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June 27, 2012

Alex Stone  
Jene Nissen  
Naval Facilities Engineering Command  
c/o Chief of Information  
Attn: US Navy  
1200 Navy Pentagon  
Washington DC 20350-1200

Dear Naval Facilities Engineering Command Directors,

I am writing as the US Navy is moving full speed ahead with plans for sonar and explosives training that threaten to deafen, injure -- and even kill -- countless whales, dolphins and other marine mammals.

Starting in 2014, I have be made aware that the Navy will harass, injure, or kill marine mammals more than 33 million times in both the Atlantic and Pacific Oceans during five years of testing and training with sonar and explosives. Those alarming numbers come from the Navy itself!

These potential injuries include more than five million instances of temporary hearing loss, 16,000 instances of permanent hearing loss, almost 9,000 lung injuries, and more than 1,800 deaths.

This letter is written to tell the US Navy that inflicting such far-reaching harm on marine mammals is simply unacceptable. The sheer scope of the Navy's proposed training and testing activities is staggering, potentially assaulting entire populations of marine wildlife off the East Coast, Southern California, Hawaii and the Gulf states.

I understand that Navy ships will flood millions of square miles of ocean with high-intensity sonar, which is known to cause disorientation, hearing loss, stranding and death in whales. In addition, the Navy will be detonating high-powered explosives with the potential to fatally injure the lungs and other organs of marine mammals.

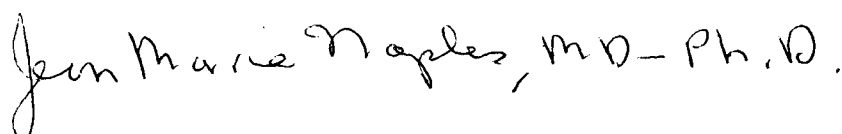
The waters around Hawaii and Southern California -- including critical habitat for endangered blue and humpback whales -- would be among the hardest hit. The Navy predicts that more than 1,000 marine mammals would be killed in this area alone.

The most significant threat to marine animals from the Navy sonar testing is potential injury or death to the North Atlantic right whale. Please be aware that fewer than 400 of these survivors now hover on the brink of extinction.

I am urging the US Navy to reexamine and reevaluate their potential ocean sonar and explosive testing as this potential harm and destruction of our endangered marine wildlife will threaten their ability to survive and must be reevaluated. These actions are inhumane and unacceptable.

Thank you for consideration of my letter and my concerns about the survival of our endangered marine wildlife.

Jean Marie Naples, MD-Ph.D.



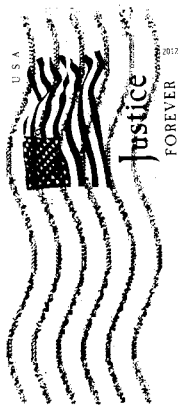
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