

April 5, 2009

H.E. Ms. Susan E. Rice
Permanent Representative of the United States
of America to the United Nations
140 East 45th Street
New York, New York 10017

Dear Dr. Rice:

I watched 60 Minutes tonight as they aired a program about hospital cutbacks and the tragedy surrounding those that are sick, don't have health insurance and recent job losses. The Nature program on P.B.S. was another horror story about the loss of frogs around the world and the loss of their habitat. The trees in Mendocino County, California, where I live are in various stages of decline or dying; the Redwoods, the Douglas Fir, Manzanita, Oaks, and so many more trees are also declining across the United States. I know that Honey Bees and other pollinators are in decline, jeopardizing our food supply in the United States and around the world.

I watch the daily bailouts of corporations and their executives that committed fraud upon the people of the United States and the world (too big to fail - too rich to go to jail for fraud, in most cases). And we have no plans to regulate them to protect the public. The bailout \$Billions should be going to those that need it most...the sick, the poor, and the homeless. We are saving corporations, banks, and their shareholders at the expense of the American people...without investigating and prosecuting those who defrauded us.

People the world over are in one crisis or another due to financial manipulation, war, genocide, hunger and illness. Instead of war and a new world economic order that will just escalate money and resources being sold to the highest bidder or transferred from the poor to the wealthy based on military might... we need to work for humanitarian justice for all. People everywhere suffer the consequences of war and now the United States has taken steps to complicate and destroy more natural resources that belong to all of the people of the world.

On February 17, 2009, I learned that the U.S. Department of Defense and the U.S. Navy are expanding their warfare testing program on the West Coast of the United States. And they have asked permission from NOAA, The National Marine Fisheries Service (March 11, 2009-U.S. Federal Register), to decimate 2.3 million species of marine mammals per year for the next five years in the Pacific Ocean...all in the name of practicing for war.

The \$Billions in warfare spending is about to go up again to support another disastrous program that will ruin marine ecosystems, disrupt food supplies to millions of mammals, and decimate them for five years until nothing is left but a polluted ocean, polluted air, water, and soil. We hear daily that the oceans are in peril and that marine mammals are endangered and threatened more and more with each passing year...and yet the United States government, in the name of war practice, intends to destroy this precious resource for not only the people of the United States but those around the world that depend upon the oceans for food and tourism.

President Obama has escalated the war in Afghanistan and is now running covert and non-covert incursions inside Pakistan while bombing Pakistan according to our news media. The Iraq war will continue for years draining valuable financial resources needed elsewhere in our country. And now \$Billions will be blown up when the U.S. Navy starts destroying marine mammals and sensitive ecosystems later this year. Our government has now decided that a bombing war against the Pacific Ocean and its marine mammals will save us...from what?

It appears that this endeavor will continue to escalate the new cold war and the arms race that were escalated under the Bush Administration during the last eight years. The new and continuing Defense Department plan is to conduct war practice in the Pacific Ocean, the Atlantic Ocean, and the Gulf of Mexico...destroying marine

mammals as a byproduct of testing. The good will of a new President and a new administration will be crushed under the weight of this new warfare testing program and this new threat to a food supply that feeds the world.

Once the United States takes this action other powerful military nations will then escalate their testing programs in the oceans to protect themselves from our war practice and thus will decimate what is left of our oceans. The poor nations will suffer debilitating food losses and turn to land resources for food, escalating the cutting of forest lands and destroying more ecosystems.

And yet, President Obama, and the United Nations is silent on this issue...acquiescing to escalating military expansion and warfare testing. War has become a self-perpetuating cost at all levels and keeping the arms industry fully employed (the military-industrial complex), is the main goal. Many people in the United States are finding this plan unacceptable and not worth the price we will all have to pay in the end. Therefore, many citizens across the United States have decided to join together to fight this new Navy warfare testing expansion and are going to try and protect the oceans and our marine mammals from this fate.

These programs are being slipped by without press coverage and without objections from the vast majority of our elected officials. Many were never informed of these programs and the few that were informed were silent until the public began to find out what was going on and decided to say "no". Now we are demanding that our elected officials stand up and fight this plan. A few elected officials in Oregon and one in California have enabled the public to have two extra public hearings and two public comment date extensions at the federal level.

The United States Senate and the U.S. House of Representatives have been dead silent on this issue. They speak of protecting the earth, marine life, and the oceans on the campaign trail...but when it counts they are absent from this discussion. If the media doesn't carry the story and if our elected officials ignore it...they are hoping that no one will notice the disastrous, worldwide price that will be paid by their silence. The governors of our coastal states are silent, refusing to protect their fishing and tourism industries, to protect endangered species, and the health of their constituents.

I am appealing this decision by the United States Department of Defense and the United States Navy. I am also appealing to the worldwide community to protect and save the world's marine mammals from this fate. War and warfare testing is not the solution to our problems. And making war on our oceans and contaminating this valuable worldwide resource for war, benefits no one, and will tax other natural resources.

I hope that you will consider bringing this issue to a full discussion at the United Nations. The decision that the United States makes today with regard to our oceans and its marine mammals is critical. We should lead in protecting these resources, not destroying them.

Now, in my 93rd year I find that the world that I loved and enjoyed is being destroyed by my country. My children, grandchildren, and great grandchildren will not enjoy the world and its natural resources as they were during my lifetime. My great grandchildren will only know our marine mammals as they look in picture books if this Navy warfare testing program is allowed to proceed. Thus, I am writing to you to step forward to preserve our natural resources and our oceans which have provided so much for all of us. And I will continue to do so for as long as Freedom of Speech is allowed in this country. I look forward to hearing from you in writing, in the near future, on this critical issue.

Respectfully,

Ava Peterson
Post Office Box 499
Redwood Valley, CA 95470
(707) 485-8400

CC: The United Nations - Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon
First Avenue – 41st Street
New York, New York 10017

Note:

The U.S. Navy plans to expand warfare testing in areas where NOAA lists these species as endangered in Washington, California, and Oregon:

- 1) Southern Resident Killer Whale – Endangered
- 2) Humpback Whale – Endangered
- 3) Blue Whale – Endangered
- 4) Fin Whale – Endangered
- 5) Sei Whale – Endangered
- 6) Sperm Whale Endangered
- 7) Steller Sea Lion – Threatened
- 8) Sockeye Salmon – Endangered
- 9) Chinook Salmon Endangered
- 10) Coho Salmon – Endangered
- 11) Chum Salmon – Endangered
- 12) Steelhead – Endangered

There are many more which are “Endangered” or “Threatened” on this listing by NOAA. How will they survive the Navy Warfare testing program? We have NOAA, the National Marine Fisheries Service, engaged in trying to save our marine mammals. Now we have the Navy prepared to decimate them, their habitat, and their food supply as well. This plan makes no sense.

Many species migrate and many more are stationary in nature along with the habitat they depend upon. None of them have the ability to withstand a full-blown Navy warfare testing program.

ACTION ALERT DEADLINE APRIL 10, 2009

STOP THE NAVY FROM “TAKING” 32 SPECIES OF MARINE MAMMALS IN THEIR 5 YEAR WARFARE TESTING PROGRAM IN THE PACIFIC OCEAN

The United States Navy and the U.S. Department of Defense intend to expand their Northwest Training Range Complex. Their draft Environmental Impact Statement (EIS), dated December 2008, has an April 13, 2009, for public review and comment.

The expansion of their area of warfare operations will include the State of Washington, more areas in the State of Oregon, part of the state of Idaho, Northern California, and large areas of the Pacific Ocean along the Pacific coast. (The extent map designating this program area also extends throughout Northern California to the San Francisco Bay Area under an “Extent Map Warning Area” designation.)

U.S. Department of Commerce - NOAA Definition: “TAKE” Defined *under the MMPA* as “harass, hunt, capture, kill or collect, or attempt to harass, hunt, capture, kill or collect.” Defined *under the ESA* as “to harass, harm, pursue, hunt, shoot, wound, kill, trap, capture, or collect, or to attempt to engage in any such conduct.”

Published in the United States Federal Register on March 11, 2009:

The United States Navy published an application, as an addendum to their expanded Warfare Testing program, in the U.S. Federal Register, dated March 11, 2009. This application from the Navy “...requests authorization to take individuals of 32 species of marine mammals during upcoming Navy Warfare testing and training to be conducted in the NWTR areas (off the Pacific coasts of Washington, Oregon, and northern California) over the course of 5 years...”

The Navy Warfare Testing Program will "...utilize mid- and high frequency active sonar sources and explosive detonations. These sonar and explosive sources will be utilized during Antisubmarine Warfare (ASW) Tracking Exercises, Mine Avoidance Training, Extended Echo Ranging and Improved Extended Echo Ranging (EER/IEER) events, Missile Exercises, Gunnery Exercises, Bombing Exercises, Sinking Exercises, and Mine Warfare Training..." (More listed in Navy E.I.S.)

The "taking" of marine mammals negatively impacts the entire ecology of our oceans and the life in them which feeds large numbers of people and other species around the world. It should be noted that the list of toxic chemicals that the Navy proposes to use is a long one as noted in the Navy E.I.S. Depleted uranium, red and white phosphorus, and a whole host of chemicals known to be toxic not only to man, but to marine life, are being served up on the "Navy Warfare Chemical Menu" that will contaminate our air, water, and soil.

Contact all of your elected officials today – Ask for more Public Hearings – File Public Comment Complaints – and ask your elected officials to Extend the Public Comment Deadline and oppose this Navy Warfare Testing program.

PETITION to STOP NAVY WARFARE TEST PROGRAM

<http://www.californiaskywatch.com>

<http://www.nwtrangecomplexeis.com/Documents.aspx> United States Navy Environment Impact Statement

<http://www.nwtrangecomplexeis.com/NtrcCommentForm.aspx> U.S. Navy Public Comment Form Online

Write to: Naval Facilities Engineering Command Northwest, 1101 Tautog Circle, Suite 203
Silverdale, Washington 98315 ATTN: Mrs. Kimberly Kier – NWTRC EIS Deadline: April 13, 2009

NOAA Public Comments Address to: Michael Payne, Chief, Permits Conservation and Education
Division, Office of Protected Resources National Marine Fisheries Service
1315 East-West Highway, Silver Spring, MD 20910–3225. Deadline: April 10, 2009

Addendum April 6, 2009:

There is no acceptable form of "mitigation" that will protect our marine mammals. And just how many places is the U.S. Navy going to be practicing for war in the future?

We now know that sonar and other warfare exercises are planned for the Atlantic Ocean, the Pacific Ocean, the Hawaiian Islands, the Mariana Islands, the Gulf of Mexico, Washington, Oregon, Southern California, North Carolina, and other areas. We also know that Northern California, Oregon, and Idaho are being added to this list in 2009. According to Congressman Henry Waxman of California, in a letter to NOAA dated March 12, 2009, these tests will affect "...literally every coastal state..."

It is impossible to calculate how many marine mammals have lost their lives and habitats or food supplies due to ongoing ocean testing in the past. Now the United States intends to "take" marine mammals on a massive scale. It is time for everyone to stand up and say "no"! Ava Peterson

For More Information: Rosalind Peterson

E-Mail: info@californiaskywatch.com (707) 485-7520

<http://www.californiaskywatch.com> OR <http://newswithviews.com/Peterson/rosalinda.htm>

April 6, 2009

The United Nations
The Honorable Secretary-General
Ban Ki-moon
First Avenue – 41st Street
New York, New York 10017

Dear Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon:

I am writing to you with information regarding a United States warfare testing program expansion that has the potential to kill 2.3 million marine mammals (or more), every year for five years in the Atlantic Ocean, the Pacific Ocean, and the Gulf of Mexico.

This program could jeopardize the health and tenuous stability of marine mammals throughout the world.

My country will initiate this warfare testing program in 2009. I strongly feel that this issue should be brought before the members of the United Nations due to the tremendous impact that these programs will have on the fishing and whaling tourism industries and poor countries around the world that depend on the oceans for food.

The entire world uses our oceans for food and this loss of endangered marine mammals and their habitats to warfare testing is unacceptable when our oceans are in danger and many marine mammal species are endangered and threatened by human activities.

I hope that this issue will come before the United Nations due to the fact that this warfare testing program has the potential to start a massive escalation of warfare testing in our oceans, by many countries, to counteract our warfare programs. The escalation of cold war tensions and military buildup by other countries is a danger to the entire world. And this could be the outcome of our warfare testing program.

I urge you to bring this matter before the United Nations prior to the start of this program and the worldwide tensions that this program could ignite around the world.

I look forward to hearing from you with regard to this issue, in writing, in the near future.

Respectfully,

Ava Peterson
P.O. Box 499
Redwood Valley, CA 95470
(707) 485-8400

White Phosphorus is just one of the chemicals on Navy Toxic Menu: Berkowitz et.al (1981), in assessing the potential hazards associated with the use of phosphorus smoke munitions, reported that White Phosphorus residues in aquatic systems can be extremely toxic. Berkowitz stated that the deposition of washout of...White Phosphorus, especially in water bodies may create exposure risks to resident finfish, invertebrates and waterfowl, even if resultant White Phosphorus concentrations are in the low ppb range. 1996)

Water Quality Criteria for White Phosphorus – Authors” Kowetha A. Davidson; Patricia S. Hovatter, Catherine F. Sigmon, Oak Ridge National Lab TN: Abstract: Data obtained from a review of the literature concerning the environmental fate and aquatic and mammalian toxicity of **white phosphorus** are presented...Laboratory and field studies indicate that white phosphorus is quite toxic to aquatic organisms, with fish being the most sensitive...bioaccumulation is rapid and extensive, with the greatest uptake in the liver and muscle of fish and the hepatopancreas of lobster...other toxic effects to aquatic organism include cardiovascular and histological changes. (1987) (White Phosphorus is an airborne contaminant – used in fog oil and smoke obscurants.)