

PETITION TO PROTECT OUR OCEANS FROM U.S. NAVY 5-YEAR WARFARE TESTING PROGRAMS
PROTECT OUR OCEANS, MARINE MAMMALS & HABITATS + FISH IN THE ATLANTIC, PACIFIC & GULF OF MEXICO

Whereas, in a letter to NOAA (National Oceanic & Atmospheric Administration), dated June 19, 2009, U.S. Senators Dianne Feinstein and Barbara Boxer, along with U.S. Congressman Henry Waxman stated:

“...In many regions, the Navy plans to increase the number of its exercises or expand the areas in which they may occur, and virtually every coastal state will be affected. Some exercises may occur in the nation's most biologically sensitive marine habitats, including National Marine Sanctuaries and breeding habitat(s)...In all, the Navy anticipates more than 2.3 million takes (significant disruptions in marine mammal foraging, breeding, and other essential behaviors) per year, or 11.7 million takes over the course of a five-year permit...” (Pacific, Atlantic, and Gulf of Mexico)

U.S. Department of Commerce - NOAA Definition: “TAKE” Defined *under ESA* as “to harass, harm, pursue, hunt, shoot, wound, kill, trap, capture, or collect, or to attempt to engage in any such conduct.” With respect to military readiness activities, the MMPA defines “harassment” as: “...(i) any act that injures or has the significant potential to injure a marine mammal or marine mammal stock in the wild [Level A Harassment]; or (ii) any act that disturbs or is likely to disturb a marine mammal or marine mammal stock in the wild by causing disruption of natural behavioral patterns, including, but not limited to, migration, surfacing, nursing, breeding, feeding, or sheltering, to a point where such behavioral patterns are abandoned or significantly altered [Level B Harassment]...training activities may expose some of the marine mammals present in the area to sound from various mid-frequency and high-frequency active tactical sonar sources or to pressure from underwater detonations..”

Whereas, 32 species of marine mammals are in harm's way due to U.S. Navy Warfare and New Weapons Testing, bomb blasts, toxic chemicals, and Sonar, from twelve 5-Year Warfare testing programs currently underway in the Pacific, Atlantic & Gulf of Mexico.

Whereas, the U.S. Navy is in the process of expanding the land and geographical areas, types of warfare testing, and experiments;

Whereas, the U.S. Navy and NOAA warfare mitigation measures to protect marine mammals are effective only 9% of the time;

Whereas, No U.S. Congressional Hearings have been held to protect the oceans, marine mammals, National Marine Sanctuaries, or Biologically Sensitive Areas from U.S. Navy Warfare Tests (bomb blasts, sonar, new weapons testing or new radar and laser uses);

Whereas, the U.S. Navy should be Protecting the Natural Resources in our Oceans and NOT Engaged in Destroying these Areas;

Therefore, we the undersigned, demand that U.S. Congressional Hearings be Conducted to Protect our National Marine Sanctuaries, Marine Reserves, Biologically Sensitive Areas, Breeding, and Feeding Habitats from U.S. Navy Warfare Testing.

Therefore, we the undersigned, Expect that our Elected Officials, at every level of government, Increase their efforts and work to protect our oceans, from uncontrolled Weapons Testing & Experiments.

Printed Name	Printed Address, City, State	Telephone #	Signature	Date