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United States Department of Commerce
Deputy Under Secretary
for Oceans and Atmosphere
Washington, DC 20230
February 10, 2009

JOINT LETTER

The Honorable Christine O. Gregoire
Governor of Washington
P.O. Box 40002
Olympia, Washington 98504-0002

Dear Governor Gregoire:

As requested by your letter of June 27, 2008, and as stated by our letter of August 28, 2008, the Navy has completed a thorough review of the restriction on public release of High Resolution Bathymetric (HRB) data placed upon the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) by the President's National Security Advisor's office memo of January 7, 1985. We are pleased to inform you this restriction on NOAA has been fully lifted, effective November 19, 2008.

Regarding your request that Navy review its HRB data holdings for possible additional releases, Navy has also investigated this matter and must continue to withhold from public release all classified Navy data. As mentioned in our initial response to your letter, all Navy HRB data that is neither classified nor deemed sensitive has already been released and is publicly available from the National Geophysical Data Center (NGDC).

We want to reiterate that both Navy and NOAA understand the importance of HRB data to State and regional decision makers. Please contact us at any time if we can provide assistance as you move forward with the development of the West Coast Governors' Agreement on Ocean Health. Thank you for your continued support.

Sincerely,

D. A. GOVE
Rear Admiral, U.S. Navy
Oceanographer/Navigator
of the Navy

Mary M. Glackin
Deputy Under Secretary
for Oceans and Atmosphere