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Belhaven, NC ██████████

March 25, 2008

Naval Facilities Engineering Command, Atlantic Division
Attention: Code EV22 (Atlantic Fleet Sonar Project Manager)
6506 Hampton Boulevard
Norfolk, VA 23508-1278

Dear Atlantic Fleet Sonar Project Manager:

We are deeply concerned about the use of active sonar along the Atlantic Coast of the United States as described in the Draft Environmental Impact Statement/Overseas Environmental Impact Statement (EIS/OEIS) for Atlantic Fleet Active Sonar Training (AFAST).

[698
The links between the use of active sonar and cumulative harm to ocean and marine life due to active sonar activities cannot be ignored. [699
In January 2005, following US Navy Atlantic Fleet Active Sonar Training activities, thirty-six whales were stranded on the Outer Banks. In March 2007, following sonar activities, a Blainsville beaked whale, injured in both ears as evidenced by bleeding,] was stranded.

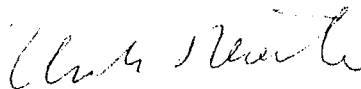
Our concerns are also for the potential serious impacts to all marine mammals, sea turtles, and other marine life. [700
As far as we know, it has not been proven that active sonar does not adversely affect fish populations, which in turn could negatively impact the fishing industry and thus North Carolina's economy.] Additionally, [701
we wonder about the possible impacts to the ocean bottom and any coral populations from both the sonar activities themselves and any abandoned hardware.]

[703
We would also like to know why is the Navy is proposing a fixed sonar range (the USWTR) before it has answered the many questions from the public about the Atlantic Fleet Active Sonar Training? It would make better sense for the public if all sonar proposals had been handled in one Environmental Impact Statement.]

We appreciate your addressing these concerns and including our comments in the current EIS.

Sincerely,


Mary and Ulrich Alsentzer



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