

## **Public Comment Period and Adjournment**

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1 DR. KITSOS: Well, I think we have some  
2 furniture to move. We will take 30 seconds, and then we  
3 have two public commenters signed up, Eli Weissman and  
4 Santi Roberts.

5 Mr. Roberts, are you here?

6 MS. NAUGHTEN: He is.

7 DR. KITSOS: Okay. Eli, you have been through  
8 this before. You have five minutes. At four minutes, I  
9 will start jumping up and down and ask you to finish up.  
10 Please come forward and give us your statement. As you  
11 know, this is not a question-and-answer session for the  
12 commissioners; it is just your statement. Please  
13 proceed.

14 Thank you.

15 PUBLIC COMMENT

16 MR. WEISSMAN: Hello.

17 Commissioners, it is a

18 pleasure to see you all again. My name is Eli Weissman

19 and I am with the Ocean Conservancy. I just would like

20 to provide a few comments on some of what I have heard

21 today. I am really quite impressed with the amount of

22 progress. I am going to jump around a little bit, and I

1 will just try to go fairly quickly, but just a handful

2 of comments here.

3 I know Lillian had to leave early, but she had

4 raised a question about the importance of Coast Guard to

5 work on education with recreational boaters. One thing

6 that I can certainly provide for the record, the Ocean

7 Conservancy through our Good Mate Program has been

8 working with the Coast Guard for quite some time

9 developing educational material, providing outreach to

10 recreational boaters. We can certainly provide that for

11 the record.

12 As far as guiding principles go, I really

13 would encourage you to keep the first one on

14 stewardship, that the ocean resources are held in public

15 trust. That is something that we have been saying a  
16 number of times, and I am really pleased that that is  
17 something that the Commission is certainly seriously  
18 considering. I really did appreciate that.

19       As far as the living marine resources  
20 discussion, while I know that the emphasis was certainly  
21 on fisheries management, I really would like to see more  
22 discussion on other areas of living marine resources,

1 particularly marine wildlife, that was not discussed at  
2 all today; also coral reefs; national marine  
3 sanctuaries; and moving beyond just fisheries  
4 management, which was something that I know was the  
5 emphasis today. There really are other areas that I  
6 believe do need to be discussed and even within  
7 fisheries management by catch and habitat destruction  
8 was also, again, important issues that we believe need  
9 to be addressed.

10       As far as the fisheries management goes, there  
11 are a couple of comments specifically on dedicated  
12 access privileges. There was some discussion on IFQs.  
13 I believe Marc had asked if there had been discussion on  
14 standards.

15           One thing I certainly can provide, the Ocean  
16   Conservancy is part of the Marine Fish Conservation  
17   Network, and we have a set of standards that we have  
18   been pushing for. They are mandatory standards as  
19   opposed to guidelines, which was something that was  
20   discussed today.

21           Also, I know that Senator Carey has a bill  
22   that lists standards as well as Congressman Gilchrist

1 had a bill on his Magnuson. Those are three things that  
2 you can look at, at least for starters, on standards. I  
3 can certainly help get the Marine Fish Conservation  
4 Network standards, just to help move the discussion  
5 along.

6       As far as the nominations, the council is one  
7 thing that I think the Ocean Conservancy would  
8 definitely like to see was instead of just having the  
9 governors put two people from commercial, two from  
10 recreational and two from just the general public on the  
11 lists, we certainly believe that conservation interests  
12 needs to have equal representation because we really do  
13 believe that someone needs to be looking out for the  
14 resource.

15           The current structure really is the fox  
16   guarding the hen house, and we do believe that  
17   conservation interests do need to be represented on the  
18   Council, so there are folks looking out for the resource  
19   specifically.

20           As far as marine protected areas go, just  
21   moving on quickly, one thing that again should be no  
22   surprise to many of you that we have been pushing, is

1 for ocean wilderness. We are certainly encouraged by a  
2 lot of the discussions on MPAs today. One thing that I  
3 believe would be important in Chapter III, which was  
4 improving ocean health, something that I saw as an  
5 omission was ocean wilderness.

6 Ocean health is broader, in my opinion, than  
7 just water quality and human health and improving  
8 coordination. I think there were a couple of areas that  
9 were missing, ocean wilderness and certainly even marine  
10 protected areas was something that could help fill in  
11 some of that area.

12 How am I doing on time?

13 DR. KITSOS: You have one more minute.

14 MR. WEISSMAN: Okay. As far as education

15 goes, I would like to second Marc's comment about the  
16 need for in addition to ocean science, to open it up to  
17 other social sciences including liberal arts,  
18 conservation, other areas like that. We provided a  
19 paper to the commissioners that had some suggestions on  
20 that.

21       Lastly, the Coast Guard Commandant had talked  
22 about vessel management systems. That is a very

1 important priority for the Ocean Conservancy. Each year  
2 we work on appropriations, and we specifically try to  
3 get funding for VMS so that NMFS can conduct their  
4 enforcement.

5 I was disheartened because Guard enforcement  
6 even with their 20 percent growth is still going to be 5  
7 to 7 percent low current below current enforcement, the  
8 pre-9/11 enforcement levels, and we thought those were  
9 inadequate. We would support what the Coast Guard  
10 Commandant had said on VMS. Sorry I jumped around a  
11 little bit, but there was a lot to cover. Nice to see  
12 you all again, and a great job today.

13 DR. KITSOS: Thank you, Eli. We appreciate  
14 your comments.

15 Mr. Roberts, you have five minutes, sir.

16 Please proceed.

17 MR. ROBERTS: I won't take five minutes.

18 Mr. Chairman, and members of the

19 U.S. Commission on Ocean Policy, my name is

20 Santi Roberts. I would like to make a brief statement

21 on behalf of Oceana, a new international organization

22 committed to restoring and protecting ocean and marine

1 life through public policy, advocacy, science, law,  
2 grassroots mobilization and public education.

3 In May 2002, Oceana merged with American  
4 Oceans Campaign. We would also like to submit for the  
5 record a more detailed written recommendation concerning  
6 sustainable fisheries management, water quality  
7 protection, cruise ship pollution, aquaculture, beach  
8 protection, and ocean governance.

9 This testimony summarizes comments delivered  
10 by Oceana at previous Commission meetings in Los Angeles  
11 by Board Member Ted Danson and in Anchorage and Seattle  
12 by Jim Aires, the director of Oceana's North Pacific  
13 Office.

14 one of our primary concerns lies with the

15 devastation to the oceans caused poor U.S. fishery  
16 management policies. We, therefore, urge the Commission  
17 to recommend that by catch must be counted, counting  
18 control to levels approaching zero for all the U.S.  
19 fisheries, and adequate observer coverage must be  
20 required to provide scientifically acceptable  
21 information on by catch and quotas.

22       The unsustainable practice of bottom trawling

1 must be limited to only those areas where it can be  
2 demonstrated that it will not harm habitats and marine  
3 life. The Fishery Management Council system must be  
4 fixed by removing conflicts of interest including more  
5 non-U.S. public interest representatives and separating  
6 conservation and allocation decisions.

7       A scientifically-based network of no-take  
8 marine reserves must be established to maintain marine  
9 ecosystem functions, rebuild depleted fish populations,  
10 protect sensitive habitats and increase scientific  
11 understanding of ocean ecosystems.

12       We also urge the Commission to recommend a  
13 number of measures to protect ocean water quality.  
14 Marine water quality standards in no-discharge zones and

15 special ocean sites should be established in the EEZ as  
16 proposed in Executive Order 13158 and EPA should develop  
17 water quality criteria for nutrients PAHs, mercury and  
18 other contaminants.

19 The treaty on persistent organic pollutants,  
20 "POPs," should be ratified after Congress adopts  
21 implementing legislation to allow the addition of  
22 chemicals to the 12 POPs listed in the treaty and amends

- 1 the Toxic Substances Control Act to allow bans on
- 2 additional POP characteristic chemicals.
- 3 Cruise ship waste and ballast water, currently
- 4 exempt from many important Clean Water Act requirements,
- 5 should be regulated as point sources under the Clean
- 6 Water Act, and be subject to the same effluent limits,
- 7 monitoring, reporting and enforcement procedures that
- 8 apply to other industrial and municipal waste streams.
- 9 National standards should be established for
- 10 the siting, design and operation of marine aquaculture
- 11 fish facilities to protect the marine ecosystem;
- 12 minimize the use of chemical pesticides, antibiotics,
- 13 fish meal and transgenic species; prevent escapes and
- 14 adverse effects on wild populations; and reduce

15 conflicts with user groups.

16           Lastly, the U.S. should press for prompt and

17 effective international implementation of the ocean

18 commitments agreed to at the World Summit on Sustainable

19 Development in Johannesburg, South Africa, on September

20 4, of this year.

21           I ask the commissioners to review the detailed

22 recommendations in our written testimony, and I thank

1 the Commission for the opportunity to present to you.

2 DR. KITSOS: Thank you very much. We will  
3 provide your written comments when we receive them to  
4 all the commissioners.

5 Mr. Chairman, that ends the shortest public  
6 comment period on the record of the Commission.

7 CHAIRMAN WATKINS: Are there any other items  
8 of business or things that the commissioners would like  
9 to raise at this point?

10 (No verbal response.)

11 CHAIRMAN WATKINS: All right. Without any  
12 objection, we stand adjourned until the 22nd, 23rd,  
13 24th, an undefined period at this time. We will know  
14 more as the staff begins to put pencil to paper,

15 resulting from this conference here, and hope to be able

16 to pin that down within the next month so you all can

17 make special plans. At any rate, we are adjourned.

18 Thanks very much for all of the participation.

19 (Whereupon, at 4:00 p.m., the meeting was

20 adjourned.)

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