

19 NINA MONASEVITCH: Aloha. Thank you for
20 the opportunity to be here. I appreciate your presence.
21 My name is Nina Monasevitch. I'll give you my card.
22 I'm the co-founder and chair of Kohola Leo, Kohola
23 meaning whales, and Leo meaning voice. We started the
24 group to be a voice for the whales.

25 There's been a lot of discussion here about
1 impacts to marine mammals, and I just want to say
2 unequivocally sonar kills marine mammals. It tortures,
3 it causes excruciable pain to all cetaceans and other
4 marine life. I've done a lot of research. I've read
5 all the scientific papers.

6 The fact that the Navy is even continuing to
7 consider decimating marine animals, particularly
8 cetaceans with sonar is unconscionable. Especially
9 within the Hawaiian Islands Humpback Whale National
10 sanctuary where we're the only meeting and birthing
11 grounds in the United States for these endangered
12 whales.

13 I have briefed some of the EIS. But, of
14 course, it's very long. I haven't read it all. And
15 I've given documentation throughout the years on several
16 scientific papers that I'd like you to include, but I
17 haven't checked whether or not you've included all of
18 those.

19 But the evidence is clear, scientifically sonar
20 kills whales and other marine life.

21 And just as a reminder to all of us here, we're
22 on an ocean planet. Seventy-one percent of our surface
23 is covered by the ocean. It is the breath of life of
24 our planet. There will be no life, there will be no
25 country to defend, there will be no business, and there

1 will be no survival if we do not sustain our oceans.

2 The oceans are in a critical state of decline;
3 serious, serious, major problems. Sonar is one of the
4 most important stressors including entanglement,
5 overfishing, ship strikes, acidification, pollution.
6 The list goes on and on. But the fact that we're
7 inundating the entire oceans with sound and killing the
8 ecosystem with sound and not knowing how it's effecting
9 all the other marine organisms including the fish to
10 sustain human life is just downright irresponsible.

11 And the predictions to deafen 1,600 whales per
12 year and kill 200 per year is absolutely unacceptable.
13 So I would like us to consider that life on the planet
14 will not continue if we don't ~~malama~~ the ocean. We're
15 an ocean planet.

16 And I'd like to echo some of the other comments
17 here, especially what Michael said about listening to
18 your heart and your soul and caring compassionately for
19 other species. There's seven billion people on the
20 planet. Not that I'm against human beings, but without
21 the biodiversity, humans will not continue to survive
22 here. Mahalo. (Applause.)