

**Interagency Ocean Policy Task Force**

**West Coast Regional Public Meeting**

September 17, 2009      2:30-6:00p.m. PST

Hyatt Regency San Francisco  
Embarcadero Center  
Ballroom A 5  
San Francisco, California

Diversified Reporting Services, Inc.  
(202) 467-9200

## 1 P R O C E E D I N G S

2 (11:34 a.m.)

3 MS. SUTLEY: Good afternoon and let me welcome you and  
4 thank you for being here today for the West Coast Public Regional  
5 meeting of President Obama's Interagency Ocean Policy Task Force.

6 I'm Nancy Sutley, I'm chair of the White House Council on  
7 Environmental Quality and chair of the Interagency Ocean Policy  
8 Task Force.

9 Joining me today on behalf of the task force -- and  
10 I'll start on my left side -- Captain Byron Black, Senior  
11 Maritime Safety and Security advisor to the Secretary at the  
12 Department of Transportation; Rear Admiral Herman Shelanski,  
13 Director for the Environmental Readiness Division for the U.S.  
14 Navy; Pete Silva, Assistant Administrator for Water at the  
15 Environmental Protection Agency; on my right Dr. Jane Lubchenco,  
16 Undersecretary of Commerce for Oceans and Atmosphere and NOAA  
17 Administrator; Rear Admiral Saly Brice-O'Hara, Coast Guard Deputy  
18 Commandant for Operations; and Dr. Kit Batten, Senior Advisor to  
19 the Deputy Secretary at the Department of Interior.

20 I'm very honored and glad to be here in San Francisco,  
21 and I wanted to first thank and introduce our hosts. I'd like to  
22 introduce California Lieutenant Governor John Garamendi, and  
23 from -- you can clap, and ask him if he'd say a few words.

1           LIEUTENANT GOVERNOR GARAMENDI: Thank you very much,  
2 Madam Chair. We are delighted that you and the panel are here.  
3 We're even more delighted -- well, we're as delighted, as  
4 delighted with the work that you're doing and the importance of  
5 that work.

6           California -- we believe, and we've taken careful  
7 measurements -- has the largest seacoast of any state in the  
8 continental United States, and therefore what you're doing is  
9 really important to us. It's important to our economy, also. We  
10 figure at least \$46 billion of our economy comes directly from  
11 the coast, and perhaps 370,000 or more jobs.

12           California has done a lot of work to protect its  
13 coasts. You're going to hear from Mike Chrisman in a few moments  
14 about some of the more recent work, particularly the Ocean  
15 Protection Council, which met this morning, and some partnerships  
16 that we have here on the West Coast with other states.

17           We are at risk, however. Our California coast is in  
18 serious jeopardy in many, many ways. There's a renewed effort to  
19 drill for oil off the California coast, and I would ask as part  
20 of your policy that you shut down any thoughts about drilling for  
21 oil off the coast of California.

22           This has been a very contentious matter over the last  
23 nine to 10 months, and we're very concerned that any effort for

1 California to expand or to do new drilling might lead to someone  
2 in Washington thinking that it's okay. I'm here to tell you,  
3 it's not.

4 The next -- there's been a series of other issues that  
5 have confronted California. Much work is going on here in the  
6 state with regard to trash in the ocean. We have a series of  
7 pieces of legislation.

8 We would ask that you observe those pieces of  
9 legislation and help us set national policy to remove trash from  
10 the ocean, principally plastics of all kinds, some of which are  
11 carcinogenic and otherwise -- in other ways toxic. There are  
12 many different ways of dealing with this. I will leave with you  
13 written testimony that you can then use along the way.

14 Also California has been a leader in global climate  
15 change legislation and regulation. This is of utmost importance.

16 We know that our coast is seriously jeopardized and we know that  
17 our water systems in the state are also, and there's a whole  
18 series of issues that I know you're familiar with, having come  
19 from this area.

20 And finally, there are many, many assets that  
21 California has available to you, to federal policy, and to the  
22 research that comes with it, and many of your panel here are  
23 among those assets, and there's probably, oh, several dozen more

1 that are out there that are readily available and we'd very much  
2 like to engage.

3 Finally, welcome. Welcome to the world's greatest  
4 coast, California's coast.

5 MS. SUTLEY: Thank you very much, Lieutenant Governor,  
6 and thank you for joining us here today. Let me also introduce  
7 our local host, from Mayor Newsom's office, Johanna Gregory  
8 Partin, Director of Climate Protection Initiatives. If you would  
9 offer a few words of welcome.

10 MS. PARTIN: Thank you so much. I work for San  
11 Francisco Mayor Newsom, and on behalf of Mayor Newsom we welcome  
12 you. We thank you for holding this task for and for bringing it  
13 to San Francisco to solicit public input.

14 This effort clearly demonstrates the clear commitment  
15 of President Obama and the administration to soliciting public  
16 input, which is very welcome, and to use that input as you chart  
17 the new environmental strategy for our country.

18 In San Francisco we're very proud to be a leader among  
19 cities in policies that advance environmental stewardship and the  
20 fight against climate change. We have a long way to go, and  
21 while cities must take aggressive action to fight climate change,  
22 it's only the federal government that can really chart a new,  
23 significant clean energy future for our country.

1           So on behalf of Mayor Newsom, welcome, and we look  
2 forward to working with you. Thank you.

3           MS. SUTLEY: Thank you. I think we have one more word  
4 of welcome. We'd like to welcome California Natural Resources  
5 Secretary Mike Chrisman to say a few words.

6           SECRETARY CHRISMAN: Thank you, Nancy, and welcome to  
7 the members of the Ocean Policy Task Force on behalf of the  
8 Governor. Again, it's a pleasure for me to be here in my role as  
9 Natural Resources Secretary here in California, and I also have  
10 the privilege of serving as the Chair of the Ocean  
11 Protection -- California Ocean Protection Council.

12           We, again, held a meeting, as the Lieutenant Governor  
13 just mentioned, this morning. It covered a lot of areas. We  
14 were very privileged to have both Nancy and Jane Lubchenco speak  
15 to the group prior to the meeting.

16           Again, we are indeed delighted here in California that  
17 the President has called for a new national commitment to  
18 protecting our coast and oceans. This is -- for us, this is  
19 fantastic. It's really fantastic for all of us across the United  
20 States.

21           It goes without saying that the task force is addressing  
22 issues that are critical to all of us, the 38 million people here  
23 in California. The Lieutenant Governor mentioned a little bit

1 about the ocean-dependent economy. Of course we know that -- we  
2 all know that good, healthy oceans are both good for the  
3 environment and good for the economy. We have \$46 billion that  
4 is extracted out of the oceans as a part of the ocean economy  
5 every year.

6 We look forward, of course, in the dialogue that you  
7 create here today, the dialogue with the panel, to discussing  
8 ways that we can collaboratively work together to develop a  
9 robust national oceans policy and an effective marine spatial  
10 planning network for the entire country.

11 As you may know, back in 2006, the governors of  
12 California, Oregon and Washington forged a new oceans partnership  
13 called the West Coast Governors Agreement on Ocean Health. Our  
14 states continue to work very closely with the federal government  
15 to rest some of these very, very difficult issues in ocean -- in  
16 the ocean health area.

17 You'll also here much today about the west coast  
18 governor's agreement on ocean health from a variety of speakers.

19 The Governor's 2004 ocean action plan called for the creation of  
20 the Ocean Protection Council that I indicated earlier that I do  
21 chair.

22 This council helps build and guide very, very important  
23 ocean initiatives, such as mapping the ocean floor, establishing

1 and monitoring marine protected areas, addressing global climate  
2 change, and conducting world-class research that we know is so  
3 important to our ocean economy.

4 And during our public comment period, we're going to be  
5 sharing with you some comments for the task force that the Ocean  
6 Protection Council adopted this morning.

7 Again, on behalf of the Governor, thank you all for  
8 being here today and thank you for contributing to this very,  
9 very important public and national dialogue.

10 MS. SUTLEY: Thank you, Secretary Chrisman. Again,  
11 thank you all for being here today. My colleagues and I here on  
12 the task force appreciate the hospitality and are very pleased to  
13 be here in San Francisco. And I'm especially happy to be back  
14 home in California.

15 Before we begin the formal part of the meeting, I  
16 wanted to announce to everyone that the task force has submitted  
17 its interim report to the President and it has been posted today  
18 in the Federal Register for public comment and is available on  
19 our website.

20 The report proposes a national policy for the oceans,  
21 our coast and the Great Lakes. It proposes a framework for how  
22 the federal government can organize itself for improved  
23 stewardship of costal and marine resources, and it sets out a

1 number of implementation strategies to prioritize the objectives  
2 that the United States should pursue to achieve this national  
3 ocean policy.

4           So it was released today, for a 30-day public comment  
5 period that's ending October 17th. We encourage your comments  
6 and welcome your comments today and in writing throughout the  
7 comment period and comments can be provided at the website that's  
8 listed on your handout or left with us here today or any way that  
9 you wish to submit them.

10           So with that, I'd like to turn to today's meeting.  
11 This morning we did have an opportunity to attend a portion of  
12 the California Ocean Protection Council meeting, and it was a  
13 very good opportunity for us to hear first-hand some of the  
14 important issues being tackled here in California.

15           And we did have also the opportunity to talk to some of  
16 the folks involved in the West Coast governor's agreement. And I  
17 think it reminds us how important it is to engage outside of  
18 Washington, to engage with the people who are most affected and  
19 most committed to the issues in their communities and in their  
20 states.

21           Tomorrow we will -- the task force will take a trip,  
22 courtesy of the Coast Guard, out into the Bay and maybe outside  
23 the Golden Gate, if the weather permits, and we look forward to

1 hearing from folks who will be joining us on that, talking about  
2 issues such as marine spatial planning, fishing, marine protected  
3 areas, water quality and ocean governance.

4           These efforts, these outreach efforts are just a part  
5 of the many things that are going on and an opportunity for us to  
6 hear about the many efforts going on here in the West Coast and  
7 throughout the country. These regional perspectives are very  
8 important to us in the success of this process.

9           And I can assure you, all of you here today, that we  
10 greatly value the input that we get. We look forward to hearing  
11 from you and your real-life experiences. I know that that will  
12 be an important part of our work and our recommendations to the  
13 President.

14           So let me turn this over to Dr. Lubchenco to provide  
15 some brief background on the task force.

16           DR. LUBCHENCO: Thank you very much, Chair Sutley.  
17 Welcome, everyone. It's great to see so many people here, and we  
18 very much look forward to your comments.

19           Before I begin, I'd like to draw your attention to the  
20 handout that we provided to you. It's a succinct summary of the  
21 charge to the task force, and very importantly it provides the  
22 website at the very bottom of the page. And again, we welcome  
23 your comments.

1           I'd like to describe just very briefly the background  
2 on the President's Interagency Ocean Policy Task Force. On June  
3 12th of this year, President Obama issued a memorandum  
4 establishing the Interagency Ocean Policy Task Force. This task  
5 force is comprised of 20 senior policy level members from  
6 executive departments and agencies across the federal government.

7           The President charged the task force with developing  
8 recommendations as follows: Within 90 days develop  
9 recommendations for a national policy for the oceans, coasts and  
10 Great Lakes; two, a framework for policy coordination of efforts  
11 to improve our stewardship of oceans, coasts and Great Lakes; and  
12 three, an implementation strategy that identifies and prioritizes  
13 a set of objectives the U.S. should pursue to further a national  
14 policy.

15           That 90-day period is now up, we have submitted our  
16 draft report to the President, and it was the one that was  
17 released this morning to which Chair Sutley alluded, and for  
18 which we invite your comments.

19           The task force now turns to the second of its charges  
20 from the President. His memorandum said that within 180  
21 days -- in other words by December 9 -- the task force is to  
22 provide a recommended framework for effective coastal and marine  
23 special planning.

1 MS. SUTLEY: Thank you, Dr. Lubchenco. I'd also like  
2 to acknowledge a couple of elected officials who are here,  
3 joining us today, Senator Kevin Ranker from Washington state and  
4 Micah McCarthy of the Makah Tribe. Thank you for joining us.

5 Let me turn the microphone over to Pete Silva,  
6 Assistant Administrator for Water at EPA to give a short overview  
7 of our public engagement work.

8 MR SILVA: Thank you, Nancy. It's also great to be  
9 here on such a beautiful day in California and to come back  
10 today, at least for one visit.

11 Today's public meeting is a part of a broader effort to  
12 engage stakeholders in the public and to hear views and  
13 suggestions to inform the task force as they develop these  
14 recommendations. It also is a time for the public to learn more  
15 about the task force and our activities.

16 A tremendous foundation has already been built by the  
17 earlier U.S. Commission on Ocean Policy and Pew Commission  
18 reports and the Joint Ocean Commission Initiative  
19 recommendations, which took a great deal of public and  
20 stakeholder input into consideration when developing their  
21 recommendations.

22 Some years have passed as those reports were completed.  
23 There are some issues that were not fleshed out as much as

1 others or where important scientific and technological  
2 developments have occurred, such as climate change and offshore  
3 renewable energy.

4 Thus, we have been engaging stakeholders in the public  
5 in a variety of ways. The meeting today in San Francisco is our  
6 second regional public meeting. We plan to hold another four in  
7 different regions.

8 In addition, we have already held 24 expert stakeholder  
9 roundtables, representing areas such as commercial and  
10 recreational fishing, energy, conservation, human health,  
11 science, boating, recreation, business ports and shipping. We are  
12 planning several more expert stakeholder briefings related to  
13 marine and coastal spatial planning that will take place in the  
14 next few months.

15 We have also set up a CEQ website to receive public  
16 comments, and I encourage you and all interested parties and  
17 organizations to send us your input here. The website is listed  
18 on the one-page information handout that Dr. Lubchenco described,  
19 and is [www.whitehouse.gov/oceans](http://www.whitehouse.gov/oceans).

20 And as Chair Sutley mentioned earlier, the task force  
21 interim report has been submitted to the President and is also  
22 now available for 30 days of public comment. This opportunity  
23 for initial public comment will further inform the President's

1 response to the full set of task force recommendations that we  
2 will submit in December.

3 The task force has now shifted its primary focus to  
4 developing a recommended framework for effective coastal and  
5 marine spatial planning.

6 MS. SUTLEY: Thank you. I'd now to just give the rest  
7 of the task force members an opportunity to briefly introduce  
8 themselves, and turn first to -- we'll go this way again -- to  
9 Captain Byron Black from the Department of Transportation.

10 CAPTAIN BLACK: Good afternoon. I'm very happy to be  
11 here today, and exceedingly pleased to see the number of folks  
12 who obviously have a passion for making sure that we're taking  
13 care of the oceans and representing all the interests that we  
14 have here.

15 The DOT is very pleased to be part of this effort, and  
16 here to learn about the concerns that each of you have and seek  
17 your guidance and input so that we can work together to make an  
18 even better product than we have now.

19 As you know, foreign and domestic waterborne trade is  
20 exceedingly essential to the United States economy, and provides  
21 the resources and the products that we all use and rely upon.  
22 Additionally, it provides over 266,000 jobs in the waterborne  
23 transportation infrastructure.

1           Secretary LaHood chairs the committee on Marine  
2           Transportation System, which is a federal interdepartmental  
3           partnership of agencies with marine transportation system  
4           responsibilities. The CMTS is committed to playing a  
5           coordination and advisory role as we work together to define and  
6           refine this ocean policy task force efforts.

7           Transportation infrastructure and land use patterns can  
8           affect the ocean's environmental health. We welcome your input  
9           to address this challenge.

10           Most importantly, the Department of Transportation is  
11           committed to a safe, secure and environmentally sound marine  
12           transportation system. The DOT believes that by enhancing  
13           coordination, both among the federal entities represented here,  
14           as well as with each of the important stakeholders in the  
15           community -- in state and local and tribal governments as well as  
16           the industry and user stakeholders -- will help us all to be able  
17           to meet these goals even better.

18           I welcome your ideas and look forward to working with  
19           you to make this product even better. And lastly, I'd like to  
20           say thank you for each of you all for taking time out of very  
21           busy schedules to come down here and let us seek the -- and  
22           obtain the wisdom and the input you have to make this a product  
23           better.

1 Thank you very much.

2 REAR ADMIRAL SHELANSKI: Hi, I'm Rear Admiral Herm  
3 Shelanski, the director of the Navy's Environmental Readiness  
4 division. The United States Navy is a global force for good.  
5 Its primary focus, of course, is security, national security.  
6 And to that end, we have ships -- hundreds of ships and hundred  
7 thousands of sailors deployed around the world.

8 We engage and help sailors and soldiers on the ground  
9 in two fronts, both in Iraq and Afghanistan. We work for  
10 maritime security operations, anti-piracy, and we're out there  
11 for national disaster relief.

12 To that end, the United States Navy needs to have  
13 realistic, continuous training to make sure that those forces are  
14 ready for our national defense. But the United States Navy is  
15 also committed to being a good steward of the environment.

16 Therefore, the Navy is very supportive of the task  
17 force efforts to develop a national ocean policy framework. We  
18 also advocate a balanced framework for effective coastal and  
19 marine spatial planning, and we understand the importance of  
20 ecosystem-based and adaptive management principles.

21 Management should also maintain and enhance multiple  
22 ocean uses, including those that are consistent with national  
23 security, freena (phonetic) navigation and foreign policy

1 interests.

2 The Navy looks forward to continuing its work with CEQ,  
3 NOAA and the other federal agencies of the task force to develop  
4 a comprehensive and balanced national ocean policy. Thank you.

5 MR. SILVA: Just very briefly, I just want to say that  
6 Administrator Jackson is very supportive of this effort and  
7 certainly the EPA family is committed to the work. EPA's role is  
8 to ensure that water quality is maintained in our nation's marine  
9 and inland water bodies, and we are committed to working with all  
10 our federal family to ensure that the work of the Ocean Policy  
11 Task Force is a success. Thank you.

12 DR. LUBCHENCO: This is Jane Lubchenco again. I just  
13 want to remind you that NOAA is a science, a services and a  
14 stewardship agency that has significant responsibilities for  
15 oceans, coasts and the atmosphere. And we have been fully  
16 engaged in the activities of the Ocean Policy Task Force.

17 Commerce Secretary Gary Locke is very supportive of  
18 these activities, and we look forward to working with the rest of  
19 the federal family, as well as everyone in the region, as we move  
20 ahead with focusing on healthy oceans and coasts.

21 ADMIRAL BRICE-O'HARA: Good afternoon, I'm Admiral  
22 Sally Brice-O'Hara, representing the Commandant of the Coast  
23 Guard and the Secretary of the Department of Homeland Security.

1           The Coast Guard has a long history of ensuring maritime  
2 safety, security and stewardship in our nation's ports, in our  
3 costal regions in the navigable waterways and lakes, and in the  
4 ocean region. We have a vested interest in the work of this  
5 interagency Ocean Policy Task Force.

6           We have 11 mandated missions. As we carry them out, we  
7 often see that there are competing needs and interests and uses  
8 on our waterways, ranging from economic to ecological,  
9 commercial, recreational, fishing, and of course security.

10           We welcome this comprehensive national approach that  
11 will lead to a policy and a framework for policy coordination  
12 which will ensure collaboration as well as accountability. We  
13 have a strategy for implementation that has focused on nine  
14 prioritized objectives. You can read those for yourselves when  
15 you go to the website.

16           I want to thank you for being here today. there is  
17 nothing that's more valuable to transparency of the decision  
18 making and the way forward than the dialogue with the key  
19 stakeholders. That's all of you. And so we hope to hear frank  
20 and effective, useful conversation today, and that you'll  
21 continue to provide input through the website.

22           We're going to turn our attention in the next several  
23 weeks to the costal and marine spatial planning. There is a lot

1 of learning that will go on as we undertake this, and we're  
2 looking at international partners as well as work that's been  
3 done already by the state of California, Rhode Island and the  
4 commonwealth of Massachusetts.

5 This is an exciting time, and the Coast Guard and  
6 Department of Homeland Security are very happy to be part of this  
7 initiative. Thank you.

8 DR. BATTEN: Thank you, Chair Sutley. I'm Kit Batten,  
9 science advisor to the Deputy Secretary of the Interior, and  
10 today I'm here and so pleased to be representing Secretary of the  
11 Interior Ken Salazar and Associate Deputy Secretary Laura  
12 Hayes -- Laura Davis.

13 I'm so pleased to be here and to be a strong partner  
14 with our federal family in terms of the significant effort that's  
15 led up to the release of this interim report today.

16 The Department of the Interior proudly supports  
17 President Obama's vision of a responsibility to protect our  
18 oceans, coasts and Great Lakes for current and future  
19 generations. With 20 percent of our nation's land mass, 1.7  
20 billion acres in the outer continental shelf, 35,000 miles of  
21 coastline, and millions of acres of marine-based parks, refuges  
22 and national monuments, Interior and its agencies are front and  
23 center in the effort to build a coordinated national ocean policy

1 that our country needs.

2 That's why the 67,000 dedicated employees of the  
3 department of the Interior and its many bureaus, including the  
4 National Parks Service, Minerals Management Service, Fish and  
5 Wildlife Service, U.S. Geological Survey, Bureau of Land  
6 Management, Bureau of Reclamation, Bureau of Indian Affairs and  
7 Office of Insular Affairs all are standing ready to respond to  
8 climate change and other challenges and their effects on our  
9 land, water, ocean, fish and wildlife, cultural heritage and  
10 tribal resources.

11 Meeting this challenge is paramount to our mission. So  
12 we stand ready to continue and expand upon our existing  
13 partnerships with our federal family, with states, local  
14 governments, tribal governments, NGOs, universities and you, this  
15 community, that's so engaged and has so much to offer to this  
16 conversation.

17 A national ocean policy is paramount to the success, as  
18 has been mentioned earlier, to our economy, to our environment  
19 and to our health. Our national ocean policy can't be done  
20 alone. We need you. Science is going to guide, as Dr. Lubchenco  
21 said, this entire process, so we're committed to that.

22 And we're very much looking forward to learning from  
23 you today, so thank you so much for your presence here.

1 MS. SUTLEY: Thank you. Now Dr. Batten will take the  
2 mic again and explain the structure of today's hearing.

3 DR. BATTEN: Thank you, Chair Sutley. Today's public  
4 meeting has essentially two parts, which is the format that we  
5 are using around the country. First, we will hear from local  
6 experts on a variety of topics of special importance in  
7 California and the West Coast region. We ask that you limit your  
8 remarks to 2.5 minutes -- that's because there are so many of you  
9 and we want to hear from all of you -- to ensure the maximum  
10 number of you have an opportunity to provide comments.

11 Those of you who wish to speak should complete the  
12 speak cards that are available at the registration table and turn  
13 them in. For those of you who would prefer to submit your  
14 comments online, there are computers in the back of the room or  
15 outside near the registration table that you can use now or you  
16 can submit them later at the website indicated in the handout you  
17 have all received.

18 You may also submit comments in writing here today.  
19 Please be sure to give your written comments to a staff member.  
20 Thank you.

21 MS. SUTLEY: Thank you. Just to be clear, the  
22 task -- the panelists have the time they were allotted, and  
23 public comments we're asking to limit to two-and-a-half minutes.

1     So let me turn this over to Admiral Shelanski to introduce our  
2     first expert panel.

3             ADMIRAL SHELANSKI:  It's my pleasure to introduce the  
4     first panel.  Our first panelist is Ed Johnstone.  He's the  
5     policy spokesperson for the Quinault Tribe and member of the  
6     Northwest Tribal Fish Commission.  Mr. Johnstone will speak about  
7     tribal issues.

8             Our second panelist is Jessica Hamilton Keys of Oregon  
9     Natural Resources Policy Advisor, representing the West Coast  
10    Governors Agreement on Ocean Health, who will speak about  
11    governance.

12            Our third panelist is Julie Packard, who is executive  
13    director of the Monterey Bay Aquarium Research Institute, and she  
14    will speak about ocean literacy and education.

15            Our fourth is Dr. Mark Carr, and he is the Associate  
16    Professor of Ecology and Evolutionary Biology at the University  
17    of California Santa Cruz.  He will speak about research science  
18    and technology relating to the oceans.

19            Mr. Johnstone.

20            MR. JOHNSTONE:  I'd like to thank you for the  
21    opportunity to speak on behalf of the tribes of the Pacific  
22    Northwest, and specific if your -- the north Washington coast,  
23    from the mid-coast to the western edge of the United States at

1 Cape Flattery, there are four treaty tribes, the Quinalt, the  
2 Hoh, the Quileute and the Makah.

3 And if you enter into the Straits of Juan de Fuca and  
4 into Puget Sound, there are 20 -- a total of 20 treaty tribes.  
5 And the treaty tribes in Washington state have treaties with the  
6 United States and they're sovereigns.

7 And what I would like to bring to the table today is  
8 the message that we are tribal governments, we're sovereigns, and  
9 that our place at the table is, our relationship with the federal  
10 government is a government-to-government relationship.

11 We appreciate the opportunity to speak before the task  
12 force and the panel to give the limited amount of input we'll be  
13 able to provide. The message that I bring is that we are the  
14 sovereign nations of each individual tribe. And we have our  
15 tribal governments and we have that relationship with the federal  
16 government.

17 The Obama administration has initiated some discussions  
18 lately with -- in the tribal communities on consultation, a very  
19 key and important endeavor. To put a consultation policy in  
20 place that -- the tribes and the federal agencies have a  
21 document, you know, that helps that relationship.

22 We're very fortunate in the Pacific Northwest, we -- on  
23 the coast and inside Puget Sound, the relationship that we have

1 with several of the federal agencies is sometimes a  
2 rollercoaster, but we have a -- I would say a good relationship  
3 with NOAA. We appreciate the opportunity to meet with Dr.  
4 Lubchenco recently.

5 We not only work as tribes, but we have an  
6 organization, the Northwest Indian Fisheries Commission, that we  
7 have -- there's a staff that provides us the assistance that we  
8 need in our efforts that protects our treaty rights, whether it  
9 be for hunting, fishing or gathering, whatever it might be,  
10 depending on what the issue is.

11 Now I'm also glad to say that there is a tribal  
12 official in the audience, and that's Micah McCarthy, the vice  
13 chairman of the Makah tribe. I know Michael is here. It shows  
14 the genuine concern that we have about these issues. I  
15 understand he signed the card and will want to speak.

16 But I will have -- I'll leave off our letters of -- our  
17 testimony from the Quinault Nation. I know that there is one that  
18 I bring forward from -- an example of how to work together with  
19 the federal government. And as co-managers, which we are, and  
20 the other co-manager in these resources is the state of  
21 Washington, we form an inter-governmental policy council through  
22 an MOA. So we've got a relationship when it comes to the Olympic  
23 Coastal National Marine Sanctuary.

1           So I'm going to leave off our letter of testimony that  
2 addresses this forum, but it's just an example of how we can work  
3 together when -- issues of concerns like this. The other comment  
4 I'd like to leave with you is, the tribes are place-based. Our  
5 treaty rights are specific to the areas by which we lived and  
6 which we signed agreements with the federal government, with our  
7 ceded areas, and then our usual and accustomed areas.

8           So we're here, we've been here since time immemorial.  
9 And we're not going anywhere. A lot of this work that is going  
10 on we're doing. A lot of this work that needs to go on we want  
11 to be a part of. When you talk about, you know, the science,  
12 we'll be -- the tool that we'll use, that is a good tool to use,  
13 the science and the data. We want to be involved in the  
14 development of the policy. We want to be there when the science  
15 is done. We want to be there when the science or the action is  
16 implemented.

17           And if I've left anything out, I'm sure Micah will try  
18 to cover it when he gets his chance in front of you folks. But  
19 we have a special relationship with the federal government and we  
20 want to be able to access this process, when these meetings,  
21 other meetings are initiated we need to be at the table. Thank  
22 you.

23           MS. KEYS: Good afternoon. My name is Jessica Hamilton

1 Keys, and I'm a marine policy advisor for Oregon Governor  
2 Kulongoski. And it's an honor to be here today representing the  
3 West Coast Governors' Agreement on Ocean Health.

4           The West Coast Governors' Agreement was signed in  
5 September of 2006 by Washington Governor Gregoire, Oregon  
6 Governor Kulongoski, and California Governor Schwarzenegger.  
7 This historic agreement launched a proactive, regional  
8 collaboration to protect and manage the California Current large  
9 marine ecosystem.

10           Each state has a lead staff responsible for  
11 implementing the agreement. It's Bob Nichols in Washington,  
12 Brian Baird here in California, and I represent Oregon. In  
13 addition, we have three active federal co-leads who were selected  
14 by the Council on Environmental Quality. You've met Alexis  
15 Strauss with the Environmental Protection Agency, Fred Piltz with  
16 the Department of the Interior, and Usha Varanasi who represents  
17 the Department of Commerce.

18           Together, three federal and three state representatives  
19 comprise the executive committee of the West Coast Governors'  
20 Agreement, and we release an ocean action plan in 2008 that  
21 reflects a shared vision.

22           The executive committee, in turn, works with 10 action  
23 coordination teams, or ACTs, and they implement the action plan.

1     These diverse groups consist of state, federal, tribal,  
2     business, fishing, conservation interests. And each ACT will  
3     have access to expert scientists from the region.

4             A new marine research ACT is being created to ensure  
5     that the most up to date, natural and social science is used in  
6     accomplishing the Governors' action plan. And I'd like to  
7     provide you with a few examples of how our joint state-federal  
8     partnership is making notable strides.

9             First, the three states are facing the challenges of  
10    evaluating offshore alternative energy development and the  
11    potential environmental impacts of these technologies. Our 2008  
12    workshop set the stage for quick progress in understanding these  
13    new uses and the potential -- and the government structures that  
14    are needed to implement them.

15            The Renewable Ocean Energy Act will launch a coastal  
16    citing report that will summarize the spatial data available and  
17    needed for planning and siting renewable energy.

18            Second, as a region, we are exploring the most  
19    effective ways to protect our offshore ecosystems. We're  
20    expanding the use of integrated ecosystem assessments based on  
21    lessons from a pilot underway in Puget Sound. We are also  
22    supporting the West Coast ecosystem based  
23    network -- ecosystem-based management network which provides a

1 mechanism for sharing lessons learned by community level EBM  
2 efforts.

3 A third success of the West Coast Governors' Agreement  
4 involves preparing for the impacts of climate change. All three  
5 states are investing in a National Academy of Sciences study of  
6 anticipated sea level rise for the West Coast.

7 Fourth, the region is striving to reduce polluted  
8 runoff. We are working with the NOAA Coastal Services Center to  
9 assist local communities in using low-impact development  
10 techniques to improve drainage, preserve native vegetation and  
11 help treat pollutants.

12 Finally, our sustainable coastal communities act is  
13 charged with supporting traditional coastal industries and  
14 devising a plan to enhance working waterfronts. The group will  
15 link with other acts, such as climate change and alternative  
16 energy, so that communities are well positioned to embrace new  
17 sustainable businesses and activities.

18 These examples -- ocean renewable energy, preparing for  
19 climate change, transitioning toward ecosystem-based management,  
20 preventing polluted runoff, and developing economically  
21 sustainable communities -- are issues that are important not only  
22 to the West Coast, but to the nation.

23 The West Coast Governors' Agreement is really a model,

1 I think, for improving the nation's ocean and costal areas and  
2 should be considered as a mechanism for implementing marine  
3 spatial planning and a national ocean policy.

4 And what would help us accomplish these important  
5 initiatives is a national framework that helps states and our  
6 federal partners to institutionalize regional ocean governance  
7 for the long-term. And I applaud the task force's recommendation  
8 for a council of states and regional representatives to help  
9 implement that.

10 A Presidential executive order or perhaps national  
11 legislation creating a structure for regional ocean management,  
12 like that embraced by the West Coast Governors' Agreement, would  
13 also be valuable.

14 Such action should encourage voluntary involvement by  
15 the states. The regional structure, the issues and the actions  
16 focused upon within the regions, and the implementation of the  
17 actions should remain flexible.

18 The enthusiasm of our partners and communities for the  
19 vision and the goals of the West Coast Governors' Agreement  
20 inspires us to move forward despite the challenge of the large  
21 geographical area and lack of federal financial support to date.

22 Establishing an institutional framework and a mechanism  
23 for distributing appropriations from the federal level to the

1 states will facilitate smoother transitions during upcoming  
2 gubernatorial changes in administration.

3 I hope this information has been helpful to you as you  
4 work on your daunting task, and thank you for the opportunity to  
5 speak before you today.

6 MS. PACKARD: Good afternoon. I'm Julie Packard,  
7 Executive Director of the Monterey Bay Aquarium. I really  
8 appreciate the opportunity to share remarks today on the role of  
9 ocean literacy and education in the proposed national ocean  
10 policy.

11 And I have to start by saying that as a member of the  
12 Joint Ocean Commission Initiative, and a former member of the Pew  
13 Oceans Commission, I am absolutely thrilled to see the progress  
14 of a national ocean policy underway at last. So thank you very  
15 much and congratulations.

16 Well, so, in my role as Director at the Monterey Bay  
17 Aquarium, I've dedicated myself to ocean education and  
18 conservation for 25 years now, and along with my aquarium  
19 colleagues, across the nation I've had the opportunity to reach  
20 literally tens of millions of people and expose them to ocean  
21 life.

22 Sadly though, over this last 25 years, this last  
23 quarter century, the health of our oceans has been on a slow and

1 steady decline. Why? Because the public does not see oceans as  
2 central to their lives -- to their livelihoods, their national  
3 economy, their health, their very well being.

4 A recent national public opinion poll undertaken by the  
5 Ocean Project that was sponsored by several U.S. aquariums and  
6 actually with support from NOAA really brings home this message.

7 The American public still has a very cursory knowledge and a  
8 very -- gives very little weight to the importance of protecting  
9 our oceans. They have very little specific knowledge about them.

10 One-third of the respondents in the poll could not identify a  
11 single ocean-related issue affecting the United States.

12 Compared to similar recent research using the exact  
13 same methods, the American public possesses a lot greater  
14 knowledge about such diverse topics as college football, the  
15 Academy Awards, luxury automobiles and casino gambling.

16 We have got to do better, starting with creating a  
17 national ocean policy that has education front and center -- it's  
18 the underpinning. Lack of education and exposure about the  
19 importance of our oceans, is why we are where we are today.  
20 Americans at large don't see the need for the policies, programs  
21 and funding that our oceans and our Great Lakes require.

22 You've already received a lot of great recommendations  
23 and important recommendations from those in the ocean, education

1 and science community, and I really encourage you to study those  
2 and take those to heart. Unlike a lot of ocean resource issues,  
3 there's a great deal of consensus in the ocean education  
4 community on what needs to happen, and I urge you to take  
5 advantage of that opportunity.

6           So from my perspective, I wanted to highlight four  
7 ideas that I think are especially important for your  
8 consideration. So first, express an overarching commitment to  
9 create an American public that values and understands our oceans  
10 and Great Lakes; acknowledge that ocean literacy is absolutely  
11 essential for the other mandates of a national ocean policy to  
12 succeed. Without this, we won't have the workforce to implement  
13 the ideas in the policy, and we won't have the public to support  
14 the funding necessary to implement it. It's really absolutely  
15 essential, it's an underpinning to the whole thing.

16           Next, start with young people, our future stewards.  
17 Reach kids in K-12 by supporting teacher professional  
18 development and programs offered at informal science education  
19 institutions. And I see that idea is in the interim report  
20 you've provided, which is great.

21           These two routes, teacher support and informal  
22 education really offer the best leverage and the biggest impact.  
23 We don't need more ocean curriculum, we don't need more one-off

1 "silver bullet solutions," we need sustained teacher support.

2 Bolster this by adopting and supporting the proposed  
3 national ocean education standards, and envision, if you will,  
4 millions of great teachers across the nation inspiring their kids  
5 with wonderful field trips to their local oceans and coasts,  
6 fabulous online research and query-based tools, and engaging  
7 museum and aquarium experiences.

8 Next, create ocean leaders by supporting  
9 university-level programs that are multi-disciplinary and  
10 integrative. Target funding and see new programs that entice our  
11 brightest scientists and policy students to dig in to  
12 understanding the changing ecosystems that are being transformed  
13 right before our eyes. You can drive this change with how you  
14 frame the expected outcome of your program, and we need to change  
15 how we do science and the kind of science leaders that we are  
16 creating to answer the questions, to implement the policy.

17 Finally, change how our agencies think about funding  
18 these ideas -- mandate a multi-year, long-term approach. Every  
19 great idea out there to solve our current environmental crisis  
20 has suffered hugely because of short-term funding commitments.  
21 We seek to restore our oceans and coasts to the former abundance.

22 We're in it for the long haul.

23 Short-term thinking has gotten us where we are today,

1 to a dangerous edge where the natural systems that sustain human  
2 life are at best in decline and at worst verging on collapse.

3           So in closing, the poll I referenced revealed a key  
4 finding, that young people are far more concerned about the  
5 environment and global change than are adults; they're more  
6 optimistic about the power of their actions to turn things  
7 around, and importantly, adults believe their kids know more than  
8 they do about the environment. We need to take advantage of  
9 that. We need to seize the moment.

10           Our nation's youth are poised to take on the mantle in  
11 meeting the environmental challenges we're passing on to them,  
12 and they're ready to get involved today. We're not giving them  
13 the tools they need. Let's not let them down, our future depends  
14 on it. Thank you.

15           DR. CARR: Thank you, as well, for the opportunity to  
16 describe some of the research projects that I'm involved in and  
17 their applications in informing management and policy for costal  
18 marine ecosystems.

19           I'm a professor in the department of ecology and  
20 evolutionary biology at the University of California at Santa  
21 Cruz, and a co-principal investigator of a multi-campus research  
22 consortium that studies costal marine ecosystems from a variety  
23 of scientific perspectives.

1           But the one, key, overarching goal of that consortium  
2 is to inform management and policy with sound science. As a  
3 researcher, I help to oversee a large-scale, long-term ecosystem  
4 monitoring program that has been used to inform a variety of  
5 management and policy decisions such as identifying the  
6 ecological consequences of the recent oil spill here in San  
7 Francisco Bay, revealing emerging threats related to changing  
8 ocean conditions such as the low oxygen dead zones off the coast  
9 of Oregon, and identifying the geographic patterns of ecosystems  
10 that inform the design and evaluation of California's  
11 unprecedented network of marine reserves and other protected  
12 areas.

13           As co-chair of the science advisory team to  
14 California's Marine Life Protection Act, I can speak directly to  
15 the great success of that process in bringing scientists like  
16 myself and stakeholders together to design protected area  
17 networks.

18           However, I've also seen first hand the frustration that  
19 arises with stakeholders and scientists when they recognize the  
20 myriad of non-fishing impacts that humans have on these costal  
21 ecosystems.

22           The MLPA is sectoral, and effectively regulates only  
23 one activity, fishing. While other agencies are contributing as

1 they can, a more holistic spatial planning effort would go far to  
2 ensure that the successes of the Marine Life Protection Act are  
3 not jeopardized by other activities such as water pollution,  
4 coastal development or emerging energy uses.

5           If we consciously plan how and where different ocean  
6 uses will occur, we will be able to identify conflicting and  
7 complementary uses as well as trade offs between uses of these  
8 ecosystems. By explicitly identifying those trade offs, science  
9 can inform policies that maintain the diversity of services  
10 provided by these coastal marine ecosystems.

11           One exciting scientific development that I'm engaged in  
12 now is the integration of these ecosystem monitoring programs  
13 with the coastal networks of marine protected areas and the  
14 emerging integrated ocean observing system. In combination,  
15 long-term ecological monitoring, reserve networks and ocean  
16 observing provide unprecedented tools to inform management and  
17 policy.

18           For example, we can identify ecosystem-wide effects of  
19 fishing central to informing ecosystem-based fisheries  
20 management. We can also reveal how and why ecosystems are  
21 responding to a changing ocean climate, and we can allow -- it  
22 will allow us to ascertain both how these impacts affect the  
23 resilience and the sustainability of these coastal ecosystems.

1           Simultaneously, we're using these insights to inform  
2 models that explicitly define the tradeoffs in services provided  
3 by the ecosystems. Indeed, we're developing these tradeoff tools  
4 now for the Marine Life Protection Act and they are tools and  
5 models that we'll be able to apply for a wide variety of ocean  
6 uses.

7           So in conclusion, California's Marine Life Protection  
8 Act is one key step forward for effective marine spatial  
9 planning, and it already is providing tremendous opportunities  
10 for understanding the ways in which humans impact costal marine  
11 ecosystems. Likewise, the knowledge we gain from these  
12 integrated monitoring programs will inform effective management  
13 of marine ecosystems and the many valuable services that they  
14 provide.

15           So I'm happy to talk about any of this work that we're  
16 doing, and again, thank you for the opportunity to speak with  
17 you.

18           MS. SUTLEY: Thanks to each of you for those  
19 informative presentations. We'll now move to our second panel of  
20 experts. Our first speaker will be Linda Sheehan, who is the  
21 executive director of the California Coastkeeper Alliance. And  
22 Ms. Sheehan will speak about water quality issues.

23           She will be followed by Captain Daniel Jordan. He is

1 with the Columbia River Bar Pilots, and he will speak from the  
2 perspective of the marine transportation system. Our seventh  
3 panelist is Ian Caliendo, who is from PG&E, and will speak about  
4 renewable energy and oceans.

5 And our last, but no less important panelist, is Dr.  
6 Pietro Parravano, who is president of the Institute for Fisheries  
7 Resources, and he will speak about living marine resources.

8 MS. SHEEHAN: Thank you, Chair Sutley, and  
9 distinguished task force members, for the opportunity to speak to  
10 you today on water quality.

11 I think it's noteworthy that we are speaking today  
12 about water quality on the 40th anniversary of the two seminal  
13 coastal pollution events that created both Earth Day and the  
14 federal Clean Water Act. It was in 1969 that 200,000 gallons of  
15 oil spread over an 800 square mile slick off the coast of Santa  
16 Barbara. It was also in 1969 the Cuyahoga River off Lake Erie  
17 caught fire, sending images of firefighters trying to put out the  
18 river around the country.

19 From these events, we created what was at the time a  
20 truly visionary set of environmental laws to try to implement our  
21 collective vision for a healthy environment across the nation.  
22 With 40 years of experience behind us, we can start to see where  
23 we have had success and where we might need to shift our

1 approaches.

2 First and foremost, we need to start to implement our  
3 current laws fully. The New York Times reported this week that  
4 the federal Clean Water Act has been violated over a half million  
5 times since 2004. These violations have real impacts.

6 Researchers have shown that in just two counties in  
7 California, Los Angeles and Orange County, tens to hundreds of  
8 millions of dollars a year in health care costs occur because of  
9 beach-related illnesses. So we strongly support the President's  
10 call for accountability, particularly as it goes to enforcing our  
11 water quality laws.

12 But even more important than enforcing our existing  
13 laws fully, we also need to acknowledge that our regulatory  
14 structures are often mismatched with the environment that they're  
15 trying to protect. We set up our regulatory structures to  
16 address water quality separate from water flows, separate from  
17 air, separate from wildlife. But of course, in reality, they're  
18 all connected.

19 And so we commend the President's approach for  
20 insisting on ecosystem-based approaches. But this has to be more  
21 than just coordinating and collaborating across silo agency  
22 structures. We need to forge a better relationship with the  
23 environment, similar to what our predecessors did 40 years ago,

1 but look at the ecosystem-based science that Dr. Carr was talking  
2 about, and implement that in our policy -- develop -- perhaps we  
3 could call it institutional ecosystems to reflect the natural  
4 ecosystems that we're trying to protect.

5 Just a couple of examples. Climate change is a classic  
6 example. Our current single-stressor environmental laws  
7 didn't -- I don't think they anticipated the type of whole-scale  
8 ecosystem failure from pollution, especially on a global scale.

9 Ocean acidification is just one subset of  
10 climate-change related impacts, where air pollution is affecting  
11 water quality, which is affecting marine life at the base of the  
12 food chain, which triggers a whole cascade of impacts. And our  
13 air and our water quality and our fish and wildlife laws are  
14 trying to keep up, but they're struggling.

15 Another example: a NOAA Fisheries Biological Opinion  
16 issued in June found that a lack of sufficient, clean water in  
17 California's Central Valley is jeopardizing the existence of  
18 Southern Resident killer whales, which rely on Chinook salmon  
19 runs for food. When we think about how to protect killer whales  
20 in the Pacific Northwest, how many of us think "protect clean,  
21 sufficient water flows in California's Central Valley waterways"?

22 Our single-stressor laws not only are constraining our  
23 behavior, but they're also in many ways constraining our

1 imagination. We need thoughtful, ecosystem-based approaches in  
2 our laws to protect marine and anadromous species before they're  
3 on the brink.

4           Even within a single regulatory agency, we need to  
5 start to think in a more integrated way. NOAA and others,  
6 including Washington State, have done numerous studies and  
7 showing how pesticides impact salmon in ways that were  
8 unanticipated when chemical-by-chemical analyses were created.  
9 And they found that in mixtures, the synergistic effects can kill  
10 salmon even when the pesticides individually had absolutely no  
11 impact.

12           So even when we implement the standards that we have  
13 perfectly, which often is not the case, we are not protecting our  
14 aquatic life. Clean, abundant water is the lifeblood of our  
15 coast and ocean. Focusing on water quality is extremely  
16 important, but looking at the environment holistically, and  
17 creating regulatory structures that reflect the natural  
18 ecosystems is essential.

19           So what do we need to do? We need to revisit our  
20 40-year-old, single-agency, single-stressor environmental laws  
21 and create integrated legal ecosystems that better reflect the  
22 natural ecosystems we're trying to protect.

23           We also need to recognize explicitly in our laws the

1 inherent rights of all of us to have a fighting chance to exist  
2 and to thrive and to evolve, including the ecosystems and their  
3 inhabitants, with which we're inextricably bound.

4 This is a tall order, but we can and must envision the  
5 natural endpoint of where we want to end up, and then take  
6 progressive action along the way to get there. There are tools  
7 we can use, such as cross-cut budgets, MOUs, jointly administered  
8 grant programs in the interim while we're building our integrated  
9 legal structures.

10 And again, of course, we must increase enforcement of  
11 our water quality laws, and expand them where necessary to  
12 include polluted runoff and marine debris.

13 In closing, climate change is our Santa Barbara oil  
14 spill and our Cuyahoga River fire. I urge the task force to heed  
15 its warning, and develop the seminal changes in law and policy  
16 needed to safeguard the natural world and our place within it.

17 Thank you.

18 CAPTAIN JORDAN: Good afternoon. My view of the  
19 oceans, coasts and harbors is that of a ship's pilot, former ship  
20 captain, which means they're mostly operational. Maritime  
21 transportation is vital to the nation's economy, with over 90  
22 percent of all imported and exported goods carried by ship.

23 To reduce this to a local perspective, the Columbia

1 River supports over 40 million tons of cargo each year, valued at  
2 \$16 billion, and provides for 40,000 jobs in the Pacific  
3 Northwest.

4 Not only do ships carry the majority of traded goods  
5 worldwide, but they're also the most fuel efficient mode of  
6 transportation. Marine transportation is driven by economics,  
7 safety and regulations. A ship's purpose is to carry cargo from  
8 one port to another in the most economic way, and it must be done  
9 safely, within the myriad of international, federal and state  
10 regulations.

11 That being said, shipping routes are normally the most  
12 direct and the shortest routes between ports. Captains choose  
13 the distance to travel offshore for safety reason, but often it's  
14 dictated by garbage disposal regulations which vary from 12 to  
15 25 miles offshore. Tankers are running 50 miles offshore right  
16 now.

17 Speeds are generally chosen as the most economical or  
18 the most efficient engine speeds. So when you're considering  
19 marine reserves near capes, points or promontories, their impact  
20 on commercial shipping should be minimal. The captain will just  
21 choose that distance offshore when he's plotting his course and  
22 proceed along.

23 The Olympic Coast National Marine Sanctuary is a good

1 example of a 25-mile buffer zone that has little impact on  
2 shipping. Detours around large reserves could impose hardships  
3 on smaller vessels like fishing vessels and tugboats.

4 Marine reserves that cannot be avoided are another  
5 matter, depending on the restrictions. The total cost of  
6 operating ship can be upwards of \$70,000 per day. So as an  
7 example, if speed restrictions are imposed, half a day delay  
8 could be costly for a ship owner.

9 Most accidents happen in harbors, entrances to harbors  
10 and navigational bottlenecks, so coastal policies should make an  
11 effort to keep the bottlenecks as open and organized as possible.

12 Most major harbors have vessel traffic schemes that are similar  
13 to highways for ships, that delineate inbound and outbound lanes.

14 These lanes are also used to redirect ships around sensitive  
15 areas and to protect the coastline from accidents that can occur  
16 at navigational bottlenecks.

17 For discussion purposes, if we're protecting whale  
18 migrations along the Oregon coast, and know how close they swim  
19 past certain capes, a traffic scheme in that area could require  
20 the ships to stay offshore of the migration patterns with little  
21 or no economic impact to shipping.

22 Through the Washington Sea Grant Program, there are  
23 voluntary lanes along the west coast of all three states where

1 tugboats travel to avoid crab gear. Regional settlement  
2 management plans integrate economic and environmental objectives  
3 and support a channel maintenance and protection of the jetties.

4 Both are essential for the survival of maritime commerce and  
5 vessel safety.

6 Low sulfur emissions standards carry a set of  
7 unintended safety issues that I'll leave for another group.  
8 What's relative to this panel are the offshore limits, where  
9 California has adopted a 24-mile limit and the United States and  
10 Canada are considering a 200-mile limit.

11 Most ships carry limited quantities of low-sulfur fuel  
12 and operate -- for operations within port limits. A 24-mile  
13 extension of the port costs a little more for some ships, and  
14 they may change their routes to avoid the 24-mile limit when  
15 possible, but a 200-mile limit cannot be avoided by coastal use  
16 traffic. That may require modifications to many ships to be able  
17 to carry the quantities of fuel necessary to operate within the  
18 200-mile limits.

19 In considering maritime reserves or other planning  
20 options, consideration should be given to where a ship might go  
21 to avoid restricted areas. I think the Port of L.A. and Long  
22 Beach right now is having that issue with ships coming in a  
23 different route than they normally would just to avoid that

1 24-mile area.

2           Again, these are primarily operational views, without  
3 challenging the science. I support all the scientific efforts of  
4 this panel. Thank you.

5           MR. CALIENDO: Thank you, Chair Sutley and respective  
6 members of the task force. My name is Ian Caliendo. I'm with  
7 Pacific Gas & Electric. I am working on regulatory issues,  
8 permitting and licensing. My most salient experience is with a  
9 specific project that I'll refer to later in my presentation, but  
10 it has brought us into greater contact with existing ocean  
11 regulations and a greater interest in upcoming ocean policy.

12           I was asked to speak as a renewable energy advocate  
13 here. I just want to preface my comments that of course we are  
14 one company, we are a utility, that purchases power and also  
15 develops some of our own projects.

16           Currently, as I'm sure you're aware, California has a  
17 very aggressive renewable portfolio standard to achieve 20  
18 percent of our power by renewable resources by the year  
19 2020 -- excuse me, 2010. A recent executive order has increased  
20 that amount to 33 percent by 2020. This, in addition to an  
21 anticipated national renewable portfolio standard, there has been  
22 talk of up to 25 percent on a national level, too.

23           So this just highlights the need to look for renewable

1 resources to a degree and a scale which we have not achieved to  
2 date. This is a huge challenge and a very difficult undertaking.

3 We are certainly not looking just at ocean renewables, looking  
4 at renewables -- large solar, everything from panels on houses to  
5 large concentrating solar in the desert, as well as wind projects  
6 and other emerging technologies.

7 Under the header of emerging technologies would be  
8 offshore wind and hydrokinetics, or wave and tidal power. We, in  
9 California, with the longest coastline, with a very excellent  
10 wave energy resource, we see a great opportunity to explore the  
11 potential for harnessing a portion of this power for electric  
12 generation.

13 Particularly PG&E, we have a large portion of the  
14 coastline as part of our service territory, so we almost feel an  
15 obligation to search out this source. So one thing just to make  
16 clear, of course the electric generation sector is extremely  
17 capital intensive. Of course we're dealing with a number of  
18 regulations here and regulatory uncertainty is very difficult to  
19 manage with a long-term procurement outlook. And so I ask the  
20 task force to consider that as they make this policy.

21 I'd like to just talk a little bit about my experience  
22 with ocean policy, which is with a project called WaveConnect,  
23 which is an attempt to create a demonstration and testing

1 platform for wave energy technologies. And this is to fill an  
2 information gap both for our needs -- because at this point we're  
3 not able to make a commercial decision on whether to purchase  
4 renewable ocean power. The costs are not known, the operations  
5 and maintenance are not known. These projects, by and large, do  
6 not exist at this point in the world. There are some projects in  
7 other parts of the world, Europe particularly, but nothing here,  
8 and certainly nothing with the kind of regulatory scrutiny that  
9 we encounter in California.

10           So this project is at a pilot stage. We have  
11 been -- we are working now for a license application for -- with  
12 FERC. And it has illustrated the -- this is really a  
13 trailblazing project. These are existing regulations trying to  
14 deal with a project that does not occurred at this point.

15           I see my time is winding down. So I will just -- I'll  
16 just recap by saying, please consider emerging technologies such  
17 as wave energy, and in the future, offshore wind as a vital  
18 component to dealing with the overarching goals of combating  
19 climate change. Thank you very much. (Applause.)

20           DR. PARRAVANO: I do appreciate the invitation to speak  
21 to you today. As a former member of one of the oceans  
22 commissions and a current member of the Joint Oceans Commission  
23 Initiative, I would like to make some recommendations to you from

1 a perspective as a fisherman in Half Moon Bay.

2           This process elevates much needed attention on  
3 America's fisheries, and the presidential proclamation in June  
4 will lay the groundwork for a much more comprehensive way to  
5 manage our ocean resources. It will do this by taking to account  
6 looking at the marine systems as a whole instead of looking at  
7 them as individual components.

8           A national ocean policy not only confirms the national  
9 commitment to our oceans, but also provides a context for  
10 effective coordination amongst the federal government, so they  
11 can better serve the states and regions as they struggle to  
12 address increasing challenges associated with the oceans.

13           A fundamental change in values, not only what we value  
14 but how we value, is essential in developing a national ocean  
15 policy. These values will identify an ocean ethic. There is no  
16 other source on this planet that provides the elements that  
17 contribute to our well being as humans. The oceans cover an area  
18 23 percent larger than the land mass governed by the United  
19 States. The biological riches of the oceans surpass those of our  
20 lands.

21           In order to arrive at a national ocean policy, we must  
22 understand the interdependence that exists with the oceans,  
23 interdependence between human well-being and ocean health -- we

1 depend upon marine ecosystems, and they depend on our respectful  
2 treatment - interdependence between species and habitats among  
3 species, interdependence amongst all levels of government,  
4 interdependence amongst the government, the public and the marine  
5 resources.

6           Now I have six recommendations that are from a  
7 fisheries perspective. Number one is governance. Specific to  
8 the West Coast, a national ocean policy should have a balanced  
9 responsibility amongst the federal agencies. We know that the  
10 Department of Commerce, through the National Marine Fisheries  
11 Service, regulates and manages the fisheries in the oceans.

12           We also know that the Department of the Interior  
13 regulates and manages most of the areas that affect the habitat  
14 that supports the ocean fisheries. Especially here in  
15 California, there must be a stronger coordination between the  
16 agencies to foster mutual coordination for water flows and  
17 fishery habitat.

18           Second recommendation is habitat. San Francisco Bay is  
19 an example of the importance of estuaries and bays. 75 percent  
20 of all ocean fish spend part of their life cycle in estuaries and  
21 bays. Yet the failure of this ecosystem to support fisheries has  
22 resulted in the closures of two fisheries recently.

23           Two years ago the salmon fisheries in California,

1 Oregon were closed. This illustrates the critical role that San  
2 Francisco Bay and the Sacramento River have in supporting  
3 migrating salmon. Two states were forced to close their salmon  
4 fishery because of the failure of one river system.

5 A couple of weeks ago, California closed the herring  
6 fishery in San Francisco Bay. These examples show that we have a  
7 long way to go to understand the components that are necessary  
8 for fish survival. A comprehensive national ocean policy would  
9 hopefully rectify fishery collapses such as these.

10 A third recommendation regards seafood. We as  
11 fishermen harvest seafood for consumption. This brings us to  
12 nutritional value that cannot be found in any other foods.  
13 Seafood has a way of telling us stories. It connects us with the  
14 mysteries of the deep oceans. A national ocean policy should  
15 include a policy that addresses the importance of all seafood in  
16 our nutritional health and values.

17 Here in San Francisco, in July, the mayor of San  
18 Francisco established a food policy, and in that is included  
19 seafood. This is the first in the country that any city has ever  
20 undertaken this food policy. A national ocean policy needs to  
21 identify the seafood systems.

22 My fourth recommendation is collaborative research.  
23 Here in California, we have much success with collaborative

1 research between fishermen and academics. We have been very  
2 fortunate that many academic facilities have reached out to  
3 fishermen for doing research. I know of many fishermen that have  
4 worked with academic institutions.

5           The fifth recommendation is a fishery trust fund. In  
6 order to pay for management, research and other activities, there  
7 must be funding. Here in California, we have done much progress  
8 with ocean reforms but lack the funding for carrying these out.  
9 A national ocean policy must include a fishery trust fund.

10           And the last recommendation is education. Earlier we  
11 heard about the excellent educational programs for public from  
12 Julie. We also heard about the excellent academic programs  
13 identified by Professor Carr. I would like to advocate  
14 educational programs for fishermen. A national ocean policy  
15 should provide for educational resources for fishermen and  
16 fishery managers.

17           We see many such programs for farmers at many  
18 universities and community colleges, such as sustainable ag and  
19 sustainable food systems. How can we teach sustainability in the  
20 oceans and fisheries? Programs such as safety, fish quality,  
21 navigation, mechanics and management would prepare the fishermen  
22 for the future.

23           In conclusion, a national ocean policy should provide

1 clear and measurable goals and standards to govern ocean  
2 activities. A result of a national ocean policy would provide  
3 for a better way to address challenges that we are facing and we  
4 will face in the future. It gives us hope and it gives the  
5 oceans hope.

6           Imagine a national ocean policy that provides for  
7 sustaining our fisheries, our coastal communities, our fishermen  
8 and their families. A comprehensive national ocean policy unites  
9 human values, ecological values and economic values. This is the  
10 ocean ethic. Thank you. (Applause.)

11           ADMIRAL SHELANSKI: Thank you very much there, Dr.  
12 Parravano, and I would like to thank all of the panelists for  
13 your enlightening and educational presentations. This has been a  
14 very informative session, and I know that we all appreciate the  
15 time that you all have taken out to come make us smarter on the  
16 issues.

17           Moving things along, I would like to now turn the mic  
18 over to Alexis Strauss, Director of EPA's region 9 water  
19 division, who will lead the public comment portion of today's  
20 meeting. Thank you.

21           MS. STRAUSS: After 10 months we're very concerned that  
22 any effort for California to expand or to do new drilling might  
23 lead to someone in Washington thinking that it's okay. I'm here

1 to tell you, it's not.

2 (Pause.)

3 SPEAKER: Before Alexis starts, I just wanted to tell  
4 everybody we have a lot of people who want to speak, and so we  
5 are going to really try to keep people to very short time limits  
6 and ask you to be as brief as possible so we can get to everyone,  
7 and that everyone doesn't have to sit here for hours and hours  
8 before they get an opportunity to speak. So with that, Alexis?

9 MS. STRAUSS: Good afternoon. We are delighted at this  
10 robust turnout on an issue that is so important to everybody  
11 here. We are determined to hear your comments and to that end,  
12 let me ask your indulgence on a couple of points. The first one  
13 is that we would like you to limit your comments to two minutes.  
14 If we limit your comments to two minutes, the chances increase  
15 that we can hear almost everyone, if not everyone, who signed up  
16 to speak. That would be a great kindness.

17 Secondly, if you'd like to speak, I am going to call  
18 names and there are microphones. There are three different  
19 microphones in the room. Pick the one most convenient to you.  
20 There's one in the center aisle and one on either of the outer  
21 aisles. After we've gone about an hour, we're going to take a  
22 really brief, two-minute, stand-up and stretch head to the  
23 restroom kind of break, but we're not going to lose much

1 continuity, because otherwise, we're going to lose time in being  
2 able to hear everybody.

3           So, with that, let me in batches of perhaps three, let  
4 you know who the next three speakers are. If, as you hear your  
5 name being called, you could stand and take a microphone. That  
6 will help us save time. Secondly, there are some instances where  
7 multiple members of an organization have signed-up to speak.  
8 What we would like you to do is indeed you are all welcome to  
9 stand.

10           But if you could elect your own spokesperson to use  
11 those two minutes, rather than each of you taking two minutes,  
12 that would also make things go very smoothly. So, with that in  
13 mind, if I could ask Mike Chrisman, who is secretary of the  
14 California Resources Agency, Johanna Partin, here on behalf of  
15 San Francisco Mayor Gavin Newsom's office, and, thirdly, Tom Roth  
16 of Congresswoman Woolsey's office, if you would each speak in  
17 turn, thank you.

18           MR. CHRISMAN: Thank you very much. I am speaking  
19 today in my capacity as chair of the Ocean Protection Council.  
20 We are going to be submitting some very in-depth comments and  
21 recommendations to the Ocean Policy Task Force. They're going to  
22 include a series of National Policy recommendations that suggests  
23 the policy prioritizing and clarifying, strengthening roles for

1 coastal states and national coastal ocean policy.

2           We are going to also speak to the issue of maintaining  
3 key public trust responsibilities in the coastal states and to  
4 maintain the federal consistency provisions of the "Coastal Zone  
5 Management Act." We are also going to be talking about this  
6 policy that should facilitate processes such as Ecosystem-based  
7 management and the mechanism necessary to carry out these  
8 policies. We are also going to in this document speak at length  
9 about the Western Governors Agreement on ocean health.

10           We are going to speak at length about the policy  
11 coordination framework, a framework that really should provide a  
12 clear path for state participation such as the establishment of a  
13 State Advisory Council to the Council of Environmental Quality.  
14 We are going to speak to the issue of our implementation  
15 strategies. We are going to be recommending a series of bold,  
16 yet achievable goals, such as supporting a fully operational and  
17 continuously funded ocean observation system supporting the  
18 creation of a high resolution sea floor mapping and coastal  
19 mapping program, the establishment of a national climate services  
20 center, and guidance on adaptation strategies to help us address  
21 climate change, supporting innovative fisheries management  
22 approaches, and setting very specific national and regional  
23 restoration goals for weapons and other resources, and also

1 creating an integrated program for the elimination of marine  
2 debris and setting water quality targets and including  
3 contaminants and some of our emerging concerns.

4           Again, we are going to be doing this in the form of  
5 very involved comments, and we look forward to working with the  
6 Ocean Policy Task Force to get this done.

7           MS. STRAUSS: Thank you. Johanna Partin.

8           MS. PARTIN: Thank you. I speak today on behalf of  
9 Mayor Gavin Newsom and the city and county of San Francisco.  
10 Thank you for the opportunity to comment. I'll get straight to  
11 the point.

12           We think the biggest threat to our oceans is global  
13 climate change. We need to move away from dirty fossil fuels and  
14 toward clean, renewable energy sources. And under the current  
15 administration, we think we have a tremendous opportunity to do  
16 so. We think ocean power, while in its infancy as an industry is  
17 very promising energy source for both the state and the city,  
18 California has 840 miles of coastline, and experts suggest that  
19 more than a quarter of our energy demand in the state could be  
20 met from harnessing ocean energy.

21           Economic projections indicate that ocean energy could  
22 become cost-effective, if federal leadership exists to encourage  
23 investment in these technologies. So, as a community pursuing

1 ocean-based renewable energy technologies, we have submitted  
2 formal comments, but I'd like to highlight the top three.

3           First, federal policies and RND funding should  
4 facilitate ocean power demonstration projects as a first step  
5 toward commercialization of large-scale renewable energy  
6 projects. Second, state and federal regulatory policies should  
7 implement permanent conditions that both promote renewable energy  
8 and assure protection of ocean resources. Current Minerals  
9 Management Service guidelines for leasing ocean energy projects  
10 in the outer continental shelf are based largely on the leasing  
11 processes that have been in place for oil and gas for decades.  
12 These are different technologies that we are talking about.

13           The current guidelines under MMS are expensive,  
14 cumbersome, and do not adequately recognize the added public  
15 value that municipally led or supported projects can bring. So  
16 MMS should simplify the lease application process, reduce costs  
17 and prioritize projects that serve the public interest. And,  
18 finally, decisions on individual applications for projects should  
19 be open, transparent, and advance the public interest.

20           Thank you.

21           MS. STRAUSS: Thank you. Following Tom Roth, we would  
22 like to hear from Senator Kevin Ranker of the Washington State  
23 Senate, from Micah McCarty of the Makah Tribal Council, and David

1 Gordon of Pacific Environment. Mr. Roth.

2 MR. ROTH: Thank you very much. Good afternoon,  
3 members of the task force and members of the audience -- a very  
4 distinguished group here -- I am here today representing  
5 Congresswoman Lynn Woolsey, who represent the Sixth Congressional  
6 District, which is just across the Golden Gate Bridge in Marin  
7 and most of Sonoma County.

8 I am pleased to comment today on the interim report  
9 that has just been released and that I would like to say more  
10 specific written comments will be submitted at a later date. In  
11 this very limited time period, I would like to focus on reports  
12 called for eco system based management.

13 Congresswoman Woolsey represents an area that is  
14 recovering right now. In fact, it's not recovering. It's right  
15 in the middle of two big fishery crashes over the last couple of  
16 years and the destruction of the local fishing industry. It is  
17 clear that science-based eco system management isn't a luxury,  
18 but a necessity.

19 I would like to point out that your report calls  
20 for -- and I'm just quoting a portion of it -- identification and  
21 prioritization of geographical areas of greater sensitivity or in  
22 greatest need of eco system based management. And I would like  
23 to suggest that you insert the words in the middle there "of

1 special biological significance." And I would like to give you  
2 an example that's very close to us.

3 If you go right up the Golden Gate Bridge -- do I only  
4 have 23 seconds left?

5 MS. STRAUSS: None.

6 MR. ROTH: Okay. If you go right out the Golden Gate  
7 Bridge, you will see the Gulf of the Fairlawns National Marine  
8 Sanctuary and further out the Cordell Bank National Marine  
9 Sanctuary. Both of them end at Vedaga Head except it's kind of  
10 an imaginary line there, an artificial line. Because if you go  
11 on the other side of that line, you will see that the resources  
12 are exactly pretty much the same in both areas -- both extremely  
13 rich -- both highly productive -- both part of the California  
14 current. And, in fact, recent research has shown that this is  
15 the area that provides much of the food for the marine  
16 sanctuaries below them.

17 MS. STRAUSS: Mr. Roth, I'm sorry to interrupt you.

18 MR. ROTH: I'm way out of time now?

19 MS. STRAUSS: Very much over.

20 MR. ROTH: Okay. Then I think I will have to finish  
21 this up at a later date and just I want to let you know that  
22 Congresswoman Woolsey supports your work, supports a national  
23 policy, ocean policy, and will be most happy to work with you.

1 And I would also like to just mention that Congressman Woolsey  
2 and Senator Boxer has introduced legislation about this very  
3 specific area, which I will share with you later.

4 Thank you.

5 MS. STRAUSS: Thank you. As we proceed, folks do know  
6 that they can certainly submit comments in writing here and  
7 on-line. You will see a host of comments already on the White  
8 House dot gov websites. Thank you for joining us. Senator  
9 Ranker.

10 SENATOR RANKER: Senator Ranker from Washington, I am a  
11 part of the Washington State Legislature. I represent the  
12 Northern Puget Sound: Billingham, Mount Vernon, the San Juan  
13 Islands, and about 700 miles of shoreline. I want to thank all  
14 of you for giving us the opportunity to be here today; and, I  
15 applaud the Obama Administration's leadership on this issue.  
16 It's about time that we have some serious discussions about  
17 implementation of the U.S. Commission on Ocean Policy and the  
18 Ocean Commission reports.

19 I am going to quickly go into some of the pieces here  
20 and try and do it in two minutes. So, specific recommendations.

21 With regard to Marine Spatial Planning, it is absolutely  
22 critical that we implement a strategy for how to get to Marine  
23 Spatial Planning. In Washington State last year, we had a

1 proposal for a large buoy array for wave energy buoys.

2           The problem was the area they were looking at was in  
3 the middle of some of the best juvenile crab habitat on the  
4 Washington coast. We have to balance the juxtaposed issues, the  
5 numerous different activities that we were trying to do in the  
6 ocean, but the idea of alternative energies based on wave and  
7 title, and offshore wind is so exciting, we have to pursue that,  
8 but we have to do it in a constructive way.

9           National Ocean Policy, you can see the details in my  
10 written comments, but the one thing I will say is that it has to  
11 address climate adaptation. We have to get to a place where we  
12 are seriously discussing climate change in the oceans and the  
13 impacts on our coastal communities. Also, with the increased  
14 leasing of our waters, we have to look at an ocean trust fund.  
15 We have to bring the money that's coming in from the new leasing  
16 in the waters back to our coastal communities, and some of that  
17 has to be put back through to the states.

18           In Washington State in 2007 the Governor and the  
19 legislature have created the Puget Sound Partnership, which some  
20 of you are aware of. It is an excellent model of how to get  
21 towards maintenance restoration and protection of an endangered  
22 eco system. I encourage you to look at that as a model as you  
23 move forward.

1           Lastly, the pilots and projects moving forward on a  
2 state basis must be looked to as models for when you're moving  
3 forward, and these pilots have to be considered in this national  
4 ocean policy.

5           Thank you very much.

6           MS. STRAUSS: Thank you. Michael McCarty.

7           MR. MCCARTY: I'd like to thank the leadership under  
8 Obama for pulling this off. I am really appreciate of the  
9 panelists that were selected. Every word I heard from the  
10 panelists I thoroughly agree with, and there are many issues that  
11 we can relate to. I also want to publicly acknowledge Senator  
12 Ranker's work with us and some of what we consider our importance  
13 in our role that we play in Marine Spatial Planning and  
14 particularly in regard to marine safety.

15           Makah Tribe suffered one of the worst oil spills in  
16 Washington state history and oil spill protection of our treaty  
17 resources the environment that supports that is very important to  
18 us, and Senator Ranker will be joining several of his colleagues  
19 in Neah Bay tomorrow to see the fruits of the labor; but, I want  
20 to bring back to a point, I believe, where tribes have really  
21 elevated our game.

22           We find ourselves in increasingly active roles in a  
23 broader cross-section of the federal family; and the advent of

1 tribal self-governance that really came out of the Bureau of  
2 Indian Affairs and the Indian Health Service really started to  
3 develop, I guess, kind of a doctrine in the way tribal leadership  
4 looks at our relationship with the Federal Government. And it's  
5 a prime example, I believe, in how tribes can move forward in the  
6 future when we start looking at implementation of this great  
7 venture. It's not going to be easy. There's going to be a lot  
8 of things that we are going to have to deal with and we are  
9 there. We've got a lot of experience and a multitude of  
10 everything that I've heard today.

11 We have that experience, and I think designing programs  
12 and finding ways to get tribal leaders and tribal technical staff  
13 at the table, I think that's going to be, you know, some creative  
14 thinking, but we are here for that. Thank you.

15 MS. STRAUSS: Thank you. Our next speakers are David  
16 Gordon or Doug Norland of Pacific Environment. Then Heidi  
17 Dickerson of Congressman Mike Thompson's Office; and then Alec  
18 Drago of Representative Sam Farr's Office. Pacific Environment  
19 is next.

20 MR. GORDON: Thank you. My name is David Gordon. I am  
21 the Executive Director of Pacific Environment. We support  
22 communities around the Pacific Rim to have a larger voice on  
23 environmental issues.

1           First, I'd like to commend the task force for taking  
2 the opportunity to develop a national oceans policy. We support  
3 these efforts. We recognize the richness of our oceans around  
4 the Pacific Rim and the importance of the ocean to the  
5 communities that depend on them. We support proposals that have  
6 been submitted for the national oceans policy to develop and  
7 implement an enforceable eco system-based management policy that  
8 it would be based on the precautionary principle.

9           We also support the proposals that the national ocean  
10 policy help guide us in the development of a system of marine  
11 spatial planning that mandates and supports marine reserves. I'd  
12 like to speak briefly about a couple of concerns that I think are  
13 particularly relevant here in the bay area. First is a concern  
14 about shipping safety. As you know, in November in 2007 here in  
15 San Francisco Bay we suffered the impact of a significant oil  
16 spill from the Cosco Busan; and this oil spill, it's lately been  
17 said, may be contributing to the recent closure of the herring  
18 fishery here in San Francisco Bay.

19           We believe that the national ocean policy can provide  
20 guidance on how to increase shipping safety throughout our oceans  
21 and prevent such oil spills in the future. We'd also like to  
22 suggest that the ocean policy address growing issues of ocean  
23 noise. The impacts of ocean noise to marine mammals have become

1 well known. These impacts come not only from the military,  
2 though that is a significant concern, as well as from shipping  
3 noise and we are particularly concerned about this in relation to  
4 marine sanctuaries. You have heard concerns about offshore oil  
5 and gas development.

6 We would like to reiterate these concerns and we  
7 believe the task force has a particular opportunity to pay  
8 special attention to the Arctic to build science-based marine  
9 spatial planning in concert with indigenous peoples who live in  
10 the Arctic. We will submit the rest of our comments in writing,  
11 and again thank you.

12 MS. STRAUSS: Thank you. Heidi Dickerson.

13 MS. DICKERSON: As Congressman Thompson's arctic  
14 Mendocino County District Representative, I have a statement to  
15 read from my boss who couldn't be here today because of votes in  
16 Washington, D.C.

17 Thank you for taking public comment in San Francisco,  
18 and I also want to than quite a few residents who drove all this  
19 way down here to make comments to you today as well. My  
20 congressional district encompasses more ocean coastline than any  
21 other in the lower 48 states. And to say that it is dependent on  
22 marine resources would be an understatement.

23 In 2000 California had the largest ocean economy of any

1 state, and on the North Coast ocean-related employment in  
2 Mendocino, Humboldt, and Del Norte counties were three times the  
3 California average. The economically essential, culturally  
4 significant and environmentally unique marine eco systems of my  
5 district are truly an American treasure. As you know, our ocean  
6 currently faces a multitude of interrelated, environmental  
7 challenges from pollution and habitat loss to rising sea levels,  
8 acidification and proposed energy projects.

9           As I have written to the President and the Council on  
10 Environmental Quality, I strongly support adoption of a national  
11 ocean policy to protect, maintain, and restore our nation's  
12 marine eco system. At this time, federal ocean management  
13 consists of more than 140 ocean-related laws implemented by at  
14 least 20 agencies. I believe that a more integrated and  
15 collaborative implementation of a national ocean policy is the  
16 way to better address the marine eco systems in a comprehensive  
17 manner.

18           Since coming to Congress I have consistently worked to  
19 advance ocean and coastal policy that enhances and protects the  
20 economic and cultural value of North Coastal Marine Systems. In  
21 addition to my comments I have provided directly to the  
22 taskforce, I would like to refer you to my recent comments on the  
23 2010-2015 draft proposed plan for oil and gas leasing, and also

1 to my ongoing discussions with both the Navy and NOAA concerning  
2 the impact of military training concerning the impact of military  
3 training on marine eco systems.

4 Thanks again for coming to Northern California for one  
5 of the task force listening sessions. I look forward to working  
6 with you to develop the national ocean policy and implementation  
7 strategy that preserves the healthy seafood, clean beaches,  
8 stable fisheries, abundant wildlife and vibrant coastal  
9 communities on which so many of us depend.

10 MS. STRAUSS: Thank you. Following Alec Gurago we'll  
11 hear from Kathy Fletcher of the People for Puget Sound. We'll  
12 hear from Jonathan Allen of the Office of Congresswoman Anna  
13 Eshoo, and Nick Ely from Assemblyman Jarod Hoffman's office.  
14 Alec?

15 MR. DRAGO: Good afternoon Madam Chair and members of  
16 the task force. My name is Alec Gurago. I am the District  
17 Director for U.S. Representative Sam Farr who represents the  
18 Monterey Bay and Big Sure coast. I want to make a couple brief  
19 remarks. First, he wanted to thank President Obama for tackling  
20 this important issue. So, really in his administration it's  
21 quite refreshing.

22 Mr. Farr has been working on these issues for many  
23 years and shares the taskforce goal of establishing a national

1 oceans policy, improving oceans governance and the strategies to  
2 implement those. As the task force noted earlier, we saw in  
3 recent years the completion of the Pew Oceans Commission as well  
4 as the National Ocean Commission, which stems from legislation  
5 that Mr. Farr authored in the late '90s. And both of those  
6 commissions addressed the problems that are facing the ocean and  
7 the much more challenging issue, the less compelling issue of the  
8 governance, which is important to solving those problems.

9           Following those commission reports, Mr. Farr created  
10 legislation known as Oceans 21 to enact those recommendations in  
11 the statute that's now known as H.R. 21. You are aware of it.  
12 Mr. Farr invites the administration to look at that legislation,  
13 which is awaiting action in the House Resources Committee as a  
14 stepping point. In reviewing the commission's preliminary  
15 recommendations, it's clear that many of those recommendations  
16 are already embodied in that piece of legislation and we look  
17 forward to moving forward with the task force administration in  
18 establishing these changes by administrative action as well as  
19 federal statute. Thank you very much.

20           MS. STRAUSS: Thank you. I'm sorry to have  
21 mispronounced your name. Kathy Fletcher?

22           MS. FLETCHER: Thank you very much. A lot of people  
23 and a lot of critters have been waiting a long time for

1 meaningful national leadership to protect our marine eco system,  
2 so thank you very much for what you're doing.

3 I am executive director of People for Puget Sound. We  
4 are working to protect and restore the health of our astoundingly  
5 bountiful estuary. I am also here as part of Restore America's  
6 Estuaries, a national partnership of 11 groups, including people  
7 for Puget Sound and Save the Bay here in San Francisco.

8 A lot of people from Washington state wish they could  
9 be here today, but they couldn't come. So what I have in my  
10 hands here are hundreds of postcards and petitions and individual  
11 letters and communications to you from a wide variety of  
12 individuals, organizations and businesses who are very happy with  
13 what you are doing and excited about it and hoping that you will  
14 move quickly through the talking phases and get on with the  
15 actions that we need to bring back and protect the health of  
16 Puget Sound and all of our coastal waters.

17 Included in this pile of letters is one from  
18 Representative Uptha Grove, from the Washington state  
19 legislature. He chairs the committee that deals with Puget Sound  
20 recovery, so I wanted to particularly commend that letter to you.

21 People for Puget Sound also endorses a combined letter that you  
22 received from a number of organizations that details the number  
23 of recommendations about where we hope you'll go with the ocean

1 policies. So I would just like to mention a few things in  
2 particular.

3 First of all, the importance of estuaries, the  
4 nurseries of the oceans and where people and the waters tend to  
5 collide the most dramatically. Second, the need for funding: we  
6 can't really engage in a serious effort without a serious  
7 investment. Third, a focus on the "Endangered Species Act,"  
8 which is one of our best tools for actually accomplishing  
9 something, and I have some specific comments about orca recovery  
10 that I will cover in writing. And, fourthly, oil spill  
11 prevention, where we are hoping that we will see the  
12 establishment of citizen advisory councils around the coast akin  
13 to the one in Prince William Sound.

14 I will submit the rest of our comments in writing.  
15 Thank you very much. And I hope to give these things to somebody  
16 so that I don't have to take them back to Seattle with me.

17 MS. STRAUSS: That's alright, if you'd leave them on  
18 the front table, thank you. Speaking next, Jonathan Allen.

19 MR. ALLEN: Thank you for your time today. Again, I'm  
20 Jonathan Allen. I'm representing Congresswoman Eshoo, who is  
21 back in D.C. for votes right now. But, she wanted me to stress  
22 her feelings that we need a national ocean policy. She feels our  
23 coasts and oceans are national wonders and essential to our

1 economy. She has been engaged on a number of ocean issues, not  
2 the least of which is fisheries, so thank you for your comments  
3 earlier.

4 She also signed on to a letter in July organized by  
5 Congressman Farr, who is a leader on ocean policy in congress;  
6 and, I wanted to read from that letter if I could.

7 "Dear Ms. Chairwoman: The oceans are perhaps the  
8 greatest natural resource on earth providing protein to billions  
9 of people, generating approximately one-half of all the oxygen we  
10 breathe containing 97% of all of our earth's water, having  
11 tremendous reserves of minerals and hosting millions of  
12 species -- many as yet undiscovered. Humans have relied on these  
13 resources for millennia and the ocean dependent economy in the  
14 United States alone totals more than 138 billion.

15 The ocean's bounty, however, is neither inexhaustible  
16 nor imperturbable. In recent decades the pace of resource  
17 extraction, pollution, production and global climate change has  
18 accelerated, and the oceans can no longer keep up. Recognizing  
19 the need for a new management and government, congress passed  
20 legislation that established the U.S. Commission on Ocean Policy.

21 In 2004 the Commission released its recommendations for a new  
22 coordinated and comprehensive national ocean policy. But, since  
23 released, the key recommendations of the Commission have not yet

1 been implemented and despite continued efforts in Congress. Our  
2 oceans can wait no longer to ensure the health and economic  
3 viability of our oceans, the United States needs a national ocean  
4 policy."

5 I think I am out of time, but this was signed by 31  
6 members of congress.

7 MS. STRAUSS: Thank you very much. Following Nick Ely  
8 of Assembly member Jarod Huffman's office, we have Barb Johnson  
9 from Representative George Miller's Office, Michael Stocker of  
10 the Ocean Conservation Research, and Megan Miller on behalf of  
11 U.S. Senator Barbara Boxer.

12 MR. ELY: Good afternoon. The following is a statement  
13 from Assembly member Jarod Huffman. I'd like to thank Chair  
14 Sutley and the taskforce members for the opportunity to share  
15 initial comments on this important issue. I'd also like to  
16 applaud the Obama Administration for taking a leadership role on  
17 Ocean Policy and for engaging states and regional stakeholders.  
18 When President Obama established a taskforce on ocean policy, the  
19 first step was taken towards creating a national policy that  
20 would ensure protection of our oceans, coasts and Great Lakes.

21 We currently have a "Clean Air Act" and a "Clean Water  
22 Act," and we need a national ocean policy. My district includes  
23 the Marin County Coast and part of the Sonoma County Coast; and,

1 as a result, these issues are very important to my constituents.

2 The following are a list of recommendations that I hope you will  
3 consider. Work with states to restore fisheries and protect  
4 marine life.

5 Support legislation that strengthens and reauthorizes  
6 the "Coastal Zone Management Act." Do not preempt state laws  
7 that are more protective than federal laws. Establish a  
8 dedicated ocean and Great Lakes reinvestment fund for science,  
9 conservation, and Ecosystem-based management. Stop the spread of  
10 invasive species by setting strong ballast water discharge  
11 regulations.

12 Support successful state and regional programs.  
13 Enforce existing water quality standards and assist states with  
14 addressing non point source pollution. Support expansion of  
15 ocean, sea floor, and coastal mapping efforts; and, last and  
16 definitely not least, provide federal support for climate change  
17 mitigation and adaptation. Thank you.

18 MS. STRAUSS: Thank you. Barb Johnson.

19 MS. JOHNSON: Thank you very much. I am Barb Johnson.  
20 I am District Director for Congressman George Miller and we are  
21 talking about collaboration here today. Our District Directors  
22 probably should have collaborated a little bit, but we have the  
23 same method from Congressman Miller.

1           He's been working on these issues for the 35 years that  
2 he's been in congress. He offers your panel and the folks that  
3 are working on these issues the expertise of his office.  
4 Anything that we can do to help out, just let us know. This  
5 areas here in the bay area is probably most affected by the  
6 policies that you will be setting, but we also have an awful lot  
7 of expertise here in the area, both at the federal level and at  
8 the state level. So we offer that to you as you go forward.

9           Thank you for the report. Congressman Miller will be  
10 filing a formal statement. Thank you.

11           MS. STRAUSS: Thank you. Michael Stocker?

12           MR. STOCKER: Thank you. I'm honored to be here, and  
13 thank you for this opportunity for all of us to contribute in  
14 this really meaningful and very important process here. My name  
15 is Michael Stocker. I am the director of Ocean Conservation  
16 Research, a non-profit research and policy organization seeking  
17 solutions to the growing problem of human generated ocean noise  
18 pollution.

19           Due to the exponential increases in human-generated  
20 noise we have our work cut out for us. While most of the public  
21 policy attention to this issue has been focused on military,  
22 sonar-related, stranding incidents and the overall noise level in  
23 the sea is increasing due to many of other facts, including

1 expansion of global shipping traffic, exponential growth in  
2 acoustically controlled remote autonomous vessels, other  
3 acoustically controlled marine equipment, acoustically actuated  
4 research communication systems, seismic surveys in the  
5 intercontinental shelf, construction noise from offshore energy  
6 projects, operations noise from offshore energy projects,  
7 deployment of seafloor fossil fuel extraction equipment,  
8 expansion and development of new high powered military sonar and  
9 communication systems. All of these developments will increase  
10 the noise for the ocean, but we are still unsure of the impacts  
11 of various noises on marine life; and, while a preponderance of  
12 ocean noise impact studies have on folks and marine mammals,  
13 little is known about the impacts of various noise on fish.

14 We also have no clear idea of the masking or  
15 interfering with biological communication channels; and, while we  
16 were coming to understand certain noise of catastrophic impacts  
17 on marine mammals, we still do not understand the mechanism to  
18 these impacts, essentially to cut to the chase on this thing we  
19 need to know a lot more. The particular research strategies are  
20 funded oftentimes, either by the U.S. Navy at the Office of Naval  
21 Research or through oil and gas interests.

22 We need to have, actually, a fast track way of getting  
23 some of this other research to the floor and into policy, because

1 what's ending up happening is we have mitigation practices that  
2 have worked out in courts through litigation and legal action;  
3 and not necessarily through scientific policy development. So,  
4 if we could find a fast track mechanism to develop ocean noise  
5 criteria that feeds directly into ocean management policy,  
6 bypassing the current practice of developing its criteria through  
7 litigation. I appreciate that. Thank you very much.

8 MS. STRAUSS: Before we hear from Megan Miller, I'd  
9 like to mention that Richard Charter, Emily Rogers and Cassin, I  
10 think Turner, but I may have that wrong, will speak after. Go  
11 ahead.

12 MS. MILLER: Good afternoon, and thank you all for  
13 being here. As Senator Boxer's field representative for San  
14 Francisco, I'd just like to present the following statement from  
15 the Senator herself.

16 "I applaud President Obama's decision to create the  
17 Interagency Ocean Policy Task Force, which demonstrates his  
18 commitment to improving the health of our oceans. I appreciate  
19 the task force holding this meeting today in San Francisco to  
20 receive public input on the actions needed to create and  
21 implement a national ocean policy.

22 Here in California the oceans are woven into the very  
23 essence of our culture, economy and lifestyle. Californians

1 understand that healthy oceans are critical to our state's  
2 economy. The ocean economy generates an annual 41 billion in  
3 economic activity and supports 614,000 jobs in California alone,  
4 and 230 billion in economic activity and 3.6 million jobs  
5 nationwide. About half of the ocean economy and two-thirds of  
6 ocean-related jobs are contributed by ocean tourism and  
7 recreation, industries that depend on a healthy and clean ocean.

8           Our oceans have a tremendous impact on almost every  
9 aspect of our daily lives: our food, health, climate and weather;  
10 but, they are becoming increasingly degraded and endangered by  
11 human activities. Global warming and ocean acidification  
12 threaten our quarries, shellfish, fisheries, and the very  
13 structure of marine ecosystems. Harmful algal blooms make our  
14 beaches unsafe and pollute the fish we consume.

15           A garbage patch the size of Texas has formed in the  
16 North Pacific Ocean. A long list of species from humpback whales  
17 to sea otters, salmon to albatross, are now threatened or  
18 endangered as a result of a history of harmful activities in the  
19 ocean and on land. A comprehensive national ocean policy will  
20 enable us to protect and restore the health of marine and Great  
21 Lakes ecosystems. In this effort, I proudly reintroduce my  
22 "National Oceans Protection Act," which would implement many of  
23 the recommendations of the U.S. Commission on Ocean Policy, Pew

1 Oceans Commission, and their joint oceans commission initiative.

2 I draw upon my bill in my recommendations for a  
3 national ocean policy today. Implementing this policy requires  
4 prioritizing oceans and national policy decisions, such as  
5 through a cabinet level national ocean advisor to the president.

6 It requires improving coordination among federal agencies and  
7 among relevant federal, regional, state, local and tribal  
8 authorities. It requires active stakeholder participation and  
9 management decisions, and it requires investments in science and  
10 education and a reliable funding source, including an oceans and  
11 Great Lakes trust fund, to ensure that these decisions are based  
12 on sound science.

13 Above all, oceans resource management cannot be based  
14 on a single human use, location, marine species, the level of  
15 governing authority. As the task force develops, recommendations  
16 for marine spatial planning and regional coordination, I urge the  
17 use of an adaptive ecosystems-based approach that integrates all  
18 of these considerations.

19 I look forward to seeing the task force's first set of  
20 recommendations on these issues shortly and hope to continue  
21 working with the administration and my colleagues in congress to  
22 improve the stewardship of our oceans, coasts and Great Lakes."  
23 Thank you.

1 MS. STRAUSS: Thank you. Richard Charter?

2 MR. CHARTER: My name is Richard Charter and I co-chair  
3 the National OCS Coalition. And I'd like to suggest that here in  
4 California we already have marine spatial planning and it was  
5 triggered by the event that Linda Sheehan suggested earlier this  
6 morning, which was the Santa Barbara blowout.

7 For us, that teachable moment led directly to four  
8 national marine sanctuaries. It led to application of the  
9 "Coastal Southern Management Act," in a very intelligent way to  
10 managing our coastal development; and, it led to our primary  
11 marine spatial planning tool, which was a 27-year, bipartisan,  
12 congressional, outer continental shelf moratorium on new leasing.

13 That expired. There was no vote. It was allowed to  
14 expire on October 1st, 2008, and we want it back.

15 MR. CHARTER: In fact we'd like to ask that it be made  
16 permanent. The reason it was allowed to expire is that the oil  
17 industry spent tens of millions of dollars on a project called,  
18 "drill baby drill." You may recall that last year it's what got  
19 your boss elected, indirectly. And to do drill baby drill, you  
20 had to convince the American public that it was totally safe to  
21 have offshore drilling. And yet, as we stand here today, several  
22 hundred more barrels of oil will leak into the West Timor sea  
23 from the damaged West Atlas Monterey Rig, which last week reached

1 5800 square miles at aerial extent.

2 I brought a satellite photo, but they wouldn't let me  
3 bring it in. They thought it might be dangerous. But the bottom  
4 line is yes, it's dangerous. Yes, it's going on for another five  
5 weeks and there is no safe, new, magic offshore drilling  
6 technology. Thank you.

7 MS. STRAUSS: Thank you. Emily Rogers?

8 MS. ROGERS: I am here on behalf of Assembly member  
9 Wesley Chesbro who would like to thank the Interagency Ocean  
10 Policy Task Force for their efforts to address the myriad of  
11 issues and threats to our coastal resources.

12 Assembly member Chesbro represents the North coast of  
13 California, one-third of the state's coastline, which is one of  
14 the most biologically diverse regions of the state, a place of  
15 natural beauty, with its thousand acres of coastal redwood  
16 forest, pristine beaches, and abundant wildlife industry habitat.

17 Assembly member Chesbro, like most Californians, strongly  
18 opposes the expansion of offshore oil drilling.

19 During the last year of budget negotiations, with the  
20 encouragement of his constituents, he was a leader in defeating a  
21 proposal to allow drilling in state waters off the coast of Santa  
22 Barbara. Defending offshore oil drilling would set a terrible  
23 precedent and threaten to undue protections for the entire state

1 of California, which have been hard fought over the last 30  
2 years.

3           Instead of looking to new sources of oil, the country  
4 should begin to look towards conservation and a clean, renewable  
5 energy feature. Any drilling of oil off the coast would send the  
6 wrong message to America about the urgency of making a true shift  
7 to energy independence. Most coastal residents rely on the ocean  
8 for their livelihood. All aspects of an ocean conservancy policy  
9 should take into account economic viability of those coastal  
10 communities while balancing the need for habitat prevention and  
11 preservation. Thank you.

12           MS. STRAUSS: Thank you. Following Cassim's testimony  
13 we will hear from Peter Douglas, from Rand Roble, and from Maziar  
14 Movassaghi of DTSE.

15           MR. TURNER: I see members of the task force. Thank  
16 you so much for this opportunity. My name is Cassim Turner. I'm  
17 actually here wearing two hats. On one hand I am here as the  
18 senior seafood campaigner for Greenpeace, an environmental  
19 organization with three and a half million members. On the other  
20 hand, I'm hear as a business person. I have a sushi restaurant  
21 here in town.

22           It may seem a bit difficult to reconcile those two  
23 things, but I assure you, when it comes to sustainable business

1 in ocean conservation, we all want the same thing. So on behalf  
2 of everybody, both Greenpeace and my small little sector of the  
3 sushi industry, I would strongly urge the administration to  
4 prioritize within the national oceans policy, the establishment  
5 of a strong and thorough network of marine reserves that would  
6 protect biodiversity, that would rebuild our flagging fish  
7 stocks, and that will guard against uncertainty.

8 And, frankly, in these times of climate change and  
9 ocean acidification, uncertainty has never been higher.

10 Moreover, I would urge the administration to use the tools  
11 presented by the United Nations and regional fishery management  
12 councils to take marine reserves beyond our borders, to create  
13 marine reserves on the high seas, so we can protect animals like  
14 the bluefin tuna, these pelagic, migratory creatures that don't  
15 tend to recognize national borders.

16 Speaking of the bluefin tuna, as a sushi restaurateur  
17 I cannot state strongly enough the need for marine reserves in  
18 the Gulf of Mexico to protect the spawning grounds of the  
19 Northern bluefin tuna. If we do not afford this animal the  
20 protection needs both within our borders and outside of our  
21 borders, we will lose it to commercial extinction. Thank you so  
22 much for your time.

23 MR. DOUGLAS: Hi. I'm Peter Douglas, Executive

1 Director of the Coastal Commission and a long-time practitioner  
2 of coastal zone management since 1971. This country and the  
3 coastal states already have a powerful tool to implement the  
4 goals and objectives that are set forth in your mission; and,  
5 that is the "Federal Coastal Zone Management Act."

6           Enacted in 1972 this law needs to be reauthorized, but  
7 it needs to be strengthened, to give coastal states more tools to  
8 deal with the issues that we have to address on a day-to-day  
9 basis. The "Coastal Zone Management Act" gives front-line  
10 managers who make decisions on coastal resource use and  
11 conservation every day the powerful tools to affect land use and  
12 conservation.

13           They make tens of thousands of decisions over the years  
14 on land use. In terms of reauthorizing the "Coastal Zone  
15 Management Act" it's imperative that in reauthorizing, it needs  
16 to be strengthened in three areas: one is it needs to have a  
17 strong mandate and clear policy direction on global climate  
18 change to deal with adaptation and minimization of greenhouse gas  
19 emissions.

20           We need a stronger mandate to ameliorate polluted  
21 run-off and on-point source pollution, and we need strengthened  
22 federal consistency. That federal consistency gives coastal  
23 states, coastal management agencies, the only regulatory

1 authority over federal activities beyond three miles where states  
2 otherwise have no jurisdiction. That's a powerful tool.

3 Our local governments and other coastal states need  
4 capacity building. We need assistance in terms of technical  
5 assistance and funding assistance. Relative to marine spatial  
6 planning it's conceptually good, but hard to do in reality; but,  
7 like terrestrial planning, it requires technical information and  
8 assistance, process transparency, collaborative and coordinated  
9 planning and management, meaningful funding, and participatory  
10 decisionmaking involving public and private stakeholders.

11 And, finally, I read a little bit of the report you  
12 released today and I would encourage you also to recommend the  
13 appointment of a national ocean advisor to the president in  
14 addition to the National Ocean Council. Thank you for the  
15 opportunity to speak. We'll give you our full comments in  
16 writing later.

17 MS. STRAUSS: Rand Roble?

18 MR. ROBLE: Thank you. I am so glad Obama has started  
19 your work and on tasking you with following through on his  
20 promise for science-based policies.

21 Science has shown us that climate change is the biggest  
22 issue that we have. Okay? 350 is where we need to be. We're at  
23 390 parts per million, and it's going up. You know what's

1 happening to the oceans: acidification and decreasing  
2 phytoplankton populations.

3           That's the cascade effect right there. Half of our CO<sup>2</sup>  
4 is consumed by the oceans. So I'm charging you right now with a  
5 Manhattan- and Apollo-type research program on the ocean carbon  
6 cycle. Okay. My daughter is here because her nurse couldn't  
7 make it, but for all the generations that follow, green energy  
8 isn't enough. There's too much CO<sup>2</sup>. We have to sequester it,  
9 and oceans hold that potential.

10           We know that. We don't know if it's safe. We don't  
11 know if it's effective. So we need the research started now so  
12 that in 10 or 20 years, we'll know what's going on. We'll have  
13 done the microstudies. We'll have done the longitudinal studies;  
14 and, when Japan or China decides that, whoa, we can dump iron and  
15 reduce the carbon, we'll know what to do. And you'll have a  
16 foreign policy issue. You'll have a national security issue if  
17 they make that decision. So let's do the science now. Redirect  
18 NASA.

19           Space is a great way to study the oceans. Okay? NOAA,  
20 this is front and center. I think billions and billions of money  
21 ought to be spent on this right now, and it's environmental  
22 studies. It's ecological studies that every environmentalist  
23 should want to have to understand the ocean carbon cycle as soon

1 as possible.

2 MS. STRAUSS: Thank you. Following Maziar we'll hear  
3 from Duncan Wilmuch, from Rosalind Peterson, and from Don Martin.

4 MR. MOVASSAGHI: Good afternoon. My name is Maziar  
5 Movassaghi, acting director of the Department of Toxic Substances  
6 Control, part of the California Environmental Protection Agency.

7 We applaud the president's vision for an ecosystem  
8 based management plan for ocean and coastal habitats. Last year,  
9 Governor Schwarzenegger signed such a law for California, the  
10 "California Green Chemistry Initiative." The Green Chemistry  
11 Initiative is a comprehensive, multi-media, game-changing tool.  
12 At the core, the Green Chemistry Initiative calls for the  
13 production and manufacturing processes to create design-by-design  
14 products, as members of your expert panel have called out to you,  
15 existing regulatory programs have reduced the amount of plastic  
16 debris and pollutants that have reached the ocean coastal  
17 habitats. But, our research and many labs around the world have  
18 indicated that these pollutants are persistent and are having a  
19 significant impact.

20 The California Green Chemistry initiative provides a  
21 framework for us to move forward to create these products before  
22 they reach the ocean and coastal habitats. In California we have  
23 created a wonderful partnership with non-governmental

1 organizations, other environmental regulatory agencies, and the  
2 industry itself. And, we would like to challenge the taskforce  
3 to partner with us in moving forward in its planning phase to  
4 create a product and manufacturing process that is benign by  
5 design before they get to our ocean and coastal habitats. Thank  
6 you.

7 MS. STRAUSS: Welcome, Duncan.

8 MASTER WILMOTT: Good afternoon. My name is Duncan  
9 Wilmott and I am 12 years old. I love the ocean and it is an  
10 important part of my life. I am worried about the health of the  
11 ocean. I see a lot wrong from offshore oil drilling to harmful  
12 algal blooms.

13 I want to thank President Obama for making ocean  
14 protection a priority. The ocean desperately needs his help and  
15 yours. I support a strong, national ocean policy to protect our  
16 oceans today and for generations to come. Thank you.

17 MS. PETERSON: My name is Rosalind Peterson. I am  
18 president of the Agricultural Defense Coalition. I was also a  
19 keynote speaker at the United Nations Climate Change Conference  
20 in 2007 on agriculture climate change and experimental weather  
21 modification programs.

22 I am here today to talk about the ocean policy in the  
23 hopes that you will reevaluate the United States Navy Policy on

1 Warfare Testing in every ocean environment.

2 MS. PETERSON: The Navy at the present time has  
3 environmental impact statements in the Atlantic, the Pacific, and  
4 the Gulf of Mexico, and these are being approved by NOAA very  
5 fast without, most of the time, the public knowing. The programs  
6 are redundant in which sonar is used in almost all of them. Bomb  
7 blasts -- in other words, it is a full out war on our oceans, and  
8 we hope that the Navy will reconsider its position.

9 The task force will also reconsider having the Navy be  
10 in every single marine environment. And I'd like to read the  
11 statement from Diane Feinstein, Senator Barbara Boxer, it is one  
12 paragraph long. In her letter on June 19 signed by several  
13 senators, it reads:

14 "In many regions the Navy plans to increase the number  
15 of its exercises or expand areas in which they may occur and  
16 virtually every coastal state will be affected. Some exercises  
17 may occur in the nation's most biologically sensitive marine  
18 habitats, including national marine sanctuaries and breeding  
19 habitats. In all, the Navy anticipates that 11.7 million marine  
20 mammals will have significant disruptions in mammal foraging,  
21 breeding and other essential behaviors. This does not include  
22 fish, birds, other species. It doesn't include the toxic  
23 chemicals airborne, white phosphorous, red phosphorous. So I

1 have brought petitions from residents -- and these are real  
2 petitions -- and I have brought them in order to save the trees.

3           These copies and the articles and letters are for the  
4 President of the United States, care of the Ocean Policy Task  
5 Force, to let the task force know we would appreciate the Navy  
6 reconsidering its positions and not allowing the expansion into  
7 California, Oregon, and Washington, because they're already  
8 testing in Southern California." Thank you.

9           MS. STRAUSS: Following Dawn Martin we'll hear from  
10 Susan Adams, from Deborah Whitman, and Dan Wolford.

11           MS. MARTIN: Thanks and good afternoon. A special  
12 thank you to the members of the task force who have brought us to  
13 this very momentous day. This is the first time in the 233-year  
14 history of our maritime nation that an administration has  
15 articulated a clear, comprehensive, and visionary national policy  
16 in the use and governance of our ocean, coasts, and Great Lakes.

17           To understand the significance of today's action, one  
18 only has to remember that when you include the 200-mile EEZ, the  
19 size of our country more than doubles. That means about half of  
20 our country is underwater. The U.S. economy contributes more  
21 than \$230 billion to the GDP, more than the entire farming  
22 sector. Yet, the economic value of the ocean is far easier to  
23 calculate than its intrinsic value.

1           Unfortunately, this resource is experiencing some of  
2 the greatest challenges since humans have walked this planet.  
3 Critical loss of marine life, expansion of dead zones,  
4 increasingly rapid acidification of the ocean, just to name a  
5 few. The development of an ocean policy will help us be smart  
6 about the way we use our ocean resources, allowing us to ship,  
7 recreate, fish, develop renewable energy, and ensure national  
8 security in a way that minimizes impacts on the environment and  
9 maximizes returns to our society.

10           We apply to you for seeking a marine spatial planning  
11 framework based on environmental protection that can allow human  
12 uses of the ocean to coexist, while also protecting the marine  
13 environment. But, before we proceed to the discussion of how to  
14 develop an MSP framework, it's important to acknowledge why this  
15 process is so critical. As we stand here today, battles are  
16 being waged in our legislatures and our agencies, and  
17 unfortunately in our courts over how to manage the multitude of  
18 interests that have staked a claim on our ocean resources and he  
19 services they provide.

20           Ecosystem-based marine spatial planning effectively  
21 designed can be a collaborative process that results in a greater  
22 level of certainty for all users. As the task force considers  
23 how to approach MSP, we offer the following thoughts. First, an

1 MSP framework should be rooted in environmental protection and  
2 based on sound science. MSP can be an effective tool for  
3 implementing ecosystem-based management, but it's not a  
4 substitute.

5 A successful EBM marine spatial planning framework must  
6 touch on and engage multiple sectors of society and address the  
7 cumulative impacts of all sectors. Sector-specific MSP is  
8 inherently not ecosystem based. Fourth, MSP should be tied to  
9 watershed management, which includes terrestrial areas. Fifth,  
10 conservation should be considered a legitimate use of the ocean;  
11 and, finally, as a practical matter, we suggest that the  
12 taskforce take advantage of the existing regional activities  
13 mentioned today and the expertise of federal advisory committees  
14 that are valuable input.

15 We thank you for your time today and we'll submit more  
16 detailed comments about how to fix the current system, of which  
17 140 laws and 20 different agencies rule the day over our oceans.

18 Thank you and thank you for your work for protecting this  
19 generation and future generations.

20 MS. STRAUSS: Thank you, Dawn. Susan Adams.

21 MS. ADAMS: Thank you. I appreciate the opportunity to  
22 speak today. I am currently serving on the Marin County Board of  
23 Supervisors. I am also on the Executive Board for the California

1 State Association of Counties, and I also serve on the National  
2 Association of Counties.

3 Water issues and ocean issues and environmental issues  
4 are certainly very important in our deliberations. I am also a  
5 mother, a grandmother and a nurse, and it's really refreshing to  
6 finally be able to have this dialogue about the importance of our  
7 environment and climate change. Our actions are going to  
8 determine whether or not mother earth allows the human experiment  
9 to continue or not; and, you know, hopefully we won't go the way  
10 of the dinosaurs and the woolly mammoths. There is some urgency  
11 to this.

12 I appreciate the big picture, but I want to note -- and  
13 this is my point -- for local governments that the implementation  
14 of many of the activities that you're going to need to accomplish  
15 in order to improve oceanic conditions will likely need to occur  
16 at the local level, whether it's repairing sewer infrastructure  
17 to avoid release of sewage in our waterways, adoption of local  
18 general plans that address climate change, wetland restoration,  
19 salmon, creek, stream restoration, sustainable building  
20 practices.

21 Whether it's being first responders on the scene for  
22 major natural or manmade disasters, which was the case, actually,  
23 with Cosco Busan, when it took 12 hours for state and federal

1 agencies to let us know in Marin County, yet, a fisherman alerted  
2 us a few hours earlier and we were already in action. So there  
3 are a number of ordinances and policies that we're working on at  
4 the local level, and in my capacity as an elected person for  
5 local government, I really encourage you to not put local  
6 government as an afterthought.

7           Local government really needs to be a partner at the  
8 table when you're talking about how to implement these. I know  
9 this is a great turnout here today, but I've had this many people  
10 when we talked about closing a dog park in our chambers. And so  
11 I think there's a lot of policymakers here and activists here,  
12 but if we really want to make the change and get to the local  
13 level, and have our citizens embrace this, then we need to make  
14 sure that local government is at the table.

15           MS. STRAUSS: Deborah Whitman.

16           MS. WHITMAN: Yes, my name is Deborah Whitman. I am  
17 president of Environmental Voices out of Davis, California. I  
18 want to thank you for giving me the opportunity to speak and for  
19 the work that you're doing.

20           I am here in support with Rosalind Peterson, and we  
21 have concerns about the U.S. Navy expanding their warfare testing  
22 programs in Northern California, Oregon, and Washington. And I  
23 would like to request that you start doing studies on what's

1 already been done, because they're doing programs like this in  
2 Southern California; how these chemicals like aluminum, red and  
3 white phosphorous, depleted uranium and these types of things are  
4 affecting our oceans.

5 We are concerned about earthquakes in California; if  
6 they are setting off torpedoes and missiles like they indicate in  
7 their environmental impact statement. So we have a lot of  
8 issues. Another issue that hasn't been brought up very much is  
9 the weather modification programs. The names that keep coming up  
10 in our research on that is the Air Force, NASA and NOAA.

11 Some of the chemicals that we are testing in tree bark  
12 is aluminum, titanium, barium. We are finding contamination  
13 problems in Lake Shasta. And I videotape, quite regularly, where  
14 the modification program is going over the bay here in San  
15 Francisco. So I really encourage you to start testing the oceans  
16 for those chemicals and other chemicals that are affecting our  
17 marine life. And I am urging you to stop it. Thank you very  
18 much.

19 MS. STRAUSS: Following Dan Wollford, we'll hear from  
20 Andrea Hahn, from Joey Racano, and from Ingrid Overgard. Dan?

21 MR. WOLLFORD: Thank you. Chair Sutley and members of  
22 the task force, my name is Dan Wollford. I am the vice chairman  
23 of the Pacific Fishery Management Council. I am here today

1 representing the council that we've been in active session since  
2 last Saturday. We concluded our meeting this afternoon. We  
3 appreciate the opportunity to make a few comments on the issues  
4 before you today.

5           We are extremely interested in the objectives of the  
6 Interagency Ocean Task Force, the council's role under the  
7 Magnuson-Stevens Act currently aligns very closely to these same  
8 matters. This week, we took action to protect, maintain and  
9 restore marine fish populations. We considered habitat  
10 protection matters and marine spatial planning.

11           The council meeting this week deals as it always does  
12 with a conscientious stewardship of the ocean resources in Nevada  
13 since our mandate is for a sustainable stewardship of the ocean  
14 resources and for concern for the coastal fishing communities.  
15 The council has a successful record for an open, transparent  
16 public process.

17           The public has great confidence in the process, even if  
18 they don't always agree with the decisions we make. And we are  
19 very proud of the accomplishments and we point to our sustainable  
20 health of the fisheries off the Pacific coast. We have two  
21 recommendations that we'd like to make today, specifically:  
22 first, that any new policy or framework that comes from the task  
23 force consider the resources of the council and that they not

1    compromise the successful processes that are in place at the  
2    council nor undermine the authority upon which it is based; and  
3    two, that any new policy, especially on marine spatial planning,  
4    should involve the council processes appropriately as a regional  
5    governing entity.

6            Thank you for the opportunity to meet with you and to  
7    provide the steps.

8            MS. STRAUSS: Thank you Dan. Andrea.

9            MS. HAHN: Good afternoon.

10           MS. STRAUSS: Could you stand closer, Andrea, and maybe  
11   lift the microphone.

12           MS. HAHN: Oh, then I'll be too loud.

13           MS. STRAUSS: No. You won't be too loud.

14           MS. HAHN: All right. Thank you. My name is Andrea  
15   Hahn, and I am an environmentalist from La Jolla, California, who  
16   has been working for many, many years, in an effort to preserve  
17   several of the unique, natural features of our extraordinary  
18   coastline in San Diego.

19           The Bush Administration has not been a golden age for  
20   our national, environmental wealth. It has been like watching a  
21   highly preventable, slow death take place with the instigators of  
22   the misdirection taking pride in the recognition of the mess  
23   they've been making by marking their territory as an animal would

1 with his excrement.

2           We must depart from the radical policies of the Bush  
3 Administration, please. And I thank you all for having us here  
4 today to speak with you about our coastal problems in our areas.

5 In La Jolla we have been working to reestablish a much needed  
6 reserve for a harbor seal colony that has formed a rookery on a  
7 manmade beach now known as Casa Beach. This is on the point in  
8 La Jolla.

9           Formerly intended as a safe swimming location for  
10 children, the La Jolla point is a dangerous area in which to  
11 swim. Hunted to near extinction, the harbor seals returned in  
12 the mid-'80s and early '90s primarily because of the "Marine  
13 Mammal Protection Act." This is a law that is no longer enforced  
14 at the Casa Beach Harbor Seal Rookery. As a matter of fact, to  
15 this day, people can walk all over these animals. As a matter of  
16 fact, even once a gentleman even stepped on a puppy and killed  
17 it. This has been going on for the last five years. There is  
18 virtually no enforcement of the "Marine Mammal Protection Act."

19           MS. STRAUSS: Thank you. I don't see Mr. Racano, but  
20 I'll call him a second time. Joey Racano? Okay. Ingrid.  
21 Following Ingrid we will hear from Jonathan Bishop of the State  
22 Water Resources Control Board and Katherine Coleman of the  
23 California Regional Water Quality Control Board in Santa Rosa.

1 MS. OVERGARD: Good afternoon. My name is Ingrid  
2 Overgard. I'm the public outreach coordinator for the Fairlawns  
3 Marine Sanctuary Association. The waters off the California  
4 Coast are some of the most ecologically important on the planet.

5 A small percentage of our local waters are protected by  
6 designation as national marine sanctuaries: the Gulf of the  
7 Fairlawns, just beyond the Golden Gate, Monterey Bay to the  
8 South, and Cordell Bank off Bodega Head.

9 Sanctuary designation prohibits oil exploration, ocean  
10 dumping, wildlife disturbance, and habitat destruction. These  
11 are all critical to the health of the ocean; and, as Dr.  
12 Lubchenco said, "Healthy oceans matter." For decades before  
13 these areas were protected, they were used as dumping grounds,  
14 subjected to abuse by careless coastal development and the  
15 negative impacts of industry. Now, we must heal our injured  
16 oceans.

17 With increased funding for our national marine  
18 sanctuaries, we can empower the sanctuaries to promote an active  
19 stewardship ethic through programs like the Fairlawns, Beach  
20 Watch Coastal Ecosystem Monitoring Program. We can help heal our  
21 oceans. By funding the Lubchenco Fairlawn Sanctuary Education  
22 and Outreach Efforts, you can foster ocean literacy in bringing  
23 this healthy ocean ethic into schools and homes. Thank you.

1 MS. STRAUSS: Jon.

2 MR. BISHOP: Thank you. My name is Jonathan Bishop.  
3 I'm the Chief Deputy Director for the State Water Resource  
4 Control Board. The state and regional boards are the primary  
5 state agency for implementing the "Clean Water Act" and  
6 protecting water quality in the state.

7 California and the water boards stand ready and willing  
8 to be the pilot and testing ground for integrated policies to  
9 protect our oceans' water quality. For example, in the Los  
10 Angeles area, we've adopted the first trash GMDL to reduce trash  
11 flowing into the ocean, and are taking that statewide. We have  
12 adopted the first in the nation Sediment Water Quality Objectives  
13 protecting communities and are now working on indirect effects  
14 through our ocean plan and marine protected areas called ASPS's.

15 We are now studying and protecting storm water run-off  
16 into those protected areas. We are also working on  
17 groundbreaking science issues for emerging contaminants in  
18 coordination with NOAA and Southern California Coastal Water  
19 Research Programs. They are also evaluating rapid indicators for  
20 bacteria and viruses, and many more policies and scientific  
21 directives. I reiterate, we are willing to be your testing  
22 ground as you move forward with your policies. Thank you.

23 MS. STRAUSS: Thank you. Katherine.

1 MS. COLEMAN: Thank you. Ms. Sutley and distinguished  
2 panel, my name is Katherine Coleman. I am the executive director  
3 for the North Coast Water Board of California, and I've been up  
4 at sort of this high level. I want to come right on down to the  
5 Klamath River.

6 The Klamath River is a microcosm of the  
7 interrelationships between the land and the sea, and rightly  
8 there's been considerable discussion in that watershed about  
9 endangered species, particularly the ocean going salmon. But  
10 discussion regarding the importance of clean water and compliance  
11 with the "Clean Water Act" has been more muted.

12 Let me emphasize, the fishery cannot be restored  
13 without serious reductions in pollutant loads in both states.  
14 Whether the dams stay or go, the water quality agencies and  
15 communities have a daunting job to play. Not only their role in  
16 endangered species protection, but also in restoring water  
17 quality to protect recreation and tribal cultural practices. As  
18 you probably are aware, the state of Oregon and California are  
19 completing water quality restoration plans for the river this  
20 fall and winter.

21 I want to acknowledge the partnership between the  
22 states and thank the U.S. EPA regions, region 9 and 10, for their  
23 unswerving support of us in this daunting process. However,

1 producing these documents is just the first step and we will need  
2 help to implement effective controls on timber, roads, grazing  
3 and irrigated agriculture. And a strengthened federal approach  
4 to non-point source regulation is warranted if we hope to  
5 significantly reduce pollution in the basin.

6 On a positive note I wish to flag to you a successful  
7 monitoring effort that we've had that has been at the watershed  
8 and the whole basin scale, and I draw this attention to  
9 underscore what is possible and urge the Federal Government to  
10 fully cooperate with the Oregon DEQ and my regional board in  
11 giving full weight and importance to the "Clean Water Act"  
12 compliance in addition to ESA compliance in restoring the river.  
13 Both laws would fill a vital role.

14 U.S. EPA needs to take a leadership role in this  
15 process, leading efforts between the states, tribal nations,  
16 federal land management agencies and resource agencies. And so  
17 to sum up, we need better federal legislation for non point  
18 source control and we need better collaboration with the federal  
19 agencies with the state agencies. Thank you.

20 MS. STRAUSS: Thank you. We'll next hear from Melanie  
21 Nutter of Congresswoman Pelosi's office, from Tom Raftican and  
22 from Steve Weisberg.

23 MS. NUTTER: Good afternoon. My name is Melanie

1 Nutter, and I'm the Deputy District Director for Congresswoman  
2 Nancy Pelosi here in San Francisco. I brought a statement from  
3 Speaker Pelosi today to enter into the record.

4 "To the distinguished members of the Ocean Policy Task  
5 Force, welcome to San Francisco, and thank you for your  
6 leadership on ocean issues. I applaud President Obama and all  
7 the participants in today's public meeting for recognizing the  
8 urgent need to develop a forward thinking policy for the future  
9 management of our oceans and our coasts. Without a doubt,  
10 Americans love the sea, flocking to our nation's coastlines to  
11 make our permanent homes or enjoy leisure time. Yet, our  
12 understanding of ocean ecosystems and our stewardship of these  
13 ecosystems lags far behind our stewardship of the land.

14 As a society, we are undereducated on the essential  
15 roles that oceans play in the earth's weather and climate and in  
16 providing sustenance to people all around the world. The time is  
17 long past due for the U.S. Federal Government to develop a  
18 coordinated approach to restoration and management of the oceans  
19 and Great Lakes. Global warming makes this task even more  
20 urgent. It is essential to improve the resiliency of marine  
21 environments to ensure that ocean ecosystems have the capacity to  
22 adapt to changes in sea level, temperature, relocation of  
23 species, and acidity.

1           As part of this process, it is also essential for the  
2 Obama Administration's inner agency ocean policy taskforce to  
3 engage stakeholders from every region of our country and from  
4 every walk of life. It is encouraging that the task force has  
5 embarked upon an aggressive series of public listening sessions  
6 to gather this input and to build substantial recommendations  
7 provided to the congress earlier this decade by the U.S.  
8 Commission on Ocean Policy and the Pew Oceans Commission.

9           I am pleased that you are holding this session in San  
10 Francisco where many organizations and citizens are engaged in  
11 this issue. I understand that the task force is releasing an  
12 interim report today, and I look forward to reviewing the  
13 conclusions. Congress will work closely with the Obama  
14 Administration as needed to assist in carrying out your  
15 recommendations.

16           Thank you again to all those concerned for oceans that  
17 have brought you here to the public meeting. We look forward to  
18 working with you to restore the health of our oceans.

19           MS. STRAUSS: Thank you. Tom.

20           MR. RAFTICAN: Thank you. Chair Sutley and members of  
21 the task force, my name is Tom Raftican from the Sportfishing  
22 Conservancy. I am also a member of the Marine Fish Advisory  
23 Committee to the Secretary of Commerce or MFAC.

1 MFAC has already submitted recommendations to you,  
2 including a strong endorsement of marine spatial planning, but I  
3 would like to say a few words as a recreational angler.  
4 Recreational anglers endorse a strong ocean policy that really  
5 balances a robust conservation initiative with wise use of our  
6 public trust resources. It was a sportsman, Teddy Roosevelt, who  
7 really led the fight for terrestrial conservation in the United  
8 States and access to the great outdoors.

9 We would ask President Obama to simply pick up the flag  
10 and carry on with that valiant charge. Thank you very much.

11 MS. STRAUSS: Thank you. Following Steve Weisberg, we  
12 will hear from Lance Morgan, John Christensen and Andrea Treece.

13 Steve:

14 MR. WEISBERG: My name is Steve Weisberg. I'm the  
15 Executive Director of the Southern California Coastal Water  
16 Research Project Authority which is a regional water quality  
17 research institute. And I would like to reinforce the message  
18 that I was very pleased to see in the draft document, and that's  
19 one that has to do with collaboration and outreach, and working  
20 your programs in conjunction with states and local agencies.

21 Please, as you are developing your policies, think of  
22 the states and the local regions as your incubators, that they  
23 not only provide you the opportunity to call share inputting

1 these processes, but also as a way of testing at the local level  
2 with the groups that you're going to be trying to influence,  
3 ultimately, with the policies that you developed. And I'd like  
4 to give you two examples of where that's already starting to  
5 happen in a very nice way.

6           Pete, I'll pick actually as an example of your  
7 organization, EPA, that is presently rolling out in 2012 new  
8 methods for monitoring beaches, moving off of some of these  
9 culture-based methods, it takes a day or two before we can give  
10 people warnings about the condition of the beach to a molecular  
11 method to provide us the opportunity for doing that in about two  
12 hours.

13           Fortunately, California, because of its heavy  
14 investments in beach and its culture is actually a little bit  
15 ahead, and we're planning to roll those methods out maybe even  
16 two years earlier. This could be viewed as a competition, but in  
17 fact it's viewed exactly the opposite. People like Denise Keener  
18 and Ephraim King from your Office of Science and Technology staff  
19 have actually worked with us in California and they are viewing  
20 us as essentially the incubators - the group that is going to do  
21 it first - where they can learn from us what has worked well,  
22 what is not working as well.

23           I'll go to you, Jane, and pick on what you all have

1 been doing with your muscle watch program. This is a program  
2 where you look at the National Program for Contamination in the  
3 Oceans. You came to California. The feedback you got is a great  
4 program, but you're looking at the wrong chemicals. We're  
5 interested in the chemicals of emerging concern -- not the ones  
6 we've already managed for, but the ones we need to learn how to  
7 manage for.

8           You all modified your program. You are working with us  
9 and doing a test case here in California. It's a cost sharing,  
10 but mostly it's tying in to the local managers who will be using  
11 the information. These are two great examples. I will put  
12 forward to you as you think about your program that there are  
13 probably more opportunities and examples. So as you build your  
14 foundation, focus on how you can turn those opportunities into  
15 examples. Thank you.

16           MS. STRAUSS: Thank you, Steve. Lance Morgan is Marine  
17 Conservation Biology Institute.

18           MR. MORGAN: Yes. Hello. Thank you. I am very happy  
19 to be able to speak to you of the task force. On behalf of the  
20 Marine Conservation Biology Institute, I would like to thank  
21 President Obama for his historic initiative to move national  
22 ocean policy forward.

23           I have taken your caution to task, and have steadily

1 deleted paragraphs as we've gone through the day. But, America's  
2 oceans do provide crucial ecosystem services, such as clean  
3 water, seafood, opportunities for recreation, and importantly  
4 diversity of jobs. Although there are many agencies and laws  
5 that have major effects on our oceans and our country's role in  
6 international waters, the United States has no over-arching  
7 national policy until now.

8           Rather, different interests have been overseeing,  
9 regulated and encouraged by different agencies, with no agency  
10 responsible for protecting and recovering marine biological  
11 diversity. This has created pernicious governing scraps and  
12 overlaps that have allowed and caused the loss of marine  
13 biological diversity and ecosystem services which our nation can  
14 ill afford. Our country needs an over-arching national ocean  
15 policy that will enunciate clearly America's stake in protecting  
16 and recovering the benefits of our living oceans and as public  
17 trust on behalf of all Americas.

18           Ensure sustained leadership from the White House and  
19 policy coordination and integration among federal agencies so we  
20 have an intelligent, unified policy for our oceans, coasts and  
21 Great Lakes, especially in the face of threats such as climate  
22 change and ocean acidification. Our national ocean policy must  
23 first and foremost dramatically strengthen our nation's

1 commitment to the oceans by establishing a clear, national  
2 purpose, and ensuring federal agencies coordinate to achieve it.

3 We must embrace comprehensive, ecosystem based  
4 management as the integrating mechanism to manage our diverse  
5 mosaic of the ecosystems, which are places to protect and recover  
6 the diversity and abundance of marine life and the services they  
7 provide. As we've heard, 20 agencies, something like 120 laws,  
8 policies and programs, affect this.

9 In closing, I'd like to just say that MCBI has  
10 partnered with NOAA on a project called the "Human Use Atlas,"  
11 the "California Human Use Atlas," which has mapped all -- or at  
12 least 30 different human uses -- not just the commercially  
13 important ones. But many of these recreational and other  
14 non-consumptive activities that are crucial to our oceans'  
15 health, and I think this is a program that ought to be taken  
16 nationwide in the coming years and it will be a strong  
17 recommendation of the task force. Thank you.

18 MS. STRAUSS: Thank you. Before we hear from John  
19 Christensen, I just wanted to express my appreciation to  
20 everybody for being succinct and keeping within their time  
21 limits. It means that we've been able to hear from 36 speakers  
22 thus far, and it's about five o'clock. And I am confident that  
23 with the cards in front of me, we will get through the balance.

1 So, John, please go ahead.

2 MR. CHRISTENSEN: Hi, I'm John Christensen. I'm from  
3 San Diego. I'll get to the point. A lot of the broader issues  
4 have already been covered and I am really thrilled. I see a lot  
5 of people that care, and it all starts with caring. But I'm  
6 going to get to the point, and that is the South end of San Diego  
7 Bay. And I'm not talking about Chula Vista. I'm going further  
8 South than that.

9 A lot of people don't realize that in the very South  
10 end -- the South end reaches of San Diego Bay -- there's a  
11 national wildlife refuge; an NWR, that includes a commercial  
12 saltworks, it's currently still operating, and toxic sediment  
13 that NOAA has identified as being the second worst in the United  
14 States. Yet the comprehensive conservation plan of the NWR makes  
15 no note of that. It has no plans to do anything about it.

16 This is a case where the Department of Transportation  
17 through the FAA provided funds to buy a portion of the salt ponds  
18 so they could have wetlands mitigation for the San Diego Airport,  
19 but the airport authority who currently operates the lease, the  
20 lease is supposed to expire in two weeks. Well, as of right now,  
21 they plan on going on a month-to-month with consideration to  
22 renew the lease. That's as of the director of real estate  
23 services last week.

1           On the other hand, the CCP of the NWR is planning on  
2 breaching the berms of the salt ponds. It seems like two  
3 different agencies are on completely different agendas. Will you  
4 take a look at what's going on in South San Diego Bay and can we  
5 have some science that actually comes into play, to please take a  
6 look and assess what is the conditions of those toxic sediments.

7       Why is it that we have to consider salt works that were in an  
8 industrial accident a historical structure. Thanks for your  
9 time.

10           MS. STRAUSS: Andrea. And following Andrea, we will  
11 hear from Marietta Francis, from Leslie Timanin and from Susan  
12 Nutter.

13           MS. TREECE: Hi. I'm Andrea Treece from the Center for  
14 Biological Diversity. I'll just quickly highlight several  
15 points. The first is the need. We have to foster sustainable  
16 fisheries, both by addressing the ecosystem impacts of over  
17 fishing, as well as the impacts of bicatch on non-target species.

18           Broader scale planning with an emphasis on protecting  
19 key habitat areas as well as more comprehensive management of  
20 gear types that have high bicatches, there are two essential  
21 steps to addressing this problem. Another challenge we face is  
22 addressing the threat that heavy ship traffic poses to whales.  
23 Since the fall of 2007, at least 7 whales have been killed by

1 ships coming into the ports of L.A. and Long Beach including  
2 critically endangered blue whales and fin whales.

3           Clearly, we need better coordination between the Coast  
4 Guard and the National Marine Fisheries Service Scientists who  
5 find and implement ways to avoid these tragic collisions, and  
6 that could include use of mandatory ship speed limits, for  
7 example. On a much broader scale, ocean acidification threatens  
8 everything from the plankton at the base of our food chain to the  
9 crabs, muscles, oysters, fish species that form the bases of  
10 commercial fisheries.

11           On the West coast we are already seeing significant  
12 increases in the acidity of our marine waters. The problem is  
13 here now, but so were the tools to address it. The "Clean Water  
14 Act" regulates PH. The "Clean Air Act" can be used to regulate  
15 emissions of carbon dioxide and greenhouse gases. We can't  
16 afford to wait for a better solution that all agencies be  
17 directed to use their existing authorities to address these  
18 problems now.

19           Finally, our national ocean policy must establish that  
20 the management of ocean resources be based on sound science and  
21 the precautionary principle. If we are to do right by the next  
22 generation, we have to give them better than the 50-50 odds that  
23 we often see with current management measures. The health of our

1 oceans depends on our willingness to act honestly and boldly, and  
2 I hope that we are well on our way to doing that today. Thank  
3 you.

4 MS. STRAUSS: Thank you. Marita?

5 MS. FRANCIS: Hi. My name is Marita Francis and I'm  
6 with the Algalita Marine Research Foundation in Long Beach,  
7 California. There is a growing problem of plastic pollution in  
8 our world's oceans. Ten years ago this month, Algalita Marine  
9 Research Foundation made the first research voyage to the North  
10 Pacific Subtropical gyre to document and quantify the  
11 accumulation of plastic debris.

12 Since that first voyage, we traveled over thousands of  
13 miles gathering ocean samples, both on the surface and below the  
14 surface, and collected hundreds of samples, which we've analyzed  
15 in our lab. Every one of those samples contains pieces of  
16 plastic, mostly microplastic, which is less than five millimeters  
17 in size, and that's about the size of your thumbnail. Our  
18 research vessel is currently at sea again, visiting in that same  
19 area, to do sampling, like we did in 1999. And so we'll do a  
20 comparative analysis of that first voyage.

21 Earlier this summer, research expeditions by  
22 world-renowned institutes identified the widespread debris of  
23 microplastic accumulation in the North Pacific gyre. The 2008

1 North Pacific gyre expedition, our research vessel Algalita,  
2 discovered the widespread ingestion of plastic particles by fish  
3 that forage on the ocean's surface, following the vertical  
4 migration of zooplankton. In our trawls, a total of 672 fish,  
5 representing six species, were captured for future study. A  
6 surprising 35% of these fish had ingested Microplastic particles.

7 The recordholder was a two and a half-inch Mactophid which had  
8 83 fragments in its stomach.

9 In any field of study an observation leads to more  
10 questions. The role of microplastic as carriers of persisting,  
11 organic pollutants is critical to the health of our oceans. Do  
12 the microplastic particles contain persistent, organic  
13 pollutants, and do these pollutants migrate into the tissues and  
14 organs of the fish that ingest them. Do these pollutants move up  
15 the food chain as the smaller fish are ingested by larger fish.

16 Until more samples are obtained and additional research  
17 is conducted, we can only speculate as to the magnitude of the  
18 impact on the ocean ecosystem and to a larger extent human  
19 health. The ocean is the final resting place for all of our  
20 waste. The ocean is downhill from everywhere.

21 MS. STRAUSS: Thank you. Leslie Tamanin. Following  
22 Leslie we'll hear from Susan Nutter or Judith Vidaver of the  
23 Ocean Protection Coalition.

1 MS. TAMANIN: Good afternoon. It is truly fortuitous  
2 that I am literally following in the footsteps of Algalita Marine  
3 Research Foundation. My name is Leslie Tamanin, and I am the  
4 Ocean Program Director of seven-generation advisors in an  
5 environmental non-profit.

6 My congratulations to the administration for elevating  
7 the ocean issues. We stand ready to assist you. When you look  
8 at policy initiatives and governance, please prioritize plastic  
9 trash. Like climate change, plastic is global in reach and lasts  
10 forever. It is a health issue, as you've heard, in our waters  
11 our food and our bodies. It's also an economic issue, and  
12 cleaning trash up costs millions of dollars in that capacity  
13 alone.

14 I will look forward to submitting additional comments  
15 on your interim report, but note that in terms of governance  
16 structure, I hope it prioritizes and empowers the ability of U.S.  
17 EPA in particular to work with your task force and other  
18 agencies. They alone have regulatory mandates and tools to  
19 address the land sources of trash. I also hope that as with the  
20 comment previously about local governments that you allow the  
21 involvement of non-profit organizations and observe that in  
22 California it is these organizations that initiated state policy  
23 as well as state legislation.

1           In terms of policy avail yourself of what California  
2 has done, and please do consider target reductions of trash.  
3 This Saturday will be the 20th anniversary of coastal cleanup  
4 day. To commemorate I brought you some bottle-cap bracelets made  
5 from last year's clean-up of one of the top five items routinely  
6 found.

7           Year after year we go to the beach and we clean it up;  
8 and, you all know the definition of "crazy." I'm hopeful that  
9 this taskforce will help endow our nation with a new and brighter  
10 legacy for the next 25 years. Thank you.

11           MS. NUTTER: My name is Susan Nutter and I am from Save  
12 the Whales Again organization on the Mendocino coast in Northern  
13 California. I am especially concerned about the Navy's plan for  
14 weapons testing and the extent of Northwest training range  
15 complex off the Northern Pacific Coast.

16           I understand the Navy has already received permission  
17 to test other range complexes around the continent and I  
18 therefore challenge the necessity to do any weapons testing in  
19 the Northwest range complex. The Navy ignores the scientific  
20 evidence on the impact of their methods and underestimates the  
21 actual number of wildlife that will be affected. We've heard  
22 about 11.7 million marine mammals already.

23           Furthermore, the Navy's plan for mitigating sonar

1 impact on whales and other marine life by using only visual  
2 monitors does not begin to mitigate the impact of sonar use on  
3 marine life. I hereby request that you, the Interagency Ocean  
4 Policy Task Force, curtail the Navy's widespread contamination of  
5 the continents, oceans, and destruction of its marine life.

6 I would like to recommend that the ocean task force  
7 create a panel of marine mammal and oceanographic experts with  
8 regional expertise on marine mammal density, habitat suitability  
9 and/or distribution modeling to determine geographic areas and  
10 seasons that must be protected from the use of sonar by the U.S.  
11 Navy.

12 I applaud President Obama for creating and empowering  
13 this interagency ocean task force to develop a clear policy that  
14 maximizes protections for marine mammals and takes seriously good  
15 stewardship of the ocean environment. Whales, dolphins and other  
16 marine life should not have to be needlessly harmed and killed,  
17 nor should ocean waters in the food chain have to be  
18 unnecessarily contaminated for the sake of military training.  
19 Thank you.

20 MS. VIDAVER: Hello. My name is Judith Vidaver. I'm  
21 the Chair of the Ocean Protection Coalition, and we actually  
22 precede the Ocean Protection Council.

23 We are a citizens group from the Mendocino coast of

1 California and that includes the North coast of California is one  
2 of the foremost productive marine ecosystems in the world. We  
3 have some of the smallest population also.

4 Our waters are among the most pristine in the world;  
5 however, we are seeing the effects of the humans' use of the  
6 ocean. Our recommendations are as evidenced by my shirt is to  
7 stop industrialization of the ocean, and now to stop  
8 militarization of the ocean. For 20 years, the ocean protection  
9 coalition has been defending the North coast of California from  
10 attempts to drill for offshore oil and gas.

11 And, now, we are facing the threats of wave energy  
12 development in our research, which has been quite extensive, has  
13 very, very serious risks to the ocean environment. We are  
14 encouraging this taskforce to be very bold and to be very, very  
15 stringent, not only in the enforcement of existing laws, but also  
16 to revamp our whole look at the ocean environment. The ocean is  
17 the most important element of the planet's life support system  
18 and it is showing symptoms in every single environment and  
19 ecosystem of collapse.

20 We are encouraging the elimination of all  
21 petrochemicals from the ocean; and in fact from the planet. They  
22 have done nothing but harm. It's our number one biggest problem  
23 that we have on the planet. We are also asking the military to

1 help protect us, truly protect us and shift its emphasis on  
2 protecting the petroleum resources to protect us from  
3 environmental collapse.

4           The Navy can go out there and do everything that it can  
5 to clean up and to heal and to restore the ocean environment  
6 instead of continuing to contribute to the problem; and, we're  
7 asking all Americans to also engage in this effort. We need a  
8 complete revamping of our lifestyle here on the planet.

9           MS. STRAUSS: Thank you. Speaking next we have the  
10 combination of Cindy Benner and/or Ellen Chively from La Jolla  
11 Friends of the Seals, however you'd like to use that two minutes.  
12 Richard Smith of the Kato Tribe and Ann Notthoff of NRDC.

13           MS. BENNER: I am Cindy Benner, President of La Jolla  
14 Friends of the Seals in san Diego in San Diego. We're a  
15 non-profit, docent organization dedicated to preserving the La  
16 Jolla harbor seal colony and educating the public about the  
17 rookery.

18           We are pleased that the task force will be recommending  
19 a framework for improved stewardship and effective coastal and  
20 marine spatial planning with a comprehensive ecosystem approach.

21           When the "Marine Mammal Protection Act" was passed in 1972, its  
22 framers had a sense of stewardship that provided protection for  
23 many marine mammals.

1           Unfortunately, at Cassett Beach this protection has  
2 gone awry and there is a need to reconnect with the original  
3 intent of the law. National Marine Fisheries Service has not  
4 been supportive of this rookery and we are deeply concerned about  
5 them not providing protection for these animals. The Southwest  
6 Regional Office and the protected resources office has not  
7 enforced the "Marine Mammal Protection Act" at this beach and  
8 allows continued and daily harassment of these animals and sat  
9 idly by while a state court has ordered the city to break up the  
10 rookery.

11           This office has allowed the city of San Diego to  
12 misinterpret a cause of the "Marine Mammal Protection Act" which  
13 would allow the city to get rid of the entire rookery. It  
14 appears that National Fisheries has given managerial jurisdiction  
15 over the rookery to the city of San Diego, which is not allowed  
16 under the "Marine Mammal Protection Act."

17           NOAA, as well as National Marine Fisheries has been  
18 derelict in their mishandling of their obligations to enforce  
19 federal law, and we hope that through the new task force and Dr.  
20 Lubchenco's leadership as administrator that NOAA will soon get  
21 back on track in setting a new direction downward through the  
22 Office of Protective Resources and National Marine Fisheries to  
23 actually protect these marine mammals and get back to the intent

1 of the "Marine Mammal Protection Act."

2 MS. STRAUSS: Thank you. Ann, before you speak, is  
3 Richard Smith of the Kato Tribe here? If not, following Ann  
4 Notthoff of NRDC we'll hear from Elliott Katz, from Judith  
5 Fitzpatrick, and from Kaitlin Gaffney. Go ahead, Ann.

6 MS. NOTTHOFF: Hi. Thank you for coming to San  
7 Francisco to release your interim report to the taskforce and I  
8 think it's particularly fitting, because certainly the states on  
9 the West Coast of the United States have a forged, innovative  
10 ocean and coastal protection management strategies for decades  
11 now.

12 In 2004 after the Pew and National Ocean Policy  
13 Commissions released their reports about how to improve ocean  
14 management, California was the first state to take up the mantle  
15 and actually create our own Ocean Policy Commission here in  
16 California. I remember at probably the first hearing the ocean  
17 council had we had the chairman of those two commissions, Leon  
18 Panetta and Admiral Watkins, come and implore the California  
19 Commission to come help in Washington to get some action there.  
20 So five years later we are very excited to see all of you hear  
21 and to start moving this forward. Certainly, there's models in  
22 California that we urge you to look at very seriously and take to  
23 the national stage. Our system of establishing marine reserves to

1 protect critical habitat areas is one that is very important to  
2 extend. We also echo the interest in getting some ocean advisor  
3 established. We will submit written comments, but I did want to  
4 talk a little bit about Marine Spatial Planning. We've got to  
5 set up a system that gets away from the chaos that we have  
6 governing our oceans right now what with the 140 laws and 20  
7 different agencies. You've heard that again and again, but I  
8 think repetition does help on that one and I think if we don't  
9 have marine spatial planning, we will have essentially what we've  
10 got now is ocean sprawl. So I just want to encourage you on your  
11 new work. This is actually the first time and the biggest action  
12 of any president ever on the oceans and keep at it. Thank you.

13 MS. STRAUSS: Following Elliott Katz, Judith  
14 Fitzpatrick and Kaitlin Gaffney, we'll hear from David Wilmont  
15 and Kirsten James.

16 MR. KATZ: I guess good evening is appropriate at this  
17 point. My name is Dr. Elliott Katz. I'm a veterinarian,  
18 president and founder of In Defense of Animals. I'm here to  
19 speak on behalf of the Save Japan Dolphin Coalition. It's a  
20 coalition made up of Animal Welfare Institute, Campaign Whale,  
21 Earth Island Institute, Elsa Nature Conservancy, In Defense Of  
22 Animals and Ocean Care.

23 The recent release of the film, "The Cove," has brought

1 attention to the outrageous slaughter of dolphins and whales by  
2 the Japanese community in Tai Gee with the support of the  
3 government itself. Two years of negotiations between IWC member  
4 nations, including the Bush Administration's IWC appointees,  
5 notably Dr. William Hogarth and the Japan Fisheries Agency, has  
6 resulted in no agreement to end the commercial whaling that takes  
7 place in defiance of the moratorium.

8           President Obama himself must engage the new Prime  
9 Minister of Japan, Prime Minister Yukio Hatoyama, to end the  
10 slaughter of dolphins and whales in Japan and in keeping with  
11 international agreements and norms. Since time is limited, I  
12 just wanted to thank previous speakers who spoke on behalf of the  
13 toxic effects that have taken place: the pollutions of our  
14 oceans, whether it be pollution from toxicity, pollutions from  
15 waste, pollutions from sonar and sound; the pollutions go on and  
16 on.

17           I did want to bring up to keep in mind that when you  
18 are making your decisions, make them based on science and  
19 compassion. We are one species among many and that needs to be  
20 kept in mind. The other thing is moving towards a plant-based  
21 diet will help the planet, will help our oceans and will help our  
22 own health. Thank you.

23           MS. STRAUSS: Are you Judith or Kaitlin?

1 MS. GAFFNEY: Kaitlin.

2 MS. STRAUSS: So second call for Judith Fitzpatrick?

3 Okay. Then you are Kaitlin Gaffney.

4 MS. GAFFNEY: Thank you. Good afternoon. My name is  
5 Kaitlin Gaffney. I am speaking on behalf of Ocean Conservancy.  
6 Ocean Conservancy views the work of this task force as critical  
7 to the nation and we thank you for the opportunity to comment  
8 here today.

9 Development of a unified national policy focused on  
10 ensuring the health of ocean ecosystems is both vitally important  
11 and long overdue. We must do a better job of protecting the  
12 health of the ocean because it is so essential to our lives.  
13 This is especially clear to those of us lucky enough to live on  
14 the coast, but is really true for all Americans.

15 The ocean is the engine that drives our climate. It  
16 provides much of the oxygen we breathe, the food we eat, the  
17 medicines we need, and the jobs that strengthen our economy. Our  
18 demands on the ocean continue to grow. This increases the  
19 urgency for improved methods of managing human uses of the marine  
20 environment.

21 Marine spatial planning offers an opportunity to bring  
22 order to the ocean, and we encourage your taskforce to pursue  
23 marine spatial planning through a process that brings together

1 multiple ocean users to develop a balanced plan that is capable  
2 of reducing conflicts, advancing sustainable economic and social  
3 benefit, and most importantly of protecting ocean ecosystems.

4           Here in California, we are already pursuing marine  
5 spatial planning, although we haven't called it that, and I'd  
6 like to offer two such examples. First, California has  
7 essentially zoned its state waters as off-limits to oil  
8 development, recognizing that some activities are just too risky  
9 to allow anywhere.

10           The second example I'd like to offer is the "Marine  
11 Life Protection Act." As you may know, the "Marine Life  
12 Protection Act" focuses on one key aspect of ocean planning. It  
13 identifies proactive protection of a network of key marine  
14 habitats and biological communities to advance conservation  
15 goals. The "Marine Life Protection Act" is not comprehensive  
16 spatial planning, but it's an important cornerstone for any  
17 future efforts in California to do that kind of comprehensive  
18 planning. And, we also believe that the "Marine Life Protection  
19 Act" offers some valuable examples in terms of how to collect and  
20 use geospatial data and also how to involve stakeholders in  
21 planning efforts. Thank you.

22           MS. STRAUSS: Following David Wilmont, Kirsten James,  
23 Michael Levin or Levine, and David Hellvarg.

1           MR. WILMONT: Thank you. My name is I am the President  
2 of Ocean Champions. We've provided detailed comments to the task  
3 force.

4           I won't take your time today or repeat many of the  
5 excellent comments by my colleagues. What I would like to do is  
6 I hope all of us appreciates that we really are here at a special  
7 moment. We've never had an administration, a President, who's  
8 raised oceans to the level President Obama has.

9           MR. WILMONT: So, I think, first I really want to  
10 sincerely thank the President and thank all of you for what you  
11 are doing. I really believed that while we toss out examples of  
12 the clean water act and the clean air act, which are very  
13 applicable when it comes to the oceans, what was really needed  
14 here is to articulate America's vision for our oceans. And while  
15 California frowns on reading and driving, so I only looked at the  
16 interim report briefly this morning.

17           From what I saw in the national policy you are doing  
18 just that. That is an excellent policy based on some very strong  
19 principles. Now, there's a lot of work left to do, and  
20 implementation is going to be the key here. But I just want to  
21 say thank you and look forward to working with you as this moves  
22 forward and you move into marine spatial planning. This is a  
23 fantastic start. It's incredibly important, and the turn-out

1 today shows you how much support there is here in California and  
2 around the country. Thank you.

3 MS. STRAUSS: Kirsten.

4 MS. JAMES: Good evening. My name is Kirsten James and  
5 I'm the Water Quality Director with Heal the Bay. Today I'm  
6 going to touch upon three critical topics that we think need to  
7 be included in the National Ocean Policy. The first thing:  
8 marine debris.

9 You've already heard a lot about marine debris today.  
10 It's ubiquitous. It's all over in the most remote regions of the  
11 world and the most urbanized regions and we need to do something  
12 about it. Saturday is international coastal clean-up day. Last  
13 year we picked up in L.A. County our millionth pound of trash;  
14 and, I'm sure this Saturday we'll be picking up many thousands of  
15 pounds as well.

16 So, you know, the other 364 days of the year where  
17 we're not out there cleaning up the trash we can all assume  
18 pretty much where it's going, and that's our ocean. And so we  
19 need to do something about it. So what can we do? While  
20 California has a great policy that has been vetted with the  
21 public, scientific community that was adopted back in 2008. And  
22 we suggest using this as a model in a template for national  
23 policy.

1           Also bringing EPA more into the picture with their  
2 regulatory capabilities, things like trash, TMDLs, et cetera; so,  
3 we recommend that that move forward. The second issue I want to  
4 address today is nutrients. Excess nutrients in our ocean have  
5 led to the proliferation of dead zones and harmful algal blooms  
6 along our nations' coastlines. The economic, fisheries, nuisance  
7 and public health problems caused by the continued proliferation  
8 of habs are enormous.

9           There is an urgent need for national numeric limits for  
10 nutrients, both nitrogen and phosphorous; and, we ask that the  
11 national oceans policy include a goal to develop region specific  
12 nutrient limits for our nation's coastline. These limits should  
13 apply to all major sources of nutrients including the largely  
14 unregulated Ag sector. And, finally, today we believe that you  
15 should prioritize total maximum daily load. These are critical  
16 for bringing our water quality of our coastline back into check  
17 and these really need to be prioritized. There's far too many  
18 impaired water bodies that do not have a TMDL.

19           Thank you very much.

20           MS. STRAUSS: Michael?

21           MR. LEVINE: Hi. My name is Michael Levine. I'm  
22 Pacific Senior Counsel for Oceana, and I'm here on behalf of our  
23 300,000 members and supporters worldwide who support the creation

1 of a national ocean policy to protect our oceans today and ensure  
2 that they're protected for future generations.

3           On behalf of our organization, we would again like to  
4 commend President Obama for convening this task force and each of  
5 you for traveling here today and listening to each of us as we  
6 stand up and present these comments. We have submitted formal  
7 written comments; and I won't repeat them in the minute and a  
8 half that I have left, but I do want to highlight the fact that a  
9 national ocean policy, such as the one that's been laid out in  
10 the draft report, needs to focus on several key issues that were  
11 identified by the Joint Commission on Oceans: protecting habitat  
12 from threats such as oil and gas development, bottom trawling,  
13 shipping; the prevention of pollution.

14           We've heard a lot to day about plastics, the threats  
15 from oil spills and in addition mercury. And, also, we need to  
16 move toward sustainable fishing, away from the single species  
17 approach and toward ecosystem-based management. We need to focus  
18 on counting, capping, and controlling bicatch, and we need to  
19 address threats from climate change. I'll touch a bit on that in  
20 a minute. As you move toward marine spatial planning, it's  
21 important to remember that we are looking for a tool to protect  
22 the health and biodiversity of the ecosystem, not just zoning the  
23 oceans for its own sake.

1           So, any effort that marine spatial planning needs to  
2 focus on protection of the ecosystem. With my remaining time I'd  
3 like to say that we're here on a very interesting day. Just  
4 today the National Snow and Ice Data Center released its report  
5 saying the Arctic sea ice has reached its yearly minimum. It's  
6 the third lowest in recorded history, and that demonstrates the  
7 dramatic affects that climate change is having on our oceans.

8           We are also here on a day when 400 PhD scientists  
9 submitted a letter to President Obama requesting additional  
10 science focused on the arctic before industrial activities move  
11 forward there; and, we're also three days before the deadline for  
12 comments on a new oil and gas plan for our outer Continental  
13 Shelf. And I'd like to conclude by saying that here this is an  
14 approach that we support, putting science and precaution before  
15 industrial activities are allowed in our oceans.

16           We should bring that approach. On the one hand we're  
17 doing this; and, on the other hand, we need to put that approach  
18 towards oil and gas, those comments that are due on Monday, and I  
19 thank you for your time.

20           MS. STRAUSS: Thank you. Following David we will have  
21 Judy Kelly, Dan Berman, and Janet Carta.

22           MR. HELVARG: Well, thank you. This is like speed  
23 dating with the ocean. My name is David Helvarg. I'm with the

1 Blue Frontier Campaign, marine conservation group. I also write  
2 ocean books like "Blue Frontier", "50 Ways to Save the Ocean",  
3 and "Rescue Warriors: the U.S. Coast Guard, America's Forgotten  
4 Heroes".

5           And on the way over here, at lunch, we  
6 passed -- Michael Moore was having a rally for his next movie,  
7 and he was talking about democracy, about participation. Well,  
8 today you have 500 citizens who came out, and three hours into it  
9 still hanging in, because of the sense of opportunity that you're  
10 providing, that our new national leadership is providing for  
11 change. Just say yes, to say that we do, in fact have the  
12 possibility to turn the tide and to provide the protection and  
13 restoration, exploration of our public seas.

14           So, you know, I'm totally stoked. I think many people  
15 are behind you on this effort. I think it's the result of years  
16 of building. Years ago I saw a banner at the Rio Earth  
17 summit -- 15,000 people marching behind Buddhist monks with cell  
18 phones, saying, when the people lead the leaders will follow.

19           Well, we're finally getting that leadership. And I've  
20 been very complementary, although I'm against dynamite fishing,  
21 let me throw a grenade in the pond, and say that beyond a  
22 national ocean policy, which is desperately needed, we need  
23 leadership. I mean, this is the first time since our last

1 frontier -- in the 1840s we established the Department of  
2 Interior because we had this large new terrestrial frontier.

3 Well, Ronald Reagan in 1983 gave us an exclusive  
4 economic zone six times the size of the Louisiana Purchase. And  
5 this is our new opportunity on a new frontier that we're  
6 discovering new habitats and critters even as we're putting them  
7 at risk of extinction.

8 And we need leadership beyond a policy. For 119 years  
9 the Coast Guard has been doing stewardship security and safety on  
10 our public waters, but they've been sort of an institutional  
11 orphan running from the Department of Treasury to the Department  
12 of Navy, Transportation, now Homeland Security. At the same  
13 time, NOAA, which is supposed to do management and take care of  
14 the oceans, has been dumped -- was dumped by Richard Nixon in the  
15 Department of Commerce.

16 I'd like to see -- speaking of dating, I'd like to see  
17 the Coast Guard taken out of DHS, NOAA taken out of Commerce, and  
18 recognize that we have a new frontier, a new opportunity for the  
19 nation, and create a Department of the Oceans that would really  
20 take management and ownership of our last great public commons.  
21 It's not every nation that gets a second chance on any frontier.

22 Thank you for all your work.

23 MS. KELLY: Thank you. I'm Judy Kelly, Director of the

1 San Francisco Estuary Partnership, one of the nation's 28  
2 national estuary programs. President Obama has said that we  
3 should prioritize upholding our stewardship responsibilities and  
4 ensure accountability for all of our actions affecting ocean,  
5 coastal and Great Lakes resources.

6           Sadly, our actions are currently reflected in the  
7 hypoxic zones of the Gulf Coast and in the immense garbage patch  
8 of the North Pacific gyre. As already stated, coastal zones are  
9 the receiving areas for the nation's watersheds, like the San  
10 Joaquin-Sacramento system.

11           All the environmental policies of the nation flow into  
12 our coastal waters. As part of your task, I request that you  
13 think broadly, and I have two recommendations for you today.

14           First, I suggest that we immediately fix the outdated  
15 laws that impact watersheds and coastal zones such as the  
16 140-year-old mining laws which allow for private gains to be made  
17 on public lands with little revenue to public coffers and much  
18 environmental damage. We can address many of our coastal and  
19 ocean issues by reducing the impacts of our actions upstream.

20           Second, I invite you to apply a new philosophy as the  
21 foundation for this ocean policy and for environmental management  
22 across your agencies, one based on precaution rather than  
23 after-the-fact fixes.

1           Waters draining to our bay and ocean often have serious  
2 pollution problems because at least in part for decades we have  
3 used chemicals without enough regard for their environmental  
4 consequences. PVCs banned decades ago still thoroughly  
5 contaminate our bay's sport fish. Local flame retardant levels  
6 in both humans and harbor seals are the highest in the world  
7 right here.

8           Our current laws and regulations don't always provide  
9 the right tools. The Toxic Substances Control Act grandfathered  
10 in all chemicals created prior to 1976. For new chemicals  
11 suspected of environmental risk, it can take decades to  
12 conclusively link the chemical to environmental harm.

13           Oh, goodness, there's my two minutes. I'd just  
14 conclude by agreeing with previous speakers that what we need  
15 here is a new precautionary principle applied to all the policies  
16 and all the laws and regulations of the United States. And I  
17 thank you so much for being here today. (Applause.)

18           MR. BERMAN: My name is Dan Berman. I'm the Director  
19 of the Morro Bay National Estuary Program and proud to submit  
20 comments -- joint comments from the three national estuary  
21 programs in California, Morro Bay, Santa Monica and San  
22 Francisco.

23           To summarize our more lengthy comments, I think the

1 national estuary program is born of the Clean Water Act, and we  
2 see the Clean Water Act as incredible regulatory tool, and we  
3 urge that the national ocean policy place a renewed emphasis on  
4 the Clean Water Act as a critical tool, including, as Judy spoke  
5 to, regulating mining waste and agricultural runoff, similar to  
6 the point -- the way that other point sources are regulated in  
7 the NPDES system, and tying federal subsidies for those  
8 activities to meeting water quality criteria if we're going to  
9 provide incredible federal subsidies for activities that at the  
10 same time are degrading our waterways and our oceans.

11           There's a history of federal ocean policy focusing in  
12 the offshore as opposed to the near-shore environment, and this  
13 speaks to ecosystem-based management as the three-mile boundary  
14 for state jurisdiction, but our ocean resources are concentrated  
15 in the near-shore environment, as are the threats impacting  
16 them -- pollution, invasive species and resource extraction.

17           Our national ocean policy should fully address these  
18 coastal areas and help guide the necessary federal, state  
19 partnerships needed.

20           Climate change is an overarching threat to -- it  
21 impacts all of the issues we've been talking about today. the  
22 national ocean policy should include coordinated federal  
23 leadership to help inform, guide and support coastal communities

1 in better understanding and planning for climate change. These  
2 adaptation efforts are going to happen at the local level. We  
3 need federal guidance and support to make them happen.

4 We also need to model the inevitable migration of  
5 coastal and aquatic ecosystems as we are doing for terrestrial  
6 ecosystems.

7 Thank you for the opportunity to provide these  
8 recommendations.

9 FEMALE SPEAKER: Following Jena Carter, we have Pamela  
10 Flick, Tim Touve and Heather Curkenin.

11 MS. CARTER: Good afternoon. My name is Jena Carter,  
12 and I serve as the West Coast Regional Marine Director at the  
13 Nature Conservancy. The Nature Conservancy uses a science-based  
14 approach to conserve biodiversity, land and water for nature and  
15 people.

16 We are active in more than 100 marine projects, and  
17 during a recent scientific assessment at Oregon's new marine  
18 reserves at Redfish Rocks, the Conservancy documented 12 species  
19 of seaweeds that have never before been recorded in Oregon, and  
20 one that may be new to science.

21 Just as newly discovered species can spark our  
22 imagination, so too can the Obama administration's early  
23 attention to the oceans. Today's task force recommendations we

1 are pleased to the attention -- are pleased to see the attention  
2 given to protecting and restoring ecosystem health and  
3 biodiversity. We think the new management approaches embraced in  
4 the interim report will be essential in meeting the strong  
5 stewardship vision laid out in the report. And we support  
6 additional funding to help see that vision become a reality.

7           Regarding marine spatial planning, the Conservancy is  
8 fully committed to being a partner in finding solutions and  
9 strategies to make traditional and future uses compatible with  
10 ocean conservation.

11           In a marine spatial planning framework, we see the  
12 following four things: We need an articulation for a federal  
13 commitment to doing marine spatial planning, an outline of  
14 national goals and principles that will guide planning  
15 efforts -- and in our view that should include a goal to conserve  
16 ocean biodiversity, we should refine what the federal process  
17 will be and enable -- create enabling conditions such as funding  
18 and incentives to foster early action.

19           To spark robust dialogues on marine spatial planning,  
20 the Conservancy is hosting a series of workshops in Oregon,  
21 California and Washington. The next one will take place on  
22 October 6th and 7th in Seattle, and we'll host a workshop in  
23 partnership with the West Coast Governors' Agreement, NOAA and

1 MMS on marine spatial planning and alternative energy.

2           The key messages that are already emerging from these  
3 events include the need to be flexible and accommodate local  
4 culture, ocean uses and priorities, and also that we should think  
5 of MSP as an iterative and adaptive process. It is not a  
6 one-time shot that we have to get perfect the first time.

7           In closing, I want to thank you for -- and encourage  
8 you in the coming months to be bold and visionary for our ocean  
9 health. Thank you.

10           FEMALE SPEAKER: Pamela, before you speak, could I ask,  
11 Tim, could you and Joe Geever, since you're both from Surfrider,  
12 could you share your two minutes, if you're both still here?

13           PARTICIPANT: Completely separate, we're actually  
14 different groups.

15           MS. SUTLEY: Different Surfriders. Pamela.

16           MS. FLICK: Good evening, my name is Pamela Flick, and  
17 on behalf of Defenders of Wildlife I welcome each of you to  
18 California.

19           The tremendous diversity of people and interests in our  
20 state mirrors our diverse coastal and marine waters. The  
21 fragility of these marine systems and the variety of the threats  
22 they face demonstrate the urgent need for coherent, precautionary  
23 and science-based management.

1           You are, no doubt, aware of the marine and coastal  
2 issues facing our state. The drilling rigs off our south central  
3 coast and the recent push to expand offshore oil and gas  
4 development continue to concern most Californians.

5           California received a reminder of exactly the type of  
6 threats oil spills pose when the Cosco Busan spilled fuel into  
7 the San Francisco Bay. We believe a policy timeout for any new  
8 offshore drilling of oil and gas in California is a must. We  
9 only have one chance here, and we need to do it right.

10           Of particular interest to Defenders and our members are  
11 water quality impacts to the federally threatened southern sea  
12 otter. The infectious diseases and parasites have contributed to  
13 40 to 50 percent of total sea otter deaths each year since 1995.

14           This is an extremely high disease-related mortality rate for any  
15 wildlife population, let alone one that is protected by the  
16 Endangered Species Act.

17           Improving upon best management practices for land  
18 activities will provide great benefits to improving the health of  
19 our near-shore waters and the wildlife that inhabits them. In  
20 addition, we must prioritize water quality monitoring programs  
21 and ensure that they're adequately funded.

22           Plastic marine debris is also a concern in California  
23 and globally. Responses to this program have included the

1 California Ocean Protection Council's marine debris resolution of  
2 2007, calling for target reductions of trash by 2015. This is a  
3 great example on which federal policy should be modeled.

4           Of course we cannot talk about oceans without  
5 addressing global climate change. Cumulative impacts to our  
6 oceans, inter-tidal and terrestrial habitat resulting from shifts  
7 causes by global warming will be significant. Successful  
8 adaptation of human and wildlife communities to global warming  
9 will require a sustained and concerted effort, and must be a top  
10 priority of any national ocean policy.

11           California has been and continues to be a leader in  
12 addressing these and other threats. Notably, California is the  
13 first state to establish a network of marine protected areas, as  
14 you know. We believe that the California Marine Protection Act  
15 provides a useful example for federal government to follow in  
16 conserving living marine resources under federal jurisdiction.

17           Again, welcome to California and thank you for putting  
18 the protection and sustainability of our marine environment high  
19 on your priority list. We stand ready to work with you and find  
20 constructive solutions to these issues.

21           MR. TOUVE: Tim Touve, Gyre Technical Engineering Team.  
22 I represent a group of professional engineers from Orange County  
23 who think that we have a responsibility to provide technical

1 answers and solutions for the plastic gyre in the North Pacific  
2 Ocean.

3           The plastic gyre is a heap of floating plastic trash  
4 now in the Pacific Ocean which does not degrade. It is estimated  
5 to be twice the size of Texas and is growing larger every day.  
6 It is located north of Hawaii in the vicinity of Midway Island.

7           Our group is currently inventing systems engineering  
8 processes and procedures used to provide high-tech solutions.  
9 And it's going to involve robotics, sensors, computers and  
10 autonomous boats, airplanes and submarines, as well as  
11 legislation support.

12           I would like to request that the Navy join our gyre  
13 technical engineering team in an advisory role to help mitigate  
14 the North Pacific gyre, especially with respect to land-based and  
15 ocean-based recycling.

16           Our engineering team includes engineers from Boeing and  
17 Northrop Grumman, MP Biomedical and metropolitan water district.

18           Our team is currently involved with the Surfrider and Algalita  
19 foundations, state of California, University of California  
20 Irvine, Cerritos College, Orange Coast College and Rancho Santa  
21 Margarita High School.

22           Our first tasks include inventing technical engineering  
23 solutions and empowering the kids through gyre awareness and

1 education because they will inherit garbage island. If you want  
2 to do a couple of interesting things, check the Algalita blog,  
3 the web blog, where Captain Moore and the team, the crew are now  
4 in the Pacific gyre and it's very exciting information.

5 Another thing is at Surfrider, we have a major surfing  
6 event in Huntington Beach this Saturday, and if anybody in the  
7 audience here has a surf board, bring it, it would be a lot of  
8 fun.

9 FEMALE SPEAKER: I don't think you're Heather Curkenin,  
10 but you might be Joe Geever.

11 MR. GEEVER: I am, I think. I'm Joe Geever. Thank  
12 you. My name is Joe Geever and I'm the California policy  
13 coordinator for Surfrider Foundation. And Surfrider is a  
14 non-profit, grass-roots organization of 70 local chapters  
15 nationwide and about 50,000 members all dedicated to the  
16 restoration and protection of our coast and ocean.

17 We're really excited by your efforts to develop a  
18 national ocean policy. As the two ocean reports documented very  
19 convincingly, our coastal and marine resources are under enormous  
20 threats.

21 Of course, some of us old timers remember the Stratton  
22 Report from many years before, and the findings were -- of the  
23 new reports were just confirmation of ongoing degradation and the

1 need for renewed efforts and reform.

2           The latest comprehensive reports highlighted fragmented  
3 governance as one of the roots of our inability to protect our  
4 ocean resources efficiently and effectively. We want to  
5 emphasize that this is not a blame game of the agencies. As far  
6 as we're concerned, for the most part, agencies are carrying out  
7 their mandates, although I guess we see plenty of room for  
8 improvement.

9           But the point is, these efforts aren't coordinated in a  
10 way that gives us the most bang for the buck. In fact, the  
11 discretionary authority and resulting enforcement of one agency  
12 can undermine the efforts of others.

13           So not only do we need overriding policy, but we need  
14 that mechanism to integrate the decisions of the multiple  
15 agencies. I can tell you that you may heard that in California  
16 we're experience a water crisis. I think the truth is we're  
17 experiencing a water management crisis. If you look at what we  
18 do with water here, we've paved all our watersheds, we've filled  
19 all our wetlands, we have treatment plants that pump billions of  
20 gallons of water into the ocean. It looks like water is a  
21 nuisance and we're going everything in our power to get it off  
22 the land.

23           And then we turn around and realize that we've run out

1 of fresh water and our decision -- our solution is to pump it  
2 back out of the ocean, very energy-intensive processes to remove  
3 the salt. We don't have a water crisis here, we have a water  
4 management crisis.

5 And to resolve it, we have to coordinate very many  
6 agencies who control -- look after energy, water, pollution,  
7 watershed restoration, a coordinated effort. And we hope that's  
8 what you're up to. Thank you very much. (Applause.)

9 MS. : Hi, I'm Heather Curkenin. Thanks for the  
10 opportunity to speak today, also for the release of your interim  
11 report, and for continuing to listen after a few hours here.

12 As a representative of the Central and Northern  
13 California Ocean Observing system, or CeNCOOS, supported also  
14 today by our West Coast colleagues in the Southern California  
15 region, SCCOOS, and the Northwest region, NANOOS, I greatly  
16 appreciate your acknowledgement of the value of ocean observing  
17 systems and your interim report.

18 Every mile of coastline within the United States and  
19 its territories is represented by one of 11 regional associations  
20 under the national Integrated Ocean Observing System, or another  
21 acronym for you, IOOS.

22 This regional approach to improve coordination of  
23 observing assets, integration of data and delivery of

1 science-based decision making tools was recommended by both the  
2 U.S. and Pew Ocean Commissions, was called into creation by the  
3 U.S. Ocean Action Plan and was finally recognized in March when  
4 the Obama administration authorized IOOS by passing the  
5 Integrated Coastal and Ocean Observation Act of 2009.

6           So there already exists a national network of regional  
7 associations that can help implement all of the nine priority  
8 objectives outlined in your interim report, specifically these  
9 two -- your number four, under "how do we do business, support  
10 and coordination." Each region is guided by representatives from  
11 state, federal, tribal, local, non-governmental, academic and  
12 research institutions.

13           And also your number five, under "areas of special  
14 emphasis for observations and infrastructure." Following a  
15 national data management and communications plan, each region is  
16 making physical, biological, chemical and ecological data more  
17 available through portals and user-friendly interfaces.

18           IOOS represents the only mechanism for local, state and  
19 federal efforts and dollars to work together to build a strong,  
20 integrated program that can adequately provide ocean information  
21 to key processes such as EBM and marine spatial planning and  
22 address ocean issues like ocean energy, citing climate change and  
23 impacts.

1           The importance of our contributions is recognized in  
2 regional governance structures such as the California Ocean  
3 Protection Council and the West Coast Governors' Agreement on  
4 oceans health.

5           While many funds have supported the development of  
6 regional associations to date, especially the state of California  
7 and the NOAA IOOS program office, our ability to perform at a  
8 hundred percent and in the future is limited by lack of  
9 appropriations and of the lack of participation by federal  
10 agencies.

11           Since dozens of stakeholder groups support our  
12 data -- support us and use our data products to make decisions  
13 that improve efficiency, save money, fuel and even lives, we  
14 recommend the appropriate level of IOOS support in the  
15 President's budget and the inclusion of IOOS in your efforts to  
16 address the priority issues in your interim report. Thank you.

17           MS. PALMER: Hi, I just want to say thank you so much,  
18 everybody, for being here. I appreciate what you're doing and I  
19 appreciate everyone in the audience as well, because what we're  
20 doing today is so important.

21           Since I absolutely support what everyone has already  
22 said, and you've heard a lot of this, a little bit of what I want  
23 to encourage to be part of what you guys are doing is creating

1 policy from the heart.

2           And the reason I say that is because we only protect  
3 what we love and respect. And we only love, respect and value  
4 what we understand, and we only understand what we're educated  
5 about. So what I wanted to say was, can we please focus on  
6 education.

7           Can we even talk to, like, science policies in schools  
8 and teaching people about litter, garbage, waste, things that end  
9 up in the ocean that don't belong there. And I don't just mean  
10 for every public figure and all of the governmental agencies that  
11 have huge responsibilities, like the Navy, the EPA, but also just  
12 regular citizens, so that there's some kind of awareness about  
13 what happens when they walk away from garbage.

14           I was born by the beaches, I've always lived by the  
15 beaches here in California, and it's so shocking to love the  
16 beach and walk around and just see the waste. And that's just on  
17 the beach, that's not even in the water, and that's not even  
18 seeing what's going on underneath the water.

19           So whenever I talk to people and I'm picking them up  
20 after them, I'm saying, why are you walking away from your lunch  
21 garbage, and who is going to pick that up. They're like, oh, oh,  
22 yeah, okay. And I know it's just lack of education, lack of  
23 thinking, okay, I need to be diligent, we all need to be vigilant

1 about picking up after ourselves and others and not just caring  
2 about ourselves but caring for all creatures in the ocean.

3 (Applause.)

4 MS. GROSS: Good evening, my name is Terry Gross and I  
5 represent the Board of Supervisors of a small, rural county,  
6 Mendocino County, which is three hours due north of here. We just  
7 happen to possess a beautiful, over 100-mile, pristine coastline.  
8 And guess what, because of that coastline, we are the target of  
9 offshore gas and oil drilling plans, we are the target of  
10 alternative energy projects and we are also the target of Naval  
11 operations.

12 The Board of Supervisors asked me to express to you  
13 their unanimous opposition to offshore oil drilling off the coast  
14 of Mendocino. That coastline has been protected for decades from  
15 offshore gas and oil drilling due to congressional and executive  
16 moratoriums that expired last year.

17 We're glad you're here. We're glad you're interested  
18 in marine spatial planning, and to do that planning we recommend  
19 that you reinstate offshore oil and drilling so that you have  
20 ecosystems that you can study and protect.

21 Regarding the Naval operations, we are very concerned.

22 This is the first time that we have been notified that there are  
23 going to be sonar, destructive testing close to our coastline,

1 underneath the ocean. We have not had an opportunity to study  
2 the impact both on humans who live on the coast as well as marine  
3 mammals who live underneath the coast.

4 And finally, regarding alternative technology in our  
5 oceans, we respect it, we're interested in it, but we want  
6 comprehensive planning before these devices are placed off our  
7 coastline. And to that end, on Monday, we filed a petition in  
8 the 9th Circuit objecting to FERC's provision of preliminary  
9 permits without doing comprehensive planning.

10 We're glad you're here, we need you here, and we need  
11 to plan for the future. Thank you.

12 MS. RANDALL: Good evening. My name is Sara Randall,  
13 I'm the national organizer for the Commercial Fishermen of  
14 America, which is a nationwide organization made up of commercial  
15 fishing men and women from all around our nation.

16 Obviously, the fishermen have a huge stake in ocean  
17 health, and with the continuing of their livelihoods being at the  
18 foremost of what they would like to be able to see. We're  
19 submitting further in-depth comments, but I would like to just  
20 run through a couple.

21 First and foremost, the fishermen must be at the table  
22 for any discussion involving ocean policy or marine spatial  
23 planning. They're a key part of our food security in this

1 country, they -- last year they provided 8 billion pounds of fish  
2 protein for the people of this country. And our security -- our  
3 food security depends on having a vibrant fishing fleet out  
4 there.

5           With that being said, we also must protect our fishing  
6 grounds and offshore -- onshore infrastructure to be able to  
7 provide -- to get that fish off the boats for us. Mr. Parravano  
8 also mentioned briefly the need for more collaborative research  
9 between scientists and fishermen. There are ways out there we  
10 are looking at trying to fund it. The trust fund is one idea,  
11 but we need to utilize the fishermen's experience and get them  
12 together with the scientists so we can figure out what's going on  
13 with our oceans.

14           We also need to look at -- make a distinction, I think,  
15 between sustainable, renewable ocean use, such as fishing, and  
16 non-sustainable industrial use. I would consider offshore  
17 aquaculture to be part of that -- not part of that, meaning it's  
18 an industrial use that we want to look at because of the  
19 pollution and the disease transfer to wild stocks, as well as the  
20 potential for escapes.

21           Also, any sort of offshore oil development, there's a  
22 lot of pollution associated with that, and seismic disruptions  
23 that we would like to be looked at. And any sort of conversation

1 burden must be shared between all these industries and the  
2 fishing industry.

3 And I just want to say, to finish up, that we would  
4 look forward to working with the task force and bringing  
5 fishermen to the table.

6 MR. COLLINS: Hi, I'm a commercial fisherman. Welcome  
7 to San Francisco. My name is Larry Collins and I'm President of  
8 the Crab Boat Owners Association of San Francisco. This  
9 association of commercial fishermen and women is the oldest on  
10 the West Coast. We have a proud and vulnerable tradition of  
11 fishing out of San Francisco Bay for the last 120 years.

12 Many of my members are second, third and fourth  
13 generation fishing families. We are a small boat, family fleet  
14 that has always fished a portfolio of fisheries. That portfolio  
15 is not looking real good right now.

16 Traditionally, we fish salmon, crab, rock cod, herring,  
17 halibut and we fish albacore when they come in close enough. We  
18 deliver our fish directly into the heart of an urban area where  
19 these public trust resources are consumed locally. This is how  
20 it has always been until now.

21 Why, then, do we have the most sustainable fleet, the  
22 fleet that provides the most fishing jobs, the fleet that gets  
23 the highest price per pound, the fleet with the lowest carbon

1 footprint, the fleet that drives the most visited tourist  
2 attraction in the United States, Fisherman's Wharf, why do we  
3 have that fleet tied to the dock, going broke?

4           The answer to that question is surprisingly  
5 simple -- bad management. When the land-sea interface affecting  
6 our salmon and herring is broken, what do we do? Shut down  
7 fishing. When the dragger fleet overfishes our rock cod stocks,  
8 what do we do? Shut down fishing for 12 years, and when we start  
9 back up we give ownership of these public trust resources to the  
10 boats that causes the problems and we give no access to the small  
11 boat, hook and line fleet that could fish sustainably forever.

12           Even as information from all over the world is pouring  
13 in that catch shares merely consolidates our fish resources into  
14 fewer, bigger pockets and kills our traditional small-boat fleets  
15 and communities, our federal managers forge ahead. This may be  
16 the easiest way for the government to manage fish and it may make  
17 the environmental mafia happy to stop suing nymphs, but it's  
18 disastrous to the traditional fleet, our coastal communities and  
19 the people's resources.

20           We need this administration to listen to all the fleet.

21 I heard the President speaking to workers in the Rust Belt,  
22 saying he respected work, not wealth. We want to work, we're  
23 ready to work, please let us work. Thank you. (Applause.)

1 FEMALE SPEAKER: Is Christy Kroker here?

2 MR. PINSKY: Christy and I were actually going to  
3 present together, and I got nominated to speak.

4 FEMALE SPEAKER: Okay, why don't you introduce yourself?

5 MR. PINSKY: I'm Malan Pinsky. I was going to be later  
6 on this list anyway. Speaking on behalf of five Ph.D. students  
7 from Sanford University's marine station. We're all Ph.D.  
8 candidates in biology.

9 Five months ago a number of us  
10 organized -- co-organized a symposium on climate change and  
11 marine systems with a number of the people in this room, the  
12 results of which will soon come out in the Sanford Journal of  
13 Law, Science and Policy.

14 There's an enormous body of scientific knowledge to  
15 draw on as we manage our oceans, including the design and  
16 implementation of marine protected areas and the effectiveness of  
17 reduced fishing pressure as an approach to sustain and recover  
18 our fisheries. Management of the California coastal ecosystem  
19 and the Marine Life Protection Act can provide useful examples  
20 and often successes as we move forward.

21 For our comment, I'd like to emphasize that uses of the  
22 ocean are intensifying rapidly, including fishing, recreation,  
23 aquaculture, shipping, ocean energy -- and whether we like it or

1 not -- as a sink for atmospheric carbon.

2 A crowded ocean is a very real possibility, and we see  
3 10 or more impacts acting in the same place in many cases.  
4 Existing research suggests that these impacts are much worst in  
5 combination than they are individually. If we want to maintain  
6 the health of our oceans, it will be increasingly important to  
7 manage our oceans according to cumulative impacts rather than  
8 individual sectors. We encourage you to address these explicitly  
9 in your policies.

10 It seems likely that a robust and ongoing monitoring of  
11 marine ecosystem health will be an important tool as we move  
12 forward, potentially in combination with development of a clear  
13 marine ecosystem health standard. I realize this is a challenge,  
14 but many of the scientific minds in this room, including on your  
15 panel, have the experience to help define this type of standard.

16 Thank you again, and I applaud your efforts to create a  
17 national policy on the oceans. (Applause.)

18 MR. SCHUCHAT: Thank you. Good evening. My name is Sam  
19 Schuchat. I'm the executive officer at the California State  
20 Coastal Conservancy. Although climate change is a global  
21 phenomena, adaptation to climate change will take place largely  
22 at local scales, and I want to talk about a project that we have  
23 going here in the Bay Area.

1           It's called the Bay Area Ecosystems Climate Change  
2 Consortium. It includes my agency, the California Department of  
3 Fish and Game, two units of the National Park Service, the Golden  
4 Gate National Recreation Area and the Point Reyes National  
5 Seashore, NOAA Coastal Services center -- (inaudible) -- the Gulf  
6 of the Farallons Marine Sanctuary, PRBO Conservation Science, San  
7 Francisco State University, the Fish and Wildlife Refuge Complex  
8 and the USGS Pacific Southwest area.

9           We are focused on the area from the deep ocean to the  
10 tidal wetlands of San Francisco Bay to the adjacent uplands, so  
11 we are attempting to link the land and the sea. And the mission  
12 of this consortium is to assess climate change at a regional  
13 scale, conduct scientific research and monitoring, develop  
14 predictive models for land and water managers, help guide  
15 resource managers in employing, testing and improving adaptive  
16 management strategies, and conduct outreach to local  
17 stakeholders.

18           So I'm going to leave you with a description of this  
19 effort, and my two requests for you are that as you develop a  
20 national policy framework, I hope that you will leave room for  
21 these kinds of federal, state, local and NGO regionally focused  
22 efforts.

23           And I also want to plea on behalf of our federal

1 colleagues, as you all know budgets are what governments actually  
2 do, and we need our federal partners to be adequately funded.

3 Thank you very much.

4 MR. MARUSKA: Thank you very much for being here with  
5 us today. I am Don Maruska. I'm the strategy and fisheries  
6 policy advisor for the San Luis Obispo Science and Ecosystem  
7 Alliance. We're a group of scientists, fishermen,  
8 environmentalists, businesspeople, elected officials on the  
9 central coast of California all working to put ecosystem-based  
10 management principles into practice.

11 We were recognized by the Joint Ocean Commission  
12 Initiative report, One Coast One Future, as being a prime example  
13 of successful application of these principles. So what I'd like  
14 to do is really talk to you about three recommendations that come  
15 from our experience that we would make to you, and with an offer  
16 on each of them to collaborate with you to demonstrate how they  
17 could be successful.

18 The first is to collaborate on integrated ecosystem  
19 assessments. We have, in the past year, gone through a process  
20 with the open standards for conservation to establish a strategic  
21 plan that's much like the process of the Integrated Ecosystem  
22 Assessments. It's very helpful in bringing multiple stakeholders  
23 together to focus on key issues, identify threats and

1 opportunities and concrete action plans to go forward. We'd like  
2 to partner with NOAA and others in doing this on a broader,  
3 regional basis.

4           The second recommendation is to obtain funding for  
5 continued and expanded cooperative fisheries research. You've  
6 heard that from a number of different constituencies here today.  
7 we have been engaged in a very productive cooperative fisheries  
8 research program over the last three years using standardized  
9 protocols that are statistically valid, that have been reviewed  
10 by NOAA fisheries scientists, and we've worked with hundreds of  
11 commercial and recreational fishermen, and these have been highly  
12 successful endeavors leading to peer-reviewed reports and to  
13 stock assessment usages.           And the third is that we'd  
14 like to work with you in really bringing coordinated ecosystem  
15 action, to be able to develop regional partnerships, regional  
16 stewardship councils, if you will, to engage federal, state and  
17 local governments and stakeholders in really bringing these  
18 results into successful actions that we achieve conservation  
19 objectives. Thank you very much.

20           MR. POOLE: My name is Dick Poole. I am a salmon  
21 fishing equipment manufacturer located here in Northern  
22 California. I want to talk about the salmon. We have a special  
23 problem in this state on the salmon.

1           As has been mentioned by a number of people, the salmon  
2 industry is shut down here. It has been shut down for two years.

3       Our problem -- and we are hopeful you can help -- is that the  
4 inland waters where salmon begin their life cycle and end their  
5 life cycle have not been protected, and we are urging some  
6 protection.

7           We have prepared written comments and we have submitted  
8 those. I won't go into the details, I just want to mention a  
9 couple things. We put together comments from nine  
10 separate -- all the major salmon fishing organizations in  
11 Northern California, commercial or recreational, the seafood  
12 industry and so on. So we have nine organizations representing  
13 over 300,000 people and 2,000 businesses operating in the state.

14           There are two issues where I'd like to comment. We  
15 have tracked the biological opinion that the National Marine  
16 Fisheries Service has issued in June. We support that very  
17 strongly. We've had regular meetings and briefings with the  
18 scientists of NMFS for the last three years. We've seen their  
19 evaluations. We strongly support that biological opinion, and we  
20 would urge the task force to do the same. We are very distressed  
21 to see it being attacked. We think it's good science. We think  
22 it will solve a number of problems, so we urge that.

23           One other things we urge, the salmon run that has most

1 precipitously dropped is the fall run. Is it not listed, it  
2 doesn't get the assistance of the ESA, and we have put some  
3 ideas -- our ideas closely parallel what the Pacific Fishery  
4 Management Council has outlined on some strategies that will help  
5 that fall run.

6 Thank you very much.

7 MR. JOHNSON: Good evening, I'm Richard Johnson,  
8 representing the Pacific Coast Ocean Sanctuary Petition. I  
9 passed some out. Hopefully they're in the audience here. For  
10 the last couple of months, we've been getting thousands of  
11 signatures on this petition, which is headquartered in beautiful  
12 Mendocino County that Terry Gross represents.

13 To President Barack Obama: whereas the West Coast of  
14 the United States of America finds itself the target of a U.S.  
15 Navy training raid expansion, offshore oil and gas leasing sales  
16 by the Interior Department's Minerals Management Service and  
17 Federal Energy Regulatory Commission hydrokinetic energy pilot  
18 projects --

19 Whereas the Northwest Training Range expansion would  
20 transform our peaceful coast into a war fighting asset, bringing  
21 a conflict in south-central Asia into our front yard and cause  
22 significant and permanent disruption of fisheries and marine  
23 life, decimate our tourism economy and ruin our quiet enjoyment

1 of the ocean --

2           Whereas oil and gas drilling on our outer continental  
3 shelf would create decades of acute environmental risk and  
4 permanent deterioration of the quality and integrity of the  
5 marine environment for only a few weeks of national petroleum  
6 consumption --

7           And whereas FERC has rushed into the business of  
8 granting hydrokinetic permits on a case-by-case basis with no  
9 regard for the due process of objective rulemaking and the  
10 environmental impacts of wave buoy or ray deployment, we would  
11 require significant industrial development -- and these wave  
12 buoys would require significant industrial development of local  
13 harbors --

14           Whereas the cumulative impact of these projects are not  
15 considered by any of these agencies and would militarize and  
16 industrialize our coast to a vast extent in undesirable ways with  
17 which we profoundly disagree, we the people -- our needs, our  
18 feelings, our unique culture, economy and ecology are being  
19 ignored by the federal government in pursuing these projects.

20           We, the undersigned West Coast voters urgently insist  
21 you postpone all these projects indefinitely for further study.  
22 All this nice talk about developing policy, and you know darn  
23 well what's going to happen when the special interests way in.

1           The process of policy development is going to be  
2 delayed for decades while in a few weeks the Secretary of the  
3 Interior is going to announce whether or not to proceed with  
4 three oil and gas leasing sales off north and southern  
5 California, and the Navy is going to begin spraying the ocean and  
6 firing artillery and depth charges and letting off sonar bleeps  
7 starting in November and the FERC is already granting these  
8 permits. We're asking you to ask Obama just to stop until we  
9 develop a policy. (Applause.)

10           MR. HEMPHILL: Hello, my name is Arlo Hemphill and I am  
11 speaking to you today as a member of the World Commission on  
12 Protected Areas High Seas Task Force. Thank you for this  
13 opportunity.

14           Just as we now recognize that the large-scale processes  
15 and interconnectivity of the oceans needs to be managed at a  
16 national level, we must also recognize that these same processes  
17 extend beyond our national jurisdictions.

18           The high seas essentially comprehensive governance, and  
19 what governance there is on the high seas is from outdated,  
20 centuries-old concepts of right of safe passage. As we move  
21 towards a national ocean policy for the United States, the U.S.  
22 has a really special opportunity to take a leadership role in  
23 ecosystem-based management of the high seas.

1           To do this, we urge the United States to ratify the  
2 United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea. And  
3 furthermore, upon doing this, I would like to urge the United  
4 States to support a law of the sea implementing agreement  
5 providing for an ecosystem-based management regime for the high  
6 seas based on the precautionary principle and incorporating  
7 marine spatial planning.

8           And finally, this framework should provide for a global  
9 system of high-seas marine protected areas. Thank you very much.

10           MS. SMITH: I'm Meredith Smith. I am a mother and a  
11 restaurant owner in the beautiful town of Mendocino. I'd like to  
12 speak a little anecdotally about what's going on up there.

13 Yesterday I had someone come in and tell me they'd been on a  
14 kayak trip and had witnessed three or four dead animals, and  
15 asked me if that was normal for where we live. I think it's not.

16           I think we need -- one suggestion I would like to make  
17 is that we have a local clearing house for anecdotal reports of  
18 mammal death. I don't think there's any place for people to call  
19 or for us to find out why these things are occurring.

20           I'm very alarmed by the expansion of the military  
21 training and testing program off the coast of Mendocino and  
22 Northern California in general. We know there's no dotted lines  
23 in the ocean, so we need to address it also for Humboldt County

1 and elsewhere.

2 I also heard yesterday on the California Report a story  
3 about a ship called the Ralston that had been sunk 170 miles off  
4 the coast of California, complete with World War I toxic nerve  
5 gas agents that are beginning to seep into the environment. And  
6 they questioned what has happened to all of these scuttled ships  
7 with all of their toxic elements? And that makes us wonder,  
8 what's the Navy going to do with all of the toxic elements that  
9 may be the byproduct of increased military training off our  
10 coast.

11 There's a 1,003 page environmental impact report the  
12 Navy issued, and I appreciate it. I went over it fairly  
13 carefully, and it said that it's incumbent on the country -- our  
14 county is broke -- to deal with biohazardous waste in the event  
15 of its being in the air and oceans of our county, which of course  
16 it will be.

17 I would like to know to whom the Navy is responsible.  
18 Does the Navy have to follow any environmental guidelines or can  
19 it always take an exemption in the name of homeland security?  
20 And I would like to say that, in my case, the military is the  
21 greatest threat to the security of my home. Thank you.

22 (Applause.)

23 MR. SADOWSKI: Thank you. Richard Sadowski, co-author

1 of The Blue Carpet Treatment Program, a proposal for development  
2 of a new approach for water cleanup and management.

3           If we take a look at our oceans and treat it like a  
4 patient in need of an oceanic care plan, what we need is  
5 basically a new way of looking on how we're going to deal with  
6 the pollution. And the foundation of the Blue Carpet Treatment  
7 Program is the national green standard of performance. And  
8 basically the national green standard of performance replaces the  
9 antiquated wastewater management policy of the 20th century with  
10 a 21st century practice of new water resource recovery at the  
11 source.

12           And that is what the foundation of the Blue Carpet  
13 Treatment Program needs. It needs adoption of the national green  
14 standards of performance for -- from the ocean task force. What  
15 it will do is, for California, we want to implement a pilot  
16 project here in California in Estero Bay -- we're both from north  
17 Morro Bay -- and also include Hawaii, where President Obama is  
18 from, and incorporate that slice of ocean and monitor it for the  
19 carbon sequestering abilities with the circular sea initiative of  
20 Dr. Francis Jeffries.

21           I'm going to submit this in the public record for  
22 review, and one of the major things that the Blue Carpet  
23 Treatment Program does is it takes into the carbon sequestering

1 capabilities of a state marine reserve. The Blue Carpet  
2 Treatment Program basically uses the state marine reserves as a  
3 hub where you have balance of carbon sequestering and the carbon  
4 footprint from development and mitigates that.

5 Thank you very much.

6 MR. ALLEN: I'm Bruce Allen, co-founder of SOS  
7 California, and a Santa Barbara resident. An important set of  
8 facts unknown to most environmental policy makers is that Santa  
9 Barbara offshore oil and gas production has actually been drying  
10 up this planet's second largest natural offshore oil and gas  
11 seeps and its associated air and water pollution for the last 45  
12 years.

13 There are about 1,600 active natural oil and gas seeps  
14 off this coast that seep approximately 200 barrels of oil per day  
15 into the marine environment along a hundred mile stretch of  
16 coastline. This area has the highest concentration of U.S.  
17 marine hydrocarbon pollution, and it's all from natural seeps.

18 So statements you may hear that the need to protect the  
19 ocean, air and water quality from offshore oil production off the  
20 coast of Santa Barbara has it backwards. It's the offshore oil  
21 production that has been reducing the marine pollution.

22 This annual natural oil seepage volume equals the  
23 entire '69 oil spill, and every four years equals the Exxon

1 Valdez spill. Long-time Santa Barbara residents know from  
2 experience that up until the 1960s, our beaches were an oily mess  
3 during the offshore natural oil seeps. It is well known to  
4 residents that over the last 40 years, the amount of oil washing  
5 up on our beaches has been declining. These observations are  
6 confirmed by UCSB research sponsored by the Minerals and  
7 Management Service, and they will confirm this data.

8 More wildlife has died from these oil seeps than all  
9 California offshore oil spills combined. In January 2005, for  
10 example, an increase in offshore seepage killed about 5,000 sea  
11 birds, creating a 25-mile oil slick. Where was the media  
12 attention on this? The '69 spill, in comparison, killed less  
13 than 3,800 birds. In the last 40 years, there have only been 850  
14 barrels spilled offshore due to oil production compared to 2  
15 million barrels from natural seepage.

16 Eleven of 13 OCS off-limits offshore reserves in this  
17 area are overlaid by active seeps, seeps that would be  
18 permanently reduced by offshore extraction. I urge, in  
19 conclusion, I urge the ocean task force to consider the  
20 beneficial, long-term environmental impacts from reduced oil and  
21 gas seepage pollution from previous and future offshore oil and  
22 gas production in the offshore Santa Barbara area. Thank you.

23 MS. WASHKOVICH: It's exciting when your name gets

1 called. Good evening, Madam Chair and the task force members.  
2 My name is Alicia Washkovich. I am a volunteer member of the  
3 Sierra Club's Marine Wildlife and Habitat Action Team. I'm also  
4 a former Naval officer and Naval oceanographer. I have an  
5 abiding respect and love for the oceans and its inhabitants.

6 So the Sierra Club is not just about hiking mountains,  
7 we love the ocean, too, and we're on record for supporting the  
8 recommendations for the adoption and implementation of oceans,  
9 coasts and Great Lakes national policy, which is a comprehensive  
10 document developed with the participation of many NGOs large and  
11 small.

12 We appreciate this opportunity your task force is  
13 providing for this marathon of public participation through a  
14 regional meeting. We also had requested one in Hawaii, and just  
15 realize that you guys did set one up, so thank you for listening  
16 to our recommendation.

17 As you are well aware, each region of the country has  
18 unique issues and concerns, even as they face such common threats  
19 as climate change, sea level rise and ocean acidification. So we  
20 plan to consult among our chapters and groups and will be  
21 submitting written comments as necessary to address issues and  
22 concerns we may identify from this consultation.

23 I had a few here, I'm just going to touch on one that I

1 don't think we've mentioned previously. We do recognize and note  
2 the protection of costal wetlands and monitoring the development  
3 of such areas, specifically as they provide a natural barrier  
4 against natural disasters such as hurricanes and floods. We  
5 think that's pretty important.

6           And we recognize the implementation of the national  
7 policy will also require participation by state and local  
8 authorities. We look forward to engaging our grass-roots  
9 organization in the efforts that will be required at all levels  
10 of government and protect our valuable ocean, coastal and Great  
11 Lakes resources.

12           The Sierra Club has chapters in each of the states of  
13 the union and in the commonwealth of Puerto Rico, so we're here  
14 to help. Thank you for the opportunity to present these  
15 comments.

16           MR. BREEN: Thank you. My name is Bob Breen. I'm a  
17 member of the Gulf of the Farallons National Marine Sanctuary  
18 Advisory Council, and I also have managed a fish and game marine  
19 protected area in Moss Beach, about 30 miles down the coast.

20           During my 35 years in Moss Beach, we recorded the  
21 catches of more than 8,000 fishermen who visited this marine  
22 park. We observed significant declines of all species of fish  
23 and abalone during this time. For example, surfperch, once the

1 most abundant of fish caught, declined 89 percent in a 13-year  
2 period. Several species now, once common, are now rare at Moss  
3 Beach.

4 This is an example why a comprehensive ocean management  
5 plan is important and a critical part of any ocean management  
6 strategy is the establishment of a network of marine protected  
7 areas.

8 The MPAs that we designed in California followed the  
9 science and met all the goals of the state's Marine Life  
10 Protection Act. The best available science was used to design  
11 MPAs for the California coast, and this network of marine  
12 reserves acknowledges the connectivity of marine populations and  
13 larvae dispersal patterns.

14 From a scientific perspective, we now know enough to  
15 significantly improve the conservation and management of our  
16 marine resources, including fisheries, through the implementation  
17 of marine ecosystem-based management strategies and marine  
18 reserves are going to be an essential part of this concept.

19 As an ocean user and a long-term manager of marine  
20 protected area, I ask the task force to adopt an ecosystem-based  
21 management plan that includes establishing marine MPA networks as  
22 part of a national ocean policy. Thank you very much.

23 (Applause.)

1           FEMALE SPEAKER: If I could go over a procedural point  
2 with the audience, and beg your indulgence. Let me concur with  
3 you and with the task force itself. It's 6:30 p.m., which is  
4 when we thought the hearing might have ended. We are planning to  
5 hear from the following 13 speakers whose names I have called  
6 out, and that will get us close to 7 o'clock. We have a firm out  
7 deadline, which means the AV crew has to be totally packed up and  
8 out of the room by 7:30, and they need half an hour. So for us  
9 that means we should complete hearing testimony by 7 o'clock.

10           The task force, though, is very concerned that there  
11 are another 35 to 40 people who did fill out cards. I thought I  
12 would let you know who you are, because I don't think that we  
13 will be able to take your spoken testimony tonight, but if you  
14 could bear with me and perhaps stand, it would give you the  
15 option of not staying and being frustrated that you didn't get to  
16 speak.

17           But I just want to try that recommendation out on you,  
18 given the logistics that we face here. It certainly allows you  
19 to still present written comments and to send comments in online.

20           Let me call your name, and if anyone vigorously  
21 objects, now would be a good time. John Racanelli of the Deep  
22 Search Foundation -- I will just go through all of these, and  
23 then if you have a vigorous objection, raise your hand as soon as

1 I'm done.

2 Doug Woodering of Project Haise (phonetic), Mary  
3 Crowley of Project Haise, Catherine Rhodes of Seismic Nav,  
4 Richard Hagel of West Coast Fishermen --

5 AUDIENCE MEMBER: Well, I --

6 FEMALE SPEAKER: Could I just finish? I said I'll just  
7 finish and then you can raise your hand if you have a really  
8 serious objection. Peter Grenell of San Mateo County Harbor  
9 District, Marla Joe Boutin of New Water for Peace, Tom Murphy of  
10 National Standards Enforcement Agency, Robin Markee, California  
11 Gray Whale Coalition, Bruce Wolf of the San Francisco Regional  
12 Water Quality Control Board, Marcy Keever, Friends of the Earth,  
13 Marie Logan of Food and Water Watch, Adina Abellis of the Center  
14 for Ocean Solutions, Paula Shultz of the National Standards  
15 Enforcement Agency, Jeff Lind of S Lombardi and Associates, Mark  
16 Gornec of Coastside Fishing Club, Christine Keezer,  
17 unaffiliated, Heinz Dolan of the Mendocino County Cleaner Future,  
18 Laura Casa of Save our Shores, Vivian Warkinton, concerned  
19 person, Dan Hunt of the San Francisco Crab Boat Owners  
20 Association, Jennifer Sour, a citizen, Laura Cleveland, a  
21 citizen, Greg Dale, Pacific Coast Shellfish Growers Association,  
22 Terry Shore of the Turtle Island Restoration Network, Christopher  
23 Chin of the Center for Ocean Awareness, Research and Education,

1 Sarah Matsumoto of the Endangered Species Coalition, Devon  
2 Bartley of the California Department of Fish and Game, Paul  
3 Johnson of Monterey Fish, Robert Cauphlin of the Surfrider  
4 Foundation, John Mackosker of the California Academy of Sciences,  
5 Alison Chan of Save the Bay, and Terrance Gosliner of the  
6 California Academy of Sciences.

7           If I just called your name, would you stand? Is there  
8 anybody who has a very strenuous objection to not testifying  
9 given our time constraints? Could you raise your hands really  
10 high? So I'm counting seven. I just want to let you know, I  
11 can't promise that we can keep going, but we'll do our best.

12           AUDIENCE MEMBER: (Inaudible.)

13           FEMALE SPEAKER: I can certainly -- the next 13 people  
14 who we can definitely accommodate before 7:00 are Jeff Bome,  
15 speaking next, Marcelo Gutierrez, speaking thereafter, Diedre  
16 Dejardin, Jeff -- excuse me, Dave Bitz, Chris Cohen, Paul Stang,  
17 Jenny Miller-Garmendia, Dave Tool, Madeline Perkins, Miriam  
18 Gordon, Carol Meyer, Susan Nagel, Julie Drucker. Those are the  
19 entirety of the cards.

20           We definitely heard everyone who filled out -- will  
21 have heard everyone who filled out a card up until 2 o'clock. So  
22 let's keep going and do our best, but I have to say that come 7  
23 o'clock we have some very definite logistical concerns.

1           If, on the other hand, you're one of those persons who  
2 is going to speak next and you'd like to abbreviate your remarks  
3 yet further in order to accommodate a few more, we would be  
4 grateful.

5           So would Jeff Bome followed by Marcello Gutierrez and  
6 Deidre Desjardin, if you would speak next. Jeff Bome passing.  
7 Marcello Gutierrez.

8           MS. DESJARDIN: I'm Deidre Desjardin. Now seeing the  
9 other speakers, I thought I'd jump in very quickly. I also  
10 wanted to speak about the salmon run crashes in two major rivers  
11 in California. Some of the points have been addressed already.  
12 Both the Klamath River salmon runs, formerly the third-most  
13 abundant run and Sacramento River salmon run, the most abundant  
14 run on the West Coast are seriously threatened and at fractions  
15 of their historic populations.

16           And both are because of increased diversions for  
17 agriculture and drought. And actually all of the world's rivers  
18 right now are suffering these kind of impacts. We think it's  
19 from climate change. And I believe that we need an integrated  
20 water policy that looks at entire riversheds and considers them  
21 to be part of the ocean ecosystem.

22           I think that the collapse of the herring population in  
23 San Francisco Bay may also be related to the record diversions of

1 fresh water and the record low flows because of drought  
2 conditions. Fresh water not only flushes out toxins in the Bay  
3 but also the herring breed in low salinity water.

4 I want to really encourage the Obama administration to  
5 consider the entire ecosystem. We know that these estuaries and  
6 rivers are very important for providing nutrients and as  
7 nurseries for many fish populations. And I do not think that  
8 many of our fish populations could survive the double-stresses of  
9 having the ocean stressed by acidification and change in  
10 upwellings of ocean nutrients and other facts of climate change  
11 and the second impact of severe stresses from diversions of fresh  
12 water in their breeding grounds.

13 MR. BITZ: Thank you for being here. My name is Dave  
14 Bitz. I'm a commercial salmon and crab fisherman based in  
15 Eureka. I'm also President of the Pacific Coast Federation of  
16 Fishermens Associations, which attempts to represent commercial  
17 fishing men and women from -- in ports from Santa Barbara to  
18 Eureka, California. Almost all of us are small boat mom and pop  
19 operations.

20 If the ocean policy that you're contemplating is going  
21 to be -- have ecosystem management as one of its elements, then  
22 clearly the estuaries have to be considered as part of that  
23 ecosystem. And I'm going to go straight to the estuary of the

1 Sacramento and San Joaquin Rivers, and say that after many  
2 strikeouts, in June of this year the National Marine Fisheries  
3 Service finally hit a home run with the biological opinion on the  
4 Delta.

5           And that opinion, as you know, has been seriously and  
6 scurrilously attacked by agribusiness interests from the San  
7 Joaquin Valley. At PCFFA, in concert with our sport fishing and  
8 environmental NGO friends, we are doing what we can to counter  
9 those attacks. We will do more, we must do more because our  
10 livelihood, our future as salmon fishermen depends on restoring  
11 the Delta to the healthy estuary that it once was.

12           And in the Delta the issue is not, as you may have  
13 heard, fish versus farms or fish versus people, the issue is how  
14 do we use our very limited supply of fresh water in California so  
15 that we can have both abundant, Delta-dependent fisheries and  
16 prosperous agricultural communities throughout the Central  
17 Valley.

18           I hope that this task force can help us find the path  
19 to that result. Thank you.

20           MR. COHEN: Members of the task force, thank you very  
21 much for your patience and thank you for the opportunity to speak  
22 with you. My name is Chris Cohen, and I am here representing  
23 Scripps Institution of Oceanography as well as the Southern

1 California Coastal Ocean Observing System, or SCCOOS, which as  
2 you know is one of the three West Coast regional associations  
3 within NOAA's IOOS program. You heard from Heather Curkerin from  
4 CeNCOOS earlier, and I won't repeat what she said.

5 On behalf of Scripps as a whole, I want to express our  
6 support for your efforts to improve the science and  
7 ecosystem-based management of the nation's marine resources.

8 We commend your approach, we offer our assistance and  
9 we look forward to working with you.

10 On behalf of SCCOOS, I want to specifically express our  
11 support for the area of special emphasis number five regarding  
12 ocean, coastal, Great Lakes observation and infrastructure. And  
13 I'd like to point out that NOAA's investment in regional  
14 observations through its IOOS program is already facilitating the  
15 use of marine spatial planning around the country.

16 I'll just give one example that's related to human use  
17 of the ocean and also related to Captain Jordan's comments  
18 earlier during the panel. Based on integrated oceanographic data  
19 provided through SCCOOS, funded by the state of California and  
20 NOAA, mariners in the harbors of Los Angeles and Long Beach are  
21 deciding when and where to transfer pilots based on real-time  
22 wave and current data and forecast models. And this results in a  
23 significant savings from conserved fuel. So private

1 businesses and the public are taking advantage of these  
2 ocean-observing systems and these integrated geospatially  
3 referenced data to increase their safety and increase their  
4 bottom line. Ocean observing systems are guiding human use of  
5 the ocean.

6 Further efforts in ecosystem-based management and  
7 science-based marine spatial planning can build on this  
8 foundation of observation systems created by NOAA, state and  
9 local investments.

10 So in conclusion, the environmental data provided  
11 through these regional ocean observing systems will be critical  
12 in assessing management effectiveness, facilitating adaptive  
13 management and enabling effective marine spatial planning. Thank  
14 you very much.

15 MR. STANG: Hi, I'm Paul Stang, Stang Consulting, and  
16 I'm glad to be able to speak with you. I'm speaking as a  
17 resident of Alaska. I have three topics, first is ocean science.

18 Someone said we should suspend activity in the ocean  
19 until we have more complete science. This doesn't make sense.  
20 The nation has sent billions on ocean research. Much more is  
21 needed, but stopping activity until we have full scientific  
22 understanding isn't a wise choice.

23 The Congress has a long record of cutting science

1 funding when there's no forcing function. Congress originally  
2 enacted OCS moratoria using the rationale that more science was  
3 needed, but then promptly and for 20 years refused to fund any  
4 new studies of the potential effects of oil and gas.

5           Similarly, we have the same situation with Arctic oil  
6 spill R&D under the Oil Pollution Act of 1990. Rather, we have  
7 to continue vigorously pursuing new studies while we employ the  
8 best science we have to manage new and ongoing activities by  
9 wisely using environmental assessments, monitoring, mitigation  
10 and adaptive management to reduce environmental risk where  
11 needed. This is a key point of the U.S. Commission on Ocean  
12 Policy.

13           Second point, regarding the environmental effects of  
14 domestic oil production versus imports. We import more than 60  
15 percent of our oil. We use a lot here in California. Even with  
16 vigorous pursuit of alternative energy, it is likely to be  
17 decades before we significantly reduce our use of imports through  
18 alternative energy.

19           But for every barrel of oil we import via tanker versus  
20 produce domestically, we are, in essence, exporting the  
21 environmental effects of that production and transport. In  
22 essence, we are exporting our pollution to foreign producing  
23 countries and the countries along the tanker route. To the

1 degree that these countries have lower environmental standards  
2 than the U.S., we are worse off from imports than domestic  
3 production from a global environmental perspective.

4 MS. MILLER-GARMENDIA: Thank you much, especially for  
5 hanging in there this late with us. My name is Jenny  
6 Miller-Garmendia. I'm the Director of Project Aware Foundation.  
7 We're a non-profit organization that works with divers, just to  
8 be quick, thousands of them this weekend in 110 countries doing  
9 the underwater cleanup and data collection.

10 As many people are divers in the room, and I suspect on  
11 the panel know, that divers have a unique view of the ocean, and  
12 that's something I want to speak about. And that is, as long as  
13 we continue to view the ocean as either a container for  
14 resources, a surface across which we transport goods and people,  
15 or a navigable passageway that we use to protect power for our  
16 nation across the oceans, we stop thinking about the ocean  
17 holistically and management follows use and overuse.

18 We need to change how we think of the oceans and think  
19 of the entirety of its space and biodiversity as one. And having  
20 a national oceans policy and marine spatial planning is just the  
21 first step in doing that. So we support that. Thank you very  
22 much.

23 MS. GORDON: Thank you, Chair Sutley and members of the

1 task force. We really appreciate that you're here in San  
2 Francisco engaging the public in developing a national oceans  
3 policy and note that the previous -- members of the previous  
4 administration didn't always have the courage to address us here  
5 in San Francisco, so we thank you for your courage.

6 I'm Miriam Gordon. I'm the California Director of  
7 Clean Water Action, which is a national grassroots nonprofit  
8 organization formed in 1972 around the need to protect the  
9 nation's waters and public health. And we have 1.2 million  
10 members nationwide and 60,000 in California.

11 I have not yet had a chance to review your interim  
12 report, but some of the things that we will be looking for in the  
13 report are many of the things that have been addressed today. I  
14 want to make three main points about the need for focusing on  
15 prevention of further degradation of our inland waterways, which  
16 thereby impacts the ocean.

17 First of all, one thing that has not been mentioned is  
18 the fact that our nation's Clean Water Act has been  
19 severely -- our ability to enforce the Clean Water Act has been  
20 severely hampered by the past -- several interpretations of the  
21 EPA in the past administration as well as some Supreme Court  
22 decisions that really limit the authority and jurisdiction over  
23 water bodies, including wetlands and even portions of the Los

1 Angeles River. So supporting the Clean Water Restoration Act  
2 ought to be something that this task force supports.

3 Secondly, in terms of prevention of degradation, I  
4 think that addressing chemicals upstream ought to be part of the  
5 policies that the task force endorses. So we are working very  
6 hard here -- oh, is that my two minutes?

7 FEMALE SPEAKER: Yes.

8 MS. GORDON: We're working very hard here in California  
9 on chemicals -- reformed chemicals policy regulation and marine  
10 debris prevention. I would ask you to look at the marine debris  
11 prevention act, the national one, which really does nothing to  
12 prevent and reduce marine debris. It focused only on ocean  
13 sources, not land-based sources, and we are a model here in the  
14 Bay Area and California for prevention policy. So we would like  
15 to work with you on drafting prevention-oriented policies. Thank  
16 you.

17 MS. MAYER: Thank you very much. What amazing  
18 patience. Congratulations to all of you and us, too. Your  
19 bladders are amazing. The American Cetacean Society of Monterey  
20 Bay congratulates President Obama on his leadership. I'm cut all  
21 the pretty words that I had for you, there were a lot.

22 But we would like to add our comments. We believe it  
23 is important to support educational efforts to alert our

1 citizenry to the -- on the importance of our healthy oceans. I'm  
2 going to skip to the last one, in case I go over. Please fund  
3 research on health and survival of cetaceans, especially the  
4 vaquita, the world's smallest porpoise.

5 They live in the northern part of the Gulf of  
6 California and are disappearing because they are getting caught  
7 in nets set for shrimp. Scientists estimate there are 150  
8 remaining, and they will go extinct unless we act very soon.

9 Also needing attention are the skin lesions that  
10 Monterey Bay bottle-nosed dolphins are exhibiting at this time.  
11 Heavy metal concentrations in orcas is another issue that needs  
12 attention. And the grunion spawning areas need to be protected.

13 Now I'll go back and start again. Please support the  
14 International Whaling Commission in all its efforts to achieve  
15 compliance from all nations to abide by IWC rules for numbers of  
16 cetaceans that may be harvested. Do all possible to reduce the  
17 threat of lethal sonar. This is a quote now from NRDC, "Even the  
18 Navy estimates that increased sonar training will significantly  
19 harm marine mammals more than 10 million times during the next  
20 five years off the coast of the U.S. alone.

21 Preserve national marine sanctuaries, enlarge marine  
22 protected areas, ban oil drilling off the coast of California and  
23 the eastern Pacific. Avoid ship strikes with cetaceans, do

1 whatever is needed. Continue the ban on gill nets and drift  
2 nets.

3 Monitor the fishing industry and only support  
4 sustainable fisheries. Continue and improve monitoring of oil  
5 leaks for private and commercial vessels and fine accordingly.  
6 Ensure that cruise ships, container ships and tankers are  
7 disposing of their waste in an environmentally sound manner.  
8 Reduce the use of plastics and encourage their recycling. We  
9 know about the gyre.

10 Thank you for this opportunity. We wish you great  
11 success. Our future depends on the future of the ocean.

12 MS. NAGEL: My name is Susan Nagel. Thank you for  
13 being here today. My recommendations on ocean policy will be  
14 stop the dumping of garbage from ships and boats; work to clean  
15 up the garbage that has been dumped already, especially the  
16 plastic; stop the dumping of toxic materials from the Navy and  
17 industry; stop unsustainable fishing practices that take too many  
18 fish and unwanted kills; no more expansion of the Navy weapons  
19 testing, and limit the existing testing to fewer weapons and  
20 smaller space; reinstate the moratorium on oil and gas drilling.

21 When considering the marine protection areas consider  
22 subsistence seaweed harvesting and fishing as opposed to no take  
23 at all; consider the whole ecosystem when allowing wave energy

1 devices; make ocean cleanup and protection more important than  
2 corporate money; stop logging forests and especially in watershed  
3 areas to protect fish and streams as well as the air -- we need  
4 the oxygen. Stop the runoff of toxic chemicals from agriculture  
5 into streams that affect fish, people and end up in the oceans.

6           The ones who have trashed the oceans should be  
7 responsible for funding and cleaning it up. The ocean is not a  
8 product, it is a living organism that we can all not live  
9 without. Thank you.

10           MS. DRUCKER: Hi, my name is Julie Drucker and I live in  
11 Albion, California, on the Mendocino coast. I'm a seaweed  
12 harvester, of about six years now, and let me just describe to  
13 you very shortly what it feels like to be a seaweed harvesters.

14           This is how I describe it to my friends -- it's very  
15 cold, it's 5:30 in the morning, the sun hasn't really come up  
16 yet, I put on this very slick wetsuit, I go to the ocean where  
17 I'm very hungry and it's exhausting work, and I'm singing the  
18 entire time because it's so incredibly beautiful.

19           At one time I was harvesting and the sun was rising  
20 here and the moon was setting here. It's one of my livelihoods.

21           Many of us in the coast do many things, that's one of mine. I'm  
22 also a teacher.

23           What we bring from the ocean is good, is medicine. I

1 also want to speak on behalf of the seaweed. So I'm here on  
2 behalf of the sea palm and the konbu and the wakame and the focus  
3 and the bulb kelp and many of the seaweeds -- all of us are  
4 threatened. We can't go anywhere like the fish. Our friends the  
5 fish can swim away. We can swim north, but we can't. We have  
6 our strongholds deep, deep down or on the rocks, and we can't  
7 move. And every year it seems that we'll only get bigger if  
8 people are harvesting us in the right way. And there are people  
9 doing that where we live, so you can't stop them, because that's  
10 how people have lived for thousands of years on the coast.

11 So on behalf of the seaweeds, we urge you to not close  
12 off areas for seaweed harvesting and to please clean up the ocean  
13 and decrease the temperatures, otherwise we may not survive.  
14 Thank you.

15 FEMALE SPEAKER: If the seven folks who raised their  
16 hands could line up and introduce yourselves and try to keep it  
17 to a minute, I think we can still make the other logistical  
18 deadlines we have. I will find your card as you introduce  
19 yourself and mark you down.

20 MR. RACANELLI: John Racanelli of the Deep Search  
21 Foundation. And that was very eloquently spoken on behalf of our  
22 fronds in the kelp forest.

23 I'm speaking here tonight on behalf of Dr. Sylvia Earle

1 who is the founder of the Deep Search Foundation. I have a brief  
2 statement from her. She is currently on expedition in the Cocos  
3 Islands.

4 Thank you for serving on this ocean policy task force  
5 and especially on the release of the preliminary report earlier  
6 this month. As has been eloquently stated by many today, our  
7 ocean is -- and I say that singularly -- of inestimable  
8 importance to all living things. Indeed, it is our life support  
9 system. Truthfully, we live on a planet ocean as opposed to a  
10 planet earth, and it is our planet's blue heart -- no blue, no  
11 green.

12 Three brief points. Our world ocean is vast, but it is  
13 not limitless. It can't sustain the industrial-scale fishing,  
14 extraction, et cetera that we've been hearing about. Maximum  
15 sustainable yield is not.

16 Second, the next 10 years may be as important as the  
17 last 10,000 in terms of what we do and don't do. We may decide  
18 the ocean's fate, and ours of course is inextricably intertwined  
19 with the oceans. And last, hope spots are everywhere. We need  
20 networks of marine protected areas like those in California, true  
21 reserves, viable funded enforcement, EBM, bottom trawl moratoria,  
22 et cetera. And how much is enough to protect? Well, the  
23 question we must ask is how much of our heart do we want to

1 protect.

2           We applause President Obama's vision in creating this  
3 task force, we applaud your dedication and tenacity in taking on  
4 this challenge and you, we, all of us have an opportunity and a  
5 responsibility to do this right, because others who come after us  
6 will be the judges of whether we embraced that opportunity.

7           Thank you and God speed to you.

8           MS. BRUTON: Marla Jo Bruton, New Water For Peace. We  
9 came here today to -- we hope that this gets to President Obama.  
10 It's called the Blue Carpet Treatment Program, a proposal for  
11 development of a new approach to water cleanup and management.

12           And it's serendipitous, we've been working on this  
13 area -- I mean, this report for the last six years, and it  
14 proposes a pilot project for the Estero Bay in California. There  
15 are three communities in Estero Bay, Los Osos, Morro Bay and  
16 Cayucos. All three communities need a new wastewater treatment  
17 protocol. All three communities are lagging behind the Clean  
18 Water Act of 40 years ago.

19           So what we did is we have a program set out, we have a  
20 solution, and there's a lot of work and time and effort put in  
21 this and I want President Obama to see this, please.

22           MR. LIND: My name is Jeff Lind. I'm speaking for the  
23 National Green Standard of Performance. I urge you to adopt it.

1 The National Green Standard of Performance raises the bar by  
2 requiring new technology to prevent the pollution of our waters.

3 It requires that all wastewater discharges to be treated at  
4 every point source, removing 100 percent of the pollutants,  
5 transforming it into water more pure than the water that comes  
6 out of your tap, creating a new, sustainable -- or a sustainable  
7 new water source.

8 The National Green Standard prevents the migration of  
9 pollutants, then purifies and reclaims this water for 100 percent  
10 beneficial reuse, thus eliminating water pollution and conserving  
11 our precious water while healing our oceans.

12 Please adopt the new Green Standard Policy. Thank you.

13 MS. SHULTZ: My name is Paula Shultz. I'm going to  
14 defer my minute to Tom Murphy here. Thank you.

15 MR. MURPHY: Hi, I'm Tom Murphy, co-author of the Green  
16 Standard of Performance. You're here looking for an ocean  
17 policy, you already have an ocean policy -- Title 33, chapter 26,  
18 section 1251, 1a, A1. The policy of the Clean Water Act says by  
19 1985 you were supposed to stop discharges, cease discharging into  
20 the ocean, all navigable waters. That's the policy of the Clean  
21 Water Act, by 1985.

22 And EPA and the state regulatory authorities and the  
23 local regulatory authorities have blatantly disregarded that.

1 Alexis, I have an email from you saying we don't enforce those  
2 standards, and you're right, you don't. You don't enforce those  
3 standards. So it's environmental terrorism.

4 The Clean Water Act requires, since 1973, that every  
5 point source discharge at the source was required to be served by  
6 alternative technology consisting of best available demonstrated  
7 control technology currently available. You've got those ocean  
8 policy, it needs enforcement.

9 Enforce it. It's environmental terrorism, 35 years  
10 extorting the American public, crapping on us, pissing in our  
11 waters. Get it together, extortion, environmental terrorism.  
12 (Applause.)

13 MR. CROWLEY: Hello, I'm Mary Crowley and I'm executive  
14 director of Ocean Voyages Institute and one of the co-founders of  
15 Project Kaisei. And I'm very pleased that we have an ocean  
16 policy task force and I hope you'll be able to accomplish a lot  
17 of good things for the ocean working with all of us.

18 Project Kaisei had two vessels at sea for the month of  
19 August in the North Pacific gyre, and we did testing along 3,500  
20 nautical miles, and in every single manta trawl we did we found  
21 plastic. When we were actually out in the gyre, some of our  
22 trawls were 99 percent plastic.

23 And so we strongly feel we need to really deal with the

1 ocean debris issue. We're working on ways of going out and  
2 harvesting and cleaning it up. And I thank you for your good  
3 work.

4 MS. SAUER: Thank you for hearing me speak. My name is  
5 Jennifer Sauer, and I'm speaking on behalf of the sea turtle who  
6 has no voice of its own. I urge you, please, to consider this  
7 creature who has swum in our oceans for more than a hundred  
8 million years and whose populations are now depleted by 80 to 90  
9 percent in the last 20 years.

10 This creature is a voice to listen to that's saying  
11 that we can't continue the way we are. If 80 to 90 percent of  
12 European population perished in the last 20 years, you would  
13 research the issue for our own survival. And I'm asking you to  
14 do the same with the sea turtle. Thank you.

15 FEMALE SPEAKER: Thank you so much. I'd like to thank  
16 everybody for their tenacity and patience in sitting and turnover  
17 the hearing back to our chair, Nancy Sutley.

18 MS. SUTLEY: Thank you very much. Thank you for  
19 everybody for staying and sharing your comments. I think we all  
20 found it very useful, a lot of good input, and we appreciate  
21 people coming and spending the time with us. We will consider  
22 the input we received today and we appreciate everybody coming.

23 I want to thank all the staff. We had a lot of

1 agencies helping to pull this together, so I want to thank them.

2 And I also want thank Alexis for doing a great job running the  
3 public comment. (Applause.)

4 So with that, we are adjourned. Thank you.

5 (End of recorded proceedings.)