State of Connecticut
Department of Environmental Protection

November 30, 2006

Naval Facilities Engineering Command, Atlantic
Attn: Code EV21 (Atlantic Fleet Sonar PM)
6506 Hampton Boulevard
Norfolk, Virginia 23508-1278

Dear Commander:

The Connecticut Department of Environmental Protection has received the Notice of Scoping announcing preparation of an Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) to analyze areas to conduct Atlantic Fleet active sonar training along the East Coast and within the Gulf of Mexico. The EIS information center confirmed that the Department of the Navy is not contemplating the designation of training areas within Long Island Sound. If this premise is reversed during preparation of the EIS, the Department should be immediately consulted.

Although the sonar training program will not directly impact Connecticut waters, indirect impacts to species that migrate in and out of Long Island Sound on a seasonal basis or are more occasional visitors can potentially occur. These include several species of sea turtles, harbor porpoises, harbor seals and many fish species.

The scoping notice does indicate that all potentially affected environmental resources will be analyzed, including wildlife, threatened and endangered species, marine mammals and fish. The EIS should evaluate whether the proposed sonar systems and training exercises could interfere with migration or cause injury or mortality as well as propose to mitigate these effects to the greatest extent practicable.

When the EIS is made available for public review, please forward three copies to the Office of Environmental Review, which coordinates the Department's review of such documents. Thank you for the opportunity to participate in this scoping process.

Sincerely,

David J. Fox
Senior Environmental Analyst
Office of Environmental Review

cc: Gina McCarthy, DEP/COMM
DEP Distribution