Oregon senators question Navy training off coast

by The Associated Press
Thursday April 09, 2009, 2:39 PM

U.S. Sens. Ron Wyden and Jeff Merkley of Oregon have sent a letter to the secretary of the Navy about concerns over the potential environmental and economic impact of expanded training off the Pacific coast.

The two Oregon Democrats said in their letter to Secretary B.J. Penn that the training may pose substantial risks.

The expanded warfare training proposal includes underwater minefield testing, explosive ordnance use, expanded land and air-based exercises and widespread sonar use.

The senators cited four specific concerns: irreparable harm to fisheries, sonar impact on marine mammals, possible threats to endangered species and the potential release of hazardous materials into sensitive marine ecosystems.

A public comment period ends Saturday.

-- The Associated Press

Yes, no training for the armed forces and these two critters will be the first to scream when the Navy doesn’t work perfectly.

Ah, just more from our ultra-socialist politicians trying to destroy the defense of our nation!

Merkley and Wyden might as well be paid by our enemies.

Better yet, let’s just get rid of all the US Navy ships since, if they don’t pollute Oregon waters, they will be polluting other waters somewhere else. Why should they be allowed to pollute anywhere? Better yet, just eliminate the Navy.
Oregon senators question Navy training... as they train above us. The Army, with their huge tanks and armored vehicles, pollute the ground and also the air with their exhaust systems. The Marines do all of the above.

Our two Democratic senators at work. We are so proud.

Inappropriate? Alert us.

Posted by blazerfan84 on 04/09/09 at 3:23PM

Thank you to the above commentors for reminding me how whiny and unintelligent the right wing nut jobs are.

Inappropriate? Alert us.

Posted by snakespeare on 04/09/09 at 3:28PM

Well, I can tell there are no fisherman posting here yet. What are you guys, office workers? Maybe the Army should practice maneuvers in your parking lot or use your computers to crack codes. Then you might have some empathy when a fellow working man gets his livelihood threatened when the maneuvers could happen in a LOT of better places.

Try your opinions on the people at the Sea Hag in Depoe Bay. Not that anyone would start a fight, but they would sure set you straight! This is about protecting the fishing grounds.

Inappropriate? Alert us.

Posted by BugEater17 on 04/09/09 at 3:38PM

I don't think those comments are necessarily fair. Our fisheries are in a state of near collapse, and the use of low frequency sonar has been associated with the deaths of many marine mammals near San Diego, Hawaii and the Antarctic. Sending a letter of concern about proposed training operations does not equal calling for a disbandment of the Navy. It's the responsibility of our Senators to act to protect all Americans and Oregonians, including the fishing industry. If the Navy's tests harm critical species and ecosystems, its up to them to find a way to train to remain vigilant without destroying our environment.

We no longer detonate nuclear weapons for the purposes of testing; we use computer modeling instead. I'm sure the Navy can find a method of running exercises without creating a body count of stinky 40 ton corpses on our beaches.

Inappropriate? Alert us.

Posted by ORDub on 04/09/09 at 4:02PM

BugEater17, if any whales wash up on the beaches its no big deal. We can clear the carcass with dynamite...cuz it was sweet the first time we did it!!

Inappropriate? Alert us.

Posted by proofreader on 04/09/09 at 5:22PM

Why is it "whiny and unintelligent" to point out that these Senators are interfering with one of the few functions of our Federal Government actually enumerated in the Constitution (i.e. defense) and that by succeeding they will only either (1) make the Navy less effective (2) cost taxpayers yet more (3) cause to be done somewhere else - "NIMBY"? Exactly how many whales have actually washed up on Oregon beaches as a result of naval activities? I'd like to know.

Inappropriate? Alert us.

Posted by hilaryclinto on 04/09/09 at 5:47PM

Our Navy should be practicing warfare in the Red Sea and the Indian Ocean, off the Horn of Africa, really close to Somalia. With live ammunition. Targeting small plastic boats with big outboards and rag tag goat abusers with RPGs and other small arms....and hopefully, have small arms, skinny arms, and other parts sliced, diced, minced and suitable for shark fodder.
Inappropriate? Alert us.  

Posted by rogereg on 04/09/09 at 8:34PM

proofreader, nanny state leftists like anything that weakens the U.S., while they hate anyone that wants a strong America!

Inappropriate? Alert us.  

Posted by ctesiphon on 04/10/09 at 1:14AM

hilarious hilary, too true. except apparently pirates have the same rights as "other" "humans" because it's not their fault they have to make ends meet..i got an end for them to meet, it's a 1000 rounds from a 20mm m61 vulcan gatling autocannon. sleep with the fishes you bastards...to the shores of tripoly.

Inappropriate? Alert us.  

Posted by Judahlevi on 04/10/09 at 1:55AM

blazerfan84,

The only retort of a leftwing nut is namecalling and you were right on cue. No cogent argument, no rapier wit - just namecalling. It is what you guys do best.

Elementary playground time, anyone?

Inappropriate? Alert us.  

Posted by laurenf on 04/10/09 at 3:37AM

You said it, judahlevi. When the name-calling starts, the debate ends. I love our Navy and they can go anywhere they need to with my blessings.

Oh..and Obama has warned the Americans on that pirated ship that if there is ANY mis-treatment of these 'terrorist pirates', they will be brought up on charges...Humm. This is our 'Commander-in Chief'????? God help America when Socialism is the new word for compassion and personal responsibility is labeled 'cruel'.

Inappropriate? Alert us.  

Posted by bloggod on 04/10/09 at 3:52AM

"A public comment period ends Saturday."

Inappropriate? Alert us.  

but after the period, can we still exclamate?

Inappropriate? Alert us.  

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