

G-004



STATE OF DELAWARE
DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES & ENVIRONMENTAL CONTROL
DIVISION OF SOIL AND WATER CONSERVATION

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DELAWARE COASTAL
MANAGEMENT PROGRAM

March 4, 2008

J.M. Hinson
Naval Facilities Engineering Command, Atlantic
6506 Hampton Boulevard
Norfolk, Virginia 23508-1278
Attention: Code EV22 (AFAST PM)

**RE: Atlantic Fleet Active Sonar Training Draft Environmental Impact Statement
Delaware Department of Natural Resources and Environmental Control Comments**

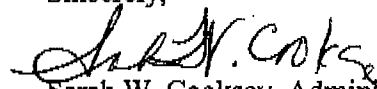
Dear J. M. Hinson,

157 [The Delaware Department of Natural Resources and Environmental Control has reviewed the Draft Environmental Impact Statement for the Atlantic Fleet Active Sonar Training. While no active sonar training is proposed adjacent to Delaware's coastline, we are concerned about potential impacts to marine mammals throughout the mid-Atlantic region from mid-frequency active sonar. As such we request that the Navy consider the following mitigation measures enacted by the Ninth Circuit Court of Appeals for similar Navy exercises off the coast of California:

1. Conduct aerial monitoring for sixty minutes prior to using mid-frequency active sonar and implement mitigation and reporting measures in the event of a sighting.
2. Provide lookouts with National Marine Fisheries Service approved training for spotting marine mammals.
3. Use existing passive acoustic monitoring devices to the extent possible to detect presence of marine mammals.
4. Cease or reduce mid-frequency active sonar decibels when marine mammals are spotted within 2,200 yards.]

Thank you for the opportunity to comment.

Sincerely,


Sarah W. Cooksey, Administrator
Delaware Coastal Programs