

## National



**Deborah Dupré**

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# Meet Navy-NOAA heads killing millions sea animals

December 6th, 2010 9:07 pm ET

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Public meetings about approved Navy 5-year war testing off California coast

Today, Rosalind Peterson reached out to encourage Californians' participation at two December meetings in which the U.S. Navy and NOAA will address its 5-year Warfare Testing program that includes killing millions of sea animals off the California and Hawaiian coasts. High-tech weapons applied to animals will then be used on humans.

NOAA issued the permit and Letter of Authorization to the Navy, finalized November 12, 2010, part of which is below. It protects no National Marine Sanctuaries, Marine Reserves, Biologically Sensitive Areas and does not stop the Navy from testing new weapons systems (including sonar), during gray whale migrations or salmon migrations.

U.S. Congressman Thompson's request for the U.S. Navy and NOAA to meet with the public in Mendocino and Humboldt Counties in December 2010 has been accepted.

Peterson writes: "This is to notify everyone that NOAA and the U.S. Navy will be meeting with the public on the issue of the U.S. Navy Warfare Testing activities planned for the NWTRC. U.S. Congressman Thompson has organized these

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public meetings for residents of both Humboldt & Mendocino Counties. Representatives from Marin County are invited to attend these public events."

"In the future, these plans can be altered on any date by the U.S. Navy or NOAA placing the information in the U.S. Federal Register. And the Navy does not need to notify anyone, including fishermen or ocean tourists, that these events are underway."

Furthermore, Peterson highlights, "the NOAA permit requires only Navy reports on its impacts in the NWTRC and relies, according to U.S. Congressman Thompson, upon mitigation measures effective only 9% of the time."

NOAA held no workshops to determine biologically sensitive areas in the NWTRC during 2010 according to Peterson and the NAVY/NOAA has plans for 2011 sponsored workshops, to be completed by November 2011.

Peterson wants these workshops 1) to be held in Humboldt County, California so her associated marine biologists and scientists can participate and 2) that they be held in January or February 2011, instead of waiting until the end of the 2011, before completion.

No National Marine Sanctuaries, marine reserves or biologically sensitive areas are protected in the ongoing 5-Year Warfare testing now underway in Southern California or Hawaiian Islands according to Peterson.

Below is the letter of authorization for the 2010-2011 war-testing.

DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE  
NATIONAL OCEANIC AND ATMOSPHERIC  
ADMINISTRATION

NATIONAL MARINE FISHERIES SERVICE  
Letter of Authorization

The Commander, u.S. Pacific Fleet, 250 Makalapa Drive, Pearl Harbor, HI 96860-7000, and persons

operating under his authority (i.e., Navy), are authorized to take marine mammals incidental to Navy exercises conducted in the Northwest Training Range Complex in accordance with 50 CFR Part 218, Subpart M-- Taking Marine Mammals Incidental to U.S. Navy Training in the Northwest Training Range Complex (NWTRC) subject to the provisions of the Marine Mammal Protection Act (16 U.S.C. 1361 et seq.; MMPA) and the following conditions:

1. This Authorization is valid for the period November 12, 2010, through November 11, 2011.
2. This Authorization is valid only for the unintentional taking of the species of marine mammals and methods of take identified in 50 CFR § 218.112(c) and Condition (5) of this Authorization incidental to the activities specified in 50 CFR § 218.110(c) and Condition (4)(a) of this Authorization and occurring within the NWTRC, (as depicted in Figure ES-I in the Navy's Final Environmental Impact Statement for the NWTRC), which is bounded by 48°30' N. lat.; 130° 00' W. long.; 40°00' N. lat.; and on the east by 124° 00' W. long or by the shoreline where the shoreline extends west of 124°00' W. long (excluding the Strait of Juan de Fuca (east of 124°40' W. long), which is not included in the Offshore area).
3. This Authorization is valid only if the Holder of the Authorization or any person(s) operating under his authority implements the mitigation, monitoring, and reporting required pursuant to 50 CFR §§ 218.114 & 218.115 and implements the Terms and Conditions of this Authorization.
4. (a) This Authorization is valid for the activities identified below within the estimated amounts:
  - (1) The use of the following mid-frequency active sonar (MF AS) and high frequency active sonar (HF AS) sources for U.S. Navy anti-submarine warfare (ASW) training:
    - (i) AN/SQS-53 (hull-mounted sonar) - 43 hours
    - (ii) AN/SQS-56 (hull-mounted sonar) - 65 hours
    - (iii) ANIBQS-15 (submarine navigational sonar) - 42

hours

(iv) SSQ-62 (sonobuoys) - 886 sonobuoys

(v) SSQ-125 (AEER sonobuoy) - 149 sonobuoys  
(total combined with EERIIEER)

(vi) MK-48 (heavyweight torpedoes) - 2 torpedo  
events

(vii) Range Pingers - 180 hours

(viii) PUTR Uplink - 150 hours

(2) The detonation of the underwater explosives  
indicated in (i) conducted as part of the training  
exercises indicated in (ii):

(i) Underwater Explosives (Net Explosive Weight):

(A) 5" Naval Gunfire (9.5 lbs)

(B) 76 mm rounds (1.6lbs)

(C) Maverick (78.5 lbs)

(D) Harpoon (448 lbs)

(E) MK -82 (238 lbs)

(F)) MK-48 (851 lbs)

(G) Demolition Charges (2.5 lbs.)

(H) AN/SSQ-II OA (EERIIEER explosive sonobuoy -  
5 lbs)

(I) HARM;

(1) Hellfire;

(K) SLAM; and

(L) GBU 10,12, and 16.

(ii) Training Events:

(A) Surface-to-surface Gunnery Exercises - 340  
exercises

(B) Bombing Exercises - 30 exercises

(C) Sinking Exercises - 2 exercises

(D) Extended Echo Ranging and Improved  
Extended Echo Ranging

Systems (EERIIEER) - 149 IEER sonobuoy  
deployments (total combined with EERIIEER).

(b) This authorization is also valid for the activities  
and sources listed in 4(a) should the amounts (i.e.,  
hours, dips, number of exercises) vary from those  
estimated in 4( a), provided that the variation does  
not result in exceeding the amount of take indicated  
in 5 (a), below.

5. (a) The incidental take of marine mammals under  
the activities identified in 4, above, and § 218.110(c)  
is limited to the species listed in 5(b) and 5(c)

below, by the indicated method of take and the indicated number of times (estimated based on the authorized amounts of sound source operation), but with the following allowances for annual variation in activities:

(1) 2010 annual take (a post-calculation/estimation of which must be provided in the 2011 LOA application) of any species of marine mammal may not exceed the amount identified in 5 (b) and 5( c), below, for that species by more than 25%

(2) 2010 annual take total of all marine mammal species combined may not exceed the estimated total, indicated in 5(b) and 5( c), by more than 100/0

(3) the total take of any species over the course of five years may not exceed the amounts indicated in 50 CFR 218.112(c)(1), which is 10% above the numbers indicated

2

in 5(b) and 5( c) below multiplied by 5 for each year of the rule. A running calculation/estimation of takes of each species over the course of the years covered by the rule must be maintained.

(b) Level B Harassment:

(1) Mysticetes:

(i) Humpback whale (*Megaptera novaeangliae*) - 15

(ii) Fin whale (*Balaenoptera physalus*) - 40

(iii) Blue whale (*Balaenoptera musculus*) - 11

(iv) Minke whale (*Balaenoptera acutorostrata*) - 9

(v) Gray whale (*Eschrichtius robustus*) - 4

(vi) Sei whale (*Balaenoptera borealis*) - 1.

(2) Odontocetes:

(i) Sperm whales (*Physeter macrocephalus*) - 84

(ii) Killer whale (*Orcinus orca*) - 14;

(iii) Pygmy or dwarf sperm whales (*Kogia breviceps* or *Kogia sima*) - 4

(iv) Mesoplodont beaked whales - 15

(v) Cuvier's beaked whales (*Ziphius cavirostris*) - 14

(vi) Baird's beaked whales (*Berardius bairdii*) - 13

(vii) Striped dolphin (*Stenella coeruleoalba*) - 40

(viii) Risso's dolphin (*Grampus griseus*) - 100

(ix) Northern right whale dolphin (*Lissodelphis borealis*) -741

(x) Pacific white-sided dolphin (*Lagenorhynchus obliquidens*) - 571

(xi) Short-beaked common dolphin (*Delphinus delphis*) - 1256

(xii) Short-finned pilot whale (*Globicephala macrorhynchus*) - 2

(xiv) Dall's porpoise (*Phocoenoides dalli*) - 4752

(xv) Harbor Porpoise (*Phocoena phocoena*) - 119274.

(3) Pinnipeds:

(i) Pacific harbor seal (*Phoca vitulina*) - 586

(ii) California sea lion (*Zalophus californianus*) - 286

(iii) Northern fur seal (*Callorhinus ursinus*) - 1365

(iv) Steller sea lion (*Eumetopias jubatus*) - 91

(c) Level A Harassment:

(1) Fin whale - 1;

(2) Sperm whale - 1;

(3) Dall's Porpoise - 3;

(4) Harbor Porpoise - 1

(5) Northern right whale dolphin - 1;

3

(6) Short-beaked common dolphin

Peterson advises that the new 5-Year warfare testing range initiated in the U.S. Federal Register on July 15, 2010 that connects the area between the Hawaiian and Southern California Warfare Testing ranges, "ever-increasing impacts will be felt with regard to breeding habitats, which are not now protected in the NWTRC, marine food supply areas, and migration routes will be even more heavily impacted by this new range.

"Also added in 2010 is the 5-Year Warfare Testing program in the Marianas Islands."

Learn more: See Rosalind Peterson's website:

<http://www.agriculturedefensecoalition.org/?q=us-navy>

Any questions need to be lodged at U.S. Congressman Mike Thompson's Office in Washington, DC: 866. 220-0044

Contact Rosalind Peterson at Post Office Box 499,

Redwood Valley, CA 95470, Phone: 707.485.7520.

E-Mail: [info@californiaskywatch.com](mailto:info@californiaskywatch.com)

Also see:

Link to U.S. Navy Final Environmental Impact Statement & Rule of Decision (ROD):

<http://www.nwtrangecomplexeis.com/Documents.asp>:

Links to NOAA Permit for the "taking" of marine mammals in the NWTRC & their Letter of Authorization:

<http://edocket.access.gpo.gov/2010/2010-27540.htm> - November 10, 2010 NOAA Permit

Links to all NOAA documentation on NWTRC and other Warfare Testing Ranges in the Pacific, Atlantic, and the Gulf of Mexico - Current Status:

<http://www.nmfs.noaa.gov/pr/permits/incidental.htm>

Final Rule:

<http://www.nmfs.noaa.gov/pr/pdfs/fr/fr75-69296.pdf>  
NWTRC

Final Monitoring Plan:

[http://www.nmfs.noaa.gov/pr/pdfs/permits/nwtrc\\_mon](http://www.nmfs.noaa.gov/pr/pdfs/permits/nwtrc_mon)

New Information from NOAA - U.S. Federal

Register: <http://edocket.access.gpo.gov/2010/2010-28282.htm>

Marine Mammals Status Change Requested

Further information about the two upcoming important meetings can be found at:

1)

<http://mikethompson.house.gov/News/DocumentSingleDocumentID=216749>

U.S. Navy Public Meeting Schedule - NWTRC Mendocino & Humboldt Counties, CA

2)

<http://mikethompson.house.gov/News/DocumentSingleDocumentID=216750>

Dr. Jane Lubchenco - NOAA Meeting in Mendocino County on December 9, 2010 - NWTRC