

June 24, 2002

James D. Watkins
Admiral, U.S. Navy (Retired)
Chairman
U.S. Commission on Ocean Policy
1120 20th Street, NW
Suite 200 North
Washington, DC 20036

Dear Admiral Watkins:

Thank you for the opportunity to testify before the U.S. Commission on Ocean Policy at its Southwest Regional Meeting in my capacity as the chair of the Pew Oceans Commission's committee on marine protected areas. This letter responds to the follow-up questions I received on my testimony.

As I mentioned at the meeting, the Commission created the MPA Committee only recently. Therefore, we are still developing thoughts and views on the issue and welcome the opportunity to discuss these issues with you further. The following responses to your questions are based on our preliminary work.

Question 1: MPA models

The MPA Committee found two examples of MPA programs to be extremely informative: the Florida Keys National Marine Sanctuary and the Great Barrier Reef Marine Park in Australia. In both of these cases, the programs have similar key components contributing to their success. The programs rely on cooperation and coordination among federal and state agencies and jurisdictions. A strong public process brought stakeholders to the table from the early stages of development and throughout implementation. Management plans were produced based on sound science, with regular evaluation and adaptive management. Both programs recognize the importance of providing opportunities for a variety of human activities, balanced by a strong need for conservation of habitats and species. And finally, the programs include core conservation areas protected from all extractive or disruptive human activities that provide baseline information on marine ecosystems.

Question 2: Federal jurisdiction for MPAs

The jurisdiction of marine protected areas is spread across several federal jurisdictions. The MPA Committee has discussed placing new MPA programs and initiatives in the National

Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (or the lead ocean agency), with existing programs remaining under current authorities and jurisdictions.

Questions 3 and 4: Definitions

The terminology used to describe protected areas in the ocean is extremely confusing and should be clarified. The MPA Committee has adopted the following definitions pursuant to our work:

Ocean zoning is a process by which the ocean is divided into legally enforceable, discrete regions in which specified human uses are permitted or prohibited.

A **marine protected area** is any area of the ocean, including its intertidal or subtidal terrain, which has been designated by law, regulation or other effective means, to protect some or all of the enclosed environment, including flora, fauna, historical and cultural resources.

A **marine reserve** is an area of the ocean that is protected from all destructive human activities, except as needed to monitor and evaluate the effectiveness of the protection. Destructive human activities include but are not limited to all activities that extract resources, discharge pollutants, and alter habitats.

Thank you again for the opportunity to testify before the U.S. Commission on Ocean Policy. The ongoing dialogue between our commissions is mutually beneficial in our collective efforts to protect and restore the valuable ocean resources of the United States. I look forward to continuing the dialogue with you and your fellow commissioners.

Sincerely,

Charles F. Kennel, Ph.D.