

2.5.2.2 New Weapons Systems (for the Northwest Training Range Expansion Proposal)

Under the Proposed Action, several weapons systems are being introduced that warrant evaluation in this EIS/OEIS. Each of these systems has previously received appropriate NEPA analysis.

AIM-120 Advanced Medium-Range Air-to-Air Missile (AMRAAM)

The Advanced Medium-Range Air-to-Air Missile (AMRAAM) is a supersonic, air launched, aerial intercept, guided missile employing active radar target tracking, proportional navigation guidance, and active Radio Frequency (RF) target detection. It employs active, semi-active, and inertial navigational methods of guidance to provide an autonomous launch and leave capability against single and multiple targets in all environments. The EA-18G Growler, the replacement aircraft for the EA-6B Prowler, will have an air-to-air missile capability. The NWTRC will be required to support training for this new capability. Air-to-air missile training, including use of live AMRAAM missiles, will occur in W-237.

(n.b.: Areas 237 a, b and e include portions of the Olympic National Marine Sanctuary)

Improved Extended Echo Ranging (IEER) Sonobuoy

The Improved Extended Echo Ranging (IEER) system is an improved multi-static active acoustic sensor, which employs a new sonobuoy coupled with improved processing algorithms to extend the EER deepwater search capability into the **shallow waters of the littoral**. The IEER system was developed by the Navy in response to the fleet need for a large-area search capability against diesel submarines operating in NORTHWEST TRAINING RANGE COMPLEX DRAFT EIS/OEIS DECEMBER 2008

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littoral waters. The system uses the same source sonobuoy as used in the EER system, the AN/SSQ-110A sonobuoy. It operates on one of 31 selectable radio frequency channels and has two sections. The upper section is called the control sonobuoy and is similar to the upper electronics package of the AN/SSQ-62 Directional Command Activated Sonobuoy System (DICASS) sonobuoy. The lower section consists of two Signal Underwater Sound (SUS) explosive payloads of Class A explosive weighing 4.2 pounds each. **When commanded by the aircrew, the SUS charges explode, creating a loud acoustic signal.** The echoes from the explosive charge are then analyzed on the aircraft to determine a submarine's position. Since IEER has become operationally capable, the Navy has implemented mitigation measures through a coordinated process with NMFS under the national defense exemption of the MMPA. Those measures will be discussed in more detail in Chapter 5 of this document.

Advanced Extended Echo Ranging (AEER)

The Advanced Extended Echo Ranging (AEER) program examines improvements in both long-range shallow and deep water ASW search using active sources (Air Deployable Low Frequency Projector [ADLFP], Advance Ranging Source [ARS]) and passive sonobuoy receivers (Air Deployed Active Receiver, or ADAR). The signal processing is provided by research conducted under the Advanced Multistatic Processing Program (AMSP). The proposed AEER system is similar to the existing EER/IEER system. The AEER system will use the same ADAR sonobuoy as the acoustic receiver and will be used for a large area ASW search capability in both shallow and deep water. However, instead of using an explosive AN/SQS-110A as an impulsive source for the active acoustic wave, the AEER system will use a battery powered (electronic) source for the AN/SSQ-125 sonobuoy. **The output and operational parameters for the AN/SSQ-125 sonobuoy (source levels, frequency, wave forms, etc.) are classified,** however, this sonobuoy is intended to replace the EER/IEER's use of explosives and is scheduled to be deployed in 2009. Acoustic impact analysis for the AN/SSQ-125 in this document assumes a similar per-sonobuoy effect as that modeled for the DICASS sonobuoy. IOC (Initial Operational Capability) for the AEER system is unknown.

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