NAVY

Hawaii-Southern California
Training and Testing EIS/OEIS

Environmental Stewardship Programs

For more than 230 years, the U.S. Navy has been operating on, over and within the world's oceans. These waters are the Navy's home as well as its workplace; the Navy treasures the oceans' resources. The Navy is committed to caring for the environment as it trains personnel and tests new technologies to defend the United States.

The U.S. Navy is a disciplined force committed to protecting the environment and is proud of its record of environmental stewardship and pollution prevention.

Protection of natural resources is an important goal for the Navy as it conducts necessary training and testing activities. The Navy is proud of its strong record of maintaining the environment in which it works, on land, in the air and at sea. The Navy practices stewardship with programs to protect endangered species and preserve critical habitats, recycle and reduce waste, and prevent ocean dumping of plastic waste.

Environmental Protection at Sea.

While training and testing at sea, the Navy reduces its "footprint" by minimizing and recycling waste, reducing emissions and preventing pollution. Some of these programs include:

Navy Shipboard Environmental Protection

While at sea, the Navy recycles waste fuel and prevents the introduction of non-native species through ballast water. The Navy has equipped all warships with solid waste equipment, such as plastic waste processors and metal/glass shredders, to ensure that no plastic is discharged at sea and all other solid waste discharges are made with minimal environmental impact. The Navy is also dedicated to energy conservation.

Pollution Prevention Afloat Program

The Navy's Pollution Prevention (P2) Afloat program integrates pollution prevention practices and equipment into ship maintenance processes. The program was established in 1995 in response to the growing awareness of the need to reduce hazardous materials. This program has been a vital component of the Navy's overall environmental management strategy.

Partnering for Sustainability

In recent years, the U.S. Navy has focused additional efforts on developing partnerships and coalitions with other government agencies and organizations to better manage and protect natural and cultural resources.

The Navy recognizes that it shares common goals, objectives and interests with land conservancies, environmental groups, and federal, state and local government agencies in protecting endangered and threatened species, preserving critical habitat and open space, and promoting energy efficiency and renewable energy sources. The Navy's participation in sustainability programs helps to protect both the environment and the military mission.

Statutory and Regulatory Compliance

As a responsible environmental steward, the U.S. Navy is concerned about its effects on the environment and is committed to complying with all applicable laws, regulations and policies, such as:

- National Environmental Policy Act
- Clean Air Act
- Clean Water Act
- Coastal Zone Management Act
- Endangered Species Act
- Magnuson-Stevens Fishery Conservation and Management Act
- Marine Mammal Protection Act
- Migratory Bird Treaty Act
- National Historic Preservation Act
- National Marine Sanctuaries Act
- Rivers and Harbors Act
- Executive Orders:
  - Recreational Fisheries
  - Environmental Effects Abroad of Major Federal Actions
  - Federal Actions to Address Environmental Justice in Minority Populations and Low-Income Populations
  - Protection of Children from Environmental Health and Safety Risks
  - Coral Reef Protection
  - Marine Protected Areas
  - Consultation and Coordination with Tribal Governments

The coastal and sea areas of the Hawaiian Islands and Southern California are very important to the Navy. Some examples of the Navy's successful environmental programs in Hawaii and Southern California are described below.

Environmental Protection In Hawaii.

The Navy demonstrates its dedication to maintaining the islands' natural environment and in many cases improves conditions.

Protecting the Laysan Albatross

At the Pacific Missile Range Facility (PMRF) on Kauai, the Navy for years encountered difficulties with Laysan albatross birds flying in aircraft flight paths, creating a danger both to the birds and to aircrews. Initial responses centered on relocating adult birds to areas off base, but the birds instinctively returned to the area where they had hatched. The Navy met with the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, the U.S. Department of Agriculture's Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service and staff at the Kilauea National Wildlife Refuge and devised a plan to relocate Laysan albatross eggs or newly-born chicks to the refuge on the opposite, northeastern shore of Kauai. As hoped, 26 albatross chicks were accepted by "foster" parents at the wildlife refuge. Since it is widely believed that albatross do not imprint on their home until fledging (leaving their nests), these chicks are expected to return to Kilauea as adults.

The U.S. Navy actively supports the Hawaiian Island Humpback Whale National Marine Sanctuary Advisory Council and participates in the Hawaiian Monk Seal Recovery Team to assist in ongoing conservation and protection efforts in Hawaii.

Energy Efficiency

Navy Region Hawaii has implemented several energy-efficiency programs including:

- Retrofitting the Navy Exchange parking lot and interior with energy efficient lighting for a total annual savings of $270,000. The Navy installed more than 1,100 lighting occupancy sensors on 53 buildings at Oahu facilities for an annual savings of $90,000.
- Replacing rooftop air conditioning units for a savings of $750,000.
- Conducting over 130 building assessments, which include lighting, air conditioning, water, building envelope and renewable energy, to develop energy conservation measures for future projects.
- Implementing an American Recovery and Reinvestment Act photovoltaic project consisting of 15 buildings for total annual savings of $1.2 million. The power is equal to the annual needs of approximately 440 homes while saving approximately 5,667 barrels of oil annually. Reductions in carbon dioxide emissions is equivalent to taking 550 passenger cars off the road.

At PMRF, more than 200 solar-powered runway lights were installed to conserve energy.

Environmental Protection In Southern California.

For more than 70 years, the Navy has been training in the Southern California Range Complex, and San Clemente Island is one of the Navy's primary training areas. It is also one of the most environmentally distinct coastal islands owned by the United States. Through protective measures and partnerships with conservation groups, the Navy has co-existed successfully with the sensitive island landscape.

Recovering the San Clemente Loggerhead Shrike

The San Clemente loggerhead shrike is one of the rarest birds in North America and found only on San Clemente Island. Numerous challenges have faced the San Clemente loggerhead shrike, including habitat destruction and threats from predators. To promote its recovery, the Navy established an intensive field monitoring program and integrated it with a captive breeding and release program in 1991. The program was established in partnership with the Western Foundation of Vertebrate Zoology, the Zoological Society of San Diego, Endangered Species Recovery Council, Institute of Wildlife Studies and the Point Reyes Bird Observatory. The captive breeding program has resulted in a population increase from 13 shrikes to more than 80 breeding pairs in the wild today.

Protecting and Conserving Natural Resources

The Navy implements protective measures and takes proactive steps to manage the natural resources on its ranges, including:

- Developing and implementing integrated natural resources management plans
- Developing and implementing wildland fire management plans
- Controlling erosion
- Managing invasive (non-native) species
- Training personnel about endangered species and critical habitat protection
- Conserving energy
- Installing new technologies and using energy from renewable sources

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