

11 Critical Ocean Issues

With Action Items for Concerned Citizens

Guide to Reaching Political Leaders

The only way to make our representative democracy work well is to ensure that our political leaders represent us. It is, in fact, their job. This guide will help you pursue many of the suggested actions contained in *11 Critical Ocean Issues: With Action Items for Concerned Citizens*. Appendix D of *11 Critical Ocean Issues* provides a template for a letter to these leaders to urge their action on the oceans. We encourage you to use this letter as you see fit and modify it to suit your own interests and concerns regarding the sea.

Here are some suggestions for reaching out to those who need to hear from you about important ocean issues:

General Reference: The National Political Index (www.politicalindex.com/index.htm) is a terrific, comprehensive, one-stop resource through which you can find: the name and contact information for your federal, state and local elected officials; names and contact information for federal as well as state and local government agencies; details on federal legislation; and other useful information.

Congressional Contacts: To quickly find the names and addresses of your congressional representatives, go to www.house.gov or www.senate.gov.

Key Federal Officials: Here are names and contact information for some of the most important ocean-related federal officials:

- President George W. Bush (www.whitehouse.gov/contact);
- The Honorable Joshua Bolten, Director of the Office of Management and Budget (www.whitehouse.gov/omb/contact.html);
- The Honorable Carlos Gutierrez, Secretary of the Department of Commerce (www.commerce.gov/Contact_Us.htm);
- The Honorable Conrad C. Lautenbacher, Administrator of the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) (PH: (202) 482-3436; FAX: (202) 408-9674; conrad.c.lautenbacher@noaa.gov; 14th Street & Constitution Avenue, NW Washington, DC 20230)

Tracking Congressional Legislation: For the latest on bills, their cosponsors and their status, the definitive site is <http://thomas.loc.gov>.

For a copy of “11 Critical Ocean Issues with Action Items for Concerned Citizens” please visit www.seakeepers.org