

October 21, 2002

U. S. Commission on Ocean Policy
Admiral James D. Walkins, Chairman
U.S. Navy (Ret.)

Dear Sir:

I write you as the Beach Safety Director of the United States Lifesaving Association, Southeast Region. I am retired from the City of Hollywood, Florida, Fire/Rescue Department, as a Marine Safety Officer. I now volunteer my time and effort to this worthwhile organization.

In 1984 the American Red Cross relinquished all open water and surf lifesaving authority to the United States Lifesaving Association (flyer enclosed). We are a national organization with over four thousand members from coast to coast including the Great Lakes, Puerto Rico and Caribbean Islands. We are self-supporting through our own and (501 c 3) sponsor contributions.

When I read of the projected population boom expected for coastal America, I know that we in surf lifesaving have to start preparing, as do coastal communities. This influx has already started, and with it an influx of surf drownings.

The Pensacola Beach area has had the most surf drownings in recorded history (copy enclosed). That's a coastal area that's just starting to grow. That's when we (U.S.L.A.) came in. I brought a taskforce of four subject matter experts (SMEs) to the area for a week to look into the problem. The assessment is still being prepared, but it doesn't look good.

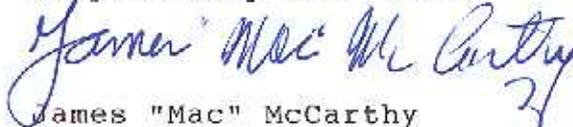
If the prediction comes true that 75% of Americans will be living in coastal areas by the year 2025, what will the

visitor count be? What is troubling me as a marine lifesaver, with these projections is, where is the planning for preventative lifesaving?

That's where I believe we can help. I would be very privileged to be a part of a group. I know another U.S.L.A. member who is a Town Administrator on the New Jersey shore, and a former California Lifeguard Chief who also share my interest.

Perhaps we could work under the direction of Dr. James M. Coleman's group. His working group would appear the most appropriate as it covers the coastal issues.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "James 'Mac' McCarthy". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large initial "J" and a small "2" at the end.

James "Mac" McCarthy
Beach Safety Director
U.S. Lifesaving Association
Southeast Region

encl.

copy: Dr. James M. Coleman
Mr. Tim Gallagher
S.E. Region-B.O.D.