



Department of Environmental Protection

Jeb Bush
Governor

Marjory Stoneman Douglas Building
3900 Commonwealth Boulevard
Tallahassee, Florida 32399-3000

Colleen M. Castille
Secretary

November 6, 2006

Mr. M.R. Harrell, Assistant Deputy Chief of Staff
Operational Readiness and Training
Naval Facilities Engineering Command
6505 Hampton Boulevard
Norfolk, VA 23508-1278

RE: Department of the Navy – Scoping Notice – Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) for Atlantic Fleet Active Sonar Training along the East Coast and in the Gulf of Mexico – of Interest to the State of Florida.
SAI # FL200610062833C

Dear Mr. Harrell:

The Florida State Clearinghouse, pursuant to Presidential Executive Order 12372, Gubernatorial Executive Order 95-359, the Coastal Zone Management Act, 16 U.S.C. §§ 1451-1464, as amended, and the National Environmental Policy Act, 42 U.S.C. §§ 4321, 4331-4335, 4341-4347, as amended, has coordinated a review of the referenced scoping notice.

The Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission (FWC) recommends that the proposed EIS identify all protected and sensitive habitats that may be impacted by this project and provide a thorough evaluation of the impacts to all protected species throughout the project boundary. Additionally, staff requests the opportunity to review and comment on the draft EIS prior to implementation. Though FWC cannot determine whether the project would be consistent with Chapters 370 and 372, *Florida Statutes*, under the Florida Coastal Management Program/Coastal Zone Management Act, they note that the agency is committed to working with the Department of the Navy to ensure that the proposed activities will be consistent and potential impacts to fish and wildlife resources will be minimized. Please refer to the enclosed letter from the FWC for further information.

Based on the information contained in the public notice and the enclosed state agency comments, the state has determined that, at this stage, the proposed federal action is consistent with the Florida Coastal Management Program (FCMP). The agency must, however, address the concerns identified by FWC staff prior to project implementation. The state's continued concurrence with the project will be based, in part, on the adequate resolution of any issues identified during this and subsequent reviews.

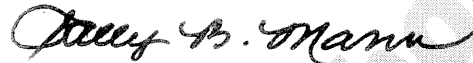
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Mr. M.R. Harrell
November 6, 2006
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Thank you for the opportunity to review this proposal. Should you have any questions regarding this letter, please contact Ms. Lauren P. Milligan at (850) 245-2170.

Yours sincerely,



Sally B. Mann, Director
Office of Intergovernmental Programs

SBM/lm
Enclosure

cc: Mary Ann Poole, FWC

Florida State Clearinghouse

FLORIDA FISH AND WILDLIFE CONSERVATION COMMISSION



RODNEY BARRETO
Miami

SANDRA T. KAUPE
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MARY ANN POOLE, DIRECTOR
OFFICE OF POLICY AND STAKEHOLDER COORDINATION
(850)488-6661 TDD (850)488-9542
FAX (850)922-5679

October 27, 2006

Ms. Lauren Milligan, Clearinghouse Coordinator
Florida State Clearinghouse
Florida Department of Environmental Protection
3900 Commonwealth Boulevard, Mail Station 47
Tallahassee, FL 32399-3000

Re: SAI #FL200610062833C, Scoping Notice -
Environmental Impact Statement for
Atlantic Fleet Active Sonar Training along
the East Coast and in the Gulf of Mexico

Dear Ms. Milligan:

The Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission (FWC) has coordinated agency review of the Department of the Navy's intent to produce an Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) for the Atlantic Fleet Active Sonar Training along the East Coast and in the Gulf of Mexico. The Department of the Navy is currently seeking input for the preparation of the draft EIS to identify important issues early in the process.

In accordance with the Coastal Zone Management Act/Florida Coastal Management Program and the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA), we recommend that the EIS identify all protected and sensitive habitats that may be impacted by this project as well as providing a thorough evaluation of the impacts to all protected species throughout the project boundary. Additionally, we request the opportunity to review and comment on the EIS prior to implementation.

It is not clear at this time if this project would be consistent with Chapters 370 and 372, Florida Statutes, under the Florida Coastal Management Program/Coastal Zone Consistency Act, so we are further committed to working with the Department of the Navy to ensure that this will be the case when the draft EIS is prepared.

We fully support efforts to maintain and improve the safety of our seas. To that end, we look forward to continued collaboration so that the project minimizes potential impacts to fish and wildlife resources. We appreciate the opportunity to provide input on this project and are available to provide additional assistance, if needed. Please do not hesitate to contact me at 850-

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Ms. Lauren Milligan
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488-6661 if you would like to coordinate regarding these comments, or call Melissa Hughes at 850-922-4330 if you have specific questions.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Mary Ann Poole".

Mary Ann Poole, Director
Office of Policy and Stakeholder Coord.

map/mh
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