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## **Chairman Hastings' Statement on Release of President Obama's Mandatory Ocean Zoning Final Implementation Plan**

*Plan Jeopardizes Jobs, Increases Economic Uncertainty, Grows Federal Government*

**WASHINGTON, D.C.** – House Natural Resources Chairman Doc Hastings (WA-04) statement on the National Ocean Council's unveiling of President Obama's final National Ocean Policy Implementation Plan:

*"It has been an uphill battle over the past two years to get the Obama Administration to disclose important details on the economic, jobs, and regulatory implications of this new sweeping oceans policy. While we all agree that it is important to protect our environment, improve coordination across federal agencies, and improve the use of federal funds, it is also imperative that we do not unnecessarily expand federal bureaucracy and create an uncertain regulatory environment that will jeopardize jobs and hurt our economy," said Chairman Hastings. "President Obama's plan establishes mandatory ocean and coastal zoning, an initiative that has the potential to restrict recreational and commercial activities on land and at sea, significantly curtail economic activity, and destroy hundreds of thousands of jobs. Many questions remain as to the authority by which the President created this policy, the jobs and economic ramifications that will result from its implementation, the number of new regulations the policy establishes, and how it will be funded. This magnitude of unanswered questions and potential consequences is why the House voted in favor of an amendment to halt funding for this elusive policy. I urge the Obama Administration to refrain from moving forward until these important questions are answered."*

### **BACKGROUND:**

On July 19, 2010 President Obama signed Executive Order 13547 to unilaterally implement a new National Ocean Policy without Congressional approval or specific statutory authority. The policy is a new regulatory layer that could significantly impact the way we use and manage our oceans, hinder economic growth, and harm American job creation.

Without clear statutory authority, the policy sets up a new level of federal bureaucracy with control over the way inland, ocean and coastal activities are managed. This has the potential to inflict damage across a spectrum of sectors including agriculture, fishing, construction, manufacturing, mining, oil and natural gas, renewable energy, and marine commerce, among others.

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