

Subject: Do Not Weaken the Coastal Zone Management Act
Resent-From: CZMAFC.ProposedRule@noaa.gov
Date: 14 Aug 2003 23:14:20 -0000
From: <a.salinas@mail.utexas.edu>
To: czmafc.proposedrule@noaa.gov

Vice Admiral Conrad Lautenbacher

Dear Vice Admiral Lautenbacher,

The Bush administration, through the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, is attempting to undermine the good effects that the Coastal Zone Management Act has had for the past 30 years.

The CZMA has been instrumental in the successful management of the various interests in the use of our coasts. Congress' original intentions to provide balance between federal and state agencies in the management of coastal areas will be undermined by the proposed changes. If instituted, these changes will make it easier for the oil and gas industries to disregard environmental concerns at the state and local levels.

The NOAA is caving in to the Bush administration and the extractive industries by abdicating its mandate to protect a state's right to protect its coastal areas. The extractive industries insist that these rules will "streamline" management processes. Who are they – the extractive industries – to determine the running of a federal or state agency?

The NOAA should not relinquish its authority to the Minerals Management Service as relates to future offshore oil and gas development plans. For starters, proposed review time-lines are far too short for state agencies to provide public notice and receive public comment. In addition, states are denied the ability to ask for information from the industries that are the potential polluters.

In summary, the proposed rule changes attempt to usurp a state's rights to protect its coastal zones as legislated by Congress, NOAA's own regulations, and three decades of practice, at the expense of our coasts. The proposed rule changes ultimately facilitate coastal oil and gas development without regard for any other use or user of our coasts. I urge you to withdraw the proposed CZMA rule changes.

Sincerely,

Ana Salinas
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