



Natural Resources Leadership Council of the States

Board of Directors:

Greg E. Walcher
President
Colorado

Lonice C. Barrett
Vice President
Georgia

Bradley Campbell
Secretary/Treasurer
New Jersey

John Oliver
Past President
Pennsylvania

Mary Nichols
Pacific Representative
California

Richard Davies
South Central Representative
Arkansas

Robert Morgan
Mountain Representative
Utah

Samuel Speck
Great Lakes Representative
Ohio

Jell Vonk
North Central Representative
Iowa

Jan Rietsma
Northeast Representative
Rhode Island

Ron Franks
Mid Atlantic Representative
Maryland

William G. Ross
Southeast Representative
North Carolina

November 17, 2003

Admiral Jams D. Watkins
Chairman
U.S. Commission on Ocean Policy
1120 20th Street, NW
Suite 200 North
Washington, DC 20036

Dear Admiral Watkins:

The Oceans Act of 2000 established the U.S. Commission on Ocean Policy and charged it with developing recommendations for a coordinated and comprehensive national ocean policy intended to improve coastal and ocean management. In addition, an independent Pew Oceans Commission, after reviewing the best scientific information available and seeking the views and expertise from people from around the country, recently released its comprehensive assessment of the policies needed to restore and protect living marine resources in U.S. waters. The Natural Resources Leadership Council of the States received presentations from both of the Commissions at our recent Fall Summit and adopted a resolution that considers the value of the resources and the role of the states in ocean and coastal management.

Coastal ecosystems provide valuable economic and ecological goods and services to the entire nation, and the States have a critical role in managing and protecting these cultural, environmental and economic legacies. Assessments of the health of coastal ecosystems have documented stress to fisheries, water quality, and coastal habitats, as well as physical processes that are increasing erosion of the nation's coastlines. There is a need to restore the balance among human activities and healthy ocean and coastal resources that has deteriorated in the past 50 years.

The States have near shore, watershed, harbor, and territorial sea perspectives and are uniquely positioned to deal with coastal resource management issues as the pressures on the nation's finite coastal resources continue to increase. The 35 coastal states have previously submitted testimony, detailed comments, and specific

1313 Sherman Street, Room 718 • Denver, Colorado 80203 • Phone (303) 866-1111 • FAX (303) 866-2115

• Alabama • Alaska • Arizona • Arkansas • California • Colorado • Connecticut • Delaware • Florida • Georgia • Hawaii • Idaho • Illinois • Indiana • Iowa • Kansas • Kentucky • Louisiana • Maine • Maryland • Massachusetts • Michigan • Minnesota • Mississippi • Missouri • Montana • Nebraska • Nevada • New Hampshire • New Jersey • New Mexico • New York • North Carolina • North Dakota • Ohio • Oklahoma • Oregon • Pennsylvania • Rhode Island • South Carolina • South Dakota • Tennessee • Texas • Utah • Vermont • Virginia • Washington • West Virginia • Wisconsin • Wyoming



Natural Resources Leadership Council of the States

Board of Directors:

Greg E. Walcher
President
Colorado

Lorice C. Barrett
Vice President
Georgia

Bradley Campbell
Secretary/Treasurer
New Jersey

John Oliver
Past President
Pennsylvania

Mary Nichols
Pacific Representative
California

Richard Davies
South Central Representative
Arkansas

Robert Morgan
Mountain Representative
Utah

Samuel Speck
Great Lakes Representative
Ohio

Jeil Vonk
North Central Representative
Iowa

Jan Retsma
Northeast Representative
Rhode Island

Bon Franks
Mid Atlantic Representative
Maryland

William G. Ross
Southeast Representative
North Carolina

recommendations through organizations such as the Coastal States Organization and the Interstate Marine Fisheries Commissions. Further, the National Governors' Association has adopted several resolutions and policy positions that address national ocean governance, marine fisheries, water resources, and Outer Continental Shelf Revenue sharing.

The Natural Resources Leadership Council of the States is pleased to transmit the enclosed Resolution adopted at our recent Fall Summit. The Council membership commends the U.S. Commission on Ocean Policy on its mission to address the ocean and coastal policy needs of this nation and to fully consider and integrate this process with both coastal and non-coastal states. We support the efforts of the Ocean Commission and pledge to work with the Commission, federal, state, and local agencies, and private and public stakeholders to implement a comprehensive and coordinated national ocean and coastal strategy.

Sincerely,

Greg E. Walcher,
President, NRLCS

Enclosures

1313 Sherman Street, Room 700 • Denver, Colorado 80203 • Phone (303) 866-3300 • FAX (303) 866-2115

• Alabama • Alaska • Arizona • Arkansas • California • Colorado • Connecticut • Delaware • Florida • Georgia • Hawaii • Idaho • Illinois • Indiana • Iowa • Kansas • Kentucky • Louisiana • Maine • Maryland • Massachusetts • Michigan • Minnesota • Mississippi • Missouri • Montana • Nebraska • Nevada • New Hampshire • New Jersey • New Mexico • New York • North Carolina • North Dakota • Ohio • Oklahoma • Oregon • Pennsylvania • Rhode Island • South Carolina • South Dakota • Tennessee • Texas • Utah • Vermont • Virginia • Washington • West Virginia • Wisconsin • Wyoming



Natural Resources Leadership Council of the States

Board of Directors:

Greg E. Walcher
President
Colorado

Lonice C. Barrett
Vice President
Georgia

Bradley Campbell
Secretary/Treasurer
New Jersey

John Oliver
Past President
Pennsylvania

Mary Nichols
Pacific Representative
California

Richard Davies
South Central Representative
Arkansas

Robert Morgan
Mountain Representative
Utah

Samuel Speck
Great Lakes Representative
Ohio

Jeff Vonk
North Central Representative
Iowa

Jan Bietsma
Northeast Representative
Rhode Island

Bon Franks
Mid Atlantic Representative
Maryland

William G. Ross
Southeast Representative
North Carolina

RESOLUTION

On Enhancing the Role and Capacity of States for Ocean and Coastal Management

WHEREAS, the states have a jurisdictional interest in adjacent submerged lands and a legal responsibility under the Public Trust Doctrine to administer these resources for the benefit of the public and future generations; and

WHEREAS, states and coastal communities are the "first responders" in meeting the increasing challenges of coastal and ocean management as manifested by resource degradation, user conflicts, economic dislocation, and threats to quality of life; and

WHEREAS, the primacy role of the states in coastal and ocean governance is explicitly recognized in the Submerged Lands Act, Coastal Zone Management Act, Clean Water Act, Outer Continental Shelf Lands Act, and Port Security Act; and

WHEREAS, there are varying degrees of disarray, overlap, and gaps among federal agencies, programs and the 140 federal laws and associated regulations that apply to ocean and coastal management; and

WHEREAS, the purpose of the Natural Resources Leadership Council of the States (NRLCS) is to build partnerships among and between the states and the federal government to enhance the management and conservation of America's natural resources; and

WHEREAS, the NRLCS has a direct interest in the recommendations which the U.S. Commission on Ocean Policy is charged with developing.

NOW, THEREFORE, be it resolved that the NRLCS supports the efforts of the U.S. Commission on Ocean Policy to develop a strategy to improve coastal and ocean management; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the NRLCS membership recommends that the Commission, Congress and the President include the following key elements in the development of a strategy to improve coastal and ocean management:

1313 Sherman Street, Room 718 • Denver, Colorado 80203 • Phone (303) 866-3311 • FAX (303) 866-2115

Alabama • Alaska • Arizona • Arkansas • California • Colorado • Connecticut • Delaware • Florida • Georgia • Hawaii • Idaho • Illinois • Indiana • Iowa • Kansas • Kentucky • Louisiana • Maine • Maryland • Massachusetts • Michigan • Minnesota • Mississippi • Missouri • Montana • Nebraska • Nevada • New Hampshire • New Jersey • New Mexico • New York • North Carolina • North Dakota • Ohio • Oklahoma • Oregon • Pennsylvania • Rhode Island • South Carolina • South Dakota • Tennessee • Texas • Utah • Vermont • Virginia • Washington • West Virginia • Wisconsin • Wyoming



Natural Resources Leadership Council of the States

Board of Directors:

Greg E. Walcher
President
Colorado

Lonice C. Barrett
Vice President
Georgia

Bradley Campbell
Secretary/Treasurer
New Jersey

John Oliver
Past President
Pennsylvania

Mary Nichols
Pacific Representative
California

Richard Davies
South Central Representative
Arkansas

Robert Morgan
Mountain Representative
Utah

Samuel Speck
Great Lakes Representative
Ohio

Jeff Vank
North Central Representative
Iowa

Jan Rietsma
Northeast Representative
Rhode Island

Ron Franks
Mid-Atlantic Representative
Maryland

William G. Ross
Southeast Representative
North Carolina

1. Creation of a Framework and Mechanisms to Establish, Coordinate and Prioritize National Objectives for Improving Coastal and Ocean Management by:

- Providing a comprehensive and clear statement of a U.S. Coastal and Ocean Policy that promotes sustainable uses of the ocean, ensures that funding reflects the full value of resources, and requires science based management.
- Establishing a federal interagency coordination council to ensure that all agencies are engaged in the pursuit of national coastal and ocean objectives in a consistent, effective and efficient manner.
- Designating a lead agency for coordinating coastal and ocean objectives, priorities, and budgetary requests.

2. Enhancement of the Federal/State and Interstate Partnerships in Coastal and Ocean Management by:

- Establishing a regional framework for the pursuit of national objectives with the states having a role as full partners in regional decision-making.
- Building upon existing regional based plans to protect and restore sensitive habitats and ecosystems, fisheries resources, and water quality, sediment management, and economic sustainability.
- Maintaining, and where appropriate, expanding the full effectiveness of the planning, priority setting, and federal consistency provisions of the Coastal Zone Management Act and other existing coordination mechanisms, which have been critical tools for states to use to resolve conflicts, sustain economic uses, and to protect coastal and ocean resources.
- Collectively solving trans boundary environmental problems by expanding efforts to address nutrient pollution, sedimentation, pathogens, and toxics; introducing practices to reduce stormwater runoff, soil erosion, and atmospheric deposition; and implementing sound compliance programs obtained through enforcement efforts.

3. Improvement of Science Based Decision-Making to Solve the Challenges of Population Growth, Changing Ecosystems, Climate Change, and Evolving Economic Systems by:

- Establishing a national monitoring center to integrate federal monitoring programs.
- Focusing national coastal and ocean research priorities on management needs identified by coastal states and other stakeholders.

1313 Sherman Street, Room 718 • Denver, Colorado 80203 • Phone (303) 866-3311 • FAX (303) 866-2105

Alabama • Alaska • Arizona • Arkansas • California • Colorado • Connecticut • Delaware • Florida • Georgia • Hawaii • Idaho • Illinois • Indiana • Iowa • Kansas • Kentucky • Louisiana • Maine • Maryland • Massachusetts • Michigan • Minnesota • Mississippi • Missouri • Montana • Nebraska • Nevada • New Hampshire • New Jersey • New Mexico • New York • North Carolina • North Dakota • Ohio • Oklahoma • Oregon • Pennsylvania • Rhode Island • South Carolina • South Dakota • Tennessee • Texas • Utah • Vermont • Virginia • Washington • West Virginia • Wisconsin • Wyoming



Natural Resources Leadership Council of the States

Board of Directors:

Greg F. Walcher
President
Colorado

Lonice C. Barrett
Vice President
Georgia

Bradley Campbell
Secretary/Treasurer
New Jersey

John Oliver
Past President
Pennsylvania

Mary Nichols
Pacific Representative
California

Richard Davies
South Central Representative
Arkansas

Robert Morgan
Mountain Representative
Utah

Samuel Speck
Great Lakes Representative
Ohio

Jeff Yonk
North Central Representative
Iowa

Jan Rigtsma
Northeast Representative
Rhode Island

Ron Franks
Mid-Atlantic Representative
Maryland

William G. Ross
Southeast Representative
North Carolina

- Supporting regional approaches that combine local knowledge, cultural values, and community based actions with science to improve the management of watersheds, nearshore waters, harbors, territorial seas, and the exclusive economic zone.
- Seeking better ways for federal agency research to be translated into information that managers and decision makers can access and use.
- Building the state and local capacity through technical assistance and training for data compilation and analysis, resource management, and public education and awareness.
- Implementing management strategies that are adaptive to ongoing research, assessment, and education.

4. Creation of Economic Assessment Programs for Coastal and Ocean Resources by:

- Developing a coastal and ocean economic assessment system that can provide data comparable to other economic sectors.
- Accounting for and aligning multi-agency investments in ocean and coastal resources.

5. Establishment of a Dedicated and Sustained Coastal and Ocean Trust Fund by:

- Dedicating a portion of revenues from outer continental shelf oil and gas development or other sources, to supplement state efforts to improve living marine resources research, data collection, management and enforcement, habitat protection and restoration, and maintain and restore the vitality of coastal communities.
- Identifying a minimum annual amount of \$1 billion to be deposited in such a Fund.
- Ensuring that such funds are used to supplement rather than displace existing funding.

6. Establishment of a national commitment and strategies to address the following critical ocean issues, at a minimum:

- Declines in biodiversity and fishery stocks occurring throughout the nation;
- Declining coastal water quality;
- Ongoing shoreline erosion and sea level rise;
- Introduction of non-indigenous species;

1313 Sherman Street, Room 718 • Denver, Colorado 80203 • Phone (303) 866-3311 • FAX (303) 866-2115



Natural Resources Leadership Council of the States

Board of Directors:

Greg E. Walcher
President
Colorado

Lonice C. Barrett
Vice President
Georgia

Bradley Campbell
Secretary/Treasurer
New Jersey

John Oliver
Past President
Pennsylvania

Mary Nichols
Pacific Representative
California

Richard Davies
South-Central Representative
Arkansas

Robert Morgan
Mountain Representative
Utah

Samuel Speck
Great Lakes Representative
Ohio

Jeff Vonk
North Central Representative
Iowa

Jan Rietsma
Northeast Representative
Rhode Island

Ron Franks
Mid-Atlantic Representative
Maryland

William G. Ross
Southeast Representative
North Carolina

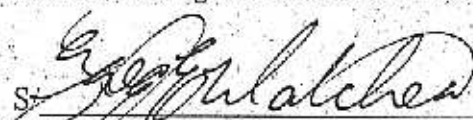
- Alteration or destruction of critical marine and coastal habitats;
- Coastal development and sprawl.

7. That such commitment and strategies should be based on the following guiding principles for policy formulation and decision-making:

- Management decisions are based on the best available science.
- Management decisions incorporate precautionary principles to account for the unknown and uncontrollable variables.
- Incentives and flexibility tied to accountability are the first order of preference in management approaches.
- Management is adaptive with regular reassessment of approaches, objectives and priorities.
- The commitment of resources is commensurate with realistic objectives.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the President of the NRLCS shall transmit copies of this resolution to Admiral James D. Watkins, Chairman, U.S. Commission on Ocean Policy; Mr. James Connaughton, Chairman, White House Council on Environmental Quality, The Honorable Ted Stevens, President Pro Tempore of the U.S. Senate; and The Honorable J. Dennis Hastert, Speaker of the U.S. House of Representatives.

Adopted by the Natural Resources Leadership Council of the States
At their meeting held on October 11, 2003.



Greg E. Walcher, President, NRLCS

Resolution No. 03-04

1313 Sherman Street, Room 718 • Denver, Colorado 80203 • Phone (303) 866-3311 • FAX (303) 866-2115

Alabama • Alaska • Arizona • Arkansas • California • Colorado • Connecticut • Delaware • Florida • Georgia • Hawaii • Idaho • Illinois • Indiana • Iowa • Kansas • Kentucky • Louisiana • Maine • Maryland • Massachusetts • Michigan • Minnesota • Mississippi • Missouri • Montana • Nebraska • Nevada • New Hampshire • New Jersey • New Mexico • New York • North Carolina • North Dakota • Ohio • Oklahoma • Oregon • Pennsylvania • Rhode Island • South Carolina • South Dakota • Tennessee • Texas • Utah • Vermont • Virginia • Washington • West Virginia • Wisconsin • Wyoming