

s22

From: s22
Sent: Monday, 11 November 2019 3:01 PM
To: s22
Cc:
Subject: RE: Request for support - interpretation of Blue Whale Conservation Management Plan [DLM=For-Official-Use-Only]

Until Policy Statement 2.1 is reviewed the TTS and PTS sound exposure levels are still applied to minimise the potential for acoustic disturbance

I believe NOAA have reviewed TTS and PTS thresholds but we still apply the requirements of our seismic guidelines

From: s22
Sent: Monday, 11 November 2019 2:57 PM
To: s22 @environment.gov.au>; s22 @environment.gov.au>
Subject: FW: Request for support - interpretation of Blue Whale Conservation Management Plan [DLM=For-Official-Use-Only]

“All we are really seeking is confirmation that you are still considering that TTS and PTS are both injury?”

Any views on question from NOPSEMA?

From: s22 @nipsema.gov.au]
Sent: Monday, 4 November 2019 2:52 PM
To: s22 @environment.gov.au>; s22 @environment.gov.au>
Cc: s22 @environment.gov.au>; s22 @environment.gov.au>
Subject: RE: Request for support - interpretation of Blue Whale Conservation Management Plan [DLM=For-Official-Use-Only]

For Official Use Only

Hi s22

Apologies for not getting back to you sooner but I have been and still am off work sick

I was hoping that we might have a conversation first and then we can follow up in writing after that – we certainly don't expect you to provide an answer on the spot if you need time to consider the position in greater detail. All we are really seeking is confirmation that you are still considering that TTS and PTS are both injury to ensure that titleholders are complying with the relevant recovery plans. The last advice was back in 2015 and the decision makers within NOPSEMA are seeking reassurance that this advice is still current.

I am hoping to be back at work tomorrow. Do you think you will have time this week to discuss please?

Cheers

s22

s22

s22

Environmental Effects

National Offshore Petroleum Safety and Environmental Management Authority

T: s22 | M: s22 | E: s22 @nopsema.gov.au | W: nopsema.gov.au

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From: s22 @environment.gov.au>
Sent: Friday, 1 November 2019 8:21 AM
To: s22 @nopsema.gov.au>; s22 <s22 @environment.gov.au>
Cc: s22 @environment.gov.au>; s22 @environment.gov.au>
Subject: RE: Request for support - interpretation of Blue Whale Conservation Management Plan [DLM=For-Official-Use-Only]

Hi s22

Would it be possible to send through some more information for our consideration prior to the conversation next week. As you know, these issues are never simple and given you need to make a decision in the next week, we would like to start thinking about the issue sooner rather than later.

Kind regards

s22

From: s22 @nopsema.gov.au]
Sent: Thursday, 31 October 2019 6:59 PM
To: s22 @environment.gov.au>
Cc: s22 @environment.gov.au>
Subject: Request for support - interpretation of Blue Whale Conservation Management Plan [DLM=For-Official-Use-Only]

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We have a regulatory decision to make about a proposed seismic survey in the next week that is relevant to that interpretation. I was hoping that we could set up a time to have a conversation with you and the relevant people from your branch ASAP to discuss and ensure that the interpretation has not changed since the previous advice was provided.

Please let me know when would suit you to discuss, preferably early next week if possible

Cheers

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s22

From: s22 @nopsema.gov.au>
Sent: s22 Tuesday, 12 November 2019 8:15 PM
To:
Cc:
Subject: RE: Request for support - interpretation of Blue Whale Conservation Management Plan [DLM=For-Official-Use-Only]

For Official Use Only

That's great thanks s22
 We will continue to work with that
 Cheers

s22

s22

s22

Environmental Effects

National Offshore Petroleum Safety and Environmental Management Authority

T: s22 | **M:** s22 | **E:** s22 @nopsema.gov.au | **W:** nopsema.gov.au

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From: s22 @environment.gov.au>
Sent: Monday, 11 November 2019 12:25 PM
To: s22 @nopsema.gov.au>; s22
 <s22 @environment.gov.au>
Cc: s22 @environment.gov.au>; s22 @environment.gov.au>
Subject: RE: Request for support - interpretation of Blue Whale Conservation Management Plan [DLM=For-Official-Use-Only]

Hi s22

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To: s22 @environment.gov.au>
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Sent: Monday, 11 November 2019 3:03 PM
To: s22
Cc:
Subject: RE: Request for support - interpretation of Blue Whale Conservation Management Plan [DLM=For-Official-Use-Only]

Apparently we said that they are an “injury” – I think that is what she is getting it.

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Cc: s22 <@environment.gov.au>
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Sent: Friday, 1 November 2019 8:21 AM
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From: s22
Sent: s22 Monday, 11 November 2019 3:18 PM
To:
Cc:
Subject: RE: Request for support - interpretation of Blue Whale Conservation Management Plan [DLM=For-Official-Use-Only]

Nothing has changed from our end – PTS and TTS are still considered injuries and seismic guidelines still apply in avoiding these injuries.

s22

**Migratory Species Section
 Biodiversity Conservation Division
 Department of the Environment and Energy**

**GPO Box 787
 CANBERRA ACT 2601**

s22

I work part-time and am in the office Monday to Thursday

From: s22
Sent: Monday, 11 November 2019 3:04 PM
To: s22 @environment.gov.au; s22 @environment.gov.au
Subject: FW: Request for support - interpretation of Blue Whale Conservation Management Plan [DLM=For-Official-Use-Only]

She refers to enclosed email.

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Attachments: s22

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Please consider the environment before printing this email

From: s22
To:
Cc:
Subject: RE: Advice request from NOPSEMA [SEC=UNCLASSIFIED]
Date: Monday, 14 January 2019 5:28:04 PM
Attachments: s22

Dear s22,

I hope you had an enjoyable holiday and happy new year.

Below is a brief status update on your request for advice on acoustic disturbance.

As we discussed at the end of November, AAD has been focusing our advice on three whale species for which there is Departmental conservation advice: blue, humpback and southern right whales. Even after restricting our advice to these species, we have found that the scope of the request and nature of our reply has entailed more effort and a longer timeline than we initially anticipated

The nature of our advice has largely taken the form of a literature review of behavioural disturbance. Building on past work, we have framed our review as an update to the chapter on behavioural disturbance in the comprehensive Southall et al (2007) volume of Aquatic Mammals. At this stage, we have completed a draft of the following advice (attached):

- A bibliography of primary literature on behavioural disturbance, but focused on baleen whales, particularly the three species above (since 2007-present).
- A background section providing a summary and context of recent methods and approaches for assessing behavioural disturbance (2007 – present).
- A summary and review of literature on behavioural disturbance of blue whales
- A review of a recent article on the “Population Consequences of Disturbance” for north pacific blue whales. This is was a proxy for the requested “synthesis of current knowledge regarding their relative vulnerability to noise”

However, due to the volume of literature published recently on humpback whales, we have not yet completed advice regarding humpback whales nor southern right whales, although we have written substantive draft text written for each of these species. As we’ve mentioned, on Friday (18 Jan) s22 and I will be boarding RV Investigator to lead whale research teams on a 49 day voyage. As such our group will have limited capacity to continue working on this (or any other) advice until we return in mid-March. Given our prior commitments, we anticipate that the earliest we could complete this advice would be the end of March, though this may require some compromise on the comprehensiveness/thoroughness of our advice. A deadline of mid-April would allow us time to ensure that our advice is higher quality and more comprehensive. Our apologies that we haven’t been able to meet your original deadlines for this request, but we really appreciate your flexibility and willingness to help accommodate our busy schedules.

Kind regards,

s22

s22

s22

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From: s22
To:
Cc:
Subject: RE: Advice request from NOPSEMA [SEC=UNCLASSIFIED]
Date: Monday, 8 April 2019 4:21:21 PM
Attachments: [image001.jpg](#)
[image002.png](#)
[image003.png](#)
[image004.png](#)

UNCLASSIFIED

Hi s22

Thanks for the update. I will give you a call in the morning to discuss the level of detail etc. No problems with the preferred approach of one invoice now and one on completion.

Cheers

s22

UNCLASSIFIED

From: s22
Sent: Monday, 8 April 2019 8:48 AM
To: s22
Cc: s22
Subject: RE: Advice request from NOPSEMA [SEC=UNCLASSIFIED]

Hi s22

The voyage was long and hard work, but it was very productive. It's taken me longer to get back up to speed than I expected, but am back in the office now and can finish this request for advice now.

I think it would be good to chat briefly before we continue working on this, particularly regarding the level of detail you require. Give me a ring at s22 to chat.

s47E(d)

Cheers,

s22

From: s22 @nopsema.gov.au
Sent: Friday, 5 April 2019 1:22 PM
To: s22 @aad.gov.au; s22
Cc: s22 @nopsema.gov.au
Subject: RE: Advice request from NOPSEMA [SEC=UNCLASSIFIED]

UNCLASSIFIED

Hi s22

I hope you had a productive research voyage. I am just checking in to get an update on where the AAD are at with the rounding out of the latest NOPSEMA advice request. Happy to discuss if you think it is worth a general chat on scope and focus to guide way forward.

I also wanted to check on invoicing and when we should be expecting the next invoice. As it is getting close to end of financial year it would be good to get this sorted soonish. Who should I be contacting within the AAD for invoicing?

Thanks and best regards

s22

UNCLASSIFIED

From: s22
Sent: Wednesday, 16 January 2019 10:45 AM
To: s22 <@aad.gov.au>; s22 <@nopsema.gov.au>
Cc: s22 <@aad.gov.au>
Subject: RE: Advice request from NOPSEMA [SEC=UNCLASSIFIED]

UNCLASSIFIED

Hi s22

Thanks for the update on the advice preparation and I hope you had an enjoyable New Year too. From a quick read of the draft advice it is looking good and provides some relevant and contemporary scientific context on sound disturbance to whales in a concise manner. It is useful to see the number of new papers published since the Southall work for the 3 key species as it indicates there is a need to understand how scientific understanding has changed. We will be particularly interested in understanding if the new science indicates a need to change the way impacts of behavioural disturbance are assessed and managed, e.g. new evidence indicating particular species or behaviours of relevance to Australian waters are more or less sensitive than previously understood. We understand the challenges in deriving hard and fast numbers/sound levels to inform management and recognise that gaps/uncertainties will remain. In this respect, one suggestion for the further development of this work is to summarise the literature review with some conclusions that relate back up to one of the key questions in our advice request, i.e. what are the levels of underwater noise considered to cause behavioural disturbance to the extent that animals may be displaced from a biologically important area or do not continue biologically important behaviours (e.g. migration, feeding, breeding, calving, resting). We understand that this is likely to require some extrapolation across species/regions etc. and there will not be a simple one size fits all answer but this would be useful where considered valid/possible.

All the best for the research voyage and perhaps we could touch base on your return to discuss timeframe for completion as we will then have a better understanding of what decisions we have on the books and whether there is any urgency in the advice or particular aspects of the advice. Kind regards

s22

s22 | s22

Environmental Effects

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**UNCLASSIFIED**

From: s22 <@aad.gov.au>
Sent: Monday, 14 January 2019 2:28 PM
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Cc: s22 <@aad.gov.au>
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Australian Antarctic Division - Commonwealth of Australia

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From: s22
To:
Cc:
Subject: RE: Advice request from NOPSEMA [SEC=UNCLASSIFIED]
Date: Thursday, 9 May 2019 4:42:12 PM
Attachments: s22

Hi s22

Attached is AAD's response to your last advice request. Please let me know if you have any questions.

I have not yet raised an invoice, so we will now only send a single one for all our work this financial year (rather than two as was discussed last month). I will raise the invoice tomorrow.

Cheers,

Brian

From: s22 @nopsema.gov.au
Sent: Monday, 8 April 2019 4:21 PM
To: s22
Cc: s22
Subject: RE: Advice request from NOPSEMA [SEC=UNCLASSIFIED]

UNCLASSIFIED

Hi s22

Thanks for the update. I will give you a call in the morning to discuss the level of detail etc.

No problems with the preferred approach of one invoice now and one on completion.

Cheers

s22

UNCLASSIFIED

From: s22 @aad.gov.au>
Sent: Monday, 8 April 2019 8:48 AM
To: s22 @nopsema.gov.au>; s22
 <s22 @nopsema.gov.au>
Cc: s22 e@aad.gov.au>
Subject: RE: Advice request from NOPSEMA [SEC=UNCLASSIFIED]

Hi s22

The voyage was long and hard work, but it was very productive. It's taken me longer to get back up to speed than I expected, but am back in the office now and can finish this request for advice now.

I think it would be good to chat briefly before we continue working on this, particularly regarding the level of detail you require. Give me a ring at s22 to chat.

s47E(d)

Cheers,

s22

From: s22 @nopsema.gov.au]
Sent: Friday, 5 April 2019 1:22 PM

To: ^{s22} [@aad.gov.au](mailto:aad.gov.au); ^{s22}
^{s22} [@nopsema.gov.au](mailto:nopsema.gov.au)
Cc: ^{s22} [@aad.gov.au](mailto:aad.gov.au)
Subject: RE: Advice request from NOPSEMA [SEC=UNCLASSIFIED]

UNCLASSIFIEDHi ^{s22}

I hope you had a productive research voyage. I am just checking in to get an update on where the AAD are at with the rounding out of the latest NOPSEMA advice request. Happy to discuss if you think it is worth a general chat on scope and focus to guide way forward.

I also wanted to check on invoicing and when we should be expecting the next invoice. As it is getting close to end of financial year it would be good to get this sorted soonish. Who should I be contacting within the AAD for invoicing?

Thanks and best regards

^{s22}**UNCLASSIFIED**

From: ^{s22}
Sent: Wednesday, 16 January 2019 10:45 AM
To: ^{s22} [@aad.gov.au](mailto:aad.gov.au); ^{s22}
^{s22} [@nopsema.gov.au](mailto:nopsema.gov.au)
Cc: ^{s22} [@aad.gov.au](mailto:aad.gov.au)
Subject: RE: Advice request from NOPSEMA [SEC=UNCLASSIFIED]

UNCLASSIFIEDHi ^{s22} ,

Thanks for the update on the advice preparation and I hope you had an enjoyable New Year too. From a quick read of the draft advice it is looking good and provides some relevant and contemporary scientific context on sound disturbance to whales in a concise manner. It is useful to see the number of new papers published since the Southall work for the 3 key species as it indicates there is a need to understand how scientific understanding has changed.

We will be particularly interested in understanding if the new science indicates a need to change the way impacts of behavioural disturbance are assessed and managed, e.g. new evidence indicating particular species or behaviours of relevance to Australian waters are more or less sensitive than previously understood. We understand the challenges in deriving hard and fast numbers/sound levels to inform management and recognise that gaps/uncertainties will remain.

In this respect, one suggestion for the further development of this work is to summarise the literature review with some conclusions that relate back up to one of the key questions in our advice request, i.e. what are the levels of underwater noise considered to cause behavioural disturbance to the extent that animals may be displaced from a biologically important area or do not continue biologically important behaviours (e.g. migration, feeding, breeding, calving, resting). We understand that this is likely to require some extrapolation across species/regions etc. and there will not be a simple one size fits all answer but this would be useful where considered valid/possible.

All the best for the research voyage and perhaps we could touch base on your return to discuss timeframe for completion as we will then have a better understanding of what decisions we have on the books and whether there is any urgency in the advice or particular aspects of the advice.

Kind regards

^{s22}

^{s22} | ^{s22}

Environmental Effects

National Offshore Petroleum Safety and Environmental Management Authority

T: ^{s22} | E: ^{s22} @nopsema.gov.au | W: nopsema.gov.au

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UNCLASSIFIED

From: ^{s22} @aad.gov.au>
Sent: Monday, 14 January 2019 2:28 PM
To: ^{s22} @nopsema.gov.au>; ^{s22}
 <^{s22} @nopsema.gov.au>
Cc: ^{s22} @aad.gov.au>
Subject: RE: Advice request from NOPSEMA [SEC=UNCLASSIFIED]
 Dear ^{s22}

I hope you had an enjoyable holiday and happy new year.

Below is a brief status update on your request for advice on acoustic disturbance.

As we discussed at the end of November, AAD has been focusing our advice on three whale species for which there is Departmental conservation advice: blue, humpback and southern right whales. Even after restricting our advice to these species, we have found that the scope of the request and nature of our reply has entailed more effort and a longer timeline than we initially anticipated

The nature of our advice has largely taken the form of a literature review of behavioural disturbance. Building on past work, we have framed our review as an update to the chapter on behavioural disturbance in the comprehensive Southall et al (2007) volume of Aquatic Mammals. At this stage, we have completed a draft of the following advice (attached):

- A bibliography of primary literature on behavioural disturbance, but focused on baleen whales, particularly the three species above (since 2007-present).
- A background section providing a summary and context of recent methods and approaches for assessing behavioural disturbance (2007 – present).
- A summary and review of literature on behavioural disturbance of blue whales
- A review of a recent article on the “Population Consequences of Disturbance” for north pacific blue whales. This is was a proxy for the requested “synthesis of current knowledge regarding their relative vulnerability to noise”

However, due to the volume of literature published recently on humpback whales, we have not yet completed advice regarding humpback whales nor southern right whales, although we have written substantive draft text written for each of these species. As we’ve mentioned, on Friday (18 Jan) ^{s22} and I will be boarding RV Investigator to lead whale research teams on a 49 day voyage. As such our group will have limited capacity to continue working on this (or any other) advice until we return in mid-March. Given our prior commitments, we anticipate that the earliest we could complete this advice would be the end of March, though this may require some compromise on the comprehensiveness/thoroughness of our advice. A deadline of mid-April would allow us time to ensure that our advice is higher quality and more comprehensive. Our apologies that we haven’t been able to meet your original deadlines for this request, but we really appreciate your flexibility and willingness to help accommodate our busy schedules.

Kind regards,

^{s22}

^{s22}

s22

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From: s22
To:
Cc:
Subject: RE: Advice request from NOPSEMA [SEC=UNCLASSIFIED]
Date: Monday, 13 May 2019 5:59:31 PM
Attachments: [image001.jpg](#)
[image002.png](#)
[image003.png](#)
[image004.png](#)

UNCLASSIFIED

Hi s22

Thanks for this, much appreciated. I will hopefully find some time to read over the next week or so and come back to you with any questions.

No worries re invoicing, please send through to Accounts@nopsema.gov.au if you haven't already.

Cheers

s22

UNCLASSIFIED

From: s22
Sent: Thursday, 9 May 2019 2:42 PM
To: s22
Cc: s22
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Environmental Effects

National Offshore Petroleum Safety and Environmental Management Authority

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