



Department of Navy Perspectives on the Marine Mammal Protection Act

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Key marine mammal challenges to the Navy mission

- Length of time necessary to obtain authorizations (>5 yrs) threatens mission critical training.
- Current process is costly (\$500M+ over ten yrs), manpower intensive, lengthy (4-6 yrs for each range) and unending (MMPA limits LOA to 5 years maximum).

Recommended tools/fixes (Partnerships/Regulation/Statute)

Navy has received excellent cooperation and support from NOAA/NMFS and has partnered effectively with other Agencies on research.

1. Navy would like the Law to directly regulate DON activities and avoid LOAs such as is done with commercial fishing.
2. Eliminate 5 yr maximum for permits
 - *Currently Navy's LOAs incorporate new information as part of an annual adaptive management process utilized to review mitigations, activities and new science.*

Success stories...

Comprehensive studies and permitting completed for 14 ranges and programs over the past decade.

Navy institutionalized effective mitigations protecting marine mammals

- *Mitigation measures used world-wide since 2005 with great success*

Adaptive Management Program shown to be effective

- *Stands as one the few examples of effective Adaptive Management on a global/interagency scale*

Navy programs substantially advanced scientific understanding

- *Detection/classification/localization, baseline density and abundance, behavioral and physiological response, stress, population consequences...*

Questions?

