DR. KITSOS: Well, I think we have some furniture to move. We will take 30 seconds, and then we have two public commenters signed up, Eli Weissman and Santi Roberts.

Mr. Roberts, are you here?

MS. NAUGHTEN: He is.

DR. KITSOS: Okay. Eli, you have been through this before. You have five minutes. At four minutes, I will start jumping up and down and ask you to finish up.

Please come forward and give us your statement. As you know, this is not a question-and-answer session for the commissioners; it is just your statement. Please proceed.
Thank you.

PUBLIC COMMENT

MR. WEISSMAN: Hello.

Commissioners, it is a pleasure to see you all again. My name is Eli Weissman and I am with the Ocean Conservancy. I just would like to provide a few comments on some of what I have heard today. I am really quite impressed with the amount of progress. I am going to jump around a little bit, and I
will just try to go fairly quickly, but just a handful

of comments here.

I know Lillian had to leave early, but she had

raised a question about the importance of Coast Guard to

work on education with recreational boaters. One thing

that I can certainly provide for the record, the Ocean

Conservancy through our Good Mate Program has been

working with the Coast Guard for quite some time

developing educational material, providing outreach to

recreational boaters. We can certainly provide that for

the record.

As far as guiding principles go, I really

would encourage you to keep the first one on

stewardship, that the ocean resources are held in public
trust. That is something that we have been saying a
number of times, and I am really pleased that that is
something that the Commission is certainly seriously
considering. I really did appreciate that.

As far as the living marine resources
discussion, while I know that the emphasis was certainly
on fisheries management, I really would like to see more
discussion on other areas of living marine resources,
particularly marine wildlife, that was not discussed at all today; also coral reefs; national marine sanctuaries; and moving beyond just fisheries management, which was something that I know was the emphasis today. There really are other areas that I believe do need to be discussed and even within fisheries management by catch and habitat destruction was also, again, important issues that we believe need to be addressed.

As far as the fisheries management goes, there are a couple of comments specifically on dedicated access privileges. There was some discussion on IFQs. I believe Marc had asked if there had been discussion on standards.
One thing I certainly can provide, the Ocean Conservancy is part of the Marine Fish Conservation Network, and we have a set of standards that we have been pushing for. They are mandatory standards as opposed to guidelines, which was something that was discussed today.

Also, I know that Senator Carey has a bill that lists standards as well as Congressman Gilchrist.
had a bill on his Magnuson. Those are three things that you can look at, at least for starters, on standards. I can certainly help get the Marine Fish Conservation Network standards, just to help move the discussion along.

As far as the nominations, the council is one thing that I think the Ocean Conservancy would definitely like to see was instead of just having the governors put two people from commercial, two from recreational and two from just the general public on the lists, we certainly believe that conservation interests needs to have equal representation because we really do believe that someone needs to be looking out for the resource.
The current structure really is the fox guarding the hen house, and we do believe that conservation interests do need to be represented on the Council, so there are folks looking out for the resource specifically.

As far as marine protected areas go, just moving on quickly, one thing that again should be no surprise to many of you that we have been pushing, is
for ocean wilderness. We are certainly encouraged by a lot of the discussions on MPAs today. One thing that I believe would be important in Chapter III, which was improving ocean health, something that I saw as an omission was ocean wilderness.

Ocean health is broader, in my opinion, than just water quality and human health and improving coordination. I think there were a couple of areas that were missing, ocean wilderness and certainly even marine protected areas was something that could help fill in some of that area.

How am I doing on time?

DR. KITSOS: You have one more minute.

MR. WEISSMAN: Okay. As far as education
goes, I would like to second Marc's comment about the
need for in addition to ocean science, to open it up to
other social sciences including liberal arts,
conservation, other areas like that. We provided a
paper to the commissioners that had some suggestions on
that.

Lastly, the Coast Guard Commandant had talked
about vessel management systems. That is a very
important priority for the Ocean Conservancy. Each year we work on appropriations, and we specifically try to get funding for VMS so that NMFS can conduct their enforcement.

I was disheartened because Guard enforcement even with their 20 percent growth is still going to be 5 to 7 percent low current below current enforcement, the pre-9/11 enforcement levels, and we thought those were inadequate. We would support what the Coast Guard Commandant had said on VMS. Sorry I jumped around a little bit, but there was a lot to cover. Nice to see you all again, and a great job today.

DR. KITSOS: Thank you, Eli. We appreciate your comments.
Mr. Roberts, you have five minutes, sir.

Please proceed.

MR. ROBERTS: I won't take five minutes.

Mr. Chairman, and members of the

U.S. Commission on Ocean Policy, my name is

Santi Roberts. I would like to make a brief statement

on behalf of Oceana, a new international organization

committed to restoring and protecting ocean and marine
life through public policy, advocacy, science, law,

grassroots mobilization and public education.

In May 2002, Oceana merged with American Oceans Campaign. We would also like to submit for the record a more detailed written recommendation concerning sustainable fisheries management, water quality protection, cruise ship pollution, aquaculture, beach protection, and ocean governance.

This testimony summarizes comments delivered by Oceana at previous Commission meetings in Los Angeles by Board Member Ted Danson and in Anchorage and Seattle by Jim Aires, the director of Oceana's North Pacific Office.

one of our primary concerns lies with the
devastation to the oceans caused poor U.S. fishery management policies. We, therefore, urge the Commission to recommend that by catch must be counted, counting control to levels approaching zero for all the U.S. fisheries, and adequate observer coverage must be required to provide scientifically acceptable information on by catch and quotas.

The unsustainable practice of bottom trolling
must be limited to only those areas where it can be demonstrated that it will not harm habitats and marine life. The Fishery Management Council system must be fixed by removing conflicts of interest including more non-U.S. public interest representatives and separating conservation and allocation decisions.

A scientifically-based network of no-take marine reserves must be established to maintain marine ecosystem functions, rebuild depleted fish populations, protect sensitive habitats and increase scientific understanding of ocean ecosystems.

We also urge the Commission to recommend a number of measures to protect ocean water quality. Marine water quality standards in no-discharge zones and
special ocean sites should be established in the EEZ as proposed in Executive Order 13158 and EPA should develop water quality criteria for nutrients PAHs, mercury and other contaminants.

The treaty on persistent organic pollutants, "POPs," should be ratified after Congress adopts implementing legislation to allow the addition of chemicals to the 12 POPs listed in the treaty and amends
the Toxic Substances Control Act to allow bans on additional POP characteristic chemicals.

Cruise ship waste and balance water, currently exempt from many important Clean Water Act requirements, should be regulated as point sources under the Clean Water Act, and be subject to the same effluent limits, monitoring, reporting and enforcement procedures that apply to other industrial and municipal waste streams.

National standards should be established for the citing, design and operation of marine aquaculture fish facilities to protect the marine ecosystem; minimize the use of chemical pesticides, antibiotics, fish meal and transgenic species; prevent escapes and adverse effects on wild populations; and reduce
conflicts with user groups.

Lastly, the U.S. should press for prompt and effective international implementation of the ocean commitments agreed to at the World Summit on Sustainable Development in Johannesburg, South Africa, on September 4, of this year.

I ask the commissioners to review the detailed recommendations in our written testimony, and I thank
the Commission for the opportunity to present to you.

DR. KITSOS: Thank you very much. We will provide your written comments when we receive them to all the commissioners.

Mr. Chairman, that ends the shortest public comment period on the record of the Commission.

CHAIRMAN WATKINS: Are there any other items of business or things that the commissioners would like to raise at this point?

(No verbal response.)

CHAIRMAN WATKINS: All right. Without any objection, we stand adjourned until the 22nd, 23rd, 24th, an undefined period at this time. We will know more as the staff begins to put pencil to paper,
resulting from this conference here, and hope to be able

to pin that down within the next month so you all can

make special plans. At any rate, we are adjourned.

Thanks very much for all of the participation.

(Whereupon, at 4:00 p.m., the meeting was

adjourned.)

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