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March 15, 2013

TESTIMONY FOR THE RECORD OF  
THE HONORABLE SAM FARR  
BEFORE THE HOUSE APPROPRIATIONS  
SUBCOMMITTEE ON COMMERCE, JUSTICE, SCIENCE,  
AND RELATED AGENCIES

Chairman Wolf, Ranking Member Fattah, and Members of the Subcommittee, thank you for this opportunity to submit testimony and for your continued oversight and support of ocean science, conservation and education within the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA).

Given the uncertainty in funding levels as a result of the timing of the President's FY14 budget, I want to use this opportunity to emphasize NOAA's critical services and programs that support the health of our ocean. During the FY12 appropriations cycle, Chairman Wolf and the full committee supported my amendment to restore \$48 million in essential funding to support NOAA's ocean and coastal programs. I call on you to continue to build on this leadership role by supporting the important programs encompassed within NOAA's Operations, Research, and Facilities (ORF) line using the FY12 allocations as a baseline for the 2014 cycle.

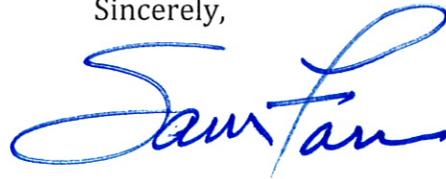
NOAA's ORF programs provide a wide range of critical services for my constituents as well as citizens across the country. In particular, I want to highlight the importance of the Marine Debris Program, the Regional Ocean Partnerships Program, Fisheries Habitat Restoration, the NOAA Education Program, the National Sea Grant College Program, Cooperative Research, National Estuarine Research Reserve System, the Integrated Ocean Observing Program, the National Marine Sanctuary Program, the Pacific Salmon Protected Species Research and Management Program, not to mention the National Weather Service, which provides the weather data on which virtually all Americans rely. Combined, the many NOAA activities support necessary ocean protection, research, exploration, and education, facilitating America's trade and commerce, leisure and recreation, and putting seafood on our tables. In 2011, \$12.4 billion was allocated to ocean and coastal programs across all federal Departments and Agencies. This represented approximately one third of one percent of the total federal budget. This relatively small investment reaps huge rewards. According to the Bureau of Labor Statistics, in 2010, the ocean economy contributed \$258 billion to the U.S. gross domestic product (GDP) and provided more than 2.77 million jobs. Therefore, it is important

that we maintain full funding for these programs at FY12 levels to ensure that we can make progress towards increasing NOAA's funding to \$6 billion in the very near term.

As a Member of California's coastal delegation, I am intimately connected to and a strong advocate for coastal and ocean resources. Several of the programs under NOAA's jurisdiction and other private and state entities are represented in my district, making it one of the most dynamic coastal destinations in the country. California's 20th District includes the Monterey Bay National Marine Sanctuary, the Nation's second largest marine sanctuary supporting one of the world's most diverse marine ecosystems, National Marine Protected Area Center and Science Institute, as well as the Monterey Bay Aquarium. The District is also home to several top ocean research laboratories and education institutions including the University of California at Santa Cruz, Moss Landing Marine Lab, California State University at Monterey Bay, and Stanford's Hopkins Marine Station. These institutions are at the forefront of innovative scientific research concerning highly migratory species like sharks and tuna, protected species like Pacific salmon, ocean observing, and data collection on fish stocks and ocean economics.

I cannot emphasize enough that the health and sustainability of our ocean and coastal resources is imperative for the future of our nation. NOAA plays a critical role in helping the federal government fulfill its public trust responsibility. Therefore, I would appreciate your support in using NOAA's FY12 funding levels as a baseline for the 2014 appropriations cycle. This is critically important to my district and to our nation. I do understand the requested investment is sizable; however, it must be done to protect our nation's largest public trust. We must show strong support for the stewardship of our ocean. Let's make the necessary strides in the 2014 cycle to give this agency the resources it needs to fully realize its mission, to effectively provide its many products and services to the American people, and to understand and manage the ocean upon which our nation is dependent.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Sam Farr". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "Sam" and the last name "Farr" clearly distinguishable.

SAM FARR  
Member of Congress