



ATLANTIC FLEET TRAINING AND TESTING

SUPPLEMENTAL ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT STATEMENT/
OVERSEAS ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT STATEMENT
for Activities in 2025 and Beyond



PUBLIC ACCESS AND SAFETY

In accordance with the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA), the Navy, Marine Corps, and Coast Guard are using best available science and methods of analysis to assess the potential environmental impacts associated with conducting training and testing activities within the Atlantic Fleet Training and Testing (AFTT) Study Area, including activities that involve the use of active sonar and explosives. Most of these training and testing activities have been previously analyzed and authorized under the Marine Mammal Protection Act and the Endangered Species Act, and are similar to the types of activities that have been occurring in the Study Area for decades. The National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS) is participating in the NEPA process as a cooperating agency in preparation of the Supplemental Environmental Impact Statement/Overseas Environmental Impact Statement (SEIS/OEIS).

SHARING THE SEA

The waters of the Atlantic Ocean, Gulf of Mexico, and portions of the Caribbean Sea within the Study Area are used by many people for commercial and recreational purposes. Tourism, shipping, and commercial fishing play a significant role in the regional economy. Recreational activities, including boating, sport fishing, and diving also contribute to the economy and quality of life.

Navy, Marine Corps, and Coast Guard personnel share the ocean and coastal areas with the community and recognize the importance of public access, and strive to be good neighbors by maintaining access to public areas whenever possible while ensuring safety at all times. During training and testing activities there are some restrictions and/or closures necessary to keep the public safe. The Navy has designated operating areas, warning areas, and restricted areas for both air and sea space to indicate where and when it may not be safe for recreational and commercial activities to take place.



**Training and
testing occurs in
a manner that is
compatible with
civilian activity
at sea.**



Ocean areas used by the Navy, Marine Corps, and the Coast Guard are accessible to the public for recreational and commercial purposes as they recognize the importance of maintaining public access to these areas. During training and testing activities there are some restrictions and/or closures necessary to keep the public safe.





PUBLIC SAFETY MEASURES

The safety of the public and military personnel is of utmost importance. The Navy, Marine Corps, and Coast Guard observe every precaution when planning and conducting training and testing activities.

Precautionary measures include the following:

- Notifying the public of the location, date, and time of potentially dangerous activities
- Alerting the Federal Aviation Administration of upcoming training and testing events
- Ensuring training and testing areas and targets are clear of swimmers and boaters prior to conducting activities
- Cancelling or delaying these activities if public or personnel safety is a concern
- Designating the majority of Navy, Marine Corps, and Coast Guard training areas offshore well away from fishing and recreational areas
- When access to ocean areas must be limited, advance notice to mariners and aviators is provided to help them plan accordingly



These measures, along with the cooperation of the public, commercial, and recreational users of the air and sea spaces, ensure these areas can remain open to all when not in use for military readiness purposes. Thorough environmental and safety reviews are conducted for all test systems. Prior to going into the water, most systems go through land-based testing, and many have been tested in smaller fresh

water areas or tanks. After an initial review, modifications are made, as needed, to minimize the potential impacts on public safety and the natural environment.



PUBLIC NOTIFICATION

Advance notice of area closures and access limitations are available on the U.S. Coast Guard's Local Notice to Mariners under the Maritime Safety Information tab at the bottom of the webpage at www.navcen.uscg.gov. The notices are published in advance to allow the public to adjust their routes. Temporary access limitations (usually lasting several hours) occur during training or testing activities for the safety of commercial and recreational users.

