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DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration

50 CFR Part 218

[Docket No. 170720687-8212-01]

RIN 0648-BH06

Taking and Importing Marine Mammals; Taking Marine Mammals Incidental to the U.S. Navy Training and Testing Activities in the Atlantic Fleet Training and Testing Study Area

AGENCY: National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS), National Oceanic and

Atmospheric Administration (NOAA), Commerce.

ACTION: Proposed rule; correction.

SUMMARY: This document contains corrections to the preamble of the proposed regulations published on March 13, 2018, governing the take of marine mammals incidental to the U.S. Navy (Navy) training and testing activities in the Atlantic Fleet Training and Testing (AFTT) Study Area. This action is necessary to correct an error in where sections of the table were omitted in the **Federal Register** notice on March 13, 2018.

DATES: Applicable on April 9, 2018.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Stephanie Egger, Office of Protected Resources, NMFS; phone: (301) 427-8401, Stephanie.Egger@noaa.gov.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

Background

A proposed rule published March 13, 2018 (83 FR 10954) for the take of marine mammals incidental to the Navy's training and testing activities in the AFTT Study Area. This correction replaces Table 4 contained in the preamble of the proposed training activities within the AFTT Study Area.

Need for Correction

As published on page 10963 of the preamble to the proposed rule, *Table 4. Proposed Training* was incorrect. Sections of the table were missing from the preamble, specifically Amphibious Warfare, Anti-Submarine Warfare, Expeditionary Warfare, Mine Warfare, and a portion of Surface Warfare. This correction does not change NMFS' analysis or conclusions in the proposed rule. Table 4 is corrected to read as follows:

Table 4. Proposed Training Activities Analyzed within the AFTT Study Area.

<i>Stressor Category</i>	<i>Activity Name</i>	<i>Description</i>	<i>Source Bin</i>	<i>Annual # of Activities</i>	<i>5-Year # of Activities</i>	<i>Location²</i>	<i>Duration per Activity</i>
<i>Major Training Exercise – Large Integrated ASW</i>							
Acoustic	Composite Training Unit Exercise	Aircraft carrier and its associated aircraft integrate with surface and submarine units in a challenging multi-threat operational environment in order to certify them for deployment.	ASW1, ASW2, ASW3, ASW4, ASW5, HF1, LF6, MF1, MF3, MF4, MF5, MF11, MF12	2–3 ¹	12	VACAPES RC Navy Cherry Point RC JAX RC	21 days
<i>Major Training Exercises – Medium Integrated Anti-Submarine Warfare</i>							
Acoustic	Fleet Exercises/Sustainment Exercise	Aircraft carrier and its associated aircraft integrates with surface and submarine units in a challenging multi-threat operational environment in order to maintain their ability to deploy.	ASW1, ASW2, ASW3, ASW4, HF1, LF6, MF1, MF3, MF4, MF5, MF11, MF12	4	20	JAX RC	Up to 10 days
				2	10	VACAPES RC	
<i>Integrated/Coordinated Training – Small Integrated Anti-Submarine Warfare Training</i>							
Acoustic	Naval Undersea Warfare Training Assessment Course	Multiple ships, aircraft, and submarines integrate the use of their sensors to search for, detect, classify, localize, and track a threat submarine in order to launch an exercise torpedo.	ASW1, ASW3, ASW4, HF1, LF6, MF1, MF3, MF4, MF5, MF12	6	30	JAX RC	2-5 days
				3	15	Navy Cherry Point RC	
				3	15	VACAPES RC	
<i>Integrated/Coordinated Training – Medium Coordinated Anti-Submarine Warfare Training</i>							
Acoustic	Anti-Submarine Warfare Tactical Development Exercise	Surface ships, aircraft, and submarines coordinate to search for, detect, and track submarines.	ASW1, ASW3, ASW4, HF1, LF6, MF1, MF3, MF4, MF5, MF11, MF12	2	10	JAX RC	5-7 days
				1	5	Navy Cherry Point RC	
				1	5	VACAPES RC	

<i>Integrated/Coordinated Training – Small Coordinated Anti-Submarine Warfare Training</i>							
Acoustic	Group Sail	Surface ships and helicopters search for, detect, and track threat submarines.	ASW2, ASW3, ASW4,	4	20	JAX RC	2-3 days
			HF1, MF1, MF3, MF4, MF5, MF11, MF12	5	25	Navy Cherry Point RC	
				5	25	VACAPES RC	
<i>Amphibious Warfare</i>							
Explosive	Naval Surface Fire Support Exercise – At Sea	Surface ship crews use large-caliber guns to support forces ashore; however, the land target is simulated at sea. Rounds are scored by passive acoustic buoys located at or near the target area.	E5	4	20	GOMEX RC	1-2 hrs of firing, 8 hrs total
				12	60	JAX RC	
				2	10	Navy Cherry Point RC	
				38	190	VACAPES RC	
<i>Anti-Submarine Warfare</i>							
Acoustic	Anti-submarine Warfare Torpedo Exercise – Helicopter	Helicopter aircrews search for, track, and detect submarines. Recoverable air launched torpedoes are employed against submarine targets.	MF4, MF5, TORP1	14	70	JAX RC	2-5 hrs
				4	20	VACAPES RC	
Acoustic	Anti-submarine Warfare Torpedo Exercise – Maritime Patrol Aircraft	Maritime patrol aircraft aircrews search for, track, and detect submarines. Recoverable air launched torpedoes are employed against submarine targets.	MF5, TORP1	14	70	JAX RC	2-8 hrs
				4	20	VACAPES RC	
Acoustic	Anti-Submarine Warfare Torpedo Exercise – Ship	Surface ship crews search for, track, and detect submarines. Exercise torpedoes are used.	ASW3, MF1, TORP1	16	80	JAX RC	2-5 hrs
				5	25	VACAPES RC	
Acoustic	Anti-Submarine Warfare Torpedo Exercise – Submarine	Submarine crews search for, track, and detect submarines. Exercise torpedoes are used.	ASW4, HF1, MF3, TORP2	12	60	JAX RC	8 hrs
				6	30	Northeast RC	
				2	10	VACAPES RC	
Acoustic	Anti-Submarine Warfare Tracking Exercise – Helicopter	Helicopter aircrews search for, track, and detect submarines.	MF4, MF5	24	120	Other AFTT Areas	2-4 hrs
				370	1,850	JAX RC	
				12	60	Navy Cherry Point RC	
				8	40	VACAPES RC	

Acoustic	Anti-Submarine Warfare Tracking Exercise – Maritime Patrol Aircraft	Maritime patrol aircraft aircrews search for, track, and detect submarines.	ASW2, MF5	90	450	Northeast RC	2-8 hrs
				176	880	VACAPES RC	
				525	2,625	JAX RC	
				46	230	Navy Cherry Point RC	
Acoustic	Anti-Submarine Warfare Tracking Exercise – Ship	Surface ship crews search for, track, and detect submarines.	ASW1, ASW3, MF1, MF11, MF12	5*	25*	Northeast RC	2-4 hrs
				110*	550*	Other AFTT Areas	
				5*	25*	GOMEX RC	
				440*	2,200*	JAX RC	
				55*	275*	Navy Cherry Point RC	
220*	1,100*	VACAPES RC					
Acoustic	Anti-Submarine Warfare Tracking Exercise – Submarine	Submarine crews search for, track, and detect submarines.	ASW4, HF1, MF3	44	220	Other AFTT Areas	8 hrs
				13	65	JAX RC	
				1	5	Navy Cherry Point RC	
				18	90	Northeast RC	
				6	30	VACAPES RC	
Expeditionary Warfare							
Explosive	Maritime Security Operations – Anti-Swimmer Grenades	Small boat crews engage in force protection activities by using anti-swimmer grenades to defend against hostile divers.	E2	2	10	GOMEX RC	1 hr
				2	10	JAX RC	
				2	10	Navy Cherry Point RC	
				4	20	Northeast RC	
				5	25	VACAPES RC	
Mine Warfare							
Acoustic	Airborne Mine Countermeasure - Mine Detection	Helicopter aircrews detect mines using towed or laser mine detection systems.	HF4	66	330	GOMEX RC	2 hrs
				317	1,585	JAX RC	
				371	1,855	Navy Cherry Point RC	
				244	1,220	NSWC Panama City	
				1,540	7,700	VACAPES RC	

Acoustic, Explosive	Civilian Port Defense – Homeland Security Anti-Terrorism/Force Protection Exercise	Maritime security personnel train to protect civilian ports against enemy efforts to interfere with access to those ports.	HF4, SAS2 E2, E4	1	3	Beaumont, TX; Boston, MA; Corpus Christi, TX; Delaware Bay, DE; Earle, NJ; GOMEX RC; Hampton Roads, VA; JAX RC; Kings Bay, GA; NS Mayport; Morehead City, NC; Port Canaveral, FL; Savannah, GA; Tampa Bay, FL; VACAPES RC; Wilmington, DE	Multiple days
Acoustic	Coordinated Unit Level Helicopter Airborne Mine Countermeasure Exercise	A detachment of helicopter aircrews train as a unit in the use of airborne mine countermeasures, such as towed mine detection and neutralization systems.	HF4	2	10	GOMEX RC	Multiple days
				2	10	JAX RC	
				2	10	Navy Cherry Point RC	
				2	10	VACAPES RC	
Acoustic, Explosive	Mine Countermeasures – Mine Neutralization – Remotely Operated Vehicle	Ship, small boat, and helicopter crews locate and disable mines using remotely operated underwater vehicles.	HF4, E4	132	660	GOMEX RC	1.5-4 hrs
				71	355	JAX RC	
				71	355	Navy Cherry Point RC	
				630	3,150	VACAPES RC	
Acoustic	Mine Countermeasures – Ship Sonar	Ship crews detect and avoid mines while navigating restricted areas or channels using active sonar.	HF4	22	110	GOMEX RC	1.5-4 hrs
				53	265	JAX RC	
				53	265	VACAPES RC	
Explosive	Mine Neutralization – Explosive Ordnance Disposal	Personnel disable threat mines using explosive charges.	E4, E5, E6, E7	6	30	Lower Chesapeake Bay	Up to 4 hrs
				16	80	GOMEX RC	
				20	100	JAX RC	

				17	85	Key West RC	
				16	80	Navy Cherry Point RC	
				524	2,620	VACAPES RC	
Surface Warfare							
Explosive	Bombing Exercise Air-to-Surface	Fixed-wing aircrews deliver bombs against surface targets.	E9, E10, E12	67	335	GOMEX RC	1 hr
				434	2,170	JAX RC	
				108	540	Navy Cherry Point RC	
				329	1,645	VACAPES RC	
Explosive	Gunnery Exercise Surface-to-Surface Boat Medium-Caliber	Small boat crews fire medium-caliber guns at surface targets.	E1	6	30	GOMEX RC	1 hr
				26	130	JAX RC	
				128	640	Navy Cherry Point RC	
				2	10	Northeast RC	
				260	1,300	VACAPES RC	
Explosive	Gunnery Exercise Surface-to-Surface Ship Large-Caliber	Surface ship crews fire large-caliber guns at surface targets.	E3,E5	10	50	Other AFTT Areas	Up to 3 hrs
				9	45	GOMEX RC	
				51	255	JAX RC	
				35	175	Navy Cherry Point RC	
				75	375	VACAPES RC	
Explosive	Gunnery Exercise Surface-to-Surface Ship Medium-Caliber	Surface ship crews fire medium-caliber guns at surface targets.	E1	41	195	Other AFTT Areas	2-3 hrs
				33	165	GOMEX RC	
				161	805	JAX RC	
				72	360	Navy Cherry Point RC	
				321	1,605	VACAPES RC	
Explosive	Integrated Live Fire Exercise	Naval forces defend against a swarm of surface threats (ships or small boats) with bombs, missiles, rockets, and small-, medium- and large-caliber guns.	E1, E3, E6, E10	2	10	VACAPES RC	6-8 hrs
				2	10	JAX RC	
Explosive	Missile Exercise	Fixed-wing and	E6, E8,	102	510	JAX RC	1 hr

	Air-to-Surface	helicopter aircrews fire air-to-surface missiles at surface targets.	E10	52	260	Navy Cherry Point RC	
				88	440	VACAPES RC	
Explosive	Missile Exercise Air-to-Surface – Rocket	Helicopter aircrews fire both precision-guided and unguided rockets at surface targets.	E3	10	50	GOMEX RC	1 hr
				102	510	JAX RC	
				10	50	Navy Cherry Point RC	
				92	460	VACAPES RC	
Explosive	Missile Exercise Surface-to-Surface	Surface ship crews defend against surface threats (ships or small boats) and engage them with missiles.	E6, E10	16	80	JAX RC	2-5 hrs
				12	60	VACAPES RC	
Acoustic, Explosive	Sinking Exercise	Aircraft, ship, and submarine crews deliberately sink a seaborne target, usually a decommissioned ship (made environmentally safe for sinking according to U.S. Environmental Protection Agency standards), with a variety of munitions.	TORP2, E5, E8, E9, E10, E11	1	5	SINKEX Box	4-8 hrs, possibly over 1-2 days
Other Training Activities							
Acoustic	Elevated Causeway System	A temporary pier is constructed off the beach. Supporting pilings are driven into the sand and then later removed.	Impact hammer or vibrator extractor	1	5	Lower Chesapeake Bay	Up to 20 days for construction, and up to 10 days for removal
				1	5	Navy Cherry Point RC	
Acoustic	Submarine Navigation	Submarine crews operate sonar for navigation and object detection while transiting into and out of port during reduced visibility.	HF1, MF3	169	845	NSB New London	Up to 2 hrs
				3	15	NSB Kings Bay	
				3	15	NS Mayport	
				84	420	NS Norfolk	
				23	115	Port Canaveral, FL	
Acoustic	Submarine Sonar Maintenance	Maintenance of submarine sonar systems is conducted pier-side or at sea.	MF3	12	60	Other AFTT Areas	Up to 1 hr
				66	330	NSB New London	
				9	45	JAX RC	
				2	10	NSB Kings Bay	

				34	170	NS Norfolk	
				86	430	Northeast RC	
				2	10	Port Canaveral, FL	
				13	63	Navy Cherry Point RC	
				47	233	VACAPES RC	
Acoustic	Submarine Under Ice Certification	Submarine crews train to operate under ice. Ice conditions are simulated during training and certification events.	HF1	3	15	JAX RC	Up to 6 hrs per day over 5 days
				3	15	Navy Cherry Point RC	
				9	45	Northeast RC	
				9	45	VACAPES RC	
Acoustic	Surface Ship Object Detection	Surface ship crews operate sonar for navigation and object detection while transiting in and out of port during reduced visibility.	HF8, MF1K	76	380	NS Mayport	Up to 2 hrs
				162	810	NS Norfolk	
Acoustic	Surface Ship sonar Maintenance	Maintenance of surface ship sonar systems is conducted pierside or at sea.	HF8, MF1	50	250	JAX RC	Up to 4 hrs
				50	250	NS Mayport	
				120	600	Navy Cherry Point RC	
				235	1,175	NS Norfolk	
				120	600	VACAPES RC	

¹ For activities where the maximum number of events could vary between years, the information is presented as ‘representative-maximum’ number of events per year. For activities where no variation is anticipated, only the maximum number of events within a single year is provided.

² Locations given are areas where activities typically occur. However, activities could be conducted in other locations within the Study Area. Where multiple locations are provided within a single cell, the number of activities could occur in any of the locations, not in each of the locations.

* For anti-submarine warfare tracking exercise – Ship, the Proposed Action, 50 percent of requirements are met through synthetic training or other training exercises

Notes: GOMEX: Gulf of Mexico; JAX: Jacksonville; NS: Naval Station; NSB: Naval Submarine Base; NSWC: Naval Surface Warfare Center; RC: Range Complex; VACAPES: Virginia Capes

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