

Please include the following written submission in the CRTF record and distribute to CRTF members and the Steering Committee.

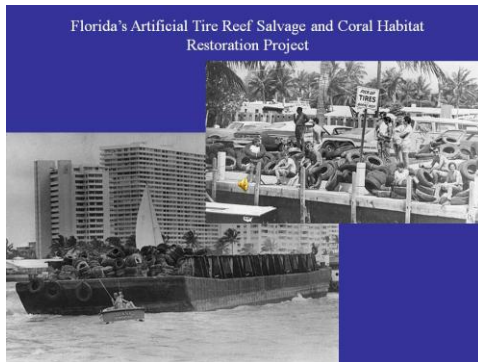
### William Nuckols public testimony before the Coral Reef Task Force, February 24, 2010

An audio copy of the testimony is available at:

<http://whnuckolsconsulting.com/audio/WNuckolsCRTF24Feb2010.mp3>

Transcript:

William Nuckols: "A group of us put together a project a few years ago to try to reverse the well intentioned, but unfortunately disastrous, attempt to try to build a gigantic artificial tire reef between two living reef tracks off of the beaches in Ft. Lauderdale, which turned out to be a mess because tires are buoyant and float around have denuded smothered and more or less destroyed essentially all the living corals except for a tint fragments that sit in a wave shadow.



But unfortunately because they put out as many as 2 million tires there are too many of these things it was too large of a cleanup too big to even consider tackling.

There were some back of the envelope calculations that estimated the cleanup to cost about \$30 million to clean it up, putting it out of the range of anyone who is

in the environmental business

This is more or less what it looks like what it looks like today. There is a thin section with a little bit of growth that lives until the pile giggles which happens whenever a major hurricane comes through. Not only did it kill the original reef, it continues to kill new corals which colonize and then get killed when the piles moves around.

This is what a lot of the area looks like, with single tires covering some 20 acres of seafloor – an area that is currently unavailable for corals. This is the downside

But the good news we got together a group of interesting characters. It started with a Navy salvage team who came to Ft Lauderdale. They took a look at it and decided that [the salvage project] looks a lot like the training they were doing in some of their training on the [west] coats of





Florida. They then invited a bunch of their friends from the Navy Army and Coast Guard to come to Florida and put this together as a training exercise. It was looking great on the marine salvage side.

Then EPA directed us to some of the folks at the Florida Department of Environmental Protection and we turned this into a waste to energy project.

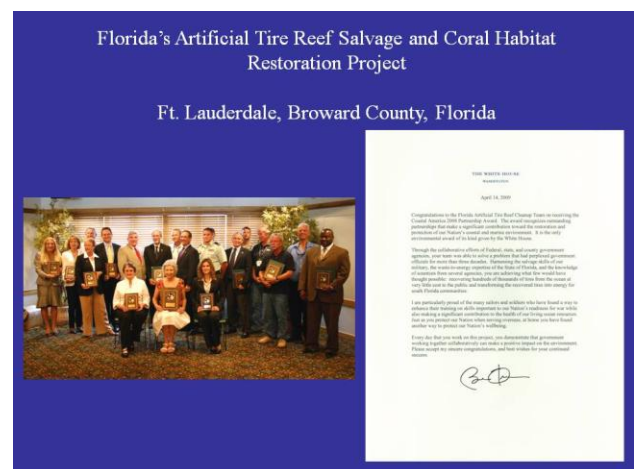
Everything was going great.

There was press galore. [Press] loved this. It was all over the place in multiple languages both here in the U.S., Canada, Australia - central Europe particularly where they found it to be fascinating to find out that we do positive things for the environment. They hear so much about our climate change policy - they consider us to be the perpetual bad guys, so they were EXCITED to hear that we are now fixing stuff.

This all went over really, really well.



There was even an award ceremony this past summer with a nice letter from the President saying good job! You are a great concert, and you [are doing this] with only \$2 million which was a special appropriation that the Governor pulled together because we had to deal with the cost difference between the energy recovered and what the vendors charged to get [the energy recapture] done. Se we were looking at what was supposed be to \$28 million cost savings and restoring a coral reef in the process.



But unfortunately about two weeks ago Associated Press reported, when they were doing an update on how the project was going, there were some indications that the project may be dead or at least stalled for at least two years. If their reporting is accurate there is at least a delay until 2012. I think that is probably a death nail for the project because

anytime you take what is essentially three calendar years off, to get the cast of characters together again would be [a huge effort].

I'd like to see if [the CRTF] could bring their collective resources together to bring the project back.

I know one usual reaction that happens when you mention military is for people look to Don Schregardus and say –Don - you are the Navy – fix this! Except it isn't a "Navy project." It is an Army-Navy- Coast Guard project just on the marine salvage side. But it is also an EPA solid waste issue, and a NOAA Marine Debris project. And if you saw the picture from the award ceremony there were a lot of people from a lot of different backgrounds.

It took the broad federal family, along with state and county interests to pull this together and I hope you can take the task force approach and use both a land based approach and an ocean approach. We need all of these different disciplines, and to have you talk to each other to get this project back online.

If you are able to meet with him, Mayor Ken Keechl, who is the new Mayor from Broward County, will be in town on March 11, 2010 and would love to meet with any and all of you to talk about this, as would Gretchen Harkins, Broward's director of intergovernmental affairs.

Florida's Artificial Tire Reef Salvage and Coral Habitat  
Restoration Project

Ft. Lauderdale, Broward County, Florida

We Need Your Help

Two or more years is too long to wait  
to get this project back online

And if I could take just one moment on a very different topic....[Coastal and Ocean Marine Spatial Planning]

CEQ gave testimony [earlier today] on the marine spatial component of the recommendations of the [Interagency Ocean Policy Task Force]'s intentions about the geographic boundaries - about the fact that land-based-planning is an *optional activity* to be included [with coastal and ocean marine planning efforts].

If you look at the way that budgets are going for agencies at the federal level as well as at the state level **optional activities just don't get staffed**. Unless there is a ***mandatory*** approach that says we really have to integrate marine based planning with land based planning, ***it is not going to happen***.

The idea of [coastal and ocean marine spatial planning] being optional flies in the face of science-based decision making, as we know that the mountains are connected to the seas. And it does not at all work with how [the Coral Reef Task Force] is structured because you have land based activities considered.

There is a reason why USDA is on the [Coral Reef Task Force]. And similarly, the thought process on how [the Coral Reef Task Force] is structured really needs to be mirrored [in the call for Coastal and Ocean Marine Spatial Planning].

I hope you can work with your agencies to make sure that by the time the {Interagency Ocean Policy Task Force reports] gets to the President's office you **reverse the current recommendation and make sure that [integration and land and ocean planning] is a mandatory requirement.**

Thanks you. “

For your reference my full written comments on the Interagency Ocean Policy Task Force report “Interim Framework for Effective Coastal and Marine Spatial Planning” is included below:

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February 12,2009

President Barack Obama  
The White House  
1600 Pennsylvania Avenue NW  
Washington DC 20500

President Obama,

I am William Nuckols, Principal of W.H. Nuckols Consulting, and my comments are based on over 20 years of marine science experience and public policy expertise in DC that spans three Administrations. I am writing to you as a part of the comment period on the Interim Framework on Effective Coastal and Marine Spatial Planning.

First, I applaud your efforts to sunset a long ineffective system which has used a first-come-first-approach for deciding which group is allowed use of the American people's oceans and coasts.

These are public resources and as such should be managed for maximum benefit for our nation on the whole.

The Ocean Policy Task Force Report notes that the system would identify areas “most suitable to meet economic, environmental, security, and social objectives.”<sup>1</sup> As we currently still lack an Ocean Policy for the United States, what this means at a macro or micro level, is unclear. We do currently have a report produced by the Interagency Ocean Policy Task Force, which includes recommendations, and we have hundreds of written and oral comments submitted by individuals and groups, but we have seen neither a draft nor a final national ocean policy recommendation being released by the White House as Administration policy. Now thirteen months into your term, I hope we are on the cusp of the release of that national policy, for without one analyzing proposals, such as a Coastal and Marine Spatial Planning system, remains difficult. This limitation noted, I do have points I would like to raise concerning the Interim Framework on Effective Coastal and Marine Spatial Planning.

My next, and likely most significant comment, relates to the lack of a requirement for a Coastal and Marine Spatial Planning system to be connected to coastal, terrestrial planning. The Ocean Policy Task Force Report on the Interim Framework for Effective Coastal and Marine Spatial Planning has numerous references to the importance of science and ecosystem management. It says clearly on page 3 that in order to “yield substantial economic, ecological, and social benefits” a Coastal and Marine Spatial Planning system “must fully incorporate the principles of sound science for ecosystem-based and adaptive management<sup>2</sup>” These statements are consistent with many other that have been made during this Administration about the importance of using science to guide decision-making in government.

This important tenant to governing in this Administration appears, however, to not be being applied when the Ocean Policy Task Force recommended in section VIII that the Geographic Scope of Coastal and Marine Spatial Planning would extend from the edge of the EEZ landward only to the mean-high water line. In an apparent attempt to avoid what would be political conflicts that would arise when the federal government would look to examine land-based zoning and planning practices, the Ocean Policy Task Force has decided to create a new planning process that would intentionally be structured to avoid the reality that our terrestrial, estuarine, riverine, coastal and ocean systems are all interconnected.

Perhaps my growing up on Chesapeake Bay, and my years of work on estuarine systems and the living marine resources that depend on them have made me particularly attune to this issue, but the relevance of terrestrial activities, and how we plan for and use the coastal zone, is obvious to

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<sup>1</sup> Interim Framework for Effective Coastal and Marine Spatial Planning, Sec. II

<sup>2</sup> Interim Framework for Effective Coastal and Marine Spatial Planning, Sec. III

me to be of vital importance as we govern the use of activities that relate to the health of our oceans, coasts and the people who live there.

Clearly the report by the Ocean Policy Task Force does not prohibit integration of land-based activities, and on page nine in section VIII it recognizes that “the health and well-being of the Great Lakes, our coasts, and the ocean are in large part the result of the interrelationships among land, water, air, and human activities.” But the report also states that the scope of the Coastal and Marine Spatial Planning System “would not include upland areas unless a regional planning body determines to include them<sup>3</sup>” leaving this as an optional activity.

How the Ocean Policy Task Force came to the concluding that while there is an important linkage between terrestrial and water based planning and permitting, but then avoided a call that the planning between these two planning fields must occur, is indeed puzzling.

This is precisely one of those instances when science, which explains how ecosystems function, is failing to inform a public policy decision making process. In my opinion, land and water based planning spheres must be integrated, and I can see no better time to plan for such an integration that when the system is being established.

While I do understand the deference one feels compelled to give regional planning groups, I do not see how the federal government can be seen as an appropriate manager of the nation’s natural resources when it would allow a system where some regions might use science that follows the theory that ecosystems include land and water, while other regional systems decide that ignoring this scientific reality is acceptable.

The system that the federal government is proposing to establish must require, if it is to have credibility in its statements about science based decision making, that the national and all regional planning groups that comprise the federal government’s Coastal and Marine Spatial Planning system include linkages and coordination mechanisms to terrestrial planning and permitting systems. At a minimum this would include all federal regulatory and permitting activities which would impact the coasts and oceans and their resources. If states and others wish to bring their systems into the larger federal planning system, that would be optimal, but I realize for sovereignty reasons this is not compulsory. That said, I again employ that at least the federal permitting and planning activities in the coastal zone and in other areas where federal permitting and planning decisions would have an impact on our ocean and coastal resources be integrated from the state into any system that would be labeled a Framework for Effective Coastal and Marine Spatial Planning.

Mr. President, I again applaud both your efforts to establish a national ocean policy for America and for your interest in establishing a coastal and marine spatial planning system. Both are long

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<sup>3</sup> Interim Framework for Effective Coastal and Marine Spatial Planning, Sec. VIII

overdue for our nation, and with your leadership I expect both will be in place in short order. I look forward to hearing from you and these announcements.

If I can be of any assistance to you, your staff at CEQ and OSTP or in the several federal departments who have responsibilities for our oceans and coasts and the wellbeing of the American people, please call on me at anytime. It would be my honor to help ensure that the systems your administration puts in place are the best that science and policy can deliver to the American people.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "William H. Nuckols III". The signature is written in a cursive style with a prominent initial "W".

William H. Nuckols III