



Virginia Capes (VACAPES) Range Complex

Environmental Impact Statement/Overseas Environmental Impact Statement (EIS/OEIS)

Federal Environmental Regulations

Federal regulations govern activities that may affect the environment, including Navy training and testing activities. The Navy complies with applicable environmental regulations, including:

National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA)

NEPA of 1969 established national policies and goals for the protection of the environment. Its procedural requirements direct all Federal agencies to give appropriate consideration to the environmental effects of their decision-making prior to the action taking place and to prepare detailed environmental statements on any action that may significantly affect the quality of the environment.

Executive Order 12114, Environmental Effects Abroad of Major Federal Action

Enacted by President Carter in 1979, this Executive Order requires Federal agencies to consider the impacts of actions that may affect the environment outside U.S. territorial waters.

Marine Mammal Protection Act (MMPA)

MMPA of 1972 prohibits the 'take' of marine mammals in U.S. waters and on land, and by U.S. citizens on the high seas. A 'take' is an action that results in an injury or a disturbance of a marine mammal's critical behavior. The Secretary of Commerce has the authority, upon request, to authorize the unintentional taking of marine mammals incidental to activities. For military readiness activities, the determination of impacts on marine mammal species or stocks includes considerations of "personal safety, practicality of implementation, and impact on the effectiveness of the military readiness activity." (National Defense Authorization Act, 2003).

Endangered Species Act (ESA)

Established in 1973 to preserve the nation's natural heritage by conserving wildlife species, ESA sets out requirements to be followed by Federal agencies with regard to potential impacts of any action on endangered or threatened species and their critical habitat.

National Marine Sanctuaries Act (NMSA)

NMSA authorizes the Secretary of Commerce to designate and protect areas of the marine environment with special national significance due to their conservation, recreational, ecological, historical, scientific, cultural, archeological, educational, or esthetic qualities as national marine sanctuaries.

Coastal Zone Management Act (CZMA)

As a Federal-State partnership, CZMA provides for the preservation, protection, development, restoration, and enhancement of the nation's coastal zone resources.

Magnuson-Stevens Fishery Conservations and Management Act

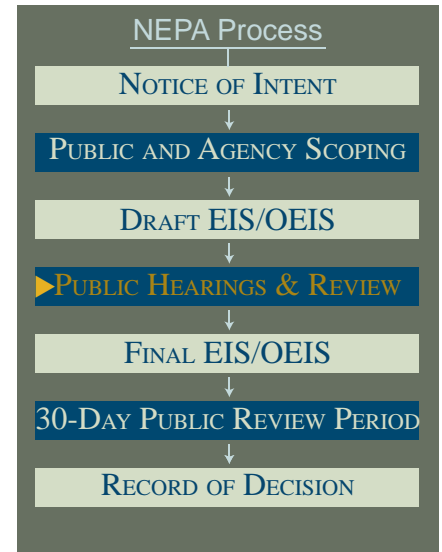
The Magnuson-Stevens Fishery Conservation and Management Act provides for the conservation and management of U.S. fishery resources. In 1996, the Act was reauthorized and amended by the Sustainable Fisheries Act to include habitat conservation provisions in the form of "Essential Fish Habitat" designation and protection.

The VACAPES Range Complex EIS/OEIS

In compliance with NEPA and Executive Order 12114, the Navy has prepared the VACAPES Range Complex EIS/OEIS to plan for the future and to assess the effects of the Navy's ongoing and future training and testing activities on the environment. The VACAPES Range Complex EIS/OEIS also gives the Navy the opportunity to review its procedures and ensure that the benefits of recent scientific and technological advances are applied toward minimizing environmental effects.

Community Involvement

The NEPA process emphasizes the importance of community involvement during the development of an EIS/OEIS. The above diagram illustrates the steps of the NEPA process, with the blue boxes indicating opportunities for the public and interested stakeholders to provide input.



The Navy is holding four public hearings to inform the public of the findings in the Draft VACAPES Range Complex EIS/OEIS and to solicit public comment. At each public hearing, informational poster stations and Navy project team representatives are available to provide the public with an opportunity to learn more about the NEPA process, the Proposed Action, and the Navy's environmental stewardship programs and protective measures. Government agencies, organizations, and the public will have the opportunity to provide oral or written comments at the public hearings or to provide written comments throughout the public review period. The Navy will consider each of the comments received and address them in the Final VACAPES Range Complex EIS/OEIS.

For More Information and to
Submit Comments

To encourage public input, the Navy is holding public hearings for the VACAPES Range Complex EIS/OEIS at four locations along the eastern seaboard from Maryland to North Carolina.

July 14, 2008

Princess Royale Oceanfront Hotel
9100 Coastal Highway
Ocean City, MD 21842

July 15, 2008

Chincoteague Center
6155 Community Drive
Chincoteague, VA 23336

July 16, 2008

Virginia Beach Resort & Conference Center
2800 Shore Drive
Virginia Beach, VA 23451

July 17, 2008

Hilton Garden Inn
5353 North Virginia Dare Trail
Kitty Hawk, NC 27949

In addition to holding public hearings, the Navy has established a user-friendly Web Site that makes it easy to download the environmental documents currently available for review (e.g., the Draft EIS/OEIS). The website also serves as a source for background information (e.g., fact sheets, posters, and links to related environmental topics for those who want to learn more).

The public may also review the VACAPES Range Complex Draft EIS/OEIS by visiting any of the following information repositories:

Rehoboth Beach, DE

Rehoboth Beach Public Library
226 Rehoboth Avenue
Rehoboth Beach, DE 19971

Ocean City, MD

Ocean City Branch Library
10003 Coastal Highway
Ocean City, MD 21842

Salisbury, MD

Wicomico Public Library
122 South Division Street
Salisbury, MD 21801

Chincoteague, VA

Island Library
4077 Main Street
Chincoteague, VA 23336

Virginia Beach, VA

Central Library
4100 Virginia Beach Blvd
Virginia Beach, VA 23452

Nags Head, NC

Hatteras Library
57709 NC Highway 12
Hatteras, NC 27943

Interested parties can comment on the Draft VACAPES Range Complex EIS/OEIS in the following ways:

- Submit oral or written comments at the public hearings.
- Mail or fax comments to the address below.
- Visit the project Web site at <http://www.VACAPESRangeComplexEIS.com> to submit comments electronically.



All comments should be submitted no later than August 11, 2008, for consideration in the Final VACAPES Range Complex EIS/OEIS.



**THE NAVY
WANTS
YOUR
INPUT!**

For more information or to submit comments, please contact:

Naval Facilities Engineering Command, Atlantic
Attn: VACAPES EIS/OEIS PM (Code EV22ES)

6506 Hampton Boulevard

Norfolk, VA 23508-1278

Fax: 757-322-4894

Web site: <http://www.VACAPESRangeComplexEIS.com>