



NATURAL RESOURCES DEFENSE COUNCIL

August 28, 2002

David Kaiser
Federal Consistency Coordinator
Coastal Programs Division
Office of Ocean and Coastal Resource Management
NOAA
1305 East-West Highway, 11th Floor
Silver Spring, MD 20910

Attn: Federal Consistency Energy Review Comments

Dear Mr. Kaiser:

On behalf of the more than 500,000 members of the Natural Resources Defense Council, I am writing to comment on the advanced notice of proposed rulemaking ("ANPR") published by the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration ("NOAA" or "the agency") concerning potential changes to the implementing regulations for the Coastal Zone Management Act ("CZMA" or "the Act"), 16 U.S.C. § 1451 et seq. The ANPR was published at 67 Fed. Reg. 44,407 (July 2, 2002).

The CZMA consistency review process is a critical tool for states and citizens seeking to protect their coast from the harmful effects of activities such as oil-and-gas drilling. If NOAA decides to propose any changes to the Act's implementing regulations, it is essential that none of these changes weaken or dilute the rights and opportunities currently available to coastal states and the public. We will be following NOAA's actions closely on this issue, and we ask you to keep us closely apprised of any actions the agency might decide to take.

Sincerely,

Drew Caputo
Attorney