

# STATEMENT

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## U.S. Navy Sonar, Protected Marine Mammals Case

Today, the Supreme Court heard oral argument in Winter v. Natural Resources Defense Council, re. whether the U.S. Navy must limit its use of high-powered sonar off the Southern California coast to protect marine mammals.

The Pacific Legal Foundation submitted an amicus brief supporting the government.

"This case is about more than just whether environmentalist interest groups will be allowed to dictate America's national security law," said Steven Geoffrey Gieseler of the Pacific Legal Foundation, who filed a brief with the Court supporting the government. "It's a chance for the Supreme Court to restore overall balance in a realm where merely hypothetical harms to species can be used to halt real efforts to build homes, create jobs, or even prepare for natural disasters."

Gieseler noted that an environmental injunction such as the one at issue in this case was used to block a project in the 1970's aimed at fortifying New Orleans against floods from a catastrophic hurricane like Katrina.

### **About Pacific Legal Foundation**

Headquartered in Sacramento, PLF ([www.pacificlegal.org](http://www.pacificlegal.org)) is the oldest and most successful public interest legal organization that litigates for limited government, property rights, and individual liberty, in courts across the country.

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