

**Testimony of Senator Fritz Hollings**  
**The U.S. Commission on Ocean Policy**  
**Washington, D.C.**  
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I thank you very much. I apologize for my back to the audience. I'll never forget, I was a senior captain at the Citadel some years back and I was going on more leaves than the Commandant was and they had me before the Regimental Cadet Committee, and you folks look like the Regimental Cadet Committee to me here this morning. They've got me scared to death.

As Elizabeth Taylor said to her seventh husband, "I won't keep you long." I've had this condition for the last three or four days, this hoarse voice, but people don't understand me anyway. I'll never forget campaigning up in Worcester, Massachusetts – I kept calling it "Wor-chester" – and the lady came to the door and says, "Who are you?" I said, "Fritz Hollings." She thought it was a German trucking company.

But in any event, my appreciation goes to each of you who have agreed to serve on the Commission. It's been a long hard road. Admiral Watkins said I was an expert. I'm an expert on ocean politics, not the ocean itself. I continue to learn from each of you every week of every year and it's exciting. I'm still as interested as ever. But it has been a long hard road. We started off with a very auspicious beginning. We had Julius Stratton's Commission report and I met with my friend John Mitchell who I knew because he and I were engaged in legal work together before he was Attorney General. I called over there to meet with Mitchell about the report. We bypassed John Ehrlichman, who was a land-use lawyer out of Seattle and was absolutely opposed to anything that the Stratton Commission recommended, namely to organize all of the different entities with an interest in ocean and coastal issues. And you can see from your hearings today, I don't know how you fit them all in. But with John Mitchell and President Nixon, we were able to get the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration started. Also, as a result of the Stratton Commission report, we enacted the Coastal Zone Management Act, the National Marine Sanctuaries Act, the Marine Mammal Protection Act, the Ocean Dumping Act, Magnuson-Stevens Fisheries Act and everything else of that kind.

But about 20 years ago, the beginning of the '80s, that crowd came to town saying that the government wasn't the solution, the government was the problem, the government was the enemy, get rid of the government, and they started in on our ocean programs. And at that time we had "landlubber" Chairman of the Senate Commerce Committee. They did away with the National Ocean Policy study and Subcommittee on Oceans and Atmospheres. Tom Kitsos laughs, he knows I'm telling the truth. They tried to get rid of us. He was up there at the time. They tried to get rid of everything, particularly when the contract crowd

came to town in the '90s. They wanted to abolish outright the Department of Commerce. And since they couldn't abolish it, then they looked for what in the Department of Commerce they could get rid of. And, of course, they started right in on NOAA. They cut its budget, they tried to get rid of the NOAA Corps, they tried to get rid of the NOAA Fleet, they tried to get rid of the research program and everything else of that kind.

Just the other day, Secretary Evans came up to see me and he said we only had two million in the budget for ocean exploration research last year, and he said, "I got it up to 14 million." I said, "Well, the NASA research budget is 14 billion. And you think you've given us something with a little old 14 million." So you go right to the heart of the task in what confronts us. It's not organized. You've got the ability to get it organized. This is a magnificent outstanding group. To tell you the truth, you bring together all the different interests in the oceans. I don't know of a better group. And, really, that's the good news – thank you for your willingness to serve. But having that in mind, remember that we've got to get right into the ocean research needs because 95 percent or seven-tenths of the world's surface is unknown. We know way more about the surface of the moon than we do about our own planet.

Again, with respect to fisheries, 56 different species are overfished, and you've got all kinds of problems with ocean management. The main thing is to try to educate, if you please, the public. I was tickled to death at the initiative, Mr. Chairman, that you instituted here with respect to these regional meetings. I don't know of anything better to be done. Because when we started back 30 years ago with Stratton, we had everybody coming to these regional meetings. We had all the schools and the different programs. We had Jacques Cousteau, he came over from France, we had Thor Heyerdahl, he came in from Norway. They all came in and they gave their time and they generated excitement about these issues.

You have a dormant subject and there's been an affirmative plan to keep it dormant and get rid of it. Like I say, I continue to learn about the oceans, particularly with Bob Ballard. He gets me excited about finding Noah's Ark and all these things that we're going to explore. This is wonderful, it's there, but you need to wake the town and tell the people all about it. There isn't any question also that you have got to move the Congress.

Now, we've got a wonderful House oceans crowd, but they've only got a caucus, and it's hard to get laws focused on oceans issues. This Commission, like I say, it took four years to get approved through the Oceans Act. We were opposed by the oil industry, we were opposed by the Defense Department, we were opposed by the State Department. Nobody wanted to fool with law of the sea, and they definitely didn't want a commission of this kind. So you don't come in on an entirely popular wave. On the contrary, you've got to sell apples to the people and the Congress. And I don't know of a better group, like I said, and a leader in

Admiral Watkins who is chairing the group. Dr. Tom Kitsos as Executive Director. We've got Admiral Lautenbacher over there at NOAA. So we've got good personnel now in charge and in place. But you've got a lot of hard work to do, and I thank you again and would be glad to try to respond to any questions that you have.