individuals (continued)

Commenter	Comment	Navy Response
		information as well as, "existing density estimates, range-wide distribution data, information on population trends and life history parameters, known threats to the population, and other relevant information." There is a lack of science supporting identification of any additional BIAs at this time for the Pacific. The Navy and NMFS have supported and will continue to support the Cetacean and Sound Mapping project, including providing representation on the Cetacean Density and Distribution Mapping Working Group (CetMap), which informed NMFS' identification of BIAs. The same marine mammal density data present in the Navy's Density Database Technical Report, and used in the analysis for this EIS/OEIS, was used in the development of BIAs. The final products, including U.S. West Coast BIAs from this mapping effort, were completed and published in March 2015. Section 5.2.3.1.2 and 5.2.3.2 of the EIS/OEIS details the process for assessing proposed mitigation areas. Section 5.3.3 describes the results of that process, explaining that the Navy currently applies area-specific mitigation measures for the marbled murrelet. Section 5.3.4 describes other mitigation measures that were considered but eliminated. Section 5.4 and Table 5.4-1 provides a summary of the Navy's proposed mitigation measures, including Marine Species Awareness Training for Navy Lookouts and power down and shutdown procedures when marine mammals are in the area where training and testing is occurring.
D. Harrison-04	My concerns include the apparent lack of any plans for the Navy to use the Cetacean Density and Distribution Mapping Working Group's data (CetMap) for marine mammal populations in the Pacific Northwest to mitigate harm and protect habitat remains. Why is the Navy not doing this? I want to know. The Navy's failure to develop meaningful alternatives and strategies to MITIGATE this increased harm is unacceptable—particularly because the Navy's plan fails to adopt common- sense measures that would dramatically reduce these injuries and deaths without compromising national security. Most importantly, the Navy should put critical marine habitats off-limits to sonar and explosives testing and schedule training to avoid times of the year when sensitive species are present in places like the Olympic Coast National Marine Sanctuary, something it is not willing to do despite the scientific community's view that these would be the most effective means of reducing harm. Why have alternatives not been fully explored? Why is the Navy allowed to use a very rich and sensitive habitat when other places would be less harmful?	As described in Chapter 5 (Standard Operating Procedures, Mitigation, and Monitoring) of the Final EIS/OEIS, the Navy evaluated the effectiveness and practicability of a number of potential mitigation measures including the avoidance of specific areas. The Navy has undertaken consultation with NMFS for the proposed and ongoing activities in the NWTT Study Area and the Navy refined the mitigation measures, which are now presented in Chapter 5 (Standard Operating Procedures, Mitigation, and Monitoring) of this Final EIS/OEIS. Through careful exploration of all mitigation measures to determine which were the most effective, the Navy chose the measures to mitigate potential impacts to marine mammals while still being able to meet its operational needs to train for real-world conditions. The Navy's specific mitigation measures are outlined in the following sections: Section 5.3.1 (Lookout Procedural Measures), Section 5.3.2 (Mitigation Zone Procedural Measures), and Section 5.3.3 (Mitigation Areas). Specifically, Section 5.3.4 (Mitigation Measures Considered

Table I.5-4: Responses to Comments from Private Individuals (continued)

Commenter	Comment	Navy Response
		but Eliminated) presents Navy consideration of similar area restrictions. The Navy and NMFS will use the Adaptive Management process to assess whether any additional mitigation should be considered in identified biologically important areas. Please see Section 5.3.3 and 5.3.4, in which protection zones were considered and discussed. In addition, as described in Section 5.3.2 (Mitigation Zone Procedural Measures), the Navy has considered and established activity-specific mitigation zones for the protection of species that may be present no matter where the activity may occur. The Navy thoroughly considered biologically important areas identified recently in its analysis and whether avoidance as mitigation was appropriate. Given the impact avoidance would have on military readiness activities and lack of biological benefit, avoidance is not warranted. Please see Section 5.3.4.1.11 (Avoiding Marine Species Habitats and Biologically Important Areas). However, Navy is proposing to provide reporting of generally low use of sonar in some of these areas to NMFS as part of classified annual reports to help inform future adaptive management related to impacts in these areas. The U.S. Navy has conducted active sonar training and testing activities for decades in the seaspace depicted in the Study Area with no evidence to indicate any meaningful impacts to marine habitats in the area. The Navy and NMFS jointly are still in ongoing consultation with the OCNMS regarding the effects of the Proposed Action on Sanctuary resources. The Navy concludes its continued activities are not likely to result in the loss, destruction, or adverse changes to the viability of Sanctuary resources. Several points support this determination: • Less than two percent of proposed training and 15 percent of proposed testing activities would occur within or immediately adjacent to the OCNMS. • The NWTT Final EIS/OEIS shows that training and testing activities have minimal temporary impacts on the quantity or quality of the Study Area's physical environment, and minor to no impacts on marine or shore birds, fish, sea turtles, or invertebrate marine life. • Although explosives have the potential to affect the physical and biological resources, the Navy does not use explosives within the OCNMS. • The Navy concludes any marine mammal behavioral reactions to NWTT training and testing activities would be transitory, infrequent,

Table I.5-4: Responses to Comments from Private Individuals (continued)

Commenter	Comment	Navy Response
		non-cumulative, and impacts are not expected to decrease overall individual fitness or result in long-term population-level impacts on any given population, and consequently will not result in any adverse changes to the sanctuary. Finally, all Department of Defense (DoD) military activities shall be carried out in a manner that avoids to the maximum extent practicable any adverse impacts on Sanctuary resources and qualities.
D. Harrison-05	An examination of cumulative impacts of sonar testing, stressors, and climate change concerns.... This Supplement has merely mentioned these concerns and then claims them to be non-significant. As these questions are paramount and important to the future of the region these proclamations of non-significance are unsupported and are dismissive. How can the Navy justify not considering these impacts? What science is backing up their "analysis" that allows them to ignore these issues, which are of grave concern to many of the people and animals who live here?	The Navy used the best available science and a comprehensive review of past, present, and reasonably foreseeable actions to develop a robust Cumulative Impacts analysis. The Navy has returned to the analysis in Chapter 4 (Cumulative Impacts) due to concerns raised in public comments, and the Chapter has been revised in response to those public comments. The literature on ocean acidification has been reviewed, and is now discussed in Section 4.4.4 (Climate Change), of Chapter 4 (Cumulative Impacts) of the EIS/OEIS.
D. Harrison-06	Why has the Navy separated his expansion of training into separate pieces? It has become evident that the Navy has embarked on a strategy of handling public comment that appears out of sync with federal NEPA requirements. Four clearly-linked documents have been spread out in their introduction to the public over the last year and a half. This has had the effect of separating ground-based, air-based and sea-based naval activities as if they were not linked. This misleads the public into considering smaller spheres of influence of Navy actions in myriad localities. This strategy, or decision, to break up an obviously unified plan may in fact be in violation of federal law. Why has the Navy been allowed to do this, when it appears to be a violation of NEPA to do this? The four proposals that the Navy has rolled out recently were: • An initial call for Scoping Comments to evaluate the potential environmental effects associated with ongoing and planned EA-18G Growler airfield operations at NAS Whidbey Island's Ault Field and Outlying Landing Field (OLF) (December 2013). • The Northwest Training and Testing EIS/OEIS (January 2014): covering the sea-based training and testing plans stretching from Alaska to California that features a proposed increase of the use of sonar and explosives in offshore areas and the Sound. • The Pacific Northwest Electronic Warfare Range Environmental Assessment (August 2014) and the National Forest Service Special Use Permit proposal. • The most recent Scoping period revision of the future U.S. Navy Environmental Impact Statement for the EA-18G Growler Airfield Operations at Naval Air Station (NAS) Whidbey Island November 2014. This significant upward revision of numbers of Growlers proposed was the most recent opportunity to comment. Importantly, as regards the current NWTT Supplement, the Navy's engagement in the process of informing the public	The Navy prepares Environmental Impact Statements (EIS) and Environmental Assessments (EA) in order to comply with the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA). These NEPA documents are intended to ensure decision makers consider the potential environmental effects of a proposed action and its alternatives, provide an opportunity for public involvement, and promote transparency by informing the public of these potential environmental effects. Each NEPA document addresses a specific proposed action, separated from other actions by its purpose and need, independent utility, timing, and geographic location. Some NEPA documents are stand-alone documents; others tier off or expand the analyses of other NEPA documents. NEPA documents for training and testing, including this EIS/OEIS, focus on training and testing activities occurring within a range complex or military operation area and involve different types of aircraft, ships, and range complex enhancements. NEPA documents for aircraft homebasing actions focus on aircraft operations in and around the airfield and their facility needs. NEPA documents for installations focus on infrastructure enhancements for host and tenant command missions. Importantly, every environmental document considers the cumulative impacts to the environment from other relevant past, present, and reasonably foreseeable future actions (federal, state, local, and private) in addition to the proposed action.

Table I.5-4: Responses to Comments from Private Individuals (continued)

Commenter	Comment	Navy Response
	has been extremely flawed and piecemeal. The Navy has not been forthright nor clear about its overall aims and has been lax in its exploration of alternatives and available scientific resources. There is an obligation to present this fragmented series of proposals as it clearly has been planned — as one massive Navy plan for a large region of the Pacific Northwest and the Puget Sound. It has enormous consequences for all that live here.	
D. Harrison-07	The Navy's current environmental analysis fails to provide basic information necessary to adequately evaluate the impacts of the proposed activities. This analysis also fails to provide adequate measures to mitigate the harmful effects of the proposed activities on marine mammals and other wildlife. Based on the information apparent in the environmental analysis, the Navy's "No Action Alternative" is the proposal with the most limited impact on wildlife. A drastic increase in sonar activity will negatively impact wildlife. Marine mammals are extremely sensitive to noise, and sonar disrupts basic behaviors necessary for survival such as migration, surfacing, navigating, hearing, nursing, breeding and feeding. Sonar can result in debilitating and even fatal injuries for marine mammals. Scientists believe sonar activity can change whale diving behavior, confusing them to swim to depths their bodies cannot handle. Whales suspected to have beached themselves because of sonar activity show signs of physical trauma like bleeding around the brain, ears and other tissues and large bubbles in their organs – symptoms analogous to "the bends" in humans. To the extent that threatened or endangered species -- including humpback and sperm whales, and leatherback turtles -- are negatively impacted, the proposed activities may result in violations of the Endangered Species Act.	The Navy shares your concern for marine life, but this concern must be balanced with the purpose and need for Navy training and testing as detailed in Chapter 2 (Description of Proposed Action and Alternatives) of the EIS/OEIS. The Navy has conducted active sonar training and testing activities in the Study Area for decades, and there is no evidence that routine Navy training and testing has negatively impacted individual sea turtles or sea turtle populations, or marine mammal populations in the Study Area or at any Navy Range Complex. Based on the best available science summarized in the EIS/OEIS Section 3.4.4.1 (Summary of Monitoring and Observations During Navy Activities), long-term consequences for marine mammal populations are unlikely to result from Navy training and testing activities in the Study Area. Note that for sea turtles, as described in the EIS/OEIS Section 3.5.3.7.1 (Combined Impacts of All Stressors), "impacts are not expected to decrease the overall fitness or result in long-term population level impacts on any given population." Please also refer to Chapter 5 (Standard Operating Procedures, Mitigation, and Monitoring) of the EIS/OEIS, detailing the procedures and mitigation measures during its training and testing activities designed to reduce impacts to marine mammals and sea turtles from Navy activities. In accordance with ESA requirements, the Navy will complete consultation under Section 7 of the ESA with NMFS and USFWS and adhere to the Letter of Authorization and Biological Opinion issued by those agencies. The Navy has conducted active sonar training and testing activities in the Study Area for decades, and there is no evidence that routine Navy training and testing has negatively impacted marine mammal populations in the Study Area or at any Navy Range Complex.
Mrs. Harrison's 3rd Grade Class (J. Harrison)-01	Enclosed are letters written by my third grade students regarding the Navy's proposed use of sonar in the ocean. Part of our "Current Events" news was an article	Thank you for participating in the NEPA process.

Table I.5-4: Responses to Comments from Private Individuals (continued)

Commenter	Comment	Navy Response
(Written)	about this. They were very passionate about wanting to write to the "Navy" about this matter. They have learned about whales and ocean life. The students all expressed desire to write, so here you go! I think the Public Comments period is still open. Thank you for your consideration.	
J. Harrison-02	We learned about the sonar program in the northern Pacific Ocean. I like sea creatures. I don't want these sea creatures to be harmed. Can you please use the sonar somewhere else? Or I'm going to law school then take you to court because I want you to stop using sonar to harm the sea life.	The Navy shares your concern for marine life, but this concern must be balanced with the purpose and need for Navy training and testing as detailed in Chapter 2 (Description of Proposed Action and Alternatives) of the EIS/OEIS. The Navy has conducted active sonar training and testing activities in the Study Area for decades, and there is no evidence that routine Navy training and testing has negatively impacted marine mammal populations in the Study Area or at any Navy Range Complex. Based on the best available science summarized in the EIS/OEIS Section 3.4.4.1 (Summary of Monitoring and Observations During Navy Activities), long-term consequences for marine mammal populations are unlikely to result from Navy training and testing activities in the Study Area. Please also refer to Chapter 5 (Standard Operating Procedures, Mitigation, and Monitoring) of the EIS/OEIS, detailing the procedures and mitigation measures during its training and testing activities designed to reduce impacts to marine mammals from Navy activities.
J. Harrison-03	P.S. I don't want you to harm sea life because after that we might die as well. PPS I think the whales are splendid.	Thank you for participating in the NEPA process.
J. Harrison-04	We learned about the Sonar program in the northern Pacific Ocean. I love whales and other sea creatures. I don't want these creatures to be harmed because I really love them. Whales are beautiful and precious and if the parents die the baby whales will not know what to do and how will they survive? If the parents are far away they can communicate. So if that sound hurts their ears they will die. That's why I want to save them. So you should stop.	The Navy shares your concern for marine life, but this concern must be balanced with the purpose and need for Navy training and testing as detailed in Chapter 2 (Description of Proposed Action and Alternatives) of the EIS/OEIS. The Navy has conducted active sonar training and testing activities in the Study Area for decades, and there is no evidence that routine Navy training and testing has negatively impacted marine mammal populations in the Study Area or at any Navy Range Complex. Based on the best available science summarized in the EIS/OEIS Section 3.4.4.1 (Summary of Monitoring and Observations During Navy Activities), long-term consequences for marine mammal populations are unlikely to result from Navy training and testing activities in the Study Area. Please also refer to Chapter 5 (Standard Operating Procedures, Mitigation, and Monitoring) of the EIS/OEIS, detailing the procedures and mitigation measures during its

Table I.5-4: Responses to Comments from Private Individuals (continued)

Commenter	Comment	Navy Response
		training and testing activities designed to reduce impacts to marine mammals from Navy activities.
J. Harrison-05	P.S. I learned about whales in our class. There was a book and it was called "A Symphony of Whales," P.P.S. our class saw a video about whale sounds. It was extraordinary.	Thank you for participating in the NEPA process.
J. Harrison-06	We learned about the sonar program in the northern Pacific Ocean. I love and care about whales and other sea creatures. I don't want these sea creatures harmed because they are special, beautiful, and amazing to me. In my opinion, you should not use the sonar in the oceans because I learned that the sonar makes sounds that could damage whales and other sea creatures' hearing if their hearing is damaged they could not survive. That is my opinion why you shouldn't use the sonar.	The Navy shares your concern for marine life, but this concern must be balanced with the purpose and need for Navy training and testing as detailed in Chapter 2 (Description of Proposed Action and Alternatives) of the EIS/OEIS. The Navy has conducted active sonar training and testing activities in the Study Area for decades, and there is no evidence that routine Navy training and testing has negatively impacted marine mammal populations in the Study Area or at any Navy Range Complex. Based on the best available science summarized in the EIS/OEIS Section 3.4.4.1 (Summary of Monitoring and Observations During Navy Activities), long-term consequences for marine mammal populations are unlikely to result from Navy training and testing activities in the Study Area. Please also refer to Chapter 5 (Standard Operating Procedures, Mitigation, and Monitoring) of the EIS/OEIS, detailing the procedures and mitigation measures during its training and testing activities designed to reduce impacts to marine mammals from Navy activities.
J. Harrison-07	P.S. I learned about whales from our reading book with a story in it called "A Symphony of Whales."	Thank you for participating in the NEPA process.
J. Harrison-08	We learned about the sonar program in the northern Pacific Ocean. I love whales and other sea creatures. I don't want these sea creatures to be harmed. Please don't us the sonar program! You might kill the beautiful sea creatures! It won't be good for their hearing! They might not be able to communicate for the rest of their lives! They will be scared or awoken by the sound. Please don't hurt the sea life!	The Navy shares your concern for marine life, but this concern must be balanced with the purpose and need for Navy training and testing as detailed in Chapter 2 (Description of Proposed Action and Alternatives) of the EIS/OEIS. The Navy has conducted active sonar training and testing activities in the Study Area for decades, and there is no evidence that routine Navy training and testing has negatively impacted marine mammal populations in the Study Area or at any Navy Range Complex. Based on the best available science summarized in the EIS/OEIS Section 3.4.4.1 (Summary of Monitoring and Observations During Navy Activities) long-term consequences for marine mammal populations are unlikely to result from Navy training and testing activities in the Study Area. Please also refer to Chapter 5 (Standard Operating Procedures, Mitigation, and Monitoring) of the EIS/OEIS, detailing the procedures and mitigation measures during its training and testing activities designed to reduce impacts to marine

Table I.5-4: Responses to Comments from Private Individuals (continued)

Commenter	Comment	Navy Response
		mammals from Navy activities.
J. Harrison-09	P.S.: I learned about whales from a story in my reading book named, “A Symphony of Whales”.	Thank you for participating in the NEPA process.
J. Harrison-10	We learned about the Sonar program in the Northern Pacific Ocean. I love whales and other sea creatures that live in the ocean. I don’t want these beautiful sea creatures to get hurt. In my opinion I think the Sonar program is a bad idea because all the sea animals we love may get harmed from this program. We want these animals to survive and live a happy life just like us. We all care about these precious animals so we can learn more about them. Animals are really important to life and if you continue to use this program they may die or get extinet. We want these animals and especially the marine life to live.	The Navy shares your concern for marine life, but this concern must be balanced with the purpose and need for Navy training and testing as detailed in Chapter 2 (Description of Proposed Action and Alternatives) of the EIS/OEIS. The Navy has conducted active sonar training and testing activities in the Study Area for decades, and there is no evidence that routine Navy training and testing has negatively impacted marine mammal populations in the Study Area or at any Navy Range Complex. Based on the best available science summarized in the EIS/OEIS Section 3.4.4.1 (Summary of Monitoring and Observations During Navy Activities) long-term consequences for marine mammal populations are unlikely to result from Navy training and testing activities in the Study Area. Please also refer to Chapter 5 (Standard Operating Procedures, Mitigation, and Monitoring) of the EIS/OEIS, detailing the procedures and mitigation measures during its training and testing activities designed to reduce impacts to marine mammals from Navy activities.
J. Harrison-11	P.S. I learned about this from a book called “A Symphony of Whales.” P.P.S. My class also listened to whale songs on a video and it sounded beautiful.	Thank you for participating in the NEPA process.
J. Harrison-12	We learned about the Sonar program in the northern Pacific Ocean. I love whales and other sea creatures not to be harmed. In my opinion, if you imagine the whales not able to communicate with their friends and family it will be a shame to damage their ears. We have to stop this program. I love whales and it will hurt the other sea life because they can hear the sounds and they might be killed. You guys please stop. If you do, thank you.	The Navy shares your concern for marine life, but this concern must be balanced with the purpose and need for Navy training and testing as detailed in Chapter 2 (Description of Proposed Action and Alternatives) of the EIS/OEIS. The Navy has conducted active sonar training and testing activities in the Study Area for decades, and there is no evidence that routine Navy training and testing has negatively impacted marine mammal populations in the Study Area or at any Navy Range Complex. Based on the best available science summarized in the EIS/OEIS Section 3.4.4.1 (Summary of Monitoring and Observations During Navy Activities) long-term consequences for marine mammal populations are unlikely to result from Navy training and testing activities in the Study Area. Please also refer to Chapter 5 (Standard Operating Procedures, Mitigation, and Monitoring) of the EIS/OEIS, detailing the procedures and mitigation measures during its training and testing activities designed to reduce impacts to marine mammals from Navy activities.

Table I.5-4: Responses to Comments from Private Individuals (continued)

Commenter	Comment	Navy Response
J. Harrison-13	P.S. I learned about whales in our reading book and the story is called "A Symphony of Whales."	Thank you for participating in the NEPA process.
J. Harrison-14	We saw the news paper yesterday and We learned about the Sonar program in north Pacific Ocean. We learned it can hurt Sea Creatures. I was shocked to learn that it can kill or harm those creatures that may be in danger. All because of that Sonar program. Mybe you could damage their hearing. Then they could not communicate with their babies expecially the children may get hurt. You might kill those poor, defenseless animals that can't defend themselves. In conclusion, It's not funny to hurt sea creatures.	The Navy shares your concern for marine life, but this concern must be balanced with the purpose and need for Navy training and testing as detailed in Chapter 2 (Description of Proposed Action and Alternatives) of the EIS/OEIS. The Navy has conducted active sonar training and testing activities in the Study Area for decades, and there is no evidence that routine Navy training and testing has negatively impacted marine mammal populations in the Study Area or at any Navy Range Complex. Based on the best available science summarized in the EIS/OEIS Section 3.4.4.1 (Summary of Monitoring and Observations During Navy Activities) long-term consequences for marine mammal populations are unlikely to result from Navy training and testing activities in the Study Area. Please also refer to Chapter 5 (Standard Operating Procedures, Mitigation, and Monitoring) of the EIS/OEIS, detailing the procedures and mitigation measures during its training and testing activities designed to reduce impacts to marine mammals from Navy activities.
J. Harrison-15	We learned about the sonar that damages the marine life. These precious creatures can be extinct and what can we enjoy without marine life? If babies can't hear their parents the babies won't survive. Imagine if you were the marine life and had to listen to the dreaded sonar. Can you Imagine that? The marine life can't hear if they try to communicate with each other. All aquatic animals deserve to live. In conclusion, can you please stop using sonar.	The Navy shares your concern for marine life, but this concern must be balanced with the purpose and need for Navy training and testing as detailed in Chapter 2 (Description of Proposed Action and Alternatives) of the EIS/OEIS. The Navy has conducted active sonar training and testing activities in the Study Area for decades, and there is no evidence that routine Navy training and testing has negatively impacted marine mammal populations in the Study Area or at any Navy Range Complex. Based on the best available science summarized in the EIS/OEIS Section 3.4.4.1 (Summary of Monitoring and Observations During Navy Activities) long-term consequences for marine mammal populations are unlikely to result from Navy training and testing activities in the Study Area. Please also refer to Chapter 5 (Standard Operating Procedures, Mitigation, and Monitoring) of the EIS/OEIS, detailing the procedures and mitigation measures during its training and testing activities designed to reduce impacts to marine mammals from Navy activities.
J. Harrison-16	P.S. I learned about whales from a book called A Symphony of Whales.	Thank you for participating in the NEPA process.
J. Harrison-17	We learned Sonar program in the Pacific Ocean. I love whales and other sea creatures and I don't want them to be harmed. Our teacher taught us that sonar means sound waves. The sonar might damage the sea creatures' hearing. It's just	The Navy shares your concern for marine life, but this concern must be balanced with the purpose and need for Navy training and testing as detailed in Chapter 2 (Description of Proposed Action and Alternatives)

Table I.5-4: Responses to Comments from Private Individuals (continued)

Commenter	Comment	Navy Response
	nonsense that you guys are putting that device under water. Also if you put that device underwater, the babies in the sea wouldn't be able to hear their parents and the babies need their parents to survive. The sea creatures may die. It's just dreadful if they die. Animals are important in life.	of the EIS/OEIS. The Navy has conducted active sonar training and testing activities in the Study Area for decades, and there is no evidence that routine Navy training and testing has negatively impacted marine mammal populations in the Study Area or at any Navy Range Complex. Based on the best available science summarized in the EIS/OEIS Section 3.4.4.1 (Summary of Monitoring and Observations During Navy Activities) long-term consequences for marine mammal populations are unlikely to result from Navy training and testing activities in the Study Area. Please also refer to Chapter 5 (Standard Operating Procedures, Mitigation, and Monitoring) of the EIS/OEIS, detailing the procedures and mitigation measures during its training and testing activities designed to reduce impacts to marine mammals from Navy activities.
J. Harrison-18	P.S. We learned about whales from our Reading street. We learned it from the "Symphony of Whales." P.P.S. We saw Whale songs on YouTube.	Thank you for participating in the NEPA process.
J. Harrison-19	Hello! My class learned about the sonar program in the Northern Pacific Ocean. I know that the sonar program must be a good program to you guys but the sonar wave may hurt sea life like whales and dolphins. Probably the sonar program will damage the whale's ears and if the mommy and daddy whales don't communicate with their babies the babies won't survive and the whales may become excinct. That might be the same with all our precious, important, and spetactuar sea life. Also without their help in the future WE may become EXINCT TOO!!! I just hope you guys will change your idea about the sonar program so you won't hurt sea creatures in my opinion, even though we have legs, arms, and hands, sea life is just important as we are.	The Navy shares your concern for marine life, but this concern must be balanced with the purpose and need for Navy training and testing as detailed in Chapter 2 (Description of Proposed Action and Alternatives) of the EIS/OEIS. The Navy has conducted active sonar training and testing activities in the Study Area for decades, and there is no evidence that routine Navy training and testing has negatively impacted marine mammal populations in the Study Area or at any Navy Range Complex. Based on the best available science summarized in the EIS/OEIS Section 3.4.4.1 (Summary of Monitoring and Observations During Navy Activities) long-term consequences for marine mammal populations are unlikely to result from Navy training and testing activities in the Study Area. Please also refer to Chapter 5 (Standard Operating Procedures, Mitigation, and Monitoring) of the EIS/OEIS, detailing the procedures and mitigation measures during its training and testing activities designed to reduce impacts to marine mammals from Navy activities.
J. Harrison-20	P.S. I'm writing this letter because I care about sea creatures and I love them. P.P.S. Also my class watched on youtube some whale songs. P.P.P.S. Oh! And some weeks ago we read a story called "A Symphony of Whales." That is why I wrote this letter.	Thank you for participating in the NEPA process.
J. Harrison-21	We have finally learned about the sonar program in the Northern Pacific Ocean. I really love sea animals like Sea Otters, Whales, Dolphins, etc. Please don't harm the sea animals anymore. I know you're not doing this for no reason but, I don't	The Navy shares your concern for marine life, but this concern must be balanced with the purpose and need for Navy training and testing as detailed in Chapter 2 (Description of Proposed Action and Alternatives)

Table I.5-4: Responses to Comments from Private Individuals (continued)

Commenter	Comment	Navy Response
	want you to kill these precious creatures. In my opinion, you should stop harming any of these animals. You should also stop using the sonar any close to these important animals. Please don't do this because if you do, the sea animals can't communicate with their children if their child is in danger! If the mother's ear is damaged that would even not help because the mother or child might be in danger once again! If you're looking somewhere you probably can't but I feel sorry for you guys because at the same time, you can save them just in case a sumbdrine is attacking any of these creatures. Stop doing this because I love these loving and precious creatures.	of the EIS/OEIS. The Navy has conducted active sonar training and testing activities in the Study Area for decades, and there is no evidence that routine Navy training and testing has negatively impacted marine mammal populations in the Study Area or at any Navy Range Complex. Based on the best available science summarized in the EIS/OEIS Section 3.4.4.1 (Summary of Monitoring and Observations During Navy Activities) long-term consequences for marine mammal populations are unlikely to result from Navy training and testing activities in the Study Area. Please also refer to Chapter 5 (Standard Operating Procedures, Mitigation, and Monitoring) of the EIS/OEIS, detailing the procedures and mitigation measures during its training and testing activities designed to reduce impacts to marine mammals from Navy activities.
J. Harrison-22	P.S. My class has just read a book about whales called, "A Symphony of Whales" and that's the reason I have wrote this. (P.P.S. I also wrote this because I saw in Youtube about whale songs.) (P.P.P.S. I know this because I read an article in a newspaper) (P.P.P.P.S. My uncle's in the navy too!)	Thank you for participating in the NEPA process.
J. Harrison-23	We learned about the sonar program. I'm afraid that it will kill sea creatures or harm them. If we keep doing this they might be extinct. If it damages their ears they won't be able to communicate. And if that happens it would be harder to survive in the ocean. In my opinion, why do you guys have to practice here when you could do it somewhere else? These animals are important. What if there are more animals that we don't know about and the sonar waves kill them or harm them? Please do your sonar program somewhere else.	The Navy shares your concern for marine life, but this concern must be balanced with the purpose and need for Navy training and testing as detailed in Chapter 2 (Description of Proposed Action and Alternatives) of the EIS/OEIS. The Navy has conducted active sonar training and testing activities in the Study Area for decades, and there is no evidence that routine Navy training and testing has negatively impacted marine mammal populations in the Study Area or at any Navy Range Complex. Based on the best available science summarized in the EIS/OEIS Section 3.4.4.1 (Summary of Monitoring and Observations During Navy Activities) long-term consequences for marine mammal populations are unlikely to result from Navy training and testing activities in the Study Area. Please also refer to Chapter 5 (Standard Operating Procedures, Mitigation, and Monitoring) of the EIS/OEIS, detailing the procedures and mitigation measures during its training and testing activities designed to reduce impacts to marine mammals from Navy activities.
J. Harrison-24	P.S. The reason I wrote this was because I read a book called "Symphony of Whales."	Thank you for participating in the NEPA process.
J. Harrison-25	We learned about the sonar program in the ocean. I love whales and other sea creatures. We don't want anything to harm these animals. Machines will harm whales, ice and even sound waves can do damage. Sound waves could harm baby	The Navy shares your concern for marine life, but this concern must be balanced with the purpose and need for Navy training and testing as detailed in Chapter 2 (Description of Proposed Action and Alternatives)

Table I.5-4: Responses to Comments from Private Individuals (continued)

Commenter	Comment	Navy Response
	whales. Then the baby whales won't survive because they won't hear their mama calling them. Whales are important to the ocean and other sea creatures. They are beautiful animals and we need to protect them. P.S. Please reconsider not putting the sonic machines in the ocean.	of the EIS/OEIS. The Navy has conducted active sonar training and testing activities in the Study Area for decades, and there is no evidence that routine Navy training and testing has negatively impacted marine mammal populations in the Study Area or at any Navy Range Complex. Based on the best available science summarized in the EIS/OEIS Section 3.4.4.1 (Summary of Monitoring and Observations During Navy Activities) long-term consequences for marine mammal populations are unlikely to result from Navy training and testing activities in the Study Area. Please also refer to Chapter 5 (Standard Operating Procedures, Mitigation, and Monitoring) of the EIS/OEIS, detailing the procedures and mitigation measures during its training and testing activities designed to reduce impacts to marine mammals from Navy activities.
J. Harrison-26	We learned about the Sonar program in the northern Pacific Ocean. I love whales and other sea creatures. I don't want these sea creatures to be harmed. Can you please move somewhere else because it could hurt their ears and kill them? In our class when we have a fire drill the fire alarm turns on and it is very loud and most of the people in our class plug their ears so that is what it might feel like to the sea creatures. In my opinion, you should really move far away from the sea creatures. Well that's what I think.	The Navy shares your concern for marine life, but this concern must be balanced with the purpose and need for Navy training and testing as detailed in Chapter 2 (Description of Proposed Action and Alternatives) of the EIS/OEIS. The Navy has conducted active sonar training and testing activities in the Study Area for decades, and there is no evidence that routine Navy training and testing has negatively impacted marine mammal populations in the Study Area or at any Navy Range Complex. Based on the best available science summarized in the EIS/OEIS Section 3.4.4.1 (Summary of Monitoring and Observations During Navy Activities) long-term consequences for marine mammal populations are unlikely to result from Navy training and testing activities in the Study Area. Please also refer to Chapter 5 (Standard Operating Procedures, Mitigation, and Monitoring) of the EIS/OEIS, detailing the procedures and mitigation measures during its training and testing activities designed to reduce impacts to marine mammals from Navy activities.
J. Harrison-27	P.S. Our class learned about whales from our reading book called "A Symphony of Whales." P.P.S. Our class also watched a video about the whales and how they communicate.	Thank you for participating in the NEPA process.
J. Harrison-28	We learned about the sonar program in the northern Pacific Ocean. I love whales and other sea creatures. I really don't want these sea creatures to be harmed. These sea creatures are important. They just might be extinct if you continue doing this. I think you might hurt them or kill them. I think you should stop this right now. All marine animals deserve to live you may even damge their hearing. I really hope these sea creatures survive. If their hearing is damaged they might not be able to communicate with their babies. In my opinion you should move these machines else	The Navy shares your concern for marine life, but this concern must be balanced with the purpose and need for Navy training and testing as detailed in Chapter 2 (Description of Proposed Action and Alternatives) of the EIS/OEIS. The Navy has conducted active sonar training and testing activities in the Study Area for decades, and there is no evidence that routine Navy training and testing has negatively impacted marine mammal populations in the Study Area or at any

Table I.5-4: Responses to Comments from Private Individuals (continued)

Commenter	Comment	Navy Response
	where.	Navy Range Complex. Based on the best available science summarized in the EIS/OEIS Section 3.4.4.1 (Summary of Monitoring and Observations During Navy Activities) long-term consequences for marine mammal populations are unlikely to result from Navy training and testing activities in the Study Area. Please also refer to Chapter 5 (Standard Operating Procedures, Mitigation, and Monitoring) of the EIS/OEIS, detailing the procedures and mitigation measures during its training and testing activities designed to reduce impacts to marine mammals from Navy activities.
J. Harrison-29	P.S. I learned about whales from our reading book with a story in it called “A Symphony of Whales.” P.P.S. My class and I also saw some real whales on youtube with them communicating to each other. It was extraordinary!	Thank you for participating in the NEPA process.
J. Harrison-30	We learned about Sonar program in the Northern pacific ocean. I love whales and outher sea creatures. I don’t want these sea creatures to be harmed. Because if you do the sonar thing the sound may hurt poor sea creatures. In my opinion, I think you boys and girls should stop one One thing that might also happen is they may not communicate with thir babies I can’t imagine if sea creatures were hurt. It would be tragic. In conclusion, when I grow up I want to help these poor sea creatues. This is because we saw the real whales on youtube and heard thir songs. Please write back.	The Navy shares your concern for marine life, but this concern must be balanced with the purpose and need for Navy training and testing as detailed in Chapter 2 (Description of Proposed Action and Alternatives) of the EIS/OEIS. The Navy has conducted active sonar training and testing activities in the Study Area for decades, and there is no evidence that routine Navy training and testing has negatively impacted marine mammal populations in the Study Area or at any Navy Range Complex. Based on the best available science summarized in the EIS/OEIS Section 3.4.4.1 (Summary of Monitoring and Observations During Navy Activities) long-term consequences for marine mammal populations are unlikely to result from Navy training and testing activities in the Study Area. Please also refer to Chapter 5 (Standard Operating Procedures, Mitigation, and Monitoring) of the EIS/OEIS, detailing the procedures and mitigation measures during its training and testing activities designed to reduce impacts to marine mammals from Navy activities.
J. Harrison-31	We learned about the Sonar program in the northern Pacific Ocean. I like whales and other sea creatures. I really really don’t want these marine sea creatures to be harmed from the sonar program. In my opinion, I think you should stop the Sonar program. Please, can you do it somewhere else in the big ocean. If you keep doing the sonar program, the whales can’t communicate to their babies and the babies will most likely die. That’s very, very, sad. That’s why I think you guys should stop the program and move it somewhere else in the big ocean.	The Navy shares your concern for marine life, but this concern must be balanced with the purpose and need for Navy training and testing as detailed in Chapter 2 (Description of Proposed Action and Alternatives) of the EIS/OEIS. The Navy has conducted active sonar training and testing activities in the Study Area for decades, and there is no evidence that routine Navy training and testing has negatively impacted marine mammal populations in the Study Area or at any Navy Range Complex. Based on the best available science summarized in the EIS/OEIS Section 3.4.4.1 (Summary of Monitoring and Observations During Navy Activities) long-term consequences for marine mammal populations are unlikely to result from Navy training

Table I.5-4: Responses to Comments from Private Individuals (continued)

Commenter	Comment	Navy Response
		and testing activities in the Study Area. Please also refer to Chapter 5 (Standard Operating Procedures, Mitigation, and Monitoring) of the EIS/OEIS, detailing the procedures and mitigation measures during its training and testing activities designed to reduce impacts to marine mammals from Navy activities.
J. Harrison-32	P.S. I have a story in our book at class and it is about whales.	Thank you for participating in the NEPA process.
J. Harrison-33	We learned about the sonar program in the northern Pacific Ocean. I love the sea creatures very much and I don't want you to harm the whales because the sonar program can harm them. Maybe they will not be able to communicate with their babies. I don't these sea creatures to be harmed. In my opinion I think that you should move somewhere else instead of the Pacific Ocean. In conclusion, I do not want the sea creatures to be harmed.	The Navy shares your concern for marine life, but this concern must be balanced with the purpose and need for Navy training and testing as detailed in Chapter 2 (Description of Proposed Action and Alternatives) of the EIS/OEIS. The Navy has conducted active sonar training and testing activities in the Study Area for decades, and there is no evidence that routine Navy training and testing has negatively impacted marine mammal populations in the Study Area or at any Navy Range Complex. Based on the best available science summarized in the EIS/OEIS Section 3.4.4.1 (Summary of Monitoring and Observations During Navy Activities) long-term consequences for marine mammal populations are unlikely to result from Navy training and testing activities in the Study Area. Please also refer to Chapter 5 (Standard Operating Procedures, Mitigation, and Monitoring) of the EIS/OEIS, detailing the procedures and mitigation measures during its training and testing activities designed to reduce impacts to marine mammals from Navy activities.
J. Harrison-34	My third grade class has learned about the Sonar Program in the Northern Pacific Ocean. I care about these sea creatures and marine animals, and I now know Sonar are sound waves that can hurt or even kill these precious animals and I think putting a harmful machine is bad! But that's only my opinion, other people might think about protesting! So if you can please move to a different part of the HUGE ocean, where the sonar can't hurt any living thing then maybe these precious sea creatures can survive. And remember the ocean belongs to everyone.	The Navy shares your concern for marine life, but this concern must be balanced with the purpose and need for Navy training and testing as detailed in Chapter 2 (Description of Proposed Action and Alternatives) of the EIS/OEIS. The Navy has conducted active sonar training and testing activities in the Study Area for decades, and there is no evidence that routine Navy training and testing has negatively impacted marine mammal populations in the Study Area or at any Navy Range Complex. Based on the best available science summarized in the EIS/OEIS Section 3.4.4.1 (Summary of Monitoring and Observations During Navy Activities) long-term consequences for marine mammal populations are unlikely to result from Navy training and testing activities in the Study Area. Please also refer to Chapter 5 (Standard Operating Procedures, Mitigation, and Monitoring) of the EIS/OEIS, detailing the procedures and mitigation measures during its training and testing activities designed to reduce impacts to marine mammals from Navy activities.

Table I.5-4: Responses to Comments from Private Individuals (continued)

Commenter	Comment	Navy Response
J. Harrison-35	We learned about the sonar program in the Pacific Ocean. I love sea creatures. I don't want them harmed. Why would you guys harm sea creatures? Please stop harming these animals. Animals love us too. You guys should stop this nonsense. You guys are killing all of these precious sea creatures. STOP KILLING SEA Creatures! You guys are mean to ocean animals. Just please stop! I really love ocean animals. Why are you guys doing this? Just tell me why?! Do you guys know what your doing to sea creatures? You guys really don't care for sea creatures! I was shocked when my teacher showed us the newspaper article. I felt sad.	The Navy shares your concern for marine life, but this concern must be balanced with the purpose and need for Navy training and testing as detailed in Chapter 2 (Description of Proposed Action and Alternatives) of the EIS/OEIS. The Navy has conducted active sonar training and testing activities in the Study Area for decades, and there is no evidence that routine Navy training and testing has negatively impacted marine mammal populations in the Study Area or at any Navy Range Complex. Based on the best available science summarized in the EIS/OEIS Section 3.4.4.1 (Summary of Monitoring and Observations During Navy Activities) long-term consequences for marine mammal populations are unlikely to result from Navy training and testing activities in the Study Area. Please also refer to Chapter 5 (Standard Operating Procedures, Mitigation, and Monitoring) of the EIS/OEIS, detailing the procedures and mitigation measures during its training and testing activities designed to reduce impacts to marine mammals from Navy activities.
J. Harrison-36	P.S. I heard whale sounds on my teacher's computer. I conclusion, it's not funny to hurt sea creatures	Thank you for participating in the NEPA process.
J. Harrison-37	I learned about the sonar program. I love these whales and other creatures in the sea because they are important and the human race is important. If you don't stop, the whales might die because they can't stand the sound. If you keep using it, maybe the sea animals will leave. How will kids go fishing with their parents? Maybe you should stop doing it there and travel in "Anartic Ocean" because the whales need peace and love so they can hear each other and communicate. If you move far, far away, the sea creatures would be back to peace. I also don't want them hurt.	The Navy shares your concern for marine life, but this concern must be balanced with the purpose and need for Navy training and testing as detailed in Chapter 2 (Description of Proposed Action and Alternatives) of the EIS/OEIS. The Navy has conducted active sonar training and testing activities in the Study Area for decades, and there is no evidence that routine Navy training and testing has negatively impacted marine mammal populations in the Study Area or at any Navy Range Complex. Based on the best available science summarized in the EIS/OEIS Section 3.4.4.1 (Summary of Monitoring and Observations During Navy Activities) long-term consequences for marine mammal populations are unlikely to result from Navy training and testing activities in the Study Area. Please also refer to Chapter 5 (Standard Operating Procedures, Mitigation, and Monitoring) of the EIS/OEIS, detailing the procedures and mitigation measures during its training and testing activities designed to reduce impacts to marine mammals from Navy activities.
J. Harrison-38	P.S. We learned a lot about whales in our reader and it was called "The Symphony of Whales!" P.P.S. Our class also watched whales' sounds on Youtube!	Thank you for participating in the NEPA process.
W. Haskell	I'm in favor of the Navy making the radiation signai testing at the new location. The radiation from 3 kHz to 300 GHz is not harmful at signal flux conditions. I think the	Thank you for participating in the NEPA process.

Table I.5-4: Responses to Comments from Private Individuals (continued)

Commenter	Comment	Navy Response
	Navy should not compromise the ability to detect any threat because of a few objections from citizens. Besides, I'll bet many of the objectors likely use cell phone which when transmitting are located within one inch of their brains, if they have one. The conversion of 300 GHZ to temperature units is 14.4 Kelvin scale. While norrnal human body temperature is 300 K. This means the energy radiation of those frequencies is not harmful, unless it is focused to a single point, which for long distance communication.	
Hastings (Electronic)	I will be personally affected by the Navy's plan to practice war on the Olympic Peninsula, because my house is in the flight path and I will be breathing the chemicals in the airplane exhaust. My environment: the Olympic Forest, the salt water to my west, and all the living things here. The effects and alternatives have not been studied sufficiently. Perhaps it was thought that the low population density here would not notice, especially when the meetings were not publicized here, or care. But we did and we DO!	Thank you for participating in the NEPA process. However this comment is outside the scope of the Supplement to the Draft EIS/OEIS. Please see Chapters 1 and 2 of the Draft or Final EIS/OEIS for a clear definition of the scope of this project. More detailed analysis is found at the NWTT project website: www.nwtteis.com. Analysis of airfield activities and relocation of aircraft and personnel is addressed in other environmental planning documents, such as the EIS for EA-18G Growler Airfield Operations at NAS Whidbey Island and OLF Coupeville found at www.whibeyeis.com.
Haugen-01 (Written)	I have not communicated with you before, but I recently become aware of a threat to our Olympic National Park and Forest as well as our shellfish industry. I wish to take this opportunity to comment on the Supplement (December 2014) to the Navy's Draft Environmental Impact Statement/ Overseas Environmental Impact Statement (DEIS), dated January 2014, for its continued training and testing activities in the Pacific Northwest (NWTT). Please include these comments in the administrative record. Effect on wildlife The proposed increases in this Supplement of marine exercises and additional use of sonar and explosives will only increase the damage done to marine mammals, sea turtles, fish and birds. Of particular concern to me is the Supplement and the EIS's lack of protections for the Southern Resident Killer Whale's dwindling population. These animals need a protected home in accord with their endangered status. In public sessions and in a radio interview the Navy's public relations personnel have been heard to say that the (MSO) and TRACKEX marine exercises save gas and allow personnel to be closer to their homes for these maneuvers. These considerations should not allow one single injury to this endangered Killer Whale population.	The Navy shares your concern for marine life, but this concern must be balanced with the purpose and need for Navy training and testing as detailed in Chapter 2 (Description of Proposed Action and Alternatives) of the EIS/OEIS. The Navy has conducted active sonar training and testing activities in the Study Area for decades, and there is no evidence that routine Navy training and testing has negatively impacted individual sea turtles or sea turtle populations, or marine mammal populations in the Study Area or at any Navy Range Complex. Based on the best available science summarized in the EIS/OEIS Section 3.4.4.1 (Summary of Monitoring and Observations During Navy Activities), long-term consequences for marine mammal populations are unlikely to result from Navy training and testing activities in the Study Area. Note that for sea turtles, as described in the EIS/OEIS Section 3.5.3.7.1 (Combined Impacts of All Stressors), "impacts are not expected to decrease the overall fitness or result in long-term population level impacts on any given population." Please also refer to Chapter 5 (Standard Operating Procedures, Mitigation, and Monitoring) of the EIS/OEIS, detailing the procedures and mitigation measures during its training and testing activities designed to reduce impacts to marine mammals and sea turtles from Navy activities. No injuries to killer whales are anticipated from the Navy's proposed

Table I.5-4: Responses to Comments from Private Individuals (continued)

Commenter	Comment	Navy Response
		MSO or TRACKEX activities. In accordance with ESA requirements, the Navy will complete consultation under Section 7 of the ESA with NMFS and USFWS and adhere to the Letter of Authorization and Biological Opinion issued by those agencies.
Haugen-02	Though this supplement admits increased sonar and explosive testing (TRACKEX) and finally addresses the MSO maneuvers there is no additional mitigation mentioned. Nowhere is it outlined whether visual patrols will increase as a result of this new activity, nor does the Supplement address real concerns over whether or not visual patrol is adequate at times of night or rough seas. No acoustic monitoring or avoidance strategies are included. This is a serious omission to a document that intended to address the inadequate science and mitigation plans of the original draft and is unacceptable.	As described in Chapter 5 (Standard Operating Procedures, Mitigation, and Monitoring) of the EIS/OEIS, the Navy will implement mitigation measures during the use of sonobuoys. The mitigation measures are implemented for each activity and therefore the mitigation scales up as the activity level scales up. Also in Chapter 5 (Standard Operating Procedures, Mitigation, and Monitoring) of the EIS/OEIS, the Navy evaluated the effectiveness and practicability of a number of potential mitigation measures. Through consultation and permitting with NMFS and USFWS, the Navy refined the mitigation measures, which are now presented in Chapter 5 (Standard Operating Procedures, Mitigation, and Monitoring) of this Final EIS/OEIS. Section 5.3.1.2.5 (Effectiveness Assessment for Lookouts) acknowledges that, due to the various detection probabilities, levels of Lookout experience, and variability of sighting conditions, Lookouts will not always be effective at avoiding impacts on all species. However, Lookouts are expected to increase the overall likelihood that certain marine mammal species and some sea turtles will be detected at the surface of the water, when compared to the likelihood that these same species would be detected if Lookouts are not used. The continued use of Lookouts contributes to helping reduce potential impacts on these species from training and testing activities. While the range of the sonar's detection would travel beyond the distance that Lookouts can detect animals, the range at which sonar is predicted to be able to cause injury to a marine mammal is very short, within 10 meters of the sonar. At such short distances, it is likely any marine mammal would have been detected. The MSO activities do not include the use of sonar or live gun firing.
Haugen-03	Lack of Science There is little consideration of exclusion zones, geographic alternatives to the southern Puget Sound and seasonal restrictions of exercises. All of the Alternatives propose year-round, unrestricted use without regard to seasonal variations in marine mammal and fish abundance. This is true despite the well-documented	As part of the Navy's effects analysis, the Navy considers all the science that identifies locations where certain cetacean populations or individuals are known to engage in feeding, breeding, or other biologically important activities at certain times of year. Recently, NMFS has taken steps to begin formally identifying some of these

Table I.5-4: Responses to Comments from Private Individuals (continued)

Commenter	Comment	Navy Response
	seasonal migrations of numerous endangered species and the identification of biologically important areas. The Navy should put critical marine habitats off-limits to sonar and explosives testing and schedule training to avoid times of the year when sensitive species are present in places like the Olympic Coast National Marine Sanctuary. In addition to the threat of the noise to our sensitive marine mammals, the carbon dioxide pollution caused by these jets adds to the acidity of the water where shellfish are growing. The little baby oysters and clams cannot get enough calcium to build their shells, and a large percentage are dying. Taylor Shellfish has to control the acidity in their tanks where the young shellfish are developing, but those in the open ocean are dying and this will affect an important industry in Washington State!	areas and naming them Biologically Important Areas (BIAs). The Navy has considered these areas as part of its analysis in this Final EIS/OEIS when discussing particular species in Chapter 3 (Affected Environment and Environmental Consequences) as well as in considering whether limitations on Navy activities in these areas are warranted as mitigation in discussion in Chapter 5 (see Section 5.3.4.1.11, Avoiding Marine Species Habitats and Biologically Important Areas). The Navy thoroughly considered the humpback and gray whale feeding areas identified recently in its analysis and whether avoidance as mitigation was appropriate. Given the impact avoidance would have on military readiness activities and lack of biological benefit, avoidance is not warranted. Please see Section 5.3.4.1.11 (Avoiding Marine Species Habitats and Biologically Important Areas). However, Navy is proposing to provide reporting of generally low use of sonar in some of these areas to NMFS as part of classified annual reports to help inform future adaptive management related to impacts in these areas. At time of release of this Final EIS/OEIS, NMFS and Navy are in ongoing discussion regarding mitigation for MMPA purposes. Should additional mitigation to that which Navy has proposed be identified in the MMPA rule making and authorization, it will be indicated in the ROD. It is important to note that the BIAs were not meant to define exclusionary zones, nor critical habitat with regulatory management, nor were they meant to be locations that serve as sanctuaries from human activity, or areas analogous to marine protected areas. The NMFS-identified BIAs do not have direct or immediate regulatory consequences and the BIAs located within the NWTT Study Area are not the only areas used for feeding, migrating, or reproductive activity for these cetaceans in a species' entire range and habitat. The stated intention is for the BIAs to serve as a resource management tool and their currently identified boundaries be considered dynamic and subject to change based on any new information as well as, "existing density estimates, range-wide distribution data, information on population trends and life history parameters, known threats to the population, and other relevant information." There is a lack of science supporting identification of any additional BIAs at this time for the Pacific. The Navy and NMFS have supported and will continue to support the Cetacean and Sound Mapping project, including providing representation on the Cetacean Density and Distribution Mapping Working Group (CetMap), which informed NMFS' identification of BIAs. The same marine mammal density data present

Table I.5-4: Responses to Comments from Private Individuals (continued)

Commenter	Comment	Navy Response
		in the Navy's Density Database Technical Report, and used in the analysis for this EIS/OEIS, was used in the development of BIAs. The final products, including U.S. West Coast BIAs from this mapping effort, were completed and published in March 2015. As described in Chapter 5 (Standard Operating Procedures, Mitigation, and Monitoring) of the Final EIS/OEIS, the Navy evaluated the effectiveness and practicability of a number of potential mitigation measures including the avoidance of specific areas. The Navy has undertaken consultation with NMFS for the proposed and ongoing activities in the NWTT Study Area and the Navy refined the mitigation measures, which are now presented in Chapter 5 (Standard Operating Procedures, Mitigation, and Monitoring) of this Final EIS/OEIS. Through careful exploration of all mitigation measures to determine which were the most effective, the Navy chose the measures to mitigate potential impacts to marine mammals while still being able to meet its operational needs to train for real-world conditions. The Navy's specific mitigation measures are outlined in the following sections: Section 5.3.1 (Lookout Procedural Measures), Section 5.3.2 (Mitigation Zone Procedural Measures), and Section 5.3.3 (Mitigation Areas). Specifically, Section 5.3.4 (Mitigation Measures Considered but Eliminated) presents Navy consideration of similar area restrictions. At time of release of this Final EIS/OEIS, NMFS and Navy are in ongoing discussion regarding mitigation for MMPA purposes. Should additional mitigation to that which Navy has proposed be identified in the MMPA rule making and authorization it will be indicated in the ROD. The U.S. Navy has conducted active sonar training and testing activities for decades in the seaspace depicted in the Study Area with no evidence to indicate any meaningful impacts to marine habitats in the area. The Navy and NMFS jointly are still in ongoing consultation with the OCNMS regarding the effects of the Proposed Action on Sanctuary resources. The Navy concludes its continued activities are not likely to result in the loss, destruction, or adverse changes to the viability of Sanctuary resources. Several points support this determination: • Less than two percent of proposed training and 15 percent of proposed testing activities would occur within or immediately adjacent to the OCNMS. • The NWTT Final EIS/OEIS shows that training and testing activities have minimal temporary impacts on the quantity or quality of the Study

Table I.5-4: Responses to Comments from Private Individuals (continued)

Commenter	Comment	Navy Response
		Area's physical environment, and minor to no impacts on marine or shore birds, fish, sea turtles, or invertebrate marine life. • Although explosives have the potential to affect the physical and biological resources, the Navy does not use explosives within the OCNMS. • The Navy concludes any marine mammal behavioral reactions to NWTT training and testing activities would be transitory, infrequent, non-cumulative, and impacts are not expected to decrease overall individual fitness or result in long-term population-level impacts on any given population, and consequently will not result in any adverse changes to the sanctuary. Finally, all Department of Defense (DoD) military activities shall be carried out in a manner that avoids to the maximum extent practicable any adverse impacts on Sanctuary resources and qualities.
Haugen-04	Climate Change and Cumulative Impacts The Supplement document responds to calls to address these two big issues but it is very unclear that anything more than lip service was expended by deeming Navy activities to be of little significance.	In response to several comments, the Navy has enhanced its analysis of climate change and cumulative impacts in this Final EIS/OEIS.
Haugen-05	Public Process What most concerns me is this. There has been an overwhelming number of proposals since late in 2013 rolled out to the public in a piecemeal fashion. Five calls for comments on clearly-linked documents have been spread out in their introduction to the public aver the last year and a half. Ground-based, (Electronic warfare range), airbased (Two growler scoping documents) and sea-based naval activities (these two NWTT documents) have been dropped onto the region as if they were not linked. The separate comment periods and the separate documents minimize the larger picture of impacts on the area. In my opinion this is misleading. Is it even legal in regards to Federal Law, specifically NEPA? Please redo this chopped-up public process with a comprehensive Environmental Impact Statement that includes all of the activities in the region. These huge changes that affect wildlife, real estate values, allow precedent-setting incursions into the peace of our national parks, national forest, wilderness, state parks and state lands, should be discussed as a whole, not split into so many fractured pieces that the residents of this region cannot know what they are actually facing.	The Navy prepares Environmental Impact Statements (EIS) and Environmental Assessments (EA) in order to comply with the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA). These NEPA documents are intended to ensure decision makers consider the potential environmental effects of a proposed action and its alternatives, provide an opportunity for public involvement, and promote transparency by informing the public of these potential environmental effects. Each NEPA document addresses a specific proposed action, separated from other actions by its purpose and need, independent utility, timing, and geographic location. Some NEPA documents are stand-alone documents; others tier off or expand the analyses of other NEPA documents. NEPA documents for training and testing, including this EIS/OEIS, focus on training and testing activities occurring within a range complex or military operation area and involve different types of aircraft, ships, and range complex enhancements. NEPA documents for aircraft homebasing actions focus on aircraft operations in and around the airfield and their facility needs. NEPA documents for installations focus on infrastructure enhancements for host and tenant command missions. Importantly, every environmental document considers the cumulative impacts to the environment from other

Table I.5-4: Responses to Comments from Private Individuals (continued)

Commenter	Comment	Navy Response
		relevant past, present, and reasonably foreseeable future actions (federal, state, local, and private) in addition to the proposed action.
Melissa Hayden (Electronic)	Our shores and wildlife are too precious to experiment in this way. Please do not move forward with this proposed action, and endanger marine life and sanctuaries.	The Navy shares your concern for marine life, but this concern must be balanced with the purpose and need for Navy training and testing as detailed in Chapter 2 (Description of Proposed Action and Alternatives) of the EIS/OEIS. The Navy has conducted active sonar training and testing activities in the Study Area for decades, and there is no evidence that routine Navy training and testing has negatively impacted marine mammal populations in the Study Area or at any Navy Range Complex. Based on the best available science summarized in the EIS/OEIS Section 3.4.4.1 (Summary of Monitoring and Observations During Navy Activities) long-term consequences for marine mammal populations are unlikely to result from Navy training and testing activities in the Study Area. Please also refer to Chapter 5 (Standard Operating Procedures, Mitigation, and Monitoring) of the EIS/OEIS, detailing the procedures and mitigation measures during its training and testing activities designed to reduce impacts to marine mammals from Navy activities.
Mary Hayden (Electronic)	Navy sonar disrupts survival behaviors such as migration, surfacing, navigating, hearing, nursing, breeding and feeding. It can result in debilitating and fatal injuries for marine mammals. Sonar can confuse whales and cause them to swim to depths their bodies cannot handle. Whales suspected to have beached themselves because of sonar activity show signs of physical trauma like bleeding around the brain, ears, and other tissues, as well as large bubbles in their organs: symptoms analogous to “the bends” in humans. If Humpback and sperm whales, and leatherback turtles are harmed, the testing activities will result in violations of the Endangered Species Act.	The Navy shares your concern for marine life, but this concern must be balanced with the purpose and need for Navy training and testing as detailed in Chapter 2 (Description of Proposed Action and Alternatives) of the EIS/OEIS. The Navy has conducted active sonar training and testing activities in the Study Area for decades, and there is no evidence that routine Navy training and testing has negatively impacted individual sea turtles or sea turtle populations, or marine mammal populations in the Study Area or at any Navy Range Complex. Based on the best available science summarized in the EIS/OEIS Section 3.4.4.1 (Summary of Monitoring and Observations During Navy Activities), long-term consequences for marine mammal populations are unlikely to result from Navy training and testing activities in the Study Area. Note that for sea turtles, as described in the EIS/OEIS Section 3.5.3.7.1 (Combined Impacts of All Stressors), “impacts are not expected to decrease the overall fitness or result in long-term population level impacts on any given population.” Please also refer to Chapter 5 (Standard Operating Procedures, Mitigation, and Monitoring) of the EIS/OEIS, detailing the procedures and mitigation measures during its training and testing activities designed to reduce impacts to marine mammals and sea turtles from Navy activities.

Table I.5-4: Responses to Comments from Private Individuals (continued)

Commenter	Comment	Navy Response
		Regarding previous strandings, see Section 3.4.3.1.8 (Stranding) and the referenced technical report "Marine Mammal Strandings Associated with U.S. Navy Sonar Activities" (U.S. Department of the Navy 2013c).
Hayes (Electronic)	Do not approve Navy sonar testing.	Thank you for participating in the NEPA process.
Heck (Electronic)	Whales rely on hearing for many of their basic functions, from navigating to communication. Much in the same way shining a bright light in our eyes can leave us disoriented, human-caused sonar activity can drastically affect whale behavior, leading them to beach themselves or dive to depths their bodies cannot handle, causing debilitating and even fatal injuries. This is why it is disconcerting that, at the last minute, the Navy has expanded its proposal for training off of the Pacific Coast, suggesting 36 TIMES1 more sonar-emitting bouys as had been previously planned. This unexpected revision will drastically increase the impact on whales and other ocean wildlife. DO NOT FOLLOW THROUGH WITH THIS OUTRAGEOUS PLAN. Thank you for listening to my concerns.	The Navy is not proposing to increase the annual number of sonobuoys by a factor of 36. The Navy's original proposal in the Draft EIS/OEIS includes the annual deployment of approximately 9,200 sonobuoys of various types. The increase of 700 sonobuoys described in the Supplement is an increase of less than 8 percent. The Navy shares your concern for marine life, but this concern must be balanced with the purpose and need for Navy training and testing as detailed in Chapter 2 (Description of Proposed Action and Alternatives) of the EIS/OEIS. The Navy has conducted active sonar training and testing activities in the Study Area for decades, and there is no evidence that routine Navy training and testing has negatively impacted marine mammal populations in the Study Area or at any Navy Range Complex. Based on the best available science summarized in the EIS/OEIS Section 3.4.4.1 (Summary of Monitoring and Observations During Navy Activities) long-term consequences for marine mammal populations are unlikely to result from Navy training and testing activities in the Study Area. Please also refer to Chapter 5 (Standard Operating Procedures, Mitigation, and Monitoring) of the EIS/OEIS, detailing the procedures and mitigation measures during its training and testing activities designed to reduce impacts to marine mammals from Navy activities.
Henderson (Electronic)	I support the "no action alternative" because the harm the sound will do to marine wildlife, especially turtles and whales. Protection of these species is critical to sustaining life in the oceans. Thank you for taking comments on this matter.	The Navy shares your concern for marine life, but this concern must be balanced with the purpose and need for Navy training and testing as detailed in Chapter 2 (Description of Proposed Action and Alternatives) of the EIS/OEIS. The Navy has conducted active sonar training and testing activities in the Study Area for decades, and there is no evidence that routine Navy training and testing has negatively impacted individual sea turtles or sea turtle populations, or marine mammal populations in the Study Area or at any Navy Range Complex. Based on the best available science summarized in the EIS/OEIS Section 3.4.4.1 (Summary of Monitoring and Observations

Table I.5-4: Responses to Comments from Private Individuals (continued)

Commenter	Comment	Navy Response
		During Navy Activities), long-term consequences for marine mammal populations are unlikely to result from Navy training and testing activities in the Study Area. Note that for sea turtles, as described in the EIS/OEIS Section 3.5.3.7.1 (Combined Impacts of All Stressors), "impacts are not expected to decrease the overall fitness or result in long-term population level impacts on any given population." Please also refer to Chapter 5 (Standard Operating Procedures, Mitigation, and Monitoring) of the EIS/OEIS, detailing the procedures and mitigation measures during its training and testing activities designed to reduce impacts to marine mammals and sea turtles from Navy activities.
Hendrickson (Electronic)	This is my second comment on the Navy's Proposed Actions within the Olympic Peninsula. The following comments pertain to the Supplement (December 2014) to the Navy's Draft Environmental Impact Statement/ Overseas Environmental Impact Statement (DEIS), dated January 2014, for its continued training and testing activities. The Supplement EIS does not adequately address the environmental impacts of the proposed Electronic Warfare Range on wildlife within the Study Area. The increased use of sonar and explosives as outlined in the Supplement will adversely affect the breeding, feeding, and navigation of whales, sea turtles, birds, and fish. Tracking exercises and other "security operations" will also have an increased negative impact on the marine environment. Endangered species within the proposed exercise areas need to be protected in accordance with the Federal Law. Southern Killer Whale populations are already dwindling in part due to sonar, lack of food, and loss of pristine habitat. If they are to survive, it is critical that we do our best to leave them in peace. For years, The Strait of Juan De Fuca has been under assault from over fishing, ocean acidification, and habitat degradation. Increased Navy presence and activities will only exacerbate these precious waters which all life depends on. Tracking exercises and other "security operations" will also have an increased negative impact on the marine environment. Proclamations of non-significance for impacts to wildlife are not supported in the Supplemental EIS and are quite frankly, untrue. Until all impacts on wildlife are fully studied and addressed, Navy activities that are now occurring should come to an end. Thank you for the opportunity to comment.	Thank you for participating in the NEPA process. However part of this comment is outside the scope of the Supplement to the Draft EIS/OEIS. Please see Chapters 1 and 2 of the EIS/OEIS for a clear definition of the scope of this project. There are no activities involving the use of electronic radiation proposed in the Supplement to the Draft EIS/OEIS. For more information on the EA for Electronic Warfare Range, please visit the project website at www.cnic.navy.mil/regions/cnrnw/installations/nas_whidbey_island/om/environmental_support.html The Navy shares your concern for marine life, but this concern must be balanced with the purpose and need for Navy training and testing as detailed in Chapter 2 (Description of Proposed Action and Alternatives) of the EIS/OEIS. The Navy has conducted active sonar training and testing activities in the Study Area for decades, and there is no evidence that routine Navy training and testing has negatively impacted individual sea turtles or sea turtle populations, or marine mammal populations in the Study Area or at any Navy Range Complex. Based on the best available science summarized in the EIS/OEIS Section 3.4.4.1 (Summary of Monitoring and Observations During Navy Activities), long-term consequences for marine mammal populations are unlikely to result from Navy training and testing activities in the Study Area. Note that for sea turtles, as described in the EIS/OEIS Section 3.5.3.7.1 (Combined Impacts of All Stressors), "impacts are not expected to decrease the overall fitness or result in long-term population level impacts on any given population." Please also refer to Chapter 5 (Standard Operating Procedures, Mitigation, and Monitoring) of the EIS/OEIS, detailing the procedures

Table I.5-4: Responses to Comments from Private Individuals (continued)

Commenter	Comment	Navy Response
		and mitigation measures during its training and testing activities designed to reduce impacts to marine mammals and sea turtles from Navy activities. The Navy used the best available science and a comprehensive review of past, present, and reasonably foreseeable actions to develop a robust Cumulative Impacts analysis. The Navy has returned to the analysis in Chapter 4 (Cumulative Impacts) due to concerns raised in public comments, and the Chapter has been revised in response to those public comments. The literature on ocean acidification has been reviewed, and is now discussed in Section 4.4.4 (Climate Change), of Chapter 4 (Cumulative Impacts) of the EIS/OEIS.
Henner (Electronic)	Whales rely on hearing for many of their basic functions, from navigating to communication. Much in the same way shining a bright light in our eyes can leave us disoriented, human-caused sonar activity can drastically affect whale behavior, leading them to beach themselves or dive to depths their bodies cannot handle, causing debilitating and even fatal injuries. Sonar can result in debilitating and even fatal injuries for marine mammals. Scientists believe sonar activity can change whale diving behavior, confusing them to swim to depths their bodies cannot handle. Whales suspected to have beached themselves because of sonar activity show signs of physical trauma like bleeding around the brain, ears and other tissues and large bubbles in their organs – symptoms analogous to “the bends” in humans. Please limit sonar activity. Stop hurting our marine wildlife.	The Navy shares your concern for marine life, but this concern must be balanced with the purpose and need for Navy training and testing as detailed in Chapter 2 (Description of Proposed Action and Alternatives) of the EIS/OEIS. The Navy has conducted active sonar training and testing activities in the Study Area for decades, and there is no evidence that routine Navy training and testing has negatively impacted marine mammal populations in the Study Area or at any Navy Range Complex. Based on the best available science summarized in the EIS/OEIS Section 3.4.4.1 (Summary of Monitoring and Observations During Navy Activities) long-term consequences for marine mammal populations are unlikely to result from Navy training and testing activities in the Study Area. Please also refer to Chapter 5 (Standard Operating Procedures, Mitigation, and Monitoring) of the EIS/OEIS, detailing the procedures and mitigation measures during its training and testing activities designed to reduce impacts to marine mammals from Navy activities. Regarding previous strandings, see Section 3.4.3.1.8 (Stranding) and the referenced technical report “Marine Mammal Strandings Associated with U.S. Navy Sonar Activities” (U.S. Department of the Navy 2013c).
Henry (Electronic)	Please do not deploy more sonar-emitting buoys. There is too great a risk to the already threatened Orca whales. The sonar emitted could disrupt the way orcas communicate with each other, not to mention harm them physically. Please research both sides of this issue and consider some sympathy for the second-most intelligent mammals on earth. Source: http://earthjustice.org/features/video-orca-and-navy-sonar	The Navy shares your concern for marine life, but this concern must be balanced with the purpose and need for Navy training and testing as detailed in Chapter 2 (Description of Proposed Action and Alternatives) of the EIS/OEIS. The Navy has conducted active sonar training and testing activities in the Study Area for decades, and there is no evidence that routine Navy training and testing has negatively impacted marine mammal populations in the Study Area or at any Navy Range Complex. Based on the best available science

Table I.5-4: Responses to Comments from Private Individuals (continued)

Commenter	Comment	Navy Response
		summarized in the EIS/OEIS Section 3.4.4.1 (Summary of Monitoring and Observations During Navy Activities) long-term consequences for marine mammal populations are unlikely to result from Navy training and testing activities in the Study Area. Please also refer to Chapter 5 (Standard Operating Procedures, Mitigation, and Monitoring) of the EIS/OEIS, detailing the procedures and mitigation measures during its training and testing activities designed to reduce impacts to marine mammals from Navy activities.
Henshall (Electronic)	We are appalled that the Navy's plan to conduct electromagnetic warfare training exercises using squadrons of Growler jets which may fly as low as 1200 ft over the Olympic National Park is being seriously considered. Of course, everyone should be in favor of having a well-trained military but In this case, though, this proposal appears to be in violation of the whole concept of National Parks and should not even be on the list of possible sites. If this permit were to be granted then it would set a precedent for the use of all our National Parks for military training exercises which would totally destroy the pristine environment of these areas and greatly reduce their attractiveness as tourist destinations, with consequent economic impact. Our National Parks are also a National and International treasure. Surely there are alternatives to using them for military training areas.	Thank you for participating in the NEPA process. Please see Chapters 1 and 2 of the EIS/OEIS for a clear definition of the scope of this project. For more information on the EA for Electronic Warfare Range, please visit the project website at www.cnic.navy.mil/regions/cnrnw/installations/nas_whidbey_island/om/environmental_support.html There are no weapons testing activities proposed in the Olympic National Forest in the Supplement to the Draft EIS/OEIS. It is also important to note that the proposed activities would not change how or where the Navy has been flying for decades. As described in Section 3.10 (Cultural Resources), Section 3.12 (Socioeconomics), and Section 3.13 (Public Health and Safety) of the Draft EIS/OEIS, the Navy's proposed activities are not expected to impact cultural resources, socioeconomic resources, or public health and safety.
Herbert (Electronic)	Please heed the marine mammal experts regarding the danger that ships or subs pose to the health of the endangered Orca populations in Puget Sound in Washington state, or anywhere for that matter. Thank you.	The Navy shares your concern for marine life, but this concern must be balanced with the purpose and need for Navy training and testing as detailed in Chapter 2 (Description of Proposed Action and Alternatives) of the EIS/OEIS. The Navy has conducted active sonar training and testing activities in the Study Area for decades, and there is no evidence that routine Navy training and testing has negatively impacted marine mammal populations in the Study Area or at any Navy Range Complex. Based on the best available science summarized in the EIS/OEIS Section 3.4.4.1 (Summary of Monitoring and Observations During Navy Activities) long-term consequences for marine mammal populations are unlikely to result from Navy training and testing activities in the Study Area. Please also refer to Chapter 5 (Standard Operating Procedures, Mitigation, and Monitoring) of the EIS/OEIS, detailing the procedures and mitigation measures during its training and testing activities designed to reduce impacts to marine mammals from Navy activities.

Table I.5-4: Responses to Comments from Private Individuals (continued)

Commenter	Comment	Navy Response
Herrington (Electronic)	The Navy's current environmental analysis fails to provide basic information necessary to adequately evaluate the impacts of the proposed activities. This analysis also fails to provide adequate measures to mitigate the harmful effects of the proposed activities on marine mammals and other wildlife. Based on the information apparent in the environmental analysis, the Navy's "No Action Alternative" is the proposal with the most limited impact on wildlife. A drastic increase in sonar activity will negatively impact wildlife. Marine mammals are extremely sensitive to noise, and sonar disrupts basic behaviors necessary for survival such as migration, surfacing, navigating, hearing, nursing, breeding and feeding. Sonar can result in debilitating and even fatal injuries for marine mammals. Scientists believe sonar activity can change whale diving behavior, confusing them to swim to depths their bodies cannot handle. Whales suspected to have beached themselves because of sonar activity show signs of physical trauma like bleeding around the brain, ears and other tissues and large bubbles in their organs – symptoms analogous to "the bends" in humans. To the extent that threatened or endangered species -- including humpback and sperm whales, and leatherback turtles -- are negatively impacted, the proposed activities may result in violations of the Endangered Species Act.	The Navy shares your concern for marine life, but this concern must be balanced with the purpose and need for Navy training and testing as detailed in Chapter 2 (Description of Proposed Action and Alternatives) of the EIS/OEIS. The Navy has conducted active sonar training and testing activities in the Study Area for decades, and there is no evidence that routine Navy training and testing has negatively impacted individual sea turtles or sea turtle populations, or marine mammal populations in the Study Area or at any Navy Range Complex. Based on the best available science summarized in the EIS/OEIS Section 3.4.4.1 (Summary of Monitoring and Observations During Navy Activities), long-term consequences for marine mammal populations are unlikely to result from Navy training and testing activities in the Study Area. Note that for sea turtles, as described in the EIS/OEIS Section 3.5.3.7.1 (Combined Impacts of All Stressors), "impacts are not expected to decrease the overall fitness or result in long-term population level impacts on any given population." Please also refer to Chapter 5 (Standard Operating Procedures, Mitigation, and Monitoring) of the EIS/OEIS, detailing the procedures and mitigation measures during its training and testing activities designed to reduce impacts to marine mammals and sea turtles from Navy activities. Regarding previous strandings, see Section 3.4.3.1.8 (Stranding) and the referenced technical report "Marine Mammal Strandings Associated with U.S. Navy Sonar Activities" (U.S. Department of the Navy 2013c). The Navy has conducted active sonar training and testing activities in the Study Area for decades, and there is no evidence that routine Navy training and testing has negatively impacted marine mammal populations in the Study Area or at any Navy Range Complex. Based on the best available science summarized in the EIS/OEIS Section 3.4.4.1 (Summary of Monitoring and Observations During Navy Activities) long-term consequences for marine mammal populations are unlikely to result from Navy training and testing activities in the Study Area. In accordance with ESA requirements, the Navy will complete consultation under Section 7 of the ESA with NMFS and USFWS and adhere to the Letter of Authorization and Biological Opinion issued by those agencies.
Hoekstra	The Navy's proposed training and testing activities include the use of sonar, explosives, weapons firing, and other acoustic devices. These activities have well	As described in the Supplement in Section 3.5.2 (Sea Turtle Summary), the proposed increase in the use of SSQ-125 sonobuoys

Table I.5-4: Responses to Comments from Private Individuals (continued)

Commenter	Comment	Navy Response
(Electronic)	known and well documented negative impacts on a number of whale species and porpoises, as well as other marine wildlife. In addition, the Navy admits the increase in the use of sonar devices "is likely to adversely affect"2 endangered leatherback turtles whose protected habitat along the Pacific Coast was only recently established in 2012. Besides a negative impact on wildlife, it will also mean a violation of the Endangered Species Act. Based on the information apparent in the environmental analysis, the Navy's "No Action Alternative" is the proposal with the most limited impact on wildlife.	"are not expected to result in substantial changes to behavior, growth, survival, annual reproductive success, lifetime reproductive success (fitness), or species recruitment, and are not expected to result in population-level impacts." The Navy shares your concern for marine life, but this concern must be balanced with the purpose and need for Navy training and testing as detailed in Chapter 2 (Description of Proposed Action and Alternatives) of the EIS/OEIS. The Navy has conducted active sonar training and testing activities in the Study Area for decades, and there is no evidence that routine Navy training and testing has negatively impacted marine mammal populations in the Study Area or at any Navy Range Complex. Based on the best available science summarized in the EIS/OEIS Section 3.4.4.1 (Summary of Monitoring and Observations During Navy Activities) long-term consequences for marine mammal populations are unlikely to result from Navy training and testing activities in the Study Area. Please also refer to Chapter 5 (Standard Operating Procedures, Mitigation, and Monitoring) of the EIS/OEIS, detailing the procedures and mitigation measures during its training and testing activities designed to reduce impacts to marine mammals from Navy activities. In accordance with ESA requirements, the Navy will complete consultation under Section 7 of the ESA with NMFS and USFWS and adhere to the Letter of Authorization and Biological Opinion issued by those agencies.
Hogg (Electronic)	Re: Comments on the U.S. Navy NWTT December 2014 Supplement to the NWTT Draft EIS/OEIS The NWTT December 2014 Supplement to the NWTT Draft EIS/OEIS (hereafter, Supplement), must be withdrawn, along with the Draft EIS/OEIS, for the following reasons: 1. The Supplement fails to meet the requirements of NEPA because it does not address mitigation of risk/known hazard to endangered marine species (and directly and indirectly the continued health of commercial fish species and their food supplies, and the food supplies of endangered species) due both to the use of sonar/sonobuoys AND the many toxic compounds the Navy is dumping into the ocean and which likely permeates/migrates through ocean bottom sediments. 2. The Navy has acknowledged—when forced by litigation—that its use of sonar injures, harasses, damages, and results in the death of endangered marine species. In fact, the Navy has applied to NOAA for "kill" permits for just that reason. The Navy claimed—before federal judges—that it's "observers" would be part of a risk mitigation strategy that would decrease the risk of the Navy's sonar/sound frequency harassment and severe damaging of marine mammals and other species on the endangered species list. The Navy has never presented ANY DATA to support its	As described in the Supplement in Section 3.4.2 (Marine Mammal Summary), the proposed increase in the use of SSQ-125 sonobuoys would "not result in any long-term consequences for any marine mammal population or species; therefore, the conclusions stated in the Draft EIS/OEIS remain unchanged." The Navy shares your concern for marine life, but this concern must be balanced with the purpose and need for Navy training and testing as detailed in Chapter 2 (Description of Proposed Action and Alternatives) of the EIS/OEIS. The Navy has conducted active sonar training and testing activities in the Study Area for decades, and there is no evidence that routine Navy training and testing has negatively impacted marine mammal populations in the Study Area or at any Navy Range Complex. Based on the best available science summarized in the EIS/OEIS Section 3.4.4.1 (Summary of Monitoring and Observations During Navy Activities) long-term consequences for marine mammal populations are unlikely to result from Navy training and testing activities in the Study Area. Please also refer to Chapter 5

Table I.5-4: Responses to Comments from Private Individuals (continued)

Commenter	Comment	Navy Response
	assurances that this strategy has decreased damage to endangered marine species and, in fact, the increased in beached, deafened endangered and other marine mammals strongly suggests that, in reality, the Navy's strategy has not. That the Navy has not made any effort to present (so can be presumed not to have even bothered to collect) any data regarding the success of its strategy violates NEPA requirements as well as the agreement that the Navy arrived at via federal court proceedings. Instead the Navy now announces that it will decrease the number of observers. This supplement provides no data, no scientific research that indicates, much less "proves" that increasing the number of sonobuoys, while DECREASING the number of observers, will do anything other then prevent useful data that would prove/disprove the Navy's contention that it has successfully mitigated the risk to endangered marine species. And indirectly, threats to the continued health of commercial fish species, and the food supplies of both—since marine mammals and fish species inhabit the same ecologies and sometimes utilize some of the same food sources. The Navy has provided no or inadequate explanation. This failure violates the requirements of NEPA, which require an agency whose actions will (as the Navy itself has admitted repeatedly) threaten an aspect of the environment, to explain how it will happen, how that damage will be mitigated and how it can be AVOIDED altogether by one or more alternative actions. It's clear the Navy doesn't want to be bothered complying with NEPA because it might have to avoid utilizing all the expensive/overpriced/unneeded equipment it ordere two or more years ago. Regardless of the risks to the marine and human environment of its actions. Because this Supplement, along with the EIS it allegedly "supplements" fails to meet even the most basic requirements of NEPA, it fails. The Navy must be required to revise or completely redo this Supplement to reflect the objective reality and more likely then not effects on endangered marine mammal species, other endangered species (such as sea turtles) and likely impact on commercial fish species, and the food supplies of both. Sonar is a KNOWN neurological hazard and source of severe injury to many marine mammals, it may be to any other marine species that utilizes similar frequencies to navigate and/or communicate. There is little to no evidence in the EIS or Supplement that the Navy has any idea of what that damage may be or that it's taken any action to remove or now, even mitigate the damage. This has been demonstrated by the increased number of sonobuoys – for no other reason but that the Navy has ordered them and millions of dollars worth of unneeded jets—with a corresponding decrease in the only (as well as unproven and feeble) method the Navy has come up with to even measure the INCREASED risk the many more sonobuoys pose to marine mammals and other species. The Navy doesn't own the waters off the Pacific Northwest and CA, but it certainly is behaving as if it does. It is also now behaving as if it owns much of the Pacific Northwest, particularly any public lands, and intends to use all in a way that poses great danger to both marine and human inhabitants and users of those lands or	(Standard Operating Procedures, Mitigation, and Monitoring) of the EIS/OEIS, detailing the procedures and mitigation measures during its training and testing activities designed to reduce impacts to marine mammals from Navy activities. Regarding previous strandings, see Section 3.4.3.1.8 (Stranding) and the referenced technical report "Marine Mammal Strandings Associated with U.S. Navy Sonar Activities" (U.S. Department of the Navy 2013c). The Navy has conducted active sonar training and testing activities in the Study Area for decades, and there is no evidence that routine Navy training and testing has negatively impacted marine mammal populations in the Study Area or at any Navy Range Complex. As described in Chapter 5 (Standard Operating Procedures, Mitigation, and Monitoring) of the EIS/OEIS, the Navy evaluated the effectiveness and practicability of a number of potential mitigation measures. Through consultation and permitting with NMFS and USFWS, the Navy refined the mitigation measures, which are now presented in Chapter 5 (Standard Operating Procedures, Mitigation, and Monitoring) of this Final EIS/OEIS. Section 5.3.1.2.5 (Effectiveness Assessment for Lookouts) acknowledges that, due to the various detection probabilities, levels of Lookout experience, and variability of sighting conditions, Lookouts will not always be effective at avoiding impacts on all species. However, Lookouts are expected to increase the overall likelihood that certain marine mammal species and some sea turtles will be detected at the surface of the water, when compared to the likelihood that these same species would be detected if Lookouts are not used. The continued use of Lookouts contributes to helping reduce potential impacts on these species from training and testing activities. While the range of the sonar's detection would travel beyond the distance that Lookouts can detect animals, the range at which sonar is predicted to be able to cause injury to a marine mammal is very short, within 10 meters of the sonar. At such short distances, it is likely any marine mammal would have been detected. As part of the Navy's effects analysis, the Navy considers all the science that identifies locations where certain cetacean populations or individuals are known to engage in feeding, breeding, or other biologically important activities at certain times of year. Recently, NMFS has taken steps to begin formally identifying some of these

Table I.5-4: Responses to Comments from Private Individuals (continued)

Commenter	Comment	Navy Response
	waters. In no way does the EIS, or it Supplement adequately address and explain those risks. In addition: 2. The supplement repeats the same defects noted in my April 14, 2014 comments on the draft NWTT EIS/OEIS: As Ms. Van Strum also pointed out in her March 17 request for extension, the search function of the CD of the draft NWTT EIS/OEIS provided by the Navy is dysfunctional to the point of utter uselessness, as it cannot find items that clearly exist in the document (e.g., "EOD", and "marbled murrelet," which ironically is pictured on the cover of both volumes); the same dysfunction occurs in downloads of the document from the Navy website. (I understand from tech support that the CD and downloads only work with Adobe Acrobat, an expensive software, but do not work with the free & easily downloaded Adobe Reader; this was certainly not the case with CDs and downloads of the 2009-2010 NWTT EIS, which worked perfectly on Adobe Reader; by requiring commenters to pay for Adobe Acrobat in order to use the 2014 CD or downloads, the Navy has denied access to many or most potential commenters.) Since the Navy has provided only CDs of the draft EIS instead of hard copies to most people for public comment, this nonfunctioning search engine renders the document effectively useless. [1] The hard copy of the EIS supplied to a chosen few remote libraries contains no index, rendering it effectively useless except to someone who can drive hundreds of miles and spend eight hours a day for three months going through its 2000+ pages, page by page, to find the scattered references in a hopelessly disorganized, unwieldy, poorly written document. Both the hard copy and the CD provided by the Navy are therefore effectively useless, precluding the remotest semblance of informed public comment. [1] If Navy documents now require costly software in order to read them, at the very least the Navy might have the courtesy to inform commenters of this requirement. 2. The Supplement nowhere corrects the numerous errors and untruths pointed out in my own and others' comments on the Draft. 3. In keeping with the omissions in the Draft EIS/OEIS, the Supplement is either intentionally deceptive or grossly incompetent in its failure to include the numerous hazardous materials added and/or increased by its acknowledged significant increases of events, activities, and materials, and analyze the impacts of those increases on marine ecosystems, wildlife, fish populations, etc. For example,. as noted in my April 14, 2014 comments: 6. The Vanishing Hazardous Materials Page 3.3-17 of the 2010 EIS states that "overboard discharge" is permitted of such hazardous materials as ethylene and propylene glycols, ethyl, isopropyl and butyl alchohols, sodium metaborate, potassium silicate, mercapto-benzothiazole, diammonium citrate, DETU, MIL-D-16791 detergent, Nalcool 2000, Nalfleet 9-111, Paxcool, Catcool, triethanolamine, naphtha, 2-butoxyethanol, cadmium, chromium, heavy metals and cyanide. The 2014 NWTT EIS/OEIS omits any mention of such overboard discharges. ... The Navy's omission or apparent concealment of this information speaks volumes about the integrity and intent of the 2014 MWTT EIS/OEIS, particularly given numerous news reports of such Navy	areas and naming them Biologically Important Areas (BIAs). The Navy has considered these areas as part of its analysis in this Final EIS/OEIS when discussing particular species in Chapter 3 (Affected Environment and Environmental Consequences) as well as in considering whether limitations on Navy activities in these areas are warranted as mitigation in discussion in Chapter 5 (see Section 5.3.4.1.11, Avoiding Marine Species Habitats and Biologically Important Areas). The Navy thoroughly considered the humpback and gray whale feeding areas identified recently in its analysis and whether avoidance as mitigation was appropriate. Given the impact avoidance would have on military readiness activities and lack of biological benefit, avoidance is not warranted. Please see Section 5.3.4.1.11 (Avoiding Marine Species Habitats and Biologically Important Areas). However, Navy is proposing to provide reporting of generally low use of sonar in some of these areas to NMFS as part of classified annual reports to help inform future adaptive management related to impacts in these areas. At time of release of this Final EIS/OEIS, NMFS and Navy are in ongoing discussion regarding mitigation for MMPA purposes. Should additional mitigation to that which Navy has proposed be identified in the MMPA rule making and authorization, it will be indicated in the ROD. It is important to note that the BIAs were not meant to define exclusionary zones, nor critical habitat with regulatory management, nor were they meant to be locations that serve as sanctuaries from human activity, or areas analogous to marine protected areas. The NMFS-identified BIAs do not have direct or immediate regulatory consequences and the BIAs located within the NWTT Study Area are not the only areas used for feeding, migrating, or reproductive activity for these cetaceans in a species' entire range and habitat. The stated intention is for the BIAs to serve as a resource management tool and their currently identified boundaries be considered dynamic and subject to change based on any new information as well as, "existing density estimates, range-wide distribution data, information on population trends and life history parameters, known threats to the population, and other relevant information." There is a lack of science supporting identification of any additional BIAs at this time for the Pacific. The Navy and NMFS have supported and will continue to support the Cetacean and Sound Mapping project, including providing representation on the Cetacean Density and Distribution Mapping Working Group (CetMap), which informed NMFS' identification of BIAs. The same marine mammal density data present

Table I.5-4: Responses to Comments from Private Individuals (continued)

Commenter	Comment	Navy Response
	practices, e.g., http://wrenchbiscuit.hubpages.com/hub/The-United-States-Navy-and-the-Polluted-Oceans http://www.independent.co.uk/news/uk/home-news/exclusive-worlds-most-pristine-waters-are-polluted-by-us-navy-human-waste-9193596.html https://www.fas.org/man/gao/gao9538.htm http://www.nationaldefensemagazine.org/archive/2001/April/Pages/Pollution-Prevention7076.aspx https://www.commondreams.org/views05/0327-21.htm http://www.nap.edu/openbook.php?record_id=9190&page=1 http://ban.org/library/Dishonorable%20Disposal_BAN%20Report.pdf http://doni.daps.dla.mil/Directives/05000%20General%20Management%20Security%20and%20Safety%20Services/05-00%20General%20Admin%20and%20Management%20Support/5090.1C%20CH-1.pdf The 2014 NWTT EIS/OEIS acknowledges, p. 3.1-50, that "Under Alternative 1, the amount of potentially toxic metals expended during training activities would be approximately 28,312 lb. (12,842kg)." The world waits breathlessly to hear whether that figure is per day, per week, per month, per year. Assuming it is per year, one looks in vain for any breakdown identifying the toxic metals and how much of each toxic metal is expended. And because the Navy conveniently omits mention of its overboard discharges of heavy metals, there is no way even to guess the total, combined amount of expended toxic metals and overboard discharges of toxic metals being released into already stressed marine ecosystems. Given the extreme toxicity and bioaccumulative potential of many toxic metals, the willful omission of the Navy's actual disposal practices unquestionably fails NEPA's requirements for full disclosure of actions that may impact the human and global environment. Given the Supplement's belated notice that some 720 new SSQ-125 MAC sonobuoys would be placed offshore of Washington, Oregon, and northern California, the Supplement's blatant omission of ANY information whatsoever identifying the components of the new sonobuoys or their breakdown products in the environment can only be intentional. The 2010 EIS referenced above devoted more than seven FULL pages of such information on the old sonobuoys, including chemical and toxic metal components and breakdown products in the marine environment, such as seawater batteries (300 grams of lead, plus lead chloride, cuprous thiocyanide, silver chloride, lithium iron disulfide, lithium bromide, lithium carbon monofluoroxide, lithium manganese dioxide, sulphur dioxide, and acenitrile [a cyanide compound]), lithium batteries, battery electrodes, metal housing, lead solder, copper wire, lead used for ballast, and other hazardous materials listed on subsequent pages, which repeatedly list sonobuoys and their expended materials as "Environmental Stressors" (2010 EIS, pp. 3.3-29 - 3.3-45). The Supplement's failure to include such information on the new SSQ-125 <AC sonobuoys renders it useless for public comment, raising serious questions about the integrity of its preparers. 4. The fact that the U.S. Navy signed contracts for production of the new SSQ-125-MAC sonobuoys TWO YEARS before this Supplement and a whole year	in the Navy's Density Database Technical Report, and used in the analysis for this EIS/OEIS, was used in the development of BIAs. The final products, including U.S. West Coast BIAs from this mapping effort, were completed and published in March 2015. Concerns of commercial fisherman were addressed in the EIS/OEIS (see Section 3.12.3, Environmental Consequences). Favored fishing areas change over time with fluctuations in fish populations and communities, preferred target species, or fishing modes and styles. Declines in fishing rates can be attributed to several factors both natural and anthropogenic. Section 3.9 (Fish) concluded no long-term impacts to fish populations are anticipated; therefore, Section 3.12 (Socioeconomic Resources) correctly concluded there would be no indirect impacts to commercial and recreational fishing. Regarding impacts to the ocean bottom and water quality from sonobuoys, please see Section 3.1 (Sediments and Water Quality), where there is a discussion of the impacts of all military expended materials. Best management practices include measures that regulate operations to ensure compliance with pollution emission requirements and general resource conservation goals. Navy policies and procedures identified in Navy instructions such as the Environmental Readiness Program Manual, include directives regarding waste management, pollution prevention, and recycling, all of which benefit sediments and water quality in the ocean. Any procedures or practices that benefit ocean sediments and water quality in turn benefit all marine life in the ocean, from plants and invertebrates, to fish and marine mammals. In the course of the Navy proposed activities (listed in Chapter 2 (Description of Proposed Action and Alternatives) of the Draft EIS/OEIS), which do include the use of sonar and similar sound sources as well as underwater detonations, some expended materials are left behind in the ocean. The potential impacts of these actions was thoroughly analyzed in Chapter 3 of the Draft EIS/OEIS. Based on the analysis, and decades of experience conducting similar activities in the same area, there is no evidence of any habitat areas being degraded. The Navy is completing this EIS/OEIS in compliance with current law, including the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA). In addition to NEPA, the Navy continues to comply with other applicable environmental laws and with a number of regulatory requirements,

Table I.5-4: Responses to Comments from Private Individuals (continued)

Commenter	Comment	Navy Response
	before the Draft EIS/OEIS nullifies any pretense of either the Draft EIS/OEIS or the Supplement being valid NEPA analyses, as the decision to deploy the SSQ-125-MAC sonobuoys was obviously made and the sonobuoys ordered long before any NEPA review. See, for example: http://navaltoday.com/2013/02/08/erapsco-to-manufacture-sonobuoys-for-us-navy/ February 2013 http://www.marinelink.com/news/sonobuoy-contract-sparton358164.aspx August 2013 http://www.ultra-electronics.com/media/press-releases/ultra-sparton-jv-awarded-us-navy-sonobuoy-contract.aspx (Note especially the Navy quoted as saying these sonobuoys are the"pivot to the Pacific.") http://www.navysbir.com/n14_2/N142-117.htm (bid notice by Navy 2013) http://navyaviation.tpub.com/14030/css/14030_105.htm (description of sonobuoy) 5. Neither the Supplement nor the Draft EIS/OEIS provide any information on the total number of previously deployed sonobuoys of any type deployed in the study area at any time, never retrieved, and currently decomposing on the ocean floor. The failure to include such information invalidates all discussions of environmental/ecological impacts of sonobuoys, also making the omission of hazardous materials impacts suspiciously deliberate. Both the Supplement's and the Draft EIS/OEIS's discussions of cumulative impacts are therefore grossly deceptive and erroneous. 6. The Supplement, repeating a blatant failing of the Draft EIS.OEIS, contains some 18 (eighteen) references to the Navy's 2010 NWTT EIS/OEIS. The 2010 EIS/OEIS is no longer available on the Navy's web site. The Supplement therefore relies on a document unavailable to the public. Reliance on information unavailable or inaccessible to the general public unequivocally precludes informed public comment and violates the basic tenets of NEPA. 7. The Supplement is extremely and unlawfully selective in the issues and information ostensibly correcting and updating the Draft EIS/OEIS. This is most obvious in its omission of other Navy activities proposed in the same study area, e.g. the massive expansion of Growler aircraft at Whidbey Island and the concommitant use of several national forests for Growler electronic warfare practice and training. (See http://www.whidbeyeis.com/ and http://a123.g.akamai.net/7/123/11558/abc123/forestservic.download.akamai.com/11558/www/nepa/97011_FSPLT3_2346874.pdf). As I noted in my April 14, 2014 comments, The 2014 Draft EIS/OEIS specifically states at page 2-3: "The Study Area includes only the at-sea components of the training and testing areas and facilities.... The remaining land-based portions of the range complex are addressed in previous National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) documentation, and that analysis remains valid. The previous NEPA analysis remains valid because both the Proposed Action and the conditions related to land areas in this analysis are the same as analyzed in previous NEPA documents. These land areas are not subject to reauthorization under the MMPA or ESA, and therefore are not part of the Study Area or this EIS analysis." (emphasis added) (The statement quoted does not even identify what previous "NEPA documentation" they're talking about. No citation	such as the Marine Mammal Protection Act, the Endangered Species Act, the Coastal Zone Management Act, and the Magnuson-Stevens Fishery Conservation and Management Act. The public could download and review the document, and make comments to it, on the website (www.NWTTEIS.com). The document is formatted for download and use by many versions of Adobe Acrobat and Reader, even the older versions. Regarding the metals listed on p. 3.1-50 of the Draft EIS/OEIS, all amounts are annual.

Table I.5-4: Responses to Comments from Private Individuals (continued)

Commenter	Comment	Navy Response
	whatsoever, much less any hint of who determined it to be valid. If the statement intends to refer to the 2010 EIS, it is relying on a document not available to the public as it is no longer on the Navy website.) The plan -- to add 36 more Growler aircraft to Whidbey Island and use them to roar at low altitudes over our national forests using radar beams to locate Navy trucks zapping the forest with electromagnetic radiation -- certainly puts the lie to the above quote that "the conditions related to land areas in this analysis are the same as analyzed in previous NEPA documents....and are not part of the Study Area or this EIS analysis." Any supplement to the 2014 Draft EIS/OEIS should have included such a major revision of that statement! Instead, the Navy has broken its activities down into piecemeal analyses with no reference to each other or acknowledgment that they are interrelated. The Navy cannot evade its duty under NEPA to consider impacts of all of its related activities in the same study area. For the above reasons, both the Supplement and the 2014 EIS/OEIS must be withdrawn and an honest analysis conducted of all Navy activities in the Pacific Northwest Training Area.	
Holder (Electronic)	Regarding the Navy's proposal to increase training activity off the Pacific Coast - this comment is in support of the “No Action Alternative” because it is the proposal with the most limited impact on wildlife. The Navy’s current environmental analysis fails to provide basic information necessary to adequately evaluate the impacts of the proposed activities. This analysis also fails to provide adequate measures to mitigate the harmful effects of the proposed activities on marine mammals and other wildlife. A drastic increase in sonar activity will negatively impact wildlife. Marine mammals are extremely sensitive to noise, and sonar disrupts basic behaviors necessary for survival such as migration, surfacing, navigating, hearing, nursing, breeding and feeding. Sonar can result in debilitating and even fatal injuries for marine mammals. Scientists believe sonar activity can change whale diving behavior, confusing them to swim to depths their bodies cannot handle. Whales suspected to have beached themselves because of sonar activity show signs of physical trauma like bleeding around the brain, ears and other tissues and large bubbles in their organs – symptoms analogous to “the bends” in humans. To the extent that threatened or endangered species -- including humpback and sperm whales, and leatherback turtles -- are negatively impacted, the proposed activities are likely to result in violations of the Endangered Species Act.	As described in the Supplement in Section 3.5.2 (Sea Turtle Summary), the proposed increase in the use of SSQ-125 sonobuoys "are not expected to result in substantial changes to behavior, growth, survival, annual reproductive success, lifetime reproductive success (fitness), or species recruitment, and are not expected to result in population-level impacts." The Navy shares your concern for marine life, but this concern must be balanced with the purpose and need for Navy training and testing as detailed in Chapter 2 (Description of Proposed Action and Alternatives) of the EIS/OEIS. The Navy has conducted active sonar training and testing activities in the Study Area for decades, and there is no evidence that routine Navy training and testing has negatively impacted marine mammal populations in the Study Area or at any Navy Range Complex. Based on the best available science summarized in the EIS/OEIS Section 3.4.4.1 (Summary of Monitoring and Observations During Navy Activities) long-term consequences for marine mammal populations are unlikely to result from Navy training and testing activities in the Study Area. Please also refer to Chapter 5 (Standard Operating Procedures, Mitigation, and Monitoring) of the EIS/OEIS, detailing the procedures and mitigation measures during its training and testing activities designed to reduce impacts to marine mammals from Navy activities. In accordance with ESA requirements, the Navy will complete consultation under Section 7 of the ESA with NMFS and USFWS and adhere to the Letter of Authorization and Biological Opinion issued by those agencies.

Table I.5-4: Responses to Comments from Private Individuals (continued)

Commenter	Comment	Navy Response
Holzman (Electronic)	I urge the Navy to limit the amount of sonar activity you use in training missions off the Pacific Coast. The Navy's current environmental analysis fails to provide basic information necessary to adequately evaluate the impacts of the proposed activities. This analysis also fails to provide adequate measures to mitigate the harmful effects of the proposed activities on marine mammals and other wildlife. Based on the information apparent in the environmental analysis, the Navy's "No Action Alternative" is the proposal with the most limited impact on wildlife. A drastic increase in sonar activity will negatively impact wildlife. Marine mammals are extremely sensitive to noise, and sonar disrupts basic behaviors necessary for survival such as migration, surfacing, navigating, hearing, nursing, breeding and feeding. Sonar can result in debilitating and even fatal injuries for marine mammals. Scientists believe sonar activity can change whale diving behavior, confusing them to swim to depths their bodies cannot handle. Whales suspected to have beached themselves because of sonar activity show signs of physical trauma like bleeding around the brain, ears and other tissues and large bubbles in their organs – symptoms analogous to "the bends" in humans. To the extent that threatened or endangered species -- including humpback and sperm whales, and leatherback turtles -- are negatively impacted, the proposed activities may result in violations of the Endangered Species Act. Thank you for your consideration of this issue.	The Navy shares your concern for marine life, but this concern must be balanced with the purpose and need for Navy training and testing as detailed in Chapter 2 (Description of Proposed Action and Alternatives) of the EIS/OEIS. The Navy has conducted active sonar training and testing activities in the Study Area for decades, and there is no evidence that routine Navy training and testing has negatively impacted individual sea turtles or sea turtle populations, or marine mammal populations in the Study Area or at any Navy Range Complex. Based on the best available science summarized in the EIS/OEIS Section 3.4.4.1 (Summary of Monitoring and Observations During Navy Activities), long-term consequences for marine mammal populations are unlikely to result from Navy training and testing activities in the Study Area. Note that for sea turtles, as described in the EIS/OEIS Section 3.5.3.7.1 (Combined Impacts of All Stressors), "impacts are not expected to decrease the overall fitness or result in long-term population level impacts on any given population." Please also refer to Chapter 5 (Standard Operating Procedures, Mitigation, and Monitoring) of the EIS/OEIS, detailing the procedures and mitigation measures during its training and testing activities designed to reduce impacts to marine mammals and sea turtles from Navy activities. Regarding previous strandings, see Section 3.4.3.1.8 (Stranding) and the referenced technical report "Marine Mammal Strandings Associated with U.S. Navy Sonar Activities" (U.S. Department of the Navy 2013c). The Navy has conducted active sonar training and testing activities in the Study Area for decades, and there is no evidence that routine Navy training and testing has negatively impacted marine mammal populations in the Study Area or at any Navy Range Complex. Based on the best available science summarized in the EIS/OEIS Section 3.4.4.1 (Summary of Monitoring and Observations During Navy Activities) long-term consequences for marine mammal populations are unlikely to result from Navy training and testing activities in the Study Area. In accordance with ESA requirements, the Navy will complete consultation under Section 7 of the ESA with NMFS and USFWS and adhere to the Letter of Authorization and Biological Opinion issued by those agencies.
Horton	I just wanted to express my opinion about the proposal the Navy is putting forth to test bombs and sonar equipment in the world's oceans for the purposes of training. I	The Navy shares your concern for marine life, but this concern must be balanced with the purpose and need for Navy training and testing as

Table I.5-4: Responses to Comments from Private Individuals (continued)

Commenter	Comment	Navy Response
(Electronic)	have no problem with the Navy needing to train, but I question the need for live training with live weapons that can potentially be catastrophic to marine life - killing wildlife in addition to impacting the living patterns of living things as a result of the damage done. I don't understand why this risk can't be mitigated through the use of simulator training and I urge the Navy to reconsider its practices so that proper training can take place, with minimal risk to the environment. Thank you for your time.	detailed in Chapter 2 (Description of Proposed Action and Alternatives) of the EIS/OEIS. The Navy has conducted active sonar training and testing activities in the Study Area for decades, and there is no evidence that routine Navy training and testing has negatively impacted marine mammal populations in the Study Area or at any Navy Range Complex. Based on the best available science summarized in the EIS/OEIS Section 3.4.4.1 (Summary of Monitoring and Observations During Navy Activities) long-term consequences for marine mammal populations are unlikely to result from Navy training and testing activities in the Study Area. Please also refer to Chapter 5 (Standard Operating Procedures, Mitigation, and Monitoring) of the EIS/OEIS, detailing the procedures and mitigation measures during its training and testing activities designed to reduce impacts to marine mammals from Navy activities. Regarding the use of simulation, Navy already uses simulation in training and testing whenever possible; please see the discussion presented in Section 5.3.4.1.2 (Replacing Training and Testing with Simulated Activities) of the Draft EIS/OEIS.
Houshour (Electronic)	Whales rely on hearing for many of their basic functions, from navigating to communication. Much in the same way shining a bright light in our eyes can leave us disoriented, human-caused sonar activity can drastically affect whale behavior, leading them to beach themselves or dive to depths their bodies cannot handle, causing debilitating and even fatal injuries. This is why it is disconcerting that, at the last minute, the Navy has expanded its proposal for training off of the Pacific Coast, suggesting 36 TIMES1 more sonar-emitting bouys as had been previously planned. This unexpected revision will drastically increase the impact on whales and other ocean wildlife. SAVE THE WHALES..... Stop the debilitating SONAR	The Navy is not proposing to increase the annual number of sonobuoys by a factor of 36. The Navy's original proposal in the Draft EIS/OEIS includes the annual deployment of approximately 9,200 sonobuoys of various types. The increase of 700 sonobuoys described in the Supplement is an increase of less than 8 percent. The Navy shares your concern for marine life, but this concern must be balanced with the purpose and need for Navy training and testing as detailed in Chapter 2 (Description of Proposed Action and Alternatives) of the EIS/OEIS. The Navy has conducted active sonar training and testing activities in the Study Area for decades, and there is no evidence that routine Navy training and testing has negatively impacted marine mammal populations in the Study Area or at any Navy Range Complex. Based on the best available science summarized in the EIS/OEIS Section 3.4.4.1 (Summary of Monitoring and Observations During Navy Activities) long-term consequences for marine mammal populations are unlikely to result from Navy training and testing activities in the Study Area. Please also refer to Chapter 5 (Standard Operating Procedures, Mitigation, and Monitoring) of the EIS/OEIS, detailing the procedures and mitigation measures during its training and testing activities designed to reduce impacts to marine mammals from Navy activities.

Table I.5-4: Responses to Comments from Private Individuals (continued)

Commenter	Comment	Navy Response
K. Howard (Electronic)	The life in the oceans is vital to our existence, and many will die if they lose their hearing, or other aspects that help them to navigate. Not to mention how much will die out right from the blasts. This is not necessary to be n on-going "exercise".	The Navy shares your concern for marine life, but this concern must be balanced with the purpose and need for Navy training and testing as detailed in Chapter 2 (Description of Proposed Action and Alternatives) of the EIS/OEIS. The Navy has conducted active sonar training and testing activities in the Study Area for decades, and there is no evidence that routine Navy training and testing has negatively impacted marine mammal populations in the Study Area or at any Navy Range Complex. Based on the best available science summarized in the EIS/OEIS Section 3.4.4.1 (Summary of Monitoring and Observations During Navy Activities) long-term consequences for marine mammal populations are unlikely to result from Navy training and testing activities in the Study Area. Please also refer to Chapter 5 (Standard Operating Procedures, Mitigation, and Monitoring) of the EIS/OEIS, detailing the procedures and mitigation measures during its training and testing activities designed to reduce impacts to marine mammals from Navy activities.
P. Howard (Electronic)	Hello, First of all, I'm a huge fan of the US Navy, I served a short time as a GMG so I'm not "anti-Navy". That said, I would greatly like to see a way to avoid the sonar testing that is being done in proximity of all marine mammals, especially whales and schools of fish or near reefs used by various fish. The amplitude and frequency of some of the sonar (depending on it's proximity as well) can be not only very disruptive, it can be painful, damaging or outright deadly to a large number of marine animals. Since we humans now outnumber marine mammals by a huge margin, I think we should step back, take a deep breath and think about what are we collectively doing to the planet around us. However, I do believe we do need to stay alert for foreign threats in a very realistic way. Thanks for you time and consideration on this matter,	The Navy shares your concern for marine life, but this concern must be balanced with the purpose and need for Navy training and testing as detailed in Chapter 2 (Description of Proposed Action and Alternatives) of the EIS/OEIS. The Navy has conducted active sonar training and testing activities in the Study Area for decades, and there is no evidence that routine Navy training and testing has negatively impacted marine mammal populations in the Study Area or at any Navy Range Complex. Based on the best available science summarized in the EIS/OEIS Section 3.4.4.1 (Summary of Monitoring and Observations During Navy Activities) long-term consequences for marine mammal populations are unlikely to result from Navy training and testing activities in the Study Area. Please also refer to Chapter 5 (Standard Operating Procedures, Mitigation, and Monitoring) of the EIS/OEIS, detailing the procedures and mitigation measures during its training and testing activities designed to reduce impacts to marine mammals from Navy activities.
Howk (Electronic)	I live in Oregon so am able to be on the pacific coast quite often. I enjoy seeing whales off our coast. I do not want marine live-whales dolphins, turtles, etc more endangered by the increase of activity by the Navy. I donate money and time to help keep habit available to these species and consider your actions to be violating our role as caretakers of the environment. Please desist from further increases in testing which continues to harm to our ocean.	The Navy shares your concern for marine life, but this concern must be balanced with the purpose and need for Navy training and testing as detailed in Chapter 2 (Description of Proposed Action and Alternatives) of the EIS/OEIS. The Navy has conducted active sonar training and testing activities in the Study Area for decades, and there is no evidence that routine Navy training and testing has negatively impacted individual sea turtles or sea turtle populations, or marine

Table I.5-4: Responses to Comments from Private Individuals (continued)

Commenter	Comment	Navy Response
		mammal populations in the Study Area or at any Navy Range Complex. Based on the best available science summarized in the EIS/OEIS Section 3.4.4.1 (Summary of Monitoring and Observations During Navy Activities), long-term consequences for marine mammal populations are unlikely to result from Navy training and testing activities in the Study Area. Note that for sea turtles, as described in the EIS/OEIS Section 3.5.3.7.1 (Combined Impacts of All Stressors), "impacts are not expected to decrease the overall fitness or result in long-term population level impacts on any given population." Please also refer to Chapter 5 (Standard Operating Procedures, Mitigation, and Monitoring) of the EIS/OEIS, detailing the procedures and mitigation measures during its training and testing activities designed to reduce impacts to marine mammals and sea turtles from Navy activities.
Huenke (Electronic)	Have you done analysis of the marine ecosystems that takes into account the combined risks of accelerating ocean acidification, warming water and potential/predicted risks of radioactive materials from Fukushima? Such an analysis must be included in an EIS for the proposed Supplemental Draft to the January 2014 EIS, "Northwest Training and Testing Draft Environmental Impact Statement/Overseas Environmental Impact Statement." Will you include a complete analysis of impacts on this ever-degraded marine habitat?	The Navy is committed to protecting the marine environment during the conduct of its training and testing activities. As described in Chapter 5 (Standard Operating Procedures, Mitigation, and Monitoring) of the EIS/OEIS, the Navy has used extensive measures to protect the marine environment while training and testing for nearly a decade. The Navy used the best available science and a comprehensive review of past, present, and reasonably foreseeable actions to develop a robust Cumulative Impacts analysis. The Navy has returned to the analysis in Chapter 4 (Cumulative Impacts) due to concerns raised in public comments, and the Chapter has been revised in response to those public comments. The literature on ocean acidification has been reviewed, and is now discussed in Section 4.4.4 (Climate Change), of Chapter 4 (Cumulative Impacts) of the EIS/OEIS.
Huffman (Electronic)	I do not support any activity that further jeopardizes the endangered Leatherback turtle. Please modify your efforts to protect this species.	As described in the Supplement in Section 3.5.2 (Sea Turtle Summary), the proposed increase in the use of SSQ-125 sonobuoys "are not expected to result in substantial changes to behavior, growth, survival, annual reproductive success, lifetime reproductive success (fitness), or species recruitment, and are not expected to result in population-level impacts." The Navy has conducted active sonar training and testing activities in the Study Area for decades, and there is no evidence that routine Navy training and testing has negatively impacted individual sea turtles or sea turtle populations in the Study Area or at any Navy Range Complex. Based on the best available science summarized in the Draft

Table I.5-4: Responses to Comments from Private Individuals (continued)

Commenter	Comment	Navy Response
		EIS/OEIS Section 3.5.3.7.1 (Combined Impacts of All Stressors) "impacts are not expected to decrease the overall fitness or result in long-term population level impacts on any given population. In cases where potential impacts rise to a level that warrants mitigation, mitigation measures designed to reduce the potential impacts are discussed in Chapter 5 (Standard Operating Procedures, Mitigation, and Monitoring)." In accordance with ESA requirements, the Navy will complete consultation under Section 7 of the ESA with NMFS and USFWS and adhere to the Letter of Authorization and Biological Opinion issued by those agencies.
Hug (Electronic)	Please spare ocean life from your harmful testing. Thank you!	Thank you for participating in the NEPA process.
Hultengren (Electronic)	•The Navy's current environmental analysis fails to provide basic information necessary to adequately evaluate the impacts of the proposed activities. This analysis also fails to provide adequate measures to mitigate the harmful effects of the proposed activities on marine mammals and other wildlife. •Based on the information apparent in the environmental analysis, the Navy's "No Action Alternative" is the proposal with the most limited impact on wildlife. •A drastic increase in sonar activity will negatively impact wildlife. Marine mammals are extremely sensitive to noise, and sonar disrupts basic behaviors necessary for survival such as migration, surfacing, navigating, hearing, nursing, breeding and feeding. • Sonar can result in debilitating and even fatal injuries for marine mammals. Scientists believe sonar activity can change whale diving behavior, confusing them to swim to depths their bodies cannot handle. Whales suspected to have beached themselves because of sonar activity show signs of physical trauma like bleeding around the brain, ears and other tissues and large bubbles in their organs – symptoms analogous to "the bends" in humans. To the extent that threatened or endangered species -- including humpback and sperm whales, and leatherback turtles -- are negatively impacted, the proposed activities may result in violations of the Endangered Species Act.	The Navy shares your concern for marine life, but this concern must be balanced with the purpose and need for Navy training and testing as detailed in Chapter 2 (Description of Proposed Action and Alternatives) of the EIS/OEIS. The Navy has conducted active sonar training and testing activities in the Study Area for decades, and there is no evidence that routine Navy training and testing has negatively impacted individual sea turtles or sea turtle populations, or marine mammal populations in the Study Area or at any Navy Range Complex. Based on the best available science summarized in the EIS/OEIS Section 3.4.4.1 (Summary of Monitoring and Observations During Navy Activities), long-term consequences for marine mammal populations are unlikely to result from Navy training and testing activities in the Study Area. Note that for sea turtles, as described in the EIS/OEIS Section 3.5.3.7.1 (Combined Impacts of All Stressors), "impacts are not expected to decrease the overall fitness or result in long-term population level impacts on any given population. Please also refer to Chapter 5 (Standard Operating Procedures, Mitigation, and Monitoring) of the EIS/OEIS, detailing the procedures and mitigation measures during its training and testing activities designed to reduce impacts to marine mammals and sea turtles from Navy activities. Regarding previous strandings, see Section 3.4.3.1.8 (Stranding) and the referenced technical report "Marine Mammal Strandings Associated with U.S. Navy Sonar Activities" (U.S. Department of the

Table I.5-4: Responses to Comments from Private Individuals (continued)

Commenter	Comment	Navy Response
		Navy 2013c). Based on the best available science summarized in the EIS/OEIS Section 3.4.4.1 (Summary of Monitoring and Observations During Navy Activities), long-term consequences for marine mammal populations are unlikely to result from Navy training and testing activities in the Study Area. In accordance with ESA requirements, the Navy will complete consultation under Section 7 of the ESA with NMFS and USFWS and adhere to the Letter of Authorization and Biological Opinion issued by those agencies.
Hunnicutt (Written)	you are blowing up the ocean to practice for the time when the "Commies" come over here in submarines and air craft carriers -Hello- The commies are no longer the enemy. The enemy is Climate Change and by blowing up the ocean you are fraternizing with the enemy and thats treason. You are destroying my grand-children's environment. That is treason.	Thank you for participating in the NEPA process. However this comment is outside the scope of the Supplement to the Draft EIS/OEIS. Please see Chapters 1 and 2 of the EIS/OEIS for a clear definition of the scope of this project.
Hunt (Electronic)	The Navy's current environmental analysis fails to provide basic information necessary to adequately evaluate the impacts of the proposed activities. This analysis also fails to provide adequate measures to mitigate the harmful effects of the proposed activities on marine mammals and other wildlife. Based on the information apparent in the environmental analysis, the Navy's "No Action Alternative" is the proposal with the most limited impact on wildlife. A drastic increase in sonar activity will negatively impact wildlife. Marine mammals are extremely sensitive to noise, and sonar disrupts basic behaviors necessary for survival such as migration, surfacing, navigating, hearing, nursing, breeding and feeding. Sonar can result in debilitating and even fatal injuries for marine mammals. Scientists believe sonar activity can change whale diving behavior, confusing them to swim to depths their bodies cannot handle. Whales suspected to have beached themselves because of sonar activity show signs of physical trauma like bleeding around the brain, ears and other tissues and large bubbles in their organs – symptoms analogous to "the bends" in humans. To the extent that threatened or endangered species -- including humpback and sperm whales, and leatherback turtles -- are negatively impacted, the proposed activities may result in violations of the Endangered Species Act.	The Navy shares your concern for marine life, but this concern must be balanced with the purpose and need for Navy training and testing as detailed in Chapter 2 (Description of Proposed Action and Alternatives) of the EIS/OEIS. The Navy has conducted active sonar training and testing activities in the Study Area for decades, and there is no evidence that routine Navy training and testing has negatively impacted individual sea turtles or sea turtle populations, or marine mammal populations in the Study Area or at any Navy Range Complex. Based on the best available science summarized in the EIS/OEIS Section 3.4.4.1 (Summary of Monitoring and Observations During Navy Activities), long-term consequences for marine mammal populations are unlikely to result from Navy training and testing activities in the Study Area. Note that for sea turtles, as described in the EIS/OEIS Section 3.5.3.7.1 (Combined Impacts of All Stressors), "impacts are not expected to decrease the overall fitness or result in long-term population level impacts on any given population." Please also refer to Chapter 5 (Standard Operating Procedures, Mitigation, and Monitoring) of the EIS/OEIS, detailing the procedures and mitigation measures during its training and testing activities designed to reduce impacts to marine mammals and sea turtles from Navy activities. Regarding previous strandings, see Section 3.4.3.1.8 (Stranding) and the referenced technical report "Marine Mammal Strandings

Table I.5-4: Responses to Comments from Private Individuals (continued)

Commenter	Comment	Navy Response
		Associated with U.S. Navy Sonar Activities" (U.S. Department of the Navy 2013c). The Navy has conducted active sonar training and testing activities in the Study Area for decades, and there is no evidence that routine Navy training and testing has negatively impacted marine mammal populations in the Study Area or at any Navy Range Complex. In accordance with ESA requirements, the Navy will complete consultation under Section 7 of the ESA with NMFS and USFWS and adhere to the Letter of Authorization and Biological Opinion issued by those agencies.
Huttenmiller (Electronic)	The Navy's current environmental analysis fails to provide basic information necessary to adequately evaluate the impacts of the proposed aactivities. This analysis also fails to provide adequate measures to mitigate the harmful effects of the proposed activities on marine mammals and other wildlife. To the extend that threatened or endangered species -- including humpback and sperm whales, the leatherback turtles -- are negatively impacted, the proposed activities may result in violations of the Endangered Species Act. Sonar can result in debilitating and even fatal injuries for marine mammals. Scientists believe sonar activity can change whale diving behavior, confusing them to swim to depths their bodies cannot handle. Whales suspected to have beached themselves because of sonar activity show signs of physical trauma like bleeding around the brain, ears and other tissues and large bubbles in their organs - symptoms analogous to "the bends" in humans.	The Navy shares your concern for marine life, but this concern must be balanced with the purpose and need for Navy training and testing as detailed in Chapter 2 (Description of Proposed Action and Alternatives) of the EIS/OEIS. The Navy has conducted active sonar training and testing activities in the Study Area for decades, and there is no evidence that routine Navy training and testing has negatively impacted individual sea turtles or sea turtle populations, or marine mammal populations in the Study Area or at any Navy Range Complex. Based on the best available science summarized in the EIS/OEIS Section 3.4.4.1 (Summary of Monitoring and Observations During Navy Activities), long-term consequences for marine mammal populations are unlikely to result from Navy training and testing activities in the Study Area. Note that for sea turtles, as described in the EIS/OEIS Section 3.5.3.7.1 (Combined Impacts of All Stressors), "impacts are not expected to decrease the overall fitness or result in long-term population level impacts on any given population." Please also refer to Chapter 5 (Standard Operating Procedures, Mitigation, and Monitoring) of the EIS/OEIS, detailing the procedures and mitigation measures during its training and testing activities designed to reduce impacts to marine mammals and sea turtles from Navy activities. Regarding previous strandings, see Section 3.4.3.1.8 (Stranding) and the referenced technical report "Marine Mammal Strandings Associated with U.S. Navy Sonar Activities" (U.S. Department of the Navy 2013c). In accordance with ESA requirements, the Navy will complete consultation under Section 7 of the ESA with NMFS and USFWS and adhere to the Letter of Authorization and Biological Opinion issued by those agencies.

Table I.5-4: Responses to Comments from Private Individuals (continued)

Commenter	Comment	Navy Response
Iannucci (Electronic)	The Navy's current environmental analysis fails to provide basic information necessary to adequately evaluate the impacts of the proposed activities. This analysis also fails to provide adequate measures to mitigate the harmful effects of the proposed activities on marine mammals and other wildlife. Sonar can result in debilitating and even fatal injuries for marine mammals. Scientists believe sonar activity can change whale diving behavior, confusing them to swim to depths their bodies cannot handle. Whales suspected to have beached themselves because of sonar activity show signs of physical trauma like bleeding around the brain, ears and other tissues and large bubbles in their organs – symptoms analogous to "the bends" in humans. Please act to limit the use of sonar in training activities. These defenseless animals cannot speak for themselves - they rely upon us to do the right thing.	The Navy shares your concern for marine life, but this concern must be balanced with the purpose and need for Navy training and testing as detailed in Chapter 2 (Description of Proposed Action and Alternatives) of the EIS/OEIS. The Navy has conducted active sonar training and testing activities in the Study Area for decades, and there is no evidence that routine Navy training and testing has negatively impacted marine mammal populations in the Study Area or at any Navy Range Complex. Based on the best available science summarized in the EIS/OEIS Section 3.4.4.1 (Summary of Monitoring and Observations During Navy Activities) long-term consequences for marine mammal populations are unlikely to result from Navy training and testing activities in the Study Area. Please also refer to Chapter 5 (Standard Operating Procedures, Mitigation, and Monitoring) of the EIS/OEIS, detailing the procedures and mitigation measures during its training and testing activities designed to reduce impacts to marine mammals from Navy activities. Regarding previous strandings, see Section 3.4.3.1.8 (Stranding) and the referenced technical report "Marine Mammal Strandings Associated with U.S. Navy Sonar Activities" (U.S. Department of the Navy 2013c). The Navy has conducted active sonar training and testing activities in the Study Area for decades, and there is no evidence that routine Navy training and testing has negatively impacted marine mammal populations in the Study Area or at any Navy Range Complex.
InLove (Electronic)	Is this another "We have to destroy the village in order to save it" decision. Keep in mind that it's the village that you and your family, immediate and extended, live in too that you're destroying/damaging and that you're not going to be able to move to another village to avoid the results of your actions. Please think very carefully before making a choice, the key word being choice. Please choose wisely. Thank you	Thank you for participating in the NEPA process.
K. Jackson (Electronic)	I am objecting to your plans to install electromagnetic radiation vans in the Olympic National Parks and to the use of Growler jets flying over our area, a practice the NAVY plans to accelerate both in numbers of flights and numbers of new Growlers. We are not the NAVY's neighbors just because we live near a Navy airbase. We have tolerated your practice landings for years without complaint but the NAVY has gone too far on this one. This is not a matter of national security. Stating it thus is just an excuse for going ahead with plans, hoping that we are all agreed. We do not wish to have fuel dumped into our Puget Sound waters either. We demand an environmental impact study and the results therefrom published in every way	The Navy has been training in the Olympic, Military Operations Area (MOA) for over 40 years, and the Navy has not proposed any significant changes to the way aircrew train in the MOA. The Navy recently analyzed plans to enhance existing training by adding one fixed transmitter at Pacific Beach and three mobile transmitter vehicles that would operate on existing logging roads and pull-out areas on U.S. Forest Service land. The Navy has not proposed to use National Park Service land. EW training and EW Range enhancements were analyzed in the Navy's Northwest Training Range Complex (NWTRC)

Table I.5-4: Responses to Comments from Private Individuals (continued)

Commenter	Comment	Navy Response
	possible way for the public to see. We do not want any more one sided meetings with Congress reps or NAVY reps. We are Americans paying for the NAVY and we are patriotic Americans be sure of that. Just take your plans to Idaho, Utah, Wyoming, where ever you like but stay our of our Olympic National Park System upon which we depend for economic reasons, for wildlife preservation reasons, for health reasons. Simply go elsewhere!	EIS/OEIS, completed in 2010. When more information became available on mobile and fixed signal transmitters for the EW Range, the Navy prepared the EW Range EA to analyze placement and operation of those transmitters. The Navy completed the EA and issued a Finding of No Significant Impact on August 28, 2014. The introduction of the land-based transmitters to enhance existing training will not harm people, animals, or the environment. The Navy has decades of experience building and operating signal equipment, with no adverse effects to people, animals, or the environment. Though there is a proposed increase in EW training events associated with the range enhancements and analyzed in this EIS/OEIS, the increase in events does not equate to a comparable increase in the number of aircraft flights or in the duration of flights. EW training flights are already occurring in the Olympic MOA, and it is estimated that this proposal will only result in an approximately ten percent annual increase in actual flights, which equates to approximately one additional flight per day. This is because each flight will be able to accommodate multiple EW training events. The Navy proposes to home base up to 36 additional EA-18G aircraft at NAS Whidbey Island. The Navy announced the preparation of that separate Whidbey EIS on September 5, 2013, and invited the public to participate in the NEPA process by submitting comments to define the scope of the Draft Whidbey EIS analysis. On October 10, 2014, the Navy revised the scope of the on-going Whidbey EIS and invited the public to submit additional scoping comments. The Navy is currently preparing its Draft Whidbey EIS, which is scheduled to be released in spring 2016. For more information, please visit the project website at www.whidbeyeis.com. This NWTT EIS/OEIS considered the Whidbey EIS proposal in its analysis of cumulative impacts in Chapter 4.
W. Jackson (Electronic)	Dear Sir/Madam. Please restrict your sonar test to prevent the injuries and death of marine mammals.	The Navy shares your concern for marine life, but this concern must be balanced with the purpose and need for Navy training and testing as detailed in Chapter 2 (Description of Proposed Action and Alternatives) of the EIS/OEIS. The Navy has conducted active sonar training and testing activities in the Study Area for decades, and there is no evidence that routine Navy training and testing has negatively impacted marine mammal populations in the Study Area or at any Navy Range Complex. Based on the best available science summarized in the EIS/OEIS Section 3.4.4.1 (Summary of Monitoring and Observations During Navy Activities) long-term consequences for marine mammal populations are unlikely to result from Navy training

Table I.5-4: Responses to Comments from Private Individuals (continued)

Commenter	Comment	Navy Response
		and testing activities in the Study Area. Please also refer to Chapter 5 (Standard Operating Procedures, Mitigation, and Monitoring) of the EIS/OEIS, detailing the procedures and mitigation measures during its training and testing activities designed to reduce impacts to marine mammals from Navy activities. In addition, in accordance with ESA requirements, the Navy will complete consultation under Section 7 of the ESA with NMFS and USFWS and adhere to the Letter of Authorization and Biological Opinion issued by those agencies.
James (Electronic)	Everything about this project is ill advised, and potentially harmful. Do not go forward with it at all. We the People do not wish to be associated with this type of warfare.	Thank you for participating in the NEPA process.
Janty (Electronic)	The Navy's current environmental analysis fails to provide basic information necessary to adequately evaluate the impacts of the proposed activities. This analysis also fails to provide adequate measures to mitigate the harmful effects of the proposed activities on marine mammals and other wildlife. Based on the information apparent in the environmental analysis, the Navy's "No Action Alternative" is the proposal with the most limited impact on wildlife. A drastic increase in sonar activity will negatively impact wildlife. Marine mammals are extremely sensitive to noise, and sonar disrupts basic behaviors necessary for survival such as migration, surfacing, navigating, hearing, nursing, breeding and feeding. Sonar can result in debilitating and even fatal injuries for marine mammals. Scientists believe sonar activity can change whale diving behavior, confusing them to swim to depths their bodies cannot handle. Whales suspected to have beached themselves because of sonar activity show signs of physical trauma like bleeding around the brain, ears and other tissues and large bubbles in their organs – symptoms analogous to "the bends" in humans. To the extent that threatened or endangered species -- including humpback and sperm whales, and leatherback turtles -- are negatively impacted, the proposed activities may result in violations of the Endangered Species Act. Please limit the amount of sonar activity used in training missions off the Pacific Coast. Thanks	As described in the Supplement in Section 3.5.2 (Sea Turtle Summary), the proposed increase in the use of SSQ-125 sonobuoys "are not expected to result in substantial changes to behavior, growth, survival, annual reproductive success, lifetime reproductive success (fitness), or species recruitment, and are not expected to result in population-level impacts." The Navy shares your concern for marine life, but this concern must be balanced with the purpose and need for Navy training and testing as detailed in Chapter 2 (Description of Proposed Action and Alternatives) of the EIS/OEIS. The Navy has conducted active sonar training and testing activities in the Study Area for decades, and there is no evidence that routine Navy training and testing has negatively impacted marine mammal populations in the Study Area or at any Navy Range Complex. Based on the best available science summarized in the EIS/OEIS Section 3.4.4.1 (Summary of Monitoring and Observations During Navy Activities) long-term consequences for marine mammal populations are unlikely to result from Navy training and testing activities in the Study Area. Please also refer to Chapter 5 (Standard Operating Procedures, Mitigation, and Monitoring) of the EIS/OEIS, detailing the procedures and mitigation measures during its training and testing activities designed to reduce impacts to marine mammals from Navy activities. In accordance with ESA requirements, the Navy will complete consultation under Section 7 of the ESA with NMFS and USFWS and adhere to the Letter of Authorization and Biological Opinion issued by those agencies.
Jefferies (Electronic)	I strongly support the No Action Alternative in order to protect our oceans and sea life.	Thank you for participating in the NEPA process.

Table I.5-4: Responses to Comments from Private Individuals (continued)

Commenter	Comment	Navy Response
Jelen (Electronic)	Please limit the amount of sonar testing that is done during Navy training activities off the Pacific Coast. Whales rely on hearing for many of their basic functions, from navigating to communication. Much in the same way shining a bright light in our eyes can leave us disoriented, human-caused sonar activity can drastically affect whale behavior, leading them to beach themselves or dive to depths their bodies cannot handle, causing debilitating and even fatal injuries. The Navy's current environmental analysis fails to provide basic information necessary to adequately evaluate the impacts of the proposed activities. This analysis also fails to provide adequate measures to mitigate the harmful effects of the proposed activities on marine mammals and other wildlife. Based on the information apparent in the environmental analysis, the Navy's "No Action Alternative" is the proposal with the most limited impact on wildlife. A drastic increase in sonar activity will negatively impact wildlife. Marine mammals are extremely sensitive to noise, and sonar disrupts basic behaviors necessary for survival such as migration, surfacing, navigating, hearing, nursing, breeding and feeding. Sonar can result in debilitating and even fatal injuries for marine mammals. Scientists believe sonar activity can change whale diving behavior, confusing them to swim to depths their bodies cannot handle. Whales suspected to have beached themselves because of sonar activity show signs of physical trauma like bleeding around the brain, ears and other tissues and large bubbles in their organs – symptoms analogous to "the bends" in humans. To the extent that threatened or endangered species -- including humpback and sperm whales, and leatherback turtles -- are negatively impacted, the proposed activities may result in violations of the Endangered Species Act.	The Navy shares your concern for marine life, but this concern must be balanced with the purpose and need for Navy training and testing as detailed in Chapter 2 (Description of Proposed Action and Alternatives) of the EIS/OEIS. The Navy has conducted active sonar training and testing activities in the Study Area for decades, and there is no evidence that routine Navy training and testing has negatively impacted individual sea turtles or sea turtle populations, or marine mammal populations in the Study Area or at any Navy Range Complex. Based on the best available science summarized in the EIS/OEIS Section 3.4.4.1 (Summary of Monitoring and Observations During Navy Activities), long-term consequences for marine mammal populations are unlikely to result from Navy training and testing activities in the Study Area. Note that for sea turtles, as described in the EIS/OEIS Section 3.5.3.7.1 (Combined Impacts of All Stressors), "impacts are not expected to decrease the overall fitness or result in long-term population level impacts on any given population." Please also refer to Chapter 5 (Standard Operating Procedures, Mitigation, and Monitoring) of the EIS/OEIS, detailing the procedures and mitigation measures during its training and testing activities designed to reduce impacts to marine mammals and sea turtles from Navy activities. Regarding previous strandings, see Section 3.4.3.1.8 (Stranding) and the referenced technical report "Marine Mammal Strandings Associated with U.S. Navy Sonar Activities" (U.S. Department of the Navy 2013c). The Navy has conducted active sonar training and testing activities in the Study Area for decades, and there is no evidence that routine Navy training and testing has negatively impacted marine mammal populations in the Study Area or at any Navy Range Complex. In accordance with ESA requirements, the Navy will complete consultation under Section 7 of the ESA with NMFS and USFWS and adhere to the Letter of Authorization and Biological Opinion issued by those agencies.
Jensen-01 (Electronic)	I wish to take this opportunity to comment on the Supplement (December 2014) to the Navy's Draft Environmental Impact Statement/ Overseas Environmental Impact Statement (DEIS), dated January 2014, for its continued training and testing activities in the Pacific Northwest (NWTT). Please include these comments in the administrative record. I have commented before on various aspects of your	The Navy shares your concern for marine life, but this concern must be balanced with the purpose and need for Navy training and testing as detailed in Chapter 2 (Description of Proposed Action and Alternatives) of the EIS/OEIS. The Navy has conducted active sonar training and testing activities in the Study Area for decades, and there is no

Table I.5-4: Responses to Comments from Private Individuals (continued)

Commenter	Comment	Navy Response
	intended activities in the Pacific Northwest, and I attended a public meeting you held in conjunction with these activities. The tone of that public meeting was condescending to me as an educated civilian taxpayer. I came away from it convinced that the meeting, allegedly held to "educate" the public was hypocritical in the extreme, and that the Navy intends to follow through with its intended programs regardless of the reasonable opposition of educated permanent residents of this area. Because of this sense of your real intentions to proceed with these dangerous and deleterious programs, it is necessary to once again communicate my opposition to them. The reasons for that opposition are discussed below. Effect on wildlife The proposed increases in this Supplement of marine exercises and additional use of sonar and explosives will only increase the damage done to marine mammals, sea turtles, fish and birds. Of particular concern to me is the Supplement and the EIS's lack of protections for the Southern Resident Killer Whale's dwindling population. These animals need a protected home in accord with their endangered status. In public sessions and in a radio interview the Navy's public relations personnel have been heard to say that the (MSO) and TRACKEX marine exercises save gas and allow personnel to be closer to their homes for these maneuvers. These considerations should not allow one single injury to this endangered Killer Whale population.	evidence that routine Navy training and testing has negatively impacted individual sea turtles or sea turtle populations, or marine mammal populations in the Study Area or at any Navy Range Complex. Based on the best available science summarized in the EIS/OEIS Section 3.4.4.1 (Summary of Monitoring and Observations During Navy Activities), long-term consequences for marine mammal populations are unlikely to result from Navy training and testing activities in the Study Area. Note that for sea turtles, as described in the EIS/OEIS Section 3.5.3.7.1 (Combined Impacts of All Stressors), "impacts are not expected to decrease the overall fitness or result in long-term population level impacts on any given population." Please also refer to Chapter 5 (Standard Operating Procedures, Mitigation, and Monitoring) of the EIS/OEIS, detailing the procedures and mitigation measures during its training and testing activities designed to reduce impacts to marine mammals and sea turtles from Navy activities. No injuries to killer whales are anticipated from the Navy's proposed MSO or TRACKEX activities. In accordance with ESA requirements, the Navy will complete consultation under Section 7 of the ESA with NMFS and USFWS and adhere to the Letter of Authorization and Biological Opinion issued by those agencies.
Jensen-02	Though this supplement admits increased sonar and explosive testing (TRACKEX) and finally addresses the MSO maneuvers there is no additional mitigation mentioned. Nowhere is it outlined whether visual patrols will increase as a result of this new activity, nor does the Supplement address real concerns over whether or not visual patrol is adequate at times of night or rough seas. No acoustic monitoring or avoidance strategies are included. This is a serious omission to a document that intended to address the inadequate science and mitigation plans of the original draft and is unacceptable.	As described in Chapter 5 (Standard Operating Procedures, Mitigation, and Monitoring) of the EIS/OEIS, the Navy will implement mitigation measures during the use of sonobuoys. The mitigation measures are implemented for each activity and therefore the mitigation scales up as the activity level scales up. Also in Chapter 5 (Standard Operating Procedures, Mitigation, and Monitoring) of the EIS/OEIS, the Navy evaluated the effectiveness and practicability of a number of potential mitigation measures. Through consultation and permitting with NMFS and USFWS, the Navy refined the mitigation measures, which are now presented in Chapter 5 (Standard Operating Procedures, Mitigation, and Monitoring) of this Final EIS/OEIS. Section 5.3.1.2.5 (Effectiveness Assessment for Lookouts) acknowledges that, due to the various detection probabilities, levels of Lookout experience, and variability of sighting conditions, Lookouts will

Table I.5-4: Responses to Comments from Private Individuals (continued)

Commenter	Comment	Navy Response
		not always be effective at avoiding impacts on all species. However, Lookouts are expected to increase the overall likelihood that certain marine mammal species and some sea turtles will be detected at the surface of the water, when compared to the likelihood that these same species would be detected if Lookouts are not used. The continued use of Lookouts contributes to helping reduce potential impacts on these species from training and testing activities. While the range of the sonar's detection would travel beyond the distance that Lookouts can detect animals, the range at which sonar is predicted to be able to cause injury to a marine mammal is very short, within 10 meters of the sonar. At such short distances, it is likely any marine mammal would have been detected. The MSO activities do not include the use of sonar or live gun firing.
Jensen-03	Lack of Science There is little consideration of exclusion zones, geographic alternatives to the southern Puget Sound and seasonal restrictions of exercises. All of the Alternatives propose year-round, unrestricted use without regard to seasonal variations in marine mammal and fish abundance. This is true despite the well-documented seasonal migrations of numerous endangered species and the identification of biologically important areas. The Navy should put critical marine habitats off-limits to sonar and explosives testing and schedule training to avoid times of the year when sensitive species are present in places like the Olympic Coast National Marine Sanctuary.	As described in Chapter 5 (Standard Operating Procedures, Mitigation, and Monitoring) of the Final EIS/OEIS, the Navy evaluated the effectiveness and practicability of a number of potential mitigation measures including the avoidance of specific areas. The Navy has undertaken consultation with NMFS for the proposed and ongoing activities in the NWTT Study Area and the Navy refined the mitigation measures, which are now presented in Chapter 5 (Standard Operating Procedures, Mitigation, and Monitoring) of this Final EIS/OEIS. Through careful exploration of all mitigation measures to determine which were the most effective, the Navy chose the measures to mitigate potential impacts to marine mammals while still being able to meet its operational needs to train for real-world conditions. The Navy's specific mitigation measures are outlined in the following sections: Section 5.3.1 (Lookout Procedural Measures), Section 5.3.2 (Mitigation Zone Procedural Measures), and Section 5.3.3 (Mitigation Areas). Specifically, Section 5.3.4 (Mitigation Measures Considered but Eliminated) presents Navy consideration of similar area restrictions. The Navy and NMFS will use the Adaptive Management process to assess whether any additional mitigation should be considered in identified biologically important areas. The U.S. Navy has conducted active sonar training and testing activities for decades in the seaspace depicted in the Study Area with no evidence to indicate any meaningful impacts to marine habitats in the area. The Navy and NMFS jointly are still in ongoing consultation with the OCNMS regarding the effects of the Proposed Action on Sanctuary resources. The Navy concludes its continued activities are

Table I.5-4: Responses to Comments from Private Individuals (continued)

Commenter	Comment	Navy Response
		not likely to result in the loss, destruction, or adverse changes to the viability of Sanctuary resources. Several points support this determination: • Less than two percent of proposed training and 15 percent of proposed testing activities would occur within or immediately adjacent to the OCNMS. • The NWTT Final EIS/OEIS shows that training and testing activities have minimal temporary impacts on the quantity or quality of the Study Area's physical environment, and minor to no impacts on marine or shore birds, fish, sea turtles, or invertebrate marine life. • Although explosives have the potential to affect the physical and biological resources, the Navy does not use explosives within the OCNMS. • The Navy concludes any marine mammal behavioral reactions to NWTT training and testing activities would be transitory, infrequent, non-cumulative, and impacts are not expected to decrease overall individual fitness or result in long-term population-level impacts on any given population, and consequently will not result in any adverse changes to the sanctuary. Finally, all Department of Defense (DoD) military activities shall be carried out in a manner that avoids to the maximum extent practicable any adverse impacts on Sanctuary resources and qualities.
Jensen-04	Climate Change and Cumulative Impacts The Supplement document responds to calls to address these two big issues but it is very unclear that anything more than lip service was expended by deeming Navy activities to be of little significance.	In response to several comments, the Navy has enhanced its analysis of climate change and cumulative impacts in this Final EIS/OEIS.
Jensen-05	Public Process What most concerns me is this. There has been an overwhelming number of proposals since late in 2013 rolled out to the public in a piecemeal fashion. Five calls for comments on clearly-linked documents have been spread out in their introduction to the public over the last year and a half. Ground-based, (Electronic warfare range), air-based (Two growler scoping documents) and sea-based naval activities (these two NWTT documents) have been dropped onto the region as if they were not linked. The separate comment periods and the separate documents minimize the larger picture of impacts on the area. In my opinion this is misleading. Is it even legal in regards to Federal Law, specifically NEPA? Please redo this chopped-up public process with a comprehensive Environmental Impact Statement that includes all of the activities in the region. These huge changes that affect wildlife, real estate values, allow precedent-setting incursions into the peace of our national parks, national forest, wilderness, state parks and state lands, should	The Navy prepares Environmental Impact Statements (EIS) and Environmental Assessments (EA) in order to comply with the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA). These NEPA documents are intended to ensure decision makers consider the potential environmental effects of a proposed action and its alternatives, provide an opportunity for public involvement, and promote transparency by informing the public of these potential environmental effects. Each NEPA document addresses a specific proposed action, separated from other actions by its purpose and need, independent utility, timing, and geographic location. Some NEPA documents are stand-alone documents; others tier off or expand the analyses of other NEPA documents. NEPA documents for training and testing, including this EIS/OEIS, focus on training and testing activities occurring within a

Table I.5-4: Responses to Comments from Private Individuals (continued)

Commenter	Comment	Navy Response
	be discussed as a whole, not split into so many fractured pieces that the residents of this region cannot know what they are actually facing.	range complex or military operation area and involve different types of aircraft, ships, and range complex enhancements. NEPA documents for aircraft homebasing actions focus on aircraft operations in and around the airfield and their facility needs. NEPA documents for installations focus on infrastructure enhancements for host and tenant command missions. Importantly, every environmental document considers the cumulative impacts to the environment from other relevant past, present, and reasonably foreseeable future actions (federal, state, local, and private) in addition to the proposed action.
Johnson-01 (Electronic)	I would like to have access to the actual 225 comments mentioned in the following (Table E-1: Public Scoping Comment Summary Area of Concern Count Percent of Total Marine Mammals 225 21.3%) I am sure these have been addressed but would appreciate knowing what remedies have been offered as mitigation?	Public comments on the NWTT DEIS/OEIS are addressed in Appendix E of the FEIS/OEIS. Please also refer to Chapter 5 (Standard Operating Procedures, Mitigation, and Monitoring) of the EIS/OEIS, detailing the procedures and mitigation measures during its training and testing activities designed to reduce impacts to marine mammals from Navy activities.
Johnson-02	The following was submitted by an organization Stranded No More that has challenged some of your contentions relative to this revised EIS Comments on proposed Navy's Northwest Training and Testing EIS by Admin | Feb 2, 2015 To Whom It May Concern: We are writing to express our strong opposition to the proposed EIS by the US Navy in regard to NORTHWEST TRAINING AND TESTING. The EIS has several very serious problems that could potentially lead to severe underestimation of the potential impact from all proposed activities. 1. The US Navy should disclose all potential conflicts of interests and specify explicitly what scientists and studies have been funded by the Navy. For example, the EIS uses a quote from Dr. Ketten (2012) not once but twice in its EIS (p. 3.4-68 and p. 3.4-91) without specifying when, how much and how often Dr. Ketten was funded by the US Navy to conduct research. This omission of information and failure to disclose the conflict of interest is not trivial as research indicated that "Primary papers are 2.3 times more likely to be cited in the reviews as concluding no effect of noise if the research was militarily-funded than if not." (Wade et al., 2010. p. 320). Curiously, this study was not cited in the current EIS indicating that the Navy perhaps did not do thorough and detailed literature review on a subject.	The commenter's assertion that there is a conflict of interest whenever Navy funds research is based on a misunderstanding of how research is funded and the reliance on the referenced Wade et al. (2010) article. The basic premise of the assertion and the Wade et al. (2010) article is flawed given that in almost all cases, Navy is only one of many contributors to the total research budget on a particular scientific project, with additional sources of funding and support provided by universities, research organizations, research institutes, and independent scientists. Given this large number of independent universities, organizations, and researchers involved in the annual volume of science touched by a Navy source of funding, there is no basis for the assertion that scientists or research partially funded by Navy are biased in favor of the Navy.
Johnson-03	2. Even though the EIS has a section on strandings and embolism, it failed to mention that the current stranding response protocol does not include any mandatory rapid in situ embolism testing, even though the low cost methodology for such testing is available and has been described in detail in peer-reviewed literature (Quiros et al., 2011) Needless to say, this study was not cited in the current EIS. The fact that no routine embolism testing is done indicates that many stranded	The investigation of strandings is not a mission of the Navy and necropsy research by Navy is not part of the proposed action. There are three citations of Bernaldo de Quiros in the Final EIS/OEIS to this author's work (see for example Section 3.4.3.1.2.5 [Bubble Formation {Acoustically Induced}]), one of which includes more recent follow-on work from the 2011 publication. NMFS is in charge of the Marine Mammal Health and Stranding Response Program. While the Navy

Table I.5-4: Responses to Comments from Private Individuals (continued)

Commenter	Comment	Navy Response
	cetaceans who had it might go undetected and not investigated. 3. The EIS does not discuss in detail complete mayhem and disarray of the US stranding response field. The field is underfunded, the response is not systematic, is haphazard, there is no unifying protocol, like for example, in situ embolism testing is not required. The data obtained by various rescues and response officials is not transparent, is not publicly available, the Navy is not transparent about its activities and in many cases the immediate information is not available to link strandings to the Navy activities, especially when it comes to independent organizations and observers.	provides support when and where possible, it is not the Navy's mission to review, manage, or implement this program. Regarding the availability of data on the location of U.S. Navy activities, that information is classified for purposes of national security. There are, however, scientists at NMFS with the appropriate security clearance, and when appropriate, the Navy provides NMFS the data needed to investigate a stranding.
Johnson-04	4. The EIS does not provide comprehensive overview of all relevant and available literature on a subject of sound and marine mammals. Below are the studies that have not been included, even though they are highly relevant as they show how vulnerable marine mammals are to the anthropogenic sound: a) Brownell, R.L. et al., (2008), Hunting cetaceans with sound: a worldwide review, J. CETACEAN RES. MANAGE. 10(1):81–88. b) Miller et al., 2011, Developing dose-response relationships for the onset of avoidance of sonar by free-ranging killer whales(Orcinus orca), Paper presented at the 19th Biennial Conference on the Biology of Marine Mammals, November, 2011, Tampa, FL, USA. (this study indicated that killer whales stopped feeding at playback of sonar sounds of 93 dB re: 1µPa and whales started to show the avoidance at 98 dB re: 1µPa) c). Parsons et al., (2008), Navy sonar and cetaceans: Just how much does the gun need to smoke before we act? Marine Pollution Bulletin, 56, 1248–1257 d). Report on the mass stranding and rescue of common dolphins in Porth Creek, the Percuil River, Falmouth, SW England, June 2008 e).Weilgart L, Whitehead H, Rendell L, Calambokidis J. Signal-to-noise: funding structure versus ethics as a solution to conflict-of-interest. Marine Mammal Science 2005;21:779–81	It is never the case in science or in a NEPA document that "all relevant and all available literature" needs to be cited for there to be a complete review and analysis of the topics being discussed. As per the guidance on NEPA from the Council on Environmental Quality (see 40 C.F.R §1500.1(b)) the Navy's EIS/OEIS concentrates on issues and references that are truly significant to the proposed action "rather than amassing needless detail" as would be present if it included all available literature on the subject of sound and marine mammals. For the NWTT Final EIS/OEIS, Navy has continued to update the discussion and analysis by considering new, emergent science published in peer-reviewed scientific journals and other verifiable sources. Comments received on the Draft EIS/OEIS were also reviewed for any citation to references not otherwise listed in the draft document, and all such references were reviewed to determine if they constituted significant, relevant, and widely-respected additions to the field for possible inclusion into the Final EIS/OEIS. Upon review and although it does not in any way alter the analysis, the citation to Brownell et al. (2008) has been added to the document as a result of this comment and as it pertains to the discussion of avoidance of anthropogenic activity. Some comments cited newspapers, website blogs, conference abstracts, or reports from workshops, which have generally not been included in the EIS/OEIS since those references did not go through the peer-review process, which is the standard for validating research and results in the scientific community. In general, the Navy did not include references that lack the indicia of scientific reliability or finality (beyond speculation or unsupported hypothesis) and therefore do not warrant consideration at this time. References found to enhance the analysis or that update the information previously presented have been added to Section 3.4 (Marine Mammals - References Cited and Considered) for this Final EIS/OEIS. Note also that the following references were considered in the development of

Table I.5-4: Responses to Comments from Private Individuals (continued)

Commenter	Comment	Navy Response
		the Final EIS/OEIS: 1) Miller et al. (2014), Dose-response relationships for the onset of avoidance of sonar by free ranging killer whales; and 2) Parsons et al., (2008), Navy sonar and cetaceans: Just how much does the gun need to smoke before we act?
Johnson-05	5. The EIS does not discuss all ways of how marine mammals can be negative impacted and by doing so provides inaccurate and potentially wrong and misleading evaluation of mortalities and negative impacts. EIS application completely ignores severe and far reaching consequences of live strandings. For example, a study by Wade et al. (2012) indicated how removal of key individuals can affect the entire populations. They key individuals often die during mass or single strandings and their death affects the entire population because these individuals are either leaders, or important for mating and reproduction or important for knowledge transfer that takes place in species like sperm whales, pilot whales and potentially many other species. Hence, EIS does not make the accurate estimation of actual damage their activities will result in. 6. Similarly, EIS failed to mention how strandings might not reflect the true extent of mortalities resulted from the Navy activities. For example the experimental study that did controlled carcasses release offshore found that only 8% of experimentally released carcasses made it to shore. The model that was made based on data predicted that that only carcasses that have positive buoyancy will drift and wash ashore. The carcasses with negative buoyancy will sink and decompose. (Peltier et al., 2012). This could indicate that many animals affected will not wash ashore and will die offshore, never to be seen or counted. EIS does not provide any discussion on that and does not factor this fact in its mortality and impact estimations. Peltier's study is not cited in EIS either. The above points indicate that the Navy is grossly underestimated the actual impact of its activities. Furthermore, it omitted numerous significant and highly relevant studies. We urge officials in charge to deny this permit because it does not show the true extent of Navy's activities. The Navy capitalizes on conflict of interest, cherry-picking of data and studies, lack of resources for independent studies and investigation, and dismal state of the US stranding network that cannot produce any compelling evidence for Navy's role in strandings not because there is none, but because stranding field lacks resources, training, coordination and frankly desire to investigate and to find the cause for increasing strandings in the US. References: Bernaldo De Quirós, Y., González-Diaz, O., Arbelo, M., Sierra, E., Sacchini, S., and Fernández, A. (2012). Decompression vs. Decomposition: Distribution, Amount, and Gas Composition of Bubbles in Stranded Marine Mammals. Frontiers in Physiology 3. Peltier, H., Dabin, W., Daniel, P., Van Canneyt, O., Dorémus, G., Huon, M., & Ridoux, V. (2012). The significance of stranding data as indicators of cetacean populations at sea: Modelling the drift of cetacean carcasses. Ecological Indicators, 18, 278-290. Paul	Thank you for providing information regarding specific references. Please see the analysis presented in the EIS/OEIS in Section 3.4 (Marine Mammals) regarding strandings and the science upon which the analysis is based. Please note that the citations provided in the comment were either previously considered or cited in the EIS/OEIS. Precisely because stranding data may not be indicative of the total impacts to marine mammals in a given area, the Navy has relied on predictive modeling of acoustic impacts and the science summarized in the Draft EIS/OEIS Section 3.4.4.1 (Summary of Monitoring and Observations During Navy Activities) based on the results of over 8 years of scientific monitoring, research, and scientific investigations where the Navy has been training and testing for decades. This has included many instances of monitoring, tagging, and observation of marine mammals before, during, and after Navy training and testing events or exposure to sonar have occurred. As a result of the information in the EIS/OEIS, long-term consequences for marine mammal populations are unlikely to result from the continuation of Navy training and testing activities in the Study Area. Please also refer to Chapter 5 (Standard Operating Procedures, Mitigation, and Monitoring) of the EIS/OEIS, detailing the procedures and mitigation measures during its training and testing activities designed to reduce impacts to marine mammals from Navy activities.

Table I.5-4: Responses to Comments from Private Individuals (continued)

Commenter	Comment	Navy Response
	R. Wade, Randall R. Reeves, and Sarah L. Mesnick, “Social and Behavioural Factors in Cetacean Responses to Overexploitation: Are Odontocetes Less “Resilient” Than Mysticetes?,” Journal of Marine Biology, vol. 2012, Article ID 567276, 15 pages, 2012. doi:10.1155/2012/567276 End of submission by Stranded No More Feb 2, 2015	
Johnson-06	Additional comments I have a foreign friend, brilliant mind, whose statement have been included in my comments because his thinking is the precise path that should be taken up rather than the destructive one that is presented in this new amendment to the EIS. Directly from Jeffery Wefferson “most crucial dimension of cetacean communication: the 'non-local'/non-energetic psychic/telepathic dimension. They never use 'just' sound; it is always accompanied by the telepathic field. It's far more simultaneous. They exist in a more coherent real-time responsive field of group-mind coherence that we would be capable except that we are blocking these aspects of our own consciousness thoroughly in many ways AND to be successful in society requires dishonesty which in itself prevents true and open communication. If we were transparent like cetaceans we would become instant targets for exploiters.” I find it objectionable proposing to take an additional 24,000 whales knowing how sophisticated these evolved species are in comparison to our own. Comparing the modification they have made during their 60 million years of evolving in water, overcoming temperature extremes, salinity, water depth & its encumbering pressure, the inability to see, obtaining & storing air, creating navigational methods, modifying limbs to deal with the liquid medium that surrounds them, establishing a means of communicating which to this time has stymied our attempts at understanding. & your proposal of risking these cetacean populations defies all reasoning. Based on the new protocols established for Southern Resident Pod Orcas, the Navy should propose these same protocols for all whales stranding within the NWTTR. http://www.seadocsociety.org/wp-content/uploads/Orca-necropsy-protocol-FINAL-May-15-2014.pdf APPENDIX XIV: Considerations and sampling for live stranded killer whales .....48 pg APPENDIX XV: Cetacean ear extraction and fixation protocol .....50 pg APPENDIX XVI: Barotrauma considerations and sampling protocol for gas bubbles…….. 54 During Feb. 2014 at least 3 Pacific white-sided dolphin Lagenorhynchus obliquidens stranded one @ Gearhart. http://www.beachconnection.net/news/stripdolp022014_753.php At the time of the stranding at least one was alive & taken to the Seaside Aquarium. I have not seen the necropsy report but had these protocols been available & expanded to cover all species stranded, the cause of stranding could likely have been established as to whether it had suffered an unusual event potentially associated with sonar or seismic trauma. Respectfully submitted	The Navy shares your concern for marine life, but this concern must be balanced with the purpose and need for Navy training and testing as detailed in Chapter 2 (Description of Proposed Action and Alternatives) of the EIS/OEIS. The Navy has conducted training and testing activities in the Study Area for decades, and there is no evidence that routine Navy training and testing has negatively impacted marine mammal populations in the Study Area or at any Navy Range Complex. Based on the best available science summarized in the EIS/OEIS Section 3.4.4.1 (Summary of Monitoring and Observations During Navy Activities) long-term consequences for marine mammal populations are unlikely to result from Navy training and testing activities in the Study Area. Please also refer to Chapter 5 (Standard Operating Procedures, Mitigation, and Monitoring) of the EIS/OEIS, detailing the procedures and mitigation measures during its training and testing activities designed to reduce impacts to marine mammals from Navy activities.

Table I.5-4: Responses to Comments from Private Individuals (continued)

Commenter	Comment	Navy Response
N. Jones-01 (Electronic)	Weapons of war or the Navy for that matter do not belong in forest. I believe that the Navy already knows that this weaponry will destroy the oceans if they test it there so they should not be allowed to test it in the Olympic National Forest either. This wilderness belongs to the flora and fauna that live there. They will be harmed by this micro wave testing and weaponry and this is not acceptable. The Olympic National Forest is a place of beauty and peace—nature's gifts of love not war—-an legacy of exquisite landscape-- a place for life to thrive not to be Micro Waved-- The Great Pacific Northwest—a National treasure—an ecosystem-- with billions of relationships that create the connected web of life that spans out across the state and the region. ---The forest is not a mere single fragmented product that can be replaced at Wall Mart or that flora and fauna are independent parts removable without affecting the whole. This is an eco system not an object. The forest is a living entity with a myriad of species that will all be harmed by these Micro Wave weapons. Also this National forest is the public's commons to be protected from potential acts of destruction from which the Navy is proposing. These areas are to be enjoyed not inundated with microwave and weapons of war. The full potential for harm and the damage to be done that will surface over time is immeasurable. There are a lot of unknown costs. The public should not have to bare the burden of that so often as history and for example the DOE's handling of Hanford has shown us that the public is left paying for the clean up after the damage and the offenders are long gone. There are way too many variables not being considered, and to many hidden costs that are attached to the Navy's proposal. So clearly the measurable risks greatly outweigh the benefits and for all of those variables of the unknown the precautionary principle should be applied for all. Absolutely I believe that the Navy should NOT be allowed to test weapons of war in the Olympic National Forest. Thank you for your time and consideration.	Thank you for participating in the NEPA process. However this comment is outside the scope of the Supplement to the Draft EIS/OEIS. Please see Chapters 1 and 2 of the EIS/OEIS for a clear definition of the scope of this project. For more information on the EA for Electronic Warfare Range, please visit the project website at www.cnic.navy.mil/regions/cnrnw/installations/nas_whidbey_island/om/environmental_support.html There are no weapons testing activities proposed in the Olympic National Forest in the Supplement to the Draft EIS/OEIS.
N. Jones-02	I write today with grave concern for all aquatic life and the marine mammals that will be affected by the Navy's proposed deployment of 720 sonabuoys a year over the next four years. This is absolutely not acceptable considering that the Pacific North West has whale watching year around and being able see these animals brings in tourism dollars which are the life blood of the coastal communities. We need the whales to be here and not leave due to the noise from 2,880 sonabuoys. The 16 century technology being deployed by the Navy in spotting whales before they blast the 21 century weapons of war is not sufficient in protecting these gentile creatures from harm. Sound carries a long way under water. Whales, sea lion, harbor seal, and salmon are all important to our ecosystem and our tourist economy. We the people can not afford or condone the proposed 24,000 incidental take of marine mammals nor can we afford to lose any fish. The Oregon/ Washington Coast is a beautiful place where people go to see wildlife alive not dead or stranded. Oregon has no medical care for sea lions, nor does it have a marine mammal rescue team	As described in Section 3.10 (Cultural Resources), Section 3.12 (Socioeconomics), and Section 3.13 (Public Health and Safety) of the Draft EIS/OEIS, the Navy's proposed activities are not expected to impact cultural resources, socioeconomic resources, or public health and safety. As described in the Supplement in Section 3.4.2 (Marine Mammal Summary), the proposed increase in the use of SSQ-125 sonobuoys would "not result in any long-term consequences for any marine mammal population or species; therefore, the conclusions stated in the Draft EIS/OEIS remain unchanged." The Navy has conducted active sonar training and testing activities in the Study Area for decades, and there is no evidence that routine Navy training and testing has negatively impacted marine mammal

Table I.5-4: Responses to Comments from Private Individuals (continued)

Commenter	Comment	Navy Response
	prepared and in place incase of such a mass stranding. The Oregon/Washington Coast is place for peace and relaxation not war games or weapons of mass destruction. Your Nuclear submarines can not keep us safe if there are GMO's in our breakfast cereal and ceil phone towers on every corner. Your weapons of war can not keep us safe with dead oceans and the sea stars are already melting and the seabirds are dying in mass in the North West. I am absolutely opposed to any warfare testing and training in the Pacific Northwest. I am absolutely opposed to the deployment of 2880 sonabouys-- these buoys will not be good for business, and not good for our oceans. Create Peace and that will make us all feel safer and stop the destruction of our oceans and we will all live a little longer. The tax payer's of the Pacific North West should not have to fund the Navy and aid them destroying the economy that we currently have and love. Whales bring joy--missiles bring war and war is not a sustaining function for life as biological beings on this Planet— Healthy Living oceans Are!	populations in the Study Area or at any Navy Range Complex. Based on the best available science summarized in the EIS/OEIS Section 3.4.4.1 (Summary of Monitoring and Observations During Navy Activities) long-term consequences for marine mammal populations are unlikely to result from Navy training and testing activities in the Study Area. Regarding previous strandings, see Section 3.4.3.1.8 (Stranding) and the referenced technical report “Marine Mammal Strandings Associated with U.S. Navy Sonar Activities” (U.S. Department of the Navy 2013c).
S. Jones (Electronic)	I am writing to oppose expansion of the growler training program (additional 36 planes) and to oppose using the Olympic Peninsula (and forest) as a training ground for electromagnetic warfare. We had intended to retire here, but we have become so concerned over this issue that we are now considering moving away. We came here because this area is a beautiful place, and we're so sad to see that the Navy is making proposals that might harm the area, the animals, and possibly the people - when all of this should be protected as a national treasure. I know that some environmental surveys have led to the conclusion that these naval training programs are not harmful. I'm not convinced and besides, the noise alone from these growler planes is already too much to be dealing with in one of the nation's most visited national parks. The noise, the potential harm to inhabitants, the potential loss of income to people who operate businesses on the peninsula make this training program, and the expansion of it, seem like a very thoughtless proposal by the Navy.	Thank you for participating in the NEPA process. Please see Chapters 1 and 2 of the EIS/OEIS for a clear definition of the scope of this project. There are no activities involving the use of electronic radiation proposed in the Supplement to the Draft EIS/OEIS. There are no weapons testing activities proposed in the Olympic National Forest in the Supplement to the Draft EIS/OEIS. It is also important to note that the proposed activities would not change how or where the Navy has been flying for decades. For more information on the EA for Electronic Warfare Range, please visit the project website at www.cnic.navy.mil/regions/cnrnw/installations/nas_whidbey_island/om/environmental_support.html”and for more information on the EA-18G Growler, visit the EIS for EA-18G Growler Airfield Operations at NAS Whidbey Island and OLF Coupeville found at www.whibeyeis.com
Joos (Electronic)	I am writing to urge the Navy to permanently suspend all proposed underwater sonar training activities. The Navy’s own environmental analysis fails to provide basic information necessary to adequately evaluate the impacts of the proposed activities. It also fails to provide adequate measures to mitigate the harmful effects of the proposed activities on marine mammals and other wildlife. Based on the information provided in the environmental analysis, the Navy’s “No Action Alternative” is the proposal with the most limited impact on wildlife. A drastic increase in sonar activity will negatively impact wildlife. Marine mammals are extremely sensitive to noise, and sonar disrupts basic behaviors necessary for survival such as migration, surfacing, navigating, hearing, nursing, breeding and feeding. Furthermore, sonar can result in debilitating and even fatal injuries for	As described in the Supplement in Section 3.5.2 (Sea Turtle Summary), the proposed increase in the use of SSQ-125 sonobuoys "are not expected to result in substantial changes to behavior, growth, survival, annual reproductive success, lifetime reproductive success (fitness), or species recruitment, and are not expected to result in population-level impacts." The Navy shares your concern for marine life, but this concern must be balanced with the purpose and need for Navy training and testing as detailed in Chapter 2 (Description of Proposed Action and Alternatives) of the EIS/OEIS. The Navy has conducted active sonar training and testing activities in the Study Area for decades, and there is no

Table I.5-4: Responses to Comments from Private Individuals (continued)

Commenter	Comment	Navy Response
	marine mammals. Scientists believe sonar activity can change whale diving behavior, confusing them to swim to depths their bodies cannot handle. Whales suspected to have beached themselves because of sonar activity show signs of physical trauma like bleeding around the brain, ears and other tissues and large bubbles in their organs – symptoms analogous to “the bends” in humans. Finally, if threatened or endangered species, including humpback and sperm whales, and leatherback turtles, are negatively affected, the proposed activities may result in violations of the Endangered Species Act.	evidence that routine Navy training and testing has negatively impacted marine mammal populations in the Study Area or at any Navy Range Complex. Based on the best available science summarized in the EIS/OEIS Section 3.4.4.1 (Summary of Monitoring and Observations During Navy Activities) long-term consequences for marine mammal populations are unlikely to result from Navy training and testing activities in the Study Area. The Navy has conducted active sonar training and testing activities in the Study Area for decades, and there is no evidence that routine Navy training and testing has negatively impacted individual sea turtles or sea turtle populations in the Study Area or at any Navy Range Complex. Based on the best available science summarized in the Draft EIS/OEIS Section 3.5.3.7.1 (Combined Impacts of All Stressors) “impacts are not expected to decrease the overall fitness or result in long-term population level impacts on any given population. In cases where potential impacts rise to a level that warrants mitigation, mitigation measures designed to reduce the potential impacts are discussed in Chapter 5 (Standard Operating Procedures, Mitigation, and Monitoring)." In accordance with ESA requirements, the Navy will complete consultation under Section 7 of the ESA with NMFS and USFWS and adhere to the Letter of Authorization and Biological Opinion issued by those agencies.
Joseph (Electronic)	Looks like the Navy wants to turn Pacific Northwest waters into its own little war zone, complete with live fire, sono-torture, harassment and murder of endangered marine life, and harassment and restriction of civilian activity on these waters. Congratulations. I will be part of the opposing lawsuit actions. As to the claim that sonar activity will not affect marine mammals very adversely, I invite any and all of those who support these proposed activities to try the following experiment: 1. Wade out into shallow sea water, so you can stand or kneel with stability. Put your head under water in the ocean for ten seconds. Running out of breath should not be a problem. Do not plug or cover your ears. 2. During this ten second period, have someone fire a nine mm pistol into the water, one foot away from your uncovered ears, with the muzzle just under the surface of the water, and with care taken not to shoot you in the process. I shoot 234 out of 240 with the nine mil and would be happy to do this myself. 3. Judge the results on your ears and general health for yourself. And remember, you are only a few genetic steps away from being a marine mammal.	Thank you for participating in the NEPA process.
Jump-01	Thank you for this opportunity to comment. Thank you in advance for reading my	Thank you for participating in the NEPA process.

Table I.5-4: Responses to Comments from Private Individuals (continued)

Commenter	Comment	Navy Response
(Written)	letter.	
Jump-02	I am respectfully requesting that an adequate public notification period, as well as a cohesive, all-inclusive plan of proposed Navy activity in the Pacific Northwest be offered to the public for comment as well. By this time, it is obvious to many who are paying attention, that the proposed land, sea and air activity has been erroneously separated into parcels for public comment and perusal. A person only needs to look at a Navy map, as provided on your website (attached) to understand that there is significant activity in a very concentrated and environmentally sensitive area and that land, sea and air all connected.	The Navy made significant efforts to notify the public to ensure maximum public participation during the public comment period, including using postcards, press releases, and newspaper display advertisements. The public could download and review the document, and make comments to it, on the website. The Navy prepares Environmental Impact Statements (EIS) and Environmental Assessments (EA) in order to comply with the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA). These NEPA documents are intended to ensure decision makers consider the potential environmental effects of a proposed action and its alternatives, provide an opportunity for public involvement, and promote transparency by informing the public of these potential environmental effects. Each NEPA document addresses a specific proposed action, separated from other actions by its purpose and need, independent utility, timing, and geographic location. Some NEPA documents are stand-alone documents; others tier off or expand the analyses of other NEPA documents. NEPA documents for training and testing, including this EIS/OEIS, focus on training and testing activities occurring within a range complex or military operation area and involve different types of aircraft, ships, and range complex enhancements. NEPA documents for aircraft homebasing actions focus on aircraft operations in and around the airfield and their facility needs. NEPA documents for installations focus on infrastructure enhancements for host and tenant command missions. Importantly, every environmental document considers the cumulative impacts to the environment from other relevant past, present, and reasonably foreseeable future actions (federal, state, local, and private) in addition to the proposed action.
Kaplan (Electronic)	My name is Joyce Kaplan, and I have previously commented on the Navy's plan to increase the number of Growler jets at Naval Air Station Whidbey Island. I wish to take this opportunity to comment on the Supplement (December 2014) to the Navy's Draft Environmental Impact Statement/ Overseas Environmental Impact Statement (DEIS), dated January 2014, for its continued training and testing activities in the Pacific Northwest (NWTT). Please include these comments in the administrative record. The Navy has used a "divide and conquer" approach when asking for public comments on multiple components of its overall plan for the Pacific NW. In breaking their plan into smaller segments (additional Growlers on Whidbey, the electromagnetic warfare training in the Olympic National Forest, the use of sonar and explosive devices along the coast) and having few public comment	The Navy prepares Environmental Impact Statements (EIS) and Environmental Assessments (EA) in order to comply with the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA). These NEPA documents are intended to ensure decision makers consider the potential environmental effects of a proposed action and its alternatives, provide an opportunity for public involvement, and promote transparency by informing the public of these potential environmental effects. Each NEPA document addresses a specific proposed action, separated from other actions by its purpose and need, independent utility, timing, and geographic location. Some NEPA documents are stand-alone documents; others tier off or expand the analyses of other NEPA

Table I.5-4: Responses to Comments from Private Individuals (continued)

Commenter	Comment	Navy Response
	periods, the Navy seems to be trying to fool Washington residents about the scope of its actual plans. There need to be comprehensive NEPA and EIS reports on the consequences of Navy actions in the Pacific NW. The US military has declared that "climate change" is a matter of national security. With the exception of the current batch of Republican senators in the US Congress, global warming is acknowledged to be reaching a tipping point by 95% of the scientific community. Our oceans face dire effects from acidification, pollution, overfishing, and die-offs of species. When the communities of Puget Sound are trying so hard to save the marine environment which is so central to our way of life, it boggles the mind that the Navy thinks it is okay to employ underwater sonar testing and the use of explosive devices against the very species that are endangered. I quote the Northwest Training and Testing EIS/OEIS: "The aggregate impacts of past, present actions and reasonably foreseeable future actions of all users in the Study Area are expected to result in significant impacts on some marine mammal species in the Study Area. The impacts are considered significant because vessel strikes, bycatch, and entanglement associated with other actions are expected to result in relatively high rates of injury and mortality that could cause population declines in some species." This callous attitude regarding harm to and destruction of marine mammals seems not merely unethical, but blatantly immoral. The Navy should be doing all in its power to prevent the loss of species and destruction of habitat, not the opposite. It's time to seriously address what the Navy can do to help mitigate the effects of climate change. That would keep us far safer than Growlers and submarines ever will.	documents. NEPA documents for training and testing, including this EIS/OEIS, focus on training and testing activities occurring within a range complex or military operation area and involve different types of aircraft, ships, and range complex enhancements. NEPA documents for aircraft homebasing actions focus on aircraft operations in and around the airfield and their facility needs. NEPA documents for installations focus on infrastructure enhancements for host and tenant command missions. Importantly, every environmental document considers the cumulative impacts to the environment from other relevant past, present, and reasonably foreseeable future actions (federal, state, local, and private) in addition to the proposed action. The Navy shares your concern for marine life, but this concern must be balanced with the purpose and need for Navy training and testing as detailed in Chapter 2 (Description of Proposed Action and Alternatives) of the EIS/OEIS. The Navy has conducted active sonar training and testing activities in the Study Area for decades, and there is no evidence that routine Navy training and testing has negatively impacted marine mammal populations in the Study Area or at any Navy Range Complex. Based on the best available science summarized in the EIS/OEIS Section 3.4.4.1 (Summary of Monitoring and Observations During Navy Activities) long-term consequences for marine mammal populations are unlikely to result from Navy training and testing activities in the Study Area. Please also refer to Chapter 5 (Standard Operating Procedures, Mitigation, and Monitoring) of the EIS/OEIS, detailing the procedures and mitigation measures during its training and testing activities designed to reduce impacts to marine mammals from Navy activities. The Navy used the best available science and a comprehensive review of past, present, and reasonably foreseeable actions to develop a robust Cumulative Impacts analysis. The Navy has returned to the analysis in Chapter 4 (Cumulative Impacts) due to concerns raised in public comments, and the Chapter has been revised in response to those public comments. The literature on ocean acidification has been reviewed, and is now discussed in Section 4.4.4 (Climate Change), of Chapter 4 (Cumulative Impacts) of the EIS/OEIS.
Karaba-01 (Electronic)	Dear Navy. Please DO NOT kill innocent life. Your plan to "test" sonar is a knowledgeable attack on sea mammels.why in the name of testing would you harm and declare war on such a gentle and intelligent species. Marine mammals have bigger brains than us and do not engage in war or kill for reasons as unintelligent as testing their weapons. You already know that the use of sonar kills and disorients	As described in the Supplement in Section 3.4.2 (Marine Mammal Summary), the proposed increase in the use of SSQ-125 sonobuoys would "not result in any long-term consequences for any marine mammal population or species; therefore, the conclusions stated in the

Table I.5-4: Responses to Comments from Private Individuals (continued)

Commenter	Comment	Navy Response
	whales and other sea life. So your testing is complete and sonar blasts should only be used unless you are trying to kill and disorient whales. Why does the Navy want to kill whales? Have you declared war on whales? These proposed activities are out of scope and beyond measure. The navy should be out there at sea defending and protecting our whales as the sensitive intelligent limited and gentle relatives that they are. Why do you defend a country but do nothing for the earths finest creatures? With all your capabilities you sould defend the innocent and be ashamed if you even think of killing them! Protect our rare and sacred species, Navy!	Draft EIS/OEIS remain unchanged." The Navy has conducted active sonar training and testing activities in the Study Area for decades, and there is no evidence that routine Navy training and testing has negatively impacted marine mammal populations in the Study Area or at any Navy Range Complex. Based on the best available science summarized in the EIS/OEIS Section 3.4.4.1 (Summary of Monitoring and Observations During Navy Activities) long-term consequences for marine mammal populations are unlikely to result from Navy training and testing activities in the Study Area.
Karaba-02	Dear Navy, please DO NOT kill or plan to kill whales. The Navy should be out there defending whales and sea mammels from harm . Why is the navy declaring war on whales? In the name of "testing"? That is NOT justified. Please use your resources and my tax dollars to protect all innocence life. Do not harm the whales. They are intelligent gentle animals who deserve respect and defense.	The Navy shares your concern for marine life, but this concern must be balanced with the purpose and need for Navy training and testing as detailed in Chapter 2 (Description of Proposed Action and Alternatives) of the EIS/OEIS. The Navy has conducted active sonar training and testing activities in the Study Area for decades, and there is no evidence that routine Navy training and testing has negatively impacted marine mammal populations in the Study Area or at any Navy Range Complex. Based on the best available science summarized in the EIS/OEIS Section 3.4.4.1 (Summary of Monitoring and Observations During Navy Activities) long-term consequences for marine mammal populations are unlikely to result from Navy training and testing activities in the Study Area. Please also refer to Chapter 5 (Standard Operating Procedures, Mitigation, and Monitoring) of the EIS/OEIS, detailing the procedures and mitigation measures during its training and testing activities designed to reduce impacts to marine mammals from Navy activities.
Karlson (Electronic)	Hello. I am writing re: the Navy's proposed expansion of sonar emitting buoys in the Pacific. The balance between life in the ocean and life on earth is extremely fragile! To harm or destroy one is to harm if not destroy the other. Public Naval environmental analysis fails to provide adequate measures to mitigate the harm of such sonar and explosives on our marine life, mammals, fish and the ocean ecological systems we depend upon. Since the Navy's proposed training and testing activities include the use of sonar, explosives, weapons firing, and other acoustic devices, my concern for life to continue is not theoretical. These activities have well known and well documented negative impacts on a number of whale species and porpoises, as well as other marine wildlife. The Navy admits the increase in the use of sonar devices "is likely to adversely affect endangered leatherback turtles whose protected habitat along the Pacific Coast was only recently established in 2012. High intensity-mid-frequency sonar -- along with	Best management practices include measures that regulate operations to ensure compliance with pollution emission requirements and general resource conservation goals. Navy policies and procedures identified in Navy instructions such as the Environmental Readiness Program Manual, include directives regarding waste management, pollution prevention, and recycling, all of which benefit sediments and water quality in the ocean. Any procedures or practices that benefit ocean sediments and water quality in turn benefit all marine life in the ocean, from plants and invertebrates, to fish and marine mammals. As described in the Supplement in Section 3.5.2 (Sea Turtle Summary), the proposed increase in the use of SSQ-125 sonobuoys "are not expected to result in substantial changes to behavior, growth, survival, annual reproductive success, lifetime reproductive success

Table I.5-4: Responses to Comments from Private Individuals (continued)

Commenter	Comment	Navy Response
	activities like dumping debris, the use of toxic chemicals, and detonating explosives -- will degrade sensitive habitat necessary for the survival of marine mammal populations. Sonar can result in debilitating and even fatal injuries for marine mammals. Scientists believe sonar activity can change whale diving behavior, confusing them to swim to depths their bodies cannot handle. Whales suspected to have beached themselves because of sonar activity show signs of physical trauma like bleeding around the brain, ears and other tissues and large bubbles in their organs – symptoms analogous to “the bends” in humans. To the extent that threatened or endangered species -- including humpback and sperm whales, and leatherback turtles -- are negatively impacted, the proposed activities may result in violations of the Endangered Species Act. Please DO NOT INCREASE THE SONAR DEVICES nor explode our life sustaining oceans. CHOOSE "NO ACTION" ALTERNATIVE.	(fitness), or species recruitment, and are not expected to result in population-level impacts." The Navy shares your concern for marine life, but this concern must be balanced with the purpose and need for Navy training and testing as detailed in Chapter 2 (Description of Proposed Action and Alternatives) of the EIS/OEIS. The Navy has conducted active sonar training and testing activities in the Study Area for decades, and there is no evidence that routine Navy training and testing has negatively impacted marine mammal populations in the Study Area or at any Navy Range Complex. Based on the best available science summarized in the EIS/OEIS Section 3.4.4.1 (Summary of Monitoring and Observations During Navy Activities) long-term consequences for marine mammal populations are unlikely to result from Navy training and testing activities in the Study Area. Please also refer to Chapter 5 (Standard Operating Procedures, Mitigation, and Monitoring) of the EIS/OEIS, detailing the procedures and mitigation measures during its training and testing activities designed to reduce impacts to marine mammals from Navy activities. Regarding previous strandings, see Section 3.4.3.1.8 (Stranding) and the referenced technical report “Marine Mammal Strandings Associated with U.S. Navy Sonar Activities” (U.S. Department of the Navy 2013c). In accordance with ESA requirements, the Navy will complete consultation under Section 7 of the ESA with NMFS and USFWS and adhere to the Letter of Authorization and Biological Opinion issued by those agencies.
Karras (Electronic)	I really care about this issue deeply. I have called the Navy and I have written to you over and over. I feel the Navy will do whatever they please regardless of the consequences because they really don't care but about anything but MONEY and bogus National security claims. But here we go.....The Navy’s current environmental analysis fails to provide basic information necessary to adequately evaluate the impacts of the proposed activities. This analysis also fails to provide adequate measures to mitigate the harmful effects of the proposed activities on marine mammals and other wildlife. Based on the information apparent in the environmental analysis, the Navy’s “No Action Alternative” is the proposal with the most limited impact on wildlife.A drastic increase in sonar activity will negatively impact wildlife. Marine mammals are extremely sensitive to noise, and sonar disrupts basic behaviors necessary for survival such as migration, surfacing, navigating, hearing, nursing, breeding and feeding. Sonar can result in debilitating	The Navy shares your concern for marine life, but this concern must be balanced with the purpose and need for Navy training and testing as detailed in Chapter 2 (Description of Proposed Action and Alternatives) of the EIS/OEIS. The Navy has conducted active sonar training and testing activities in the Study Area for decades, and there is no evidence that routine Navy training and testing has negatively impacted individual sea turtles or sea turtle populations, or marine mammal populations in the Study Area or at any Navy Range Complex. Based on the best available science summarized in the EIS/OEIS Section 3.4.4.1 (Summary of Monitoring and Observations During Navy Activities), long-term consequences for marine mammal populations are unlikely to result from Navy training and testing activities in the Study Area. Note that for sea turtles, as described in

Table I.5-4: Responses to Comments from Private Individuals (continued)

Commenter	Comment	Navy Response
	and even fatal injuries for marine mammals. Scientists believe sonar activity can change whale diving behavior, confusing them to swim to depths their bodies cannot handle. Whales suspected to have beached themselves because of sonar activity show signs of physical trauma like bleeding around the brain, ears and other tissues and large bubbles in their organs – symptoms analogous to "the bends" in humans. To the extent that threatened or endangered species -- including humpback and sperm whales, and leatherback turtles -- are negatively impacted, the proposed activities may result in violations of the Endangered Species Act.	the EIS/OEIS Section 3.5.3.7.1 (Combined Impacts of All Stressors), "impacts are not expected to decrease the overall fitness or result in long-term population level impacts on any given population." Please also refer to Chapter 5 (Standard Operating Procedures, Mitigation, and Monitoring) of the EIS/OEIS, detailing the procedures and mitigation measures during its training and testing activities designed to reduce impacts to marine mammals and sea turtles from Navy activities. Regarding previous strandings, see Section 3.4.3.1.8 (Stranding) and the referenced technical report "Marine Mammal Strandings Associated with U.S. Navy Sonar Activities" (U.S. Department of the Navy 2013c). In accordance with ESA requirements, the Navy will complete consultation under Section 7 of the ESA with NMFS and USFWS and adhere to the Letter of Authorization and Biological Opinion issued by those agencies.
Kelly (Electronic)	Stop sonar and explosive testing in the sea. THis is hurting those creatures who live there.	The Navy shares your concern for marine life, but this concern must be balanced with the purpose and need for Navy training and testing as detailed in Chapter 2 (Description of Proposed Action and Alternatives) of the EIS/OEIS. The Navy has conducted active sonar training and testing activities in the Study Area for decades, and there is no evidence that routine Navy training and testing has negatively impacted marine mammal populations in the Study Area or at any Navy Range Complex. Based on the best available science summarized in the EIS/OEIS Section 3.4.4.1 (Summary of Monitoring and Observations During Navy Activities) long-term consequences for marine mammal populations are unlikely to result from Navy training and testing activities in the Study Area. Please also refer to Chapter 5 (Standard Operating Procedures, Mitigation, and Monitoring) of the EIS/OEIS, detailing the procedures and mitigation measures during its training and testing activities designed to reduce impacts to marine mammals from Navy activities.
Kennedy (Electronic)	With regards to the Navy's proposed increase in training activities off of the Pacific Coast, the Navy's current environmental analysis fails to provide basic information necessary to adequately evaluate the impacts of the proposed activities. This analysis also fails to provide adequate measures to mitigate the harmful effects of the proposed activities on marine mammals and other wildlife. To the extent that threatened or endangered species -- including humpback and sperm whales, and leatherback turtles -- are negatively impacted, the proposed activities may result in	As described in the Supplement in Section 3.5.2 (Sea Turtle Summary), the proposed increase in the use of SSQ-125 sonobuoys "are not expected to result in substantial changes to behavior, growth, survival, annual reproductive success, lifetime reproductive success (fitness), or species recruitment, and are not expected to result in population-level impacts." The Navy shares your concern for marine life, but this concern must be balanced with the purpose and need for

Table I.5-4: Responses to Comments from Private Individuals (continued)

Commenter	Comment	Navy Response
	violations of the Endangered Species Act.	Navy training and testing as detailed in Chapter 2 (Description of Proposed Action and Alternatives) of the EIS/OEIS. The Navy has conducted active sonar training and testing activities in the Study Area for decades, and there is no evidence that routine Navy training and testing has negatively impacted marine mammal populations in the Study Area or at any Navy Range Complex. Based on the best available science summarized in the EIS/OEIS Section 3.4.4.1 (Summary of Monitoring and Observations During Navy Activities), long-term consequences for marine mammal populations are unlikely to result from Navy training and testing activities in the Study Area. Please also refer to Chapter 5 (Standard Operating Procedures, Mitigation, and Monitoring) of the EIS/OEIS, detailing the procedures and mitigation measures during its training and testing activities designed to reduce impacts to marine mammals from Navy activities. In accordance with ESA requirements, the Navy will complete consultation under Section 7 of the ESA with NMFS and USFWS and adhere to the Letter of Authorization and Biological Opinion issued by those agencies.
Kenner (Electronic)	The use of sonar testing in oceans is unethical and detrimental to whales and other ocean inhabitants. It affects their hearing, their bearings, and can lead to deafness and/or death. These are all known and documented facts so I have to wonder why this is being allowed. For me this is also an ethical issue. The ocean is not our home but the home of whales and other species many of whom are already facing obstacles in their striving to survive. I would not expect someone to come into my home and blast extremely loud noises. To do this to whales and others is presumptuous and entitled and invasive. Such testing, due to the harm it can cause, may be a violation of the Endangered Species Act. The best plan, besides ceasing all sonar activity which would be preferable, is the "No Action Alternative" which would at least reduce activity. The Navy must act responsibly and provide adequate measures to mitigate the harmful effects on wildlife and do all that is possible to be as non invasive as possible, Remember, you are in someone else's habitat and should be obligated to keep it the way you found it. Again marine animals are already struggling to survive and many species are already in trouble. It is vital that they are impacted as little as possible.	The Navy shares your concern for marine life, but this concern must be balanced with the purpose and need for Navy training and testing as detailed in Chapter 2 (Description of Proposed Action and Alternatives) of the EIS/OEIS. The Navy has conducted active sonar training and testing activities in the Study Area for decades, and there is no evidence that routine Navy training and testing has negatively impacted marine mammal populations in the Study Area or at any Navy Range Complex. Based on the best available science summarized in the EIS/OEIS Section 3.4.4.1 (Summary of Monitoring and Observations During Navy Activities) long-term consequences for marine mammal populations are unlikely to result from Navy training and testing activities in the Study Area. Please also refer to Chapter 5 (Standard Operating Procedures, Mitigation, and Monitoring) of the EIS/OEIS, detailing the procedures and mitigation measures during its training and testing activities designed to reduce impacts to marine mammals from Navy activities. In accordance with ESA requirements, the Navy will complete consultation under Section 7 of the ESA with NMFS and USFWS and adhere to the Letter of Authorization and Biological Opinion issued by those agencies.
Kent	The Navy’s current environmental analysis fails to provide basic information	The Navy shares your concern for marine life, but this concern must be

Table I.5-4: Responses to Comments from Private Individuals (continued)

Commenter	Comment	Navy Response
(Electronic)	necessary to adequately evaluate the impacts of the proposed activities. This analysis also fails to provide adequate measures to mitigate the harmful effects of the proposed activities on marine mammals and other wildlife. Based on the information apparent in the environmental analysis, the Navy's "No Action Alternative" is the proposal with the most limited impact on wildlife. A drastic increase in sonar activity will negatively impact wildlife. Marine mammals are extremely sensitive to noise, and sonar disrupts basic behaviors necessary for survival such as migration, surfacing, navigating, hearing, nursing, breeding and feeding. Sonar can result in debilitating and even fatal injuries for marine mammals. Scientists believe sonar activity can change whale diving behavior, confusing them to swim to depths their bodies cannot handle. Whales suspected to have beached themselves because of sonar activity show signs of physical trauma like bleeding around the brain, ears and other tissues and large bubbles in their organs – symptoms analogous to "the bends" in humans. To the extent that threatened or endangered species -- including humpback and sperm whales, and leatherback turtles -- are negatively impacted, the proposed activities may result in violations of the Endangered Species Act. Again and again, I have to wonder why humans don't understand there is a delicate balance on this planet of ours and that EVERY action that puts in jeopardy the plants and animals on this Earth, also in the long run, places humans in jeopardy. Sincerely, A Kent	balanced with the purpose and need for Navy training and testing as detailed in Chapter 2 (Description of Proposed Action and Alternatives) of the EIS/OEIS. The Navy has conducted active sonar training and testing activities in the Study Area for decades, and there is no evidence that routine Navy training and testing has negatively impacted individual sea turtles or sea turtle populations, or marine mammal populations in the Study Area or at any Navy Range Complex. Based on the best available science summarized in the EIS/OEIS Section 3.4.4.1 (Summary of Monitoring and Observations During Navy Activities), long-term consequences for marine mammal populations are unlikely to result from Navy training and testing activities in the Study Area. Note that for sea turtles, as described in the EIS/OEIS Section 3.5.3.7.1 (Combined Impacts of All Stressors), "impacts are not expected to decrease the overall fitness or result in long-term population level impacts on any given population." Please also refer to Chapter 5 (Standard Operating Procedures, Mitigation, and Monitoring) of the EIS/OEIS, detailing the procedures and mitigation measures during its training and testing activities designed to reduce impacts to marine mammals and sea turtles from Navy activities. Regarding previous strandings, see Section 3.4.3.1.8 (Stranding) and the referenced technical report "Marine Mammal Strandings Associated with U.S. Navy Sonar Activities" (U.S. Department of the Navy 2013c). In accordance with ESA requirements, the Navy will complete consultation under Section 7 of the ESA with NMFS and USFWS and adhere to the Letter of Authorization and Biological Opinion issued by those agencies.
Kirkland (Electronic)	Please limit the sonar used in training off the pacific coast for the sake of the whales and dolphins that are so sensitive to these sound waves.	The Navy shares your concern for marine life, but this concern must be balanced with the purpose and need for Navy training and testing as detailed in Chapter 2 (Description of Proposed Action and Alternatives) of the EIS/OEIS. The Navy has conducted active sonar training and testing activities in the Study Area for decades, and there is no evidence that routine Navy training and testing has negatively impacted marine mammal populations in the Study Area or at any Navy Range Complex. Based on the best available science summarized in the EIS/OEIS Section 3.4.4.1 (Summary of Monitoring and Observations During Navy Activities) long-term consequences for marine mammal populations are unlikely to result from Navy training

Table I.5-4: Responses to Comments from Private Individuals (continued)

Commenter	Comment	Navy Response
		and testing activities in the Study Area. Please also refer to Chapter 5 (Standard Operating Procedures, Mitigation, and Monitoring) of the EIS/OEIS, detailing the procedures and mitigation measures during its training and testing activities designed to reduce impacts to marine mammals from Navy activities.
Kirschner (Electronic)	I and my family oppose any further sonar/explosive testing where endangered marine life is present. The benefit of having better information on potential enemy subs is not worth the risk in damaging marine life any further than we already have, especially regarding whales. Thank you for allowing us to post a comment.	The Navy shares your concern for marine life, but this concern must be balanced with the purpose and need for Navy training and testing as detailed in Chapter 2 (Description of Proposed Action and Alternatives) of the EIS/OEIS. The Navy has conducted active sonar training and testing activities in the Study Area for decades, and there is no evidence that routine Navy training and testing has negatively impacted marine mammal populations in the Study Area or at any Navy Range Complex. Based on the best available science summarized in the EIS/OEIS Section 3.4.4.1 (Summary of Monitoring and Observations During Navy Activities) long-term consequences for marine mammal populations are unlikely to result from Navy training and testing activities in the Study Area. Please also refer to Chapter 5 (Standard Operating Procedures, Mitigation, and Monitoring) of the EIS/OEIS, detailing the procedures and mitigation measures during its training and testing activities designed to reduce impacts to marine mammals from Navy activities.
Klinski (Electronic)	The Navy's current environmental analysis fails to provide basic information necessary to adequately evaluate the impacts of the proposed activities. This analysis also fails to provide adequate measures to mitigate the harmful effects of the proposed activities on marine mammals and other wildlife. Sonar can result in debilitating and even fatal injuries for marine mammals. Scientists believe sonar activity can change whale diving behavior, confusing them to swim to depths their bodies cannot handle. Whales suspected to have beached themselves because of sonar activity show signs of physical trauma like bleeding around the brain, ears and other tissues and large bubbles in their organs – symptoms analogous to "the bends" in humans. A drastic increase in sonar activity will negatively impact wildlife. Marine mammals are extremely sensitive to noise, and sonar disrupts basic behaviors necessary for survival such as migration, surfacing, navigating, hearing, nursing, breeding and feeding.	The Navy shares your concern for marine life, but this concern must be balanced with the purpose and need for Navy training and testing as detailed in Chapter 2 (Description of Proposed Action and Alternatives) of the EIS/OEIS. The Navy has conducted active sonar training and testing activities in the Study Area for decades, and there is no evidence that routine Navy training and testing has negatively impacted marine mammal populations in the Study Area or at any Navy Range Complex. Based on the best available science summarized in the EIS/OEIS Section 3.4.4.1 (Summary of Monitoring and Observations During Navy Activities) long-term consequences for marine mammal populations are unlikely to result from Navy training and testing activities in the Study Area. Please also refer to Chapter 5 (Standard Operating Procedures, Mitigation, and Monitoring) of the EIS/OEIS, detailing the procedures and mitigation measures during its training and testing activities designed to reduce impacts to marine mammals from Navy activities. Regarding previous strandings, see Section 3.4.3.1.8 (Stranding) and the referenced technical report "Marine Mammal Strandings

Table I.5-4: Responses to Comments from Private Individuals (continued)

Commenter	Comment	Navy Response
		Associated with U.S. Navy Sonar Activities" (U.S. Department of the Navy 2013c). Based on the best available science summarized in the EIS/OEIS Section 3.4.4.1 (Summary of Monitoring and Observations During Navy Activities), long-term consequences for marine mammal populations are unlikely to result from Navy training and testing activities in the Study Area. The Navy thoroughly considered biologically important areas identified recently in its analysis and whether avoidance as mitigation was appropriate. Given the impact avoidance would have on military readiness activities and lack of biological benefit, avoidance is not warranted. Please see Section 5.3.4.1.11 (Avoiding Marine Species Habitats and Biologically Important Areas). However, Navy is proposing to provide reporting of generally low use of sonar in some of these areas to NMFS as part of classified annual reports to help inform future adaptive management related to impacts in these areas.
Klopp (Electronic)	To Whom It May Concern: I am deeply concerned about the last-minute proposed increase in use of sonar-emitting buoys the Navy intends to employ off the coasts of my shoreline. The Navy's current environmental analysis fails to provide basic information necessary to adequately evaluate the impacts of the proposed activities. This analysis also fails to provide adequate measures to mitigate the harmful effects of the proposed activities on marine mammals and other wildlife. Based on the information apparent in the environmental analysis, the Navy's "No Action Alternative" is the proposal with the most limited impact on wildlife. A drastic increase in sonar activity will negatively impact wildlife. Marine mammals are extremely sensitive to noise, and sonar disrupts basic behaviors necessary for survival such as migration, surfacing, navigating, hearing, nursing, breeding and feeding. Sonar can result in debilitating and even fatal injuries for marine mammals. Scientists believe sonar activity can change whale diving behavior, confusing them to swim to depths their bodies cannot handle. Whales suspected to have beached themselves because of sonar activity show signs of physical trauma like bleeding around the brain, ears and other tissues and large bubbles in their organs – symptoms analogous to "the bends" in humans. To the extent that threatened or endangered species -- including humpback and sperm whales, and leatherback turtles -- are negatively impacted, the proposed activities may result in violations of the Endangered Species Act. Please reconsider.	The Navy shares your concern for marine life, but this concern must be balanced with the purpose and need for Navy training and testing as detailed in Chapter 2 (Description of Proposed Action and Alternatives) of the EIS/OEIS. The Navy has conducted active sonar training and testing activities in the Study Area for decades, and there is no evidence that routine Navy training and testing has negatively impacted individual sea turtles or sea turtle populations, or marine mammal populations in the Study Area or at any Navy Range Complex. Based on the best available science summarized in the EIS/OEIS Section 3.4.4.1 (Summary of Monitoring and Observations During Navy Activities), long-term consequences for marine mammal populations are unlikely to result from Navy training and testing activities in the Study Area. Note that for sea turtles, as described in the EIS/OEIS Section 3.5.3.7.1 (Combined Impacts of All Stressors), "impacts are not expected to decrease the overall fitness or result in long-term population level impacts on any given population." Please also refer to Chapter 5 (Standard Operating Procedures, Mitigation, and Monitoring) of the EIS/OEIS, detailing the procedures and mitigation measures during its training and testing activities designed to reduce impacts to marine mammals and sea turtles from Navy activities. Regarding previous strandings, see Section 3.4.3.1.8 (Stranding) and the referenced technical report "Marine Mammal Strandings Associated with U.S. Navy Sonar Activities" (U.S. Department of the

Table I.5-4: Responses to Comments from Private Individuals (continued)

Commenter	Comment	Navy Response
		Navy 2013c). In accordance with ESA requirements, the Navy will complete consultation under Section 7 of the ESA with NMFS and USFWS and adhere to the Letter of Authorization and Biological Opinion issued by those agencies.
Knablin (Electronic)	Why should I have to comment here? Is common sense not present in the beaurocracy? The Navy's current environmental analysis fails to provide basic information necessary to adequately evaluate the impacts of the proposed activities. This analysis also fails to provide adequate measures to mitigate the harmful effects of the proposed activities on marine mammals and other wildlife. Based on the information apparent in the environmental analysis, the Navy's "No Action Alternative" is the proposal with the most limited impact on wildlife. A drastic increase in sonar activity will negatively impact wildlife. Marine mammals are extremely sensitive to noise, and sonar disrupts basic behaviors necessary for survival such as migration, surfacing, navigating, hearing, nursing, breeding and feeding. Sonar can result in debilitating and even fatal injuries for marine mammals. Scientists believe sonar activity can change whale diving behavior, confusing them to swim to depths their bodies cannot handle. Whales suspected to have beached themselves because of sonar activity show signs of physical trauma like bleeding around the brain, ears and other tissues and large bubbles in their organs – symptoms analogous to "the bends" in humans. To the extent that threatened or endangered species -- including humpback and sperm whales, and leatherback turtles -- are negatively impacted, the proposed activities may result in violations of the Endangered Species Act.	The Navy shares your concern for marine life, but this concern must be balanced with the purpose and need for Navy training and testing as detailed in Chapter 2 (Description of Proposed Action and Alternatives) of the EIS/OEIS. The Navy has conducted active sonar training and testing activities in the Study Area for decades, and there is no evidence that routine Navy training and testing has negatively impacted individual sea turtles or sea turtle populations, or marine mammal populations in the Study Area or at any Navy Range Complex. Based on the best available science summarized in the EIS/OEIS Section 3.4.4.1 (Summary of Monitoring and Observations During Navy Activities), long-term consequences for marine mammal populations are unlikely to result from Navy training and testing activities in the Study Area. Note that for sea turtles, as described in the EIS/OEIS Section 3.5.3.7.1 (Combined Impacts of All Stressors), "impacts are not expected to decrease the overall fitness or result in long-term population level impacts on any given population." Please also refer to Chapter 5 (Standard Operating Procedures, Mitigation, and Monitoring) of the EIS/OEIS, detailing the procedures and mitigation measures during its training and testing activities designed to reduce impacts to marine mammals and sea turtles from Navy activities. Regarding previous strandings, see Section 3.4.3.1.8 (Stranding) and the referenced technical report "Marine Mammal Strandings Associated with U.S. Navy Sonar Activities" (U.S. Department of the Navy 2013c). In accordance with ESA requirements, the Navy will complete consultation under Section 7 of the ESA with NMFS and USFWS and adhere to the Letter of Authorization and Biological Opinion issued by those agencies.
Knipper (Written)	To whom this concerns; It is my understanding that the bulk of the testing for your EIS/OEIS has been in the Hawaiian Islands and along the Southern California Coast. Meanwhile the testing sight of the coast of Northern Washington, where marine mammals are in abundance and the bulk of the testing will be done, has	The NWTT EIS/OEIS includes a thorough analysis of the potential impacts resulting specifically from the Navy's proposed activities in the Pacific Northwest. The Navy used the best available science to conduct this analysis.

Table I.5-4: Responses to Comments from Private Individuals (continued)

Commenter	Comment	Navy Response
	NOT been examined as closely. Nice bait and switch, making the majority of the information, niceties, mate. Therefore your information is showed and well meaning, feel good explanations invalid. I would prefer my government cease and decist from spreading war and hoving more powerful and destruction. USA jobs, and research scientifically our oceans in order to discover it's magnificent beauty rather than continue to exploit something we as of yet don't really understand.	
Kofler (Electronic)	The mission of our armed forces is extremely important. However, the protection of marine mammals is also extremely important. A compromise that allows efficient training of our military people and also protects our marine mammals must be reached. The current request by the US Navy to vastly increase the number of sonobuoys deployed off the coasts of Washington, Oregon and California needs to be scaled way back in order to accomplish a reasonable compromise for all.	The Navy shares your concern for marine life, but this concern must be balanced with the purpose and need for Navy training and testing as detailed in Chapter 2 (Description of Proposed Action and Alternatives) of the EIS/OEIS. The Navy has conducted active sonar training and testing activities in the Study Area for decades, and there is no evidence that routine Navy training and testing has negatively impacted marine mammal populations in the Study Area or at any Navy Range Complex. Based on the best available science summarized in the EIS/OEIS Section 3.4.4.1 (Summary of Monitoring and Observations During Navy Activities) long-term consequences for marine mammal populations are unlikely to result from Navy training and testing activities in the Study Area. Please also refer to Chapter 5 (Standard Operating Procedures, Mitigation, and Monitoring) of the EIS/OEIS, detailing the procedures and mitigation measures during its training and testing activities designed to reduce impacts to marine mammals from Navy activities.
Kolff (Electronic)	In November 24, 2014, I submitted my comments on the Supplement to the Navy's Draft Environmental Impact Statement/ Overseas Environmental Impact Statement (DEIS), dated January 2014, for its continued training and testing activities in the Pacific Northwest (NWTT). Please include these comments in the administrative record. In addition to the comments in my letter dated Nov. 24, 2014, I would like to submit the following comments: 1. I am concerned about the Navy's activities in the Northwest Training and Testing (NWTT) Study Area since it poses significant risks to whales, fish, and other wildlife that depend on a peaceful environment for breeding, feeding, navigating, and avoiding predators—in short, for their survival. The increased sonar activity outlined in the Supplement — the Tracking Exercise Maritime Patrol (TRACKEX), and the previously unreported Maritime Security Operations effects, and the cumulative impacts of stressors and greenhouse gases will have increased significant negative impacts on the marine environment. It is unacceptable to me that •Thousands of marine mammals, sea turtles, fish and birds will be injured or killed. •The Southern Resident Killer Whale's population will be further reduced and its need for a protected home in accord with its endangered status remains a critical concern. • There are no exclusion zones, geographic alternatives to the southern Puget Sound and seasonal restrictions are still obvious	The Navy shares your concern for marine life, but this concern must be balanced with the purpose and need for Navy training and testing as detailed in Chapter 2 (Description of Proposed Action and Alternatives) of the EIS/OEIS. The Navy has conducted active sonar training and testing activities in the Study Area for decades, and there is no evidence that routine Navy training and testing has negatively impacted individual sea turtles or sea turtle populations, or marine mammal populations in the Study Area or at any Navy Range Complex. Based on the best available science summarized in the EIS/OEIS Section 3.4.4.1 (Summary of Monitoring and Observations During Navy Activities), long-term consequences for marine mammal populations are unlikely to result from Navy training and testing activities in the Study Area. Note that for sea turtles, as described in the EIS/OEIS Section 3.5.3.7.1 (Combined Impacts of All Stressors), "impacts are not expected to decrease the overall fitness or result in long-term population level impacts on any given population." Please also refer to Chapter 5 (Standard Operating Procedures,

Table I.5-4: Responses to Comments from Private Individuals (continued)

Commenter	Comment	Navy Response
	omissions. All of the Alternatives propose year- round, unrestricted use without regard to seasonal variations in marine mammal and fish abundance. This is true despite the well- documented seasonal migrations of numerous endangered species and the identification of biologically important areas. • The lack of plans for the Navy to use the Cetacean Density and Distribution Mapping Working Group's data (CetMap) for marine mammal populations in the Pacific Northwest to mitigate harm and protect habitat remains. • The Navy's failure to develop alternatives and strategies to mitigate this increased harm is unacceptable—particularly because the Navy's plan fails to adopt measures that would dramatically reduce these injuries and deaths without compromising national security. Most importantly, the Navy should put critical marine habitats off-limits to sonar and explosives testing and schedule training to avoid times of the year when sensitive species are present in places like the Olympic Coast National Marine Sanctuary, something it is not willing to do despite the scientific community's view that these would be the most effective means of reducing harm. A lack of increased mitigation plans to deal with the increased damage that is likely from additional sonar activity is unacceptable. Nowhere is it outlined whether visual patrols will increase as a result of this new activity, nor does the Supplement address real concerns over whether or not visual patrol is adequate at times of night or rough seas. No acoustic monitoring, or avoidance strategies are included. 2. My second concern is that the Navy's strategy of handling public comment that appears to be in violation of federal NEPA requirements. Four clearly-linked documents have been spread out in their introduction to the public over the last year and a half. This has had the effect of separating ground-based, air-based and sea-based naval activities as if they were not linked. This may cause the public to consider smaller spheres of influence of Navy actions in different localities. The four proposals were: • An initial call for Scoping Comments to evaluate the potential environmental effects associated with ongoing and planned EA-18G Growler airfield operations at NAS Whidbey Island's Ault Field and Outlying Landing Field (OLF) (December 2013). • The Northwest Training and Testing EIS/OEIS (January 2014): covering the sea-based training and testing plans stretching from Alaska to California that features a proposed increase of the use of sonar and explosives in offshore areas and the Sound. • The Pacific Northwest Electronic Warfare Range Environmental Assessment (August 2014) and the National Forest Service Special Use Permit proposal. • The most recent Scoping period revision of the future U.S. Navy Environmental Impact Statement for the EA-18G Growler Airfield Operations at Naval Air Station (NAS) Whidbey Island November 2014. This significant upward revision of numbers of Growlers proposed was the most recent opportunity to comment. It is essential to consider the cumulative effects of the above four proposals.	Mitigation, and Monitoring) of the EIS/OEIS, detailing the procedures and mitigation measures during its training and testing activities designed to reduce impacts to marine mammals and sea turtles from Navy activities. As part of the Navy's effects analysis, the Navy considers all the science that identifies locations where certain cetacean populations or individuals are known to engage in feeding, breeding, or other biologically important activities at certain times of year. Recently, NMFS has taken steps to begin formally identifying some of these areas and naming them Biologically Important Areas (BIAs). The Navy has considered these areas as part of its analysis in this Final EIS/OEIS when discussing particular species in Chapter 3 (Affected Environment and Environmental Consequences) as well as in considering whether limitations on Navy activities in these areas are warranted as mitigation in discussion in Chapter 5 (see Section 5.3.4.1.11, Avoiding Marine Species Habitats and Biologically Important Areas). The Navy thoroughly considered the humpback and gray whale feeding areas identified recently in its analysis and whether avoidance as mitigation was appropriate. Given the impact avoidance would have on military readiness activities and lack of biological benefit, avoidance is not warranted. Please see Section 5.3.4.1.11 (Avoiding Marine Species Habitats and Biologically Important Areas). However, Navy is proposing to provide reporting of generally low use of sonar in some of these areas to NMFS as part of classified annual reports to help inform future adaptive management related to impacts in these areas. At time of release of this Final EIS/OEIS, NMFS and Navy are in ongoing discussion regarding mitigation for MMPA purposes. Should additional mitigation to that which Navy has proposed be identified in the MMPA rule making and authorization, it will be indicated in the ROD. It is important to note that the BIAs were not meant to define exclusionary zones, nor critical habitat with regulatory management, nor were they meant to be locations that serve as sanctuaries from human activity, or areas analogous to marine protected areas. The NMFS-identified BIAs do not have direct or immediate regulatory consequences and the BIAs located within the NWTT Study Area are not the only areas used for feeding, migrating, or reproductive activity for these cetaceans in a species' entire range and habitat. The stated intention is for the BIAs to serve as a resource management tool and their currently identified boundaries be considered dynamic and subject to change based on any new information as well as, "existing density estimates, range-wide

Table I.5-4: Responses to Comments from Private Individuals (continued)

Commenter	Comment	Navy Response
		distribution data, information on population trends and life history parameters, known threats to the population, and other relevant information." There is a lack of science supporting identification of any additional BIAs at this time for the Pacific. The Navy and NMFS have supported and will continue to support the Cetacean and Sound Mapping project, including providing representation on the Cetacean Density and Distribution Mapping Working Group (CetMap), which informed NMFS' identification of BIAs. The same marine mammal density data present in the Navy's Density Database Technical Report, and used in the analysis for this EIS/OEIS, was used in the development of BIAs. The final products, including U.S. West Coast BIAs from this mapping effort, were completed and published in March 2015. As described in Chapter 5 of the EIS/OEIS, the Navy evaluated the effectiveness and practicability of a number of potential mitigation measures. Through consultation and permitting with NMFS and USFWS, the Navy refined the mitigation measures, which are now presented in Chapter 5 (Standard Operating Procedures, Mitigation, and Monitoring) of this Final EIS/OEIS. Section 5.3.1.2.5 (Effectiveness Assessment for Lookouts) acknowledges that, due to the various detection probabilities, levels of Lookout experience, and variability of sighting conditions, Lookouts will not always be effective at avoiding impacts on all species. However, Lookouts are expected to increase the overall likelihood that certain marine mammal species and some sea turtles will be detected at the surface of the water, when compared to the likelihood that these same species would be detected if Lookouts are not used. The continued use of Lookouts contributes to helping reduce potential impacts on these species from training and testing activities. While the range of the sonar's detection would travel beyond the distance that Lookouts can detect animals, the range at which sonar is predicted to be able to cause injury to a marine mammal is very short, within 10 meters of the sonar. At such short distances, it is likely any marine mammal would have been detected. There is a lack of science supporting identification of any additional BIAs at this time for the Pacific. The Navy and NMFS have supported and will continue to support the Cetacean and Sound Mapping project, including providing representation on the Cetacean Density and Distribution Mapping Working Group (CetMap), which informed NMFS'

Table I.5-4: Responses to Comments from Private Individuals (continued)

Commenter	Comment	Navy Response
		identification of BIAs. The same marine mammal density data present in the Navy's Density Database Technical Report, and used in the analysis for this EIS/OEIS, was used in the development of BIAs. The final products, including U.S. West Coast BIAs from this mapping effort, were completed and published in March 2015. The Navy used the best available science and a comprehensive review of past, present, and reasonably foreseeable actions to develop a robust Cumulative Impacts analysis. The Navy has returned to the analysis in Chapter 4 (Cumulative Impacts) due to concerns raised in public comments, and the Chapter has been revised in response to those public comments. The literature on ocean acidification has been reviewed, and is now discussed in Section 4.4.4 (Climate Change), of Chapter 4 (Cumulative Impacts) of the EIS/OEIS. The U.S. Navy has conducted active sonar training and testing activities for decades in the seaspace depicted in the Study Area with no evidence to indicate any meaningful impacts to marine habitats in the area. The Navy and NMFS jointly are still in ongoing consultation with the OCNMS regarding the effects of the Proposed Action on Sanctuary resources. The Navy concludes its continued activities are not likely to result in the loss, destruction, or adverse changes to the viability of Sanctuary resources. Several points support this determination: • Less than two percent of proposed training and 15 percent of proposed testing activities would occur within or immediately adjacent to the OCNMS. • The NWTT Final EIS/OEIS shows that training and testing activities have minimal temporary impacts on the quantity or quality of the Study Area's physical environment, and minor to no impacts on marine or shore birds, fish, sea turtles, or invertebrate marine life. • Although explosives have the potential to affect the physical and biological resources, the Navy does not use explosives within the OCNMS. • The Navy concludes any marine mammal behavioral reactions to NWTT training and testing activities would be transitory, infrequent, non-cumulative, and impacts are not expected to decrease overall individual fitness or result in long-term population-level impacts on any given population, and consequently will not result in any adverse changes to the sanctuary. Finally, all Department of Defense (DoD) military activities shall be

Table I.5-4: Responses to Comments from Private Individuals (continued)

Commenter	Comment	Navy Response
		carried out in a manner that avoids to the maximum extent practicable any adverse impacts on Sanctuary resources and qualities.
Korn (Electronic)	Marine mammals - whales, dolphins, and others - depend on their "natural sonar" to find food and keep track of one another in their groups. Mass beachings have followed human use of sonar and undersea explosives as the animals' senses are overwhelmed. Please do not further test sonar-emitting buoys in the Pacific (or any other) ocean.	The Navy shares your concern for marine life, but this concern must be balanced with the purpose and need for Navy training and testing as detailed in Chapter 2 (Description of Proposed Action and Alternatives) of the EIS/OEIS. The Navy has conducted active sonar training and testing activities in the Study Area for decades, and there is no evidence that routine Navy training and testing has negatively impacted marine mammal populations in the Study Area or at any Navy Range Complex. Based on the best available science summarized in the EIS/OEIS Section 3.4.4.1 (Summary of Monitoring and Observations During Navy Activities), long-term consequences for marine mammal populations are unlikely to result from Navy training and testing activities in the Study Area. Please also refer to Chapter 5 (Standard Operating Procedures, Mitigation, and Monitoring) of the EIS/OEIS, detailing the procedures and mitigation measures during its training and testing activities designed to reduce impacts to marine mammals from Navy activities.
Krause (Electronic)	I support the NO ACTION ALTERNATIVE. •The Navy's current environmental analysis fails to provide basic information necessary to adequately evaluate the impacts of the proposed activities. This analysis also fails to provide adequate measures to mitigate the harmful effects of the proposed activities on marine mammals and other wildlife. •Based on the information apparent in the environmental analysis, the Navy's "No Action Alternative" is the proposal with the most limited impact on wildlife. •A drastic increase in sonar activity will negatively impact wildlife. Marine mammals are extremely sensitive to noise, and sonar disrupts basic behaviors necessary for survival such as migration, surfacing, navigating, hearing, nursing, breeding and feeding. •Sonar can result in debilitating and even fatal injuries for marine mammals. Scientists believe sonar activity can change whale diving behavior, confusing them to swim to depths their bodies cannot handle. Whales suspected to have beached themselves because of sonar activity show signs of physical trauma like bleeding around the brain, ears and other tissues and large bubbles in their organs – symptoms analogous to "the bends" in humans. •To the extent that threatened or endangered species -- including humpback and sperm whales, and leatherback turtles -- are negatively impacted, the proposed activities may result in violations of the Endangered Species Act.	The Navy shares your concern for marine life, but this concern must be balanced with the purpose and need for Navy training and testing as detailed in Chapter 2 (Description of Proposed Action and Alternatives) of the EIS/OEIS. The Navy has conducted active sonar training and testing activities in the Study Area for decades, and there is no evidence that routine Navy training and testing has negatively impacted individual sea turtles or sea turtle populations, or marine mammal populations in the Study Area or at any Navy Range Complex. Based on the best available science summarized in the EIS/OEIS Section 3.4.4.1 (Summary of Monitoring and Observations During Navy Activities), long-term consequences for marine mammal populations are unlikely to result from Navy training and testing activities in the Study Area. Note that for sea turtles, as described in the EIS/OEIS Section 3.5.3.7.1 (Combined Impacts of All Stressors), "impacts are not expected to decrease the overall fitness or result in long-term population level impacts on any given population." Please also refer to Chapter 5 (Standard Operating Procedures, Mitigation, and Monitoring) of the EIS/OEIS, detailing the procedures and mitigation measures during its training and testing activities designed to reduce impacts to marine mammals and sea turtles from Navy activities.

Table I.5-4: Responses to Comments from Private Individuals (continued)

Commenter	Comment	Navy Response
Kreitlow (Electronic)	A drastic increase in sonar activity will negatively impact wildlife. Marine mammals are extremely sensitive to noise.Sonar disrupts basic behaviors necessary for survival such as migration, surfacing, navigating, hearing, nursing, breeding and feeding. Sonar can result in debilitating and even fatal injuries for marine mammals. Scientists believe sonar activity can change whale diving behavior, confusing them to swim to depths their bodies cannot handle. Whales suspected to have beached themselves because of sonar activity show signs of physical trauma like bleeding around the brain, ears and other tissues and large bubbles in their organs – symptoms analogous to “the bends” in humans. To the extent that threatened or endangered species -- including humpback and sperm whales, and leatherback turtles -- are negatively impacted, the proposed activities may result in violations of the Endangered Species Act.	As described in the Supplement in Section 3.5.2 (Sea Turtle Summary), the proposed increase in the use of SSQ-125 sonobuoys "are not expected to result in substantial changes to behavior, growth, survival, annual reproductive success, lifetime reproductive success (fitness), or species recruitment, and are not expected to result in population-level impacts." The Navy shares your concern for marine life, but this concern must be balanced with the purpose and need for Navy training and testing as detailed in Chapter 2 (Description of Proposed Action and Alternatives) of the EIS/OEIS. The Navy has conducted active sonar training and testing activities in the Study Area for decades, and there is no evidence that routine Navy training and testing has negatively impacted marine mammal populations in the Study Area or at any Navy Range Complex. Based on the best available science summarized in the EIS/OEIS Section 3.4.4.1 (Summary of Monitoring and Observations During Navy Activities) long-term consequences for marine mammal populations are unlikely to result from Navy training and testing activities in the Study Area. Please also refer to Chapter 5 (Standard Operating Procedures, Mitigation, and Monitoring) of the EIS/OEIS, detailing the procedures and mitigation measures during its training and testing activities designed to reduce impacts to marine mammals from Navy activities.
Kriegh (Electronic)	Please limit the amount of sonar activities off the Pacific coast. Science has shown that those activities harm whales and other animals. While protecting our shores is important, we are at a critical point in marine and land animal history. With the rising temperature of the ocean and other environmental issues, these animals cannot afford further distress. We cannot continue with business as usual. We must find a different way to behave so that we can protect the animals we love and the animals we depend on for our own good.	The Navy shares your concern for marine life, but this concern must be balanced with the purpose and need for Navy training and testing as detailed in Chapter 2 (Description of Proposed Action and Alternatives) of the EIS/OEIS. The Navy has conducted active sonar training and testing activities in the Study Area for decades, and there is no evidence that routine Navy training and testing has negatively impacted marine mammal populations in the Study Area or at any Navy Range Complex. Based on the best available science summarized in the EIS/OEIS Section 3.4.4.1 (Summary of Monitoring and Observations During Navy Activities) long-term consequences for marine mammal populations are unlikely to result from Navy training and testing activities in the Study Area. Please also refer to Chapter 5 (Standard Operating Procedures, Mitigation, and Monitoring) of the EIS/OEIS, detailing the procedures and mitigation measures during its training and testing activities designed to reduce impacts to marine mammals from Navy activities.
Kristan (Electronic)	You all know by know without a doubt that your SONAR and like testing in the water has an extremely poor impact on marine life, scientists have proven that with	The Navy shares your concern for marine life, but this concern must be balanced with the purpose and need for Navy training and testing as

Table I.5-4: Responses to Comments from Private Individuals (continued)

Commenter	Comment	Navy Response
	studies multiple times. You are trying to show the public that you have a concern for the marine life, but that is a sick play for the press and your biggest concern is a fat military. Our military is already far ahead the rest of the world and you've wrecked the ocean enough through the years with testing and bombs. I scuba dive the west and east coast and it is rare to find life, which is sickening because the ocean was once teeming with life. If you don't think that killing the ocean, where all life came from and has been since the beginning of Earth, is also killing us, you are sorely mistaken. You will have no home to guard if you continue killing the ocean, our one best resource. PLEASE, stop the testing, we all know you don't need it but those animals need to live. Do not be so disgustingly selfish and power-hungry.	detailed in Chapter 2 (Description of Proposed Action and Alternatives) of the EIS/OEIS. The Navy has conducted active sonar training and testing activities in the Study Area for decades, and there is no evidence that routine Navy training and testing has negatively impacted marine mammal populations in the Study Area or at any Navy Range Complex. Based on the best available science summarized in the EIS/OEIS Section 3.4.4.1 (Summary of Monitoring and Observations During Navy Activities) long-term consequences for marine mammal populations are unlikely to result from Navy training and testing activities in the Study Area. Please also refer to Chapter 5 (Standard Operating Procedures, Mitigation, and Monitoring) of the EIS/OEIS, detailing the procedures and mitigation measures during its training and testing activities designed to reduce impacts to marine mammals from Navy activities.
Kumekawa (Electronic)	My comments pertain to the draft EIS/OEIS. As a former FCC telecommunications Analyst and Strategic Planner with the United Nations Special Agency-International Telecommunications Union in Geneva, I am aware that our radio communications are highly regulated in this country and around the world. Products that emit unseen signals are regulated for public safety and health purposes. These signals which are not seen, felt, tasted, or heard have been regulated for more than a hundred years. This is not true for sound. Yet, anyone can understand that sound has a strong impact on the environment and on human beings. We are all familiar with the image of the Opera star singing a high A and shattering a crystal wine glass. Sound at the right volume and frequency can shatter not only glass but a fragile mind. I am very concerned about the environmental impact of Navy testing not only on marine animals but on Navy personnel themselves. Especially those suffering from PTSD, whose tolerance for such an insidious source of anxiety may be very low. I am curious that the Navy does not explore simulation games rather than testing in an area so close to so many communities and close to Navy bases with vulnerable populations of veterans with PTSD. I hope the Navy will think about their own as they move forward with their plans to continue testing and consider the possibility of simulation testing, instead. Thank you for this opportunity to voice my observations and concerns.	Thank you for participating in the NEPA process. The Navy shares your concern for marine life, but this concern must be balanced with the purpose and need for Navy training and testing as detailed in Chapter 2 (Description of Proposed Action and Alternatives) of the EIS/OEIS. The Navy has conducted active sonar training and testing activities in the Study Area for decades, and there is no evidence that routine Navy training and testing has negatively impacted marine mammal populations in the Study Area or at any Navy Range Complex. Based on the best available science summarized in the EIS/OEIS Section 3.4.4.1 (Summary of Monitoring and Observations During Navy Activities) long-term consequences for marine mammal populations are unlikely to result from Navy training and testing activities in the Study Area. Please also refer to Chapter 5 (Standard Operating Procedures, Mitigation, and Monitoring) of the EIS/OEIS, detailing the procedures and mitigation measures during its training and testing activities designed to reduce impacts to marine mammals from Navy activities. Regarding the use of simulation, Navy already uses simulation in training and testing whenever possible; please see the discussion presented in Section 5.3.4.1.2 (Replacing Training and Testing with Simulated Activities).
Kunzler (Electronic)	Guys, why don't you do this where the public can watch? Shyesh, my idea of a good time is watching OLF Coupeville WITH afterburner. Barring that, by all means, please keep doing what you're doing. This civilian supports our Navy. These lefty enviro progressive agitator jackrabbits who flop and complain need to get a clue -	Thank you for participating in the NEPA process.

Table I.5-4: Responses to Comments from Private Individuals (continued)

Commenter	Comment	Navy Response
	THEY are the problem. Our Navy needs to train and train hard so WE CIVILIANS can enjoy the freedoms we do.	
Kutschera (Electronic)	I am writing out of concern for the current proposed increase in sonar related activity. I support our armed forces and the need for training; however, this must be done with respect for our environment. The following comments have come to my attention and I sincerely hope the Navy will respond with wisdom: The Navy's current environmental analysis fails to provide basic information necessary to adequately evaluate the impacts of the proposed activities. This analysis also fails to provide adequate measures to mitigate the harmful effects of the proposed activities on marine mammals and other wildlife. Based on the information apparent in the environmental analysis, the Navy's "No Action Alternative" is the proposal with the most limited impact on wildlife. A drastic increase in sonar activity will negatively impact wildlife. Marine mammals are extremely sensitive to noise, and sonar disrupts basic behaviors necessary for survival such as migration, surfacing, navigating, hearing, nursing, breeding and feeding. Sonar can result in debilitating and even fatal injuries for marine mammals. Scientists believe sonar activity can change whale diving behavior, confusing them to swim to depths their bodies cannot handle. Whales suspected to have beached themselves because of sonar activity show signs of physical trauma like bleeding around the brain, ears and other tissues and large bubbles in their organs – symptoms analogous to "the bends" in humans. To the extent that threatened or endangered species -- including humpback and sperm whales, and leatherback turtles -- are negatively impacted, the proposed activities may result in violations of the Endangered Species Act. Thank you for your time.	The Navy shares your concern for marine life, but this concern must be balanced with the purpose and need for Navy training and testing as detailed in Chapter 2 (Description of Proposed Action and Alternatives) of the EIS/OEIS. The Navy has conducted active sonar training and testing activities in the Study Area for decades, and there is no evidence that routine Navy training and testing has negatively impacted individual sea turtles or sea turtle populations, or marine mammal populations in the Study Area or at any Navy Range Complex. Based on the best available science summarized in the EIS/OEIS Section 3.4.4.1 (Summary of Monitoring and Observations During Navy Activities), long-term consequences for marine mammal populations are unlikely to result from Navy training and testing activities in the Study Area. Note that for sea turtles, as described in the EIS/OEIS Section 3.5.3.7.1 (Combined Impacts of All Stressors), "impacts are not expected to decrease the overall fitness or result in long-term population level impacts on any given population." Please also refer to Chapter 5 (Standard Operating Procedures, Mitigation, and Monitoring) of the EIS/OEIS, detailing the procedures and mitigation measures during its training and testing activities designed to reduce impacts to marine mammals and sea turtles from Navy activities. Regarding previous strandings, see Section 3.4.3.1.8 (Stranding) and the referenced technical report "Marine Mammal Strandings Associated with U.S. Navy Sonar Activities" (U.S. Department of the Navy 2013c).
Lambert (Electronic)	The Navy's current environmental analysis fails to provide basic information necessary to adequately evaluate the impacts of the proposed activities. This analysis also fails to provide adequate measures to mitigate the harmful effects of the proposed activities on marine mammals and other wildlife. Based on the information apparent in the environmental analysis, the Navy's "No Action Alternative" is the proposal with the most limited impact on wildlife. A drastic increase in sonar activity will negatively impact wildlife. Marine mammals are extremely sensitive to noise, and sonar disrupts basic behaviors necessary for survival such as migration, surfacing, navigating, hearing, nursing, breeding and feeding. Sonar can result in debilitating and even fatal injuries for marine mammals. Scientists believe sonar activity can change whale diving behavior, confusing them to swim to depths their bodies cannot handle. Whales suspected to have beached	The Navy shares your concern for marine life, but this concern must be balanced with the purpose and need for Navy training and testing as detailed in Chapter 2 (Description of Proposed Action and Alternatives) of the EIS/OEIS. The Navy has conducted active sonar training and testing activities in the Study Area for decades, and there is no evidence that routine Navy training and testing has negatively impacted individual sea turtles or sea turtle populations, or marine mammal populations in the Study Area or at any Navy Range Complex. Based on the best available science summarized in the EIS/OEIS Section 3.4.4.1 (Summary of Monitoring and Observations During Navy Activities), long-term consequences for marine mammal populations are unlikely to result from Navy training and testing

Table I.5-4: Responses to Comments from Private Individuals (continued)

Commenter	Comment	Navy Response
	themselves because of sonar activity show signs of physical trauma like bleeding around the brain, ears and other tissues and large bubbles in their organs – symptoms analogous to "the bends" in humans. To the extent that threatened or endangered species -- including humpback and sperm whales, and leatherback turtles -- are negatively impacted, the proposed activities may result in violations of the Endangered Species Act.	activities in the Study Area. Note that for sea turtles, as described in the EIS/OEIS Section 3.5.3.7.1 (Combined Impacts of All Stressors), "impacts are not expected to decrease the overall fitness or result in long-term population level impacts on any given population. Please also refer to Chapter 5 (Standard Operating Procedures, Mitigation, and Monitoring) of the EIS/OEIS, detailing the procedures and mitigation measures during its training and testing activities designed to reduce impacts to marine mammals and sea turtles from Navy activities.
Lamblin (Electronic)	consider these precious mammals when working with sonar..	The Navy shares your concern for marine life, but this concern must be balanced with the purpose and need for Navy training and testing as detailed in Chapter 2 (Description of Proposed Action and Alternatives) of the EIS/OEIS. The Navy has conducted active sonar training and testing activities in the Study Area for decades, and there is no evidence that routine Navy training and testing has negatively impacted marine mammal populations in the Study Area or at any Navy Range Complex. Based on the best available science summarized in the EIS/OEIS Section 3.4.4.1 (Summary of Monitoring and Observations During Navy Activities) long-term consequences for marine mammal populations are unlikely to result from Navy training and testing activities in the Study Area. Please also refer to Chapter 5 (Standard Operating Procedures, Mitigation, and Monitoring) of the EIS/OEIS, detailing the procedures and mitigation measures during its training and testing activities designed to reduce impacts to marine mammals from Navy activities.
Landry (Electronic)	I feel that this testing is a sad and unnecessary impact to Alaskan waters. The cumulative impacts of these proposed activities cannot be known as it will affect marine mammals, fish, birds, invertebrates, the deep sea habitat to the intertidal habitat. I plead for NO ACTION, these waters and fish provide my sustenance and these activities make light of their ecological and social importance. Jen Landry	The Navy used the best available science and a comprehensive review of past, present, and reasonably foreseeable actions to develop a robust Cumulative Impacts analysis. The Navy has returned to the analysis in Chapter 4 (Cumulative Impacts) due to concerns raised in public comments, and the Chapter has been revised in response to those public comments. The literature on ocean acidification has been reviewed, and is now discussed in Section 4.4.4 (Climate Change), of Chapter 4 (Cumulative Impacts) of the EIS/OEIS.
Lane (Electronic)	I understand that testing is vital, but please consider the impact it has on marine mammals. I hope more research can be done to discover ways that the needed missions can occur without harm being done to some really magnificent animals. Thank you for your time.	Currently sonar is the best technology for locating small objects in the water that we possess. The Navy is constantly evaluating and funding research to assess improved technologies that will achieve Navy mission goals while protecting resources on land and at sea. Evaluation of these technologies continues to be a Navy focus as is research into all technologies that will protect and defend the United

Table I.5-4: Responses to Comments from Private Individuals (continued)

Commenter	Comment	Navy Response
		States. The Navy shares your concern for marine life, but this concern must be balanced with the purpose and need for Navy training and testing as detailed in Chapter 2 (Description of Proposed Action and Alternatives) of the EIS/OEIS. The Navy has conducted active sonar training and testing activities in the Study Area for decades, and there is no evidence that routine Navy training and testing has negatively impacted marine mammal populations in the Study Area or at any Navy Range Complex. Based on the best available science summarized in the EIS/OEIS Section 3.4.4.1 (Summary of Monitoring and Observations During Navy Activities) long-term consequences for marine mammal populations are unlikely to result from Navy training and testing activities in the Study Area. Please also refer to Chapter 5 (Standard Operating Procedures, Mitigation, and Monitoring) of the EIS/OEIS, detailing the procedures and mitigation measures during its training and testing activities designed to reduce impacts to marine mammals from Navy activities.
Lanskey (Electronic)	Oregon values its marine mammals, especially the migratory whales along our coast. Marine mammals are endangered along our coast by Naval sonar and weapons testing. The Navy's proposed training and testing activities include the use of sonar, explosives, weapons firing, and other acoustic devices. These activities have well known and well documented negative impacts on a number of whale species and porpoises, as well as other marine wildlife. In addition, the Navy admits the increase in the use of sonar devices "is likely to adversely affect"2 endangered leatherback turtles whose protected habitat along the Pacific Coast was only recently established in 2012.	As described in the Supplement in Section 3.5.2 (Sea Turtle Summary), the proposed increase in the use of SSQ-125 sonobuoys "are not expected to result in substantial changes to behavior, growth, survival, annual reproductive success, lifetime reproductive success (fitness), or species recruitment, and are not expected to result in population-level impacts." The Navy shares your concern for marine life, but this concern must be balanced with the purpose and need for Navy training and testing as detailed in Chapter 2 (Description of Proposed Action and Alternatives) of the EIS/OEIS. The Navy has conducted active sonar training and testing activities in the Study Area for decades, and there is no evidence that routine Navy training and testing has negatively impacted marine mammal populations in the Study Area or at any Navy Range Complex. Based on the best available science summarized in the EIS/OEIS Section 3.4.4.1 (Summary of Monitoring and Observations During Navy Activities) long-term consequences for marine mammal populations are unlikely to result from Navy training and testing activities in the Study Area. Please also refer to Chapter 5 (Standard Operating Procedures, Mitigation, and Monitoring) of the EIS/OEIS, detailing the procedures and mitigation measures during its training and testing activities designed to reduce impacts to marine mammals from Navy activities.

Table I.5-4: Responses to Comments from Private Individuals (continued)

Commenter	Comment	Navy Response
Larson-01 (Electronic)	Attention: Ms. Kimberly Kler - NWTT EIS/OEIS Project Manager I reside in Sequim, WA since 1993, am impacted by & commented on 2 recent Navy proposals, & now again must express concerns/comments for the record re:the Supplement (12/2014)to Navy's DEIS/OEIS dated 1/2014 for its continuing training & testing activities in the Pacific Northwest(NWTT). Please note that I object to the piecemeal approach & sometimes inadequate public noticing the navy has taken for planning activities that are connected & need a comprehensive new EIS to properly assess full cumulative impacts.	The Navy completed the Supplement to the Draft EIS/OEIS in compliance with current law, including the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA). In addition to NEPA, the Navy continues to comply with other applicable environmental laws and with a number of regulatory requirements, such as the Marine Mammal Protection Act, the Endangered Species Act, the Coastal Zone Management Act, and the Magnuson-Stevens Fishery Conservation and Management Act. The Navy made significant efforts to notify the public to ensure maximum public participation during the public comment period, including using postcards, press releases, and newspaper display advertisements.
Larson-02	Regarding the 92 page NWTT Supplement, which I have reviewed, I now list some of my salient concerns: 1)I noticed notes about "mistakenly omitted" & numerous calculation errors - apparently not just revisions.	The reasons for the Supplement to the NWTT EIS/OEIS are due to changes in numbers of training and testing activities, as the comment points out. While the comment is correct in noting that some of the changes were due to errors, the cause of the changes are not relevant. What is relevant is that these are the values used by the Navy in its analysis in the Supplement, and available for the public to comment on.
Larson-03	2)In 3.0.1 the acoustic stressors from ASW2 increased from 20 to 720!	The analysis in the Supplement includes the use of 720 SSQ-125 sonobuoys. That is an increase from what was analyzed in the Draft EIS/OEIS as noted in the comment. As described in the Supplement in Section 3.4.2 (Marine Mammal Summary), the proposed increase in the use of SSQ-125 sonobuoys would "not result in any long-term consequences for any marine mammal population or species; therefore, the conclusions stated in the Draft EIS/OEIS remain unchanged." The Navy has conducted active sonar training and testing activities in the Study Area for decades, and there is no evidence that routine Navy training and testing has negatively impacted marine mammal populations in the Study Area or at any Navy Range Complex. Based on the best available science summarized in the EIS/OEIS Section 3.4.4.1 (Summary of Monitoring and Observations During Navy Activities) long-term consequences for marine mammal populations are unlikely to result from Navy training and testing activities in the Study Area.
Larson-04	3)RE:Physical Disturbance & Strike Stressors, in 3.0.3.4 on Aircraft Movement, the HARM exercises can add 1740 to total annual events, leading to a revised total of 8040 (~22/day?)yet Table 2-1, p.24 shows the MSO effects for our North Olympic	As described in the Supplement in Section 2.3.3 (Inclusion of High-Speed Anti-Radiation Missile Exercise), this is not an increase of 1740 events. It is an ongoing activity, and was analyzed in a previous NEPA

Table I.5-4: Responses to Comments from Private Individuals (continued)

Commenter	Comment	Navy Response
	Peninsula/Salish Sea region (which feature a Marine Sanctuary, Dungeness Wildlife Refuge,& ONP -a world heritage site) were never accounted for & now TRACKEXs to be added!	document. These events involve only aircraft. The other activity mentioned in the comment (Maritime Security Operations) was not included in the Draft EIS/OEIS, but is also an ongoing activity. The purpose of the Supplement is to analyze the impacts of these ongoing activities. The change to the TRACKEX events is correctly described in the Supplement and addressed in the previous comment response.
Larson-05	4)3.0.6 references past 3.1-3.13 impact items analyses,but in this Supplement's sections 3.4 & 4.3 -especially 4.3.3- there appear words acknowledging significant cumulative & probably adverse impacts. In an area known for having protected species & important migratory pathways, what could be wrong with dropping "parachute" equipment,say 8952 for training & 1356 for testing? (Table 3-9) For "direct impacts," what about Table 3-3 showing addition of High Speed Protection Vessels to our already noted armada? (Can our service really see a protected critter from 400 to 700 yards away?)	To clarify, the Supplement states in Section 4.3.3 (Other Military Activities) that the “aggregate impacts of past, present actions and reasonably foreseeable future actions of all users in the Study Area are expected to result in significant impacts on some marine mammal species in the Study Area. The impacts are considered significant because vessel strikes, bycatch, and entanglement associated with other actions are expected to result in relatively high rates of injury and mortality that could cause population declines in some species.” It is important to note that the significant impacts are due to other actions, not the Navy’s proposed activities. Also from Section 4.3.3 (Other Military Activities), “However, the relative contribution of the Proposed Action to the overall injury and mortality would be low compared to other actions. The Navy does not anticipate mortalities to marine mammals within the Study Area as a result of training or testing activities under any of the alternatives.” Regarding the Navy’s ability to visually detect an animal at sea, please see Section 3.4.3.1.16 (Implementing Mitigation to Reduce Sound Exposures) of the Draft EIS/OEIS for a full discussion of the role that visual detection has in mitigation of impacts.
Larson-06	5)The harm caused on wildlife on land, in air or water (already subject to law suit by NRDC) now has been given a guestimate that for some marine mammals adverse impacts could increase by 4X (400%!)Section 3.4	The Navy has conducted active sonar training and testing activities in the Study Area for decades, and there is no evidence that routine Navy training and testing has negatively impacted marine mammal populations in the Study Area or at any Navy Range Complex. Based on the best available science summarized in the EIS/OEIS Section 3.4.4.1 (Summary of Monitoring and Observations During Navy Activities), as revised by the Supplement, long-term consequences for marine mammal populations are unlikely to result from Navy training and testing activities in the Study Area.
Larson-07	6)In Table 3-11, 433.0 tons of total air pollution emissions is cited BUT ONLY REPRESENTS emissions below 3000 feet above ground level. Yet Table 3-12 reveals an increase from 363.5 to 647.1 tons AND document has stated HARM	Air emissions calculations are based on those activities that occur below 3,000 feet and within 3 miles of shore. The HARMEX events always occur either above 3,000 feet or outside 3 miles of shore.

Table I.5-4: Responses to Comments from Private Individuals (continued)

Commenter	Comment	Navy Response
	exercises use EA-6/EA-18G squadrons flying at >10,000' (really always?)	
Larson-08	These are some of the noted discrepancies which give concern. The full scope of all connected Naval activities need a new best available science based EIS to determine what activities should be permitted OR NOT due to serious adverse impacts on this region's quality of life for all living here. The socioeconomic impacts (3.12) for proposed Naval operations does not measure potential harm to tribal rights of access or to millions of visitors who have been attracted to recreate, & learn & appreciate our wealth of natural features (which is why many have come to retire here, too). I appreciate the service of our armed forces in protecting us all, and hope such efforts will not lead to the endangerment of the very things we all want to preserve. Thank you for your consideration of these concerns. Respectfully, Judy Larson 1070 W. Palo Verde Loop, Sequim, WA 98382	To clarify, there were no discrepancies noted in the comment, only observations and concerns. These concerns have been addressed above. While there were several projects made public by the Navy in a narrow timeframe, the projects are each independent of one another and are best analyzed independently as they are.+
H. Lauritzen (Electronic)	I am a resident of Port Townsend and very concerned about the huge expansion of Navy activity being proposed for our area. This is the third letter I've written, since each element of the expansion is being dealt with separately by the Navy. At this time I wish to protest the increased use of sonar and explosives in offshore areas, the Strait of San Juan de Fuca and Puget Sound. This additional use of sonar and explosives will greatly increase the damage done to marine mammals, sea turtles, fish and birds. All of your plans propose year-round, unrestricted use without regard to seasonal variations in marine mammal and fish abundance. This despite the well-documented seasonal migrations of numerous endangered species and the identification of biologically important areas. Of particular concern is lack of protections for the Southern Resident Killer Whale's dwindling population. These animals need a protected home in accord with their endangered status. Are there any plans for mitigation of this danger? I implore the Navy to put critical marine habitats off-limits to sonar and explosives testing and to schedule training to avoid times of the year when sensitive species are present in places like the Olympic Coast National Marine Sanctuary. I also urge the Navy to redo this chopped-up public process with a comprehensive Environmental Impact Statement that includes all of the activities in the region. The huge changes that threaten wildlife, real estate values, the peace of our national and state parks and forests, should be discussed as a whole, not split into so many pieces that we who live in this region cannot know the true scope of what we are facing.	The Navy is completing this EIS/OEIS in compliance with current law, including the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA). In addition to NEPA, the Navy continues to comply with other applicable environmental laws and with a number of regulatory requirements, such as the Marine Mammal Protection Act, the Endangered Species Act, the Coastal Zone Management Act, and the Magnuson-Stevens Fishery Conservation and Management Act. As part of the Navy's effects analysis, the Navy considers all the science that identifies locations where certain cetacean populations or individuals are known to engage in feeding, breeding, or other biologically important activities at certain times of year. Recently, NMFS has taken steps to begin formally identifying some of these areas and naming them Biologically Important Areas (BIAs). The Navy has considered these areas as part of its analysis in this Final EIS/OEIS when discussing particular species in Chapter 3 (Affected Environment and Environmental Consequences) as well as in considering whether limitations on Navy activities in these areas are warranted as mitigation in discussion in Chapter 5 (see Section 5.3.4.1.11, Avoiding Marine Species Habitats and Biologically Important Areas). The Navy thoroughly considered the humpback and gray whale feeding areas identified recently in its analysis and whether avoidance as mitigation was appropriate. Given the impact avoidance would have on military readiness activities and lack of biological benefit, avoidance is not warranted. Please see Section 5.3.4.1.11 (Avoiding Marine Species Habitats and Biologically Important Areas). However, Navy is proposing to provide reporting of generally low use of sonar in some of these areas to NMFS as part of classified annual

Table I.5-4: Responses to Comments from Private Individuals (continued)

Commenter	Comment	Navy Response
		reports to help inform future adaptive management related to impacts in these areas. At time of release of this Final EIS/OEIS, NMFS and Navy are in ongoing discussion regarding mitigation for MMPA purposes. Should additional mitigation to that which Navy has proposed be identified in the MMPA rule making and authorization, it will be indicated in the ROD. It is important to note that the BIAs were not meant to define exclusionary zones, nor critical habitat with regulatory management, nor were they meant to be locations that serve as sanctuaries from human activity, or areas analogous to marine protected areas. The NMFS-identified BIAs do not have direct or immediate regulatory consequences and the BIAs located within the NWTT Study Area are not the only areas used for feeding, migrating, or reproductive activity for these cetaceans in a species' entire range and habitat. The stated intention is for the BIAs to serve as a resource management tool and their currently identified boundaries be considered dynamic and subject to change based on any new information as well as, "existing density estimates, range-wide distribution data, information on population trends and life history parameters, known threats to the population, and other relevant information." There is a lack of science supporting identification of any additional BIAs at this time for the Pacific. The Navy and NMFS have supported and will continue to support the Cetacean and Sound Mapping project, including providing representation on the Cetacean Density and Distribution Mapping Working Group (CetMap), which informed NMFS' identification of BIAs. The same marine mammal density data present in the Navy's Density Database Technical Report, and used in the analysis for this EIS/OEIS, was used in the development of BIAs. The final products, including U.S. West Coast BIAs from this mapping effort, were completed and published in March 2015. The Navy shares your concern for marine life, but this concern must be balanced with the purpose and need for Navy training and testing as detailed in Chapter 2 (Description of Proposed Action and Alternatives) of the EIS/OEIS. The Navy has conducted active sonar training and testing activities in the Study Area for decades, and there is no evidence that routine Navy training and testing has negatively impacted individual sea turtles or sea turtle populations, or marine mammal populations in the Study Area or at any Navy Range Complex. Based on the best available science summarized in the EIS/OEIS Section 3.4.4.1 (Summary of Monitoring and Observations

Table I.5-4: Responses to Comments from Private Individuals (continued)

Commenter	Comment	Navy Response
		During Navy Activities), long-term consequences for marine mammal populations are unlikely to result from Navy training and testing activities in the Study Area. Note that for sea turtles, as described in the EIS/OEIS Section 3.5.3.7.1 (Combined Impacts of All Stressors), "impacts are not expected to decrease the overall fitness or result in long-term population level impacts on any given population." Please also refer to Chapter 5 (Standard Operating Procedures, Mitigation, and Monitoring) of the EIS/OEIS, detailing the procedures and mitigation measures during its training and testing activities designed to reduce impacts to marine mammals and sea turtles from Navy activities. The U.S. Navy has conducted active sonar training and testing activities for decades in the seaspace depicted in the Study Area with no evidence to indicate any meaningful impacts to marine habitats in the area. The Navy and NMFS jointly are still in ongoing consultation with the OCNMS regarding the effects of the Proposed Action on Sanctuary resources. The Navy concludes its continued activities are not likely to result in the loss, destruction, or adverse changes to the viability of Sanctuary resources. Several points support this determination: • Less than two percent of proposed training and 15 percent of proposed testing activities would occur within or immediately adjacent to the OCNMS. • The NWTT Final EIS/OEIS shows that training and testing activities have minimal temporary impacts on the quantity or quality of the Study Area's physical environment, and minor to no impacts on marine or shore birds, fish, sea turtles, or invertebrate marine life. • Although explosives have the potential to affect the physical and biological resources, the Navy does not use explosives within the OCNMS. • The Navy concludes any marine mammal behavioral reactions to NWTT training and testing activities would be transitory, infrequent, non-cumulative, and impacts are not expected to decrease overall individual fitness or result in long-term population-level impacts on any given population, and consequently will not result in any adverse changes to the sanctuary. Finally, all Department of Defense (DoD) military activities shall be carried out in a manner that avoids to the maximum extent practicable any adverse impacts on Sanctuary resources and qualities.

Table I.5-4: Responses to Comments from Private Individuals (continued)

Commenter	Comment	Navy Response
P. Lauritzen (Electronic)	In the last few weeks I have sent the Navy comments on the requests for input on the Navy's plans to significantly increase the number of Growler fighter planes flying over the Olympic Peninsula, as well as the plans to begin electronic warfare testing over the Olympic National Forest. As part of the Navy's intent to increase the level of training and testing within this region, we have again been asked to comment on the plans to increase the use of active sonar and explosives in the local marine environment. Being asked to send comments three separate times within a period of less than two months is insulting. These three issues all represent impacts of the Navy's plans to expand training and testing in this region. Couldn't they have been combined in one request since all the comments will end up in only one EIS? Doesn't this disjointed approach violate NEPA, the National Environmental Policy Act? The Navy has also omitted the factual information needed for the public to respond intelligently. For underwater training, the Navy omits the specific underwater noise intensities and frequencies that are essential for any meaningful critique. The Navy also fails to clearly specify where in the region such testing will occur. If such information is classified, then how can the public be expected to give meaningful expressions of our concerns? When the Navy refuses to give the public clear, factual information, then this whole EIS process becomes a sham! Is the Navy allowed to intentionally violate the standards of NEPA? I realize that telling the Navy what to do would be presumptuous on my part. But I feel compelled to tell the Navy what a clear, succinct EIS should say. The Navy needs to assure the public that their testing and training of active sonar and explosives be limited to the four currently established test ranges. The sound level from this testing needs to be limited so as not to harm sensitive marine mammals Additional visual patrols and passive sonar must be employed to insure that no marine mammals are nearby, especially the orcas or killer wales, which are endangered. Testing should not be performed at night or in bad weather when visual sightings are ineffective. These considerations prevent injuries to the endangered populations. Furthermore, sea turtles, fish and birds should also not be affected. After training, the test ranges need to be surveyed to assure that damage to marine life did not occur. I thank the U.S. Navy's personnel for their role in training to protect and defend from potential aggression. But I would also like to see a Navy of which I could feel proud; a Navy that upholds the standards in performing an EIS equivalent to the standards to which its officers are asked to strive. I would like to see a Navy that approaches the public with clarity and honesty when it asks to use our unique and special marine environment that we share together.	The Navy completed the Supplement to the Draft EIS/OEIS in compliance with current law, including the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA). In addition to NEPA, the Navy continues to comply with other applicable environmental laws and with a number of regulatory requirements, such as the Marine Mammal Protection Act, the Endangered Species Act, the Coastal Zone Management Act, and the Magnuson-Stevens Fishery Conservation and Management Act. Thank you for participating in the NEPA process. Please see Chapters 1 and 2 of the EIS/OEIS for a clear definition of the scope of this project. There are no weapons testing activities proposed in the Olympic National Forest in the Supplement to the Draft EIS/OEIS. There are no activities involving the use of electronic radiation proposed in the Supplement to the Draft EIS/OEIS. It is also important to note that the proposed activities would not change how or where the Navy has been flying for decades. The Navy shares your concern for marine life, but this concern must be balanced with the purpose and need for Navy training and testing as detailed in Chapter 2 (Description of Proposed Action and Alternatives) of the EIS/OEIS. The Navy has conducted active sonar training and testing activities in the Study Area for decades, and there is no evidence that routine Navy training and testing has negatively impacted individual sea turtles or sea turtle populations, or marine mammal populations in the Study Area or at any Navy Range Complex. Based on the best available science summarized in the EIS/OEIS Section 3.4.4.1 (Summary of Monitoring and Observations During Navy Activities), long-term consequences for marine mammal populations are unlikely to result from Navy training and testing activities in the Study Area. Note that for sea turtles, as described in the EIS/OEIS Section 3.5.3.7.1 (Combined Impacts of All Stressors), "impacts are not expected to decrease the overall fitness or result in long-term population level impacts on any given population." Please also refer to Chapter 5 (Standard Operating Procedures, Mitigation, and Monitoring) of the EIS/OEIS, detailing the procedures and mitigation measures during its training and testing activities designed to reduce impacts to marine mammals and sea turtles from Navy activities.
Lawrence (Electronic)	I am writing to comment on the Navy's current environmental analysis on sonar training. I believe that the analysis fails to provide basic information necessary to adequately evaluate the impacts of the proposed activities. This analysis also fails	The Navy shares your concern for marine life, but this concern must be balanced with the purpose and need for Navy training and testing as detailed in Chapter 2 (Description of Proposed Action and Alternatives)

Table I.5-4: Responses to Comments from Private Individuals (continued)

Commenter	Comment	Navy Response
	to provide adequate measures to mitigate the harmful effects of the proposed activities on marine mammals and other wildlife. Based on the information apparent in the environmental analysis, the Navy's "No Action Alternative" is the proposal with the most limited impact on wildlife. A drastic increase in sonar activity will negatively impact wildlife. Marine mammals are extremely sensitive to noise, and sonar disrupts basic behaviors necessary for survival such as migration, surfacing, navigating, hearing, nursing, breeding and feeding. Sonar can result in debilitating and even fatal injuries for marine mammals. Scientists believe sonar activity can change whale diving behavior, confusing them to swim to depths their bodies cannot handle. Whales suspected to have beached themselves because of sonar activity show signs of physical trauma like bleeding around the brain, ears and other tissues and large bubbles in their organs – symptoms analogous to "the bends" in humans. To the extent that threatened or endangered species -- including humpback and sperm whales, and leatherback turtles -- are negatively impacted, the proposed activities may result in violations of the Endangered Species Act. Thank you for considering my comments.	of the EIS/OEIS. The Navy has conducted active sonar training and testing activities in the Study Area for decades, and there is no evidence that routine Navy training and testing has negatively impacted individual sea turtles or sea turtle populations, or marine mammal populations in the Study Area or at any Navy Range Complex. Based on the best available science summarized in the EIS/OEIS Section 3.4.4.1 (Summary of Monitoring and Observations During Navy Activities), long-term consequences for marine mammal populations are unlikely to result from Navy training and testing activities in the Study Area. Note that for sea turtles, as described in the EIS/OEIS Section 3.5.3.7.1 (Combined Impacts of All Stressors), "impacts are not expected to decrease the overall fitness or result in long-term population level impacts on any given population." Please also refer to Chapter 5 (Standard Operating Procedures, Mitigation, and Monitoring) of the EIS/OEIS, detailing the procedures and mitigation measures during its training and testing activities designed to reduce impacts to marine mammals and sea turtles from Navy activities. Regarding previous strandings, see Section 3.4.3.1.8 (Stranding) and the referenced technical report "Marine Mammal Strandings Associated with U.S. Navy Sonar Activities" (U.S. Department of the Navy 2013c).
L. Lee-01 (Electronic)	I have already sent comments addressing the Navy's activities and proposed activities related to EMF and Growler flight training, during their respective public comment periods. And yet again, I am now writing to express my concerns over the Supplement (December 2014) to the Navy's Draft Environmental Impact Statement/ Overseas Environmental Impact Statement (DEIS), dated January 2014, for its continued training and testing activities in the Pacific Northwest (NWTT). Please include these comments in the administrative record. While I appreciate that there are, in fact, public comment opportunities, I feel the Navy's treatment of the entire NEPA process lacks coherence, integration, and impartial, full consideration of potentially harmful effects from the Navy's activities--past, present, or proposed. The three comment periods that I responded to, as well as the two earlier ones that I missed, ALL belong under the same overall project and therefore should be treated as such. The activities are related to each other and to split them out as separate projects comes across as meant to either deceive the public or to wear it down in a war of attrition. Please redo this chopped-up public process with a comprehensive Environmental Impact Statement that includes all of the activities in the region, using up-to-date, science-based, impartial analyses. These huge changes that affect wildlife, real estate values, allow precedent-setting incursions	The Navy completed the Supplement to the Draft EIS/OEIS in compliance with current law, including the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA). In addition to NEPA, the Navy continues to comply with other applicable environmental laws and with a number of regulatory requirements, such as the Marine Mammal Protection Act, the Endangered Species Act, the Coastal Zone Management Act, and the Magnuson-Stevens Fishery Conservation and Management Act. The Navy used the best available science and a comprehensive review of past, present, and reasonably foreseeable actions to develop a robust Cumulative Impacts analysis. The Navy has returned to the analysis in Chapter 4 (Cumulative Impacts) due to concerns raised in public comments, and the Chapter has been revised in response to those public comments. The literature on ocean acidification has been reviewed, and is now discussed in Section 4.4.4 (Climate Change), of Chapter 4 (Cumulative Impacts) of the EIS/OEIS.

Table I.5-4: Responses to Comments from Private Individuals (continued)

Commenter	Comment	Navy Response
	into the peace of our national parks, national forest, wilderness, state parks and state lands, should be discussed as a whole, not split into so many fractured pieces that the residents of this region cannot know what they are actually facing. Sincerely, Patricia Lee Port Townsend, WA 98368	
L. Lee-02	Effects on wildlife: The proposed increases in marine exercise activity and additional use of sonar and explosives will only increase the damage done to marine mammals, sea turtles, fish and birds. Of particular concern to me is the Supplement and the EIS's lack of protections for the Southern Resident Killer Whale's dwindling population. These animals need a protected home in accord with their endangered status. In public sessions and in a radio interview the Navy's public relations personnel have been heard to say that the (MSO) and TRACKEX marine exercises save gas and allow personnel to be closer to their homes for these maneuvers. Convenience to military personnel should not serve as an excuse for even one injury or death to this endangered Killer Whale population. Though this supplement admits increased sonar and explosive testing (TRACKEX) and finally addresses the MSO maneuvers there is no additional mitigation mentioned. Nowhere is it outlined whether visual patrols will increase as a result of this new activity, nor does the Supplement address real concerns over whether or not visual patrol is adequate at times of night or rough seas. No acoustic monitoring or avoidance strategies are included. This is a serious omission to a document that intended to address the inadequate science and mitigation plans of the original draft and is unacceptable. Lack of Science: There is little consideration of exclusion zones, geographic alternatives to the southern Puget Sound and seasonal restrictions of exercises. All of the Alternatives propose year-round, unrestricted use without regard to seasonal variations in marine mammal and fish abundance. This is true despite the well-documented seasonal migrations of numerous endangered species and the identification of biologically important areas. The Navy should put critical marine habitats off-limits to sonar and explosives testing and schedule training to avoid times of the year when sensitive species are present in places like the Olympic Coast National Marine Sanctuary. Climate Change and Cumulative Impacts: The Supplement document responds to calls to address these two big issues but it is very unclear that anything more than lip service was expended by deeming Navy activities to be of little significance.	The Navy is completing this EIS/OEIS in compliance with current law, including the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA). In addition to NEPA, the Navy continues to comply with other applicable environmental laws and with a number of regulatory requirements, such as the Marine Mammal Protection Act, the Endangered Species Act, the Coastal Zone Management Act, and the Magnuson-Stevens Fishery Conservation and Management Act. The Navy shares your concern for marine life, but this concern must be balanced with the purpose and need for Navy training and testing as detailed in Chapter 2 (Description of Proposed Action and Alternatives) of the EIS/OEIS. The Navy has conducted active sonar training and testing activities in the Study Area for decades, and there is no evidence that routine Navy training and testing has negatively impacted individual sea turtles or sea turtle populations, or marine mammal populations in the Study Area or at any Navy Range Complex. Based on the best available science summarized in the EIS/OEIS Section 3.4.4.1 (Summary of Monitoring and Observations During Navy Activities), long-term consequences for marine mammal populations are unlikely to result from Navy training and testing activities in the Study Area. Note that for sea turtles, as described in the EIS/OEIS Section 3.5.3.7.1 (Combined Impacts of All Stressors), "impacts are not expected to decrease the overall fitness or result in long-term population level impacts on any given population." Please also refer to Chapter 5 (Standard Operating Procedures, Mitigation, and Monitoring) of the EIS/OEIS, detailing the procedures and mitigation measures during its training and testing activities designed to reduce impacts to marine mammals and sea turtles from Navy activities. As part of the Navy's effects analysis, the Navy considers all the science that identifies locations where certain cetacean populations or individuals are known to engage in feeding, breeding, or other biologically important activities at certain times of year. Recently, NMFS has taken steps to begin formally identifying some of these areas and naming them Biologically Important Areas (BIAs). The Navy has considered these areas as part of its analysis in this Final

Table I.5-4: Responses to Comments from Private Individuals (continued)

Commenter	Comment	Navy Response
		EIS/OEIS when discussing particular species in Chapter 3 (Affected Environment and Environmental Consequences) as well as in considering whether limitations on Navy activities in these areas are warranted as mitigation in discussion in Chapter 5 (see Section 5.3.4.1.11, Avoiding Marine Species Habitats and Biologically Important Areas). The Navy thoroughly considered the humpback and gray whale feeding areas identified recently in its analysis and whether avoidance as mitigation was appropriate. Given the impact avoidance would have on military readiness activities and lack of biological benefit, avoidance is not warranted. Please see Section 5.3.4.1.11 (Avoiding Marine Species Habitats and Biologically Important Areas). However, Navy is proposing to provide reporting of generally low use of sonar in some of these areas to NMFS as part of classified annual reports to help inform future adaptive management related to impacts in these areas. At time of release of this Final EIS/OEIS, NMFS and Navy are in ongoing discussion regarding mitigation for MMPA purposes. Should additional mitigation to that which Navy has proposed be identified in the MMPA rule making and authorization, it will be indicated in the ROD. It is important to note that the BIAs were not meant to define exclusionary zones, nor critical habitat with regulatory management, nor were they meant to be locations that serve as sanctuaries from human activity, or areas analogous to marine protected areas. The NMFS-identified BIAs do not have direct or immediate regulatory consequences and the BIAs located within the NWTT Study Area are not the only areas used for feeding, migrating, or reproductive activity for these cetaceans in a species' entire range and habitat. The stated intention is for the BIAs to serve as a resource management tool and their currently identified boundaries be considered dynamic and subject to change based on any new information as well as, "existing density estimates, range-wide distribution data, information on population trends and life history parameters, known threats to the population, and other relevant information." There is a lack of science supporting identification of any additional BIAs at this time for the Pacific. The Navy and NMFS have supported and will continue to support the Cetacean and Sound Mapping project, including providing representation on the Cetacean Density and Distribution Mapping Working Group (CetMap), which informed NMFS' identification of BIAs. The same marine mammal density data present in the Navy's Density Database Technical Report, and used in the analysis for this EIS/OEIS, was used in the development of BIAs. The

Table I.5-4: Responses to Comments from Private Individuals (continued)

Commenter	Comment	Navy Response
		final products, including U.S. West Coast BIAs from this mapping effort, were completed and published in March 2015. Lookouts can visually detect marine species so that potentially harmful impacts to marine mammals and sea turtles from explosives, sonar and other activities use can be avoided. Lookouts can more quickly and effectively relay sighting information so that corrective action can be taken. Support from aircrew and divers, if they are involved in the activity, will increase the probability of sightings, reducing the potential for impacts. For more information on Lookout Procedures, please see Chapter 5, Section 5.3.1 of the EIS/OEIS. When marine mammals have been sighted in the vicinity of the operation, all range participants increase vigilance and take reasonable and practicable actions to avoid collisions and activities that may result in close interaction of naval assets and marine mammals. Actions may include changing speed or direction, subject to environmental and other conditions (e.g., safety, weather). The Navy used the best available science and a comprehensive review of past, present, and reasonably foreseeable actions to develop a robust Cumulative Impacts analysis. See Chapter 4 (Cumulative Impacts) of the EIS/OEIS, which has been updated for the Final EIS/OEIS. As discussed in Chapter 1 (Purpose and Need), the proximity of the NWTT range complexes to naval homeports is strategically important to the Navy because the close access allows efficient execution of training activities and non-training maintenance functions. The proximity of training to homeports also ensures that Sailors and Marines do not have to routinely travel far from their families. Less time away from home is critical to military readiness, morale, and retention. The proximity of the testing ranges to technical centers of expertise (e.g., NUWC Keyport) is crucial to the successful completion of testing activities. The proximate availability of the NWTT range complexes is critical to Navy efforts in these areas. The MSO activities do not include the use of sonar or live gun firing. The U.S. Navy has conducted active sonar training and testing activities for decades in the seaspace depicted in the Study Area with no evidence to indicate any meaningful impacts to marine habitats in the area. The Navy and NMFS jointly are still in ongoing consultation with the OCNMS regarding the effects of the Proposed Action on Sanctuary resources. The Navy concludes its continued activities are not likely to result in the loss, destruction, or adverse changes to the viability of Sanctuary resources. Several points support this

Table I.5-4: Responses to Comments from Private Individuals (continued)

Commenter	Comment	Navy Response
		determination: • Less than two percent of proposed training and 15 percent of proposed testing activities would occur within or immediately adjacent to the OCNMS. • The NWTT Final EIS/OEIS shows that training and testing activities have minimal temporary impacts on the quantity or quality of the Study Area's physical environment, and minor to no impacts on marine or shore birds, fish, sea turtles, or invertebrate marine life. • Although explosives have the potential to affect the physical and biological resources, the Navy does not use explosives within the OCNMS. • The Navy concludes any marine mammal behavioral reactions to NWTT training and testing activities would be transitory, infrequent, non-cumulative, and impacts are not expected to decrease overall individual fitness or result in long-term population-level impacts on any given population, and consequently will not result in any adverse changes to the sanctuary. Finally, all Department of Defense (DoD) military activities shall be carried out in a manner that avoids to the maximum extent practicable any adverse impacts on Sanctuary resources and qualities.
P. Lee (Written)	I have already sent comments addressing the Navy's activities and proposed activities related to EMF and Growler flight training, during their respective public comment periods. And yet again, I am now writing to express my concerns over the Supplement (December 2014) to the Navy's Draft Environmental Impact Statement/ Overseas Environmental Impact Statement (DEIS), dated January 2014, for its continued training and testing activities in the Pacific Northwest (NWIT). Please include these comments in the administrative record. While I appreciate that there are, in fact, public comment opportunities, I feel the Navy's treatment of the entire NEPA process lacks coherence, integration, and impartial, full consideration of potentially harmful effects from the Navy's activities-past, present, or proposed. The three comment periods that I responded to, as well as the two earlier ones that I missed, ALL belong under the same overall project and therefore should be treated as such. The activities are related to each other and to split them out as separate projects comes across as meant to either deceive the public or to wear it down in a war of attrition. Please redo this chopped-up public process with a comprehensive Environmental Impact Statement that includes all of the activities in the region, using up-to-date, science-based, impartial analyses. These huge changes that affect wildlife, real	The Navy shares your concern for marine life, but this concern must be balanced with the purpose and need for Navy training and testing as detailed in Chapter 2 (Description of Proposed Action and Alternatives) of the EIS/OEIS. The Navy has conducted active sonar training and testing activities in the Study Area for decades, and there is no evidence that routine Navy training and testing has negatively impacted individual sea turtles or sea turtle populations, or marine mammal populations in the Study Area or at any Navy Range Complex. Based on the best available science summarized in the EIS/OEIS Section 3.4.4.1 (Summary of Monitoring and Observations During Navy Activities), long-term consequences for marine mammal populations are unlikely to result from Navy training and testing activities in the Study Area. Note that for sea turtles, as described in the EIS/OEIS Section 3.5.3.7.1 (Combined Impacts of All Stressors), "impacts are not expected to decrease the overall fitness or result in long-term population level impacts on any given population." Please also refer to Chapter 5 (Standard Operating Procedures, Mitigation, and Monitoring) of the EIS/OEIS, detailing the procedures

Table I.5-4: Responses to Comments from Private Individuals (continued)

Commenter	Comment	Navy Response
	estate values, allow precedent-setting incursions into the peace of our national parks, national forest, wilderness, state parks and state lands, should be discussed as a whole, not split into so many fractured pieces that the residents of this region cannot know what they are actually facing. Effects on wildlife: The proposed increases in marine exercise activity and additional use of sonar and explosives will only increase the damage done to marine mammals, sea turtles, fish and birds. Of particular concern to me is the Supplement and the EIS's lack of protections for the Southern Resident Killer Whale's dwindling population. These animals need a protected home in accord with their endangered status. In public sessions and in a radio interview the Navy's public relations personnel have been heard to say that the (MSO) and TRACKEX marine exercises save gas and allow personnel to be closer to their homes for these maneuvers. Convenience to military personnel should not serve as an excuse for even one injury or death to this endangered Killer Whale population. Though this supplement admits increased sonar and explosive testing (TRACKEX) and finally addresses the MSO maneuvers there is no additional mitigation mentioned. Nowhere is it outlined whether visual patrols will increase as a result of this new activity, nor does the Supplement address real concerns over whether or not visual patrol is adequate at times of night or rough seas. No acoustic monitoring or avoidance strategies are included. This is a serious omission to a document that intended to address the inadequate science and mitigation plans of the original draft and is unacceptable. Lack of Science: There is little consideration of exclusion zones, geographic alternatives to the southern Puget Sound and seasonal restrictions of exercises. All of the Alternatives propose year-round, unrestricted use without regard to seasonal variations in marine mammal and fish abundance. This is true despite the well-documented seasonal migrations of numerous endangered species and the identification of biologically important areas. The Navy should put critical marine habitats off-limits to sonar and explosives testing and schedule training to avoid times of the year when sensitive species are present in places like the Olympic Coast National Marine Sanctuary. Climate Change and Cumulative Impacts: The Supplement document responds to calls to address these two big issues but it is very unclear that anything more than lip service was expended by deeming Navy activities to be of little significance. Public Process:	and mitigation measures during its training and testing activities designed to reduce impacts to marine mammals and sea turtles from Navy activities. No injuries to killer whales are anticipated from the Navy's proposed MSO or TRACKEX activities. As described in Chapter 5 of the EIS/OEIS, the Navy will implement mitigation measures during the use of sonobuoys. The mitigation measures are implemented for each activity and therefore the mitigation scales up as the activity level scales up. Section 5.3.1.2.5 (Effectiveness Assessment for Lookouts) acknowledges that, due to the various detection probabilities, levels of Lookout experience, and variability of sighting conditions, Lookouts will not always be effective at avoiding impacts on all species. However, Lookouts are expected to increase the overall likelihood that certain marine mammal species and some sea turtles will be detected at the surface of the water, when compared to the likelihood that these same species would be detected if Lookouts are not used. The continued use of Lookouts contributes to helping reduce potential impacts on these species from training and testing activities. While the range of the sonar's detection would travel beyond the distance that Lookouts can detect animals, the range at which sonar is predicted to be able to cause injury to a marine mammal is very short, within 10 meters of the sonar. At such short distances, it is likely any marine mammal would have been detected. As described in Chapter 5 (Standard Operating Procedures, Mitigation, and Monitoring) of the Final EIS/OEIS, the Navy evaluated the effectiveness and practicability of a number of potential mitigation measures including the avoidance of specific areas. The Navy has undertaken consultation with NMFS for the proposed and ongoing activities in the NWTT Study Area and the Navy refined the mitigation measures, which are now presented in Chapter 5 (Standard Operating Procedures, Mitigation, and Monitoring) of this Final EIS/OEIS. Through careful exploration of all mitigation measures to determine which were the most effective, the Navy chose the measures to mitigate potential impacts to marine mammals while still being able to meet its operational needs to train for real-world conditions. The Navy's specific mitigation measures are outlined in the following sections: Section 5.3.1 (Lookout Procedural Measures), Section 5.3.2 (Mitigation Zone Procedural Measures), and Section 5.3.3 (Mitigation

Table I.5-4: Responses to Comments from Private Individuals (continued)

Commenter	Comment	Navy Response
	What most concerns me is this. There has been an overwhelming number of proposals since late in 2013 rolled out to the public in a piecemeal fashion. Five calls for comments on clearly-linked documents have been spread out in their introduction to the public over the last year and a half. Ground-based, (electronic warfare range), airbased (two growler scoping documents) and sea-based naval activities (these two NWIT documents) have been dropped onto the region as if they were not linked. The separate comment periods and the separate documents minimize the larger picture of impacts on the area. Is it even legal in regards to Federal Law, specifically NEPA? Please redo this chopped-up public process with a comprehensive Environmental Impact Statement that includes all of the activities in the region, using up-to-date, science-based, impartial analyses. These huge changes that affect wildlife, real estate values, allow precedent-setting incursions into the peace of our national parks, national forest, wilderness, state parks and state lands, should be discussed as a whole, not split into so many fractured pieces that the residents of this region cannot know what they are actually facing.	Areas). Specifically, Section 5.3.4 (Mitigation Measures Considered but Eliminated) presents Navy consideration of similar area restrictions. The Navy and NMFS will use the Adaptive Management process to assess whether any additional mitigation should be considered in identified biologically important areas. In response to several comments, the Navy has enhanced its analysis of climate change and cumulative impacts in this Final EIS/OEIS. The Navy prepares Environmental Impact Statements (EIS) and Environmental Assessments (EA) in order to comply with the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA). These NEPA documents are intended to ensure decision makers consider the potential environmental effects of a proposed action and its alternatives, provide an opportunity for public involvement, and promote transparency by informing the public of these potential environmental effects. Each NEPA document addresses a specific proposed action, separated from other actions by its purpose and need, independent utility, timing, and geographic location. Some NEPA documents are stand-alone documents; others tier off or expand the analyses of other NEPA documents. NEPA documents for training and testing, including this EIS/OEIS, focus on training and testing activities occurring within a range complex or military operation area and involve different types of aircraft, ships, and range complex enhancements. NEPA documents for aircraft homebasing actions focus on aircraft operations in and around the airfield and their facility needs. NEPA documents for installations focus on infrastructure enhancements for host and tenant command missions. Importantly, every environmental document considers the cumulative impacts to the environment from other relevant past, present, and reasonably foreseeable future actions (federal, state, local, and private) in addition to the proposed action. The MSO activities do not include the use of sonar or live gun firing. The U.S. Navy has conducted active sonar training and testing activities for decades in the seaspace depicted in the Study Area with no evidence to indicate any meaningful impacts to marine habitats in the area. The Navy and NMFS jointly are still in ongoing consultation with the OCNMS regarding the effects of the Proposed Action on Sanctuary resources. The Navy concludes its continued activities are not likely to result in the loss, destruction, or adverse changes to the viability of Sanctuary resources. Several points support this determination:

Table I.5-4: Responses to Comments from Private Individuals (continued)

Commenter	Comment	Navy Response
		• Less than two percent of proposed training and 15 percent of proposed testing activities would occur within or immediately adjacent to the OCNMS. • The NWTT Final EIS/OEIS shows that training and testing activities have minimal temporary impacts on the quantity or quality of the Study Area's physical environment, and minor to no impacts on marine or shore birds, fish, sea turtles, or invertebrate marine life. • Although explosives have the potential to affect the physical and biological resources, the Navy does not use explosives within the OCNMS. • The Navy concludes any marine mammal behavioral reactions to NWTT training and testing activities would be transitory, infrequent, non-cumulative, and impacts are not expected to decrease overall individual fitness or result in long-term population-level impacts on any given population, and consequently will not result in any adverse changes to the sanctuary. Finally, all Department of Defense (DoD) military activities shall be carried out in a manner that avoids to the maximum extent practicable any adverse impacts on Sanctuary resources and qualities.
Leeds (Electronic)	Please limit the use of sonar activity used in training off the Pacific coast. Thank You	Thank you for participating in the NEPA process.
Leeson (Electronic)	I urge you to please limit the amount of sonar activity used in training missions off the Pacific Coast. I support the "No Action Alternative". I am disappointed that the Navy has expanded its proposal for training off of the Pacific Coast, to include more sonar-emitting bouys than had been previously planned. This unexpected revision will drastically increase the impact on whales and other ocean wildlife. The Navy's current environmental analysis fails to provide basic information necessary to adequately evaluate the impacts of the proposed activities. This analysis also fails to provide adequate measures to mitigate the harmful effects of the proposed activities on marine mammals and other wildlife. Based on the information apparent in the environmental analysis, the Navy's "No Action Alternative" is the proposal with the most limited impact on wildlife. A drastic increase in sonar activity will negatively impact wildlife. Marine mammals are extremely sensitive to noise, and sonar disrupts basic behaviors necessary for survival such as migration, surfacing, navigating, hearing, nursing, breeding and feeding. Sonar can result in debilitating and even fatal injuries for marine mammals. Scientists believe sonar activity can change whale diving behavior, confusing them to swim to depths their bodies	The Navy shares your concern for marine life, but this concern must be balanced with the purpose and need for Navy training and testing as detailed in Chapter 2 (Description of Proposed Action and Alternatives) of the EIS/OEIS. The Navy has conducted active sonar training and testing activities in the Study Area for decades, and there is no evidence that routine Navy training and testing has negatively impacted individual sea turtles or sea turtle populations, or marine mammal populations in the Study Area or at any Navy Range Complex. Based on the best available science summarized in the EIS/OEIS Section 3.4.4.1 (Summary of Monitoring and Observations During Navy Activities), long-term consequences for marine mammal populations are unlikely to result from Navy training and testing activities in the Study Area. Note that for sea turtles, as described in the EIS/OEIS Section 3.5.3.7.1 (Combined Impacts of All Stressors), "impacts are not expected to decrease the overall fitness or result in long-term population level impacts on any given population."

Table I.5-4: Responses to Comments from Private Individuals (continued)

Commenter	Comment	Navy Response
	cannot handle. Whales suspected to have beached themselves because of sonar activity show signs of physical trauma like bleeding around the brain, ears and other tissues and large bubbles in their organs – symptoms analogous to "the bends" in humans. To the extent that threatened or endangered species -- including humpback and sperm whales, and leatherback turtles -- are negatively impacted, the proposed activities may result in violations of the Endangered Species Act.	Please also refer to Chapter 5 (Standard Operating Procedures, Mitigation, and Monitoring) of the EIS/OEIS, detailing the procedures and mitigation measures during its training and testing activities designed to reduce impacts to marine mammals and sea turtles from Navy activities. Regarding previous strandings, see Section 3.4.3.1.8 (Stranding) and the referenced technical report "Marine Mammal Strandings Associated with U.S. Navy Sonar Activities" (U.S. Department of the Navy 2013c).
Lenhart (Electronic)	To whom it may concern: This is sent in regard to the Draft EIS the Dept. of Navy is presenting. I OPPOSE any and all Navy activity as it is proven detrimental to marine life. Marine life is endangered and protected under NOAA. Your testing is not more important than preserving endangered marine life.	The Navy shares your concern for marine life, but this concern must be balanced with the purpose and need for Navy training and testing as detailed in Chapter 2 (Description of Proposed Action and Alternatives) of the EIS/OEIS. The Navy has conducted active sonar training and testing activities in the Study Area for decades, and there is no evidence that routine Navy training and testing has negatively impacted marine mammal populations in the Study Area or at any Navy Range Complex. Based on the best available science summarized in the EIS/OEIS Section 3.4.4.1 (Summary of Monitoring and Observations During Navy Activities) long-term consequences for marine mammal populations are unlikely to result from Navy training and testing activities in the Study Area. Please also refer to Chapter 5 (Standard Operating Procedures, Mitigation, and Monitoring) of the EIS/OEIS, detailing the procedures and mitigation measures during its training and testing activities designed to reduce impacts to marine mammals from Navy activities.
Lenstet (Electronic)	Please reduce your sonar tests so the whales will not be harmed. Thank you for your consideration.	The Navy shares your concern for marine life, but this concern must be balanced with the purpose and need for Navy training and testing as detailed in Chapter 2 (Description of Proposed Action and Alternatives) of the EIS/OEIS. The Navy has conducted active sonar training and testing activities in the Study Area for decades, and there is no evidence that routine Navy training and testing has negatively impacted marine mammal populations in the Study Area or at any Navy Range Complex. Based on the best available science summarized in the EIS/OEIS Section 3.4.4.1 (Summary of Monitoring and Observations During Navy Activities) long-term consequences for marine mammal populations are unlikely to result from Navy training and testing activities in the Study Area. Please also refer to Chapter 5 (Standard Operating Procedures, Mitigation, and Monitoring) of the EIS/OEIS, detailing the procedures and mitigation measures during its

Table I.5-4: Responses to Comments from Private Individuals (continued)

Commenter	Comment	Navy Response
		training and testing activities designed to reduce impacts to marine mammals from Navy activities.
Lenton-01 (Electronic)	To : IT CONCERN US ALL, The US Navy is planning on extensive testing in the waters off of Washington, Oregon and within the Puget Sound... Using Sound !!! "The Proposed Action would ensure the Navy accomplishes its mission to maintain, train and equip combat-ready military forces capable of winning wars, deterring aggression and maintaining freedom of the seas. This mission is achieved by conducting realistic training and testing activities in the Pacific Northwest. The Navy's Proposed Action and alternatives will be evaluated in the NWTT EIS/OEIS to assess potential environmental impacts from proposed training and testing activities." Within their own reports, 24,000 + animals will be impacted. That could mean anything from a disruption in eating to death and everything in between. PLEASE go to this sight in order to leave a public comment. http://nwtteis.com/Home.aspx Thank you !!! Just posted all over FB... How you can expect not have any impact on life in the water is asinine.	The Navy shares your concern for marine life, but this concern must be balanced with the purpose and need for Navy training and testing as detailed in Chapter 2 (Description of Proposed Action and Alternatives) of the EIS/OEIS. The Navy has conducted active sonar training and testing activities in the Study Area for decades, and there is no evidence that routine Navy training and testing has negatively impacted marine mammal populations in the Study Area or at any Navy Range Complex. Based on the best available science summarized in the EIS/OEIS Section 3.4.4.1 (Summary of Monitoring and Observations During Navy Activities) long-term consequences for marine mammal populations are unlikely to result from Navy training and testing activities in the Study Area. Please also refer to Chapter 5 (Standard Operating Procedures, Mitigation, and Monitoring) of the EIS/OEIS, detailing the procedures and mitigation measures during its training and testing activities designed to reduce impacts to marine mammals from Navy activities.
Lenton-02	To whom it may concern: As a United States citizen, I am writing to register my strong concern about and opposition to the Navy (or any other group acting on the government's behalf) undertaking activities that would endanger the health and quality of life of the animals and plants in our oceans. I am especially opposed to the use of sonar, loud noises, and explosions that might interfere with the migration and/or lives of marine animals who live in and migrate past our shores. We share the planet with other beings and it isn't ours to do with just as we please, especially when our thinking is so short-sighted and selfish (not to mention focussed on military activities). We bring shame upon our country to the extent that we run roughshod over the environment and the other beings and life that inhabit it. Please give due consideration to the potential impact of our country's activities on non-human forms. After all, they were here before us and - unless we really muck things up - they will be here long after we're gone. Sincerely, Alison Lenton	The Navy shares your concern for marine life, but this concern must be balanced with the purpose and need for Navy training and testing as detailed in Chapter 2 (Description of Proposed Action and Alternatives) of the EIS/OEIS. The Navy has conducted active sonar training and testing activities in the Study Area for decades, and there is no evidence that routine Navy training and testing has negatively impacted marine mammal populations in the Study Area or at any Navy Range Complex. Based on the best available science summarized in the EIS/OEIS Section 3.4.4.1 (Summary of Monitoring and Observations During Navy Activities) long-term consequences for marine mammal populations are unlikely to result from Navy training and testing activities in the Study Area. Please also refer to Chapter 5 (Standard Operating Procedures, Mitigation, and Monitoring) of the EIS/OEIS, detailing the procedures and mitigation measures during its training and testing activities designed to reduce impacts to marine mammals from Navy activities.
Lenton-03	I'm pretty sure you already know what your weapons do and really do not require ANY testing. You also know EXACTLY how this will impact the environment = HORRIBLY !!!!! I can already see the mass standings of Cetaceans and other animals within OUR waters...let alone the countless repercussions we can only begin to imagine and ones that we can not. Do not test weapons of war in our (ALL	Regarding previous strandings, see Section 3.4.3.1.8 (Stranding) and the referenced technical report "Marine Mammal Strandings Associated with U.S. Navy Sonar Activities" (U.S. Department of the Navy 2013c). Based on the best available science summarized in the Draft EIS/OEIS Section 3.4.4.1 (Summary of Monitoring and

Table I.5-4: Responses to Comments from Private Individuals (continued)

Commenter	Comment	Navy Response
	of our) Oceans and waterways.	Observations During Navy Activities), long-term consequences for marine mammal populations are unlikely to result from Navy training and testing activities in the Study Area.
Lenton-04	*The Navy's current environmental analysis fails to provide basic information necessary to adequately evaluate the impacts of the proposed activities. This analysis also fails to provide adequate measures to mitigate the harmful effects of the proposed activities on marine mammals and other wildlife. *Based on the information apparent in the environmental analysis, the *Navy's "No Action Alternative" is the proposal with the most limited impact on wildlife. *A drastic increase in sonar activity will negatively impact wildlife. Marine mammals are extremely sensitive to noise, and sonar disrupts basic behaviors necessary for survival such as migration, surfacing, navigating, hearing, nursing, breeding and feeding. *Sonar can result in debilitating and even fatal injuries for marine mammals. Scientists believe sonar activity can change whale diving behavior, confusing them to swim to depths their bodies cannot handle. Whales suspected to have beached themselves because of sonar activity show signs of physical trauma like bleeding around the brain, ears and other tissues and large bubbles in their organs – symptoms analogous to "the bends" in humans. *To the extent that threatened or endangered species -- including humpback and sperm whales, and leatherback turtles -- are negatively impacted, the proposed activities may result in violations of the Endangered Species Act.	The Navy shares your concern for marine life, but this concern must be balanced with the purpose and need for Navy training and testing as detailed in Chapter 2 (Description of Proposed Action and Alternatives) of the EIS/OEIS. The Navy has conducted active sonar training and testing activities in the Study Area for decades, and there is no evidence that routine Navy training and testing has negatively impacted individual sea turtles or sea turtle populations, or marine mammal populations in the Study Area or at any Navy Range Complex. Based on the best available science summarized in the EIS/OEIS Section 3.4.4.1 (Summary of Monitoring and Observations During Navy Activities), long-term consequences for marine mammal populations are unlikely to result from Navy training and testing activities in the Study Area. Note that for sea turtles, as described in the EIS/OEIS Section 3.5.3.7.1 (Combined Impacts of All Stressors), "impacts are not expected to decrease the overall fitness or result in long-term population level impacts on any given population." Please also refer to Chapter 5 (Standard Operating Procedures, Mitigation, and Monitoring) of the EIS/OEIS, detailing the procedures and mitigation measures during its training and testing activities designed to reduce impacts to marine mammals and sea turtles from Navy activities. Regarding previous strandings, see Section 3.4.3.1.8 (Stranding) and the referenced technical report "Marine Mammal Strandings Associated with U.S. Navy Sonar Activities" (U.S. Department of the Navy 2013c).
A. Leon (Electronic)	Please stop testing sonar in the Pacific.	Thank you for participating in the NEPA process.
M. Leon (Electronic)	Sonar is KNOWN to disrupt whales and dolphins in their sense of balance and coordination roaming our oceans near the US. PLEASE realize what harm you are doing in the name of the US Navy and find other ways to perform underwater testing. Thank You.	Currently sonar is the best technology for locating small objects in the water that we possess. The Navy is constantly evaluating and funding research to assess improved technologies that will achieve Navy mission goals while protecting resources on land and at sea. Evaluation of these technologies continues to be a Navy focus as is research into all technologies that will protect and defend the United States.

Table I.5-4: Responses to Comments from Private Individuals (continued)

Commenter	Comment	Navy Response
		The Navy shares your concern for marine life, but this concern must be balanced with the purpose and need for Navy training and testing as detailed in Chapter 2 (Description of Proposed Action and Alternatives) of the EIS/OEIS. The Navy has conducted active sonar training and testing activities in the Study Area for decades, and there is no evidence that routine Navy training and testing has negatively impacted marine mammal populations in the Study Area or at any Navy Range Complex. Based on the best available science summarized in the EIS/OEIS Section 3.4.4.1 (Summary of Monitoring and Observations During Navy Activities) long-term consequences for marine mammal populations are unlikely to result from Navy training and testing activities in the Study Area. Please also refer to Chapter 5 (Standard Operating Procedures, Mitigation, and Monitoring) of the EIS/OEIS, detailing the procedures and mitigation measures during its training and testing activities designed to reduce impacts to marine mammals from Navy activities.
Lester (Written)	National Parks were not created for use as training grounds for the military. Such use is, without a doubt harmful to the habitat and people who use it. I wish to go on record opposing the use of the Olympic Peninsula by the Department of Defense for such maneuvers.	Thank you for participating in the NEPA process. However this comment is outside the scope of the Supplement to the Draft EIS/OEIS. Please see Chapters 1 and 2 of the EIS/OEIS for a clear definition of the scope of this project. There are no weapons testing activities proposed in the Olympic National Forest in the Supplement to the Draft EIS/OEIS.
Leverette (Electronic)	I urge the Navy to limit the amount of sonar activity used in training missions off the Pacific Coast. The Navy's current environmental analysis fails to provide basic information necessary to adequately evaluate the impacts of the proposed activities. This analysis also fails to provide adequate measures to mitigate the harmful effects of the proposed activities on marine mammals and other wildlife. Based on the information apparent in the environmental analysis, the Navy's "No Action Alternative" is the proposal with the most limited impact on wildlife. A drastic increase in sonar activity will negatively impact wildlife. Marine mammals are extremely sensitive to noise, and sonar disrupts basic behaviors necessary for survival such as migration, surfacing, navigating, hearing, nursing, breeding and feeding. Sonar can result in debilitating and even fatal injuries for marine mammals. Scientists believe sonar activity can change whale diving behavior, confusing them to swim to depths their bodies cannot handle. Whales suspected to have beached themselves because of sonar activity show signs of physical trauma like bleeding around the brain, ears and other tissues and large bubbles in their organs – symptoms analogous to "the bends" in humans. To the extent that threatened or endangered species -- including humpback and sperm whales, and leatherback	The Navy shares your concern for marine life, but this concern must be balanced with the purpose and need for Navy training and testing as detailed in Chapter 2 (Description of Proposed Action and Alternatives) of the EIS/OEIS. The Navy has conducted active sonar training and testing activities in the Study Area for decades, and there is no evidence that routine Navy training and testing has negatively impacted individual sea turtles or sea turtle populations, or marine mammal populations in the Study Area or at any Navy Range Complex. Based on the best available science summarized in the EIS/OEIS Section 3.4.4.1 (Summary of Monitoring and Observations During Navy Activities), long-term consequences for marine mammal populations are unlikely to result from Navy training and testing activities in the Study Area. Note that for sea turtles, as described in the EIS/OEIS Section 3.5.3.7.1 (Combined Impacts of All Stressors), "impacts are not expected to decrease the overall fitness or result in long-term population level impacts on any given population." Please also refer to Chapter 5 (Standard Operating Procedures,

Table I.5-4: Responses to Comments from Private Individuals (continued)

Commenter	Comment	Navy Response
	turtles -- are negatively impacted, the proposed activities may result in violations of the Endangered Species Act. Thank you.	Mitigation, and Monitoring) of the EIS/OEIS, detailing the procedures and mitigation measures during its training and testing activities designed to reduce impacts to marine mammals and sea turtles from Navy activities. Regarding previous strandings, see Section 3.4.3.1.8 (Stranding) and the referenced technical report "Marine Mammal Strandings Associated with U.S. Navy Sonar Activities" (U.S. Department of the Navy 2013c).
Lewis (Electronic)	Our resources are already stressed and compromised by the pollution from all corners of the world. Everything counts now and we need less war mongering and toxins from the machines of war mongering. The noise is another issue, although were here in Pt. Townsend it makes a very stressful sound and eventually the quality of life will keep deteriorating and will cause more problems with the already compromised societal truth, honor and respect. We have very unique and delicate plants and animals in a very beautiful part of the world. Lets save something for our children. thank you M. Lewis	Thank you for participating in the NEPA process.
Lexa (Electronic)	Regarding the No Action Alternative The Navy's current environmental analysis fails to provide basic information necessary to adequately evaluate the impacts of the proposed activities. This analysis also fails to provide adequate measures to mitigate the harmful effects of the proposed activities on marine mammals and other wildlife. Based on the information apparent in the environmental analysis, the Navy's "No Action Alternative" is the proposal with the most limited impact on wildlife. A drastic increase in sonar activity will negatively impact wildlife. Marine mammals are extremely sensitive to noise, and sonar disrupts basic behaviors necessary for survival such as migration, surfacing, navigating, hearing, nursing, breeding and feeding. Sonar can result in debilitating and even fatal injuries for marine mammals. Scientists believe sonar activity can change whale diving behavior, confusing them to swim to depths their bodies cannot handle. Whales suspected to have beached themselves because of sonar activity show signs of physical trauma like bleeding around the brain, ears and other tissues and large bubbles in their organs – symptoms analogous to "the bends" in humans. To the extent that threatened or endangered species -- including humpback and sperm whales, and leatherback turtles -- are negatively impacted, the proposed activities may result in violations of the Endangered Species Act.	The Navy shares your concern for marine life, but this concern must be balanced with the purpose and need for Navy training and testing as detailed in Chapter 2 (Description of Proposed Action and Alternatives) of the EIS/OEIS. The Navy has conducted active sonar training and testing activities in the Study Area for decades, and there is no evidence that routine Navy training and testing has negatively impacted individual sea turtles or sea turtle populations, or marine mammal populations in the Study Area or at any Navy Range Complex. Based on the best available science summarized in the EIS/OEIS Section 3.4.4.1 (Summary of Monitoring and Observations During Navy Activities), long-term consequences for marine mammal populations are unlikely to result from Navy training and testing activities in the Study Area. Note that for sea turtles, as described in the EIS/OEIS Section 3.5.3.7.1 (Combined Impacts of All Stressors), "impacts are not expected to decrease the overall fitness or result in long-term population level impacts on any given population." Please also refer to Chapter 5 (Standard Operating Procedures, Mitigation, and Monitoring) of the EIS/OEIS, detailing the procedures and mitigation measures during its training and testing activities designed to reduce impacts to marine mammals and sea turtles from Navy activities. Regarding previous strandings, see Section 3.4.3.1.8 (Stranding) and the referenced technical report "Marine Mammal Strandings

Table I.5-4: Responses to Comments from Private Individuals (continued)

Commenter	Comment	Navy Response
		Associated with U.S. Navy Sonar Activities" (U.S. Department of the Navy 2013c).
lip (Electronic)	Please stop using sonar testing, harms wildlife, stop using testing sonar now, no more harming marinelife ever! Not worth it, pleasr stop testing sonar now!	The Navy shares your concern for marine life, but this concern must be balanced with the purpose and need for Navy training and testing as detailed in Chapter 2 (Description of Proposed Action and Alternatives) of the EIS/OEIS. The Navy has conducted active sonar training and testing activities in the Study Area for decades, and there is no evidence that routine Navy training and testing has negatively impacted marine mammal populations in the Study Area or at any Navy Range Complex. Based on the best available science summarized in the EIS/OEIS Section 3.4.4.1 (Summary of Monitoring and Observations During Navy Activities) long-term consequences for marine mammal populations are unlikely to result from Navy training and testing activities in the Study Area. Please also refer to Chapter 5 (Standard Operating Procedures, Mitigation, and Monitoring) of the EIS/OEIS, detailing the procedures and mitigation measures during its training and testing activities designed to reduce impacts to marine mammals from Navy activities.
Little (Electronic)	Warfare. Does it really make you feel good? Does it make you feel powerful? Do you have even the slightest remorse for killing? The killing of people and creatures? Are you so convinced that your actions are right? Are you so thoroughly certain your violence is not in vain? Humanity and all of Nature can, at any moment, in the blink of an eye, vanish from the planet. Still, you continue to build weapons of mass destruction. Still, you think you are right about your militarized industrial complex and the necessity of it to protect Americans, this country, this land of the so-called free and the brave. Sir, Madam, you and your weapons and your army"s do not protect this country. You are delusional if you think you are serving this country or its people. You, American, or any other militarized nationalist, or terrorist. You are simply mocked by your own ignorance because you know nothing about life. As life streams through your veins, you miss it. As life appears before your eyes, you miss it. As you touch and embrace your families, you are blind to the life they have and the life they need because you are a destroyer of life. A destroyer of life. Not until you put down your arms, your weapons of mass destruction, Not until you disarm yourself of fear, cowardice, and greed Not until you have remorse and scream aloud with anguish for the tragedy of taking life will you ever know what life is, what life has for you what you can be. You are dead and from that death you cast upon this planet your raging hunger to kill, to mame, to destroy so that you might eat alive the very goodness of life that is before you. I pity you. I pity your life, and the sufferings of your mind causing you to act with a hungry rage that wants nothing but to conquer. Within you are ancient ones come before and together, now, you suffer	Thank you for participating in the NEPA process.

Table I.5-4: Responses to Comments from Private Individuals (continued)

Commenter	Comment	Navy Response
	from the hell that is war. Banish forth this hell from your hearts. Stand tall as free men and free women and embrace life and leave the killing. Humanity and all of Nature can, at any moment, in the blink of an eye, vanish from the planet. Humanity and all of Nature can, at any moment, be free to live in peace. It is a choice. Choose life. Choose life. Choose life.	
LOEB (Electronic)	It is s profound disappointment that, at the last minute, the Navy has expanded its proposal for training off of the Pacific Coast, suggesting 36 TIMES more sonar-emitting bouys as had been previously planned. This unexpected revision will drastically increase the impact on whales and other ocean wildlife. Your continued lip service to the scientific concerns and disregard for the affect on cetaceans and other sea life is irresponsible and dishonest. I've seen the navy website and their pseudo-concern written for the consequences of the sonar but behavior does not reflect this. A truly disappointed citizen. Sincerely N A Loeb	The Navy is not proposing to increase the annual number of sonobuoys by a factor of 36. The Navy's original proposal in the Draft EIS/OEIS includes the annual deployment of approximately 9,200 sonobuoys of various types. The increase of 700 sonobuoys described in the Supplement is an increase of less than 8 percent. The Navy shares your concern for marine life, but this concern must be balanced with the purpose and need for Navy training and testing as detailed in Chapter 2 (Description of Proposed Action and Alternatives) of the EIS/OEIS. The Navy has conducted active sonar training and testing activities in the Study Area for decades, and there is no evidence that routine Navy training and testing has negatively impacted marine mammal populations in the Study Area or at any Navy Range Complex. Based on the best available science summarized in the EIS/OEIS Section 3.4.4.1 (Summary of Monitoring and Observations During Navy Activities) long-term consequences for marine mammal populations are unlikely to result from Navy training and testing activities in the Study Area. Please also refer to Chapter 5 (Standard Operating Procedures, Mitigation, and Monitoring) of the EIS/OEIS, detailing the procedures and mitigation measures during its training and testing activities designed to reduce impacts to marine mammals from Navy activities.
Logan (Electronic)	Comment is in opposition to use of sonar explosives testing - our marine wildlife would be gravely affected. There are other options, let's choose one. Thank you	Thank you for participating in the NEPA process.
Loh (Electronic)	The Navy's current environmental analysis fails to provide basic information necessary to adequately evaluate the impacts of the proposed activities. This analysis also fails to provide adequate measures to mitigate the harmful effects of the proposed activities on marine mammals and other wildlife. Based on the information apparent in the environmental analysis, the Navy's "No Action Alternative" is the proposal with the most limited impact on wildlife. A drastic increase in sonar activity will negatively impact wildlife. Marine mammals are extremely sensitive to noise, and sonar disrupts basic behaviors necessary for survival such as migration, surfacing, navigating, hearing, nursing, breeding and	The Navy shares your concern for marine life, but this concern must be balanced with the purpose and need for Navy training and testing as detailed in Chapter 2 (Description of Proposed Action and Alternatives) of the EIS/OEIS. The Navy has conducted active sonar training and testing activities in the Study Area for decades, and there is no evidence that routine Navy training and testing has negatively impacted individual sea turtles or sea turtle populations, or marine mammal populations in the Study Area or at any Navy Range Complex. Based on the best available science summarized in the

Table I.5-4: Responses to Comments from Private Individuals (continued)

Commenter	Comment	Navy Response
	feeding. Sonar can result in debilitating and even fatal injuries for marine mammals. Scientists believe sonar activity can change whale diving behavior, confusing them to swim to depths their bodies cannot handle. Whales suspected to have beached themselves because of sonar activity show signs of physical trauma like bleeding around the brain, ears and other tissues and large bubbles in their organs – symptoms analogous to “the bends” in humans. To the extent that threatened or endangered species -- including humpback and sperm whales, and leatherback turtles -- are negatively impacted, the proposed activities may result in violations of the Endangered Species Act.	EIS/OEIS Section 3.4.4.1 (Summary of Monitoring and Observations During Navy Activities), long-term consequences for marine mammal populations are unlikely to result from Navy training and testing activities in the Study Area. Note that for sea turtles, as described in the EIS/OEIS Section 3.5.3.7.1 (Combined Impacts of All Stressors), “impacts are not expected to decrease the overall fitness or result in long-term population level impacts on any given population.” Please also refer to Chapter 5 (Standard Operating Procedures, Mitigation, and Monitoring) of the EIS/OEIS, detailing the procedures and mitigation measures during its training and testing activities designed to reduce impacts to marine mammals and sea turtles from Navy activities. Regarding previous strandings, see Section 3.4.3.1.8 (Stranding) and the referenced technical report “Marine Mammal Strandings Associated with U.S. Navy Sonar Activities” (U.S. Department of the Navy 2013c).
Lohner (Written)	Here's a copy of the letter I sent to Peninsula Daily News and Port Townsend Leader. Thank you Navy! Fly over and/or around my home anytime. From our side of the water I can barely see, let alone hear these so-called terrible jets flying at OLF Coupeville. And ... I lived in Oak Harbor for over 12 years. This hullabaloo over a few squeaky wheel people whining about the Navy is nonsense. Growing up hiking, hunting and fishing much of the Oregon and Washington backwoods since the 1960s, I occasionally saw and heard jets flying over my head through the valleys. It did get my attention for about a second and a half. I'm not deaf nor suffer any negative effects from their training. Thumper, Bambi and Tweety Bird didn't freak out when they flew over. The animals don't glow in the dark from all the so-called electromagnetic emissions. Neither do I. It's no different than the animals and humans hearing the naturally loud noise called thunder and seeing lightening in the woods. If you're lonely and or have so much time on your hands, please volunteer at the Homeless Shelter at the American legion. Become a Police or Sheriffs Volunteer. With the increasing danger from fanatical Islamic Terrorists like ISIS and their Jihadist crazy people, training and preparation to fight these vermin is more important now, than ever before. Thanks again Navy ... your "noise" is The Sound of Freedom! Keep it up!	Thank you for participating in the NEPA process.
Lorenz (Electronic)	Why is the Navy willing to do some training that different sea animals can be harmed by. We need to protect our sea life not throw it under the bus. Please reconsider your activity. Is it reaally necessary!!	Thank you for participating in the NEPA process.

Table I.5-4: Responses to Comments from Private Individuals (continued)

Commenter	Comment	Navy Response
Lucas (Electronic)	No Action Alternative PLEASE! The Navy's current environmental analysis fails to provide basic information necessary to adequately evaluate the impacts of the proposed activities. This analysis also fails to provide adequate measures to mitigate the harmful effects of the proposed activities on marine mammals and other wildlife. Based on the information apparent in the environmental analysis, the Navy's "No Action Alternative" is the proposal with the most limited negative impact on wildlife. A drastic increase in sonar activity will negatively impact wildlife. Marine mammals are extremely sensitive to noise, and sonar disrupts basic behaviors necessary for survival such as migration, surfacing, navigating, hearing, nursing, breeding and feeding. Sonar can result in debilitating and even fatal injuries for marine mammals. Scientists believe sonar activity can change whale diving behavior, confusing them to swim to depths their bodies cannot handle. Whales suspected to have beached themselves because of sonar activity show signs of physical trauma like bleeding around the brain, ears and other tissues and large bubbles in their organs – symptoms analogous to "The bends" in humans. To the extent that threatened or endangered species -- including humpback and sperm whales, and leatherback turtles -- are negatively impacted, the proposed activities may result in violations of the Endangered Species Act. Please, please consider and choose the No Action Alternative. Thank you! Lisa	The Navy shares your concern for marine life, but this concern must be balanced with the purpose and need for Navy training and testing as detailed in Chapter 2 (Description of Proposed Action and Alternatives) of the EIS/OEIS. The Navy has conducted active sonar training and testing activities in the Study Area for decades, and there is no evidence that routine Navy training and testing has negatively impacted individual sea turtles or sea turtle populations, or marine mammal populations in the Study Area or at any Navy Range Complex. Based on the best available science summarized in the EIS/OEIS Section 3.4.4.1 (Summary of Monitoring and Observations During Navy Activities), long-term consequences for marine mammal populations are unlikely to result from Navy training and testing activities in the Study Area. Note that for sea turtles, as described in the EIS/OEIS Section 3.5.3.7.1 (Combined Impacts of All Stressors), "impacts are not expected to decrease the overall fitness or result in long-term population level impacts on any given population." Please also refer to Chapter 5 (Standard Operating Procedures, Mitigation, and Monitoring) of the EIS/OEIS, detailing the procedures and mitigation measures during its training and testing activities designed to reduce impacts to marine mammals and sea turtles from Navy activities. Regarding previous strandings, see Section 3.4.3.1.8 (Stranding) and the referenced technical report "Marine Mammal Strandings Associated with U.S. Navy Sonar Activities" (U.S. Department of the Navy 2013c).
Luigs (Electronic)	The Navy's worthwhile objectives notwithstanding, the dwindling number and beleaguered condition of the area's remaining whales require that the proposed training occur elsewhere and/ or using different methods. Until the whale populations that utilize the area (resident and transient) are removed from the endangered species list, it would be shortsighted in the extreme to introduce additional noise and traffic to their habitat. I am a professional pilot in the local area. I routinely hear NAS Whidbey controllers orchestrate over-water fuel dumping for returning aircraft and witness the extent to which whales are pursued and interfered with by tour boats and recreational craft. Often, commercial fishing craft are netting exactly where the whales hunt. The whales need additonal protections, including from civilians, not additional challenges to their tenuous survival. I oppose anything that stands to disrupt recovery of the whales, these Navy proposals included.	The Navy shares your concern for marine life, but this concern must be balanced with the purpose and need for Navy training and testing as detailed in Chapter 2 (Description of Proposed Action and Alternatives) of the EIS/OEIS. The Navy has conducted active sonar training and testing activities in the Study Area for decades, and there is no evidence that routine Navy training and testing has negatively impacted marine mammal populations in the Study Area or at any Navy Range Complex. Based on the best available science summarized in the EIS/OEIS Section 3.4.4.1 (Summary of Monitoring and Observations During Navy Activities), long-term consequences for marine mammal populations are unlikely to result from Navy training and testing activities in the Study Area. Please also refer to Chapter 5 (Standard Operating Procedures, Mitigation, and Monitoring) of the EIS/OEIS, detailing the procedures and mitigation measures during its

Table I.5-4: Responses to Comments from Private Individuals (continued)

Commenter	Comment	Navy Response
		training and testing activities designed to reduce impacts to marine mammals from Navy activities.
Lussier (Electronic)	If you continue damaging the biosphere, of which the oceans are more than 95%, civilization will collapse and you will have nothing to defend.	Thank you for participating in the NEPA process.
Lutz (Electronic)	I am adamantly opposed to the Navy's proposed use of the Olympic Peninsula as an electronic warfare practice range. I own a sailing charter tourism business that frequents the southern San Juans and Strait of Juan de Fuca, and already get many complaints from my guests about the noise of the existing navy jets. Obviously this noise would increase with this plan, negatively affecting my business. I'm also deeply concerned about the unknown effects of electronic radiation on wildlife and people on the peninsula itself, not to mention the disruption to both from the noise. This is an extremely unwise plan for the future of our precious local environment. David Lutz Emerald Isle Sailing Charters	Thank you for participating in the NEPA process. However this comment is outside the scope of the Supplement to the Draft EIS/OEIS. Please see Chapters 1 and 2 of the EIS/OEIS for a clear definition of the scope of this project. The NWTT EIS/OEIS includes the analysis of activities only where those activities occur. There are no activities involving the use of electronic radiation proposed in the Supplement to the Draft EIS/OEIS.
M (Electronic)	stop	Thank you for participating in the NEPA process.
MacGeorge (Electronic)	Please, I urge you to stop the use of Sonar. This is monstrous what we are doing to the aquatic mammals. The Navy's current environmental analysis fails to provide basic information necessary to adequately evaluate the impacts of the proposed activities. This analysis also fails to provide adequate measures to mitigate the harmful effects of the proposed activities on marine mammals and other wildlife. Based on the information apparent in the environmental analysis, the Navy's "No Action Alternative" is the proposal with the most limited impact on wildlife. A drastic increase in sonar activity will negatively impact wildlife. Marine mammals are extremely sensitive to noise, and sonar disrupts basic behaviors necessary for survival such as migration, surfacing, navigating, hearing, nursing, breeding and feeding. Sonar can result in debilitating and even fatal injuries for marine mammals. Scientists believe sonar activity can change whale diving behavior, confusing them to swim to depths their bodies cannot handle. Whales suspected to have beached themselves because of sonar activity show signs of physical trauma like bleeding around the brain, ears and other tissues and large bubbles in their organs – symptoms analogous to "the bends" in humans. It IS in our hands to stop this, and to "do no harm". The Golden Rule applies to others as well as humans, lets all be reminded of this. Thank you.	The Navy shares your concern for marine life, but this concern must be balanced with the purpose and need for Navy training and testing as detailed in Chapter 2 (Description of Proposed Action and Alternatives) of the EIS/OEIS. The Navy has conducted active sonar training and testing activities in the Study Area for decades, and there is no evidence that routine Navy training and testing has negatively impacted marine mammal populations in the Study Area or at any Navy Range Complex. Based on the best available science summarized in the EIS/OEIS Section 3.4.4.1 (Summary of Monitoring and Observations During Navy Activities), long-term consequences for marine mammal populations are unlikely to result from Navy training and testing activities in the Study Area. Please also refer to Chapter 5 (Standard Operating Procedures, Mitigation, and Monitoring) of the EIS/OEIS, detailing the procedures and mitigation measures during its training and testing activities designed to reduce impacts to marine mammals from Navy activities.
Mackey	I do not have any intricate comments as this presentation was my first in depth look at the OIS/OEIS… I want to merely thank you for making your selves available for	Thank you for participating in the NEPA process.

Table I.5-4: Responses to Comments from Private Individuals (continued)

Commenter	Comment	Navy Response
(Electronic)	comment, and questions-- I am a concerned environmentalist and also appreciate national security measures. Indeed I will look closely at information and ideas about your research-both pros and cons- but appreciate this introduction by you-	
MacMillan (Electronic)	Please limit the amount and severity of marine sonar disturbances, in order to help protect the habitat and lives of numerous marine animals, including whales porpoises and turtles.	The Navy shares your concern for marine life, but this concern must be balanced with the purpose and need for Navy training and testing as detailed in Chapter 2 (Description of Proposed Action and Alternatives) of the EIS/OEIS. The Navy has conducted active sonar training and testing activities in the Study Area for decades, and there is no evidence that routine Navy training and testing has negatively impacted individual sea turtles or sea turtle populations, or marine mammal populations in the Study Area or at any Navy Range Complex. Based on the best available science summarized in the EIS/OEIS Section 3.4.4.1 (Summary of Monitoring and Observations During Navy Activities),long-term consequences for marine mammal populations are unlikely to result from Navy training and testing activities in the Study Area. Note that for sea turtles, as described in the EIS/OEIS Section 3.5.3.7.1 (Combined Impacts of All Stressors), “impacts are not expected to decrease the overall fitness or result in long-term population level impacts on any given population.” Please also refer to Chapter 5 (Standard Operating Procedures, Mitigation, and Monitoring) of the EIS/OEIS, detailing the procedures and mitigation measures during its training and testing activities designed to reduce impacts to marine mammals and sea turtles from Navy activities.
Maddock-Hughes (Electronic)	I support the No Action Alternative. The Navy’s current environmental analysis fails to provide basic information necessary to adequately evaluate the impacts of the proposed activities. This analysis also fails to provide adequate measures to mitigate the harmful effects of the proposed activities on marine mammals and other wildlife. Based on the information apparent in the environmental analysis, the Navy’s “No Action Alternative” is the proposal with the most limited impact on wildlife. A drastic increase in sonar activity will negatively impact wildlife. Marine mammals are extremely sensitive to noise, and sonar disrupts basic behaviors necessary for survival such as migration, surfacing, navigating, hearing, nursing, breeding and feeding. Sonar can result in debilitating and even fatal injuries for marine mammals. Scientists believe sonar activity can change whale diving behavior, confusing them to swim to depths their bodies cannot handle. Whales suspected to have beached themselves because of sonar activity show signs of physical trauma like bleeding around the brain, ears and other tissues and large bubbles in their organs – symptoms analogous to “the bends” in humans. To the	The Navy shares your concern for marine life, but this concern must be balanced with the purpose and need for Navy training and testing as detailed in Chapter 2 (Description of Proposed Action and Alternatives) of the EIS/OEIS. The Navy has conducted active sonar training and testing activities in the Study Area for decades, and there is no evidence that routine Navy training and testing has negatively impacted individual sea turtles or sea turtle populations, or marine mammal populations in the Study Area or at any Navy Range Complex. Based on the best available science summarized in the EIS/OEIS Section 3.4.4.1 (Summary of Monitoring and Observations During Navy Activities), long-term consequences for marine mammal populations are unlikely to result from Navy training and testing activities in the Study Area. Note that for sea turtles, as described in the EIS/OEIS Section 3.5.3.7.1 (Combined Impacts of All Stressors), “impacts are not expected to decrease the overall fitness or result in

Table I.5-4: Responses to Comments from Private Individuals (continued)

Commenter	Comment	Navy Response
	extent that threatened or endangered species -- including humpback and sperm whales, and leatherback turtles -- are negatively impacted, the proposed activities may result in violations of the Endangered Species Act.	long-term population level impacts on any given population." Please also refer to Chapter 5 (Standard Operating Procedures, Mitigation, and Monitoring) of the EIS/OEIS, detailing the procedures and mitigation measures during its training and testing activities designed to reduce impacts to marine mammals and sea turtles from Navy activities. Regarding previous strandings, see Section 3.4.3.1.8 (Stranding) and the referenced technical report "Marine Mammal Strandings Associated with U.S. Navy Sonar Activities" (U.S. Department of the Navy 2013c).
Magnuson (Electronic)	I am horrified by the proposed alternatives to increase the number of sonobuoys in the NW oceans. My father was a US Navy WWII veteran and was always proud of his service, but he was also an environmentalist and would be upset by this proposal. Please honor the good works and service of the Navy and do not increase the number of destructive sonobuoys. As the Rev Martin Luther King, Jr, said - "you can't reach good ends through evil means." Please extend your protection of the oceans from just US citizens to the denizens of the oceans themselves, and respect and protect our valuable and vulnerable sea life.	As described in the Supplement in Section 3.4.2 (Marine Mammal Summary), the proposed increase in the use of SSQ-125 sonobuoys would "not result in any long-term consequences for any marine mammal population or species; therefore, the conclusions stated in the Draft EIS/OEIS remain unchanged." The Navy has conducted active sonar training and testing activities in the Study Area for decades, and there is no evidence that routine Navy training and testing has negatively impacted marine mammal populations in the Study Area or at any Navy Range Complex. Based on the best available science summarized in the EIS/OEIS Section 3.4.4.1 (Summary of Monitoring and Observations During Navy Activities) ,long-term consequences for marine mammal populations are unlikely to result from Navy training and testing activities in the Study Area.
Majors (Electronic)	A drastic increase in sonar activity will negatively impact wildlife. Marine mammals are extremely sensitive to noise, and sonar disrupts basic behaviors necessary for survival such as migration, surfacing, navigating, hearing, nursing, breeding and feeding... PLEASE PLEASE PLEASE reconsider expanding your testing.	The Navy shares your concern for marine life, but this concern must be balanced with the purpose and need for Navy training and testing as detailed in Chapter 2 (Description of Proposed Action and Alternatives) of the EIS/OEIS. The Navy has conducted active sonar training and testing activities in the Study Area for decades, and there is no evidence that routine Navy training and testing has negatively impacted marine mammal populations in the Study Area or at any Navy Range Complex. Based on the best available science summarized in the EIS/OEIS Section 3.4.4.1 (Summary of Monitoring and Observations During Navy Activities), long-term consequences for marine mammal populations are unlikely to result from Navy training and testing activities in the Study Area. Please also refer to Chapter 5 (Standard Operating Procedures, Mitigation, and Monitoring) of the EIS/OEIS, detailing the procedures and mitigation measures during its training and testing activities designed to reduce impacts to marine

Table I.5-4: Responses to Comments from Private Individuals (continued)

Commenter	Comment	Navy Response
		mammals from Navy activities.
Mansfield (Electronic)	I am extremely concerned about the impact of the proposed Navel testing activities on the West coast. The Pacific coast is the migration route for Grey whales from Baja to the Arctic. The use of sonar will seriously disrupt the whales and all other marine mammals living in the ocean. We have no right to damage, injure and kill them. Marine mammals are intelligent beings. They live in family groups. Their numbers are a fraction of what they once were. They are starved to death by all of the plastic in the ocean. They are run over by ships. Their food sources are taken by over fishing. We need to be doing all we can to save them, not kill them with sonar testing, explosives and whatever else the Navy has in store for the disruption of life in the ocean.	The Navy shares your concern for marine life, but this concern must be balanced with the purpose and need for Navy training and testing as detailed in Chapter 2 (Description of Proposed Action and Alternatives) of the EIS/OEIS. The Navy has conducted active sonar training and testing activities in the Study Area for decades, and there is no evidence that routine Navy training and testing has negatively impacted marine mammal populations in the Study Area or at any Navy Range Complex. Based on the best available science summarized in the EIS/OEIS Section 3.4.4.1 (Summary of Monitoring and Observations During Navy Activities) long-term consequences for marine mammal populations are unlikely to result from Navy training and testing activities in the Study Area. Please also refer to Chapter 5 (Standard Operating Procedures, Mitigation, and Monitoring) of the EIS/OEIS, detailing the procedures and mitigation measures during its training and testing activities designed to reduce impacts to marine mammals from Navy activities.
J. Mantooth (Electronic)	Subject: Supplement (December 2014) to the Navy's Draft Environmental Impact Statement/ Overseas Environmental Impact Statement (DEIS), dated January 2014, for its continued training and testing activities in the Pacific Northwest (NWTT) I have attempted to send comments before, but the public process has been so confusing I want to be sure you have these included in the administrative record. I recently have become aware of how critical any damage to sea turtle populations is likely to be. I also continue to be greatly concerned about fish, birds, marine mammals – including the Southern Resident Killer Whales – and other animals and plants as well as humans. Another federal entity, NOAA, is supposed to provide protection in what we understand is a marine sanctuary. The Navy's proposals seem at odds with this purpose as well that of Olympic National Park and Olympic National Forest. Whatever savings in fuel may be possible can't compare with the cost of conflicting with the investments that have been made in other areas that are supposed to have federal protection. Proof that proposals will not cause harm has not been provided. Monitoring also is not well delineated. I also want to see thorough studies related to possible impacts on climate change. A comprehensive Environmental Impact Statement that includes all of the proposed activities in the region instead of the fragmented approach is essential. . I expect thorough consideration of our comments that we fear may be ignored as "insubstantial."	The Navy shares your concern for marine life, but this concern must be balanced with the purpose and need for Navy training and testing as detailed in Chapter 2 (Description of Proposed Action and Alternatives) of the EIS/OEIS. The Navy has conducted active sonar training and testing activities in the Study Area for decades, and there is no evidence that routine Navy training and testing has negatively impacted individual sea turtles or sea turtle populations, or marine mammal populations in the Study Area or at any Navy Range Complex. Based on the best available science summarized in the EIS/OEIS Section 3.4.4.1 (Summary of Monitoring and Observations During Navy Activities), long-term consequences for marine mammal populations are unlikely to result from Navy training and testing activities in the Study Area. Note that for sea turtles, as described in the EIS/OEIS Section 3.5.3.7.1 (Combined Impacts of All Stressors), "impacts are not expected to decrease the overall fitness or result in long-term population level impacts on any given population." Please also refer to Chapter 5 (Standard Operating Procedures, Mitigation, and Monitoring) of the EIS/OEIS, detailing the procedures and mitigation measures during its training and testing activities designed to reduce impacts to marine mammals and sea turtles from Navy activities. As described in Chapter 5 (Standard Operating Procedures, Mitigation,

Table I.5-4: Responses to Comments from Private Individuals (continued)

Commenter	Comment	Navy Response
		and Monitoring) of the EIS/OEIS, the Navy evaluated the effectiveness and practicability of a number of potential mitigation measures. Through consultation and permitting with NMFS and USFWS, the Navy refined the mitigation measures, which are now presented in Chapter 5 (Standard Operating Procedures, Mitigation, and Monitoring) of this Final EIS/OEIS. Section 5.3.1.2.5 (Effectiveness Assessment for Lookouts) acknowledges that, due to the various detection probabilities, levels of Lookout experience, and variability of sighting conditions, Lookouts will not always be effective at avoiding impacts on all species. However, Lookouts are expected to increase the overall likelihood that certain marine mammal species and some sea turtles will be detected at the surface of the water, when compared to the likelihood that these same species would be detected if Lookouts are not used. The continued use of Lookouts contributes to helping reduce potential impacts on these species from training and testing activities. While the range of the sonar's detection would travel beyond the distance that Lookouts can detect animals, the range at which sonar is predicted to be able to cause injury to a marine mammal is very short, within 10 meters of the sonar. At such short distances, it is likely any marine mammal would have been detected. There are no weapons testing activities proposed in the Olympic National Forest in the Supplement to the Draft EIS/OEIS. The Navy used the best available science and a comprehensive review of past, present, and reasonably foreseeable actions to develop a robust Cumulative Impacts analysis. The Navy has returned to the analysis in Chapter 4 (Cumulative Impacts) due to concerns raised in public comments, and the Chapter has been revised in response to those public comments. The literature on ocean acidification has been reviewed, and is now discussed in Section 4.4.4 (Climate Change), of Chapter 4 (Cumulative Impacts) of the EIS/OEIS.
R. Mantooth (Electronic)	My husband and I have devoted most of the years of our lives to the exceptional natural qualities of the North Olympic Peninsula. The natural qualities are inseparable from the economic well-being of area residents and educational and inspirational benefits for visitors who add economic value. We are appalled at the prospects of damage to the ecosystem, including waters and lands, from the proposed Navy program especially considering the fragility of fish stocks and marine mammals.	Thank you for participating in the NEPA process.

Table I.5-4: Responses to Comments from Private Individuals (continued)

Commenter	Comment	Navy Response
Markowitz (Electronic)	I am writing in support of the "No Action Alternative", to urge you to please limit the amount of sonar activity used in training missions off the Pacific Coast, due to the irreparable harm such activity will do to the whale population. The Navy's current analysis fails to take into account the damage such levels will do to marine mammals and other aquatic life; it also fails to provide for a means to mitigate such damage. The Navy is also at serious risk of violating the Endangered Species Act, as many of the at-risk animals that will be affected are cetacean species like humpback and sperm whales, and turtle species like the leatherback, which are classified as endangered or threatened. Your time and consideration are most appreciated -- thank you.	As described in the Supplement in Section 3.5.2 (Sea Turtle Summary), the proposed increase in the use of SSQ-125 sonobuoys "are not expected to result in substantial changes to behavior, growth, survival, annual reproductive success, lifetime reproductive success (fitness), or species recruitment, and are not expected to result in population-level impacts." The Navy shares your concern for marine life, but this concern must be balanced with the purpose and need for Navy training and testing as detailed in Chapter 2 (Description of Proposed Action and Alternatives) of the EIS/OEIS. The Navy has conducted active sonar training and testing activities in the Study Area for decades, and there is no evidence that routine Navy training and testing has negatively impacted marine mammal populations in the Study Area or at any Navy Range Complex. Based on the best available science summarized in the EIS/OEIS Section 3.4.4.1 (Summary of Monitoring and Observations During Navy Activities), long-term consequences for marine mammal populations are unlikely to result from Navy training and testing activities in the Study Area. Please also refer to Chapter 5 (Standard Operating Procedures, Mitigation, and Monitoring) of the EIS/OEIS, detailing the procedures and mitigation measures during its training and testing activities designed to reduce impacts to marine mammals from Navy activities.
Maron-Friend (Electronic)	This is simply insanity and has been going on for decades causing, likely, irreparable damage to countless undersea ecosystems!!! Just stop!!!!!	Thank you for participating in the NEPA process.
T. Marshall-01 (Electronic)	If the Navy cannot definitively prove that its cumulative actions will include limits that ensure that species of birds, fish, mammals and other wildlife that depend on the oceans will not be pushed closer to extinction, then this proposed action should be halted.	The Navy used the best available science and a comprehensive review of past, present, and reasonably foreseeable actions to develop a robust Cumulative Impacts analysis. See Chapter 4 (Cumulative Impacts) of the EIS/OEIS, which has been updated for the Final EIS/OEIS. The Navy shares your concern for marine life, but this concern must be balanced with the purpose and need for Navy training and testing as detailed in Chapter 2 (Description of Proposed Action and Alternatives) of the EIS/OEIS. The Navy has conducted active sonar training and testing activities in the Study Area for decades, and there is no evidence that routine Navy training and testing has negatively impacted marine mammal populations in the Study Area or at any Navy Range Complex. Based on the best available science summarized in the EIS/OEIS Section 3.4.4.1 (Summary of Monitoring

Table I.5-4: Responses to Comments from Private Individuals (continued)

Commenter	Comment	Navy Response
		and Observations During Navy Activities), long-term consequences for marine mammal populations are unlikely to result from Navy training and testing activities in the Study Area. Please also refer to Chapter 5 (Standard Operating Procedures, Mitigation, and Monitoring) of the EIS/OEIS, detailing the procedures and mitigation measures during its training and testing activities designed to reduce impacts to marine mammals from Navy activities.
T. Marshall-02	The Navy must be held accountable to the laws, including the Marine Mammal Protection Act and Endangered Species Act, Coastal Zone Management Act, and others that are in place to protect the oceans and the wildlife living in them. It has been determined that the actions, as currently done, by the Navy negatively impact marine mammals. These laws must be obeyed. Other ways of training must be developed that do not harm marine mammals	The Navy completed the Supplement to the Draft EIS/OEIS in compliance with current law, including the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA). In addition to NEPA, the Navy continues to comply with other applicable environmental laws and with a number of regulatory requirements, such as the Marine Mammal Protection Act, the Endangered Species Act, the Coastal Zone Management Act, and the Magnuson-Stevens Fishery Conservation and Management Act. As described in the Supplement in Section 3.4.2 (Marine Mammal Summary), the proposed increase in the use of SSQ-125 sonobuoys would "not result in any long-term consequences for any marine mammal population or species; therefore, the conclusions stated in the Draft EIS/OEIS remain unchanged." The Navy has conducted active sonar training and testing activities in the Study Area for decades, and there is no evidence that routine Navy training and testing has negatively impacted marine mammal populations in the Study Area or at any Navy Range Complex. Based on the best available science summarized in the EIS/OEIS Section 3.4.4.1 (Summary of Monitoring and Observations During Navy Activities), long-term consequences for marine mammal populations are unlikely to result from Navy training and testing activities in the Study Area.
T. Marshall-03	In light of the fact that there is now scientific evidence that the oceans are stressed and degrading and that any additional stresses on them could lead to devastating harm, and that the oceans are primary life support for all of us, if the Navy cannot prove that its actions will have absolutely no adverse impact on the oceans, then these actions should be halted and the Navy should use alternate methods, such as simulation to complete their trainings.	The Navy shares your concern for marine life, but this concern must be balanced with the purpose and need for Navy training and testing as detailed in Chapter 2 (Description of Proposed Action and Alternatives) of the EIS/OEIS. The Navy has conducted active sonar training and testing activities in the Study Area for decades, and there is no evidence that routine Navy training and testing has negatively impacted marine mammal populations in the Study Area or at any Navy Range Complex. Based on the best available science summarized in the EIS/OEIS Section 3.4.4.1 (Summary of Monitoring and Observations During Navy Activities), long-term consequences for marine mammal populations are unlikely to result from Navy training

Table I.5-4: Responses to Comments from Private Individuals (continued)

Commenter	Comment	Navy Response
		and testing activities in the Study Area. Please also refer to Chapter 5 (Standard Operating Procedures, Mitigation, and Monitoring) of the EIS/OEIS, detailing the procedures and mitigation measures during its training and testing activities designed to reduce impacts to marine mammals from Navy activities. Regarding the use of simulation, Navy already uses simulation in training and testing whenever possible; please see the discussion presented in Section 5.3.4.1.2 (Replacing Training and Testing with Simulated Activities) of the Draft EIS/OEIS.
T. Marshall-04	The Navy should improve the mitigation measures to include training of monitoring personnel by experienced whale and dolphin biologists and independent biologists should be on board to confirm compliance.	As described in Chapter 5 (Standard Operating Procedures, Mitigation, and Monitoring) of the EIS/OEIS, the Navy evaluated the effectiveness and practicability of a number of potential mitigation measures. Through consultation and permitting with NMFS and USFWS, the Navy refined the mitigation measures, which are now presented in Chapter 5 (Standard Operating Procedures, Mitigation, and Monitoring) of this Final EIS/OEIS. Section 5.3.1.2.5 (Effectiveness Assessment for Lookouts) acknowledges that, due to the various detection probabilities, levels of Lookout experience, and variability of sighting conditions, Lookouts will not always be effective at avoiding impacts on all species. However, Lookouts are expected to increase the overall likelihood that certain marine mammal species and some sea turtles will be detected at the surface of the water, when compared to the likelihood that these same species would be detected if Lookouts are not used. The continued use of Lookouts contributes to helping reduce potential impacts on these species from training and testing activities. While the range of the sonar's detection would travel beyond the distance that Lookouts can detect animals, the range at which sonar is predicted to be able to cause injury to a marine mammal is very short, within 10 meters of the sonar. At such short distances, it is likely any marine mammal would have been detected.
T. Marshall-05	In light of the fact that the ocean ecosystem is under significant stress right now, before proceeding with any further training missions, the Navy should be required to fund independent research on cumulative impacts of repeated exercises over long periods of time in multiple training ranges, on species of birds, fish, and mammals that inhabit and travel through any of the proposed or currently used training ranges. If these impacts cannot be shown to be fully mitigated, then this proposed action should not be taken.	The Navy used the best available science and a comprehensive review of past, present, and reasonably foreseeable actions to develop a robust Cumulative Impacts analysis in Chapter 4 (Cumulative Impacts) of the EIS/OEIS. The Navy shares your concern for marine life, but this concern must be balanced with the purpose and need for Navy training and testing as detailed in Chapter 2 (Description of Proposed Action and Alternatives)

Table I.5-4: Responses to Comments from Private Individuals (continued)

Commenter	Comment	Navy Response
		of the EIS/OEIS. The Navy has conducted active sonar training and testing activities in the Study Area for decades, and there is no evidence that routine Navy training and testing has negatively impacted marine mammal populations in the Study Area or at any Navy Range Complex. Based on the best available science summarized in the EIS/OEIS Section 3.4.4.1 (Summary of Monitoring and Observations During Navy Activities), long-term consequences for marine mammal populations are unlikely to result from Navy training and testing activities in the Study Area. Please also refer to Chapter 5 (Standard Operating Procedures, Mitigation, and Monitoring) of the EIS/OEIS, detailing the procedures and mitigation measures during its training and testing activities designed to reduce impacts to marine mammals from Navy activities.
T. Marshall-06	Prior to any expansion of training activities the Navy should fund independent new/current research on the seasonal presence and population needs and status of marine fish, birds, and mammals found within their training ranges, rather than rely on outdated surveys.	As part of the Navy's effects analysis, the Navy considers all the science that identifies locations where certain cetacean populations or individuals are known to engage in feeding, breeding, or other biologically important activities at certain times of year. Recently, NMFS has taken steps to begin formally identifying some of these areas and naming them Biologically Important Areas (BIAs). The Navy has considered these areas as part of its analysis in this Final EIS/OEIS when discussing particular species in Chapter 3 (Affected Environment and Environmental Consequences) as well as in considering whether limitations on Navy activities in these areas are warranted as mitigation in discussion in Chapter 5 (see Section 5.3.4.1.11, Avoiding Marine Species Habitats and Biologically Important Areas). The Navy thoroughly considered the humpback and gray whale feeding areas identified recently in its analysis and whether avoidance as mitigation was appropriate. Given the impact avoidance would have on military readiness activities and lack of biological benefit, avoidance is not warranted. Please see Section 5.3.4.1.11 (Avoiding Marine Species Habitats and Biologically Important Areas). However, Navy is proposing to provide reporting of generally low use of sonar in some of these areas to NMFS as part of classified annual reports to help inform future adaptive management related to impacts in these areas. At time of release of this Final EIS/OEIS, NMFS and Navy are in ongoing discussion regarding mitigation for MMPA purposes. Should additional mitigation to that which Navy has proposed be identified in the MMPA rule making and authorization, it will be indicated in the ROD. It is important to note that the BIAs were not meant to define exclusionary zones, nor critical habitat with

Table I.5-4: Responses to Comments from Private Individuals (continued)

Commenter	Comment	Navy Response
		regulatory management, nor were they meant to be locations that serve as sanctuaries from human activity, or areas analogous to marine protected areas. The NMFS-identified BIAs do not have direct or immediate regulatory consequences and the BIAs located within the NWTT Study Area are not the only areas used for feeding, migrating, or reproductive activity for these cetaceans in a species' entire range and habitat. The stated intention is for the BIAs to serve as a resource management tool and their currently identified boundaries be considered dynamic and subject to change based on any new information as well as, "existing density estimates, range-wide distribution data, information on population trends and life history parameters, known threats to the population, and other relevant information." There is a lack of science supporting identification of any additional BIAs at this time for the Pacific. The Navy and NMFS have supported and will continue to support the Cetacean and Sound Mapping project, including providing representation on the Cetacean Density and Distribution Mapping Working Group (CetMap), which informed NMFS' identification of BIAs. The same marine mammal density data present in the Navy's Density Database Technical Report, and used in the analysis for this EIS/OEIS, was used in the development of BIAs. The final products, including U.S. West Coast BIAs from this mapping effort, were completed and published in March 2015.
T. Marshall-07	Due to the scientifically proven threats of global climate change, and the Navy's responsibility to protect the people of this country, the Navy should be utilizing its funding to determine how it can revise its activities to more truly respond to this more pressing threat to national security, rather than continuing activities that actually increase this threat.	The Navy used the best available science and a comprehensive review of past, present, and reasonably foreseeable actions to develop a robust Cumulative Impacts analysis. The Navy has returned to the analysis in Chapter 4 (Cumulative Impacts) due to concerns raised in public comments, and the Chapter has been revised in response to those public comments. The literature on ocean acidification has been reviewed, and is now discussed in Section 4.4.4 (Climate Change), of Chapter 4 (Cumulative Impacts) of the EIS/OEIS.
T. Marshall-08	The Navy itself admits that whales and other marine mammals are far more sensitive to sonar and other noise than previously thought. Instead of increasing sonar in areas where marine mammals live, a plan should be developed to decrease and then completely halt use of sonar in areas where marine mammals live and travel. Please include a requirement that before moving ahead with this program that the Navy work with independent marine mammal scientists to determine established protection areas where whales and dolphins feed, migrate, breed, and raise their young, that will be off limits to sonar use.	The Navy shares your concern for marine life, but this concern must be balanced with the purpose and need for Navy training and testing as detailed in Chapter 2 (Description of Proposed Action and Alternatives) of the EIS/OEIS. The Navy has conducted active sonar training and testing activities in the Study Area for decades, and there is no evidence that routine Navy training and testing has negatively impacted marine mammal populations in the Study Area or at any Navy Range Complex. Based on the best available science

Table I.5-4: Responses to Comments from Private Individuals (continued)

Commenter	Comment	Navy Response
		summarized in the EIS/OEIS Section 3.4.4.1 (Summary of Monitoring and Observations During Navy Activities), long-term consequences for marine mammal populations are unlikely to result from Navy training and testing activities in the Study Area. Please also refer to Chapter 5 (Standard Operating Procedures, Mitigation, and Monitoring) of the EIS/OEIS, detailing the procedures and mitigation measures during its training and testing activities designed to reduce impacts to marine mammals from Navy activities. As part of the Navy's effects analysis, the Navy considers all the science that identifies locations where certain cetacean populations or individuals are known to engage in feeding, breeding, or other biologically important activities at certain times of year. Recently, NMFS has taken steps to begin formally identifying some of these areas and naming them Biologically Important Areas (BIAs). The Navy has considered these areas as part of its analysis in this Final EIS/OEIS when discussing particular species in Chapter 3 (Affected Environment and Environmental Consequences) as well as in considering whether limitations on Navy activities in these areas are warranted as mitigation in discussion in Chapter 5 (see Section 5.3.4.1.11, Avoiding Marine Species Habitats and Biologically Important Areas). The Navy thoroughly considered the humpback and gray whale feeding areas identified recently in its analysis and whether avoidance as mitigation was appropriate. Given the impact avoidance would have on military readiness activities and lack of biological benefit, avoidance is not warranted. Please see Section 5.3.4.1.11 (Avoiding Marine Species Habitats and Biologically Important Areas). However, Navy is proposing to provide reporting of generally low use of sonar in some of these areas to NMFS as part of classified annual reports to help inform future adaptive management related to impacts in these areas. At time of release of this Final EIS/OEIS, NMFS and Navy are in ongoing discussion regarding mitigation for MMPA purposes. Should additional mitigation to that which Navy has proposed be identified in the MMPA rule making and authorization, it will be indicated in the ROD. It is important to note that the BIAs were not meant to define exclusionary zones, nor critical habitat with regulatory management, nor were they meant to be locations that serve as sanctuaries from human activity, or areas analogous to marine protected areas. The NMFS-identified BIAs do not have direct or immediate regulatory consequences and the BIAs located within the NWTT Study Area are not the only areas used for feeding, migrating, or reproductive activity for these cetaceans in a species' entire range

Table I.5-4: Responses to Comments from Private Individuals (continued)

Commenter	Comment	Navy Response
		and habitat. The stated intention is for the BIAs to serve as a resource management tool and their currently identified boundaries be considered dynamic and subject to change based on any new information as well as, "existing density estimates, range-wide distribution data, information on population trends and life history parameters, known threats to the population, and other relevant information." There is a lack of science supporting identification of any additional BIAs at this time for the Pacific. The Navy and NMFS have supported and will continue to support the Cetacean and Sound Mapping project, including providing representation on the Cetacean Density and Distribution Mapping Working Group (CetMap), which informed NMFS' identification of BIAs. The same marine mammal density data present in the Navy's Density Database Technical Report, and used in the analysis for this EIS/OEIS, was used in the development of BIAs. The final products, including U.S. West Coast BIAs from this mapping effort, were completed and published in March 2015.
D. Marshall (Electronic)	The Navy proposed electromagnetic radiation testing in the Olympic Forests and the sonar activity in nearby waters are too risky to the dwindling populations of whales and birds that have a chance to recover if we don't interfere! This is throwing a chance of healing for multiple species down the drain so that we can "test" something for future war actions. Neither the testing nor the belief that war is more important than life are worth it. Dan	The Navy shares your concern for marine life, but this concern must be balanced with the purpose and need for Navy training and testing as detailed in Chapter 2 (Description of Proposed Action and Alternatives) of the EIS/OEIS. The Navy has conducted active sonar training and testing activities in the Study Area for decades, and there is no evidence that routine Navy training and testing has negatively impacted marine mammal populations in the Study Area or at any Navy Range Complex. Based on the best available science summarized in the EIS/OEIS Section 3.4.4.1 (Summary of Monitoring and Observations During Navy Activities), long-term consequences for marine mammal populations are unlikely to result from Navy training and testing activities in the Study Area. Please also refer to Chapter 5 (Standard Operating Procedures, Mitigation, and Monitoring) of the EIS/OEIS, detailing the procedures and mitigation measures during its training and testing activities designed to reduce impacts to marine mammals from Navy activities.
A. Marshall (Electronic)	The sound in the water/sonar/explosives can seriously harm marine life especially mammals. We have a moral duty as well as in adhering to the spirit of the laws protecting these precious, defenseless creatures, to protect them. To fail to do so is to express our contempt for all which is entrusted to us by God and Nature and makes a mockery out of everything that the U.S. (including the military) stands for and is sworn to protect. I am vehemently opposed to the underwater disruption that	The Navy shares your concern for marine life, but this concern must be balanced with the purpose and need for Navy training and testing as detailed in Chapter 2 (Description of Proposed Action and Alternatives) of the EIS/OEIS. The Navy has conducted active sonar training and testing activities in the Study Area for decades, and there is no evidence that routine Navy training and testing has negatively

Table I.5-4: Responses to Comments from Private Individuals (continued)

Commenter	Comment	Navy Response
	the explosives/sonar, other sounds produced or proposed by the military, or other man-made schemes, or chemical or biological manipulation or contamination in our oceans. Please protect our brothers the whales and other marine mammals, the sea, and our precious heritage of the Northwest oceans (and all of the world) to preserve for generations to come - and the survival of all species, including us! Angela Martin	impacted marine mammal populations in the Study Area or at any Navy Range Complex. Based on the best available science summarized in the EIS/OEIS Section 3.4.4.1 (Summary of Monitoring and Observations During Navy Activities), long-term consequences for marine mammal populations are unlikely to result from Navy training and testing activities in the Study Area. Please also refer to Chapter 5 (Standard Operating Procedures, Mitigation, and Monitoring) of the EIS/OEIS, detailing the procedures and mitigation measures during its training and testing activities designed to reduce impacts to marine mammals from Navy activities.
Martin, Ph.D. (Electronic)	Will the environmental impact studies be conducted by teams led by independent researchers specialized (separately) in the effects of electromagnetic radiation, noise, pollution from fumes and dumped fuel, vibration, sonic impacts, and other potentially deployed forms of energy on each of the myriad forms of life in the area (including microscopic, canopy, and subsoil species essential to forests)? What long-term effects could each of these environmental insults have on the developing brain of a fetus? Assuming that with humans as with other animals, the young, the elderly, and the pregnant are particularly vulnerable to the expected abnormal conditions, how will such residents or visitors be protected? What legal rights and recourses will residents and tourists have concerning physical or mental injury resulting from the planned exercises? If the Navy may legally restrict public access to public lands, what will the status of such national areas become? Would they be considered under military rule? What would be the military response to unauthorized persons in the area?	Thank you for participating in the NEPA process. However this comment is outside the scope of the Supplement to the Draft EIS/OEIS. Please see Chapters 1 and 2 of the EIS/OEIS for a clear definition of the scope of this project. There are no activities involving the use of electronic radiation proposed in the Supplement to the Draft EIS/OEIS.
Martinez (Electronic)	1) Sonars and other active acoustic sources are not simply harmful, they are killers and not just for cetaceans, for all marine life, invertebrates included. 2) Navy has to consider the consequences of its actions. Killing our oceans is killing ourselves. It's opposite to the Defense purpose. 3) For animals impacted on a long distance : harmed and stranded on our beaches with the possibility to be rescued, there is N0 center able to hospitalize a whale because there is NO money. So, why waste money in this kind of military training ? 4) The proof of the welfare of whales and dolphins when the navy exercises stop : no more mass stranding on our shores (ej. : Canaries, Spain). Conclusion : we ask you to stop the irresponsibility of this "war game" and we urge you to please follow the scientific community recomendations. There is nothing virtual in the consequences and our first debt is to protect our heritage."	The Navy shares your concern for marine life, but this concern must be balanced with the purpose and need for Navy training and testing as detailed in Chapter 2 (Description of Proposed Action and Alternatives) of the EIS/OEIS. The Navy has conducted active sonar training and testing activities in the Study Area for decades, and there is no evidence that routine Navy training and testing has negatively impacted marine mammal populations in the Study Area or at any Navy Range Complex. Based on the best available science summarized in the EIS/OEIS Section 3.4.4.1 (Summary of Monitoring and Observations During Navy Activities) long-term consequences for marine mammal populations are unlikely to result from Navy training and testing activities in the Study Area. Please also refer to Chapter 5 (Standard Operating Procedures, Mitigation, and Monitoring) of the EIS/OEIS, detailing the procedures and mitigation measures during its training and testing activities designed to reduce impacts to marine

Table I.5-4: Responses to Comments from Private Individuals (continued)

Commenter	Comment	Navy Response
		mammals from Navy activities. Regarding previous strandings, see Section 3.4.3.1.8 (Stranding) and the referenced technical report “Marine Mammal Strandings Associated with U.S. Navy Sonar Activities” (U.S. Department of the Navy 2013c).
Marvin (Electronic)	your proposed training and testing activities include the use of sonar, explosives, weapons firing, and other acoustic devices all have well known and well documented negative impacts on a number of whale species and porpoises, as well as other marine wildlife. In addition, YOU admit the increase in the use of sonar devices "is likely to adversely affect" endangered leatherback turtles whose protected habitat along the Pacific Coast was only recently established in 2012. So WHY must you expand the territory. If you must limit your area, what new info can still need? You must already have enough info to KILL the human species.	The Navy shares your concern for marine life, but this concern must be balanced with the purpose and need for Navy training and testing as detailed in Chapter 2 (Description of Proposed Action and Alternatives) of the EIS/OEIS. The Navy has conducted active sonar training and testing activities in the Study Area for decades, and there is no evidence that routine Navy training and testing has negatively impacted individual sea turtles or sea turtle populations, or marine mammal populations in the Study Area or at any Navy Range Complex. Based on the best available science summarized in the EIS/OEIS Section 3.4.4.1 (Summary of Monitoring and Observations During Navy Activities), long-term consequences for marine mammal populations are unlikely to result from Navy training and testing activities in the Study Area. Note that for sea turtles, as described in the EIS/OEIS Section 3.5.3.7.1 (Combined Impacts of All Stressors), “impacts are not expected to decrease the overall fitness or result in long-term population level impacts on any given population.” Please also refer to Chapter 5 (Standard Operating Procedures, Mitigation, and Monitoring) of the EIS/OEIS, detailing the procedures and mitigation measures during its training and testing activities designed to reduce impacts to marine mammals and sea turtles from Navy activities.
Matejcek (Electronic)	The Navy’s proposed training and testing activities include the use of sonar, explosives, weapons firing, and other acoustic devices. These activities have well known and well documented negative impacts on a number of whale species and porpoises, as well as other marine wildlife. In addition, the Navy admits the increase in the use of sonar devices "is likely to adversely affect" endangered leatherback turtles whose protected habitat along the Pacific Coast was only recently established in 2012. The Navy’s activities will also have significant impacts on critical habitat areas for marine mammals and other wildlife. High intensity-mid-frequency sonar -- along with activities like dumping debris, the use of toxic chemicals, and detonating explosives -- will degrade sensitive habitat necessary for the survival of marine mammal populations. The Navy’s current environmental analysis fails to provide basic information necessary to adequately evaluate the impacts of the proposed activities. This analysis also fails to provide adequate	Best management practices include measures that regulate operations to ensure compliance with pollution emission requirements and general resource conservation goals. Navy policies and procedures identified in Navy instructions such as the Environmental Readiness Program Manual, include directives regarding waste management, pollution prevention, and recycling, all of which benefit sediments and water quality in the ocean. Any procedures or practices that benefit ocean sediments and water quality in turn benefit all marine life in the ocean, from plants and invertebrates, to fish and marine mammals. The Navy shares your concern for marine life, but this concern must be balanced with the purpose and need for Navy training and testing as detailed in Chapter 2 (Description of Proposed Action and Alternatives) of the EIS/OEIS. The Navy has conducted active sonar training and

Table I.5-4: Responses to Comments from Private Individuals (continued)

Commenter	Comment	Navy Response
	measures to mitigate the harmful effects of the proposed activities on marine mammals and other wildlife. Based on the information apparent in the environmental analysis, the Navy's "No Action Alternative" is the proposal with the most limited impact on wildlife. A drastic increase in sonar activity will negatively impact wildlife. Marine mammals are extremely sensitive to noise, and sonar disrupts basic behaviors necessary for survival such as migration, surfacing, navigating, hearing, nursing, breeding and feeding. Sonar can result in debilitating and even fatal injuries for marine mammals. Scientists believe sonar activity can change whale diving behavior, confusing them to swim to depths their bodies cannot handle. Whales suspected to have beached themselves because of sonar activity show signs of physical trauma like bleeding around the brain, ears and other tissues and large bubbles in their organs – symptoms analogous to "the bends" in humans. To the extent that threatened or endangered species -- including humpback and sperm whales, and leatherback turtles -- are negatively impacted, the proposed activities may result in violations of the Endangered Species Act. Considering the marine and endangered species science and protections I urge caution in authorizing the Navy in conducting sonar, explosive and any water maneuvers that jeopardize the health, safety and welfare of our oceans, ecosystems and sensitive animal populations. Thank you for your time and considerations.	testing activities in the Study Area for decades, and there is no evidence that routine Navy training and testing has negatively impacted marine mammal populations in the Study Area or at any Navy Range Complex. Based on the best available science summarized in the EIS/OEIS Section 3.4.4.1 (Summary of Monitoring and Observations During Navy Activities), long-term consequences for marine mammal populations are unlikely to result from Navy training and testing activities in the Study Area. As described in the Supplement in Section 3.5.2 (Sea Turtle Summary), the proposed increase in the use of SSQ-125 sonobuoys "are not expected to result in substantial changes to behavior, growth, survival, annual reproductive success, lifetime reproductive success (fitness), or species recruitment, and are not expected to result in population-level impacts." The Navy has conducted active sonar training and testing activities in the Study Area for decades, and there is no evidence that routine Navy training and testing has negatively impacted individual sea turtles or sea turtle populations in the Study Area or at any Navy Range Complex. Based on the best available science summarized in the Draft EIS/OEIS Section 3.5.3.7.1 (Combined Impacts of All Stressors), "impacts are not expected to decrease the overall fitness or result in long-term population level impacts on any given population. In cases where potential impacts rise to a level that warrants mitigation, mitigation measures designed to reduce the potential impacts are discussed in Chapter 5 (Standard Operating Procedures, Mitigation, and Monitoring)."
Materi (Electronic)	The Navy's current environmental analysis fails to provide basic information necessary to adequately evaluate the impacts of the proposed activities. This analysis also fails to provide adequate measures to mitigate the harmful effects of the proposed activities on marine mammals and other wildlife. Based on the information apparent in the environmental analysis, the Navy's "No Action Alternative" is the proposal with the most limited impact on wildlife. A drastic increase in sonar activity will negatively impact wildlife. Marine mammals are extremely sensitive to noise, and sonar disrupts basic behaviors necessary for survival such as migration, surfacing, navigating, hearing, nursing, breeding and feeding. Sonar can result in debilitating and even fatal injuries for marine mammals. Scientists believe sonar activity can change whale diving behavior, confusing them to swim to depths their bodies cannot handle. Whales suspected to have beached themselves because of sonar activity show signs of physical trauma like bleeding around the brain, ears and other tissues and large bubbles in their organs –	The Navy shares your concern for marine life, but this concern must be balanced with the purpose and need for Navy training and testing as detailed in Chapter 2 (Description of Proposed Action and Alternatives) of the EIS/OEIS. The Navy has conducted active sonar training and testing activities in the Study Area for decades, and there is no evidence that routine Navy training and testing has negatively impacted individual sea turtles or sea turtle populations, or marine mammal populations in the Study Area or at any Navy Range Complex. Based on the best available science summarized in the EIS/OEIS Section 3.4.4.1 (Summary of Monitoring and Observations During Navy Activities), long-term consequences for marine mammal populations are unlikely to result from Navy training and testing activities in the Study Area. Note that for sea turtles, as described in the EIS/OEIS Section 3.5.3.7.1 (Combined Impacts of All Stressors),

Table I.5-4: Responses to Comments from Private Individuals (continued)

Commenter	Comment	Navy Response
	symptoms analogous to "the bends" in humans. To the extent that threatened or endangered species -- including humpback and sperm whales, and leatherback turtles -- are negatively impacted, the proposed activities may result in violations of the Endangered Species Act.	"impacts are not expected to decrease the overall fitness or result in long-term population level impacts on any given population." Please also refer to Chapter 5 (Standard Operating Procedures, Mitigation, and Monitoring) of the EIS/OEIS, detailing the procedures and mitigation measures during its training and testing activities designed to reduce impacts to marine mammals and sea turtles from Navy activities. Regarding previous strandings, see Section 3.4.3.1.8 (Stranding) and the referenced technical report "Marine Mammal Strandings Associated with U.S. Navy Sonar Activities" (U.S. Department of the Navy 2013c).
May (Electronic)	The Navy's current environmental analysis fails to provide basic information necessary to adequately evaluate the impacts of the proposed activities. This analysis also fails to provide adequate measures to mitigate the harmful effects of the proposed activities on marine mammals and other wildlife. Based on the information apparent in the environmental analysis, the Navy's "No Action Alternative" is the proposal with the most limited impact on wildlife. A drastic increase in sonar activity will negatively impact wildlife. Marine mammals are extremely sensitive to noise, and sonar disrupts basic behaviors necessary for survival such as migration, surfacing, navigating, hearing, nursing, breeding and feeding. Sonar can result in debilitating and even fatal injuries for marine mammals. Scientists believe sonar activity can change whale diving behavior, confusing them to swim to depths their bodies cannot handle. Whales suspected to have beached themselves because of sonar activity show signs of physical trauma like bleeding around the brain, ears and other tissues and large bubbles in their organs – symptoms analogous to "the bends" in humans. To the extent that threatened or endangered species -- including humpback and sperm whales, and leatherback turtles -- are negatively impacted, the proposed activities may result in violations of the Endangered Species Act.	The Navy shares your concern for marine life, but this concern must be balanced with the purpose and need for Navy training and testing as detailed in Chapter 2 (Description of Proposed Action and Alternatives) of the EIS/OEIS. The Navy has conducted active sonar training and testing activities in the Study Area for decades, and there is no evidence that routine Navy training and testing has negatively impacted individual sea turtles or sea turtle populations, or marine mammal populations in the Study Area or at any Navy Range Complex. Based on the best available science summarized in the EIS/OEIS Section 3.4.4.1 (Summary of Monitoring and Observations During Navy Activities), long-term consequences for marine mammal populations are unlikely to result from Navy training and testing activities in the Study Area. Note that for sea turtles, as described in the EIS/OEIS Section 3.5.3.7.1 (Combined Impacts of All Stressors), "impacts are not expected to decrease the overall fitness or result in long-term population level impacts on any given population." Please also refer to Chapter 5 (Standard Operating Procedures, Mitigation, and Monitoring) of the EIS/OEIS, detailing the procedures and mitigation measures during its training and testing activities designed to reduce impacts to marine mammals and sea turtles from Navy activities.
Mazzola (Electronic)	I may have submitted comments at a Port Townsend meeting in December of 2014. They were on a card and very brief and I was not very knowledgable about the issue at the time. Now that I have learned more I am even more opposed to the proposal. I therefore wish to take this opportunity to comment on the Supplement (December 2014) to the Navy's Draft Environmental Impact Statement/ Overseas Environmental Impact Statement (DEIS), dated January 2014, for its continued training and testing activities in the Pacific Northwest (NWTT). Please include these	The Navy shares your concern for marine life, but this concern must be balanced with the purpose and need for Navy training and testing as detailed in Chapter 2 (Description of Proposed Action and Alternatives) of the EIS/OEIS. The Navy has conducted active sonar training and testing activities in the Study Area for decades, and there is no evidence that routine Navy training and testing has negatively impacted individual sea turtles or sea turtle populations, or marine

Table I.5-4: Responses to Comments from Private Individuals (continued)

Commenter	Comment	Navy Response
	comments in the administrative record. Effect on wildlife - I am very concerned about the proposals detrimental effects on wildlife. The proposed increases in this Supplement of marine exercises and additional use of sonar and explosives will only increase the damage done to marine mammals, sea turtles, fish and birds. Of particular concern to me is the Supplement and the EIS's lack of protections for the Southern Resident Killer Whale's dwindling population. These animals need a protected home in accord with their endangered status. In public sessions and in a radio interview the Navy's public relations personnel have been heard to say that the (MSO) and TRACKEX marine exercises save gas and allow personnel to be closer to their homes for these maneuvers. These considerations should not allow one single injury to this endangered Killer Whale population. Though this supplement admits increased sonar and explosive testing (TRACKEX) and finally addresses the MSO maneuvers there is no additional mitigation mentioned. Nowhere is it outlined whether visual patrols will increase as a result of this new activity, nor does the Supplement address real concerns over whether or not visual patrol is adequate at times of night or rough seas. No acoustic monitoring or avoidance strategies are included. This is a serious omission to a document that intended to address the inadequate science and mitigation plans of the original draft and is unacceptable. Lack of Science There is little consideration of exclusion zones, geographic alternatives to the southern Puget Sound and seasonal restrictions of exercises. All of the Alternatives propose year-round, unrestricted use without regard to seasonal variations in marine mammal and fish abundance. This is true despite the well-documented seasonal migrations of numerous endangered species and the identification of biologically important areas. The Navy should put critical marine habitats off-limits to sonar and explosives testing and schedule training to avoid times of the year when sensitive species are present in places like the Olympic Coast National Marine Sanctuary. Climate Change and Cumulative Impacts The Supplement document responds to calls to address these two big issues but it is very unclear that anything more than lip service was expended by deeming Navy activities to be of little significance. Public Process What most concerns me is this. There has been an overwhelming number of proposals since late in 2013 rolled out to the public in a piecemeal fashion. Five calls for comments on clearly-linked documents have been spread out in their introduction to the public over the last year and a half. Ground-based, (Electronic warfare range), air-based (Two growler scoping documents) and sea-based naval activities (these two NWTT documents) have been dropped onto the region as if they were not linked. The separate comment periods and the separate documents minimize the larger picture of impacts on the area. In my opinion this is misleading. Is it even legal in regards to Federal Law, specifically NEPA? Please redo this chopped-up public process with a comprehensive Environmental Impact Statement that includes all of the activities in the region. These huge changes that affect wildlife, real estate values, allow	mammal populations in the Study Area or at any Navy Range Complex. Note that for sea turtles, as described in the EIS/OEIS Section 3.5.3.7.1 (Combined Impacts of All Stressors), "impacts are not expected to decrease the overall fitness or result in long-term population level impacts on any given population." Please also refer to Chapter 5 (Standard Operating Procedures, Mitigation, and Monitoring) of the EIS/OEIS, detailing the procedures and mitigation measures during its training and testing activities designed to reduce impacts to marine mammals and sea turtles from Navy activities. No injuries to killer whales are anticipated from the Navy's proposed MSO or TRACKEX activities. As described in Chapter 5 of the EIS/OEIS, the Navy will implement mitigation measures during the use of sonobuoys. The mitigation measures are implemented for each activity and therefore the mitigation scales up as the activity level scales up. Also in Chapter 5 (Standard Operating Procedures, Mitigation, and Monitoring) of the EIS/OEIS, the Navy evaluated the effectiveness and practicability of a number of potential mitigation measures. Through consultation and permitting with NMFS and USFWS, the Navy refined the mitigation measures, which are now presented in Chapter 5 (Standard Operating Procedures, Mitigation, and Monitoring) of this Final EIS/OEIS. Section 5.3.1.2.5 (Effectiveness Assessment for Lookouts) acknowledges that, due to the various detection probabilities, levels of Lookout experience, and variability of sighting conditions, Lookouts will not always be effective at avoiding impacts on all species. However, Lookouts are expected to increase the overall likelihood that certain marine mammal species and some sea turtles will be detected at the surface of the water, when compared to the likelihood that these same species would be detected if Lookouts are not used. The continued use of Lookouts contributes to helping reduce potential impacts on these species from training and testing activities. While the range of the sonar's detection would travel beyond the distance that Lookouts can detect animals, the range at which sonar is predicted to be able to cause injury to a marine mammal is very short, within 10 meters of the sonar. At such short distances, it is likely any marine mammal would have been detected. As described in Chapter 5 (Standard Operating Procedures, Mitigation,

Table I.5-4: Responses to Comments from Private Individuals (continued)

Commenter	Comment	Navy Response
	precedent-setting incursions into the peace of our national parks, national forest, wilderness, state parks and state lands, should be discussed as a whole, not split into so many fractured pieces that the residents of this region cannot know what they are actually facing.	and Monitoring) of the Final EIS/OEIS, the Navy evaluated the effectiveness and practicability of a number of potential mitigation measures including the avoidance of specific areas. The Navy has undertaken consultation with NMFS for the proposed and ongoing activities in the NWTT Study Area and the Navy refined the mitigation measures, which are now presented in Chapter 5 (Standard Operating Procedures, Mitigation, and Monitoring) of this Final EIS/OEIS. Through careful exploration of all mitigation measures to determine which were the most effective, the Navy chose the measures to mitigate potential impacts to marine mammals while still being able to meet its operational needs to train for real-world conditions. The Navy's specific mitigation measures are outlined in the following sections: Section 5.3.1 (Lookout Procedural Measures), Section 5.3.2 (Mitigation Zone Procedural Measures), and Section 5.3.3 (Mitigation Areas). Specifically, Section 5.3.4 (Mitigation Measures Considered but Eliminated) presents Navy consideration of similar area restrictions. The Navy and NMFS will use the Adaptive Management process to assess whether any additional mitigation should be considered in identified biologically important areas. In response to several comments, the Navy has enhanced its analysis of climate change and cumulative impacts in this Final EIS/OEIS. The Navy prepares Environmental Impact Statements (EIS) and Environmental Assessments (EA) in order to comply with the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA). These NEPA documents are intended to ensure decision makers consider the potential environmental effects of a proposed action and its alternatives, provide an opportunity for public involvement, and promote transparency by informing the public of these potential environmental effects. Each NEPA document addresses a specific proposed action, separated from other actions by its purpose and need, independent utility, timing, and geographic location. Some NEPA documents are stand-alone documents; others tier off or expand the analyses of other NEPA documents. NEPA documents for training and testing, including this EIS/OEIS, focus on training and testing activities occurring within a range complex or military operation area and involve different types of aircraft, ships, and range complex enhancements. NEPA documents for aircraft homebasing actions focus on aircraft operations in and around the airfield and their facility needs. NEPA documents for installations focus on infrastructure enhancements for host and tenant command missions. Importantly, every environmental document

Table I.5-4: Responses to Comments from Private Individuals (continued)

Commenter	Comment	Navy Response
		considers the cumulative impacts to the environment from other relevant past, present, and reasonably foreseeable future actions (federal, state, local, and private) in addition to the proposed action. The MSO activities do not include the use of sonar or live gun firing. The U.S. Navy has conducted active sonar training and testing activities for decades in the seaspace depicted in the Study Area with no evidence to indicate any meaningful impacts to marine habitats in the area. The Navy and NMFS jointly are still in ongoing consultation with the OCNMS regarding the effects of the Proposed Action on Sanctuary resources. The Navy concludes its continued activities are not likely to result in the loss, destruction, or adverse changes to the viability of Sanctuary resources. Several points support this determination: • Less than two percent of proposed training and 15 percent of proposed testing activities would occur within or immediately adjacent to the OCNMS. • The NWTT Final EIS/OEIS shows that training and testing activities have minimal temporary impacts on the quantity or quality of the Study Area's physical environment, and minor to no impacts on marine or shore birds, fish, sea turtles, or invertebrate marine life. • Although explosives have the potential to affect the physical and biological resources, the Navy does not use explosives within the OCNMS. • The Navy concludes any marine mammal behavioral reactions to NWTT training and testing activities would be transitory, infrequent, non-cumulative, and impacts are not expected to decrease overall individual fitness or result in long-term population-level impacts on any given population, and consequently will not result in any adverse changes to the sanctuary. Finally, all Department of Defense (DoD) military activities shall be carried out in a manner that avoids to the maximum extent practicable any adverse impacts on Sanctuary resources and qualities.
McCleary (Electronic)	Please do not conduct exercises that involve sonar in areas off the Oregon coast that are inhabited by noise-sensitive sea life or traversed by whales. I watch these magnificent creatures from my home on the coast, and I do not want to see them harassed in any way. Your exercises must be designed in such a way that they do not harm marine mammals and other sensitive creatures. I do not want to be defended by a Navy that causes needless suffering. You need to be absolutely	The Navy shares your concern for marine life, but this concern must be balanced with the purpose and need for Navy training and testing as detailed in Chapter 2 (Description of Proposed Action and Alternatives) of the EIS/OEIS. The Navy has conducted active sonar training and testing activities in the Study Area for decades, and there is no evidence that routine Navy training and testing has negatively

Table I.5-4: Responses to Comments from Private Individuals (continued)

Commenter	Comment	Navy Response
	scrupulous in planning only the most critical exercises, and doing these in such a way as to avoid conflict with sea animals. It is clear that this can be done, and you are not making sufficient effort to do it. Revise your priorities!! End your carelessness with marine life. The very great majority of Americans would be appalled by the suffering you cause with these carelessly planned sonar exercises, and you have a duty to reflect the values of the country.	impacted marine mammal populations in the Study Area or at any Navy Range Complex. Based on the best available science summarized in the EIS/OEIS Section 3.4.4.1 (Summary of Monitoring and Observations During Navy Activities), long-term consequences for marine mammal populations are unlikely to result from Navy training and testing activities in the Study Area. Please also refer to Chapter 5 (Standard Operating Procedures, Mitigation, and Monitoring) of the EIS/OEIS, detailing the procedures and mitigation measures during its training and testing activities designed to reduce impacts to marine mammals from Navy activities.
McCoy (Electronic)	I urge the selection of the no action alternative because the navy does not need to unnecessarily harm marine or other forms of life in equipment testing and use.	The Navy shares your concern for marine life, but this concern must be balanced with the purpose and need for Navy training and testing as detailed in Chapter 2 (Description of Proposed Action and Alternatives) of the EIS/OEIS. The Navy has conducted active sonar training and testing activities in the Study Area for decades, and there is no evidence that routine Navy training and testing has negatively impacted marine mammal populations in the Study Area or at any Navy Range Complex. Based on the best available science summarized in the EIS/OEIS Section 3.4.4.1 (Summary of Monitoring and Observations During Navy Activities) long-term consequences for marine mammal populations are unlikely to result from Navy training and testing activities in the Study Area. Please also refer to Chapter 5 (Standard Operating Procedures, Mitigation, and Monitoring) of the EIS/OEIS, detailing the procedures and mitigation measures during its training and testing activities designed to reduce impacts to marine mammals from Navy activities.
Mcdonald (Written)	Here is a copy of this letter in printing. Sorry we didn't see the request for printing and my son put lots of work into this so I wanted to send it. Esteemed Ms. Kler, I am a nine year old boy who loves whales as much as I love my country. I am concerned about the health and safety of marine mammals in the Pacific Northwest due to sonar weapons testing and extra boat traffic. Many mammals live in these waters, including J-pod resident orca pod. Orcas use echolocation to find food, family, and to avoid danger. Science doesn't yet understand the effects of sound disturbances in the whales' environment, especially in the long run. I appreciate the Navy trying to minimize harm to whales by changing from explosive to electric sonobuoys, but I have learned how electricity and sound travel in water. I am still very worried that this testing will harm the whales and other mammals. I urge you to stop all weapons testing to make sure that my children's children will get to know	Thank you for participating in the NEPA process. The Navy shares your concern for marine life, but this concern must be balanced with the purpose and need for Navy training and testing as detailed in Chapter 2 (Description of Proposed Action and Alternatives) of the EIS/OEIS. As described in the Supplement in Section 3.4.2 (Marine Mammal Summary), the proposed increase in the use of SSQ-125 sonobuoys would "not result in any long-term consequences for any marine mammal population or species; therefore, the conclusions stated in the Draft EIS/OEIS remain unchanged." The Navy has conducted active sonar training and testing activities in the Study Area for decades, and there is no evidence that routine Navy training and testing has negatively impacted marine mammal populations in the Study Area or at any Navy Range Complex. Based

Table I.5-4: Responses to Comments from Private Individuals (continued)

Commenter	Comment	Navy Response
	these wonderful whales! Thank you.	on the best available science summarized in the EIS/OEIS Section 3.4.4.1 (Summary of Monitoring and Observations During Navy Activities) long-term consequences for marine mammal populations are unlikely to result from Navy training and testing activities in the Study Area. Please also refer to Chapter 5 (Standard Operating Procedures, Mitigation, and Monitoring) of the EIS/OEIS, detailing the procedures and mitigation measures during its training and testing activities designed to reduce impacts to marine mammals from Navy activities.
McGillivary (Electronic)	I am so upset upon learning of the proposed increase of training and testing activities including the use of sonar, explosives, weapons firing, and other acoustic devices in the Pacific ocean. I do NOT want me TAX $ paying for such CRUELTY to maine life. STOP YOUR CRUELTY !	The Navy shares your concern for marine life, but this concern must be balanced with the purpose and need for Navy training and testing as detailed in Chapter 2 (Description of Proposed Action and Alternatives) of the EIS/OEIS. The Navy has conducted active sonar training and testing activities in the Study Area for decades, and there is no evidence that routine Navy training and testing has negatively impacted marine mammal populations in the Study Area or at any Navy Range Complex. Based on the best available science summarized in the EIS/OEIS Section 3.4.4.1 (Summary of Monitoring and Observations During Navy Activities) long-term consequences for marine mammal populations are unlikely to result from Navy training and testing activities in the Study Area. Please also refer to Chapter 5 (Standard Operating Procedures, Mitigation, and Monitoring) of the EIS/OEIS, detailing the procedures and mitigation measures during its training and testing activities designed to reduce impacts to marine mammals from Navy activities.
Mendez (Electronic)	The Navy's current environmental analysis fails to provide basic information necessary to adequately evaluate the impacts of the proposed activities. This analysis also fails to provide adequate measures to mitigate the harmful effects of the proposed activities on marine mammals and other wildlife. Based on the information apparent in the environmental analysis, the Navy's "No Action Alternative" is the proposal with the most limited impact on wildlife. A drastic increase in sonar activity will negatively impact wildlife. Marine mammals are extremely sensitive to noise, and sonar disrupts basic behaviors necessary for survival such as migration, surfacing, navigating, hearing, nursing, breeding and feeding. Sonar can result in debilitating and even fatal injuries for marine mammals. Scientists believe sonar activity can change whale diving behavior, confusing them to swim to depths their bodies cannot handle. Whales suspected to have beached themselves because of sonar activity show signs of physical trauma like bleeding around the brain, ears and other tissues and large bubbles in their organs – symptoms analogous to "the bends" in humans. To the extent that threatened or	The Navy shares your concern for marine life, but this concern must be balanced with the purpose and need for Navy training and testing as detailed in Chapter 2 (Description of Proposed Action and Alternatives) of the EIS/OEIS. The Navy has conducted active sonar training and testing activities in the Study Area for decades, and there is no evidence that routine Navy training and testing has negatively impacted individual sea turtles or sea turtle populations, or marine mammal populations in the Study Area or at any Navy Range Complex. Based on the best available science summarized in the EIS/OEIS Section 3.4.4.1 (Summary of Monitoring and Observations During Navy Activities), long-term consequences for marine mammal populations are unlikely to result from Navy training and testing activities in the Study Area. Note that for sea turtles, as described in the EIS/OEIS Section 3.5.3.7.1 (Combined Impacts of All Stressors), "impacts are not expected to decrease the overall fitness or result in

Table I.5-4: Responses to Comments from Private Individuals (continued)

Commenter	Comment	Navy Response
	endangered species -- including humpback and sperm whales, and leatherback turtles -- are negatively impacted, the proposed activities may result in violations of the Endangered Species Act.	long-term population level impacts on any given population." Please also refer to Chapter 5 (Standard Operating Procedures, Mitigation, and Monitoring) of the EIS/OEIS, detailing the procedures and mitigation measures during its training and testing activities designed to reduce impacts to marine mammals and sea turtles from Navy activities.
Cindi Meyer (Written)	I have been out of the country for a few months and so, I have not had the opportunity to comment on this issue. However, I now feel it is imperative that I voice my opposition to these Navy attacks on our ecological systems. Please add my name to those opposed, I do not want war games on the Olympic Peninsula or in our National Parks, I do not want sonar and radar used to destroy the animal and marine mammal populations. I wish to take this opportunity to comment on the Supplement (December 2014) to the Navy's Draft Environmental Impact Statement/ Overseas Environmental Impact Statement (DEIS), dated January 2014, for its continued training and testing activities in the Pacific Northwest (NWTT). Please include these comments in the administrative record. Effect on wildlife The proposed increases in this Supplement of marine exercises and additional use of sonar and explosives will only increase the damage done to marine mammals, sea turtles, fish and birds. Of particular concern to me is the Supplement and the EIS's lack of protections for the Southern Resident Killer Whale's dwindling population. These animals need a protected home in accord with their endangered status. In public sessions and in a radio interview the Navy's public relations personnel have been heard to say that the (MSO) and TRACKEX marine exercises save gas and allow personnel to be closer to their homes for these maneuvers. These considerations should not allow one single injury to this endangered Killer Whale population. Though this supplement admits increased sonar and explosive testing (TRACKEX) and finally addresses the MSO maneuvers there is no additional mitigation mentioned. Nowhere is it outlined whether visual patrols will increase as a result of this new activity, nor does the Supplement address real concerns over whether or not visual patrol is adequate at times of night or rough seas. No acoustic monitoring or avoidance strategies are included. This is a serious omission to a document that intended to address the inadequate science and mitigation plans of the original draft and is unacceptable. Lack of Science There is little consideration of exclusion zones, geographic alternatives to the	The Navy shares your concern for marine life, but this concern must be balanced with the purpose and need for Navy training and testing as detailed in Chapter 2 (Description of Proposed Action and Alternatives) of the EIS/OEIS. The Navy has conducted active sonar training and testing activities in the Study Area for decades, and there is no evidence that routine Navy training and testing has negatively impacted individual sea turtles or sea turtle populations, or marine mammal populations in the Study Area or at any Navy Range Complex. Based on the best available science summarized in the EIS/OEIS Section 3.4.4.1 (Summary of Monitoring and Observations During Navy Activities), long-term consequences for marine mammal populations are unlikely to result from Navy training and testing activities in the Study Area. Note that for sea turtles, as described in the EIS/OEIS Section 3.5.3.7.1 (Combined Impacts of All Stressors), "impacts are not expected to decrease the overall fitness or result in long-term population level impacts on any given population." Please also refer to Chapter 5 (Standard Operating Procedures, Mitigation, and Monitoring) of the EIS/OEIS, detailing the procedures and mitigation measures during its training and testing activities designed to reduce impacts to marine mammals and sea turtles from Navy activities. No injuries to killer whales are anticipated from the Navy's proposed MSO or TRACKEX activities. As described in Chapter 5 of the EIS/OEIS, the Navy will implement mitigation measures during the use of sonobuoys. The mitigation measures are implemented for each activity and therefore the mitigation scales up as the activity level scales up. Section 5.3.1.2.5 (Effectiveness Assessment for Lookouts) acknowledges that, due to the various detection probabilities, levels of Lookout experience, and variability of sighting conditions, Lookouts will not always be effective at avoiding impacts on all species. However, Lookouts are expected to increase the overall likelihood that certain marine mammal species and some sea turtles will be detected at the

Table I.5-4: Responses to Comments from Private Individuals (continued)

Commenter	Comment	Navy Response
	southern Puget Sound and seasonal restrictions of exercises. All of the Alternatives propose year-round, unrestricted use without regard to seasonal variations in marine mammal and fish abundance. This is true despite the well-documented seasonal migrations of numerous endangered species and the identification of biologically important areas. The Navy should put critical marine habitats off-limits to sonar and explosives testing and schedule training to avoid times of the year when sensitive species are present in places like the Olympic Coast National Marine Sanctuary. Climate Change and Cumulative Impacts The Supplement document responds to calls to address these two big issues but it is very unclear that anything more than lip service was expended by deeming Navy activities to be of little significance. Public Process What most concerns me is this. There has been an overwhelming number of proposals since late in 2013 rolled out to the public in a piecemeal fashion. Five calls for comments on clearly-linked documents have been spread out in their introduction to the public over the last year and a half. Ground-based, (Electronic warfare range), airbased (Two growler scoping documents) and sea-based naval activities (these two NWTT documents) have been dropped onto the region as if they were not linked. The separate comment periods and the separate documents minimize the larger picture of impacts on the area. In my opinion this is misleading. Is it even legal in regards to Federal Law, specifically NEPA? Please redo this chopped-up public process with a comprehensive Environmental Impact Statement that includes all of the activities in the region. These huge changes that affect wildlife, real estate values, allow precedent-setting incursions into the peace of our national parks, national forest, wilderness, state parks and state lands, should be discussed as a whole, not split into so many fractured pieces that the residents of this region cannot know what they are actually facing.	surface of the water, when compared to the likelihood that these same species would be detected if Lookouts are not used. The continued use of Lookouts contributes to helping reduce potential impacts on these species from training and testing activities. While the range of the sonar's detection would travel beyond the distance that Lookouts can detect animals, the range at which sonar is predicted to be able to cause injury to a marine mammal is very short, within 10 meters of the sonar. At such short distances, it is likely any marine mammal would have been detected. As described in Chapter 5 (Standard Operating Procedures, Mitigation, and Monitoring) of the Final EIS/OEIS, the Navy evaluated the effectiveness and practicability of a number of potential mitigation measures including the avoidance of specific areas. The Navy has undertaken consultation with NMFS for the proposed and ongoing activities in the NWTT Study Area and the Navy refined the mitigation measures, which are now presented in Chapter 5 (Standard Operating Procedures, Mitigation, and Monitoring) of this Final EIS/OEIS. Through careful exploration of all mitigation measures to determine which were the most effective, the Navy chose the measures to mitigate potential impacts to marine mammals while still being able to meet its operational needs to train for real-world conditions. The Navy's specific mitigation measures are outlined in the following sections: Section 5.3.1 (Lookout Procedural Measures), Section 5.3.2 (Mitigation Zone Procedural Measures), and Section 5.3.3 (Mitigation Areas). Specifically, Section 5.3.4 (Mitigation Measures Considered but Eliminated) presents Navy consideration of similar area restrictions. The Navy and NMFS will use the Adaptive Management process to assess whether any additional mitigation should be considered in identified biologically important areas. In response to several comments, the Navy has enhanced its analysis of climate change and cumulative impacts in this Final EIS/OEIS. The Navy prepares Environmental Impact Statements (EIS) and Environmental Assessments (EA) in order to comply with the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA). These NEPA documents are intended to ensure decision makers consider the potential environmental effects of a proposed action and its alternatives, provide an opportunity for public involvement, and promote transparency by informing the public of these potential environmental effects. Each NEPA document addresses a specific proposed action, separated from other actions by its purpose and need, independent utility, timing, and

Table I.5-4: Responses to Comments from Private Individuals (continued)

Commenter	Comment	Navy Response
		geographic location. Some NEPA documents are stand-alone documents; others tier off or expand the analyses of other NEPA documents. NEPA documents for training and testing, including this EIS/OEIS, focus on training and testing activities occurring within a range complex or military operation area and involve different types of aircraft, ships, and range complex enhancements. NEPA documents for aircraft homebasing actions focus on aircraft operations in and around the airfield and their facility needs. NEPA documents for installations focus on infrastructure enhancements for host and tenant command missions. Importantly, every environmental document considers the cumulative impacts to the environment from other relevant past, present, and reasonably foreseeable future actions (federal, state, local, and private) in addition to the proposed action. The MSO activities do not include the use of sonar or live gun firing. The U.S. Navy has conducted active sonar training and testing activities for decades in the seaspace depicted in the Study Area with no evidence to indicate any meaningful impacts to marine habitats in the area. The Navy and NMFS jointly are still in ongoing consultation with the OCNMS regarding the effects of the Proposed Action on Sanctuary resources. The Navy concludes its continued activities are not likely to result in the loss, destruction, or adverse changes to the viability of Sanctuary resources. Several points support this determination: • Less than two percent of proposed training and 15 percent of proposed testing activities would occur within or immediately adjacent to the OCNMS. • The NWTT Final EIS/OEIS shows that training and testing activities have minimal temporary impacts on the quantity or quality of the Study Area's physical environment, and minor to no impacts on marine or shore birds, fish, sea turtles, or invertebrate marine life. • Although explosives have the potential to affect the physical and biological resources, the Navy does not use explosives within the OCNMS. • The Navy concludes any marine mammal behavioral reactions to NWTT training and testing activities would be transitory, infrequent, non-cumulative, and impacts are not expected to decrease overall individual fitness or result in long-term population-level impacts on any given population, and consequently will not result in any adverse changes to the sanctuary.

Table I.5-4: Responses to Comments from Private Individuals (continued)

Commenter	Comment	Navy Response
		Finally, all Department of Defense (DoD) military activities shall be carried out in a manner that avoids to the maximum extent practicable any adverse impacts on Sanctuary resources and qualities.
Colonel Meyer (Electronic)	Sounds hurt whales.	Thank you for participating in the NEPA process.
D. Miller (Electronic)	As a retired navy submariner I know it is imperative that actual use of new equipment is the only way to know it is functioning properly. All the mockups in the world will not show the hick-ups. As an example we did extensive under ice work and found out that the state of the art new gear was not what we thought it was when put to actual use.	Thank you for participating in the NEPA process.
H. Miller (Written)	I Believe that the U.S. Navy, Coast Guard, and Civilians involved in the minor changes to the Draft Environmental Impact Statement/Overseas Environmental Impact Statement have done an extraordinarily detailed study to fine tune the effects of the new SONAR buoys on marine mammals, turtles, etc. It would appear that aquaculture/fish farms and other human activities in the water and on the shore are potentially more hazardous to the environment than any actions the military might undertake to defend this nation. Once again being defenseless for lack of a practice bombing range seems foolish in these hostile times.	Thank you for participating in the NEPA process.
S. Miller (Electronic)	Regarding Supplement Draft EIS/OEIS. 1. First the Navy proposed placing electromagnetic emitters in Olympic National Forest. 2. Then the Navy proposed flying more Growler Jets over the North Olympic Peninsula for training practice in Electromagnetic Warfare. 3. Now the Navy has completed a supplement to an environmental impact statement that examines the proposed increased use of sonar in the Northwest Training and Testing area to include the use of sonar and explosives in the training areas off the North Olympic Peninsula's Pacific Coast including the Olympic Coast National Marine Sanctuary and off Indian Island (which is very close to the City of Port Townsend and within the Port Townsend Bay which is full of recreational boating in a small space) and in the Strait of Juan de Fuca. The Navy failed to have any public meetings on the Olympic Peninsula which has been a further public aggravation of the way they failed to serve the public as they also did in regard to their proposed impact on the North Olympic Peninsula with increased Growler Jets--with environmental impact at the very least from sound and vibration and fuel ejection and electromagnetic emitters which have known consequences and submitting the local public and wildlife to as yet unknown consequences. 4. What about the Protection Island Bird Sanctuary in the Strait of Juan de Fuca where 70% of the seabirds in Puget Sound nest? 5. What about the birds? There is already a major die--off of seabirds happening on the Olympic	The Navy went to a great amount of effort to coordinate and organize the public meetings to meet the needs of all of the public. Because of the large size of the NWTT Study Area for this EIS/OEIS, it is not feasible to hold a public meeting in every location where there may be public interest. Generally, the Navy has tried to locate public meetings in locations central to training or testing areas and potentially affected communities. The purpose of the public meetings for the Supplement to the NWTT Draft EIS/OEIS was to share information between the Navy and the public regarding recent changes to the NWTT Draft EIS/OEIS. Those changes are proposed only for the Hood Canal and Dabob Bay portion of Puget Sound, and the Pacific Ocean more than 12 miles off the coast. Therefore, it was most appropriate to hold meetings in areas most directly affected by the proposed changes; Poulsbo, WA; Aberdeen, WA (on the Olympic Peninsula); Newport, OR; and Eureka, CA. A specific description of activities and potential impacts to birds from those activities can be found in the NWTT EIS/OEIS in Section 3.6 (Birds).

Table I.5-4: Responses to Comments from Private Individuals (continued)

Commenter	Comment	Navy Response
	Peninsula Pacific Coast. What will this proposed added stress do to the seabird population--not to mention local humans and land and sea animals? 6. The North Olympic Peninsula and the surrounding waterways are some of the wildest areas remaining in the contiguous United States. That wildness, quietness, and relative purity is what supports the tourist industry and real estate market on the North Olympic Peninsula now that the logging and fishing industries have been depleted by shrinking populations of trees and fish. The Navy should stop its recent attack on the North Olympic Peninsula immediately.	
Milliren (Electronic)	I am very distressed with the way the Navy has been handling its multiple proposals for air, land and sea impacts across the Olympic Peninsula and Northwest Washington. Separating these various actions lessons the cumulative impacts, does not respect the combined impacts to our people, our land, our sea, our air, and our wild animals and wilderness. We need a FULL EIS addressing the many and combined, related impacts that you are trying to implement. I am very distressed about your proposals to increase the number of sonobuoys in the Pacific off our Olympic Coast. You have admitted that these sonobuoys will harm the endangered sea turtles off our west coast. This is UNACCEPTABLE. These turtles are protected and are likely to become extinct with your proposed actions. They are precious is a way you may not be able to measure, but EARTH ITSELF will be harmed by their lower numbers and extinction. The whole balance of sea creatures along the Pacific coast will be in danger. Without their feeding, other creatures will grow out of balance and our waters will be greatly impacted. Secondly, letting the sonobuoys just break apart and sink as they grow old is UNACCEPTABLE. Have you not already heard of the huge plastic gyros in the Pacific? Trash accumulating on the surface OR sinking to the sea floor hugely impacts the habitats for countless creatures as well as for humans. How can we accept such uncaring attitudes in the name of our national military?? I am ashamed of such proposals with such cavalier attitudes. I have already made comments about the Growler jet increase, their noise, their impacts on human and other creatures' ways of life on the Olympic Peninsula, their making our designated Wilderness meaningless. How can we accept such abhorrent proposals??? And I cannot accept the proposals to ruin our way of life by Electronic Warfare proposals for the Olympic Peninsula. All of these proposals, especially combined, seek to ruin the lives of all creatures in a small (you hoped) voiceless part of our country. I am here to say we may be small, but we are not voiceless. We treasure our wilderness, our creatures, our waters, our silence. We DO NOT want to become a paranoid training ground for Navy (or any other) military excesses. The Navy needs to step back and consider what it is proposing to do altogether. Each proposal is bad enough and unacceptable, and combined they are intolerable.	As described in the Supplement in Section 3.5.2 (Sea Turtle Summary), the proposed increase in the use of SSQ-125 sonobuoys "are not expected to result in substantial changes to behavior, growth, survival, annual reproductive success, lifetime reproductive success (fitness), or species recruitment, and are not expected to result in population-level impacts." The Navy has conducted active sonar training and testing activities in the Study Area for decades, and there is no evidence that routine Navy training and testing has negatively impacted individual sea turtles or sea turtle populations in the Study Area or at any Navy Range Complex. Based on the best available science summarized in the Draft EIS/OEIS Section 3.5.3.7.1 (Combined Impacts of All Stressors), “impacts are not expected to decrease the overall fitness or result in long-term population level impacts on any given population. In cases where potential impacts rise to a level that warrants mitigation, mitigation measures designed to reduce the potential impacts are discussed in Chapter 5 (Standard Operating Procedures, Mitigation, and Monitoring)." The Navy used the best available science and a comprehensive review of past, present, and reasonably foreseeable actions to develop a robust Cumulative Impacts analysis. The Navy has returned to the analysis in Chapter 4 (Cumulative Impacts) due to concerns raised in public comments, and the Chapter has been revised in response to those public comments. The literature on ocean acidification has been reviewed, and is now discussed in Section 4.4.4 (Climate Change), of Chapter 4 (Cumulative Impacts) of the EIS/OEIS.

Table I.5-4: Responses to Comments from Private Individuals (continued)

Commenter	Comment	Navy Response
Mills (Electronic)	Stop slaughtering my planet with your war machines! The Planet is NOT the enemy, in fact you are murdering the home of all of us Earthlings. STOP!	Thank you for participating in the NEPA process.
Mitchell (Electronic)	Whales and other marine mammals would be negatively affected by the use of sonar in the ocean. Many of these species are endangered or threatened. Please reconsider your plans.	The Navy shares your concern for marine life, but this concern must be balanced with the purpose and need for Navy training and testing as detailed in Chapter 2 (Description of Proposed Action and Alternatives) of the EIS/OEIS. The Navy has conducted active sonar training and testing activities in the Study Area for decades, and there is no evidence that routine Navy training and testing has negatively impacted marine mammal populations in the Study Area or at any Navy Range Complex. Based on the best available science summarized in the EIS/OEIS Section 3.4.4.1 (Summary of Monitoring and Observations During Navy Activities), long-term consequences for marine mammal populations are unlikely to result from Navy training and testing activities in the Study Area. Please also refer to Chapter 5 (Standard Operating Procedures, Mitigation, and Monitoring) of the EIS/OEIS, detailing the procedures and mitigation measures during its training and testing activities designed to reduce impacts to marine mammals from Navy activities.
Mohler-01 (Electronic)	A drastic increase in sonar activity will negatively impact wildlife. Marine mammals are extremely sensitive to noise, and sonar disrupts basic behaviors necessary for survival such as migration, surfacing, navigating, hearing, nursing, breeding and feeding. To the extent that threatened or endangered species -- including humpback and sperm whales, and leatherback turtles -- are negatively impacted, the proposed activities may result in violations of the Endangered Species Act. Based on the information apparent in the environmental analysis, the Navy's "No Action Alternative" is the proposal with the most limited impact on wildlife.	The Navy shares your concern for marine life, but this concern must be balanced with the purpose and need for Navy training and testing as detailed in Chapter 2 (Description of Proposed Action and Alternatives) of the EIS/OEIS. The Navy has conducted active sonar training and testing activities in the Study Area for decades, and there is no evidence that routine Navy training and testing has negatively impacted individual sea turtles or sea turtle populations, or marine mammal populations in the Study Area or at any Navy Range Complex. Based on the best available science summarized in the EIS/OEIS Section 3.4.4.1 (Summary of Monitoring and Observations During Navy Activities), long-term consequences for marine mammal populations are unlikely to result from Navy training and testing activities in the Study Area. Note that for sea turtles, as described in the EIS/OEIS Section 3.5.3.7.1 (Combined Impacts of All Stressors), "impacts are not expected to decrease the overall fitness or result in long-term population level impacts on any given population." Please also refer to Chapter 5 (Standard Operating Procedures, Mitigation, and Monitoring) of the EIS/OEIS, detailing the procedures and mitigation measures during its training and testing activities

Table I.5-4: Responses to Comments from Private Individuals (continued)

Commenter	Comment	Navy Response
		designed to reduce impacts to marine mammals and sea turtles from Navy activities.
Mohler-02	A drastic increase in sonar activity will negatively impact wildlife. Marine mammals are extremely sensitive to noise, and sonar disrupts basic behaviors necessary for survival such as migration, surfacing, navigating, hearing, nursing, breeding and feeding. To the extent that threatened or endangered species -- including humpback and sperm whales, and leatherback turtles -- are negatively impacted, the proposed activities may result in violations of the Endangered Species Act. Based on the information apparent in the environmental analysis, the Navy's "No Action Alternative" is the proposal with the most limited impact on wildlife.	The Navy shares your concern for marine life, but this concern must be balanced with the purpose and need for Navy training and testing as detailed in Chapter 2 (Description of Proposed Action and Alternatives) of the EIS/OEIS. The Navy has conducted active sonar training and testing activities in the Study Area for decades, and there is no evidence that routine Navy training and testing has negatively impacted individual sea turtles or sea turtle populations, or marine mammal populations in the Study Area or at any Navy Range Complex. Based on the best available science summarized in the EIS/OEIS Section 3.4.4.1 (Summary of Monitoring and Observations During Navy Activities), long-term consequences for marine mammal populations are unlikely to result from Navy training and testing activities in the Study Area. Note that for sea turtles, as described in the EIS/OEIS Section 3.5.3.7.1 (Combined Impacts of All Stressors), "impacts are not expected to decrease the overall fitness or result in long-term population level impacts on any given population." Please also refer to Chapter 5 (Standard Operating Procedures, Mitigation, and Monitoring) of the EIS/OEIS, detailing the procedures and mitigation measures during its training and testing activities designed to reduce impacts to marine mammals and sea turtles from Navy activities.
Molotsky (Electronic)	Dear Sirs, Please stop the destructive increase in use of Growler planes in the greater Olympic Peninsula as part of the Pacific Northwest Electronic Warfare Range Environmental Assessment #42759. This is an assault by the Navy on the communities and wildlife of our own country. Don't harm the people you are sworn to protect.	Analysis of airfield activities and relocation of aircraft and personnel is addressed in other environmental planning documents, such as the Draft Environmental Assessment for the Transition of Expeditionary EA-6B Prowler Squadrons to EA-18G Growler at Naval Air Station Whidbey Island, Oak Harbor, Washington (U.S. Department of the Navy, 2012). Therefore, the NWTT EIS/OEIS includes the analysis of activities only where those activities occur, nor does it include activities commonly associated with an airfield, such as engine run-ups, takeoffs, and landings.
Monroe (Electronic)	The Navy's current environmental analysis fails to provide basic information necessary to adequately evaluate the impacts of the proposed activities. This analysis also fails to provide adequate measures to mitigate the harmful effects of the proposed activities on marine mammals and other wildlife. Based on the information apparent in the environmental analysis, the Navy's "No Action Alternative" is the proposal with the most limited impact on wildlife. A drastic increase in sonar activity will negatively impact wildlife. Marine mammals are	As described in the Supplement in Section 3.5.2 (Sea Turtle Summary), the proposed increase in the use of SSQ-125 sonobuoys "are not expected to result in substantial changes to behavior, growth, survival, annual reproductive success, lifetime reproductive success (fitness), or species recruitment, and are not expected to result in population-level impacts." The Navy shares your concern for marine life, but this concern must be balanced with the purpose and need for

Table I.5-4: Responses to Comments from Private Individuals (continued)

Commenter	Comment	Navy Response
	extremely sensitive to noise, and sonar disrupts basic behaviors necessary for survival such as migration, surfacing, navigating, hearing, nursing, breeding and feeding. Sonar can result in debilitating and even fatal injuries for marine mammals. Scientists believe sonar activity can change whale diving behavior, confusing them to swim to depths their bodies cannot handle. Whales suspected to have beached themselves because of sonar activity show signs of physical trauma like bleeding around the brain, ears and other tissues and large bubbles in their organs – symptoms analogous to "the bends" in humans. To the extent that threatened or endangered species -- including humpback and sperm whales, and leatherback turtles -- are negatively impacted, the proposed activities may result in violations of the Endangered Species Act.	Navy training and testing as detailed in Chapter 2 (Description of Proposed Action and Alternatives) of the EIS/OEIS. The Navy has conducted active sonar training and testing activities in the Study Area for decades, and there is no evidence that routine Navy training and testing has negatively impacted individual sea turtles or sea turtle populations, or marine mammal populations in the Study Area or at any Navy Range Complex. Based on the best available science summarized in the EIS/OEIS Section 3.4.4.1 (Summary of Monitoring and Observations During Navy Activities), long-term consequences for marine mammal populations are unlikely to result from Navy training and testing activities in the Study Area. Note that for sea turtles, as described in the EIS/OEIS Section 3.5.3.7.1 (Combined Impacts of All Stressors), "impacts are not expected to decrease the overall fitness or result in long-term population level impacts on any given population." Please also refer to Chapter 5 (Standard Operating Procedures, Mitigation, and Monitoring) of the EIS/OEIS, detailing the procedures and mitigation measures during its training and testing activities designed to reduce impacts to marine mammals and sea turtles from Navy activities.
Montapert (Electronic)	I urge the Navy to limit the amount of sonar activity used in training missions off the Pacific Coast. A drastic increase in sonar activity will negatively impact wildlife. Marine mammals are extremely sensitive to noise, and sonar disrupts basic behaviors necessary for survival such as migration, surfacing, navigating, hearing, nursing, breeding and feeding.	The Navy shares your concern for marine life, but this concern must be balanced with the purpose and need for Navy training and testing as detailed in Chapter 2 (Description of Proposed Action and Alternatives) of the EIS/OEIS. The Navy has conducted active sonar training and testing activities in the Study Area for decades, and there is no evidence that routine Navy training and testing has negatively impacted marine mammal populations in the Study Area or at any Navy Range Complex. Based on the best available science summarized in the EIS/OEIS Section 3.4.4.1 (Summary of Monitoring and Observations During Navy Activities), long-term consequences for marine mammal populations are unlikely to result from Navy training and testing activities in the Study Area. Please also refer to Chapter 5 (Standard Operating Procedures, Mitigation, and Monitoring) of the EIS/OEIS, detailing the procedures and mitigation measures during its training and testing activities designed to reduce impacts to marine mammals from Navy activities.
Moody (Electronic)	Keep testing away from marine mammals habitat.	The Navy shares your concern for marine life, but this concern must be balanced with the purpose and need for Navy training and testing as detailed in Chapter 2 (Description of Proposed Action and Alternatives) of the EIS/OEIS. The Navy has conducted active sonar training and

Table I.5-4: Responses to Comments from Private Individuals (continued)

Commenter	Comment	Navy Response
		testing activities in the Study Area for decades, and there is no evidence that routine Navy training and testing has negatively impacted marine mammal populations in the Study Area or at any Navy Range Complex. Based on the best available science summarized in the EIS/OEIS Section 3.4.4.1 (Summary of Monitoring and Observations During Navy Activities), long-term consequences for marine mammal populations are unlikely to result from Navy training and testing activities in the Study Area. Please also refer to Chapter 5 (Standard Operating Procedures, Mitigation, and Monitoring) of the EIS/OEIS, detailing the procedures and mitigation measures during its training and testing activities designed to reduce impacts to marine mammals from Navy activities.
P. Moore (Electronic)	I realize that there needs to be testing of particular equipment as far as use of undersea sonar. I do not feel there is any legitimate reason to set the decibel level to the point that it would IN ANY WAY cause harm to large sea mammals. Large sea animals depend on their use of hearing. They are already dealing with the trash, pollution and degradation we have caused in the oceans. PLEASe do not allow the use of sound that causes injury.	The Navy shares your concern for marine life, but this concern must be balanced with the purpose and need for Navy training and testing as detailed in Chapter 2 (Description of Proposed Action and Alternatives) of the EIS/OEIS. The Navy has conducted active sonar training and testing activities in the Study Area for decades, and there is no evidence that routine Navy training and testing has negatively impacted marine mammal populations in the Study Area or at any Navy Range Complex. Based on the best available science summarized in the EIS/OEIS Section 3.4.4.1 (Summary of Monitoring and Observations During Navy Activities), long-term consequences for marine mammal populations are unlikely to result from Navy training and testing activities in the Study Area. Please also refer to Chapter 5 (Standard Operating Procedures, Mitigation, and Monitoring) of the EIS/OEIS, detailing the procedures and mitigation measures during its training and testing activities designed to reduce impacts to marine mammals from Navy activities.
C. Moore (Electronic)	Dear Navy, Please do not deploy up to 720 sonobuoys off the coasts of Washington, Oregon and Northern California. This is the habitat for endangered whales such as orcas, humpback and blue, as well as seals, sea lions and dolphins. Whales can communicate hundreds of miles from each other - their hearing is ultra sensitive. And they have been known to beach themselves to escape noise. Please don't add to the problem. Humans already put them through more than enough. I would like these animals to be a part of my children's future. I know training is important, but can't it be done some other way that does not harm our oceans creatures? Thank you for listening, Colleen	The Navy shares your concern for marine life, but this concern must be balanced with the purpose and need for Navy training and testing as detailed in Chapter 2 (Description of Proposed Action and Alternatives) of the EIS/OEIS. The Navy has conducted active sonar training and testing activities in the Study Area for decades, and there is no evidence that routine Navy training and testing has negatively impacted marine mammal populations in the Study Area or at any Navy Range Complex. Based on the best available science summarized in the EIS/OEIS Section 3.4.4.1 (Summary of Monitoring and Observations During Navy Activities), long-term consequences for marine mammal populations are unlikely to result from Navy training and testing activities in the Study Area. Please also refer to Chapter 5

Table I.5-4: Responses to Comments from Private Individuals (continued)

Commenter	Comment	Navy Response
		(Standard Operating Procedures, Mitigation, and Monitoring) of the EIS/OEIS, detailing the procedures and mitigation measures during its training and testing activities designed to reduce impacts to marine mammals from Navy activities. Regarding previous strandings, see Section 3.4.3.1.8 (Stranding) and the referenced technical report “Marine Mammal Strandings Associated with U.S. Navy Sonar Activities” (U.S. Department of the Navy 2013c).
J. Moore (Written)	I wish to take this opportunity to comment on the Supplement (December 2014) to the Navy's Draft Environmental Impact Statement/ Overseas Environmental Impact Statement (DEIS), dated January 2014, for its continued training and testing activities in the Pacific Northwest (NWTT). Please include these comments in the administrative record. Effect on wildlife The proposed increases in this Supplement of marine exercises and additional use of sonar and explosives will only increase the damage done to marine mammals, sea turtles, fish and birds. Of particular concern to me is the Supplement and the EIS's lack of protections for the Southern Resident Killer Whale's dwindling population. These animals need a protected home in accord with their endangered status. In public sessions and in a radio interview the Navy's public relations personnel have been heard to say that the (MSO) and TRACKEX marine exercises save gas and allow personnel to be closer to their homes for these maneuvers. These considerations should not allow one single injury to this endangered Killer Whale population. Though this supplement admits increased sonar and explosive testing (TRACKEX) and finally addresses the MSO maneuvers there is no additional mitigation mentioned. Nowhere is it outlined whether visual patrols will increase as a result of this new activity, nor does the Supplement address real concerns over whether or not visual patrol is adequate at times of night or rough seas. No acoustic monitoring or avoidance strategies are included. This is a serious omission to a document that intended to address the inadequate science and mitigation plans of the original draft and is unacceptable. Lack of Science There is little consideration of exclusion zones, geographic alternatives to the southern Puget Sound and seasonal restrictions of exercises. All of the Alternatives propose year-round, unrestricted use without regard to seasonal variations in marine mammal and fish abundance. This is true despite the well-documented seasonal migrations of numerous endangered species and the identification of	The Navy shares your concern for marine life, but this concern must be balanced with the purpose and need for Navy training and testing as detailed in Chapter 2 (Description of Proposed Action and Alternatives) of the EIS/OEIS. The Navy has conducted active sonar training and testing activities in the Study Area for decades, and there is no evidence that routine Navy training and testing has negatively impacted individual sea turtles or sea turtle populations, or marine mammal populations in the Study Area or at any Navy Range Complex. Based on the best available science summarized in the EIS/OEIS Section 3.4.4.1 (Summary of Monitoring and Observations During Navy Activities), long-term consequences for marine mammal populations are unlikely to result from Navy training and testing activities in the Study Area. Note that for sea turtles, as described in the EIS/OEIS Section 3.5.3.7.1 (Combined Impacts of All Stressors), “impacts are not expected to decrease the overall fitness or result in long-term population level impacts on any given population.” Please also refer to Chapter 5 (Standard Operating Procedures, Mitigation, and Monitoring) of the EIS/OEIS, detailing the procedures and mitigation measures during its training and testing activities designed to reduce impacts to marine mammals and sea turtles from Navy activities. No injuries to killer whales are anticipated from the Navy’s proposed MSO or TRACKEX activities. As described in Chapter 5 of the EIS/OEIS, the Navy will implement mitigation measures during the use of sonobuoys. The mitigation measures are implemented for each activity and therefore the mitigation scales up as the activity level scales up. Section 5.3.1.2.5 (Effectiveness Assessment for Lookouts) acknowledges that, due to the various detection probabilities, levels of Lookout experience, and variability of sighting conditions, Lookouts will not always be effective at avoiding impacts on all species. However,

Table I.5-4: Responses to Comments from Private Individuals (continued)

Commenter	Comment	Navy Response
	biologically important areas. The Navy should put critical marine habitats off-limits to sonar and explosives testing and schedule training to avoid times of the year when sensitive species are present in places like the Olympic Coast National Marine Sanctuary. Climate Change and Cumulative Impacts The Supplement document responds to calls to address these two big issues but it is very unclear that anything more than lip service was expended by deeming Navy activities to be of little significance. Public Process What most concerns me is this. There has been an overwhelming number of proposals since late in 2013 rolled out to the public in a piecemeal fashion. Five calls for comments on clearly-linked documents have been spread out in their introduction to the public over the last year and a half. Ground-based, (Electronic warfare range), airbased (Two growler scoping documents) and sea-based naval activities (these two NWTT documents) have been dropped onto the region as if they were not linked. The separate comment periods and the separate documents minimize the larger picture of impacts on the area. In my opinion this is misleading. Is it even legal in regards to Federal Law, specifically NEPA? Please redo this chopped-up public process with a comprehensive Environmental Impact Statement that includes all of the activities in the region. These huge changes that affect wildlife, real estate values, allow precedent-setting incursions into the peace of our national parks, national forest, wilderness, state parks and state lands, should be discussed as a whole, not split into so many fractured pieces that the residents of this region cannot know what they are actually facing.	Lookouts are expected to increase the overall likelihood that certain marine mammal species and some sea turtles will be detected at the surface of the water, when compared to the likelihood that these same species would be detected if Lookouts are not used. The continued use of Lookouts contributes to helping reduce potential impacts on these species from training and testing activities. While the range of the sonar's detection would travel beyond the distance that Lookouts can detect animals, the range at which sonar is predicted to be able to cause injury to a marine mammal is very short, within 10 meters of the sonar. At such short distances, it is likely any marine mammal would have been detected. As described in Chapter 5 (Standard Operating Procedures, Mitigation, and Monitoring) of the Final EIS/OEIS, the Navy evaluated the effectiveness and practicability of a number of potential mitigation measures including the avoidance of specific areas. The Navy has undertaken consultation with NMFS for the proposed and ongoing activities in the NWTT Study Area and the Navy refined the mitigation measures, which are now presented in Chapter 5 (Standard Operating Procedures, Mitigation, and Monitoring) of this Final EIS/OEIS. Through careful exploration of all mitigation measures to determine which were the most effective, the Navy chose the measures to mitigate potential impacts to marine mammals while still being able to meet its operational needs to train for real-world conditions. The Navy's specific mitigation measures are outlined in the following sections: Section 5.3.1 (Lookout Procedural Measures), Section 5.3.2 (Mitigation Zone Procedural Measures), and Section 5.3.3 (Mitigation Areas). Specifically, Section 5.3.4 (Mitigation Measures Considered but Eliminated) presents Navy consideration of similar area restrictions. The Navy and NMFS will use the Adaptive Management process to assess whether any additional mitigation should be considered in identified biologically important areas. In response to several comments, the Navy has enhanced its analysis of climate change and cumulative impacts in this Final EIS/OEIS. The Navy prepares Environmental Impact Statements (EIS) and Environmental Assessments (EA) in order to comply with the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA). These NEPA documents are intended to ensure decision makers consider the potential environmental effects of a proposed action and its alternatives, provide an opportunity for public involvement, and promote transparency by informing the public of these potential environmental effects. Each

Table I.5-4: Responses to Comments from Private Individuals (continued)

Commenter	Comment	Navy Response
		NEPA document addresses a specific proposed action, separated from other actions by its purpose and need, independent utility, timing, and geographic location. Some NEPA documents are stand-alone documents; others tier off or expand the analyses of other NEPA documents. NEPA documents for training and testing, including this EIS/OEIS, focus on training and testing activities occurring within a range complex or military operation area and involve different types of aircraft, ships, and range complex enhancements. NEPA documents for aircraft homebasing actions focus on aircraft operations in and around the airfield and their facility needs. NEPA documents for installations focus on infrastructure enhancements for host and tenant command missions. Importantly, every environmental document considers the cumulative impacts to the environment from other relevant past, present, and reasonably foreseeable future actions (federal, state, local, and private) in addition to the proposed action. The MSO activities do not include the use of sonar or live gun firing. The U.S. Navy has conducted active sonar training and testing activities for decades in the seaspace depicted in the Study Area with no evidence to indicate any meaningful impacts to marine habitats in the area. The Navy and NMFS jointly are still in ongoing consultation with the OCNMS regarding the effects of the Proposed Action on Sanctuary resources. The Navy concludes its continued activities are not likely to result in the loss, destruction, or adverse changes to the viability of Sanctuary resources. Several points support this determination: • Less than two percent of proposed training and 15 percent of proposed testing activities would occur within or immediately adjacent to the OCNMS. • The NWTT Final EIS/OEIS shows that training and testing activities have minimal temporary impacts on the quantity or quality of the Study Area's physical environment, and minor to no impacts on marine or shore birds, fish, sea turtles, or invertebrate marine life. • Although explosives have the potential to affect the physical and biological resources, the Navy does not use explosives within the OCNMS. • The Navy concludes any marine mammal behavioral reactions to NWTT training and testing activities would be transitory, infrequent, non-cumulative, and impacts are not expected to decrease overall individual fitness or result in long-term population-level impacts on any

Table I.5-4: Responses to Comments from Private Individuals (continued)

Commenter	Comment	Navy Response
		given population, and consequently will not result in any adverse changes to the sanctuary. Finally, all Department of Defense (DoD) military activities shall be carried out in a manner that avoids to the maximum extent practicable any adverse impacts on Sanctuary resources and qualities.
L. Moore (Electronic)	I wish to take this opportunity to comment on the Supplement (December 2014) to the Navy's Draft Environmental Impact Statement/ Overseas Environmental Impact Statement (DEIS), dated January 2014, for its continued training and testing activities in the Pacific Northwest (NWTI). Please include these comments in the administrative record. Effect on wildlife The proposed increases in this Supplement of marine exercises and additional use of sonar and explosives will only increase the damage done to marine mammals, sea turtles, fish and birds. Of particular concern to me is the Supplement and the EIS's lack of protections for the Southern Resident Killer Whale's dwindling population. These animals need a protected home in accord with their endangered status. In public sessions and in a radio interview the Navy's public relations personnel have been heard to say that the (MSO) and TRACKEX marine exercises save gas and allow personnel to be closer to their homes for these maneuvers. These considerations should not allow one single injury to this endangered Killer Whale population. Though this supplement admits increased sonar and explosive testing (TRACKEX) and finally addresses the MSO maneuvers there is no additional mitigation mentioned. Nowhere is it outlined whether visual patrols will increase as a result of this new activity, nor does the Supplement address real concerns over whether or not visual patrol is adequate at times of night or rough seas. No acoustic monitoring or avoidance strategies are included. This is a serious omission to a document that intended to address the inadequate science and mitigation plans of the original draft and is unacceptable. Lack of Science There is little consideration of exclusion zones, geographic alternatives to the southern Puget Sound and seasonal restrictions of exercises. All of the Alternatives propose year-round, unrestricted use without regard to seasonal variations in marine mammal and fish abundance. This is true despite the well-documented seasonal migrations of numerous endangered species and the identification of biologically important areas. The Navy should put critical marine habitats off-limits to sonar and explosives testing and schedule training to avoid times of the year when sensitive species are	The Navy shares your concern for marine life, but this concern must be balanced with the purpose and need for Navy training and testing as detailed in Chapter 2 (Description of Proposed Action and Alternatives) of the EIS/OEIS. The Navy has conducted training and testing activities in the Study Area for decades, and there is no evidence that routine Navy training and testing has negatively impacted individual sea turtles or sea turtle populations, or marine mammal populations in the Study Area or at any Navy Range Complex. Based on the best available science summarized in the EIS/OEIS Section 3.4.4.1 (Summary of Monitoring and Observations During Navy Activities), long-term consequences for marine mammal populations are unlikely to result from Navy training and testing activities in the Study Area. Note that for sea turtles, as described in the EIS/OEIS Section 3.5.3.7.1 (Combined Impacts of All Stressors), “impacts are not expected to decrease the overall fitness or result in long-term population level impacts on any given population.” Please also refer to Chapter 5 (Standard Operating Procedures, Mitigation, and Monitoring) of the EIS/OEIS, detailing the procedures and mitigation measures during its training and testing activities designed to reduce impacts to marine mammals and sea turtles from Navy activities. No injuries to killer whales are anticipated from the Navy’s proposed MSO or TRACKEX activities. As described in Chapter 5 (Standard Operating Procedures, Mitigation, and Monitoring) of the EIS/OEIS, the Navy will implement mitigation measures during the use of sonobuoys. The mitigation measures are implemented for each activity and therefore the mitigation scales up as the activity level scales up. Section 5.3.1.2.5 (Effectiveness Assessment for Lookouts) acknowledges that, due to the various detection probabilities, levels of Lookout experience, and variability of sighting conditions, Lookouts will not always be effective at avoiding impacts on all species. However, Lookouts are expected to increase the overall likelihood that certain marine mammal species and some sea turtles will be detected at the

Table I.5-4: Responses to Comments from Private Individuals (continued)

Commenter	Comment	Navy Response
	present in places like the Olympic Coast National Marine Sanctuary. Climate Change and Cumulative Impacts The Supplement document responds to calls to address these two big issues but it is very unclear that anything more than lip service was expended by deeming Navy activities to be of little significance. Public Process What most concerns me is this. There has been an overwhelming number of proposals since late in 2013 rolled out to the public in a piecemeal fashion. Five calls for comments on clearly-linked documents have been spread out in their introduction to the public over the last year and a half. Ground-based, (Electronic warfare range), airbased (Two growler scoping documents) and sea-based naval activities (these two NWIT documents) have been dropped onto the region as if they were not linked. The separate comment periods and the separate documents minimize the larger picture of impacts on the area. In my opinion this is misleading. Is it even legal in regards to Federal Law, specifically NEPA? Please redo this chopped-up public process with a comprehensive Environmental Impact Statement that includes all of the activities in the region. These huge changes that affect wildlife, real estate values, allow precedent-setting incursions into the peace of our national parks, national forest, wilderness, state parks and state lands, should be discussed as a whole, not split into so many fractured pieces that the residents of this region cannot know what they are actually facing.	surface of the water, when compared to the likelihood that these same species would be detected if Lookouts are not used. The continued use of Lookouts contributes to helping reduce potential impacts on these species from training and testing activities. While the range of the sonar's detection would travel beyond the distance that Lookouts can detect animals, the range at which sonar is predicted to be able to cause injury to a marine mammal is very short, within 10 meters of the sonar. At such short distances, it is likely any marine mammal would have been detected. As described in Chapter 5 (Standard Operating Procedures, Mitigation, and Monitoring) of the Final EIS/OEIS, the Navy evaluated the effectiveness and practicability of a number of potential mitigation measures including the avoidance of specific areas. The Navy has undertaken consultation with NMFS for the proposed and ongoing activities in the NWTT Study Area and the Navy refined the mitigation measures, which are now presented in Chapter 5 (Standard Operating Procedures, Mitigation, and Monitoring) of this Final EIS/OEIS. Through careful exploration of all mitigation measures to determine which were the most effective, the Navy chose the measures to mitigate potential impacts to marine mammals while still being able to meet its operational needs to train for real-world conditions. The Navy's specific mitigation measures are outlined in the following sections: Section 5.3.1 (Lookout Procedural Measures), Section 5.3.2 (Mitigation Zone Procedural Measures), and Section 5.3.3 (Mitigation Areas). Specifically, Section 5.3.4 (Mitigation Measures Considered but Eliminated) presents Navy consideration of similar area restrictions. The Navy and NMFS will use the Adaptive Management process to assess whether any additional mitigation should be considered in identified biologically important areas. In response to several comments, the Navy has enhanced its analysis of climate change and cumulative impacts in this Final EIS/OEIS. The Navy prepares Environmental Impact Statements (EIS) and Environmental Assessments (EA) in order to comply with the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA). These NEPA documents are intended to ensure decision makers consider the potential environmental effects of a proposed action and its alternatives, provide an opportunity for public involvement, and promote transparency by informing the public of these potential environmental effects. Each NEPA document addresses a specific proposed action, separated from other actions by its purpose and need, independent utility, timing, and

Table I.5-4: Responses to Comments from Private Individuals (continued)

Commenter	Comment	Navy Response
		geographic location. Some NEPA documents are stand-alone documents; others tier off or expand the analyses of other NEPA documents. NEPA documents for training and testing, including this EIS/OEIS, focus on training and testing activities occurring within a range complex or military operation area and involve different types of aircraft, ships, and range complex enhancements. NEPA documents for aircraft homebasing actions focus on aircraft operations in and around the airfield and their facility needs. NEPA documents for installations focus on infrastructure enhancements for host and tenant command missions. Importantly, every environmental document considers the cumulative impacts to the environment from other relevant past, present, and reasonably foreseeable future actions (federal, state, local, and private) in addition to the proposed action. The MSO activities do not include the use of sonar or live gun firing. The U.S. Navy has conducted active sonar training and testing activities for decades in the seaspace depicted in the Study Area with no evidence to indicate any meaningful impacts to marine habitats in the area. The Navy and NMFS jointly are still in ongoing consultation with the OCNMS regarding the effects of the Proposed Action on Sanctuary resources. The Navy concludes its continued activities are not likely to result in the loss, destruction, or adverse changes to the viability of Sanctuary resources. Several points support this determination: • Less than two percent of proposed training and 15 percent of proposed testing activities would occur within or immediately adjacent to the OCNMS. • The NWTT Final EIS/OEIS shows that training and testing activities have minimal temporary impacts on the quantity or quality of the Study Area's physical environment, and minor to no impacts on marine or shore birds, fish, sea turtles, or invertebrate marine life. • Although explosives have the potential to affect the physical and biological resources, the Navy does not use explosives within the OCNMS. • The Navy concludes any marine mammal behavioral reactions to NWTT training and testing activities would be transitory, infrequent, non-cumulative, and impacts are not expected to decrease overall individual fitness or result in long-term population-level impacts on any given population, and consequently will not result in any adverse changes to the sanctuary.

Table I.5-4: Responses to Comments from Private Individuals (continued)

Commenter	Comment	Navy Response
		Finally, all Department of Defense (DoD) military activities shall be carried out in a manner that avoids to the maximum extent practicable any adverse impacts on Sanctuary resources and qualities.
R. Moore (Electronic)	I am concerned that although some care seems to be given to sea turtles and marine mammals, The true impacts to their environment are not turely understood. As this training program is implemented the tendency will be to increase frequency, doing harm to biodiversity that cannot be undone.	As described in the Supplement in Section 3.5.2 (Sea Turtle Summary), the proposed increase in the use of SSQ-125 sonobuoys "are not expected to result in substantial changes to behavior, growth, survival, annual reproductive success, lifetime reproductive success (fitness), or species recruitment, and are not expected to result in population-level impacts." The Navy has conducted active sonar training and testing activities in the Study Area for decades, and there is no evidence that routine Navy training and testing has negatively impacted individual sea turtles or sea turtle populations in the Study Area or at any Navy Range Complex. Based on the best available science summarized in the Draft EIS/OEIS Section 3.5.3.7.1 (Combined Impacts of All Stressors) “impacts are not expected to decrease the overall fitness or result in long-term population level impacts on any given population. The Navy has conducted active sonar training and testing activities in the Study Area for decades, and there is no evidence that routine Navy training and testing has negatively impacted marine mammal populations in the Study Area or at any Navy Range Complex. Based on the best available science summarized in the EIS/OEIS Section 3.4.4.1 (Summary of Monitoring and Observations During Navy Activities) long-term consequences for marine mammal populations are unlikely to result from Navy training and testing activities in the Study Area. In cases where potential impacts rise to a level that warrants mitigation, mitigation measures designed to reduce the potential impacts are discussed in Chapter 5 (Standard Operating Procedures, Mitigation, and Monitoring)."
S. Moore-01 (Electronic)	I have only recently been made aware of the Navy's plan to expand their growler training over the Olympic Peninsula. I am a senior citizen who moved to Port Townsend 5 years ago. I live in a very quiet neighborhood, uptown, and I moved here for the quiet, the nature, and the grandchildren. I am afraid the proposed growler expansion will greatly affect all of the things that I moved here to enjoy. I wish to take this opportunity to comment on the Supplement (December 2014) to the Navy's Draft Environmental Impact Statement/ Overseas Environmental Impact Statement (DEIS), dated January 2014, for its continued training and testing activities in the Pacific Northwest (NWTT). Please include these comments in the	The Navy shares your concern for marine life, but this concern must be balanced with the purpose and need for Navy training and testing as detailed in Chapter 2 (Description of Proposed Action and Alternatives) of the EIS/OEIS. The Navy has conducted training and testing activities in the Study Area for decades, and there is no evidence that routine Navy training and testing has negatively impacted individual sea turtles or sea turtle populations, or marine mammal populations in the Study Area or at any Navy Range Complex. Based on the best available science summarized in the EIS/OEIS Section 3.4.4.1 (Summary of Monitoring and Observations During Navy Activities),

Table I.5-4: Responses to Comments from Private Individuals (continued)

Commenter	Comment	Navy Response
	administrative record. Effect on wildlife The proposed increases in this Supplement of marine exercises and additional use of sonar and explosives will only increase the damage done to marine mammals, sea turtles, fish and birds. Of particular concern to me is the Supplement and the EIS's lack of protections for the Southern Resident Killer Whale's dwindling population. These animals need a protected home in accord with their endangered status. In public sessions and in a radio interview the Navy's public relations personnel have been heard to say that the (MSO) and TRACKEX marine exercises save gas and allow personnel to be closer to their homes for these maneuvers. These considerations should not allow one single injury to this endangered Killer Whale population. Though this supplement admits increased sonar and explosive testing (TRACKEX) and finally addresses the MSO maneuvers there is no additional mitigation mentioned. Nowhere is it outlined whether visual patrols will increase as a result of this new activity, nor does the Supplement address real concerns over whether or not visual patrol is adequate at times of night or rough seas. No acoustic monitoring or avoidance strategies are included. This is a serious omission to a document that intended to address the inadequate science and mitigation plans of the original draft and is unacceptable. Lack of Science There is little consideration of exclusion zones, geographic alternatives to the southern Puget Sound and seasonal restrictions of exercises. All of the Alternatives propose year-round, unrestricted use without regard to seasonal variations in marine mammal and fish abundance. This is true despite the well-documented seasonal migrations of numerous endangered species and the identification of biologically important areas. The Navy should put critical marine habitats off-limits to sonar and explosives testing and schedule training to avoid times of the year when sensitive species are present in places like the Olympic Coast National Marine Sanctuary. Climate Change and Cumulative Impacts The Supplement document responds to calls to address these two big issues but it is very unclear that anything more than lip service was expended by deeming Navy activities to be of little significance. Public Process What most concerns me is this. There has been an overwhelming number of proposals since late in 2013 rolled out to the public in a piecemeal fashion. Five calls for comments on clearly-linked documents have been spread out in their	long-term consequences for marine mammal populations are unlikely to result from Navy training and testing activities in the Study Area. Note that for sea turtles, as described in the EIS/OEIS Section 3.5.3.7.1 (Combined Impacts of All Stressors), “impacts are not expected to decrease the overall fitness or result in long-term population level impacts on any given population.” Please also refer to Chapter 5 (Standard Operating Procedures, Mitigation, and Monitoring) of the EIS/OEIS, detailing the procedures and mitigation measures during its training and testing activities designed to reduce impacts to marine mammals and sea turtles from Navy activities. No injuries to killer whales are anticipated from the Navy’s proposed MSO or TRACKEX activities. As described in Chapter 5 of the EIS/OEIS, the Navy will implement mitigation measures during the use of sonobuoys. The mitigation measures are implemented for each activity and therefore the mitigation scales up as the activity level scales up. Section 5.3.1.2.5 (Effectiveness Assessment for Lookouts) acknowledges that, due to the various detection probabilities, levels of Lookout experience, and variability of sighting conditions, Lookouts will not always be effective at avoiding impacts on all species. However, Lookouts are expected to increase the overall likelihood that certain marine mammal species and some sea turtles will be detected at the surface of the water, when compared to the likelihood that these same species would be detected if Lookouts are not used. The continued use of Lookouts contributes to helping reduce potential impacts on these species from training and testing activities. While the range of the sonar’s detection would travel beyond the distance that Lookouts can detect animals, the range at which sonar is predicted to be able to cause injury to a marine mammal is very short, within 10 meters of the sonar. At such short distances, it is likely any marine mammal would have been detected. As described in Chapter 5 (Standard Operating Procedures, Mitigation, and Monitoring) of the Final EIS/OEIS, the Navy evaluated the effectiveness and practicability of a number of potential mitigation measures including the avoidance of specific areas. The Navy has undertaken consultation with NMFS for the proposed and ongoing activities in the NWTT Study Area and the Navy refined the mitigation measures, which are now presented in Chapter 5 (Standard Operating

Table I.5-4: Responses to Comments from Private Individuals (continued)

Commenter	Comment	Navy Response
	introduction to the public over the last year and a half. Ground-based, (Electronic warfare range), airbased (Two growler scoping documents) and sea-based naval activities (these two NWTT documents) have been dropped onto the region as if they were not linked. The separate comment periods and the separate documents minimize the larger picture of impacts on the area. In my opinion this is misleading. Is it even legal in regards to Federal Law, specifically NEPA? Please redo this chopped-up public process with a comprehensive Environmental Impact Statement that includes all of the activities in the region. These huge changes that affect wildlife, real estate values, allow precedent-setting incursions into the peace of. our national parks, national forest, wilderness, state parks and state lands, should be discussed as a whole, not split into so many fractured pieces that the residents of this region cannot know what they are actually facing.	Procedures, Mitigation, and Monitoring) of this Final EIS/OEIS. Through careful exploration of all mitigation measures to determine which were the most effective, the Navy chose the measures to mitigate potential impacts to marine mammals while still being able to meet its operational needs to train for real-world conditions. The Navy's specific mitigation measures are outlined in the following sections: Section 5.3.1 (Lookout Procedural Measures), Section 5.3.2 (Mitigation Zone Procedural Measures), and Section 5.3.3 (Mitigation Areas). Specifically, Section 5.3.4 (Mitigation Measures Considered but Eliminated) presents Navy consideration of similar area restrictions. The Navy and NMFS will use the Adaptive Management process to assess whether any additional mitigation should be considered in identified biologically important areas. In response to several comments, the Navy has enhanced its analysis of climate change and cumulative impacts in this Final EIS/OEIS. The Navy prepares Environmental Impact Statements (EIS) and Environmental Assessments (EA) in order to comply with the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA). These NEPA documents are intended to ensure decision makers consider the potential environmental effects of a proposed action and its alternatives, provide an opportunity for public involvement, and promote transparency by informing the public of these potential environmental effects. Each NEPA document addresses a specific proposed action, separated from other actions by its purpose and need, independent utility, timing, and geographic location. Some NEPA documents are stand-alone documents; others tier off or expand the analyses of other NEPA documents. NEPA documents for training and testing, including this EIS/OEIS, focus on training and testing activities occurring within a range complex or military operation area and involve different types of aircraft, ships, and range complex enhancements. NEPA documents for aircraft homebasing actions focus on aircraft operations in and around the airfield and their facility needs. NEPA documents for installations focus on infrastructure enhancements for host and tenant command missions. Importantly, every environmental document considers the cumulative impacts to the environment from other relevant past, present, and reasonably foreseeable future actions (federal, state, local, and private) in addition to the proposed action. The MSO activities do not include the use of sonar or live gun firing. The U.S. Navy has conducted active sonar training and testing activities for decades in the seaspace depicted in the Study Area with

Table I.5-4: Responses to Comments from Private Individuals (continued)

Commenter	Comment	Navy Response
		no evidence to indicate any meaningful impacts to marine habitats in the area. The Navy and NMFS jointly are still in ongoing consultation with the OCNMS regarding the effects of the Proposed Action on Sanctuary resources. The Navy concludes its continued activities are not likely to result in the loss, destruction, or adverse changes to the viability of Sanctuary resources. Several points support this determination: • Less than two percent of proposed training and 15 percent of proposed testing activities would occur within or immediately adjacent to the OCNMS. • The NWTT Final EIS/OEIS shows that training and testing activities have minimal temporary impacts on the quantity or quality of the Study Area's physical environment, and minor to no impacts on marine or shore birds, fish, sea turtles, or invertebrate marine life. • Although explosives have the potential to affect the physical and biological resources, the Navy does not use explosives within the OCNMS. • The Navy concludes any marine mammal behavioral reactions to NWTT training and testing activities would be transitory, infrequent, non-cumulative, and impacts are not expected to decrease overall individual fitness or result in long-term population-level impacts on any given population, and consequently will not result in any adverse changes to the sanctuary. Finally, all Department of Defense (DoD) military activities shall be carried out in a manner that avoids to the maximum extent practicable any adverse impacts on Sanctuary resources and qualities.
Mooshie (Electronic)	Haven't enough whales been killed? Can't you learn to kill humans without killing whales?!	The Navy shares your concern for marine life, but this concern must be balanced with the purpose and need for Navy training and testing as detailed in Chapter 2 (Description of Proposed Action and Alternatives) of the EIS/OEIS. The Navy has conducted active sonar training and testing activities in the Study Area for decades, and there is no evidence that routine Navy training and testing has negatively impacted marine mammal populations in the Study Area or at any Navy Range Complex. Based on the best available science summarized in the EIS/OEIS Section 3.4.4.1 (Summary of Monitoring and Observations During Navy Activities), long-term consequences for marine mammal populations are unlikely to result from Navy training and testing activities in the Study Area. Please also refer to Chapter 5 (Standard Operating Procedures, Mitigation, and Monitoring) of the

Table I.5-4: Responses to Comments from Private Individuals (continued)

Commenter	Comment	Navy Response
		EIS/OEIS, detailing the procedures and mitigation measures during its training and testing activities designed to reduce impacts to marine mammals from Navy activities.
Morera (Electronic)	1) Sonars and other active acoustic sources are not simply harmful, they are killers and not just for cetaceans, for all marine life, invertebrates included. 2) Navy has to consider the consequences of its actions. Killing our oceans is killing ourselves. It's opposite to the Defense purpose. 3) For animals impacted on a long distance : harmed and stranded on our beaches with the possibility to be rescued, there is N0 center able to hospitalize a whale because there is NO money. So, why waste money in this kind of military training ? 4) The proof of the welfare of whales and dolphins when the navy exercises stop : no more mass stranding on our shores (ej. : Canaries, Spain). Conclusion : we ask you to stop the irresponsibility of this "war game" and we urge you to please follow the scientific community recomendations. There is nothing virtual in the consequences and our first debt is to protect our heritage."	The Navy shares your concern for marine life, but this concern must be balanced with the purpose and need for Navy training and testing as detailed in Chapter 2 (Description of Proposed Action and Alternatives) of the EIS/OEIS. The Navy has conducted active sonar training and testing activities in the Study Area for decades, and there is no evidence that routine Navy training and testing has negatively impacted marine mammal populations in the Study Area or at any Navy Range Complex. Based on the best available science summarized in the EIS/OEIS Section 3.4.4.1 (Summary of Monitoring and Observations During Navy Activities), long-term consequences for marine mammal populations are unlikely to result from Navy training and testing activities in the Study Area. Please also refer to Chapter 5 (Standard Operating Procedures, Mitigation, and Monitoring) of the EIS/OEIS, detailing the procedures and mitigation measures during its training and testing activities designed to reduce impacts to marine mammals from Navy activities.
Morrow (Electronic)	How many times and in how many ways do we have to tell you NO??????? I am sick and tired of writing and rewriting my concerns about the unexamined impacts of this project. DO the science to learn the potential effects on sealife and the effect of the noise on all creatures. STOP lying in public meetings, telling us that animals will not be harmed when you publish studies that indicate quite the opposite. I don't know why I bother because it's clear we won't be heard and that the money in these types of projects trumps all. I am angry and disgusted.	The Navy shares your concern for marine life, but this concern must be balanced with the purpose and need for Navy training and testing as detailed in Chapter 2 (Description of Proposed Action and Alternatives) of the EIS/OEIS. The Navy has conducted active sonar training and testing activities in the Study Area for decades, and there is no evidence that routine Navy training and testing has negatively impacted marine mammal populations in the Study Area or at any Navy Range Complex. Based on the best available science summarized in the EIS/OEIS Section 3.4.4.1 (Summary of Monitoring and Observations During Navy Activities) long-term consequences for marine mammal populations are unlikely to result from Navy training and testing activities in the Study Area. Please also refer to Chapter 5 (Standard Operating Procedures, Mitigation, and Monitoring) of the EIS/OEIS, detailing the procedures and mitigation measures during its training and testing activities designed to reduce impacts to marine mammals from Navy activities.
Mulas (Electronic)	A drastic increase in sonar activity will negatively impact wildlife. Marine mammals are extremely sensitive to noise, and sonar disrupts basic behaviors necessary for survival such as migration, surfacing, navigating, hearing, nursing, breeding and feeding. Sonar can result in debilitating and even fatal injuries for marine mammals.	The Navy shares your concern for marine life, but this concern must be balanced with the purpose and need for Navy training and testing as detailed in Chapter 2 (Description of Proposed Action and Alternatives) of the EIS/OEIS. The Navy has conducted training and testing

Table I.5-4: Responses to Comments from Private Individuals (continued)

Commenter	Comment	Navy Response
	Scientists believe sonar activity can change whale diving behavior, confusing them to swim to depths their bodies cannot handle. Whales suspected to have beached themselves because of sonar activity show signs of physical trauma like bleeding around the brain, ears and other tissues and large bubbles in their organs – symptoms analogous to "the bends" in humans. To the extent that threatened or endangered species -- including humpback and sperm whales, and leatherback turtles -- are negatively impacted, the proposed activities may result in violations of the Endangered Species Act.	activities in the Study Area for decades, and there is no evidence that routine Navy training and testing has negatively impacted individual sea turtles or sea turtle populations, or marine mammal populations in the Study Area or at any Navy Range Complex. Based on the best available science summarized in the EIS/OEIS Section 3.4.4.1 (Summary of Monitoring and Observations During Navy Activities), long-term consequences for marine mammal populations are unlikely to result from Navy training and testing activities in the Study Area. Note that for sea turtles, as described in the EIS/OEIS Section 3.5.3.7.1 (Combined Impacts of All Stressors), "impacts are not expected to decrease the overall fitness or result in long-term population level impacts on any given population." Please also refer to Chapter 5 (Standard Operating Procedures, Mitigation, and Monitoring) of the EIS/OEIS, detailing the procedures and mitigation measures during its training and testing activities designed to reduce impacts to marine mammals and sea turtles from Navy activities. Regarding previous strandings, see Section 3.4.3.1.8 (Stranding) and the referenced technical report "Marine Mammal Strandings Associated with U.S. Navy Sonar Activities" (U.S. Department of the Navy 2013c).
Mullen (Electronic)	Stop the degradation of our environment...Please.	Thank you for participating in the NEPA process.
Murcko (Electronic)	I request that you stop sonar use in the pacific ocean and any further expansion I am concerned for the marine mammals that inhabit these waters I know that sonar can damage and even kill these mammals Please do no harm to these marine mammals It is our responsibility to insure their well being So please no mmore sonar	The Navy shares your concern for marine life, but this concern must be balanced with the purpose and need for Navy training and testing as detailed in Chapter 2 (Description of Proposed Action and Alternatives) of the EIS/OEIS. The Navy has conducted active sonar training and testing activities in the Study Area for decades, and there is no evidence that routine Navy training and testing has negatively impacted marine mammal populations in the Study Area or at any Navy Range Complex. Based on the best available science summarized in the EIS/OEIS Section 3.4.4.1 (Summary of Monitoring and Observations During Navy Activities), long-term consequences for marine mammal populations are unlikely to result from Navy training and testing activities in the Study Area. Please also refer to Chapter 5 (Standard Operating Procedures, Mitigation, and Monitoring) of the EIS/OEIS, detailing the procedures and mitigation measures during its

Table I.5-4: Responses to Comments from Private Individuals (continued)

Commenter	Comment	Navy Response
		training and testing activities designed to reduce impacts to marine mammals from Navy activities.
D. Murphy (Written)	I am concerned about the Navy putting 720 new devices in the ocean that will interfere with turtle navigation. I am concerned for turtle safety and hope there is a way to save turtle health and keep us safe. Let's protect the turtles.	As described in the Supplement in Section 3.5.2 (Sea Turtle Summary), the proposed increase in the use of SSQ-125 sonobuoys "are not expected to result in substantial changes to behavior, growth, survival, annual reproductive success, lifetime reproductive success (fitness), or species recruitment, and are not expected to result in population-level impacts." The Navy has conducted active sonar training and testing activities in the Study Area for decades, and there is no evidence that routine Navy training and testing has negatively impacted individual sea turtles or sea turtle populations in the Study Area or at any Navy Range Complex. Based on the best available science summarized in the Draft EIS/OEIS Section 3.5.3.7.1 (Combined Impacts of All Stressors) “impacts are not expected to decrease the overall fitness or result in long-term population level impacts on any given population. In cases where potential impacts rise to a level that warrants mitigation, mitigation measures designed to reduce the potential impacts are discussed in Chapter 5 (Standard Operating Procedures, Mitigation, and Monitoring)."
M. Murphy (Electronic)	Please, please, please exercise more compassion and long-term thinking. You have no right to destroy, especially things you do not fully understand.	Thank you for participating in the NEPA process.
H. Murphy (Electronic)	I'm writing to ask you please not to grant the Navy permits to increase the use of sonar-emitting buoys off the Pacific Coast. The Southern Resident Killer Whale population is endangered already, with only 78 members left. They are already finding it challenging to get enough food, as Chinook salmon are also endangered. The slightest distraction could cause them to flee the area, and therefore stop feeding. Over time, this could be devastating to this population and could eventually cause their extinction. Other marine life in the area could suffer the same effects. These waters are rich in marine mammals, all the way down the food chain. With PCBs and other toxins in the water, as well as increased boat traffic, they cannot withstand additional sonar bouys. There are other alternatives to protect our national security without damaging the wildlife that is one of our precious resources.	As described in the Supplement in Section 3.4.2 (Marine Mammal Summary), the proposed increase in the use of SSQ-125 sonobuoys would "not result in any long-term consequences for any marine mammal population or species; therefore, the conclusions stated in the Draft EIS/OEIS remain unchanged." The Navy has conducted active sonar training and testing activities in the Study Area for decades, and there is no evidence that routine Navy training and testing has negatively impacted marine mammal populations in the Study Area or at any Navy Range Complex. Based on the best available science summarized in the EIS/OEIS Section 3.4.4.1 (Summary of Monitoring and Observations During Navy Activities) long-term consequences for marine mammal populations are unlikely to result from Navy training and testing activities in the Study Area. As explained in Section 2.5 (Alternatives Development) of the Draft

Table I.5-4: Responses to Comments from Private Individuals (continued)

Commenter	Comment	Navy Response
		EIS/OEIS, the range of alternatives considered by the Navy must be reasonable alternatives. To be reasonable, an alternative must meet the stated purpose of and need for the Proposed Action. A curtailment or reduction in the number of training and testing activities would not meet the stated purpose of and need for the Proposed Action, and would therefore be unreasonable.
Nagel (Electronic)	The Navy's current environmental analysis fails to provide basic information necessary to adequately evaluate the impacts of the proposed activities. This analysis also fails to provide adequate measures to mitigate the harmful effects of the proposed activities on marine mammals and other wildlife. Based on the information apparent in the environmental analysis, the Navy's "No Action Alternative" is the proposal with the most limited impact on wildlife. A drastic increase in sonar activity will negatively impact wildlife. Marine mammals are extremely sensitive to noise, and sonar disrupts basic behaviors necessary for survival such as migration, surfacing, navigating, hearing, nursing, breeding and feeding. Sonar can result in debilitating and even fatal injuries for marine mammals. Scientists believe sonar activity can change whale diving behavior, confusing them to swim to depths their bodies cannot handle. Whales suspected to have beached themselves because of sonar activity show signs of physical trauma like bleeding around the brain, ears and other tissues and large bubbles in their organs – symptoms analogous to "the bends" in humans. To the extent that threatened or endangered species -- including humpback and sperm whales, and leatherback turtles -- are negatively impacted, the proposed activities may result in violations of the Endangered Species Act. Whales rely on hearing for many of their basic functions, from navigating to communication. Much in the same way shining a bright light in our eyes can leave us disoriented, human-caused sonar activity can drastically affect whale behavior, leading them to beach themselves or dive to depths their bodies cannot handle, causing debilitating and even fatal injuries. This is why it is disconcerting that, at the last minute, the Navy has expanded its proposal for training off of the Pacific Coast, suggesting 36 TIMES1 more sonar-emitting bouys as had been previously planned. This unexpected revision will drastically increase the impact on whales and other ocean wildlife. The Navy's proposed training and testing activities include the use of sonar, explosives, weapons firing, and other acoustic devices. These activities have well known and well documented negative impacts on a number of whale species and porpoises, as well as other marine wildlife. In addition, the Navy admits the increase in the use of sonar devices "is likely to adversely affect"2 endangered leatherback turtles whose protected habitat along the Pacific Coast was only recently established in 2012. The Navy's activities will also have significant impacts on critical habitat areas for marine mammals and other wildlife. High intensity-mid-frequency sonar -- along with	The Navy shares your concern for marine life, but this concern must be balanced with the purpose and need for Navy training and testing as detailed in Chapter 2 (Description of Proposed Action and Alternatives) of the EIS/OEIS. The Navy has conducted training and testing activities in the Study Area for decades, and there is no evidence that routine Navy training and testing has negatively impacted individual sea turtles or sea turtle populations, or marine mammal populations in the Study Area or at any Navy Range Complex. Based on the best available science summarized in the EIS/OEIS Section 3.4.4.1 (Summary of Monitoring and Observations During Navy Activities), long-term consequences for marine mammal populations are unlikely to result from Navy training and testing activities in the Study Area. Note that for sea turtles, as described in the EIS/OEIS Section 3.5.3.7.1 (Combined Impacts of All Stressors), "impacts are not expected to decrease the overall fitness or result in long-term population level impacts on any given population." Please also refer to Chapter 5 (Standard Operating Procedures, Mitigation, and Monitoring) of the EIS/OEIS, detailing the procedures and mitigation measures during its training and testing activities designed to reduce impacts to marine mammals and sea turtles from Navy activities. Regarding previous strandings, see Section 3.4.3.1.8 (Stranding) and the referenced technical report "Marine Mammal Strandings Associated with U.S. Navy Sonar Activities" (U.S. Department of the Navy 2013c). Based on the best available science summarized in the EIS/OEIS Section 3.4.4.1 (Summary of Monitoring and Observations During Navy Activities), long-term consequences for marine mammal populations are unlikely to result from Navy training and testing activities in the Study Area. The Navy is not proposing to increase the annual number of sonobuoys by a factor of 36. The Navy's original proposal in the Draft EIS/OEIS includes the annual deployment of approximately 9,200 sonobuoys of various types. The increase of 700 sonobuoys described

Table I.5-4: Responses to Comments from Private Individuals (continued)

Commenter	Comment	Navy Response
	activities like dumping debris, the use of toxic chemicals, and detonating explosives -- will degrade sensitive habitat necessary for the survival of marine mammal populations. The U.S. Navy should heed established science and retract their ideas about such dangerous testing.	in the Supplement is an increase of less than 8 percent. Best management practices include measures that regulate operations to ensure compliance with pollution emission requirements and general resource conservation goals. Navy policies and procedures identified in Navy instructions such as the Environmental Readiness Program Manual, include directives regarding waste management, pollution prevention, and recycling, all of which benefit sediments and water quality in the ocean. Any procedures or practices that benefit ocean sediments and water quality in turn benefit all marine life in the ocean, from plants and invertebrates, to fish and marine mammals.
Naidoff (Electronic)	NAVY Draft Supplement as proposed here, is disingenuous in its Intents, and reprehensible in its Applications. Aside from NAVY's complete callousness toward all resident marine mammals, reptiles and birds, NAVY now proposes to turn their environments into mass "killing fields". More importantly, there appears to be NO mention in the Drafts of any impact NAVY activities would have on the Seismic Vulnerability of the Juan de Fuca Subduction Plate. Why the exclusion of this real concern? If you don't know, then all your Plans are dead-in-the-water, just like we human coastal inhabitants will be if NAVY activities instigate a 9+ Quake! Unless the "pivot" means "preparing for a Pacific War", STOP planning to intentionally harass and endanger and kill any residents of sea and land here on OUR precious Oregon coast to satisfy YOUR dubious training needs.	The Navy shares your concern for marine life, but this concern must be balanced with the purpose and need for Navy training and testing as detailed in Chapter 2 (Description of Proposed Action and Alternatives) of the EIS/OEIS. The Navy has conducted active sonar training and testing activities in the Study Area for decades, and there is no evidence that routine Navy training and testing has negatively impacted marine mammal populations in the Study Area or at any Navy Range Complex. Based on the best available science summarized in the EIS/OEIS Section 3.4.4.1 (Summary of Monitoring and Observations During Navy Activities), long-term consequences for marine mammal populations are unlikely to result from Navy training and testing activities in the Study Area. Please also refer to Chapter 5 (Standard Operating Procedures, Mitigation, and Monitoring) of the EIS/OEIS, detailing the procedures and mitigation measures during its training and testing activities designed to reduce impacts to marine mammals from Navy activities. As described in Section 3.10 (Cultural Resources), Section 3.12 (Socioeconomics), and Section 3.13 (Public Health and Safety) of the Draft EIS/OEIS, the Navy's proposed activities are not expected to impact cultural resources, socioeconomic resources, or public health and safety. The Draft and Final EIS/OEIS fully considers the potential social and cultural impacts associated with the proposed activities. As explained in Section 2.5 (Alternatives Development) of the Draft EIS/OEIS, the range of alternatives considered by the Navy must be reasonable alternatives. To be reasonable, an alternative must meet the stated purpose of and need for the Proposed Action. A curtailment or reduction in the number of training and testing activities would not meet the stated purpose of and need for the Proposed Action, and would therefore be unreasonable.

Table I.5-4: Responses to Comments from Private Individuals (continued)

Commenter	Comment	Navy Response
Nantz (Electronic)	Please stop the sonar and explosions and any and all activities that may negatively effect the marine life in all our oceans.	The Navy shares your concern for marine life, but this concern must be balanced with the purpose and need for Navy training and testing as detailed in Chapter 2 (Description of Proposed Action and Alternatives) of the EIS/OEIS. The Navy has conducted active sonar training and testing activities in the Study Area for decades, and there is no evidence that routine Navy training and testing has negatively impacted marine mammal populations in the Study Area or at any Navy Range Complex. Based on the best available science summarized in the EIS/OEIS Section 3.4.4.1 (Summary of Monitoring and Observations During Navy Activities), long-term consequences for marine mammal populations are unlikely to result from Navy training and testing activities in the Study Area. Please also refer to Chapter 5 (Standard Operating Procedures, Mitigation, and Monitoring) of the EIS/OEIS, detailing the procedures and mitigation measures during its training and testing activities designed to reduce impacts to marine mammals from Navy activities.
Narens (Electronic)	Please, please have the foresight to avoid further endangering aquatic mammals. The benefits simply do not outweigh the costs.	The Navy shares your concern for marine life, but this concern must be balanced with the purpose and need for Navy training and testing as detailed in Chapter 2 (Description of Proposed Action and Alternatives) of the EIS/OEIS. The Navy has conducted active sonar training and testing activities in the Study Area for decades, and there is no evidence that routine Navy training and testing has negatively impacted marine mammal populations in the Study Area or at any Navy Range Complex. Based on the best available science summarized in the EIS/OEIS Section 3.4.4.1 (Summary of Monitoring and Observations During Navy Activities) long-term consequences for marine mammal populations are unlikely to result from Navy training and testing activities in the Study Area. Please also refer to Chapter 5 (Standard Operating Procedures, Mitigation, and Monitoring) of the EIS/OEIS, detailing the procedures and mitigation measures during its training and testing activities designed to reduce impacts to marine mammals from Navy activities.
Nazzaro (Electronic)	Please limit the use of sonar use in the Pacific as it has terrible effects on Whales sometimes causing death. Do we really want to injure and kill these magnificent creatures? Thank you for your time.	The Navy shares your concern for marine life, but this concern must be balanced with the purpose and need for Navy training and testing as detailed in Chapter 2 (Description of Proposed Action and Alternatives) of the EIS/OEIS. The Navy has conducted active sonar training and testing activities in the Study Area for decades, and there is no evidence that routine Navy training and testing has negatively impacted marine mammal populations in the Study Area or at any

Table I.5-4: Responses to Comments from Private Individuals (continued)

Commenter	Comment	Navy Response
		Navy Range Complex. Based on the best available science summarized in the EIS/OEIS Section 3.4.4.1 (Summary of Monitoring and Observations During Navy Activities) long-term consequences for marine mammal populations are unlikely to result from Navy training and testing activities in the Study Area. Please also refer to Chapter 5 (Standard Operating Procedures, Mitigation, and Monitoring) of the EIS/OEIS, detailing the procedures and mitigation measures during its training and testing activities designed to reduce impacts to marine mammals from Navy activities.
G. Neff (Electronic)	Please limit the amount of sonar activity off the Pacific Coast. The whales rely on their hearing for many of their basic needs such as eating and communicating. Loud sonic booms are very debilitating to these functions and should be curtailed as much as possible.	The Navy shares your concern for marine life, but this concern must be balanced with the purpose and need for Navy training and testing as detailed in Chapter 2 (Description of Proposed Action and Alternatives) of the EIS/OEIS. The Navy has conducted active sonar training and testing activities in the Study Area for decades, and there is no evidence that routine Navy training and testing has negatively impacted marine mammal populations in the Study Area or at any Navy Range Complex. Based on the best available science summarized in the EIS/OEIS Section 3.4.4.1 (Summary of Monitoring and Observations During Navy Activities) long-term consequences for marine mammal populations are unlikely to result from Navy training and testing activities in the Study Area. Please also refer to Chapter 5 (Standard Operating Procedures, Mitigation, and Monitoring) of the EIS/OEIS, detailing the procedures and mitigation measures during its training and testing activities designed to reduce impacts to marine mammals from Navy activities.
J. Neff (Electronic)	RE: Navy testing of bombs and sonar use, impacting wildlife in the Olympic Peninsula. I am against these actions for the following reasons: *The Navy's current environmental analysis fails to provide basic information necessary to adequately evaluate the impacts of the proposed activities. This analysis also fails to provide adequate measures to mitigate the harmful effects of the proposed activities on marine mammals and other wildlife. *Based on the information apparent in the environmental analysis, the *Navy's "No Action Alternative" is the proposal with the most limited impact on wildlife. *A drastic increase in sonar activity will negatively impact wildlife. Marine mammals are extremely sensitive to noise, and sonar disrupts basic behaviors necessary for survival such as migration, surfacing, navigating, hearing, nursing, breeding and feeding. *Sonar can result in debilitating and even fatal injuries for marine mammals. Scientists believe sonar activity can change whale diving behavior, confusing them to swim to depths their bodies cannot handle. Whales suspected to have beached themselves because of sonar activity show signs of physical trauma like bleeding around the brain, ears and other	As described in the Supplement in Section 3.5.2 (Sea Turtle Summary), the proposed increase in the use of SSQ-125 sonobuoys "are not expected to result in substantial changes to behavior, growth, survival, annual reproductive success, lifetime reproductive success (fitness), or species recruitment, and are not expected to result in population-level impacts." The Navy shares your concern for marine life, but this concern must be balanced with the purpose and need for Navy training and testing as detailed in Chapter 2 (Description of Proposed Action and Alternatives) of the EIS/OEIS. The Navy has conducted training and testing activities in the Study Area for decades, and there is no evidence that routine Navy training and testing has negatively impacted individual sea turtles or sea turtle populations, or marine mammal populations in the Study Area or at any Navy Range Complex. Based on the best

Table I.5-4: Responses to Comments from Private Individuals (continued)

Commenter	Comment	Navy Response
	tissues and large bubbles in their organs – symptoms analogous to "the bends" in humans. *To the extent that threatened or endangered species -- including humpback and sperm whales, and leatherback turtles -- are negatively impacted, the proposed activities may result in violations of the Endangered Species Act. In addition I would like to add that the survival of all life, including humans, rests on the balance of nature. We are seeing the repercussions of experiments which destroy this natural balance every single day. I wholeheartedly oppose any actions which are detrimental to our earth and the life it sustains.	available science summarized in the EIS/OEIS Section 3.4.4.1 (Summary of Monitoring and Observations During Navy Activities), long-term consequences for marine mammal populations are unlikely to result from Navy training and testing activities in the Study Area. Note that for sea turtles, as described in the EIS/OEIS Section 3.5.3.7.1 (Combined Impacts of All Stressors), "impacts are not expected to decrease the overall fitness or result in long-term population level impacts on any given population." Please also refer to Chapter 5 (Standard Operating Procedures, Mitigation, and Monitoring) of the EIS/OEIS, detailing the procedures and mitigation measures during its training and testing activities designed to reduce impacts to marine mammals and sea turtles from Navy activities. Regarding previous strandings, see Section 3.4.3.1.8 (Stranding) and the referenced technical report "Marine Mammal Strandings Associated with U.S. Navy Sonar Activities" (U.S. Department of the Navy 2013c).
B. Nelson (Electronic)	There is no need to do this testing in the Pacific NW. To many people and wildlife around. Nobody wants this here!	Thank you for participating in the NEPA process.
K. Nelson (Electronic)	I am writing in response the Navy's proposed new training and testing activities off the Pacific NW coast. The Navy's current environmental analysis fails to provide basic information necessary to adequately evaluate the impacts of the proposed activities. This analysis also fails to provide adequate measures to mitigate the harmful effects of the proposed activities on marine mammals and other wildlife. Based on the information apparent in the environmental analysis, the Navy's "No Action Alternative" is the proposal with the most limited impact on wildlife. A drastic increase in sonar activity will negatively impact wildlife. Marine mammals are extremely sensitive to noise, and sonar disrupts basic behaviors necessary for survival such as migration, surfacing, navigating, hearing, nursing, breeding and feeding. Sonar can result in debilitating and even fatal injuries for marine mammals. Scientists believe sonar activity can change whale diving behavior, confusing them to swim to depths their bodies cannot handle. Whales suspected to have beached themselves because of sonar activity show signs of physical trauma like bleeding around the brain, ears and other tissues and large bubbles in their organs – symptoms analogous to "the bends" in humans. To the extent that threatened or endangered species -- including humpback and sperm whales, and leatherback turtles -- are negatively impacted, the proposed activities may result in violations of	As described in the Supplement in Section 3.5.2 (Sea Turtle Summary), the proposed increase in the use of SSQ-125 sonobuoys "are not expected to result in substantial changes to behavior, growth, survival, annual reproductive success, lifetime reproductive success (fitness), or species recruitment, and are not expected to result in population-level impacts." The Navy shares your concern for marine life, but this concern must be balanced with the purpose and need for Navy training and testing as detailed in Chapter 2 (Description of Proposed Action and Alternatives) of the EIS/OEIS. The Navy has conducted training and testing activities in the Study Area for decades, and there is no evidence that routine Navy training and testing has negatively impacted individual sea turtles or sea turtle populations, or marine mammal populations in the Study Area or at any Navy Range Complex. Based on the best available science summarized in the EIS/OEIS Section 3.4.4.1 (Summary of Monitoring and Observations During Navy Activities), long-term consequences for marine mammal populations are unlikely to result from Navy training and testing activities in the Study Area. Note that for sea turtles, as described in

Table I.5-4: Responses to Comments from Private Individuals (continued)

Commenter	Comment	Navy Response
	the Endangered Species Act. Please either conduct further environmental analysis or follow the "No Action Alternative."	the EIS/OEIS Section 3.5.3.7.1 (Combined Impacts of All Stressors), “impacts are not expected to decrease the overall fitness or result in long-term population level impacts on any given population.” Please also refer to Chapter 5 (Standard Operating Procedures, Mitigation, and Monitoring) of the EIS/OEIS, detailing the procedures and mitigation measures during its training and testing activities designed to reduce impacts to marine mammals and sea turtles from Navy activities.
J. Nelson (Electronic)	while i realize the navy will continue to justify it's existence, sonar must be used to detect enemy submarines? REALLY? what enemy is that? sign me not paranoid, jan nelson	Thank you for participating in the NEPA process.
Nesmith (Electronic)	Yo, Navy! I got nothin' but support for ya, but what you're doing to the marine life with your sonar/bomb testing has got to stop!	The Navy shares your concern for marine life, but this concern must be balanced with the purpose and need for Navy training and testing as detailed in Chapter 2 (Description of Proposed Action and Alternatives) of the EIS/OEIS. The Navy has conducted active sonar training and testing activities in the Study Area for decades, and there is no evidence that routine Navy training and testing has negatively impacted marine mammal populations in the Study Area or at any Navy Range Complex. Based on the best available science summarized in the EIS/OEIS Section 3.4.4.1 (Summary of Monitoring and Observations During Navy Activities) long-term consequences for marine mammal populations are unlikely to result from Navy training and testing activities in the Study Area. Please also refer to Chapter 5 (Standard Operating Procedures, Mitigation, and Monitoring) of the EIS/OEIS, detailing the procedures and mitigation measures during its training and testing activities designed to reduce impacts to marine mammals from Navy activities.
Nettleton-01 (Electronic)	Please be respectful of marine life, especially whales, and reduce the use of sonar emitting buoys off the Pacific coast. It would be nice if the Navy could figure out how to be a positive entity instead of a destructive one. John Nettleton USMC 1967-1971	The Navy shares your concern for marine life, but this concern must be balanced with the purpose and need for Navy training and testing as detailed in Chapter 2 (Description of Proposed Action and Alternatives) of the EIS/OEIS. The Navy has conducted active sonar training and testing activities in the Study Area for decades, and there is no evidence that routine Navy training and testing has negatively impacted marine mammal populations in the Study Area or at any Navy Range Complex. Based on the best available science summarized in the EIS/OEIS Section 3.4.4.1 (Summary of Monitoring and Observations During Navy Activities) long-term consequences for marine mammal populations are unlikely to result from Navy training

Table I.5-4: Responses to Comments from Private Individuals (continued)

Commenter	Comment	Navy Response
		and testing activities in the Study Area. Please also refer to Chapter 5 (Standard Operating Procedures, Mitigation, and Monitoring) of the EIS/OEIS, detailing the procedures and mitigation measures during its training and testing activities designed to reduce impacts to marine mammals from Navy activities.
Nettleton-02	Please be respectful of marine life, especially whales, and reduce the use of sonar emitting buoys off the Pacific coast. It would be nice if the Navy could figure out how to be a positive entity instead of a destructive one. John Nettleton USMC 1967-1971	The Navy shares your concern for marine life, but this concern must be balanced with the purpose and need for Navy training and testing as detailed in Chapter 2 (Description of Proposed Action and Alternatives) of the EIS/OEIS. The Navy has conducted active sonar training and testing activities in the Study Area for decades, and there is no evidence that routine Navy training and testing has negatively impacted marine mammal populations in the Study Area or at any Navy Range Complex. Based on the best available science summarized in the EIS/OEIS Section 3.4.4.1 (Summary of Monitoring and Observations During Navy Activities) long-term consequences for marine mammal populations are unlikely to result from Navy training and testing activities in the Study Area. Please also refer to Chapter 5 (Standard Operating Procedures, Mitigation, and Monitoring) of the EIS/OEIS, detailing the procedures and mitigation measures during its training and testing activities designed to reduce impacts to marine mammals from Navy activities.
Neugebauer (Electronic)	To whom it may concern, As a resident of Washington State, whale conservation nonprofit Director, and concerned citizen, I have concerns about the Navy testing proposed actions. First, the proposed area is overlaps with habitat for protected marine mammals including endangered Southern Resident killer whales. Within the next couple of weeks NOAA will decide to include parts of this area as critical habitat for Southern Residents. It is imperative that measures be taken to protect marine mammals and abide by the critical habitat requirements regardless of the timing of the designation. I am also concerned with the use of night vision goggles by observers to detect marine mammals at night. In speaking with Navy representatives at public meetings in this process they have personally told me that night vision goggles are nearly useless in detecting marine mammals. Pier side testing, even of newly installed sonar systems should be eliminated due to the sensitivity of Puget Sound and the bathymetric conditions that reverberate sound. It is outrageous that the Navy tested their sonar in Everett with Gray whales in close proximity. Other vessels or land based observers should have been utilized to avoid this embarrassing incident. Measures the Navy could take include: 1. Allowing a "ramp up" time where sonar starts quietly and then becomes louder allowing marine mammals an opportunity to flee the area before injury or death 2. Move training exercises further offshore to less sensitive areas. 3. Utilize simulators similar to	As described in the Final EIS/OEIS in Chapter 5 (Standard Operating Procedures, Mitigation, and Monitoring), a 30 min. wait period more than covers the average dive times of most marine mammal species but may not be sufficient for some deep-diving marine mammal species. Note also that the analysis in Section 3.4.3.2.1 (Predicted Impacts from Sonar and Other Active Acoustic Sources) and in Section 3.4.3.2.2 (Impacts from Explosives) shows that injury to deep-diving marine mammals (e.g., sperm whales and beaked whales) are not expected to occur. Furthermore, as detailed in Section 5.3.2.1.1.1 (Low-Frequency and Hull-Mounted Mid-Frequency Active Sonar) any wait period greater than 30 min. would result in an unacceptable operational impact on readiness. The Navy agrees that implementation of the mitigation begins with detection of a marine mammal. The Navy, in consultation with NMFS, developed a set of conditions for recommencing an activity as detailed in the Draft EIS/OEIS Section 5.3.2.1.1.1 (Low-Frequency and Hull Mounted Mid-Frequency Active Sonar). The Navy took into account the possibility that a marine mammal could possibly remain underwater

Table I.5-4: Responses to Comments from Private Individuals (continued)

Commenter	Comment	Navy Response
	those used in flight school to train personnel 4. Have a dedicated sonar technician listen for marine mammals in the 6 hours (or more) leading up to training so that there is a more likely chance that observers could accurately detect them 5. Install and utilize real time hydrophones at various points in the training area to monitor prior to training Lastly, I believe the Navy needs to redefine what sound levels from sonar and explosives will "harm," "injure," "harass," or "kill" marine mammals and consider the cumulative impacts of multiple exposures to loud sounds on their long term fitness. Additionally, the long term impacts on animals permanently abandoning or being cut off from important habitat needs to be considered.	where it is not visible or that it could change its direction of travel or could possibly change its speed. The Navy therefore determined the mitigation measures presented in Chapter 5 (Standard Operating Procedures, Mitigation, and Monitoring) based upon on two principles: (1) mitigations are reasonably effective at reducing potential impacts on the resource; and (2) from an operational perspective, the mitigations must be practicable and executable while not compromising safety and readiness. Through extensive discussion, and based on the best available science and monitoring training and testing over the course of nine years, NMFS and Navy have identified mitigation measures that are practicable and reasonably effective. For example, the mitigation zones proposed will reduce the likelihood of physiological harm, the number of marine mammals exposed, and the intensity of those exposures. In regard to redefining sound levels, the NWTT EIS/OEIS will serve as the NMFS's NEPA documentation for the rule-making process under the MMPA. Given this, NMFS was included in the development of the current thresholds. Furthermore, the thresholds and criteria used in the NWTT Draft EIS/OEIS have been paralleled by the TTS and PTS thresholds NMFS recently proposed in its "Draft Guidance for Assessing the Effects of Anthropogenic Sound on Marine Mammals." For these reasons the thresholds used in the current analysis remain the best available science, although the Navy will continue to revise those thresholds based on emergent research and in cooperation with NMFS as the federal regulator through future MMPA permitting processes.
Newcome (Electronic)	Sonar testing in an area just filled with Orca Whales and other such sea creatures should be a clear and present danger (for the wildlife!). Cease and desist from this ill-advised course of action. Mother Earth asks for nothing LESS!!!	The Navy shares your concern for marine life, but this concern must be balanced with the purpose and need for Navy training and testing as detailed in Chapter 2 (Description of Proposed Action and Alternatives) of the EIS/OEIS. The Navy has conducted active sonar training and testing activities in the Study Area for decades, and there is no evidence that routine Navy training and testing has negatively impacted marine mammal populations in the Study Area or at any Navy Range Complex. Based on the best available science summarized in the EIS/OEIS Section 3.4.4.1 (Summary of Monitoring and Observations During Navy Activities) long-term consequences for marine mammal populations are unlikely to result from Navy training and testing activities in the Study Area. Please also refer to Chapter 5 (Standard Operating Procedures, Mitigation, and Monitoring) of the EIS/OEIS, detailing the procedures and mitigation measures during its

Table I.5-4: Responses to Comments from Private Individuals (continued)

Commenter	Comment	Navy Response
		training and testing activities designed to reduce impacts to marine mammals from Navy activities.
Nickum (Electronic)	Survival of our most precious marine wildlife is now at risk in the Pacific Nothwest, a resource we have taken for granted for too long. There is overwhelming evidence that underwater explosives and other military (Naval and Coast Guard) activities harm marine creatures and may even cause the deaths of young mammals. We are losing our beloved orcas; what military needs can possibly be worth risking these and other marine creatures' lives? Please please please preserve the beauty and crucial natural environment of our Pacific Northwest sea creatures. Give them the peace they need to survive! If they die, it will be the death knell for all of us-- with or without military "protection."	The Navy shares your concern for marine life, but this concern must be balanced with the purpose and need for Navy training and testing as detailed in Chapter 2 (Description of Proposed Action and Alternatives) of the EIS/OEIS. The Navy has conducted active sonar training and testing activities in the Study Area for decades, and there is no evidence that routine Navy training and testing has negatively impacted marine mammal populations in the Study Area or at any Navy Range Complex. Based on the best available science summarized in the EIS/OEIS Section 3.4.4.1 (Summary of Monitoring and Observations During Navy Activities) long-term consequences for marine mammal populations are unlikely to result from Navy training and testing activities in the Study Area. Please also refer to Chapter 5 (Standard Operating Procedures, Mitigation, and Monitoring) of the EIS/OEIS, detailing the procedures and mitigation measures during its training and testing activities designed to reduce impacts to marine mammals from Navy activities.
Nitz (Electronic)	The Navy's environmental analysis fails to provide basic information necessary to adequately evaluate the impacts of the proposed activities. This analysis also fails to provide adequate measures to mitigate the harmful effects of the proposed activities on marine mammals and other wildlife. Based on the information presented in the environmental analysis, the Navy's "No Action Alternative" is the proposal with the most limited impact on wildlife. A drastic increase in sonar activity will negatively impact wildlife. Marine mammals are extremely sensitive to noise, and sonar disrupts basic behaviors necessary for survival such as migration, surfacing, navigating, hearing, nursing, breeding and feeding. Sonar can result in debilitating and even fatal injuries for marine mammals. Scientists believe sonar activity can change whale diving behavior, confusing them to swim to depths their bodies cannot handle. Whales suspected to have beached themselves because of sonar activity show signs of physical trauma like bleeding around the brain, ears and other tissues and large bubbles in their organs – symptoms analogous to "the bends" in humans. To the extent that threatened or endangered species - including humpback and sperm whales, and leatherback turtles - are negatively impacted, the proposed activities would result in violations of the Endangered Species Act.	The Navy shares your concern for marine life, but this concern must be balanced with the purpose and need for Navy training and testing as detailed in Chapter 2 (Description of Proposed Action and Alternatives) of the EIS/OEIS. The Navy has conducted training and testing activities in the Study Area for decades, and there is no evidence that routine Navy training and testing has negatively impacted individual sea turtles or sea turtle populations, or marine mammal populations in the Study Area or at any Navy Range Complex. Based on the best available science summarized in the EIS/OEIS Section 3.4.4.1 (Summary of Monitoring and Observations During Navy Activities), long-term consequences for marine mammal populations are unlikely to result from Navy training and testing activities in the Study Area. Note that for sea turtles, as described in the EIS/OEIS Section 3.5.3.7.1 (Combined Impacts of All Stressors), "impacts are not expected to decrease the overall fitness or result in long-term population level impacts on any given population." Please also refer to Chapter 5 (Standard Operating Procedures, Mitigation, and Monitoring) of the EIS/OEIS, detailing the procedures and mitigation measures during its training and testing activities designed to reduce impacts to marine mammals and sea turtles from Navy activities.

Table I.5-4: Responses to Comments from Private Individuals (continued)

Commenter	Comment	Navy Response
		Regarding previous strandings, see Section 3.4.3.1.8 (Stranding) and the referenced technical report "Marine Mammal Strandings Associated with U.S. Navy Sonar Activities" (U.S. Department of the Navy 2013c). Based on the best available science summarized in the EIS/OEIS Section 3.4.4.1 (Summary of Monitoring and Observations During Navy Activities), long-term consequences for marine mammal populations are unlikely to result from Navy training and testing activities in the Study Area.
Noel (Written)	Oh our marine mammals WE must care for them and so… Before we test our equipment that is potentially harmful (if not deadly) to them, can we transmit a warning say hours in advance… given their life style trends @ that particular time? Thank you for this opportunity.	As described in the Supplement in Section 3.4.2 (Marine Mammal Summary), the proposed increase in the use of SSQ-125 sonobuoys would "not result in any long-term consequences for any marine mammal population or species; therefore, the conclusions stated in the Draft EIS/OEIS remain unchanged." The Navy has conducted active sonar training and testing activities in the Study Area for decades, and there is no evidence that routine Navy training and testing has negatively impacted marine mammal populations in the Study Area or at any Navy Range Complex. Based on the best available science summarized in the EIS/OEIS Section 3.4.4.1 (Summary of Monitoring and Observations During Navy Activities) long-term consequences for marine mammal populations are unlikely to result from Navy training and testing activities in the Study Area.
Norton (Electronic)	I have lived on the Olympic Peninsula for the past 23 years. I originally came to this area as a seasonal park ranger with Olympic National Park. I had previously worked for the Forest Service and am familiar with the missions and purpose of each of these organizations. I chose to become a permanent resident of the area due to the unparalleled beauty and quality of life offered here. I went to nursing school to help provide permanent employment for myself here. My husband and I started a small farm and we purchased an additional small home that we rent as a vacation rental for tourists coming to this area. I feel we are benefiting the local economy in many ways and what drew us here is the quality and character of this place. The quality and character of our Peninsula are under threat from the proposed actions outlined in NWTT EIS and the Supplement to the Draft NWTT EIS. The Olympic Peninsula is not a people less void; it is full of communities that have special character and cohesion. What we have here is a unique and beautiful place. It is our asset. Olympic National Park attracts 3 million visitors a year who contribute 250 million dollars to the local economy. People from all over the world come here to experience what they don't have where they live; peace and quiet. Due to my concerns over the Navy's plans for Electronic Warfare training on the Olympic	The Navy prepares Environmental Impact Statements (EIS) and Environmental Assessments (EA) in order to comply with the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA). These NEPA documents are intended to ensure decision makers consider the potential environmental effects of a proposed action and its alternatives, provide an opportunity for public involvement, and promote transparency by informing the public of these potential environmental effects. Each NEPA document addresses a specific proposed action, separated from other actions by its purpose and need, independent utility, timing, and geographic location. Some NEPA documents are stand-alone documents; others tier off or expand the analyses of other NEPA documents. NEPA documents for training and testing, including this EIS/OEIS, focus on training and testing activities occurring within a range complex or military operation area and involve different types of aircraft, ships, and range complex enhancements. NEPA documents for aircraft homebasing actions focus on aircraft operations in and around the airfield and their facility needs. NEPA documents for

Table I.5-4: Responses to Comments from Private Individuals (continued)

Commenter	Comment	Navy Response
	Peninsula, I have read substantial portions of both the NWTT EIS and the Supplement. I found them lacking in many ways. The justifications for the proposed Navy actions in regards to the EWR in the western portion of the Olympic Peninsula are outlined in the EWR EA. Page 2-8 of the EWR EA states: "All of the EW training activities and locations that would be associated with the implementation of the Pacific Northwest EW Range were analyzed in the NWTRC EIS/OEIS. The NWTRC EIS/OEIS has an October 2010 Record of Decision that approved an alternative that included EW training activities associated with the establishment of a fixed emitter in the Pacific Beach area. Current training levels in the Olympic MOAs and W-237 will remain the same as per the NWTRC EIS/OEIS, and any changes to the type or tempo of training conducted in the Olympic MOAs and W-237 will be addressed in the Northwest Training and Testing (NWTT) EIS/OEIS." Neither the NWTT EIS nor the NWTRC EIS address the on land impacts of the EWR at all. Per the Supplement, page 2-5 the study area is defined as: In Section 2.1.1 (Description of the Offshore Area), the description has been changed to: "The Offshore Area of the Study Area includes air, surface, and subsurface operating areas extending generally west from the coastline of Washington, Oregon, and Northern California for a distance of approximately 250 nm into international waters. The eastern boundary of the Offshore Area lies 12 nm off the coastline for most of the Study Area, including southern Washington, Oregon, and Northern California. Under the airspace of W-237 and the Olympic Military Operations Area (MOA), the eastern boundary abuts the coastline except for the Quinault Range Site." As you are well aware, the NEPA process is set up to evaluate environmental impacts of any major federal actions. In reviewing these documents the land based impacts to people and the environment of the mobile emitters, the overflights, airborne acoustics, electromagnetic energy, accessibility, economic and cultural factors are simply not addressed. Also of concern to me is that the NHPA process is not being followed as well. Per NWTT section 3.10 page 326: "The NHPA is applicable to state territorial waters and for any resources identified on the World Heritage List or on an applicable country's equivalent of the National Register of Historic Places beyond U.S. territorial waters in accordance with Section 402 (16 U.S.C. 470a-2, International Federal Activities Affecting Historic Properties). Executive Order (EO) 12114 mandates consideration of environmental effects of major federal actions located within the global commons, which are defined as geographical areas outside the jurisdiction of any nation, and include the oceans outside of the territorial limits (more than 12 nm from the coast). The order focuses on underwater acoustics, water quality, air quality, marine biology and essential fish habitat, and marine geology but also includes cultural resources. Specific cultural resources to be considered by EO 12114 include World Heritage Sites" Also in section 3.10 of NWTT page 325 states: "The addendum to the NHPA (16 U.S.C. § 470a-2, International Federal Activities Affecting Historic Properties) requires an	installations focus on infrastructure enhancements for host and tenant command missions. Importantly, every environmental document considers the cumulative impacts to the environment from other relevant past, present, and reasonably foreseeable future actions (federal, state, local, and private) in addition to the proposed action. The Navy has been training in the Olympic Military Operations Area (MOA) for over 40 years, and the Navy has not proposed any significant changes to the way aircrew train in the MOA. The Navy recently analyzed plans to enhance existing training by adding one fixed transmitter at Pacific Beach and three mobile transmitter vehicles that would operate on existing logging roads and pull-out areas on U.S. Forest Service land. The Navy has not proposed to use National Park Service land. EW training and EW Range enhancements were analyzed in the Navy's Northwest Training Range Complex (NWTRC) EIS/OEIS, completed in 2010. When more information became available on mobile and fixed signal transmitters for the EW Range, the Navy prepared the EW Range EA to analyze placement and operation of those transmitters. The Navy completed the EA and issued a Finding of No Significant Impact on August 28, 2014. The introduction of the land-based transmitters to enhance existing training will not harm people, animals, or the environment. The Navy has decades of experience building and operating signal equipment, with no adverse effects to people, animals, or the environment. Though there is a proposed increase in EW training events associated with the range enhancements and analyzed in this EIS/OEIS, the increase in events does not equate to a comparable increase in the number of aircraft flights or in the duration of flights. EW training flights are already occurring in the Olympic MOA, and it is estimated that this proposal will only result in an approximately 10 percent annual increase in actual flights, which equates to approximately one additional flight per day. This is because each flight will be able to accommodate multiple EW training events. As described in Section 3.10 (Cultural Resources), Section 3.12 (Socioeconomics), and Section 3.13 (Public Health and Safety) of the Draft EIS/OEIS, the Navy's proposed activities are not expected to impact cultural resources, socioeconomic resources, or public health and safety.

Table I.5-4: Responses to Comments from Private Individuals (continued)

Commenter	Comment	Navy Response
	assessment by federal agencies of project effects on resources outside U.S. territorial waters that are identified on the World Heritage List or on the applicable country's equivalent of the National Register of Historic Places. Two World Heritage resources, the Redwood National and State Parks in northern California and the Olympic National Park in Washington, are adjacent to the Study Area; however, no resources identified on the World Heritage List occur in the Study Area. " If the study area were to accurately reflect the true extent of the proposed EWR, including the substantial land use areas proposed for Olympic National Forest and state Department of Natural Resources lands where mobile emitters sites abut Olympic National Park, there would need to be assessment under NHPA and EO12114. The increase in overflights above coastal and inland portions of Olympic National Park would be extensive and impacts of these flights need to be considered. World Heritage Sites are covered by International treaty "The Convention Concerning the Protection of the World Cultural and Natural Heritage" General Conference of UNESCO adopted 16 November 1972. The United States as a party to this treaty needs to honor its intent to preserve a place that has been designated as having global importance. Given these concerns, I am requesting the following of the Navy: 1. Follow the NEPA process and conduct a full EIS that includes impacts to the land portions of the EWR that exist under Olympic MOA's A and B. This IES should be part of one comprehensive EIS which includes all the aspects of the increased Growler fleet at Whidbey Island Naval Station and the full functionality and purpose of that fleet and its impacts on the entire region. 2. Follow the NHPA process as outlined in section 3.10 NWTT as Olympic National Park is a World Heritage Site and underlays large portions of the Olympic MOA's. Consideration of this is also required under EO12114. 3. Explore all possible alternatives sites for Electronic Warfare training to lands that are already under the Department of Defense jurisdiction and will not degrade land that is in the public domain and has been set aside for the preservation and enjoyment of generations yet to come. Thank you for the opportunity to comment. Lee Norton Joyce, WA	
O'Brien (Electronic)	I am asking the US Navy to scale back their use of Sonar Buoys on the Pacific Coast for the benefit of whales.	The Navy shares your concern for marine life, but this concern must be balanced with the purpose and need for Navy training and testing as detailed in Chapter 2 (Description of Proposed Action and Alternatives) of the EIS/OEIS. The Navy has conducted active sonar training and testing activities in the Study Area for decades, and there is no evidence that routine Navy training and testing has negatively impacted marine mammal populations in the Study Area or at any Navy Range Complex. Based on the best available science summarized in the EIS/OEIS Section 3.4.4.1 (Summary of Monitoring and Observations During Navy Activities) long-term consequences for marine mammal populations are unlikely to result from Navy training

Table I.5-4: Responses to Comments from Private Individuals (continued)

Commenter	Comment	Navy Response
		and testing activities in the Study Area. Please also refer to Chapter 5 (Standard Operating Procedures, Mitigation, and Monitoring) of the EIS/OEIS, detailing the procedures and mitigation measures during its training and testing activities designed to reduce impacts to marine mammals from Navy activities.
Ocean (Electronic)	The Navy's current environmental analysis fails to provide basic information necessary to adequately evaluate the impacts of the proposed activities. This analysis also fails to provide adequate measures to mitigate the harmful effects of the proposed activities on marine mammals and other wildlife. Based on the information apparent in the environmental analysis, the Navy's "No Action Alternative" is the proposal with the most limited impact on wildlife. A drastic increase in sonar activity will negatively impact wildlife. Marine mammals are extremely sensitive to noise, and sonar disrupts basic behaviors necessary for survival such as migration, surfacing, navigating, hearing, nursing, breeding and feeding. Sonar can result in debilitating and even fatal injuries for marine mammals. Scientists believe sonar activity can change whale diving behavior, confusing them to swim to depths their bodies cannot handle. Whales suspected to have beached themselves because of sonar activity show signs of physical trauma like bleeding around the brain, ears and other tissues and large bubbles in their organs – symptoms analogous to "the bends" in humans. To the extent that threatened or endangered species -- including humpback and sperm whales, and leatherback turtles -- are negatively impacted, the proposed activities may result in violations of the Endangered Species Act.	As described in the Supplement in Section 3.5.2 (Sea Turtle Summary), the proposed increase in the use of SSQ-125 sonobuoys "are not expected to result in substantial changes to behavior, growth, survival, annual reproductive success, lifetime reproductive success (fitness), or species recruitment, and are not expected to result in population-level impacts." The Navy shares your concern for marine life, but this concern must be balanced with the purpose and need for Navy training and testing as detailed in Chapter 2 (Description of Proposed Action and Alternatives) of the EIS/OEIS. The Navy has conducted training and testing activities in the Study Area for decades, and there is no evidence that routine Navy training and testing has negatively impacted individual sea turtles or sea turtle populations, or marine mammal populations in the Study Area or at any Navy Range Complex. Based on the best available science summarized in the EIS/OEIS Section 3.4.4.1 (Summary of Monitoring and Observations During Navy Activities), long-term consequences for marine mammal populations are unlikely to result from Navy training and testing activities in the Study Area. Note that for sea turtles, as described in the EIS/OEIS Section 3.5.3.7.1 (Combined Impacts of All Stressors), "impacts are not expected to decrease the overall fitness or result in long-term population level impacts on any given population." Please also refer to Chapter 5 (Standard Operating Procedures, Mitigation, and Monitoring) of the EIS/OEIS, detailing the procedures and mitigation measures during its training and testing activities designed to reduce impacts to marine mammals and sea turtles from Navy activities.
O'Donnell (Electronic)	I support the right of marine mammals to live safely in their waters without damage from sonar testing. Your data says the Navy will kill hundreds of whales and dolphins. What are you doing? Why? Do you not realize that we are all part of this magnificent chain of life? I urge you to pursue a peaceful co-existence with sea and land creatures, including humans. You/we have the ability to do such profound good works without maiming those which do not have representation. Re-invent what is being done with the good of all in consideration, harming none. Stop sonic testing. Stop the loud noise. Sincerely, in peace.	The Navy shares your concern for marine life, but this concern must be balanced with the purpose and need for Navy training and testing as detailed in Chapter 2 (Description of Proposed Action and Alternatives) of the EIS/OEIS. The Navy has conducted active sonar training and testing activities in the Study Area for decades, and there is no evidence that routine Navy training and testing has negatively impacted marine mammal populations in the Study Area or at any Navy Range Complex. Based on the best available science

Table I.5-4: Responses to Comments from Private Individuals (continued)

Commenter	Comment	Navy Response
		summarized in the EIS/OEIS Section 3.4.4.1 (Summary of Monitoring and Observations During Navy Activities), long-term consequences for marine mammal populations are unlikely to result from Navy training and testing activities in the Study Area. Please also refer to Chapter 5 (Standard Operating Procedures, Mitigation, and Monitoring) of the EIS/OEIS, detailing the procedures and mitigation measures during its training and testing activities designed to reduce impacts to marine mammals from Navy activities.
Opatikova (Electronic)	•The Navy's current environmental analysis fails to provide basic information necessary to adequately evaluate the impacts of the proposed activities. This analysis also fails to provide adequate measures to mitigate the harmful effects of the proposed activities on marine mammals and other wildlife. •Based on the information apparent in the environmental analysis, the Navy's "No Action Alternative" is the proposal with the most limited impact on wildlife. •A drastic increase in sonar activity will negatively impact wildlife. Marine mammals are extremely sensitive to noise, and sonar disrupts basic behaviors necessary for survival such as migration, surfacing, navigating, hearing, nursing, breeding and feeding. •Sonar can result in debilitating and even fatal injuries for marine mammals. Scientists believe sonar activity can change whale diving behavior, confusing them to swim to depths their bodies cannot handle. Whales suspected to have beached themselves because of sonar activity show signs of physical trauma like bleeding around the brain, ears and other tissues and large bubbles in their organs – symptoms analogous to "the bends" in humans. •To the extent that threatened or endangered species -- including humpback and sperm whales, and leatherback turtles -- are negatively impacted, the proposed activities may result in violations of the Endangered Species Act.	The Navy shares your concern for marine life, but this concern must be balanced with the purpose and need for Navy training and testing as detailed in Chapter 2 (Description of Proposed Action and Alternatives) of the EIS/OEIS. The Navy has conducted training and testing activities in the Study Area for decades, and there is no evidence that routine Navy training and testing has negatively impacted individual sea turtles or sea turtle populations, or marine mammal populations in the Study Area or at any Navy Range Complex. Based on the best available science summarized in the EIS/OEIS Section 3.4.4.1 (Summary of Monitoring and Observations During Navy Activities), long-term consequences for marine mammal populations are unlikely to result from Navy training and testing activities in the Study Area. Note that for sea turtles, as described in the EIS/OEIS Section 3.5.3.7.1 (Combined Impacts of All Stressors), "impacts are not expected to decrease the overall fitness or result in long-term population level impacts on any given population." Please also refer to Chapter 5 (Standard Operating Procedures, Mitigation, and Monitoring) of the EIS/OEIS, detailing the procedures and mitigation measures during its training and testing activities designed to reduce impacts to marine mammals and sea turtles from Navy activities. Regarding previous strandings, see Section 3.4.3.1.8 (Stranding) and the referenced technical report "Marine Mammal Strandings Associated with U.S. Navy Sonar Activities" (U.S. Department of the Navy 2013c).
O'Rielly (Electronic)	Please protect and honor our marine wildlife. The Navy's current environmental analysis fails to provide basic information necessary to adequately evaluate the impacts of the proposed activities. This analysis also fails to provide adequate measures to mitigate the harmful effects of the proposed activities on marine mammals and other wildlife. Based on the information apparent in the environmental analysis, the Navy's "No Action Alternative" is the proposal with the	The Navy shares your concern for marine life, but this concern must be balanced with the purpose and need for Navy training and testing as detailed in Chapter 2 (Description of Proposed Action and Alternatives) of the EIS/OEIS. The Navy has conducted training and testing activities in the Study Area for decades, and there is no evidence that routine Navy training and testing has negatively impacted individual

Table I.5-4: Responses to Comments from Private Individuals (continued)

Commenter	Comment	Navy Response
	most limited impact on wildlife. A drastic increase in sonar activity will negatively impact wildlife. Marine mammals are extremely sensitive to noise, and sonar disrupts basic behaviors necessary for survival such as migration, surfacing, navigating, hearing, nursing, breeding and feeding. Sonar can result in debilitating and even fatal injuries for marine mammals. Scientists believe sonar activity can change whale diving behavior, confusing them to swim to depths their bodies cannot handle. Whales suspected to have beached themselves because of sonar activity show signs of physical trauma like bleeding around the brain, ears and other tissues and large bubbles in their organs – symptoms analogous to "the bends" in humans. To the extent that threatened or endangered species -- including humpback and sperm whales, and leatherback turtles -- are negatively impacted, the proposed activities may result in violations of the Endangered Species Act.	sea turtles or sea turtle populations, or marine mammal populations in the Study Area or at any Navy Range Complex. Based on the best available science summarized in the EIS/OEIS Section 3.4.4.1 (Summary of Monitoring and Observations During Navy Activities), long-term consequences for marine mammal populations are unlikely to result from Navy training and testing activities in the Study Area. Note that for sea turtles, as described in the EIS/OEIS Section 3.5.3.7.1 (Combined Impacts of All Stressors), "impacts are not expected to decrease the overall fitness or result in long-term population level impacts on any given population." Please also refer to Chapter 5 (Standard Operating Procedures, Mitigation, and Monitoring) of the EIS/OEIS, detailing the procedures and mitigation measures during its training and testing activities designed to reduce impacts to marine mammals and sea turtles from Navy activities.
Osmundson (Electronic)	This sonar issue concerns every living being, and is irresponsible resource management by the Navy. The Navy knows this is unethical abuse. The Navy is very aware that using sonar is harmful to all, and that by employing sonar in our Northwest marine habitat it will kill, and harm our beloved ocean mammals. DO NOT ALLOW THESE TEST TO HAPPEN. BAN ANY FURTHER USE OF SONAR/EXPLOSIVES. CONSIDER THIS ONE WAY HUMANS CAN NOT ONLY FORSAKE OUR FUTURE BUT CONSIDER THOSE GENERATION WHOM WILL INHERIT THE DEVASTATION CAUSED BY THIS IRRESPONSIBLE BEHAVIOR. THE FOCUS SHOULD BE ON POSITIVE GUARDIANSHIP OF MOTHER EARTH.	The Navy shares your concern for marine life, but this concern must be balanced with the purpose and need for Navy training and testing as detailed in Chapter 2 (Description of Proposed Action and Alternatives) of the EIS/OEIS. The Navy has conducted active sonar training and testing activities in the Study Area for decades, and there is no evidence that routine Navy training and testing has negatively impacted marine mammal populations in the Study Area or at any Navy Range Complex. Based on the best available science summarized in the EIS/OEIS Section 3.4.4.1 (Summary of Monitoring and Observations During Navy Activities), long-term consequences for marine mammal populations are unlikely to result from Navy training and testing activities in the Study Area. Please also refer to Chapter 5 (Standard Operating Procedures, Mitigation, and Monitoring) of the EIS/OEIS, detailing the procedures and mitigation measures during its training and testing activities designed to reduce impacts to marine mammals from Navy activities.
Ott (Electronic)	For what it is worth, I myself am against the proposed actions of the Navy in the Pacific Northwest. Every action has a reaction, a simple rule of life. To sit there and say it will have no impact on our environment is just plain ludicrous. First off, they are wanting to use the Quillayute National Wildlife Refuge as their E.M.P. Radiation test site, not to mention now they want to use Sonar in the migratory waterways of many sea mammals. To be so arrogant, to sit there and say it will have no impact is such a blatant way to say you really don't care about the American public or our voices. How Un-American is that?! These tests are no more then a means to create	The Navy shares your concern for marine life, but this concern must be balanced with the purpose and need for Navy training and testing as detailed in Chapter 2 (Description of Proposed Action and Alternatives) of the EIS/OEIS. The Navy has conducted active sonar training and testing activities in the Study Area for decades, and there is no evidence that routine Navy training and testing has negatively impacted marine mammal populations in the Study Area or at any Navy Range Complex. Based on the best available science

Table I.5-4: Responses to Comments from Private Individuals (continued)

Commenter	Comment	Navy Response
	more military spending and higher taxes, while reducing medical and social security benefits (which we the people paid for) in our own country. Second, living near an airway with continuous jets flying overhead, there is a residue that is left from the jet fuel that falls for the rest of us to breath including Flora and Fauna. I realize I can't go on rambling about every little thing it will have an impact on, but that just shows every little thing has a reaction. NOISE, Radiation exposure to endangered species, Sonar effects on sea mammals, Radiation exposure to us the public and how the E.M.P. may temporarily knock out our own emergency response systems.	summarized in the EIS/OEIS Section 3.4.4.1 (Summary of Monitoring and Observations During Navy Activities) long-term consequences for marine mammal populations are unlikely to result from Navy training and testing activities in the Study Area. Please also refer to Chapter 5 (Standard Operating Procedures, Mitigation, and Monitoring) of the EIS/OEIS, detailing the procedures and mitigation measures during its training and testing activities designed to reduce impacts to marine mammals from Navy activities. Analysis of airfield activities and relocation of aircraft and personnel is addressed in other environmental planning documents, such as the Draft Environmental Assessment for the Transition of Expeditionary EA-6B Prowler Squadrons to EA-18G Growler at Naval Air Station Whidbey Island, Oak Harbor, Washington (U.S. Department of the Navy, 2012). Therefore, the NWTT EIS/OEIS includes the analysis of activities only where those activities occur, nor does it include activities commonly associated with an airfield, such as engine run-ups, takeoffs, and landings.
Page (Electronic)	you find ways to practice without seriously impacting fragile sea life?	The Navy shares your concern for marine life, but this concern must be balanced with the purpose and need for Navy training and testing as detailed in Chapter 2 (Description of Proposed Action and Alternatives) of the EIS/OEIS. The Navy has conducted active sonar training and testing activities in the Study Area for decades, and there is no evidence that routine Navy training and testing has negatively impacted marine mammal populations in the Study Area or at any Navy Range Complex. Based on the best available science summarized in the EIS/OEIS Section 3.4.4.1 (Summary of Monitoring and Observations During Navy Activities) long-term consequences for marine mammal populations are unlikely to result from Navy training and testing activities in the Study Area. Please also refer to Chapter 5 (Standard Operating Procedures, Mitigation, and Monitoring) of the EIS/OEIS, detailing the procedures and mitigation measures during its training and testing activities designed to reduce impacts to marine mammals from Navy activities.
Palecek (Electronic)	The Navy's current environmental analysis fails to provide basic information necessary to adequately evaluate the impacts of the proposed activities. This analysis also fails to provide adequate measures to mitigate the harmful effects of the proposed activities on marine mammals and other wildlife. Based on the information apparent in the environmental analysis, the Navy's "No Action Alternative" is the proposal with the most limited impact on wildlife. A drastic	The Navy shares your concern for marine life, but this concern must be balanced with the purpose and need for Navy training and testing as detailed in Chapter 2 (Description of Proposed Action and Alternatives) of the EIS/OEIS. The Navy has conducted training and testing activities in the Study Area for decades, and there is no evidence that routine Navy training and testing has negatively impacted individual

Table I.5-4: Responses to Comments from Private Individuals (continued)

Commenter	Comment	Navy Response
	increase in sonar activity will negatively impact wildlife. Marine mammals are extremely sensitive to noise, and sonar disrupts basic behaviors necessary for survival such as migration, surfacing, navigating, hearing, nursing, breeding and feeding. Sonar can result in debilitating and even fatal injuries for marine mammals. Scientists believe sonar activity can change whale diving behavior, confusing them to swim to depths their bodies cannot handle. Whales suspected to have beached themselves because of sonar activity show signs of physical trauma like bleeding around the brain, ears and other tissues and large bubbles in their organs – symptoms analogous to "the bends" in humans. To the extent that threatened or endangered species -- including humpback and sperm whales, and leatherback turtles -- are negatively impacted, the proposed activities may result in violations of the Endangered Species Act.	sea turtles or sea turtle populations, or marine mammal populations in the Study Area or at any Navy Range Complex. Based on the best available science summarized in the EIS/OEIS Section 3.4.4.1 (Summary of Monitoring and Observations During Navy Activities), long-term consequences for marine mammal populations are unlikely to result from Navy training and testing activities in the Study Area. Note that for sea turtles, as described in the EIS/OEIS Section 3.5.3.7.1 (Combined Impacts of All Stressors), "impacts are not expected to decrease the overall fitness or result in long-term population level impacts on any given population." Please also refer to Chapter 5 (Standard Operating Procedures, Mitigation, and Monitoring) of the EIS/OEIS, detailing the procedures and mitigation measures during its training and testing activities designed to reduce impacts to marine mammals and sea turtles from Navy activities. Regarding previous strandings, see Section 3.4.3.1.8 (Stranding) and the referenced technical report "Marine Mammal Strandings Associated with U.S. Navy Sonar Activities" (U.S. Department of the Navy 2013c). Based on the best available science summarized in the EIS/OEIS Section 3.4.4.1 (Summary of Monitoring and Observations During Navy Activities), long-term consequences for marine mammal populations are unlikely to result from Navy training and testing activities in the Study Area.
Palmer (Electronic)	I oppose any additional increase in noise that contributes to the disorientation of oceanic mammels.	Thank you for participating in the NEPA process.
Paradise (Electronic)	Please explore alternatives to sonar testing because of the damage that such testing causes to marine mammals. Thanks for your consideration of this request.	Currently sonar is the best technology for locating small objects in the water that we possess. The Navy is constantly evaluating and funding research to assess improved technologies that will achieve Navy mission goals while protecting resources on land and at sea. Evaluation of these technologies continues to be a Navy focus as is research into all technologies that will protect and defend the United States. The Navy shares your concern for marine life, but this concern must be balanced with the purpose and need for Navy training and testing as detailed in Chapter 2 (Description of Proposed Action and Alternatives) of the EIS/OEIS. The Navy has conducted active sonar training and testing activities in the Study Area for decades, and there is no

Table I.5-4: Responses to Comments from Private Individuals (continued)

Commenter	Comment	Navy Response
		evidence that routine Navy training and testing has negatively impacted marine mammal populations in the Study Area or at any Navy Range Complex. Based on the best available science summarized in the EIS/OEIS Section 3.4.4.1 (Summary of Monitoring and Observations During Navy Activities) long-term consequences for marine mammal populations are unlikely to result from Navy training and testing activities in the Study Area. Please also refer to Chapter 5 (Standard Operating Procedures, Mitigation, and Monitoring) of the EIS/OEIS, detailing the procedures and mitigation measures during its training and testing activities designed to reduce impacts to marine mammals from Navy activities.
Parham (Electronic)	Please do not kill whales and other marine life with sonar emitting buoys. Our whale population is already decreasing without the U.S. Navy causing it to decrease faster.	The Navy shares your concern for marine life, but this concern must be balanced with the purpose and need for Navy training and testing as detailed in Chapter 2 (Description of Proposed Action and Alternatives) of the EIS/OEIS. The Navy has conducted active sonar training and testing activities in the Study Area for decades, and there is no evidence that routine Navy training and testing has negatively impacted marine mammal populations in the Study Area or at any Navy Range Complex. Based on the best available science summarized in the EIS/OEIS Section 3.4.4.1 (Summary of Monitoring and Observations During Navy Activities) long-term consequences for marine mammal populations are unlikely to result from Navy training and testing activities in the Study Area. Please also refer to Chapter 5 (Standard Operating Procedures, Mitigation, and Monitoring) of the EIS/OEIS, detailing the procedures and mitigation measures during its training and testing activities designed to reduce impacts to marine mammals from Navy activities.
park (Electronic)	This is concerning the EIS/OEIS proposal for the Pacific Coast area. I strongly protest the increase in these devices along the Pacific Coast. Our coastline is some of the last pristine coastline in our country.The wildlife that it supports would be severely adversely affected. The Navy has documented this in their report. The unlikely threat of "submarine warfare" is not worth our wildlife. In Oregon, we have a unique population of Grey Whales that live here year round. This population would move on in the presence of sonar technology. I am contacting the necessary congress members to fight this highly damaging proposal. Jennifer Park citizen1689@gmail.com Springfield Oregon	The Navy shares your concern for marine life, but this concern must be balanced with the purpose and need for Navy training and testing as detailed in Chapter 2 (Description of Proposed Action and Alternatives) of the EIS/OEIS. The Navy has conducted active sonar training and testing activities in the Study Area for decades, and there is no evidence that routine Navy training and testing has negatively impacted marine mammal populations in the Study Area or at any Navy Range Complex. Based on the best available science summarized in the EIS/OEIS Section 3.4.4.1 (Summary of Monitoring and Observations During Navy Activities) long-term consequences for marine mammal populations are unlikely to result from Navy training and testing activities in the Study Area. Please also refer to Chapter 5 (Standard Operating Procedures, Mitigation, and Monitoring) of the

Table I.5-4: Responses to Comments from Private Individuals (continued)

Commenter	Comment	Navy Response
		EIS/OEIS, detailing the procedures and mitigation measures during its training and testing activities designed to reduce impacts to marine mammals from Navy activities.
Parka-01 (Written)	I wish to take this opportunity to comment on the Supplement (December 2014) to the Navy's Draft Environmental Impact Statement Overseas Environmental Impact Statement (DEIS), dated January 2014, for its continued training and testing activities in the Pacific Northwest (NWTT). Please include these comments in the administrative record.	Thank you for participating in the NEPA process.
Parka-02	I have offered comments previously on the DEIS for a USFS permit to allow the Navy to conduct electromagnetic radiation warfare exercises, and on the scoping issues for the addition of Growler jets to the Whidbey Naval station. I object to the fact that the Navy has failed to address as a whole the overall, cumulative impacts of all Its proposed expansion activities in the Northwest. Only an overarching assessment can adequately describe the wide scope and intensity of impacts on the humans, wildlife, airspace, and inland and offshore waters, implicit in the Navy's proposed activities.	The Navy used the best available science and a comprehensive review of past, present, and reasonably foreseeable actions to develop a robust Cumulative Impacts analysis. See Chapter 4 (Cumulative Impacts) of the EIS/OEIS, which has been updated for the Final EIS/OEIS. There are no weapons testing activities proposed in the Olympic National Forest in the Supplement to the Draft EIS/OEIS. There are no activities involving the use of electronic radiation proposed in the Supplement to the Draft EIS/OEIS. It is also important to note that the proposed activities would not change how or where the Navy has been flying for decades. Analysis of airfield activities and relocation of aircraft and personnel is addressed in other environmental planning documents, such as the Draft Environmental Assessment for the Transition of Expeditionary EA-6B Prowler Squadrons to EA-18G Growler at Naval Air Station Whidbey Island, Oak Harbor, Washington (U.S. Department of the Navy, 2012). Therefore, the NWTT EIS/OEIS includes the analysis of activities only where those activities occur, nor does it include activities commonly associated with an airfield, such as takeoffs and landings.
Parka-03	The scale of proposed increases in the Dec. 2014 Supplement for sonobuoys, marine exercises, aircraft activity, and expanded testing of sonar and explosives is, in a word, ALARMING, and seemingly unjustifiable. While most citizens/taxpayers would acknowledge the need for military preparedness, the Navy offers no rationale for the stated expansion of many activities over levels stated in the 2010 DEIS, when the purported goal of preparedness was the same. This gross expansion, along with the "inadvertent errors and omissions of key elements of the Navy's NWTT activities and scope of proposed activities (see sections 2.3.3, 2.3.4, 3.0.3.4, etc.) strongly suggests that an entirely new EIS to evaluate the Navy's complete blueprint for airborne, land, and marine activities should be initiated.	A full description of the purpose and need for the Proposed Action can be found in Chapter 1 (Purpose and Need). The Navy completed the Supplement to the Draft EIS/OEIS in compliance with current law, including the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA). In addition to NEPA, the Navy continues to comply with other applicable environmental laws and with a number of regulatory requirements, such as the Marine Mammal Protection Act, the Endangered Species Act, the Coastal Zone Management Act, and the Magnuson-Stevens Fishery Conservation and Management Act.

Table I.5-4: Responses to Comments from Private Individuals (continued)

Commenter	Comment	Navy Response
Parka-04	Impacts on humans and environment The increases in naval exercises described in the supplement-including aircraft overflights, pier-side underwater activities, weapons testing, sonar operations, and establishment of new shoreline Navy stations in the Puget Sound, Strait of Juan de Fuca, and other as-yet-undisclosed locations-will have myriad effects on humans and wildlife that the Navy simply dismisses. Increased Navy vessel traffic will interfere with and restrict civilian marine activities such as boating, commercial transport, recreational diving, etc. And the considerably ramped-up Navy presence in those waters will boost the underwater noise and risk of injury to marine mammals already struggling to contend with current levels of such negative conditions.	As described in Section 3.10 (Cultural Resources), Section 3.12 (Socioeconomics), and Section 3.13 (Public Health and Safety) of the Draft EIS/OEIS, the Navy's proposed activities are fully compatible with other uses of the ocean space around the Sound, such as boating, commercial transport, recreational diving, etc. As described in the Supplement in Section 3.4.2 (Marine Mammal Summary), the proposed increase in the use of SSQ-125 sonobuoys would "not result in any long-term consequences for any marine mammal population or species; therefore, the conclusions stated in the Draft EIS/OEIS remain unchanged." The Navy has conducted active sonar training and testing activities in the Study Area for decades, and there is no evidence that routine Navy training and testing has negatively impacted marine mammal populations in the Study Area or at any Navy Range Complex. Based on the best available science summarized in the EIS/OEIS Section 3.4.4.1 (Summary of Monitoring and Observations During Navy Activities) long-term consequences for marine mammal populations are unlikely to result from Navy training and testing activities in the Study Area.
Parka-05	The increased aircraft activities will boost the already considerable airborne emissions and waterborne pollutants generated by the Navy in the region. An annual increase of 74% to 81%, as stated in the Supplement, is not insignificant! The Navy's disingenuous argument that most of the pollutants will be released at high altitudes and dispersed over large areas does not change the fact that these toxics will add to the burden of pollutants that alter atmospheric chemistry and eventually fall out to land and water. The impacts of increased greenhouse gas emissions from the combined activities of the Navy in the Northwest belie the national commitment to reduce emissions and curb climate change.	Best management practices include measures that regulate operations to ensure compliance with pollution emission requirements and general resource conservation goals. Navy policies and procedures identified in Navy instructions such as the Environmental Readiness Program Manual, include directives regarding waste management, pollution prevention, and recycling, all of which benefit sediments and water quality in the ocean. Any procedures or practices that benefit ocean sediments and water quality in turn benefit all marine life in the ocean, from plants and invertebrates, to fish and marine mammals. The Navy used the best available science and a comprehensive review of past, present, and reasonably foreseeable actions to develop a robust Cumulative Impacts analysis. The Navy has returned to the analysis in Chapter 4 (Cumulative Impacts) due to concerns raised in public comments, and the Chapter has been revised in response to those public comments. The literature on ocean acidification has been reviewed, and is now discussed in Section 4.4.4 (Climate Change), of Chapter 4 (Cumulative Impacts) of the EIS/OEIS.
Parka-06	The increased aircraft activity, including noise-induced health effects, impacts on quality of life, etc. have been addressed in public scoping comments, which should	The Navy used the best available science and a comprehensive review of past, present, and reasonably foreseeable actions to develop

Table I.5-4: Responses to Comments from Private Individuals (continued)

Commenter	Comment	Navy Response
	rightfully be incorporated into the final decision on the Navy's Draft Environmental Impact Statement/ Overseas Environmental Impact Statement. ALL THE IMPACTS OF PROPOSED ACTIVITIES SHOULD BE CONSIDERED AS A WHOLE	a robust Cumulative Impacts analysis (Chapter 4 of the NWTT EIS/OEIS). Please also see Section 3.13 (Public Health and Safety) for a full analysis of the impacts to health and quality of life for the public in the Study Area.
Parka-07	Impacts on marine wildlife The impacts of the proposed increases in Navy training exercises and operations on wildlife will only increase the risks posed to marine mammals, sea turtles, fish, and birds. The notion that amplifying the number of sonobuoys by nearly 700% will not increase the harmful effects to marine animals defies logic, regardless of what the Navy's numbers show. (As a veteran science writer, I am well aware of the ways in which modeling and statistical techniques can be used to generate “findings" in accord with the researchers' desired outcomes.) The Supplement lacks any mention of NOAA's CetMap data for marine mammal populations in the Pacific Northwest with respect to generating Navy estimates for harm to marine mammals. CetMap data offers the best tool for planning to mitigate harm and protect critical habitats, and an absence of intent to use this source would seem to indicate an absence of good faith effort on the Navy's part. I am also especially concerned that the Supplement and the EIS lack protective measures for the endangered Southern Resident Killer Whale's dwindling population. Despite the vast increases in sonar and explosives testing (TRACKEX) stated in the Supplement, no additional mitigation is mentioned or detailed. Will visual patrols be expanded for this new activity? And given the obvious inadequacy of visual monitoring during night-time and in rough seas, why has the Navy failed to include acoustic monitoring or avoidance strategies? The Navy's failure to develop meaningful alternatives and strategies to mitigate the increased risks of harm to marine mammals is unacceptable-particularly because the Navy's plan fails to adopt commonsense measures that would dramatically reduce these injuries and deaths without compromising national security. Most importantly, the Navy should put critical marine habitats off-limits to sonar and explosives testing and schedule training to avoid times of the year when sensitive species are present in places like the Olympic Coast National Marine Sanctuary, something it is not willing to do despite the scientific community's view that these would be the most effective means of reducing harm. The above mentioned concerns are serious omissions in a document that is purportedly intended to address the inadequate science and mitigation plans of the original draft and is unacceptable.	The Navy shares your concern for marine life, but this concern must be balanced with the purpose and need for Navy training and testing as detailed in Chapter 2 (Description of Proposed Action and Alternatives) of the EIS/OEIS. The Navy has conducted training and testing activities in the Study Area for decades, and there is no evidence that routine Navy training and testing has negatively impacted individual sea turtles or sea turtle populations, or marine mammal populations in the Study Area or at any Navy Range Complex. Based on the best available science summarized in the EIS/OEIS Section 3.4.4.1 (Summary of Monitoring and Observations During Navy Activities), long-term consequences for marine mammal populations are unlikely to result from Navy training and testing activities in the Study Area. Note that for sea turtles, as described in the EIS/OEIS Section 3.5.3.7.1 (Combined Impacts of All Stressors), “impacts are not expected to decrease the overall fitness or result in long-term population level impacts on any given population. Please also refer to Chapter 5 (Standard Operating Procedures, Mitigation, and Monitoring) of the EIS/OEIS, detailing the procedures and mitigation measures during its training and testing activities designed to reduce impacts to marine mammals and sea turtles from Navy activities. As part of the Navy’s effects analysis, the Navy considers all the science that identifies locations where certain cetacean populations or individuals are known to engage in feeding, breeding, or other biologically important activities at certain times of year. Recently, NMFS has taken steps to begin formally identifying some of these areas and naming them Biologically Important Areas (BIAs). The Navy has considered these areas as part of its analysis in this Final EIS/OEIS when discussing particular species in Chapter 3 (Affected Environment and Environmental Consequences) as well as in considering whether limitations on Navy activities in these areas are warranted as mitigation in discussion in Chapter 5 (see Section 5.3.4.1.11, Avoiding Marine Species Habitats and Biologically Important Areas). The Navy thoroughly considered the humpback and gray whale feeding areas identified recently in its analysis and whether avoidance as mitigation was appropriate. Given the impact avoidance

Table I.5-4: Responses to Comments from Private Individuals (continued)

Commenter	Comment	Navy Response
		would have on military readiness activities and lack of biological benefit, avoidance is not warranted. Please see Section 5.3.4.1.11 (Avoiding Marine Species Habitats and Biologically Important Areas). However, Navy is proposing to provide reporting of generally low use of sonar in some of these areas to NMFS as part of classified annual reports to help inform future adaptive management related to impacts in these areas. At time of release of this Final EIS/OEIS, NMFS and Navy are in ongoing discussion regarding mitigation for MMPA purposes. Should additional mitigation to that which Navy has proposed be identified in the MMPA rule making and authorization, it will be indicated in the ROD. It is important to note that the BIAs were not meant to define exclusionary zones, nor critical habitat with regulatory management, nor were they meant to be locations that serve as sanctuaries from human activity, or areas analogous to marine protected areas. The NMFS-identified BIAs do not have direct or immediate regulatory consequences and the BIAs located within the NWTT Study Area are not the only areas used for feeding, migrating, or reproductive activity for these cetaceans in a species' entire range and habitat. The stated intention is for the BIAs to serve as a resource management tool and their currently identified boundaries be considered dynamic and subject to change based on any new information as well as, "existing density estimates, range-wide distribution data, information on population trends and life history parameters, known threats to the population, and other relevant information." There is a lack of science supporting identification of any additional BIAs at this time for the Pacific. The Navy and NMFS have supported and will continue to support the Cetacean and Sound Mapping project, including providing representation on the Cetacean Density and Distribution Mapping Working Group (CetMap), which informed NMFS' identification of BIAs. The same marine mammal density data present in the Navy's Density Database Technical Report, and used in the analysis for this EIS/OEIS, was used in the development of BIAs. The final products, including U.S. West Coast BIAs from this mapping effort, were completed and published in March 2015. As described in the Supplement in Section 3.4.2 (Marine Mammal Summary), the proposed increase in the use of SSQ-125 sonobuoys would "not result in any long-term consequences for any marine mammal population or species; therefore, the conclusions stated in the Draft EIS/OEIS remain unchanged."

Table I.5-4: Responses to Comments from Private Individuals (continued)

Commenter	Comment	Navy Response
		As described in Chapter 5 (Standard Operating Procedures, Mitigation, and Monitoring) of the Final EIS/OEIS, the Navy evaluated the effectiveness and practicability of a number of potential mitigation measures including the avoidance of specific areas. The Navy has undertaken consultation with NMFS for the proposed and ongoing activities in the NWTT Study Area and the Navy refined the mitigation measures, which are now presented in Chapter 5 (Standard Operating Procedures, Mitigation, and Monitoring) of this Final EIS/OEIS. Through careful exploration of all mitigation measures to determine which were the most effective, the Navy chose the measures to mitigate potential impacts to marine mammals while still being able to meet its operational needs to train for real-world conditions. The Navy's specific mitigation measures are outlined in the following sections: Section 5.3.1 (Lookout Procedural Measures), Section 5.3.2 (Mitigation Zone Procedural Measures), and Section 5.3.3 (Mitigation Areas). Specifically, Section 5.3.4 (Mitigation Measures Considered but Eliminated) presents Navy consideration of similar area restrictions. The Navy and NMFS will use the Adaptive Management process to assess whether any additional mitigation should be considered in identified biologically important areas. Please see Section 5.3.3 and 5.3.4, in which protection zones were considered and discussed. In addition, as described in Section 5.3.2 (Mitigation Zone Procedural Measures), the Navy has considered and established activity-specific mitigation zones for the protection of species that may be present no matter where the activity may occur. The U.S. Navy has conducted active sonar training and testing activities for decades in the seaspace depicted in the Study Area with no evidence to indicate any meaningful impacts to marine habitats in the area. The Navy and NMFS jointly are still in ongoing consultation with the OCNMS regarding the effects of the Proposed Action on Sanctuary resources. The Navy concludes its continued activities are not likely to result in the loss, destruction, or adverse changes to the viability of Sanctuary resources. Several points support this determination: • Less than two percent of proposed training and 15 percent of proposed testing activities would occur within or immediately adjacent to the OCNMS. • The NWTT Final EIS/OEIS shows that training and testing activities have minimal temporary impacts on the quantity or quality of the Study Area's physical environment, and minor to no impacts on marine or

Table I.5-4: Responses to Comments from Private Individuals (continued)

Commenter	Comment	Navy Response
		shore birds, fish, sea turtles, or invertebrate marine life. • Although explosives have the potential to affect the physical and biological resources, the Navy does not use explosives within the OCNMS. • The Navy concludes any marine mammal behavioral reactions to NWTT training and testing activities would be transitory, infrequent, non-cumulative, and impacts are not expected to decrease overall individual fitness or result in long-term population-level impacts on any given population, and consequently will not result in any adverse changes to the sanctuary. Finally, all Department of Defense (DoD) military activities shall be carried out in a manner that avoids to the maximum extent practicable any adverse impacts on Sanctuary resources and qualities.
Parka-08	Flawed public process Disturbingly, the current NWTT Supplement, the Navy's engagement in the process of informing the public has been extremely flawed and piecemeal. The Navy has not been forthright in its disclosures or clear about its overall aims. Similarly, the Navy has been remiss in investigating a wider range of alternatives in its planning and assessments and has failed to utilize substantive and available scientific resources to draw conclusions on the impacts of its proposed activities. The sum total of all these activities has enormous consequences for the Pacific Northwest region and all that live here now and into the future. There is an obligation to present this wide-ranging blueprint as an Integrated plan (surely it was conceived as such?} rather than the fragmented series of proposals that have been issued over barely a year's time to an overwhelmed public.	The Navy made significant efforts to notify the public to ensure maximum public participation during the public comment period, including using postcards, press releases, and newspaper display advertisements. The public could download and review the document, and make comments to it, on the website (www.NWTTEIS.com). The Navy is committed to protecting the marine environment during the conduct of its training and testing activities. As described in Chapter 5 (Standard Operating Procedures, Mitigation, and Monitoring) of the EIS/OEIS, the Navy has used extensive measures to protect the marine environment while training and testing for nearly a decade. The Alternatives carried forward meet the Navy's purpose and need to ensure that it can fulfill its obligation under U.S.C. Title 10. See Section 2.5 for more detailed information on the development of alternatives.
Parka-09	Evidence already abounds in our marine and terrestrial environments of harm from climate change, habitat degradation, pollution, ocean acidification, and other damaging influences. The Navy's current plans will result in further deterioration of the precious resource that contributes to the economic vitality and beauty of our Pacific Northwest-in all likelihood to a greater degree than we can envision. It is up to all of us, including the Navy, to protect the region from further damage. Thank you for the opportunity to comment.	The Navy used the best available science and a comprehensive review of past, present, and reasonably foreseeable actions to develop a robust Cumulative Impacts analysis. The Navy has returned to the analysis in Chapter 4 (Cumulative Impacts) due to concerns raised in public comments, and the Chapter has been revised in response to those public comments. The literature on ocean acidification has been reviewed, and is now discussed in Section 4.4.4 (Climate Change), of Chapter 4 (Cumulative Impacts) of the EIS/OEIS.
parker (Electronic)	SUPPLEMENT: GENERAL CONCLUSIONS 1. In its executive summary (ES), the Navy consistently brushes off possible impacts with evasive language: "not likely to", "not expected to", no matter what impact they are talking about. These are	As described in the Supplement in Section 3.4.2 (Marine Mammal Summary), the proposed increase in the use of SSQ-125 sonobuoys would "not result in any long-term consequences for any marine

Table I.5-4: Responses to Comments from Private Individuals (continued)

Commenter	Comment	Navy Response
	broad affirmations with vague words, with which they dismiss any consequences to birds, mammals, sea turtles, etc. 2. However, the Navy acknowledges a substantial increase of sonobuoys and expended sonobuoy-related waste under Alternatives 1 & 2. The negative impacts of sonar (e.g., on marine mammals, etc.).have received a lot of published research, but the Navy has provided no rebuttal. 3. In the Supplement (2.3.1 and Figure 2-1), the Navy changes the Olympic Study Area eastern boundary, from abutting the entire Washington coastline (as it was identified in the draft NWTT EIS), to 12 nautical miles west of coast, changing approximately (??) at the point of Pacific Beach and proceeding further south. Supplement 2.3.1: "In the Draft EIS/OEIS, the eastern boundary of the Offshore Area of the NWTT Study Area was defined as the coastline for the entire Washington state. Following the Draft EIS/OEIS, the Navy reduced the Offshore Area by revising the eastern boundary to 12 nautical miles (nm) off the coast along the southern part of the state of Washington." It appears that the Study Area is not and never was congruent with the Military Operations Areas A&B, which penetrate east into the state. (See NWTT Figure/Map 2-1.1). If the Navy wants to change its study area, why not do so to make the study area and MOAs congruent so as to guarantee that land impacts would be part of the scope of environmental work? Prior comments to the Navy from the public have stated that the Navy provided bogus excuses in prior documents (example below) for such omissions, example below: NWTT 2.1: "The land resources affected by use of the Olympic MOAs A and B will be evaluated as they are directly impacted by overflights for at-sea activities. The remaining land-based portions of the range complex are addressed in previous National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) documentation, and that analysis remains valid. The previous NEPA analysis remains valid because both the Proposed Action and the conditions related to land areas in this analysis are the same as analyzed in previous NEPA documents." NO LAND BASED ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACTS HAVE BEEN ANALYZED IN THE SUPPLEMENT OR IN PRIOR NEPA DOCUMENTS. By modifying the study area, the Navy has moved yet further away from evaluating the impacts of growlers and electronic warfare on the proposed new inland mobile emitter sites within the National Forest. 4. At very few points does the supplement ever address growler noise impact on people and wildlife, although growlers will be traversing over the Peninsula. They are assuming we believe their planes really stay at 3000, in spite of noise complaints already coming from various residents on the Peninsula. 5. This document, as with prior documents, does not justify the merits of Pacific Beach or the inland sites for mobile emitters over other sites for expanded electronic warfare. 6. The increase in air pollutants from Alt. #2 is staggering, whether it is expressed for the entire Study Area or for the Olympic MOA, but the Navy never gives this any importance, because they say these omissions are off-shore and dispersed over large distances. Shouldn't this increase require review from a Federal Agency outside the Navy? The summary on air	mammal population or species; therefore, the conclusions stated in the Draft EIS/OEIS remain unchanged." The Navy shares your concern for marine life, but this concern must be balanced with the purpose and need for Navy training and testing as detailed in Chapter 2 (Description of Proposed Action and Alternatives) of the EIS/OEIS. The Navy has conducted training and testing activities in the Study Area for decades, and there is no evidence that routine Navy training and testing has negatively impacted individual sea turtles or sea turtle populations, or marine mammal populations in the Study Area or at any Navy Range Complex. Based on the best available science summarized in the EIS/OEIS Section 3.4.4.1 (Summary of Monitoring and Observations During Navy Activities), long-term consequences for marine mammal populations are unlikely to result from Navy training and testing activities in the Study Area. Note that for sea turtles, as described in the EIS/OEIS Section 3.5.3.7.1 (Combined Impacts of All Stressors), "impacts are not expected to decrease the overall fitness or result in long-term population level impacts on any given population." Please also refer to Chapter 5 (Standard Operating Procedures, Mitigation, and Monitoring) of the EIS/OEIS, detailing the procedures and mitigation measures during its training and testing activities designed to reduce impacts to marine mammals and sea turtles from Navy activities. There are no activities involving the use of electronic radiation proposed in the Supplement to the Draft EIS/OEIS. There are also no weapons testing activities proposed in the Olympic National Forest in the Supplement to the Draft EIS/OEIS. Analysis of airfield activities and relocation of aircraft and personnel is addressed in other environmental planning documents, such as the Draft Environmental Assessment for the Transition of Expeditionary EA-6B Prowler Squadrons to EA-18G Growler at Naval Air Station Whidbey Island, Oak Harbor, Washington (U.S. Department of the Navy, 2012). Therefore, the NWTT EIS/OEIS includes the analysis of activities only where those activities occur, nor does it include activities commonly associated with an airfield, such as takeoffs and landings. As described in Section 3.10 (Cultural Resources), Section 3.12 (Socioeconomics), and Section 3.13 (Public Health and Safety) of the Draft EIS/OEIS, the Navy's proposed activities are not expected to impact cultural resources, socioeconomic resources, or public health

Table I.5-4: Responses to Comments from Private Individuals (continued)

Commenter	Comment	Navy Response
	pollutants (Supplement 3.2.2).reiterates the irresponsible rationalizations that have contributed for years to ocean acidification, global warming, and myriad threats to wildlife on land and sea. Meanwhile, the rise of air pollutants (related to air and vessel fuel) badly undermines the Navy's justification of the EW range at Pacific Beach and at points inland in the National Forest as a fuel saver. The Navy is blowing fuel everywhere and does not appear to be cutting BACK on any other US site. 7. I found no discussion of economic impacts – for any area or any demographic. There was brief acknowledgement that Navy activities could impact tribal access and fishing. Auto traffic delays, bridges, ferries and non-Navy vessel problems are acknowledged broadly, but again, the Navy states that "no impacts are expected" (Supplement 3.12.1.1 and 3.12.2).	and safety. The Navy used the best available science and a comprehensive review of past, present, and reasonably foreseeable actions to develop a robust Cumulative Impacts analysis. The Navy has returned to the analysis in Chapter 4 (Cumulative Impacts) due to concerns raised in public comments, and the Chapter has been revised in response to those public comments. The literature on ocean acidification has been reviewed, and is now discussed in Section 4.4.4 (Climate Change), of Chapter 4 (Cumulative Impacts) of the EIS/OEIS.
Parthe (Electronic)	I am writing to express my strong opposition to the proposed EIS by the US Navy in regard to NORTHWEST TRAINING AND TESTING. The EIS has several very serious problems that could potentially lead to severe underestimation of the potential impact from all proposed activities This sonar testing will burst the internal organs and or deafen ant cetaceans within a wise range - thousands will die if this goes through. EIS failed to mention how strandings might not reflect the true extent of mortalities resulted from the Navy activities. For example, the experimental study that did controlled carcasses release offshore found that only 8% of experimentally released carcasses made it to shore. The model that was made based on data predicted that that only carcasses that have positive buoyancy will drift and wash ashore. The carcasses with negative buoyancy will sink and decompose. (Peltier et al., 2012). This could indicate that many animals affected will not wash ashore and will die offshore, never to be seen or counted. EIS does not provide any discussion on that and does not factor this fact in its mortality and impact estimations. Peltier's study is not cited in EIS either. Navy has grossly underestimated the actual impact of its activities. Furthermore, it omitted numerous significant and highly relevant studies. I urge officials in charge to deny this permit, because it does not show the true extent of Navy's activities. The Navy capitalizes on conflict of interest, cherry-picking of data and studies, lack of resources for independent studies and investigation, and dismal state of the US stranding network that cannot produce any compelling evidence for Navy's role in strandings - not because there is none, but because stranding field lacks resources, training, coordination and frankly desire to investigate and to find the cause for increasing strandings in the US. Thank you for your consideration.	The Navy shares your concern for marine life, but this concern must be balanced with the purpose and need for Navy training and testing as detailed in Chapter 2 (Description of Proposed Action and Alternatives) of the EIS/OEIS. The Navy has conducted active sonar training and testing activities in the Study Area for decades, and there is no evidence that routine Navy training and testing has negatively impacted marine mammal populations in the Study Area or at any Navy Range Complex. Based on the best available science summarized in the EIS/OEIS Section 3.4.4.1 (Summary of Monitoring and Observations During Navy Activities) long-term consequences for marine mammal populations are unlikely to result from Navy training and testing activities in the Study Area. Please also refer to Chapter 5 (Standard Operating Procedures, Mitigation, and Monitoring) of the EIS/OEIS, detailing the procedures and mitigation measures during its training and testing activities designed to reduce impacts to marine mammals from Navy activities. Regarding previous strandings, see Section 3.4.3.1.8 (Stranding) and the referenced technical report "Marine Mammal Strandings Associated with U.S. Navy Sonar Activities" (U.S. Department of the Navy 2013c). As described in Chapter 5 (Standard Operating Procedures, Mitigation, and Monitoring) of the EIS/OEIS, the Navy evaluated the effectiveness and practicability of a number of potential mitigation measures. Through consultation and permitting with NMFS and USFWS, the Navy refined the mitigation measures, which are now presented in Chapter 5 (Standard Operating Procedures, Mitigation, and Monitoring) of this Final EIS/OEIS.
Pasqau	help end the deadly navy sonar now.	Thank you for participating in the NEPA process.

Table I.5-4: Responses to Comments from Private Individuals (continued)

Commenter	Comment	Navy Response
(Electronic)		
Pass (Electronic)	Please curtail your use of sonar... Sonar can result in debilitating and even fatal injuries for marine mammals. Scientists believe sonar activity can change whale diving behavior, confusing them to swim to depths their bodies cannot handle. Whales suspected to have beached themselves because of sonar activity show signs of physical trauma like bleeding around the brain, ears and other tissues and large bubbles in their organs – symptoms analogous to "the bends" in humans. A. Pass	The Navy shares your concern for marine life, but this concern must be balanced with the purpose and need for Navy training and testing as detailed in Chapter 2 (Description of Proposed Action and Alternatives) of the EIS/OEIS. The Navy has conducted active sonar training and testing activities in the Study Area for decades, and there is no evidence that routine Navy training and testing has negatively impacted marine mammal populations in the Study Area or at any Navy Range Complex. Based on the best available science summarized in the EIS/OEIS Section 3.4.4.1 (Summary of Monitoring and Observations During Navy Activities) long-term consequences for marine mammal populations are unlikely to result from Navy training and testing activities in the Study Area. Please also refer to Chapter 5 (Standard Operating Procedures, Mitigation, and Monitoring) of the EIS/OEIS, detailing the procedures and mitigation measures during its training and testing activities designed to reduce impacts to marine mammals from Navy activities. Regarding previous strandings, see Section 3.4.3.1.8 (Stranding) and the referenced technical report "Marine Mammal Strandings Associated with U.S. Navy Sonar Activities" (U.S. Department of the Navy 2013c).
Paulson (Electronic)	I want to urge the Navy to limit the use of sonar in the Pacific Ocean, because of the negative impacts on marine mammals.	The Navy shares your concern for marine life, but this concern must be balanced with the purpose and need for Navy training and testing as detailed in Chapter 2 (Description of Proposed Action and Alternatives) of the EIS/OEIS. The Navy has conducted active sonar training and testing activities in the Study Area for decades, and there is no evidence that routine Navy training and testing has negatively impacted marine mammal populations in the Study Area or at any Navy Range Complex. Based on the best available science summarized in the EIS/OEIS Section 3.4.4.1 (Summary of Monitoring and Observations During Navy Activities) long-term consequences for marine mammal populations are unlikely to result from Navy training and testing activities in the Study Area. Please also refer to Chapter 5 (Standard Operating Procedures, Mitigation, and Monitoring) of the EIS/OEIS, detailing the procedures and mitigation measures during its training and testing activities designed to reduce impacts to marine mammals from Navy activities.

Table I.5-4: Responses to Comments from Private Individuals (continued)

Commenter	Comment	Navy Response
Perry-01 (Written)	I have commented before on your recent plan for the Olympic Peninsula in Washington State. I trust that since this letter is postmarked on your deadline, February 2, 2015, it will be entered into the record. I see that you closed the comment possibility online already. I am surprised by that since it is not February 3 yet.	Thank you for participating in the NEPA process. Your comments have been received and retained for response.
Perry-02	One of the things that is so noticeable in the pictures and images that we receive from the "war zone" is the absence of plants. Have you perhaps noticed that? What we are shown is a hot and waterless land with a few scattered trees with presumably no birds, mushrooms, moss, etc. You get the picture. I would imagine that a people who grow up in this kind of environment can display some measure of "anti - life" thoughts and actions. And indeed it appears to be true. There has been conflict and trouble in the mid East for as long as I can remember and that is about 65 years. Why is that? My fear is that in bringing your proposed actions into one of the most beautiful areas of the world, you, too, also will continue this "anti-life" attitude and that we are simply adopting the posture of our "enemy". They bring "terror" to their world. Then we/you decide to bring "terror" to OUR world. Somehow the Navy seems to think that by bringing loud noises into the air and the water, that the world's problems will be solved and make us all more safe and peaceful. Well, an alternative would be to concentrate on how to take OUR abundance to THEM and thus convince THEM to stop hating US. Show them what a world could be like with freedom and beauty. I can't understand why you want to bring more NOISE and CONFLICT to OUR land. Does the End justify the Means? Does that make sense in the long run? Is that the world you want for your grandchildren and great grandchildren? I know that what I write will not be read, that I don't have enough facts and figures. But I write anyway so that you know that there are ordinary people like yourself, in this Washington neighborhood that have been here all our life who simply want peace and quiet and a sane way to approach making the world safe for Democracy. More noise does not bring Democracy. More Conversation and Debate and LISTENING does. (Our founding fathers knew that.) It is hard to listen when you are being bombarded with the noise of airplanes and the electro magnetic airwaves that scramble your brain. Ask anyone who live under the Growlers flight path.	Thank you for participating in the NEPA process. However this comment is outside the scope of the Supplement to the Draft EIS/OEIS. Please see Chapters 1 and 2 of the EIS/OEIS for a clear definition of the scope of this project. Analysis of airfield activities and relocation of aircraft and personnel is addressed in other environmental planning documents, such as the Draft Environmental Assessment for the Transition of Expeditionary EA-6B Prowler Squadrons to EA-18G Growler at Naval Air Station Whidbey Island, Oak Harbor, Washington (U.S. Department of the Navy, 2012). Therefore, the NWTT EIS/OEIS includes the analysis of activities only where those activities occur, nor does it include activities commonly associated with an airfield, such as takeoffs and landings. There are no activities involving the use of electronic radiation proposed in the Supplement to the Draft EIS/OEIS. There are no weapons testing activities proposed in the Olympic National Forest in the Supplement to the Draft EIS/OEIS. It is also important to note that the proposed activities would not change how or where the Navy has been flying for decades.
Perry-03	If dolphins and/ or whales begin to die on our coastline in great number, beaching themselves, we will know what happened. If children are disturbed in their sleep or their schoolwork by the increase of Growlers, we will know. If animals and plant life die on the Olympic Peninsula we will know that the experiment is not working.	The Navy shares your concern for marine life, but this concern must be balanced with the purpose and need for Navy training and testing as detailed in Chapter 2 (Description of Proposed Action and Alternatives) of the EIS/OEIS. The Navy has conducted active sonar training and

Table I.5-4: Responses to Comments from Private Individuals (continued)

Commenter	Comment	Navy Response
		testing activities in the Study Area for decades, and there is no evidence that routine Navy training and testing has negatively impacted marine mammal populations in the Study Area or at any Navy Range Complex. Based on the best available science summarized in the EIS/OEIS Section 3.4.4.1 (Summary of Monitoring and Observations During Navy Activities) long-term consequences for marine mammal populations are unlikely to result from Navy training and testing activities in the Study Area. Please also refer to Chapter 5 (Standard Operating Procedures, Mitigation, and Monitoring) of the EIS/OEIS, detailing the procedures and mitigation measures during its training and testing activities designed to reduce impacts to marine mammals from Navy activities. Regarding previous strandings, see Section 3.4.3.1.8 (Stranding) and the referenced technical report “Marine Mammal Strandings Associated with U.S. Navy Sonar Activities” (U.S. Department of the Navy 2013c).
Perry-04	I hope that none of this happens and that you all make decisions that will bring health, prosperity and more importantly Democracy to the people all over the world, especially those at home.	Thank you for participating in the NEPA process.
A. Peterson (Electronic)	January 8, 2015 U.S. Navy Public Comment & Questions for the 2014 NWTT Supplement to the NWTT Draft EIS/0EIS 2014 Scoping Meetings: 1) It is interesting that the Navy is sending the Supercarrier Stennis to the pier at Indian Island January 12-15, 2015, in order to bus 1,000 sailors and their families into Port Townsend each day. This never happens. That pier never gets carriers. Sounds like a U.S. Navy, is on a highly expensive to taxpayers, charm offensive during the exact dates that the Navy is holding their Open House Seminars in the State of Washington. A) Will the U.S. Navy try to deliberately pack their Open House Seminars in the State of Washington with Navy personnel to prevent member of the public from attending these meetings due to the limited space where the U.S. Navy is holding their meetings? B) Will these Navy personnel be trying to unduly influence the public by spending money in the local economy? C) What is the cost of this "charm offensive" to the U.S. taxpayers? D) When were the orders given to have the Carrier Stennis dock at the pier at Indian Island? 2) The U.S. Navy personnel alleged bullying tactics are apparently increasing and abusive emails and comments alleged to be from Navy pilots at NASWI, are not acceptable. Many people are documenting them and they will be used to show the bullying tactics being used against the public at this time to elected officials, news media, and others. A) Why is the U.S. Navy not curtailing these activities by Navy personnel? B) What is the U.S. Navy telling its personnel that is causing this type of attack on the public for	The Supplement to the Draft EIS/OEIS is unrelated to Navy scheduling of ship movements and port visits. Port visits such as the one described in the comment occur months in advance, well before planning for these public meetings occurred. Regarding the format of the Navy's meetings, everyone who attended had the opportunity to speak individually with subject matter experts to have their questions answered. As stated in the comment, the subject matter experts that attend the public meetings have no ability to change Navy policy. Those decisions are beyond the scope of this NEPA process.

Table I.5-4: Responses to Comments from Private Individuals (continued)

Commenter	Comment	Navy Response
	speaking out on the Navy warfare testing expansions which are ongoing in the Pacific, Atlantic, and the Gulf of Mexico? C) Will the Navy be using tactics #1 and #2 above in Oregon and Washington at the Navy Open House Meetings there in January 2015? 3) Why is the U.S. Navy allegedly promoting or condoning the actions in #1 and #2 above at this time? 4) The U.S. Navy is already conducting activities in the NWTT Range Complex and has been in this area for years. A) The U.S. Navy will not stop their prior activities in the NWTT Warfare Range so why is Navy trying to influence the expansion of their activities by alleging using the tactics in #1 and #2 above? 5) The Navy "Open House" scoping meetings are a sham due to the fact that the Navy will only take public comments and not answer questions from the public in a group setting where everyone can hear the answers. A) Why doesn't the Navy just hold a public scoping meetings and answer the questions raised by the public so that all can hear the answers? B) Why aren't any Navy high officials with the authority to answer public questions and change policy ever attend these meetings and answer the questions of the public in a group meeting? C) Those conducting the public scoping meetings have no power or authority to change Navy Policies in response to public opposition. Why? Sincerely, Ava Peterson	
R. Peterson-01 (Electronic)	December 18, 2014 Request for Public Meeting & NWTT Draft Supplement Hardcopy I am formally requesting the following from the U.S. Navy: 1) I am formally requesting that a public meeting on the supplement be held in Mendocino County. 2) I am formally requesting a hard copy of this U.S. Navy NWTT Supplement. Northern California could be impacted by the changes made in this NWTT Supplement. Thus, Mendocino County, California should be entitled to have a public meeting in our county. Sincerely, Rosalind Peterson	1) The Navy held four public meetings in three states to inform the public and receive their comments on the Supplement to the Draft EIS/OEIS. Because of the large size of the NWTT Study Area for this EIS/OEIS, it is not feasible to hold a public meeting in every location where there may be public interest. Generally, the Navy has tried to locate public meetings in locations central to training or testing areas and potentially affected communities. In the case of the Supplement, the activities analyzed occur almost exclusively in Washington waters or off the coast of Washington. 2) A hardcopy of the NWTT Supplement to the Draft EIS/OEIS was mailed to Ms. Peterson on December 18, 2014.
R. Peterson-02	December 18, 2014 Questions for the U.S. Navy RE: NWTT Draft EIS/OEIS: 1) There are so many changes that the Navy makes to their original NWTT Draft EIS/OEIS it is hard to correlate that changes to the original NWTT Draft EIS/OEIS which includes thousands of pages of material. 2) Therefore, the U.S. Navy should re-release their NWTT Draft EIS/OEIS with the changes in each section highlighted for easy public comment and also to view the specifics of each change to the original NWTT Draft EIS/OEIS for public comment. 3) When will the U.S. Navy re-release their NWTT Draft EIS/OEIS highlighting the changes in text or location of changes noted in their supplement? 4) We are formally requesting that the U.S. Navy re-release their original NWTT Draft EIS/OEIS highlighting the changes	The changes to the Draft EIS/OEIS are clearly described in the Supplement to the Draft EIS/OEIS. The Supplement to the Draft is in effect, a re-release of the Draft EIS/OEIS. Only those activities or analysis that changed is included to simplify the public's review.

Table I.5-4: Responses to Comments from Private Individuals (continued)

Commenter	Comment	Navy Response
	referred to in the U.S. Navy Supplemental to the NWTT Draft EIS/OEIS prior to the close of the public comment period for your supplemental. Sincerely, Ava & Rosalind Peterson	
R. Peterson-03	U.S. NAVY NWTT 2014 DRAFT EIS/OEIS SUPPLEMENTAL PUBLIC COMMENT FEBRUARY 2, 2015 The U.S. Navy NWTT Range Complex (formerly the NWTRC Range Complex), 2014 Draft Supplemental raises more questions than it answers. Clearly the draft supplemental is inadequate under NEPA in addressing the increases in training and testing in the NWTT Range since both the NWTT Draft EIS/OEIS and the NWTT Draft Supplemental is missing the 2010 NWTRC "hazardous materials" section. 1) Why is this hazardous materials chapter missing from both the Draft NWTT and the Draft Supplemental? 2) Will a new and update hazardous material section be added to the final NWTT EIS/OEIS? If no, why not? 3) The lack of a hazardous material chapter invalidates the NWTT Draft EIS/OEIS because of all of the increases included in the NWTT supplemental. The word "increases" is used 10 times within the Draft Supplemental and the word "increase" is used 64 times. The word "decrease" is used only 4 times and the word "decreases" is not used at all in the draft supplemental according to the Navy search engine. A) With all of the "increases" listed in the NWTT Draft Supplemental why isn't the Navy going to update and/or rewrite the 2010 NWTRC Hazardous Materials section for the NWTT EIS/OEIS?	All the materials used by the Navy during the conduct of training and testing in the NWTT Study Area are now included in Section 3.1 (Sediments and Water Quality).
R. Peterson-04	4) In the Draft Supplemental the Navy lists the number of increased activities, changes in type of equipment being used, cumulative and synergistic activities increasing, the rewording to note increasing potential impacts, and other wording which reflects the need for increasing unknown mitigation measures which are lacking in the draft supplemental. Do all of these increases and changes reflect a NWTT DRAFT 2014 EIS/OEIS document that is invalid and needs to be rewritten and resubmitted? 5) The original NWTT Draft EIS/OEIS had a public comment period which closed almost a year ago. The changes noted in the NWTT Draft Supplemental require incorporation within the NWTT Draft under NEPA because they change almost the entire document and invalidate some of the Navy conclusions. Will a new NWTT DRAFT EIS/OEIS be issued in the future since the old one and many of the public comments have been invalidated by the changes in the draft supplemental?	The Supplement to the NWTT EIS/OEIS analyzes the impacts of the changes to numbers of activities in the Study Area. As noted in the Supplement, unless otherwise revised in the Supplement, all activities and analyses in the Draft EIS/OEIS remain valid. The revisions in the Supplement have been carried forward into the Final EIS/OEIS. The public comments from the NWTT Draft EIS/OEIS in 2014 were incorporated into the NWTT Final EIS/OEIS and carried into the Supplement to the EIS/OEIS when applicable. The current public comments for the Draft Supplement NWTT EIS/OEIS will be incorporated where applicable to the Final NWTT EIS/OEIS.
R. Peterson-05	6) It appears from several reports that the Navy is "pivoting" more and more toward the Pacific in the future with some of their activities like the new Sonobuoys: "…Sparton Corporation and Ultra Electronics – USSI, a subsidiary of Ultra Electronics Holdings plc (ULE) announced the award of subcontracts valued at $17.9 million to their ERAPSCO joint venture, for the manufacture of sonobuoys for the United States Navy. ERAPSCO will provide production subcontracts in the	The sonobuoys proposed for use in the NWTT Study Area, as well as their potential impacts, are included in the Draft and Final EIS/OEIS. Any comment related to the manufacture of sonobuoys is beyond the scope of the Supplement to the Draft EIS/OEIS.

Table I.5-4: Responses to Comments from Private Individuals (continued)

Commenter	Comment	Navy Response
	amount of $10.1 million and $7.8 million to Sparton Electronics Florida, Inc. and USSI respectively. Production will take place at Sparton's DeLeon Springs, FL facility as well as USSI's Columbia City, IN facility and is expected to be completed by March 2015…" just in time for the NWTT to be finalized. A) What are the hazardous wastes in this new sonobuoy? B) How does it impact the ocean environmental and the marine mammals in this environment? C) Please provide a detailed description of the impacts of using this type of sonobuoy in your new and updated hazardous materials section.	
R. Peterson-06	7) The wording changes in the NWTT Draft Supplemental from "No effect" to "Likely to adversely affect" reflect the increase in activities, the change in types of equipment used, scope of activities, type of acoustic exposure, etc., are all encapsulated with this draft. Ship strikes are also likely to increase with expanding activities in the Pacific. This should be addressed in a new NWTT Draft EIS/OEIS before the final is released. Will the U.S. Navy be willing to release another NWTT Draft EIS/OEIS to update the current outdated NWTT Draft EIS/OEIS due to all of the changes noted in the draft supplemental in order to satisfy NEPA requirements and allow the public to view all of the changes and comment on them?	There is no need to release a new Draft EIS/OEIS. The changes to the Draft EIS/OEIS are included in the Supplement, which is the update to the Draft EIS/OEIS. The public comments from the NWTT Draft EIS/OEIS in 2014 were incorporated into the NWTT Final EIS/OEIS and carried into the Supplement to the EIS/OEIS when applicable. The current public comments for the Draft Supplement NWTT EIS/OEIS will be incorporated where applicable to the Final NWTT EIS/OEIS.
R. Peterson-07	8) The U.S. Navy NWTT Draft Supplemental does not address use of U.S. Forest Service Lands for training and testing activities even though these activities have been going on in the NWTT range under a "special use permit". Why? U.S. Department of Agriculture Forest Service – Special Use Permit – U.S. Navy Whidbey Island in the State of Washington is hereby authorized to use or occupy National Forest System Lands, for a mobile ground threat emitter as training device for Navy Pilots-overhead aircraft issued to the U.S. Navy on September 7, 2013. A) Why wasn't this activity listed in the NWTT Draft EIS/OEIS or in the supplemental NWTT Draft? The aircraft (Growler Jets), usually lands and takes off from Navy aircraft carriers in the Pacific and can thus this activity should be considered part of the NWTT Range. Once again the Growler Jet numbers are to increase and many of them will be based on carriers. Why was this past and current activity not included as part of your NEPA requirements in the NWTT Draft or Supplement? B) Is the U.S. Navy, in order to avoid providing to the public an EIS/OEIS, on some activities required under NEPA, invented an escape clause whereby they ask for permits from other entities like the National Forest Service to avoid the NEPA process even though the area and activities are located within the NWTT Range area? C) Is the U.S. Navy engaged in local upgrading of activities within their NWTT Range, to avoid a full EIS/OEIS under NEPA, using smaller areas within the NWTT Range, to increase activities like the Whidbey Island Growler Jet activity increases there and over the Olympic National Forest? Why wasn't the Navy required to state that the Jets would be part of the land-based emitter program and all were within	Thank you for participating in the NEPA process. Please see Chapters 1 and 2 of the EIS/OEIS for a clear definition of the scope of this project. There are no weapons testing activities proposed in the Olympic National Forest in the Supplement to the Draft EIS/OEIS. It is also important to note that the proposed activities would not change how or where the Navy has been flying for decades.

Table I.5-4: Responses to Comments from Private Individuals (continued)

Commenter	Comment	Navy Response
	the NWTT Range?	
R. Peterson-08	9) Many of the references cited in NWTT Draft Supplemental are from old sources and references (some of which were not peer-reviewed). Why isn't the Navy using updated references since many of the activities use new technology and have impacts which weren't possible under the older technologies being used? A) Please list all of the weapons, devices, bombs, sonobuoys, radar, missiles, etc., that are new or have been improved since 2010, and their potential and actual impacts on marine mammals, humans (land-based testing and training), air quality, soils, water, and aquatic life in our oceans. Have all of these changes been documented in the NWTT Draft or Supplemental? (Microwave emitters to be included.)	The Navy has completed its analysis using the most relevant and most current peer reviewed science. Without specific examples given in the comment, the Navy cannot address this comment further.
R. Peterson-09	10) The Navy makes many claims about the impacts of the changes in activities, type of equipment, number of exercises, etc., that are being adjusted. Why does the Navy usually give their opinions about the impacts of these changes in the Draft Supplemental without providing any solid facts to back up their claims? Will the Navy back supply the proof that their claims are valid by this documentation in their new EIS/OEIS? If the answer is "no" then why not provide this information to the public?	The Navy used the best available science and a comprehensive review of past, present, and reasonably foreseeable actions to develop a robust analysis. Without specific examples of where the science is lacking, the Navy cannot address this comment further.
R. Peterson-10	U.S. NAVY NWTT 2014 DRAFT EIS/OEIS SUPPLEMENTAL PUBLIC COMMENT FEBRUARY 2, 2015 To: The U.S. Navy I am formally requesting notification of all future NWTT EIS/OEIS public comment periods by E-Mail and U.S. Postal Mail. I am formally requesting both a hard copy and a CD of all new future EIS/OEIS NWTT documents which are submitted for public comment. I am formally requesting that the next U.S. Navy comment period be 60 days to allow time for a thorough reading of the text of your documents and time for adequate public comment and requests for documents or other information which is not readily available in the form of links or on your NWTT website. I am formally requesting that references used in the NWTT EIS/OEIS document be placed on your website title and with hot links so that the public can read said references. Sincerely, Rosalind Peterson	You remain on the mailing list for the duration of the NWTT EIS/OEIS project. The Navy made significant efforts to notify the public to ensure maximum public participation during the public comment period, including using postcards, press releases, and newspaper display advertisements. The public could download and review the document, and make comments to it, on the website (www.NWTTEIS.com). Due to the printing costs and the amount of natural resources (paper) required, the Navy is not able to provide hardcopy versions to meet every request.
Phifer (Electronic)	I formally protest the way the navy has separated the impacts to be expected into supposedly non-connected issues rather than demonstrating that they are genuinely interested in discovering how the Olympic Peninsula region will be affected in all its aspects, socioeconomic, environmental, and so on. The information presented at town hall meetings has been incomplete as are the various studies they have put together thus far. There are training facilities already in use they can continue to utilize for these exercises. This would be far preferable to converting what is now a recreational area enjoyed by about 3 million visitors/year generating several hundred million dollars in revenue sorely needed by the economies around the peninsula. Conducting military exercises which in the navy's own words will reach	Thank you for participating in the NEPA process. However this comment is outside the scope of the Supplement to the Draft EIS/OEIS. Please see Chapters 1 and 2 of the EIS/OEIS for a clear definition of the scope of this project. There are no weapons testing activities proposed in the Olympic National Forest in the Supplement to the Draft EIS/OEIS. There are no activities involving the use of electronic radiation proposed in the Supplement to the Draft EIS/OEIS.

Table I.5-4: Responses to Comments from Private Individuals (continued)

Commenter	Comment	Navy Response
	far into "remote areas" of the Olympic forest is in no way compatible with the goal of tourist who come here seeking relaxation and to experience a relatively unspoiled natural environment camping and hiking, clamming and fishing with their children. Growlers overhead and radiation trucks hidden deep within the forest on logging roads do not lend themselves to being enhancements to the experience citizens are seeking here. Also, the impact on wildlife has been systematically understated. The evidence presented is highly unsatisfactory and sloppily compiled. I refer you to the letter by the mayor and city council of Port Townsend to get a more detailed compilation of how the Navy has tried to "sneak in under the radar" by not being open, even contradictory, in its statements to the public in multiple ways and how the impact statements presented do not meet standard. This state and the Olympic Peninsula in particular took a very hard economic hit when measures were taken to preserve the wildlife here (spotted owl etc). It is only now slowly recovering, haven built up a new economy focused on tourism. Having war games, accompanied by the occasional sonar boom, conducted over the heads of guest who come here "because it's so peaceful" will surely have a negative, perhaps crushing impact on this fragile new economy. Worse, it makes the sacrifices to save pristine wilderness areas a mockery, when radiation with unknown impact is unleashed in those very areas. For these reasons I am opposed to granting the Navy permission to expand their training grounds. In fact, I'd like to see the existing MOA eliminated.	
Picchetti (Electronic)	A drastic increase in sonar activity will negatively impact wildlife. Marine mammals are extremely sensitive to noise, and sonar disrupts basic behaviors necessary for survival such as migration, surfacing, navigating, hearing, nursing, breeding and feeding. Please make adjustments to protect marine wildlife.	The Navy shares your concern for marine life, but this concern must be balanced with the purpose and need for Navy training and testing as detailed in Chapter 2 (Description of Proposed Action and Alternatives) of the EIS/OEIS. The Navy has conducted active sonar training and testing activities in the Study Area for decades, and there is no evidence that routine Navy training and testing has negatively impacted marine mammal populations in the Study Area or at any Navy Range Complex. Based on the best available science summarized in the EIS/OEIS Section 3.4.4.1 (Summary of Monitoring and Observations During Navy Activities) long-term consequences for marine mammal populations are unlikely to result from Navy training and testing activities in the Study Area. Please also refer to Chapter 5 (Standard Operating Procedures, Mitigation, and Monitoring) of the EIS/OEIS, detailing the procedures and mitigation measures during its training and testing activities designed to reduce impacts to marine mammals from Navy activities.
Pine-01 (Electronic)	The navy needs to include all of the proposals it has come forth with in one well founded proposal. The public cannot keep up with the piecemeal fashion that these very important decisions are being presented as. This process needs to be all	The Navy completed the Supplement to the Draft EIS/OEIS in compliance with current law, including the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA). In addition to NEPA, the Navy continues to comply with other applicable environmental laws and with a number of

Table I.5-4: Responses to Comments from Private Individuals (continued)

Commenter	Comment	Navy Response
	inclusive with lengthy debate over enough time.	regulatory requirements, such as the Marine Mammal Protection Act, the Endangered Species Act, the Coastal Zone Management Act, and the Magnuson-Stevens Fishery Conservation and Management Act.
Pine-02	The navy's proposal to use the near shore waters and Puget Sound as a testing ground for increased sonar and explosive use is ridiculous, the marine mammals and underwater ecosystems of the olympic marine preserve should not be subjected to this type of abuse. The navy needs to listen to the residents of this area or they will end up in court .	The Navy shares your concern for marine life, but this concern must be balanced with the purpose and need for Navy training and testing as detailed in Chapter 2 (Description of Proposed Action and Alternatives) of the EIS/OEIS. The Navy has conducted active sonar training and testing activities in the Study Area for decades, and there is no evidence that routine Navy training and testing has negatively impacted marine mammal populations in the Study Area or at any Navy Range Complex. Based on the best available science summarized in the EIS/OEIS Section 3.4.4.1 (Summary of Monitoring and Observations During Navy Activities) long-term consequences for marine mammal populations are unlikely to result from Navy training and testing activities in the Study Area. Please also refer to Chapter 5 (Standard Operating Procedures, Mitigation, and Monitoring) of the EIS/OEIS, detailing the procedures and mitigation measures during its training and testing activities designed to reduce impacts to marine mammals from Navy activities.
Poling (Electronic)	Stop testing that has a negative effect on whales!	The Navy shares your concern for marine life, but this concern must be balanced with the purpose and need for Navy training and testing as detailed in Chapter 2 (Description of Proposed Action and Alternatives) of the EIS/OEIS. The Navy has conducted active sonar training and testing activities in the Study Area for decades, and there is no evidence that routine Navy training and testing has negatively impacted marine mammal populations in the Study Area or at any Navy Range Complex. Based on the best available science summarized in the EIS/OEIS Section 3.4.4.1 (Summary of Monitoring and Observations During Navy Activities) long-term consequences for marine mammal populations are unlikely to result from Navy training and testing activities in the Study Area. Please also refer to Chapter 5 (Standard Operating Procedures, Mitigation, and Monitoring) of the EIS/OEIS, detailing the procedures and mitigation measures during its training and testing activities designed to reduce impacts to marine mammals from Navy activities.
Ponder (Electronic)	The Navy's activities related to the EA 18-G Growler are happening at the price of the destruction of all that is held dear by people living in this region. I live on Lopez Island, at a distance of about 8 miles from Ault Field. Aircraft noise from NAS Whidbey Island has been tolerated for years by the people who live here. The	Thank you for participating in the NEPA process. However this comment is outside the scope of the Supplement to the Draft EIS/OEIS. Please see Chapters 1 and 2 of the EIS/OEIS for a clear definition of the scope of this project. There are no activities involving

Table I.5-4: Responses to Comments from Private Individuals (continued)

Commenter	Comment	Navy Response
	introduction of the Growler has made continued tolerance impossible. Add to that the Navy's plan to extend it's health-destroying noise to the underwater environment of marine mammals, and to fly their jets at low altitudes over the precious wilderness of the Olympic Peninsula, bombarding all creatures great and small with electromagnetic radiation, and well, you have nothing less than evil.	the use of electronic radiation proposed in the Supplement to the Draft EIS/OEIS. Analysis of airfield activities and relocation of aircraft and personnel is addressed in other environmental planning documents, such as the Draft Environmental Assessment for the Transition of Expeditionary EA-6B Prowler Squadrons to EA-18G Growler at Naval Air Station Whidbey Island, Oak Harbor, Washington (U.S. Department of the Navy, 2012). Therefore, the NWTT EIS/OEIS includes the analysis of activities only where those activities occur, nor does it include activities commonly associated with an airfield, such as takeoffs and landings.
Port (Electronic)	Please imagine yourself living in a place where things are quiet and peaceful. Pollution is already an issue and extremely loud sounds and interruptions are devastating. We do not own the ocean or the beautiful creature that live there. Please be mindful of them and their majestic presence in our world. Thank you, Lonnie Port	Best management practices include measures that regulate operations to ensure compliance with pollution emission requirements and general resource conservation goals. Navy policies and procedures identified in Navy instructions such as the Environmental Readiness Program Manual, include directives regarding waste management, pollution prevention, and recycling, all of which benefit sediments and water quality in the ocean. Any procedures or practices that benefit ocean sediments and water quality in turn benefit all marine life in the ocean, from plants and invertebrates, to fish and marine mammals.
Porter (Electronic)	Im a simple housewife, who is deeply concerned for our marine life . Your page is very detailed with information, and I appreciate you feel the need to use sonar and do tests, but they are doing great harm to all sea life. The oceans are being slowly killed, and we must loo upon the global pictureand try to make this right. Please stop testing...and please stop using sonar. Thousands of animals are being beached because of it. I therefore am against your proposed plans	The Navy shares your concern for marine life, but this concern must be balanced with the purpose and need for Navy training and testing as detailed in Chapter 2 (Description of Proposed Action and Alternatives) of the EIS/OEIS. The Navy has conducted active sonar training and testing activities in the Study Area for decades, and there is no evidence that routine Navy training and testing has negatively impacted marine mammal populations in the Study Area or at any Navy Range Complex. Based on the best available science summarized in the EIS/OEIS Section 3.4.4.1 (Summary of Monitoring and Observations During Navy Activities) long-term consequences for marine mammal populations are unlikely to result from Navy training and testing activities in the Study Area. Please also refer to Chapter 5 (Standard Operating Procedures, Mitigation, and Monitoring) of the EIS/OEIS, detailing the procedures and mitigation measures during its training and testing activities designed to reduce impacts to marine mammals from Navy activities.
Potter (Electronic)	I am a military veteran, O-3 U.S. Coast Guard, and no environmental "nut." But we humans must leave some place for birds and animals to live. I write specifically in support of the No Action alternative on the new sonar, etc. training area. High value whale and other ocean mammal areas should not be needed. They should be left	The Navy shares your concern for marine life, but this concern must be balanced with the purpose and need for Navy training and testing as detailed in Chapter 2 (Description of Proposed Action and Alternatives) of the EIS/OEIS. The Navy has conducted active sonar training and

Table I.5-4: Responses to Comments from Private Individuals (continued)

Commenter	Comment	Navy Response
	along. I suspect that existing training areas could be used. I also suspect that computer simulations and simulators [like the old Link Trainers for pilots] could be developed for a better approach. Do not expand into important whale habitat, please.	testing activities in the Study Area for decades, and there is no evidence that routine Navy training and testing has negatively impacted marine mammal populations in the Study Area or at any Navy Range Complex. Based on the best available science summarized in the EIS/OEIS Section 3.4.4.1 (Summary of Monitoring and Observations During Navy Activities) long-term consequences for marine mammal populations are unlikely to result from Navy training and testing activities in the Study Area. Please also refer to Chapter 5 (Standard Operating Procedures, Mitigation, and Monitoring) of the EIS/OEIS, detailing the procedures and mitigation measures during its training and testing activities designed to reduce impacts to marine mammals from Navy activities. Please see Chapter 2 describing the proposed action. In general, Navy is re-analyzing ongoing activities and specifically is not increasing “areas” or “ranges”. Regarding the use of simulation, Navy already uses simulation in training and testing whenever possible; please see the discussion presented in Section 5.3.4.1.2 (Replacing Training and Testing with Simulated Activities).
Prata (Electronic)	The Navy’s current environmental analysis fails to provide basic information necessary to adequately evaluate the impacts of the proposed activities. This analysis also fails to provide adequate measures to mitigate the harmful effects of the proposed activities on marine mammals and other wildlife. Based on the information apparent in the environmental analysis, the Navy’s “No Action Alternative” is the proposal with the most limited impact on wildlife. A drastic increase in sonar activity will negatively impact wildlife. Marine mammals are extremely sensitive to noise, and sonar disrupts basic behaviors necessary for survival such as migration, surfacing, navigating, hearing, nursing, breeding and feeding. Sonar can result in debilitating and even fatal injuries for marine mammals. Scientists believe sonar activity can change whale diving behavior, confusing them to swim to depths their bodies cannot handle. Whales suspected to have beached themselves because of sonar activity show signs of physical trauma like bleeding around the brain, ears and other tissues and large bubbles in their organs – symptoms analogous to “the bends” in humans. To the extent that threatened or endangered species -- including humpback and sperm whales, and leatherback turtles -- are negatively impacted, the proposed activities may result in violations of the Endangered Species Act.	As described in the Supplement in Section 3.5.2 (Sea Turtle Summary), the proposed increase in the use of SSQ-125 sonobuoys "are not expected to result in substantial changes to behavior, growth, survival, annual reproductive success, lifetime reproductive success (fitness), or species recruitment, and are not expected to result in population-level impacts." The Navy shares your concern for marine life, but this concern must be balanced with the purpose and need for Navy training and testing as detailed in Chapter 2 (Description of Proposed Action and Alternatives) of the EIS/OEIS. The Navy has conducted active sonar training and testing activities in the Study Area for decades, and there is no evidence that routine Navy training and testing has negatively impacted marine mammal populations in the Study Area or at any Navy Range Complex. Based on the best available science summarized in the EIS/OEIS Section 3.4.4.1 (Summary of Monitoring and Observations During Navy Activities) long-term consequences for marine mammal populations are unlikely to result from Navy training and testing activities in the Study Area. Please also refer to Chapter 5 (Standard Operating Procedures, Mitigation, and Monitoring) of the EIS/OEIS, detailing the procedures and mitigation measures during its training and testing activities

Table I.5-4: Responses to Comments from Private Individuals (continued)

Commenter	Comment	Navy Response
		designed to reduce impacts to marine mammals from Navy activities.
PRATT (Electronic)	I have looked at the EIS and EIS Supplement for the NWTT. It appears that you have not explained the impact of the noise of aircraft as it might affect my residence in the City of Sequim, WA and my ability to enjoy my residence and use my residence as I have before, when there are aircraft noises impacting my property. It also appears that you have not explained the impact of closing the Straits of Juan de Fuca and flying low over the Straits of Juan de Fuca on my enjoyment of the activities common in that area such as fishing and recreational boating and travel to Canada. You have also not investigated the impact on tourism on the Olympic Peninsula when the tourist community becomes aware of your high intensity activities going on over otherwise serene and remote prime tourism areas.	Thank you for participating in the NEPA process. However this comment is outside the scope of the Supplement to the Draft EIS/OEIS. Please see Chapters 1 and 2 of the EIS/OEIS for a clear definition of the scope of this project. Analysis of airfield activities and relocation of aircraft and personnel is addressed in other environmental planning documents, such as the Draft Environmental Assessment for the Transition of Expeditionary EA-6B Prowler Squadrons to EA-18G Growler at Naval Air Station Whidbey Island, Oak Harbor, Washington (U.S. Department of the Navy, 2012). Therefore, the NWTT EIS/OEIS includes the analysis of activities only where those activities occur, nor does it include activities commonly associated with an airfield, such as takeoffs and landings. There are no weapons testing activities proposed in the Olympic National Forest in the Supplement to the Draft EIS/OEIS. As described in Section 3.10 (Cultural Resources), Section 3.12 (Socioeconomics), and Section 3.13 (Public Health and Safety) of the Draft EIS/OEIS, the Navy's proposed activities are not expected to impact cultural resources, socioeconomic resources, or public health and safety.
Prentiss (Electronic)	I am strongly against the use of sonar in the Pacific Ocean. The Navy's current environmental analysis fails to provide basic information necessary to adequately evaluate the impacts of the proposed activities. This analysis also fails to provide adequate measures to mitigate the harmful effects of the proposed activities on marine mammals and other wildlife. A drastic increase in sonar activity will negatively impact wildlife. Marine mammals are extremely sensitive to noise, and sonar disrupts basic behaviors necessary for survival such as migration, surfacing, navigating, hearing, nursing, breeding and feeding and they can result in debilitating and even fatal injuries for marine mammals. Scientists believe sonar activity can change whale diving behavior, confusing them to swim to depths their bodies cannot handle. Whales suspected to have beached themselves because of sonar activity show signs of physical trauma like bleeding around the brain, ears and other tissues and large bubbles in their organs – symptoms analogous to "the bends" in humans. To the extent that threatened or endangered species, including humpback and sperm whales, and leatherback turtles, are negatively impacted, the proposed activities will result in violations of the Endangered Species Act. It is time to stop playing games in our oceans and with the creatures that depend upon it. I am sure there are computer simulators that will work just as well. Get sonar out and keep it out.	The Navy shares your concern for marine life, but this concern must be balanced with the purpose and need for Navy training and testing as detailed in Chapter 2 (Description of Proposed Action and Alternatives) of the EIS/OEIS. The Navy has conducted training and testing activities in the Study Area for decades, and there is no evidence that routine Navy training and testing has negatively impacted individual sea turtles or sea turtle populations, or marine mammal populations in the Study Area or at any Navy Range Complex. Based on the best available science summarized in the EIS/OEIS Section 3.4.4.1 (Summary of Monitoring and Observations During Navy Activities), long-term consequences for marine mammal populations are unlikely to result from Navy training and testing activities in the Study Area. Note that for sea turtles, as described in the EIS/OEIS Section 3.5.3.7.1 (Combined Impacts of All Stressors), "impacts are not expected to decrease the overall fitness or result in long-term population level impacts on any given population." Please also refer to Chapter 5 (Standard Operating Procedures, Mitigation, and Monitoring) of the EIS/OEIS, detailing the procedures and mitigation measures during its training and testing activities designed to reduce impacts to marine mammals and sea turtles from

Table I.5-4: Responses to Comments from Private Individuals (continued)

Commenter	Comment	Navy Response
		Navy activities. Regarding previous strandings, see Section 3.4.3.1.8 (Stranding) and the referenced technical report “Marine Mammal Strandings Associated with U.S. Navy Sonar Activities” (U.S. Department of the Navy 2013c).
Priestley (Electronic)	I object to the "exercise" of testing sonar and underwater detonations within our oceans. As the Navy's own environmental impact studies have shown, this practices harms and kills hundreds of dolphins and whales and causes countless unknown negative effects. I support our military but I do NOT believe that such underwater practices have any place in our world today, at least none to validate the irreparable harm we are causing to our waters. Abolish this practice and study new ways of communicating in stealth without damaging our ecosystems.	The Navy shares your concern for marine life, but this concern must be balanced with the purpose and need for Navy training and testing as detailed in Chapter 2 (Description of Proposed Action and Alternatives) of the EIS/OEIS. The Navy has conducted active sonar training and testing activities in the Study Area for decades, and there is no evidence that routine Navy training and testing has negatively impacted marine mammal populations in the Study Area or at any Navy Range Complex. Based on the best available science summarized in the EIS/OEIS Section 3.4.4.1 (Summary of Monitoring and Observations During Navy Activities) long-term consequences for marine mammal populations are unlikely to result from Navy training and testing activities in the Study Area. Please also refer to Chapter 5 (Standard Operating Procedures, Mitigation, and Monitoring) of the EIS/OEIS, detailing the procedures and mitigation measures during its training and testing activities designed to reduce impacts to marine mammals from Navy activities.
Prince (Electronic)	I support severely limiting or eliminating all sonar emitting buoys. Sonar activity drastically affects whale behavior, leading them to beach themselves or dive to depths their bodies cannot handle, causing debilitating and even fatal injuries. The Navy’s current environmental analysis fails to provide adequate measures to mitigate the harmful effects of proposed activities on marine mammals and other wildlife. Based on the information apparent in the environmental analysis, the Navy’s “No Action Alternative” is the proposal with the most limited impact on wildlife. Marine mammals are extremely sensitive to noise, and sonar disrupts basic behaviors necessary for survival such as migration, surfacing, navigating, hearing, nursing, breeding and feeding. Scientists believe sonar activity can change whale diving behavior, confusing them to swim to depths their bodies cannot handle. Whales suspected to have beached themselves because of sonar activity show signs of physical trauma like bleeding around the brain, ears and other tissues and large bubbles in their organs – symptoms analogous to “the bends” in humans. The Navy's currently proposed activities may result in violations of the Endangered Species Act. Therefore it is imperative that all noise-emitting activities be halted at once.	The Navy shares your concern for marine life, but this concern must be balanced with the purpose and need for Navy training and testing as detailed in Chapter 2 (Description of Proposed Action and Alternatives) of the EIS/OEIS. The Navy has conducted active sonar training and testing activities in the Study Area for decades, and there is no evidence that routine Navy training and testing has negatively impacted marine mammal populations in the Study Area or at any Navy Range Complex. Based on the best available science summarized in the EIS/OEIS Section 3.4.4.1 (Summary of Monitoring and Observations During Navy Activities) long-term consequences for marine mammal populations are unlikely to result from Navy training and testing activities in the Study Area. Please also refer to Chapter 5 (Standard Operating Procedures, Mitigation, and Monitoring) of the EIS/OEIS, detailing the procedures and mitigation measures during its training and testing activities designed to reduce impacts to marine mammals from Navy activities.

Table I.5-4: Responses to Comments from Private Individuals (continued)

Commenter	Comment	Navy Response
Race (Electronic)	No one has a right to use any living thing for testing purposes. Thank you!	The Navy shares your concern for marine life, but this concern must be balanced with the purpose and need for Navy training and testing as detailed in Chapter 2 (Description of Proposed Action and Alternatives) of the EIS/OEIS. The Navy has conducted active sonar training and testing activities in the Study Area for decades, and there is no evidence that routine Navy training and testing has negatively impacted marine mammal populations in the Study Area or at any Navy Range Complex. Based on the best available science summarized in the EIS/OEIS Section 3.4.4.1 (Summary of Monitoring and Observations During Navy Activities) long-term consequences for marine mammal populations are unlikely to result from Navy training and testing activities in the Study Area. Please also refer to Chapter 5 (Standard Operating Procedures, Mitigation, and Monitoring) of the EIS/OEIS, detailing the procedures and mitigation measures during its training and testing activities designed to reduce impacts to marine mammals from Navy activities.
C. Ray (Electronic)	please urge sonar testing to be done outside the range of southern resident killer whales who travel up and down the coast from WA to CA, who are already suffering from lack of food sources and other environmental impacts. noise from sonar has the potential to do serious harm to them and to other marine life! After listening to a former navy sonar expert speak last year on san juan island about her experiences with navy sonar "precautions", i have no confidence that effective precautions are actually put in place. for example, to state that there are no orcas in the environment if they have not been seen or heard for a period of 10 minutes - is ridiculous if the navy is aware of swimming, diving, feeding behaviors of these marine mammals. there's a LOT of ocean out there - spend a few extra bucks and do it where it's less likely to impact this already endangered marine mammal population.	The Navy shares your concern for marine life, but this concern must be balanced with the purpose and need for Navy training and testing as detailed in Chapter 2 (Description of Proposed Action and Alternatives) of the EIS/OEIS. The Navy has conducted active sonar training and testing activities in the Study Area for decades, and there is no evidence that routine Navy training and testing has negatively impacted marine mammal populations in the Study Area or at any Navy Range Complex. Based on the best available science summarized in the EIS/OEIS Section 3.4.4.1 (Summary of Monitoring and Observations During Navy Activities) long-term consequences for marine mammal populations are unlikely to result from Navy training and testing activities in the Study Area. Please also refer to Chapter 5 (Standard Operating Procedures, Mitigation, and Monitoring) of the EIS/OEIS, detailing the procedures and mitigation measures during its training and testing activities designed to reduce impacts to marine mammals from Navy activities.
R. Ray (Electronic)	The Navy's current environmental analysis fails to provide basic information necessary to adequately evaluate the impacts of the proposed activities. This analysis also fails to provide adequate measures to mitigate the harmful effects of the proposed activities on marine mammals and other wildlife. Please limit the amount of sonar activity used in training missions off the Pacific Coast. Based on the information apparent in the environmental analysis, the Navy's "No Action Alternative" is the proposal with the most limited impact on wildlife. A drastic	The Navy shares your concern for marine life, but this concern must be balanced with the purpose and need for Navy training and testing as detailed in Chapter 2 (Description of Proposed Action and Alternatives) of the EIS/OEIS. The Navy has conducted training and testing activities in the Study Area for decades, and there is no evidence that routine Navy training and testing has negatively impacted individual sea turtles or sea turtle populations, or marine mammal populations in

Table I.5-4: Responses to Comments from Private Individuals (continued)

Commenter	Comment	Navy Response
	increase in sonar activity will negatively impact wildlife. Marine mammals are extremely sensitive to noise, and sonar disrupts basic behaviors necessary for survival such as migration, surfacing, navigating, hearing, nursing, breeding and feeding. Sonar can result in debilitating and even fatal injuries for marine mammals. Scientists believe sonar activity can change whale diving behavior, confusing them to swim to depths their bodies cannot handle. Whales suspected to have beached themselves because of sonar activity show signs of physical trauma like bleeding around the brain, ears and other tissues and large bubbles in their organs – symptoms analogous to “the bends” in humans. To the extent that threatened or endangered species -- including humpback and sperm whales, and leatherback turtles -- are negatively impacted, the proposed activities may result in violations of the Endangered Species Act. Thank you.	the Study Area or at any Navy Range Complex. Based on the best available science summarized in the EIS/OEIS Section 3.4.4.1 (Summary of Monitoring and Observations During Navy Activities), long-term consequences for marine mammal populations are unlikely to result from Navy training and testing activities in the Study Area. Note that for sea turtles, as described in the EIS/OEIS Section 3.5.3.7.1 (Combined Impacts of All Stressors), “impacts are not expected to decrease the overall fitness or result in long-term population level impacts on any given population.” Please also refer to Chapter 5 (Standard Operating Procedures, Mitigation, and Monitoring) of the EIS/OEIS, detailing the procedures and mitigation measures during its training and testing activities designed to reduce impacts to marine mammals and sea turtles from Navy activities. Regarding previous strandings, see Section 3.4.3.1.8 (Stranding) and the referenced technical report “Marine Mammal Strandings Associated with U.S. Navy Sonar Activities” (U.S. Department of the Navy 2013c).
Recht-01 (Electronic)	My interest is in having the Navy limit the amount of sonar activity, Therefore I support the No action alternative. I am interested in assuring the recovery of endangered leatherback sea turtles. This is very early in the recovery of these animals (in fact protected habitat along the Pacific Coast was just established in 2012). These animals will also be affected by climate change and other individual and cumulative effects so the proposed action (increased in the use of sonar devices)which "is likely to adversely affect" endangered leatherback turtles is reckless and inappropriate. Because the “No Action Alternative” is the proposal with the most limited impact on wildlife, it is the one I support.	As described in the Supplement in Section 3.5.2 (Sea Turtle Summary), the proposed increase in the use of SSQ-125 sonobuoys "are not expected to result in substantial changes to behavior, growth, survival, annual reproductive success, lifetime reproductive success (fitness), or species recruitment, and are not expected to result in population-level impacts." The Navy has conducted active sonar training and testing activities in the Study Area for decades, and there is no evidence that routine Navy training and testing has negatively impacted individual sea turtles or sea turtle populations in the Study Area or at any Navy Range Complex. Based on the best available science summarized in the Draft EIS/OEIS Section 3.5.3.7.1 (Combined Impacts of All Stressors) “impacts are not expected to decrease the overall fitness or result in long-term population level impacts on any given population. In cases where potential impacts rise to a level that warrants mitigation, mitigation measures designed to reduce the potential impacts are discussed in Chapter 5 (Standard Operating Procedures, Mitigation, and Monitoring)."
Recht-02	Sperm and Humpback whales and Orca whales are endangered species. Negatively impacting endangered species would be in violation of the spirit and intent of the Endangered Species Act. Additionally my interest is in assuring the	The Navy shares your concern for marine life, but this concern must be balanced with the purpose and need for Navy training and testing as detailed in Chapter 2 (Description of Proposed Action and Alternatives)

Table I.5-4: Responses to Comments from Private Individuals (continued)

Commenter	Comment	Navy Response
	survival and flourishing of these intelligent,innocent, companions of our planet. It causes me great moral pain to think of the injury, distress, and potential death to these creatures. Sonar can result in debilitating and even fatal injuries for marine mammals. It can change whale diving behavior, confusing them to swim to depths their bodies cannot handle. Whales suspected to have beached themselves because of sonar activity show signs of physical trauma like bleeding around the brain, ears and other tissues and large bubbles in their organs – symptoms analogous to the very painful, debilitating if not fatal "bends" in humans.	of the EIS/OEIS. The Navy has conducted active sonar training and testing activities in the Study Area for decades, and there is no evidence that routine Navy training and testing has negatively impacted marine mammal populations in the Study Area or at any Navy Range Complex. Based on the best available science summarized in the EIS/OEIS Section 3.4.4.1 (Summary of Monitoring and Observations During Navy Activities) long-term consequences for marine mammal populations are unlikely to result from Navy training and testing activities in the Study Area. Please also refer to Chapter 5 (Standard Operating Procedures, Mitigation, and Monitoring) of the EIS/OEIS, detailing the procedures and mitigation measures during its training and testing activities designed to reduce impacts to marine mammals from Navy activities. Regarding previous strandings, see Section 3.4.3.1.8 (Stranding) and the referenced technical report "Marine Mammal Strandings Associated with U.S. Navy Sonar Activities" (U.S. Department of the Navy 2013c).
Recht-05	The sound environment of the ocean is a part of the habitat of marine mammals and other organisms (fish, invertebrates, etc.) Animals communicate over both short and long distances with sound to find mates, to hunt, to find food etc. Against the already noisy backdrop of an ocean filled with much ship traffic and industrial uses and existing naval training activities, additional individual and cumulative impacts of additional high intensity-mid-frequency sonar and explosive detonation will degrade sensitive habitat necessary for the survival of marine mammals and other animals.	The Navy shares your concern for marine life, but this concern must be balanced with the purpose and need for Navy training and testing as detailed in Chapter 2 (Description of Proposed Action and Alternatives) of the EIS/OEIS. The Navy has conducted active sonar training and testing activities in the Study Area for decades, and there is no evidence that routine Navy training and testing has negatively impacted marine mammal populations in the Study Area or at any Navy Range Complex. Based on the best available science summarized in the EIS/OEIS Section 3.4.4.1 (Summary of Monitoring and Observations During Navy Activities), long-term consequences for marine mammal populations are unlikely to result from Navy training and testing activities in the Study Area. Please also refer to Chapter 5 (Standard Operating Procedures, Mitigation, and Monitoring) of the EIS/OEIS, detailing the procedures and mitigation measures during its training and testing activities designed to reduce impacts to marine mammals from Navy activities. The Navy used the best available science and a comprehensive review of past, present, and reasonably foreseeable actions to develop a robust Cumulative Impacts analysis. See Chapter 4 (Cumulative Impacts) of the EIS/OEIS, which has been updated for the Final EIS/OEIS.
Recht-06	The world is working to clean up the ocean from plastics and other debris. The Navy	Regarding impacts to the ocean bottom and water quality from

Table I.5-4: Responses to Comments from Private Individuals (continued)

Commenter	Comment	Navy Response
	should not do otherwise. MARPOL Annex V is in effect (U.S. is a signatory) that prohibits the disposal of plastics at sea. Surely the Navy can do better than allowing the dumping of or sinking of spent buoys and other junk. There is no need for equipment used during training exercises to be discarded at sea; I'm sure that U.S. innovation can find a way to recover and properly dispose of used equipment.	sonobuoys, please see Section 3.1 (Sediments and Water Quality), where there is a discussion of the impacts of all military expended materials. Best management practices include measures that regulate operations to ensure compliance with pollution emission requirements and general resource conservation goals. Navy policies and procedures identified in Navy instructions such as the Environmental Readiness Program Manual, include directives regarding waste management, pollution prevention, and recycling, all of which benefit sediments and water quality in the ocean. Any procedures or practices that benefit ocean sediments and water quality in turn benefit all marine life in the ocean, from plants and invertebrates, to fish and marine mammals.
Rector (Electronic)	I have commented,previously with no response. Also my representatives know of my concerns. This is in addition. I wish to take this opportunity to comment on the Supplement (December 2014) to the Navy's Draft Environmental Impact Statement/ Overseas Environmental Impact Statement (DEIS), dated January 2014, for its continued training and testing activities in the Pacific Northwest (NWTT). Please include these comments in the administrative record. Effect on wildlife The proposed increases in this Supplement of marine exercises and additional use of sonar and explosives will only increase the damage done to marine mammals, sea turtles, fish and birds. Of particular concern to me is the Supplement and the EIS's lack of protections for the Southern Resident Killer Whale's dwindling population. These animals need a protected home in accord with their endangered status. In public sessions and in a radio interview the Navy's public relations personnel have been heard to say that the (MSO) and TRACKEX marine exercises save gas and allow personnel to be closer to their homes for these maneuvers. These considerations should not allow one single injury to this endangered Killer Whale population. Though this supplement admits increased sonar and explosive testing (TRACKEX) and finally addresses the MSO maneuvers there is no additional mitigation mentioned. Nowhere is it outlined whether visual patrols will increase as a result of this new activity, nor does the Supplement address real concerns over whether or not visual patrol is adequate at times of night or rough seas. No acoustic monitoring or avoidance strategies are included. This is a serious omission to a document that intended to address the inadequate science and mitigation plans of the original draft and is unacceptable. Lack of Science There is little consideration of exclusion zones, geographic alternatives to the southern Puget Sound and seasonal restrictions of exercises. All of the Alternatives propose year-round, unrestricted use without regard to seasonal variations in marine mammal and fish abundance. This is true despite the well-documented seasonal migrations of numerous endangered species and the identification of biologically important areas.	The Navy shares your concern for marine life, but this concern must be balanced with the purpose and need for Navy training and testing as detailed in Chapter 2 (Description of Proposed Action and Alternatives) of the EIS/OEIS. The Navy has conducted training and testing activities in the Study Area for decades, and there is no evidence that routine Navy training and testing has negatively impacted individual sea turtles or sea turtle populations, or marine mammal populations in the Study Area or at any Navy Range Complex. Based on the best available science summarized in the EIS/OEIS Section 3.4.4.1 (Summary of Monitoring and Observations During Navy Activities), long-term consequences for marine mammal populations are unlikely to result from Navy training and testing activities in the Study Area. Note that for sea turtles, as described in the EIS/OEIS Section 3.5.3.7.1 (Combined Impacts of All Stressors), "impacts are not expected to decrease the overall fitness or result in long-term population level impacts on any given population." Please also refer to Chapter 5 (Standard Operating Procedures, Mitigation, and Monitoring) of the EIS/OEIS, detailing the procedures and mitigation measures during its training and testing activities designed to reduce impacts to marine mammals and sea turtles from Navy activities. No injuries to killer whales are anticipated from the Navy's proposed MSO or TRACKEX activities. As described in Chapter 5 (Standard Operating Procedures, Mitigation, and Monitoring) of the EIS/OEIS, the Navy will implement mitigation measures during the use of sonobuoys. The mitigation measures are implemented for each activity and therefore the mitigation scales up as

Table I.5-4: Responses to Comments from Private Individuals (continued)

Commenter	Comment	Navy Response
	The Navy should put critical marine habitats off-limits to sonar and explosives testing and schedule training to avoid times of the year when sensitive species are present in places like the Olympic Coast National Marine Sanctuary. Climate Change and Cumulative Impacts The Supplement document responds to calls to address these two big issues but it is very unclear that anything more than lip service was expended by deeming Navy activities to be of little significance. Public Process What most concerns me is this. There has been an overwhelming number of proposals since late in 2013 rolled out to the public in a piecemeal fashion. Five calls for comments on clearly-linked documents have been spread out in their introduction to the public over the last year and a half. Ground-based, (Electronic warfare range), air-based (Two growler scoping documents) and sea-based naval activities (these two NWTT documents) have been dropped onto the region as if they were not linked. The separate comment periods and the separate documents minimize the larger picture of impacts on the area. In my opinion this is misleading. Is it even legal in regards to Federal Law, specifically NEPA? Please redo this chopped-up public process with a comprehensive Environmental Impact Statement that includes all of the activities in the region. These huge changes that affect wildlife, real estate values, allow precedent-setting incursions into the peace of our national parks, national forest, wilderness, state parks and state lands, should be discussed as a whole, not split into so many fractured pieces that the residents of this region cannot know what they are actually facing. . Sincerely, Helen Rector 64 Pine Dr Port Townsend WA	the activity level scales up. Section 5.3.1.2.5 (Effectiveness Assessment for Lookouts) acknowledges that, due to the various detection probabilities, levels of Lookout experience, and variability of sighting conditions, Lookouts will not always be effective at avoiding impacts on all species. However, Lookouts are expected to increase the overall likelihood that certain marine mammal species and some sea turtles will be detected at the surface of the water, when compared to the likelihood that these same species would be detected if Lookouts are not used. The continued use of Lookouts contributes to helping reduce potential impacts on these species from training and testing activities. While the range of the sonar's detection would travel beyond the distance that Lookouts can detect animals, the range at which sonar is predicted to be able to cause injury to a marine mammal is very short, within 10 meters of the sonar. At such short distances, it is likely any marine mammal would have been detected. As described in Chapter 5 (Standard Operating Procedures, Mitigation, and Monitoring) of the Final EIS/OEIS, the Navy evaluated the effectiveness and practicability of a number of potential mitigation measures including the avoidance of specific areas. The Navy has undertaken consultation with NMFS for the proposed and ongoing activities in the NWTT Study Area and the Navy refined the mitigation measures, which are now presented in Chapter 5 (Standard Operating Procedures, Mitigation, and Monitoring) of this Final EIS/OEIS. Through careful exploration of all mitigation measures to determine which were the most effective, the Navy chose the measures to mitigate potential impacts to marine mammals while still being able to meet its operational needs to train for real-world conditions. The Navy's specific mitigation measures are outlined in the following sections: Section 5.3.1 (Lookout Procedural Measures), Section 5.3.2 (Mitigation Zone Procedural Measures), and Section 5.3.3 (Mitigation Areas). Specifically, Section 5.3.4 (Mitigation Measures Considered but Eliminated) presents Navy consideration of similar area restrictions. The Navy and NMFS will use the Adaptive Management process to assess whether any additional mitigation should be considered in identified biologically important areas. In response to several comments, the Navy has enhanced its analysis of climate change and cumulative impacts in this Final EIS/OEIS. The Navy prepares Environmental Impact Statements (EIS) and

Table I.5-4: Responses to Comments from Private Individuals (continued)

Commenter	Comment	Navy Response
		Environmental Assessments (EA) in order to comply with the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA). These NEPA documents are intended to ensure decision makers consider the potential environmental effects of a proposed action and its alternatives, provide an opportunity for public involvement, and promote transparency by informing the public of these potential environmental effects. Each NEPA document addresses a specific proposed action, separated from other actions by its purpose and need, independent utility, timing, and geographic location. Some NEPA documents are stand-alone documents; others tier off or expand the analyses of other NEPA documents. NEPA documents for training and testing, including this EIS/OEIS, focus on training and testing activities occurring within a range complex or military operation area and involve different types of aircraft, ships, and range complex enhancements. NEPA documents for aircraft homebasing actions focus on aircraft operations in and around the airfield and their facility needs. NEPA documents for installations focus on infrastructure enhancements for host and tenant command missions. Importantly, every environmental document considers the cumulative impacts to the environment from other relevant past, present, and reasonably foreseeable future actions (federal, state, local, and private) in addition to the proposed action. The MSO activities do not include the use of sonar or live gun firing. The U.S. Navy has conducted active sonar training and testing activities for decades in the seaspace depicted in the Study Area with no evidence to indicate any meaningful impacts to marine habitats in the area. The Navy and NMFS jointly are still in ongoing consultation with the OCNMS regarding the effects of the Proposed Action on Sanctuary resources. The Navy concludes its continued activities are not likely to result in the loss, destruction, or adverse changes to the viability of Sanctuary resources. Several points support this determination: • Less than two percent of proposed training and 15 percent of proposed testing activities would occur within or immediately adjacent to the OCNMS. • The NWTT Final EIS/OEIS shows that training and testing activities have minimal temporary impacts on the quantity or quality of the Study Area's physical environment, and minor to no impacts on marine or shore birds, fish, sea turtles, or invertebrate marine life. • Although explosives have the potential to affect the physical and

Table I.5-4: Responses to Comments from Private Individuals (continued)

Commenter	Comment	Navy Response
		biological resources, the Navy does not use explosives within the OCNMS. • The Navy concludes any marine mammal behavioral reactions to NWTT training and testing activities would be transitory, infrequent, non-cumulative, and impacts are not expected to decrease overall individual fitness or result in long-term population-level impacts on any given population, and consequently will not result in any adverse changes to the sanctuary. Finally, all Department of Defense (DoD) military activities shall be carried out in a manner that avoids to the maximum extent practicable any adverse impacts on Sanctuary resources and qualities.
Rehmer (Electronic)	Whales are an important part of our environmental system. They have very powerful senses and one day be of great benefit to us. Please stop you deafening sonar.	The Navy shares your concern for marine life, but this concern must be balanced with the purpose and need for Navy training and testing as detailed in Chapter 2 (Description of Proposed Action and Alternatives) of the EIS/OEIS. The Navy has conducted active sonar training and testing activities in the Study Area for decades, and there is no evidence that routine Navy training and testing has negatively impacted marine mammal populations in the Study Area or at any Navy Range Complex. Based on the best available science summarized in the EIS/OEIS Section 3.4.4.1 (Summary of Monitoring and Observations During Navy Activities) long-term consequences for marine mammal populations are unlikely to result from Navy training and testing activities in the Study Area. Please also refer to Chapter 5 (Standard Operating Procedures, Mitigation, and Monitoring) of the EIS/OEIS, detailing the procedures and mitigation measures during its training and testing activities designed to reduce impacts to marine mammals from Navy activities.
Ries (Electronic)	The Navy has expanded its proposal for training off of the Pacific Coast, suggesting 36 TIMES more sonar-emitting buoys as had been previously planned. This unexpected revision will drastically increase the impact on whales and other ocean wildlife. These activities have well known and well documented negative impacts on a number of whale species and porpoises, as well as other marine wildlife. In addition, the Navy admits the increase in the use of sonar devices "is likely to adversely affect"2 endangered leatherback turtles whose protected habitat along the Pacific Coast was only recently established in 2012. The Navy's activities will also have significant impacts on critical habitat areas for marine mammals and other wildlife. High intensity-mid-frequency sonar -- along with activities like dumping debris, the use of toxic chemicals, and detonating explosives -- will degrade sensitive habitat necessary for the survival of marine mammal populations. Sonar	The Navy is not proposing to increase the annual number of sonobuoys by a factor of 36. The Navy's original proposal in the Draft EIS/OEIS includes the annual deployment of approximately 9,200 sonobuoys of various types. The increase of 700 sonobuoys described in the Supplement is an increase of less than 8 percent. The Navy shares your concern for marine life, but this concern must be balanced with the purpose and need for Navy training and testing as detailed in Chapter 2 (Description of Proposed Action and Alternatives) of the EIS/OEIS. The Navy has conducted active sonar training and testing activities in the Study Area for decades, and there is no evidence that routine Navy training and testing has negatively impacted marine mammal populations in the Study Area or at any

Table I.5-4: Responses to Comments from Private Individuals (continued)

Commenter	Comment	Navy Response
	can result in debilitating and even fatal injuries for marine mammals. Scientists believe sonar activity can change whale diving behavior, confusing them to swim to depths their bodies cannot handle. Whales suspected to have beached themselves because of sonar activity show signs of physical trauma like bleeding around the brain, ears and other tissues and large bubbles in their organs – symptoms analogous to “the bends” in humans. To the extent that threatened or endangered species -- including humpback and sperm whales, and leatherback turtles -- are negatively impacted, the proposed activities may result in violations of the Endangered Species Act.	Navy Range Complex. Based on the best available science summarized in the EIS/OEIS Section 3.4.4.1 (Summary of Monitoring and Observations During Navy Activities) long-term consequences for marine mammal populations are unlikely to result from Navy training and testing activities in the Study Area. As described in the Supplement in Section 3.5.2 (Sea Turtle Summary), the proposed increase in the use of SSQ-125 sonobuoys "are not expected to result in substantial changes to behavior, growth, survival, annual reproductive success, lifetime reproductive success (fitness), or species recruitment, and are not expected to result in population-level impacts." The Navy has conducted active sonar training and testing activities in the Study Area for decades, and there is no evidence that routine Navy training and testing has negatively impacted individual sea turtles or sea turtle populations in the Study Area or at any Navy Range Complex. Based on the best available science summarized in the Draft EIS/OEIS Section 3.5.3.7.1 (Combined Impacts of All Stressors) “impacts are not expected to decrease the overall fitness or result in long-term population level impacts on any given population. In cases where potential impacts rise to a level that warrants mitigation, mitigation measures designed to reduce the potential impacts are discussed in Chapter 5 (Standard Operating Procedures, Mitigation, and Monitoring)."
Ringgaard (Electronic)	I urge the Navy to please limit the amount of sonar activity used in training missions off the Pacific Coast.	Thank you for participating in the NEPA process.
S. Robinson (Electronic)	Please rethink your sonor activities in the pacific. Please do not harm aquatic life with deafning Sonor. For large animals that can hear many miles, a sonor signal can be debilitating.	The Navy shares your concern for marine life, but this concern must be balanced with the purpose and need for Navy training and testing as detailed in Chapter 2 (Description of Proposed Action and Alternatives) of the EIS/OEIS. The Navy has conducted active sonar training and testing activities in the Study Area for decades, and there is no evidence that routine Navy training and testing has negatively impacted marine mammal populations in the Study Area or at any Navy Range Complex. Based on the best available science summarized in the EIS/OEIS Section 3.4.4.1 (Summary of Monitoring and Observations During Navy Activities) long-term consequences for marine mammal populations are unlikely to result from Navy training and testing activities in the Study Area. Please also refer to Chapter 5

Table I.5-4: Responses to Comments from Private Individuals (continued)

Commenter	Comment	Navy Response
		(Standard Operating Procedures, Mitigation, and Monitoring) of the EIS/OEIS, detailing the procedures and mitigation measures during its training and testing activities designed to reduce impacts to marine mammals from Navy activities.
R. Robson-01 (Electronic)	Your new proposed action seems to involve a much larger area than the Olympic Peninsula. I've heard that it includes part of California, Oregon, Washington, Idaho and Alaska as well with some over lapping. True? Even if "only" the Olympic Peninsula, the loss of income from tourism would be as deafening as the Growler jets. Who wants to live in, or vacation in a "war zone"? My understanding is that the noise from the Growler jets is literally deafening. Electromagnetic pulses, EMFs in general, are extremely dangerous to all life, even trees. I don't trust that the Navy has studied Independent scientific reviews of the multitude of dangers involved in this. In addition, the constant flying you intend to do would put vast amounts of CO2 into our atmosphere, vast. We are already at a tipping point given the warming northern seas and methane release. We are already in Climate Crisis. How can you justify putting this much more CO2 in the atmosphere, especially at this most delicate place? It seems to me that our military uses way more fossil fuels than all the peoples in the world use in their lives. How can paranoia justify more pollution and dependency on these fossil fuels?	Thank you for participating in the NEPA process. Please see Chapters 1 and 2 of the EIS/OEIS for a clear definition of the scope of this project. There are no weapons testing activities proposed in the Olympic National Forest in the Supplement to the Draft EIS/OEIS. It is also important to note that the proposed activities would not change how or where the Navy has been flying for decades. Idaho and Alaska are not included in the Study Area. The Navy is proposing to conduct training or testing activities in the Study Area beginning 12 nautical miles off the coast of California and Oregon Historically, activities within 50 nautical miles of the coast of California and Oregon are extremely rare, and that pattern is expected to continue under this Proposed Action. Training and testing are also proposed to occur off the coast of Washington as shown in Chapter 2 (Description of Proposed Action and Alternatives) of the NWTT EIS/OEIS. The Navy used the best available science and a comprehensive review of past, present, and reasonably foreseeable actions to develop a robust Cumulative Impacts analysis. The Navy has returned to the analysis in Chapter 4 (Cumulative Impacts) due to concerns raised in public comments, and the Chapter has been revised in response to those public comments. The literature on ocean acidification has been reviewed, and is now discussed in Section 4.4.4 (Climate Change), of Chapter 4 (Cumulative Impacts) of the EIS/OEIS.
R. Robson-02	What mitigation do you have in mind as possible? Is there any way to mitigate the damages already done, and limit those proposed? Can we have nation wide discussions about this? Few people in this country are lucky enough to live this close to an ocean, and to some of the most beautiful and pristine lands in America. Few people even know what is going on and proposed. Surely there must be alternatives of some sort. Many people vacation here because of the ocean, and Puget Sound used to be a beautiful and very special place. We don't even know what kind of chemicals are being used. How can we come up with mitigation ideas given so little information? What would you suggest? Because otherwise, I am very very much against your newest proposal especially given how the last one was snuck by with virtually no review and no public awareness. Because of that, I am, however, very grateful to be able to address your proposal and ask questions. I	The Navy's overall approach to assessing potential mitigation measures was based on two principles: (1) mitigations are reasonably effective at reducing potential impacts on the resource; and (2) from an operational perspective, the mitigations must be practicable and executable while not compromising safety and readiness. Through extensive discussion, and based on the best available science and monitoring training and testing over the course of nine years, NMFS and Navy have identified mitigation measures that are practicable and reasonably effective. For example, the mitigation zones proposed will reduce the likelihood of physiological harm, the number of marine mammals exposed, and the intensity of those exposures. As part of the Navy's effects analysis, the Navy considers all the

Table I.5-4: Responses to Comments from Private Individuals (continued)

Commenter	Comment	Navy Response
	thank you for that. At this point, it is getting harder to see our Navy as a protecting force, rather more as a threat to us citizens.	science that identifies locations where certain cetacean populations or individuals are known to engage in feeding, breeding, or other biologically important activities at certain times of year. Recently, NMFS has taken steps to begin formally identifying some of these areas and naming them Biologically Important Areas (BIAs). The Navy has considered these areas as part of its analysis in this Final EIS/OEIS when discussing particular species in Chapter 3 (Affected Environment and Environmental Consequences) as well as in considering whether limitations on Navy activities in these areas are warranted as mitigation in discussion in Chapter 5 (see Section 5.3.4.1.11, Avoiding Marine Species Habitats and Biologically Important Areas). The Navy thoroughly considered the humpback and gray whale feeding areas identified recently in its analysis and whether avoidance as mitigation was appropriate. Given the impact avoidance would have on military readiness activities and lack of biological benefit, avoidance is not warranted. Please see Section 5.3.4.1.11 (Avoiding Marine Species Habitats and Biologically Important Areas). However, Navy is proposing to provide reporting of generally low use of sonar in some of these areas to NMFS as part of classified annual reports to help inform future adaptive management related to impacts in these areas. At time of release of this Final EIS/OEIS, NMFS and Navy are in ongoing discussion regarding mitigation for MMPA purposes. Should additional mitigation to that which Navy has proposed be identified in the MMPA rule making and authorization, it will be indicated in the ROD. It is important to note that the BIAs were not meant to define exclusionary zones, nor critical habitat with regulatory management, nor were they meant to be locations that serve as sanctuaries from human activity, or areas analogous to marine protected areas. The NMFS-identified BIAs do not have direct or immediate regulatory consequences and the BIAs located within the NWTT Study Area are not the only areas used for feeding, migrating, or reproductive activity for these cetaceans in a species' entire range and habitat. The stated intention is for the BIAs to serve as a resource management tool and their currently identified boundaries be considered dynamic and subject to change based on any new information as well as, "existing density estimates, range-wide distribution data, information on population trends and life history parameters, known threats to the population, and other relevant information." There is a lack of science supporting identification of any additional BIAs at this time for the Pacific. The Navy and NMFS have supported

Table I.5-4: Responses to Comments from Private Individuals (continued)

Commenter	Comment	Navy Response
		and will continue to support the Cetacean and Sound Mapping project, including providing representation on the Cetacean Density and Distribution Mapping Working Group (CetMap), which informed NMFS' identification of BIAs. The same marine mammal density data present in the Navy's Density Database Technical Report, and used in the analysis for this EIS/OEIS, was used in the development of BIAs. The final products, including U.S. West Coast BIAs from this mapping effort, were completed and published in March 2015. Best management practices include measures that regulate operations to ensure compliance with pollution emission requirements and general resource conservation goals. Navy policies and procedures identified in Navy instructions such as the Environmental Readiness Program Manual, include directives regarding waste management, pollution prevention, and recycling, all of which benefit sediments and water quality in the ocean. Any procedures or practices that benefit ocean sediments and water quality in turn benefit all marine life in the ocean, from plants and invertebrates, to fish and marine mammals. The Navy made significant efforts to notify the public to ensure maximum public participation during the public comment period, including using postcards, press releases, and newspaper display advertisements. The public could download and review the document, and make comments to it, on the website (www.NWTTEIS.com).
R. Robson-03	Birds, pollinators, and all migrating animals will be greatly affected by both the Growler jets and especially the electromagnetic testing, not to mention humans. There are reams of scientific papers about these affects and they are dire. The two kinds of birds in question under protection due to near extinction, are but a drop in the bucket. All life will be affected by this prolonged effort planned. It feels as if we are being attacked by our own forces. I've had so many sleepless nights over this. I feel helpless. So again, grateful to be allowed to give input. This needs to be studied much more. I am not at all sure that any of this truly is necessary. What will be left to protect? What real value, things of real value will we have left to protect? I understand that expensive new equipment is fun, "boys and their toys"-I mean I enjoy things that go boom too. But at what expense of life and quality of life? Do you fully understand the effects of electromagnetic activity? The degree to which this will throw off migration patterns, and actually affect the brains of animals and people, affecting even plant life as well? This will no longer be America, the beautiful if your proposal goes through.	Thank you for participating in the NEPA process. However this comment is outside the scope of the Supplement to the Draft EIS/OEIS. Please see Chapters 1 and 2 of the EIS/OEIS for a clear definition of the scope of this project. There are no activities involving the use of electronic radiation proposed in the Supplement to the Draft EIS/OEIS. Analysis of airfield activities and relocation of aircraft and personnel is addressed in other environmental planning documents, such as the Draft Environmental Assessment for the Transition of Expeditionary EA-6B Prowler Squadrons to EA-18G Growler at Naval Air Station Whidbey Island, Oak Harbor, Washington (U.S. Department of the Navy, 2012). Therefore, the NWTT EIS/OEIS includes the analysis of activities only where those activities occur, nor does it include activities commonly associated with an airfield, such as takeoffs and landings.
R. Robson-04	Marine habitats are already largely destroyed by your efforts which I understand include birthing and calving areas. Recently, dying and dead birds showed up on	The Navy is committed to protecting the marine environment during the conduct of its training and testing activities. As described in

Table I.5-4: Responses to Comments from Private Individuals (continued)

Commenter	Comment	Navy Response
	our shores covered with some unknown, unidentified grey sticky substance and my first thought was the Navy! We are told that the Pacific ocean is for all intents and purposes dead. I know this damage has a great deal to do with our military, not only the Navy. But what you are doing now is devastating, absolutely heart breaking. What good is it to protect the US if you destroy our resources? Which, besides the war game exercises you describe, also includes the dumping of waste matter, both human and chemicals and such. You seem to be making a bad situation worse. It is bad enough that the ocean has long been used for a dump, but to do it on purpose with intent-to kill even for target practice is unconscionable. I believe we have the right to expect better behavior from those who claim to be protecting us.	Chapter 5 (Standard Operating Procedures, Mitigation, and Monitoring) of the EIS/OEIS, the Navy has used extensive measures to protect the marine environment while training and testing for nearly a decade. Impacts to birds from the proposed action can be found in Section 3.6 (Birds) of the NWTT EIS/OEIS. Best management practices include measures that regulate operations to ensure compliance with pollution emission requirements and general resource conservation goals. Navy policies and procedures identified in Navy instructions such as the Environmental Readiness Program Manual, include directives regarding waste management, pollution prevention, and recycling, all of which benefit sediments and water quality in the ocean. Any procedures or practices that benefit ocean sediments and water quality in turn benefit all marine life in the ocean, from plants and invertebrates, to fish, birds, and marine mammals. The Navy's past practices, and any measures which might be contemplated to clean up former disposal sites, are out of the scope of this document. There has been no dumping of explosives in decades. The Navy's proposed activities do not include dumping of any materials.
R. Robson-05	There are many more categories and things I could say. But allow me to conclude by mentioning the extreme cost of these programs, not only to the environment and to life and businesses, but the bottom line financially. The cost is astronomic. We have many pressing problems, more pressing than any vague threat militarily, such as infrastructure. Our power grids. Our decaying, very old nuclear plants, our educational system which ranks 52nd in the world! Rather than being the most paranoid, most thuggish military state country, I'd prefer us to be the most educated, the most civilized, the most healthy, and yes, even happy, content. What after all is the true worth of a nation? What are we aiming for? Why do we rank so very low in so very many areas compared to the rest of the world? I'd postulate it is because the military is consuming all our money and resources. It is not that I do not want a military and its protection. It is more that I feel it is out of control and conflicting with real progress with greater benefit.	Thank you for participating in the NEPA process.
R. Robson-06	I am stunned by the lack of public awareness as almost no one knows about this, it is not disused on the news or in newspapers, and so I fear there has been little public feedback, much less information for an informed decision. Last year's proposal seemed snuck through before anyone could assess or comment. Visiting this excellent site of yours, I am stunned by all that has happened already! I am a life long environmentalist with a science background and therefore horrified by what has been done already, much less this new proposal. I am also confused about	Thank you for participating in the NEPA process. Please see Chapters 1 and 2 of the EIS/OEIS for a clear definition of the scope of this project. There are no activities involving the use of electronic radiation proposed in the Supplement to the Draft EIS/OEIS. It is also important to note that those proposed activities relevant to Tribal concerns are merely the continuation of similar activities that have been occurring in this same area for decades.

Table I.5-4: Responses to Comments from Private Individuals (continued)

Commenter	Comment	Navy Response
	what I've read regarding your new proposal-it is not clear at all. I understand the need to test equipment. But, the effects of this new proposal, much less last year's, is horrific. One wonders if we, the people are under attack by our own Navy. I wonder about independent peer review of your plans. I know a great deal about electromagnetic effects and surely this would severely damage not only protected wildlife, but all wildlife, as well as human beings. We live in the Pacific Flyway. Do I understand correctly that you plan these arial experiments for 5 years? I've heard that Growler jets have a high rate of crashing. Is this true?	The Navy made significant efforts to notify the public to ensure maximum public participation during the public comment period, including using postcards, press releases, and newspaper display advertisements. The public could download and review the document, and make comments to it, on the website (www.NWTTEIS.com).
Rodvold (Electronic)	I simply want to voice that the protection and respect of All sea life, of all life should be top priority of human beings. I ask that any actions taken on behalf of the Navy be thoughtful and respectful to Life. Thank you.	The Navy shares your concern for marine life, but this concern must be balanced with the purpose and need for Navy training and testing as detailed in Chapter 2 (Description of Proposed Action and Alternatives) of the EIS/OEIS. The Navy has conducted active sonar training and testing activities in the Study Area for decades, and there is no evidence that routine Navy training and testing has negatively impacted marine mammal populations in the Study Area or at any Navy Range Complex. Based on the best available science summarized in the EIS/OEIS Section 3.4.4.1 (Summary of Monitoring and Observations During Navy Activities) long-term consequences for marine mammal populations are unlikely to result from Navy training and testing activities in the Study Area. Please also refer to Chapter 5 (Standard Operating Procedures, Mitigation, and Monitoring) of the EIS/OEIS, detailing the procedures and mitigation measures during its training and testing activities designed to reduce impacts to marine mammals from Navy activities.
Ross (Electronic)	Please stop the active naval sonar exercises! You are causing ears and brains to explode and flat out kill whales, dolphins, and other marine mammals and marine life. This is cruel and unnecessary and a threat to biodiversity everywhere. Please stop the killing, traumatic brain injuries, sonar blasts so loud they kill huge whales and everything else nearby. Try listening to what you subject innocent cetaceans and other life to. Please!	The Navy shares your concern for marine life, but this concern must be balanced with the purpose and need for Navy training and testing as detailed in Chapter 2 (Description of Proposed Action and Alternatives) of the EIS/OEIS. The Navy has conducted active sonar training and testing activities in the Study Area for decades, and there is no evidence that routine Navy training and testing has negatively impacted marine mammal populations in the Study Area or at any Navy Range Complex. Based on the best available science summarized in the EIS/OEIS Section 3.4.4.1 (Summary of Monitoring and Observations During Navy Activities) long-term consequences for marine mammal populations are unlikely to result from Navy training and testing activities in the Study Area. Please also refer to Chapter 5 (Standard Operating Procedures, Mitigation, and Monitoring) of the EIS/OEIS, detailing the procedures and mitigation measures during its training and testing activities designed to reduce impacts to marine

Table I.5-4: Responses to Comments from Private Individuals (continued)

Commenter	Comment	Navy Response
		mammals from Navy activities.
Russel (Electronic)	TO WHOM IT MAY CONCERN: PLEASE DO NOT ENGAGE IN ADDITIONAL TESTING/TRAININGS WHICH INVOLVE SONAR AND EXPLOSIVES IN THIS TRAINING ZONE. BY THE NAVY'S OWN ESTIMATES, THOUSANDS OF ADDITIONAL ANIMALS WOULD BE KILLED OR HARMED. TOO MUCH HARM IS ALREADY BEING DONE.	The Navy shares your concern for marine life, but this concern must be balanced with the purpose and need for Navy training and testing as detailed in Chapter 2 (Description of Proposed Action and Alternatives) of the EIS/OEIS. The Navy has conducted active sonar training and testing activities in the Study Area for decades, and there is no evidence that routine Navy training and testing has negatively impacted marine mammal populations in the Study Area or at any Navy Range Complex. Based on the best available science summarized in the EIS/OEIS Section 3.4.4.1 (Summary of Monitoring and Observations During Navy Activities) long-term consequences for marine mammal populations are unlikely to result from Navy training and testing activities in the Study Area. Please also refer to Chapter 5 (Standard Operating Procedures, Mitigation, and Monitoring) of the EIS/OEIS, detailing the procedures and mitigation measures during its training and testing activities designed to reduce impacts to marine mammals from Navy activities.
Ryan (Electronic)	Please reconsider the proposal of increasing sonar-emitting bouys off Pacific Coast (36x more sonar-emitting bouys as had been previously planned), and consider the well-being and preservation of marine animas and habitat.	The Navy is not proposing to increase the annual number of sonobuoys by a factor of 36. The Navy's original proposal in the Draft EIS/OEIS includes the annual deployment of approximately 9,200 sonobuoys of various types. The increase of 700 sonobuoys described in the Supplement is an increase of less than 8 percent. The Navy shares your concern for marine life, but this concern must be balanced with the purpose and need for Navy training and testing as detailed in Chapter 2 (Description of Proposed Action and Alternatives) of the EIS/OEIS. The Navy has conducted active sonar training and testing activities in the Study Area for decades, and there is no evidence that routine Navy training and testing has negatively impacted marine mammal populations in the Study Area or at any Navy Range Complex. Based on the best available science summarized in the EIS/OEIS Section 3.4.4.1 (Summary of Monitoring and Observations During Navy Activities) long-term consequences for marine mammal populations are unlikely to result from Navy training and testing activities in the Study Area. Please also refer to Chapter 5 (Standard Operating Procedures, Mitigation, and Monitoring) of the EIS/OEIS, detailing the procedures and mitigation measures during its training and testing activities designed to reduce impacts to marine mammals from Navy activities.

Table I.5-4: Responses to Comments from Private Individuals (continued)

Commenter	Comment	Navy Response
Saenz (Electronic)	It does not behoove ONE nation to devastate the population of the oceans simply because we "assume" no long-term ill-effects to Navy sonar and explosive testing. When something as trivial as whale feces directs so much of the ecology of the ocean, how can your 'experts' posit that animals stranding or becoming disoriented has little effect on the natural environment, it becomes resoundingly clear that they have not done nearly enough research on the subject.	The Navy shares your concern for marine life, but this concern must be balanced with the purpose and need for Navy training and testing as detailed in Chapter 2 (Description of Proposed Action and Alternatives) of the EIS/OEIS. The Navy has conducted active sonar training and testing activities in the Study Area for decades, and there is no evidence that routine Navy training and testing has negatively impacted marine mammal populations in the Study Area or at any Navy Range Complex. Based on the best available science summarized in the EIS/OEIS Section 3.4.4.1 (Summary of Monitoring and Observations During Navy Activities) long-term consequences for marine mammal populations are unlikely to result from Navy training and testing activities in the Study Area. Please also refer to Chapter 5 (Standard Operating Procedures, Mitigation, and Monitoring) of the EIS/OEIS, detailing the procedures and mitigation measures during its training and testing activities designed to reduce impacts to marine mammals from Navy activities.
Sahnow (Electronic)	No more killing of fish, whales, seafood in our Pacific Ocean!	Thank you for participating in the NEPA process.
Sander (Electronic)	Do not violate the Endangered Species Act by increasing Sonar activities, explosive & weapons firing and any other acoustic training off the Pacific Coast. This will degrade the sensitive, critical habitats necessary for the health of the world's sea mammals. These animals are limited and we are losing them fast. Thank You, Faye Sander	The Navy shares your concern for marine life, but this concern must be balanced with the purpose and need for Navy training and testing as detailed in Chapter 2 (Description of Proposed Action and Alternatives) of the EIS/OEIS. The Navy has conducted active sonar training and testing activities in the Study Area for decades, and there is no evidence that routine Navy training and testing has negatively impacted marine mammal populations in the Study Area or at any Navy Range Complex. Based on the best available science summarized in the EIS/OEIS Section 3.4.4.1 (Summary of Monitoring and Observations During Navy Activities) long-term consequences for marine mammal populations are unlikely to result from Navy training and testing activities in the Study Area. Please also refer to Chapter 5 (Standard Operating Procedures, Mitigation, and Monitoring) of the EIS/OEIS, detailing the procedures and mitigation measures during its training and testing activities designed to reduce impacts to marine mammals from Navy activities.
Sanford (Electronic)	A drastic increase in sonar activity will negatively impact wildlife. Marine mammals are extremely sensitive to noise, and sonar disrupts basic behaviors necessary for survival such as migration, surfacing, navigating, hearing, nursing, breeding and	The Navy shares your concern for marine life, but this concern must be balanced with the purpose and need for Navy training and testing as detailed in Chapter 2 (Description of Proposed Action and Alternatives)

Table I.5-4: Responses to Comments from Private Individuals (continued)

Commenter	Comment	Navy Response
	feeding. Sonar can result in debilitating and even fatal injuries for marine mammals. Scientists believe sonar activity can change whale diving behavior, confusing them to swim to depths their bodies cannot handle. Whales suspected to have beached themselves because of sonar activity show signs of physical trauma like bleeding around the brain, ears and other tissues and large bubbles in their organs – symptoms analogous to "the bends" in humans. To the extent that threatened or endangered species -- including humpback and sperm whales, and leatherback turtles -- are negatively impacted, the proposed activities may result in violations of the Endangered Species Act. The Navy's current environmental analysis fails to provide basic information necessary to adequately evaluate the impacts of the proposed activities. This analysis also fails to provide adequate measures to mitigate the harmful effects of the proposed activities on marine mammals and other wildlife. Based on the information apparent in the environmental analysis, the Navy's "No Action Alternative" is the proposal with the most limited impact on wildlife.	of the EIS/OEIS. The Navy has conducted training and testing activities in the Study Area for decades, and there is no evidence that routine Navy training and testing has negatively impacted individual sea turtles or sea turtle populations, or marine mammal populations in the Study Area or at any Navy Range Complex. Based on the best available science summarized in the EIS/OEIS Section 3.4.4.1 (Summary of Monitoring and Observations During Navy Activities), long-term consequences for marine mammal populations are unlikely to result from Navy training and testing activities in the Study Area. Note that for sea turtles, as described in the EIS/OEIS Section 3.5.3.7.1 (Combined Impacts of All Stressors), "impacts are not expected to decrease the overall fitness or result in long-term population level impacts on any given population." Please also refer to Chapter 5 (Standard Operating Procedures, Mitigation, and Monitoring) of the EIS/OEIS, detailing the procedures and mitigation measures during its training and testing activities designed to reduce impacts to marine mammals and sea turtles from Navy activities.
Sanger (Electronic)	The Navy's current environmental analysis fails to provide basic information necessary to adequately evaluate the impacts of the proposed activities. This analysis also fails to provide adequate measures to mitigate the harmful effects of the proposed activities on marine mammals and other wildlife. Based on the information apparent in the environmental analysis, the Navy's "No Action Alternative" is the proposal with the most limited impact on wildlife. A drastic increase in sonar activity will negatively impact wildlife. Marine mammals are extremely sensitive to noise, and sonar disrupts basic behaviors necessary for survival such as migration, surfacing, navigating, hearing, nursing, breeding and feeding. Sonar can result in debilitating and even fatal injuries for marine mammals. Scientists believe sonar activity can change whale diving behavior, confusing them to swim to depths their bodies cannot handle. Whales suspected to have beached themselves because of sonar activity show signs of physical trauma like bleeding around the brain, ears and other tissues and large bubbles in their organs – symptoms analogous to "the bends" in humans. To the extent that threatened or endangered species -- including humpback and sperm whales, and leatherback turtles -- are negatively impacted, the proposed activities may result in violations of the Endangered Species Act.	The Navy shares your concern for marine life, but this concern must be balanced with the purpose and need for Navy training and testing as detailed in Chapter 2 (Description of Proposed Action and Alternatives) of the EIS/OEIS. The Navy has conducted training and testing activities in the Study Area for decades, and there is no evidence that routine Navy training and testing has negatively impacted individual sea turtles or sea turtle populations, or marine mammal populations in the Study Area or at any Navy Range Complex. Based on the best available science summarized in the EIS/OEIS Section 3.4.4.1 (Summary of Monitoring and Observations During Navy Activities), long-term consequences for marine mammal populations are unlikely to result from Navy training and testing activities in the Study Area. Note that for sea turtles, as described in the EIS/OEIS Section 3.5.3.7.1 (Combined Impacts of All Stressors), "impacts are not expected to decrease the overall fitness or result in long-term population level impacts on any given population." Please also refer to Chapter 5 (Standard Operating Procedures, Mitigation, and Monitoring) of the EIS/OEIS, detailing the procedures and mitigation measures during its training and testing activities designed to reduce impacts to marine mammals and sea turtles from Navy activities.

Table I.5-4: Responses to Comments from Private Individuals (continued)

Commenter	Comment	Navy Response
		Regarding previous strandings, see Section 3.4.3.1.8 (Stranding) and the referenced technical report "Marine Mammal Strandings Associated with U.S. Navy Sonar Activities" (U.S. Department of the Navy 2013c).
Sarsfield (Electronic)	I moved to Sequim to enjoy peace and quiet and have been disrurbed by jet flyovers from Naval jets..very loud and disturbing not only to us, but also to the many bird species who frequent our property. I feel strongly that given the significant increase in "Grouser" aircraft noise we will experience life like on Whidbey Island...I feel strongly that our National Parks are not to be abused by using them as military training site and also object to bomb realeses in the San Juan de Fuca as I fear for our fish sepcies survival.	Thank you for participating in the NEPA process. However this comment is outside the scope of the Supplement to the Draft EIS/OEIS. Please see Chapters 1 and 2 of the EIS/OEIS for a clear definition of the scope of this project. The NWTT EIS/OEIS includes the analysis of activities only where those activities occur. There are no bombing activities or activities involving the use of National Parks proposed in the Supplement to the Draft EIS/OEIS.
Sarto-01 (Electronic)	I am reading about the NEPA process and see that in CEQ 1508.21 under NEPA process that cumulative actions related to this one should be included in the same document. Why has the Navy not done this? Why has the Navy not included the land sea and air projects as they do very relate to one another, (especially as far as cumulative impacts on the local ecosystem and the communities that live in this area.) It says "cumulative actions which when viewed with other proposed actions have cumulatively significant impacts and should therefore be discussed in the same impact statement" Why has the navy separated out each proposed action? I am referring to the four proposals: 1) December 2013 EA growler scoping, 2)Jan 2014 NTT EIS/OEIS, 3)NW EWR EA in August 2014, and 4)scoping period for added Growlers December 2014. Why were these separated out independently of one another? Can the navy re propose these in one larger document (EIS) so the public can have a more comprehensive presentation?	The Navy used the best available science and a comprehensive review of past, present, and reasonably foreseeable actions to develop a robust Cumulative Impacts analysis in Chapter 4 (Cumulative Impacts) of the EIS/OEIS. The Navy completed the Supplement to the Draft EIS/OEIS in compliance with current law, including the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA). In addition to NEPA, the Navy continues to comply with other applicable environmental laws and with a number of regulatory requirements, such as the Marine Mammal Protection Act, the Endangered Species Act, the Coastal Zone Management Act, and the Magnuson-Stevens Fishery Conservation and Management Act.
Sarto-02	I am deeply concerned about how this increased sonar will adversely affect marine mammals. I therefore have the following questions that I would like the Navy to address: Has the navy presented and fully analyzed the best current science concerning the effect of this on marine mammals? What science has been used? Has the research been funded by the Navy? Are there any studies or biological opinions outside of the Navy's research that has been consulted? If not, why not? What do the top marine biologists say about this kind of sonar on whales and dolphins health and behavior? Does the ESA and MMPA protect the whales and dolphins from this kind of activity? If not, why not? Can the Navy prove it will not be harmful, and contribute toward the decline of species? Can the public be alerted to all of the current research being done on this matter so we can fully evaluate the proposal with the best science guiding us for our input? Can the Navy please include all past and future impacts of this proposal, (including all future actions	Please note that the proposed action (as detailed in Chapter 2 (Description of Proposed Action and Alternatives) of the EIS/OEIS) is almost entirely about the continuation of routine training and testing activities that have been ongoing for decades in the area. The analysis in the current EIS/OEIS actually predicts fewer impacts to marine mammals than are currently authorized under the Marine Mammal Protection Act and Endangered Species Act for the Navy's current training and testing activities. Overall and based on over 8 years of scientific monitoring and research summarized in the EIS/OEIS Section 3.4.4.1 (Summary of Monitoring and Observations During Navy Activities) there is no evidence that routine Navy training and testing has negatively impacted marine mammal populations in the Study Area or at any Navy Range Complex. This section and the

Table I.5-4: Responses to Comments from Private Individuals (continued)

Commenter	Comment	Navy Response
	related to this) especially in regard to the impact on marine animals, directly, and through the disruption of their habitat? Can the navy provide alternative areas to conduct these tests where there are not populations of whales and dolphins or other important marine life? Can the navy propose another alternative which does not increase the use of sonar in this critical habitat area?	remainder of Chapter 3.4 (Marine Mammals) along with Chapter 5 (Standard Operating Procedures, Mitigation, and Monitoring) provides all of the information necessary to answer the questions presented in this comment. Your questions and specific answers are as follows: What science has been used? – Answer: See the final section of Chapter 3.4 (Marine Mammals) titled “References Cited and Considered”. Has the research been funded by the Navy? - Answer: Only a portion of the research used in the document has. See Section 3.4.4.1 for details regarding the NWTT Study Area. Are there any studies or biological opinions outside of the Navy's research that has been consulted? - Answer: Yes, the National Marine Fisheries Service and the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service have provided biological opinions and also see the final section of Chapter 3.4 (Marine Mammals) titled “References Cited and Considered”. What do the top marine biologists say about this kind of sonar on whales and dolphins health and behavior? - Answer: See the discussion presented in Section 3.4.3.1 (Acoustic Stressors). Does the ESA and MMPA protect the whales and dolphins from this kind of activity? – Answer: These two laws are written more broadly than protection from a specific incidental activity. For ESA, see Section 3.4.3.1.19 (Application of the Endangered Species Act to Marine Mammals) and with regarding MMPA, see Section 3.4.3.1.18 (Application of the Marine Mammal Protection Act to Potential Acoustic and Explosive Effects). Can the Navy prove it will not be harmful, and contribute toward the decline of species? – Answer: Science does not ever “prove” phenomena, however the weight of evidence (scientific data) summarized in the EIS/OEIS in Section 3.4.4.1 (Summary of Monitoring and Observations During Navy Activities) has demonstrated that routine Navy training and testing has not negatively impacted marine mammal populations in the Study Area or at any Navy Range Complex. Can the public be alerted to all of the current research being done on this matter so we can fully evaluate the proposal with the best science guiding us for our input? – Answer: The EIS/OEIS is intended to provide all relevant best available science in this regard. In addition to the “References Cited and Considered” section noted above, also see the referenced Navy monitoring reports that are available at the Navy

Table I.5-4: Responses to Comments from Private Individuals (continued)

Commenter	Comment	Navy Response
		website; www.navymarinespeciesmonitoring.us/ and also at the NMFS website; www.nmfs.noaa.gov/pr/permits/incidental.htm#applications Can the Navy please include all past and future impacts of this proposal, (including all future actions related to this) especially in regard to the impact on marine animals, directly, and through the disruption of their habitat? – Answer: The analysis presented in the EIS/OEIS Chapter 3.4 (Marine Mammals) includes all future actions over the five-year period considered by this EIS/OEIS. Assessment of past impacts are provided with regard to the monitoring and research conducted since 2006 in Section 3.4.4.1 (Summary of Monitoring and Observations During Navy Activities). Can the navy provide alternative areas to conduct these tests where there are not populations of whales and dolphins or other important marine life? – Answer: There are no such places in the ocean "where there are not populations of whales and dolphins or other important marine life", however, for a discussion of the general topic regarding alternative locations, see Section 5.3.4 (Mitigation Measures Considered but Eliminated). Can the navy propose another alternative which does not increase the use of sonar in this critical habitat area? – Answer: See Chapter 2 (Description of the Proposed Action and Alternatives) for a discussion regarding the development of the alternatives meeting the purpose and need for the Navy to train and test at sea as well as Section 5.3.4 (Mitigation Measures Considered but Eliminated) where various previous suggestions to relocate the proposed activities have been addressed.
Sarto-03	What current science does the Navy use to justify drastically increasing the use of sonar in areas that are critical habitat for whales , dolphins and turtles? How exactly will the navy protect mammals and other sea life in the marine sanctuaries and sensitive habitat areas from this sonar activity? How many takes are allowed under the endangered species act, and how can the navy be held accountable in following this federal law?	The Navy shares your concern for marine life, but this concern must be balanced with the purpose and need for Navy training and testing as detailed in Chapter 2 (Description of Proposed Action and Alternatives) of the EIS/OEIS. The Navy has conducted training and testing activities in the Study Area for decades, and there is no evidence that routine Navy training and testing has negatively impacted individual sea turtles or sea turtle populations, or marine mammal populations in the Study Area or at any Navy Range Complex. Based on the best available science summarized in the EIS/OEIS Section 3.4.4.1 (Summary of Monitoring and Observations During Navy Activities), long-term consequences for marine mammal populations are unlikely to result from Navy training and testing activities in the Study Area. Note that for sea turtles, as described in the EIS/OEIS Section

Table I.5-4: Responses to Comments from Private Individuals (continued)

Commenter	Comment	Navy Response
		3.5.3.7.1 (Combined Impacts of All Stressors), “impacts are not expected to decrease the overall fitness or result in long-term population level impacts on any given population.” Please also refer to Chapter 5 (Standard Operating Procedures, Mitigation, and Monitoring) of the EIS/OEIS, detailing the procedures and mitigation measures during its training and testing activities designed to reduce impacts to marine mammals and sea turtles from Navy activities. As described in Chapter 5 (Standard Operating Procedures, Mitigation, and Monitoring) of the Final EIS/OEIS, the Navy evaluated the effectiveness and practicability of a number of potential mitigation measures including the avoidance of specific areas. The Navy has undertaken consultation with NMFS for the proposed and ongoing activities in the NWTT Study Area and the Navy refined the mitigation measures, which are now presented in Chapter 5 (Standard Operating Procedures, Mitigation, and Monitoring) of this Final EIS/OEIS. Through careful exploration of all mitigation measures to determine which were the most effective, the Navy chose the measures to mitigate potential impacts to marine mammals while still being able to meet its operational needs to train for real-world conditions. The Navy’s specific mitigation measures are outlined in the following sections: Section 5.3.1 (Lookout Procedural Measures), Section 5.3.2 (Mitigation Zone Procedural Measures), and Section 5.3.3 (Mitigation Areas). Specifically, Section 5.3.4 (Mitigation Measures Considered but Eliminated) presents Navy consideration of similar area restrictions. The Navy and NMFS will use the Adaptive Management process to assess whether any additional mitigation should be considered in identified biologically important areas. Please see Section 5.3.3 and 5.3.4, in which protection zones were considered and discussed. In addition, as described in Section 5.3.2 (Mitigation Zone Procedural Measures), the Navy has considered and established activity-specific mitigation zones for the protection of species that may be present no matter where the activity may occur.
Sarto-04	The cumulative impacts of the Navy's use of sonar and explosives have been devastating to marine mammals, especially to whales, dolphins and turtles. What current peer reviewed science has been used to back up the proposed increase of sonar? Has this been reviewed by the top marine biologists? Aren't these threatened and endangered species protected from such devices because of the negative impact on them? How can the U.S. Navy go ahead with even more testing	The Navy used the best available science and a comprehensive review of past, present, and reasonably foreseeable actions to develop a robust Cumulative Impacts analysis. See Chapter 4 (Cumulative Impacts) of the EIS/OEIS, which has been updated for the Final EIS/OEIS. The Navy shares your concern for marine life, but this concern must be

Table I.5-4: Responses to Comments from Private Individuals (continued)

Commenter	Comment	Navy Response
	of this equipment, especially when it is in "protected" marine sanctuaries and critical habitat? Even if only one Orca whale was put at some risk of being injured, wouldn't this be in violation of the endangered species act? The cumulative effect of this increased sonar on threatened and endangered species must be addressed...these populations of marine life continue to dwindle, and so continued use of this dangerous technology will seriously (and in my mind, illegally) lead toward extinction. I believe that the top marine biologists and scientists need to be consulted ((independent of navy's "science..wherever that comes from) and their advice followed. Have the top marine biologists been consulted on this increase in sonar? If so, what are their recommendations, especially in regard to the Orca whales in the Puget Sound area? The Navy needs to respect our laws and the best science available. Have they done this every step of the way? Can the Navy please provide evidence (documentation) of this for the American public to review?? Since the navy's budget is provided for by the American tax money, should that public not have say in how our money is used? (If our monies are used (via increased sonar testing) to wipe out the last of the Orca whales....we are thus responsible for stopping this from happening if we possibly can. I feel it is our moral imperative to stop this. All cumulative impacts need to be addressed on the larger proposal at hand...which would include all land, sea and air operations on the west coast...in one giant EIS. This would include future impacts related to this activity/proposal, as they also need to be addressed and fully disclosed and analyzed (according to NEPA guidelines) Is the Navy planning to do this for the public? And if not, why not, since this is what NEPA requires of federal agencies?	balanced with the purpose and need for Navy training and testing as detailed in Chapter 2 (Description of Proposed Action and Alternatives) of the EIS/OEIS. The Navy has conducted training and testing activities in the Study Area for decades, and there is no evidence that routine Navy training and testing has negatively impacted individual sea turtles or sea turtle populations, or marine mammal populations in the Study Area or at any Navy Range Complex. Based on the best available science summarized in the EIS/OEIS Section 3.4.4.1 (Summary of Monitoring and Observations During Navy Activities), long-term consequences for marine mammal populations are unlikely to result from Navy training and testing activities in the Study Area. Note that for sea turtles, as described in the EIS/OEIS Section 3.5.3.7.1 (Combined Impacts of All Stressors), “impacts are not expected to decrease the overall fitness or result in long-term population level impacts on any given population.” Please also refer to Chapter 5 (Standard Operating Procedures, Mitigation, and Monitoring) of the EIS/OEIS, detailing the procedures and mitigation measures during its training and testing activities designed to reduce impacts to marine mammals and sea turtles from Navy activities. As part of the Navy’s effects analysis, the Navy considers all the science that identifies locations where certain cetacean populations or individuals are known to engage in feeding, breeding, or other biologically important activities at certain times of year. Recently, NMFS has taken steps to begin formally identifying some of these areas and naming them Biologically Important Areas (BIAs). The Navy has considered these areas as part of its analysis in this Final EIS/OEIS when discussing particular species in Chapter 3 (Affected Environment and Environmental Consequences) as well as in considering whether limitations on Navy activities in these areas are warranted as mitigation in discussion in Chapter 5 (see Section 5.3.4.1.11, Avoiding Marine Species Habitats and Biologically Important Areas). The Navy thoroughly considered the humpback and gray whale feeding areas identified recently in its analysis and whether avoidance as mitigation was appropriate. Given the impact avoidance would have on military readiness activities and lack of biological benefit, avoidance is not warranted. Please see Section 5.3.4.1.11 (Avoiding Marine Species Habitats and Biologically Important Areas). However, Navy is proposing to provide reporting of generally low use of sonar in some of these areas to NMFS as part of classified annual

Table I.5-4: Responses to Comments from Private Individuals (continued)

Commenter	Comment	Navy Response
		reports to help inform future adaptive management related to impacts in these areas. At time of release of this Final EIS/OEIS, NMFS and Navy are in ongoing discussion regarding mitigation for MMPA purposes. Should additional mitigation to that which Navy has proposed be identified in the MMPA rule making and authorization, it will be indicated in the ROD. It is important to note that the BIAs were not meant to define exclusionary zones, nor critical habitat with regulatory management, nor were they meant to be locations that serve as sanctuaries from human activity, or areas analogous to marine protected areas. The NMFS-identified BIAs do not have direct or immediate regulatory consequences and the BIAs located within the NWTT Study Area are not the only areas used for feeding, migrating, or reproductive activity for these cetaceans in a species' entire range and habitat. The stated intention is for the BIAs to serve as a resource management tool and their currently identified boundaries be considered dynamic and subject to change based on any new information as well as, "existing density estimates, range-wide distribution data, information on population trends and life history parameters, known threats to the population, and other relevant information." There is a lack of science supporting identification of any additional BIAs at this time for the Pacific. The Navy and NMFS have supported and will continue to support the Cetacean and Sound Mapping project, including providing representation on the Cetacean Density and Distribution Mapping Working Group (CetMap), which informed NMFS' identification of BIAs. The same marine mammal density data present in the Navy's Density Database Technical Report, and used in the analysis for this EIS/OEIS, was used in the development of BIAs. The final products, including U.S. West Coast BIAs from this mapping effort, were completed and published in March 2015. As described in Chapter 5 (Standard Operating Procedures, Mitigation, and Monitoring) of the Final EIS/OEIS, the Navy evaluated the effectiveness and practicability of a number of potential mitigation measures including the avoidance of specific areas. The Navy has undertaken consultation with NMFS for the proposed and ongoing activities in the NWTT Study Area and the Navy refined the mitigation measures, which are now presented in Chapter 5 (Standard Operating Procedures, Mitigation, and Monitoring) of this Final EIS/OEIS. Through careful exploration of all mitigation measures to determine which were the most effective, the Navy chose the measures to

Table I.5-4: Responses to Comments from Private Individuals (continued)

Commenter	Comment	Navy Response
		mitigate potential impacts to marine mammals while still being able to meet its operational needs to train for real-world conditions. The Navy's specific mitigation measures are outlined in the following sections: Section 5.3.1 (Lookout Procedural Measures), Section 5.3.2 (Mitigation Zone Procedural Measures), and Section 5.3.3 (Mitigation Areas). Specifically, Section 5.3.4 (Mitigation Measures Considered but Eliminated) presents Navy consideration of similar area restrictions. The Navy and NMFS will use the Adaptive Management process to assess whether any additional mitigation should be considered in identified biologically important areas. Please see Section 5.3.3 and 5.3.4, in which protection zones were considered and discussed. In addition, as described in Section 5.3.2 (Mitigation Zone Procedural Measures), the Navy has considered and established activity-specific mitigation zones for the protection of species that may be present no matter where the activity may occur.
Sather (Electronic)	I oppose the use of sonar in the Pacific Ocean for the following reasons. Ocean mammals depend on hearing for navigation, feeding, and reproduction. Scientists have linked military sonar and live-fire activities to mass whale beaching, exploded eardrums, and even death. In 2004, during war games near Hawai'i, the Navy's sonar was implicated in a mass stranding of up to 200 melon-headed whales in Hanalei Bay, Kaua'i. The Navy and Fisheries Service estimate that, over the plan's five-year period, training and testing activities will result in thousands of animals suffering permanent hearing loss, lung injuries or death. Millions of animals will be exposed to temporary injuries and disturbances, with many subjected to multiple harmful exposures.	Regarding previous strandings, see Section 3.4.3.1.8 (Stranding) and the referenced technical report "Marine Mammal Strandings Associated with U.S. Navy Sonar Activities" (U.S. Department of the Navy 2013c). Based on the best available science summarized in the Draft EIS/OEIS Section 3.4.4.1 (Summary of Monitoring and Observations During Navy Activities), long-term consequences for marine mammal populations are unlikely to result from Navy training and testing activities in the Study Area.
Saunders (Electronic)	I object to closing bridges on short notice. Access to medical and other resources for local people is something the government should assure, not interfere with. I object to requiring the fishing industry to abandon nets. I object to the cost and inconvenience of boarding boats because of intended behaviors of the military that I find harmful to cultural, environmental, and economic resources. I see costs to this activity, but I do not see benefits, especially to local people who seem targeted because they do not live in cities, which is unacceptably discriminatory.	Thank you for participating in the NEPA process. However this comment is outside the scope of the Supplement to the Draft EIS/OEIS. Please see Chapters 1 and 2 of the EIS/OEIS for a clear definition of the scope of this project. There are no weapons testing activities proposed in the Olympic National Forest in the Supplement to the Draft EIS/OEIS.
Schaeffer (Electronic)	I wish to take this opportunity to comment on the Supplement (December 2014) to the Navy's Draft Environmental Impact Statement/ Overseas Environmental Impact Statement (DEIS), dated January 2014, for its continued training and testing activities in the Pacific Northwest (NWTT). Please include these comments in the administrative record. Effect on wildlife: The proposed increases in this Supplement of marine exercises and additional use of sonar and explosives will only increase the damage done to marine mammals, sea turtles, fish and birds. Of particular	The Navy shares your concern for marine life, but this concern must be balanced with the purpose and need for Navy training and testing as detailed in Chapter 2 (Description of Proposed Action and Alternatives) of the EIS/OEIS. The Navy has conducted training and testing activities in the Study Area for decades, and there is no evidence that routine Navy training and testing has negatively impacted individual sea turtles or sea turtle populations, or marine mammal populations in

Table I.5-4: Responses to Comments from Private Individuals (continued)

Commenter	Comment	Navy Response
	concern to me is the Supplement and the EIS's lack of protections for the Southern Resident Killer Whale's dwindling population. These animals need a protected home in accord with their endangered status. In public sessions and in a radio interview the Navy's public relations personnel have been heard to say that the (MSO) and TRACKEX marine exercises save gas and allow personnel to be closer to their homes for these maneuvers. These considerations should not allow one single injury to this endangered Killer Whale population. Though this supplement admits increased sonar and explosive testing (TRACKEX) and finally addresses the MSO maneuvers there is no additional mitigation mentioned. Nowhere is it outlined whether visual patrols will increase as a result of this new activity, nor does the Supplement address real concerns over whether or not visual patrol is adequate at times of night or rough seas. No acoustic monitoring or avoidance strategies are included. This is a serious omission to a document that intended to address the inadequate science and mitigation plans of the original draft and is unacceptable. Lack of Science There is little consideration of exclusion zones, geographic alternatives to the southern Puget Sound and seasonal restrictions of exercises. All of the Alternatives propose year-round, unrestricted use without regard to seasonal variations in marine mammal and fish abundance. This is true despite the well-documented seasonal migrations of numerous endangered species and the identification of biologically important areas. The Navy should put critical marine habitats off-limits to sonar and explosives testing and schedule training to avoid times of the year when sensitive species are present in places like the Olympic Coast National Marine Sanctuary. Climate Change and Cumulative Impacts: The Supplement document responds to calls to address these two big issues but it is very unclear that anything more than lip service was expended by deeming Navy activities to be of little significance. Public Process: What most concerns me is this. There has been an overwhelming number of proposals since late in 2013 rolled out to the public in a piecemeal fashion. Five calls for comments on clearly-linked documents have been spread out in their introduction to the public over the last year and a half. Ground-based, (Electronic warfare range), air-based (Two growler scoping documents) and sea-based naval activities (these two NWTT documents) have been dropped onto the region as if they were not linked. The separate comment periods and the separate documents minimize the larger picture of impacts on the area. In my opinion this is misleading. Is it even legal in regards to Federal Law, specifically NEPA? Please redo this chopped-up public process with a comprehensive Environmental Impact Statement that includes all of the activities in the region. These huge changes that affect wildlife, real estate values, allow precedent-setting incursions into the peace of our national parks, national forest, wilderness, state parks and state lands, should be discussed as a whole, not split into so many fractured pieces that the residents of this region cannot know what they are actually facing. . Sincerely, Kathy Schaeffer PO Box 873 Montesano, WA	the Study Area or at any Navy Range Complex. Based on the best available science summarized in the EIS/OEIS Section 3.4.4.1 (Summary of Monitoring and Observations During Navy Activities), long-term consequences for marine mammal populations are unlikely to result from Navy training and testing activities in the Study Area. Note that for sea turtles, as described in the EIS/OEIS Section 3.5.3.7.1 (Combined Impacts of All Stressors), "impacts are not expected to decrease the overall fitness or result in long-term population level impacts on any given population." Please also refer to Chapter 5 (Standard Operating Procedures, Mitigation, and Monitoring) of the EIS/OEIS, detailing the procedures and mitigation measures during its training and testing activities designed to reduce impacts to marine mammals and sea turtles from Navy activities. No injuries to killer whales are anticipated from the Navy's proposed MSO or TRACKEX activities. As described in Chapter 5 (Standard Operating Procedures, Mitigation, and Monitoring) of the EIS/OEIS, the Navy will implement mitigation measures during the use of sonobuoys. The mitigation measures are implemented for each activity and therefore the mitigation scales up as the activity level scales up. Section 5.3.1.2.5 (Effectiveness Assessment for Lookouts) acknowledges that, due to the various detection probabilities, levels of Lookout experience, and variability of sighting conditions, Lookouts will not always be effective at avoiding impacts on all species. However, Lookouts are expected to increase the overall likelihood that certain marine mammal species and some sea turtles will be detected at the surface of the water, when compared to the likelihood that these same species would be detected if Lookouts are not used. The continued use of Lookouts contributes to helping reduce potential impacts on these species from training and testing activities. While the range of the sonar's detection would travel beyond the distance that Lookouts can detect animals, the range at which sonar is predicted to be able to cause injury to a marine mammal is very short, within 10 meters of the sonar. At such short distances, it is likely any marine mammal would have been detected. As described in Chapter 5 (Standard Operating Procedures, Mitigation, and Monitoring) of the Final EIS/OEIS, the Navy evaluated the effectiveness and practicability of a number of potential mitigation

Table I.5-4: Responses to Comments from Private Individuals (continued)

Commenter	Comment	Navy Response
	98563	measures including the avoidance of specific areas. The Navy has undertaken consultation with NMFS for the proposed and ongoing activities in the NWTT Study Area and the Navy refined the mitigation measures, which are now presented in Chapter 5 (Standard Operating Procedures, Mitigation, and Monitoring) of this Final EIS/OEIS. Through careful exploration of all mitigation measures to determine which were the most effective, the Navy chose the measures to mitigate potential impacts to marine mammals while still being able to meet its operational needs to train for real-world conditions. The Navy's specific mitigation measures are outlined in the following sections: Section 5.3.1 (Lookout Procedural Measures), Section 5.3.2 (Mitigation Zone Procedural Measures), and Section 5.3.3 (Mitigation Areas). Specifically, Section 5.3.4 (Mitigation Measures Considered but Eliminated) presents Navy consideration of similar area restrictions. The Navy and NMFS will use the Adaptive Management process to assess whether any additional mitigation should be considered in identified biologically important areas. In response to several comments, the Navy has enhanced its analysis of climate change and cumulative impacts in this Final EIS/OEIS. The Navy prepares Environmental Impact Statements (EIS) and Environmental Assessments (EA) in order to comply with the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA). These NEPA documents are intended to ensure decision makers consider the potential environmental effects of a proposed action and its alternatives, provide an opportunity for public involvement, and promote transparency by informing the public of these potential environmental effects. Each NEPA document addresses a specific proposed action, separated from other actions by its purpose and need, independent utility, timing, and geographic location. Some NEPA documents are stand-alone documents; others tier off or expand the analyses of other NEPA documents. NEPA documents for training and testing, including this EIS/OEIS, focus on training and testing activities occurring within a range complex or military operation area and involve different types of aircraft, ships, and range complex enhancements. NEPA documents for aircraft homebasing actions focus on aircraft operations in and around the airfield and their facility needs. NEPA documents for installations focus on infrastructure enhancements for host and tenant command missions. Importantly, every environmental document considers the cumulative impacts to the environment from other relevant past, present, and reasonably foreseeable future actions

Table I.5-4: Responses to Comments from Private Individuals (continued)

Commenter	Comment	Navy Response
		(federal, state, local, and private) in addition to the proposed action. The MSO activities do not include the use of sonar or live gun firing. The U.S. Navy has conducted active sonar training and testing activities for decades in the seaspace depicted in the Study Area with no evidence to indicate any meaningful impacts to marine habitats in the area. The Navy and NMFS jointly are still in ongoing consultation with the OCNMS regarding the effects of the Proposed Action on Sanctuary resources. The Navy concludes its continued activities are not likely to result in the loss, destruction, or adverse changes to the viability of Sanctuary resources. Several points support this determination: • Less than two percent of proposed training and 15 percent of proposed testing activities would occur within or immediately adjacent to the OCNMS. • The NWTT Final EIS/OEIS shows that training and testing activities have minimal temporary impacts on the quantity or quality of the Study Area's physical environment, and minor to no impacts on marine or shore birds, fish, sea turtles, or invertebrate marine life. • Although explosives have the potential to affect the physical and biological resources, the Navy does not use explosives within the OCNMS. • The Navy concludes any marine mammal behavioral reactions to NWTT training and testing activities would be transitory, infrequent, non-cumulative, and impacts are not expected to decrease overall individual fitness or result in long-term population-level impacts on any given population, and consequently will not result in any adverse changes to the sanctuary. Finally, all Department of Defense (DoD) military activities shall be carried out in a manner that avoids to the maximum extent practicable any adverse impacts on Sanctuary resources and qualities.
Schanfald (Electronic)	I live on the North Olympic Peninsula of Clallam County. I am very concerned about the peicemealng of all the Navy's actions to accommodate its wants for electronic warfare training. I am concerned about the noise, the lost property values, the pollution and particularly that the Navy is avoiding doing a full EIS by parsing up its intents. I call on the Navy to combine all aspects of its warfare plans on the Olympic Peninsula and over to Okanagon County and let the public see all the plans together and include the proposal to build facilities at the Port Angeles Harbor. I support all the comments being made by Protect Peninsula's Future, the Natural	The Navy completed the Supplement to the Draft EIS/OEIS in compliance with current law, including the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA). In addition to NEPA, the Navy continues to comply with other applicable environmental laws and with a number of regulatory requirements, such as the Marine Mammal Protection Act, the Endangered Species Act, the Coastal Zone Management Act, and the Magnuson-Stevens Fishery Conservation and Management Act. As described in Section 3.10 (Cultural Resources), Section 3.12

Table I.5-4: Responses to Comments from Private Individuals (continued)

Commenter	Comment	Navy Response
	Resource Defense Coalition and Earthjustice, and Joe Breskin.	(Socioeconomics), and Section 3.13 (Public Health and Safety) of the Draft EIS/OEIS, the Navy's proposed activities are not expected to impact cultural resources, socioeconomic resources, or public health and safety. Best management practices include measures that regulate operations to ensure compliance with pollution emission requirements and general resource conservation goals. Navy policies and procedures identified in Navy instructions such as the Environmental Readiness Program Manual, include directives regarding waste management, pollution prevention, and recycling, all of which benefit sediments and water quality in the ocean. Any procedures or practices that benefit ocean sediments and water quality in turn benefit all marine life in the ocean, from plants and invertebrates, to fish and marine mammals.
Scheinman (Oral)	I think one of the most prevalent thoughts that has occurred to me is that we all know the military to be a defense system. Yet it sure doesn't look like defense is what we're playing, because we're going thousands of miles away from our own country, and we've been participating in a war for 11, if not 12 years now; and we call it protecting our country, but it's actually protecting our own interests. And it's not defense. It's offense. It's as though the coach decided to just play offense the entire football game with no defense. So I think it's necessary to rephrase what one calls protection of a country, because there's a definite distinction between protecting a country and protecting a country's intentions and beliefs or interests. So I just would like you all to take that into consideration.	Thank you for participating in the NEPA process.
Schenck (Electronic)	The Navy's current environmental analysis fails to provide basic information necessary to adequately evaluate the impacts of the proposed activities. This analysis also fails to provide adequate measures to mitigate the harmful effects of the proposed activities on marine mammals and other wildlife. Based on the information apparent in the environmental analysis, the Navy's "No Action Alternative" is the proposal with the most limited impact on wildlife. A drastic increase in sonar activity will negatively impact wildlife. Marine mammals are extremely sensitive to noise, and sonar disrupts basic behaviors necessary for survival such as migration, surfacing, navigating, hearing, nursing, breeding and feeding. Sonar can result in debilitating and even fatal injuries for marine mammals. Scientists believe sonar activity can change whale diving behavior, confusing them to swim to depths their bodies cannot handle. Whales suspected to have beached themselves because of sonar activity show signs of physical trauma like bleeding around the brain, ears and other tissues and large bubbles in their organs – symptoms analogous to "the bends" in humans. To the extent that threatened or	The Navy shares your concern for marine life, but this concern must be balanced with the purpose and need for Navy training and testing as detailed in Chapter 2 (Description of Proposed Action and Alternatives) of the EIS/OEIS. The Navy has conducted training and testing activities in the Study Area for decades, and there is no evidence that routine Navy training and testing has negatively impacted individual sea turtles or sea turtle populations, or marine mammal populations in the Study Area or at any Navy Range Complex. Based on the best available science summarized in the EIS/OEIS Section 3.4.4.1 (Summary of Monitoring and Observations During Navy Activities), long-term consequences for marine mammal populations are unlikely to result from Navy training and testing activities in the Study Area. Note that for sea turtles, as described in the EIS/OEIS Section 3.5.3.7.1 (Combined Impacts of All Stressors), "impacts are not expected to decrease the overall fitness or result in long-term

Table I.5-4: Responses to Comments from Private Individuals (continued)

Commenter	Comment	Navy Response
	endangered species -- including humpback and sperm whales, and leatherback turtles -- are negatively impacted, the proposed activities may result in violations of the Endangered Species Act.	population level impacts on any given population." Please also refer to Chapter 5 (Standard Operating Procedures, Mitigation, and Monitoring) of the EIS/OEIS, detailing the procedures and mitigation measures during its training and testing activities designed to reduce impacts to marine mammals and sea turtles from Navy activities. Regarding previous strandings, see Section 3.4.3.1.8 (Stranding) and the referenced technical report "Marine Mammal Strandings Associated with U.S. Navy Sonar Activities" (U.S. Department of the Navy 2013c).
Schubert (Electronic)	Please reconsider our environment and do NOT place sonar equipment in any ocean as it will negatively affect the migration pattern and lives of our largest mammals, gray whales. Think of our natural environment which means so much to every American, to my knowledge. Once it's ruined there is no turning back.	The Navy shares your concern for marine life, but this concern must be balanced with the purpose and need for Navy training and testing as detailed in Chapter 2 (Description of Proposed Action and Alternatives) of the EIS/OEIS. The Navy has conducted active sonar training and testing activities in the Study Area for decades, and there is no evidence that routine Navy training and testing has negatively impacted marine mammal populations in the Study Area or at any Navy Range Complex. Based on the best available science summarized in the EIS/OEIS Section 3.4.4.1 (Summary of Monitoring and Observations During Navy Activities) long-term consequences for marine mammal populations are unlikely to result from Navy training and testing activities in the Study Area. Please also refer to Chapter 5 (Standard Operating Procedures, Mitigation, and Monitoring) of the EIS/OEIS, detailing the procedures and mitigation measures during its training and testing activities designed to reduce impacts to marine mammals from Navy activities.
Schwartz (Electronic)	PLEASE stop all training,testing,or anything relating to the use of sonar in the ocean. It stops marine mammals from being able to navigate or to communicate with each other. It can even kill them. Don't destroy the marine mammals with the use of sonar!!!!!!!	The Navy shares your concern for marine life, but this concern must be balanced with the purpose and need for Navy training and testing as detailed in Chapter 2 (Description of Proposed Action and Alternatives) of the EIS/OEIS. The Navy has conducted active sonar training and testing activities in the Study Area for decades, and there is no evidence that routine Navy training and testing has negatively impacted marine mammal populations in the Study Area or at any Navy Range Complex. Based on the best available science summarized in the EIS/OEIS Section 3.4.4.1 (Summary of Monitoring and Observations During Navy Activities) long-term consequences for marine mammal populations are unlikely to result from Navy training and testing activities in the Study Area. Please also refer to Chapter 5 (Standard Operating Procedures, Mitigation, and Monitoring) of the

Table I.5-4: Responses to Comments from Private Individuals (continued)

Commenter	Comment	Navy Response
		EIS/OEIS, detailing the procedures and mitigation measures during its training and testing activities designed to reduce impacts to marine mammals from Navy activities.
Sexton-01 (Electronic)	I am very concerned about the effects of the US Navy Sonar Testing on cetaceans. They are already facing so many problems, such as - pollution, over fishing, by catch, boat strikes ... etc. I just don't understand how the Marine Protection Act is being overlooked in this. Thank you!	The Navy shares your concern for marine life, but this concern must be balanced with the purpose and need for Navy training and testing as detailed in Chapter 2 (Description of Proposed Action and Alternatives) of the EIS/OEIS. The Navy has conducted active sonar training and testing activities in the Study Area for decades, and there is no evidence that routine Navy training and testing has negatively impacted marine mammal populations in the Study Area or at any Navy Range Complex. Based on the best available science summarized in the EIS/OEIS Section 3.4.4.1 (Summary of Monitoring and Observations During Navy Activities) long-term consequences for marine mammal populations are unlikely to result from Navy training and testing activities in the Study Area. Please also refer to Chapter 5 (Standard Operating Procedures, Mitigation, and Monitoring) of the EIS/OEIS, detailing the procedures and mitigation measures during its training and testing activities designed to reduce impacts to marine mammals from Navy activities.
Sexton-02	I am deeply concerned by the proposed US Navy Sonar Testing. The numbers that I read about are just mind blowing. These cetaceans are already effected by so much - such as, pollution, over fishing, by catch, boat strikes ... etc. I simply don't understand how the Marine Protection Act is being over looked. Thank you!	The Navy shares your concern for marine life, but this concern must be balanced with the purpose and need for Navy training and testing as detailed in Chapter 2 (Description of Proposed Action and Alternatives) of the EIS/OEIS. The Navy has conducted active sonar training and testing activities in the Study Area for decades, and there is no evidence that routine Navy training and testing has negatively impacted marine mammal populations in the Study Area or at any Navy Range Complex. Based on the best available science summarized in the EIS/OEIS Section 3.4.4.1 (Summary of Monitoring and Observations During Navy Activities) long-term consequences for marine mammal populations are unlikely to result from Navy training and testing activities in the Study Area. Please also refer to Chapter 5 (Standard Operating Procedures, Mitigation, and Monitoring) of the EIS/OEIS, detailing the procedures and mitigation measures during its training and testing activities designed to reduce impacts to marine mammals from Navy activities.
shank (Electronic)	A drastic increase in sonar activity will negatively impact wildlife. Please reevaluate the Navy's current environmental analysis as it fails to provide basic information necessary to adequately evaluate the impacts of the proposed activities.	The Navy shares your concern for marine life, but this concern must be balanced with the purpose and need for Navy training and testing as detailed in Chapter 2 (Description of Proposed Action and Alternatives) of the EIS/OEIS. The Navy has conducted active sonar training and

Table I.5-4: Responses to Comments from Private Individuals (continued)

Commenter	Comment	Navy Response
		testing activities in the Study Area for decades, and there is no evidence that routine Navy training and testing has negatively impacted marine mammal populations in the Study Area or at any Navy Range Complex. Based on the best available science summarized in the EIS/OEIS Section 3.4.4.1 (Summary of Monitoring and Observations During Navy Activities) long-term consequences for marine mammal populations are unlikely to result from Navy training and testing activities in the Study Area. Please also refer to Chapter 5 (Standard Operating Procedures, Mitigation, and Monitoring) of the EIS/OEIS, detailing the procedures and mitigation measures during its training and testing activities designed to reduce impacts to marine mammals from Navy activities.
J. Shapiro (Electronic)	The Navy's current environmental analysis fails to provide basic information necessary to adequately evaluate the impacts of the proposed activities. This analysis also fails to provide adequate measures to mitigate the harmful effects of the proposed activities on marine mammals and other wildlife. Based on the information apparent in the environmental analysis, the Navy's "No Action Alternative" is the proposal with the most limited impact on wildlife. A drastic increase in sonar activity will negatively impact wildlife. Marine mammals are extremely sensitive to noise, and sonar disrupts basic behaviors necessary for survival such as migration, surfacing, navigating, hearing, nursing, breeding and feeding. Sonar can result in debilitating and even fatal injuries for marine mammals. Scientists believe sonar activity can change whale diving behavior, confusing them to swim to depths their bodies cannot handle. Whales suspected to have beached themselves because of sonar activity show signs of physical trauma like bleeding around the brain, ears and other tissues and large bubbles in their organs – symptoms analogous to "the bends" in humans. To the extent that threatened or endangered species -- including humpback and sperm whales, and leatherback turtles -- are negatively impacted, the proposed activities may result in violations of the Endangered Species Act.	The Navy shares your concern for marine life, but this concern must be balanced with the purpose and need for Navy training and testing as detailed in Chapter 2 (Description of Proposed Action and Alternatives) of the EIS/OEIS. The Navy has conducted training and testing activities in the Study Area for decades, and there is no evidence that routine Navy training and testing has negatively impacted individual sea turtles or sea turtle populations, or marine mammal populations in the Study Area or at any Navy Range Complex. Based on the best available science summarized in the EIS/OEIS Section 3.4.4.1 (Summary of Monitoring and Observations During Navy Activities), long-term consequences for marine mammal populations are unlikely to result from Navy training and testing activities in the Study Area. Note that for sea turtles, as described in the EIS/OEIS Section 3.5.3.7.1 (Combined Impacts of All Stressors), "impacts are not expected to decrease the overall fitness or result in long-term population level impacts on any given population." Please also refer to Chapter 5 (Standard Operating Procedures, Mitigation, and Monitoring) of the EIS/OEIS, detailing the procedures and mitigation measures during its training and testing activities designed to reduce impacts to marine mammals and sea turtles from Navy activities. Regarding previous strandings, see Section 3.4.3.1.8 (Stranding) and the referenced technical report "Marine Mammal Strandings Associated with U.S. Navy Sonar Activities" (U.S. Department of the Navy 2013c).
M. Shapiro	Please stop immediately sonar testing along the coast and in deep water. With all the new advances in computer software real sonar should not be necessary during	Thank you for participating in the NEPA process. The Navy shares your concern for marine life, but this concern must be balanced with

Table I.5-4: Responses to Comments from Private Individuals (continued)

Commenter	Comment	Navy Response
(Electronic)	times of peace. Routine training can be done using computer simulators out in the water. It has been proven that naval sonar kills marine mammals and disorients them. With many of them on the brink of extinction it is an excessive exercise that doesn't need to happen. Playing war is fine when no one gets hurt but this exercise kills. STOP SONAR! Michele Shapiro 1022 NW Marshall Street Unit 380, Portland, OR 97209	the purpose and need for Navy training and testing as detailed in Chapter 2 (Description of Proposed Action and Alternatives) of the EIS/OEIS. The Navy has conducted active sonar training and testing activities in the Study Area for decades, and there is no evidence that routine Navy training and testing has negatively impacted marine mammal populations in the Study Area or at any Navy Range Complex. Based on the best available science summarized in the EIS/OEIS Section 3.4.4.1 (Summary of Monitoring and Observations During Navy Activities) long-term consequences for marine mammal populations are unlikely to result from Navy training and testing activities in the Study Area. Please also refer to Chapter 5 (Standard Operating Procedures, Mitigation, and Monitoring) of the EIS/OEIS, detailing the procedures and mitigation measures during its training and testing activities designed to reduce impacts to marine mammals from Navy activities. Regarding the use of simulation, Navy already uses simulation in training and testing whenever possible; please see the discussion presented in Section 5.3.4.1.2 (Replacing Training and Testing with Simulated Activities).
Shean-Jones (Electronic)	The Navy's current environmental analysis fails to provide basic information necessary to adequately evaluate the impacts of the proposed activities. This analysis also fails to provide adequate measures to mitigate the harmful effects of the proposed activities on marine mammals and other wildlife. Based on the information apparent in the environmental analysis, the Navy's "No Action Alternative" is the proposal with the most limited impact on wildlife. A drastic increase in sonar activity will negatively impact wildlife. Marine mammals are extremely sensitive to noise, and sonar disrupts basic behaviors necessary for survival such as migration, surfacing, navigating, hearing, nursing, breeding and feeding. Sonar can result in debilitating and even fatal injuries for marine mammals. Scientists believe sonar activity can change whale diving behavior, confusing them to swim to depths their bodies cannot handle. Whales suspected to have beached themselves because of sonar activity show signs of physical trauma like bleeding around the brain, ears and other tissues and large bubbles in their organs – symptoms analogous to "the bends" in humans. To the extent that threatened or endangered species -- including humpback and sperm whales, and leatherback turtles -- are negatively impacted, the proposed activities may result in violations of the Endangered Species Act.	The Navy shares your concern for marine life, but this concern must be balanced with the purpose and need for Navy training and testing as detailed in Chapter 2 (Description of Proposed Action and Alternatives) of the EIS/OEIS. The Navy has conducted training and testing activities in the Study Area for decades, and there is no evidence that routine Navy training and testing has negatively impacted individual sea turtles or sea turtle populations, or marine mammal populations in the Study Area or at any Navy Range Complex. Based on the best available science summarized in the EIS/OEIS Section 3.4.4.1 (Summary of Monitoring and Observations During Navy Activities), long-term consequences for marine mammal populations are unlikely to result from Navy training and testing activities in the Study Area. Note that for sea turtles, as described in the EIS/OEIS Section 3.5.3.7.1 (Combined Impacts of All Stressors), "impacts are not expected to decrease the overall fitness or result in long-term population level impacts on any given population." Please also refer to Chapter 5 (Standard Operating Procedures, Mitigation, and Monitoring) of the EIS/OEIS, detailing the procedures and mitigation measures during its training and testing activities designed to reduce impacts to marine mammals and sea turtles from

Table I.5-4: Responses to Comments from Private Individuals (continued)

Commenter	Comment	Navy Response
		Navy activities. Regarding previous strandings, see Section 3.4.3.1.8 (Stranding) and the referenced technical report “Marine Mammal Strandings Associated with U.S. Navy Sonar Activities” (U.S. Department of the Navy 2013c).
Shelton (Electronic)	Marine Mammals have so many obstacles they face today and this will be added to the growing list. No one seems to want to do anything to protect them, only to cause them harm. Orcas navigate by sonar. There have been Orcas in the recent past that have died due to noise. It's bad enough that they have polluted water, boat traffic, lack of food, habitat destruction, and the list is growing. This will be the final blow to them!	The Navy shares your concern for marine life, but this concern must be balanced with the purpose and need for Navy training and testing as detailed in Chapter 2 (Description of Proposed Action and Alternatives) of the EIS/OEIS. The Navy has conducted active sonar training and testing activities in the Study Area for decades, and there is no evidence that routine Navy training and testing has negatively impacted marine mammal populations in the Study Area or at any Navy Range Complex. Based on the best available science summarized in the EIS/OEIS Section 3.4.4.1 (Summary of Monitoring and Observations During Navy Activities) long-term consequences for marine mammal populations are unlikely to result from Navy training and testing activities in the Study Area. Please also refer to Chapter 5 (Standard Operating Procedures, Mitigation, and Monitoring) of the EIS/OEIS, detailing the procedures and mitigation measures during its training and testing activities designed to reduce impacts to marine mammals from Navy activities.
Shenkin (Electronic)	you need to respect the life in the ocean	Thank you for participating in the NEPA process.
Sherman-01 (Written)	These are my comments about the sonobuoy training in Pacific waters off Washington, Oregon, and north California as described in the new Training and Testing Supplement to the Draft EIS/OEIS of January 2015. Also, one sonar comment about the entire training and testing program as currently and previously described in the April 2014 EIS/OEIS. My comments are limited to possible harassment and injury to marine mammals, sea turtles, and sea birds. At your Newport January 14, 2015 public meeting a Navy staff person said that the sonobuoy exercise will cause some marine mammal behavioral changes, primarily that of harbor porpoises. He added that acoustic exposure will be of a low level with no expected deaths or injuries. As I understand it most of the sonobuoy training and testing will occur in Washington water in Puget Sound and off the NW coast including the Olympic	As described in the Supplement in Section 3.4.2 (Marine Mammal Summary), the proposed increase in the use of SSQ-125 sonobuoys would "not result in any long-term consequences for any marine mammal population or species; therefore, the conclusions stated in the Draft EIS/OEIS remain unchanged." Similarly, as described in the Supplement in Section 3.5.2 (Sea Turtle Summary), the proposed increase in the use of SSQ-125 sonobuoys "are not expected to result in substantial changes to behavior, growth, survival, annual reproductive success, lifetime reproductive success (fitness), or species recruitment, and are not expected to result in population-level impacts." The Navy has conducted active sonar training and testing activities in the Study Area for decades, and there is no evidence that routine Navy training and testing has negatively impacted marine mammal

Table I.5-4: Responses to Comments from Private Individuals (continued)

Commenter	Comment	Navy Response
	Coast National Marine Sanctuary. The Sanctuary is there to fully protect marine mammals, sea birds, and other marine life from fishing and all other activities if possible harm to that life and their habitat. Your sonobuoy EIS document states that all training exercises including sonobuoys will be conducted and 50 nautical miles offshore, except for exercises in Puget Sound and Juan de Fuca Strait. I don't know the dimensions or boundaries of the Olympic Coast Sanctuary, I expect much of it is within state territorial waters. That leaves a huge amount of the ocean to conduct Navy exercises. Time and cost of ship and aircraft travel from Puget Sound should not be the primary reason for this training exercises to be conducted within or close to a marine sanctuary. In Oregon waters all offshore rocks are designated protected areas for sea birds as part of the OR coastal Wildlife Refuge System where ships, boats, airplanes, must stay minimum distances away from the rocks. Also this rocks on haulouts for seals and sea lions and in the case of Gull Rock near my home, about late April to early November, seasonal grey whales are feeding there, females and young whales. Your Navy exercises appear to be farther offshore, but aircraft may be near enough to these rocks to disturb the birds and marine mammals. The Puget Sound sonobuoy exercises may adversely affect the head orca population, as well as the mentioned harbor porpoises. Areas of sensitive to mid frequency sounds (1-10 khz) produced by sonobuoys, They are already under stress from pollution, ship traffic, marine debris, fishing, and possibly virus disease. Sonobuoy sounds and possible entanglement with guidance lines are hazards Orcas don't need. Mid-frequency sounds are stressful to sperm whales, beaked whales, and several dolphins all found in Navy exercise waters, including sperm whales offshore from Oregon. Many whales are sensitive to low frequency sounds 3 Hz to 122 KHz) including Blue, Grey, Fin, and humpback whales all found offshore Oregon, as are seals and sea lions. But the pinnipeds are found near shore. The sonobuoy EIS/OEIS document claims no significant harm to marine mammals and sea turtles from a variety of stressors including acoustics, explosives, sonobuoys, wires and cables, ship strikes, and oil spills and chemical pollution (not identified). The basis for this conclusion seems to be two things. (1) presence of marine mammals and sea turtles unlikely, and (2) Navy mitigation measures.	populations or sea turtles in the Study Area or at any Navy Range Complex. Based on the best available science summarized in the EIS/OEIS Section 3.4.4.1 (Summary of Monitoring and Observations During Navy Activities) long-term consequences for marine mammal populations are unlikely to result from Navy training and testing activities in the Study Area. The U.S. Navy has conducted active sonar training and testing activities for decades in the sea space depicted in the Study Area with no evidence to indicate any meaningful impacts to marine habitats in the area. The Navy and NMFS jointly are still in ongoing consultation with the OCNMS regarding the effects of the Proposed Action on Sanctuary resources. The Navy concludes its continued activities are not likely to result in the loss, destruction, or adverse changes to the viability of Sanctuary resources. Several points support this determination: • Less than two percent of proposed training and 15 percent of proposed testing activities would occur within or immediately adjacent to the OCNMS. • The NWTT Final EIS/OEIS shows that training and testing activities have minimal temporary impacts on the quantity or quality of the Study Area's physical environment, and minor to no impacts on marine or shore birds, fish, sea turtles, or invertebrate marine life. • Although explosives have the potential to affect the physical and biological resources, the Navy does not use explosives within the OCNMS. • The Navy concludes any marine mammal behavioral reactions to NWTT training and testing activities would be transitory, infrequent, non-cumulative, and impacts are not expected to decrease overall individual fitness or result in long-term population-level impacts on any given population, and consequently will not result in any adverse changes to the sanctuary. Finally, all Department of Defense (DoD) military activities shall be carried out in a manner that avoids to the maximum extent practicable any adverse impacts on Sanctuary resources and qualities. The Navy is not proposing to conduct training or testing activities in or the coast of Oregon or the rocks on the coast. The proposed Study Area begins 12 nautical miles off the coast of Oregon so the closest that any activities would occur to coastal rocks is at least 12 nautical miles. Historically, activities within 50 nautical miles of the coast of

Table I.5-4: Responses to Comments from Private Individuals (continued)

Commenter	Comment	Navy Response
		Oregon are extremely rare, and that pattern is expected to continue under this Proposed Action. Some sonobuoy testing could occur within 50 nm of shore because of the requirement to test in nearshore conditions. The shallower water features in the area affect bottom reflecting, scattering and absorption of the sound and typically it creates a more challenging environment to test sonobuoys due to other surface sound sources (commercial/recreational boats). These conditions allow aircrews to gain understanding of how noise from other sources will impact underwater signal detection. However, these sonobuoy testing events are infrequent (fewer than 50 per year) and of short-duration (less than a day). It is unlikely that this limited testing of sonobuoys would have any biologically meaningful effect on marine mammals. Therefore, in light of the unlikely biologically benefit to the species and the anticipated adverse impacts on military readiness, the Navy concludes that avoidance of this area is not warranted.
Sherman-02	Training and Posting of Lookouts Most often one lookout, sometimes two, posted on ships plus aircraft observers. In foggy or stormy weather they would see nothing. Even moderately rough sea marine mammals would be difficult to see unless they were very close to the ship. Thirty years of whale watching has taught me this. :When cetaceans are sighted " "glances" is used to avoid collision and close interaction with them. (page 5-14) – my same comment as above. Mitigation zones Table 5-3-2 Measured as a radius from the ship? Visual observation only? Observation ship to keep at least 500 yards form observed whales vessel safety is threatened. A assume upon such a sighting all nearby vessels would be informed so vessel collision would not be likely. For towed water devices (what?) there is no mitigation measure. (page 5-116) why not? Reducing ship speed: slow speed, evasive action to avoid contact with marine mammals except where whip safety and mission accomplishment requires otherwise!	As described in Chapter 5 (Standard Operating Procedures, Mitigation, and Monitoring) of the EIS/OEIS, the Navy evaluated the effectiveness and practicability of a number of potential mitigation measures. Through consultation and permitting with NMFS and USFWS, the Navy refined the mitigation measures, which are now presented in Chapter 5 (Standard Operating Procedures, Mitigation, and Monitoring) of this Final EIS/OEIS. Section 5.3.1.2.5 (Effectiveness Assessment for Lookouts) acknowledges that, due to the various detection probabilities, levels of Lookout experience, and variability of sighting conditions, Lookouts will not always be effective at avoiding impacts on all species. However, Lookouts are expected to increase the overall likelihood that certain marine mammal species and some sea turtles will be detected at the surface of the water, when compared to the likelihood that these same species would be detected if Lookouts are not used. The continued use of Lookouts contributes to helping reduce potential impacts on these species from training and testing activities. While the range of the sonar's detection would travel beyond the distance that Lookouts can detect animals, the range at which sonar is predicted to be able to cause injury to a marine mammal is very short, within 10 meters of the sonar. At such short distances, it is likely any marine mammal would have been detected.
Sherman-03	Final Comments The director of Newport's Marine Mammal Institute does not believe sonobuoys in	The Navy completed the Supplement to the Draft EIS/OEIS in compliance with current law, including the National Environmental

Table I.5-4: Responses to Comments from Private Individuals (continued)

Commenter	Comment	Navy Response
	this training and testing exercise are a threat to marine mammals because they are a passive mid-frequency device. Not continuously used and not often used. If they were continuously used he would be more concerned. See news article form January 16, 2015 Newport (OR) News-Times. I accept his conclusion about sonobuoys. I don't know if he had concerns about other stressors to marine mammals. I've expressed my concerns about other Navy exercise other stressor actions. For every mitigation measure the Navy gives itself a way out of compliance with any legal or agreed to mitigation avoidance measure by citing vessel safety and/or training-testing operations success. Part 3 Table ES-3, other text gives the Navy complete freedom to avoid all law and regulation requirements by an exemption from such requirements including these the Navy has agreed to observe! The Marine Mammal Protection Act, Endangered Species Act, marine sanctuaries Council of Environmental Quality advice. Clean Air and Water Acts, in fact all environmental laws and regulations are legally merely advisory and the Navy is not bound to them! Other than Environmental Impact Statement and public notices legal requirements it makes us wonder if the whole procedure and massive, expensive documents are of any value in terms of comments affecting conduct of Navy operations. End of Comments. Thanks for the opportunity, I hope the Navy is influenced by at least some of the comments received from all.	Policy Act (NEPA). In addition to NEPA, the Navy continues to comply with other applicable environmental laws and with a number of regulatory requirements, such as the Marine Mammal Protection Act, the Endangered Species Act, the Coastal Zone Management Act, and the Magnuson-Stevens Fishery Conservation and Management Act. As described in the Supplement in Section 3.4.2 (Marine Mammal Summary), the proposed increase in the use of SSQ-125 sonobuoys would "not result in any long-term consequences for any marine mammal population or species; therefore, the conclusions stated in the Draft EIS/OEIS remain unchanged." The Navy has conducted active sonar training and testing activities in the Study Area for decades, and there is no evidence that routine Navy training and testing has negatively impacted marine mammal populations in the Study Area or at any Navy Range Complex. Based on the best available science summarized in the EIS/OEIS Section 3.4.4.1 (Summary of Monitoring and Observations During Navy Activities) long-term consequences for marine mammal populations are unlikely to result from Navy training and testing activities in the Study Area.
Sherwood (Electronic)	Sonar can result in debilitating and even fatal injuries for marine mammals. Scientists believe sonar activity can change whale diving behavior, confusing them to swim to depths their bodies cannot handle. Whales suspected to have beached themselves because of sonar activity show signs of physical trauma like bleeding around the brain, ears and other tissues and large bubbles in their organs – symptoms analogous to "the bends" in humans.	The Navy shares your concern for marine life, but this concern must be balanced with the purpose and need for Navy training and testing as detailed in Chapter 2 (Description of Proposed Action and Alternatives) of the EIS/OEIS. The Navy has conducted active sonar training and testing activities in the Study Area for decades, and there is no evidence that routine Navy training and testing has negatively impacted marine mammal populations in the Study Area or at any Navy Range Complex. Based on the best available science summarized in the EIS/OEIS Section 3.4.4.1 (Summary of Monitoring and Observations During Navy Activities) long-term consequences for marine mammal populations are unlikely to result from Navy training and testing activities in the Study Area. Please also refer to Chapter 5 (Standard Operating Procedures, Mitigation, and Monitoring) of the EIS/OEIS, detailing the procedures and mitigation measures during its training and testing activities designed to reduce impacts to marine mammals from Navy activities.

Table I.5-4: Responses to Comments from Private Individuals (continued)

Commenter	Comment	Navy Response
		Regarding previous strandings, see Section 3.4.3.1.8 (Stranding) and the referenced technical report "Marine Mammal Strandings Associated with U.S. Navy Sonar Activities" (U.S. Department of the Navy 2013c).
Sikes-01 (Electronic)	I live, work and recreate on Washington's Olympic Peninsula therefore will be directly impacted by the proposed escalation of the Navy's NW training and testing. I have several comments related to the Draft NWTTEIS (Supplement). 1. Not enough public notice was given to read and digest the Draft NWTTEIS (Supplement). I read the document from cover to cover once I saw notice in our local paper Jan 7, 2014. I work part time and am chair of our city's Park Recreation and Trees advisory board, am program chair for our local Audubon Chapter and organize monthly workparties at our local park. In my spare time I read the supplement finishing on Feb 1, which leaft little time to digest the information. Because I am self-employed I can choose to spend the morning writing this letter instead of attending to work from my business. Those working full time with a family would have much less spare time and flexibility than I. I am taking time away from my work to write this letter because there are several things in the supplement that concern me.	The Navy made significant efforts to notify the public to ensure maximum public participation during the public comment period, including using postcards, press releases, and newspaper display advertisements. Newspaper ads announcing the Navy's intent to develop the Supplement were run in newspapers in late October, 2014. A Notice of Availability of the Supplement appeared in the Federal Register on December 19, 2015, and additional newspaper ads announcing the availability were run that same week. All notifications included the NWTT project website address where the public was provided up-to-date information. The public could download and review the document, and make comments to it, on the website (www.NWTTEIS.com).
Sikes-02	2. Page 2-4 of the supplement, Fig. 2-1 NW Training and Testing Study Area map shows W-237 study area immediately off shore of the Olympic Peninsula abutting the Olympic National Park and the Olympic MOA-A and Olympic MOA-B include land within the Olympic National Park and the Olympic National Forest that surrounds the park. The Olympic National Park includes pristine beaches along Washington's coast as well as the Olympic Mountains and river corridors. It is a World Heritage Site. This is not a place for Navy training and testing. The rest of the study area on the map extending to northern California the eastern boundary of the study area begins 12 nm off shore and extends approximately 250 nm into international waters. The Olympic Peninsula should at least be given that consideration.	Thank you for participating in the NEPA process. Please see Chapters 1 and 2 of the EIS/OEIS for a clear definition of the scope of this project. There are no weapons testing activities proposed in the Olympic National Forest in the Supplement to the Draft EIS/OEIS. It is also important to note that the proposed activities would not change how or where the Navy has been flying for decades. The Navy conducted an analysis of the Olympic National Park as a World Heritage Site in Appendix K (World Heritage Site Analysis).
Sikes-03	3. Page 3-7 of the supplement, Table 3-8: Annual Number and Location of events including aircraft movement show in the offshore area an increase from 5,342 (no action) to 8,040 (alt 1 & 2). That is over a 50% increase. My concern is the increased noise, pollution, harm to marine mammals and birds, and negative effects to the local economy. Thousands of tourists including myself visit the Olympic National Park annually. It is noted for its pristine mountains, rivers, beaches and quiet. (See 'One Square Inch of Silence'). Having war maneuvers just offshore or over land would negatively impact the recreational experience. A lot of the small communities are struggling economically and need those tourist dollars.	There are no weapons testing activities proposed in the Olympic National Forest in the Supplement to the Draft EIS/OEIS. The Navy shares your concern for marine life and birds, but this concern must be balanced with the purpose and need for Navy training and testing as detailed in Chapter 2 (Description of Proposed Action and Alternatives) of the Draft EIS/OEIS. The Navy has conducted active sonar training and testing activities in the Study Area for decades, and there is no evidence that routine Navy training and testing has negatively impacted marine mammal populations in the Study Area or at any Navy Range Complex. Based on the best available science

Table I.5-4: Responses to Comments from Private Individuals (continued)

Commenter	Comment	Navy Response
		summarized in the EIS/OEIS Section 3.4.4.1 (Summary of Monitoring and Observations During Navy Activities) long-term consequences for marine mammal populations are unlikely to result from Navy training and testing activities in the Study Area. Please also refer to Chapter 5 (Standard Operating Procedures, Mitigation, and Monitoring) of the EIS/OEIS, detailing the procedures and mitigation measures during its training and testing activities designed to reduce impacts to marine mammals from Navy activities. As described in Section 3.10 (Cultural Resources), Section 3.12 (Socioeconomics), and Section 3.13 (Public Health and Safety) of the Draft EIS/OEIS, the Navy's proposed activities are fully compatible with other uses of the ocean space around the Sound and the Olympic National Park, such as tourism.
Sikes-04	4. Tables 3-10 (No action), 3-12 (Alt.1) and 3-14 Alt. 2) gives the specifics in tons per year of pollution gases. Just looking at the Olympic-NW WA study area total emissions in tons per year are 6.4 for No action, 145.3 for Alt. 1 and 145.8 for Alt. 2. That is at least a 2,170% increase from the No action alternative and Alt. 1 or 2. This is especially alarming considering Washington shellfish growers are already impacted by ocean acidification caused by climate change. Despite these huge increases, very little study is given to the resulting impacts and very little is proposed for increased mitigation measures. Most impacts are just dismissed out of hand. NEPA requires more.	Best management practices include measures that regulate operations to ensure compliance with pollution emission requirements and general resource conservation goals. Navy policies and procedures identified in Navy instructions such as the Environmental Readiness Program Manual, include directives regarding waste management, pollution prevention, and recycling, all of which benefit sediments, water quality in the ocean, as well as air quality. Any procedures or practices that benefit ocean sediments, water quality, and air quality in turn benefit all marine life in and around the ocean, from plants and invertebrates, to fish, birds, and marine mammals. The Navy used the best available science and a comprehensive review of past, present, and reasonably foreseeable actions to develop a robust Cumulative Impacts analysis. The Navy has returned to the analysis in Chapter 4 (Cumulative Impacts) due to concerns raised in public comments, and the Chapter has been revised in response to those public comments. The literature on ocean acidification has been reviewed, and is now discussed in Section 4.4.4 (Climate Change), of Chapter 4 (Cumulative Impacts) of the EIS/OEIS.
Sikes-05	5. Pages 3-21 and 3-22 of the supplement summarize the damaging effects of sonar and other active acoustic sources on marine mammals. “Pursuant to the MMPA, the use of sonar and other active acoustic sources for training activities as described in the No Action Alternative: • May expose marine mammals up to 23,840 23,956 times annually to sound levels that would be considered Level B harassment • Would not expose marine mammals to sound levels that would be considered Level A harassment Pursuant to the Endangered Species Act (ESA), the use of sonar and other active acoustic sources during training activities as described in the	As described in the Supplement in Section 3.4.2 (Marine Mammal Summary), the proposed increase in the use of SSQ-125 sonobuoys would "not result in any long-term consequences for any marine mammal population or species; therefore, the conclusions stated in the Draft EIS/OEIS remain unchanged." The Navy shares your concern for marine life, but this concern must be balanced with the purpose and need for Navy training and testing as detailed in Chapter 2 (Description of Proposed Action and Alternatives)

Table I.5-4: Responses to Comments from Private Individuals (continued)

Commenter	Comment	Navy Response
	No Action Alternative: • May affect, and is likely to adversely affect humpback whale, blue whale, fin whale, sperm whale" "Pursuant to the MMPA, the use of sonar and other active acoustic sources for training activities as described under Alternative 1 & 2: • May expose marine mammals up to 24,199 107,062 times annually during a maximum year to sound levels that would be considered Level B harassment • May expose harbor seals up to four times, Dall's porpoise up to two times, and harbor porpoise one time annually during a maximum year to sound levels that would be considered Level A harassment Pursuant to the ESA, the use of sonar and other active acoustic sources during training activities as described under Alternative 1: • May affect, and is likely to adversely affect, humpback whale, blue whale, fin whale, sperm whale, southern resident killer whale, and Guadalupe fur seal" That is a 347% increase from the no action alt. and Alt. 1 & 2. The conclusion goes on to say "Training activities under the No Action Alternative and Alternative 1 & 2 include the use of sonar and other active acoustic sources. These activities would result in inadvertent takes of marine mammals in the Study Area." Despite these huge increases, very little study is given to the resulting impacts and very little is proposed for increased mitigation measures. Most impacts are just dismissed out of hand. NEPA requires more. Conclusion: It is clear the information from the NWTTEIS supplement shows that increased Navy testing and training will negatively impact the NW cost especially the Olympic Peninsula in a very big way. US National Defense is spending more money than all the other countries in the world combined. It is time to scale down and pay off our trillion dollar debt before our county goes bankrupt.	of the EIS/OEIS. The Navy has conducted active sonar training and testing activities in the Study Area for decades, and there is no evidence that routine Navy training and testing has negatively impacted marine mammal populations in the Study Area or at any Navy Range Complex. Based on the best available science summarized in the EIS/OEIS Section 3.4.4.1 (Summary of Monitoring and Observations During Navy Activities) long-term consequences for marine mammal populations are unlikely to result from Navy training and testing activities in the Study Area. As described in Chapter 5 (Standard Operating Procedures, Mitigation, and Monitoring) of the EIS/OEIS, the Navy evaluated the effectiveness and practicability of a number of potential mitigation measures. Through consultation and permitting with NMFS and USFWS, the Navy refined the mitigation measures, which are now presented in Chapter 5 (Standard Operating Procedures, Mitigation, and Monitoring) of this Final EIS/OEIS. Section 5.3.1.2.5 (Effectiveness Assessment for Lookouts) acknowledges that, due to the various detection probabilities, levels of Lookout experience, and variability of sighting conditions, Lookouts will not always be effective at avoiding impacts on all species. However, Lookouts are expected to increase the overall likelihood that certain marine mammal species and some sea turtles will be detected at the surface of the water, when compared to the likelihood that these same species would be detected if Lookouts are not used. The continued use of Lookouts contributes to helping reduce potential impacts on these species from training and testing activities. While the range of the sonar's detection would travel beyond the distance that Lookouts can detect animals, the range at which sonar is predicted to be able to cause injury to a marine mammal is very short, within 10 meters of the sonar. At such short distances, it is likely any marine mammal would have been detected.
Silvey (Electronic)	The Navy's current environmental analysis fails to provide basic information necessary to adequately evaluate the impacts of the proposed activities. This analysis also fails to provide adequate measures to mitigate the harmful effects of the proposed activities on marine mammals and other wildlife. Based on the information apparent in the environmental analysis, the Navy's "No Action Alternative" is the proposal with the most limited impact on wildlife. A drastic increase in sonar activity will negatively impact wildlife. Marine mammals are extremely sensitive to noise, and sonar disrupts basic behaviors necessary for	As described in the Supplement in Section 3.5.2 (Sea Turtle Summary), the proposed increase in the use of SSQ-125 sonobuoys "are not expected to result in substantial changes to behavior, growth, survival, annual reproductive success, lifetime reproductive success (fitness), or species recruitment, and are not expected to result in population-level impacts." The Navy shares your concern for marine life, but this concern must be balanced with the purpose and need for Navy training and testing as detailed in Chapter 2 (Description of

Table I.5-4: Responses to Comments from Private Individuals (continued)

Commenter	Comment	Navy Response
	survival such as migration, surfacing, navigating, hearing, nursing, breeding and feeding. Sonar can result in debilitating and even fatal injuries for marine mammals. Scientists believe sonar activity can change whale diving behavior, confusing them to swim to depths their bodies cannot handle. Whales suspected to have beached themselves because of sonar activity show signs of physical trauma like bleeding around the brain, ears and other tissues and large bubbles in their organs – symptoms analogous to "the bends" in humans. To the extent that threatened or endangered species -- including humpback and sperm whales, and leatherback turtles -- are negatively impacted, the proposed activities may result in violations of the Endangered Species Act.	Proposed Action and Alternatives) of the EIS/OEIS. The Navy has conducted active sonar training and testing activities in the Study Area for decades, and there is no evidence that routine Navy training and testing has negatively impacted marine mammal populations in the Study Area or at any Navy Range Complex. Based on the best available science summarized in the EIS/OEIS Section 3.4.4.1 (Summary of Monitoring and Observations During Navy Activities) long-term consequences for marine mammal populations are unlikely to result from Navy training and testing activities in the Study Area. Please also refer to Chapter 5 (Standard Operating Procedures, Mitigation, and Monitoring) of the EIS/OEIS, detailing the procedures and mitigation measures during its training and testing activities designed to reduce impacts to marine mammals from Navy activities. In accordance with ESA requirements, the Navy will complete consultation under Section 7 of the ESA with NMFS and USFWS and adhere to the Letter of Authorization and Biological Opinion issued by those agencies.
Simantel (Electronic)	It has come to my attention that the training/testing zones will be revised to expand the sites for testing in the Pacific Ocean. Knowing as you do, that sound frequencies were used as a means of torture by agencies of the Military,in the past if not the present, why would the military inflict these sonorities on the hearing membranes of Whale populations within their very habitat, a species whose Vestibular systems, language and hunting skills among their pods depend on vocalizations? This concussive assault on whale species already suffering stress and casualties in shipping lanes, pollutants, and now persistent concussive sonar emissions, surely means the demise of the highly intelligent Whale species, the Porpoise, and other marine species possessing highly developed vestibular systems. This will surely further compromise their immune systems as well reducing their quality of life to a living Hell. Explain, Please, why this is on the table...certainly an unspeakable betrayal of our Marine species and their habitat. This proposed extension of the zones of testing is alarming and highly disturbing to me. Please get back to me as to HOW you propose to delimit the potential damage to the Whale's feeding, inter-species communication, nervous systems and over-all well-being biologically. As a U.S. citizen and native Oregonian, I hold the U.S. Navy accountable for its actions for any damage to our native marine mammals via the proposed expansion of Sonar Testing off the NW Pacific Coastline. ladycelt@comcast.net	The Navy shares your concern for marine life, but this concern must be balanced with the purpose and need for Navy training and testing as detailed in Chapter 2 (Description of Proposed Action and Alternatives) of the EIS/OEIS. The Navy has conducted active sonar training and testing activities in the Study Area for decades, and there is no evidence that routine Navy training and testing has negatively impacted marine mammal populations in the Study Area or at any Navy Range Complex. Based on the best available science summarized in the EIS/OEIS Section 3.4.4.1 (Summary of Monitoring and Observations During Navy Activities) long-term consequences for marine mammal populations are unlikely to result from Navy training and testing activities in the Study Area. Please also refer to Chapter 5 (Standard Operating Procedures, Mitigation, and Monitoring) of the EIS/OEIS, detailing the procedures and mitigation measures during its training and testing activities designed to reduce impacts to marine mammals from Navy activities.
Simpson (Oral)	The Navy is clearly the most powerful seagoing enterprise in the world. At a time when we know that the oceans are in deep trouble --perhaps, some say, dying --	The Navy shares your concern for marine life, but this concern must be balanced with the purpose and need for Navy training and testing as

Table I.5-4: Responses to Comments from Private Individuals (continued)

Commenter	Comment	Navy Response
	why would this enterprise be dedicating itself to harming -- to activities that potentially harm marine mammals for threat -- in preparation for the eventuality of war, when what's really needed is restoration of the natural system? Why is the Navy not doing that? Why is the Navy not involved dealing with the vast pollution that the ocean's been subject to, of all kinds, especially thermal solution, carbon related, related to the burning of carbon; and the calcification, the acidification of the ocean? Why is the Navy not dealing with that? I think it's shameful that they're not. I urge them to take on the real work that needs to be done. That's good enough. Thank you.	detailed in Chapter 2 (Description of Proposed Action and Alternatives) of the EIS/OEIS. The Navy has conducted active sonar training and testing activities in the Study Area for decades, and there is no evidence that routine Navy training and testing has negatively impacted marine mammal populations in the Study Area or at any Navy Range Complex. Based on the best available science summarized in the EIS/OEIS Section 3.4.4.1 (Summary of Monitoring and Observations During Navy Activities) long-term consequences for marine mammal populations are unlikely to result from Navy training and testing activities in the Study Area. Please also refer to Chapter 5 (Standard Operating Procedures, Mitigation, and Monitoring) of the EIS/OEIS, detailing the procedures and mitigation measures during its training and testing activities designed to reduce impacts to marine mammals from Navy activities. The Navy used the best available science and a comprehensive review of past, present, and reasonably foreseeable actions to develop a robust Cumulative Impacts analysis. The Navy has returned to the analysis in Chapter 4 (Cumulative Impacts) due to concerns raised in public comments, and the Chapter has been revised in response to those public comments. The literature on ocean acidification has been reviewed, and is now discussed in Section 4.4.4 (Climate Change), of Chapter 4 (Cumulative Impacts) of the EIS/OEIS.
Sleva (Electronic)	Please limit your sonar activity during training missions in the Pacific. The noise has an adverse affect on whales and porpoises, and the endangered leatherback turtles. Thank you.	As described in the Supplement in Section 3.5.2 (Sea Turtle Summary), the proposed increase in the use of SSQ-125 sonobuoys "are not expected to result in substantial changes to behavior, growth, survival, annual reproductive success, lifetime reproductive success (fitness), or species recruitment, and are not expected to result in population-level impacts." The Navy shares your concern for marine life, but this concern must be balanced with the purpose and need for Navy training and testing as detailed in Chapter 2 (Description of Proposed Action and Alternatives) of the EIS/OEIS. The Navy has conducted active sonar training and testing activities in the Study Area for decades, and there is no evidence that routine Navy training and testing has negatively impacted marine mammal populations in the Study Area or at any Navy Range Complex. Based on the best available science summarized in the EIS/OEIS Section 3.4.4.1 (Summary of Monitoring and Observations During Navy Activities) long-term consequences for marine mammal populations are unlikely to result from Navy training and testing activities in the Study Area. Please also refer to Chapter 5 (Standard Operating Procedures,

Table I.5-4: Responses to Comments from Private Individuals (continued)

Commenter	Comment	Navy Response
		Mitigation, and Monitoring) of the EIS/OEIS, detailing the procedures and mitigation measures during its training and testing activities designed to reduce impacts to marine mammals from Navy activities.
a. smith (Electronic)	I urge you to reduce, not increase sonar activities off Pacific coast , in order to protect marine animals, especially whales.	The Navy shares your concern for marine life, but this concern must be balanced with the purpose and need for Navy training and testing as detailed in Chapter 2 (Description of Proposed Action and Alternatives) of the EIS/OEIS. The Navy has conducted active sonar training and testing activities in the Study Area for decades, and there is no evidence that routine Navy training and testing has negatively impacted marine mammal populations in the Study Area or at any Navy Range Complex. Based on the best available science summarized in the EIS/OEIS Section 3.4.4.1 (Summary of Monitoring and Observations During Navy Activities) long-term consequences for marine mammal populations are unlikely to result from Navy training and testing activities in the Study Area. Please also refer to Chapter 5 (Standard Operating Procedures, Mitigation, and Monitoring) of the EIS/OEIS, detailing the procedures and mitigation measures during its training and testing activities designed to reduce impacts to marine mammals from Navy activities.
J. Smith (Electronic)	This was my first meeting. I would have benefited more if it were more structured such as a presentation from you followed by a Q and A. In this way I would have benefited from the knowledge of other attendees.	Thank you for participating in the NEPA process. Regarding the format of the Navy's meetings, everyone who attended had the opportunity to speak individually with subject matter experts to have their questions answered. In addition to the meeting venues, the public could download and review the document, and make comments to it, on the website (www.NWTTEIS.com).
K. Smith (Electronic)	The Navy's current environmental analysis fails to provide basic information necessary to adequately evaluate the impacts of the proposed activities. This analysis also fails to provide adequate measures to mitigate the harmful effects of the proposed activities on marine mammals and other wildlife. Based on the information apparent in the environmental analysis, the Navy's "No Action Alternative" is the proposal with the most limited impact on wildlife. A drastic increase in sonar activity will negatively impact wildlife. Marine mammals are extremely sensitive to noise, and sonar disrupts basic behaviors necessary for survival such as migration, surfacing, navigating, hearing, nursing, breeding and feeding. Sonar can result in debilitating and even fatal injuries for marine mammals. Scientists believe sonar activity can change whale diving behavior, confusing them to swim to depths their bodies cannot handle. Whales suspected to have beached themselves because of sonar activity show signs of physical trauma like bleeding around the brain, ears and other tissues and large bubbles in their organs –	The Navy shares your concern for marine life, but this concern must be balanced with the purpose and need for Navy training and testing as detailed in Chapter 2 (Description of Proposed Action and Alternatives) of the EIS/OEIS. The Navy has conducted training and testing activities in the Study Area for decades, and there is no evidence that routine Navy training and testing has negatively impacted individual sea turtles or sea turtle populations, or marine mammal populations in the Study Area or at any Navy Range Complex. Based on the best available science summarized in the EIS/OEIS Section 3.4.4.1 (Summary of Monitoring and Observations During Navy Activities), long-term consequences for marine mammal populations are unlikely to result from Navy training and testing activities in the Study Area. Note that for sea turtles, as described in the EIS/OEIS Section 3.5.3.7.1 (Combined Impacts of All Stressors), "impacts are not

Table I.5-4: Responses to Comments from Private Individuals (continued)

Commenter	Comment	Navy Response
	symptoms analogous to “the bends” in humans. To the extent that threatened or endangered species -- including humpback and sperm whales, and leatherback turtles -- are negatively impacted, the proposed activities may result in violations of the Endangered Species Act.	expected to decrease the overall fitness or result in long-term population level impacts on any given population.” Please also refer to Chapter 5 (Standard Operating Procedures, Mitigation, and Monitoring) of the EIS/OEIS, detailing the procedures and mitigation measures during its training and testing activities designed to reduce impacts to marine mammals and sea turtles from Navy activities. Regarding previous strandings, see Section 3.4.3.1.8 (Stranding) and the referenced technical report “Marine Mammal Strandings Associated with U.S. Navy Sonar Activities” (U.S. Department of the Navy 2013c).
S. Smith (Electronic)	I oppose the expansion of sonobuoys off the coasts of Washington, Oregon and California. I am concerned about the negative effects of these devices on marine mammals. I prefer that the Navy find alternative locations and times to conduct its sonar-emitting activity that minimize the impact on marine life. Thank you.	As described in the Supplement in Section 3.4.2 (Marine Mammal Summary), the proposed increase in the use of SSQ-125 sonobuoys would "not result in any long-term consequences for any marine mammal population or species; therefore, the conclusions stated in the Draft EIS/OEIS remain unchanged." The Navy has conducted active sonar training and testing activities in the Study Area for decades, and there is no evidence that routine Navy training and testing has negatively impacted marine mammal populations in the Study Area or at any Navy Range Complex. Based on the best available science summarized in the EIS/OEIS Section 3.4.4.1 (Summary of Monitoring and Observations During Navy Activities) long-term consequences for marine mammal populations are unlikely to result from Navy training and testing activities in the Study Area.
Snyder (Electronic)	Considering the many other ways we have fouled the ocean, your training with Sonar Explosives is detrimental to marine species, who have already suffered because we are deficient stewards. I would like to challenge the Pacific Fleet to be creative enough to do training without interrupting and deteriorating the lives of marine species. Just as experimenting on animals is archaic, because computer modeling can be used to answer most of the pending questions, how many times do sonar explosives have to be used as training procedures. Theoretically, this can be accomplished with mathematical, computer modeling alleviating the need to endanger other species as well as mitigating the cost of training. I'm afraid of the day when we prepare for war more than we prepare for life.	Regarding the use of simulation, Navy already uses simulation in training and testing whenever possible; please see the discussion presented in Section 5.3.4.1.2 (Replacing Training and Testing with Simulated Activities).
Sonenshine (Electronic)	PLEASE - STOP ALL OF THESE SONAR EMITTING/AND EXPLOSIVES known to cause debilitating and even fatal injuries to marine mammals!!! ANY AMOUNT OF THIS NEEDS TO BE STOPPED!!! AND THAT MAKES THIS UNEXPECTED	As described in the Supplement in Section 3.5.2 (Sea Turtle Summary), the proposed increase in the use of SSQ-125 sonobuoys "are not expected to result in substantial changes to behavior, growth,

Table I.5-4: Responses to Comments from Private Individuals (continued)

Commenter	Comment	Navy Response
	REVISION TO USE EVEN MORE sonar-emitting buoys A DRASTIC AND NEGATIVE, AND ABSOLUTELY UNACCEPTABLE IMPACT on whales and other ocean wildlife. It is well documented the negative impacts on a number of whale species and porpoises, as well as other marine wildlife. In addition, even the Navy admitted the increase in the use of sonar devices is likely to adversely affect endangered leatherback turtles whose protected habitat along the Pacific Coast was only recently established in 2012. The Navy's activities will also have significant impacts on critical habitat areas for marine mammals and other wildlife. High intensity-mid-frequency sonar -- along with activities like dumping debris, the use of toxic chemicals, and detonating explosives --WILL DEGRADE SENSITIVE HABITAT NECESSARY FOR THE SURVIVAL OF MARINE MAMMAL POPULATIONS - ESPECIALLY THOSE THAT ARE ALREADY THREATENED AND/OR ENDANGERED!!!	survival, annual reproductive success, lifetime reproductive success (fitness), or species recruitment, and are not expected to result in population-level impacts." The Navy shares your concern for marine life, but this concern must be balanced with the purpose and need for Navy training and testing as detailed in Chapter 2 (Description of Proposed Action and Alternatives) of the EIS/OEIS. The Navy has conducted active sonar training and testing activities in the Study Area for decades, and there is no evidence that routine Navy training and testing has negatively impacted marine mammal populations in the Study Area or at any Navy Range Complex. Based on the best available science summarized in the EIS/OEIS Section 3.4.4.1 (Summary of Monitoring and Observations During Navy Activities) long-term consequences for marine mammal populations are unlikely to result from Navy training and testing activities in the Study Area. The Navy has conducted active sonar training and testing activities in the Study Area for decades, and there is no evidence that routine Navy training and testing has negatively impacted individual sea turtles or sea turtle populations in the Study Area or at any Navy Range Complex. Based on the best available science summarized in the Draft EIS/OEIS Section 3.5.3.7.1 (Combined Impacts of All Stressors) "impacts are not expected to decrease the overall fitness or result in long-term population level impacts on any given population. In cases where potential impacts rise to a level that warrants mitigation, mitigation measures designed to reduce the potential impacts are discussed in Chapter 5 (Standard Operating Procedures, Mitigation, and Monitoring)."
Soper (Electronic)	I am a resident of Mason County, and am near enough to the Olympic National Forest to be impacted by the proposed Electromagnetic Warfare Range activities. My family and I strongly opposed having these activities over the Olympic Peninsula, which is the last remaining Temperate Rain Forest in North America. To have the solitude of the Park and Forests disrupted by the noise of the jets would be a travesty. In this fast-paced world we live in, humans need a quiet place to relax and recharge. Also, I am concerned that there have been no studies on the effects of HUMANS or animals regarding these activities. We know that Growlers are loud. Currently we have military helicopters go overhead on a regular basis for training at Sanderson Field. They are so loud that the pictures on the walls shake and you feel the vibrations in your chest. These flights have been disruptive & upsetting, and the prospect of having even more aviation-related noise is nearly unbearable. These types of activities, with potentially dangerous side-effects, are better situated in	Thank you for participating in the NEPA process. Please see Chapters 1 and 2 of the EIS/OEIS for a clear definition of the scope of this project. There are no weapons testing activities proposed in the Olympic National Forest in the Supplement to the Draft EIS/OEIS. There are no activities involving the use of electronic radiation proposed in the Supplement to the Draft EIS/OEIS. It is also important to note that the proposed activities would not change how or where the Navy has been flying for decades.

Table I.5-4: Responses to Comments from Private Individuals (continued)

Commenter	Comment	Navy Response
	areas that are not well populated nor visited, such as the desert. PLEASE reconsider this plan and do not fill the Olympic National Forest with the noise pollution, as well as the dangers from the Electromagnetic activities. The Olympics are one of the last natural refuges, please help us keep it that way. Thank you for your consideration.	
Sophia (Electronic)	The Navy's current environmental analysis fails to provide basic information necessary to adequately evaluate the impacts of the proposed activities. This analysis also fails to provide adequate measures to mitigate the harmful effects of the proposed activities on marine mammals and other wildlife. •Based on the information apparent in the environmental analysis, the Navy's "No Action Alternative" is the proposal with the most limited impact on wildlife. •A drastic increase in sonar activity will negatively impact wildlife. Marine mammals are extremely sensitive to noise, and sonar disrupts basic behaviors necessary for survival such as migration, surfacing, navigating, hearing, nursing, breeding and feeding. •Sonar can result in debilitating and even fatal injuries for marine mammals. Scientists believe sonar activity can change whale diving behavior, confusing them to swim to depths their bodies cannot handle. Whales suspected to have beached themselves because of sonar activity show signs of physical trauma like bleeding around the brain, ears and other tissues and large bubbles in their organs – symptoms analogous to "the bends" in humans. •To the extent that threatened or endangered species -- including humpback and sperm whales, and leatherback turtles -- are negatively impacted, the proposed activities may result in violations of the Endangered Species Act.	The Navy shares your concern for marine life, but this concern must be balanced with the purpose and need for Navy training and testing as detailed in Chapter 2 (Description of Proposed Action and Alternatives) of the EIS/OEIS. The Navy has conducted training and testing activities in the Study Area for decades, and there is no evidence that routine Navy training and testing has negatively impacted individual sea turtles or sea turtle populations, or marine mammal populations in the Study Area or at any Navy Range Complex. Based on the best available science summarized in the EIS/OEIS Section 3.4.4.1 (Summary of Monitoring and Observations During Navy Activities), long-term consequences for marine mammal populations are unlikely to result from Navy training and testing activities in the Study Area. Note that for sea turtles, as described in the EIS/OEIS Section 3.5.3.7.1 (Combined Impacts of All Stressors), "impacts are not expected to decrease the overall fitness or result in long-term population level impacts on any given population." Please also refer to Chapter 5 (Standard Operating Procedures, Mitigation, and Monitoring) of the EIS/OEIS, detailing the procedures and mitigation measures during its training and testing activities designed to reduce impacts to marine mammals and sea turtles from Navy activities. Regarding previous strandings, see Section 3.4.3.1.8 (Stranding) and the referenced technical report "Marine Mammal Strandings Associated with U.S. Navy Sonar Activities" (U.S. Department of the Navy 2013c).
Spalding (Electronic)	Sonar and explosives are dangerous to marine life. Restrict, do not expand their use.	The Navy shares your concern for marine life, but this concern must be balanced with the purpose and need for Navy training and testing as detailed in Chapter 2 (Description of Proposed Action and Alternatives) of the EIS/OEIS. The Navy has conducted active sonar training and testing activities in the Study Area for decades, and there is no evidence that routine Navy training and testing has negatively impacted marine mammal populations in the Study Area or at any Navy Range Complex. Based on the best available science summarized in the EIS/OEIS Section 3.4.4.1 (Summary of Monitoring

Table I.5-4: Responses to Comments from Private Individuals (continued)

Commenter	Comment	Navy Response
		and Observations During Navy Activities) long-term consequences for marine mammal populations are unlikely to result from Navy training and testing activities in the Study Area. Please also refer to Chapter 5 (Standard Operating Procedures, Mitigation, and Monitoring) of the EIS/OEIS, detailing the procedures and mitigation measures during its training and testing activities designed to reduce impacts to marine mammals from Navy activities.
Arlene Spencer (Electronic)	Re: racking Exercise(TRACKEX)– Maritime Patrol (Extended Echo Ranging Sonobuoys) To Whom It May Concern: Local economies in and around (not just on) the Olympic Peninsula depending on wild sea life (e.g. tourism (boat tours, fishing tours, seaside communities (lodging, dining, etc.))), outdoor enthusiasts, etc. will be negatively impacted by either the loss of life from the proposed testing of wild sea life, or the harm of natural indigenous environment of sea life from the proposed testing. The region will also be bombarded, mind you, at the same time by microwaves and electromagnetic waves. The Navy literally has no proof of what any of this will do, short term, or long range. This project (and the other proposed wave testing) are so fraught with unknowns that the Navy presuming it can mitigate for adverse effects is presuming a great deal. At what risks? No one knows. In ethical, professional, and effective practice of any science - safe testing has always been conducted in a lab under controlled circumstances. The Navy selecting an inhabited, civilian location that includes communities that lie against unique ecosystems (on land and off) including a National Park is unethical, irresponsible, unnecessary, and unprofessional. It is disappointing. The Navy is placing lose with American lives, livelihoods, and the natural American environment, mountain, land, and sea. The proposed projects in and around the Olympic Peninsula are wrong. Sincerely, Arlene M. Spencer 2966 NW Wild Meadow Drive Bend, Oregon 97701	The Navy shares your concern for marine life, but this concern must be balanced with the purpose and need for Navy training and testing as detailed in Chapter 2 (Description of Proposed Action and Alternatives) of the EIS/OEIS. The Navy has conducted active sonar training and testing activities in the Study Area for decades, and there is no evidence that routine Navy training and testing has negatively impacted marine mammal populations in the Study Area or at any Navy Range Complex. Based on the best available science summarized in the EIS/OEIS Section 3.4.4.1 (Summary of Monitoring and Observations During Navy Activities) long-term consequences for marine mammal populations are unlikely to result from Navy training and testing activities in the Study Area. Please also refer to Chapter 5 (Standard Operating Procedures, Mitigation, and Monitoring) of the EIS/OEIS, detailing the procedures and mitigation measures during its training and testing activities designed to reduce impacts to marine mammals from Navy activities. There are no activities involving the use of electromagnetic pulses proposed in the Supplement to the Draft EIS/OEIS.
Aric Spencer (Electronic)	Hello, I have lived in PT, WA for 20 years. Commenting on the various Navy activities feels incredibly strange. Strange that citizens have to right our own military. These various plans, to me, represent a sick, negative, and hurtful agenda that disrupt our ecosystem and our culture/way of life. These various plans are so alarming, I have a hard time understanding how and why they are being pushed onto people. TESTING. The Navy wants to test war technology in our waters and forests... it's LIKE an act of war against people and nature because it it moves military operations into and over, and around our communities and has a profound negative impact on our people, our culture, and our natural world. This is LIKE and act of war and is "terroristic" behavior. Planes, electro-magnetic weapon testing, etc... ...it's insane behavior against our communities. I do not want this, I do not want to have to fight this. The Navy may not do this. You do not have permission to do this. I object. Stay off our shores, stay our of our forests, and out of our skies. Why do I have to defend myself against my own military? Why are you invading our	Thank you for participating in the NEPA process. However this comment is outside the scope of the Supplement to the Draft EIS/OEIS. Please see Chapters 1 and 2 of the EIS/OEIS for a clear definition of the scope of this project. There are no activities involving the use of electronic radiation proposed in the Supplement to the Draft EIS/OEIS.

Table I.5-4: Responses to Comments from Private Individuals (continued)

Commenter	Comment	Navy Response
	communities and negatively impacting our natural resources? Aric Spencer PT,WA	
S. Spencer (Electronic)	The Navy's current environmental analysis fails to provide basic information necessary to adequately evaluate the impacts of these activities. This analysis also fails to provide adequate measures to mitigate the harmful effects of the proposed activities on marine mammals and other wildlife. A drastic increase in sonar activity is certain to negatively impact wildlife. Marine mammals are extremely sensitive to noise, and sonar disrupts basic behaviors necessary for survival such as migration, surfacing, navigating, hearing, nursing, breeding and feeding. Sonar testing often results in debilitating and even fatal injuries for marine mammals. Scientists believe sonar activity can change whale diving behavior, confusing them to swim to depths their bodies cannot handle. Whales suspected to have beached themselves because of sonar activity show signs of physical trauma like bleeding around the brain, ears and other tissues and large bubbles in their organs – symptoms analogous to "the bends" in humans. It can also result in marine mammals beaching themselves to get away from the damage the sonar testing causes. Beaching often results in suffering & death. To the extent that threatened or endangered species are negatively impacted, the proposed activities will ultimately result in violations of the Endangered Species Act. I am greatly opposed to sonar testing. It is time to stop this.	The Navy shares your concern for marine life, but this concern must be balanced with the purpose and need for Navy training and testing as detailed in Chapter 2 (Description of Proposed Action and Alternatives) of the EIS/OEIS. The Navy has conducted active sonar training and testing activities in the Study Area for decades, and there is no evidence that routine Navy training and testing has negatively impacted marine mammal populations in the Study Area or at any Navy Range Complex. Based on the best available science summarized in the EIS/OEIS Section 3.4.4.1 (Summary of Monitoring and Observations During Navy Activities) long-term consequences for marine mammal populations are unlikely to result from Navy training and testing activities in the Study Area. Please also refer to Chapter 5 (Standard Operating Procedures, Mitigation, and Monitoring) of the EIS/OEIS, detailing the procedures and mitigation measures during its training and testing activities designed to reduce impacts to marine mammals from Navy activities. Regarding previous strandings, see Section 3.4.3.1.8 (Stranding) and the referenced technical report "Marine Mammal Strandings Associated with U.S. Navy Sonar Activities" (U.S. Department of the Navy 2013c).
Spiecker (Electronic)	Im writing to urge the Navy to limit the amount of sonar activity used in training missions off the Pacific coast. Here are some reasons why: The Navy's current environmental analysis fails to provide basic information necessary to adequately evaluate the impacts of the proposed activities. This analysis also fails to provide adequate measures to mitigate the harmful effects of the proposed activities on marine mammals and other wildlife. Based on the information apparent in the environmental analysis, the Navy's "No Action Alternative" is the proposal with the most limited impact on wildlife. A drastic increase in sonar activity will negatively impact wildlife. Marine mammals are extremely sensitive to noise, and sonar disrupts basic behaviors necessary for survival such as migration, surfacing, navigating, hearing, nursing, breeding and feeding. Sonar can result in debilitating and even fatal injuries for marine mammals. Scientists believe sonar activity can change whale diving behavior, confusing them to swim to depths their bodies cannot handle. Whales suspected to have beached themselves because of sonar activity show signs of physical trauma like bleeding around the brain, ears and other tissues and large bubbles in their organs – symptoms analogous to "the bends" in humans. To the extent that threatened or endangered species -- including humpback and sperm whales, and leatherback turtles -- are negatively impacted,	As described in the Supplement in Section 3.5.2 (Sea Turtle Summary), the proposed increase in the use of SSQ-125 sonobuoys "are not expected to result in substantial changes to behavior, growth, survival, annual reproductive success, lifetime reproductive success (fitness), or species recruitment, and are not expected to result in population-level impacts." The Navy shares your concern for marine life, but this concern must be balanced with the purpose and need for Navy training and testing as detailed in Chapter 2 (Description of Proposed Action and Alternatives) of the EIS/OEIS. The Navy has conducted active sonar training and testing activities in the Study Area for decades, and there is no evidence that routine Navy training and testing has negatively impacted marine mammal populations in the Study Area or at any Navy Range Complex. Based on the best available science summarized in the EIS/OEIS Section 3.4.4.1 (Summary of Monitoring and Observations During Navy Activities) long-term consequences for marine mammal populations are unlikely to result from Navy training and testing activities in the Study Area. Please also refer to Chapter 5 (Standard Operating Procedures,

Table I.5-4: Responses to Comments from Private Individuals (continued)

Commenter	Comment	Navy Response
	the proposed activities may result in violations of the Endangered Species Act. Thank you, Katya	Mitigation, and Monitoring) of the EIS/OEIS, detailing the procedures and mitigation measures during its training and testing activities designed to reduce impacts to marine mammals from Navy activities.
Sreiber (Electronic)	The Navy's current environmental analysis fails to provide basic information necessary to adequately evaluate the impacts of the proposed activities. This analysis also fails to provide adequate measures to mitigate the harmful effects of the proposed activities on marine mammals and other wildlife. Based on the information apparent in the environmental analysis, the Navy's "No Action Alternative" is the proposal with the most limited impact on wildlife. A drastic increase in sonar activity will negatively impact wildlife. Marine mammals are extremely sensitive to noise, and sonar disrupts basic behaviors necessary for survival such as migration, surfacing, navigating, hearing, nursing, breeding and feeding. Sonar can result in debilitating and even fatal injuries for marine mammals. Scientists believe sonar activity can change whale diving behavior, confusing them to swim to depths their bodies cannot handle. Whales suspected to have beached themselves because of sonar activity show signs of physical trauma like bleeding around the brain, ears and other tissues and large bubbles in their organs – symptoms analogous to "the bends" in humans. To the extent that threatened or endangered species -- including humpback and sperm whales, and leatherback turtles -- are negatively impacted, the proposed activities may result in violations of the Endangered Species Act.	As described in the Supplement in Section 3.5.2 (Sea Turtle Summary), the proposed increase in the use of SSQ-125 sonobuoys "are not expected to result in substantial changes to behavior, growth, survival, annual reproductive success, lifetime reproductive success (fitness), or species recruitment, and are not expected to result in population-level impacts." The Navy shares your concern for marine life, but this concern must be balanced with the purpose and need for Navy training and testing as detailed in Chapter 2 (Description of Proposed Action and Alternatives) of the EIS/OEIS. The Navy has conducted active sonar training and testing activities in the Study Area for decades, and there is no evidence that routine Navy training and testing has negatively impacted marine mammal populations in the Study Area or at any Navy Range Complex. Based on the best available science summarized in the EIS/OEIS Section 3.4.4.1 (Summary of Monitoring and Observations During Navy Activities) long-term consequences for marine mammal populations are unlikely to result from Navy training and testing activities in the Study Area. Please also refer to Chapter 5 (Standard Operating Procedures, Mitigation, and Monitoring) of the EIS/OEIS, detailing the procedures and mitigation measures during its training and testing activities designed to reduce impacts to marine mammals from Navy activities.
Stanger (Electronic)	Please, enough abuse for the few whales left. Stop the explosives!	The Navy shares your concern for marine life, but this concern must be balanced with the purpose and need for Navy training and testing as detailed in Chapter 2 (Description of Proposed Action and Alternatives) of the EIS/OEIS. The Navy has conducted active sonar training and testing activities in the Study Area for decades, and there is no evidence that routine Navy training and testing has negatively impacted marine mammal populations in the Study Area or at any Navy Range Complex. Based on the best available science summarized in the EIS/OEIS Section 3.4.4.1 (Summary of Monitoring and Observations During Navy Activities) long-term consequences for marine mammal populations are unlikely to result from Navy training and testing activities in the Study Area. Please also refer to Chapter 5 (Standard Operating Procedures, Mitigation, and Monitoring) of the EIS/OEIS, detailing the procedures and mitigation measures during its training and testing activities designed to reduce impacts to marine

Table I.5-4: Responses to Comments from Private Individuals (continued)

Commenter	Comment	Navy Response
		mammals from Navy activities.
Stansbury-01 (Electronic)	Whales rely on hearing for many of their basic functions, from navigating to communication. Much in the same way shining a bright light in our eyes can leave us disoriented, human-caused sonar activity can drastically affect whale behavior, leading them to beach themselves or dive to depths their bodies cannot handle, causing debilitating and even fatal injuries. The Navy's current environmental analysis fails to provide basic information necessary to adequately evaluate the impacts of the proposed activities. This analysis also fails to provide adequate measures to mitigate the harmful effects of the proposed activities on marine mammals and other wildlife. Based on the information apparent in the environmental analysis, the Navy's "No Action Alternative" is the proposal with the most limited impact on wildlife. A drastic increase in sonar activity will negatively impact wildlife. Marine mammals are extremely sensitive to noise, and sonar disrupts basic behaviors necessary for survival such as migration, surfacing, navigating, hearing, nursing, breeding and feeding. Sonar can result in debilitating and even fatal injuries for marine mammals. Scientists believe sonar activity can change whale diving behavior, confusing them to swim to depths their bodies cannot handle. Whales suspected to have beached themselves because of sonar activity show signs of physical trauma like bleeding around the brain, ears and other tissues and large bubbles in their organs – symptoms analogous to "the bends" in humans. To the extent that threatened or endangered species -- including humpback and sperm whales, and leatherback turtles -- are negatively impacted, the proposed activities may result in violations of the Endangered Species Act.	The Navy shares your concern for marine life, but this concern must be balanced with the purpose and need for Navy training and testing as detailed in Chapter 2 (Description of Proposed Action and Alternatives) of the EIS/OEIS. The Navy has conducted training and testing activities in the Study Area for decades, and there is no evidence that routine Navy training and testing has negatively impacted individual sea turtles or sea turtle populations, or marine mammal populations in the Study Area or at any Navy Range Complex. Based on the best available science summarized in the EIS/OEIS Section 3.4.4.1 (Summary of Monitoring and Observations During Navy Activities), long-term consequences for marine mammal populations are unlikely to result from Navy training and testing activities in the Study Area. Note that for sea turtles, as described in the EIS/OEIS Section 3.5.3.7.1 (Combined Impacts of All Stressors), "impacts are not expected to decrease the overall fitness or result in long-term population level impacts on any given population." Please also refer to Chapter 5 (Standard Operating Procedures, Mitigation, and Monitoring) of the EIS/OEIS, detailing the procedures and mitigation measures during its training and testing activities designed to reduce impacts to marine mammals and sea turtles from Navy activities. Regarding previous strandings, see Section 3.4.3.1.8 (Stranding) and the referenced technical report "Marine Mammal Strandings Associated with U.S. Navy Sonar Activities" (U.S. Department of the Navy 2013c).
Stansbury-02	Whales rely on hearing for many of their basic functions, from navigating to communication. Much in the same way shining a bright light in our eyes can leave us disoriented, human-caused sonar activity can drastically affect whale behavior, leading them to beach themselves or dive to depths their bodies cannot handle, causing debilitating and even fatal injuries. The Navy's current environmental analysis fails to provide basic information necessary to adequately evaluate the impacts of the proposed activities. This analysis also fails to provide adequate measures to mitigate the harmful effects of the proposed activities on marine mammals and other wildlife. Based on the information apparent in the environmental analysis, the Navy's "No Action Alternative" is the proposal with the most limited impact on wildlife. A drastic increase in sonar activity will negatively impact wildlife. Marine mammals are extremely sensitive to noise, and sonar disrupts basic behaviors necessary for survival such as migration, surfacing,	The Navy shares your concern for marine life, but this concern must be balanced with the purpose and need for Navy training and testing as detailed in Chapter 2 (Description of Proposed Action and Alternatives) of the EIS/OEIS. The Navy has conducted training and testing activities in the Study Area for decades, and there is no evidence that routine Navy training and testing has negatively impacted individual sea turtles or sea turtle populations, or marine mammal populations in the Study Area or at any Navy Range Complex. Based on the best available science summarized in the EIS/OEIS Section 3.4.4.1 (Summary of Monitoring and Observations During Navy Activities), long-term consequences for marine mammal populations are unlikely to result from Navy training and testing activities in the Study Area. Note that for sea turtles, as described in the EIS/OEIS Section

Table I.5-4: Responses to Comments from Private Individuals (continued)

Commenter	Comment	Navy Response
	navigating, hearing, nursing, breeding and feeding. Sonar can result in debilitating and even fatal injuries for marine mammals. Scientists believe sonar activity can change whale diving behavior, confusing them to swim to depths their bodies cannot handle. Whales suspected to have beached themselves because of sonar activity show signs of physical trauma like bleeding around the brain, ears and other tissues and large bubbles in their organs – symptoms analogous to "the bends" in humans. To the extent that threatened or endangered species -- including humpback and sperm whales, and leatherback turtles -- are negatively impacted, the proposed activities may result in violations of the Endangered Species Act.	3.5.3.7.1 (Combined Impacts of All Stressors), "impacts are not expected to decrease the overall fitness or result in long-term population level impacts on any given population." Please also refer to Chapter 5 (Standard Operating Procedures, Mitigation, and Monitoring) of the EIS/OEIS, detailing the procedures and mitigation measures during its training and testing activities designed to reduce impacts to marine mammals and sea turtles from Navy activities. Regarding previous strandings, see Section 3.4.3.1.8 (Stranding) and the referenced technical report "Marine Mammal Strandings Associated with U.S. Navy Sonar Activities" (U.S. Department of the Navy 2013c).
Stansbury-03	Re: Supplement to Draft NWTT EIS/OEIS I support the NO ACTION ALTERNATIVE Whales rely on hearing for many of their basic functions, from navigating to communication. Much in the same way shining a bright light in our eyes can leave us disoriented, human-caused sonar activity can drastically affect whale behavior, leading them to beach themselves or dive to depths their bodies cannot handle, causing debilitating and even fatal injuries. The Navy's current environmental analysis fails to provide basic information necessary to adequately evaluate the impacts of the proposed activities. This analysis also fails to provide adequate measures to mitigate the harmful effects of the proposed activities on marine mammals and other wildlife. Based on the information apparent in the environmental analysis, the Navy's "No Action Alternative" is the proposal with the most limited impact on wildlife. A drastic increase in sonar activity will negatively impact wildlife. Marine mammals are extremely sensitive to noise, and sonar disrupts basic behaviors necessary for survival such as migration, surfacing, navigating, hearing, nursing, breeding and feeding. Sonar can result in debilitating and even fatal injuries for marine mammals. Scientists believe sonar activity can change whale diving behavior, confusing them to swim to depths their bodies cannot handle. Whales suspected to have beached themselves because of sonar activity show signs of physical trauma like bleeding around the brain, ears and other tissues and large bubbles in their organs – symptoms analogous to "the bends" in humans. To the extent that threatened or endangered species -- including humpback and sperm whales, and leatherback turtles -- are negatively impacted, the proposed activities may result in violations of the Endangered Species Act.	The Navy shares your concern for marine life, but this concern must be balanced with the purpose and need for Navy training and testing as detailed in Chapter 2 (Description of Proposed Action and Alternatives) of the EIS/OEIS. The Navy has conducted training and testing activities in the Study Area for decades, and there is no evidence that routine Navy training and testing has negatively impacted individual sea turtles or sea turtle populations, or marine mammal populations in the Study Area or at any Navy Range Complex. Based on the best available science summarized in the EIS/OEIS Section 3.4.4.1 (Summary of Monitoring and Observations During Navy Activities), long-term consequences for marine mammal populations are unlikely to result from Navy training and testing activities in the Study Area. Note that for sea turtles, as described in the EIS/OEIS Section 3.5.3.7.1 (Combined Impacts of All Stressors), "impacts are not expected to decrease the overall fitness or result in long-term population level impacts on any given population." Please also refer to Chapter 5 (Standard Operating Procedures, Mitigation, and Monitoring) of the EIS/OEIS, detailing the procedures and mitigation measures during its training and testing activities designed to reduce impacts to marine mammals and sea turtles from Navy activities. Regarding previous strandings, see Section 3.4.3.1.8 (Stranding) and the referenced technical report "Marine Mammal Strandings Associated with U.S. Navy Sonar Activities" (U.S. Department of the Navy 2013c).
Steen	Please DO NOT proceed with planned Electromagnetic War Games over Olympic	Thank you for participating in the NEPA process. However this

Table I.5-4: Responses to Comments from Private Individuals (continued)

Commenter	Comment	Navy Response
(Electronic)	National Park and Olympic National Forest. I could write for 5000 words all the tragic natural consequences of these planned activities, but I expect you're aware of the natural and environmental damage these exercises will cause. So, I'll appeal to your conscience and humanity: Please DO NOT proceed with planned Electromagnetic War Games over Olympic National Park and Olympic National Forest.	comment is outside the scope of the Supplement to the Draft EIS/OEIS. Please see Chapters 1 and 2 of the EIS/OEIS for a clear definition of the scope of this project. There are no weapons testing activities proposed in the Olympic National Forest in the Supplement to the Draft EIS/OEIS. There are no activities involving the use of electronic radiation proposed in the Supplement to the Draft EIS/OEIS.
Steffen (Electronic)	Please limit the amount of sonar activity used in training missions off the Pacific Coast. The Navy's current environmental analysis fails to provide basic information necessary to adequately evaluate the impacts of the proposed activities. This analysis also fails to provide adequate measures to mitigate the harmful effects of the proposed activities on marine mammals and other wildlife. Based on the information apparent in the environmental analysis, the Navy's "No Action Alternative" is the proposal with the most limited impact on wildlife. A drastic increase in sonar activity will negatively impact wildlife. Marine mammals are extremely sensitive to noise, and sonar disrupts basic behaviors necessary for survival such as migration, surfacing, navigating, hearing, nursing, breeding and feeding. Sonar can result in debilitating and even fatal injuries for marine mammals. Scientists believe sonar activity can change whale diving behavior, confusing them to swim to depths their bodies cannot handle. Whales suspected to have beached themselves because of sonar activity show signs of physical trauma like bleeding around the brain, ears and other tissues and large bubbles in their organs – symptoms analogous to "the bends" in humans. To the extent that threatened or endangered species -- including humpback and sperm whales, and leatherback turtles -- are negatively impacted, the proposed activities may result in violations of the Endangered Species Act. Thank you.	As described in the Supplement in Section 3.5.2 (Sea Turtle Summary), the proposed increase in the use of SSQ-125 sonobuoys "are not expected to result in substantial changes to behavior, growth, survival, annual reproductive success, lifetime reproductive success (fitness), or species recruitment, and are not expected to result in population-level impacts." The Navy shares your concern for marine life, but this concern must be balanced with the purpose and need for Navy training and testing as detailed in Chapter 2 (Description of Proposed Action and Alternatives) of the EIS/OEIS. The Navy has conducted active sonar training and testing activities in the Study Area for decades, and there is no evidence that routine Navy training and testing has negatively impacted marine mammal populations in the Study Area or at any Navy Range Complex. Based on the best available science summarized in the EIS/OEIS Section 3.4.4.1 (Summary of Monitoring and Observations During Navy Activities), long-term consequences for marine mammal populations are unlikely to result from Navy training and testing activities in the Study Area. The Navy has conducted active sonar training and testing activities in the Study Area for decades, and there is no evidence that routine Navy training and testing has negatively impacted individual sea turtles or sea turtle populations in the Study Area or at any Navy Range Complex. Based on the best available science summarized in the Draft EIS/OEIS Section 3.5.3.7.1 (Combined Impacts of All Stressors) "impacts are not expected to decrease the overall fitness or result in long-term population level impacts on any given population. In cases where potential impacts rise to a level that warrants mitigation, mitigation measures designed to reduce the potential impacts are discussed in Chapter 5 (Standard Operating Procedures, Mitigation, and Monitoring)."
Stehura	I have commented previously about the Navy's plans for Electronic Warfare Games over the Olympic Peninsula. I am totally against the Navy's Plan to trash a World	The Navy is completing this EIS/OEIS in compliance with current law, including the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA). In addition to

Table I.5-4: Responses to Comments from Private Individuals (continued)

Commenter	Comment	Navy Response
(Electronic)	Heritage Site with constant Growler Jet Noise. Horrible!!! I wish to take this opportunity to comment on the Supplement (December 2014)to the Navy's Draft Environmental Impact Statement/ Overseas Environmental Impact Statement (DEIS), dated January 2014, for its continued training and testing activities in the Pacific Northwest (NWTT). Please include these comments in the administrative record. The proposed increases in this Supplement of marine exercises and additional use of sonar and explosives will only increase the damage done to marine mammals, sea turtles, fish and birds. Of particular concern to me is the Supplement and the EIS's lack of protections for the Southern Resident Killer Whale's dwindling population. Climate Change and Cumulative Impacts The Supplement document responds to calls to address these two big issues but the Navy has only givenlip service when Navy activities were deemed to be of little significance. Was this meant as a joke? Citizens of the Olympic Peninsula do not think it is funny. It is pathetic. What most concerns me is the Navy's lack of honesty. Trying to slip through their plan without the public be aware of the horrendous consequences to our community. It did not work and the whole peninsula has become aware of the threat to our beautiful and quiet lands. There has been an overwhelming number of proposals since late in 2013 rolled out to the public in a piecemeal fashion. Five calls for comments on clearly-linked documents have been spread out in their introduction to the public over the last year and a half. Ground-based, (Electronic warfare range), air-based (Two growler scoping documents) and sea-based naval activities (these two NWTT documents) have been dropped onto the region as if they were not linked. The separate comment periods and the separate documents minimize the larger picture of impacts on the area. In my opinion this is misleading. Is it even legal in regards to Federal Law, specifically NEPA? This seems to be the MO of the Navy toward the citizens of the Olympic Peninsula. As a Vietnam Air Force Veteran, I am very disappointed in the Navy and the way they tried to deceive American citizens and circumvent federal laws. It is very disrespectful. It's shameful. Does the Navy and the forest service want to end up in court? Please redo this chopped-up public process with a comprehensive Environmental Impact Statement that includes all of the activities in the region. These huge changes that affect wildlife, real estate values, allow precedent-setting incursions into the peace of our national parks, national forest, wilderness, state parks and state lands, should be discussed as a whole, not split into so many fractured pieces that the residents of this region cannot know what they are actually facing. I want a comprehensive EIS on all these projects that will inpact my community. I want to know why the Growler Jets can't be flown at Mountain Home AFB in Idaho where these war games have previously been practiced. There are no communities and homes there and it is not a World Heritage Site. Before the Navy trashes the Olympic Peninsula, the people living deserve to know just how horrendous the Navy's secret plans are going to impact us.	NEPA, the Navy continues to comply with other applicable environmental laws and with a number of regulatory requirements, such as the Marine Mammal Protection Act, the Endangered Species Act, the Coastal Zone Management Act, and the Magnuson-Stevens Fishery Conservation and Management Act. Analysis of airfield activities and relocation of aircraft and personnel is addressed in other environmental planning documents, such as the Draft Environmental Assessment for the Transition of Expeditionary EA-6B Prowler Squadrons to EA-18G Growler at Naval Air Station Whidbey Island, Oak Harbor, Washington (U.S. Department of the Navy, 2012). Therefore, the NWTT EIS/OEIS includes the analysis of activities only where those activities occur, nor does it include activities commonly associated with an airfield, such as takeoffs and landings. Electromagnetic activities are not proposed for the NWTT Supplement to the Draft EIS/OEIS. The Navy used the best available science and a comprehensive review of past, present, and reasonably foreseeable actions to develop a robust Cumulative Impacts analysis. See Chapter 4 (Cumulative Impacts) of the EIS/OEIS, which has been updated for the Final EIS/OEIS. The Navy shares your concern for marine life, but this concern must be balanced with the purpose and need for Navy training and testing as detailed in Chapter 2 (Description of Proposed Action and Alternatives) of the EIS/OEIS. The Navy has conducted training and testing activities in the Study Area for decades, and there is no evidence that routine Navy training and testing has negatively impacted individual sea turtles or sea turtle populations, or marine mammal populations in the Study Area or at any Navy Range Complex. Based on the best available science summarized in the EIS/OEIS Section 3.4.4.1 (Summary of Monitoring and Observations During Navy Activities), long-term consequences for marine mammal populations are unlikely to result from Navy training and testing activities in the Study Area. Note that for sea turtles, as described in the EIS/OEIS Section 3.5.3.7.1 (Combined Impacts of All Stressors), "impacts are not expected to decrease the overall fitness or result in long-term population level impacts on any given population." Please also refer to Chapter 5 (Standard Operating Procedures, Mitigation, and Monitoring) of the EIS/OEIS, detailing the procedures and mitigation measures during its training and testing activities designed to reduce impacts to marine mammals and sea turtles from

Table I.5-4: Responses to Comments from Private Individuals (continued)

Commenter	Comment	Navy Response
		Navy activities. As part of the Navy's effects analysis, the Navy considers all the science that identifies locations where certain cetacean populations or individuals are known to engage in feeding, breeding, or other biologically important activities at certain times of year. Recently, NMFS has taken steps to begin formally identifying some of these areas and naming them Biologically Important Areas (BIAs). The Navy has considered these areas as part of its analysis in this Final EIS/OEIS when discussing particular species in Chapter 3 (Affected Environment and Environmental Consequences) as well as in considering whether limitations on Navy activities in these areas are warranted as mitigation in discussion in Chapter 5 (see Section 5.3.4.1.11, Avoiding Marine Species Habitats and Biologically Important Areas). The Navy thoroughly considered the humpback and gray whale feeding areas identified recently in its analysis and whether avoidance as mitigation was appropriate. Given the impact avoidance would have on military readiness activities and lack of biological benefit, avoidance is not warranted. Please see Section 5.3.4.1.11 (Avoiding Marine Species Habitats and Biologically Important Areas). However, Navy is proposing to provide reporting of generally low use of sonar in some of these areas to NMFS as part of classified annual reports to help inform future adaptive management related to impacts in these areas. At time of release of this Final EIS/OEIS, NMFS and Navy are in ongoing discussion regarding mitigation for MMPA purposes. Should additional mitigation to that which Navy has proposed be identified in the MMPA rule making and authorization, it will be indicated in the ROD. It is important to note that the BIAs were not meant to define exclusionary zones, nor critical habitat with regulatory management, nor were they meant to be locations that serve as sanctuaries from human activity, or areas analogous to marine protected areas. The NMFS-identified BIAs do not have direct or immediate regulatory consequences and the BIAs located within the NWTT Study Area are not the only areas used for feeding, migrating, or reproductive activity for these cetaceans in a species' entire range and habitat. The stated intention is for the BIAs to serve as a resource management tool and their currently identified boundaries be considered dynamic and subject to change based on any new information as well as, "existing density estimates, range-wide distribution data, information on population trends and life history parameters, known threats to the population, and other relevant

Table I.5-4: Responses to Comments from Private Individuals (continued)

Commenter	Comment	Navy Response
		information." There is a lack of science supporting identification of any additional BIAs at this time for the Pacific. The Navy and NMFS have supported and will continue to support the Cetacean and Sound Mapping project, including providing representation on the Cetacean Density and Distribution Mapping Working Group (CetMap), which informed NMFS' identification of BIAs. The same marine mammal density data present in the Navy's Density Database Technical Report, and used in the analysis for this EIS/OEIS, was used in the development of BIAs. The final products, including U.S. West Coast BIAs from this mapping effort, were completed and published in March 2015. The Navy conducted an analysis of the Olympic National Park as a World Heritage Site in Appendix K (World Heritage Site Analysis).
Steininger (Electronic)	please limit the amount of sonar activity used in training missions off the Pacific Coast, because •The Navy's current environmental analysis fails to provide basic information necessary to adequately evaluate the impacts of the proposed activities. This analysis also fails to provide adequate measures to mitigate the harmful effects of the proposed activities on marine mammals and other wildlife. •Based on the information apparent in the environmental analysis, the Navy's "No Action Alternative" is the proposal with the most limited impact on wildlife. •A drastic increase in sonar activity will negatively impact wildlife. Marine mammals are extremely sensitive to noise, and sonar disrupts basic behaviors necessary for survival such as migration, surfacing, navigating, hearing, nursing, breeding and feeding. •Sonar can result in debilitating and even fatal injuries for marine mammals. Scientists believe sonar activity can change whale diving behavior, confusing them to swim to depths their bodies cannot handle. Whales suspected to have beached themselves because of sonar activity show signs of physical trauma like bleeding around the brain, ears and other tissues and large bubbles in their organs – symptoms analogous to "the bends" in humans. •To the extent that threatened or endangered species -- including humpback and sperm whales, and leatherback turtles -- are negatively impacted, the proposed activities may result in violations of the Endangered Species Act.	As described in the Supplement in Section 3.5.2 (Sea Turtle Summary), the proposed increase in the use of SSQ-125 sonobuoys "are not expected to result in substantial changes to behavior, growth, survival, annual reproductive success, lifetime reproductive success (fitness), or species recruitment, and are not expected to result in population-level impacts." The Navy shares your concern for marine life, but this concern must be balanced with the purpose and need for Navy training and testing as detailed in Chapter 2 (Description of Proposed Action and Alternatives) of the EIS/OEIS. The Navy has conducted active sonar training and testing activities in the Study Area for decades, and there is no evidence that routine Navy training and testing has negatively impacted marine mammal populations in the Study Area or at any Navy Range Complex. Based on the best available science summarized in the EIS/OEIS Section 3.4.4.1 (Summary of Monitoring and Observations During Navy Activities), long-term consequences for marine mammal populations are unlikely to result from Navy training and testing activities in the Study Area. Please also refer to Chapter 5 (Standard Operating Procedures, Mitigation, and Monitoring) of the EIS/OEIS, detailing the procedures and mitigation measures during its training and testing activities designed to reduce impacts to marine mammals from Navy activities.
Steitz (Electronic)	This proposed use of our oceans as an acoustic free-fire zone, with a concurrent liquidation of animal life that depends upon the water as a physical sensory medium, is not compatible with a morally decent relationship to our planet. This is a hideous and gruesome assault on our fellow mammals. Neurological and behavioral research both in laboratory and in situ have shown that these creatures are fully	The Navy shares your concern for marine life, but this concern must be balanced with the purpose and need for Navy training and testing as detailed in Chapter 2 (Description of Proposed Action and Alternatives) of the EIS/OEIS. The Navy has conducted active sonar training and testing activities in the Study Area for decades, and there is no

Table I.5-4: Responses to Comments from Private Individuals (continued)

Commenter	Comment	Navy Response
	sentient, intelligent, and capable of conscious experience of pain and suffering from the withering acoustic hell that you propose to flood these ocean areas with. No civilized and morally decent people are capable of the actions that you propose.	evidence that routine Navy training and testing has negatively impacted marine mammal populations in the Study Area or at any Navy Range Complex. Based on the best available science summarized in the EIS/OEIS Section 3.4.4.1 (Summary of Monitoring and Observations During Navy Activities), long-term consequences for marine mammal populations are unlikely to result from Navy training and testing activities in the Study Area. Please also refer to Chapter 5 (Standard Operating Procedures, Mitigation, and Monitoring) of the EIS/OEIS, detailing the procedures and mitigation measures during its training and testing activities designed to reduce impacts to marine mammals from Navy activities.
Stensland (Electronic)	Pacific Coast training---36 times more sonar bouys than before!?!?!? Really. The time has come for us ALL to be smarter, including the Navy. Be innovative. Find better processes. Our survival (man) depends on complete and thriving ecosystems, not by continued domination and devastation of the environment and pushing more and more species toward not existing....ya know, Extinction is FOREVER. Buck up, NOW thank you for your consideration	The Navy is not proposing to increase the annual number of sonobuoys by a factor of 36. The Navy's original proposal in the Draft EIS/OEIS includes the annual deployment of approximately 9,200 sonobuoys of various types. The increase of 700 sonobuoys described in the Supplement is an increase of less than 8 percent.
Stephens (Electronic)	The Navy's current environmental analysis fails to provide basic information necessary to adequately evaluate the impacts of the proposed activities. This analysis also fails to provide adequate measures to mitigate the harmful effects of the proposed activities on marine mammals and other wildlife. Based on the information apparent in the environmental analysis, the Navy's "No Action Alternative" is the proposal with the most limited impact on wildlife. A drastic increase in sonar activity will negatively impact wildlife. Marine mammals are extremely sensitive to noise, and sonar disrupts basic behaviors necessary for survival such as migration, surfacing, navigating, hearing, nursing, breeding and feeding. Sonar can result in debilitating and even fatal injuries for marine mammals. Scientists believe sonar activity can change whale diving behavior, confusing them to swim to depths their bodies cannot handle. Whales suspected to have beached themselves because of sonar activity show signs of physical trauma like bleeding around the brain, ears and other tissues and large bubbles in their organs – symptoms analogous to "the bends" in humans. To the extent that threatened or endangered species -- including humpback and sperm whales, and leatherback turtles -- are negatively impacted, the proposed activities may result in violations of the Endangered Species Act.	The Navy shares your concern for marine life, but this concern must be balanced with the purpose and need for Navy training and testing as detailed in Chapter 2 (Description of Proposed Action and Alternatives) of the EIS/OEIS. The Navy has conducted training and testing activities in the Study Area for decades, and there is no evidence that routine Navy training and testing has negatively impacted individual sea turtles or sea turtle populations, or marine mammal populations in the Study Area or at any Navy Range Complex. Based on the best available science summarized in the EIS/OEIS Section 3.4.4.1 (Summary of Monitoring and Observations During Navy Activities), long-term consequences for marine mammal populations are unlikely to result from Navy training and testing activities in the Study Area. Note that for sea turtles, as described in the EIS/OEIS Section 3.5.3.7.1 (Combined Impacts of All Stressors), "impacts are not expected to decrease the overall fitness or result in long-term population level impacts on any given population." Please also refer to Chapter 5 (Standard Operating Procedures, Mitigation, and Monitoring) of the EIS/OEIS, detailing the procedures and mitigation measures during its training and testing activities designed to reduce impacts to marine mammals and sea turtles from Navy activities. Regarding previous strandings, see Section 3.4.3.1.8 (Stranding) and

Table I.5-4: Responses to Comments from Private Individuals (continued)

Commenter	Comment	Navy Response
		the referenced technical report "Marine Mammal Strandings Associated with U.S. Navy Sonar Activities" (U.S. Department of the Navy 2013c).
Stevenson (Electronic)	I wish to take this opportunity to comment on the Supplement (December 2014) to the Navy's Draft Environmental Impact Statement/ Overseas Environmental Impact Statement (DEIS), dated January 2014, for its continued training and testing activities in the Pacific Northwest (NWTT). Please include these comments in the administrative record. I previously commented on the plans to add 39 planes to the Growler squadron stationed at NAS, Whidbey Island, Washington. In those comments I stated that the environmental impacts of that increase in the Growler fleet and the planned use of the planes for so many hours of the day and for 260 days per year should be considered together with the impacts of the electronic warfare games they would be used for, the impacts of the emitter trucks to be used in the Olympic National Forest as well as the impacts of any surface ship or submarine components of exercises in the Puget Sound or off the ocean shore. It is the cumulative effects of all these intertwined exercises that must be considered. Mitigation plans in the document do not consider adequately the increased impacts of the increases in sonar and explosive testing contemplated. Will there be increased visual patrols? How do night darkness or rough seas interfere with attempts to locate marine mammals that can be expected to be adversely affected or killed by the tests? What strategies will be employed to avoid marine mammals? Where are guarantees that harm will not be caused to the endangered Southern Resident Orca whales? Because it is well written and because I agree, let me quote and second the following paragraphs from a letter that has been suggested: There is little consideration of exclusion zones, geographic alternatives to the southern Puget Sound and seasonal restrictions of exercises. All of the Alternatives propose year-round, unrestricted use without regard to seasonal variations in marine mammal and fish abundance. This is true despite the well-documented seasonal migrations of numerous endangered species and the identification of biologically important areas. The Navy should put critical marine habitats off-limits to sonar and explosives testing and schedule training to avoid times of the year when sensitive species are present in places like the Olympic Coast National Marine Sanctuary. In summary, the likely harm to marine animals should these exercises take place as envisioned by the Navy is unacceptable and the impacts of all the Navy's various exercises in the region—air, ground, surface ship and submarine—should be considered together.	The Navy shares your concern for marine life, but this concern must be balanced with the purpose and need for Navy training and testing as detailed in Chapter 2 (Description of Proposed Action and Alternatives) of the EIS/OEIS. The Navy has conducted active sonar training and testing activities in the Study Area for decades, and there is no evidence that routine Navy training and testing has negatively impacted marine mammal populations in the Study Area or at any Navy Range Complex. Based on the best available science summarized in the EIS/OEIS Section 3.4.4.1 (Summary of Monitoring and Observations During Navy Activities), long-term consequences for marine mammal populations are unlikely to result from Navy training and testing activities in the Study Area. Please also refer to Chapter 5 (Standard Operating Procedures, Mitigation, and Monitoring) of the EIS/OEIS, detailing the procedures and mitigation measures during its training and testing activities designed to reduce impacts to marine mammals from Navy activities. As described in Chapter 5 of the EIS/OEIS, the Navy evaluated the effectiveness and practicability of a number of potential mitigation measures. Through consultation and permitting with NMFS and USFWS, the Navy refined the mitigation measures, which are now presented in Chapter 5 (Standard Operating Procedures, Mitigation, and Monitoring) of this Final EIS/OEIS. Section 5.3.1.2.5 (Effectiveness Assessment for Lookouts) acknowledges that, due to the various detection probabilities, levels of Lookout experience, and variability of sighting conditions, Lookouts will not always be effective at avoiding impacts on all species. However, Lookouts are expected to increase the overall likelihood that certain marine mammal species and some sea turtles will be detected at the surface of the water, when compared to the likelihood that these same species would be detected if Lookouts are not used. The continued use of Lookouts contributes to helping reduce potential impacts on these species from training and testing activities. While the range of the sonar's detection would travel beyond the distance that Lookouts can detect animals, the range at which sonar is predicted to be able to cause injury to a marine mammal is very short, within 10 meters of the sonar. At such short distances, it is likely any

Table I.5-4: Responses to Comments from Private Individuals (continued)

Commenter	Comment	Navy Response
		marine mammal would have been detected. As part of the Navy's effects analysis, the Navy considers all the science that identifies locations where certain cetacean populations or individuals are known to engage in feeding, breeding, or other biologically important activities at certain times of year. Recently, NMFS has taken steps to begin formally identifying some of these areas and naming them Biologically Important Areas (BIAs). The Navy has considered these areas as part of its analysis in this Final EIS/OEIS when discussing particular species in Chapter 3 (Affected Environment and Environmental Consequences) as well as in considering whether limitations on Navy activities in these areas are warranted as mitigation in discussion in Chapter 5 (see Section 5.3.4.1.11, Avoiding Marine Species Habitats and Biologically Important Areas). The Navy thoroughly considered the humpback and gray whale feeding areas identified recently in its analysis and whether avoidance as mitigation was appropriate. Given the impact avoidance would have on military readiness activities and lack of biological benefit, avoidance is not warranted. Please see Section 5.3.4.1.11 (Avoiding Marine Species Habitats and Biologically Important Areas). However, Navy is proposing to provide reporting of generally low use of sonar in some of these areas to NMFS as part of classified annual reports to help inform future adaptive management related to impacts in these areas. At time of release of this Final EIS/OEIS, NMFS and Navy are in ongoing discussion regarding mitigation for MMPA purposes. Should additional mitigation to that which Navy has proposed be identified in the MMPA rule making and authorization, it will be indicated in the ROD. It is important to note that the BIAs were not meant to define exclusionary zones, nor critical habitat with regulatory management, nor were they meant to be locations that serve as sanctuaries from human activity, or areas analogous to marine protected areas. The NMFS-identified BIAs do not have direct or immediate regulatory consequences and the BIAs located within the NWTT Study Area are not the only areas used for feeding, migrating, or reproductive activity for these cetaceans in a species' entire range and habitat. The stated intention is for the BIAs to serve as a resource management tool and their currently identified boundaries be considered dynamic and subject to change based on any new information as well as, "existing density estimates, range-wide distribution data, information on population trends and life history parameters, known threats to the population, and other relevant

Table I.5-4: Responses to Comments from Private Individuals (continued)

Commenter	Comment	Navy Response
		information." There is a lack of science supporting identification of any additional BIAs at this time for the Pacific. The Navy and NMFS have supported and will continue to support the Cetacean and Sound Mapping project, including providing representation on the Cetacean Density and Distribution Mapping Working Group (CetMap), which informed NMFS' identification of BIAs. The same marine mammal density data present in the Navy's Density Database Technical Report, and used in the analysis for this EIS/OEIS, was used in the development of BIAs. The final products, including U.S. West Coast BIAs from this mapping effort, were completed and published in March 2015. The Navy used the best available science and a comprehensive review of past, present, and reasonably foreseeable actions to develop a robust Cumulative Impacts analysis. The Navy has returned to the analysis in Chapter 4 (Cumulative Impacts) due to concerns raised in public comments, and the Chapter has been revised in response to those public comments. The literature on ocean acidification has been reviewed, and is now discussed in Section 4.4.4 (Climate Change), of Chapter 4 (Cumulative Impacts) of the EIS/OEIS. The U.S. Navy has conducted active sonar training and testing activities for decades in the seaspace depicted in the Study Area with no evidence to indicate any meaningful impacts to marine habitats in the area. The Navy and NMFS jointly are still in ongoing consultation with the OCNMS regarding the effects of the Proposed Action on Sanctuary resources. The Navy concludes its continued activities are not likely to result in the loss, destruction, or adverse changes to the viability of Sanctuary resources. Several points support this determination: • Less than two percent of proposed training and 15 percent of proposed testing activities would occur within or immediately adjacent to the OCNMS. • The NWTT Final EIS/OEIS shows that training and testing activities have minimal temporary impacts on the quantity or quality of the Study Area's physical environment, and minor to no impacts on marine or shore birds, fish, sea turtles, or invertebrate marine life. • Although explosives have the potential to affect the physical and biological resources, the Navy does not use explosives within the OCNMS. • The Navy concludes any marine mammal behavioral reactions to

Table I.5-4: Responses to Comments from Private Individuals (continued)

Commenter	Comment	Navy Response
		NWTT training and testing activities would be transitory, infrequent, non-cumulative, and impacts are not expected to decrease overall individual fitness or result in long-term population-level impacts on any given population, and consequently will not result in any adverse changes to the sanctuary. Finally, all Department of Defense (DoD) military activities shall be carried out in a manner that avoids to the maximum extent practicable any adverse impacts on Sanctuary resources and qualities.
Stevenson-01 (Written)	I wish to take this opportunity to comment on the Supplement (December 2014) to the Navy's Draft Environmental Impact Statement/ Overseas Environmental Impact Statement (DEIS), dated January 2014, for its continued training and testing activities in the Pacific Northwest (NWTT). Please include these comments in the administrative record.	Thank you for participating in the NEPA process.
Stevenson-02	I previously commented on the plans to add 39 planes to the Growler squadron stationed at NAS, Whidbey Island, Washington. In those comments I stated that the environmental impacts of that increase in the Growler fleet and the planned use of the planes for so many hours of the day and for 260 days per year should be considered together with the impacts of the electronic warfare games they would be used for, the impacts of the emitter trucks to be used in the Olympic National Forest as well as the impacts of any surface ship or submarine components of exercises in the Puget Sound or off the ocean shore. It is the cumulative effects of all these intertwined exercises that must be considered.	The Navy used the best available science and a comprehensive review of past, present, and reasonably foreseeable actions to develop a robust Cumulative Impacts analysis. See Chapter 4 (Cumulative Impacts) of the EIS/OEIS, which has been updated for the Final EIS/OEIS. Please see Chapters 1 and 2 of the EIS/OEIS for a clear definition of the scope of this project. There are no activities involving the use of electronic radiation proposed in the Supplement to the Draft EIS/OEIS. There are no weapons testing activities proposed in the Olympic National Forest in the Supplement to the Draft EIS/OEIS. It is also important to note that the proposed activities would not change how or where the Navy has been flying for decades.
Stevenson-03	Mitigation plans in the document do not consider adequately the increased impacts of the increases in sonar and explosive testing contemplated. Will there be increased visual patrols? How do night darkness or rough seas interfere with attempts to locate marine mammals that can be expected to be adversely affected or killed by the tests? What strategies will be employed to avoid marine mammals?	As described in Chapter 5 (Standard Operating Procedures, Mitigation, and Monitoring) of the EIS/OEIS, the Navy evaluated the effectiveness and practicability of a number of potential mitigation measures. Through consultation and permitting with NMFS and USFWS, the Navy refined the mitigation measures, which are now presented in Chapter 5 (Standard Operating Procedures, Mitigation, and Monitoring) of this Final EIS/OEIS. Section 5.3.1.2.5 (Effectiveness Assessment for Lookouts) acknowledges that, due to the various detection probabilities, levels of Lookout experience, and variability of sighting conditions, Lookouts will not always be effective at avoiding impacts on all species. However, Lookouts are expected to increase the overall likelihood that certain marine mammal species and some sea turtles will be detected at the

Table I.5-4: Responses to Comments from Private Individuals (continued)

Commenter	Comment	Navy Response
		surface of the water, when compared to the likelihood that these same species would be detected if Lookouts are not used. The continued use of Lookouts contributes to helping reduce potential impacts on these species from training and testing activities. While the range of the sonar's detection would travel beyond the distance that Lookouts can detect animals, the range at which sonar is predicted to be able to cause injury to a marine mammal is very short, within 10 meters of the sonar. At such short distances, it is likely any marine mammal would have been detected.
Stevenson-04	Where are guarantees that harm will not be caused to the endangered Southern Resident Orea whales? Because it is well written and because I agree, let me quote and second the following paragraphs from a letter that has been suggested: There is little consideration of exclusion zones, geographic alternatives to the southern Puget Sound and seasonal restrictions of exercises. All of the Alternatives propose year-round, unrestricted use without regard to seasonal variations in marine mammal and fish abundance. This is true despite the well documented seasonal migrations of numerous endangered species and the identification of biologically important areas. The Navy should put critical marine habitats off-limits to sonar and explosives testing and schedule training to avoid times of the year when sensitive species are present in places like the Olympic Coast National Marine Sanctuary. In summary, the likely harm to marine animals should these exercises take place as envisioned by the Navy is unacceptable and the impacts of all the Navy's various exercises in the region-air, ground, surface ship and submarine-should be considered together.	The U.S. Navy has conducted active sonar training and testing activities for decades in the sea space depicted in the Study Area with no evidence to indicate any meaningful impacts to marine habitats in the area. The Navy and NMFS jointly are still in ongoing consultation with the OCNMS regarding the effects of the Proposed Action on Sanctuary resources. The Navy concludes its continued activities are not likely to result in the loss, destruction, or adverse changes to the viability of Sanctuary resources. Several points support this determination: • Less than two percent of proposed training and 15 percent of proposed testing activities would occur within or immediately adjacent to the OCNMS. • The NWTT Final EIS/OEIS shows that training and testing activities have minimal temporary impacts on the quantity or quality of the Study Area's physical environment, and minor to no impacts on marine or shore birds, fish, sea turtles, or invertebrate marine life. • Although explosives have the potential to affect the physical and biological resources, the Navy does not use explosives within the OCNMS. • The Navy concludes any marine mammal behavioral reactions to NWTT training and testing activities would be transitory, infrequent, non-cumulative, and impacts are not expected to decrease overall individual fitness or result in long-term population-level impacts on any given population, and consequently will not result in any adverse changes to the sanctuary. Finally, all Department of Defense (DoD) military activities shall be carried out in a manner that avoids to the maximum extent practicable any adverse impacts on Sanctuary resources and qualities, including the SRKWs.

Table I.5-4: Responses to Comments from Private Individuals (continued)

Commenter	Comment	Navy Response
		As part of the Navy's effects analysis, the Navy considers all the science that identifies locations where certain cetacean populations or individuals are known to engage in feeding, breeding, or other biologically important activities at certain times of year. Recently, NMFS has taken steps to begin formally identifying some of these areas and naming them Biologically Important Areas (BIAs). The Navy has considered these areas as part of its analysis in this Final EIS/OEIS when discussing particular species in Chapter 3 (Affected Environment and Environmental Consequences) as well as in considering whether limitations on Navy activities in these areas are warranted as mitigation in discussion in Chapter 5 (see Section 5.3.4.1.11, Avoiding Marine Species Habitats and Biologically Important Areas). The Navy thoroughly considered the humpback and gray whale feeding areas identified recently in its analysis and whether avoidance as mitigation was appropriate. Given the impact avoidance would have on military readiness activities and lack of biological benefit, avoidance is not warranted. Please see Section 5.3.4.1.11 (Avoiding Marine Species Habitats and Biologically Important Areas). However, Navy is proposing to provide reporting of generally low use of sonar in some of these areas to NMFS as part of classified annual reports to help inform future adaptive management related to impacts in these areas. At time of release of this Final EIS/OEIS, NMFS and Navy are in ongoing discussion regarding mitigation for MMPA purposes. Should additional mitigation to that which Navy has proposed be identified in the MMPA rule making and authorization, it will be indicated in the ROD. It is important to note that the BIAs were not meant to define exclusionary zones, nor critical habitat with regulatory management, nor were they meant to be locations that serve as sanctuaries from human activity, or areas analogous to marine protected areas. The NMFS-identified BIAs do not have direct or immediate regulatory consequences and the BIAs located within the NWTT Study Area are not the only areas used for feeding, migrating, or reproductive activity for these cetaceans in a species' entire range and habitat. The stated intention is for the BIAs to serve as a resource management tool and their currently identified boundaries be considered dynamic and subject to change based on any new information as well as, "existing density estimates, range-wide distribution data, information on population trends and life history parameters, known threats to the population, and other relevant information." There is a lack of science supporting identification of any additional

Table I.5-4: Responses to Comments from Private Individuals (continued)

Commenter	Comment	Navy Response
		BIAs at this time for the Pacific. The Navy and NMFS have supported and will continue to support the Cetacean and Sound Mapping project, including providing representation on the Cetacean Density and Distribution Mapping Working Group (CetMap), which informed NMFS' identification of BIAs. The same marine mammal density data present in the Navy's Density Database Technical Report, and used in the analysis for this EIS/OEIS, was used in the development of BIAs. The final products, including U.S. West Coast BIAs from this mapping effort, were completed and published in March 2015. In Chapter 5 (Standard Operating Procedures, Mitigation, and Monitoring) of the EIS/OEIS, the Navy has recommended measures within several mitigation areas (see Section 5.3.3, Mitigation Areas) that have been well-documented as important habitats for particular species and in which implementation of mitigation would not result in unacceptable impacts on readiness. These mitigation areas have been carefully selected on a case-by-case basis through consultation with NMFS and the USFWS. Otherwise avoiding all marine species habitats (e.g., foraging locations, reproductive locations, migration corridors, and locations of modeled takes) for the purpose of mitigation would be impractical with regard to implementation of military readiness activities, would result in unacceptable impact on readiness, and would increase safety risks to personnel.
Still (Electronic)	You MUST Cease & Desist with your Deployment of additional Sonar in the Ocean. It is Not Your Ocean alone, others live there and Sonar painfully affects how they have to live. Yes, You MUST Share and play FAIR. Now is the time to do so. We are all watching for your Balanced Reaction between Doing the Right thing or turning your Backs on All of US. Thanks, J Still	Thank you for participating in the NEPA process. The Navy shares your concern for marine life, but this concern must be balanced with the purpose and need for Navy training and testing as detailed in Chapter 2 (Description of Proposed Action and Alternatives) of the EIS/OEIS. The Navy has conducted active sonar training and testing activities in the Study Area for decades, and there is no evidence that routine Navy training and testing has negatively impacted marine mammal populations in the Study Area or at any Navy Range Complex. Based on the best available science summarized in the EIS/OEIS Section 3.4.4.1 (Summary of Monitoring and Observations During Navy Activities), long-term consequences for marine mammal populations are unlikely to result from Navy training and testing activities in the Study Area. Please also refer to Chapter 5 (Standard Operating Procedures, Mitigation, and Monitoring) of the EIS/OEIS, detailing the procedures and mitigation measures during its training and testing activities designed to reduce impacts to marine mammals from Navy activities.

Table I.5-4: Responses to Comments from Private Individuals (continued)

Commenter	Comment	Navy Response
Stonebraker (Electronic)	Please extend the comment period that is expiring 2/2/15 for the sonar buoy issue. I just heard about this comment period that expires today. The newspaper The Daily World located in Aberdeen, WA has NEVER posted anything regarding the sonar buoy comment period in the 3 day a week local newspaper. If the Daily World does not publish it you will not get all comments because of people unaware. It is not a fair process. Seattle is 200 miles away and it is in their paper. Please do not put anymore sonar buoys off the pacific coast. How do you expect the female whales with their babies to be able to hear each other underwater from your buoy sonar noise. All the adult whales and babies have it bad enough with shipping traffic and other whales killing their babies and themselves. Orcas and other whales use sounds to communicate so how can they hear themselves. There are also crabbing pots that may get tangled in your buoys. The existing sonar buoys should be plenty for the Navy to do their testing without using all of the Pacific coastline which will definitely do harm to the Pacific sea mammals. Why does the Navy want to extend their area into waters that should be protected areas for marine wildlife. Do not put anymore sonar buoys please for the sake of the future generations and what is going on with climate change effecting sea mammals. How do you know if it will effect starfish and crab migration with the sonar noise? I am totally against it. You are polluting the Pacific Ocean with not only buoys but also noise. Thank you for your consideration.	The Navy made significant efforts to notify the public to ensure maximum public participation during the public comment period, including using postcards, press releases, and newspaper display advertisements. The public could download and review the document, and make comments to it, on the website (www.NWTTEIS.com). As described in the Supplement in Section 3.4.2 (Marine Mammal Summary), the proposed increase in the use of SSQ-125 sonobuoys would "not result in any long-term consequences for any marine mammal population or species; therefore, the conclusions stated in the Draft EIS/OEIS remain unchanged." The Navy shares your concern for marine life, but this concern must be balanced with the purpose and need for Navy training and testing as detailed in Chapter 2 (Description of Proposed Action and Alternatives) of the EIS/OEIS. An analysis of Environmental Consequences to Marine Invertebrates can be found in the Draft EIS/OEIS, Section 3.8 (Marine Invertebrates). The Navy has conducted active sonar training and testing activities in the Study Area for decades, and there is no evidence that routine Navy training and testing has negatively impacted marine mammal populations in the Study Area or at any Navy Range Complex. Based on the best available science summarized in the EIS/OEIS Section 3.4.4.1 (Summary of Monitoring and Observations During Navy Activities), long-term consequences for marine mammal populations are unlikely to result from Navy training and testing activities in the Study Area.
Struble (Electronic)	I oppose the use of sonar in the Pacific Ocean. Ocean mammals depend on hearing for navigation, feeding, and reproduction. Scientists have linked military sonar and live-fire activities to mass whale beaching, exploded eardrums, and even death. In 2004, during war games near Hawai‘i, the Navy’s sonar was implicated in a mass stranding of up to 200 melon-headed whales in Hanalei Bay, Kaua‘i. The Navy and Fisheries Service estimate that, over the plan’s five-year period, training and testing activities will result in thousands of animals suffering permanent hearing loss, lung injuries or death. Millions of animals will be exposed to temporary injuries and disturbances, with many subjected to multiple harmful exposures.	Regarding previous strandings, see Section 3.4.3.1.8 (Stranding) and the referenced technical report “Marine Mammal Strandings Associated with U.S. Navy Sonar Activities” (U.S. Department of the Navy 2013c). Based on the best available science summarized in the Draft EIS/OEIS Section 3.4.4.1 (Summary of Monitoring and Observations During Navy Activities), long-term consequences for marine mammal populations are unlikely to result from Navy training and testing activities in the Study Area.
Subramanian (Electronic)	Hello, based on the information provided in your environmental analysis, the Navy’s “No Action Alternative” is the proposal with the most limited impact on wildlife. It's important to not further cause harm to the already stressed marine populations along the coast, especially for peace-time training. Thanks for soliciting public comments. Bala	The Navy shares your concern for marine life, but this concern must be balanced with the purpose and need for Navy training and testing as detailed in Chapter 2 (Description of Proposed Action and Alternatives) of the EIS/OEIS. The Navy has conducted active sonar training and testing activities in the Study Area for decades, and there is no evidence that routine Navy training and testing has negatively

Table I.5-4: Responses to Comments from Private Individuals (continued)

Commenter	Comment	Navy Response
		impacted marine mammal populations in the Study Area or at any Navy Range Complex. Based on the best available science summarized in the EIS/OEIS Section 3.4.4.1 (Summary of Monitoring and Observations During Navy Activities), long-term consequences for marine mammal populations are unlikely to result from Navy training and testing activities in the Study Area. Please also refer to Chapter 5 (Standard Operating Procedures, Mitigation, and Monitoring) of the EIS/OEIS, detailing the procedures and mitigation measures during its training and testing activities designed to reduce impacts to marine mammals from Navy activities.
Sullivan-01 (Electronic)	Thank you for the opportunity to comment on the Supplement (December 2014) to the Navy's Draft Environmental Impact Statement/ Overseas Environmental Impact Statement (DEIS) of January 2014, for its continued training and testing activities in the Pacific Northwest (NWTT). Please include my comments in the administrative record. First, I would like to register my ongoing objection to the continued "piecemealing" of issues into multiple separate processes; the public has faced six independent processes on this topic in the last twelve months, five of them coming in the last five months of 2014. The onslaught of proposals in such a short period of time effectively overwhelms public criticism and understanding of the issues. This is contrary to the spirit and intent of NEPA as the nation's public environmental charter. Further, NEPA does not allow interconnected issues to be considered separately. Separating clearly-linked NEPA documents and processes has had the effect of separating ground-based, air-based and sea-based Naval activities as if they were not linked. They ARE linked. This has misled the public into considering smaller spheres of influence of Navy actions in myriad localities. This strategy, or decision, to break up an obviously unified plan may in fact be in violation of federal law.	The Navy prepares Environmental Impact Statements (EIS) and Environmental Assessments (EA) in order to comply with the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA). These NEPA documents are intended to ensure decision makers consider the potential environmental effects of a proposed action and its alternatives, provide an opportunity for public involvement, and promote transparency by informing the public of these potential environmental effects. Each NEPA document addresses a specific proposed action, separated from other actions by its purpose and need, independent utility, timing, and geographic location. Some NEPA documents are stand-alone documents; others tier off or expand the analyses of other NEPA documents. NEPA documents for training and testing, including this EIS/OEIS, focus on training and testing activities occurring within a range complex or military operation area and involve different types of aircraft, ships, and range complex enhancements. NEPA documents for aircraft homebasing actions focus on aircraft operations in and around the airfield and their facility needs. NEPA documents for installations focus on infrastructure enhancements for host and tenant command missions. Importantly, every environmental document considers the cumulative impacts to the environment from other relevant past, present, and reasonably foreseeable future actions (federal, state, local, and private) in addition to the proposed action.
Sullivan-02	Of concern among many things is the massive increase in sonobuoy deployment, from 20 to 720. Why was this increase not mentioned in the Draft EIS/OEIS? Press releases dated August 2013 from Ultra-Spartan JV Corporation and in Marine News magazine clearly show intent to substantially increase the numbers of sonobuoys. Leaving this important information out of the January 2014 Draft EIS was deceptive at best, and possibly another violation of NEPA.	The Navy provided the most up-to-date information available in the January 2014 NWTT Draft EIS/OEIS. As described in the Supplement to the Draft EIS/OEIS, it was only after release of the Draft EIS/OEIS that the Navy determined that its updated training requirements would result in a change to the Proposed Action.
Sullivan-03	Impacts from the navy's sonar use have never been less than significant. Lethal and	As described in the Supplement in Section 3.4.2 (Marine Mammal

Table I.5-4: Responses to Comments from Private Individuals (continued)

Commenter	Comment	Navy Response
	sub-lethal cumulative impacts to marine life, including marine mammals, fish, turtles and diving seabirds, are expected to remain high, based on the Requests for Letters of Authorization for Incidental Take. Many whale populations are struggling to survive amidst the context of thousands of “incidental” deaths. The Navy’s methodology for spotting whales and other marine mammals, based on a training manual found on the internet, has scarcely changed since the 1700s. Merely keeping a visual lookout from a fast-moving vessel for animals that spend the majority of their time below the sea surface is so inadequate as to beg disbelief. Daytime visibility at sea in North Pacific latitudes is frequently less than a mile, and rough seas are common, further reducing it. How is it possible under such common regional conditions of reduced visibility, for the Navy to ascertain that its activities will avoid killing or injuring whales or other marine life? The Navy’s indifference to the Southern Resident Killer Whale's dwindling population and its need for a protected home in accord with its endangered status and designated critical habitat is a major concern. Training should be completely excluded from critical habitat. Proximity to Naval bases for the convenience of sailors and their families, or interesting underwater topography taken as a rationale for continuing southern Puget Sound exercises does not warrant even one “take” of this species.	Summary), the proposed increase in the use of SSQ-125 sonobuoys would "not result in any long-term consequences for any marine mammal population or species; therefore, the conclusions stated in the Draft EIS/OEIS remain unchanged." The Navy shares your concern for marine life, but this concern must be balanced with the purpose and need for Navy training and testing as detailed in Chapter 2 (Description of Proposed Action and Alternatives) of the EIS/OEIS. The Navy has conducted training and testing activities in the Study Area for decades, and there is no evidence that routine Navy training and testing has negatively impacted individual sea turtles or sea turtle populations, or marine mammal populations in the Study Area or at any Navy Range Complex. Based on the best available science summarized in the EIS/OEIS Section 3.4.4.1 (Summary of Monitoring and Observations During Navy Activities), long-term consequences for marine mammal populations are unlikely to result from Navy training and testing activities in the Study Area. Note that for sea turtles, as described in the EIS/OEIS Section 3.5.3.7.1 (Combined Impacts of All Stressors), “impacts are not expected to decrease the overall fitness or result in long-term population level impacts on any given population.” Please also refer to Chapter 5 (Standard Operating Procedures, Mitigation, and Monitoring) of the EIS/OEIS, detailing the procedures and mitigation measures during its training and testing activities designed to reduce impacts to marine mammals and sea turtles from Navy activities. As described in Chapter 5 (Standard Operating Procedures, Mitigation, and Monitoring) of the EIS/OEIS, the Navy evaluated the effectiveness and practicability of a number of potential mitigation measures. Through consultation and permitting with NMFS and USFWS, the Navy refined the mitigation measures, which are now presented in Chapter 5 (Standard Operating Procedures, Mitigation, and Monitoring) of this Final EIS/OEIS. Section 5.3.1.2.5 (Effectiveness Assessment for Lookouts) acknowledges that, due to the various detection probabilities, levels of Lookout experience, and variability of sighting conditions, Lookouts will not always be effective at avoiding impacts on all species. However, Lookouts are expected to increase the overall likelihood that certain marine mammal species and some sea turtles will be detected at the surface of the water, when compared to the likelihood that these same species would be detected if Lookouts are not used. The continued

Table I.5-4: Responses to Comments from Private Individuals (continued)

Commenter	Comment	Navy Response
		use of Lookouts contributes to helping reduce potential impacts on these species from training and testing activities. While the range of the sonar's detection would travel beyond the distance that Lookouts can detect animals, the range at which sonar is predicted to be able to cause injury to a marine mammal is very short, within 10 meters of the sonar. At such short distances, it is likely any marine mammal would have been detected. The analysis presented in Section 3.4 (Marine Mammals) considers Southern Resident killer whale critical habitat. As presented in Section 3.4.2.1.5.1 (Status and Management) for Southern Resident killer whale, the Navy is aware of the Primary Constituent Elements supporting Southern Resident killer whale critical habitat and concludes in Section 3.4.3 (Environmental Consequences) that the Navy's proposed actions, including activities using sonar and explosives, will not affect critical habitat or the defined Primary Constituent Elements. Specifically, a total of 4 behavioral "takes" or exposures of Southern Resident killer whales from sonar and other active acoustic sources are predicted by the Navy's Acoustic Effects Model (see Section 3.4.3.2.1.5 [Alternative 1, Training Activities and similar sections]. Minor behavioral reactions would not have any substantial or long term effects on individual or the population of Southern Resident killer whales.
Sullivan-04	The lack of consideration of exclusion zones, geographic alternatives to the southern Puget Sound and seasonal restrictions remain as glaring omissions in Navy NEPA documents. All of the alternatives propose year-round, unrestricted use without regard to seasonal variations in marine mammal and fish abundance and despite the well-documented seasonal migrations of numerous endangered species and the identification of biologically important areas. I am deeply concerned about the apparent lack of any plans whatsoever, for the Navy to use the Cetacean Density and Distribution Mapping Working Group's data (CetMap) for marine mammal populations in the Pacific Northwest to mitigate harm and protect remaining habitat. Much of the nearshore coastal area where sonobuoys will be employed are National Wildlife Refuges, and many of the birds that nest on these rocks and offshore islets dive and feed on fish found in the nearby waters. One billion birds pass through this biologically productive area. Sonobuoys are detectable underwater by wildlife as warnings, which can cause wildlife to abandon areas critical to their survival. Has the Navy consulted with the Fish and Wildlife Service on impacts to nesting, feeding and migrating birds? If so, will the Navy please make those documents available to the public on its web site? If not, why	As part of the Navy's effects analysis, the Navy considers all the science that identifies locations where certain cetacean populations or individuals are known to engage in feeding, breeding, or other biologically important activities at certain times of year. Recently, NMFS has taken steps to begin formally identifying some of these areas and naming them Biologically Important Areas (BIAs). The Navy has considered these areas as part of its analysis in this Final EIS/OEIS when discussing particular species in Chapter 3 (Affected Environment and Environmental Consequences) as well as in considering whether limitations on Navy activities in these areas are warranted as mitigation in discussion in Chapter 5 (see Section 5.3.4.1.11, Avoiding Marine Species Habitats and Biologically Important Areas). The Navy thoroughly considered the humpback and gray whale feeding areas identified recently in its analysis and whether avoidance as mitigation was appropriate. Given the impact avoidance would have on military readiness activities and lack of biological benefit, avoidance is not warranted. Please see Section 5.3.4.1.11 (Avoiding Marine Species Habitats and Biologically Important Areas).

Table I.5-4: Responses to Comments from Private Individuals (continued)

Commenter	Comment	Navy Response
	not? I will continue my comments in the note to follow.	However, Navy is proposing to provide reporting of generally low use of sonar in some of these areas to NMFS as part of classified annual reports to help inform future adaptive management related to impacts in these areas. At time of release of this Final EIS/OEIS, NMFS and Navy are in ongoing discussion regarding mitigation for MMPA purposes. Should additional mitigation to that which Navy has proposed be identified in the MMPA rule making and authorization, it will be indicated in the ROD. It is important to note that the BIAs were not meant to define exclusionary zones, nor critical habitat with regulatory management, nor were they meant to be locations that serve as sanctuaries from human activity, or areas analogous to marine protected areas. The NMFS-identified BIAs do not have direct or immediate regulatory consequences and the BIAs located within the NWTT Study Area are not the only areas used for feeding, migrating, or reproductive activity for these cetaceans in a species' entire range and habitat. The stated intention is for the BIAs to serve as a resource management tool and their currently identified boundaries be considered dynamic and subject to change based on any new information as well as, "existing density estimates, range-wide distribution data, information on population trends and life history parameters, known threats to the population, and other relevant information." There is a lack of science supporting identification of any additional BIAs at this time for the Pacific. The Navy and NMFS have supported and will continue to support the Cetacean and Sound Mapping project, including providing representation on the Cetacean Density and Distribution Mapping Working Group (CetMap), which informed NMFS' identification of BIAs. The same marine mammal density data present in the Navy's Density Database Technical Report, and used in the analysis for this EIS/OEIS, was used in the development of BIAs. The final products, including U.S. West Coast BIAs from this mapping effort, were completed and published in March 2015. In accordance with ESA requirements, the Navy will complete consultation under Section 7 of the ESA with NMFS and USFWS and adhere to the Letter of Authorization and Biological Opinion issued by those agencies. All materials related to this consultation is available on the project website (www.NWTTEIS.com).
Sullivan-05	Continued from previous comment: The Navy's activities in the Northwest Training and Testing (NWTT) Study Area pose significant risks to whales, fish, and other wildlife that depend on a peaceful environment for breeding, feeding, navigating,	The Navy has conducted active sonar training and testing activities in the Study Area for decades, and there is no evidence that routine Navy training and testing has negatively impacted marine mammal

Table I.5-4: Responses to Comments from Private Individuals (continued)

Commenter	Comment	Navy Response
	and avoiding predators—in short, for their survival. There can be no credible claim of "no significant impacts," given the number of peer-reviewed scientific studies indicating otherwise. The increased sonar and explosives activity outlined in the Supplement - the Tracking Exercise Maritime Patrol (TRACKEX), and the previously unreported Maritime Security Operations effects, plus the cumulative impacts of stressors and greenhouse gases generated by jets that burn tremendous amounts of fuel will cause increased significant negative impacts on the marine environment. Already, hazardous materials are washing up on ocean beaches at a rate that has caused public warning bulletins to be issued by police departments.	populations in the Study Area or at any Navy Range Complex. Based on the best available science summarized in the EIS/OEIS Section 3.4.4.1 (Summary of Monitoring and Observations During Navy Activities), long-term consequences for marine mammal populations are unlikely to result from Navy training and testing activities in the Study Area. Please also refer to Chapter 5 (Standard Operating Procedures, Mitigation, and Monitoring) of the EIS/OEIS, detailing the procedures and mitigation measures during its training and testing activities designed to reduce impacts to marine mammals from Navy activities. The NWTT EIS/OEIS includes a thorough analysis of the potential impacts resulting from the Navy's proposed activities. The Navy used the best available science to conduct this analysis and is not aware of any reliable, scientifically-based information that disputes the Navy's conclusions.
Sullivan-06	The Navy's failure to develop meaningful alternatives and strategies to mitigate this increased harm is unacceptable, particularly because the Navy's plan fails to adopt commonsense measures that would dramatically reduce these injuries and deaths without compromising national security. Most importantly, the Navy should put critical marine habitats off-limits to sonar and explosives testing and schedule training to avoid times of the year when sensitive species are present in places like the Olympic Coast National Marine Sanctuary, something it is not willing to do despite the scientific community's view that these would be the most effective means of reducing harm. National security and the health of our ecosystems are not mutually exclusive, as the Navy well knows.	Seasonal or geographic exclusions are treated by the Navy as mitigation measures, not alternatives. As described in Chapter 5 (Standard Operating Procedures, Mitigation, and Monitoring) of the Draft and Final EIS/OEIS, the Navy evaluated the effectiveness and practicability of a number of potential mitigation measures including the avoidance of specific areas; see specifically, Section 5.3.4 (Mitigation Measures Considered but Eliminated).The Olympic MOAs and the nearshore portion of W-237 are used only for aircraft overflights which remain in full compliance of National Park regulations. It is also important to note that those proposed activities relevant to Tribal concerns are merely the continuation of similar activities that have been occurring in this same area for decades. The Navy coordinated its analysis with USFWS and NMFS to get authorizations that balance protection of species with the Navy's requirement to train and test. Final marine mammal consultation results for ESA and MMPA will be included in the ROD. The U.S. Navy has conducted active sonar training and testing activities for decades in the seaspace depicted in the Study Area with no evidence to indicate any meaningful impacts to marine habitats in the area. The Navy and NMFS jointly are still in ongoing consultation with the OCNMS regarding the effects of the Proposed Action on Sanctuary resources. The Navy concludes its continued activities are not likely to result in the loss, destruction, or adverse changes to the viability of Sanctuary resources. Several points support this

Table I.5-4: Responses to Comments from Private Individuals (continued)

Commenter	Comment	Navy Response
		determination: • Less than two percent of proposed training and 15 percent of proposed testing activities would occur within or immediately adjacent to the OCNMS. • The NWTT Final EIS/OEIS shows that training and testing activities have minimal temporary impacts on the quantity or quality of the Study Area's physical environment, and minor to no impacts on marine or shore birds, fish, sea turtles, or invertebrate marine life. • Although explosives have the potential to affect the physical and biological resources, the Navy does not use explosives within the OCNMS. • The Navy concludes any marine mammal behavioral reactions to NWTT training and testing activities would be transitory, infrequent, non-cumulative, and impacts are not expected to decrease overall individual fitness or result in long-term population-level impacts on any given population, and consequently will not result in any adverse changes to the sanctuary. Finally, all Department of Defense (DoD) military activities shall be carried out in a manner that avoids to the maximum extent practicable any adverse impacts on Sanctuary resources and qualities.
Sullivan-07	A noticeable lack of increased mitigation plans in accord with the increased damage that is likely from additional sonar and explosive activity is unacceptable. Nowhere is it outlined whether visual patrols will increase as a result of this new activity, nor does the Supplement address real concerns over whether or not visual patrol is adequate at times of night or rough seas. No acoustic monitoring, or avoidance strategies are included. This is a serious omission to a document that intended to address the inadequate science and mitigation plans of the original draft. Mitigation must be addressed more fully.	As presented in Chapter 5 (Standard Operating Procedures, Mitigation, and Monitoring) of the Draft and Final EIS/OEIS, the mitigation measures are implemented for each activity and therefore the mitigation scales up as the activity level scales up.
Sullivan-08	I am also concerned about increased numbers and durations of Hood Canal Bridge closures and the Navy's refusal to announce them enough in advance for people to make alternate plans. Kidney dialysis is not available on the Olympic Peninsula, for example. Missed medical appointments, flights from SeaTac and other things that people do not want to miss will create a reservoir of resentment far beyond the one that already exists in communities that are being subjected to frequent noisy jet overflights and sonic booms. Increased numbers of boardings of private vessels is also a concern. I was out on my small boat in late December, headed toward Point Wilson when I spotted a submarine with several escort boats headed out of Admiralty Inlet. About 500 yards before the lighthouse, I turned around in order to	Maritime Security Operations (MSO) is the activity analyzed in the NWTT EIS/OEIS that results in Hood Canal Bridge closures. MSO is an ongoing activity in the NWTT Study Area that was not previously analyzed; therefore, the number of Transit Protection System activities proposed under Alternative 1 and Alternative 2 is the same level of activity that is occurring now. Notice to Mariners are issued one hour prior to the commencement of security vessel transits related to MSO activities. Due to security requirements, greater advance notice is not authorized.

Table I.5-4: Responses to Comments from Private Individuals (continued)

Commenter	Comment	Navy Response
	avoid entering the 1000-yard moving exclusion zone, and was at least a mile and a half from the sub and its escort, but two boats with machine guns and flashing lights zoomed up and stopped us anyway, and interrogated us for ten minutes. Practicing anti-piracy and anti-terrorism techniques on local residents is going to be a public relations nightmare for the Navy, and I suggest that you don't do it. Forcing vessels off their normally-traveled channels and requiring fishermen to abandon deployed nets and pots with less than an hour's notice will also go over like a lead balloon. Making boats move off to the side to anchor in the Strait of Juan de Fuca while the Navy prevents them from proceeding is, as any seaman knows, dangerous in all but the mildest weather. I suggest that you provide at least several hours of water access restrictions notice via Coast Guard announcements on Channel 16 VHF, through Seattle Traffic Control, and in local news outlets so that people can plan ahead to accommodate the Navy's needs.	
Sullivan-09	The Navy has been exempted from the restrictions on vessels operating within the boundaries of National Marine Sanctuaries, and from altitude restrictions on aircraft operating in wilderness areas, but I hope that every shipmate and every airman will treat the sea and the life in it, and the surrounding forests and the life in them, as if recognition that human beings are part of, and not separate from, the biotic community, is standard operating procedure. Continued in the next comment.	The comment is incorrect in its assertion that the Navy is exempted from Sanctuary regulations. The Navy fully complies with all National Marine Sanctuary regulations. The U.S. Navy has conducted active sonar training and testing activities for decades in the seaspace depicted in the Study Area with no evidence to indicate any meaningful impacts to marine habitats in the area. The Navy and NMFS jointly are still in ongoing consultation with the OCNMS regarding the effects of the Proposed Action on Sanctuary resources. The Navy concludes its continued activities are not likely to result in the loss, destruction, or adverse changes to the viability of Sanctuary resources. Several points support this determination: • Less than two percent of proposed training and 15 percent of proposed testing activities would occur within or immediately adjacent to the OCNMS. • The NWTT Final EIS/OEIS shows that training and testing activities have minimal temporary impacts on the quantity or quality of the Study Area's physical environment, and minor to no impacts on marine or shore birds, fish, sea turtles, or invertebrate marine life. • Although explosives have the potential to affect the physical and biological resources, the Navy does not use explosives within the OCNMS. • The Navy concludes any marine mammal behavioral reactions to NWTT training and testing activities would be transitory, infrequent,

Table I.5-4: Responses to Comments from Private Individuals (continued)

Commenter	Comment	Navy Response
		non-cumulative, and impacts are not expected to decrease overall individual fitness or result in long-term population-level impacts on any given population, and consequently will not result in any adverse changes to the sanctuary. Finally, all Department of Defense (DoD) military activities shall be carried out in a manner that avoids to the maximum extent practicable any adverse impacts on Sanctuary resources and qualities.
Sullivan-10	#3 of three parts; final comments. The Navy has been exempted from the restrictions on vessels operating within the boundaries of National Marine Sanctuaries, and from altitude restrictions on aircraft operating in wilderness areas, but I hope that every shipmate and every airman will treat the sea and the life in it, and the surrounding forests and the life in them, as if recognition that human beings are part of, and not separate from, the biotic community, is standard operating procedure. I am also extremely concerned about threats and harassment by Navy personnel and Navy contract employees, to people who are merely exercising their rights as citizens to question not just what the Navy is doing, but also our patriotism. I have been extremely upset and disappointed to see things like a Navy pilot writing, “and to think I defend you morons,” and a recently launched Facebook page called “Boycott Port Townsend and Al Jazeera,” in which I and one other person were personally attacked. I have been alarmed at the publication of a letter in a newspaper, written by a Navy contract employee and accusing me of being a threat to jobs on Whidbey Island, and by a retired Navy Chief’s threat to me and two others who dared to write letters to the editor, that we should be strapped to a Growler and flown into ISIS territory to see how brave we are. I have been dismayed at the behavior of another pilot who encouraged an elderly woman recovering from a hip operation to commit suicide. The Base Commander was notified about the latter, and nothing was done about it. Believe me, I am documenting every single one of these disgusting and very un-American behaviors, and if the Navy thinks for one moment that citizens like me will easily forget, it sadly underestimates OUR patriotism. Even on the Olympic Peninsula, our lands and waters are already showing evidence of harm from climate change, habitat degradation, and ocean acidification. The Navy’s current plans will result in further deterioration of this precious resource that contributes to the economic vitality and beauty of our Pacific Northwest. Our airways, waterways, parks and wilderness areas, homes and the entire region depend on all of us, including the Navy, to protect the region from further damage. This is what would in most communities be called a Good Neighbor Policy. Right now the Navy is not being a good neighbor, because it has not been honest or fair with the public about its intent, and thus is squandering what formerly was a fairly universal public admiration and respect. I have admired and respected the Navy all my life – until now.	The comment is incorrect in its assertion that the Navy is exempted from Sanctuary regulations. The Navy fully complies with all National Marine Sanctuary regulations. Please see Section 6.1.2.1 (Olympic Coast National Marine Sanctuary). The team responsible for completing the NWTT EIS/OEIS has no control over actions of individuals not associated with the team.

Table I.5-4: Responses to Comments from Private Individuals (continued)

Commenter	Comment	Navy Response
Summers (Electronic)	I am requesting that you drop your proposed training and testing activities using sonar, explosives, weapons and acoustic devices off the Pacific Coast. There is documented research on the impact of this including your own environmental analysis. Your No Action Alternative is the least impactful approach. Please do not further stress animals that are already significantly stressed by environmental changes occurring already.	The Navy shares your concern for marine life, but this concern must be balanced with the purpose and need for Navy training and testing as detailed in Chapter 2 (Description of Proposed Action and Alternatives) of the EIS/OEIS. The Navy has conducted active sonar training and testing activities in the Study Area for decades, and there is no evidence that routine Navy training and testing has negatively impacted marine mammal populations in the Study Area or at any Navy Range Complex. Based on the best available science summarized in the EIS/OEIS Section 3.4.4.1 (Summary of Monitoring and Observations During Navy Activities), long-term consequences for marine mammal populations are unlikely to result from Navy training and testing activities in the Study Area. Please also refer to Chapter 5 (Standard Operating Procedures, Mitigation, and Monitoring) of the EIS/OEIS, detailing the procedures and mitigation measures during its training and testing activities designed to reduce impacts to marine mammals from Navy activities.
Surmann (Electronic)	At the last minute, the Navy has expanded its proposal for training off the Pacific Coast, suggesting 36 TIMES more sonar-emitting bouys as had been previously planned. This unexpected revision will drastically increase the impact on whales and other ocean wildlife. The Navy's current environmental analysis fails to provide basic information necessary to adequately evaluate the impacts of the proposed activities. This analysis also fails to provide adequate measures to mitigate the harmful effects of the proposed activities on marine mammals and other wildlife. Based on the information apparent in the environmental analysis, the Navy's "No Action Alternative" is the proposal with the most limited impact on wildlife. A drastic increase in sonar activity will negatively impact wildlife. Marine mammals are extremely sensitive to noise, and sonar disrupts basic behaviors necessary for survival such as migration, surfacing, navigating, hearing, nursing, breeding and feeding. Sonar can result in debilitating and even fatal injuries for marine mammals. Scientists believe sonar activity can change whale diving behavior, confusing them to swim to depths their bodies cannot handle. Whales suspected to have beached themselves because of sonar activity show signs of physical trauma like bleeding around the brain, ears and other tissues and large bubbles in their organs – symptoms analogous to "the bends" in humans. To the extent that threatened or endangered species -- including humpback and sperm whales, and leatherback turtles -- are negatively impacted, the proposed activities may result in violations of the Endangered Species Act.	The Navy is not proposing to increase the annual number of sonobuoys by a factor of 36. The Navy's original proposal in the Draft EIS/OEIS includes the annual deployment of approximately 9,200 sonobuoys of various types. The increase of 700 sonobuoys described in the Supplement is an increase of less than 8 percent. As described in the Supplement in Section 3.5.2 (Sea Turtle Summary), the proposed increase in the use of SSQ-125 sonobuoys "are not expected to result in substantial changes to behavior, growth, survival, annual reproductive success, lifetime reproductive success (fitness), or species recruitment, and are not expected to result in population-level impacts." The Navy shares your concern for marine life, but this concern must be balanced with the purpose and need for Navy training and testing as detailed in Chapter 2 (Description of Proposed Action and Alternatives) of the EIS/OEIS. The Navy has conducted active sonar training and testing activities in the Study Area for decades, and there is no evidence that routine Navy training and testing has negatively impacted marine mammal populations in the Study Area or at any Navy Range Complex. Based on the best available science summarized in the EIS/OEIS Section 3.4.4.1 (Summary of Monitoring and Observations During Navy Activities), long-term consequences for marine mammal populations are unlikely to result from Navy training and testing activities in the Study Area. Please also refer to Chapter 5 (Standard Operating Procedures, Mitigation, and Monitoring) of the EIS/OEIS, detailing the procedures

Table I.5-4: Responses to Comments from Private Individuals (continued)

Commenter	Comment	Navy Response
		and mitigation measures during its training and testing activities designed to reduce impacts to marine mammals from Navy activities.
Swan-Sheeran (Electronic)	I do not think it is acceptable for the navy to kill or even endanger the precious cetaceans and other sea creatures in the Salish Sea.	The Navy shares your concern for marine life, but this concern must be balanced with the purpose and need for Navy training and testing as detailed in Chapter 2 (Description of Proposed Action and Alternatives) of the EIS/OEIS. The Navy has conducted active sonar training and testing activities in the Study Area for decades, and there is no evidence that routine Navy training and testing has negatively impacted marine mammal populations in the Study Area or at any Navy Range Complex. Based on the best available science summarized in the EIS/OEIS Section 3.4.4.1 (Summary of Monitoring and Observations During Navy Activities), long-term consequences for marine mammal populations are unlikely to result from Navy training and testing activities in the Study Area. Please also refer to Chapter 5 (Standard Operating Procedures, Mitigation, and Monitoring) of the EIS/OEIS, detailing the procedures and mitigation measures during its training and testing activities designed to reduce impacts to marine mammals from Navy activities.
L. Swanson (Electronic)	I was shocked when USN received permission to conduct such massive sonar tests 5 yrs ago and am shocked again you are expanding this. The world's whale populations are under such extreme threat, these devices have tremendous potential to harm them even more and there must be better ways to do what you are doing than to carry out your missions in this way. When the human population manages to end the millions-year evolution of all large land and sea mammals in the name of "progress" we will well and surely deserve to have our own species wiped from the planet. We are well on the track to this and the USN should NOT be in the lead.	The Navy shares your concern for marine life, but this concern must be balanced with the purpose and need for Navy training and testing as detailed in Chapter 2 (Description of Proposed Action and Alternatives) of the EIS/OEIS. The Navy has conducted active sonar training and testing activities in the Study Area for decades, and there is no evidence that routine Navy training and testing has negatively impacted marine mammal populations in the Study Area or at any Navy Range Complex. Based on the best available science summarized in the EIS/OEIS Section 3.4.4.1 (Summary of Monitoring and Observations During Navy Activities), long-term consequences for marine mammal populations are unlikely to result from Navy training and testing activities in the Study Area. Please also refer to Chapter 5 (Standard Operating Procedures, Mitigation, and Monitoring) of the EIS/OEIS, detailing the procedures and mitigation measures during its training and testing activities designed to reduce impacts to marine mammals from Navy activities.
S. Swanson (Electronic)	Regarding the sonar experiments in the Hoh rainforest, I would like to strongly advise not proceding with this. I am a University of Washington Senior in Engineering. Emitting Sonar radiation this strong penetrates the human skull with such energy that it is capable of breaking down DNA, which causes DNA mutations. This DNA mutation is the root of cancer, so by going through with this experiment,	Thank you for participating in the NEPA process. However this comment is outside the scope of the Supplement to the Draft EIS/OEIS. Please see Chapters 1 and 2 of the EIS/OEIS for a clear definition of the scope of this project. There are no activities involving the use of electronic radiation

Table I.5-4: Responses to Comments from Private Individuals (continued)

Commenter	Comment	Navy Response
	you risk not only harming the nearby wildlife, but also the people of Forks, who stand right in the way of the radiation. Additionally, some people, such as my father, have an electromagnetic sensitivity, and this event would cause them greater harm than most. These people go through great means to avoid radiation (For example my father does not own a smartphone), so subjecting them to this would be drastically against their interests. Thank you for your time!	proposed in the Supplement to the Draft EIS/OEIS.
Swinney (Electronic)	Sonar destroys the essential hearing of marine animals so please don't do this.	Thank you for participating in the NEPA process.
Takaha (Electronic)	To Whom it May Concern: I have been made aware of the proposed sonar and explosive testing planned for the Puget Sound area. It is clear that these kind of activities have an adverse affect on people and wild life. Please re- think these actions out of concern for the communities there.	The Navy shares your concern for marine life, but this concern must be balanced with the purpose and need for Navy training and testing as detailed in Chapter 2 (Description of Proposed Action and Alternatives) of the EIS/OEIS. The Navy has conducted active sonar training and testing activities in the Study Area for decades, and there is no evidence that routine Navy training and testing has negatively impacted marine mammal populations in the Study Area or at any Navy Range Complex. Based on the best available science summarized in the EIS/OEIS Section 3.4.4.1 (Summary of Monitoring and Observations During Navy Activities), long-term consequences for marine mammal populations are unlikely to result from Navy training and testing activities in the Study Area. Please also refer to Chapter 5 (Standard Operating Procedures, Mitigation, and Monitoring) of the EIS/OEIS, detailing the procedures and mitigation measures during its training and testing activities designed to reduce impacts to marine mammals from Navy activities.
Tangney (Electronic)	The Navy needs to seek a better balance of what they are requesting in the way of sonar bouys, explosives and other devices, while at the same time limiting their effects on marine mammals. Our Pacific Coast is a major passage way for marine mammals and other species. This is not the appropriate area for such sonar testing! I am not anti-Navy, but they have to act in a way that avoids harm to threatened and endangered species!	The Navy shares your concern for marine life, but this concern must be balanced with the purpose and need for Navy training and testing as detailed in Chapter 2 (Description of Proposed Action and Alternatives) of the EIS/OEIS. The Navy has conducted active sonar training and testing activities in the Study Area for decades, and there is no evidence that routine Navy training and testing has negatively impacted marine mammal populations in the Study Area or at any Navy Range Complex. Based on the best available science summarized in the EIS/OEIS Section 3.4.4.1 (Summary of Monitoring and Observations During Navy Activities), long-term consequences for marine mammal populations are unlikely to result from Navy training and testing activities in the Study Area. Please also refer to Chapter 5 (Standard Operating Procedures, Mitigation, and Monitoring) of the

Table I.5-4: Responses to Comments from Private Individuals (continued)

Commenter	Comment	Navy Response
		EIS/OEIS, detailing the procedures and mitigation measures during its training and testing activities designed to reduce impacts to marine mammals from Navy activities.
E. Taylor (Oral)	So I came here this evening to make a public comment. And I want to expostulate, when a community wants to make a joint comment, there should be a hearing. A couple of times, the Navy has divided the whole scene up into different little booths, demonstration booths, making it much less likely that any kind of solidarity can develop among the people who come here to comment. The comments from all the communities up and down the North Coast have been universally negative. And these are fairly unusual comments. They're not like votes. They're really a unique opportunity to confront one of the most powerful forces in our current environment, the Navy, person to person. So they're unique and special that way. And simply voting, you know, our public participation is minute compared to actually a face-to-face confrontation. So this new Supplement is an expansion. It's another expansion, another one, small expansion in a series of expansions. These expansions are generally contested by, like, the Center for Biological Diversity and National Defense Fund. Nature. Nature Defense Fund. And lawsuits are brought. And they're brought on particular points; for example, acoustic levels that are tolerated by marine mammals, and other issues. But there's a failure to confront the larger issues. These small issues are really -- and often in these lawsuits, they say, "We have no quarrel with the Defense department. We have no quarrel with the issue of national security." They're saying that because that's the only real way to get a judge to listen to their cases. But the major issue, of course, is climate change. The Navy's the largest polluter in the world. With the exception of 34 entire countries, it's the largest polluter.··Its pollution is not even counted in the -- you know, the sum total of environmental pollution of the United States.··It's always excluded on national security grounds. This is such a major issue that it's almost like Colonel Nicholson in The Bridge Over the River Kwai, who got so absorbed in his project -- and he was working, as a prisoner, for the enemy -- that he forgot it was an enemy project and wound up, without even looking up, working on the enemy side, trying to blow up his own side, because he was so absorbed in his project. The Navy is like this. It's so focused in the protection of its defense project that it doesn't even recognize the enemy. The enemy is climate change. That's one enemy. The other enemy is war.	Thank you for participating in the NEPA process. However this comment is outside the scope of the Supplement to the Draft EIS/OEIS. Please see Chapters 1 and 2 of the EIS/OEIS for a clear definition of the scope of this project.

Table I.5-4: Responses to Comments from Private Individuals (continued)

Commenter	Comment	Navy Response
	These are the two enemies. And the Navy is hot -- hot in its delusion that there is some entity that we have to protect ourselves against. National security is based on defense. That's ·the justification for it. But it's really offense. The United States defense is really offense. They make war. The military has destroyed the Middle East; completely destroyed several countries. We are the most feared nation in the world. This is agreed by every nation on earth except for Israel. We're the most dangerous nation. We perform outrageous kinds of exercises, like naval exercises with South Korea off the course of North Korea. That can't fail to provoke. We put ballistic missiles in Yugoslavia. That can't fail to provoke. All these provocations make our nation less secure. The climate change makes our nation much less secure. No wonder our children watch movies like Interstellar, which are about escaping from this planet and going off to some other planet, because they can see into the future; we're just ruining it. We're ruining it by war and we're ruining it by climate change. And the Navy spearheads this. The Navy is ruining the oceans. There's -- I think it's 40 percent of the plankton, phytoplankton upon which we depend for two out of every three breaths, is gone. The ocean is going to be extremely acid by the end of the century, and sea life will be unsupportable. We know that many nations have seaside communities that depend on seafood. We're ruining the oceans. We're ruining relations with other countries in the world. And the Navy is spearheading this with its obsession, pursuit in expansion and development of more weapons. That's their forte. That's what they do. But it's not the enemy. There is no enemy. Our only enemy is ourselves and our benighted continuance of support of our military. We need to change our policies. Thank you.	
K. Taylor (Electronic)	As the proud daughter of a now-deceased Navy Lieutenant Commander who loved the ocean as much as the Navy, I am appalled that you are continuing to engage in activities that have already been amply proven to destroy the health and well-being of marine mammals. Furthermore, the locations you are choosing for your activities are some of the most important habitats for them in the entire world. Why not go out into the dead zones if you have to destroy life?	The Navy shares your concern for marine life, but this concern must be balanced with the purpose and need for Navy training and testing as detailed in Chapter 2 (Description of Proposed Action and Alternatives) of the EIS/OEIS. The Navy has conducted active sonar training and testing activities in the Study Area for decades, and there is no evidence that routine Navy training and testing has negatively

Table I.5-4: Responses to Comments from Private Individuals (continued)

Commenter	Comment	Navy Response
		impacted marine mammal populations in the Study Area or at any Navy Range Complex. Based on the best available science summarized in the EIS/OEIS Section 3.4.4.1 (Summary of Monitoring and Observations During Navy Activities), long-term consequences for marine mammal populations are unlikely to result from Navy training and testing activities in the Study Area. Please also refer to Chapter 5 (Standard Operating Procedures, Mitigation, and Monitoring) of the EIS/OEIS, detailing the procedures and mitigation measures during its training and testing activities designed to reduce impacts to marine mammals from Navy activities.
Terrell-Lavine (Electronic)	The Navy must take in to consideration more than their own easy wants. The military can't continue to be so 19th century. The Navy can problem solve this better.	Thank you for participating in the NEPA process.
Terrill (Electronic)	Please limit your use of sonar and other testing activities. Marine mammals, including resident whales and other animals that use sonar are negatively affected by underwater testing--which leads to mass strandings, ultimate deaths, major confusion of individual animals and entire pod disorientation. Thank you for your consideration.	The Navy shares your concern for marine life, but this concern must be balanced with the purpose and need for Navy training and testing as detailed in Chapter 2 (Description of Proposed Action and Alternatives) of the EIS/OEIS. The Navy has conducted active sonar training and testing activities in the Study Area for decades, and there is no evidence that routine Navy training and testing has negatively impacted marine mammal populations in the Study Area or at any Navy Range Complex. Based on the best available science summarized in the EIS/OEIS Section 3.4.4.1 (Summary of Monitoring and Observations During Navy Activities), long-term consequences for marine mammal populations are unlikely to result from Navy training and testing activities in the Study Area. Please also refer to Chapter 5 (Standard Operating Procedures, Mitigation, and Monitoring) of the EIS/OEIS, detailing the procedures and mitigation measures during its training and testing activities designed to reduce impacts to marine mammals from Navy activities. Regarding previous strandings, see Section 3.4.3.1.8 (Stranding) and the referenced technical report “Marine Mammal Strandings Associated with U.S. Navy Sonar Activities” (U.S. Department of the Navy 2013c).
Thomas-01 (Electronic)	Please stop using your excessively loud & numerous sonar tests where there are endangered sea mammals & other creatures. Research & autopsies have shown a direct link between your excessively loud sonar testing & killing all forms of aquatic mammals by basically blowing out their inner ears & causing aneurisms within their ears & brains. You blow out their inner ear structure & they then do mass circling &	The Navy shares your concern for marine life, but this concern must be balanced with the purpose and need for Navy training and testing as detailed in Chapter 2 (Description of Proposed Action and Alternatives) of the EIS/OEIS. The Navy has conducted active sonar training and testing activities in the Study Area for decades, and there is no

Table I.5-4: Responses to Comments from Private Individuals (continued)

Commenter	Comment	Navy Response
	eventually beach themselves because you've destroyed their ability to use their own sonar to be able to tell where they are & where they are going. You know it is wrong to do it but you still refuse to stop simply because you've always done it & fight any kind of change no matter what science has shown. All other branches of the military have shown at least some genuine concern when shown scientific evidence that what they are doing is killing & greatly harming endangered species but you refuse to budge from your position no matter how much independent outside research is shown to you that you are indeed totally responsible for causing great harm & death to these mammals. Do the right thing & stop doing this. Sincerely, Bob Thomas	evidence that routine Navy training and testing has negatively impacted marine mammal populations in the Study Area or at any Navy Range Complex. Based on the best available science summarized in the EIS/OEIS Section 3.4.4.1 (Summary of Monitoring and Observations During Navy Activities), long-term consequences for marine mammal populations are unlikely to result from Navy training and testing activities in the Study Area. Please also refer to Chapter 5 (Standard Operating Procedures, Mitigation, and Monitoring) of the EIS/OEIS, detailing the procedures and mitigation measures during its training and testing activities designed to reduce impacts to marine mammals from Navy activities.
Thomas-02	The Navy's current environmental analysis fails to provide basic information necessary to adequately evaluate the impacts of the proposed activities. This analysis also fails to provide adequate measures to mitigate the harmful effects of the proposed activities on marine mammals and other wildlife. Based on the information apparent in the environmental analysis, the Navy's "No Action Alternative" is the proposal with the most limited impact on wildlife. A drastic increase in sonar activity will negatively impact wildlife. Marine mammals are extremely sensitive to noise, and sonar disrupts basic behaviors necessary for survival such as migration, surfacing, navigating, hearing, nursing, breeding and feeding. Sonar can result in debilitating and even fatal injuries for marine mammals. Scientists believe sonar activity can change whale diving behavior, confusing them to swim to depths their bodies cannot handle. Whales suspected to have beached themselves because of sonar activity show signs of physical trauma like bleeding around the brain, ears and other tissues and large bubbles in their organs – symptoms analogous to "the bends" in humans. To the extent that threatened or endangered species -- including humpback and sperm whales, and leatherback turtles -- are negatively impacted, the proposed activities may result in violations of the Endangered Species Act. Sincerely, Bob Thomas	As described in the Supplement in Section 3.5.2 (Sea Turtle Summary), the proposed increase in the use of SSQ-125 sonobuoys "are not expected to result in substantial changes to behavior, growth, survival, annual reproductive success, lifetime reproductive success (fitness), or species recruitment, and are not expected to result in population-level impacts." The Navy shares your concern for marine life, but this concern must be balanced with the purpose and need for Navy training and testing as detailed in Chapter 2 (Description of Proposed Action and Alternatives) of the EIS/OEIS. The Navy has conducted active sonar training and testing activities in the Study Area for decades, and there is no evidence that routine Navy training and testing has negatively impacted marine mammal populations in the Study Area or at any Navy Range Complex. Based on the best available science summarized in the EIS/OEIS Section 3.4.4.1 (Summary of Monitoring and Observations During Navy Activities), long-term consequences for marine mammal populations are unlikely to result from Navy training and testing activities in the Study Area. Please also refer to Chapter 5 (Standard Operating Procedures, Mitigation, and Monitoring) of the EIS/OEIS, detailing the procedures and mitigation measures during its training and testing activities designed to reduce impacts to marine mammals from Navy activities.
Thompson (Electronic)	The Navy's current environmental analysis fails to provide basic information necessary to adequately evaluate the impacts of the proposed activities. This analysis also fails to provide adequate measures to mitigate the harmful effects of the proposed activities on marine mammals and other wildlife. Based on the information apparent in the environmental analysis, the Navy's "No Action Alternative" is the proposal with the most limited impact on wildlife. A drastic increase in sonar activity will negatively impact wildlife. Marine mammals are extremely sensitive to noise, and sonar disrupts basic behaviors necessary for	The Navy shares your concern for marine life, but this concern must be balanced with the purpose and need for Navy training and testing as detailed in Chapter 2 (Description of Proposed Action and Alternatives) of the EIS/OEIS. The Navy has conducted training and testing activities in the Study Area for decades, and there is no evidence that routine Navy training and testing has negatively impacted individual sea turtles or sea turtle populations, or marine mammal populations in the Study Area or at any Navy Range Complex. Based on the best

Table I.5-4: Responses to Comments from Private Individuals (continued)

Commenter	Comment	Navy Response
	survival such as migration, surfacing, navigating, hearing, nursing, breeding and feeding. Sonar can result in debilitating and even fatal injuries for marine mammals. Scientists believe sonar activity can change whale diving behavior, confusing them to swim to depths their bodies cannot handle. Whales suspected to have beached themselves because of sonar activity show signs of physical trauma like bleeding around the brain, ears and other tissues and large bubbles in their organs – symptoms analogous to "the bends" in humans. To the extent that threatened or endangered species -- including humpback and sperm whales, and leatherback turtles -- are negatively impacted, the proposed activities may result in violations of the Endangered Species Act.	available science summarized in the EIS/OEIS Section 3.4.4.1 (Summary of Monitoring and Observations During Navy Activities), long-term consequences for marine mammal populations are unlikely to result from Navy training and testing activities in the Study Area. Note that for sea turtles, as described in the EIS/OEIS Section 3.5.3.7.1 (Combined Impacts of All Stressors), "impacts are not expected to decrease the overall fitness or result in long-term population level impacts on any given population." Please also refer to Chapter 5 (Standard Operating Procedures, Mitigation, and Monitoring) of the EIS/OEIS, detailing the procedures and mitigation measures during its training and testing activities designed to reduce impacts to marine mammals and sea turtles from Navy activities. Regarding previous strandings, see Section 3.4.3.1.8 (Stranding) and the referenced technical report "Marine Mammal Strandings Associated with U.S. Navy Sonar Activities" (U.S. Department of the Navy 2013c).
Timm (Electronic)	No I do not want weapons systems testing or training near Humboldt County. Please do not Bomb, use Sonar, radar, weather warfare/modification or use , Missile Exercises, Live-Fire Weapons Testing, Lasers, Microwave Electromagnetic / Electronic Weapons, and Experimental Weapons Testing in Northern California. Warfare activities all negatively impact marine life and our oceans, Weather modification materials fallout will also negatively impact the health of the citizens. The Navy should protect the natural environment. Marine life has already declined in your testing areas. We have peace here now. Please do not do warfare testing. Thank you	The Navy is not proposing to conduct training or testing activities in or near Humboldt County. The proposed Study Area begins 12 nautical miles off the coast of California, so the closest that any activities would occur to Humboldt is at least 12 nautical miles. Historically, activities within 50 nautical miles of the coast of California are extremely rare, and that pattern is expected to continue under this Proposed Action. The Navy has conducted active sonar training and testing activities in the Study Area for decades, and there is no evidence that routine Navy training and testing has negatively impacted marine mammal or other marine species populations in the Study Area or at any Navy Range Complex. Based on the best available science summarized in the EIS/OEIS Section 3.4.4.1 (Summary of Monitoring and Observations During Navy Activities), long-term consequences for marine life populations are unlikely to result from Navy training and testing activities in the Study Area.
Thompson (Written)	Regarding the EIS for Electromagnetic Warfare Range in the Olympic Peninsula ....I have major concerns about not only the impact of the electromagnetic waves on people and animals ... but have read the National Wilderness Act and it seems to be contrary to the protection of the Olympic National Forest. Instead of trying to speak to each of my concerns, I'm specifically writing about The Wilderness Act. (My biggest concern personally has to do with the quite unknown long term effects of these electronic radioactive waves on all living things- the people of the Olympic	Thank you for participating in the NEPA process. However this comment is outside the scope of the Supplement to the Draft EIS/OEIS. Please see Chapters 1 and 2 of the EIS/OEIS for a clear definition of the scope of this project. For more information on the EA for Electronic Warfare Range, please visit the project website at

Table I.5-4: Responses to Comments from Private Individuals (continued)

Commenter	Comment	Navy Response
	Peninsula region, all plants, all animals big, small, endangered and not, insects, other ecological necessary life- and even the longterm effects on the water. 20% of the nation's drinking water is generated from the National Forest areas.) I believe the following information explains why the US Navy or anyone, does not have the right to change the whole environment of the Olympic National Forest. What good is the Wilderness Act if the details are ignored? Purpose The purpose of the Wilderness Act is summarized in the Preamble: "An Act to establish a National Wilderness Preservation System for the permanent good of the whole people, and for other purposes." Section 2 of the Wilderness Act expands on the stated purpose: "In order to assure that an increasing population, accompanied by expanding settlement and growing mechanization, does not occupy and modify all areas of the United States and its possessions, leaving no lands designated for preservation and protection in their natural condition, it is hereby declared to be the policy of the Congress to secure for the American people of present and future generations the benefits of an enduring resource of wilderness. For this purpose there is hereby established a National Wilderness Preservation System to be composed of federally owned areas designated by the Congress as "wilderness areas ... " What is meant by a "resource of wilderness"? The Wilderness Act implies that a wilderness resource consists not only of the physical aspects, the wildlife, plants, land, water, cultural resources, but also the emotional and spiritual components such as solitude, beauty, exploration, and adventure. Congress also seeks to secure the "benefits" of wilderness. What are the benefits of wilderness? Again, both physical and emotional benefits exist: habitat for endangered species, clean water sources, a sense of wildness and discovery, an escape from urban life, and just knowing that it is there (as author Wallace Stegner wrote: "part of the geography of hope"). Furthermore, Congress ensures that wilderness resources are preserved not just for the present but as an enduring resource" for future generations. Zahniser referred to the purpose of the Wilderness Act as creating a "wilderness-forever future." What are the "other purposes" referred to in the Preamble? These purposes are listed later in the Wilderness Act, under "Use of Wilderness Areas." The act states: "wilderness areas shall be devoted to the public purposes of recreational, scenic, scientific, educational, conservation, and historical use." In summary, the purpose of the Wilderness Act was to create a system of wilderness areas across the United States composed of federal lands preserving the tangible and intangible benefits of wilderness for present and future generations. In summary, the purpose of the Wilderness Act was to create a system of wilderness areas across the United States composed of federal lands preserving the tangible and intangible benefits of wilderness for present and future generations. Primary Objectives	www.cnic.navy.mil/regions/cnrnw/installations/nas_whidbey_island/om/environmental_support.html

Table I.5-4: Responses to Comments from Private Individuals (continued)

Commenter	Comment	Navy Response
	The Wilderness Act primarily accomplished four things. Specifically, it: •Created a National Wilderness Preservation System. • Defined federal wilderness. • Established a process for designating federal wilderness. •Set guidelines for management of wilderness areas. DEFINITION OF WILDERNESS (c) A wilderness, in contrast with those areas where man and his works dominate the landscape, is hereby recognized as an area where the earth and its community of life are untrammeled by man, where man himself is a visitor who does not remain. An area of wilderness is further defined to mean in this Act an area of undeveloped Federal land retaining its primeval character and influence, without permanent improvements or human habitation, which is protected and managed so as to preserve its natural conditions and which (1) generally appears to have been affected primarily by the forces of nature, with the imprint of man's work substantially unnoticeable; (2) has outstanding opportunities for solitude or a primitive and unconfined type of recreation; (3) has at least five thousand acres of land or is of sufficient size as to make practicable its preservation and use in an unimpaired condition; and (4) may also contain ecological, geological, or other features of scientific, educational, scenic, or historical value." Protect the Wilderness Act; no longer would there be the emotional and spiritual components of peace, beauty, and serenity in this natural wilderness paradise. There may be legal recourse. I also object to the lack of public notification for the EISes. We knew nothing about this until several dates had already lapsed. Also, the Olympic National Park is part of the International System of Planetary Biosphere Reserves. What about the reason for it: "to preserve animals and plants and their ecosystems, and their genetic materials in each diverse region for perpetuity." Our family has lived on the Olympic Peninsula for one hundred years. Our family clams at Long Beach, camps and fishes at Kalaloch, has relatives living in Forks, we hike the Olympics, etc. We do not want any possible long term harm to life, our peace and solitude and so many other unknowns including long term safety. This is very unsettling and to continue with this plan makes me question our property value. People come to Washington ... live in Washington ... play in Washington ... for enjoyment of the peaceful, natural areas that are to be protected under law. I would not value any properties that will be impacted by this proposed Naval activity. Allowing this military action to continue would violate the National Wilderness Act, possibly impact the noise level. . .the invisible electromagnetic waves and their	

Table I.5-4: Responses to Comments from Private Individuals (continued)

Commenter	Comment	Navy Response
	effect on all of life ... including the fish, animals that have lived in a protected manor in the state of Washington. Stop this plan now. Thank you.	
Todd (Electronic)	We've been after you for a while now, with good science and lots of examples. You re disturbing marine mammals, especially the whales. You really must stop, as they are already stressed in an acidifying ocean, with reduced habitat richness in so many global regions. You really must pay attention to the larger, living picture of what the earth is currently facing, with warming, acidification, loss of habitat, water quality issues and drought cropping up everywhere, climate refugees seeking shelter, and more to come. Until and unless our agencies set up through the Federal Government (whose duty is protection and wellbeing of its inhabitants, by the way) begin to curtail their expansive and damaging ways, you are dooming the future as sure as if you meant to. Stop now and reverse course!	The Navy used the best available science and a comprehensive review of past, present, and reasonably foreseeable actions to develop a robust Cumulative Impacts analysis. See Chapter 4 (Cumulative Impacts) of the EIS/OEIS, which has been updated for the Final EIS/OEIS. The Navy shares your concern for marine life, but this concern must be balanced with the purpose and need for Navy training and testing as detailed in Chapter 2 (Description of Proposed Action and Alternatives) of the EIS/OEIS. The Navy has conducted active sonar training and testing activities in the Study Area for decades, and there is no evidence that routine Navy training and testing has negatively impacted marine mammal populations in the Study Area or at any Navy Range Complex. Based on the best available science summarized in the EIS/OEIS Section 3.4.4.1 (Summary of Monitoring and Observations During Navy Activities) long-term consequences for marine mammal populations are unlikely to result from Navy training and testing activities in the Study Area. Please also refer to Chapter 5 (Standard Operating Procedures, Mitigation, and Monitoring) of the EIS/OEIS, detailing the procedures and mitigation measures during its training and testing activities designed to reduce impacts to marine mammals from Navy activities.
Trasatto (Electronic)	The proposed sonar activity over and around the Olympic Peninsula is an agregious violation of public trust by the United States Navy. We hold our military as respected protectors of our way of life and the precious resources that make America what it is. To disrupt the serenity of the Olympic Peninsula and the profound gifts it offers in the name of national security is a travesty of your mission. It means our original national intentions have been subverted and distorted. Please recognize how crucial the integrity of the OP is--not only to all creatures who live there but to all of us who spend time there regularly from near and far to restore our deepest selves with the peacefulness of wild nature. THIS right is what I would ask the Navy to protect and preserve. Thank you.	Thank you for participating in the NEPA process. However this comment is outside the scope of the Supplement to the Draft EIS/OEIS. Please see Chapters 1 and 2 of the EIS/OEIS for a clear definition of the scope of this project. There are no weapons testing activities proposed in the Olympic National Forest in the Supplement to the Draft EIS/OEIS.
Tracy-01 (Written)	Two sea turtles have washed up on our shores lately, nearly dead and way off course. I am concerned about the Navy's plan to put 720 new devices in the ocean that will probably interfere w/ their navigation ability. Twenty are there now. I'm hopeing that you can find a way to help keep both sea turtles and us safe-	As described in the Supplement in Section 3.5.2 (Sea Turtle Summary), the proposed increase in the use of SSQ-125 sonobuoys "are not expected to result in substantial changes to behavior, growth, survival, annual reproductive success, lifetime reproductive success (fitness), or species recruitment, and are not expected to result in population-level impacts." Most hard-shell turtles seek optimal

Table I.5-4: Responses to Comments from Private Individuals (continued)

Commenter	Comment	Navy Response
	lights? pathways like bird greenways and I'm sure you can think of more.	seawater temperatures near 65 degrees Fahrenheit (°F) (18.3 degrees Celsius [°C]) and are cold-stressed at seawater temperatures below 50°F (10°C), please see Section 3.5 (Sea Turtles) of the NWTT EIS/OEIS for a more in-depth discussion of sea turtles and their presence in the Study Area. In contrast, the leatherback sea turtles regularly occur in cold temperate waters of high latitudes which is why they are discussed in the NWTT EIS/OEIS. The Navy has conducted active sonar training and testing activities in the Study Area for decades, and there is no evidence that routine Navy training and testing has negatively impacted individual sea turtles or sea turtle populations in the Study Area or at any Navy Range Complex. Based on the best available science summarized in the Draft EIS/OEIS Section 3.5.3.7.1 (Combined Impacts of All Stressors) "impacts are not expected to decrease the overall fitness or result in long-term population level impacts on any given population. In cases where potential impacts rise to a level that warrants mitigation, mitigation measures designed to reduce the potential impacts are discussed in Chapter 5 (Standard Operating Procedures, Mitigation, and Monitoring)."
Tracy-02	Subject: Proposals of US Navy electronic warfare on and offshore the Olympic Peninsula. It is extremely confusing to have so many different proposals, which are clearly related to the issue, but not linked. How is the average citizen to make sense of these processes?	Thank you for participating in the NEPA process. However this comment is outside the scope of the Supplement to the Draft EIS/OEIS. Please see Chapters 1 and 2 of the EIS/OEIS for a clear definition of the scope of this project. There are no activities involving the use of electronic radiation proposed in the Supplement to the Draft EIS/OEIS.
Tracy-03	We are the proud parents of a former Navy pilot, who served two tours flying helicopters off a frigate during the Persian Gulf War, and we understand that the U.S. Navy needs to train its pilots, but we respectfully request that they chose a different venue.	The Alternatives carried forward including the placement of the Study Area, meet the Navy's purpose and need to ensure that it can fulfill its obligation under U.S.C. Title 10. See Section 2.5 for more detailed information on the development of alternatives.
Tracy-04	My husband and I chose the Olympic Peninsula for our retirement for its pristine beauty and peaceful environment. The infernal thundering and roaring of fighter jets (growlers) we have experienced over the past few months is nerve-wracking. It is disturbs our sleep and is detrimental to our health. Locating electronic warfare sites and adding more fighter jets is going to make the situation worse.	The Navy has been training in the Olympic, Military Operations Area (MOA) for over 40 years, and the Navy has not proposed any significant changes to the way aircrew train in the MOA. The Navy recently analyzed plans to enhance existing training by adding one fixed transmitter at Pacific Beach and three mobile transmitter vehicles that would operate on existing logging roads and pull-out areas on U.S. Forest Service land. The Navy has not proposed to use National Park Service land. EW training and EW Range enhancements were analyzed in the Navy's Northwest Training Range Complex (NWTRC)

Table I.5-4: Responses to Comments from Private Individuals (continued)

Commenter	Comment	Navy Response
		EIS/OEIS, completed in 2010. When more information became available on mobile and fixed signal transmitters for the EW Range, the Navy prepared the EW Range EA to analyze placement and operation of those transmitters. The Navy completed the EA and issued a Finding of No Significant Impact on August 28, 2014. The introduction of the land-based transmitters to enhance existing training will not harm people, animals, or the environment. The Navy has decades of experience building and operating signal equipment, with no adverse effects to people, animals, or the environment. Though there is a proposed increase in EW training events associated with the range enhancements and analyzed in this EIS/OEIS, the increase in events does not equate to a comparable increase in the number of aircraft flights or in the duration of flights. EW training flights are already occurring in the Olympic MOA, and it is estimated that this proposal will only result in an approximately ten percent annual increase in actual flights, which equates to approximately one additional flight per day. This is because each flight will be able to accommodate multiple EW training events.
Tracy-05	Although I have commented previously on one of the earlier proposals of the NAVY for electronic warfare on and offshore of the Olympic Peninsula, I wish to take this opportunity to comment on the Supplement (December 2014) to the Navy's Draft Environmental Impact Statement/ Overseas Environmental Impact Statement (DEIS), dated January 2014, for its continued training and testing activities in the Pacific Northwest (NWTT). Please include these comments in the administrative record. I am a member of the Sierra Club and am concerned about the following issues outlined as follows: Effect on wildlife The proposed increases in this Supplement of marine exercises and additional use of sonar and explosives will only increase the damage done to marine mammals, sea turtles, fish and birds. Of particular concern to me is the Supplement and the EIS's lack of protections for the Southern Resident Killer Whale's dwindling population. These animals need a protected home in accord with their endangered status. In public sessions and in a radio interview the Navy's public relations personnel have been heard to say that the (MSO) and TRACKEX marine exercises save gas and allow personnel to be closer to their homes for these maneuvers. These considerations should not allow one single injury to this endangered Killer Whale population. Though this supplement admits increased sonar and explosive testing (TRACKEX) and finally addresses the MSO maneuvers there is no additional mitigation mentioned. Nowhere is it outlined whether visual patrols will increase as a result of	The Navy shares your concern for marine life, but this concern must be balanced with the purpose and need for Navy training and testing as detailed in Chapter 2 (Description of Proposed Action and Alternatives) of the EIS/OEIS. The Navy has conducted training and testing activities in the Study Area for decades, and there is no evidence that routine Navy training and testing has negatively impacted individual sea turtles or sea turtle populations, or marine mammal populations in the Study Area or at any Navy Range Complex. Based on the best available science summarized in the EIS/OEIS Section 3.4.4.1 (Summary of Monitoring and Observations During Navy Activities), long-term consequences for marine mammal populations are unlikely to result from Navy training and testing activities in the Study Area. Note that for sea turtles, as described in the EIS/OEIS Section 3.5.3.7.1 (Combined Impacts of All Stressors), “impacts are not expected to decrease the overall fitness or result in long-term population level impacts on any given population.” Please also refer to Chapter 5 (Standard Operating Procedures, Mitigation, and Monitoring) of the EIS/OEIS, detailing the procedures and mitigation measures during its training and testing activities designed to reduce impacts to marine mammals and sea turtles from Navy activities.

Table I.5-4: Responses to Comments from Private Individuals (continued)

Commenter	Comment	Navy Response
	this new activity, nor does the Supplement address real concerns over whether or not visual patrol is adequate at times of night or rough seas. No acoustic monitoring or avoidance strategies are included. This is a serious omission to a document that intended to address the inadequate science and mitigation plans of the original draft and is unacceptable. Lack of Science There is little consideration of exclusion zones, geographic alternatives to the southern Puget Sound and seasonal restrictions of exercises. All of the Alternatives propose year-round, unrestricted use without regard to seasonal variations in marine mammal and fish abundance. This is true despite the well-documented seasonal migrations of numerous endangered species and the identification of biologically important areas. The Navy should put critical marine habitats off-limits to sonar and explosives testing and schedule training to avoid times of the year when sensitive species are present in places like the Olympic Coast National Marine Sanctuary. Public Process What most concerns me is this. There has been an overwhelming number of proposals since late in 2013 rolled out to the public in a piecemeal fashion. Five calls for comments on clearly-linked documents have been spread out in their introduction to the public over the last year and a half. Ground-based, (Electronic warfare range), airbased (Two growler scoping documents) and sea-based naval activities (these two NWTT documents) have been dropped onto the region as if they were not linked. The separate comment periods and the separate documents minimize the larger picture of impacts on the area. In my opinion this is misleading. Is it even legal in regards to Federal Law, specifically NEPA? Please redo this chopped-up public process with a comprehensive Environmental Impact Statement that includes all of the activities in the region. These huge changes that affect wildlife, real estate values, allow precedent-setting incursions into the peace of our national parks, national forest, wilderness, state parks and state lands, should be discussed as a whole, not split into so many fractured pieces that the residents of this region cannot know what they are actually facing.	No injuries to killer whales are anticipated from the Navy's proposed MSO or TRACKEX activities. As described in Chapter 5 of the EIS/OEIS, the Navy will implement mitigation measures during the use of sonobuoys. The mitigation measures are implemented for each activity and therefore the mitigation scales up as the activity level scales up. Section 5.3.1.2.5 (Effectiveness Assessment for Lookouts) acknowledges that, due to the various detection probabilities, levels of Lookout experience, and variability of sighting conditions, Lookouts will not always be effective at avoiding impacts on all species. However, Lookouts are expected to increase the overall likelihood that certain marine mammal species and some sea turtles will be detected at the surface of the water, when compared to the likelihood that these same species would be detected if Lookouts are not used. The continued use of Lookouts contributes to helping reduce potential impacts on these species from training and testing activities. While the range of the sonar's detection would travel beyond the distance that Lookouts can detect animals, the range at which sonar is predicted to be able to cause injury to a marine mammal is very short, within 10 meters of the sonar. At such short distances, it is likely any marine mammal would have been detected. As described in Chapter 5 (Standard Operating Procedures, Mitigation, and Monitoring) of the Final EIS/OEIS, the Navy evaluated the effectiveness and practicability of a number of potential mitigation measures including the avoidance of specific areas. The Navy has undertaken consultation with NMFS for the proposed and ongoing activities in the NWTT Study Area and the Navy refined the mitigation measures, which are now presented in Chapter 5 (Standard Operating Procedures, Mitigation, and Monitoring) of this Final EIS/OEIS. Through careful exploration of all mitigation measures to determine which were the most effective, the Navy chose the measures to mitigate potential impacts to marine mammals while still being able to meet its operational needs to train for real-world conditions. The Navy's specific mitigation measures are outlined in the following sections: Section 5.3.1 (Lookout Procedural Measures), Section 5.3.2 (Mitigation Zone Procedural Measures), and Section 5.3.3 (Mitigation Areas). Specifically, Section 5.3.4 (Mitigation Measures Considered but Eliminated) presents Navy consideration of similar area restrictions. The Navy and NMFS will use the Adaptive Management process to assess whether any additional mitigation should be

Table I.5-4: Responses to Comments from Private Individuals (continued)

Commenter	Comment	Navy Response
		considered in identified biologically important areas. In response to several comments, the Navy has enhanced its analysis of climate change and cumulative impacts in this Final EIS/OEIS. The Navy prepares Environmental Impact Statements (EIS) and Environmental Assessments (EA) in order to comply with the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA). These NEPA documents are intended to ensure decision makers consider the potential environmental effects of a proposed action and its alternatives, provide an opportunity for public involvement, and promote transparency by informing the public of these potential environmental effects. Each NEPA document addresses a specific proposed action, separated from other actions by its purpose and need, independent utility, timing, and geographic location. Some NEPA documents are stand-alone documents; others tier off or expand the analyses of other NEPA documents. NEPA documents for training and testing, including this EIS/OEIS, focus on training and testing activities occurring within a range complex or military operation area and involve different types of aircraft, ships, and range complex enhancements. NEPA documents for aircraft homebasing actions focus on aircraft operations in and around the airfield and their facility needs. NEPA documents for installations focus on infrastructure enhancements for host and tenant command missions. Importantly, every environmental document considers the cumulative impacts to the environment from other relevant past, present, and reasonably foreseeable future actions (federal, state, local, and private) in addition to the proposed action. The MSO activities do not include the use of sonar or live gun firing. The U.S. Navy has conducted active sonar training and testing activities for decades in the seaspace depicted in the Study Area with no evidence to indicate any meaningful impacts to marine habitats in the area. The Navy and NMFS jointly are still in ongoing consultation with the OCNMS regarding the effects of the Proposed Action on Sanctuary resources. The Navy concludes its continued activities are not likely to result in the loss, destruction, or adverse changes to the viability of Sanctuary resources. Several points support this determination: • Less than two percent of proposed training and 15 percent of proposed testing activities would occur within or immediately adjacent to the OCNMS. • The NWTT Final EIS/OEIS shows that training and testing activities

Table I.5-4: Responses to Comments from Private Individuals (continued)

Commenter	Comment	Navy Response
		have minimal temporary impacts on the quantity or quality of the Study Area's physical environment, and minor to no impacts on marine or shore birds, fish, sea turtles, or invertebrate marine life. • Although explosives have the potential to affect the physical and biological resources, the Navy does not use explosives within the OCNMS. • The Navy concludes any marine mammal behavioral reactions to NWTT training and testing activities would be transitory, infrequent, non-cumulative, and impacts are not expected to decrease overall individual fitness or result in long-term population-level impacts on any given population, and consequently will not result in any adverse changes to the sanctuary. Finally, all Department of Defense (DoD) military activities shall be carried out in a manner that avoids to the maximum extent practicable any adverse impacts on Sanctuary resources and qualities.
Tribble (Electronic)	This is one of my many concerns. However, needing to pick one, I implore you to not do sonar testing to this magnitude. These precious creatures have no other home than the oceans. Certainly you already know that your sonar works....just how much testing is required and now many creatures are worth hurting (killing) just to finish more rounds of testing? Please - this earth is not here to be destroyed.	The Navy shares your concern for marine life, but this concern must be balanced with the purpose and need for Navy training and testing as detailed in Chapter 2 (Description of Proposed Action and Alternatives) of the EIS/OEIS. The Navy has conducted active sonar training and testing activities in the Study Area for decades, and there is no evidence that routine Navy training and testing has negatively impacted marine mammal populations in the Study Area or at any Navy Range Complex. Based on the best available science summarized in the EIS/OEIS Section 3.4.4.1 (Summary of Monitoring and Observations During Navy Activities) long-term consequences for marine mammal populations are unlikely to result from Navy training and testing activities in the Study Area. Please also refer to Chapter 5 (Standard Operating Procedures, Mitigation, and Monitoring) of the EIS/OEIS, detailing the procedures and mitigation measures during its training and testing activities designed to reduce impacts to marine mammals from Navy activities.
Troup (Electronic)	We have endangered species in these waters you are proposing to use. Please consider another location, another possible way, anything. We are killing our oceans in so many different ways. Hopefully this will stop before it is too late. One less resident orca could mean the end of them. This is extremely shameful! Please use the common knowledge we have regarding the damage of sonar and reconsider!!!!	The Navy shares your concern for marine life, but this concern must be balanced with the purpose and need for Navy training and testing as detailed in Chapter 2 (Description of Proposed Action and Alternatives) of the EIS/OEIS. The Navy has conducted active sonar training and testing activities in the Study Area for decades, and there is no evidence that routine Navy training and testing has negatively impacted marine mammal populations in the Study Area or at any Navy Range Complex. Based on the best available science

Table I.5-4: Responses to Comments from Private Individuals (continued)

Commenter	Comment	Navy Response
		summarized in the EIS/OEIS Section 3.4.4.1 (Summary of Monitoring and Observations During Navy Activities) long-term consequences for marine mammal populations are unlikely to result from Navy training and testing activities in the Study Area. Please also refer to Chapter 5 (Standard Operating Procedures, Mitigation, and Monitoring) of the EIS/OEIS, detailing the procedures and mitigation measures during its training and testing activities designed to reduce impacts to marine mammals from Navy activities.
Tufft (Electronic)	Unfortunately, I didn't know about the Poulsbo meeting and would have attended. From what I understand, the navy has been unwilling to accept some 30 study results that show the harm that the buoys would cause sea mammals. My question and concern is where are our priorities? It seems we're willing to destroy our "nest" for the constant fear mongering. If we're destroying our planet so we get to live in a wasteland, what's all this training and fighting for? I'm less afraid of terrorists than the destruction that we ourselves are causing. There seems to be less and less understanding of how our ecosystem is connected and how, if we continue on this path, it will destroy us all. We are at a very fragile point right now. Please consider this.	The Navy shares your concern for marine life, but this concern must be balanced with the purpose and need for Navy training and testing as detailed in Chapter 2 (Description of Proposed Action and Alternatives) of the EIS/OEIS. The Navy has conducted active sonar training and testing activities in the Study Area for decades, and there is no evidence that routine Navy training and testing has negatively impacted marine mammal populations in the Study Area or at any Navy Range Complex. Based on the best available science summarized in the EIS/OEIS Section 3.4.4.1 (Summary of Monitoring and Observations During Navy Activities), long-term consequences for marine mammal populations are unlikely to result from Navy training and testing activities in the Study Area. Please also refer to Chapter 5 (Standard Operating Procedures, Mitigation, and Monitoring) of the EIS/OEIS, detailing the procedures and mitigation measures during its training and testing activities designed to reduce impacts to marine mammals from Navy activities.
Turner (Electronic)	I am writing to express opposition to the use of sonar and explosives in the marine environment. According to Scientific American, "for many whales, dolphins and other marine life, the use of underwater sonar (short for sound navigation and ranging) can lead to injury and even death." Many other knowledgeable sources cite troubling data about the impact these exercises have on the marine environment. We are supposed to be stewards of this planet, not destroyers.	The Navy shares your concern for marine life, but this concern must be balanced with the purpose and need for Navy training and testing as detailed in Chapter 2 (Description of Proposed Action and Alternatives) of the EIS/OEIS. The Navy has conducted active sonar training and testing activities in the Study Area for decades, and there is no evidence that routine Navy training and testing has negatively impacted marine mammal populations in the Study Area or at any Navy Range Complex. Based on the best available science summarized in the EIS/OEIS Section 3.4.4.1 (Summary of Monitoring and Observations During Navy Activities), long-term consequences for marine mammal populations are unlikely to result from Navy training and testing activities in the Study Area. Please also refer to Chapter 5 (Standard Operating Procedures, Mitigation, and Monitoring) of the EIS/OEIS, detailing the procedures and mitigation measures during its training and testing activities designed to reduce impacts to marine

Table I.5-4: Responses to Comments from Private Individuals (continued)

Commenter	Comment	Navy Response
		mammals from Navy activities.
Tuyls (Electronic)	Ms. Kimberly Kler – NWTT Project Manager, My earlier comment posed several references regarding effects of sonar on ocean mammal mortality. So this comment is strictly from the heart as my Masters is in Environmental Health does not make me an expert in Ocean Sciences. In my opinion the 700+ sonar buoys deployed will have deleterious effects on all sea going animals. This may poes an ecosystem collapse in the NWTT site. Since the northern border is apprx on the 49th parallel the Salish Sea (Georgia Strait), will also be involved. Please, are we the people willing to sacrifice this area for a false sense of security? Methinks not Ms. Kler. Thank you for your consideration. cheers,	As described in the Supplement in Section 3.4.2 (Marine Mammal Summary), the proposed increase in the use of SSQ-125 sonobuoys would "not result in any long-term consequences for any marine mammal population or species; therefore, the conclusions stated in the Draft EIS/OEIS remain unchanged." The Navy has conducted active sonar training and testing activities in the Study Area for decades, and there is no evidence that routine Navy training and testing has negatively impacted marine mammal populations in the Study Area or at any Navy Range Complex. Based on the best available science summarized in the EIS/OEIS Section 3.4.4.1 (Summary of Monitoring and Observations During Navy Activities) long-term consequences for marine mammal populations are unlikely to result from Navy training and testing activities in the Study Area.
K. Unger-01 (Electronic)	I have only recently become aware of the vast new Navy plans to militarize my home in western Washington. These plans seem to be being made with little knowledge or input from the people who live here. Why is the navy trying to hide their plans? Whose navy is it? Who do you think you work for? As a taxpayer I resent the underhanded attempt to turn my home into a military training area. Once the public does find out about this militarization of public land and common areas the resulting loss of trust in the Navy will actually be detrimental to the effectiveness of Navy training as a lack of public support will result in pressure to reduce operations and even permanently close bases. We need transparent and open discussion between the Navy and the citizens about any and all expansion of Navy training at sea, in the air, or anywhere else. The citizens own the Navy! It is our choice what training is allowed and where it is allowed.	The Navy is completing this EIS/OEIS in compliance with current law, including the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA). In addition to NEPA, the Navy continues to comply with other applicable environmental laws and with a number of regulatory requirements, such as the Marine Mammal Protection Act, the Endangered Species Act, the Coastal Zone Management Act, and the Magnuson-Stevens Fishery Conservation and Management Act.
K. Unger-02	I wish to take this opportunity to comment on the Supplement (December 2014) to the Navy's Draft Environmental Impact Statement/ Overseas Environmental Impact Statement (DEIS), dated January 2014, for its continued training and testing activities in the Pacific Northwest (NWTT). Please include these comments in the administrative record. Effect on wildlife The proposed increases in this Supplement of marine exercises and additional use of sonar and explosives will only increase the damage done to marine mammals, sea turtles, fish and birds. Of particular concern to me is the Supplement and the EIS's lack of protections for the Southern Resident Killer Whale's dwindling population. These animals need a protected home in accord with their endangered status. In public sessions and in a radio interview the Navy's public relations personnel have been heard to say that the (MSO) and TRACKEX marine exercises save gas and allow personnel to be closer	The Navy shares your concern for marine life, but this concern must be balanced with the purpose and need for Navy training and testing as detailed in Chapter 2 (Description of Proposed Action and Alternatives) of the EIS/OEIS. The Navy has conducted training and testing activities in the Study Area for decades, and there is no evidence that routine Navy training and testing has negatively impacted individual sea turtles or sea turtle populations, or marine mammal populations in the Study Area or at any Navy Range Complex. Based on the best available science summarized in the EIS/OEIS Section 3.4.4.1 (Summary of Monitoring and Observations During Navy Activities), long-term consequences for marine mammal populations are unlikely to result from Navy training and testing activities in the Study Area.

Table I.5-4: Responses to Comments from Private Individuals (continued)

Commenter	Comment	Navy Response
	to their homes for these maneuvers. These considerations should not allow one single injury to this endangered Killer Whale population. Though this supplement admits increased sonar and explosive testing (TRACKEX) and finally addresses the MSO maneuvers there is no additional mitigation mentioned. Nowhere is it outlined whether visual patrols will increase as a result of this new activity, nor does the Supplement address real concerns over whether or not visual patrol is adequate at times of night or rough seas. No acoustic monitoring or avoidance strategies are included. This is a serious omission to a document that intended to address the inadequate science and mitigation plans of the original draft and is unacceptable. Lack of Science There is little consideration of exclusion zones, geographic alternatives to the southern Puget Sound and seasonal restrictions of exercises. All of the Alternatives propose year-round, unrestricted use without regard to seasonal variations in marine mammal and fish abundance. This is true despite the well-documented seasonal migrations of numerous endangered species and the identification of biologically important areas. The Navy should put critical marine habitats off-limits to sonar and explosives testing and schedule training to avoid times of the year when sensitive species are present in places like the Olympic Coast National Marine Sanctuary. Climate Change and Cumulative Impacts The Supplement document responds to calls to address these two big issues but it is very unclear that anything more than lip service was expended by deeming Navy activities to be of little significance. Public Process What most concerns me is this. There has been an overwhelming number of proposals since late in 2013 rolled out to the public in a piecemeal fashion. Five calls for comments on clearly-linked documents have been spread out in their introduction to the public over the last year and a half. Ground-based, (Electronic warfare range), air-based (Two growler scoping documents) and sea-based naval activities (these two NWTT documents) have been dropped onto the region as if they were not linked. The separate comment periods and the separate documents minimize the larger picture of impacts on the area. In my opinion this is misleading. Is it even legal in regards to Federal Law, specifically NEPA? Please redo this chopped-up public process with a comprehensive Environmental Impact Statement that includes all of the activities in the region. These huge changes that affect wildlife, real estate values, allow precedent-setting incursions into the peace of our national parks, national forest, wilderness, state parks and state lands, should be discussed as a whole, not split into so many fractured pieces that the residents of this region cannot know what they are actually facing.	Note that for sea turtles, as described in the EIS/OEIS Section 3.5.3.7.1 (Combined Impacts of All Stressors), “impacts are not expected to decrease the overall fitness or result in long-term population level impacts on any given population.” Please also refer to Chapter 5 (Standard Operating Procedures, Mitigation, and Monitoring) of the EIS/OEIS, detailing the procedures and mitigation measures during its training and testing activities designed to reduce impacts to marine mammals and sea turtles from Navy activities. No injuries to killer whales are anticipated from the Navy’s proposed MSO or TRACKEX activities. As described in Chapter 5 (Standard Operating Procedures, Mitigation, and Monitoring) of the EIS/OEIS, the Navy will implement mitigation measures during the use of sonobuoys. The mitigation measures are implemented for each activity and therefore the mitigation scales up as the activity level scales up. Section 5.3.1.2.5 (Effectiveness Assessment for Lookouts) acknowledges that, due to the various detection probabilities, levels of Lookout experience, and variability of sighting conditions, Lookouts will not always be effective at avoiding impacts on all species. However, Lookouts are expected to increase the overall likelihood that certain marine mammal species and some sea turtles will be detected at the surface of the water, when compared to the likelihood that these same species would be detected if Lookouts are not used. The continued use of Lookouts contributes to helping reduce potential impacts on these species from training and testing activities. While the range of the sonar’s detection would travel beyond the distance that Lookouts can detect animals, the range at which sonar is predicted to be able to cause injury to a marine mammal is very short, within 10 meters of the sonar. At such short distances, it is likely any marine mammal would have been detected. As described in Chapter 5 (Standard Operating Procedures, Mitigation, and Monitoring) of the Final EIS/OEIS, the Navy evaluated the effectiveness and practicability of a number of potential mitigation measures including the avoidance of specific areas. The Navy has undertaken consultation with NMFS for the proposed and ongoing activities in the NWTT Study Area and the Navy refined the mitigation measures, which are now presented in Chapter 5 (Standard Operating Procedures, Mitigation, and Monitoring) of this Final EIS/OEIS.

Table I.5-4: Responses to Comments from Private Individuals (continued)

Commenter	Comment	Navy Response
		Through careful exploration of all mitigation measures to determine which were the most effective, the Navy chose the measures to mitigate potential impacts to marine mammals while still being able to meet its operational needs to train for real-world conditions. The Navy's specific mitigation measures are outlined in the following sections: Section 5.3.1 (Lookout Procedural Measures), Section 5.3.2 (Mitigation Zone Procedural Measures), and Section 5.3.3 (Mitigation Areas). Specifically, Section 5.3.4 (Mitigation Measures Considered but Eliminated) presents Navy consideration of similar area restrictions. The Navy and NMFS will use the Adaptive Management process to assess whether any additional mitigation should be considered in identified biologically important areas. In response to several comments, the Navy has enhanced its analysis of climate change and cumulative impacts in this Final EIS/OEIS. The Navy prepares Environmental Impact Statements (EIS) and Environmental Assessments (EA) in order to comply with the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA). These NEPA documents are intended to ensure decision makers consider the potential environmental effects of a proposed action and its alternatives, provide an opportunity for public involvement, and promote transparency by informing the public of these potential environmental effects. Each NEPA document addresses a specific proposed action, separated from other actions by its purpose and need, independent utility, timing, and geographic location. Some NEPA documents are stand-alone documents; others tier off or expand the analyses of other NEPA documents. NEPA documents for training and testing, including this EIS/OEIS, focus on training and testing activities occurring within a range complex or military operation area and involve different types of aircraft, ships, and range complex enhancements. NEPA documents for aircraft homebasing actions focus on aircraft operations in and around the airfield and their facility needs. NEPA documents for installations focus on infrastructure enhancements for host and tenant command missions. Importantly, every environmental document considers the cumulative impacts to the environment from other relevant past, present, and reasonably foreseeable future actions (federal, state, local, and private) in addition to the proposed action. The MSO activities do not include the use of sonar or live gun firing. The U.S. Navy has conducted active sonar training and testing activities for decades in the seaspace depicted in the Study Area with no evidence to indicate any meaningful impacts to marine habitats in

Table I.5-4: Responses to Comments from Private Individuals (continued)

Commenter	Comment	Navy Response
		the area. The Navy and NMFS jointly are still in ongoing consultation with the OCNMS regarding the effects of the Proposed Action on Sanctuary resources. The Navy concludes its continued activities are not likely to result in the loss, destruction, or adverse changes to the viability of Sanctuary resources. Several points support this determination: • Less than two percent of proposed training and 15 percent of proposed testing activities would occur within or immediately adjacent to the OCNMS. • The NWTT Final EIS/OEIS shows that training and testing activities have minimal temporary impacts on the quantity or quality of the Study Area's physical environment, and minor to no impacts on marine or shore birds, fish, sea turtles, or invertebrate marine life. • Although explosives have the potential to affect the physical and biological resources, the Navy does not use explosives within the OCNMS. • The Navy concludes any marine mammal behavioral reactions to NWTT training and testing activities would be transitory, infrequent, non-cumulative, and impacts are not expected to decrease overall individual fitness or result in long-term population-level impacts on any given population, and consequently will not result in any adverse changes to the sanctuary. Finally, all Department of Defense (DoD) military activities shall be carried out in a manner that avoids to the maximum extent practicable any adverse impacts on Sanctuary resources and qualities.
L. Unger (Electronic)	I have previously send comments to the Navy and the National Forrest Service addressing this most disturbing threat to our Olympic Peninsula. I wish to take this opportunity to comment on the Supplement (December 2014) to the Navy's Draft Environmental Impact Statement/ Overseas Environmental Impact Statement (DEIS), dated January 2014, for its continued training and testing activities in the Pacific Northwest (NWTT). Please include these comments in the administrative record. Effect on wildlife The proposed increases in this Supplement of marine exercises and additional use of sonar and explosives will only increase the damage done to marine mammals, sea turtles, fish and birds. Of particular concern to me is the Supplement and the EIS's lack of protections for the Southern Resident Killer Whale's dwindling population. These animals need a protected home in accord with their endangered status. In public sessions and in a radio interview the Navy's public relations personnel have been heard to say that the (MSO) and TRACKEX marine exercises save gas and allow personnel to be closer to their homes for	The Navy shares your concern for marine life, but this concern must be balanced with the purpose and need for Navy training and testing as detailed in Chapter 2 (Description of Proposed Action and Alternatives) of the EIS/OEIS. The Navy has conducted training and testing activities in the Study Area for decades, and there is no evidence that routine Navy training and testing has negatively impacted individual sea turtles or sea turtle populations, or marine mammal populations in the Study Area or at any Navy Range Complex. Based on the best available science summarized in the EIS/OEIS Section 3.4.4.1 (Summary of Monitoring and Observations During Navy Activities), long-term consequences for marine mammal populations are unlikely to result from Navy training and testing activities in the Study Area. Note that for sea turtles, as described in the EIS/OEIS Section 3.5.3.7.1 (Combined Impacts of All Stressors), "impacts are not

Table I.5-4: Responses to Comments from Private Individuals (continued)

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	these maneuvers. These considerations should not allow one single injury to this endangered Killer Whale population. Though this supplement admits increased sonar and explosive testing (TRACKEX) and finally addresses the MSO maneuvers there is no additional mitigation mentioned. Nowhere is it outlined whether visual patrols will increase as a result of this new activity, nor does the Supplement address real concerns over whether or not visual patrol is adequate at times of night or rough seas. No acoustic monitoring or avoidance strategies are included. This is a serious omission to a document that intended to address the inadequate science and mitigation plans of the original draft and is unacceptable. Lack of Science There is little consideration of exclusion zones, geographic alternatives to the southern Puget Sound and seasonal restrictions of exercises. All of the Alternatives propose year-round, unrestricted use without regard to seasonal variations in marine mammal and fish abundance. This is true despite the well-documented seasonal migrations of numerous endangered species and the identification of biologically important areas. The Navy should put critical marine habitats off-limits to sonar and explosives testing and schedule training to avoid times of the year when sensitive species are present in places like the Olympic Coast National Marine Sanctuary. Climate Change and Cumulative Impacts The Supplement document responds to calls to address these two big issues but it is very unclear that anything more than lip service was expended by deeming Navy activities to be of little significance. Public Process What most concerns me is this. There has been an overwhelming number of proposals since late in 2013 rolled out to the public in a piecemeal fashion. Five calls for comments on clearly-linked documents have been spread out in their introduction to the public over the last year and a half. Ground-based, (Electronic warfare range), air-based (Two growler scoping documents) and sea-based naval activities (these two NWTT documents) have been dropped onto the region as if they were not linked. The separate comment periods and the separate documents minimize the larger picture of impacts on the area. In my opinion this is misleading. Is it even legal in regards to Federal Law, specifically NEPA? Please redo this chopped-up public process with a comprehensive Environmental Impact Statement that includes all of the activities in the region. These huge changes that affect wildlife, real estate values, allow precedent-setting incursions into the peace of our national parks, national forest, wilderness, state parks and state lands, should be discussed as a whole, not split into so many fractured pieces that the residents of this region cannot know what they are actually facing. . Sincerely, Lisa Unger 86 Raleigh Rd Port Angeles, WA 98363	expected to decrease the overall fitness or result in long-term population level impacts on any given population." Please also refer to Chapter 5 (Standard Operating Procedures, Mitigation, and Monitoring) of the EIS/OEIS, detailing the procedures and mitigation measures during its training and testing activities designed to reduce impacts to marine mammals and sea turtles from Navy activities. No injuries to killer whales are anticipated from the Navy's proposed MSO or TRACKEX activities. As described in Chapter 5 (Standard Operating Procedures, Mitigation, and Monitoring) of the EIS/OEIS, the Navy will implement mitigation measures during the use of sonobuoys. The mitigation measures are implemented for each activity and therefore the mitigation scales up as the activity level scales up. Section 5.3.1.2.5 (Effectiveness Assessment for Lookouts) acknowledges that, due to the various detection probabilities, levels of Lookout experience, and variability of sighting conditions, Lookouts will not always be effective at avoiding impacts on all species. However, Lookouts are expected to increase the overall likelihood that certain marine mammal species and some sea turtles will be detected at the surface of the water, when compared to the likelihood that these same species would be detected if Lookouts are not used. The continued use of Lookouts contributes to helping reduce potential impacts on these species from training and testing activities. While the range of the sonar's detection would travel beyond the distance that Lookouts can detect animals, the range at which sonar is predicted to be able to cause injury to a marine mammal is very short, within 10 meters of the sonar. At such short distances, it is likely any marine mammal would have been detected. As described in Chapter 5 (Standard Operating Procedures, Mitigation, and Monitoring) of the Final EIS/OEIS, the Navy evaluated the effectiveness and practicability of a number of potential mitigation measures including the avoidance of specific areas. The Navy has undertaken consultation with NMFS for the proposed and ongoing activities in the NWTT Study Area and the Navy refined the mitigation measures, which are now presented in Chapter 5 (Standard Operating Procedures, Mitigation, and Monitoring) of this Final EIS/OEIS. Through careful exploration of all mitigation measures to determine which were the most effective, the Navy chose the measures to

Table I.5-4: Responses to Comments from Private Individuals (continued)

Commenter	Comment	Navy Response
		mitigate potential impacts to marine mammals while still being able to meet its operational needs to train for real-world conditions. The Navy's specific mitigation measures are outlined in the following sections: Section 5.3.1 (Lookout Procedural Measures), Section 5.3.2 (Mitigation Zone Procedural Measures), and Section 5.3.3 (Mitigation Areas). Specifically, Section 5.3.4 (Mitigation Measures Considered but Eliminated) presents Navy consideration of similar area restrictions. The Navy and NMFS will use the Adaptive Management process to assess whether any additional mitigation should be considered in identified biologically important areas. In response to several comments, the Navy has enhanced its analysis of climate change and cumulative impacts in this Final EIS/OEIS. The Navy prepares Environmental Impact Statements (EIS) and Environmental Assessments (EA) in order to comply with the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA). These NEPA documents are intended to ensure decision makers consider the potential environmental effects of a proposed action and its alternatives, provide an opportunity for public involvement, and promote transparency by informing the public of these potential environmental effects. Each NEPA document addresses a specific proposed action, separated from other actions by its purpose and need, independent utility, timing, and geographic location. Some NEPA documents are stand-alone documents; others tier off or expand the analyses of other NEPA documents. NEPA documents for training and testing, including this EIS/OEIS, focus on training and testing activities occurring within a range complex or military operation area and involve different types of aircraft, ships, and range complex enhancements. NEPA documents for aircraft homebasing actions focus on aircraft operations in and around the airfield and their facility needs. NEPA documents for installations focus on infrastructure enhancements for host and tenant command missions. Importantly, every environmental document considers the cumulative impacts to the environment from other relevant past, present, and reasonably foreseeable future actions (federal, state, local, and private) in addition to the proposed action. The MSO activities do not include the use of sonar or live gun firing. The U.S. Navy has conducted active sonar training and testing activities for decades in the seaspace depicted in the Study Area with no evidence to indicate any meaningful impacts to marine habitats in the area. The Navy and NMFS jointly are still in ongoing consultation with the OCNMS regarding the effects of the Proposed Action on

Table I.5-4: Responses to Comments from Private Individuals (continued)

Commenter	Comment	Navy Response
		Sanctuary resources. The Navy concludes its continued activities are not likely to result in the loss, destruction, or adverse changes to the viability of Sanctuary resources. Several points support this determination: • Less than two percent of proposed training and 15 percent of proposed testing activities would occur within or immediately adjacent to the OCNMS. • The NWTT Final EIS/OEIS shows that training and testing activities have minimal temporary impacts on the quantity or quality of the Study Area's physical environment, and minor to no impacts on marine or shore birds, fish, sea turtles, or invertebrate marine life. • Although explosives have the potential to affect the physical and biological resources, the Navy does not use explosives within the OCNMS. • The Navy concludes any marine mammal behavioral reactions to NWTT training and testing activities would be transitory, infrequent, non-cumulative, and impacts are not expected to decrease overall individual fitness or result in long-term population-level impacts on any given population, and consequently will not result in any adverse changes to the sanctuary. Finally, all Department of Defense (DoD) military activities shall be carried out in a manner that avoids to the maximum extent practicable any adverse impacts on Sanctuary resources and qualities.
Uzilevsky (Electronic)	I oppose the use of sonar in the Pacific Ocean for the following reasons. Ocean mammals depend on hearing for navigation, feeding, and reproduction. Scientists have linked military sonar and live-fire activities to mass whale beaching, exploded eardrums, and even death. In 2004, during war games near Hawai'i, the Navy's sonar was implicated in a mass stranding of up to 200 melon-headed whales in Hanalei Bay, Kaua'i. The Navy and Fisheries Service estimate that, over the plan's five-year period, training and testing activities will result in thousands of animals suffering permanent hearing loss, lung injuries or death. Millions of animals will be exposed to temporary injuries and disturbances, with many subjected to multiple harmful exposures. This proposed action is outrageous and inhumane. Please reconsider you priorities.	Regarding previous strandings, see Section 3.4.3.1.8 (Stranding) and the referenced technical report "Marine Mammal Strandings Associated with U.S. Navy Sonar Activities" (U.S. Department of the Navy 2013c). Based on the best available science summarized in the Draft EIS/OEIS Section 3.4.4.1 (Summary of Monitoring and Observations During Navy Activities), long-term consequences for marine mammal populations are unlikely to result from Navy training and testing activities in the Study Area.
Valls (Electronic)	I am very concerned about the Navy's plans to increase the number of its sonar buoys. • The Navy's current environmental analysis fails to provide basic information necessary to adequately evaluate the impacts of the proposed activities. This analysis also fails to provide adequate measures to mitigate the harmful effects	The Navy shares your concern for marine life, but this concern must be balanced with the purpose and need for Navy training and testing as detailed in Chapter 2 (Description of Proposed Action and Alternatives) of the EIS/OEIS. The Navy has conducted training and testing

Table I.5-4: Responses to Comments from Private Individuals (continued)

Commenter	Comment	Navy Response
	of the proposed activities on marine mammals and other wildlife. • Based on the information apparent in the environmental analysis, the Navy's "No Action Alternative" is the proposal with the most limited impact on wildlife. • A drastic increase in sonar activity will negatively impact wildlife. Marine mammals are extremely sensitive to noise, and sonar disrupts basic behaviors necessary for survival such as migration, surfacing, navigating, hearing, nursing, breeding and feeding. • Sonar can result in debilitating and even fatal injuries for marine mammals. Scientists believe sonar activity can change whale diving behavior, confusing them to swim to depths their bodies cannot handle. Whales suspected to have beached themselves because of sonar activity show signs of physical trauma like bleeding around the brain, ears and other tissues and large bubbles in their organs – symptoms analogous to "the bends" in humans. • To the extent that threatened or endangered species -- including humpback and sperm whales, and leatherback turtles -- are negatively impacted, the proposed activities may result in violations of the Endangered Species Act. I urge you to reconsider this detrimental action and consider the impacts to our vital marine wildlife.	activities in the Study Area for decades, and there is no evidence that routine Navy training and testing has negatively impacted individual sea turtles or sea turtle populations, or marine mammal populations in the Study Area or at any Navy Range Complex. Based on the best available science summarized in the EIS/OEIS Section 3.4.4.1 (Summary of Monitoring and Observations During Navy Activities), long-term consequences for marine mammal populations are unlikely to result from Navy training and testing activities in the Study Area. Note that for sea turtles, as described in the EIS/OEIS Section 3.5.3.7.1 (Combined Impacts of All Stressors), "impacts are not expected to decrease the overall fitness or result in long-term population level impacts on any given population." Please also refer to Chapter 5 (Standard Operating Procedures, Mitigation, and Monitoring) of the EIS/OEIS, detailing the procedures and mitigation measures during its training and testing activities designed to reduce impacts to marine mammals and sea turtles from Navy activities.
Van Ryzin (Electronic)	The Navy's current environmental analysis fails to provide basic information necessary to adequately evaluate the impacts of the proposed activities. This analysis also fails to provide adequate measures to mitigate the harmful effects of the proposed activities on marine mammals and other wildlife. A drastic increase in sonar activity will negatively impact wildlife. Sonar can result in debilitating and even fatal injuries for marine mammals. To the extent that threatened or endangered species -- including humpback and sperm whales, and leatherback turtles -- are negatively impacted, the proposed activities may result in violations of the Endangered Species Act. Based on the information in the environmental analysis, the Navy's "No Action Alternative" is the proposal with the most limited impact on wildlife.	As described in the Supplement in Section 3.5.2 (Sea Turtle Summary), the proposed increase in the use of SSQ-125 sonobuoys "are not expected to result in substantial changes to behavior, growth, survival, annual reproductive success, lifetime reproductive success (fitness), or species recruitment, and are not expected to result in population-level impacts." The Navy shares your concern for marine life, but this concern must be balanced with the purpose and need for Navy training and testing as detailed in Chapter 2 (Description of Proposed Action and Alternatives) of the EIS/OEIS. The Navy has conducted active sonar training and testing activities in the Study Area for decades, and there is no evidence that routine Navy training and testing has negatively impacted marine mammal populations in the Study Area or at any Navy Range Complex. Based on the best available science summarized in the EIS/OEIS Section 3.4.4.1 (Summary of Monitoring and Observations During Navy Activities), long-term consequences for marine mammal populations are unlikely to result from Navy training and testing activities in the Study Area. Please also refer to Chapter 5 (Standard Operating Procedures, Mitigation, and Monitoring) of the EIS/OEIS, detailing the procedures and mitigation measures during its training and testing activities designed to reduce impacts to marine mammals from Navy activities.
Vanderhoof	We, a family with roots on the Pacific Coast -- Lake Ozette -- are strongly opposed	Thank you for participating in the NEPA process. However this

Table I.5-4: Responses to Comments from Private Individuals (continued)

Commenter	Comment	Navy Response
(Electronic)	to using the temperate rainforest as proposed as an electronics training area. There is no way the proposed activities can be carried out without negative impacts to the the intent of Olympic National Park as a reserve for protecting and maintaining natural environmental systems. Natural systems do not include jet mediated electronic warfare exercises. Additionally, the human population, though sparse, will be negatively impacted by the unnecessary proposed actions as well. Navy "convenience" does not justify the negative impacts noted above.	comment is outside the scope of the Supplement to the Draft EIS/OEIS. Please see Chapters 1 and 2 of the EIS/OEIS for a clear definition of the scope of this project. There are no activities involving the use of electronic radiation proposed in the Supplement to the Draft EIS/OEIS. Analysis of airfield activities and relocation of aircraft and personnel is addressed in other environmental planning documents, such as the Draft Environmental Assessment for the Transition of Expeditionary EA-6B Prowler Squadrons to EA-18G Growler at Naval Air Station Whidbey Island, Oak Harbor, Washington (U.S. Department of the Navy, 2012). Therefore, the NWTT EIS/OEIS includes the analysis of activities only where those activities occur, nor does it include activities commonly associated with an airfield, such as takeoffs and landings.
VanderWerf-01 (Electronic)	“I have made comments previously on the U.S. Forest permit process and on the Growler process. I have questions for the Navy about the Draft Supplemental EIS (deadline February 2, 2015). 1.What has been the role of Olympic Coast National Marine Sanctuary and Washington Maritime National Wildlife Refuge Complex in reviewing and commenting on the Supplemental Draft EIS? 2. What has been the response of both agencies? Where have these responses been recorded?	The Navy has provided notification of the availability of the Supplement to the Draft EIS/OEIS to the Olympic Coast National Marine Sanctuary, the Sanctuary Advisory Council, and the Washington Maritime National Wildlife Refuge Complex. The Sanctuary commented under NOAA as a cooperating agency with the Navy. As a cooperating agency, those comments are not included as part of the public comment and response process, but as part of the internal EIS development process. The Navy is consulting with the Olympic Coast National Marine Sanctuary regarding potential impacts to Sanctuary resources. The various components of the Washington Maritime National Wildlife Refuge Complex are in areas where the Navy is not now nor is proposing to conduct activities.
VanderWerf-02	3. If the Navy project proceeds, how will the two agencies cited above monitor Navy actions and outcomes?	While there is no formal monitoring agreement between the Navy and the agencies mentioned in the comment, the Sanctuary Advisory Council does include Navy membership, which facilitates sharing of information between the two agencies.
VanderWerf-03	4. Does Olympic Coast National Marine Sanctuary agree with the Navy that the taking and harassment of marine mammals has no long term consequences? (Section 3.4.2 of the Draft EIS) 5. Could you please reference where OCNMS makes this statement? That the taking and harassment of 8 species of marine mammals has no long term consequences? (Section 3.4.2 of the Draft EIS)	The Navy and NMFS jointly are still in ongoing consultation with the OCNMS regarding the effects of the Proposed Action on Sanctuary resources. The Navy concludes its continued activities are not likely to result in the loss, destruction, or adverse changes to the viability of Sanctuary resources. Several points support this determination: • Less than two percent of proposed training and 15 percent of proposed testing activities would occur within or immediately adjacent to the OCNMS. • The NWTT Final EIS/OEIS shows that training and testing activities

Table I.5-4: Responses to Comments from Private Individuals (continued)

Commenter	Comment	Navy Response
		have minimal temporary impacts on the quantity or quality of the Study Area's physical environment, and minor to no impacts on marine or shore birds, fish, sea turtles, or invertebrate marine life. • Although explosives have the potential to affect the physical and biological resources, the Navy does not use explosives within the OCNMS. • The Navy concludes any marine mammal behavioral reactions to NWTT training and testing activities would be transitory, infrequent, non-cumulative, and impacts are not expected to decrease overall individual fitness or result in long-term population-level impacts on any given population, and consequently will not result in any adverse changes to the sanctuary. Finally, all Department of Defense (DoD) military activities shall be carried out in a manner that avoids to the maximum extent practicable any adverse impacts on Sanctuary resources and qualities.
VanderWerf-04	On the issue of marine mammals alone, the Navy in its Draft EIS has created cause for alarm. What other issues has the Navy glossed over? Frankly, I do not see how the Navy's sonar project can go forth without destroying the ability of other Federal agencies to adhere to their environmental protection mission statements. As part of the Supplemental EIS the Navy must include "No Impact" environmental review statements from Olympic Coast National Marine Sanctuary and Washington Maritime National Wildlife Refuge Complex. Can the Navy do that?????	The Navy complies with all applicable laws and regulations, and coordinates with all appropriate agencies. The U.S. Navy has conducted active sonar training and testing activities for decades in the seaspace depicted in the Study Area with no evidence to indicate any meaningful impacts to marine habitats in the area. The Navy and NMFS jointly are still in ongoing consultation with the OCNMS regarding the effects of the Proposed Action on Sanctuary resources. The Navy concludes its continued activities are not likely to result in the loss, destruction, or adverse changes to the viability of Sanctuary resources. Several points support this determination: • Less than two percent of proposed training and 15 percent of proposed testing activities would occur within or immediately adjacent to the OCNMS. • The NWTT Final EIS/OEIS shows that training and testing activities have minimal temporary impacts on the quantity or quality of the Study Area's physical environment, and minor to no impacts on marine or shore birds, fish, sea turtles, or invertebrate marine life. • Although explosives have the potential to affect the physical and biological resources, the Navy does not use explosives within the OCNMS. • The Navy concludes any marine mammal behavioral reactions to NWTT training and testing activities would be transitory, infrequent,

Table I.5-4: Responses to Comments from Private Individuals (continued)

Commenter	Comment	Navy Response
		non-cumulative, and impacts are not expected to decrease overall individual fitness or result in long-term population-level impacts on any given population, and consequently will not result in any adverse changes to the sanctuary. Finally, all Department of Defense (DoD) military activities shall be carried out in a manner that avoids to the maximum extent practicable any adverse impacts on Sanctuary resources and qualities. It is important to note that the Navy and NMFS have developed a robust marine mammal monitoring program as described in Section 5.5 (Monitoring and Reporting) of the NWTT EIS/OEIS.
Van Strum-01 (Written)	The NWTT December 2014 Supplement to the NWTT Draft EIS/OEIS (hereafter, Supplement), must be withdrawn, along with the Draft EIS/OEIS, for the following reasons:	Thank you for providing comments on the NWTT Supplement to the Draft EIS/OEIS and for participating in the NEPA process.
Van Strum-02	I. The supplement repeats the same defects noted in my April 14, 2014 comments on the draft NWTT EIS/OEIS: As I also pointed out in my March 17 request for extension, the search function of the CD of the draft NWTT EIS/OEIS provided by the Navy is dysfunctional to the point of utter uselessness, as it cannot find items that clearly exist in the document (e.g., "EOD", and "marbled murrelet," which ironically is pictured on the cover of both volumes); the same dysfunction occurs in downloads of the document from the Navy website, (I understand from tech support that the CD and downloads only work with Adobe Acrobat. an expensive software, but do not work with the free & easily downloaded Adobe Reader; this was certainly not the case with CDs and downloads of the 2009- 2010 NWTT EIS, which worked perfectly on Adobe Reader; by requiring commenters to pay for Adobe Acrobat in order to use the 2014 CD or downloads, the Navy has denied access to many or most potential commenters.) Since the Navy has provided only CDs of the draft EIS instead of hard copies to most people for public comment, this nonfunctioning search engine renders the document effectively useless. [1] The hard copy of the EIS supplied to a chosen few remote libraries contains no index, rendering it effectively useless except to someone who can drive hundreds of miles and spend eight hours a day for three months going through its 2000+ pages, page by page, to find the scattered references in a hopelessly disorganized, unwieldy, poorly written document. Both the hard copy and the CD provided by the Navy are therefore effectively useless, precluding the remotest semblance of informed public comment. [1] If Navy documents now require costly software in order to read the m, at the very least the Navy might have the courtesy to inform commenters of this requirement.	Every electronic version (CD and website download) is fully readable and searchable using the free software Adobe Reader®. This has been verified.

Table I.5-4: Responses to Comments from Private Individuals (continued)

Commenter	Comment	Navy Response
Van Strum-03	2. The Supplement nowhere corrects the numerous errors and untruths pointed out in my own and others' comments on the Draft. 3. In keeping with the omissions in the Draft EIS/OEIS, the Supplement is either intentionally deceptive or grossly incompetent in its failure to include the numerous hazardous materials added and/or increased by the acknowledged significant increases of events, activities, and materials, and its failure to analyze the impacts of those increases on marine ecosystems, wildlife, fish populations, etc. For example, as noted in my April 14, 2014 comments: 6. The Vanishing Hazardous Materials Page 3 3-17 of the 2010 EIS states that "overboard discharge" is per mitted of such hazardous materials as ethylene and propylene glycols, ethyl, isopropyl and butyl alcohols, sodium metaborate, potassium silicate, mercapto-benzothiazole, diammonium citrate, DETU, MIL-D-16791 detergent, Nalcool 2000, Nalfleet 9-111, Paxcool, Catcool, triethanolamine, naphtha, 2-butoxyethanoL cadmium, chromium, heavy metals and cyanide. The 2014 NWTT EIS/OEIS omits any mention of such overboard discharges. The Navy's omission or apparent concealment of this information speaks volumes about the integrity and intent of the 2014 NWTT EIS/OEIS, particularly given numerous news reports of such Navy practices, e,g., http://wrenchbiscuit.hubpages.com/hub/The-United-States-Navy-and-the-Polluted-Oceans Http://www.independent.co.uk/news/uk/home-news/exclusive-worlds-most-prestine-waters-are-polluted-by-us-navy-human-waste-9193596.html https://www.fas.org/man/gao/gao9538.htm http://www.nationaldefensemagazine.org/archive/2001/April/Pages/Pollution-Prevention7076.aspx https://www.commondreams.org/views05/0327-21.htm http://www.nap.edu/openbook.php?record_id=9190&page=1 http://ban.org/library/Dishonorable%20Disposal_BAN%20Report.pdf http://doni.daps.dla.mil/Directives/05000%20General%20Management%20Security%20and%20Safety%20Services/05-00%20General%20Admin%20and%20Management%20Support/5090.1C%20CH-1.pdf The 2014 NWTT EIS/OEIS acknowledges, p. 3.1-50, that "Under Alternative 1, the amount of potentially toxic metals expended during training activities would be approximately 28,312 lb. (12,842kg).” The world waits breathlessly to hear whether that figure is per day, per week, per month, per year. Assuming it is per year, one looks in vain for any breakdown identifying the toxic metals and how much of each	All comments to the Draft EIS/OEIS are addressed in the Final EIS/OEIS. The Supplement to the Draft EIS/OEIS was produced for a specific, limited purpose as described in the Abstract, Executive Summary, and Chapter 1 (Introduction to the Supplement) of the Supplement. This Final EIS/OEIS incorporates analyses of both the Draft and the Supplement to the Draft EIS/OEIS.

Table I.5-4: Responses to Comments from Private Individuals (continued)

Commenter	Comment	Navy Response
	toxic metal is expended. And because the Navy conveniently omits mention of its overboard discharges of heavy metals, there is no way even to guess the total, combined amount of expended toxic metals and overboard discharges of toxic metals being released into already stressed marine ecosystems Given the extreme toxicity and bioaccumulative potential of many toxic metals, the willful omission of the Navy's actual disposal practices unquestionably fails NEPA's requirements for full disclosure of actions that may impact the human and global environment.	
Van Strum-04	Given the Supplements belated notice that some 720 new SSQ-125 MAC sonobuoys would be placed offshore of Washington, Oregon, and northern California, the Supplement's blatant omission of ANY information whatsoever identifying the components of the new sonobuoys or their breakdown products in the environment can only be intentional. The 2010 EIS referenced above devoted more than seven FULL pages of such information on the old sonobuoys, including chemical and toxic metal components and breakdown products in the marine environment, such as seawater batteries (300 grains of lead, plus lead chloride, cuprous thiocyanide, silver chloride, lithium iron disulfide, lithium bromide, lithium carbon monofluoroxide, lithium manganese dioxide. sulphur dioxide, and acenitrile [a cyanide compound]), lithium batteries, battery electrodes, metal housing, lead solder, copper " wire, lead used for ballast, and other hazardous materials listed on subsequent pages. which repeatedly list sonobuoys and their expended materials as "Environmental Stressors" (2010 EIS, pp. 3.3-29- 3.3-45)_ The Supplement's failure to include such information on the new SSQ-125 MAC sonobuoys renders it useless for public comment, raising serious questions about the integrity of its preparers.	Use of the SSQ-125 sonobuoy was part of the proposed action as presented in the Draft EIS/OEIS. It is not a new sonobuoy. The supplement to the Draft EIS/OEIS explains that an additional 700 sonobuoys are needed for training activities in the Study Area. As described in Section 3.1.3.2 (Metals), sonobuoy components include metal housing, batteries and battery electrodes, lead solder, copper wire, and lead used for ballast. Thermal batteries in sonobuoys are contained in a hermetically sealed and welded stainless steel case that is 0.03 to 0.1 in. (0.07 to 0.25 cm) thick and resistant to the battery electrolytes (Naval Facilities Engineering Command 1993). The 1993 Navy study concluded that constituents released by saltwater batteries used in sonobuoys as well as from the decomposition of other sonobuoy components did not exceed state or federal standards, and that the reaction products are short-lived in seawater (see Section 3.1.3.2.3 Impacts of Metals). Please refer to Section 3.1.3.2.3.1 (Lead) and Section 3.1.3.2.3.3 (Lithium) for additional information describing potential effects from sonobuoy batteries.
Van Strum-05	4. The fact that the U.S. Navy signed contracts for production of the new SSQ-125-MAC sonobuoys TWO YEARS before this Supplement and a whole year before the Draft EIS/OEIS nullifies any pretense of either the Draft EIS/OEIS or the Supplement being valid NEPA analyses, as the decision to deploy the SSQ-125-MAC sonobuoys was obviously made and the sonobuoys ordered long before any NEPA review. See, for example. http://navaltoday.com/20 13/02/08/erapsco-to-manufacture-sonobuoys-for-us-navy/ February 2013 http://www.marinelink.com/news/sonobuoy-contract-sparton3 58164 .aspx August 2013 http ://www. ultra-electronics.coin/media/press-releases/ ultra-sparton-jv-awarded-us-navy-sonobuoycontract. aspx (Note especially the Navy quoted as saying these sonobuoys are the "pivot to the Pacific.") http://www.navysbir.com/n14_ 2/N142- n7.htm (bid notice by Navy 2013)	The SSQ-125 is not a new sonobuoy, and it has been used in Atlantic and Pacific operating areas, including in the NWTRC, by the Navy for years. The potential environmental impacts from the use of this sonobuoy was analyzed in the NWTRC EIS/OEIS and its continued use is proposed in the NWTT EIS/OEIS.

Table I.5-4: Responses to Comments from Private Individuals (continued)

Commenter	Comment	Navy Response
	http://navyaviation.tpub.com/14030/css/14030 _105_htm (description of sonobuoy) The millions of dollars already spent by the Navy on these 720 new SSQ-125 MAC sonobuoys make consideration of any public comment extremely unlikely and render the entire NEPA process a mockery.	
Van Strum-06	5. Neither the Supplement nor the Draft EIS/OEIS provides any information on the total number of previously deployed sonobuoys of any type deployed in the study area at any time, never retrieved, and currently decomposing on the ocean floor. The failure to include such information invalidates all discussions of environmental/ecological impacts of sonobuoys and makes the omission of hazardous materials impacts suspiciously deliberate. Both the Supplement's and the Draft EIS/OEIS's discussions of cumulative impacts are therefore grossly deceptive and erroneous, and must be withdrawn. 6. The Supplement, repeating a blatant failing of the Draft EIS/OEIS, contains some 18 (eighteen) references to the Navy's 2010 NWTT EIS/OEIS. The 2010 EIS/OEIS is no longer available on the Navy's web site. The Supplement therefore relies on a document unavailable to the public. Reliance on information unavailable or inaccessible to the general public unequivocally precludes informed public comment and violates the basic tenets of NEPA.	The purpose of the NWTT EIS/OEIS is to analyze the potential environmental impacts associated with the proposed action as described in Chapter 2 (Description of Proposed Action and Alternatives). Chapter 3 (Affected Environment) describes the current state of environmental resources occurring in the Study Area, which includes effects, if any, from previous and on-going Navy activities in the Study Area. The number of sonobuoys used annually as part of the No Action Alternative is presented in Tables 2.8-1 through 2.8-3 in Chapter 2 (Description of Proposed Action and Alternatives). A link to the 2010 Northwest Training Range Complex EIS/OEIS is available on the NWTT EIS website at: http://www.navfac.navy.mil/products_and_services/ev/products_and_services/environmental-planning/at_sea_compliance.html It is also available from NOAA's website at: http://noaa.ntis.gov/view.php?pid=NOAA:ocn774715599.
Van Strum-07	7. The Supplement is extremely and unlawfully selective in its choice of issues and information ostensibly correcting and updating the Draft EIS/OEIS. This is most obvious in its omission of other Navy activities proposed in the same study area, e.g. the massive expansion of Growler aircraft at Whidbey Island and the concommitant use of several national forests for Growler electronic warfare practice and training. (See http://www.whidbeyei s.com/ and http://a123.g.akamai. net/7/123/1 1558/abc123/forestservic.download.akamai.com/ n 558/www/nepa/970 n _FSPLT3 _2346874.pdf).	The purpose of the Supplement to the Draft EIS/OEIS is to present the changes to the Proposed Action and their impacts on the environment, and to allow for public review and comment on these changes. The Proposed Action is not otherwise changed from the Draft EIS/OEIS and does not include the other activities associated with the EA-18G Growler. The Navy understands that when multiple, seemingly related activities are proposed in the same region that it can be confusing for the public. Chapter 4 (Cumulative Impacts) includes a discussion on past, present, and future activities proposed by the military, including the EA-18G activities proposed by the Navy, as well as non-military activities, in order to consider potential impacts from the Proposed Action in the context of other activities occurring in the Study Area.
Van Strum-08	As I noted in my April 14, 2014 comments, The 2014 Draft EIS/OEIS specifically states at page 2-3: "The Study Area includes only the at-sea components of the training and testing areas and facilities .. .. The remaining land-based portions of tire range complex are addressed in previous National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) documentation, and that analysis remains valid. The previous NEPA analysis remains valid because both the Proposed Action and the conditions related to land areas in this analysis are the same as analyzed in previous NEPA	The statement quoted in the comment refers to the 2010 Northwest Training Range Complex EIS/OEIS, which is available on the NWTT EIS website at: http://www.navfac.navy.mil/products_and_services/ev/products_and_services/environmental-planning/at_sea_compliance.html It is also available from NOAA's website at:

Table I.5-4: Responses to Comments from Private Individuals (continued)

Commenter	Comment	Navy Response
	documents. These land areas are not subject to reauthorization under the MMPA or ESA, and therefore are not part of the Study Area or this EIS analysis." (emphasis added) (The statement quoted does not even identify what previous "NEPA documentation" they're talking about. No citation whatsoever, much less any hint of who determined it to be valid. If the statement intends to refer to the 2010 EIS, it is relying on a document not available to the public as it is no longer on the Navy website.)	http://noaa.ntis.gov/view.php?pid=NOAA:ocn774715599. A citation has been added to the text in the NWTT Final EIS/OEIS.
Van Strum-09	The plan -- to add 36 more Growler aircraft to Whidbey Island and use them to roar at low altitudes over our national forests using radar beams to locate Navy trucks zapping the forest with electromagnetic radiation -- certainly puts the lie to the above quote that "the conditions related to land areas in this analysis are the same as analyzed in previous NEPA documents .... and are not part of the Study Area or this EIS analysis-" Any supplement to the 2014 Draft EIS/OEIS should have included a major revision of that statement! Instead, the Navy has broken its activities down into piecemeal analyses with no reference to each other or acknowledgment that they are interrelated. The Navy cannot thereby evade its duty under NEPA to consider impacts of all of its related activities in the same study area.	The Proposed Action does not include the activities associated with the EA-18G Growler referred to in the comment. The Navy understands that when multiple, seemingly related activities are proposed in the same region that it can be confusing for the public, but to include all Navy activities in a single EIS would be impractical and unwieldy. Chapter 4 (Cumulative Impacts) includes a discussion on past, present, and future activities proposed by the military, including the EA-18G activities proposed by the Navy, as well as non-military activities, in order to consider potential impacts from the Proposed Action in the context of other activities occurring in the region.
Van Strum-10	For the above reasons, both the Supplement and the 2014 EIS/OEIS must be withdrawn and an honest analysis conducted of all Navy activities in the Pacific North west Training Area.	The Navy respectfully disagrees with the comment. The Draft EIS/OEIS and supplement to the Draft EIS/OEIS use the best available science to assess potential environmental impacts from the proposed training and testing activities in accordance with regulatory requirement under NEPA.
Vernon (Electronic)	Are we in danger of being attacked and you are not telling us? If not, there is no need at this time that warrants jeopardizing marine mammals and fish. We do not know what the affects will be and it could ultimately cause incredible life threatening devastation to our sea creatures.	The Navy shares your concern for marine life, but this concern must be balanced with the purpose and need for Navy training and testing as detailed in Chapter 2 (Description of Proposed Action and Alternatives) of the EIS/OEIS. The Navy has conducted active sonar training and testing activities in the Study Area for decades, and there is no evidence that routine Navy training and testing has negatively impacted marine mammal populations in the Study Area or at any Navy Range Complex. Based on the best available science summarized in the EIS/OEIS Section 3.4.4.1 (Summary of Monitoring and Observations During Navy Activities), long-term consequences for marine mammal populations are unlikely to result from Navy training and testing activities in the Study Area. Please also refer to Chapter 5 (Standard Operating Procedures, Mitigation, and Monitoring) of the EIS/OEIS, detailing the procedures and mitigation measures during its training and testing activities designed to reduce impacts to marine mammals from Navy activities.

Table I.5-4: Responses to Comments from Private Individuals (continued)

Commenter	Comment	Navy Response
Verret (Electronic)	For the following reasons, I implore this agency to abandon their proposed training & testing: The Navy's current environmental analysis fails to provide basic information necessary to adequately evaluate the impacts of the proposed activities. This analysis also fails to provide adequate measures to mitigate the harmful effects of the proposed activities on marine mammals and other wildlife. Based on the information apparent in the environmental analysis, the Navy's "No Action Alternative" is the proposal with the most limited impact on wildlife. A drastic increase in sonar activity will negatively impact wildlife. Marine mammals are extremely sensitive to noise, and sonar disrupts basic behaviors necessary for survival such as migration, surfacing, navigating, hearing, nursing, breeding and feeding. Sonar can result in debilitating and even fatal injuries for marine mammals. Scientists believe sonar activity can change whale diving behavior, confusing them to swim to depths their bodies cannot handle. Whales suspected to have beached themselves because of sonar activity show signs of physical trauma like bleeding around the brain, ears and other tissues and large bubbles in their organs – symptoms analogous to "the bends" in humans. To the extent that threatened or endangered species -- including humpback and sperm whales, and leatherback turtles -- are negatively impacted, the proposed activities may result in violations of the Endangered Species Act.	As described in the Supplement in Section 3.5.2 (Sea Turtle Summary), the proposed increase in the use of SSQ-125 sonobuoys "are not expected to result in substantial changes to behavior, growth, survival, annual reproductive success, lifetime reproductive success (fitness), or species recruitment, and are not expected to result in population-level impacts." The Navy shares your concern for marine life, but this concern must be balanced with the purpose and need for Navy training and testing as detailed in Chapter 2 (Description of Proposed Action and Alternatives) of the EIS/OEIS. The Navy has conducted active sonar training and testing activities in the Study Area for decades, and there is no evidence that routine Navy training and testing has negatively impacted marine mammal populations in the Study Area or at any Navy Range Complex. Based on the best available science summarized in the EIS/OEIS Section 3.4.4.1 (Summary of Monitoring and Observations During Navy Activities), long-term consequences for marine mammal populations are unlikely to result from Navy training and testing activities in the Study Area. Please also refer to Chapter 5 (Standard Operating Procedures, Mitigation, and Monitoring) of the EIS/OEIS, detailing the procedures and mitigation measures during its training and testing activities designed to reduce impacts to marine mammals from Navy activities.
Villalobos (Electronic)	I'm writing to strongly discourage the use of sonar, explosives, weapons firing, and other acoustic devices. These activities have well known and well documented negative impacts on a number of whale species and porpoises, as well as other marine wildlife. In addition, the Navy admits the increase in the use of sonar devices "is likely to adversely affect" endangered leatherback turtles whose protected habitat along the Pacific Coast was only recently established in 2012. The Navy's activities will also have significant impacts on critical habitat areas for marine mammals and other wildlife. High intensity-mid-frequency sonar -- along with activities like dumping debris, the use of toxic chemicals, and detonating explosives -- will degrade sensitive habitat necessary for the survival of marine mammal populations. In this time of climate change and all its suite of effects, especially on marine habitats, these activities seem to me to be irresponsible, to say the least, and outright derisive to the overall good of the ecosystems upon which we depend for life, when taken at face value. Thank you for your consideration and according revisions to existing plans.	Best management practices include measures that regulate operations to ensure compliance with pollution emission requirements and general resource conservation goals. Navy policies and procedures identified in Navy instructions such as the Environmental Readiness Program Manual, include directives regarding waste management, pollution prevention, and recycling, all of which benefit sediments and water quality in the ocean. Any procedures or practices that benefit ocean sediments and water quality in turn benefit all marine life in the ocean, from plants and invertebrates, to fish and marine mammals. The Navy shares your concern for marine life, but this concern must be balanced with the purpose and need for Navy training and testing as detailed in Chapter 2 (Description of Proposed Action and Alternatives) of the EIS/OEIS. The Navy has conducted training and testing activities in the Study Area for decades, and there is no evidence that routine Navy training and testing has negatively impacted individual sea turtles or sea turtle populations, or marine mammal populations in the Study Area or at any Navy Range Complex. Based on the best available science summarized in the EIS/OEIS Section 3.4.4.1 (Summary of Monitoring and Observations During Navy Activities),

Table I.5-4: Responses to Comments from Private Individuals (continued)

Commenter	Comment	Navy Response
		long-term consequences for marine mammal populations are unlikely to result from Navy training and testing activities in the Study Area. Note that for sea turtles, as described in the EIS/OEIS Section 3.5.3.7.1 (Combined Impacts of All Stressors), "impacts are not expected to decrease the overall fitness or result in long-term population level impacts on any given population." Please also refer to Chapter 5 (Standard Operating Procedures, Mitigation, and Monitoring) of the EIS/OEIS, detailing the procedures and mitigation measures during its training and testing activities designed to reduce impacts to marine mammals and sea turtles from Navy activities.
Villella (Electronic)	Don't test sonar that will harm whales	The Navy shares your concern for marine life, but this concern must be balanced with the purpose and need for Navy training and testing as detailed in Chapter 2 (Description of Proposed Action and Alternatives) of the EIS/OEIS. The Navy has conducted active sonar training and testing activities in the Study Area for decades, and there is no evidence that routine Navy training and testing has negatively impacted marine mammal populations in the Study Area or at any Navy Range Complex. Based on the best available science summarized in the EIS/OEIS Section 3.4.4.1 (Summary of Monitoring and Observations During Navy Activities), long-term consequences for marine mammal populations are unlikely to result from Navy training and testing activities in the Study Area. Please also refer to Chapter 5 (Standard Operating Procedures, Mitigation, and Monitoring) of the EIS/OEIS, detailing the procedures and mitigation measures during its training and testing activities designed to reduce impacts to marine mammals from Navy activities.
Vinson (Electronic)	What gives you the right to test your toys of war in the ocean, killing innocent beings who live there? Do we not have enough bombs already?	Thank you for participating in the NEPA process.
Viscardi (Electronic)	The Navy's current environmental analysis for the Navy Northwest Training & Testing program fails to provide basic information necessary to adequately evaluate the impacts of the proposed activities. This analysis also fails to provide adequate measures to mitigate the harmful effects of the proposed activities on marine mammals and other wildlife. Based on the information apparent in the environmental analysis, the Navy's "No Action Alternative" is the proposal with the most limited impact on wildlife. A drastic increase in sonar activity will negatively impact wildlife. Marine mammals are extremely sensitive to noise, and sonar	The Navy shares your concern for marine life, but this concern must be balanced with the purpose and need for Navy training and testing as detailed in Chapter 2 (Description of Proposed Action and Alternatives) of the EIS/OEIS. The Navy has conducted training and testing activities in the Study Area for decades, and there is no evidence that routine Navy training and testing has negatively impacted individual sea turtles or sea turtle populations, or marine mammal populations in the Study Area or at any Navy Range Complex. Based on the best

Table I.5-4: Responses to Comments from Private Individuals (continued)

Commenter	Comment	Navy Response
	disrupts basic behaviors necessary for survival such as migration, surfacing, navigating, hearing, nursing, breeding and feeding. Sonar can result in debilitating and even fatal injuries for marine mammals. Scientists believe sonar activity can change whale diving behavior, confusing them to swim to depths their bodies cannot handle. Whales suspected to have beached themselves because of sonar activity show signs of physical trauma like bleeding around the brain, ears and other tissues and large bubbles in their organs – symptoms analogous to "the bends" in humans. To the extent that threatened or endangered species -- including humpback and sperm whales, and leatherback turtles -- are negatively impacted, the proposed activities may result in violations of the Endangered Species Act.	available science summarized in the EIS/OEIS Section 3.4.4.1 (Summary of Monitoring and Observations During Navy Activities), long-term consequences for marine mammal populations are unlikely to result from Navy training and testing activities in the Study Area. Note that for sea turtles, as described in the EIS/OEIS Section 3.5.3.7.1 (Combined Impacts of All Stressors), "impacts are not expected to decrease the overall fitness or result in long-term population level impacts on any given population." Please also refer to Chapter 5 (Standard Operating Procedures, Mitigation, and Monitoring) of the EIS/OEIS, detailing the procedures and mitigation measures during its training and testing activities designed to reduce impacts to marine mammals and sea turtles from Navy activities. Regarding previous strandings, see Section 3.4.3.1.8 (Stranding) and the referenced technical report "Marine Mammal Strandings Associated with U.S. Navy Sonar Activities" (U.S. Department of the Navy 2013c).
von Buchau (Electronic)	It has already been proven that sonar disorients whales and other large sea mammals. You have enough destructive elements in your arsenal already. You don't need more. All you are doing is filling the pockets of manufacturers who lobby with large amounts of money to get their products accepted by the military. And I as an American taxpayer am tired of paying for you foolish futile efforts to justify your existence, especially when it comes at the expense of our enviornment.	The Navy shares your concern for marine life, but this concern must be balanced with the purpose and need for Navy training and testing as detailed in Chapter 2 (Description of Proposed Action and Alternatives) of the EIS/OEIS. The Navy has conducted active sonar training and testing activities in the Study Area for decades, and there is no evidence that routine Navy training and testing has negatively impacted marine mammal populations in the Study Area or at any Navy Range Complex. Based on the best available science summarized in the EIS/OEIS Section 3.4.4.1 (Summary of Monitoring and Observations During Navy Activities), long-term consequences for marine mammal populations are unlikely to result from Navy training and testing activities in the Study Area. Please also refer to Chapter 5 (Standard Operating Procedures, Mitigation, and Monitoring) of the EIS/OEIS, detailing the procedures and mitigation measures during its training and testing activities designed to reduce impacts to marine mammals from Navy activities.
Waber (Electronic)	I recently learned that the Navy has plans to greatly expand its use of sonar during training exercises off of the Pacific Coast. This revision will drastically increase the impact on whales and other ocean wildlife. In the interest of protecting marine mammals, I am urging you to limit the amount of sonar activity used in training missions off the Pacific Coast of the US. Thank you for you consideration, and thank you for defending our county in a responsible manner.	The Navy shares your concern for marine life, but this concern must be balanced with the purpose and need for Navy training and testing as detailed in Chapter 2 (Description of Proposed Action and Alternatives) of the EIS/OEIS. The Navy has conducted active sonar training and testing activities in the Study Area for decades, and there is no evidence that routine Navy training and testing has negatively

Table I.5-4: Responses to Comments from Private Individuals (continued)

Commenter	Comment	Navy Response
		impacted marine mammal populations in the Study Area or at any Navy Range Complex. Based on the best available science summarized in the EIS/OEIS Section 3.4.4.1 (Summary of Monitoring and Observations During Navy Activities), long-term consequences for marine mammal populations are unlikely to result from Navy training and testing activities in the Study Area. Please also refer to Chapter 5 (Standard Operating Procedures, Mitigation, and Monitoring) of the EIS/OEIS, detailing the procedures and mitigation measures during its training and testing activities designed to reduce impacts to marine mammals from Navy activities.
Wagner-Patterson (Electronic)	While I appreciate the need to continue protection our US Coastlines against threats overseas - this should not be done at the cost of hurting other species on this earth. The statement, "It sounds drastic in numbers, but it's really not drastic in its impact," said John Mosher, Northwest environmental manager for the U.S. Pacific Fleet. "Anti-submarine warfare is a critical mission for the U.S. Navy." does not go to prove any impact this would have on our oceans. Looking at John Mosher's career - one could make the argument that he is biased in favor of the US Navy. How about the Navy reach out to numerous independent environmental groups to give the public complete pros & cons of this issue? We need to understand that while sonar emissions might not seems bothersome - doesn't our government use similar tactics of sound in the use of torture? How would this not effect what's living in our oceans in a similar manner to how it would effect human beings?	The Navy shares your concern for marine life, but this concern must be balanced with the purpose and need for Navy training and testing as detailed in Chapter 2 (Description of Proposed Action and Alternatives) of the EIS/OEIS. The Navy has conducted active sonar training and testing activities in the Study Area for decades, and there is no evidence that routine Navy training and testing has negatively impacted marine mammal populations in the Study Area or at any Navy Range Complex. Based on the best available science summarized in the EIS/OEIS Section 3.4.4.1 (Summary of Monitoring and Observations During Navy Activities), long-term consequences for marine mammal populations are unlikely to result from Navy training and testing activities in the Study Area. Please also refer to Chapter 5 (Standard Operating Procedures, Mitigation, and Monitoring) of the EIS/OEIS, detailing the procedures and mitigation measures during its training and testing activities designed to reduce impacts to marine mammals from Navy activities.
Walicki-01 (Electronic)	The Navy's current environmental analysis fails to provide basic information necessary to adequately evaluate the impacts of the proposed activities. This analysis also fails to provide adequate measures to mitigate the harmful effects of the proposed activities on marine mammals and other wildlife. Based on the information apparent in the environmental analysis, the Navy's "No Action Alternative" is the proposal with the most limited impact on wildlife. A drastic increase in sonar activity will negatively impact wildlife. Marine mammals are extremely sensitive to noise, and sonar disrupts basic behaviors necessary for survival such as migration, surfacing, navigating, hearing, nursing, breeding and feeding. Sonar can result in debilitating and even fatal injuries for marine mammals. Scientists believe sonar activity can change whale diving behavior, confusing them to swim to depths their bodies cannot handle. Whales suspected to have beached themselves because of sonar activity show signs of physical trauma like bleeding around the brain, ears and other tissues and large bubbles in their organs –	As described in the Supplement in Section 3.5.2 (Sea Turtle Summary), the proposed increase in the use of SSQ-125 sonobuoys "are not expected to result in substantial changes to behavior, growth, survival, annual reproductive success, lifetime reproductive success (fitness), or species recruitment, and are not expected to result in population-level impacts." The Navy shares your concern for marine life, but this concern must be balanced with the purpose and need for Navy training and testing as detailed in Chapter 2 (Description of Proposed Action and Alternatives) of the EIS/OEIS. The Navy has conducted active sonar training and testing activities in the Study Area for decades, and there is no evidence that routine Navy training and testing has negatively impacted marine mammal populations in the Study Area or at any Navy Range Complex. Based on the best available science summarized in the EIS/OEIS Section 3.4.4.1

Table I.5-4: Responses to Comments from Private Individuals (continued)

Commenter	Comment	Navy Response
	symptoms analogous to “the bends” in humans. To the extent that threatened or endangered species -- including humpback and sperm whales, and leatherback turtles -- are negatively impacted, the proposed activities may result in violations of the Endangered Species Act.	(Summary of Monitoring and Observations During Navy Activities), long-term consequences for marine mammal populations are unlikely to result from Navy training and testing activities in the Study Area. Please also refer to Chapter 5 (Standard Operating Procedures, Mitigation, and Monitoring) of the EIS/OEIS, detailing the procedures and mitigation measures during its training and testing activities designed to reduce impacts to marine mammals from Navy activities.
Walicki-02	Save the whales!	Thank you for participating in the NEPA process.
Wall (Electronic)	Navy activities are detrimental to whales and dolphins and other marine animals. It is time to put a stop to these inhumane practices!	The Navy shares your concern for marine life, but this concern must be balanced with the purpose and need for Navy training and testing as detailed in Chapter 2 (Description of Proposed Action and Alternatives) of the EIS/OEIS. The Navy has conducted active sonar training and testing activities in the Study Area for decades, and there is no evidence that routine Navy training and testing has negatively impacted marine mammal populations in the Study Area or at any Navy Range Complex. Based on the best available science summarized in the EIS/OEIS Section 3.4.4.1 (Summary of Monitoring and Observations During Navy Activities), long-term consequences for marine mammal populations are unlikely to result from Navy training and testing activities in the Study Area. Please also refer to Chapter 5 (Standard Operating Procedures, Mitigation, and Monitoring) of the EIS/OEIS, detailing the procedures and mitigation measures during its training and testing activities designed to reduce impacts to marine mammals from Navy activities.
Warner (Electronic)	I am concerned about the Navy's plan to dramatically increase the use of sonobuoys along the Pacific Coast, especially in the Olympic National Marine Sanctuary. Marine mammals, especially the endangered Southern Resident Killer Whales rely on sonar, and the use of active sonar will disrupt marine mammals’ feeding, breeding and calving. Please consider reducing the number of buoys and relocating them outside areas where marine mammals are known to travel.	As described in the Supplement in Section 3.4.2 (Marine Mammal Summary), the proposed increase in the use of SSQ-125 sonobuoys would "not result in any long-term consequences for any marine mammal population or species; therefore, the conclusions stated in the Draft EIS/OEIS remain unchanged." The Navy has conducted active sonar training and testing activities in the Study Area for decades, and there is no evidence that routine Navy training and testing has negatively impacted marine mammal populations in the Study Area or at any Navy Range Complex. Based on the best available science summarized in the EIS/OEIS Section 3.4.4.1 (Summary of Monitoring and Observations During Navy Activities), long-term consequences for marine mammal populations are unlikely to result from Navy training and testing activities in the Study Area.

Table I.5-4: Responses to Comments from Private Individuals (continued)

Commenter	Comment	Navy Response
Warnock (Electronic)	Please please please, what are we defending if we kill all life on the planet? Please limit your sonar testing.	Thank you for participating in the NEPA process.
Waters (Electronic)	TO WHOM IT MAY CONCERN: I APPRECIATE THE NAVY'S DESIRE TO PROTECT OUR COUNTRY AND I UNDERSTAND THE NEED TO TEST EQUIPMENT BEFORE DEPENDING UPON IT. HOWEVER, DETONATING EXPLOSIVES AND USING SONAR IN OUR DEAR PUGET SOUND AND OLYMPIC COAST NATIONAL MARINE SANCTUARY WOULD BE DESTROYING THE VERY ENVIRONMENT THE NAVY IS UNDER OBLIGATION TO PROTECT! WE WHO LIVE ON PUGET SOUND AND THE OLYMPIC PENINSULA HAVE BEEN EXPENDING TREMENDOUS FINANCIAL AND PHYSICAL EFFORTS FOR YEARS TO CLEAN UP THE WATERS OF THE SOUND SO THAT WILDLIFE CAN AGAIN FLOURISH HERE. FOR EXAMPLE, THE ELWHA RIVER HAS JUST BEEN FREED FROM TWO DAMS AND THE SALMON ARE RETURNING. THIS IS GOOD NEWS. ON THE OTHER HAND, THE WATERS OF THE SOUND ARE TOXIC FROM DECADES OF HUMAN-CAUSED POLLUTION, AND WE HAVE A LONG WAY TO GO TO CLEAN THEM UP. WASHINGTON STATE HAS COMMITTED TO THIS. NAVY SONAR AND EXPLOSIVE ACTIVITY IN OUR ALREADY ENDANGERED SOUND MUST NOT HAPPEN. IT WOULD BE THE DEATH SENTENCE TO THE ENTIRE ECOLOGY OF THE SOUND AND THE MARINE SANCTUARY, AND WOULD BE IN DIRECT CONTRADICTION TO STATE AND CITIZEN EFFORTS AND INTENT. PLEASE TAKE THESE IMPORTANT MATTERS SERIOUSLY AND FIND OTHER MEANS OF TESTING YOUR EQUIPMENT THAT DO NOT CAUSE DAMAGE TO OUR PRECIOUS ENVIRONMENT HERE.	Regarding impacts to the ocean bottom, Puget Sound, and water quality from sonobuoys, please see Section 3.1 (Sediments and Water Quality), where there is a discussion of the impacts of all military expended materials. Best management practices include measures that regulate operations to ensure compliance with pollution emission requirements and general resource conservation goals. Navy policies and procedures identified in Navy instructions such as the Environmental Readiness Program Manual, include directives regarding waste management, pollution prevention, and recycling, all of which benefit sediments and water quality in the ocean. Any procedures or practices that benefit ocean sediments and water quality in turn benefit all marine life in the ocean, from plants and invertebrates, to fish and marine mammals.
Watrous, DVM, DACVR (Electronic)	Please stop off shore sonar testing. This activity is on par with wildlife poaching. The known adverse consequences on whales and other oceanic wildlife warrant cessation of this inhumane activity.	The Navy shares your concern for marine life, but this concern must be balanced with the purpose and need for Navy training and testing as detailed in Chapter 2 (Description of Proposed Action and Alternatives) of the EIS/OEIS. The Navy has conducted active sonar training and testing activities in the Study Area for decades, and there is no evidence that routine Navy training and testing has negatively impacted marine mammal populations in the Study Area or at any Navy Range Complex. Based on the best available science summarized in the EIS/OEIS Section 3.4.4.1 (Summary of Monitoring and Observations During Navy Activities), long-term consequences for marine mammal populations are unlikely to result from Navy training and testing activities in the Study Area. Please also refer to Chapter 5 (Standard Operating Procedures, Mitigation, and Monitoring) of the EIS/OEIS, detailing the procedures and mitigation measures during its

Table I.5-4: Responses to Comments from Private Individuals (continued)

Commenter	Comment	Navy Response
		training and testing activities designed to reduce impacts to marine mammals from Navy activities.
Webber (Electronic)	I am very concerned about the proposed training missions off the Pacific Coast. The potential for significant harm to wildlife, including leatherback turtles and and whales is undeniable. The Navy's current environmental analysis fails to provide basic information necessary to adequately evaluate the impacts of the proposed activities. This analysis also fails to provide adequate measures to mitigate the harmful effects of the proposed activities on marine mammals and other wildlife. Based on the information apparent in the environmental analysis, the Navy's "No Action Alternative" is the proposal with the most limited impact on wildlife.	The Navy shares your concern for marine life, but this concern must be balanced with the purpose and need for Navy training and testing as detailed in Chapter 2 (Description of Proposed Action and Alternatives) of the EIS/OEIS. The Navy has conducted training and testing activities in the Study Area for decades, and there is no evidence that routine Navy training and testing has negatively impacted individual sea turtles or sea turtle populations, or marine mammal populations in the Study Area or at any Navy Range Complex. Based on the best available science summarized in the EIS/OEIS Section 3.4.4.1 (Summary of Monitoring and Observations During Navy Activities), long-term consequences for marine mammal populations are unlikely to result from Navy training and testing activities in the Study Area. Note that for sea turtles, as described in the EIS/OEIS Section 3.5.3.7.1 (Combined Impacts of All Stressors), "impacts are not expected to decrease the overall fitness or result in long-term population level impacts on any given population." Please also refer to Chapter 5 (Standard Operating Procedures, Mitigation, and Monitoring) of the EIS/OEIS, detailing the procedures and mitigation measures during its training and testing activities designed to reduce impacts to marine mammals and sea turtles from Navy activities.
Weeks-01 (Electronic)	I strongly oppose the proposed Navy War Games over the Olympic Peninsula. I believe it is detrimental to both human and wildlife. The noise from helicopters is bad enough. I do not want jet fuel raining down on my home and children. Not do I want to have to be concerned with planes crashing. There are plenty established areas for this type of training. PLEASE, do not further pollute our natural resources. I also do not want the value of my home to be further depleted because of these actions. Please, do NOT use the Olympic Peninsula for your training exercises or war games.	Thank you for participating in the NEPA process. Please see Chapters 1 and 2 of the EIS/OEIS for a clear definition of the scope of this project. There are no weapons testing activities proposed in the Olympic National Forest in the Supplement to the Draft EIS/OEIS. It is also important to note that the proposed activities would not change how or where the Navy has been flying for decades.
Weeks-02	I am opposed to the proposed Navy War Games training that is being planned for the Olympic Peninsula. I believe it is hazardous to the physical well being of people, plants and animals of the region. We do not want the aviation fuel to be dumped over our homes, watersheds and schools. The noise pollution is also not welcome here. If you are going to insist on this - then you need to purchase the homes located in the travel path - so as to protect citizen from potential crashes and other damage that can be caused by this.	Thank you for participating in the NEPA process. Please see Chapters 1 and 2 of the EIS/OEIS for a clear definition of the scope of this project. There are no weapons testing activities proposed in the Olympic National Forest in the Supplement to the Draft EIS/OEIS. It is also important to note that the proposed activities would not change how or where the Navy has been flying for decades.

Table I.5-4: Responses to Comments from Private Individuals (continued)

Commenter	Comment	Navy Response
Welty (Electronic)	Please limit the amount of sonar activities used in training mission off the Pacific Coast. The use of sonar, explosives, weapons firing, and other acoustic devices have well known and well documented negative impacts on a number of whale species,leatherback turtles and porpoises, as well as other marine wildlife and habitat.	The Navy shares your concern for marine life, but this concern must be balanced with the purpose and need for Navy training and testing as detailed in Chapter 2 (Description of Proposed Action and Alternatives) of the EIS/OEIS. The Navy has conducted training and testing activities in the Study Area for decades, and there is no evidence that routine Navy training and testing has negatively impacted individual sea turtles or sea turtle populations, or marine mammal populations in the Study Area or at any Navy Range Complex. Based on the best available science summarized in the EIS/OEIS Section 3.4.4.1 (Summary of Monitoring and Observations During Navy Activities), long-term consequences for marine mammal populations are unlikely to result from Navy training and testing activities in the Study Area. Note that for sea turtles, as described in the EIS/OEIS Section 3.5.3.7.1 (Combined Impacts of All Stressors), “impacts are not expected to decrease the overall fitness or result in long-term population level impacts on any given population.” Please also refer to Chapter 5 (Standard Operating Procedures, Mitigation, and Monitoring) of the EIS/OEIS, detailing the procedures and mitigation measures during its training and testing activities designed to reduce impacts to marine mammals and sea turtles from Navy activities.
Wenzlaff (Electronic)	I'm very concerned about the impact of the Navy's sonar testing on whales and marine animals. The Navy’s current environmental analysis fails to provide basic information necessary to adequately evaluate the impacts of the proposed activities. This analysis also fails to provide adequate measures to mitigate the harmful effects of the proposed activities on marine mammals and other wildlife. A drastic increase in sonar activity will negatively impact wildlife. Marine mammals are extremely sensitive to noise, and sonar disrupts basic behaviors necessary for survival such as migration, surfacing, navigating, hearing, nursing, breeding and feeding. To the extent that threatened or endangered species -- including humpback and sperm whales, and leatherback turtles -- are negatively impacted, the proposed activities may result in violations of the Endangered Species Act.	As described in the Supplement in Section 3.5.2 (Sea Turtle Summary), the proposed increase in the use of SSQ-125 sonobuoys "are not expected to result in substantial changes to behavior, growth, survival, annual reproductive success, lifetime reproductive success (fitness), or species recruitment, and are not expected to result in population-level impacts." The Navy shares your concern for marine life, but this concern must be balanced with the purpose and need for Navy training and testing as detailed in Chapter 2 (Description of Proposed Action and Alternatives) of the EIS/OEIS. The Navy has conducted active sonar training and testing activities in the Study Area for decades, and there is no evidence that routine Navy training and testing has negatively impacted marine mammal populations in the Study Area or at any Navy Range Complex. Based on the best available science summarized in the EIS/OEIS Section 3.4.4.1 (Summary of Monitoring and Observations During Navy Activities), long-term consequences for marine mammal populations are unlikely to result from Navy training and testing activities in the Study Area. Please also refer to Chapter 5 (Standard Operating Procedures, Mitigation, and Monitoring) of the EIS/OEIS, detailing the procedures

Table I.5-4: Responses to Comments from Private Individuals (continued)

Commenter	Comment	Navy Response
		and mitigation measures during its training and testing activities designed to reduce impacts to marine mammals from Navy activities.
Wessman (Electronic)	I haven't got a clue what to say other than Do No Harm. Mitigation isn't going to keep the Jammers from doing run-ups night and day, being repaired, all of which cause me personally medical harm. I'm one of the Acceptable losses that occur in any government endeavor.	Analysis of airfield activities and relocation of aircraft and personnel is addressed in other environmental planning documents, such as the Draft Environmental Assessment for the Transition of Expeditionary EA-6B Prowler Squadrons to EA-18G Growler at Naval Air Station Whidbey Island, Oak Harbor, Washington (U.S. Department of the Navy, 2012). Therefore, the NWTT EIS/OEIS includes the analysis of activities only where those activities occur, nor does it include activities commonly associated with an airfield, such as engine run-ups, takeoffs, and landings.
K. West (Electronic)	Thank you for considering public comments. The Navy has a strong history of hard work and sacrifice to protect innocent life. For decades now, the Navy's Marine Mammal Program has recruited the aid of dolphins to help do so. This makes sense; dolphins are intelligent mammals with social structures, unique names, and a complex common language humans are only beginning to understand. Although sonobuoys have many benefits, increased training, testing, and equipment in the ocean have largely been linked to death and destruction for wildlife. There is evidence that the proposed activities would have adverse effects on dolphin life. Dolphins have helped serve the Navy and the United States. They live in a delicate ecosystem, which is facing destruction already. They deserve our protection. I ask you to please consider this when making plans for our nation and oceans.	The Navy shares your concern for marine life, but this concern must be balanced with the purpose and need for Navy training and testing as detailed in Chapter 2 (Description of Proposed Action and Alternatives) of the EIS/OEIS. The Navy has conducted active sonar training and testing activities in the Study Area for decades, and there is no evidence that routine Navy training and testing has negatively impacted marine mammal populations in the Study Area or at any Navy Range Complex. Based on the best available science summarized in the EIS/OEIS Section 3.4.4.1 (Summary of Monitoring and Observations During Navy Activities), long-term consequences for marine mammal populations are unlikely to result from Navy training and testing activities in the Study Area. Please also refer to Chapter 5 (Standard Operating Procedures, Mitigation, and Monitoring) of the EIS/OEIS, detailing the procedures and mitigation measures during its training and testing activities designed to reduce impacts to marine mammals from Navy activities.
M. West (Electronic)	Please limit or stop using loud sonar exercises in the ocean. It is harmful for many of the sea's creatures. Thank you very much.	The Navy shares your concern for marine life, but this concern must be balanced with the purpose and need for Navy training and testing as detailed in Chapter 2 (Description of Proposed Action and Alternatives) of the EIS/OEIS. The Navy has conducted active sonar training and testing activities in the Study Area for decades, and there is no evidence that routine Navy training and testing has negatively impacted marine mammal populations in the Study Area or at any Navy Range Complex. Based on the best available science summarized in the EIS/OEIS Section 3.4.4.1 (Summary of Monitoring and Observations During Navy Activities), long-term consequences for marine mammal populations are unlikely to result from Navy training and testing activities in the Study Area. Please also refer to Chapter 5

Table I.5-4: Responses to Comments from Private Individuals (continued)

Commenter	Comment	Navy Response
		(Standard Operating Procedures, Mitigation, and Monitoring) of the EIS/OEIS, detailing the procedures and mitigation measures during its training and testing activities designed to reduce impacts to marine mammals from Navy activities.
Westerholm (Electronic)	Please, I am appalled at the proposed increase in activities (including deployment of additional sonar emitting buoys) known to negatively impact wildlife in your upcoming plans. You must find a better way to conduct your mission in the Pacific. * The current environmental analysis fails to provide basic information necessary to adequately evaluate the impacts of the proposed activities. This analysis also fails to provide adequate measures to mitigate the harmful effects of the proposed activities on marine mammals and other wildlife. * Based on the information apparent in the environmental analysis, your "No Action Alternative" is the proposal with the most limited impact on wildlife. * A drastic increase in sonar activity will negatively impact wildlife. Marine mammals are extremely sensitive to noise, and sonar disrupts basic behaviors necessary for survival such as migration, surfacing, navigating, hearing, nursing, breeding and feeding. * Sonar can result in debilitating and even fatal injuries for marine mammals. Scientists believe sonar activity can change whale diving behavior, confusing them to swim to depths their bodies cannot handle. Whales suspected to have beached themselves because of sonar activity show signs of physical trauma like bleeding around the brain, ears and other tissues and large bubbles in their organs – symptoms analogous to "the bends" in humans. * To the extent that threatened or endangered species -- including humpback and sperm whales, and leatherback turtles -- are negatively impacted, the proposed activities may result in violations of the Endangered Species Act.	The Navy shares your concern for marine life, but this concern must be balanced with the purpose and need for Navy training and testing as detailed in Chapter 2 (Description of Proposed Action and Alternatives) of the EIS/OEIS. The Navy has conducted training and testing activities in the Study Area for decades, and there is no evidence that routine Navy training and testing has negatively impacted individual sea turtles or sea turtle populations, or marine mammal populations in the Study Area or at any Navy Range Complex. Based on the best available science summarized in the EIS/OEIS Section 3.4.4.1 (Summary of Monitoring and Observations During Navy Activities), long-term consequences for marine mammal populations are unlikely to result from Navy training and testing activities in the Study Area. Note that for sea turtles, as described in the EIS/OEIS Section 3.5.3.7.1 (Combined Impacts of All Stressors), "impacts are not expected to decrease the overall fitness or result in long-term population level impacts on any given population." Please also refer to Chapter 5 (Standard Operating Procedures, Mitigation, and Monitoring) of the EIS/OEIS, detailing the procedures and mitigation measures during its training and testing activities designed to reduce impacts to marine mammals and sea turtles from Navy activities. Regarding previous strandings, see Section 3.4.3.1.8 (Stranding) and the referenced technical report "Marine Mammal Strandings Associated with U.S. Navy Sonar Activities" (U.S. Department of the Navy 2013c).
Wexler (Electronic)	The sounds that the navy produces in the ocean, affects all of the sea life that are living there. It is time to recognize what is happening, and stop harming the living beings who call the ocean their home. We must think in terms of the end result of our actions, and clearly, if the navy continues to emit sonar into the oceans, they will eventually cause the life in the ocean to become weaker until they can no longer adapt, and die.. how is it our right to demand through our actions , that animals conform to our idea of what is correct, in their environment? Please consider the reality of the effects you are creating, and the future you are designing for the life of the oceans, our children, and their children.. once they are gone, there is no getting them back	The Navy shares your concern for marine life, but this concern must be balanced with the purpose and need for Navy training and testing as detailed in Chapter 2 (Description of Proposed Action and Alternatives) of the EIS/OEIS. The Navy has conducted active sonar training and testing activities in the Study Area for decades, and there is no evidence that routine Navy training and testing has negatively impacted marine mammal populations in the Study Area or at any Navy Range Complex. Based on the best available science summarized in the EIS/OEIS Section 3.4.4.1 (Summary of Monitoring and Observations During Navy Activities), long-term consequences for

Table I.5-4: Responses to Comments from Private Individuals (continued)

Commenter	Comment	Navy Response
		marine mammal populations are unlikely to result from Navy training and testing activities in the Study Area. Please also refer to Chapter 5 (Standard Operating Procedures, Mitigation, and Monitoring) of the EIS/OEIS, detailing the procedures and mitigation measures during its training and testing activities designed to reduce impacts to marine mammals from Navy activities.
Wheeler (Electronic)	The Navy's current environmental analysis fails to provide basic information necessary to adequately evaluate the impacts of the proposed activities. This analysis also fails to provide adequate measures to mitigate the harmful effects of the proposed activities on marine mammals and other wildlife. Based on the information apparent in the environmental analysis, the Navy's "No Action Alternative" is the proposal with the most limited impact on wildlife. A drastic increase in sonar activity will negatively impact wildlife. Marine mammals are extremely sensitive to noise, and sonar disrupts basic behaviors necessary for survival such as migration, surfacing, navigating, hearing, nursing, breeding and feeding. Sonar can result in debilitating and even fatal injuries for marine mammals. Scientists believe sonar activity can change whale diving behavior, confusing them to swim to depths their bodies cannot handle. Whales suspected to have beached themselves because of sonar activity show signs of physical trauma like bleeding around the brain, ears and other tissues and large bubbles in their organs – symptoms analogous to "the bends" in humans. To the extent that threatened or endangered species -- including humpback and sperm whales, and leatherback turtles -- are negatively impacted, the proposed activities may result in violations of the Endangered Species Act.	The Navy shares your concern for marine life, but this concern must be balanced with the purpose and need for Navy training and testing as detailed in Chapter 2 (Description of Proposed Action and Alternatives) of the EIS/OEIS. The Navy has conducted training and testing activities in the Study Area for decades, and there is no evidence that routine Navy training and testing has negatively impacted individual sea turtles or sea turtle populations, or marine mammal populations in the Study Area or at any Navy Range Complex. Based on the best available science summarized in the EIS/OEIS Section 3.4.4.1 (Summary of Monitoring and Observations During Navy Activities), long-term consequences for marine mammal populations are unlikely to result from Navy training and testing activities in the Study Area. Note that for sea turtles, as described in the EIS/OEIS Section 3.5.3.7.1 (Combined Impacts of All Stressors), "impacts are not expected to decrease the overall fitness or result in long-term population level impacts on any given population." Please also refer to Chapter 5 (Standard Operating Procedures, Mitigation, and Monitoring) of the EIS/OEIS, detailing the procedures and mitigation measures during its training and testing activities designed to reduce impacts to marine mammals and sea turtles from Navy activities. Regarding previous strandings, see Section 3.4.3.1.8 (Stranding) and the referenced technical report "Marine Mammal Strandings Associated with U.S. Navy Sonar Activities" (U.S. Department of the Navy 2013c).
White (Electronic)	I have been unable to locate any possible positive outcomes for animals, birds,mammals, residents or the environment from the proposed testing. I have lived and hiked in this area for 35 years and adamantly oppose the proposed testing.	The Navy shares your concern for marine life, but this concern must be balanced with the purpose and need for Navy training and testing as detailed in Chapter 2 (Description of Proposed Action and Alternatives) of the EIS/OEIS. The Navy has conducted active sonar training and testing activities in the Study Area for decades, and there is no evidence that routine Navy training and testing has negatively impacted marine mammal populations in the Study Area or at any Navy Range Complex. Based on the best available science

Table I.5-4: Responses to Comments from Private Individuals (continued)

Commenter	Comment	Navy Response
		summarized in the EIS/OEIS Section 3.4.4.1 (Summary of Monitoring and Observations During Navy Activities), long-term consequences for marine mammal populations are unlikely to result from Navy training and testing activities in the Study Area. Please also refer to Chapter 5 (Standard Operating Procedures, Mitigation, and Monitoring) of the EIS/OEIS, detailing the procedures and mitigation measures during its training and testing activities designed to reduce impacts to marine mammals from Navy activities.
Whyte (Electronic)	Please limit or stop sound training in the Waters off the pacific coast. I am concerned for the safety and survival Of the marine mammals and all marine life.	The Navy shares your concern for marine life, but this concern must be balanced with the purpose and need for Navy training and testing as detailed in Chapter 2 (Description of Proposed Action and Alternatives) of the EIS/OEIS. The Navy has conducted active sonar training and testing activities in the Study Area for decades, and there is no evidence that routine Navy training and testing has negatively impacted marine mammal populations in the Study Area or at any Navy Range Complex. Based on the best available science summarized in the EIS/OEIS Section 3.4.4.1 (Summary of Monitoring and Observations During Navy Activities), long-term consequences for marine mammal populations are unlikely to result from Navy training and testing activities in the Study Area. Please also refer to Chapter 5 (Standard Operating Procedures, Mitigation, and Monitoring) of the EIS/OEIS, detailing the procedures and mitigation measures during its training and testing activities designed to reduce impacts to marine mammals from Navy activities.
Wieczorek (Electronic)	Please reconsider your plan to place sonobuoys in the Pacific ocean. I feel this is extremely harmful to our Cetaceans and will potentially put our fragile marine ecosystem at risk! Marine wildlife who use echolocation to communicate, feed, breed and migrate will be greatly impacted by these sonic mid ridge blasts. Scientific research by marine biologists, NOAA, and other conservation agencies shows these sonar blasts disturb migratory routes and the overall well being of marine wildlife. We cannot afford any more marine wildlife in danger - say no to sonobuoys/sonic blasting!	As described in the Supplement in Section 3.4.2 (Marine Mammal Summary), the proposed increase in the use of SSQ-125 sonobuoys would "not result in any long-term consequences for any marine mammal population or species; therefore, the conclusions stated in the Draft EIS/OEIS remain unchanged." The Navy has conducted active sonar training and testing activities in the Study Area for decades, and there is no evidence that routine Navy training and testing has negatively impacted marine mammal populations in the Study Area or at any Navy Range Complex. Based on the best available science summarized in the EIS/OEIS Section 3.4.4.1 (Summary of Monitoring and Observations During Navy Activities), long-term consequences for marine mammal populations are unlikely to result from Navy training and testing activities in the Study Area.

Table I.5-4: Responses to Comments from Private Individuals (continued)

Commenter	Comment	Navy Response
Wieland (Electronic)	While I fully respect the need for the Navy to maintain military readiness by conducting adequate training, I also have serious concerns about the potential impact of these training exercises on marine mammals, particularly the endangered Southern Resident Killer Whales. With new data in recent years from satellite tagging, we now know even more about the travel patterns of these whales. They use inland waters at all times of year, and also routinely travel through the testing range on the outer Washington Coast off the Olympic Peninsula. In light of this new data, I would urge the Navy to take all possible precautions to protect these killer whales. In reality, a single catastrophic event involving sonar could mean the end of this population. Please limit testing to times and areas these whales don't frequent - preferably further offshore - and make sure personnel are well aware of the location of these whales before undergoing any training exercises that could be harmful to them.	As part of the Navy's effects analysis, the Navy considers all the science that identifies locations where certain cetacean populations or individuals are known to engage in feeding, breeding, or other biologically important activities at certain times of year. Recently, NMFS has taken steps to begin formally identifying some of these areas and naming them Biologically Important Areas (BIAs). The Navy has considered these areas as part of its analysis in this Final EIS/OEIS when discussing particular species in Chapter 3 (Affected Environment and Environmental Consequences) as well as in considering whether limitations on Navy activities in these areas are warranted as mitigation in discussion in Chapter 5 (see Section 5.3.4.1.11, Avoiding Marine Species Habitats and Biologically Important Areas). The Navy thoroughly considered the humpback and gray whale feeding areas identified recently in its analysis and whether avoidance as mitigation was appropriate. Given the impact avoidance would have on military readiness activities and lack of biological benefit, avoidance is not warranted. Please see Section 5.3.4.1.11 (Avoiding Marine Species Habitats and Biologically Important Areas). However, Navy is proposing to provide reporting of generally low use of sonar in some of these areas to NMFS as part of classified annual reports to help inform future adaptive management related to impacts in these areas. At time of release of this Final EIS/OEIS, NMFS and Navy are in ongoing discussion regarding mitigation for MMPA purposes. Should additional mitigation to that which Navy has proposed be identified in the MMPA rule making and authorization, it will be indicated in the ROD. It is important to note that the BIAs were not meant to define exclusionary zones, nor critical habitat with regulatory management, nor were they meant to be locations that serve as sanctuaries from human activity, or areas analogous to marine protected areas. The NMFS-identified BIAs do not have direct or immediate regulatory consequences and the BIAs located within the NWTT Study Area are not the only areas used for feeding, migrating, or reproductive activity for these cetaceans in a species' entire range and habitat. The stated intention is for the BIAs to serve as a resource management tool and their currently identified boundaries be considered dynamic and subject to change based on any new information as well as, "existing density estimates, range-wide distribution data, information on population trends and life history parameters, known threats to the population, and other relevant information."

Table I.5-4: Responses to Comments from Private Individuals (continued)

Commenter	Comment	Navy Response
		There is a lack of science supporting identification of any additional BIAs at this time for the Pacific. The Navy and NMFS have supported and will continue to support the Cetacean and Sound Mapping project, including providing representation on the Cetacean Density and Distribution Mapping Working Group (CetMap), which informed NMFS' identification of BIAs. The same marine mammal density data present in the Navy's Density Database Technical Report, and used in the analysis for this EIS/OEIS, was used in the development of BIAs. The final products, including U.S. West Coast BIAs from this mapping effort, were completed and published in March 2015.
Wiese (Electronic)	I am getting very weary of making comments to the Navy on the ways the Navy is being a careless neighbor on the lands of the Pacific Northwest, particularly the National Forests; in the air space of the Pacific Northwest, particularly over our National Forests, Olympic National Park and directly over Whidbey Island residential neighborhoods; and now in our precious Puget Sound waterways. I wish to take this opportunity to comment on the Supplement (December 2014) to the Navy's Draft Environmental Impact Statement/ Overseas Environmental Impact Statement (DEIS), dated January 2014, for its continued training and testing activities in the Pacific Northwest (NWTT). Please include these comments in the administrative record. You've heard most of these comments repeatedly. Please, please take action on them. Effect on wildlife The proposed increases in this Supplement of marine exercises and additional use of sonar and explosives will only increase the damage done to marine mammals, sea turtles, fish and birds. Of particular concern is the lack of protections for the Southern Resident Killer Whale's dwindling population. These animals need a protected home in accord with their endangered status. Though this supplement admits increased sonar and explosive testing (TRACKEX) and finally addresses the MSO maneuvers there is no additional mitigation mentioned. Nowhere is it outlined whether visual patrols will increase as a result of this new activity, nor does the Supplement address real concerns over whether or not visual patrol is adequate at times of night or rough seas. No acoustic monitoring or avoidance strategies are included. This is a serious omission to a document that intended to address the inadequate science and mitigation plans of the original draft and is unacceptable. Lack of Science There is little consideration of exclusion zones, geographic alternatives to the southern Puget Sound and seasonal restrictions of exercises. All of the Alternatives propose year-round, unrestricted use without regard to seasonal variations in marine mammal and fish abundance. This is true despite the well-documented seasonal migrations of numerous endangered species and the identification of biologically important areas. The Navy should put critical marine habitats off-limits to sonar and explosives testing and schedule training to avoid times of the year when sensitive	The Navy shares your concern for marine life, but this concern must be balanced with the purpose and need for Navy training and testing as detailed in Chapter 2 (Description of Proposed Action and Alternatives) of the EIS/OEIS. The Navy has conducted training and testing activities in the Study Area for decades, and there is no evidence that routine Navy training and testing has negatively impacted individual sea turtles or sea turtle populations, or marine mammal populations in the Study Area or at any Navy Range Complex. Based on the best available science summarized in the EIS/OEIS Section 3.4.4.1 (Summary of Monitoring and Observations During Navy Activities), long-term consequences for marine mammal populations are unlikely to result from Navy training and testing activities in the Study Area. Note that for sea turtles, as described in the EIS/OEIS Section 3.5.3.7.1 (Combined Impacts of All Stressors), "impacts are not expected to decrease the overall fitness or result in long-term population level impacts on any given population." Please also refer to Chapter 5 (Standard Operating Procedures, Mitigation, and Monitoring) of the EIS/OEIS, detailing the procedures and mitigation measures during its training and testing activities designed to reduce impacts to marine mammals and sea turtles from Navy activities. No injuries to killer whales are anticipated from the Navy's proposed MSO or TRACKEX activities. As described in Chapter 5 of the EIS/OEIS, the Navy will implement mitigation measures during the use of sonobuoys. The mitigation measures are implemented for each activity and therefore the mitigation scales up as the activity level scales up. Section 5.3.1.2.5 (Effectiveness Assessment for Lookouts) acknowledges that, due to the various detection probabilities, levels of

Table I.5-4: Responses to Comments from Private Individuals (continued)

Commenter	Comment	Navy Response
	species are present in places like the Olympic Coast National Marine Sanctuary. Climate Change and Cumulative Impacts The Supplement document responds to calls to address these two big issues but it is very unclear that anything more than lip service was expended by deeming Navy activities to be of little significance. Public Process Five calls for comments on clearly-linked documents have been spread out in their introduction to the public over the last year and a half. Ground-based, (Electronic warfare range), air-based (Two growler scoping documents) and sea-based naval activities (these two NWTT documents) have been dropped onto the region as if they were not linked. The separate comment periods and the separate documents are illegal. Please stop taking negative actions against our region. These proposals that affect the web of life, human health and the livability of this region, and allow precedent-setting incursions into the peace of our national parks, national forest, wilderness, state parks and state lands must STOP!!!! Please use Naval resources to make peaceful contributions around the world.	Lookout experience, and variability of sighting conditions, Lookouts will not always be effective at avoiding impacts on all species. However, Lookouts are expected to increase the overall likelihood that certain marine mammal species and some sea turtles will be detected at the surface of the water, when compared to the likelihood that these same species would be detected if Lookouts are not used. The continued use of Lookouts contributes to helping reduce potential impacts on these species from training and testing activities. While the range of the sonar's detection would travel beyond the distance that Lookouts can detect animals, the range at which sonar is predicted to be able to cause injury to a marine mammal is very short, within 10 meters of the sonar. At such short distances, it is likely any marine mammal would have been detected. As described in Chapter 5 (Standard Operating Procedures, Mitigation, and Monitoring) of the Final EIS/OEIS, the Navy evaluated the effectiveness and practicability of a number of potential mitigation measures including the avoidance of specific areas. The Navy has undertaken consultation with NMFS for the proposed and ongoing activities in the NWTT Study Area and the Navy refined the mitigation measures, which are now presented in Chapter 5 (Standard Operating Procedures, Mitigation, and Monitoring) of this Final EIS/OEIS. Through careful exploration of all mitigation measures to determine which were the most effective, the Navy chose the measures to mitigate potential impacts to marine mammals while still being able to meet its operational needs to train for real-world conditions. The Navy's specific mitigation measures are outlined in the following sections: Section 5.3.1 (Lookout Procedural Measures), Section 5.3.2 (Mitigation Zone Procedural Measures), and Section 5.3.3 (Mitigation Areas). Specifically, Section 5.3.4 (Mitigation Measures Considered but Eliminated) presents Navy consideration of similar area restrictions. The Navy and NMFS will use the Adaptive Management process to assess whether any additional mitigation should be considered in identified biologically important areas. In response to several comments, the Navy has enhanced its analysis of climate change and cumulative impacts in this Final EIS/OEIS. The Navy prepares Environmental Impact Statements (EIS) and Environmental Assessments (EA) in order to comply with the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA). These NEPA documents are intended to ensure decision makers consider the potential environmental effects of a proposed action and its alternatives, provide

Table I.5-4: Responses to Comments from Private Individuals (continued)

Commenter	Comment	Navy Response
		an opportunity for public involvement, and promote transparency by informing the public of these potential environmental effects. Each NEPA document addresses a specific proposed action, separated from other actions by its purpose and need, independent utility, timing, and geographic location. Some NEPA documents are stand-alone documents; others tier off or expand the analyses of other NEPA documents. NEPA documents for training and testing, including this EIS/OEIS, focus on training and testing activities occurring within a range complex or military operation area and involve different types of aircraft, ships, and range complex enhancements. NEPA documents for aircraft homebasing actions focus on aircraft operations in and around the airfield and their facility needs. NEPA documents for installations focus on infrastructure enhancements for host and tenant command missions. Importantly, every environmental document considers the cumulative impacts to the environment from other relevant past, present and reasonably foreseeable future actions (federal, state, local, and private) in addition to the proposed action. As part of the Navy's effects analysis, the Navy considers all the science that identifies locations where certain cetacean populations or individuals are known to engage in feeding, breeding, or other biologically important activities at certain times of year. Recently, NMFS has taken steps to begin formally identifying some of these areas and naming them Biologically Important Areas (BIAs). The Navy has considered these areas as part of its analysis in this Final EIS/OEIS when discussing particular species in Chapter 3 as well as in considering whether limitations on Navy activities in these areas are warranted as mitigation in discussion in Chapter 5 (see Section 5.3.4.1.11, Avoiding Marine Species Habitats and Biologically Important Areas). The Navy thoroughly considered the humpback and gray whale feeding areas identified recently in its analysis and whether avoidance as mitigation was appropriate. Given the impact avoidance would have on military readiness activities and lack of biological benefit, avoidance is not warranted. Please see Section 5.3.4.1.11 (Avoiding Marine Species Habitats and Biologically Important Areas). However, Navy is proposing to provide reporting of generally low use of sonar in some of these areas to NMFS as part of classified annual reports to help inform future adaptive management related to impacts in these areas. At time of release of this Final EIS/OEIS, NMFS and Navy are in ongoing discussion regarding mitigation for MMPA purposes. Should additional mitigation to that which Navy has proposed be identified in the MMPA rule making and authorization it

Table I.5-4: Responses to Comments from Private Individuals (continued)

Commenter	Comment	Navy Response
		will be indicated in the ROD. It is important to note that the BIAs were not meant to define exclusionary zones, nor critical habitat with regulatory management, nor were they meant to be locations that serve as sanctuaries from human activity, or areas analogous to marine protected areas. The NMFS-identified BIAs do not have direct or immediate regulatory consequences and the BIA's located within the NWTT Study Area are not the only areas used for feeding, migrating, or reproductive activity for these cetaceans in a species' entire range and habitat. The stated intention is for the BIAs to serve as a resource management tool and their currently identified boundaries be considered dynamic and subject to change based on any new information as well as, "existing density estimates, range-wide distribution data, information on population trends and life history parameters, known threats to the population, and other relevant information." There is a lack of science supporting identification of any additional BIAs at this time for the Pacific. The Navy and NMFS have supported and will continue to support the Cetacean and Sound Mapping project, including providing representation on the Cetacean Density and Distribution Mapping Working Group (CetMap), which informed NMFS' identification of BIAs. The same marine mammal density data present in the Navy's Density Database Technical Report and used in the analysis for this EIS/OEIS, was used in the development of BIAs. The final products, including U.S. West Coast BIAs from this mapping effort, were completed and published in March 2015. The MSO activities do not include the use of sonar or live gun firing. The U.S. Navy has conducted active sonar training and testing activities for decades in the seaspace depicted in the Study Area with no evidence to indicate any meaningful impacts to marine habitats in the area. The Navy and NMFS jointly are still in ongoing consultation with the OCNMS regarding the effects of the Proposed Action on Sanctuary resources. The Navy concludes its continued activities are not likely to result in the loss, destruction, or adverse changes to the viability of Sanctuary resources. Several points support this determination: • Less than two percent of proposed training and 15 percent of proposed testing activities would occur within or immediately adjacent to the OCNMS. • The NWTT Final EIS/OEIS shows that training and testing activities

Table I.5-4: Responses to Comments from Private Individuals (continued)

Commenter	Comment	Navy Response
		have minimal temporary impacts on the quantity or quality of the Study Area's physical environment, and minor to no impacts on marine or shore birds, fish, sea turtles, or invertebrate marine life. • Although explosives have the potential to affect the physical and biological resources, the Navy does not use explosives within the OCNMS. • The Navy concludes any marine mammal behavioral reactions to NWTT training and testing activities would be transitory, infrequent, non-cumulative, and impacts are not expected to decrease overall individual fitness or result in long-term population-level impacts on any given population, and consequently will not result in any adverse changes to the sanctuary. Finally, all Department of Defense (DoD) military activities shall be carried out in a manner that avoids to the maximum extent practicable any adverse impacts on Sanctuary resources and qualities.
J. Wiley (Electronic)	I am writing to vehemently oppose the use of sonobuoys along the WA coastline, or ANY coastline for that matter. The Navy knows that this WILL harm whales, dolphins and leatherback turtles here in WA State. It will disrupt Native Americans traditional hunting grounds use as well. This is not something that is in line with the federal protections set up to protect these groups. If it does not kill them, they will be rendered unable to hear...what kind of nation approves that? The endless war mentality cannot justify the killing of these beings. I say NO to this proposal.	As described in the Supplement in Section 3.5.2 (Sea Turtle Summary), the proposed increase in the use of SSQ-125 sonobuoys "are not expected to result in substantial changes to behavior, growth, survival, annual reproductive success, lifetime reproductive success (fitness), or species recruitment, and are not expected to result in population-level impacts." The Navy has conducted active sonar training and testing activities in the Study Area for decades, and there is no evidence that routine Navy training and testing has negatively impacted individual sea turtles or sea turtle populations, or marine mammal populations in the Study Area or at any Navy Range Complex. Based on the best available science summarized in the Draft EIS/OEIS Section 3.5.3.7.1 (Combined Impacts of All Stressors) "impacts are not expected to decrease the overall fitness or result in long-term population level impacts on any given population." Furthermore, based on the best available science summarized in the EIS/OEIS Section 3.4.4.1 (Summary of Monitoring and Observations During Navy Activities), long-term consequences for marine mammal populations are unlikely to result from Navy training and testing activities in the Study Area. In cases where potential impacts rise to a level that warrants mitigation, mitigation measures designed to reduce the potential impacts are discussed in Chapter 5 (Standard Operating Procedures, Mitigation, and Monitoring)."

Table I.5-4: Responses to Comments from Private Individuals (continued)

Commenter	Comment	Navy Response
M. Wiley (Electronic)	training in the pacific ocean.	Thank you for participating in the NEPA process. (This is the entirety of the electronically submitted comment.)
G. Will-01 (Written)	I am a resident of Sequim, Washington. I have not written about my reaction to the proposed Electronic Warfare Range or any other proposed projects by the Navy on the Olympic Peninsula and environs previously. I feel compelled at this time to state my thoughts and feelings. Apparently there is a whole suite of Navy associated impacts that are being considered for the peninsula and nearby regions. I don't understand all of these considerations. Perhaps there is a purpose in confusing the public in order to minimize the potential for public outcry and adversity. Many proposals have been offered to the public in piecemeal fashion without describing how they are linked together to fully impact this region of the United States that I, my wife, and so many of us appreciate and truly love.	Thank you for participating in the NEPA process. However this comment is outside the scope of the Supplement to the Draft EIS/OEIS. Please see Chapters 1 and 2 of the EIS/OEIS for a clear definition of the scope of this project. The Navy completed the Supplement to the Draft EIS/OEIS in compliance with current law, including the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA). In addition to NEPA, the Navy continues to comply with other applicable environmental laws and with a number of regulatory requirements, such as the Marine Mammal Protection Act, the Endangered Species Act, the Coastal Zone Management Act, and the Magnuson-Stevens Fishery Conservation and Management Act.
G. Will-02	I know there will be harm done to the wildlife of this area. The whales, orcas, fish and other living organisms in the sea and on the land will suffer and many will die. How contrary this is to the original aim of the establishment of the Olympic Coast National Marine Sanctuary. There is no doubt that Olympic National Park as well as state parks and national forests will suffer from detrimental rippling effects. The birds, animals, insects and even vegetation will be _victims to this unnatural incursion of epic proportion. This whole plan of warfare is against the principles of life and earthly sustainability.	The Navy shares your concern for marine life, but this concern must be balanced with the purpose and need for Navy training and testing as detailed in Chapter 2 (Description of Proposed Action and Alternatives) of the EIS/OEIS. The Navy has conducted active sonar training and testing activities in the Study Area for decades, and there is no evidence that routine Navy training and testing has negatively impacted marine mammal populations in the Study Area or at any Navy Range Complex. Based on the best available science summarized in the EIS/OEIS Section 3.4.4.1 (Summary of Monitoring and Observations During Navy Activities), long-term consequences for marine mammal populations are unlikely to result from Navy training and testing activities in the Study Area. Please also refer to Chapter 5 (Standard Operating Procedures, Mitigation, and Monitoring) of the EIS/OEIS, detailing the procedures and mitigation measures during its training and testing activities designed to reduce impacts to marine mammals from Navy activities.
G. Will-03	I am very upset about this whole matter. I am voicing my dissatisfaction with these proposals as a citizen of this great country that we live in. Please hear me, and choose to desist and cancel these proposals. Thank you.	Thank you for participating in the NEPA process.
J. Will (Electronic)	Dear Ms. Kler, I live in Sequim, Washington. I have recently learned about the proposed Electronic Warfare Range the Navy is planning to construct and operate on the Olympic Peninsula and am deeply disturbed by what I have discovered. I feel	The Navy makes significant efforts to notify the public of its projects to ensure maximum public participation during the public comment period, including using postcards, press releases, and newspaper

Table I.5-4: Responses to Comments from Private Individuals (continued)

Commenter	Comment	Navy Response
	compelled at this time to state my thoughts and feelings. This is my first letter to you on this subject. It appears that there is a whole suite of Navy associated activities that are under way to take place or be increased on the peninsula and nearby regions, including the Olympic Coast National Marine Sanctuary and Puget Sound. Although four proposals have been put forth in the last 15+ months, the opportunity for public comment has not been clearly denoted. Neither has the understanding of the Navy's purpose or the negative and harmful impact these military activities may have on the citizenship and many forms of animal life that make our area so special and unique. It feels like there is an expectation of quietly ushering in something that will be hard or impossible to reverse. I am very upset about this whole matter. I am voicing my dissatisfaction with these proposals as a citizen of this great country that we live in. Please hear me, and choose to desist and cancel these proposals.	display advertisements. The public may download and review the documents and make comments to it on the website during the comment period. Websites for proposals in the Pacific Northwest include www.NWTTEIS.com, www.cnic.navy.mil/regions/cnrnw/installations/nas_whidbey_island/om/environmental_support.html, and www.whibeyeis.com. Please see Chapters 1 and 2 of the EIS/OEIS for the definition of the scope of this project. In addition, Chapter 4 (Cumulative Impacts) considers the impact of the Proposed Action along with other projects in the region. There are no activities involving the use of electronic radiation proposed in the Supplement to the Draft EIS/OEIS.
Willett (Electronic)	A drastic increase in sonar activity will negatively impact wildlife. Marine mammals are extremely sensitive to noise, and sonar disrupts basic behaviors necessary for survival such as migration, surfacing, navigating, hearing, nursing, breeding and feeding. To the extent that threatened or endangered species -- including humpback and sperm whales, and leatherback turtles -- are negatively impacted, the proposed activities may result in violations of the Endangered Species Act Sonar can result in debilitating and even fatal injuries for marine mammals. Scientists believe sonar activity can change whale diving behavior, confusing them to swim to depths their bodies cannot handle. Whales suspected to have beached themselves because of sonar activity show signs of physical trauma like bleeding around the brain, ears and other tissues and large bubbles in their organs – symptoms analogous to "the bends" in humans. The Navy's current environmental analysis fails to provide basic information necessary to adequately evaluate the impacts of the proposed activities. This analysis also fails to provide adequate measures to mitigate the harmful effects of the proposed activities on marine mammals and other wildlife.	The Navy shares your concern for marine life, but this concern must be balanced with the purpose and need for Navy training and testing as detailed in Chapter 2 (Description of Proposed Action and Alternatives) of the EIS/OEIS. The Navy has conducted training and testing activities in the Study Area for decades, and there is no evidence that routine Navy training and testing has negatively impacted individual sea turtles or sea turtle populations, or marine mammal populations in the Study Area or at any Navy Range Complex. Based on the best available science summarized in the EIS/OEIS Section 3.4.4.1 (Summary of Monitoring and Observations During Navy Activities), long-term consequences for marine mammal populations are unlikely to result from Navy training and testing activities in the Study Area. Note that for sea turtles, as described in the EIS/OEIS Section 3.5.3.7.1 (Combined Impacts of All Stressors), "impacts are not expected to decrease the overall fitness or result in long-term population level impacts on any given population." Please also refer to Chapter 5 (Standard Operating Procedures, Mitigation, and Monitoring) of the EIS/OEIS, detailing the procedures and mitigation measures during its training and testing activities designed to reduce impacts to marine mammals and sea turtles from Navy activities. In accordance with ESA requirements, the Navy will complete consultation under Section 7 of the ESA with NMFS and USFWS and adhere to the Letter of Authorization and Biological Opinion issued by those agencies.
Willis	It is WRONG to invade a natural environment with known hazardous military exercises. It ultimately will harm us, not protect us. We must be smarter than that.	Thank you for participating in the NEPA process.

Table I.5-4: Responses to Comments from Private Individuals (continued)

Commenter	Comment	Navy Response
(Electronic)		
Wilson (Electronic)	Why on Earth is any permission ever given to "testing" that injures or kills living creatures--Of any kind? What have we come to in this nation that allows such "experiments"? Chemtrails, radiation towers, Guantanamo torture, three police shooting a seventeen-year old mentally ill girl . . . and that is just todays "news". How much more "testing" is needed to discover that we are here to LIVE our lives, not be at the affect of so-called scientists and military precedences who think their discoveries are more important that Life. We are all dying. Perhaps that is the good news. The planet will be better off.	Thank you for participating in the NEPA process.
Winter (Electronic)	Please protect marine mammals along the Pacific Coast from being harmed by sonar.	The Navy shares your concern for marine life, but this concern must be balanced with the purpose and need for Navy training and testing as detailed in Chapter 2 (Description of Proposed Action and Alternatives) of the EIS/OEIS. The Navy has conducted active sonar training and testing activities in the Study Area for decades, and there is no evidence that routine Navy training and testing has negatively impacted marine mammal populations in the Study Area or at any Navy Range Complex. Based on the best available science summarized in the EIS/OEIS Section 3.4.4.1 (Summary of Monitoring and Observations During Navy Activities), long-term consequences for marine mammal populations are unlikely to result from Navy training and testing activities in the Study Area. Please also refer to Chapter 5 (Standard Operating Procedures, Mitigation, and Monitoring) of the EIS/OEIS, detailing the procedures and mitigation measures during its training and testing activities designed to reduce impacts to marine mammals from Navy activities.
Wisch (Electronic)	The Navy's current environmental analysis fails to provide basic information necessary to adequately evaluate the impacts of the proposed activities. This analysis also fails to provide adequate measures to mitigate the harmful effects of the proposed activities on marine mammals and other wildlife. Based on the information apparent in the environmental analysis, the Navy's "No Action Alternative" is the proposal with the most limited impact on wildlife. A drastic increase in sonar activity will negatively impact wildlife. Marine mammals are extremely sensitive to noise, and sonar disrupts basic behaviors necessary for survival such as migration, surfacing, navigating, hearing, nursing, breeding and feeding. Sonar can result in debilitating and even fatal injuries for marine mammals. Scientists believe sonar activity can change whale diving behavior, confusing them to swim to depths their bodies cannot handle. Whales suspected to have beached themselves because of sonar activity show signs of physical trauma like bleeding	As described in the Supplement in Section 3.5.2 (Sea Turtle Summary), the proposed increase in the use of SSQ-125 sonobuoys "are not expected to result in substantial changes to behavior, growth, survival, annual reproductive success, lifetime reproductive success (fitness), or species recruitment, and are not expected to result in population-level impacts." The Navy shares your concern for marine life, but this concern must be balanced with the purpose and need for Navy training and testing as detailed in Chapter 2 (Description of Proposed Action and Alternatives) of the EIS/OEIS. The Navy has conducted active sonar training and testing activities in the Study Area for decades, and there is no evidence that routine Navy training and testing has negatively impacted marine mammal populations in the Study Area or at any Navy Range Complex. Based on the best

Table I.5-4: Responses to Comments from Private Individuals (continued)

Commenter	Comment	Navy Response
	around the brain, ears and other tissues and large bubbles in their organs – symptoms analogous to “the bends” in humans. To the extent that threatened or endangered species -- including humpback and sperm whales, and leatherback turtles -- are negatively impacted, the proposed activities may result in violations of the Endangered Species Act.	available science summarized in the EIS/OEIS Section 3.4.4.1 (Summary of Monitoring and Observations During Navy Activities), long-term consequences for marine mammal populations are unlikely to result from Navy training and testing activities in the Study Area. Please also refer to Chapter 5 (Standard Operating Procedures, Mitigation, and Monitoring) of the EIS/OEIS, detailing the procedures and mitigation measures during its training and testing activities designed to reduce impacts to marine mammals from Navy activities. In accordance with ESA requirements, the Navy will complete consultation under Section 7 of the ESA with NMFS and USFWS and adhere to the Letter of Authorization and Biological Opinion issued by those agencies.
Wolfe (Electronic)	Be kind to our fellow travelers on our only home planet. Do not test sonar.	Thank you for participating in the NEPA process
Wood (Electronic)	I am writing in support of the Navy's “No Action Alternative” The Navy’s proposed training and testing activities, including the use of sonar, explosives, weapons firing, and other acoustic devices,have well known and well documented negative impacts on a number of whale species and porpoises, as well as other marine wildlife. In addition, the Navy admits the increase in the use of sonar devices "is likely to adversely affect"2 endangered leatherback turtles whose protected habitat along the Pacific Coast was only recently established in 2012. The Navy’s activities will also have significant impacts on critical habitat areas for marine mammals and other wildlife. High intensity-mid-frequency sonar -- along with activities like dumping debris, the use of toxic chemicals, and detonating explosives -- will degrade sensitive habitat necessary for the survival of marine mammal populations. This said, the Navy’s current environmental analysis fails to provide basic information necessary to adequately evaluate the impacts of the proposed activities. This analysis also fails to provide adequate measures to mitigate the harmful effects of the proposed activities on marine mammals and other wildlife. Based on the information apparent in the environmental analysis, the Navy’s “No Action Alternative” is the proposal with the most limited impact on wildlife. A drastic increase in sonar activity will negatively impact wildlife. Marine mammals are extremely sensitive to noise, and sonar disrupts basic behaviors necessary for survival such as migration, surfacing, navigating, hearing, nursing, breeding and feeding. Sonar can result in debilitating and even fatal injuries for marine mammals. Scientists believe sonar activity can change whale diving behavior, confusing them to swim to depths their bodies cannot handle. Whales suspected to have beached themselves because of sonar activity show signs of physical trauma like bleeding	As described in the Supplement in Section 3.5.2 (Sea Turtle Summary), the proposed increase in the use of SSQ-125 sonobuoys "are not expected to result in substantial changes to behavior, growth, survival, annual reproductive success, lifetime reproductive success (fitness), or species recruitment, and are not expected to result in population-level impacts." The Navy shares your concern for marine life, but this concern must be balanced with the purpose and need for Navy training and testing as detailed in Chapter 2 (Description of Proposed Action and Alternatives) of the EIS/OEIS. The Navy has conducted active sonar training and testing activities in the Study Area for decades, and there is no evidence that routine Navy training and testing has negatively impacted marine mammal populations in the Study Area or at any Navy Range Complex. Based on the best available science summarized in the EIS/OEIS Section 3.4.4.1 (Summary of Monitoring and Observations During Navy Activities), long-term consequences for marine mammal populations are unlikely to result from Navy training and testing activities in the Study Area. Please also refer to Chapter 5 (Standard Operating Procedures, Mitigation, and Monitoring) of the EIS/OEIS, detailing the procedures and mitigation measures during its training and testing activities designed to reduce impacts to marine mammals from Navy activities. In accordance with ESA requirements, the Navy will complete consultation under Section 7 of the ESA with NMFS and USFWS and

Table I.5-4: Responses to Comments from Private Individuals (continued)

Commenter	Comment	Navy Response
	around the brain, ears and other tissues and large bubbles in their organs – symptoms analogous to “the bends” in humans. To the extent that threatened or endangered species -- including humpback and sperm whales, and leatherback turtles -- are negatively impacted, the proposed activities may result in violations of the Endangered Species Act. Please show our marine life some respect and select the no action alternative.	adhere to the Letter of Authorization and Biological Opinion issued by those agencies.
Woodrich (Electronic)	I fervently implore you not only to reduce the number of sonobuoys in your proposed action but to eliminate them altogether. Any kind of alteration in the acoustic environment of the ocean has drastic negative effects for all marine mammals and amphibians -- some known effects and others yet to be studied and recognized. Destruction of our environment in the name of security means that in the end we will be much less secure and will ironically have no home left to protect.	As described in the Supplement in Section 3.4.2 (Marine Mammal Summary), the proposed increase in the use of SSQ-125 sonobuoys would "not result in any long-term consequences for any marine mammal population or species; therefore, the conclusions stated in the Draft EIS/OEIS remain unchanged." The Navy has conducted active sonar training and testing activities in the Study Area for decades, and there is no evidence that routine Navy training and testing has negatively impacted marine mammal populations in the Study Area or at any Navy Range Complex. Based on the best available science summarized in the EIS/OEIS Section 3.4.4.1 (Summary of Monitoring and Observations During Navy Activities), long-term consequences for marine mammal populations are unlikely to result from Navy training and testing activities in the Study Area.
A. Wright (Electronic)	I believe that the fact that humans cannot get along peacefully and have convinced themselves via political manipulation that they must constantly attempt to increase their dominance of humankind and be on guard against the remote possibility that other humans may want to harm them and take some of their "stuff" or resist their dominance does not in any way justify taking actions that WILL kill large numbers of other species having no interest or involvement in the affairs of humans. There is no reason to presume that humans are superior in any way to, say, cetacia, other than the fact that humans have developed technology to kill and the ability to talk in air, rather than in the sea. Therefore, there is no reason to presume that humans have some inherent right to kill cetacia in large numbers as a side effect of their paranoic quest for increased dominance of other humans. At the very least, humans MUST keep their dangerous rivalries and efforts to dominate other groups of humans within the human ecosphere, where they may slaughter and emmiserate each other in great numbers, as politics and rivalries dictate, and must NOT take their foolish efforts to dominate each other into the ecosphere of species having no skin in the game. Humans have already laid waste to the environment in which other species attempt to survive: they should not also act out their rivalries in a manner actively killing off other species that may well have much more sensitivity and sense than humans. In brief, take your stupid war games to a time and place that does not	The Navy shares your concern for marine life, but this concern must be balanced with the purpose and need for Navy training and testing as detailed in Chapter 2 (Description of Proposed Action and Alternatives) of the EIS/OEIS. The Navy has conducted active sonar training and testing activities in the Study Area for decades, and there is no evidence that routine Navy training and testing has negatively impacted marine mammal populations in the Study Area or at any Navy Range Complex. Based on the best available science summarized in the EIS/OEIS Section 3.4.4.1 (Summary of Monitoring and Observations During Navy Activities), long-term consequences for marine mammal populations are unlikely to result from Navy training and testing activities in the Study Area. Please also refer to Chapter 5 (Standard Operating Procedures, Mitigation, and Monitoring) of the EIS/OEIS, detailing the procedures and mitigation measures during its training and testing activities designed to reduce impacts to marine mammals from Navy activities.

Table I.5-4: Responses to Comments from Private Individuals (continued)

Commenter	Comment	Navy Response
	endanger other species.	
D. Wright (Electronic)	My comment also relates to Marine Habitats. I have reviewed some research on the noise emitted from sonar and believe it will result in a "taking" to the marine life and their habitat. The National Wildlife Federation sued FEMA alleging that FEMAs regulations did not do enough to protect endangered species in Puget Sound area of Washington. NWF won and FEMA lost and now the near identical lawsuit is almost completed in Oregon. The court ruled that allowing development in the floodplain as the NFIP allowed resulted in a taking of the habitat of endangered species (Orcas and salmon). The lawsuit resulted in limiting development in the floodplain in Washington through the negotiations of the biological opinion in order to comply with the Endangered Species Act. Attorneys and developers alike believe similar result will happen in Oregon's NFIP communities based off the blueprint lawsuit in Washington state. It seems this case to largely expand the Navy's sonar and explosives testing would be similar in this proposal whereby your plan may not do enough to comply with the Endangered Species Act. The level of request of your proposal exceeds the tolerance of the marine life and will likely be considered a taking absent reduction in the proposal.	The Navy shares your concern for marine life, but this concern must be balanced with the purpose and need for Navy training and testing as detailed in Chapter 2 (Description of Proposed Action and Alternatives) of the EIS/OEIS. The Navy has conducted active sonar training and testing activities in the Study Area for decades, and there is no evidence that routine Navy training and testing has negatively impacted marine mammal populations in the Study Area or at any Navy Range Complex. Based on the best available science summarized in the EIS/OEIS Section 3.4.4.1 (Summary of Monitoring and Observations During Navy Activities), long-term consequences for marine mammal populations are unlikely to result from Navy training and testing activities in the Study Area. Please also refer to Chapter 5 (Standard Operating Procedures, Mitigation, and Monitoring) of the EIS/OEIS, detailing the procedures and mitigation measures during its training and testing activities designed to reduce impacts to marine mammals from Navy activities. In accordance with ESA requirements, the Navy will complete consultation under Section 7 of the ESA with NMFS and USFWS and adhere to the Letter of Authorization and Biological Opinion issued by those agencies.
Wyeth (Electronic)	I have been very concerned about this issue of sonar damaging and killing marine mammals for many years now. When is the Navy going to figure out that the vast majority of American DO NOT want the military exposing marine life to your toxic chemicals and noise. Where is your conscience? Where is your humanity?	The Navy shares your concern for marine life, but this concern must be balanced with the purpose and need for Navy training and testing as detailed in Chapter 2 (Description of Proposed Action and Alternatives) of the EIS/OEIS. The Navy has conducted active sonar training and testing activities in the Study Area for decades, and there is no evidence that routine Navy training and testing has negatively impacted marine mammal populations in the Study Area or at any Navy Range Complex. Based on the best available science summarized in the EIS/OEIS Section 3.4.4.1 (Summary of Monitoring and Observations During Navy Activities), long-term consequences for marine mammal populations are unlikely to result from Navy training and testing activities in the Study Area. Please also refer to Chapter 5 (Standard Operating Procedures, Mitigation, and Monitoring) of the EIS/OEIS, detailing the procedures and mitigation measures during its training and testing activities designed to reduce impacts to marine mammals from Navy activities. Regarding the concern expressed for toxic chemicals, best management practices include measures that regulate operations to

Table I.5-4: Responses to Comments from Private Individuals (continued)

Commenter	Comment	Navy Response
		ensure compliance with pollution emission requirements and general resource conservation goals. Navy policies and procedures identified in Navy instructions such as the Environmental Readiness Program Manual, include directives regarding waste management, pollution prevention, and recycling, all of which benefit sediments and water quality in the ocean. Any procedures or practices that benefit ocean sediments and water quality in turn benefit all marine life in the ocean, from plants and invertebrates, to fish and marine mammals.
Zack (Electronic)	Please keep your underwater marine noise to a minimum to minimize impacts on the mammals, especially whales who live there.	The Navy shares your concern for marine life, but this concern must be balanced with the purpose and need for Navy training and testing as detailed in Chapter 2 (Description of Proposed Action and Alternatives) of the EIS/OEIS. The Navy has conducted active sonar training and testing activities in the Study Area for decades, and there is no evidence that routine Navy training and testing has negatively impacted marine mammal populations in the Study Area or at any Navy Range Complex. Based on the best available science summarized in the EIS/OEIS Section 3.4.4.1 (Summary of Monitoring and Observations During Navy Activities), long-term consequences for marine mammal populations are unlikely to result from Navy training and testing activities in the Study Area. Please also refer to Chapter 5 (Standard Operating Procedures, Mitigation, and Monitoring) of the EIS/OEIS, detailing the procedures and mitigation measures during its training and testing activities designed to reduce impacts to marine mammals from Navy activities.
Zepeda (Written)	Please stop destroying the ecology of the Salish Sea (with TRIDENT nuclear submarines) and the Olympic Peninsula (with electromagnetic weapon exercises) Waste on weapons does not make us safer. A solar roof on every home might. Endless war = Endless Enemies. See Newtons III Law. The USA has had only one successful foreign policy since WWII: The Marshal Plan* 13 B E spent including both enemies (Germany and Japan) and allies. The trillion spent just in the last 15 years on National Security has neither made us secure or solved ANY problem. Stop pretending dead whales on a beach are surprising. Start spending tax $'s on things that Democrasize our economy & solve problems*	Thank you for participating in the NEPA process. However this comment is outside the scope of the Supplement to the Draft EIS/OEIS. Please see Chapters 1 and 2 of the EIS/OEIS for a clear definition of the scope of this project.
Zick (Electronic)	I read where "the U.S. Navy acknowledges that bomb testing and sonar use over the next five years will likely kill hundreds of marine mammals and seriously injure thousands more". (KPBS.org), and I am writing to say these are intelligent and important living beings. Please do not make the tests.	The Navy's analysis concludes that no marine mammals will be killed or seriously injured as a result of the Navy's proposed activities. The Navy shares your concern for marine life, but this concern must be balanced with the purpose and need for Navy training and testing as detailed in Chapter 2 (Description of Proposed Action and Alternatives) of the EIS/OEIS. The Navy has conducted active sonar training and

Table I.5-4: Responses to Comments from Private Individuals (continued)

Commenter	Comment	Navy Response
		testing activities in the Study Area for decades, and there is no evidence that routine Navy training and testing has negatively impacted marine mammal populations in the Study Area or at any Navy Range Complex. Based on the best available science summarized in the EIS/OEIS Section 3.4.4.1 (Summary of Monitoring and Observations During Navy Activities), long-term consequences for marine mammal populations are unlikely to result from Navy training and testing activities in the Study Area. Please also refer to Chapter 5 (Standard Operating Procedures, Mitigation, and Monitoring) of the EIS/OEIS, detailing the procedures and mitigation measures during its training and testing activities designed to reduce impacts to marine mammals from Navy activities.
Zucker (Electronic)	The Navy's current environmental analysis fails to provide basic information necessary to adequately evaluate the impacts of the proposed activities. This analysis also fails to provide adequate measures to mitigate the harmful effects of the proposed activities on marine mammals and other wildlife. Based on the information apparent in the environmental analysis, the Navy's "No Action Alternative" is the proposal with the most limited impact on wildlife.	The Navy shares your concern for marine life, but this concern must be balanced with the purpose and need for Navy training and testing as detailed in Chapter 2 (Description of Proposed Action and Alternatives) of the EIS/OEIS. The Navy has conducted active sonar training and testing activities in the Study Area for decades, and there is no evidence that routine Navy training and testing has negatively impacted marine mammal populations in the Study Area or at any Navy Range Complex. Based on the best available science summarized in the EIS/OEIS Section 3.4.4.1 (Summary of Monitoring and Observations During Navy Activities), long-term consequences for marine mammal populations are unlikely to result from Navy training and testing activities in the Study Area. Please also refer to Chapter 5 (Standard Operating Procedures, Mitigation, and Monitoring) of the EIS/OEIS, detailing the procedures and mitigation measures during its training and testing activities designed to reduce impacts to marine mammals from Navy activities.
Zumeta (Electronic)	The Navy's current environmental analysis fails to provide basic information necessary to adequately evaluate the impacts of the proposed activities. This analysis also fails to provide adequate measures to mitigate the harmful effects of the proposed activities on marine mammals and other wildlife. Based on the information in the environmental analysis, the Navy's "No Action Alternative" is the proposal with the most limited impact on wildlife. A drastic increase in sonar activity will negatively impact wildlife. Marine mammals are extremely sensitive to noise, and sonar disrupts basic behaviors necessary for survival such as migration, surfacing, navigating, hearing, nursing, breeding and feeding. Sonar can result in debilitating and even fatal injuries for marine mammals. Scientists believe sonar activity can change whale diving behavior, confusing them to swim to depths their bodies cannot handle. Whales suspected to have beached themselves because of	The Navy shares your concern for marine life, but this concern must be balanced with the purpose and need for Navy training and testing as detailed in Chapter 2 (Description of Proposed Action and Alternatives) of the EIS/OEIS. The Navy has conducted training and testing activities in the Study Area for decades, and there is no evidence that routine Navy training and testing has negatively impacted individual sea turtles or sea turtle populations, or marine mammal populations in the Study Area or at any Navy Range Complex. Based on the best available science summarized in the EIS/OEIS Section 3.4.4.1 (Summary of Monitoring and Observations During Navy Activities), long-term consequences for marine mammal populations are unlikely to result from Navy training and testing activities in the Study Area.

Table I.5-4: Responses to Comments from Private Individuals (continued)

Commenter	Comment	Navy Response
	sonar activity show signs of physical trauma like bleeding around the brain, ears and other tissues and large bubbles in their organs. To the extent that threatened or endangered species -- including humpback and sperm whales, and leatherback turtles -- are negatively impacted, the proposed activities may result in violations of the Endangered Species Act. Thank You for your time and consideration.	Note that for sea turtles, as described in the EIS/OEIS Section 3.5.3.7.1 (Combined Impacts of All Stressors), "impacts are not expected to decrease the overall fitness or result in long-term population level impacts on any given population." Please also refer to Chapter 5 (Standard Operating Procedures, Mitigation, and Monitoring) of the EIS/OEIS, detailing the procedures and mitigation measures during its training and testing activities designed to reduce impacts to marine mammals and sea turtles from Navy activities. The Navy shares your concern for marine life, but this concern must be balanced with the purpose and need for Navy training and testing as detailed in Chapter 2 (Description of Proposed Action and Alternatives) of the EIS/OEIS. Regarding previous strandings, see Section 3.4.3.1.8 (Stranding) and the referenced technical report "Marine Mammal Strandings Associated with U.S. Navy Sonar Activities" (U.S. Department of the Navy 2013c). In accordance with ESA requirements, the Navy will complete consultation under Section 7 of the ESA with NMFS and USFWS and adhere to the Letter of Authorization and Biological Opinion issued by those agencies.

I.6 FINAL ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT STATEMENT/OVERSEAS ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT STATEMENT

The public has the opportunity to review the Navy's responses to their comments in this Final EIS/OEIS. All public comments are considered by the decision-maker prior to making a decision.

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Airspace Noise Analysis for the Olympic Military Operations Areas

September 2015

Prepared for:

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List of Acronyms

ADNL	A-Weighted Day-Night Average Sound Level
AEA	Airborne Electronic Attack
AGL	Above Ground Level
ATCAA	Air Traffic Control Assigned Airspace
BRRC	Blue Ridge Research and Consulting, LLC
dB	Decibel
dBA	A-Weighted Sound Pressure Level
DNL	Day-Night Average Sound Level
DNL_r	Onset Rate Corrected Day Night Level
DoD	Department of Defense
EIS	Environmental Impact Statement
ESHP	Engine Shaft Horse Power
ft.	Feet
HVAC	Heating, ventilation, air conditioning
Hz	Hertz
lb.	Pound(s)
L_{dn}	A-weighted Day-Night Average Sound Level
L_{dnr}	Onset Rate Corrected A-weighted Day-Night Average Sound Level
L_{max}	Maximum Received Noise Level
m	Meter(s)
MAX	Maximum
MOA	Military Operations Area
MSL	Mean Sea Level
MTR	Military Training Route
NC	Compressor Stage RPM
nm	Nautical Mile(s)
NMSim	Noise Model Simulation
NPS	National Park Service
NWTT	Northwest Training and Testing
OEIS	Overseas EIS
SUA	Special Use Airspace
U.S.	United States

Executive Summary

A noise analysis was completed for aircraft training activities conducted within Special Use Airspace comprising the Olympic Military Operations Areas (MOAs) and the Warning Areas W-237A and W-237B. Noise was analyzed using the Department of Defense noise model MRNMAP and the National Park Service's NMSim noise model. Operational training data provided by the Navy for both reference and the proposed scenarios were utilized as inputs to these models. The analysis shows that the noise exposure within the Olympic MOAs and W-237 is within the Department of Defense's Noise Zone 1, with Day Night Average Sound Levels below 65 A-weighted decibels (dBA) for the entire area studied. Small portions of the land area underlying the Olympic MOAs, at elevations above 4,000 feet MSL (less than 1 percent of the total area), could be exposed to maximum noise levels of 105 dBA for periods of less than 1 second per aircraft sortie. Over an entire year of training under the proposed activities, locations of high elevation beneath the MOAs will experience a total of 4 minutes of noise at this maximum level. Lower elevations can expect lower levels of maximum noise, with the bulk of the area beneath the MOAs (over 75 percent) receiving a maximum noise level of no more than 84 dBA. Additional analysis was conducted to determine how far away the EA-6B and EA-18G could be audible based on the aircraft activities within the Olympic MOA. This analysis shows that, for similar activities, the EA-6B is audible at least 30% farther away than is the EA-18G.

Introduction

This noise study is a component of the Northwest Training and Testing (NWTT) Environmental Impact Statement (EIS)/Overseas Environmental Impact Statement (OEIS). This study models the noise from aircraft training activities conducted in the Olympic Military Operations Areas (MOAs), and within the Warning Areas W-237A and W-237B.

1.1 Purpose

The EA-6B Prowler has been operating as an Airborne Electronic Attack (AEA) aircraft since 1971. Through systematic upgrades over the years, the airframe has remained operationally viable but is now approaching the end of its service life. A variant of the Navy's F/A-18 F "Super Hornet," designated the EA-18G Growler, has been developed to continue the AEA mission as the EA-6B is transitioned out of service. The purpose of this noise study is to document changes to the noise environment within the Special Use Airspace (SUA) of the Olympic MOA A, Olympic MOA B, and Warning Areas W-237A and W-237B during the transition from the EA-6B to the EA-18G. This gradual transition from the EA-6B to the EA-18G was initiated in June 2008 and was completed in June 2015. Therefore, this noise analysis compares the modeled noise environment between reference training activities based on historical data, and a future proposed state when the EA-6B will be fully retired. The reference activities includes analysis for the EA-6B, the EA-18G, the P-3C, the P-8, the F-16C, and the F-15. Because the proposed activities are post EA-6B retirement, they include analysis for all of the same aircraft as the reference activities, with the exception of the EA-6B.

For a discussion on the relative noise levels from the EA-6B and the EA-18G, please refer to the Noise Report from the 2012 Environmental Assessment for the EA-6B transition from the 2012 Final Environmental Assessment (http://www.whidbeyeis.com/HistoricDocuments.aspx)[i]. The comparison can be found starting on Page 37 of the Noise Appendix within that noise report. The analysis contained in the report shows that, in general, the EA-18G is a quieter aircraft then the EA-6B for most activities.

1.2 Description of the Special Use Air Space

The SUA analyzed in this study includes the Olympic MOAs and the Warning Areas W-237A and W-237B[1]. The Federal Aviation Administration established the Olympic MOAs and Warning Areas W-237A and W-237B in 1977. The Olympic MOAs begin roughly 53 nautical miles (nm) west of Seattle and extend 3 nautical miles off the coast of Washington State. Even though the Olympic MOAs are comprised of A and B sections, normal training activities utilize both sections as one unified block of airspace. W-237A and W-237B begin on the western edge of the Olympic MOAs, and they extend to the west offshore for approximately 50 nautical miles (nm). As with the Olympic MOAs, these two sections are normally used as a single block of airspace. For modeling purposes, these two units are identified simply as W-237. These airspace units are shown in Figure 1-1.

[1] Warning Area W-237 has several other sections. However, all of these are located farther off shore, away from acoustically sensitive receptors on land, and so were not considered in this noise analysis.

The altitude range for the Olympic MOA airspace begins at 6,000 feet above mean sea level (MSL) and extends to an upper limit of 18,000 feet MSL. In addition, aircraft in the Olympic MOAs may not operate below 1,200 feet AGL. Because of the terrain below this airspace, these restrictions only apply to the eastern edge of the MOAs (see Figure 4-1). Above the Olympic MOAs, the Olympic Air Traffic Control Assigned Airspace (ATCAA) extends the upper altitude limit of the combined airspace to 35,000 ft. MSL. The altitude range for W-237A and W-237B begins at sea level and extends to 50,000 ft. MSL.[ii] While the Warning areas W-237A and W-237B are not over land, they are included in this study to ensure that any noise from activities in these areas would be included in this analysis.

To reduce the likelihood of spilling out of an area, aircrews typically plan their flight maneuvers to avoid airspace boundaries. For modeling purposes, a 3 nm offset was applied to all SUA boundaries, effectively restricting the modeled aircraft from flying within 3 nm of the edges of the airspace. This offset is used to represent how the aircraft actually fly within the MOA. The result, in terms of acoustic modeling, is to concentrate the noise into the interior of the MOA.

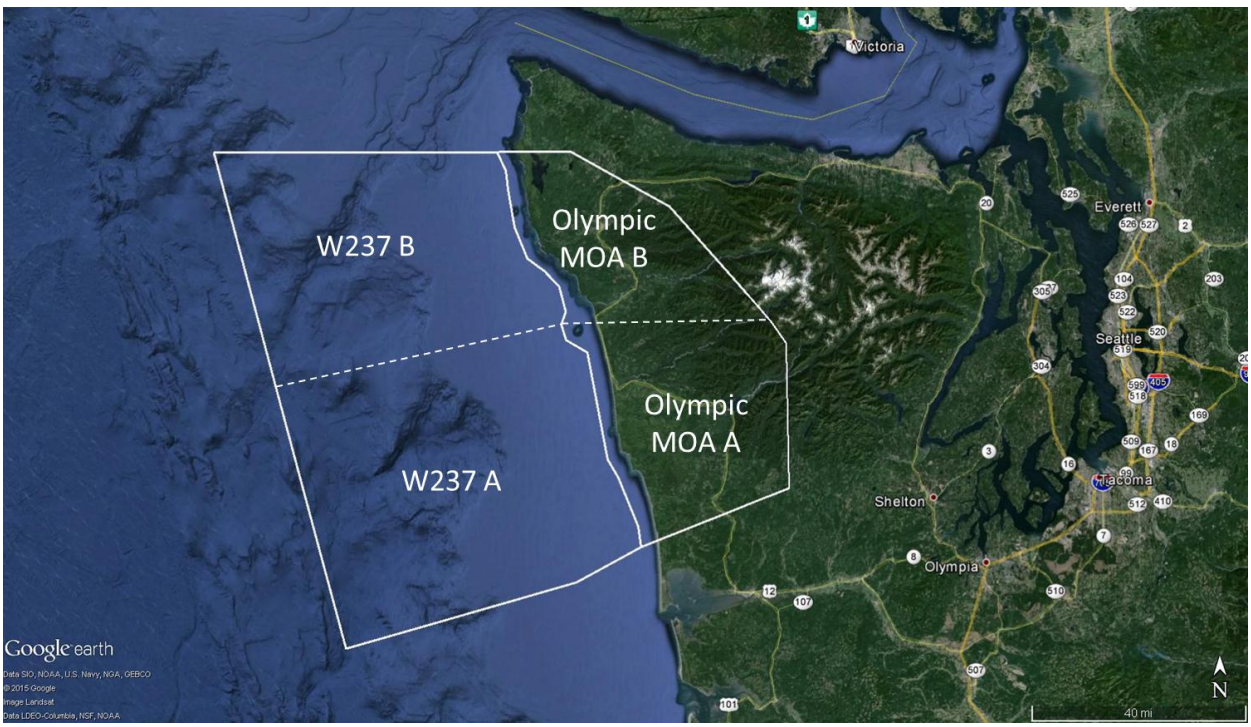

Figure 1-1. Special Use Airspace W-237 and the Olympic MOAs, with the A and B sections identified. The A and B sections were combined into a single airspace for this study.

2 Noise Metrics

Noise is one of the most prominent environmental issues associated with military training activities. The noise environment at military bases and training areas can include different types of noise sources that can either be classified as continuous noise (e.g., on-base vehicular traffic and aircraft training activities), or impulsive noise (e.g., weapons firing or detonation of explosives). Not all of these noise sources are directly associated with military training, such as civilian vehicular traffic or building heating, ventilation,

and air conditioning (HVAC) system noise. However, military training activities typically dominate the noise environment around military bases and training areas.

The Day Night Average Sound Level (DNL) is the federally recommended noise measure used for assessing cumulative sound levels. This measure accounts for the exposure of all noise events in an average 24-hour period. DNL (which is also denoted as L_{dn}) is an average sound level, expressed in decibels (dB), which is commonly used to assess aircraft noise exposures in communities in the vicinity of airfields and under SUA.[iii,iv,v] DNL values are related to compatible/incompatible land uses and do not directly relate to any singular sound event a person may hear. DNL includes a 10 dB penalty for acoustical nighttime noise events. Acoustical daytime is defined as the period from 0700 to 2200 hours local, and acoustical nighttime is the period from 2200 to 0700 hours the following morning. The 10 dB penalty accounts for the generally lower background sound levels and greater community sensitivity to noise during nighttime hours.

To assess accurately the impacts on humans from different types of noise events, the DNL metric is used along with weighting factors that emphasize certain parts of the audio frequency spectrum. The normal human ear detects sounds in the range from 20 hertz (Hz) to 20,000 Hz, but our ears are most sensitive to sounds in the 1,000 to 4,000 Hz range. Community noise is therefore assessed using a filter that approximates the frequency response of the human ear, adjusting low and high frequencies to match the sensitivity of the ear. This “A-weighting” filter is used to assess most community noise sources. Noise defined with the “A-weighting” filter uses the decibel designation dBA.

In the late 1980s, Congress directed the Department of Interior to investigate aircraft noise within national parks arising from public concern about the impact of noise from the operation of tourist aircraft over national parks and wilderness areas. One of the results of the Park Service’s investigation was the introduction of audibility as a way of assessing the impact of transportation noise on natural quiet. The prediction of audibility estimates the ability of a human to hear a noise within the ambient soundscape. However, no uniform criteria nor threshold on percent time audible has been established to determine a potential noise impact within these special areas.

Aircraft noise generated in SUA is somewhat different from that associated with airfield activities. As opposed to patterned or continuous noise environments associated with airfields, overflights within SUA can be highly variable in occurrence and location. Individual military overflight events also differ from typical community noise events in that noise from a low-altitude, high-airspeed flyover can have a sudden onset (i.e., exhibiting a rate of increase in sound level [onset rate] of up to 30 to 150 dB per second).

To represent these differences, the conventional DNL metric is adjusted to account for the “surprise” effect of the sudden onset of aircraft noise events on humans. This adjustment is applied by adding a noise penalty of up to 11 dB above the normal Sound Exposure Level.[vi] Onset rates between 15 to 150 dB per second require an adjustment penalty of 0 to 11 dB, while onset rates below 15 dB per

second require no adjustment. The adjusted DNL is designated as the onset-rate adjusted day-night average sound level (DNL_r or L_{dnr}).

Another noise metric that can provide additional information about the noise environment is the maximum noise level (L_{max}). When using L_{max} for SUA noise analysis, this metric provides the maximum noise level from the single loudest event that could happen anywhere within the SUA. Moreover, the L_{max} is unaffected by the number of training activities. However, an observer might not necessarily experience that event depending on where the observer was located in relation to the aircraft overflight. Because the flight activities within SUA are dispersed throughout the airspace, this means an observer would need to be directly below an aircraft as it flew at the lowest possible altitude to experience the maximum level of noise.

In this analysis, noise from aircraft training activities within the Olympic MOA was assessed using the Department of Defense (DoD) recommended noise metrics. Aircraft flight noise was assessed using the A-weighted L_{dn} and the L_{dnr}. Table 2-1 provides the noise level limits associated with land use planning. In general, most land uses are compatible within Noise Zone 1. For Noise Zone 2, some land uses are incompatible with the noise. Within Noise Zone 3, most land uses are incompatible. In addition, the analysis provides L_{max} levels and audible distances from the EA-6B and EA-18G to aid in the assessment of noise intrusions into the natural soundscape areas underneath and adjacent to the SUA.

Table 2-1. Noise Zone Definitions

Noise Zone	Noise Limit L_{dn} (dBA)	Potential Impacts
1	<65	Lesser
2	65 - 75	Moderate
3	75 +	Highest

2.1 Computerized Noise Exposure Models

Analyses of aircraft noise exposures and compatible land uses around and underneath SUA are normally accomplished using MRNMAP.[vii] The United States (U.S.) Air Force developed this general-purpose computer model for calculating noise exposures occurring away from airbases, since aircraft noise is also an issue within MOAs and ranges, as well as along Military Training Routes (MTRs). This model expands the calculation of noise exposures away from airbases by using algorithms from both NoiseMap and ROUTEMAP.[viii,ix,x] MRNMAP uses two primary noise models to calculate the noise exposure: track and area operations. Track operations are for training activities that have a well-defined flight track, such as MTRs, aerial refueling, and strafing tracks. Area operations are for training activities that do not have well defined tracks, but occur within a defined area, such as basic fighter maneuvers within a MOA.

For area operations, the model allows flexibility. If little is known about the airspace utilization within a MOA, then the MOA boundaries can simply be used, and the training activities are uniformly distributed within the defined area. However, if more is known about how and where the aircraft fly within the MOA, subareas can be defined within the MOA to model the noise exposure more accurately.

Once the airspace is defined, the user must describe the different types of missions occurring within each airspace segment. Individual aircraft missions include the altitude distribution, airspeed, and engine power settings. These individual profiles are coupled with airspace components and annual operational rates.

The noise model MRNMAP uses the airspace and operational parameters defined to calculate the desired noise metrics. The model calculates these noise metrics either for a user-defined grid or at user-defined specific points. The specific point calculation, used for this analysis, generates a table that provides the noise exposure, as well as the top contributors to the noise exposure.

A model that allows for the computation of audibility is the Noise Model Simulation (NMSim). NMSim was specifically developed by the National Park Service (NPS) to compute audibility[xi]. The following is a quote from the NPS regarding NMSim:

"Audibility is a fundamental component in the definition and measurement of natural quiet and natural sounds at Grand Canyon National Park and other NPS units. The NPS Aircraft Noise Model Validation study found NMSim to be the model best suited for computing audibility. Further, the National Environmental [Policy] Act's requirement for the use of the 'best available science' is met with the selection of NMSIM."

3 Airspace Training Activities

Flight training activities conducted within the Olympic MOAs and Warning Area W-237 include a range of aircraft and mission types. Specific mission types and associated aircraft for these missions are defined in the tables below. Mission definitions are broken out into the reference training missions, based on historical data, and the proposed training missions. Additional details on the modeled activities can be found in Chapter 2 (Description of Proposed Action and Alternatives) and Appendix A (Navy Activities Descriptions) of the NWTT EIS/OEIS. The numbers reflected in the following tables are based on the number of aircraft sorties, while the numbers in the EIS/OEIS are the number of activities; therefore, a comparison between the two sets of data is not easily made. One aircraft sortie could result in the completion of multiple training activities. Similarly, in some cases, one activity could include multiple aircraft sorties.

Aircraft modeled include the primary users of the airspace units, EA-6B and EA-18G, along with other users: P-3C, P-8A, F-15, and F-16. The F-15 and the F-16 activities were modeled with the Pratt and Whitney F100-PW-229 engines. For the P-8A (a modified Boeing 737), the Boeing 737 D9 with a JT8D engine was selected for the reference noise database within MRNMAP. These engine selections were made to provide the loudest available variants of these aircraft for the noise modeling.

The noise model relies on performance parameters (airspeed, altitude, and power settings) provided by the aircrews who fly the missions. Because the actual locations of any given event are unpredictable due to variables such as specific mission requirements and weather, the model assumes that the aircraft events are uniformly distributed throughout the SUA.

3.1 Reference Missions

Table 3-1. Reference Training Mission Descriptions for the EA-6B

	EA-6B - Reference							
	Olympic A & B (including ATCAA)	W237 A & B	Olympic A & B (including ATCAA)	W-237 A & B	Olympic A & B (including ATCAA)	W-237 A & B	Olympic A & B (including ATCAA)	W-237 A & B
Name/Identifier	Entry/Exit		Suppress Enemy Air Defenses[1]		Electronic Warfare Close Air Support[1]		Antisurface Warfare[2]	
# Aircraft/Year	41	19	35	4	6	0	0	15
% Day (0700L-2159L)	97%	97%	100%	100%	97%			97%
% Night (2200L-0659L)	3%	3%	0%	0%	3%			3%
Avg minutes in Airspace/Aircraft	10	10	90	90	90			90
Avg Power Setting in % RPM	75	75	80	80	82			80
Avg Speed (Knots indicated)	250	250	265	265	298			265
Altitude MSL	Percent of total time spent at these altitudes.		Percent of total time spent at these altitudes.		Percent of total time spent at these altitudes.		Percent of total time spent at these altitudes.	
FLR - 2,000 ft				1.6%				1.6%
2,000 - 4,000 ft				1.6%				1.6%
4,000 - 6,000 ft				1.6%				1.6%
6,000 - 8,000 ft		2.0%	2.0%	2.5%	2.0%			2.5%
8,000 - 10,000 ft		2.5%	2.5%	2.5%	2.5%			2.5%
10,000 - 12,000 ft		2.5%	2.5%	4.0%	2.5%			4.0%
12,000 - 14,000 ft		6.0%	6.0%	4.0%	6.0%			4.0%
14,000 - 16,000 ft	100.0%	6.0%	6.0%	4.0%	6.0%			4.0%
16,000 - 18,000 ft		6.0%	6.0%	4.0%	6.0%			4.0%
18,000 - 20,000 ft		6.0%	6.0%	4.2%	6.0%			4.2%
20,000 - 23,000 ft		32.0%	32.0%	32.5%	32.0%			32.5%
23,000 - 30,000 ft		32.0%	32.0%	32.5%	32.0%			32.5%
30,000 - 40,000 ft *		5.0%	5.0%	5.0%	5.0%			5.0%
Total % Time	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%			100.0%

* Olympic MOA activities are all at or below 35,000 feet MSL, with over 97% of activities at or above 10,000 feet MSL.
1 Suppress Enemy Air Defenses and Electronic Warfare Close Air Support are two types of Electronic Warfare activities
2 Antisurface Warfare includes Missile Exercise, Bombing Exercise, and High-Speed Anti-Radiation Missile Exercise events

Table 3-2. Reference Training Mission Descriptions for the EA-18G

	EA-18G - Reference							
	Olympic A & B (including ATCAA)	W-237 A & B	Olympic A & B (including ATCAA)	W-237 A & B	Olympic A & B (including ATCAA)	W-237 A & B	Olympic A & B (including ATCAA)	W-237 A & B
Name/Identifier	Entry/Exit		Suppress Enemy Air Defenses[1]		Electronic Warfare Close Air Support[1]		Antisurface Warfare[2]	
# Aircraft/Year	978	948	284	256	76	123	618	569
% Day (0700L-2159L)	94%	97%	99%	98%	99%	99%	96%	100%
% Night (2200L-0659L)	6%	3%	1%	2%	1%	1%	4%	0%
Avg minutes in Airspace/Aircraft	10	10	90	90	90	90	60	60
Avg Power Setting in % NC	75	75	80	80	82	82	89	89
Avg Speed (Knots indicated)	250	250	265	265	298	298	342	342
Altitude MSL	Percent of total time spent at these altitudes.		Percent of total time spent at these altitudes.		Percent of total time spent at these altitudes.		Percent of total time spent at these altitudes.	
FLR - 2,000 ft				1.6%		1.6%		
2,000 - 4,000 ft				1.6%		1.6%		
4,000 - 6,000 ft				1.6%		1.6%		2.3%
6,000 - 8,000 ft		2.0%	2.0%	2.5%	2.0%	2.5%	3.2%	2.5%
8,000 - 10,000 ft		2.5%	2.5%	2.5%	2.5%	2.5%	3.3%	2.5%
10,000 - 12,000 ft		2.5%	2.5%	4.0%	2.5%	4.0%	3.3%	2.5%
12,000 - 14,000 ft		6.0%	6.0%	4.0%	6.0%	4.0%	13.8%	13.8%
14,000 - 16,000 ft	100.0%	6.0%	6.0%	4.0%	6.0%	4.0%	13.8%	13.8%
16,000 - 18,000 ft		6.0%	6.0%	4.0%	6.0%	4.0%	13.8%	13.8%
18,000 - 20,000 ft		6.0%	6.0%	4.2%	6.0%	4.2%	13.8%	13.8%
20,000 - 23,000 ft		32.0%	32.0%	32.5%	32.0%	32.5%	17.5%	17.5%
23,000 - 30,000 ft		32.0%	32.0%	32.5%	32.0%	32.5%	17.5%	17.5%
30,000 - 40,000 ft *		5.0%	5.0%	5.0%	5.0%	5.0%		
Total % Time	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%

* Olympic MOA activities are all at or below 35,000 feet MSL, with over 97% of activities at or above 10,000 feet MSL.
1 Suppress Enemy Air Defenses and Electronic Warfare Close Air Support are two types of Electronic Warfare activities
2 Antisurface Warfare includes Missile Exercise, Bombing Exercise, and High-Speed Anti-Radiation Missile Exercise events

Table 3-3. Reference Training Mission Descriptions for the P-3C

	P-3C/EP-3 - Reference			
	Olympic A & B (including ATCAA)	W-237 A & B	Olympic A & B (including ATCAA)	W-237 A & B
Name/Identifier	Entry/Exit		Intelligence, Surveillance and Reconnaissance	
# Aircraft/Year	5	150	5	150
% Day (0700L-2159L)	90%	90%	90%	90%
% Night (2200L-0659L)	10%	10%	10%	10%
Avg minutes in Airspace/Aircraft	10	10	180	180
Avg Power Setting in ESHP	2500	2500	2000	2000
Avg Speed (Knots indicated)	260	260	220	220
Altitude MSL	Percent of total time spent at these altitudes.		Percent of total time spent at these altitudes.	
FLR - 2,000 ft				5%
2,000 - 4,000 ft				
4,000 - 6,000 ft				
6,000 - 8,000 ft				
8,000 - 10,000 ft				5%
10,000 - 12,000 ft	100%	100%	10%	10%
12,000 - 14,000 ft				
14,000 - 16,000 ft				10%
16,000 - 18,000 ft				
18,000 - 20,000 ft			90%	70%
Total % Time	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%

Table 3-4. Reference Training Mission Descriptions for the P-8A

	P-8A - Reference			
	Olymipic A & B (including ATCAA)	W-237 A & B	Olymipic A & B (including ATCAA)	W-237 A & B
Name/Identifier	Entry/Exit		Intelligence, Surveillance and Reconnaissance	
# Aircraft/Year	1	4	1	4
% Day (0700L-2159L)	90%	90%	90%	90%
% Night (2200L-0659L)	10%	10%	10%	10%
Avg minutes in Airspace/Aircraft	10	10	180	180
Avg Power Setting Pounds Thrust	6000	6000	5500	5500
Avg Speed (Knots indicated)	260	260	240	240
Altitude MSL	Percent of total time spent at these altitudes.		Percent of total time spent at these altitudes.	
FLR - 2,000 ft				5%
2,000 - 4,000 ft				
4,000 - 6,000 ft				
6,000 - 8,000 ft				
8,000 - 10,000 ft				5%
10,000 - 12,000 ft	100%	100%	10%	10%
12,000 - 14,000 ft				
14,000 - 16,000 ft				10%
16,000 - 18,000 ft				
18,000 - 20,000 ft			90%	70%
Total % Time	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%

Table 3-5. Reference Training Mission Descriptions for the F-15

	F-15 - Reference					
	Olymipic A & B (including ATCAA)	W-237 A & B	Olymipic A & B (including ATCAA)	W-237 A & B	Olymipic A & B (including ATCAA)	W-237 A & B
Name/Identifier	Entry/Exit		Basic Fighter Maneuvers		Air Combat Maneuvers	
# Aircraft/Year	8	8	4	4	4	4
% Day (0700L-2159L)	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%
% Night (2200L-0659L)	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%
Avg minutes in Airspace/Aircraft	10	10	25	25	30	25
Avg Power Setting in % NC	75	75	88	88	88	88
Avg Speed (Knots indicated)	250	250	375	375	375	375
Altitude MSL	Percent of total time spent at these altitudes.		Percent of total time spent at these altitudes.		Percent of total time spent at these altitudes.	
FLR - 2,000 ft						
2,000 - 4,000 ft						
4,000 - 6,000 ft						
6,000 - 8,000 ft		10%	10%	10%	10%	10%
8,000 - 10,000 ft		10%	10%	10%	10%	10%
10,000 - 12,000 ft		10%	10%	10%	10%	10%
12,000 - 14,000 ft		20%	20%	20%	20%	20%
14,000 - 16,000 ft	100%	20%	20%	20%	20%	20%
16,000 - 18,000 ft		20%	20%	20%	20%	20%
18,000 - 20,000 ft		10%	10%	10%	10%	10%
Total % Time	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%

Table 3-6. Reference Training Mission Descriptions for the F-16

	F-16 - Reference					
	Olymipic A & B (including ATCAA)	W-237 A & B	Olymipic A & B (including ATCAA)	W-237 A & B	Olymipic A & B (including ATCAA)	W-237 A & B
Name/Identifier	Entry/Exit		Basic Fighter Maneuvers		Air Combat Maneuvers	
# Aircraft/Year	4	4	2	2	2	2
% Day (0700L-2159L)	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%
% Night (2200L-0659L)	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%
Avg minutes in Airspace/Aircraft	10	10	25	25	30	25
Avg Power Setting in % NC	75	75	88	88	88	88
Avg Speed (Knots indicated)	250	250	375	375	375	375
Altitude MSL	Percent of total time spent at these altitudes.		Percent of total time spent at these altitudes.		Percent of total time spent at these altitudes.	
FLR - 2,000 ft						
2,000 - 4,000 ft						
4,000 - 6,000 ft						
6,000 - 8,000 ft		10%	10%	10%	10%	10%
8,000 - 10,000 ft		10%	10%	10%	10%	10%
10,000 - 12,000 ft		10%	10%	10%	10%	10%
12,000 - 14,000 ft		20%	20%	20%	20%	20%
14,000 - 16,000 ft	100%	20%	20%	20%	20%	20%
16,000 - 18,000 ft		20%	20%	20%	20%	20%
18,000 - 20,000 ft		10%	10%	10%	10%	10%
Total % Time	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%

3.2 Proposed Missions

Table 3-7. Proposed Training Missions for the EA-18G

	EA-18G - Proposed							
	Olymipic A & B (including ATCAA)	W-237 A & B	Olymipic A & B (including ATCAA)	W-237 A & B	Olymipic A & B (including ATCAA)	W-237 A & B	Olymipic A & B (including ATCAA)	W-237 A & B
Name/Identifier	Entry/Exit		Suppress Enemy Air Defenses[1]		Electronic Warfare Close Air Support[1]		Advanced Air Combat Tactics[3]	
# Aircraft/Year	1558	1533	572	518	245	323	741	692
% Day (0700L-2159L)	94%	97%	99%	98%	99%	99%	96%	100%
% Night (2200L-0659L)	6%	3%	1%	2%	1%	1%	4%	0%
Avg minutes in Airspace/Aircraft	10	10	90	90	90	90	60	60
Avg Power Setting in % NC	75	75	80	80	82	82	89	89
Avg Speed (Knots indicated)	250	250	265	265	298	298	342	342
Altitude MSL	Percent of total time spent at these altitudes.		Percent of total time spent at these altitudes.		Percent of total time spent at these altitudes.		Percent of total time spent at these altitudes.	
FLR - 2,000 ft				1.6%		1.6%		
2,000 - 4,000 ft				1.6%		1.6%		
4,000 - 6,000 ft				1.6%		1.6%		2.3%
6,000 - 8,000 ft		2.0%	2.0%	2.5%	2.0%	2.5%	3.2%	2.5%
8,000 - 10,000 ft		2.5%	2.5%	2.5%	2.5%	2.5%	3.3%	2.5%
10,000 - 12,000 ft		2.5%	2.5%	4.0%	2.5%	4.0%	3.3%	2.5%
12,000 - 14,000 ft		6.0%	6.0%	4.0%	6.0%	4.0%	13.8%	13.8%
14,000 - 16,000 ft	100.0%	6.0%	6.0%	4.0%	6.0%	4.0%	13.8%	13.8%
16,000 - 18,000 ft		6.0%	6.0%	4.0%	6.0%	4.0%	13.8%	13.8%
18,000 - 20,000 ft		6.0%	6.0%	4.2%	6.0%	4.2%	13.8%	13.8%
20,000 - 23,000 ft		32.0%	32.0%	32.5%	32.0%	32.5%	17.5%	17.5%
23,000 - 30,000 ft		32.0%	32.0%	32.5%	32.0%	32.5%	17.5%	17.5%
30,000 - 40,000 ft *		5.0%	5.0%	5.0%	5.0%	5.0%		
Total % Time	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%

* Olympic MOA activities are all at or below 35,000 feet MSL, with over 97% of activities at or above 10,000 feet MSL.

1 Suppress Enemy Air Defenses and Electronic Warfare Close Air Support are two types of Electronic Warfare activities

3 Advanced Air Combat Tactics includes Air Combat Maneuvers

Table 3-8. Proposed Training Missions for the P-3C

	P-3C/EP-3 - Proposed			
	Olympic A & B (including ATCAA)	W-237 A & B	Olympic A & B (including ATCAA)	W-237 A & B
Name/Identifier	Entry/Exit		Intelligence, Surveillance and Reconnaissance	
# Aircraft/Year	5	150	5	150
% Day (0700L-2159L)	90%	90%	90%	90%
% Night (2200L-0659L)	10%	10%	10%	10%
Avg minutes in Airspace/Aircraft	10	10	180	180
Avg Power Setting in ESHP	2500	2500	2000	2000
Avg Speed (Knots indicated)	260	260	220	220
Altitude MSL	Percent of total time spent at these altitudes.		Percent of total time spent at these altitudes.	
FLR - 2,000 ft				5%
2,000 - 4,000 ft				
4,000 - 6,000 ft				
6,000 - 8,000 ft				
8,000 - 10,000 ft				5%
10,000 - 12,000 ft	100%	100%	10%	10%
12,000 - 14,000 ft				
14,000 - 16,000 ft				10%
16,000 - 18,000 ft				
18,000 - 20,000 ft			90%	70%
Total % Time	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%

Table 3-9. Proposed Training Missions for the P-8A

	P-8A - Proposed			
	Olymipic A & B (including ATCAA)	W-237 A & B	Olymipic A & B (including ATCAA)	W-237 A & B
Name/Identifier	Entry/Exit		Intelligence, Surveillance and Reconnaissance	
# Aircraft/Year	5	150	5	150
% Day (0700L-2159L)	90%	90%	90%	90%
% Night (2200L-0659L)	10%	10%	10%	10%
Avg minutes in Airspace/Aircraft	10	10	180	180
Avg Power Setting Pounds Thrust	6000	6000	5500	5500
Avg Speed (Knots indicated)	260	260	240	240
Altitude MSL	Percent of total time spent at these altitudes.		Percent of total time spent at these altitudes.	
FLR - 2,000 ft				5%
2,000 - 4,000 ft				
4,000 - 6,000 ft				
6,000 - 8,000 ft				
8,000 - 10,000 ft				5%
10,000 - 12,000 ft	100%	100%	10%	10%
12,000 - 14,000 ft				
14,000 - 16,000 ft				10%
16,000 - 18,000 ft				
18,000 - 20,000 ft			90%	70%
Total % Time	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%

Table 3-10. Proposed Training Missions for the F-15

	F-15 - Proposed					
	Olymipic A & B (including ATCAA)	W-237 A & B	Olymipic A & B (including ATCAA)	W-237 A & B	Olymipic A & B (including ATCAA)	W-237 A & B
Name/Identifier	Entry/Exit		Air Combat Maneuvers		Basic Fighter Maneuvers	
# Aircraft/Year	12	12	6	6	6	6
% Day (0700L-2159L)	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%
% Night (2200L-0659L)	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%
Avg minutes in Airspace/Aircraft	10	10	30	25	25	25
Avg Power Setting in % NC	75	75	88	88	88	88
Avg Speed (Knots indicated)	250	250	375	375	375	375
Altitude MSL	Percent of total time spent at these altitudes.		Percent of total time spent at these altitudes.		Percent of total time spent at these altitudes.	
FLR - 2,000 ft						
2,000 - 4,000 ft						
4,000 - 6,000 ft						
6,000 - 8,000 ft		10%	10%	10%	10%	10%
8,000 - 10,000 ft		10%	10%	10%	10%	10%
10,000 - 12,000 ft		10%	10%	10%	10%	10%
12,000 - 14,000 ft		20%	20%	20%	20%	20%
14,000 - 16,000 ft	100%	20%	20%	20%	20%	20%
16,000 - 18,000 ft		20%	20%	20%	20%	20%
18,000 - 20,000 ft		10%	10%	10%	10%	10%
Total % Time	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%

Table 3-11. Proposed Training Missions for the F-16

	F-16 - Proposed					
	Olymipic A & B (including ATCAA)	W-237 A & B	Olymipic A & B (including ATCAA)	W-237 A & B	Olymipic A & B (including ATCAA)	W-237 A & B
Name/Identifier	Entry/Exit		Air Combat Maneuvers		Basic Fighter Maneuvers	
# Aircraft/Year	6	6	3	3	3	3
% Day (0700L-2159L)	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%
% Night (2200L-0659L)	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%
Avg minutes in Airspace/Aircraft	10	10	30	25	25	25
Avg Power Setting in % NC	75	75	88	88	88	88
Avg Speed (Knots indicated)	250	250	375	375	375	375
Altitude MSL	Percent of total time spent at these altitudes.		Percent of total time spent at these altitudes.		Percent of total time spent at these altitudes.	
FLR - 2,000 ft						
2,000 - 4,000 ft						
4,000 - 6,000 ft						
6,000 - 8,000 ft		10%	10%	10%	10%	10%
8,000 - 10,000 ft		10%	10%	10%	10%	10%
10,000 - 12,000 ft		10%	10%	10%	10%	10%
12,000 - 14,000 ft		20%	20%	20%	20%	20%
14,000 - 16,000 ft	100%	20%	20%	20%	20%	20%
16,000 - 18,000 ft		20%	20%	20%	20%	20%
18,000 - 20,000 ft		10%	10%	10%	10%	10%
Total % Time	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%

4 Projected Aircraft Noise Exposure

The operational parameters described in Section 3 (Airspace Training Activities) were used as inputs to MRNMAP to calculate the noise exposures within the Olympic MOAs and the Warning Area W-237.

4.1 Terrain

The area beneath the Olympic MOAs includes mountainous terrain, with elevations in approximately the following distributions:

- 75.7% of the MOA's area lies above terrain with an elevation range between 0 and 1,000 ft. (MSL),
- 14.5% between 1,000 and 2,000 ft. MSL,
- 7.5% between 2,000 and 3,000 ft. MSL,
- 2.0% between 3,000 and 4,000 ft. MSL, and
- 0.3% between 4,000 and 5,000 ft. MSL.

These altitude distributions are shown graphically in Figure 4-1.

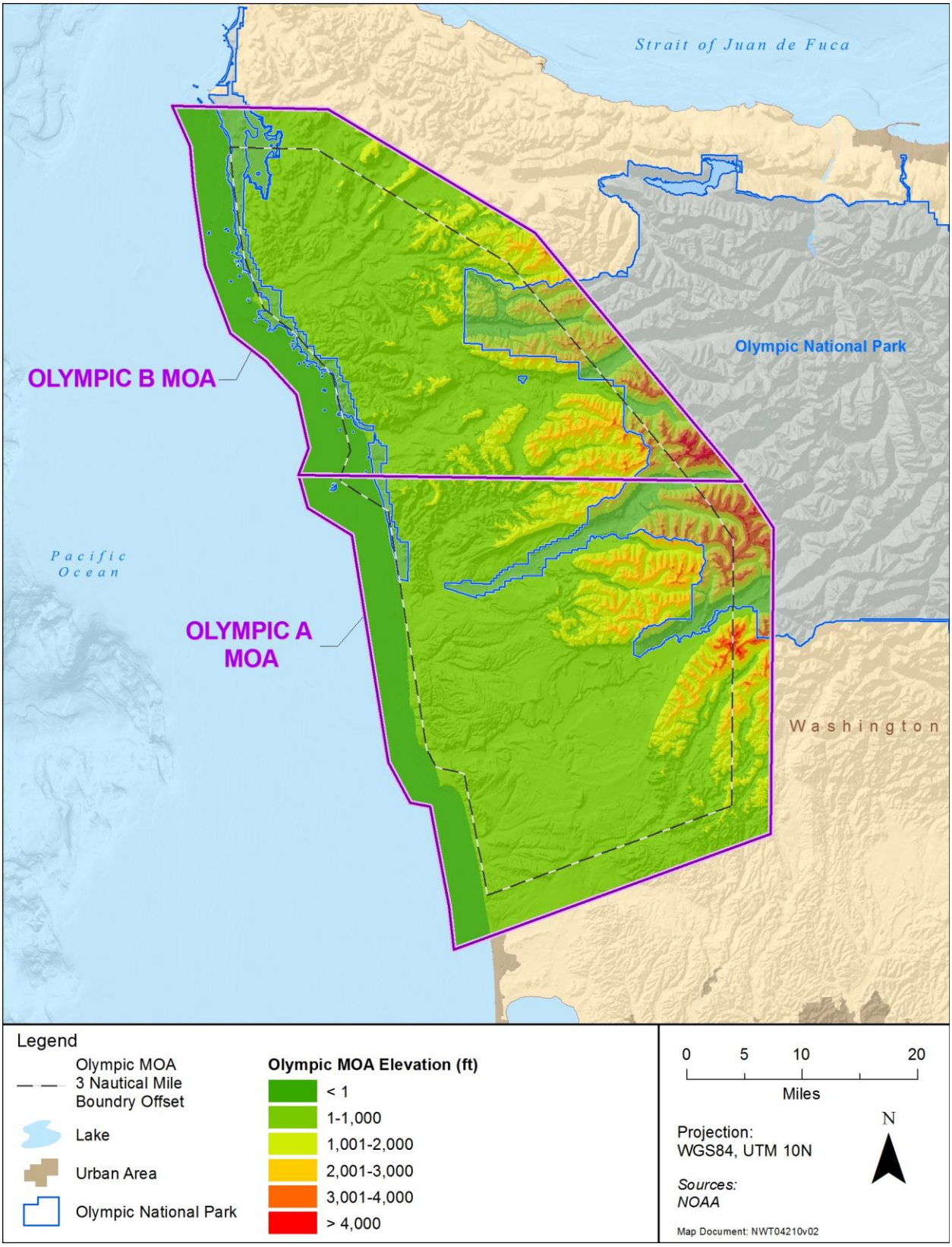

Figure 4-1. Altitude Distributions within the Olympic MOA

The current version of MRNMAP, which uses the best available science to calculate noise within SUA, does not have the capability to model complex terrain. However, the model can accurately estimate the noise exposure at different elevations by varying the modeled ground elevation. For the Olympic MOA, noise was modeled with different reference ground elevations from 0 ft. MSL to 5,000 ft. MSL to represent the expected noise exposures for the lowest and the highest ground elevations within the MOA.

The results of the noise modeling show that, for the cumulative noise metrics (L_{dn}) and (L_{dnr}), the highest level of noise exposure was computed to be 40 dBA for the reference activities and 41 dBA for the proposed activities for areas beneath the highest elevations of the Olympic MOA. For the lower ground elevations, the computed noise levels are correspondingly lower. These L_{dnr} and L_{dn} noise levels are well below 65 dBA, meaning that the entire Olympic MOA falls within the Noise Zone 1. One of the reasons for these low DNL levels is that the EA-6B and EA-18G spend, on average, more than 97 percent of their time at or above 10,000 ft. MSL while in the Olympic MOA. This higher altitude translates into lower cumulative noise levels on the ground. The area beneath W-237 is computed to have cumulative noise levels below 35 dBA.

These calculated noise exposures are based on the average annual operational tempo, as defined in Section 3. If the training tempo for an active month were twice the annual average, the expected noise exposure would increase by 3 dB. In this situation, the higher elevations within the Olympic MOA would be exposed to an L_{dn} (and L_{dnr}) of 44 dBA for the proposed activities, which is still well within Noise Zone 1 limits.

Cumulative noise metrics, such as DNL, are well suited for general land use planning, but fail to provide an understanding of the experience from individual events. In contrast, the L_{max} provides a simple metric to describe single noise events that people may experience while underneath the SUA. For the modeled missions defined in section 3, the loudest event in terms of L_{max} occurs during the EA-18G Advanced Air Combat Training (see Table 3-2 and Table 3-7). This situation only occurs when the aircraft is at a relatively high engine power (89 percent NC), flying at the lowest altitudes (6,000 ft. to 8,000 ft. MSL), and flying over the highest elevations. Aircraft performing these training activities only spend 3.2 percent of their time at this lowest altitude band across the entire airspace. Combining this operational distribution with the terrain altitude distributions, the noise analysis provides an estimate of the time that areas within the Olympic MOA will experience noise at a given maximum level. The results from this analysis are provided in Table 4-1.

Table 4-1. Maximum Noise Analysis for the Olympic MOA

Terrain height	Percent of MOA area	L_{max} (dBA)	Time at this Lmax (sec) per aircraft sortie	Total time at this L_{max} (min) per year	
				Baseline	Proposed Action
0 to 1,000 feet MSL	75.7%	84	115.2	1187	1423
1,000 to 2,000 feet MSL	14.5%	88	28.0	288	346
2,000 to 3,000 feet MSL	7.5%	92	11.3	116	139
3,000 to 4,000 feet MSL	2.0%	97	2.6	27	32
4,000 to 5,000 feet MSL	0.3%	105	0.3	3	4

This table provides the duration that these L_{max} occur within the MOA for an average sortie. For areas with ground elevations above 4,000 ft. MSL, the L_{max} values of 105 dBA are estimated to occur for 0.3 seconds somewhere within the MOA for an average sortie, which results in a total of 4 minutes over the course of an entire year for the proposed activities. To clarify this table, it does not suggest that the entire area beneath the MOA will experience noise at these levels. Rather, somewhere within the MOA the noise will reach these levels for brief moments as aircraft fly directly overhead. The total time is the accumulation of all events for the entire area over the course of a year. Thus, the probability of someone experiencing these levels is low.

Because of the wide range of different activities and altitudes flown within the Olympic MOA, it is helpful to have a more complete description of how loud the EA-18G is under different conditions. Table 4-2 provides this data. The distance listed in this table is the total distance to the aircraft, and the Engine Power represents the maximum and minimum power conditions as identified in Table 3-2 and Table 3-7. It should be noted that there are altitude and power condition combinations listed in this table that are not listed in any of the activity tables of Section 3. This table is instead useful as a general guide to the maximum noise levels from this aircraft and can be used to estimate maximum noise levels for different activities.

For example, Table 3-2 lists the Entry/Exit activity of the EA-18G with the aircraft flying between 14,000 and 16,000 feet MSL, at a power level of 75% NC. If a ground elevation of 0 feet MSL is assumed, the closest total distance to an aircraft that flies directly overhead will be approximately 15,000 feet, and Table 4-2 can be used to estimate that the L_{max} for this activity is 50 dBA. If a ground height of 5,000 feet MSL is assumed instead (with a total distance to the aircraft of approximately 10,000 feet), the estimate for L_{max} is 57 dBA.

Table 4-2. Maximum Noise Level from the EA-18G for Different Distances and Engine Powers

Distance to Aircraft	EA-18G Lmax Values (dBA)	
	Engine Power	
	75% NC	89% NC
2,000 feet	81	97
5,000 feet	69	84
10,000 feet	57	73
15,000 feet	50	65
20,000 feet	44	59
30,000 feet	35	50
40,000 feet	< 35*	44

* MRNMap does not compute values below 35 dBA

An additional metric to determine the intrusion on the natural quiet of the area is audibility. Calculating audibility is a complex process that requires detailed information about exactly where the aircraft fly and under what conditions, plus details about the existing ambient sound environment. Audibility estimates can, however, be made using NMSim by making some simplifying assumptions. For this analysis, the "Suppress Enemy Air Defenses" mission (which exists for both the EA-6B and the EA-18G) was used as the operational state, along with the simplifying assumptions of the aircraft flying straight and level over flat ground. The calculations were repeated for several different aircraft altitudes. With these assumed conditions, the NPS's NMSim model was used to predict the distance at which the aircraft were audible[xii].

For this analysis, the aircraft were assumed to fly at 298 knots straight and level at several different altitudes from 2,000 ft. AGL to 40,000 ft. AGL. The EA-6B was assumed to operate at a power of 82 percent Revolutions Per Minute, and the EA-18G was assumed to operate at 82% NC. For background noise levels, a single ambient sound environment provided with NMSim was selected. Noise contours were then generated and the distances to 0% audibility were calculated. These results are provided in Table 4-3. In general, this simple audibility analysis shows that the EA-18G provides at least a 30 percent reduction in the distance that the aircraft can be heard over the EA-6B.

Table 4-3. Estimates of the Lateral Distance of Audibility

	Lateral distance to edge of audibility (nm)		
Aircraft Height	**EA-6B**	**EA-18G**	**% Reduction**
2,000 feet AGL	16.9	11.5	32%
5,000 feet AGL	21.0	14.2	32%
10,000 feet AGL	22.3	15.5	30%
15,000 feet AGL	23.6	15.6	34%
20,000 feet AGL	23.7	15.6	34%
30,000 feet AGL	23.6	14.1	40%
40,000 feet AGL	22.3	12.8	43%

This analysis is only a rough estimate of the distance to audibility, and does not include any of the details of the local terrain or weather conditions. This analysis also does not provide any quantification of the durations that the aircraft would be audible. Without more detailed tracking information and data on the operating state of the aircraft, such information is difficult to calculate accurately. Past research has shown that, even at high altitudes, aircraft will tend to be audible over long distances. Research on high-altitude commercial jet noise at the Grand Canyon has suggested that these aircraft are audible approximately 34 percent of the time[xiii]. In contrast, if all of the proposed EA-18G activities were audible for all of their time in the Olympic MOAs, they would only be audible for approximately 26 percent of the time over the course of a year.

5 Summary

A noise analysis was completed for aircraft training activities conducted within SUA activities comprising Olympic MOAs and the Warning Areas W-237A and W-237B. Noise was analyzed using the DoD noise model MRNMAP and the NPS NMSim noise model. Operational training data provided by the Navy for both the reference and the proposed scenarios were utilized as inputs to these models. The analysis shows that the noise exposure within the Olympic MOAs and W-237 is within the DoD's Noise Zone 1, with DNLs below 65 dBA for the entire area studied. Small portions of the land area underlying the Olympic MOAs at elevations above 4,000 ft. MSL (less than 1 percent of the total area) could be exposed to maximum noise levels of 105 dBA for periods of less than 1 second per aircraft sortie. Over an entire year of training, under the proposed activities, locations of high elevation beneath the MOAs will experience a total of 4 minutes of noise at this maximum level. Lower elevations can expect lower levels of maximum noise, with the bulk of the area beneath the MOAs (over 75 percent) receiving a maximum noise level of no more than 84 dBA. Additional analysis was conducted to determine how far away the EA-6B and EA-18G could be audible based on the aircraft activities within the Olympic MOA. This analysis shows that, for similar activities, the EA-6B is audible at least 30% farther away than is the EA-18G.

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Appendix K: World Heritage Site Analysis

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APPENDIX K WORLD HERITAGE SITE ANALYSIS

K.1 DEFINITION OF WORLD HERITAGE

In 1973, the United States was the first country to ratify the World Heritage Convention. Coordination and participation by the United States in this treaty is assigned by law to the Secretary of the Interior. World Heritage sites include monuments, groups of buildings, archaeological sites, geographical formations, and natural sites that are inscribed on the World Heritage List by the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO) for their value to world cultural and natural heritage.. The World Heritage List is maintained by the International Union for Conservation of Nature World Heritage Programme administered by the UNESCO World Heritage Committee.

The United States has made an inventory of its natural and cultural heritage sites on a tentative list from which a particular site of cultural or natural outstanding significance can be nominated for consideration as a World Heritage Site. A site designated as a National Historic Landmark (36 Code of Federal Regulations [C.F.R.] part 65), a National Natural Landmark (36 C.F.R. part 62) under provisions of the 1935 Historic Sites Act (Public Law 74-292; 49 Stat. 666; 16 United States Code [U.S.C.] 461 et seq.), or a National Monument under the Antiquities Act of 1906 (16 U.S.C. 433) can be considered as a World Heritage Site. Pertinent to this proposed action is the fact that, in 1981, Olympic National Park was accepted as a World Heritage site.

K.2 THE WORLD HERITAGE CONVENTION AND OPERATIONAL GUIDELINES

The UNESCO World Heritage Committee is the main body in charge of the implementation of the World Heritage Convention. The purpose of the World Heritage Convention is to enhance worldwide understanding and appreciation of heritage conservation, and to recognize and preserve natural and cultural properties throughout the world that have outstanding universal value (exceptional or superlative value from a global prospective) to mankind (36 C.F.R. § 73.1). The World Heritage Convention defines the kind of natural or cultural sites that can be considered for inscription on the World Heritage List. The Convention sets out the duties of State parties in identifying potential sites and their role in protecting and preserving them. The Convention stipulates the obligation of State parties such as United States to report regularly to the World Heritage Committee on the state of conservation of their World Heritage properties. In 1973, the United States was the first country to ratify the World Heritage Convention. Coordination and participation by the United States in this treaty is assigned by law to the Secretary of the Interior. Currently, 23 sites within the United States are inscribed on the World Heritage List. The only World Heritage site with the potential to be affected by the proposed action is Olympic National Park.

K.2.1 CRITERIA FOR ASSESSMENT

Until the end of 2004, World Heritage sites were selected based on two separate sets of criteria (six cultural and four natural criteria). With the adoption of the revised Operational Guidelines for the Implementation of the World Heritage Convention, only one set of ten criteria exists. Those that are applicable to the Olympic National Park are as follows (United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization 2015):

- **Criterion (vii): contain superlative natural phenomena or areas of exceptional natural beauty and aesthetic importance:**

Rationale for Inclusion: “Olympic National Park is of remarkable beauty, and is the largest protected area in the temperate region of the world that includes in one complex ecosystems from ocean edge through temperate rainforest, alpine meadows and glaciated mountain peaks. It contains one of the

world's largest stands of virgin temperate rainforest, and includes many of the largest coniferous tree species on earth."

- **Criterion (ix): be outstanding examples representing significant ongoing ecological and biological processes in the evolution and development of terrestrial, fresh water, coastal and marine ecosystems and communities of plants and animals.**

Rationale for Inclusion: "The park's varied topography from seashore to glacier, affected by high rainfall has produced complex and varied vegetation zones, providing habitats of unmatched diversity on the Pacific coast. The coastal Olympic rainforest reaches its maximum development within the property and has a living standing biomass which may be the highest anywhere in the world. The park's isolation has allowed the development of endemic wildlife, subspecies of trout, varieties of plants and unique fur coloration in mammals, indications of a separate course of evolution."

K.2.2 PROTECTION AND MANAGEMENT

Protection and management of World Heritage properties should ensure that their value is sustained or enhanced over time. Properties must have adequate long-term legislative, regulatory, institutional, or traditional protection and management to ensure they are safeguarded. Legislative and regulatory measures at national and local levels should assure the survival of the property and its protection. Each property should have an appropriate management plan or other documented management system that supports and implements appropriate preservation requirements.

The Olympic National Park Final General Management Plan was released by the National Park Service in March 2008. The management plan establishes a vision for managing the Olympic National Park for the next 20 years and aims to protect natural and cultural resources while improving visitors' experiences. An Environmental Impact Statement was prepared for the General Management Plan, and the Record of Decision was signed on 8 August 2008.

K.3 OLYMPIC NATIONAL PARK

In 1909, President Theodore Roosevelt created Mount Olympus National Monument. In 1938, President Franklin Roosevelt signed legislation creating Olympic National Park and, in 1976, it became an International Biosphere Reserve. Olympic National Park was accepted as a World Heritage site in 1981, and in 1988 Congress designated 95 percent of the park as part of the National Wilderness Preservation System.

Olympic National Park covers nearly 1 million acres of preserved wilderness. It is located in the north-west of Washington State and is renowned for the diversity of its ecosystems, featuring 73 miles of coastline (the longest undeveloped coast in the contiguous United States), lakes, mountains and glaciers, and a temperate rainforest. According to UNESCO, "It is the lowest latitude in the world in which glaciers form at relatively low elevation. Its relative isolation and highly varied rainfall have produced complex and varied life zones." (United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization 2015) The Olympic National Park contains a large variety of geological formations, and the rocky islets along the coast are remnants of a coastline that is continuously receding and changing. It is the best example of intact and protected temperate rainforest in the Pacific Northwest (Olympic National Park and Forest 2015). The park is also home to numerous native and endemic animal and plant species, including critical populations of the endangered northern spotted owl, marbled murrelet, and bull trout.

K.4 MILITARY TRAINING ACTIVITIES NEAR AND OVER OLYMPIC NATIONAL PARK

The Federal Aviation Administration established the Olympic Military Operations Area (MOA) in 1977 before Olympic National Park was accepted as a World Heritage site. The Olympic MOA begins roughly 53 nautical miles (nm) west of Seattle and extends 3 nm off the coast of Washington State. The Olympic MOA is divided into A and B sections; normal training activities utilize both sections as a unified block of airspace (Figure K-1). The lower altitude limit for the MOA is 6,000 feet (ft.) (1,828.8 meters [m]) above mean sea level (MSL), and aircraft are further restricted from operating below 1,200 ft. (365.8 m) above ground level. The upper limit is up to but not including 18,000 ft. (5,486.4 m) above MSL, with a total area coverage of 1,614 square nautical miles. Flight training activities conducted within the Olympic MOA include a range of aircraft and mission types. Specific mission types and associated aircraft for these missions are defined in the Northwest Training and Testing (NWTT) Final Environmental Impact Statement (EIS)/Overseas Environmental Impact Statement (OEIS), Chapter 2 (Description of Proposed Action and Alternatives) and Appendix A (Navy Activities Descriptions).

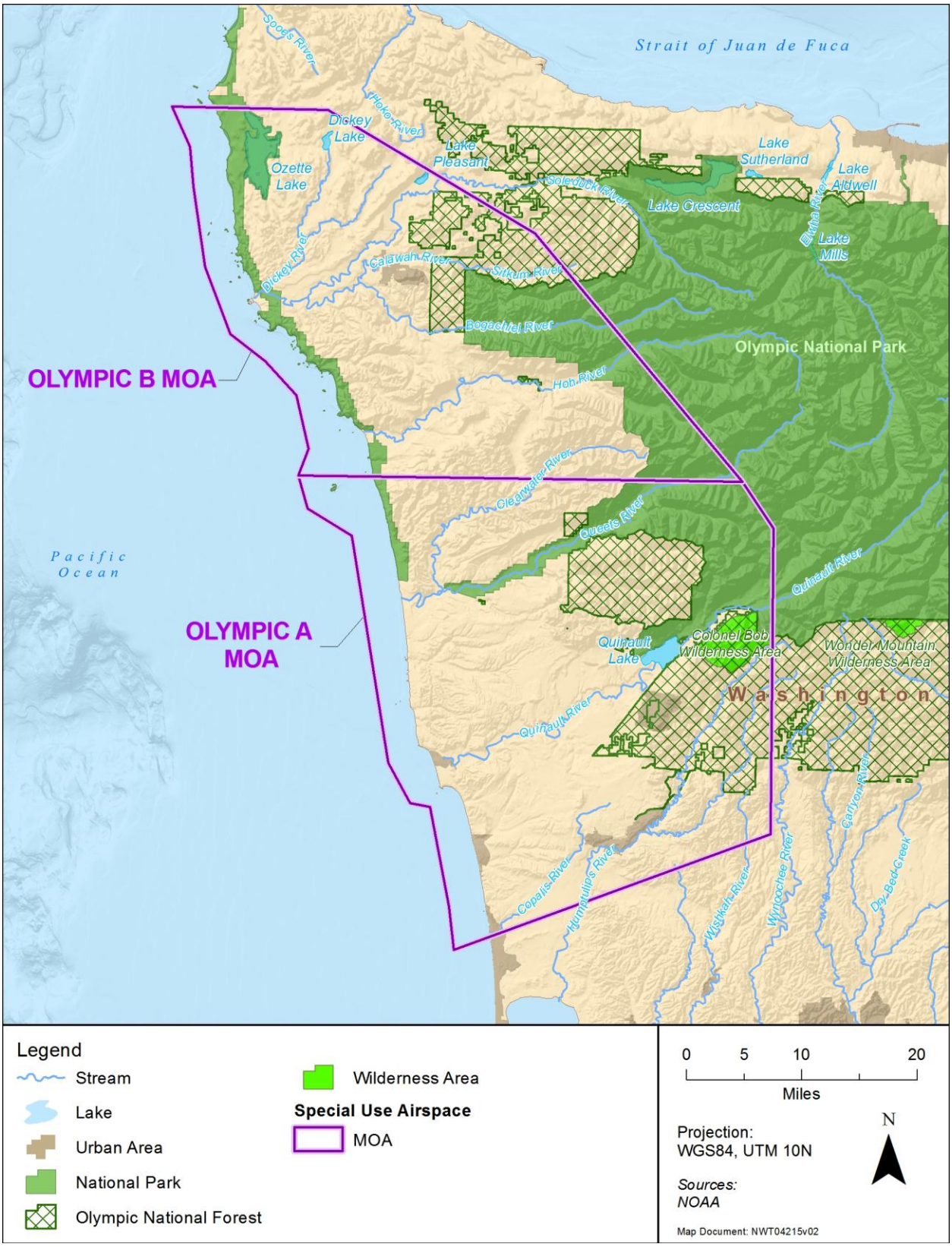

Figure K-1: Olympic Military Operations Area

K.5 FACTORS AFFECTING OLYMPIC NATIONAL PARK

In 2008, the World Heritage Committee adopted a standard list of factors/threats affecting the Outstanding Universal Value of World Heritage properties. The list was established following a 2-year consultation process with experts in the fields of natural and cultural heritage and consists of 14 primary factors. The primary threats are:

- Buildings and Development
- Utilities or Service Infrastructure
- Biological resource use/modification
- Local conditions affecting physical fabric
- Other human activities
- Sudden ecological or geological events
- Management and institutional factors
- Transportation/Infrastructure
- Pollution
- Physical resource extraction
- Social/cultural uses of heritage
- Climate change and severe weather events
- Invasive/alien species or hyper-abundant species
- Other factors

For purposes of this analysis, the primary factor affecting the Olympic National Park pertains to "Other human activities," where military activities are considered a secondary factor under that category. For military training activities, noise associated with aircraft overflights would be a factor that could result in potential effects on the Olympic National Park and its soundscape.

It should be noted that the list of factors or threats on World Heritage sites are not presented in any priority order or whether it is an ascertained danger or potential danger. If a property is threatened or could be effected by one or more of these factors, the World Heritage Committee can decide to inscribe the property on the List of World Heritage in Danger. Currently, there are 48 properties which the World Heritage Committee has decided to include on the List of World Heritage in Danger, in accordance with Article 11(4) of the Convention.

K.6 IMPACT ANALYSIS

The *Final General Management Plan/Environmental Impact Statement Olympic National Park* identified methods and assumptions for analyzing impacts to the soundscape in the Olympic National Park. The National Park Service is currently preparing a Wilderness Stewardship Plan EIS for Olympic National Park. The plan will guide the long-term management of park lands designated as wilderness pursuant to the 1964 Wilderness Act. Once completed, the Wilderness Steward Plan will establish long-term goals, monitoring, and management strategies that will protect wilderness character in the Olympic National Park and supersede the General Management Plan.

Context, time, and intensity together determined the level of impacts for an action or activity (National Park Service 2008). Noise for a certain period and intensity would be a great impact in a highly sensitive context, and a given intensity would be a greater impact if it occurred more often or for a longer duration. As presented in the NWTT EIS/OEIS, it was necessary to evaluate context, time, and intensity together to determine the level of noise impact. In addition, it is also important to consider the National Parks Service's Director's Order #47: Soundscape Preservation and Noise Management. Table K-1 presents the criteria for determining the level of impact to soundscape in the park:

Table K-1: Impact Criteria for Soundscape in Olympic National Park

Level of Impact	Criteria
Negligible	Natural sounds would prevail; human-caused noise would be absent or very infrequent, mostly immeasurable, and inaudible.
Minor	Natural sounds would predominate in zones where management objectives call for natural processes to predominate, with human-caused noise infrequent at low levels. In zones where human-caused noise is consistent with park purpose and objectives, natural sounds could be heard occasionally.
Moderate	In zones where management objectives call for natural processes to predominate, natural sounds would predominate, but human-caused noise could occasionally be present at low to moderate levels. In zones where more human-caused noise is consistent with the zone desired conditions, it would predominate during daylight hours but would not be overly disruptive to noise-sensitive visitor activities in the area; in such areas, natural sounds could still be heard occasionally.
Major	In zones where management objectives call for natural processes to predominate, natural sounds would be impacted by human-caused noise sources frequently or for extended periods of time. In zones where human-caused noise is consistent with the zone desired conditions, the natural soundscape would be impacted most of the day; noise could disrupt conversation for long periods of time and/or make enjoyment of other activities in the area difficult. Natural sounds would rarely be heard during the day.

Source: National Park Service 2008

The Olympic National Park Final General Management Plan indicates that noise from overflights by commercial air traffic, air tours, and park and other agency and tribal aerial operations, can create adverse impacts on the park's soundscape. Specifically, the plan identifies overflight noise related to commercial aircraft as resulting in short-term, moderate adverse impacts to the wilderness experience in the park. The plan also identifies park activities resulting in localized, short-term, moderate adverse impacts to the park's natural soundscape, including those utilizing mechanized tools and helicopters during ranger station operation and maintenance, radio repeater maintenance and repairs, cultural resources management, trail maintenance, and backcountry privy management.

Although addendum Section 402 of the National Historic Preservation Act does not specifically apply to the Proposed Action, the Navy has considered the importance of the Olympic National Park World Heritage Site in the analysis of potential impacts in light of United States obligations under the Convention. There are no land activities as part of the Proposed Action that would occur directly within the property boundaries of Olympic National Park, and airspace activities that may occur in designated Special Use Airspace (SUA) overlaying the park are fully in compliance with Federal Aviation Administration regulations and recommendations applicable to these areas.

Aircraft noise associated with Navy training activities conducted in the airspace delineated by the Olympic MOA could contribute to noise impacts to the portion of the Olympic National Park that lies beneath the MOA (refer to Figure K-1). Therefore, a detailed noise analysis was completed for SUA activities within the Olympic MOA (refer to the NWTT Final EIS/OEIS, Appendix J [Airspace Noise Analysis for the Olympic Military Operations Areas]). Noise was analyzed using the Department of Defense (DoD) noise model MOA-Range NOISEMAP (MRNMAP) and the National Park Service's Noise Model Simulation noise model. Based on the analysis, noise exposure within the Olympic MOA is within the DoD's Noise Zone 1, with Day Night average noise levels below 65 A-weighted sound pressure level (or A-weighted decibels [dBA]) for the entire area studied. Small portions of the Olympic National Park that underlie the MOA and where the terrain elevation is higher than 4,000 ft. (1,219 m) above MSL could be exposed to maximum noise levels of 105 dBA for periods of less than 1 second per aircraft sortie. Over an entire year of training, under the Proposed Action, high elevation locations (above 4,000 ft. [1,219 m] MSL) beneath the MOA could experience a total of 4 minutes of noise at this maximum level. Lower

elevations can expect lower levels of maximum noise, with the bulk of the area beneath the MOA (over 75 percent) receiving a maximum noise level of no more than 84 dBA. It is important to note that this noise level would not occur over the entirety of the MOA but only in the area of the aircraft overflight, and the noise would only reach these levels for brief moments (seconds) as aircraft fly directly overhead. Equally important, the Navy's aircraft overflights in the MOA would occur only over the western portion of the Olympic National Park, which covers about 24 percent of the park (an estimated 344 square miles). Thus, the probability of someone experiencing these noise levels from a Navy aircraft overflight is relatively low, and the probability of someone in the Olympic National Park experiencing them is lower. According to the criteria presented in Table K-1, noise levels associated with military aircraft overflights would result in minor impacts to the soundscape within the Olympic National Park because overflights would only generate noise levels above 105 dBA at higher elevations in areas with limited park visitors. These noise levels would be no more than a total of 4 minutes over a 1-year period.

Other attributes of the Olympic National Park World Heritage Site that contribute to its outstanding universal value, including topography, remarkable beauty, and the complexity of the Olympic ecosystems, would not be affected by the Navy's proposed aircraft overflights. There are no land activities as part of the Proposed Action. Airspace activities are not expected to disrupt the isolation that led to species development; overflights were occurring prior to the park's designation as a World Heritage Site. There is no evidence that noise or air emissions would result in rainforest depletion. The Proposed Action and alternatives would not result in changes that would alter the complex and varied ecosystems. Continuation of Navy training activities in the airspace above the park will not result in changes to the baseline of this natural site, the ecosystem, or habitats within the Park. Based on the nature of the military training activities, there would be no associated development pressures, environmental pressures (e.g., pollution, climate change, desertification), or environmental deterioration affecting flora and fauna. Lastly, the noise study conducted for the Olympic MOAs concluded that aircraft noise impacts associated with the Proposed Action would be negligible (refer to the NWTT Final EIS/OEIS, Appendix J [Airspace Noise Analysis for the Olympic Military Operations Areas]) . Therefore, no significant impacts to the Olympic National Park World Heritage Site would occur as a result of implementation of the Proposed Action.

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