

# Committee on Resources

resources.committee@mail.house.gov

[Home](#) [Press Gallery](#) [Subcommittees](#) [Issues](#) [Legislation](#) [Hearing Archives](#)

## **The Honorable Ileana Ros-Lehtinen Remarks before The Subcommittee on Fisheries Conservation, Wildlife and Oceans**

May 13, 2004 10:00am

Mr. Chairman, I would like to thank you for allowing this opportunity and Congressional hearing to occur. I also would like to distinguish your commitment and guidance in the Subcommittee on Fisheries Conservation, Wildlife and Oceans.

Your leadership in guiding the Subcommittee on Fisheries Conservation, Wildlife and Oceans illustrates your commitment to wildlife, marine affairs and resources throughout our nation.

I would also like to thank Mr. Jay Blaire for joining us today.

Jay is the Associate Dean for Administration at the Rosenstiel School of Marine & Atmospheric Science. His dedication and commitment to the University is exceptional --having the highest remarks from his colleagues.

Mr. Chairman, as you know, this past March, I introduced a bipartisan bill that has support from my South Florida colleagues pertaining to the University of Miami.

H.R. 4027 would simply authorize the Secretary of Commerce to make available to the University of Miami property under the jurisdiction of the National Oceanographic Atmospheric Administration.

It is important, Mr. Chairman, to focus on the final language of the legislation.

H.R. 4027 merely authorizes the Secretary and nothing more.

The bill gives the Secretary the choice of granting a permit to the University only if the Secretary determines that this is in the best interest of the Federal government.

As the proud Representative of the Eighteenth District, I am honored to stand before you and speak of the great accomplishments of the Rosenstiel School of Marine and Atmospheric Science and more importantly, the need for this legislation.

The Rosenstiel School of Marine and Atmospheric Science was founded by F.G. Walton Smith.

It is located on a 16-acre campus on Virginia Key in Miami, and is the only subtropical applied and basic marine and atmospheric research institute of its kind in the continental United States.

Rosenstiel's research interests include satellite oceanography, with particular emphasis on remote sensing and satellite imagery, as well as experimental fish hatchery.

It also leads in the fields of global marine and atmospheric chemistry program, comprehensive oceanic and atmospheric numerical modeling activities, sedimentary geology and marine geophysics groups with considerable expertise in seismic methods, and has an innovative ocean acoustics program.

In short Mr. Chairman, the Rosenstiel School is a proud and indispensable establishment of South Florida.

The genesis of a new University of Miami and NOAA Marine Science Complex will bring together expertise in environmental and fisheries research, assessment and management and facilitate the intellectual exchange of ideas and results.

Mr. Chairman, H.R. 4027 is a critical first step in reaching the goal of establishing a new Marine Science

Complex.

The bill would permit the Secretary of Commerce to allow the University of Miami to construct the new facility on land under NOAA's jurisdiction, only if the Secretary chooses this option.

If the Secretary makes a determination to proceed, the University and NOAA would engage in a cooperative planning process and enter into negotiations for the joint use of the new facility.

Mr. Chairman, I am proud to have introduced this important legislation and am most appreciative of this subcommittee's attention and focus on this vital project for South Florida.

I thank the Subcommittee for its kind consideration and look forward to hearing from Mr. Jay Blaire on the need and importance of this project.