

Ocracoke Preservation Society, Inc.

49 Water Plant Road • PO Box 1240 Ocracoke, NC 27960
252-928-7375 • fax 252-928-4560 • www.ocracoke-museum.org

Keith Jenkins Code EV21KJ
Naval Facilities Engineering Command Atlantic
6506 Hampton Blvd.
Norfolk VA 23508-1278

November 29, 2005

Dear Mr. Jenkins:

I am writing on behalf of the Ocracoke Preservation Society Inc. to express our opposition to the Undersea Warfare Training Range proposed offshore of North Carolina or any other Atlantic coast state. Our organization is a non-profit with a board of ten, a staff of four, and a membership of 543, located on Ocracoke Island, part of North Carolina's Outer Banks. The primary livelihoods here are fishing and tourism, so Ocracoke's well-being is dependent on the sea.

We feel that the proposed training range threatens the health of the sea and of marine mammals, and could be devastating to sea turtles, fish, and other marine life. Our charter boat and commercial fishing industries could be negatively affected, and should there be cetacean strandings or dead fish on our beaches, our tourist industry would suffer as well. A recent report from the United Nations states that powerful military sonar is harming 71 types of cetaceans, many of which are endangered species. The North Atlantic right whale, considered the most endangered of all whales, travels and has been known to give birth near the range.

We do not believe that the Navy's proposed marine mammal spotters will be able to prevent cetacean deaths, and we question whether the Navy has sufficient knowledge about impacts on other species. We suggest that computer simulation or other non-destructive strategies be used to prepare for threats. The Ocracoke Preservation Society respectfully expresses our opposition to this project as it is now proposed, be it off North Carolina's coast or any other coast where marine ecosystems and life are at risk.

Sincerely,
Pat Garber, Executive Director
Ocracoke Preservation Society

Nicky Clark
Frank Snow
Mary Brown
Julia Howard
Risa Caswell
Patte Lott
Pat Garber
R. P. Jenkins

