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Under the MMPA and ITS authorization under
the ESA of 16 October 2012

Annual Range Complex Unclassified Exercise Report

YEAR 5

02 May 2014 to 09 Nov 2015

**For The U.S. Navy's
Northwest Training Range Complex (NWTRC)**

04 Feb 2016



Table of Contents

Introduction	1
ASW Summary	2
IEER/AEER Summary	3
Explosive Summary	4

NORTHWEST TRAINING RANGE COMPLEX YEAR 5 ANNUAL EXERCISE REPORT

INTRODUCTION

The U.S. Navy prepared this Year 5 Annual Range Complex Exercise Report covering the period from 02 May 2014 to 09 Nov 2015 in compliance with the National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS) Final Rule under the Marine Mammal Protection Act for the Northwest Training Range Complex (NWTRC). As agreed to by the NMFS Office of Protected Resources (OPR) the final closeout exercise report covers 18 months and covers the additional five months from 02 May 2015 until the end of the Final Rule permit period (09 Nov 2015) in a single report. Detailed amount of sonar and explosive use within the NWTT area have been provided to NMFS in a classified exercise report. U.S. Navy use of explosive and acoustic sources during the five years of reporting did not exceed authorized amounts.

(U) The following report subsections were specified by the National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS):

- (1) Anti-submarine warfare (ASW) summary
 - (i) Total annual hours of each type of sonar source
 - (ii) Post calculation/estimation based on actual training level
 - (iii) Cumulative impact report

- (2) Improved Extended Echo Ranging (IEER)/Advanced Extended Echo Ranging (AEER) summary
 - (i) Total number of IEER events
 - (ii) Total expended/detonated rounds (buoys)
 - (iii) Total number of self-scuttled IEER rounds

- (3) Explosives summary
 - (i) Total annual number of each type of explosive exercises
 - (ii) Total annual expended/detonated rounds for each explosive type

(I) ASW summary

(i) Total annual hours of each type of sonar source

Table I. Authorized sonar sources per §218.112 of NMFS' NWTRC Final Rule and Navy use in the NWTRC.

System*	Type	Metric	NMFS Authorized		% Total Used of 5-Year Authorization	Navy Use during 5-Years 12Nov2010 to 09Nov2015	Navy Use in Year 5 (~18 months) 02May2014 to 09Nov 2015	Navy Use in Year 4 (12 months) 02May2013 to 01May2014	Navy Use in Year 3 (12 months) 02May2012 to 01May2013	Navy Use in Year 2 (12 months) 02May2011 to 01May2012	Navy Use in Year 1 (~6 months) 10Nov2010 to 01May2011
			5-Year	Annual Average							
(i) AN/SQS-53	HM	hours	215	43	#	#	#	#	#	#	#
(ii) AN/SQS-56	HM	hours	325	65	#	#	#	#	#	#	#
(iii) AN/BQQ-15	HM	hours	210	42	#	#	#	#	#	#	#
(iv) AN/SSQ-62 DICASS	AS	# of buoys	4,430	886	#	#	#	#	#	#	#
(v) MK-48	TORP	# of torps	2	10	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
(vi) AN/SSQ-125 (AEER)	AS	# of buoys	745	149	#	#	#	#	#	#	#
(vii) Range Pingers	TR	hours	900	180	#	#	#	#	#	#	#
(viii) PUTR Uplink	TR	hours	750	150	#	#	#	#	#	#	#

* MK-48 torpedo was authorized during sinking exercises during the first two annual reporting periods. Sinking exercises were not conducted during the first two years of the permit and were removed from the authorization for the final three years of reporting (as noted in 77 FR 64492) and the reporting order of systems was changed in the 2012-2015 authorization as compared to 2011 and preceding authorizations in compliance with regulations at 50 CFR 218. For consistency across all reporting years the reporting order of systems is what was originally required for the NWTRC LOAs preceding 2012.

Classified information provided to NMFS in the classified version of the NWTRC annual exercise report.

(ii) Post-Calculation Summary of Potential Based on Reported System Use

The Navy's 2015 classified annual Northwest Training Range Complex (NWTRC) Exercise Report contains the list of authorized systems and their reported use from 02 May 2014 to 09 Nov 2015. Of the sonar systems (see Table 1) and explosives (see Table 2 and Table 3) authorized under NMFS' NWTRC Final Rule, Letters of Authorization (LOA), and Biological Opinions (BO) for the NWTRC during this period, no sonar system or explosive use exceeded any authorized amount. Additionally, over the five year reporting period of the NWTRC all sources were used at levels well below what was authorized in the Final Rule and LOA, which would result in the amount of take being less than authorized.

(iii) Cumulative Impact Summary

This is the final annual exercise report for the NWTRC for the five years of the final rule. As with similar reports for other Navy range complexes, positional plots of hull-mounted mid-frequency sonar use within a given region, including NWTRC, is classified national security information. There is no method to declassify the sensitivity of this data in order to publish this type of information in an unclassified report. For this reason the only method available for this information to be reported for the foreseeable future is in the classified annual exercise reports that are submitted annually to the National Marine Fisheries Service. The NWTRC year 5 geographic cumulative impact summary is provided to NMFS in the classified version of this annual exercise report.

(2) Improved Extended Echo Ranging (IEER)/Advanced Extended Echo Ranging (AEER) Summary.

Table 3. IEER and AEER use in the NWTRC.

Period	(i) # Events	(ii) # Expended	(ii) # Detonated	(iii) # Self-scuttled
IEER 02May2014-09Nov2015	*	*	*	*
AEER (MAC) 02May2014-09Nov2015	*	*	*	*

* Classified information provided to NMFS in the classified version of the NWTRC annual exercise report.

(3) Explosives Summary

Table 4. Authorized explosive sources per §218.112 of NMFS' NWTRC Final Rule and Navy use.

(i) Exercise Type	NMFS Authorized		Navy Used		Navy Use in Year 5 (~18 months) 02May2014 to 09Nov 2015	Navy Use in Year 4 (12 months) 02May2013 to 01May2014	Navy Use in Year 3 (12 months) 02May2012 to 01May2013	Navy Use in Year 2 (12 months) 02May2011 to 01May2012	Navy Use in Year 1 (~6 months) 10Nov2010 to 01May2011
	5-Year	Annual Average	5-Year	1-Year					
(A) Surface to Surface Gunnery (S-S GUNEX)	1,700	340	33 (2%)	3 (0.9%)	3	0	30	0	0
(B) Bombing Exercise (BOMBEX)	150	30	3* (2%)	0	0	0	3*	0	0
(C) IEER/AEER Sonobuoy Deployments	745	149	#	#	#	#	#	#	#
(D) Demolitions, Mine Warfare, and Mine Countermeasure Training Exercises	20	4	10 (50%)	1 (5%)	4	2	1	3	0
(ii) Explosive Type									
(A) 5" naval gun round HE			14	10	10	0	4	0	0
(B) 76 mm naval gun round HE			179	0	0	0	179	0	0
(C) MK-82 aerial bomb HE			0	0	0	0	0	0	0
(D) Demolition charge HE			21	8***	13	7	1	0	0
(E) AN/SSQ-110A sonobuoy			#	#	#	#	#	#	#

* All Non Explosive Practice Munitions (NEPM)

** AEER Buoys are not explosive and are operated similar to SSQ-62 (DICASS sonobuoys)

*** 12 charges were 28 grams NEW at Bangor, 1 charge was 20 oz. (1.25 lbs.) at Crescent Harbor.

Classified information provided to NMFS in the classified version of the NWTRC annual exercise report.