



ATLANTIC FLEET ACTIVE SONAR TRAINING  
ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT STATEMENT (EIS)/ OVERSEAS  
ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT STATEMENT (OEIS)

**Written Comment Form**

Your input is important to us. Please use this form to tell us about the environmental issues that you think should be studied in the Draft EIS/OEIS. Please feel free to use additional comment sheets if more space is needed. To ensure that your comments are considered in the Draft EIS/OEIS, we must receive them by December 1, 2006. You may also submit your comments online at <http://afasteis.gcsaic.com>.

Thank you for holding the forum. I learned a lot about the technology and the plans for assessing impact. I appreciate the need for the active sonar training, and I feel the Navy is beginning to take an active role in collecting the scientific evidence to determine the best strategies for minimizing damage to wildlife and habitat. The time for objective scientific assessment of AST is long overdue. I can only hope that the Navy is earnest in its effort to collect the most reliable evidence provided by the best marine biologists in the country, and that the Navy shares and disseminates that information to the public as the Navy attempts to balance its training needs and the mitigation of environmental impact. Of this forum and the development of →

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This form can be submitted to:  
Naval Facilities Engineering Command, Atlantic  
Attn: Code EV21 (East Coast Sonar PM)  
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the OEIS is merely a PR campaign designed to protect AST, then all of this effort will be a waste, and the environmental risks will continue. I would like to believe that the Navy will likely gather accurate information; what it chooses to do with that information is still ~~an~~ a concern, because it is easy to figure that the Navy is heavily invested in maintaining the AST and appears to have some solid rationale for continuing. Ultimately, I feel it is essential for the Navy to be honest and transparent about this assessment process - sharing information freely with the public. I recognize that the Navy must make decisions based on national security needs - but protection of the oceans is part of that algorithm and should receive significant weight. It is hard to imagine that the Navy did not have evidence for the effects of AS over the last 50 years - only now is it actively pursuing empirical research. Hopefully you appreciate my skepticism and my understanding of the role that the Navy plays in protecting our country. Please make use of the public to help find creative solutions to this problem, and please make a serious, coherent and earnest effort to gather the necessary information and make good decisions based upon that information. Thank you!