

HOW DO WHALES TELL US WE'RE DOING SOMETHING WRONG? THEY SWIM UP ON THE BEACH AND DIE.

In the midst of a national security emergency, why is the Bush Administration wasting millions of tax dollars on a sonar "bomb" that kills whales? Dreamed up in the 1980s to detect Soviet submarines lurking in the ocean, LFA sonar is a Cold War relic, obsolete in the face of sophisticated computer-enhanced listening devices. And it's a threat to whales and other marine life. Read on for the details.

Naval use of active sonar, experimental echolocation technologies loud enough to kill, has been blamed for dozens of whale deaths and beachings from Greece to the Bahamas. Researchers have found that some of the dead whales were torn apart internally by waves of noise a million times greater than the human pain threshold. For a decade, the U.S. Navy tested this "sonic depth charge" system illegally. It denied the lethal impact of low frequency active (LFA) sonar blasts on whale species. It ignored U.S. law and global agreements that protect endangered marine mammals. It also tried to cover up the fact that better alternatives exist.

Navy commanders around the world are equipping their fleets with a refined, silent-listening submarine detection system harmless to marine life as quickly as service budgets allow, according to the Navy's own testimony.

Yet Navy bureaucrats are still doggedly pursuing active sonar—a Cold War-era boondoggle never perfected during the Cold War—at a cost to taxpayers of \$375 million so far.

Finally forced to admit that active sonar threatens whales, the Navy asked for and recently received special exemptions from the Marine Mammal Protection Act. The Navy is now free to kill, injure or harass up to 10% of an endangered species.

The Bush Administration and the Navy are pushing Congress to give the Navy a permanent exemption from the provisions of the law. Congress, to its credit, has so far rejected this outrageous proposal.

But the Bush Administration is trying a sneak attack on environmental laws through the budgeting process. President Bush is urging Congress to include this license to kill whales in must-pass funding legislation for the Pentagon.

Respected marine biologists and other scientists worldwide have signed petitions to stop the Navy from deploying active sonar, today's greatest threat to whales.

Meanwhile, a retired director of Navy weapons development says the low frequency active (LFA) sonar system is conceptually "absurd" since the



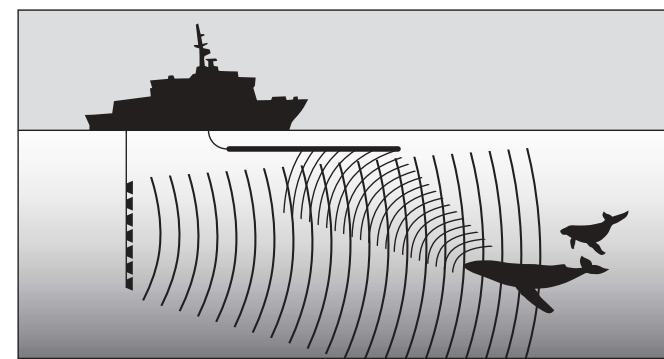
DIANE CLARIDGE CWR BAHAMAS MARINE MAMMAL SURVEY

The Navy admitted that active sonar caused the death of at least 6 whales of 16 that beached themselves in the Bahamas. Above, a Center for Whale Research scientist examines one of those killed by active sonar.

Navy's active sonar blasts are just as useful to an enemy listening for Navy ships as they are to the Navy listening for enemy ships.

Wasting taxpayer resources on an obsolete and counterproductive military system is irresponsible. To then cite "national security" as the excuse to destroy decades of marine mammal conservation is plain dishonest.

The truth is, no trade-off is needed. Both the whales' survival and our nation's security are best served by stopping the Navy's active sonar program now. Please, mail the coupons below.



The Bush Administration recently approved the use of LFA sonar which sends lethal sound waves throughout hundreds of square miles of ocean. At close range, it can kill whales and human divers outright. Further out, it can cause severe tissue damage and bleeding in the inner ears of whales, leading them to beach themselves and die in agony.

SCIENTISTS SPEAK OUT ON LFA SONAR

...[T]here is evidence that high-intensity sonar affects marine mammal communication and navigation and, in some species, may cause strandings and death. For example, sonar impacted pilot whales in the Mediterranean in 1994, sonar experiments were correlated with beaked whale strandings in Greece in 1996, and the mass mortality of whales in the Bahamas last year has been linked to the use of high intensity sonar.

...According to the United States Marine Mammal Commission, "[i]f the LFA sonar system is made available for worldwide employment as proposed, all species and populations of marine mammals could possibly be affected."

...The impact of high intensity sonar and expansion of its use in the sea presents an unacceptable risk to marine species and their habitat.

— From a letter submitted for the government record by dozens of scientists including Pulitzer Prize winning author and Harvard Research Professor **Edward O. Wilson, Ph.D.**; Director of the Woods Hole Oceanographic Institution **George Woodwell, Ph.D.**; and members of the American Academy of Science.

**Stop the waste.
Stop the whale kills.
Stop the Navy's
lethal sonar.**



Senator Dianne Feinstein
U.S. Senate, Washington, DC 20510
senator@feinstein.senate.gov

Dear Senator Feinstein:
I am deeply concerned about the Navy's whale-killing low frequency active (LFA) sonar system and the attempts by the Bush Administration to exempt the Navy from environmental laws, including the Marine Mammal Protection Act. Please do all you can from the Appropriations Committee to stop the Navy's obsolete and deadly sonar "bombs."

NAME _____
ADDRESS _____
CITY / STATE / ZIP _____

Governor Gray Davis
State Capitol Building, Sacramento, CA 95814
governor@governor.ca.gov

Dear Governor Davis:
I am deeply concerned about the Navy's planned deployment of whale-killing low frequency active (LFA) sonar. In order to protect our whales and other precious marine life, I strongly urge you and the Coastal Commission to reject approval of the LFA Sonar system use in California ocean waters.

NAME _____
ADDRESS _____
CITY / STATE / ZIP _____

Earth Island Institute
300 Broadway, Suite 28, San Francisco, CA 94133
www.earthisland.org

— Yes, I am shocked the Bush Administration would push to exempt the Navy from laws to protect marine mammals and other ocean life. Please keep me posted on what I can do to help stop whale-killing LFA sonar.

— Here is my tax-deductible contribution to help save the whales and our oceans: \$35 \$75 \$150

NAME _____
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