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## Appendix F Public Participation



# Gulf of Alaska Navy Training Activities Draft Supplemental Environmental Impact Statement/ Overseas Environmental Impact Statement

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## Appendix F Public Participation

This Appendix includes a summary of public involvement activities conducted by the United States (U.S.) Navy during the scoping period for the Supplemental Environmental Impact Statement (SEIS)/Overseas Environmental Impact Statement (OEIS) for the Gulf of Alaska (GOA) Navy Training Activities.

### F.1 Project Website

A public website was established to provide the public with project information and to accept comments electronically. The project website address is [www.goaeis.com](http://www.goaeis.com) and has been active since 2011. The website address was included in the *Notice of Intent to Prepare a Supplemental Environmental Impact Statement/Overseas Environmental Impact Statement for Gulf of Alaska Navy Training Activities* as well as newspaper advertisements, agency letters, news release, and postcards for the Notice of Intent. The scoping fact sheet booklet, posters, public notifications, maps, frequently asked questions, reference documents, informational videos, and various other materials are available on the project website and will be updated and made available throughout the course of the project.

### F.2 Scoping Period

The public scoping period began with issuance of the Notice of Intent in the *Federal Register* on February 10, 2020 (85 Federal Register 7538). The public scoping period ran from February 10, 2020, to March 11, 2020. The public was able to provide comments on the scope of the analysis by mail and through the project website.

#### F.2.1 Public Scoping Notification

The Navy made significant efforts to notify the public to ensure maximum public participation during the scoping process. A summary of these efforts follows.

##### F.2.1.1 Notification Letters

Tribal letters were mailed on February 6, 2020, via priority mail to 24 tribal chairpersons of federally recognized tribes. Stakeholder letters were mailed first-class on February 7, 2020, to 128 federal, state, and local elected officials and government agencies. Entities that received the scoping notification letter can be found in Table F.2-1 and an example of a stakeholder letter can be found in Figure F.2-1.

**Table F.2-1: Entities that Received the Scoping Notification Letter**

<b><i>Federally Recognized Tribes and Tribal Groups</i></b>	
Alutiiq Tribe of Old Harbor	Native Village of Tyonek
Kaguyak Village	Ninilchik Traditional Council
Kenaitze Indian Tribe (IRA)	Salamatof Tribe (Village of Salamatof)
Knik Tribe	Seldovia Village Tribe (IRA)
Native Village of Afognak	Sun'aq Tribe of Kodiak
Native Village of Akhiok	Tangirnaq Native Village (Woody Island)
Native Village of Chenega	Yakutat Tlingit Tribe
Native Village of Eklutna (Eklutna Native Village)	Alutiiq Museum
Native Village of Eyak	Chugachmiut, Inc.
Native Village of Karluk	Chugash Alaska Corporation
Native Village of Larsen Bay	Cook Inlet Region, Inc.
Native Village of Nanwalek (English Bay)	Cook Inlet Tribal Council
Native Village of Ouzinkie	Goldbelt Inc.
Native Village of Port Graham	Kodiak Area Native Association
Native Village of Port Lions	Koniaq, Inc.
Native Village of Tatitlek	Sealaska Corporation
<b><i>Federal Elected Officials and Federal Agencies</i></b>	
U.S. Senators (Alaska)	
U.S. Representatives (Alaska)	
Alaska Maritime National Wildlife Refuge	
Alaska Science Center	
Federal Aviation Administration	
Northwest Mountain Region	
Marine Mammal Commission	
National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration	
National Marine Fisheries Service	
Alaska Fisheries Science Center	
Kodiak Laboratory	
Kasitsna Bay Lab	
Alaska Regional Office	
Habitat Conservation Division	
Office of Protected Resources	
Marine Mammal and Sea Turtle Conservation	
Sustainable Fisheries Division	
National Park Service	
Glacier Bay National Park & Preserve	
North Pacific Fisheries Management Council	
Office of Aviation Services	
U.S. Environmental Protection Agency	
Anchorage Operations Office	
NEPA Compliance Division	
Region 10	
Environmental Review and Sediment Management Unit	
U.S. Army Corps of Engineers	
Alaska District	
U.S. Department of Agriculture	
Forest Service	
Alaska Region	

Chugach National Forest
U.S. Department of Commerce
U.S. Department of the Interior
Bureau of Indian Affairs
Bureau of Land Management
Alaska State Office
Bureau of Ocean Energy Management
Office of Environmental Policy and Compliance
U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service
Alaska Region
Anchorage Field Office
Kodiak National Wildlife Refuge
U.S. Geological Survey
Alaska Science Center
Western Fisheries Research Center
<b><i>State Elected Officials and State Agencies</i></b>
Office of the Governor and Staff
Alaska State Representatives (Districts 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8, 9, 11, 13, 20, 21, 22, 23, 24, 27, 28, 29, 30, 31, 32, 33, 35, 36)
Alaska State Senators (Districts A, B, C, D, F, G, K, L, N, O, P, Q, R, S)
Alaska Department of Commerce
Community, and Economic Development
Division of Community and Regional Affairs
Alaska Department of Environmental Conservation
Commissioner's Office
Division Administrative Services
Division of Air Quality
Division of Environmental Health
Division of Spill Prevention and Response
Alaska Department of Fish and Game
Division of Commercial Fisheries
Division of Habitat
Division of Sport Fisheries Fairbanks
Division of Sport Fishing
Division of Sport Fisheries and Division of Subsistence
Division of Wildlife Conservation
Alaska Department of Military & Veterans Affairs
Alaska Department of Natural Resources
Division of Forestry
Division of Parks & Outdoor Recreation
Division of Geological & Geophysical Surveys
Division of Mining Land and Water Anchorage
Division of Oil and Gas
Public Information Center
Alaska Department of Transportation & Public Facilities
Alaska Marine Highway
Division of Ports & Harbors
North Region Fairbanks
Statewide Aviation
Kachemak Bay Conservation Society
Regulatory Commission of Alaska

***Local Elected Officials and Local Agencies***

City and Borough of Juneau  
City of Cordova  
Fairbanks North Star Borough  
Kenai Peninsula Borough  
Kenai Peninsula Borough School District  
Kodiak Island Borough  
Matanuska-Susitna Borough  
Municipality of Anchorage



DEPARTMENT OF THE NAVY  
COMMANDER  
UNITED STATES PACIFIC FLEET  
250 MAKALAPA DRIVE  
PEARL HARBOR, HAWAII 96860-3131

IN REPLY REFER TO:  
5090  
Ser N465/0142  
January 24, 2020

Dear Sir or Madam:

**SUBJECT: NOTICE OF INTENT TO PREPARE A SUPPLEMENTAL ENVIRONMENTAL  
IMPACT STATEMENT/OVERSEAS ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT  
STATEMENT FOR GULF OF ALASKA NAVY TRAINING**

This letter is to inform you that the Department of the Navy (Navy) is preparing a supplement to the 2011 Gulf of Alaska (GOA) Navy Training Activities Final Environmental Impact Statement/Overseas Environmental Impact Statement (EIS/OEIS), referred to as the 2011 GOA Final EIS/OEIS, and the 2016 GOA Navy Training Activities Final Supplemental EIS/OEIS, referred to as the 2016 GOA Final Supplemental EIS/OEIS. The Navy is proposing to continue periodic military readiness activities in the GOA. These activities include the use of active sound navigation and ranging, known as sonar, and weapon systems that may use non-explosive or explosive munitions at sea. These activities would be performed while employing marine species mitigation measures. The Navy welcomes your comments during the scoping period.

The purpose of this Supplemental EIS/OEIS is to update the 2011 and 2016 impact analyses with new information and analytical methods the Navy developed and has used since 2016. New information includes an updated acoustic effects model, updated marine mammal density data, and evolving and emergent best available science. The Navy is not proposing new activities or an increase in activities from current levels. Proposed training activities are similar to those that have occurred in the GOA for decades and are consistent with those analyzed in the 2011 and 2016 impact analyses.

The Navy is preparing a Supplemental EIS/OEIS to renew required regulatory permits and authorizations under the Marine Mammal Protection Act and the Endangered Species Act. Current federal regulatory permits and authorizations expire in April 2022. This upcoming Supplemental EIS/OEIS will support naval training requirements to achieve and maintain fleet readiness as required by Title 10 of the U.S. Code.

The Proposed Action's activities are the same as the actions presented in the 2011 GOA Final EIS/OEIS and the 2016 GOA Final Supplemental EIS/OEIS, which are to continue periodic military training activities within a Temporary Maritime Activities Area in the GOA (Enclosure 1). The Temporary Maritime Activities Area and Proposed Action, including the location, number, and frequency of major training exercises, remain unchanged from the

**Figure F.2-1: Stakeholder Scoping Notification Letter**

5090  
Ser N465/0142  
January 24, 2020

2016 impact analysis. In the Supplemental EIS/OEIS, the Navy will include the analysis of at-sea activities projected to meet readiness requirements beyond 2022 and into the reasonably foreseeable future, which reflects the most up-to-date compilation of training activities deemed necessary to accomplish military readiness.

The Navy will accept scoping comments throughout the public comment period from Feb. 10, 2020, to March 11, 2020. All comments must be postmarked or received online by 11:59 p.m. Pacific Standard Time on **March 11, 2020**, for consideration in the Draft Supplemental EIS/OEIS. All comments submitted during the scoping period will become part of the public record and substantive comments will be considered in the development of the Draft Supplemental EIS/OEIS.

Comments may be submitted online at [www.GOAEIS.com](http://www.GOAEIS.com) or by mail to:

Naval Facilities Engineering Command Northwest  
Attention: GOA Supplemental EIS/OEIS Project Manager  
1101 Tautog Circle, Suite 203  
Silverdale, WA 98315-1101

If you would like additional project information, including details on the key differences between the 2016 GOA Final Supplemental EIS/OEIS and the upcoming Supplemental EIS/OEIS, please visit the project website at [www.GOAEIS.com](http://www.GOAEIS.com), or contact Ms. Kimberly Kler, GOA Supplemental EIS/OEIS Project Manager, at [kimberly.kler@navy.mil](mailto:kimberly.kler@navy.mil).

Please help the Navy inform the community about the intent to prepare a Supplemental EIS/OEIS for Navy training activities in the GOA by sharing this information with your staff and interested individuals.

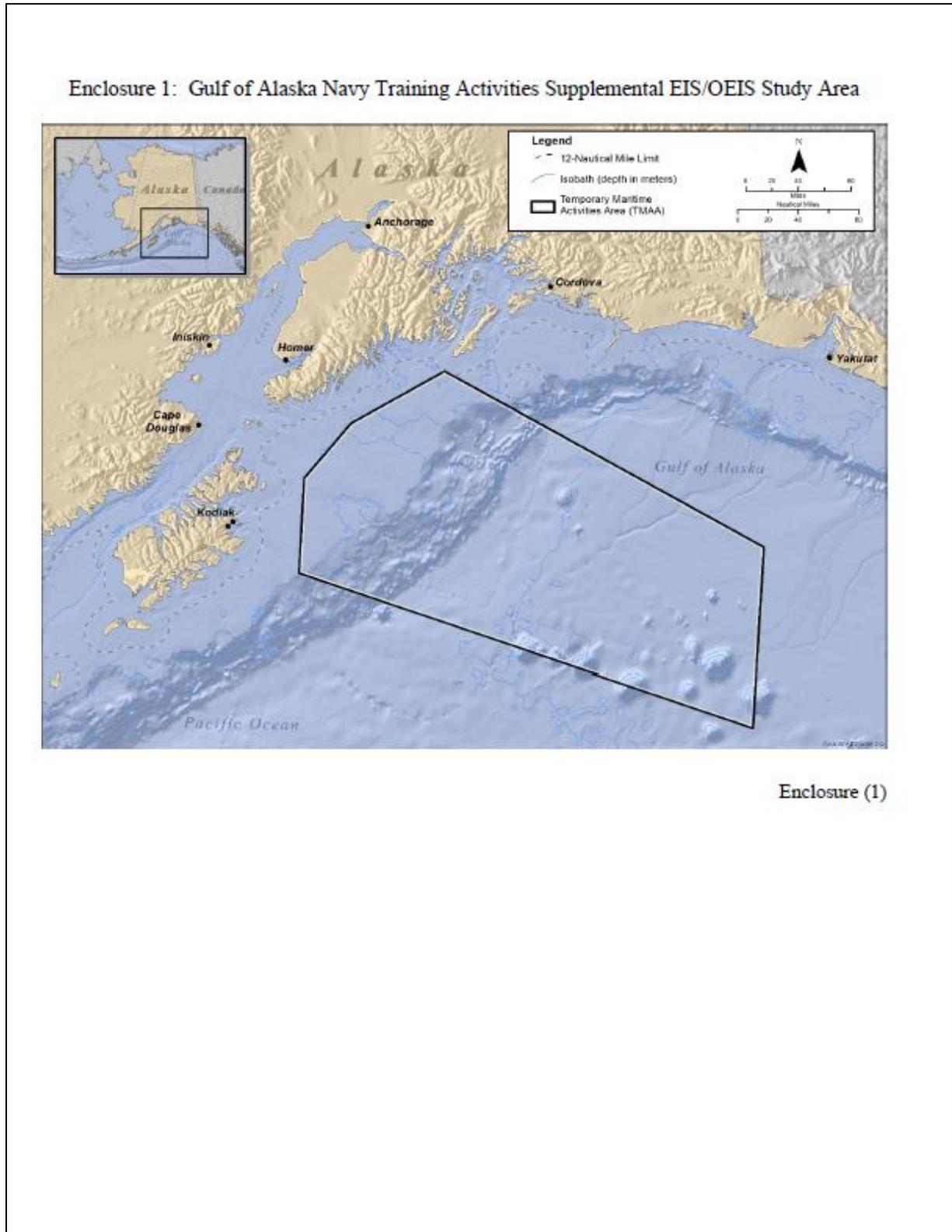
Sincerely,



D. A. MCNAIR  
Director, Environmental Readiness Division  
By direction of the Commander

Enclosure: 1. GOA Navy Training Activities Supplemental EIS/OEIS Study Area

Figure F.2-1: Stakeholder Scoping Notification Letter (continued)



**Figure F.2-1: Stakeholder Scoping Notification Letter (continued)**

**F.2.1.2 Postcard Mailers**

A postcard was mailed first-class to 556 individuals, community groups, tribal staff, and nongovernmental organizations on February 7, 2020. The postcard provided information about the Proposed Action, the website address, and how to submit public comments. An example of the postcard is shown in Figure F.2-2.

The image shows a postcard mailer for the Gulf of Alaska Navy Training Activities Supplemental EIS/OEIS. The top section features the title 'GULF of ALASKA' in large, bold, blue and white letters, with 'of' in a smaller font. Below this, the subtitle 'NAVY TRAINING ACTIVITIES SUPPLEMENTAL EIS/OEIS' is written in white on a dark blue background. The main body of the postcard is divided into two columns. The left column has a white background and contains the heading 'The Navy welcomes your input!' followed by two paragraphs of text. The right column has a teal background and contains the heading 'The Navy is requesting your comments on the scope of the analysis to be considered during the development of the Draft Supplemental EIS/OEIS.' followed by a section titled 'Public Involvement' and a list of ways to participate. At the bottom, a dark blue banner contains the deadline for comments.

# GULF of ALASKA

## NAVY TRAINING ACTIVITIES SUPPLEMENTAL EIS/OEIS

**The Navy welcomes your input!**

The U.S. Navy invites you to participate in the National Environmental Policy Act public involvement process for the Gulf of Alaska (GOA) Navy Training Activities Supplemental Environmental Impact Statement/Overseas Environmental Impact Statement (EIS/OEIS).

The Navy is preparing a Supplemental EIS/OEIS to update previous environmental impact analyses with new information and analytical methods the Navy developed and has used since 2016. The Supplemental EIS/OEIS will include the analysis of at-sea activities projected to meet readiness requirements beyond 2022 and into the reasonably foreseeable future.

The Navy is requesting your comments on the scope of the analysis to be considered during the development of the Draft Supplemental EIS/OEIS.

**Public Involvement**

You can participate in the public involvement process in the following ways:

- Visit **www.GOAEIS.com** to learn more about the project and submit comments online.
- Mail written comments to:  
Naval Facilities Engineering  
Command Northwest  
Attention: GOA Supplemental EIS/OEIS  
Project Manager  
1101 Tautog Circle, Suite 203  
Silverdale, WA 98315-1101

Comments must be postmarked or received online by 11:59 p.m. Pacific Standard Time on **March 11, 2020**, for consideration in the development of the Draft Supplemental EIS/OEIS.

Figure F.2-2: Postcard Mailer for Scoping (Front)

## Proposed Action

The Proposed Action's activities are the same as the actions presented in the 2011 GOA Final EIS/OEIS and the 2016 GOA Final Supplemental EIS/OEIS, which are to continue periodic military training activities within a Temporary Maritime Activities Area in the Gulf of Alaska. Activities include the use of sonar and weapon systems at sea, while employing marine species mitigation measures. The Temporary Maritime Activities Area and Proposed Action, including the location, number, and frequency of major training exercises, remain unchanged from the 2016 impact analysis.



Naval Facilities Engineering  
Command Northwest  
Attention: GOA Supplemental  
EIS/OEIS Project Manager  
1101 Tautog Circle, Suite 203  
Silverdale, WA 98315-1101



For more information or to  
submit comments online, visit  
**[www.GOAEIS.com](http://www.GOAEIS.com)**.

Figure F.2-2: Postcard Mailer for Scoping (Back)

**F.2.1.3 Newspaper Advertisements**

Display advertisements were placed in local newspapers to advertise the public’s opportunity to comment on the scope of the analysis. The advertisements included a description of the Proposed Action, the website address, the duration of the comment period, and information on how to provide comments. The newspapers and publication dates are shown in Table F.2-2. An example of the advertisement is shown in Figure F.2-3.

**Table F.2-2: Newspaper Publications**

<b>Newspaper</b>	<b>Newspaper Coverage</b>	<b>Publication Frequency</b>	<b>Publication Dates</b>
<i>Anchorage Daily News</i>	Anchorage	Daily except Saturday	Monday, Feb. 10, 2020 Tuesday, Feb. 11, 2020 Wednesday, Feb. 12, 2020
<i>Cordova Times</i>	Cordova and Prince William Sound	Friday only	Friday, Feb. 14, 2020 Friday, Feb. 21, 2020 Friday, Feb. 28, 2020
<i>Juneau Empire</i>	Juneau and Southeastern Alaska	Tuesday–Friday and Sunday	Tuesday, Feb. 11, 2020 Wednesday, Feb. 12, 2020 Thursday, Feb. 13, 2020
<i>Kodiak Daily Mirror</i>	Kodiak	Monday–Friday	Monday, Feb. 10, 2020 Tuesday, Feb. 11, 2020 Wednesday, Feb. 12, 2020
<i>Peninsula Clarion</i>	Kenai-Soldotna Area	Tuesday–Friday and Sunday	Tuesday, Feb. 11, 2020 Wednesday, Feb. 12, 2020 Thursday, Feb. 13, 2020



**The U.S. Navy  
INVITES YOU TO PARTICIPATE  
in the Gulf of Alaska Navy Training Activities  
Supplemental EIS/OEIS Scoping Process**

The U.S. Navy is preparing a Supplemental Environmental Impact Statement/Overseas Environmental Impact Statement (EIS/OEIS) to assess the potential environmental effects associated with continuing periodic military readiness activities within a specified area of the Gulf of Alaska beyond 2022 and into the reasonably foreseeable future.

**Public Involvement Opportunity**

The Navy is requesting your comments on the scope of the analysis to be considered during the development of the Draft Supplemental EIS/OEIS. Comments will be accepted online at [www.GOAEIS.com](http://www.GOAEIS.com) or by mail to:

Naval Facilities Engineering Command Northwest  
Attention: GOA Supplemental EIS/OEIS Project Manager  
1101 Tautog Circle, Suite 203  
Silverdale, WA 98315-1101

**All comments must be postmarked or received online by  
11:59 p.m. Pacific Standard Time on March 11, 2020,  
for consideration in the development of the  
Draft Supplemental EIS/OEIS.**

**Please visit [www.GOAEIS.com](http://www.GOAEIS.com) for project information.**

Figure F.2-3: Newspaper Announcement for Scoping

**F.2.1.4 News Release**

Commander, Navy Region Northwest Public Affairs Office distributed a news release to local and regional media outlets on February 10, 2020. The news release provided information on the Proposed Action, the website address, and how to submit comments. The news release from the Commander, Navy Region Northwest is shown in Figure F.2-4.



## COMMANDER, NAVY REGION NORTHWEST

Public Affairs Office  
1100 Hunley Road, Silverdale, WA 98315-1100  
Phone: 360-396-1630 Fax: 360-396-7127

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**  
Release #20-0210

February 10, 2020

### U.S. NAVY INVITES PUBLIC COMMENT ON THE GULF OF ALASKA NAVY TRAINING ACTIVITIES SUPPLEMENTAL ENVIRONMENTAL ANALYSIS

**SILVERDALE, Wash.** – The U.S. Navy is inviting the public to participate in the development of a supplement to the Gulf of Alaska (GOA) Navy Training Activities Supplemental Environmental Impact Statement/Overseas Environmental Impact Statement (EIS/OEIS).

The Navy is preparing the Supplemental EIS/OEIS to renew required regulatory permits and authorizations required under the Marine Mammal Protection Act and the Endangered Species Act. The current federal regulatory permits and authorizations required for military training activities in the Gulf of Alaska will expire in April 2022.

With this Supplemental EIS/OEIS, the Navy is not proposing any new training locations or an increase in the current levels of training activities in the Gulf of Alaska.

The Navy has trained periodically in the Gulf of Alaska for more than 30 years. This training is critical for the readiness of military personnel who protect and defend the United States and its allies.

In this Supplemental EIS, the Navy will analyze a Proposed Action where activities are the same as the actions presented in the 2011 GOA Final EIS/OEIS and the 2016 GOA Final Supplemental EIS/OEIS, which are to continue periodic military training activities in the Temporary Maritime Activities Area (TMAA) in the Gulf of Alaska.

Proposed activities include the continued use of active sonar and weapon systems that may use non-explosive or explosive munitions at sea in the Gulf of Alaska study area. The Navy will perform these activities while employing marine species mitigation measures.

The Navy will update previous environmental impact analyses with new information and analytical methods the Navy developed and has used since 2016, to include:

- Improved acoustic models, updated marine mammal densities, and updated marine species criteria and thresholds.
- The most current and best available science and analytical methods.

– more –

**Figure F.2-4: Commander, Navy Region Northwest Scoping News Release**

- A review of procedural mitigation measures, where appropriate, and consider additional geographic and/or temporal mitigation measures, where applicable.

The Navy welcomes public comments during the 30-day scoping period from **February 10, 2020 to March 11, 2020**, for consideration in the development of the Supplemental EIS/OEIS.

Government agencies, elected officials, community organizations and individuals are encouraged to submit comments on the scope, content or issues for consideration in the development of the Supplemental EIS/OEIS.

All comments must be postmarked or received online **by 11:59 p.m. Pacific Standard Time on March 11, 2020**, for consideration in the Draft Supplemental EIS/OEIS. Written comments may be submitted via the project website at [www.GOAEIS.com](http://www.GOAEIS.com) or by mail to:

Naval Facilities Engineering Command Northwest  
Attention: GOA Supplemental EIS/OEIS Project Manager  
1101 Tautog Circle, Suite 203  
Silverdale, WA 98315-1101

Since the Navy has engaged in both National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA)-related public involvement and extensive outreach in Alaska on an ongoing basis, the Navy will not be holding public scoping meetings during the outreach period.

The Navy will hold open house public meetings after the release of the Draft Supplemental EIS/OEIS, which is tentatively scheduled for release in the winter of 2020.

Visit the project website at [www.GOAEIS.com](http://www.GOAEIS.com) to learn more about the project, review prior NEPA-related documents, and submit comments.

Media seeking further information should contact Ms. Julianne Stanford with the Navy Region Northwest Public Affairs Office at 360-396-5393 or at [julianne.stanford@navy.mil](mailto:julianne.stanford@navy.mil).

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Figure F.2-4: Commander, Navy Region Northwest Scoping News Release (continued)

**F.2.1.5 Website Subscriber Email Notification**

Email subscribers from the 2016 GOA Final SEIS/OEIS were carried forward to start with 44 initial website subscribers. An email notification was sent to these 44 website subscribers on February 10, 2020, announcing the Navy's Intent to Prepare an SEIS/OEIS. The website subscriber email notification is shown in Figure F.2-5. As of November 2020, there were 48 website subscribers.

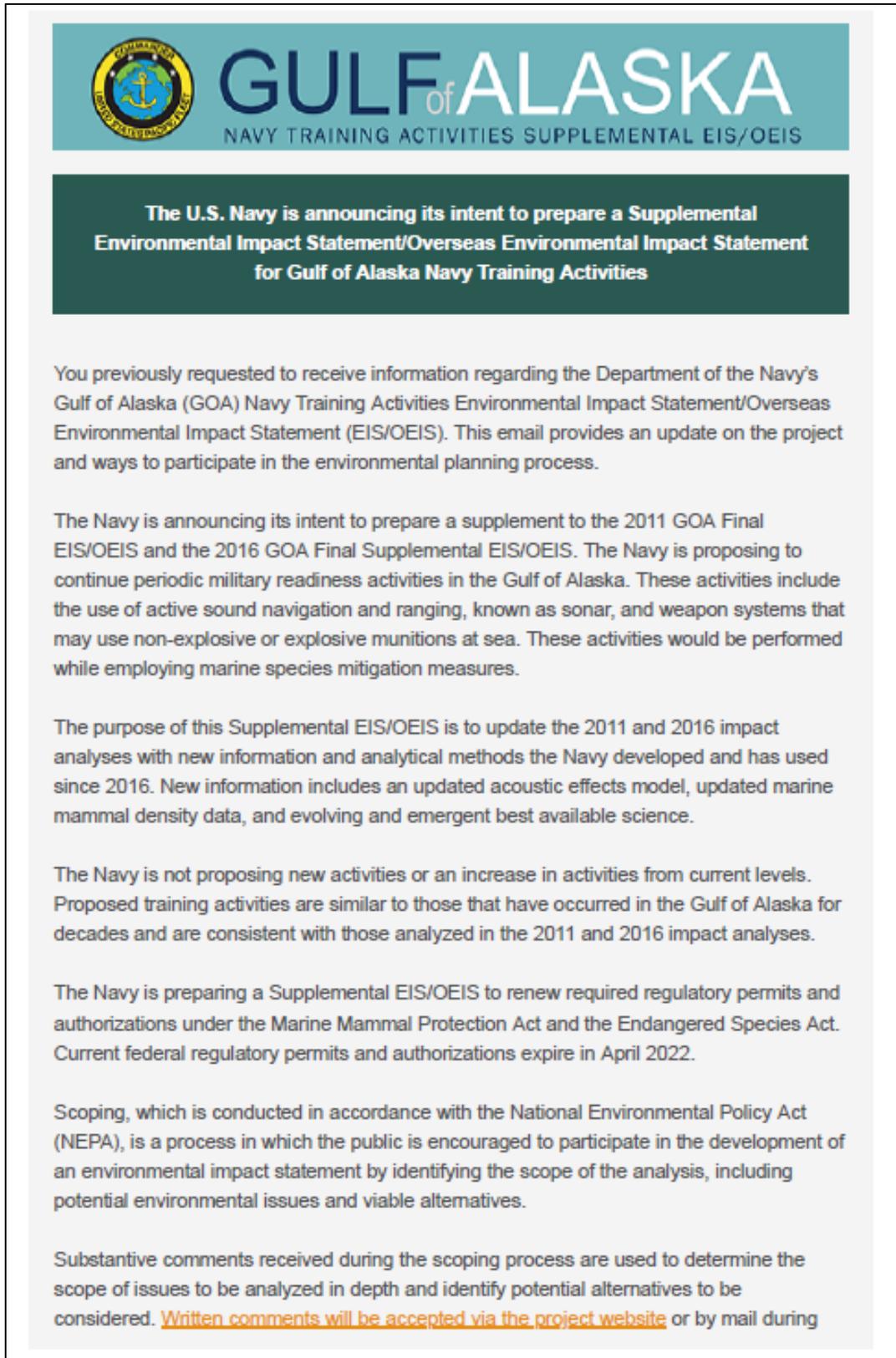


Figure F.2-5: Subscriber Email Notification

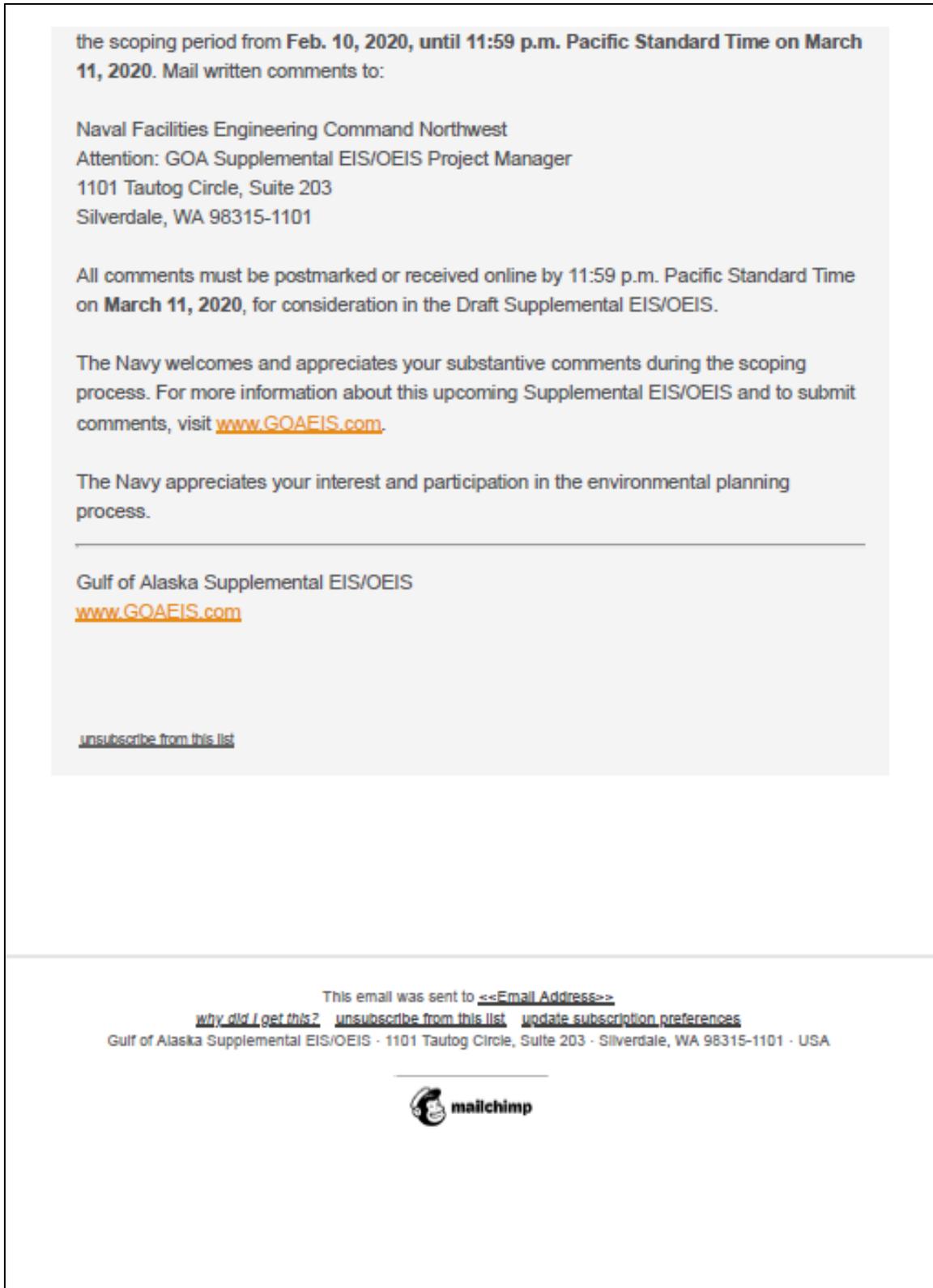


Figure F.2-5: Subscriber Email Notification (continued)

### F.2.2 Public Scoping Comments

Scoping comments were submitted in two ways:

- Written letters
- Comments submitted via the project website

The Navy received written and electronic comments from federal agencies, state agencies, federally recognized tribes, nongovernmental organizations, individuals, and community groups. A total of 25 comments were received, including 22 website comments (submitted using the electronic comment form on the project website) and 3 mailed comments.

### F.3 Expanded Public Outreach

Navy personnel conducted expanded outreach with stakeholders and the public at four Alaska public events prior to and during the scoping period: Post Northern Edge, the Alaska Federation of Natives Convention, the Alaska Marine Science Symposium, and the Alaska Forum on the Environment Convention. Expanded outreach will continue throughout the development of this SEIS/OEIS to ensure stakeholders are kept informed. Outreach events are shown in Table F.3-1.

**Table F.3-1: Expanded Outreach in Alaska**

Stakeholders	Conducted By	Format of Outreach	Date
Post Northern Edge	CNRNW Flag Officer U.S. Pacific Fleet	Coastal community meetings with ship tours and band events	Sept. 11–20, 2019
Alaska Federation of Natives Convention	U.S. Pacific Fleet NAVFAC Northwest	Stewards of the Sea Outreach booth	Oct. 17–19, 2019
Alaska Marine Science Symposium	U.S. Pacific Fleet NAVFAC Northwest	Stewards of the Sea Outreach booth	Jan. 27–28, 2020
Alaska Forum on the Environment Convention	U.S. Pacific Fleet NAVFAC Northwest	Stewards of the Sea Outreach booth; public presentation during Military Training in Alaska panel	Feb. 10–14, 2020

Notes: CNRNW = Commander, Navy Region Northwest; U.S. = United States; NAVFAC = Naval Facilities Engineering Command.

### F.4 Notification of Availability of the Draft Supplemental Environmental Impact Statement/Overseas Environmental Impact Statement

The Draft SEIS/OEIS public review and comment period will begin with issuance of the Notice of Availability and Notice of Public Meetings in the Federal Register. The Federal Register notices will include notification of the availability of the Draft SEIS/OEIS and where it can be accessed; an overview of the Proposed Action and its purpose and need; public commenting information; and the locations, dates, and times of the virtual public meetings. The purpose of the virtual public meetings is to inform the public about the Proposed Action and environmental analysis, and to solicit public comments on the environmental issues addressed and analyzed in the Draft SEIS/OEIS. Comments will be accepted by mail, through the project website at [www.goaeis.com](http://www.goaeis.com), and at the virtual public meetings.

#### **F.4.1 Notification of Draft Supplemental Environmental Impact Statement/Overseas Environmental Impact Statement and Virtual Public Meetings**

The Navy will make significant efforts to facilitate maximum public participation during the Draft SEIS/OEIS public review and comment period. The following is a summary of these efforts.

- Tribal and stakeholder notification letters
- Postcard mailer
- Press releases
- Newspaper advertisements
- Public service announcements
- Social media (Facebook) posts
- Virtual public meetings
- Expanded public outreach

Due to federal and state guidance and measures put in place in response to COVID-19, the Navy will be unable to hold in-person public meetings in Alaska; however, virtual public meetings will be held to safely and effectively engage the public. The Navy will take additional steps to help facilitate continued communication about the Proposed Action, alternatives under consideration, and results of the environmental analysis.