



*This is the official newsletter of the Ocean Protection Coalition of the Mendocino Coast. The Ocean Protection Coalition is an affiliate of the Redwood Coast Watershed Alliance – <http://rcwa.us/>. The Redwood Coast Watershed Alliance is an alliance of citizen organizations on ridges, valleys and waterways of the Mendocino Coast. The Redwood Coast Watershed Alliance is also a tax exempt, IRS-approved non profit organization.*



A beautiful Thanksgiving day sunset at Van Damme State Park - photo by Ed Oberweiser

## Thompson reintroduces permanent oil drilling ban off coast

### From Mike Thompson's office

Washington – Congressman Mike Thompson (D-North Coast) reintroduced legislation that would permanently prohibit oil and gas drilling off the coasts of Mendocino, Humboldt and Del Norte Counties. The Northern California Ocean and Coastal Protection Act protects the unique and dynamic marine environment along the Northern Coast of California's outer continental shelf (OCS) from off shore drilling. Congressman Thompson also introduced this legislation in the 111th Congress.

"It is critical that we permanently protect our coast and its vital marine life from the environmental hazards of off-shore drilling," said Congressman Thompson. "In past Congresses, this important issue has become a political dispute rather than a debate on legitimate policy. This legislation will steer the debate back to sensible, science based policy, and ensure the well being of our oceans for future generations."

During the 110th Congress the ban

on OCS drilling expired, which leaves the North Coast susceptible to drilling. The moratorium on OCS drilling had been a bipartisan agreement in Congress since 1982, but came under regular attack, and was not renewed in 2008.

"One of the four most crucial upwellings in the world's oceans is located off of California's North Coast and sustains 20 percent of the ocean's fish," said Congressman Thompson. "Regardless of who is in charge in Washington in the future, we need to ensure now that our coast is permanently protected from needless and harmful offshore drilling."

The coastal areas that support extremely abundant and productive marine life are known as upwelling regions. This is because an upwelling brings cold, nutrient-rich waters from the ocean depths that, when combined with sunlight, enhance seaweed and phytoplankton growth. The seaweed and phytoplankton supply energy for some of the most productive ecosystems in the world, including the North Coast fisheries and many of the world's most

important fisheries. Drilling for oil off of California's North Coast could cause serious harm to the unique and productive ecosystem and abundant marine life found off the coast, including the fish many local North Coast economies depend on.

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# Anglers file lawsuit vs MLPA

## From the Partnership for Sustainable Oceans

January 27, 2011 - Sacramento, CA. Member organizations of the Partnership for Sustainable Oceans (PSO), which represents California's recreational fishing and boating community, have filed a lawsuit in the San Diego County Superior Court. The suit seeks to set aside regulations established by the California Fish and Game Commission in connection with the Marine Life Protection Act (MLPA).

The Commission approved regulations for the North Central and South Coast study regions in August 2009 and December 2010, respectively, establishing marine protected areas – essentially no-fishing zones – in large areas of the state's coastal waters.

The lawsuit was filed by United Anglers of Southern California, Coastside Fishing Club and Robert C. Fletcher. It cites a lack of statutory authority for adopting the regulations, and, in the case of the South Coast regulations, numerous violations of the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) in the commission's environmental review of the regulations.

"From the outset, it was clear that the MLPA process was set up to reach a predetermined outcome under the fiction of an allegedly open and transparent process," said Bob Fletcher, former president of the Sportfishing Association of California. "In a rush to establish regulations based on political timelines and a pre-determined agenda, the Fish and Game Commission has ignored the legal requirements it must follow."

Most notably, the petition states that: The commission does not have the statutory authority to adopt, modify or delete marine protected areas under the MLPA's main rulemaking provisions until it has approved a final Master Plan for the state. The final Master Plan has yet to be written or approved.

The other statutory authorities that the commission relies on do not provide the commission with the authority it needs to adopt these MPAs.

The privately-funded "MLPA Initiative" process has been conducted in a manner inconsistent with the process the state legislature directed in the MLPA, and meetings held by MLPA planning groups that should have been open meetings were closed to the public.

The South Coast study region regulations were adopted on the basis of an environmental review process that is in violation of the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA).

"Our concerns were presented to the commission prior to its December 2010 vote to approve regulations for the South Coast," Fletcher further said.

"Ignoring the information before them, the commission went forward with approving regulations to close 116 square miles of southern California's coastal waters to recreational fishing. Many of the best sportfishing areas are included in the closures.

These closures don't just disappoint the fishermen – they take away jobs and income for many California small businesses along the coast and elsewhere. Particularly concerning are the flaws in a regulatory process that has been fueled with private money from special interests. The end result of this process has been a rush by the commission to adopt regulations without the authority it must have to adopt them, and without a proper review of the environmental consequences of what they're doing. That should be a concern for all Califor-

nians, whether they fish for fun or for a living, or whether they've never been fishing at all."

"Much of the best fishing areas are now closed under the MLPA process," said Dan Wolford, Science Director for the Coastside Fishing Club. "Anglers in the North Central region are now suffering because of excessive, unnecessary closures that we believe were improperly established.

We find it extremely concerning that anglers, who are the original conservationists, are being taken off the water through a seriously flawed process, while the real threats to the health of our ocean, such as contaminated stormwater runoff and industrial pollutants, are allowed to continue unabated."

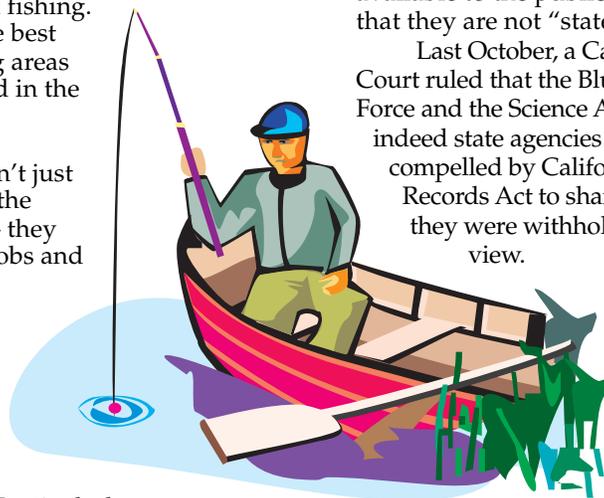
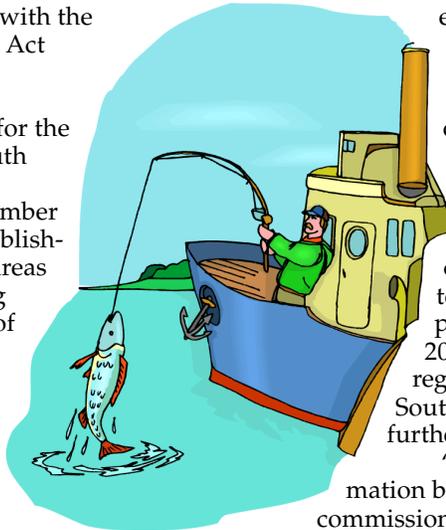
The petition is the second lawsuit involving the MLPA by members of the PSO. In May 2010, Fletcher filed suit against the MLPA Blue Ribbon Task Force and Master Plan Team, also known as the Science Advisory Team, for failing to respond to a Public Records Act request, as state agencies are required to do.

These groups claimed that they were not required to make their records available to the public on the ground that they are not "state agencies."

Last October, a California Superior Court ruled that the Blue Ribbon Task Force and the Science Advisory Team are indeed state agencies and therefore are compelled by California's Public Records Act to share information that they were withholding from public view.

"The good intentions of the MLPA have been derailed by private interests and political motivations," said Fletcher. "We urge anglers, outdoors enthusiasts and anyone who supports good government and the public's right to know what its government is doing.

We ask them to please visit <http://www.oceanaccessprotectionfund.org/> and donate what they can to help us to continue to fight this flawed process in the courts."



# The Fort Bragg Whale festival is coming in March

By Char Flum

Come one, come all to the Fort Bragg Whale Fest sponsored by the Ocean Protection Coalition. The event will be held March 20, 2011 at the Fort Bragg Town Hall from 12:00 to 3:00.

We are proud to announce that NRDC, The California Gray Whale Coalition, Dan Hamburg and other speakers to be announced, will be there to give us a update on their work to



protect the whales.

This will be one of our best events in a long while. We will have a short film on the effects of Sonar on

whales, a raffle, childrens' ocean art on display from three local art classes and other things that may be added. There will also be live music featuring Antonia Lamb and David Gurney as well as refreshments.

We hope to see everyone who is concerned about the Gray Whales that pass our shores on their yearly migra-

tory path and whales worldwide.

We would also like to ask that any artist that wishes to donate any type of art to this event for our raffle or silent auction, contact Char Flum before the end of February so we can make arrangements to pick it up.

This contribution would be a meaningful donation to our cause for greater protection for the Whales

Thanking you in advance for your consideration.

Char Flum 707-964-5035

## OPC Chair's report for 2010

By Judith Vidaver

The New Year, 2011, brings a whole new set of challenges to the ocean and the expectation that old ones will resurface.

OPC has seen its efforts pay off in responding to recent threats to the marine environment. In just the last couple of months of 2010 we have had much to celebrate.

Citing technological and funding difficulties, PG&E abandoned its plans for a wave power plant off Humboldt Bay. In November, the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission (FERC) canceled Green Wave's preliminary permit to develop

a huge wave power plant off the Mendocino Headlands. However, litigation is still being pursued to stop FERC from issuing permits until it produces a comprehensive plan for such development (as required under the Federal Powers Act). So far no wave power projects in California have made it beyond the concept stage.

On February 15 oral arguments will be presented before Federal Court in San Francisco as to why FERC should or shouldn't have to comply with the law. This is open to the public – could be entertaining if you like courtroom drama.

Implementation of the Marine Life Protection Act designation of Marine Protected Areas is winding up. The North Coast Region accomplished what no other region did: they came up with a single

“Unified Array” that all members of the Regional Stake Holder Group came to consensus on. This “Unified Array” is also supported by nearly all coastal communities, fishing and environmental groups and Tribes between Point Arena and the Oregon border. While this is a hugely laudable feat, for which I

personally am so proud of our region, OPC still objects to the imposition of these possibly environmentally and economically damaging no fishing zones (see OPC's official comments below).

OPC participated in minimizing these impacts.

OPC, along with with Regional Stakeholder, Skip Wollenberg, also led the effort to prohibit wave energy projects and off-shore oil development in the MPAs. We are so grateful to Skip for his lobbying for this protection and to the RSG who adopted this protection in Skip's honor after he passed away this fall. Skip was a great friend to the ocean and a steadfast supporter of OPC. He will be missed.

Now that these issues are requiring less attention, OPC is focusing on the threat presented by the Navy in conducting it's training exercises off the coast from Humboldt to Canada. While Mendocino County is excluded from the training range, we are concerned that the

impacts to marine life, especially marine mammals, will devastate the Gray Whale – which is rapidly declining in numbers. We will focus on this issue at our Whale Festival event planned for March 20 at Town Hall. Hope to see you there(see page 3).

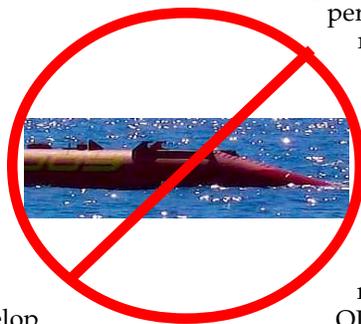
OPC is also working on a video documenting the Navy's impacts and how communities are responding to this on-going threat. We hope to use it to rally the whole Pacific Northwest.

OPC is also tracking the creation of Obama's National Ocean Policy which is promising controversial programs such as increased ocean energy development, fishing “catch shares” and Coastal and Marine Spatial Planning. We expect this process will be like the MLPA on steroids.

Lastly, OPC anticipates more pressure to open our coast to off-shore oil/gas development as the “drill, baby, drill” contingent takes over the government.

OPC thanks its many supporters who have made these victories possible. We need your on-going support, in action and, like every other organization trying to save the world & civilization, OPC needs your financial support. Please send some to **OPC, P.O.Box 1006, Fort Bragg 95437.**

– Judith Vidaver, Chair



# Reporter sues state agencies, MLPA

By OPC staff

A journalist forcibly arrested for recording and speaking at a public meeting is suing the privately funded MLPAI, and state agencies.

On April 20, 2010, David Gurney went to a Marine Life Protection Act Initiative meeting in Fort Bragg, California, to record the "public/private" agency that was closing off large areas of state waters to fishermen and seaweed gatherers. Soon after the meeting began, it was announced that the public would not be allowed to record or speak at the meeting.

"I was surprised," Gurney says, "The managers had decided to split up the thirty-four local stakeholders into separate sub-groups, against their will. They apparently didn't want it on tape."

But he had been working on a documentary of the MLPAI process for the past nine months, and the camera was rolling.

Executive Director Ken Wiseman immediately stopped the meeting. "He and professional facilitator Eric Poncelet came up to me with an armed fish and game warden, and ordered me to quit filming," Gurney said. "I was threatened with ejection and arrest if I didn't."

He complied, but three other times during the two-day meetings, he continued to record. "I wanted to get some quick B-roll footage, to show how the stakeholders had been split up against their own vote," he said. Each time seen, he was ordered to stop.

Gurney also spoke up at the beginning of the proceedings when it was announced there would be no opportunity for public comment. "I knew that was also a violation of the law, to hold a public meeting and not allow any comment," he says. "I simply told the MLPAI that I had not given up my rights by attending their meeting."

Finally, near the end of the second day, Gurney asked a question that the staff did not want to hear.

"During the question and answer period, I asked whether the MLPAI would make any provisions to protect the ocean from other activities besides fishing. Things like oil drilling, wind and wave energy development, fish farms, etc. As the facilitator was telling me that no questions would be taken from the public, someone sent a Fish and Game Warden over to arrest me," Gurney said.

He was quickly escorted out of the meeting hall, handcuffed, and taken away in a Fish and Game pick-up truck.

In 2004, the MLPA "Initiative" resurrected a ten-year old law with undisclosed private funding, to create its own, nebulous state-like agency. Director Wiseman at first said that California laws, including the Bagley-Keene Open Meetings Act, did not apply because the process was "advisory" to state government. Yet the state supplied scientists, advisors and armed Fish and Game Wardens to act as security guards for public MLPAI meetings.

Many feel that the blurring of

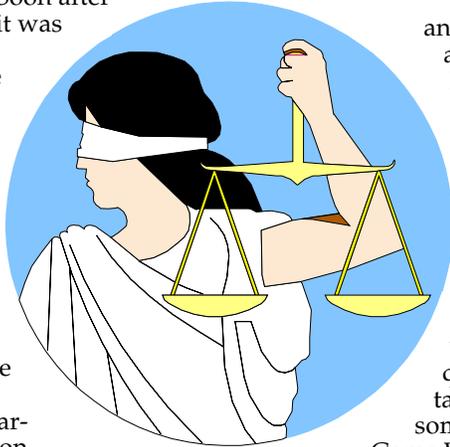
lines between private and public interests opened the floodgates for corruption, and illegal private influence of the democratic process runs rampant in the MLPAI.

California's open meeting laws guarantee that citizens and members of the press have a right to keep track of what goes on in a public process and assures they will not be harassed at public meetings. Yet the Marine Life Protection Act Initiative, funded by the secretive Resources Legacy Fund Foundation, often had secret, unrecorded meetings, changed the rules of their process at whim and abided only by the laws of their own choosing.

Gurney had earlier volunteered to serve on his community's citizen watchdog committee to keep an eye on the "Initiative." Many in his town felt that the privately funded commission had repeatedly crossed the line of illegality. In addition to violating state open meeting laws, a 72-foot Blue Whale had been killed off Fort Bragg by an unlicensed mapping vessel, contracted by the MLPAI.

Native American interests were negligently ignored. Shady stipends, favors and promises were handed out from the unregulated contributions of the Resources Legacy Foundation. Secret, unrecorded meetings continued to be held. Local folks complained loudly of ineptitude, conflict of interest and corruption.

"I just wanted to get what I could on tape, for the historical record," he said. He is seeking a permanent injunction that will prevent further violations of Bagley-Keene, Constitutional and other laws by the MLPAI, as well as damages suffered in the arrest. Interestingly, the California Attorney General's Office has illegally declined routine service of papers in the complaint, forcing attorneys to initiate default proceedings against the state.



## Commission releases deepwater report

OPC staff

The National Commission on the BP Deepwater Horizon Oil Spill and Offshore Drilling released its final report on January 11th and warned that without major regulatory reforms, a disaster of this magnitude could occur again.

The report takes direct aim at the American Petroleum Institute (API), which the commission notes has developed technical standards and practices that have been woven into federal regulations

"Based on this Commission's multiple meetings and discussions with leading members of the oil and gas industry, however, it is clear that API's ability to serve as a reliable standard-setter for is compromised by its role as the industry's principal lobbyist and public policy advocate," the 300-plus page report states.

The Report concludes, "The well blew out because a number of separate risk factors, oversights, and outright mistakes combined to overwhelm the safeguards meant to prevent just such an

event from happening. But most of the mistakes and oversights at Macondo can be traced back to a single overarching failure – a failure of management.

Better management by BP, Halliburton, and Transocean would almost certainly have prevented the blowout by improving the ability of individuals involved to identify the risks they faced, and to properly evaluate, communicate, and address them.

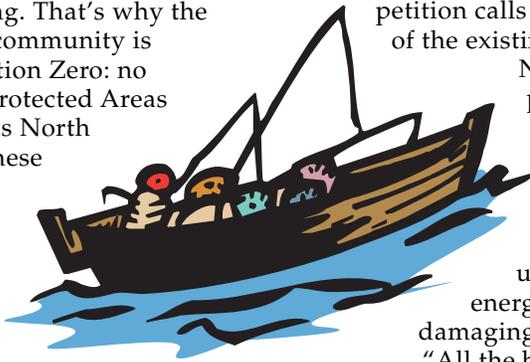
A blowout in deepwater was not a statistical inevitability."

# MLPA closures target Shelter Cove fishery

By John Lewallen

“Shelter Cove is a sacrifice zone in the so-called Unified Array of new Marine Protected Areas proposed for California’s North Coast by the Marine Life Protection Act Initiative process. Shelter Cove area closures threaten to kill the sustainable hook-and-line recreation and commercial fishery here, for no good reason.

The near shore ecosystem on the North Coast is healthy and does not need protecting. That’s why the Shelter Cove community is united for Option Zero: no new Marine Protected Areas for California’s North Coast. Once these areas are established they can be enlarged or moved even over local objections.”



Susan Sack, Administrative Secretary of the Shelter Cove Resort Improvement District and wife of third-generation commercial hook-and-line fisherman Don Sack, is frustrated and angry. In a January 24 letter to Senator Noreen Evans, she wrote:

“Fishing regulations around Shelter Cove are already the most restrictive on the Pacific Coast, in fact the planet. With the creation of new Marine Protected Areas within state waters many popular fishing areas are being closed off to fishing. My husband is already being forced to fish areas farther and farther from home with the existing regulations. Small open areas are seeing a more concentrated fishing effort and they are not adequate to keep our sustainable hook-and-line fishery healthy. Our family’s fishing business is facing bankruptcy and we are facing a future with no other job opportunities in our small coastal community or the surrounding area.”

The remote Humboldt County community of Shelter Cove is home port to a fleet of about fifteen full and part-time commercial hook-and-line fishers, operating from small boats in state waters. “Shelter Cove’s small independent hook-and-line fishers are a disadvantaged group with few

resources, living from paycheck to paycheck, so dedicating time away from putting food on the table to attend countless meetings with unsympathetic MLPAI staff is not an option,” Sack explained to Senator Evans.

Susan Sack delivered a petition signed by one thousand Shelter Cove residents, visitors and other local directly affected stakeholders to Assemblyman Wes Chesbro on January 21. The petition calls for no expansion of the existing MPAs on the North Coast and proposing the State protect California’s existing MPAs from mineral extraction, aquaculture, pollution, energy farms and other damaging manmade effects.

“All the board members of our local government, the Shelter Cove Resort Improvement District signed my petition, rejecting the Unified Array, and supporting Option Zero,” she said.

Sack noted that federal NOAA regulations already favor factory trawlers who operate in federal waters outside the three-mile nearshore zone governed by the State of California. “Most of our traditional fishing grounds have already been taken away and these were outside of three miles. These are now in the ‘Rockfish Conservation Area’ which only allows midwater trawlers to fish.

“NOAA has implemented an Individual Fishing Quota (IFQ) for bottom fish that only allows trawlers to qualify,” she said. “This will not only guarantee discard forever (trawlers waste about half of their catch) but will take away many well-paying sustainable quality jobs from small disadvantaged ports such as Shelter Cove. It will give them to corporate processors who pay employees poorly, sometimes

just room and board on ship and force them to live on board for long periods of time.

The federal government favors the trawling industry because they catch all of their quotas in spite of bad



weather and guarantee the maximum fishing assessment payment. The fact that they discard more of the biomass than they keep is not even a concern. Our small (mosquito) fleet lands their fresh catch daily. IFQ permit holders were recently given a large increase to their quotas of groundfish (from 83 to 90 percent of all groundfish) at the expense of recreational, subsistence and small hook and liners.”

Sack wrote that her husband Don, who fishes from a seventeen-foot boat and has forty-five years experience catching bottom fish, does not qualify for a federal quota and cannot pass his Nearshore Permit on to his son.

“More jobs would be created if traditional sustainable fishing families could be included in the IFQ program and be able to pass on their permits to their children. It would be a very efficient way to catch target fish with no discard. It should be about employing as many people in the least destructive and sustainable way.”

Sack concludes, “Please stop this corporate takeover of resources, suspend the MLPAI implementation and work to promote our caring local sustainable fishing communities instead of global consortiums who will put money before the health of our oceans or the Californian people.”

**Contact: Susan Sack or Don Sack, home (707)986-1639**



# Thompson vows to curtail navy's expanded training exercises off the Pacific Northwest Coast

From the office of Mike Thompson

"I'm not willing to roll over. I don't think we should allow the Navy to shoot first and apologize later. ... It seems the Navy could agree to minimize their trainings in areas identified as possible hotspots." He wants the Navy to heed results of a present effort by National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) to identify locations of sensitive marine habitats within Naval training areas used by whales, dolphins, seals and other mammals sensitive to sonar.

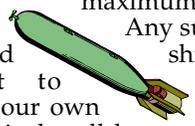


studies, while allowing the Navy to boost training's in 122,000 nautical square miles of ocean! All this ought to open up a whole new time frame to obtain the best possible data for going ahead with any War Games victimizing marine life.

The American public are just now learning the magnitude of this endless testing, which has been continuously carried out for the past 70 years, and is expanding.

Navy project manager John Mosier has said sonar use in not increasing dramatically...and will only be used for a maximum of 108 hours

a year. Any sustained, loud and shrill noise is sufficient to wreck hearing and havoc on our own psychological well being. We are outraged and protesting, because whatever use of sonar is too much under these circumstances.



Studies are not expected to be complete for another year!. Thompson wants the Navy to "hold fast" until this is done. He is preparing a bill to ensure findings of the National Resources Defense Council (NRDC) and NOAA get translated into action. It's uncertain when this bill would be introduced. – but as soon as possible. Thompson said, "I don't like the process which puts the public at disadvantage."

Ironically the final go ahead was given by NOAA, sponsoring noise

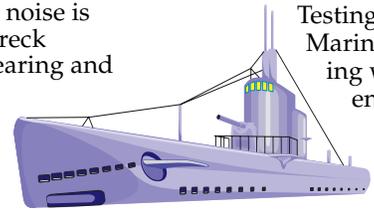
In one breath Mosier says "We are not allowed to kill any mammals,"... In the next , "Some levels of injury to mammals are permitted." (There are no clinics to help heal injured sea mammals and especially hearing

losses leading to mammal deaths). He believes the sonar levels permitted are much less than what will harm, yet such studies and deaths seem to refute such statements. Insufficient evidences of sonar's effects on all ocean species life is admitted by government officials, thus why are these tests permitted?

With the Navy about to commence testing again, our deepest concerns must be reflected at highest levels of government. . . or all this will simply go right on!

Let's see Thompson gets our support for such efforts

Nationally inspired by efforts of [www.agriculturedefensecoalition.org](http://www.agriculturedefensecoalition.org) Susan Radebaugh (707) 629-3570, Coalition to End Naval Weapons



Testing / killing of Marine life . . . connecting with native tribes, environmental, legal and other groups nationwide.

Reported on by Communities

For Justice and Peace, Humboldt.County CA. These communities are sending out reports and research studies, exposing media bias and holding government accountable.



## How will global warming effect California's water supply?



This is an excerpt from an Association of California Water Agencies report

High in the Sierra Nevada, snow-capped mountains provide more than just a beautiful winter landscape. They hold the snow pack that serves as California's largest and most important water storage reservoir.

However, experts say climate change could significantly diminish that snow pack and reduce this natural storage so critical to our water system. This segment of the California s Water series focuses on climate change and its potential impacts on our water supply system.

### Background on the Issue

According to the California Department of Water Resources, there is growing evidence that

California's climate is changing. Computer models suggest significant changes will occur in our rainfall and runoff patterns as average temperatures increase in the coming decades.

A likely scenario is that more precipitation will fall as rain instead of snow, resulting in much earlier runoff and potentially producing floods far greater than what California has experienced in modern times.

These changes are important because California relies on the Sierra snow pack for a major part of its annual water storage. Traditionally, the snow melts gradually over the spring months, and whatever water is not absorbed into the ground flows into the valleys below as runoff in creeks and rivers. That runoff is then stored in man-made reservoirs and groundwater basins for use year-round by communities, farms and businesses.

Climate change could significantly reduce the snow pack in the future. According to some scenarios, the Sierra snow pack could diminish by as much as 80 percent by the end of this century. This would vastly reduce the state's water storage capacity and create a major challenge for our water supply system in coming decades.

Since our existing reservoirs and flood control facilities were built to accommodate gradual runoff of melting snow, these changes could also have a major impact on our ability to protect communities and farms from floods.

In addition, climate change appears to be causing sea level to rise in some areas. In California, sea level rise could place additional pressure on the Delta's aging levees, putting at risk the water supply for about 23 million Californians and millions of acres of irrigated farmland. It could also affect

# Write a letter to save the whales

If we want to stop the Japanese from whaling in the Southern Ocean Whale Sanctuary once and for all, we have to reform the International Whaling Commission. President Obama has the power to do that. But we're going to have to generate more media attention to get him to act. Can you write a letter to the editor urging the President to reform the IWC?

In less than one week, over 40,000 people have asked President Obama to keep his pledge to save the whales. It has been amazing to watch. Thank you.

However, the Japanese are still busy hunting whales right now in the Southern Ocean and we've yet to hear a word from the President. We've also not heard much from the media. And that has to change if we want to see the President reform the International Whaling Commission.

You can help bring this issue into the public eye by writing a letter to the editor to your local newspaper. There's

nothing to writing a letter.

Below you'll find some key points that you'll want to make in your letter to help get you thinking. Simply click here to get started: [http://us.greenpeace.org/site/LteUser?lte\\_id=1001](http://us.greenpeace.org/site/LteUser?lte_id=1001)



them that are most important to you and start writing:

- Right now the Japanese whaling fleet is in the Southern Ocean Whale Sanctuary hunting whales.

- This is the fourth time the Japanese have gone to the Southern Ocean Whale Sanctuary since President Obama made the statement that, "Allowing Japan to continue commercial whaling is unacceptable."

- According to a recent Greenpeace poll, 83 percent of Americans want the President to stand by his pledge to strengthen the ban on commercial whaling.

- President Obama must use all the diplomatic tools available to him to reform the International Whaling Commission and stop the Japanese from whaling in the

Southern Ocean Whale Sanctuary.

Can you write a letter today? Just click here ([http://us.greenpeace.org/site/LteUser?lte\\_id=1001](http://us.greenpeace.org/site/LteUser?lte_id=1001)) to get started.

For the whales, John Hocevar, Oceans Campaign director

While you should always use your own words, here are a few key points you can use in your letter. You don't have to use all of them. Short, focused letters have the best chance of getting published. So just pick one or two of

## Woolsey submits bill to expand marine sanctuaries and ban oil drilling permanently

OPC staff

Representative Lynn Woolsey submitted her bill in the House of Representatives to expand marine sanctuaries and permanently ban offshore drilling off much of the North Coast.

Woolsey submitted her bill, which didn't pass last year, on the first day of the new Congress with Republicans firmly in control of the House and determined to blunt Democratic initiatives.

She called for support from both parties, telling congress members that the measure would help the economy by preserving jobs in the fishing industry and creating new tourist economy jobs.



"If Republicans are serious about job creation, they should support this," Woolsey said.

The oil industry responded immediately speaking against Obama's decision to not allow oil and gas leases off both the U.S east and west coasts as well as the eastern Gulf of Mexico.

A oil industry spokesman claimed that stopping the leases would hurt the coastal job situation and cause employment to be created elsewhere.

The American Petroleum Institute released a 29 page study estimating that there are 10.5 billion barrels untapped oil reserves on the Pacific coast.

Some ocean protection activists are afraid she changing of the guard in the House of Representatives may open the

door to drilling on the west coast.

However, Woolsey's bill has a chance through a companion bill in the Senate – still under Democratic control.

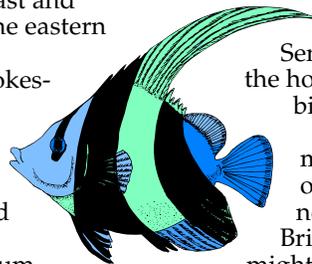
Both California's senators, Barbara Boxer and Dianne Feinstein are in favor of the bill. Sanctuary expansion could win

Senate approval and sent to the house as part of an omnibus bill.

Woolsey's bill would more than double the size of two sanctuaries just north of the Golden Gate Bridge. Woolsey said she might retire in 2012 after 20

years in Congress. If her bill passes and the sanctuaries were expanded, the law would part of her legacy.

Woolsey is a former Petaluma City Council member. She was known for her stands against both the invasions of Iraq and Afghanistan.



## Write Your Officials

**President Barack Obama** – The White House, 1600 Pennsylvania Ave., Washington, DC 20500, (202) (202) 456-1111, FAX (202) 456-2461, web - <http://whitehouse.gov>

**U.S. Senator Barbara Boxer** – Washington D.C. office: 202-224-3553 , mailing address: 112 Hart Senate Bldg, Washington, DC 20510 , SF office: 1700 Montgomery St, suite 240, San Francisco, CA 94111, (415) 403-0100, web – <http://boxer.senate.gov>

**U.S. Senator Dianne Feinstein** – 331 Hart Senate Office Building, Washington, DC 20510, (202) 224-3841, FAX (202) 228-3954; District Office for state and local issues: One Post St., Suite 2450, San Francisco 94104, (415) 393-0707, web – <http://feinstein.senate.public.gov/public>

**Representative Mike Thompson** – 1st District, 231 Cannon Office Building, Washington, DC 20515, (202) 225-3311, FAX (202) 225-4335: Coast representative, Heidi Dickerson, 430 N. Franklin St., P.O. Box 2208, Fort Bragg, CA 95437, 962-0933, FAX 962-0934, web – <http://mikethompson.house.gov/>

**Governor Jerry Brown**– State Capitol, Suite 1173, Sacramento, 95814, (916) 445-2841, FAX (916) 558-3160 web – <http://gov.ca.gov>

**State Senator Noreen Evans** – Senate District 2, Capitol Building, Room 4034, Sacramento, CA 94248-0001 Office phone (916) 651-4002, FAX (916) 323-6958; web – <http://dist02.casen.govoffice.com>

**Assemblyman Wesley Chesbro** – Assembly District 1, State Capitol, P.O. Box 942849, Sacramento, CA 94249-001, (916) 319-2001, web – <http://democrats.assembly.ca.gov/members/a01/>

**Mendocino County Board of Supervisors:** 1st District, **Carre Brown**, 2nd District, **John McCowen**; 3rd District, **John Pinches**; 4th District, **Kendall Smith**; 5th District, **Dan Hamburg**. County Administration Center, 501 Low Gap Rd., Rm 1090, Ukiah, CA 95482, 463-4221, FAX 463-4245, web: <http://co.mendocino.ca.us/lbosl>

**Fort Bragg City Council:** Contact at: City Hall, 416 N. Franklin St., Fort Bragg, CA 95437, 961-2823, FAX 961-2802 [citycouncil@fortbragg.com](mailto:citycouncil@fortbragg.com)  
**Doug Hammerstrom** - [dhammerstrom@fortbragg.com](mailto:dhammerstrom@fortbragg.com)  
**Mayor Dave Turner** - [dturner@fortbragg.com](mailto:dturner@fortbragg.com)  
**Vice Mayor Meg Courtney** - [mcourtney@fortbragg.com](mailto:mcourtney@fortbragg.com)  
**Dan Gjerde** - [dgjerde@fortbragg.com](mailto:dgjerde@fortbragg.com)  
**Jere Malo** - [jmelo@fortbragg.com](mailto:jmelo@fortbragg.com)

# OPC Needs You

STOP OCEAN INDUSTRIALIZATION



Go Environmentally Safe, Clean Energy NOW  
**Ocean Protection Coalition**

The Ocean Protection Coalition is a non profit group originally formed to prevent offshore oil drilling off the Mendocino coast.

Now our coastline is threatened by the Minerals Management Service's five-year plan with offshore lease sales.

We are also facing two new threats. The Federal Energy Regulatory Commission (FERC) is granting wave power preliminary pilot projects off the Mendocino, Eureka and Ventura County coastlines.

If that wasn't bad enough, now the United States Navy wants to conduct a five-year training exercise in what it calls the Northwest Training Range Complex. This will threaten ocean waters from the Canadian border to the Humboldt/ Mendocino county line and beyond. The navy wants to conduct expanded sea and air warfare training and weapons development activities on more than 120,000 nautical square miles off the Pacific Northwest coastline. The navy's weapons training and development activities include bombing, the placement of hundreds of sonar buoys, live firing of guns, missiles, torpedoes and the release of a number of toxic chemicals and substances into the ocean. These include phosphorus, tuolene, depleted uranium and unexploded ordnance containing chromium, chromium compounds and many more.

The Navy acknowledges that half a million marine mammals, mostly whales and dolphins could be harmed by the many explosions and especially the sonar. The Gray Whales will have to navigate through this horror 10 times during their migrations to Mexico and back during the navy's five-year war exercises.

OPC is fighting to stop the militarization and industrialization of our oceans. We need your support and help now! We need you to circulate petitions against the destruction of the oceans. We need your written letters to flood the halls of Congress and the White House. We need you at our demonstrations and need you to attend meetings both ours and regulatory agency ones.

We will use the OPC News to give citizens updates on threats to the ocean and our coastline. Please sign up to subscribe for hard copies of the OPC News and pass them around. You can also contact us at: [smallpigstudio@hotmail.com](mailto:smallpigstudio@hotmail.com) to get on our list serv and receive receive the [OPC News](#) electronically.

OPC is a small organization with minimal funds to carry on our important work. If you are able to donate even a small amount, it will be gratefully accepted. Please send your donations to: The Ocean Protection Coalition, P.O. Box 1006, Fort Bragg, CA 95437. We are a non-profit organization. If you would like more information about our group or meeting time and place, please call 964-5035.