

PAC/REA/hf
6280
6 JUN 1983

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A biological assessment developed per the Endangered Species Act was forwarded in November 1982 to the National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS) on the possible effects of firing on the sea turtle nesting and migration for the existing impact area. A copy of the assessment and the NMFS concurrence are enclosed. As stated in the assessment, the observations and discussions with outside consultants are sufficient to conclude that continuation of military training is not likely to affect any threatened or endangered species. Since the species and management procedures are the same in the expanded area as the existing area, the conclusion of "no effect" has been reached.

We trust that this information is adequate to allow completion of the State review process. Since the Wilmington District Corps of Engineers must receive your concurrence in this consistency determination, we request that your reply be forwarded directly to them with a copy to us. Any further questions you may have on this matter may be addressed to Mr. Robert Alexander at 919-451-2544.

Sincerely,

J. G. FITZGERALD
Lieutenant Colonel, U.S. Marine Corps
Deputy Assistant Chief of Staff, Facilities
By direction of the Commanding General

Encl:

- (1) CG MCB CL ltr NREAD/JIW/th 11015 dtd 4 Nov 82
- (2) CG MCB CL ltr NREAD/JIW/th 11015 dtd 12 Jan 83
- (3) NMFS ltr dtd 3 Mar 83

Copy to: (w/o encl)
U.S. Army Corps of Engineers
Wilmington District
P. O. Box 1890
Wilmington, NC 28402

Blind Copy to: (w/o encl)
AC/S, Trng
SJA
→ NREAD

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

IN REPLY REFER TO

FAC/REA/hf
6280
6 JUN 1983

Office of Coastal Management
N.C. Department of Natural Resources
and Community Development
Attn: Mr. Daniel Small
P. O. Box 27687
Raleigh, NC 27611

Re: Offshore Impact Area - Request
for Boundary Change

Dear Mr. Small:

This letter responds to your May 20, 1983 request for additional information on the above subject. Regarding the effect of the proposed expansion on the commercial fishing operations, it should be noted that fishing operations within the impact area and danger zone have been limited to some degree since World War II. In light of this fact, and considering that the duration of most live-firing operations is one hour or less, this command believes the expansion will have no more effect on fishing operations than does the existing impact area.

As published in 33 CFR, Part 204, Danger Zone Regulations, vessels may proceed through the offshore impact area except during military training periods. These rules provide for warnings of impending military use of the area to be published in the weekly Notice to Mariners. Further, safety measures provide for red danger streamers to be flown from the range towers and, prior to firing, the area will be searched by plane. Upon being "buzzed" by aircraft, the vessels shall leave the area as quickly as possible by the most direct route.

While these safety measures will continue to apply to vessel traffic in the expanded area, current and future military training operations are not believed to significantly restrict the area's commercial fishing operations. Public review of the proposal has been completed by the Wilmington District, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers public notice and review process.



FAC/REA/hf
6280
3 June 1983

Mr. Charles A. Cravets
National Marine Fisheries Service
9450 Roger Boulevard
St. Petersburg, Florida 33702

Re: Protection of Endangered Species
in Offshore Waters

Dear Mr. Cravets:

This letter follows your May 25, 1983 telephone conversation with Mr. Robert Alexander of this office. As agreed during that conversation and per your letter of March 3, 1983, consultation under Section 7 of the Endangered Species Act should be reinitiated regarding changes to the use of the N-1 Impact Area and Brown's Island Target and Bombing Area BT-3.

Following development of the biological assessment and completion of consultation per your March 3rd letter, the Marine Corps Base has requested the boundaries of the above impact area be expanded as shown on the enclosure. The change is required to assure that adequate safety distances are established for existing ranges utilizing modern weapons and training techniques.

The endangered/threatened species which inhabit the area of the proposed expansion and the protective measures to be followed are the same as those for which consultation has been completed. Therefore, this command believes that the proposed expansion would not adversely affect the endangered/threatened species under your purview.

Your review and concurrence in this determination is requested. For further information on this matter, please contact Mr. Alexander at PTS: 676-3034 or at the above address.

Sincerely,

J. T. MARSHALL
Colonel, U.S. Marine Corps
Assistant Chief of Staff, Facilities
By direction of the Commanding General

Blind Copy to:
AC/S, Trng
SJA
NREA

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NREAD/DDS/th
11015
16 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

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UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE
National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration
NATIONAL MARINE FISHERIES SERVICE
Southeast Region
9450 Koger Boulevard
St. Petersburg, FL 33702

March 3, 1983

Colonel J.T. Marshall
Assistant Chief of Staff, Facilities
United States Marine Corps
Marine Corps Base
Camp Lejeune, North Carolina 28542

Dear Colonel Marshall:

Please reference your January 12, 1983, letter (NREAD/JIW/jc-11015) and the November 4, 1982, letter from Brigadier General D.J. Fulham regarding the Marine Corps' consultation pursuant to Section 7 of the Endangered Species Act (ESA) for use of the N-1 Impact Area and Browns Island Target and Bombing Area BT-3 at Marine Corps Base, Camp Lejeune, North Carolina.

Based on the March 3, 1983, discussion with Mr. Julian Wooten, Director, Natural Resources and Environmental Affairs Division, and the additional information contained in your January 12, 1983, letter, we concur with the Marine Corps' determination that the subject activity would not adversely affect populations of endangered/threatened species under our purview.

This concludes consultation responsibilities under Section 7 of the ESA. However, consultation should be reinitiated if new information reveals impacts of the identified activity that may affect listed species or their critical habitat, a new species is listed, the identified activity is subsequently modified or critical habitat determined that may be affected by the proposed activity.

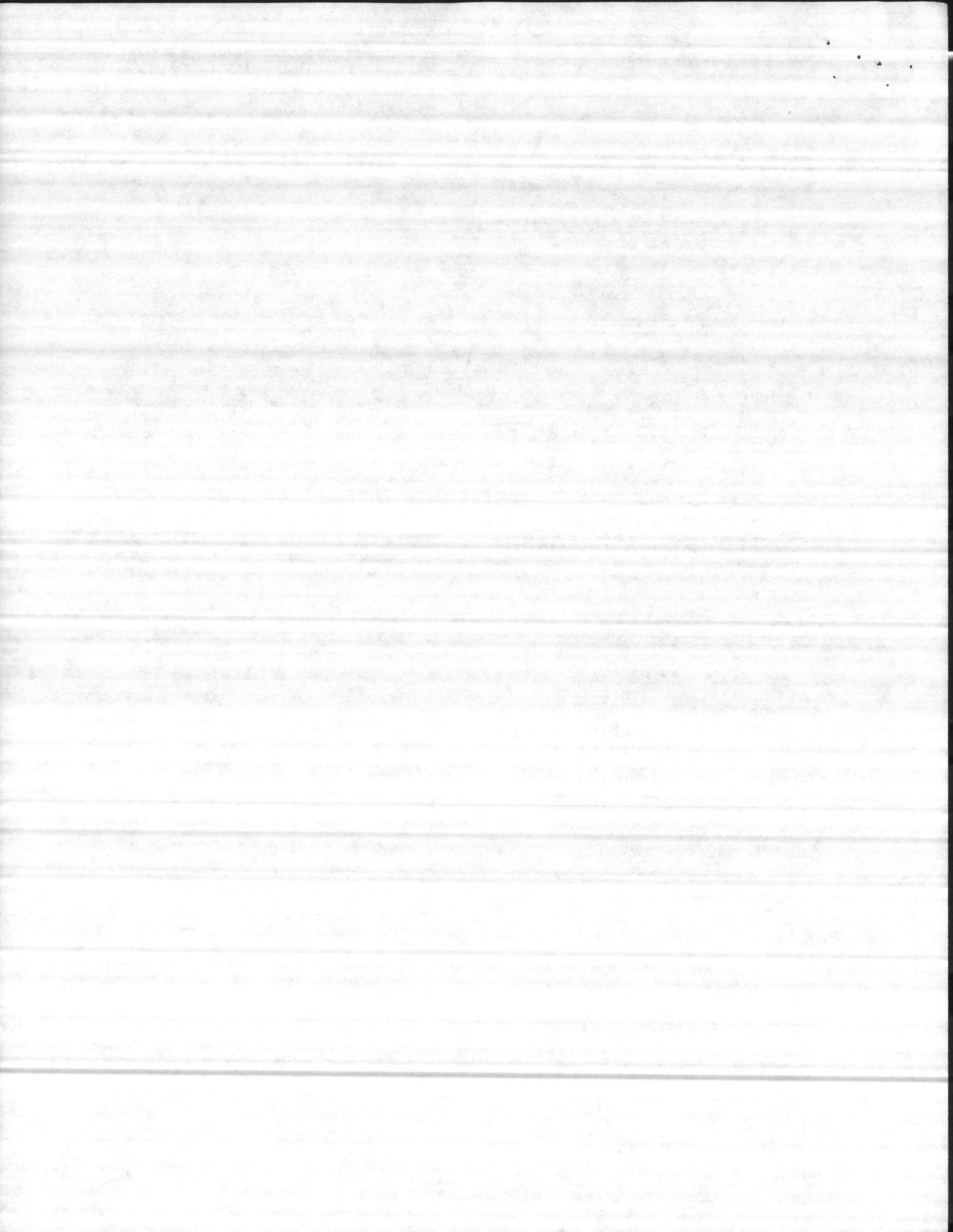
Sincerely yours,

Charles A. Oravetz, Chief,
Protected Species Management Branch

cc:
FWS, Asheville, N.C.



ENCLOSURE (6)



-C. NREAD
NREAD/JIW/jc
11915
1 2 JAN 1983

Mr. Charles A. Oravetz
National Marine Fisheries Service
9450 Roger Boulevard
St. Petersburg, Florida 33702

Dear Mr. Oravetz:

This is in response to your letter of 8 November 1982 relative to consultation, as required under Section 7 of the Endangered Species Act of 1973, concerning use of the M-1 Impact Area and Browns Island Target and Bombing Area BT-3 at Marine Corps Base, Camp Lejeune, North Carolina.

Your concerns relative to live-firing into offshore waters are noted and please be informed that methods have already been effected to avoid loss of endangered/threatened sea turtles and whales. Base range regulations restrict firing at any endangered/threatened animals in the subject area. Observation towers are manned on Onslow Beach and along the Intracoastal Waterway when live-firing is being conducted.

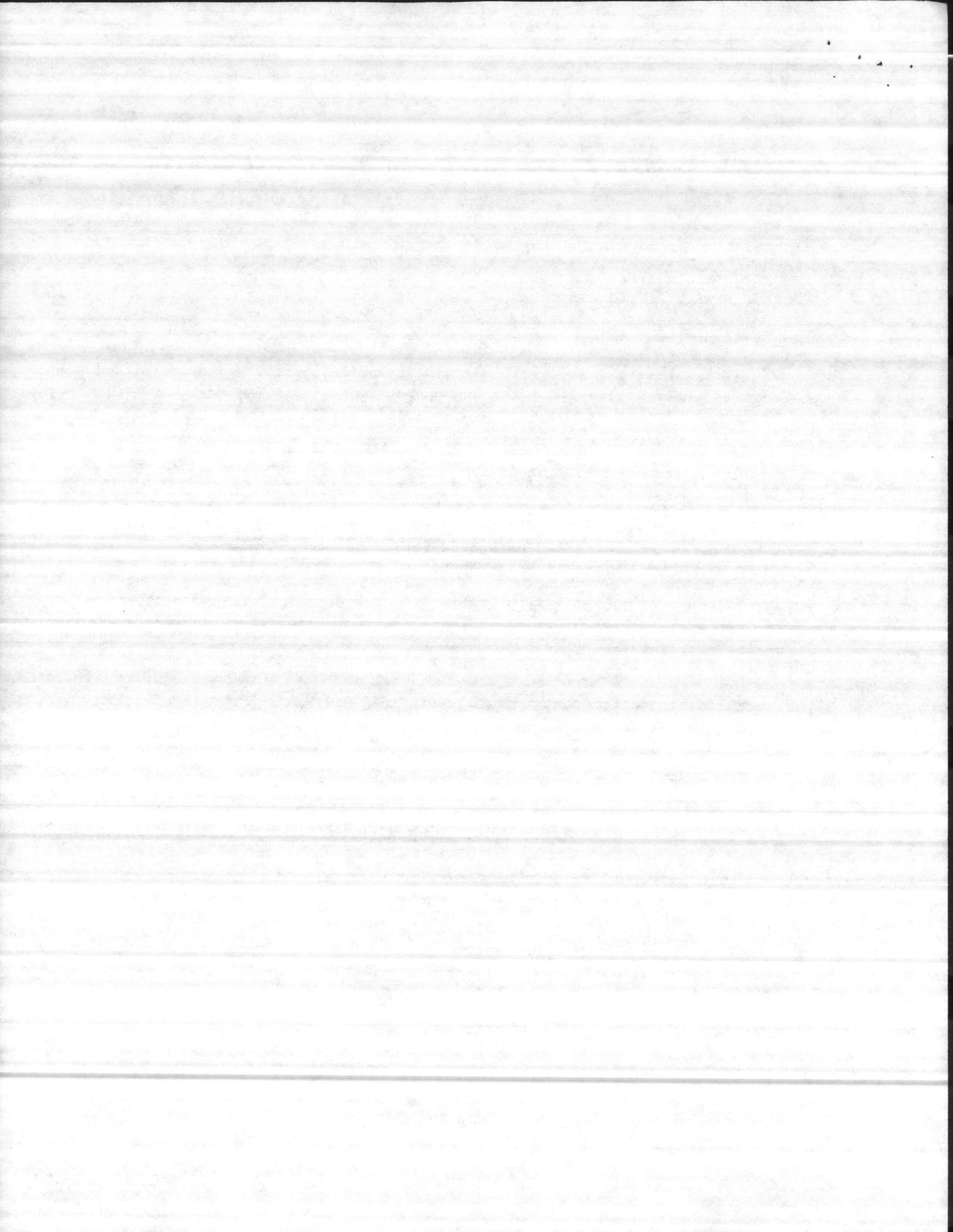
Aerial overflights are conducted and required prior to all live-firing exercises. If whales or sea turtles are sighted from the Observation Towers or from aircraft, the firing ceases until the animal(s) move from the range area and are out of danger.

For further information concerning live-firing into offshore waters within the subject area, please contact Mr. Julian Wooten, Director, Natural Resources and Environmental Affairs Division, commercial (919) 451-5003 or TTS 676-5003.

Sincerely,

J. T. MARSHALL
Colonel, U. S. Marine Corps
Assistant Chief of Staff, Facilities
By direction of the Commanding General

ENCLOSURE (5)





UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE
National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration
NATIONAL MARINE FISHERIES SERVICE
Southeast Region
9450 Koger Boulevard
St. Petersburg, FL 33702

November 8, 1982

Brigadier General D.J. Fulham
United States Marine Corps
Marine Corps Base
Camp Lejeune, N.C. 28542

Dear General Fulham:

This responds to your November 4, 1982, letter (Ref. NREAD/J1W/th-11015) regarding consultation for use of the N-1 Impact Area and Browns Island Target and Bombing Area BT-3 at Camp Lejeune, North Carolina, as required by Section 7 of the Endangered Species Act of 1973.

We have reviewed the biological assessment (BA) and as you requested, we are providing the following comments for your consideration.

Our concerns relate to use of the offshore areas of the firing range since sea turtles, while in the water, and whales come under the purview of the National Marine Fisheries Service. Specifically, it appears there is a potential for ordnance striking or otherwise impacting endangered/threatened species moving through the offshore impact areas. Critically endangered species such as the Atlantic (Kemp's) ridley sea turtle, the hawksbill sea turtle, and the right whale may occur in the impact area and subsequently be hit. Populations of these animals, to remain viable, cannot afford the avoidable loss of individuals. Accordingly, the BA should be expanded to incorporate measures the Marine Corps considered to avoid impacting endangered/threatened species.

You may consider methods such as aerial overflights of target areas prior to practice to check, where possible, for sea turtles and whales; halting ordnance delivery when sea turtles or whales are spotted within a target area (safe distance to be determined based on size of ordnance); monitoring activities to insure that endangered/threatened species are not affected; seasonal restrictions on use of the practice range; or other measures you feel may be practical and appropriate. These measures could be used in connection with existing range regulations that prohibit firing at wildlife species at all times.

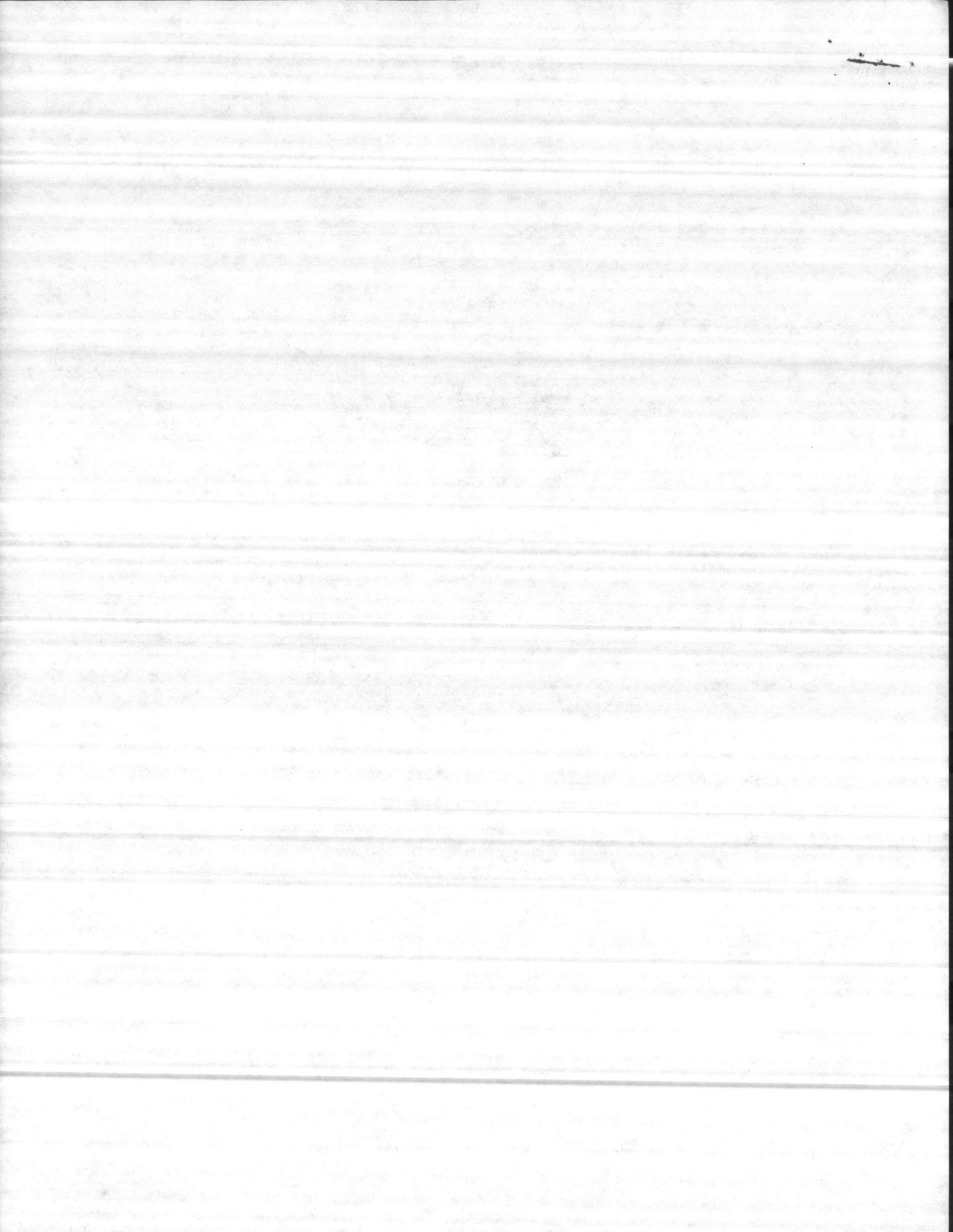
We would be pleased to discuss the subject proposal with your staff, clarify any information in this letter, or provide more detailed information. In this regard, please contact Andreas Mager, Jr. at FTS 826-3366 or 813-893-3366.

Sincerely yours,

Charles A. Oravetz
Chief, Marine Mammals and
Endangered Species Branch

CC:FWS - Asheville, NC





NREAD/JIW/th
11015
4 NOV 1982

Mr. D. R. Ekberg, Chief
Environmental and Technical Services Branch
National Marine Fisheries Service, Southeast Region
9450 Koger Boulevard
St. Petersburg, Florida 33702

Dear Mr. Ekberg:

This is in response to your letter of 23 November 1981 outlining the consultation process required by the Endangered Species Act for training activities conducted at Marine Corps Base, Camp Lejeune, North Carolina.

The training that occurs and constitutes a major federal action primarily involves utilization of coastal waters as a buffer zone for explosive projectiles directed toward beach land and as an impact area for non-explosive projectiles directed toward waterborne targets. Secondly, the waters receive non-explosive debris resulting from detonation of airborne anti-aircraft missiles. The current training does not represent a new action as the range has been in continuous use since the 1940's and the offshore portion served as an impact area for explosive artillery and aircraft ordnance for more than twenty years. That activity has left a large, varied quantity of debris and duds in the offshore waters.

A biological assessment of the possible effects on threatened and endangered species was conducted in accordance with your guidance. Because of safety considerations in the area, physical inspection and survey work was restricted. However, the observations and discussions with outside consultants are sufficient to conclude that continuation of military training is not likely to affect any endangered or threatened species.

The biological assessment is attached for your review. Any questions or comments would be welcomed. As evidenced by close and continuing management activities in conjunction with the Fish and Wildlife Service, the Base is desirous of meeting requirements for species under your jurisdiction.

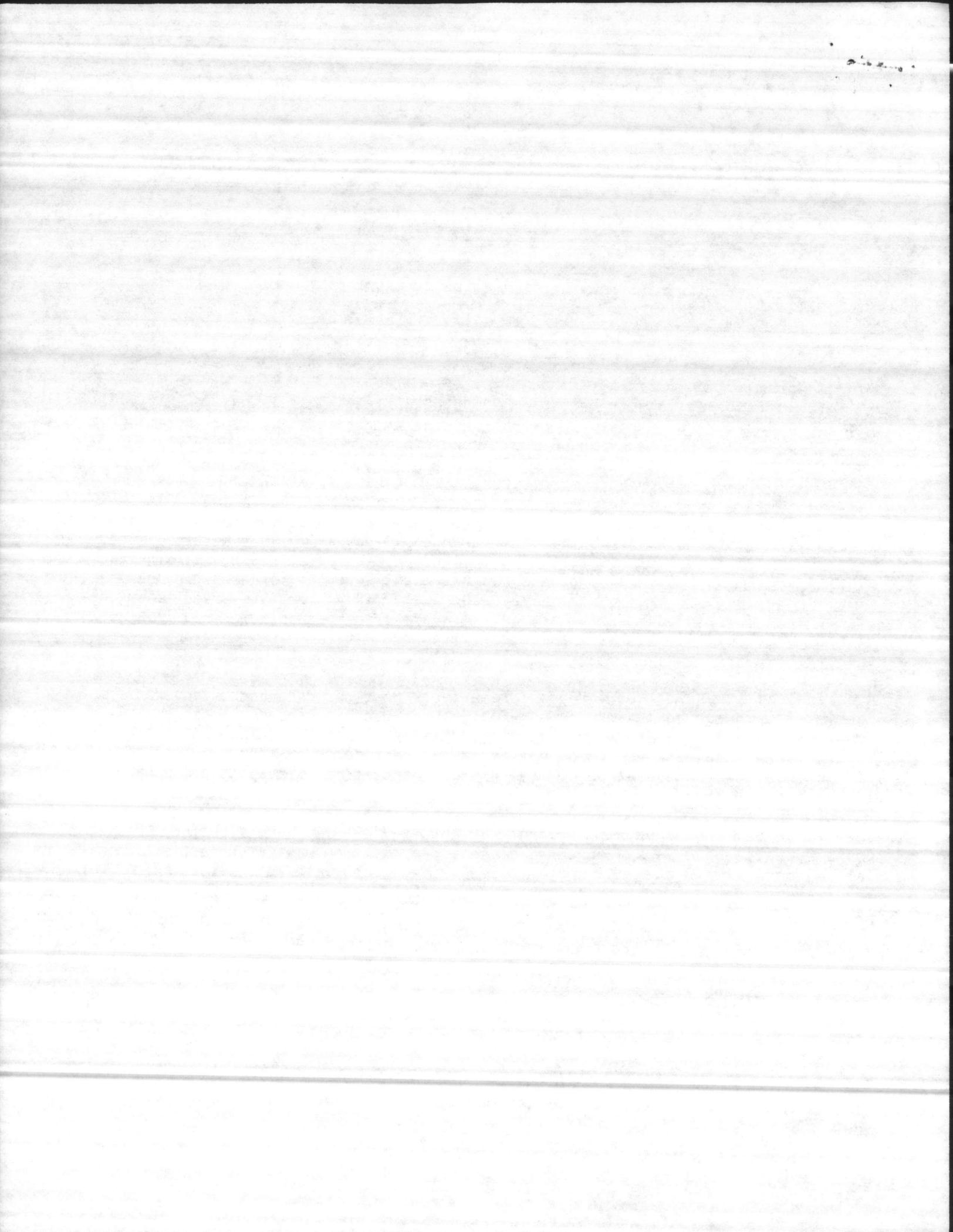
Sincerely,

D. J. FULHAM
Brigadier General, U. S. Marine Corps
Commanding

Encl

Blind Copy to:
AC/S, Fac

ENCLOSURE (3)



BIOLOGICAL ASSESSMENT OF MARINE HABITAT
Onslow Beach, Marine Corps Base
Camp Lejeune, North Carolina

I. INTRODUCTION

A. This biological assessment provides information concerning threatened and endangered species occurring in offshore waters at Onslow Beach, Marine Corps Base, Camp Lejeune, North Carolina. Endangered whales migrating past Browns Island includes the Fin Whale (*Balaenoptera physalus*), Humpback Whale (*Megaptera novaeangliae*) and Right Whale (*Eubaleana glacialis*). Whales usually migrate one-fourth or more miles off Onslow Beach. Most movement has been recorded in mid-March to mid-May with lesser activities in late November and December. There have been no known strandings of whales on Onslow Beach but there have been recent strandings on nearby Bear Island, Topsail Island and Bogue Banks.

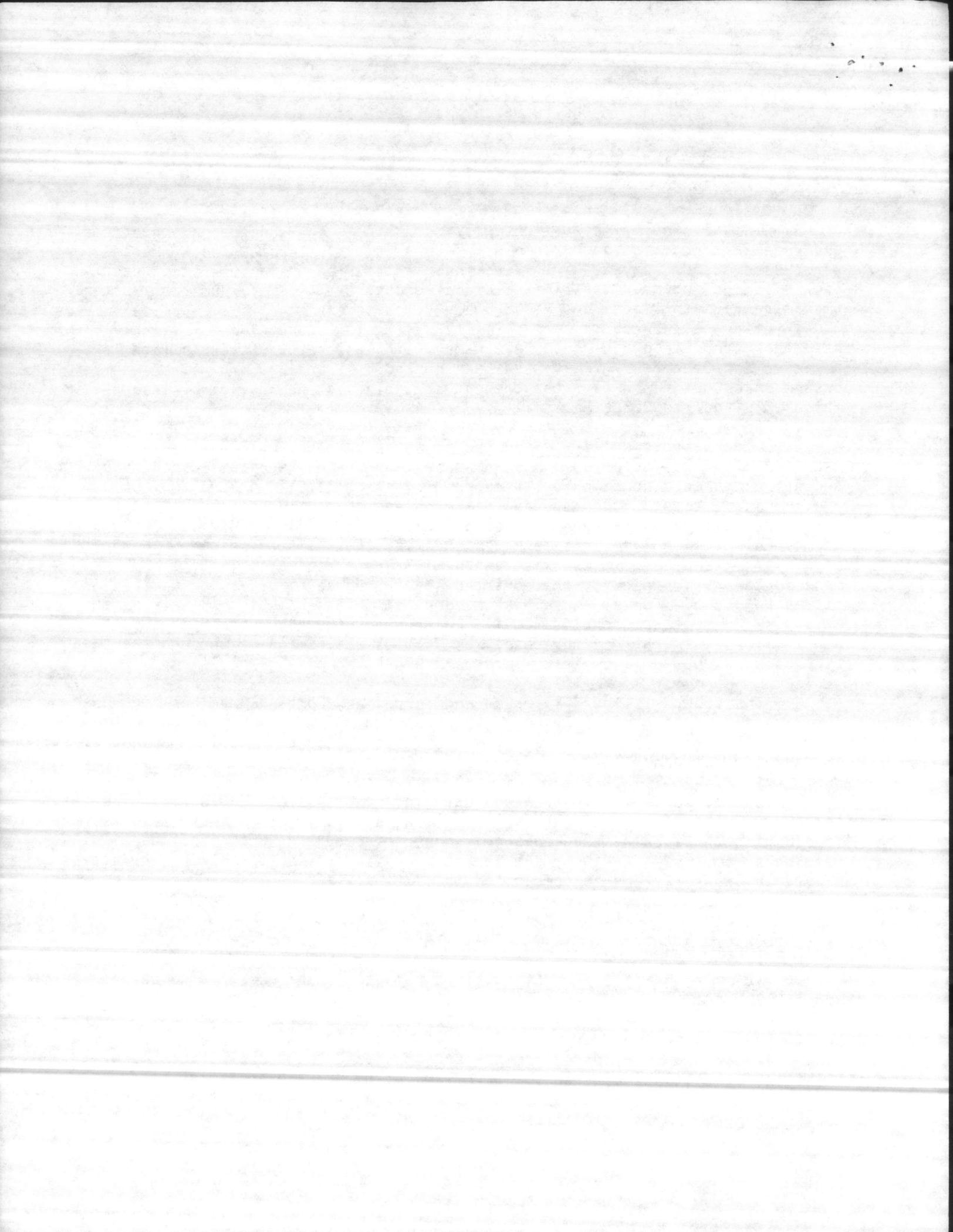
B. Threatened species include the Atlantic Loggerhead (*Caretta caretta*) and Green Turtle (*Chelonia mydas*) which nest on Onslow Beach. A comprehensive program has been conducted for these species since 1972 involving monitoring nesting activities through surveys, tagging and protecting nests from predation. Formal consultation has been conducted with the U. S. Fish and Wildlife Service and a biological opinion has been rendered for these listed species. Both opinions contain guidelines relative to military training activities and management functions for each of these listed species concerning nesting activities on Onslow Beach. Formal consultation concerning these species as well as the Atlantic Ridley (*Lepidochelys kempi*), Leatherback (*Demochelys coriacea*) and Hawksbill (*Erectmochelys imbricata*) Sea Turtles which migrate through the area is necessary due to live-firing into marine habitat off Browns Island.

C. The Browns Island N-1 Impact and Target and Bombing Area has been used for live-firing since Camp Lejeune was established in the early 1940's. There has been no noticable environmental change to the island or marine habitat except for the live ordnance contained there.

D. Aerial surveys have been conducted of Browns Island and surrounding areas to determine the amount of sea turtle nesting activity. Twenty-one flights were made during the 1982 nesting season as contracted by the North Carolina Wildlife Resources Commission. Ninety-one apparent nests were located during the aerial survey on Browns Island in comparison to sixty six active nests which were ground truthed on Onslow Beach.

II. DESCRIPTION OF AREA

A. The Browns Island coastline is a relatively uniform sand ridge about 200 to 500 feet wide and typically about 5 to 15 feet in elevation. Shifting sand dunes on the ridge reach elevations of 25 to 40 feet. The sand ridge protects the mainland from wave action and it impedes tidal action as well as drainage from the mainland. Drainage from the area passes through Browns Inlet and Bear Inlet into the Atlantic Ocean. Tidal flats occupy irregular strips behind the coastal sand ridge, in pockets along the shore at the sound and in lowlands along the estuaries draining into the sounds.



B. This area of the coastal plain is underlain by hundreds of feet of free or unconsolidated and weakly consolidated sediments ranging from cretaceous to miocene in age. Generally these formations are covered with a 5 to 30 feet surface layer of pleistocene sediments. These sediments are mostly clean sand and clayey sand, interlayered with deposits of clay and marine shells. On some of the poorly drained upland areas, thick organic soils have developed since emergence. Locally, on the banks of large streams, outcroppings of the miocene yorktown formation can be found. The yorktown consists of clay, sand and shell marl beds which are similar to the younger surficial deposits. The coastal sand ridge is primarily of wave-washed beach sand, but assorted sediments as described above occurs at shallow depths under the ridge.

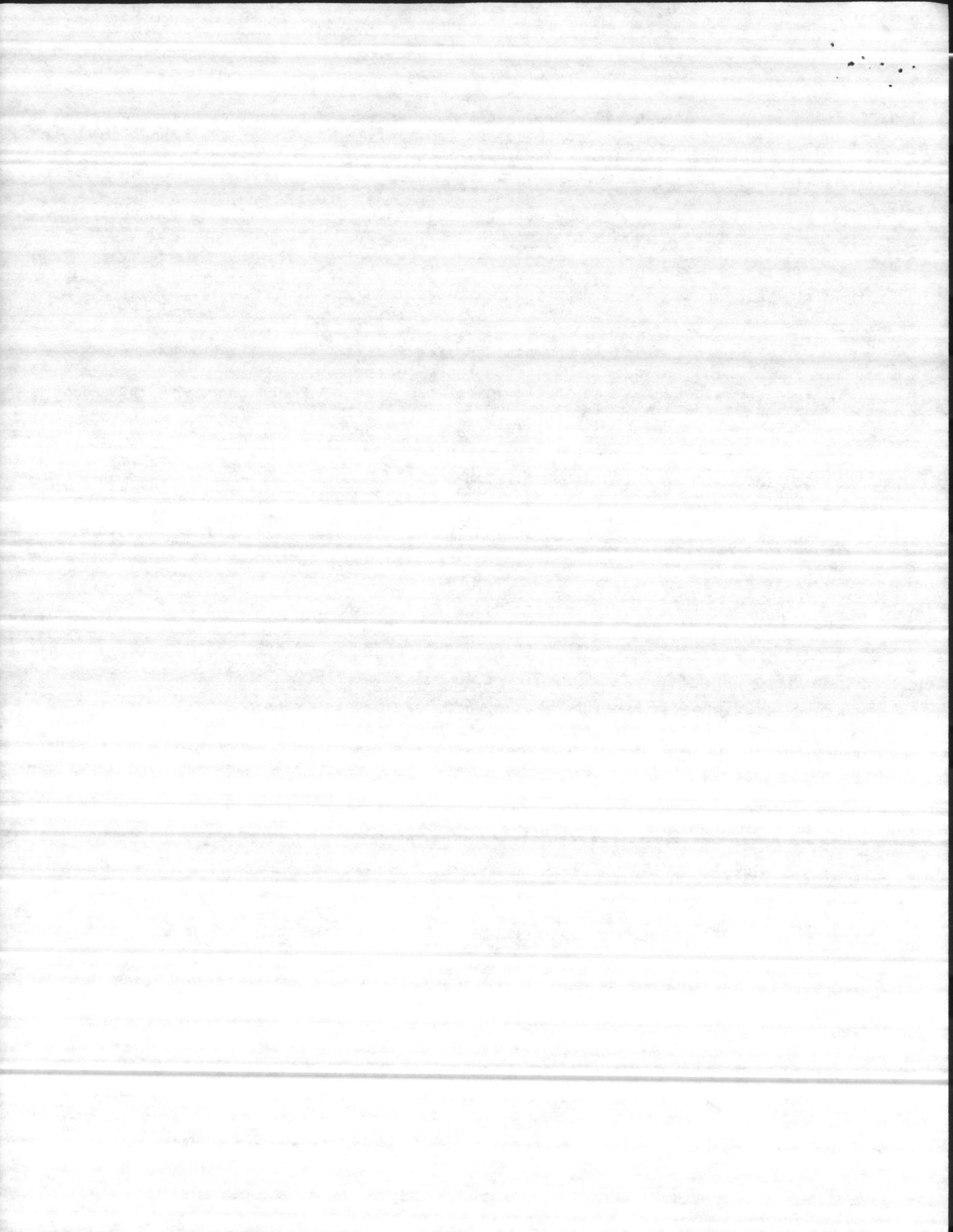
C. Browns Island is composed of an intratidal zone, flat beach zone, supratidal zone, pioneer zone, scrub zone, forest zone and marsh zone. Beach vegetation is non-existent in the intratidal and flat beach zones. Plant life in the supratidal zone is marsh cord grass. Plants found in the pioneer zone are American beachgrass, sea oats, panicgrass, bitter panicum and marsh elder. The plants found in the scrub zone are seacoast blue stem, silverleaf croton, seaside goldenrod, large pennywort, yaupon holly, waxmyrtle, bayberry, Eastern baccharis, shinning sumac and pepperwine. Plants found in the forest zone are Virginia creeper, muscadine grape, American holly, devilwood, flowering dogwood, redbay loblolly pine, red maple, blackcherry, red cedar and live oak. Plants found in the marsh zone inland from the forest zone are marsh cord grass, glasswort, black needle rush, saltmeadow hay, salt grass, marsh elder, sea oxeye and ground

D. Marine life in the supratidal zone are ghost crabs and sand fleas. Ghost shrimp, bristle worms and clams are found in the flat beach zone. In the intratidal zone, clams, lugworms and mole crabs are found. Blue crabs, sand dollars and silversides are found in the subtidal zone.

E. Marine fishes inhabiting offshore waters are barracudas, black sea bass, bluefish, bonitos, cobia, croakers, dolphin, black drum, red drum, flounder, grouper, grunt, jack mackerel, Atlantic mackerel, ling mackerel, spanish mackerel, ocean mullet, whitefish, pigfish, pompanos, porgie, spotted weakfish, sharks, silversides, snapping spot and white sea trout.

III. ACTION/PROJECT DESCRIPTION

A. This biological assessment does not describe a new facility or project. It provides information on threatened and endangered species located in an existing bombing and artillery range located at Browns Island. Both of these ranges have been in existence since World War II. The range located at Browns Island has been in continuous use since World War II. The range adjacent to, but offshore from, Browns Island was in use until the early 1960's. Since the early 1960's, it has fallen into disuse, except for over-shoots. Due to changes in the Marine Corps weapons inventory, plus increased range capabilities of new weapons, there is a requirement to resume firing in the offshore portion of Browns Island target complex. This assessment addresses these ranges as one since they are adjacent and will be scheduled for utilization as one range. This range is commonly referred to by one of the following names: BT-3, N-1 Impact Area or Browns Island. For clarity's sake this assessment will address the complex as the N-1 Impact Area as it is this agency's intent to formally declare Browns Island the adjoining rectangular ocean sector (see map) as a single target and bombing area. A description of the first range is as follows:



1. Range: N-1 Impact Area

2. Location: Brown's Island grid coordinate 9429 through 0033 and a rectangular oceanic sector approximately 6,000 meters wide, extending approximately 10,000 meters in a southeasterly direction off the coast of Camp Lejeune (see attached map), Appendix A.

3. Description:

a. This range is also referred to as Bombing and Target Range (BT-3) and Browns Island.

b. The Browns Island portion is used for aircraft, artillery and tank weapons firing utilizing improvised targets such as vehicle hulls. It is an impact area for the G-5, G-5A and G-7 Ranges.

c. The offshore portion of the N-1 Impact Area will be used as an impact area for machinegun and other light weapons fire at targets and as an over-shoot safety impact area from firing at land based targets. Targets will be small, improvised, anchored devices towed into place prior to a firing exercise and removed upon completion of the firing exercise.

d. The Browns Island portion of the N-1 Impact Area is adjacent to the Intracoastal Waterway.

4. Authorized Firing:

a. Aircraft - All aircraft armanent is composed of practice rounds not exceeding net explosive weight of 20 pounds TNT equivalent.

b. Ground Weapons - All weapons and ammunition authorized for ranges G-5, G-5A and G-7.

c. Mortars may be used to mark targets (HE, illumination and WP).

d. Artillery - All types of ammunition.

5. Range Limits: This range extends northeast from the Junction of north/south grid line 94 at Onslow Beach, along the beach line to Bear Creek Inlet; north-northwest along Bear Creek to a point 400 yards northwest of the Intracoastal Waterway; west-southwest on a line 400 yards of and parallel to the Intracoastal Waterway to Freeman's Creek then south to the point of origin. This portion of the N-1 Impact Area is bordered by a 1,000 yard buffer zone on the north and west side. A 1,000 yard no fire zone extends inboard from Bear Creek. The water portion of the N-1 Impact Area is a rectangular oceanic sector approximately 6,000 meters wide and extends approximately 10,000 meters in a southeasterly direction seaward, off the coast of Camp Lejeune.

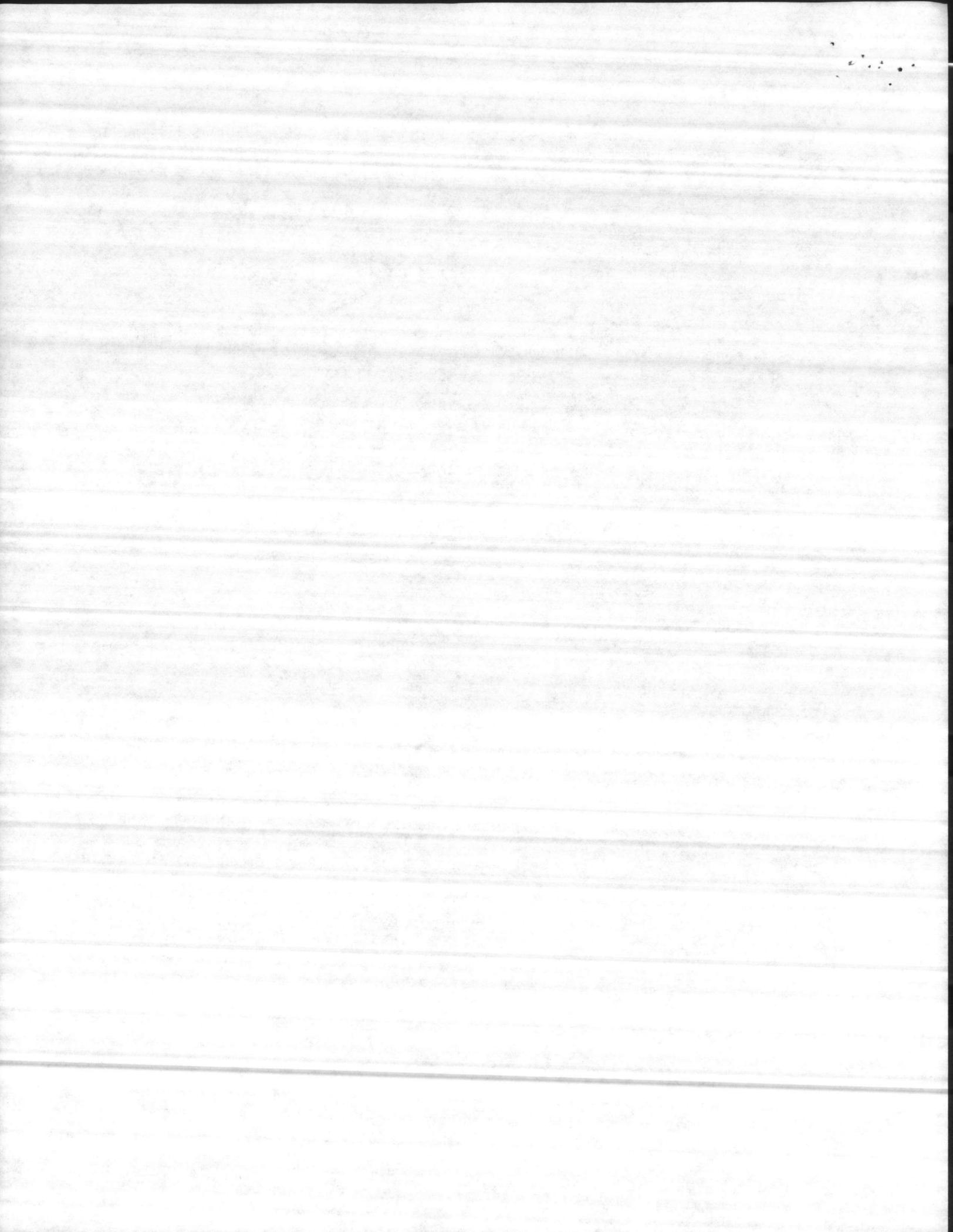
B. A description of the second range is as follows:

1. Range: Onslow Beach North Tower Machinegun Range

2. Location: Onslow Beach North Tower grid coordinate is 9328

3. Description:

a. Assault Amphibian Vehicle Range



b. Floating target platforms seaward within the N-1 Impact Area

4. Authorized Firing:

a. Weapons - M-2, M-85, M-60 and 25 mm machineguns both ground mounted and vehicle mounted.

b. Ammunition - Service

5. Range Limits:

a. Right flank coordinate 935287, azimuth 105°

b. Left flank coordinate 939290, azimuth 80°

C. A description of the third range is as follows:

1. Range: E-1 Onslow Beach Missile Range

2. Location: E-1 Onslow Beach Missile Range extends between Onslow South Tower and grid line 90 on the beach between the frontal dunes and the ocean.

3. Additional Information: The E-1 Range is a missile firing range for Redeye and Hawk missiles. The weapon systems are designed to be used against aerial targets. Firing of these missiles is by Marine Corps and the U. S. Army personnel on the beach. There are no explosives on the practice missiles, but there will be debris from fragmentation and the missiles themselves which impact into the ocean. Normally the missile firing is conducted semi-annually. Twelve missiles were fired from 3 December 1980 through 22 March 1982.

IV. PROBABLE IMPACT TO ENDANGERED/THREATENED SPECIES IN THE MARINE ENVIRONMENT

A. The marine environment in the N-1 Impact/BT-3 Bombing and Target Area has been used for many years for military training exercises. This area contains large quantities of unexploded ordnance. The land area can be entered only by Explosive Ordnance Disposal personnel. The U. S. Fish and Wildlife Service found no adverse impact in the opinion rendered for the Green and Atlantic Loggerhead Sea Turtles relative to impact from live-firing on Browns Island.

B. The offshore portion of the range is primarily used for firing non-exploding projectiles. It is also used as a buffer zone for firing on Browns Island and infrequently receives artillery projectiles or aircraft bombs that are over-shot. There are no permanent structures except for an observation tower on the outer edges of the buffer zone at Onslow Beach and Browns Tower. Range regulations prohibit firing at wildlife species on land, air or water at all times.

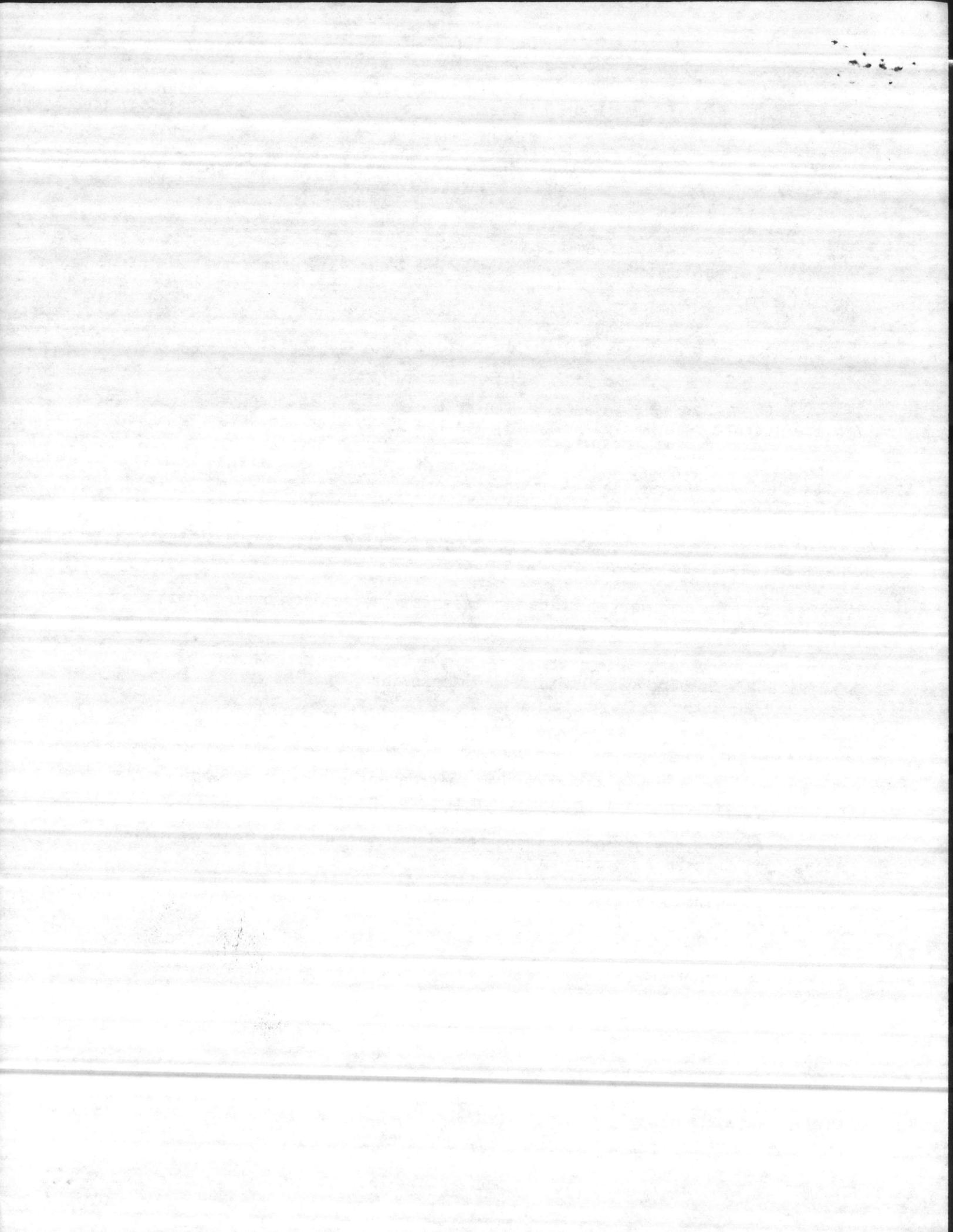
C. A dead Loggerhead Turtle was stranded near Browns Inlet in 1978 which appeared to have been shot through the head. Two whales of undetermined species were stranded on Bear Island in April 1982 approximately 24 feet to 30 feet in length. Neither of these incidents were known to have resulted from firing into the N-1 Impact/BT-3 Bombing and Target Areas. A portion of the subject area has been established as a sea turtle sanctuary by the State of North Carolina to prohibit commercial trawling during the nesting seasons.

D. The sea turtle sanctuary is listed as beginning at the northernmost end of Hammocks Beach (Bear Island) and seaward toward the Bogue Inlet bouy for 1,000 feet; southwestward 1,000 feet off Bear Island to the restricted zone designated as part of Camp Lejeune restricted area; seaward along the northern boundary of this zone; on the south side of the restricted zone the sanctuary shall recommence 1,000 feet or one-fourth mile off the beach and pass southwestwardly to the first (northern) observation tower on Onslow Beach; thence the zone shall extend for three-fourths of a mile to $34^{\circ} 33.5' N-77^{\circ} 13.4' W$; the zone shall thence include that portion of the ocean southwestward of the New River Inlet buoy the demarkation line shall pass the southernmost tip of Onslow Beach, no person shall use any commercial fishing equipment between June 1 and August 31, except that the Secretary, North Carolina Department of Natural Resources and Community Development, acting upon the advice of the Director, may by proclamation modify the sea turtle sanctuary within the above described area and vary implementation between these dates for the protection of the sea turtle population. The sea turtle sanctuary is contained in Appendix B.

E. Contracts have been made with recognized experts concerning listed species in the subject area including those with the U. S. Fish and Wildlife Service and the North Carolina Wildlife Resources Commission and the University of North Carolina. The North Carolina Marine Fisheries Division has been contacted relative to commercial fishing operations in offshore waters along Onslow Beach. Names and addresses of those individuals contacted are as follows:

1. Dr. Frank Schwartz, Institute of Marine Sciences, University of North Carolina, Morehead City, North Carolina
2. Mr. Don Harke, State Supervisor Wildlife Assistance, U. S. Fish and Wildlife Service, Raleigh, North Carolina
3. Mr. Otto Florschutz, Sea Turtle Recovery Team Member, U. S. Fish and Wildlife Service, Washington, North Carolina
4. Mr. Stuart Critcher, Endangered Species Coordinator, North Carolina Wildlife Resources Commission, Raleigh, North Carolina
5. Mr. Stephen Polinski, Law Enforcement Plot, North Carolina Marine Fisheries Division, Morehead City, North Carolina
6. Mr. Howard Bogey, Inspector, North Carolina Division of Marine Fisheries, Swansboro, North Carolina

F. Available literature on the listed species has been reviewed.





UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE
National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration
NATIONAL MARINE FISHERIES SERVICE

Southeast Region
9450 Koger Boulevard
St. Petersburg, FL 33702

November 23, 1981

F/SER61:AM

Major General C. G. Cooper
Commanding General, U. S. Marine Corps
Marine Corps Base
Camp Lejeune, North Carolina 28542

Dear Major General Cooper:

This responds to your November 17, 1981, letter requesting consultation for Marine Corps activities at the Marine Corps Base, Camp Lejeune, North Carolina, as required by Section 7 of the Endangered Species Act of 1973.

The attached list provides the threatened and endangered species under National Marine Fisheries Service jurisdiction that may be present in the project area. Upon receipt of this list, the USMC must insure that its actions are not likely to jeopardize the continued existence of the listed species.

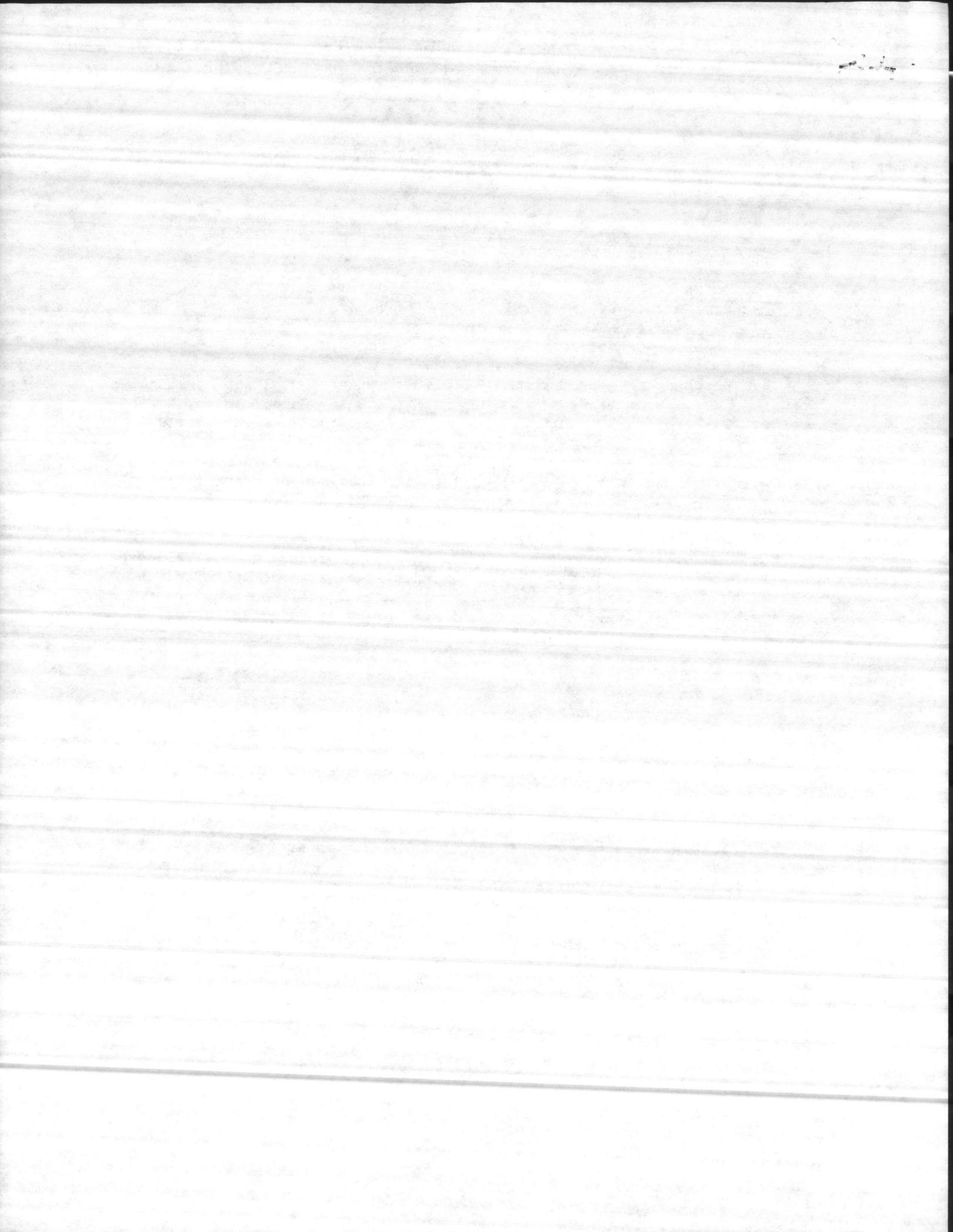
For a major Federal action, the agency must conduct a biological assessment to identify any endangered or threatened species which are likely to be affected by such action. The biological assessment shall be completed within 180 days after receipt of the species list, unless it is mutually agreed to extend this period.

The components of a biological assessment are as follows:

- (1) conduct a scientifically sound on-site inspection of the area affected by the action, which must, unless otherwise directed by the Service, include a detailed survey of the area to determine if listed or proposed species are present or occur seasonally and whether suitable habitat exists within the area for either expanding the existing population or potential reintroduction of populations;
- (2) interview recognized experts on the species at issue, including those within the Fish and Wildlife Service, the NMFS, State conservation agencies, universities and others who may have data not yet found in scientific literature;
- (3) review literature and other scientific data to determine the species distribution, habitat needs, and other biological requirements;
- (4) review and analyze the effects of the action on the species, in terms of individuals and population, including consideration of the cumulative effects of the action on the species and habitat;



ENCLOSURE (2)



- (5) analyze alternative actions that may provide conservation measures;
- (6) conduct any studies necessary to fulfill the requirements of (1) through (5) above;
- (7) review any other information.

At the conclusion of the biological assessment, as described above, the Federal agency should prepare a report documenting the results.

If the biological assessment reveals that the proposed project is likely to affect listed species, the formal consultation process shall be initiated by writing to the Regional Director, National Marine Fisheries Service, 9450 Koger Boulevard, Duval Building, St. Petersburg, Florida 33702. If no effect is evident, there is no need for formal consultation. We would, however, appreciate the opportunity to review your biological assessment.

If you have any questions, please contact Andreas Mager, Jr., Fishery Biologist, Southeast Regional Office, FTS 826-3503.

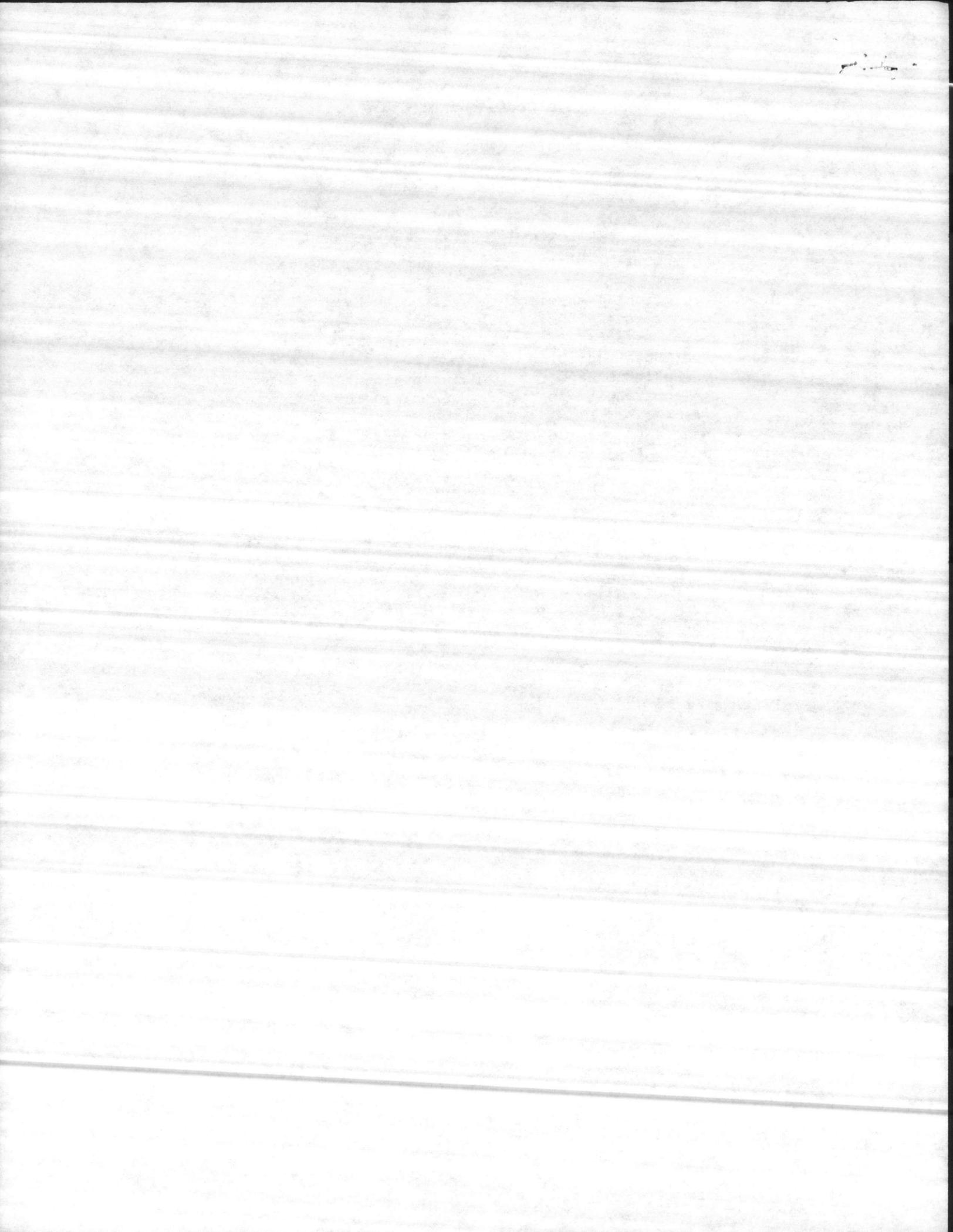
Sincerely yours,

Charles A. Oraveck

for D. R. Ekberg
Chief, Environmental &
Technical Services Branch

Enclosure

cc: FWS, Atlanta, GA
FWS, Raleigh, NC



ENDANGERED AND THREATENED SPECIES AND CRITICAL HABITATS UNDER
NMFS JURISDICTION:

North Carolina

<u>LISTED SPECIES</u>	<u>SCIENTIFIC NAME</u>	<u>STATUS</u>	<u>DATE LISTED</u>
Fin Whale	<u>Balaenoptera physalus</u>	E	12/2/70
Humpback Whale	<u>Megaptera novaeanglinae</u>	E	12/2/70
Right Whale	<u>Eubaleana glacialis</u>	E	12/2/70
Sei Whale	<u>Balaenoptera borealis</u>	E	12/2/70
Green Sea Turtle	<u>Chelonia mydas</u>	Th	7/28/78
Hawksbill Sea Turtle	<u>Eretmochelys imbricata</u>	E	6/2/70
Kemp's (Atlantic) Ridley Sea Turtle	<u>Lepidochelys kemp</u>	E	12/2/70
Leatherback Sea Turtle	<u>Dermochelys coriacea</u>	E	6/2/70
Loggerhead Sea Turtle	<u>Caretta caretta</u>	Th	7/28/78
Shortnose Sturgeon	<u>Acipenser brevirostrum</u>	E	3/11/67

SPECIES PROPOSED FOR LISTING

None

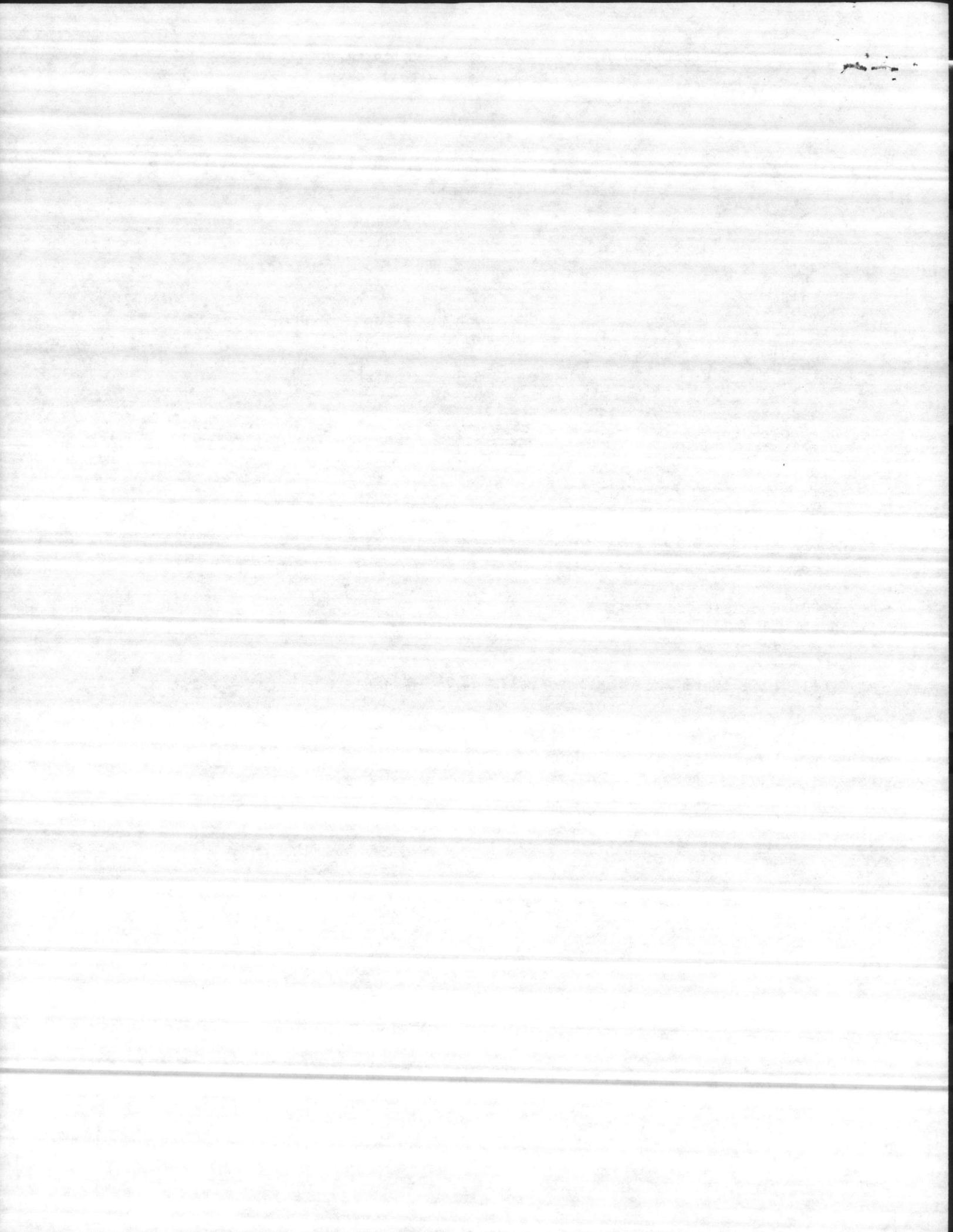
LISTED CRITICAL HABITAT

None

PROPOSED CRITICAL HABITAT

None

1. Include sperm whale only for deep water projects.
2. Humpback and right whales occur in shallow water.



MAIN/CDP/th
11015

17 November 1981

AW

Mr. Harold Allen
Acting Director Southeast Region
National Marine Fisheries Services
National Oceanic Atmospheric Administration
9450 Koger Boulevard
St. Petersburg, Florida 33702

Dear Mr. Allen:

Marine Corps Base, Camp Lejeune, North Carolina, has conducted formal consultation procedures with the U. S. Fish and Wildlife Service for endangered and threatened species pursuant to the Endangered Species Act of 1973, Title 50, Code of Federal Regulations, Number 402. Biological opinions have been rendered for the Red-Cockaded Woodpecker (*Dendrocopos borealis*), Atlantic Loggerhead Sea Turtle (*Caretta caretta*) and Green Sea Turtle (*Chelonia mydas*).

Formal consultation is now in progress which initially involved the Eastern Brown Pelican (*Pelecanus occidentalis*) and the American Alligator (*Alligator mississippiensis*). Possible impacts to sea turtles at Onslow Beach and in offshore waters from the Onslow Beach North Tower Range were noted during this consultation process. These impacts were listed in a draft biological opinion presently being reviewed by Marine Corps Base. The possible impacts listed include: ruts caused by assault amphibian vehicles in gaining access to the range presenting an obstacle to hatchlings reaching the sea; ruts caused by vehicles on the firing line in setting up and maneuvering also presenting an obstacle to hatchlings reaching the seas; and live service ammunition fired into the ocean causing direct mortality of sea turtles in offshore waters. The first two impacts were addressed in the draft biological opinion.

The U. S. Fish and Wildlife Service advised that the third impact was a basis for initiation of formal consultation with the National Marine Fisheries Service, who has jurisdiction over sea turtles in offshore waters. By this letter, we are, therefore, initiating formal consultation procedures with your agency to resolve any possible conflicts between Marine Corps activities and our responsibilities under the Endangered Species Act.

We look forward to consulting with you on these matters involving established military training requirements and our legal responsibilities concerning sea turtles in offshore waters.

Sincerely,

C. G. COOPER
Major General, U. S. Marine Corps
Commanding General

