



# NORTHWEST Training and Testing EIS/OEIS

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Naval Surface Warfare Center, Carderock Division,  
Southeast Alaska Acoustic Measurement Facility (SEAFAC)

**The U.S. Navy passively measures sound generated by vessels to assess vulnerability and develop quieting measures at SEAFAC, the Navy's primary acoustic measurement facility in the Pacific Ocean.**

## COMPONENTS OF SEAFAC

SEAFAC consists of:

- Underway Measurement Site
  - Passively acquires acoustic sound of submerged, maneuvering vessels
  - Supports vessel operations over a full range of speeds, depths and operating conditions
- Static Site
  - Passively acquires acoustic sounds of submerged, motionless vessels moored or suspended between surface barges
  - Uses passive measurement arrays to evaluate acoustic sound of individual vessel components
- Back Island Operations Center and supporting facilities
  - Receives measurements real-time
  - Analyzes data to identify the location and source of sound and the degree of vulnerability



Submarines are critical assets used by the Navy to defend the United States and its interests, and the stealth of a submarine is of the utmost importance. SEAFAC ensures the highest level of stealth by measuring the precise level of sound emitted from a submarine, called an “acoustic signature.”



**SEAFAC provides an ideal acoustic measurement site for vessels because of low levels of ambient noise and minimal noise interference.**

## PUBLIC SAFETY MEASURES

- Working with the Coast Guard to maintain law enforcement and safety
- Informing Canadian authorities of submarines transiting Canadian waters en route to Ketchikan, Alaska
- Informing local mariners and fisheries, local and federal agencies, and media of upcoming testing activities

SEAFAC is celebrating more than 20 years since the first acoustic measurement trial was conducted at the facility.