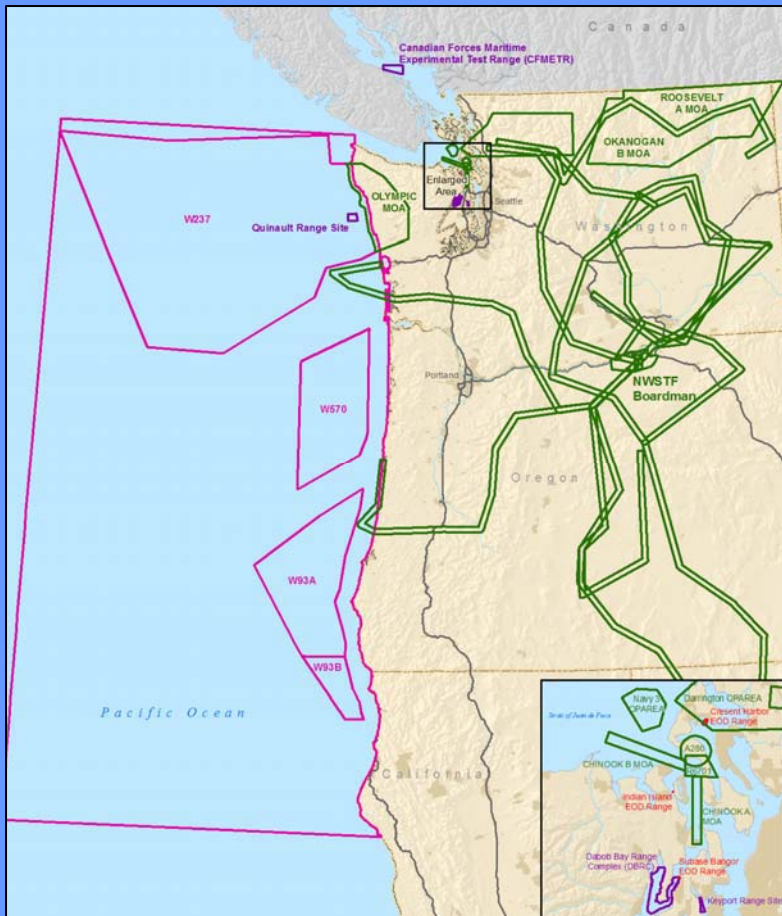




Public Involvement Plan

NORTHWEST TRAINING RANGE COMPLEX EIS/OEIS REVISED DRAFT PUBLIC INVOLVEMENT PLAN JUNE 2007



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**DRAFT PUBLIC INVOLVEMENT PLAN
FOR THE
NORTHWEST TRAINING RANGE COMPLEX
ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT STATEMENT/
OVERSEAS ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT STATEMENT**

TABLE OF CONTENTS

**June 2007
Updated February 2009**

ACRONYMS AND ABBREVIATIONS	2
I. PURPOSE.....	3
II. PROJECT BACKGROUND.....	4
III. REGULATORY AND NAVY POLICY REQUIREMENTS.....	5
IV. PUBLIC INVOLVEMENT OBJECTIVES AND STRATEGY	7
V. SCOPING ACTIVITIES.....	10
VI. DRAFT EIS/OEIS ACTIVITIES.....	24
VII. FINAL EIS/OEIS ACTIVITIES	32
IX. REFERENCES.....	37
APPENDIX A: PROJECT TEAM.....	A-1
APPENDIX B: EXPANDED SCOPING PLAN	B-1
APPENDIX C: MASTER MAILING LIST.....	C-1
APPENDIX D: SCOPING SUMMARY REPORT.....	D-1



ACRONYMS AND ABBREVIATIONS

ACHP – Advisory Council on Historic Preservation
CEQ – Council on Environmental Quality
CNO – Chief of Naval Operations
CNRNW – Commander, Navy Region Northwest
CPF – Commander, U.S. Pacific Fleet
DoD – Department of Defense
DOPAA – Description of Proposed Action and Alternatives
EIS – Environmental Impact Statement
EOD – Explosive Ordnance Disposal
EPAO – Environmental Public Affairs Officer
FAQ – Frequently Asked Question
FRTP – Fleet Readiness Training Plan
JV – Joint Venture
MFAS – Mid-frequency Active Sonar
MMPA – Marine Mammal Protection Act
MTR – Military Training Route
NAVFAC NW – Naval Facilities Engineering Command, Northwest
NAS – Naval Air Station
NS – Naval Station
NAVSTA – U.S. Navy
NEPA – National Environmental Policy Act
NGO – Nongovernmental organization
NHPA – National Historic Preservation Act
NMFS – National Marine Fisheries Service
NOA – Notice of Availability
NOI – Notice of Intent
NOPH – Notice of Public Hearings
NTR – Navy Technical Representative
NWT – Northwest Training
NWT RCMP – Northwest Training Range Complex Management Plan
OEIS – Overseas Environmental Impact Statement
OPAREAs – Operating Areas
OPNAV – Office of the Chief of Naval Operations
OPNAVINST – Office of the Chief of Naval Operations Instruction
PAO – Public Affairs Officer
PIP – Public Involvement Plan
POC – Point of Contact
RCC – Range Complex Commander
RCMP – Range Complex Management Plan
RDT&E – Research, Development, Test and Evaluation
REC – Regional Environmental Coordinator
ROD – Record of Decision
SME – Subject Matter Expert
SUA – Special Use Airspace
USFF – United States Fleet Forces



**DRAFT FINAL PUBLIC INVOLVEMENT PLAN
FOR THE
NORTHWEST TRAINING RANGE COMPLEX
ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT STATEMENT/
OVERSEAS ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT STATEMENT**

I. PURPOSE

- A.** The U.S. Navy (Navy) is preparing an Environmental Impact Statement (EIS)/Overseas Environmental Impact Statement (OEIS) for the Northwest Training Range Complex (NWTRC). The Action Proponent is U.S. Pacific Fleet (CPF). The purpose of the EIS/OEIS is to plan for the future of this tactical training range complex and to assess the effects of the Navy's current and future training activities on the environment.
- B.** The primary purpose of the Public Involvement Plan (PIP) is to provide guidance and support for public involvement during the preparation of the NWTRC EIS/OEIS. The PIP details required and recommended actions during the course of the project to adequately and most effectively conduct communication and outreach to stakeholders. The PIP also describes the process for Government-to-Government consultation with Native American Tribes and Nations in accordance with federal law and Department of Defense (DoD) guidance. The PIP has been developed in accordance with References (a) through (h) (see Section IX) and applicable Office of the Chief of Naval Operations (OPNAV) instructions, policies, and memoranda.
- C.** The PIP provides a coordinated approach for all public information and involvement efforts related to the EIS/OEIS process. It includes provisions for communicating with media, elected officials, regulatory and government agencies, nongovernmental organizations (NGOs), and private individuals within the affected community.
- D.** The PIP is a "living" document that will be updated and revised periodically throughout the project. Specifics in the PIP may change over the course of the EIS/OEIS process to meet changing demands and requirements.
- E.** The PIP identifies public involvement goals; describes the objectives and strategy for public involvement; identifies outreach tactics, methods, and activities in different phases of the EIS/OEIS process; presents a schedule; and recommends appropriate Navy and project team personnel responsible for outreach activities.



II. PROJECT BACKGROUND

A. Northwest Training Range Complex. The NWTRC consists of numerous individual training areas in the Pacific Northwest. The range complex includes land ranges, airspace, and training areas that extend west to 250 nautical miles beyond the coast of Northern California, Oregon, and Washington; and east to Idaho. NWTRC includes Military Training Routes (MTRs) that extend as far south as the Fallon Range Complex in northern Nevada and has airspace that borders Canada to the north. The components of the NWTRC encompass more than 126,000 square nautical miles of ocean area, 34,000 square nautical miles of airspace and 875 acres of land.

For range management and scheduling purposes, the NWTRC is divided into numerous sub-component ranges or training areas used to conduct operations and training of military hardware, personnel, tactics, munitions, explosives, and electronic combat systems (reference (a)).

B. Range Complex Management Plan. A Northwest Training Range Complex Management Plan (NWTRC RCMP) was prepared to identify current and projected training events within the range complex and develop an investment strategy to meet those training requirements. The overall purpose of the NWTRC RCMP is to ensure that the range complex is sustainable and capable of supporting military readiness training for the foreseeable future. This EIS/OEIS will focus on Navy-controlled ranges and operations. However, other DoD Services should be kept apprised of the public participation activities associated with this EIS/OEIS, as needed.

C. Mission. The Fleet Forces Command strategic vision for the NWTRC is to provide sustainable and modernized ocean operating areas, airspace, ranges, range infrastructure, training facilities, and resources to fully support the FRTP in accordance with assigned roles and missions. The strategic mission of the NWTRC is to support Navy and Marine Corps operational readiness by providing a realistic, live-training environment for forces assigned to the Pacific Fleet and other users. As its highest priority, the range complex will support the Fleet Readiness Training Plan (FRTP) readiness process as revised in the Fleet Response Plan (Commander, Fleet Forces Command [CFFC] message Date-Time-Group 231400Z May 03). The strategic mission implements the strategic vision and includes management objectives and the NWTRC concept of operation.

NWTRC is the principle backyard range for surface, submarine, aviation, and Explosive Ordnance Disposal (EOD) units located at Naval Air Station (NAS) Whidbey Island, Naval Station (NAVSTA) Everett, Naval Base Kitsap at Bremerton and Naval Base Kitsap at Bangor. For the purposes of Fleet training, the NWTRC includes fleet training activities that occur at the NUWC Keyport ranges including Dabob Bay Range Complex, Keyport Range Site, Nanoose Range Site, and the Quinault Underwater Tracking Range Site (within W-237A) (reference (a)).

D. Proposed Action. The Navy has identified the need to support and conduct current and emerging training activities in the NWTRC. The Proposed Action does not involve extensive changes to the NWTRC facilities, operations, or training capacities. Rather, the Proposed Action would result in selectively focused, but critical enhancements and increases in Fleet training tempo that are necessary if the Navy is to maintain a state of military readiness commensurate with its national defense mission. Specifically, the Navy proposes to:

- Increase the number of training activities of the same type currently being conducted;
- Operate air target services for locally-based aircraft and vessels;
- Operate surface target services for locally-based aircraft and vessels;
- Develop an additional land-based electronic combat threat signal emitter along the Washington coast for offshore use by aircraft and vessels;
- Develop a small-scale underwater training minefield for submarines; and
- Use a portable undersea tracking range for anti-submarine training.



III. REGULATORY AND NAVY POLICY REQUIREMENTS

- A. NEPA Requirements.** The National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) requires federal agencies to make diligent efforts to involve stakeholders and Native American Tribes and Nations (see Figure 1) in the development of environmental documents and stipulates public involvement during various stages of the environmental review process (references (b) and (c)).
- B. CEQ Public Participation Intent.** The importance and value of public participation are clearly recognized in Council on Environmental Quality (CEQ) regulations (reference (d)). In determining the extent to which public participation is practicable, the Navy considered the following factors (reference (e)):
- The magnitude of the environmental considerations associated with the Proposed Action;
 - The extent of anticipated public interest; and
 - Any relevant questions of national security and classification.

This PIP reflects the Navy’s determination for public participation after consideration of the above factors.

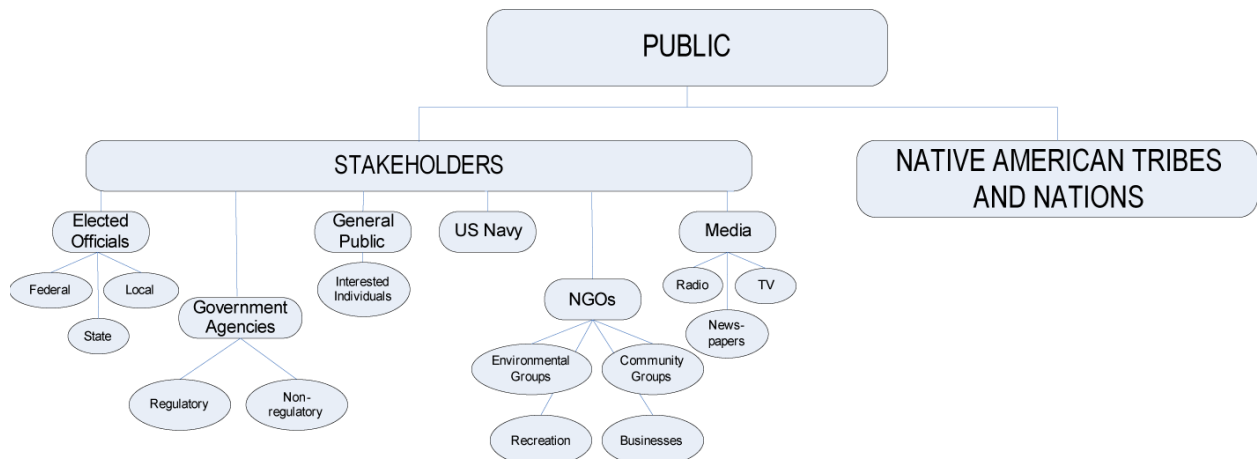


Figure 1. Stakeholders of the NWTRC and Native American Tribes and Nations

- C. Native American Tribes and Nations Government-to-Government Consultations.** Under the National Historic Preservation Act (NHPA) and the Advisory Council on Historic Preservation (ACHP), (references (g) and (h)), the Navy must identify and consult with Federally-Recognized American Indian/Native Tribes “prior to the approval of the expenditure of any Federal funds on the undertaking or prior to the issuance of any license.” The Navy shall “ensure that this process is initiated early in the undertaking’s planning, so that a broad range of alternatives may be considered during the planning process for the undertaking.” [NHPA 36 C.F.R. § 800.1(c) Timing].

Section 101(d)(6)(B) of the NHPA requires the Navy to “consult with any Indian tribe...that attaches religious and cultural significance to historic properties that may be affected by an undertaking. This requirement applies regardless of the location of the historic property. Such Indian tribe...shall be a consulting party.” [NHPA 36 C.F.R. § 800.2(c)(2)(ii) *Consultation on historic properties of significance to Indian tribes*]

To comply with federal regulations, the Navy will identify and consult with Federally recognized Native American Tribes and Nations that are interested and/or concerned about the Proposed Action. Appropriate notification method(s) will be determined based on previous method(s) used by CNRNW and the preferences of the particular Native American tribe and nation.

Usual and Accustomed Fishing and Hunting Rights

According to the Northwest Indian Fisheries Commission, a Tribe’s “usual and accustomed”



harvest area reflects the historical region in which finfish, shellfish, and other natural resources were collected. Tribe and nation members are allowed to exercise their treaty-protected harvest rights only within their tribe's usual and accustomed area, and all tribe and nation members must have a valid identification card to be eligible to harvest.

Under the U.S. Supreme Court ruling known as the "Boldt Decision," (*United States v. Washington*, 1974, upheld in 1979), the treaty rights of 15 western Washington Tribes to fish in "usual and accustomed" (U&A) areas were reaffirmed, and 50 percent of the annual catch was allocated to them. Native American Tribes covered by the ruling include Jamestown S'Klallam, Lower Elwha Klallam, Lummi, Makah, Muckleshoot, Nisqually, Nooksack, Port Gamble S'Klallam, Puyallup, Skokomish, Squaxin Island, Suquamish, Swinomish, Tulalip, and Upper Skagit. All tidelands in Puget Sound are within the U&A harvest areas of one or more tribes.

The case of *United States v. Oregon*, 1969, legally upheld the Columbia River treaty tribes reserved fishing rights. According to Judge Robert C. Belloni's ruling, "state regulatory power over Indian fishing is limited because, in 1855 treaties between the United States and the Nez Perce, Umatilla, Warm Springs, and Yakama tribes, these tribes had reserved rights to fish at 'all usual and accustomed' places, whether on or off reservation." (Columbia River Inter-tidal Fish Commission)

- D. Lead and Cooperating Agencies.** The Navy is the lead agency for the Proposed Action. CPF is the Action Proponent and lead Navy command for preparation and coordination of the EIS/OEIS.

A Cooperating Agency is any federal agency, other than the lead agency, which has jurisdiction by law or special expertise concerning an environmental impact involved in a proposal. Due to the nature and scope of the Proposed Action for the NWTRC, the participation of the National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS) as a Cooperating Agency has been obtained.



IV. PUBLIC INVOLVEMENT OBJECTIVES AND STRATEGY

A. Public Involvement Program. For this EIS/OEIS, outreach is defined as the process of communicating the military mission and developing and maintaining stakeholder partnerships to ensure the continuation of mission-essential operations. Throughout the EIS/OEIS process, outreach is necessary to garner and maintain positive partnerships between the Navy, NWTRC stakeholders and Native American Tribes and Nations (see Figure 1). The Navy intends to involve elected officials, government and regulatory agencies, NGOs, the general public, and the media in the environmental process through early and open communication. Native American Tribes and Nations will be formally consulted, briefed, and encouraged to participate throughout the process.

A strong public involvement program can help inform interested stakeholders, develop trust and credibility, and avoid misunderstandings through a mutual exchange of information. Public involvement also provides stakeholders with the opportunity to express their concerns and have those concerns considered before decisions are made.

B. Objectives. Public involvement objectives identified for the NWTRC EIS/OEIS include:

- Comply fully with the NEPA and Executive Order 12114 (Environmental Effects Abroad of Major Federal Actions [1979]) throughout the EIS/OEIS process and thereby avoid potential litigation to the maximum extent possible.
- Help the public, elected officials, government agencies, NGOs, and the media gain a clear understanding of the purpose and need of the Proposed Action and the alternatives being reviewed for future operations and sustainability.
- Inform the public, elected officials, government agencies, NGOs, and the media about the training mission of the NWTRC and the Navy's commitment to sound environmental stewardship.
- Consult with and provide briefings to Native American Tribes and Nations in accordance with the NHPA and ACHP and continue to build upon and sustain positive relationships.
- Clearly communicate the public's role in the EIS/OEIS process and clarify the type of public input regarding the specific proposal that will be most relevant and useful.
- Identify opportunities during the EIS/OEIS process for building trust, improving relations, and strengthening the Navy's credibility with its stakeholders in the region.
- Develop two-way communication methods with the public to facilitate information sharing.
- Provide a "user-friendly" approach for obtaining public and agency input, issues, and suggestions for consideration in the EIS/OEIS.
- Develop an efficient and effective program for disseminating information to stakeholders.
- Ensure effective internal Navy Command coordination and keep other DoD Services in the Northwest region informed during the EIS/OEIS process.

C. Stakeholder Issues and Concerns. The public involvement strategy for this EIS/OEIS is based on information learned by considering stakeholder issues and concerns, and significant encroachment and sustainability challenges described in the NWTRC RCMP. Special interest and regulatory agency issues are particularly pertinent to this EIS/OEIS. Potential issues include:

- Underwater noise, including use of mid-frequency active sonar (MFAS), and associated marine impacts;
- Underwater explosions and associated marine impacts;
- Impacts to commercial and recreational fishing, including
 - Restricted access
 - Damage to fishing gear



- Impacts to commercial shipping and multi-use ocean space;
- Impacts to commercial and private airspace interests;
- Impacts to economic interests, including tourism;
- Impacts to marine resources, including
 - Marine mammals
 - Marine protected areas
 - National marine sanctuaries
 - Essential fish habitat
 - Endangered marine species
 - Multiuse ocean space
 - Ballast water invasive species
 - Bays and estuaries
 - Coastal zones
- Expendable materials (debris) and associated safety issues and marine impacts;
- Depleted uranium in W-237 and impacts to marine resources, particularly national marine sanctuaries;
- Air noise impacts;
- Protection of cultural and archeological resources by compliance with Section 106 of the NHPA; and
- Native American Tribes and Nations' interests, including Usual and Accustomed Fishing and Hunting Rights.

D. Communication Strategy. A focused, targeted communication strategy reaches out as early and effectively as possible to a broad range of individuals, agencies, and interest groups, rather than relying on the traditional approach for distributing information through general readership publications (e.g., newspapers). The following key elements will, therefore, be incorporated into this strategy:

- Open house scoping meetings to disseminate pertinent project information (such as the purpose and need of the Proposed Action), to communicate information about the Navy's ongoing environmental stewardship programs and protective measures, and to receive input from the public about the environmental factors to be considered in the development of the Draft EIS/OEIS.
- Dual format public hearings, in which a traditional presentation and oral comment session is preceded by an informal, open house poster station session staffed by project team members. This format meets the needs of both those who want to interact informally one-on-one with project representatives and those who want to comment formally, on the record, to the Navy about the adequacy of the environmental analysis.
- Employing targeted notification efforts that emphasize the identification of and direct mail to stakeholders (such as public meeting invitation mailers), in addition to required newspaper notices/advertisements. Other notification methods (such as news releases) will be provided to the media, and interest and community group newsletters to more broadly inform their constituents.
- Briefing elected officials and regulatory agencies to inform them early in the process about the purpose of and need for the Proposed Action and the importance of range sustainability.
- Consulting with and briefing Native American Tribes and Nations following the Navy's



established Government-to-Government protocols and procedures to inform them early in the process about the purpose of and need for the Proposed Action and soliciting formal input and comment.

- Developing fact sheets and brochures on key topics such as the Proposed Action, specific issues of stakeholder concern, environmental stewardship programs, and the Navy's ongoing and issue-specific environmental mitigation efforts and stewardship programs. Informational materials will be available at public meetings and as leave-behinds at stakeholder meetings and briefings.
- Providing multiple modes of communication with the public, including information repositories, the project Web site, direct mailing, and informational materials.
- Developing an informational video describing the NWTRC, Navy training activities, and environmental stewardship efforts for use at public meetings and stakeholder briefings.
- Developing media kits and providing those to all media outlets interested in the project. Media kits will include all relevant information materials, in addition to a central point of contact to which they can address all questions.
- Adequate preparation of EIS/OEIS team personnel who will interface with the public, including developing key messages and frequently asked questions, and holding risk communication training and dry run practice sessions.



V. SCOPING ACTIVITIES

A. Pre-Scoping Activities

1. **Navy Point of Contact.** Navy-designated points of contact (POC) will serve as the primary contact for ongoing interactions with the public, elected officials, regulatory agencies, Native American Tribes and Nations, NGOs, and the media during preparation of the EIS/OEIS. The technical POC for the NWTRC EIS/OEIS will be the Navy Technical Representative (NTR). Media relations will be handled by the Commander, Navy Region Northwest (CNRNW) Environmental Public Affairs Officer (EPAO). However, many Navy personnel have existing relationships and ongoing interactions with members of the public and special interest groups in their operational, public works, intergovernmental, and resource management capacities. Navy personnel having established relations with a group or organization should be the POC for that group and should continue to provide updates to maintain consistency and to build trust and credibility.

Action: Serve as Navy POC for public and media inquiries.

Lead: NTR (public, agencies, Tribes and Nations); CNRNW PAO (media)

Support: ManTech SRS/Parsons Joint Venture (JV), Katz & Associates

Approval: CPF

2. **Internal Mailing List.** An internal Navy distribution list will be developed to ensure all Navy Commands within the NWTRC are kept apprised of the progress of the EIS/OEIS effort. Periodic updates will aid Navy personnel in imparting information to stakeholders more clearly and accurately, and will allow the Navy to speak with one voice and a consistent message. This will be facilitated through a "project team only" accessible Web site and internal briefings, as needed.

Personnel from the following commands will receive prior notification and/or review proposed informational materials and public notices:

- Commander, U.S. Pacific Fleet (CPF)
- U.S. Fleet Forces
- Commander, Navy Region Northwest
 - Legal
 - PAO
 - Operations
 - Community Planning and Liaison Officer
 - Regional Environmental Coordinator (REC)
- Naval Facilities Engineering Command, Northwest (NAVFAC NW)
- NAS Whidbey Island
 - Range Managers
 - Operations Officers
 - Environmental Officers
 - PAO
- Naval Station Everett
 - Range Managers
 - Operations Officers
 - Environmental Officers
 - PAO
- Naval Undersea Warfare Center Keyport
- Navy Range Users



- EODMU
- SUBGROUP
- Carrier Strike Group
- National Marine Fisheries Service (Cooperating Agency)
- U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service Regional Office (Cooperating Agency)

Action: Develop and maintain internal mailing list; disseminate pertinent information.

Lead: Katz & Associates (mailing list); NTR, CPF (input, dissemination and briefings, as needed)

Support: ManTech SRS/Parsons JV, NTR, CPF

Approval: NTR, CPF

3. **External Mailing List.** Appendix E is a stakeholder mailing list of interested and potentially affected individuals, groups, and agencies. It will be validated and updated over the course of the project. Although public notices in the *Federal Register* and print media will be used, the mailing list will be a key tool for ensuring that interested and potentially affected parties receive appropriate and timely notice of EIS/OEIS activities. The mailing list will be differentiated to identify those individuals wanting to receive documents and notifications, and elected officials and government agencies to receive information tailored to their area of expertise or jurisdiction. The list will be maintained in Excel format and coded by stakeholder category to facilitate data sorting.

Action: Develop and maintain external mailing list.

Lead: Katz & Associates

Support: ManTech SRS/Parsons JV

Approval: NTR, CPF, PAO

4. **Fact Sheets and Brochures.** Fact sheets and brochures will be prepared to provide more information to the public on a specific topic or to clarify areas of possible concern or misperception (see Section IV.C *Stakeholder Issues*). These informational materials will support the scoping process and will be made available for stakeholder briefings, at scoping meetings, in the information repositories, and posted on the project Web site. Fact sheet and brochure topics include:

Brochures:

1. Purpose and Need for Sonar and Marine Mammal Protective Measures;
2. Native American Tribes and Nations and Cultural Resource Protection;

Fact Sheets:

1. About the NWTRC/Mission /Importance of Realistic Training;
2. NEPA process/Community Involvement;
3. Proposed Action/Alternatives/Purpose and Need;
4. Marine Resources, Protection, and Research
5. Threatened and Endangered Species and Protective Measures;
6. Environmental Stewardship Programs; and
7. Commercial and Recreational Interests/Public Access and Safety; and Usual and Accustomed Treaty Rights (double sided fact sheet)

Action: Draft fact sheet and brochure text and graphic layout; reproduce.

Lead: Katz & Associates



Support: ManTech SRS/Parsons JV

Approval: NTR, CPF, EPAO

5. **Project Web Site.** An EIS/OEIS project Web site will be set up to conveniently provide project related information to the public, such as fact sheets, brochures, and notices of upcoming events. It will also provide links to electronic versions of the Draft and Final EIS/OEIS and other related official announcements and information. The Web site will become live with the NOI is published in the *Federal Register*. Throughout the life of the project, the NTR or contractor, upon approval, will add information about the NWTRC EIS/OEIS to the project Web site. The Web site address is www.NWTRangeComplexEIS.com.

The project Web address will be listed on all public notifications, news releases, mailings, scoping and public hearing meeting materials, and all printed informational materials. It will remain active for at least six (6) months following publication of the Record of Decision (ROD).

Action: Develop and maintain project Web site.

Lead: ManTech SRS/Parsons JV

Support: Katz & Associates

Approval: NTR, CPF

6. **Information Repositories.** At the commencement of the scoping period, eight (8) information repositories will be established. Materials to be placed in the repositories include the Public Notification letter, one hard copy of the Draft and Final EIS/OEIS, notices, fact sheets, brochures, and other public information materials, as available. Locations of information repositories will be posted on the project Web site and at scoping meetings and public hearings. The following information repositories will be established:

Jefferson County Rural Library
P.O. Box 990
620 Cedar Avenue
Port Hadlock, WA 98339-0990

Port Townsend Public Library
1220 Lawrence Street
Port Townsend, WA 98368-6528

Kitsap Regional Library
1301 Sylvan Way
Bremerton, WA 98310

Lincoln City Public Library
801 SW Highway 101
Lincoln City, OR 97367

Oak Harbor Public Library
1000 SE Regatta Drive
Oak Harbor, WA 98277

Humboldt County Library
1313 Third Street
Eureka, CA 95501

Timberland Regional Library
420 Seventh Street
Hoquiam, WA 98550

Action: Establish and maintain information repositories.

Lead: NTR

Support: ManTech SRS/Parsons JV, Katz & Associates

Approval: NTR, CPF

7. **Project Video.** A video highlighting Navy operations and activities within the NWTRC, including footage of current military activities, environmental stewardship programs, and Navy personnel training to spot marine mammals, will be developed to show at scoping meetings,



briefings, and other appropriate venues. Use of the video, with minor editing, for the public hearings and after the ROD will be considered.

Action: Obtain existing footage; draft script; produce video.

Lead: Katz & Associates

Support: ManTech SRS/Parsons JV, CNRNW EPAO, NTR, CPF

Approval: NTR, CPF

8. **Key Messages and Frequently Asked Questions.** A catalogue of key messages, frequently asked questions (FAQs), and “public friendly” responses will be assembled and organized by subject to support the Navy team during the scoping meetings and for public and media inquiries. Upon approval, a version of the FAQs may be posted to the project Web site tailored to the public and media. Potential topics or areas of public concern will be decided by the team prior to the development of messages and FAQs.

Action: Develop key messages and assemble FAQs.

Lead: Katz & Associates

Support: ManTech SRS/Parsons JV, CNRNW EPAO, NTR, CPF

Approval: NTR, CPF

9. **Pre-Scoping Training and Dry Run.** A pre-scoping meeting will be held at Naval Base Kitsap Bangor for Navy and project team participants prior to the initial scoping meeting. The purpose of the pre-scoping meeting will be to review all materials that will be used at the scoping meetings; discuss details of meeting room set-up and information station assignments; review risk communication principals and techniques, establish ground rules and talking points for project team participants; review and discuss how frequently asked and/or difficult questions should be answered; and address any other concerns and issues. A scoping meeting dry run also will be conducted at this meeting.

Action: Host pre-scoping meeting; coordinate meeting attendance of Navy team.

Lead: Katz & Associates (host); CPF (meeting attendance)

Support: ManTech SRS/Parsons JV

Approval: NTR, CPF

B. Scoping Activities

1. **Notice of Intent/Notice of Scoping Meetings Ad.** The Navy will publish a joint Notice of Intent (NOI)/Notice of Scoping Meetings (NOSM) to prepare the NWTRC EIS/OEIS in the *Federal Register*. The NOI/NOSM will include the project purpose and need, description of the Proposed Action, and scoping dates, locations, and times. A joint NOI/NOSM display advertisement announcing the scoping meeting dates and locations will be placed in six (6) local and regional newspapers within three (3) days after the NOI is printed in the *Federal Register*. The ad will be repeated in the newspapers again the three (3) consecutive days prior to the scoping meeting date. The ad will also be posted on the project Web site. A copy of the notice will be provided to the CNRNW EPAO prior to publication in the newspaper. Within thirty (30) days of publication, a copy of the printed ad and affidavit will be provided to the NTR.

Ads will be placed in the following newspapers on the following dates:

NEWSPAPER	REGION	NOI PUBLISHING DATES	NOSM PUBLISHING DATES
Seattle Times (daily)	Greater Western WA Oak Harbor, WA	Thursday, 2 Aug 2007	Saturday, 8 Sept 2007 Sunday, 9 Sept 2007 Monday, 10 Sept 2007
Whidbey News-Times	Oak Harbor, WA	Saturday, 4 Aug 2007	Wednesday, 5 Sept 2007



(bi-weekly)			Saturday, 8 Sept 2007
Peninsula Daily (both Port Townsend and Port Angeles editions) (daily)	Oak Harbor, WA	Thursday, 2 Aug 2007	Saturday, 8 Sept 2007 Sunday, 9 Sept 2007 Monday, 10 Sept 2007
Daily World (daily)	Pacific Beach, WA Grays Harbor, WA	Thursday, 2 Aug 2007	Sunday, 9 Sept 2007 Monday, 10 Sept 2007 Tuesday, 11 Sept 2007 Wednesday, 12 Sept 2007
News Guard (weekly)	Depoe Bay, OR	Wednesday, 8 Aug 2007	Wednesday, 29 Aug 2007 Wednesday, 5 Sept 2007 Wednesday, 12 Sept 2007
Times-Standard (daily)	Eureka, CA	Thursday, 2 Aug 2007	Thursday, 13 Sept 2007 Friday, 14 Sept 2007 Saturday, 15 Sept 2007

Action: Develop draft and final NOI/NOSM display ad; publish in newspapers; obtain affidavits of publication.

Lead: Katz & Associates

Support: ManTech SRS/Parsons JV

Approval: NTR, CNRNW EPAO, CPF

2. **Stakeholder Notification Letters.** Federal, state and local government agencies and elected officials anticipated to be particularly interested in the Proposed Action will be sent a stakeholder notification letter regarding the intent to prepare an EIS/OEIS. The dissemination of the letter will be timed appropriately with the publishing of the NOI in the *Federal Register*. The letter will include a description of the Proposed Action, the scoping process, and the scheduled scoping meeting dates and locations.

Federal, state and local elected officials with an active interest in the project and federal and state regulatory agencies will be offered additional information and/or briefings upon request (see Section V.B.4 *Expanded Scoping Briefings*). Follow-up phone calls will be conducted, as determined appropriate, to offer briefing dates and times. All elected official and agency briefings conducted will be documented and included as an appendix to this PIP.

Federal and state non-regulatory agencies will be sent a stakeholder notification letter; in-person briefings will not be offered in the letter.

A stakeholder notification letter will be sent to the following federal, state, and local agencies:

Federal

- U.S. Senators (Washington, Oregon, California)
- U.S. Representatives (Washington Districts 1, 2, 3, 5, 6, 7, 8, 9)
- U.S. Representatives (Oregon Districts 2, 4, 5)
- U.S. Representative (California District 1)
- Federal Aviation Administration
 - Washington D.C. headquarters
 - Western Pacific Region Military Liaison
- Marine Mammal Commission
- National Marine Fisheries Service
 - Washington D. C. headquarters
 - Northwest Regional Office
 - Office of Protected Resources
- Olympic Coast National Marine Sanctuary and Advisory Council
- Pacific Fisheries Management Council
- U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Northwestern Division



- U.S. Army National Guard (Boardman, OR)
- U.S. Coast Guard
 - Headquarters NEPA Office
 - District 13
- U.S. Department of the Interior
 - Bureau of Indian Affairs
 - Bureau of Land Management
 - Environmental Policy & Compliance Department
 - Minerals Management Service
 - National Park Service, Olympic National Park
 - U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service, Pacific Region - Portland Office
 - U.S. Geological Survey, Western Region
- U.S. Environmental Protection Agency
 - Washington D.C. headquarters
 - Region X
- U.S. Forest Service, Pacific Northwest Region

State

- Governor's Offices
 - Washington
 - Oregon
 - California
- State Senators
 - Washington Districts 7, 10, 19, 24
 - Oregon Districts 1, 5, 29
 - California Districts 2, 4
- State Representatives
 - Washington Districts 7, 10, 19, 24
 - Oregon Districts 1, 9, 57
 - California Assembly District 1
- WA State Department of Agriculture
- WA State Department of Archaeology & Historic Preservation (SHPO)
- WA State Department of Ecology, Environmental Review Section
- WA State Department of Fish and Wildlife, Region 6
- WA Fish and Wildlife Commission
- WA State Department of Natural Resources
- WA State Ocean Policy Work Group
- WA State Parks and Recreation Commission
- OR Department of Environmental Quality
- OR Department of Fish and Wildlife
- OR Department of Forestry
- OR Department of Land Conservation and Development
- OR Department of Parks and Recreation
- OR Department of State Lands
- OR Military Department
- OR Water Resources Department
- CA Coastal Commission
 - Headquarters
 - North Coast District Office
- CA Department of Fish and Game
- CA Environmental Protection Agency
- CA Resources Agency
- Pacific States Marine Fisheries Commission
- Puget Sound Partnership

Local



- Clallam County
- Ferry County
- Grays Harbor County
- Island County
- Jefferson County
- Kitsap County
- Okanogan County
- Pacific County
- Pend Oreille County

Action: Draft and disseminate Agency notification letter.

Lead: ManTech SRS/Parsons JV; NTR (follow-up)

Support: Katz & Associates

Obtaining signature for letter: CPF

Approval: NTR, CPF

3. **Native American Tribes and Nations Notifications.** Native American Tribes and Nations will be sent a Tribes and Nations notification letter regarding the intent to prepare an EIS/OEIS. The dissemination of the letter will be timed appropriately with the publishing of the NOI in the *Federal Register*. The letter will include a description of the Proposed Action; the scoping process; the date, time, and location of the Navy Tribal Council meeting; an invitation for a personal briefing; and a copy of the PowerPoint briefing. Prior to mailing of the Tribes and Nations notification letter, proactive, courtesy phone calls will be made per established Navy Tribes and Nations contact protocol (see Section V.B.4 *Expanded Scoping Briefings*).

In accordance with NHPA, ACHP, and established Navy protocols and procedures, notification and consultation will be conducted with the following Native American Tribes and Nations:

Washington

- Hoh Indian Nation
- Jamestown S'Klallam Tribe
- Lower Elwha Klallam Tribe
- Lummi Nation
- Makah Tribe
- Northwest Indian Fisheries Commission
- Point No Point Treaty Council
- Port Gamble S'Klallam Tribe
- Quileute Tribal Council
- Quinalt Indian Nation
- Samish Indian Nation
- Sauk – Suiattle Tribe
- Shoalwater Bay Tribe
- Skagit River Cooperative
- Skokomish Tribal Nation
- Snoqualmie Indian Tribe
- Stillaguamish Tribe
- Suquamish Tribal Center
- Swinomish Indian Tribal Community
- Tulalip Tribes of Washington
- Upper Skagit Tribe

Oregon

- Confederated Tribes of Coos, Lower Umpqua, and Siuslaw Indians
- Confederated Tribes of Grande Ronde
- Confederated Tribes of Siletz Indians



- Confederated Tribes of the Warm Springs Reservation
- Coquille Indian
- Cow Creek Band of Umpqua Tribe of Indians
- Klamath Tribes (Klamath, Modoc, Yahooskin)

California

- Tolowa Nation
- Trinidad Rancheria
- Yurok Indian Reservation

Action: Notify and brief federally recognized Tribes and Nations.

Lead: NTR, NAVFAC NW Environmental

Support: ManTech SRS/Parsons JV, Katz & Associates

Approval: NTR, CPF

4. **Expanded Scoping Briefings.** A proactive campaign to brief Native American Tribes and Nations, federal, state and local elected officials, and federal and state government agencies was initiated throughout scoping process. The purpose of the briefings was to identify and respond to issues early in the process, to address concerns, and correct misinformation.

Appendix B provides the plan for initial and follow-up contact. Appendix E provides a summary of the briefings conducted.

Action: Develop briefing presentation; Schedule and conduct briefings.

Lead: ManTech SRS/Parsons JV (develop); NTR and CPF (schedule and conduct briefings)

Support: Katz & Associates

Approval: NTR, CPF

5. **Public Scoping Meeting Invitation.** Postcard mailers inviting potentially interested NGOs, Native American Tribes and Nations, media, and individuals to the scoping meetings will be sent via direct mail to the external mailing list at least two (2) weeks prior to the first scoping meeting. The mailer will include a brief description of the Proposed Action; the scoping meeting dates, times, and locations; how the public can comment if they can not attend a meeting; comment period dates; and the project Web site address.

Action: Draft and disseminate postcard invitation mailer.

Lead: Katz & Associates

Support: ManTech SRS/Parsons JV

Approval: NTR, CPF

6. **News Release.** The Navy will issue electronic news releases to regional media outlets announcing its intent to prepare the EIS/OEIS, the dates and locations of the scoping meetings, how the public can comment, and the comment period dates. The news release will be disseminated at the same time the NOI ad is published. A list of potential outlets to receive Navy news releases can be found in Appendix D.

Action: Draft and disseminate news releases.

Lead: Katz & Associates (draft); CNRNW EPAO (disseminate)

Support: ManTech SRS/Parsons JV

Approval: NTR, CNRNW EPAO, CPF

7. **Scoping Meetings.** The Navy plans to hold five (5) open house-style scoping meetings. The purpose of the scoping meetings is to inform the public about the Proposed Action and NEPA process and to solicit written and oral comments from the public on the scope of the issues to



be addressed in the EIS/OEIS as well as alternative actions to be analyzed. The scoping meetings will be comprised of visual displays with Navy and NMFS representatives on hand to answer questions. The scoping meetings will be held:

DATE	LOCATION	ADDRESS	CITY, STATE
Mon, Sept 10, 2007 6 to 9 p.m.	The Coachman Inn	32959 State Route 20	Oak Harbor, WA
Tues, Sept 11, 2007 6 to 9 p.m.	Pacific Beach Fire Hall	4586 State Route 109	Pacific Beach, WA
Wed, Sept 12, 2007 6 to 9 p.m.	Grays Harbor College Cafeteria	1620 Edward P. Smith Drive	Grays Harbor, WA
Thurs, Sept 13, 2007 6 to 9 p.m.	Spouting Horn Restaurant	110 SE Highway 101	Depoe Bay, OR
Sat, Sept 15, 2007 6 to 9 p.m.	Eureka Women's Club	1531 J Street	Eureka, CA

Detailed information about scoping meeting logistics is included here.

- a. Open House Session – The open house format of the scoping meetings meets the needs of the public that are uncomfortable with public speaking. Providing a format where individuals can ask questions and receive answers gives the public an opportunity to have one-on-one contact with Navy and NMFS representatives. This contact promotes familiarity that leads to greater civility. The open house session also promotes more constructive public comments since many issues are clarified in the process.
- b. Information Stations – The information session will be informal to allow participants to converse with project team members assigned to information stations around the room. NMFS will have at least one (1) station to present information related to their areas of expertise and jurisdiction. Navy and NMFS representatives will be available to answer questions. Stations will be organized by topic area (see Table 1) as determined by the project team.
 - Action: Provide recommendations for information stations.
 - Lead: Katz & Associates
 - Support: ManTech SRS/Parsons JV, NTR, CPF
 - Approval: NTR, CPF
- c. Posters – Poster displays accompanying the information stations will provide factual information, maps, and graphics to clarify possible misperceptions, especially regarding the Proposed Action. Ten (10) posters will be developed on topics as determined by the project team. Topics include:
 1. Welcome poster
 2. NWTRC Study Area Map
 3. Navy Mission and Importance of Realistic Training
 4. Proposed Action / Alternatives / Purpose and Need
 5. Commercial and Recreational Interests / Public Access and Safety
 6. Sonar Purpose and Need



7. Marine Resources Protective Measures and Research
8. Environmental Stewardship Programs
9. Threatened and Endangered Species and Protective Measures
10. Cultural Resources / U&A Fishing Rights and Access

Action: Draft poster text and graphic layout; reproduce posters.

Lead: Katz & Associates

Support: ManTech SRS/Parsons JV (reproduction)

Approval: NTR, CPF



Table 1: SCOPING MEETING STATIONS AND COLLATERAL MATERIALS

Station	Posters	Supporting Fact Sheets	Brochures	Other	Staffers
Sign-in	Welcome	Fact Sheet Packet		Sign-in sheets	CAPT (Sel) Leech Bonifay Turner Abbott
About the NWTRC	NWTRC Map Navy Mission/Realistic Training	About NWTRC/ Mission /Realistic Training		NWTRC Video	MacDowell Hahn Melaas (backup)
Proposed Action/Purpose & Need	Proposed Action/ Alternatives/Purpose & Need	Proposed Action/ Alternatives/Purpose & Need		EIS Deconfliction handout	Wauer Melass
Natural Resources	T&E Species Environmental Stewardship Programs	T&E Species/Natural Resources/Protective Measures Env Stewardship Programs			Phillips Pitchford
Marine Resources	Sonar Purpose/Need MR Protective Measures/Research	Marine Resources, Protection, and Research	Sonar/Marine Mammal Protection	Whale Wheels/Trifold Marine Mammal Trng Video AFAST PPT NW/MRA	Johnson Hart
Commercial and Recreational Interests	Commercial and Recreational Interests	Commercial and Recreational Interests/Public Access and Safety			Kler
Cultural Resources/ Native American Tribes and Nations Interests	Cultural Resources	Cultural Resources/U&A Fishing Rights and Access	NA Tribes and Nations/U&A Fishing Rights and Access		Kalina Mosher
NEPA Process/ Community Involvement/ Comment Table		NEPA Process/ Community Involvement		Comment Forms Tape Recorder Laptop Computer NEPA Process Timeline	Bryant Turner
Rovers					CAPT (Sel) Leech Winters Hayes Murray Turner



- d. Reception Table – The reception table will be staffed throughout the duration of the scoping meeting. Attendees will be asked to fill out attendance cards or a sign-in sheet, which will be used to update the EIS/OEIS mailing list.
- e. Handouts – Five (5) handouts will be developed and made available to the public at the reception table and at appropriate information stations. The handouts will include a room layout (so that attendees can find stations of interest to them easily), written comment forms, and a flowchart of the NEPA process, and/or others as determined by the project team. Project team members will encourage meeting attendees to fill out a written comment sheet.

Action: Develop handouts; reproduce.

Lead: Katz & Associates (develop)

Support: ManTech SRS/Parsons JV (reproduce)

Approval: NTR, CPF

- f. Media Kits – Media kits will be prepared and may include fact sheets, brochures, reduced-scale poster images, and handouts. Media kits will be distributed to members of the media attending the scoping meetings or upon request.

Action: Assemble media kits.

Lead: Katz & Associates

Support: ManTech SRS/Parsons JV

Approval: NTR, CNRNW EPAO, CPF

- 8. **Special Services.** The Navy plans to produce the EIS/OEIS and supporting documentation in English only. An interpreter may be provided at public meetings if interest is expressed or as determined by the NTR. If notified in advance, provisions will be made at public meetings for hearing-impaired individuals. Individuals attending public meetings are expected to arrive using personal or public transportation. Public meeting locations will be wheelchair accessible.

Action: Arrange for special services, as needed.

Lead: Katz & Associates

Support: ManTech SRS/Parsons JV

Approval: NTR, CPF

C. Scoping Meeting Summary (October 2007)

The U.S. Navy held five public scoping meetings to receive public comments and input prior to the development of the Draft NWTRC EIS/OEIS. For a complete summary of the scoping meetings, see Appendix D: Scoping Meeting Summary Report.

Scoping Meetings Attendance:

- Fourteen (14) people attended the scoping meeting held in Oak Harbor, WA; two media representatives from the *Whidbey News-Times* and the *Skagit Valley Herald* attended.
- Forty-one (41) people attended the scoping meeting held in Pacific Beach, WA; one media representative from the *Daily World* attended.
- Nine (9) people attended the scoping meeting held in Grays Harbor, WA; no media representatives attended.



- Seven (7) people attended the scoping meeting held in Depoe Bay, OR; no media representatives attended.
- Ten (10) people attended the scoping meeting held in Eureka, CA; no media representatives attended.
- *Total: 81 attendees*

Major Issues:

- Training activities: how many; where they occur
 - Sonar operations along the coast, in Puget Sound and in the Olympic Coast National Marine Sanctuary
 - Underwater detonations
 - Depleted uranium issues
- Impacts to marine mammals and fish from training activities and sonar use
- Impacts to commercial fisherman; safety; damage to fishing equipment; notification process
- Details of the Proposed Action; differences between alternatives; understanding of the no-action alternative
- Unexploded ordnance discovery
- Impacts of Proposed Action on Native American Tribes and Nations, particularly fish stocks
- Noise impacts

D. Post-Scoping Activities

1. **News Release.** At the close of the scoping comment period, the Navy will issue a news release to the media, government agencies, NGOs, and other special interests. The news release will provide a general summary of the scoping meetings and process, and include the project Web address for those who want more information.

Action: Draft and disseminate news releases.

Lead: Katz & Associates (draft); CNRNW EPAO (disseminate)

Support: ManTech SRS/Parsons JV

Approval: NTR, CNRNW EPAO, CPF

2. **Scoping Meeting Summary Report.** A summary report (Appendix D) of the scoping meetings will be developed to document the details of the scoping meetings. A general summary of the public's issues, concerns, and questions heard by the project team will be included.

Action: Draft scoping meeting summary report.

Lead: Katz & Associates

Support: ManTech SRS/Parsons JV

Approval: NTR, CPF

3. **Comment Compilation.** At the end of the scoping comment period, oral and written comments from the scoping meetings and written comments received by mail will be compiled and distributed to the EIS/OEIS project team and other subject matter experts (SME). A meeting of the project team will be held to discuss the impact, significance, and relevance of the comments to the preparation of the Draft EIS/OEIS.

Action: Compile and distribute public comments to SMEs; host scoping comment review



meeting.

Lead: Katz & Associates; ManTech SRS/Parsons JV

Support: NTR

Approval: NTR, CPF

4. **Scoping Comment Summary Report.** A brief and public-friendly summary of the comments received was developed and posted to the project Web site. The summary report (Appendix F of the Draft EIS/OEIS) provides general summaries of the comments and not attributed to a specific individual or agency.

Action: Draft scoping comment summary report; post to Web site.

Lead: ManTech SRS/Parsons JV

Support: Katz & Associates

Approval: NTR, CPF

5. **Mailing List Update.** The project mailing list will be updated with additional names and addresses obtained during the public comment period from meeting attendance lists and written comments. The mailing list will continue to be updated with additional names and addresses of individuals requesting EIS/OEIS information.

Action: Update mailing list.

Lead: Katz & Associates

Support: ManTech SRS/Parsons JV

Approval: NTR, CPF

6. **Project Web Site Update.** The project Web site will be updated with additional information regarding the Proposed Action, the scoping comment summary report, the project's status in the NEPA process, and area(s) of public misperception based on public comments.

Action: Update project Web site.

Lead: ManTech SRS/Parsons JV

Support: Katz & Associates

Approval: NTR, CPF



VI. DRAFT EIS/OEIS ACTIVITIES

A. Publication of the Draft EIS/OEIS

1. **Notice of Public Hearings.** The Navy will publish a Notice for Public Hearings (NOPH) in the *Federal Register* at least fifteen (15) days prior to the first public hearing. The NOPH will be submitted to and published by the Chief of Naval Operations (CNO) N45.

Action: Develop draft and final NOPH; forward to CNO N45 for publishing.

Lead: ManTech SRS/Parsons JV (develop); CPF (forward)

Support: Katz & Associates

Approval: NTR, CPF

2. **Notice of Availability/Notice of Public Hearings Ad.** An NOA/NOPH display advertisement announcing the availability of the Draft EIS/OEIS will be placed in the seven (7) aforementioned newspapers (see Section V.B.1). The ad will also include an NOPH. The initial ad will be printed at least fifteen (15) days prior to the first public hearing. The ad will be repeated once, five (5) to ten (10) days prior to the first public hearing, and then again printed the three (3) consecutive days prior to the public hearing dates. The ad will also be posted on the project Web site. A copy of the notice will be provided to the CNRNW EPAO prior to publication in the newspaper. Within thirty (30) days of publication, a copy of the printed ad and affidavit will be provided to the NTR.

Action: Develop draft and final NOA/NOPH display ad; publish in newspapers, obtain affidavit of publication.

Lead: Katz & Associates

Support: ManTech SRS/Parsons JV

Approval: NTR, CNRNW EPAO, CPF

NEWSPAPER	REGION	NOA PUBLISHING DATES	NOPH PUBLISHING DATES
Seattle Times/Seattle Post-Intelligencer (daily)	Greater Western WA Oak Harbor, WA	Tuesday, 30 Dec 2009	Thursday, 15 Jan 2009 Friday, 23 Jan 2009 Monday, 26 Jan 2009 Tuesday, 27 Jan 2009
Whidbey News-Times (bi-weekly)	Oak Harbor, WA	Wednesday, 31 Dec 2009	Saturday, 17 Jan 2009 Saturday, 24 Jan 2009
Peninsula Daily (daily)	Oak Harbor, WA	Tuesday, 30 Dec 2009	Thursday, 15 Jan 2009 Friday, 23 Jan 2009 Monday, 26 Jan 2009 Tuesday, 27 Jan 2009
Daily World (daily)	Pacific Beach, WA Grays Harbor, WA	Tuesday, 30 Dec 2009	Friday, 16 Jan 2009 Monday, 26 Jan 2009 Tuesday, 27 Jan 2009 Wednesday, 28 Jan 2009 Thursday, 29 Jan 2009
Newport News Times (bi-weekly)	Newport, OR	Wednesday, 31 Dec 2009	Friday, 16 Jan 2009 Wednesday, 21 Jan 2009 Friday, 23 Jan 2009 Wednesday, 28 Jan 2009
Times-Standard (daily)	Eureka, CA	Tuesday, 30 Dec 2009	Thursday, 22 Jan 2009 Friday, 30 Jan 2009 Saturday, 31 Jan 2009 Monday, 2 Feb 2009



3. **News Release.** Concurrently with the publishing of the NOA, the Navy will issue a news release announcing the availability of the Draft EIS/OEIS inviting public review of the document and the comment period dates, and providing locations of the information repositories. The news release will provide an overview of the Proposed Action and alternatives and the resources analyzed and discussed in the Draft EIS/OEIS.

Action: Draft and disseminate news release.

Lead: Katz & Associates (draft); CNRNW EPAO (disseminate)

Support: ManTech SRS/Parsons JV

Approval: NTR, CNRNW EPAO, CPF

4. **Stakeholder and Native American Tribes and Nations Notification of Draft EIS/OEIS Availability and Distribution.** The Draft EIS/OEIS will be produced in both hard copy (paper) and electronic (CD) format. Approximately one hundred twenty (120) copies of the Draft EIS/OEIS in hard copy and electronic formats (CD-ROM) will be mailed First Class to information repositories, federal and state regulatory agencies, and Native American Tribes and Nations. Elected officials, non-regulatory government agencies and individuals requesting a copy, attending a scoping meeting, and/or commenting during the public comment period will receive a CD-ROM only. Accompanying the Draft EIS/OEIS, a stakeholder notification cover letter will provide the date and locations of the public hearings. The distribution list is provided in Chapter 9 of the Draft EIS/OEIS.

The mailing will coincide with the publication of the NOPH in the *Federal Register*. One (1) hard copy and CD-ROM copy of the Draft EIS/OEIS will be available to the public in each of the information repositories. The Draft EIS/OEIS will also be posted to the project Web site.

Action: Disseminate Draft EIS/OEIS with cover letter.

Lead: ManTech SRS/Parsons JV

Support: Katz & Associates (distribution list, draft cover letter)

Signature for cover letter: CPF

Approval: NTR, CPF

5. **Fact Sheets and Brochures.** Two (2) new 2-page and five (5) updated (from scoping phase) fact sheets will be prepared to provide more information to the public about the findings contained in the Draft EIS/OEIS or to clarify areas of possible concern or misperception. Brochures developed for scoping will be used again for the public hearings, as appropriate. These information materials will support the public hearing process and will be made at the public hearings, at stakeholder briefings (as conducted), in the information repositories, and posted on the project Web site. Topics include:

Fact Sheets

1. Proposed Action & Alternatives/Navy Training Mission
2. Potential Effects to Marine Life from Sonar
3. Potential Effects to Marine Life from Explosives
4. Marine Resources, Protection and Research
5. Other Potential Effects to Natural Resources
6. Potential Effects to the Human Environment/Summary of Potential Effects

Brochures:

1. Cultural Resources (from scoping)

Action: Draft fact sheet text and graphic layout; reproduce.

Lead: Katz & Associates

Support: ManTech SRS/Parsons JV, EPAO



Approval: NTR, CPF

6. **Project Web Site.** The *Federal Register* notice, NOA/NOPH ad, fact sheets, Draft EIS/OEIS, and downloadable public comment forms will be posted on the project Web site.

Action: Update project Web site.

Lead: ManTech SRS/Parsons JV

Support: Katz & Associates, EPAO

Approval: NTR, CPF

7. **Key Messages and Frequently Asked Questions.** A catalogue of key messages, FAQs, and “public friendly” responses will be developed and organized by subject to support the Navy team during the public hearings and for public and media inquiries. This will include updating messages and FAQs developed during the scoping process and developing new messages and FAQs focused on the analysis results and findings in the Draft EIS/OEIS. Upon approval, a version of the FAQs may be posted to the project Web site tailored to the public and media. Potential topics or areas of public concern will be decided by the team prior to the development of messages and FAQs.

Action: Update and develop key messages and FAQs.

Lead: Katz & Associates

Support: ManTech SRS/Parsons JV, CNRNW EPAO, NTR, CPF

Approval: NTR, CPF

B. Draft EIS/OEIS Public Hearings

1. **Pre-Hearing Training and Dry Run.** A pre-hearing meeting will be held in Silverdale for Navy and project team participants prior to the initial public hearing. The purpose of the pre-hearing meeting will be to review all materials that will be used at the public hearings; discuss details of room set-up and information station assignments; review risk communication principals and techniques, establish ground rules and talking points for project team participants; review scripts and presentation; review and discuss how frequently asked and/or difficult questions should be answered; and address any other concerns and issues. A public hearing dry run, including a dry run of the hearing presentation, also will be conducted at this meeting.

Action: Host pre-hearing meeting; coordinate meeting attendance of Navy team.

Lead: Katz & Associates (host); CPF (meeting attendance)

Support: ManTech SRS/Parsons JV, CNRNW PAO and EPAO

Approval: NTR, CPF

2. **News Release.** Concurrently with the publishing of the NOPH, the Navy will issue a second news release to regional media outlets listing the dates, times, and locations of the public hearings, inviting public review of the Draft EIS/OEIS, how the public can comment, and comment period dates, and will provide locations of the information repositories. The news release will also provide an overview of the issues analyzed and discussed in the Draft EIS/OEIS. A list of potential outlets to receive Navy news releases can be found in Appendix B.

Action: Draft and disseminate news release.

Lead: Katz & Associates (draft); CNRNW EPAO (disseminate)

Support: ManTech SRS/Parsons JV

Approval: NTR, CNRNW EPAO, CPF

3. **Meeting Flyers.** The Navy will distribute flyers to advertise the public meetings to local



community centers and/or areas frequented by the public for posting on bulletin boards.
 Proposed locations include:

Flier Distribution	Location	Address	City
Oak Harbor	Oak Harbor Senior Center	51 SE Jerome Street	Oak Harbor
	Boys and Girls Club of Oak Harbor	98 NE Barron Dr. /Mailing: PO Box 2577	Oak Harbor
	U.S. Post Office	1155 SE City Beach St	Oak Harbor
	Oak Harbor Library	1000 SE Regatta Dr. Directions & Bus Routes	Oak Harbor
Pacific Beach	U.S. Post Office	12 Main St	Pacific Beach
	North Beach Business Association (NBBA)		Pacific Beach
Grays Harbor	Grays Harbor Chamber of Commerce	506 Duffy Street	Aberdeen
	Aberdeen Timberland Library	121 East Market Street	Aberdeen
	The Salvation Army, ABERDEEN (Grays Harbor), WA - Corps Community Center	215 N G St	Aberdeen
	Aberdeen U.S. Post Office	115 N K St.	Aberdeen
Newport	Newport Chamber of Commerce	555 SW Coast Hwy	Newport
	U.S. Post Office	810 SW 2nd	Newport
	Newport Public Library	35 NW Nye	Newport
	Oregon Coast History Center	545 SW 9th Street	Newport
Eureka	U.S. Post Office	3901 Walnut Dr	Eureka
	Humboldt County Library	1313 3rd St	Eureka
	Trinidad Branch Library	300 Trinity St # 10	Eureka
	Adorni Recreation Center	1011 Waterfront Dr	Eureka
	The Salvation Army, EUREKA, CA - Corps Community Center	2123 Tydd St	Eureka

- Action: Draft and disseminate flyer.
- Lead: Katz & Associates
- Support: ManTech SRS/Parsons JV
- Approval: NTR, CNRNW EPAO, CPF



4. **Public Hearing Invitation.** Postcard mailers inviting elected officials, government agencies, NGOs, media, and individuals to the public hearings will be sent via direct mail to the external mailing list at least two (2) weeks prior to the first public hearing. The mailer will include a brief description of the Proposed Action; the public hearing dates, times, and locations; how the public can comment if they can not attend a meeting; comment period dates; and the project Web site address.

Action: Draft and disseminate postcard invitation mailer.

Lead: Katz & Associates

Support: ManTech SRS/Parsons JV

Approval: NTR, CPF

5. **Public Hearings.** The Navy plans to hold five (5) public hearings to solicit comments from the public on the environmental issues addressed and analyzed in the Draft EIS/OEIS. Potential sites for the public hearings include:

DATE	LOCATION	ADDRESS	CITY, STATE
Tues, Jan 27, 2009	Oak Harbor School District Office, ASC Board Room	350 S. Oak Harbor St.	Oak Harbor, WA
Wed, Jan 28, 2009	Pacific Beach Fire Hall	4586 State Route 109	Pacific Beach, WA
Thurs, Jan 29, 2009	Grays Harbor College Cafeteria	1620 Edward P. Smith Drive	Grays Harbor, WA
Fri, Jan 30, 2009	Hatfield Marine Science Center	2030 SE Marine Science Drive	Newport, OR
Mon, Feb 2, 2009	Eureka Women's Club	1531 J Street	Eureka, CA

The public hearings will be dual-format. The first format will be an open house style information session comprised of poster stations and visual displays; the second is a formal presentation and oral comment opportunity. The open house session will be informal and will take place two (2) hours prior to the beginning of the formal presentation. The open house session will allow participants to converse with project team members and NMFS personnel assigned to poster stations.

- a. Open House Session – The open house format of the hearings meets the needs of the public that are uncomfortable with public speaking. Providing a format where individuals can ask questions and receive answers gives the public an opportunity to have one-on-one contact with Navy and NMFS representatives. This contact promotes familiarity that leads to greater civility during the formal presentation session. The information session also promotes more constructive public comments since many issues are clarified in the process.
- b. Presentation and Oral Comments – A formal meeting will be convened by a moderator and will commence two (2) hours after the beginning of the information session. The moderator will open the meeting, explain the hearing's purpose, outline the meeting's agenda, and state the ground rules for participation. A PowerPoint presentation will be prepared and will describe the Proposed Action and alternatives, address the purpose and need of the Proposed Action, summarize potential environmental impacts, address ongoing coordination efforts with regulatory agencies, and present the remaining steps in the NEPA process.

Following the presentation, the moderator will open the oral comment session, call on public speakers to the podium in the order in which they signed up, and enforce a four-minute time limit for oral comments. The formal portion of the meeting will be recorded



by a certified court reporter.

- c. Information Stations – The information session will be informal to allow participants to converse with project team members assigned to information stations around the room. NMFS will have at least one (1) station to present information related to their areas of expertise and jurisdiction. Navy and NMFS representatives will be available to answer questions. Stations will be organized by topic area as determined by the project team.

Action: Provide recommendations for information stations.

Lead: Katz & Associates

Support: ManTech SRS/Parsons JV, NTR, CPF

Approval: NTR, CPF

- d. Posters – Poster displays are intended to provide factual information regarding the Proposed Action and report findings in the Draft EIS/OEIS. All information on the poster displays will come from the Draft EIS/OEIS or other Navy-approved documents or programs. Poster stations will be organized by topic. Six (6) new posters will be developed. Topics include:

1. Welcome poster (from scoping)
2. NWTRC Study Area Map (updated)
3. Navy Mission and Importance of Realistic Training (from scoping)
4. Proposed Action & Alternatives
5. Potential Effects to Marine Life from Sonar
6. Potential Effects to Marine Life from Explosives
7. Marine Resources Protective Measures and Research
8. Other Potential Effects to Natural Resources
9. Potential Effects to the Human Environment

Action: Draft poster text and graphic layout; reproduce posters.

Lead: Katz & Associates

Support: ManTech SRS/Parsons JV (reproduce)

Approval: NTR, CPF

- e. Project Video – The project video developed during the scoping phase highlighting Navy operations and activities within the NWTRC, including footage of current military activities, environmental stewardship programs, and Navy personnel training to spot marine mammals, will be used again at the public hearings.
- f. Room Setup – The public hearings will be held in one large room to allow sufficient space for the poster stations and the presentation/public comment area. There will be seating for approximately 100 people in the presentation/public comment area. A podium will be set up for use by the presenter and the public.
- g. Welcome Table – The welcome/reception table will be staffed throughout the duration of the public hearing. Attendees will be asked to sign in and those who wish to speak can fill out a speaker card. The attendance roster will be used to update the project mailing list. Attendees also can sign up to receive a CD-ROM copy of the Final EIS/OEIS.
- h. Speaker Request – Those who wish to make oral comments will be asked to fill out a speaker card, located at the reception table and throughout the venue. Commentors will be called to make their comments in the order in which they sign up and will have four minutes to provide oral comments. Each individual may speak only once and the combining of speaking times is not permitted. It will be noted that written and oral



comments will be given the same consideration.

Action: Prepare speaker request cards; monitor order of submission.

Lead: Katz & Associates

Support: ManTech SRS/Parsons JV

Approval: NTR, CPF

- i. Handouts – Five (5) handouts will be developed and made available to the public at the reception table and at appropriate locations throughout the venue. The handouts will include an agenda; a room layout (so that attendees can find stations of interest to them easily); written comment forms, a flowchart of the NEPA process, and/or others as determined by the project team. Project team members will encourage meeting attendees to fill out a written comment sheet.

Action: Develop handouts; reproduce.

Lead: Katz & Associates (develop)

Support: ManTech SRS/Parsons JV (reproduce)

Approval: NTR, CPF

- j. Media Kits – Media kits will be prepared and may include fact sheets, reduced-scale poster images, handouts, and the news release announcing the availability of the Draft EIS/OEIS. Media kits will be distributed to members of the media attending the public hearings or upon request.

Action: Assemble media kits.

Lead: Katz & Associates

Support: ManTech SRS/Parsons JV

Approval: NTR, CNRNW EPAO, CPF

6. **Special Services.** The Navy plans to produce the Draft EIS/OEIS and supporting documentation in English only. An interpreter may be provided at public meetings if interest is expressed or as determined by the NTR. As needed, provisions will be made at public hearings for hearing-impaired individuals. Individuals attending public meetings are expected to arrive using personal or public transportation. Public hearing locations will be wheelchair accessible.

Action: Arrange for special services, as needed.

Lead: Katz & Associates

Support: ManTech SRS/Parsons JV

Approval: NTR, CPF

C. **Post-Public Hearing Activities**

1. **News Release.** At the close of the public comment period, the Navy will issue a news release to the media, government agencies, NGOs, and other special interests. The news release will provide a general summary of the public hearings and process, and include the project Web address for those who want more information.

Action: Draft and disseminate news release.

Lead: Katz & Associates (draft); CNRNW PAO (disseminate)

Support: ManTech SRS/Parsons JV

Approval: NTR, CNRNW EPAO, CPF

2. **Public Hearing Summary Report.** A summary report of the public hearings will be



developed to document the details of the public hearings. A general summary of the public's issues, concerns and questions heard by the project team will be included.

Action: Draft public hearing summary report.

Lead: Katz & Associates

Support: ManTech SRS/Parsons JV

Approval: NTR, CPF

3. **Comment Compilation.** At the end of the public comment period, oral and written comments from the public hearings, and written comments received by mail will be compiled, categorized and distributed to the EIS/OEIS project team. A meeting of the project team will be held to discuss the impact, significance and relevance of the comments to the preparation of the Final EIS/OEIS.

Action: Compile and distribute public comments to SMEs; host comment review meeting.

Lead: ManTech SRS/Parsons JV; NTR

Support: Katz & Associates

Approval: NTR, CPF

4. **Public Comment Summary Report.** A brief and public-friendly summary of the comments received will be developed and posted to the project Web site. The summary report will provide general summaries of the comments and not attributed to a specific individual or agency.

Action: Draft public comment summary report.

Lead: ManTech SRS/Parsons JV

Support: Katz & Associates

Approval: NTR, CPF

5. **Mailing List Update.** The project mailing list will be updated with additional names and addresses obtained during the public comment period from meeting attendance lists and written comments. The mailing list will continue to be updated with additional names and addresses of individuals requesting EIS/OEIS information.

Action: Update mailing list.

Lead: Katz & Associates

Support: ManTech SRS/Parsons JV

Approval: NTR, CPF

6. **Project Web Site Update.** The project Web site will be updated with additional information regarding the Proposed Action, the public comment summary report, the project's status in the NEPA process, and area(s) of public misperception based on public comments.

Action: Update project Web site.

Lead: ManTech SRS/Parsons JV

Support: Katz & Associates

Approval: NTR, CPF



VII. FINAL EIS/OEIS ACTIVITIES

A. Preparation of the Final EIS/OEIS

1. **Comment Response and Incorporation.** Following the close of the public comment period, categorized comments will be distributed according to subject to SMEs for consideration in the preparation of the Final EIS/OEIS. Responses to the comments will be developed and included in the Final EIS/OEIS OEIS and the Final EIS/OEIS revised as necessary.

Action: Distribute public comments to SMEs; Compile and review responses to comments.

Lead: NTR; ManTech SRS/Parsons JV

Support: Katz & Associates

Approval: NTR, CPF

B. Publication of Final EIS/OEIS through Record of Decision (ROD)

1. **Notice of Availability Ad.** A display advertisement announcing the availability of the Final EIS/OEIS will be placed in the seven (7) aforementioned newspapers (see Scoping section B.1) and posted on the project Web site. The ad will also include a Notice for Public Review Period. The ad will be provided to the CNRNW EPAO prior to publication in the newspaper. Within thirty (30) days of publication, a copy of the printed ad and affidavit will be provided to the NTR.

Action: Develop draft and final NOA display ad; publish in newspapers, obtain affidavit of publication.

Lead: Katz & Associates

Support: ManTech SRS/Parsons JV

Approval: NTR, CNRNW EPAO, CPF

2. **News Release.** Concurrently with the publishing of the NOA, the Navy will issue a news release to regional media regarding the NOA and the next step in the process, the ROD. A list of potential outlets to receive Navy news releases can be found in Appendix B.

Action: Draft and disseminate news release.

Lead: Katz & Associates (draft); CNRNW PAO (disseminate)

Support: ManTech SRS/Parsons JV

Approval: NTR, CNRNW EPAO, CPF

3. **Final EIS/OEIS Availability and Distribution.** The Final EIS/OEIS will be produced in both hard copy (paper) and electronic (CD) format. Approximately one hundred twenty (120) copies of the Final EIS/OEIS in hard copy and electronic format will be mailed First Class to regulatory agencies and Native American Tribes and Nations. Elected officials, non-regulatory government agencies, and individuals requesting a copy and/or commenting during the Draft EIS/OEIS review period will receive electronic format only.

The mailing will coincide with the publication of the NOA in the *Federal Register*. One (1) hard copy of the Final EIS/OEIS will be available to the public in each of the information repositories, and it will also be posted to the project Web site.

Action: Prepare and disseminate Final EIS/OEIS.

Lead: ManTech SRS/Parsons JV

Support: Katz & Associates (information repositories, mailing list)

Approval: NTR, CPF



4. **Stakeholder Notification Letter.** Federal, state, and local agencies and government officials anticipated to be particularly interested in the EIS/OEIS will be sent a notification cover letter to accompany the mailing of the Final EIS/OEIS.

Action: Draft and disseminate Stakeholder Notification letter

Lead: ManTech SRS/Parsons JV

Support: Katz & Associates (provide specific notification mailing list)

Obtaining signature for letter: CPF

Conduct follow-up phone calls: CPF, NTR

5. **Project Web Site.** The *Federal Register* notice, NOA ad, fact sheets, and the Final EIS/OEIS will be posted on the project Web site.

Action: Update project Web site.

Lead: ManTech SRS/Parsons JV

Support: Katz & Associates

Approval: NTR, CPF

C. **Publication of the Record of Decision (ROD)**

1. **Notice of Availability Ad.** An NOA display advertisement announcing the availability of the ROD will be placed in the seven (7) aforementioned newspapers (see Scoping section B.1) on three (3) consecutive days after the NOA is printed in the *Federal Register*. The ad will also be posted on the project Web site. The ad will be provided to the CNRNW EPAO prior to publication in the newspaper. Within thirty (30) days of publication, a copy of the printed ad and affidavit will be provided to the NTR.

Action: Draft NOA display ad; publish in newspapers, obtain affidavit of publication.

Lead: Katz & Associates

Support: ManTech SRS/Parsons JV

Approval: NTR, CNRNW EPAO, CPF

2. **News Release.** Concurrently with the publishing of the NOA, the Navy will issue a news release to regional media regarding the availability of the ROD. A list of potential outlets to receive Navy news releases can be found in Appendix B.

Action: Draft and disseminate news release.

Lead: Katz & Associates (draft); CNRNW PAO (disseminate)

Support: ManTech SRS/Parsons JV

Approval: NTR, CNRNW EPAO, CPF

3. **ROD Availability and Mailing.** The signed ROD will be printed and mailed First Class to all interested government agencies, officials, individuals, and organizations on the project mailing list. The mailing will be timed to coincide with the publication of the ROD in the *Federal Register*, approximately five (5) days after the ROD is signed. The ROD will also be available to the public in the information repositories and on the project Web site.

Action: Disseminate ROD; post on project Web site.

Lead: ManTech SRS/Parsons JV (mailing and Web site); NTR (information repositories)

Support: Katz & Associates (mailing list)

Approval: NTR, CPF



4. **Project Web Site.** The project Web site will remain active for at least six (6) months after the publication of the ROD.

Action: Maintain project Web site.

Lead: ManTech SRS/Parsons JV

Support: Katz & Associates

Approval: NTR, CPF



VIII. PERSONNEL RESPONSIBILITIES

A. *Naval Facilities Engineering Command, Northwest – Navy Technical Representative*

1. Responsible for the execution of the PIP in coordination with the CPF Project Officer and the designated PIP team.
2. Serve as primary point of contact for ongoing interactions with the public during the preparation of the EIS/OEIS.
3. Develop – with the contractor and in coordination with the CPF Project Officer, Legal Office, CNRNW EPAO, and other members of the PIP team – project updates, responses to queries, notices, and display advertisements. Ensure that appropriate commands have reviewed materials prior to their distribution.
4. Oversee contractor for determining appropriate newspapers for public notices and for developing and placing display (public notice) advertisements.
5. Establish information repositories.
6. Oversee the preparation and Navy review of informational materials, such as fact sheets, poster boards, presentation(s), and script(s).
7. Support the public meetings. Attend material review meetings and dry run; provide input to presenters.
8. Oversee the compilation of oral and written scoping comments for discussion at post-scoping meeting conference used in preparation of the Draft EIS/OEIS.
9. Oversee the compilation of oral and written comments on the Draft EIS/OEIS for development of a Response to Comments portion of the Final EIS/OEIS.
10. Work with contractor and appropriate Navy personnel to develop and maintain an EIS/OEIS Web site.
11. Provide technical direction to contractor providing assistance in executing above responsibilities.

B. *Commander, U.S. Pacific Fleet – Project Officer*

1. Provide overall direction for the development and execution of the public involvement program.
2. Provide resources as necessary and available for successful execution of the PIP.
3. Oversee scoping meetings and public hearings.
4. Provide input to NTR and CNRNW EPAO for responding to public and media inquiries.
5. Serve as a liaison for multi-command input into the public involvement process.
6. Coordinate the provision of staff to participate in scoping meetings and public hearings.
7. Lead the development of responses to public and agency comments on operational and program-specific elements of the Draft EIS/OEIS.

C. *Commander, Navy Region Northwest – Environmental Public Affairs Officer*

1. Serve as primary point of contact for ongoing interactions with the media during the preparation of the EIS/OEIS.
2. Coordinate news media queries regarding the EIS/OEIS process, scoping meetings, and public hearings.
3. Distribute news releases and NGO electronic newsletter releases.
4. Provide on-site public affairs support for the scoping meetings and public hearings. Attend presentation practice sessions and provide input to presenters.



D. Commander, U.S. Pacific Fleet – Public Affairs Officer

1. Assist CPF Project Officer with the development and execution of the public involvement program.
2. Facilitate public informational material review and comment for the U.S. Pacific Fleet team.
3. Support PIP team at scoping meetings and public hearings.

E. Commander, Navy Region Northwest – Environmental

1. Assist CPF Project Officer with coordination and conducting government agency and official briefings.
2. Provide input to NTR and CNRNW EPAO for technical responses to public and media inquiries.
3. Lead development of responses to resource-specific comments on the Draft and Final EIS/OEIS.
4. Provide SMEs to participate in scoping meetings and public hearings.

F. Naval Facilities Engineering Command, Northwest Environmental

1. Lead Native American Tribes and Nations and resource-specific agency coordination and consultation.
2. Provide input to NTR and CNRNW EPAO for technical responses to public and media inquiries.
3. Lead development of responses to resource-specific comments on the Draft and Final EIS/OEIS.
4. Provide SMEs to participate in scoping meetings and public hearings.



IX. REFERENCES

- A. Northwest Training Range Complex 100% Draft Range Complex Management Plan, April 2007.
- B. National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) of 1969, 42 United States Code 4321, as amended.
- C. Executive Order 12114, Environmental Effects Abroad of Major Federal Actions, 1979.
- D. Council on Environmental Quality (CEQ) NEPA Regulations, 40 Code of Federal Regulations § 1501.4 (2005).
- E. Office of the Chief of Naval Operations Instruction (OPNAVINST) 5090.1C, Environmental and Natural Resources Program Manual, Chapter 5, 30 Oct 2007.
- F. Supplemental Environmental Planning Policy, OPNAV N45 memorandum, 23 Sep 2004.
- G. National Historic Preservation Act (NHPA) of 1966, 36 C.F.R. § 800 and subsections, as amended.
- H. Advisory Council on Historic Preservation (ACHP) Regulations, Protection of Historic Properties (36 C.F.R. § 800) Implementing Section 106 of NHPA.

APPENDIX A: PROJECT TEAM
Northwest Training Range Complex EIS/OEIS

Consultants	Name	Company	Tel. #	Fax #	Email
Program Manager	[REDACTED]	ManTech SRS	(760) 944-9043	(760) 944-9047	[REDACTED]
Assistant Program Manager	[REDACTED]	ManTech SRS	(619) 260-1434	(619) 260-9122	[REDACTED]
Project Manager	[REDACTED]	ManTech SRS	(719) 488-9645		[REDACTED]
Assistant Project Manager	[REDACTED]	Parsons	(303) 764-8825	(303) 764-8848	[REDACTED]
Acoustic Modeling Manager	[REDACTED]	KAYA Associates	(256) 713-1584	(256) 382-8089	[REDACTED]
Marine Mammal	[REDACTED]	ManTech SRS	(831) 685-1573	(831) 459-3383	[REDACTED]
GIS Specialist	[REDACTED]	ManTech SRS	(619) 220-0875 x115	(619) 260-8122	[REDACTED]
Public Participation Manager	[REDACTED]	Katz & Associates	(206) 453-3380	(206) 453-3382	[REDACTED]
Public Participation Support	[REDACTED]	Katz & Associates	(858) 926-4022	(858) 552-8437	[REDACTED]
Navy Points of Contact	Name	Organization	Tel. #	Fax #	Email
NTR	[REDACTED]	NAVFAC NW	(360) 396-0927	(360) 396-0857	[REDACTED]
Program Manager/CPF Environmental	[REDACTED]	N01CE15	(360) 315-5082	(360) 315-5085	[REDACTED]
CPF Environmental	[REDACTED]	N01CE	(808) 291-6485		[REDACTED]
CPF Operations	[REDACTED]	N77	(808) 474-8410		[REDACTED]
CPF Environmental Counsel	[REDACTED]	N01CETA	(808) 471-4954		[REDACTED]
CPF Environmental	[REDACTED]	CPF	<need>		[REDACTED]
CPF Public Affairs	[REDACTED]	CPF PAO	(808) 474-4937		[REDACTED]
Ranges, Community Planning	[REDACTED]	CNRNW	(360) 257-3315		[REDACTED]
Environmental	[REDACTED]	CNRNW-NASWI	(360) 257-4025		[REDACTED]
Environmental	[REDACTED]	CNRNW	(360) 315-5400		[REDACTED]
Environmental	[REDACTED]	CNRNW	(360) 315-5440		[REDACTED]
Environmental (Biologist)	[REDACTED]	CNRNW N40	(360) 315-5103	(360) 315-5095	[REDACTED]
Public Affairs	[REDACTED]	CNRNW	(360) 396-4973	(360) 396-7127	[REDACTED]
Environmental Public Affairs	[REDACTED]	CNRNW	(360) 396-4981	(360) 396-7127	[REDACTED]
NEPA / Cultural Resources	[REDACTED]	NAVFAC NW	(360) 396-5553	(360) 396-5366	[REDACTED]
Assistant Counsel	[REDACTED]	NAVFAC NW	(360) 396-0036		[REDACTED]

APPENDIX B: EXPANDED SCOPING PLAN

Priority	Target Audience	How Contacted	Enclosures	Who briefs	When	Comments
Level 1	Local Navy Leadership	Opportunistic	Use existing meetings and forums	Planning Team Members	ASAP - Continuous	Objective is to keep local leadership informed
Level 1	Native American Tribes and Nations	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Phone call Mail Tribes & Nations NEPA Notification Letter (NNL) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Invitation for personal briefing Information about Oct/Nov Tribal Council Briefing PowerPoint presentation 	RCC Kalina Winters Kler	Phone: When NOI released as courtesy call Letters: Within three (3) days after NOI	
Level 1	U.S House of Representatives ¹	Mail Elected Officials NNL	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Distribution list Map of NWTRC 	Navy Office of Legislative Affairs	Letters: Within three (3) days prior to NOI	Drop in to D.C. offices
Level 1	U.S. Senate ²	Mail Elected Officials NNL	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Distribution list Map of NWTRC 	Navy Office of Legislative Affairs	Letters: Within three (3) days prior to NOI	Drop in to D.C. offices
Level 1	WA State Department of Archaeology & Historic Preservation (SHPO)	Mail Agency NNL Phone call to schedule briefing	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Distribution List Invitation for personal briefing Map of NWTRC 	Kalina Winters Kler	Letters: Within three (3) days after NOI Phone: Call to schedule briefing for week prior to scoping meeting	
Level 1	WA State Department of Ecology	Mail Agency NNL Phone call to schedule briefing	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Distribution List Invitation for personal briefing Map of NWTRC 	Winters Kler	Letters: Within three (3) days after NOI Phone: Call to schedule briefing for week prior to scoping meeting	
Level 1	WA State Department of Fish and Wildlife, Region 6	Mail Agency NNL Phone call to schedule briefing	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Distribution List Invitation for personal briefing Map of NWTRC 	Winters Kler	Letters: Within three (3) days after NOI Phone: Call to schedule briefing for week prior to scoping meeting	

**Northwest Training Range Complex EIS/OEIS
Revised Draft Public Involvement Plan**

Priority	Target Audience	How Contacted	Enclosures	Who briefs	When	Comments
Level 1	WA State Department of Natural Resources	Mail Agency NNL Phone call to schedule briefing	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Distribution List • Invitation for personal briefing • Map of NWTRC 	Winters Kler	Letters: Within three (3) days after NOI Phone: Call to schedule briefing for week prior to scoping meeting Letters: Within three (3) days after NOI	
Level 2	Other State Regulatory Agencies ⁴	Mail Agency NNL	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Distribution list • Invitation for personal briefing • Map of NWTRC 	RCC Winters Kler	Letters: Within three (3) days after NOI	
Level 3	1) Washington State Ocean Policy Work Group 2) Washington State Parks and Recreation Commission	Mail Agency NNL	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Distribution list • Map of NWTRC 	N/A	Letters: Within three (3) days after NOI	
Level 1	Federal Regulatory Agencies ⁵	Mail Agency NNL	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Distribution List • Invitation for personal briefing • Map of NWTRC 	RCC Winters Kler	Letters: Within three (3) days after NOI	
Level 3	Federal Non-Regulatory Agencies ⁶	Mail Agency NNL	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Distribution list • Map of NWTRC 	N/A	Letters: Within three (3) days after NOI	
Level 2	Governors Offices ⁷	Mail Elected Officials NNL	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Distribution List • Map of NWTRC 	N/A	Letters: Within three (3) days after NOI	
Level 2	State Legislators ³ and Local Elected Officials	Mail Elected Officials NNL	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Distribution list • Invitation for group briefing • Map of NWTRC 	RCC Winters Kler	Letters: Within three (3) days after NOI	

**Northwest Training Range Complex EIS/OEIS
Revised Draft Public Involvement Plan**

1 U.S. House of Representatives:

REP Jay Inslee (WA-01)
REP Rick Larsen (WA-02)
REP Cathy McMorris Rodgers (WA-05)
REP Norm Dicks (WA-06)
REP Jim McDermott (WA-07)
REP Dave Reichert (WA-08)
REP Adam Smith (WA-09)
REP Greg Walden (OR-02)
REP Peter DeFazio (OR-04)
REP Darlene Hooley (OR-05)
REP Mike Thompson (CA-01)

2 U.S. Senate:

SEN Maria Cantwell (WA)
SEN Patty Murray (WA)
SEN Ron Wyden (OR)
SEN Gordon Smith (OR)
SEN Barbara Boxer (CA)
SEN Dianne Feinstein (CA)

3 State Legislators:

SEN Bob Morton (WA-07)
SEN Mary Margaret Haugen (WA-10)
SEN James Hargrove (WA-24)
REP Bob Sump (WA-07)
REP Joel Kretz (WA-07)
REP Chris Stow (WA-10)
REP Barbara Bailey (WA-10)
REP Kevin Van De Wege (WA-24)
REP Lynn Kessler (WA-24)
SEN Jeff Kruse (OR-01)
SEN Joanne Verger (OR-05)
SEN David Nelson (OR-29)
REP Wayne Krieger (OR-01)
REP Arnie Roblan (OR-09)
REP Greg Smith (OR-57)
SEN Pat Wiggins (CA-02)
SEN Sam Aanesstad (CA-04)
Assemblymember Patty Berg (CA-01)

4 State Regulatory Agencies:

Washington State Department of Agriculture
Washington State Fish & Wildlife Commission
Oregon Department of Environmental Quality
Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife

Oregon Department of Forestry
Oregon Department of Land Conservation and Development
Oregon Department of Parks and Recreation
Oregon Department of State Lands
Oregon Military Department
Oregon Water Resources Department
Pacific States Marine Fisheries Commission
California Resources Agency
California Environmental Protection Agency
California Coastal Commission
California Department of Fish and Game

5 Federal Regulatory Agencies:

Federal Aviation Administration (Washington D.C. and Military Liaison)
National Marine Fisheries Service (Northwest Regional Office, Washington D.C.)
Olympic Coast National Marine Sanctuary Advisory Council
U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (Northwestern Division)
U.S. Coast Guard (District 13 and Headquarters NEPA office)
U.S. Department of the Interior

- Bureau of Indian Affairs
- Bureau of Land Management
 - Environmental Policy & Compliance Department
- National Park Service, Olympic National Park
- U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service (Pacific Region)
- U.S. Geological Survey (Western Region)

U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (Washington D.C. and Region 10)
U.S. Forest Service Pacific Northwest Region

6 Federal Non-Regulatory Agencies

Marine Mammal Commission
National Marine Fisheries Service Office of Protected Resources
Pacific Fisheries Management Council
U.S. Army National Guard (Boardman)
U.S. Department of the Interior

- Minerals Management Service

7 Governors Offices

Chris Gregoire – WA
Ted Kulongoski – OR
Arnold Schwarzenegger - CA

APPENDIX C: MASTER MAILING LIST

Attached

APPENDIX D: SCOPING SUMMARY REPORT
Northwest Training Range Complex (NWTRC)
Environmental Impact Statement/Overseas Environmental Impact Statement (EIS/OEIS)
Summary of Public Scoping Meetings
10-15 September 2007

Executive Summary

The U.S. Navy held five public scoping meetings to receive public comments and input prior to the development of the Draft NWTRC EIS/OEIS. Scoping meetings were held:

- Monday, 10 September 2007: Oak Harbor, WA
- Tuesday, 11 September 2007: Pacific Beach, WA
- Wednesday, 12 September 2007: Grays Harbor, WA
- Thursday, 13 September 2007: Depoe Bay, OR
- Saturday, 15 September 2007: Eureka, CA

Scoping Meetings Attendance:

- Fourteen (14) people attended the scoping meeting held in Oak Harbor, WA; two media representatives from the *Whidbey News-Times* and the *Skagit Valley Herald* attended.
- Forty-one (41) people attended the scoping meeting held in Pacific Beach, WA; one media representative from the *Daily World* attended.
- Nine (9) people attended the scoping meeting held in Grays Harbor, WA; no media representatives attended.
- Seven (7) people attended the scoping meeting held in Depoe Bay, OR; no media representatives attended.
- Ten (10) people attended the scoping meeting held in Eureka, CA; no media representatives attended.
- *Total: 81 attendees*

Stakeholder Briefings

In addition to scoping meetings, the Navy also briefed elected officials, regulatory agencies and other interested parties. These stakeholders included:

Major Issues:

- Training activities: how many; where they occur
 - Sonar operations along the coast, in Puget Sound and in the Olympic Coast National Marine Sanctuary
 - Underwater detonations
 - Depleted uranium issues
- Impacts to marine mammals and fish from training activities and sonar use
- Impacts to commercial fisherman; safety; damage to fishing equipment; notification process
- Details of the Proposed Action; differences between alternatives; understanding of the no-action alternative
- Unexploded ordnance discovery
- Impacts of Proposed Action on Native American Tribes and Nations, particularly fish stocks
- Noise impacts

Detailed Summary

Risk Communication Training and Dry Run

A scoping meeting risk communication training and dry run was held 30-31 August 2007 at the Coachman Inn in Oak Harbor, WA to prepare poster station staffers and subject matter experts (SMEs) on what to expect at the scoping meetings and how to answer questions from the public and media. Topics covered: risk communication principles; how to handle difficult questions and hostile individuals; overview of the scoping meeting format and poster stations; overview of the proposed action and alternatives; and discussion of potential questions and responses.

A second dry run and discussion of frequently asked questions was held on 10 September 2007 at the Coachman Inn in Oak Harbor, WA to continue the discussions and practice with the entire project team assembled. Several key team members were unable to attend the risk communication training and dry run on 30-31 August; therefore an additional dry run was determined to be necessary.

Scoping Meetings

The Navy held five open house-style scoping meetings in Washington, Oregon and California. To notify the public, the Navy:

- Notice of Intent published in the Federal Register on Tuesday, July 31, 2007;
- Sent invitation postcards to the project mailing list (approximately 466 names);
- Published joint Notice of Intent/Notice of Scoping Meeting display advertisements on four occasions in the following newspapers;
 - *Seattle Times* (regional area)
 - *Whidbey News-Times* (Oak Harbor, greater Whidbey Island areas)
 - *Peninsula Daily News* (Oak Harbor, Port Townsend, Port Angeles areas)
 - *Daily World* (Pacific Beach, Grays Harbor, Aberdeen areas)
 - *News Guard* (Depoe Bay area)
 - *Times-Standard* (Eureka area)
- Distributed a news release to media outlets and other interested parties via the Commander, Navy Region Northwest Public Affairs Office;
- Sent Notice of Intent notification letters to Native American Tribes and Nations (52 individuals); and
- Sent stakeholder notification letters to local, state and Federal elected officials and agency representatives (133 individuals).

The meeting format was an informal open house format where members of the public could arrive at any time during the three-hour event. Media representatives were invited to arrive 30 minutes prior to the public arriving. Staffers at the welcome station greeted guests and asked them to sign in. Guests were also asked if they wanted to receive project information in the future. A packet of information describing the information stations and containing all project fact sheets, NEPA process and schedule, and a comment form was distributed to all attendees. Guests were first directed to the NWTRC video which provided an overview of the Navy's mission, training activities, and cultural and natural resource protection programs occurring within the NWTRC. Chairs were set up for guests to watch the NWTRC video.

Seven poster stations were set up around the room offering informational materials, comment forms and reference documents. There were also stations for welcome/sign-in, project video viewing, marine species awareness training video viewing; and writing and submitting of comments. The poster stations included the topics:

- Introduction to the NWTRC and training activities;
- Proposed Action and purpose and need;
- Natural resources;
- Marine resources;
- Commercial and recreational interests;

- Cultural resources and Native American Tribes and Nations interests; and
- NEPA process and community involvement.

Navy representatives and SMEs staffed each station to answer questions and provide project information. Members of the public were encouraged to fill out public comment forms to ensure their comments would be on public record and considered in the development of the Draft EIS/OEIS. Public comment forms (Attachment F) were available at each station and were collected during the meeting, or could be mailed or submitted via the project Web site.

Estimated Attendance

Guests were asked to sign in at the welcome table (Attachment G). The attendance figures below reflect the number of guests who chose to sign in at the welcome table. In addition, attendance figures include elected official, government agency, Native American Tribe and Nation, media, and nongovernmental organization (NGO) representatives who identified themselves as such.

- Fourteen people attended the scoping meeting held in Oak Harbor, WA; two media representatives from the *Whidbey News-Times* and the *Skagit Valley Herald* attended. Two individuals identified themselves as representing NGOs: the Friends of the San Juans and Ground Zero for Nonviolent Action. One representative from the Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) and one representative from Island County identified themselves. Three new requests to be added to the mailing list were received.
- Forty-one people attended the scoping meeting held in Pacific Beach, WA; a media representative from the *Daily World* attended. One representative from the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration and one County Commissioner from Grays Harbor identified themselves. Twenty-eight new requests to be added to the mailing list were received.
- Nine people attended the scoping meeting held in Grays Harbor, WA; no media representatives attended. One representative of Grays Harbor Community College attended, and one representative from U.S. Fish & Wildlife attended. Six new requests to be added to the mailing list were received.
- Seven people attended the scoping meeting held in Depoe Bay, OR; no media representatives attended. Two representatives of the U.S. Coast Guard and one City Council representative identified themselves. The City Council representative is also a member of the Depoe Bay Near-Shore Action Team and the Governor's Ocean Policy Advisory Council (OR). Five new requests to be added to the mailing list were received.
- Ten people attended the scoping meeting held in Eureka, CA; no media representatives attended. Six new requests to be added to the mailing list were received.
- *Total: 81 attendees*

Findings

This section is intended to illustrate the main topical issues heard from the public during the open house; it is not meant to capture all aspects of the comments or to serve as a legal record. For a complete record of public comments, please refer to the Administrative Record file maintained by Kimberly Kler, NAVFAC NW.

Information station staffers and SMEs had the opportunity to engage in conversations with the public during the course of the open house scoping meetings. Some of the general concerns and questions expressed by the public and applicable to the NWTRC EIS/OEIS touched on the following areas (not prioritized):

General

- Appreciation to the Navy for coming and answering questions and being open and honest
- Well educated and prepared Navy team
- Need to run announcements more often (Eureka)
- Venue selection (Oak Harbor – small room; Eureka – higher attendance if had been downtown)
- Day selection (Eureka – should not have had meeting on this Saturday night as there was another community activity scheduled)

Training

- Aircraft noise
- Training occurring in the MOAs and Admiralty Bay
- Replacement of Prowlers
- Activities (bombs) in the Olympic Coast National Marine Sanctuary
- Requests for numbers of specific training activities, especially sonar activities
- Request from media to observe EOD activities, monitoring procedures
- Electronic Combat emitters
- Unmanned aerial vehicles – questions regarding scale
- What is meant by “live fire”?
- “Expansion” of Navy footprint
- EIS study area map needs a scale bar
- Sonar operations along the coast and Puget Sound
- Acoustic impacts from training
- Appreciate training conducted by military, support for Navy

Proposed Action

- Understanding the proposed action and how it differs from current actions
- Nature of the proposed improvements
- Impacts from underwater detonations; potential mitigation measures to protect marine life (“bubble curtain”)
- Depleted uranium issues
- Public needs a better understanding of the no-action alternative, i.e. current activities on land, air and sea
- Differences between alternatives

Natural Resources/Threatened and Endangered (T&E) Species

- Questions regarding Navy’s major event response plans (oil spills)
- Interest in derelict fishing gear removal program; appreciation for Navy participation
- How many T&E species are in range complex?
- Requests for greater dialogue between Navy and NGOs

Marine Resources

- How many training activities involve the use of sonar? Where is this training conducted?
- General information regarding use of sonar
- Use of sonar in Puget Sound and along coast
- Training impacts to marine mammals, especially killer whales
- Navy activities in Olympic Coast National Marine Sanctuary; need for continuing dialogue in a different venue than the Sanctuary Advisory Council.
- More open communication regarding Southern Resident Killer Whales (similar to level of engagement for Navy-Tribal Council)
- Navy’s research efforts
- Navy’s monitoring process and procedures
- Marine Resources Assessment – where to get this information

Commercial and Recreational Users

- Impacts to commercial fishing to equipment and claims process when equipment is damaged
- Safety issues
- Interactions between submarines and commercial vessels
- Redirecting of commercial fishermen
- Need better communication regarding training activities; need to get more information out
- Navy should look at fishing seasons when scheduling activities
- More concern regarding impacts to fish than access to fishing areas; need more focus on the economic impact to fishing
- Pleased with information received
- Shooting of depleted uranium, torpedoes in open ocean
- Choose different locations for training activities
- Unexploded ordnance discovery

Tribal Issues and Historic/Cultural Resources

- Proposed Action effect on Tribes
- Sonar use and impacts to fish stocks
- Consultation process under NEPA; working relationship between Navy and Tribes and Nations
- Tribal claim – under flight path; changing flight patterns at Coupeville
- Analysis of potential effects to crab fisheries
- Open communication regarding Southern Resident Killer Whales
- Request for data on projects not affiliated with the NWTRC EIS/OEIS
- Decline of juvenile dungeness crab
- Unexploded ordnance discovery
- More information regarding ratio of live to inert
- Impacts to submerged archaeological sites (upland), shipwrecks, sunken planes

NEPA Process

- Who approves the project?
- Thoroughness of the NEPA process

Miscellaneous (may not be applicable to this EIS/OEIS)

- (Oak Harbor) P3-MMA transition
- (Pacific Beach) There is a ship off shore that has been there for several days/weeks. Is this a Navy vessel?
- (Eureka) Centerville Beach – closed Navy base. There are rumors that the Navy still secretly uses or that it may be contaminated.
- (Eureka) Biological “dead zone” off the coast of Oregon near W-90 / 570.

Media Coverage

The following seven articles published contain information related to the NWTRC EIS/OEIS project, or announce or cover the scoping meetings (full text of articles below).

1. Anderson, Rick. "Proposed Navy expansion could bring more undersea explosions to Washington waters." Seattle Weekly 5 Sept 2007.
2. Friedrich, Ed. "Navy seeks input on expanding Northwest Training Range." Kitsap Sun 10 Sept 2007.
3. Kline, Jordan. "Hearings this week on Navy's coastal exercises." Daily World 10 Sept 2007.
4. "Navy will meet locally to address environmental impacts of plans." Eureka Reporter 11 Sept 2007.
5. Kline, Jordan. "Navy answers questions about proposed increase in testing." Daily World 12 Sept 2007.
6. Durant, Chris. "Public input on Navy training scheduled for Saturday." Times-Standard 12 Sept 2007.
7. Boring, Paul. "Navy sees more training in future." Whidbey News-Times 15 Sept 2007.

Media Article 1.

Title: Proposed Navy Expansion Could Bring More Undersea Explosions to Washington Waters

Newspaper: Seattle Weekly

Date: Sept 5, 2007

Reporter: Rick Anderson

Link: http://www.seattleweekly.com/generic/show_print.php?issue=2007-09-05§ion=news&shortname=proposed-navy-expansion-could-bring-more-undersea-explosions-to-washington-waters&printcde=MzU3MDQzNDgyMA==&refpage=LzlwMDctMDktMDUvbmV3cy9wcm9wb3NIZC1uYXZ5LWV4cGFuc2lvbi1jb3VsZC1icmluZy1tb3JILXVuZGVyc2VhLWV4cGxvc2lvbnMtdG8td2FzaGluZ3Rvb i13YXRlcnMucGhw

The war on terrorism may not be openly fought here, but it increasingly will be practiced here. Under a new Navy plan, the waters of Puget Sound, Hood Canal, and the Washington coast will be used for more testing and training, officials say. The plan calls for deployment of more unmanned vehicles, including submersible and aerial weapons platforms, and an increase in war games off the coast, partly in a marine sanctuary.

In general, more stuff will get blown up and the use of sonar will be expanded, according to interviews and government documents. The public may not always be aware, since many of the exercises will be underwater. But fish are sure to notice.

"We're losing the Sound and now the Washington coast to the military on a month-by-month basis, and people are oblivious to it," warns Seattle activist Glen Milner, a longtime member of Ground Zero Center for Nonviolent Action, which opposes the plans. "You're not going to realize this until a Navy or Coast Guard boat comes up to you and asks what you're doing in their waters."

Public Employees for Environmental Responsibility (PEER), a watchdog group based in D.C., says it was already mulling a lawsuit against the Navy for not taking precautions with its existing underwater demolitions here—as many as 300 per year in Puget Sound, the group says, citing federal documents. According to the PEER study, the Navy frequently uses C-4 plastic explosives underwater as part of its training.

One explosive exercise, off the Whidbey Island Naval Air Station, caused an extensive fish kill a few years back, says PEER Executive Director Jeff Ruch, and the Navy's new plans pose a broader risk. "The Navy detonates in the shallow waters of the Sound and won't use bubble curtains to protect sea life," says Ruch, referring to an artificially created wall of bubbles that deadens sound and impact. "And so far they've refused to consider those alternatives."

More details of the plans should unfold in the next few weeks, starting with the release of a draft environmental impact statement (EIS) on the effects of closing off more waters around Navy facilities for training and weapons testing, a plan quietly in the works since 2003. The Navy will also begin holding public meetings on a new proposal to expand training operations principally in its range off the Washington coast, which will require another EIS.

The impact of both proposals would widen the military presence in a region already host to eight major installations, 55,000 military personnel, and more firepower than most free nations. The Navy alone owns 28,000 acres of land in the Puget Sound region, the service's third-largest fleet concentration in the world.

Navy officials say they have to "optimize" weapons use if tests and training are to be realistic and therefore beneficial; they think Western Washington is an ideal proving ground with its combination of inland sea and open ocean. Navy spokesperson Sheila Murray confirms that the coastal plan, at least, could mean more undersea and airborne explosions, including torpedoes and missiles, and bring more frequent use of sonar from Neah Bay to Ocean Shores. However, "We can't be specific," says Murray, "due to security reasons."

Without knowing what the Navy is really proposing to do, it's impossible to figure out how to mitigate the damage, says Fred Felleman, a Seattle marine consultant and photographer active in the campaign to

protect sea animals. He worries in part about more frequent use of active sonar in inland and coastal waters that can be harmful to whales and other sea life.

"The new operations should require permits or at least a thorough review," Felleman says, "which is near impossible given the classified nature of the operations."

According to planning maps, the Navy hopes to lengthen its already sizable underwater test ranges in Hood Canal, around Keyport (a town located on the Kitsap Peninsula) in Puget Sound, and in the coastal waters north of Grays Harbor. The three areas are part of the Naval Undersea Warfare Center at Keyport, whose activities include the use of robotic, mini-sublike devices and sea-floor-crawling robots employed to detect and destroy mines and gather electronic information. Small, manned subs containing Navy SEALs teams may also be tested. On the Navy's drawing boards are even larger versions of such subs, using supercavitation (i.e., high-speed propulsion) and cruising beneath the open sea at 100 knots.

Navy maps indicate the range around Keyport could double in size, extending from Liberty Bay near Poulsbo to Bainbridge Island. In Hood Canal, the Dabob Bay range would be extended to twice its size, stretching from the floating bridge at the mouth of the canal south to near Lilliwaup, Mason County. Grays Harbor's Quinault Range would be greatly expanded, almost 50 miles into the Pacific along the Olympic Coast National Marine Sanctuary.

The Quinault is located inside an even larger Navy ocean range, the Northwest Training Range Complex that reaches down to Northern California, where exercises sometimes involve carrier strike groups (aircraft carriers, destroyers, frigates, cruisers, submarines, and support ships).

Extending the inland and coastal ranges will allow the Navy to close larger portions of open waters to civilian watercraft when necessary. Currently, the Navy reports, the Quinault Range is closed up to 15 days while sections of Keyport and Hood Canal are closed up to 60 and 130 days, respectively.

In separate actions, the Navy is also proposing to fence off and extend the security zone around its major West Coast ammunition arsenal on 2,700-acre Indian Island near Port Townsend, where the payload includes Tomahawk cruise missiles for Trident subs. In a recent notice in the *Federal Register*, the Navy said more security was needed to prevent accidents, "sabotage and other subversive acts," as well as "to protect the public from potentially hazardous conditions." Also on the security-zone expansion list are the Navy's Manchester (Kitsap County) Fuel Depot, the Bremerton Navy Yard, Whidbey Island, and the Bangor nuclear sub base on Hood Canal—where the Navy has also proposed using trained dolphins and sea lions to patrol a security perimeter and intercept boaters and swimmers.

The Navy isn't yet issuing specifics about its new coastal proposal, but a Navy Web site outlines the possible testing of "new weapons systems, vessels, and aircraft" including unmanned aerial vehicles, and more training on guided missile submarines. Also planned are "the establishment of an electronic combat emitter [used, for example, to train pilots how to deal with enemy radar signals]...increased net explosive weights for underwater demolition, development of air target services, and installation of surface targets."

U.S. Environmental Protection Agency and Coast Guard spokespersons in Seattle were unaware of the Navy plans, but the military has notified the U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service. The state Department of Ecology thinks the Navy can do mostly what it wants without local intervention. "They have sovereign immunity on oil spills, for example," said the agency's Curt Hart. "We can't penalize a Navy ship for spilling in the Sound; they have to agree to reimburse us."

Navy spokesperson Murray confirms the newest plan includes an increased use of active sonar signals. Active sonar emits electronic pulses—used sometimes at powerful levels by the military (and commonly at a lower pitch by pleasure boaters) for tracking and underwater measurements—while passive sonar is used as an underwater listening device. Environmentalists claim the Navy has sometimes used its soundings irresponsibly, such as in 2003 when a guided missile destroyer, the USS *Shoup*, tested midfrequency direct sonar in U.S. and Canadian waters, causing almost a dozen harbor porpoises to beach along British Columbia's Haro Strait.

That incident, along with whale beachings in the Bahamas and the Canary Islands, among others, are behind an ongoing federal lawsuit against the Navy in California. "The Haro Strait sonar is an example of what can happen when precautions aren't taken," says Cara Horowitz, staff attorney for the National Resources Defense Council in Los Angeles, which last month won a temporary restraining order against the Navy's use of high-intensity sonar during war games off the Southern California coast (although the 9th Circuit Court of Appeals last week temporarily stayed that order). "The Navy now has to take another look at its mitigation nationwide, including in the Northwest," says Horowitz, "and that could affect the Navy's plans up there."

Navy spokesperson Murray says the service expects to hear about sonar from the public at the coastal scoping meetings—starting Sept. 10 in Oak Harbor and continuing the following two days in Pacific Beach and Aberdeen before moving to Oregon and California. (Initial public meetings on the Keyport Range plan have already been held; more hearings should follow after the EIS is issued.) "I'm sure it [sonar] is going to come up," Murray says, "and I'm sure people are going to feel very passionate about it. We certainly understand. The Navy is committed to using active sonar, but we go to great lengths to try to be aware of potential effects on the environment and marine life."

Felleman, the marine consultant, says the proposal is ironic in light of the Navy plan to employ dolphins as guardians of its Trident nuclear sub base. "Now that the Navy is even recruiting marine mammals into service in the defense of Bangor," Felleman says, "it is all the more reasonable for them to be contributing to the protection and recovery of the wild populations."

- xxx -

Media Article 2.

Title: Navy Seeks Input on Expanding Northwest Training Range

Newspaper: Kitsap Sun

Date: Sept 10, 2007

Reporter: Ed Friedrich

Link: <http://www.kitsapsun.com/news/2007/sep/10/navy-seeks-input-on-expanding-northwest-training/>

Article:

SILVERDALE The U.S. Navy is encouraging the public to attend an open-house style meeting about expanding the Northwest Training Range Complex. The complex consists of several training areas that stretch from Washington to Northern California. It extends 288 miles out from the coast into the Pacific Ocean.

The Navy is preparing a federally required study to evaluate the potential environmental effects associated with expanding activities within the range. The range's size wouldn't change.

The Navy hopes to increase activity in areas related to training, working with new weapons systems, and research and development of unmanned aerial vehicles.

The meetings have two objectives: to inform the public about the Navy's proposed action and to obtain oral and written comments on environmental issues.

Scoping meetings will be held from 6 to 9 p.m. at the following locations:

Monday — The Coachman Inn, 32959 Highway 20, Oak Harbor

Tuesday — Pacific Beach Fire Hall, 4586 Highway 109, Pacific Beach

Wednesday — Grays Harbor College cafeteria, 1620 Edward P. Smith Drive, Aberdeen

- xxx -

Media Article 3.

Title: Hearings this week on Navy's coastal exercises

Newspaper: The Daily World

Date: Sept 10, 2007

Reporter: Jordan Kline

Link: http://www.thedailyworld.com/articles/2007/09/10/local_news/03news.prt

Article:

The U.S. Navy is eyeing the Washington coast for a significant expansion of testing and training exercises, including underwater weapons research and high-frequency sonar.

The Navy wants to increase the level of activity inside the Northwest Training Range Complex, a 126,000-square-mile test range stretching from Neah Bay to California.

It will conduct two public meetings on the Harbor to address concerns about the increased activity. The first will be at 6 p.m. Tuesday at the fire hall in Pacific Beach; the second will be at 6 p.m. Wednesday in the Grays Harbor College cafeteria in Aberdeen.

"The Navy does approximately 8,000 activities per year now, and they want to increase that to around 13,000," said Navy spokeswoman Sheila Murray. In addition to the increased coastal operations, the Navy wants to lengthen its Hood Canal, Keyport and Quinault test ranges, Murray said.

Specifics about the increased activity have yet to be released to due security reasons, but Murray said it will bring more air, surface and under-water vessel traffic, as well as testing of under-water weapons, unmanned aerial and submersible vehicles and high-frequency sonar.

"But the majority of the activities will happen above 10,000 feet," Murray said, "most of which are pretty transparent to the public."

It's difficult for experts to suggest methods to mitigate the impact of the Navy's activity if it's unclear exactly what they'd like to do, according to Fred Felleman of Seattle, a marine consultant and activist.

"How can the public provide meaningful recommendations if we don't know what they're doing in the first place?" he says.

"Classified activities do not drive well with the public disclosure process."

Felleman is particularly worried about more oil spills and the potential use of active sonar, which can kill marine mammals if used irresponsibly. Submarines have clipped the tow cables of two barges in the last decade, and Felleman said the oil spill response measures are already inadequate for the current level of naval activity.

Increased naval activity isn't necessarily a bad thing, Felleman said, "but we shouldn't just have to feel its impact. This is an opportunity for them to contribute to the health of our waters, and secrecy isn't going to accomplish that."

"The Navy is committed to mitigating any effects it may have on the marine environment and wildlife," Murray said. "That's why we have these scoping meetings."

- xxx -

Media Article 4.

Title: Navy will meet locally to address environmental impacts of plans

Newspaper: The Eureka Reporter

Date: Sept 11, 2007

Reporter:

Link: <http://www.eurekareporter.com/ArticleDisplay.aspx?ArticleID=28232>

Article:

The U.S. Navy will hold a scoping meeting Saturday on the Northwest Training Range Complex at the Eureka Women's Club, according to a news release.

The meeting is intended for the Navy to obtain oral and written comments on environmental issues to be considered in a draft environmental impact statement/overseas environmental impact statement, as well as to inform the public about the Navy's proposed action.

NWTRC is a military training area that has been in use for more than 100 years.

"The Navy is proposing to support current, emerging and future training activities in the NWTRC as necessary to achieve and sustain military readiness, including maintaining baseline training activities at current levels," the release stated.

This includes increasing training activities from current levels in support of the Fleet Readiness Training Plan; accommodating new platforms and weapons systems; supporting research, development, testing and evaluation activities; and implementing range enhancements, according to the release.

The Navy is preparing an impact statement to evaluate the potential environmental effects associated with conducting future naval readiness activities within the NWTRC, according to the release.

The Navy will accept comments until Sept. 29. Written comments can be submitted to Naval Facilities Engineering Command Northwest, Attn: Kimberly Kler-NWTRC EIS, 1101 Tautog Circle, Suite 203, Silverdale, WA 98315-1101.

Comments can also be submitted online. More information is available at www.nwtrangecomplexeis.com.

Eureka's scoping meeting will take place Saturday from 6-9 p.m.

- xxx -

Media Article 5.

Title: Navy Answers Questions about Proposed Increase in Testing

Newspaper: The Daily World

Date: Sept 12, 2007

Reporter: Jordan Kline

Link: http://www.thedailyworld.com/articles/2007/09/12/local_news/06news.txt

PACIFIC BEACH — Curious residents received a thorough debriefing Tuesday night on a U.S. Navy proposal to increase training and testing activity off the Washington coast.

A handful of Navy scientists and operations specialists hosted an open meeting at the Fire District No. 8 meeting hall to answer questions — and attempt to dispel rumors — about the proposal, which seeks an increase in the number of exercises from 8,000 per-year to as many as 13,000.

The new activity would be inside the Northwest Training Range Complex, a series of test ranges stretching from Neah Bay to northern California. In order to achieve fleet readiness and adapt to some new planes and technology, the Navy wants more baseline training and some new activities as well.

About 85 percent of the new activity would be airborne, including unmanned aerial vehicles and experimental targeting methods, Navy officials said. But the remaining surface and underwater activity on the coast would include controversial submarine and surface weapons testing and high-frequency “active” sonar.

The Navy is soliciting comments during similar meetings along the Pacific coast this week, including a meeting at 6 tonight in the Grays Harbor College cafeteria. Navy spokeswoman Sheila Murray said the comments will be answered as part of the environmental impact statement they’re required to complete before the new marine activity can begin.

“There will be an answer for every one of these questions and comments,” said Rich Melaas, coordinator of the training range complex.

Even though the public meetings were required, many felt the availability and candor of the Navy’s representatives was a breath of fresh air after the secrecy surrounding the Army’s use of the Port of Grays Harbor to ship materials to Iraq in May.

“One of the reasons we do this is to correct some of the rumors and misconceptions that can come up,” Melaas added. “It happens everywhere.”

Noise seemed to be a top concern for many residents, who told stories of noisy nights as Navy planes flew low out to sea. Live ammunition testing from smaller guns has been a nuisance in the past as well.

“Live firing doesn’t happen very often,” Melaas said. “We do it currently, but we’ll be changing some of the targets under this proposal.”

More underwater demolitions and explosions are part of the proposal, but they will be located at naval facilities inside Puget Sound.

Many residents were concerned about active sonar’s effect on marine mammals. Active sonar emits high-frequency electronic pulses to track underwater targets, but environmentalists claim those pulses can confuse marine mammals.

Discoveries of beached whales have coincided with Navy sonar testing in the past, and although they take precautionary measures before using active sonar, the Navy says its effects are still unclear.

“There’s some science out there that says the sonar does have an effect on marine mammals, but there’s also science that says it doesn’t,” said Chip Johnson, a Navy biologist.

He also pointed to several Navy programs designed to protect habitat for marine animals.

Other residents were concerned about increased vessel traffic in an already-crowded shipping route and the possibility of an oil spill. Tow cables on barges have been clipped by submarines in the past, leaving them adrift for hours until the cables could be reattached.

“We know we share the sea with commercial and recreational interests,” said Kimberly Kler. “Before an operation, they’ll do a surface observation to see if anyone’s around. ... If something’s going on, they’ll issue a notice to mariners or aviators.”

The Navy is also party to an oil spill cleanup agreement with the state Departments of Ecology and Fish & Wildlife, but does not have its own oil spill cleanup equipment, according to Navy biologist George Hart.

On the Net:

www.NWTRangeComplexEIS.com

Jordan Kline, a Daily World writer, can be reached at 532-4000 ext. 111 or jkline@thedailyworld.com.

- xxx -

Media Article 6.

Title: Public input on Navy training scheduled for Saturday

Newspaper: The Times-Standard

Date: Sept 12, 2007

Reporter: Chris Durant

Link: http://www.times-standard.com/portlet/article/html/fragments/print_article.jsp?articleId=6870642&siteId=127

Article:

Many people may not know, but the Navy has been training off the coast and in the skies between Washington and here up to 8,000 times a year for decades.

Now the Navy wants to increase its training and is asking the public for input.

Navy officials will be holding an open house-like scoping meeting Saturday at the Eureka Women's Club between 6 p.m. and 9 p.m.

The focus is continued and increased Pacific Fleet training in the Northwest Training Range Complex, which extends from the north, coastal tip of Washington to the coast off of Humboldt County.

Sheila Murray, with the Navy Northcoast Region environmental public affairs, said the Navy is looking to increase the amount of training exercises to 13,000 times a year.

Though the area is mostly at sea, not all of the training will take place in the water.

"There's some sea, some land, but it's mostly in the air," Murray said.

The main purposes for the meetings are to inform the public about the proposed increase and to get oral and written comments on the environmental issues to be considered for a plan being drafted on the issue.

People who can't make the meeting can still send comments postmarked before Sept. 29 to : Naval Facilities Engineering Command Northwest, Attention: Mrs. Kimberly Kler, 1101 Tautog Circle, suite 203, Silverdale, WA., 98315-1101.

Comments can also be submitted online at www.NWTRangeComplexEIS.com.

If you go:

What: Navy meeting on increased activity in the Northwest Training Range Complex

When: Saturday, 6 p.m.

Where: Eureka Woman's Club, 1531 J St.

- xxx -

Media Article 7.

Title: Navy sees more training in future

Newspaper: Whidbey News-Times

Date: Sept 15, 2007

Reporter: Paul Boring

Link: <http://www.whidbeynewstimes.com/portals-code/list.cgi?paper=84&cat=23&id=1065655&more=0>

Gazing into a 21st century crystal ball and seeing increased training activities, the Navy held a scoping meeting Tuesday evening to solicit input or concerns surrounding the designated training range utilized by the military in the Pacific Northwest.

The Navy is preparing an Environmental Impact Statement and Overseas EIS to comprehensively evaluate the potential environmental effects of heightened activities now and in the future.

"This is not about expanding anything geographically," said Sheila Murray, Navy Region Northwest environmental public affairs officer. "It's about increasing the frequency of training activities."

A bulk of the training takes place on the coast and above 10,000 feet. Murray said the training activities are expected to increase from 8,000 exercises per year to approximately 13,000.

More than a dozen residents attended the informal, open house-style meeting at the Coachman Inn. Their concerns? Marine wildlife and industry.

"We know that sonar is a concern and its potential effects on marine mammals," said Rich Melaas with Navy Region Northwest.

An Upper Skagit Tribal member inquired about the continued use of crab pots at the Electronic Ordnance Range at Crescent Harbor. Her concern was noted and will be addressed in the EIS.

"We're educating people on what the EIS is about," Murray said. "We're not there to influence anyone. The public's response to this will help us do a better job."

Another woman, whose husband is a commercial fisherman, asked about the notification process surrounding restricted areas, lest her husband find himself inadvertently in a precarious situation.

"She really just wanted to know how we would let him know," Murray said.

During the meeting, Navy personnel and representatives spoke with attendees about the proposed action as well as obtained oral and written comments on the environmental issues.

"EIS is all about a proposal of something the Navy is looking into," Murray clarified.

The Northwest Training Range Complex is the principal range for aviation, surface, submarine, and special warfare units based in Washington. The range also includes marine waters off the coasts of Washington, Oregon, and Northern California.

"It's really a large area," Melaas said. "Every place is unique in that they have different types of training areas. So, yes, the Puget Sound area has some unique aspects, one of them being the ability to use the electronic frequency spectrums. Lots of places have land, mountains and water, but because the population density is so high they don't have the capability to use it."

The range complex extends about 250 nautical miles west from the coastline into the Pacific Ocean. It encompasses more than 126,000 square nautical miles of ocean area. The range complex also includes more than 34,000 square nautical miles of airspace. The land, air, and sea components of the Northwest Training Range Complex provide the space and resources needed to realistically train sailors and aviators.

The EIS process is lengthy and any changes implemented are not exactly just around the corner.

“It could take another two years,” Murray said.

A January scoping meeting, also in Oak Harbor, educated the public on the impending transition from existing P-3C aircraft to the P-8A Multi-Mission Aircraft, for which another EIS is being compiled.

- xxx -