

Honorable Lynn C. Woolsey
439 Cannon
Washington, D.C. 20515

October 21, 1999

Re: U.S. Navy LFAS/SURTASS programs

Dear Representative Woolsey,

I am writing to express my 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, involves 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 downright 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 Nuclear Submarines, and not a surveillance tool as they propose. I resent having to pay for a national defense I do not trust, whose motives are obscure and who I have ample reasons to believe are lying to me. I also fear that in their zeal to "protect me" they will inevitably ruin the life of our planet.

Please help put a stop to this unbelievable folly.

Sincerely,

Michael Stocker
Principal