

ADDENDUM  
TO  
REQUEST FOR LETTER OF AUTHORIZATION  
UNDER SECTION 101(A)(5)(A) OF THE MARINE MAMMAL PROTECTION ACT  
INCIDENTAL TO ATLANTIC FLEET ACTIVE SONAR TRAINING ACTIVITIES  
FEBRUARY 2008

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Section 1.4.1

Mid-frequency is defined as one to 10 kiloHertz (kHz). High frequency is defined as above 10 kHz.

The nominal source level and center frequency is provided for the AN/SQS-53, the most powerful system included in this analysis. The source levels and frequencies for the remaining systems analyzed (listed in Table 1-2) are classified.

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Section 4.1

Reproductive areas are discussed by species where known. Reproductive areas are not discussed for species for which the information is unavailable.

Little is known about reproductive areas for rorquals (humpback whale, minke whale, Bryde's whale, sei whale, fin whale, and blue whale). In general, mating is thought to occur in tropical and sub-tropical waters between mid-winter and mid-summer in deep off-shore waters.

For the North Atlantic Right Whale (NARW), mating is assumed to occur in the Southeastern on-shelf waters of the U.S. during the winter and possibly along the Atlantic coast migration corridor.

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Section 4.2

Little is known about reproductive areas for odontocetes. Reproductive areas are discussed by species where known. Reproductive areas are not discussed for species for which the information is unavailable.

Delphinids (Melon-headed Whale, Killer Whale, Pygmy Killer Whale, False Killer Whale, Pilot Whale, Common Dolphin, Atlantic Spotted Dolphin, Clymene Dolphin, Pantropical Spotted Dolphin, Spinner Dolphin, Striped Dolphin, Rough-toothed Dolphin, Common Bottlenose Dolphin, Risso's Dolphin, Fraser's Dolphin, Atlantic White-sided Dolphin, White-beaked Dolphin) may mate within any area of their distribution throughout the year.

Specifically for sperm whales, mating is thought to occur in tropical and sub-tropical waters between mid-winter and mid-summer in deep off-shore waters.

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Section 4.3

Reproductive areas are discussed by species where known. Reproductive areas are not discussed for species for which the information is unavailable.

For pinnipeds, mating typically occurs in coastal waters near northeast rookeries.

Section 6.1.1

Likelihood of vessel interaction with an animal is further reduced during active sonar activities because while using sonar, ships generally move slowly (10-15 knots or less), have additional lookouts, and make noise (using active sonar and maneuvering) that could serve as a deterrent.

Due to the low likelihood of a Navy vessel striking a marine mammal during an active sonar activity, the Navy does not anticipate any injury or behavioral harassment.

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Section 6.1.2.1

Due to the low likelihood of marine mammals becoming entangled in expended materials, the Navy concludes that no marine mammals would be injured or behaviorally harassed.

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Section 6.1.2.2

Due to the low likelihood that expended materials would directly strike the Navy concludes that no marine mammals would be injured or be behaviorally harassed.

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Section 6.2.1

The Navy concludes that no marine mammals would be injured or be significantly disturbed by exposure to ship noise during active sonar activities.

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Section 6.2.13.2

The Navy and NMFS continue to assess acoustic modeling and analysis methods to provide a more accurate estimate of effects. As improvements to estimating effects to marine species are identified and developed they will be incorporated into the acoustic modeling and analysis methodology.

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Section 6.2.14 and 6.2.15

Most of the area within the AFAST study area could potentially be utilized for active sonar activities.

Much is unknown about the specifics of delphinid whale mating, but it is presumed that these species mate throughout their habitat and possibly throughout the year. Even less is known about the mating habits of beaked whales. The Navy assumes that active sonar activities could take place within the mating areas of these species.

Rorquals and sperm whales breed in deep tropical and subtropical waters. Some deep-water subtropical areas off the east coast and within the Gulf of Mexico could be used for active sonar training, but this training would be dispersed due to the extreme distances from shore and would therefore be infrequent in any given area.

Areas within 12 NM of the shore, which includes the SE NARW critical habitat, are unsuitable for most active sonar activities due to depths being too shallow for submarines or submarine targets. However, object detection/navigational sonar training and helicopter dipping sonar training are conducted within 12NM of shore, especially offshore of Mayport, FL, and entering and leaving Navy homeports. It is believed that NARW breed in the southeast and along their migratory corridor in shallow waters largely within 12NM of the shore and therefore limited active sonar activities would take place within the NARW's breeding habitat.

The NARW use their critical habitat in the NE for feeding. Active sonar is used during TORPEX activities at times of the year when the NARW is typically not present.

Currently National Marine Sanctuaries along the east coast and within the Gulf of Mexico are not used for active sonar training. This includes the important mysticete feeding habitat of Stellwagen Bank. If these areas were needed for active sonar training activities in the future, they would be used in such a manner as to avoid to the maximum extent practicable any adverse impact on sanctuary resources and qualities. If necessary, the Navy would consult with the director, Office of Ocean and Coastal Resource Management in accordance with 15 CFR 922.

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Section 7

A detailed marine mammal monitoring plan will be provided to NMFS in time to be analyzed for the proposed rule.