

US EPA ARCHIVE DOCUMENT



Living Coastal and Marine Resources Listening Session

Commenter's Affiliation	Comment
Business and Industry	Concerns: commercial fishermen and plant owners. What is the future status of the resource? Available stock and markets.
Business and Industry	Perception that seafood is not safe to eat. What can we look forward to? TF could improve people's confidence that what is coming out of water is safe to eat.
Business and Industry	Information is slow to reach the industry. Better communication to the affected public through such ways as newspapers TV, or attendance at local organization meetings.
Nongovernmental Organization	Seafood safety. Continue prolonged testing. Make sure we are testing for the right things (PAH, dispersants, etc...) and show test results.
Business and Industry	Lack of production (catching finfish) is a concern. Wants short term economic assistance until the health of the gulf returns.
Business and Industry	How will TF bridge the gap between now and the restoration of the gulf? We are able to respond to hurricanes, etc.. If it's a phase (minimal catches from Nov./Dec/ Jan.) we can recover. But if it is spill related, will all the money go elsewhere?
Business and Industry	Offshore catches are nearly gone. Gulf-wide. Vermillion snapper. Is this a phase? Is oil spill to blame? Production has dropped off since December. We have had to buy frozen fish to survive.
Business and Industry	Where does the fishing community fit in? Only time will tell. What is going to happen to our communities? NRDA didn't mention the commercial seafood industry in their recent public hearings.
Nongovernmental Organization	NRDA Claims process. Local fishermen have to work much harder to achieve the old baseline. How is that compensated? How do you make industries more resilient? Is it habitat restoration? We need some short-term actions, Economic Development Authority could be a recommendation

US EPA ARCHIVE DOCUMENT



Living Coastal and Marine Resources Listening Session

Commenter's Affiliation	Comment
Business and Industry	Fishery as it recovers. Key fish species are under management plans and are rebuilding. Biomass needs to grow to the point where it is sustainable. Concerned with spill and dispersants causing future collapse of the fishery.
Business and Industry	Make congress set aside CWA fines to set up fishery monitoring (endowment for long-term monitoring). Need long term effort. Concerned that all the money will go to LA.
Business and Industry	Opportunity to start targeting and enhancing other species that are sustainable. Redirect fishery efforts to species that are currently healthy (king mackerel, Spanish mackerel, shallow water fish species).
Nongovernmental Organization	Public has the responsibility to keep pushing Congress about the CWA fines. Let our respective senators and congressmen know that we want the money to be equitably distributed throughout all the gulf states.
Academia	List of recommendations based on CRC report-Seafood committee report: 1) set aside restoration funds to serve as trust fund for future impacts to industry. 2) Build fish attraction devices (build reefs). 3) Establish a fisheries loan grant program similar to go-zone program that could bridge fishermen during slow times. 4) Include fishermen in the research and development projects. 5) Support development of safe harbors.
Business and Industry	Permitting is a challenge. Reef construction requires permits. Integrate process to streamline. Artificial reefs are one solution but not the only solution. Gain efficiency by improving the speed of the ESA consultation process (only one attorney to review all of the SE permits takes 2 years or more). In shore artificial reefs benefit species that are being overfished in deep waters. Reduces fishing pressure.

US EPA ARCHIVE DOCUMENT



Living Coastal and Marine Resources Listening Session

Commenter's Affiliation	Comment
Business and Industry	Fishery management plans were in place before the spill. Charter fishing industry has been dying over the last 4 years due to gas prices and the economy. Recovery takes time. The economy is prohibiting the industry. News media destroyed Alabama tax base, not necessarily the oil spill. Use the CWA penalty dollars for an endowment to support the fishing industry in the future. Need to create tourism dollars to increase a tax base.
Academia	Ask that the TF focus on the communities that depend on the ecosystem services that will be restored by NRDA. Measure of success should be on the people (jobs and profits).
Academia	Modernize fleets, create safe harbors, involve fishermen in the research, implement sustainable practices, market gulf seafood to restore the reputation.
Business and Industry	Don't let the seafood industry fall through the cracks. Our fish supplies the world.
Nongovernmental Organization	Asked reef builders about ESA consultation issues (can we use other mechanisms such as safe harbors, etc...).
Academia	State agencies need adequate resources to support and implement the actions.
Nongovernmental Organization	Permitting is a challenge. Habitat restoration that provides benefits should not fall under the same sort of regulatory framework that includes projects that have negative environmental impacts. Streamline permitting for beneficial projects. Living shorelines is a good example of actions that should receive expedited permitting. Shellfish aquaculture is another example.
Business and Industry	CWA fines - ongoing battle. Need to emphasize that money should go to the gulf states. Need to stay focused on having the money in hand first and then divide it up later.
Academia	Question about whether deep water is included in this topic. Answer is yes, but there is a lack of knowledge about the systems and a need for offshore monitoring.



Living Coastal and Marine Resources Listening Session

Commenter's Affiliation	Comment
Local Government	Alabama is working on many of these issues that have been brought up today and need to do a better job on outreach.