

Public Testimony
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Mr. Chairman and Fellow Commissioners

My Name is Russell Scranton; I am a Marine Resource Management Masters Candidate at the College of Ocean and Atmospheric Sciences of Oregon State University. My colleague Jessica Hamilton has handed in a report with recommendations from an ocean and coastal resource management research group. I wanted to address two of those recommendations for coastal and oceanographic research and management.

For coastal and estuarine research and management, referring to Issue 12, species diversity and complexity, exotic species management, human population growth, fish maturation, chemical pollutant treatment and bioaccumulation have not been adequately addressed on the West Coast. Federal support is needed to combat these regional problems of national significance. For these reasons, we recommend the establishment of three additional National Estuarine Research Reserves located on the West Coast. The establishment of one in California's Humboldt Bay could address population growth, historical loss of tidal marsh habitats, and species diversity changes due aquaculture and invasive species introduction. The other in Willapa Bay to study Washington's coastal species diversity, aquaculture impacts and chemical treatments for shrimp, and *Spartina alterniflora* control practices. An additional NERRs in a major port of the Puget Sound, such as Bellingham, Tacoma, Seattle or Olympia, to aid in research of contaminated sediments, oil spill prevention, exotic species management, salmon restoration, and non-point source urban pollution prevention and treatment. The goal of establishing additional NERRs would be primarily to analyze how ecosystems are affected by the human environment. The NERRs would also provide a forum to promote public education and research.

Addressing oceanographic research and management, you have already heard from panelists how essential baseline information about how the oceans have changed is missing or incomplete. Issue 9 addresses this problem and several other regional problems to the Northwest. As a solution, we recommend the expansion of an existing research program established to study Equatorial climatic variations. The impacts of the El Niño-Southern Oscillation (ENSO) on the US and international community was a focusing event for expansion of research to establish a mechanism and models for the impacts of ENSO. The creation of the TAO Array and use of satellite remote sensing have provided man answers to the initial problem.

With the recent acknowledgment by the Bush Administration that global warming is increasing due to human contributions, there has never been a more urgent need to understand ocean warming and climate change will affect populations and resources. Therefore, we recommend the establishment of a buoy array spaced 100 km apart along the West Coast of the US covering coastal waters and waters of the EEZ. This would help oceanographers and atmospheric scientists to create models for ocean and atmospheric conditions. It would also establish a baseline of information to aid in

monitoring global warming and natural ocean and climatic oscillations. We hope that the interest in this research could motivate the international community to follow our example and expand a support network around the Pacific.

Taking of my hat as a representative from our working group, I would like to speak as an individual of the generation that may be severely impacted by global warming. This Presidential Administrations stance to ignore the precautionary principle and have future generations adapt to global warming impacts is unacceptable. I hope you will do more than consider the recommendations of Mr. Dennis Hayes and Congressman Ensley, because if models are correct, managing the future impacts of ocean changes will be an even harder task than the one you are faced with today.

I want to thank the Commission for setting this time aside to review public comment. I hope our recommendations may aid in the recommendations you will be making to congress next spring.

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