

December 1, 2006

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Naval Facilities Engineering Command,
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Re: Navy 's proposed Mine Warfare and Antisubmarine Exercises along the East Coast and Gulf of Mexico.

Like all Floridians I am very supportive of the Navy. However, as true Floridian who was born and raised in South Florida I am concerned with the negative effects of Sonar and sound on marine life. Therefore, I do not support the proposed Mine Warfare and Antisubmarine Exercises.

There has been long standing arguments and ongoing litigation at State levels with regard to Sonar and War exercises in California, Hawaii, Virginia and North Carolina. Each state has voiced their concerns about the sonar's effects on marine mammals.

Florida is an even more ecologically sensitive state as we have the only living reef in the United States. Hurricanes, Global warming, and stormwater runoff have compromised the ecological balance of the Gulf of Mexico. The Florida Gulf Coast has been experiencing some of the worst red tides in recent history as well as unusual fish migration patterns. In addition, our reefs have not fully recovered from the effects of past hurricanes and are plagued by silt and coral bleaching.

The effects of the proposed exercises - and the risks - to the marine life and ecology specific to Florida are far greater than any temporary benefit the Navy may receive.

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