

Tuesday, April 08, 2003

Hello Admiral Watkins, Dr. Ballard and All the Commissioners

I am contacting because of your important work being currently conducted for the US Commission on Ocean Policy.

I am contacting you wearing at least five hats: These are as 1) President of Capella Consulting Group - a small environmental consulting company in Woods Hole, MA. that is focused on all aspects of coastal environmental science and "engineering"; 2) As Assistant Professor of Marine Science and Environmental Protection at Massachusetts Maritime Academy. MSEP is the fastest-growing major in the college; 3) as 'founder' and advisor to the Falmouth Coastal Resources Working Group - of whose work may know; 4) as an Associate of Duke University's Program for the Study of Developed Shorelines (within the Nichols School of the Environment); as author of a manuscript (soon to be book) telling the tale of the coastal degradation (geo-physical and bio-chemical) of the Falmouth Shoreline during the 20th Century. The book is entitled All Along The Injured Coast - from a lyric to a Paul Simon song.

I have been citing the work of the Commission both in articles to the local newspaper of Falmouth and Woods Hole Enterprise) pushing for Falmouth to step forward as a national leader in what I call "whole-coastal restoration". This is the theme and recommendation of the CRWG's Report, recently presented to the Falmouth Selectmen. This represents 2.5 years of work by a citizens-scientist task force totally unique in the entire US. It presents most importantly, a vision, time-line and mechanisms for the restorations of Falmouth's naturally mobile sedimentary shoreline - and associated habitats - during the 21st Century. It is an amazing accomplishment on the part of the Group - and will be featured in Sierran Magazine in an upcoming issue. In all five of my capacities I am proud of the work I have done in bringing the "mesoscale process perspective" to clients, students and citizens - of getting this on the table in a number of important arenas regarding coastal and shallow -shelf management and use.

I am contacting you to offer whatever aid I can to you and the Commission in terms of data, reports, observations, case studies, planning perspectives etc. etc. I realize that you are well along in your process but because of my cross-disciplinary perspective and experience, I may be able to assist, in some way, in the final product of the Commission or in any continuing efforts. I strongly urge you to obtain a copy of the CRWG's Report and Recommendations for the Commission and Commissioners. Dr. Rob Thieler at USGS - Woods Hole was Chair of the Group. Either he or I can provide you with a copy.

Sincerely,

R.Jude Wilber, Ph.D

Assistant Professor
Marine Science and Environmental Protection
Massachusetts Maritime Academy
Buzzards Bay, MA

President
Capella Consulting Group
Marine Environmental Science - Coastal Shelf, Off-Shore
Woods Hole, MA