

DRAFT SUPPLEMENTAL ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT STATEMENT/ OVERSEAS ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT STATEMENT FOR MARIANA ISLANDS TRAINING AND TESTING

Lead Agency: United States Department of the Navy
Cooperating Agency: National Marine Fisheries Service
Title of the Proposed Action: Mariana Islands Training and Testing
Draft Supplemental Environmental Impact Statement/
Overseas Environmental Impact Statement

Abstract

The United States Department of the Navy (Navy) prepared this Supplemental Environmental Impact Statement/Overseas Environmental Impact Statement (SEIS/OEIS) in compliance with the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) of 1969 (42 United States Code section 4321 et seq.); the Council on Environmental Quality Regulations for Implementing the Procedural Provisions of NEPA (Title 40 Code of Federal Regulations sections 1500 et seq.); Navy Procedures for Implementing NEPA (32 Code of Federal Regulations section 775); and Executive Order 12114, *Environmental Effects Abroad of Major Federal Actions*. This SEIS/OEIS evaluates the potential environmental impacts of conducting training and testing activities after August 2020 in the Mariana Islands Training and Testing Study Area (Study Area). The Study Area is the same as was analyzed in the 2015 MITT Final EIS/OEIS and is composed of three components: (1) the Mariana Islands Range Complex, (2) additional areas on the high seas, and (3) a transit corridor between the Mariana Islands Range Complex and the Hawaii Range Complex. Three alternatives were analyzed in this SEIS/OEIS:

- The No Action Alternative represents no Navy military readiness activities at sea or on Farallon de Medinilla associated with the Proposed Action within the Study Area. Other military activities not associated with this Proposed Action would continue to occur.
- Alternative 1 reflects a representative year of military readiness activities to account for the typical fluctuation of training and testing cycles and deployment schedules that limit the maximum level of training and testing from occurring for the reasonably foreseeable future. These training and testing activities include new activities at sea, as well as activities that are currently ongoing and have historically occurred in the Study Area.
- Alternative 2 represents the same requirements as Alternative 1. It includes the same type and tempo of military readiness activities as Alternative 1 but also considers additional military readiness activities (e.g., Valiant Shield-type event) and surface warfare events every year that may be needed to respond to unforeseen world events.

Resources evaluated include sediments and water quality, air quality, marine habitats, marine mammals, sea turtles, marine birds, marine vegetation, marine invertebrates, fishes, terrestrial species and habitats, cultural resources, socioeconomic resources and environmental justice, and public health and safety.

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