

Sonar Research

Navy Admits Sonar Killed Whales

<https://www.science.org/content/article/navy-admits-sonar-killed-whales>

"They soon counted 17 other stranded marine mammals in nearby waters, some with apparently bleeding ears. They managed to collect tissue samples--including whole heads--from six of the animals that had died. Government scientists launched an investigation after learning that the strandings had occurred within 24 hours of a nearby Navy training mission."

"In an interim report released 20 December 2001, Navy and NMFS scientists conclude that the strandings were caused by an "unusual combination" of factors, including sea-bottom contours and water conditions that may have channeled and magnified sonar pings. While the researchers could not pinpoint exactly how the sound energy injured the whales' ears or tissues, the acoustic assault appears to have left some dazed and confused, causing them to swim ashore or become vulnerable to shark attack. The Navy says that, in the future, it will try to avoid using sonar in similar situations during training runs, and it hopes to fund more research."

"The study's result "doesn't surprise" Naomi Rose, a marine mammal expert with the Humane Society of the United States in Gaithersburg, Maryland.

"There is no way the Navy could have avoided owning up," she says. But she believes the report is "carefully worded" so that it does not give ammunition to critics of SURTASS LFA, the new, lower frequency sonar system the Navy plans to deploy. NMFS is expected to announce soon whether it will give the Navy a permit to operate that system, but some environmental groups have threatened to sue to block the sonar's deployment."

Sampled Audio

Navy Sonar & Whales

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=O9gDk29Y_YY&t=65s

Sampled Audio

Pierce Brosnan: Save Whales, Stop Deadly Navy Sonar! - NRDC

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Y6RxmUXZekc>