

March 23, 1995, at 7:30 p.m., in the Port Hueneme City Hall, located at 250 North Ventura Road, Port Hueneme, California. In addition, written comments may be submitted within 30 days of the published date of this notice to Ms. Mary Doyle, Environmental Planning Branch (Code 09F2), Engineering Field Activity West, Naval Facilities Engineering Command, 900 Commodore Drive, San Bruno, California 94066-5006, telephone (415) 244-3024, fax (415) 244-3737. For further information regarding the Port Hueneme NCEL Community Reuse Plan, please contact Mr. Thomas Figg, Director of Community Development, 250 North Ventura Road, Port Hueneme, California 93041, telephone (805) 986-6514.

Dated: March 3, 1995.

M.D. Schetzle,

Lt. JAGC, USNR, Alternative Federal Register Liaison Officer.

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Notice of Intent To Prepare an Environmental Impact Statement for the Shock Testing of the Seawolf Submarine

Pursuant to section 102(2)(c) of the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) of 1969 as implemented by the Council on Environmental Quality regulations (40 CFR parts 1500-1508), the Department of the Navy announces its intent to prepare an Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) to evaluate the environmental effects of shock testing the SEAWOLF Submarine at a site to be located off the east coast of the United States.

Pursuant to 40 CFR 1501.6, the National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS) will be a cooperating agency in the preparation and development of the EIS.

A "shock test" is the name given to a series of underwater detonations that are used to propagate a shock wave through a ship's hull (similar to those encountered in combat). It is required to test the hull, all ship systems, and crew survivability of each new class of Navy ships. This test provides important information which will be used to improve the initial design and enhance the effectiveness and overall survivability of the ship and crew. The improvements are applied to follow-on ships of that class. The shock test of the lead ship of the class is an integral part of the Live Fire Test (LFT) Program mandated by Congress. Shock tests have proven their value as recently as the Persian Gulf War when ships were able

to survive battle damage and continue their mission because of ship design, crew survivability, and crew training lessons learned during previous shock tests.

The proposed action would subject the SEAWOLF submarine to a total of five explosive charges, 10,000 lbs. each, while monitoring the results. The decision to be addressed in the Environmental Impact Statement is the siting of shock test. Important logistical considerations include: a Naval base proximate to the test location, and water depth of 500 feet, which, for the sites being considered, range from 70 to 100 miles offshore. The shock test is proposed to occur over a five week period between April 1 and October 1, of 1997.

Alternative sites that would be considered include a number of different sites off the eastern U.S. coast. These areas are off the coast of Norfolk, Virginia, and Jacksonville, Florida, due to the existence of supporting Naval Bases at those sites. The "no action" alternative of not conducting the shock test will be addressed in the EIS.

Physical and biological issues that will be addressed in the EIS include impacts on air and water resources, impacts to other uses of the area, and impacts to marine life including marine mammals and endangered and threatened species.

The Navy will initiate a scoping process for the purpose of determining the scope of issues to be addressed and for identifying the significant issues related to this action. The Navy will hold three public scoping hearings to receive comments from the public on the proposed action. The first hearing will be held on March 23, 1995, at 10 a.m., in the auditorium of NMFS Office, 1335 East-West Highway, Silver Spring, Maryland. The second meeting will be on March 28, 1995, at 7 p.m., in the auditorium of the Granby High School, 701 Granby Street, Norfolk, Virginia. The last meeting will be on March 29, 1995, at 7 p.m., in the cafeteria of the Mayport Middle School, 2600 Mayport Road, Atlantic Beach, Florida. The meeting will be advertised in area newspapers.

A brief presentation will precede the request for public comment. Navy representatives will be available at this meeting to receive comments from the public regarding issues of concern to the public. It is important that federal, state, and local agencies and interested individuals take this opportunity to identify environmental concerns that should be addressed during the preparation of the EIS. In the interest of available time, each speaker will be

asked to limit oral comments to five minutes.

Agencies and the public are also invited and encouraged to provide written comments in addition to, or in lieu of, oral comments at the public meeting. To be most helpful, scoping comments should clearly describe specific issues or topics which the commenter believes the EIS should address. Written statements and/or questions regarding the scoping process should be mailed no later than May 1, 1995 to: Commanding Officer, Southern Division, Naval Facilities Engineering Command, P.O. Box 190010, North Charleston, SC 29419-9010 (Attention: Mr. Will Sloger, Code 064WS), telephone 803-743-0797, FAX 803-743-0993.

Dated: March 3, 1995.

M.D. Schetzle,

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Notice of Public Hearing for the Draft Environmental Impact Statement for Seawolf Class Submarine Homeporting on the East Coast of the United States

Pursuant to Council on Environmental Quality regulations (40 CFR parts 1500-1508) implementing the procedural provisions of the National Environmental Policy Act, the Department of the Navy has prepared and filed with the US Environmental Protection Agency, the Draft Environmental Impact Statement (DEIS) for SEAWOLF Class Submarine Homeporting on the East Coast of the United States. The DEIS addresses the need, alternatives, and environmental consequences of homeporting three SEAWOLF Class submarines at three submarine facilities including the Naval Submarine Base New London, Groton CT; the Naval Submarine Base Kings Bay GA, and the Naval Station Norfolk VA. The Naval Submarine Base New London has been identified as the preferred alternative.

Dredging and the disposal of dredged material are required for SEAWOLF homeporting at each of the candidate homeports and have been identified as the significant issues of environmental concern. The DEIS quantifies and characterizes the dredge material and disposal options at each homeport alternative.

The DEIS has been distributed to various federal, state and local agencies, elected officials, special interest groups, the media, and concerned citizens. Copies of the DEIS have also been