

**DRAFT ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT STATEMENT/OVERSEAS ENVIRONMENTAL  
IMPACT STATEMENT  
for  
HAWAII-SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA TRAINING AND TESTING**

**Lead Agency:** United States Department of the Navy  
**Cooperating Agency:** National Marine Fisheries Service  
**Title of the Proposed Action:** Hawaii-Southern California Training and Testing  
**Designation:** Draft Environmental Impact Statement/Overseas Environmental Impact Statement

**Abstract**

The United States Department of the Navy (Navy) prepared this Environmental Impact Statement (EIS)/Overseas EIS (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 EIS/OEIS evaluates the potential environmental impacts of conducting training and testing activities after December 2018 in the Hawaii-Southern California Training and Testing Study Area (Study Area). The Study Area is made up of air and sea space off Southern California, around the Hawaiian Islands, and the transit corridor connecting them. Three alternatives were analyzed in this EIS/OEIS:

- The No Action Alternative would be no training and testing activities associated with the Proposed Action within the Study Area.
- Alternative 1 reflects a representative year of training and testing to account for the natural fluctuation of training cycles and deployment schedules that generally limit the maximum level of training from occurring year after year in any five-year period. Using a representative level of activity rather than a maximum tempo of training activity in every year has reduced the amount of ship hull-mounted mid-frequency active sonar estimated to be necessary to meet training requirements. Under Alternative 1, the Navy assumes that some unit-level training would be conducted using synthetic means (e.g., simulators). Additionally, this alternative assumes that some unit-level active sonar training will be completed through other training exercises.
- As under Alternative 1, Alternative 2 also includes new and ongoing activities. Under Alternative 2, the Navy would be enabled to meet the highest levels of required military readiness in order to respond to a direct challenge from a naval opponent that possesses, or will soon possess, near-peer capabilities. Alternative 2 reflects the maximum number of training and testing activities that could occur within a given year and assumes that the maximum level of activity would occur every year over any five-year period. This allows for the greatest flexibility for the Navy to maintain readiness when considering potential changes in the national security environment, fluctuations in schedules, and anticipated in-theater demands.

The resources evaluated include air quality, sediments and water quality, vegetation, invertebrates, habitats, fishes, marine mammals, reptiles, birds, cultural resources, socioeconomics, and public health and safety.

**Prepared by:** United States Department of the Navy

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