



DEPARTMENT OF THE NAVY

COMMANDER
UNITED STATES PACIFIC FLEET
250 MAKALAPA DRIVE
PEARL HARBOR HI 96860-3131

IN REPLY REFER TO:

5090

Ser N46/1080

August 26, 2022

Dear Sir or Madam:

SUBJECT: NOTICE OF AVAILABILITY OF THE GULF OF ALASKA NAVY TRAINING ACTIVITIES FINAL SUPPLEMENTAL ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT STATEMENT/OVERSEAS ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT STATEMENT

This letter is to inform you that the Department of the Navy (Navy) has completed a Final Supplemental Environmental Impact Statement/Overseas Environmental Impact Statement (EIS/OEIS) for Navy training activities in the Gulf of Alaska (GOA) to update previous environmental impact analyses with new information and analytical methods the Navy developed and has used since 2016. New information includes an updated acoustic effects model, updated marine mammal density data and sea turtle hearing criteria, and other emergent best available science.

The Navy prepared a Supplemental EIS/OEIS to renew required federal regulatory permits and authorizations under the Marine Mammal Protection Act and the Endangered Species Act. The Supplemental EIS/OEIS supports naval training requirements to achieve and maintain fleet readiness as required by Title 10 of the U.S. Code. The Final Supplemental EIS/OEIS includes the analysis of at-sea training activities projected to meet readiness requirements beyond 2022 and into the reasonably foreseeable future, and reflects the most up-to-date compilation of training activities deemed necessary to accomplish military readiness. These activities were previously analyzed in the March 2011 GOA Navy Training Activities Final EIS/OEIS and the July 2016 GOA Navy Training Activities Final Supplemental EIS/OEIS.

The Navy's Proposed Action is to continue periodic military training activities in the Gulf of Alaska Temporary Maritime Activities Area and Western Maneuver Area, collectively referred to as the GOA Study Area, enclosure (1). Proposed activities include the use of active sound navigation and ranging, known as sonar, in the Temporary Maritime Activities Area and weapon systems at sea that may use non-explosive or explosive munitions. The Navy would continue to implement mitigation measures to avoid or reduce potential impacts on marine species and the environment from training activities, including the implementation of a new mitigation area within the continental shelf and slope of the Temporary Maritime Activities Area.

The completion of the Final Supplemental EIS/OEIS follows years of research, analysis, stakeholder and tribal engagement, and public involvement. The Navy welcomed public involvement and input on the scope of the analysis during the 2020 scoping process. Additionally, the Navy held two virtual public meetings in early 2021, and requested public review and comments on the 2020 Draft Supplemental EIS/OEIS and the 2022 Supplement to the Draft Supplemental EIS/OEIS. Comments received from the public, government agencies and officials, and tribes during the Draft Supplemental EIS/OEIS and Supplement to the Draft

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Supplemental EIS/OEIS public review and comment periods were considered, and the Navy's responses to those comments are included in the Final Supplemental EIS/OEIS. Changes made in the Final Supplemental EIS/OEIS reflect the Navy's consideration of all substantive comments received; information provided during ongoing regulatory consultation processes; and new, relevant information and updated scientific literature published since the release of the Draft Supplemental EIS/OEIS and Supplement to the Draft Supplemental EIS/OEIS.

The Navy invites you to view the Final Supplemental EIS/OEIS, which will be available to the public beginning September 2, 2022 on the project website at www.GOAEIS.com. Additionally, enclosure (2) lists public information repositories where printed copies of the document may be viewed. If you need assistance accessing the document, please contact Ms. Julianne Stanford, Navy Region Northwest Public Affairs Office, at julianne.e.stanford.civ@us.navy.mil or 360-867-8525. In accordance with National Environmental Policy Act regulations, the Navy will wait a minimum of 30 days after publication of the Final Supplemental EIS/OEIS before making a final decision on the action.

If you have questions or require additional information, please visit www.GOAEIS.com or contact:

Naval Facilities Engineering Systems Command Northwest
Attention: GOA Supplemental EIS/OEIS Project Manager
1101 Tautog Circle, Suite 203
Silverdale, WA 98315-1101

Please help the Navy inform the community about the availability of the Final Supplemental EIS/OEIS by sharing this information with your staff and interested individuals.

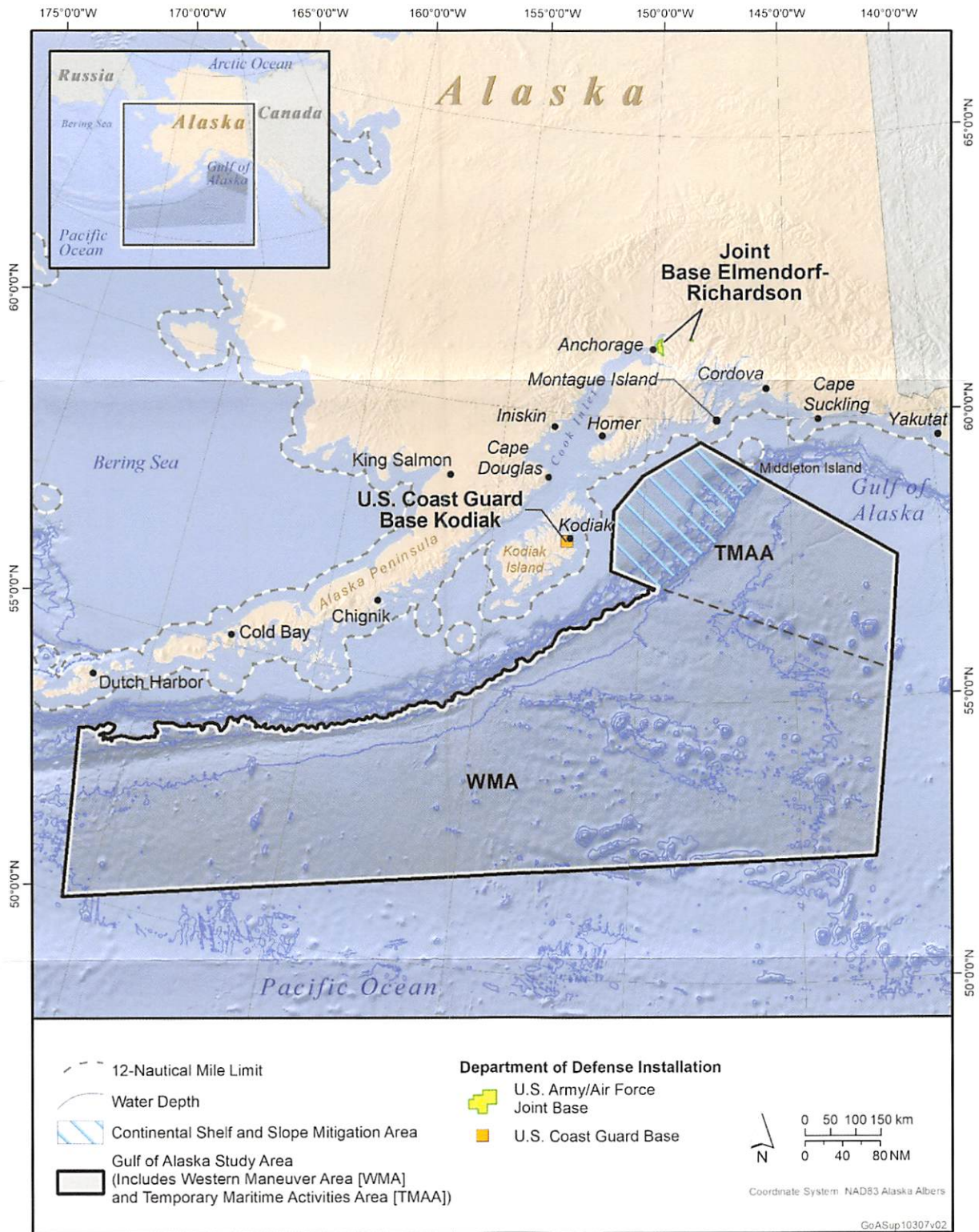
Sincerely,



A. K. HUTCHISON
Captain, U.S. Navy
By direction

- Enclosures: 1. Gulf of Alaska Navy Training Activities Supplemental Environmental Impact Statement/Overseas Environmental Impact Statement Study Area
2. Gulf of Alaska Navy Training Activities Final Supplemental Environmental Impact Statement/Overseas Environmental Impact Statement Information Repositories

Enclosure 1: Gulf of Alaska Navy Training Activities Supplemental Environmental Impact Statement/Overseas Environmental Impact Statement Study Area



Enclosure 2: Gulf of Alaska Navy Training Activities Final Supplemental Environmental Impact Statement/Overseas Environmental Impact Statement Information Repositories

Interested parties may view the Gulf of Alaska Navy Training Activities Final Supplemental Environmental Impact Statement/Overseas Environmental Impact Statement at the following locations:

**Alaska State Library
395 Whittier St.
Juneau, AK 99801
907-465-2920**

**Copper Valley Community Library
Mile 186 Glenn Highway
Glennallen, AK 99588
907-822-5427**

**Cordova Public Library
601 First St.
Cordova, AK 99574
907-424-6667**

**Homer Public Library
500 Hazel Ave.
Homer, AK 99603
907-235-3180**

**Kodiak Public Library
612 Egan Way
Kodiak, AK 99615
907-486-8686**

**Seward Community Library
239 Sixth Ave.
Seward, AK 99664
907-224-4082**

**University of Alaska Fairbanks/Elmer E. Rasmuson Library
310 Tanana Loop
Fairbanks, AK 99775
907-474-7481**

**Z.J. Loussac Library
3600 Denali St.
Anchorage, AK 99503
907-343-2975**