

**Statement of Chairwoman Madeleine Z. Bordallo**  
**Oversight Hearing Regarding Legislation to Amend or Reauthorize the Coastal**  
**Zone Management Act**  
**Subcommittee on Fisheries, Wildlife and Oceans**  
**Thursday, February 28, 2008**

The Subcommittee on Fisheries, Wildlife and Oceans meets this morning to hear testimony regarding legislation to reauthorize or amend the Coastal Zone Management Act (CZMA). This hearing represents the Subcommittee's first step under my leadership toward reauthorizing this important marine conservation law, which was first enacted by Congress in 1972.

Some people may question why, at this relatively late date in the congressional calendar, this subcommittee has decided to take up reauthorization of the CZMA. My answer is simple: pick up the newspaper.

Only last week the press reported the future withdrawal of coastal property insurance in Florida because the risk exposure to tropical storms has grown too expensive. Also, an article in Tuesday's *Los Angeles Times* reported that coastal homes in Louisiana and Mississippi may need to be rebuilt 20-feet off the ground to meet new Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) flood insurance standards.

In addition, the United Nations (UN) this week reported that climate change, along with overfishing and increased pollution, are crippling our coastal regions, and that sea level rise threatens the shores and even the existence of some islands in the Pacific Ocean.

Clearly, from these accounts it is no waste of time for this committee to take up the CZMA. If anything, considering the fact that the Congress last reauthorized the Act in 1996, we have been neglectful in our oversight to determine if the Act remains relevant to the coastal challenges we face today.

In that respect, I commend my colleagues, Congresswoman Lois Capps of California and Congressman Tom Allen of Maine, for introducing their bills, H.R. 5452, H.R. 5453 and H.R. 3223, respectively, that would address coastal climate change adaptation, encourage sensible development of renewable ocean energy, and preserve working waterfronts and water-dependent commercial uses.

I must say, however, that I am disappointed with the testimony provided by the Administration. It is one thing to be critical of legislation; it is another thing altogether, to be critical of legislation without offering any new constructive ideas. But I am forever an optimist. Time does remain for this Administration to redeem itself. To that end, I hope that we are able to work collaboratively along with the subcommittee's ranking member, my good friend, Congressman Henry Brown of South Carolina, and the other members of this Subcommittee to see what we might

**accomplish – when we work together – to reauthorize the Coastal Zone Management Act.**