



DEPARTMENT OF THE NAVY

COMMANDER
UNITED STATES PACIFIC FLEET
250 MAKALAPA DRIVE
PEARL HARBOR HI 96860-3131

IN REPLY REFER TO:

5090

Ser N465/0784

September 24, 2021

Dear Sir or Madam:

SUBJECT: RECORD OF DECISION FOR THE NORTHWEST TRAINING AND TESTING SUPPLEMENTAL ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT STATEMENT/OVERSEAS ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT STATEMENT

The Department of the Navy is announcing its decision to implement its Preferred Alternative, Alternative 1, to continue training and testing activities at sea and in associated airspace within the Study Area as described in the Northwest Training and Testing (NWTT) Final Supplemental Environmental Impact Statement/Overseas Environmental Impact Statement (EIS/OEIS). Implementation of Alternative 1 will allow the Navy to fully meet current and future training and testing requirements.

The Navy made this decision after considering its operational needs; the potential impacts training and testing activities may have on human, natural, and cultural environments; and comments from elected officials, government agencies, tribes, nongovernmental organizations, and the public on the proposal and environmental analysis.

The Record of Decision and completion of the Final Supplemental EIS/OEIS follows years of research, analysis, stakeholder and tribal engagement, and public involvement. The Navy welcomed public involvement and input during the 2017 scoping process, and in 2019 held eight public meetings in Washington, Oregon, northern California, and southeastern Alaska to provide information and obtain public input on the Draft Supplemental EIS/OEIS. The Navy considered comments received from the public, government agencies and officials, and tribes and responded to them in the Final Supplemental EIS/OEIS.

Changes made in the Final Supplemental EIS/OEIS reflected the Navy's consideration of all substantive comments received, information raised during ongoing regulatory processes, and Navy refinements to the Proposed Action. The Navy also considered comments received following the publication of the Final Supplemental EIS/OEIS. New and major substantive comments are addressed in the Record of Decision.

The Navy's Proposed Action is to continue training and testing activities within the Study Area. These activities include the use of active sonar and explosives. The Navy is committed to being a good steward of the environment and will continue to implement mitigation measures to avoid or reduce potential environmental impacts from training and testing.

To achieve and maintain military readiness, the Navy proposes to:

- a. Continue training and testing activities at sea and in associated airspace at levels required to support military readiness requirements beyond 2021.
- b. Incorporate evolving mission requirements, including those resulting from the development, testing, and introduction of new vessels, aircraft, and weapons systems into the fleet.

The purpose of the Proposed Action is to continue training and testing activities to ensure the Navy can accomplish its mission to maintain, train, and equip combat-ready naval forces capable of winning wars, deterring aggression, and maintaining freedom of the seas.

The Navy is committed to providing the public an accessible version of the Record of Decision. The Record of Decision, Final Supplemental EIS/OEIS, and supporting documents are available online at www.NWTTEIS.com.

If you need assistance accessing the document or have media inquiries, please contact Ms. Julianne Stanford, Navy Region Northwest Public Affairs Office, at julianne.stanford@navy.mil or 360-867-8525. For all other queries or if you require additional information about the project, please contact Ms. Jackie Queen, Project Manager, at projectmanager@nwtteis.com.

If you have questions or would like additional information, please visit www.NWTTEIS.com or contact:

Naval Facilities Engineering Command Northwest
Attention: NWTT Supplemental EIS/OEIS Project Manager
3730 N. Charles Porter Ave., Building 385
Oak Harbor, WA 98278-3500

Please help the Navy inform the community about the availability of the Record of Decision by sharing this information with your staff and interested individuals.

Sincerely,



A. K. HUTCHISON
Captain, U.S. Navy
By direction of the Commander