

# UNDERWATER MUNITIONS

*January 2025-December 2026*

## The Current Issue:

Underwater Munitions and Explosives of Concern (MEC) can be found in ponds, rivers, lakes, canals, intercoastal waterways, harbors, and the ocean. The Department of Defense (DOD) has identified over 450 underwater munitions response sites covering more than 10 million acres. The science and technology to address underwater munitions is constantly evolving and guidance on the detection, classification, characterization, recovery, and disposal of these MEC is needed.

Finding and addressing munitions in the underwater environment is challenging. The science and technology to address the detection, classification, characterization, verification, recovery, and disposal underwater munitions is rapidly evolving. There is a lack of comprehensive, standardized guidance on the technological and strategic approaches necessary for the effective detection of underwater munitions. This guidance document aims to address that gap by presenting current technologies, challenges, best practices, and investigative strategies tailored to the underwater domain.

## Proposed Solution:

This Project Team will develop materials to assist agencies meet cleanup goals, better characterize data gaps, and reduce environmental and human health hazards.

The team will develop a technical guidance document, fact sheets, and training materials to: create a framework for federal and state regulators to assess available underwater munitions response technologies, examine applications, limitations, and quality considerations, and promote best practices for selection and use.

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