

Congress of the United States
Washington, DC 20515

January 28, 2011

The Honorable Gary Locke
Secretary
U. S. Department of Commerce
1401 Constitution Ave., NW
Washington, DC 20230


Dear Secretary Locke:


Attached are a series of questions relating to the ongoing process to evaluate whether to divide the global population of loggerhead sea turtles into nine "distinct population segments" and to change the status of most of these from "threatened" to "endangered" under the Endangered Species Act. Each of these changes has the potential to profoundly impact our coastal communities, marine industries, and commercial and recreational fishing activities. As such, we have a strong interest in ensuring that any such changes are made in accordance with the best scientific and commercial information available, and in a manner consistent with the terms of the law.

The answers to these questions will aid us in our oversight of the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) in fulfilling its mission under the law. To facilitate that process, we are requesting a response by February 15, 2011.

Thank you for your prompt attention to this important matter.

Sincerely,


Congressman Walter B. Jones


Senator Scott Brown


Congressman Barney Frank


Congressman Thomas J. Rooney


Congressman Ron Paul


Congressman Mike Michaud

Jo Bonner
Congressman Jo Bonner

Robert J. Wittman
Congressman Robert J. Wittman

Bill Young
Congressman C.W. Bill Young

John Runyan
Congressman John Runyan

Timothy H. Bishop
Congressman Timothy H. Bishop

Frank A. LoBiondo
Congressman Frank A. LoBiondo

Heana Ros-Lehtinen
Congresswoman Heana Ros-Lehtinen

Gus M. Bilirakis
Congressman Gus M. Bilirakis

Blake Farenthold
Congressman Blake Farenthold