Environmental Groups Expand Lawsuit Against Navy Sonar, Explosive Testing

A coalition of conservation groups have amended their complaint, filed in Hawaii federal court last month, challenging the Navy’s five-year plan to conduct underwater sonar and training activities off the coasts of Hawaii and southern California.

The amended complaint adds the Navy as a defendant, in addition to the National Marine Fisheries Service, and alleges that the Fisheries Service violated its legal duty to protect endangered species in approving the plan.

The lawsuit is being brought by the Center for Biological Diversity, the Conservation Council for Hawaii, the Animal Welfare Institute and Ocean Mammal Institute. Earthjustice, a Honolulu law firm, is representing the groups.

The groups argue that the Navy’s sonar and explosive testing will harm an inordinate amount of marine life, including whales, seals, sea turtles and dolphins.

The Navy says that it plans to limit the harm to marine life and that the testing is important to protecting national security.

Photo: Humpback whale (NOAA)

— Sophie Cocke

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Debra Kekaualua · Top Commenter · Executive Committee at Self Employed and Loving It!

Navy to "limit the harm" on sea creatures? how’s that, when we cannot control GMO sprays. I say the Navy needs to shut down these practices and first take care of the ‘leaks’ on Oahu shores. ALSO, Navy and politics are hampering our efforts to live peaceably, but for Kaua‘i, these same entities want us to experience DRONIES, sideways drilling into Waialeale, billionaires buying these islands hook line and sinkering Kanaka Maoli to their tribal status and lands ‘returned to them by America’s generosity’, shibai at the top, all the way to under that bus or this side of the fence where there is NO Akaka tribe.

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Joey Racano · Top Commenter · Musician at Every Honky Tonk and Bar

The US Navy is way out of control with this recklessness. The people are against it and it is wholly insane. The idea that we are in danger from N Korean ‘silent electric diesel submarines’ is laughable but it's hard to laugh at this frightening abuse of the publics trust. Defund the US Navy 98%. On Facebook: stop navy sonar testing.

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