Marine mammal monitoring during a Navy explosives training event off the coast of Virginia Beach, Virginia

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Navy explosives training events pose a risk to marine mammals and sea turtles. In order to minimize the potential impacts and in support of the monitoring plan for the Virginia Capes (VACAPES) Letter of Authorization under the MMPA, visual and acoustic surveys were conducted during explosive training events conducted in August of 2009, 2010 and 2011. Each year's monitoring plan consists of visual and acoustic surveys onboard the U.S. Naval Academy's 109 foot research vessel one day prior to, during and following the explosive training events. In 2009, visual surveys were conducted and a single hydrophone was deployed as a feasibility study and approximately 20 minutes of acoustic data was collected. I n 2010, visual and acoustic surveys were conducted which included the use of five SSQ53F sonobuoys modified for autonomous use. Approximately 20 hours of acoustic data was collected over three days. The August 2011 monitoring cruise will include visual surveys and will utilize six autonomous hydrophones able to record data locally with a sampling rate of 96 kHz. Methods, preliminary results, and lessons learned will be presented.



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ABSTRACTS

The abstracts for oral presentations and posters at the 5th International Workshop on Detection, Classification, Localization, and Density Estimation of Marine Mammals using Passive Acoustics, predominantly focus on odontocete sounds and analytical methods for classifying clicks and whistles, as well as density estimation. Research on baleen whale sounds and some non-cetacean marine mammals is also featured, and provides further information about important methodologies.

These biennial DCLDE workshops are intended for exchanging information that advances understanding of acoustic methods to detect, classify, locate, track, count, and monitor marine mammals in their natural environment. The goal is to encourage interdisciplinary approaches to solve real-world problems related to the study of marine mammals and the effects of human activities on their behavior.

ABSTRACTS ARE IN THE ORDER OF PRESENTATION

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