

Ms. Nancy Lee  
Friends of the Everglades

I was at the Feb. 22nd meeting of the Commission on Ocean Policy, representing Friends of the Everglades. Although signed up to speak, the public comments section closed before I was able to speak. Here are our written comments:

As a local activist group, it is hard to have impact when there isn't a local place to go. Local groups have to deal with lobbyists, lawyers and in this case --- A "greenwash" Miami-based ocean group funded by two cruise lines. For our group to make an impact, we are battling uphill at all times. Water quality is and always has been our goal. Here are some our concerns and suggestions:

We are concerned about the Florida ports competing in a dredging frenzy to accommodate larger and larger ships.

We are concerned with the injection well drilling in Florida. We believe the science does not back the effort.

We are concerned with off-shore oil and gas development off the coast of Florida.

We question the Memo of Understanding between the cruise industry and Dept. of Environmental Protection in Florida instead of adopting enforceable laws. (Calif. rejected the MOU for their State.)

We support more funding to the Coast Guard. The Coast Guard has been diligent in checking cruise ship waste and greywater. They do night monitoring. They are conducting ballast water surveillance and have instituted a ballast water program. The Coast Guard responds to and records oil spills. We believe that vigorous enforcement is the key to stopping the pollution of our ocean. For this reason, we support more funds to enforcement efforts.