

Unexploded Ordnance Disposal

NOAA Fisheries guidance for federal agencies regarding emergency UXO disposal:

1. The federal agency should maximize the effectiveness of above-water monitoring.
 - Use at least three monitoring locations positioned to maximize coverage.
 - Refrain from blasting when conditions impede proper monitoring or an adequate view of the entire area. These conditions include, but are not limited to, poor visibility and inadequate number of observers or positions of monitoring.
2. The federal agency should notify the Sea Turtle Stranding and Salvage Network (STSSN) and the Pacific Islands Region Marine Mammal Response Network (MMRN) of their schedule when blasting so they are aware when it is occurring.
 - Contact the STSSN and MMRN by calling 1-888-256-9840.
3. The federal agency should use additional precautions to prevent takes of sea turtles.
 - Ensure that personnel will search specifically for sea turtles at least a 100-foot radius from each blast site prior to blasting.
 - Contact the STSSN if a hawksbill sea turtle is observed at any point during the operation and suspend blasting until the STSSN responds with guidance or a preemptive rescue.
4. The federal agency should take additional precautions to prevent takes of Hawaiian monk seals.
 - Contact and use the MMRN or other qualified observers for assistance and monitoring of hauled-out seals, and adapt work schedules according to their guidance based on observations.
 - Keep a log of each Hawaiian monk seal sighting and report them to pifsc.monksealsighting@noaa.gov.
5. Observe the land and water in the action area after detonations to document potential blasting-related injuries to wildlife that may not immediately be observed.
6. The federal agency should assist the STSSN and the MMRN with observing the area after each day of blasting to find strandings or animals in distress. If strandings occur, the federal agency should contact the respective programs. NOAA Fisheries will review the stranding information provided by STSSN or MMRN and determine whether a particular stranding resulted from the action.