

NAVY AFAST PUBLIC HEARING
MOREHEAD CITY, NORTH CAROLINA
MARCH 11, 2008

1 to our state.

2 The next generation, I hope, will find that
3 our beach and our waters are one of a kind.

4 If we need more research, let's do it now.
5 Let's not be afraid to explore this whole thing

6 Of sonar sounds and notes of ping-ping so our
7 grandchildren's children can still hear the whales
8 sing.

9 **LT. COL. GREER:** Thank you, Ms. Gerdsen.
10 Mr. Spruill?

11 **MR. SPRUILL:** [Good evening. My name is
12 Jack Spruill, S-p-r-u-i-l-l. I'm speaking as the vice
13 president of PenderWatch and Conservancy. It's a citizens-
14 based organization, all volunteer, having 400 members. ✓
15 We're based two counties down the coast in Hampstead. The
16 full address of the organization is on our letterhead there.
17 I'll give some brief comments summarizing what's in our
18 letter.]

19 [In Section 1.4.1 of the Environmental
20 Impact Statement, it's revealed that the Navy has received
21 131 comment letters in response to the scoping sessions. We
22 respectfully request that the Navy release -- post to the --
23 post to the Web all 131 letters immediately so everyone
24 concerned about this matter can have the benefit of all
25 letters that have been issued.] 533

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1 [PenderWatch and Conservancy, together
2 with many people here, have been very involved in reviewing
3 and challenging plans for the offshore sonar training range,
4 located just offshore here in Onslow Bight. In response to
5 a Freedom of Information Act request, the Navy posted 866
6 comment letters received in response to that Draft
7 Environmental Impact Statement. We know that additional
8 comment letters were submitted, but the Navy chose to post
9 866 of those letters. We have read every one of those
10 letters and report to you that 95 percent of the letters
11 expressed either direct opposition to the plans or expressed
12 very strong concerns about the lack of thoroughness of that
13 Draft Environmental Impact Statement.]

14 [At the scoping meeting for this project
15 held here in Morehead in November 2006, the Navy told us
16 that all of the comment letters submitted concerning the
17 training range here at Onslow Bight would be considered as
18 comment letters on this matter. Of course, we don't have
19 access to the 131 letters, but since 866 doesn't go into
20 131, we have to conclude that those letters were not
21 considered. We request that the Navy immediately
22 incorporate all letters received concerning the sonar
23 training range as official comment letters concerning this
24 matter.]

25 [Section 3.2.5 of the Impact Statement

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1 says that part of the process included going to Google
2 looking for information. We suggest it would be more
3 appropriate to walk down the hall and read all the comment
4 letters that were submitted concerning the Training Range
5 before the Navy spends time Googling.]

6 Thank you very much.

7 **LT. COL. GREER:** Thank you, Mr. Spruill.

8 Ms. Nolan?

9 **MS. NOLAN:** Good evening. My name is
10 Michelle Nolan. I'm with the Southern Environmental Law
11 Center. We're based in Chapel Hill, North Carolina.

12 I'd like to point out, just as a way to
13 introduce the comments and the concerns that I think many
14 people have, that there have been many studies posted
15 recently, including by our own Federal government with the
16 Environmental Protection Agency and the National Marine
17 Fisheries Service, that indicate that our oceans are in
18 peril. Our fish populations are declining. We have corals
19 that are dying. We have declining populations of marine
20 mammals, turtles, and commercially important fisheries.

21 These negative things that we're seeing
22 happening in our ocean environment are the effect -- the
23 result of the cumulative effect of the number of different
24 activities taking place that include over-fishing from
25 commercials fleets, pollution from stormwater, and ships

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(cont'd)

John R. Spruill
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Hampstead, NC 28443
910 270 3140
jsprll@aol.com

March 16, 2008

Mr. Richard J. Nissen
Code EV22 AFAST Project Manager
US Navy
6506 Hampton Boulevard
Norfolk, VA 23508 - 1278

AFAST DEIS

Dear Mr. Nissen:

[Please consider my attached letter of January 18, 2006 on the USWTR DEIS as a comment letter on this subject DEIS.]

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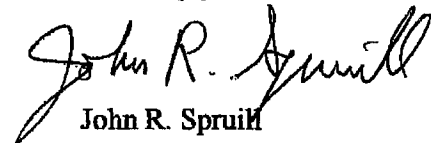
[The comments on the USWTR DEIS are equally applicable to the AFAST DEIS] [The subject DEIS does not mention our CHPP. Further, the Navy has not issued any response to my comment letter of January 18, 2006.]

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I look forward to receiving your response. Thank you very much.

Sincerely yours,


John R. Spruill

Copies to:

Ms. Anne Deaton
CHPP Director
NC Division of Marine Fisheries

Mr. William G. Ross, Jr.
Secretary
NC Department of Environment and Natural Resources

John R. Spruill
1836 Corcus Ferry Road
Hampstead, NC 28443

January 18, 2006

Mr. Keith Jenkins
Code EV21KJ
Naval Facilities Engineering Command, Atlantic
6505 Hampton Boulevard
Norfolk, VA 23508 1278

October 2005 Draft EIS for Proposed Onslow Bight Sonar Range

Dear Mr. Jenkins:

[I am writing to comment on the subject EIS.

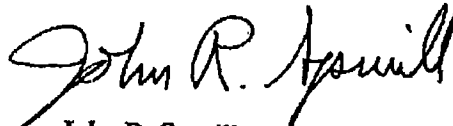
In 2004 the State of North Carolina adopted the Coastal Habitat Protection Plan (CHPP). This is a comprehensive strategic plan with goals of protecting our entire coastal habitat. It was developed after several years of extensive work by a task force of our Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR.) There was active participation in the input and draft comment stages by numerous citizens and citizens-based groups. I was active in those processes. All relevant state agencies and commissions reviewed the strategic plan and all have committed to a full and successful implementation. DENR is responsible for the implementation and monitoring compliance with, and success of, CHPP.

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Now that CHPP has been fully adopted, everything that is done concerning our coast is required to be in compliance with CHPP. This includes actions by individuals, businesses, state agencies and our state legislature.

The subject EIS does not even mention CHPP. I respectfully request that when the EIS is reissued as a second draft that the Navy commits to following the letter and spirit of CHPP in the sonar range matter just as everyone else who lives or does business in North Carolina is required to do.]

Very truly yours,



John R. Spruill

Copy to:

Mr. William G. Ross, Jr.
Secretary
N.C. Department of Environment and Natural Resources