



COMMANDER, NAVY REGION NORTHWEST

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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U.S. NAVY AND U.S. COAST GUARD ANNOUNCE INTENT TO PREPARE A SUPPLEMENTAL ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT STATEMENT/OVERSEAS ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT STATEMENT FOR NORTHWEST TRAINING AND TESTING

SILVERDALE, Wash. — The U.S. Navy and the U.S. Coast Guard are jointly preparing a supplement to the 2015 Northwest Training and Testing (NWTT) Final Environmental Impact Statement (EIS)/Overseas EIS (OEIS) and the 2020 NWTT Final Supplemental EIS (SEIS)/OEIS to assess the potential environmental effects associated with the Proposed Action to continue at-sea military readiness activities in the NWTT Study Area.

The Navy is the lead agency for the Proposed Action and is responsible for the scope and content of the SEIS/OEIS and Section 106 consultation under the National Historic Preservation Act (NHPA). The Coast Guard is participating as a joint lead agency due to the inclusion of its training activities, which are similar to proposed Navy activities. The Coast Guard participated as a cooperating agency during previous analyses.

The public, stakeholders, and federally recognized tribes are invited to comment on the scope of the SEIS/OEIS, including identifying potential alternatives or issues that should be addressed in the supplemental National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) analysis, relaying environmental concerns, identifying historic in-water properties, and providing information or analysis relevant to the Proposed Action or the project's potential to affect historic in-water properties pursuant to Section 106 of the NHPA. The scoping period supports consultation under Section 106 of the NHPA and its implementing regulations.

The Navy and Coast Guard are accepting comments during a 45-day scoping period from **Dec. 5, 2025, to Jan. 19, 2026**. The comment period includes an additional 15 calendar days (from the typical 30 days) to allow the public more time to review and comment during the holiday season.

At-sea military readiness activities include training; research, development, testing, and evaluation (referred to as “testing”) activities; and range modernization and sustainment. These activities would occur on and beneath the water surface and in the airspace within the Study Area. Proposed at-sea training and testing activities are similar to those previously analyzed and are representative of activities conducted in the Study Area for decades, with some updates to the type, frequency, duration, intensity, and location. The Navy also proposes the modernization and sustainment of range capabilities that support training and testing activities.

In the SEIS/OEIS, the Navy and Coast Guard will analyze the potential environmental effects of proposed military readiness activities using an updated acoustic effects model; updated marine mammal density data, acoustic effects criteria, and thresholds; and current best available science. The purpose of the Proposed Action is to ensure the Navy and Coast Guard are able to organize, train,

and equip service members and personnel needed to meet their respective national defense missions in accordance with their Congressionally mandated requirements.

Proposed at-sea military readiness activities may include the use of active sonar, explosives, and other sources of sound. The Navy and Coast Guard would continue to employ mitigation measures when conducting at-sea activities to reduce or avoid potential adverse effects on marine species. The Navy and Coast Guard will seek the reissuance of federal regulatory permits and authorizations under the Marine Mammal Protection Act and consultations under the Endangered Species Act to support at-sea military readiness requirements within the Study Area beyond November 2027, which is when current permits and authorizations expire. The Navy and Coast Guard will coordinate and consult as required by all laws and regulations determined to be applicable to the project.

The Study Area considered in the SEIS/OEIS consists of the same waters and over-water airspace analyzed in the 2015 NWTT EIS/OEIS and 2020 NWTT SEIS/OEIS. The Study Area does not include any land or overland airspace. The Study Area consists of three areas: 1) areas offshore of the Washington, Oregon, and Northern California coasts; 2) inland waters of Washington; and 3) Western Behm Canal in Southeast Alaska.

Scoping comments must be postmarked or received online by **11:59 p.m. Pacific Standard Time on Jan. 19, 2026**, for consideration in the Draft SEIS/OEIS. Comments may be submitted via the project website at **www.nepa.navy.mil/nwtteis** or by mail to:

Naval Facilities Engineering Systems Command Northwest
Attention: NWTT SEIS/OEIS Project Manager
1101 Tautog Circle, Room 102
Silverdale, WA 98315-1101

Public, stakeholder, and tribal input is welcomed, valued, and appreciated.

For information about the NHPA Section 106 review process, or if you are interested in becoming a consulting party, please visit the NHPA Section 106 Process page found at **www.nepa.navy.mil/nwtteis**. Substantive comments will be considered under NEPA and pursuant to Section 106 of the NHPA. There will be another comment opportunity when the Draft SEIS/OEIS is available, which is anticipated to be released in September 2026.

Please visit the project website at **www.nepa.navy.mil/nwtteis** to view a virtual scoping presentation and learn more about the Proposed Action, its purpose and need, NEPA and NHPA Section 106 processes, and consulting party and public involvement opportunities.

Media seeking further information should contact Ms. Julianne Leinenveber with Navy Region Northwest Public Affairs at julianne.e.leinenveber.civ@us.navy.mil or 360-867-8525.

Please help inform your community by sharing the information in this news release.

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