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Prepared by:

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In accordance with the Letters of Authorization
Under the MMPA and ITS authorization under
the ESA 09 November 2015

2020 Annual Northwest Training and Testing (NWTT) Exercise Report

09 November 2019 through 08 November 2020 Fifth Year

08 February 2021

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NORTHWEST TRAINING AND TESTING STUDY AREA ANNUAL UNCLASSIFIED EXERCISE REPORT

INTRODUCTION

The U.S. Navy prepared this unclassified version of the Annual Report covering the period from 09 November 2019 through 08 November 2020 in compliance with the National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS) Final Rule under the Marine Mammal Protection Act (MMPA) for the Northwest Training and Testing (NWTT) Study Area. A classified version of this report is also submitted to NMFS.

In the NWTT Study Area Letter of Authorization, requirements for “Monitoring and Reporting” are specified in paragraph 7.(e). The information in this Annual Report represents the best practical data collection for this period. The 5-Year Close-out Report contains final totals of authorized usage for the entire five-year period of the authorization. Only unclassified information is present within this report.

(1) NWTT – Description of the Level of Training Conducted in the NWTT Study Area During the Reporting Period

The level of training within the NWTT Study Area continues to be low. Use of all authorized sound sources was well within the amounts described and analyzed in the NWTT EIS/OEIS and the NWTT Letter of Authorization.

(2) NWTT – Summary of Sound Sources Used During Training

(i) Total annual usage of each bin of sonar or other non-impulsive sources

This section summarizes total annual usage of each type of sound source used within the NWTT Study Area for training.

Table 2-1. Training active acoustic sound source usage within the NWTT Study Area by source bin.

(2)(i) Authorized training sound sources 50 CFR § 218.140	Authorized Amount (09 Nov 19 - 08 Nov 20)	Actual Usage (09 Nov 19 - 08 Nov 20)	% Used of Authorized Amount
MF1	166 hours	*	*
MF3	70 hours	*	*
MF4	4 hours	*	*
MF5	896 items	*	*
MF11	16 hours	*	*
HF1	48 hours	*	*
HF4	384 hours	*	*
HF6	192 hours	*	*
ASW2	720 items	*	*
ASW3	78 hours	*	*

*Information presented in the classified version of this report

(ii) Total annual expended/detonated rounds (missiles, bombs, etc.)

Table 2-2. Training explosive sound source usage within the NWTT Study Area by source bin.

(2)(ii) Authorized training sound sources 50 CFR § 218.140		Authorized Amount (09 Nov 19- 08 Nov 20)	Actual Usage (09 Nov 19- 08 Nov 20)	% Used of Authorized Amount
E1	0.1 lb to 0.25 lb NEW	48 detonations	0 detonations	0%
E3	>0.5 lb to 2.5 lb NEW	6 detonations	0 detonations	0%
E5	>5 lb to 10 lb NEW	80 detonations	4 detonations	5%
E10	>250 lb to 500 lb NEW	4 detonations	0 detonations	0%
E12	>650 lb to 1,000 lb NEW	10 detonations	0 detonations	0%

(iii) Comparison of all years of the authorization

Table 2-3. 5-year cumulative training active acoustic sound source usage within the NWTT Study Area by source bin.

Active Acoustic Sources Used During Annual Training								
Sound Source Bin	Year 1 Actual Usage (09 Nov 15 - 08 Nov 16)	Year 2 Actual Usage (09 Nov 16 - 08 Nov 17)	Year 3 Actual Usage (09 Nov 17 - 08 Nov 18)	Year 4 Actual Usage (09 Nov 18 - 08 Nov 19)	Year 5 Actual Usage (09 Nov 19 - 08 Nov 20)	5-Year Authorized Amount (09 Nov 15 - 08 Nov 20)	5-Year Cumulative Usage (09 Nov 15 - 08 Nov 20)	% Used of 5-Year Authorized Amount
MF1	*	*	*	*	*	830 hours	*	*
MF3	*	*	*	*	*	350 hours	*	*
MF4	*	*	*	*	*	20 hours	*	*
MF5	*	*	*	*	*	4,480 items	*	*
MF11	*	*	*	*	*	80 hours	*	*
HF1	*	*	*	*	*	240 hours	*	*
HF4	*	*	*	*	*	1,920 hours	*	*
HF6	*	*	*	*	*	960 hours	*	*
ASW2	*	*	*	*	*	3,600 items	*	*
ASW3	*	*	*	*	*	390 hours	*	*

*Information presented in the classified version of this report

Table 2-4. 5-year cumulative training explosive sound source usage within the NWTT Study Area by source bin.

Explosive Sources Used During Annual Training								
Sound Source Bin	Year 1 Actual Usage (09 Nov 15 - 08 Nov 16)	Year 2 Actual Usage (09 Nov 16 - 08 Nov 17)	Year 3 Actual Usage (09 Nov 17 - 08 Nov 18)	Year 4 Actual Usage (09 Nov 18 - 08 Nov 19)	Year 5 Actual Usage (09 Nov 19 - 08 Nov 20)	5-Year Authorized Amount (09 Nov 15 - 08 Nov 20)	5-Year Cumulative Usage (09 Nov 15 - 08 Nov 20)	% Used of 5-Year Authorized Amount
E1	0	0	0	0	0	240 detonations	0	0%
E3	0	1	0	0	0	30 detonations	1	3%
E5	0	10	5	0	4	400 detonations	19	5%
E10	0	0	0	4	0	20 detonations	4	20%
E12	0	0	0	4	0	50 detonations	4	8%

(3) NWTT – Annual Number of Explosive Exercises

Table 3-1. Explosive training exercises within the NWTT Study Area.

Type of Explosive Exercise	Number of Exercises
EOD UNDETS	0
HE Bombing Exercises	0
HE Missile Exercises	0
HE Gunnery Exercises	1

(4) NWTT – Special Reporting Areas for Hull-mounted Mid-Frequency and High-Frequency Active Sonar Use

The use of Mid-Frequency and High-Frequency sonar within the boundaries of the Olympic Coast National Marine Sanctuary, the Humpback Whale Northern Washington Feeding Area, the Stonewall and Heceta Bank Feeding Area, and the Gray Whale Northern Puget Sound Feeding Area did not exceed annual authorized levels. Actual amounts of sonar use in these areas were provided to the National Marine Fisheries Service in the classified version of this report.

(5) NWTT – 5-Year Close-out Report

In accordance with section 7.(f) of the Letter of Authorization, this report serves as the 5-Year Close-out Exercise Report. The annual and 5-year totals of each sound source bin with a comparison to the annual and 5-year allowances are presented in section 2 and in the classified version of this report.

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