

## FOREWORD

The Draft Hawaii-California Training and Testing (HCTT) Environmental Impact Statement/Overseas Environmental Impact Statement (EIS/OEIS) was released for public review and comment December 13, 2024, through February 11, 2025. Changes in this Final EIS/OEIS reflect responses to all substantive comments made on the Draft EIS/OEIS during the public comment period as well as refinements to the Proposed Action. Public comments and their corresponding responses are provided in Appendix L.2 (Public Comments).

### Changes from the Draft EIS/OEIS to the Final EIS/OEIS

While most sections in the EIS/OEIS were changed in some manner between the draft and final versions, many of those changes entailed minor modifications to improve clarity, primarily for one or more of the following reasons:

- Changes in the regulations and recent executive orders,
- Completion of consultations,
- Agency and public comments, and
- Corrections of errors.

Notable changes in this Final EIS/OEIS include the following:

### General Changes

- Due to the rescission of Council on Environmental Quality (CEQ) NEPA regulations, removed “Environmentally Preferable Action Alternative” from the Abstract, Executive Summary, and Chapter 2 (Description of Proposed Action and Alternatives).
- Throughout the document, removed references to 40 Code of Federal Regulations (CFR) 1500 et seq. (due to rescission of CEQ NEPA regulations).
- In accordance with recent Executive Orders, removed Environmental Justice.
  - Changed name of Section 3.11 from Socioeconomic Resources and Environmental Justice to Socioeconomic Resources.
  - Removed references to Environmental Justice in all other locations.
- In accordance with Executive Orders and Administration direction, removed analysis of “climate change” throughout the document.
- ESA effect determination tables have been removed from the biological resources sections; that information can be found in the biological opinion.
- Changed “Draft” EIS/OEIS to “Final” and changed tense of language where applicable (e.g., “will consult” to “did consult”).

### Executive Summary

- Added clarifying language in Section ES.1.1 that military readiness activities are comprised of three components: training, testing, and modernization and sustainment of ranges.

- Corrected effects determinations for Fishes in Table ES-1 for Energy, Entanglement, and Ingestion stressors to align with the effects analysis in Section 3.6.
- Made updates to Tables ES-3, ES-4, ES-5, ES-6, and ES-7 to maintain alignment with recent updates to Chapter 5 (Mitigation).

#### Chapter 1 Purpose and Need

- Revised the NMFS purpose statement in Section 1.5 and the description of the MMPA process in Section 1.7 in response to a NMFS comment.

#### Chapter 2 Description of Proposed Action and Alternatives

- Revised Section 2.3.1 (Foreign Military Participation), describing when foreign military activities are part of this Proposed Action and when they are not.

#### Section 3.0 Introduction

- Revised Section 3.0.2 (Effects Analysis Framework) to remove CEQ regulations and updated Table 3.0-2 to make it more relevant to this project. (This change is also reflected in every resource section in the significance determination language.)
- Revised Table 3.0-7 to add Unmanned Aerial System aircraft for comparison to manned aircraft.
- Revised Table 3.0-7 to reflect airborne noise levels of more current F/A-18 (E/F) aircraft and more applicable F-35 (B/C) aircraft.
- Revised Table 3.0-27 to show additional Standard Operating Procedures for cable installation and revised several procedures related to prevention of invasive species, including a new note regarding compliance with invasive species management procedures as they evolve.

#### Section 3.1 Air Quality

- Changed name of Section 3.1 from Air Quality and Greenhouse Gas Emissions to Air Quality
- Updated Ventura County's nonattainment area for Ozone, based on comment from Ventura County Air Pollution Control District (Table 3.1-3 and Section 3.1.9.4.2.3).
- In accordance with recent Executive Orders, removed discussion of "social cost of carbon."
- Updated Table 3.1-1: National and State Ambient Air Quality Standards.
- Updated all tables showing Alternative 1 (and 2) Emissions.

#### Section 3.2 Sediments and Water Quality

- Removed Section 3.2.2.3.4 (Climate Change and Water Quality).
- Added information about fuel release during aerial refueling in Table 3.2-3 in response to an agency comment.

#### Section 3.3 Vegetation

- Revised effects of Military Expended Material (MEM) on plants (Section 3.3.3.2.2.1)

### Section 3.6 Fishes

- Corrected scientific name of the giant manta in text (Section 3.6.2.2) and in Table 3.6-1.
- Updated Table 3.6-3 (Relevant Mitigation Measures for Fishes) to align with recent updates to Chapter 5 (Mitigation).

### Section 3.7 Marine Mammals

- Table 3.7-2. Updated abundances for five species/stocks (Southern Resident killer whale, Hawaiian monk seal, Guadalupe fur seal, northern elephant seal, and northern fur seal [both stocks], based on the draft 2024 Stock Assessment Reports (SARs) and input from Norris (2025) on the new abundance for Guadalupe fur seal that supersedes the SAR.
- Updated Table 3.7-4 to show only applicable mitigations and not standard operating procedures.
- Made minor updates to takes in Tables 3.7-6, 3.7-7, 3.7-9, 3.7-15, and 3.7-16.
- Revised analysis of pile driving (Section 3.7.3.2.3.1) due to change in pile driving mitigation zone described in Chapter 5 (Mitigation).
- Revised Section 3.7.3.5.1.1 to include the number of takes requested for vessel strike, in response to a public comment. Includes updates to Table 3.7-19 showing revised probabilities of vessel strikes on large whales by Navy and USCG vessels.
- Updated goose-beaked whale name to include “Cuvier’s.”

### Section 3.11 Socioeconomic Resources

- Replaced and renamed Figure 3.11-8 to properly reflect the Pearl Harbor Naval Defensive Sea Area extends into Pearl Harbor and added Danger Zones, Prohibited Areas, and Restricted Areas.

### Chapter 4 Cumulative Effects

- Made a slight revision in Table 4-1 on page 4-7 regarding the support to P-8A aircraft at Kaneohe Bay. This was in response to a public comment stating confusion over the original text.
- Added “Changes to the Falcon Launch Program at VSFB” as a foreseeable action (Table 4-1 on page 4-11).
- Table 4-2 on page 4-13, added that wastewater spills including contaminants are included for cumulative effects analysis.

## Chapter 5 Mitigation

- Revised Hawaii Humpback Whale Awareness Message requirements to show the window going through May instead of April.
- Modified the geographic extent (increased the size) of the Hawaii 4-Islands Marine Mammal Mitigation Area.
- Finalized name of “California Large Whale Awareness Messages” and “California Real-Time Notification Large Whale Mitigation Area.”
- Reduced the large whale aggregation size from four or more to three or more whales as a trigger for issuing a notification within the California Real-Time Notification Large Whale Mitigation Area.
- Made revisions to Table 5-3:
  - Added bullet for most explosive activities to suspend the event and follow established reporting procedures if a visibly injured or dead marine mammal is observed.
  - Added manta rays and hammerhead sharks for Explosive Mine Neutralization (With Divers).
  - Revised mitigation requirements for Explosive Sonobuoys and Research-Based Sub-Surface Explosives and Explosive Torpedoes.
- Clarified the “designated areas” in Table 5-7 for shallow-water coral and precious coral beds.
- In Tables 5-9 and 5-10 added MF1C sonar as another sound source to be seasonally limited in two mitigation areas.
- In Table 5-11, revised Hawaii Humpback Whale Special Reporting Mitigation Area window from December 15–April 15 to November–May.
- In Table 5-12, revised Hawaii Humpback Whale Awareness Message requirements to show the window going through May instead of April.
- Reduced mitigation zone size from 100 to 5 yards for pile driving and removal.
- Updated Table 5-20.

## Chapter 6 Regulatory Considerations

- The compliance information within Table 6-1 and elsewhere was updated to reflect the most current status of the Navy’s compliance with the various laws, executive orders, and international standards. Similarly, updates were made to reflect the updated status of Coastal Zone Management Act compliance with Hawaii and California, National Marine Sanctuaries Act compliance, National Historic Preservation Act compliance, and Magnuson-Stevens Fishery Conservation and Management Act compliance.
- Removed cancelled Executive Orders.

Appendix A Activity Descriptions

- Section A.1.9.3 (Amphibious Breaching Operations): Parameters for Analysis changed to remove specific mention of Pyramid Cove and Horse Beach Cove, instead stating the activity could occur “in the nearshore [San Clemente Island] waters.”
- Updated the description of the Hawaii Cable Project (Phase I) in Section A.3.5.2.1.
- Added a new Appendix A.1, background information about the U.S. Coast Guard.

Appendix C Biological Resources Supplemental Information

- Section C.2.1.2.5: Due to increased focus on the threat of invasive species, added mention of plastic debris as possible vectors.
- Corrected scientific name of the giant manta and updated its recovery goals.
- In Section C.6.1 (General Background), added description of the Cross Seamount beaked whale.
- Updated the habitat and geographic range information on the following species:
  - Blue whale (Section C.6.2.1.2) from Lagerquist et al. (2024).
  - Fin whale (Section C.6.2.2.2) from Lagerquist et al. (2024) and Falcone et al. (2022).
  - Hawaiian monk seal (Section C.6.2.9.2).
  - Harbor seal (Section C.6.3.33.2).
- Updated abundance numbers of marine mammal species to reflect changes.

Appendix F Acoustic and Non-Acoustic Effects Supporting Information

- Section F.7.1.2: Revised description of effects from high-energy lasers.
- Added Section F.7.1.3 (Effects from High-Power Microwave Devices).
- Removed Section F.7.2.5 (Effects from Pile Driving) as a Physical Disturbance and Strike stressor.
- Revised F.8.1.1 (Effects from High-Energy Lasers) regarding sea turtles.
- Added Section F.8.1.2 (Effects from High-Power Microwave Devices).

Appendix G Air Quality Supplemental Information, Emission Calculations, and Record of Non-Applicability

- Updated tables on emission increases.

Appendix I Military Expended Materials, Direct Strike, and Ship Strike Effects Analysis

- Removed Table I-1 that gave MEM size and footprints of MEM items. This was to maintain better consistency with the Atlantic Fleet Training and Testing EIS/OEIS and to reduce extraneous information from the document.
- Most of the tables in Section I.1 and Section I.2 were removed as extraneous.
- Completely rewrote Section I.4 (Navy and Coast Guard Vessel Strike of Large Whale Species), updating the calculation of ship strike probabilities.

Appendix J Agency Correspondence

- Updated to reflect most recent correspondence with agencies.

Appendix K Geographic Mitigation Assessment

- Populated the section on “Areas Suggested During the Public Involvement Process,” Section K.1.1.2.
- Populated the section on “Additional Mitigation Measures Suggested during the Draft EIS/OEIS Public Involvement Process,” Section K.1.1.2.1.
- Corrected time period of gray whale Parent Biologically Important Area (Table K-8) from “June–November” to “November–June.”
- Populated Section K.5 (Areas Identified During the [National Environmental Policy Act] Public Involvement Process).
- Made corrections and revisions to geographic mitigation areas to match changes in Chapter 5.

Appendix L Public Involvement

- Updated Table L-1 to more accurately show the organizations receiving scoping notification letters.
- Added Notice of Availability materials (letter, postcard, newspaper ad, news release, social media post).
- Updated Table L-6 to reflect actual stakeholder briefings.
- Revised Summary of Draft EIS/OEIS Comments (Table L-7) to remove environmental justice.
- Added Appendix L.2 (Public Comments on the Draft Environmental Impact Statement/Overseas Environmental Impact Statement).
- Added Section L.6 (Final Environmental Impact Statement Notifications).