

Hart, George A CIV CNRNW, N40BA

From: Winters, Carolyn L CIV
Sent: Tuesday, August 07, 2007 10:53 AM
To: Hart, George CIV CNRNW, Environmental
Subject: FW: EOD Underwater Training - Crescent Harbor Fish Research Questions

-----Original Message-----

From: Miller, John A AW2 ENGFLDACT NW
Sent: Monday, October 30, 2006 11:29
To: Winters, Carolyn L CIV
Subject: FW: EOD Underwater Training - Crescent Harbor Fish Research Questions

Carolyn:

Any luck in getting the report from the Jenny Boyd?

John

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>From: Miller, John A ENGFLDACT NW
>Sent: Friday, October 13, 2006 14:43
>To: Winters, Carolyn L. CIV
>Cc: Phillips, John R CIV Environmental
>Subject: EOD Underwater Training - Research Questions
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>Carolyn:
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>As we discussed:
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>1) EOD training in Puget Sound (primarily, Crescent Harbor, Whidbey Island) is in formal consultation with NOAA AND USFWS.
>2) There is very little data to show that the Navy is harming chinook salmon or marbled murrelets (salmon are the big issue, however).
>3) NOAA has some scanty data that leads them to believe the impacts to the population of one or more salmon river systems may be in jeopardy from the underwater explosion training.
>4) The Navy monitors each explosion in Crescent Harbor, and has for about 4 years. No salmon have ever been observed to be injured from the training.
>5) It is the hypothesis of NOAA that salmon are being injured or killed, but the salmon sink.
>6) The Navy Region NW does not have the equipment to search for injured salmon, so can't refute or prove NOAA's hypothesis.
>7) NOAA is now interested in conducting research on the explosions to prove/disprove the hypothesis, or, if some salmon are injured, to determine potential numbers and impacts to the overall salmon populations. This will then determine the outcome of the biological opinion that will be issued to the Navy.
>8) NOAA seems interested in helping the Navy and does not necessarily want to curb EOD training, but lack of data is making it difficult for NOAA to help.
>9) The research project proposed consists of studying the results from 5 explosions of 2.5 lb charges (typically used in the training ops):
>* measure the pressure wave and/or other acoustic parameters from each shot;
>* Conduct midwater and possibly bottom trawls after each shot to find injured or dead salmon;
>* Stage live salmon in cages around the target site to observe actual impacts to live salmon (use Atlantic or hatchery salmon);
>* Collect surface fish (in the past it's always been forage fish mortalities - never salmon) to identify injuries;
>* Identify all fish caught and perform as much direct investigations of injuries as possible on the research boat as the nets are hauled in and the catch inspected. Requires some NOAA expert personnel and equipment on the boat (boat to be used is NOAA's vessel).
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>Questions we have regarding the above very preliminary proposal:

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>1) would Fleet or other Navy organizations disallow the research project for whatever reasons? And what would those reasons be?

>2) Would there be resistance to NOAA using the information to publish a paper and/or use the information in guidelines for future activities?

>3) A similar research effort was performed in the Southwest. I think at San Clemente Island. A final paper on the results was produced but I was denied access to the results. Jenny Boyd was the POC that I used to try and get the study. Can we here in the Northwest get that data, and is it possible to share it with NOAA?

>4) Is there research money from ONR or other Navy entity to help with this project?

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>Can you help us answer these questions?

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>Thanks,

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>John

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>John Miller

>Senior Natural Resources Specialist

>Naval Facilities Engineering Command Northwest

>1101 Tautog Circle

>Silverdale, WA 98315-1101

>Phone: 360-396-0065

>DSN: 744-0065

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