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NREAD
22 Jan 87

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From: Director, Natural Resources and Environmental Affairs
Division, Marine Corps Base, Camp Lejeune
To: Assistant Chief of Staff, Training and Operations, Marine
Corps Base, Camp Lejeune
Via: Assistant Chief of Staff, Facilities, Marine Corps Base,
Camp Lejeune

Subj: PROTECTION OF ENDANGERED SPECIES IN OFFSHORE WATERS

Ref: (a) Dir NREAD ltr NREAD/DDS/th 11015 of 16 Mar 1983
(b) AC/S, Trng ltr TRNG/ARB/cks 1500 of 17 Mar 1983
(c) AC/S, Trng ltr TRNG/AWR/kak 1500 of 18 Mar 1983

1. References (a), (b) and (c) set forth regulations avoiding adverse impact to whales and sea turtles relative to live firing into offshore waters at Onslow Beach. A non-jeopardy opinion was rendered by the National Marine Fisheries Service involving the protection of endangered whales during migration in offshore waters. This opinion was contingent upon the procedure established in reference (c) for aerial overflights to insure that whales and sea turtles were not affected by live firing operations.

2. This is for the purpose of providing a reminder ~~for~~^{to} carrying out these procedures during the spring migration of whales, occurring 20 February through 7 April 1987, and for sea turtles which frequent offshore waters during the nesting season which extends from May - August each year.

J. I. WOOTEN



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~~2. Females and calves of the endangered Right Whale migrate very close to this area of coastline according to Dr. Frank Schwartz, Institute of Marine Science, University of North Carolina, Morehead City, North Carolina. It is therefore recommended that the procedures listed in reference (b) be continued during the period of Spring migration, 20 February through 7 April 1987.~~

J. I. WOOTEN

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Handwritten text at the bottom of the page, appearing to be a list or notes, though the characters are very faint and difficult to decipher. It seems to contain several lines of text, possibly including names or dates.

UNITED STATES MARINE CORPS
Marine Corps Base
Camp Lejeune, North Carolina 28542

NREAD/DDS/th
11015

1 6 MAR 1983

From: Assistant Chief of Staff, Facilities
To: Assistant Chief of Staff, Training

Subj: Protection of Endangered Species in Offshore Waters

Ref: (a) Section 7, Endangered Species Act

Encl: (1) CG MCB ltr MAIN/CDP/th 11015 of 17 Nov 1981
(2) NMFS ltr of 23 Nov 1981
(3) CG MCB ltr NREAD/JIW/th 11015 of 4 Nov 1982
(4) NMFS ltr of 8 Nov 1982
(5) CG MCB ltr NREAD/JIW/jc 11015 of 12 Jan 1983
(6) NMFS ltr of 3 Mar 1983
(7) Whale Identification Packet

Ref (a)

1. The purpose of this letter is to advise that formal consultation has been completed with the National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS) relative to the impact of live-firing into offshore waters on nationally listed endangered and threatened species pursuant to the reference. Enclosures (1) through (6) document the consultation process. Based on the information provided in enclosures (1) through (6), the NMFS has concurred with Base's determination that current live-firing activity into the offshore waters, as described in enclosure (3), would not affect the subject species which are under NMFS purview. As specified in enclosure (6), NMFS concurrence was conditional with a possibility of reentering consultation if changes in circumstances occur. It is requested that any changes or proposed changes in firing into the subject waters be reported to this office so as to permit continued compliance with the reference.

2. Also, note that enclosure (4) required this Command to provide NMFS with a description of actions to be taken to avoid impact on individual members of the protected species which may be present in the subject waters. Enclosure (5) provided the requested information. Therefore, it should be noted that NMFS concurrence is also contingent upon implementation of the protective measures listed in enclosure (5).

3. Dr. Frank Schwartz, an expert on whales with the Institute of Marine Sciences, University of North Carolina at Morehead City, was contacted to determine appropriate methods to follow for detecting any whales in the area so as to avoid possible adverse impact. Dr. Schwartz advised that whales annually move through offshore waters during their spring migration occurring 20 February - 7 April. Females and calves of the right whale migrate very close to the coastline during spring migration. Whales may be in a given area for several days and then suddenly move quite rapidly sometimes traveling to a maximum distance of ten miles within a 24-hour period. The best time to observe whales from the air is from 1200-1500 hours. Enclosure (7) contains material for identifying various species of whales. Dr. Schwartz's recommendations were also based on consultation with Dr. Howard E. Winn, Whale Coordinator, University of Rhode Island, concerning annual whale migration off Onslow



NREAD/DDS/th
11015
1 6 MAR 1983

Subj: Protection of Endangered Species in Offshore Waters

Beach and Brown's Island relative to protecting the species.

4. Therefore, in addition to all existing precautionary procedures listed in enclosure (5), the Training Facilities Officer should implement the following procedures immediately and annually hereafter, during the period of 20 February - 7 April:

a. Schedule daily aerial flights covering an area extending four miles seaward from the beach from Bogue Inlet southward to New Topsail Inlet, to determine if any whales are present (See Enclosure (7)).

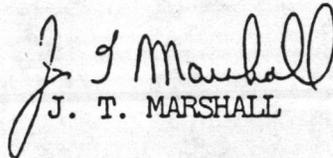
b. Conduct flights between 1200-1500 hours when possible and in a manner which allows the pilot to carefully observe the entire area within boundaries described in paragraph 4a above.

c. Flights should be flown at intervals of 24 hours or less.

d. Discontinue live-firing exercises anytime whales are discovered within 10 miles of the E-1, N-1 and BT-3 Range Areas and contact AC/S, Facilities.

5. Implementation of procedures and methods for protecting sea turtles also involved in this consultation with NMFS will be forwarded by separate correspondence in the near future.

6. Point of contact in this matter is Mr. Julian Wooten, Director, Natural Resources and Environmental Affairs Division, extension 2083.


J. T. MARSHALL



TRNG/ARB/eks
1500
17 Ma

Ref (b)

From: Training Facilities Officer
To: Assistant Chief of Staff, Facilities
Via: Assistant Chief of Staff, Training

Subj: Aerial Flights to Protect Endangered Species in Off Waters

Ref: (a) Yr ltr NREAD/DDS/th over 11015 dtd 16 Mar 83; same subject

1. The reference discussed measures believed necessary to provide protection for certain endangered marine species which, periodically/seasonally, frequent the offshore waters of this installation.

2. Notwithstanding the information contained in paragraph 3 which indicates the best time to observe the whales is 1200-1500, the present practice of requiring an aerial reconnaissance of the offshore surface danger area prior to commencing live fire on effected ranges is normally concurrent with units' firing request, most typically 0730-0900. It is believed that flights during the period just prior to the range(s) "going hot" are the better of the periods in that:

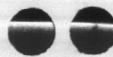
a. The aerial visual recon is already a range requirement and, accordingly, this would not generate a totally new wing requirement. It would, however, substantially increase the amount of area searched, with resultant increase in fuel/maintenance/flight hours involved.

b. Under normal weather conditions, both aerial observation and water clarity tend to be optimum in the earlier morning hours, and decrease markedly as the sun causes wind and waves offshore, which would enhance detection of whales if the flights were before the suggested 1200-1500 time period.

c. It is further understood that the clear intent of these reconnaissance flights is to attempt to take all prudent measures to protect these whales from possible firing danger (paragraph 3 of enclosure (5) to reference (a) germane), so these flights would be conducted only in association with live firing on ranges impacting into the offshore danger area.

3. Additional instructions for these flights and specifics relative to tower observers shall be promulgated as soon as practical.

A..R. BRUNELLI, Jr.





UNITED STATES MARINE CORP
MARINE CORPS BASE
CAMP LEJEUNE, NORTH CAROLINA 28542

IN REPLY REFER TO

TRNG/AWR/kak
1500
18 Mar 1983

FIRST ENDORSEMENT on TFACO ltr TRNG/ARB/eks over 1500. dtd 17 Mar 1983

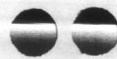
From: Assistant Chief of Staff, Training
To: Assistant Chief of Staff, Facilities

Subj: Aerial Flights to Protect Endangered Species in Off:
Waters

Ref(c)

1. Forwarded as discussed on 17 Mar 1983.
2. You interposed no objection to morning flights and flights only on days when live firing taking place to seaward.

M. P. SAMS
By direction



Col's
Comments

OPNAV 3216/144 (REV 8-70)
S/N 0107-LF-778-8097
DEPARTMENT OF THE NAVY

Memorandum

DDS
CAF

DATE: 18 MAR 83

FROM: A C/S Fae

TO: DIR NRISA

SUBJ:

Here is TRN's comments on our package. I have talked to them " LTCOL SAMS/LTCOL BRUNELLI and COL RUIE AND THEY KNOW that they have to do a flight before they can fire and the area must be clear.

J. Marshall

