



ATLANTIC FLEET TRAINING AND TESTING

ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT STATEMENT/
OVERSEAS ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT STATEMENT
for Activities Beginning in 2018



ENVIRONMENTAL STEWARDSHIP PROGRAMS

Using the best available science and methods of analysis, the U.S. Navy is preparing an Environmental Impact Statement/Overseas Environmental Impact Statement (EIS/OEIS) to assess the potential environmental impacts associated with conducting naval training and testing activities within the Atlantic Fleet Training and Testing (AFTT) Study Area, including activities that involve the use of active sonar and explosives. Most of these training and testing activities have been previously analyzed and authorized, and are similar to the types of activities that have been occurring in the Study Area for decades.

ENVIRONMENTAL STEWARDSHIP PROGRAMS

The Atlantic and Gulf coasts and lower Chesapeake Bay are invaluable marine habitats and the Navy takes an active role in their protection.

STEWARDS OF THE SEA

As Stewards of the Sea, the Navy is committed to protecting the environment while defending freedom.

The Stewards of the Sea program is comprised of environmental stewardship initiatives to ensure the Navy protects the environment while successfully accomplishing its mission. These initiatives include developing clean shipboard technologies, implementing protective measures at sea, and partnering with regulators and scientists. This program is instrumental in preserving the ocean environment for future generations.

GREAT GREEN FLEET

The Great Green Fleet, implemented in part to reduce dependency on foreign oil, will include ships and aircraft using alternative sources of energy, such as biofuel, and use multiple energy conservation measures for scheduled deployments throughout 2016. The Great Green Fleet aims to maximize energy efficiencies and cultivate multiple sources of alternative energy. A demonstration of the Great Green Fleet occurred during the 2012 Rim of the Pacific, the world's largest international maritime exercise. Advanced biofuel blends and energy efficient technologies were used and all systems performed successfully.

PARTNERING FOR SUSTAINABILITY

The Navy has developed partnerships and built coalitions with other government agencies and organizations to better manage and protect natural and cultural resources and leverage limited resources. The Navy shares common goals, objectives, and interests with environmental groups and government agencies for protecting threatened and endangered species, preserving critical habitat and open space, and promoting energy efficiency and use of renewable energy sources.



PROTECTING THE NORTH ATLANTIC RIGHT WHALE

The Navy has taken a proactive role throughout the AFTT Study Area in the protection of the North Atlantic right whale. The Navy implements procedures to monitor for and avoid right whales and has established communication networks to track and avoid them. The Navy participates in a number of cooperative efforts aimed at protecting right whales, including:

- Conducting comprehensive crew training to spot whales and providing annual reminders to personnel about the right whales' seasonal migration (generally November 15 through April 15)
- Publicizing whale sightings through an early warning system to increase awareness among ocean users
- Contributing funds for National Marine Fisheries Service overflights of the waters off Georgia and northern Florida to locate and relay information about migrating whales
- Creating and managing the Right Whale Data Fusion Center, which provides a central location for multiple parties to report whale sightings or other right whale issues
- Participating in the Southeastern U.S. Implementation Team for the Recovery of the North Atlantic Right Whale and the Northeast Implementation Team, which advise the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration of efforts to recover endangered species and the implementation of the North Atlantic Right Whale Recovery Plan



The Navy's environmental stewardship programs contribute both to the success of the military mission and the preservation of the ocean environment for future generations.

ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AT SEA

The Navy is deeply committed to protecting the environment and actively strives to minimize potential effects of training and testing activities. The Navy continues to implement and improve programs to reduce a vessel's environmental footprint by:

- Preventing the introduction of non-native species through ballast water management
- Ensuring no plastic is discharged while at sea
- Discharging solid waste in an environmentally responsible manner
- Conserving energy, installing new technologies, and using energy from renewable sources

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