



Convention on the Conservation of
Migratory Species of Wild Animals (CMS)



How the CMS Family Noise EIA Guidelines support the assessment of the potential impacts of noise-generating activities

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The Need for Guidelines for EIAs

- Those entrusted with granting approvals and permits for activities in the marine environment need ways of assessing in advance what the impact on marine life will be
- The best way to achieve this is by making effective use of Environmental Impact Assessments (EIA)



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Guidelines for EIAs Endorsed at CMS COP12



- 23-28 October 2017
- **Resolution 12.14 on Adverse Impacts of Anthropogenic Noise on Cetaceans and Other Migratory Species**
EIA Guidelines annexed
- www.cms.int/en/cop12



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CMS Guidelines on Environmental Impact Assessments for Marine Noise-generating Activities

Contain:

- Introduction
- Technical Advisory Notes
- Separate modules for different industries
- A link to detailed Technical Support Information (CMS/COP12/Inf.11)





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CMS Guidelines on Environmental Impact Assessments for Marine Noise-generating Activities

- Aim: ensure that decision-makers are presented with sufficient evidence to make an informed judgement of impacts of a proposed activity



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Industries/noise sources addressed:

- Military and civil high-powered sonar
- Shipping and vessel traffic
- Seismic surveys (air gun and alternative technologies)
- Construction works
- Offshore platforms
- Playback and sound exposure experiments
- Pingers (acoustic deterrent/harassment devices, navigation)
- Other noise-generating activities (acoustic data transmission; wind, tidal and wave turbines, future technologies)





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Structure of the Guidelines

For each activity, details required for the following components are outlined:

- 1) Description of area
- 2) Description of the equipment and activity
- 3) Modelling of noise propagation loss
- 4) Species impact
- 5) Mitigation and monitoring plans
- 6) Reporting plans
- 7) Consultation and independent review



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Structure of the Guidelines

1) Description of area

- physical characteristics and ecosystem information
- typical weather characteristics of the proposed activity period
- Details of previous and simultaneous activities



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Structure of the Guidelines

2) Description of the equipment and activity

- Available technologies and reason for choice made
- Details of technology to be used, incl. vessel, total duration, timing of operations, signal duration and sound intensity level
- Specification of the activity, incl. nautical miles to be covered, track lines, vessel speed, settings, number of devices
- Identification of other activities having an impact in the region to determine potential cumulative or synergistic impacts



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Structure of the Guidelines

3) Modelling of noise propagation loss

- Detail of independent, scientific modelling of noise propagation in the expected conditions
- Identification and mapping of proposed exclusion zones and description of how noise propagation into these zones will be minimized



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Structure of the Guidelines

4) Species impact

- Identification and density of species likely to be present and calculated extent of impact zone
- Type of impact predicted on protected species and their prey
- Behaviour of species group and effect on their detectability
- Vulnerability, habitat needs, and likely impact of expected exposure levels and duration on each species group
- Quantification of the effectiveness of proposed mitigation methods



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Structure of the CMS Family Guidelines

5) Mitigation and monitoring plans

- Before activity: species distribution and behavior
- During and after activity: impact
- Regular real-time public reporting of activity progress and impacts
- Available methods for species detection, description of their advantages and limitations, practical application during activity
- Impact mitigation proposals, incl. detection methods, establishment of exclusion zones, soft start and shut-down protocols, spatio-temporal restrictions



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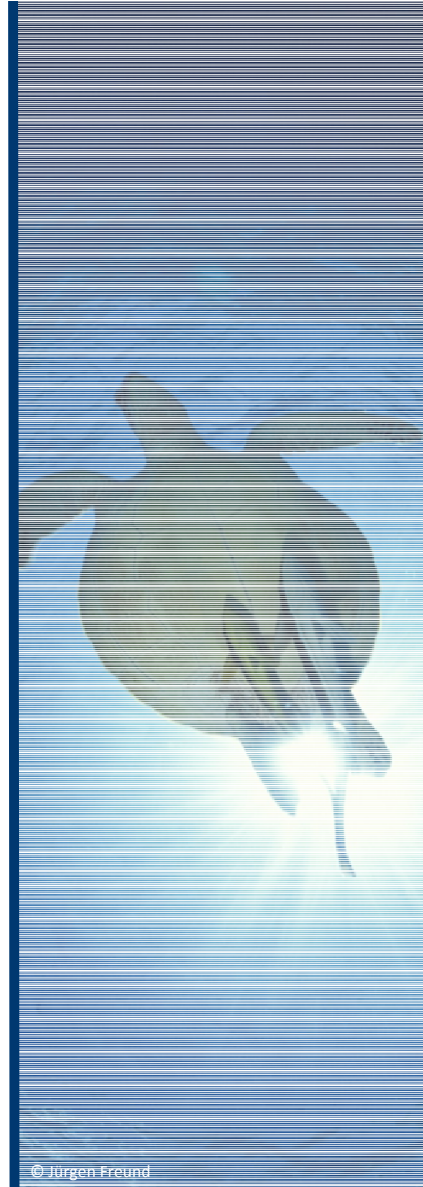
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Structure of the CMS Family Guidelines

6) Reporting plans

- Post-operation reporting plans incl. verification of the effectiveness of mitigation





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Structure of the CMS Family Guidelines

7) Consultation and independent review

- Consultations prior to EIA submission, incl. stakeholders consulted and information provided, comments received, amendments and changes made in response to comments, details and reasons why any comments were not accommodated
- Independent review of draft EIA, incl. names, affiliations and qualifications of independent reviewers, comments received, amendments and changes made in response to comments, details and reasons why any comments were not accommodated



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Where to find the CMS Guidelines

www.cms.int/en/cop12docs

Tab “Resolutions”:

Resolution 12.14 – Adverse Impacts of Anthropogenic Noise on Cetaceans and Other Migratory Species

Tab “Information Documents”:

Inf.11/Rev.1 – Technical Support Information to the CMS Family Guidelines on Environmental Impact Assessment for Marine Noise Generating Activities

