

# Canada: No More War Games on Dying Oceans During a Pandemic – End Participation in RIMPAC Now!

## What is it?

RIMPAC, otherwise known as the Rim of the Pacific Exercise, is a military exercise led by the United States Navy in and around the Hawaiian Islands and Southern California. In recent years, 25 countries and a combined 25,000 military personnel have been involved.

## What happens at RIMPAC?

Participating militaries engage in hypothetical sea battle scenarios which include live-gunnery fire, SINKEX (sink exercise), and missile fire. Militaries also showcase their latest weaponry that is to go on the market.

## Global Ceasefire

Due to the spread of COVID-19 across the globe, the United Nations called for a global ceasefire so countries can focus on managing the pandemic. Canada has stated they fully support this global ceasefire yet continue to plan to participate in RIMPAC 2020.

## COVID-19 Concerns

COVID-19 poses a very real risk aboard naval ships as they do not have adequate space to allow for proper social distancing. There is also a risk of COVID-19 spread to Hawaiians as some personnel will still be allowed on land during the exercises.

## Why we oppose:

Canada does not need to participate in an imaginary war exercise that heightens international military tensions, costs significant money and resources that could be used to help Canadians during a global pandemic, pollutes the environment and marine wildlife with military waste, and is contrary to the spirit of the global ceasefire Canada has endorsed.

## Funding

Canadian citizens are struggling financially through this pandemic. The Canadian Government needs to focus its time, resources and money on aiding Canadians before joining in war games with other countries.

## Environment

Decommissioned naval ships are shot at and sunk during exercises where they crush deep-sea corals and release pollutants into the sea. Bush fires have been started during previous RIMPAC events by flares used in exercises. Marine wildlife is detrimentally affected by the use of sonar, as well as gun and missile fire.

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