

Public Comments on the U.S. Commission on Ocean Policy's Preliminary Report

Topic Area: Supportive Comments

Comments Submitted by:

- Kathy Cherry, Sun Prairie, Wisconsin
- Rebecca B. Smith, The Florida Chapter of the Wildlife Society
- Henry L. Diamond, Americans for Our Heritage and Recreation
- Pam Dana
- Diane Lewis, Skidaway Marine Science Foundation
- Samuel R. Lammie, Montrose, West Virginia
- Robert R. Furgason and John W. Tunnell, Jr., Harte Research Institute for Gulf of Mexico Studies
- Kalle Matso
- Submitted by Robert Holderied
- James G. Sanders, The Southern Association of Marine Laboratories
- Ginger Sides
- Dan Wagner
- Lee Shear, Tampa, Florida
- John Harbeck, Cedarburg, Wisconsin
- Edward C. Monahan and staff, The Connecticut Sea Grant College Program
- Jennifer Slagel, Modesto, California
- Linda Stathoplos, Bethesda, Maryland
- Barbara Burnett, Seattle, Washington
- Chris Davis, Portland, Oregon
- Joseph J. Ward
- Betty R. Stewart, Keizer, Oregon
- Walter E. Bensman, Jr. and Geneva M. Bensman, Salem, Oregon
- Donald R. Dann, Highland Park, Illinois
- Maile Nohealani Johnson, citizen
- Stephanie Jarvis, Sonoma, California
- Jack and Donna Trethewey
- Claudia Rincon
- John Hanson, Evansville, Wisconsin
- Paul Neumann, Oak Creek, Wisconsin
- Robert S. Sweeney
- Hank Whipple
- Leah Dunkelberger, Wilmington, North Carolina
- Lannie
- Lexy Kirk, Save our Shores
- Mariette Nowak, East Troy, Wisconsin
- JMaas & DDevona, Milwaukee, Wisconsin
- Dick Zielinski, Hales Corners, Wisconsin

- Beth and Charly
- Cy Lyle
- Linda Cockrell
- Sheila A. Larson, Stafford, Virginia
- James Janicki
- Louis H. Liotti, Garrison, New York
- Peggy Grow
- Joe and Patti Malecki
- Don Springstead, Ft Myers, Florida
- Gisela Zelenka-Drysdale, Wauwatasoa, Wisconsin
- Pete Dickert, Sussex, Wisconsin
- M.A. Peterson
- Georgette J. Ryan
- Mary L. Dyer
- Shaina Keough, Summerland School
- Todd H. Scales
- Bill Wilson, Tampa, Florida
- Roxanne Swallows
- Nancy Schamu, National Conference of State Historic Preservation Officers
- Susan M. Saupe, Cook Inlet Regional Citizens Advisory Council
- Bertin Cote, Government of Canada
- Ann Weaver Hart, University of New Hampshire

Comment Submitted by Kathy Cherry of Sun Prairie, Wisconsin

Hello,

I fully support protecting the oceans from pollution and overfishing. Thank you!

Kathy Cherry
Sun Prairie, Wisconsin

Comment Submitted by Rebecca B. Smith, The Florida Chapter of the Wildlife Society

Comments submitted by Rebecca B. Smith, Wildlife Ecologist and Conservation Committee Chairperson, The Florida Chapter of the Wildlife Society.

On behalf of the Society, I would like to congratulate the Commission on a very impressive report.

Regarding the recommendations:

We strongly support the use of ecosystem-based management for the oceans and adjacent marsh and terrestrial environments. It is becoming more apparent over time that our planet is truly small and all of its parts are interconnected. The ocean is not a huge black hole that can accommodate all of our wastes and still provide plentiful clean food and water.

It is extremely important, if we are going to have sustainability of resources "to meet the needs of future generations", that decisions for conservation, preservation, and particularly management be based on good, unbiased science. Without such data, none of the other guiding principles can be meaningfully achieved. If the scientific facts are not available, a conservative approach should be instituted until the needed information can be collected.

Multiple use management will become politically driven if not based on science, and the general public will lose that battle to the big spenders.

The emphasis on education is excellent. Promoting pride and stewardship at two levels, government and individual, will be essential for success now and in the future.

Regional ocean councils should be encouraged (required?) to operate within the mandates of the national policy, with the flexibility to strengthen those mandates in their own regions where they deem necessary.

Thank you for the opportunity to comment and we look forward to future correspondence. Any questions or comments can be directed to me and will be relayed in full to the executive board and membership of the Society.

Comment Submitted by Henry L. Diamond, Americans for Our Heritage and Recreation



Americans
for Our
Heritage
and
Recreation

June 4, 2004

Public Comment on Preliminary Report
U.S. Commission on Ocean Policy
1120 20th Street, NW
Suite 200 North
Washington, D.C. 20036

To Whom It May Concern:

On April 20, 2004 the U.S. Commission on Ocean Policy released a comprehensive report on ocean health that includes nearly 200 policy recommendations and the establishment of a new, multi billion dollar Ocean Policy Trust Fund. As a long time conservationist, I applaud the Commission's commitment to provide substantial new funding for federal agencies and state governments to implement ocean protection measures.

I am especially pleased that the Commission seeks to first use the offshore oil and gas royalties toward funding the Land and Water Conservation Fund (LWCF) and the Historic Preservation Fund, while applying the remaining royalties for coastal conservation purposes. The Outdoor Recreation Resources Review Commission (ORRRC), which I chaired, recommended substantial support for funding federal and state outdoor recreation through creation of a new program that eventually became the Land and Water Conservation Fund.

LWCF has been an American success story, responsible for the creation and enhancement of more than 40,000 parks in its forty year history. From Grand Canyon National Park to local neighborhood baseball and soccer fields, it's hard to imagine a place in this country that has not been positively touched by this program.

As you know, Americans nationwide use parks and public areas as places to gather, recreate, gain strength, and affirm their faith in America's core values. Parks are symbols of America and have been created as significant elements of a larger natural and cultural heritage. As such, they help define America's identity and are essential to the security of our nation's quality of life.

I commend the U.S. Commission on Ocean Policy for taking a leadership role in creating a long-term solution to help protect our nation's valuable shorelines and coastal beaches, while reaffirming the national need for more close-to-home parks, trails, hunting and fishing areas, as well as thousands of athletic and playing fields. With your leadership, I know that the recommendations offered by this Commission can come to fruition.

Sincerely,

Henry L. Diamond
Chair

1300 19th St., N.W., Suite 300, Washington, DC 20036, 202-454-3316, www.ahrinfo.org

Comment Submitted by Pam Dana, citizen

The following is an approved quote from Governor Jeb Bush for the Oceans Commission Report.

"Every year, an estimated 180 million Americans make two billion visits to ocean, gulf, and inland beaches, contributing more than \$257 billion to the national economy. With over 75 million visitors to the Sunshine State in 2003 alone, lending to a \$50 billion economic impact, Floridians understand well the importance of our oceans, gulfs, and beaches to sustaining our tourism base and overall economic welfare."

Comment Submitted by Diane Lewis, Skidaway Marine Science Foundation

On behalf of the Board of Trustees for the Skidaway Marine Science Foundation (SMSF), I heartily concur with the comments submitted by Georgia Governor Sonny Perdue. The Report produced by the U. S. Commission on Ocean Policy is an extraordinary work that will be vital in guiding future management and develop of coastal ecosystems. The Report presents both an important blueprint and a compelling call-to-action. It is the latter that is the focus of these comments.

The mission of the Skidaway Marine Science Foundation is to build a constituency which will support and encourage the individual and cooperative programs of the various entities located on University System property on Skidaway Island, Georgia, to include, as well, cooperative programs between the Skidaway Island entities and other groups. The programs supported by the Foundation focus on education, research, conservation, and economic development related to coastal Georgia. Specific Foundation efforts include funding summer teacher workshops and summer internships that introduce students to ocean science through active research projects.

We believe that the Foundation is particularly well-suited to work with the NOC Committee on Ocean Science, Education, Technology and Operations

(COSETO) to address the issues and actions identified in Chapter 8 of the Report. Current board representation includes conservation organizations, institutions of higher learning (including an HBCU), K-12 school councils, NOAA, state government and the business community. Active projects within those organizations include hands-on field, laboratory and at-sea experiences for students (K-postgraduate), educators and researchers. We are confident that a collaboration between COSETO and SMSF would lead to timely and cost-effectively implementation of objectives outlined in the Report. Since the vision in the Report is congruent with the existing SMSF mission, we are prepared to enthusiastically pursue the requisite programming. Development of pilot programming to address Recommendation 8-8 is one suggestion for immediate action.

Some details about the Skidaway Campus are included below. A representative of Governor Perdue is copied on this message and we are committed to ensuring any SMSF effort is consistent with and

complements other activities in Georgia. We look forward to working with the Commission and its representatives in the near future.

Regards,
Diane Lewis
Chair
Skidaway Marine Science Foundation

The Research Island Campus:

The University System of Georgia, the Georgia Department of Industry, Trade and Tourism, and the Savannah Economic Development Authority (SEDA) teamed to launch The University System of Georgia Research Island at Skidaway. For over 30 years, the Skidaway Institute of Oceanography (SkIO) and the University of Georgia Marine Extension Service have been engaged in marine research and education on a campus featuring two major rivers, pristine salt marsh, and easy access to undeveloped barrier islands and the open ocean.

Now, 100 acres of this island campus, located 16 miles southeast of historic Savannah, have been made available for corporate research and development facilities. The Skidaway Institute of Oceanography has proposed a multipurpose facility - encompassing laboratories, classrooms and business incubation space - to promote collaboration among academic and business concerns. The Savannah Economic Development Authority, in turn, will work with corporations to establish on-campus sites for the companies research and development divisions.

The Research Island provides an intellectually rich and diverse atmosphere where scientists and business entrepreneurs may exchange expertise and ideas to foster advances in marine/environmental research and the resulting economic applications. Through SEDA, the University System welcomes proposals from technologically-driven companies that emphasize environmental technology, biotechnology and related areas. While research-intensive companies will be given priority, corporate headquarters and/or research-related production will also be considered. The research and related activities of prospective companies must be consistent with the mission of the University System of Georgia. The following universities and government organizations are represented on The Research Island:

- * Skidaway Institute of Oceanography (SkIO)
<http://www.skio.peachnet.edu>
- * University of Georgia Marine Extension Service (MAREX)
<http://alpha.marsci.uga.edu/ext/marex.html>
- * Armstrong Atlantic State University (AASU)
<http://www.armstrong.edu>
- * Georgia Institute of Technology (GIT) <http://www.gatech.edu>
- * Georgia Southern University (GaSoU)
<http://www.georgiasouthern.edu/>
- * National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA), Gray's Reef
National Marine Sanctuary <http://www.graysreef.nos.noaa.gov/>
- * Savannah State University (SSU) <http://www.savstate.edu/>
- * Georgia Department of Industry, Trade and Tourism
<http://www.georgia.org>

Comment Submitted by Samuel R. Lammie, Montrose, West Virginia

Honorable Committee Members:

Your "PRELIMINARY REPORT OF THE U.S. COMMISSION ON OCEAN POLICY" is an excellent document that deserves an honest appraisal, an appraisal which provides context, essence, and formulated policy to an invaluable asset to this country - which you have quantified and articulated so well.

The length of your document and its complexity precludes me from having the time and patience to address every issue and action, but I do hope that the little that I have to say is of value:

- Your discussion of a 'Department of Natural Resources' is an important recognition of an action and Federal role whose time has come. The historic evolution of the Federal role in managing an enormous land base has been necessarily independent and focused in a day when technological tools were powered by food rather than electricity. The societal evolution towards automation is natural yet has created enormous impacts to that enormous land base - the scales of which have now given rise to global concerns of environmental perturbations. Those perturbations are real albeit from a temporal perspective may not as of yet provide a Doctor with any real symptoms. A Department of Natural Resources, in my mind, is the most important policy action that you can take. Homeland Security deals with those threats that imperil our shores. It is a ring that is very true. Homeland Security must address those threats that imperil our nation. A Department of Natural Resources meets many needs that this country has now and should be recognized for what it is - a high level Federal action to meet the environmental challenge to be sustainable. It makes sense.

- From an educational perspective we must integrate geographical standards into our curriculum across all levels of education. There are National Standards promulgated by a collaboration of the National Geographic Society, the Association of American Geographers, and others. We must use those standards and invest in our younger generation.

- There is a National Aquarium in Washington D.C. This National Aquarium reflects our nation's commitment to an area larger than the 50 states combined. Please visit this aquarium and determine for yourself if our National Aquarium honors the seas for what they are...

I can only hope that our President and Vice-President, Congressional representatives, and other elected officials recognize the full measure and value of the oceans that lie at our shores.

Good luck in refining and publishing the final version to the "Report of the U.S. Commission on Ocean Policy." I can only hope that we have the sense to follow through on some, if not many, of your recommendations.

Thank you!

Samuel R. Lammie
Montrose, West Virginia



Harte Research Institute for Gulf of Mexico Studies

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GulfBase.org

June 3, 2004

Public Comment on Preliminary Report
U. S. Commission on Ocean Policy
1120 20th Street, NW
Suite 200 North
Washington, D.C. 20036

Dear Commissioners:

Texas A&M University-Corpus Christi (TAMU-CC) has a long tradition in coastal and marine science education, research, and service. We have long-standing BS and MS degree programs focusing on coasts and oceans, and a new Ph.D program in Coastal and Marine System Science is proposed to begin in Fall 2005. Our Center for Coastal Studies (CCS) celebrates its 20th anniversary of Texas coastal and Gulf of Mexico research this year, and our newly endowed, \$46million Harte Research Institute (HRI) for Gulf of Mexico Studies will be moving into its new \$18 million State of Texas funded research facility early next year. In service, TAMU-CC hosts five state and three federal environmental agencies on our campus, and CCS has sponsored the Texas National Ocean Science Bowl for the past five years. TAMU-CC, CCS, and HRI are all pleased to support and endorse the Preliminary Report of the U.S. Commission on Ocean Policy. The work of the Commission over the past three years has resulted in bold and broad-reaching recommendations for reform that will enable the U.S. to continue as a world leader in protecting and sustaining the oceans and their assets. The Preliminary Report focuses on three important, crosscutting themes, each of which is relevant and significant to the Texas coast and Gulf of Mexico.

A National Ocean Policy Framework

We strongly support the recommendation to create a National Ocean Council within the Executive Office of the President, with membership drawn from both ocean-related agencies and the Cabinet. Linked with this, the Presidential Council of Advisors will allow the states and other non-federal representatives with ocean interests to have strong input into coastal and ocean policy formation. These two groups, in conjunction with improved coordination among federal agencies, will result in a partnership among federal, state, local, and private entities and help provide more effective and efficient management of our ocean and its resources. CCS and HRI also support the concepts of multi-species, ecosystem-based management approaches and a regional framework for coordination of efforts, recognizing that management of coastal waters and resources must extend well up into the watershed. This approach will strengthen the management

of Texas coast and Gulf of Mexico waters by uniting the efforts of those who share this ecosystem.

Strengthening Science for Wise Decisions

In our tri-national efforts with the United States, Mexico, and Cuba, HRI is pleased with the academic and the scientific efforts currently underway in the Gulf of Mexico to understand coastal and oceanic processes. Indeed, most Gulf laboratories work with the states surrounding the Gulf of Mexico to ensure that the information provided from these efforts is translated and used by our policy and management officials. However, we share the Commission's concern with the declining overall health of our oceans and coasts, and with the decline in the federal research budget for oceans and related issues. Therefore, we endorse the Preliminary Report's call for a doubling in federal investments in ocean and coastal research. These investments will strengthen partnerships between scientists and managers. We also support the recommendations that marine science infrastructure in the nation be rebuilt, renewed and redesigned. In addition, we echo the Commission's call for the implementation of a national Integrated Ocean Observing System (IOOS), linked to global efforts and to current and future coastal and estuarine monitoring efforts. With strong research linked to national and international observing efforts and monitoring programs, the U.S. will be able to meet today's ocean and coastal information challenges of critical importance to our citizens, such as improved hurricane track prediction, resource management, and maritime shipping safety and efficiency. TAMU-CC has lead the way in ocean observing in the Gulf of Mexico during the past 15 years with our Texas Coastal Ocean Observation Network, which is widely used by scientists, industry, and the general public.

Enhancing Ocean Education

We support the Commission's recommendations for education. A strong national ocean policy can only be sustained through the development of high-quality coastal and ocean education programs that support learning at all age levels and by all disciplines. Through such efforts we will be able to highlight the relevance and utility of coastal and ocean resources and the value of incorporating science-based decisions in protecting those resources. We will also be able to supply the diverse workforce needed in coming years. In addition, a greater understanding of the oceans and coastal ecosystems will instill in our populace a sense of stewardship for these important environments. New and enhanced instructional efforts should cut across all the traditional educational disciplines and should educate all citizens as to the value of the oceans and how the actions of individuals and communities affect marine environments. The recommendations contained within the Preliminary Report will complement well the educational efforts for all age groups currently underway within our region. Broad public involvement and stewardship can only be achieved if it is integrated into our educational systems and if it includes the fastest growing demographic groups who are among the least represented in ocean affairs currently. Doing so in schools that enroll a significant percentage of students from underrepresented groups will build strong cultural bridges that will capitalize upon these diverse national strengths, ensuring the flow of intellectual talent and energy into ocean-related fields. TAMU-CC is 37% Hispanic and is leading the way in coastal and marine science education in Texas for this demographic group.

In summary, we face a number of challenges that the U.S. Commission on Ocean Policy has clearly detailed. By embracing the recommendations of the Commission, the

U.S. will be ready to address these challenges by strengthening its knowledge base, improving its capabilities for earth and ocean observations, and improving the science literacy of U.S. citizens. Texas A&M University-Corpus Christi, the Center for Coastal Studies, and the Harte Research Institute for Gulf of Mexico Studies support these important steps, which will enhance the vitality of ocean and maritime commerce, and help coastal and ocean managers address issues of coastal development in a manner that allows both economic growth and the continuation of healthy coastal ecosystems.

TAMU-CC, CCS, and HRI are prepared to play a significant role in helping to achieve the crucial goals of the Commission. We would be pleased to participate with the Commission and with the federal government in the planning process for the implementation of these recommendations, and to participate in other activities as appropriate, particularly within the Gulf of Mexico region.

Indeed, the mission of our newly developing Harte Research Institute is to “support and advance the long-term sustainable use and conservation of the Gulf of Mexico.” Cooperation and collaboration among multiple partners of coastal and ocean stakeholders must be the new paradigm to achieve success. Along this line, HRI is working with multiple state and federal agencies, NGO’s, private industry, and academia to hold the first “State of the Gulf of Mexico Summit” in November 2005. Outcomes of this first-ever Summit will include signing of a collaborative accord and an action agenda to achieve many of the recommendations outlined in the Commission’s Report.

Thank you for the opportunity to review the Preliminary Report. Our congratulations for a superbly organized and presented document. Please do not hesitate to contact us if we can be of assistance.

Sincerely yours,

Robert R. Furgason
President
Texas A&M University-Corpus Christi

John W. Tunnell, Jr.
Director, Center for Coastal Studies
Associate Director, Harte Research
Institute for Gulf of Mexico Studies

Comment Submitted by Kalle Matso, citizen

I would like to register my appreciation for the efforts taken by the commission to come to grips with an extremely complicated and extensive issue. I also complement the clarity and organization with which the commission presented its findings.

Secondly, I'd like to strongly urge that the recommendations of the commission be implemented. While the commission's recommendations are numerous, the bottom line is that resources must be allocated to the issue of oceanic and estuarine health. It is the same with our oceans as it is with human health--preventative measures are more effective and more cost-efficient than reactive measures.

Thank you very much for the opportunity to comment.

Mr. Kalle Matso
Cooperative Institute for Coastal and Estuarine Environmental
Technology University of New Hampshire

Submitted by Robert Holderied, citizen

Given the apparent apathy and disinterest by the Bush administration in environmental matters, both domestic and global, any hope of achieving meaningful constructive action on the report's recommendations would seem to be yet another exercise in futility. Perhaps the most important effort and expectation should be to engage broad legislative interest and concern that will result eventually in joint international long term control actions by a clear headed future administration.

--- Robert Holderied

Comment Submitted by James G. Sanders, The Southern Association of Marine Laboratories

May 31, 2004

To: U.S. Commission on Ocean Policy
1120 20th Street, NW
Suite 200 North
Washington, D.C. 20036

From: The Southern Association of Marine Laboratories
James G. Sanders, President
c/o Skidaway Institute of Oceanography
10 Ocean Science Circle
Savannah, GA 31411
(912) 598 3340
sanders@skio.peachnet.edu

Re: Comments on the Preliminary Report of the U.S. Commission on Ocean Policy

The Southern Association of Marine Laboratories (SAML) is a diverse consortium of over 60 academic, state, and federal institutions in the southeast region, dedicated to promoting the wise use and conservation of marine and coastal resources, the importance of marine research and education to the economy and society, and providing a forum for resolving problems common to marine laboratories throughout the region. SAML is pleased to support and endorse the Preliminary Report of the U.S. Commission on Ocean Policy. The work of the Commission over the past three years has resulted in bold and broad-reaching recommendations for reform that will enable the U.S. to continue as a world leader in protecting and sustaining the oceans and their assets. The Preliminary Report focuses on three important, crosscutting themes, each of which is relevant and significant to the southeastern United States.

A National Ocean Policy Framework

We strongly support the recommendation to create a National Ocean Council within the Executive Office of the President, with membership drawn from both ocean-related agencies and the Cabinet. Linked with this, the Presidential Council of Advisors will allow the states and other non-federal representatives with ocean interests to have strong input into coastal and ocean policy formation. These two groups, in conjunction with improved coordination among federal agencies, will result in a partnership among federal, state, local, and private entities and help provide more effective and efficient management of our ocean and its resources. SAML also supports the concepts of multi-species, ecosystem-based management approaches and a regional framework for coordination of efforts, recognizing that management of coastal waters and resources must extend well up into the watershed. This approach will strengthen the management of southeastern coastal waters by uniting the efforts of those who share this ecosystem.

Strengthening Science for Wise Decisions

SAML is proud of the academic and the scientific efforts currently underway in our region to understand coastal and oceanic processes. Indeed, SAML laboratories work with the states in the southeastern region to ensure that the information provided from these efforts is translated and used by our policy and management officials. However, we share the Commission's concern with the declining overall health of our oceans and coasts, and with the decline in the federal research budget for oceans and related issues. Therefore, we endorse the Preliminary Report's call for a doubling in federal investments in ocean and coastal research. These investments will strengthen partnerships between scientists and managers. We also support the recommendations that marine science infrastructure in the nation be rebuilt, renewed and redesigned. In addition, we echo the Commission's call for the implementation of a national Integrated Ocean Observing System (OOS), linked to global efforts and to current and future coastal and estuarine monitoring efforts. With strong research linked to national and international observing efforts and monitoring programs, the U.S. will be able to meet today's ocean and coastal information challenges of critical importance to our citizens, such as improved hurricane track prediction, resource management, and maritime shipping safety and efficiency.

Enhancing Ocean Education

We support the Commission's recommendations for education. A strong national ocean policy can only be sustained through the development of high-quality coastal and ocean education programs that support learning at all age levels and by all disciplines. Through such efforts we will be able to highlight the relevance and utility of coastal and ocean resources and the value of incorporating science-based decisions in protecting those resources. We will also be able to supply the diverse workforce needed in coming years. In addition, a greater understanding of the oceans and coastal ecosystems will instill in our populace a sense of stewardship for these important environments. New and enhanced instructional efforts should cut across all the traditional educational disciplines and should educate all citizens as to the value of the oceans and how the actions of individuals and communities affect marine environments. The recommendations contained within the Preliminary Report will complement well the educational efforts for all age groups currently underway within our region. Broad public involvement and stewardship can only be achieved if it is integrated into our educational systems and if it includes the fastest growing demographic groups who are among the least represented in ocean affairs currently. Doing so in schools that enroll a significant percentage of students from underrepresented groups will build strong cultural bridges that will capitalize upon these diverse national strengths, ensuring the flow of intellectual talent and energy into ocean-related fields.

In summary, we face a number of challenges that the U.S. Commission on Ocean Policy has clearly detailed. By embracing the recommendations of the Commission, the U.S. will be ready to address these challenges by strengthening its knowledge base, improving its capabilities for earth and ocean observations, and improving the science literacy of U.S. citizens. The Southern Association of Marine Laboratories supports these important steps, which will enhance the vitality of ocean and maritime commerce, and help coastal

and ocean managers address issues of coastal development in a manner that allows both economic growth and the continuation of healthy coastal ecosystems. SAML is prepared to play a significant role in helping to achieve these crucial goals. We would be pleased to participate with the Commission and with the federal government in the planning process for the implementation of these recommendations, and to participate in other activities as appropriate.

Comment Submitted by Ginger Sides, citizen

I support this report and hope the government puts it into action.

-Ginger Sides

Comment Submitted by Dan Wagner, citizen

Dear Sirs;

My name is Dan Wagner, I am the founding director of the Mother Ocean Foundation Inc. I have been diving and shooting Underwater movies and Video for 50 years. I have been involved in every phase of diving there is. I have owned 3 Live Aboard Dive boats and spent a considerable amount of my diving time in Florida and the Bahamas and I have seen some changes that I had hoped I would never see. There are fewer fish, lobsters, shrimp and shells. The coral in the keys is dead, dying or damaged. The pollution off of and in the waters of Florida is horrible and getting worse. Our government subsidizes the sugar cane manufacturers who are responsible for much of the pollution and dying reefs in the keys along with with the devastation in the Everglades. We are responsible for the problems in the ocean and on the reefs, we can change things for the better but we must start now. Read the report and act NOW! And quit paying uncle sugar to help pollute and destroy our environment. Thank You!

Comment Submitted by Lee Shear, Tampa, Florida

It is good that you have called attention to the serious problems facing our oceans. Action that addresses the issues you raised, instead of the interests of special interest groups that exploit our resources, is long over due.

Lee Shear
Tampa, Florida

Comment Submitted by John Harbeck, Cedarburg, Wisconsin

Dear Commissioners:

In view of the increased pressure on ocean environments, I support the proposals outlined in the report. I frankly believe that the greatest effort we can make could not exceed what is needed to study and protect this 70 per cent of the Earth's surface. With the atmosphere, the oceans are the unifying factor in maintaining the habitability of this planet. We need to develop coordinated plans regarding seaside development as well as inland activities that impact the oceans, such as the pollution that results in the "dead zone" in the Gulf of Mexico. We need to be able to control overfishing and pollution from shipping and offshore industrial activities. All of this will require money and regulatory powers, there is no way around it. I hope that these proposals will be able to compete for funding and political attention with spending on war activities. Long after the current international crises have passed into history, the state of the oceans will continue to dominate the quality of human existence.

Sincerely,
John Harbeck
Cedarburg, Wisconsin

Comment Submitted by Dr. Edward C. Monahan and staff, The Connecticut Sea Grant College Program

May 14, 2004

Public Comment on Preliminary Report
U.S. Commission on Ocean Policy
1120 20th Street, NW
Suite 200 North
Washington, D.C. 20036

Dear Commissioners:

The Connecticut Sea Grant College Program congratulates you on completing this comprehensive and well-considered examination of the current status and future needs of U.S. ocean policy. We feel that the report underscores the critical importance the oceans and coasts hold for our national economy and well-being in ways the general public can understand and relate to, and we applaud many of the recommendations included in the report. In particular, we support the following general themes:

- Creating a National Ocean Council with direct contact with the President, which will help elevate ocean issues in terms of U.S. national priorities
- Strengthening the science-based decision-making process by significantly increasing funding support for ocean science research and augmenting the technical transfer of scientific results into forms and products that can be utilized by individuals at all levels
- Building broad-based understanding and support for a strong national ocean policy through the support and promotion of enhanced, coordinated, and comprehensive ocean science educational programs, both formal and informal
- Streamlining responsibilities and oversight roles among agencies and programs charged with setting, implementing, and enforcing national ocean policy
- Fostering regional coordination and cooperation in the areas of research, priority-setting, resource management, policy, and education and outreach
- Supporting the establishment and operation of an Integrated Ocean Observing System, and facilitating access to and use of the data by many stakeholders
- Managing our ocean resources based on ecosystem and watershed-based approaches

We are optimistic and enthusiastic about the future of U.S. ocean policy, management, and ocean science education. We are also particularly pleased that the Commission noted the accomplishments and potential of Sea Grant in the areas of research, extension, and education, and look forward to refining and enhancing our program's roles and responsibilities in addressing some of the issues outlined in this report. We express strong support for timely action to be taken towards the implementation of the report's

recommendations. Thank you for the opportunity to comment. Your efforts in conducting this review and producing this report are truly appreciated.

Sincerely,

The Connecticut Sea Grant College Program
staff
Dr. Edward C. Monahan, Director

Comment Submitted by Jennifer Slagel, Modesto, California

To Whom it May Concern:

The Commission on Ocean Policy report was very informative and interesting to read. It is very extensive and made me aware of many more things about the ocean than I knew. I did not know that so much of our national economy came from the ocean ports. Due to that one fact, it makes it so much more important to restore our oceans. I am really impressed with the length and depth that the Commission went to in researching for this report. It was really interesting to see that about 1.5 million jobs were given just for tourism and recreation at the ocean.

As reading the preliminary report, I am very glad to see that the government is aware of the lack of spending that is taking place in the ocean restoration process. It is sad to see that during these times of when the ocean is at its worst that the spending has decreased for the projects that need research and can attempt to solve these problems. It makes me excited, though, for the government to realize that the spending on the health of the oceans is declining. This is the first step in restoration.

I think enhancing the education and the knowledge of those in leadership of the oceans is very important as well. There is nothing more important than for those in positions that can possibly affect the health and conditions of the ocean to know exactly what the conditions currently are and how bad they are compared to what their condition could be like and what their condition was like before. I think a big problem with trying to restore the condition of the ocean is due to the fact that most people don't even know there is a problem with the ocean because it is underwater, and isn't visible to the average person.

In the report, it talked about how trash and pollution from a non-point source is a big aspect to the degradation of the ocean. I am curious though, as to how the government is going to enforce specific laws or regulations on non-point source pollution. I don't understand how the Commission is going to "establish measure water pollution reduction goals." What all would that involve? Would it deal with local reduction goals, or more regional goals? I hope also to see some regulations dealing with the agriculture runoff from the land into the ocean. Farmers also should be educated on what their runoff does to the ocean environment.

I would like to thank the Commission for writing up this report on the condition of the ocean and for publishing it so that the public can view it. This report makes us one step closer to making our oceans healthier and of improved condition by at least making it known that the government is aware of the destruction of the oceans and for informing the public of the current conditions.

Sincerely,

Jennifer Slagel
Modesto, California

Comment Submitted by Dr. Linda Stathoplos, Bethesda, Maryland

To: The Ocean Commission

I am an oceanographer (Ph.D. in biological oceanography, 1989) who has worked both for NOAA and for private industry. I commend you on your preliminary report. The guiding principles form a sound basis for your excellent recommendations. In particular, I strongly endorse your recommendations to strengthen NOAA's mission, funding, and operational capabilities, including providing for transitioning Earth environmental observing satellites from NASA to NOAA (Recommendation 26 8) and expediting the migration of experimental technologies into operational ones (Recommendation 27 2). The US desperately needs a well-funded, coordinated, and operational Integrated Ocean Observing System (Recommendations 26 2, 26 9).

I hope Congress, the Executive Branch, and Federal, State and Regional Agencies implement your program of thoughtful, scientifically rigorous ocean stewardship.

From: Dr. Linda Stathoplos, citizen
Bethesda, Maryland

Comment Submitted by Barbara Burnett, Seattle, Washington

Dear Commissioners,

Thank you for the work and time you put into producing an important plan of management for America's oceans. Please further strengthen the report by establishing conservation as the top priority in fisheries management, further limiting bottom trawling, and advocating the precautionary principle.

In fact, I agree with the three themes your preliminary report identified:

*Creating a new national ocean policy framework to improve decision-making.

*Strengthening science and generating high-quality accessible information to inform decision makers.

*Enhancing ocean education to instill future leaders and informed citizens with a stewardship ethic.

It is my hope that report will actually be put into use. Thank you for your efforts.

Sincerely,
Barbara Burnett
Seattle, Washington

Comment Submitted by Chris Davis, Portland, Oregon

Dear Commissioners:

We are private US citizens writing to urge you to identify and make the fundamental reforms necessary to protect and promote the long-term health and productivity of America's ocean ecosystems.

Recent reports have identified a serious decline in the abundance of ocean fish and the health of marine ecosystems. A study in *Nature*, May 2003, revealed that populations of the world's large predatory fish are declining to historical lows. Coral reef ecosystems worldwide, including Hawaii, Puerto Rico, and the Virgin Islands, are threatened. The Pew Oceans Commission report released in June of last year found that our coastal and marine ecosystems are in a state of crisis as a result of mismanaged human activities, ranging from over-fishing to uncontrolled coastal development and widespread pollution.

It's time for a move from single species management to eco-system based management with a primary goal of bio-diversity that includes all species of marine life, not just those that are commercially important. The oceans and their estuaries must be viewed as a whole, and the impacts of climate change must not be ignored. This is a critical time; a failure to act will have unthinkable ramifications.

Sincerely,

Chris Davis
Citizen
Portland, Oregon

Comment Submitted by Joseph J. Ward, citizen

May 18, 2004

U.S. Commission on Ocean Policy
1120 20th Street, NW
Suite 200 North
Washington, D.C. 20036

Dear Commissioners:

The oceans cover about 71 percent of the Earth's surface. They are linked with the land and atmosphere through many facets. They affect nearly every aspect of human life. It is absolutely necessary that action be taken to preserve this essential part of the Earth's environment. The general public must understand how the oceans affect each and every one of their individual lives. It is only then that the majority of people will begin caring and taking action to preserve and protect this precious resource.

As a high school biology teacher I am in strong agreement with your recommendation to increase attention to ocean education through coordinated and effective formal and informal programs. The nation's students, ranging from preschool through college, need to be informed of the current state of the world's oceans. They must be made aware of their individual connection to this great resource. The students today are the future leaders of tomorrow. Making them aware at a young age will plant the seed of desire in these future leaders to protect and preserve this precious resource that they are so tightly connected to.

I also support your recommendation to develop a process for creating regional ocean councils that are facilitated and supported by the National Ocean Council. Education as well as action must have its roots planted at the local level. The people living in each local region know what is best for that area. Their input and recommendations must be taken seriously. The local level is also an important place to focus on ocean awareness and protection. Citizens must be made aware of what they can do to protect and preserve the ocean right out of their own homes. Once established at this grassroots level, education and positive actions can branch out to the county, state and national levels.

The Preliminary Report appears to be on the right track. I look forward to reading the Commission's final recommendations to Congress. Action must be taken before it is too late. I am a firm believer in the saying, "An ounce of prevention is worth a pound of cure." Let us take hold of this situation before the problems intensify to a point of no return. I view this Report as a step in a positive direction which will in turn aid the human race in making the decisions necessary to protect and preserve our most valuable resource, the ocean.

Sincerely,

Joseph J. Ward

Comment Submitted by Betty R. Stewart, Keizer, Oregon

Dear Commissioners:

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Sincerely,

Betty R. Stewart
Citizen
Keizer, Oregon

Comment Submitted by Walter E. Bensman, Jr. and Geneva M. Bensman, Salem, Oregon

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Sincerely,

Walter E. Bensman, Jr.
Citizen
Salem, Oregon

Geneva M. Bensman
Citizen
Salem, Oregon

Comment Submitted by Donald R. Dann, Highland Park, Illinois

For the vital purpose of protecting and restoring our marine ecosystems, I strongly urge the adoption of Rules 19-1, 19-3, 19-5, 19-12, 19-21 and 19-22 of the **U.S. Commission on Ocean Policy Report**.

Thank you,

Donald R. Dann
Highland Park, Illinois

Comment Submitted by Maile Nohealani Johnson, citizen

Ocean health is essential for human food and weather stabilization. Only the most stringent and concerted action will allow the restoration and preservation of ocean ecology. I commend the report for its recommendations for action and urge they be implemented.

Comment Submitted by Stephanie Jarvis, Sonoma, California

Hello. My name is Stephanie Jarvis.
Sonoma State University, Physiology Student
Calistoga, CA

The sad and unfortunate state of our oceans makes me feel helpless and hopeless. My father has been a senior biologist for NMFS my entire life. through him, I learned an appreciation and an admiration for the ocean that most children dont grow up with. I have always felt a passion for learning about the ocean and sharing with others what I know. Maybe I have been taking for granted that the ocean and its abundant organisms will always be around for the enrichment of our planet because I have always held it sacred and invincible in my mind. Obviously this is hardly the case. Recently I presented a paper by Julia K. Baum and Ransom A. Meyers to my marine ecology class at my university, ("Shifting baselines and the decline of pelagic sharks in the Gulf of Mexico"). I have also spent many hours scanning through this report on ocean policy. I know feel depressed and jaded at the sad and horrible truth; the one thing on this planet that i love the most is dying. The ocean will not stay pristine and full of life at the rate it is being depleted and altered by humans and invasive exotic species. I am curious at what the authors of this gigantic document visualize as an outcome to this report. I wonder if this document will get sent to congress and split up into committees and pondered over for years, meanwhile no action has ocured. Is this the fate of this ocean policy, like so many other environmental issues? It is imposible to get the human race to stop eating fish. It is imposible to stop fishing with methods that deplete so many other types of organisms due to by-catch. It seems imposible to keep ships from dumping invasive ballast waters into harbors and bays. It seems that all is lost. We should not give up, but I have lost all hope. What can I do, cement myself to a longline boat and hope it will end its fishing career? Hardly, drastic demonstrations are not the answer. Humans, being a biological species like all other organisms on earth, I find it ludicrous that humans could disregard this place (earth) that we have spent so many thousands of years adapting to. We finally seem to have ahold on our adaptation so that we can exploit every resource the planet has to offer, destroying the one and only place in the universe we know how to survive on. We, as humans, think we are so intelligent. Doesnt it seem stupid to deplete our resources to the point that they cannot sustain our needs? To the point that these resources will never again in any kind of history become available? Humans are blind to our own demise by greed for the all mighty dollar, which is absolutely meaningless to any other speices that we know of in the universe. We have taken our perfect harmonious habitat and destroyed it. Is there no possible way to stop fishing for just one year? Is there no possible way to stop dumping pollution into the ocean for just one day? Is there no way to get humans to understand that plants in a field can only absorb so much nitrogen and the rest can destroy entire ocean ecosystems? Is it just not possible to stop fertilizing as much as we do so unneccesarily? Should I join these high rollers and worship the almighty dollar, stay jaded and live in a world of high profit professions? Is this the only answer, to join them if you cant beat them? What would happiness be if i had none because i was rich with money, but without the vast diversity of ocean species to enjoy when i dive under the ocean swell? What will it be

like to never again hear the song of the seals, or see an albatross while sailing across the sea, or laugh at the cuteness of an otter, or love the texture of seaweed under my feet while walking along the shore, or scuba diving on a tropical reef and feeling the biting sting of fire coral. What would the world be like if this was all gone. Would anyone notice? Picture these high rolling, tuna eating, politically correct people with their picnic on the beach, feeding the seagulls stale rye bread. Would they notice all this missing, would they care? Probably not. So I say to you. I am jaded. I am young and I am the future of your biological endeavors today with this policy act. What are you going to do with this? Action, I hope is the only answer.

Thank you for having a public place for me to speak my mind. Especially in this world where it seems that no one cares about the ideas and endeavors of young people like me.

Comment Submitted by Jack and Donna Trethewey, citizens

We urge the Bush administration to accept and implement the recommendations of the U.S. Commission on Ocean Policy. Jack and Donna Trethewey

Comment Submitted by Claudia Rincon, citizen

Dear Sirs:

I commend your work and efforts and am grateful to see that someone is looking out for our oceans. I only hope that it is for real this time. So many times, other efforts seemed only to be used to appease the people who are truly concerned about the welfare of our waters. There was little true intention and/or effort to make it a reality. So many abuses have continued which have only snow-balled into a situation that needs "true" immediate attention. There is no time left to "understand" the needs of businesses who have neglected their obligations to clean up their mess for so long. They've had time and have not used it so why should the public and our waters suffer for it. They should now bear the penalty of their neglect. I believe business profits and political advancements have controlled the situation far too long and it needs to be stopped. It's selfishness. The health of the public has been jeopardized all for money and careers. There is something very wrong with that. I appreciate what you are doing and hope the public cries out for this to be really dealt with soon. Thank you.

Comment Submitted by John Hanson, Evansville, Wisconsin

The oceans are 75% of our globe. Everyone strives to visit them and use them as much as possible. Their safe keeping is paramount to a healthy planet and country. Please make the Ocean Commission's goals become reality.

John Hanson

Evansville, Wisconsin

Comment Submitted by Paul Neumann, Oak Creek, Wisconsin

Dear Sirs:

I have recently read an article in the Milwaukee Journal-Sentinel concerning recommendations for US Ocean Policy. Please accept my yes vote to go forward with the Commission's recommendations. We and the nations of the world need a sound ocean policy in the US. Creation of a National Ocean Council and establishment of an Ocean Policy Trust Fund would set a positive precedent and lead to a deeper understanding of our oceans including fisheries, wildlife, coral reefs, and pollution. Citizens in the US are very concerned about this issue. Sincerely, Paul Neumann Oak Creek, Wisconsin

Comment Submitted by Robert S. Sweeney, citizen

30 April 2004

Dear Commissioners,

Please work hard to get your suggestions into law. Of all the ecological problems that our world faces I believe the threat to the oceans is the most critical to solve. Life on earth revolves around our oceans. Having healthy oceans will go a long way to having a healthy planet. But, you know all of this already; in fact you know the data far better than I do. I want you to know that I support your work and believe it is critical for our government to pass and enforce laws designed to clean up and protect the oceans.

I want you to know that I care. I contribute more money to ecological organizations that work for the health of our oceans than I do any of the others I contribute to. I have been convinced that without healthy oceans other issues may not matter.

I support your work. Lobby hard to get our elected official to "see the light" and support your recommendations.

Robert S. Sweeney

Comment Submitted by Hank Whipple, citizen

Dear Commissioners:

I have been following with great interest your studies and media reports of the status of the oceans. Their health is the overarching priority for the future of humankind. Our abuse, over use and neglect of the oceans on the theory that they are so big "they can cleanse themselves" has to be replaced by the Red Green comment, "We're all in this together." There is no time to be political about the problem for it transcends any one administration. What we need are statements not politicians.

Please push you study conclusions as hard as you can to this administration and share them with the media.

Most sincerely,

Hank Whipple

Comment Submitted by Leah Dunkelberger, Wilmington, North Carolina

I am a student of Marine Biology and I have been currently participating in a class about the Human Impacts on the Marine Environment. In the class we have been using the Pew reports as a basis for discussion and I am happy to see that there are steps in motion to help the oceans. Our oceans are in bad shape and it is necessary to protect them now while we still can. The problem of overfishing is outrageous. It is amazing to see Captains of major fishery boats dispute the facts that the size of fish haven't changed over the years when obviously they have. The fact that fish are being caught before they have time to mature and reproduce is a huge problem. Also, there needs to be some kind of system to enforce laws protecting the seas and all the organisms in them not just marine mammals. There are many laws stopping the introduction of species but no one to enforce them. Then we also have laws that have been waiting to be passed on issues that occurred ten years ago for example, the moratorium of dolphins. I am not saying that the moratorium is better than the La Jolla agreement but why leave these types of issues open. Our coral reefs are in danger along with many hard bottom habitats due to trawling. By-catch is also a problem as well. There is no reason as to why helpless turtles, sharks, as well as larger mammals like whales have to fight an ever losing battle of entanglements in their own environments. As one student in my class stated. People believe there is a hole in the ocean where fish just magically appear out of. Humans believe that we have the right to do anything but we don't. The world is in danger but because we don't see the drastic changes of mass stranding and dead animals floating in the water. People don't think it is a major problem. We need to set up an education program that lets people know the truth. These programs need to reach all people and not just scientists and students but the average person who votes.

I fully support the ocean commission's decision to protect this amazing resource and I hope that you will continue to push forward and not back down. For these types of issues need to be fought for just like we have been fighting to save the trees and stop pollution. As a future marine biologist I plan to do what I can to protect these beautiful, tranquil places so my children and my children's child will be able to obtain as much happiness as they have brought to me!

Thank you,
Leah Dunkelberger
Wilmington, North Carolina

Comment Submitted by Lannie, citizen

Growing up in Texas on the Gulf of Mexico I have a great love of the ocean. I am a certified scuba diver and though I no longer live near the Gulf I visit every summer. I also love to visit Destin, Florida as often as possible where our family has a condo, and when my husband and I vacation you can bet it will be a beach resort.

I find it most distressing when I visit Port Aransas every summer, the area has often had dead fish for miles down the beach. When we were in Cabo San Lucas, Mexico I could not believe how small the sail fish are that the fishermen are bringing in. I remember when they were three times the size.

I visit Port Aransas every summer with my sisters. There is more and more trash washing up on the shore. There are more and more oil rigs offshore. We all love seafood, but are worrying about how long good seafood will be available to us. We are fishing out our oceans, and polluting our oceans. When is it going to stop??
Respectfully Yours, Lannie

Comment Submitted by Lexy Kirk, Save our Shores

As a resident of California's Central Coast, a student of economics and public administration, and an employee of a marine conservation nonprofit agency, I strongly support the suggestions presented in the recently released U.S. Ocean Commission report. There is no better time than the present to begin strategizing to preserve our precious marine resources. Thank you for your consideration and I hope that your decision will be one that protects the oceans for my children's children.

Sincerely,

Lexy Kirk
Community Relations Coordinator,
Save our Shores

Comment Submitted by Mariette Nowak, East Troy, Wisconsin

To whom it may concern:

I submit these comments for the public record. I am very concerned about the future of our oceans. My family and I enjoy eating fish, as well as catching fish, and snorkeling in the oceans. We restrict the fish we eat to those that can be harvested sustainably and are low mercury. But we are concerned that the relatively few fish that are in this category will eventually become scarce as well.

Thus, I urge you to do all possible to improve the health of our oceans and the life they harbor by implementing the recommendations of the US Commission on Ocean Policy. I am particularly in favor of the following recommendations:

1. Accede to the UN Convention on Law of the Sea
2. Establish an Ocean Policy Trust Fund with revenue from offshore energy activity and other offshore uses to pay for implementing the recommendations.
3. Reform fisheries management by separating scientific assessment and allocation
4. Create measurable water pollution reduction goals and work to reach them
5. Double the money for ocean research
6. Strengthen and improve NOAA
7. Increase ocean-related education.
8. Create a National Ocean Council to coordinate programs

Thank you for taking my views into consideration. I hope all possible is done to implement the recommendations of the US Commission on Ocean Policy.

Sincerely,

Mariette Nowak
East Troy, Wisconsin

Comment Submitted by JMaas & DDevona, Milwaukee, Wisconsin

Reform of national oceans policy is desperately needed to prevent escalating negative pressure on this precious resource that is not getting the attention and priority it deserves. Save our oceans before it is too late!!!

JMaas & DDevona
Milwaukee, Wisconsin

Comment Submitted by Dick Zielinski, Hales Corners, Wisconsin

Gentlemen/Ladies

As fascinating as space exploration is. And as knowledge expanding it may be. Our planet is already formed and we cannot do much about it any more. However, the ocean is something that affects our lives on a daily basis and will continue to do so in the future. Best of all, the health of the oceans and in turn our planet is something that can be protected. Please do not let this chance at improving life on Earth be missed. Push for a meaningful dialogue on the findings of the U.S. Commission on Ocean Policy. Optimistically yours,

Dick Zielinski
Hales Corners, Wisconsin

Comment Submitted by Beth and Charly, citizens

This is to let you know we are strongly in favor of a National Ocean Council, increasing federal research dollars, establishing an Ocean Policy Trust Fund and creating a coordinated management program for federal waters. Thank you for considering our opinion.

Beth and Charly

Comment Submitted by Cy Lyle, citizen

TO: Public Comment
FROM: Cy Lyle
DATE: April 26, 2004
SUBJ: U.S. Commission on Ocean Policy

As the preliminary report on ocean policy revealed, the depletion of marine resources and the exploitation of fish stocks has reached a point where something serious needs to be done regarding national oceans policy.

I am hopeful that this report along with the earlier Pew Oceans Commission study will result in new policies that will strengthen the protection of the oceans.

Sincerely

Cy Lyle

Comment Submitted by Linda Cockrell, citizen

I urge your considered action regarding Oregon's coastal waters be a step in the direction of conservancy and protection.

I am sending a blind copy of this comment on to Governor Kulongoski and my state representatives.

Sincerely
Linda Cockrell

Comment Submitted by Sheila A. Larson, Stafford, Virginia

The preliminary report indicates a need to establish a commission to protect our oceans, and my comment is one of support for this idea. To enhance the balance between the image of a large bureaucracy in Washington, DC making decisions for local businesses and ports, I strongly encourage that there be a balance of interests held by individuals represented on the Commission, all with a prior publicly stated goal of wishing to develop ideas and policies that address the balance of these needs while still working to protect our oceans.

Sheila A. Larson
Stafford, Virginia

Comment Submitted by James Janicki, citizen

This report is the beginning of a much needed plan to protect what has been for too long, a resource that has been treated as an infinite food source and dumping ground. The topics addressed are all valid but may prove to be too vast for any one group to oversee.

Education and information will be instrumental in any successful reversal of destructive activities. Real and meaningful changes will only occur when local residents are made aware of the dangerous trends that have been in motion for many years in their own backyards. Media campaigns, formal education, and easily accessible literature will provide the facts needed for the many local citizen action groups, as well as anyone concerned with the welfare of our own coastlines and oceans, to actively monitor and oversee the results of any new policies that come about from this report.

The oceans and waterfront habitats will be saved and protected by its immediate inhabitants. Please provide us with meaningful protection from well funded interests intent on exploiting what remains of limited and precious resources. Next, give us the resources and information needed to guard and restore our shores and waters.

In conclusion, the oceans provide us with a bounty limited only by our own imagination. To deplete the water of its inhabitants and pollute the water itself simply because this is the least expensive alternative or requires the least ingenuity is sinful. With thought and genuine concern for the water, not only can we restore past damage, but limitless possibilities can be realized for the benefit and profit of all of us while protecting the oceans.

James Janicki

Comment Submitted by Louis H. Liotti, Garrison, New York

To The Commission:

It is most gratifying to see that the Commission is recommending that the United States finally ratify the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea (UNCLOS); especially since we so active in its fromulation. This one action could go a long way to shoring up the nation's leadership role within the international community. It might also serve as a springboard for the United States to re-gain the initiative in establishing a truly workable mechanism for dealing with the problem of global warming rather than the flawed Kyoto protocol. What is most important is to establish a grassroots constituency in favor of the Convention, which will take a great deal of public education. Without that constituency, there is little liklihood that the Senate will move in a way that is meaningful to ratification. Does the Commission have any plan of action or suggestions for developing that constituency?

Respectfully submitted,

Louis H. Liotti
Attorney at Law
Garrison, New York

Comment Submitted by Peggy Grow, citizen

After reviewing the Commissions reviews and recommendations, I fully support each of the recommendations set forth and encourage our Congressional members to take action on preserving our oceans and oceanic habitats.

Thank you.

Peggy Grow

MAT, Physics, Indiana University

Martinsville, IN

Comment Submitted by Joe and Patti Malecki, citizens

Dear Sirs:

We are VERY concerned about the oceans all over the world. We hope that our President, his coalition leaders, and ALL of our representatives will take this issue VERY seriously. For we know that:

Humans can survive only with the survival of other species. For the Life Light of Peaceful Love is in ALL species, the trees, waters, the oceans, rivers, streams, rain, clouds, whales, the air, the atmosphere, the bear, dolphins, fishes, soil, grasses, flowers, the herbs, minerals, mountains, the buffalo, the wolf, the deer, the elk, the elephant, the panda, all the animals, the birds, all our feathered friends, always singing their songs of joy and happiness of their Peaceful Love for ALL Life. For we, ALL Life, are related to one another and codependent on one another. We are ALL "Flowers of Life"--ALL of us, Sisters and Brothers, even the lightening and the thunder that bring the rains.

Please know that MANY of us are concerned about ALL environmental issues--for ALL Life Everywhere...for we know that the atmospheres we create around us through our thoughts, feelings, and ways of being, are like wings that lift others up or bring them down.

Brightest Love and Blessings

Joe and Patti Malecki

Comment Submitted by Don Springstead, N. Ft. Myers, Florida

Regarding an article titled;
U.S. oceans in TERRIBLE condition.
Is this a suprise to anyone?
We allow ships to dump our waste every day.
What ever the percentage this dumping contributes to the pollution is too high.
Equally as important I am amazed very idea we challenge [EXPECT] our oceans to
absorb OUR WASTE, and turn our backs on the results, as a quick solution to resolve
today's waste management problems in such a manner was/is a HUGE MISTAKE.
How did it ever get approved by our leaders? What were they thinking?
I don't know of one U.S. citizen that approves of ocean pumping of waste.
PLEASE ATTACK & ELIMINATE THIS PROCEDURE.
Thanks
Don Springstead
N.Ft.Myers, Florida

Comment Submitted by Gisela Zelenka-Drysdale of Wauwatasoa, Wisconsin.

I am writing to express my strong support for implementing the
recommendations made by the U.S. Commission on Ocean Policy. Improved
coordination of government policies, increased funding for ocean
research, more education about oceans and people's dependence upon them
are sorely needed.

The number of serious issues affecting our oceans require immediate
attention. Overfishing, loss of habitat due to oceanfront development,
and water pollution are serious threats. The environmental and
economic impacts will be substantial if action is not taken and these
impacts will only increase if action is delayed.

Regards,
Gisela Zelenka-Drysdale
Wauwatasoa Wisconsin

Comment Submitted by Pete Dickert of Sussex, Wisconsin

It has come to my attention that this is one way of letting the current US government know that we must do everything we can to save our oceans.

Economically, the oceans are a vital interest to the United States. The oceans contribute billions to our economy. Environmentally, they are the source of life on this planet allowing the intricately connected biosystems generate and sustain life. Morally, it is our duty to protect the gifts we have been offered from the Creator.

No matter what our political bias, we are a temporary inhabitant of something larger than ourselves. We are stewards of this magic blue ball. Our children and theirs demand that we nurture and sustain--if not improve--the conditions of our oceans.

I and many citizens of this country and this planet demand that you act in our best interests. Do everything you can to make the oceans' viability as a source of life a priority for this and future administrations.

Pete Dickert
Sussex, Wisconsin

Comment Submitted M.A. Peterson, citizen

I am a member of the silent majority...I don't do e-mail...and I am appalled at my government's fixation with war in Iraq, election year politics and the "we-have-checks,we-must-have-money" government spending. All of this is to say: a reformed national oceans policy matters. A full national debate on this critical situation matters. A determined commission that will not allow the president's crusade in Iraq to deflect attention from the current degradation of this irreplaceable resource matters. A global solution matters. M. A. Peterson

Comment Submitted by Georgette J. Ryan, citizen

Dear Ocean Commission Members:

I want to commend and thank you for your outstanding report on the measures you are supporting, in order to preserve our oceans for future generations.

In reality, it is no longer an aesthetic issue, but I believe, one of global survival. The cost of these measures, from what I can understand from reading your preliminary report, would pay for itself many times over by saving future ocean cleanups.

The most frightening scenario, to me, is to think of the oceans actually starting to die off. I pray that we don't let it come to that. Don't people realize you're trying to literally save the planet?

Good job, and good luck! I hope you can talk some sense into the current administration.

Thanks again!

Yours truly,

Georgette J. Ryan
Concerned Citizen

Comment Submitted by Mary L. Dyer, citizen

Please forgive me for sending a somewhat personal email through this address. I was watching the evening news the day before yesterday and suddenly found myself saying, "Hey, that's my Uncle Jim! Turn it up, please." I am embarrassed to say I knew nothing of this commission prior to listening to the press release. But now after a quick review of the information on the site, I am impressed with the content. As a concerned resident of a CA coastal community, I truly hope politicians, businesses, and private citizens in our country and around the world take heed. I know I'm motivated to get educated on the issues, and will be thoroughly reviewing the report and other information on your site. Thank you.

Please say Hey to Uncle Jim (Watkins)!

Sincerely,

Mary L. Dyer

Comment Submitted by Shaina Keough, Summerland School sixth grade student

I am writing to you about Commission on Ocean Policy. I would like to help out in my own community and help to heal the ocean. I love to swim and surf and would like to see the ocean preserved for others. I am glad that there is an organization working towards protecting and preserving the oceans.

Sincerely,

Shaina Keough
Sixth Grade
Summerland School

Comment Submitted by Todd H. Scales, citizen

Right as I was beginning to think there was no more environmental sense in Washington, what a breath of fresh air! Thank you for sticking to your guns and best of luck in getting your proposals pushed through.

Sincerely,

Todd H. Scales

Comment Submitted by Bill Wilson of Tampa, Florida

Dear Commission:

I am a US citizen very concerned with the present condition of the oceans and their associated gulfs and bays. Pollution is at an all time high, and it is clearly evidenced by the situation here in Florida with the vast amounts of pollutants being dumped into our rivers and bays which eventually end up being swept out into the Atlantic. I find it particularly frightening that each year more fish are added to the Do Not Eat list due to the high mercury content found in their meat. Although this is apparently due to airborne mercury falling to the earth via rain water and not due to direct dumping, it should still be a major cause for concern, and hopefully this newly established commission can influence and strengthen the weak policies now in place which are obviously not protecting our environment.

I am very happy to know that this extremely important issue is being addressed and experts are being called upon by our government to tackle this mounting problem. Let us hope that true progress does not get bogged down in politics, bureaucracy and special interest.

Retired Admiral and Chairman James Watkins was correct when he said this is a crossroads moment. Please make sure the proper road is taken.

Bill Wilson
Tampa, Florida

Comment Submitted by Roxanne Swallows, citizen

From:

Roxanne Swallows

A U.S. Citizen born and raised in the coastal watershed of Western New York (Lake Erie) and 19 year resident of Alaska.

I am a simple citizen (not simple-minded) who maintains a vigil concern over the world environment and the future generations of this planet.

Wasilla Alaska

Comments:

I applaud the efforts of the U.S. Commission on Ocean Policy for the very comprehensive, detailed, and all encompassing preliminary report released today. I had comments to make before I read it, but alas, you covered it all. Outstanding for the depth and breadth of knowledge, information, and coordination of efforts.

I do not expect that President Bush nor the current Governor of Alaska would have expected such a report when the commission came together to report on the state of our nation's oceans. Four years ago, President Bush boldly blew off the United Nations Convention on Climate Change, continues to refuse to pass new air quality control standards for this country, does not support unconventional or renewal energy resources, and vehemently supports a republican administration to represent the State of Alaska. The Governor of the State of Alaska is so wrapped up and concerned with a lack of revenue sources in this state, he cannot get past his single sited vision to tap this State for as many mineral, oil, and gas resources as he possibly can until we wake up ten years down the road and will not know what hit us when every current industry associated with this great state's natural resources dies and is no more (Alaska Natives, fishing, timber, tourism).

I will be surprised to see any support from the Alaska Governor. He does not have time nor resources to consider all the common-sense recommendations you make in your report. The fact that Alaska is so tied up in offshore oil and gas leases makes it any wonder our entire fishing industry is on a steep slope downward. Alaska has more square miles of watershed than nearly any state in the nation, with the exception of those bordering the Great Lakes. And you can be sure that protection of those watersheds is nearly non-existent. I live in a community full of lakes, streams, and shorelines - all draining into Cook Inlet, which drains into the Gulf of Alaska, which drains into the Pacific Ocean. I live in a home we purchased already existing directly on the borders of a creek bed. No one in this community cares what my activity does to the quality of that water, nor that many species of fish come back every spring. It is all very hit and miss. You can be sure that the number of float planes on these lakes is not monitored nor what their fuel does to the quality of the water that drains into the creek next to my home.

I personally would pay whatever tax dollar I have to help fund the Commission's

recommendations. In my mind, it is going to cost us the lives of future generations if we do nothing at all - and that is a greater loss than the resources we put into this effort now. I am concerned that to implement your recommendations would be no small effort. There are a lot of agencies that need to coordinate across all states. What people do not see is that if the U.S. puts resources, education, and effort into your recommendations, it would be very nearly economically viable and profitable for all of us. If the bureaucrats would get off the oil dip stick and look outside the box, they might see how many jobs they could create in simply putting our nation to work cleaning it up, educating children, educating the leaders of industry and development and making it a more viable living resource for everyone. On the last episode of "The Apprentice", Donald Trump offers a job at his golf course on the Pacific coastline that was once falling into the ocean. Is he simply dumping soil to replace the sediments now at the bottom of the sea, or is he using an ecologically sound approach? Did he think about the run-off from the vehicles at his club house or what the huge estates he also has planned will do to the ecosystem? Of course not, it truly is all about the money.

My family and I sail, swim, fish, and enjoy the great outdoors. We are Boat US members, who are listed in your report. I know your report is right on. I just find it hard to believe that the Governor's will swallow it up and accept it like a new puppy. I truly applaud your efforts and would welcome the opportunity to come and work for the Commission to get the recommendations off the ground and running in any capacity I could. I will be very surprised to learn of Governor Murkowski's comments. Even if your recommendations move forward, he would be the first to cut local funding because he cannot get his way in the Alaska legislature to dry up every last resource to be found in this State. He has no love of trees, fish, or our oceans - only the greenback to fill his coffers. Why he insists on implying that we want to be or is trying to make us all rich with oil, when we only want to be happy in a State full of living, renewable resources is far beyond me. Perhaps it is because we know that the ecological balance of the natural resources of this planet are the root of all survival. Money comes and goes. Our oceans will not.

I wish you all the best of luck in lobbying to get your recommendations implemented. I am often accused of living in an ideal world and have been for over 25 years. Your recommendations would be an ideal world.

A Job Well Done and Too Long in Coming!
Thank you,
Roxanne Swallows

NCSHPO

National Conference of State Historic Preservation Officers

Suite 342 Hall of the States
444 North Capitol Street, NW, Washington, DC 20001-1512
202-624-5465 fax 202-624-5419

May 28, 2004

Comments of the National Conference of State Historic Preservation Officers
on the U. S. Commission on Ocean Policy
Preliminary Report May 2004

Nancy Schamu, Executive Director, schamu@sso.org

1. The National Conference appreciates the acknowledgment in the report of the Historic Preservation Fund (16 U.S.C. 470h). In 1976, following the model of the Land and Water Conservation Fund, Congress established the Historic Preservation Fund whose intent is to use a portion of the revenue from offshore oil and gas leasing for the preservation and enhancement of America's historic resource. The Historic Preservation Fund follows the principle that a portion of the proceeds earned from the depletion of a non-renewable resource—oil and gas—should be invested in the preservation of another non-renewable resource—historic places.

The Historic Preservation Fund makes possible, not only, the preservation of historic places but also their participation in Americans' daily lives and economic development. The rehabilitation of historic places—made possible because of the Historic Preservation Fund—leads to a \$3 billion annual investment from the private sector in the re-use of historic buildings for commercial purposes.

2. Historic resources are part of the ocean environment. Planning for and federal action in the oceans needs to include historic places such as shipwrecks and prehistoric archeological sites.



“The mission of the Council is to represent the citizens of Cook Inlet in promoting environmentally safe marine transportation and oil facility operations in Cook Inlet.”

Members

June 3, 2004

Alaska State Chamber of Commerce

U.S. Commission on Ocean Policy
1120 20th Street, NW
Suite 200 North
Washington, D.C. 20036

Alaska Native Groups

Dear Commissioners,

Environmental Groups

The Cook Inlet Regional Citizens Advisory Council (RCAC) is submitting for your consideration the following comments on the April 2004 Preliminary Report of the U.S. Commission on Ocean Policy. We commend the Commission for having moved forward in this process in a way that incorporates local concerns and opportunities to provide input.

Recreational Groups

Since its formation under the Oil Pollution Act of 1990, the Cook Inlet RCAC has established itself as a leader in promoting environmentally safe marine transportation and oil facility operations in Cook Inlet. As part of our congressional mandates, we have established an extensive environmental monitoring program that has provided some of the first background information about Cook Inlet’s sediment and water quality -- data that have been continually used and referenced by state and federal agencies, citizen groups, as well as by Cook Inlet’s oil industry. As well, we have relied on various other sources of information to increase our understanding of the Cook Inlet environment. There continues, however, to be numerous data gaps that preclude us from having the temporal and spatial data available for detecting change or from understanding links among and between the various marine habitats as well as influences from coastal watersheds.

Aquaculture Associations

Fishing Organizations

City of Kodiak

On a local level, many local, state, and federal entities have been working together to improve our understanding of the ecosystem(s) in the northern Gulf of Alaska and we value these partnerships that allow us to expand programs and address issues across regional, jurisdictional, and ecosystem boundaries. The adoption of many of the recommendations provided by the U.S. Commission on Ocean Policy in its April 2004 report will provide mechanisms for formalizing and strengthening partnerships as well as ensuring the participation from the local, tribal, state, regional, national, and global levels and include governmental and nongovernmental entities.

City of Kenai

City of Seldovia

We have provided a list, below, which outlines those recommendations by the Commission that we specifically support due to their relationship to our mandates or because they address issues that we have identified in the past as needing attention.

City of Homer

Kodiak Island Borough

5-1, We support the establishment by Congress of regional councils and information
5-2 programs that will include state, territorial, tribal governments, local governments, and nongovernmental participants to administer the regional ocean information programs to improve coordination and set regional priorities of research, data collection, science-based information products, and outreach activities in support of improved ocean and coastal management.

Kenai Peninsula Borough

5-3, We support the development and continued updating of regional ecosystem
5-4 assessments and the revision of NEPA guidelines to ensure that these assessments are incorporated into the appropriate environmental impact statements.

Municipality of Anchorage

- 5-5,
5-6 We support the establishment of regional boards that include strong state and local participation and the adequate support is provided for the operation of regional ocean information programs developed by these regional boards.
- 8-1
through
8-16 We support strengthening ocean education and coordination with appropriate funding mechanisms. These recommendations (8.1-8.16) will ensure improved public knowledge of our oceans and their resources through increased education opportunities for students at all age and education levels; build more effective relationships between research and education communities; expand the availability of marine- and ecosystem- related teaching materials and information; and ensure that a capable workforce is available to carry out ocean policies for generations to come.
- 14-6 We support the requirement by EPA and/or states to modernize the National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System's information management system and enforcement to achieve greater compliance with permits and develop an effective ongoing monitoring program. Specifically, we have a need for better access to Discharge Monitoring Report data which could be achieved through electronic filing. We have also had to rely on our limited research dollars to provide information about water quality in Cook Inlet related to our oil industry mandates. A process for developing an effective ongoing monitoring program would ensure that temporal data would be available against which future data can be compared for early detection of potential change.
- 15-1-
15-4 We support the development of a National Water Quality Monitoring network that will coordinate existing and planned monitoring efforts and would include a federally-funded backbone of critical stations and measurements necessary for assessing long-term water quality trends and conditions. This network should include adequate coverage in both coastal and upland areas and be linked to the Integrated Ocean Observing System. In addition to required appropriate monitoring elements, there should be regional-flexibility and all information should be translated into timely and useful information.
- 16-1,
16-2 We support any measure that improves the United States Coast Guard's resources and abilities for carrying out its duties relating to marine safety and environment protection.
- 16-12 We support the development of a risk-based analysis of all oil transportation systems that will identify and prioritize areas of greatest risk and develop a comprehensive plan for long-term action to reduce the threat of significant spills.
- 16-13 We support the USCG working with local oil spill response communities to develop comprehensive policy guidance and contingency plans for places of refuge that will clearly delineate decision-making authorities and responsibilities and provide for a coordinated and timely assessment and response to vessels seeking a place of refuge.
- 16-14 We support a rigorous research program on the impacts of all types of vessel pollution to provide results that can be used to guide management priorities, develop new control technologies, determining best management practices, and create more effective regulatory regimes.
- 17-1 We support each of these Commission recommendations that would apply uniform,

- through 17-7 mandatory national standards for ballast water management; incorporate sound science in developing biologically meaningful and enforceable ballast water treatment standards; incorporate new technologies; better coordination and public education; and establish a strong presence in global efforts to control the spread of non-native aquatic species.
- 18-1, through 18-3 We support the development of a marine debris management program with appropriate funding to be implemented on regional as well as multi-national levels.
- 24-3 We support partnerships between and among governmental agencies and the offshore oil and gas industry that would allow the use of industry resources, including pipelines, platforms, vessels, and research and monitoring programs, as part of the Integrated Ocean Observing System.
- 25-1 through 25-5 We support the Commission recommendations that would create a national strategy for increasing scientific knowledge by advancing ocean and coastal research and provide the necessary funding to do so.
- 26-1 through 26-11 We support all recommendations for achieving a sustained, integrated ocean observing system that will include a set of core variable to be collected by all components of the national system as well as provide flexibility for regional additions. To be successful, this system will require a commitment for providing long-term funding at all levels.

We appreciate the opportunity to comment on this draft report. We hope the U.S. Commission on Ocean Policy will work closely with the Pew Ocean Commission to maximize the expertise and resources necessary for a successful outcome. In addition, we applaud your recommendations for strong state and local participation. If you have any questions regarding our comments, you can reach me or the Cook Inlet RCAC Executive Director, Mike Munger, at 907.283.7222 or at saupe@circac.org and munger@circac.org, respectively.

Sincerely,

/S/

Ms. Susan M. Saupe
Director of Science and Research



501 Pennsylvania Avenue N.W.
Washington, D.C. 20001

June 25, 2004

Admiral James D. Watkins, USN (Ret.)
Chairman
U.S. Commission on Ocean Policy
1120 20th Street, N.W.
Suite 200 North
Washington, D.C. 20036

Dear Admiral Watkins,

The Government of Canada is grateful for the opportunity to comment on the Preliminary Report of the U.S. Commission on Ocean Policy. While the following comments are not meant to be exhaustive, Canada wishes to provide a general reaction.

We commend the Report's long-term, holistic vision, depth of research, and the effort to balance so many diverse interests. The Report's recommendations, which have already begun to influence the direction of U.S. marine and coastal resources management, will no doubt provide new insight for other nations, including Canada.

In recent years, Canada has also undertaken major initiatives to make our oceans management more coordinated and effective. In 2002, as a follow-up and complement to the 1997 *Oceans Act*, Canada released its Oceans Strategy, which we have appended. We are now developing an Oceans Action Plan intended to identify specific efforts to advance our legislative and policy directions. Indeed, in comparing the U.S. Oceans Commission Report to our own efforts, we are encouraged by the number of harmonious recommendations. For example, Prime Minister Martin recently appointed a Parliamentary Secretary for Oceans to oversee the development and implementation of Canada's Oceans Action Plan. The Commission Report similarly makes a number of suggestions that would ensure oceans issues have high-level attention, coordination and accountability. Canada believes that these are critical components of advancing any ocean agenda.

Canada strongly supports the Commission's emphasis on employing an integrated, ecosystem-based approach to oceans management, which engages all relevant stakeholders in a decision-making process supported with a strong science base. We also believe

that improved understanding of oceans resources combined with more opportunities for state, tribal and local involvement will be particularly effective in ensuring long-term sustainability of resources.

We share your analysis of the key challenges currently facing the international community, in particular as they relate to high seas fisheries, vessel source pollution and related issues such as flag state oversight and enforcement. The report also helpfully outlines emerging issues, such as threats to deep sea living resources. We look forward to working with the U.S. on addressing these challenges.

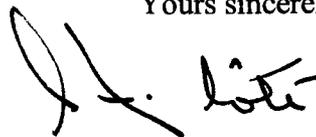
Of particular note are the Commission's suggestions for improving international and domestic governance of oceans and marine resources. Canada acknowledges and supports the U.S. continued efforts to encourage all countries to ratify the UN Fish Stocks Agreement and appreciates the leadership of the U.S. government in this area (among many others) of international fisheries management and law. Recognizing the important function of international instruments and the U.S.' significant involvement in them, Canada encourages American efforts to ratify the UN Convention on the Law of the Sea and the Convention on Biological Diversity. We also commend the Commission's recognition of the importance of the Great Lakes and look forward to their continued binational management under the Great Lakes Water Quality Agreement.

One final point we wish to highlight is that contrary to the statement contained on page 245 in Chapter 19 of the report, Canada is a party to the FAO Compliance Agreement, having deposited its instrument of acceptance on May 20, 1994.

Canada looks forward to collaborating with the United States where positive cooperative actions will benefit oceans management.

Should you have any questions or comments, please contact myself or Sue Kirby, the Assistant Deputy Minister for Oceans at the Department for Fisheries and Oceans, at (613) 993-0850.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "B. Côté". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a long horizontal stroke at the end.

Bertin Côté
Chargé d'Affaires, a.i.

Enclosure



Government of Canada
Gouvernement du Canada



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CANADA'S OCEANS STRATEGY
Our Oceans, Our Future

CANADA'S OCEANS STRATEGY



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Canada's Oceans Strategy: Our Oceans, Our Future

As Canada's Minister of Fisheries and Oceans, it gives me great pleasure to present *Canada's Oceans Strategy*. This far-reaching policy framework will make Canada's vision for modern oceans management a reality.

As a country bordered by three oceans, Canada is truly an oceans nation. Today we see an ever increasing number of demands on oceans and their resources. While traditional fishing and marine transportation continue to be of prime importance, they are now joined by other uses, such as aquaculture development, oil and gas exploration and development, recreational and commercial fishing, and eco-tourism. Canada's oceans also support important features of Canada's social and cultural identity. Managing these demands is critical to the protection of the marine environment and the long-term sustainability of Canada's oceans and their resources.

On January 31, 1997, the Government of Canada brought the *Oceans Act* into force, making Canada the first country in the world to have comprehensive oceans management legislation. The *Act* authorizes the Minister of Fisheries and Oceans Canada to lead the development of a national oceans management strategy, guided by the principles of sustainable development, the precautionary approach and integrated management.

Since 1997, the federal government has moved quickly to develop and implement, with interested Canadians, oceans management initiatives on all three coasts. *The Strategy*, which provides an overall strategic approach to oceans management, has been developed based on the lessons learned and the issues identified through this work.

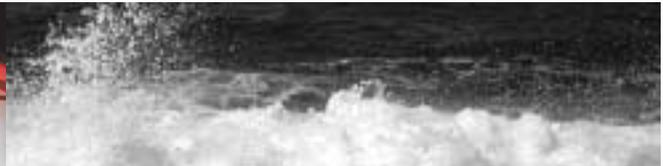
We are now seeking to implement this strategy through further collaboration. The sustainable development and integrated management of our oceans requires the help and ideas of local communities, industries, Aboriginal peoples, provinces and territories, environmental groups and other interests.

Your support is important. I am confident that by working together we will ensure that Canada strengthens its well-deserved reputation as a world leader in oceans management while also ensuring the long-term sustainability of Canada's oceans and their resources.

Sincerely,

Robert G. Thibault,
Minister of Fisheries and Oceans





Executive Summary

Canada's *Oceans Strategy* is the Government of Canada's policy statement for the management of estuarine coastal and marine ecosystems. National in scope, *Canada's Oceans Strategy* sets out the policy direction for ocean management in Canada.

The *Oceans Act* provides a framework for modern ocean management. The *Act* calls for the Minister of Fisheries and Oceans to lead and facilitate the development of a national ocean management strategy. *Canada's Oceans Strategy* responds to this requirement, providing for an integrated approach to ocean management, coordination of policies and programs across governments, and an ecosystem approach.

Canada's Oceans Strategy defines the vision, principles and policy objectives for the future management of Canada's estuarine, coastal and marine ecosystems. Specifically, the *Strategy* supports policy and programs aimed at: **Understanding and Protecting the Marine Environment; Supporting Sustainable Economic Opportunities;** and providing **International Leadership.**

Canada's Oceans Strategy in general, and oceans governance in particular, is much more than a federal government responsibility. It is a collective responsibility shared by all.

Accordingly, oceans governance under the *Strategy* has core commitments to:

- work collaboratively within the federal government, and among levels of government;
- share responsibility for achieving common objectives; and
- engage Canadians in oceans-related decisions in which they have a stake.

Under this *Strategy*, oceans governance will advance in three specific areas. First, the federal government will develop, support and promote activities to establish **institutional governance mechanisms** to enhance coordinated, collaborative oceans management across the federal government and with other levels of government. The *Strategy* proposes to use new and existing mechanisms such as committees, management boards and information sharing to promote coordination in ocean management.

Second, the *Strategy* seeks to implement a program of **Integrated Management planning** to engage partners in the planning and managing of ocean activities. As the cornerstone of the governance approach, Integrated Management establishes decision-making structures that consider both the conservation and protection of ecosystems, while at the same time providing opportunities for creating wealth in oceans-related economies and communities. It brings together the environmental, economic and social considerations by planning for sustainable use of the oceans in a safe and secure environment. In addition, Integrated Management provides

the opportunity to bring together the citizens who want to be engaged in decisions that affect them.



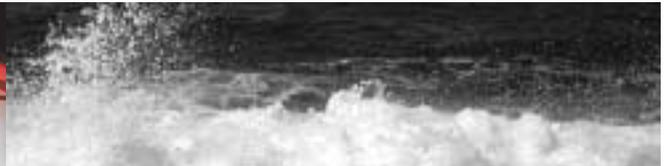
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Finally, the *Strategy* responds to the desire of Canadians to become engaged in ocean management activities by **promoting stewardship and public awareness**. Oceans stewardship means acting responsibly to conserve the oceans and their resources for present and future generations. Through stewardship initiatives, Canadians can actively participate in caring for our ocean resources in meaningful and positive ways.

Implementing *Canada's Oceans Strategy* will require actions under each of the policy objectives, as well as specific initiatives to promote oceans governance. Implementation will also involve new ways of looking at our ocean resources, and

new ways of doing business. It requires the ongoing commitment and participation of all levels of government - federal, provincial, territorial, municipal - as well as Aboriginal organizations and communities, businesses, academia, non-governmental organizations and Canadians generally.

Canada's Oceans Strategy is based on knowledge from a growing body of ocean management experiences both nationally and internationally. The national *Strategy* will continue to evolve over time. Its further development and implementation will involve active collaboration with partners, and the development of a results-based management and accountability framework to measure progress, relevance and effectiveness.



Introduction

Canada's *Oceans Strategy* is the Government of Canada's policy statement for the management of estuarine coastal and marine ecosystems. Based on the authority and direction set out in the *Oceans Act*, the *Strategy* has been informed by experience with Integrated Management planning and Marine Protected Areas, a range of discussions and consultations with oceans stakeholders over the past four years, and emerging experience in oceans policy and oceans management in the international community.

National in scope, *Canada's Oceans Strategy* sets out the new policy direction for modern ocean management.

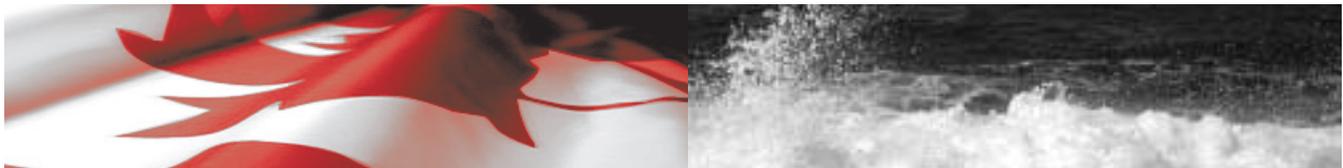
The *Strategy* will be further refined and implemented by the Government of Canada in collaboration with provincial and territorial governments; affected Aboriginal organizations and communities (including those bodies established under land claims agreements); ocean industries such as fishing, shipping and oil and gas interests; environmental organizations and non-governmental organizations; coastal communities; and other Canadians or organizations with an interest in its development or implementation. These are the partners involved in managing Canada's oceans.

This document outlines the policy framework for *Canada's Oceans Strategy* and seeks to:

- Establish the context in which *Canada's Oceans Strategy* is being developed and implemented;
- Set out the framework of a new modern approach to oceans management for the 21st century;
- Describe the strategic approach that will be used to achieve the policy objectives; and
- Set out a series of federal activities that support the *Strategy*.



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The Context for Canada's Oceans Strategy

Canada - A Maritime Nation

Canada is an ocean nation whose economy, environment and social fabric are inextricably linked to the oceans and their resources. Bordered by three oceans, Canada's coastline is vast and diverse – the Pacific's multi-faceted shoreline of rugged mountains, inlets, fjords and islands – the Arctic's complex food web and habitats – the wide continental shelf of the Atlantic. Canada's oceans also define a large part of national sovereignty and are a critical element of national security.



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Of equal significance are the internal marine waters of Canada, such as the St. Lawrence Estuary, the Gulf of St. Lawrence, Hudson Bay, James Bay, Strait of Georgia, and the internal Arctic waters. In addition, the oceans are affected by rivers, watersheds, and land-based activities thousands of kilometres from the coasts. Eight

of ten provinces and all three territories directly border oceans and marine waterways, and over 25 percent of the population live in coastal zones.

The richness and biodiversity of Canada's oceans provide enormous potential for present and future generations. The marine ecosystems have a remarkable diversity of species, including commercial and non-commercial fish, marine mammals, invertebrates and plants. The health of our oceans and sound management of ocean resources are not just coastal issues – they are truly national and affect all Canadians.

Canada's oceans are also a critical component of the overall global and national climate as they determine and regulate climate, and provide keys to the understanding of and adaptation to global climate change.

With over \$20 billion in annual economic activity and many billions more in ocean trade passing through our waters, Canada's oceans and their resources are already significant contributors to the overall Canadian economy. Indeed, oceans are the lifeblood that support many coastal communities and are our highways to the world's market places. As they are also the backbone of the global transportation system, safe and secure navigable waters are critical to the effective functioning of Canada's national economy.

Oceans also offer the potential for numerous opportunities to generate significant economic, social and cultural benefits. Examples of the potential are found in fisheries (commercial, recreational and Aboriginal), aquaculture, tourism, transportation, shipbuilding, oil and mineral production, education and research. By developing this potential, Canada is in a position to provide knowledge, management advice and technical expertise for the world community. In addition, determining, understanding and regulating the activities being conducted in our ocean areas of jurisdiction is critical to ensuring national security, sovereignty and defence.

Environmental Impacts on Canada's Oceans

Oceans are facing severe environmental threats from over-exploitation, pollution from land-based and sea-based activities and the alteration and destruction of habitats and ecosystems. The health of oceans is affected by sewage and pollutant discharge in marine waters, excessive growth of marine plant life,



alien species introduction and changes to hydrology and sediment flow.

Despite efforts to improve environmental quality of coasts and seas both in Canada and abroad, degradation of ocean environments has continued. As well, the lack of an integrated approach to using this shared resource has often caused conflict among economic, environmental and social objectives. Management of ocean resources in a global, sustained and integrated fashion has remained elusive, despite various international agreements and initiatives.

Interests in Canada's Oceans

Today, the growing number of different and competing interests makes management of Canada's oceans much more difficult and complex. Where once traditional fishing and shipping industries were nearly alone, they now share oceans with many others. The conflicts among ocean uses make it essential to ensure that policies are cohesive.

Many stakeholders, particularly those who wish to develop the oceans and their resources, are concerned about the lack of a common vision and common set of principles. As a result, many stakeholders feel that opportunities are somewhat complicated and diminished for investment and development of ocean resources, especially when taken together with a large number of government departments and agencies with oceans related mandates and regulatory regimes.

Current Management

Canada's oceans are governed by a complex web of laws and regulations managed by different levels of government. This governance structure points to the need for developing a unified vision and integrated approach to ocean management that effectively considers the impact of individual sector activities on each other, and on the oceans as a whole. This should be combined with developing resource management decision-making and environmental assessment approaches that take an ecosystem approach and effectively recognize the long-term cumulative impacts of human actions on the marine environment. New governance mechanisms can also further the coordination needed with the private sector, Aboriginal groups, local communities and other oceans stakeholders interests .

national ocean management strategy. *Canada's Oceans Strategy* responds to this requirement. It is designed to be implemented in such a way that it provides policy direction for an integrated approach to ocean management, coordination of policies and programs across governments and an ecosystem approach to ocean resource management and environmental assessment.



© Christy Wilson

The Oceans Act

The *Oceans Act* provides a framework for modern and future ocean management initiatives, and calls for the Minister of Fisheries and Oceans to lead and facilitate the development of a



Managing Canada's Oceans

Canada's oceans are part of the "global commons." Like other ocean nations, Canada is required to manage these resources in a manner that recognizes the international laws, agreements and standards for ensuring order on the seas, beyond the waters of any one state. Management of Canada's oceans is based on both national and international obligations and commitments.

International

The *United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea* (UNCLOS) is considered the international constitution of the oceans incorporating both the codification of customary international law and negotiated treaty commitments relating to the world's oceans. It provides a comprehensive framework for the regulation of the oceans. It deals with a range of activities such as access to the seas, navigation, protection and preservation of the marine environment, pollution prevention and control, exploitation of living and non-living resources, conservation, scientific monitoring and research, and the outline of a dispute settlement mechanism. Although the Government of Canada has not yet ratified the 1982 UNCLOS, it is committed to its eventual ratification. Already, a significant proportion of

UNCLOS provisions are reflected in Canadian legislation.



There are also numerous other international instruments, processes and institutions dealing with the full range of ocean issues in which Canada is actively engaged to promote and support its interests and responsibilities. These rights and obligations under international conventions and agreements are fully recognized and respected in *Canada's Oceans Strategy*. The *Strategy* is also designed to advance the international drive to strengthen the global oceans governance regime.

The Government of Canada

Almost every federal department and agency in Canada is involved in the management of the oceans through policies, programs, services, or regulations. In addition to oceans management, federal departments and agencies have specific authorities, policies and program responsibilities in a wide range of diverse areas such as resource management, sovereignty and defence, trade and industrial development, northern development, transportation and safety, and health and environment.

The *Oceans Act* provides the legislative foundation for *Canada's Oceans Strategy*. It provides the basis for oceans governance by:

- defining maritime territory in accordance with the *United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea (UNCLOS)*, including the declaration of the exclusive economic zone (EEZ);
- assigning a leadership role to the Minister of Fisheries and Oceans in the stewardship of Canada's oceans, and the development of a national strategy for the management of all activities in or affecting estuarine, coastal and marine areas; and
- clarifying and consolidating federal oceans management and responsibilities, as well as oceans responsibilities not otherwise assigned.

At its core, the *Oceans Act* has a principle-based approach, premised on collaboration and co-operation, and respect for assigned

constitutional and legislative responsibilities, including existing Aboriginal and treaty rights.

The *Preamble* of the *Oceans Act* guides *Canada's Oceans Strategy*. The *Preamble* states that:



- Canada promotes the understanding of oceans, ocean processes, marine resources and marine ecosystems to foster the **sustainable development** of the oceans and their resources;
- Canada holds that conservation, based on an **ecosystem approach**, is of fundamental importance to maintaining biological diversity and productivity in the marine environment;
- Canada promotes the wide application of the

precautionary approach to the conservation, management and exploitation of marine resources in order to protect these resources and preserve the marine environment;

- Canada promotes the **integrated management** of oceans and marine resources;
- Canada recognizes that the oceans and their resources offer significant opportunities for **economic diversification** and the generation of wealth for the benefit of all Canadians, and in particular for coastal communities; and
- The Minister **in collaboration** with other ministers, boards and agencies of federal, provincial and territorial governments, and with affected Aboriginal organizations, coastal communities and other persons and bodies (including those bodies established under land claims agreements), is encouraging the development and implementation of a national strategy for the management of estuarine, coastal and marine ecosystems.

Provincial, Territorial and Local Governments

While the federal government has broad responsibilities for the stewardship and management of Canada's oceans and resources, there are equally important roles and responsibilities for provincial, territorial and local governments. Provinces have primary responsibility for provincial lands, the shoreline and specific seabed areas. Municipalities have responsibility for many of the land-based activities affecting the marine environment.



Canada's Oceans Strategy provides the basis for a new strategic management framework to involve all levels of government and interests to work on achieving common objectives.

Aboriginal

The *Constitution Act, 1982* recognizes and affirms existing Aboriginal and treaty rights. The *Oceans Act* contains an explicit provision to provide certainty that it does not abrogate or derogate from those rights. *Canada's Oceans Strategy*, flowing as it does from the *Act*, provides this same certainty.

First Nations, Inuit and other Aboriginal groups and organizations have long held a special relationship and connection with the oceans. There is much to be learned from



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the holistic Aboriginal approach to the marine environment. Aboriginal traditional ecological knowledge is an important component of increasing understanding of the complex marine environment.

Canada's Oceans Strategy also respects the legislative responsibilities of land claim agreements that outline specific resource management responsibilities and commitments by the federal government to co-operate and collaborate with the signatories. In many cases, these agreements directly or indirectly affect or concern the oceans.

The *Strategy* provides the broad framework and active encouragement for Aboriginal groups in Canada to become engaged in ocean management. Where Treaties and Land Claims Agreements are not yet established, there are a range of opportunities for involvement

and engagement of Aboriginal communities. Specifically, Integrated Management planning offers an opportunity for First Nation communities and Aboriginal groups to become involved in ocean management decision making.

Coastal Communities

Canadians have expressed a desire to be more engaged in ocean management. The *Strategy* offers Canadians the opportunity for greater and more direct involvement in policy and management decisions that affect their lives. Coastal communities will be actively involved in the development, promotion, and implementation of sustainable oceans activities, as Integrated Management planning will offer this kind of direct opportunity. In this way, there is a more viable planning process, associated actions are relevant to the area, and there is “on the ground” expertise and capacity for implementation, monitoring and compliance promotion.

Ocean Industries

Canada's oceans support a diverse network of commercial activity, including commercial and sport fishing, aquaculture, high technology instrument development, shipbuilding, oil and gas exploration and extraction, seabed mining, defence production, tourism and recreation, boating, marine transportation and ports, marine navigation, and communications. *Canada's Oceans Strategy* aims to promote the development of private / public partnerships

and standards that will support existing and emerging ocean industries, and ensure the conservation and sustainability of ocean resources.

Ocean Interests

There are also non-government organizations, interest groups and academics with a wealth of expertise who can provide informed advice on matters such as economic, environmental and social issues, science and technology, community living, jobs and growth, and public education. *Canada's Oceans Strategy* is designed to actively encourage the participation of these groups and individuals in its evolution and implementation.



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Policy Framework

As a policy framework, *Canada's Oceans Strategy* has the overarching goal -- **to ensure healthy, safe and prosperous oceans for the benefit of current and future generations of Canadians.**

The policy framework is intended to guide the co-ordination and management of ocean activities. All levels of government retain respective legislative and jurisdictional responsibilities and authorities.



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Principles

As set out in the *Oceans Act*, the *Strategy* is based on the three principles of **sustainable development, integrated management and the precautionary approach.** These three principles should guide all ocean management decision making.

Application of these principles is premised on a sound base of scientific and traditional knowledge. The scientific knowledge required to make oceans management decisions encompasses both natural and social dimensions. It is derived from sources inside and outside Canada and its governments. Under the *Strategy*, the Government of Canada commits to ensuring that the following principles serve as guides and tests for assessing future oceans management decisions.

The **sustainable development** principle rests at the core of *Canada's Oceans Strategy*. It recognizes the need for integration of social, economic and environmental aspects of decision making, and that any current and future ocean resource development must be carefully undertaken without compromising the ability of future generations of Canadians to meet their needs.

While this principle applies to all oceans management considerations, from an operational perspective, this *Strategy* commits the Government of Canada to

ensure its implementation through the process of Integrated Management planning. (Implementation details are available in the *Policy and Operational Framework for Integrated Management of Estuarine, Coastal and Marine Environments in Canada*).

As a principle, **Integrated Management** is a commitment to planning and managing human activities in a comprehensive manner while considering all factors necessary for the conservation and sustainable use of marine resources and the shared use of ocean spaces.

Integrated Management is central to *Canada's Oceans Strategy*, as it contains commitments to the long-term objective of developing large-scale and local Integrated Management plans for all of Canada's oceans, starting with priority areas and building on experience as resources and capacity permit.

Integrated Management also embodies several other important principles, concepts and approaches, such as:

- integrated data collection, monitoring, research, synthesis, and information sharing, communication and education (the full range of relevant knowledge is applied to the planning process and decision-making process, including scientific studies and local and traditional knowledge);
- inclusive and collaborative oceans governance structures and processes;
- flexible and adaptive management techniques to deal with uncertainty and improvements in the understanding of marine species and ecosystems; and
- planning on the basis of natural and economic systems together, rather than principally on political or administrative boundaries (Integrated Management plans may include more than one province or territory or span international boundaries).

The **precautionary approach**, defined in the *Oceans Act* as “erring on the side of caution,” is a key principle to be applied in the management of ocean activities. Under the *Strategy*, the Government of Canada is re-affirming its commitment to promoting the wide application of the precautionary approach to the conservation, management and exploitation of marine resources in order to protect these resources and preserve the marine environment. *Canada's Oceans Strategy* will be governed by the ongoing policy work being undertaken by the Government of Canada.



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Further commitments in this *Strategy* clarify the application of this principle from an oceans perspective, namely:

- the promotion of an ecosystem-based approach to management;



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- the application of conservation measures necessary to maintain biological diversity and productivity of the marine environment, including the establishment of marine protected areas;
- the promotion of progressive improvement in understanding of the marine environment; and
- the priority given to maintaining ecosystem health and integrity, especially in the case of uncertainty.

Objectives

Three policy objectives or outcomes have been identified for the advancement of oceans management activities:

- ***Understanding and Protecting the Marine Environment;***
- ***Supporting Sustainable Economic Opportunities;*** and
- ***International Leadership.***

Understanding and Protecting the Marine Environment

Successful oceans management depends on ***understanding the marine environment*** – an understanding that is predicated on solid science, which in turn depends on rigorous peer review. The ability to understand and protect marine ecosystems also depends on the ability to bring together the various disciplines of the marine sciences.

Science support for oceans management is important for delineating ecosystem boundaries, identifying key ecosystem functions and components, developing predictive models and risk assessment techniques, developing ecosystem-based management objectives, developing performance indicators, and assessing the state of ecosystem health. Modern oceans management requires integrating social and environmental information so that human

activity is better factored into sound decision-making.

Other key information sources include the federal marine fleets, the fishing industry, community knowledge, and the traditional ecological knowledge shared by Aboriginal peoples.



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Integrating diverse and complex information, supplemented by new research to improve understanding of the marine environment (particularly of marine ecosystems), contributes to the advancement and management of oceans resources. Sharing that knowledge with the Canadian public is an important element of enhancing public awareness and engaging public debate.

Protecting the marine environment is the corollary of improved understanding of the

marine environment. The broadly defined stewardship responsibility is designed to ensure that resources of the oceans are managed wisely, respect the stated principles, and protect oceans for the benefit and enjoyment of future generations. Protection must consider the degradation of the marine environment including, physical alteration and destruction of marine habitat.

Pollutants entering the oceans are also a major concern. Over 80 per cent of marine pollution is from land-based sources. Sea-based sources of marine pollution also warrant additional attention and action.



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There are also unique, sensitive, and ecologically significant areas of the marine environment that require special protection and remediation. Recovery is urgent for marine species currently threatened or endangered, and for actions that keep healthy populations from becoming at risk.

The understanding and protection sections of the policy framework support the creation of a national network of marine protected areas and the establishment of marine environmental quality guidelines. These are two specific elements set out in the *Oceans Act*.

Achieving this objective, however, is much more than just establishing new programs. It requires new approaches to collaboration across and between governments, as well as new ways of doing business for those using oceans resources and the active engagement of Canadian communities, organizations, and citizens. (These aspects are discussed in greater detail in the subsequent section on *Oceans Governance*).

Supporting Sustainable Economic Opportunities

The conservative estimate of ocean industries' contribution to the Canadian economy is well over \$20 billion a year. There is a very strong link between the sustainable economic opportunities objective, and that of understanding and protecting the marine environment. The health of the oceans is inextricably linked to the sustainability of economic livelihoods for coastal communities and Canadians generally. Support for sustainable economic opportunities also requires the development of a scientific knowledge base of oceans resources and development impacts. Under the *Strategy*, the Government of Canada will work with other levels of government, Aboriginal groups, industry and oceans stakeholders to develop

this knowledge base and assess the economic potential for development. At the same time, the social, cultural and environmental impacts of development will be considered.



The conservation and sustainable use of **fisheries resources** is one of the key goals within this objective. So too is the development of **aquaculture** in a manner that supports public confidence and industry competitiveness. Fisheries managers and scientists are developing a renewed approach toward management that is based on conservation, objectives-based fisheries management techniques within an ecosystems context. This requires working more closely with commercial, recreational and Aboriginal licence holders and fleet sectors to promote greater involvement in, and responsibility for, operational management activities.

Offshore energy and mineral resource development are already contributing to the prosperity of Canada, and have enormous potential. In addition to being an important element of the overall energy supply and energy policy, offshore energy developments are directly and indirectly helping to transform economies in

many communities on the east coast and in the North.

The **shipping** industry is a key transportation mechanism in Canada and offers important social and economic benefits to Canadians. In the area of shipping, Canada harmonizes marine safety and environmental policies with international maritime law, and is a major supporter of the work of the International Maritime Organization.

Canada also has an important and innovative **shipbuilding and industrial marine** industry that is a critical component of the local economy of many coastal communities and, as well, provides industrial benefits for industries across Canada. The **offshore oil and gas** industry, which has continued to grow since early exploration in the 1960s, is generating increasing demands for vessels of all types, and for equipment related to both exploration and development. In addition, important Canadian service industries, such as **sea-bed mapping, marine communications and data management**, have economic and knowledge potential with the added benefit of a contribution to improved oceans management. Such industrial and knowledge management benefits underscore the necessity for an integrated approach and the collaborative arrangements set out in *Canada's Oceans Strategy*.

Many coastal communities in Canada, from major cities to small villages, are increasingly turning to their coastal areas to support economic opportunity. Opportunities range from small **eco-tourism operations** to major **cruise-**



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ships and waterfront developments. *Canada's Oceans Strategy* supports increased economic opportunities and commits to cooperation that supports its principles and objectives.

The *Strategy* also recognizes that all sustainable economic activities depend on the provision of a safe and secure operating marine environment. Without peace and security in Canadian ocean areas of jurisdiction, the wealth-generating opportunities presented by the oceans will not be realized by present and future generations.

Supporting sustainable economic opportunities is not without challenges. For example, conflicts are becoming more common over the most effective and sound uses of ocean space, most particularly in the near-shore. In addition, the cumulative effects of many stresses are not always considered and are difficult to assess. There is also an added challenge of understanding the dynamics of marine ecosystems and predicting future conditions. These challenges reinforce the need for the principles of integrated management, sustainable development, and the precautionary approach to support the

sustainable economic opportunity objective. Costs of not implementing an oceans strategy include increased conflicts and competition for ocean space, lost economic opportunities and continued environmental degradation.



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International Leadership

The third policy objective is *International Leadership*. Oceans, by their very nature, demand international management. *International Leadership* is about advancing Canadian and global ocean-related interests broadly and proactively. By influencing international priorities, decisions and processes, Canada can help ensure its sovereignty and security, sustainable ocean resources, and support social and economic interests. Canada's strong history of assisting other nations, particularly developing nations, in the sustainable development of their oceans will continue.



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Several federal departments have international activities concerning oceans. It is recognized that no single department has the mandate, capacity or resources to implement all of the international oceans commitments. A high degree of consistency is required in order to maximize the returns from investments in international activities. A common understanding and consensus on international oceans priorities is necessary among federal government departments in order to advance a coherent international oceans strategy. The challenge ahead is to be more co-ordinated, better prepared and capable of responding to the many international oceans issues that demand immediate attention.

The United Nations Fisheries Agreement (UNFA) has emerged as a significant international agreement to complement the *United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea (UNCLOS)*. UNFA specifically addresses the management and conservation of straddling stocks (those species that occur both within the exclusive economic zone of a coastal state and in the adjacent high seas), as well as highly migratory

fish stocks on the high seas. Canada has ratified UNFA and intends to ratify UNCLOS once an effective UNFA enforcement regime has been established.

There are a number of other international legal instruments, institutions, processes and initiatives dealing with the full range of ocean issues that define the international environmental agenda. For example, Canada is an active participant in the development of a new global regime for the protection of underwater cultural heritage, an active supporter and participant in the United Nations Informal Consultative Process on Oceans and Law of the Sea, and signatory to a number of International Maritime Organization conventions. In addition, Canada is an active participant in a number of international fisheries and oceans resource management organizations including the North Atlantic Fisheries Organization (NAFO), the International Commission for the Conservation of Atlantic Tunas (ICCAT), the North Atlantic Salmon Commission (NASCO), the North Pacific Anadromous Fisheries Commission (NPAFC), and the North East Atlantic Fisheries Commission (NEAFC), among others. Continuing participation in these fora will assist in advancing ways of strengthening the effective global governance of the oceans.

The “Earth Summit” of 1992 (the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development) produced Agenda 21, the global blueprint for guiding the management of the environment and development. Canada has been working with other nations to fulfil the commitments of Agenda 21, and supporting



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international institutional arrangements and initiatives to meet its commitments to sustainable development goals. Chapter 17 of Agenda 21 is specifically devoted to oceans, and outlines principles and objectives for oceans management. The *Oceans Act* and *Canada's Oceans Strategy* represent a concerted effort to implement the Agenda 21 principles of sustainability, integrated management, and precaution. As such, the *Strategy* is a significant tool for addressing Canada's international sustainable development commitments.

The *Oceans Act* and *Strategy* will be presented to the international community at important fora, such as the World Summit on Sustainable Development, as a framework for integrated, horizontal ocean governance. This is just one way in which Canada will continue to ensure that oceans governance remains a focal point in global sustainable development discussions.

In the international context, *Canada's Oceans Strategy* supports and promotes effective governance and regulation, including the exercise of *national sovereignty and security*. The maintenance and preservation of sovereignty over national ocean space is recognized as

a fundamental right in international law and is a priority for Canada. Within our maritime zones, a coordinated system of surveillance and monitoring ensures the Canada is aware of the maritime activities in progress. Strongly associated with maritime surveillance is the enforcement of national and international law within Canadian maritime areas of jurisdiction. Enforcement is fundamental to the protection of our sovereign rights and to the preservation of maritime order and security. The *Oceans Act* recognizes Canada's maritime jurisdiction through the definition of baselines, internal waters, the twelve nautical mile territorial sea, the twenty-four nautical mile contiguous zone, the two hundred nautical mile exclusive economic zone, and the continental shelf in accordance with the 1982 *Law of the Sea Convention*. In particular, the *Act* confirms the authority for the enforcement of a federal law that is a customs, fiscal, immigration or sanitary law within the contiguous zone. In addition, the *Act* grants authority to prevent entry into Canada, powers of arrest and search and seizure. A comprehensive national and international legal framework supports this requirement, as well as effective intelligence and enforcement capabilities.



It is important to highlight that a critical goal of this *Strategy* is the ability to ensure the safety and security of shipping and life at sea. Achieving this goal involves prevention through the prediction of dangerous conditions, the maintenance of safe and secure waterways, and the enforcement of Canadian sovereignty, and the capacity for emergency response that serves people, property and vessels in distress.

Canada's Oceans Strategy will respond to the challenge of providing the improved coordination and increased capabilities needed to address immediate and future international oceans issues.

Oceans Governance

Canada's Oceans Strategy in general, and oceans governance in particular, is much more than a federal government responsibility. It is a collective responsibility shared by all.

Accordingly, oceans governance under the *Strategy* has core commitments to:

- work collaboratively within the federal government, and among levels of government;
- share responsibility for achieving common objectives; and
- engage Canadians in oceans-related decisions in which they have a stake.

Under this *Strategy*, oceans governance will advance in three specific areas. First, the federal government will develop, support and promote activities to establish **institutional governance**

mechanisms to enhance coordinated, collaborative decision-making across the federal government and with other levels of government. The strategy proposes to use new and existing mechanisms such as committees, management boards and information sharing to promote coordination in ocean management.



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Second, the *Strategy* seeks to implement a program of **Integrated Management planning** to better engage partners in the planning and managing of ocean activities. As the cornerstone of the oceans governance approach, Integrated Management establishes advisory bodies that consider both the conservation and protection of ecosystems, while at the same time providing opportunities for creating wealth in oceans-related economies and communities. It brings together the environmental, economic and social considerations by planning for sustainable use.

Integrated Management involves comprehensive planning and managing of human activities to minimize the conflict among users. It also involves a collaborative approach and a flexible and transparent planning process that respects existing divisions of constitutional

and departmental authority and does not abrogate or derogate from any existing Aboriginal or treaty rights.

The governance model proposed for Integrated Management is one of collaboration. It involves ocean management decisions based on shared information, on consultation with stakeholders, and on their advisory or management participation in the planning process. It is also based on institutional arrangements that bring together all stakeholders. Participants take an active part in designing, implementing and monitoring the effectiveness of coastal and ocean management plans, and partners enter into agreements on ocean management plans with specific responsibilities, powers and obligations. It is also recognized that in specific cases, Integrated Management and planning may be achieved through co-management.



The Framework proposes that an Integrated Management body will be composed of both governmental and non-governmental representatives with interests in a given ocean space. In coastal and ocean areas with relatively light levels of human use and impact,

Integrated Management bodies may focus more on informing and consulting with local interests. In these circumstances, the Integrated Management body may mostly serve to facilitate information sharing.

As there is an increase in human activities and pressures on the marine environment, other arrangements will balance coastal and ocean uses with maximum social and economic benefits, while not exceeding ecological thresholds. In these circumstances, substantial effort will be directed towards maximizing participation of all interests and establishing an Integrated Management body whose role will be to provide decision makers with advice and also to assume part of the responsibility for implementation of the approved management plan.

Finally, the *Strategy* responds to the desire of Canadians to be engaged in ocean management activities by **promoting stewardship and public awareness**. Oceans stewardship means acting responsibly to conserve the oceans and their resources for present and future generations. Through stewardship initiatives, the government can encourage Canadians to volunteer and actively participate in the caring for ocean resources in meaningful and positive ways. Citizens also want to be engaged in decisions that affect them, and look for support for stewardship projects.

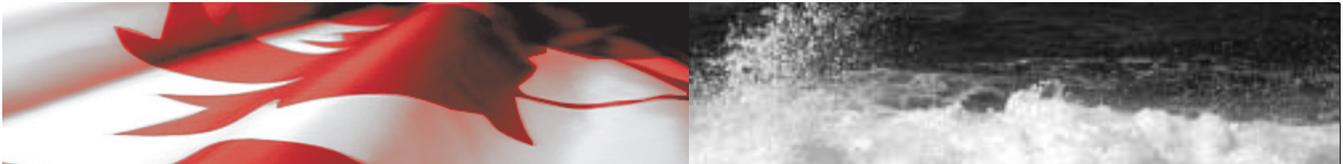
Canada's Oceans Strategy builds on an existing foundation of stewardship and public awareness activities and will continue to develop and promote national initiatives in these areas. This active participation is encouraged through

the Integrated Management planning process, but also through more specific activities. Stewardship initiatives under the *Strategy* will be co-ordinated with others such as the National Stewardship Initiative and the Natural Legacy Agenda. As well, oceans stewardship initiatives are important for supporting Canada's international commitments under Chapter 36 of Agenda 21.



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Industry is also interested in public/private sector partnerships that contribute to sustainable ocean use. Government roles in this relationship are to enable and encourage the public and private sectors to participate as completely as possible in helping to support sustainable ocean use.



Strategic Directions for Implementing Canada's Oceans Strategy

Implementing *Canada's Oceans Strategy* requires action under each of the Strategy's policy objectives:

1. Understanding and Protecting the Marine Environment;
2. Supporting Sustainable Economic Opportunities; and
3. International Leadership.

As well, the goal of the *Strategy* is to pursue specific initiatives to promote oceans governance.

Implementation of the *Strategy* challenges Canada to explore new ways of looking at our ocean resources, and new ways of doing business.

The activities currently identified within this document are examples of initiatives over a four-year period that will be undertaken by the Government of Canada in support of the *Strategy*.

The Government of Canada would like to engage in discussions on these activities to expand them beyond the federal government.

The Government of Canada invites comments to include activities that may be undertaken by and in partnership with other Canadians. These include provincial and territorial governments,

municipal governments, affected Aboriginal organizations and communities, ocean industries such as fishing, shipping and oil and gas interests, environmental organizations and non-governmental organizations, coastal communities, and other individuals or organizations with an interest in oceans management and the implementation of *Canada's Oceans Strategy*.



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Canada's oceans have played an important role historically and they offer much promise for the future. *Canada's Oceans Strategy* invites others to work collectively to ensure healthy, safe and prosperous oceans for the benefit of current and future generations of Canadians.

Activities

Grouped under the main policy objectives of *Canada's Oceans Strategy*, the intention is to implement the federal activities over a four-year period. Advancing these activities requires varying levels of support. Some simply require doing business in new ways through the establishment of committees or conducting joint research. Other activities require policy approval and new financial resources. Still others may require legislative or regulatory change, or changes to the international oceans governance regime.

Understanding and Protecting the Marine Environment

- **Improved scientific knowledge base for estuarine, coastal and marine ecosystems:**

- Improve co-operation in the collection, monitoring and disseminating of information, including the integration of traditional ecological knowledge;
- Better understand ecosystem dynamics including climate, variability and the impact of change on living marine resources, as well as a new orientation towards operational oceanography;
- Promote the development of a State of the Oceans Reporting system;
- Promote academic liaison on oceans research for and among natural and social

sciences, especially through the Oceans Management Research Network; and

- Strengthen the co-ordination of ocean science in support of ocean management.



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- **Policies and programs aimed at marine pollution prevention:**

- Improve existing legislation and guidelines on marine environmental protection and maintain an on-going review and assessment of the adequacy of marine pollution prevention standards;
- Support the implementation of the *National Programme of Action for the Protection of the Marine Environment from Land-based Activities*, in particular the identified priority areas of sewage and physical alteration/destruction of habitat;
- Develop a more proactive implementation of the fish habitat protection policy;
- Develop a framework for a *National Programme of Action for the Protection of the Marine Environment from Sea-*

based Activities to address priority areas such as ballast water discharges and the introduction of exotic species; and

- Promote the implementation of the green infrastructure program in coastal communities to improve sewage treatment.

• **Conservation and protection of the marine environment:**

- Develop a strategy for a national network of Marine Protected Areas;
- Support and promote efforts to protect underwater cultural heritage;
- Establish and implement a Marine Environmental Quality policy and operational framework under the *Oceans Act*; and
- Support new legislation, regulations and policies and programs aimed at protecting marine species at risk.

Supporting Sustainable Economic Opportunities

• **Sectoral measures to improve and support governance and management of marine industries:**

- Support and promote initiatives underway within Fisheries and Oceans Canada such as the Atlantic Fisheries Policy Review and Aquaculture development;
- Support and promote the sustainability elements of initiatives underway

across the federal government such as offshore oil and gas, offshore mineral development, shipbuilding and industrial marine, Innovation Agenda and northern development; and

- Ensure the provision and maintenance of efficient, effective and secure marine transportation.



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• **New and emerging opportunities for oceans industries and oceans-related coastal development:**

- Support partnerships for innovative industries;
- Support new and emerging fisheries and aquaculture developments, industries supplying environmental equipment and services and new and emerging Canadian capability in servicing and supplying the offshore developments;
- Support economic diversification in coastal communities to ensure participation within the larger oceans economy;

-
- Promote technology transfer, market access, and business development for oceans products and services internationally;
 - Promote an “Oceans Team Canada” approach; and
 - Explore the removal of trade barriers to oceans industry development.
- **Co-operation and co-ordination to support and promote business development in the oceans sector:**
 - Examine regulatory regimes to ensure effective environmental protection and streamline regulations;
 - Examine programs that provide support for industry to ensure that oceans opportunities are captured. This includes viewing programs such as Atlantic Canada Opportunities Agency, Western Economic Diversification, Central Economic Diversification and provincial/territorial initiatives through an ocean-centered agenda;
 - Conduct economic analysis on emerging oceans industries;
 - Support National Research Council and Industry Canada development of a Marine and Ocean Industry Technology Roadmap to help identify technologies that could be supported by Technology Partnerships Canada (TPC);
 - Support efforts to secure Canadian industrial benefits from the development

of offshore oil and gas, in partnership with the industry, provinces and other stakeholders; and

- Work with industry to develop and implement codes of practice for sustainable oceans use.



International Leadership

- **Sovereignty and security:**

- Promote national and international collaboration to prevent illegal activity and enforce national and international obligations;
- Support and promote the maintenance of maritime sovereignty and security; and
- Promote a national and international marine safety network.

- **International oceans governance:**

- Promote compliance with existing international agreements;
- Support and promote an Arctic/circumpolar agenda through the Arctic Council;

- Promote integrated management, stewardship and precautionary approach as the overriding principles for oceans management in international fora, including the World Summit on Sustainable Development; and
- Develop management arrangements with bordering nations for trans-boundary coastal and marine ecosystems.
- **Share experience, promote compliance and build capacity, in particular for developing nations:**
 - Support and promote consultative processes at the United Nations;
 - Provide capacity for effective implementation of ocean management regimes such as the *United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea*;
 - Support capacity development for developing countries for the sustainable development of marine resources and ocean spaces; and
 - Promote a coherent approach to managing oceans within the global governance system at both a regional and global level.

Oceans Governance

- **Establish mechanisms and bodies for oceans co-operation and collaboration:**

- Strengthen institutional arrangements at the national and regional level;
- Explore arrangements for strengthening relationships with Aboriginal people in oceans management;
- Support the Minister's Advisory Council on Oceans;
- Support the Oceans Task Group under Canadian Council of Fisheries and Aquaculture Ministers;
- Examine the use of other federal, provincial, territorial fora in relation to ocean management such as Canadian Council of Ministers of the Environment;
- Strengthen and expand institutional arrangements to implement *Oceans Act* responsibilities at the national and regional level; and
- Explore options to use the Government On-Line initiative as a tool to promote oceans management co-operation and collaboration.

- **Promote Integrated Management planning for all Canada's coastal and marine waters:**

- Support implementation of the *Policy and Operational Framework for Integrated*



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Management of Estuarine, Coastal and Marine Environments in Canada;

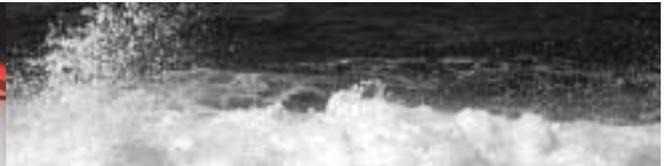
- Support the planning processes for Large Ocean Management Areas; and
- Support coastal and watershed planning initiatives.

• **Stewardship and public awareness activities:**

- Support regional and national stewardship initiatives, including the development of a national framework;
- Promote engagement of Canadians in stewardship initiatives;
- Support and promote public awareness of oceans and ocean issues;
- Encourage public and private partnerships; and
- Promote public education on oceans.



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Conclusion

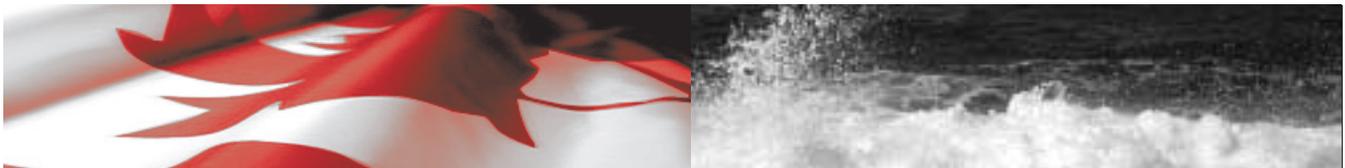
Canada's *Oceans Strategy* responds to the legislative and policy requirements outlined in the *Oceans Act* and sets the foundation for future management of Canada's estuarine, coastal and marine waters. The Government of Canada, on behalf of all Canadians, recognizes its implementation as a priority.

In summary, this *Strategy* is designed to set clearly defined objectives and stimulate partnerships among all those with a stake in

oceans management. It is based on knowledge from a growing body of ocean management experiences both nationally and internationally. The national *Strategy* will continue to evolve over time. Its further evolution and implementation will involve active collaboration with partners, led by Fisheries and Oceans Canada, with a results-based management and accountability framework to measure progress relevance and effectiveness.



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Appendix Integrated Management Initiatives at Work

Integrated Management initiatives are currently underway on all three coasts. The following examples give a sense of how Integrated Management planning can be put into practice:

Arctic Ocean: Beaufort Sea Integrated Management Planning Initiative (BSIMPI)

The 1984 Inuvialuit Final Agreement (IFA) established a modern resource co-management arrangement among the Inuvialuit of the Western Arctic, the Government of the Northwest Territories and the Government of Canada. The regional co-management mechanisms within this agreement have enabled the development of a multi-level joint management process for the Beaufort Sea Integrated Management Planning Initiative. This initiative involves several organizations in the scoping and planning of the BSIMPI, including: the Fisheries Joint Management Committee, the Inuvialuit Game Council, the Inuvialuit Regional Corporation, Fisheries and Oceans Canada, Indian and Northern Affairs Canada, and the Canadian Association of Petroleum Producers. Integrated Management will facilitate sound decisions addressing large-scale ecosystems, multiple users and issues of marine quality. The Beaufort Sea area continues to be of immediate interest as the Mackenzie Delta/Beaufort Sea remain poised to become major contributors to the continental energy supply.



Atlantic Ocean: Eastern Scotian Shelf Integrated Management (ESSIM) Initiative

The Eastern Scotian Shelf Integrated Management Initiative (ESSIM) will lead to an Integrated Oceans Management plan for this large offshore area. Key interests in oceans use and activities include fisheries, offshore oil and gas, shipping, maritime defence operations, submarine cables, science, research and development, recreation and tourism, potential offshore minerals development, and marine conservation. Based on dialogue and input gained through the ESSIM Initiative to date, there is now discussion of a collaborative management and planning process and structure – the ESSIM Forum. This forum would function as a networked structure for engaging and linking federal and provincial government departments, boards and agencies, First Nations, oceans industry and resource user groups, community associations, non-governmental organizations, and academia in the ESSIM process.



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Pacific Ocean: Central Coast of British Columbia

The Central Coast of British Columbia has experienced extensive harvesting of the marine and terrestrial natural resources during the past half century. During recent years there has been increasing pressures from growth in aquaculture, cruise ship tourism, sports fishing and potential offshore petroleum. First Nations are the principle inhabitants of this extensive, sparsely-populated, largely wilderness area.

Building on the results of an ongoing strategic planning initiative by the provincial government the area has been identified as an *Oceans Act* Integrated Management planning area. In collaboration with the provincial government, First nations, stakeholders and other interested parties, Fisheries and Oceans Canada, and other federal organizations, have commenced development of the marine information needed for integrated management of activities in the Central Coast.



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UNIVERSITY OF NEW HAMPSHIRE

June 3, 2004

Admiral James D. Watkins
Chair, U.S. Commission on Ocean Policy
ATTN: Public Comment on Preliminary Report
1120 20th Street NW
Suite 200 North
Washington, DC 20036

Dear Admiral Watkins:

On behalf of the University of New Hampshire, I am pleased to offer comments on the *Preliminary Report of the U.S. Commission on Ocean Policy*.

First and foremost, I would like to commend you and the other members of the Commission for your work on developing this vital and comprehensive report on the state of our oceans and for providing a broad vision for how we can address these challenging issues. As a leading coastal oceanographic institution in the northeast and as an institution that is committed to developing strong interactions with our regional institutions and federal partners, the University of New Hampshire is committed to helping to implement the guiding principles outlined in the report. These principles—sustainability, stewardship, ocean-land-atmosphere connections, ecosystem-based management, preservation of marine biodiversity, healthy coastal communities, adaptive multiple-use management, efficient and participatory government, land sea connectedness, and use of best available science and information—are at the core of our mission as a Land, Space and Sea Grant institution that is fully committed to education, research and public service.

I would like to bring particular attention and emphasis to several general recommendations of the report:

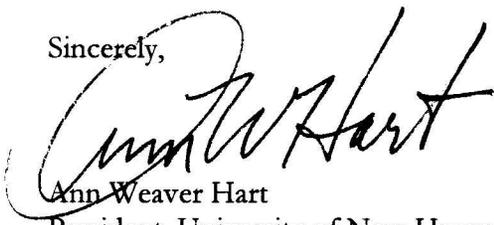
1. The University of New Hampshire strongly supports the call for the development of an integrated and streamlined federal structure that recommends the formation of a National Ocean Council within the Executive Office of the President (Chapter 4) and the strengthening of NOAA (Chapter 7). We fully support the call to integrate, consolidate and reorganize federal coastal programs under NOAA to establish a structure for more unified, ecosystem-based management of our marine resources. In support of these efforts, I encourage the Commission to emphasize the maintenance and further development of federal/university research partnerships and full use of university research capacity in these efforts.
2. The University of New Hampshire enthusiastically supports the call for establishing a national strategy for increasing scientific knowledge and the recognition that this will require enhanced funding for NOAA and other federal agencies that support ocean research (Chapter 25).

In particular the following recommendations are of particular importance to UNH and our region: (a) the development of knowledge and technologies to address critical research needs in the areas of conservation and restoration of coastal habitat (Chapter 8), (b) advancing the development of seafloor and coastal ocean mapping technologies (Chapters 13 & 25), (c) improving coastal water quality (Chapters 14 & 15), (d) development of new technologies for coastal pollution identification, prevention and remediation (Chapters 12, 14, 26 & 27); (e) research into the transport and deposition of airborne pollutants (Chapter 14), (f) establishment of an integrated coastal ocean observation network (Chapter 15 & 26), (g) reinvigorating and enhancing research in support of improved coastal oil spill response and recovery (Chapter 16), (h) supporting better integrated watershed and estuarine monitoring (Chapter 15), (i) understanding and minimizing invasive marine species (Chapter 17), (j) developing sustainable fisheries through cooperative research and ecosystem-based management (Chapter 19), and (h) enhancing marine aquaculture through the development and transfer of offshore aquaculture technologies and environmentally responsible practices (Chapter 22).

3. The University of New Hampshire is committed to the full integration of research, education and outreach to address the critical needs of the marine environment. We believe that the National Sea Grant College Program provides an excellent model for integrating research, education and outreach activities and support the Commission's call for increase funding for Sea Grant. In support of these integration efforts, I encourage the Commission to further challenge and integrate universities and their education, research and extension faculty into these efforts.
4. As a member of the National Association of Marine Laboratories the University of New Hampshire fully supports the Commission's call for rebuilding and modernizing our nation's marine research infrastructure (Chapter 28). Current state and federal programs are insufficient to allow us to support the ever-increasing needs to repair, maintain and modernize our significant investment in laboratories, vessels, equipment and instrumentation. Without such support, I am concerned that we will be unable to provide the necessary infrastructure to support our researchers and students to the level that their talents require. I encourage the Commission to further emphasize these needs as the recommendations of the report are implemented.

Once again, I would like to thank you, the other Commissioners, and your staff for your efforts in developing the *Preliminary Report of the U.S. Commission on Ocean Policy*. I appreciate the opportunity to provide comments on the Commission's preliminary report and would be happy to provide additional information and support as needed.

Sincerely,



Ann Weaver Hart

President, University of New Hampshire