



DEPARTMENT OF THE NAVY

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

IN REPLY REFER TO:

5090

Ser N46/0211

February 8, 2022

Office Director, Office of Protected Resources
National Marine Fisheries Service
National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration
B-SSMC3, Room 13821
1315 East-West Highway
Silver Spring, MD 20910-3282

Dear Director,

On behalf of Commander, U.S. Pacific Fleet, enclosed is a printed copy of the unclassified Northwest Training and Testing (NWTT) Study Area Annual Training Report for the first year of the authorization (6 pages).

This report is submitted pursuant to the reporting requirements for the NWTT Study Area Marine Mammal Protection Act authorization.

Please extend my thanks to your staff for their continued support of the U.S. Navy's compliance process. We are available to meet with you or your staff should you have comments on the enclosed report or recommendations for future reports. My point of contact for these matters is Mr. Ben Kostenbader, at 808-471-4683, arnold.kostenbader@navy.mil.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "A. K. Hutchison", is positioned above the typed name.

A. K. HUTCHISON
Captain, U.S. Navy
By direction

Enclosure: 2021 Unclassified NWTT Study Area Annual Training Report, year 1

Prepared for and submitted to:

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 06 November 2020

UNCLASSIFIED

2021

**Northwest Training and Testing (NWTT)
Study Area Annual Training Report**

**09 November 2020 through 08 November 2021
Year 1**

09 February 2022

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NORTHWEST TRAINING AND TESTING STUDY AREA ANNUAL TRAINING REPORT

INTRODUCTION

The U.S. Navy prepared this unclassified version of the Annual Training Report covering the period from 09 November 2020 through 08 November 2021 in compliance with the National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS) Final Rule, Letter of Authorization (LOA), and Incidental Take Statements under the Marine Mammal Protection Act (MMPA) and Endangered Species Act (ESA) authorizations for the U.S. Navy's Northwest Training and Testing (NWTT) Study Area. A classified version of this report is also submitted to NMFS.

In the NWTT Final Rule and Letter of Authorization¹, the following report subsections were specified and are present within this report:

- (1) Summary of Sources Used
 - (i) Total annual hours or quantity of each bin of sonar or other transducers
 - (ii) Total annual expended/detonated ordnance (missiles, bombs, sonobuoys, etc.) for each explosive bin

The information in this report represents the best practical data collection for this period. Only unclassified information is present within this report.

The Letter of Authorization section 7(e) states the Navy will report additional details and sonar usage specific to the Mitigation Areas (MA) within NWTT. This information is present in section (2) of this report.

¹NWTT: 7(e) of the Letter of Authorization, and §218.145(e)(1) of the Final Rule.

(1) NWTT – Summary of Sources Used

This section summarizes the total annual usage of each type of sound source used for training within NWTT from 09 November 2020 to 08 November 2021, which constitutes Year 1 of the 7-year authorization.

(i) Total annual hours or quantity of each bin of sonar or other transducers

Table 1-1. Annual Training Acoustic Source Usage within the NWTT Study Area by Source Bin

Authorized sound sources from NWTT Final Rule		Authorized Amount (09 Nov 20-08 Nov 21)	Actual Usage (09 Nov 20-08 Nov 21)	% Used of Authorized Amount
(i) Acoustic Sources Used During Annual Training				
LF5	LF sources less than 180 dB	1 hour	*	*
MF1	Hull-mounted surface ship sonars (e.g. AN/SQS-53/60)	164 hours	*	*
MF3	Hull-mounted submarine sonars (e.g. AN/BQQ-10)	70 hours	*	*
MF4	Helicopter-deployed dipping sonars (e.g. AN/AQS-22)	1 hour	*	*
MF5	Active acoustic sonobuoys (e.g. DICASS)	926 count	*	*
MF11	Hull-mounted surface ship sonars with an active duty cycle greater than 80%	16 hours	*	*
HF1	Hull-mounted submarine sonars (e.g. AN/BQQ-10)	48 hours	*	*
HF4	Mine detection, classification, and neutralization sonar (e.g. AN/SQS-20)	65 hours	*	*
ASW2	MF Multistatic Active Coherent sonobuoy (e.g. AN/SSQ-125)	350 count	*	*
ASW3	MF towed acoustic countermeasure systems (AN/SLQ-25)	86 hours	*	*
ASW5	MF sonobuoys with high duty cycles	50 hours	*	*
TORP1	Lightweight torpedo (e.g. MK 46, MK 54, or Anti-Torpedo Torpedo)	16 count	*	*
TORP2	Heavyweight torpedo (e.g. MK 48)	2 count	*	*
FLS2	HF sources with short pulse lengths, narrow beam widths, and focused beam patterns	240 hours	*	*
M3	MF acoustic modems (greater than 190 dB)	30 hours	*	*
SAS2	HF SAS systems	561 hours	*	*

*Information presented in the classified version of this report

(ii) Total annual expended/detonated ordnance for each explosive bin

Table 1-2. Annual Training Explosive Source Usage within the NWTT Study Area by Source Bin

Authorized sound sources from NWTT Final Rule		Authorized Amount (09 Nov 20-08 Nov 21)	Actual Usage (09 Nov 20-08 Nov 21)	% Used of Authorized Amount
(ii) Explosive Sources Used During Annual Training				
E1	Medium-caliber projectile	120 detonations	120	100%
E2	Medium-caliber projectile	130 detonations	14	11%
E3	Explosive Ordnance Disposal Mine Neutralization	6 detonations	1	17%
E5	Large-caliber projectile	112 detonations	0	0%
E10	1,000 lb bomb	4 detonations	2	50%

Table 1-3. 7-year Cumulative Training Sound Source Usage within the NWTT Study Area by Source Bin

Sound Source Bin	Year 1 Actual Usage (09 Nov 20-08 Nov 21)	7-yr Authorized Amount (09 Nov 20-08 Nov 27)	7-yr Cumulative Actual Usage (09 Nov 20-08 Nov 27)	% Used of 7-yr Authorized Amount
(i) Acoustic Sources Used During Annual Training				
LF5	*	5 hours	*	*
MF1	*	1,148 hours	*	*
MF3	*	490 hours	*	*
MF4	*	1 hour	*	*
MF5	*	6,443 count	*	*
MF11	*	112 hours	*	*
HF1	*	336 hours	*	*
HF4	*	269 hours	*	*
ASW2	*	2,450 count	*	*
ASW3	*	602 hours	*	*
ASW5	*	350 hours	*	*
TORP1	*	112 count	*	*
TORP2	*	5 count	*	*
FLS2	*	1,680 hours	*	*
M3	*	210 hours	*	*
SAS2	*	2,353 hours	*	*
(ii) Explosive Sources Used During Annual Training				
E1	120	672 detonations	120	18%
E2	14	728 detonations	14	2%
E3	1	42 detonations	1	2%
E5	0	628 detonations	0	0%
E10	2	9 detonations	2	22%

*Information presented in the classified version of this report

(2) NWTT – Requirements Associated with Mitigation Areas

This section contains details regarding specific requirements associated with seven mitigation areas within NWTT. These areas and requirements are delineated in §218.144(a)(2) of the Final Rule and Condition 6(2) of the Letter of Authorization.

(i) Marine Species Coastal Mitigation Area

The Navy met all requirements for actions within 50 NM, 20 NM, and 12 NM from shore in accordance with paragraphs (6)(2)(i)(A), (B), (C), and (D) of the Letter of Authorization.

The use of surface ship hull-mounted MF1 mid-frequency active sonar within the combined boundaries of the Marine Species Coastal MA (20 NM), the Juan de Fuca Eddy Marine Species MA, and the Olympic Coast National Marine Sanctuary MA 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.

(ii) Olympic Coast National Marine Sanctuary Mitigation Area

The Navy met all requirements in accordance with paragraphs (6)(2)(ii)(A), (B), (C), (D), and (E) of the Letter of Authorization.

The use of surface ship hull-mounted MF1 mid-frequency active sonar within the boundaries of the Olympic Coast National Marine Sanctuary did not exceed annual authorized levels. Actual amounts of sonar use in this area were provided to the National Marine Fisheries Service in the classified version of this report.

(iii) Juan de Fuca Eddy Marine Species Mitigation Area

The Navy met all requirements in accordance with paragraphs (6)(2)(iii)(A), (B), and (C) of the Letter of Authorization.

(iv) Stonewall and Heceta Bank Humpback Whale Mitigation Area

The Navy met all requirements in accordance with paragraphs (6)(2)(iv)(A), (B), and (C) of the Letter of Authorization.

(v) Point St. George Humpback Whale Mitigation Area

The Navy met all requirements in accordance with paragraphs (6)(2)(v)(A), (B), and (C) of the Letter of Authorization.

(vi) Northern Puget Sound Gray Whale Mitigation Area

The Navy met all requirements in accordance with paragraphs (6)(2)(vi)(A) and (B) of the Letter of Authorization.

(vii) Puget Sound and Strait of Juan de Fuca Mitigation Area

The Navy met all requirements in accordance with paragraphs (6)(2)(vii)(A), (B), (C), (D), (E), (F), (G), and (H) of the Letter of Authorization.