

7 MS. SAKASHITA: I'm Miyoko Sakashita,  
8 Center for Biological Diversity, and we also will be  
9 submitting some written comments. And I think that  
10 the main thing I want to do is express concern about  
11 the sheer number of takes that are associated with the  
12 EIS. It looks like it's about 14 million, and that  
13 it -- in Hawaii alone it's about a 400 percent  
14 increase from the prior activities. And while I think  
15 it's good that the modeling has become better and is  
16 probably a more accurate assessment of impact on  
17 marine mammals and other species, but this is a very  
18 large number and a primary concern.

19 Those concerns for us, you know, first of  
20 all, are sonar impact on marine mammals, the ability  
21 to cause hearing loss, and even in 2004 was supposedly  
22 to be associated with about 200 whales stranding in  
23 Hanalei Bay, as well as other impacts, especially on  
24 fish, that really need to be taken into account.

25 There are reports of other known acoustic disturbances  
1 that have caused problems with fish with hearing loss  
2 with reproductive issues and developmental issues, and  
3 in areas where there have acoustic activities, there's  
4 been noticed catch decreases for fishermen on the  
5 order of about 40 to 80 percent, so we think that  
6 should be looked at.

7 Other concerns in addition to the sonar  
8 impacts are things like the toxins that will be  
9 released from ordnances, ammunitions, sinking ships  
10 that can potentially get into the food chain and

11 affect marine life and get in the fish and affect  
12 people. I guess underwater explosions and their  
13 direct impact on killing species and disturbing  
14 habitat is another concern. And then we -- I know --  
15 I think that the primary reason that I raise these  
16 concerns is the real need to look at a very  
17 significant alternative that protects the most  
18 biologically sensitive areas, and things like that  
19 would be potentially coastal areas, proposed monk seal  
20 habitat, and other areas that are marine managed areas  
21 that should be considered in the alternative.

22 Well, thank you for your time, and we of  
23 course would like to see full compliance with the  
24 Endangered Species Act, Environmental Protection Act,  
25 Migratory Bird Treaty Act, and all that other slew of  
1 environmental laws out there to protect the animals.