



UNITED STATES MARINE CORPS
Natural Resources and Environmental Affairs Division
Marine Corps Base
Camp Lejeune, North Carolina 29542

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IN REPLY REFER TO:

38 NREAD/CDP/jc
11015/2
29 Feb 1984

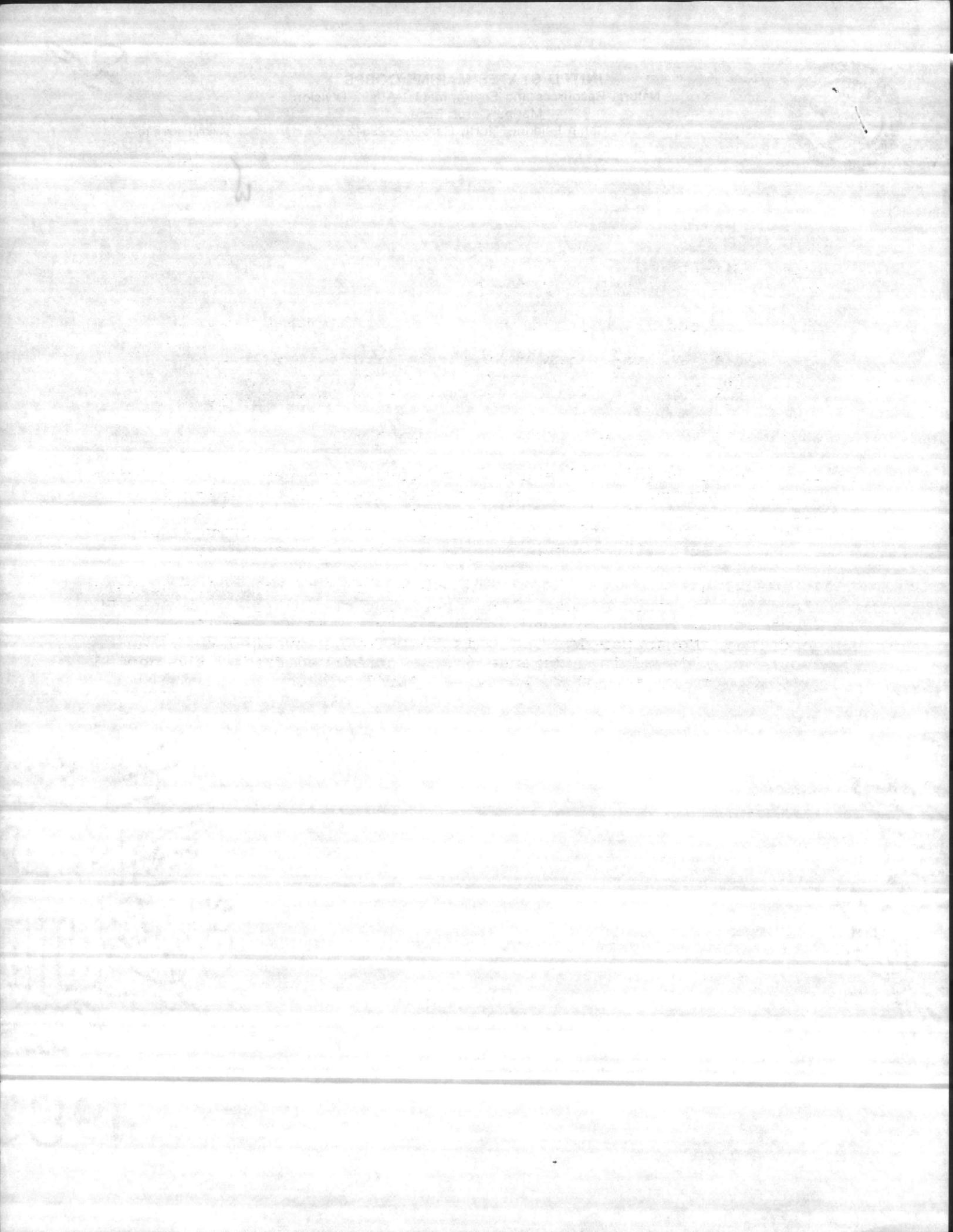
From: Director
To: Assistant Chief of Staff, Training
Subj: Protection of Endangered Species in Offshore Waters
Ref: (a) Dir, NREAD ltr NREAD/DDS/th 11015 of 16 Mar 1983
(b) AC/S TRNG ltr TRNG/ARB/cks 1500 of 17 Mar 1983
(c) AC/S TRNG ltr TRNG/AWR/kak 1500 of 18 Mar 1983
Encl: (1) Newspaper Article of 26 Feb 1984

1. References (a), (b) and (c) set forth procedures for avoiding possible adverse impact to whales relative to live-firing into offshore waters at Onslow Beach. The enclosure contains information depicting scientific interest in conducting a survey for right whales in the area from Cape Hatteras to Cape Fear.

2. Females and calves of the endangered right whale migrate very close to this area of coastline according to Doctor Frank SCHWARTZ, Institute of Marine Sciences, University of North Carolina, Morehead City, North Carolina. It is therefore requested that the procedures listed in reference (b) be continued during the period of spring migration 20 February - 7 April 1984.

J. I. Wooten
J. I. WOOTEN

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AC/S FAC



Scientists urge study of Atlantic right whales

MARIETTA, Ga. (AP) — Scientists know many of the huge north Atlantic right whales spend the summer in the food-rich waters off Maine and that some travel down the East Coast to Georgia and Florida to have their young.

But they still are trying to find other pieces of a puzzle that, when solved, may provide the knowledge to save the 60-foot mammals.

A weeklong survey along the Georgia and north Florida coasts spotted 11 or 13 whales, depending on whether there was duplication. Only about 200 are still alive after whalers, seeking the whales' large whalebone and oil stores, harpooned them to near extinction.

"The survey, as often happens, came up with a few answers and a lot more questions," said Scott Kraus of the New England Aquarium, lead scientist for the survey. "The major question, of course, remains: Where the devil are the other 180 whales?"

It's a story similar to that being written about many other endangered species — try to find out why they are disappearing, or not recovering, in time to do something about it.

Kraus has been studying the right whales at their summer feeding grounds in the Gulf of Maine for four years. They leave the bay in the fall and return the next summer.

Kraus said he thought he recognized one of the Fundy whales off Georgia.

Photographs taken during the survey will be matched against photos taken from the bay to see if any of the individuals can be positively identified.

"I think a program like this should continue for several years on the coast of Georgia and Florida. The pilots and planes were free because of the volunteer pilots. But we flew a lot of hours and we had to pay for fuel and accommodations."

Much of the cost was covered by the World Wildlife Fund — USA.

"If we can get support for it, a place never surveyed is between Cape Hatteras and Cape Fear, N.C. We ought to cover more adequately the coast of South Carolina and concentrate more carefully where we saw whales this year, off Georgia and Florida."

The reason, he said, is "we might be able to determine in the long run why they come here in the winter, what makes it special for them. That's the first step in protecting a habitat that will allow them to recover."

