

APPENDIX L AGENCY CORRESPONDENCE

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Final

**Supplemental Environmental Impact Statement/
Overseas Environmental Impact Statement
Atlantic Fleet Training and Testing**

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L AGENCY CORRESPONDENCE

Appendix L contains correspondence between the Navy and federal or state agencies with respect to cooperating agency status ([Section L.1](#)), Coastal Zone Management Act ([Section L.2](#)), Endangered Species Act ([Section L.3](#)), Magnuson-Stevens Fishery Conservation and Management Act ([Section L.4](#)), Marine Mammal Protection Act ([Section L.5](#)), National Historic Preservation Act ([Section L.6](#)), and the National Marine Sanctuaries Act ([Section L.7](#)).

L.1 COOPERATING AGENCY STATUS



DEPARTMENT OF THE NAVY
Office of the Chief of Naval Operations
2000 Navy Pentagon
Washington DC 20350-2000

5090
Ser N4I/22U130173
August 4, 2022

Ms. Kimberly Damon-Randall
Director, Office of Protected Resources
NOAA Fisheries
1315 East West Highway
Silver Spring, MD 20910

Dear Ms. Damon-Randall:

SUBJECT: ATLANTIC FLEET TRAINING AND TESTING SUPPLEMENTAL
ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT STATEMENT/OVERSEAS ENVIRONMENTAL
IMPACT STATEMENT - COOPERATING AGENCY

In accordance with the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA), the Department of the Navy is preparing a Supplement to the 2018 Atlantic Fleet Training and Testing (AFTT) Environmental Impact Statement/Overseas Environmental Statement (SEIS/OEIS).

This AFTT SEIS/OEIS represents the fourth phase (Phase IV) of NEPA and EO 12114 compliance for continuation of at-sea training and testing. It will evaluate the conduct of military readiness activities from 2025 to the reasonably foreseeable future. It will also accommodate evolving mission requirements associated with force structure changes, including those resulting from the development, testing, and ultimate introduction of new Fleet platforms (vessels, aircraft, and weapon systems).

The Phase IV AFTT SEIS/OEIS provides analysis of military readiness training and testing requirements and is intended to serve as a basis for the renewal of current regulatory permits and authorizations. The existing Marine Mammal Protection Act (MMPA) Final Rule and Letters of Authorization for AFTT will expire in November 2025.

To complete the analysis required within the permitting and consultation process pursuant to the MMPA and the Endangered Species Act (ESA), the Navy believes that participation by National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS) is essential. Therefore, in accordance with the Council on Environmental Quality's (CEQ's) NEPA guidelines (specifically 40 C.F.R. Part 1501) and CEQ's 2002 guidance on cooperating agencies, Navy requests that NMFS serve as a cooperating agency for the development of the Phase IV AFTT SEIS/OEIS.

As defined in 40 CFR Section 1501.6, the Navy is the lead agency for the Phase IV AFTT SEIS/OEIS. As the lead agency, the Navy will perform the following:

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August 4, 2022

- Gather all necessary background information and prepare all permit applications associated with the proposed action.
- Work with NMFS personnel to determine the method of estimating potential effects to protected marine species, including threatened and endangered species.
- Determine the scope of the AFTT SEIS/OEIS, including the alternatives evaluated.
- Circulate the NEPA document to the public and other interested parties.
- Schedule and supervise meetings held in support of the NEPA process and compile comments received from the public.
- Maintain an administrative record and respond to any Freedom of Information Act requests relating to the AFTT SEIS/OEIS.
- Maintain and execute an overall project planning schedule. The initial AFTT SEIS/OEIS Stick Chart containing major milestones is provided in enclosure (1).
- Maintain and execute an interagency permitting schedule for MMPA and ESA authorizations. The AFTT Interagency Permitting Milestone Schedule is provided in enclosure (2).
- Track permitting schedule milestones via an online At-Sea Permitting Dashboard that will be updated by Navy on a weekly basis and accessible by Navy and NMFS staff.
- Provide monthly Interagency Permitting Milestone Schedule Status Reports beginning at publication of the Notice of Intent and ending when the MMPA and ESA authorizations are finalized. The monthly status reports will be forwarded by the Navy project lead to NMFS as well as Navy senior leadership.
- Provide proposed schedule changes, as necessary, to the Interagency Permitting Milestone Schedule with the monthly status reports.

Navy respectfully requests that NMFS, in its role as a cooperating agency, provide support as follows:

- Provide timely comments on working drafts of the SEIS/OEIS. The Navy requests that comments on draft SEIS/OEIS documents be provided in accordance with approved project schedules.

5090
Ser N4I/22U130173
August 4, 2022

- Provide timely regulatory deliverables, such as draft and final Proposed Rules, in accordance with approved project schedules.
- Adhere to the overall schedule as set forth by the Navy and provide advance notification to the Navy when there is a likelihood of missing schedule milestones.
- Respond to Navy requests for information, in particular related to review of the acoustic effects analysis and evaluation of the effectiveness of protective and mitigation measures.
- Coordinate, to the maximum extent practicable, any public comment periods required in the MMPA permitting process with the Navy's NEPA public comment periods.
- Participate, as necessary, in Tiger Team meetings hosted by the Navy for discussion of issues related to the SEIS/OEIS.
- Participate in project scoping and public meetings and attend any scheduled risk communication training in advance of those meetings.
- Provide a formal, written response to this cooperating agency request.

Navy and NMFS have been working to develop the enclosed schedules integrating the requirements of NEPA, MMPA and ESA in support of environmental planning for the AFTT Study Area.

- The schedules establish target milestones to facilitate coordination across the agencies' areas of responsibility. Each agency commits to support the target milestones within their area of responsibility, to notify other affected parties if a milestone within that signatory's area of responsibility is at risk, and to identify in-house schedule adjustments to achieve Record of Decision dates.
- This commitment to support integrated scheduling in no way supersedes regulatory processes nor assumes the outcome of requisite regulatory analyses, agency determinations, public involvement processes or independent agency decision authorities.
- Navy and NMFS agree to coordinate any changes to the schedules with their senior leadership. Proposed changes that require a waiver of the two-year CEQ timeline for completion of an Environmental Impact Statement will be forwarded to Navy and NMFS senior agency officials for approval.



UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE
National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration
NATIONAL MARINE FISHERIES SERVICE
1315 East-West Highway
Silver Spring, Maryland 20910

August 18, 2022

Deputy Chief of Naval Operations
(Fleet Readiness and Logistics (CNO N4))
Attn: Capt. Chad Brooks (N4I)
2000 Navy Pentagon
Washington, DC 20350-200

Dear Captain Brooks,

Thank you for your letter requesting that the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration's National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS) participate as a cooperating agency in the preparation of a Supplemental Environmental Impact Statement (SEIS)/Overseas Environmental Impact Statement (OEIS) to evaluate potential environmental effects of military readiness activities, which consist of training and testing, conducted within the Atlantic Fleet Training and Testing (AFTT) Study Area. We reaffirm our support of the Navy's decision to prepare an SEIS/OEIS for AFTT and agree to be a cooperating agency, due, in part, to our responsibilities under section 101(a)(5)(A) of the Marine Mammal Protection Act and section 7 of the Endangered Species Act.

In response to your letter, NMFS staff will continue to, to the extent possible, provide support as follows:

- Provide timely comments on working drafts of the SEIS/OEIS in accordance with approved project schedules;
- Provide timely regulatory deliverables, such as draft and final proposed rules, in accordance with approved project schedules;
- Adhere to the overall schedule as set forth by the Navy and provide advance notification to the Navy when there is a likelihood of missing schedule milestones;
- Respond to Navy requests for information, in particular related to review of the acoustic effects analysis and evaluation of the effectiveness of protective and mitigation measures;
- Coordinate, to the maximum extent practicable, any public comment periods required in the MMPA permitting process with the Navy's NEPA public comment periods;
- Participate, as necessary, in Tiger Team meetings hosted by the Navy for discussion of issues related to the SEIS/OEIS; and



- Assess the need for participation in project scoping and public meetings and attend when agreed upon given staff workload and available funding.

Further, as noted in your letter, the Navy and NMFS have been working to develop the schedules included in Enclosures 1 and 2 to the Navy's letter, integrating the requirements of NEPA, MMPA and ESA in support of environmental planning for the AFTT Study Area. NMFS commits to support the target milestones within its area of responsibility, to notify other affected parties if a milestone within our area of responsibility is at risk, and to identify in-house schedule adjustments to achieve Record of Decision dates. This commitment to support integrated scheduling in no way supersedes regulatory processes nor assumes the outcome of requisite regulatory analyses, agency determinations, public involvement processes or independent agency decision authorities. Additionally, the Navy and NMFS agree to coordinate any changes to the schedules with their senior leadership. Proposed changes that require a waiver of the two-year CEQ timeline for completion of an Environmental Impact Statement will be forwarded to Navy and NMFS senior agency officials for approval.

If you need any additional information, please contact Jolie Harrison, NMFS Office of Protected Resources, at (301) 427-8401.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Kimberly BQ', followed by a long horizontal flourish.

Kimberly Damon-Randall
Director, Office of Protected Resources



DEPARTMENT OF THE NAVY
OFFICE OF THE CHIEF OF NAVAL OPERATIONS
2000 NAVY PENTAGON
WASHINGTON DC 20350-2000

5090
Ser N4I/

Mr. Andrew Haley
Chief, Office of Environmental Management
Commandant (CG-47)
U.S. Coast Guard Headquarters, Stop 7714
2703 Martin Luther King Jr. Ave. SE
Washington, DC 20593

Dear Mr. Haley:

SUBJECT: ATLANTIC FLEET TRAINING AND TESTING SUPPLEMENTAL
ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT STATEMENT/OVERSEAS ENVIRONMENTAL
IMPACT STATEMENT – JOINT LEAD AGENCY

In accordance with the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA), the Department of the Navy (Navy) is initiating the preparation of a Supplement to the 2018 Atlantic Fleet Training and Testing (AFTT) Environmental Impact Statement/Overseas Environmental Statement (SEIS/OEIS).

This AFTT SEIS/OEIS represents the fourth phase (Phase IV) of ongoing NEPA and Executive Order 12114 compliance for continuation of at-sea training and testing. It will evaluate the conduct of military readiness activities from 2025 into the reasonably foreseeable future and accommodate evolving mission requirements associated with force structure changes, including those resulting from the development, testing, and ultimate introduction of new platforms (vessels, aircraft, and weapon systems) into the Fleet.

The Phase IV AFTT SEIS/OEIS provides analysis of military readiness training and testing requirements and is intended to serve as a basis for the renewal of current regulatory permits and authorizations. The existing Marine Mammal Protection Act (MMPA) Final Rule and Letters of Authorization for AFTT will expire in November 2025.

To include the analysis of potential impacts caused by the conduct of Coast Guard training activities in support of various Department of Defense statutory missions, the Navy believes that participation by the U.S. Coast Guard is essential. Therefore, in accordance with the Council on Environmental Quality's (CEQ's) NEPA guidelines (specifically 40 C.F.R. Part 1501) and NEPA (specifically 42 U.S.C. 4336a), Navy requests that U.S. Coast Guard serve as a joint lead agency for the development of the Phase IV AFTT SEIS/OEIS.

As defined in 40 CFR section 1501.7, the Navy is the lead agency for the Phase IV AFTT SEIS/OEIS. As the lead agency, the Navy will perform the following:

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Ser N4I/

- a. Gather all necessary background information and prepare all necessary permit applications associated with the proposed action.
 - b. Work with National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS) personnel to determine the method of estimating potential effects to protected marine species, including threatened and endangered species.
 - c. Determine the scope of the AFTT SEIS/OEIS, including the alternatives evaluated.
 - d. Circulate the NEPA document to the public, including any other interested parties.
 - e. Schedule and supervise meetings held in support of the NEPA process and compile any comments received from the public.
 - f. Maintain an administrative record and respond to any Freedom of Information Act requests relating to the AFTT SEIS/OEIS.
 - g. Maintain and execute an overall project planning schedule. Schedule changes will be coordinated between Navy project lead and U.S. Coast Guard project lead. The initial AFTT SEIS/OEIS Stick Chart containing major milestones is provided in enclosure (1).
 - h. Track interagency permitting schedule milestones via an online At-Sea Permitting Dashboard that will be updated by Navy on a weekly basis and will be accessible by Navy and U.S. Coast Guard staff.
 - i. Provide monthly Interagency Permitting Milestone Schedule Status Reports beginning at publication of the Notice of Intent and ending when the MMPA and ESA authorizations are finalized. The monthly status reports will be forwarded by the Navy project lead to U.S. Coast Guard as well as Navy senior leadership.
 - j. Provide proposed schedule changes for team discussion, as necessary, to the Interagency Permitting Milestone Schedule with the monthly status reports.
- Navy respectfully requests that U.S. Coast Guard, in its role as a joint lead agency, provide support as follows:
- a. Provide timely comments on working drafts of the SEIS/OEIS. The Navy requests that comments on draft SEIS/OEIS documents be provided in accordance with approved project schedules (see Enclosure 2).
 - b. Adhere to the overall schedule as set forth by the Navy and provide advance notification to the Navy if there is a likelihood of missing schedule milestones.

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Ser N4I/

- c. Respond to Navy requests for information, in particular related to proposed training activities that will be conducted in the AFTT Study Area.
- d. Participate, as necessary, in Tiger Team meetings hosted by the Navy for discussion of issues related to the SEIS/OEIS.
- e. Participate in project public meetings and attend any scheduled risk communication training in advance of those meetings.
- f. Provide a formal, written response to this joint lead agency request.

The Navy views this agreement as critical to the successful completion of the environmental planning process for the AFTT SEIS/OEIS. U.S. Coast Guard assistance will be invaluable in this endeavor.

We appreciate your consideration of our request and look forward to your response. The Navy point of contact for this action is Ms. Kimberly Kler, (360) 649-1160, email: kimberly.h.kler.civ@us.navy.mil.

Sincerely,

SINDER.MARK² Digitally signed by
SINDER.MARK.S.1277897365
Date: 2023.11.08 14:05:05
-05'00'

M. S. SINDER
Director, Installations Division

- Enclosures: 1. AFTT SEIS/OEIS Overall Project Schedule (Stick Chart)
2. AFTT Master Project Schedule

Copy to:
ASN (EI&E)
DASN (EM&R)
OAGC (EI&E)
MCICOM GF EV
COMUSFLTFORCOM NORFOLK VA (N46)
COMPACFLT PEARL HARBOR HI (N465)
CNIC WASHINGTON DC (N45)
COMNAVSEASYS COM WASHINGTON DC
COMNAVAIRSYS COM PATUXENT RIVER MD
CNR ARLINGTON VA
COMNAVREG SE JACKSONVILLE FL (N45)
COMNAVREG MIDLANT NORFOLK VA (N45)

U.S. Department of
Homeland Security

United States
Coast Guard



Commandant
United States Coast Guard

2703 Martin Luther King Jr. Avenue SE
U.S. Coast Guard STOP 7714
Washington DC 20593-7714
Staff Symbol: CG-47D
Phone: (202) 475-5690
Fax: (202) 372-8419

5090
December 14, 2023

Mr. M.S. Sinder
Director, Installations Division (N4I)
Office of the Chief of Naval Operations
2000 Navy Pentagon
Washington DC 20350-2000

Dear Mr. Sinder:

The Coast Guard appreciates the Navy's 08 November 2023 request to join the Atlantic Fleet Training and Testing Supplemental Environmental Impact Statement/Overseas Environmental Impact Statement (AFTT SEIS/OEIS) team as a joint lead agency. In accordance with 40 CFR section 1501.7, we recognize the Navy's role as the lead agency in the development of the AFTT SEIS/OEIS which will cover training and testing activities from 2025 to the foreseeable future.

The Coast Guard is committed to being a meaningful partner in the development of the AFTT SEIS/OEIS and related environmental compliance efforts. Specifically, the Coast Guard will:

- a. Provide timely comments on working drafts of the SEIS/OEIS. The Navy requests that comments on draft SEIS/OEIS documents be provided in accordance with approved project schedules.
- b. Adhere to the overall schedule as set forth by the Navy and provide advance notification to the Navy if there is a likelihood of missing schedule milestones.
- c. Respond to Navy requests for information, in particular related to proposed training activities that will be conducted in the AFTT Study Area.
- d. Participate, as necessary, in Tiger Team meetings hosted by the Navy for discussion of issues related to the SEIS/OEIS.
- e. Participate in project public meetings and attend any scheduled risk communication training in advance of those meetings.
- f. Provide formal, written responses when requested.

The Coast Guard views this agreement as critical to the successful completion of the environmental planning process for the AFTT SEIS/OEIS. We appreciate your invitation and look forward to working together. The Coast Guard's point of contact for this action is Mr. Neil Sheehan, (202) 714-7955, email: neil.a.sheehan@uscg.mil.

Sincerely,

HALEY.ANDREW.SH
EENAN.1283556065

Digitally signed by
HALEY.ANDREW.SHEENAN.1283556
065
Date: 2023.12.14 11:11:10 -05'00'

A. S. Haley
Chief, Office of Environmental Management
U.S. Coast Guard



DEPARTMENT OF THE NAVY
U.S. FLEET FORCES COMMAND
1562 MITSCHER AVENUE SUITE 250
NORFOLK VA 23551-2487

5090
Ser N46/019
May 21, 2024

Ms. Kimberly Damon-Randall
Director, Office of Protected Resources
National Marine Fisheries Service
National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration
1315 East-West Highway
SSMC3, Room 13821
Silver Spring, MD 20901-3282

Dear Ms. Damon-Randall:

In accordance with the Marine Mammal Protection Act, as amended, and 50 C.F.R. Part 216, the U.S. Navy requests a seven-year incidental take authorization and regulations for the incidental taking of marine mammals associated with the Atlantic Fleet Training and Testing (AFTT) activities occurring within the Gulf of Mexico and Atlantic Ocean.

The proposed action may incidentally expose marine mammals that reside within the AFTT study area to sound and other environmental stressors associated with training and testing activities. The enclosed request further describes the AFTT activities and study area, and provides the specific information required by the National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS) for consideration for an incidental take request.

The U.S. Navy also requests that the regulation authorize, and NMFS issue, three seven-year Letters of Authorization; one issued to Commander, United States Fleet Forces Command for training activities; one issued to Commandant, United States Coast Guard for training activities; and one issued to Commander, Naval Sea Systems Command for testing activities. Addresses for these commands are provided below:

Commander, United States Fleet Forces Command
Attn: Code N46
1562 Mitscher Avenue
Suite 250
Norfolk, Virginia 23551-2487

Commandant, United States Coast Guard
Headquarters, US Coast Guard
Office of Cutter Forces USCG COMDT CG-751
2703 Martin Luther King Jr. Avenue, SE
Washington, DC 20593-7714

5090
Ser N46/019
May 21, 2024

Commander, Naval Sea Systems Command
Attn: Code SEA 091
1333 Isaac Hull Avenue, SE
Washington Navy Yard, DC 20376-0001

We appreciate your continued support in helping the U.S. Navy to meet its environmental responsibilities.

Sincerely,

AGUAYO.MARIA.L
ORETO.115727673
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Digitally signed by
AGUAYO MARIA LORA LILIAN
DN: cn=AGUAYO MARIA LORA LILIAN,
c=US,
Date: 2024.05.21 16:27:50 -0400

M. J. AGUAYO
Director, Fleet Installations and Environment
and Deputy Chief of Staff

Enclosure: Request for Regulations and Letters of Authorization for the Incidental Taking of
Marine Mammals Resulting from the U.S. Navy Training and Testing Activities in
the AFTT Study Area.

Copy to: Ms. Tanya Dobrzynski, NMFS Office of Protected Resources
Ms. Jolie Harrison, NMFS Office of Protected Resources
CNO WASHINGTON DC (OPNAV N41)
COMNAVSEASYS COM WASHINGTON DC
COMNAVAIRSYSCOM PATUXENT RIVER
ONR ARLINGTON VA

L.2 COASTAL ZONE MANAGEMENT ACT

Under the Coastal Zone Management Act, states/territories have 60 days to respond to federal consistency reviews or their concurrence is presumed. Consistency determinations were submitted to 18 states adjacent to the Study Area. Correspondence indicating concurrence were received from 13 states (Alabama, Delaware, Florida, Louisiana, Maine, Maryland, Mississippi, New Hampshire, New Jersey, North Carolina, South Carolina, Texas, and Virginia). Concurrence was presumed for the remaining five states (Connecticut, Georgia, Massachusetts, New York, and Rhode Island).

L.2.1 ALABAMA



DEPARTMENT OF THE NAVY

U.S. FLEET FORCES COMMAND
1562 MITSCHER AVENUE SUITE 250
NORFOLK VA 23551-2487

5090
Ser N46/401
December 13, 2024

Mr. J. Scott Brown
Mobile Coastal Field Office
Department of Environmental Management
2204 Perimeter Road
Mobile, AL 36615

Dear Mr. Brown:

As is required by the Coastal Zone Management Act (CZMA), the United States (U.S.) Department of the Navy (including both the U.S. Navy and the U.S. Marine Corps) in cooperation with the U.S. Coast Guard as Joint Lead Agency (hereinafter jointly referred to as the Action Proponents) requests concurrence with its Coastal Consistency Determination for proposed activities in the Atlantic Fleet Training and Testing (AFTT) Study Area. This Phase IV CZMA consultation supplements the AFTT Phase III Coastal Consistency Determination to account for changes in the Action Proponents' proposed training and testing activities necessary to meet mission needs. These proposed activities are generally consistent with those analyzed in prior Navy consultations and are representative of the activities the Action Proponents have been conducting in the AFTT Study Area for decades.

In 2013, the Navy analyzed the potential environmental effects of its pierside and at-sea training and testing activities in the western Atlantic Ocean and the Gulf of Mexico in the AFTT Environmental Impact Statement (EIS)/Overseas Environmental Impact Statement (OEIS) (termed "AFTT Phase II"). To account for changes in training and support renewed permits and authorizations, the Navy completed an additional EIS/OEIS with associated consultations in 2018 (termed "AFTT Phase III"), and these permits expire in 2025. Each phase of review has further refined the Navy's analysis and supported issuance of permits and authorizations issued in compliance with the Marine Mammal Protection Act (MMPA) and Endangered Species Act (ESA). A Supplemental EIS/OEIS is being prepared (termed "AFTT Phase IV"), which supplements the Navy's AFTT Phase III EIS/OEIS. In addition, AFTT Phase IV incorporates U.S. Coast Guard training activities. This current consultation is supported by the 2024 Draft AFTT Supplemental EIS/OEIS, and accounts for some modifications in the training and testing activities, as well as changes in the types, frequency, and locations of those activities.

Most training and testing activities discussed in the AFTT Phase III version of the AFTT EIS/OEIS are similar to the proposed AFTT Phase IV activities, with the resulting effects remaining unchanged from the previous consultations. Some activities have either increased or decreased in scope, been reclassified, or been modified slightly since the previous consultation. In addition, some training activities are proposed for selected inshore locations that were not included in past consultations.

This AFTT Phase IV CZMA consultation supplements the AFTT Phase III Coastal Consistency Determination to account for changes in the Action Proponents' proposed training and testing activities necessary to meet mission needs. This consultation includes those activities

that are new to AFTT Phase IV or have increased in frequency, intensity, or possible effects since AFTT Phase III. In 2018, the Navy conducted a CZMA consultation with the Alabama Department of Environmental Management and received concurrence with the Navy's Coastal Consistency Determination (2018-130-FC-FAA-Navy of April 10, 2018).

The Draft AFTT Phase IV Supplemental EIS/OEIS and the AFTT website (www.nepa.navy.mil/aftteis/) contain detailed information and analyses of potential effects. The Action Proponents reviewed Alabama's Coastal Area Management Program in preparation of the enclosed Coastal Consistency Determination. Based on the analyses, the Action Proponents have determined that the proposed action will be fully consistent with the enforceable policies of the Alabama Coastal Area Management Program.

We request that you provide your concurrence with our findings within 60 days of receipt of this letter. If a response has not been received by that time, concurrence with this finding will be assumed. My point of contact for this matter is Laura Busch who may be reached at (757) 836-8471 or at laura.m.busch2.civ@us.navy.mil.

Sincerely,

CUADROS.JORGE
RICARDO.1186806
162

Digitally signed by
CUADROS.JORGE RICARDO.11
86806162
Date: 2024.12.12 16:04:42 -0500

J. R. CUADROS
Director, Fleet Installations & Environment
and Deputy Chief of Staff

Enclosure: Coastal Consistency Determination

LANCE R. LEFLEUR
DIRECTOR



KAY IVEY
GOVERNOR

Alabama Department of Environmental Management
adem.alabama.gov

1400 Coliseum Blvd. 36110-2400 ■ Post Office Box 301463
Montgomery, Alabama 36130-1463
(334) 271-7700 ■ FAX (334) 271-7950

February 6, 2025

Jorge R. Cuadros
Director and Deputy Chief of Staff
Fleet Installations and Environment
C/O Laura Busch
U.S. Fleet Forces Command
Department of the Navy
1562 Mitscher Avenue, Suite 250
Norfolk, Virginia 23551-2487

RE: State of Alabama Coastal Consistency Concurrence
Phase IV for the Atlantic Fleet Training and Testing (AFTT) Study Area in the Gulf of Mexico
5090 Ser N46/401 December 13, 2024
Alabama Department of Environmental Management (ADEM) Tracking Code: ACAMP-2018-130.1-FC-
FAA-Navy

Dear Director Cuadros:

On December 13, 2024, the ADEM received the U.S. Navy's Consistency Determination (CD) that the proposed federal action, referenced above, is consistent with the Alabama Coastal Area Management Program. Public noticing requirements of Title 15 C.F.R. §930.42 have been completed. Pursuant to Title 15 C.F.R. §930.41, by this letter the ADEM hereby notifies the U.S. Navy of its concurrence with the U.S. Navy's CD.

Any correspondence related to this decision should be sent to the email inbox coastal@adem.alabama.gov. Always reference the ADEM tracking code located at the top of this document when corresponding.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Anthony Scott Hughes".

Anthony Scott Hughes, Chief
Field Operations Division

ASH/jsb/sam

cc: US Navy | Jaime B. Gormley – (Jaime.B.Gormley.civ@us.navy.mil)
DCNR.Coastal@dcnr.alabama.gov
ADCNR-SLD (Submerged.Lands@dcnr.alabama.gov)

File: CZCERT/XXX



Birmingham Office
110 Vulcan Road
Birmingham, AL 35209-4702
(205) 942-6168
(205) 941-1603 (FAX)

Decatur Office
2715 Sandlin Road, S.W.
Decatur, AL 35603-1333
(256) 353-1713
(256) 340-9359 (FAX)

Coastal Office
1615 South Broad Street
Mobile, AL 36605
(251) 450-3400
(251) 479-2593 (FAX)

L.2.2 CONNECTICUT



DEPARTMENT OF THE NAVY

U.S. FLEET FORCES COMMAND
1562 MITSCHER AVENUE SUITE 250
NORFOLK VA 23551-2487

5090
Ser N46/402
December 13, 2024

Ms. Mary-Beth Hart
Land and Water Resources Division
Department of Energy & Environmental Protection
79 Elm Street, 3rd Floor
Hartford, CT 06106-5127

Dear Ms. Hart:

As is required by the Coastal Zone Management Act (CZMA), the United States (U.S.) Department of the Navy (including both the U.S. Navy and the U.S. Marine Corps) in cooperation with the U.S. Coast Guard as Joint Lead Agency (hereinafter jointly referred to as the Action Proponents) requests concurrence with its Coastal Consistency Determination for proposed activities in the Atlantic Fleet Training and Testing (AFTT) Study Area. This Phase IV CZMA consultation supplements the AFTT Phase III Coastal Consistency Determination to account for changes in the Action Proponents' proposed training and testing activities necessary to meet mission needs. These proposed activities are generally consistent with those analyzed in prior Navy consultations and are representative of the activities the Action Proponents have been conducting in the AFTT Study Area for decades.

In 2013, the Navy analyzed the potential environmental effects of its pierside and at-sea training and testing activities in the western Atlantic Ocean and the Gulf of Mexico in the AFTT Environmental Impact Statement (EIS)/Overseas Environmental Impact Statement (OEIS) (termed "AFTT Phase II"). To account for changes in training and support renewed permits and authorizations, the Navy completed an additional EIS/OEIS with associated consultations in 2018 (termed "AFTT Phase III"), and these permits expire in 2025. Each phase of review has further refined the Navy's analysis and supported issuance of permits and authorizations issued in compliance with the Marine Mammal Protection Act (MMPA) and Endangered Species Act (ESA). A Supplemental EIS/OEIS is being prepared (termed "AFTT Phase IV"), which supplements the Navy's AFTT Phase III EIS/OEIS. In addition, AFTT Phase IV incorporates U.S. Coast Guard training activities. This current consultation is supported by the 2024 Draft AFTT Supplemental EIS/OEIS, and accounts for some modifications in the training and testing activities, as well as changes in the types, frequency, and locations of those activities.

Most training and testing activities discussed in the AFTT Phase III version of the AFTT EIS/OEIS are similar to the proposed AFTT Phase IV activities, with the resulting effects remaining unchanged from the previous consultations. Some activities have either increased or decreased in scope, been reclassified, or been modified slightly since the previous consultation. In addition, some training activities are proposed for selected inshore locations that were not included in past consultations.

This AFTT Phase IV CZMA consultation supplements the AFTT Phase III Coastal Consistency Determination to account for changes in the Action Proponents' proposed training

and testing activities necessary to meet mission needs. This consultation includes those activities that are new to AFTT Phase IV or have increased in frequency, intensity, or possible effects since AFTT Phase III. In 2018, the Navy conducted a CZMA consultation with the Connecticut Department of Energy and Environmental Protection and did not receive a response to the Navy's Coastal Consistency Determination, thus concurrence was presumed.

The Draft AFTT Phase IV Supplemental EIS/OEIS and the AFTT website (www.nepa.navy.mil/aftteis/) contain detailed information and analyses of potential effects. The Action Proponents reviewed Connecticut Coastal Management Program in preparation of the enclosed Coastal Consistency Determination. Based on the analyses, the Action Proponents have determined that the proposed action will be fully consistent with the enforceable policies of the Connecticut Coastal Management Program.

We request that you provide your concurrence with our findings within 60 days of receipt of this letter. If a response has not been received by that time, concurrence with this finding will be assumed. My point of contact for this matter is Laura Busch who may be reached at (757) 836-8471 or at laura.m.busch2.civ@us.navy.mil.

Sincerely,

CUADROS.JORGE
RICARDO.1186806
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CUADROS.JORGE RICARDO.11
86806162
Date: 2024.12.12 16:03:27 -0500

J. R. CUADROS
Director, Fleet Installations & Environment
and Deputy Chief of Staff

Enclosure: Coastal Consistency Determination

L.2.3 DELAWARE



DEPARTMENT OF THE NAVY
U.S. FLEET FORCES COMMAND
1562 MITSCHER AVENUE SUITE 250
NORFOLK VA 23551-2487

5090
Ser N46/403
December 13, 2024

Ms. Jennifer L. Holmes
Coastal Regulatory Programs Manager
Delaware Coastal Programs
Department of Natural Resources & Environmental Control
100 W. Water Street, Suite 7B
Dover, DE 19904

Dear Ms. Holmes:

As is required by the Coastal Zone Management Act (CZMA), the United States (U.S.) Department of the Navy (including both the U.S. Navy and the U.S. Marine Corps) in cooperation with the U.S. Coast Guard as Joint Lead Agency (hereinafter jointly referred to as the Action Proponents) requests concurrence with its Coastal Consistency Determination for proposed activities in the Atlantic Fleet Training and Testing (AFTT) Study Area. This Phase IV CZMA consultation supplements the AFTT Phase III Coastal Consistency Determination to account for changes in the Action Proponents' proposed training and testing activities necessary to meet mission needs. These proposed activities are generally consistent with those analyzed in prior Navy consultations and are representative of the activities the Action Proponents have been conducting in the AFTT Study Area for decades.

In 2013, the Navy analyzed the potential environmental effects of its pierside and at-sea training and testing activities in the western Atlantic Ocean and the Gulf of Mexico in the AFTT Environmental Impact Statement (EIS)/Overseas Environmental Impact Statement (OEIS) (termed "AFTT Phase II"). To account for changes in training and support renewed permits and authorizations, the Navy completed an additional EIS/OEIS with associated consultations in 2018 (termed "AFTT Phase III"), and these permits expire in 2025. Each phase of review has further refined the Navy's analysis and supported issuance of permits and authorizations issued in compliance with the Marine Mammal Protection Act (MMPA) and Endangered Species Act (ESA). A Supplemental EIS/OEIS is being prepared (termed "AFTT Phase IV"), which supplements the Navy's AFTT Phase III EIS/OEIS. In addition, AFTT Phase IV incorporates U.S. Coast Guard training activities. This current consultation is supported by the 2024 Draft Supplemental EIS/OEIS, and accounts for some modifications in the training and testing activities, as well as changes in the types, frequency, and locations of those activities.

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This AFTT Phase IV CZMA consultation supplements the AFTT Phase III Coastal Consistency Determination to account for changes in the Action Proponents' proposed training

and testing activities necessary to meet mission needs. This consultation includes those activities that are new to AFTT Phase IV or have increased in frequency, intensity, or possible effects since AFTT Phase III. In 2018, the Navy conducted a CZMA consultation with the Delaware Department of Natural Resources and Environmental Control and received concurrence with the Navy's Coastal Consistency Determination (FC 2018.0030 of May 15, 2018.).

The Draft AFTT Phase IV Supplemental EIS/OEIS and the AFTT website (www.nepa.navy.mil/aftteis/) contain detailed information and analyses of potential effects. The Action Proponents reviewed Delaware's Coastal Management Program in preparation of the enclosed Coastal Consistency Determination. Based on the analyses, the Action Proponents have determined that the proposed action will be consistent to the maximum extent practicable with the applicable enforceable policies of the Delaware Coastal Management Program.

We request that you provide your concurrence with our findings within 60 days of receipt of this letter. If a response has not been received by that time, concurrence with this finding will be assumed. My point of contact for this matter is Laura Busch who may be reached at (757) 836-8471 or at laura.m.busch2.civ@us.navy.mil.

Sincerely,

CUADROS.JORGE
RICARDO.1186806
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Date: 2024.12.12 16:03:59 -05'00'

J. R. CUADROS
Director, Fleet Installations & Environment
and Deputy Chief of Staff

Enclosure: Coastal Consistency Determination



STATE OF DELAWARE
DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES AND ENVIRONMENTAL CONTROL
DIVISION OF CLIMATE, COASTAL AND ENERGY
STATE STREET COMMONS
100 W. WATER STREET, SUITE 7B
DOVER, DELAWARE 19904

COASTAL
PROGRAMS

PHONE
(302) 739-9283

Feb 13, 2025

Jorge Ricardo Cuadros
Director, Fleet Installations & Environment and Deputy Chief of Staff
Department of the Navy
U.S. Fleet Forces Command
1562 Mitscher Avenue Suite 250
Norfolk VA 23551-2487

**RE: Delaware Coastal Management Program — Federal Consistency Determination
Concurrence for Atlantic Fleet Training and Testing Study Area CCD (FC 2025.0013)**

Dear Jorge Ricardo Cuadros,

The Delaware Department of Natural Resources and Environmental Control (DNREC) Coastal Management Program (DCMP) has completed its review of the above referenced project, received by this office on December 16, 2024.

PROPOSED ACTION

The United States Navy proposes to conduct new and existing training and testing activities in the Atlantic Fleet Training and Testing Study Area. The determination submitted reflects changes in the proposed U.S. Navy training and testing activities needed to meet mission requirements and U.S. Coast Guard training activities. Training exercises that may occur in or near Delaware waters include basic and applied scientific research and technology development; testing, evaluation, and maintenance of sensors and systems, such as missiles, torpedoes, radar, active and passive sonar systems, vessels, submarines, and aircraft; acquisition of technologically advanced vessels, aircraft, and systems. The U.S. Navy will notify and coordinate with DNREC's Division of Fish and Wildlife during the planning of events that could impact resources within Delaware's coastal zone.

FEDERAL CONSISTENCY UNDER THE COASTAL ZONE MANAGEMENT ACT

Pursuant to the Coastal Zone Management Act (CZMA) of 1972, as amended, each federal agency activity within or outside the coastal zone that can have reasonably foreseeable effects on any land or water use or natural resource of the coastal zone shall be carried out in a manner which is consistent

to the maximum extent practicable with the enforceable policies of approved state management programs. The National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) is required to review and approve a proposed state management program for it to become effective. Under the CZMA implementing regulations, Federal Consistency with Approved Coastal Management Programs (15 CFR 930), subpart C, federal agencies are advised to provide state agencies with a consistency determination at the earliest practicable time in the planning or reassessment of an activity, and also before the federal agency reaches a significant point of decision-making in its review process. The term "consistent to the maximum extent practicable" in 15 CFR 930.32 means fully consistent with the enforceable policies of a management program unless full consistency is prohibited by existing law applicable to the federal agency.

PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

In accordance with 15 CFR §930.42, the public notice of this proposed action was published in English in the Delaware State News and The News Journal on January 15, 2025. The notice was also posted on the DNREC public notices list service website on January 15, 2025, in English, Spanish, and Haitian Creole. The public was given 20 days to comment on this notice. No public comments were received.

FEDERAL CONSISTENCY ANALYSIS

The DNREC DCMP coordinates the review of consistency determinations with agencies administering the enforceable and advisory policies of the program. The proposed activity is to be implemented in a manner consistent with the enforceable policies of the DCMP under Section 5.0 of the DCMP Federal Consistency Policy and Procedures document. The following agencies participated in this review:

DNREC, Division of Air Quality
DNREC, Division of Fish and Wildlife

Please be advised that the Division of Air Quality (DAQ) recommends that the U.S. Navy, U.S. Coast Guard and other participating agencies seek out and to comply with all Delaware Air Quality Regulations to not exceed air quality emission thresholds. The applicant is encouraged to make every reasonable effort to perform all training and testing activities in a manner which minimizes any adverse impacts on existing air quality. In 7 DE Admin. Code 1135, a federal action is defined as "any activity engaged in by a department, agency, or instrumentality of the Federal government, or any activity a department, agency or instrumentality of the Federal government supports in any way, provides financial assistance for, licenses, permits, or approves, other than activities related to transportation plans, programs, and projects developed, funded, or approved under title 23 U.S.C. or the Federal Transit Act (49 U.S.C. 1601 et seq.)."

Please note that the following Delaware air quality regulations may apply: Open Burning (7 DE Admin. Code 1113), Conformity of General Federal Actions to the State Implementation Plan (7 DE Admin. Code 1135), Excessive Idling of Heavy-Duty Vehicles (7 DE Admin. Code 1145),

Regulations Governing the Control of Noise (7 DE Admin. Code 1149), Outer Continental Shelf Air Regulations (7 DE Admin. Code 1150), and Limiting Emissions of Volatile Organic Compounds from Consumer and Commercial Products (7 DE Admin. Code 1141).

The Division of Fish and Wildlife reminds the applicant that state rare or federally listed species may occur in the study area, including species of whale, turtles, and sturgeon. The U.S. Navy will notify and coordinate with DNREC's Division of Fish and Wildlife during the planning of events that could impact resources within Delaware's coastal zone.

CONCURRENCE

Based on its review and pursuant to 15 CFR 930, the DCMP concurs that the U.S. Navy Atlantic Fleet Training and Testing Study Area CCD as proposed is consistent to the maximum extent practicable.

Pursuant to 15 CFR 930.46, U.S. Navy shall notify the DCMP of any proposed modifications to activities after receiving a decision from the DCMP. Modifications will be subject to supplemental federal consistency review if effects to any coastal use or resource will be substantially different than originally described. Please be advised that this federal consistency review does not negate the need for other authorizations that may be required.

Thank you for the opportunity to evaluate this federal activity. If you have any questions, please contact me or Stephanie Zmina of my staff at (302) 739-9283.

Sincerely,



Jesse Hayden (Feb 13, 2025 12:52 EST)

Jesse Hayden, Administrator
Delaware Coastal Management Program

JH/sz

cc: File FC 2025.0013
Tina Merrill, DAQ
Matthew Young, DFW
Laura Busch, U.S. Navy
Jaime Gormley, U.S. Navy

L.2.4 FLORIDA



DEPARTMENT OF THE NAVY
U.S. FLEET FORCES COMMAND
1562 MITSCHER AVENUE SUITE 250
NORFOLK VA 23551-2487

5090
Ser N46/404
December 13, 2024

Mr. Chris Stahl
Florida State Clearinghouse Coordinator
Department of Environmental Protection
3800 Commonwealth Blvd
Douglas Building, Mail Station 47
Tallahassee, FL 32399-2400

Dear Mr. Stahl:

As is required by the Coastal Zone Management Act (CZMA), the United States (U.S.) Department of the Navy (including both the U.S. Navy and the U.S. Marine Corps) in cooperation with the U.S. Coast Guard as Joint Lead Agency (hereinafter jointly referred to as the Action Proponents) requests concurrence with its Coastal Consistency Determination for proposed activities in the Atlantic Fleet Training and Testing (AFTT) Study Area. This Phase IV CZMA consultation supplements the AFTT Phase III Coastal Consistency Determination to account for changes in the Action Proponents' proposed training and testing activities necessary to meet mission needs. These proposed activities are generally consistent with those analyzed in prior Navy consultations and are representative of the activities the Action Proponents have been conducting in the AFTT Study Area for decades.

In 2013, the Navy analyzed the potential environmental effects of its pier-side and at-sea training and testing activities in the western Atlantic Ocean and the Gulf of Mexico in the AFTT Environmental Impact Statement (EIS)/Overseas Environmental Impact Statement (OEIS) (termed "AFTT Phase II"), and these permits expire in 2025. To account for changes in training and support renewed permits and authorizations, the Navy completed an additional EIS/OEIS with associated consultations in 2018 (termed "AFTT Phase III"). Each phase of review has further refined the Navy's analysis and supported issuance of permits and authorizations issued in compliance with the Marine Mammal Protection Act (MMPA) and Endangered Species Act (ESA). A Supplemental EIS/OEIS is being prepared (termed "AFTT Phase IV"), which supplements the Navy's AFTT Phase III EIS/OEIS. In addition, AFTT Phase IV incorporates U.S. Coast Guard training activities. This current consultation is supported by the 2024 Draft AFTT Supplemental EIS/OEIS, and accounts for some modifications in the training and testing activities, as well as changes in the types, frequency, and locations of those activities.

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This AFTT Phase IV CZMA consultation supplements the AFTT Phase III Coastal Consistency Determination to account for changes in the Action Proponents' proposed training and testing activities necessary to meet mission needs. This consultation includes those activities

that are new to AFTT Phase IV or have increased in frequency, intensity, or possible effects since AFTT Phase III. In 2018, the Navy conducted a CZMA consultation with the Florida Department of Environmental Protection and received concurrence with the Navy's Coastal Consistency Determination (FL2018030782270C of May 9, 2018).

The Draft AFTT Phase IV Supplemental EIS/OEIS and the AFTT website (www.nepa.navy.mil/aftteis/) contain detailed information and analyses of potential effects. The Action Proponents reviewed Florida's Coastal Management Program in preparation of the enclosed Coastal Consistency Determination. Based on the analyses, the Action Proponents have determined that the proposed action will be consistent to the maximum extent practicable with the enforceable policies of the Florida Coastal Management Program.

We request that you provide your concurrence with our findings within 60 days of receipt of this letter. If a response has not been received by that time, concurrence with this finding will be assumed. My point of contact for this matter is Laura Busch who may be reached at (757) 836-8471 or at laura.m.busch2.civ@us.navy.mil.

Sincerely,

CUADROS.JORGE
RICARDO.1186806
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Date: 2024.12.12 16:01:33 -0500

J. R. CUADROS
Director, Fleet Installations & Environment
and Deputy Chief of Staff

Enclosure: Coastal Consistency Determination

LaVere, Ashley

From: Stahl, Chris <Chris.Stahl@FloridaDEP.gov>
Sent: Thursday, November 14, 2024 2:40 PM
To: elizabeth.nashold@navy.mil
Cc: State_Clearinghouse; LaVere, Ashley
Subject: State Clearance Letter for FL202409250246C- Draft Supplemental Environmental Impact Statement (EIS)/Overseas Environmental Impact Statement (OEIS), Atlantic Fleet Training And Testing Activities(AFTT), Atlantic Ocean And Gulf Of Mexico, Florida
Attachments: FWC Comments_Atlantic Fleet Training And Testing DEIS-OEIS_File No. FL202409250246C.pdf

[EXTERNAL SENDER] Use Caution opening links or attachments

November 14, 2024

Elizabeth Nashold
Naval Facilities Engineering Command, Atlantic
6506 Hampton Boulevard
Norfolk, Virginia 23508-1278

RE: Department of Defense, Department of the Navy, Draft Supplemental Environmental Impact Statement (EIS)/Overseas Environmental Impact Statement (OEIS), Atlantic Fleet Training and Testing Activities(AFTT), Atlantic Ocean and Gulf of Mexico, Florida
SAI # FL202409250246C

Dear Elizabeth:

Florida State Clearinghouse staff has reviewed the proposal under the following authorities: Presidential Executive Order 12372; § 403.061(42), Florida Statutes; the Coastal Zone Management Act, 16 U.S.C. §§ 1451-1464, as amended; and the National Environmental Policy Act, 42 U.S.C. §§ 4321-4347, as amended.

Attached are comments generated by Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission (FWC) staff and incorporated hereto.

If prehistoric or historic artifacts, such as pottery or ceramics, projectile points, dugout canoes, metal implements, historic building materials, or any other physical remains that could be associated with Native American, early European, or American settlement are encountered at any time within the project site area, the permitted project shall cease all activities involving subsurface disturbance in the vicinity of the discovery. The applicant shall contact the Florida Department of State, Division of Historical Resources, Compliance and Review Section at (850)-245-6333. Project activities shall not resume without verbal and/or written authorization. In the event that unmarked human remains are encountered during permitted activities, all work shall stop immediately and the proper authorities notified in accordance with Section 872.05,

Based on the information submitted, the state has no objections to the subject project and, therefore, it is consistent with the Florida Coastal Management Program (FCMP). Thank you for the opportunity to review the proposed plan. If you have any questions or need further assistance, please don't hesitate to contact me at (850) 717-9076.

Thank You,

Chris Stahl

Chris Stahl, Coordinator
Florida State Clearinghouse
Florida Department of Environmental Protection
3900 Commonwealth Blvd., M.S. 47
Tallahassee, FL 32399-2400
ph. (850) 717-9076
Chris.Stahl@floridadep.gov



L.2.5 GEORGIA



DEPARTMENT OF THE NAVY
U.S. FLEET FORCES COMMAND
1562 MITSCHER AVENUE SUITE 250
NORFOLK VA 23551-2487

5090
Ser N46/405
December 13, 2024

Ms. Kelie Moore
Coastal Management Program
Department of Natural Resources
Coastal Resources Division
One Conservation Way, Suite 300
Brunswick, GA 31520-8687

Dear Ms. Moore:

As is required by the Coastal Zone Management Act (CZMA) the United States (U.S.) Department of the Navy (including both the U.S. Navy and the U.S. Marine Corps) in cooperation with the U.S. Coast Guard as Joint Lead Agency (hereinafter jointly referred to as the Action Proponents) requests concurrence with its Coastal Consistency Determination for proposed activities in the Atlantic Fleet Training and Testing (AFTT) Study Area. This Phase IV CZMA consultation supplements the AFTT Phase III Coastal Consistency Determination to account for changes in the Action Proponents' proposed training and testing activities necessary to meet mission needs. These proposed activities are generally consistent with those analyzed in prior Navy consultations and are representative of the activities the Action Proponents have been conducting in the AFTT Study Area for decades.

In 2013, the Navy analyzed the potential environmental effects of its pierside and at-sea training and testing activities in the western Atlantic Ocean and the Gulf of Mexico in the AFTT Environmental Impact Statement (EIS)/Overseas Environmental Impact Statement (OEIS) (termed "AFTT Phase II"). To account for changes in training and support renewed permits and authorizations, the Navy completed an EIS/OEIS with associated consultations in 2018 (termed "AFTT Phase III"), and these permits expire in 2025. Each phase of review has further refined the Navy's analysis and supported issuance of permits and authorizations issued in compliance with the Marine Mammal Protection Act (MMPA) and Endangered Species Act (ESA). A Supplemental EIS/OEIS is being prepared (termed "AFTT Phase IV"), which supplements the Navy's AFTT Phase III EIS/OEIS. In addition, AFTT Phase IV incorporates U.S. Coast Guard training activities. This current consultation is supported by the 2024 Draft AFTT Supplemental EIS/OEIS, and accounts for some modifications in the training and testing activities, as well as changes in the types, frequency, and locations of those activities.

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activities that are new to AFTT Phase IV or have increased in frequency, intensity, or possible effects since Phase III. In 2018, the Navy conducted a CZMA consultation with the Department of Natural Resources Coastal Resources Division, which objected to the Navy's Coastal Consistency Determination (Letter of May 15, 2018). After additional dialogue, the Navy responded that it had satisfied its consultation requirements under the CZMA and intended to proceed with the proposed action.

The Draft AFTT Phase IV Supplemental EIS/OEIS and the AFTT website (www.nepa.navy.mil/aftteis/) contain detailed information and analyses of potential effects. The Action Proponents reviewed Georgia's Coastal Management Program in preparation of the enclosed Coastal Consistency Determination. Based on the analyses, the Action Proponents have determined that the proposed action will be consistent to the maximum extent practicable with the enforceable policies of the Georgia Coastal Management Program.

We request that you provide your concurrence with our findings within 60 days of receipt of this letter. If a response has not been received by that time, concurrence with this finding will be assumed. My point of contact for this matter is Laura Busch who may be reached at (757) 836-8471 or at laura.m.busch2.civ@us.navy.mil.

Sincerely,

CUADROS.JORGE: Digitally signed by
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Date: 2024.12.12 16:02:39 -0500

J. R. CUADROS
Director, Fleet Installations & Environment
and Deputy Chief of Staff

Enclosure: Coastal Consistency Determination

L.2.6 LOUISIANA



DEPARTMENT OF THE NAVY
U.S. FLEET FORCES COMMAND
1562 MITSCHER AVENUE SUITE 250
NORFOLK VA 23551-2487

5090
Ser N46/406
December 13, 2024

Ms. Sara Krupa
Manager, Interagency Affairs
Office of Coastal Management
Louisiana Department of Energy and Natural Resources
P.O. Box 44487
Baton Rouge, LA 70804

Dear Ms. Krupa:

As is required by the Coastal Zone Management Act (CZMA), the United States (U.S.) Department of the Navy (including both the U.S. Navy and the U.S. Marine Corps) in cooperation with the U.S. Coast Guard as Joint Lead Agency (hereinafter jointly referred to as the Action Proponents) requests concurrence with its Coastal Consistency Determination for proposed activities in the Atlantic Fleet Training and Testing (AFTT) Study Area. This Phase IV CZMA consultation supplements the AFTT Phase III Coastal Consistency Determination to account for changes in the Action Proponents' proposed training and testing activities necessary to meet mission needs. These proposed activities are generally consistent with those analyzed in prior Navy consultations and are representative of the activities the Action Proponents have been conducting in the AFTT Study Area for decades.

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that are new to AFTT Phase IV or have increased in frequency, intensity, or possible effects since AFTT Phase III. In 2018, the Navy conducted a CZMA consultation with Louisiana's Department of Natural Resources and received concurrence with the Navy's Coastal Consistency Determination (C20180023 of April 17, 2018).

The Draft AFTT Phase IV Supplemental EIS/OEIS and the AFTT website (www.nepa.navy.mil/aftteis/) contain detailed information and analyses of potential effects. The Action Proponents reviewed Louisiana's Coastal Resources Program in preparation of the enclosed Coastal Consistency Determination. Based on the analyses, the Action Proponents have determined that the proposed action will be consistent to the maximum extent possible with the enforceable policies of the Louisiana Coastal Resources Program.

We request that you provide your concurrence with our findings within 60 days of receipt of this letter. If a response has not been received by that time, concurrence with this finding will be assumed. My point of contact for this matter is Laura Busch who may be reached at (757) 836-8471 or at laura.m.busch2.civ@us.navy.mil.

Sincerely,

CUADROS.JORGE
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86806162
Date: 2024.12.12 16:03:03 -0500

J. R. CUADROS
Director, Fleet Installations & Environment
and Deputy Chief of Staff

Enclosure: Coastal Consistency Determination

TYLER PATRICK GRAY
SECRETARY

DUSTIN H. DAVIDSON
DEPUTY SECRETARY



MARK NORMAND, JR.
UNDERSECRETARY

MANNY ACOSTA
OIL SPILL COORDINATOR

KEITH O. LOVELL
ASSISTANT SECRETARY
COASTAL MANAGEMENT

AMANDA MCCLINTON
ASSISTANT SECRETARY
ENERGY

ANDREW B. YOUNG
ASSISTANT SECRETARY
MINERAL RESOURCES

STEVEN M. GIAMBRONE
INTERIM DIRECTOR
CONSERVATION

DEPARTMENT OF ENERGY AND NATURAL RESOURCES

February 18, 2025

Laura M. Busch
U.S. Fleet Forces
Environmental Readiness Division
1562 Mitscher Ave., Suite 250
Norfolk, VA 23551-2487
Via email: Laura.M.Busch2.civ@us.navy.mil

RE: **C20250002**, Coastal Zone Consistency
U.S. Navy
Direct Federal Action
Atlantic Fleet Training and Testing Study Area
Coastwide and Offshore, Louisiana

Dear Ms. Busch,

The above referenced project has been reviewed for consistency with the approved Louisiana Coastal Resource Program (LCRP) as required by Section 307 of the Coastal Zone Management Act of 1972, as amended. The project, as proposed in the application, is consistent with the LCRP.

If you have any questions concerning this determination, please contact Jim Bondy of the Consistency Section at (225) 342-3870 or James.Bondy@la.gov.

Sincerely yours,

/S/ Charles Reulet
Administrator
Interagency Affairs/Field Services Division

CR/MH/jab

cc: Dave Butler, LDWF

Post Office Box 94396, Baton Rouge, LA 70804-9396 • 617 North Third Street, Baton Rouge, LA 70802
PHONE: (225)342-2710 • FAX: (225)342-3790 • www.dnr.louisiana.gov
An Equal Opportunity Employer

L.2.7 MAINE



DEPARTMENT OF THE NAVY
U.S. FLEET FORCES COMMAND
1562 MITSCHER AVENUE SUITE 250
NORFOLK VA 23551-2487

5090
Ser N46/407
December 13, 2024

Ms. Erin Wilson
Federal Consistency Coordinator
Maine Coastal Program
Maine Department of Marine Resources
21 State House Station
Augusta ME, 04333-0021

Dear Ms. Wilson:

As is required by the Coastal Zone Management Act (CZMA), the United States (U.S.) Department of the Navy (including both the U.S. Navy and the U.S. Marine Corps) in cooperation with the U.S. Coast Guard as Joint Lead Agency (hereinafter jointly referred to as the Action Proponents) requests concurrence with its Coastal Consistency Determination for proposed activities in the Atlantic Fleet Training and Testing (AFTT) Study Area. This Phase IV CZMA consultation supplements the AFTT Phase III Coastal Consistency Determination to account for changes in the Action Proponents' proposed training and testing activities necessary to meet mission needs. These proposed activities are generally consistent with those analyzed in prior Navy consultations and are representative of the activities the Action Proponents have been conducting in the AFTT Study Area for decades.

In 2013, the Navy analyzed the potential environmental effects of its pierside and at-sea training and testing activities in the western Atlantic Ocean and the Gulf of Mexico in the AFTT Environmental Impact Statement (EIS)/Overseas Environmental Impact Statement (OEIS) (termed "AFTT Phase II"). To account for changes in training and support renewed permits and authorizations, the Navy completed an additional EIS/OEIS with associated consultations in 2018 (termed "AFTT Phase III"), and these permits expire in 2025. Each phase of review has further refined the Navy's analysis and supported issuance of permits and authorizations issued in compliance with the Marine Mammal Protection Act (MMPA) and Endangered Species Act (ESA). A Supplemental EIS/OEIS is being prepared (termed "AFTT Phase IV"), which supplements the Navy's AFTT Phase III EIS/OEIS. In addition, AFTT Phase IV incorporates U.S. Coast Guard training activities. This current consultation is supported by the 2024 Draft AFTT Supplemental EIS/OEIS, and accounts for some modifications in the training and testing activities, as well as changes in the types, frequency, and locations of those activities.

Most training and testing activities discussed in the AFTT Phase III version of the AFTT EIS/OEIS are similar to the proposed AFTT Phase IV activities, with the resulting effects remaining unchanged from the previous consultations. Some activities have either increased or decreased in scope, been reclassified, or been modified slightly since the previous consultation. In addition, some training activities are proposed for selected inshore locations that were not included in past consultations.

This AFTT Phase IV CZMA consultation supplements the AFTT Phase III Coastal Consistency Determination to account for changes in the Action Proponents' proposed training and testing activities necessary to meet mission needs. This consultation includes those activities

that are new to AFTT Phase IV or have increased in frequency, intensity, or possible effects since AFTT Phase III. In 2018, the Navy conducted a CZMA consultation with the Maine Department of Marine Resources and received concurrence with the Navy's Coastal Consistency Determination (letter of May 18, 2018).

The Draft AFTT Phase IV Supplemental EIS/OEIS and the AFTT website (www.nepa.navy.mil/aftteis/) contain detailed information and analyses of potential effects. The Action Proponents reviewed the Maine Coastal Program in preparation of the enclosed Coastal Consistency Determination. Based on the analyses, the Action Proponents have determined that the proposed action will be fully consistent with the enforceable policies of the Maine Coastal Program.

We request that you provide your concurrence with our findings within 60 days of receipt of this letter. If a response has not been received by that time, concurrence with this finding will be assumed. My point of contact for this matter is Laura Busch who may be reached at (757) 836-8471 or at laura.m.busch2.civ@us.navy.mil.

Sincerely,

CUADROS, JORGE
RICARDO.1186806
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Date: 2024.12.12 16:08:08 -05'00'

J. R. CUADROS
Director, Fleet Installations & Environment
and Deputy Chief of Staff

Enclosure: Coastal Consistency Determination



JANET T. MILLS
GOVERNOR

STATE OF MAINE
DEPARTMENT OF MARINE RESOURCES
21 STATE HOUSE STATION
AUGUSTA, MAINE
04333-0021

PATRICK C. KELIHER
COMMISSIONER

February 27, 2025

Laura Busch
U.S. Department of the Navy
1562 Mitscher Avenue, Suite 250
Norfolk, VA 23551

RE: CZMA Concurrence for Atlantic Fleet Training and Testing Phase IV

Dear Ms. Busch,

This letter is in response to the federal consistency submission for the above referenced project, received by the Maine Coastal Program (MCP) on December 17, 2024, submitted by you on behalf of the United States Department of the Navy (USN), U.S. Fleet Forces Command. On January 29, 2025, the MCP and USN mutually agreed to extend the review deadline to March 1, 2025.

The USN, in cooperation with U.S. Coast Guard, proposes to conduct certain activities as part of the Atlantic Fleet Training and Testing (AFTT) Phase IV needed to meet mission requirements along the East Coast of the U.S., the Gulf of Mexico, and portions of the Caribbean Sea. This includes activities occurring at Navy and Coast Guard pierside locations; port transit channels, bays, harbors, inshore waterways, and civilian ports; during transits between homeports and operating areas; and on the high seas. AFTT Phase IV largely builds on and continues previous phases of USN's AFTT program that were also reviewed for federal consistency with MCP's enforceable policies.

Pursuant to the Coastal Zone Management Act (CZMA) of 1972 implementing regulations, Federal Consistency with Approved Coastal Management Programs (15 CFR 930), subpart C, federal agency activities affecting any coastal use or resource must be undertaken in a manner consistent to the maximum extent practicable with the enforceable policies of approved coastal management programs.

In accordance with 15 CFR 930.41, the public was invited to provide comment on this proposed project in the Portland Press Herald from December 22, 2024 to January 11, 2025. No comments were received.

The MCP concurs with the USN determination that AFTT Phase IV would be consistent to the maximum extent practicable with applicable enforceable policies of the coastal management program. The MCP coordinates the review of consistency determinations with agencies administering the enforceable and advisory policies of the program, including Maine Departments of Environmental Protection (DEP), Inland Fisheries and Wildlife (DIFW), and Marine Resources (DMR).

OFFICES AT 32 BLOSSOM LANE, MARQUARDT BUILDING, AUGUSTA, MAINE
<http://www.Maine.gov/dmr>

PHONE: (207) 624-6550

FAX: (207) 624-6024

To the extent AFTT Phase IV activities represent a continuation of those from previous phases, MCP reiterates and incorporates by reference the findings, conclusions, and recommendations included in its March 11, 2013 and May 18, 2018 concurrence letters.

Although not enforceable, MCP incorporates Maine's Coastal Management Policies (38 M.R.S. §§1801-1802) into the Maine Guide to Federal Consistency Review. These policies recognize the coast as a valuable asset to the state and the nation and emphasize the need to balance development along the coast with protection and conservation of natural resources. In the spirit of these policies, MCP continues to urge USN to avoid, minimize, and mitigate to the maximum extent practicable the potential for adverse effects on coastal uses and resources, including marine, estuarine, and diadromous species, including the federally-listed threatened and endangered species listed in the Maine Endangered Species Act (12 M.R.S. §§6971-6976). MCP encourages state and local consultation for specific activities that may have impacts when practicable.

Pursuant to 15 CFR 930.46, the USN shall notify the MCP of any proposed modifications to activities after receiving a decision from the MCP. Modifications may be subject to supplemental federal consistency review if effects to any coastal use or resource will be substantially different than originally described. Please additionally be advised that this federal consistency review does not negate the need for any other authorizations that may be required.

Thank you for the opportunity to review and respond to the USN Atlantic Fleet Training and Testing Phase IV project. If you have any questions, please contact Erin Wilson of my staff at erin.wilson@maine.gov or (207) 707-2324.

Sincerely,



Mer (Feb 27, 2025 21:16 EST)

Meredith Mendelson, Acting Director
DMR Deputy Commissioner

cc: 2024.12.17/ew
Heidi Leighton, DMR

Enclosures: March 11, 2013 Concurrence; May 18, 2018 Concurrence

OFFICES AT 32 BLOSSOM LANE, MARQUARDT BUILDING, AUGUSTA, MAINE
<http://www.Maine.gov/dmr>

PHONE: (207) 624-6550

FAX: (207) 624-6024

L.2.8 MARYLAND



DEPARTMENT OF THE NAVY
U.S. FLEET FORCES COMMAND
1562 MITSCHER AVENUE SUITE 250
NORFOLK VA 23551-2487

5090
Ser N46/408
December 13, 2024

Ms. Danielle Spendiff
Federal Consistency Coordinator
Maryland Department of the Environment
1800 Washington Blvd.
Baltimore, MD 21230

Dear Ms. Spendiff:

As is required by the Coastal Zone Management Act (CZMA), the United States (U.S.) Department of the Navy (including both the U.S. Navy and the U.S. Marine Corps) in cooperation with the U.S. Coast Guard as Joint Lead Agency (hereinafter jointly referred to as the Action Proponents) requests concurrence with its Coastal Consistency Determination for proposed activities in the Atlantic Fleet Training and Testing (AFTT) Study Area. This Phase IV CZMA consultation supplements the AFTT Phase III Coastal Consistency Determination to account for changes in the Action Proponents' proposed training and testing activities necessary to meet mission needs. These proposed activities are generally consistent with those analyzed in prior Navy consultations and are representative of the activities the Action Proponents have been conducting in the AFTT Study Area for decades.

In 2013, the Navy analyzed the potential environmental effects of its pierside and at-sea training and testing activities in the western Atlantic Ocean and the Gulf of Mexico in the AFTT Environmental Impact Statement (EIS)/Overseas Environmental Impact Statement (OEIS) (termed "AFTT Phase II"). To account for changes in training and support renewed permits and authorizations, the Navy completed an additional EIS/OEIS with associated consultations in 2018 (termed "AFTT Phase III"), and these permits expire in 2025. Each phase of review has further refined the Navy's analysis and supported issuance of permits and authorizations issued in compliance with the Marine Mammal Protection Act (MMPA) and Endangered Species Act (ESA). A Supplemental EIS/OEIS is being prepared (termed "AFTT Phase IV"), which supplements the Navy's AFTT Phase III EIS/OEIS. In addition, AFTT Phase IV incorporates U.S. Coast Guard training activities. This current consultation is supported by the 2024 Draft AFTT Supplemental EIS/OEIS, and accounts for some modifications in the training and testing activities, as well as changes in the types, frequency, and locations of those activities.

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since AFTT Phase III. In 2018, the Navy conducted a CZMA consultation with the Maryland Department of the Environment and did not receive a response to the Navy's Coastal Consistency Determination and thus concurrence was presumed.

The Draft AFTT Phase IV Supplemental EIS/OEIS and the AFTT website (www.nepa.navy.mil/aftteis/) contain detailed information and analyses of potential effects. The Action Proponents reviewed Maryland's Coastal Zone Management Program in preparation of the enclosed Coastal Consistency Determination. Based on the analyses, the Action Proponents have determined that the proposed action will be consistent to the maximum extent practicable with the enforceable policies of the Maryland Coastal Zone Management Program.

We request that you provide your concurrence with our findings within 60 days of receipt of this letter. If a response has not been received by that time, concurrence with this finding will be assumed. My point of contact for this matter is Laura Busch who may be reached at (757) 836-8471 or at laura.m.busch2.civ@us.navy.mil.

Sincerely,

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J. R. CUADROS
Director, Fleet Installations & Environment
and Deputy Chief of Staff

Enclosure: Coastal Consistency Determination



Wes Moore, Governor
Aruna Miller, Lt. Governor
Josh Kurtz, Secretary
David Goshorn, Deputy Secretary

January 31, 2025

Ms. Laura Busch
Department of the Navy
United States Fleet Forces Command
1562 Mitscher Avenue Suite 250
Norfolk VA 23551-2487

Re: Federal Consistency Determination - U.S. Navy's Atlantic Fleet Training and Testing (AFTT) Study Area CCD

Ms. Busch,

On behalf of Danielle Spendiff (MD Federal Consistency Coordinator), I am responding to your request for CZM consistency concurrence under 15 C.F.R. Part 930, Subpart C (Federal Activity or Development Project) for the following project:

The United States Department of the Navy is proposing to renew training activities and testing within the Atlantic Fleet Training and Testing (AFTT) Study Area. Environmental impacts of training and testing within the AFTT are presented in the 2024 Draft Environmental Impact Statement (DEIS) and include biological, physical, or human resource impacts. Overall, the Action Proponents would reduce unavoidable impacts from proposed activities on coastal zone uses and resources by adhering to standard operating procedures and implementing environmental mitigation measures.

Based on our review of the information provided, the above project is consistent to the maximum extent practicable with the enforceable coastal policies of the Maryland Coastal Zone Management Program. Please note that this determination does not obviate the applicant's responsibility to obtain any other State or local approvals that may be necessary for the project.

Sincerely,

Laura Canton

Laura Canton
Coastal Policy Coordinator
Maryland Department of Natural Resources

cc: Danielle Spendiff, MDE

Tawes State Office Building – 580 Taylor Avenue – Annapolis, Maryland 21401
410-260-8DNR or toll free in Maryland 877-620-8DNR – dnr.maryland.gov – TTY Users Call via the Maryland Relay

L.2.9 MASSACHUSETTS



DEPARTMENT OF THE NAVY
U.S. FLEET FORCES COMMAND
1562 MITSCHER AVENUE SUITE 250
NORFOLK VA 23551-2487

5090
Ser N46/409
December 13, 2024

Mr. Sean Duffey
Office of Coastal Zone Management
Executive Office of Environmental Affairs
100 Cambridge Street, Suite 900
Boston, MA 02114

Dear Mr. Duffey:

As is required by the Coastal Zone Management Act (CZMA), the United States (U.S.) Department of the Navy (including both the U.S. Navy and the U.S. Marine Corps) in cooperation with the U.S. Coast Guard as Joint Lead Agency (hereinafter jointly referred to as the Action Proponents) requests concurrence with its Coastal Consistency Determination for proposed activities in the Atlantic Fleet Training and Testing (AFTT) Study Area. This Phase IV CZMA consultation supplements the AFTT Phase III Coastal Consistency Determination to account for changes in the Action Proponents' proposed training and testing activities necessary to meet mission needs. These proposed activities are generally consistent with those analyzed in prior Navy consultations and are representative of the activities the Action Proponents have been conducting in the AFTT Study Area for decades.

In 2013, the Navy analyzed the potential environmental effects of its pier-side and at-sea training and testing activities in the western Atlantic Ocean and the Gulf of Mexico in the AFTT Environmental Impact Statement (EIS)/Overseas Environmental Impact Statement (OEIS) (termed "AFTT Phase II"). To account for changes in training and support renewed permits and authorizations, the Navy completed an additional EIS/OEIS with associated consultations in 2018 (termed "AFTT Phase III"), and these permits expire in 2025. Each phase of review has further refined the Navy's analysis and supported issuance of permits and authorizations issued in compliance with the Marine Mammal Protection Act (MMPA) and Endangered Species Act (ESA). A Supplemental EIS/OEIS is being prepared (termed "AFTT Phase IV"), which supplements the Navy's AFTT Phase III EIS/OEIS. In addition, AFTT Phase IV incorporates U.S. Coast Guard training activities. This current consultation is supported by the 2024 Draft AFTT Supplemental EIS/OEIS, and accounts for some modifications in the training and testing activities, as well as changes in the types, frequency, and locations of those activities.

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III. In 2018, the Navy conducted a CZMA consultation with the Massachusetts Office of Coastal Zone Management and did not received a response to the Navy's Coastal Consistency Determination, thus concurrence was presumed.

The Draft AFTT Phase IV Supplemental EIS/OEIS and the AFTT website (www.nepa.navy.mil/aftteis/) contain detailed information and analyses of potential effects. The Action Proponents reviewed the Massachusetts Office of Coastal Zone Management Federal Consistency Review Program in preparation of the enclosed Coastal Consistency Determination. Based on the analyses, the Action Proponents have determined that the proposed action will be fully consistent with the enforceable policies of the Massachusetts Office of Coastal Zone Management Federal Consistency Review Program.

We request that you provide your concurrence with our findings within 60 days of receipt of this letter. If a response has not been received by that time, concurrence with this finding will be assumed. My point of contact for this matter is Laura Busch who may be reached at (757) 836-8471 or at laura.m.busch2.civ@us.navy.mil.

Sincerely,

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J. R. CUADROS
Director, Fleet Installations & Environment
and Deputy Chief of Staff

Enclosure: Coastal Consistency Determination

L.2.10 MISSISSIPPI



DEPARTMENT OF THE NAVY
U.S. FLEET FORCES COMMAND
1562 MITSCHER AVENUE SUITE 250
NORFOLK VA 23551-2487

5090
Ser N46/410
December 13, 2024

Ms. Willa Brantley
Mississippi Coastal Program
Department of Marine Resources
1141 Bayview Avenue
Biloxi, MS 39530

Dear Ms. Brantley:

As is required by the Coastal Zone Management Act (CZMA), the United States (U.S.) Department of the Navy (including both the U.S. Navy and the U.S. Marine Corps) in cooperation with the U.S. Coast Guard as Joint Lead Agency (hereinafter jointly referred to as the Action Proponents) requests concurrence with its Coastal Consistency Determination for proposed activities in the Atlantic Fleet Training and Testing (AFTT) Study Area. This Phase IV CZMA consultation supplements the AFTT Phase III Coastal Consistency Determination to account for changes in the Action Proponents' proposed training and testing activities necessary to meet mission needs. These proposed activities are generally consistent with those analyzed in prior Navy consultations and are representative of the activities the Action Proponents have been conducting in the AFTT Study Area for decades.

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since Phase III. In 2018, the Navy conducted a CZMA consultation with the Mississippi Department of Marine Resources and received concurrence with the Navy's Coastal Consistency Determination (DMR-130194 of Apr 19, 2018).

The Draft AFTT Phase IV Supplemental EIS/OEIS and the AFTT website (www.nepa.navy.mil/aftteis/) contain detailed information and analyses of potential effects. The Action Proponents' reviewed Mississippi's Coastal Program in preparation of the enclosed Coastal Consistency Determination. Based on the analyses, the Action Proponents have determined that the proposed action will be fully consistent with the enforceable policies of the Mississippi Coastal Program.

We request that you provide your concurrence with our findings within 60 days of receipt of this letter. If a response has not been received by that time, concurrence with this finding will be assumed. My point of contact for this matter is Laura Busch who may be reached at (757) 836-8471 or at laura.m.busch2.civ@us.navy.mil.

Sincerely,

CUADROS.JORGE
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Date: 2024.12.12 16:07:00 -0500

J. R. CUADROS
Director, Fleet Installations & Environment
and Deputy Chief of Staff

Enclosure: Coastal Consistency Determination



STATE OF MISSISSIPPI

Tate Reeves
Governor

MISSISSIPPI DEPARTMENT OF MARINE RESOURCES

Joe Spraggins, Executive Director

March 03, 2025

U.S. Department of the Navy
Attn: J.R. Cuadros
U.S. Fleet Forces Command
1562 Mitscher Avenue Suite 250
Norfolk, VA 23551-2487

Re: FCC25-000001; U.S. Navy's Atlantic Fleet Training and Testing (AFTT) Study Area Coastal Zone Consistency Determination

The Mississippi Department of Marine Resources in cooperation with other state agencies is responsible under the Mississippi Coastal Program (MCP) for managing the coastal resources of Mississippi. Proposed activities in the coastal area are reviewed to ensure that the activities are in compliance with the MCP.

The Department has completed review of the above-referenced project under the Coastal Zone Management Act of 1972 and the Coastal Zone Reauthorization Amendments of 1990 and as the lead Coastal Program Agency for the State of Mississippi pursuant to 16 U.S.C. Section 1456(c) and Mississippi Code § 57-15-5, concurs with the submitted consistency determination for this project.

The above granted consistency certification was based upon the plan presented.

If you have any questions regarding this letter, please contact Thomas Butera with the Bureau of Wetlands Permitting at 228-523-4065 or thomas.butera@dmr.ms.gov.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "WJB", written over a horizontal line.

Willa J. Brantley
Director, Bureau of Wetlands Permitting
MS Department of Marine Resources

WJB/tb

CC: Laura Busch, U.S. Department of the Navy

L.2.11 NEW HAMPSHIRE



DEPARTMENT OF THE NAVY
U.S. FLEET FORCES COMMAND
1562 MITSCHER AVENUE SUITE 250
NORFOLK VA 23551-2487

5090
Ser N46/411
December 13, 2024

Mr. Chris Williams
New Hampshire Coastal Program
Department of Environmental Services
222 International Drive, Suite 175
Portsmouth, NH 03801

Dear Mr. Williams:

As is required by the Coastal Zone Management Act (CZMA), the United States (U.S.) Department of the Navy (including both the U.S. Navy and the U.S. Marine Corps) in cooperation with the U.S. Coast Guard as Joint Lead Agency (hereinafter jointly referred to as the Action Proponents) requests concurrence with its Coastal Consistency Determination for proposed activities in the Atlantic Fleet Training and Testing (AFTT) Study Area. This Phase IV CZMA consultation supplements the AFTT Phase III Coastal Consistency Determination to account for changes in the Action Proponents' proposed training and testing activities necessary to meet mission needs. These proposed activities are generally consistent with those analyzed in prior Navy consultations and are representative of the activities the Action Proponents have been conducting in the AFTT Study Area for decades.

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The Draft AFTT Phase IV Supplemental EIS/OEIS and the AFTT website (www.nepa.navy.mil/aftteis/) contain detailed information and analyses of potential effects. The Action Proponents reviewed New Hampshire's Coastal Program in preparation of the enclosed Coastal Consistency Determination. Based on the analyses, the Action Proponents have determined that the proposed action will be fully consistent with the enforceable policies of the New Hampshire Coastal Program.

We request that you provide your concurrence with our findings within 60 days of receipt of this letter. If a response has not been received by that time, concurrence with this finding will be assumed. My point of contact for this matter is Laura Busch who may be reached at (757) 836-8471 or at laura.m.busch2.civ@us.navy.mil.

Sincerely,

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J. R. CUADROS
Director, Fleet Installations & Environment
and Deputy Chief of Staff

Enclosure: Coastal Consistency Determination



The State of New Hampshire
Department of Environmental Services

Robert R. Scott, Commissioner



February 3, 2025

J.R. Cuadros, Director
Fleet Installations & Environment and Deputy Chief of Staff
Department of the Navy
U.S. Fleet Forces Command
1562 Mitscher Ave., Suite 250
Norfolk, VA 23551-2487

RE: File No. 2024-09; Atlantic Fleet Training and Testing Study Area Activities

Dear Mr. Cuadros:

The New Hampshire Coastal Program (NHCP) has received the joint Department of the Navy and U.S. Coast Guard federal consistency determination for proposed activities in the Atlantic Fleet Training and Testing Study Area, pursuant to Section 307(c)(1) of the Coastal Zone Management Act, 16 U.S.C. §1456(c)(1). After reviewing the proposed action, we find it to be consistent, to the maximum extent practicable, with the enforceable policies of New Hampshire's federally approved coastal management program.

Please be advised, the NHCP, after consultation with the New Hampshire Fish and Game Department, recommends that the Department of the Navy avoid, to the greatest extent practicable, pier side sonar testing at the Portsmouth Naval Shipyard from mid-March through mid-November to minimize potential adverse impacts to lobster, river herring, and shad migrating into and out of the Great Bay Estuary, as well as sturgeon that may be present in the Piscataqua River. The NHCP also recommends that the Department of the Navy consult with the National Marine Fisheries Service to avoid impacts to migrating Atlantic large whales in state and federal waters.

Should you have any questions, please feel free to contact me at (603) 559-0025 or at christian.p.williams@des.nh.gov.

Sincerely,

Christian Williams
Program Coordinator
New Hampshire Coastal Program

cc: Laura Busch, Department of the Navy
Cheri Patterson, NH Fish & Game Department

www.des.nh.gov
222 International Drive, Suite 175 • Portsmouth, NH 03801
(603) 559-1500 • Fax: 559-1510 • TDD Access: Relay NH 1-800-735-2964

L.2.12 NEW JERSEY



DEPARTMENT OF THE NAVY
U.S. FLEET FORCES COMMAND
1562 MITSCHER AVENUE SUITE 250
NORFOLK VA 23551-2487

5090
Ser N46/412
December 13, 2024

Ms. Colleen Keller
New Jersey Department of Environmental Protection
Office of Policy and Coastal Management
501 East State Street
Mail Code 501-02A
Trenton, NJ 08625

Dear Ms. Keller:

As is required by the Coastal Zone Management Act (CZMA), the United States (U.S.) Department of the Navy (including both the U.S. Navy and the U.S. Marine Corps) in cooperation with the U.S. Coast Guard as Joint Lead Agency (hereinafter jointly referred to as the Action Proponents) requests concurrence with its Coastal Consistency Determination for proposed activities in the Atlantic Fleet Training and Testing (AFTT) Study Area. This Phase IV CZMA consultation supplements the AFTT Phase III Coastal Consistency Determination to account for changes in the Action Proponents' proposed training and testing activities necessary to meet mission needs. These proposed activities are generally consistent with those analyzed in prior Navy consultations and are representative of the activities the Action Proponents have been conducting in the AFTT Study Area for decades.

In 2013, the Navy analyzed the potential environmental effects of its pierside and at-sea training and testing activities in the western Atlantic Ocean and the Gulf of Mexico in the AFTT Environmental Impact Statement (EIS)/Overseas Environmental Impact Statement (OEIS) (termed "AFTT Phase II"). To account for changes in training and support renewed permits and authorizations, the Navy completed an additional EIS/OEIS with associated consultations in 2018 (termed "AFTT Phase III"), and these permits expire in 2025. Each phase of review has further refined the Navy's analysis and supported issuance of permits and authorizations issued in compliance with the Marine Mammal Protection Act (MMPA) and Endangered Species Act (ESA). A Supplemental EIS/OEIS is being prepared (termed "AFTT Phase IV"), which supplements the Navy's AFTT Phase III EIS/OEIS. In addition, AFTT Phase IV incorporates U.S. Coast Guard training activities. This current consultation is supported by the 2024 Draft AFTT Supplemental EIS/OEIS, and accounts for some modifications in the training and testing activities, as well as changes in the types, frequency, and locations of those activities.

Most training and testing activities discussed in the AFTT Phase III version of the AFTT EIS/OEIS are similar to the proposed AFTT Phase IV activities, with the resulting effects remaining unchanged from the previous consultations. Some activities have either increased or decreased in scope, been reclassified, or been modified slightly since the previous consultation. In addition, some training activities are proposed for selected inshore locations that were not included in past consultations.

This AFTT Phase IV CZMA consultation supplements the AFTT Phase III Coastal Consistency Determination to account for changes in the Action Proponents' proposed training and testing activities necessary to meet mission needs. This consultation includes those activities

that are new to AFTT Phase IV or have increased in frequency, intensity, or possible effects since AFTT Phase III. In 2018, the Navy conducted a CZMA consultation with the New Jersey Department of Environmental Protection and did not receive a response to the Navy's Coastal Consistency Determination, thus concurrence was presumed.

The Draft AFTT Phase IV Supplemental EIS/OEIS and the AFTT website (www.nepa.navy.mil/aftteis/) contain detailed information and analyses of potential effects. The Action Proponents reviewed New Jersey's Coastal Management Program in preparation of the enclosed Coastal Consistency Determination. Based on the analyses, the Action Proponents have determined that the proposed action will be consistent to the maximum extent practicable with the enforceable policies of the New Jersey Coastal Management Program.

We request that you provide your concurrence with our findings within 60 days of receipt of this letter. If a response has not been received by that time, concurrence with this finding will be assumed. My point of contact for this matter is Laura Busch who may be reached at (757) 836-8471 or at laura.m.busch2.civ@us.navy.mil.

Sincerely,

CUADROS.JORGE
RICARDO.1186806
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CUADROS.JORGE RICARDO.11
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Date: 2024.12.12 16:07:48 -0500

J. R. CUADROS
Director, Fleet Installations & Environment
and Deputy Chief of Staff

Enclosure: Coastal Consistency Determination

PHILIP D. MURPHY
Governor

TAHESHA L. WAY
Lt. Governor

DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION
Watershed & Land Management Program
Mail Code 501-02A
P.O. Box 420
Trenton, New Jersey 08625-0420
www.nj.gov/dep/landuse

SHAWN M. LATOURETTE
Commissioner

February 28, 2025

Laura Busch
US NAVY, US Fleet Forces Command
Environmental Readiness Division
Natural Resources Program Manager
1562 Mitscher Ave, Suite 250
Norfolk, VA 235512487

RE: Federal Consistency Determination
File and Activity No.: 0000-12-0026.1 CDT240001
Applicant: US NAVY
Project: Atlantic Fleet Training and Testing Phase IV

Dear Ms. Busch:

The New Jersey Department of Environmental Protection, Division of Land Resource Protection (Division), acting under Section 307 of the Federal Coastal Zone Management Act (P.L. 92-583) as amended, concurs with the certification that the above referenced project is consistent with the approved New Jersey Coastal Management Program.

Specifically, the project consists of Phase IV of training and testing activities within existing range complexes off of the U.S. Atlantic coast, which may include the use of active sonar, fleet training and testing exercises, gunnery exercises, missile testing, the use of explosives, anti-submarine training, electronic warfare and other associated training and testing activities. The proposed action is further described in the draft Atlantic Fleet Training and Testing (AFFT) phase IV draft Supplemental Environmental Impact Statement/Overseas Environmental Impact Statement (2024).

The Navy's proposed action is a continuation of existing training and testing activities, however the proposal includes an increase in scope in some areas and decreasing others, reclassification, modification and the addition of some inshore locations that were not included in the past. However, the Navy states that adverse effects to the environmental resources will continue to be minimized through mitigation and monitoring, in consultation with the National Marine Fisheries Service.

The Division has reviewed the submitted information and has determined that the project is consistent, to the maximum extent practicable, with New Jersey's Coastal Zone Management Rules N.J.A.C. 7:7-1.1 et seq., (as amended on October 5, 2021).

This Federal Consistency is authorized pursuant to all parties following the guidelines set forth, and agreed upon, for the proposed activities.

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File No.: 0000-12-0026.1 CDT240001

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Pursuant to 15 CFR 930.44, the Division reserves the right to object and request remedial action if this proposal is conducted in a manner, or is having an effect on, the coastal zone that is substantially different than originally proposed.

Thank you for your attention to and cooperation with New Jersey's Coastal Zone Management Program. If you have any questions regarding this determination, please do not hesitate to call Kara Turner of our staff at (609) 633-2289.

Sincerely,



Digitally signed by
Janet Stewart
Date: 2025.02.28
13:58:59 -05'00'

Janet Stewart, Manager
Division of Land Resource Protection

CC: Colleen Keller, DLRP

L.2.13 NEW YORK



DEPARTMENT OF THE NAVY
U.S. FLEET FORCES COMMAND
1562 MITSCHER AVENUE SUITE 250
NORFOLK VA 23551-2487

5090
Ser N46/413
December 13, 2024

Mr. Matthew Maraglio
Office of Planning, Development & Community Infrastructure
New York State Department of State
99 Washington Avenue
Suite 1010
Albany, NY 12231-0001

Dear Mr. Maraglio:

As is required by the Coastal Zone Management Act (CZMA), the United States (U.S.) Department of the Navy (including both the U.S. Navy and the U.S. Marine Corps) in cooperation with the U.S. Coast Guard as Joint Lead Agency (hereinafter jointly referred to as the Action Proponents) requests concurrence with its Coastal Consistency Determination for proposed activities in the Atlantic Fleet Training and Testing (AFTT) Study Area. This Phase IV CZMA consultation supplements the AFTT Phase III Coastal Consistency Determination to account for changes in the Action Proponents' proposed training and testing activities necessary to meet mission needs. These proposed activities are generally consistent with those analyzed in prior Navy consultations and are representative of the activities the Action Proponents have been conducting in the AFTT Study Area for decades.

In 2013, the Navy analyzed the potential environmental effects of its pierside and at-sea training and testing activities in the western Atlantic Ocean and the Gulf of Mexico in the AFTT Environmental Impact Statement (EIS)/Overseas Environmental Impact Statement (OEIS) (termed "AFTT Phase II"). To account for changes in training and support renewed permits and authorizations, the Navy completed an additional EIS/OEIS with associated consultations in 2018 (termed "AFTT Phase III"), and these permits expire in 2025. Each phase of review has further refined the Navy's analysis and supported issuance of permits and authorizations issued in compliance with the Marine Mammal Protection Act (MMPA) and Endangered Species Act (ESA). A Supplemental EIS/OEIS is being prepared (termed "AFTT Phase IV"), which supplements the Navy's AFTT Phase III EIS/OEIS. In addition, AFTT Phase IV incorporates U.S. Coast Guard training activities. This current consultation is supported by the 2024 Draft AFTT Supplemental EIS/OEIS, and accounts for some modifications in the training and testing activities, as well as changes in the types, frequency, and locations of those activities.

Most training and testing activities discussed in the AFTT Phase III version of the AFTT EIS/OEIS are similar to the proposed AFTT Phase IV activities, with the resulting effects remaining unchanged from the previous consultations. Some activities have either increased or decreased in scope, been reclassified, or been modified slightly since the previous consultation. In addition, some training activities are proposed for selected inshore locations that were not included in past consultations.

This AFTT Phase IV CZMA consultation supplements the AFTT Phase III Coastal Consistency Determination to account for changes in the Action Proponents' proposed training and testing activities necessary to meet mission needs. This consultation includes those activities

that are new to AFTT Phase IV or have increased in frequency, intensity, or possible effects since AFTT Phase III. In 2018 the Navy conducted a CZMA consultation with the New York State Department of State and received a response on May 30, 2018 (F-2018-0209 (DA)). Upon review of the response, the Navy notified New York that its concurrence with the Navy's Coastal Consistency Determination was presumed (letter of August 17, 2018).

The AFTT Draft Phase IV Supplemental EIS/OEIS and the AFTT website (www.nepa.navy.mil/aftteis/) contain detailed information and analyses of potential effects. The Action Proponents reviewed New York's Coastal Management Program in preparation of the enclosed Coastal Consistency Determination. Based on the analyses, the Action Proponents have determined that the proposed action will be fully consistent with the enforceable policies of the New York Coastal Management Program.

We request that you provide your concurrence with our findings within 60 days of receipt of this letter. If a response has not been received by that time, concurrence with this finding will be assumed. My point of contact for this matter is Laura Busch who may be reached at (757) 836-8471 or at laura.m.busch2.civ@us.navy.mil.

Sincerely,

CUADROS.JORGE: Digitally signed by
RICARDO.1186806
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Date: 2024.12.12 16:11:08 -0500

J. R. CUADROS
Director, Fleet Installations & Environment
and Deputy Chief of Staff

Enclosure: Coastal Consistency Determination



DEPARTMENT OF THE NAVY
U.S. FLEET FORCES COMMAND
1562 MITSCHER AVENUE SUITE 250
NORFOLK VA 23551-2487

5090
Ser N46/414
December 13, 2024

Mr. Daniel Govoni
Division of Coastal Management
Department of Environmental Quality
400 Commerce Avenue
Morehead City, NC 28557-3421

Dear Mr. Govoni:

As is required by the Coastal Zone Management Act (CZMA), the United States (U.S.) Department of the Navy (including both the U.S. Navy and the U.S. Marine Corps) in cooperation with the U.S. Coast Guard as Joint Lead Agency (hereinafter jointly referred to as the Action Proponents) requests concurrence with its Coastal Consistency Determination for proposed activities in the Atlantic Fleet Training and Testing (AFTT) Study Area. This Phase IV CZMA consultation supplements the AFTT Phase III Coastal Consistency Determination to account for changes in the Action Proponents' proposed training and testing activities necessary to meet mission needs. These proposed activities are generally consistent with those analyzed in prior Navy consultations and are representative of the activities the Action Proponents have been conducting in the AFTT Study Area for decades.

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This AFTT Phase IV CZMA consultation supplements the AFTT Phase III Coastal Consistency Determination to account for changes in the Action Proponents' proposed training and testing activities necessary to meet mission needs. This consultation includes those activities that are new to AFTT Phase IV or have increased in frequency, intensity, or possible effects

since AFTT Phase III. In 2018, the Navy conducted a CZMA consultation with North Carolina Department of Environmental Quality and received concurrence with the Navy's Coastal Consistency Determination (CD18-012 letter of April 26, 2018 [DCM#20180012]).

The Draft AFTT Phase IV Supplemental EIS/OEIS and the AFTT website (www.nepa.navy.mil/aftteis/) contain detailed information and analyses of potential effects. The Action Proponents reviewed North Carolina's Coastal Management Program in preparation of the enclosed Coastal Consistency Determination. Based on the analyses, the Action Proponents have determined that the proposed action will be fully consistent with the enforceable policies of the North Carolina Coastal Management Program.

We request that you provide your concurrence with our findings within 60 days of receipt of this letter. If a response has not been received by that time, concurrence with this finding will be assumed. My point of contact for this matter is Laura Busch who may be reached at (757) 836-8471 or at laura.m.busch2.civ@us.navy.mil.

Sincerely,

CUADROS, JORGE
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J. R. CUADROS
Director, Fleet Installations & Environment
and Deputy Chief of Staff

Enclosure: Coastal Consistency Determination

JOSH STEIN
Governor
D. REID WILSON
Secretary
TANCRED MILLER
Director



Laura Busch
US Fleet Forces
Environmental Readiness Division
Natural Resources Program Manager

SUBJECT: Phase IV Supplemental Consistency Concurrence, United States Department of the Navy, Atlantic Fleet Training and Testing Study Area

Dear Ms. Busch:

The N.C. Division of Coastal Management (DCM) received a supplemental consistency determination from the United States Department of the Navy to update the 2018 coastal consistency determination. This supplemental consistency determination has been submitted to reflect any changes in the proposed training and testing activities needed to meet mission requirements.

North Carolina's coastal zone management program consists of, but is not limited to, the Coastal Area Management Act, the State's Dredge and Fill Law, Chapter 7 of Title 15A of North Carolina's Administrative Code, and the land use plan(s) of the county and/or local municipalities in which the proposed project is located. It is the objective of DCM to manage the State's coastal resources to ensure that proposed Federal activities would be compatible with safeguarding and perpetuating the biological, social, economic and aesthetic values of the State's coastal resources.

DCM has reviewed the submitted information pursuant to the management objectives and enforceable policies of Subchapters 7H and 7M of Chapter 7 in Title 15A of the North Carolina Administrative Code. DCM concurs that the proposed project is consistent, to the maximum extent practicable, with North Carolina's certified coastal management program.

Prior to the initiation of the activities described, the U.S. Department of the Navy should obtain any required State approvals or authorizations. Should the proposed action be modified, a revised consistency determination could be necessary. This might take the form of either a supplemental consistency certification pursuant to 15 CFR 930.46, or a new consistency certification pursuant to 15 CFR 930.36. Likewise, if further project assessments reveal environmental effects not previously considered by the proposed development, a supplemental consistency certification may be required.



North Carolina Department of Environmental Quality | Division of Coastal Management
Morehead City Office | 400 Commerce Avenue | Morehead City, North Carolina 28557
252.515.5400

If you have any questions or concerns, please contact DCM Federal Consistency Coordinator Cameron Luck via e-mail at Cameron.luck@deq.nc.gov. Thank you for your consideration of the North Carolina Coastal Management Program.

Sincerely,



Cameron Luck
Federal Consistency Coordinator
N.C. Division of Coastal Management



North Carolina Department of Environmental Quality | Division of Coastal Management
Morehead City Office | 400 Commerce Avenue | Morehead City, North Carolina 28557
252.515.5400

L.2.15 RHODE ISLAND



DEPARTMENT OF THE NAVY
U.S. FLEET FORCES COMMAND
1562 MITSCHER AVENUE SUITE 250
NORFOLK VA 23551-2487

5090
Ser N46/415
December 13, 2024

Mr. Kevin Sloan
Coastal Resources Management Council
Stedman Office Building
4808 Tower Hill Road
Wakefield, RI 02879

Dear Mr. Sloan:

As is required by the Coastal Zone Management Act (CZMA), the United States (U.S.) Department of the Navy (including both the U.S. Navy and the U.S. Marine Corps) in cooperation with the U.S. Coast Guard as Joint Lead Agency (hereinafter jointly referred to as the Action Proponents) requests concurrence with its Coastal Consistency Determination for proposed activities in the Atlantic Fleet Training and Testing (AFTT) Study Area. This Phase IV CZMA consultation supplements the AFTT Phase III Coastal Consistency Determination to account for changes in the Action Proponents' proposed training and testing activities necessary to meet mission needs. These proposed activities are generally consistent with those analyzed in prior Navy consultations and are representative of the activities the Action Proponents have been conducting in the AFTT Study Area for decades.

In 2013, the Navy analyzed the potential environmental effects of its pierside and at-sea training and testing activities in the western Atlantic Ocean and the Gulf of Mexico in the AFTT Environmental Impact Statement (EIS)/Overseas Environmental Impact Statement (OEIS) (termed "AFTT Phase II"). To account for changes in training and support renewed permits and authorizations, the Navy completed an additional EIS/OEIS with associated consultations in 2018 (termed "AFTT Phase III"), and these permits expire in 2025. Each phase of review has further refined the Navy's analysis and supported issuance of permits and authorizations issued in compliance with the Marine Mammal Protection Act (MMPA) and Endangered Species Act (ESA). A Supplemental EIS/OEIS is being prepared (termed "AFTT Phase IV"), which supplements the Navy's AFTT Phase III EIS/OEIS. In addition, AFTT Phase IV incorporates U.S. Coast Guard training activities. This current consultation is supported by the 2024 Draft AFTT Supplemental EIS/OEIS, and accounts for some modifications in the training and testing activities, as well as changes in the types, frequency, and locations of those activities.

Most training and testing activities discussed in the AFTT Phase III version of the AFTT EIS/OEIS are similar to the proposed AFTT Phase IV activities, with the resulting effects remaining unchanged from the previous consultations. Some activities have either increased or decreased in scope, been reclassified, or been modified slightly since the previous consultation. In addition, some training activities are proposed for selected inshore locations that were not included in past consultations.

This AFTT Phase IV CZMA consultation supplements the AFTT Phase III Coastal Consistency Determination to account for changes in the Action Proponents' proposed training and testing activities necessary to meet mission needs. This consultation includes those activities

that are new to AFTT Phase IV or have increased in frequency, intensity, or possible effects since AFTT Phase III. In 2018, the Navy conducted a CZMA consultation with Rhode Island Coastal Resources Management Council and received concurrence for the Navy's Coastal Consistency Determination (A2018-03-004 of April 17, 2018).

The Draft AFTT Phase IV Supplemental EIS/OEIS and the AFTT website (www.nepa.navy.mil/aftteis/) contain detailed information and analyses of potential effects. The Action Proponents reviewed Rhode Island's Coastal Resources Management Program in preparation of the enclosed Coastal Consistency Determination. Based on the analyses, the Action Proponents have determined that the proposed action will be fully consistent with the enforceable policies of Rhode Island's Coastal Resources Management Program.

We request that you provide your concurrence with our findings within 60 days of receipt of this letter. If a response has not been received by that time, concurrence with this finding will be assumed. My point of contact for this matter is Laura Busch who may be reached at (757) 836-8471 or at laura.m.busch2.civ@us.navy.mil.

Sincerely,

CUADROS.JORGE
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Date: 2024.12.12 16:11:47 -0500

J. R. CUADROS
Director, Fleet Installations & Environment
and Deputy Chief of Staff

Enclosure: Coastal Consistency Determination



DEPARTMENT OF THE NAVY
U.S. FLEET FORCES COMMAND
1562 MITSCHER AVENUE SUITE 250
NORFOLK VA 23551-2487

5090
Ser N46/416
December 13, 2024

Mr. Christopher Stout
Coastal Zone Consistency Section
Office of Ocean & Coastal Resource Management
Department of Health and Environmental Control
1362 McMillan Avenue, Suite 400
Charleston, SC 29405

Dear Mr. Stout:

As is required by the Coastal Zone Management Act (CZMA), the United States (U.S.) Department of the Navy (including both the U.S. Navy and the U.S. Marine Corps) in cooperation with the U.S. Coast Guard as Joint Lead Agency (hereinafter jointly referred to as the Action Proponents) requests concurrence with its Coastal Consistency Determination for proposed activities in the Atlantic Fleet Training and Testing (AFTT) Study Area. This Phase IV CZMA consultation supplements the AFTT Phase III Coastal Consistency Determination to account for changes in the Action Proponents' proposed training and testing activities necessary to meet mission needs. These proposed activities are generally consistent with those analyzed in prior Navy consultations and are representative of the activities the Action Proponents have been conducting in the AFTT Study Area for decades.

In 2013, the Navy analyzed the potential environmental effects of its pierside and at-sea training and testing activities in the western Atlantic Ocean and the Gulf of Mexico in the AFTT Environmental Impact Statement (EIS)/Overseas Environmental Impact Statement (OEIS) (termed "AFTT Phase II"). To account for changes in training and support renewed permits and authorizations, the Navy completed an additional EIS/OEIS with associated consultations in 2018 (termed "AFTT Phase III"), and these permits expire in 2025. Each phase of review has further refined the Navy's analysis and supported issuance of permits and authorizations issued in compliance with the Marine Mammal Protection Act (MMPA) and Endangered Species Act (ESA). A Supplemental EIS/OEIS is being prepared (termed "AFTT Phase IV"), which supplements the Navy's AFTT Phase III EIS/OEIS. In addition, AFTT Phase IV incorporates U.S. Coast Guard training activities. This current consultation is supported by the 2024 Draft AFTT Supplemental EIS/OEIS, and accounts for some modifications in the training and testing activities, as well as changes in the types, frequency, and locations of those activities.

Most testing and training activities discussed in the AFTT Phase III version of the AFTT EIS/OEIS are similar to the proposed AFTT Phase IV activities, with the resulting effects remaining unchanged from the previous consultations. Some activities have either increased or decreased in scope, been reclassified, or been modified slightly since the previous consultation. In addition, some training activities are proposed for selected inshore locations that were not included in past consultations.

This AFTT Phase IV CZMA consultation supplements the AFTT Phase III Coastal Consistency Determination to account for changes in the Action Proponents' proposed training and testing activities necessary to meet mission needs. This consultation includes those activities

that are new to AFTT Phase IV or have increased in frequency, intensity, or possible effects since AFTT Phase III. In 2018, the Navy conducted a CZMA consultation with the South Carolina Department of Health and Environmental Control and received concurrence with the Navy's Coastal Consistency Determination (HNC-9R05-KN5F3 of April 20, 2018).

The Draft AFTT Phase IV Supplemental EIS/OEIS and the AFTT website (www.nepa.navy.mil/aftteis/) contain detailed information and analyses of potential effects. The Action Proponents reviewed South Carolina's Coastal Zone Management Program in preparation of the enclosed Coastal Consistency Determination. Based on the analyses, the Action Proponents have determined that the proposed action will be consistent to the maximum extent practicable with the enforceable policies of the South Carolina Coastal Zone Management Program.

We request that you provide your concurrence with our findings within 60 days of receipt of this letter. If a response has not been received by that time, concurrence with this finding will be assumed. My point of contact for this matter is Laura Busch who may be reached at (757) 836-8471 or at laura.m.busch2.civ@us.navy.mil.

Sincerely,

CUADROS.JORGE
RICARDO.1186806
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Date: 2024.12.12 16:10:01 -0500

J. R. CUADROS
Director, Fleet Installations & Environment
and Deputy Chief of Staff

Enclosure: Coastal Consistency Determination



August 18, 2025

J.R. Cuadros
Director, Fleet Installations & Environment and Deputy Chief of Staff
1562 MITSCHER AVE
STE 250
NORFOLK, VA 23551-2423

RE: US Navy Atlantic Fleet Training and Testing Phase 4

Reference #: HQE-58HB-BXV7Y

Location: NO land activities, Charleston, County, South Carolina

Dear J.R. Cuadros:

This Coastal Zone Consistency Concurrence is in response to the U.S. Department of the Navy, Fleet Forces Command, Coastal Zone Consistency Determination submitted to South Carolina Department of Environmental Services Bureau of Coastal Management (SCDES BCM) began on July 17, 2025.

The proposed activity consists of proposed training and testing activities along the East Coast of the United States, the Gulf of Mexico, and portions of the Caribbean Sea. This includes activities occurring at Navy and Coast Guard pierside locations; port transit channels, bays, harbors, inshore waterways, and civilian ports; during transits between homeports and operating areas; and on the high seas.

This Atlantic Fleet Training and Testing (AFTT) Phase IV CZMA consultation supplements the AFTT Phase III Coastal Consistency Determination to account for changes in the Action Proponents' proposed training and testing activities necessary to meet mission needs. This consultation includes those activities 2 that are new to AFTT Phase IV or have increased in frequency, intensity, or possible effects since AFTT Phase III. In 2018, the Navy conducted a CZMA consultation with the South Carolina Department of Health and Environmental Control and received concurrence with the Navy's Coastal Consistency Determination (HNC-9R05-KN5F3 of April 20, 2018).

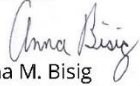
Pursuant to 15 CFR 930.33, staff has determined the placement and use of the Atlantic Fleet Training and Testing Study Area consists of a "de minimis" activity and will not have any significant direct or indirect coastal effects and is consistent with the enforceable policies contained within the S. C. Coastal Zone Management Program (SCCZMP). Therefore, we agree with your determination request and no further action is necessary.

1

info@des.sc.gov | des.sc.gov | 803.898.3432

Please contact me at Anna.Bisig@des.sc.gov if you have any questions about this concurrence.

Sincerely,



Anna M. Bisig
Coastal Zone Consistency Project Manager
SCDES Bureau of Coastal Management

cc:

Laura Busch, US Navy, Applicant
laura.m.busch2.civ@us.navy.mil

L.2.17 TEXAS



DEPARTMENT OF THE NAVY
U.S. FLEET FORCES COMMAND
1562 MITSCHER AVENUE SUITE 250
NORFOLK VA 23551-2487

5090
Ser N46/417
December 13, 2024

Ms. Leslie Koza
Federal Consistency Coordinator
Texas Coastal Management Program
Texas General Land Office
PO Box 12873
Austin, TX 78711

Dear Ms. Koza:

As is required by the Coastal Zone Management Act (CZMA), the United States (U.S.) Department of the Navy (including both the U.S. Navy and the U.S. Marine Corps) in cooperation with the U.S. Coast Guard as Joint Lead Agency (hereinafter jointly referred to as the Action Proponents) requests concurrence with its Coastal Consistency Determination for proposed activities in the Atlantic Fleet Training and Testing (AFTT) Study Area. This Phase IV CZMA consultation supplements the AFTT Phase III Coastal Consistency Determination to account for changes in the Action Proponents' proposed training and testing activities necessary to meet mission needs. These proposed activities are generally consistent with those analyzed in prior Navy consultations and are representative of the activities the Action Proponents have been conducting in the AFTT Study Area for decades.

In 2013, the Navy analyzed the potential environmental effects of its pierside and at-sea training and testing activities in the western Atlantic Ocean and the Gulf of Mexico in the AFTT Environmental Impact Statement (EIS)/Overseas Environmental Impact Statement (OEIS) (termed "AFTT Phase II"). To account for changes in training and support renewed permits and authorizations, the Navy completed an additional EIS/OEIS with associated consultations in 2018 (termed "AFTT Phase III"), and these permits expire in 2025. Each phase of review has further refined the Navy's analysis and supported issuance of permits and authorizations issued in compliance with the Marine Mammal Protection Act (MMPA) and Endangered Species Act (ESA). A Supplemental EIS/OEIS is being prepared (termed "AFTT Phase IV"), which supplements the Navy's AFTT Phase III EIS/OEIS. In addition, AFTT Phase IV incorporates U.S. Coast Guard training activities. This current consultation is supported by the 2024 Draft AFTT Supplemental EIS/OEIS, and accounts for some modifications in the training and testing activities, as well as changes in the types, frequency, and locations of those activities.

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that are new to Phase IV or have increased in frequency, intensity, or possible effects since AFTT Phase III. In 2018, the Navy conducted a CZMA consultation with the Texas General Land Office and received concurrence for the Navy's Coastal Consistency Determination (18-1154-F2 of March 20, 2018).

The Draft AFTT Phase IV Supplemental EIS/OEIS and the AFTT website (www.nepa.navy.mil/aftteis/) contain detailed information and analyses of potential effects. The Action Proponents reviewed Texas' Coastal Management Program in preparation of the enclosed Coastal Consistency Determination. Based on the analyses, the Action Proponents have determined that the proposed action will be fully consistent with the enforceable policies of the Texas Coastal Management Program.

We request that you provide your concurrence with our findings within 60 days of receipt of this letter. If a response has not been received by that time, concurrence with this finding will be assumed. My point of contact for this matter is Laura Busch who may be reached at (757) 836-8471 or at laura.m.busch2.civ@us.navy.mil.

Sincerely,

CUADROS.JORGE
RICARDO.1186806
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Digitally signed by
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Date: 2024.12.12 16:10:25 -0500

J. R. CUADROS
Director, Fleet Installations & Environment
and Deputy Chief of Staff

Enclosure: Coastal Consistency Determination



TEXAS GENERAL LAND OFFICE
COMMISSIONER DAWN BUCKINGHAM, M.D.

February 13, 2025

Department of Navy
U.S. Fleet Forces Command
1562 Mitscher Avenue Suite 250
Norfolk, VA 23551-2487
POC: Jorge Ricardo Cuadros

**Re: Atlantic Fleet Training and Testing Study Area – Draft Supplemental
Environmental Impact Statement/Overseas Environmental Impact Statement
Gulf of Mexico (GOMEX) Range Complex, Civilian ports of Beaumont and Corpus
Christi, Texas, U.S. Coast Guard Station Corpus, Christi, Texas
CMP#: 25-1090-F2**

Dear Mr. Cuadros:

The project referenced above has been reviewed for consistency with the Texas Coastal Management Program (CMP) pursuant to 31 Texas Administrative Code §30.20. It has been determined that the project, as proposed, is consistent with the CMP goals and enforceable policies.

Please note that this letter does not authorize the use of Coastal Public Land. No work may be conducted or structures placed on State-owned land until you have obtained all necessary authorizations, including any required by the General Land Office and the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers.

If you have any questions or concerns, please contact me at (512) 463-7497 or at federal.consistency@glo.texas.gov.

Sincerely,

Leslie Koza
Federal Consistency Coordinator
Texas General Land Office

1700 North Congress Avenue, Austin, Texas 78701-1495
P.O. Box 12873, Austin, Texas 78711-2873
512-463-5001 glo.texas.gov

L.2.18 VIRGINIA



DEPARTMENT OF THE NAVY
U.S. FLEET FORCES COMMAND
1562 MITSCHER AVENUE SUITE 250
NORFOLK VA 23551-2487

5090
Ser N46/418
December 13, 2024

Ms. Bettina Rayfield
Environmental Impact Review
Virginia Coastal Zone Management Program
Department of Environmental Quality
P.O. Box 1105
Richmond, VA 23218

Dear Ms. Rayfield:

As is required by the Coastal Zone Management Act (CZMA), the United States (U.S.) Department of the Navy (including both the U.S. Navy and the U.S. Marine Corps) in cooperation with the U.S. Coast Guard as Joint Lead Agency (hereinafter jointly referred to as the Action Proponents) requests concurrence with its Coastal Consistency Determination for proposed activities in the Atlantic Fleet Training and Testing (AFTT) Study Area. This Phase IV CZMA consultation supplements the AFTT Phase III Coastal Consistency Determination to account for changes in the Action Proponents' proposed training and testing activities necessary to meet mission needs. These proposed activities are generally consistent with those analyzed in prior Navy consultations and are representative of the activities the Action Proponents have been conducting in the AFTT Study Area for decades.

In 2013, the Navy analyzed the potential environmental effects of its pierside and at-sea training and testing activities in the western Atlantic Ocean and the Gulf of Mexico in the AFTT Environmental Impact Statement (EIS)/Overseas Environmental Impact Statement (OEIS) (termed "AFTT Phase II"). To account for changes in training and support renewed permits and authorizations, the Navy completed an additional EIS/OEIS with associated consultations in 2018 (termed "AFTT Phase III"), and these permits expire in 2025. Each phase of review has further refined the Navy's analysis and supported issuance of permits and authorizations issued in compliance with the Marine Mammal Protection Act (MMPA) and Endangered Species Act (ESA). A Supplemental EIS/OEIS is being prepared (termed "AFTT Phase IV"), which supplements the Navy's AFTT Phase III EIS/OEIS. In addition, AFTT Phase IV incorporates U.S. Coast Guard training activities. This current consultation is supported by the 2024 Draft AFTT Supplemental EIS/OEIS, and accounts for some modifications in the training and testing activities, as well as changes in the types, frequency, and locations of those activities.

Most testing and training activities discussed in the AFTT Phase III version of the AFTT EIS/OEIS are similar to the proposed AFTT Phase IV activities, with the resulting effects remaining unchanged from the previous consultations. Some activities have either increased or decreased in scope, been reclassified, or been modified slightly since the previous consultation. In addition, some training activities are proposed for selected inshore locations that were not included in past consultations.

This AFTT Phase IV CZMA consultation supplements the AFTT Phase III Coastal Consistency Determination to account for changes in the Action Proponents' proposed training and testing activities necessary to meet mission needs. This consultation includes those activities

that are new to AFTT Phase IV or have increased in frequency, intensity, or possible effects since AFTT Phase III. In 2018, the Navy conducted a CZMA consultation with the Virginia Department of Environmental Quality and received concurrence for the Navy's Coastal Consistency Determination (DEQ# 18-048F of May 1, 2018).

The Draft AFTT Phase IV Supplemental EIS/OEIS and the AFTT website (www.nepa.navy.mil/aftteis/) contain detailed information and analyses of potential effects. The Action Proponents reviewed Virginia's Coastal Zone Management Program in preparation of the enclosed Coastal Consistency Determination. Based on the analyses, the Action Proponents have determined that the proposed action will be fully consistent with the enforceable policies of the Virginia Coastal Zone Management Program.

We request that you provide your concurrence with our findings within 60 days of receipt of this letter. If a response has not been received by that time, concurrence with this finding will be assumed. My point of contact for this matter is Laura Busch who may be reached at (757) 836-8471 or at laura.m.busch2.civ@us.navy.mil.

Sincerely,

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86806162
Date: 2024.12.12 16:10:46 -0500

J. R. CUADROS
Director, Fleet Installations & Environment
and Deputy Chief of Staff

Enclosure: Coastal Consistency Determination



Commonwealth of Virginia
VIRGINIA DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY

www.deq.virginia.gov

Stefanie K. Taillon
Acting Secretary of Natural and Historic Resources

Michael S. Rolband, PE, PWD, PWS Emeritus

February 14, 2025

Laura Busch
Department of the Navy
U.S. Fleet Forces Command
1562 Mitscher Avenue Suite 250
Norfolk, VA 23551-2487
Via email: laura.m.busch2.civ@us.navy.mil

RE: Federal Consistency Determination: Atlantic Fleet Training and Testing, Department of the Navy (DEQ 24-212F)

Dear Ms. Busch:

The Commonwealth of Virginia has completed its review of the federal consistency determination (FCD) for the above-referenced project. The Department of Environmental Quality (DEQ) is responsible for coordinating Virginia's review of FCDs and responding on behalf of the Commonwealth. This letter is in response to the FCD that was submitted by the U.S. Department of the Navy, dated December 13, 2024 and received by DEQ on December 17, 2024. The following agencies and locality participated in this review:

Department of Environmental Quality (DEQ)
Department of Conservation and Recreation (DCR)
Department of Historic Resources (DHR)
Marine Resources Commission (VMRC)
Department of Wildlife Resources (DWR)
City of Norfolk

In addition, Virginia Institute of Marine Science, City of Portsmouth, City of Virginia Beach, City of Newport News, the Accomack-Northampton Planning District Commission, and the Hampton Roads Planning District Commission were invited to comment on the proposal.

PROJECT DESCRIPTION

The U.S. Department of the Navy (Navy) proposes to conduct the Atlantic Fleet Training and Testing (AFTT) in coastal Virginia waters. The AFTT Study Area begins at the mean high-water mark and extends seaward, including airspace, sea, and undersea space. The locations of training

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and testing activities proposed to occur off the coast of Virginia include the following: Virginia Capes (VACAPES) Range Complex, the lower Chesapeake Bay, the James River and tributaries, the York River, Naval Station Norfolk in Norfolk, Virginia, Norfolk Naval Shipyard in Portsmouth, Virginia, Joint Expeditionary Base Little Creek – Fort Story in Virginia Beach, Virginia, a contractor-owned shipyard in Newport News, Virginia, and U.S. Coast Guard Stations in Portsmouth and Virginia Beach, Virginia. Proposed training and testing activities are typically identified at the range complex or testing range level because activities are not tied to specific locations and must adhere to operation requirements (e.g. certain depths) and safety considerations. Examples of testing and training activities include unmanned underwater vehicle training, precision anchoring, search and rescue, radar and other systems testing, and ship-to-shore fuel transfer system training. Depending on the mission, some activities are conducted within or near the coastal zone and may have reasonably foreseeable effects on coastal use or resources, while other activities occur outside of 12 nautical miles and are not expected to affect any coastal use or resource.

The Draft Supplemental Environmental Impact Statement (SEIS)/Overseas Environmental Impact Statement for this project was recently reviewed under DEQ #24-168F.

FEDERAL CONSISTENCY UNDER THE COASTAL ZONE MANAGEMENT ACT

Pursuant to the Coastal Zone Management Act of 1972 (§ 1456(c)), as amended, and the federal consistency regulations implementing the CZMA (15 CFR Part 930, Subpart C, § 930.30 *et seq.*), federal actions that can have reasonably foreseeable effects on Virginia's coastal uses or resources must be conducted in a manner which is consistent, to the maximum extent practicable, with the Virginia Coastal Zone Management (CZM) Program. The CZM Program is comprised of a network of programs administered by several agencies. In order to be consistent with the CZM Program, the federal agency must obtain all the applicable permits and approvals listed under the enforceable policies of the CZM Program prior to commencing the project.

Federal Consistency Program Change

The National Ocean and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) Office for Coastal Management (OCM) approved a program change to Virginia's Coastal Zone Management Program on October 2, 2020. The program change converted Virginia's existing enforceable policies to a narrative format and creates new enforceable policies, in narrative format for use in federal consistency reviews. Details are available at the following website:

<https://www.deq.virginia.gov/our-programs/environmental-impact-review/federal-consistency>

Future federal consistency submissions should address the new narrative enforceable policies.

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PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

In accordance with 15 CFR §930.2, a public notice of this proposed action was published in the DEQ Office of Environmental Impact Review Program Public Notice Bulletin and on the DEQ website from December 23, 2024 to January 17, 2025. No public comments were received.

FEDERAL CONSISTENCY CONCURRENCE

The FCD states that the project is consistent to the maximum extent practicable with the enforceable policies of the Virginia CZM Program. The reviewing agencies that are responsible for the administration of the enforceable policies generally agree with the FCD. Based on the review of the FCD and the comments submitted by agencies administering the enforceable policies of the Virginia CZM Program, DEQ concurs that the proposed project is consistent to the maximum extent practicable with the Virginia CZM Program, provided all applicable permits and approvals are obtained as described below. In addition, the Navy is encouraged to consider the advisory policies of the CZM Program.

Other state approvals which may apply to this project are not included in this FCD. Therefore, the Navy must also ensure that this project is constructed and operated in accordance with all applicable federal, state and local laws and regulations.

If, prior to construction, the project should change significantly and any of the enforceable policies of the Virginia CZM Program would be affected, pursuant to 15 CFR 930.46, the federal agency must submit supplemental information to DEQ for review and approval.

ANALYSIS OF ENFORCEABLE POLICIES

The analysis which follows responds to the discussion of the enforceable policies of the Virginia CZM Program that apply to this project and review comments submitted by agencies that administer these enforceable policies.

1. Point Source Air Pollution. The FCD (page 13) states that the proposed activities do not include stationary sources of air pollution that would require permitting.

1(a) Agency Jurisdiction. The policy is administered by DEQ through the federal Clean Air Act and Virginia's legally enforceable State Implementation Plan for the attainment and maintenance of the National Ambient Air Quality Standards. It is the policy of the Commonwealth to abate, control, and prohibit air pollution throughout the Commonwealth (*Virginia Code § 10.1-1308*), to include: asphalt paving operations in volatile organic compound emission control areas (*Virginia Code §§ 10.1-1308 and -1322; 9 VAC §§ 5-20-206 and -45-780*), open burning (*Virginia Code §§ 10.1-1308 and -1322; 9 VAC §§ 5-80-1105, -130-10, -130-30 to -50, 20-60-30, and 5-60-200*), fugitive dust emissions (*Virginia Code §§ 10.1-1308 and -1322; 9 VAC §§ 5-50-90 and -40-90*), state operation permits (*Virginia Code §§ 10.1-1308 and -1322; 9 VAC § 5-*

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80-800), and new source review (*Virginia Code §§ 10.1-1308 and -1322; 9 VAC §§ 5-80-1100, -1400, -1605, and -2000*).

1(b) Agency Finding. The DEQ Air Division notes that the project is located in the Hampton Roads 1997 Ozone Attainment/Maintenance Area and the Hampton Roads ECA 9VAC5-20-206.1. d. and 2.d. Emission Control Area for volatile organic compounds (VOC) and oxides of nitrogen (NO_x).

1(c) Fugitive Dust Requirement. During operations, fugitive dust must be kept to a minimum by using control methods outlined in 9VAC5-50-60 *et seq.* of the Regulations for the Control and Abatement of Air Pollution. These precautions include, but are not limited to, the following:

- Use, where possible, water or chemicals for dust control;
- Install and use hoods, fans and fabric filters to enclose and vent the handling of dusty materials;
- Cover open equipment for conveying materials; and
- Promptly remove spilled or tracked dirt or other materials from paved streets and remove dried sediments resulting from soil erosion.

Follow 9VAC 5-50-60 *et seq.* to limit particulate matter and other air pollutants to minimize fugitive emissions during the use of any vehicles for both on and offshore activity for naval operations, including but not limited to helicopters, boats, ships, and unmanned aerial systems.

1(d) Conclusion. Provided the project complies with applicable requirements, it will be consistent to the maximum extent practicable with the point source air pollution enforceable policy of the Virginia CZM Program.

2. Tidal and Non-Tidal Wetlands. The FCD (page 13) states that the project does not include regulated activities in wetlands that would require a permit.

2(a) Agency Jurisdiction. The purpose of the policy is to preserve and protect wetlands and non-tidal surface waters, to prevent their despoliation and destruction, and accommodate necessary economic development in a manner consistent with wetlands preservation. Impacts to wetlands and streams shall be avoided or minimized to the maximum extent practicable. Tidal Wetlands are administered by the Virginia Marine Resources Commission (VMRC) under the authority of the Tidal Wetlands Act of 1972 (*Virginia Code § 28.2-1301 and -1308; 4 VAC § 20-390-20*). Tidal and Nontidal Wetlands are administered by the Department of Environmental Quality (DEQ) through the Virginia Water Protection (VWP) Permit program and includes Water Quality Certification pursuant to Section 401 of the Clean Water Act (*Virginia Code §§ 62.1-44.15:20 and -44.15:21; and 9 VAC §§ 25-210-10, -210-45, 210-80, 260-10, -380, -390*).

2(b) DEQ Findings. The DEQ Tidewater Regional Office (TRO) states that potential adverse impacts to water quality and wetlands must be minimized. This can be achieved by using Best Management Practices (BMPs).

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2(c) VMRC Findings. The VMRC found that there are no adverse impacts expected to tidal wetlands.

2(d) Requirements. Permanent or temporary impacts to surface waters and wetlands may require DEQ authorization under §401 of the Clean Water Act, Virginia Code §62.1-44.15:20, and Virginia Administrative Code 9 VAC 25-210-10 *et seq.*

Any federal activity resulting in impacts to tidal wetlands may need authorization from the Local Wetlands Board.

2(e) Conclusion. Provided any required VWP and/or Local Wetlands Board permit is obtained, as necessary, the project will be consistent to the maximum extent practicable with the Tidal and Non-tidal Wetlands enforceable policy of the Virginia Coastal Zone Management Program.

3. Subaqueous Lands. The FCD (page 13) notes that the proposed activities do not include dredging, filling, construction of bulkheads, riprap revetments, groins, jetties, boat ramps, piers, or any other activity that would necessitate a permit.

3(a) Agency Jurisdiction. All decisions affecting subaqueous lands shall be guided by the Commonwealth's General Policy to conserve, develop, and utilize its natural resources, its public lands, and its historical sites and buildings and to protect its atmosphere, lands, and waters from pollution, impairment, or destruction, for the benefit, enjoyment, and general welfare of the people of the Commonwealth. The General Assembly has authorized VMRC to grant or deny any use of state-owned bottomlands, including dredging, aquaculture, the taking and use of material from the bottomland, and the placement of wharves, bulkheads, and fill. (*Virginia Code §§ 28.2-1200, -1203, -1204 and -1205*).

3(b) Agency Finding. The VMRC states that no adverse impacts are expected to submerged lands.

3(c) Requirement. Any federal activity resulting in the fill of state-owned submerged lands may require a VMRC subaqueous permit.

3(d) Conclusion. Provided a VMRC subaqueous permit is obtained, as necessary, the project is consistent to the maximum extent practicable with the subaqueous lands enforceable policy of the Virginia CZM Program.

4. Marine Fisheries. The FCD (page 13) states that the proposed activities do not entail commercial or recreational fishing.

4(a) Agency Jurisdiction. The policy stresses the conservation and promotion of seafood and marine resources of the Commonwealth, including fish, shellfish and marine organisms, and

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manage the fisheries to maximize food production and recreational opportunities within the Commonwealth's territorial waters. The policy is administered by VMRC (Virginia Code §§ 28.2-101, -201, -203, -203.1, -225, -551, -600, -601, -603 -618, and -1103, -1203 and the Constitution of Virginia, Article XI, Section 3).

4(b) Agency Finding. According to VMRC there are no adverse impacts expected to fisheries or shellfish.

4(c) Conclusion. The project is consistent to the maximum extent practicable with the Marine Fisheries enforceable policy of the Virginia CZM Program.

5. Dunes and Beaches. According to the FCD (page 13) states that the proposed activities would not cause permanent alteration of or construction upon primary sand dunes.

5(a) Agency Jurisdiction. The policy promotes the preservation and protection of coastal primary sand dunes and beaches, to prevent their despoliation and destruction, and whenever practical, to accommodate necessary economic development in a manner consistent with the protection of such features. Dune and beach protection is carried out pursuant to the Coastal Primary Sand Dune Protection Act as administered by VMRC (*Virginia Code §§ 28.2-1401 and -1408*).

5(b) Agency Finding. According to VMRC there are no adverse impacts expected to beaches and coastal primary sand dunes in close proximity to the project area.

5(c) Requirement. Any federal activity resulting in impacts to coastal primary sand dunes or beaches may need authorization from the Local Dune and Beach Board.

5(d) Conclusion. Provided authorization from the Local Dune and Beach Board is obtained, as necessary, the project will be consistent to the maximum extent practicable with the Dunes and Beaches enforceable policy of the Virginia CZM Program.

6. Point Source Water Pollution. The FCD (page 13) states that the proposed activity would not result in new point source pollutant discharges.

6(a) Agency Jurisdiction. The policy is administered by DEQ to protect existing high quality state waters and restore all other state waters to permit all reasonable public uses and support the propagation and growth of all aquatic life. Legal authority is granted by the National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (NPDES) permit program established pursuant to Section 402 of the federal Clean Water Act and administered by DEQ as the Virginia Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (VPDES) permit program (Virginia Code § 62.1-44.2; 9 VAC § 25-31-20).

6(b) Agency Findings. The proposed activities could result in a discharge to State Waters.

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6(c) Requirement. Except in compliance with a VPDES permit, it shall be unlawful to discharge into state waters sewage, industrial wastes or any noxious or deleterious substances; or, otherwise alter the physical, chemical or biological properties of such state waters and make them detrimental to the public health, or to animal or aquatic life, or the uses of such waters for domestic or industrial consumption, or for recreation, or for other uses.

6(d) Conclusion. Provided the project obtains a VPDES permit for any discharge into State Waters, as necessary, the project will be consistent to the maximum extent practicable with the Point Source Water Pollution enforceable policy of the Virginia CZM Program.

7. Wildlife and Inland Fisheries. The FCD (page 13) does not indicate that wildlife and inland fisheries will be affected.

7(a) Agency Jurisdiction. The Department of Wildlife Resources (DWR) administers the enforceable policy for activities affecting wildlife and inland fisheries to ensure they do not negatively impact the Commonwealth's efforts in conserving, protecting, replenishing, propagating and increasing of the supply of game birds, game animals, fish and other wildlife of the Commonwealth (Virginia Code §§ 29.1-501, -512, -521, -530.2, -531, -533, -542, -543.1, -545, -548, -549, -550, -552, -554, -556, -569, and -574; 4 VAC §§ 15-30-10, -20, -50, and 15-290-60), fish or wildlife listed as threatened or endangered by the Department of Wildlife Resources Board (Virginia Code §§ 29.1-501, -564, -566, -567, and -568; 4 VAC §§ 15-20-130 and -140), the use of drugs on vertebrate wildlife (Virginia Code § 29.1-501 and -508.1), and nonindigenous aquatic nuisance, predatory, or undesirable species (Virginia Code §§ 29.1-501, -542, -543.1, -545, -569, -571, -574, and -575; 4 VAC §§ 15-20-210, -30-20, -30-40, and 15-290-60).

7(b) Agency Finding. DWR have reviewed the project that proposes to conduct training and testing activities, which may include the use of active sonar and explosives, primarily within existing range complexes, operating areas, and testing ranges, within the Atlantic Ocean along the Eastern coast and inland waters, including the Chesapeake Bay.

In addition, DWR submitted some additional comments related to related to cumulative impacts stemming from offshore wind facilities on the Draft Supplemental Environmental Impact Statement/Overseas Environmental Impact Statement for this project which was previously reviewed under DEQ #24-168F. Refer to the attached DWR memorandum for details.

7(c) Recommendation. This project is located within two miles of a documented occurrence of federally endangered Atlantic sturgeon and/or a water designated a Threatened and Endangered Species due to its presence. To ensure protection of this species, DWR recommend coordination with NOAA Fisheries Service.

7(d) Conclusion. Assuming strict adherence to best management practices for erosion and sediment control is maintained, the project will be consistent to the maximum extent practicable with the wildlife and inland fisheries enforceable policy of the Virginia CZM Program.

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ADDITIONAL ENVIRONMENTAL CONSIDERATIONS

In addition to the enforceable policies of the Virginia CZM Program, comments also were provided with respect to applicable requirements and recommendations of the following programs:

1. Solid and Hazardous Waste Management.

1(a) Agency Jurisdiction. On behalf of the Virginia Waste Management Board, the DEQ Division of Land Protection and Revitalization is responsible for carrying out the mandates of the Virginia Waste Management Act (Virginia Code §10.1-1400 et seq.), as well as meeting Virginia's federal obligations under the Resource Conservation and Recovery Act and the Comprehensive Environmental Response Compensation Liability Act, commonly known as Superfund. The DEQ Division of Land Protection and Revitalization also administers those laws and regulations on behalf of the State Water Control Board governing Petroleum Storage Tanks (Virginia Code §62.1-44.34:8 et seq.), including Aboveground Storage Tanks (9VAC25-91 et seq.) and Underground Storage Tanks (9VAC25-580 et seq. and 9VAC25-580-370 et seq.), also known as Virginia Tank Regulations, and § 62.1-44.34:14 et seq. which covers oil spills.

Virginia:

- Virginia Waste Management Act, Virginia Code § 10.1-1400 et seq.
- Virginia Solid Waste Management Regulations, 9VAC20-81
 - (9VAC20-81-620 applies to asbestos-containing materials)
- Virginia Hazardous Waste Management Regulations, 9VAC20-60
 - (9VAC20-60-261 applies to lead-based paints)
- Virginia Regulations for the Transportation of Hazardous Materials, 9VAC20-110.

Federal:

- Resource Conservation and Recovery Act (RCRA), 42 U.S. Code sections 6901 et seq.
- U.S. Department of Transportation Rules for Transportation of Hazardous Materials, 49 Code of Federal Regulations, Part 107
- Applicable rules contained in Title 40, Code of Federal Regulations.

1(b) Agency Findings. The DEQ Tidewater Regional Office notes that active or closed petroleum pollution complaint cases may be encountered adjacent to or within proposed project footprints.

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1(c) Requirements.

1(c)(i) Waste Management. Any soil that is suspected of contamination or wastes that are generated during the action must be tested and disposed of in accordance with applicable federal, state, and local laws and regulations. All construction and demolition debris must be characterized in accordance with the *Virginia Hazardous Waste Management Regulations* prior to disposal at an appropriate facility. It is the generator's responsibility to determine if solid waste meets the criteria of hazardous waste and as a result be managed as such.

1(c)(ii) Petroleum Releases and Contaminated Soils. If evidence of a petroleum release is discovered during implementation of this project, it must be reported to DEQ, as authorized by Virginia Code § 62.1-44.34.8 through 9 and 9 VAC 25-580-10 *et seq.* Petroleum contaminated soils generated during construction of this project must be characterized and disposed of properly.

1(c)(iii) Petroleum Storage Tanks. Installation, operation, removal, or relocation of any regulated petroleum storage tank(s) either aboveground storage tanks (AST) or underground storage tanks (UST) must also be conducted in accordance with the Virginia Regulations 9 VAC 25-91-10 *et seq.* and / or 9 VAC 25-580-10 *et seq.*

1(d) Agency Recommendation. DEQ encourages all projects to implement pollution prevention principles, including:

- the reduction, reuse and recycling of all solid wastes generated; and
- the minimization and proper handling of generated hazardous wastes.

2. Natural Heritage Resources.

2(a) Agency Jurisdiction.

2(a)(i) The Virginia Department of Conservation and Recreation's (DCR) Division of Natural Heritage (DNH): DNH's mission is conserving Virginia's biodiversity through inventory, protection and stewardship. The Virginia Natural Area Preserves Act (Virginia Code §10.1-209 through 217), authorized DCR to maintain a statewide database for conservation planning and project review, protect land for the conservation of biodiversity, and the protect and ecologically manage the natural heritage resources of Virginia (the habitats of rare, threatened and endangered species, significant natural communities, geologic sites, and other natural features).

2(a)(ii) The Virginia Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services (VDACS): The Endangered Plant and Insect Species Act of 1979 (Virginia Code Chapter 39 §3.1-1020 through 1030) authorizes VDACS to conserve, protect and manage endangered and threatened species of plants and insects. Under a Memorandum of Agreement established between VDACS and the

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Atlantic Fleet Training and Testing
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DCR, DCR represents VDACS in comments regarding potential impacts on state-listed threatened and endangered plant and insect species.

2(b) Agency Finding – Natural Heritage Resources and Natural Area Preserves. DCR's Division of Natural Heritage (DNH) searched its Biotics Data System (Biotics) for occurrences of natural heritage resources from the area outlined on the submitted map and identified natural heritage resources in the vicinity.

The Parramore Island, Wreck Island and False Cape Natural Area Preserves are adjacent to the project area and support several different populations of rare nesting birds including the Piping plover (*Charadrius melodus*, G3/S2B/S1N/LT/LT), Least tern (*Sterna antillarum*, G4/S2B/NL/NL), Black skimmer (*Rynchops niger*, G4/S2BS1N/NL/NL), and, at False Cape Natural Area Preserve, Loggerhead sea turtle (*Caretta caretta*, G3/S1B,S1N/LT/LT). In addition, several state and federally listed sea turtles, whales and other marine mammals are located in the project vicinity and may be affected by the proposed activities.

2(c) Agency Findings – Threatened and Endangered Plant and Insect Species. DCR states that the current activity will not affect any documented state-listed plant and insect species.

2(d) Agency Recommendations. Contact DCR-DNH to secure updated information on natural heritage resources if the scope of the project changes and/or six months has passed before it is utilized. New and updated information is continually added to the Biotics Data System.

DCR recommends restricting any activities from April until August near the Parramore Island, Wreck Island and False Cape Natural Area Preserves during migration/nesting activities for sea turtles and migratory birds. Due to the legal status of many of these species, DCR also recommends continued coordination with the Virginia Department of Wildlife Resources (DWR), the United States Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS) and the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration-National Marine Fisheries Service (NOAA-NMFS) for information regarding the possible impacts and to ensure compliance with protected species legislation.

3. Historic and Archaeological Resources.

3(a) Agency Jurisdiction. The Virginia [Department of Historic Resources \(DHR\)](https://www.dhr.virginia.gov/programs/federal-state-review/) conducts reviews of both federal and state projects to determine their effect on historic properties. Under the federal process, DHR is the State Historic Preservation Office, and ensures that federal undertakings - including licenses, permits, or funding - comply with Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966, as amended, and its implementing regulation at 36 CFR Part 800. Section 106 requires federal agencies to consider the effects of federal projects on properties that are listed or eligible for listing on the National Register of Historic Places. Please see DHR's website for more information about applicable state and federal laws and how to submit an application for review: <https://www.dhr.virginia.gov/programs/federal-state-review/>.

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3(b) Requirement. The Navy or its agents must consult directly with DHR pursuant Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act (as amended) and its implementing regulations codified at 36 CFR Part 800 which requires federal agencies to consider the impacts of their projects on historic properties.

4. Local Coordination.

4(a) Jurisdiction. In accordance with CFR 930, Subpart A, § 930.6(b) of the Federal Consistency Regulations, DEQ, on behalf of the state, is responsible for securing necessary review and comment from other state agencies, the public, regional government agencies, and local government agencies, in determining the Commonwealth's concurrence or objection to a federal consistency certification.

4(b) City of Norfolk Comments. The City of Norfolk supports the Department of Navy's proposed training and testing activities in and around Naval Station Norfolk.

REGULATORY AND COORDINATION NEEDS

1. Air Quality. Activities associated with this project may be subject to air regulations administered by DEQ. The state air pollution regulations that may apply to the project are:

- fugitive dust and emissions control (9VAC5-50-60 *et seq.*)

Coordinate with the DEQ Tidewater Regional Office (TRO) John Brandt (757-407-2341) for guidance on air pollution control as needed.

2. Tidal and Non-tidal Wetlands. Coordinate with the DEQ TRO contact Jeff Hannah, DEQ TRO at (757) 407-2510, as needed, to determine the need for a VWP permit for any activities that may cause permanent or temporary impacts to surface waters and wetlands.

Coordinate with the Local Wetlands Board to obtain authorization, as necessary, for any federal activity resulting in impacts to tidal wetlands. Contact VMRC (Tiffany Birge, 757-247-2254) with questions.

3. Subaqueous Lands. Any federal activity resulting in the fill of state-owned submerged lands may require a VMRC subaqueous permit. Contact VMRC (Tiffany Birge, 757-247-2254) as necessary to enquire about VMRC permit applicability.

As necessary, submit a Joint Permit Application (JPA) to VMRC for a full Public/Agency interest review and for a decision to issue a permit.

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4. Dunes and Beaches. Any federal activity resulting in impacts to coastal primary sand dunes or beaches may need authorization from the Local Dune and Beach Board. Contact VMRC (Tiffany Birge, 757-247-2254) with questions.

5. Point Source Pollution Control. The proposed activities could result in a discharge to State Waters. Coordinate with the DEQ Water Permitting Division Director, Meghan Mayfield (804-914-3729) or DEQ TRO Regional VWP Permit Program Manager Jeffrey Hannah (757-407-2510) to discuss the applicability of a VPDES permit for this project.

6. Solid and Hazardous Wastes. All solid waste, hazardous waste, and hazardous materials must be managed in accordance with all applicable federal, state, and local environmental regulations. Contact DEQ TRO (Melinda Woodruff, 757-407-2516) for information on the location and availability of suitable waste management facilities in the project area or if free product, discolored soils, or other evidence of contaminated soils are encountered.

6(a) Petroleum Releases and Tanks. If evidence of a petroleum release is discovered during construction, it must be reported to DEQ TRO (Melinda Woodruff, 757-407-2516).

If there will be any installation, operation, removal, or relocation of any regulated petroleum ASTs or USTs submit documentation and / or questions to TRO Tanks at Tidewater Regional Office – 5636 Southern Blvd., Virginia Beach, VA 23462 or via email at tro.tanks@deq.virginia.gov.

7. Natural Heritage Resources. Contact DCR-DNH, Rene Hypes at (804) 371-2708, to secure updated information on natural heritage resources if the scope of the project changes and/or six months has passed before the project is implemented, since new and updated information is continually added to the Biotics Data System.

The DWR maintains a database of wildlife locations, including threatened and endangered species, trout streams, and anadromous fish waters that may contain information not documented in DCR's review. Their database may be accessed at <https://services.dwr.virginia.gov/fwis/> or contact Hannah Schul at Hannah.Schul@dwr.virginia.gov.

The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS) utilizes an online project review process (<https://www.fws.gov/office/virginia-ecological-services/virginia-field-office-online-review-process>) to facilitate compliance with the Endangered Species Act (16 U.S.C. 1531-1544, 87 Stat. 884) (ESA), as amended. The process enables users to 1) follow step-by-step guidance; 2) access information that will allow them to identify threatened and endangered species, designated critical habitat, and other Federal trust resources that may be affected by their project; and 3) accurately reach determinations regarding the potential effects of their project on these resources as required under the ESA. If you have questions regarding the online review process, please contact Jackie Luu at jackie_luu@fws.gov.

U.S. Department of Navy
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DEQ 24-212F

8. Historic and Archaeological Resources. Consult directly with DHR (Jenny Bellville-Marrion, Jennifer.Bellville-Marrion@dhr.virginia.gov) pursuant Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act and its implementing regulations codified at 36 CFR Part 800 which require federal agencies to consider the impacts of their projects on historic properties.

9. Wildlife and Inland Fisheries. Due to the project's location within two miles of a documented occurrence of the federally endangered Atlantic sturgeon and/or a water designated a Threatened and Endangered Species due to its presence, DWR recommends coordination with NOAA Fisheries Service (Christine Vaccaro, christine.vaccaro@noaa.gov).

Coordinate as needed with DWR (Hannah Schul, (804) 968-8546) with questions regarding DWR's recommendations and comments related to the Draft SEIS which was previously reviewed.

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on this FCD. The detailed comments of reviewers are attached. If you have questions, please do not hesitate to call me or Janine Howard at (804) 659-1916.

Sincerely,



Bettina Rayfield, Manager
Environmental Impact Review and Long-Range Priorities Program
Virginia Department of Environmental Quality
804-659-1915
bettina.rayfield@DEQ.virginia.gov
Central Office
1111 E. Main Street, Suite 1400
Richmond, Virginia 23219
804-698-4000

cc: Hannah Schul, DWR
Allison Tillett, DCR
Samantha Henderson, DHR
Emily Hein, VIMS
Claire Gorman, VMRC
Elaine Meil, Accomack-Norhampton PDC
Ben McFarlane, Hampton Roads PDC
Seamus McCarthy, City of Norfolk
Rhonda Russell, City of Portsmouth

U.S. Department of Navy
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DEQ 24-212F

Seth Edwards, City of Virginia Beach
Craig M. Galant, City of Newport News

L.3 ENDANGERED SPECIES ACT



DEPARTMENT OF THE NAVY
U.S. FLEET FORCES COMMAND
1562 MITTSCHER AVENUE, SUITE 250
NORFOLK VA 23551-2487

5090
Ser N46/029
August 20, 2024

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

Dear Ms. Damon-Randall:

In accordance with Section 7 of the Endangered Species Act, the United States Navy (Navy) requests formal consultation on Atlantic Fleet Training and Testing (AFTT) activities occurring within the Atlantic Ocean and Gulf of Mexico beginning in November of 2025.

The proposed action may affect listed species that reside within the AFTT study area due to environmental stressors associated with military readiness activities. The AFTT Biological Assessment, which provides the required information pursuant to 50 C.F.R. §402.12 (f), will be electronically forwarded to your staff. The supporting 2024 AFTT Draft Supplemental Environmental Impact Statement/Overseas Environmental Impact Statement will be available electronically beginning September 20, 2024 at <https://www.nepa.navy.mil/aftteis/>.

Based on the Navy's may affect, and is likely to adversely affect determinations, we are requesting formal consultation on the boulder star coral (*Orbicella franksi*), elkhorn coral (*Acropora palmata*), lobed star coral (*Orbicella annularis*), mountainous star coral (*Orbicella faveolata*), pillar coral (*Dendrogyra cylindrus*), rough cactus coral (*Mycetophyllia ferox*), staghorn coral (*Acropora cervicornis*), queen conch (*Aliger gigas*), Atlantic salmon (*Salmo salar*), Atlantic sturgeon (*Acipenser oxyrinchus oxyrinchus*), shortnose sturgeon (*Acipenser brevirostrum*), Gulf sturgeon (*Acipenser oxyrinchus desotoi*), smalltooth sawfish (*Pristis pectinate*), Nassau grouper (*Epinephelus striatus*), giant manta ray (*Manta birostris*), oceanic whitetip shark (*Carcharhinus longimanus*), scalloped hammerhead shark (*Sphyrna lewini*), green turtle (*Chelonia mydas*), hawksbill turtle (*Eretmochelys imbricata*), Kemp's ridley turtle (*Lepidochelys kempi*), leatherback turtle (*Dermochelys coriacea*), loggerhead turtle (*Caretta caretta*), blue whale (*Balaenoptera musculus*), Rice's whale (*Balaenoptera ricei*), fin whale (*Balaenoptera physalus*), North Atlantic right whale (*Eubalaena glacialis*), sei whale (*Balaenoptera borealis*), and sperm whale (*Physeter macrocephalus*).

We request concurrence on our may affect, but is not likely to adversely affect determinations for designated critical habitat for boulder star coral, elkhorn coral, lobed star coral, mountainous coral, pillar coral, rough cactus coral, staghorn coral, Atlantic sturgeon, Gulf sturgeon, Nassau grouper, loggerhead turtle, and proposed critical habitat for green turtle and Rice's whale.

We appreciate your continued support in helping the Navy to meet its environmental responsibilities. Please direct any questions to Ms. Laura Busch (757) 836-8471.

Sincerely,


J. R. CUADROS
Director, Fleet Installations and Environment
and Deputy Chief of Staff

Copy to: Ms. Jolie Harrison, NMFS Office of Protected Resources
Ms. Tanya Dobrzynski, NMFS Office of Protected Resources



DEPARTMENT OF THE NAVY
U.S. FLEET FORCES COMMAND
1562 MITSCHER AVENUE SUITE 250
NORFOLK VA 23551-2487

5090
Scr N46/031
September 6, 2024

Ms. Michelle Guay
Regional Section 7 Coordinator
US Fish and Wildlife Service
P.O. Box 1306
Albuquerque, NM 87103

SUBJECT: ENDANGERED SPECIES ACT SECTION 7 CONSULTATION FOR U.S. NAVY
ATLANTIC FLEET TRAINING AND TESTING ACTIVITIES

In accordance with Section 7 of the Endangered Species Act, the United States Navy (Navy) requests concurrence on our determination that Atlantic Fleet Training and Testing (AFTT) activities occurring within the Atlantic Ocean and Gulf of Mexico beginning in November of 2025 will not adversely affect listed species.

The proposed action may affect listed species that reside within the AFTT action area due to environmental stressors associated with military readiness activities. The AFTT Consultation Package provides the required information pursuant to 50 C.F.R. §402.12 (f) and an email with download instructions from DoD SAU/L will be forwarded. The supporting 2024 AFTT Draft Supplemental Environmental Impact Statement/Overseas Environmental Impact Statement will be available electronically beginning September 20, 2024 at <https://www.nepa.navy.mil/aftteis/>.

We request concurrence on our may affect, but not likely to adversely affect determinations for the following listed and proposed species: American crocodile (*Crocodylus acutus*), piping plover (*Charadrius melodus*), red knot (*Calidris canutus rufa*), roseate tern (*Sterna dougalli dougalli*), Bermuda petrel (*Pterodroma cahow*), black-capped petrel (*Pterodroma hasitata*), Indiana bat (*Myotis sodalis*), northern long-eared bat (*Balaenoptera physalus*), tricolored bat (*Perimyotis subflavus*), and West Indian manatee (*Trichechus manatus*). Although sea turtles occur within the AFTT action area, the proposed action does not include activities above the mean high tide line where nesting occurs, therefore we are consulting with the National Marine Fisheries Service on sea turtles.

We appreciate your continued support in helping the Navy to meet its environmental responsibilities. Please direct any questions to Ms. Laura Busch (757) 836-8471.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "R. Cuadros", is positioned above the printed name.

R. CUADROS
Director, Fleet Installations and Environment
and Deputy Chief of Staff



DEPARTMENT OF THE NAVY
U.S. FLEET FORCES COMMAND
1562 MITSCHER AVENUE SUITE 250
NORFOLK VA 23551-2487

5090
Ser N46/395
September 6, 2024

Mr. Heath Rauschenberger
Regional Section 7 Coordinator
US Fish and Wildlife Service
1875 Century Boulevard
Atlanta, GA 30345

SUBJECT: ENDANGERED SPECIES ACT SECTION 7 CONSULTATION FOR U.S. NAVY
ATLANTIC FLEET TRAINING AND TESTING ACTIVITIES

In accordance with Section 7 of the Endangered Species Act, the United States Navy (Navy) requests concurrence on our determination that Atlantic Fleet Training and Testing (AFTT) activities occurring within the Atlantic Ocean and Gulf of Mexico beginning in November of 2025 will not adversely affect listed species.

The proposed action may affect listed species that reside within the AFTT action area due to environmental stressors associated with military readiness activities. The AFTT Consultation Package provides the required information pursuant to 50 C.F.R. §402.12 (f) and an email with download instructions from DoD SAFE will be forwarded. The supporting 2024 AFTT Draft Supplemental Environmental Impact Statement/Overseas Environmental Impact Statement will be available electronically beginning September 20, 2024 at <https://www.nepa.navy.mil/aftteis/>.

We request concurrence on our may affect, but not likely to adversely affect determinations for the following listed and proposed species: American crocodile (*Crocodylus acutus*), piping plover (*Charadrius melodus*), red knot (*Calidris canutus rufa*), roseate tern (*Sterna dougallii dougallii*), Bermuda petrel (*Pterodroma cahow*), black-capped petrel (*Pterodroma hasitata*), Indiana bat (*Myotis sodalis*), northern long-eared bat (*Balaenoptera physalus*), tricolored bat (*Perimyotis subflavus*), and West Indian manatee (*Trichechus manatus*). Although sea turtles occur within the AFTT action area, the proposed action does not include activities above the mean high tide line where nesting occurs, therefore we are consulting with the National Marine Fisheries Service on sea turtles.

We appreciate your continued support in helping the Navy to meet its environmental responsibilities. Please direct any questions to Ms. Laura Busch (757) 836-8471.

Sincerely,


J.R. CUADROS
Director, Fleet Installations and Environment
and Deputy Chief of Staff



DEPARTMENT OF THE NAVY
U.S. FLEET FORCES COMMAND
1562 MITCHELL AVENUE SUITE 250
NORFOLK VA 23551-2487

5090
Ser N46/394
September 6, 2024

Mr. Glenn Smith
Regional Section 7 Coordinator
US Fish and Wildlife Service
300 Westgate Center Drive
Hadley, MA 01035-9589

SUBJECT: ENDANGERED SPECIES ACT SECTION 7 CONSULTATION FOR U.S. NAVY
ATLANTIC FLEET TRAINING AND TESTING ACTIVITIES

In accordance with Section 7 of the Endangered Species Act, the United States Navy (Navy) requests concurrence on our determination that Atlantic Fleet Training and Testing (AFTT) activities occurring within the Atlantic Ocean and Gulf of Mexico beginning in November of 2025 will not adversely affect listed species.

The proposed action may affect listed species that reside within the AFTT action area due to environmental stressors associated with military readiness activities. The AFTT Consultation Package provides the required information pursuant to 50 C.F.R. §402.12 (f) and an email with download instructions from DoD SAFE will be forwarded. The supporting 2024 AFTT Draft Supplemental Environmental Impact Statement/Overseas Environmental Impact Statement will be available electronically beginning September 20, 2024 at <https://www.nepa.navy.mil/aftteis/>.

We request concurrence on our may affect, but not likely to adversely affect determinations for the following listed and proposed species: American crocodile (*Crocodylus acutus*), piping plover (*Charadrius melodus*), red knot (*Calidris canutus rufa*), roseate tern (*Sterna dougalli dougalli*), Bermuda petrel (*Pterodroma cahow*), black-capped petrel (*Pterodroma hasitata*), Indiana bat (*Myotis sodalis*), northern long-eared bat (*Bataenoptera physalus*), tricolored bat (*Perimyotis subflavus*), and West Indian manatee (*Trichechus manatus*). Although sea turtles occur within the AFTT action area, the proposed action does not include activities above the mean high tide line where nesting occurs, therefore we are consulting with the National Marine Fisheries Service on sea turtles.

We appreciate your continued support in helping the Navy to meet its environmental responsibilities. Please direct any questions to Ms. Laura Busch (757) 836-8471.

Sincerely,


J.R. CUADROS
Director, Fleet Installations and Environment
and Deputy Chief of Staff



United States Department of the Interior

FISH AND WILDLIFE SERVICE

300 Westgate Center Drive
Hadley, MA 01035-9589



In Reply Refer To:
2025-0129684

Rear Admiral J.R. Cuadros
Director, Fleet Installations and Environment and Deputy Chief of Staff
Fleet Installations and Environmental Readiness
U.S. Fleet Forces Command
1562 Mitscher Avenue, Suite 250
Norfolk, Virginia 23551-2487

On September 6, 2024, the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (Service) received a consultation request from the U.S. Navy (Navy) for Atlantic Fleet Training and Testing (AFTT) activities occurring in areas of the western Atlantic Ocean along the east coast of North America, the Gulf of America, and portions of the Caribbean Sea. Section 7 of the Endangered Species Act (ESA) of 1973, as amended (16 U.S.C. 1531 *et seq.*), requires federal agencies to consult with the Service to ensure that the actions authorized, funded, or carried out by such agencies do not jeopardize the continued existence of any threatened or endangered species or adversely modify or destroy designated critical habitat of such species.

The Navy's letter requests that the Service concur with the determination that this project "may affect but is not likely to adversely affect" the federally listed American crocodile (*Crocodylus acutus*), piping plover (*Charadrius melodus*), rufa red knot (*Calidris canutus rufa*), roseate tern (*Sterna dougallii dougallii*), Bermuda petrel (*Pterodroma cahow*), black-capped petrel (*Pterodroma hasitata*), Indiana bat (*Myotis sodalis*), northern long-eared bat (*Myotis septentrionalis*), or West Indian manatee (*Trichechus manatus*). The Navy has also determined the AFTT program activities are not likely to adversely affect the proposed endangered tricolored bat (*Perimyotis subflavus*).

The Service acknowledges the Navy's determinations of "N/A = not applicable due to lack of geographic overlap with the stressor" as equating with a "no effect" determination for critical habitat for the American crocodile, piping plover, rufa red knot, Indiana bat, and West Indian manatee.

The Navy's September 6, 2024, letter stated that although sea turtles occur within the AFTT action area, the Proposed Action does not include activities above the mean high tide line where nesting occurs, therefore consultation will occur with the National Marine Fisheries Service for sea turtles in the marine environment. The Kemp's ridley sea turtle (*Lepidochelys kempii*), loggerhead sea turtle (*Caretta caretta*), and green sea turtle (*Chelonia mydas*) nest on all Gulf-facing beaches within the proposed study area. The Service has jurisdiction under the ESA for nesting sea turtles, while the National Marine Fisheries Service has jurisdiction under the ESA for sea turtles in the water. The Service confirmed with the Navy via phone call and e-mail on October 29, 2024, that the AFTT will not access Gulf-facing beaches to conduct these activities, so sea turtles will not be discussed further in this consultation.

Supplemental Information

On June 29 and July 13, 2025, the Navy provided supplemental information via email in response to the Service's May 9, 2025, request regarding the Proposed Action and effects to species including clarification regarding effects analyses and determinations. It was clarified by the Navy that, while

statements were made in the introductory background discussions regarding *potential* adverse effects to various species, the analysis for each species further clarified why the occurrence of those impacts were considered either discountable or insignificant and therefore supported a determination of “not likely to adversely affect.” Additionally, the Navy included an analysis of effects from the Proposed Action to rufa red knot based on newly acquired flight height data, as well as clarification of helicopter flight buffers around barrier islands and other activities that will occur in proximity to breeding and staging grounds for listed birds, all of which supported the determination that project activities are not likely to adversely affect listed species.

Description of the Proposed Action

The AFTT Study Area (Study Area) includes areas of the western Atlantic Ocean along the east coast of North America, the Gulf of America, and portions of the Caribbean Sea. The Study Area begins at the mean high tide line along the U.S. coast and extends east to the 45-degree west longitude line, north to the 65-degree north latitude line, and south to approximately the 20-degree north latitude line. The vast majority of military readiness activities occur within appropriately designated range complexes and testing ranges that fall within the confines of the Study Area and encompass in-water and airspace components. The Study Area also includes Navy and Coast Guard pier side locations, port transit channels, bays, harbors, inshore waterways, and civilian ports where military readiness (training and testing) activities occur.

The Consultation Package includes the Navy’s “mitigation measures”, considered by the Service to functionally serve as conservation measures, defined as actions taken to completely avoid, partially reduce, or minimize the potential for a stressor to impact a resource and designed to ensure that proposed actions do not jeopardize the continued existence of endangered or threatened species or result in destruction or adverse modification of critical habitat. These measures include Marine Species Awareness training of personnel; Marine Mammal Incident Reporting; implementation of Mitigation Zone All-Clear Conditions before using acoustic stressors, explosives, or munitions; and Visual Observation Teams.

Effects to Species in the Action Area

Piping Plover, Rufa Red Knot, Roseate Tern, Bermuda Petrel, and Black-Capped Petrel

The main stressors from the Proposed Action that may affect ESA-listed birds are acoustics, explosives, energy from electromagnetic devices and lasers, physical disturbance and strikes, and ingestion of military expended materials.

Exposure to underwater sonar, electromagnetic devices, and pile driving will be dependent upon birds being submerged long enough for a sound-exposure impact. The piping plover and red knot do not submerge while foraging. The roseate tern submerges for periods less than two seconds, typically in shallow coastal waters where sonar activities are not taking place. Sonar exposure for Bermuda petrel or black-capped petrel is possible but unlikely due to the rarity of their presence offshore and their feeding behaviors. Black-capped petrels, Bermuda petrels, and roseate terns are unlikely to be in the coastal Gulf of America where underwater pile driving will occur. The use of electromagnetic devices (in air and water) as well as high-energy lasers is typically episodic and dispersed. Therefore, the Service considers the likelihood of exposure to these stressors to be discountable.

Explosive detonations in air and water during training and testing are episodic and typically occur in the offshore environment greater than 12 nautical miles from shore. In-air detonations occur at altitudes far higher (greater than 3,000ft) than where listed birds are known to occur. Additionally, the likelihood of a bird encountering a munition or munition fragment and consuming it remains low, and ingestion of military expended materials is not reasonably certain to occur. Due to the type of explosives proposed and their detonation locations, the Service finds it unlikely that the use of explosives will adversely affect listed birds.

Regarding the occurrence of physical strikes from weapons, vessels, and aircraft, weapons firing from aircraft and surface vessels during training and testing is typically episodic and in the offshore environment. Aerial weapons firing occurs at altitudes much higher than where migration and foraging behaviors are known to occur. Few exposures to in-water vessels are expected to occur based on the infrequency of operations and the low density of vessels in the Study Area at any given time. Commercial vessel activity is common along the coast and military vessel activity is orders of magnitude less than commercial traffic. Should an encounter occur, it would be expected to result in a brief behavioral response. The majority of fixed wing flights will occur at altitudes higher than where listed birds are known to occur. Due to the low population density of listed birds, the high altitude of the activities, and the 99.98 percent military non-strike rate per aerial operation, it is unlikely that an aircraft strike will occur.

Coastal birds may be exposed to noise from nearshore helicopter training and aircraft in transit to offshore training areas, as well as intermittent aircraft noise from aircraft originating from airfields located along the coast and vessel noise from nearshore boats. Excessive disturbance to coastal birds can impact their energy budgets and preclude the use of otherwise preferred habitats. Based upon the information provided, the effects of training and testing activities will be relatively local within the Study Area, and minimization measures have been incorporated to avoid disturbance to coastal birds. Additional information confirmed that transit corridors occur in locations without significant populations of these coastal birds. The majority of activities will occur in offshore areas where listed birds are not routinely present. Based on standard operating procedures for the portion of training and testing locations in the coastal zone, there will be an average of between 1 and 2 events per 100 square kilometers per year involving movement of aircraft or aerial targets. Additionally, the following measures are included in the Consultation Package to avoid affects from nearshore aircraft use:

- Rotary-wing aircraft will maintain at least a 3,000-foot altitude and a 1,000-yard horizontal distance from Fisherman Island National Wildlife Refuge when transiting between the Virginia Capes Range Complex and Norfolk Naval Station for at-sea training or testing.
- After transiting from Norfolk Naval Station for at-sea training or testing, rotary-wing aircraft will maintain a distance of at least 1 nautical mile from the beach when flying within the Virginia Capes Range Complex.

Additionally, commanding officers of aviation units shall take steps to prevent aircraft from frightening wild fowl or driving them from their feeding grounds. When it is necessary to fly over known wild fowl habitations, an altitude of at least 3,000 feet shall be maintained, conditions permitting.

Indiana Bat, Northern Long-eared Bat, and Tricolored Bat

The main stressors from the Proposed Action that may affect bats are acoustics, explosives, energy from electromagnetic devices and lasers, and physical disturbance and strikes. Training and testing activities have the potential to expose Indiana bats, northern long-eared bats, and tri-colored bats to a variety of stressors; however, listed bats are not routinely present in the offshore environment or the high coastal traffic areas identified by the Navy AFTT. Most aerial and vessel activities associated with training and testing activities occur starting at three nautical miles from shore during daylight hours. Most aircrafts will operate at altitudes higher than bat flight altitudes. Commercial vessel activity is common along the coast and military vessel activity is orders of magnitude less than commercial traffic. As a result, the proposed training and testing activities are not likely to adversely affect the Indiana bat, northern long-eared bat, or the proposed tricolored bat.

West Indian Manatee

The main stressors from the Proposed Action that may affect manatees are acoustics, explosives, physical disturbance and strikes, entanglement, and ingestion of military expended materials. Exposure to sonar, pile driving, aerial flights, weapons, and explosives is likely to elicit either no response or only short-term behavioral responses such as swimming to deeper water. Ninety-six percent of explosives occur at or above the water's surface, and most in-water explosive activities will occur more than twelve nautical miles from shore where manatees do not occur. Exposure to vessels at pier-side locations and within inshore locations along the southeastern United States and the Gulf of America could elicit reactions such as moving away from an approaching vessel, increasing their swimming speed, and moving toward deeper water; though most activities occur more than three nautical miles offshore where manatees are uncommon. The chance that an individual manatee would encounter expended cables or wires is extremely low based on the sparse distribution of both the cables and wires expended throughout the Study Area, and the fact that the wires and cables are generally expended in offshore areas where manatees do not occur. Exposure to and ingestion of military expended materials is also unlikely to occur. Manatees are more likely to be close to inshore habitats and shallow waters where some training and testing activities will occur; however, as described by the Navy in an email on July 22, 2025, the Consultation Package outlines minimization measures which should be effective in avoiding impacts to manatees:

- All Navy Lookouts are required to take Marine Species Awareness Training which includes manatees, in addition to taking/passing general Lookout training. Lookouts are required to report any marine species (including manatee) sightings and activities may be delayed, moved, or halted based on the activity if a marine mammal is sighted.
- For pile-driving in Gulfport, a shutdown is required if a marine mammal or sea turtle comes within 100-yards of the pile driver.

In addition, through email communication on July 30, 2025, the Navy agreed to include the following conservation measure:

- During in-water work in areas that potentially support manatees, all personnel associated with the project should be instructed about the potential presence of manatees, manatee speed zones, and the need to avoid collisions with and injury to manatees. Additionally, personnel should be instructed not to feed, water, or otherwise interact with the animal, although passively taking pictures or video would be acceptable.

American Crocodile

The majority of the proposed training and testing activities will not occur in or near areas known to be occupied by the American crocodile. The stressors from the Proposed Action that may affect the American crocodile include vessel and aircraft noise, explosives, physical disturbance and strikes, and ingestion of military expended materials.

Since Navy vessels operating in crocodile habitat will generally be near port facilities and therefore will be traveling slowly, it is unlikely that there will be negative impacts from strikes. Due to the small number of vessel trips expected to occur in preferred crocodile habitat, and the wariness and agility of the crocodile in avoiding collisions with vessels, the Service finds impacts to crocodiles due to noise from, and collisions with, vessels are not reasonably certain to occur.

The majority of aircraft operations associated with the proposed training and testing normally occur at high altitudes. In most cases, fixed-wing aircraft presence and noise will be brief as the aircraft quickly passes overhead. Helicopters that hover in a fixed location for an extended period can increase the potential for exposure; however, impacts from military readiness activities will be highly localized and concentrated in space and duration and the likelihood that an American crocodile will occur or remain at

the surface while an aircraft or helicopter transits directly overhead is low. Therefore, the Service finds it unlikely that noise resulting from the aircraft associated with the training and testing will result in adverse effects to the crocodile.

Due to the type of explosives proposed and the proposed detonation locations, the Service finds it unlikely that the use of explosives, as proposed, will adversely affect the American crocodile. The likelihood of an American crocodile encountering a munition or munition fragment and consuming it remains low, and ingestion of military expended materials is not reasonably certain to occur. As a result, crocodiles are not likely to be adversely affected by the Proposed Action.

Conclusion

Our response is based on our review of your consultation package received on September 6, 2024, and the clarifications and conservation measures included by the Navy throughout the consultation process. Our response represents the combined response for the Northeast, Southeast, and Southwest Regions, and is the result of review by all relevant Service Field Offices within the area affected by your Proposed Action. We concur that the Proposed Action *is not likely to adversely affect* the federally listed species identified above. We appreciate your willingness to clarify the Proposed Action and include conservation measures for the protection of federally listed species.

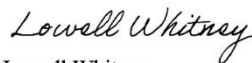
Reinitiation Notice

It may be necessary for you to contact the Service for reconsideration of the effects of this Proposed Action if, as described in 50 CFR §402.16, any of the following occurs:

1. New information reveals the effects of the action that may affect listed species or critical habitat in a manner or to an extent not previously considered;
2. The identified action is subsequently modified in a manner that causes an effect to the listed species or critical habitat that was not considered in the written concurrence; or
3. A new species is listed or critical habitat designated that may be affected by the identified action.

Thank you for your cooperation in completing this section 7 consultation. Please contact Glenn Smith at 413-253-8627 or glenn_s_smith@fws.gov if you have any questions.

Sincerely,



Lowell Whitney
Acting Assistant Regional Director - Ecological Services
Northeast Region

L.4 MAGNUSON-STEVENS FISHERY CONSERVATION AND MANAGEMENT ACT



DEPARTMENT OF THE NAVY
U.S. FLEET FORCES COMMAND
1562 MITSCHER AVENUE SUITE 250
NORFOLK, VA 23551-2487

5090
Scr N46/ 398
November 19, 2024

Ms. Carrie Selberg Robinson
Office of Habitat Conservation
1315 East-West Highway
14th Floor
Silver Spring, MD 20910

In accordance with the Magnuson-Stevens Fishery Conservation and Management Act (MSA), the United States Navy (Navy) and United States Coast Guard (the Action Proponents) have prepared Essential Fish Habitat (EFH) assessments for Atlantic Fleet Training and Testing (AFLT) activities occurring within the Atlantic Ocean and Gulf of Mexico beginning in November of 2025. The Action Proponent's assessment concludes that EFH may be adversely affected by training and testing activities and requests initiation of the MSA's EFH consultation process.

Please note, that due to the size of the AFLT Study Area, the activities were divided regionally and one EFH assessment was developed for activities occurring within the New England/Mid-Atlantic region and another was developed for activities occurring within the Southeast region. The EFH assessments will be forwarded electronically to your staff. The supporting 2024 AFLT Draft Supplemental Environmental Impact Statement/Overseas Environmental Impact Statement is available electronically at <https://www.ncpa.navy.mil/aflteis/>.

We appreciate your continued support in helping the Navy meet its environmental responsibilities. Please direct any questions to Ms. Laura Busch (757) 836-8471.

Sincerely,


J.R. CUADROS
Director, Fleet Installations and Environment
and Deputy Chief of Staff



UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE
National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration
NATIONAL MARINE FISHERIES SERVICE
GREATER ATLANTIC REGIONAL FISHERIES OFFICE
55 Great Republic Drive
Gloucester, MA 01930

March 12, 2025

J. R. Cuadros Director
Fleet Installations and Environment
U.S. Fleet Forces Command
1562 Mitscher Ave. Suite 250
Norfolk VA 23551-2487

RE: Atlantic Fleet Training and Testing (AFTT) activities beginning in November of 2025

Dear Mr. Cuadros:

NOAA's National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS), Southeast Regional Office (SERO) and Greater Atlantic Regional Office (GARFO) Habitat Conservation Divisions, reviewed the two Essential Fish Habitat (EFH) Assessments the Navy and United States Coast Guard prepared for activities conducted as part of for Atlantic Fleet Training and Testing (AFTT) activities occurring within the Atlantic Ocean and Gulf of Mexico beginning in November of 2025 (Phase IV).

After pre-submittal discussions, on November 22, 2024, the Navy and Coast Guard formally initiated consultation with us for Phase IV under the EFH provisions of the Magnuson-Stevens Fishery Conservation and Management Act (MSA) because some training and testing activities may adversely affect federally managed fisheries or EFH designated by the NMFS or a federal Fishery Management Council.

As the nation's federal trustee for the conservation and management of marine, estuarine, and anadromous fishery resources, the NMFS provides the following comments and recommendations pursuant to authorities of the Fish and Wildlife Coordination Act and the MSA for the training and testing activities described in the EFH Assessment.

Covered Activities and Adverse Effects

Section 2 of the EFH Assessment describes the many activities comprising the Navy and Coast Guard's training and testing within the subject waters. This section includes activities that are similar to what was described in the 2013 and 2018 EIS/OEIS (U.S. Department of the Navy, 2013; 2018), with some activities increasing and others decreasing in scope. Some of the activities have also been reclassified or differ slightly from the previous consultations (termed "revised"). In addition, some training or testing activities are proposed within both inshore and at-sea locations that were not included in the scope of the Phase II Essential Fish Habitat Assessment (EFHA) and Phase III supplemental EFHA (U.S. Department of the Navy, 2013; 2018a; 2018b).

Section 3 of the EFH Assessment describes applicable EFH designations by the NMFS and federal Fishery Management Councils. To foster efficient review, the Navy and Coast Guard



grouped the EFH designations into three categories (water column, abiotic substrates, and biological substrates/features) and supplemented them with subcategories as needed. We greatly appreciate the Navy and Coast Guard's development of this framework and believe it significantly enhances the EFH evaluations. Most significantly, this approach facilitates the assessment of adverse effects (Section 4), which are subdivided into component environmental stressors. The stressors, cross referenced with appropriate EFH categories and sub-categories, allows efficient identification of mitigative measures and conclusions by the Navy of the likelihood of adverse impacts to EFH occurring from a specific training or testing activity.

Section 4 evaluates how and to what degree the proposed activities, as described in Chapter 2 (Description of the Proposed Action), could impact EFH and Habitat Areas of Particular Concern (HAPC) in the AFTT area. Table 4.1 of the EFH Assessment describes various Standard Operating Procedures (SOPs) and mitigation measures that the Navy and Coast Guard will follow during its training and testing activities. These include but are not limited to:

- The Navy and Coast Guard will not:
 - Detonate explosives on or near the seafloor (e.g., explosive bottom-laid or moored mines) within a horizontal distance of 350 yds. from artificial reefs, live hard bottom, shallow-water coral reefs, submerged aquatic vegetation, and shipwrecks.
 - Set vessel anchors (a seafloor device) within an anchor swing circle radius that overlaps artificial reefs, live hard bottom, submerged aquatic vegetation, and shipwrecks (except in designated anchorages).
 - Place other seafloor devices within a horizontal distance of 350 yd. from artificial reefs, live hard bottom, submerged aquatic vegetation, and shipwrecks except in South Florida Ocean Measurement Facility Seafloor Mitigation Area.
- The Navy and Coast Guard will:
 - Operate surface vessels in waters deep enough to avoid bottom scouring or prop dredging, with at least a 1-foot clearance between the deepest draft of the vessel (with the motor down) and the seafloor at mean low water.
 - Use a real-time geographic information system and global positioning system (along with remote-sensing verification) during deployment, installation, and recovery of anchors and mine-like objects and during deployment of bottom-crawling unmanned underwater vehicles in waters deeper than 10 feet to avoid live hard bottom.
 - Will minimize surface vessel movement and drift in accordance with mooring installation and deployment plans and will conduct activities during sea and wind conditions that allow vessels to maintain position and speed control during deployment, installation, and recovery of seafloor devices.

Section 4.8 addresses the cumulative adverse effects of the covered AFTT activities and finds that the combined adverse effects are assumed to be greater than the effect of individual stressors, but are not expected to change the nature of the effects from minimal to substantial. However, NMFS has determined that while the combined adverse effects may be minimal, they accumulate over multiple iterations of this program and may change the nature of effects from minimal to substantial. An action is considered adverse if the quality or quantity of EFH is reduced (50 CFR 600.810).

EFH Conservation Recommendations

Given the Navy and Coast Guard's mitigation measures, we offer the following EFH conservation recommendations to further conserve EFH for the proposed training and testing activities:

- Conservation Recommendation 1 - The discharge of marine debris associated with Military Expended Materials (MEM) from ongoing training and testing activities may adversely affect EFH, and over time (i.e., years), those effects are expected to accumulate. Therefore, the Navy and Coast Guard should offset those adverse effects on EFH, by removing marine debris from accessible portions of ranges and/or installations, as has been done previously for projects associated with the military or its installations.
- Conservation Recommendation 2 - Documenting the volume and location of MEM and other associated testing and training debris discharged would provide a baseline for how much material is expended into the ocean. Therefore, the Navy and the Coast Guard should establish a system for recording the type of materials, the volume or number of materials, and locations of where materials are expended.
- Conservation Recommendation 3 - To the maximum extent practicable, the Navy should avoid and minimize explosive or non-explosive medium- and large-caliber gunnery activities using a surface target; explosive or non-explosive missile and rocket activities using a surface target; explosive or non-explosive bombing and mine laying activities; explosive or non-explosive mine countermeasure and neutralization activities; and explosive or non-explosive mine neutralization activities involving Navy divers in sandbar and sand tiger shark Habitat Area of Particular Concern (HAPC) from May 15 to September 15 of any given year.
- Conservation Recommendation 4 - The Naval Undersea Warfare Center Division, Newport Testing Range overlaps with the Southern New England HAPC, which highlights the importance of this area for spawning Atlantic cod and several other managed species. Therefore, to minimize adverse effects to Atlantic cod spawning aggregations, testing and training of bottom disturbing or noise producing activities should not occur in the Southern New England HAPC between November 1 through March 31 of each year to the maximum extent practicable.

Please note that Section 305 (b)(4)(B) of the MSA requires that you provide us with a detailed written response to our EFH conservation recommendations, including the measures you have adopted to avoid, mitigate, or offset the impact of the project on EFH. In the case of a response that is inconsistent with our recommendations, Section 305 (b)(4)(B) of the MSA also indicates that you must explain your reasons for not following the recommendations. Included in such reasoning would be the scientific justification for any disagreements with us over the anticipated effects of the proposed action and the measures needed to avoid, minimize, mitigate or offset such effect pursuant to 50 CFR 600.920 (k).

Lastly, in several cases when discussing how training and testing activities may adversely affect EFH, the Navy provides its opinion of the significance of those impacts to fishery populations. Such evaluations are complex and beyond the requirements of an EFH Assessment, as defined by the Magnuson-Stevens Act and its implementing regulations. Accordingly, SER HCD and GARFO HESD did not evaluate the Navy's assessments of significance to fishery populations. If

you have any questions or would like to discuss our recommendations, please contact Karen Greene (karen.greene@noaa.gov, 732 872-3023) in GARFO or Pace Wilber (pace.wilber@noaa.gov, (843) 592-3024) in SER.

Sincerely,



Louis A. Chiarella
Assistant Regional Administrator
for Habitat and Ecosystem Services
Greater Atlantic Regional Fisheries Office

cc: Laura Busch, Naval Facilities Engineering Command, Atlantic
Kelly Shotts, NMFS SERO Chief, Habitat Conservation Division
Pace Wilbur, NMFS SERO Atlantic Branch Chief, Habitat Conservation Division



DEPARTMENT OF THE NAVY
U.S. FLEET FORCES COMMAND
1562 MITSCHER AVENUE SUITE 250
NORFOLK VA 23551-2487

5090
Ser N46/025
April 14, 2025

Mr. Louis A. Chiarella
Assistant Regional Administrator
Greater Atlantic Regional Fisheries Office
55 Republic Drive
Gloucester, MA 01930

Dear Mr. Chiarella,

The United States Navy (Navy) and United States Coast Guard (the Action Proponents) received the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA)'s Essential Fish Habitat Consultation (EFH) response letter dated March 12, 2025. The letter addresses the Action Proponents military readiness activities in the Atlantic Fleet Training and Testing (AFTT) Study Area, which includes the Atlantic Ocean, the Gulf of America (formerly Gulf of Mexico), and portions of the Caribbean Sea.

In accordance with the Magnuson-Stevens Fishery Conservation and Management Act (MSA), the Action Proponents concluded that EFH may be adversely affected by military readiness activities and initiated the MSA's EFH consultation process by preparing EFH Assessments for the New England/Mid-Atlantic region and Southeast region.

NOAA Fisheries Habitat and Ecosystem Services Division responded with Conservation Recommendations (CRs) to ensure that any adverse effects to EFH and managed species from this project are adequately minimized and compensated. In accordance with Section 305 (b)(4)(B) of the MSA, the Action Proponents offer the following responses to the Conservation Recommendations:

Conservation Recommendation 1 - The discharge of marine debris associated with Military Expended Materials (MEM) from ongoing training and testing activities may adversely affect EFH, and over time (i.e., years), those effects are expected to accumulate. Therefore, the Navy and Coast Guard should offset those adverse effects on EFH, by removing marine debris from accessible portions of ranges and/or installations, as has been done previously for projects associated with the military or its installations.

1. The Navy and Coast Guard do not have statutory authority or responsibility for marine debris removal, nor are funds appropriated for that purpose. Accordingly, conducting marine debris removal to offset MEM is inconsistent with our mission and may violate fiscal law. However, while conducting military readiness activities, the Navy and Coast Guard attempt to recover MEM, to the greatest extent possible, whenever it is practical and safe to do so. For example, during gunnery exercises, expended shells are captured on the deck and not deposited into the ocean. Expended targets and medium to extra-large parachutes are recovered to the extent recovery is possible and safe to do so and unexploded ordnance in localized target areas are removed. When conducting activities on installations, personnel are required to clean up the beach of any items used during any exercise or event. The Action Proponents will continue to

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April 14, 2025

prevent the release of military expended materials into the ocean and recover military expended material when safe to do so to the extent practical.

Conservation Recommendation 2 - Documenting the volume and location of MEM and other associated testing and training debris discharged would provide a baseline for how much material is expended into the ocean. Therefore, the Navy and the Coast Guard should establish a system for recording the type of materials, the volume or number of materials, and locations of where materials are expended.

2. A requirement to generate an additional report during a training or a testing activity would be impracticable to implement due to implications for safety and Title 10 requirements. In the report titled Comprehensive Review of Recent Surface Force Incidents, the Navy found that creating additional administrative burdens on operational commanders distracts them from preparing a ready force. Additional reporting requirements would draw the event participants' attention away from the complex tactical tasks they are primarily obligated to perform (such as driving a warship or engaging in a gunnery activity), which would adversely impact personnel safety, public health and safety, and the effectiveness of the training or testing activity. Another consideration is concerns with classified information. The differentiation of item types in terms of their individual footprint (either by direct cite or calculation) when aggregated with other information, such as location of use, begins to become classified as to tactics and procedures. Additionally, the utility of a record of MEM would be limited as documenting the volume and location of MEM discharge doesn't necessarily inform how much MEM is accumulating or whereas some MEM could be carried for some distance away from the location and some may disintegrate or remain in the environment only a short time.

Conservation Recommendation 3 - To the maximum extent practicable, the Navy should avoid and minimize explosive or non-explosive medium- and large-caliber gunnery activities using a surface target; explosive or non-explosive missile and rocket activities using a surface target; explosive or non-explosive bombing and mine laying activities; explosive or non-explosive mine countermeasure and neutralization activities; and explosive or non-explosive mine neutralization activities involving Navy divers in sandbar and sand tiger shark Habitat Area of Particular Concern (HAPC) from May 15 to September 15 of any given year.

3. The Navy conducts the following activities greater than 3 nautical miles from shore: explosive or non-explosive medium- and large-caliber gunnery activities using a surface target; explosive or non-explosive missile and rocket activities using a surface target; and explosive or non-explosive bombing and mine laying activities and therefore would not conduct them in sand tiger and sandbar shark HAPC. The Action Proponents have a mitigation for sandbar shark HAPC off of North Carolina and will not detonate explosives from March 1 to September 30 during mine neutralization events and will avoid detonation of all other in-water explosives to the maximum extent practical. The remaining two activities - explosive or non-explosive mine countermeasure and neutralization activities and explosive or non-explosive mine neutralization activities involving Navy divers (activity name: Mine Neutralization - Explosive Ordnance

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Disposal) - can occur within 3 nm of shore. For the overlapping sandbar and sand tiger shark HAPC in Delaware Bay, the only activity proposed to occur in that location is Civilian Port Defense. The training involves the use of various mine detection sensors, which utilize active acoustics, for detection of mines and mine-like objects in and around a port. There are no explosives used during this training event. However, this exercise occurs on the east coast every other year, and there are nine potential port locations within the AFTT study area with only Delaware Bay, Delaware and Hampton Roads, Virginia being the only two possible locations within sand tiger or sandbar shark HAPC.

Regarding sandbar shark HAPC in Atlantic City, none of the activities listed in the conservation recommendation are proposed to occur within the HAPC. In the Chesapeake Bay sandbar shark HAPC, explosive or non-explosive mine countermeasure and neutralization activities and explosive or non-explosive mine neutralization activities are proposed to occur in the portion of the Chesapeake Bay within the Study Area. As mentioned above, Civilian Port Defense could occur in Hampton Roads once in the seven-year period. Due to the training schedule and requirement to certify sailors and ships prior to deployment, seasonal restrictions are not practical, but the Action Proponents will make the operators aware of areas with seasonal considerations.

The Navy uses a website titled "At-Sea Environmental Protective Measures", where the Protective Measures Assessment Protocol (PMAP) program (a mitigation tool) resides. The website also contains information regarding environmental requirements and protective measures. It is a "one-stop-shop" for information regarding at-sea environmental requirements. The Navy will create a page on the protective measures site that includes planning considerations, including maps and seasonal considerations. Event planners will be asked to check the page before planning an event to determine if there are recommendations for avoiding impacts to marine resources in the action area. This new site would include information about the HAPCs within the Study Area and we will notify the Fleet of the new page when sending other environmental messages. The USCG will also be using PMAP starting in Phase IV.

Conservation Recommendation 4 - The Naval Undersea Warfare Center Division, Newport Testing Range overlaps with the Southern New England HAPC, which highlights the importance of this area for spawning Atlantic cod and several other managed species. Therefore, to minimize adverse effects to Atlantic cod spawning aggregations, testing and training of bottom disturbing or noise producing activities should not occur in the Southern New England HAPC between November 1 through March 31 of each year to the maximum extent practicable.

4. Naval Undersea Warfare Center Division, Newport (NUWC) performs testing events year round in the testing range and many of these events involve de minimis acoustic testing, particularly with UUVs. NUWC also conducts events that involve deployment of objects on the seafloor, although such events are less frequent and are generally further offshore. Testing schedules make seasonal restrictions impractical, as a delay in testing of systems and platforms

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April 14, 2025

would delay delivery to the fleets. As with Conservation Recommendation #3, Navy is proposing to create a page on the protective measures site that includes planning considerations, including maps and seasonal considerations. Event planners will be asked to check the page before planning an event to determine if there are recommendations for avoiding impacts to marine resources in the action area.

Your staff's coordination and advice during the consultation process was appreciated and helpful to the Navy in meeting its environmental responsibilities. Please contact Ms. Laura Busch (757) 836-8471 should you have any questions to our responses.

Sincerely,

CUADROS.JORGE: Digitally signed by:
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162 86806162
Date: 2025.04.15 15:32:31 -0400

J. R. CUADROS
Director, Fleet Installations and Environment
and Deputy Chief of Staff

Copy to: Ms. Tanya Dobrzynski, NMFS Office of Protected Resources

L.5 MARINE MAMMAL PROTECTION ACT



DEPARTMENT OF THE NAVY
U.S. FLEET FORCES COMMAND
1562 MITSCHER AVENUE SUITE 250
NORFOLK VA 23551-2487

5090
Ser N46/019
May 21, 2024

Ms. Kimberly Damon-Randall
Director, Office of Protected Resources
National Marine Fisheries Service
National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration
1315 East-West Highway
SSMC3, Room 13821
Silver Spring, MD 20901-3282

Dear Ms. Damon-Randall:

In accordance with the Marine Mammal Protection Act, as amended, and 50 C.F.R. Part 216, the U.S. Navy requests a seven-year incidental take authorization and regulations for the incidental taking of marine mammals associated with the Atlantic Fleet Training and Testing (AFTT) activities occurring within the Gulf of Mexico and Atlantic Ocean.

The proposed action may incidentally expose marine mammals that reside within the AFTT study area to sound and other environmental stressors associated with training and testing activities. The enclosed request further describes the AFTT activities and study area, and provides the specific information required by the National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS) for consideration for an incidental take request.

The U.S. Navy also requests that the regulation authorize, and NMFS issue, three seven-year Letters of Authorization; one issued to Commander, United States Fleet Forces Command for training activities; one issued to Commandant, United States Coast Guard for training activities; and one issued to Commander, Naval Sea Systems Command for testing activities. Addresses for these commands are provided below:

Commander, United States Fleet Forces Command
Attn: Code N46
1562 Mitscher Avenue
Suite 250
Norfolk, Virginia 23551-2487

Commandant, United States Coast Guard
Headquarters, US Coast Guard
Office of Cutter Forces USCG COMDT CG-751
2703 Martin Luther King Jr. Avenue, SE
Washington, DC 20593-7714

5090
Ser N46/019
May 21, 2024

Commander, Naval Sea Systems Command
Attn: Code SEA 091
1333 Isaac Hull Avenue, SE
Washington Navy Yard, DC 20376-0001

We appreciate your continued support in helping the U.S. Navy to meet its environmental responsibilities.

Sincerely,

AGUAYO.MARIA.L
ORETO.115727673
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Digitally signed by
AGUAYO MARIA L ORTO
DN: cn=AGUAYO MARIA L ORTO, o=U.S. NAVY, ou=U.S. NAVY, email=AGUAYO.MARIA.L@U.S.NAVY.MIL, c=US
Date: 2024.05.21 16:27:50 -0400

M. J. AGUAYO
Director, Fleet Installations and Environment
and Deputy Chief of Staff

Enclosure: Request for Regulations and Letters of Authorization for the Incidental Taking of
Marine Mammals Resulting from the U.S. Navy Training and Testing Activities in
the AFTT Study Area.

Copy to: Ms. Tanya Dobrzynski, NMFS Office of Protected Resources
Ms. Jolie Harrison, NMFS Office of Protected Resources
CNO WASHINGTON DC (OPNAV N41)
COMNAVSEASYS COM WASHINGTON DC
COMNAVAIRSYSCOM PATUXENT RIVER
ONR ARLINGTON VA

L.6 NATIONAL HISTORIC PRESERVATION ACT

Under regulations implementing Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act, states and territories have 30 days to respond to the federal agency's assessment of adverse effects; if no response or objection is received within that timeframe, the agency may proceed with implementing its action. The Navy submitted determinations to 18 states adjacent to the Study Area. Correspondence indicating concurrence were received from 17 states (Alabama, Connecticut, Delaware, Florida, Georgia, Louisiana, Maine, Maryland, Massachusetts, Mississippi, New Hampshire, New Jersey, North Carolina, Rhode Island, South Carolina, Texas, and Virginia). The remaining state did not respond (New York).

L.6.1 ALABAMA



DEPARTMENT OF THE NAVY

U.S. FLEET FORCES COMMAND
1562 MITSCHER AVENUE SUITE 250
NORFOLK VA 23551-2487

5090
Ser N46/001
January 16, 2025

Ms. Lisa D. Jones
Executive Director
Alabama Historical Commission
468 South Perry Street
P.O. Box 300900
Montgomery, Alabama 36130

Dear Ms. Jones:

With this letter, the United States (U.S.) Department of the Navy (including both the U.S. Navy and the U.S. Marine Corps) in cooperation with the U.S. Coast Guard as Joint Lead Agency (hereinafter jointly referred to as the Action Proponents) intend to update our consultation with the Alabama Historical Commission (AHC), under Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act (NHPA), and in support of the National Environmental Policy Act, for continued Atlantic Fleet Training and Testing (AFTT) activities. The Action Proponents analyzed the potential environmental impacts of its pierside and at-sea training and testing activities in the western Atlantic Ocean and the Gulf of Mexico in the AFTT Environmental Impact Statement /Overseas Environmental Impact Statement (EIS/OEIS) of 2013 (Phase II) and 2018 (Phase III). The Action Proponents are in the process of supplementing (Phase IV) the 2018 Final AFTT EIS/OEIS with the 2024 Draft AFTT Supplemental EIS/OEIS; published September 20, 2024.

The project information package (enclosed) details the proposed training and testing activities for this undertaking. In summary, most training and testing activities discussed in the 2013 and 2018 versions of the Final AFTT EIS/OEIS are similar to the current activities, with the resulting effect remaining unchanged from the previous consultation. Some activities have either increased or decreased in scope, been reclassified, or been modified slightly since the previous consultation. However, there are some activities proposed for inshore locations that were not included in previous Section 106 consultations. Note that the 2024 Draft AFTT Supplemental EIS/OEIS assesses all proposed training and testing activities, not just those that have changed since the 2018 Final AFTT EIS/OEIS.

The project information package includes a description of the AFTT Study Area, which functions as the area of potential effects (APE) for NHPA. The locations where training and testing activities are proposed to occur off the coast of Alabama include the Gulf of Mexico Range Complex, Gulf of Mexico Range Complex Inshore (to include Mobile Bay), and the Naval Surface Warfare Center, Panama City Division Testing Range. In addition, activities occurring in "Other AFTT Areas" have the potential to occur in the coastal waters of Alabama.

The project information package details the Action Proponents' efforts to identify historic and cultural resources within the APE. Various agencies and interested organizations maintain databases of known in-water resources. The Action Proponents used these inventories and information gathered from previous AFTT consultations to update the information package for this consultation.

The project information package describes how the undertaking could affect known and unidentified historic and cultural resources within the APE. Navy analysis identified explosives and physical disturbance as stressors that have the potential to affect historic and cultural resources, which may occur in state waters of Alabama. A complete assessment of the potential impacts on historic and cultural

5090
Ser N46/001
January 16, 2025

resources due to training and testing activities can be found in the final versions of the 2013 and 2018 AFTT EIS/OEIS.

The project information package describes the Action Proponents' methods for avoiding and minimizing effects to historic and cultural resources as part of implementing this undertaking. The Action Proponents practice standard operating procedures, which are essential to safety and mission success, but also potentially provide secondary benefits to historic and cultural resources during training and testing activities. For example, underwater detonation training takes place in specially designated areas, reducing the potential for interactions with historic and cultural resources, as explained in section 2.3.3.9 of the 2018 Final AFTT EIS/OEIS (Underwater Detonation Safety). The Action Proponents also designed measures to avoid potential impacts from the Proposed Action. Section 5.7.2 of the 2024 Draft AFTT Supplemental EIS/OEIS details mitigation for artificial reef, live hard bottom, submerged aquatic vegetation, and shipwreck mitigation areas. To ensure protection of historic and cultural resources in the AFTT Study Area, the Action Proponents will not conduct precision anchoring within the anchor swing diameter, or explosive mine countermeasure and neutralization activities within 350 yards (320 meters) of shipwrecks.

While unintentional impacts to known historic and cultural resources may occur from certain activities conducted as part of the Proposed Action, the Action Proponents believe that chances of such impacts remain remote due to the standard operating procedures and avoidance measures employed. Furthermore, the Action Proponents believe that impacts on unidentified historic and cultural resources remain very unlikely. In accordance with the provisions found in 36 Code of Federal Regulations Section 800.13, the Action Proponents will promptly initiate consultation with your office if historic and cultural resources are impacted.

The Action Proponents have determined that no adverse effect to historic and cultural resources within the jurisdictional waters of Alabama would occur from the activities analyzed within the project information package. We request your concurrence with our finding of no adverse effect to historic and cultural resources within 30 days of receipt of this letter. My point of contact for this matter is Ms. Laura Busch, who may be reached at (757) 836-8471 or laura.m.busch2.civ@us.navy.mil.

Sincerely,

CUADROS, JORGE
RICARDO.1186806
162

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86806162
Date: 2025.01.16 14:32:39 -0500

J. R. CUADROS
Director, Fleet Installations and Environment
and Deputy Chief of Staff

Enclosure: Project Information Package



ALABAMA HISTORICAL COMMISSION

468 South Perry Street
Montgomery, Alabama 36130-0900

Lisa D. Jones
Executive Director
State Historic Preservation Officer

Tel: 334-242-3184
Fax: 334-242-1083

July 14, 2025

Laura Busch
US Fleet Forces Command
1562 Mitscher Avenue Suite 250
Norfolk, VA 23551-2487

Re: AHC 24-1215
US Coast Guard-Atlantic Fleet Training and Testing Activities
Statewide

Dear Ms. Busch:

Upon review of the additional information forwarded by your office, we concur with your agency's determination of no effect to historic properties.

Consultation with the State Historic Preservation Office does not constitute consultation with Tribal Historic Preservation Offices, other Native American tribes, local governments, or the public. If archaeological materials are encountered during construction, the procedures codified at 36 CFR 800.13(b) will apply. Archaeological materials consist of any items, fifty years old or older, which were made or used by man. These items include but are not limited to, stone projectile points (arrowheads), ceramic sherds, bricks, worked wood, bone and stone, metal, and glass objects. The federal agency or the applicant receiving federal assistance should contact our office immediately. If human remains are encountered, the provisions of the Alabama Burial Act (*Code of Alabama* 1975, §13A-7-23.1, as amended; Alabama Historical Commission Administrative Code Chapter 460-X-10 Burials) should be followed. This stipulation shall be placed on the construction plans to ensure contractors are aware of it.

We appreciate your commitment to helping us preserve Alabama's historic archaeological and architectural resources. Should you have any questions, please contact Amanda McBride at 334.230.2692 or Amanda.McBride@ahc.alabama.gov. Have the AHC tracking number referenced above available and include it with any future correspondence.

Sincerely,

Lee Anne Hewett
Deputy State Historic Preservation Officer

LAH/nj

THE STATE HISTORIC PRESERVATION OFFICE
www.ahc.alabama.gov

L.6.2 CONNECTICUT



DEPARTMENT OF THE NAVY

U.S. FLEET FORCES COMMAND
1562 MITSCHER AVENUE SUITE 250
NORFOLK VA 23551-2487

5090
Ser N46/002
January 16, 2025

Mr. Jonathan Kinney
SHPO
Connecticut State Historic Preservation Office
450 Columbus Boulevard, Suite 5
Hartford, Connecticut 06103

Dear Mr. Kinney:

As required by Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act (NHPA) and in support of the National Environmental Policy Act, the United States Department of the Navy (including both the U.S. Navy and the U.S. Marine Corps), in cooperation with the U.S. Coast Guard as Joint Lead Agency (referred to as the Action Proponents), intends to update its consultation with the with the Connecticut State Historic Preservation Office regarding activities in the Atlantic Fleet Training and Testing (AFTT) Study Area. The Action Proponents previously analyzed the potential environmental impacts of its pierside and at-sea training and testing activities in the western Atlantic Ocean and the Gulf of Mexico in the 2013 (Phase II) and 2018 (Phase III) AFTT Environmental Impact Statement /Overseas Environmental Impact Statement (EIS/OEIS). The Action Proponents are currently supplementing the 2018 Final AFTT EIS/OEIS with the 2024 Draft AFTT Supplemental EIS/OEIS (Phase IV); published on September 20, 2024.

The enclosed project information package details the proposed training and testing activities for this phase of the undertaking. Most of the activities are similar to those discussed in the 2013 and 2018 EIS/OEISs, with no significant change in their potential effects. However, some activities have either increased or decreased in scope, been reclassified, or slightly modified since the previous consultations. There are also activities proposed for new inshore locations that were not part of prior Section 106 consultations. Note that the 2024 Draft AFTT Supplemental EIS/OEIS assesses all proposed training and testing activities, not just those that have changed since the 2018 Final AFTT EIS/OEIS.

The project information package includes a description of the AFTT Study Area, which functions as the area of potential effects (APE) for NHPA. The locations where training and testing activities are proposed to occur off the coast of Connecticut include the following: the Narragansett Operating Area in the Northeast Range Complexes; Naval Undersea Warfare Development Center Newport Testing Range; portions of the Thames River; Naval Submarine Base New London in Groton, Connecticut; a commercial shipyard in Groton, Connecticut; and the U.S. Coast Guard Station in New London, Connecticut. In addition, activities occurring in "Other AFTT Areas" have the potential to occur in the coastal waters of Connecticut.

The project information package details the Action Proponents' efforts to identify historic and cultural resources within the APE, utilizing databases of known in-water resources maintained by various agencies and interested organizations. This information, combined with data from prior consultations, was used to update this current consultation.

The project information package describes how the undertaking could affect both known and unidentified historic and cultural resources within the APE. Navy analysis identified explosives and physical disturbance as stressors that have the potential to affect historic and cultural resources, which may occur in the jurisdictional waters of Connecticut. A complete assessment of the potential impacts on

5090
Ser N46/002
January 16, 2025

historic and cultural resources due to training and testing activities can be found in the final versions of the 2013 and 2018 AFTT EIS/OEIS.

The project information package describes the Action Proponents' methods used to avoid and minimize effects to historic and cultural resources. The Action Proponents follow standard operating procedures, which ensure safety and mission success, but also potentially provide secondary benefits to historic and cultural resources during training and testing activities. For instance, underwater detonation training occurs in designated areas, reducing the potential for interactions with cultural resources, as detailed in section 2.3.3.9 of the 2018 Final AFTT EIS/OEIS (Underwater Detonation Safety). The Action Proponents also designed mitigation measures to avoid potential impacts from the Proposed Action. Section 5.7.2 of the 2024 Draft AFTT Supplemental EIS/OEIS details mitigation measures for artificial reef, live hard bottom, submerged aquatic vegetation, and shipwrecks. As an example, the Action Proponents will avoid precision anchoring within the anchor swing diameter and refrain from conducting explosive mine countermeasure and neutralization activities within 350 yards (320 meters) of shipwrecks to ensure protection of historic and cultural resources.

While unintentional impacts to known historic and cultural resources may occur result from some activities involved in the Proposed Action, the Action Proponents believe such impacts are unlikely due to the standard operating procedures and avoidance measures in place. Additionally, the Action Proponents believe the likelihood of impacts on unidentified historic and cultural resources is very low. However, in accordance with the provisions found in 36 Code of Federal Regulations Section 800.13, the Action Proponents will promptly initiate consultation with your office if historic and cultural resources are discovered.

The Action Proponents have determined that no adverse effect to historic and cultural resources within the jurisdictional waters of Connecticut would occur from the activities analyzed within the project information package. We request your concurrence with our finding of no adverse effect to historic and cultural resources within 30 days of receipt of this letter. My point of contact for this matter is Ms. Laura Busch, who may be reached at (757) 836-8471 or laura.m.busch2.civ@us.navy.mil.

Sincerely,

CUADROS JORGE
RICARDO.1186806
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Date: 2025.01.16 14:33:54 -0500

J. R. CUADROS
Director, Fleet Installations and Environment
and Deputy Chief of Staff

Enclosure: Project Information Package

State Historic Preservation Office
Department of Economic and Community Development



February 20, 2025

Laura Busch
Department of the Navy
U.S. Fleet Forces Command
1562 Mitscher Avenue, Suite 250
Norfolk, VA 23551-2487
(via email only to laura.m.busch2.civ@us.navy.mil)

Subject: Supplemental Environmental Impact Statement (Phase IV)
Atlantic Fleet Training and Testing
Connecticut Waters of Long Island Sound

Dear Mr. Busch:

The Connecticut State Historic Preservation Office (CT SHPO) has reviewed the Project Information prepared for the State of Connecticut as it pertains to the referenced activities. In 2018, CT SHPO provided comments on the final Atlantic Fleet Training and Testing (AFTT) Environmental Impact Statement and Overseas Environmental Impact Statement (EIS/OEIS). The AFTT is designed to maintain, train, and equip combat-ready naval forces through training and testing activities that include the use of sonar and explosives within existing range complexes and testing ranges. At that time, we concurred with the Navy that the proposed procedures, mitigation, and monitoring measures would sufficiently avoid harm to cultural resources and that no historic properties would be affected by the undertaking. We understand that the 2024 Supplemental EIS/OEIS includes activities that have either increased or decreased in scope, been reclassified, or slightly modified since the previous consultations; as well as activities proposed for new inshore locations that were not part of prior Section 106 consultations.

CT SHPO concurs with the Area of Potential Effect (APE) defined for the undertaking, which is the same as the Study Area identified in the Supplemental EIS/OEIS. The proposed locations off the coast of Connecticut include the following: the Narragansett Operating Area in the Northeast Range Complexes; Naval Undersea Warfare Development Center Newport Testing Range; portions of the Thames River; Naval Submarine Base New London in Groton; a commercial shipyard in Groton; the U.S. Coast Guard Station in New London; and other AFTT coastal waters, as needed. Our office appreciates the comprehensive consideration given to cultural and historic resources and it is our opinion that the procedures, mitigation, and monitoring measures will sufficiently avoid harm to cultural resources and no historic properties will be affected by the undertaking. With these precautions taken into consideration, CT SHPO concurs that the undertaking will have no adverse effect to historic properties.

Our office appreciates the opportunity to review and comment upon this project. Do not hesitate to contact Catherine Labadia, Staff Archaeologist and Deputy State Historic Preservation Officer, for additional information at (860) 500-2329 or catherine.labadia@ct.gov.

Sincerely,


Jonathan Kinney
State Historic Preservation Officer

450 Columbus Boulevard, Suite 5
Hartford, CT 06103
Phone: 860-500-2300

CTMakItHere.com

L.6.3 DELAWARE



DEPARTMENT OF THE NAVY

U.S. FLEET FORCES COMMAND
1562 MITSCHER AVENUE SUITE 250
NORFOLK VA 23551-2487

5090
Ser N46/003
January 16, 2025

Ms. Suzanne Savery
Delaware State Historic Preservation Office
29 North State Street
Dover, Delaware 19901

Dear Ms. Savery:

As required by Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act (NHPA) and in support of the National Environmental Policy Act, the United States Department of the Navy (including both the U.S. Navy and the U.S. Marine Corps), in cooperation with the U.S. Coast Guard as Joint Lead Agency (referred to as the Action Proponents), intends to update its consultation with the Delaware State Historic Preservation Office (DE SHPO) regarding activities in the Atlantic Fleet Training and Testing (AFTT) Study Area. The Action Proponents previously analyzed the potential environmental impacts of its pierside and at-sea training and testing activities in the western Atlantic Ocean and the Gulf of Mexico in the 2013 (Phase II) and 2018 (Phase III) AFTT Environmental Impact Statement /Overseas Environmental Impact Statement (EIS/OEIS). The Action Proponents are currently supplementing the 2018 Final AFTT EIS/OEIS with the 2024 Draft AFTT Supplemental EIS/OEIS (Phase IV); published on September 20, 2024.

The enclosed project information package details the proposed training and testing activities for this phase of the undertaking. Most of the activities are similar to those discussed in the 2013 and 2018 EIS/OEISs, with no significant change in their potential effects. However, some activities have either increased or decreased in scope, been reclassified, or slightly modified since the previous consultations. There are also activities proposed for new inshore locations that were not part of prior Section 106 consultations. Note that the 2024 Draft AFTT Supplemental EIS/OEIS assesses all proposed training and testing activities, not just those that have changed since the 2018 Final AFTT EIS/OEIS.

The project information package includes a description of the AFTT Study Area, which functions as the area of potential effects (APE). The locations where training and testing activities are proposed to occur off the coast of Delaware include Delaware Bay and the Virginia Capes Range Complex. In addition, activities occurring in "Other AFTT Areas" have the potential to occur in the coastal waters of Delaware.

The project information package details the Action Proponents' efforts to identify historic and cultural resources within the APE, utilizing databases of known in-water resources maintained by various agencies and interested organizations. This information, combined with data from prior consultations, was used to update this current consultation.

The project information package describes how the undertaking could affect both known and unidentified historic and cultural resources within the APE. Navy analysis identified explosives and physical disturbance as stressors that have the potential to affect historic and cultural resources, which may occur in the jurisdictional waters of Delaware. A complete assessment of the potential impacts on historic and cultural resources due to training and testing activities can be found in the final versions of the 2013 and 2018 AFTT EIS/OEIS.

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Ser N46/003
January 16, 2025

The project information package describes the Action Proponents' methods used to avoid and minimize effects to historic and cultural resources. The Action Proponents follow standard operating procedures, which ensure safety and mission success, but also potentially provide secondary benefits to historic and cultural resources during training and testing activities. For instance, underwater detonation training occurs in designated areas, reducing the potential for interactions with historic and cultural resources, as detailed in section 2.3.3.9 of the 2018 Final AFTT EIS/OEIS (Underwater Detonation Safety). The Action Proponents also designed mitigation measures to avoid potential impacts from the Proposed Action. Section 5.7.2 of the 2024 Draft AFTT Supplemental EIS/OEIS details mitigation measures for artificial reef, live hard bottom, submerged aquatic vegetation, and shipwrecks. As an example, the Action Proponents will avoid precision anchoring within the anchor swing diameter and refrain from conducting explosive mine countermeasure and neutralization activities within 350 yards (320 meters) of shipwrecks to ensure protection of historic and cultural resources.

While unintentional impacts to known historic and cultural resources may result from some activities involved in the Proposed Action, the Action Proponents believe such impacts are unlikely due to the standard operating procedures and avoidance measures in place. Additionally, the Action Proponents believe the likelihood of impacts on unidentified historic and cultural resources is very low. However, in accordance with the provisions found in 36 Code of Federal Regulations Section 800.13, the Action Proponents will promptly initiate consultation with your office if historic and cultural resources are discovered.

The Action Proponents have determined that no adverse effect to historic and cultural resources within the jurisdictional waters of Delaware would occur from the activities analyzed within the project information package. We request your concurrence with our finding of no adverse effect to historic and cultural resources within 30 days of receipt of this letter. My point of contact for this matter is Ms. Laura Busch, who may be reached at (757) 836-8471 or laura.m.busch2.civ@us.navy.mil.

Sincerely,

CUADROS, JORGE
RICARDO.1186806
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Date: 2025.01.16 14:53:44 -0500

J. R. CUADROS
Director, Fleet Installations and Environment
and Deputy Chief of Staff

Enclosure: Project Information Package

From: Briggs, Kara (DOS) <Kara.Briggs@delaware.gov>
Sent: Thursday, August 7, 2025 10:55 AM
To: Busch, Laura M CIV USN (USA) <laura.m.busch2.civ@us.navy.mil>
Cc: Carr, Sarah (DOS) <Sarah.Carr@delaware.gov>; Gormley, Jaime B CIV USN USFFC (USA) <jaime.b.gormley.civ@us.navy.mil>; Lay, Allison E CTR (USA) <allison.e.lay2.ctr@us.navy.mil>; Davis, Gwen (DOS) <Gwen.Davis@delaware.gov>
Subject: [Non-DoD Source] RE: US Navy Atlantic Fleet Training and Testing Section 106

Good Morning Laura,

Thank you for providing this confirmation, and inclusion of new information, regarding the proposed scope of work as follows:

- Civilian Port Defense activity will not include use of explosives.
- There would not be any on land activities.
- The activity may include placing inert mine shapes on the seafloor temporarily (no more than one week) that will be retrieved at the end of the exercise.

New information offered in your most recent email indicates that there may be there may be activities that interact with the seafloor to include placing objects on the sea floor. Such an action may count as a ground disturbing activity with the potential to adversely effect cultural resources.

According to the information provided, personnel will utilize the Protective Measures Assessment Protocol (PMAP) program to determine if the event is allowable in the location chosen and ensure cultural resources are avoided and not disturbed during the activity. DE SHPO has determined the avoidance plan as described is sufficient.

However, if at any time, a previously unidentified cultural resource (unknown wreck) is impacted you must stop work immediately and consult with our Office.

Thank you,
Kara

Kara A. Briggs
Architectural Historian
Tax Credit Program Manager
29 N. State Street, Dover, DE 19901
tel (302) 736-7400

L.6.4 FLORIDA



DEPARTMENT OF THE NAVY

U.S. FLEET FORCES COMMAND
1562 MITSCHER AVENUE SUITE 250
NORFOLK VA 23551-2487

5090
Ser N46/004
January 16, 2025

Ms. Alissa Slade Lotane
Florida Division of Historical Resources
R.A. Gray Building
500 South Bronough Street
Tallahassee, Florida 32399-0250

Dear Ms. Lotane:

As required by Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act and in support of the National Environmental Policy Act, the United States Department of the Navy (including both the U.S. Navy and the U.S. Marine Corps), in cooperation with the U.S. Coast Guard as Joint Lead Agency (referred to as the Action Proponents), intends to update its consultation with the Florida Division of Historical Resources regarding activities in the Atlantic Fleet Training and Testing (AFTT) Study Area. The Action Proponents previously analyzed the potential environmental impacts of its pierside and at-sea training and testing activities in the western Atlantic Ocean and the Gulf of Mexico in the 2013 (Phase II) and 2018 (Phase III) AFTT Environmental Impact Statement /Overseas Environmental Impact Statement (EIS/OEIS). The Action Proponents are currently supplementing the 2018 Final AFTT EIS/OEIS with the 2024 Draft AFTT Supplemental EIS/OEIS (Phase IV); published on September 20, 2024.

The enclosed project information package details the proposed training and testing activities for this phase of the undertaking. Most of the activities are similar to those discussed in the 2013 and 2018 EIS/OEISs, with no significant change in their potential effects. However, some activities have either increased or decreased in scope, been reclassified, or slightly modified since the previous consultations. Note that the 2024 Draft AFTT Supplemental EIS/OEIS assesses all proposed training and testing activities, not just those that have changed since the 2018 Final AFTT EIS/OEIS.

The project information package includes a description of the AFTT Study Area, which functions as the area of potential effects (APE). The locations where training and testing activities are proposed to occur off the coast of Florida include the following: the Gulf of Mexico (GOMEX) Range Complex; Jacksonville (JAX) Range Complex; Key West Range Complex; Naval Station Mayport in Jacksonville, Florida; Port Canaveral in Cape Canaveral, Florida; Naval Surface Warfare Center, Panama City Division; South Florida Ocean Measurement Facility; portions of the St. Johns River, which is included in the JAX Range Complex Inshore; Truman Harbor and Demolition Key which are included in the Key West Range Complex Inshore; and St. Andrew Bay and Tampa Bay which are included in the GOMEX Range Complex Inshore. In addition, activities occurring in "Other AFTT Areas" have the potential to occur in the coastal waters of Florida.

The project information package details the Action Proponents' efforts to identify historic and cultural resources within the APE, utilizing databases of known in-water resources maintained by various agencies and interested organizations. This information, combined with data from prior consultations, was used to update this current consultation.

The project information package describes how the undertaking could affect both known and unidentified historic and cultural resources within the APE. Navy analysis identified explosives and physical disturbance as stressors that have the potential to affect historic and cultural resources, which may occur in the jurisdictional waters of Florida. A complete assessment of the potential impacts on historic and cultural resources due to training and testing activities can be found in the final versions of the 2013 and 2018 AFTT EIS/OEIS.

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Ser N46/004
January 16, 2025

The project information package describes the Action Proponents' methods used to avoid and minimize effects to historic and cultural resources. The Action Proponents follow standard operating procedures, which ensure safety and mission success, but also potentially provide secondary benefits to historic and cultural resources during training and testing activities. For instance, underwater detonation training occurs in designated areas, reducing the potential for interactions with historic and cultural resources, as detailed in section 2.3.3.9 of the 2018 Final AFTT EIS/OEIS (Underwater Detonation Safety). The Action Proponents also designed mitigation measures to avoid potential impacts from the Proposed Action. Section 5.7.2 of the 2024 Draft AFTT Supplemental EIS/OEIS details mitigation measures for artificial reef, live hard bottom, submerged aquatic vegetation, and shipwrecks. As an example, the Action Proponents will avoid precision anchoring within the anchor swing diameter and refrain from conducting explosive mine countermeasure and neutralization activities within 350 yards (320 meters) of shipwrecks to ensure protection of historic and cultural resources.

While unintentional impacts to known historic and cultural resources may result from some activities involved in the Proposed Action, the Action Proponents believe such impacts are unlikely due to the standard operating procedures and avoidance measures in place. Additionally, the Action Proponents believe the likelihood of impacts on unidentified historic and cultural resources is very low. However, in accordance with the provisions found in 36 Code of Federal Regulations Section 800.13, the Action Proponents will promptly initiate consultation with your office if submerged historic and cultural resources are discovered.

The Action Proponents have determined that no adverse effect to historic and cultural resources within the jurisdictional waters of Florida would occur from the activities analyzed within the project information package. We request your concurrence with our finding of no adverse effect to historic and cultural resources within 30 days of receipt of this letter. My point of contact for this matter is Ms. Laura Busch, who may be reached at (757) 836-8471 or laura.m.busch2.civ@us.navy.mil.

Sincerely,

CUADROS.JORGE
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J. R. CUADROS
Director, Fleet Installations and Environment
and Deputy Chief of Staff

Enclosure: Project Information Package



FLORIDA DEPARTMENT of STATE

RON DESANTIS
Governor

CORD BYRD
Secretary of State

Mr. J.R. Cuadros
Director, Fleet Installations and Environment
Department of the Navy
U.S. Fleet Forces Command
1562 Mitscher Avenue Suite 250
Norfolk Va 23551-2487

February 19, 2025

RE: DHR Project File No.: 2025-385
*Atlantic Fleet Training and Testing Draft Supplemental Environmental Impact Statement/Overseas
Environmental Impact Statement Naval Support Activity*

Dear Mr. Cuadros:

The Florida State Historic Preservation Officer reviewed the referenced project for possible effects on historic properties listed, or eligible for listing, in the *National Register of Historic Places*. The review was conducted in accordance with Section 106 of the *National Historic Preservation Act of 1966*, as amended and the *National Environmental Policy Act of 1969*, as amended.

Based on the information provided, our office concurs with your finding that the proposed undertaking should have no adverse effect on the historic properties.

If you have any questions, please contact Scott Edwards, Historic Preservationist, by electronic mail scott.edwards@dos.fl.gov, or at 850.245.6333 or 800.847.7278.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Kelly L. Chase" with "For" written below it.

Alissa Slade Lotane
Director, Division of Historical Resources
and State Historic Preservation Officer

Division of Historical Resources
R.A. Gray Building • 500 South Bronough Street • Tallahassee, Florida 32399
850.245.6300 • 850.245.6436 (Fax) • FLHeritage.com



L.6.5 GEORGIA



DEPARTMENT OF THE NAVY

U.S. FLEET FORCES COMMAND
1562 MITSCHER AVENUE SUITE 250
NORFOLK VA 23551-2487

5090
Ser N46/005
January 16, 2025

Mr. Christopher Nunn, Commissioner
Georgia Historic Preservation Division
60 Executive Park South, NE
Atlanta, Georgia 30329

Dear Mr. Nunn:

As required by Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act and in support of the National Environmental Policy Act, the United States Department of the Navy (including both the U.S. Navy and the U.S. Marine Corps), in cooperation with the U.S. Coast Guard as Joint Lead Agency (referred to as the Action Proponents), intends to update its consultation with the Georgia Historic Preservation Division regarding activities in the Atlantic Fleet Training and Testing (AFTT) Study Area. The Action Proponents previously analyzed the potential environmental impacts of its pierside and at-sea training and testing activities in the western Atlantic Ocean and the Gulf of Mexico in the 2013 (Phase II) and 2018 (Phase III) AFTT Environmental Impact Statement /Overseas Environmental Impact Statement (EIS/OEIS). The Action Proponents are currently supplementing the 2018 Final AFTT EIS/OEIS with the 2024 Draft AFTT Supplemental EIS/OEIS (Phase IV); published on September 20, 2024.

The enclosed project information package details the proposed training and testing activities for this phase of the undertaking. Most of the activities are similar to those discussed in the 2013 and 2018 EIS/OEISs, with no significant change in their potential effects. However, some activities have either increased or decreased in scope, been reclassified, or slightly modified since the previous consultations. Note that the 2024 Draft AFTT Supplemental EIS/OEIS assesses all proposed training and testing activities, not just those that have changed since the 2018 Final AFTT EIS/OEIS.

The project information package includes a description of the AFTT Study Area, which functions as the area of potential effects (APE). The locations where training and testing activities are proposed to occur off the coast of Georgia include the following: the Jacksonville Range Complex, including both the Jacksonville and Charleston Operating Areas; Jacksonville Range Complex Inshore (including Kings Bay), Naval Submarine Base Kings Bay; Savannah, Georgia and Kings Bay, Georgia (for civilian port training exercises). In addition, activities occurring in "Other AFTT Areas" have the potential to occur in the coastal waters of Georgia.

The project information package details the Action Proponents' efforts to identify historic and cultural resources within the APE, utilizing databases of known in-water resources maintained by various agencies and interested organizations. This information, combined with data from prior consultations, was used to update this current consultation.

The project information package describes how the undertaking could affect both known and unidentified historic and cultural resources within the APE. Navy analysis identified explosives and physical disturbance as stressors that have the potential to affect historic and cultural resources, which may occur in the jurisdictional waters of Georgia. A complete assessment of the potential impacts on historic and cultural resources due to training and testing activities can be found in the final versions of the 2013 and 2018 AFTT EIS/OEIS.

5090
Ser N46/005
January 16, 2025

The project information package describes the Action Proponents' methods used to avoid and minimize effects to historic and cultural resources. The Action Proponents follow standard operating procedures, which ensure safety and mission success, but also potentially provide secondary benefits to historic and cultural resources during training and testing activities. For instance, underwater detonation training occurs in designated areas, reducing the potential for interactions with historic and cultural resources, as detailed in section 2.3.3.9 of the 2018 Final AFTT EIS/OEIS (Underwater Detonation Safety). The Action Proponents also designed mitigation measures to avoid potential impacts from the Proposed Action. Section 5.7.2 of the 2024 Draft AFTT Supplemental EIS/OEIS details mitigation measures for artificial reef, live hard bottom, submerged aquatic vegetation, and shipwrecks. As an example, the Action Proponents will avoid precision anchoring within the anchor swing diameter and refrain from conducting explosive mine countermeasure and neutralization activities within 350 yards (320 meters) of shipwrecks to ensure protection of historic and cultural resources.

While unintentional impacts to known historic and cultural resources may occur result from some activities involved in the Proposed Action, the Action Proponents believe such impacts are unlikely due to the standard operating procedures and avoidance measures in place. Additionally, the Action Proponents believe the likelihood of impacts on unidentified historic properties is very low. However, in accordance with the provisions found in 36 Code of Federal Regulations Section 800.13, the Action Proponents will promptly initiate consultation with your office if submerged historic and cultural resources are discovered.

The Action Proponents have determined that no adverse effect to historic and cultural resources within the jurisdictional waters of Georgia would occur from the activities analyzed within the project information package. We request your concurrence with our finding of no adverse effect to historic and cultural resources within 30 days of receipt of this letter. My point of contact for this matter is Ms. Laura Busch, who may be reached at (757) 836-8471 or laura.m.busch2.civ@us.navy.mil.

Sincerely,

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Date: 2025.01.16 14:56:00 -05'00'

J. R. CUADROS
Director, Fleet Installations and Environment
and Deputy Chief of Staff

Enclosure: Project Information Package

Brian P. Kemp
Governor

Christopher Nunn
Commissioner



GEORGIA DEPARTMENT
of COMMUNITY AFFAIRS

February 14, 2025

J.R. Cuadros
Director, Fleet Installations & Environment; Deputy Chief of Staff
U.S. Fleet Forces Command
Department of the Navy
1562 Mitscher Avenue, Suite 250
Norfolk, Virginia 23551-2487
Attn: Laura Busch, Natural Resources Program Manager

RE: USN: Atlantic Fleet Training & Testing Activities (AFTT), Atlantic Coast of Georgia
Statewide, Georgia
HP-231127-008

Dear Mr. Cuadros:

The Historic Preservation Division (HPD) has received the information submitted concerning the above referenced project. Our comments are offered to assist the U.S. Department of the Navy in complying with the provisions of Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966, as amended (NHPA).

The subject project consists of revised training and testing activities within or adjacent to Georgia territorial waters, including the Jacksonville Range Complex, the Jacksonville Range Complex Inshore, and the Naval Submarine Base Kings Bay. Based on the information provided and desktop research, HPD concurs that the subject project, as proposed, will have **no adverse effect** to historic properties within its area of potential effect (APE), as defined in 36 CFR Part 800.5(d)(1), due to the standard operating procedures and mitigation measures employed during training and testing activities.

This letter evidences consultation with our office for compliance with Section 106 of the NHPA. It is important to remember that any changes to this project as it is currently proposed may require additional consultation. HPD encourages federal agencies and project applicants to discuss such changes with our office to ensure that potential effects to historic properties are adequately considered in project planning.

Please refer to project number **HP-231127-008** in any future correspondence regarding this project. If we may be of further assistance, please contact me at Stacy.Rieke@dca.ga.gov or (470) 522-7979 or Noah Bryant, Compliance Review Archaeologist, at Noah.Bryant@dca.ga.gov or (404) 679-0649.

Sincerely,

Stacy Rieke, MHP
Program Manager
Environmental Review & Preservation Planning

60 Executive Park South, NE | Atlanta, GA 30329-2231 | 404-679-4940 | dca.georgia.gov
An Equal Opportunity Employer



L.6.6 LOUISIANA



DEPARTMENT OF THE NAVY

U.S. FLEET FORCES COMMAND
1562 MITSCHER AVENUE SUITE 250
NORFOLK VA 23551-2487

5090
Ser N46/006
January 16, 2025

Ms. Nicole Hobson-Morris, Executive Director
Louisiana State Historic Preservation Office
P.O. Box 44247
Baton Rouge, Louisiana 70804

Dear Ms. Hobson-Morris:

As required by Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act and in support of the National Environmental Policy Act, the United States Department of the Navy (including both the U.S. Navy and the U.S. Marine Corps), in cooperation with the U.S. Coast Guard as Joint Lead Agency (referred to as the Action Proponents), intends to update its consultation with the Louisiana State Historic Preservation Office regarding activities in the Atlantic Fleet Training and Testing (AFTT) Study Area. The Action Proponents previously analyzed the potential environmental impacts of its pierside and at-sea training and testing activities in the western Atlantic Ocean and the Gulf of Mexico in the 2013 (Phase II) and 2018 (Phase III) AFTT Environmental Impact Statement /Overseas Environmental Impact Statement (EIS/OEIS). The Action Proponents are currently supplementing the 2018 Final AFTT EIS/OEIS with the 2024 Draft AFTT Supplemental EIS/OEIS (Phase IV); published on September 20, 2024.

The enclosed project information package details the proposed training and testing activities for this phase of the undertaking. Most of the activities are similar to those discussed in the 2013 and 2018 EIS/OEISs, with no significant change in their potential effects. However, some activities have either increased or decreased in scope, been reclassified, or slightly modified since the previous consultations. Additionally, there are some activities proposed for new inshore locations that were not included in previous Section 106 consultations. Note that the 2024 Draft AFTT Supplemental EIS/OEIS assesses all proposed training and testing activities, not just those that have changed since the 2018 Final AFTT EIS/OEIS.

The project information package includes a description of the AFTT Study Area, which functions as the area of potential effects (APE). The locations where training and testing activities are proposed to occur off the coast of Louisiana include the Gulf of Mexico (GOMEX) Range Complex, specifically the New Orleans Operating Area; GOMEX Range Complex Inshore, which includes Lake Borgne, Atchafalaya Bay and Atchafalaya River; and the U.S. Coast Guard station in New Orleans, Louisiana. In addition, activities occurring in "Other AFTT Areas" have the potential to occur in the coastal waters of Louisiana.

The project information package details the Action Proponents' efforts to identify historic and cultural resources within the APE, utilizing databases of known in-water resources maintained by various agencies and interested organizations. This information, combined with data from prior consultations, was used to update this current consultation.

The project information package describes how the undertaking could affect both known and unidentified historic and cultural resources within the APE. Navy analysis identified explosives and physical disturbance as stressors that have the potential to affect historic and cultural resources, which may occur in the jurisdictional waters of Louisiana. A complete assessment of the potential impacts on historic and cultural resources due to training and testing activities can be found in the final versions of the 2013 and 2018 AFTT EIS/OEIS.

5090
Ser N46/006
January 16, 2025

The project information package describes the Action Proponents' methods used to avoid and minimize effects to historic and cultural resources. The Action Proponents follow standard operating procedures, which ensure safety and mission success, but also potentially provide secondary benefits to historic and cultural resources during training and testing activities. For instance, underwater detonation training occurs in designated areas, reducing the potential for interactions with historic and cultural resources, as detailed in section 2.3.3.9 of the 2018 Final AFTT EIS/OEIS (Underwater Detonation Safety). The Action Proponents also designed mitigation measures to avoid potential impacts from the Proposed Action. Section 5.7.2 of the 2024 Draft AFTT Supplemental EIS/OEIS details mitigation measures for artificial reef, live hard bottom, submerged aquatic vegetation, and shipwrecks. As an example, the Action Proponents will avoid precision anchoring within the anchor swing diameter and refrain from conducting explosive mine countermeasure and neutralization activities within 350 yards (320 meters) of shipwrecks to ensure protection of historic and cultural resources.

While unintentional impacts to known historic and cultural resources may result from some activities involved in the Proposed Action, the Action Proponents believe such impacts are unlikely due to the standard operating procedures and avoidance measures in place. Additionally, the Action Proponents believe the likelihood of impacts on unidentified historic and cultural resources is very low. However, in accordance with the provisions found in 36 Code of Federal Regulations Section 800.13, the Action Proponents will promptly initiate consultation with your office if submerged historic and cultural resources are discovered.

The Action Proponents have determined that no adverse effect to historic and cultural resources within the jurisdictional waters of Louisiana would occur from the activities analyzed within the project information package. We request your concurrence with our finding of no adverse effect to historic and cultural resources within 30 days of receipt of this letter. My point of contact for this matter is Ms. Laura Busch, who may be reached at (757) 836-8471 or laura.m.busch2.civ@us.navy.mil.

Sincerely,

CUADROS, JORGE
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Date: 2025.01.16 14:37:14 -0500

J. R. CUADROS
Director, Fleet Installations and Environment
and Deputy Chief of Staff

Enclosure: Project Information Package

No known historic properties will be affected by this undertaking. Therefore, our office has no objection to the implementation of this project. This effect determination could change should new information come to our attention.

Carrie Broussard

Carrie Broussard
State Historic Preservation Officer

Date 02/03/2025

DEPARTMENT OF THE NAVY

1. FLEET FORCES COMMAND
MITSCHER AVENUE SUITE 250
NORFOLK VA 23551-2487

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Ser N46/006
January 16, 2025

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Dear Ms. Hobson-Morris:

As required by Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act and in support of the National Environmental Policy Act, the United States Department of the Navy (including both the U.S. Navy and the U.S. Marine Corps), in cooperation with the U.S. Coast Guard as Joint Lead Agency (referred to as the Action Proponents), intends to update its consultation with the Louisiana State Historic Preservation Office regarding activities in the Atlantic Fleet Training and Testing (AFTT) Study Area. The Action Proponents previously analyzed the potential environmental impacts of its pierside and at-sea training and testing activities in the western Atlantic Ocean and the Gulf of Mexico in the 2013 (Phase II) and 2018 (Phase III) AFTT Environmental Impact Statement /Overseas Environmental Impact Statement (EIS/OEIS). The Action Proponents are currently supplementing the 2018 Final AFTT EIS/OEIS with the 2024 Draft AFTT Supplemental EIS/OEIS (Phase IV); published on September 20, 2024.

The enclosed project information package details the proposed training and testing activities for this phase of the undertaking. Most of the activities are similar to those discussed in the 2013 and 2018 EIS/OEISs, with no significant change in their potential effects. However, some activities have either increased or decreased in scope, been reclassified, or slightly modified since the previous consultations. Additionally, there are some activities proposed for new inshore locations that were not included in previous Section 106 consultations. Note that the 2024 Draft AFTT Supplemental EIS/OEIS assesses all proposed training and testing activities, not just those that have changed since the 2018 Final AFTT EIS/OEIS.

The project information package includes a description of the AFTT Study Area, which functions as the area of potential effects (APE). The locations where training and testing activities are proposed to occur off the coast of Louisiana include the Gulf of Mexico (GOMEX) Range Complex, specifically the New Orleans Operating Area; GOMEX Range Complex Inshore, which includes Lake Borgne, Atchafalaya Bay and Atchafalaya River; and the U.S. Coast Guard station in New Orleans, Louisiana. In addition, activities occurring in "Other AFTT Areas" have the potential to occur in the coastal waters of Louisiana.

The project information package details the Action Proponents' efforts to identify historic and cultural resources within the APE, utilizing databases of known in-water resources maintained by various agencies and interested organizations. This information, combined with data from prior consultations, was used to update this current consultation.

The project information package describes how the undertaking could affect both known and unidentified historic and cultural resources within the APE. Navy analysis identified explosives and physical disturbance as stressors that have the potential to affect historic and cultural resources, which may occur in the jurisdictional waters of Louisiana. A complete assessment of the potential impacts on historic and cultural resources due to training and testing activities can be found in the final versions of the 2013 and 2018 AFTT EIS/OEIS.

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Ser N46/006
January 16, 2025

The project information package describes the Action Proponents' methods used to avoid and minimize effects to historic and cultural resources. The Action Proponents follow standard operating procedures, which ensure safety and mission success, but also potentially provide secondary benefits to historic and cultural resources during training and testing activities. For instance, underwater detonation training occurs in designated areas, reducing the potential for interactions with historic and cultural resources, as detailed in section 2.3.3.9 of the 2018 Final AFTT EIS/OEIS (Underwater Detonation Safety). The Action Proponents also designed mitigation measures to avoid potential impacts from the Proposed Action. Section 5.7.2 of the 2024 Draft AFTT Supplemental EIS/OEIS details mitigation measures for artificial reef, live hard bottom, submerged aquatic vegetation, and shipwrecks. As an example, the Action Proponents will avoid precision anchoring within the anchor swing diameter and refrain from conducting explosive mine countermeasure and neutralization activities within 350 yards (320 meters) of shipwrecks to ensure protection of historic and cultural resources.

While unintentional impacts to known historic and cultural resources may result from some activities involved in the Proposed Action, the Action Proponents believe such impacts are unlikely due to the standard operating procedures and avoidance measures in place. Additionally, the Action Proponents believe the likelihood of impacts on unidentified historic and cultural resources is very low. However, in accordance with the provisions found in 36 Code of Federal Regulations Section 800.13, the Action Proponents will promptly initiate consultation with your office if submerged historic and cultural resources are discovered.

The Action Proponents have determined that no adverse effect to historic and cultural resources within the jurisdictional waters of Louisiana would occur from the activities analyzed within the project information package. We request your concurrence with our finding of no adverse effect to historic and cultural resources within 30 days of receipt of this letter. My point of contact for this matter is Ms. Laura Busch, who may be reached at (757) 836-8471 or laura.m.busch2.civ@us.navy.mil.

Sincerely,

J. R. CUADROS
Director, Fleet Installations and Environment
and Deputy Chief of Staff

Enclosure: Project Information Package

L.6.7 MAINE



DEPARTMENT OF THE NAVY

U.S. FLEET FORCES COMMAND
1562 MITSCHER AVENUE SUITE 250
NORFOLK VA 23551-2487

5090
Ser N46/009
January 16, 2025

Mr. Kirk Mohnhey
Director, Maine Historic Preservation Commission
55 Capitol Street, 65 State House Station
Augusta, Maine 04333-0065

Dear Mr. Mohnhey:

As required by Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act and in support of the National Environmental Policy Act, the United States Department of the Navy (including both the U.S. Navy and the U.S. Marine Corps), in cooperation with the U.S. Coast Guard as Joint Lead Agency (referred to as the Action Proponents), intends to update its consultation with Maine Historic Preservation Commission regarding activities in the Atlantic Fleet Training and Testing (AFTT) Study Area. The Action Proponents previously analyzed the potential environmental impacts of its pierside and at-sea training and testing activities in the western Atlantic Ocean and the Gulf of Mexico in the 2013 (Phase II) and 2018 (Phase III) AFTT Environmental Impact Statement /Overseas Environmental Impact Statement (EIS/OEIS). The Action Proponents are currently supplementing the 2018 Final AFTT EIS/OEIS with the 2024 Draft AFTT Supplemental EIS/OEIS (Phase IV); published on September 20, 2024.

The enclosed project information package details the proposed training and testing activities for this phase of the undertaking. Most of the activities are similar to those discussed in the 2013 and 2018 EIS/OEISs, with no significant change in their potential effects. However, some activities have either increased or decreased in scope, been reclassified, or slightly modified since the previous consultations. Note that the 2024 Draft AFTT Supplemental EIS/OEIS assesses all proposed training and testing activities, not just those that have changed since the 2018 Final AFTT EIS/OEIS.

The project information package includes a description of the AFTT Study Area, which functions as the area of potential effects (APE). The locations where training and testing activities are proposed to occur off the coast of Maine include the following: the Boston Operating Area in the Northeast Range Complexes; Portsmouth Naval Shipyard in Kittery, Maine; a commercial shipyard in Bath, Maine; and the U.S. Coast Guard Station in Southwest Harbor, Maine. In addition, activities occurring in "Other AFTT Areas" have the potential to occur in the coastal waters of Maine.

The project information package details the Action Proponents' efforts to identify historic and cultural resources within the APE, utilizing databases of known in-water resources maintained by various agencies and interested organizations. This information, combined with data from prior consultations, was used to update this current consultation.

The project information package describes how the undertaking could affect both known and unidentified historic and cultural resources within the APE. Navy analysis identified explosives and physical disturbance as stressors that have the potential to affect historic and cultural resources, which may occur in the jurisdictional waters of Maine. A complete assessment of the potential impacts on historic and cultural resources due to training and testing activities can be found in the final versions of the 2013 and 2018 AFTT EIS/OEIS.

The project information package describes the Action Proponents' methods used to avoid and minimize effects to historic and cultural resources. The Action Proponents follow standard operating procedures,

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Ser N46/009
January 16, 2025

which ensure safety and mission success, but also potentially provide secondary benefits to historic and cultural resources during training and testing activities. For instance, underwater detonation training occurs in designated areas, reducing the potential for interactions with historic and cultural resources, as detailed in section 2.3.3.9 of the 2018 Final AFTT EIS/OEIS (Underwater Detonation Safety). The Action Proponents also designed mitigation measures to avoid potential impacts from the Proposed Action. Section 5.7.2 of the 2024 Draft AFTT Supplemental EIS/OEIS details mitigation measures for artificial reef, live hard bottom, submerged aquatic vegetation, and shipwrecks. As an example, the Action Proponents will avoid precision anchoring within the anchor swing diameter and refrain from conducting explosive mine countermeasure and neutralization activities within 350 yards (320 meters) of shipwrecks to ensure protection of historic and cultural resources.

While unintentional impacts to known historic and cultural resources may result from some activities involved in the Proposed Action, the Action Proponents believe such impacts are unlikely due to the standard operating procedures and avoidance measures in place. Additionally, the Action Proponents believe the likelihood of impacts on unidentified historic and cultural resources is very low. However, in accordance with the provisions found in 36 Code of Federal Regulations Section 800.13, the Action Proponents will promptly initiate consultation with your office if submerged historic and cultural resources are discovered.

The Action Proponents have determined that no adverse effect to historic and cultural resources within the jurisdictional waters of Maine would occur from the activities analyzed within the project information package. We request your concurrence with our finding of no adverse effect to historic and cultural resources within 30 days of receipt of this letter. My point of contact for this matter is Ms. Laura Busch, who may be reached at (757) 836-8471 or laura.m.busch2.civ@us.navy.mil.

Sincerely,

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J. R. CUADROS
Director, Fleet Installations and Environment
and Deputy Chief of Staff

Enclosure: Project Information Package



JANET T. MILLS
GOVERNOR

MAINE HISTORIC PRESERVATION COMMISSION
55 CAPITOL STREET
65 STATE HOUSE STATION
AUGUSTA, MAINE
04333

KIRK F. MOHNEY
DIRECTOR

February 12, 2025

Ms. Laura Busch
US Fleet Forces
Environmental Readiness Division
1562 Mitscher Ave
Suite 250
Norfolk, VA 23551

Project: MHPC# 0133-25 Gulf of Maine; Various Locations
Atlantic Fleet Training and Testing Study Area
Town: Gulf of Maine, ME

Dear Ms. Busch:

In response to your recent request, I have reviewed the information received January 23, 2025 to initiate consultation on the above referenced project in accordance with Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966, as amended (NHPA).

Based on the information submitted, I have concluded that there will be no historic properties (architectural or archaeological) affected by this proposed undertaking, as defined by Section 106.

Please contact Megan Rideout at (207) 287-2992 or megan.m.rideout@maine.gov if we can be of further assistance in this matter.

Sincerely,

Kirk F. Mohnhey
State Historic Preservation Officer

L.6.8 MARYLAND



DEPARTMENT OF THE NAVY

U.S. FLEET FORCES COMMAND
1562 MITSCHER AVENUE SUITE 250
NORFOLK VA 23551-2487

5090
Ser N46/008
January 16, 2025

Ms. Elizabeth Hughes, Director
Maryland Historical Trust
100 Community Place, Third Floor
Crownsville, Maryland 21032

Dear Ms. Hughes:

As required by Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act and in support of the National Environmental Policy Act, the United States Department of the Navy (including both the U.S. Navy and the U.S. Marine Corps), in cooperation with the U.S. Coast Guard as Joint Lead Agency (referred to as the Action Proponents), intends to update its consultation with the Maryland Historical Trust (MHT) regarding activities in the Atlantic Fleet Training and Testing (AFTT) Study Area. The Action Proponents previously analyzed the potential environmental impacts of its pierside and at-sea training and testing activities in the western Atlantic Ocean and the Gulf of Mexico in the 2013 (Phase II) and 2018 (Phase III) AFTT Environmental Impact Statement /Overseas Environmental Impact Statement (EIS/OEIS). The Action Proponents are currently supplementing the 2018 Final AFTT EIS/OEIS with the 2024 Draft AFTT Supplemental EIS/OEIS (Phase IV); published on September 20, 2024.

The enclosed project information package details the proposed training and testing activities for this phase of the undertaking. Most of the activities are similar to those discussed in the 2013 and 2018 EIS/OEISs, with no significant change in their potential effects. However, some activities have either increased or decreased in scope, been reclassified, or slightly modified since the previous consultations. Note that the 2024 Draft AFTT Supplemental EIS/OEIS assesses all proposed training and testing activities, not just those that have changed since the 2018 Final AFTT EIS/OEIS.

The project information package includes a description of the AFTT Study Area, which functions as the area of potential effects (APE). The location where training and testing activities are proposed to occur off the coast of Maryland is the Virginia Capes Range Complex. In addition, activities occurring in "Other AFTT Areas" have the potential to occur in the coastal waters of Maryland.

The project information package details the Action Proponents' efforts to identify historic and cultural resources within the APE, utilizing databases of known in-water resources maintained by various agencies and interested organizations. This information, combined with data from prior consultations, was used to update this current consultation.

The project information package describes how the undertaking could affect both known and unidentified historic and cultural resources within the APE. Navy analysis identified explosives and physical disturbance as stressors that have the potential to affect submerged historic and cultural resources, which may occur in the jurisdictional waters of Maryland. A complete assessment of the potential impacts on historic and cultural resources due to training and testing activities can be found in the final versions of the 2013 and 2018 AFTT EIS/OEIS.

The project information package describes the Action Proponents' methods used to avoid and minimize effects to historic and cultural resources. The Action Proponents follow standard operating procedures, which ensure safety and mission success, but also potentially provide secondary benefits to historic and cultural resources during training and testing activities. For instance, underwater detonation training occurs in

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Ser N46/008
January 16, 2025

designated areas, reducing the potential for interactions with historic and cultural resources, as detailed in section 2.3.3.9 of the 2018 Final AFTT EIS/OEIS (Underwater Detonation Safety). The Action Proponents also designed mitigation measures to avoid potential impacts from the Proposed Action. Section 5.7.2 of the 2024 Draft AFTT Supplemental EIS/OEIS details mitigation measures for artificial reef, live hard bottom, submerged aquatic vegetation, and shipwrecks. As an example, the Action Proponents will avoid precision anchoring within the anchor swing diameter and refrain from conducting explosive mine countermeasure and neutralization activities within 350 yards (320 meters) of shipwrecks to ensure protection of historic and cultural resources.

While unintentional impacts to known historic and cultural resources may result from some activities involved in the Proposed Action, the Action Proponents believe such impacts are unlikely due to the standard operating procedures and avoidance measures in place. Additionally, the Action Proponents believe the likelihood of impacts on unidentified historic and cultural resources is very low. However, in accordance with the provisions found in 36 Code of Federal Regulations Section 800.13, the Action Proponents will promptly initiate consultation with your office if submerged historic and cultural resources are discovered.

The Action Proponents have determined that no adverse effect to historic and cultural resources within the jurisdictional waters of Maryland would occur from the activities analyzed within the project information package. We request your concurrence with our finding of no adverse effect to historic and cultural resources within 30 days of receipt of this letter. My point of contact for this matter is Ms. Laura Busch, who may be reached at (757) 836-8471 or laura.m.busch2.civ@us.navy.mil.

Sincerely,

CUADROS.JORGE
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Date: 2025.01.16 14:44:33 -0500

J. R. CUADROS
Director, Fleet Installations and Environment
and Deputy Chief of Staff

Enclosure: Project Information Package

Busch, Laura M CIV USN (USA)

From: Maryland Historical Trust <donotreply@maryland.gov>
Sent: Monday, January 27, 2025 2:35 PM
To: Busch, Laura M CIV USN (USA)
Subject: [Non-DoD Source] MHT e106 project review – MHT Completed Comments

Date: January 27, 2025

To: Laura Busch
US Navy Fleet Forces Command

Project Name: Atlantic Fleet Training and Testing
County: Maryland, Statewide
Agency: Navy
Second Agency: -- Not noted --
MHT Log #: 202500584

MHT Response: Thank you for providing the Maryland Historical Trust the opportunity to comment on the above-referenced undertaking using the MHT e106 system. The Maryland Historical Trust has reviewed the submitted project for its effects on historic and archeological resources, pursuant to Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966 and/or the Maryland Historical Trust Act of 1985. We offer the following comments and/or concurrence with the agency's findings:

The undertaking will have no adverse effect on historic properties. Additional consultation with our office may be required if there are any significant changes in project scope or location.

Thank you for your cooperation in this review process. Since the MHT response is now complete, this response will appear in the Completed section of your project dashboard. No hard copy of this response or attachments will be sent. If you have questions, please contact the following MHT project reviewers:

Dixie Henry dixie.henry@maryland.gov

Troy Nowak troy.nowak@maryland.gov



Maryland Historical Trust
Project Review and Compliance
100 Community Place
Crownsville, MD 21032
mht.section106@maryland.gov

MHT.Maryland.gov
Planning.Maryland.gov

L.6.9 MASSACHUSETTS



DEPARTMENT OF THE NAVY

U.S. FLEET FORCES COMMAND
1562 MITSCHER AVENUE SUITE 250
NORFOLK VA 23551-2487

5090
Ser N46/007
January 16, 2025

Ms. Brona Simon, Executive Director
Massachusetts Historical Commission
220 Morrissey Boulevard
Boston, Massachusetts 02125

Dear Ms. Simon:

As required by Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act and in support of the National Environmental Policy Act, the United States Department of the Navy (including both the U.S. Navy and the U.S. Marine Corps), in cooperation with the U.S. Coast Guard as Joint Lead Agency (referred to as the Action Proponents), intends to update its consultation with the Massachusetts Historical Commission regarding activities in the Atlantic Fleet Training and Testing (AFTT) Study Area. The Action Proponents previously analyzed the potential environmental impacts of its pierside and at-sea training and testing activities in the western Atlantic Ocean and the Gulf of Mexico in the 2013 (Phase II) and 2018 (Phase III) AFTT Environmental Impact Statement /Overseas Environmental Impact Statement (EIS/OEIS). The Action Proponents are currently supplementing the 2018 Final AFTT EIS/OEIS with the 2024 Draft AFTT Supplemental EIS/OEIS (Phase IV); published on September 20, 2024.

The enclosed project information package details the proposed training and testing activities for this phase of the undertaking. Most of the activities are similar to those discussed in the 2013 and 2018 EIS/OEISs, with no significant change in their potential effects. However, some activities have either increased or decreased in scope, been reclassified, or slightly modified since the previous consultations. Note that the 2024 Draft AFTT Supplemental EIS/OEIS assesses all proposed training and testing activities, not just those that have changed since the 2018 Final AFTT EIS/OEIS.

The project information package includes a description of the AFTT Study Area, which functions as the area of potential effects (APE). The locations where training and testing activities are proposed to occur off the coast of Massachusetts include the following: Northeast Range Complexes to include the Boston and Narragansett Bays Operating Areas; Naval Undersea Warfare Center Division, Newport Testing Range; and the U.S. Coast Guard Station and civilian port in Boston, Massachusetts. In addition, some activities occurring in "Other AFTT Areas" have the potential to occur in the coastal waters of Massachusetts.

The project information package details the Action Proponents' efforts to identify historic and cultural resources within the APE, utilizing databases of known in-water resources maintained by various agencies and interested organizations. This information, combined with data from prior consultations, was used to update this current consultation.

The project information package describes how the undertaking could affect both known and unidentified historic and cultural resources within the APE. Navy analysis identified explosives and physical disturbance as stressors that have the potential to affect historic and cultural resources, which may occur in the jurisdictional waters of Massachusetts. A complete assessment of the potential impacts on historic and cultural resources due to training and testing activities can be found in the final versions of the 2013 and 2018 AFTT EIS/OEIS.

The project information package describes the Action Proponents' methods used to avoid and minimize effects to historic and cultural resources. The Action Proponents follow standard operating procedures,

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January 16, 2025

which ensure safety and mission success, but also potentially provide secondary benefits to historic and cultural resources during training and testing activities. For instance, underwater detonation training occurs in designated areas, reducing the potential for interactions with historic and cultural resources, as detailed in section 2.3.3.9 of the 2018 Final AFTT EIS/OEIS (Underwater Detonation Safety). The Action Proponents also designed mitigation measures to avoid potential impacts from the Proposed Action. Section 5.7.2 of the 2024 Draft AFTT Supplemental EIS/OEIS details mitigation measures for artificial reef, live hard bottom, submerged aquatic vegetation, and shipwrecks. As an example, the Action Proponents will avoid precision anchoring within the anchor swing diameter and refrain from conducting explosive mine countermeasure and neutralization activities within 350 yards (320 meters) of shipwrecks to ensure protection of historic and cultural resources.

While unintentional impacts to known historic and cultural resources may result from some activities involved in the Proposed Action, the Action Proponents believe such impacts are unlikely due to the standard operating procedures and avoidance measures in place. Additionally, the Action Proponents believe the likelihood of impacts on unidentified historic and cultural resources is very low. However, in accordance with the provisions found in 36 Code of Federal Regulations Section 800.13, the Action Proponents will promptly initiate consultation with your office if submerged historic and cultural resources are discovered.

The Action Proponents have determined that no adverse effect to historic and cultural resources within the jurisdictional waters of Massachusetts would occur from the activities analyzed within the project information package. We request your concurrence with our finding of no adverse effect to historic and cultural resources within 30 days of receipt of this letter. My point of contact for this matter is Ms. Laura Busch, who may be reached at (757) 836-8471 or laura.m.busch2.civ@us.navy.mil.

Sincerely,

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J. R. CUADROS
Director, Fleet Installations and Environment
and Deputy Chief of Staff

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Date: 2025.01.16 14:44:02 -0500

Enclosure: Project Information Package



DEPARTMENT OF THE NAVY

U.S. FLEET FORCES COMMAND
1562 MITSCHER AVENUE SUITE 250
NORFOLK VA 23551-2487

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Ser N46/007

January 16, 2025

CONCURRENCE

Brona Simon
BRONA SIMON
STATE HISTORIC
PRESERVATION OFFICER
MASSACHUSETTS
HISTORICAL COMMISSION

2/20/25

Ms. Brona Simon, Executive Director
Massachusetts Historical Commission
220 Morrissey Boulevard
Boston, Massachusetts 02125

Dear Ms. Simon:

As required by Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act and in support of the National Environmental Policy Act, the United States Department of the Navy (including both the U.S. Navy and the U.S. Marine Corps), in cooperation with the U.S. Coast Guard as Joint Lead Agency (referred to as the Action Proponents), intends to update its consultation with the Massachusetts Historical Commission regarding activities in the Atlantic Fleet Training and Testing (AFTT) Study Area. The Action Proponents previously analyzed the potential environmental impacts of its pierside and at-sea training and testing activities in the western Atlantic Ocean and the Gulf of Mexico in the 2013 (Phase II) and 2018 (Phase III) AFTT Environmental Impact Statement /Overseas Environmental Impact Statement (EIS/OEIS). The Action Proponents are currently supplementing the 2018 Final AFTT EIS/OEIS with the 2024 Draft AFTT Supplemental EIS/OEIS (Phase IV); published on September 20, 2024.

The enclosed project information package details the proposed training and testing activities for this phase of the undertaking. Most of the activities are similar to those discussed in the 2013 and 2018 EIS/OEISs, with no significant change in their potential effects. However, some activities have either increased or decreased in scope, been reclassified, or slightly modified since the previous consultations. Note that the 2024 Draft AFTT Supplemental EIS/OEIS assesses all proposed training and testing activities, not just those that have changed since the 2018 Final AFTT EIS/OEIS.

The project information package includes a description of the AFTT Study Area, which functions as the area of potential effects (APE). The locations where training and testing activities are proposed to occur off the coast of Massachusetts include the following: Northeast Range Complexes to include the Boston and Narragansett Bays Operating Areas; Naval Undersea Warfare Center Division, Newport Testing Range; and the U.S. Coast Guard Station and civilian port in Boston, Massachusetts. In addition, some activities occurring in "Other AFTT Areas" have the potential to occur in the coastal waters of Massachusetts.

The project information package details the Action Proponents' efforts to identify historic and cultural resources within the APE, utilizing databases of known in-water resources maintained by various agencies and interested organizations. This information, combined with data from prior consultations, was used to update this current consultation.

The project information package describes how the undertaking could affect both known and unidentified historic and cultural resources within the APE. Navy analysis identified explosives and physical disturbance as stressors that have the potential to affect historic and cultural resources, which may occur in the jurisdictional waters of Massachusetts. A complete assessment of the potential impacts on historic and cultural resources due to training and testing activities can be found in the final versions of the 2013 and 2018 AFTT EIS/OEIS.

The project information package describes the Action Proponents' methods used to avoid and minimize effects to historic and cultural resources. The Action Proponents follow standard operating procedures,

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Ser N46/007
January 16, 2025

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While unintentional impacts to known historic and cultural resources may result from some activities involved in the Proposed Action, the Action Proponents believe such impacts are unlikely due to the standard operating procedures and avoidance measures in place. Additionally, the Action Proponents believe the likelihood of impacts on unidentified historic and cultural resources is very low. However, in accordance with the provisions found in 36 Code of Federal Regulations Section 800.13, the Action Proponents will promptly initiate consultation with your office if submerged historic and cultural resources are discovered.

The Action Proponents have determined that no adverse effect to historic and cultural resources within the jurisdictional waters of Massachusetts would occur from the activities analyzed within the project information package. We request your concurrence with our finding of no adverse effect to historic and cultural resources within 30 days of receipt of this letter. My point of contact for this matter is Ms. Laura Busch, who may be reached at (757) 836-8471 or laura.m.busch2.civ@us.navy.mil.

Sincerely,

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J. R. CUADROS
Director, Fleet Installations and Environment
and Deputy Chief of Staff

Enclosure: Project Information Package

L.6.10 MISSISSIPPI



DEPARTMENT OF THE NAVY

U.S. FLEET FORCES COMMAND
1562 MITSCHER AVENUE SUITE 250
NORFOLK VA 23551-2487

5090
Ser N46/010
January 16, 2025

Ms. Katie Blount, Director
Mississippi Department of Archives and History
P.O. Box 571
Jackson, Mississippi 39205-0571

Dear Ms. Blount:

As required by Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act and in support of the National Environmental Policy Act, the United States Department of the Navy (including both the U.S. Navy and the U.S. Marine Corps), in cooperation with the U.S. Coast Guard as Joint Lead Agency (referred to as the Action Proponents), intends to update its consultation with Mississippi Department of Archives and History (MDAH) regarding activities in the Atlantic Fleet Training and Testing (AFTT) Study Area. The Action Proponents previously analyzed the potential environmental impacts of its pierside and at-sea training and testing activities in the western Atlantic Ocean and the Gulf of Mexico in the 2013 (Phase II) and 2018 (Phase III) AFTT Environmental Impact Statement /Overseas Environmental Impact Statement (EIS/OEIS). The Action Proponents are currently supplementing the 2018 Final AFTT EIS/OEIS with the 2024 Draft AFTT Supplemental EIS/OEIS (Phase IV); published on September 20, 2024.

The enclosed project information package details the proposed training and testing activities for this phase of the undertaking. Most of the activities are similar to those discussed in the 2013 and 2018 EIS/OEISs, with no significant change in their potential effects. However, some activities have either increased or decreased in scope, been reclassified, or slightly modified since the previous consultations. There are also activities proposed for new inshore locations that were not part of prior Section 106 consultations. Note that the 2024 Draft AFTT Supplemental EIS/OEIS assesses all proposed training and testing activities, not just those that have changed since the 2018 Final AFTT EIS/OEIS.

The project information package includes a description of the AFTT Study Area, which functions as the area of potential effects (APE). The locations where training and testing activities are proposed to occur off the coast of Mississippi include the following: the Gulf of Mexico (GOMEX) Range Complex; GOMEX Range Complex Inshore, which includes the Pascagoula River; the civilian ports of Gulfport and Pascagoula; and a commercial shipyard in Pascagoula, Mississippi. In addition, activities occurring in "Other AFTT Areas" have the potential to occur in the coastal waters of Mississippi.

The project information package details the Action Proponents' efforts to identify historic and cultural resources within the APE, utilizing databases of known in-water resources maintained by various agencies and interested organizations. This information, combined with data from prior consultations, was used to update this current consultation.

The project information package describes how the undertaking could affect both known and unidentified historic and cultural resources within the APE. Navy analysis identified explosives and physical disturbance as stressors that have the potential to affect historic and cultural resources, which may occur in the jurisdictional waters of Mississippi. A complete assessment of the potential impacts on historic and cultural resources due to training and testing activities can be found in the final versions of the 2013 and 2018 AFTT EIS/OEIS.

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Ser N46/010
January 16, 2025

The project information package describes the Action Proponents' methods used to avoid and minimize effects to historic and cultural resources. The Action Proponents follow standard operating procedures, which ensure safety and mission success, but also potentially provide secondary benefits to historic and cultural resources during training and testing activities. For instance, underwater detonation training occurs in designated areas, reducing the potential for interactions with historic and cultural resources, as detailed in section 2.3.3.9 of the 2018 Final AFTT EIS/OEIS (Underwater Detonation Safety). The Action Proponents also designed mitigation measures to avoid potential impacts from the Proposed Action. Section 5.7.2 of the 2024 Draft AFTT Supplemental EIS/OEIS details mitigation measures for artificial reef, live hard bottom, submerged aquatic vegetation, and shipwrecks. As an example, the Action Proponents will avoid precision anchoring within the anchor swing diameter and refrain from conducting explosive mine countermeasure and neutralization activities within 350 yards (320 meters) of shipwrecks to ensure protection of historic and cultural resources.

While unintentional impacts to known historic and cultural resources may result from some activities involved in the Proposed Action, the Action Proponents believe such impacts are unlikely due to the standard operating procedures and avoidance measures in place. Additionally, the Action Proponents believe the likelihood of impacts on unidentified historic and cultural resources is very low. However, in accordance with the provisions found in 36 Code of Federal Regulations Section 800.13, the Action Proponents will promptly initiate consultation with your office if submerged historic and cultural resources are discovered.

The Action Proponents have determined that no adverse effect to historic and cultural resources within the jurisdictional waters of Mississippi would occur from the activities analyzed within the project information package. We request your concurrence with our finding of no adverse effect to historic and cultural resources within 30 days of receipt of this letter. My point of contact for this matter is Ms. Laura Busch, who may be reached at (757) 836-8471 or laura.m.busch2.civ@us.navy.mil.

Sincerely,

CUADROS.JORGE
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Date: 2025.01.16 14:41:14 -05'00'

J. R. CUADROS
Director, Fleet Installations and Environment
and Deputy Chief of Staff

Enclosure: Project Information Package



P.O. Box 571
Jackson, MS 39205-0571
601-576-6850
mdah.ms.gov

February 26, 2025

Ms. Laura Busch
US Navy
1562 Mitscher Avenue, Suite 250
Norfolk, Virginia 23551

RE: Proposed Activities for the Atlantic Fleet Training and Testing, (Navy) MDAH Project Log
#02-018-25, Multiple Counties

Dear Ms. Busch:

We have reviewed the request for cultural resources assessment, received on January 30, 2025, for the above referenced project in accordance with our responsibilities under Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act and 36 CFR Part 800.

After reviewing the information provided, MDAH concurs that the proposed work will have no adverse effect to historic resources. However, if any cultural materials such as pottery, nails, glass, stone tools such as arrowheads, or animal bones are encountered, all work should cease, and the Chief Archaeologist shall be notified within 24 hours so that the appropriate descendant communities can be consulted for a path forward in accordance with state and federal law. Should submerged cultural resources be encountered, MDAH requests notification to determine a path forward in accordance with state and federal law. With this condition, we have no objection with the proposed undertaking.

Should there be additional work in connection with the project, or any changes in the scope of work, please let us know in order that we may provide you with appropriate comments in compliance with the above referenced regulations. If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact us at (601) 576-6940.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Amy D. Morgan", is written over a light gray rectangular background.

Amy D. Morgan
Review and Compliance Officer

FOR: Katie Blount
State Historic Preservation Officer

Board of Trustees: Spence Flatgard, *president* | Nancy Carpenter, *vice president* | Reginald Buckley | Carter Burns |
Betsey Hamilton | Mark E. Keenum | Lucius M. Lampton | TJ Taylor

L.6.11 NEW HAMPSHIRE



DEPARTMENT OF THE NAVY

U.S. FLEET FORCES COMMAND
1562 MITSCHER AVENUE SUITE 250
NORFOLK VA 23551-2487

5090
Ser N46/012
January 16, 2025

Mr. Benjamin Wilson, Director
New Hampshire Division of Historical Resources
172 Pembroke Road
Concord, New Hampshire 03301

Dear Mr. Wilson:

As required by Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act and in support of the National Environmental Policy Act, the United States Department of the Navy (including both the U.S. Navy and the U.S. Marine Corps), in cooperation with the U.S. Coast Guard as Joint Lead Agency (referred to as the Action Proponents), intends to update its consultation with New Hampshire Division of Historical Resources regarding activities in the Atlantic Fleet Training and Testing (AFTT) Study Area. The Action Proponents previously analyzed the potential environmental impacts of its pierside and at-sea training and testing activities in the western Atlantic Ocean and the Gulf of Mexico in the 2013 (Phase II) and 2018 (Phase III) AFTT Environmental Impact Statement /Overseas Environmental Impact Statement (EIS/OEIS). The Action Proponents are currently supplementing the 2018 Final AFTT EIS/OEIS with the 2024 Draft AFTT Supplemental EIS/OEIS (Phase IV) published on September 20, 2024.

The enclosed project information package details the proposed training and testing activities for this phase of the undertaking. Most of the activities are similar to those discussed in the 2013 and 2018 EIS/OEISs, with no significant change in their potential effects. However, some activities have either increased or decreased in scope, been reclassified, or slightly modified since the previous consultations. Note that the 2024 Draft AFTT Supplemental EIS/OEIS assesses all proposed training and testing activities, not just those that have changed since the 2018 Final AFTT EIS/OEIS.

The project information package includes a description of the AFTT Study Area, which functions as the area of potential effects (APE). The locations where training and testing activities are proposed to occur off the coast of New Hampshire include the Northeast Range Complexes, including the Boston Operating Area, and Portsmouth Naval Shipyard in Kittery, Maine. In addition, activities occurring in "Other AFTT Areas" have the potential to occur in the coastal waters of New Hampshire.

The project information package details the Action Proponents' efforts to identify historic and cultural resources within the APE, utilizing databases of known in-water resources maintained by various agencies and interested organizations. This information, combined with data from prior consultations, was used to update this current consultation.

The project information package describes how the undertaking could affect both known and unidentified historic and cultural resources within the APE. Navy analysis identified explosives and physical disturbance as stressors that have the potential to affect submerged historic and cultural resources, which may occur in jurisdictional waters of New Hampshire. A complete assessment of the potential impacts on historic and cultural resources due to training and testing activities can be found in the final versions of the 2013 and 2018 AFTT EIS/OEIS.

The project information package describes the Action Proponents' methods used to avoid and minimize effects to historic and cultural resources. The Action Proponents follow standard operating procedures, which ensure safety and mission success, but also potentially provide secondary benefits to historic and cultural resources during training and testing activities. For instance, underwater detonation training occurs in designated areas, reducing the potential for interactions with historic and cultural resources, as

5090
Ser N46/012
January 16, 2025

detailed in section 2.3.3.9 of the 2018 Final AFTT EIS/OEIS (Underwater Detonation Safety). The Action Proponents also designed mitigation measures to avoid potential impacts from the Proposed Action. Section 5.7.2 of the 2024 Draft AFTT Supplemental EIS/OEIS details mitigation measures for artificial reef, live hard bottom, submerged aquatic vegetation, and shipwrecks. As an example, the Action Proponents will avoid precision anchoring within the anchor swing diameter and refrain from conducting explosive mine countermeasure and neutralization activities within 350 yards (320 meters) of shipwrecks to ensure protection of historic and cultural resources.

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The Action Proponents have determined that no adverse effect to historic and cultural resources within the jurisdictional waters of New Hampshire would occur from the activities analyzed within the project information package. We request your concurrence with our finding of no adverse effect to historic and cultural resources within 30 days of receipt of this letter. My point of contact for this matter is Ms. Laura Busch, who may be reached at (757) 836-8471 or laura.m.busch2.civ@us.navy.mil.

Sincerely,

CUADROS, JORGE
RICARDO.1186806
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Digitally signed by
CUADROS, JORGE RICARDO.11
86806162
Date: 2025.01.16 14:43:32 -0500

J. R. CUADROS
Director, Fleet Installations and Environment
and Deputy Chief of Staff

Enclosure: Project Information Package



Project Record
Review & Compliance
2025PR00092



Atlantic Fleet Training and Testing

At-sea training and Testing

Agencies

US NAVY (US NAVY) - Primary: Yes, Program-Permit: NA/NA

Project Contacts

Laura Busch - laura.m.busch2.civ@us.navy.mil

Laura Busch - laura.busch.navy@gmail.com

Towns

No Towns Available

Review and Compliance

Type

Federal Section 106 Review

Present Land Use

None

Past Land Use and Disturbances

Nond

Project Address

No address

Location Description

State waters beginning at mean high water mark

APE Description

State waters beginning at mean high water mark

APE Justification

State jurisdiction

APE Acreage

Not Available

Project Includes Construction: No

Project Includes Demolition: No

Project Includes Disposition/Transfer: No

Project Includes Rehabilitation: No

Project Includes Refinancing: No

Ground Disturbance: No

One or More Above Ground Resources 45 Years or Older: No

Associated Resources

This report was printed on 2/24/2025 at 5:38 PM and reflects the data record at the time of printing. Real-time data is subject to change. 1 / 4



Project Record
Review & Compliance
2025PR00092



- 1) 2003RE01114 - Star Fort
- 2) 2008RE00369 - Star Island Meetinghouse
- 3) 2016RE00302 - Isles of Shoals

Associated Surveys

No Surveys Available

Agreements

No Agreements Available

Documents

- 1) Navy AFTT Transmittal Letter - Requests consultation
- 2) Navy AFTT Enclosure - Activity Description
- 3) DHR Effect Finding Letter for 2025PR00092 - Effect Finding rendered as No Adverse Effect

Photos (0)

No Photos Available

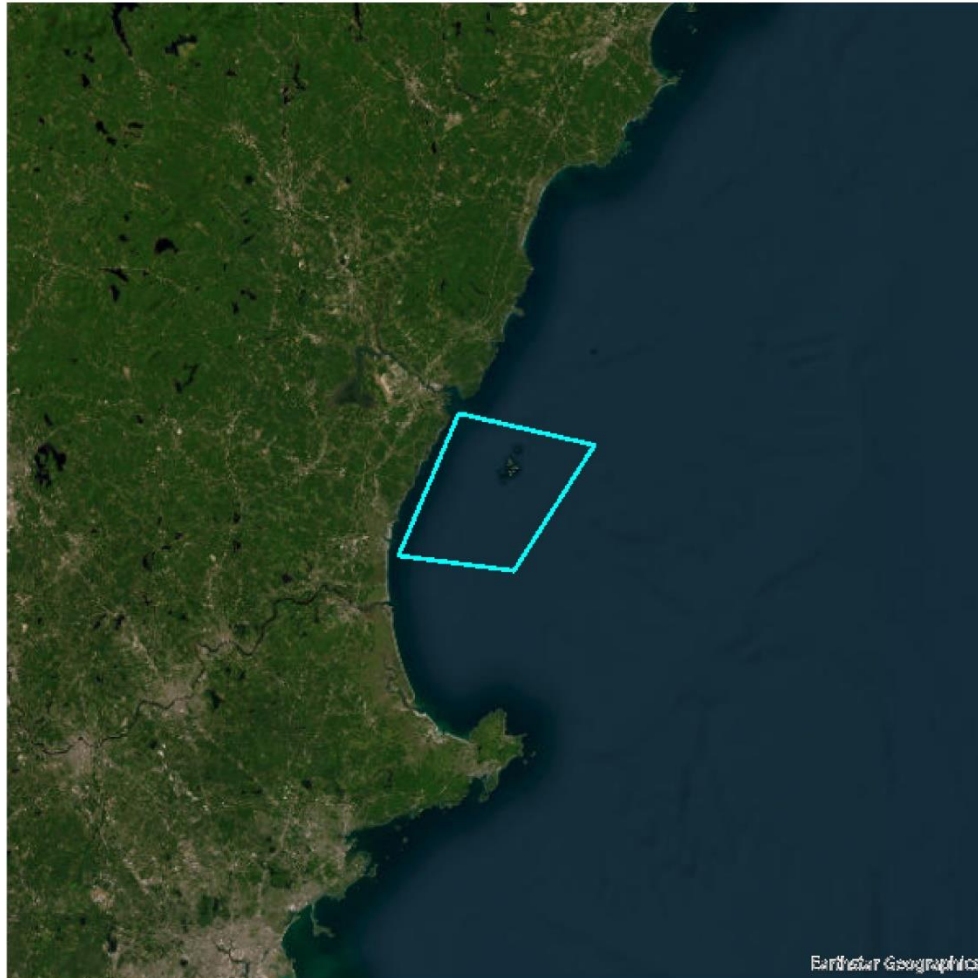
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Project Record
Review & Compliance
2025PR00092



APE Boundary



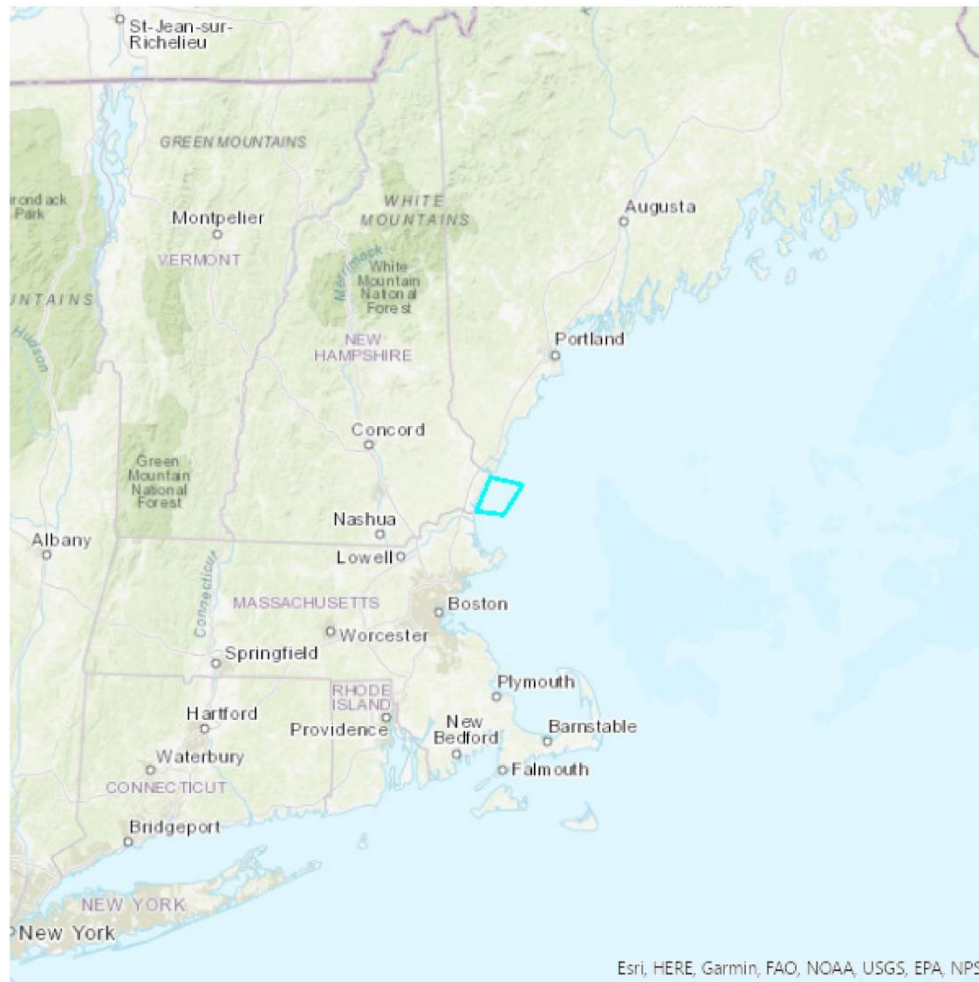
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Project Record
Review & Compliance
2025PR00092



Map Overview



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L.6.12 NEW JERSEY



DEPARTMENT OF THE NAVY

U.S. FLEET FORCES COMMAND
1562 MITSCHER AVENUE SUITE 250
NORFOLK VA 23551-2487

5090
Ser N46/013
January 16, 2025

Ms. Katherine Marcopul, Administrator
New Jersey Historic Preservation Office
Mail Code 501-04B, P.O. Box 420
Trenton, New Jersey 08625-0420

Dear Ms. Marcopul:

As required by Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act and in support of the National Environmental Policy Act, the United States Department of the Navy (including both the U.S. Navy and the U.S. Marine Corps), in cooperation with the U.S. Coast Guard as Joint Lead Agency (referred to as the Action Proponents), intends to update its consultation with New Jersey Historic Preservation Office regarding activities in the Atlantic Fleet Training and Testing (AFTT) Study Area. The Action Proponents previously analyzed the potential environmental impacts of its pierside and at-sea training and testing activities in the western Atlantic Ocean and the Gulf of Mexico in the 2013 (Phase II) and 2018 (Phase III) AFTT Environmental Impact Statement /Overseas Environmental Impact Statement (EIS/OEIS). The Action Proponents are currently supplementing the 2018 Final AFTT EIS/OEIS with the 2024 Draft AFTT Supplemental EIS/OEIS (Phase IV) published on September 20, 2024.

The enclosed project information package details the proposed training and testing activities for this phase of the undertaking. Most of the activities are similar to those discussed in the 2013 and 2018 EIS/OEISs, with no significant change in their potential effects. However, some activities have either increased or decreased in scope, been reclassified, or slightly modified since the previous consultations. Note that the 2024 Draft AFTT Supplemental EIS/OEIS assesses all proposed training and testing activities, not just those that have changed since the 2018 Final AFTT EIS/OEIS.

The project information package includes a description of the AFTT Study Area, which functions as the area of potential effects (APE). The locations where training and testing activities are proposed to occur off the coast of New Jersey include the following: the Northeast Range Complexes, including the Narragansett Bay Operating Area (OPAREA) and Atlantic City OPAREA; Delaware Bay; Earle, New Jersey; and the U.S. Coast Guard Station in Atlantic City, New Jersey. In addition, activities occurring in "Other AFTT Areas" have the potential to occur in the coastal waters of New Jersey.

The project information package details the Action Proponents' efforts to identify historic and cultural resources within the APE, utilizing databases of known in-water resources maintained by various agencies and interested organizations. This information, combined with data from prior consultations, was used to update this current consultation.

The project information package describes how the undertaking could affect both known and unidentified historic and cultural resources within the APE. Navy analysis identified explosives and physical disturbance as stressors that have the potential to affect historic and cultural resources, which may occur in jurisdictional waters of New Jersey. A complete assessment of the potential impacts on historic and cultural resources due to training and testing activities can be found in the final versions of the 2013 and 2018 AFTT EIS/OEIS.

5090
Ser N46/013
January 16, 2025

The project information package describes the Action Proponents' methods used to avoid and minimize effects to historic and cultural resources. The Action Proponents follow standard operating procedures, which ensure safety and mission success, but also potentially provide secondary benefits to historic and cultural resources during training and testing activities. For instance, underwater detonation training occurs in designated areas, reducing the potential for interactions with historic and cultural resources, as detailed in section 2.3.3.9 of the 2018 Final AFTT EIS/OEIS (Underwater Detonation Safety). The Action Proponents also designed mitigation measures to avoid potential impacts from the Proposed Action. Section 5.7.2 of the 2024 Draft AFTT Supplemental EIS/OEIS details mitigation measures for artificial reef, live hard bottom, submerged aquatic vegetation, and shipwrecks. As an example, the Action Proponents will avoid precision anchoring within the anchor swing diameter and refrain from conducting explosive mine countermeasure and neutralization activities within 350 yards (320 meters) of shipwrecks to ensure protection of historic and cultural resources.

While unintentional impacts to known historic and cultural resources may result from some activities involved in the Proposed Action, the Action Proponents believe such impacts are unlikely due to the standard operating procedures and avoidance measures in place. Additionally, the Action Proponents believe the likelihood of impacts on unidentified historic and cultural resources is very low. However, in accordance with the provisions found in 36 Code of Federal Regulations Section 800.13, the Action Proponents will promptly initiate consultation with your office if submerged historic and cultural resources are discovered.

The Action Proponents have determined that no adverse effect to historic and cultural resources within the jurisdictional waters of New Jersey would occur from the activities analyzed within the project information package. We request your concurrence with our finding of no adverse effect to historic and cultural resources within 30 days of receipt of this letter. My point of contact for this matter is Ms. Laura Busch, who may be reached at (757) 836-8471 or laura.m.busch2.civ@us.navy.mil.

Sincerely,

CUADROS.JORGE: Digitally signed by
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Date: 2025.01.16 14:49:23 -0500

J. R. CUADROS
Director, Fleet Installations and Environment
and Deputy Chief of Staff

Enclosure: Project Information Package



DEPARTMENT OF THE NAVY

U.S. FLEET FORCES COMMAND
1562 MITSCHER AVENUE SUITE 250
NORFOLK VA 23551-2487

HPO Project # 25-0663-1
HPO-B2025-195

5090
Ser N46/013
January 16, 2025

Ms. Katherine Marcopul, Administrator
New Jersey Historic Preservation Office
Mail Code 501-04B, P.O. Box 420
Trenton, New Jersey 08625-0420

Dear Ms. Marcopul:

As required by Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act and in support of the National Environmental Policy Act, the United States Department of the Navy (including both the U.S. Navy and the U.S. Marine Corps), in cooperation with the U.S. Coast Guard as Joint Lead Agency (referred to as the Action Proponents), intends to update its consultation with New Jersey Historic Preservation Office regarding activities in the Atlantic Fleet Training and Testing (AFTT) Study Area. The Action Proponents previously analyzed the potential environmental impacts of its pierside and at-sea training and testing activities in the western Atlantic Ocean and the Gulf of Mexico in the 2013 (Phase II) and 2018 (Phase III) AFTT Environmental Impact Statement /Overseas Environmental Impact Statement (EIS/OEIS). The Action Proponents are currently supplementing the 2018 Final AFTT EIS/OEIS with the 2024 Draft AFTT Supplemental EIS/OEIS (Phase IV) published on September 20, 2024.

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The project information package includes a description of the AFTT Study Area, which functions as the area of potential effects (APE). The locations where training and testing activities are proposed to occur off the coast of New Jersey include the following: the Northeast Range Complexes, including the Narragansett Bay Operating Area (OPAREA) and Atlantic City OPAREA; Delaware Bay; Earle, New Jersey; and the U.S. Coast Guard Station in Atlantic City, New Jersey. In addition, activities occurring in **"Other AFTT Areas" have the potential to occur in the coastal waters of New Jersey.**

The project information package details the Action Proponents' efforts to identify historic and cultural resources within the APE, utilizing databases of known in-water resources maintained by various agencies and interested organizations. This information, combined with data from prior consultations, was used to update this current consultation.

The project information package describes how the undertaking could affect both known and unidentified historic and cultural resources within the APE. Navy analysis identified explosives and physical disturbance as stressors that have the potential to affect historic and cultural resources, which may occur in jurisdictional waters of New Jersey. A complete assessment of the potential impacts on historic and cultural resources due to training and testing activities can be found in the final versions of the 2013 and 2018 AFTT EIS/OEIS.

August 2025

HPO Project # 25-0663-1
HPO-B2025-195
5090
Ser N46/013
January 16, 2025

The project information package describes the Action Proponents' methods used to avoid and minimize effects to historic and cultural resources. The Action Proponents follow standard operating procedures, which ensure safety and mission success, but also potentially provide secondary benefits to historic and cultural resources during training and testing activities. For instance, underwater detonation training occurs in designated areas, reducing the potential for interactions with historic and cultural resources, as detailed in section 2.3.3.9 of the 2018 Final AFTT EIS/OEIS (Underwater Detonation Safety). The Action Proponents also designed mitigation measures to avoid potential impacts from the Proposed Action. Section 5.7.2 of the 2024 Draft AFTT Supplemental EIS/OEIS details mitigation measures for artificial reef, live hard bottom, submerged aquatic vegetation, and shipwrecks. As an example, the Action Proponents will avoid precision anchoring within the anchor swing diameter and refrain from conducting explosive mine countermeasure and neutralization activities within 350 yards (320 meters) of shipwrecks to ensure protection of historic and cultural resources.

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The Action Proponents have determined that no adverse effect to historic and cultural resources within the jurisdictional waters of New Jersey would occur from the activities analyzed within the project information package. We request your concurrence with our finding of no adverse effect to historic and cultural resources within 30 days of receipt of this letter. My point of contact for this matter is Ms. Laura Busch, who may be reached at (757) 836-8471 or laura.m.busch2.civ@us.navy.mil.

Sincerely,

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Date: 2025.01.16 14:49:23 -08'00'

J. R. CUADROS
Director, Fleet Installations and Environment
and Deputy Chief of Staff

Enclosure: Project Information Package

As proposed, the project will **not adversely affect** historic properties. Pursuant to 800.5(c), if no consulting parties object to this finding within the 30-day review period, the project may proceed, as proposed, unless resources are discovered during project implementation, pursuant to 800.13.

Katherine J. Marcopul 2/21/2025
Katherine J. Marcopul Date
Deputy State Historic Preservation Officer NAE



DEPARTMENT OF THE NAVY

U.S. FLEET FORCES COMMAND
1562 MITSCHER AVENUE SUITE 250
NORFOLK VA 23551-2487

5090
Ser N46/014
January 16, 2025

Mr. Daniel Mackay
Deputy Commissioner
New York State Historic Preservation Office
P.O. Box 189
Waterford, New York 12188

Dear Mr. Mackay:

As required by Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act and in support of the National Environmental Policy Act, the United States Department of the Navy (including both the U.S. Navy and the U.S. Marine Corps), in cooperation with the U.S. Coast Guard as Joint Lead Agency (referred to as the Action Proponents), intends to update its consultation with New York State Historic Preservation Office regarding activities in the Atlantic Fleet Training and Testing (AFTT) Study Area. The Action Proponents previously analyzed the potential environmental impacts of its pierside and at-sea training and testing activities in the western Atlantic Ocean and the Gulf of Mexico in the 2013 (Phase II) and 2018 (Phase III) AFTT Environmental Impact Statement /Overseas Environmental Impact Statement (EIS/OEIS). The Action Proponents are currently supplementing the 2018 Final AFTT EIS/OEIS with the 2024 Draft AFTT Supplemental EIS/OEIS (Phase IV); published on September 20, 2024.

The enclosed project information package details the proposed training and testing activities for this phase of the undertaking. Most of the activities are similar to those discussed in the 2013 and 2018 EIS/OEISs, with no significant change in their potential effects. However, some activities have either increased or decreased in scope, been reclassified, or slightly modified since the previous consultations. Note that the 2024 Draft AFTT Supplemental EIS/OEIS assesses all proposed training and testing activities, not just those that have changed since the 2018 Final AFTT EIS/OEIS.

The project information package includes a description of the AFTT Study Area, which functions as the area of potential effects (APE). The locations where training and testing activities are proposed to occur off the coast of New York include the following: Northeast Range Complexes, to include the Narragansett Bay Operating Area; Northeast Range Complexes Inshore, to include Block Island Sound; and the U.S. Coast Guard Station in Montauk, New York. In addition, activities occurring in "Other AFTT Areas" have the potential to occur in the coastal waters of New York.

The project information package details the Action Proponents' efforts to identify historic and cultural resources within the APE, utilizing databases of known in-water resources maintained by various agencies and interested organizations. This information, combined with data from prior consultations, was used to update this current consultation.

The project information package describes how the undertaking could affect both known and unidentified historic and cultural resources within the APE. Navy analysis identified explosives and physical disturbance as stressors that have the potential to affect historic and cultural resources, which may occur in jurisdictional waters of New York. A complete assessment of the potential impacts on historic and cultural resources due to training and testing activities can be found in the final versions of the 2013 and 2018 AFTT EIS/OEIS.

5090
Ser N46/014
January 16, 2025

The project information package describes the Action Proponents' methods used to avoid and minimize effects to historic and cultural resources. The Action Proponents follow standard operating procedures, which ensure safety and mission success, but also potentially provide secondary benefits to historic and cultural resources during training and testing activities. For instance, underwater detonation training occurs in designated areas, reducing the potential for interactions with historic and cultural resources, as detailed in section 2.3.3.9 of the 2018 Final AFTT EIS/OEIS (Underwater Detonation Safety). The Action Proponents also designed mitigation measures to avoid potential impacts from the Proposed Action. Section 5.7.2 of the 2024 Draft AFTT Supplemental EIS/OEIS details mitigation measures for artificial reef, live hard bottom, submerged aquatic vegetation, and shipwrecks. As an example, the Action Proponents will avoid precision anchoring within the anchor swing diameter and refrain from conducting explosive mine countermeasure and neutralization activities within 350 yards (320 meters) of shipwrecks to ensure protection of historic and cultural resources.

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The Action Proponents have determined that no adverse effect to historic and cultural resources within the jurisdictional waters of New York would occur from the activities analyzed within the project information package. We request your concurrence with our finding of no adverse effect to historic and cultural resources within 30 days of receipt of this letter. My point of contact for this matter is Ms. Laura Busch, who may be reached at (757) 836-8471 or laura.m.busch2.civ@us.navy.mil.

Sincerely,

CUADROS, JORGE
RICARDO.1186806
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CUADROS, JORGE RICARDO.11
86806162
Date: 2025.01.16 14:50:18 -0500

J. R. CUADROS
Director, Fleet Installations and Environment
and Deputy Chief of Staff

Enclosure: Project Information Package



DEPARTMENT OF THE NAVY

U.S. FLEET FORCES COMMAND
1562 MITSCHER AVENUE SUITE 250
NORFOLK VA 23551-2487

5090
Ser N46/011
January 16, 2025

Ms. Ramona Bartos
Administrator, North Carolina State Historic Preservation Office
Mail Service Center 4617
Raleigh, North Carolina 27699

Dear Ms. Bartos:

As required by Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act and in support of the National Environmental Policy Act, the United States Department of the Navy (including both the U.S. Navy and the U.S. Marine Corps), in cooperation with the U.S. Coast Guard as Joint Lead Agency (referred to as the Action Proponents), intends to update its consultation with North Carolina State Historic Preservation Office regarding activities in the Atlantic Fleet Training and Testing (AFTT) Study Area. The Action Proponents previously analyzed the potential environmental impacts of its pierside and at-sea training and testing activities in the western Atlantic Ocean and the Gulf of Mexico in the 2013 (Phase II) and 2018 (Phase III) AFTT Environmental Impact Statement /Overseas Environmental Impact Statement (EIS/OEIS). The Action Proponents are currently supplementing the 2018 Final AFTT EIS/OEIS with the 2024 Draft AFTT Supplemental EIS/OEIS (Phase IV); published on September 20, 2024.

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The project information package includes a description of the AFTT Study Area, which functions as the area of potential effects (APE). The locations where training and testing activities are proposed to occur off the coast of North Carolina include the following: Virginia Capes Range Complex and associated Operating Areas (OPAREAs); Jacksonville Range Complex and associated OPAREAs (Charleston OPAREA); Navy Cherry Point Range Complex; the inland waters of Wilmington, North Carolina, and Morehead City, North Carolina; and the U.S. Coast Guard Station in Elizabeth City, North Carolina. In addition, activities occurring in "Other AFTT Areas" have the potential to occur in the coastal waters of North Carolina.

The project information package details the Action Proponents' efforts to identify historic and cultural resources within the APE, utilizing databases of known in-water resources maintained by various agencies and interested organizations. This information, combined with data from prior consultations, was used to update this current consultation.

The project information package describes how the undertaking could affect both known and unidentified historic and cultural resources within the APE. Navy analysis identified explosives and physical disturbance as stressors that have the potential to affect historic and cultural resources, which may occur in the jurisdictional waters of North Carolina. A complete assessment of the potential impacts on historic and cultural resources due to training and testing activities can be found in the final versions of the 2013 and 2018 AFTT EIS/OEIS.

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Ser N46/011
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The project information package describes the Action Proponents' methods used to avoid and minimize effects to historic and cultural resources. The Action Proponents follow standard operating procedures, which ensure safety and mission success, but also potentially provide secondary benefits to historic and cultural resources during training and testing activities. For instance, underwater detonation training occurs in designated areas, reducing the potential for interactions with historic and cultural resources, as detailed in section 2.3.3.9 of the 2018 Final AFTT EIS/OEIS (Underwater Detonation Safety). The Action Proponents also designed mitigation measures to avoid potential impacts from the Proposed Action. Section 5.7.2 of the 2024 Draft AFTT Supplemental EIS/OEIS details mitigation measures for artificial reef, live hard bottom, submerged aquatic vegetation, and shipwrecks. As an example, the Action Proponents will avoid precision anchoring within the anchor swing diameter and refrain from conducting explosive mine countermeasure and neutralization activities within 350 yards (320 meters) of shipwrecks to ensure protection of historic and cultural resources.

While unintentional impacts to known historic and cultural resources may result from some activities involved in the Proposed Action, the Action Proponents believe such impacts are unlikely due to the standard operating procedures and avoidance measures in place. Additionally, the Action Proponents believe the likelihood of impacts on unidentified historic and cultural resources is very low. However, in accordance with the provisions found in 36 Code of Federal Regulations Section 800.13, the Action Proponents will promptly initiate consultation with your office if submerged historic and cultural resources are discovered.

The Action Proponents have determined that no adverse effect to historic and cultural resources within the jurisdictional waters of North Carolina would occur from the activities analyzed within the project information package. We request your concurrence with our finding of no adverse effect to historic and cultural resources within 30 days of receipt of this letter. My point of contact for this matter is Ms. Laura Busch, who may be reached at (757) 836-8471 or laura.m.busch2.civ@us.navy.mil.

Sincerely,

CUADROS, JORGE
RICARDO.1186806
162

Digitally signed by
CUADROS, JORGE RICARDO.11
86806162
Date: 2025.01.16 14:41:44 -0500

J. R. CUADROS
Director, Fleet Installations and Environment
and Deputy Chief of Staff

Enclosure: Project Information Package



North Carolina Department of Natural and Cultural Resources
State Historic Preservation Office

Ramona M. Bartos, Administrator

Governor Josh Stein
Secretary Pamela B. Cashwell

Office of Archives and History
Deputy Secretary Darin J. Waters, Ph.D.

August 12, 2025

Laura Busch
Department of the Navy
U.S. Fleet Forces Command
1562 Mitscher Avenue, Suite 250
Norfolk, VA 23551

laura.m.busch2.civ@us.navy.mil

Re: Atlantic Fleet Training and Testing (AFTT) activities, offshore North Carolina, ER 24-2039

Dear Ms. Busch:


Thank you for your letter of January 24, 2025, regarding the above-referenced undertaking. We have reviewed the submission and offer the following comments.

The Action Proponents have determined that no adverse effect to historic and cultural resources within the jurisdictional waters of North Carolina would occur from the activities analyzed within the project information package. We concur with this assessment. Based on available information, there is a low probability any maritime sites potentially eligible for NRHP listing will be affected by the proposed project.

The above comments are made pursuant to Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act and the Advisory Council on Historic Preservation's Regulations for Compliance with Section 106 codified at 36 CFR Part 800.

Thank you for your cooperation and consideration. If you have questions concerning the above comment, contact Renee Gledhill-Earley, environmental review coordinator, at 919-814-6579 or environmental.review@dncr.nc.gov. In all future communication concerning this project, please cite the above referenced tracking number.

Sincerely,


for Ramona Bartos, Deputy
State Historic Preservation Officer

L.6.15 RHODE ISLAND



DEPARTMENT OF THE NAVY

U.S. FLEET FORCES COMMAND
1562 MITSCHER AVENUE SUITE 250
NORFOLK VA 23551-2487

5090
Ser N46/015
January 16, 2025

Mr. Jeffrey Emidy
Executive Director
Rhode Island Historical Preservation & Heritage Commission
1 Capitol Hill, Suite 201
Providence, Rhode Island 02908

Dear Mr. Emidy:

As required by Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act and in support of the National Environmental Policy Act, the United States Department of the Navy (including both the U.S. Navy and the U.S. Marine Corps), in cooperation with the U.S. Coast Guard as Joint Lead Agency (referred to as the Action Proponents), intends to update its consultation with Rhode Island Historical Preservation & Heritage Commission regarding activities in the Atlantic Fleet Training and Testing (AFTT) Study Area. The Action Proponents previously analyzed the potential environmental impacts of its pierside and at-sea training and testing activities in the western Atlantic Ocean and the Gulf of Mexico in the 2013 (Phase II) and 2018 (Phase III) AFTT Environmental Impact Statement /Overseas Environmental Impact Statement (EIS/OEIS). The Action Proponents are currently supplementing the 2018 Final AFTT EIS/OEIS with the 2024 Draft AFTT Supplemental EIS/OEIS (Phase IV) published on September 20, 2024.

The enclosed project information package details the proposed training and testing activities for this phase of the undertaking. Most of the activities are similar to those discussed in the 2013 and 2018 EIS/OEISs, with no significant change in their potential effects. However, some activities have either increased or decreased in scope, been reclassified, or slightly modified since the previous consultations. Note that the 2024 Draft AFTT Supplemental EIS/OEIS assesses all proposed training and testing activities, not just those that have changed since the 2018 Final AFTT EIS/OEIS.

The project information package includes a description of the AFTT Study Area, which functions as the area of potential effects (APE). The locations where training and testing activities are proposed to occur off the coast of Rhode Island include the following: the Northeast Range Complexes, specifically, the Narragansett Bay Operating Area; Naval Undersea Warfare Center Division, Newport Testing Range; Northeast Range Complexes Inshore, to include Block Island Sound, Rhode Island Sound, and Narragansett Bay; Naval Station Newport; and the U.S. Coast Guard Station in Newport, Rhode Island. In addition, activities occurring in "Other AFTT Areas" have the potential to occur in the coastal waters of Rhode Island.

The project information package details the Action Proponents' efforts to identify historic and cultural resources within the APE, utilizing databases of known in-water resources maintained by various agencies and interested organizations. This information, combined with data from prior consultations, was used to update this current consultation.

The project information package describes how the undertaking could affect both known and unidentified historic and cultural resources within the APE. Navy analysis identified explosives and physical disturbance as stressors that have the potential to affect historic and cultural resources, which may occur in jurisdictional waters of Rhode Island. A complete assessment of the potential impacts on historic and cultural resources due to training and testing activities can be found in the final versions of the 2013 and 2018 AFTT EIS/OEIS.

5090
Ser N46/015
January 16, 2025

The project information package describes the Action Proponents' methods used to avoid and minimize effects to historic and cultural resources. The Action Proponents follow standard operating procedures, which ensure safety and mission success, but also potentially provide secondary benefits to historic and cultural resources during training and testing activities. For instance, underwater detonation training occurs in designated areas, reducing the potential for interactions with historic and cultural resources, as detailed in section 2.3.3.9 of the 2018 Final AFTT EIS/OEIS (Underwater Detonation Safety). The Action Proponents also designed mitigation measures to avoid potential impacts from the Proposed Action. Section 5.7.2 of the 2024 Draft AFTT Supplemental EIS/OEIS details mitigation measures for artificial reef, live hard bottom, submerged aquatic vegetation, and shipwrecks. As an example, the Action Proponents will avoid precision anchoring within the anchor swing diameter and refrain from conducting explosive mine countermeasure and neutralization activities within 350 yards (320 meters) of shipwrecks to ensure protection of historic and cultural resources.

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The Action Proponents have determined that no adverse effect to historic and cultural resources within the jurisdictional waters of Rhode Island would occur from the activities analyzed within the project information package. We request your concurrence with our finding of no adverse effect to historic and cultural resources within 30 days of receipt of this letter. My point of contact for this matter is Ms. Laura Busch, who may be reached at (757) 836-8471 or laura.m.busch2.civ@us.navy.mil.

Sincerely,

CUADROS.JORGE
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Date: 2025.01.16 14:45:12 -05'00'

J. R. CUADROS
Director, Fleet Installations and Environment
and Deputy Chief of Staff

Enclosure: Project Information Package



STATE OF RHODE ISLAND
HISTORICAL PRESERVATION & HERITAGE COMMISSION

Old State House 150 Benefit Street Providence, RI 02903

Telephone 401-222-2678
TTY 401-222-3700

Fax 401-222-2968
www.preservation.ri.gov

18 February 2025

Jorge Cuadros
Director, Fleet Installations and Environment
Dept. of the Navy, US Fleet Forces Command
1562 Mitscher Ave., Suite 250
Norfolk VA 23551

Via email to Laura Busch
US Fleet Forces
Environmental Readiness Division
laura.m.busch2.civ@us.navy.mil

Re: Final AFTT EIS/OEIS with the 2024 Draft AFTT Supplemental EIS/OEIS (Phase IV)

Dear Mr. Cuadros:

The Rhode Island Historical Preservation and Heritage Commission (RIHPHC) staff has reviewed the above-referenced Atlantic Fleet Training and Testing activities to be conducted within Rhode Island waters.

We concur that the proposed activities will have no effect on any significant cultural resources (those listed in, or eligible for listing in, the National Register of Historic Places) located within Rhode Island waters.

These comments are provided in accordance with Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act. If you have any questions, please contact Elizabeth Totten, Project Review Coordinator, or Charlotte Taylor, archaeologist at this office.

Very truly yours,

Jeffrey D. Emidy
Executive Director
State Historic Preservation Officer

250218.07



DEPARTMENT OF THE NAVY

U.S. FLEET FORCES COMMAND
1562 MITSCHER AVENUE SUITE 250
NORFOLK VA 23551-2487

5090
Ser N46/016
January 16, 2025

Dr. W. Eric Emerson, Director
South Carolina State Historic Preservation Office
8301 Parklane Road
Columbia, South Carolina 29223

Dear Dr. Emerson:

As required by Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act and in support of the National Environmental Policy Act, the United States Department of the Navy (including both the U.S. Navy and the U.S. Marine Corps), in cooperation with the U.S. Coast Guard as Joint Lead Agency (referred to as the Action Proponents), intends to update its consultation with South Carolina State Historic Preservation Office regarding activities in the Atlantic Fleet Training and Testing (AFTT) Study Area. The Action Proponents previously analyzed the potential environmental impacts of its pierside and at-sea training and testing activities in the western Atlantic Ocean and the Gulf of Mexico in the 2013 (Phase II) and 2018 (Phase III) AFTT Environmental Impact Statement /Overseas Environmental Impact Statement (EIS/OEIS). The Action Proponents are currently supplementing the 2018 Final AFTT EIS/OEIS with the 2024 Draft AFTT Supplemental EIS/OEIS (Phase IV) published on September 20, 2024.

The enclosed project information package details the proposed training and testing activities for this phase of the undertaking. Most of the activities are similar to those discussed in the 2013 and 2018 EIS/OEISs, with no significant change in their potential effects. However, some activities have either increased or decreased in scope, been reclassified, or slightly modified since the previous consultations. Note that the 2024 Draft AFTT Supplemental EIS/OEIS assesses all proposed training and testing activities, not just those that have changed since the 2018 Final AFTT EIS/OEIS.

The project information package includes a description of the AFTT Study Area, which functions as the area of potential effects (APE). The locations where training and testing activities are proposed to occur off the coast of South Carolina include the following: Jacksonville Range Complex; Jacksonville Range Complex Inshore, to include portions of the Cooper River; and the U.S. Coast Guard Station in Charleston South, Carolina. In addition, activities occurring in "Other AFTT Areas" have the potential to occur in the coastal waters of South Carolina.

The project information package details the Action Proponents' efforts to identify historic and cultural resources within the APE, utilizing databases of known in-water resources maintained by various agencies and interested organizations. This information, combined with data from prior consultations, was used to update this current consultation.

The project information package describes how the undertaking could affect both known and unidentified historic and cultural resources within the APE. Navy analysis identified explosives and physical disturbance as stressors that have the potential to affect historic and cultural resources, which may occur in jurisdictional waters of South Carolina. A complete assessment of the potential impacts on historic and cultural resources due to training and testing activities can be found in the final versions of the 2013 and 2018 AFTT EIS/OEIS.

The project information package describes the Action Proponents' methods used to avoid and minimize effects to historic and cultural resources. The Action Proponents follow standard operating procedures,

5090
Ser N46/016
January 16, 2025

which ensure safety and mission success, but also potentially provide secondary benefits to historic and cultural resources during training and testing activities. For instance, underwater detonation training occurs in designated areas, reducing the potential for interactions with historic and cultural resources, as detailed in section 2.3.3.9 of the 2018 Final AFTT EIS/OEIS (Underwater Detonation Safety). The Action Proponents also designed mitigation measures to avoid potential impacts from the Proposed Action. Section 5.7.2 of the 2024 Draft AFTT Supplemental EIS/OEIS details mitigation measures for artificial reef, live hard bottom, submerged aquatic vegetation, and shipwrecks. As an example, the Action Proponents will avoid precision anchoring within the anchor swing diameter and refrain from conducting explosive mine countermeasure and neutralization activities within 350 yards (320 meters) of shipwrecks to ensure protection of historic and cultural resources.

While unintentional impacts to known historic properties may result from some activities involved in the Proposed Action, the Action Proponents believe such impacts are unlikely due to the standard operating procedures and avoidance measures in place. Additionally, the Action Proponents believe the likelihood of impacts on unidentified historic properties is very low. However, in accordance with the provisions found in 36 Code of Federal Regulations Section 800.13, the Action Proponents will promptly initiate consultation with your office if submerged historic and cultural resources are discovered.

The Action Proponents have determined that no adverse effect to historic properties within the jurisdictional waters of South Carolina would occur from the activities analyzed within the project information package. We request your concurrence with our finding of no adverse effect to historic properties within 30 days of receipt of this letter. My point of contact for this matter is Ms. Laura Busch, who may be reached at (757) 836-8471 or laura.m.busch2.civ@us.navy.mil.

Sincerely,

CUADROS JORGE RICARDO.1186806
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Digitally signed by
CUADROS JORGE RICARDO.11
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Date: 2025.01.16 14:46:42 -0500

J. R. CUADROS
Director, Fleet Installations and Environment
and Deputy Chief of Staff

Enclosure: Project Information Package

From: Spirek, Jim <SPIREKJ@mailbox.sc.edu>
Sent: Thursday, April 24, 2025 10:53 AM
To: Busch, Laura M CIV USN (USA) <laura.m.busch2.civ@us.navy.mil>
Cc: Larsen, Robert <RLarsen@scdah.sc.gov>; Krater, Wyatt <WKRATER@mailbox.sc.edu>
Subject: [Non-DoD Source] Re: Atlantic Fleet Training & Testing Study Area (AFTT) - 2025 Update

Ms. Busch,

We have reviewed the materials that you have provided concerning the above project. We concur with the proposed mitigation efforts to avoid adverse impacts to submerged cultural resources within state waters. In the event of potential damage to a shipwreck or other archaeological features please contact the SHPO or my office for further guidance. Also, for a more complete listing of shipwrecks within the AFTT's boundaries in Federal waters please consult the Bureau of Ocean Energy Management's [Atlantic Shipwreck Database](#). Find the BOEM contact information below to request access to the database. If you need any additional information, please contact me or Wyatt Krater. Good luck with conducting safe operations.

renewable_reporting@boem.gov
OREP/Atlantic Regional Historic Preservation Officer
Bureau of Ocean Energy Management
Office of Renewable Energy
45600 Woodland Road,
Sterling, Virginia 20166
703-787-1549

Jim

James D. Spirek
State Underwater Archaeologist
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Phone: (803) 576-6566
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E-mail: spirek@sc.edu
Maritime Research Division Website: <http://artsandsciences.sc.edu/sciaa/mrd/>
Follow MRD on Facebook: [@MaritimeResearchDivision](https://www.facebook.com/MaritimeResearchDivision)
Follow MRD on Instagram: [@MaritimeResearchDivision](https://www.instagram.com/MaritimeResearchDivision)
SCIAA Website: <http://www.cas.sc.edu/sciaa/>
Follow SCIAA on Facebook: [@SCIAAOfficial](https://www.facebook.com/SCIAAOfficial)



L.6.17 TEXAS



DEPARTMENT OF THE NAVY

U.S. FLEET FORCES COMMAND
1562 MITSCHER AVENUE SUITE 250
NORFOLK VA 23551-2487

5090
Ser N46/017
January 16, 2025

Mr. John L. Nau, III, Chairman
Texas Historical Commission
P.O. Box 12276
Austin, Texas 78711

Dear Mr. Nau:

As required by Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act and in support of the National Environmental Policy Act, the United States Department of the Navy (including both the U.S. Navy and the U.S. Marine Corps), in cooperation with the U.S. Coast Guard as Joint Lead Agency (referred to as the Action Proponents), intends to update its consultation with the Texas Historical Commission regarding activities in the Atlantic Fleet Training and Testing (AFTT) Study Area. The Action Proponents previously analyzed the potential environmental impacts of its pierside and at-sea training and testing activities in the western Atlantic Ocean and the Gulf of Mexico in the 2013 (Phase II) and 2018 (Phase III) AFTT Environmental Impact Statement /Overseas Environmental Impact Statement (EIS/OEIS). The Action Proponents are currently supplementing the 2018 Final AFTT EIS/OEIS with the 2024 Draft AFTT Supplemental EIS/OEIS (Phase IV); published on September 20, 2024.

The enclosed project information package details the proposed training and testing activities for this phase of the undertaking. Most of the activities are similar to those discussed in the 2013 and 2018 EIS/OEISs, with no significant change in their potential effects. However, some activities have either increased or decreased in scope, been reclassified, or slightly modified since the previous consultations. Note that the 2024 Draft AFTT Supplemental EIS/OEIS assesses all proposed training and testing activities, not just those that have changed since the 2018 Final AFTT EIS/OEIS.

The project information package includes a description of the AFTT Study Area, which functions as the area of potential effects (APE). The locations where training and testing activities are proposed to occur off the coast of Texas include the following: the Gulf of Mexico Range Complex, including the Corpus Christi Operating Area; the civilian ports of Beaumont and Corpus Christi, Texas; and the U.S. Coast Guard Station in Corpus Christi, Texas. In addition, activities occurring in "Other AFTT Areas" have the potential to occur in the coastal waters of Texas.

The project information package details the Action Proponents' efforts to identify historic and cultural resources within the APE, utilizing databases of known in-water resources maintained by various agencies and interested organizations. This information, combined with data from prior consultations, was used to update this current consultation.

The project information package describes how the undertaking could affect both known and unidentified historic and cultural resources within the APE. Navy analysis identified explosives and physical disturbance as stressors that have the potential to affect historic and cultural resources, which may occur in jurisdictional waters of Texas. A complete assessment of the potential impacts on historic and cultural resources due to training and testing activities can be found in the final versions of the 2013 and 2018 AFTT EIS/OEIS.

The project information package describes the Action Proponents' methods used to avoid and minimize effects to historic and cultural resources. The Action Proponents follow standard operating procedures,

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Ser N46/017
January 16, 2025

which ensure safety and mission success, but also potentially provide secondary benefits to historic and cultural resources during training and testing activities. For instance, underwater detonation training occurs in designated areas, reducing the potential for interactions with historic and cultural resources, as detailed in section 2.3.3.9 of the 2018 Final AFTT EIS/OEIS (Underwater Detonation Safety). The Action Proponents also designed mitigation measures to avoid potential impacts from the Proposed Action. Section 5.7.2 of the 2024 Draft AFTT Supplemental EIS/OEIS details mitigation measures for artificial reef, live hard bottom, submerged aquatic vegetation, and shipwrecks. As an example, the Action Proponents will avoid precision anchoring within the anchor swing diameter and refrain from conducting explosive mine countermeasure and neutralization activities within 350 yards (320 meters) of shipwrecks to ensure protection of historic and cultural resources.

While unintentional impacts to known historic and cultural resources may result from some activities involved in the Proposed Action, the Action Proponents believe such impacts are unlikely due to the standard operating procedures and avoidance measures in place. Additionally, the Action Proponents believe the likelihood of impacts on unidentified historic and cultural resources is very low. However, in accordance with the provisions found in 36 Code of Federal Regulations Section 800.13, the Action Proponents will promptly initiate consultation with your office if submerged historic and cultural resources are discovered.

The Action Proponents have determined that no adverse effect to historic and cultural resources within the jurisdictional waters of Texas would occur from the activities analyzed within the project information package. We request your concurrence with our finding of no adverse effect to historic and cultural resources within 30 days of receipt of this letter. My point of contact for this matter is Ms. Laura Busch, who may be reached at (757) 836-8471 or laura.m.busch2.civ@us.navy.mil.

Sincerely,

CUADROS.JORGE
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J. R. CUADROS
Director, Fleet Installations and Environment
and Deputy Chief of Staff

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Date: 2025.01.16 14:47:04 -0500

Enclosure: Project Information Package



P.O. Box 12276
Austin, Texas 78711-2276
512-463-6100
thc.texas.gov

July 8, 2025

Laura Busch
U.S. Fleet Forces Command
1562 Mitscher Avenue, Suite 250
Norfolk, VA 23551-2487

Re: Project review under Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966 and the Antiquities Code of Texas
Atlantic Fleet Training and Testing Draft Supplemental Environmental Impact Statement/Overseas Environmental Impact Statement
THC Tracking No. 202507485, 202512116

Dear Ms. Busch,

Thank you for your correspondence describing the above-referenced project. This letter serves as comment on the proposed federal undertaking from the State Historic Preservation Officer, the Executive Director of the Texas Historical Commission (THC). As the state agency responsible for administering the Antiquities Code of Texas, these comments also provide recommendations on compliance with state antiquities laws and regulations.

The THC Archeology Division review staff, led by State Marine Archeologist Amy Borgens, has completed the review of the Atlantic Fleet Training and Testing (AFTT) Draft Supplemental Environmental Impact Statement/Overseas Environmental Impact Statement. On 12 March 2025, the THC requested additional information about AFTT training tasks that might introduce impacts to the seafloor within the Corpus Christi Operating Area (OPAREA). There are nearly 2,000 shipwrecks reported in Texas waters, of which approximately 10% have been detected and are recorded archeological sites. The Corpus Christi OPAREA has many underwater archeological sites including those associated with the Mansfield Cut Underwater Archeological National Register District.

Coordination with the Naval Facilities Engineering Systems Command Atlantic (NAVFAC) confirmed that some AFTT tasks may introduce ground-disturbing impacts. As part of this consultation, the THC offered to provide NAVFAC with a shapefile delineating areas that contain significant archeological sites requiring avoidance. According to NAVFAC, this sensitive information would be made available for planning purposes in the Navy classified mitigation software Protective Measures Assessment Protocol (PMAP) to ensure avoidance of the protected underwater archeological sites. The polygons created by the THC intentionally depict large areas, drawn along the Texas General Land Office track boundaries, to conceal specific site locations which are protected and restricted information. The shapefile "THC Avoidance Areas" was created in consultation with and approved by Bradford Jones, State Archeologist and Director of the Division of Archeology at the THC. It was provided to NAVFAC in an email on 17 June 2025. The THC concurs that the AFTT introduces no adverse effects to historic properties on the condition that the THC-specified areas presented in the "THC Avoidance Areas" shapefile are avoided.

Thank you for your cooperation in this federal and state review process, and for your efforts to preserve the

Atlantic Fleet Training and Testing, THC Tracking No. 202512116

irreplaceable heritage of Texas. **If you have any questions concerning our review or if we can be of further assistance, please contact Amy Borgens at amy.borgens@thc.texas.gov/737-329-5898.**

Sincerely,



**for Brad Patterson, Chief Deputy State Historic Preservation Officer
Deputy Executive Director, Texas Historical Commission
BP/ab**

GREG ABBOTT, GOVERNOR | JOHN L. NAU, III, CHAIR

L.6.18 VIRGINIA



DEPARTMENT OF THE NAVY

U.S. FLEET FORCES COMMAND
1562 MITSCHER AVENUE SUITE 250
NORFOLK VA 23551-2487

5090
Ser N46/018
January 16, 2025

Ms. Julie Langan
Director, Virginia Department of Historic Resources
2801 Kensington Avenue
Richmond, Virginia 23221

Dear Ms. Langan:

As required by Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act and in support of the National Environmental Policy Act, the United States Department of the Navy (including both the U.S. Navy and the U.S. Marine Corps), in cooperation with the U.S. Coast Guard as Joint Lead Agency (referred to as the Action Proponents), intends to update its consultation with the Virginia Department of Historic Resources regarding activities in the Atlantic Fleet Training and Testing (AFTT) Study Area. The Action Proponents previously analyzed the potential environmental impacts of its pierside and at-sea training and testing activities in the western Atlantic Ocean and the Gulf of Mexico in the 2013 (Phase II) and 2018 (Phase III) AFTT Environmental Impact Statement /Overseas Environmental Impact Statement (EIS/OEIS). The Action Proponents are currently supplementing the 2018 Final AFTT EIS/OEIS with the 2024 Draft AFTT Supplemental EIS/OEIS (Phase IV); published on September 20, 2024.

The enclosed project information package details the proposed training and testing activities for this phase of the undertaking. Most of the activities are similar to those discussed in the 2013 and 2018 EIS/OEISs, with no significant change in their potential effects. However, some activities have either increased or decreased in scope, been reclassified, or slightly modified since the previous consultations. Note that the 2024 Draft AFTT Supplemental EIS/OEIS assesses all proposed training and testing activities, not just those that have changed since the 2018 Final AFTT EIS/OEIS.

The project information package includes a description of the AFTT Study Area, which functions as the area of potential effects (APE). The locations where training and testing activities are proposed to occur off the coast of Virginia include the following: the Virginia Capes (VACAPES) Range Complex; VACAPES Range Complex Inshore (which includes the lower Chesapeake Bay, portions of the James River and tributaries, portions of the York River, and Broad Bay); Naval Station Norfolk in Norfolk, Virginia; Norfolk Naval Shipyard in Portsmouth, Virginia; Joint Expeditionary Base Little Creek-Fort Story in Virginia Beach, Virginia; U.S. Coast Guard Stations in Portsmouth and Virginia Beach, Virginia; and, a commercial shipyard in Newport News, Virginia. In addition, activities occurring in "Other AFTT Areas" have the potential to occur in the coastal waters of Virginia.

The project information package details the Action Proponents' efforts to identify historic and cultural resources within the APE, utilizing databases of known in-water resources maintained by various agencies and interested organizations. This information, combined with data from prior consultations, was used to update this current consultation.

The project information package describes how the undertaking could affect both known and unidentified historic and cultural resources within the APE. Navy analysis identified explosives and physical disturbance as stressors that have the potential to affect historic and cultural resources, which may occur in jurisdictional waters of Virginia. A complete assessment of the potential impacts on historic and cultural resources due to training and testing activities can be found in the final versions of the 2013 and 2018 AFTT EIS/OEIS.

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Ser N46/018
January 16, 2025

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While unintentional impacts to known historic and cultural resources may result from some activities involved in the Proposed Action, the Action Proponents believe such impacts are unlikely due to the standard operating procedures and avoidance measures in place. Additionally, the Action Proponents believe the likelihood of impacts on unidentified historic and cultural resources is very low. However, in accordance with the provisions found in 36 Code of Federal Regulations Section 800.13, the Action Proponents will promptly initiate consultation with your office if submerged historic and cultural resources are discovered.

The Action Proponents have determined that no adverse effect to historic and cultural resources within the jurisdictional waters of Virginia would occur from the activities analyzed within the project information package. We request your concurrence with our finding of no adverse effect to historic and cultural resources within 30 days of receipt of this letter. My point of contact for this matter is Ms. Laura Busch, who may be reached at (757) 836-8471 or laura.m.busch2.civ@us.navy.mil.

Sincerely,

CUADROS.JORGE, Digitally signed by
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86806162
Date: 2025.01.16 14:48:31 -0500

J. R. CUADROS
Director, Fleet Installations and Environment
and Deputy Chief of Staff

Enclosure: Project Information Package

From: Bellville-marrion, Jennifer (DHR) <Jennifer.Bellville-Marrion@dhr.virginia.gov>
Sent: Wednesday, June 25, 2025 2:45 PM
To: Busch, Laura M CIV USN (USA) <laura.m.busch2.civ@us.navy.mil>
Subject: [Non-DoD Source] Re: Atlantic Fleet Training and Testing (DHR File No. 2025-3140)

Ms. Busch,

Thank you for requesting comments from the Department of Historic Resources (DHR) on the referenced project, Atlantic Fleet Training and Testing (DHR File No. 2025-3140). Based upon the documentation provided, it is our opinion that the historic properties within the Area of Potential Effects (APE) will not be adversely affected by the proposed undertaking.

Implementation of the undertaking in accordance with the finding of *No Adverse Effects* as documented fulfills the Federal agency's responsibilities under Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act. If the scope of the undertaking changes or if the undertaking cannot be completed as proposed in the application submitted and reviewed by DHR, please contact our office for guidance on reinitiating consultation under Section 106.

If you have any questions or require any further assistance, please contact me.

Sincerely,



Jenny Bellville-Marrion
Archaeologist - Review and Compliance
Department of Historic Resources

Email jennifer.bellville-marrion@dhr.virginia.gov
Phone 804-482-8091

2801 Kensington Ave, Richmond, VA 23221
www.dhr.virginia.gov

L.7 NATIONAL MARINE SANCTUARIES ACT

As part of the Supplemental Environmental Impact Statement/Overseas Environmental Impact Statement (EIS/OEIS) process, and in accordance with Section 304 (d) of the National Marine Sanctuaries Act, the Navy submitted a Sanctuary Resource Statement in November of 2024 to initiate consultation for the training and testing activities occurring within the Gulf of America and Atlantic Ocean as described in the Draft Supplemental EIS/OEIS. The Sanctuary Resource Statement further describes the proposed activities and study area, and provides the specific information required by the Office of National Marine Sanctuaries for consultation.



DEPARTMENT OF THE NAVY
U.S. FLEET FORCES COMMAND
1562 MITSCHER AVENUE SUITE 250
NORFOLK VA 23551-2487

5090
Ser N46/397
November 20, 2024

Ms. Vicki Wedell
NOAA Office of National Marine Sanctuaries
National Permit Coordinator
1305 East-West Highway (N/ORM6)
Silver Spring, MD 20910-3282

Dear Ms. Wedell:

In accordance with Section 304(d) of the National Marine Sanctuaries Act, the United States Navy (Navy) and United States Coast Guard (the Action Proponents) have prepared the enclosed Sanctuary Resource Statement to initiate consultation for training and testing activities associated with Atlantic Fleet Training and Testing (AFTT) activities occurring within the Atlantic Ocean and Gulf of Mexico. These activities comprise the proposed action as described in the AFTT Draft Supplemental Environmental Impact Statement/Overseas Environmental Impact Statement released in September 2024.

The proposed action may incidentally expose marine resources that reside within Stellwagen Bank, Gray's Reef, and Florida Keys National Marine Sanctuaries and the Hudson Canyon Proposed National Marine Sanctuary to sound and other environmental stressors associated with training and testing activities. The Sanctuary Resource Statement further describes the AFTT activities and study area, and provides the specific information required by the Office of National Marine Sanctuaries for consideration for this consultation.

We appreciate your continued support in helping the Navy to meet its environmental responsibilities. Please direct any questions to Ms. Jaime Gormley (757) 836-9099.

Sincerely,

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J. R. CUADROS
Director, Fleet Installations and Environment
and Deputy Chief of Staff



UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE
National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration
Office of National Marine Sanctuaries
Eastern Regional Office
1305 East West Highway
Silver Spring, MD 20910

January 23, 2025

Ms. Jaime Budzynkiewicz Gormley
Marine/Natural Resources Manager, N46544
Scientific Resources Branch
U.S. Fleet Forces Command
1562 Mitscher Ave., Ste 250
Norfolk, Virginia 2355

Ms. Jolie Harrison
NOAA National Marine Fisheries Service
Office of Protected Resources, Permits and Conservation Division
1315 East West Highway
Silver Spring, Maryland 20910

Dear Ms. Gormley and Ms. Harrison:

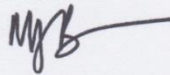
On December 3, 2024, the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) Office of National Marine Sanctuaries (ONMS) received the U.S. Department of the Navy and NOAA National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS) Sanctuary Resource Statement (SRS) and request to initiate consultation under section 304(d) of the National Marine Sanctuaries Act (NMSA; 16 U.S.C. 1434(d)) for Atlantic Fleet Testing and Training (AFTT) Phase IV activities occurring within the Gulf of Mexico and Atlantic Ocean. The testing and training activities analyzed therein comprise of the proposed action as described in the AFTT Draft Environmental Impact Statement/Draft Overseas Environmental Impact Statement published in September 2024.

Pursuant to section 304(d) of the NMSA, ONMS conducted a review of the AFTT Phase IV SRS and finds that it is sufficient for Stellwagen Bank, Gray's Reef, and Florida Key national marine sanctuaries for the purposes of making an injury determination and developing recommended alternatives. The next step in the consultation process is for ONMS to evaluate whether sanctuary resources are likely to be injured by the proposed action and, if so, to develop any necessary reasonable and prudent alternatives to protect sanctuary resources. ONMS will complete this work within 45 days of the date of this letter, and no later than March 10, 2025, unless another date is agreed to.

We appreciate the preliminary analysis on the effect of Navy/NMFS activities on the proposed Hudson Canyon National Marine Sanctuary. This information will be very helpful to inform a future consultation of the effects of Navy's ongoing training and testing activities if this sanctuary is designated. Should NOAA publish a final rule designating the new sanctuary, we would suggest that Navy and NMFS formally initiate section 304(d) consultation for that sanctuary. Navy and NMFS are welcome to rely on the preliminary analysis in the 2024 SRS to the extent it remains accurate, along with any new information that is necessary for ONMS to fully evaluate the potential to destroy, cause the loss of, or injure any sanctuary resources (or may affect the resources of Stellwagen Bank National Marine Sanctuary) and develop ONMS recommended alternatives to protect sanctuary resources.

If you have any questions, please contact Vicki Wedell at vicki.wedell@noaa.gov.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'MB', followed by a horizontal line extending to the right.

Matt Brookhart, Regional Director