

UK ROYAL NAVY

Using Tactical Active Sonar and Meeting the Regulatory Requirement

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SEA MAMMALS AND SONAR SYMPOSIUM ST. ANDREWS, SCOTLAND

Meeting the Regulation

- EU environmental directives Habitats Directive
- Devolved Environmental Legislation
- MOD as a Competent Authority
- National guidance on appropriate measures



Environmental Consideration

- Capability Requirements Setting
- Design and Development
- Standard Operating Procedures – Global
 - Sonar Risk Assessment – ERMC
- Sensitive area enhanced safeguards
- MOD controlled areas – Range Orders
- Individual Environmental Assessment-Large Scale or Novel activity
- External assessment and possible licensing



Active Sonar Use

- Plan
 - Sonar Risk Assessment and Acceptance
 - Biological Data
 - Oceanographic Data
 - Seabed Data
 - Marine Protected Areas
 - Auto mitigation option
- Monitor
 - Visual monitoring
 - Passive Acoustic
 - Minimum 30 minutes
- Transmit
 - Ramp up
 - Mitigation Action Zone – 2km



Knowledge Gaps for Safer Sonar Use

- Could behavioural responses be predicted effectively?
- At what distance do negative effects on marine mammals become significant?
 - Influence detection methodology
 - Safe operating distances from animals, sensitive or high risks areas
 - Influence monitoring strategies
- How should the combined impact of multiple sound sources be assessed?
- How can multiple stressors be assessed?
- What are the affects of new capabilities?

