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National Marine Fisheries Service  
Office of Protected Resources

Prepared by:

Department of the Navy

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

09 November 2015

# **Annual Testing Report**

## **09 November 2015 through 08 November 2016 First Year**

**For The U.S. Navy's  
Northwest Training and Testing (NWTT)  
Study Area**

**09 February 2017**

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# NORTHWEST TRAINING AND TESTING ANNUAL TESTING REPORT

## INTRODUCTION

The Naval Sea Systems Command prepared this Annual Testing Report covering the period from 09 November 2015 to 08 November 2016 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.

In the NWTT Study Area Letters of Authorization “Requirements Annual Exercise and Testing Reports” are specified in paragraph 7.(e).

The information in this Annual Testing Report represents the best practical data collection for this period.

### (1) NWTT – Description of the Level of Testing Conducted in the NWTT Study Area during the Reporting Period

The level of testing within the NWTT study area was 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 Non-Impulsive and Impulsive Sources Used

#### (i) Total annual and 5 year cumulative usage of each type of sound source

This section summarizes total annual and cumulative 5-year usage of each type of sound source used within the NWTT study area.

**Table 2-1. Testing sound source usage within the NWTT Study Area by source bin**

Authorized testing sound sources 50 CFR §218.144		Authorized Amount (09 Nov 15- 08 Nov 16)	Actual Usage (09 Nov 15- 08 Nov 16)	% Used of Authorized Amount
Active Acoustic Sources Used				
LF4	Low frequency sources from 180 dB up to 200 dB	110 hours	*	*
LF5	Low frequency sources from 160 dB up to 180 dB	71 hours	*	*
MF1	Hull-mounted sonars (e.g. SQS-53)	32 hours	*	*
MF3	Hull-mounted sonar (e.g. BQQ-10)	145 hours	*	*
MF4	Helicopter dipping sonar (e.g. AQS-13/22)	10 hours	*	*
MF5	Acoustic sonobuoys (e.g. SSQ-62)	273 items	*	*
MF6	Underwater sound signaling devices (e.g. MK 84 SUS)	12 items	*	*
MF8	Other active sources greater than 200dB	40 hours	*	*
MF9	Other active sources from 180 dB up to 200 dB	1183 hours	*	*
MF10	Other active sources from 160 dB up to 180 dB	1156 hours	*	*
MF11	Hull mounted surface ship sonar with an active duty cycle of greater than 80%	34 hours	*	*
MF12	High duty cycle towed array sonars (e.g. HDC-VDS)	24 hours	*	*
HF1	Hull-mounted submarine sonar (e.g. BQQ-10)	161 hours	*	*
HF3	Other hull-mounted submarine sonars	145 hours	*	*
HF5	Other active sources greater than 200dB	360 hours	*	*

HF6	Other active sources from 180 dB up to 200 dB	2099 hours	*	*
VHF2	Active sources with a frequency greater than 100 kHz, up to 200 kHz with a source level less than 200 dB	35 hours	*	*
ASW1	Mid-frequency Deep Water Active Distributed System (DWADS)	16 hours	*	*
ASW2	Mid-frequency Multi-static Active Coherent sonobuoy (e.g. SSQ-125)	170 items	*	*
ASW2	Mid-frequency Multi-static Active Coherent sonobuoy (e.g. SSQ-125)	64 hours	*	*
ASW3	Mid-frequency towed acoustic countermeasure (e.g. SLQ-25)	444 hours	*	*
ASW4	Mid-frequency expendable acoustic device countermeasure (e.g. MK 3)	1182 devices	*	*
M3	Mid-frequency acoustic modems (greater than 190 dB)	1519 hours	*	*
TORP1	Lightweight torpedo (e.g. MK 46./MK 54)	315 items	*	*
TORP2	Heavyweight torpedo (e.g. MK48)	299 items	*	*
SD1	Swimmer detection sonars	757 hours	*	*
SAS2	HF SAS Systems	798 hours	*	*
Explosive sources used				
E3	>0.5 lb to 2.5 lb NEW	72 detonations	*	*
E4	>2.5 lb to 5 lb NEW	140 detonations (70 sonobuoys)	*	*
E8	>60 lb to 100 lb NEW	3 detonations	*	*
E11	>500 lb to 650 lb NEW	3 detonations	*	*

\*Information is presented in the classified version of this report.

**Table 2-2. 5-year cumulative testing sound source usage within the NWTT Study Area by source bin**

Sound Source Bin	Year 1 Actual Usage (09 Nov 15-08 Nov 16)	5-yr Authorized Amount (09 Nov 15-08 Nov 18)	5-yr Cumulative Actual Usage (09 Nov 15-08 Nov 16)	% Used of 5-yr Authorized Amount
Active Acoustic Sources Used During Annual Testing				
LF4	*	550 hours	*	*
LF5	*	355 hours	*	*
MF1	*	160 hours	*	*
MF3	*	725 hours	*	*
MF4	*	50 hours	*	*
MF5	*	1365 items	*	*
MF6	*	60 items	*	*
MF8	*	200 hours	*	*
MF9	*	5915 hours	*	*
MF10	*	5780 hours	*	*
MF 11	*	170 hours	*	*
MF12	*	120 hours	*	*
HF1	*	805 hours	*	*
HF3	*	725 hours	*	*
HF5	*	1800 hours	*	*
HF6	*	10495 hours	*	*

ASW2	*	850 items	*	*
ASW2	*	320 hours	*	*
ASW3	*	2220 hours	*	*
ASW4	*	5910 items	*	*
M3	*	7595 hours	*	*
TORP1	*	1575 items	*	*
TORP2	*	1495 items	*	*
SD1	*	3785 hours	*	*
SAS2	*	3990 hours	*	*
(2) Explosive Sources Used				
E3	*	360 detonations	*	*
E4	*	700 detonations (350 sonobuoys)	*	*
E8	*	15 detonations	*	*
E11	*	15 detonations	*	*

\*Information is presented in the classified version of this report.

### (3) Annual Number of Explosive Testing Exercises Conducted

**Table 3-1**

Type of Explosive Exercise	Number of Exercises
SINKEX-SWT	*
Anti-Submarine Warfare Tracking Tests – Marine Patrol Aircraft (MK61, MK64 and MK82)	*

\*Information is presented in the classified version of this report

### (4) Improved Extended Echo-Ranging System (IEER) Sonobuoy Testing

Information is presented in the classified version of this report

### (5) Special NWTT Reporting Areas for Mid-Frequency and High-Frequency Sonar Use

(i) No use of mid-frequency or high-frequency sonar occurred within the boundaries of the Olympic Coast National Marine Sanctuary during the reporting period.

(ii) No use of mid-frequency or high-frequency sonar occurred within the boundaries of the Humpback Whale Northern Feeding Area during the May-November timeframe.

(iii) No use of mid-frequency or high-frequency sonar occurred within the boundaries of the Stonewall and Heceta Bank Feeding Area during the May-November timeframe.

(iv) No use of mid-frequency or high-frequency sonar occurred within the boundaries of the Grey Whale Northern Puget Sound Feeding Area during the March-May timeframe.