

**Congress of the United States**  
**Washington, DC 20515**

February 26, 2014

Dr. Kathryn Sullivan, Interim Administrator  
National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration  
U.S. Department of Commerce  
Herbert Hoover Building, Room 5221  
Washington, D.C. 20230

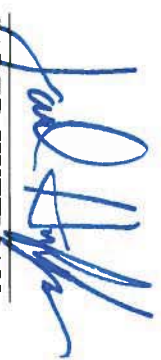
Dear Dr. Sullivan:

I am writing to request an extension of the public comment period regarding the letter of authorization for potential take of marine mammals being considered for weapons testing on the U.S. Navy's Northwest Training Grounds. In my congressional district – which runs along the coast from just north of San Francisco to the Oregon border – this is a sensitive issue that I believe merits allowing more time for the public to offer their concerns.

The public comment period for the Navy's Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) is open until March 25, 2014, following meetings along the West Coast. However, the comment period on the letter of authorization for take of marine mammals ends before most of these meetings take place, on February 28, 2014. While the two issues follow separate processes, they are so closely related that the public would be best served to learn the full scope of the Navy's plans before commenting on the letter of authorization.

I ask that NOAA extend its public comment period on the letter of authorization at least until March 25, 2014, or until the date the Navy closes public comment on its EIS, whichever is later. If you have any questions, please feel free to call my staff at (202) 225-5161. We look forward to your reply.

Sincerely,



**JARED HUFFMAN**  
Member of Congress