



DEPARTMENT OF THE NAVY

U.S. NAVAL BASE GUAM
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Mr. Tyrone J. Taitano
Director
Guam Coastal Management Program
P.O. Box 2950
Hagatna, Guam 96932

Subject: NOTIFICATION OF CONSISTENCY DETERMINATION FOR THE UNDERWATER
ELECTROMAGNETIC MEASUREMENT SYSTEM AT NAVAL BASE GUAM, APRA
HARBOR

Dear Mr. Taitano,

U.S. Naval Base Guam (NBG) is proposing to install and operate an underwater electromagnetic measurement system (UEMMS) to service Navy surface ships and submarines homeported, forward deployed, or visiting NBG, Apra Harbor, Guam. The Proposed Action would include both in-water and shoreside infrastructure to measure vessels' electromagnetic signatures and transmit data to terrestrial facilities. The Navy has determined that the proposed activity will be consistent to the maximum extent practicable with mitigating any unintended effects on the Guam Coastal Zone, per 15 CFR 930 Section 930.36(a).

The purpose of the Proposed Action is to provide the capability to measure the electromagnetic signatures of Navy ships and submarines to meet the magnetic silencing limits specified by the U.S. Navy Chief of Naval Operations. The Proposed Action is needed to support minimizing the electromagnetic signature (i.e. on-board system calibrations) which ensures that ships and submarines comply with electromagnetic signature limits. A description of the proposed activity is provided in Enclosure 1.

The Navy conducted consultation with National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS) on the effects of the Proposed Action on (1) species protected under the Endangered Species Act (ESA) and (2) essential fish habitat (EFH) (Enclosure 2). NMFS concurred with the Navy's determination that the Proposed Action is not likely to adversely affect ESA-listed species with effects being either insignificant or discountable. NMFS also agreed with the Navy's conclusion that the Proposed Action would adversely affect EFH and result in unavoidable loss. In addition, NMFS agreed that the Navy's proposed mitigation, which includes avoidance and minimization through the translocation of corals, and offset via the creation of new habitat area, is a viable approach to conserving EFH.

The Navy also conducted consultation under Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act in June 2019. The Navy determined that the Proposed Action would result in "no historic properties affected," and the Guam Historic Preservation Officer concurred with this determination (Enclosure 3).

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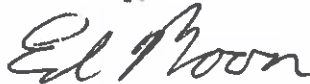
The Navy has completed an effects test per 15 CFR Part 930 Section 930.33(a)(1). Although the proposed federal activity is located entirely within federal property that by definition is excluded from Guam's coastal zone per 15 CFR 923, Section 923.33(a), there is a potential for spillover effects to mobile in-water resources (e.g. fisheries, marine mammals and sea turtles, etc.) that can cross-over and extend into Guam's coastal zone per 15 CFR 923, Section 923.33(b). Therefore, the Navy concluded the project has foreseeable coastal effects to Guam's defined coastal zone. The Navy assessed reasonably foreseeable direct and indirect effects on Guam's coastal use or resources, reviewed relevant enforceable policies of the GCMP, and has determined that the proposed activity would be consistent to the maximum extent practicable with the enforceable policies of the Guam Coastal Management Program (GCMP). The Navy's evaluation of the GCMP's relevant enforceable policies is provided in Enclosure 4.

The Navy is preparing a Draft Environmental Assessment (EA), which will be available for public review when completed. Notices of the availability of the Draft EA will be published in the Pacific Daily News. The Draft EA will also be available for download from a Navy website to be provided to your office at a later date.

We respectfully request a response from Bureau of Statistics and Plans within 30 days or less from receipt of this package. However, if no response is received from your office within 60 days, the Navy shall presume concurrence with the consistency determination per 15 CFR Section 930.41(a).

Should you have any questions or require additional information about this proposed project, please contact Mr. Jeffrey Lambrecht, Environmental Planner, Naval Base Guam at (671) 339-2587 or email: jeffrey.lambrecht@fe.navy.mil.

Sincerely,



E.E. Moon
Installation Environmental Program
Director
By Direction of the Commanding Officer

Enclosures: 1. UEMMS Project Description
2. ESA and EFH consultations
3. NHPA Section 106 consultation
4. GCMP Assessment and Federal Consistency Supplemental Information