



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.



Zach Zachery and Char Flum sit at the Ocean Protection Coalition table at Caspar Fest - photo Ed Oberweiser

Gray Whale Coalition wins extension for upgrading gray whales' status

From The California Gray Whale Coalition
(www.californiagraywhalecoalition.org)

We have won an extension of the comment period on the upgrading of the gray whale's status until December 8.

This is thanks to a huge reaction from so many of you and to the office of Senator Barbara Boxer. Thank you everyone who took the time to request an extension for the outrageously short comment period.

It took months of dedicated research and effort to create a petition detailing why the gray whale legal status should be upgraded to "depleted" under the U.S. Marine Mammal Protection Act (MMPA).

The Act requires the Secretary of Commerce to prepare a conservation plan to promote the conservation and recovery for any species population or stock

designated as depleted.

The National Marine & Fisheries service (NMFS) has 60 days to review the petition, get public comments and make a decision whether to accept or reject it.

The petition was filed on October 21. A notice inviting public comment was posted in the Federal Register on November 9. The public was given 14 days to send in their comments on a massive scientific document. That left NMFS 46 days for their review plus 19 days between receipt of petition and publication in the Federal Register.

The Federal Register notice by NMFS provided no email address for public comment. It instructed people to go through the Agency's complicated electronic portal, write letters or send faxes. All other NMFS notices contain an email address for comments.

The basis of the petition is the extent of threats facing the whales, which include.

- Climate change which is impacting primary prey as seawater temperatures warm up
- Transient orca predation which NMFS acknowledges could be causing 35 percent mortality annually, of calves and juveniles
- The hypothesis that NMFS uses to set a quota doesn't acknowledge this predation rate and is deeply flawed. It has resulted in massive over whaling.
- The population is in decline; there were very low cow/calf counts up and down the gray whales' migration route

The petition was reviewed by scientists and included some excellent models and graphs done by experts which clearly show an ongoing decline in the gray whale populations

PG&E gives up on Humboldt WaveConnect energy project

from <http://www.renewableenergyworld.com>

Pacific Gas and Electric Co. (PG&E) is no longer pursuing development of the Humboldt WaveConnect pilot project off the coast of Humboldt County in northern California.

"In the end, costs rose above the level of expenditure that the company could justify," said Brandi Ehlers, spokesperson for PG&E.

"Challenges encountered in developing this project included a lack of experience with wave energy technology. This created uncertainty regarding environmental effects. Another was the need for costly adaptive management monitoring programs and the lack of ability to expand the proposed site from the pilot phase."

Funding for the Humboldt WaveConnect project included \$1.2 million in grants from the U.S. Department

of Energy (DOE) and \$4.8 million in approved spending from the California Public Utilities Commission. This money was to be used to take two projects through the regulatory process.

However, PG&E estimated it would need to spend \$50 million just to cover the expenses of installing the infrastructure for power transmission, monitoring, and other equipment, according to its Federal Energy Regulatory Commission (FERC) application.

The operation and maintenance cost of the project was estimated at \$5 million annually. This cost excluded the expense of carrying out environmental protection measures according to the FERC application.

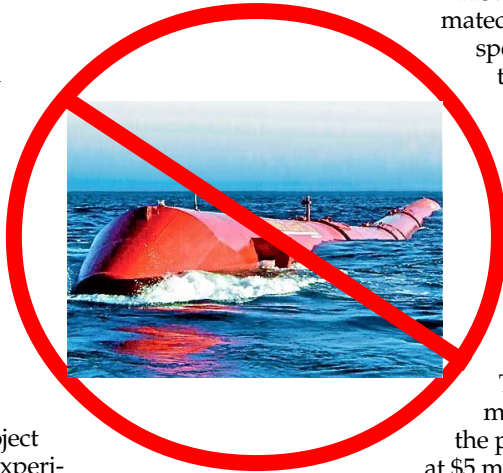
The project was intended to operate for five years with a capacity of 5 Megawatts. It was to be located about three miles off the coast, in state waters. FERC granted a preliminary permit for Humboldt WaveConnect in March 2008.

PG&E anticipated receiving the project license by June 2011. The project was to be fully decommissioned at the end of the license.

For this project, PG&E planned to select no more than four wave energy converter device makers to test their technologies at the site. The utility issued a request for information on wave energy converter systems in September, 2009. A total of 21 companies responded to the request.

PG&E does not plan to give up on the project entirely. The utility will consolidate the information gathered to date, compile a lessons learned document for DOE and evaluate characteristics of potential alternative sites, Ehlers said. A location further off the coast may provide a better opportunity for development with fewer conflicts. This site might also offer the opportunity to expand the project to commercial scale, Ehlers says. The utility will likely be seeking a partnership arrangement before revisiting the Humboldt WaveConnect project.

PG&E is still studying the feasibility of the Central Coast WaveConnect project off the coast of Santa Barbara County. PG&E filed for a FERC permit in December 2009 for this site, which could have a capacity up to 100 MW. The permit was granted in May 2010.



Gray whales face immense odds

From the California Gray Whale Coalition <http://www.californiagraywhalecoalition.org/>

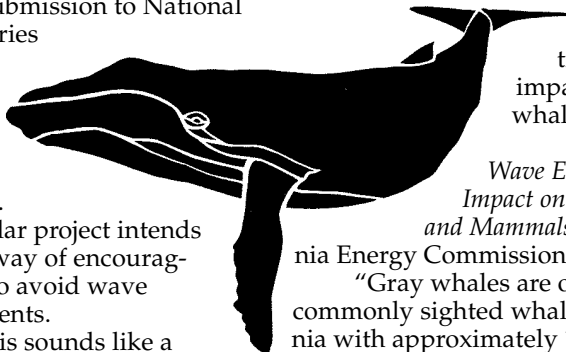
There's been a lot happening during the past months. The Coalition was occupied putting together a comprehensive submission to National Marine and Fisheries Service (NMFS). The Coalition opposes an experimental wave energy project in Oregon.

This particular project intends to use noise as a way of encouraging gray whales to avoid wave energy developments.

Although this sounds like a really good idea, gray whales are particularly susceptible to noise. The impacts of noise on the marine environment are substantial. We need to be

lessening noise, not increasing the sound levels.

The Coalition sent a very extensive submission of objection to NMFS which is available to any member organization interested in the issue. Wave energy is one of the paths to alternative energy but likely to have extremely serious impacts on the gray whale population.



A report on *Wave Energy's Potential Impact on Marine Birds and Mammals* by the California Energy Commission, says it all.

"Gray whales are one of the most commonly sighted whales off California with approximately 18,000 individuals migrating or resident in nearshore waters. The entire northeastern Pacific population of gray whales may migrate through or reside within

habitat slated for WEC/wave parks in California.

"The potential for interaction is high due to this extreme habitat overlap. Potential interactions include entanglement and subsurface collision, increased vulnerability to predation, changes to prey availability, as well as foraging behaviour (of resident whales)."

The report concludes: "Numerous large-scale wave parks along the California coast could block the migratory pathway of the entire population of eastern gray whales. This appears to be one of the most significant concerns."

Driving whales further out into the deeper ocean exposes adults and newborns to sharks, orca predation and other hazards. There needs to be a lot more investigation into the hazards of wave energy projects to all marine mammals. Wind energy and solar are better choices.

InterTribal Wilderness Council letter says NO to navy war games

InterTribal Sinkyone Wilderness Council October 22, 2010 Letter to U.S. Navy Re: Proposed Expansion of the Northwest Training Range Complex

The InterTribal Sinkyone Wilderness Council is a nonprofit 501(c)(3) cultural conservation organization comprised of ten federally recognized, sovereign California Indian Tribes. The tribes retain and maintain important cultural ties to the coastlines and the offshore waters of Mendocino and Humboldt Counties.

The Council was founded in 1986 by, and for the benefit of, its member tribes. It's charged with protecting the cultural/ecological resources that constitute the heritage of the indigenous tribal peoples of the historic Sinkyone Tribal territory. The territory is located within southern Humboldt and northern Mendocino Counties and includes adjacent marine waters and islands.

Each of the tribes in the Council is a sovereign nation that maintains its own government to government relations with the United States of America.

The tribes' connections to the marine resources and waters of this region are ancient and well documented. These connections are indisputably vital to the culture, sustenance, health and continued well-being of the tribal members of this region.

The U.S. Navy's proposed Northwest Training Range Complex (NWTRC) contains numerous marine species, as well as anadromous species (*fish that migrate from sea to fresh water to spawn*). These species are culturally important to tribal peoples of both the coastal and the

inland regions of Mendocino, Lake, Humboldt, and Del Norte Counties.

The U.S. Navy's proposed expansion would result in irreversible impacts to the many sensitive coastal resources along the entire coastline of the historic Sinkyone territory. This includes seaweeds, shellfish, rockfish and a host of other animal and plant species. They would be negatively affected by the proposed increase in training activities.

These coastal resources, along with the marine resources and waters, constitute a critical part of the cultural heritage and aboriginal use rights of the tribes of this region.

They continue to rely upon them for sustenance and ceremonial usage. Damage to these cultural resources without the express consent of the tribes of this region constitutes serious violations of the tribes' sovereignty, cultural heritage, and aboriginal and human rights.

The tribes of this region have never ceded their aboriginal rights. These include their rights to steward, protect, gather, harvest, and otherwise utilize marine and coastal resources that are necessary for the preservation and the continuation of our ways of life.

The U.S. Navy's proposed expansion of the NWTRC would infringe upon, threaten, and seriously degrade marine and coastal resources important to the tribes and the general population of this region.

In addition, the Navy has failed to adequately consult with the tribes of Northern California, as required by law, regarding its proposed expansion. Consul-

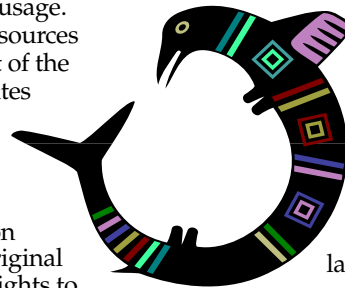
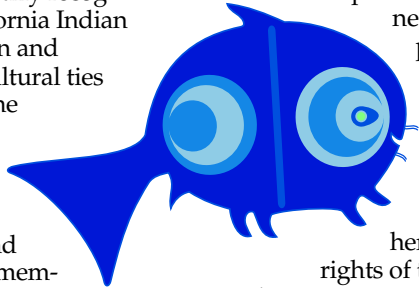
tation with Tribes includes more than simply requesting their comments on a proposed project. It means entering into meaningful government to government discussions to examine issues of Tribal concern, including those listed above. We demand that the Navy enters into meaningful consultations with the tribes affected by the project.

The Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) is replete with inadequacies, contradictions, lack of reliable data and insufficient mitigations. Due to the shortfalls of the Navy's proposal, the expansion is certain to cause irreparable harm to the ecological, cultural, economic, recreational, and scenic values of Northcoast marine and coastal areas.

We hereby request an extension of the U.S. Navy NWTRC Final Environmental Impact Statement public comment period. We request that our U.S. congressional representatives hold hearings on this matter. These will ensure that the tribes and the public have the opportunity to bring their concerns to the attention of lawmakers and the Navy.

The InterTribal Sinkyone Wilderness Council is adamantly opposed to the U.S. Navy's expansion of the NWTRC. We advocate for the "No Action" Alternative as outlined in the EIS.

The Navy should entirely withdraw its plans for the proposed expansion of the Northwest Training Range Complex. Instead, it should develop plans for reducing its training and testing activities within the Northwest Training Range Complex. This would contribute to the healing and revitalization of our ocean waters and all the life that they contain.



More dead zones are appearing along U.S. coasts

By OPC Staff

There are more low-oxygen "dead zones" showing up in U.S. coastal waters. OPC News learned this from a report released from the President's Office of Science and Technology Policy.

This was reported in the September 13, 2010 issue of Chemical and

Engineering News.

The number of dead zones is almost 30 times as great as it was 50 years ago.

Due to unsustainable human population growth and economic development, efforts to reduce low-oxygen or hypoxic, waters have not made much progress, according to the report.

Dead-zone formation is mainly due to nitrogen and phosphorus runoff from

farms, according to the report.

Other contributors are discharges from sewage treatment plants, urban runoff and air pollution. Dead zones off the coasts of Oregon and Washington appear to be also affected by variations in climate. These coastal areas have the second-largest seasonal low-oxygen zone in the U.S.

U.S. Navy's five-year war games are unknown to most Americans

By Susan Galley, *truthout* News Analysis – <http://www.truthout.org/the-us-navy-war-games-under-americans-radar63935>

During the Bush administration, the Department of the Navy (DON) divided the U.S. coastal areas into a series of testing range complexes for conducting five-year war exercises. The navy conducts these tests in the Atlantic (there are plans to expand this area), the Gulf of Mexico and the Pacific.

After the public comment period ends, the navy will conduct war exercises along 122,400 nautical miles of air, surface and subsurface space in Northern California, Oregon and Western Washington.

This information isn't getting to the people it will affect. The Department of the navy is less than open about informing the public of its intentions.

Rosalind Peterson is president and co-founder of Agriculture Defense Coalition (ADC). She said the navy placed one-by-one inch ads in local papers of the smallest communities that it could find in northern California, Oregon and Washington.

Peterson said in Oregon the navy advertised in tiny communities with a total of about 250 people each. It didn't publicize in the capitol, Bend, or Portland or any larger cities at all. *OPC News recently learned that the Arcata City Council had received nothing from the Navy so we informed them.*

Aides in Senator Barbara Boxer's office seemed to know little, if anything,

about the Northwest Training Research Complex (NWTRC) when Peterson contacted them.

The Navy's 1,000 page war games Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) says the Pacific Northwest war games will "take" an estimated 11 million marine mammals, about 2.7 million per year. A "take" is "a significant disruption in marine mammal foraging, breeding and other essential behaviors." Death is implied.

The take for decimated fish, birds and the life that supports them isn't mentioned. Neither is the take for civilians who conduct commercial and recreation enterprises in the training zones.

Civilians were only given web sites with "long-range advance notice of scheduled activities." Local fisherman, cruise ships and daily aviation passenger carriers passing through test areas will not be informed on the days testing occurs.

These war games include a total of 7,588 sorties ... [of] fixed wing aircraft, helicopters, unmanned aerial vehicles (drones) and naval vessels conducting exercises for 6,940 hours each year. These sorties will include mid and high-frequency sonar, underwater constructions and detonations,

bombing, missile and torpedo missions with arsenals from Hellfire missiles. There will also be the use of air, land and water-borne hazardous materials.

The list of chemical byproducts from underwater detonations, explosives, degradation products, failure and low-order detonations and components of training materials is extensive.

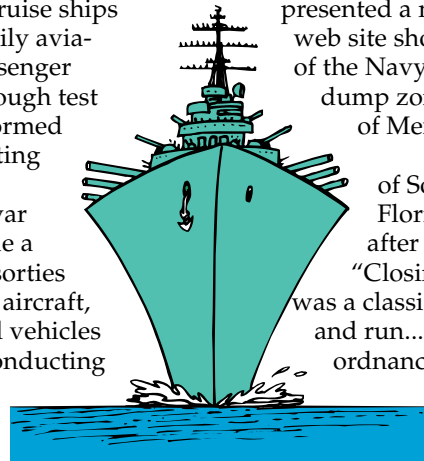
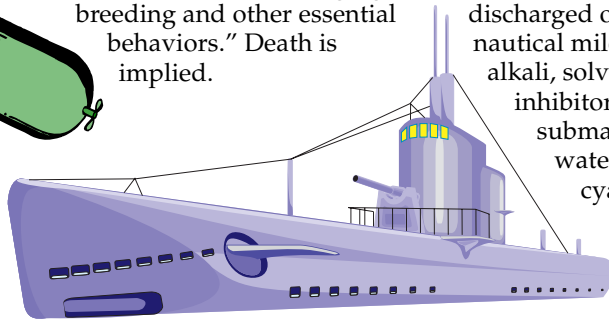
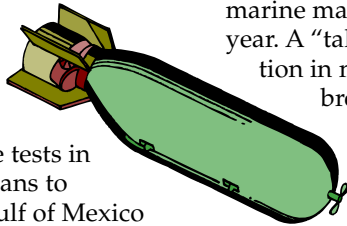
Hazardous materials to be discharged overboard beyond 12 nautical miles include spent acid, alkali, solvents, water with corrosion inhibitors, aircraft waste water and submarine missile tube waste water including heavy metals, cyanide and white phosphorus.

Physical debris will be made up of live and expended ordnance and casings, sunken vessels and blasted underwater construction.

The list of materials to "Containerize for Shore Disposal" includes batteries, hydraulic fluids, insecticides, pesticides, waste oil, sludge, oily solid waste, grease, propellants, PCBs and mercury in the form of fluorescent bulbs.

There was a time when NOAA presented a map on their web site showing 60 years of the Navy's suspected dump zones in the Gulf of Mexico.

Greg Gardner of South Beach, Florida said that, after World War II, "Closing Fort Pierce was a classic case of dump and run.... To this day, ordnance washes up on Hutchinson Island beaches several times



See Navy page 5

Special Announcement: U.S. Navy is coming to Fort Bragg

The OPC news has just learned that the U.S. Navy will be coming to Fort Bragg on Thursday, December 16 at Town Hall. They will discuss their plans and take public comment. Please come, get your questions answered and make your opinion heard! The time will be announced when we are given the world



Fall salmon counts improve on central valley rivers

By Dan Bacher

The numbers of fall run Chinook salmon returning to spawn in the Sacramento River and its tributaries are significantly better than the record low returns of last year. The numbers are well below the banner run of 2002 when nearly 800,000 fish returned to the system.

Last year only 39,530 fall Chinooks returned to Central Valley rivers. Fishing was closed in the Sacramento and tributaries in 2008 and 2009, (with the exception of targeted season for late fall Chinooks on the Sacramento) due to the unprecedented fishery collapse.

However, a pre-season estimate of 245,000 fish by the National Marine Fisheries Service spurred the state and federal government fishery agencies to allow limited recreational fishing this year for fall Chinooks. It was allowed on the Feather, American and Sacramento rivers this year. Also allowed as well were limited recre-

ational and commercial ocean salmon seasons.

Fishermen, environmentalists and independent scientists pointed to water exports out of the California Delta, declining water quality and poor freshwater management as the key factors behind the collapse.

On the other hand, state and federal government representatives repeatedly claimed that poor ocean conditions were the likely culprit, although they admitted that other factors played a role as well.

The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service's Coleman National Fish Hatchery on Battle Creek is seeing a much better run this fall, well over twice of last year's dismal return.

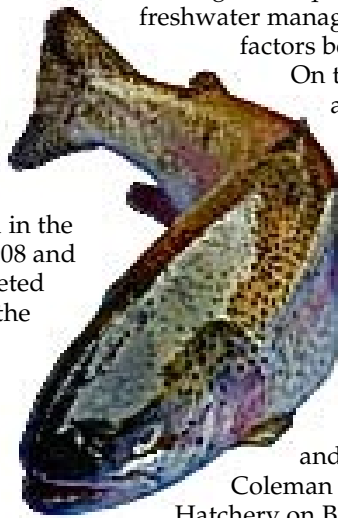
"We're past the three-quarter mark in the run and we estimate 22,000 fish have returned to date, including

11,000 adults and 11,000 jacks, between the hatchery and the river," said Brett Galtean, assistant hatchery manager. "Last year we had 9,000 total salmon including 719 jacks (two-year-old fish). The surprising number of jacks gives us hope for a really good year next fall."

So far the hatchery has taken 14,250,000 eggs. "We target taking 14,000,000 to 15,000,000 eggs annually, but we will continue to spawn fish into this month," explained Scott Hamelburg, hatchery manager. "As long as the fish keep coming, we will continue to take fish to get full genetic representation of the entire run."

The Feather River hatchery is also seeing much better salmon numbers than last year. The total adult salmon count to date is 14,523 adults compared to 5367 last year, reported A.J. Dill, assistant hatchery manager. The two-year-old (jack and jill) count to date is 2417 fish, compared to 3429 last fall.

Editors note: This is an excerpt of the article by Dan Bacher. Readers who would like to read the entire article can read it at: <http://blogs.alternet.org/danbacher/2010/11/04>



Navy five-year war exercises under the radar of most people

From page 4

a year after heavy surf. "

Off the California coast, drums and canisters the Navy dumped leak radioactive materials. It also dumped radioactive vessels, after tests conducted at its San Francisco's Hunters Point facilities were completed.

Yet, the vast majority of Americans know little about the Navy's dumping and warfare activities.

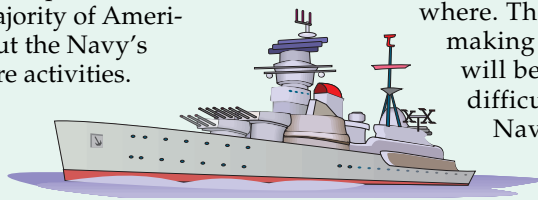
Should we, the people, not know that the Navy's ongoing five-year warfare test plans require only one EIS? These ongoing activities affect humanity and all other forms of life.

Howard Garrett, president of the Whidbey-based Orca Network's board of directors, said this includes "almost everything alive in the ocean. Anything with an air pocket

in their bodies."

"The Navy says it will conduct flyovers and set up watchers before performing potentially lethal sonar testing. Garrett added. But, for example, Orcas are by nature stealthy hunters. They traverse the entire Pacific Ocean, so they can be any-

where. They won't be making noise so it will be extremely difficult for the Navy to know whether they are there before



beginning testing."

Rosalind Peterson said, "Each one of these five-year testing programs is immense ... and very costly. We, the tax-paying public, will pay to replace all the bombs, missiles and other arsenal used for these live-fire exercises. We will pay heavily for the

environmental degradation of ocean, land and air. We will pay very heavily for the collapse of the marine mammal, fish and bird populations."

It is important to note that *there are no restricted areas in the NWTRC*. Normal right-of-way for fishing boats and all other vessels is honored throughout the range complex.

In fact, to prevent interference during the conduct of their activities, Navy ships and aircraft intentionally seek areas clear of all other vessel traffic for conducting their training.

After three years and thousands of comments received by people and groups in the Pacific Northwest, Marianne Edain of Washington's Whidbey Environmental Action Network (WEAN) said, "I feel like a flea facing an elephant."

OPC News applauds real achievement of MLPA process

By Judith Vidaver

The recent decision by the Blue Ribbon Task Force (BRTF) to adopt for recommendation to the Fish & Game Commission the "Unified Array" (developed by the North Coast Regional Stakeholder Group) was indeed cause for celebration - not the array itself.

OPC was one of only two organizations to recommend the BRTF adopt "Option 0" - the "no project" alternative. The following is the statement given by OPC Chair Judith Vidaver at the November 5, 2010 BRTF meeting.

"The Ocean Protection Coalition (OPC) urges the Blue Ribbon Task Force to recommend

the California Fish and Game adopt "Option 0" for the North Coast Region (NCR). The California Constitution guarantees citizens the rights to ocean access for subsistence harvesting. And because the Marine Life Protection Act Initiative (MLPA) has failed to demonstrate:

- The need for the development of marine protected areas (MPA) in the North Coast Region (NCR)
- The use of best available science in determining "scientific guidelines"
- That "sources and sinks" have been identified and taken into consideration in the siting of MPAs
- That MPAs will not produce urchin barrens
- That MPAs will not drive fishers into extinction
- That enforcement is economically feasible

"Further, OPC believes the MLP AI is politically, not science driven. Several members of the BRTF have conflicts of interest, most obviously, Catherine Reheis-Boyd, President of the Western States Petroleum Association. She repeatedly lobbies for opening up the entire coast of California to offshore oil drilling.

"OPC again, requests Mrs. Reheis-Boyd and anyone else with blatant conflicts of interest, to recuse themselves from these proceedings. The MLP AI has also repeatedly violated State law regarding public process and access to material and data."

From the beginning it was the

"tific" guidelines. It protected Tribal ancestral rights and covered only 13 percent of the region compared to an average of 20 percent in other areas.

How did this seeming miracle happen?

Everyone who participated played a part. First, it was the stated intention that came out of the first local Mendocino Community Ocean Alliance (MOCA) meetings. This goal was supported by local authorities such as the City of Fort Bragg and the County of Mendocino who hired Jeanine Pfeiffer and Jim Martin to make sure the community stayed engaged and informed. They both did an excellent job.

The Tribes were a vital element in this process. They made it clear from the start that neither the state nor the self-appointed MLP AI were going to deny the Tribes their sovereign rights of access to

the ocean. Their refusal to be intimidated by the "facilitators" of the process provided inspiration to the other participants to not just roll over to the demands of the MLP AI. The Native Americans led the charge. The non-tribal community agreed to respect and defend the ancestral rights of the tribes and they did. This show of solidarity overwhelmed the machinations of the MLP AI people who had absolutely no idea whatsoever how to deal with the Tribal issue.

This solidarity only intensified in March when the BRTF came to Fort Bragg and were met by a demonstration of over 300 tribal members reinforced by a large contingent of other locals.

The courage of the community to stand up and "speak truth to power" was repeatedly displayed. When OPC member Dave Gurney challenged the MLP AI's demand to not video tape the meetings and actually had him physically removed, they violated state statues. They claimed they weren't subject to them. A judge determined they were, forcing them to become more accountable and transparent.

It took courage, too, for local Sierra

[See MLP AI page 7](#)



Some of the coastline the MLP AI is trying to lock up from locals - photo by Ed Oberweiser

intent of the Mendocino community come to consensus to submit just one array on a single plan for designating mandated marine protected areas along the North Coast Region. It had never been done before in any of the other regions.

No one really believed it could be done - especially here, in our community noted for its independent and often contentious personalities. While there was contention most of it was between the MLP AI, who were implementing the MLP AI, and the communities on whom it was being imposed - mostly unwillingly.

A single array was always the primary intention stated at the dozens of local and regional meetings. Repeated over and over even as various interest groups threatened to draw up their own array more in line with their own goals and objectives.

It's for this feat that the jubilations and congratulations were in order at the November 4 Blue Ribbon Task Force meeting. The BRTF voted to accept the Unified Array for recommendation to the Fish and Game Commission. No one really expected this either. The array barely met the most minimal "scien-

U.S. coastal tourism is more valuable than possible oil deposits

OPC News staff

A study by Environment America showed that tourism and fishing contribute \$204 billion annually to local economies along the coasts of the United States. Estimated values of oil and gas that could possibly be extracted amounts to only \$55 billion according to the study.

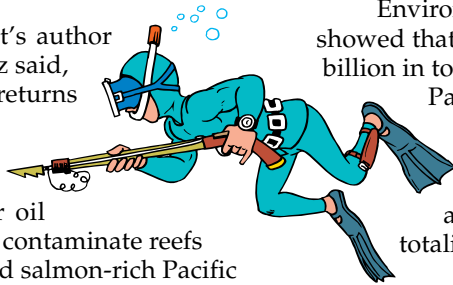
The report's author Michael Gravitz said, "The potential returns from offshore drilling are not worth the risk of another oil spill that could contaminate reefs near Florida and salmon-rich Pacific waters."

"Our research makes it clear that clean beaches and oceans are worth more than drilling for the last drops of oil off our coasts," Gravitz added.

The report used federal government data about commercial fish sales, annual revenue from tourism in coastal communities and recreational fishing in coastal regions to calculate the economic impact of an oil spill.

After the BP oil spill disaster in the Gulf of Mexico dumped 200 million gallons of oil there, hotel vacancies increased dramatically and charter boat operators had many bookings canceled along the Gulf Coast.

A U.S. Travel Association study said BP's oil spill resulted in at least \$7.6 billion of lost tourist revenue in the Gulf.



The majority of U.S. offshore drilling takes place in the Gulf of Mexico. However, just a few weeks after BP's Deepwater Horizon spill, Obama announced plans to expand offshore drilling along the mid and south Atlantic coasts in addition to the eastern Gulf and along the Pacific Ocean coastline.

Environment America's study showed that tourism brings in \$61.98 billion in tourist revenue along the Pacific coast annually.

The study also said that commercial and recreational fishing adds another \$3.98 billion, totaling \$65.96 billion each year. The value of estimated gas and oil off the Pacific coast is \$34.2 billion annually, a little more than half of what the tourism and fishing industries bring to the Pacific coast.

Senators from the west coast states together proposed a ban on drilling in federal Pacific waters because the risks are too great, they said.

Senator Barbara Boxer said she sponsored the proposal because 388,000 California jobs are created by the tourism, fishing and recreational industries in the state.

"We simply cannot afford the risk posed by oil drilling off our magnificent coast," she said. In coastal communities along the mid and south Atlantic coast, tourism and recreational and commercial fishing bring in \$34.76 billion

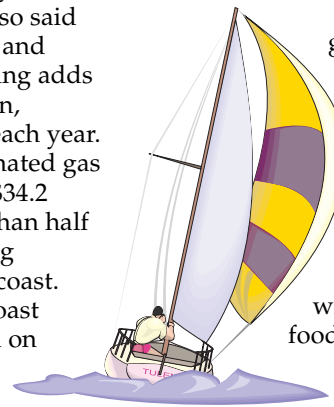
annually. The estimated value of oil and gas there is only \$4.1 billion.

It's obvious to the Ocean Protection Coalition of the Mendocino Coast that oil drilling cannot be allowed off the U.S. coastlines. This is true not only from an economic viewpoint but also, more importantly, from an ecological one.

Humanity is killing the oceans, which provide a huge percentage of the earth's oxygen. Studies have proven that the Oceans are turning more acidic.

There are five huge gyres of plastic floating in the world's oceans (see a map of them at - <http://5gyres.org/>).

All of them are almost as large or larger than the continental U.S. They are killing sea life, which mistakes them for food.



It's time to stop producing and using plastic that can't be recycled. It's also time to stop littering our streets and waste dumps with plastic.

Only a generation ago we got by just fine without using throwaway plastic containers and other products. We can do it again.

The offshore drilling and exploration dollars could be much better put to use by developing extensively renewable energy and mass transit technologies in the U.S.

MLPAI from page 6

Club members, Bill Lemos (paid consultant for the Natural Resources Defense Council [NRDC]), and Robert Jamgocian, Mendocino High School instructor (helping to empower our local youth to help protect the Marine environment) to back down from their position of placing no fishing reserves off of Mendocino. Such reserves located there would have devastated the local commercial and recreational fishing and seaweed harvesting communities as well as the broader business community.

It took courage for local fishers and seaweed harvesters to agree to take

a further financial hit when Mendocino County has already been hard hit by the imposition of MPAs in the North Central Coast region.

The economic analysis of that damage provided by "Impact Assessment, Inc." indicated that these restrictions on local fishing can cut into the profit margin of the urchin industry alone by 50 percent.

For a community with the highest unemployment rate in the state and an economic dependence on the ocean more than twice that of other regions, that's going to hurt a lot.

The fishers are the watchdogs of the sea. They are the first line of defense

against industrialization and the first to note the changes in the ocean that can spell dire consequences for us all. North Coast fishers and seaweed harvesters have proven they can manage the marine resources sustainably.

Because they have, fish stocks are rebounding. There is no need here for any more "protection." Now it's the fishers and other sustainable harvesters of our ocean resources who need protection.

The federal government will soon be following in California's MLPA steps to impose Coastal and Marine Spatial planning. Please everyone, stay tuned and stay engaged.

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 Montgomery 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/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
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

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 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.