



UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE  
The Under Secretary of Commerce  
for Oceans and Atmosphere  
Washington, D.C. 20230

FEB -7 2012

RECEIVED

FEB 13 2012

Office of the Governor

Honorable Christine O. Gregoire  
Governor, State of Washington  
P.O. Box 40002  
Olympia, Washington 98504

Dear Governor *Chris* Gregoire:

Thank you very much for inviting the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) to be a co-convenor of the Ocean Acidification Blue Ribbon Panel. I am fully supportive of your Washington Shellfish Initiative and this Blue Ribbon Panel. In view of the need to move expeditiously with the Panel, I propose that Washington State convene the panel unilaterally, but with strong overall support from NOAA.

NOAA will gladly provide technical expertise through participation of NOAA scientists on the panel. In addition, I attach a letter that expresses NOAA's and my strong support for the panel that you could include with your letter of invitations to panelists should you deem that useful. My intent is simply to communicate clearly our enthusiasm and support for this important activity.

I look forward to the results of the panel's investigation into this critical topic. Thank you for your leadership in the protection and restoration of the healthy oceans and coasts on which our coastal economies and communities rely. I greatly value your vision, recognition of the importance of scientific knowledge and broad stakeholder engagement, and your ability to deliver clear results and progress. It will be a pleasure to support this new Blue Ribbon Panel.

*This is great!  
Thanks.*

Sincerely,

Jane Lubchenco, Ph.D.  
Under Secretary of Commerce  
for Oceans and Atmosphere





UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE  
The Under Secretary of Commerce  
for Oceans and Atmosphere  
Washington, D.C. 20230

FEB -7 2012

Dear Ocean Acidification Blue Ribbon Panel:

On behalf of the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA), I want to commend you for agreeing to serve as members of the Washington State Shellfish Initiative Ocean Acidification Blue Ribbon Panel. As part of this Blue Ribbon Panel, you will provide the necessary expertise to synthesize scientific understanding of the impact of corrosive waters on oysters and other shellfish in Washington and help chart a way forward for Washington State and the region in response to this growing threat. The task in front of you is vital to the ecological and economic health of coastal Washington State.

As a leader in ocean acidification research and monitoring efforts, NOAA is strongly supportive of Governor Gregoire's Washington State Shellfish Initiative and its Blue Ribbon Panel. Her leadership in the effort to understand how corrosive waters are affecting shellfish and shellfish growers is important not only for Washington State, but the rest of the region and the country. With the average annual revenue to fisherman from shellfish fisheries estimated to be \$159 million for Washington, Oregon and California combined (from 1998 to 2009), your work as a panel will provide options for continuing this substantial industry into the future despite the changing ocean conditions.

The Federal Ocean Acidification Research and Monitoring Act of 2009 mandates that NOAA have an active monitoring and research program to determine potential impacts of decreased ocean pH and carbonate saturation states. Developed separately, the NOAA National Shellfish Initiative is designed to stimulate coastal economies and improve the health of ailing estuaries through increasing commercial shellfish production and native shellfish populations and habitats in our nation's waters. These two programs intersect in the waters of coastal Washington State, supporting the need for this important Blue Ribbon Panel. I applaud Governor Gregoire's initiative and fully support the independent and vital work of this panel as you move forward in your deliberations. I very much look forward to your final products and wish you success in achieving your goals as a panel.

Sincerely,

Jane Lubchenco, Ph.D.  
Under Secretary of Commerce  
for Oceans and Atmosphere

