

# Congress of the United States

Washington, DC 20515

May 21, 2015

The Honorable Rob Bishop  
Chairman  
Committee on Natural Resources  
U.S. House of Representatives  
Washington, D.C. 20515

The Honorable Raúl Grijalva  
Ranking Member  
Committee on Natural Resources  
U.S. House of Representatives  
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Chairman Bishop and Ranking Member Grijalva,

We write to urge you to hold an oversight hearing in the Water, Power and Oceans Subcommittee of the Natural Resources Committee to bring greater attention to the threat of ocean acidification to marine life, coastal communities, and the national economy.

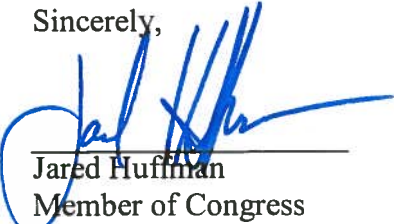
The acidifying of the oceans and subsequent impacts to shellfish threaten coastal communities around the country as well as the national economy. In the Pacific Northwest, ocean acidification has already cost the oyster industry \$110 million dollars and threatened thousands of jobs. This economic loss could threaten the very fabric of the coastal communities of this region.

The Pacific Northwest isn't the only vulnerable region. The first nationwide vulnerability assessment for ocean acidification suggests that coastal communities in 15 states—from Maine, to the Chesapeake Bay, to the Louisiana bayou—are at high economic risk from ocean acidification due to their dependence on shelled mollusk fisheries, which account for a billion dollars in economic activity annually. The study identified four “hot zones” or regions facing varying combinations of risk factors: New England, Mid-Atlantic, Gulf of Mexico, and the Pacific Northwest.

Our subcommittee and its members would greatly benefit from hearing more about the effects of ocean acidification to shelled mollusks and the potential impacts to other economically crucial fishing industries, such as crab and lobster fisheries. Additionally, a hearing could address the sensitivity of coral reefs to ocean acidification given their importance for the U.S. territories. Understanding what research and monitoring is currently happening and what more needs to be done for shelled mollusks and other vulnerable marine species can help us recognize the steps needed to protect these important fisheries and the economic value they represent to our coastal communities.

We respectfully request a Water, Power and Oceans Subcommittee hearing this session on the threats to marine ecosystems and coastal communities posed by ocean acidification. If you have any further questions, please contact Katie Westfall in Congressman Huffman's office at [katie.westfall@mail.house.gov](mailto:katie.westfall@mail.house.gov). We look forward to working with you.

Sincerely,



Jared Huffman  
Member of Congress



Alan Lowenthal  
Member of Congress



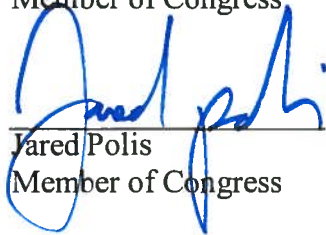
Madeleine Bordallo  
Member of Congress



Lois Capps  
Member of Congress



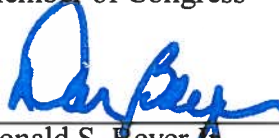
Ruben Gallego  
Member of Congress



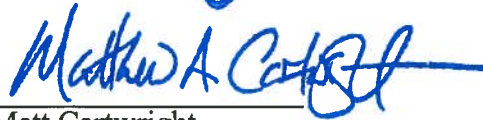
Jared Polis  
Member of Congress



Gregorio Kilili Camacho Sablan  
Member of Congress



Donald S. Beyer  
Member of Congress



Matt Cartwright  
Member of Congress



Pedro R. Pierluisi  
Member of Congress