

**Municipality
of
Anchorage**



*P.O. Box 390
Girdwood, Alaska 99587
<http://www.muni.org/gbos>
Ethan Berkowitz, Mayor*

*GIRDWOOD VALLEY SERVICE AREA BOARD OF SUPERVISORS
Sam Daniel/Jerry Fox, Co-Chairs
Tommy O'Malley, Robert Snitzer, Eryn Boone*

**Resolution 2016-13
Of the Girdwood Board of Supervisors**

**A RESOLUTION IN SUPPORT OF CHANGING EXISTING SITE AND SEASON
OF U.S. NAVY TRAINING EXERCISES IN THE GULF OF ALASKA**

WHEREAS, the Girdwood Board of Supervisors is recognized as the Girdwood Community Council Ex-Officio, with the Girdwood Land Use Committee as the recognized one-person, one-vote representative body of the citizens of the Girdwood Valley; and

WHEREAS, the U.S. Navy plans to conduct training activities utilizing explosives, live ordnance, and sonar in the Gulf of Alaska in 2017 that will have impacts on marine life and habitat of interest to residents of the Girdwood Valley; and

WHEREAS, these trainings will impact the waters of the Gulf of Alaska by annually releasing up to approximately 352,000 pounds of expended materials including up to 10,500 pounds of hazardous materials including cyanide, chromium, lead, tungsten, nickel, cadmium, barium chromate, chlorides, phosphorus, titanium compounds, lead oxide, potassium perchlorate, lead chromate, ammonium perchlorate, fulminate of mercury, and lead azide into waters designated by NOAA as Essential Fish Habitat for a multitude of species that support the economic development in Alaskan coastal communities and harvest of wild Alaskan salmon and other fish for global markets; and

WHEREAS, the training area and vicinity is a highly productive region for many marine fish and shellfish populations and supports some of the most productive fisheries in the United States, and an important spawning area for many fishes, and the training is scheduled to take place during the summer season when many fish populations are migrating and spawning (at least 383 species belonging to 84 families of marine and anadromous fishes have been reported from the predominant ecosystems found in the training area); and

WHEREAS, the residents of Girdwood are reliant on the fish and wildlife resources in the Gulf of Alaska for their subsistence harvest and the livelihoods supported by commercial fishing; and

WHEREAS, Girdwood supports all cultural, traditional and subsistence activities historically and continually practiced by Native and non-Native peoples in the Gulf of Alaska; and

WHEREAS, Girdwood finds no scientific information or traditional knowledge demonstrating that the U.S. Navy's training activities can take place without negatively affecting salmon, marine mammal, bird and other marine habitats; and

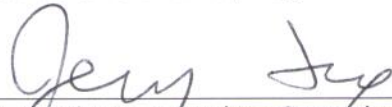
WHEREAS, the Girdwood Land Use Committee, which has heard presentations and public testimony regarding this matter on October 10, 2016 and on November 14, 2016, and has recommended this GBOS Resolution of Support by a vote of the public attending the Regular meeting of the Girdwood Land Use Committee on November 14, 2016 by a vote of 9 for and 0 against with 3 abstaining.

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Girdwood Board of Supervisors does hereby request that the U.S. Navy refrain from using live ordnance or sonar in any Marine Protected Area, including NOAA Fisheries Marine Protected Areas, State Marine Protected Areas and Habitat Areas of Particular Concern;

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Girdwood Board of Supervisors requests that the U.S. Navy relocate its training area to the far southeast corner of the current designated training area, off the Continental Shelf areas of the Gulf of Alaska, and away from seamounts; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Girdwood Board of Supervisors requests the U.S. Navy to conduct its training exercises after September 20 and before March 20 annually, so as not to impact migrating salmon and other species.

PASSED AND APPROVED by the Girdwood Board of Supervisors this 21st day of November, 2016 by a vote of 5 in favor, 0 opposed.



Jerry Fox, Land Use Committee Supervisor for the GBOS

11/21/16

Date



Attest