

## **Public Comment to the U.S. Commission on Ocean Policy**

I am writing to encourage you to oppose all funding and continuance of the LWAD sonar detection program currently being carried out by the Navy. While I understand the need to identify submarines in order to protect American interests, I feel very strongly that allowing this kind of loud sonar to interrupt communication among whales, leading (as the Navy themselves have admitted) to mass strandings, is a profound threat to all layers of marine life and so to our global well-being as humans.

There is a large body of research on this kind of sonar detection and its effects—namely destroying the inner ears of whales (documented by Navy as well as conservation reserachers), interrupting key communication systems, disrupting feeding and mating, and disorienting whales so that they beach in large numbers.

The NRDC is currently challenging this program in the US District Court. It is my hope that you will do everything within your power to spread the word about this destructive program and to help us stop the Navy from destroying valuable marine mammals.

This is an urgent issue and I ask you to attend to it quickly. Thank you for your time and your efforts in this regard.

Sincerely

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