

Prepared for and submitted to:

National Marine Fisheries Service
Office of Protected Resources

Prepared by:

Department of the Navy

In accordance with the Letters of Authorization
Under the MMPA and ITS authorization under
the ESA

09 November 2015

Annual Testing Report

09 November 2019 through 08 November 2020 Fifth Year

**For The U.S. Navy's
Northwest Training and Testing (NWTT)
Study Area**

08 February 2021

TABLE OF CONTENTS

ANNUAL NWTT TESTING REPORT

INTRODUCTION.....3

(1) NWTT – Description of the Level of Testing Conducted in the NWTT Study Area during the Reporting Period3

(2) NWTT – Summary of Non-Impulsive and Impulsive Sources Used3

 (i) Total annual usage of each type of sound source

 (ii) Total 5-year cumulative usage of each type of sound source

(3) Annual Number of Explosive Testing Events Conducted.....5

(4) Improved Extended Echo-Ranging System (IEER) Sonobuoy Testing.....5

(5) Special NWTT Reporting Areas for Mid-Frequency and High-Frequency Sonar Use.....5

NORTHWEST TRAINING AND TESTING ANNUAL TESTING REPORT

INTRODUCTION

The Naval Sea Systems Command prepared this Annual Testing Report covering the period from 09 November 2019 to 08 November 2020 in compliance with the National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS) Final Rule under the Marine Mammal Protection Act (MMPA) for the Northwest Training and Testing (NWTT) Study Area.

In the NWTT Study Area Letter of Authorization “Requirements Annual Exercise and Testing Reports” are specified in paragraph 7(e).

The information in this Annual Testing Report represents the best practical data collection for this period.

(1) NWTT – Description of the Level of Testing Conducted in the NWTT Study Area during the Reporting Period

The level of testing within the NWTT study area was low. Use of all authorized sound sources was well within the amounts described and analyzed in the NWTT EIS/OEIS and the NWTT Letter of Authorization.

(2) NWTT – Summary of Non-Impulsive and Impulsive Sources Used

(i) Total annual usage of each type of sound source

This section summarizes total annual usage of each type of sound source used within the NWTT study area.

Table 2-1. Testing sound source usage within the NWTT Study Area by source bin

Authorized testing sound sources 50 CFR §218.144		Authorized Amount (09 Nov 19- 08 Nov 20)	Actual Usage (09 Nov 19- 08 Nov 20)	% Used of Authorized Amount
Active Acoustic Sources Used				
LF4	Low frequency sources from 180 dB up to 200 dB	110 hours	*	*
LF5	Low frequency sources from 160 dB up to 180 dB	71 hours	*	*
MF1	Hull-mounted sonars (e.g. SQS-53)	32 hours	*	*
MF3	Hull-mounted sonar (e.g. BQQ-10)	145 hours	*	*
MF4	Helicopter dipping sonar (e.g. AQS-13/22)	10 hours	*	*
MF5	Acoustic sonobuoys (e.g. SSQ-62)	273 items	*	*
MF6	Underwater sound signaling devices (e.g. MK 84 SUS)	12 items	*	*
MF8	Other active sources greater than 200dB	40 hours	*	*
MF9	Other active sources from 180 dB up to 200 dB	1183 hours	*	*
MF10	Other active sources from 160 dB up to 180 dB	1156 hours	*	*
MF11	Hull mounted surface ship sonar with an active duty cycle of greater than 80%	34 hours	*	*
MF12	High duty cycle towed array sonars (e.g. HDC-VDS)	24 hours	*	*

HF1	Hull-mounted submarine sonar (e.g. BQQ-10)	161 hours	*	*
HF3	Other hull-mounted submarine sonars	145 hours	*	*
HF5	Other active sources greater than 200dB	360 hours	*	*
HF6	Other active sources from 180 dB up to 200 dB	2099 hours	*	*
VHF2	Active sources with a frequency greater than 100 kHz, up to 200 kHz with a source level less than 200 dB	35 hours	*	*
ASW1	Mid-frequency Deep Water Active Distributed System (DWADS)	16 hours	*	*
ASW2	Mid-frequency Multi-static Active Coherent sonobuoy (e.g. SSQ-125)	170 items	*	*
ASW2	Mid-frequency Multi-static Active Coherent sonobuoy (e.g. SSQ-125)	64 hours	*	*
ASW3	Mid-frequency towed acoustic countermeasure (e.g. SLQ-25)	444 hours	*	*
ASW4	Mid-frequency expendable acoustic device countermeasure (e.g. MK 3)	1182 items	*	*
M3	Mid-frequency acoustic modems (greater than 190 dB)	1519 hours		
TORP1	Lightweight torpedo (e.g. MK 46,/MK 54)	315 items	*	*
TORP2	Heavyweight torpedo (e.g. MK48)	299 items	*	*
SD1	Swimmer detection sonars	757 hours	*	*
SAS2	HF SAS Systems	798 hours	*	*
Explosive sources used				
E3	>0.5 lb to 2.5 lb NEW	72 detonations	0	0%
E4	>2.5 lb to 5 lb NEW	140 detonations (70 sonobuoys)	0	0%
E8	>60 lb to 100 lb NEW	3 detonations	0	0%
E11	>500 lb to 650 lb NEW	3 detonations	0	0%

*Information is presented in the classified version of this report.

(ii) Total 5-year cumulative usage of each type of sound source

This section summarizes total 5-year cumulative usage of each type of sound source used within the NWTT study area.

Table 2-2. 5-year cumulative testing sound source usage within the NWTT Study Area by source bin

Sound Source Bin	Year 1 Actual Usage (09 Nov 15-08 Nov 16)	Year 2 Actual Usage (09 Nov 16-08 Nov 17)	Year 3 Actual Usage (09 Nov 17-08 Nov 18)	Year 4 Actual Usage (09 Nov 18-08 Nov 19)	Year 5 Actual Usage (09 Nov 19-08 Nov 20)	5-yr Authorized Amount (09 Nov 15-08 Nov 20)	5-yr Cumulative Actual Usage (09 Nov 15-08 Nov 20)	% Used of 5-yr Authorized Amount
Active Acoustic Sources Used During Annual Testing								
LF4	*	*	*	*	*	550 hours	*	*
LF5	*	*	*	*	*	355 hours	*	*
MF1	*	*	*	*	*	160 hours	*	*
MF3	*	*	*	*	*	725 hours	*	*
MF4	*	*	*	*	*	50 hours	*	*
MF5	*	*	*	*	*	1365 items	*	*
MF6	*	*	*	*	*	60 items	*	*
MF8	*	*	*	*	*	200 hours	*	*
MF9	*	*	*	*	*	5915 hours	*	*

MF10	*	*	*	*	*	5780 hours	*	*
MF11	*	*	*	*	*	170 hours	*	*
MF12	*	*	*	*	*	120 hours	*	*
HF1	*	*	*	*	*	805 hours	*	*
HF3	*	*	*	*	*	725 hours	*	*
HF5	*	*	*	*	*	1800 hours	*	*
HF6	*	*	*	*	*	10495 hours	*	*
ASW2	*	*	*	*	*	850 items	*	*
ASW2	*	*	*	*	*	320 hours	*	*
ASW3	*	*	*	*	*	2220 hours	*	*
ASW4	*	*	*	*	*	5910 items	*	*
M3	*	*	*	*	*	7595 hours	*	*
TORP1	*	*	*	*	*	1575 items	*	*
TORP2	*	*	*	*	*	1495 items	*	*
SD1	*	*	*	*	*	3785 hours	*	*
SAS2	*	*	*	*	*	3990 hours	*	*
						Explosive Sources Used		
E3	0	0	0	0	0	360 detonations	0	0%
E4	0	0	0	0	0	700 detonations (350 sonobuoys)	0	0%
E8	0	0	0	0	0	15 detonations	0	0%
E11	0	0	0	0	0	15 detonations	0	0%

*Information is presented in the classified version of this report.

(3) Annual Number of Explosive Testing Testing Events Conducted

Table 3-1 Annual Number of Explosive Testing Events Conducted

Type of Explosive Test Event	Number of Testing Events
Anti-Submarine Warfare Tracking Tests – Marine Patrol Aircraft (MK61, MK64 and MK82)	0

(4) Improved Extended Echo-Ranging System (IEER) Sonobuoy Testing

IEER sonobuoys (E4) were not used within the NWTT Study Area for testing.

(5) Special NWTT Reporting Areas for Mid-Frequency and High-Frequency Sonar Use

The use of Mid-Frequency and High-Frequency sonar within the boundaries of the Olympic Coast National Marine Sanctuary, the Humpback Whale Northern Washington Feeding Area, the Stonewall and Heceta Bank Feeding Area, and the Gray Whale Northern Puget Sound Feeding Area did not exceed annual authorized levels. Actual amounts of sonar use in these areas were provided to the National Marine Fisheries Service in the classified version of this report.