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From: Walker, Samuel[/O=MSXBP/OU=EXCHANGE ADMINISTRATIVE GROUP (FYDIBOHF23SPDLT)/CN=RECIPIENTS/CN=SAMUEL.WALKER2]
Sent: Mon 16/05/2016 3:02:02 PM (UTC)
Subject: RE: Hearing on U.S. National Ocean Policy

Redacted - First Amendment

From: Stout, Robert
Sent: Monday, May 16, 2016 8:32 AM
To: van Hoogstraten, David Jan; Mannion, Kathrina; Walker, Samuel
Cc: Jefferiss, Paul H.; Rogers, Liz; Naughton, Eamonn J.
Subject: RE: Hearing on U.S. National Ocean Policy

Redacted - First Amendment

Bob Stout

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From: van Hoogstraten, David Jan
Sent: Monday, May 16, 2016 9:24 AM
To: Mannion, Kathrina; Walker, Samuel
Cc: Stout, Robert
Subject: Hearing on U.S. National Ocean Policy

Redacted - First Amendment

OCEANS: Controversial Obama admin policy gets rare hearing

Emily Yehle, E&E reporter

Published: Monday, May 16, 2016

The National Ocean Policy tends to come up on Capitol Hill only once or twice a year in the form of Republican amendments to block its implementation.

The amendments -- attached to spending bills and other must-pass legislation -- never make it to law and generally serve as an opportunity to deride the policy as a plan to "zone" the oceans.

But this week, lawmakers will spend several hours debating the policy, which the Obama administration created in 2010 to improve coordination and planning along the coast. The House Natural Resources Subcommittee on Water, Power and Oceans will hold a hearing tomorrow titled "The Implications of President Obama's National Ocean Policy."

Among the witnesses is National Ocean Council Director Elizabeth Kertula, who will likely face a panel that is critical of her council's work.

Subcommittee Chairman John Fleming (R-La.) once called the National Ocean Policy a "power grab."

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"The president's plan enhances uncertainty by giving precedent to ecosystem health over the economic impact of human activities, even if those activities were previously authorized or occurring in an area," Fleming asserted in a 2012 [column](#) for *The Hill*. "That means government bureaucrats, working behind closed doors, may decide that their views on climate change or water quality -- both priorities in the policy -- will win out over the longstanding interests of people who have depended for decades on the oceans and waterways for their livelihood."

In the past four years, the National Ocean Policy has flown mostly under the radar, with regions still developing the strategic plans

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meant to inform federal activities. About one-third of the 214 actions in the policy's implementation plans are complete, with actions related to "marine planning" furthest along, according to a progress report released last year ([Greenwire](#), March 30, 2015).

At the time, Kerttula wrote that the actions underway "will ensure that our ocean resources remain safe and healthy, and that our ocean economy continues to thrive for the benefit of all Americans."

In addition to Kerttula, lawmakers will hear from witnesses representing farming, wind and fishing interests. Bob Zales, president of the National Association of Charterboat Operators, has testified in front of Congress before, characterizing the National Ocean Policy as doing "nothing but add[ing] new layers of unaccountable Federal Government employees."

But supporters of the policy say it will ensure protection of valuable natural resources, as a warming planet acidifies oceans and raises sea levels. The policy brings together federal agencies and state and local officials to prioritize and plan all the activities that use those resources, from oil drilling to fishing and tourism.

Schedule: The hearing is Tuesday, May 17, at 10 a.m. in 1324 Longworth.

Witnesses: National Ocean Council Director Elizabeth Kerttula; Family Farm Alliance Executive Director Dan Keppen; Magellan Wind CEO Jim Lanard; Meghan Lapp, fisheries liaison at Seafreeze Ltd.; and Bob Zales, president of the National Association of Charterboat Operators.

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