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Editor
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Dear Editor,

I am writing to inform your readers of a deep concern I have for the health of our Oceans. It seems that the U.S. Navy, in their concern for our "National Security" has taken to lying to us again about some of their activities. On this particular instance they are proposing a new technology that will put most deepwater animals, including whales, porpoises and dolphins at risk.

The Navy proposals – named LFAS, or Low Frequency Active Sonar and SURTASS, or Surveillance Towed Array Sensor System – both involve generating incredibly loud low frequency noise throughout all of the world's deep oceans. The noise levels from 140dB up to 215dB will constitute the loudest noises ever generated by humans. These noises will have a disastrous affect on all animals in the ocean for the simple reason that unlike us humans who rely heavily on vision, many underwater creatures rely exclusively on sound. The deep ocean is not a visual environment, it is an auditory environment. The affect of this sound – in the most charitable words of the Navy itself – "will be like standing six feet away from a running lawnmower." This is perhaps no big deal for Navy folks who are used to screaming at each other to get their points across, but to ask all whales, dolphins and other creatures to endure this for our "National Security" is short sighted and down right nasty.

The Navy's stated reason for this project is to determine if there are other hostile submarines in the ocean. Though I am not in on the project, I have informed reasons to believe that it is actually designed to provide communications between the U.S. Navy Submarines, and not a surveillance tool as they propose.

Please help put a stop to this unbelievable folly. Write to your elected representatives; call up Al Gore; notify your friends and enter your comments onto the record by contacting J.S. Johnson, SURTASS LFA Sonar OEIS/EIS Program Manager, 901 North Stuart Street, Suite 708, Arlington, VA 22203, fax 703-465-8420.

We only have until October 28 to catch this one. For more information visit the following website: <http://www.oceanmammalinst.com/actions.html>

Sincerely,

Michael Stocker
Acoustical Engineer
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