

Report on the National Ocean Policy Strategic Action Plans

Great Lakes Regional Listening Session

On June 13, 2011, I attended the Great Lakes Regional Listening Session for the National Ocean Policy Strategic Action Plans held at the Metcalfe Federal Building in Chicago. The session was attended by less than 30 persons. With the exception of a representative from the Lake Carriers' Association and yours truly, most of the participants were either government employees or paid individuals from interested NGOs. An additional 120 persons participated through the webinar.

The meeting was facilitated by Capt. Eric Vogelbacher, Chief of Planning & Resources, USCG, 9th District, Cleveland, OH. Panel participants were:

Cameron Davis, Senior Advisor to the Administrator, U. S. EPA

David Naftzger, Executive Director, Great Lakes-St. Lawrence River Basin Water Resources Council, and Member, National Ocean Council Governance Coordinating Committee

Joan Murphy, Cook County Commissioner, IL, 6th District, and Member, National Ocean Council Governance Coordinating Committee

Craig McLean, Acting Assistant Administrator for Oceanic and Atmospheric Research, NOAA

Dr. Frank Schwing, Ocean Policy Advisor, National Ocean Council.

Through the panel discussions and subsequent breakout sessions, the nine separate Strategic Action Plan Outlines developed by experts from 27 Federal Agencies, were presented and opened for comments and questions.

The Strategic Action Plan Outlines are:

- 1) Inform decisions and Improve Understanding
- 2) Coordinate and Support
- 3) Ecosystem based Management
- 4) Coastal and Marine Spatial Planning
- 5) Resiliency and Adaptation to Climate Change and Ocean Acidification
- 6) Regional Ecosystem Protection and Restoration

- 7) Water Quality and Sustainable Practices on Land
- 8) Changing Conditions in the Attic
- 9) Ocean, Coastal, and Great Lakes Observations, Mapping, and Infrastructure

For additional information about each of these outlines is available at:

www.whitehouse.gov/administration/eop/oceans

During Breakout Session 1 and 9, I spoke on behalf of NBF by commenting as follows:

Session 1 – I suggested at one of the subsections dealing with “Scientific Support for Managers and Policy Makers” that the analysis of unintended consequences be given careful consideration, as an example I cited the potential impact on recreational vessels from banning of copper-based anti-fouling paints.

Session 9 – I followed the representative from the Great Lakes Carriers’ Association’s comments on the impact on dredging resulting from limited USACE funding with comments focused on Capt. Vogelbacher about the need for speedier coordination between the Corps and the USCGs LNM, citing P/P Tom Dogan’s experience at Michigan City earlier this year.

Respectfully submitted,

Fred W. Poppe