

MARIANA ISLANDS TRAINING AND TESTING SUPPLEMENTAL EIS/OEIS



MARINE SPECIES RESEARCH AND MONITORING IN THE MARIANA ISLANDS

The Navy is a world leader in marine species research and has funded research programs, surveys, and data collection efforts since 1992.

Navy and non-military scientists conduct research and monitor for marine species in areas where the Navy trains and conducts tests, including Guam and the CNMI. The data and findings help in the analysis of potential impacts on marine species from naval activities.

MAJOR MONITORING EFFORTS IN THE MARIANA ISLANDS (2013–2018)

Species Monitored:

Coral: Coral reef surveys at Farallon de Medinilla

Sea Turtles: Small boat visual surveys and satellite tagging of sea turtles at Guam, Saipan, and Tinian

Baleen Whales: Humpback whale visual surveys from shore and small boats

Toothed Whales and Dolphins: Small and large vessel visual surveys from Guam to Uracas and off Rota

Beaked Whales: Passive acoustic data analysis for beaked whale echolocation clicks

Data Collected:

- Species distribution
- Species abundance and population status
- Habitat use patterns

Research Findings:

- Increases in the number of certain marine species present in the Study Area
- Continued presence of species and long-term residence by individual animals in high-use areas, including species thought to be sensitive to sound (e.g. beaked whales)
- Lack of observable negative effects on marine mammal stocks or populations over more than 10 years of comprehensive monitoring and data collection



The Navy continues to improve environmental stewardship programs and mitigation measures as it discovers more about marine species and the ocean.

