THE OPPORTUNISTIC STUDY OF BLAINVILLE’S AND CUvier’S BEaked
WHALES CONCURRENT WITH MID-FREQUENCY ACTIVE SONAR

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Passive acoustic methods have been used to document significant populations of Blainville’s beaked whales (*Mesoplodon densirostris*) at the Atlantic Undersea Test and Evaluation Center (AUTEC) and Cuvier’s beaked whales (*Ziphius cavirostris*) at the Southern California Offshore Range (SCORE) despite the repeated use of active sonar. For these deep diving cetaceans, vocalizations can be used as a proxy for foraging behavior, and as a means of determining their spatial and temporal distribution with and without sonar. Preliminary data from AUTEC strongly suggest Blainville’s beaked whales move off range during active events and return within a day after the cessation of such operations. The focus of this research is to determine animal behavior related to sonar exposure, develop long-term monitoring methods, and to document the health of animal populations using passive acoustic methods.