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# 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*

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COMMENTS (14) [Post a comment](#)

Posted by **taxed** on [04/09/09 at 3:06PM](#)

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

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Posted by **rogeregon** on [04/09/09 at 3:08PM](#)

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.

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Posted by **judahlevi** on [04/09/09 at 3:16PM](#)

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.

[ALL GALLERIES >>](#) While we are at it, the Air Force and National Guard air wing pollute our air

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### Oregon senators question Navy traini...

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.

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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.

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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.

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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.

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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!!

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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 it 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.

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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.

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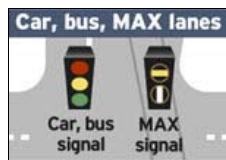
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## Oregon senators question Navy traini...

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Posted by **rogeregon** 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!

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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.

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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?

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Posted by **laureenf** 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...Hummm. This is our 'Commander-in Chief'????? God help America when Socialism is the new word for compassion and personal responsibility is labeled 'cruel'.

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Posted by **bloggod** on [04/10/09 at 3:52AM](#)

"A public comment period ends Saturday."

but after the period, can we still exclamate?

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