

Website Comments Received 6/2/2011-6/9/2011

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Ecosystem-Based Management

Name

Douglas Tom

Organization

Which Priority Objective would you like to provide comment on?

Ecosystem-Based Management

Comment:

Consistent with the concept of systems, my comments apply to all national objectives and strategic plans that ought to be viewed from a system, or interrelated, perspective. It is posted in the ecosystem based management category for lack of an appropriate category.

Attachment:

Attachment included in index: Statement of Douglas Tom, June 16, 2011 National Ocean Council Listening Session, Honolulu, Hawaii (3 pages)

Name

Susan Spalt

Organization**Which Priority Objective would you like to provide comment on?**

Ecosystem-Based Management

Comment:

Thank you for your efforts in supporting efforts to protect and save our oceans. I urge all agencies involved to pursue these strategies and to expand the focus to include international eco-system management. Our understand is growing of how our very life on earth depends on our ability to save our oceans.

Coastal and Marine Spatial Planning

Name

Reynolds Tenazas-Norman

Organization

Which Priority Objective would you like to provide comment on?

Coastal and Marine Spatial Planning

Comment:

I hope that there are no plans for MORE off shore drilling, particularly in the Arctic.

Please save our last pristine coasts and oceans from predatory practices and politics.

Name

Rusty Chinnis

Organization

Sarasota Bay Watch

Which Priority Objective would you like to provide comment on?

Coastal and Marine Spatial Planning

Comment:

I am the President of Sarasota Bay Watch a non-profit working to raise awareness of the economic importance of our bays and oceans and get the public and business community involved in protecting and enhancing them.

Inform Decisions and Improve Understanding

Name

Mark Plunkett

Organization

Seattle Aquarium

Which Priority Objective would you like to provide comment on?

Inform Decisions and Improve Understanding

Comment:

The mission of the Seattle Aquarium is "Inspiring conservation of our marine environment." We strongly urge the NOP to increase collaboration with our aquarium partners within the Association of Zoos and Aquariums. With dynamic and engaging institutions on all American coastlines, we are poised and skilled at engaging the hearts and minds of millions of visitors each year. Our partnerships with Coastal America and NOAA demonstrate the potential to advance our common goals utilizing our unique blend of live animals, conservation education and field research.

Name

CHAD KNIGHT

Organization

CONCERNED CITIZEN

Which Priority Objective would you like to provide comment on?

Inform Decisions and Improve Understanding

Comment:

In reference to this objective many concerned American citizens are worried about the increasing amount of oil being stored off shore in cargo ships. The number of oil storage vessels at sea is increasing drastically around the world and provide a direct threat to many oceans and seas water quality. What is the EPA doing to keep concerned citizens such as myself and millions of others informed about the number of tankers storing oil, what waters they are storing the oil in and how much oil is floating on cargo ships in our precious ocean waters? Who is policing these storage practices and are we ahead of the ball on this before a tragic natural event releases millions of barrels of oil into our fragile oceans and seas?

Name

Chad Knight

Organization

Concerned citizen

Which Priority Objective would you like to provide comment on?

Inform Decisions and Improve Understanding

Comment:

In reference to the National Ocean Council's Strategic Action Plan objective #3 many concerned American citizens are worried about the increasing amount of oil being stored off shore in cargo ships. The number of oil storage vessels at sea is increasing drastically around the world and provide a direct threat to many oceans and seas water quality. What is the EPA, Congress and Senate doing to keep concerned citizens such as myself and millions of others informed about the number of tankers storing oil, what waters they are storing the oil in and how much oil is floating on cargo ships in our precious ocean waters? Who is policing these storage practices and providing reports to American citizens. Are we ahead of the ball on this before a tragic natural event releases millions of barrels of oil into our fragile oceans and seas?

Name

Edwin Johnson

Organization

Hawaii Dept. of Land & Nat. Resourcees

Which Priority Objective would you like to provide comment on?

Inform Decisions and Improve Understanding

Comment:

I did cruise through the entire SAP Outline, and was pleased to find it very comprehensive, well written, mentioning all the right concepts. Especially, "open science and management," an "enhanced outreach and education program," and the intent "to improve public partnerships... and awareness." There are just 3 quick points I want to make. First, there needs to be mention somewhere of overcoming resistance by most of the world's population, including us in U.S., that there could be anything seriously wrong with the oceans of the world. This took me, a trained practicing terrestrial biologist, about 10-15 years to come to grips with. How on earth could the humans have screwed up so much so fast? Well, we did, but that story needs to be articulated over and over in different ways and formats to reach everyone. (2) Mobilize more participation. Again, the document is very good on increasing outreach and awareness, but needs to go beyond that. What do we have now, nearly 80 million baby boomers getting ready to retire and looking for something to do. The Surfrider Foundation is all over it, let's get more groups and people involved. And (3) maybe the most important step, articulate and diffuse the success stories, at multiple levels and venues. No matter how small they are, and even though the overall problems seem pretty intractable (global water temperature and acidity increase), this is critical in mobilizing greater participation. I'm thinking about the Surfriders again, who started testing water quality, getting signs put up as warnings, then heading upstream to tackle point and nonpoint pollution sources, and then reducing these. Thanks to everyone who is working on this, especially the folks at Blue Planet.

Regional Ecosystem Protection and Restoration

Name

Mark Barone

Organization

N.Y.S.M.E.A.

Which Priority Objective would you like to provide comment on?

Regional Ecosystem Protection and Restoration

Comment:

Coordinated voluntary efforts at regional restoration projects have been effective. However, the burden of paying for accidental spilling of large amounts of chemical pollutants is the responsibility of the companies involved in the chemical redistribution into our waterways. Consequences for such actions should be spelled out clearly. The opinion expressed is my opinion and not necessarily accepted as the opinion of the organization that I have listed.

Mark Barone 06/07/2011

Water Quality and Sustainable Practices on Land

Name

Emily Johannes

Organization

N/A

Which Priority Objective would you like to provide comment on?

Water Quality and Sustainable Practices on Land

Comment:

I respectfully submit the following comment as a private citizen. Proposed bills in the State of Ohio could increase water withdrawals from Lake Erie to more than 5 million gallons per day for private businesses, potentially without government review or application for a permit. Through my review of the objective and the plan overall, the strategic objectives do not yet adequately address water withdrawals from the Great Lakes, which could cause toxic algae blooms, impact fish populations, and potentially increase hypoxic conditions. Water withdrawals have been occurring and continue to occur in all of the Great Lakes. More sustainable business practices on land could reduce the amount of water necessary to conduct operations, therefore, potentially reducing the need for massive water withdrawals from the already impacted Great Lakes. This is a particularly important issue for Lake Erie, as the warmest and shallowest of the Great Lakes, yet one of the most biologically productive. Does the Council plan to address water withdrawals at the Federal level within the strategic plan?

Thank you for your consideration of my comments.

Changing Conditions in the Arctic

Name

Chanda Meek

Organization

University of Alaska Fairbanks

Which Priority Objective would you like to provide comment on?

Changing Conditions in the Arctic

Comment:

The outline does a good job of prioritizing emergent issues and gaps in response capacity in the Arctic. More detailed linkages to other priority objectives (#3 and #4) will improve the plan's likelihood of achieving several critical outcomes, including the integration of science and traditional knowledge and promoting resilient and healthy Arctic communities. The "frontier" aspects of the Arctic ocean require an interdisciplinary approach to observing, predicting and responding to change; for this charge, an integrated observation platform that takes a systems approach is recommended. Changing social and economic conditions play a significant role in promoting or impeding resilient and healthy communities and should be tracked more systematically. Improved biological data is necessary but insufficient for improved stewardship and should be part of an integrated observation network.

Name

Nathaniel Betz

Organization**Which Priority Objective would you like to provide comment on?**

Changing Conditions in the Arctic

Comment:

I grew up in Wainwright, Alaska, on the North Slope of the state. I think plans to drill for oil and natural gas off the coast could very well deal a devastating blow to the ecosystem in the Alaskan arctic. It is no secret that people on the North Slope are dependent on the land for their subsistence, and that an oil spill would at the very least eliminate the sustainability of that option. It seems to me that complicity in oil exploration and exploitation is tantamount to an approval of America's centuries old policy of exploiting cultures it doesn't fully understand. The North Slope may appear barren and poorly utilized to observers 4000 miles away in Washington, DC but to the people that travel great distances across the land and sea to gather whales and caribou understand that every inch of the arctic ecosystem is necessary to maintain the Native way of life. If the US government is to be complicit in the exploitation of Alaskan communities, it should make one serious break in its historical method of (poor) compensation: it should give the local people something more than trinkets. Corporations invested in this exploitation could easily pay tens of millions to each life affected.

Before conceding to the option of exploitation, the US Government should ask itself two questions. What is the value of a human life? And what is the value of a culture? Surely for two to three generations, while the money flows in, residents on the North Slope will be able to live with the enormous profits from commodity sales, but what of the people that come after them? What of the people that are born after the oil, after the oil revenues, and after the functional arctic ecosystem that was sacrificed for momentary profits?

Name

Edward Gohr

Organization

Delta Constructors

Which Priority Objective would you like to provide comment on?

Changing Conditions in the Arctic

Comment:

Access to our natural resources in our oceans is critical to Alaska's future economy. Alaska's economy, based on responsible resource development done in accordance with local, state and federal environmental protections and laws already in place must be fully considered before plans are implemented, and projects, cultures and communities are jeopardized.

Ocean, Coastal, and Great Lakes Observations, Mapping, and Infrastructure

Name

Allison Gaylord

Organization

Nuna Technologies

Which Priority Objective would you like to provide comment on?

Ocean, Coastal, and Great Lakes Observations, Mapping, and Infrastructure

Comment:

The State of Alaska lacks high resolution mapping of the state's shoreline and bathymetry. Both data sets are critical for supporting the objectives of the Strategic Action Plan and should be prioritized.

Name

David Dow

Organization

Cape Cod Grassroots Environmental Activist

Which Priority Objective would you like to provide comment on?

Ocean, Coastal, and Great Lakes Observations, Mapping, and Infrastructure

Comment:

Action 1: Since the use of federal research vessels to gather data at sea is expensive and there are a limited number of platforms available, we need to conduct more multiuse cruises to make the most efficient use of our shipboard resources. For example, during a NOAA Fisheries bottom trawl survey for groundfish, one could also use towed instruments to gather data on water quality, chlorophyll a, zooplankton abundance, salinity, temperature and depth. For vessels equipped with hydroacoustic mapping devices one could conduct underway surveys of pelagic forage fish, zooplankton and map the Essential Fish Habitat on the bottom. The upper decks of the research vessels could be used for visual surveys along transect lines to estimate the abundance of seabirds and whales. The groundfish sampling could provide fish for study by academic researchers outside of NOAA Fisheries. At present NOAA Fisheries conducts separate surveys for marine mammals, groundfish, pelagic forage fish, ecosystem surveys on plankton and water quality, etc. This practice is costly and not an efficient use of scarce ship resources.

Action 3: It is good to develop advanced observation and sampling technologies, but these need to be sea truthed against traditional ship borne approaches for estimating these parameters. If this is not done, many long term data sets gathered by ship board surveys will not be compatible with the newly collected data from advanced observation platforms and new sampling technologies. Even though this not the most exciting type of scientific experiments to carry out, it is critical to detecting the effects of ocean climate change and shifting baselines in the ocean food web. This is especially true if the shifting baselines follow a nonlinear trajectory to a new steady state that can't be predicted by our current modelling approaches. For complex dynamic systems that involve coupled ecological and socioeconomic systems (for example commercial fishing and saltwater angling), it is especially important to consider adaptive management techniques and the required information support system. The new information requirements for adaptive, Ecosystems-based Management would benefit from a monitoring program that utilizes multiple sampling platforms and new observation approaches/sampling technologies.

Action 5: Ocean and Coastal Mapping systems need to be integrated with multiple Coastal & Marine Spatial Planning programs (BOEMRE, Fishery Management Councils, Regional Ocean Councils, etc.) and the management agency Ecosystem-based Management (EbM) guidelines and regulations. This involves a multisector approach and multiuse of the same ocean space which implies some type of ocean zoning process. Since the federal waters off of Cape Cod will be used by diverse user groups (fishing; wind farms; navigation; recreation; sand mining; waste disposal; etc.), we need to ensure that environmental protection is provided to marine wildlife; marine protected areas are utilized for unique environments/natural trust resources and cultural/historical resources are conserved. The draft SAPs appear to underplay the importance of ocean zoning in ensuring human uses that are compatible with protecting the environment/cultural resources (which is the purported goal of the National Ocean Policy).

Name

Lorali Carter

Organization**Which Priority Objective would you like to provide comment on?**

Ocean, Coastal, and Great Lakes Observations, Mapping, and Infrastructure

Comment:

Alaska's economy is based on responsible resource development which is done in accordance with local, state, and federal environmental protections and laws already in place. These protections must be fully considered before new ocean plans are implemented, and projects, cultures and communities are jeopardized. Ocean policy should coordinate with existing management programs and stakeholders with a focus on avoiding redundancy and maintaining access.

Alaska has some of the best resource management practices in the world, with some of the highest standards and requirements for projects. Oil and gas production in Alaska has the world's highest safety and environmental standards. Activities are governed by existing stringent stipulations.

Access to the outer continental shelf is critical to our nation's long-term energy security, and developing oil and gas in Alaska reduces our nation's dependency on foreign resources. The Alaska OCS can boost domestic production from potential world-class energy deposits. OCS production has the potential to refill the Alaska oil pipeline, which is now operating at one-third of its 1988 peak flow.

Alaska's oil and gas industry has committed to unprecedented provisions for prevention and spill response that go above and beyond what is required by law. These provisions, combined with a stringent permitting process, give Alaskans a high level of confidence that exploration and development can occur safely.

Name

Vera Williams

Organization

Native Village of Barrow

Which Priority Objective would you like to provide comment on?

Ocean, Coastal, and Great Lakes Observations, Mapping, and Infrastructure

Comment:

Public Comments for Barrow, Alaska; National Ocean Council met here today with Native Village of Barrow.

Attachment:

Attachment included in index: Comment of Vera A. Williams, Realty Director, Iñupiat Traditional Government, Native Village of Barrow (1 page)

Index: Attachments to Comments

Ecosystem-Based Management:

Statement of Douglas Tom, June 16, 2011 National Ocean Council Listening Session, Honolulu, Hawaii (3 pages)

Statement of:

Douglas Tom
2556A Booth Road
Honolulu, Hawaii 96813

June 16, 2011 National Ocean Council Listening Session
Honolulu, Hawaii

Distinguished members of the National Ocean Council, Aloha and welcome to the Nation's ocean state and most isolated archipelago on earth. My name is Doug Tom, a life-long resident of Hawaii and benefactor of the ocean. Before retiring in 2009, I served as Hawaii's Coastal Zone Management Program Manager for more than three decades. I still have a strong passion about ocean issues and opportunities.

Growing up here before the development boom, almost everything I did was with nature. I swam, fished, explored, and learned Hawaiiana from the elders. In my youth, community sharing was the way of life, and there was tremendous respect for the environment. We harvested sustainably, taking only what was needed, saving for others and for the future. We understood the land-sea connection and the various cause-effect relationships. For the most part, we saw things as parts of a system, or from an ecosystem perspective. But that was a simpler time. In today's populated and complex world, unfortunately, we are experiencing intense competition for the limited coastal and ocean resources that threatens our cherished island life style. Selfish economic pursuits without consideration of the effects on the broader ecosystem are on the rise, and they are fostering the decline of insular and cultural values and needs.

We islanders identify with the ocean. The ocean is our heritage, and it is our future. For generations, peoples of Hawaii and the Pacific Ocean relied substantially on harvesting the ocean's resources for subsistence, and many continue to do so today, but with more difficulty. We remain on our islands because the island way of life is important. This is why we wish to preserve our island values as we adapt to change.

My connection with the sea and land runs deep. The ocean not only provided me opportunities to swim and fish during my youth, it also provided physical, cultural, and spiritual inspiration. Being in or near the ocean is still a powerful attraction. I feel peace and comfort, and I respect this connection. I see the land as an extension of the sea and vice-versa, an interrelationship difficult to articulate, but deeply felt. I am sure others who grew up in the islands share this viewpoint.

Thinking about what our beloved Hawaii will become can be shuddering. What kind of Hawaii will we leave our children and their children? A clean, healthy, and productive ocean is vital for our future. However, if it dies or is substantially adversely altered, our island futures are jeopardized.

The critical question is whether we have an image of our preferred future or we are lost. Mindful that what we do now determines the future, we should heed the wisdom of Pius Mau Pailug. Hailing from Satawal Island in Yap, he was the Hokulea's first navigator who guided the canoe thousands of miles along the ancestral Polynesian sea route without instruments. He also mentored the young seafarer Nainoa Thompson who captained the Hokulea in recent voyages. One day standing at Oahu's shore, he asked Nainoa if he knew the direction to Tahiti and if he could see the island. After a long struggle with the question, Nainoa finally responded that he could not see the island but he had an image of the island in his mind. The master navigator then said, "Good. Don't ever lose that image or you will be lost." Mau, as he was affectionately known, understood visioning and its importance, and he implanted the value in Nainoa.

It is no wonder islanders are interested in a clear articulation of the Nation's encompassing vision for the nine objectives and supporting strategic plans. Insofar as vision provides context for goals and objectives,

purposes for action, direction, the framework for coordination and judging good and bad, and the foundation or purpose for partnerships, it is the vital guide for the National Ocean Council's work. A clear concept enables comprehensive and cooperative efforts in developing and implementing compatible national and local plans and partnerships and provides the context for more meaningful and practical comments to help improve the national effort. Moreover, it would help assure the nine objectives and strategic plans are a cohesive whole.

I encourage the council to review the Hawaii Coastal Zone Management Program's Ocean Resources Management Plan. It is a significant first step in the right direction for dealing with the ocean. Rather than describing resources and uses in the traditional sector or functional fashion, the plan is based on three guiding perspectives which benefactors find relevant and acceptable. In the first perspective, looking to the mountain from the shore, we see the land connected to the ocean and understand that inland activities directly affect the ocean resources and the benefits we derive from them.

Acknowledging that a vibrant and healthy ocean environment is the foundation for quality of life in Hawaii, the second perspective reminds us to preserve our ocean heritage. The most vast and important natural resource, the ocean is where we seek cultural enhancement, inspiration, and recreation. It is also where we harvest valuable resources and carry out numerous economic activities. In order to continue benefitting from this valuable resource, we need to take care of it.

The third perspective emphasizes the need for collaborative governance and stewardship. We need to work together and share knowledge, experiences, and resources. Individually, we will struggle. United, we greatly improve the probability of success in influencing better human behavior. And, it is important to note that stewardship essentially resides at the community level where the impacts of action and inaction are most palpable. It is also important to note that while there are many similarities among the islands of the Pacific, there are also many different geographic and cultural needs and values. Hence, a flexible national ocean vision with supporting objectives and strategic plans would allow continental and insular jurisdictions to pursue policies, plans, and actions that make the most sense for their geographies while supporting and enhancing the national interest.

I mentioned that the Hawaii Ocean Resources Management Plan is the first step toward a comprehensive, futuristic plan. I hope to see it transformed into a prescriptive, living document that offers the sense of purpose, place, and direction for meaningful state resource planning and management in Hawaii. Although a daunting task that will require extensive collaboration, creativity, time, money, and political support, it is what Hawaii direly needs to assure harmony between man and the environment. The national vision and strategic plans should respect, embrace, and support local efforts like this. They would also help states, commonwealths, and territories of the Nation better deal with the tremendous struggles between economic progress and respect for nature caused by high demands for natural resource use in times of economic stagnation and population increase. The stress is most evident in insular areas.

Climate change is a subject of substantial interest to islands because of its life altering implications. Although it is important to understand how climate change will affect our future, it is more important to decide how the impacts should be addressed so that we may shape our own future. The science is clear, climate change is occurring, and we will have to face the effects. For too long, policy makers have ignored the scientific data on ocean acidification and the melting of ice caps, ice sheets, and glaciers. Ocean acidification is an enormous problem for islands, having adverse implications for habitats and species. Moreover, the melting of ice caps, ice sheets, and glaciers is infusing toxic methane into the ocean and further degrading water quality.

How severe and long-lasting the effects will be is up to us. How will these changes impact our island life? What effects will they have on the marine life and their migratory patterns? How and to what extent will commercial, recreational, and subsistence fishing be affected? How will the health and productivity of the

coral reefs change? What will happen to the beaches and nearshore water quality that sustain our tourist industry? To what extent will sea level rise occur? How can we avoid harm to life and property? Will the tsunamis, hurricanes, and storms we experience be more intense? What will the impacts be to our potable water sources? What effects will there be on agricultural crop and livestock production? What are the human health concerns? There are many, many questions that need to be addressed. In Hawaii, the Coastal Zone Management Program is at the forefront addressing the issue and is committed to developing a state policy on it. The solution must be comprehensive, and it is possible only if the result is a product of a partnership with other government agencies, academia, and the public.

Thank you for the opportunity to present my thoughts. I hope they stimulate your interest and understanding of the insular plight and help substantiate the need for a clear vision to provide the needed context for the national objectives and strategic plans and which respect and respond to the islands' different needs, values, and circumstances.

Index: Attachments to Comments

Ocean, Coastal, and Great Lakes Observations, Mapping and Infrastructure:

Comment of Vera A. Williams, Realty Director, Iñupiat
Traditional Government, Native Village of Barrow

(1 page)

2010/2011
Season:
Spring/2011

Comment for:

National Ocean Council:

BOEMRE.

Mtg -
NVB -
6/9/11
Vera Williams

2011 NALUKATAQ SCHEDULE

Aewc/whaling Captain:

Spring/2011

June 28, 2011 **BARROW** Joseph Akiwgak
Edward Itta
Crawford Patkotak
Charles E. Hopson

June 30, 2011 **BARROW** Harry Brower, Jr.
Anthony Edwardsen
Ned Arey, Sr.

Fall-2010

No date yet **KAKTOVIK** James Lampe
June 24, 2011 George T. Kaleak
June 24, 2011 George Tagarook

Fall-2010

June 16, 2011 **NUIQSUT** Billy Oyagak

June 23, 2011 **NUIQSUT** Herbert Ipalook
Thomas Napageak

June 25, 2011 **NUIQSUT** Edward Nukapigak

Spring 2011

June 12, 13, 14, 2011 **PT.HOPE - QAGRUQ** Eunice Lane
Isaac Killigvuk, Sr.
Herbert Kinneeveauk, Jr.

Spring 2011

June 23, 2011 **PT. LAY** Julius Rexford

Spring 2011

June 17, 2011 **WAINWRIGHT** Jason Ahmaogak

June 25, 2011 **WAINWRIGHT** Jack Panik

June 27, 2011 **WAINWRIGHT** John Hopson, Jr.

Iñupiat Traditional Government
Native Village of Barrow
Barrow Townsite Trustee Lands and
Native Allotments for Barrow Region!
Quyanaqpak!

Vera A. Williams
Realty Director

Phone: (907) 852-4411
Direct Line: (907) 852-8923
Toll Free: (866) 478-4414
Fax: (907) 852-8844
vwilliams@nvbarrow.net



PO Box 1130
Barrow, AK 99723

* Impact * Considerations:

Note: - Arctic Ocean - Proposal

would effect these communities
that survive as AEWc
whaling communities - with
annual successful - whaling
activities for: Spring + fall season.
Vera Williams NVB Realty Director.

ALL are:
Tribal
Communities

Federally
Recognized by
U.S. Congress.