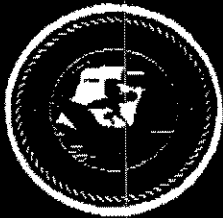


A-018



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 provide your feedback on 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 Final EIS/OEIS, we must receive them by March 31, 2008. You may also submit your comments online at http://afasteis.gcsaic.com.

22 These are my major concerns for the Navy's program of AFAST #1. The proposed sonar training sites are one of the world's high density of marine life. Many of the species are either protected or on the endangered species list. 23

24 #2 The Navy and the scientific community agree that AFAST does have an affect on marine mammals - the closer to the testing site, the greater the damage.

25 #3 Many universities, well-known scientists believe that more knowledge of impacted area is needed before testing.

26 The Navy has acknowledge that sonar (mid-frequency) has caused the deaths of haked whales.

27 #4 I am urging the Navy to continue with its research but not go ahead with AFAST.

Your Name & E-Mail Address: Debora A. Mosher deboramosher@aol.com

Mailing Address: 2019 FOX'S LAIR TRAIL

City / State / Zip Code NORFOLK, VA 23518

Individual respondents may request confidentiality. If you wish to withhold your name or address from public review or from disclosure under the Freedom of Information Act (FOIA), you must state this prominently at the beginning of your comments. Such requests will be honored to the extent allowed by law. All submissions from organizations or businesses, and from individuals or officials representing organizations or businesses, will be made available for public inspection in their entirety.

This form can be submitted to: Naval Facilities Engineering Command, Atlantic Attn: Code EV22 (AFAST PM) 6506 Hampton Blvd. Norfolk, VA 23508-1278 Fax: (888) 875-6781

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In this particular situation I would hope that the operative action of the Navy will be commensurate with the ninth circuit court's opinion that it has just rendered in southern California, a sanctuary in Hawaii. The rules and regs are pretty clear now through that court decision, and I would hope that the Navy will follow that and comply with that so that we can have the same protections here on the East Coast.

Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

THE HEARING OFFICER: Thank you, Mr.

James.

Ms. Mosher.

MS. MOSHER: Yes.

THE HEARING OFFICER: Please.

MS. MOSHER: Thank you for letting

me speak tonight. I have great respect for the Navy. My husband was also in it. I realize the purpose of the Navy is to defend our country and through this operation I'm able to stand here freely and talk. I also want to say I was amazed when I walked in here and saw the information that you had for people such as myself. I feel that the information is very important when you want to speak on a subject that you feel very dear about.

1 It was very thoughtful. The information was very
2 thorough and it definitely will have a better
3 understanding of active sonar and its impact on
4 what we call animals of the ocean.]

5 319 [My concern was when I looked at a
6 newspaper article showing that there were three
7 proposed sonar training ranges off our coast and,
8 of course, living here I'm very concerned about
9 that.] [320 I also realize that the Navy is very
10 interested in finding a cheaper, quieter diesel to
11 detect the cheaper, quieter and diesel submarines
12 that can be in our waters.]

13 325 [In the past the Navy has
14 acknowledged that it has created probably some
15 deaths to whales. There's been other strandings
16 of whales when sonar has been associated with
17 sonar.] [326 Sometimes the Navy does not estimate
18 correctly its impact and I think that's why we are
19 concerned.] [327 I urge the Navy to take measures to
20 reduce the harm of active sonar that it poses to
21 the whales, dolphins and fish and what it's doing
22 now to actively do analysis on our environment and
23 on our economy.] [329 The designated areas that you
24 have that you want to do this training in, of
25 course, are the ones in which the animals live.

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This is an additional stress to an already
environmentally stressed out area.]
✓ [I really want to thank you for your
information. It's been very helpful to me. It's
sort of changed my mind in some ways. It is the
key, and with my 30 seconds I just want to say to
the Navy please be honest with the public. If
there is a problem, do not keep it from us.]

THE HEARING OFFICER: Thank you, Ms.
Mosher.

Ms. Barco. Am I reading that
correctly?

MS. BARCO: Yes.

THE HEARING OFFICER: Okay, thank
you.

MS. BARCO: Thank you for the
opportunity to speak tonight. My name is Susan
Barco and I'm representing the Virginia Aquarium
and Marine Science Center in Virginia Beach,
Virginia. I'm the stranding response coordinator
for that organization and I work regularly with
stranded marine mammals and sea turtles.

While we support the Navy and want
our troops to be well-trained, we also want to
express our concern for the marine mammal

1 within areas of increased awareness, and to me
2 that is the most important aspect of what we're
3 talking about.

4 We share this planet with some of
5 the most magnificent creatures in the universe and
6 there is a great need to protect our country and
7 the economies of those coastal areas where so much
8 activity takes place. This southeastern Virginia
9 area and the Chesapeake Bay area and the mouth out
10 into the Atlantic is one of the most important
11 areas. Tourism drives a good chunk of the economy
12 here in Virginia Beach and tourists love to come
13 and learn about marine mammals. We know that for
14 a fact.

15 And so we ask again that the Navy
16 take every single precaution in any of these
17 alternatives to make sure that we not shoot
18 ourselves in the foot unnecessarily.

19 Thank you.

20 THE HEARING OFFICER: Thank you, Mr.
21 James.

22 Ms. Mosher, anything further?

23 MS. MOSHER: No.

24 THE HEARING OFFICER: Very well.



25 Ms. Basco I believe has left.

1 Mr. Asher, anything further?

2 MR. ASHER: No.

3 THE HEARING OFFICER: Very well.

4 Would anyone like to come up and say anything
5 further?

6 MS. MOSHER:  I would just like to
7 thank the Navy for actually looking and doing
8 research. I do not know who put the \$14 \$17
9 million per year who may forced the Navy to do
10 that, whether it was internally or externally, but
11 I think that that will go a long way to helping us
12 with this problems. 

13 THE HEARING OFFICER: Thank you for
14 your comments.

15 MS. FLENGAS: Is there any way to
16 get any data back from the research that is
17 ongoing from these different universities, et
18 cetera? I'd like to know what the environmental
19 impact is and what they've been doing about it.

20 THE HEARING OFFICER: Ma'am, could I
21 ask first of all for you to identify yourself
22 before I then tell you I can't answer your
23 question. But go ahead.

24 MS. FLENGAS: I'm sorry. My name is
25 Evelyn Flengas. I live in Virginia Beach and I'm