



# National Association of Marine Laboratories

## **PRESIDENT**

**Anthony Michaels**

Wrigley Institute for Environmental  
Studies  
University of Southern California  
Los Angeles, CA 90704  
p 213-740-6780 · f 213-740-6720  
tony@usc.edu

## **CHAIRMAN**

### **COMMITTEE ON PUBLIC POLICY**

**James Sanders**

Skidaway Institute of Oceanography  
10 Ocean Science Circle  
Savannah, GA 31411  
p 912-598-2400 · f 912-598-2310  
jim.sanders@skio.usg.edu

## **PAST PRESIDENT**

**Jeffrey M. Reutter**

F. T. Stone Laboratory  
Ohio Sea Grant College Program  
Ohio State University  
1314 Kinnear Rd.  
Columbus, OH 43212  
p 614-292-8949 · f 614- 292-4364  
reutter.1@osu.edu

## **TREASURER**

**Alan M. Kuzirian**

Marine Biological Laboratory  
7 MBL Street  
Woods Hole, MA 02543  
p 508-289-7480 · f 508-289-7900  
akuziria@mbi.edu

## **SECRETARY**

**William M. Wise**

Marine Sciences Research Center  
Stony Brook University  
Stony Brook, NY 11794-5000  
p 631-632-8656 · f 631-632-9441  
wwise@notes.cc.sunysb.edu

## **WASHINGTON REPRESENTATIVE**

**Joel Widder**

Lewis-Burke Associates, LLC  
1341 G Street, NW, 8<sup>th</sup> Fl  
Washington, DC 20005  
p 202-289-7475 · f 202-289-7454  
jwidder@lewis-burke.com

June 5, 2007

The Honorable Madeleine Bordallo  
Chairwoman, Subcommittee on Fisheries, Wildlife and Oceans  
Committee on Natural Resources  
United States House of Representatives  
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Madame Chair:

On behalf of the National Association of Marine Laboratories (NAML), we would like to express our support for H.R.1834, the National Ocean Exploration Program Act and the National Undersea Research Program Act of 2007, now under consideration by the Subcommittee.

With 95 percent of the ocean floor still unexplored, as well as the importance of the oceans to human health, climate change, food security, energy resource management, and commerce, it is imperative that this country strengthens its investment in ocean exploration and undersea research. H.R. 1834 addresses these concerns and is a positive step towards a better understanding of the world's oceans, coasts, and Great Lakes.

We are pleased that the Subcommittee is considering this important bill. The attachment to this letter offers some suggestions that would further improve the bill by ensuring an integrated balance between research and education, exploration, and the development of new technologies for undersea research and exploration.

As an organization representing over 120 coastal and Great Lakes laboratories from around the country, NAML recognizes the value of thorough and comprehensive knowledge of our oceans and its resources. Through its national and regional networks, NAML members are actively involved in ocean, coastal, and Great Lakes scientific research, taking full advantage of the existing ocean exploration and undersea research programs. Our network of marine laboratories also acts as an interface between the science of the oceans and the education and outreach activities that create social value from that science.

Thank you for the opportunity to convey these views. If NAML can provide additional information, please do not hesitate to let us know.

Sincerely,

Anthony F. Michaels

President, National Association of Marine Laboratories  
Director, Wrigley Institute for Environmental Studies  
University of Southern California

*The National Association of Marine Laboratories (NAML) is a nonprofit organization of over 120 member institutions representing coastal, marine, and Great Lakes laboratories in every coastal state, stretching from Guam to Bermuda and Alaska to Puerto Rico. Members serve as unique "windows on the sea," providing information on the rich environmental mosaic of coastal habitats as well as offshore oceanic regions and the Great Lakes. NAML member laboratories conduct research and provide a variety of academic, education and public service programs to enable local and regional communities to better understand and manage the ocean, coastal and Great Lake environments. NAML is comprised of three regional associations: the Northeastern Association of Marine and Great Lakes Laboratories (NEAMGLL); the Southern Association of Marine Laboratories (SAML); and the Western Association of Marine Laboratories (WAML).*



# National Association of Marine Laboratories

**DETAILED COMMENTS ON H.R. 1834  
THE NATIONAL OCEAN EXPLORATION PROGRAM ACT AND THE  
NATIONAL UNDERSEA RESEARCH PROGRAM ACT OF 2007  
MAY 31, 2007**

The National Association of Marine Laboratories (NAML) strongly endorses the authorization of the NOAA Ocean Exploration (OE) and National Undersea Research Programs (NURP) as proposed in H.R.1834. Each of the Titles in the Bill provides the foundation upon which NOAA can build a comprehensive, coordinated program of ocean exploration, undersea research and technology development. Through these programs scientists and engineers are provided with advanced underwater technologies to make new discoveries and advance knowledge to improve management of some of our nation's most pressing issues. The contributions made by these programs are consistent with many of the priorities within the interagency Ocean Research Priorities Plan released by the Administration earlier this year -- from discovering new resources to providing sound science for ecosystem approaches to management. Each year, for example, NURP supports over one hundred projects that address the sustainability of our fisheries, the health of coral reefs, the fate of excess nutrients and contaminants that enter our coastal and Great Lakes waters, the role of marine protected areas, deep water corals, methane hydrates and other new marine resources.

NAML suggests that there a number of key principles that should be explicitly included in this legislation, including:

- Maintain a strong extramural research, education, and exploration program. The role and contribution of the extramural research community was clearly articulated in the recent NOAA Research Review Report. NAML believes that the academic research community is well positioned to provide NOAA with some of the best and brightest talent available today while at the same time, training the next generation of scientists;
- Ensure an even balance of high risk, bold exploration with critical mission driven research that utilizes the unique perspectives provided by underwater technologies to provide answers for NOAA's management challenges;
- Maintain a program of undersea technology development that is driven by critical research questions, and transitions new capacity to applied uses;
- Maintain the regional presence and structure of the NURP program to ensure the continued contributions of these programs to the enhanced regional efforts being developed throughout NOAA, including the National Marine Fisheries Service, the National Marine Sanctuaries, state Sea Grant programs, and other Regional Research Councils;
- Further strengthen the bill by developing a single, balanced, independent advisory body chartered to promote the coordination and advancement of exploration, discovery, research, undersea technology development, outreach and education;
- Expand the role of the Infrastructure Task Force in section 105 to include both research and exploration programs. The Task Force should annually review undersea technology needs, gaps and contributions

# National Association of Marine Laboratories

made by the broad suite of underwater technologies to best meet our nation's exploration, research and management needs and to ensure we remain competitive in the global economy; and

- Further strengthen the legislation by adding specific references in both Titles that develop and support education, diversity, and outreach programs that take advantage of the excitement and technical advances of ocean exploration and undersea research to engage and motivate learners of all ages.



## NAML

The National Association of Marine Laboratories

For questions, comments, or more information about this topic, please contact the National Association of Marine Laboratories Washington Office:

National Association of Marine Laboratories  
c/o Joel Widder or Wendy Eichorst  
1341 G Street NW, Eighth Floor  
Washington, DC 20005

[jwidder@lewis-burke.com](mailto:jwidder@lewis-burke.com) or [wendy@lewis-burke.com](mailto:wendy@lewis-burke.com)

Phone: (202) 289-7475