



KTVU.com Mobile
Get KTVU MOBILE on your cell phone.
[Click Here!](#)



Current conditions for local cities

City	San Jose	San Francisco	Oakland
Current Temperature	59°	55°	55°
Sky Conditions	Mostly Cloudy	Partly Cloudy	Cloudy

[Full Forecast >>](#)



[Current Radar >>](#)

Weather Features:

- [StormTracker2](#)
- [KTVU Tower Cam](#)
- [Weather Webcast](#)
- [Weather Alerts](#)
- [5 Day Forecast](#)
- [Quake Alerts](#)

- [home](#)
- [news](#)
- [Weather](#)
- [Traffic](#)
- [Sports](#)
- [Business](#)
- [Marketplace](#)
- [Entertainment](#)
- [Networking](#)
- [KTVU / TV36](#)

Site Web Results by

- [RSS](#)
- |
- [E-mail](#)
- |
- [Desktop Alerts](#)
- |
- [Mobile](#)

[Home News](#)

Story

Naval War Games Threaten Traquility On Lost Coast

Posted: 8:31 pm PDT May 18, 2009 Updated: 12:20 am PDT May 19, 2009

MENDOCINO, Calif. -- A remote and windswept area of the Mendocino-Humboldt shore called the Lost Coast is set to become a battleground if the U.S. Navy gets its way.

The sea-faring branch of the U.S. armed forces plans to hold live-fire, anti-submarine war games along the coastline.

"The Navy has the title requirement to train its sailors and airmen before they go into harm's way," said U.S. Navy spoke person Kimberly Kler.

Not surprisingly, area environmental activists are making a stand against the Navy's proposed plans.

It is not the right thing to do, said Hawk Rosales of the Intertribal Sinkyoone Wilderness Council. "The effects could be irreversible, and that's something we're not willing to allow."

Recently peace activists delivered to Mendocino County Congressman Mike Thompson petitions signed by many opposed to the war games.

"We collected thousands and thousands of signatures protesting the Navy's attempts to militarize the ocean," said Judith Vidiver of the Ocean Protection Coalition.

Most Popular

- [Stories](#)
- [Videos](#)
- [Slideshows](#)

[Newborn Baby Girl's Body Found In Union City Dumpster](#)
[Pathologist: Grant Could Not Have Survived Wound](#)
[Student, Teacher Injured In Healdsburg Metal Shop Explosion](#)

The Navy acknowledges more than a half million marine mammals -- mostly whales and dolphins -- could be harmed by explosions and especially by sonar. But environmentalists say the true numbers could be as high as 11 million, even when warships are miles away.

"This technology is known to severely impact marine mammals, easily tens of miles away," said Michael Jasny of the Natural Resources Defense Council.

There were two public hearings held to discuss the subject. Both were barely attended.

Critics say the public hearings were disingenuous and that the Navy was really trying to fly under the radar, employing a kind of stealth maneuver to avoid public scrutiny. Activists say the Navy will not get away with it.

It was truly appalling, said Mendocino resident Meredith Smith. "It had so many frightening aspects and no real information."

Another Mendocino resident, Ron Eich, agreed: "I'm hoping there's going to be more information made available before a decision's made."

Activist Rosalind Peterson pored over the Navy's thousand-page environmental impact statement and raised the alarm.

"I think that everyone along the way kept quiet about this; hoping it would go through without us really knowing and having a voice in the process," said Peterson

The Navy says it wants to expand its anti submarine warfare training because of a growing threat from small, stealthy submarines that run quietly on diesel or advanced non-nuclear power.

40 countries from China to Chile and even Iran now operate such submarines.

"That is...one of the reasons why we train and [a reason] we need to train with sonar," said Navy spokesperson Kler. "To detect diesel submarines."

The Navy says it plans lookouts to watch for marine mammals.

"We are in compliance with the Marine Mammal Protection Act and the Endangered Species Act and under consultation with national marine fisheries service," defended Kler.

In fact, the Navy says it will scale down exercises when animals are spotted. Environmentalists call that mitigation "laughably inadequate."

"The only effective mitigation currently known is for the Navy to stay out of areas that are particularly biologically important," said Jasny. "And that they have refused to do."

Another concern that has arisen is the question of who will clean up leftover chemicals, depleted uranium and shell casings produced by the war games that will pollute the sea.

"When you're dropping bombs and missiles in the ocean, it's impractical to talk about clean up," said Mendocino County Supervisor John McCowan. "That's really the heart of my concern; the impact that this will have on the commercial and sport fishing industry."

North Coast fishermen are struggling after back-to-back canceled salmon seasons. Second-generation fisherman Bill Forkner says he's all for national security, but is concerned about the impact the war games could have on his livelihood.

"It needs to be done, but you don't want it done in your backyard," said Forkner. "So where do you do it though?"

Around usually serene North Coast towns, the answer from area resident is growing louder: "Not here."

Posters on bulletin boards and newspaper petitions have gone up. And people are beginning to hear about the navy proposal.

The petitions were paid for by long-time resident, first-time political activist and cafe-owner Meredith Smith.

"The idea of taking on the military and all of the fear-mongering that happens with national security and issues we're not allowed to look at in full light makes me even more motivated," said Smith.

Activists are demanding congressional hearings. In fact, member of the Cahto Tribal Council Atta Stevenson said the Navy broke the law by failing to consult with ten coastal tribes that are, in fact, sovereign nations.

"When does it stop, this intrusion from outsiders?" asked Stevenson. "This is our land; always has been."

Hawk Rosales of the Intertribal Sinkyone Wilderness Council promises civil disobedience.

"All people have the responsibility to be the caretaker for Mother Earth," said Rosales.

[BART Shooting Preliminary Hearing Focuses On Video](#)
[Neighbors Hold Oakland Robbery Suspect For Police](#)

[KTVU Channel 2 News At 5](#)

[Complete Bay Area News Coverage](#)



KTVU Channel 2 News at 5 has more important details of the Bay Area's Major News. Coverage that's straightforward and complete on KTVU Channel 2 News at 5.

[Desktop Alert](#)

[Download Desktop Alert!](#)



* Breaking News Alerts
* Severe Weather Alerts
* [Click here](#) to download!

ADVERTISEMENT

[Health Information](#)

[Ten Health Food Imposters](#)



Many seemingly healthy foods are actually bad for your heart. Learn how to replace the imposters with nutritionally rich foods.

[Full Story >>](#)

[10 Ways to Ease Back Pain](#)

[11 Tips for Healthy, Beautiful Teeth](#)

[12 Ways To Help Your Child Manage ADHD](#)

[Weight Loss Tips](#)

ADVERTISEMENT

[Links We Like](#)

[Surprising Habits That Hurt Your Skin](#)



You may be surprised by some of the innocent habits that can aggravate dry skin. [Full Story >>](#)

[Learn Five Habits Of Millionaires](#)



If you have aspirations of becoming a millionaire, check out these five habits that may be worth emulating. [Full Story >>](#)

[20 Small House Do's And Don'ts](#)



A little short on space? Learn how to make the best of your limited square footage with these helpful tips to better small home style. [Full Story >>](#)

[Keep Closer Tabs On Your Credit Score](#)



Knowing what your credit score is and keeping it as high as possible is essential if you're planning on buying a house, buying a car or even looking for a job. [Full Story >>](#)

ADVERTISEMENT

[Ads by Google](#)

Copyright 2009 by [KTVU.com](http://ktvu.com). All rights reserved. This material may not be published, broadcast, rewritten or redistributed.

[Mendocino Bed & Breakfast](#)

Ocean View Cottages, Beach Access Hot Tubs, Fireplaces, Pets Welcome
www.SchoolHouseCreek.com

[For US Navy Sailors Only](#)

A Website for Seadogs & Aviators. Share Memories. Find Shipmates.
Navy.TogetherWeServed.com

Ads by Google

[More Headlines](#)

[National/World News](#)

[NYC Probes Death Of Toddler With Flu Symptoms](#)
[UN Chief Names Bill Clinton As Haiti Envoy](#)
[Astronauts Say Goodbye To Hubble For Good](#)
[Obama Seeks Less Pollution, Better Mileage](#)
[Births Dropped Just Before Recession](#)
[What Jobs Will The Stimulus Create?](#)

[Sports](#)

[Bartlett Powers Rays To Rout Of A's Who Will Win NBA Title?](#)
[Athletics Place Giese On DL](#)
[Giants Place Uribe On Bereavement List; Recall Frandsen](#)
[Rachel Alexandra Takes Preakness By 1 Length](#)
[Train with Shamrock MMA](#)
[Find Out What Jobs In Sports Pay](#)

[DTV Conversion](#)

[Congress Postpones Digital TV Transition To June](#)
[Bay Area DTV Assistance Centers](#)
[Bay Area DTV Questions And Answers](#)
[The Hows And Whys Of Digital Television](#)
[What Kind Of Antenna Will I Need For DTV?](#)
[Get Your DTV Converter Coupon](#)
[Take A DTV Quiz?](#)
[FCC DTV Conversion Special Section](#)
[La Transicion Digital Viene](#)
[FCC DTV 388 Quarterly Report -- KTVU](#)
[FCC DTV 388 Quarterly Report -- KICU](#)
[9 Amazing Online Beauty Deals](#)
[Get Exclusive Custom Painting Discounts](#)
[Your Place For Equipment Rentals](#)

ADVERTISEMENT

Shop At The Online Mall

Vote NO on Prop 1A

Democrats and Republicans Agree, Prop 1A is NOT what it Claims!
www.VoteNoOn1A.com

1 Rule To Lose Your Gut

I cut down 38 lbs of pure body fat in just 19 weeks with this 1 rule.
HelensDiet.com/Blog

Scottrade: Stock Trading

\$7 Stock trades online. Get prices, charts & research for free.
www.Scottrade.com

[CNN News](#)

in partnership with **CNN.com**
[CNNHow To Solve The Financial Crisis](#)
[CNNRapper Dolla Shot, Killed At L.A. Mall](#)
[CNNDaimler, Tesla To Partner In Electric Car Venture](#)
[CNNNobel Laureates: Suu Kyi Trial A 'Mockery'](#)
[CNGAO: Special-Needs Kids Abused In Schools](#)
[Help Your Teen Find A Summer Job](#)

[Green Living](#)

[Three Bay Area Students Honored As 'Climate Champions'](#)
[SAN FRANCISCO: Redford, Gore Hail Eco-Activists At Goldman Prize Ceremony \[Jana Katsuyama\]](#)
[Mountaintop Mining Activist Wins Goldman Award](#)
[Endangered Butterflies Released In Twin Peaks](#)
[CLIMATE FIRE: UC Berkeley Report Links Wildfires To Global Climate Change \[John Fowler\]](#)
[Easy Steps To A Clean And Healthy Home](#)

[Entertainment](#)

[Fox Adding 6 New Shows Next Season](#)
[Friend: Astor Disparaged Parker Bowles, Zeta-Jones](#)
[Penelope Cruz Sidelined By Food Poisoning](#)
[Cynthia Nixon, Christine Marinoni Engaged](#)
[Eminem Giving Away Tickets For Detroit Show](#)
[Vanessa Hudgens Tries To Break From Disney](#)
['Angels & Demons' Tops 'Trek' At Box Office](#)
[Have A Happy Healthy Pet, For Less](#)
[Win A Family Feud Bobble Head!](#)

Buy a link here