U.S. Navy to hold meetings to discuss warfare training exercises off California coast

mweiser@sacbee.com

Published Tuesday, Dec. 07, 2010

Responding to concerns about its coastal warfare training programs, the U.S. Navy has agreed to hold two meetings on California's North Coast to present more information and answer questions.

The Navy recently completed an environmental impact study and signed a record of decision to expand its Northwest Training Range Complex, a collection of warfare training tracts on the ocean covering 122,000 square miles from Washington State to the southern Humboldt County border in California. The National Marine Fisheries Service on Nov. 10 also granted a permit to harass or kill endangered species as part of Naval activities in the trailing complex.

Live weapons exercises and sonar training activities take place in the zones. Nearby coastal communities remain concerned about harm to whales, dolphins and commercial fisheries.

Rep. Mike Thompson, D-St. Helena, arranged for Navy officials to address those concerns in upcoming meetings. The first is Dec. 15 in Eureka at the Wharfinger Building, 1 Marina Way. The second is on Dec. 16 in Fort Bragg at Pentecost Hall, 822 Stewart St.

For more information, contact Thompson's office in Fort Bragg at (707) 962-0933 or in Eureka at (707) 269-9595; or visit the Navy's information website on the project: http://www.nwtrangecomplexes.com.

© Copyright The Sacramento Bee. All rights reserved.