



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. 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.



By Judy Vidaver

The United States is supporting a proposal by the International Whaling Commission to resume commercial whaling.

The U.S. is leading the effort to allow commercial hunting of whales for the first time since a moratorium was enacted in 1986! This would legalize commercial whaling and would leave enforcement of quotas to the same nations that have been in violation of the current moratorium (Japan, Iceland and Norway). It would allow the killing of whales in the Southern Ocean Whale Sanctuary.

On May 23rd there will be demonstrations in every California coastal county to oppose this proposal to allow Whales to be hunted and killed for profit. Join the Ocean Protection Coalition on

Saturday May 23rd at 1p.m. at the Fort Bragg Town Hall. The event will be a part of the state-wide protest against resumption of international whaling.

We are planning a rally with inspiring and informative speakers, a parade led by musicians, a whale costume contest for kids from 0-100 years old with, hopefully, prizes of whale watch boat trips.

Speakers will include Casson Trenor from Greenpeace, Fort Bragg City councilmember Meg Courtney and Heidi Dickerson from Mike Thompson's office.

After that we will have refreshments. Then we'll write letters to Obama asking him to keep his promise to oppose whaling and sign petitions to the IWC, and congressfolks to stop ALL whaling. We will also present a film "Life Among

Whales" about whales & the guy that did some of the first research on their singing & culture. Film also includes graphic footage of whaling practices. We are looking for volunteers for this event and help with expenses.

Antonia Lamb will sing original whale songs and Sherry Glaser will share a whale skit.

We'll have a parade and we'll have contests for the best parade placard & the best whale costume & whale hat. Prizes include tickets from Telstar Charters and from Captain Tim of the Tally Ho for whale watching or fishing trips; dinners at the Mendocino Café and the Ledford House & a cash award for the best Placard.

Join us everyone and bring the kids. Help us Save The Whales...

again.

Whale hunting may be reinstated

By Sue Arnold

Very shortly the International Whaling Commission Scientific Committee will meet in Morocco. This meeting is a precursor for the full Convention meeting in the middle of June.

The Scientific Committee makes recommendations to the Convention meeting which are debated and voted on by member nations at the June full meeting.

So we have a small window of opportunity to once again deluge the U.S. IWC Deputy Commissioner and the White House with emails requesting a moratorium on any Gray Whale quota.

The issue of Aboriginal subsistence whaling is a difficult one. But there's little point in killing a population which is in trouble.

The only outcome will be a continuing decline in Gray Whales leading to no whales left to slaughter.

The Gray Whale is particularly vulnerable to climate change which is severely impacting the whales primary feeding grounds. A Gray Whale was recently sighted off the coast of Israel! As one U.S. researcher said, "This is like a dinosaur turning up." Gray whales went extinct on both sides of the Atlantic in the 18th century. Most scientists believe the whale was

looking for food.

Reports of emaciated whales are coming in from all over the migration route. There's been a major collapse in the cow/calf numbers for the fourth consecutive year.

The Gray Whale is not high on the priorities of any whale conservation group as most groups avoid dealing with issues raised by



aboriginal subsistence whaling. The quota for Gray Whales goes to the Russian Federation and the people of Chukotka who have access to reindeer herds and fish.

Juvenile whales are 87 percent of the Chukotkan kill. Communities in Mexico, the U.S., Canada and Alaska rely on the income from Gray whale tourism. The Gray Whale is an important part of the economy of many coastal cities. This is a whale that needs protection!

The California Gray Whale Coalition asks you to make one more huge effort to send emails to

the following:

US Deputy IWC Commissioner Douglas deMaster at: douglas.demaster@noaa.gov. Here is a suggested message: Commissioner de Master,

I object to the U.S. IWC delegation supporting an annual quota of 140 Gray whales at the forthcoming IWC meeting. Until such time as there is independently

reviewed current research which demonstrates the status of the population and investigates the ramifications of the major threats, particularly climate change, the only acceptable action is to request a moratorium.

Signed
your name
here

Also
please mail
the White
House:

<http://www.whitehouse.gov/contact>

Send the same message as above. Please remember that all information can be translated on Google or on the Gray Whale Coalition website by clicking the flag of your country.

These are desperate days for the Gray Whale. The coalition asks for your support and a promise to get as many friends, families, organisations and business to send emails. Bless you for helping

Gray Whale Coalition
P. O. Box 50939 Palo Alto, CA
94303

email:
info@californiagraywhalecoalition.org

You drill, you spill

By Alexander Cockburn

Sobering, is it not, to realize that the possible survival of a huge oil company, of several billion shrimp, assorted species of fish and birds, not to mention avoidance of a near lethal lurch in the fortunes of Louisiana's fishing and ocean recreation industries and the future of offshore drilling along the Atlantic coast could depend on a feat as tricky as rolling a condom on the end of a string onto the penis of a man at street level by remote control from the top of the Empire State building.

So-called accidents in oil extraction invariably produce numbers as whimsical and liable to sudden change as the currents that will menace British Petroleum's gigantic steel cap, a telephone booth four stories high. It's scheduled to be lowered onto the leaking oil pipe on the ocean floor 5,000 feet down, putting out maybe 10,000 barrels of crude a day. The central fraud here is perpetrated by the word "accident," which should properly be defined as normalcy, occasionally raised to the level of drama.

Oil spills, particularly from ocean drilling to transport via pipeline and tanker, are dead certs, whether the depth is 5,000 feet or 500, the pipeline broken by incompetence or an earthquake, the tanker steered by a drunk or a seasoned master sipping his Bovril.

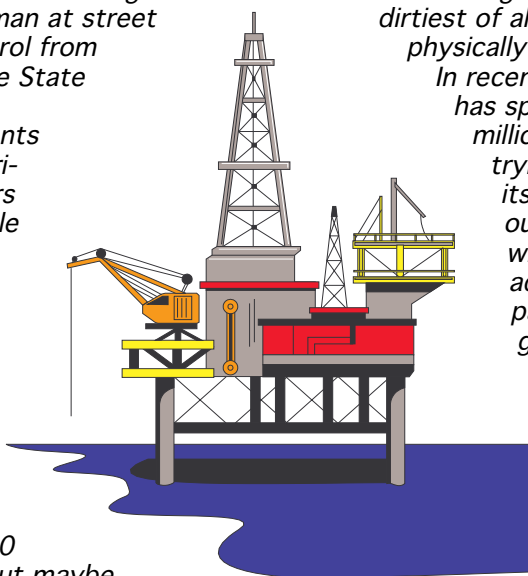
As Karl Grossman, veteran journalist who wrote many influential exposes of the dangers of offshore drilling in the Atlantic 35 years ago, recently wrote on our CounterPunch site, "The reality is that wherever there's oil drilling, there's spilling. U.S. Department of Interior figures reflect 3 million gallons of oil spilled from 1980 to 1999 in the U.S. outer continental shelf offshore drilling program. As to blowouts, there were

18 in wells in the Gulf of Mexico from 1983 up to the eruption at the Deepwater Horizon rig."

The useful parallel here is the rate of industrial "accidents" among workers, currently running at an pretty sure-fire average of 15 corpses and 10,950 maimed or hurting workers at the end of each day on the job. Now we can add the deaths of 11 workers on BP's Gulf platform on April 29.

Oil drilling is one of the dirtiest of all businesses, physically and politically.

In recent years, BP has spent many millions in the U.S., trying to winch its reputation out of the mud with bright advertising paeans to its green commitment. Along with its greenwashing ad campaigns, it's staked \$500 million on a biofuel



research center at the University of California's Berkeley campus. Every gallon gushing from the holes in the ocean floor in the Gulf of Mexico sinks the company's reputation back in the primal ooze of a reputation permanently disfigured by environmental havoc, political bribes and ruthless campaigns against those courageous enough to blow the whistle on the company.

It's easy to identify the recipients of oil money from the vehemence of their commitment to offshore drilling, even as the Gulf coast faces what may be the biggest disaster in the oil industry's history in the U.S. and surrounding waters. Start with Senator Mary Landrieu of Louisiana, who said on the Senate floor Friday: "I don't believe we should retreat" on offshore drilling.

Landrieu informed her fellow senators, many of them also fattened on the industry's tab that "What's

important about this sheen is that 97 percent of it is a rainbow sheen. Only three percent contains emulsified crude ... 97 percent of it is an extremely thin sheen of relatively light oil on the surface." This carefree comparison of BP's spill to the glow of french polish on a Sheraton side table is what the oil industry has purchased from Landrieu, who accepted \$574,000 in political contributions from oil companies from 2000 to 2008.

From french polish to cocoa. "What I want people to know is this isn't Katrina," said Mississippi Blue Dog Democrat Representative Gene Taylor. "This is not Armageddon. Yeah, it's bad. And it's terrible that there's a spill out there. But I would remind people that the oil is 20 miles from any marsh. ... That chocolate milk-looking spill starts breaking up in smaller pieces ... It is tending to break up naturally."

As for Texas, Governor Rick Perry (R) described the disaster as an unavoidable "act of God" and called for more offshore drilling.

One of the more piquant spectacles in politics today is the emergence of Obama, hammer of the robber barons. Though his campaign was awash with Wall Street money, much of it coming from Goldman Sachs, whose former employees infest his administration in senior positions, and though he backed the 100 percent bailout of GS in its hour of need, Obamas now floats upward in the polls because voters furious at the banks associate him with the SEC's civil suit against Goldman Sachs and its possible criminal indictment by the Justice Department.

Similarly, Obama now wags his finger at BP and vows that it will pay for every penny of the cleanup. He actually took more campaign money from BP than his Republican opponent in 2008, Sen. John McCain. The oil money had its usual consequence. Obama broke with a decades-long ban to

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Coastal Commission fears gray whale population is dropping

According to an April Associated Press article, whale watching, fishing boat skippers became alarmed after gray whale sightings dropped from 25 per day in a good season to five a day this year.

The monitoring of the mammals by the federal government has dropped in recent years. Conservationists and state officials are especially now worried about the whale's future.

The International Whaling Commission is going to consider allowing 1400 gray whales to be hunted in the next 10 years. This decision will rely on a spotty and outdated study according to critics. The study draws on annual population estimates dating from 1967, but in the past decade only three census counts have been released, the most recent in 2006. Since 2006 the estimated number of calves has dropped from 1000 to 312 in 2009. NOAA scientists say their population estimates are reliable because

the numbers have remained relatively consistent over time. They say the drop in calf numbers may reflect nature thinning out the herd. In January the California Coastal

Baja California then back north between February and May. They summer in the Bering Sea and the Arctic.

But Liz Alter, a marine biologist with the Natural Resources Defense Council, said, "Given that we have very little ability to predict what climate change, ocean acidification and other threats will mean to the whale population for the coming years, it seems reckless to me to set catch limits for that length of time."

The 2006 whale count led researchers to calculate that there were 20,000 Gray Whales left. However, the most recent gray whale calf count was

the lowest since 2001.

"These are troubling numbers," said Randy Reeves, chair of the Cetacean specialist group of the International Union for the Conservation of Nature. Reeves added "If they're being reinforced by comments from whale watching guys, then it gets that much more troubling."



Commission requested an updated gray whale study from the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA). However, the count has been done but the results won't be finished until after the Whaling Commission's decision has been made.

Gray Whales migrate thousands of miles each fall from Alaska to

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indicate earlier this year his approval of offshore drilling up and down the Atlantic coast. Even now, despite hasty back peddling, he proclaims his support for offshore drilling on the Atlantic side with proper "safeguards."

The problem for the oil industry's offshore drilling plans is rich people who don't care to have their beaches on Hobe Sound, Fla., north toward the Hamptons on Long Island or Cape Cod marred by crude oil, however alluring the sheen of money may be in the oil stocks in their portfolios. Most lethal pollution in America takes place, entirely un-accidentally, in poor neighborhoods. Not too many beautiful people - unless you count Janis Joplin (daughter of a

Texaco oil engineer) - hail from Port Arthur, Texas, where what passes for water looks as sinister as Lethe. Obama has presented the energy industry with another huge present, breaking with a generation-long ban. The two new nuclear reactors, eased by Obama toward construction with \$8.3 billion in loan guarantees, are to be built next to an existing pair of nuclear reactors in mostly black Burke County, Georgia. Rich people don't live near coal mines or in the scarred landscapes of coal country in the Appalachians.

In the end, greed wins. There were plenty of rich people living in Pittsburgh in the 1950s when the smog from the steel mills brought darkness at noon and the glare of street lamps 24/7 so people could see far enough ahead to drive down the street.

One of these days, there'll be offshore drilling along the Atlantic coast. If they can't lower that steel condom on, it will take longer. As Dick Cheney, former CEO of the oil-services company Halliburton defiantly put it, "The American way of life is not negotiable."

Alexander Cockburn is co-editor with Jeffrey St. Clair of the muckraking newsletter CounterPunch.

He is also co-author of the new book "Dime's Worth of Difference: Beyond the Lesser of Two Evils," available through www.counterpunch.com.

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Obama waives reviews for 26 new offshore drilling projects

By Ed Oberweiser

As new reports come in saying the British Petroleum (BP) oil spill is ten times worse than previously thought, the Obama administration has waived environmental review for more than 25 new offshore drilling projects.

According to the New York Times, the leak is releasing 210,000 gallons per day and had released 4.8 million gallons in the the gulf by May 12.

The Center for Biological Diversity said an investigation of theirs revealed that since April 20 27 new offshore drilling projects have been approved by the Minerals Management Service (MMS).

According to the Center's director, Kieran Suckling, the MMS hasn't changed its behavior one bit as a result of the oil spill.

BP abandoned its efforts to put a 100 ton box over the leak when a combination of high pressure, ice crystals and low temperatures mad the box too buoyant.

Hopes for a quick fix to the Deepwater Horizon spill were derailed by a build-up of crystallized gas blocked pipes in a huge metal containment box that had been built to cap the well. Engineers are now considering a "junk shot", shooting a mix of debris - including shredded tires and golf balls - into the well at high pressure to clog it, said Thad Allen, a US coast guard commander.

The investigation into the Gulf spill may show that complex and seemingly failproof technical systems went wrong because of over-

looked problems that interacted with each other in unexpected ways. In the 1989 Exxon Valdez disaster, a captain simply ran his ship onto a reef in Alaska's Prince William Sound, spilling some 11 millions barrels of oil.

The gushing well's blowout preventer - supposedly "fail-safe" - never shut off oil flow as intended in emergencies, according to CBS News correspondent Mark Strassmann. That allowed methane gas to enter, possibly triggering the rig's deadly explosion. BP documents show this blowout preventer had design flaws, leaks in its hydraulic system, and a dead battery in its control pod.

It was unclear whether BP would make a new attempt. "I wouldn't say it has failed yet," Doug Suttles, the firm's chief operating officer, told reporters. Suttles added that the best case scenario for stopping the leak was at least a week away - <http://www.cbsnews.com/stories>

The latest failure to seal the wellhead has deepened fears about the economic and environmental impact of the spill, which is on course to surpass the Exxon Valdez disaster.

Oceanic scientist for the Oceana conservation group Jacqueline Savitz said that it appears to be a worse case scenario for the oil spill.

The prospect of oil continuing to gush until BP manages to drill a relief well in two or three months time has intensified concerns among those states now on the spill's trajectory.

Florida's Democratic senator, Bill Nelson, said the spill threatened his state's fishing and tourism industries and even its military bases. "You are talking about massive economic losses," he told CNN.

Environmental and safety procedures on the Deepwater Horizon rig will come under even greater scrutiny this week as multiple investigations into the disaster get underway. In Louisiana, the coast guard and the MMS will start their inquiries with two days of public hearings.

The justice department is also conducting an investigation into the spill and has not ruled out criminal charges. "I've sent down representatives from the justice department to examine what our options are with regard to the activities that occurred there and whether or not there has been malfeasance on the part of BP or Transocean," Eric Holder, the US attorney general, told ABC television.

Three separate congressional committees will also take a close look at offshore drilling and the disaster this week, with testimony from the executives of BP America, Transocean, the company which owned the sunken rig, and Halliburton, which made the cement cap on the well, whose failure set the disaster in motion.

BP's initial investigations suggest the blast was caused by a bubble of methane gas that shot up through the drill column and broke several protective seals and barriers, the Associated Press reported.

Government still exempts new drilling offshore

By Center for Biological Diversity
<http://www.biologicaldiversity.org>

TUCSON, Ariz.- Even as the BP drilling explosion which killed eleven people continues to gush hundreds of thousands of gallons of oil per day into the Gulf of Mexico, the U.S. Department of

Interior's Minerals Management Service (MMS) has continued to exempt dangerous new drilling operations from environmental review. Twenty-seven new offshore drilling projects have been approved since April 20, 2010; twenty-six under the same environmental review exemption used to approve the disastrous BP drilling that is fouling the Gulf

and its wildlife.

"The MMS has learned absolutely nothing from this national catastrophe," said Kier Suckling, executive director of the Center for Biological Diversity, "It is still illegally exempting dangerous offshore drilling projects in the Gulf of Mexico from all environmental review. It is

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A Modest Proposal (with Apologies to Johnathan Swift)

by Judith Vidaver

A major criticism of the MLPA is that it restricts only fishing, but does not address other impacts to marine resources such as water pollution, development and ocean industrialization.

Of concern to some is that implementation of the MLPA will somehow lead to oil/gas drilling or make it easier for other forms of industrialization of the ocean by projects such as wave/wind power, fish farms, seabed mining, etc. The Federal government is looking at zoning and promoting all of the above.

The California State Attorney General (AG), Jerry Brown, has possibly provided a way for us to address these concerns.

On September 25, 2009 Brown wrote a "letter of opinion" to the assistant secretary for Ocean and Coastal Policy of the Natural Resources Agency. The letter addresses a number of issues regarding MPAs including whether it is necessary to specifically identify what uses are allowed or prohibited in SMCA's. In

the Attorney General's opinion: "The designating or managing agency may identify prohibited recreational and commercial activities that would compromise protection of the species of interest, natural community, habitat, or geological features or it may identify allowable uses within marine conservation areas."

SMRs already prohibit any kind of activities in addition to fishing that may cause harm. So to protect SMCA's from destructive activities such as sewage treatment plants, oil drilling, fish farms etc. all we have to do is include such prohibitions in the language of the arrays.

Keep in mind that though California has a ban on offshore oil drilling in state waters, there is strong pressure to expand current allowable drilling. If the Federal government decides to open up the Point Arena Basin, SMRs and SMCA's with specific language prohibiting oil drilling may discourage potential leasees.

So my proposal is this: include prohibitions of all potential industrialization of the ocean

in the language of the individual MPAs. PLUS create a SMCA covering all other areas not included in the final North Coast array. This "blanketing" SMCA would specifically list all current uses as allowed and specifically prohibit all other uses that could harm the marine ecosystem.

The Northern California marine ecosystem has been recognized as one of the four most productive on earth. We have a charge to protect it. In protecting our ocean we will protect ourselves.

Even if you don't like this idea, come to the meeting any way - it starts at 9a.m. Learn how our region is being processed.

This is an important issue folks and we need to get everyone involved to offset the potential loss of much of our fisheries and local tourist economy. As we read recently in the ADvocate News, Noyo Harbor is in real danger. We need to support our local fishers, recreational boating enterprises and seaweed harvesters as an important part of our community. If you need more info go to <http://www.mendo.org>

Humane Society International Asks Obama Administration to Shun Whaling Deal

Humane Society International is calling upon the United States to reject an ill-conceived deal to legitimize commercial whaling. The issue is scheduled for a vote at the June meeting of the International Whaling Commission in Agadir, Morocco.

"We appreciate efforts to seek a compromise with the whaling nations; however, the deal that's been brokered is fundamentally flawed. The way forward here is not to go backwards," said Kitty Block, vice president of Humane Society International.

Commercial whaling has been banned for more than a quarter

century. It would be awful to think that our greatest efforts to protect whales peaked in 1982 and that we are now reduced to witnessing the erosion of the tremendous gains we made."

The deficiencies of the deal proffered by the chair and vice chair of the IWC include the following:

- It suspends the commercial whaling moratorium for 10 years

- It does not require countries to close the loopholes of so-called scientific whaling or whaling under objection/reservation i.e. Iceland and Norway

- The moratorium is

suspended even if whaling countries object to the deal

- It does not prohibit commercial trade in whale meat

- Non-whaling countries will have to pay to regulate whaling.

The moratorium on commercial whaling, which took effect in 1986, **was the single greatest conservation achievement for whales.** It was passed at a time when nearly every IWC country was a whaling nation. Today, only three of the 88 members - Japan, Iceland, and Norway, continue to kill whales for commercial gain.

Beluga whale saves diver

A drowning diver has told how she was saved by a whale that pushed her back to the surface when she suffered crippling cramps.

Yang Yun thought she was going to die when her legs were paralysed by arctic temperatures during a free diving contest without any breathing equipment.

Competitors had to sink to the bottom of an aquarium's 20ft arctic pool and stay there for as long as possible amid the beluga whales at Polar Land in Harbin, north east China.

But when Yun, 26, tried to head to the surface she found her legs were crippled by cramps.

"I began to choke and sank even lower and I thought that was it for me - I was dead. Until I felt



this incredible force under me driving me to the surface," she

explained.

Mila, the Beluga whale, had spotted her difficulties and using her sensitive dolphin-like nose guided Yun safely to the surface.

Mila noticed the problem before we did," explained an organizer.

"We suddenly saw the girl being pushed to the top of the pool with her leg in Mila's mouth. She's a sensitive animal who works closely with humans and

I think this girl owes her life."

Intelligent Belugas were among the first whales to interact with man and have facial muscles that allow them to smile.

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outrageous and unacceptable."

The MMS became embroiled in controversy when it was revealed on May 5, 2010, that it exempted BP's offshore drilling plan from environmental review by using a loophole in the National Environmental Policy Act meant only to apply to projects with no, or minimal, negative effects such as construction of outhouse and hiking trails. The controversy deepened when it was revealed that MMS exempts hundreds of dangerous offshore oil drilling projects in the Gulf of Mexico every year.

Two of the newly approved-and environmentally exempted-drilling operations were awarded to BP despite the fact that the new plans are based on the exact same false assertions about oil rig safety and the improbability of environmental damage even if oil spill occurs:

BP drilling plan approved April 6, 2010 (this is the one that exploded):

2.7 Blowout Scenario - A scenario for a potential blowout of the well from which BP would expect to have the highest volume of liquid hydrocarbons is not required for the operations proposed in this EP.

It is inconceivable that MMS

could look out its window at what is likely the worst oil spill in American history, then rubber stamp new BP drilling permits based on BP's patently false statements that an oil spill cannot occur and would not be dangerous if it did. Heads need to start rolling at MMS.

In response to the environmental exemption scandal, embattled Interior Secretary Ken Salazar announced yesterday that he had banned approval of new offshore oil drilling permits.

The public, of course, assumed he was halting the approval of drilling plans and environmental exemptions since they are the heart of the MMS scandal.

Today, however, the Interior Department acknowledged that environmental exemptions and drilling plans have not been halted. Salazar is allowing those flawed drilling approvals to proceed and is only halting the issuance of a last technical check off that does not involve any environmental review.

Under Salazar's "moratorium", the environmental review process will continue to be completely undermined in the exact same manner as in the BP oil spill.

"Salazar is playing a cynical shell game, making the public think he stopped issuing the faulty approvals that allowed the disastrous BP drilling to occur, when in fact he has given MMS the green light to keep issuing those very same approvals," said Suckling.

"The only thing Salazar has stopped is the final, technical check off which comes long after the environmental review. His media sleight of hand does nothing to fix the broken system that allowed what may be the greatest environmental catastrophe of our generation to occur."

"For Secretary Salazar to allow MMS to exempt 26 new oil wells from environmental review in the midst of the ongoing Gulf crisis shows an extraordinary lapse of judgment," Suckling added.

"It is inconceivable that his attention is apparently on providing BP with new environmentally exempted offshore oil wells instead of shutting down the corrupt process which put billion of dollars into BP's pocket and millions of gallons of oil into the Gulf of Mexico."

OPC Needs You

STOP OCEAN INDUSTRIALIZATION



Go Environmentally Safe, Clean Energy NOW
Ocean Protection Coalition

Write Your Officials

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

U.S. Senator Barbara Boxer – District Office: 1700 Montergomery St., Suite 240, SF 94111, (415) 403-0100, FAX (202) 224-0454, mailing address: 312 N. Spring St., Suite 1748, Los Angeles 90012, **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>**

Rep. 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/>**

Gov. Arnold Schwarzenegger – State Capitol, Sacramento 95814, (916) 445-2841, FAX (916) 558-3160 **web - <http://gov.ca.gov>**

State Sen. Patricia Wiggins – Senate District 2, Capitol Building, Room 4081, Sacramento, CA 95814 (916) 651-4002, FAX (916) 323-6958; Field Rep. Kathy Kelly, Ukiah office 200 S. School St., P.O. Box 785, Ukiah, CA 95482, 468-8914, FAX 468-8931, **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, FAX (916) 319-2101; Ukiah Field Rep Ruth Valenzuela, 311 N. State St., Ukiah, CA 95482, 463-5770, **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, **David Colfax**. County Administration Center, 501 Low Gap Rd., Rm 1090, Ukiah, CA 95482, 463-4221, FAX 463-4245, **web: <http://co.mendocino.ca.us/bos/>**

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

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 to get on our list serv and 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.