

PETITION TO STOP THE U.S. NAVY 5-YEAR WARFARE TESTING PROGRAMS IN THE PACIFIC OCEAN
PROTECT OUR MARINE MAMMALS & FISH in the Navy NWTRC areas of Northern California, Oregon, Washington & Idaho)

Whereas, in a letter to NOAA (National Oceanic & Atmospheric Administration), dated June 19, 2009, U.S. Senators Dianne Feinstein and Barbara Boxer, along with U.S. Congressman Henry Waxman stated:

“...In many regions, the Navy plans to increase the number of its exercises or expand the areas in which they may occur, and virtually every coastal state will be affected. Some exercises may occur in the nation's most biologically sensitive marine habitats, including National Marine Sanctuaries and breeding habitat(s)...In all, the Navy anticipates more than 2.3 million takes (significant disruptions in marine mammal foraging, breeding, and other essential behaviors) per year, or 11.7 million takes over the course of a five-year permit...” (Pacific, Atlantic, and Gulf of Mexico)

U.S. Department of Commerce - NOAA Definition: “TAKE” Defined *under ESA* as “to harass, harm, pursue, hunt, shoot, wound, kill, trap, capture, or collect, or to attempt to engage in any such conduct.” With respect to military readiness activities, the MMPA defines “harassment” as: “...(i) any act that injures or has the significant potential to injure a marine mammal or marine mammal stock in the wild [Level A Harassment]; or (ii) any act that disturbs or is likely to disturb a marine mammal or marine mammal stock in the wild by causing disruption of natural behavioral patterns, including, but not limited to, migration, surfacing, nursing, breeding, feeding, or sheltering, to a point where such behavioral patterns are abandoned or significantly altered [Level B Harassment]...training activities may expose some of the marine mammals present in the area to sound from various mid-frequency and high-frequency active tactical sonar sources or to pressure from underwater detonations..”

Whereas, 32 species of marine mammals are in harm's way due to U.S. Navy Warfare and New Weapons Testing, bomb blasts, toxic chemicals, and Sonar, from 5-Year Warfare testing programs currently underway in Southern California Hawaii, and other areas of the Pacific Ocean;

Whereas, NOAA Chief Administrator, Dr. Jane Lubchenco authorized the "taking" of marine mammals in Northern California, Oregon, and Washington in the Pacific Ocean in November 2010, and then in a public meeting in Ukiah, CA, on December 9, 2010, when asked about the U.S. Navy usage of sonar during gray whale migration, and her issuance of a permit to allow the Navy to "take" marine mammals, admitted that this is: "...also an area where I have serious concerns. We are in active discussions with the Navy. There is a lot we don't know about the impact of sonar on whales, and we will continue to get the information we need to reach the best possible outcomes."

Therefore, we the undersigned, demand that the “taking” of marine mammals and fish be stopped and that U.S. Senate hearings be held to protect public health, air and water supplies, fish, birds, ocean habitat, our marine mammals, and other threatened and endangered species.

We further demand that NOAA rescind its Navy Permit and Letter of Authorization which allows the Navy to harm marine mammals until Public Workshops are held in Eureka or Sacramento, California, which will identify and protect our biologically sensitive marine areas, protect National Marine Sanctuaries, and marine reserves from such testing!

Printed Name	Printed Address, City, State	Telephone #	Signature	Date