

EXERCISE JOINT WARRIOR 152

THE ENVIRONMENTAL AND SUSTAINABILITY IMPACT STATEMENT

EXERCISE/ACTIVITY TITLE AND DATE:

EXERCISE JOINT WARRIOR 152 – 3-16 Oct 15

INTRODUCTION: Exercise Joint Warrior (JW) is the largest multi-ship, multi threat exercise conducted by the Royal Navy in UK Waters. Taking place bi-annually with activities generally concentrated in the waters West of Scotland or in the Northern North Sea, the waters off East Scotland and at times in the Irish Sea. This impact assessment is a live document and is designed to cover directed maritime activity for the duration of JW programmed serials and events. It is updated when required following a change in the programme.

This impact statement is written in compliance with:
Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981 (as amended)
The Conservation (Natural Habitats, &c.) Regulations 1994 (as amended)
Nature Conservation (Scotland) Act 2004
The Offshore Marine Conservation (Natural Habitats) Regulations 2007
Marine and Coastal Access Act 2009 (as amended)
The Conservation of Habitats and Species Regulations 2010
The Marine (Scotland) Act 2010
Marine Act (Northern Ireland) 2013

ACTIVITY/LOCATION: This major multi-ship exercise involves forces from a number of invited nations and covers all forms of the following:

Maritime warfare
Air defence
Gunnery (including shore bombardment)
Anti-submarine warfare
Surface warfare
Fixed wing/helicopter flying operations
Boarding/anti-piracy operations
Replenishment at sea
Mine countermeasures operations

The Joint Warrior exercise areas encompass the waters from the Clyde estuary through the North Channel, the sea of the Hebrides, the Little Minch, the North Minch, the waters to the North, South West and West of the Hebrides, the Northern North Sea, Moray Firth.

IMPACT ASSESSMENT

Having reviewed all planned activity against the Military Activity Environmental Guidelines (attached) it has been assessed that following standard operational mitigation and the mitigation stated below there is no environmental impact greater than '**MINOR**' throughout the JW Exercise.

It is also assessed following consultation with DECC and Marine Scotland, that JW will not generate any combined or cumulative impacts greater than '**MINOR**'.

MITIGATION LIST FOR EACH ENVIRONMENTAL THEME

Joint Warrior 152 – ENVIRONMENTAL RISK:

1. The Environmental Risk section of the JW Instruction Document sets out individual and collective environmental responsibilities which will be adhered to throughout the exercise. Its content reflects and supports the environmental SOPs in Naval reference documents BRd 167 and BRd 4985. The general principle being that, for the duration of this exercise, environmental safety is to take priority over the completion of directed training activities. The specific intent is that all activities shall be governed by the need to protect the environment in the open ocean and within designated Marine Protected Areas (MPA).

SHORE BOMBARDMENT RANGES:

2. The only shore bombardment range in use for JW 152 is Cape Wrath. The range will be subjected to sea and air launched bombardment and minor landing operations. All such activities will be governed by SD Training range standing orders for Cape Wrath which include environmental mitigation measures agreed with appropriate statutory bodies.

MITIGATION:

3. Where required, the mitigation to be imposed on JW activities is set out in detail in Tables 1 and 2 below. The main rules for each Environmental Theme are:

NOISE:

4. **Air Operations:** Throughout the exercise FW and HELO low flying is to be in accordance with the MOD Low Flying Handbook. In addition, JW 152 rotary wing activity is to follow the additional mitigation set out in Table 1 below.

5. **Inshore Operations:**

a. Any high speed manoeuvres by ships or small craft which take place in or within 0.5 miles of marine protected areas will do so in waters deep enough to avoid disturbance of the seabed.

b. No amphibious landings are planned for this exercise, but participants operating close inshore should avoid activity which disturbs seals that are hauled out of the water.

6. **Gunnery:**

a. No small calibre gunfire within designated MPA. Fall of shot is not to land within designated MPA.

b. No medium calibre gunfire within designated MPA. Fall of shot is not to land within designated MPA. All gunnery at Cape Wrath is to be iaw DTE Range Standing Orders.

7. **Sonar:**

a. **Area Impact:** All sonar operations are to comply with command guidance in BRd 4985 Vol 5 and are to undergo **S2117 Sonar Risk Assessments (SRA)**. Where TUs are unable to conduct SRAs, an SRA Guardship is to be nominated for the TG. Individual active sonar transmissions are to be limited to a maximum source level of 215 dB at medium pulse lengths when operating in or close to the Minches and the Sea of the Hebrides, close to the Stanton Banks, in or close to the North Channel, or off the East Coast. Transmissions are limited to a maximum of 225 dB outside of these areas. MoD considers waters from the coast to the 50M contour to be a HDZ in view of the high likelihood of human diving activity. No sonar activity is permitted within a HDZ. Furthermore, if operating outside a designated HDZ adjacent to the 50M contour, a buffer zone equal to the maximum stand off range of the

sonar in use must be applied.

b. **MPAs:** When operating in the vicinity of MPAs designated for the protection of marine mammals, sonar transmissions are to be governed by the stand off distances set in S2117. MPA still under consideration for designation within JW Exercise Areas benefit from the extensive existing mitigation measures employed by JW participants and the enhancements detailed in this document but are not specifically identified in the tables below, with the exception of the proposed Sea of the Hebrides and North-east Lewis MPA, for which the following mitigation is in place:

- i. Active transmissions from any source are limited to 215dB at medium pulse lengths.
- ii. Marine Mammal Observers (MMO) are to be employed on deck a minimum of 60 minutes prior to, during and 60 minutes after any transmission on active sonar.
- iii. Active sonar transmission is to be avoided during hours of darkness east of the main 50m depth contour line (running from Skye, west of Canna to west of Tiree) in the SoH proposed MPA.
- iv. All capable sonar devices will utilise ramp up procedures at the start of any transmission.
- v. If marine mammals are observed within the mitigation action zone (MAZ) for a sonar prior to transmission, a delay of 60 minutes will be implemented before transmissions are allowed. Similarly, if sonar is shut down as a result of detecting a cetacean during transmissions a period of 60 minutes will be allowed from last sighting before retransmitting.

SEA BED AND SEDIMENTS:

8. Throughout the exercise all units are to comply with the rules set out in the attached JW Military Activity Environmental Guidelines with the exception of MCM operations which will be conducted within Wester Ross MPA. This activity is restricted to the locating and recovery of inert dummy mines. No explosives will be detonated on the seabed as part of MCM activity. No anchoring or disruptive vessel manoeuvres which could disturb the sea bed or adjacent wildlife are to take place within 0.5 miles of designated MPA.

BIODIVERSITY AND NATURE:

9. Throughout the exercise all units are to comply with the rules set out in Tables 1 and 2 below.

10. No disruptive manoeuvres which could disturb the sea bed or adjacent wild life are to take place within 0.5 miles of designated MPA.

11. Designated seal haul out sites are not identified within JW planning documents. Precautions to prevent harassment of seals are employed throughout JW areas wherever seals are found ashore.

12. For mitigation of noise disruption see Para 4 to 7 above.

HISTORIC ENVIRONMENT AND WRECKS:

13. It is assessed that JW will have **NEGLIGIBLE** impact on this risk area. However all units are to ensure, collectively and individually, that no activity including anchoring takes place which has the potential to disrupt or damage known charted wreck sites.

OTHER ISSUES:

14. The impact on Oslo/Paris Convention for the Protection of the Marine Environment in the NE Atlantic 1992(**OSPAR**) and The Ramsar Iran Convention for the Conservation of Wetlands 1976 (**RAMSAR**) sites is assessed as no greater than **MINOR**. Mitigation measures listed above apply equally to these sites which are included in the MPAs which have been identified as may be affected.

15. There are many Sites of Special Scientific Interest (**SSSIs**) along the coastal regions within the JW operating area. SSSIs are managed by local land owners or authorities who are responsible for having effective local site management plans in place or follow statutory processes. Following consultation by MOD with landowners and appropriate SNCBs the impact of JW activities on adjacent SSSIs is assessed as **NEGLIGIBLE**.

ACTIONS BY PLANNING STAFF:

16. **At the Pre-Sail Conference JTEPS staff will ensure that all group and individual Unit commanders are briefed and directed to implement listed mitigation. They will receive the current Military Activity Environmental Guidelines in order to ensure they abide by the actions listed in this assessment.**

Nothing within this statement relieves the Commanding Officers of their obligations to comply with environmental guidelines for activities they undertake as duty holders.

17. Conduct reviews of this assessment. It is to be included in all JW planning meetings and updated to reflect any pertinent changes in the exercise activity or location. Before assigning any mission or task to subordinate Commanders/Units, the lead planner is to consult the environmental guidelines for the intended areas.

18. Review E&S efficacy post exercise.

19. Archive this assessment for review and inclusion in future JW exercise planning.

POST MITIGATION ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT LEVELS:

1. **Negligible** = No likelihood of any measurable disturbance or harm.
2. **Minor** = Low likelihood of localised or temporary disturbance or harm.
3. **Significant** = Residual risk of significant disturbance or harm.

Table 1. MITIGATION OF MILITARY ACTIVITY BY ACTIVITY TYPE AND ASSOCIATED MPA

| Activity | Lead Planner | MPAs which may be effected requiring control measures | Mitigation Measures |
|----------|--------------|--|---|
| ASW | SO2ASW | UK0030359 10422 10421 UK0012705 UK9001041 UK9001341 UK9001431 SMPA_16 SMPA_09 UK9001011 | In addition to Environmental Guidelines individual active sonar transmissions are limited to a max source level of 215 dB at medium pulse lengths when operating in or close to the Minches and the Sea of the Hebrides, close to the Stanton Banks, in or close to the North Channel or off the East Coast. Transmissions are limited to a max 225 dB in all other areas. Active Sonar Operations are NOT to take place within 30NM of the Moray Firth SAC or 10NM of the adjacent |

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| | | UK0030364 UK0030385 UK0012594 SMPA_22 UK9001121 SMPA_06 UK0013695 UK9001031 UK9001021 | <p>coast. Activity on the East coast is limited to single vessel transmissions with max power levels (215dB) Active transmissions in this area are limited to a max of 6 hrs in any 24 and contained within a 4 day period of active serials.</p> <p>For active sonar transmissions in the proposed Sea of the Hebrides and North-east Lewis MPA the following specific mitigation is to be applied:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Maximum transmission from any source to be limited to 215dB. - MMO are to be employed on deck 60 minutes prior to, during and 60 minutes after any transmission on active sonar. - Active sonar transmission is to be avoided during hours of darkness east of the main 50m depth contour line (running from Skye, west of Canna to west of Tiree) in the SoH proposed MPA. - All capable sonar devices will utilise ramp up procedures at the start of any transmission. - If marine mammals are observed within the MAZ for a sonar prior to transmission, a delay of 60 minutes will be implemented before transmissions are allowed. Similarly, if sonar is shut down as a result of detecting a cetacean during transmissions a period of 60 minutes will be allowed from last sighting before retransmitting. |
| AAW | SO2AAW | UK0030384 10414 10423 UK9003091 UK9020011 UK9003171 UK9020299 UK9003057 UK9003058 UK13052 UK9003053 UK9003051 UK13023 UK0030057 UK0030359 SMPA_22 UK9001041 UK0030364 UK9003033 UK9003032 UK9003034 UK13056 UK13008 UK9001341 UK0012594 UK9001431 10422 10421 UK0030073 UK0030230 UK9001031 UK0013695 UK9002181 UK9001011 UK9001241 UK0030192 UK0013055 UK0030385 | Nil in addition to Environmental Guidelines. |

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| Rotary wing Flying | ALL | UK9003171 UK9020299 UK0030191 UK0030341 UK0012594 UK0030041 UK9003091 10423 10414 UK9003057 UK9020304 UK9033311 UK0030289 UK9001341 UK9001431 10422 UK9003058 UK13052 UK9003053 UK13023 UK9003051 UK0019802 UK0012598 UK9003033 UK13006 UK0014728 UK13056 UK9003032 UK9003034 UK9001041 10421 UK9001021 UK0030230 UK0012786 UK9001231 UK0030108 UK9001011 UK0030385 UK9002181 | In addition to Environmental Guidelines, for the period 3 – 16 Oct 15 rotary wing operators are to avoid hovering above or repeated low level (<500') overflight of the 8 highlighted MPA. See Chart 1 below for location of the 8 affected sites. Aircrew should also remain vigilant for aggregations of marine mammals throughout the Exercise areas and avoid hovering or repeated low level overflight in their vicinity. Similar precautions should be taken for seals which have been observed hauled out of the water. |
| RAS | SOSM | | Nil in addition to Environmental Guidelines. |
| Gunnery | SO2SAW | UK9001231 UK0030359 SMPA_22 UK0030108 UK0012786 UK0030385 | Nil in addition to Environmental Guidelines. |
| MCM/EOD | SO2ASW | 10421 UK0030073 | Contrary to Environmental Guidelines, MCM activity will be conducted within Wester Ross MPA. This activity is however, restricted to the locating and recovery of inert dummy mines. No explosives will be detonated during MCM activity within the any MPA and dummy mines will be lifted vertically from the seabed to limit disturbance caused by dragging of the mine during removal. |
| FIAC | SO2SAW | UK9001341 UK9001431 UK0012594 10422 UK0019802 UK9001781 UK9001041 10421 10414 | Nil in addition to Environmental Guidelines. |

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| Anchoring | ALL | Nil in addition to Environmental Guidelines. |
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Table 2. MPA IN PROXIMITY TO MILITARY ACTIVITY AND ASSOCIATED ENVIRONMENTAL GUIDELINES

| GROUP | MPA DETAILS | ENVIRONMENTAL ACTIVITY GUIDELINES |
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| 1 MPA (inc Ramsars - birds) | SPA 9001341 – RUM SPA 9001431 – CANNA AND SANDAY SPA 9001041 – SHIANT ISLAND SPA 9001231 – CAPE WRATH SPA 9001011 – N RONA SPA 9003171 – N COLONSAY SPA 9003091 – AILSA CRAIG SPA 9020011 – RATHLIN SPA 9002181 – SULE SPA 9001241 – HANDA SPA 9020299 – S COLONSAY UK 9003057 – RHINS OF ISLAY UK 9003058 – THE OA UK 13052 – RHINS OF ISLAY UK 9003053 – LAGGAN ISLAY UK 9003051-GRULNART FLATS, ISLAY UK 13023-GRULNART FLATS, ISLAY UK 9003033 – COLL (CORNCRAKE) UK13006 – COLL UK 9003032 – TIREE WETLANDS AND COAST UK 9003034 – TIREE (CORNCRAKE) UK 13056 – TIREE WETLANDS AND COAST UK 9020304 – JURA, SCARBA AND THE GARVELLACHS UK 9033311 – CRUIC AGUS CLADACH MHULE UK 9001781 – CULLINS UK 9001021 – FLANNAN ISLES UK 9001031 – ST KILDA | <p style="text-align: center;"><u>RESTRICTED ACTIVITIES</u></p> <p>AIR:</p> <p>1. No activity involving air launch of live or inert munitions is to take place inside or within 500 yards of the MPAs unless such firings are programmed within an established MOD air weapons range when local range orders are to be observed.</p> <p>ANTI-AIR AND ANTI-SURFACE WARFARE:</p> <p>1. No activity involving the firing of live or inert munitions is to take place inside or within 500 yards of the MPAs <u>unless such firings are programmed within an established MOD weapons range when local range orders are to be observed.</u></p> <p>SUBMARINE AND ANTI-SUBMARINE WARFARE:</p> <p>1. No activities involving live or inert firings or exploded ordnance are to take place inside or within 500 yards of the MPAs <u>unless such firings are programmed within an established MOD weapons range when local range orders are to be observed.</u></p> <p>GENERAL AND INSHORE ACTIVITIES:</p> <p>1. No activities involving live firings, exploding ordnance, smoke or flares are to take place inside or within 500 yards of the MPAs <u>unless such firings are programmed within an established MOD weapons range when local range orders are to be observed.</u></p> <p>MCM and EOD:</p> <p>1. No activities involving exploding ordnance are to take place inside or within 500 yards of the MPAs unless cleared as operationally essential (See Note 1) or <u>unless such firings are programmed within an established MOD weapons range when local range orders are to be observed.</u></p> <p style="text-align: center;"><u>CONTROL MEASURES REQUIRED</u></p> <p>AIR:</p> <p>1. All flying operations to be in accordance with the UK Military Low Flying System (UKLFS) (Note 2).</p> <p>GENERAL AND INSHORE ACTIVITIES:</p> <p>1. Activities involving the use of fixed sea bed arrays for acoustic trails, noise ranging and degaussing are to be conducted within the established range limits and in accordance with range orders.</p> <p>2. Parachuting is only to take place with prior approval of the Unit's operational commander. Such approval must be informed by the Environmental Protection (EP) staff of Defence Training Estates (DTE).</p> <p>3. <u>Fast Inshore Attack Craft (FIAC). When operating inside these MPAs where rafting aggregations of sea birds have been sighted operators are to moderate speed and proceed in such a manner as to eliminate risk of unnecessary disturbance. This control applies equally to high speed/power manoeuvres by any vessel.</u></p> <p>AMPHIBIOUS:</p> <p>1. Landing operations may take place across any shoreline within the area limits of the MPAs, but must have the prior approval of the Unit's operational commander. Such approval must be informed by the Environmental Protection (EP) staff of Defence Training Estates (DTE) (See Note 3).</p> <p style="text-align: center;"><u>PERMITTED</u></p> <p>SUBMARINE AND ANTI-SUBMARINE WARFARE:</p> <p>1. All activities not involving weapon firings or exploding ordnance.</p> <p>ANTI-AIR AND ANTI-SURFACE WARFARE:</p> <p>1. All activities not involving weapon firings.</p> <p>GENERAL/INSHORE ACTIVITIES:</p> <p>1. Survey operations.</p> <p>2. Sea bed sampling and human diving operations.</p> <p>MCM and EOD:</p> <p>1. All activities not involving weapon firings or exploding ordnance.</p> <p>MISCELLANEOUS: (E.G. RAS; Boarding: Anti-piracy; High speed/power manoeuvres; Sea-boat drills; Anchoring).</p> <p>Notes:</p> |

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| | | <p>1. Operationally essential is defined as activities conducted during hostilities or activities for which there is an overriding public interest – in which case a full MESAT assessment is required.</p> <p>2. Seasonal avoidance of specific Schedule 1 nesting and breeding sites may be required and will be promulgated by UKLFS CAT Y NOTAM.</p> <p>3. <u>For all amphibious activities outside established MOD Ranges, planners are to check the status of the area and the presence of any SSSIs through NCHQ CESO EP. NCHQ will consult the MOD Training Over Private Land (TOPL) Cell in formulating the response.</u></p> |
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| GROUP | MPA DETAILS | ENVIRONMENTAL ACTIVITY GUIDELINES |
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| 2 | <p>MPA for the protection of general coastal features</p> <p>UK 0030073 – ACHNAHAIRD UK 0030341 – ORONSAY UK 0014728 – COLL MACHAIR UK 0012598 – ARDMEANACH UK 0030108 – CAPE WRATH UK 0013055 – OLDSHOREMORE AND SANDWOOD</p> | <p style="text-align: center;"><u>RESTRICTED ACTIVITIES</u></p> <p>AIR:</p> <p>1. No activity involving air launch of live or inert munitions with land or sea surface impact is to take place inside or within 500 yards of the MPAs unless such firings are programmed within an established MOD air weapons range when local range orders are to be observed.</p> <p>ANTI-AIR AND ANTI-SURFACE WARFARE:</p> <p>1. No activity involving firing of live or inert munitions is to take place inside or within 500 yards of the MPAs <u>unless such firings are programmed within an established MOD weapons range when local range orders are to be observed.</u></p> <p>SUBMARINE AND ANTI-SUBMARINE WARFARE:</p> <p>1. No activities involving live or inert firings or exploding ordnance are to take place inside or within 500 yards of the MPAs unless such firings are programmed within an established MOD weapons range when local range orders are to be observed.</p> <p>GENERAL AND INSHORE ACTIVITIES:</p> <p>1. No live or inert weapon trials are to take place inside or within 500 yards of the MPAs <u>unless such firings are programmed within an established MOD weapons range when local range orders are to be observed.</u></p> <p>MCM and EOD:</p> <p>1. No MCM or minelaying operations are to take place within 0.5 nm of the MPAs.</p> <p>2. No activities involving exploding ordnance are to take place inside or within 500 yards of the MPAs unless cleared as operationally essential (see Note 1) <u>or unless such firings are programmed within an established MOD weapons range when local range orders are to be observed.</u></p> <p>MISCELLANEOUS: (E.G. RAS; Boarding: Anti-piracy; High speed/power manoeuvres; Sea-boat drills; anchoring).</p> <p>1. Anchoring is never to take place in or within 0.5 nm of the MPAs <u>unless specifically cleared within harbour limits as part of port authorities' management plans.</u></p> <p style="text-align: center;"><u>CONTROL MEASURES REQUIRED</u></p> <p>AIR:</p> <p>1. All flying operations to be in accordance with the UK Military Low Flying System (UKLFS) (Note 2).</p> <p>GENERAL AND INSHORE ACTIVITIES:</p> <p>1. Activities involving the use of fixed sea bed arrays for acoustic trials, noise ranging and degaussing are to be conducted within the established range limits and in accordance with range orders.</p> <p>2. Use of sonar in surveying is to be in accordance with command guidance in BRd 4985 Vol.5 and s2117 assessment tool.</p> <p>AMPHIBIOUS:</p> <p>1. Landing operations may take place across any shoreline within the area limits of the MPAs, but must have the prior approval of the Unit's Operational Commander. Such approval must be informed by the Environmental Protection (EP) staff of Defence Training Estates (DTE). <u>(see Note 3).</u></p> <p style="text-align: center;"><u>PERMITTED</u></p> <p>AIR:</p> <p>1. Air to air weapon firings.</p> <p>ANTI-AIR AND ANTI-SURFACE WARFARE:</p> <p>1. Any activity not involving firings.</p> <p>SUBMARINE AND ANTI-SUBMARINE:</p> <p>1. Any activity not involving firings.</p> <p>GENERAL/INSHORE ACTIVITIES:</p> <p>1. Use of flares or smoke.</p> <p>2. Parachuting of personnel and stores or equipment.</p> <p>3. Surveying operations (see control measures for use of sonar).</p> <p>4. Sea bed sampling and human diving operations.</p> |

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| | | <p>5. Fast Inshore Attack Craft (FIAC).</p> <p>MCM and EOD:</p> <p>1. Use of ROV.</p> <p>MISCELLANEOUS:</p> <p><u>1. No restrictions on miscellaneous activities except for anchoring as stated above.</u></p> <p>Notes:</p> <p>1. Operationally essential is defined as activities conducted during hostilities or activities for which there is an overriding public interest – in which case a full MESAT assessment is required</p> <p>2. Seasonal avoidance of specific Schedule 1 nesting and breeding sites may be required and will be promulgated by UKLFS CAT Y NOTAM.</p> <p><u>3. For all amphibious activities outside established MOD Ranges, planners are to check the status of the area and the presence of any SSSIs through NCHQ CESO EP. NCHQ will consult the MOD Training Over Private Land (TOPL) Cell in formulating the response.</u></p> |
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| GROUP | MPA DETAILS | ENVIRONMENTAL ACTIVITY GUIDELINES |
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| <p>3</p> <p>Benthic seabed features with some depths less than 20m</p> | <p>SCA 0030192 – LOCH LAXFORD</p> <p>SCA 0030055 – RATHLIN IS</p> <p>SCA 0030041 – FIRTH OF LORN</p> <p>10421 - WESTER ROSS</p> <p>10423 - SOUTH ARRAN</p> <p>10414 - CLYDE SEA STILL</p> <p>10422 – SMALL ISLES</p> <p>SMPA_09 – NORTH-WEST ORKNEY</p> <p>UK 0019802 – SOUND OF ARLSALG (LOCH ALLORT TO LOCH CEANN TRAIGH)</p> <p>UK 0013695 – ST KILDA</p> | <p style="text-align: center;"><u>RESTRICTED ACTIVITIES</u></p> <p>AIR:</p> <p>1. No air launched firings involving sea surface or water column impact or explosions are to take place inside or within 500 yards of the MPAs unless such firings are programmed within an established MOD air weapons range when local range orders are to be observed.</p> <p>ANTI-AIR AND ANTI-SURFACE WARFARE:</p> <p>1. No activity involving sea surface or water column explosions are to take place inside or within 500 yards of the MPAs <u>unless such firings are programmed within an established MOD weapons range when local range orders are to be observed.</u></p> <p>SUBMARINE AND ANTI-SUBMARINE WARFARE:</p> <p>1. No activities involving exploding ordnance are to take place inside or within 500 yards of the MPAs <u>unless such firings are programmed within an established MOD weapons range when local range orders are to be observed.</u></p> <p>GENERAL AND INSHORE ACTIVITIES:</p> <p>1. No activities involving live firings or exploding ordnance are to take place inside or within 500 yards of the MPAs <u>unless such firings are programmed within an established MOD weapons range when local range orders are to be observed.</u></p> <p>2. Anchoring is never to take place within 0.5 nm of the MPAs <u>unless specifically cleared within harbour limits as part of port authorities' management plans.</u></p> <p>3. Activities relating to seabed sampling or human diver activities on the seabed are not permitted.</p> <p>MCM and EOD:</p> <p>1. No MCM or minelaying activities are to take place within 0.5 nm of the MPA.</p> <p>2. No activities involving exploding ordnance are to take place inside or within 500 yards of the MPAs unless cleared as operationally essential (see Note 1) <u>or unless such firings are programmed within an established MOD weapons range when local range orders are to be observed.</u></p> <p>AMPHIBIOUS:</p> <p>1. Landing operations are prohibited across any shoreline within the area limits of the MPAs without the prior approval of the Unit's Operational Command in consultation with DTE EP, unless within an established MOD site when local orders are to be observed (<u>See Note 2</u>).</p> <p style="text-align: center;"><u>CONTROL MEASURES REQUIRED</u></p> <p>AIR:</p> <p>1. All flying operations to be in accordance with the UK Military Low Flying System (UKLFS).</p> <p>SUBMARINE AND ANTI-SUBMARINE WARFARE:</p> <p>1. All activities involving the use of active sonar are to be in accordance with the Command Guidance in BRd 4985 Vol.5 and s2117 assessment tool.</p> <p>GENERAL AND INSHORE ACTIVITIES:</p> <p>1. Activities involving the use of fixed sea bed arrays for acoustic trials, noise ranging and degaussing are to be conducted within the established range limits and in accordance with range orders.</p> <p>2. Use of sonar in surveying is to be in accordance with the Command Guidance in BRd 4985 Vol.5 and s2117 assessment tool.</p> <p>3. Fast Inshore Attack Craft (FIAC). When operating inside these MPAs <u>and in shallow waters operators are to moderate speed and proceed in such a manner as to avoid disturbance of the seabed.</u></p> |

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| | | <p style="text-align: center;"><u>PERMITTED</u></p> <p>AIR:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Air to air and air to land surface firings. <p>ANTI-AIR AND ANTI-SURFACE WARFARE:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. All activities not involving sea surface or water column explosions. <p>SUBMARINE AND ANTI-SUBMARINE:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. All activities not involving exploding ordnance. <p>GENERAL/INSHORE:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Parachuting of personnel and stores or equipment. 2. Use of flares and smoke. 3. Surveying operations (see control measures for use of sonar). <p>MCM/EOD:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Use of ROV. <p>MISCELLANEOUS:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. <u>No restrictions on miscellaneous activities except for anchoring as stated above.</u> <p>Notes:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Operationally essential is defined as activities conducted during hostilities or activities for which there is an overriding public interest – in which case a full MESAT assessment is required. 2. <u>For all amphibious activities outside established MOD Ranges, planners are to check the status of the area and the presence of any SSSIs through NCHQ CESO EP. NCHQ will consult the MOD Training Over Private Land (TOPL) Cell in formulating the response.</u> |
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| GROUP | MPA DETAILS | ENVIRONMENTAL ACTIVITY GUIDELINES |
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| <p>4</p> <p>MPA - with Marine Mammal interests</p> | <p>SAC 0012594 – RUM SAC 0030230 – ASCRIB, ISAY AND DUNVEGAN SAC 0030289 TRENISH UK 0030384 – THE MAIDENS UK 0012786 – DURNESS UK 0030067 – SOUTH-EAST ISLAY SKERRIES</p> | <p style="text-align: center;"><u>RESTRICTED ACTIVITIES</u></p> <p>AIR:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. No activity involving the air launch of live or inert munitions with land or sea surface impact is to take place inside or within 500 yards of the MPAs unless such firings are programmed within an established MOD air weapons range when local range orders are to be observed. <p>ANTI-AIR AND ANTI-SURFACE WARFARE:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. No activity involving firing of live or inert munitions is to take place inside or within 500 yards of the MPAs <u>unless such firings are programmed within an established MOD weapons range when local range orders are to be observed.</u> <p>SUBMARINE AND ANTI-SUBMARINE WARFARE:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. No activities involving live or inert firings or exploding ordnance is to take place inside or within 500 yards of the MPAs <u>unless such firings are programmed within an established MOD weapons range when local range orders are to be observed.</u> <p>GENERAL AND INSHORE ACTIVITIES:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. No activities involving live firings, exploding ordnance, smoke or flares are to take place inside or within 500 yards of the MPAs <u>unless such firings are programmed within an established MOD weapons range when local range orders are to be observed.</u> <p>MCM and EOD:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. No MCM or minelaying operations are to take place within 0.5 nm of the MPAs. 2. No activities involving exploding ordnance are to take place inside or within 500 yards of the MPAs unless cleared as operationally essential (see Note 1) <u>or unless such firings are programmed within an established MOD weapons range when local range orders are to be observed.</u> <p style="text-align: center;"><u>CONTROL MEASURES REQUIRED</u></p> <p>AIR:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. All flying operations to be in accordance with the UK Military Low Flying System (UKLFS) (Note 2). Caution is to be exercised when flying over sighted aggregations of marine mammals, avoiding hovering or low level operations overhead <p>SUBMARINE AND ANTI SUBMARINE WARFARE:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. All activities involving the use of active sonar are to in accordance with the Command Guidance in BRd 4985 Vol.5 and s2117 assessment tool. <p>GENERAL AND INSHORE ACTIVITIES:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Activities involving the use of fixed sea bed arrays for acoustic trials, noise ranging and degaussing are to be conducted within the established range limits and in accordance with range orders 2. Surveying operations are not to take place inside or within 500 yards of the MPAs unless prior agreement has been reached with appropriate authorities. |

Use of sonar in surveying is to be in accordance with the Command Guidance in BRd 4985 Vol.5 and s2117 assessment tool.

3. Parachuting is only to take place with prior approval of the Unit's operational commander. Such approval must be informed by the Environmental Protection (EP) staff of Defence Training Estates (DTE).

4. Fast Inshore Attack Craft (FIAC). When operating inside these MPAs where aggregations of marine mammals have been sighted operators are to moderate speed and proceed in such a manner as to eliminate risk of collision. This control applies equally to high speed/power manoeuvres by any vessel.

AMPHIBIOUS:

1. Landing operations may take place across any shoreline within the area limits of the MPAs, but must have the prior approval of the Unit's operational commander. Such approval must be informed by the Environmental Protection (EP) staff of Defence Training Estates (DTE) (See Note 3)

PERMITTED

ANTI-AIR AND ANTI-SURFACE WARFARE:

1. All activities not involving weapon firings or explosions.

SUBMARINE AND ANTI-SUBMARINE:

1. All activities not involving weapon firings, and explosions .

MCM AND EOD:

1. Use of ROV.

GENERAL AND INSHORE ACTIVITIES

1. Activities relating to sea bed sampling or human diver activities on the seabed are permitted. Such activities are to be moderated to take account of any marine mammals in the close vicinity.

2. Units are to remain vigilant at all times and moderate activities in accordance with SOPs whenever random encounters with marine mammals or rafting aggregates of seabirds occur.

MISCELLANEOUS: (E.G. RAS; Boarding; Anti-piracy; Sea-boat drills; anchoring).

1. No restrictions on miscellaneous activities except for anchoring as stated above.

Notes:

1. Operationally essential is defined as activities conducted during hostilities or activities or for which there is an overriding public interest – in which case a full MESAT assessment is required.

2. Seasonal avoidance of specific Schedule 1 nesting and breeding sites may be required and will be promulgated by UKLFS CAT Y NOTAM.

3. For all amphibious activities outside established MOD Ranges, planners are to check the status of the area and the presence of any SSSIs through NCHQ CESO EP. NCHQ will consult the MOD Training Over Private Land (TOPL) Cell in formulating the response.

| GROUP | MPA DETAILS | ENVIRONMENTAL ACTIVITY GUIDELINES |
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| <p>5</p> <p>Benthic seabed features entirely at depths greater than 20m</p> | <p>SCI 0030359 – STANTON BANKS SCA 0030364 – E MINGULAY SCA 0030385 – POBLE BANK SMPA_16 – WEST SHETLAND SHELF SMPA_22 – THE BARRA FAN AND HEBRIDES TERRACE SEAMOUNT SMPA_06 – GELKIE SLIDE AND HEBRIDEAN SLOPE</p> | <p style="text-align: center;"><u>RESTRICTED ACTIVITIES</u></p> <p>MCM and EOD:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. No MCM or minelaying activities are to take place within 0.5nm of the MPA. 2. No activities involving exploding ordnance on the seabed are to take place inside or within 500 yards of the MPAs unless cleared as operationally essential (See Note 1) <u>or unless firings are programmed within an established MOD weapons range when local range orders are to be observed.</u> <p>MISCELLANEOUS:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Anchoring is not to take place in or within 0.5 nm of the MPAs. <p>GENERAL ACTIVITIES:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Activities relating to seabed sampling or human diver activities on the seabed are not permitted. <p style="text-align: center;"><u>CONTROL MEASURES REQUIRED</u></p> <p>GENERAL/INSHORE ACTIVITIES:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Activities involving the use of fixed sea bed arrays for acoustic trials, noise ranging and degaussing are to be conducted within the established range limits and in accordance with range orders. <p>SUBMARINE AND ANTI-SUBMARINE WARFARE:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. All activities involving the use of active sonar are to in accordance with the command guidance in BRd 4985 Vol.5 and s2117 assessment tool. <p>MCM AND EOD:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Use of sonar in MCM is to be in accordance with the command guidance in BRd 4985 Vol.5 and s2117 assessment tool. <p style="text-align: center;"><u>PERMITTED</u></p> <p>AIR:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Firings, both live and inert, are to be managed in accordance with established MOD clear range procedures. <p>ANTI-AIR AND ANTI-SURFACE WARFARE:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. All forms of anti air and anti surface firings, both live and inert, are to be conducted in accordance with established MOD clear range procedures. <p>SUBMARINE AND ANTI-SUBMARINE WARFARE:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. All activities involving live or inert firings are to be conducted in accordance with established MOD clear range procedures. <p>GENERAL/INSHORE ACTIVITIES:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Use of flares or smoke. 2. Parachuting of personnel and stores or equipment. 3. Surveying operations (see Restricted Activities above for use of sonar). 4. Fast Inshore Attack Craft (FIAC). <p>MCM AND EOD:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Use of ROV. <p>MISCELLANEOUS(eg RAS, Boarding, anti-piracy, high speed/power manoeuvres, seat boat drills):</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. No restrictions apart from anchoring (see 'GENERAL' below). <p>GENERAL:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Units are to remain vigilant at all times and moderate activities in accordance with SOPs whenever random encounters with marine mammals or rafting aggregates of seabirds occur. <p>Notes:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Operationally essential is defined as activities conducted during hostilities or activities or for which there is an overriding public interest. In cases of overriding public interest use of MESAT is recommended to determine level of environmental risk. |

