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*Robyn Conmy
Lisa Fairchild
Dan Hammond
Janell Harvey
Monica Wolfson*



The points that will be addressed here are the opinions of the students in a graduate level ocean policy course offered at the University of South Florida. We thank Dr. Frank Muller-Karger of the Ocean Commission for encouraging us to present our views here today.

There are three main topics that we want to touch on today. One is the concept of fees to cover access to our common property in the ocean. The other is that of partnerships between the Federal government and academic institutions and industry. Finally, we want to briefly address the role that the oceans play in the pressing issue of national security.

An issue that repeatedly comes up in class and warrants discussion is the extraction and use of ocean resources. Resources in territorial waters and in the EEZ are the common property of all Americans of today and tomorrow. These common resources are entrusted to the Federal Government on behalf of the people of the United States.

In addition to the cost of extracting the resource itself, extraction of our property carries an environmental cost that is most often not accounted for. Because market price does not reflect externalities or subsidies, the costs of ocean commodities seem less than they really are.

It is our opinion that a fund needs to be created, maintained, and dedicated to risk assessment, hazard mitigation and economic incentives associated with a given resource. The monies for this fund would come from various sources, like royalties, leases, licenses and registration fees, to be applied toward the privilege of using specific ocean resources. A portion of these funds could also include a substantial education effort that reaches schools and the general public.

Another suggestion would be to enact a bid and royalty program for the commercial fishing industry similar to timber and oil industries. This would remove redundant fishing and make the industry more efficient.

All uses of our common property should carry a realistic cost, so that we can manage them just as we do with anything else in our private and public lives.

The second recommendation we want to make to today is that of outsourcing. Over the past 30 years there has been a tendency for the ocean-related Federal agencies to grow. In many cases, this is at the expense of creative research and technology development in the public and academic sectors. We would like to see the Commission recommend that

these agencies outsource more of the tasks that have slowly been incorporated into regional Federal labs. The people of our country would be best served by the Federal government utilizing and stimulating regional and local education, scientific research, and resource management capabilities. This would eventually serve to reduce the redundancy and duplication of programs within and across agencies.

We feel this would strengthen the link between the private and commercial institutions, as well as between the public and its government. In addition, a greater emphasis needs to be placed on the importance of educational outreach programs within agencies. Without such programs we would not be able to be here today.

Finally, we would like to very briefly address the issue of national security in the context of ocean policy. Our nation has historically been seen as a leader in great measure because of its naval strength. The Navy plays an important role in protecting not only our nation's resources and people, but those of other nations as well. We believe that the best way to use this strength is to emphasize the important link between understanding the dynamics of the ocean environment and its association with national security, keeping us generations ahead.

In closing, oceanic research is a fundamental necessity for the protection of our national security interests. These interests are not separate from environmental protection, and ocean policy should reflect the relationship between these ideas. Thank you.

Contact Information:

Robyn Conmy- rconmy@seas.marine.usf.edu

Lisa Fairchild- lfairchi@chumal.cas.usf.edu

Dan Hammond- dangh6@hotmail.com

Janell Harvey- jharve1@tampabay.rr.com

Monica Wolfson- mwolfson@seas.marine.usf.edu