

Chairwoman Susan Tierney
MA

Dear Chairwoman Tierney,

I am a citizen of the Commonwealth concerned with the current state and future health of Massachusetts' ocean life. These resources are a public trust that need future looking stewardship.

The collapse of many of marine fish populations, the dire state of right whale populations, and damage done to bottom habitats by some fishing practices demand immediate attention. The management practices and the structure of management that have created this situation need to be changed.

The Commonwealth's Ocean Management Task Force recently released its Draft Principles and Preliminary Recommendations. I support the first recommendation for the enactment of a new comprehensive Ocean Resources Management Act. Especially important are the recommendations that state agencies be empowered to designate special areas to protect marine species and habitats and update Ocean Sanctuary regulations, encourage public involvement in decision-making, and increase coordination with all levels of government.

As the Task Force finalizes its Principles and Recommendations I sincerely hope that they not in any way be weakened from their current form.

Sincerely,

Peter Beves
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