

ADEM



ALABAMA DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL MANAGEMENT

POST OFFICE BOX 301463 36130-1463 ♦ 1400 COLISEUM BLVD. 36110-2059

MONTGOMERY, ALABAMA

WWW.ADEM.STATE.AL.US
(334) 271-7700

ONIS "TREY" GLENN, III, P.E.
DIRECTOR

BOB RILEY
GOVERNOR

November 6, 2006

United States Department of the Navy
Naval Facilities Engineering Command, Atlantic
Attn. Code EV 21 (Atlantic Fleet Sonar PM)
6506 Hampton Blvd.
Norfolk, VA 23508-1278

RE: Comments to proposed EIS for activities associated with Atlantic Fleet Active Sonar Training along East Coast of the United States and Gulf of Mexico.

Dear Sir:

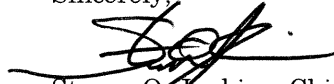
The Alabama Department of Environmental Management (ADEM or Department) would like to thank the United States Department of the Navy (USN) for providing preliminary notification and the opportunity to comment on the above-referenced proposed EIS. The Department received this notification via letter dated October 12, 2006 from J.M. Hinson, Captain, USN, Fleet Training Director.

The State of Alabama has long been opposed to the erection of structures that would extend above the water's surface within an area of the Gulf of Mexico located less than 15 miles offshore from Baldwin County, Alabama. Due to the significant positive economic value of south Baldwin County's beaches and gulf waters as a major tourist destination, the State's desire is to minimize visual impacts of any required structures associated with activities occurring offshore and within Federal waters.

Furthermore, pursuant to the ADEM's Division 8 Coastal Program regulations, the Department must consider the extent to which a use may adversely impact historical/archaeological sites, wildlife and fishery habitats, and public access to recreational resources such as navigable waters, beaches, submerged lands, and State water quality parameters. Therefore, the ADEM supports implementation of the Action Alternative that will result in the least adverse or disruptive affects to these valuable resources within the Gulf of Mexico, while still allowing the Navy to meet its combat training and readiness goals.

Call or write anytime with questions. J. Scott Brown is the Department contact for this project. He may be reached by telephone at [251] 432-6533. The Department looks forward to working with you in the future.

Sincerely,



Steven O. Jenkins, Chief
Field Operations Division
ADEM

Birmingham Branch
110 Vulcan Road
Birmingham, Alabama 35209-4702
(205) 942-6168
(205) 941-1603 [Fax]

Decatur Branch
2715 Sandlin Road, S.W.
Decatur, Alabama 35603-1333
(256) 353-1713
(256) 340-9359 [Fax]

Mobile Branch
2204 Perimeter Road
Mobile, Alabama 36615-1131
(251) 450-3400
(251) 479-2593 [Fax]

Mobile - Coastal
4171 Commanders Drive
Mobile, Alabama 36615-1421
(251) 432-6533
(251) 432-6598 [Fax]



Printed on Recycled Paper