

## When BIG Green Isn't Enough - Go For The Gold, Black Gold

Monday, September 07, 2009

When BIG Green Isn't Enough - Go For The Gold, Black Gold:  
Sierra Club California and Ocean Conservancy Support Plan to Drill  
Offshore at Tranquillon Ridge While Supporting MLPA-I Fishing Closures

Before the late January 2009 decision by The State Lands Commission denying the (PXP) Tranquillon Ridge Project off the coast of Santa Barbara - both the **Sierra Club California and the Ocean Conservancy** were listed in a press release dated 012609 as supporting an agreement to defy 40 years of true grassroots coastal protection against offshore oil.  
[http://www.noozhawk.com/news\\_releases/article/0127\\_state\\_lands\\_commission/](http://www.noozhawk.com/news_releases/article/0127_state_lands_commission/)

### ENVIRONMENTAL GROUPS URGE CALIFORNIA STATE LANDS COMMISSION TO SUPPORT OFFSHORE OIL DRILLING

For Immediate Release **January 27, 2009**

Dear Chairman Garamendi and Commissioners: We have a dream....

Even GOO! - the original Get Oil Out! group signed on to the deal which was brokered by the (PXP) Plains Exploration Company and the (EDC) Environmental Defense Center and the Citizens Planning Association of Santa Barbara County.

There was dissent within ranks of course. The old guard of GOO! now retired and in their eighties, never gave their support to the slick deal. "I understand what they're doing," Bottoms said of GOO and the EDC's decision to back the project. "As far as they're concerned, that's their way to get around Goliath... [But they're] bowing to them. You're not saying we don't want this stuff anymore ... global warming, will only worsen so long as the world is reliant on oil. Why kill ourselves? I'm totally against the use of oil. The worst thing we ever did was discover oil." Actually the original **Press Release** stated ...(deal to end) Offshore Oil Drilling.

On the morning of **Jan. 28, 1969**, Bud Bottoms was an art director for a think tank in Santa Barbara. Bottoms, now 81, recalled getting a phone call at work from his friend and then Santa Barbara News-Press reporter Dick Smith, who had been flying over Platform A and spotted oil bubbling to the surface. "I remember I yelled out - We've got to get oil out."  
<http://www.thedailysound.com/012809Oil>

And after the State Lands Commission Report, Susan Jordan, longtime advocate for coastal protection, broke with her longtime allies at EDC and opposed the PXP deal. "They're giving special treatment to this project. The most important issue is, they're not following existing legal process and taking away existing legal protections that govern offshore projects."

Assemblymember Pedro Nava who represents Santa Barbara in the legislature said: "The plan would have unraveled critical environmental protections, put the coast at risk, and set a **terrible precedent while the federal government is considering their 5 year drilling plan for the outer continental shelf.**"

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Lieutenant Governor John Garamendi stated: "The Governor just put California's coastline up for sale when he had other options that don't put our natural resources at risk. He refused to approve a plan to tax oil companies that now extract oil in California to fund health care services, children's programs and education. **California is the only oil producing state without an oil severance tax**, and it would generate \$1.2 billion dollars annually for our state. Instead, Big Oil has offered to California \$100 million dollars to seduce the state into granting the first new oil drilling lease in California since the Santa Barbara oil spill 41 years ago. The loan must be repaid by forgiving future royalty payments to California."

Willie Pelote, California Political & Legislative Director, American Federation of State, County and Municipal Employees: "If the Governor really wants to generate more revenues he should charge oil companies for extraction - they do in Texas, Alaska, and other oil producing states."

The State Lands Commission, made up of the lieutenant governor, the state controller and the director of the Department of Finance, has authority over mineral leases in state tidelands areas, which extend three miles offshore. That authority once rested with the finance director, but lawmakers established the commission in 1938 in the wake of a scandal over the finance director's too-cozy relationship with the Standard Oil Co.

### **Now 70 years later:**

Chief Deputy Finance Director Thomas Sheehy said (of the Tranquillon Ridge plan) "It's time to look for win-win opportunities." Replied Controller John Chiang: "I'm concerned we may be one win short of a win-win. There is tremendous uncertainty as to environmental benefits." Sheehy then advised the commission that it was created by statute and its authority can be taken away by a vote of the Legislature. "That power can be altered, changed, truncated or terminated at any time."

After the State Lands Commission denial, Michael Endicott of Sierra Club California said, "We do not see how the Governor's reversal on offshore oil drilling can really be in the best interest of the state...." [http://www.californiaprogessreport.com/2009/07/53\\_environmenta.html](http://www.californiaprogessreport.com/2009/07/53_environmenta.html)

On July 22 and 23, 2009 - 53 leading California environmental organizations sent letters to Governor Schwarzenegger to express their united opposition to the 'reported budget deal' that would overturn the recent decision by the independent State Lands Commission denying the Tranquillon Ridge project proposal based on legitimate substantive reasons including concerns over a lack of enforceability. "This proposal, if approved, will represent the first new offshore oil lease in California waters in over 40 years, and a major reversal of the Governor's past assurances that there would be no new oil drilling off California's coast."

Visit: <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=HpdegV6g1WY>

And even though the **Tranquillon Ridge sweetheart deal** for one oil company was negotiated behind closed doors, without any legislative hearings to allow public comment by Big Green, it's all good and well that subsequently in the letter of united opposition, the Oil Severance Tax

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on extraction was mentioned. "Instead, we ask the Governor, and legislative leaders to withdraw this proposal and replace it with a better alternative, the severance tax. The severance tax would generate more revenue for the state. The PXP proposal would only generate with certainty a single \$100 million payment that is really just an advance on royalties which would be credited to PXP's benefit, by reducing future royalty payments. An **Oil Severance Tax** would raise up to 8 times more on an annual basis."

(ed) That should have been the discussion all along.

What is missing is a definitive **NO NEW OIL** Extraction, permits or leases.

Increases in **Ocean acidification** are considered to be a direct result of the over abundance of anthropogenic Co2 (generation). Big Green in general supports Cap and Trade Carbon Credits. How about a **Homeless Bank of Carbon, HoBaCa?**

Homeless folk, must have the smallest individual and collective carbon footprint. Some suit and tie entrepreneur could market these credits based on a per unit & collective economic advantage carbon footprint model leveraged by (the) time spent living on the streets and local area or regional demographics. The profits generated could support a community shelter and outreach infra-structure (purchase and/or management) and programs.

So who benefits from new oil and LNG fields offshore in plans being developed. We could start with company portfolios of businesses that can afford "Cap and Trade" pollution credits. Also the plastics industry (LNG nurdles), and the petroleum fertilizer industry (Nitrogen pellets, prings). Much of the latter are transported to large nations by ADM and Cargill paid for through federal assistance mechanisms and global funding (IMF, World Bank). Most of the fertilizer pellets are shipped overseas. 15 countries account for 84% of global production.

And the "**Green Revolution**" which crashed family and community farms globally (from the midwest to India) has a new hue - it's now called the "**Blue Revolution**" a.k.a. Aquaculture or Mariculture. Alongside these Marine Bio-Tech Protected Areas, leases will be considered for sea floor mining of minerals, microbial organisms, and energy efficient bacteria.

### **Local Economy, Local Food Resources, Localization:**

"No Fishing" areas, such as the **MLPA-Initiative** closures currently being implemented are a solution looking for a problem. Yet they are promoted by the Ocean Conservancy, and supported by the Sierra Club. The following quotes from Gordon Moore himself delineate the gap between the 'Political' Donation Reserves & Investment Bottom Lines (**DRIBL**) of the private foundations (with billions of dollars readily available) and the reality of Ecosystem Boundaries Of Influence (**BOI**).

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### Patented Progress – Carbon Forests and Paper Credits

“The Moore Foundation wants to preserve the pristine salmon systems in the vast north Pacific. To this end, it has made grants to several groups in British Columbia that protect the Haida Gwaii archipelago and the Great Bear rainforest, as well as to an Oregon based organization that concentrates on rivers in Russia through the *Salmon Initiative*.”

“In terms of salmon, we sponsored a meeting in Anchorage last summer and close to 300 people came. We used this process to bring people together to exchange ideas.”

Moore’s results-based philosophy meant the foundation decided not to take on the bigger problem of cleaning up salmon runs in the continental US. Even with a yearly grant budget of \$225m, the foundation believed it could not have an impact when, “For us the value equation is not there,” he says. The Patient Pursuit Of Progress: Paul Sullivan February 24 2006  
[http://www.ft.com/cms/s/0/505cd678-a57d-11da-bf34-0000779e2340.html?nclick\\_check=1](http://www.ft.com/cms/s/0/505cd678-a57d-11da-bf34-0000779e2340.html?nclick_check=1)

“We fund outcomes, not activities,” and the day-to-day supervision of the Moore Foundation is handled by Ed Penhoet, president since 2004. (*just*) **DRIBL BOI**

The Marine Conservation Initiative is working to promote approaches to marine conservation and **management** that have the potential to transform **management** of the world’s oceans. Efforts are currently focused on two of the largest yet most clearly solvable threats: overfishing and habitat destruction. Key initiative strategies include:  
Advancing comprehensive “area-based **management** ....” *from the Moore Foundation*

Let's see, the **MLPA-Initiative Blue Ribbon Task Force** is chaired by the CEO and Chief of Staff for the **Western States Petroleum Association**, Catherine Reheis-Boyd. Harbor Real Estate and Global Marina Development Interests and Waterfront Properties, along with Ocean Aquarium proponents make up the rest of the BRTF. So much fast paced history here....  
[http://californiafisheriescoalition.blogspot.com/2009\\_08\\_01\\_archive.html](http://californiafisheriescoalition.blogspot.com/2009_08_01_archive.html)

And the RDARS Commission 2009 Report has an in-depth perspective.  
[http://www.astral-arts.com/dsl/rdars\\_report\\_0809.pdf](http://www.astral-arts.com/dsl/rdars_report_0809.pdf)

### Garbage Island: Plastics in the Making - Offshore Oil and LNG Extraction 2009

or

Between the Beach and the Horizon: An Ocean of Politics, Plastics, Oil, and Fertilizers

**Just Drill - It's All Good! Concessions won the support** of civic and environmental groups in Santa Barbara. Some of those groups continue to support the merits of the Tranquillon Ridge Oil & LNG project, but object to bypassing the State Lands Commission.

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Linda Krop, an attorney for the Environmental Defense Center, had testified that the concerns raised by commissioners Garamendi and Controller John Chiang should be addressed and that a **refined** proposal should be brought back to the commission for reconsideration.

In January, Garamendi and Chiang cited concerns that the promise to dismantle oil facilities could be unenforceable.

<http://www.venturacountystar.com/news/2009/jun/01/lands-commission-urges-rejection-of-offshore/>

“This would be the first new state offshore oil lease in 40 years,” said Susan Jordan of Santa Barbara, president of Coastal Protection Network. “I have never seen such a blatant power grab. You don’t have the right to unilaterally take control.”

Federal drilling permits from the Minerals Management Service don't include end dates.

<http://www.truthout.org/060909L>

Green groups supported PXP in its petition to use “slant drilling” from one of its four offshore platforms in federal waters to tap into an undersea oil field, the **Tranquillon Ridge**, that could yield as much as 200 million barrels of oil and 50 billion cubic feet of natural gas.

It is the first time in 39 years that Get Oil Out!, or GOO!, has supported oil drilling said Abe Powell, president of GOO! <http://priceofoil.org/2008/04/11/oil-firm-and-green-groups-strike-deal/>

First off, the original PXP deal was questionable at best. <http://www.californiaprogessreport.com/>

California State Lands Commission nixes historic offshore oil lease despite support for the proposal from community members and environmental groups!

<http://www.dailynexus.com/article.php?a=18216>

### **For Immediate Release: April 16, 2009**

ASSEMBLYMEMBER PEDRO NAVA  
35TH ASSEMBLY DISTRICT

Assemblymember Nava Speaks at Hearing No More Oil & Gas Drilling Off the California Coast  
Assemblymember Pedro Nava (D-Santa Barbara) delivered a strong message this morning at a hearing held by the U.S. Department of the Interior in San Francisco.

**WHEREAS**, The United States Department of the Interior, acting in President Bush's final days in office, on January 16, 2009, proposed opening up six million acres off of California's coast to drilling for oil and natural gas; and

**WHEREAS**, While the Obama Administration has put a hold on the Department of the Interior's January 16th plan in order to consider various possible impacts of offshore oil development as well as consider input from the public, the expansion of oil development in areas previously protected by the outer continental shelf moratorium remain under consideration; and

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**WHEREAS**, Proposed drilling areas include areas off Humboldt and Mendocino Counties and from San Luis Obispo south to San Diego; and

**WHEREAS**, The further development of nonrenewable resources that degrade our air, water, and land is contrary to our state's goals of reducing emissions that cause global warming, improving air quality, and increasing the use of renewable energy; now, therefore, be it **Resolved** by the Assembly and the Senate of the State of California, jointly, That the Legislature of the State of California respectfully requests that the Congress of the United States reinstate the federal offshore oil and gas leasing moratorium for the 2009 fiscal year and beyond; and be it further

**Resolved**, That the Legislature of the State of California respectfully opposes the proposed expansion of oil and gas drilling off the Pacific Coast

<http://democrats.assembly.ca.gov/members/a35/Pressroom/Press/20090416AD35PR01.aspx>

Assemblymember Nava and Assemblymember Noreen Evans (D-Sonoma) are the authors **Assembly Joint Resolution 3**, which requests that the Congress of the United States reinstate the federal offshore oil and gas leasing moratorium for the 2009 fiscal year and beyond. The measure also memorializes the Legislature's opposition to the proposed expansion of oil and gas drilling off the Pacific Coast and any federal energy policies and legislation that would weaken California's role in energy siting decisions

### **Brief Scientific Summary Chronology from an oil industry perspective follows:**

"In November 1982 Unocal announced the discovery of the Pt Pedernales field. While the field was under development during the 1980's two of the partners were swallowed up by other oil companies (Gulf by Chevron and Superior by Mobil). Unocal sold their interest in the lease to Nuevo Exploration in 1994. Nuevo acquired 100% of the OCS-P-0441 lease. Plains Exploration (PXP) purchased Nuevo Energy (and the Pt Pedernales lease) in 2004"

- 1) The Tranquillon Ridge field is located almost completely within the California State Tidelands. Most of this oil was off limits to the oil industry unless a lease was issued.
- 2) The Pt. Pedernales lease holders could recover oil that was under their lease. Doing so might very well affect the reservoir pressures and the amount of oil that could be recovered from Tranquillon Ridge at a later date.
- 3) The best way to recover the Tranquillon Ridge oil is to recover it from Platform Irene (the platform on OCS-P-0441) 4 miles offshore in federal waters. Irene had sufficient slots (capacity) to do the necessary drilling. Drilling from Irene would obviate the need to set a platform in the state waters using 4 new pumps.

"An oil company took the initiative to negotiate in good faith with environmental groups and the environmental groups reciprocated. The most accurate description would have been "the

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first offshore lease for petroleum development issued by the state in over 40 years.” News reports should have noted that development would occur without the need for a new platform and that the project was not located in Santa Barbara Channel.”

<http://www.geosciences.unl.edu/~rkettler/wordpress/>

**(ed)** BUT the oil is located under State waters in the Santa Barbara Channel.

Joe Sparano, president of the **Western States Petroleum Association**, an oil industry group, said he was disappointed by the Assembly's action. "We think this is mostly a public education issue," Sparano said. "Our industry is extremely safety-conscious. Since 1970, an estimated one billion barrels of oil have been produced out of California waters. In all that time, only 850 barrels have been spilled (35,000 gallons). <http://www.sacbee.com/288/story/2075513.html>

In Scotland, 2007 the Scottish Green Party ... SPT company wanted to pump about 7.8 million tonnes of Russian crude oil a year between tankers anchored in the Firth of Forth. The Green Party revealed that the company, formerly known as Melbourne Marine Services, had failed to tell the Environment Committee about an incident in which 35,000 gallons (850 barrels) of oil was spilled in the Gulf of Mexico 12 years ago.

In written evidence to the committee, the firm said **ship-to-ship transfers had been carried out** off the shores of the UK, Northern Europe, the Mediterranean, West Africa, the US Gulf, the **US West Coast** and the Caribbean.

[http://news.bbc.co.uk/2/low/uk\\_news/scotland/edinburgh\\_and\\_east/6383337.stm](http://news.bbc.co.uk/2/low/uk_news/scotland/edinburgh_and_east/6383337.stm)

### **An Ocean of Politics, Plastics, Noise, Oil, LNG, Fertilizers....**

Anthropogenic debris in marine and estuarine environments mostly consists of convenience items and raw plastics (Pruter 1987).

[http://www.threatenedspecies.environment.nsw.gov.au/tsprofile/threat\\_profile.aspx?id=20013](http://www.threatenedspecies.environment.nsw.gov.au/tsprofile/threat_profile.aspx?id=20013)

Capt. Charles Moore's bottom line is that the only answer, is to stop plastic at its source, ...."

[http://www.ted.com/talks/capt\\_charles\\_moore\\_on\\_the\\_seas\\_of\\_plastic.html](http://www.ted.com/talks/capt_charles_moore_on_the_seas_of_plastic.html)

Entanglement in or ingestion of anthropogenic debris in marine and estuarine environments was listed as a **KEY THREATENING PROCESS** on Schedule 3 of the Threatened Species Conservation Act 1995. [13 February 2004]

Just over 25 years ago a container of Friendly Floatee toys, manufactured in China departed from Hong Kong on a ship destined for Tacoma, Washington, U.S. During a storm on 01/22/1992 close to the International Date Line, twelve 40-foot intermodal containers were washed overboard. One of these containers held 28,800 Floatees, 2 Seattle oceanographers who were working on an ocean surface current model, began to track their progress.

[http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Friendly\\_Floatees](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Friendly_Floatees)

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The recovery rate of objects from the Pacific Ocean is typically around 2%. It has been estimated that container ships lose over 10,000 containers at sea each year (usually during storms). Nikes float - some survived the 1990 container spill in which 80,000 shoes had been lost. Later accidents include: 18,000 Nike sneakers fell overboard in 1999; 33,000 more in December of 2002. In January of 2000, some 26,000 Nike sandals—along with 10,000 children's shoes went overboard. <http://www.harpers.org/archive/2007/01/0081345>

**According to NOAA**, approximately 80% of marine debris is of terrestrial origin. Stormwater runoff and ineffective sewage treatment facilities and landfills are a primary source of terrestrial debris. Littering and illegal dumping are also sources of marine debris. In one year, the **world's** fishing fleets dumped approximately 135,400 tons of plastic fishing gear and 23,600 tons of synthetic packaging material into the sea. Finally, while commercial vessels are responsible for a significant amount of debris discarded into the marine environment, the U.S. Coast Guard estimates recreational boaters and fishermen are the source of nearly 52% of domestically produced (US contribution to the total global amount) marine debris.

**The sheer amount and dispersal range of marine debris is daunting:** 14 billion pounds – that's (70 million tons) of garbage is dumped annually into the oceans and travels across the globe.

**Quick math:** from above - 160,000 tons of fishing gear annually compared to 70 million tons of marine debris. 160,000 tons is the total for the world's fishing fleets, just what percentage of that just in terms of size is the local regional fishing fleet commercial and recreational?

The U.S. National Park Service developed an estimate of **biodegradation times**, which predict 600 years for monofilament fishing lines, 450 years for plastic beverage bottles and disposable diapers, and 10 to 20 years for plastic bags.

**Biodegradation** in this case is characterized by the embrittlement of plastic and not the breakdown of the composite polymers.

**Embrittlement** is the breakdown of plastic into tiny plastic particulates. Plastics almost never fully degrade, instead forming plastic “dust” which can then be picked up by marine filter feeders and passed up the food chain to accumulate in larger, more toxic levels. Plastic polymers, even as single molecules, are indigestible by all known organisms. Those single molecules require degradation by sunlight or slow oxidation before their constituent parts can truly be recycled into the building blocks of life. There is no data on how long recycling takes in the ocean – ecologists estimate 500 years or more.

**The Marine Debris Research, Prevention and Reduction Act Policy Analysis** of the Marine Debris Team; Columbia University New York, New York in a Summer 2005 report concluded that many types of bacterial activity thrive on floating plastics, including harmful algal bloom species. For this reason, plastics serve as vectors for invasive species transport across great distances and to great depths.

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Plastics can also carry DDE (Dichlorodiphenyldicholorethylene), a breakdown of the pesticide DDT (Dichlorodiphenyltrichloroethane), Nonylphenol, and polychlorinated biphenyls (PCBs), which may be transferred to ocean life. Plastics are a known source of polychlorinated biphenyls PCBs in some seabirds and sea turtles.

Fifty-one species of seabirds, thirty-four species of fish, nineteen species of seal and sea lion, eleven whale and dolphin species and six of the seven turtle species are common victims of entanglement in nylon fishing nets, plastic bags and six-pack rings.

**Marine debris** also threatens the biodiversity of the oceans through habitat destruction. Coral reefs are damaged by ghost nets that steamroll through sensitive centers of biodiversity.

### **Stop Marine Debris At It's Source - New Oil and LNG Extraction Leases and Permits**

NOAA found that fishing gear has accounted for 84% of all tissue abrasions in sponges and cnidarians in coral reefs, leading to partial individual or colony mortality. This is a grave problem because coral reefs provide habitat, food, and safe-holds from predation for many other species. Deep sea corals, or cold water corals like those found off the coast of Northern California reside at the deep water shelf break, and are Essential Fish Habitat.

<http://coralreefs.nbii.gov/portal/server.pt>

[http://www.mcibi.org/publications/pub\\_pdfs/Morgan\\_et\\_al\\_2005.pdf](http://www.mcibi.org/publications/pub_pdfs/Morgan_et_al_2005.pdf)

The Algalita Organization says the worst **plastic pollution** is nurdles, small pellets that serve as the feedstock for all those nifty disposable items that fill the supermarket shelves. Nurdles are manufactured in central plastic plants then shipped around the world to factories where they are colored and melted and poured into molds. **250 billion pounds of nurdles** are shipped each year and vast numbers of them are spilled during transfer in and out of railroad cars. Much of this spillage ends up in gutters and drains and eventually makes its way to the ocean.

**One tenth of beach trash worldwide is nurdles** and they have been found as far afield as Antarctica. When the Esperanza visited the Rubbish Vortex, every single trawl netted nurdles. To albatross, nurdles look a lot like clumps of roe and they are often mistaken for food and fed to infant birds. <http://www.theiff.org/reef/reef4.html>

Ingestion of marine debris can also lead to starvation. Animals may not even realize they need to eat when the ingested debris gives the false sensation of satiation. Turtles are known to ingest plastic bags thinking they are jellyfish, which then block their digestive tract and cause starvation. At least fifty-six species of seabirds are documented to consume polystyrene balls and plastic buoys.

**Marine Parks**, Like on the Ocean Conservancy bumper sticker that reads "My Other State Park Is Under Water" - will face the expanding debate on the benefits, and risks of drilling Parks

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(municipal, county, state, national) for Park maintenance money, incremental contributions to **State budgets, and employment opportunities; all weighted against the future.**

JULIE CARR SMYTH (AP) of COLUMBUS, Ohio on **Aug 16, 2009** wrote:

**Arkansas** has signed a lease allowing drilling to begin under Woolly Hollow State Park. **Pennsylvania** saw its first drilling on state park property this spring. In July, a circuit court judge in **West Virginia** ruled against the state environmental protection agency's attempt to block drilling under Chief Logan State Park. The first well in Living Desert Zoo and Gardens State Park in Carlsbad, **N.M.**, was drilled in 2007. In **western New York**, retiree Jay Wopperer with the Audubon Society, is fighting a proposal to drill in **Allegany State Park**. In Ohio's Salt Fork State Park, much of the work would be by directional drilling, a technique that involves entering the surface at one location, making an underground turn and tunneling sometimes for miles underground to reach oil or natural gas pockets.

"Many public entities are seeing that there is significant opportunity to create economic value from natural gas resource development while simultaneously protecting the environment."

In Pennsylvania, however, a state ban on surface drilling in state parks was unable to thwart private drilling in Goddard State Park because the company, Pittsburgh-based Vista Resources, owns the mineral rights.

Most state park directors still see drilling as contrary to their mission of leaving the land as pristine as possible, said Philip McKnelly, executive director of the National Association of State Park Directors.

Right now, there is a huge glut of natural gas because of the recession and the new drilling techniques. Prices have plunged as a result. There is apprehension from some park directors that with any economic rebound, the pressure to drill on public lands will only grow stronger.

[http://www.google.com/hostednews/ap/article/ALeqM5gBMWCG0z\\_GanZ6UVut84Wyg-CfuAD9A45NAG3](http://www.google.com/hostednews/ap/article/ALeqM5gBMWCG0z_GanZ6UVut84Wyg-CfuAD9A45NAG3)

**As in California** this past summer saw the encroachment of **Big Oil Interests** into State Parks and State Budget Bills. **The Ohio Senate** passed its version of the state budget on Wednesday, including in the bill a controversial plan to drill for oil and gas in Ohio's state parks. Bill Would Allow Oil Drilling In State Parks was the headlines June 4<sup>th</sup>, 2009 in Ohio. The senate's version of the bill must now be reconciled with the version passed by the Democratic-controlled Ohio House. If the final budget bill allows for drilling in state parks, the Sierra Club will call on Gov. Ted Strickland to veto the bill. Pennsylvania currently leases state forest land for drilling.

Pennsylvania's state parks were established when the state did not anticipate that the underlying Marcellus Shale would become a major drilling target for natural gas. And so it didn't buy the subsurface rights. A lot of the land was purchased without the mineral rights because we could buy more land that way.

<http://whyy.org/cms/news/health-science/2009/08/18/drilling-in-state-parks/15273>

## Plastic Marine Debris Are Made From LNG - AND SO ARE FERTILIZERS

So how can anyone who is concerned with Essential Fish Habitat or Marine Protected Areas, or Marine Debris and this includes Big Green, even consider compromise. There's global warming and fossil fuel CO2 emissions, and cascading nitrogen cycles. Fossil fuel combustion also contributes to the reactive nitrogen load.

The increasing share of nitrogen in the global fertilizer mix becomes clear after about 1960, The pattern of global fertilizer consumption has changed markedly over the past 30 to 40 years. In 1960, the developing countries accounted for just 12 percent of all consumption; today the figure is nearly 60 percent.

### DONT' PANIC GROW ORGANIC

Over **40 million tonnes of nitrogen**, in dissolved and particulate form, are transported by the world's rivers into estuaries and coastal waters each year – double the pre-industrial rate. Unlike freshwater systems, where phosphorous is usually the limiting growth factor, nitrogen is usually the limiting growth factor in saline waters.

The bias towards nitrogen fertilizers has been encouraged in part by increased production in areas where cheap natural gas is available and in part by the promotion and perception that nitrogen delivers the most spectacular yield gains, at least initially.

Fertilizer use in the developing world has been fuelled by rapid population growth and growing demand for food grains. This is especially true of Asia, where the scope for land expansion is limited. By contrast, the industrialized countries (with the exception of the former Soviet Union) increased their fertilizer consumption only marginally after 1980; population growth was low, most people were adequately fed, and world agricultural exports had stagnated due to economic problems in many importing countries. Asia is now the dominant player, accounting for 50 percent of world fertilizer consumption, and 86 percent of developing country consumption.

90% of Urea produced from LNG is used to make fertilizers and plastics. Urea has the highest content of all solid nitrogenous fertilizers in common use (46.7%). Therefore, it has the lowest transportation costs per unit of nitrogen. With 15 nations accounting for 84% of the world-wide production, access to natural gas has become a significant factor in international economics and politics. In this respect, control over the pipelines is a major strategic factor. (from Contours of the New Cold War) <http://www.astral-arts.com/urea.html>.

Urea is highly soluble in water and is, therefore, also very suitable for use in fertilizer solutions e.g., in 'foliar feed' fertilizers. Solid urea is marketed as prills or granules. The advantage of prills is that, in general, they can be produced more cheaply than granules, properties such as impact strength, crushing strength, and free-flowing behaviour are important in product handling, storage, and bulk transportation.

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Global consumption of fertilizer is projected to rise from 134 million tonnes today to 208 million tonnes in 2020. Modern agriculture is the leading source of anthropogenic nitrogen entering the environment. **How about managing fertilizer for lawn use?**

This (first projection) increase might not be enough, however. The International Center For Soil Fertility's second projection is based on food production needs, that is, the amount of fertilizer needed to grow 2.5 billion tonnes of cereal or more. This leads to global fertilizer consumption in 2020 of 263 million tonnes, and nitrogen consumption of some 160 million tonnes (assuming today's NPK ratio does not change). The fertilizer "shortfall" in developing countries might be as much as 64 million tonnes.

A third projection is based on "**sustainable farming**" needs, or the amount of fertilizer needed to **maintain nutrient reserves in the soil at their initial levels**. The projection is based on assumptions about nutrient uptake efficiency for various crops, expected improvements by the year 2020 in different world regions and the proportion of crop residues which are returned to the soil. Under this scenario, producing enough grain to feed the world, without mining the soil of its nutrients, would require application of 366 million tonnes of fertilizer; the proportion of nitrogen would probably decrease but would still be substantial. The fertilizer shortfall in developing countries is estimated at 130 million tonnes.

Along with the change in fertilizer usage there has been a shift toward **urea-based products**. Worldwide use of urea increased more than 100-fold in the past 4 decades and now constitutes more than 50% of global nitrogenous fertilizer usage. Global urea usage extends beyond agricultural applications; urea is also used extensively in animal feeds and in manufacturing processes.

Long thought to be retained in soils, new data are suggestive of significant overland transport of urea to **sensitive coastal waters**. Urea concentrations in coastal and estuarine waters can be substantially elevated and can represent a large fraction of the total dissolved organic nitrogen pool. Urea is used as a nitrogen substrate by many coastal phytoplankton and is increasingly found to be important in the nitrogenous nutrition of some harmful algal bloom (HAB) species. Glibert,P.M., Harrison,J., Heil,C. and Seitzinger,S.(2006)

**Urea is a nitrogen**-containing chemical product that is produced on a scale of more than **100,000,000 tons per year worldwide**. More than 90% of world production is destined for use as a fertilizer. Urea has the highest content of all solid nitrogenous fertilizers in common use (46.7%). Therefore, it has the lowest transportation costs per unit of nitrogen.

World fertilizer prices doubled in 2007 but the price of phosphate fertilizers then doubled again, and all fertilizer prices rose, in the 3 months from February through April 2008. China had already imposed dramatic new export duties on fertilizer, to keep it in the country.

Soaring fertilizer prices affect the rural poor the most, especially in Sub-Saharan Africa, the

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world's poorest region, says Dr. Amit Roy, President and CEO of International Center for Soil Fertility and Agricultural Development. High commodity prices allow commercial farmers in developed countries to cope with high fertilizer prices. But rising food prices generally hurt subsistence farmers. Those farmers consume most or all of their meager harvests.

Industrial costs are often adjusted at the expense of the **Commons held in Public Trust**, it was just 40 years ago according to the Santa Barbara County Energy Division Web site, that the Platform A blowout ruined Santa Barbara beaches because well casings, which are used during drilling to prevent oil and gas from leaking into other areas, were not used.

The Web site says four wells had been successfully drilled at Platform A, but for the fifth, Union Oil officials asked regulators to wave well casing requirements. The request was granted by the U.S. Geological Survey, which oversaw regulations on offshore drilling operations at the time. <http://www.thedailysound.com/012809Oil>

Just as a side note, under MMS OCS law terminology, ESA mitigations for potential unlawful harm in the environment can be human behavioral modifications.

(t) **“Take” of Protected Species as a Result of Exposure to Oil.** On June 15, 2001, the National Marine Fisheries Service issued a no-jeopardy Biological Opinion that contains the following language “NMFS is not including an incidental take statement for the incidental take of listed species due to oil exposure. Incidental take, as defined at 50 CFR 402.02, refers only to takings that result from an otherwise lawful activity. The Clean Water Act (33 USC 1251, et seq.), as amended by the Oil Pollution Act of 1990 (33 USC 2701 et seq.), prohibits discharges of harmful quantities of oil, as defined at 40 CFR 110.3, into the waters of the United States. Therefore, even though this biological opinion has considered the effects on listed species by oil spills that may result from the proposed action, those takings that would result from an unlawful activity (i.e., oil spills) have no protective coverage under section 7 (o)(2) of the Endangered Species Act.”

Similar verbiage is used in the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service BO for Lease Sale 181 dated June 8, 2001. Mitigation measures in development include a training video; guidelines to eliminate flotsam; and placards for all Industry-related vessels and structures.

**More recently in the USA** the oil and gas industry has a practice of injecting diesel fuel into underground oil wells in order to fracture the wells and make them more productive, affecting sources of drinking water. Chairman Waxman also wrote to Halliburton, Schlumberger, BJ Services, and the Encana Corporation to request information about what chemicals are currently being injected into underground sources of drinking water.

**November 26, 2007** In a letter to the EPA Assistant Administrator for Water, Chairman Waxman discloses that documents the Committee has received raise new questions about whether EPA is effectively monitoring a 2003 Memorandum of Agreement intended to

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eliminate the injection of diesel fuel into underground sources of drinking water.

As an update to this, visit the Interstate Oil & Gas

<http://www.iogcc.state.ok.us/states-challenge-attempted-federal-power-grab-in-hydraulic-fracturing-issue>

Their view seems to be as of June 10, 2009 - Oklahoma City, OK: The Interstate Oil and Gas Compact Commission (IOGCC) reaffirmed its strong stance today that the states remain the best positioned to regulate the use of hydraulic fracturing for the production of oil and natural gas. The response comes on the heels of a bill introduced in the House and the Senate yesterday calling for the repeal of the exemption of hydraulic fracturing from the Safe Drinking Water Act (SDWA), which would ultimately give the federal government jurisdiction over the regulation of the technology.

**March 05, 2007** In a letter to the Administrator of the EPA, Chairman Waxman disclosed that documents the Committee had received raised new questions about how the (EPA) is handling the air permit application for the BHP Billiton liquefied natural gas (**LNG**) **floating storage and re-gasification project off the coast of Ventura County, California**. In October 2006, Malibu celebrities like Pierce Brosnan and Halle Berry joined environmentalists to protest the proposed construction by BHP Billiton of a liquefied natural gas facility 13 miles offshore. Hundreds of protestors showed up at Malibu Pier in a show of solidarity against the plan and, ultimately, Schwarzenegger vetoed the idea.

**Beach Cleanup** is a popular and necessary pass time. It's easier to clean up beaches, receive grants, and suspend the agony of the burden of knowledge while having a good time, than to stop the production of plastics at it's source. Local Surfrider organizations also supported the **PXP Tranquillon Ridge Oil and LNG Extraction package**. (Scott Bull, Chair Surfrider Foundation, Santa Barbara Chapter & Paul Jenkin Surfrider Foundation, Ventura Campaign Coordinator) January 27, 2009 Press Release Lt. Governor John Garamendi, Chair California State Lands Commission Barefoot Wine and Surfrider Foundation encourage local residents to volunteer at cleanup and restoration events across the country to help make these beaches "**barefoot-friendly**."

<http://republic.barefootwine.com/beachrescue/>

Many thanks to all who joined us this morning to keep Seattle's Alki Beach barefoot-friendly!

<http://republic.barefootwine.com/blog/view/republic-blog/barefoot-wine-beach-rescue-project-in-seattle/2009/08/15/>

The **Barefoot Wine Beach Rescue Project** is here in Huntington Beach, CA.

<http://republic.barefootwine.com/blog/view/republic-blog/greetings-from-huntington-beach/2009/06/13/>

'Barefoot' has supported various not-for-profit organizations for more than 20 years. Since its inauguration in 2007, Barefoot Wine has donated \$450,000 to the Surfrider Foundation in support of its mission to improve coastal water quality, promote free and open beach access,

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preserve coastal ecosystems and protect public beaches around the world. The Barefoot Wine Beach Rescue Project is Barefoot's effort to make a lasting footprint by "healing" beaches across the country. California Table Wine, ©2009 Barefoot Cellars, Modesto, CA.

### **Where the working under-class live by subsistence:**

In Chile, for 10 years, citizenship organizations have gathered in the "Parliament of the Sea", and requested a moratorium to the expansion of the salmon farming industry. During 17 months in charge, Chilean Sub-Secretary of Fisheries, Albarran promoted **fishery privatizations** through the implementation of an Individual Fishing Quota System as part of Transitory Law of Fishery. Albarran has been under investigation by the General Comptroller since November 2000, after Chilean citizen and artisanal fishermen organizations - also members of the "Parliament of the Sea" - presented information regarding the participation of Albarran in the salmon farming company Antarfish/ Aguas Claras, ranked the 21st largest salmon company worldwide, <http://www.fishsniffer.com/fishlink/090401.html>

In Santiago de Chile, **August 9th 2001** thirty organizations representing a variety of interests, attended the seminary "Rivers, Lakes and Aysen Sea for Community Development" held in the austral region of Aysen, and expressed their opposition against the salmon farming industry, describing it as environmentally, socially and economically unsustainable.

From CENTRO ECOCEANOS, Santiago -CHILE <http://www.parlamentodelmar.cl>  
NEWS RELEASE: Embargoed **May 14th 2009** World Congress on Aquatic Protected Areas:  
Worldwide Protest Against WWF's Plans to Launch **Aquaculture Stewardship Council**.

Over 70 human rights and environmental groups from around the world have today expressed outrage at the planned launch of the World Wildlife Fund's Aquaculture Stewardship Council.

In a letter sent today to leading members of WWF, campaigners claim that the organization's plans to certify the industrial production of shrimp and salmon are influenced by the vested interests of the **aquaculture industry**, and do not reflect or take into account the wishes of local communities and **indigenous peoples** who live alongside shrimp and salmon farms.

### **Liabilities To Assets: Carbon Weighted Paper Credits**

In June 2007 scientific advisers to the London Convention (LC-72) raised broader concerns about the potential impacts of large-scale artificial algal blooms on marine ecosystems. (The concerns were raised in response to plans by commercial firms such as Planktos, Inc. and Climos, Inc. to fertilize oceans with iron for carbon credits.) Then later that year ONC acknowledged the ecological risks associated with urea-addition. However, they claimed that their technology is controllable. "The Ocean Nourishment Foundation owns the rights to marine protein generated by the patented processes of Ocean Nourishment Corporation." 11/01/07.

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March 2009

### **191 Countries Call for Moratorium on Ocean Fertilization**

The Southeast Asia Regional Initiatives for Community Empowerment (SEARICE) lauded the decision of world leaders to declare a wide-ranging "de-facto moratorium" on ocean fertilization activities at the end of the 9th meeting of the U.N. Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD) on May 30, 2008 in Bonn, Germany. This first-ever global decision on a geo-engineering technology spells the end of commercial plans to sequester carbon dioxide by dumping nutrients into the open ocean.

<http://www.searice.org.ph/index.php?>

[option=com\\_content&view=category&layout=blog&id=9&Itemid=17&limitstart=4](http://www.searice.org.ph/index.php?option=com_content&view=category&layout=blog&id=9&Itemid=17&limitstart=4)

ONC in Australia was planning plans to use urea as an ocean fertilizer. Jones envisaged factories making 2000 tons of urea per day from natural gas. This would then be dissolved in seawater and pumped through a pipe laid on the seabed at the edge of the continental shelf. Vertical risers attached to the end of the pipe would then release the urea at a depth of 50 meters, from where it would diffuse into the sunlit layer. Each factory could maintain an area of about 20 square kilometers of plankton,

Using iron dust, doesn't work.

<http://www.sindark.com/2009/03/24/ocean-iron-fertilization-for-geoengineering/>

Humorous epithet:

<http://wattsupwiththat.com/2009/03/27/ocean-iron-fertilization-experiment-a-blooming-failure/>

### **“An Ocean of Politics, Plastics, Noise, Oil, and Fertilizers”**

Tomas DiFiore

Seaweed Rebellion

New Oil & LNG Extraction Is Not An Option

Astral Arts Mendocino