

Section 3.9 (Fish), Section 3.11 (Cultural Resources), and Section 3.12 (Socioeconomic Resources and Environmental Justice).

K.3.2 Mitigation Areas for Marine Species in the NWTT Offshore Area

As detailed in Table K-2, shown in Figure K-2, Figure K-3, Figure K-4, and Figure K-5, and described in the sections below, the Navy developed mitigation areas in the NWTT Offshore Area to further avoid or reduce potential impacts on marine mammals, sea turtles, ESA-listed fish, and marbled murrelets.

Table K-2: Marine Species Mitigation Areas in the NWTT Offshore Area

<i>Mitigation Area Description</i>
<p>Stressor or Activity</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Sonar (mitigation does not apply to active sonar sources used for safety of navigation) • Explosives • Physical disturbance and strikes
<p>Resource Protection Focus</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Marine mammals (humpback whale, gray whale, Southern Resident killer whale, harbor porpoise) • Sea turtles (leatherback sea turtle) • Seabirds (marbled murrelet) • Fish (bull trout, steelhead, Chinook salmon, coho salmon, chum salmon, sockeye salmon, green sturgeon)
<p>Mitigation Requirements¹</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Marine Species Coastal Mitigation Area (year-round or seasonal if specified) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> – Within 50 NM from shore in the Marine Species Coastal Mitigation Area: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ The Navy will not conduct explosive training activities. ▪ The Navy will not conduct explosive testing activities (except explosive Mine Countermeasure and Neutralization Testing). ▪ The Navy will not conduct non-explosive missile training activities. ▪ The Navy will issue annual seasonal awareness notification messages to alert ships and aircraft to the possible presence of increased concentrations of Southern Resident killer whales from December 1 to June 30, humpback whales from May 1 through December 31, and gray whales from May 1 to November 30. For safe navigation and to avoid interactions with large whales, the Navy will instruct vessels to remain vigilant to the presence of Southern Resident killer whales, humpback whales, and gray whales that may be vulnerable to vessel strikes or potential impacts from training and testing activities. Platforms will use the information from the awareness notification messages to assist their visual observation of applicable mitigation zones during training and testing activities and to aid in the implementation of procedural mitigation. – Within 20 NM from shore in the Marine Species Coastal Mitigation Area: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ The Navy will conduct a maximum combined total of 33 hours of surface ship hull-mounted MF1 mid-frequency active sonar during testing annually within 20 NM from shore in the Marine Species Coastal Mitigation Area, the Juan de Fuca Eddy Marine Species Mitigation Area, and the Olympic Coast National Marine Sanctuary Mitigation Area. ▪ To the maximum extent practical, the Navy will conduct explosive Mine Countermeasure and Neutralization Testing from July 1 through September 30 when operating within 20 NM from shore. ▪ From October 1 through June 30, the Navy will conduct a maximum of one explosive Mine Countermeasure and Neutralization Testing event, not to exceed the use of 20 explosives from bin E4 and 3 explosives from bin E7 annually, and not to exceed the use of 60 explosives from bin E4 and 9 explosives from bin E7 over 7 years. ▪ The Navy will not conduct non-explosive large-caliber gunnery training activities. ▪ The Navy will not conduct non-explosive bombing training activities.

Table K-2: Marine Species Mitigation Areas in the NWTT Offshore Area (continued)

<i>Mitigation Area Description</i>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> – Within 12 NM from shore in the Marine Species Coastal Mitigation Area: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ The Navy will not conduct Anti-Submarine Warfare Tracking Exercise – Helicopter, – Maritime Patrol Aircraft, – Ship, or – Submarine training activities (which involve the use of mid-frequency or high-frequency active sonar). ▪ The Navy will not conduct non-explosive Anti-Submarine Warfare Torpedo Exercise – Submarine training activities (which involve the use of mid-frequency or high-frequency active sonar). ▪ The Navy will conduct a maximum of one Unmanned Underwater Vehicle Training event within 12 NM from shore at the Quinault Range Site. Unmanned Underwater Vehicle Training events within 12 NM from shore at the Quinault Range Site will be cancelled or moved to another training location if Southern Resident killer whales are detected at the planned training location during the event planning process, or immediately prior to the event, as applicable. ▪ During explosive Mine Countermeasure and Neutralization Testing, the Navy will not use explosives in bin E7 closer than 6 NM from shore in the Quinault Range Site. ▪ The Navy will not conduct non-explosive small- and medium-caliber gunnery training activities. • Olympic Coast National Marine Sanctuary Mitigation Area (year-round) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> – Within the Olympic Coast National Marine Sanctuary Mitigation Area: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ The Navy will conduct a maximum of 32 hours of surface ship hull-mounted MF1 mid-frequency active sonar during training annually. ▪ The Navy will conduct a maximum combined total of 33 hours of surface ship hull-mounted MF1 mid-frequency active sonar during testing annually within 20 NM from shore in the Marine Species Coastal Mitigation Area, the Juan de Fuca Eddy Marine Species Mitigation Area, and the Olympic Coast National Marine Sanctuary Mitigation Area. ▪ The Navy will not conduct explosive Mine Countermeasure and Neutralization Testing activities. ▪ The Navy will not conduct non-explosive bombing training activities. • Juan de Fuca Eddy Marine Species Mitigation Area (year-round) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> – Within the Juan de Fuca Eddy Marine Species Mitigation Area: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ The Navy will conduct a maximum combined total of 33 hours of surface ship hull-mounted MF1 mid-frequency active sonar during testing annually within 20 NM from shore in the Marine Species Coastal Mitigation Area, the Juan de Fuca Eddy Marine Species Mitigation Area, and the Olympic Coast National Marine Sanctuary Mitigation Area ▪ The Navy will not conduct explosive Mine Countermeasure and Neutralization Testing activities. • Stonewall and Heceta Bank Humpback Whale Mitigation Area (May 1–November 30) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> – Within the Stonewall and Heceta Bank Humpback Whale Mitigation Area from May 1 to November 30: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ The Navy will not use surface ship hull-mounted MF1 mid-frequency active sonar during training or testing. ▪ The Navy will not conduct explosive Mine Countermeasure and Neutralization Testing. • Point St. George Humpback Whale Mitigation Area (July 1–November 30) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> – Within the Point St. George Humpback Whale Mitigation Area from July 1 to November 30: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ The Navy will not use surface ship hull-mounted MF1 mid-frequency active sonar during training or testing. ▪ The Navy will not conduct explosive Mine Countermeasure and Neutralization Testing.

¹ Should national security present a requirement to conduct training or testing prohibited by the mitigation requirements specified in this table, naval units will obtain permission from the appropriate designated Command authority prior to commencement of the activity. The Navy will provide NMFS with advance notification and include relevant information about the event (e.g., sonar hours, explosives use, non-explosive practice munitions use) in its annual activity reports to NMFS.