

## WYOMING ADVOCATES FOR ANIMALS

316 East Pershing Boulevard  
Cheyenne, WY 82001

March 26, 2008

Naval Facilities Engineering Command, LANTRDIV  
Attn: Code EV22 (Atlantic Fleet Sonar Project Manager)  
6506 Hampton Blvd.  
Norfolk, VA 23508-1278

Re: AFAST Study Area - DRAFT Environmental Statement

Sirs:

Though I reside in Wyoming, I am a Californian, home being Alameda, home of the late Alameda Naval Air Station and the "Big E." While I enjoy Wyoming's wildlife, there is no species closer to my heart than that of marine life, whether on the Atlantic or the Pacific coasts.

Consequently, [I am more than alarmed that the U. S. Navy continues to do grievous harm to marine life. While I do not live adjacent to the study area, I am compelled to speak up for its animals.] ✓

I am now 78 years old, have been around the military and its families in one context or another since childhood. Growing up, the majority of my friends were "Army brats" from the former Fort Warren, now F. E. Warren AFB, home of the Minuteman missile. I worked for over 25 years in the Defense Industry, and was blessed to do so. My work ranged from the USAF to RCA to The Boeing Company, and even for a U. S. Congressman whose home base was Long Beach, California. I have lived not only in Alameda, but in San Diego, and for over 40 years I volunteered for the American Red Cross in military hospitals in California, Montana, Wyoming, and the District of Columbia as a recreation specialist.

I was active with the Air Force Association for nearly 20 years, and during the Vietnam conflict most of my friends were wives of USAF or USN KIA or MIA personnel. I was in Alameda on hand to help welcome USN's Richard Stratton home to his wife, Alice.

As such, I too, along with millions of Americans, military or civilian, value my country, and value the resources to keep it safe.

I DO NOT, HOWEVER, condone the study above-referenced, now or ever. [I am no scientist, but I cannot, and do not, believe the Navy's requirements should supersede in any manner its commitment to marine life obligations.] ✓

[I am informed that many exercises are being conducted at night, or other periods when visibility is poor.] [I am further informed feeding and breeding areas, WHERE MARINE ANIMALS ARE KNOWN TO CONGREGATE, are not being wholly offlimits.] 1005  
1006

[And I suspect that the migration paths of our endangered North Atlantic right whale are also not offlimits during that period of time.] 1007

While I suppose there must be some type of sonar exercises, still it behooves the Navy to first and foremost provide the means and the manpower to check that marine mammals are not in the exercise zone. [It seems to me that personnel trained and dedicated to marine mammal safety as observers would be a welcome duty assignment, and one that could well carry over very well into civilian life.] ✓

[And what are you doing about animals (such as dolphins, for instance) that may come too close to a sonar dome? Is that animal, or animals, safe because the dome is shut down, and free to leave the area unaffected?] 1009

Lastly, while I live in the inner workings of the U.S., there are many who do not, and I have to question what the USN is doing about public information? [Are all exercises being reported (documenting ship positions, sonar use, and any other available information) publically, and at no charge?] 1010

Questions, Guys! Listen up! [These animals were there first, and should have primary consideration over and above any consideration whatever. We are smart enough to protect our nation, no matter what. Are we smart enough not to destroy other species that are as valuable, perhaps more so in some contexts, than human beings? A radical view? Perhaps. But one I do not for a minute apologize for.] 1427

Sincerely,

*Jeannine R. Stallings*  
Jeannine R. Stallings  
President/Founder  
Wyoming Advocates  
for Animals