

**Final
Environmental Impact Statement/Overseas Environmental Impact Statement
Atlantic Fleet Training and Testing**

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8 PUBLIC INVOLVEMENT AND DISTRIBUTION

This chapter describes the efforts to involve the public in preparing the Atlantic Fleet Training and Testing (AFTT) Environmental Impact Statement (EIS)/Overseas Environmental Impact Statement (OEIS), including distribution of the Draft EIS/OEIS.

8.1 PROJECT WEBSITE

A public website was established for this project: www.AFTTEIS.com. This website address was published in the *Notice of Intent to Prepare an Environmental Impact Statement/Overseas Environmental Impact Statement* (Appendix G, Federal Register Notices). It was subsequently reprinted in newspaper advertisements, agency letters, a subscribers email release, and postcards for the Notice of Intent. The scoping meeting fact sheets, public meeting fact sheets, technical reports, and various other materials are available on the project website and will be made available throughout the course of the project.

8.2 SCOPING PERIOD

The public scoping period began with issuance of the Notice of Intent in the *Federal Register* on November 12, 2015 (see Appendix G, Federal Register Notices). This notice included a project description, website address, and instructions on how to provide comments. A corrected Notice of Intent was issued on December 1, 2015 correcting an error in the comment deadline date and telephone number. The scoping period lasted 60 days, concluding on January 12, 2016. The public was provided a variety of methods to comment on the scope of the EIS/OEIS during the scoping period.

8.2.1 PUBLIC SCOPING NOTIFICATION

The U.S. Department of the Navy (Navy) made significant efforts to notify the public to ensure maximum public participation during the scoping process. A summary of these efforts follows.

8.2.1.1 Notification Letters

Notice of Intent and Scoping Notification letters were distributed at the beginning of the scoping period (November 12, 2015) to federally-recognized tribes; state elected officials; and federal, regional, and state agencies. Entities that received the Scoping Notification letter can be found in Table 8.2-1 and an example of the letter can be found in .

Table 8.2-1: Entities that Received the Scoping Notification Letter

Federally-Recognized Tribes	
Alabama-Coushatta Tribes of Texas	Narragansett Indian Tribe of Rhode Island
Aroostook Band of Micmac Indians of Maine	Oneida Nation of New York
Catawba Indian Nation	Onondaga Nation of New York
Cayuga Nation of New York	Passamaquoddy Tribe – Indian Township Reservation
Chitimacha Tribe of Louisiana	Penobscot Tribe of Maine
Coushatta Tribe of Louisiana	Poarch Band of Creek Indians of Alabama
Eastern Band of Cherokee Indians of North Carolina	Saint Regis Mohawk Tribe, New York
Jena Band of Choctaw Indians	Seminole Tribe of Florida
Kickapoo Traditional Tribe of Texas	Seneca Nation of New York
Mashantucket Pequot Tribe of Connecticut	Tonawanda Band of Seneca Indians of New York
Mashpee Wampanoag Tribe, Massachusetts	Tunica-Biloxi Indian Tribe of Louisiana
Miccosukee Tribe of Indians of Florida	Tuscarora Nation of New York
Mississippi Band of Choctaw Indians, Mississippi	Wampanoag Tribe of Gay Head of Massachusetts
Mohegan Indian Tribe of Connecticut	Ysleta del Sur Pueblo of Texas

Table 8.2-1: Entities that Received the Scoping Notification Letter (continued)

Alabama		
State Elected Officials	State Agencies	Local
Office of the Governor Congressional Delegates	Alabama Department of Agriculture and Industries Alabama Department of Conservation and Natural Resources Alabama Department of Economic and Community Affairs Alabama Department of Environmental Management Alabama Development Office Alabama Historical Commission	Baldwin County City of Mobile County of Mobile Bay County Brevard County
Connecticut		
State Elected Officials	State Agencies	Local
Office of the Governor Congressional Delegates	Connecticut Council on Environmental Quality Connecticut Department of Economic and Community Development Connecticut Department of Energy and Environmental Protection Connecticut Department of Public Health	City of New London Town of Groton
Delaware		
State Elected Officials	State Agencies	Local
Office of the Governor Congressional Delegates	Delaware Division of Historical and Cultural Affairs Delaware Economic Development Office Delaware Heritage Commission Delaware River Basin Commission Delaware Office of Management and Budget: Budget Development, Planning, and Administration Department of Natural Resources and Environmental Control	
Florida		
State Elected Officials	State Agencies	Local
Office of the Governor Congressional Delegates	Florida Department of Environmental Protection Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission: Office of Environmental Services Florida State Clearinghouse	Bay County Brevard County Cape Canaveral Port Authority City of Atlantic Beach City of Cape Canaveral City of Dania Beach City of Jacksonville City of Key West City of Milton City of Pensacola County of Escambia Jacksonville Port Authority Monroe County Panama City Panama City Beach Panama City Port Authority Port Canaveral Santa Rosa County

Table 8.2-1: Entities that Received the Scoping Notification Letter (continued)

Georgia		
State Elected Officials	State Agencies	Local
Office of the Governor Congressional Delegates	Georgia Department of Economic Development Georgia Department of Natural Resources Georgia Environmental Facilities Authority Georgia Forestry Commission Georgia State Clearinghouse	City of Kingsland City of St. Mary's City of Woodbine County of Camden
Louisiana		
State Elected Officials	State Agencies	Local
Office of the Governor Congressional Delegates	Louisiana Department of Culture, Recreation, and Tourism Louisiana Department of Economic Development Louisiana Department of Environmental Quality Louisiana Department of Natural Resources Louisiana State Military Department	City of New Orleans
Maine		
State Elected Officials	State Agencies	Local
Office of the Governor Congressional Delegates	Historic Preservation Commission Maine Department of Conservation Maine Department of Environmental Protection Maine Department of Inland Fisheries and Wildlife Maine State Planning Office	City of Bath City of Portland Cumberland County Town of Kittery
Maryland		
State Elected Officials	State Agencies	Local
Office of the Governor Congressional Delegates	Maryland Department of Environment Maryland Department of Natural Resources Maryland Department of Agriculture Maryland Department of Business and Economic Development Maryland Economic Development Corporation Maryland State Clearinghouse for Intergovernmental Assistance	Town of Ocean City Somerset County Wicomico County Worcester County

Table 8.2-1: Entities that Received the Scoping Notification Letter (continued)

Massachusetts		
State Elected Officials	State Agencies	Local
Office of the Governor Congressional Delegates	Cape Cod Commission Central Massachusetts Regional Planning Commission Franklin Regional Council of Governments Massachusetts Department of Conservation and Recreation Massachusetts Department of Environmental Protection Massachusetts Department of Public Health Massachusetts Executive Office of Health and Human Services Massachusetts Port Authority Massachusetts Regional Planning Commission Massachusetts Water Resources Authority Merrimack Valley Planning Commission	City of Boston Town of Barnstable
Mississippi		
State Elected Officials	State Agencies	Local
Office of the Governor Congressional Delegates	Mississippi Department of Environmental Quality Mississippi Department of Finance and Administration Mississippi Department of Marine Resources, Coastal Management and Planning Mississippi Soil and Water Conservation Commission Mississippi State Port Authority	City of Meridian City of Moss Point City of Pascagoula Harrison County Jackson County Port of Pascagoula
New Hampshire		
State Elected Officials	State Agencies	Local
Office of the Governor Congressional Delegates	New Hampshire Department of Cultural Resources New Hampshire Department of Environmental Services New Hampshire Department of Resources and Economic Development New Hampshire Department of Safety New Hampshire Division of Forests and Lands New Hampshire Fish and Game Department New Hampshire Office of Energy and Planning State of New Hampshire Economic Development	City of Portsmouth Rockingham County

Table 8.2-1: Entities that Received the Scoping Notification Letter (continued)

<i>New Jersey</i>		
<i>State Elected Officials</i>	<i>State Agencies</i>	<i>Local</i>
Office of the Governor Congressional Delegates	Garden State Preservation Trust New Jersey Department of Agriculture New Jersey Department of Environmental Protection New Jersey Department of Environmental Protection: Office of Permit Coordination and Environmental Review New Jersey Economic Development Authority New Jersey Historic Trust	Atlantic County Ocean County
<i>New York</i>		
<i>State Elected Officials</i>	<i>State Agencies</i>	<i>Local</i>
Office of the Governor Congressional Delegates	New York State Department of Environmental Conservation	Long Island, Nassau County Long Island, Suffolk County
<i>North Carolina</i>		
<i>State Elected Officials</i>	<i>State Agencies</i>	<i>Local</i>
Office of the Governor Congressional Delegates	North Carolina Department of Administration North Carolina Department of Administration: State Environmental Review Clearinghouse North Carolina Department of Cultural Resources North Carolina Department of Environment and Natural Resources North Carolina Division of Parks and Recreation North Carolina Division of Water Quality North Carolina Economic Developers Association North Carolina State Ports Authority North Carolina Wildlife Resources Commission North Carolina's Southeast Economic Development Organization	City of Havelock City of Jacksonville City of Wilmington County of Carteret County of Craven County of Jones County of Pamlico County Of Pender Morehead City Onslow County Town of Nags Head
<i>Rhode Island</i>		
<i>State Elected Officials</i>	<i>State Agencies</i>	<i>Local</i>
Office of the Governor Congressional Delegates	Rhode Island Coastal Resources Management Council Rhode Island Department of Administration Rhode Island Department of Environmental Management Rhode Island Department of Health Rhode Island Division of Planning	City of Newport

Table 8.2-1: Entities that Received the Scoping Notification Letter (continued)

South Carolina		
State Elected Officials	State Agencies	Local
Office of the Governor Congressional Delegates	Department of Natural Resources Office of State Budget South Carolina Department of Agriculture South Carolina Department of Health and Environmental Control South Carolina Department of Parks, Recreation, and Tourism South Carolina Sea Grant Consortium	City of Charleston
Texas		
State Elected Officials	State Agencies	Local
Office of the Governor Congressional Delegates	Texas Bureau of Economic Geology Texas Commission on Environmental Quality Texas General Land Office Texas Parks and Wildlife Department Texas State Grants Team	City of Corpus Christi County of Kleberg County of Nueces County of San Patricio
Virginia		
State Elected Officials	State Agencies	Local
Office of the Governor Congressional Delegates	Chesapeake Bay Commission Virginia Department of Conservation and Recreation Virginia Department of Environmental Quality Virginia Department of Forestry Virginia Department of Game and Inland Fisheries Virginia Department of Historic Resources Virginia Department of Natural Resources Virginia Department of Planning and Budget Virginia Department of Transportation Virginia Marine Resources Commission Virginia Port Authority Virginia Resources Authority	City of Newport News City of Norfolk City of Portsmouth City of Virginia Beach County of Accomack Town of Chincoteague

Table 8.2-1: Entities that Received the Scoping Notification Letter (continued)

Regional
Federal Agencies
Federal Aviation Administration, Eastern Region Federal Aviation Administration, Southern Region Federal Aviation Administration, Southwest Region Fishery Management Council, Caribbean Fishery Management Council, Gulf of Mexico Fishery Management Council, Mid-Atlantic Fishery Management Council, New England Fishery Management Council, South Atlantic Gulf State Marine Fisheries Commission National Marine Fisheries Service, West Palm Beach Field Office U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Baltimore District U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Galveston District U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Jacksonville District U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Jacksonville District, West Palm Beach Office U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Mobile District U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, New England District U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, New Orleans District U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, New York District U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Norfolk District U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Philadelphia District U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Wilmington District U.S. Coast Guard, District 1 U.S. Coast Guard, District 5 U.S. Coast Guard, District 7 U.S. Coast Guard, District 8 U.S. Coast Guard, District 9

8.2.1.2 Postcard Mailers

On November 12, 2015, postcards were mailed to 647 recipients on the project mailing list, including individuals, nonprofit organizations, and for-profit organizations. The postcards provided information on the Proposed Action, methods for commenting, and the project website address to obtain more information. An example of the postcard is shown in Figure 8.2-2 and Figure 8.2-3



DEPARTMENT OF THE NAVY

COMMANDER
1562 MITSCHER AVE, SUITE 250
U.S. FLEET FORCES COMMAND
NORFOLK, VA 23551-2487

5090
Ser N46/114
November 12, 2015

Dear Sir or Madam:

This letter is to inform you that the United States (U.S.) Department of the Navy (Navy) is in the beginning stages of preparing an Environmental Impact Statement (EIS)/Overseas Environmental Impact Statement (OEIS) for Atlantic Fleet Training and Testing (AFTT) activities in the seaspace in and the airspace over the Atlantic Ocean and the eastern coast of North America, portions of the Caribbean Sea, and the Gulf of Mexico.

The U.S. Navy is requesting your comments on the scope, content, and issues to be considered during the development of the AFTT EIS/OEIS. This document will assess training and testing activities which are proposed to be conducted at levels required to support military readiness requirements beginning in November of 2018 and into the reasonably foreseeable future. Such activities will also accommodate evolving mission requirements associated with force structure changes, including those resulting from the development, testing, and ultimate introduction of new platforms (vessels, aircraft, and weapon systems) into the fleet, thereby ensuring critical Navy requirements are met.

The purpose of the Proposed Action is to maintain a ready force, which is needed to ensure that the Navy can meet its mission to maintain, train, and equip combat-ready naval forces capable of winning wars, deterring aggression, and maintaining freedom of the seas, as consistent with Congressional direction in Section 5062 of Title 10 U.S. Code.

You may send written comments to the following address:

Naval Facilities Engineering Command Atlantic
ATTN: AFTT EIS/OEIS PM – Code EV22LDN
6506 Hampton Boulevard
Norfolk, Virginia 23508-1278

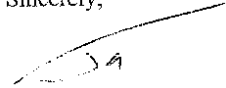
You may also submit comments on the project website at www.aftteis.com. All comments must be postmarked or received by January 12, 2016 to be considered in the Draft EIS/OEIS. For additional information about the AFTT EIS/OEIS, please visit the project website.

Figure 8.2-1: Stakeholder Scoping Notification Letter

5090
Ser N46/114
November 12, 2015

We appreciate your comments on this important project. My point of contact for this matter is Mr. Todd Kraft at (757) 836-2943 or todd.kraft@navy.mil.

Sincerely,



B. B. McCUTCHEON, JR.
Acting
Deputy Chief of Staff
for Fleet Installations
and Environmental Readiness

Enclosures: 1. AFTT EIS/OEIS Project Description
2. AFTT Study Area Map

Figure 8.2-1: Stakeholder Scoping Notification Letter (continued)

**ATLANTIC FLEET TRAINING AND TESTING (AFTT)
ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT STATEMENT/OVERSEAS ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT
STATEMENT (EIS/OEIS)
PROJECT DESCRIPTION AND STUDY AREA MAP**

AFTT EIS/OEIS Proposed Action and Alternatives:

The U.S. Navy's Proposed Action is to conduct military readiness training and testing activities in the AFTT Study Area. These activities are proposed to be conducted at levels necessary to support Navy military readiness requirements beginning in November 2018 into the reasonably foreseeable future and accommodate evolving mission requirements associated with force structure changes resulting from the development, testing, and ultimate introduction of new platforms (vessels, aircraft, and weapon systems) into the fleet, thereby ensuring critical Navy requirements are met.

The Navy has conducted previous analyses for these types of activities in the AFTT Study Area and signed a Record of Decision in November of 2013. This new AFTT EIS/OEIS will analyze the continuation of military readiness activities in the AFTT Study Area into the reasonably foreseeable future. The AFTT EIS/OEIS will consider a No Action Alternative and action alternatives that account for types and tempo of training and testing activities beginning in November of 2018 as necessary to meet future readiness requirements.

Environmental Analysis:

Resource areas that will be addressed include, but are not limited to: biological resources (including marine mammals and threatened and endangered species), sediments and water quality, air quality, noise, cultural resources, socioeconomic resources, and public health and safety.

AFTT Study Area:

The Study Area consists of seaspace in and airspace over the Atlantic Ocean along the eastern coast of North America, portions of the Caribbean Sea, and the Gulf of Mexico. The AFTT Study Area begins seaward from the mean high water line and moves east to the 45-degree west longitude line, north to the 65-degree north latitude line, and south to the approximately 20-degree north latitude line. The Study Area covers approximately 2.6 million square nautical miles of ocean area, including designated Navy operating areas, testing ranges, warning areas, select Navy pierside locations, and associated port transit channels.

Enclosure (1)

Figure 8.2-1: Stakeholder Scoping Notification Letter (continued)



Enclosure (2)

Figure 8.2-1: Stakeholder Scoping Notification Letter (continued)



Figure 8.2-2: Postcard Mailer for Scoping (front)

Proposed Action

The Navy proposes to continue conducting training and testing activities within Navy ranges in the Study Area, including the use of active sonar and explosives. Proposed activities are similar to the types of activities that have been occurring for decades in the Study Area. The Navy follows strict guidelines and employs protective measures while training and testing to reduce effects on marine species.

The Proposed Action is needed to accomplish the Navy mission to maintain, train and equip combat-ready naval forces capable of winning wars, deterring aggression and maintaining freedom of the seas.

Naval Facilities Engineering
Command Atlantic
Attention: AFTT EIS/OEIS
Project Manager
Code: EV22LDN
6506 Hampton Blvd.
Norfolk, VA 23508-1278



Figure 8.2-3: Postcard Mailer for Scoping (back)

8.2.1.3 Newspaper Advertisements

To announce the scoping period, advertisements were placed in the listed newspapers in the following cities on the dates indicated in Table 8.2-2. The advertisements included a description of the Proposed Action, the address of the project website, the duration of the comment period, and information on how to provide comments. An example of the advertisement is shown in Figure 8.2-4.

Table 8.2-2: Newspaper Announcements of Scoping Period

Portland, ME <i>The Portland Press Herald</i> November 13, 2015 November 14, 2015 November 15, 2015	Cumberland and Sagadahoc Counties, ME <i>The Times Record</i> November 13, 2015 November 16, 2015 November 17, 2015	New Bedford, MA <i>The Standard Times</i> November 13, 2015 November 14, 2015 November 15, 2015
Boston, MA <i>The Boston Herald</i> November 13, 2015 November 14, 2015 November 15, 2015	Providence, RI <i>The Providence Journal</i> November 13, 2015 November 14, 2015 November 15, 2015	Newport, RI <i>The Newport Daily News</i> November 13, 2015 November 14-15, 2015 November 16, 2015
Salisbury, MD <i>The Daily Times</i> November 13, 2015 November 14, 2015 November 15, 2015	Norfolk, VA <i>The Virginia Pilot</i> November 13, 2015 November 14, 2015 November 15, 2015	Newport News, VA <i>The Daily Press</i> November 13, 2015 November 14, 2015 November 15, 2015
Nags Head, NC <i>Outer Banks Sentinel</i> November 13, 2015	Jacksonville, NC <i>Jacksonville Daily News</i> November 13, 2015 November 14, 2015 November 15, 2015	Wilmington, NC <i>Wilmington Star News</i> November 13, 2015 November 14, 2015 November 15, 2015
Charleston, SC <i>Charleston Post and Courier</i> November 13, 2015 November 14, 2015 November 15, 2015	Savannah, GA <i>Savannah Morning News</i> November 13, 2015 November 14, 2015 November 15, 2015	Jacksonville, FL <i>Florida Times Union</i> November 13, 2015 November 14, 2015 November 15, 2015
Fort Lauderdale, FL <i>Florida Sun Sentinel</i> November 13, 2015 November 14, 2015 November 15, 2015	Brevard, FL <i>Florida Today</i> November 13, 2015 November 14, 2015 November 15, 2015	Panama City, Bay County, FL <i>The News Herald</i> November 13, 2015 November 14, 2015 November 15, 2015
Pensacola, FL <i>Pensacola News Journal</i> November 13, 2015 November 14, 2015 November 15, 2015	New Orleans, LA <i>Times-Picayune</i> November 13, 2015 November 15, 2015 November 18, 2015	Galveston, TX <i>Galveston Daily News</i> November 13, 2015 November 14, 2015 November 15, 2015
Corpus Christi, TX <i>Caller-Times</i> November 13, 2015 November 14, 2015 November 15, 2015	Pascagoula, MS <i>The Mississippi Press</i> November 13, 2015 November 14, 2015 November 15, 2015	

**The U.S. Navy INVITES YOU TO PARTICIPATE
In the Atlantic Fleet Training and Testing
Environmental Impact Statement**

The U.S. Navy is in the early stages of preparing an Environmental Impact Statement/Overseas Environmental Impact Statement (EIS/OEIS) to evaluate the potential environmental effects associated with military readiness activities, which include training and research, development, testing, and evaluation activities conducted within the Atlantic Fleet Training and Testing (AFTT) Study Area. An EIS/OEIS for AFTT was completed for similar activities in August 2013; this new AFTT document will support future military readiness activities in the AFTT Study Area, which includes the western North Atlantic Ocean along the east coast of North America, the lower Chesapeake Bay, portions of the Caribbean Sea, the Gulf of Mexico, and select pierside locations and their access channels.

The Navy invites comments on identifying the scope of issues to be addressed.

You can participate in a variety of ways:

- Visit the project website, www.AFTTEIS.com, to learn more about Navy at-sea training and testing activities and to provide comments;
- Mail written comments to the address listed below

PROPOSED ACTION

The Navy proposes to continue training and testing in the AFTT Study Area. The purpose of the Proposed Action is to ensure that the Navy maintains a combat-ready force capable of winning wars, deterring aggression, and maintaining freedom of the seas.

SUBMIT WRITTEN COMMENTS TO

Naval Facilities Engineering Command, Atlantic
Attention Code: EV22LDN (AFTT EIS/OEIS Project Manager)
6506 Hampton Boulevard, Norfolk, Virginia, 23508-1278

Provide electronic comments at www.AFTTEIS.com no later than January 12, 2016.

Written comments must be postmarked no later than January 12, 2016.

Figure 8.2-4: Newspaper Announcement of Scoping

8.2.2 PROJECT VIDEO

A project video was developed to support the scoping phase and provide information to the public on the types of training and testing the Navy conducts and its importance. The project video was uploaded to the project website. Topics in the project video included:

- general project overview
- Navy's mission
- importance of training and testing in the AFTT Study Area
- importance of training and testing with sonar and explosives
- existing marine mitigation measures
- environmental stewardship programs

8.2.3 PUBLIC SCOPING COMMENTS

The scoping comments could be submitted via the project website or by mail. The Navy received comments from federal agencies, state agencies, nongovernmental organizations, individuals and community groups. A total of 72 scoping comments were received and considered during preparation of the AFTT EIS/OEIS. The comments requested the Navy analyze environmental issues for physical and biological resources, such as sonar impacts on marine mammals, to human resources, such as public health and safety. A sampling of some of the specific concerns follows.

8.2.3.1 A True No Action Alternative Analysis

Comments stated that the EIS/OEIS should have a true No Action Alternative in which Navy training and testing activities would cease to occur in the AFTT Study Area and include an analysis of these true No Action Alternative impacts on marine biota, air quality, water quality, socioeconomics, cultural resources, and human health and safety.

The AFTT EIS/OEIS analyzes a No Action Alternative where the Navy would not conduct the proposed training and testing activities in the AFTT Study Area.

8.2.3.2 Time-Area Management and Mitigation Areas

Comments stated that the EIS/OEIS should have reasonable alternatives that incorporate mitigation measures such as time-area management, which would mitigate impacts of noise and other disturbances to marine mammals and sea turtles as activities would happen selectively to allow for areas to sometimes be closed for conservation. Areas of concern include areas identified by the National Marine Fisheries Service as important to marine species, including Cape Hatteras Special Research Area, Cul de Sac, Great Bahama Canyon, Mississippi Canyon, and Sperm Whale habitat west of the Florida Keys and Tortugas.

Chapter 5 (Mitigation), describes the mitigation measures that the Navy will implement to avoid or reduce potential impacts from the AFTT EIS/OEIS Proposed Action.

8.2.3.3 Cumulative Impact Analysis

Comments expressed concern over cumulative impacts to marine biota in the AFTT Study Area and suggest that the Navy develop and implement a long-term monitoring program to assess potential cumulative impacts of AFTT activities on marine animals and their habitat.

All potential cumulative impacts on marine animals and their habitats are identified and addressed in Chapter 4 (Cumulative Impacts) of this EIS/OEIS. Chapter 5 (Mitigation) includes discussion of the Navy's marine species monitoring programs.

8.2.3.4 Range of Alternatives

Comments expressed support for studying a wider range of alternatives and suggested the Navy develop alternatives that consider time and geographic restrictions, specifically during nesting and migration seasons.

The Navy analyzed two action Alternatives and a No Action Alternative which are detailed in Chapter 2 (Description of Proposed Action and Alternatives). The practicability of time and geographic restrictions are discussed in Chapter 5 (Mitigation).

8.2.3.5 Impacts of Training and Testing to Marine Mammals

Comments stated that impacts of training and testing on marine mammals are of great concern and need to be addressed in the EIS/OEIS. Ship strikes to fin whales and other species in the AFTT Study Area could be mitigated by a reduction in ship speed at times or in areas that have a high density of species present. The Navy Acoustic Effects Model is too general and should do more to reduce takes on local species. Impacts of dipping sonar should be more extensively studied and analyzed for marine mammals. Signal modification should be considered to reduce the takes of marine mammals. The Proposed Action should comply with the Marine Mammal Protection Act and the Endangered Species Act. Vessel noise should be added to acoustic impacts in the marine mammal analysis. Impacts from the

current and potential increase in use of Navy sonar on whales, especially endangered or threatened species such as the North Atlantic Right Whale, Bryde's Whales, and Sperm Whale. Also, there were concerns expressed about the effect of sonar and explosives on marine mammals resulting in strandings and death.

The Navy does comply with the Marine Mammal Protection Act and the Endangered Species Act. All potential impacts to marine mammals from the Navy's proposed training and testing activities are analyzed in the AFTT EIS/OEIS. Section 3.7 (Marine Mammals) details the potential impacts to marine mammals, including takes. Appendix E (Estimated Marine Mammals and Sea Turtle Impacts from Exposures to Acoustic and Explosive Stressors Under Navy Training and Testing Activities), provides the estimated number of marine mammal and sea turtle impacts resulting from the proposed activities. Specifically, estimated impacts are derived from the quantitative analysis for activities under Alternatives 1 and 2 that involve the use of acoustic or explosive stressors. The quantitative analysis takes into account Navy activities, marine species density layers, acoustic modeling and other environmental parameters.

8.2.3.6 Impacts of Training and Testing to Marine Life

Comments were critical of current Navy sonar and explosives testing and training and expressed concern over impacts to sea turtles, fish (Atlantic sturgeon), and birds. There was an overall concern about the impacts on marine habitat, ecosystems, and wildlife from training and testing activities as well as the increased impacts on already sensitive marine and coastal species.

The impacts to marine life resulting from the proposed training and testing activities are detailed in the Chapter 3 resource sections. Chapter 4 (Cumulative Impacts), discusses the additional effects the Proposed Action may have on already sensitive species.

8.3 NOTIFICATION OF AVAILABILITY OF DRAFT ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT STATEMENT/OVERSEAS ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT STATEMENT

The public comment period on the Draft AFTT EIS/OEIS began with the issuance of the Notice of Availability and a Notice of Public Meetings in the Federal Register on 30 June 2017. A correction of the Notice of Availability was issued on 7 July 2017 (Appendix G; Federal Register Notices). The Federal Register notices included notification of the availability of the Draft EIS/OEIS and where it can be accessed; an overview of the Proposed Action and its purpose and need; public commenting information; and the locations, dates, and times of public meetings. The purpose of the public meetings was to inform the public about the Proposed Action and to solicit public comments on the environmental issues addressed and analyzed in the Draft EIS/OEIS. The Draft EIS/OEIS public review and comment period lasted 60 days, concluding on 29 August 2017. Comments were accepted by mail, through the EIS/OEIS website at: www.AFTTEIS.com, and at the public meetings.

8.3.1 NOTIFICATION OF DRAFT ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT STATEMENT/OVERSEAS ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT STATEMENT AND PUBLIC MEETINGS

The Navy made significant efforts to distribute information about the project and notify the public to ensure maximum public participation during the public comment period. A summary of these efforts follows.

8.3.1.1 Notification Letters

Letters were sent to federally-recognized tribes; state elected officials; and federal, regional, and state agencies. The letters provided a description of the Proposed Action, address of the project website, duration of the comment period, and information on the public meetings. A stakeholder notification letter was distributed on the day of the release of the Draft EIS/OEIS to appropriate and interested federal, state, and local government agencies, nongovernmental organizations, and persons expressing an interest in the Proposed Action and Draft EIS/OEIS. A total of 1,340 stakeholder notification letters were mailed. Entities that received the notification letters are listed in Table 8.3-1. Figure 8.3-1 provides an example letter.

Table 8.3-1: Entities that Received the Draft Environmental Impact Statement/Overseas Environmental Impact Notification Letter

<i>Federally-Recognized Tribes</i>		
<div> <div> Absentee Shawnee Tribe of Indians of Oklahoma Alabama-Coushatta Tribes of Texas Aroostook Band of Micmac Indians of Maine Catawba Indian Nation Cayuga Nation of New York Chitimacha Tribe of Louisiana Coushatta Tribe of Louisiana Delaware Nation Delaware Tribe of Indians Eastern Band of Cherokee Indians of North Carolina Houlton Band of Maliseet Indians Jena Band of Choctaw Indians Kickapoo Traditional Tribe of Texas Mashantucket Pequot Tribe of Connecticut Mashpee Wampanoag Tribe, Massachusetts Miccosukee Tribe of Indians of Florida Mississippi Band of Choctaw Indians, Mississippi Mohegan Indian Tribe of Connecticut </div> <div> Narragansett Indian Tribe of Rhode Island Oneida Nation of New York Onondaga Nation of New York Passamaquoddy Tribe – Indian Township Reservation Passamaquoddy Tribe at Pleasant Point Reservation Penobscot Tribe of Maine Poarch Band of Creek Indians of Alabama Saint Regis Mohawk Tribe, New York Seminole Tribe of Florida Seneca Nation of Indians Shawnee Tribe of Oklahoma Shinnecock Indian Nation Stockbridge-Munsee Band of the Mohicans Tonawanda Band of Seneca Indians of New York Tunica-Biloxi Indian Tribe of Louisiana Tuscarora Nation of New York Wampanoag Tribe of Gay Head of Massachusetts Ysleta del Sur Pueblo of Texas </div> </div>		
<i>State Elected Officials</i>	<i>State Agencies</i>	<i>Local</i>
Office of the Governor Congressional Delegates	Alabama Department of Agriculture and Industries Alabama Department of Conservation and Natural Resources Alabama Department of Economic and Community Affairs Alabama Department of Environmental Management Alabama Development Office Alabama Historical Commission Alabama National Guard Alabama Coastal Management Program Alabama State Port Authority State Oil and Gas Board of Alabama	Baldwin County City of Mobile County of Mobile

**Table 8.3-1: Entities that Received the Draft Environmental Impact Statement/Overseas
Environmental Impact Notification Letter (continued)**

Alabama		
Connecticut		
State Elected Officials	State Agencies	Local
Office of the Governor Congressional Delegates	Connecticut Commission on Culture & Tourism, State Historic Preservation Office Connecticut Council on Environmental Quality Connecticut Department of Economic and Community Development Connecticut Department of Energy and Environmental Protection Connecticut Department of Public Health Connecticut Environmental and Occupational Health Assessment Program Connecticut National Guard Connecticut Office of Military Affairs Connecticut Siting Council	City of New London Town of Groton
Delaware		
State Elected Officials	State Agencies	Local
Office of the Governor Congressional Delegates	Delaware Division of Historical and Cultural Affairs Delaware Economic Development Office Delaware Heritage Commission Delaware River Basin Commission Delaware River and Bay Authority Delaware National Guard Delaware Office of Management and Budget: Budget Development, Planning, and Administration Department of Natural Resources and Environmental Control Delaware State Historic Preservation Office	

**Table 8.3-1: Entities that Received the Draft Environmental Impact Statement/Overseas
Environmental Impact Notification Letter (continued)**

Florida		
State Elected Officials	State Agencies	Local
Office of the Governor Congressional Delegates	Florida Department of Environmental Protection Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission Florida State Clearinghouse Florida Department of Economic Opportunity Florida Department of Military Affairs Florida Department of State Florida Department of Transportation Florida Division of Historical Resources St. Johns River Water Management District Workforce Florida	Bay County Brevard County Broward County Cape Canaveral Port Authority City of Atlantic Beach City of Cape Canaveral City of Dania Beach City of Jacksonville City of Key West City of Milton City of Pensacola County of Escambia Jacksonville Port Authority Jacksonville Aviation Authority Jacksonville Waterways Commission Monroe County Panama City Panama City Beach Panama City Port Authority Pensacola Regional Airport Port Canaveral Port of Panama City Port of Pensacola Santa Rosa County Southeast Citizens Planning Advisory Committee
Georgia		
State Elected Officials	State Agencies	Local
Office of the Governor Congressional Delegates	Georgia Department of Defense Georgia Department of Economic Development Georgia Department of Natural Resources Georgia Environmental Finance Authority Georgia Forestry Commission Georgia Historic Preservation Division Georgia State Clearinghouse Jekyll Island Authority	City of Kingsland City of St. Mary's City of Woodbine County of Camden
Louisiana		
State Elected Officials	State Agencies	Local
Office of the Governor Congressional Delegates	Louisiana Department of Culture, Recreation and Tourism Louisiana Economic Development Louisiana Department of Environmental Quality Louisiana Department of Natural Resources Louisiana State Military Department / Louisiana National Guard Port of New Orleans	City of New Orleans

**Table 8.3-1: Entities that Received the Draft Environmental Impact Statement/Overseas
Environmental Impact Notification Letter (continued)**

Maine		
State Elected Officials	State Agencies	Local
Office of the Governor Congressional Delegates	Historic Preservation Commission Maine Department of Agriculture, Conservation and Forestry Maine Department of Environmental Protection Maine Department of Inland Fisheries and Wildlife Maine Department of Marine Resources Maine Military Authority Maine State Planning Office Maine National Guard and Maine Department of Defense, Veterans, and Emergency Management	City of Bath City of Portland Cumberland County Town of Kittery
Maryland		
State Elected Officials	State Agencies	Local
Office of the Governor Congressional Delegates	Chesapeake Bay Commission Maryland Department of Environment Maryland Department of Natural Resources Maryland Department of Agriculture Maryland Department of Business and Economic Development Maryland Department of Planning Maryland Department of Transportation Maryland Economic Development Corporation Maryland Environmental Service Maryland Historical Trust Maryland State Clearinghouse for Intergovernmental Assistance	Town of Ocean City Somerset County Wicomico County Worcester County

**Table 8.3-1: Entities that Received the Draft Environmental Impact Statement/Overseas
Environmental Impact Notification Letter (continued)**

Massachusetts		
State Elected Officials	State Agencies	Local
Office of the Governor Congressional Delegates	Berkshire Regional Planning Commission Cape Cod Commission Central Massachusetts Regional Planning Commission Franklin Regional Council of Governments Martha's Vineyard Commission Massachusetts Department of Conservation and Recreation Massachusetts Department of Environmental Protection Massachusetts Department of Public Health Massachusetts Executive Office of Health and Human Services Massachusetts Historical Commission Massachusetts National Guard Massachusetts Port Authority Massachusetts Regional Planning Commission Massachusetts Water Resources Authority Merrimack Valley Planning Commission Metropolitan Area Planning Council Montachusett Regional Planning Commission Nantucket Planning and Economic Development Commission Pioneer Valley Planning Commission Seaport Economic Council Southeastern Regional Planning and Economic Development District	City of Boston Town of Barnstable Northern Middlesex Council of Government
Mississippi		
State Elected Officials	State Agencies	Local
Office of the Governor Congressional Delegates	Gulf of Mexico Program Office Mississippi Department of Archives and History, Historic Preservation Division, Federal and State Project Review Mississippi Department of Environmental Quality Mississippi Department of Marine Resources Mississippi Forestry Commission Mississippi National Guard Mississippi Soil and Water Conservation Commission Mississippi State Oil and Gas Board Mississippi State Port Authority	City of Meridian City of Moss Point City of Pascagoula Harrison County Jackson County Port of Pascagoula

**Table 8.3-1: Entities that Received the Draft Environmental Impact Statement/Overseas
Environmental Impact Notification Letter (continued)**

<i>New Hampshire</i>		
<i>State Elected Officials</i>	<i>State Agencies</i>	<i>Local</i>
Office of the Governor Congressional Delegates	New Hampshire Department of Cultural Resources New Hampshire Department of Environmental Services New Hampshire Department of Resources and Economic Development New Hampshire Department of Safety New Hampshire Division of Forests and Lands New Hampshire Division of Historical Resources New Hampshire Fish and Game Department New Hampshire National Guard New Hampshire Office of Energy and Planning State of New Hampshire Economic Development	City of Portsmouth Rockingham County
<i>New Jersey</i>		
<i>State Elected Officials</i>	<i>State Agencies</i>	<i>Local</i>
Office of the Governor Congressional Delegates	Delaware River Basin Commission Garden State Preservation Trust Jersey Pinelands Commission New Jersey Department of Agriculture New Jersey Department of Environmental Protection New Jersey Department of Environmental Protection: Office of Permit Coordination and Environmental Review New Jersey Department of Military and Veterans Affairs New Jersey Economic Development Authority New Jersey Historic Preservation Office New Jersey Historic Trust New Jersey Historical Commission Pinelands Municipal Council	Atlantic County Ocean County
<i>New York</i>		
<i>State Elected Officials</i>	<i>State Agencies</i>	<i>Local</i>
Office of the Governor Congressional Delegates	New York State Department of Environmental Conservation New York Department of State, Office of Communities and Waterfronts New York Division of Military and Naval Affairs New York Office of Parks, Recreation and Historic Preservation	Long Island, Nassau County Long Island, Suffolk County

**Table 8.3-1: Entities that Received the Draft Environmental Impact Statement/Overseas
Environmental Impact Notification Letter (continued)**

North Carolina		
State Elected Officials	State Agencies	Local
Office of the Governor Congressional Delegates	NCEast Alliance North Carolina Advisory Commission on Military Affairs North Carolina Department of Administration North Carolina Department of Cultural Resources North Carolina Department of Environment and Natural Resources North Carolina Department of Public Safety North Carolina Department of Transportation North Carolina Division of Parks and Recreation North Carolina Economic Developers Association North Carolina National Guard North Carolina State Historic Preservation Office North Carolina State Ports Authority North Carolina Wildlife Resources Commission North Carolina's Southeast Economic Development Organization Office of Conservation, Planning and Community Affairs	City of Havelock City of Jacksonville City of Wilmington Coastal Carolina Regional Air Port Authority County of Carteret County of Craven County of Jones County of Pamlico County Of Pender Morehead City Onslow County Town of Nags Head Port of Morehead City Port of Wilmington
Rhode Island		
State Elected Officials	State Agencies	Local
Office of the Governor Congressional Delegates	Rhode Island Coastal Resources Management Council Rhode Island Department of Administration Rhode Island Department of Environmental Management Rhode Island Department of Health Rhode Island Historical Preservation & Heritage Commission Rhode Island Division of Planning Rhode Island National Guard Rhode Island Water Resources Board	City of Newport

**Table 8.3-1: Entities that Received the Draft Environmental Impact Statement/Overseas
Environmental Impact Notification Letter (continued)**

South Carolina		
State Elected Officials	State Agencies	Local
Office of the Governor Congressional Delegates	South Carolina Department of Natural Resources South Carolina Office of State Budget South Carolina Department of Agriculture South Carolina Department of Health and Environmental Control South Carolina Department of Parks, Recreation, and Tourism South Carolina Forestry Commission South Carolina Military Department South Carolina Sea Grant Consortium South Carolina State Historic Preservation Office South Carolina State Ports Authority	City of Charleston
Texas		
State Elected Officials	State Agencies	Local
Office of the Governor Congressional Delegates	Brazos River Authority Houston Port Authority Lower Colorado River Authority Texas Bureau of Economic Geology Texas Commission on Environmental Quality Texas General Land Office Texas Historical Commission Texas Military Forces Texas Parks and Wildlife Department Texas Water Development Board	City of Corpus Christi County of Kleberg County of Nueces County of San Patricio Port of Corpus Christi
Virginia		
State Elected Officials	State Agencies	Local
Office of the Governor Congressional Delegates	Chesapeake Bay Commission Potomac River Fisheries Commission Virginia Aquarium/Stranding Center Virginia Department of Agriculture and Forestry Virginia Department of Conservation and Recreation Virginia Department of Environmental Quality Virginia Department of Game and Inland Fisheries Virginia Department of Historic Resources Virginia Department of Natural Resources Virginia Department of Planning and Budget Virginia Department of Transportation Virginia Marine Resources Commission Virginia Museum of Natural History Virginia National Guard Virginia Port Authority Virginia Resources Authority	City of Newport News City of Norfolk City of Portsmouth City of Virginia Beach County of Accomack Hampton Roads Military and Federal Facilities Alliance Hampton Roads Planning District Commission Norfolk Environmental Commission Town of Chincoteague Virginia Beach Convention & Visitors Bureau Western Tidewater Community Services Board

**Table 8.3-1: Entities that Received the Draft Environmental Impact Statement/Overseas
Environmental Impact Notification Letter (continued)**

U.S. Virgin Islands		
<i>Elected Officials</i>	<i>Agencies</i>	<i>Local</i>
Office of the Governor Congressional Delegates	Department of Planning & Natural Resources Department of Planning & Natural Division of Environmental Protection Historic Preservation Office	
<i>Regional</i>		
<i>Federal Agencies</i>		
Advisory Council on Historic Preservation, Office of Federal Agency Programs Assateague National Seashore Bureau of Indian Affairs, Eastern Region Bureau of Indian Affairs, Southern Plains Region Bureau of Ocean Energy Management, Office of Renewable Energy Programs Canaveral National Seashore Cape Cod National Seashore Council on Environmental Quality Department of Commerce Department of Interior, Atlanta Regional Office Department of Interior, Boston Regional Office Department of Interior, Bureau of Ocean Energy Management Department of Interior, Bureau of Safety & Environmental Enforcement, Gulf of Mexico Region Dry Tortugas National Park Federal Aviation Administration Federal Aviation Administration, Eastern Region Federal Aviation Administration, New England Region Federal Aviation Administration, Southern Region Federal Aviation Administration, Southwest Region Fishery Management Council, Caribbean Fishery Management Council, Gulf of Mexico Fishery Management Council, Mid-Atlantic Fishery Management Council, New England Fishery Management Council, South Atlantic Gulf State Marine Fisheries Commission John F. Kennedy Space Center Marine Mammal Commission Mid-Atlantic Fishery Management Council National Aeronautics and Space Administration, Goddard Space Flight Center, Wallops Environmental Office National Marine Fisheries Service National Marine Fisheries Service, West Palm Beach Field Office National Marine Fisheries Science Center, Northeast Region Fisheries Science Center National Marine Fisheries Service, Southeast Fisheries Science Center National Marine Fisheries Service, Beaufort Laboratory National Marine Fisheries Service, Galveston Lab National Marine Fisheries Service, Habitat Conservation Division National Marine Fisheries Service, James J Howard Marine Science Lab National Marine Fisheries Service, Lafayette Lab		

**Table 8.3-1: Entities that Received the Draft Environmental Impact Statement/Overseas
Environmental Impact Notification Letter (continued)**

National Marine Fisheries Service, Miami Lab
National Marine Fisheries Service, Milford Lab
National Marine Fisheries Service, Narragansett Lab
National Marine Fisheries Service, National Systematics Laboratory
National Marine Fisheries Service, Northeast Regional Office
National Marine Fisheries Service, Office of Habitat Conservation, Program Planning & Integration Office
National Marine Fisheries Service, Office of Ocean Exploration and Research
National Marine Fisheries Service, Office of Protected Resources
National Marine Fisheries Service, Panama City Lab
National Marine Fisheries Service, Pascagoula Lab
National Marine Fisheries Service, Southeast Regional Office
National Marine Fisheries Service, Stennis Lab
National Marine Fisheries Service, West Palm Beach Field Office
National Oceanic & Atmospheric Administration
National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, Beaufort Field Office
National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, Chesapeake Bay Office
National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, Fisheries SERO, Right Whale Recovery Program
National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, Monitor National Marine Sanctuary
National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, Sapelo Island National Estuarine Research Reserve
National Office of Marine Sanctuaries, Flower Garden Banks National Marine Sanctuary
National Park Service
National Park Service, Cape Hatteras National Seashore
National Park Service, Cape Lookout National Seashore
National Park Service, Cumberland Island National Seashore
National Park Service, Gulf Islands National Seashore
National Park Service, Intermountain Region
National Park Service, Northeast Region
National Park Service, Padre Island National Seashore
National Park Service, Southeast Region
National Park Service, Timucuan Ecological and Historic Preserve
New England Fishery Management Council
National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration Office of Marine Sanctuaries Florida Keys National Marine Sanctuary
National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration Office of Marine Sanctuaries Gray's Reef National Marine Sanctuary
National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration Office of Marine Sanctuaries Monitor National Marine Sanctuary
National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration Office of Marine Sanctuaries Stellwagen Bank National Marine Sanctuary
National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration Office of Marine Sanctuaries Virginia Institute of Marine Science
South Atlantic Fishery Management Council
U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Planning and Environmental Division
U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Headquarters
U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Baltimore District
U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Galveston District
U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Jacksonville District

**Table 8.3-1: Entities that Received the Draft Environmental Impact Statement/Overseas
Environmental Impact Notification Letter (continued)**

U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, New Orleans District
U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, New York District
U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Norfolk District
U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, North Atlantic Division
U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Philadelphia District
U.S. Army Corps Of Engineers, Regulatory Division
U.S. Army Corps Of Engineers, Savannah District
U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Washington Regulatory Field Office
U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Wilmington District
U.S. Coast Guard
U.S. Coast Guard Headquarters, Office of Environmental Management
U.S. Coast Guard, Atlantic Area
U.S. Coast Guard, District 1
U.S. Coast Guard, District 5
U.S. Coast Guard, District 7
U.S. Coast Guard, District 8
U.S. Coast Guard, District 9
U.S. Coast Guard, District Headquarters of Sector Jacksonville
U.S. Coast Guard, Sector North Carolina
U.S. Department of Agriculture
U.S. Department of Agriculture, Forest Service
U.S. Department of Agriculture, Forest Service, Eastern Region
U.S. Department of Agriculture, Forest Service, Ocala National Forest
U.S. Department of Agriculture, Forest Service, Southern Region
U.S. Department of Interior, Natural Resources Management Team
U.S. Department of Transportation, Maritime Administration, Office of Deepwater Ports and Offshore Activities
U.S. Department of Transportation, Maritime Administration, South Atlantic Region
U.S. Environmental Protection Agency
U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, Office of Enforcement and Compliance Assurance, Office of Federal Activities
U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, Office of Federal Activities, EIS Filing Section
U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, Region 1
U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, Region 2
U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, Region 3
U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, Region 4
U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, Region 6
U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, Alligator River and Pea Island National Wildlife Refuges
U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, Back Bay National Wildlife Refuge
U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, Bears Bluff National Fish Hatchery
U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, Cape Romain National Wildlife Refuge
U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, Charleston Ecological Services Field Office
U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, Chesapeake Bay Office
U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, Chincoteague National Wildlife Refuge
U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, Coastal Georgia Sub-Office (Townsend)
U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, Ernest F. Hollings ACE Basin National Wildlife Refuge
U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, Harris Neck National Wildlife Refuge
U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, Headquarters
U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, Mackay Island and Currituck National Wildlife Refuges
U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, Mattamuskeet, Cedar Island and Swan Quarter

**Table 8.3-1: Entities that Received the Draft Environmental Impact Statement/Overseas
Environmental Impact Notification Letter (continued)**

U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, Merritt Island National Wildlife Refuge
U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, North Florida Ecological Services Office
U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, Raleigh Field Office
U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, Region 2
U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, Region 4
U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, Region 5
U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, Savannah Coastal Refuges
U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, Virginia Field Office
U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, Waccamaw National Wildlife Refuge
U.S. Geological Survey
U.S. Geological Survey, Water Resources
U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, Edenton National Fish Hatchery



DEPARTMENT OF THE NAVY
U.S. FLEET FORCES COMMAND
1562 MITSCHER AVENUE SUITE 250
NORFOLK, VA 23551-2487

5090
Ser N46/072
June 30, 2017

Colonel Jason Kelly
District Engineer U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Norfolk District
803 Front St.
Norfolk, VA 23510

Dear Colonel Kelly:

The Department of the Navy has prepared a Draft Environmental Impact Statement/Overseas Environmental Impact Statement (EIS/OEIS) to analyze the potential effects from training and testing activities conducted within the Navy's Atlantic Fleet Training and Testing (AFTT) Study Area. The U.S. Navy is requesting and welcomes your comments on the Draft EIS/OEIS.

The Study Area is in the western Atlantic Ocean and encompasses the waters along the east coast of North America and the Gulf of Mexico, portions of the Caribbean Sea, Navy pierside locations and port transit channels, waters near civilian ports, and inland waters (e.g., lower Chesapeake Bay). The AFTT Study Area covers approximately 2.6 million square nautical miles of ocean space and includes designated U.S. Navy operating areas and special use airspace (see enclosure).

The U.S. Navy's mission is to maintain, train and equip combat-ready naval forces capable of winning wars, deterring aggression, and maintaining freedom of the seas as mandated by federal law (Title 10 U.S. Code § 5062). The Chief of Naval Operations is charged with ensuring the readiness of the nation's naval forces and meets that directive, in part, by establishing and executing training programs and ensuring naval forces have access to training ranges, operating areas, and airspace needed to develop and maintain skills for the conduct of operations.

The Navy's Proposed Action is to conduct training and testing activities, which may include the use of active sonar and explosives. For more information on the U.S. Navy's Proposed Action and alternatives currently under consideration, please see the enclosure.

In compliance with the National Environmental Policy Act of 1969, the U.S. Navy is holding five public meetings to inform and provide an opportunity for the public to comment on the Proposed Action, alternatives under consideration, and the adequacy and accuracy of the analysis in the Draft EIS/OEIS. All comments (oral or written) submitted during the 60-day public review period (June 30, 2017, to August 29, 2017) will become part of the public record on the Draft EIS/OEIS and substantive comments will be addressed in the Final EIS/OEIS.

U.S. Navy representatives will be available during the public meetings to provide information and answer questions. Members of the public can arrive anytime between 4 p.m. and 8 p.m. The public meeting schedule is as follows:

Figure 8.3-1: Stakeholder Letter for the Notification of the Draft Environmental Impact Statement/Overseas Environmental Impact Statement

5090
Ser N46/072
June 30, 2017

Wednesday, July 19, 2017
Hotel Providence
139 Mathewson Street
Providence, RI 02903

Tuesday, August 1, 2017
The Prime F. Osborn III
Convention Center
1000 Water Street
Jacksonville, FL 32204

Tuesday, July 25, 2017
UNC Institute of Marine Sciences
3431 Arendell Street
Morehead City, NC 28557

Thursday, August 3, 2017
Gulf Coast State College
Conference Center
5230 W. Highway 98
Panama City, FL 32401

Wednesday, July 26, 2017
Nauticus
One Waterside Drive
Norfolk, VA 23510

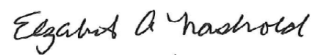
The Draft EIS/OEIS and additional information are available on the project website at:
www.AFTTEIS.com.

Written comments may be submitted during public meetings or mailed to the following address:

Naval Facilities Engineering Command Atlantic
Attn: Code EV22KP
6506 Hampton Blvd
Norfolk, VA 23508-1278

Online comments may also be submitted on the project website. All comments must be postmarked or received online by August 29, 2017, for consideration in the Final EIS/OEIS.

Sincerely,



Elizabeth Nashold
Director, Fleet Installations and Environment
and Deputy Director

Enclosure: U.S. Navy AFTT EIS/OEIS Project Description and Study Area Map

Figure 8.3-1: Stakeholder Letter for the Notification of the Draft Environmental Impact Statement/Overseas Environmental Impact Statement (continued)

**U.S. NAVY ATLANTIC FLEET TRAINING AND TESTING (AFTT) ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT
STATEMENT/OVERSEAS ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT STATEMENT (EIS/OEIS) PROJECT
DESCRIPTION AND STUDY AREA MAP**

AFTT EIS/OEIS Proposed Action and Alternatives:

The Navy's Proposed Action is to conduct training and testing activities, which may include the use of active sonar and explosives, primarily within existing range complexes, operating areas, and testing ranges within the Atlantic Ocean along the eastern coast of North America, portions of the Caribbean Sea, in the Gulf of Mexico at Navy pierside locations and port transit channels, near civilian ports, and in inland waters (e.g., the lower Chesapeake Bay). These military readiness activities are generally consistent with those analyzed in the AFTT EIS/OEIS completed in December 2013 and are representative of training and testing that the Navy has been conducting in the AFTT Study Area for decades.

The purpose of the Proposed Action is to ensure that the Navy meets its mission under Title 10 United States Code Section 5062, which is to maintain, train and equip combat-ready naval forces capable of winning wars, deterring aggression, and maintaining freedom of the seas.

No Action Alternative - Under the No Action Alternative, the Proposed Action would not take place (i.e., the Navy would not conduct proposed training and testing activities in the AFTT Study Area). For National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS), denial of an application for an incidental take authorization constitutes the NMFS No Action Alternative, which is consistent with NMFS' statutory obligation under the Marine Mammal Protection Act (MMPA) to grant or deny requests for take incidental to specified activities. The resulting environmental effects from taking no action will be compared with the effects of the Proposed Action.

Alternative 1 - Under this alternative, the Navy proposes to conduct military readiness training and testing activities into the reasonably foreseeable future, as necessary to meet current and future readiness requirements. These military readiness training activities include new activities as well as activities subject to previous analysis that are currently ongoing and have historically occurred in the Study Area. These activities account for force structure (organization of ships, weapons, and personnel) changes and include training and testing with new aircraft, vessels, unmanned/autonomous systems, and weapon systems that will be introduced to the fleets after November 2018.

Alternative 1 reflects a representative year of training to account for the natural fluctuations of training cycles and deployment schedules. Using representative years rather than a maximum tempo of training activity in every year has reduced the amount of hull-mounted mid-frequency active sonar estimated to be necessary to meet training requirements. In addition, this alternative would not include the contingency for augmenting some weapon systems tests, accepts a lower level of overall military commitment resulting from a stable level of

Enclosure (1)

Figure 8.3-1: Stakeholder Letter for the Notification of the Draft Environmental Impact Statement/Overseas Environmental Impact Statement (continued)

world conflict, and accepts that military readiness requirements would not require increased levels of annual testing of anti-submarine warfare and mine warfare systems.

Alternative 2 - As under Alternative 1, Alternative 2 includes new and ongoing activities. Under this alternative, the Navy would be enabled to meet the highest levels of required military readiness in order to respond to a direct challenge from a naval opponent. Alternative 2 reflects the maximum number of training and testing activities that could occur within a given year, and assumes that the maximum level of activity would occur every year over any 5-year period. This allows for the greatest flexibility for the Navy to maintain readiness when considering potential changes in the national security environment, fluctuations in training and deployment schedules, and anticipated in-theater demands. Both unit-level training and major training exercises are assumed to occur at a maximum level every year.

This alternative also includes the contingency for augmenting some weapon systems tests in response to potential increased world conflicts and changing Navy leadership priorities required to meet the highest levels of military readiness in order to respond to a direct challenge from a naval opponent that possesses near-peer capabilities. Therefore, this alternative would include the provision for higher levels of annual testing of certain anti-submarine warfare and mine warfare systems to support expedited delivery of these systems to the fleet.

Environmental Analysis:

Environmental effects which might result from the implementation of the Navy's Proposed Action or alternatives have been analyzed in this EIS/OEIS. Resource areas analyzed include air quality, sediments and water quality, vegetation, invertebrates, habitats, fishes, marine mammals, reptiles, birds and bats, cultural resources, socioeconomic resources, and public health and safety.

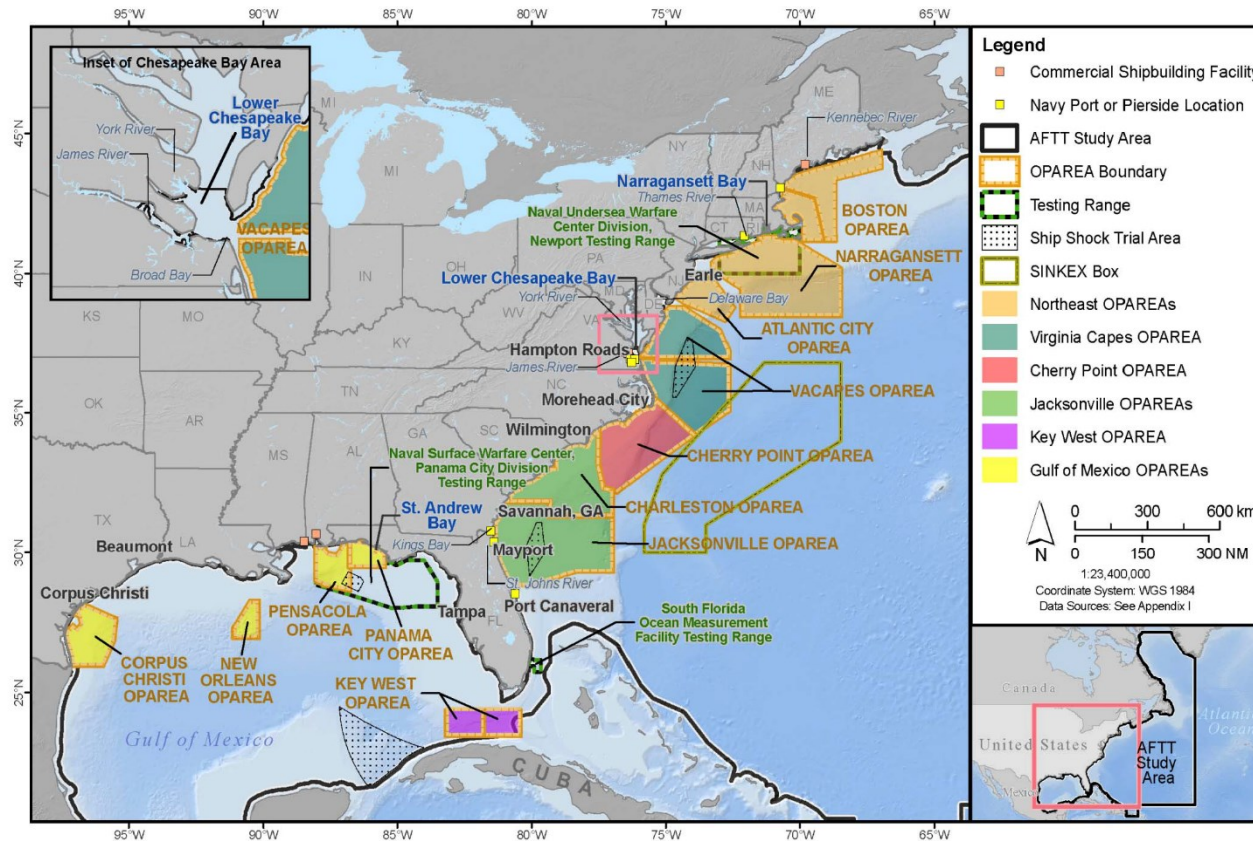
AFTT Study Area:

The Study Area covers approximately 2.6 million square nautical miles of ocean area, and includes designated Navy range complexes and testing ranges shown on the map included here. The Study Area includes only the in-water components of the range complexes and testing ranges; land components associated with the range complexes and testing ranges are not included in the Study Area and no activities on these land areas are included as part of the Proposed Action. The Study Area also includes various bays, harbors, inland waterways, and pierside locations which are within the boundaries of the range complexes.

Enclosure (1)

Figure 8.3-1: Stakeholder Letter for the Notification of the Draft Environmental Impact Statement/Overseas Environmental Impact Statement (continued)

Figure 1: U.S. Navy Atlantic Fleet Training and Testing EIS/OEIS Study Area



Enclosure (1)

Figure 8.3-1: Stakeholder Letter for the Notification of the Draft Environmental Impact Statement/Overseas Environmental Impact Statement (continued)

8.3.1.2 Subscribers Email

Project information was also distributed via the project web site subscribers email distribution list. A copy of the email sent to announce the availability of the Public Release Draft EIS/OEIS and provided information on ways to comment and public meeting times and locations in included as Figure 8.3-2.

8.3.1.3 Public Involvement Website

A public involvement website, www.AFTTEIS.com, housed a series of fact sheets and videos that explained specifics of the Proposed Action and described the overall planning process. Topics included:

- National Environmental Policy Act Process and Timeline
- Importance of Navy Training and Testing
- Study Area Map Proposed Action and Alternatives
- Training and Testing Active Sonar and Explosives
- Navy Acoustic Effects Model
- Marine Resource Protection
- Public Access and Safety
- Participating Navy Commands

The website provided additional in-depth informational videos that covered the following topics:

- The Importance of Navy Training and Testing
- Proposed Action and Alternatives
- Training and Testing Active Sonar and Explosives
- Introduction to Navy Acoustic Effects Model
- Marine Resource Protection
- Public Access and Safety

You previously requested to receive information regarding the Department of the Navy's Atlantic Fleet Training and Testing (AFTT) Environmental Impact Statement/Overseas Environmental Impact Statement (EIS/OEIS). This email provides an update on the draft document and ways to participate in the planning process.

The Department of the Navy's notice announcing the availability of the Draft EIS/OEIS was published in the Federal Register on June 30, 2017. The U.S. Navy is requesting and welcomes your comments on the Draft EIS/OEIS during the 60-day public review period (July 1 to August 29, 2017). All comments will become part of the public record and substantive comments will be addressed in the Final EIS/OEIS.

You can participate in the Navy's planning process through attendance at one of the five public meetings and by submitting comments (written or oral) on the Navy's Draft EIS/OEIS during these meetings, on the AFTT website, or via mail. All comments must be received online or postmarked by August 29, 2017, for consideration in the Final EIS/OEIS.

U.S. Navy representatives will be available during the public meetings to provide information and answer questions. The public meetings will be held in the following cities:

- Providence, RI
- Morehead City, NC
- Norfolk, VA
- Jacksonville, FL
- Panama City, FL

Information on the Draft EIS/OEIS, the public meeting locations and times, and ways to provide comments is provided on the project website at www.AFTTEIS.com.

The U.S. Navy appreciates your interest and participation in the environmental planning process.

Figure 8.3-2: Project Website Subscribers Email for the Notification of the Draft Environmental Impact Statement/Overseas Environmental Impact Statement

8.3.1.4 Postcard Mailers

More than 500 postcards were sent to individuals, agencies, and organizations. The postcards acted as formal notification of the Notice of Availability of the AFTT Draft EIS/OEIS and announcement of public meetings. An example of the Notice of Availability postcard is shown in Figure 8.3-3 and Figure 8.3-4.

8.3.1.5 Press Releases

Press releases to announce the public meetings for the Draft EIS/OEIS were released on 29 June 2017, 14 July 2017, 21 July 2017, 24 July 2107, 27 July 2017, and 31 July 2017. These press releases provided a description of the Proposed Action, address of the project website, duration of the comment period, address of locations that the AFTT Draft EIS/OEIS could be viewed, and information on the public meetings. An example of one of these press releases can be found in Figure 8.3-5.

8.3.1.6 Newspaper Advertisements

To announce the Notification of Availability of the AFTT Draft EIS/OEIS and public meetings, advertisements were placed in the listed newspapers on the dates indicated in Table 8.3-2. The advertisements included a description of the Proposed Action, the project website, the duration of the comment period, and information on how to provide comments. An example of the advertisement is shown in Figure 8.3-6.



ATLANTIC FLEET TRAINING AND TESTING EIS/OEIS for Activities in 2018 and Beyond

The U.S. Navy invites you to participate in the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) process for the Atlantic Fleet Training and Testing Environmental Impact Statement/Overseas Environmental Impact Statement (EIS/OEIS).

The Navy has prepared a Draft EIS/OEIS to analyze the potential effects from training and testing activities conducted within the Navy's Atlantic Fleet Training and Testing Study Area. Public input is requested on the Navy's activities and on the accuracy and adequacy of the Draft EIS/OEIS analysis.

Open House Public Meetings 4 p.m. to 8 p.m.

Providence, RI:
July 19, 2017
Hotel Providence
139 Mathewson Street
Providence, RI 02903

Morehead City, NC:
July 25, 2017
UNC Institute of
Marine Sciences
3431 Arendell Street
Morehead City, NC 28557

Norfolk, VA:
July 26, 2017
Nauticus
One Waterside Drive
Norfolk, VA 23510

Jacksonville, FL:
August 1, 2017
The Prime F. Osborn III
Convention Center
1000 Water Street
Jacksonville, FL 32204

Panama City, FL:
August 3, 2017
Gulf Coast State College
Conference Center
5230 W. Highway 98
Panama City, FL 32401

The Navy Requests Your Input!

You can participate in several ways:

- Visit www.AFTTEIS.com to learn more about the project, view the Draft EIS/OEIS, and submit comments
- Attend an open house public meeting to speak with project representatives and submit written and oral comments
- Mail written comments to:
Naval Facilities Engineering
Command Atlantic
Attention: Code: EV22KP
6506 Hampton Blvd.
Norfolk, VA 23508-1278

Comments must be postmarked or received online by **August 29, 2017** for consideration in the Final EIS/OEIS.

Figure 8.3-3: Postcard for the Notification of Availability of the Draft Environmental Impact Statement/ Overseas Environmental Impact Statement and Announcement of Public Meetings (front)

Proposed Action

The Navy proposes to conduct training and testing activities - which may include the use of active sonar and explosives - primarily within existing range complexes and testing ranges along the east coast of the United States, in portions of the Caribbean Sea, the Gulf of Mexico, at Navy pierside locations, port transit channels, near civilian ports, and in inland waters (e.g., the lower Chesapeake Bay). Proposed activities are similar to the types of activities that have been occurring for decades in the Study Area.

The Proposed Action is needed to accomplish the Navy mission to maintain, train, and equip combat-ready naval forces capable of winning wars, deterring aggression, and maintaining freedom of the seas.

Naval Facilities Engineering
Command Atlantic
Attention: Code: EV22KP
6506 Hampton Blvd.
Norfolk, VA 23508-1278



Figure 8.3-4: Postcard for the Notification of Availability of the Draft Environmental Impact Statement/ Overseas Environmental Impact Statement and Announcement of Public Meetings (back)



PRESS RELEASE

Public Affairs Office
Commander, U.S. Fleet Forces
Command
1562 Mitscher Avenue,
Suite 250
Norfolk, Va. 23551-2487
(757) 836-4427
Fax: (757) 836-3601

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Press Release 11-17
July 14, 2017

Navy to Host Atlantic Fleet Training and Testing Draft Environmental Impact Statement Public Meeting in Providence

The Navy has prepared and filed with the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency a Draft Environmental Impact Statement (EIS)/Overseas EIS (OEIS) to evaluate the potential environmental effects from training and testing activities conducted within the Navy's Atlantic Fleet Training and Testing (AFTT) Study Area.

With the filing of the Draft EIS/OEIS, the Navy initiated a 60-day public comment period and has scheduled five public meetings to receive comments on the Draft EIS/OEIS. The first public meeting will be held Wednesday, July 19, 2017, at Hotel Providence, 139 Mathewson Street, Providence, RI.

The Draft EIS analyzes training and testing activities planned to occur across all operating areas off the East Coast and the Gulf of Mexico starting in November of 2018, and analyzes the potential impacts on the physical, biological, and socioeconomic environments within the Study Area, along with extensive mitigation measures used to reduce impacts. The activities described in this EIS are consistent with the activities analyzed in the previous Atlantic Fleet Training and Testing EIS completed in August of 2013 and have been on-going in the study area for decades.

This is the third time the Navy has conducted comprehensive planning and permitting for Navy training and testing (Phase I covered 2008–2013, Phase II covers 2013–2018). The Phase III AFTT EIS will support re-authorizations of Marine Mammal Protection Act (MMPA) permits by the National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS) for Navy training and testing activities, with the new permits taking effect in November of 2018. The Navy does not plan to change the type or tempo of these activities from previous levels analyzed in the 2013 AFTT EIS.

The public meeting will be conducted in an open-house format with informational stations staffed by Navy representatives. These representatives will be available during the meeting to clarify information related to the Draft EIS/OEIS. Federal, state, and local agencies and officials, and interested groups and individuals are encouraged to provide comments in person at any of the public meetings or in writing during the public comment period.

Attendees will be able to submit comments in writing or orally using a voice recorder. Equal weight will be given to oral and written statements. Comments may also be submitted by U.S. postal mail or electronically via the project website (www.AFTTEIS.com).

Figure 8.3-5: Press Release of Notification of Availability of the Draft Environmental Impact Statement/ Overseas Environmental Impact Statement and Announcement of Public Meetings

AFTT DEIS PROVIDENCE MEETING -2-2-2-2

Written comments may be submitted by mail to Naval Facilities Engineering Command Atlantic, Attn: Code EV22KP (AFTT EIS Project Managers), 6506 Hampton Boulevard, Norfolk, VA 23508-1278 and through the project website; all written comments must be postmarked or received by August 29, 2017. All statements, oral or written, submitted during the public review period will become part of the public record on the Draft EIS/OEIS and will be considered in preparation of the Final EIS/OEIS.

Copies of the Draft EIS/OEIS are available for public review at the following area libraries:

- Boston Public Library, Central Library, 700 Boylston Street, Boston, MA 02116
- Portland Public Library, 5 Monument Square, Portland, ME 04101
- Providence Public Library, 150 Empire Street, Providence, RI 02903
- Public Library of New London, 63 Huntington Street, New London, CT 06320

Copies of the AFTT Draft EIS/OEIS are also available for electronic viewing at www.AFTTEIS.com. A paper copy of the Executive Summary and a single compact disc (CD) of the Draft EIS/OEIS will be made available upon written request by contacting: Naval Facilities Engineering Command Atlantic, Attn: Code EV22KP (AFTT EIS Project Managers), 6506 Hampton Boulevard, Norfolk, VA 23508-1278.

-USN-

Figure 8.3-5: Press Release of Notification of Availability of the Draft Environmental Impact Statement/ Overseas Environmental Impact Statement and Announcement of Public Meetings (continued)

Table 8.3-2: Newspaper Announcements of Notification of Availability of the Draft Environmental Impact Statement/Overseas Environmental Impact Statement and Announcement of Public Meetings

Portland, ME <i>The Portland Press Herald</i> July 2, 2017	Cumberland and Sagadahoc Counties, ME <i>The Times Record</i> June 30, 2017	New Bedford, MA <i>The Standard Times</i> July 2, 2017
Boston, MA <i>The Boston Herald</i> July 2, 2017	Providence, RI <i>The Providence Journal</i> July 2, 2017	Newport, RI <i>The Newport Daily News</i> July 1, 2017
Salisbury, MD <i>The Daily Times</i> July 2, 2017	Norfolk, VA <i>The Virginia Pilot</i> July 2, 2017	Newport News, VA <i>The Daily Press</i> July 2, 2017
Nags Head, NC <i>Outer Banks Sentinel</i> July 5, 2017	Jacksonville, NC <i>Jacksonville Daily News</i> July 2, 2017	Wilmington, NC <i>Wilmington Star News</i> July 2, 2017
Charleston, SC <i>Charleston Post and Courier</i> July 2, 2017	Savannah, GA <i>Savannah Morning News</i> July 2, 2017	Jacksonville, FL <i>Florida Times Union</i> July 2, 2017
Fort Lauderdale, FL <i>Florida Sun Sentinel</i> July 2, 2017	Brevard, FL <i>Florida Today</i> July 2, 2017	Panama City, Bay County, FL <i>The News Herald</i> July 2, 2017
Pensacola, FL <i>Pensacola News Journal</i> July 2, 2017	New Orleans, LA <i>Times-Picayune</i> July 2, 2017	Galveston, TX <i>Galveston Daily News</i> July 2, 2017
Corpus Christi, TX <i>Caller-Times</i> July 2, 2017	Pascagoula, MS <i>The Mississippi Press</i> July 2, 2017	

<p align="center">The U.S. Navy INVITES YOU TO PARTICIPATE In the Atlantic Fleet Training and Testing Environmental Impact Statement</p>	
<p>The U.S. Navy has prepared a Draft Environmental Impact Statement/ Overseas Environmental Impact Statement (EIS/OEIS) to analyze the potential effects from training and testing activities conducted within the Navy's Atlantic Fleet Training and Testing (AFTT) Study Area. Public input is requested on the Navy's activities and on the accuracy and adequacy of the Draft EIS/OEIS analysis.</p> <p align="center">The Navy requests your input!</p> <p>You can participate in the Draft EIS/OEIS process in a variety of ways:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Visit www.AFTTEIS.com to learn more about the project, download and review a copy of the Draft EIS/OEIS, and submit comments. • Mail written comments to the address listed below. • Attend any of five open house public meetings to speak with project representatives and submit written and oral comments. • Visit the Slover Memorial Main Library, 235 East Plume Street, Norfolk, VA 23510 to view the Draft EIS/OEIS. 	<p>Open House Public Meetings 4 to 8 p.m.</p> <p>Providence, RI: July 19, 2017 Hotel Providence 139 Mathewson Street Providence, RI 02903</p> <p>Morehead City, NC: July 25, 2017 UNC Institute of Marine Sciences 3431 Arendell Street Morehead City, NC 28557</p> <p>Norfolk, VA: July 26, 2017 Nauticus One Waterside Drive Norfolk, VA 23510</p> <p>Jacksonville, FL: August 1, 2017 The Prime F. Osborn III Convention Center 1000 Water Street Jacksonville, FL 32204</p> <p>Panama City, FL: August 3, 2017 Gulf Coast State College Conference Center 5230 W. Highway 98 Panama City, FL 32401</p>
<p align="center">PROPOSED ACTION</p> <p>The Navy proposes to conduct training and testing in the AFTT Study Area. The purpose of the Proposed Action is to ensure that the Navy maintains, trains and equips a combat-ready force capable of winning wars, deterring aggression, and maintaining freedom of the seas.</p>	
<p align="center">SUBMIT WRITTEN COMMENTS TO</p> <p align="center">Naval Facilities Engineering Command Atlantic Attention: Code EV22KP 6506 Hampton Blvd. Norfolk, VA 23508-1278</p> <p align="center">SUBMIT COMMENTS ONLINE AT WWW.AFTTEIS.COM</p> <p align="center">All comments must be postmarked or received online by August 29, 2017 for consideration in the Final EIS/OEIS.</p>	
<p>For project details or information about accessing a copy of the Draft EIS/OEIS, visit www.AFTTEIS.com.</p>	

Figure 8.3-6: Newspaper Announcement of Notification of Availability of the Draft Environmental Impact Statement/Overseas Environmental Impact Statement and Announcement of Public Meetings

8.3.2 PUBLIC MEETINGS

Five public meetings were held on the following dates in the listed cities:

- 19 July 2017 in Providence, Rhode Island
- 25 July 2017 in Morehead City, North Carolina
- 26 July 2017 in Norfolk, Virginia
- 1 August 2017 in Jacksonville, Florida
- 3 August 2017 in Panama City, Florida

The meetings were structured in an open-house format, presenting informational posters and written information, with Navy staff and project experts available to answer participants' questions.

8.4 DISTRIBUTION OF THE DRAFT AND FINAL ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT STATEMENT/OVERSEAS ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT STATEMENT

The agencies, individuals, and organizations listed in the sections below could access the document electronically via the website, received an electronic/hard copy of the EIS/OEIS, or could access hard copies as available at the information repositories discussed in Section 8.4.3 (Repositories). Since release of the Draft EIS/OEIS, points of contact at some of the agencies and organizations changed; therefore, the distribution lists were updated to reflect those changes. Although the points of contact may have changed, the same agencies and organizations received a copy of both the Draft and Final EIS/OEIS. For states not having a clearinghouse, a copy of the EIS/OEIS was sent to the most relevant state agency.

8.4.1 FEDERAL AGENCIES

Electronic copies of the Draft and Final AFTT EIS/OEIS were delivered to the federal agencies listed in Table 8.4-1.

Table 8.4-1: Federal Agencies that Received the Draft and Final Environmental Impact Statement/ Overseas Environmental Impact Statement

<i>Federal Agency</i>
<i>National Marine Fisheries Services (NMFS)</i>
Ms. Cathryn Tortorici Chief, Endangered Species Act Interagency Cooperation Division Office of Protected Resources National Marine Fisheries Service National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration 1315 East-West Highway, SSMC3, Room 13821 Silver Springs, MD 20910-3282
<i>U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA)</i>
Mr. Tim Timmermann Office of Environmental Review U.S. EPA Region 1 5 Post Office Square , Suite 100 Boston, MA 02109-3912
Mr. Chris Militscher NEPA Program Office U.S. EPA Region 4 61 Forsyth Street, SW Atlanta, Ga 30303

Table 8.4-1: Federal Agencies that Received the Draft and Final Environmental Impact Statement/ Overseas Environmental Impact Statement (continued)

<i>Federal Agency</i>
Mr. John Pomponio Office of Environmental Programs Code 3EA30 U.S. EPA Region 3 1650 Arch Street Philadelphia, PA 19106
Mr. Samuel Coleman U.S. EPA Region 6 1445 Ross Avenue, Suite 1200 Dallas, TX 75202-2733
Ms. Catherine McCabe Environmental Review Section U.S. EPA Region 2 290 Broadway New York, NY 10007-1866

8.4.2 STATE ELECTED OFFICIALS

Electronic copies of the Draft and Final AFTT EIS/OEIS were delivered to the state governors listed in Table 8.4-2.

Table 8.4-2: State Governors that Received the Draft and Final Environmental Impact Statement/Overseas Environmental Impact Statement

State Governors		
<i>Maine</i>	<i>New Hampshire</i>	<i>Massachusetts</i>
The Honorable Paul LePage Governor, State of Maine Office of the Governor 1 State House Sta. Augusta, ME 04333	The Honorable Chris Sununu Governor, State of New Hampshire Office of the Governor 107 North Main St. Concord, NH 03301	The Honorable Charlie Baker Governor, Commonwealth of Massachusetts Office of the Governor State House, Rm. 280 Boston, MA 02133
<i>Rhode Island</i>	<i>Connecticut</i>	<i>New York</i>
The Honorable Gina M. Raimondo Governor, State of Rhode Island Office of the Governor 82 Smith St. Providence, RI 02903	The Honorable Dannel P. Malloy Governor, State of Connecticut Office of the Governor 210 Capitol Ave. Hartford, CT 06106	The Honorable Andrew M. Cuomo Governor State of New York Office of the Governor NYS State Capitol Bldg. Albany, NY 12224
<i>New Jersey</i>	<i>Delaware</i>	<i>Maryland</i>
The Honorable Phil Murphy Governor, State of New Jersey Office of the Governor P.O. Box 001 Trenton, NJ 08625	The Honorable John Carney Governor, State of Delaware Office of the Governor 150 Martin Luther King Jr. Blvd. Dover, DE 19901	The Honorable Larry Hogan Governor, State of Maryland Office of the Governor 100 State Cir. Annapolis, MD 21401

Table 8.4-2: State Governors that Received the Draft and Final Environmental Impact Statement/Overseas Environmental Impact Statement (continued)

<i>Virginia</i>	<i>North Carolina</i>	<i>South Carolina</i>
The Honorable Terry McAuliffe Governor, Commonwealth of Virginia Office of the Governor P.O. Box 1475 Richmond, VA 23218	The Honorable Roy Cooper Governor, State of North Carolina Office of the Governor 20301 Mail Service Center Raleigh, NC 27699-0301	The Honorable Henry McMaster Governor, State of South Carolina Office of the Governor 1205 Pendleton St. Columbia, SC 29201
<i>Georgia</i>	<i>Florida</i>	<i>Alabama</i>
The Honorable Nathan Deal Governor, State of Georgia Office of the Governor 206 Washington St., 111 State Capitol Atlanta, GA 30334	The Honorable Richard Scott Governor, State of Florida Office of the Governor 400 S. Monroe St. Tallahassee, FL 32399	The Honorable Kay Ivey Governor, State of Alabama Office of the Governor State Capitol, 600 Dexter Ave. Montgomery, AL 36130
<i>Mississippi</i>	<i>Louisiana</i>	<i>Texas</i>
The Honorable Phil Bryant Governor, State of Mississippi Office of the Governor P.O. Box 139 Jackson, MS 39205	The Honorable John Bel Edwards Governor, State of Louisiana Office of the Governor P.O. Box 94004 Baton Rouge, LA 70804	The Honorable Greg Abbott Governor, State of Texas Office of the Governor P.O. Box 12428 Austin, TX 78711-2428

8.4.3 REPOSITORIES

Electronic copies of the Draft and Final AFTT EIS/OEIS were also delivered to the repositories listed in Table 8.4-3.

Table 8.4-3: Repositories that Received the Draft and Final Environmental Impact Statement/Overseas Environmental Impact Statement

AFTT Information Repositories
<i>Maine</i>
Portland Public Library 5 Monument Sq. Portland, ME 04101
<i>Massachusetts</i>
Boston Public Library, Central Library 700 Boylston St. Boston, MA 02116
Hyannis Public Library 401 Main St. Hyannis, MA 02601
<i>Rhode Island</i>
Providence Public Library 150 Empire St. Providence, RI 02903

**Table 8.4-3: Repositories that Received the Draft and Final Environmental Impact Statement/
Overseas Environmental Impact Statement (continued)**

Connecticut
Public Library of New London 63 Huntington St. New London, CT 06320
Maryland
Anne Arundel County Public Library 5 Harry S. Truman Parkway Annapolis, MD 21401
Virginia
Slover Memorial Main Library 235 E. Plume St. Norfolk, VA 23510
North Carolina
Kill Devil Hills Branch Library 400 Mustian St. Kill Devil Hills, NC 27948
Dare County Library, Manteo 700 Highway 64/264 Manteo, NC 27954
Havelock-Craven County Public Library 301 Cunningham Blvd. Havelock, NC 28532
Onslow County Library 58 Doris Avenue East Jacksonville, NC 28540
Carteret County Public Library 1702 Live Oak St., Suite 100 Beaufort, NC 28516
AFTT Information Repositories
Webb Memorial Library Center 8112 Evans St. Morehead City, NC 28557
New Hanover County Public Library 201 Chestnut Street Wilmington, NC 28401
South Carolina
Charleston County Public Library 68 Calhoun St. Charleston, SC 29401
Georgia
Camden County Public Library 1410 Highway 40 E. Kingsland, GA 31548

Table 8.4-3: Repositories that Received the Draft and Final Environmental Impact Statement/ Overseas Environmental Impact Statement (continued)

<i>Florida</i>
Jacksonville Public Library 303 N. Laura St. Jacksonville, FL 32202
West Palm Beach Library 411 Clematis St. West Palm Beach, FL 33401
Monroe County Public Library 700 Fleming St. Key West, FL 33040
Bay County Public Library 898 W. 11th St. Panama City, FL 32401
Walton County Library, Coastal Branch Library 437 Greenway Trail Santa Rosa Beach, FL 32459
West Florida Public Library, Southwest Branch 122248 Gulf Branch Hwy Pensacola, FL 32507
West Florida Public Library, Pensacola Library 239 North Spring St. Pensacola, FL 32502
<i>Alabama</i>
Ben May Main Library 701 Government St. Mobile, AL36602
<i>Mississippi</i>
Pascagoula Public Library 3214 Pascagoula St. Pascagoula, MS 39567
<i>Louisiana</i>
East Bank Regional Library 4747 West Napoleon Ave. Metairie, LA 70001
New Orleans Public Library, Main Library 219 Loyola Ave. New Orleans, LA 70112
<i>Texas</i>
Houston Public Library 500 Mickinney St. Houston, TX 77002
Corpus La Retema Central Library 805 Comanche Corpus Christi, TX 78401

8.4.4 FEDERALLY-RECOGNIZED TRIBES

Electronic copies of the AFTT Draft and Final EIS/OEIS were sent to the federally-recognized tribes listed in Table 8.4-4.

Table 8.4-4: Federally-Recognized Tribes that Received the Draft and Final Environmental Impact Statement/Overseas Environmental Impact Statement

Federally-Recognized Tribes
<i>Maine</i>
Edward Peter Paul Tribal Chief Aroostook Band of Micmacs 7 Northern Rd. Presque Isle, ME 04769
Brenda Commander Tribal Chief Houlton Band of Maliseet Indians 88 Bell Rd. Littleton, ME 04730
William J. Nicholas Sr. Chief Passamaquoddy Tribe - Indian Township Reservation P.O. Box 301 Indian Township, ME 04668
Ralph E. Dana Tribal Chief Passamaquoddy Tribe at Pleasant Point Reservation P.O. Box 343 Perry, ME 04667-0343
Kirk Francis Tribal Chief Penobscot Nation 12 Wabanaki Way Indian Island, ME 04468
<i>Massachusetts</i>
Cedric Cromwell Chairperson
Cheryl Andrews-Maltais Chairperson Wampanoag Tribe of Gay Head of Massachusetts 20 Black Brook Rd. Aquinnah, MA 02535
<i>Rhode Island</i>
Matthew Thomas Chief Sachem Narragansett Indian Tribe of Rhode Island P.O. Box 268 Charlestown, RI 02813-0268

Table 8.4-4. Federally-Recognized Tribes that Received the Draft and Final Environmental Impact Statement/Overseas Environmental Impact Statement (continued)

Connecticut
Rodney Butler Chairperson Mashantucket Pequot Indian Tribe P.O. Box 3180 Mashantucket, CT 06338-3130
Kevin Brown Chairperson Mohegan Indian Tribe of Connecticut 13 Crow Hill Rd. Uncasville, CT 06382
New York
Clint Halftown Council of Chiefs Cayuga Nation of New York 2540 SR-89 Seneca Falls, NY 13148
Ray Halbritter Nation Representative Oneida Nation of New York 5218 Patrick Rd. Verona, NY 13478
Council of Chiefs Onondaga Nation of New York 3951 Route 11 Nedrow, NY 13120
Beverly Cook Chief Saint Regis Mohawk Tribe 412 State Route 37 Akwesasne, NY 13655
Ron Lafrance Jr. Chief Saint Regis Mohawk Tribe 412 State Route 37 Akwesasne, NY 13655
Eric Thompson Chief Saint Regis Mohawk Tribe 412 State Route 37 Akwesasne, NY 13655
Todd Gates President Seneca Nation of Indians William Seneca Bldg. Irving, NY 14081

Table 8.4-4. Federally-Recognized Tribes that Received the Draft and Final Environmental Impact Statement/Overseas Environmental Impact Statement (continued)

<p>Bryan Polite Chairperson Shinnecock Indian Nation P.O. Box 5006 Southampton, NY 11969-5006</p>
<p>Roger Hill Chief Tonawanda Band of Seneca Indians of New York 7027 Meadville Rd. Basom, NY 14013</p>
<p>Leo Henry Chief Tuscarora Nation of New York 5616 Walmore Rd. Lewiston, NY 14092</p>
North Carolina
<p>Patrick H. Lambert Principal Chief Eastern Band of Cherokee Indians of North Carolina P.O. Box 455 Cherokee, NC 28719-0460</p>
South Carolina
<p>Bill Harris Chief Catawba Indian Nation 996 Ave. of the Nations Rock Hill, SC 29730</p>
Florida
<p>Billy Cypress Chairperson Miccosukee Tribe of Indians of Florida Tamiami Station P.O. Box 440021 Miami, FL 33144</p>
<p>Marcellus Osceola Jr. Chairperson Seminole Tribe of Florida 6300 Stirling Rd. Hollywood, FL 33024</p>
<p>Paul Backhouse Tribal Historic Preservation Officer Seminole Tribe of Florida's Tribal Historic Preservation Officer 30290 Josie Billie Hwy. PMB-1003 Clewiston, FL 33440</p>
Alabama
<p>Stephanie A. Bryan Tribal Chair Poarch Band of Creek Indians of Alabama 5811 Jack Springs Rd. Atmore, AL 36502</p>

Table 8.4-4. Federally-Recognized Tribes that Received the Draft and Final Environmental Impact Statement/Overseas Environmental Impact Statement (continued)

<i>Mississippi</i>
Phyllis J. Anderson Tribal Chief Mississippi Band of Choctaw Indians 101 Industrial Rd. Choctaw, MS 39350
<i>Louisiana</i>
O'Neil J. Darden Jr. Chairperson Chitimacha Tribe of Louisiana P.O. Box 661 Charenton, LA 70523-0661
Lovelin Poncho Chair Coushatta Tribe of Louisiana P.O. Box 818 Elton, LA 70532-0818
Cheryl Smith Chief Jena Band of Choctaw Indians P.O. Box 14 Jena, LA 71342-0014
Joey Barbry Chairperson Tunica-Biloxi Indian Tribe of Louisiana 151 Melacon Dr. Marksville, LA 71351
<i>Texas</i>
Bryant J. Celestine Historic Preservation Officer Alabama-Coushatta Tribe of Texas Historic Preservation Office Livingston, TX 77351
Clem Sylestine III Principal Chief Alabama-Coushatta Tribes of Texas 571 State Park Rd. 56 Livingston, TX 77351
Estavio Elizondo Menikapan Tribal Council Chairman Kickapoo Traditional Tribe of Texas P.O. Box 972 Eagle Pass, TX 78853-0972
Carlos Hisa Governor Ysleta Del Sur Pueblo of Texas P.O. Box 17579 El Paso, TX 79917-7579

Table 8.4-4. Federally-Recognized Tribes that Received the Draft and Final Environmental Impact Statement/Overseas Environmental Impact Statement (continued)

Oklahoma
Edwina Butler-Wolfe Governor Absentee Shawnee Tribe of Indians of Oklahoma 2025 South Gordon Cooper Shawnee, OK 74801
Kerry Holton President Delaware Nation P.O. Box 825 Anadarko, OK 73005
Chester Brooks Chief Delaware Tribe of Indians 5100 Tuxedo Blvd Bartlesville, OK 74006
Jodi Hayes Tribal Administrator Shawnee Tribe of Oklahoma P.O. Box 189 Miami, OK 74355
Wisconsin
Shannon Holsey Tribal President Stockbridge-Munsee Band of the Mohicans N8476 MoHeConNuck Road Bowler, WI 54416

8.5 COMMENTS ON THE DRAFT EIS/OEIS

Comments on the Draft AFTT EIS/OEIS were received from 7 federal agencies, 31 state agencies, 7 local/regional government agencies, 5 nongovernmental organizations, 2 tribal governments, 1 commercial group, and 63 private individuals for a total of 116 comment submissions.

The 116 comment submissions were reviewed and categorized according to topic. Longer comments were broken down into multiple separate categories in order to properly and fully capture all of the different points within the letter (i.e., a comment may contain more than one theme within it). Comments were initially categorized into 21 categories based on their content. As a result, the total number of comments the Navy responded to is much greater than the 116 comment submissions received. Appendix H (Public Comment Responses), contains a summary of the comments received on the AFTT Draft EIS/OEIS and the Navy's responses.

8.6 NOTIFICATION OF NATIONAL MARINE FISHERIES SERVICE PROPOSED RULE

National Marine Fisheries Service released its proposed rule; request for comment in the Federal Register on March 13, 2018. A correction to the proposed rule was listed in the Federal Register on April 9, 2018. The correction replaced Table 4 from the preamble with a corrected table. Copies of both Federal Register notices are included in Appendix G, Federal Register Notices.

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