



Mr. John Englander  
Chief Executive Officer  
The International SeaKeepers Society  
4101 Ravenswood Road, Suite 128  
Ft. Lauderdale, Florida 33312

OCT 24 2007

Dear Mr. Englander:

Congratulations to the International SeaKeepers Society for entering the tenth year of promoting coastal and ocean public awareness and stewardship. I want to recognize the specific contributions the SeaKeepers Society has made to the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration's (NOAA's) ocean observing and stewardship missions.

The SeaKeeper 1000, the automated ocean and atmospheric monitoring system developed by your organization, is well known and used throughout NOAA, including the National Weather Service's National Centers for Environmental Prediction and National Data Buoy Center; the Oceanic and Atmospheric Research's Earth Systems Research Laboratory; and the National Ocean Service's National Marine Sanctuaries Program, Coastal Services Center, and new Integrated Ocean Observing System (IOOS) program office. The data collected by these instruments are integrated into NOAA's atmospheric and ocean data centers and used for a variety of products and services.

The SeaKeepers Society is an exemplary public-private sector partnership. It demonstrates how private sector innovation and dedication can lead to the development of cost-effective technologies, such as the SeaKeepers 1000 system, that meets both private and public sector requirements and needs. This system is now deployed on more than 40 vessels of opportunity, including many NOAA vessels. NOAA believes that this innovative system and partnership can help our effort to expand IOOS, a national and global effort to coordinate, integrate, and disseminate earth observation data.

I applaud SeaKeepers' commitment to help raise public awareness and stewardship for our oceans. NOAA depends upon non-government organizations such as SeaKeepers to reach new constituencies and expand our network of ocean and coastal stewards. Also, your timely and comprehensive publication, "11 Critical Ocean Issues with Action Items for Concerned Citizens" provides a clear call-to-action for our ocean partners.

NOAA recognizes and commends the vision and public service SeaKeepers and its private sector donors have manifested. We look forward to your cooperation, innovation, and assistance on important ocean issues in the years ahead.

*Congratulations and  
Many thanks for  
your support!*

Sincerely,

Conrad C. Lautenbacher, Jr.  
Vice Admiral, U.S. Navy (Ret.)  
Under Secretary of Commerce for  
Oceans and Atmosphere

THE ADMINISTRATOR

