

June 14, 2002

Dear U.S. Commission on Ocean Policy,

Many once-great fish stocks are now gone. Many once-productive shoreline nurseries are destroyed. Whole food webs are loaded with deadly toxins. Looking on these catastrophes, we've recently begun to re-define the oceans from vessel highways, industrial sites, dumping grounds and free-for-all fishing holes to vital natural systems that must be protected and nurtured. But there is more to do, and we have much further to grow. We need a coherent set of policies to govern human behavior, devised around principles of respect and appreciation for the complex and intricate trophic relationships and chemical and atmospheric pathways that make up marine habitats. We need an ocean restoration policy on national and global scales.

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