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Environmental Risk Management Capability: Advice on minimising the impact of sonar on marine mammals

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The Environmental Risk Management Capability - Sonar (ERMC(S)) has now been accepted into service by the UK Royal Navy. ERMC(S) is the first operational software package that provides a comprehensive risk assessment of the common concern of the potential impact of sonar usage on marine mammals. The algorithms include allowance for extended periods of use and advice on achievable mitigation options. Now that the system has achieved this significant milestone, this paper reviews the elements of the system that have made progress to this stage so successful:
- The techniques and data used by the algorithms. - The inclusive development approach that allowed all the concerned stakeholders to be satisfied with the processes utilised. - The annual review cycle that will enable the tool to maintain its links with forefront research in this area. - The application of the system to non-military sound sources as the benchmark approach.
This paper will show how ERMC(S) can be develop into a tool for both commercial and military sound sources using proving and established techniques.