

U.S Navy gives money for investigation

Endangered sperm whales could have unfavorable affects to underwater noises

By Wes Swift
THE BATTALION

A group of Texas A&M professors and students will use a \$316,000 grant from the U.S. Navy to investigate whether loud underwater noises adversely affect sperm whales in the Gulf of Mexico.

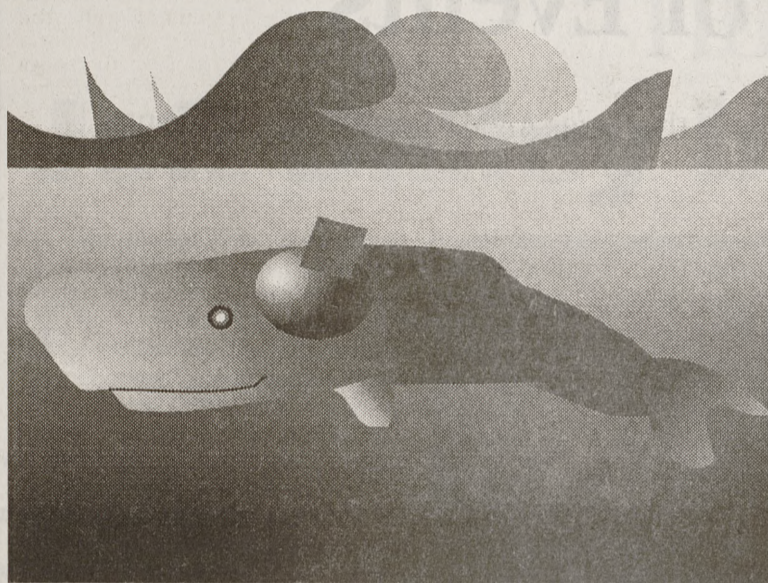
The A&M Center for Bioacoustics received the three-year grant to study the movement and behavior of sperm whales that are exposed to low-frequency, high-intensity sounds.

Four scientists, headed by Dr. Robert Benson, center director and associate professor of engineering technology, will broadcast tape-recorded tones underwater for distances of about 1 kilometer.

The team probably will be based on an off-shore oil rig in the Gulf of Mexico.

Using underwater microphones attached to buoys, the scientists will monitor the "clicking" sounds that sperm whales usually make. With these sounds, the team will determine how the whales move and behave.

Dr. Bill Evans, an oceanography and wildlife fisheries science professor at Texas A&M at Galveston, said the team will be examining the whales' reactions



"We hope to determine whether or not sperm whales react to these sounds," Evans said. "We want to know how they react, whether they're attracted or repelled by (the sounds), and if so, if they accommodate themselves to the noise."

The National Marine Fisheries Service estimates that there are 2 million sperm whales left in the

world. They have been on the endangered species list since 1970.

The whales are noted for their deep dives, sometimes reaching depths of 3.3 kilometers, and for the "clicking" noises they make when coming into contact with other life forms.

Scientists do not know what the purpose of the clicking is, though some believe it could be

for communication or territorial purposes. Sperm whales from various regions have different types of clicks.

The study arose from a new method of measuring global warming that transmits sounds underwater between two points. By measuring the time the sounds take to travel between the two points, scientist can determine the temperature of the earth.

Under federal regulations, such as the Endangered Species Act of 1973, any underwater activity must be investigated to determine whether it has adverse effects on the behavior of marine life. If marine life is altered, the effects must be eliminated before the activity can resume.

Benson said scientists do not expect the whales to experience any adverse effects.

"We're going into this with no preconceived notions," he said. "However, if I had to guess, then I think there probably won't be any adverse effects. But, we're not trying to find adverse effects, we're trying to determine if there are any effects at all."

Benson said the 120-decibel sounds used in the experiments may seem loud, but they are really not. He compared the sounds to common car stereo amplifiers.

Montana train derailment hospitalizes 40 people

A tank car leaked 170,000 pounds of chlorine near small town

ALBERTON, Mont. (AP) — A freight train derailed today near this western Montana town and a tank car leaked chlorine, forcing the evacuation of the entire town of 400. At least 37 people suffering breathing problems were taken to hospitals, and three were reported in critical condition.

A National Guard spokesman estimated 1,000 people were evacuated from the area around the derailment within four hours after the accident, including the 400 residents of Alberton.

Bill Silverman, coordinator of the Missoula County Disaster and Emergency Services, said five tank cars derailed about 4 a.m. Four contained chlorine, and one of those overturned and leaked, he said.

Bill Reed, chief of the Missoula Rural Fire Department, said the car was ruptured on the bottom. "It's probably empty now, or nearly so," he said. "That's not the concern now. The big concern is the condition of the other cars."

He said four people in protective suits en-

tered the site to examine the wreckage.

Dan Rapkoch, spokesman for the state Department of Military Affairs, said 170,000 pounds of chlorine had leaked from at least one derailed car. Two chlorine plumes were reported in the area.

Sandy Neis, 32, who lives about two miles from the derailment, said the the evacuation was swift.

"I got dressed, got my daughter dressed and grabbed the dog," she said. She and daughter Katie, 6, and husband Rich, 35, were among those who took shelter at an evacuation center in Frenchtown, about 12 miles to the east.

Reed told about 300 people gathered at the evacuation center that the danger was real to those exposed to the gas.

"I won't minimize the danger," he told the evacuees. "You could have some long-term effects if you breathe enough of it."

Monitors at the edge of a "hot zone" designated around the wreckage were reading 3 to

7 parts per million of chlorine along Interstate 90, Reed said. He said 10 ppm is considered dangerous to human health, and evacuations are ordered at 5 ppm.

Interstate 90, which runs next to the derailment site, was closed. Traffic was rerouted on an 80-mile detour on U.S. 93 and Montana 200 from St. Regis to near Missoula.

Reed said 14 people were taken to Mineral County Hospital near Superior, 17 to St. Patrick's Hospital in Missoula and five to Community Medical Center in Missoula. In addition, a truck driver on I-90 who drove through the plume later stopped at St. James Hospital in Butte, complaining of breathing difficulties.

The train was operated by Missoula-based Montana Rail Link, which hauls freight in southern and western Montana.

Chlorine gas is a strong irritant which forms an acid when mixed with water. Disaster officials said it can form explosive compounds in reaction with other common substances. It is heavier than air and may collect in low-lying areas.

JUNIOR FULBRIGHT

The Junior Fulbright provides graduating seniors and graduate students of U.S. citizenship the opportunity to develop a proposal for a specific research project to be undertaken in the country of their choice during the 1997-1998 academic year. Each applicant may apply once during the current year of competition.

Informational Meeting Times
 MONDAY APRIL 15 at 1pm
 WEDNESDAY APRIL 17 at 1pm
 FRIDAY APRIL 19 AT 1pm

All Meetings Held in Bizzell Hall West room 154
FOR ADDITIONAL REQUIREMENTS, INFORMATIONAL MEETING TIMES, OR GENERAL INFORMATION, CONTACT:

STUDY ABROAD PROGRAMS OFFICE
 161 BIZZELL HALL WEST
 (409) 845-0544

Student Organization Leadership Conference

Presented by the Dept. of Student Activities for student organization officers.
Thursday, April 18

Officers from any recognized student organization are invited. Come even if your group didn't pre-register!

5:30 - 6:00 pm Registration, Governance Rm. (144), Koldus Bldg.
6:00 - 6:30 pm Keynote Address
6:40 - 9:00 pm Individual Sessions (Rudder)

Topics Include:

Publicity	Managing Conflict	Fiscal Affairs
Principled Leadership	Communication Skills	Delegation
Setting Goals	Effective Meetings	Group Development
		Demands of Leadership
		Inclusive Leadership
		Development Transcript

Call Kristin or Lisa at 862-4724 for more information.

Be in an **ATM** Calendar!

CALENDAR CRAZE!

Will be here
 Tues. April 16 & Wed. April 17
 at the MSC, Commons, Zachary,
 and the Wehner Building
 Sponsored by TAMU A&A

CINEMARK THEATRES

MOVIES 16 HOLLYWOOD USA
 BRYAN-COLLEGE STATION
 Hwy 6 Bypass @ Hwy 30 764-7592

MOVIES BELOW ARE FIRST-RUN
 \$3.50 MATINEES BEFORE 6PM
 AFTER 6PM ADULTS \$5.50
 CHILDREN & SENIORS \$3.50
 Fri. - Sun. Schedule

FEAR (R) 11:30 2:00 4:20 7:00 9:30	FURTING WITH DISASTER (R) 11:55 2:20 4:45 7:20 9:40
FRENCH TWIST (R) 11:50 2:20 4:50 7:20 9:50	PRIMAL FEAR (R) (Thu Tuesday) 11:10 1:40 4:35 7:45 10:45
ATHIN LINE BETWEEN... (R) 11:05 1:50 4:10 7:10 10:05	FAITHFUL (R) 1:35 9:55
HOMEWARD BOUND II (G) 11:00 1:10 3:20 5:30	DIABOLIQUE (R) 7:30 10:00
ALL DOGS GO TO HEAVEN (G) 11:10 1:15 3:20 5:15	THE BIRDCAGE (R) 11:05 1:30 4:15 7:30 10:20
FARGO (R) 11:30 1:10 3:50 7:00 9:40	A FAMILY THING (PG-13) 11:50 2:30 5:00 7:50 10:25
OLIVER & COMPANY (G) 12:45 2:30 4:30 6:50 9:00	MR. HOLLAND'S OPUS (PG) 11:50 3:00 7:15 10:15
LEAVING LAS VEGAS (R) 11:25 5:10 10:30	SENSE AND SENSIBILITY (PG) 6:15 7:45
UP CLOSE AND PERSONAL (PG-13) 12:15 3:00 (6:40)* 10:10	DEAD MAN WALKING (R) 11:15 2:25 5:10 7:50 10:35
BROKEN ARROW (R) 11:15 1:25 4:20 7:40 10:10	

Box Office Opens at 10:45 a.m.
 *No passes or supersavers accepted on this feature
 We're on the Internet. Our WEB address is:
<http://www.ipt.com>

(*) Sneak Preview of "Mrs. Winterborn" of Saturday at 7:30 p.m. instead of the 6:40 p.m. showing of "Up Close and Personal"

Loose Diamonds

Marquise Cut				Round Diamond			
Carat	Color	Clarity	Price	Carat	Color	Clarity	Price
.31	I	SI1	\$475 ⁰⁰	.77	G	SI1	\$1800 ⁰⁰
.31	H	VS2	675 ⁰⁰	.95	I	I1	2,275 ⁰⁰
.49	F	SI1	1,579 ⁰⁰	.90	H	VS1	4,250 ⁰⁰ EGL Cert.
.49	J	SI2	1,050 ⁰⁰	1.00	G	I1	2,600 ⁰⁰
.57	K	SI1	1,150 ⁰⁰	1.04	C	VS1	6,000 ⁰⁰ GIA Cert.
.68	J	VS2	1,900 ⁰⁰	1.16	J	SI1	3,950 ⁰⁰
.69	K	VVS2	1,750 ⁰⁰	1.19	I	SI2	4,750 ⁰⁰ GIA Cert.
.71	H	VS2	3,100 ⁰⁰ UGA Cert.	1.33	J	SI1	3,500 ⁰⁰
.71	G	VS2	2,900 ⁰⁰	2.00	J	SI1/SI2	6,975 ⁰⁰
.83	H	SI1	3,150 ⁰⁰	9.51	L/M	I1/I2	29,000 ⁰⁰
.84	K/L	SI1	2,150 ⁰⁰				
.94	K	SI1	2,650 ⁰⁰				
1.01	I	SI1	4,500 ⁰⁰ EGL Cert.				
1.21	K	SI3	3,750 ⁰⁰				

Emerald Cut				Pear Shape			
Carat	Color	Clarity	Price	Carat	Color	Clarity	Price
.43	L	VVS2	\$750 ⁰⁰	.49	H	SI1	\$1,253 ⁰⁰
.71	H	SI2	1,675 ⁰⁰	.59	E	I1	995 ⁰⁰
.74	H	SI3	1,500 ⁰⁰	.79	K	SI1	1,675 ⁰⁰
.83	H	SI3	1,575 ⁰⁰	.92	K	VS2	2,300 ⁰⁰
.88	G	SI2	1,750 ⁰⁰	1.02	J	SI1	3,250 ⁰⁰
.93	G	SI3	1,950 ⁰⁰				
1.28	I	VS2	4,650 ⁰⁰				

Round Diamond				Princess			
Carat	Color	Clarity	Price	Carat	Color	Clarity	Price
.23	H	VVS1	\$400 ⁰⁰	.49	K	SI1	\$ 875 ⁰⁰
.27	H	VVS1	475 ⁰⁰	.53	K	VS1	975 ⁰⁰
.31	H	VVS2	745 ⁰⁰ IGL Cert.	.80	J	I1	1,375 ⁰⁰
.33	H	VVS2	790 ⁰⁰	.92	H	VVS2	3,500 ⁰⁰
.34	G	VVS2	895 ⁰⁰	.93	H	VS2	3,200 ⁰⁰
.37	G	I1	350 ⁰⁰	1.42	H	SI3	3,900 ⁰⁰
.52	F	I1	595 ⁰⁰ UGA Cert.				
.52	H	VVS2	1,875 ⁰⁰ IGL Cert.				
.64	H	VVS2	1,990 ⁰⁰				
.70	I	SI1	2,100 ⁰⁰				
.71	H	SI1	2,200 ⁰⁰				
.71	H	VVS2	2,985 ⁰⁰ IGL Cert.				

Oval			
Carat	Color	Clarity	Price
.32	H	SI1	\$ 550 ⁰⁰
.40	J	VS1	675 ⁰⁰
.56	K	V	1,075 ⁰⁰
.66	K	VVS2	1,252 ⁰⁰
.81	I	VS2	3,225 ⁰⁰ UGA Cert.
.93	I	SI2	2,860 ⁰⁰
1.00	G	I1	2,700 ⁰⁰
1.12	I	SI1	3,950 ⁰⁰
1.53	I/J	SI1	5,800 ⁰⁰

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