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NREAD

26 Mar 1985

Director, Natural Resources and Environmental Affairs Division,
Marine Corps Base, Camp Lejeune, North Carolina
Assistant Chief of Staff, Training and Operations

Via: Assistant Chief of Staff, Facilities

PROTECTION OF THREATENED SEA TURTLES IN OFFSHORE WATERS

Encl: (1) NREAD ltr NREAD/JIW/jc 11015 of 12 Jan 1983

1. The enclosure contains provisions for protecting endangered and threatened sea turtles and whales relative to live-firing into offshore waters at Onslow Beach. Protective procedures for whales have already been addressed by separate correspondence. Sea turtles frequent offshore waters during the nesting season which extends from mid May-August each year.
2. It is requested that aerial overflights be conducted during the subject period prior to all live firing exercises into the N-1 Impact Area (Browns Island Target and Bombing Range BT-3). Additionally, it is requested that this protective measure be included in proposed update of the Base Range Regulations (SOP).

J. I. WOOTEN

Writer: C. D. Peterson, NREAD 5003
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Mr. Charles A. Oravetz
National Marine Fisheries Service
9450 Koger 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 N-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 FTS 676-5003.

Sincerely,

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

ENCLOSURE (1)

