

February 26, 2003

Dear U.S. Commission on Ocean Policy,

Quality of life in the Puget Sound is greatly defined by our environment. Ocean restoration and protection are critical to our area's quality of life and our economy. 30% of the gross domestic product is generated in coastal areas. We need ocean restoration, including enforcement of the Clean Water Act, oil spill prevention, and habitat protection and restoration.

We need an Ocean Restoration Policy for 2 important reasons:

1. Our ocean and coastal regions have been damaged by pollution, habitat destruction and mismanagement of marine resources; and
2. The Northwest's marine ecosystems have far-reaching impacts on our economic well-being, the health of our people and the region's quality of life.

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