



→ For more petition forms, current information and list of coalition members visit www.silentoceans.org

Head Office/Coordination:

ASMS Swiss Marine Mammal Protection
PO Box 30, CH-8820 Waedenswil, Switzerland
Tel: +41 (0)1 780 66 88, Fax: +41 (0)1 780 68 08
info@asms-swiss.org, www.asms-swiss.org

Coalition Member:

Petition against high intensity active Sonar

The US Navy has recently received official permission from the US government to deploy a new high intensity active sonar system to detect and track enemy submarines. The system, known as "Surveillance Towed Array Sensor System Low Frequency Active Sonar" or "LFAS", is intended to operate over as much as **75% of the world's oceans** at an effective source level of **240 dB**. Many other countries as well as NATO are developing similar systems.

According to Navy sound charts, the LFAS signal can be 140 dB more than 480 km/300 miles from the source. This level of sound is known to disrupt communication in large whales and therefore could disrupt breeding. Low and mid-frequency active sonar exercises have been linked to whale strandings and deaths in the Mediterranean and the Bahamas. Necropsies from the Bahamas stranding showed the whales died from hemorrhaging related to the sonar. Scientists have expressed concern that if LFAS and other high intensity active sonars are deployed world-wide, **all species of marine mammals as well as the marine food chain could be affected.**

Fishing leaders in the UK are asking for research on the effects of Royal Navy sonar tests on fish stocks, citing a decline in fish since sonar exercises began in the area. Little is known about the long-term impacts of LFAS and other high-intensity active sonars on marine life or ecological processes.

We request that NATO comply with the UN Law of the Sea Convention and commission an independent Global Environmental Assessment on the impact of LFAS and other high-intensity active sonars on marine life and on the cumulative and synergistic impact of several nations simultaneously deploying these technologies. According to a Las Palmas, Canary Islands University report, 15 whales died around Sept. 24, 2002 of brain hemorrhage, most likely caused by "strong acoustic signals" emitted by navy-ships. All deployment of high intensity active sonars should be stopped until the assessment is completed and evaluated.

First Name	Last Name	Address	City/Zip Code	Country	Signature
1.					
2.					
3.					
4.					
5.					
6.					
7.					
8.					
9.					
10.					

Please send the signed petition forms by latest the end of September, 2003 to ASMS or to the local organisation mentioned above. Every person can sign independent of age and nationality. The collected signatures will be presented to the decision-makers of NATO and EU. Every single signature counts!