

Correspondence ID: 48000 **Project:** 33043 **Document:** 43390
Name: Barriss, Marci
Outside Organization: National Wildlife Federation Action Fund Unaffiliated Individual
Received: Nov.29,2011 20:06:29
Correspondence Type: Web Form

Correspondence: Drakes Estero is the ecological heart of Point Reyes National Seashore and a treasure that belongs to all Americans. In 1976, Congress promised that the Estero would receive full wilderness protection when the current lease for commercial oyster operations expires in 2012. I urge the Park Service to honor the wilderness promise and protect Drakes Estero for future generations.

Drakes Estero is home to 20 percent of the mainland breeding population of harbor seals in California and is used by tens of thousands of shorebirds and waterfowl and dozens of species of native fish. Your draft environmental impact statement makes clear that the existing commercial oyster operation is causing extensive damage to Drakes Estero and the Seashore's beaches, and that allowing these operations to continue would cause even more long-term harm.

Your environmental review also shows that alternative "A"--no new permit for commercial oyster operations and protection of the Estero as full wilderness--is the environmentally preferred alternative and the one that best protects harbor seals, birds, fish and other natural resources.

I urge you to return Drakes Estero to all Americans by selecting alternative "A" and ensuring full wilderness protection for Drakes Estero in 2012. It is time to protect Drakes Estero as Congress intended and to create the West Coast's only marine wilderness for the benefit of people and wildlife.

Correspondence ID: 48001 **Project:** 33043 **Document:** 43390
Name: Hilkovitch, Nicole
Outside Organization: National Wildlife Federation Action Fund Unaffiliated Individual
Received: Nov.29,2011 20:06:30
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Name: Goldenberg, Helen
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Correspondence ID: 48003 **Project:** 33043 **Document:** 43390
Name: Roberts, Patricia
Outside Organization: National Wildlife Federation Action Fund Unaffiliated Individual
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Correspondence ID: 48004 **Project:** 33043 **Document:** 43390
Name: Lamke, Richard
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Name: Mullins, Wayne
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Name: Urbaniak, Steve
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Name: Potter, Claudia
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Name: Ramsey, Susan
Outside Organization: National Wildlife Federation Action Fund Unaffiliated Individual
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Correspondence ID: 48010 **Project:** 33043 **Document:** 43390
Name: Callas, Gail
Outside Organization: NRDC Unaffiliated Individual
Received: Nov.29,2011 20:12:13
Correspondence Type: Web Form

Correspondence: Drakes Estero is a national ecological treasure and should become a protected wilderness area. It has outstanding natural resources, including one of California's largest harbor seal colonies and tens of thousands of shorebirds, waterfowl, native fish and endangered species that use its wetlands, mudflats and eelgrass beds.

In the 1976 Point Reyes Wilderness Act, Congress recognized Drakes Estero as a unique recreational and biological resource and promised that this irreplaceable resource would formally become a wilderness area when non-conforming uses were eliminated. Your agency permitted a commercial oyster company to grow non-native oysters and clams on 1,050 acres in Drakes Estero for 40 years, or until 2012.

Your own draft environmental impact statement reveals the extensive damage that the existing operation has caused to Drakes Estero and Point Reyes National Seashore's beaches. As you know, commercial operations of any kind are not permitted in designated wilderness areas because of such damage. Further, the Park Service's Organic Act mandates protection of park resources and values and strictly limits commercial operations.

Your approval of the proposal to extend the oyster company's permit would be contrary to the Point Reyes Wilderness Act and would establish a dangerous precedent at a time when America's public lands and environmental laws are already under widespread attacks in Congress and elsewhere.

We've been waiting long enough. It is time to allow that permit to expire and to honor Congress' commitment. We want our bay back.

Correspondence ID: 48011 **Project:** 33043 **Document:** 43390
Name: Giampietro, James
Outside Organization: Sierra Club Unaffiliated Individual
Received: Nov.29,2011 20:23:06
Correspondence Type: Web Form

Correspondence: I am writing to urge the National Park Service to protect Drakes Estero wilderness next year as long-intended. The American public deserves to have the West Coast's only marine wilderness protected for future generations to enjoy. Drakes Estero is a rare wildlife refuge where migrating birds stop over, harbor seals give birth, and fish spawn. It deserves the highest level of protection as Congress long-intended. As someone who enjoys our nation's spectacular national parks, I urge you to not undermine protections at Drakes Estero and succumb to special interests seeking to commercialize these special places.

I urge the National Park Service and the Department of the Interior to select alternative "A", which protects marine wilderness

and is the environmentally preferred alternative. The NPS is mandated to provide maximum protection to the natural resources, as stated in the Seashore's legislation, and selecting this alternative is the most consistent with the laws and policies affecting this park. Our national parks are for the people and wildlife protection, not commercial exploitation. The environmental review shows that alternative "A" best protects harbor seals, fish, birds and other wildlife and plants. Drakes Estero is our only marine wilderness on the West Coast, and it is irreplaceable, while oysters can be grown elsewhere.

National Parks and wilderness areas are treasured by the majority of Americans and are for the public interest, not for private commercial exploitation. By protecting wilderness, the National Park Service will set a positive policy example while commercializing it will set a negative example and help others seek their special exemptions from national park laws.

Correspondence ID: 48012 **Project:** 33043 **Document:** 43390
Name: N/A, Ana I
Outside Organization: Unaffiliated Individual
Received: Nov,29,2011 20:26:02
Correspondence Type: Web Form
Correspondence: In evaluating both sides of the issue I felt that more information was needed in order for one to make a strong conclusion about what should be done. Nevertheless, Drakes Oyster Company agreed to the fact that it would need to close down its business in 2012. It is only fair that they follow through with the agreement. It is important to note that at the time that Drakes Oyster Company bought the original business in 2005 circumstances economically were at a very different place than they are today. Factors such as this should be taken into account when trying to decide whether the company permits should be released or not. Perhaps Drakes Oyster Company was not aware in 2005 that they would be faced with the economical constraints of today. This may very well be a major contributor as to why the company would like to extend its permit for 10 more years. In addition, Drakes Bay Oyster Farm farms their shellfish. Farming shellfish does not pose the same ecological concerns as wild caught. It may be more ecologically friendly to farm shellfish rather than catch it in the wild. With the decrease in farms wild caught shellfish would need to increase in order to supply to the consumer demand. If this would occur the aquatic food chain would be disturbed and there would not longer exist a balance in the wilderness. If the Drakes Bay Oyster Farm were to close most likely shellfish would be imported from some distant farm. In this case not only will the shellfish not be local but jobs will also be outsourced, leaving local citizens without work. In conclusion, it seems that currently renewing the Drakes Bay Oyster Farm may have more positives than negatives.

Correspondence ID: 48013 **Project:** 33043 **Document:** 43390
Name: BROVSKY, LINDA
Outside Organization: National Wildlife Federation Action Fund Unaffiliated Individual
Received: Nov,29,2011 20:36:34
Correspondence Type: Web Form
Correspondence: Drakes Estero is the ecological heart of Point Reyes National Seashore and a treasure that belongs to all Americans. In 1976, Congress promised that the Estero would receive full wilderness protection when the current lease for commercial oyster operations expires in 2012. I urge the Park Service to honor the wilderness promise and protect Drakes Estero for future generations.

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Correspondence ID: 48014 **Project:** 33043 **Document:** 43390
Name: Willis, Jennifer L
Outside Organization: National Wildlife Federation Action Fund Unaffiliated Individual
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Name: Young, Derek
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Correspondence ID: 48016 **Project:** 33043 **Document:** 43390
Name: Hill, Joy
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Correspondence ID: 48017 **Project:** 33043 **Document:** 43390
Name: Salazar, Lisa
Outside Organization: NRDC Unaffiliated Individual
Received: Nov,29,2011 20:42:17
Correspondence Type: Web Form
Correspondence: Drakes Estero is a national ecological treasure and should become a protected wilderness area. It has outstanding natural resources, including one of California's largest harbor seal colonies and tens of thousands of shorebirds, waterfowl, native fish and endangered species that use its wetlands, mudflats and eelgrass beds.

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Correspondence ID: 48018 **Project:** 33043 **Document:** 43390
Name: Valentine, Debra
Outside Organization: Unaffiliated Individual
Received: Nov.29,2011 20:53:17
Correspondence Type: Web Form
Correspondence: I have spent my summers at Point Reyes seashore since the 1950s, before Point Reyes was made a national seashore. Johnson's Oyster Beds (before it became Drakes Oysters) was a big part of our life. We were delighted that the seashore became a protected area, but our understanding was that Johnson's Oysters would be allowed to remain in perpetuity. They have shown they are environmentally conscious and are good caretakers of the area. I am a firm believer in conservation and what better way to help keep the waters clean than by having oysters to filter the water of the bay. The oyster farm is a local, sustainable food source at a time when many resources are wasted trucking food across the country. At a time of unprecedented unemployment, shutting down Drake's Oysters will put a lot of local people out of work. Please consider the historical impact of closing this national seashore treasure.

Thank you,

Debra Valentine

Correspondence ID: 48019 **Project:** 33043 **Document:** 43390
Name: Parkhurst, David G
Outside Organization: Unaffiliated Individual
Received: Nov.29,2011 20:55:22
Correspondence Type: Web Form
Correspondence: None of the proposed alternatives are appropriate. I support a renewable Special Use Permit for Drakes Bay Oyster Company

Correspondence ID: 48020 **Project:** 33043 **Document:** 43390
Name: Lao, Vicky
Outside Organization: Unaffiliated Individual
Received: Nov.29,2011 21:03:48
Correspondence Type: Web Form
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Correspondence ID: 48021 **Project:** 33043 **Document:** 43390
Name: Panetti, Marjory
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Correspondence ID: 48022 **Project:** 33043 **Document:** 43390
Name: Pozzessere, Linda
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Name: Meli, Michele
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Name: Horning, Laura
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Correspondence ID: 48025 **Project:** 33043 **Document:** 43390
Name: Borske, Cindy
Outside Organization: National Wildlife Federation Action Fund Unaffiliated Individual
Received: Nov,29,2011 21:06:40
Correspondence Type: Web Form

Correspondence: Drakes Estero is the ecological heart of Point Reyes National Seashore and a treasure that belongs to all Americans. In 1976, Congress promised that the Estero would receive full wilderness protection when the current lease for commercial oyster

operations expires in 2012. I urge the Park Service to honor the wilderness promise and protect Drakes Estero for future generations.

Drakes Estero is home to 20 percent of the mainland breeding population of harbor seals in California and is used by tens of thousands of shorebirds and waterfowl and dozens of species of native fish. Your draft environmental impact statement makes clear that the existing commercial oyster operation is causing extensive damage to Drakes Estero and the Seashore's beaches, and that allowing these operations to continue would cause even more long-term harm.

Your environmental review also shows that alternative "A"--no new permit for commercial oyster operations and protection of the Estero as full wilderness--is the environmentally preferred alternative and the one that best protects harbor seals, birds, fish and other natural resources.

I urge you to return Drakes Estero to all Americans by selecting alternative "A" and ensuring full wilderness protection for Drakes Estero in 2012. It is time to protect Drakes Estero as Congress intended and to create the West Coast's only marine wilderness for the benefit of people and wildlife.

Correspondence ID: 48026 **Project:** 33043 **Document:** 43390
Name: Haaz, Gail
Outside Organization: National Wildlife Federation Action Fund Unaffiliated Individual
Received: Nov,29,2011 21:06:40
Correspondence Type: Web Form
Correspondence: Drakes Estero is the ecological heart of Point Reyes National Seashore and a treasure that belongs to all Americans. In 1976, Congress promised that the Estero would receive full wilderness protection when the current lease for commercial oyster operations expires in 2012. I urge the Park Service to honor the wilderness promise and protect Drakes Estero for future generations.

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Correspondence ID: 48027 **Project:** 33043 **Document:** 43390
Name: Rogers, Becky
Outside Organization: National Wildlife Federation Action Fund Unaffiliated Individual
Received: Nov,29,2011 21:06:41
Correspondence Type: Web Form
Correspondence: Drakes Estero is the ecological heart of Point Reyes National Seashore and a treasure that belongs to all Americans. In 1976, Congress promised that the Estero would receive full wilderness protection when the current lease for commercial oyster operations expires in 2012. I urge the Park Service to honor the wilderness promise and protect Drakes Estero for future generations.

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Correspondence ID: 48028 **Project:** 33043 **Document:** 43390
Name: Embry, Judith
Outside Organization: National Wildlife Federation Action Fund Unaffiliated Individual
Received: Nov,29,2011 21:06:46
Correspondence Type: Web Form

Correspondence: Drakes Estero is the ecological heart of Point Reyes National Seashore and a treasure that belongs to all Americans. In 1976, Congress promised that the Estero would receive full wilderness protection when the current lease for commercial oyster operations expires in 2012. I urge the Park Service to honor the wilderness promise and protect Drakes Estero for future generations.

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I urge you to return Drakes Estero to all Americans by selecting alternative "A" and ensuring full wilderness protection for Drakes Estero in 2012. It is time to protect Drakes Estero as Congress intended and to create the West Coast's only marine wilderness for the benefit of people and wildlife.

Correspondence ID: 48029 **Project:** 33043 **Document:** 43390
Name: Larson, Karly
Outside Organization: National Wildlife Federation Action Fund Unaffiliated Individual
Received: Nov,29,2011 21:06:46
Correspondence Type: Web Form

Correspondence: Drakes Estero is the ecological heart of Point Reyes National Seashore and a treasure that belongs to all Americans. In 1976, Congress promised that the Estero would receive full wilderness protection when the current lease for commercial oyster operations expires in 2012. I urge the Park Service to honor the wilderness promise and protect Drakes Estero for future generations.

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Your environmental review also shows that alternative "A"--no new permit for commercial oyster operations and protection of the Estero as full wilderness--is the environmentally preferred alternative and the one that best protects harbor seals, birds, fish and other natural resources.

I urge you to return Drakes Estero to all Americans by selecting alternative "A" and ensuring full wilderness protection for Drakes Estero in 2012. It is time to protect Drakes Estero as Congress intended and to create the West Coast's only marine wilderness for the benefit of people and wildlife.

Correspondence ID: 48030 **Project:** 33043 **Document:** 43390
Name: Smith, Shaney
Outside Organization: National Wildlife Federation Action Fund Unaffiliated Individual
Received: Nov,29,2011 21:06:46
Correspondence Type: Web Form

Correspondence: Drakes Estero is the ecological heart of Point Reyes National Seashore and a treasure that belongs to all Americans. In 1976, Congress promised that the Estero would receive full wilderness protection when the current lease for commercial oyster operations expires in 2012. I urge the Park Service to honor the wilderness promise and protect Drakes Estero for future generations.

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Your environmental review also shows that alternative "A"--no new permit for commercial oyster operations and protection of the Estero as full wilderness--is the environmentally preferred alternative and the one that best protects harbor seals, birds, fish and other natural resources.

I urge you to return Drakes Estero to all Americans by selecting alternative "A" and ensuring full wilderness protection for Drakes Estero in 2012. It is time to protect Drakes Estero as Congress intended and to create the West Coast's only marine wilderness for the benefit of people and wildlife.

Correspondence ID: 48031 **Project:** 33043 **Document:** 43390
Name: Fort-strietzal, J. K.
Outside Organization: NRDC Unaffiliated Individual

Received: Nov,29,2011 21:12:25
Correspondence Type: Web Form
Correspondence: Drakes Estero is a national ecological treasure and should become a protected wilderness area. It has outstanding natural resources, including one of California's largest harbor seal colonies and tens of thousands of shorebirds, waterfowl, native fish and endangered species that use its wetlands, mudflats and eelgrass beds.

In the 1976 Point Reyes Wilderness Act, Congress recognized Drakes Estero as a unique recreational and biological resource and promised that this irreplaceable resource would formally become a wilderness area when non-conforming uses were eliminated. Your agency permitted a commercial oyster company to grow non-native oysters and clams on 1,050 acres in Drakes Estero for 40 years, or until 2012.

Your own draft environmental impact statement reveals the extensive damage that the existing operation has caused to Drakes Estero and Point Reyes National Seashore's beaches. As you know, commercial operations of any kind are not permitted in designated wilderness areas because of such damage. Further, the Park Service's Organic Act mandates protection of park resources and values and strictly limits commercial operations.

Your approval of the proposal to extend the oyster company's permit would be contrary to the Point Reyes Wilderness Act and would establish a dangerous precedent at a time when America's public lands and environmental laws are already under widespread attacks in Congress and elsewhere.

We've been waiting long enough. It is time to allow that permit to expire and to honor Congress' commitment. We want our bay back.

Correspondence ID: 48032 **Project:** 33043 **Document:** 43390
Name: Faxon, Don
Outside Organization: Sierra Club Unaffiliated Individual
Received: Nov,29,2011 21:22:01
Correspondence Type: Web Form

Correspondence: I am writing to urge the National Park Service to protect Drakes Estero wilderness next year as long-intended. The American public deserves to have the West Coast's only marine wilderness protected for future generations to enjoy. Drakes Estero is a rare wildlife refuge where migrating birds stop over, harbor seals give birth, and fish spawn. It deserves the highest level of protection as Congress long-intended. As someone who enjoys our nation's spectacular national parks, I urge you to not undermine protections at Drakes Estero and succumb to special interests seeking to commercialize these special places.

I urge the National Park Service and the Department of the Interior to select alternative "A", which protects marine wilderness and is the environmentally preferred alternative. The NPS is mandated to provide maximum protection to the natural resources, as stated in the Seashore's legislation, and selecting this alternative is the most consistent with the laws and policies affecting this park. Our national parks are for the people and wildlife protection, not commercial exploitation. The environmental review shows that alternative "A" best protects harbor seals, fish, birds and other wildlife and plants. Drakes Estero is our only marine wilderness on the West Coast, and it is irreplaceable, while oysters can be grown elsewhere.

National Parks and wilderness areas are treasured by the majority of Americans and are for the public interest, not for private commercial exploitation. By protecting wilderness, the National Park Service will set a positive policy example while commercializing it will set a negative example and help others seek their special exemptions from national park laws.

Correspondence ID: 48033 **Project:** 33043 **Document:** 43390
Name: Okuye, Jean
Outside Organization: Merced County Farm Bureau and Valley Land Alliance boards Unaffiliated Individual
Received: Nov,29,2011 21:31:44
Correspondence Type: Web Form

Correspondence: For many years I have traveled to the northern coast from my farm in Central California to enjoy getting fresh oysters locally. With so much food coming from other countries it is more critical than ever to think twice before we destroy our resources for local food. Daily I am struggling to save our farmland in our Central Valley as I see it being chipped away by shortsighted decision makers. When we think about the few things we must have to survive: healthy food, safe water, clean air and shelter, this source of local food is extremely valuable. By taking away the ability to provide local seafood the consequences may be very severe. The cost to the society's well being must be analyzed thoroughly. With the changing of the climate we may be struggling more to provide our food locally. Possibly a permit for a period of time to continue farming oysters should be considered until more information becomes available.

Correspondence ID: 48034 **Project:** 33043 **Document:** 43390
Name: Pires, Marilyn
Outside Organization: National Wildlife Federation Action Fund Unaffiliated Individual
Received: Nov,29,2011 21:36:35
Correspondence Type: Web Form

Correspondence: Drakes Estero is the ecological heart of Point Reyes National Seashore and a treasure that belongs to all Americans. In 1976, Congress promised that the Estero would receive full wilderness protection when the current lease for commercial oyster operations expires in 2012. I urge the Park Service to honor the wilderness promise and protect Drakes Estero for future generations.

Drakes Estero is home to 20 percent of the mainland breeding population of harbor seals in California and is used by tens of thousands of shorebirds and waterfowl and dozens of species of native fish. Your draft environmental impact statement makes clear that the existing commercial oyster operation is causing extensive damage to Drakes Estero and the Seashore's beaches, and that allowing these operations to continue would cause even more long-term harm.

Your environmental review also shows that alternative "A"--no new permit for commercial oyster operations and protection of the Estero as full wilderness--is the environmentally preferred alternative and the one that best protects harbor seals, birds, fish and other natural resources.

I urge you to return Drakes Estero to all Americans by selecting alternative "A" and ensuring full wilderness protection for Drakes Estero in 2012. It is time to protect Drakes Estero as Congress intended and to create the West Coast's only marine wilderness for the benefit of people and wildlife.

Correspondence ID: 48035 **Project:** 33043 **Document:** 43390
Name: Metcalf, Alan
Outside Organization: National Wildlife Federation Action Fund Unaffiliated Individual
Received: Nov,29,2011 21:36:35
Correspondence Type: Web Form

Correspondence: Drakes Estero is the ecological heart of Point Reyes National Seashore and a treasure that belongs to all Americans. In 1976, Congress promised that the Estero would receive full wilderness protection when the current lease for commercial oyster operations expires in 2012. I urge the Park Service to honor the wilderness promise and protect Drakes Estero for future generations.

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Correspondence ID: 48036 **Project:** 33043 **Document:** 43390
Name: Locke, Kimberly
Outside Organization: National Wildlife Federation Action Fund Unaffiliated Individual
Received: Nov,29,2011 21:36:35
Correspondence Type: Web Form

Correspondence: Drakes Estero is the ecological heart of Point Reyes National Seashore and a treasure that belongs to all Americans. In 1976, Congress promised that the Estero would receive full wilderness protection when the current lease for commercial oyster operations expires in 2012. I urge the Park Service to honor the wilderness promise and protect Drakes Estero for future generations.

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Correspondence ID: 48037 **Project:** 33043 **Document:** 43390
Name: Burns, Judy
Outside Organization: National Wildlife Federation Action Fund Unaffiliated Individual
Received: Nov,29,2011 21:36:35
Correspondence Type: Web Form

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Correspondence ID: 48038 **Project:** 33043 **Document:** 43390
Name: Whitten, Kim
Outside Organization: National Wildlife Federation Action Fund Unaffiliated Individual
Received: Nov,29,2011 21:36:40
Correspondence Type: Web Form
Correspondence: Drakes Estero is the ecological heart of Point Reyes National Seashore and a treasure that belongs to all Americans. In 1976, Congress promised that the Estero would receive full wilderness protection when the current lease for commercial oyster operations expires in 2012. I urge the Park Service to honor the wilderness promise and protect Drakes Estero for future generations.

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Correspondence ID: 48039 **Project:** 33043 **Document:** 43390
Name: Simon, Gary
Outside Organization: National Wildlife Federation Action Fund Unaffiliated Individual
Received: Nov,29,2011 21:36:41
Correspondence Type: Web Form
Correspondence: Drakes Estero is the ecological heart of Point Reyes National Seashore and a treasure that belongs to all Americans. In 1976, Congress promised that the Estero would receive full wilderness protection when the current lease for commercial oyster operations expires in 2012. I urge the Park Service to honor the wilderness promise and protect Drakes Estero for future generations.

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Correspondence ID: 48040 **Project:** 33043 **Document:** 43390
Name: Earl, Marcia
Outside Organization: National Wildlife Federation Action Fund Unaffiliated Individual
Received: Nov,29,2011 21:36:41
Correspondence Type: Web Form

Correspondence: Drakes Estero is the ecological heart of Point Reyes National Seashore and a treasure that belongs to all Americans. In 1976, Congress promised that the Estero would receive full wilderness protection when the current lease for commercial oyster operations expires in 2012. I urge the Park Service to honor the wilderness promise and protect Drakes Estero for future generations.

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Correspondence ID: 48041 **Project:** 33043 **Document:** 43390
Name: Frayer, William
Outside Organization: National Wildlife Federation Action Fund Unaffiliated Individual
Received: Nov.29,2011 21:36:41
Correspondence Type: Web Form

Correspondence: Drakes Estero is the ecological heart of Point Reyes National Seashore and a treasure that belongs to all Americans. In 1976, Congress promised that the Estero would receive full wilderness protection when the current lease for commercial oyster operations expires in 2012. I urge the Park Service to honor the wilderness promise and protect Drakes Estero for future generations.

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Correspondence ID: 48042 **Project:** 33043 **Document:** 43390
Name: Croner, Melvyn D
Outside Organization: Unaffiliated Individual
Received: Nov.29,2011 21:37:50
Correspondence Type: Web Form

Correspondence: Please stop the NPS from working its agenda against the Oyster Farm. Keep the oyster farm. It is a treasure and HELPS, not hurts, the environment.

Correspondence ID: 48043 **Project:** 33043 **Document:** 43390
Name: Shoemaker, CN, Donna
Outside Organization: Unaffiliated Individual
Received: Nov.29,2011 21:51:40
Correspondence Type: Web Form

Correspondence: None of the proposed alternatives are appropriate. I support a renewable Special Use Permit for Drakes Bay Oyster Company. Throughout history, indigenous people have understood that they are an integral part of the natural world. In this context the idea of human life being separate from "wilderness" is a relatively recent concept. What needs to be understood is that human life ISN'T separate from the rest of the natural world, and that creating/enforcing this artificial separation is not sustainable. When human activity synchronizes with and sustains natural systems, all of nature benefits and thrives. The effects of Drake's Bay Oyster Farm's operation have been investigated and shown over and over again to be beneficial to the estero's ecosystem. What has been neglected is adequate investigation of the effects of the recurring and increasing recreational activity that regularly impacts the estero. How is it that recreational activity could possibly be considered preferable to sustainable, sensitive aquafarming that is based on ultimate respect for an ecosystem, providing not only nourishing food for thousands of people, but invaluable education to current and future generations about how to respectfully interact with "all our relations".

Correspondence ID: 48044 **Project:** 33043 **Document:** 43390
Name: Mulligan, Denise
Outside Organization: National Wildlife Federation Action Fund Unaffiliated Individual

Received: Nov,29,2011 22:06:36

Correspondence Type: Web Form

Correspondence: Drakes Estero is the ecological heart of Point Reyes National Seashore and a treasure that belongs to all Americans. In 1976, Congress promised that the Estero would receive full wilderness protection when the current lease for commercial oyster operations expires in 2012. I urge the Park Service to honor the wilderness promise and protect Drakes Estero for future generations.

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I urge you to return Drakes Estero to all Americans by selecting alternative "A" and ensuring full wilderness protection for Drakes Estero in 2012. It is time to protect Drakes Estero as Congress intended and to create the West Coast's only marine wilderness for the benefit of people and wildlife.

Correspondence ID: 48045 **Project:** 33043 **Document:** 43390

Name: Barbagallo, Amy

Outside Organization: National Wildlife Federation Action Fund Unaffiliated Individual

Received: Nov,29,2011 22:06:36

Correspondence Type: Web Form

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Correspondence ID: 48046 **Project:** 33043 **Document:** 43390

Name: bucci-woodside, lynne

Outside Organization: National Wildlife Federation Action Fund Unaffiliated Individual

Received: Nov,29,2011 22:06:37

Correspondence Type: Web Form

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Correspondence ID: 48047 **Project:** 33043 **Document:** 43390

Name: Levison, Walter
Outside Organization: Unaffiliated Individual
Received: Nov,29,2011 22:08:09
Correspondence Type: Web Form
Correspondence: I support a renewable special use permit for drakes bay oyster company.

I have enjoyed their oysters for decades, and have been visiting their facility on the water ever since i was a small child.

I feel that the unique experience of visiting the company and getting clean local sustainable seafood right out of the water is something that should continue for many generations, for my kids, and the region.

I believe that dboc is greatly beneficial for both our culture and the environment.

Walter levison

Correspondence ID: 48048 **Project:** 33043 **Document:** 43390
Name: Milota, Celia
Outside Organization: National Parks Conservation Association Unaffiliated Individual
Received: Nov,29,2011 22:08:57
Correspondence Type: Web Form
Correspondence:

I urge you to protect Drakes Estero wilderness next year, as long intended. It is in the public interest to create the West Coast's only marine wilderness for the enjoyment of all. The public has waited nearly four decades for these protections to be implemented, which is an immense compromise in itself. Drakes Estero is a rare wildlife refuge where migrating birds stop over, harbor seals give birth, and fish take shelter in eelgrass. As someone who enjoys our nation's national parks and their wildlife, I urge you to uphold the longstanding plan to convert this very special resource to wilderness.

I urge you to select alternative "A", which protects marine wilderness next year and is the Environmentally Preferred Alternative. The National Park Service is mandated to provide maximum protection to the natural resources at Drakes Estero and selecting this alternative is the most consistent with the laws and policies affecting this park. Our national parks are set aside for the public and for wildlife protection, and after waiting nearly 40 years for private commercial use rights to expire, it's time to give the estuary the protection it needs. The environmental review shows that alternative "A" is best for public policy, and best protects harbor seals, fish, birds and other natural resources. Drakes Estero is our only marine wilderness on the West Coast, and is irreplaceable, while oysters can be commercially grown elsewhere.

Please honor the promise made for a protected marine wilderness at Drakes Estero. In doing so, you will set a good policy example and reward the public with an enduring legacy feat found nowhere else on the West Coast.

Correspondence ID: 48049 **Project:** 33043 **Document:** 43390
Name: Schlumberger, Maurice
Outside Organization: Unaffiliated Individual
Received: Nov,29,2011 22:16:22
Correspondence Type: Web Form
Correspondence:

I wish that you would consider positively the continuation of oyster farming in the Drakes bay Estuero. This is an ecologically very positive contribution to the overall environment, in particular by filtering the ample bovine dejections that reach the bay. You might be aware that the NPS seeds oysters in the San Francisco Bay in order to help improve water quality. It would be ludicrous to destroy in Drakes Bay what you do at great cost over the hill. It has minimal or no impact on the local wildlife, much less so than the farms that operate in the vicinity, and a positive contribution to the local economy. Seals and birds actually seem to enjoy the oysters, and the disturbance from the crews is really minimal, much less than that of the tourists. Plus I love oysters and think these are among the best around

Sincerely

Maurice Schlumberger

Correspondence ID: 48050 **Project:** 33043 **Document:** 43390
Name: Doutre, Emily
Outside Organization: National Wildlife Federation Action Fund Unaffiliated Individual
Received: Nov,29,2011 22:36:39
Correspondence Type: Web Form
Correspondence:

Drakes Estero is the ecological heart of Point Reyes National Seashore and a treasure that belongs to all Americans. In 1976, Congress promised that the Estero would receive full wilderness protection when the current lease for commercial oyster operations expires in 2012. I urge the Park Service to honor the wilderness promise and protect Drakes Estero for future generations.

Drakes Estero is home to 20 percent of the mainland breeding population of harbor seals in California and is used by tens of thousands of shorebirds and waterfowl and dozens of species of native fish. Your draft environmental impact statement makes clear that the existing commercial oyster operation is causing extensive damage to Drakes Estero and the Seashore's beaches,

and that allowing these operations to continue would cause even more long-term harm.

Your environmental review also shows that alternative "A"--no new permit for commercial oyster operations and protection of the Estero as full wilderness--is the environmentally preferred alternative and the one that best protects harbor seals, birds, fish and other natural resources.

I urge you to return Drakes Estero to all Americans by selecting alternative "A" and ensuring full wilderness protection for Drakes Estero in 2012. It is time to protect Drakes Estero as Congress intended and to create the West Coast's only marine wilderness for the benefit of people and wildlife.

Correspondence ID: 48051 **Project:** 33043 **Document:** 43390
Name: Chudilowsky, Mishka
Outside Organization: National Wildlife Federation Action Fund Unaffiliated Individual
Received: Nov,29,2011 22:36:39
Correspondence Type: Web Form

Correspondence: Drakes Estero is the ecological heart of Point Reyes National Seashore and a treasure that belongs to all Americans. In 1976, Congress promised that the Estero would receive full wilderness protection when the current lease for commercial oyster operations expires in 2012. I urge the Park Service to honor the wilderness promise and protect Drakes Estero for future generations.

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Correspondence ID: 48052 **Project:** 33043 **Document:** 43390
Name: Williamson, Shawn
Outside Organization: National Wildlife Federation Action Fund Unaffiliated Individual
Received: Nov,29,2011 22:36:39
Correspondence Type: Web Form

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Correspondence ID: 48053 **Project:** 33043 **Document:** 43390
Name: Bottke, Shonda
Outside Organization: National Wildlife Federation Action Fund Unaffiliated Individual
Received: Nov,29,2011 22:36:39
Correspondence Type: Web Form

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Correspondence ID: 48054 **Project:** 33043 **Document:** 43390
Name: Matheny-White, Pat
Outside Organization: National Wildlife Federation Action Fund Unaffiliated Individual
Received: Nov.29,2011 22:36:40
Correspondence Type: Web Form

Correspondence: Drakes Estero is the ecological heart of Point Reyes National Seashore and a treasure that belongs to all Americans. In 1976, Congress promised that the Estero would receive full wilderness protection when the current lease for commercial oyster operations expires in 2012. I urge the Park Service to honor the wilderness promise and protect Drakes Estero for future generations.

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Correspondence ID: 48055 **Project:** 33043 **Document:** 43390
Name: N/A, N/A
Outside Organization: Unaffiliated Individual
Received: Nov.29,2011 22:38:03
Correspondence Type: Web Form

Correspondence: I support a renewable Special Use Permit for Drakes Bay Oyster Company!

Sustainable oyster farming provides a naturally grown food source with low environmental impact. I support family businesses, and the traditional values they preserve. The Lunny family clearly goes out of their way to carefully coincide with the harbor seal population, and other native species of the area.

Having visited the oyster farm several times, provides an enjoyable attraction to enjoy in the Drakes Bay area.

Oysters filter the water and benefit the Drakes Bay water quality.

I do not agree with the draft EIS suggesting removal of the Drakes Bay Oyster Farm. As one of the largest employers in West Marin, supplying food to restaurants and 40% of California's oysters, we need to keep this business in operation!

The draft EIS does not adequately provide fair analysis of the issues. The original law-makers did not intend to force DBOC to shut down as it created the park.

I feel that the NPS wants to remove DBOC and is creating its own unfair statements to support its personal war. The NPS needs to work together with its community members and business rather than try to close them, damaging our economy and food production resources.

PLEASE pursue a renewable Special Use Permit for Drakes Bay Oyster Company.

Correspondence ID: 48056 **Project:** 33043 **Document:** 43390
Name: Nuss, Elizabeth J
Outside Organization: Unaffiliated Individual

Received: Nov,29,2011 22:42:19
Correspondence Type: Web Form
Correspondence: I support a renewable Special Use Permit for Drakes Bay Oyster Company

Correspondence ID: 48057 **Project:** 33043 **Document:** 43390
Name: N/A, N/A
Outside Organization: Unaffiliated Individual
Received: Nov,29,2011 22:52:28
Correspondence Type: Web Form
Correspondence: I am absolutely convinced that the Drakes Bay Oyster Company should stop operations in 2012. The current owner understood this when he purchased the lease. The area is designated to be wilderness.

I am against any continuation of the Oyster Company lease. I am severely disappointed with our elected representatives who have turned this simple matter into a political football. The NPS should stand firm and know that we support you.

Correspondence ID: 48058 **Project:** 33043 **Document:** 43390
Name: N/A, Nyla M
Outside Organization: Unaffiliated Individual
Received: Nov,29,2011 22:57:40
Correspondence Type: Web Form
Correspondence: Drakes bay is where my family and I meet when they are in town! We enjoy catching up over amazing oysters while sitting on the beach. We love having this special place to go!

Correspondence ID: 48059 **Project:** 33043 **Document:** 43390
Name: N/A, Jason
Outside Organization: Unaffiliated Individual
Received: Nov,29,2011 22:59:28
Correspondence Type: Web Form
Correspondence: To whom this may concern. In your consideration of whether or not to extend Darkes bay oyster farm use permit please consider the model of sustainable aquaculture it is. Man kind must live together with nature and be a part of it not seperate from it. Please indefinitely extend the use permit of thi most valuable recourse.

Correspondence ID: 48060 **Project:** 33043 **Document:** 43390
Name: Mahoney Kneisel, Tamara
Outside Organization: National Wildlife Federation Action Fund Unaffiliated Individual
Received: Nov,29,2011 23:06:41
Correspondence Type: Web Form
Correspondence: Drakes Estero is the ecological heart of Point Reyes National Seashore and a treasure that belongs to all Americans. In 1976, Congress promised that the Estero would receive full wilderness protection when the current lease for commercial oyster operations expires in 2012. I urge the Park Service to honor the wilderness promise and protect Drakes Estero for future generations.

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Correspondence ID: 48061 **Project:** 33043 **Document:** 43390
Name: Graham, Seana
Outside Organization: National Wildlife Federation Action Fund Unaffiliated Individual
Received: Nov,29,2011 23:06:41
Correspondence Type: Web Form
Correspondence: Drakes Estero is the ecological heart of Point Reyes National Seashore and a treasure that belongs to all Americans. In 1976, Congress promised that the Estero would receive full wilderness protection when the current lease for commercial oyster operations expires in 2012. I urge the Park Service to honor the wilderness promise and protect Drakes Estero for future generations.

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Correspondence ID: 48062 **Project:** 33043 **Document:** 43390
Name: Kavanagh, Maureen
Outside Organization: National Wildlife Federation Action Fund Unaffiliated Individual
Received: Nov,29,2011 23:06:41
Correspondence Type: Web Form

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Correspondence ID: 48063 **Project:** 33043 **Document:** 43390
Name: purdy, alisha j
Outside Organization: Unaffiliated Individual
Received: Nov,29,2011 23:14:02
Correspondence Type: Web Form

Correspondence: I support the wilderness designation for Drakes Estero within the Point Reyes National Seashore. I urge the National Park Service and Department of the Interior to uphold the 1976 Point Reyes Wilderness Act and select alternative A, which protects this important marine wilderness and is the environmentally preferred alternative.

Drakes Estero is a unique and ecologically significant wildlife area. It is an important stop on the flyway for migrating birds, a refuge and birthplace for harbor seals and a critical native fish nursery. Congress and the public have long intended that Drakes Estero be given the highest federal level of protection as a wilderness area when the commercial oyster lease expires in 2012.

This can only be accomplished by selecting Alternative "A" and ending commercial use of this sensitive wildlife refuge. Alternative A is the most consistent with National Park Service laws and policies. The Park Service's environmental review shows that alternative "A" best protects wildlife and the National Park experience.

Our national parks are for the people and wildlife protection, and wilderness areas with our parks should not prioritize commercial exploitation. The American public deserves to have this unique marine wilderness protected in a natural state for future generations to enjoy.

Drakes Estero is the only marine wilderness on the West Coast, and is irreplaceable, while oysters can be grown elsewhere.

As someone who enjoys our spectacular national parks, I urge you to not undermine protections at Drakes Estero and succumb to special interests seeking to commercialize these special places

Correspondence ID: 48064 **Project:** 33043 **Document:** 43390
Name: Gann, Valeska
Outside Organization: Sierra Club Unaffiliated Individual
Received: Nov,29,2011 23:21:42
Correspondence Type: Web Form

Correspondence: I am writing to urge the National Park Service to protect Drakes Estero wilderness next year as long-intended. The American public deserves to have the West Coast's only marine wilderness protected for future generations to enjoy. Drakes Estero is a rare wildlife refuge where migrating birds stop over, harbor seals give birth, and fish spawn. It deserves the highest level of

protection as Congress long-intended. As someone who enjoys our nation's spectacular national parks, I urge you to not undermine protections at Drakes Estero and succumb to special interests seeking to commercialize these special places.

I urge the National Park Service and the Department of the Interior to select alternative "A", which protects marine wilderness and is the environmentally preferred alternative. The NPS is mandated to provide maximum protection to the natural resources, as stated in the Seashore's legislation, and selecting this alternative is the most consistent with the laws and policies affecting this park. Our national parks are for the people and wildlife protection, not commercial exploitation. The environmental review shows that alternative "A" best protects harbor seals, fish, birds and other wildlife and plants. Drakes Estero is our only marine wilderness on the West Coast, and it is irreplaceable, while oysters can be grown elsewhere.

National Parks and wilderness areas are treasured by the majority of Americans and are for the public interest, not for private commercial exploitation. By protecting wilderness, the National Park Service will set a positive policy example while commercializing it will set a negative example and help others seek their special exemptions from national park laws.

Correspondence ID: 48065 **Project:** 33043 **Document:** 43390

Name: Guadagnolo, Gary

Outside Organization: Sierra Club Unaffiliated Individual

Received: Nov,29,2011 23:21:52

Correspondence Type: Web Form

Correspondence: I am writing to urge the National Park Service to protect Drakes Estero wilderness next year as long-intended. The American public deserves to have the West Coast's only marine wilderness protected for future generations to enjoy. Drakes Estero is a rare wildlife refuge where migrating birds stop over, harbor seals give birth, and fish spawn. It deserves the highest level of protection as Congress long-intended. As someone who enjoys our nation's spectacular national parks, I urge you to not undermine protections at Drakes Estero and succumb to special interests seeking to commercialize these special places.

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Correspondence ID: 48066 **Project:** 33043 **Document:** 43390

Name: Fiore, Kelli B

Outside Organization: Independent Unaffiliated Individual

Received: Nov,29,2011 23:26:57

Correspondence Type: Web Form

Correspondence: I am bothered by many things surrounding the Drake's Bay Oyster company, but the component that seems to be receiving the least amount of attention is the socioeconomic impact. There are tens of thousands of visitors who enjoy the community aspects of Drakes, in addition to the oysters. It seems counter intuitive that the National Park Service, an institution that actively searches for ways to increase access to the National Park system for under-served communities, would engage in an action that would have such a resounding negative impact. If DBOC's special use permit is denied, these communities and persons would be directly affected.

Correspondence ID: 48067 **Project:** 33043 **Document:** 43390

Name: Marcus, Martin

Outside Organization: National Wildlife Federation Action Fund Unaffiliated Individual

Received: Nov,29,2011 23:36:44

Correspondence Type: Web Form

Correspondence: Drakes Estero is the ecological heart of Point Reyes National Seashore and a treasure that belongs to all Americans. In 1976, Congress promised that the Estero would receive full wilderness protection when the current lease for commercial oyster operations expires in 2012. I urge the Park Service to honor the wilderness promise and protect Drakes Estero for future generations.

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Your environmental review also shows that alternative "A"--no new permit for commercial oyster operations and protection of the Estero as full wilderness--is the environmentally preferred alternative and the one that best protects harbor seals, birds, fish and other natural resources.

I urge you to return Drakes Estero to all Americans by selecting alternative "A" and ensuring full wilderness protection for

Drakes Estero in 2012. It is time to protect Drakes Estero as Congress intended and to create the West Coast's only marine wilderness for the benefit of people and wildlife.

Correspondence ID: 48068 **Project:** 33043 **Document:** 43390
Name: Smith, Tiffany
Outside Organization: National Wildlife Federation Action Fund Unaffiliated Individual
Received: Nov,29,2011 23:36:44
Correspondence Type: Web Form
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Correspondence ID: 48069 **Project:** 33043 **Document:** 43390
Name: McDaniel, Linda
Outside Organization: National Wildlife Federation Action Fund Unaffiliated Individual
Received: Nov,29,2011 23:36:44
Correspondence Type: Web Form
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Correspondence ID: 48070 **Project:** 33043 **Document:** 43390
Name: Watkinson, Lynn
Outside Organization: National Wildlife Federation Action Fund Unaffiliated Individual
Received: Nov,29,2011 23:36:44
Correspondence Type: Web Form
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Correspondence ID: 48071 **Project:** 33043 **Document:** 43390
Name: Sant, Barbara
Outside Organization: National Wildlife Federation Action Fund Unaffiliated Individual
Received: Nov.29,2011 23:36:44
Correspondence Type: Web Form

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Correspondence ID: 48072 **Project:** 33043 **Document:** 43390
Name: Heggli, Anita
Outside Organization: National Wildlife Federation Action Fund Unaffiliated Individual
Received: Nov.29,2011 23:36:50
Correspondence Type: Web Form

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Correspondence ID: 48073 **Project:** 33043 **Document:** 43390
Name: Port, Michael
Outside Organization: Sierra Club Unaffiliated Individual
Received: Nov.29,2011 23:51:25
Correspondence Type: Web Form

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I urge the National Park Service and the Department of the Interior to select alternative "A", which protects marine wilderness and is the environmentally preferred alternative. The NPS is mandated to provide maximum protection to the natural resources, as stated in the Seashore's legislation, and selecting this alternative is the most consistent with the laws and policies affecting this park. Our national parks are for the people and wildlife protection, not commercial exploitation. The environmental review shows that alternative "A" best protects harbor seals, fish, birds and other wildlife and plants. Drakes Estero is our only marine

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Correspondence ID: 48074 **Project:** 33043 **Document:** 43390
Name: Monnet, Carolyn
Outside Organization: National Wildlife Federation Action Fund Unaffiliated Individual
Received: Nov.30,2011 00:06:48
Correspondence Type: Web Form

Correspondence: Drakes Estero is the ecological heart of Point Reyes National Seashore and a treasure that belongs to all Americans. In 1976, Congress promised that the Estero would receive full wilderness protection when the current lease for commercial oyster operations expires in 2012. I urge the Park Service to honor the wilderness promise and protect Drakes Estero for future generations.

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Correspondence ID: 48075 **Project:** 33043 **Document:** 43390
Name: Krell-Bates, Diane
Outside Organization: National Wildlife Federation Action Fund Unaffiliated Individual
Received: Nov.30,2011 00:36:52
Correspondence Type: Web Form

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Correspondence ID: 48076 **Project:** 33043 **Document:** 43390
Name: Cassidy, Caitlin
Outside Organization: National Wildlife Federation Action Fund Unaffiliated Individual
Received: Nov.30,2011 00:36:52
Correspondence Type: Web Form

Correspondence: Drakes Estero is the ecological heart of Point Reyes National Seashore and a treasure that belongs to all Americans. In 1976, Congress promised that the Estero would receive full wilderness protection when the current lease for commercial oyster operations expires in 2012. I urge the Park Service to honor the wilderness promise and protect Drakes Estero for future generations.

Drakes Estero is home to 20 percent of the mainland breeding population of harbor seals in California and is used by tens of thousands of shorebirds and waterfowl and dozens of species of native fish. Your draft environmental impact statement makes clear that the existing commercial oyster operation is causing extensive damage to Drakes Estero and the Seashore's beaches, and that allowing these operations to continue would cause even more long-term harm.

Your environmental review also shows that alternative "A"--no new permit for commercial oyster operations and protection of the Estero as full wilderness--is the environmentally preferred alternative and the one that best protects harbor seals, birds, fish and other natural resources.

I urge you to return Drakes Estero to all Americans by selecting alternative "A" and ensuring full wilderness protection for Drakes Estero in 2012. It is time to protect Drakes Estero as Congress intended and to create the West Coast's only marine wilderness for the benefit of people and wildlife.

Correspondence ID: 48077 **Project:** 33043 **Document:** 43390
Name: Johnson, Guy
Outside Organization: National Wildlife Federation Action Fund Unaffiliated Individual
Received: Nov,30,2011 00:36:52
Correspondence Type: Web Form
Correspondence: Drakes Estero is the ecological heart of Point Reyes National Seashore and a treasure that belongs to all Americans. In 1976, Congress promised that the Estero would receive full wilderness protection when the current lease for commercial oyster operations expires in 2012. I urge the Park Service to honor the wilderness promise and protect Drakes Estero for future generations.

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Correspondence ID: 48078 **Project:** 33043 **Document:** 43390
Name: Feves, Angene
Outside Organization: National Wildlife Federation Action Fund Unaffiliated Individual
Received: Nov,30,2011 01:06:54
Correspondence Type: Web Form
Correspondence: Drakes Estero is the ecological heart of Point Reyes National Seashore and a treasure that belongs to all Americans. In 1976, Congress promised that the Estero would receive full wilderness protection when the current lease for commercial oyster operations expires in 2012. I urge the Park Service to honor the wilderness promise and protect Drakes Estero for future generations.

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Correspondence ID: 48079 **Project:** 33043 **Document:** 43390
Name: Phillips, E. Lehuanani
Outside Organization: National Wildlife Federation Action Fund Unaffiliated Individual
Received: Nov,30,2011 01:06:55
Correspondence Type: Web Form
Correspondence: Drakes Estero is the ecological heart of Point Reyes National Seashore and a treasure that belongs to all Americans. In 1976, Congress promised that the Estero would receive full wilderness protection when the current lease for commercial oyster operations expires in 2012. I urge the Park Service to honor the wilderness promise and protect Drakes Estero for future generations.

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Correspondence ID: 48080 **Project:** 33043 **Document:** 43390
Name: mizuguchi, naoko
Outside Organization: National Wildlife Federation Action Fund Unaffiliated Individual
Received: Nov,30,2011 01:06:55
Correspondence Type: Web Form
Correspondence: Drakes Estero is the ecological heart of Point Reyes National Seashore and a treasure that belongs to all Americans. In 1976, Congress promised that the Estero would receive full wilderness protection when the current lease for commercial oyster operations expires in 2012. I urge the Park Service to honor the wilderness promise and protect Drakes Estero for future generations.

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Correspondence ID: 48081 **Project:** 33043 **Document:** 43390
Name: Culhane RN, Deborah
Outside Organization: National Wildlife Federation Action Fund Unaffiliated Individual
Received: Nov,30,2011 01:06:55
Correspondence Type: Web Form
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Correspondence ID: 48082 **Project:** 33043 **Document:** 43390
Name: Domb, Doreen
Outside Organization: National Wildlife Federation Action Fund Unaffiliated Individual
Received: Nov,30,2011 01:06:55
Correspondence Type: Web Form
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Correspondence ID: 48083 **Project:** 33043 **Document:** 43390
Name: Fish, Debra
Outside Organization: National Wildlife Federation Action Fund Unaffiliated Individual
Received: Nov.30,2011 01:36:57
Correspondence Type: Web Form
Correspondence: Drakes Estero is the ecological heart of Point Reyes National Seashore and a treasure that belongs to all Americans. In 1976, Congress promised that the Estero would receive full wilderness protection when the current lease for commercial oyster operations expires in 2012. I urge the Park Service to honor the wilderness promise and protect Drakes Estero for future generations.

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Correspondence ID: 48084 **Project:** 33043 **Document:** 43390
Name: N/A, N/A
Outside Organization: Unaffiliated Individual
Received: Nov.30,2011 02:04:54
Correspondence Type: Web Form
Correspondence: Please select the No Action Alternative so that Drakes Estero will become Wilderness in 2012, as directed by Congress 36 years ago !

Correspondence ID: 48085 **Project:** 33043 **Document:** 43390
Name: Serra, Ragen
Outside Organization: National Wildlife Federation Action Fund Unaffiliated Individual
Received: Nov.30,2011 02:07:00
Correspondence Type: Web Form
Correspondence: Drakes Estero is the ecological heart of Point Reyes National Seashore and a treasure that belongs to all Americans. In 1976, Congress promised that the Estero would receive full wilderness protection when the current lease for commercial oyster operations expires in 2012. I urge the Park Service to honor the wilderness promise and protect Drakes Estero for future generations.

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Correspondence ID: 48086 **Project:** 33043 **Document:** 43390

Name: Freed, Hannah
Outside Organization: National Wildlife Federation Action Fund Unaffiliated Individual
Received: Nov,30,2011 02:37:02
Correspondence Type: Web Form
Correspondence: Drakes Estero is the ecological heart of Point Reyes National Seashore and a treasure that belongs to all Americans. In 1976, Congress promised that the Estero would receive full wilderness protection when the current lease for commercial oyster operations expires in 2012. I urge the Park Service to honor the wilderness promise and protect Drakes Estero for future generations.

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Correspondence ID: 48087 **Project:** 33043 **Document:** 43390
Name: Van Tilborgh, Tony
Outside Organization: National Wildlife Federation Action Fund Unaffiliated Individual
Received: Nov,30,2011 02:37:02
Correspondence Type: Web Form
Correspondence: Drakes Estero is the ecological heart of Point Reyes National Seashore and a treasure that belongs to all Americans. In 1976, Congress promised that the Estero would receive full wilderness protection when the current lease for commercial oyster operations expires in 2012. I urge the Park Service to honor the wilderness promise and protect Drakes Estero for future generations.

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Correspondence ID: 48088 **Project:** 33043 **Document:** 43390
Name: Freed, Hannah
Outside Organization: Sierra Club Unaffiliated Individual
Received: Nov,30,2011 02:51:41
Correspondence Type: Web Form
Correspondence: I am writing to urge the National Park Service to protect Drakes Estero wilderness next year as long-intended. The American public deserves to have the West Coast's only marine wilderness protected for future generations to enjoy. Drakes Estero is a rare wildlife refuge where migrating birds stop over, harbor seals give birth, and fish spawn. It deserves the highest level of protection as Congress long-intended. As someone who enjoys our nation's spectacular national parks, I urge you to not undermine protections at Drakes Estero and succumb to special interests seeking to commercialize these special places.

I urge the National Park Service and the Department of the Interior to select alternative "A", which protects marine wilderness and is the environmentally preferred alternative. The NPS is mandated to provide maximum protection to the natural resources, as stated in the Seashore's legislation, and selecting this alternative is the most consistent with the laws and policies affecting this park. Our national parks are for the people and wildlife protection, not commercial exploitation. The environmental review shows that alternative "A" best protects harbor seals, fish, birds and other wildlife and plants. Drakes Estero is our only marine wilderness on the West Coast, and it is irreplaceable, while oysters can be grown elsewhere.

National Parks and wilderness areas are treasured by the majority of Americans and are for the public interest, not for private commercial exploitation. By protecting wilderness, the National Park Service will set a positive policy example while commercializing it will set a negative example and help others seek their special exemptions from national park laws.

Correspondence ID: 48089 **Project:** 33043 **Document:** 43390

Name: Tehan, Patricia
Outside Organization: National Wildlife Federation Action Fund Unaffiliated Individual
Received: Nov,30,2011 03:07:02
Correspondence Type: Web Form
Correspondence: Drakes Estero is the ecological heart of Point Reyes National Seashore and a treasure that belongs to all Americans. In 1976, Congress promised that the Estero would receive full wilderness protection when the current lease for commercial oyster operations expires in 2012. I urge the Park Service to honor the wilderness promise and protect Drakes Estero for future generations.

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Correspondence ID: 48090 **Project:** 33043 **Document:** 43390
Name: Brown, Shelly
Outside Organization: National Wildlife Federation Action Fund Unaffiliated Individual
Received: Nov,30,2011 03:07:02
Correspondence Type: Web Form
Correspondence: Drakes Estero is the ecological heart of Point Reyes National Seashore and a treasure that belongs to all Americans. In 1976, Congress promised that the Estero would receive full wilderness protection when the current lease for commercial oyster operations expires in 2012. I urge the Park Service to honor the wilderness promise and protect Drakes Estero for future generations.

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Correspondence ID: 48091 **Project:** 33043 **Document:** 43390
Name: Zegledi, Dawn
Outside Organization: National Wildlife Federation Action Fund Unaffiliated Individual
Received: Nov,30,2011 03:37:03
Correspondence Type: Web Form
Correspondence: Drakes Estero is the ecological heart of Point Reyes National Seashore and a treasure that belongs to all Americans. In 1976, Congress promised that the Estero would receive full wilderness protection when the current lease for commercial oyster operations expires in 2012. I urge the Park Service to honor the wilderness promise and protect Drakes Estero for future generations.

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Correspondence ID: 48092 **Project:** 33043 **Document:** 43390
Name: murphy-kracht, pattie
Outside Organization: Unaffiliated Individual
Received: Nov,30,2011 03:59:19
Correspondence Type: Web Form
Correspondence: I support RENEWABLE special use permit for the Drakes Bay Oyster Company.

Correspondence ID: 48093 **Project:** 33043 **Document:** 43390
Name: Turner, Julie
Outside Organization: National Wildlife Federation Action Fund Unaffiliated Individual
Received: Nov,30,2011 04:07:03
Correspondence Type: Web Form
Correspondence: I have just learned that Drakes Estero is the ecological heart of Point Reyes National Seashore. It's a treasure that belongs to all Americans. In 1976, Congress promised that the Estero would receive full wilderness protection when the current lease for commercial oyster operations expires in 2012. I urge the Park Service to honor the wilderness promise and protect Drakes Estero for future generations.

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Correspondence ID: 48094 **Project:** 33043 **Document:** 43390
Name: Elster, Evelyn
Outside Organization: National Wildlife Federation Action Fund Unaffiliated Individual
Received: Nov,30,2011 04:07:03
Correspondence Type: Web Form
Correspondence: Drakes Estero is the ecological heart of Point Reyes National Seashore and a treasure that belongs to all Americans. In 1976, Congress promised that the Estero would receive full wilderness protection when the current lease for commercial oyster operations expires in 2012. I urge the Park Service to honor the wilderness promise and protect Drakes Estero for future generations.

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Correspondence ID: 48095 **Project:** 33043 **Document:** 43390
Name: Given, Karen
Outside Organization: National Wildlife Federation Action Fund Unaffiliated Individual
Received: Nov,30,2011 04:37:04
Correspondence Type: Web Form
Correspondence: Drakes Estero is the ecological heart of Point Reyes National Seashore and a treasure that belongs to all Americans. In 1976, Congress promised that the Estero would receive full wilderness protection when the current lease for commercial oyster operations expires in 2012. I urge the Park Service to honor the wilderness promise and protect Drakes Estero for future generations.

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Correspondence ID: 48096 **Project:** 33043 **Document:** 43390
Name: Clark, Phoebe
Outside Organization: National Wildlife Federation Action Fund Unaffiliated Individual
Received: Nov,30,2011 04:37:05
Correspondence Type: Web Form
Correspondence: Drakes Estero is the ecological heart of Point Reyes National Seashore and a treasure that belongs to all Americans. In 1976, Congress promised that the Estero would receive full wilderness protection when the current lease for commercial oyster operations expires in 2012. I urge the Park Service to honor the wilderness promise and protect Drakes Estero for future generations.

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Correspondence ID: 48097 **Project:** 33043 **Document:** 43390
Name: Moreira, Nancy
Outside Organization: National Wildlife Federation Action Fund Unaffiliated Individual
Received: Nov,30,2011 04:37:05
Correspondence Type: Web Form
Correspondence: Drakes Estero is the ecological heart of Point Reyes National Seashore and a treasure that belongs to all Americans. In 1976, Congress promised that the Estero would receive full wilderness protection when the current lease for commercial oyster operations expires in 2012. I urge the Park Service to honor the wilderness promise and protect Drakes Estero for future generations.

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Correspondence ID: 48098 **Project:** 33043 **Document:** 43390
Name: Richardson, Samantha
Outside Organization: National Wildlife Federation Action Fund Unaffiliated Individual
Received: Nov,30,2011 05:07:09
Correspondence Type: Web Form
Correspondence: Drakes Estero is the ecological heart of Point Reyes National Seashore and a treasure that belongs to all Americans. In 1976, Congress promised that the Estero would receive full wilderness protection when the current lease for commercial oyster operations expires in 2012. I urge the Park Service to honor the wilderness promise and protect Drakes Estero for future generations.

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Correspondence ID: 48099 **Project:** 33043 **Document:** 43390
Name: Spors, Linda
Outside Organization: National Wildlife Federation Action Fund Unaffiliated Individual
Received: Nov.30,2011 05:07:09
Correspondence Type: Web Form
Correspondence: Drakes Estero is the ecological heart of Point Reyes National Seashore and a treasure that belongs to all Americans. In 1976, Congress promised that the Estero would receive full wilderness protection when the current lease for commercial oyster operations expires in 2012. I urge the Park Service to honor the wilderness promise and protect Drakes Estero for future generations.

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Correspondence ID: 48100 **Project:** 33043 **Document:** 43390
Name: Sobel, Alla
Outside Organization: National Wildlife Federation Action Fund Unaffiliated Individual
Received: Nov.30,2011 05:07:09
Correspondence Type: Web Form
Correspondence: Drakes Estero is the ecological heart of Point Reyes National Seashore and a treasure that belongs to all Americans. In 1976, Congress promised that the Estero would receive full wilderness protection when the current lease for commercial oyster operations expires in 2012. I urge the Park Service to honor the wilderness promise and protect Drakes Estero for future generations.

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Your environmental review also shows that alternative "A"--no new permit for commercial oyster operations and protection of the Estero as full wilderness--is the environmentally preferred alternative and the one that best protects harbor seals, birds, fish and other natural resources.

I urge you to return Drakes Estero to all Americans by selecting alternative "A" and ensuring full wilderness protection for Drakes Estero in 2012. It is time to protect Drakes Estero as Congress intended and to create the West Coast's only marine wilderness for the benefit of people and wildlife.

Correspondence ID: 48101 **Project:** 33043 **Document:** 43390
Name: Brown, Jackie
Outside Organization: National Wildlife Federation Action Fund Unaffiliated Individual
Received: Nov.30,2011 05:07:10
Correspondence Type: Web Form
Correspondence: Drakes Estero is the ecological heart of Point Reyes National Seashore and a treasure that belongs to all Americans. In 1976, Congress promised that the Estero would receive full wilderness protection when the current lease for commercial oyster operations expires in 2012. I urge the Park Service to honor the wilderness promise and protect Drakes Estero for future generations.

Drakes Estero is home to 20 percent of the mainland breeding population of harbor seals in California and is used by tens of thousands of shorebirds and waterfowl and dozens of species of native fish. Your draft environmental impact statement makes clear that the existing commercial oyster operation is causing extensive damage to Drakes Estero and the Seashore's beaches, and that allowing these operations to continue would cause even more long-term harm.

Your environmental review also shows that alternative "A"--no new permit for commercial oyster operations and protection of the Estero as full wilderness--is the environmentally preferred alternative and the one that best protects harbor seals, birds, fish and other natural resources.

I urge you to return Drakes Estero to all Americans by selecting alternative "A" and ensuring full wilderness protection for Drakes Estero in 2012. It is time to protect Drakes Estero as Congress intended and to create the West Coast's only marine wilderness for the benefit of people and wildlife.

Correspondence ID: 48102 **Project:** 33043 **Document:** 43390
Name: Whitely, Melissa
Outside Organization: National Wildlife Federation Action Fund Unaffiliated Individual
Received: Nov.30,2011 05:37:15
Correspondence Type: Web Form

Correspondence: Drakes Estero is the ecological heart of Point Reyes National Seashore and a treasure that belongs to all Americans. In 1976, Congress promised that the Estero would receive full wilderness protection when the current lease for commercial oyster operations expires in 2012. I urge the Park Service to honor the wilderness promise and protect Drakes Estero for future generations.

Drakes Estero is home to 20 percent of the mainland breeding population of harbor seals in California and is used by tens of thousands of shorebirds and waterfowl and dozens of species of native fish. Your draft environmental impact statement makes clear that the existing commercial oyster operation is causing extensive damage to Drakes Estero and the Seashore's beaches, and that allowing these operations to continue would cause even more long-term harm.

Your environmental review also shows that alternative "A"--no new permit for commercial oyster operations and protection of the Estero as full wilderness--is the environmentally preferred alternative and the one that best protects harbor seals, birds, fish and other natural resources.

I urge you to return Drakes Estero to all Americans by selecting alternative "A" and ensuring full wilderness protection for Drakes Estero in 2012. It is time to protect Drakes Estero as Congress intended and to create the West Coast's only marine wilderness for the benefit of people and wildlife.

Correspondence ID: 48103 **Project:** 33043 **Document:** 43390
Name: Babie, Rita
Outside Organization: National Wildlife Federation Action Fund Unaffiliated Individual
Received: Nov.30,2011 05:37:15
Correspondence Type: Web Form

Correspondence: Drakes Estero is the ecological heart of Point Reyes National Seashore and a treasure that belongs to all Americans. In 1976, Congress promised that the Estero would receive full wilderness protection when the current lease for commercial oyster operations expires in 2012. I urge the Park Service to honor the wilderness promise and protect Drakes Estero for future generations.

Drakes Estero is home to 20 percent of the mainland breeding population of harbor seals in California and is used by tens of thousands of shorebirds and waterfowl and dozens of species of native fish. Your draft environmental impact statement makes clear that the existing commercial oyster operation is causing extensive damage to Drakes Estero and the Seashore's beaches, and that allowing these operations to continue would cause even more long-term harm.

Your environmental review also shows that alternative "A"--no new permit for commercial oyster operations and protection of the Estero as full wilderness--is the environmentally preferred alternative and the one that best protects harbor seals, birds, fish and other natural resources.

I urge you to return Drakes Estero to all Americans by selecting alternative "A" and ensuring full wilderness protection for Drakes Estero in 2012. It is time to protect Drakes Estero as Congress intended and to create the West Coast's only marine wilderness for the benefit of people and wildlife.

Correspondence ID: 48104 **Project:** 33043 **Document:** 43390
Name: Hotopp, Jean
Outside Organization: National Wildlife Federation Action Fund Unaffiliated Individual
Received: Nov.30,2011 05:37:15
Correspondence Type: Web Form

Correspondence: Drakes Estero is the ecological heart of Point Reyes National Seashore and a treasure that belongs to all Americans. In 1976, Congress promised that the Estero would receive full wilderness protection when the current lease for commercial oyster

operations expires in 2012. I urge the Park Service to honor the wilderness promise and protect Drakes Estero for future generations.

Drakes Estero is home to 20 percent of the mainland breeding population of harbor seals in California and is used by tens of thousands of shorebirds and waterfowl and dozens of species of native fish. Your draft environmental impact statement makes clear that the existing commercial oyster operation is causing extensive damage to Drakes Estero and the Seashore's beaches, and that allowing these operations to continue would cause even more long-term harm.

Your environmental review also shows that alternative "A"--no new permit for commercial oyster operations and protection of the Estero as full wilderness--is the environmentally preferred alternative and the one that best protects harbor seals, birds, fish and other natural resources.

I urge you to return Drakes Estero to all Americans by selecting alternative "A" and ensuring full wilderness protection for Drakes Estero in 2012. It is time to protect Drakes Estero as Congress intended and to create the West Coast's only marine wilderness for the benefit of people and wildlife.

Correspondence ID: 48105 **Project:** 33043 **Document:** 43390
Name: Epailly, Guillemette
Outside Organization: Sierra Club Unaffiliated Individual
Received: Nov,30,2011 05:52:10
Correspondence Type: Web Form

Correspondence: I am writing to urge the National Park Service to protect Drakes Estero wilderness next year as long-intended. The American public deserves to have the West Coast's only marine wilderness protected for future generations to enjoy. Drakes Estero is a rare wildlife refuge where migrating birds stop over, harbor seals give birth, and fish spawn. It deserves the highest level of protection as Congress long-intended. As someone who enjoys our nation's spectacular national parks, I urge you to not undermine protections at Drakes Estero and succumb to special interests seeking to commercialize these special places.

I urge the National Park Service and the Department of the Interior to select alternative "A", which protects marine wilderness and is the environmentally preferred alternative. The NPS is mandated to provide maximum protection to the natural resources, as stated in the Seashore's legislation, and selecting this alternative is the most consistent with the laws and policies affecting this park. Our national parks are for the people and wildlife protection, not commercial exploitation. The environmental review shows that alternative "A" best protects harbor seals, fish, birds and other wildlife and plants. Drakes Estero is our only marine wilderness on the West Coast, and it is irreplaceable, while oysters can be grown elsewhere.

National Parks and wilderness areas are treasured by the majority of Americans and are for the public interest, not for private commercial exploitation. By protecting wilderness, the National Park Service will set a positive policy example while commercializing it will set a negative example and help others seek their special exemptions from national park laws.

Correspondence ID: 48106 **Project:** 33043 **Document:** 43390
Name: Stanton, Kim
Outside Organization: National Wildlife Federation Action Fund Unaffiliated Individual
Received: Nov,30,2011 06:07:18
Correspondence Type: Web Form

Correspondence: Drakes Estero is the ecological heart of Point Reyes National Seashore and a treasure that belongs to all Americans. In 1976, Congress promised that the Estero would receive full wilderness protection when the current lease for commercial oyster operations expires in 2012. I urge the Park Service to honor the wilderness promise and protect Drakes Estero for future generations.

Drakes Estero is home to 20 percent of the mainland breeding population of harbor seals in California and is used by tens of thousands of shorebirds and waterfowl and dozens of species of native fish. Your draft environmental impact statement makes clear that the existing commercial oyster operation is causing extensive damage to Drakes Estero and the Seashore's beaches, and that allowing these operations to continue would cause even more long-term harm.

Your environmental review also shows that alternative "A"--no new permit for commercial oyster operations and protection of the Estero as full wilderness--is the environmentally preferred alternative and the one that best protects harbor seals, birds, fish and other natural resources.

I urge you to return Drakes Estero to all Americans by selecting alternative "A" and ensuring full wilderness protection for Drakes Estero in 2012. It is time to protect Drakes Estero as Congress intended and to create the West Coast's only marine wilderness for the benefit of people and wildlife.

Correspondence ID: 48107 **Project:** 33043 **Document:** 43390
Name: Thompson, Laura
Outside Organization: National Wildlife Federation Action Fund Unaffiliated Individual
Received: Nov,30,2011 06:07:19
Correspondence Type: Web Form

Correspondence: Drakes Estero is the ecological heart of Point Reyes National Seashore and a treasure that belongs to all Americans. In 1976, Congress promised that the Estero would receive full wilderness protection when the current lease for commercial oyster

operations expires in 2012. I urge the Park Service to honor the wilderness promise and protect Drakes Estero for future generations.

Drakes Estero is home to 20 percent of the mainland breeding population of harbor seals in California and is used by tens of thousands of shorebirds and waterfowl and dozens of species of native fish. Your draft environmental impact statement makes clear that the existing commercial oyster operation is causing extensive damage to Drakes Estero and the Seashore's beaches, and that allowing these operations to continue would cause even more long-term harm.

Your environmental review also shows that alternative "A"--no new permit for commercial oyster operations and protection of the Estero as full wilderness--is the environmentally preferred alternative and the one that best protects harbor seals, birds, fish and other natural resources.

I urge you to return Drakes Estero to all Americans by selecting alternative "A" and ensuring full wilderness protection for Drakes Estero in 2012. It is time to protect Drakes Estero as Congress intended and to create the West Coast's only marine wilderness for the benefit of people and wildlife.

Correspondence ID: 48108 **Project:** 33043 **Document:** 43390
Name: Howard, Alex
Outside Organization: National Wildlife Federation Action Fund Unaffiliated Individual
Received: Nov,30,2011 06:37:19
Correspondence Type: Web Form
Correspondence: Drakes Estero is the ecological heart of Point Reyes National Seashore and a treasure that belongs to all Americans. In 1976, Congress promised that the Estero would receive full wilderness protection when the current lease for commercial oyster operations expires in 2012. I urge the Park Service to honor the wilderness promise and protect Drakes Estero for future generations.

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Your environmental review also shows that alternative "A"--no new permit for commercial oyster operations and protection of the Estero as full wilderness--is the environmentally preferred alternative and the one that best protects harbor seals, birds, fish and other natural resources.

I urge you to return Drakes Estero to all Americans by selecting alternative "A" and ensuring full wilderness protection for Drakes Estero in 2012. It is time to protect Drakes Estero as Congress intended and to create the West Coast's only marine wilderness for the benefit of people and wildlife.

Correspondence ID: 48109 **Project:** 33043 **Document:** 43390
Name: Rose, David
Outside Organization: National Wildlife Federation Action Fund Unaffiliated Individual
Received: Nov,30,2011 06:37:20
Correspondence Type: Web Form
Correspondence: Drakes Estero is the ecological heart of Point Reyes National Seashore and a treasure that belongs to all Americans. In 1976, Congress promised that the Estero would receive full wilderness protection when the current lease for commercial oyster operations expires in 2012. I urge the Park Service to honor the wilderness promise and protect Drakes Estero for future generations.

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I urge you to return Drakes Estero to all Americans by selecting alternative "A" and ensuring full wilderness protection for Drakes Estero in 2012. It is time to protect Drakes Estero as Congress intended and to create the West Coast's only marine wilderness for the benefit of people and wildlife.

Correspondence ID: 48110 **Project:** 33043 **Document:** 43390
Name: Fox, Nancy
Outside Organization: National Wildlife Federation Action Fund Unaffiliated Individual
Received: Nov,30,2011 07:07:20
Correspondence Type: Web Form

Correspondence: Drakes Estero is the ecological heart of Point Reyes National Seashore and a treasure that belongs to all Americans. In 1976, Congress promised that the Estero would receive full wilderness protection when the current lease for commercial oyster operations expires in 2012. I urge the Park Service to honor the wilderness promise and protect Drakes Estero for future generations.

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I urge you to return Drakes Estero to all Americans by selecting alternative "A" and ensuring full wilderness protection for Drakes Estero in 2012. It is time to protect Drakes Estero as Congress intended and to create the West Coast's only marine wilderness for the benefit of people and wildlife.

Correspondence ID: 48111 **Project:** 33043 **Document:** 43390
Name: Woods, Ted
Outside Organization: National Wildlife Federation Action Fund Unaffiliated Individual
Received: Nov.30,2011 07:07:20
Correspondence Type: Web Form

Correspondence: Drakes Estero is the ecological heart of Point Reyes National Seashore and a treasure that belongs to all Americans. In 1976, Congress promised that the Estero would receive full wilderness protection when the current lease for commercial oyster operations expires in 2012. I urge the Park Service to honor the wilderness promise and protect Drakes Estero for future generations.

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I urge you to return Drakes Estero to all Americans by selecting alternative "A" and ensuring full wilderness protection for Drakes Estero in 2012. It is time to protect Drakes Estero as Congress intended and to create the West Coast's only marine wilderness for the benefit of people and wildlife.

Correspondence ID: 48112 **Project:** 33043 **Document:** 43390
Name: Schnarch, Steve
Outside Organization: National Wildlife Federation Action Fund Unaffiliated Individual
Received: Nov.30,2011 07:07:20
Correspondence Type: Web Form

Correspondence: Drakes Estero is the ecological heart of Point Reyes National Seashore and a treasure that belongs to all Americans. In 1976, Congress promised that the Estero would receive full wilderness protection when the current lease for commercial oyster operations expires in 2012. I urge the Park Service to honor the wilderness promise and protect Drakes Estero for future generations.

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Your environmental review also shows that alternative "A"--no new permit for commercial oyster operations and protection of the Estero as full wilderness--is the environmentally preferred alternative and the one that best protects harbor seals, birds, fish and other natural resources.

I urge you to return Drakes Estero to all Americans by selecting alternative "A" and ensuring full wilderness protection for Drakes Estero in 2012. It is time to protect Drakes Estero as Congress intended and to create the West Coast's only marine wilderness for the benefit of people and wildlife.

Correspondence ID: 48113 **Project:** 33043 **Document:** 43390
Name: MacHaffie, Eileen
Outside Organization: National Wildlife Federation Action Fund Unaffiliated Individual

Received: Nov.30,2011 07:07:20

Correspondence Type: Web Form

Correspondence: Drakes Estero is the ecological heart of Point Reyes National Seashore and a treasure that belongs to all Americans. In 1976, Congress promised that the Estero would receive full wilderness protection when the current lease for commercial oyster operations expires in 2012. I urge the Park Service to honor the wilderness promise and protect Drakes Estero for future generations.

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Your environmental review also shows that alternative "A"--no new permit for commercial oyster operations and protection of the Estero as full wilderness--is the environmentally preferred alternative and the one that best protects harbor seals, birds, fish and other natural resources.

I urge you to return Drakes Estero to all Americans by selecting alternative "A" and ensuring full wilderness protection for Drakes Estero in 2012. It is time to protect Drakes Estero as Congress intended and to create the West Coast's only marine wilderness for the benefit of people and wildlife.

Correspondence ID: 48114 **Project:** 33043 **Document:** 43390

Name: Kim, Joyce

Outside Organization: National Wildlife Federation Action Fund Unaffiliated Individual

Received: Nov.30,2011 07:37:23

Correspondence Type: Web Form

Correspondence: Drakes Estero is the ecological heart of Point Reyes National Seashore and a treasure that belongs to all Americans. In 1976, Congress promised that the Estero would receive full wilderness protection when the current lease for commercial oyster operations expires in 2012. I urge the Park Service to honor the wilderness promise and protect Drakes Estero for future generations.

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I urge you to return Drakes Estero to all Americans by selecting alternative "A" and ensuring full wilderness protection for Drakes Estero in 2012. It is time to protect Drakes Estero as Congress intended and to create the West Coast's only marine wilderness for the benefit of people and wildlife.

Correspondence ID: 48115 **Project:** 33043 **Document:** 43390

Name: Crocker, Deborah

Outside Organization: National Wildlife Federation Action Fund Unaffiliated Individual

Received: Nov.30,2011 07:37:23

Correspondence Type: Web Form

Correspondence: Drakes Estero is the ecological heart of Point Reyes National Seashore and a treasure that belongs to all Americans. In 1976, Congress promised that the Estero would receive full wilderness protection when the current lease for commercial oyster operations expires in 2012. I urge the Park Service to honor the wilderness promise and protect Drakes Estero for future generations.

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I urge you to return Drakes Estero to all Americans by selecting alternative "A" and ensuring full wilderness protection for Drakes Estero in 2012. It is time to protect Drakes Estero as Congress intended and to create the West Coast's only marine wilderness for the benefit of people and wildlife.

Correspondence ID: 48116 **Project:** 33043 **Document:** 43390

Name: Reed, Sarah Goslee
Outside Organization: National Wildlife Federation Action Fund Unaffiliated Individual
Received: Nov,30,2011 07:37:23
Correspondence Type: Web Form
Correspondence: Drakes Estero is the ecological heart of Point Reyes National Seashore and a treasure that belongs to all Americans. In 1976, Congress promised that the Estero would receive full wilderness protection when the current lease for commercial oyster operations expires in 2012. I urge the Park Service to honor the wilderness promise and protect Drakes Estero for future generations.

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I urge you to return Drakes Estero to all Americans by selecting alternative "A" and ensuring full wilderness protection for Drakes Estero in 2012. It is time to protect Drakes Estero as Congress intended and to create the West Coast's only marine wilderness for the benefit of people and wildlife.

Correspondence ID: 48117 **Project:** 33043 **Document:** 43390
Name: Gioielli, Lawrence
Outside Organization: National Wildlife Federation Action Fund Unaffiliated Individual
Received: Nov,30,2011 07:37:23
Correspondence Type: Web Form
Correspondence: Drakes Estero is the ecological heart of Point Reyes National Seashore and a treasure that belongs to all Americans. In 1976, Congress promised that the Estero would receive full wilderness protection when the current lease for commercial oyster operations expires in 2012. I urge the Park Service to honor the wilderness promise and protect Drakes Estero for future generations.

Drakes Estero is home to 20 percent of the mainland breeding population of harbor seals in California and is used by tens of thousands of shorebirds and waterfowl and dozens of species of native fish. Your draft environmental impact statement makes clear that the existing commercial oyster operation is causing extensive damage to Drakes Estero and the Seashore's beaches, and that allowing these operations to continue would cause even more long-term harm.

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I urge you to return Drakes Estero to all Americans by selecting alternative "A" and ensuring full wilderness protection for Drakes Estero in 2012. It is time to protect Drakes Estero as Congress intended and to create the West Coast's only marine wilderness for the benefit of people and wildlife.

Correspondence ID: 48118 **Project:** 33043 **Document:** 43390
Name: Krout, Megan
Outside Organization: National Wildlife Federation Action Fund Unaffiliated Individual
Received: Nov,30,2011 07:37:26
Correspondence Type: Web Form
Correspondence: Drakes Estero is the ecological heart of Point Reyes National Seashore and a treasure that belongs to all Americans. In 1976, Congress promised that the Estero would receive full wilderness protection when the current lease for commercial oyster operations expires in 2012. I urge the Park Service to honor the wilderness promise and protect Drakes Estero for future generations.

Drakes Estero is home to 20 percent of the mainland breeding population of harbor seals in California and is used by tens of thousands of shorebirds and waterfowl and dozens of species of native fish. Your draft environmental impact statement makes clear that the existing commercial oyster operation is causing extensive damage to Drakes Estero and the Seashore's beaches, and that allowing these operations to continue would cause even more long-term harm.

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I urge you to return Drakes Estero to all Americans by selecting alternative "A" and ensuring full wilderness protection for Drakes Estero in 2012. It is time to protect Drakes Estero as Congress intended and to create the West Coast's only marine wilderness for the benefit of people and wildlife.

Correspondence ID: 48119 **Project:** 33043 **Document:** 43390
Name: Silverstein, Barbara
Outside Organization: National Wildlife Federation Action Fund Unaffiliated Individual
Received: Nov.30,2011 07:37:27
Correspondence Type: Web Form

Correspondence: Drakes Estero is the ecological heart of Point Reyes National Seashore and a treasure that belongs to all Americans. In 1976, Congress promised that the Estero would receive full wilderness protection when the current lease for commercial oyster operations expires in 2012. I urge the Park Service to honor the wilderness promise and protect Drakes Estero for future generations.

Drakes Estero is home to 20 percent of the mainland breeding population of harbor seals in California and is used by tens of thousands of shorebirds and waterfowl and dozens of species of native fish. Your draft environmental impact statement makes clear that the existing commercial oyster operation is causing extensive damage to Drakes Estero and the Seashore's beaches, and that allowing these operations to continue would cause even more long-term harm.

Your environmental review also shows that alternative "A"--no new permit for commercial oyster operations and protection of the Estero as full wilderness--is the environmentally preferred alternative and the one that best protects harbor seals, birds, fish and other natural resources.

I urge you to return Drakes Estero to all Americans by selecting alternative "A" and ensuring full wilderness protection for Drakes Estero in 2012. It is time to protect Drakes Estero as Congress intended and to create the West Coast's only marine wilderness for the benefit of people and wildlife.

Correspondence ID: 48120 **Project:** 33043 **Document:** 43390
Name: savage, lucas
Outside Organization: National Wildlife Federation Action Fund Unaffiliated Individual
Received: Nov.30,2011 07:37:29
Correspondence Type: Web Form

Correspondence: Drakes Estero is the ecological heart of Point Reyes National Seashore and a treasure that belongs to all Americans. In 1976, Congress promised that the Estero would receive full wilderness protection when the current lease for commercial oyster operations expires in 2012. I urge the Park Service to honor the wilderness promise and protect Drakes Estero for future generations.

Drakes Estero is home to 20 percent of the mainland breeding population of harbor seals in California and is used by tens of thousands of shorebirds and waterfowl and dozens of species of native fish. Your draft environmental impact statement makes clear that the existing commercial oyster operation is causing extensive damage to Drakes Estero and the Seashore's beaches, and that allowing these operations to continue would cause even more long-term harm.

Your environmental review also shows that alternative "A"--no new permit for commercial oyster operations and protection of the Estero as full wilderness--is the environmentally preferred alternative and the one that best protects harbor seals, birds, fish and other natural resources.

I urge you to return Drakes Estero to all Americans by selecting alternative "A" and ensuring full wilderness protection for Drakes Estero in 2012. It is time to protect Drakes Estero as Congress intended and to create the West Coast's only marine wilderness for the benefit of people and wildlife.

Correspondence ID: 48121 **Project:** 33043 **Document:** 43390
Name: Khalil, Mary F.
Outside Organization: National Wildlife Federation Action Fund Unaffiliated Individual
Received: Nov.30,2011 07:37:29
Correspondence Type: Web Form

Correspondence: Drakes Estero is the ecological heart of Point Reyes National Seashore and a treasure that belongs to all Americans. In 1976, Congress promised that the Estero would receive full wilderness protection when the current lease for commercial oyster operations expires in 2012. I urge the Park Service to honor the wilderness promise and protect Drakes Estero for future generations.

Drakes Estero is home to 20 percent of the mainland breeding population of harbor seals in California and is used by tens of thousands of shorebirds and waterfowl and dozens of species of native fish. Your draft environmental impact statement makes clear that the existing commercial oyster operation is causing extensive damage to Drakes Estero and the Seashore's beaches, and that allowing these operations to continue would cause even more long-term harm.

Your environmental review also shows that alternative "A"--no new permit for commercial oyster operations and protection of the Estero as full wilderness--is the environmentally preferred alternative and the one that best protects harbor seals, birds, fish and other natural resources.

I urge you to return Drakes Estero to all Americans by selecting alternative "A" and ensuring full wilderness protection for

Drakes Estero in 2012. It is time to protect Drakes Estero as Congress intended and to create the West Coast's only marine wilderness for the benefit of people and wildlife.

Correspondence ID: 48122 **Project:** 33043 **Document:** 43390
Name: Anderson, Marc
Outside Organization: National Parks Conservation Association Unaffiliated Individual
Received: Nov,30,2011 07:39:47
Correspondence Type: Web Form
Correspondence: I urge you to protect Drakes Estero wilderness next year, as long intended. It is in the public interest to create the West Coast's only marine wilderness for the enjoyment of all. The public has waited nearly four decades for these protections to be implemented, which is an immense compromise in itself. Drakes Estero is a rare wildlife refuge where migrating birds stop over, harbor seals give birth, and fish take shelter in eelgrass. As someone who enjoys our nation's national parks and their wildlife, I urge you to uphold the longstanding plan to convert this very special resource to wilderness.

I urge you to select alternative "A", which protects marine wilderness next year and is the Environmentally Preferred Alternative. The National Park Service is mandated to provide maximum protection to the natural resources at Drakes Estero and selecting this alternative is the most consistent with the laws and policies affecting this park. Our national parks are set aside for the public and for wildlife protection, and after waiting nearly 40 years for private commercial use rights to expire, it's time to give the estuary the protection it needs. The environmental review shows that alternative "A" is best for public policy, and best protects harbor seals, fish, birds and other natural resources. Drakes Estero is our only marine wilderness on the West Coast, and is irreplaceable, while oysters can be commercially grown elsewhere.

Please honor the promise made for a protected marine wilderness at Drakes Estero. In doing so, you will set a good policy example and reward the public with an enduring legacy feat found nowhere else on the West Coast.

Correspondence ID: 48123 **Project:** 33043 **Document:** 43390
Name: Makovkin, Tatiana
Outside Organization: Sierra Club Unaffiliated Individual
Received: Nov,30,2011 00:00:00
Correspondence Type: Web Form
Correspondence: Of course we should save and conserve Pt Reyes. ARE YOU KIDDING ME?!! Why is this even a question? Are you crazy? YES, PRESERVE PT REYES. Good grief.

Sincerely, Tatiana Makovkin 15126 Carrie Drive Grass Valley, Ca 95945

I urge the National Park Service and the Department of the Interior to select alternative "A", which protects marine wilderness and is the environmentally preferred alternative. The NPS is mandated to provide maximum protection to the natural resources, as stated in the Seashore's legislation, and selecting this alternative is the most consistent with the laws and policies affecting this park. Our national parks are for the people and wildlife protection, not commercial exploitation. The environmental review shows that alternative "A" best protects harbor seals, fish, birds and other wildlife and plants. Drakes Estero is our only marine wilderness on the West Coast, and it is irreplaceable, while oysters can be grown elsewhere.

National Parks and wilderness areas are treasured by the majority of Americans and are for the public interest, not for private commercial exploitation. By protecting wilderness, the National Park Service will set a positive policy example while commercializing it will set a negative example and help others seek their special exemptions from national park laws.

Correspondence ID: 48124 **Project:** 33043 **Document:** 43390
Name: Bronstein, Sara A
Outside Organization: Unaffiliated Individual
Received: Nov,30,2011 08:03:10
Correspondence Type: Web Form
Correspondence: Please renew the Oyster Farm's permit for the next ten years. At this critical time in the state and nation we hope you will understand that the Oyster Farm is setting an example as a good employer; offers a unique product and has a proud tradition. Preserving more of the seashore does not seem like the best alternative.

I understand this is a sensitive issue and hope you will rule in favor of the Oyster Farm.

Sara A. Bronstein

Correspondence ID: 48125 **Project:** 33043 **Document:** 43390
Name: higgs, brad
Outside Organization: National Wildlife Federation Action Fund Unaffiliated Individual
Received: Nov,30,2011 08:07:25
Correspondence Type: Web Form
Correspondence: Drakes Estero is the ecological heart of Point Reyes National Seashore and a treasure that belongs to all Americans. In 1976, Congress promised that the Estero would receive full wilderness protection when the current lease for commercial oyster operations expires in 2012. I urge the Park Service to honor the wilderness promise and protect Drakes Estero for future generations.

Drakes Estero is home to 20 percent of the mainland breeding population of harbor seals in California and is used by tens of thousands of shorebirds and waterfowl and dozens of species of native fish. Your draft environmental impact statement makes clear that the existing commercial oyster operation is causing extensive damage to Drakes Estero and the Seashore's beaches, and that allowing these operations to continue would cause even more long-term harm.

Your environmental review also shows that alternative "A"--no new permit for commercial oyster operations and protection of the Estero as full wilderness--is the environmentally preferred alternative and the one that best protects harbor seals, birds, fish and other natural resources.

I urge you to return Drakes Estero to all Americans by selecting alternative "A" and ensuring full wilderness protection for Drakes Estero in 2012. It is time to protect Drakes Estero as Congress intended and to create the West Coast's only marine wilderness for the benefit of people and wildlife.

Correspondence ID: 48126 **Project:** 33043 **Document:** 43390
Name: wilbourn, pam
Outside Organization: National Wildlife Federation Action Fund Unaffiliated Individual
Received: Nov,30,2011 08:07:25
Correspondence Type: Web Form

Correspondence: Drakes Estero is the ecological heart of Point Reyes National Seashore and a treasure that belongs to all Americans. In 1976, Congress promised that the Estero would receive full wilderness protection when the current lease for commercial oyster operations expires in 2012. I urge the Park Service to honor the wilderness promise and protect Drakes Estero for future generations.

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Correspondence ID: 48127 **Project:** 33043 **Document:** 43390
Name: Charles, Jennifer
Outside Organization: National Wildlife Federation Action Fund Unaffiliated Individual
Received: Nov,30,2011 08:07:25
Correspondence Type: Web Form

Correspondence: Drakes Estero is the ecological heart of Point Reyes National Seashore and a treasure that belongs to all Americans. In 1976, Congress promised that the Estero would receive full wilderness protection when the current lease for commercial oyster operations expires in 2012. I urge the Park Service to honor the wilderness promise and protect Drakes Estero for future generations.

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I urge you to return Drakes Estero to all Americans by selecting alternative "A" and ensuring full wilderness protection for Drakes Estero in 2012. It is time to protect Drakes Estero as Congress intended and to create the West Coast's only marine wilderness for the benefit of people and wildlife.

Correspondence ID: 48128 **Project:** 33043 **Document:** 43390
Name: Morris, Maryellen A
Outside Organization: National Wildlife Federation Action Fund Unaffiliated Individual
Received: Nov,30,2011 08:07:25
Correspondence Type: Web Form

Correspondence: Drakes Estero is the ecological heart of Point Reyes National Seashore and a treasure that belongs to all Americans. In 1976, Congress promised that the Estero would receive full wilderness protection when the current lease for commercial oyster

operations expires in 2012. I urge the Park Service to honor the wilderness promise and protect Drakes Estero for future generations.

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Correspondence ID: 48129 **Project:** 33043 **Document:** 43390
Name: wilbourn, pam
Outside Organization: National Wildlife Federation Action Fund Unaffiliated Individual
Received: Nov,30,2011 08:07:28
Correspondence Type: Web Form
Correspondence: Drakes Estero is the ecological heart of Point Reyes National Seashore and a treasure that belongs to all Americans. In 1976, Congress promised that the Estero would receive full wilderness protection when the current lease for commercial oyster operations expires in 2012. I urge the Park Service to honor the wilderness promise and protect Drakes Estero for future generations.

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Correspondence ID: 48130 **Project:** 33043 **Document:** 43390
Name: Watkin, Evelyn
Outside Organization: NRDC Unaffiliated Individual
Received: Nov,30,2011 08:13:31
Correspondence Type: Web Form
Correspondence: Drakes Estero is a national ecological treasure and should become a protected wilderness area. It has outstanding natural resources, including one of California's largest harbor seal colonies and tens of thousands of shorebirds, waterfowl, native fish and endangered species that use its wetlands, mudflats and eelgrass beds.

In the 1976 Point Reyes Wilderness Act, Congress recognized Drakes Estero as a unique recreational and biological resource and promised that this irreplaceable resource would formally become a wilderness area when non-conforming uses were eliminated. Your agency permitted a commercial oyster company to grow non-native oysters and clams on 1,050 acres in Drakes Estero for 40 years, or until 2012.

Your own draft environmental impact statement reveals the extensive damage that the existing operation has caused to Drakes Estero and Point Reyes National Seashore's beaches. As you know, commercial operations of any kind are not permitted in designated wilderness areas because of such damage. Further, the Park Service's Organic Act mandates protection of park resources and values and strictly limits commercial operations.

Your approval of the proposal to extend the oyster company's permit would be contrary to the Point Reyes Wilderness Act and would establish a dangerous precedent at a time when America's public lands and environmental laws are already under widespread attacks in Congress and elsewhere.

We've been waiting long enough. It is time to allow that permit to expire and to honor Congress' commitment. We want our bay back.

Correspondence ID: 48131 **Project:** 33043 **Document:** 43390
Name: Shearer, Erik

Outside Organization: National Wildlife Federation Action Fund Unaffiliated Individual
Received: Nov,30,2011 08:37:27
Correspondence Type: Web Form
Correspondence: Drakes Estero is the ecological heart of Point Reyes National Seashore and a treasure that belongs to all Americans. In 1976, Congress promised that the Estero would receive full wilderness protection when the current lease for commercial oyster operations expires in 2012. I urge the Park Service to honor the wilderness promise and protect Drakes Estero for future generations.

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I urge you to return Drakes Estero to all Americans by selecting alternative "A" and ensuring full wilderness protection for Drakes Estero in 2012. It is time to protect Drakes Estero as Congress intended and to create the West Coast's only marine wilderness for the benefit of people and wildlife.

Correspondence ID: 48132 **Project:** 33043 **Document:** 43390
Name: Simon, Nancy
Outside Organization: National Wildlife Federation Action Fund Unaffiliated Individual
Received: Nov,30,2011 08:37:27
Correspondence Type: Web Form
Correspondence: Drakes Estero is the ecological heart of Point Reyes National Seashore and a treasure that belongs to all Americans. In 1976, Congress promised that the Estero would receive full wilderness protection when the current lease for commercial oyster operations expires in 2012. I urge the Park Service to honor the wilderness promise and protect Drakes Estero for future generations.

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Correspondence ID: 48133 **Project:** 33043 **Document:** 43390
Name: Silva, Jamie
Outside Organization: National Wildlife Federation Action Fund Unaffiliated Individual
Received: Nov,30,2011 08:37:27
Correspondence Type: Web Form
Correspondence: Drakes Estero is the ecological heart of Point Reyes National Seashore and a treasure that belongs to all Americans. In 1976, Congress promised that the Estero would receive full wilderness protection when the current lease for commercial oyster operations expires in 2012. I urge the Park Service to honor the wilderness promise and protect Drakes Estero for future generations.

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Correspondence ID: 48134 **Project:** 33043 **Document:** 43390
Name: Torres, Aaron
Outside Organization: National Wildlife Federation Action Fund Unaffiliated Individual
Received: Nov.30,2011 08:37:27
Correspondence Type: Web Form

Correspondence: Drakes Estero is the ecological heart of Point Reyes National Seashore and a treasure that belongs to all Americans. In 1976, Congress promised that the Estero would receive full wilderness protection when the current lease for commercial oyster operations expires in 2012. I urge the Park Service to honor the wilderness promise and protect Drakes Estero for future generations.

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Correspondence ID: 48135 **Project:** 33043 **Document:** 43390
Name: akinbode, adenike
Outside Organization: National Wildlife Federation Action Fund Unaffiliated Individual
Received: Nov.30,2011 08:37:27
Correspondence Type: Web Form

Correspondence: Drakes Estero is the ecological heart of Point Reyes National Seashore and a treasure that belongs to all Americans. In 1976, Congress promised that the Estero would receive full wilderness protection when the current lease for commercial oyster operations expires in 2012. I urge the Park Service to honor the wilderness promise and protect Drakes Estero for future generations.

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Correspondence ID: 48136 **Project:** 33043 **Document:** 43390
Name: Carter, William k
Outside Organization: Unaffiliated Individual
Received: Nov.30,2011 08:37:32
Correspondence Type: Web Form

Correspondence: I support a RENEWABLE Special Use Permit for Drakes Bay Oyster Company...

Correspondence ID: 48137 **Project:** 33043 **Document:** 43390
Name: Meek, Pat K
Outside Organization: Self Unaffiliated Individual
Received: Nov.30,2011 08:42:28
Correspondence Type: Web Form

Correspondence: I don't feel closing Drake'Bay is in the best interest of the puplic. My family have been visiting Drake' Bay for four generations.I do not think they are a threat to the enviornment.

Correspondence ID: 48138 **Project:** 33043 **Document:** 43390
Name: Cox, Sherry
Outside Organization: NRDC Unaffiliated Individual
Received: Nov.30,2011 08:43:31
Correspondence Type: Web Form

Correspondence: Drakes Estero is a national ecological treasure and should become a protected wilderness area. It has outstanding natural resources, including one of California's largest harbor seal colonies and tens of thousands of shorebirds, waterfowl, native fish

and endangered species that use its wetlands, mudflats and eelgrass beds.

In the 1976 Point Reyes Wilderness Act, Congress recognized Drakes Estero as a unique recreational and biological resource and promised that this irreplaceable resource would formally become a wilderness area when non-conforming uses were eliminated. Your agency permitted a commercial oyster company to grow non-native oysters and clams on 1,050 acres in Drakes Estero for 40 years, or until 2012.

Your own draft environmental impact statement reveals the extensive damage that the existing operation has caused to Drakes Estero and Point Reyes National Seashore's beaches. As you know, commercial operations of any kind are not permitted in designated wilderness areas because of such damage. Further, the Park Service's Organic Act mandates protection of park resources and values and strictly limits commercial operations.

Your approval of the proposal to extend the oyster company's permit would be contrary to the Point Reyes Wilderness Act and would establish a dangerous precedent at a time when America's public lands and environmental laws are already under widespread attacks in Congress and elsewhere.

We've been waiting long enough. It is time to allow that permit to expire and to honor Congress' commitment. We want our bay back.

Correspondence ID: 48139 **Project:** 33043 **Document:** 43390

Name: Pinckard, D M

Outside Organization: National Wildlife Federation Action Fund Unaffiliated Individual

Received: Nov,30,2011 09:07:32

Correspondence Type: Web Form

Correspondence: Drakes Estero is the ecological heart of Point Reyes National Seashore and a treasure that belongs to all Americans. In 1976, Congress promised that the Estero would receive full wilderness protection when the current lease for commercial oyster operations expires in 2012. I urge the Park Service to honor the wilderness promise and protect Drakes Estero for future generations.

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Correspondence ID: 48140 **Project:** 33043 **Document:** 43390

Name: Elsayed, Christina

Outside Organization: National Wildlife Federation Action Fund Unaffiliated Individual

Received: Nov,30,2011 09:07:32

Correspondence Type: Web Form

Correspondence: Drakes Estero is the ecological heart of Point Reyes National Seashore and a treasure that belongs to all Americans. In 1976, Congress promised that the Estero would receive full wilderness protection when the current lease for commercial oyster operations expires in 2012. I urge the Park Service to honor the wilderness promise and protect Drakes Estero for future generations.

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Correspondence ID: 48141 **Project:** 33043 **Document:** 43390

Name: Long, Bonnie

Outside Organization: National Wildlife Federation Action Fund Unaffiliated Individual
Received: Nov,30,2011 09:07:32
Correspondence Type: Web Form
Correspondence: Drakes Estero is the ecological heart of Point Reyes National Seashore and a treasure that belongs to all Americans. In 1976, Congress promised that the Estero would receive full wilderness protection when the current lease for commercial oyster operations expires in 2012. I urge the Park Service to honor the wilderness promise and protect Drakes Estero for future generations.

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Correspondence ID: 48142 **Project:** 33043 **Document:** 43390
Name: Almanzar, Erika
Outside Organization: National Wildlife Federation Action Fund Unaffiliated Individual
Received: Nov,30,2011 09:07:32
Correspondence Type: Web Form
Correspondence: Drakes Estero is the ecological heart of Point Reyes National Seashore and a treasure that belongs to all Americans. In 1976, Congress promised that the Estero would receive full wilderness protection when the current lease for commercial oyster operations expires in 2012. I urge the Park Service to honor the wilderness promise and protect Drakes Estero for future generations.

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Correspondence ID: 48143 **Project:** 33043 **Document:** 43390
Name: karch, candace
Outside Organization: National Wildlife Federation Action Fund Unaffiliated Individual
Received: Nov,30,2011 09:07:32
Correspondence Type: Web Form
Correspondence: Drakes Estero is the ecological heart of Point Reyes National Seashore and a treasure that belongs to all Americans. In 1976, Congress promised that the Estero would receive full wilderness protection when the current lease for commercial oyster operations expires in 2012. I urge the Park Service to honor the wilderness promise and protect Drakes Estero for future generations.

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Correspondence ID: 48144 **Project:** 33043 **Document:** 43390
Name: Swanson, Mark
Outside Organization: National Wildlife Federation Action Fund Unaffiliated Individual
Received: Nov.30,2011 09:07:39
Correspondence Type: Web Form

Correspondence: Drakes Estero is the ecological heart of Point Reyes National Seashore and a treasure that belongs to all Americans. In 1976, Congress promised that the Estero would receive full wilderness protection when the current lease for commercial oyster operations expires in 2012. I urge the Park Service to honor the wilderness promise and protect Drakes Estero for future generations.

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Correspondence ID: 48145 **Project:** 33043 **Document:** 43390
Name: Mccurdy, Jim
Outside Organization: National Wildlife Federation Action Fund Unaffiliated Individual
Received: Nov.30,2011 09:07:39
Correspondence Type: Web Form

Correspondence: Drakes Estero is the ecological heart of Point Reyes National Seashore and a treasure that belongs to all Americans. In 1976, Congress promised that the Estero would receive full wilderness protection when the current lease for commercial oyster operations expires in 2012. I urge the Park Service to honor the wilderness promise and protect Drakes Estero for future generations.

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Correspondence ID: 48146 **Project:** 33043 **Document:** 43390
Name: Bryan, Edward
Outside Organization: National Wildlife Federation Action Fund Unaffiliated Individual
Received: Nov.30,2011 09:07:39
Correspondence Type: Web Form

Correspondence: Drakes Estero is the ecological heart of Point Reyes National Seashore and a treasure that belongs to all Americans. In 1976, Congress promised that the Estero would receive full wilderness protection when the current lease for commercial oyster operations expires in 2012. I urge the Park Service to honor the wilderness promise and protect Drakes Estero for future generations.

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Correspondence ID: 48147 **Project:** 33043 **Document:** 43390
Name: Cameron, Gloria
Outside Organization: National Wildlife Federation Action Fund Unaffiliated Individual
Received: Nov,30,2011 09:07:39
Correspondence Type: Web Form

Correspondence: Drakes Estero is the ecological heart of Point Reyes National Seashore and a treasure that belongs to all Americans. In 1976, Congress promised that the Estero would receive full wilderness protection when the current lease for commercial oyster operations expires in 2012. I urge the Park Service to honor the wilderness promise and protect Drakes Estero for future generations.

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Correspondence ID: 48148 **Project:** 33043 **Document:** 43390
Name: Mangels, Melanie
Outside Organization: National Parks Conservation Association Unaffiliated Individual
Received: Nov,30,2011 09:09:56
Correspondence Type: Web Form

Correspondence: I urge you to protect Drakes Estero wilderness next year, as long intended. It is in the public interest to create the West Coast's only marine wilderness for the enjoyment of all. The public has waited nearly four decades for these protections to be implemented, which is an immense compromise in itself. Drakes Estero is a rare wildlife refuge where migrating birds stop over, harbor seals give birth, and fish take shelter in eelgrass. As someone who enjoys our nation's national parks and their wildlife, I urge you to uphold the longstanding plan to convert this very special resource to wilderness.

I urge you to select alternative "A", which protects marine wilderness next year and is the Environmentally Preferred Alternative. The National Park Service is mandated to provide maximum protection to the natural resources at Drakes Estero and selecting this alternative is the most consistent with the laws and policies affecting this park. Our national parks are set aside for the public and for wildlife protection, and after waiting nearly 40 years for private commercial use rights to expire, it's time to give the estuary the protection it needs. The environmental review shows that alternative "A" is best for public policy, and best protects harbor seals, fish, birds and other natural resources. Drakes Estero is our only marine wilderness on the West Coast, and is irreplaceable, while oysters can be commercially grown elsewhere.

Please honor the promise made for a protected marine wilderness at Drakes Estero. In doing so, you will set a good policy example and reward the public with an enduring legacy feat found nowhere else on the West Coast.

Correspondence ID: 48149 **Project:** 33043 **Document:** 43390
Name: Kline, Amy
Outside Organization: National Parks Conservation Association Unaffiliated Individual
Received: Nov,30,2011 09:09:56
Correspondence Type: Web Form

Correspondence: I urge you to protect Drakes Estero wilderness next year, as long intended. It is in the public interest to create the West Coast's only marine wilderness for the enjoyment of all. The public has waited nearly four decades for these protections to be implemented, which is an immense compromise in itself. Drakes Estero is a rare wildlife refuge where migrating birds stop over, harbor seals give birth, and fish take shelter in eelgrass. As someone who enjoys our nation's national parks and their wildlife, I urge you to uphold the longstanding plan to convert this very special resource to wilderness.

I urge you to select alternative "A", which protects marine wilderness next year and is the Environmentally Preferred Alternative. The National Park Service is mandated to provide maximum protection to the natural resources at Drakes Estero and selecting this alternative is the most consistent with the laws and policies affecting this park. Our national parks are set aside for the public and for wildlife protection, and after waiting nearly 40 years for private commercial use rights to expire, it's time to give the estuary the protection it needs. The environmental review shows that alternative "A" is best for public policy, and best protects harbor seals, fish, birds and other natural resources. Drakes Estero is our only marine wilderness on the West Coast, and is irreplaceable, while oysters can be commercially grown elsewhere.

Please honor the promise made for a protected marine wilderness at Drakes Estero. In doing so, you will set a good policy example and reward the public with an enduring legacy feat found nowhere else on the West Coast.

Correspondence ID: 48150 **Project:** 33043 **Document:** 43390

Name: Herkalo, Louis

Outside Organization: NRDC Unaffiliated Individual

Received: Nov,30,2011 09:15:58

Correspondence Type: Web Form

Correspondence: Drakes Estero is a national ecological treasure and should become a protected wilderness area. It has outstanding natural resources, including one of California's largest harbor seal colonies and tens of thousands of shorebirds, waterfowl, native fish and endangered species that use its wetlands, mudflats and eelgrass beds.

In the 1976 Point Reyes Wilderness Act, Congress recognized Drakes Estero as a unique recreational and biological resource and promised that this irreplaceable resource would formally become a wilderness area when non-conforming uses were eliminated. Your agency permitted a commercial oyster company to grow non-native oysters and clams on 1,050 acres in Drakes Estero for 40 years, or until 2012.

Your own draft environmental impact statement reveals the extensive damage that the existing operation has caused to Drakes Estero and Point Reyes National Seashore's beaches. As you know, commercial operations of any kind are not permitted in designated wilderness areas because of such damage. Further, the Park Service's Organic Act mandates protection of park resources and values and strictly limits commercial operations.

Your approval of the proposal to extend the oyster company's permit would be contrary to the Point Reyes Wilderness Act and would establish a dangerous precedent at a time when America's public lands and environmental laws are already under widespread attacks in Congress and elsewhere.

We've been waiting long enough. It is time to allow that permit to expire and to honor Congress' commitment. We want our bay back.

Correspondence ID: 48151 **Project:** 33043 **Document:** 43390

Name: Schimmel, Nancy

Outside Organization: Sierra Club Unaffiliated Individual

Received: Nov,30,2011 00:00:00

Correspondence Type: Web Form

Correspondence: Pt. Reyes National Seashore is one of my favorite getaways from my over-scheduled life in Berkeley. I hope the original plan will be carried out.

I am writing to urge the National Park Service to protect Drakes Estero wilderness next year as long-intended. The American public deserves to have the West Coast's only marine wilderness protected for future generations to enjoy. Drakes Estero is a rare wildlife refuge where migrating birds stop over, harbor seals give birth, and fish spawn. It deserves the highest level of protection as Congress long-intended. As someone who enjoys our nation's spectacular national parks, I urge you to not undermine protections at Drakes Estero and succumb to special interests seeking to commercialize these special places.

I urge the National Park Service and the Department of the Interior to select alternative "A", which protects marine wilderness and is the environmentally preferred alternative. The NPS is mandated to provide maximum protection to the natural resources, as stated in the Seashore's legislation, and selecting this alternative is the most consistent with the laws and policies affecting this park. Our national parks are for the people and wildlife protection, not commercial exploitation. The environmental review shows that alternative "A" best protects harbor seals, fish, birds and other wildlife and plants. Drakes Estero is our only marine wilderness on the West Coast, and it is irreplaceable, while oysters can be grown elsewhere.

National Parks and wilderness areas are treasured by the majority of Americans and are for the public interest, not for private commercial exploitation. By protecting wilderness, the National Park Service will set a positive policy example while commercializing it will set a negative example and help others seek their special exemptions from national park laws.

Correspondence ID: 48152 **Project:** 33043 **Document:** 43390

Name: Martiniak@sbcglobal.net, Donald

Outside Organization: National Wildlife Federation Action Fund Unaffiliated Individual

Received: Nov,30,2011 09:37:35

Correspondence Type: Web Form

Correspondence: Drakes Estero is the ecological heart of Point Reyes National Seashore and a treasure that belongs to all Americans. In 1976, Congress promised that the Estero would receive full wilderness protection when the current lease for commercial oyster operations expires in 2012. I urge the Park Service to honor the wilderness promise and protect Drakes Estero for future generations.

Drakes Estero is home to 20 percent of the mainland breeding population of harbor seals in California and is used by tens of thousands of shorebirds and waterfowl and dozens of species of native fish. Your draft environmental impact statement makes clear that the existing commercial oyster operation is causing extensive damage to Drakes Estero and the Seashore's beaches, and that allowing these operations to continue would cause even more long-term harm.

Your environmental review also shows that alternative "A"--no new permit for commercial oyster operations and protection of the Estero as full wilderness--is the environmentally preferred alternative and the one that best protects harbor seals, birds, fish

and other natural resources.

I urge you to return Drakes Estero to all Americans by selecting alternative "A" and ensuring full wilderness protection for Drakes Estero in 2012. It is time to protect Drakes Estero as Congress intended and to create the West Coast's only marine wilderness for the benefit of people and wildlife.

Correspondence ID: 48153 **Project:** 33043 **Document:** 43390
Name: Kimball, Barbara
Outside Organization: National Wildlife Federation Action Fund Unaffiliated Individual
Received: Nov.30,2011 09:37:35
Correspondence Type: Web Form

Correspondence: Drakes Estero is the ecological heart of Point Reyes National Seashore and a treasure that belongs to all Americans. In 1976, Congress promised that the Estero would receive full wilderness protection when the current lease for commercial oyster operations expires in 2012. I urge the Park Service to honor the wilderness promise and protect Drakes Estero for future generations.

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Your environmental review also shows that alternative "A"--no new permit for commercial oyster operations and protection of the Estero as full wilderness--is the environmentally preferred alternative and the one that best protects harbor seals, birds, fish and other natural resources.

I urge you to return Drakes Estero to all Americans by selecting alternative "A" and ensuring full wilderness protection for Drakes Estero in 2012. It is time to protect Drakes Estero as Congress intended and to create the West Coast's only marine wilderness for the benefit of people and wildlife.

Correspondence ID: 48154 **Project:** 33043 **Document:** 43390
Name: Learch, Lynn
Outside Organization: National Wildlife Federation Action Fund Unaffiliated Individual
Received: Nov.30,2011 09:37:35
Correspondence Type: Web Form

Correspondence: Drakes Estero is the ecological heart of Point Reyes National Seashore and a treasure that belongs to all Americans. In 1976, Congress promised that the Estero would receive full wilderness protection when the current lease for commercial oyster operations expires in 2012. I urge the Park Service to honor the wilderness promise and protect Drakes Estero for future generations.

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Your environmental review also shows that alternative "A"--no new permit for commercial oyster operations and protection of the Estero as full wilderness--is the environmentally preferred alternative and the one that best protects harbor seals, birds, fish and other natural resources.

I urge you to return Drakes Estero to all Americans by selecting alternative "A" and ensuring full wilderness protection for Drakes Estero in 2012. It is time to protect Drakes Estero as Congress intended and to create the West Coast's only marine wilderness for the benefit of people and wildlife.

Correspondence ID: 48155 **Project:** 33043 **Document:** 43390
Name: Fleming, Sabrina
Outside Organization: National Wildlife Federation Action Fund Unaffiliated Individual
Received: Nov.30,2011 09:37:35
Correspondence Type: Web Form

Correspondence: Drakes Estero is the ecological heart of Point Reyes National Seashore and a treasure that belongs to all Americans. In 1976, Congress promised that the Estero would receive full wilderness protection when the current lease for commercial oyster operations expires in 2012. I urge the Park Service to honor the wilderness promise and protect Drakes Estero for future generations.

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I urge you to return Drakes Estero to all Americans by selecting alternative "A" and ensuring full wilderness protection for Drakes Estero in 2012. It is time to protect Drakes Estero as Congress intended and to create the West Coast's only marine wilderness for the benefit of people and wildlife.

Correspondence ID: 48156 **Project:** 33043 **Document:** 43390
Name: O'Leary, Janice
Outside Organization: National Wildlife Federation Action Fund Unaffiliated Individual
Received: Nov.30,2011 09:37:35
Correspondence Type: Web Form
Correspondence: Drakes Estero is the ecological heart of Point Reyes National Seashore and a treasure that belongs to all Americans. In 1976, Congress promised that the Estero would receive full wilderness protection when the current lease for commercial oyster operations expires in 2012. I urge the Park Service to honor the wilderness promise and protect Drakes Estero for future generations.

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Your environmental review also shows that alternative "A"--no new permit for commercial oyster operations and protection of the Estero as full wilderness--is the environmentally preferred alternative and the one that best protects harbor seals, birds, fish and other natural resources.

I urge you to return Drakes Estero to all Americans by selecting alternative "A" and ensuring full wilderness protection for Drakes Estero in 2012. It is time to protect Drakes Estero as Congress intended and to create the West Coast's only marine wilderness for the benefit of people and wildlife.

Correspondence ID: 48157 **Project:** 33043 **Document:** 43390
Name: wechsler, edward
Outside Organization: National Wildlife Federation Action Fund Unaffiliated Individual
Received: Nov,30,2011 09:37:41
Correspondence Type: Web Form
Correspondence: Drakes Estero is the ecological heart of Point Reyes National Seashore and a treasure that belongs to all Americans. In 1976, Congress promised that the Estero would receive full wilderness protection when the current lease for commercial oyster operations expires in 2012. I urge the Park Service to honor the wilderness promise and protect Drakes Estero for future generations.

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I urge you to return Drakes Estero to all Americans by selecting alternative "A" and ensuring full wilderness protection for Drakes Estero in 2012. It is time to protect Drakes Estero as Congress intended and to create the West Coast's only marine wilderness for the benefit of people and wildlife.

Correspondence ID: 48158 **Project:** 33043 **Document:** 43390
Name: Jaques, Wendy
Outside Organization: National Wildlife Federation Action Fund Unaffiliated Individual
Received: Nov.30,2011 09:37:42
Correspondence Type: Web Form
Correspondence: Drakes Estero is the ecological heart of Point Reyes National Seashore and a treasure that belongs to all Americans. In 1976, Congress promised that the Estero would receive full wilderness protection when the current lease for commercial oyster operations expires in 2012. I urge the Park Service to honor the wilderness promise and protect Drakes Estero for future generations.

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and that allowing these operations to continue would cause even more long-term harm.

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I urge you to return Drakes Estero to all Americans by selecting alternative "A" and ensuring full wilderness protection for Drakes Estero in 2012. It is time to protect Drakes Estero as Congress intended and to create the West Coast's only marine wilderness for the benefit of people and wildlife.

Correspondence ID: 48159 **Project:** 33043 **Document:** 43390
Name: Russell, Laura
Outside Organization: National Wildlife Federation Action Fund Unaffiliated Individual
Received: Nov,30,2011 09:37:42
Correspondence Type: Web Form
Correspondence: Drakes Estero is the ecological heart of Point Reyes National Seashore and a treasure that belongs to all Americans. In 1976, Congress promised that the Estero would receive full wilderness protection when the current lease for commercial oyster operations expires in 2012. I urge the Park Service to honor the wilderness promise and protect Drakes Estero for future generations.

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I urge you to return Drakes Estero to all Americans by selecting alternative "A" and ensuring full wilderness protection for Drakes Estero in 2012. It is time to protect Drakes Estero as Congress intended and to create the West Coast's only marine wilderness for the benefit of people and wildlife.

Correspondence ID: 48160 **Project:** 33043 **Document:** 43390
Name: Welborn, Sharon
Outside Organization: National Wildlife Federation Action Fund Unaffiliated Individual
Received: Nov,30,2011 09:37:42
Correspondence Type: Web Form
Correspondence: Drakes Estero is the ecological heart of Point Reyes National Seashore and a treasure that belongs to all Americans. In 1976, Congress promised that the Estero would receive full wilderness protection when the current lease for commercial oyster operations expires in 2012. I urge the Park Service to honor the wilderness promise and protect Drakes Estero for future generations.

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I urge you to return Drakes Estero to all Americans by selecting alternative "A" and ensuring full wilderness protection for Drakes Estero in 2012. It is time to protect Drakes Estero as Congress intended and to create the West Coast's only marine wilderness for the benefit of people and wildlife.

Correspondence ID: 48161 **Project:** 33043 **Document:** 43390
Name: GHIARDI, MARGARET
Outside Organization: National Wildlife Federation Action Fund Unaffiliated Individual
Received: Nov,30,2011 09:37:42
Correspondence Type: Web Form
Correspondence: Drakes Estero is the ecological heart of Point Reyes National Seashore and a treasure that belongs to all Americans. In 1976, Congress promised that the Estero would receive full wilderness protection when the current lease for commercial oyster operations expires in 2012. I urge the Park Service to honor the wilderness promise and protect Drakes Estero for future generations.

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I urge you to return Drakes Estero to all Americans by selecting alternative "A" and ensuring full wilderness protection for Drakes Estero in 2012. It is time to protect Drakes Estero as Congress intended and to create the West Coast's only marine wilderness for the benefit of people and wildlife.

Correspondence ID: 48162 **Project:** 33043 **Document:** 43390
Name: Garcia, Nancy
Outside Organization: National Wildlife Federation Action Fund Unaffiliated Individual
Received: Nov.30,2011 09:37:46
Correspondence Type: Web Form
Correspondence: Drakes Estero is the ecological heart of Point Reyes National Seashore and a treasure that belongs to all Americans. In 1976, Congress promised that the Estero would receive full wilderness protection when the current lease for commercial oyster operations expires in 2012. I urge the Park Service to honor the wilderness promise and protect Drakes Estero for future generations.

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I urge you to return Drakes Estero to all Americans by selecting alternative "A" and ensuring full wilderness protection for Drakes Estero in 2012. It is time to protect Drakes Estero as Congress intended and to create the West Coast's only marine wilderness for the benefit of people and wildlife.

Correspondence ID: 48163 **Project:** 33043 **Document:** 43390
Name: Baker, Lynn
Outside Organization: National Wildlife Federation Action Fund Unaffiliated Individual
Received: Nov.30,2011 09:37:46
Correspondence Type: Web Form
Correspondence: Drakes Estero is the ecological heart of Point Reyes National Seashore and a treasure that belongs to all Americans. In 1976, Congress promised that the Estero would receive full wilderness protection when the current lease for commercial oyster operations expires in 2012. I urge the Park Service to honor the wilderness promise and protect Drakes Estero for future generations.

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I urge you to return Drakes Estero to all Americans by selecting alternative "A" and ensuring full wilderness protection for Drakes Estero in 2012. It is time to protect Drakes Estero as Congress intended and to create the West Coast's only marine wilderness for the benefit of people and wildlife.

Correspondence ID: 48164 **Project:** 33043 **Document:** 43390
Name: Reynolds, Peter
Outside Organization: National Wildlife Federation Action Fund Unaffiliated Individual
Received: Nov.30,2011 09:37:51
Correspondence Type: Web Form
Correspondence: Drakes Estero is the ecological heart of Point Reyes National Seashore and a treasure that belongs to all Americans. In 1976, Congress promised that the Estero would receive full wilderness protection when the current lease for commercial oyster operations expires in 2012. I urge the Park Service to honor the wilderness promise and protect Drakes Estero for future generations.

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I urge you to return Drakes Estero to all Americans by selecting alternative "A" and ensuring full wilderness protection for Drakes Estero in 2012. It is time to protect Drakes Estero as Congress intended and to create the West Coast's only marine wilderness for the benefit of people and wildlife.

Correspondence ID: 48165 **Project:** 33043 **Document:** 43390
Name: Renton, Kristen
Outside Organization: National Wildlife Federation Action Fund Unaffiliated Individual
Received: Nov.30,2011 09:37:51
Correspondence Type: Web Form

Correspondence: Drakes Estero is the ecological heart of Point Reyes National Seashore and a treasure that belongs to all Americans. In 1976, Congress promised that the Estero would receive full wilderness protection when the current lease for commercial oyster operations expires in 2012. I urge the Park Service to honor the wilderness promise and protect Drakes Estero for future generations.

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Correspondence ID: 48166 **Project:** 33043 **Document:** 43390
Name: Copeland, B
Outside Organization: National Wildlife Federation Action Fund Unaffiliated Individual
Received: Nov.30,2011 09:37:52
Correspondence Type: Web Form

Correspondence: Drakes Estero is the ecological heart of Point Reyes National Seashore and a treasure that belongs to all Americans. In 1976, Congress promised that the Estero would receive full wilderness protection when the current lease for commercial oyster operations expires in 2012. I urge the Park Service to honor the wilderness promise and protect Drakes Estero for future generations.

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Correspondence ID: 48167 **Project:** 33043 **Document:** 43390
Name: Egan De Guise, Elizabeth
Outside Organization: National Wildlife Federation Action Fund Unaffiliated Individual
Received: Nov.30,2011 09:37:52
Correspondence Type: Web Form

Correspondence: Drakes Estero is the ecological heart of Point Reyes National Seashore and a treasure that belongs to all Americans. In 1976, Congress promised that the Estero would receive full wilderness protection when the current lease for commercial oyster

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Correspondence ID: 48168 **Project:** 33043 **Document:** 43390
Name: Blair, Laura
Outside Organization: National Wildlife Federation Action Fund Unaffiliated Individual
Received: Nov.30,2011 09:37:53
Correspondence Type: Web Form
Correspondence: Drakes Estero is the ecological heart of Point Reyes National Seashore and a treasure that belongs to all Americans. In 1976, Congress promised that the Estero would receive full wilderness protection when the current lease for commercial oyster operations expires in 2012. I urge the Park Service to honor the wilderness promise and protect Drakes Estero for future generations.

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Correspondence ID: 48169 **Project:** 33043 **Document:** 43390
Name: Rhoads, Kirk
Outside Organization: NRDC Unaffiliated Individual
Received: Nov.30,2011 09:44:53
Correspondence Type: Web Form
Correspondence: Drakes Estero is a national ecological treasure and should become a protected wilderness area. It has outstanding natural resources, including one of California's largest harbor seal colonies and tens of thousands of shorebirds, waterfowl, native fish and endangered species that use its wetlands, mudflats and eelgrass beds.

In the 1976 Point Reyes Wilderness Act, Congress recognized Drakes Estero as a unique recreational and biological resource and promised that this irreplaceable resource would formally become a wilderness area when non-conforming uses were eliminated. Your agency permitted a commercial oyster company to grow non-native oysters and clams on 1,050 acres in Drakes Estero for 40 years, or until 2012.

Your own draft environmental impact statement reveals the extensive damage that the existing operation has caused to Drakes Estero and Point Reyes National Seashore's beaches. As you know, commercial operations of any kind are not permitted in designated wilderness areas because of such damage. Further, the Park Service's Organic Act mandates protection of park resources and values and strictly limits commercial operations.

Your approval of the proposal to extend the oyster company's permit would be contrary to the Point Reyes Wilderness Act and would establish a dangerous precedent at a time when America's public lands and environmental laws are already under widespread attacks in Congress and elsewhere.

We've been waiting long enough. It is time to allow that permit to expire and to honor Congress' commitment. We want our bay back.

Correspondence ID: 48170 **Project:** 33043 **Document:** 43390
Name: Bowe, Paul

Outside Organization: NRDC Unaffiliated Individual
Received: Nov,30,2011 09:45:57
Correspondence Type: Web Form
Correspondence: Drakes Estero is a national ecological treasure and should become a protected wilderness area. It has outstanding natural resources, including one of California's largest harbor seal colonies and tens of thousands of shorebirds, waterfowl, native fish and endangered species that use its wetlands, mudflats and eelgrass beds.

In the 1976 Point Reyes Wilderness Act, Congress recognized Drakes Estero as a unique recreational and biological resource and promised that this irreplaceable resource would formally become a wilderness area when non-conforming uses were eliminated. Your agency permitted a commercial oyster company to grow non-native oysters and clams on 1,050 acres in Drakes Estero for 40 years, or until 2012.

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Your approval of the proposal to extend the oyster company's permit would be contrary to the Point Reyes Wilderness Act and would establish a dangerous precedent at a time when America's public lands and environmental laws are already under widespread attacks in Congress and elsewhere.

We've been waiting long enough. It is time to allow that permit to expire and to honor Congress' commitment. We want our bay back.

Correspondence ID: 48172 **Project:** 33043 **Document:** 43390
Name: White, J
Outside Organization: NRDC Unaffiliated Individual
Received: Nov,30,2011 09:48:02
Correspondence Type: Web Form
Correspondence: Drakes Estero is a national ecological treasure and should become a protected wilderness area. It has outstanding natural resources, including one of California's largest harbor seal colonies and tens of thousands of shorebirds, waterfowl, native fish and endangered species that use its wetlands, mudflats and eelgrass beds.

In the 1976 Point Reyes Wilderness Act, Congress recognized Drakes Estero as a unique recreational and biological resource and promised that this irreplaceable resource would formally become a wilderness area when non-conforming uses were eliminated. Your agency permitted a commercial oyster company to grow non-native oysters and clams on 1,050 acres in Drakes Estero for 40 years, or until 2012.

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Correspondence ID: 48173 **Project:** 33043 **Document:** 43390
Name: Zuckerman, Barry
Outside Organization: NRDC Unaffiliated Individual
Received: Nov,30,2011 09:55:01
Correspondence Type: Web Form
Correspondence: Drakes Estero is a national ecological treasure and should become a protected wilderness area. It has outstanding natural resources, including one of California's largest harbor seal colonies and tens of thousands of shorebirds, waterfowl, native fish and endangered species that use its wetlands, mudflats and eelgrass beds.

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Correspondence ID: 48174 **Project:** 33043 **Document:** 43390
Name: Rennacker, Ann
Outside Organization: NRDC Unaffiliated Individual
Received: Nov.30,2011 09:55:07
Correspondence Type: Web Form
Correspondence: Drakes Estero is a national ecological treasure and should become a protected wilderness area. It has outstanding natural resources, including one of California's largest harbor seal colonies and tens of thousands of shorebirds, waterfowl, native fish and endangered species that use its wetlands, mudflats and eelgrass beds.

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Correspondence ID: 48175 **Project:** 33043 **Document:** 43390
Name: Rowland, Lorene
Outside Organization: NRDC Unaffiliated Individual
Received: Nov.30,2011 09:56:55
Correspondence Type: Web Form
Correspondence: Drakes Estero is a national ecological treasure and should become a protected wilderness area. It has outstanding natural resources, including one of California's largest harbor seal colonies and tens of thousands of shorebirds, waterfowl, native fish and endangered species that use its wetlands, mudflats and eelgrass beds.

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Correspondence ID: 48177 **Project:** 33043 **Document:** 43390
Name: Renton, Kristen
Outside Organization: Sierra Club Unaffiliated Individual
Received: Nov.30,2011 09:59:19
Correspondence Type: Web Form
Correspondence: I am writing to urge the National Park Service to protect Drakes Estero wilderness next year as long-intended. The American

public deserves to have the West Coast's only marine wilderness protected for future generations to enjoy. Drakes Estero is a rare wildlife refuge where migrating birds stop over, harbor seals give birth, and fish spawn. It deserves the highest level of protection as Congress long-intended. As someone who enjoys our nation's spectacular national parks, I urge you to not undermine protections at Drakes Estero and succumb to special interests seeking to commercialize these special places.

I urge the National Park Service and the Department of the Interior to select alternative "A", which protects marine wilderness and is the environmentally preferred alternative. The NPS is mandated to provide maximum protection to the natural resources, as stated in the Seashore's legislation, and selecting this alternative is the most consistent with the laws and policies affecting this park. Our national parks are for the people and wildlife protection, not commercial exploitation. The environmental review shows that alternative "A" best protects harbor seals, fish, birds and other wildlife and plants. Drakes Estero is our only marine wilderness on the West Coast, and it is irreplaceable, while oysters can be grown elsewhere.

National Parks and wilderness areas are treasured by the majority of Americans and are for the public interest, not for private commercial exploitation. By protecting wilderness, the National Park Service will set a positive policy example while commercializing it will set a negative example and help others seek their special exemptions from national park laws.

Correspondence ID: 48178 **Project:** 33043 **Document:** 43390
Name: Hatten, Lyle B
Outside Organization: Unaffiliated Individual
Received: Nov,30,2011 10:05:34
Correspondence Type: Web Form
Correspondence: None of the proposed alternatives are appropriate. I support a renewable Special Use Permit for Drakes Bay Oyster Company.

Correspondence ID: 48180 **Project:** 33043 **Document:** 43390
Name: Artemis, Diana
Outside Organization: National Wildlife Federation Action Fund Unaffiliated Individual
Received: Nov,30,2011 00:00:00
Correspondence Type: Web Form
Correspondence: Drakes Estero is home to 20 percent of the mainland breeding population of harbor seals in California and is used by tens of thousands of shorebirds and waterfowl and dozens of species of native fish.

The draft environmental impact statement shows that the existing commercial oyster operation is causing extensive damage to Drakes Estero and the Seashore's beaches, and that allowing these operations to continue would cause even more long-term harm.

Alternative "A"--no new permit for commercial oyster operations and protection of the Estero as full wilderness--is the environmentally preferred alternative and the one that best protects harbor seals, birds, fish and other natural resources.

I ask you to select alternative "A" to ensure full wilderness protection for Drakes Estero in 2012.

Correspondence ID: 48181 **Project:** 33043 **Document:** 43390
Name: berthoin, Paola
Outside Organization: National Wildlife Federation Action Fund Unaffiliated Individual
Received: Nov,30,2011 10:07:40
Correspondence Type: Web Form
Correspondence: Drakes Estero is the ecological heart of Point Reyes National Seashore and a treasure that belongs to all Americans. In 1976, Congress promised that the Estero would receive full wilderness protection when the current lease for commercial oyster operations expires in 2012. I urge the Park Service to honor the wilderness promise and protect Drakes Estero for future generations.

Drakes Estero is home to 20 percent of the mainland breeding population of harbor seals in California and is used by tens of thousands of shorebirds and waterfowl and dozens of species of native fish. Your draft environmental impact statement makes clear that the existing commercial oyster operation is causing extensive damage to Drakes Estero and the Seashore's beaches, and that allowing these operations to continue would cause even more long-term harm.

Your environmental review also shows that alternative "A"--no new permit for commercial oyster operations and protection of the Estero as full wilderness--is the environmentally preferred alternative and the one that best protects harbor seals, birds, fish and other natural resources.

I urge you to return Drakes Estero to all Americans by selecting alternative "A" and ensuring full wilderness protection for Drakes Estero in 2012. It is time to protect Drakes Estero as Congress intended and to create the West Coast's only marine wilderness for the benefit of people and wildlife.

Correspondence ID: 48182 **Project:** 33043 **Document:** 43390
Name: Marshall, Cindy
Outside Organization: National Wildlife Federation Action Fund Unaffiliated Individual
Received: Nov,30,2011 10:07:40

Correspondence Type: Web Form

Correspondence: Drakes Estero is the ecological heart of Point Reyes National Seashore and a treasure that belongs to all Americans. In 1976, Congress promised that the Estero would receive full wilderness protection when the current lease for commercial oyster operations expires in 2012. I urge the Park Service to honor the wilderness promise and protect Drakes Estero for future generations.

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Your environmental review also shows that alternative "A"--no new permit for commercial oyster operations and protection of the Estero as full wilderness--is the environmentally preferred alternative and the one that best protects harbor seals, birds, fish and other natural resources.

I urge you to return Drakes Estero to all Americans by selecting alternative "A" and ensuring full wilderness protection for Drakes Estero in 2012. It is time to protect Drakes Estero as Congress intended and to create the West Coast's only marine wilderness for the benefit of people and wildlife.

Correspondence ID:	48183	Project:	33043	Document:	43390
Name:	peacock, tom j				
Outside Organization:	independent Unaffiliated Individual				
Received:	Nov,30,2011 10:09:58				
Correspondence Type:	Web Form				
Correspondence:	Hon. Ken Salazar, Secretary Department of the Interior C Street, N.W. Washington DC 20240				

I am writing concerning the Drakes Bay Oyster Company (D.B.O.C.) in the Pt. Reyes National Seashore.

A lot has changed in the years of oyster farming at the "Point". Some 50 of those years ago the National Park was acquired and certain agreements made then and over the period concerning the existing in-holdings.

The environmental movement has advanced enormously in those 50 years, and continues to evolve. Passing of the period necessarily requires a modern assessment of the realities of what we call wilderness and related ecology. What is modern wilderness?

To be abruptly harsh, there is no pristine wilderness as envisioned by some advocates. But that is not to place rigorous reality-based value on the near wilderness the nation has worked so hard to acquire and maintain. The expansion of their appeal should replace efforts to contract public utility along with application of realistic controls. Certainly there are some magnificent examples, but impacts from agriculture; industry, energy production, chemical manufacture, and development reach across the land to every nook and cranny. Understanding this is the point. Even where there may be some areas reasonably untrammled, as the North Slope in Alaska, there are efforts to exploit for oil and mineral. Vastly greater environmentally destructive activity accompanies such activity compared to D.B.O.C.'s very minimal oyster farming impacts. And unlike what occurs in areas of the world, with the likes of the BP blowout, controls to maintain the continuations of minimal impact at Pt. Reyes are easy to make and minimal cost to enforce.

D.B.O.C. is a small business and yet the largest supplier of shellfish in the Bay Area. It is enjoyed and used by thousands and adds significantly to culinary culture and pleasure. Where else would you put it? Located in the market it is a superb example of food-producer-to-market-short-haul with all the concomitant environmental benefits. Tough to beat the combination of qualities that almost perfectly align with contemporary mores concerning local food supply and consumption.

Any EIR that would fairly find against this business would necessarily require a broader study of all the Pt. Reyes National Park ranching and other potential contaminating activities. It would, also, require the illusion of pure wilderness for the satisfaction of unrealistic extremists. It is simply unreasonable to nail one small business on a narrow environmental test. "Uncle Sam" needs to be a productive uncle not a crushing hammer, and give a pass for one small business with impressive regional influence and very manageable marine impact. Past contractual technicalities and extreme bureaucratic rigidity do not fit modern reality-based assessments.

Negligible and controllable environmental costs are easily outweighed by history and regional value. In the light of growing reality-based thinking oyster farming is an important heritage of the park, and should be celebrated, indeed, as is an educational Miwok village adjacent to the park headquarters.

Somehow an expensive mountain is being made from a tiny molehill on the shaky grounds of illusory and out dated wilderness beliefs, a narrowly constructed environmental review, and complicated somewhat contradictory past contractual arrangements.

Sincerely yours,

Tom Peacock 43 Durham Rd. San Anselmo, Ca 94960

Cc: Sen. Diane Feinstein, Sen. Barbara Boxer, Rep. Lynn Woolsey

Correspondence ID: 48184 **Project:** 33043 **Document:** 43390
Name: Nikkal, Carolyn
Outside Organization: NRDC Unaffiliated Individual
Received: Nov.30,2011 10:14:48
Correspondence Type: Web Form
Correspondence: Drakes Estero is a national ecological treasure and should become a protected wilderness area. It has outstanding natural resources, including one of California's largest harbor seal colonies and tens of thousands of shorebirds, waterfowl, native fish and endangered species that use its wetlands, mudflats and eelgrass beds.

In the 1976 Point Reyes Wilderness Act, Congress recognized Drakes Estero as a unique recreational and biological resource and promised that this irreplaceable resource would formally become a wilderness area when non-conforming uses were eliminated. Your agency permitted a commercial oyster company to grow non-native oysters and clams on 1,050 acres in Drakes Estero for 40 years, or until 2012.

Your own draft environmental impact statement reveals the extensive damage that the existing operation has caused to Drakes Estero and Point Reyes National Seashore's beaches. As you know, commercial operations of any kind are not permitted in designated wilderness areas because of such damage. Further, the Park Service's Organic Act mandates protection of park resources and values and strictly limits commercial operations.

Your approval of the proposal to extend the oyster company's permit would be contrary to the Point Reyes Wilderness Act and would establish a dangerous precedent at a time when America's public lands and environmental laws are already under widespread attacks in Congress and elsewhere.

We've been waiting long enough. It is time to allow that permit to expire and to honor Congress' commitment. We want our bay back.

Correspondence ID: 48185 **Project:** 33043 **Document:** 43390
Name: woods, zion
Outside Organization: NRDC Unaffiliated Individual
Received: Nov.30,2011 10:15:55
Correspondence Type: Web Form
Correspondence: Drakes Estero is a national ecological treasure and should become a protected wilderness area. It has outstanding natural resources, including one of California's largest harbor seal colonies and tens of thousands of shorebirds, waterfowl, native fish and endangered species that use its wetlands, mudflats and eelgrass beds.

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Correspondence ID: 48186 **Project:** 33043 **Document:** 43390
Name: Piccolo, Barbara
Outside Organization: NRDC Unaffiliated Individual
Received: Nov.30,2011 10:17:27
Correspondence Type: Web Form
Correspondence: Drakes Estero is a national ecological treasure and should become a protected wilderness area. It has outstanding natural resources, including one of California's largest harbor seal colonies and tens of thousands of shorebirds, waterfowl, native fish and endangered species that use its wetlands, mudflats and eelgrass beds.

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Correspondence ID: 48188 **Project:** 33043 **Document:** 43390
Name: Welch Lasken, Joanna
Outside Organization: NRDC Unaffiliated Individual
Received: Nov,30,2011 10:22:44
Correspondence Type: Web Form
Correspondence: Drakes Estero is a national ecological treasure and should become a protected wilderness area. It has outstanding natural resources, including one of California's largest harbor seal colonies and tens of thousands of shorebirds, waterfowl, native fish and endangered species that use its wetlands, mudflats and eelgrass beds.

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Correspondence ID: 48189 **Project:** 33043 **Document:** 43390
Name: Ornstein, Kathryn
Outside Organization: NRDC Unaffiliated Individual
Received: Nov,30,2011 10:22:49
Correspondence Type: Web Form
Correspondence: Drakes Estero is a national ecological treasure and should become a protected wilderness area. It has outstanding natural resources, including one of California's largest harbor seal colonies and tens of thousands of shorebirds, waterfowl, native fish and endangered species that use its wetlands, mudflats and eelgrass beds.

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Correspondence ID: 48190 **Project:** 33043 **Document:** 43390
Name: Ornstein, Kathryn
Outside Organization: NRDC Unaffiliated Individual
Received: Nov,30,2011 10:22:54
Correspondence Type: Web Form
Correspondence: Drakes Estero is a national ecological treasure and should become a protected wilderness area. It has outstanding natural resources, including one of California's largest harbor seal colonies and tens of thousands of shorebirds, waterfowl, native fish and endangered species that use its wetlands, mudflats and eelgrass beds.

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Correspondence ID: 48193 **Project:** 33043 **Document:** 43390
Name: Schwartz, Destiny
Outside Organization: National Wildlife Federation Action Fund Unaffiliated Individual
Received: Nov,30,2011 10:37:42
Correspondence Type: Web Form
Correspondence: Drakes Estero is the ecological heart of Point Reyes National Seashore and a treasure that belongs to all Americans. In 1976, Congress promised that the Estero would receive full wilderness protection when the current lease for commercial oyster operations expires in 2012. I urge the Park Service to honor the wilderness promise and protect Drakes Estero for future generations.

Drakes Estero is home to 20 percent of the mainland breeding population of harbor seals in California and is used by tens of thousands of shorebirds and waterfowl and dozens of species of native fish. Your draft environmental impact statement makes clear that the existing commercial oyster operation is causing extensive damage to Drakes Estero and the Seashore's beaches, and that allowing these operations to continue would cause even more long-term harm.

Your environmental review also shows that alternative "A"--no new permit for commercial oyster operations and protection of the Estero as full wilderness--is the environmentally preferred alternative and the one that best protects harbor seals, birds, fish and other natural resources.

I urge you to return Drakes Estero to all Americans by selecting alternative "A" and ensuring full wilderness protection for Drakes Estero in 2012. It is time to protect Drakes Estero as Congress intended and to create the West Coast's only marine wilderness for the benefit of people and wildlife.

Correspondence ID: 48194 **Project:** 33043 **Document:** 43390
Name: Meyer, Tanya
Outside Organization: National Wildlife Federation Action Fund Unaffiliated Individual
Received: Nov,30,2011 10:37:43
Correspondence Type: Web Form
Correspondence: Drakes Estero is the ecological heart of Point Reyes National Seashore and a treasure that belongs to all Americans. In 1976, Congress promised that the Estero would receive full wilderness protection when the current lease for commercial oyster operations expires in 2012. I urge the Park Service to honor the wilderness promise and protect Drakes Estero for future generations.

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Correspondence ID: 48195 **Project:** 33043 **Document:** 43390
Name: Gambino, Jill
Outside Organization: National Wildlife Federation Action Fund Unaffiliated Individual
Received: Nov.30,2011 10:37:43
Correspondence Type: Web Form

Correspondence: Drakes Estero is the ecological heart of Point Reyes National Seashore and a treasure that belongs to all Americans. In 1976, Congress promised that the Estero would receive full wilderness protection when the current lease for commercial oyster operations expires in 2012. I urge the Park Service to honor the wilderness promise and protect Drakes Estero for future generations.

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Correspondence ID: 48196 **Project:** 33043 **Document:** 43390
Name: Mikulka, Donna
Outside Organization: National Wildlife Federation Action Fund Unaffiliated Individual
Received: Nov.30,2011 10:37:48
Correspondence Type: Web Form

Correspondence: Drakes Estero is the ecological heart of Point Reyes National Seashore and a treasure that belongs to all Americans. In 1976, Congress promised that the Estero would receive full wilderness protection when the current lease for commercial oyster operations expires in 2012. I urge the Park Service to honor the wilderness promise and protect Drakes Estero for future generations.

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Correspondence ID: 48197 **Project:** 33043 **Document:** 43390
Name: Tabatabaei, Paria
Outside Organization: National Wildlife Federation Action Fund Unaffiliated Individual
Received: Nov.30,2011 10:37:48
Correspondence Type: Web Form

Correspondence: Drakes Estero is the ecological heart of Point Reyes National Seashore and a treasure that belongs to all Americans. In 1976, Congress promised that the Estero would receive full wilderness protection when the current lease for commercial oyster operations expires in 2012. I urge the Park Service to honor the wilderness promise and protect Drakes Estero for future generations.

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Correspondence ID: 48198 **Project:** 33043 **Document:** 43390
Name: kalka, paul
Outside Organization: National Wildlife Federation Action Fund Unaffiliated Individual
Received: Nov,30,2011 10:37:48
Correspondence Type: Web Form
Correspondence: Drakes Estero is the ecological heart of Point Reyes National Seashore and a treasure that belongs to all Americans. In 1976, Congress promised that the Estero would receive full wilderness protection when the current lease for commercial oyster operations expires in 2012. I urge the Park Service to honor the wilderness promise and protect Drakes Estero for future generations.

Drakes Estero is home to 20 percent of the mainland breeding population of harbor seals in California and is used by tens of thousands of shorebirds and waterfowl and dozens of species of native fish. Your draft environmental impact statement makes clear that the existing commercial oyster operation is causing extensive damage to Drakes Estero and the Seashore's beaches, and that allowing these operations to continue would cause even more long-term harm.

Your environmental review also shows that alternative "A"--no new permit for commercial oyster operations and protection of the Estero as full wilderness--is the environmentally preferred alternative and the one that best protects harbor seals, birds, fish and other natural resources.

I urge you to return Drakes Estero to all Americans by selecting alternative "A" and ensuring full wilderness protection for Drakes Estero in 2012. It is time to protect Drakes Estero as Congress intended and to create the West Coast's only marine wilderness for the benefit of people and wildlife.

Correspondence ID: 48199 **Project:** 33043 **Document:** 43390
Name: Tropiano, Emilie
Outside Organization: National Wildlife Federation Action Fund Unaffiliated Individual
Received: Nov,30,2011 10:37:49
Correspondence Type: Web Form
Correspondence: Drakes Estero is the ecological heart of Point Reyes National Seashore and a treasure that belongs to all Americans. In 1976, Congress promised that the Estero would receive full wilderness protection when the current lease for commercial oyster operations expires in 2012. I urge the Park Service to honor the wilderness promise and protect Drakes Estero for future generations.

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Your environmental review also shows that alternative "A"--no new permit for commercial oyster operations and protection of the Estero as full wilderness--is the environmentally preferred alternative and the one that best protects harbor seals, birds, fish and other natural resources.

I urge you to return Drakes Estero to all Americans by selecting alternative "A" and ensuring full wilderness protection for Drakes Estero in 2012. It is time to protect Drakes Estero as Congress intended and to create the West Coast's only marine wilderness for the benefit of people and wildlife.

Correspondence ID: 48200 **Project:** 33043 **Document:** 43390
Name: Frazita, Loni
Outside Organization: National Wildlife Federation Action Fund Unaffiliated Individual
Received: Nov,30,2011 10:37:49
Correspondence Type: Web Form
Correspondence: Drakes Estero is the ecological heart of Point Reyes National Seashore and a treasure that belongs to all Americans. In 1976, Congress promised that the Estero would receive full wilderness protection when the current lease for commercial oyster operations expires in 2012. I urge the Park Service to honor the wilderness promise and protect Drakes Estero for future generations.

Drakes Estero is home to 20 percent of the mainland breeding population of harbor seals in California and is used by tens of thousands of shorebirds and waterfowl and dozens of species of native fish. Your draft environmental impact statement makes clear that the existing commercial oyster operation is causing extensive damage to Drakes Estero and the Seashore's beaches,

and that allowing these operations to continue would cause even more long-term harm.

Your environmental review also shows that alternative "A"--no new permit for commercial oyster operations and protection of the Estero as full wilderness--is the environmentally preferred alternative and the one that best protects harbor seals, birds, fish and other natural resources.

I urge you to return Drakes Estero to all Americans by selecting alternative "A" and ensuring full wilderness protection for Drakes Estero in 2012. It is time to protect Drakes Estero as Congress intended and to create the West Coast's only marine wilderness for the benefit of people and wildlife.

Correspondence ID: 48201 **Project:** 33043 **Document:** 43390
Name: Laite, Joseph
Outside Organization: NRDC Unaffiliated Individual
Received: Nov,30,2011 10:43:35
Correspondence Type: Web Form
Correspondence: Drakes Estero is a national ecological treasure and should become a protected wilderness area. It has outstanding natural resources, including one of California's largest harbor seal colonies and tens of thousands of shorebirds, waterfowl, native fish and endangered species that use its wetlands, mudflats and eelgrass beds.

In the 1976 Point Reyes Wilderness Act, Congress recognized Drakes Estero as a unique recreational and biological resource and promised that this irreplaceable resource would formally become a wilderness area when non-conforming uses were eliminated. Your agency permitted a commercial oyster company to grow non-native oysters and clams on 1,050 acres in Drakes Estero for 40 years, or until 2012.

Your own draft environmental impact statement reveals the extensive damage that the existing operation has caused to Drakes Estero and Point Reyes National Seashore's beaches. As you know, commercial operations of any kind are not permitted in designated wilderness areas because of such damage. Further, the Park Service's Organic Act mandates protection of park resources and values and strictly limits commercial operations.

Your approval of the proposal to extend the oyster company's permit would be contrary to the Point Reyes Wilderness Act and would establish a dangerous precedent at a time when America's public lands and environmental laws are already under widespread attacks in Congress and elsewhere.

We've been waiting long enough. It is time to allow that permit to expire and to honor Congress' commitment. We want our bay back.

Thank you so much.

Correspondence ID: 48202 **Project:** 33043 **Document:** 43390
Name: stocker, m
Outside Organization: NRDC Unaffiliated Individual
Received: Nov,30,2011 10:46:01
Correspondence Type: Web Form
Correspondence: Drakes Estero is a national ecological treasure and should become a protected wilderness area. It has outstanding natural resources, including one of California's largest harbor seal colonies and tens of thousands of shorebirds, waterfowl, native fish and endangered species that use its wetlands, mudflats and eelgrass beds.

In the 1976 Point Reyes Wilderness Act, Congress recognized Drakes Estero as a unique recreational and biological resource and promised that this irreplaceable resource would formally become a wilderness area when non-conforming uses were eliminated. Your agency permitted a commercial oyster company to grow non-native oysters and clams on 1,050 acres in Drakes Estero for 40 years, or until 2012.

Your own draft environmental impact statement reveals the extensive damage that the existing operation has caused to Drakes Estero and Point Reyes National Seashore's beaches. As you know, commercial operations of any kind are not permitted in designated wilderness areas because of such damage. Further, the Park Service's Organic Act mandates protection of park resources and values and strictly limits commercial operations.

Your approval of the proposal to extend the oyster company's permit would be contrary to the Point Reyes Wilderness Act and would establish a dangerous precedent at a time when America's public lands and environmental laws are already under widespread attacks in Congress and elsewhere.

We've been waiting long enough. It is time to allow that permit to expire and to honor Congress' commitment. We want our bay back.

Correspondence ID: 48203 **Project:** 33043 **Document:** 43390
Name: Goodman, Susan

Outside Organization: NRDC Unaffiliated Individual
Received: Nov,30,2011 10:47:42
Correspondence Type: Web Form
Correspondence: Drakes Estero is a national ecological treasure and should become a protected wilderness area. It has outstanding natural resources, including one of California's largest harbor seal colonies and tens of thousands of shorebirds, waterfowl, native fish and endangered species that use its wetlands, mudflats and eelgrass beds.

In the 1976 Point Reyes Wilderness Act, Congress recognized Drakes Estero as a unique recreational and biological resource and promised that this irreplaceable resource would formally become a wilderness area when non-conforming uses were eliminated. Your agency permitted a commercial oyster company to grow non-native oysters and clams on 1,050 acres in Drakes Estero for 40 years, or until 2012.

Your own draft environmental impact statement reveals the extensive damage that the existing operation has caused to Drakes Estero and Point Reyes National Seashore's beaches. As you know, commercial operations of any kind are not permitted in designated wilderness areas because of such damage. Further, the Park Service's Organic Act mandates protection of park resources and values and strictly limits commercial operations.

Your approval of the proposal to extend the oyster company's permit would be contrary to the Point Reyes Wilderness Act and would establish a dangerous precedent at a time when America's public lands and environmental laws are already under widespread attacks in Congress and elsewhere.

We've been waiting long enough. It is time to allow that permit to expire and to honor Congress' commitment. We want our bay back.

Correspondence ID: 48205 **Project:** 33043 **Document:** 43390
Name: Seager, Mike
Outside Organization: NRDC Unaffiliated Individual
Received: Nov,30,2011 10:51:20
Correspondence Type: Web Form
Correspondence: Drakes Estero is a national ecological treasure and should become a protected wilderness area. It has outstanding natural resources, including one of California's largest harbor seal colonies and tens of thousands of shorebirds, waterfowl, native fish and endangered species that use its wetlands, mudflats and eelgrass beds.

In the 1976 Point Reyes Wilderness Act, Congress recognized Drakes Estero as a unique recreational and biological resource and promised that this irreplaceable resource would formally become a wilderness area when non-conforming uses were eliminated. Your agency permitted a commercial oyster company to grow non-native oysters and clams on 1,050 acres in Drakes Estero for 40 years, or until 2012.

Your own draft environmental impact statement reveals the extensive damage that the existing operation has caused to Drakes Estero and Point Reyes National Seashore's beaches. As you know, commercial operations of any kind are not permitted in designated wilderness areas because of such damage. Further, the Park Service's Organic Act mandates protection of park resources and values and strictly limits commercial operations.

Your approval of the proposal to extend the oyster company's permit would be contrary to the Point Reyes Wilderness Act and would establish a dangerous precedent at a time when America's public lands and environmental laws are already under widespread attacks in Congress and elsewhere.

We've been waiting long enough. It is time to allow that permit to expire and to honor Congress' commitment. We want our bay back.

Correspondence ID: 48206 **Project:** 33043 **Document:** 43390
Name: Lashae, Imperial
Outside Organization: NRDC Unaffiliated Individual
Received: Nov,30,2011 10:51:35
Correspondence Type: Web Form
Correspondence: Drakes Estero is a national ecological treasure and should become a protected wilderness area. It has outstanding natural resources, including one of California's largest harbor seal colonies and tens of thousands of shorebirds, waterfowl, native fish and endangered species that use its wetlands, mudflats and eelgrass beds.

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Your own draft environmental impact statement reveals the extensive damage that the existing operation has caused to Drakes Estero and Point Reyes National Seashore's beaches. As you know, commercial operations of any kind are not permitted in designated wilderness areas because of such damage. Further, the Park Service's Organic Act mandates protection of park

resources and values and strictly limits commercial operations.

Your approval of the proposal to extend the oyster company's permit would be contrary to the Point Reyes Wilderness Act and would establish a dangerous precedent at a time when America's public lands and environmental laws are already under widespread attacks in Congress and elsewhere.

We've been waiting long enough. It is time to allow that permit to expire and to honor Congress' commitment. We want our bay back.

Correspondence ID: 48208 **Project:** 33043 **Document:** 43390
Name: Wilkinson, Kathi
Outside Organization: National Wildlife Federation Action Fund Unaffiliated Individual
Received: Nov,30,2011 11:07:42
Correspondence Type: Web Form
Correspondence: Drakes Estero is the ecological heart of Point Reyes National Seashore and a treasure that belongs to all Americans. In 1976, Congress promised that the Estero would receive full wilderness protection when the current lease for commercial oyster operations expires in 2012. I urge the Park Service to honor the wilderness promise and protect Drakes Estero for future generations.

Drakes Estero is home to 20 percent of the mainland breeding population of harbor seals in California and is used by tens of thousands of shorebirds and waterfowl and dozens of species of native fish. Your draft environmental impact statement makes clear that the existing commercial oyster operation is causing extensive damage to Drakes Estero and the Seashore's beaches, and that allowing these operations to continue would cause even more long-term harm.

Your environmental review also shows that alternative "A"--no new permit for commercial oyster operations and protection of the Estero as full wilderness--is the environmentally preferred alternative and the one that best protects harbor seals, birds, fish and other natural resources.

I urge you to return Drakes Estero to all Americans by selecting alternative "A" and ensuring full wilderness protection for Drakes Estero in 2012. It is time to protect Drakes Estero as Congress intended and to create the West Coast's only marine wilderness for the benefit of people and wildlife.

Correspondence ID: 48209 **Project:** 33043 **Document:** 43390
Name: Cunningham, Deirdre
Outside Organization: National Wildlife Federation Action Fund Unaffiliated Individual
Received: Nov,30,2011 11:07:42
Correspondence Type: Web Form
Correspondence: Drakes Estero is the ecological heart of Point Reyes National Seashore and a treasure that belongs to all Americans. In 1976, Congress promised that the Estero would receive full wilderness protection when the current lease for commercial oyster operations expires in 2012. I urge the Park Service to honor the wilderness promise and protect Drakes Estero for future generations.

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Your environmental review also shows that alternative "A"--no new permit for commercial oyster operations and protection of the Estero as full wilderness--is the environmentally preferred alternative and the one that best protects harbor seals, birds, fish and other natural resources.

I urge you to return Drakes Estero to all Americans by selecting alternative "A" and ensuring full wilderness protection for Drakes Estero in 2012. It is time to protect Drakes Estero as Congress intended and to create the West Coast's only marine wilderness for the benefit of people and wildlife.

Correspondence ID: 48210 **Project:** 33043 **Document:** 43390
Name: Lane, Tiffany
Outside Organization: National Wildlife Federation Action Fund Unaffiliated Individual
Received: Nov,30,2011 11:07:42
Correspondence Type: Web Form
Correspondence: Drakes Estero is the ecological heart of Point Reyes National Seashore and a treasure that belongs to all Americans. In 1976, Congress promised that the Estero would receive full wilderness protection when the current lease for commercial oyster operations expires in 2012. I urge the Park Service to honor the wilderness promise and protect Drakes Estero for future generations.

Drakes Estero is home to 20 percent of the mainland breeding population of harbor seals in California and is used by tens of thousands of shorebirds and waterfowl and dozens of species of native fish. Your draft environmental impact statement makes

clear that the existing commercial oyster operation is causing extensive damage to Drakes Estero and the Seashore's beaches, and that allowing these operations to continue would cause even more long-term harm.

Your environmental review also shows that alternative "A"--no new permit for commercial oyster operations and protection of the Estero as full wilderness--is the environmentally preferred alternative and the one that best protects harbor seals, birds, fish and other natural resources.

I urge you to return Drakes Estero to all Americans by selecting alternative "A" and ensuring full wilderness protection for Drakes Estero in 2012. It is time to protect Drakes Estero as Congress intended and to create the West Coast's only marine wilderness for the benefit of people and wildlife.

Correspondence ID: 48211 **Project:** 33043 **Document:** 43390
Name: Ormenaj, Carolyn
Outside Organization: National Wildlife Federation Action Fund Unaffiliated Individual
Received: Nov.30,2011 11:07:48
Correspondence Type: Web Form
Correspondence: Drakes Estero is the ecological heart of Point Reyes National Seashore and a treasure that belongs to all Americans. In 1976, Congress promised that the Estero would receive full wilderness protection when the current lease for commercial oyster operations expires in 2012. I urge the Park Service to honor the wilderness promise and protect Drakes Estero for future generations.

Drakes Estero is home to 20 percent of the mainland breeding population of harbor seals in California and is used by tens of thousands of shorebirds and waterfowl and dozens of species of native fish. Your draft environmental impact statement makes clear that the existing commercial oyster operation is causing extensive damage to Drakes Estero and the Seashore's beaches, and that allowing these operations to continue would cause even more long-term harm.

Your environmental review also shows that alternative "A"--no new permit for commercial oyster operations and protection of the Estero as full wilderness--is the environmentally preferred alternative and the one that best protects harbor seals, birds, fish and other natural resources.

I urge you to return Drakes Estero to all Americans by selecting alternative "A" and ensuring full wilderness protection for Drakes Estero in 2012. It is time to protect Drakes Estero as Congress intended and to create the West Coast's only marine wilderness for the benefit of people and wildlife.

Correspondence ID: 48212 **Project:** 33043 **Document:** 43390
Name: Storm, Robin
Outside Organization: National Wildlife Federation Action Fund Unaffiliated Individual
Received: Nov.30,2011 11:07:48
Correspondence Type: Web Form
Correspondence: Drakes Estero is the ecological heart of Point Reyes National Seashore and a treasure that belongs to all Americans. In 1976, Congress promised that the Estero would receive full wilderness protection when the current lease for commercial oyster operations expires in 2012. I urge the Park Service to honor the wilderness promise and protect Drakes Estero for future generations.

Drakes Estero is home to 20 percent of the mainland breeding population of harbor seals in California and is used by tens of thousands of shorebirds and waterfowl and dozens of species of native fish. Your draft environmental impact statement makes clear that the existing commercial oyster operation is causing extensive damage to Drakes Estero and the Seashore's beaches, and that allowing these operations to continue would cause even more long-term harm.

Your environmental review also shows that alternative "A"--no new permit for commercial oyster operations and protection of the Estero as full wilderness--is the environmentally preferred alternative and the one that best protects harbor seals, birds, fish and other natural resources.

I urge you to return Drakes Estero to all Americans by selecting alternative "A" and ensuring full wilderness protection for Drakes Estero in 2012. It is time to protect Drakes Estero as Congress intended and to create the West Coast's only marine wilderness for the benefit of people and wildlife.

Correspondence ID: 48213 **Project:** 33043 **Document:** 43390
Name: Blake, Frank
Outside Organization: National Parks Conservation Association Unaffiliated Individual
Received: Nov.30,2011 11:11:38
Correspondence Type: Web Form
Correspondence: I urge you to protect Drakes Estero wilderness next year, as long intended. It is in the public interest to create the West Coast's only marine wilderness for the enjoyment of all. The public has waited nearly four decades for these protections to be implemented, which is an immense compromise in itself. Drakes Estero is a rare wildlife refuge where migrating birds stop over, harbor seals give birth, and fish take shelter in eelgrass. As someone who enjoys our nation's national parks and their wildlife, I urge you to uphold the longstanding plan to convert this very special resource to wilderness.

I urge you to select alternative "A", which protects marine wilderness next year and is the Environmentally Preferred Alternative. The National Park Service is mandated to provide maximum protection to the natural resources at Drakes Estero and selecting this alternative is the most consistent with the laws and policies affecting this park. Our national parks are set aside for the public and for wildlife protection, and after waiting nearly 40 years for private commercial use rights to expire, it's time to give the estuary the protection it needs. The environmental review shows that alternative "A" is best for public policy, and best protects harbor seals, fish, birds and other natural resources. Drakes Estero is our only marine wilderness on the West Coast, and is irreplaceable, while oysters can be commercially grown elsewhere.

Please honor the promise made for a protected marine wilderness at Drakes Estero. In doing so, you will set a good policy example and reward the public with an enduring legacy feat found nowhere else on the West Coast.

Correspondence ID: 48215 **Project:** 33043 **Document:** 43390
Name: Santor, David
Outside Organization: NRDC Unaffiliated Individual
Received: Nov.30,2011 11:19:28
Correspondence Type: Web Form
Correspondence: Drakes Estero is a national ecological treasure and should become a protected wilderness area. It has outstanding natural resources, including one of California's largest harbor seal colonies and tens of thousands of shorebirds, waterfowl, native fish and endangered species that use its wetlands, mudflats and eelgrass beds.

In the 1976 Point Reyes Wilderness Act, Congress recognized Drakes Estero as a unique recreational and biological resource and promised that this irreplaceable resource would formally become a wilderness area when non-conforming uses were eliminated. Your agency permitted a commercial oyster company to grow non-native oysters and clams on 1,050 acres in Drakes Estero for 40 years, or until 2012.

Your own draft environmental impact statement reveals the extensive damage that the existing operation has caused to Drakes Estero and Point Reyes National Seashore's beaches. As you know, commercial operations of any kind are not permitted in designated wilderness areas because of such damage. Further, the Park Service's Organic Act mandates protection of park resources and values and strictly limits commercial operations.

Your approval of the proposal to extend the oyster company's permit would be contrary to the Point Reyes Wilderness Act and would establish a dangerous precedent at a time when America's public lands and environmental laws are already under widespread attacks in Congress and elsewhere.

We've been waiting long enough. It is time to allow that permit to expire and to honor Congress' commitment. We want our bay back.

Correspondence ID: 48216 **Project:** 33043 **Document:** 43390
Name: Chavira, Marta
Outside Organization: NRDC Unaffiliated Individual
Received: Nov.30,2011 11:21:27
Correspondence Type: Web Form
Correspondence: Drakes Estero is a national ecological treasure and should become a protected wilderness area. It has outstanding natural resources, including one of California's largest harbor seal colonies and tens of thousands of shorebirds, waterfowl, native fish and endangered species that use its wetlands, mudflats and eelgrass beds.

In the 1976 Point Reyes Wilderness Act, Congress recognized Drakes Estero as a unique recreational and biological resource and promised that this irreplaceable resource would formally become a wilderness area when non-conforming uses were eliminated. Your agency permitted a commercial oyster company to grow non-native oysters and clams on 1,050 acres in Drakes Estero for 40 years, or until 2012.

Your own draft environmental impact statement reveals the extensive damage that the existing operation has caused to Drakes Estero and Point Reyes National Seashore's beaches. As you know, commercial operations of any kind are not permitted in designated wilderness areas because of such damage. Further, the Park Service's Organic Act mandates protection of park resources and values and strictly limits commercial operations.

Your approval of the proposal to extend the oyster company's permit would be contrary to the Point Reyes Wilderness Act and would establish a dangerous precedent at a time when America's public lands and environmental laws are already under widespread attacks in Congress and elsewhere.

We've been waiting long enough. It is time to allow that permit to expire and to honor Congress' commitment. We want our bay back.

Correspondence ID: 48217 **Project:** 33043 **Document:** 43390
Name: Emery, Ariela
Outside Organization: NRDC Unaffiliated Individual

Received: Nov,30,2011 11:21:42
Correspondence Type: Web Form
Correspondence: Drakes Estero is a national ecological treasure and should become a protected wilderness area. It has outstanding natural resources, including one of California's largest harbor seal colonies and tens of thousands of shorebirds, waterfowl, native fish and endangered species that use its wetlands, mudflats and eelgrass beds.

In the 1976 Point Reyes Wilderness Act, Congress recognized Drakes Estero as a unique recreational and biological resource and promised that this irreplaceable resource would formally become a wilderness area when non-conforming uses were eliminated. Your agency permitted a commercial oyster company to grow non-native oysters and clams on 1,050 acres in Drakes Estero for 40 years, or until 2012.

Your own draft environmental impact statement reveals the extensive damage that the existing operation has caused to Drakes Estero and Point Reyes National Seashore's beaches. As you know, commercial operations of any kind are not permitted in designated wilderness areas because of such damage. Further, the Park Service's Organic Act mandates protection of park resources and values and strictly limits commercial operations.

Your approval of the proposal to extend the oyster company's permit would be contrary to the Point Reyes Wilderness Act and would establish a dangerous precedent at a time when America's public lands and environmental laws are already under widespread attacks in Congress and elsewhere.

We've been waiting long enough. It is time to allow that permit to expire and to honor Congress' commitment. We want our bay back.

Correspondence ID: 48218 **Project:** 33043 **Document:** 43390
Name: Terry, William E
Outside Organization: Unaffiliated Individual
Received: Nov,30,2011 11:22:49
Correspondence Type: Web Form
Correspondence: I believe that Drakes Bay Oyster Company provides a cultural experience to visit and substantial economic and employment benefits in a rural area. None of the proposed alternatives are appropriate. I support a renewable Special Use Permit for Drakes Bay Oyster Company. William Terry

Correspondence ID: 48219 **Project:** 33043 **Document:** 43390
Name: GORDON, BRUCE M
Outside Organization: Unaffiliated Individual
Received: Nov,30,2011 00:00:00
Correspondence Type: Web Form
Correspondence: None of the proposed alternatives are appropriate.I support a renewable Special Use Permit for Drake's Bay Oyster Company.

It would be a travesty if this company was put out of business!

Bruce M. Gordon

Correspondence ID: 48220 **Project:** 33043 **Document:** 43390
Name: Stahl, Carol
Outside Organization: National Wildlife Federation Action Fund Unaffiliated Individual
Received: Nov,30,2011 11:38:04
Correspondence Type: Web Form
Correspondence: Drakes Estero is the ecological heart of Point Reyes National Seashore and a treasure that belongs to all Americans. In 1976, Congress promised that the Estero would receive full wilderness protection when the current lease for commercial oyster operations expires in 2012. I urge the Park Service to honor the wilderness promise and protect Drakes Estero for future generations.

Drakes Estero is home to 20 percent of the mainland breeding population of harbor seals in California and is used by tens of thousands of shorebirds and waterfowl and dozens of species of native fish. Your draft environmental impact statement makes clear that the existing commercial oyster operation is causing extensive damage to Drakes Estero and the Seashore's beaches, and that allowing these operations to continue would cause even more long-term harm.

Your environmental review also shows that alternative "A"--no new permit for commercial oyster operations and protection of the Estero as full wilderness--is the environmentally preferred alternative and the one that best protects harbor seals, birds, fish and other natural resources.

I urge you to return Drakes Estero to all Americans by selecting alternative "A" and ensuring full wilderness protection for Drakes Estero in 2012. It is time to protect Drakes Estero as Congress intended and to create the West Coast's only marine wilderness for the benefit of people and wildlife.

Correspondence ID: 48221 **Project:** 33043 **Document:** 43390

Name: cornish, sarah
Outside Organization: National Wildlife Federation Action Fund Unaffiliated Individual
Received: Nov,30,2011 11:38:09
Correspondence Type: Web Form
Correspondence: Drakes Estero is the ecological heart of Point Reyes National Seashore and a treasure that belongs to all Americans. In 1976, Congress promised that the Estero would receive full wilderness protection when the current lease for commercial oyster operations expires in 2012. I urge the Park Service to honor the wilderness promise and protect Drakes Estero for future generations.

Drakes Estero is home to 20 percent of the mainland breeding population of harbor seals in California and is used by tens of thousands of shorebirds and waterfowl and dozens of species of native fish. Your draft environmental impact statement makes clear that the existing commercial oyster operation is causing extensive damage to Drakes Estero and the Seashore's beaches, and that allowing these operations to continue would cause even more long-term harm.

Your environmental review also shows that alternative "A"--no new permit for commercial oyster operations and protection of the Estero as full wilderness--is the environmentally preferred alternative and the one that best protects harbor seals, birds, fish and other natural resources.

I urge you to return Drakes Estero to all Americans by selecting alternative "A" and ensuring full wilderness protection for Drakes Estero in 2012. It is time to protect Drakes Estero as Congress intended and to create the West Coast's only marine wilderness for the benefit of people and wildlife.

Correspondence ID: 48222 **Project:** 33043 **Document:** 43390
Name: O'Niell, Adrienne
Outside Organization: National Wildlife Federation Action Fund Unaffiliated Individual
Received: Nov,30,2011 11:38:14
Correspondence Type: Web Form
Correspondence: Drakes Estero is the ecological heart of Point Reyes National Seashore and a treasure that belongs to all Americans. In 1976, Congress promised that the Estero would receive full wilderness protection when the current lease for commercial oyster operations expires in 2012. I urge the Park Service to honor the wilderness promise and protect Drakes Estero for future generations.

Drakes Estero is home to 20 percent of the mainland breeding population of harbor seals in California and is used by tens of thousands of shorebirds and waterfowl and dozens of species of native fish. Your draft environmental impact statement makes clear that the existing commercial oyster operation is causing extensive damage to Drakes Estero and the Seashore's beaches, and that allowing these operations to continue would cause even more long-term harm.

Your environmental review also shows that alternative "A"--no new permit for commercial oyster operations and protection of the Estero as full wilderness--is the environmentally preferred alternative and the one that best protects harbor seals, birds, fish and other natural resources.

I urge you to return Drakes Estero to all Americans by selecting alternative "A" and ensuring full wilderness protection for Drakes Estero in 2012. It is time to protect Drakes Estero as Congress intended and to create the West Coast's only marine wilderness for the benefit of people and wildlife.

Correspondence ID: 48226 **Project:** 33043 **Document:** 43390
Name: Ziajka, Judith
Outside Organization: Unaffiliated Individual
Received: Nov,30,2011 11:55:01
Correspondence Type: Web Form
Correspondence: None of the proposed alternatives are appropriate. I support a renewable Special Use Permit for Drakes Bay Oyster Company. My family and I have enjoyed visiting the oyster farm during our many trips to Pt. Reyes and believe that it adds to our understanding of the environment and its need for protection as well as offering a unique experience that we have brought numerous visitors to share. The oyster farm also reminds us of the shell mounds that underlie our urban waterfronts, and I suggest that the NPS incorporate the farm into its narrative of the native peoples of the region instead of looking for ways to remove it. Pt. Reyes is wild but not wilderness -- it encompasses numerous dairy ranches, a lighthouse, a sea rescue station, a beach restaurant, etc. in addition to the oyster farm. Of these all, the oyster farm is the most closely tied to the natural environment and provides a kind of learning opportunity found in few other places. My understanding is that the farm is not harmful to the environment, and I have been puzzled about why, of all things, the NPS has been pushing so hard to remove the farm. It will be a loss to Pt. Reyes and to us and our children if it is removed.

Correspondence ID: 48227 **Project:** 33043 **Document:** 43390
Name: Smith, Kathy R
Outside Organization: Unaffiliated Individual
Received: Nov,30,2011 11:58:19
Correspondence Type: Web Form
Correspondence: None of the proposed alternatives are appropriate. I support a renewable Special Use Permit for Drakes Bay Oyster Company.

Correspondence ID: 48229 **Project:** 33043 **Document:** 43390
Name: Copeland, B
Outside Organization: Sierra Club Unaffiliated Individual
Received: Nov.30,2011 12:00:19
Correspondence Type: Web Form

Correspondence: I am writing to urge the National Park Service to protect Drakes Estero wilderness next year as long-intended. The American public deserves to have the West Coast's only marine wilderness protected for future generations to enjoy. Drakes Estero is a rare wildlife refuge where migrating birds stop over, harbor seals give birth, and fish spawn. It deserves the highest level of protection as Congress long-intended. As someone who enjoys our nation's spectacular national parks, I urge you to not undermine protections at Drakes Estero and succumb to special interests seeking to commercialize these special places.

I urge the National Park Service and the Department of the Interior to select alternative "A", which protects marine wilderness and is the environmentally preferred alternative. The NPS is mandated to provide maximum protection to the natural resources, as stated in the Seashore's legislation, and selecting this alternative is the most consistent with the laws and policies affecting this park. Our national parks are for the people and wildlife protection, not commercial exploitation. The environmental review shows that alternative "A" best protects harbor seals, fish, birds and other wildlife and plants. Drakes Estero is our only marine wilderness on the West Coast, and it is irreplaceable, while oysters can be grown elsewhere.

National Parks and wilderness areas are treasured by the majority of Americans and are for the public interest, not for private commercial exploitation. By protecting wilderness, the National Park Service will set a positive policy example while commercializing it will set a negative example and help others seek their special exemptions from national park laws.

Correspondence ID: 48230 **Project:** 33043 **Document:** 43390
Name: Kouzel, Lynn
Outside Organization: Sierra Club Unaffiliated Individual
Received: Nov.30,2011 12:01:42
Correspondence Type: Web Form

Correspondence: I am writing to urge the National Park Service to protect Drakes Estero wilderness next year as long-intended. The American public deserves to have the West Coast's only marine wilderness protected for future generations to enjoy. Drakes Estero is a rare wildlife refuge where migrating birds stop over, harbor seals give birth, and fish spawn. It deserves the highest level of protection as Congress long-intended. As someone who enjoys our nation's spectacular national parks, I urge you to not undermine protections at Drakes Estero and succumb to special interests seeking to commercialize these special places.

I urge the National Park Service and the Department of the Interior to select alternative "A", which protects marine wilderness and is the environmentally preferred alternative. The NPS is mandated to provide maximum protection to the natural resources, as stated in the Seashore's legislation, and selecting this alternative is the most consistent with the laws and policies affecting this park. Our national parks are for the people and wildlife protection, not commercial exploitation. The environmental review shows that alternative "A" best protects harbor seals, fish, birds and other wildlife and plants. Drakes Estero is our only marine wilderness on the West Coast, and it is irreplaceable, while oysters can be grown elsewhere.

National Parks and wilderness areas are treasured by the majority of Americans and are for the public interest, not for private commercial exploitation. By protecting wilderness, the National Park Service will set a positive policy example while commercializing it will set a negative example and help others seek their special exemptions from national park laws.

Correspondence ID: 48232 **Project:** 33043 **Document:** 43390
Name: Hurysz, Lara
Outside Organization: National Wildlife Federation Action Fund Unaffiliated Individual
Received: Nov.30,2011 12:07:48
Correspondence Type: Web Form

Correspondence: Drakes Estero is the ecological heart of Point Reyes National Seashore and a treasure that belongs to all Americans. In 1976, Congress promised that the Estero would receive full wilderness protection when the current lease for commercial oyster operations expires in 2012. I urge the Park Service to honor the wilderness promise and protect Drakes Estero for future generations.

Drakes Estero is home to 20 percent of the mainland breeding population of harbor seals in California and is used by tens of thousands of shorebirds and waterfowl and dozens of species of native fish. Your draft environmental impact statement makes clear that the existing commercial oyster operation is causing extensive damage to Drakes Estero and the Seashore's beaches, and that allowing these operations to continue would cause even more long-term harm.

Your environmental review also shows that alternative "A"--no new permit for commercial oyster operations and protection of the Estero as full wilderness--is the environmentally preferred alternative and the one that best protects harbor seals, birds, fish and other natural resources.

I urge you to return Drakes Estero to all Americans by selecting alternative "A" and ensuring full wilderness protection for Drakes Estero in 2012. It is time to protect Drakes Estero as Congress intended and to create the West Coast's only marine wilderness for the benefit of people and wildlife.

Correspondence ID: 48233 **Project:** 33043 **Document:** 43390

Name: Fleming, Charlotte
Outside Organization: National Wildlife Federation Action Fund Unaffiliated Individual
Received: Nov,30,2011 12:07:48
Correspondence Type: Web Form
Correspondence: Drakes Estero is the ecological heart of Point Reyes National Seashore and a treasure that belongs to all Americans. In 1976, Congress promised that the Estero would receive full wilderness protection when the current lease for commercial oyster operations expires in 2012. I urge the Park Service to honor the wilderness promise and protect Drakes Estero for future generations.

Drakes Estero is home to 20 percent of the mainland breeding population of harbor seals in California and is used by tens of thousands of shorebirds and waterfowl and dozens of species of native fish. Your draft environmental impact statement makes clear that the existing commercial oyster operation is causing extensive damage to Drakes Estero and the Seashore's beaches, and that allowing these operations to continue would cause even more long-term harm.

Your environmental review also shows that alternative "A"--no new permit for commercial oyster operations and protection of the Estero as full wilderness--is the environmentally preferred alternative and the one that best protects harbor seals, birds, fish and other natural resources.

I urge you to return Drakes Estero to all Americans by selecting alternative "A" and ensuring full wilderness protection for Drakes Estero in 2012. It is time to protect Drakes Estero as Congress intended and to create the West Coast's only marine wilderness for the benefit of people and wildlife.

Correspondence ID: 48234 **Project:** 33043 **Document:** 43390
Name: Fukuda-Schmid, Kristina
Outside Organization: National Wildlife Federation Action Fund Unaffiliated Individual
Received: Nov,30,2011 12:07:48
Correspondence Type: Web Form
Correspondence: Drakes Estero is the ecological heart of Point Reyes National Seashore and a treasure that belongs to all Americans. In 1976, Congress promised that the Estero would receive full wilderness protection when the current lease for commercial oyster operations expires in 2012. I urge the Park Service to honor the wilderness promise and protect Drakes Estero for future generations.

Drakes Estero is home to 20 percent of the mainland breeding population of harbor seals in California and is used by tens of thousands of shorebirds and waterfowl and dozens of species of native fish. Your draft environmental impact statement makes clear that the existing commercial oyster operation is causing extensive damage to Drakes Estero and the Seashore's beaches, and that allowing these operations to continue would cause even more long-term harm.

Your environmental review also shows that alternative "A"--no new permit for commercial oyster operations and protection of the Estero as full wilderness--is the environmentally preferred alternative and the one that best protects harbor seals, birds, fish and other natural resources.

I urge you to return Drakes Estero to all Americans by selecting alternative "A" and ensuring full wilderness protection for Drakes Estero in 2012. It is time to protect Drakes Estero as Congress intended and to create the West Coast's only marine wilderness for the benefit of people and wildlife.

Correspondence ID: 48235 **Project:** 33043 **Document:** 43390
Name: Alba, Ellen
Outside Organization: National Wildlife Federation Action Fund Unaffiliated Individual
Received: Nov,30,2011 12:07:54
Correspondence Type: Web Form
Correspondence: Drakes Estero is the ecological heart of Point Reyes National Seashore and a treasure that belongs to all Americans. In 1976, Congress promised that the Estero would receive full wilderness protection when the current lease for commercial oyster operations expires in 2012. I urge the Park Service to honor the wilderness promise and protect Drakes Estero for future generations.

Drakes Estero is home to 20 percent of the mainland breeding population of harbor seals in California and is used by tens of thousands of shorebirds and waterfowl and dozens of species of native fish. Your draft environmental impact statement makes clear that the existing commercial oyster operation is causing extensive damage to Drakes Estero and the Seashore's beaches, and that allowing these operations to continue would cause even more long-term harm.

Your environmental review also shows that alternative "A"--no new permit for commercial oyster operations and protection of the Estero as full wilderness--is the environmentally preferred alternative and the one that best protects harbor seals, birds, fish and other natural resources.

I urge you to return Drakes Estero to all Americans by selecting alternative "A" and ensuring full wilderness protection for Drakes Estero in 2012. It is time to protect Drakes Estero as Congress intended and to create the West Coast's only marine wilderness for the benefit of people and wildlife.

Correspondence ID: 48236 **Project:** 33043 **Document:** 43390
Name: Martin, Nicole
Outside Organization: National Wildlife Federation Action Fund Unaffiliated Individual
Received: Nov,30,2011 12:07:54
Correspondence Type: Web Form

Correspondence: Drakes Estero is the ecological heart of Point Reyes National Seashore and a treasure that belongs to all Americans. In 1976, Congress promised that the Estero would receive full wilderness protection when the current lease for commercial oyster operations expires in 2012. Please honor the wilderness promise and protect Drakes Estero for future generations.

Drakes Estero is home to 20 percent of the mainland breeding population of harbor seals in California and is used by tens of thousands of shorebirds and waterfowl and dozens of species of native fish. Your draft environmental impact statement makes clear that the existing commercial oyster operation is causing extensive damage to Drakes Estero and the Seashore's beaches, and that allowing these operations to continue would cause even more long-term harm.

Your environmental review also shows that alternative "A"--no new permit for commercial oyster operations and protection of the Estero as full wilderness--is the environmentally preferred alternative and the one that best protects harbor seals, birds, fish and other natural resources.

I urge you to return Drakes Estero to all Americans by selecting alternative "A" and ensuring full wilderness protection for Drakes Estero in 2012. It is time to protect Drakes Estero as Congress intended and to create the West Coast's only marine wilderness for the benefit of people and wildlife.

Correspondence ID: 48237 **Project:** 33043 **Document:** 43390
Name: Rengers, Edward
Outside Organization: National Wildlife Federation Action Fund Unaffiliated Individual
Received: Nov,30,2011 12:08:03
Correspondence Type: Web Form

Correspondence: Drakes Estero is the ecological heart of Point Reyes National Seashore and a treasure that belongs to all Americans. In 1976, Congress promised that the Estero would receive full wilderness protection when the current lease for commercial oyster operations expires in 2012. I urge the Park Service to honor the wilderness promise and protect Drakes Estero for future generations.

Drakes Estero is home to 20 percent of the mainland breeding population of harbor seals in California and is used by tens of thousands of shorebirds and waterfowl and dozens of species of native fish. Your draft environmental impact statement makes clear that the existing commercial oyster operation is causing extensive damage to Drakes Estero and the Seashore's beaches, and that allowing these operations to continue would cause even more long-term harm.

Your environmental review also shows that alternative "A"--no new permit for commercial oyster operations and protection of the Estero as full wilderness--is the environmentally preferred alternative and the one that best protects harbor seals, birds, fish and other natural resources.

I urge you to return Drakes Estero to all Americans by selecting alternative "A" and ensuring full wilderness protection for Drakes Estero in 2012. It is time to protect Drakes Estero as Congress intended and to create the West Coast's only marine wilderness for the benefit of people and wildlife.

Correspondence ID: 48238 **Project:** 33043 **Document:** 43390
Name: Pino, Dolores
Outside Organization: National Parks Conservation Association Unaffiliated Individual
Received: Nov,30,2011 12:10:32
Correspondence Type: Web Form

Correspondence: I urge you to protect Drakes Estero wilderness next year, as long intended. It is in the public interest to create the West Coast's only marine wilderness for the enjoyment of all. The public has waited nearly four decades for these protections to be implemented, which is an immense compromise in itself. Drakes Estero is a rare wildlife refuge where migrating birds stop over, harbor seals give birth, and fish take shelter in eelgrass. As someone who enjoys our nation's national parks and their wildlife, I urge you to uphold the longstanding plan to convert this very special resource to wilderness.

I urge you to select alternative "A", which protects marine wilderness next year and is the Environmentally Preferred Alternative. The National Park Service is mandated to provide maximum protection to the natural resources at Drakes Estero and selecting this alternative is the most consistent with the laws and policies affecting this park. Our national parks are set aside for the public and for wildlife protection, and after waiting nearly 40 years for private commercial use rights to expire, it's time to give the estuary the protection it needs. The environmental review shows that alternative "A" is best for public policy, and best protects harbor seals, fish, birds and other natural resources. Drakes Estero is our only marine wilderness on the West Coast, and is irreplaceable, while oysters can be commercially grown elsewhere.

Please honor the promise made for a protected marine wilderness at Drakes Estero. In doing so, you will set a good policy example and reward the public with an enduring legacy feat found nowhere else on the West Coast.

Correspondence ID: 48239 **Project:** 33043 **Document:** 43390
Name: Simmons, Robert
Outside Organization: National Parks Conservation Association Unaffiliated Individual
Received: Nov,30,2011 00:00:00
Correspondence Type: Web Form

Correspondence: I urge you to protect Drakes Estero wilderness next year, as long intended. It is in the public interest to create the West Coast's only marine wilderness for the enjoyment of all. The public has waited nearly four decades for these protections to be implemented, which is an immense compromise in itself. Drakes Estero is a rare wildlife refuge where migrating birds stop over, harbor seals give birth, and fish take shelter in eelgrass. As someone who enjoys our nation's national parks and their wildlife, I urge you to uphold the longstanding plan to convert this very special resource to wilderness.

I urge you to select alternative "A", which protects marine wilderness next year and is the Environmentally Preferred Alternative. The National Park Service is mandated to provide maximum protection to the natural resources at Drakes Estero and selecting this alternative is the most consistent with the laws and policies affecting this park. Our national parks are set aside for the public and for wildlife protection, and after waiting nearly 40 years for private commercial use rights to expire, it's time to give the estuary the protection it needs. The environmental review shows that alternative "A" is best for public policy, and best protects harbor seals, fish, birds and other natural resources. Drakes Estero is our only marine wilderness on the West Coast, and is irreplaceable, while oysters can be commercially grown elsewhere.

Please honor the promise made for a protected marine wilderness at Drakes Estero. In doing so, you will set a good policy example and reward the public with an enduring legacy feat found nowhere else on the West Coast.

Sincerely, Robert Simmons 373 Bond Town Road Blountville, TN 37617-5113 United States

I urge you to select alternative "A", which protects marine wilderness next year and is the Environmentally Preferred Alternative. The National Park Service is mandated to provide maximum protection to the natural resources at Drakes Estero and selecting this alternative is the most consistent with the laws and policies affecting this park. Our national parks are set aside for the public and for wildlife protection, and after waiting nearly 40 years for private commercial use rights to expire, it's time to give the estuary the protection it needs. The environmental review shows that alternative "A" is best for public policy, and best protects harbor seals, fish, birds and other natural resources. Drakes Estero is our only marine wilderness on the West Coast, and is irreplaceable, while oysters can be commercially grown elsewhere.

Please honor the promise made for a protected marine wilderness at Drakes Estero. In doing so, you will set a good policy example and reward the public with an enduring legacy feat found nowhere else on the West Coast.

Correspondence ID: 48240 **Project:** 33043 **Document:** 43390
Name: Lion-Storm, Nancy
Outside Organization: Center for Biological Diversity Unaffiliated Individual
Received: Nov,30,2011 12:17:24
Correspondence Type: Web Form

Correspondence: I support the wilderness designation for Drakes Estero within the Point Reyes National Seashore. I urge the National Park Service and Department of the Interior to uphold the 1976 Point Reyes Wilderness Act and select alternative A, which protects this important marine wilderness and is the environmentally preferred alternative.

Drakes Estero is a unique and ecologically significant wildlife area. It is an important stop on the flyway for migrating birds, a refuge and birthplace for harbor seals and a critical native fish nursery. Congress and the public have long intended that Drakes Estero be given the highest federal level of protection as a wilderness area when the commercial oyster lease expires in 2012.

This can only be accomplished by selecting Alternative "A" and ending commercial use of this sensitive wildlife refuge. Alternative A is the most consistent with National Park Service laws and policies. The Park Service's environmental review shows that alternative "A" best protects wildlife and the National Park experience.

Our national parks are for the people and wildlife protection, and wilderness areas with our parks should not prioritize commercial exploitation. The American public deserves to have this unique marine wilderness protected in a natural state for future generations to enjoy.

Drakes Estero is the only marine wilderness on the West Coast, and is irreplaceable, while oysters can be grown elsewhere.

As someone who enjoys our spectacular national parks, I urge you to not undermine protections at Drakes Estero and succumb to special interests seeking to commercialize these special places.

Correspondence ID: 48241 **Project:** 33043 **Document:** 43390
Name: Slusaw, Penny
Outside Organization: NRDC Unaffiliated Individual
Received: Nov,30,2011 12:18:19
Correspondence Type: Web Form

Correspondence: Drakes Estero is a national ecological treasure and should become a protected wilderness area. It has outstanding natural resources, including one of California's largest harbor seal colonies and tens of thousands of shorebirds, waterfowl, native fish and endangered species that use its wetlands, mudflats and eelgrass beds.

In the 1976 Point Reyes Wilderness Act, Congress recognized Drakes Estero as a unique recreational and biological resource and promised that this irreplaceable resource would formally become a wilderness area when non-conforming uses were eliminated. Your agency permitted a commercial oyster company to grow non-native oysters and clams on 1,050 acres in Drakes Estero for 40 years, or until 2012.

Your own draft environmental impact statement reveals the extensive damage that the existing operation has caused to Drakes Estero and Point Reyes National Seashore's beaches. As you know, commercial operations of any kind are not permitted in designated wilderness areas because of such damage. Further, the Park Service's Organic Act mandates protection of park resources and values and strictly limits commercial operations.

Your approval of the proposal to extend the oyster company's permit would be contrary to the Point Reyes Wilderness Act and would establish a dangerous precedent at a time when America's public lands and environmental laws are already under widespread attacks in Congress and elsewhere.

We've been waiting long enough. It is time to allow that permit to expire and to honor Congress' commitment. We want our bay back.

Correspondence ID: 48242 **Project:** 33043 **Document:** 43390
Name: Loscialo, Josephine
Outside Organization: National Wildlife Federation Action Fund Unaffiliated Individual
Received: Nov.30,2011 12:37:53
Correspondence Type: Web Form

Correspondence: Drakes Estero is the ecological heart of Point Reyes National Seashore and a treasure that belongs to all Americans. In 1976, Congress promised that the Estero would receive full wilderness protection when the current lease for commercial oyster operations expires in 2012. I urge the Park Service to honor the wilderness promise and protect Drakes Estero for future generations.

Drakes Estero is home to 20 percent of the mainland breeding population of harbor seals in California and is used by tens of thousands of shorebirds and waterfowl and dozens of species of native fish. Your draft environmental impact statement makes clear that the existing commercial oyster operation is causing extensive damage to Drakes Estero and the Seashore's beaches, and that allowing these operations to continue would cause even more long-term harm.

Your environmental review also shows that alternative "A"--no new permit for commercial oyster operations and protection of the Estero as full wilderness--is the environmentally preferred alternative and the one that best protects harbor seals, birds, fish and other natural resources.

I urge you to return Drakes Estero to all Americans by selecting alternative "A" and ensuring full wilderness protection for Drakes Estero in 2012. It is time to protect Drakes Estero as Congress intended and to create the West Coast's only marine wilderness for the benefit of people and wildlife.

Correspondence ID: 48243 **Project:** 33043 **Document:** 43390
Name: Duran, Janet
Outside Organization: National Wildlife Federation Action Fund Unaffiliated Individual
Received: Nov.30,2011 12:37:58
Correspondence Type: Web Form

Correspondence: Drakes Estero is the ecological heart of Point Reyes National Seashore and a treasure that belongs to all Americans. In 1976, Congress promised that the Estero would receive full wilderness protection when the current lease for commercial oyster operations expires in 2012. I urge the Park Service to honor the wilderness promise and protect Drakes Estero for future generations.

Drakes Estero is home to 20 percent of the mainland breeding population of harbor seals in California and is used by tens of thousands of shorebirds and waterfowl and dozens of species of native fish. Your draft environmental impact statement makes clear that the existing commercial oyster operation is causing extensive damage to Drakes Estero and the Seashore's beaches, and that allowing these operations to continue would cause even more long-term harm.

Your environmental review also shows that alternative "A"--no new permit for commercial oyster operations and protection of the Estero as full wilderness--is the environmentally preferred alternative and the one that best protects harbor seals, birds, fish and other natural resources.

I urge you to return Drakes Estero to all Americans by selecting alternative "A" and ensuring full wilderness protection for Drakes Estero in 2012. It is time to protect Drakes Estero as Congress intended and to create the West Coast's only marine wilderness for the benefit of people and wildlife.

Correspondence ID: 48244 **Project:** 33043 **Document:** 43390
Name: Colton, Julie
Outside Organization: National Wildlife Federation Action Fund Unaffiliated Individual
Received: Nov.30,2011 12:37:59
Correspondence Type: Web Form

Correspondence: Drakes Estero is the ecological heart of Point Reyes National Seashore and a treasure that belongs to all Americans. In 1976, Congress promised that the Estero would receive full wilderness protection when the current lease for commercial oyster operations expires in 2012. I urge the Park Service to honor the wilderness promise and protect Drakes Estero for future generations.

Drakes Estero is home to 20 percent of the mainland breeding population of harbor seals in California and is used by tens of thousands of shorebirds and waterfowl and dozens of species of native fish. Your draft environmental impact statement makes clear that the existing commercial oyster operation is causing extensive damage to Drakes Estero and the Seashore's beaches, and that allowing these operations to continue would cause even more long-term harm.

Your environmental review also shows that alternative "A"--no new permit for commercial oyster operations and protection of the Estero as full wilderness--is the environmentally preferred alternative and the one that best protects harbor seals, birds, fish and other natural resources.

I urge you to return Drakes Estero to all Americans by selecting alternative "A" and ensuring full wilderness protection for Drakes Estero in 2012. It is time to protect Drakes Estero as Congress intended and to create the West Coast's only marine wilderness for the benefit of people and wildlife.

Correspondence ID: 48245 **Project:** 33043 **Document:** 43390
Name: Hazelton, Judith
Outside Organization: National Wildlife Federation Action Fund Unaffiliated Individual
Received: Nov.30,2011 12:38:00
Correspondence Type: Web Form

Correspondence: Drakes Estero is the ecological heart of Point Reyes National Seashore and a treasure that belongs to all Americans. In 1976, Congress promised that the Estero would receive full wilderness protection when the current lease for commercial oyster operations expires in 2012. I urge the Park Service to honor the wilderness promise and protect Drakes Estero for future generations.

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Your environmental review also shows that alternative "A"--no new permit for commercial oyster operations and protection of the Estero as full wilderness--is the environmentally preferred alternative and the one that best protects harbor seals, birds, fish and other natural resources.

I urge you to return Drakes Estero to all Americans by selecting alternative "A" and ensuring full wilderness protection for Drakes Estero in 2012. It is time to protect Drakes Estero as Congress intended and to create the West Coast's only marine wilderness for the benefit of people and wildlife.

Correspondence ID: 48246 **Project:** 33043 **Document:** 43390
Name: Chaffins, Sheila
Outside Organization: National Wildlife Federation Action Fund Unaffiliated Individual
Received: Nov.30,2011 12:38:04
Correspondence Type: Web Form

Correspondence: Drakes Estero is the ecological heart of Point Reyes National Seashore and a treasure that belongs to all Americans. In 1976, Congress promised that the Estero would receive full wilderness protection when the current lease for commercial oyster operations expires in 2012. I urge the Park Service to honor the wilderness promise and protect Drakes Estero for future generations.

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I urge you to return Drakes Estero to all Americans by selecting alternative "A" and ensuring full wilderness protection for Drakes Estero in 2012. It is time to protect Drakes Estero as Congress intended and to create the West Coast's only marine wilderness for the benefit of people and wildlife.

Correspondence ID: 48247 **Project:** 33043 **Document:** 43390
Name: Pantalone, Arlene
Outside Organization: National Parks Conservation Association Unaffiliated Individual
Received: Nov,30,2011 12:40:34
Correspondence Type: Web Form

Correspondence: I urge you to protect Drakes Estero wilderness next year, as long intended. It is in the public interest to create the West Coast's only marine wilderness for the enjoyment of all. The public has waited nearly four decades for these protections to be implemented, which is an immense compromise in itself. Drakes Estero is a rare wildlife refuge where migrating birds stop over, harbor seals give birth, and fish take shelter in eelgrass. As someone who enjoys our nation's national parks and their wildlife, I urge you to uphold the longstanding plan to convert this very special resource to wilderness.

I urge you to select alternative "A", which protects marine wilderness next year and is the Environmentally Preferred Alternative. The National Park Service is mandated to provide maximum protection to the natural resources at Drakes Estero and selecting this alternative is the most consistent with the laws and policies affecting this park. Our national parks are set aside for the public and for wildlife protection, and after waiting nearly 40 years for private commercial use rights to expire, it's time to give the estuary the protection it needs. The environmental review shows that alternative "A" is best for public policy, and best protects harbor seals, fish, birds and other natural resources. Drakes Estero is our only marine wilderness on the West Coast, and is irreplaceable, while oysters can be commercially grown elsewhere.

Please honor the promise made for a protected marine wilderness at Drakes Estero. In doing so, you will set a good policy example and reward the public with an enduring legacy feat found nowhere else on the West Coast.

Correspondence ID: 48248 **Project:** 33043 **Document:** 43390
Name: McCoy, Lori A
Outside Organization: Unaffiliated Individual
Received: Nov,30,2011 12:41:49
Correspondence Type: Web Form

Correspondence: No Action! I am reminded of the problems caused by non-native species such as gypsy moths, snakehead fish, kudzu. Any change to the natural environment allows our native species to decline and pests to take their place.

Correspondence ID: 48249 **Project:** 33043 **Document:** 43390
Name: Gorton, Nancy
Outside Organization: NRDC Unaffiliated Individual
Received: Nov,30,2011 12:46:28
Correspondence Type: Web Form

Correspondence: Drakes Estero is a national ecological treasure and should become a protected wilderness area. It has outstanding natural resources, including one of California's largest harbor seal colonies and tens of thousands of shorebirds, waterfowl, native fish and endangered species that use its wetlands, mudflats and eelgrass beds.

In the 1976 Point Reyes Wilderness Act, Congress recognized Drakes Estero as a unique recreational and biological resource and promised that this irreplaceable resource would formally become a wilderness area when non-conforming uses were eliminated. Your agency permitted a commercial oyster company to grow non-native oysters and clams on 1,050 acres in Drakes Estero for 40 years, or until 2012.

Your own draft environmental impact statement reveals the extensive damage that the existing operation has caused to Drakes Estero and Point Reyes National Seashore's beaches. As you know, commercial operations of any kind are not permitted in designated wilderness areas because of such damage. Further, the Park Service's Organic Act mandates protection of park resources and values and strictly limits commercial operations.

Your approval of the proposal to extend the oyster company's permit would be contrary to the Point Reyes Wilderness Act and would establish a dangerous precedent at a time when America's public lands and environmental laws are already under widespread attacks in Congress and elsewhere.

We've been waiting long enough. It is time to allow that permit to expire and to honor Congress' commitment. We want our bay back.

Correspondence ID: 48251 **Project:** 33043 **Document:** 43390
Name: King, Neysa
Outside Organization: Unaffiliated Individual
Received: Nov,30,2011 13:07:39
Correspondence Type: Web Form

Correspondence: Dear National Park Service,

I urge you to implement Alternative A, and to remain committed to the November 2012 closure date for the DBOC. Drakes Estero is a unique, high quality estuary that provides invaluable natural habitats along the coast of California. The rare and sensitive nature of this ecosystem cannot be properly quantified nor protected with current activities continuing, which may be why the debate around impacts persists. We are trying to place a value on an ecosystem that cannot be replaced nor quantified, which

underscores the critical importance of permanent protection as a coastal wilderness area for now and all future generations.

Thank you for your consideration and I look forward to a hopeful and bright future for this shallow, muddy, magical and alive bay.

Correspondence ID: 48252 **Project:** 33043 **Document:** 43390
Name: Foiles, Dawn
Outside Organization: National Wildlife Federation Action Fund Unaffiliated Individual
Received: Nov.30,2011 13:07:55
Correspondence Type: Web Form
Correspondence: Drakes Estero is the ecological heart of Point Reyes National Seashore and a treasure that belongs to all Americans. In 1976, Congress promised that the Estero would receive full wilderness protection when the current lease for commercial oyster operations expires in 2012. I urge the Park Service to honor the wilderness promise and protect Drakes Estero for future generations.

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Your environmental review also shows that alternative "A"--no new permit for commercial oyster operations and protection of the Estero as full wilderness--is the environmentally preferred alternative and the one that best protects harbor seals, birds, fish and other natural resources.

I urge you to return Drakes Estero to all Americans by selecting alternative "A" and ensuring full wilderness protection for Drakes Estero in 2012. It is time to protect Drakes Estero as Congress intended and to create the West Coast's only marine wilderness for the benefit of people and wildlife.

Correspondence ID: 48253 **Project:** 33043 **Document:** 43390
Name: Lasecki, Clare
Outside Organization: National Wildlife Federation Action Fund Unaffiliated Individual
Received: Nov.30,2011 13:07:55
Correspondence Type: Web Form
Correspondence: Drakes Estero is the ecological heart of Point Reyes National Seashore and a treasure that belongs to all Americans. In 1976, Congress promised that the Estero would receive full wilderness protection when the current lease for commercial oyster operations expires in 2012. I urge the Park Service to honor the wilderness promise and protect Drakes Estero for future generations.

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I urge you to return Drakes Estero to all Americans by selecting alternative "A" and ensuring full wilderness protection for Drakes Estero in 2012. It is time to protect Drakes Estero as Congress intended and to create the West Coast's only marine wilderness for the benefit of people and wildlife.

Correspondence ID: 48254 **Project:** 33043 **Document:** 43390
Name: Larsen, Kim
Outside Organization: National Wildlife Federation Action Fund Unaffiliated Individual
Received: Nov.30,2011 13:08:02
Correspondence Type: Web Form
Correspondence: Drakes Estero is the ecological heart of Point Reyes National Seashore and a treasure that belongs to all Americans. In 1976, Congress promised that the Estero would receive full wilderness protection when the current lease for commercial oyster operations expires in 2012. I urge the Park Service to honor the wilderness promise and protect Drakes Estero for future generations.

Drakes Estero is home to 20 percent of the mainland breeding population of harbor seals in California and is used by tens of thousands of shorebirds and waterfowl and dozens of species of native fish. Your draft environmental impact statement makes clear that the existing commercial oyster operation is causing extensive damage to Drakes Estero and the Seashore's beaches, and that allowing these operations to continue would cause even more long-term harm.

Your environmental review also shows that alternative "A"--no new permit for commercial oyster operations and protection of

the Estero as full wilderness--is the environmentally preferred alternative and the one that best protects harbor seals, birds, fish and other natural resources.

I urge you to return Drakes Estero to all Americans by selecting alternative "A" and ensuring full wilderness protection for Drakes Estero in 2012. It is time to protect Drakes Estero as Congress intended and to create the West Coast's only marine wilderness for the benefit of people and wildlife.

Correspondence ID: 48255 **Project:** 33043 **Document:** 43390
Name: Gannon, Michele
Outside Organization: National Wildlife Federation Action Fund Unaffiliated Individual
Received: Nov,30,2011 13:08:02
Correspondence Type: Web Form

Correspondence: Drakes Estero is the ecological heart of Point Reyes National Seashore and a treasure that belongs to all Americans. In 1976, Congress promised that the Estero would receive full wilderness protection when the current lease for commercial oyster operations expires in 2012. I urge the Park Service to honor the wilderness promise and protect Drakes Estero for future generations.

Drakes Estero is home to 20 percent of the mainland breeding population of harbor seals in California and is used by tens of thousands of shorebirds and waterfowl and dozens of species of native fish. Your draft environmental impact statement makes clear that the existing commercial oyster operation is causing extensive damage to Drakes Estero and the Seashore's beaches, and that allowing these operations to continue would cause even more long-term harm.

Your environmental review also shows that alternative "A"--no new permit for commercial oyster operations and protection of the Estero as full wilderness--is the environmentally preferred alternative and the one that best protects harbor seals, birds, fish and other natural resources.

I urge you to return Drakes Estero to all Americans by selecting alternative "A" and ensuring full wilderness protection for Drakes Estero in 2012. It is time to protect Drakes Estero as Congress intended and to create the West Coast's only marine wilderness for the benefit of people and wildlife.

Correspondence ID: 48256 **Project:** 33043 **Document:** 43390
Name: Clark, Emily
Outside Organization: National Wildlife Federation Action Fund Unaffiliated Individual
Received: Nov,30,2011 13:08:02
Correspondence Type: Web Form

Correspondence: Drakes Estero is the ecological heart of Point Reyes National Seashore and a treasure that belongs to all Americans. In 1976, Congress promised that the Estero would receive full wilderness protection when the current lease for commercial oyster operations expires in 2012. I urge the Park Service to honor the wilderness promise and protect Drakes Estero for future generations.

Drakes Estero is home to 20 percent of the mainland breeding population of harbor seals in California and is used by tens of thousands of shorebirds and waterfowl and dozens of species of native fish. Your draft environmental impact statement makes clear that the existing commercial oyster operation is causing extensive damage to Drakes Estero and the Seashore's beaches, and that allowing these operations to continue would cause even more long-term harm.

Your environmental review also shows that alternative "A"--no new permit for commercial oyster operations and protection of the Estero as full wilderness--is the environmentally preferred alternative and the one that best protects harbor seals, birds, fish and other natural resources.

I urge you to return Drakes Estero to all Americans by selecting alternative "A" and ensuring full wilderness protection for Drakes Estero in 2012. It is time to protect Drakes Estero as Congress intended and to create the West Coast's only marine wilderness for the benefit of people and wildlife.

Correspondence ID: 48257 **Project:** 33043 **Document:** 43390
Name: Brush, Kim
Outside Organization: National Wildlife Federation Action Fund Unaffiliated Individual
Received: Nov,30,2011 00:00:00
Correspondence Type: Web Form

Correspondence: I agree with the below statement in its entirety. It's time to put an end to the oyster operation and restore this area to its proper ecologically sound state. I also agree with the below statement in its entirety.

Drakes Estero is the ecological heart of Point Reyes National Seashore and a treasure that belongs to all Americans. In 1976, Congress promised that the Estero would receive full wilderness protection when the current lease for commercial oyster operations expires in 2012. I urge the Park Service to honor the wilderness promise and protect Drakes Estero for future generations.

Drakes Estero is home to 20 percent of the mainland breeding population of harbor seals in California and is used by tens of

thousands of shorebirds and waterfowl and dozens of species of native fish. Your draft environmental impact statement makes clear that the existing commercial oyster operation is causing extensive damage to Drakes Estero and the Seashore's beaches, and that allowing these operations to continue would cause even more long-term harm.

Your environmental review also shows that alternative "A"--no new permit for commercial oyster operations and protection of the Estero as full wilderness--is the environmentally preferred alternative and the one that best protects harbor seals, birds, fish and other natural resources.

I urge you to return Drakes Estero to all Americans by selecting alternative "A" and ensuring full wilderness protection for Drakes Estero in 2012. It is time to protect Drakes Estero as Congress intended and to create the West Coast's only marine wilderness for the benefit of people and wildlife.

Correspondence ID: 48258 **Project:** 33043 **Document:** 43390

Name: Kowalczyk, Joyce

Outside Organization: National Parks Conservation Association Unaffiliated Individual

Received: Nov.30,2011 13:10:38

Correspondence Type: Web Form

Correspondence: I urge you to protect Drakes Estero wilderness next year, as long intended. It is in the public interest to create the West Coast's

only marine wilderness for the enjoyment of all. The public has waited nearly four decades for these protections to be implemented, which is an immense compromise in itself. Drakes Estero is a rare wildlife refuge where migrating birds stop over, harbor seals give birth, and fish take shelter in eelgrass. As someone who enjoys our nation's national parks and their wildlife, I urge you to uphold the longstanding plan to convert this very special resource to wilderness.

I urge you to select alternative "A", which protects marine wilderness next year and is the Environmentally Preferred Alternative. The National Park Service is mandated to provide maximum protection to the natural resources at Drakes Estero and selecting this alternative is the most consistent with the laws and policies affecting this park. Our national parks are set aside for the public and for wildlife protection, and after waiting nearly 40 years for private commercial use rights to expire, it's time to give the estuary the protection it needs. The environmental review shows that alternative "A" is best for public policy, and best protects harbor seals, fish, birds and other natural resources. Drakes Estero is our only marine wilderness on the West Coast, and is irreplaceable, while oysters can be commercially grown elsewhere.

Please honor the promise made for a protected marine wilderness at Drakes Estero. In doing so, you will set a good policy example and reward the public with an enduring legacy feat found nowhere else on the West Coast.

Correspondence ID: 48259 **Project:** 33043 **Document:** 43390

Name: Vernon, Lisa

Outside Organization: NRDC Unaffiliated Individual

Received: Nov.30,2011 13:16:06

Correspondence Type: Web Form

Correspondence: Drakes Estero is a national ecological treasure and should become a protected wilderness area. It has outstanding natural

resources, including one of California's largest harbor seal colonies and tens of thousands of shorebirds, waterfowl, native fish and endangered species that use its wetlands, mudflats and eelgrass beds.

In the 1976 Point Reyes Wilderness Act, Congress recognized Drakes Estero as a unique recreational and biological resource and promised that this irreplaceable resource would formally become a wilderness area when non-conforming uses were eliminated. Your agency permitted a commercial oyster company to grow non-native oysters and clams on 1,050 acres in Drakes Estero for 40 years, or until 2012.

Your own draft environmental impact statement reveals the extensive damage that the existing operation has caused to Drakes Estero and Point Reyes National Seashore's beaches. As you know, commercial operations of any kind are not permitted in designated wilderness areas because of such damage. Further, the Park Service's Organic Act mandates protection of park resources and values and strictly limits commercial operations.

Your approval of the proposal to extend the oyster company's permit would be contrary to the Point Reyes Wilderness Act and would establish a dangerous precedent at a time when America's public lands and environmental laws are already under widespread attacks in Congress and elsewhere.

We've been waiting long enough. It is time to allow that permit to expire and to honor Congress' commitment. We want our bay back.

Correspondence ID: 48261 **Project:** 33043 **Document:** 43390

Name: Foster, Phyllis

Outside Organization: Sierra Club Unaffiliated Individual

Received: Nov.30,2011 13:28:53

Correspondence Type: Web Form

Correspondence: I am writing to urge the National Park Service to protect Drakes Estero wilderness next year as long-intended. The American

public deserves to have the West Coast's only marine wilderness protected for future generations to enjoy. Drakes Estero is a rare wildlife refuge where migrating birds stop over, harbor seals give birth, and fish spawn. It deserves the highest level of

protection as Congress long-intended. As someone who enjoys our nation's spectacular national parks, I urge you to not undermine protections at Drakes Estero and succumb to special interests seeking to commercialize these special places.

I urge the National Park Service and the Department of the Interior to select alternative "A", which protects marine wilderness and is the environmentally preferred alternative. The NPS is mandated to provide maximum protection to the natural resources, as stated in the Seashore's legislation, and selecting this alternative is the most consistent with the laws and policies affecting this park. Our national parks are for the people and wildlife protection, not commercial exploitation. The environmental review shows that alternative "A" best protects harbor seals, fish, birds and other wildlife and plants. Drakes Estero is our only marine wilderness on the West Coast, and it is irreplaceable, while oysters can be grown elsewhere.

National Parks and wilderness areas are treasured by the majority of Americans and are for the public interest, not for private commercial exploitation. By protecting wilderness, the National Park Service will set a positive policy example while commercializing it will set a negative example and help others seek their special exemptions from national park laws.

Correspondence ID: 48262 **Project:** 33043 **Document:** 43390
Name: N/A, N/A
Outside Organization: Unaffiliated Individual
Received: Nov,30,2011 13:30:51
Correspondence Type: Web Form
Correspondence: I support a renewable Special Use Permit for Drakes Bay Oyster Company.

Correspondence ID: 48263 **Project:** 33043 **Document:** 43390
Name: White, Donald
Outside Organization: National Wildlife Federation Action Fund Unaffiliated Individual
Received: Nov,30,2011 13:38:16
Correspondence Type: Web Form
Correspondence: Drakes Estero is the ecological heart of Point Reyes National Seashore and a treasure that belongs to all Americans. In 1976, Congress promised that the Estero would receive full wilderness protection when the current lease for commercial oyster operations expires in 2012. I urge the Park Service to honor the wilderness promise and protect Drakes Estero for future generations.

Drakes Estero is home to 20 percent of the mainland breeding population of harbor seals in California and is used by tens of thousands of shorebirds and waterfowl and dozens of species of native fish. Your draft environmental impact statement makes clear that the existing commercial oyster operation is causing extensive damage to Drakes Estero and the Seashore's beaches, and that allowing these operations to continue would cause even more long-term harm.

Your environmental review also shows that alternative "A"--no new permit for commercial oyster operations and protection of the Estero as full wilderness--is the environmentally preferred alternative and the one that best protects harbor seals, birds, fish and other natural resources.

I urge you to return Drakes Estero to all Americans by selecting alternative "A" and ensuring full wilderness protection for Drakes Estero in 2012. It is time to protect Drakes Estero as Congress intended and to create the West Coast's only marine wilderness for the benefit of people and wildlife.

Correspondence ID: 48264 **Project:** 33043 **Document:** 43390
Name: Carlson, Patricia
Outside Organization: National Wildlife Federation Action Fund Unaffiliated Individual
Received: Nov,30,2011 13:38:16
Correspondence Type: Web Form
Correspondence: Drakes Estero is the ecological heart of Point Reyes National Seashore and a treasure that belongs to all Americans. In 1976, Congress promised that the Estero would receive full wilderness protection when the current lease for commercial oyster operations expires in 2012. I urge the Park Service to honor the wilderness promise and protect Drakes Estero for future generations.

Drakes Estero is home to 20 percent of the mainland breeding population of harbor seals in California and is used by tens of thousands of shorebirds and waterfowl and dozens of species of native fish. Your draft environmental impact statement makes clear that the existing commercial oyster operation is causing extensive damage to Drakes Estero and the Seashore's beaches, and that allowing these operations to continue would cause even more long-term harm.

Your environmental review also shows that alternative "A"--no new permit for commercial oyster operations and protection of the Estero as full wilderness--is the environmentally preferred alternative and the one that best protects harbor seals, birds, fish and other natural resources.

I urge you to return Drakes Estero to all Americans by selecting alternative "A" and ensuring full wilderness protection for Drakes Estero in 2012. It is time to protect Drakes Estero as Congress intended and to create the West Coast's only marine wilderness for the benefit of people and wildlife.

Correspondence ID: 48265 **Project:** 33043 **Document:** 43390
Name: Dieckman, Debby
Outside Organization: National Wildlife Federation Action Fund Unaffiliated Individual
Received: Nov.30,2011 13:38:22
Correspondence Type: Web Form

Correspondence: Drakes Estero is the ecological heart of Point Reyes National Seashore and a treasure that belongs to all Americans. In 1976, Congress promised that the Estero would receive full wilderness protection when the current lease for commercial oyster operations expires in 2012. I urge the Park Service to honor the wilderness promise and protect Drakes Estero for future generations.

Drakes Estero is home to 20 percent of the mainland breeding population of harbor seals in California and is used by tens of thousands of shorebirds and waterfowl and dozens of species of native fish. Your draft environmental impact statement makes clear that the existing commercial oyster operation is causing extensive damage to Drakes Estero and the Seashore's beaches, and that allowing these operations to continue would cause even more long-term harm.

Your environmental review also shows that alternative "A"--no new permit for commercial oyster operations and protection of the Estero as full wilderness--is the environmentally preferred alternative and the one that best protects harbor seals, birds, fish and other natural resources.

I urge you to return Drakes Estero to all Americans by selecting alternative "A" and ensuring full wilderness protection for Drakes Estero in 2012. It is time to protect Drakes Estero as Congress intended and to create the West Coast's only marine wilderness for the benefit of people and wildlife.

Correspondence ID: 48266 **Project:** 33043 **Document:** 43390
Name: Guyette, Michael
Outside Organization: National Wildlife Federation Action Fund Unaffiliated Individual
Received: Nov.30,2011 13:38:22
Correspondence Type: Web Form

Correspondence: Drakes Estero is the ecological heart of Point Reyes National Seashore and a treasure that belongs to all Americans. In 1976, Congress promised that the Estero would receive full wilderness protection when the current lease for commercial oyster operations expires in 2012. I urge the Park Service to honor the wilderness promise and protect Drakes Estero for future generations.

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Your environmental review also shows that alternative "A"--no new permit for commercial oyster operations and protection of the Estero as full wilderness--is the environmentally preferred alternative and the one that best protects harbor seals, birds, fish and other natural resources.

I urge you to return Drakes Estero to all Americans by selecting alternative "A" and ensuring full wilderness protection for Drakes Estero in 2012. It is time to protect Drakes Estero as Congress intended and to create the West Coast's only marine wilderness for the benefit of people and wildlife.

Correspondence ID: 48267 **Project:** 33043 **Document:** 43390
Name: McCune, Sean
Outside Organization: National Wildlife Federation Action Fund Unaffiliated Individual
Received: Nov.30,2011 13:38:24
Correspondence Type: Web Form

Correspondence: Drakes Estero is the ecological heart of Point Reyes National Seashore and a treasure that belongs to all Americans. In 1976, Congress promised that the Estero would receive full wilderness protection when the current lease for commercial oyster operations expires in 2012. I urge the Park Service to honor the wilderness promise and protect Drakes Estero for future generations.

Drakes Estero is home to 20 percent of the mainland breeding population of harbor seals in California and is used by tens of thousands of shorebirds and waterfowl and dozens of species of native fish. Your draft environmental impact statement makes clear that the existing commercial oyster operation is causing extensive damage to Drakes Estero and the Seashore's beaches, and that allowing these operations to continue would cause even more long-term harm.

Your environmental review also shows that alternative "A"--no new permit for commercial oyster operations and protection of the Estero as full wilderness--is the environmentally preferred alternative and the one that best protects harbor seals, birds, fish and other natural resources.

I urge you to return Drakes Estero to all Americans by selecting alternative "A" and ensuring full wilderness protection for Drakes Estero in 2012. It is time to protect Drakes Estero as Congress intended and to create the West Coast's only marine wilderness for the benefit of people and wildlife.

Correspondence ID: 48268 **Project:** 33043 **Document:** 43390
Name: Miltko, Valerie
Outside Organization: National Wildlife Federation Action Fund Unaffiliated Individual
Received: Nov.30,2011 13:38:28
Correspondence Type: Web Form

Correspondence: Drakes Estero is the ecological heart of Point Reyes National Seashore and a treasure that belongs to all Americans. In 1976, Congress promised that the Estero would receive full wilderness protection when the current lease for commercial oyster operations expires in 2012. I urge the Park Service to honor the wilderness promise and protect Drakes Estero for future generations.

Drakes Estero is home to 20 percent of the mainland breeding population of harbor seals in California and is used by tens of thousands of shorebirds and waterfowl and dozens of species of native fish. Your draft environmental impact statement makes clear that the existing commercial oyster operation is causing extensive damage to Drakes Estero and the Seashore's beaches, and that allowing these operations to continue would cause even more long-term harm.

Your environmental review also shows that alternative "A"--no new permit for commercial oyster operations and protection of the Estero as full wilderness--is the environmentally preferred alternative and the one that best protects harbor seals, birds, fish and other natural resources.

I urge you to return Drakes Estero to all Americans by selecting alternative "A" and ensuring full wilderness protection for Drakes Estero in 2012. It is time to protect Drakes Estero as Congress intended and to create the West Coast's only marine wilderness for the benefit of people and wildlife.

Correspondence ID: 48269 **Project:** 33043 **Document:** 43390
Name: Lipper, Carol
Outside Organization: National Wildlife Federation Action Fund Unaffiliated Individual
Received: Nov.30,2011 13:38:28
Correspondence Type: Web Form

Correspondence: Drakes Estero is the ecological heart of Point Reyes National Seashore and a treasure that belongs to all Americans. In 1976, Congress promised that the Estero would receive full wilderness protection when the current lease for commercial oyster operations expires in 2012. I urge the Park Service to honor the wilderness promise and protect Drakes Estero for future generations.

Drakes Estero is home to 20 percent of the mainland breeding population of harbor seals in California and is used by tens of thousands of shorebirds and waterfowl and dozens of species of native fish. Your draft environmental impact statement makes clear that the existing commercial oyster operation is causing extensive damage to Drakes Estero and the Seashore's beaches, and that allowing these operations to continue would cause even more long-term harm.

Your environmental review also shows that alternative "A"--no new permit for commercial oyster operations and protection of the Estero as full wilderness--is the environmentally preferred alternative and the one that best protects harbor seals, birds, fish and other natural resources.

I urge you to return Drakes Estero to all Americans by selecting alternative "A" and ensuring full wilderness protection for Drakes Estero in 2012. It is time to protect Drakes Estero as Congress intended and to create the West Coast's only marine wilderness for the benefit of people and wildlife.

Correspondence ID: 48270 **Project:** 33043 **Document:** 43390
Name: Bell, Jessica
Outside Organization: National Wildlife Federation Action Fund Unaffiliated Individual
Received: Nov.30,2011 13:38:30
Correspondence Type: Web Form

Correspondence: Drakes Estero is the ecological heart of Point Reyes National Seashore and a treasure that belongs to all Americans. In 1976, Congress promised that the Estero would receive full wilderness protection when the current lease for commercial oyster operations expires in 2012. I urge the Park Service to honor the wilderness promise and protect Drakes Estero for future generations.

Drakes Estero is home to 20 percent of the mainland breeding population of harbor seals in California and is used by tens of thousands of shorebirds and waterfowl and dozens of species of native fish. Your draft environmental impact statement makes clear that the existing commercial oyster operation is causing extensive damage to Drakes Estero and the Seashore's beaches, and that allowing these operations to continue would cause even more long-term harm.

Your environmental review also shows that alternative "A"--no new permit for commercial oyster operations and protection of the Estero as full wilderness--is the environmentally preferred alternative and the one that best protects harbor seals, birds, fish and other natural resources.

I urge you to return Drakes Estero to all Americans by selecting alternative "A" and ensuring full wilderness protection for

Drakes Estero in 2012. It is time to protect Drakes Estero as Congress intended and to create the West Coast's only marine wilderness for the benefit of people and wildlife.

Correspondence ID: 48271 **Project:** 33043 **Document:** 43390
Name: Krueger, Shari
Outside Organization: National Wildlife Federation Action Fund Unaffiliated Individual
Received: Nov,30,2011 13:38:34
Correspondence Type: Web Form
Correspondence:

Drakes Estero is the ecological heart of Point Reyes National Seashore and a treasure that belongs to all Americans. In 1976, Congress promised that the Estero would receive full wilderness protection when the current lease for commercial oyster operations expires in 2012. I urge the Park Service to honor the wilderness promise and protect Drakes Estero for future generations.

Drakes Estero is home to 20 percent of the mainland breeding population of harbor seals in California and is used by tens of thousands of shorebirds and waterfowl and dozens of species of native fish. Your draft environmental impact statement makes clear that the existing commercial oyster operation is causing extensive damage to Drakes Estero and the Seashore's beaches, and that allowing these operations to continue would cause even more long-term harm.

Your environmental review also shows that alternative "A"--no new permit for commercial oyster operations and protection of the Estero as full wilderness--is the environmentally preferred alternative and the one that best protects harbor seals, birds, fish and other natural resources.

I urge you to return Drakes Estero to all Americans by selecting alternative "A" and ensuring full wilderness protection for Drakes Estero in 2012. It is time to protect Drakes Estero as Congress intended and to create the West Coast's only marine wilderness for the benefit of people and wildlife.

Correspondence ID: 48272 **Project:** 33043 **Document:** 43390
Name: Perez, Nici
Outside Organization: National Wildlife Federation Action Fund Unaffiliated Individual
Received: Nov,30,2011 13:38:37
Correspondence Type: Web Form
Correspondence:

Drakes Estero is the ecological heart of Point Reyes National Seashore and a treasure that belongs to all Americans. In 1976, Congress promised that the Estero would receive full wilderness protection when the current lease for commercial oyster operations expires in 2012. I urge the Park Service to honor the wilderness promise and protect Drakes Estero for future generations.

Drakes Estero is home to 20 percent of the mainland breeding population of harbor seals in California and is used by tens of thousands of shorebirds and waterfowl and dozens of species of native fish. Your draft environmental impact statement makes clear that the existing commercial oyster operation is causing extensive damage to Drakes Estero and the Seashore's beaches, and that allowing these operations to continue would cause even more long-term harm.

Your environmental review also shows that alternative "A"--no new permit for commercial oyster operations and protection of the Estero as full wilderness--is the environmentally preferred alternative and the one that best protects harbor seals, birds, fish and other natural resources.

I urge you to return Drakes Estero to all Americans by selecting alternative "A" and ensuring full wilderness protection for Drakes Estero in 2012. It is time to protect Drakes Estero as Congress intended and to create the West Coast's only marine wilderness for the benefit of people and wildlife.

Correspondence ID: 48273 **Project:** 33043 **Document:** 43390
Name: Paul James Ordway, Paul
Outside Organization: NRDC Unaffiliated Individual
Received: Nov,30,2011 13:44:23
Correspondence Type: Web Form
Correspondence:

Drakes Estero is a national ecological treasure and should become a protected wilderness area. It has outstanding natural resources, including one of California's largest harbor seal colonies and tens of thousands of shorebirds, waterfowl, native fish and endangered species that use its wetlands, mudflats and eelgrass beds.

In the 1976 Point Reyes Wilderness Act, Congress recognized Drakes Estero as a unique recreational and biological resource and promised that this irreplaceable resource would formally become a wilderness area when non-conforming uses were eliminated. Your agency permitted a commercial oyster company to grow non-native oysters and clams on 1,050 acres in Drakes Estero for 40 years, or until 2012.

Your own draft environmental impact statement reveals the extensive damage that the existing operation has caused to Drakes Estero and Point Reyes National Seashore's beaches. As you know, commercial operations of any kind are not permitted in designated wilderness areas because of such damage. Further, the Park Service's Organic Act mandates protection of park

resources and values and strictly limits commercial operations.

Your approval of the proposal to extend the oyster company's permit would be contrary to the Point Reyes Wilderness Act and would establish a dangerous precedent at a time when America's public lands and environmental laws are already under widespread attacks in Congress and elsewhere.

We've been waiting long enough. It is time to allow that permit to expire and to honor Congress' commitment. We want our bay back.

Correspondence ID: 48274 **Project:** 33043 **Document:** 43390
Name: Wiseley, Cathy
Outside Organization: NRDC Unaffiliated Individual
Received: Nov.30,2011 13:45:26
Correspondence Type: Web Form
Correspondence: Drakes Estero is a national ecological treasure and should become a protected wilderness area. It has outstanding natural resources, including one of California's largest harbor seal colonies and tens of thousands of shorebirds, waterfowl, native fish and endangered species that use its wetlands, mudflats and eelgrass beds.

In the 1976 Point Reyes Wilderness Act, Congress recognized Drakes Estero as a unique recreational and biological resource and promised that this irreplaceable resource would formally become a wilderness area when non-conforming uses were eliminated. Your agency permitted a commercial oyster company to grow non-native oysters and clams on 1,050 acres in Drakes Estero for 40 years, or until 2012.

Your own draft environmental impact statement reveals the extensive damage that the existing operation has caused to Drakes Estero and Point Reyes National Seashore's beaches. As you know, commercial operations of any kind are not permitted in designated wilderness areas because of such damage. Further, the Park Service's Organic Act mandates protection of park resources and values and strictly limits commercial operations.

Your approval of the proposal to extend the oyster company's permit would be contrary to the Point Reyes Wilderness Act and would establish a dangerous precedent at a time when America's public lands and environmental laws are already under widespread attacks in Congress and elsewhere.

We've been waiting long enough. It is time to allow that permit to expire and to honor Congress' commitment. We want our bay back.

Correspondence ID: 48275 **Project:** 33043 **Document:** 43390
Name: Mansfield, Mark
Outside Organization: NRDC Unaffiliated Individual
Received: Nov.30,2011 13:46:23
Correspondence Type: Web Form
Correspondence: Drakes Estero is a national ecological treasure and should become a protected wilderness area. It has outstanding natural resources, including one of California's largest harbor seal colonies and tens of thousands of shorebirds, waterfowl, native fish and endangered species that use its wetlands, mudflats and eelgrass beds.

In the 1976 Point Reyes Wilderness Act, Congress recognized Drakes Estero as a unique recreational and biological resource and promised that this irreplaceable resource would formally become a wilderness area when non-conforming uses were eliminated. Your agency permitted a commercial oyster company to grow non-native oysters and clams on 1,050 acres in Drakes Estero for 40 years, or until 2012.

Your own draft environmental impact statement reveals the extensive damage that the existing operation has caused to Drakes Estero and Point Reyes National Seashore's beaches. As you know, commercial operations of any kind are not permitted in designated wilderness areas because of such damage. Further, the Park Service's Organic Act mandates protection of park resources and values and strictly limits commercial operations.

Your approval of the proposal to extend the oyster company's permit would be contrary to the Point Reyes Wilderness Act and would establish a dangerous precedent at a time when America's public lands and environmental laws are already under widespread attacks in Congress and elsewhere.

We've been waiting long enough. It is time to allow that permit to expire and to honor Congress' commitment. We want our bay back.

Correspondence ID: 48276 **Project:** 33043 **Document:** 43390
Name: Frost, Alicia
Outside Organization: Sierra Club Unaffiliated Individual
Received: Nov.30,2011 00:00:00
Correspondence Type: Web Form
Correspondence: I am writing to urge the National Park Service to protect Drakes Estero wilderness next year as long-intended.

This park has been dear to me and my family for over twenty years now. Aside from the environmental reasons for continued protection, I admit to a gut-wrenching sensation at the thought of houses and businesses speckling those wide sweeping grasses. Why is profit the best reason for action anyone can come up with these days. What about love? What about shared experiences? What about beauty, preserved for continued shared experience? This is more than a sanctuary for plants and wild animals. It is a sanctuary of the soul.

The American public deserves to have the West Coast's only marine wilderness protected for future generations to enjoy. Drakes Estero is a rare wildlife refuge where migrating birds stop over, harbor seals give birth, and fish spawn. It deserves the highest level of protection as Congress long-intended. As someone who enjoys our nation's spectacular national parks, I urge you to not undermine protections at Drakes Estero and succumb to special interests seeking to commercialize these special places.

Please know how valuable this place is beyond the scope of money.

I urge the National Park Service and the Department of the Interior to select alternative "A", which protects marine wilderness and is the environmentally preferred alternative. The NPS is mandated to provide maximum protection to the natural resources, as stated in the Seashore's legislation, and selecting this alternative is the most consistent with the laws and policies affecting this park. Our national parks are for the people and wildlife protection, not commercial exploitation. The environmental review shows that alternative "A" best protects harbor seals, fish, birds and other wildlife and plants. Drakes Estero is our only marine wilderness on the West Coast, and it is irreplaceable, while oysters can be grown elsewhere.

National Parks and wilderness areas are treasured by the majority of Americans and are for the public interest, not for private commercial exploitation. By protecting wilderness, the National Park Service will set a positive policy example while commercializing it will set a negative example and help others seek their special exemptions from national park laws.

Correspondence ID: 48277 **Project:** 33043 **Document:** 43390
Name: Sheldon, Piper
Outside Organization: National Wildlife Federation Action Fund Unaffiliated Individual
Received: Nov,30,2011 14:08:40
Correspondence Type: Web Form
Correspondence: Drakes Estero is the ecological heart of Point Reyes National Seashore and a treasure that belongs to all Americans. In 1976, Congress promised that the Estero would receive full wilderness protection when the current lease for commercial oyster operations expires in 2012. I urge the Park Service to honor the wilderness promise and protect Drakes Estero for future generations.

Drakes Estero is home to 20 percent of the mainland breeding population of harbor seals in California and is used by tens of thousands of shorebirds and waterfowl and dozens of species of native fish. Your draft environmental impact statement makes clear that the existing commercial oyster operation is causing extensive damage to Drakes Estero and the Seashore's beaches, and that allowing these operations to continue would cause even more long-term harm.

Your environmental review also shows that alternative "A"--no new permit for commercial oyster operations and protection of the Estero as full wilderness--is the environmentally preferred alternative and the one that best protects harbor seals, birds, fish and other natural resources.

I urge you to return Drakes Estero to all Americans by selecting alternative "A" and ensuring full wilderness protection for Drakes Estero in 2012. It is time to protect Drakes Estero as Congress intended and to create the West Coast's only marine wilderness for the benefit of people and wildlife.

Correspondence ID: 48278 **Project:** 33043 **Document:** 43390
Name: Delphinidae, Holly
Outside Organization: National Wildlife Federation Action Fund Unaffiliated Individual
Received: Nov,30,2011 14:08:40
Correspondence Type: Web Form
Correspondence: Drakes Estero is the ecological heart of Point Reyes National Seashore and a treasure that belongs to all Americans. In 1976, Congress promised that the Estero would receive full wilderness protection when the current lease for commercial oyster operations expires in 2012. I urge the Park Service to honor the wilderness promise and protect Drakes Estero for future generations.

Drakes Estero is home to 20 percent of the mainland breeding population of harbor seals in California and is used by tens of thousands of shorebirds and waterfowl and dozens of species of native fish. Your draft environmental impact statement makes clear that the existing commercial oyster operation is causing extensive damage to Drakes Estero and the Seashore's beaches, and that allowing these operations to continue would cause even more long-term harm.

Your environmental review also shows that alternative "A"--no new permit for commercial oyster operations and protection of the Estero as full wilderness--is the environmentally preferred alternative and the one that best protects harbor seals, birds, fish and other natural resources.

I urge you to return Drakes Estero to all Americans by selecting alternative "A" and ensuring full wilderness protection for Drakes Estero in 2012. It is time to protect Drakes Estero as Congress intended and to create the West Coast's only marine wilderness for the benefit of people and wildlife.

Correspondence ID: 48279 **Project:** 33043 **Document:** 43390
Name: CATANO, ALICIA
Outside Organization: National Wildlife Federation Action Fund Unaffiliated Individual
Received: Nov,30,2011 14:08:44
Correspondence Type: Web Form
Correspondence: Drakes Estero is the ecological heart of Point Reyes National Seashore and a treasure that belongs to all Americans. In 1976, Congress promised that the Estero would receive full wilderness protection when the current lease for commercial oyster operations expires in 2012. I urge the Park Service to honor the wilderness promise and protect Drakes Estero for future generations.

Drakes Estero is home to 20 percent of the mainland breeding population of harbor seals in California and is used by tens of thousands of shorebirds and waterfowl and dozens of species of native fish. Your draft environmental impact statement makes clear that the existing commercial oyster operation is causing extensive damage to Drakes Estero and the Seashore's beaches, and that allowing these operations to continue would cause even more long-term harm.

Your environmental review also shows that alternative "A"--no new permit for commercial oyster operations and protection of the Estero as full wilderness--is the environmentally preferred alternative and the one that best protects harbor seals, birds, fish and other natural resources.

I urge you to return Drakes Estero to all Americans by selecting alternative "A" and ensuring full wilderness protection for Drakes Estero in 2012. It is time to protect Drakes Estero as Congress intended and to create the West Coast's only marine wilderness for the benefit of people and wildlife.

Correspondence ID: 48280 **Project:** 33043 **Document:** 43390
Name: hatley, d
Outside Organization: National Wildlife Federation Action Fund Unaffiliated Individual
Received: Nov,30,2011 14:08:46
Correspondence Type: Web Form
Correspondence: Drakes Estero is the ecological heart of Point Reyes National Seashore and a treasure that belongs to all Americans. In 1976, Congress promised that the Estero would receive full wilderness protection when the current lease for commercial oyster operations expires in 2012. I urge the Park Service to honor the wilderness promise and protect Drakes Estero for future generations.

Drakes Estero is home to 20 percent of the mainland breeding population of harbor seals in California and is used by tens of thousands of shorebirds and waterfowl and dozens of species of native fish. Your draft environmental impact statement makes clear that the existing commercial oyster operation is causing extensive damage to Drakes Estero and the Seashore's beaches, and that allowing these operations to continue would cause even more long-term harm.

Your environmental review also shows that alternative "A"--no new permit for commercial oyster operations and protection of the Estero as full wilderness--is the environmentally preferred alternative and the one that best protects harbor seals, birds, fish and other natural resources.

I urge you to return Drakes Estero to all Americans by selecting alternative "A" and ensuring full wilderness protection for Drakes Estero in 2012. It is time to protect Drakes Estero as Congress intended and to create the West Coast's only marine wilderness for the benefit of people and wildlife.

Correspondence ID: 48281 **Project:** 33043 **Document:** 43390
Name: Jones, Sarah
Outside Organization: National Wildlife Federation Action Fund Unaffiliated Individual
Received: Nov,30,2011 14:08:46
Correspondence Type: Web Form
Correspondence: Drakes Estero is the ecological heart of Point Reyes National Seashore and a treasure that belongs to all Americans. In 1976, Congress promised that the Estero would receive full wilderness protection when the current lease for commercial oyster operations expires in 2012. I urge the Park Service to honor the wilderness promise and protect Drakes Estero for future generations.

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Your environmental review also shows that alternative "A"--no new permit for commercial oyster operations and protection of the Estero as full wilderness--is the environmentally preferred alternative and the one that best protects harbor seals, birds, fish

and other natural resources.

I urge you to return Drakes Estero to all Americans by selecting alternative "A" and ensuring full wilderness protection for Drakes Estero in 2012. It is time to protect Drakes Estero as Congress intended and to create the West Coast's only marine wilderness for the benefit of people and wildlife.

Correspondence ID: 48282 **Project:** 33043 **Document:** 43390
Name: Maderer, Susan
Outside Organization: National Wildlife Federation Action Fund Unaffiliated Individual
Received: Nov.30,2011 14:08:50
Correspondence Type: Web Form

Correspondence: Drakes Estero is the ecological heart of Point Reyes National Seashore and a treasure that belongs to all Americans. In 1976, Congress promised that the Estero would receive full wilderness protection when the current lease for commercial oyster operations expires in 2012. I urge the Park Service to honor the wilderness promise and protect Drakes Estero for future generations.

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I urge you to return Drakes Estero to all Americans by selecting alternative "A" and ensuring full wilderness protection for Drakes Estero in 2012. It is time to protect Drakes Estero as Congress intended and to create the West Coast's only marine wilderness for the benefit of people and wildlife.

Correspondence ID: 48283 **Project:** 33043 **Document:** 43390
Name: Kirk, Patty
Outside Organization: National Wildlife Federation Action Fund Unaffiliated Individual
Received: Nov.30,2011 14:08:50
Correspondence Type: Web Form

Correspondence: Drakes Estero is the ecological heart of Point Reyes National Seashore and a treasure that belongs to all Americans. In 1976, Congress promised that the Estero would receive full wilderness protection when the current lease for commercial oyster operations expires in 2012. I urge the Park Service to honor the wilderness promise and protect Drakes Estero for future generations.

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I urge you to return Drakes Estero to all Americans by selecting alternative "A" and ensuring full wilderness protection for Drakes Estero in 2012. It is time to protect Drakes Estero as Congress intended and to create the West Coast's only marine wilderness for the benefit of people and wildlife.

Correspondence ID: 48284 **Project:** 33043 **Document:** 43390
Name: Guenther, George
Outside Organization: National Wildlife Federation Action Fund Unaffiliated Individual
Received: Nov.30,2011 14:08:50
Correspondence Type: Web Form

Correspondence: Drakes Estero is the ecological heart of Point Reyes National Seashore and a treasure that belongs to all Americans. In 1976, Congress promised that the Estero would receive full wilderness protection when the current lease for commercial oyster operations expires in 2012. I urge the Park Service to honor the wilderness promise and protect Drakes Estero for future generations.

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Correspondence ID: 48285 **Project:** 33043 **Document:** 43390
Name: Meyer, Katie L
Outside Organization: National Wildlife Federation Action Fund Unaffiliated Individual
Received: Nov.30,2011 14:08:52
Correspondence Type: Web Form
Correspondence: Drakes Estero is the ecological heart of Point Reyes National Seashore and a treasure that belongs to all Americans. In 1976, Congress promised that the Estero would receive full wilderness protection when the current lease for commercial oyster operations expires in 2012. I urge the Park Service to honor the wilderness promise and protect Drakes Estero for future generations.

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Correspondence ID: 48286 **Project:** 33043 **Document:** 43390
Name: Hurst, Jetta
Outside Organization: National Wildlife Federation Action Fund Unaffiliated Individual
Received: Nov.30,2011 14:08:52
Correspondence Type: Web Form
Correspondence: Drakes Estero is the ecological heart of Point Reyes National Seashore and a treasure that belongs to all Americans. In 1976, Congress promised that the Estero would receive full wilderness protection when the current lease for commercial oyster operations expires in 2012. I urge the Park Service to honor the wilderness promise and protect Drakes Estero for future generations.

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Correspondence ID: 48287 **Project:** 33043 **Document:** 43390
Name: Nolan, Fiona
Outside Organization: National Wildlife Federation Action Fund Unaffiliated Individual
Received: Nov.30,2011 14:08:55
Correspondence Type: Web Form
Correspondence: Drakes Estero is the ecological heart of Point Reyes National Seashore and a treasure that belongs to all Americans. In 1976, Congress promised that the Estero would receive full wilderness protection when the current lease for commercial oyster operations expires in 2012. I urge the Park Service to honor the wilderness promise and protect Drakes Estero for future generations.

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and that allowing these operations to continue would cause even more long-term harm.

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Correspondence ID: 48288 **Project:** 33043 **Document:** 43390
Name: Battle, Dorothy
Outside Organization: National Wildlife Federation Action Fund Unaffiliated Individual
Received: Nov,30,2011 14:08:55
Correspondence Type: Web Form
Correspondence: Drakes Estero is the ecological heart of Point Reyes National Seashore and a treasure that belongs to all Americans. In 1976, Congress promised that the Estero would receive full wilderness protection when the current lease for commercial oyster operations expires in 2012. I urge the Park Service to honor the wilderness promise and protect Drakes Estero for future generations.

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Correspondence ID: 48289 **Project:** 33043 **Document:** 43390
Name: Fitzgerald, D R
Outside Organization: National Wildlife Federation Action Fund Unaffiliated Individual
Received: Nov,30,2011 14:08:55
Correspondence Type: Web Form
Correspondence: Drakes Estero is the ecological heart of Point Reyes National Seashore and a treasure that belongs to all Americans. In 1976, Congress promised that the Estero would receive full wilderness protection when the current lease for commercial oyster operations expires in 2012. I urge the Park Service to honor the wilderness promise and protect Drakes Estero for future generations.

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Your environmental review also shows that alternative "A"--no new permit for commercial oyster operations and protection of the Estero as full wilderness--is the environmentally preferred alternative and the one that best protects harbor seals, birds, fish and other natural resources.

I urge you to return Drakes Estero to all Americans by selecting alternative "A" and ensuring full wilderness protection for Drakes Estero in 2012. It is time to protect Drakes Estero as Congress intended and to create the West Coast's only marine wilderness for the benefit of people and wildlife.

Correspondence ID: 48290 **Project:** 33043 **Document:** 43390
Name: Tyson, Michele
Outside Organization: National Wildlife Federation Action Fund Unaffiliated Individual
Received: Nov,30,2011 14:08:56
Correspondence Type: Web Form
Correspondence: Drakes Estero is the ecological heart of Point Reyes National Seashore and a treasure that belongs to all Americans. In 1976, Congress promised that the Estero would receive full wilderness protection when the current lease for commercial oyster operations expires in 2012. I urge the Park Service to honor the wilderness promise and protect Drakes Estero for future generations.

Drakes Estero is home to 20 percent of the mainland breeding population of harbor seals in California and is used by tens of

thousands of shorebirds and waterfowl and dozens of species of native fish. Your draft environmental impact statement makes clear that the existing commercial oyster operation is causing extensive damage to Drakes Estero and the Seashore's beaches, and that allowing these operations to continue would cause even more long-term harm.

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I urge you to return Drakes Estero to all Americans by selecting alternative "A" and ensuring full wilderness protection for Drakes Estero in 2012. It is time to protect Drakes Estero as Congress intended and to create the West Coast's only marine wilderness for the benefit of people and wildlife.

Correspondence ID: 48291 **Project:** 33043 **Document:** 43390
Name: Hart, Donna
Outside Organization: National Wildlife Federation Action Fund Unaffiliated Individual
Received: Nov.30,2011 14:08:57
Correspondence Type: Web Form
Correspondence: Drakes Estero is the ecological heart of Point Reyes National Seashore and a treasure that belongs to all Americans. In 1976, Congress promised that the Estero would receive full wilderness protection when the current lease for commercial oyster operations expires in 2012. I urge the Park Service to honor the wilderness promise and protect Drakes Estero for future generations.

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Your environmental review also shows that alternative "A"--no new permit for commercial oyster operations and protection of the Estero as full wilderness--is the environmentally preferred alternative and the one that best protects harbor seals, birds, fish and other natural resources.

I urge you to return Drakes Estero to all Americans by selecting alternative "A" and ensuring full wilderness protection for Drakes Estero in 2012. It is time to protect Drakes Estero as Congress intended and to create the West Coast's only marine wilderness for the benefit of people and wildlife.

Correspondence ID: 48292 **Project:** 33043 **Document:** 43390
Name: Clark, Matthew
Outside Organization: National Wildlife Federation Action Fund Unaffiliated Individual
Received: Nov.30,2011 14:09:32
Correspondence Type: Web Form
Correspondence: Drakes Estero is the ecological heart of Point Reyes National Seashore and a treasure that belongs to all Americans. In 1976, Congress promised that the Estero would receive full wilderness protection when the current lease for commercial oyster operations expires in 2012. I urge the Park Service to honor the wilderness promise and protect Drakes Estero for future generations.

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Your environmental review also shows that alternative "A"--no new permit for commercial oyster operations and protection of the Estero as full wilderness--is the environmentally preferred alternative and the one that best protects harbor seals, birds, fish and other natural resources.

I urge you to return Drakes Estero to all Americans by selecting alternative "A" and ensuring full wilderness protection for Drakes Estero in 2012. It is time to protect Drakes Estero as Congress intended and to create the West Coast's only marine wilderness for the benefit of people and wildlife.

Correspondence ID: 48293 **Project:** 33043 **Document:** 43390
Name: Poppe, Robin
Outside Organization: National Parks Conservation Association Unaffiliated Individual
Received: Nov.30,2011 14:10:55
Correspondence Type: Web Form
Correspondence: I urge you to protect Drakes Estero wilderness next year, as long intended. It is in the public interest to create the West Coast's only marine wilderness for the enjoyment of all. The public has waited nearly four decades for these protections to be implemented, which is an immense compromise in itself. Drakes Estero is a rare wildlife refuge where migrating birds stop over, harbor seals give birth, and fish take shelter in eelgrass. As someone who enjoys our nation's national parks and their wildlife, I urge you to uphold the longstanding plan to convert this very special resource to wilderness.

I urge you to select alternative "A", which protects marine wilderness next year and is the Environmentally Preferred Alternative. The National Park Service is mandated to provide maximum protection to the natural resources at Drakes Estero and selecting this alternative is the most consistent with the laws and policies affecting this park. Our national parks are set aside for the public and for wildlife protection, and after waiting nearly 40 years for private commercial use rights to expire, it's time to give the estuary the protection it needs. The environmental review shows that alternative "A" is best for public policy, and best protects harbor seals, fish, birds and other natural resources. Drakes Estero is our only marine wilderness on the West Coast, and is irreplaceable, while oysters can be commercially grown elsewhere.

Please honor the promise made for a protected marine wilderness at Drakes Estero. In doing so, you will set a good policy example and reward the public with an enduring legacy feat found nowhere else on the West Coast.

Correspondence ID: 48294 **Project:** 33043 **Document:** 43390
Name: Guernsey, Donna
Outside Organization: National Parks Conservation Association Unaffiliated Individual
Received: Nov.30,2011 14:10:56
Correspondence Type: Web Form

Correspondence: I urge you to protect Drakes Estero wilderness next year, as long intended. It is in the public interest to create the West Coast's only marine wilderness for the enjoyment of all. The public has waited nearly four decades for these protections to be implemented, which is an immense compromise in itself. Drakes Estero is a rare wildlife refuge where migrating birds stop over, harbor seals give birth, and fish take shelter in eelgrass. As someone who enjoys our nation's national parks and their wildlife, I urge you to uphold the longstanding plan to convert this very special resource to wilderness.

I urge you to select alternative "A", which protects marine wilderness next year and is the Environmentally Preferred Alternative. The National Park Service is mandated to provide maximum protection to the natural resources at Drakes Estero and selecting this alternative is the most consistent with the laws and policies affecting this park. Our national parks are set aside for the public and for wildlife protection, and after waiting nearly 40 years for private commercial use rights to expire, it's time to give the estuary the protection it needs. The environmental review shows that alternative "A" is best for public policy, and best protects harbor seals, fish, birds and other natural resources. Drakes Estero is our only marine wilderness on the West Coast, and is irreplaceable, while oysters can be commercially grown elsewhere.

Please honor the promise made for a protected marine wilderness at Drakes Estero. In doing so, you will set a good policy example and reward the public with an enduring legacy feat found nowhere else on the West Coast.

Correspondence ID: 48298 **Project:** 33043 **Document:** 43390
Name: N/A, N/A
Outside Organization: Unaffiliated Individual
Received: Nov.30,2011 14:23:32
Correspondence Type: Web Form

Correspondence: None of the proposed alternatives are appropriate. I support a renewable Special Use Permit for Drakes Bay Oyster Company.

Correspondence ID: 48299 **Project:** 33043 **Document:** 43390
Name: Watson, Ute
Outside Organization: Sierra Club Unaffiliated Individual
Received: Nov.30,2011 14:31:04
Correspondence Type: Web Form

Correspondence: I am writing to urge the National Park Service to protect Drakes Estero wilderness next year as long-intended. The American public deserves to have the West Coast's only marine wilderness protected for future generations to enjoy. Drakes Estero is a rare wildlife refuge where migrating birds stop over, harbor seals give birth, and fish spawn. It deserves the highest level of protection as Congress long-intended. As someone who enjoys our nation's spectacular national parks, I urge you to not undermine protections at Drakes Estero and succumb to special interests seeking to commercialize these special places.

I urge the National Park Service and the Department of the Interior to select alternative "A", which protects marine wilderness and is the environmentally preferred alternative. The NPS is mandated to provide maximum protection to the natural resources, as stated in the Seashore's legislation, and selecting this alternative is the most consistent with the laws and policies affecting this park. Our national parks are for the people and wildlife protection, not commercial exploitation. The environmental review shows that alternative "A" best protects harbor seals, fish, birds and other wildlife and plants. Drakes Estero is our only marine wilderness on the West Coast, and it is irreplaceable, while oysters can be grown elsewhere.

National Parks and wilderness areas are treasured by the majority of Americans and are for the public interest, not for private commercial exploitation. By protecting wilderness, the National Park Service will set a positive policy example while commercializing it will set a negative example and help others seek their special exemptions from national park laws.

Correspondence ID: 48300 **Project:** 33043 **Document:** 43390
Name: neil, lewis
Outside Organization: National Wildlife Federation Action Fund Unaffiliated Individual
Received: Nov.30,2011 14:38:06
Correspondence Type: Web Form

Correspondence: Drakes Estero is the ecological heart of Point Reyes National Seashore and a treasure that belongs to all Americans. In 1976, Congress promised that the Estero would receive full wilderness protection when the current lease for commercial oyster operations expires in 2012. I urge the Park Service to honor the wilderness promise and protect Drakes Estero for future generations.

Drakes Estero is home to 20 percent of the mainland breeding population of harbor seals in California and is used by tens of thousands of shorebirds and waterfowl and dozens of species of native fish. Your draft environmental impact statement makes clear that the existing commercial oyster operation is causing extensive damage to Drakes Estero and the Seashore's beaches, and that allowing these operations to continue would cause even more long-term harm.

Your environmental review also shows that alternative "A"--no new permit for commercial oyster operations and protection of the Estero as full wilderness--is the environmentally preferred alternative and the one that best protects harbor seals, birds, fish and other natural resources.

I urge you to return Drakes Estero to all Americans by selecting alternative "A" and ensuring full wilderness protection for Drakes Estero in 2012. It is time to protect Drakes Estero as Congress intended and to create the West Coast's only marine wilderness for the benefit of people and wildlife.

Correspondence ID: 48301 **Project:** 33043 **Document:** 43390
Name: Lewis, Victoria
Outside Organization: National Wildlife Federation Action Fund Unaffiliated Individual
Received: Nov.30,2011 14:38:06
Correspondence Type: Web Form

Correspondence: Drakes Estero is the ecological heart of Point Reyes National Seashore and a treasure that belongs to all Americans. In 1976, Congress promised that the Estero would receive full wilderness protection when the current lease for commercial oyster operations expires in 2012. I urge the Park Service to honor the wilderness promise and protect Drakes Estero for future generations.

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Correspondence ID: 48302 **Project:** 33043 **Document:** 43390
Name: mcintyre, Earlylynn
Outside Organization: National Wildlife Federation Action Fund Unaffiliated Individual
Received: Nov.30,2011 14:38:06
Correspondence Type: Web Form

Correspondence: Drakes Estero is the ecological heart of Point Reyes National Seashore and a treasure that belongs to all Americans. In 1976, Congress promised that the Estero would receive full wilderness protection when the current lease for commercial oyster operations expires in 2012. I urge the Park Service to honor the wilderness promise and protect Drakes Estero for future generations.

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Correspondence ID: 48303 **Project:** 33043 **Document:** 43390
Name: Broughton, Beaty E
Outside Organization: National Wildlife Federation Action Fund Unaffiliated Individual

Received: Nov,30,2011 14:38:12

Correspondence Type: Web Form

Correspondence: Drakes Estero is the ecological heart of Point Reyes National Seashore and a treasure that belongs to all Americans. In 1976, Congress promised that the Estero would receive full wilderness protection when the current lease for commercial oyster operations expires in 2012. I urge the Park Service to honor the wilderness promise and protect Drakes Estero for future generations.

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Correspondence ID: 48304 **Project:** 33043 **Document:** 43390

Name: Yovnelo, Christine

Outside Organization: National Wildlife Federation Action Fund Unaffiliated Individual

Received: Nov,30,2011 14:38:12

Correspondence Type: Web Form

Correspondence: Drakes Estero is the ecological heart of Point Reyes National Seashore and a treasure that belongs to all Americans. In 1976, Congress promised that the Estero would receive full wilderness protection when the current lease for commercial oyster operations expires in 2012. I urge the Park Service to honor the wilderness promise and protect Drakes Estero for future generations.

Drakes Estero is home to 20 percent of the mainland breeding population of harbor seals in California and is used by tens of thousands of shorebirds and waterfowl and dozens of species of native fish. Your draft environmental impact statement makes clear that the existing commercial oyster operation is causing extensive damage to Drakes Estero and the Seashore's beaches, and that allowing these operations to continue would cause even more long-term harm.

Your environmental review also shows that alternative "A"--no new permit for commercial oyster operations and protection of the Estero as full wilderness--is the environmentally preferred alternative and the one that best protects harbor seals, birds, fish and other natural resources.

I urge you to return Drakes Estero to all Americans by selecting alternative "A" and ensuring full wilderness protection for Drakes Estero in 2012. It is time to protect Drakes Estero as Congress intended and to create the West Coast's only marine wilderness for the benefit of people and wildlife.

Correspondence ID: 48305 **Project:** 33043 **Document:** 43390

Name: Koenig, James

Outside Organization: National Wildlife Federation Action Fund Unaffiliated Individual

Received: Nov,30,2011 14:38:12

Correspondence Type: Web Form

Correspondence: Drakes Estero is the ecological heart of Point Reyes National Seashore and a treasure that belongs to all Americans. In 1976, Congress promised that the Estero would receive full wilderness protection when the current lease for commercial oyster operations expires in 2012. I urge the Park Service to honor the wilderness promise and protect Drakes Estero for future generations.

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Correspondence ID: 48307 **Project:** 33043 **Document:** 43390

Name: beck, deborah
Outside Organization: NRDC Unaffiliated Individual
Received: Nov,30,2011 14:44:12
Correspondence Type: Web Form
Correspondence: Drakes Estero is a national ecological treasure and should become a protected wilderness area. It has outstanding natural resources, including one of California's largest harbor seal colonies and tens of thousands of shorebirds, waterfowl, native fish and endangered species that use its wetlands, mudflats and eelgrass beds.

In the 1976 Point Reyes Wilderness Act, Congress recognized Drakes Estero as a unique recreational and biological resource and promised that this irreplaceable resource would formally become a wilderness area when non-conforming uses were eliminated. Your agency permitted a commercial oyster company to grow non-native oysters and clams on 1,050 acres in Drakes Estero for 40 years, or until 2012.

Your own draft environmental impact statement reveals the extensive damage that the existing operation has caused to Drakes Estero and Point Reyes National Seashore's beaches. As you know, commercial operations of any kind are not permitted in designated wilderness areas because of such damage. Further, the Park Service's Organic Act mandates protection of park resources and values and strictly limits commercial operations.

Your approval of the proposal to extend the oyster company's permit would be contrary to the Point Reyes Wilderness Act and would establish a dangerous precedent at a time when America's public lands and environmental laws are already under widespread attacks in Congress and elsewhere.

We've been waiting long enough. It is time to allow that permit to expire and to honor Congress' commitment. We want our bay back.

Correspondence ID: 48308 **Project:** 33043 **Document:** 43390
Name: Sousa, Amanda
Outside Organization: NRDC Unaffiliated Individual
Received: Nov,30,2011 14:44:49
Correspondence Type: Web Form
Correspondence: Drakes Estero is a national ecological treasure and should become a protected wilderness area. It has outstanding natural resources, including one of California's largest harbor seal colonies and tens of thousands of shorebirds, waterfowl, native fish and endangered species that use its wetlands, mudflats and eelgrass beds.

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Correspondence ID: 48309 **Project:** 33043 **Document:** 43390
Name: Harold, Geoffrey
Outside Organization: NRDC Unaffiliated Individual
Received: Nov,30,2011 14:45:02
Correspondence Type: Web Form
Correspondence: Drakes Estero is a national ecological treasure and should become a protected wilderness area. It has outstanding natural resources, including one of California's largest harbor seal colonies and tens of thousands of shorebirds, waterfowl, native fish and endangered species that use its wetlands, mudflats and eelgrass beds.

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designated wilderness areas because of such damage. Further, the Park Service's Organic Act mandates protection of park resources and values and strictly limits commercial operations.

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Correspondence ID: 48310 **Project:** 33043 **Document:** 43390
Name: Lyons, Steve
Outside Organization: NRDC Unaffiliated Individual
Received: Nov,30,2011 14:46:18
Correspondence Type: Web Form
Correspondence: Drakes Estero is a national ecological treasure and should become a protected wilderness area. It has outstanding natural resources, including one of California's largest harbor seal colonies and tens of thousands of shorebirds, waterfowl, native fish and endangered species that use its wetlands, mudflats and eelgrass beds.

In the 1976 Point Reyes Wilderness Act, Congress recognized Drakes Estero as a unique recreational and biological resource and promised that this irreplaceable resource would formally become a wilderness area when non-conforming uses were eliminated. Your agency permitted a commercial oyster company to grow non-native oysters and clams on 1,050 acres in Drakes Estero for 40 years, or until 2012.

Your own draft environmental impact statement reveals the extensive damage that the existing operation has caused to Drakes Estero and Point Reyes National Seashore's beaches. As you know, commercial operations of any kind are not permitted in designated wilderness areas because of such damage. Further, the Park Service's Organic Act mandates protection of park resources and values and strictly limits commercial operations.

Your approval of the proposal to extend the oyster company's permit would be contrary to the Point Reyes Wilderness Act and would establish a dangerous precedent at a time when America's public lands and environmental laws are already under widespread attacks in Congress and elsewhere.

We've been waiting long enough. It is time to allow that permit to expire and to honor Congress' commitment. We want our bay back.

Correspondence ID: 48312 **Project:** 33043 **Document:** 43390
Name: Mckenna, Therese
Outside Organization: Sierra Club Unaffiliated Individual
Received: Nov,30,2011 15:01:26
Correspondence Type: Web Form
Correspondence: Dear Superintendent Muldoon,

I am writing to urge the National Park Service to protect Drakes Estero wilderness next year as long-intended. The American public deserves to have the West Coast's only marine wilderness protected for future generations to enjoy. Drakes Estero is a rare wildlife refuge where migrating birds stop over, harbor seals give birth, and fish spawn. It deserves the highest level of protection as Congress long-intended. As someone who enjoys our nation's spectacular national parks, I urge you to not undermine protections at Drakes Estero and succumb to special interests seeking to commercialize these special places. I urge the National Park Service and the Department of the Interior to select alternative "A", which protects marine wilderness and is the environmentally preferred alternative. The NPS is mandated to provide maximum protection to the natural resources, as stated in the Seashore's legislation, and selecting this alternative is the most consistent with the laws and policies affecting this park. Our national parks are for the people and wildlife protection, not commercial exploitation. The environmental review shows that alternative "A" best protects harbor seals, fish, birds and other wildlife and plants. Drakes Estero is our only marine wilderness on the West Coast, and it is irreplaceable, while oysters can be grown elsewhere.

National Parks and wilderness areas are treasured by the majority of Americans and are for the public interest, not for private commercial exploitation. By protecting wilderness, the National Park Service will set a positive policy example while commercializing it will set a negative example and help others seek their special exemptions from national park laws.

Sincerely, Therese Mckenna 5354 Breakers Way Oxnard, CA 93035-1009

I urge the National Park Service and the Department of the Interior to select alternative "A", which protects marine wilderness and is the environmentally preferred alternative. The NPS is mandated to provide maximum protection to the natural resources, as stated in the Seashore's legislation, and selecting this alternative is the most consistent with the laws and policies affecting this park. Our national parks are for the people and wildlife protection, not commercial exploitation. The environmental review shows that alternative "A" best protects harbor seals, fish, birds and other wildlife and plants. Drakes Estero is our only marine

wilderness on the West Coast, and it is irreplaceable, while oysters can be grown elsewhere.

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Correspondence ID: 48314 **Project:** 33043 **Document:** 43390
Name: Barish, Fay S.
Outside Organization: National Wildlife Federation Action Fund Unaffiliated Individual
Received: Nov.30,2011 15:08:10
Correspondence Type: Web Form

Correspondence: Drakes Estero is the ecological heart of Point Reyes National Seashore and a treasure that belongs to all Americans. In 1976, Congress promised that the Estero would receive full wilderness protection when the current lease for commercial oyster operations expires in 2012. I urge the Park Service to honor the wilderness promise and protect Drakes Estero for future generations.

Drakes Estero is home to 20 percent of the mainland breeding population of harbor seals in California and is used by tens of thousands of shorebirds and waterfowl and dozens of species of native fish. Your draft environmental impact statement makes clear that the existing commercial oyster operation is causing extensive damage to Drakes Estero and the Seashore's beaches, and that allowing these operations to continue would cause even more long-term harm.

Your environmental review also shows that alternative "A"--no new permit for commercial oyster operations and protection of the Estero as full wilderness--is the environmentally preferred alternative and the one that best protects harbor seals, birds, fish and other natural resources.

I urge you to return Drakes Estero to all Americans by selecting alternative "A" and ensuring full wilderness protection for Drakes Estero in 2012. It is time to protect Drakes Estero as Congress intended and to create the West Coast's only marine wilderness for the benefit of people and wildlife.

Correspondence ID: 48315 **Project:** 33043 **Document:** 43390
Name: Emde, Martita
Outside Organization: National Wildlife Federation Action Fund Unaffiliated Individual
Received: Nov.30,2011 15:08:10
Correspondence Type: Web Form

Correspondence: Drakes Estero is the ecological heart of Point Reyes National Seashore and a treasure that belongs to all Americans. In 1976, Congress promised that the Estero would receive full wilderness protection when the current lease for commercial oyster operations expires in 2012. I urge the Park Service to honor the wilderness promise and protect Drakes Estero for future generations.

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Your environmental review also shows that alternative "A"--no new permit for commercial oyster operations and protection of the Estero as full wilderness--is the environmentally preferred alternative and the one that best protects harbor seals, birds, fish and other natural resources.

I urge you to return Drakes Estero to all Americans by selecting alternative "A" and ensuring full wilderness protection for Drakes Estero in 2012. It is time to protect Drakes Estero as Congress intended and to create the West Coast's only marine wilderness for the benefit of people and wildlife.

Correspondence ID: 48316 **Project:** 33043 **Document:** 43390
Name: Ventenilla, Christine
Outside Organization: National Wildlife Federation Action Fund Unaffiliated Individual
Received: Nov.30,2011 15:08:10
Correspondence Type: Web Form

Correspondence: Drakes Estero is the ecological heart of Point Reyes National Seashore and a treasure that belongs to all Americans. In 1976, Congress promised that the Estero would receive full wilderness protection when the current lease for commercial oyster operations expires in 2012. I urge the Park Service to honor the wilderness promise and protect Drakes Estero for future generations.

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I urge you to return Drakes Estero to all Americans by selecting alternative "A" and ensuring full wilderness protection for Drakes Estero in 2012. It is time to protect Drakes Estero as Congress intended and to create the West Coast's only marine wilderness for the benefit of people and wildlife.

Correspondence ID: 48317 **Project:** 33043 **Document:** 43390
Name: bentley, blake
Outside Organization: National Wildlife Federation Action Fund Unaffiliated Individual
Received: Nov,30,2011 15:08:17
Correspondence Type: Web Form
Correspondence: Drakes Estero is the ecological heart of Point Reyes National Seashore and a treasure that belongs to all Americans. In 1976, Congress promised that the Estero would receive full wilderness protection when the current lease for commercial oyster operations expires in 2012. I urge the Park Service to honor the wilderness promise and protect Drakes Estero for future generations.

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I urge you to return Drakes Estero to all Americans by selecting alternative "A" and ensuring full wilderness protection for Drakes Estero in 2012. It is time to protect Drakes Estero as Congress intended and to create the West Coast's only marine wilderness for the benefit of people and wildlife.

Correspondence ID: 48318 **Project:** 33043 **Document:** 43390
Name: Kensicki, Edward
Outside Organization: National Wildlife Federation Action Fund Unaffiliated Individual
Received: Nov,30,2011 15:08:17
Correspondence Type: Web Form
Correspondence: Drakes Estero is the ecological heart of Point Reyes National Seashore and a treasure that belongs to all Americans. In 1976, Congress promised that the Estero would receive full wilderness protection when the current lease for commercial oyster operations expires in 2012. I urge the Park Service to honor the wilderness promise and protect Drakes Estero for future generations.

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I urge you to return Drakes Estero to all Americans by selecting alternative "A" and ensuring full wilderness protection for Drakes Estero in 2012. It is time to protect Drakes Estero as Congress intended and to create the West Coast's only marine wilderness for the benefit of people and wildlife.

Correspondence ID: 48319 **Project:** 33043 **Document:** 43390
Name: Hopkins, Glenn
Outside Organization: National Wildlife Federation Action Fund Unaffiliated Individual
Received: Nov,30,2011 15:08:17
Correspondence Type: Web Form
Correspondence: Drakes Estero is the ecological heart of Point Reyes National Seashore and a treasure that belongs to all Americans. In 1976, Congress promised that the Estero would receive full wilderness protection when the current lease for commercial oyster operations expires in 2012. I urge the Park Service to honor the wilderness promise and protect Drakes Estero for future generations.

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I urge you to return Drakes Estero to all Americans by selecting alternative "A" and ensuring full wilderness protection for Drakes Estero in 2012. It is time to protect Drakes Estero as Congress intended and to create the West Coast's only marine wilderness for the benefit of people and wildlife.

Thank you for your time.

Correspondence ID: 48320 **Project:** 33043 **Document:** 43390
Name: Hante, Michael
Outside Organization: Sierra Club Unaffiliated Individual
Received: Nov,30,2011 15:09:31
Correspondence Type: Web Form
Correspondence: I am writing to urge the National Park Service to protect Drakes Estero wilderness next year as long-intended. The American public deserves to have the West Coast's only marine wilderness protected for future generations to enjoy. Drakes Estero is a rare wildlife refuge where migrating birds stop over, harbor seals give birth, and fish spawn. It deserves the highest level of protection as Congress long-intended. As someone who enjoys our nation's spectacular national parks, I urge you to not undermine protections at Drakes Estero and succumb to special interests seeking to commercialize these special places.

I urge the National Park Service and the Department of the Interior to select alternative "A", which protects marine wilderness and is the environmentally preferred alternative. The NPS is mandated to provide maximum protection to the natural resources, as stated in the Seashore's legislation, and selecting this alternative is the most consistent with the laws and policies affecting this park. Our national parks are for the people and wildlife protection, not commercial exploitation. The environmental review shows that alternative "A" best protects harbor seals, fish, birds and other wildlife and plants. Drakes Estero is our only marine wilderness on the West Coast, and it is irreplaceable, while oysters can be grown elsewhere.

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Correspondence ID: 48323 **Project:** 33043 **Document:** 43390
Name: gopalakrishnan, saritha
Outside Organization: National Wildlife Federation Action Fund Unaffiliated Individual
Received: Nov,30,2011 15:38:11
Correspondence Type: Web Form
Correspondence: Drakes Estero is the ecological heart of Point Reyes National Seashore and a treasure that belongs to all Americans. In 1976, Congress promised that the Estero would receive full wilderness protection when the current lease for commercial oyster operations expires in 2012. I urge the Park Service to honor the wilderness promise and protect Drakes Estero for future generations.

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I urge you to return Drakes Estero to all Americans by selecting alternative "A" and ensuring full wilderness protection for Drakes Estero in 2012. It is time to protect Drakes Estero as Congress intended and to create the West Coast's only marine wilderness for the benefit of people and wildlife.

Correspondence ID: 48324 **Project:** 33043 **Document:** 43390
Name: Weingart, Lawrence
Outside Organization: National Wildlife Federation Action Fund Unaffiliated Individual
Received: Nov,30,2011 15:38:11
Correspondence Type: Web Form
Correspondence: Drakes Estero is the ecological heart of Point Reyes National Seashore and a treasure that belongs to all Americans. In 1976, Congress promised that the Estero would receive full wilderness protection when the current lease for commercial oyster operations expires in 2012. I urge the Park Service to honor the wilderness promise and protect Drakes Estero for future generations.

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Correspondence ID: 48325 **Project:** 33043 **Document:** 43390
Name: Webster, Earlene H
Outside Organization: National Wildlife Federation Action Fund Unaffiliated Individual
Received: Nov,30,2011 15:38:11
Correspondence Type: Web Form

Correspondence: Drakes Estero is the ecological heart of Point Reyes National Seashore and a treasure that belongs to all Americans. In 1976, Congress promised that the Estero would receive full wilderness protection when the current lease for commercial oyster operations expires in 2012. I urge the Park Service to honor the wilderness promise and protect Drakes Estero for future generations.

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I urge you to return Drakes Estero to all Americans by selecting alternative "A" and ensuring full wilderness protection for Drakes Estero in 2012. It is time to protect Drakes Estero as Congress intended and to create the West Coast's only marine wilderness for the benefit of people and wildlife.

Correspondence ID: 48326 **Project:** 33043 **Document:** 43390
Name: Wood, Amy
Outside Organization: National Wildlife Federation Action Fund Unaffiliated Individual
Received: Nov,30,2011 15:38:11
Correspondence Type: Web Form

Correspondence: Drakes Estero is the ecological heart of Point Reyes National Seashore and a treasure that belongs to all Americans. In 1976, Congress promised that the Estero would receive full wilderness protection when the current lease for commercial oyster operations expires in 2012. I urge the Park Service to honor the wilderness promise and protect Drakes Estero for future generations.

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I urge you to return Drakes Estero to all Americans by selecting alternative "A" and ensuring full wilderness protection for Drakes Estero in 2012. It is time to protect Drakes Estero as Congress intended and to create the West Coast's only marine wilderness for the benefit of people and wildlife.

Correspondence ID: 48327 **Project:** 33043 **Document:** 43390
Name: Huffman, Melodie
Outside Organization: National Wildlife Federation Action Fund Unaffiliated Individual
Received: Nov,30,2011 15:38:12
Correspondence Type: Web Form

Correspondence: Drakes Estero is the ecological heart of Point Reyes National Seashore and a treasure that belongs to all Americans. In 1976, Congress promised that the Estero would receive full wilderness protection when the current lease for commercial oyster

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I urge you to return Drakes Estero to all Americans by selecting alternative "A" and ensuring full wilderness protection for Drakes Estero in 2012. It is time to protect Drakes Estero as Congress intended and to create the West Coast's only marine wilderness for the benefit of people and wildlife.

Correspondence ID: 48328 **Project:** 33043 **Document:** 43390
Name: Arce, Ellen
Outside Organization: National Wildlife Federation Action Fund Unaffiliated Individual
Received: Nov,30,2011 15:38:17
Correspondence Type: Web Form
Correspondence: Drakes Estero is the ecological heart of Point Reyes National Seashore and a treasure that belongs to all Americans. In 1976, Congress promised that the Estero would receive full wilderness protection when the current lease for commercial oyster operations expires in 2012. I urge the Park Service to honor the wilderness promise and protect Drakes Estero for future generations.

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Your environmental review also shows that alternative "A"--no new permit for commercial oyster operations and protection of the Estero as full wilderness--is the environmentally preferred alternative and the one that best protects harbor seals, birds, fish and other natural resources.

I urge you to return Drakes Estero to all Americans by selecting alternative "A" and ensuring full wilderness protection for Drakes Estero in 2012. It is time to protect Drakes Estero as Congress intended and to create the West Coast's only marine wilderness for the benefit of people and wildlife.

Correspondence ID: 48329 **Project:** 33043 **Document:** 43390
Name: Cairns, Maureen
Outside Organization: National Wildlife Federation Action Fund Unaffiliated Individual
Received: Nov,30,2011 15:38:17
Correspondence Type: Web Form
Correspondence: Drakes Estero is the ecological heart of Point Reyes National Seashore and a treasure that belongs to all Americans. In 1976, Congress promised that the Estero would receive full wilderness protection when the current lease for commercial oyster operations expires in 2012. I urge the Park Service to honor the wilderness promise and protect Drakes Estero for future generations.

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I urge you to return Drakes Estero to all Americans by selecting alternative "A" and ensuring full wilderness protection for Drakes Estero in 2012. It is time to protect Drakes Estero as Congress intended and to create the West Coast's only marine wilderness for the benefit of people and wildlife.

Correspondence ID: 48330 **Project:** 33043 **Document:** 43390
Name: Kajtaniak, Dave
Outside Organization: National Parks Conservation Association Unaffiliated Individual
Received: Nov,30,2011 15:41:06
Correspondence Type: Web Form

Correspondence: I urge you to protect Drakes Estero wilderness next year, as long intended. It is in the public interest to create the West Coast's only marine wilderness for the enjoyment of all. The public has waited nearly four decades for these protections to be implemented, which is an immense compromise in itself. Drakes Estero is a rare wildlife refuge where migrating birds stop over, harbor seals give birth, and fish take shelter in eelgrass. As someone who enjoys our nation's national parks and their wildlife, I urge you to uphold the longstanding plan to convert this very special resource to wilderness.

I urge you to select alternative "A", which protects marine wilderness next year and is the Environmentally Preferred Alternative. The National Park Service is mandated to provide maximum protection to the natural resources at Drakes Estero and selecting this alternative is the most consistent with the laws and policies affecting this park. Our national parks are set aside for the public and for wildlife protection, and after waiting nearly 40 years for private commercial use rights to expire, it's time to give the estuary the protection it needs. The environmental review shows that alternative "A" is best for public policy, and best protects harbor seals, fish, birds and other natural resources. Drakes Estero is our only marine wilderness on the West Coast, and is irreplaceable, while oysters can be commercially grown elsewhere.

Please honor the promise made for a protected marine wilderness at Drakes Estero. In doing so, you will set a good policy example and reward the public with an enduring legacy feat found nowhere else on the West Coast.

Correspondence ID: 48331 **Project:** 33043 **Document:** 43390
Name: BREITBACH, LOUIS
Outside Organization: NRDC Unaffiliated Individual
Received: Nov.30,2011 15:44:29
Correspondence Type: Web Form
Correspondence: Drakes Estero is a national ecological treasure and should become a protected wilderness area. It has outstanding natural resources, including one of California's largest harbor seal colonies and tens of thousands of shorebirds, waterfowl, native fish and endangered species that use its wetlands, mudflats and eelgrass beds.

In the 1976 Point Reyes Wilderness Act, Congress recognized Drakes Estero as a unique recreational and biological resource and promised that this irreplaceable resource would formally become a wilderness area when non-conforming uses were eliminated. Your agency permitted a commercial oyster company to grow non-native oysters and clams on 1,050 acres in Drakes Estero for 40 years, or until 2012.

Your own draft environmental impact statement reveals the extensive damage that the existing operation has caused to Drakes Estero and Point Reyes National Seashore's beaches. As you know, commercial operations of any kind are not permitted in designated wilderness areas because of such damage. Further, the Park Service's Organic Act mandates protection of park resources and values and strictly limits commercial operations.

Your approval of the proposal to extend the oyster company's permit would be contrary to the Point Reyes Wilderness Act and would establish a dangerous precedent at a time when America's public lands and environmental laws are already under widespread attacks in Congress and elsewhere.

We've been waiting long enough. It is time to allow that permit to expire and to honor Congress' commitment. We want our bay back.

Correspondence ID: 48333 **Project:** 33043 **Document:** 43390
Name: evenson, marilyn
Outside Organization: wilderness watch Unaffiliated Individual
Received: Nov.30,2011 15:47:12
Correspondence Type: Web Form
Correspondence: I am asking you to select "No Action Alternative" on this EIS so that Drakes Estero in the Phillip Burton Wilderness in the Point Reyes National Seashore will once again become a wilderness area in 2012 as directed by Congress in 1976. Do not give a permit to Drakes Bay Oyster Company to extend their lease. Commercial oyster companies & other developments would only have an adverse impact on this habitat & its wildlife & ecosystem with their interruptions with motorboats & littering & workers. Oysters are non-native. There are already enough problems in our country with invasive species that are difficult to fix. Any alternatives other than the "No Action" one are a direct threat to the Wilderness Act of 1964. Besides, we only have one chance to preserve wildlife areas. When they are gone, they are gone forever due to man's interference. Thank you.

Correspondence ID: 48336 **Project:** 33043 **Document:** 43390
Name: Austin, Arthur L
Outside Organization: none Unaffiliated Individual
Received: Nov.30,2011 16:06:07
Correspondence Type: Web Form
Correspondence: Been going to Tomales Bay area for years. Also, am an avid oyster eater. Our family has enjoyed the Drakes Bay Oyster farm presence. Leave it be.

I also use a second residence on N. Coast in Sonoma County, and often drive back and forth from Walnut Creek through that region. I like it the way it is.

Oysters are one of my favorite seafoods. They are becoming very expensive, and so I think the more farms the larger the supply

hence the lower the retail cost.

Correspondence ID: 48337 **Project:** 33043 **Document:** 43390

Name: Groft, Nina

Outside Organization: National Wildlife Federation Action Fund Unaffiliated Individual

Received: Nov.30,2011 16:08:14

Correspondence Type: Web Form

Correspondence: Drakes Estero is the ecological heart of Point Reyes National Seashore and a treasure that belongs to all Americans. In 1976, Congress promised that the Estero would receive full wilderness protection when the current lease for commercial oyster operations expires in 2012. I urge the Park Service to honor the wilderness promise and protect Drakes Estero for future generations.

Drakes Estero is home to 20 percent of the mainland breeding population of harbor seals in California and is used by tens of thousands of shorebirds and waterfowl and dozens of species of native fish. Your draft environmental impact statement makes clear that the existing commercial oyster operation is causing extensive damage to Drakes Estero and the Seashore's beaches, and that allowing these operations to continue would cause even more long-term harm.

Your environmental review also shows that alternative "A"--no new permit for commercial oyster operations and protection of the Estero as full wilderness--is the environmentally preferred alternative and the one that best protects harbor seals, birds, fish and other natural resources.

I urge you to return Drakes Estero to all Americans by selecting alternative "A" and ensuring full wilderness protection for Drakes Estero in 2012. It is time to protect Drakes Estero as Congress intended and to create the West Coast's only marine wilderness for the benefit of people and wildlife.

Correspondence ID: 48338 **Project:** 33043 **Document:** 43390

Name: Burks, Phyllis

Outside Organization: National Wildlife Federation Action Fund Unaffiliated Individual

Received: Nov.30,2011 16:08:21

Correspondence Type: Web Form

Correspondence: Drakes Estero is the ecological heart of Point Reyes National Seashore and a treasure that belongs to all Americans. In 1976, Congress promised that the Estero would receive full wilderness protection when the current lease for commercial oyster operations expires in 2012. I urge the Park Service to honor the wilderness promise and protect Drakes Estero for future generations.

Drakes Estero is home to 20 percent of the mainland breeding population of harbor seals in California and is used by tens of thousands of shorebirds and waterfowl and dozens of species of native fish. Your draft environmental impact statement makes clear that the existing commercial oyster operation is causing extensive damage to Drakes Estero and the Seashore's beaches, and that allowing these operations to continue would cause even more long-term harm.

Your environmental review also shows that alternative "A"--no new permit for commercial oyster operations and protection of the Estero as full wilderness--is the environmentally preferred alternative and the one that best protects harbor seals, birds, fish and other natural resources.

I urge you to return Drakes Estero to all Americans by selecting alternative "A" and ensuring full wilderness protection for Drakes Estero in 2012. It is time to protect Drakes Estero as Congress intended and to create the West Coast's only marine wilderness for the benefit of people and wildlife.

Correspondence ID: 48339 **Project:** 33043 **Document:** 43390

Name: Khwaja, Rummana

Outside Organization: National Wildlife Federation Action Fund Unaffiliated Individual

Received: Nov.30,2011 16:08:21

Correspondence Type: Web Form

Correspondence: Drakes Estero is the ecological heart of Point Reyes National Seashore and a treasure that belongs to all Americans. In 1976, Congress promised that the Estero would receive full wilderness protection when the current lease for commercial oyster operations expires in 2012. I urge the Park Service to honor the wilderness promise and protect Drakes Estero for future generations.

Drakes Estero is home to 20 percent of the mainland breeding population of harbor seals in California and is used by tens of thousands of shorebirds and waterfowl and dozens of species of native fish. Your draft environmental impact statement makes clear that the existing commercial oyster operation is causing extensive damage to Drakes Estero and the Seashore's beaches, and that allowing these operations to continue would cause even more long-term harm.

Your environmental review also shows that alternative "A"--no new permit for commercial oyster operations and protection of the Estero as full wilderness--is the environmentally preferred alternative and the one that best protects harbor seals, birds, fish and other natural resources.

I urge you to return Drakes Estero to all Americans by selecting alternative "A" and ensuring full wilderness protection for Drakes Estero in 2012. It is time to protect Drakes Estero as Congress intended and to create the West Coast's only marine wilderness for the benefit of people and wildlife.

Correspondence ID: 48340 **Project:** 33043 **Document:** 43390
Name: Wittry, Pauline
Outside Organization: National Wildlife Federation Action Fund Unaffiliated Individual
Received: Nov,30,2011 16:08:21
Correspondence Type: Web Form
Correspondence: Drakes Estero is the ecological heart of Point Reyes National Seashore and a treasure that belongs to all Americans. In 1976, Congress promised that the Estero would receive full wilderness protection when the current lease for commercial oyster operations expires in 2012. I urge the Park Service to honor the wilderness promise and protect Drakes Estero for future generations.

Drakes Estero is home to 20 percent of the mainland breeding population of harbor seals in California and is used by tens of thousands of shorebirds and waterfowl and dozens of species of native fish. Your draft environmental impact statement makes clear that the existing commercial oyster operation is causing extensive damage to Drakes Estero and the Seashore's beaches, and that allowing these operations to continue would cause even more long-term harm.

Your environmental review also shows that alternative "A"--no new permit for commercial oyster operations and protection of the Estero as full wilderness--is the environmentally preferred alternative and the one that best protects harbor seals, birds, fish and other natural resources.

I urge you to return Drakes Estero to all Americans by selecting alternative "A" and ensuring full wilderness protection for Drakes Estero in 2012. It is time to protect Drakes Estero as Congress intended and to create the West Coast's only marine wilderness for the benefit of people and wildlife.

Correspondence ID: 48341 **Project:** 33043 **Document:** 43390
Name: Lytle, Denise
Outside Organization: National Wildlife Federation Action Fund Unaffiliated Individual
Received: Nov,30,2011 16:08:22
Correspondence Type: Web Form
Correspondence: Drakes Estero is the ecological heart of Point Reyes National Seashore and a treasure that belongs to all Americans. In 1976, Congress promised that the Estero would receive full wilderness protection when the current lease for commercial oyster operations expires in 2012. I urge the Park Service to honor the wilderness promise and protect Drakes Estero for future generations.

Drakes Estero is home to 20 percent of the mainland breeding population of harbor seals in California and is used by tens of thousands of shorebirds and waterfowl and dozens of species of native fish. Your draft environmental impact statement makes clear that the existing commercial oyster operation is causing extensive damage to Drakes Estero and the Seashore's beaches, and that allowing these operations to continue would cause even more long-term harm.

Your environmental review also shows that alternative "A"--no new permit for commercial oyster operations and protection of the Estero as full wilderness--is the environmentally preferred alternative and the one that best protects harbor seals, birds, fish and other natural resources.

I urge you to return Drakes Estero to all Americans by selecting alternative "A" and ensuring full wilderness protection for Drakes Estero in 2012. It is time to protect Drakes Estero as Congress intended and to create the West Coast's only marine wilderness for the benefit of people and wildlife.

Correspondence ID: 48342 **Project:** 33043 **Document:** 43390
Name: Humowiecki, Jennifer
Outside Organization: National Wildlife Federation Action Fund Unaffiliated Individual
Received: Nov,30,2011 16:08:27
Correspondence Type: Web Form
Correspondence: Drakes Estero is the ecological heart of Point Reyes National Seashore and a treasure that belongs to all Americans. In 1976, Congress promised that the Estero would receive full wilderness protection when the current lease for commercial oyster operations expires in 2012. I urge the Park Service to honor the wilderness promise and protect Drakes Estero for future generations.

Drakes Estero is home to 20 percent of the mainland breeding population of harbor seals in California and is used by tens of thousands of shorebirds and waterfowl and dozens of species of native fish. Your draft environmental impact statement makes clear that the existing commercial oyster operation is causing extensive damage to Drakes Estero and the Seashore's beaches, and that allowing these operations to continue would cause even more long-term harm.

Your environmental review also shows that alternative "A"--no new permit for commercial oyster operations and protection of the Estero as full wilderness--is the environmentally preferred alternative and the one that best protects harbor seals, birds, fish

and other natural resources.

I urge you to return Drakes Estero to all Americans by selecting alternative "A" and ensuring full wilderness protection for Drakes Estero in 2012. It is time to protect Drakes Estero as Congress intended and to create the West Coast's only marine wilderness for the benefit of people and wildlife.

Correspondence ID: 48343 **Project:** 33043 **Document:** 43390
Name: Placher, Michael
Outside Organization: National Wildlife Federation Action Fund Unaffiliated Individual
Received: Nov.30,2011 16:08:27
Correspondence Type: Web Form

Correspondence: Drakes Estero is the ecological heart of Point Reyes National Seashore and a treasure that belongs to all Americans. In 1976, Congress promised that the Estero would receive full wilderness protection when the current lease for commercial oyster operations expires in 2012. I urge the Park Service to honor the wilderness promise and protect Drakes Estero for future generations.

Drakes Estero is home to 20 percent of the mainland breeding population of harbor seals in California and is used by tens of thousands of shorebirds and waterfowl and dozens of species of native fish. Your draft environmental impact statement makes clear that the existing commercial oyster operation is causing extensive damage to Drakes Estero and the Seashore's beaches, and that allowing these operations to continue would cause even more long-term harm.

Your environmental review also shows that alternative "A"--no new permit for commercial oyster operations and protection of the Estero as full wilderness--is the environmentally preferred alternative and the one that best protects harbor seals, birds, fish and other natural resources.

I urge you to return Drakes Estero to all Americans by selecting alternative "A" and ensuring full wilderness protection for Drakes Estero in 2012. It is time to protect Drakes Estero as Congress intended and to create the West Coast's only marine wilderness for the benefit of people and wildlife.

Correspondence ID: 48344 **Project:** 33043 **Document:** 43390
Name: Bauer, Amanda
Outside Organization: Sierra Club Unaffiliated Individual
Received: Nov.30,2011 16:09:32
Correspondence Type: Web Form

Correspondence: I am writing to urge the National Park Service to protect Drakes Estero wilderness next year as long-intended. The American public deserves to have the West Coast's only marine wilderness protected for future generations to enjoy. Drakes Estero is a rare wildlife refuge where migrating birds stop over, harbor seals give birth, and fish spawn. It deserves the highest level of protection as Congress long-intended. As someone who enjoys our nation's spectacular national parks, I urge you to not undermine protections at Drakes Estero and succumb to special interests seeking to commercialize these special places.

I urge the National Park Service and the Department of the Interior to select alternative "A", which protects marine wilderness and is the environmentally preferred alternative. The NPS is mandated to provide maximum protection to the natural resources, as stated in the Seashore's legislation, and selecting this alternative is the most consistent with the laws and policies affecting this park. Our national parks are for the people and wildlife protection, not commercial exploitation. The environmental review shows that alternative "A" best protects harbor seals, fish, birds and other wildlife and plants. Drakes Estero is our only marine wilderness on the West Coast, and it is irreplaceable, while oysters can be grown elsewhere.

National Parks and wilderness areas are treasured by the majority of Americans and are for the public interest, not for private commercial exploitation. By protecting wilderness, the National Park Service will set a positive policy example while commercializing it will set a negative example and help others seek their special exemptions from national park laws.

Correspondence ID: 48346 **Project:** 33043 **Document:** 43390
Name: Gowatsky, Jaimie
Outside Organization: NRDC Unaffiliated Individual
Received: Nov.30,2011 16:16:24
Correspondence Type: Web Form

Correspondence: Drakes Estero is a national ecological treasure and should become a protected wilderness area. It has outstanding natural resources, including one of California's largest harbor seal colonies and tens of thousands of shorebirds, waterfowl, native fish and endangered species that use its wetlands, mudflats and eelgrass beds.

In the 1976 Point Reyes Wilderness Act, Congress recognized Drakes Estero as a unique recreational and biological resource and promised that this irreplaceable resource would formally become a wilderness area when non-conforming uses were eliminated. Your agency permitted a commercial oyster company to grow non-native oysters and clams on 1,050 acres in Drakes Estero for 40 years, or until 2012.

Your own draft environmental impact statement reveals the extensive damage that the existing operation has caused to Drakes Estero and Point Reyes National Seashore's beaches. As you know, commercial operations of any kind are not permitted in designated wilderness areas because of such damage. Further, the Park Service's Organic Act mandates protection of park

resources and values and strictly limits commercial operations.

Your approval of the proposal to extend the oyster company's permit would be contrary to the Point Reyes Wilderness Act and would establish a dangerous precedent at a time when America's public lands and environmental laws are already under widespread attacks in Congress and elsewhere.

We've been waiting long enough. It is time to allow that permit to expire and to honor Congress' commitment. We want our bay back.

Correspondence ID: 48347 **Project:** 33043 **Document:** 43390
Name: Bartolomeo, Todd
Outside Organization: Unaffiliated Individual
Received: Nov,30,2011 16:19:22
Correspondence Type: Web Form

Correspondence: I support the wilderness designation for Drakes Estero within the Point Reyes National Seashore. I urge the National Park Service and Department of the Interior to uphold the 1976 Point Reyes Wilderness Act and select alternative A, which protects this important marine wilderness and is the environmentally preferred alternative.

Drakes Estero is a unique and ecologically significant wildlife area. It is an important stop on the flyway for migrating birds, a refuge and birthplace for harbor seals and a critical native fish nursery. Congress and the public have long intended that Drakes Estero be given the highest federal level of protection as a wilderness area when the commercial oyster lease expires in 2012.

This can only be accomplished by selecting Alternative "A" and ending commercial use of this sensitive wildlife refuge. Alternative A is the most consistent with National Park Service laws and policies. The Park Service's environmental review shows that alternative "A" best protects wildlife and the National Park experience.

Our national parks are for the people and wildlife protection, and wilderness areas with our parks should not prioritize commercial exploitation. The American public deserves to have this unique marine wilderness protected in a natural state for future generations to enjoy.

Drakes Estero is the only marine wilderness on the West Coast, and is irreplaceable, while oysters can be grown elsewhere.

As someone who enjoys our spectacular national parks, I urge you to not undermine protections at Drakes Estero and succumb to special interests seeking to commercialize these special places.

Correspondence ID: 48348 **Project:** 33043 **Document:** 43390
Name: Farmer, John F
Outside Organization: Unaffiliated Individual
Received: Nov,30,2011 00:00:00
Correspondence Type: Web Form

Correspondence: None of the proposed alternatives are appropriate. The Drakes Bay Oyster Farm should have a renewable special use permit.

Correspondence ID: 48350 **Project:** 33043 **Document:** 43390
Name: Pelletier, Anne
Outside Organization: National Wildlife Federation Action Fund Unaffiliated Individual
Received: Nov,30,2011 16:38:12
Correspondence Type: Web Form

Correspondence: Drakes Estero is the ecological heart of Point Reyes National Seashore and a treasure that belongs to all Americans. In 1976, Congress promised that the Estero would receive full wilderness protection when the current lease for commercial oyster operations expires in 2012. I urge the Park Service to honor the wilderness promise and protect Drakes Estero for future generations.

Drakes Estero is home to 20 percent of the mainland breeding population of harbor seals in California and is used by tens of thousands of shorebirds and waterfowl and dozens of species of native fish. Your draft environmental impact statement makes clear that the existing commercial oyster operation is causing extensive damage to Drakes Estero and the Seashore's beaches, and that allowing these operations to continue would cause even more long-term harm.

Your environmental review also shows that alternative "A"--no new permit for commercial oyster operations and protection of the Estero as full wilderness--is the environmentally preferred alternative and the one that best protects harbor seals, birds, fish and other natural resources.

I urge you to return Drakes Estero to all Americans by selecting alternative "A" and ensuring full wilderness protection for Drakes Estero in 2012. It is time to protect Drakes Estero as Congress intended and to create the West Coast's only marine wilderness for the benefit of people and wildlife.

Correspondence ID: 48351 **Project:** 33043 **Document:** 43390

Name: Churcher, J
Outside Organization: National Wildlife Federation Action Fund Unaffiliated Individual
Received: Nov,30,2011 16:38:12
Correspondence Type: Web Form
Correspondence: Drakes Estero is the ecological heart of Point Reyes National Seashore and a treasure that belongs to all Americans. In 1976, Congress promised that the Estero would receive full wilderness protection when the current lease for commercial oyster operations expires in 2012. I urge the Park Service to honor the wilderness promise and protect Drakes Estero for future generations.

Drakes Estero is home to 20 percent of the mainland breeding population of harbor seals in California and is used by tens of thousands of shorebirds and waterfowl and dozens of species of native fish. Your draft environmental impact statement makes clear that the existing commercial oyster operation is causing extensive damage to Drakes Estero and the Seashore's beaches, and that allowing these operations to continue would cause even more long-term harm.

Your environmental review also shows that alternative "A"--no new permit for commercial oyster operations and protection of the Estero as full wilderness--is the environmentally preferred alternative and the one that best protects harbor seals, birds, fish and other natural resources.

I urge you to return Drakes Estero to all Americans by selecting alternative "A" and ensuring full wilderness protection for Drakes Estero in 2012. It is time to protect Drakes Estero as Congress intended and to create the West Coast's only marine wilderness for the benefit of people and wildlife.

Correspondence ID: 48352 **Project:** 33043 **Document:** 43390
Name: Adams", Mikanuk "Larry D.
Outside Organization: National Wildlife Federation Action Fund Unaffiliated Individual
Received: Nov,30,2011 16:38:12
Correspondence Type: Web Form
Correspondence: Drakes Estero is the ecological heart of Point Reyes National Seashore and a treasure that belongs to all Americans. In 1976, Congress promised that the Estero would receive full wilderness protection when the current lease for commercial oyster operations expires in 2012. I urge the Park Service to honor the wilderness promise and protect Drakes Estero for future generations.

Drakes Estero is home to 20 percent of the mainland breeding population of harbor seals in California and is used by tens of thousands of shorebirds and waterfowl and dozens of species of native fish. Your draft environmental impact statement makes clear that the existing commercial oyster operation is causing extensive damage to Drakes Estero and the Seashore's beaches, and that allowing these operations to continue would cause even more long-term harm.

Your environmental review also shows that alternative "A"--no new permit for commercial oyster operations and protection of the Estero as full wilderness--is the environmentally preferred alternative and the one that best protects harbor seals, birds, fish and other natural resources.

I urge you to return Drakes Estero to all Americans by selecting alternative "A" and ensuring full wilderness protection for Drakes Estero in 2012. It is time to protect Drakes Estero as Congress intended and to create the West Coast's only marine wilderness for the benefit of people and wildlife.

Correspondence ID: 48353 **Project:** 33043 **Document:** 43390
Name: Samsonoff, Mary
Outside Organization: National Wildlife Federation Action Fund Unaffiliated Individual
Received: Nov,30,2011 16:38:12
Correspondence Type: Web Form
Correspondence: Drakes Estero is the ecological heart of Point Reyes National Seashore and a treasure that belongs to all Americans. In 1976, Congress promised that the Estero would receive full wilderness protection when the current lease for commercial oyster operations expires in 2012. I urge the Park Service to honor the wilderness promise and protect Drakes Estero for future generations.

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Your environmental review also shows that alternative "A"--no new permit for commercial oyster operations and protection of the Estero as full wilderness--is the environmentally preferred alternative and the one that best protects harbor seals, birds, fish and other natural resources.

I urge you to return Drakes Estero to all Americans by selecting alternative "A" and ensuring full wilderness protection for Drakes Estero in 2012. It is time to protect Drakes Estero as Congress intended and to create the West Coast's only marine wilderness for the benefit of people and wildlife.

Correspondence ID: 48354 **Project:** 33043 **Document:** 43390
Name: Swistak, Karen
Outside Organization: National Wildlife Federation Action Fund Unaffiliated Individual
Received: Nov.30,2011 16:38:18
Correspondence Type: Web Form

Correspondence: Drakes Estero is the ecological heart of Point Reyes National Seashore and a treasure that belongs to all Americans. In 1976, Congress promised that the Estero would receive full wilderness protection when the current lease for commercial oyster operations expires in 2012. I urge the Park Service to honor the wilderness promise and protect Drakes Estero for future generations.

Drakes Estero is home to 20 percent of the mainland breeding population of harbor seals in California and is used by tens of thousands of shorebirds and waterfowl and dozens of species of native fish. Your draft environmental impact statement makes clear that the existing commercial oyster operation is causing extensive damage to Drakes Estero and the Seashore's beaches, and that allowing these operations to continue would cause even more long-term harm.

Your environmental review also shows that alternative "A"--no new permit for commercial oyster operations and protection of the Estero as full wilderness--is the environmentally preferred alternative and the one that best protects harbor seals, birds, fish and other natural resources.

I urge you to return Drakes Estero to all Americans by selecting alternative "A" and ensuring full wilderness protection for Drakes Estero in 2012. It is time to protect Drakes Estero as Congress intended and to create the West Coast's only marine wilderness for the benefit of people and wildlife.

Correspondence ID: 48355 **Project:** 33043 **Document:** 43390
Name: Haag, Cindi
Outside Organization: National Wildlife Federation Action Fund Unaffiliated Individual
Received: Nov.30,2011 16:38:19
Correspondence Type: Web Form

Correspondence: Drakes Estero is the ecological heart of Point Reyes National Seashore and a treasure that belongs to all Americans. In 1976, Congress promised that the Estero would receive full wilderness protection when the current lease for commercial oyster operations expires in 2012. I urge the Park Service to honor the wilderness promise and protect Drakes Estero for future generations.

Drakes Estero is home to 20 percent of the mainland breeding population of harbor seals in California and is used by tens of thousands of shorebirds and waterfowl and dozens of species of native fish. Your draft environmental impact statement makes clear that the existing commercial oyster operation is causing extensive damage to Drakes Estero and the Seashore's beaches, and that allowing these operations to continue would cause even more long-term harm.

Your environmental review also shows that alternative "A"--no new permit for commercial oyster operations and protection of the Estero as full wilderness--is the environmentally preferred alternative and the one that best protects harbor seals, birds, fish and other natural resources.

I urge you to return Drakes Estero to all Americans by selecting alternative "A" and ensuring full wilderness protection for Drakes Estero in 2012. It is time to protect Drakes Estero as Congress intended and to create the West Coast's only marine wilderness for the benefit of people and wildlife.

Correspondence ID: 48356 **Project:** 33043 **Document:** 43390
Name: Adcock, Steven D
Outside Organization: National Wildlife Federation Action Fund Unaffiliated Individual
Received: Nov.30,2011 16:38:24
Correspondence Type: Web Form

Correspondence: Drakes Estero is the ecological heart of Point Reyes National Seashore and a treasure that belongs to all Americans. In 1976, Congress promised that the Estero would receive full wilderness protection when the current lease for commercial oyster operations expires in 2012. I urge the Park Service to honor the wilderness promise and protect Drakes Estero for future generations.

Drakes Estero is home to 20 percent of the mainland breeding population of harbor seals in California and is used by tens of thousands of shorebirds and waterfowl and dozens of species of native fish. Your draft environmental impact statement makes clear that the existing commercial oyster operation is causing extensive damage to Drakes Estero and the Seashore's beaches, and that allowing these operations to continue would cause even more long-term harm.

Your environmental review also shows that alternative "A"--no new permit for commercial oyster operations and protection of the Estero as full wilderness--is the environmentally preferred alternative and the one that best protects harbor seals, birds, fish and other natural resources.

I urge you to return Drakes Estero to all Americans by selecting alternative "A" and ensuring full wilderness protection for

Drakes Estero in 2012. It is time to protect Drakes Estero as Congress intended and to create the West Coast's only marine wilderness for the benefit of people and wildlife.

Correspondence ID: 48357 **Project:** 33043 **Document:** 43390
Name: Evanston, Luci
Outside Organization: National Wildlife Federation Action Fund Unaffiliated Individual
Received: Nov,30,2011 16:38:24
Correspondence Type: Web Form
Correspondence:

Drakes Estero is the ecological heart of Point Reyes National Seashore and a treasure that belongs to all Americans. In 1976, Congress promised that the Estero would receive full wilderness protection when the current lease for commercial oyster operations expires in 2012. I urge the Park Service to honor the wilderness promise and protect Drakes Estero for future generations.

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Your environmental review also shows that alternative "A"--no new permit for commercial oyster operations and protection of the Estero as full wilderness--is the environmentally preferred alternative and the one that best protects harbor seals, birds, fish and other natural resources.

I urge you to return Drakes Estero to all Americans by selecting alternative "A" and ensuring full wilderness protection for Drakes Estero in 2012. It is time to protect Drakes Estero as Congress intended and to create the West Coast's only marine wilderness for the benefit of people and wildlife.

Correspondence ID: 48358 **Project:** 33043 **Document:** 43390
Name: Leigh, Gary
Outside Organization: Sierra Club Unaffiliated Individual
Received: Nov,30,2011 16:39:47
Correspondence Type: Web Form
Correspondence:

I am writing to urge the National Park Service to protect Drakes Estero wilderness next year as long-intended. The American public deserves to have the West Coast's only marine wilderness protected for future generations to enjoy. Drakes Estero is a rare wildlife refuge where migrating birds stop over, harbor seals give birth, and fish spawn. It deserves the highest level of protection as Congress long-intended. As someone who enjoys our nation's spectacular national parks, I urge you to not undermine protections at Drakes Estero and succumb to special interests seeking to commercialize these special places.

I urge the National Park Service and the Department of the Interior to select alternative "A", which protects marine wilderness and is the environmentally preferred alternative. The NPS is mandated to provide maximum protection to the natural resources, as stated in the Seashore's legislation, and selecting this alternative is the most consistent with the laws and policies affecting this park. Our national parks are for the people and wildlife protection, not commercial exploitation. The environmental review shows that alternative "A" best protects harbor seals, fish, birds and other wildlife and plants. Drakes Estero is our only marine wilderness on the West Coast, and it is irreplaceable, while oysters can be grown elsewhere.

National Parks and wilderness areas are treasured by the majority of Americans and are for the public interest, not for private commercial exploitation. By protecting wilderness, the National Park Service will set a positive policy example while commercializing it will set a negative example and help others seek their special exemptions from national park laws.

Correspondence ID: 48359 **Project:** 33043 **Document:** 43390
Name: Stone, Mark
Outside Organization: National Parks Conservation Association Unaffiliated Individual
Received: Nov,30,2011 16:41:16
Correspondence Type: Web Form
Correspondence:

I urge you to protect Drakes Estero wilderness next year, as long intended. It is in the public interest to create the West Coast's only marine wilderness for the enjoyment of all. The public has waited nearly four decades for these protections to be implemented, which is an immense compromise in itself. Drakes Estero is a rare wildlife refuge where migrating birds stop over, harbor seals give birth, and fish take shelter in eelgrass. As someone who enjoys our nation's national parks and their wildlife, I urge you to uphold the longstanding plan to convert this very special resource to wilderness.

I urge you to select alternative "A", which protects marine wilderness next year and is the Environmentally Preferred Alternative. The National Park Service is mandated to provide maximum protection to the natural resources at Drakes Estero and selecting this alternative is the most consistent with the laws and policies affecting this park. Our national parks are set aside for the public and for wildlife protection, and after waiting nearly 40 years for private commercial use rights to expire, it's time to give the estuary the protection it needs. The environmental review shows that alternative "A" is best for public policy, and best protects harbor seals, fish, birds and other natural resources. Drakes Estero is our only marine wilderness on the West Coast, and is irreplaceable, while oysters can be commercially grown elsewhere.

Please honor the promise made for a protected marine wilderness at Drakes Estero. In doing so, you will set a good policy

example and reward the public with an enduring legacy feat found nowhere else on the West Coast.

Correspondence ID: 48360 **Project:** 33043 **Document:** 43390
Name: King, A E
Outside Organization: NRDC Unaffiliated Individual
Received: Nov,30,2011 16:45:20
Correspondence Type: Web Form
Correspondence: Drakes Estero is a national ecological treasure and should become a protected wilderness area. It has outstanding natural resources, including one of California's largest harbor seal colonies and tens of thousands of shorebirds, waterfowl, native fish and endangered species that use its wetlands, mudflats and eelgrass beds.

In the 1976 Point Reyes Wilderness Act, Congress recognized Drakes Estero as a unique recreational and biological resource and promised that this irreplaceable resource would formally become a wilderness area when non-conforming uses were eliminated. Your agency permitted a commercial oyster company to grow non-native oysters and clams on 1,050 acres in Drakes Estero for 40 years, or until 2012.

Your own draft environmental impact statement reveals the extensive damage that the existing operation has caused to Drakes Estero and Point Reyes National Seashore's beaches. As you know, commercial operations of any kind are not permitted in designated wilderness areas because of such damage. Further, the Park Service's Organic Act mandates protection of park resources and values and strictly limits commercial operations.

Your approval of the proposal to extend the oyster company's permit would be contrary to the Point Reyes Wilderness Act and would establish a dangerous precedent at a time when America's public lands and environmental laws are already under widespread attacks in Congress and elsewhere.

We've been waiting long enough. It is time to allow that permit to expire and to honor Congress' commitment. We want our bay back.

Correspondence ID: 48362 **Project:** 33043 **Document:** 43390
Name: Finberg, Sharon
Outside Organization: National Wildlife Federation Action Fund Unaffiliated Individual
Received: Nov,30,2011 17:08:14
Correspondence Type: Web Form
Correspondence: Drakes Estero is the ecological heart of Point Reyes National Seashore and a treasure that belongs to all Americans. In 1976, Congress promised that the Estero would receive full wilderness protection when the current lease for commercial oyster operations expires in 2012. I urge the Park Service to honor the wilderness promise and protect Drakes Estero for future generations.

Drakes Estero is home to 20 percent of the mainland breeding population of harbor seals in California and is used by tens of thousands of shorebirds and waterfowl and dozens of species of native fish. Your draft environmental impact statement makes clear that the existing commercial oyster operation is causing extensive damage to Drakes Estero and the Seashore's beaches, and that allowing these operations to continue would cause even more long-term harm.

Your environmental review also shows that alternative "A"--no new permit for commercial oyster operations and protection of the Estero as full wilderness--is the environmentally preferred alternative and the one that best protects harbor seals, birds, fish and other natural resources.

I urge you to return Drakes Estero to all Americans by selecting alternative "A" and ensuring full wilderness protection for Drakes Estero in 2012. It is time to protect Drakes Estero as Congress intended and to create the West Coast's only marine wilderness for the benefit of people and wildlife.

Correspondence ID: 48363 **Project:** 33043 **Document:** 43390
Name: Steen, Kari
Outside Organization: National Wildlife Federation Action Fund Unaffiliated Individual
Received: Nov,30,2011 17:08:14
Correspondence Type: Web Form
Correspondence: Drakes Estero is the ecological heart of Point Reyes National Seashore and a treasure that belongs to all Americans. In 1976, Congress promised that the Estero would receive full wilderness protection when the current lease for commercial oyster operations expires in 2012. I urge the Park Service to honor the wilderness promise and protect Drakes Estero for future generations.

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Your environmental review also shows that alternative "A"--no new permit for commercial oyster operations and protection of

the Estero as full wilderness--is the environmentally preferred alternative and the one that best protects harbor seals, birds, fish and other natural resources.

I urge you to return Drakes Estero to all Americans by selecting alternative "A" and ensuring full wilderness protection for Drakes Estero in 2012. It is time to protect Drakes Estero as Congress intended and to create the West Coast's only marine wilderness for the benefit of people and wildlife.

Correspondence ID: 48364 **Project:** 33043 **Document:** 43390
Name: Neal, Andrea
Outside Organization: National Wildlife Federation Action Fund Unaffiliated Individual
Received: Nov,30,2011 17:08:19
Correspondence Type: Web Form

Correspondence: Drakes Estero is the ecological heart of Point Reyes National Seashore and a treasure that belongs to all Americans. In 1976, Congress promised that the Estero would receive full wilderness protection when the current lease for commercial oyster operations expires in 2012. I urge the Park Service to honor the wilderness promise and protect Drakes Estero for future generations.

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I urge you to return Drakes Estero to all Americans by selecting alternative "A" and ensuring full wilderness protection for Drakes Estero in 2012. It is time to protect Drakes Estero as Congress intended and to create the West Coast's only marine wilderness for the benefit of people and wildlife.

Correspondence ID: 48365 **Project:** 33043 **Document:** 43390
Name: Silver, Susan L
Outside Organization: Too Many To List Unaffiliated Individual
Received: Nov,30,2011 17:12:45
Correspondence Type: Web Form

Correspondence: I urge you to keep The Drake's Bay Oyster Farm off of your closure list. My family and now many of my friends have used The Drake's Bay Oyster Farm exclusively for years. I appreciate a family owned business which truly caters to it's clients. The Oysters are the best in the area and I shudder to think of a long lived and loved family business being forced into closure. In these dire times we truly need to help each other and this extends to this business.

Sincerely,

Susan L. Silver Fairfield, CA

Correspondence ID: 48366 **Project:** 33043 **Document:** 43390
Name: Ross, Ann
Outside Organization: NRDC Unaffiliated Individual
Received: Nov,30,2011 17:16:35
Correspondence Type: Web Form

Correspondence: Drakes Estero is a national ecological treasure and should become a protected wilderness area. It has outstanding natural resources, including one of California's largest harbor seal colonies and tens of thousands of shorebirds, waterfowl, native fish and endangered species that use its wetlands, mudflats and eelgrass beds.

In the 1976 Point Reyes Wilderness Act, Congress recognized Drakes Estero as a unique recreational and biological resource and promised that this irreplaceable resource would formally become a wilderness area when non-conforming uses were eliminated. Your agency permitted a commercial oyster company to grow non-native oysters and clams on 1,050 acres in Drakes Estero for 40 years, or until 2012.

Your own draft environmental impact statement reveals the extensive damage that the existing operation has caused to Drakes Estero and Point Reyes National Seashore's beaches. As you know, commercial operations of any kind are not permitted in designated wilderness areas because of such damage. Further, the Park Service's Organic Act mandates protection of park resources and values and strictly limits commercial operations.

Your approval of the proposal to extend the oyster company's permit would be contrary to the Point Reyes Wilderness Act and would establish a dangerous precedent at a time when America's public lands and environmental laws are already under widespread attacks in Congress and elsewhere.

We've been waiting long enough. It is time to allow that permit to expire and to honor Congress' commitment. We want our bay back.

Correspondence ID: 48368 **Project:** 33043 **Document:** 43390
Name: Neimark, Debbie
Outside Organization: National Wildlife Federation Action Fund Unaffiliated Individual
Received: Nov,30,2011 17:38:18
Correspondence Type: Web Form
Correspondence:

Drakes Estero is the ecological heart of Point Reyes National Seashore and a treasure that belongs to all Americans. In 1976, Congress promised that the Estero would receive full wilderness protection when the current lease for commercial oyster operations expires in 2012. I urge the Park Service to honor the wilderness promise and protect Drakes Estero for future generations.

Drakes Estero is home to 20 percent of the mainland breeding population of harbor seals in California and is used by tens of thousands of shorebirds and waterfowl and dozens of species of native fish. Your draft environmental impact statement makes clear that the existing commercial oyster operation is causing extensive damage to Drakes Estero and the Seashore's beaches, and that allowing these operations to continue would cause even more long-term harm.

Your environmental review also shows that alternative "A"--no new permit for commercial oyster operations and protection of the Estero as full wilderness--is the environmentally preferred alternative and the one that best protects harbor seals, birds, fish and other natural resources.

I urge you to return Drakes Estero to all Americans by selecting alternative "A" and ensuring full wilderness protection for Drakes Estero in 2012. It is time to protect Drakes Estero as Congress intended and to create the West Coast's only marine wilderness for the benefit of people and wildlife.

Correspondence ID: 48369 **Project:** 33043 **Document:** 43390
Name: Chmara-Huff, Gwynyth
Outside Organization: National Wildlife Federation Action Fund Unaffiliated Individual
Received: Nov,30,2011 17:38:18
Correspondence Type: Web Form
Correspondence:

Drakes Estero is the ecological heart of Point Reyes National Seashore and a treasure that belongs to all Americans. In 1976, Congress promised that the Estero would receive full wilderness protection when the current lease for commercial oyster operations expires in 2012. I urge the Park Service to honor the wilderness promise and protect Drakes Estero for future generations.

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Your environmental review also shows that alternative "A"--no new permit for commercial oyster operations and protection of the Estero as full wilderness--is the environmentally preferred alternative and the one that best protects harbor seals, birds, fish and other natural resources.

I urge you to return Drakes Estero to all Americans by selecting alternative "A" and ensuring full wilderness protection for Drakes Estero in 2012. It is time to protect Drakes Estero as Congress intended and to create the West Coast's only marine wilderness for the benefit of people and wildlife.

Correspondence ID: 48370 **Project:** 33043 **Document:** 43390
Name: Demarinis, Jr., Dennis
Outside Organization: National Wildlife Federation Action Fund Unaffiliated Individual
Received: Nov,30,2011 17:38:18
Correspondence Type: Web Form
Correspondence:

Drakes Estero is the ecological heart of Point Reyes National Seashore and a treasure that belongs to all Americans. In 1976, Congress promised that the Estero would receive full wilderness protection when the current lease for commercial oyster operations expires in 2012. I urge the Park Service to honor the wilderness promise and protect Drakes Estero for future generations.

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and other natural resources.

I urge you to return Drakes Estero to all Americans by selecting alternative "A" and ensuring full wilderness protection for Drakes Estero in 2012. It is time to protect Drakes Estero as Congress intended and to create the West Coast's only marine wilderness for the benefit of people and wildlife.

Correspondence ID: 48371 **Project:** 33043 **Document:** 43390
Name: DeFelice, Paula
Outside Organization: National Wildlife Federation Action Fund Unaffiliated Individual
Received: Nov.30,2011 00:00:00
Correspondence Type: Web Form
Correspondence: The permit expires, the seals should get their homes back with full protection. The oyster operation is highly destructive. The harbor seals, as well as other biological and environmental elements are being damaged. It's time for it to end.

Drakes Estero is the ecological heart of Point Reyes National Seashore and a treasure that belongs to all Americans. In 1976, Congress promised that the Estero would receive full wilderness protection when the current lease for commercial oyster operations expires in 2012. I urge the Park Service to honor the wilderness promise and protect Drakes Estero for future generations.

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I urge you to return Drakes Estero to all Americans by selecting alternative "A" and ensuring full wilderness protection for Drakes Estero in 2012. It is time to protect Drakes Estero as Congress intended and to create the West Coast's only marine wilderness for the benefit of people and wildlife.

Correspondence ID: 48372 **Project:** 33043 **Document:** 43390
Name: Langton, Michael
Outside Organization: National Wildlife Federation Action Fund Unaffiliated Individual
Received: Nov.30,2011 17:38:21
Correspondence Type: Web Form
Correspondence: Drakes Estero is the ecological heart of Point Reyes National Seashore and a treasure that belongs to all Americans. In 1976, Congress promised that the Estero would receive full wilderness protection when the current lease for commercial oyster operations expires in 2012. I urge the Park Service to honor the wilderness promise and protect Drakes Estero for future generations.

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Correspondence ID: 48373 **Project:** 33043 **Document:** 43390
Name: Fortin, Matthew
Outside Organization: National Wildlife Federation Action Fund Unaffiliated Individual
Received: Nov.30,2011 17:38:23
Correspondence Type: Web Form
Correspondence: Drakes Estero is the ecological heart of Point Reyes National Seashore and a treasure that belongs to all Americans. In 1976, Congress promised that the Estero would receive full wilderness protection when the current lease for commercial oyster operations expires in 2012. I urge the Park Service to honor the wilderness promise and protect Drakes Estero for future generations.

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clear that the existing commercial oyster operation is causing extensive damage to Drakes Estero and the Seashore's beaches, and that allowing these operations to continue would cause even more long-term harm.

Your environmental review also shows that alternative "A"--no new permit for commercial oyster operations and protection of the Estero as full wilderness--is the environmentally preferred alternative and the one that best protects harbor seals, birds, fish and other natural resources.

I urge you to return Drakes Estero to all Americans by selecting alternative "A" and ensuring full wilderness protection for Drakes Estero in 2012. It is time to protect Drakes Estero as Congress intended and to create the West Coast's only marine wilderness for the benefit of people and wildlife.

Correspondence ID: 48374 **Project:** 33043 **Document:** 43390
Name: Johnson, Patti
Outside Organization: National Wildlife Federation Action Fund Unaffiliated Individual
Received: Nov.30,2011 17:38:23
Correspondence Type: Web Form
Correspondence: Drakes Estero is the ecological heart of Point Reyes National Seashore and a treasure that belongs to all Americans. In 1976, Congress promised that the Estero would receive full wilderness protection when the current lease for commercial oyster operations expires in 2012. I urge the Park Service to honor the wilderness promise and protect Drakes Estero for future generations.

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I urge you to return Drakes Estero to all Americans by selecting alternative "A" and ensuring full wilderness protection for Drakes Estero in 2012. It is time to protect Drakes Estero as Congress intended and to create the West Coast's only marine wilderness for the benefit of people and wildlife.

Correspondence ID: 48375 **Project:** 33043 **Document:** 43390
Name: Eberhardt, Sue
Outside Organization: National Wildlife Federation Action Fund Unaffiliated Individual
Received: Nov.30,2011 17:38:23
Correspondence Type: Web Form
Correspondence: Drakes Estero is the ecological heart of Point Reyes National Seashore and a treasure that belongs to all Americans. In 1976, Congress promised that the Estero would receive full wilderness protection when the current lease for commercial oyster operations expires in 2012. I urge the Park Service to honor the wilderness promise and protect Drakes Estero for future generations.

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Correspondence ID: 48376 **Project:** 33043 **Document:** 43390
Name: Saunders, Laura
Outside Organization: National Wildlife Federation Action Fund Unaffiliated Individual
Received: Nov.30,2011 17:38:24
Correspondence Type: Web Form
Correspondence: Drakes Estero is the ecological heart of Point Reyes National Seashore and a treasure that belongs to all Americans. In 1976, Congress promised that the Estero would receive full wilderness protection when the current lease for commercial oyster operations expires in 2012. I urge the Park Service to honor the wilderness promise and protect Drakes Estero for future generations.

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I urge you to return Drakes Estero to all Americans by selecting alternative "A" and ensuring full wilderness protection for Drakes Estero in 2012. It is time to protect Drakes Estero as Congress intended and to create the West Coast's only marine wilderness for the benefit of people and wildlife.

Correspondence ID: 48377 **Project:** 33043 **Document:** 43390
Name: Cardona, Chris
Outside Organization: National Wildlife Federation Action Fund Unaffiliated Individual
Received: Nov.30,2011 17:38:28
Correspondence Type: Web Form

Correspondence: Drakes Estero is the ecological heart of Point Reyes National Seashore and a treasure that belongs to all Americans. In 1976, Congress promised that the Estero would receive full wilderness protection when the current lease for commercial oyster operations expires in 2012. I urge the Park Service to honor the wilderness promise and protect Drakes Estero for future generations.

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I urge you to return Drakes Estero to all Americans by selecting alternative "A" and ensuring full wilderness protection for Drakes Estero in 2012. It is time to protect Drakes Estero as Congress intended and to create the West Coast's only marine wilderness for the benefit of people and wildlife.

Correspondence ID: 48378 **Project:** 33043 **Document:** 43390
Name: Metz, Sol
Outside Organization: National Wildlife Federation Action Fund Unaffiliated Individual
Received: Nov.30,2011 17:38:28
Correspondence Type: Web Form

Correspondence: Drakes Estero is the ecological heart of Point Reyes National Seashore and a treasure that belongs to all Americans. In 1976, Congress promised that the Estero would receive full wilderness protection when the current lease for commercial oyster operations expires in 2012. I urge the Park Service to honor the wilderness promise and protect Drakes Estero for future generations.

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I urge you to return Drakes Estero to all Americans by selecting alternative "A" and ensuring full wilderness protection for Drakes Estero in 2012. It is time to protect Drakes Estero as Congress intended and to create the West Coast's only marine wilderness for the benefit of people and wildlife.

Correspondence ID: 48379 **Project:** 33043 **Document:** 43390
Name: Kelly, Ann
Outside Organization: National Wildlife Federation Action Fund Unaffiliated Individual
Received: Nov.30,2011 17:38:28
Correspondence Type: Web Form

Correspondence: Drakes Estero is the ecological heart of Point Reyes National Seashore and a treasure that belongs to all Americans. In 1976, Congress promised that the Estero would receive full wilderness protection when the current lease for commercial oyster

operations expires in 2012. I urge the Park Service to honor the wilderness promise and protect Drakes Estero for future generations.

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Your environmental review also shows that alternative "A"--no new permit for commercial oyster operations and protection of the Estero as full wilderness--is the environmentally preferred alternative and the one that best protects harbor seals, birds, fish and other natural resources.

I urge you to return Drakes Estero to all Americans by selecting alternative "A" and ensuring full wilderness protection for Drakes Estero in 2012. It is time to protect Drakes Estero as Congress intended and to create the West Coast's only marine wilderness for the benefit of people and wildlife.

Correspondence ID: 48380 **Project:** 33043 **Document:** 43390
Name: Doyle, Kristina
Outside Organization: National Parks Conservation Association Unaffiliated Individual
Received: Nov,30,2011 17:41:27
Correspondence Type: Web Form
Correspondence: I urge you to protect Drakes Estero wilderness next year, as long intended. It is in the public interest to create the West Coast's only marine wilderness for the enjoyment of all. The public has waited nearly four decades for these protections to be implemented, which is an immense compromise in itself. Drakes Estero is a rare wildlife refuge where migrating birds stop over, harbor seals give birth, and fish take shelter in eelgrass. As someone who enjoys our nation's national parks and their wildlife, I urge you to uphold the longstanding plan to convert this very special resource to wilderness.

I urge you to select alternative "A", which protects marine wilderness next year and is the Environmentally Preferred Alternative. The National Park Service is mandated to provide maximum protection to the natural resources at Drakes Estero and selecting this alternative is the most consistent with the laws and policies affecting this park. Our national parks are set aside for the public and for wildlife protection, and after waiting nearly 40 years for private commercial use rights to expire, it's time to give the estuary the protection it needs. The environmental review shows that alternative "A" is best for public policy, and best protects harbor seals, fish, birds and other natural resources. Drakes Estero is our only marine wilderness on the West Coast, and is irreplaceable, while oysters can be commercially grown elsewhere.

Please honor the promise made for a protected marine wilderness at Drakes Estero. In doing so, you will set a good policy example and reward the public with an enduring legacy feat found nowhere else on the West Coast.

Correspondence ID: 48381 **Project:** 33043 **Document:** 43390
Name: Turner, Stacey
Outside Organization: NRDC Unaffiliated Individual
Received: Nov,30,2011 17:44:35
Correspondence Type: Web Form
Correspondence: Drakes Estero is a national ecological treasure and should become a protected wilderness area. It has outstanding natural resources, including one of California's largest harbor seal colonies and tens of thousands of shorebirds, waterfowl, native fish and endangered species that use its wetlands, mudflats and eelgrass beds.

In the 1976 Point Reyes Wilderness Act, Congress recognized Drakes Estero as a unique recreational and biological resource and promised that this irreplaceable resource would formally become a wilderness area when non-conforming uses were eliminated. Your agency permitted a commercial oyster company to grow non-native oysters and clams on 1,050 acres in Drakes Estero for 40 years, or until 2012.

Your own draft environmental impact statement reveals the extensive damage that the existing operation has caused to Drakes Estero and Point Reyes National Seashore's beaches. As you know, commercial operations of any kind are not permitted in designated wilderness areas because of such damage. Further, the Park Service's Organic Act mandates protection of park resources and values and strictly limits commercial operations.

Your approval of the proposal to extend the oyster company's permit would be contrary to the Point Reyes Wilderness Act and would establish a dangerous precedent at a time when America's public lands and environmental laws are already under widespread attacks in Congress and elsewhere.

We've been waiting long enough. It is time to allow that permit to expire and to honor Congress' commitment. We want our bay back.

Correspondence ID: 48382 **Project:** 33043 **Document:** 43390
Name: Ashby, Brendan
Outside Organization: NRDC Unaffiliated Individual

Received: Nov.30,2011 17:45:27
Correspondence Type: Web Form
Correspondence: Drakes Estero is a national ecological treasure and should become a protected wilderness area. It has outstanding natural resources, including one of California's largest harbor seal colonies and tens of thousands of shorebirds, waterfowl, native fish and endangered species that use its wetlands, mudflats and eelgrass beds.

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Your own draft environmental impact statement reveals the extensive damage that the existing operation has caused to Drakes Estero and Point Reyes National Seashore's beaches. As you know, commercial operations of any kind are not permitted in designated wilderness areas because of such damage. Further, the Park Service's Organic Act mandates protection of park resources and values and strictly limits commercial operations.

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We've been waiting long enough. It is time to allow that permit to expire and to honor Congress' commitment. We want our bay back.

Correspondence ID: 48383 **Project:** 33043 **Document:** 43390
Name: dyar, susan
Outside Organization: NRDC Unaffiliated Individual
Received: Nov.30,2011 17:46:06
Correspondence Type: Web Form
Correspondence: Drakes Estero is a national ecological treasure and should become a protected wilderness area. It has outstanding natural resources, including one of California's largest harbor seal colonies and tens of thousands of shorebirds, waterfowl, native fish and endangered species that use its wetlands, mudflats and eelgrass beds.

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Your own draft environmental impact statement reveals the extensive damage that the existing operation has caused to Drakes Estero and Point Reyes National Seashore's beaches. As you know, commercial operations of any kind are not permitted in designated wilderness areas because of such damage. Further, the Park Service's Organic Act mandates protection of park resources and values and strictly limits commercial operations.

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Correspondence ID: 48384 **Project:** 33043 **Document:** 43390
Name: Rabenau, Katherine
Outside Organization: National Wildlife Federation Action Fund Unaffiliated Individual
Received: Nov.30,2011 18:08:22
Correspondence Type: Web Form
Correspondence: Drakes Estero is the ecological heart of Point Reyes National Seashore and a treasure that belongs to all Americans. In 1976, Congress promised that the Estero would receive full wilderness protection when the current lease for commercial oyster operations expires in 2012. I urge the Park Service to honor the wilderness promise and protect Drakes Estero for future generations.

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Your environmental review also shows that alternative "A"--no new permit for commercial oyster operations and protection of the Estero as full wilderness--is the environmentally preferred alternative and the one that best protects harbor seals, birds, fish

and other natural resources.

I urge you to return Drakes Estero to all Americans by selecting alternative "A" and ensuring full wilderness protection for Drakes Estero in 2012. It is time to protect Drakes Estero as Congress intended and to create the West Coast's only marine wilderness for the benefit of people and wildlife.

Correspondence ID: 48385 **Project:** 33043 **Document:** 43390

Name: Fast, Linda

Outside Organization: National Wildlife Federation Action Fund Unaffiliated Individual

Received: Nov.30,2011 18:08:22

Correspondence Type: Web Form

Correspondence: Drakes Estero is the ecological heart of Point Reyes National Seashore and a treasure that belongs to all Americans. In 1976, Congress promised that the Estero would receive full wilderness protection when the current lease for commercial oyster operations expires in 2012. I urge the Park Service to honor the wilderness promise and protect Drakes Estero for future generations.

Drakes Estero is home to 20 percent of the mainland breeding population of harbor seals in California and is used by tens of thousands of shorebirds and waterfowl and dozens of species of native fish. Your draft environmental impact statement makes clear that the existing commercial oyster operation is causing extensive damage to Drakes Estero and the Seashore's beaches, and that allowing these operations to continue would cause even more long-term harm.

Your environmental review also shows that alternative "A"--no new permit for commercial oyster operations and protection of the Estero as full wilderness--is the environmentally preferred alternative and the one that best protects harbor seals, birds, fish and other natural resources.

I urge you to return Drakes Estero to all Americans by selecting alternative "A" and ensuring full wilderness protection for Drakes Estero in 2012. It is time to protect Drakes Estero as Congress intended and to create the West Coast's only marine wilderness for the benefit of people and wildlife.

Correspondence ID: 48386 **Project:** 33043 **Document:** 43390

Name: Bushman, Sharon

Outside Organization: Sierra Club Unaffiliated Individual

Received: Nov.30,2011 18:09:26

Correspondence Type: Web Form

Correspondence: I am writing to urge the National Park Service to protect Drakes Estero wilderness next year as long-intended. The American public deserves to have the West Coast's only marine wilderness protected for future generations to enjoy. Drakes Estero is a rare wildlife refuge where migrating birds stop over, harbor seals give birth, and fish spawn. It deserves the highest level of protection as Congress long-intended. As someone who enjoys our nation's spectacular national parks, I urge you to not undermine protections at Drakes Estero and succumb to special interests seeking to commercialize these special places.

I urge the National Park Service and the Department of the Interior to select alternative "A", which protects marine wilderness and is the environmentally preferred alternative. The NPS is mandated to provide maximum protection to the natural resources, as stated in the Seashore's legislation, and selecting this alternative is the most consistent with the laws and policies affecting this park. Our national parks are for the people and wildlife protection, not commercial exploitation. The environmental review shows that alternative "A" best protects harbor seals, fish, birds and other wildlife and plants. Drakes Estero is our only marine wilderness on the West Coast, and it is irreplaceable, while oysters can be grown elsewhere.

National Parks and wilderness areas are treasured by the majority of Americans and are for the public interest, not for private commercial exploitation. By protecting wilderness, the National Park Service will set a positive policy example while commercializing it will set a negative example and help others seek their special exemptions from national park laws.

Correspondence ID: 48387 **Project:** 33043 **Document:** 43390

Name: Poulsen, Michael

Outside Organization: Sierra Club Unaffiliated Individual

Received: Nov.30,2011 18:39:50

Correspondence Type: Web Form

Correspondence: I am writing to urge the National Park Service to protect Drakes Estero wilderness next year as long-intended. The American public deserves to have the West Coast's only marine wilderness protected for future generations to enjoy. Drakes Estero is a rare wildlife refuge where migrating birds stop over, harbor seals give birth, and fish spawn. It deserves the highest level of protection as Congress long-intended. As someone who enjoys our nation's spectacular national parks, I urge you to not undermine protections at Drakes Estero and succumb to special interests seeking to commercialize these special places.

I urge the National Park Service and the Department of the Interior to select alternative "A", which protects marine wilderness and is the environmentally preferred alternative. The NPS is mandated to provide maximum protection to the natural resources, as stated in the Seashore's legislation, and selecting this alternative is the most consistent with the laws and policies affecting this park. Our national parks are for the people and wildlife protection, not commercial exploitation. The environmental review shows that alternative "A" best protects harbor seals, fish, birds and other wildlife and plants. Drakes Estero is our only marine

wilderness on the West Coast, and it is irreplaceable, while oysters can be grown elsewhere.

National Parks and wilderness areas are treasured by the majority of Americans and are for the public interest, not for private commercial exploitation. By protecting wilderness, the National Park Service will set a positive policy example while commercializing it will set a negative example and help others seek their special exemptions from national park laws.

Correspondence ID: 48388 **Project:** 33043 **Document:** 43390
Name: Bixler, Alan
Outside Organization: National Wildlife Federation Action Fund Unaffiliated Individual
Received: Nov.30,2011 18:40:28
Correspondence Type: Web Form

Correspondence: Drakes Estero is the ecological heart of Point Reyes National Seashore and a treasure that belongs to all Americans. In 1976, Congress promised that the Estero would receive full wilderness protection when the current lease for commercial oyster operations expires in 2012. I urge the Park Service to honor the wilderness promise and protect Drakes Estero for future generations.

Drakes Estero is home to 20 percent of the mainland breeding population of harbor seals in California and is used by tens of thousands of shorebirds and waterfowl and dozens of species of native fish. Your draft environmental impact statement makes clear that the existing commercial oyster operation is causing extensive damage to Drakes Estero and the Seashore's beaches, and that allowing these operations to continue would cause even more long-term harm.

Your environmental review also shows that alternative "A"--no new permit for commercial oyster operations and protection of the Estero as full wilderness--is the environmentally preferred alternative and the one that best protects harbor seals, birds, fish and other natural resources.

I urge you to return Drakes Estero to all Americans by selecting alternative "A" and ensuring full wilderness protection for Drakes Estero in 2012. It is time to protect Drakes Estero as Congress intended and to create the West Coast's only marine wilderness for the benefit of people and wildlife.

Correspondence ID: 48389 **Project:** 33043 **Document:** 43390
Name: Britton, Tracy
Outside Organization: National Wildlife Federation Action Fund Unaffiliated Individual
Received: Nov.30,2011 18:40:48
Correspondence Type: Web Form

Correspondence: Drakes Estero is the ecological heart of Point Reyes National Seashore and a treasure that belongs to all Americans. In 1976, Congress promised that the Estero would receive full wilderness protection when the current lease for commercial oyster operations expires in 2012. I urge the Park Service to honor the wilderness promise and protect Drakes Estero for future generations.

Drakes Estero is home to 20 percent of the mainland breeding population of harbor seals in California and is used by tens of thousands of shorebirds and waterfowl and dozens of species of native fish. Your draft environmental impact statement makes clear that the existing commercial oyster operation is causing extensive damage to Drakes Estero and the Seashore's beaches, and that allowing these operations to continue would cause even more long-term harm.

Your environmental review also shows that alternative "A"--no new permit for commercial oyster operations and protection of the Estero as full wilderness--is the environmentally preferred alternative and the one that best protects harbor seals, birds, fish and other natural resources.

I urge you to return Drakes Estero to all Americans by selecting alternative "A" and ensuring full wilderness protection for Drakes Estero in 2012. It is time to protect Drakes Estero as Congress intended and to create the West Coast's only marine wilderness for the benefit of people and wildlife.

Correspondence ID: 48390 **Project:** 33043 **Document:** 43390
Name: Clipka, Mike
Outside Organization: National Parks Conservation Association Unaffiliated Individual
Received: Nov.30,2011 18:41:36
Correspondence Type: Web Form

Correspondence: I urge you to protect Drakes Estero wilderness next year, as long intended. It is in the public interest to create the West Coast's only marine wilderness for the enjoyment of all. The public has waited nearly four decades for these protections to be implemented, which is an immense compromise in itself. Drakes Estero is a rare wildlife refuge where migrating birds stop over, harbor seals give birth, and fish take shelter in eelgrass. As someone who enjoys our nation's national parks and their wildlife, I urge you to uphold the longstanding plan to convert this very special resource to wilderness.

I urge you to select alternative "A", which protects marine wilderness next year and is the Environmentally Preferred Alternative. The National Park Service is mandated to provide maximum protection to the natural resources at Drakes Estero and selecting this alternative is the most consistent with the laws and policies affecting this park. Our national parks are set aside for the public and for wildlife protection, and after waiting nearly 40 years for private commercial use rights to expire, it's time to give the estuary the protection it needs. The environmental review shows that alternative "A" is best for public policy, and

best protects harbor seals, fish, birds and other natural resources. Drakes Estero is our only marine wilderness on the West Coast, and is irreplaceable, while oysters can be commercially grown elsewhere.

Please honor the promise made for a protected marine wilderness at Drakes Estero. In doing so, you will set a good policy example and reward the public with an enduring legacy feat found nowhere else on the West Coast.

Correspondence ID: 48391 **Project:** 33043 **Document:** 43390
Name: Lillak, Tania
Outside Organization: National Parks Conservation Association Unaffiliated Individual
Received: Nov.30,2011 18:41:36
Correspondence Type: Web Form

Correspondence: I urge you to protect Drakes Estero wilderness next year, as long intended. It is in the public interest to create the West Coast's only marine wilderness for the enjoyment of all. The public has waited nearly four decades for these protections to be implemented, which is an immense compromise in itself. Drakes Estero is a rare wildlife refuge where migrating birds stop over, harbor seals give birth, and fish take shelter in eelgrass. As someone who enjoys our nation's national parks and their wildlife, I urge you to uphold the longstanding plan to convert this very special resource to wilderness.

I urge you to select alternative "A", which protects marine wilderness next year and is the Environmentally Preferred Alternative. The National Park Service is mandated to provide maximum protection to the natural resources at Drakes Estero and selecting this alternative is the most consistent with the laws and policies affecting this park. Our national parks are set aside for the public and for wildlife protection, and after waiting nearly 40 years for private commercial use rights to expire, it's time to give the estuary the protection it needs. The environmental review shows that alternative "A" is best for public policy, and best protects harbor seals, fish, birds and other natural resources. Drakes Estero is our only marine wilderness on the West Coast, and is irreplaceable, while oysters can be commercially grown elsewhere.

Please honor the promise made for a protected marine wilderness at Drakes Estero. In doing so, you will set a good policy example and reward the public with an enduring legacy feat found nowhere else on the West Coast.

Correspondence ID: 48392 **Project:** 33043 **Document:** 43390
Name: Lizak, Alfred
Outside Organization: Unaffiliated Individual
Received: Nov.30,2011 18:42:32
Correspondence Type: Web Form

Correspondence: I support a renewable Special Use Permit for Drakes Bay Oyster Company. None of the proposed alternative are appropriate. The current NPS General Management Plan for PRNS, adopted in 1980, supports the continued operation of the oyster farm, as do all the relevant Marin County planning documents. The draft EIS does not include justification for the decision to overturn the existing General Management Plan and Marin County's planning processes. There is no scientific evidence which supports the NPS claim that the oyster farm negatively impacts the harbor seal population. To the contrary, Drakes Estero is currently home to one of the largest harbor seal populations on the California coast and that population appears stable!

Furthermore I find it contemptible that some members of the NPS allowed the introduction of bogus scientific data designed to solely support their predetermined narrow focused intent to close down Drakes Bay Oyster Company even before a complete analysis of data by an impartial review body has taken place.

Correspondence ID: 48393 **Project:** 33043 **Document:** 43390
Name: Britton, Ellie
Outside Organization: NRDC Unaffiliated Individual
Received: Nov.30,2011 18:47:18
Correspondence Type: Web Form

Correspondence: Drakes Estero is a national ecological treasure and should become a protected wilderness area. It has outstanding natural resources, including one of California's largest harbor seal colonies and tens of thousands of shorebirds, waterfowl, native fish and endangered species that use its wetlands, mudflats and eelgrass beds.

In the 1976 Point Reyes Wilderness Act, Congress recognized Drakes Estero as a unique recreational and biological resource and promised that this irreplaceable resource would formally become a wilderness area when non-conforming uses were eliminated. Your agency permitted a commercial oyster company to grow non-native oysters and clams on 1,050 acres in Drakes Estero for 40 years, or until 2012.

Your own draft environmental impact statement reveals the extensive damage that the existing operation has caused to Drakes Estero and Point Reyes National Seashore's beaches. As you know, commercial operations of any kind are not permitted in designated wilderness areas because of such damage. Further, the Park Service's Organic Act mandates protection of park resources and values and strictly limits commercial operations.

Your approval of the proposal to extend the oyster company's permit would be contrary to the Point Reyes Wilderness Act and would establish a dangerous precedent at a time when America's public lands and environmental laws are already under widespread attacks in Congress and elsewhere.

We've been waiting long enough. It is time to allow that permit to expire and to honor Congress' commitment. We want our bay

back.

Correspondence ID: 48394 **Project:** 33043 **Document:** 43390

Name: White, Lauraine

Outside Organization: National Wildlife Federation Action Fund Unaffiliated Individual

Received: Nov,30,2011 18:50:51

Correspondence Type: Web Form

Correspondence: Drakes Estero is the ecological heart of Point Reyes National Seashore and a treasure that belongs to all Americans. In 1976, Congress promised that the Estero would receive full wilderness protection when the current lease for commercial oyster operations expires in 2012. I urge the Park Service to honor the wilderness promise and protect Drakes Estero for future generations.

Drakes Estero is home to 20 percent of the mainland breeding population of harbor seals in California and is used by tens of thousands of shorebirds and waterfowl and dozens of species of native fish. Your draft environmental impact statement makes clear that the existing commercial oyster operation is causing extensive damage to Drakes Estero and the Seashore's beaches, and that allowing these operations to continue would cause even more long-term harm.

Your environmental review also shows that alternative "A"--no new permit for commercial oyster operations and protection of the Estero as full wilderness--is the environmentally preferred alternative and the one that best protects harbor seals, birds, fish and other natural resources.

I urge you to return Drakes Estero to all Americans by selecting alternative "A" and ensuring full wilderness protection for Drakes Estero in 2012. It is time to protect Drakes Estero as Congress intended and to create the West Coast's only marine wilderness for the benefit of people and wildlife.

Correspondence ID: 48395 **Project:** 33043 **Document:** 43390

Name: rollins, linda

Outside Organization: National Wildlife Federation Action Fund Unaffiliated Individual

Received: Nov,30,2011 18:51:00

Correspondence Type: Web Form

Correspondence: Drakes Estero is the ecological heart of Point Reyes National Seashore and a treasure that belongs to all Americans. In 1976, Congress promised that the Estero would receive full wilderness protection when the current lease for commercial oyster operations expires in 2012. I urge the Park Service to honor the wilderness promise and protect Drakes Estero for future generations.

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I urge you to return Drakes Estero to all Americans by selecting alternative "A" and ensuring full wilderness protection for Drakes Estero in 2012. It is time to protect Drakes Estero as Congress intended and to create the West Coast's only marine wilderness for the benefit of people and wildlife.

Correspondence ID: 48396 **Project:** 33043 **Document:** 43390

Name: Varner-Munt, Sheri

Outside Organization: National Wildlife Federation Action Fund Unaffiliated Individual

Received: Nov,30,2011 18:53:27

Correspondence Type: Web Form

Correspondence: Drakes Estero is the ecological heart of Point Reyes National Seashore and a treasure that belongs to all Americans. In 1976, Congress promised that the Estero would receive full wilderness protection when the current lease for commercial oyster operations expires in 2012. I urge the Park Service to honor the wilderness promise and protect Drakes Estero for future generations.

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I urge you to return Drakes Estero to all Americans by selecting alternative "A" and ensuring full wilderness protection for Drakes Estero in 2012. It is time to protect Drakes Estero as Congress intended and to create the West Coast's only marine wilderness for the benefit of people and wildlife.

Correspondence ID: 48397 **Project:** 33043 **Document:** 43390
Name: Charity, Jeff
Outside Organization: National Wildlife Federation Action Fund Unaffiliated Individual
Received: Nov,30,2011 18:57:22
Correspondence Type: Web Form
Correspondence: Drakes Estero is the ecological heart of Point Reyes National Seashore and a treasure that belongs to all Americans. In 1976, Congress promised that the Estero would receive full wilderness protection when the current lease for commercial oyster operations expires in 2012. I urge the Park Service to honor the wilderness promise and protect Drakes Estero for future generations.

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Your environmental review also shows that alternative "A"--no new permit for commercial oyster operations and protection of the Estero as full wilderness--is the environmentally preferred alternative and the one that best protects harbor seals, birds, fish and other natural resources.

I urge you to return Drakes Estero to all Americans by selecting alternative "A" and ensuring full wilderness protection for Drakes Estero in 2012. It is time to protect Drakes Estero as Congress intended and to create the West Coast's only marine wilderness for the benefit of people and wildlife.

Correspondence ID: 48398 **Project:** 33043 **Document:** 43390
Name: McGrath, Joanne
Outside Organization: National Wildlife Federation Action Fund Unaffiliated Individual
Received: Nov,30,2011 18:58:56
Correspondence Type: Web Form
Correspondence: Drakes Estero is the ecological heart of Point Reyes National Seashore and a treasure that belongs to all Americans. In 1976, Congress promised that the Estero would receive full wilderness protection when the current lease for commercial oyster operations expires in 2012. I urge the Park Service to honor the wilderness promise and protect Drakes Estero for future generations.

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Your environmental review also shows that alternative "A"--no new permit for commercial oyster operations and protection of the Estero as full wilderness--is the environmentally preferred alternative and the one that best protects harbor seals, birds, fish and other natural resources.

I urge you to return Drakes Estero to all Americans by selecting alternative "A" and ensuring full wilderness protection for Drakes Estero in 2012. It is time to protect Drakes Estero as Congress intended and to create the West Coast's only marine wilderness for the benefit of people and wildlife.

Correspondence ID: 48399 **Project:** 33043 **Document:** 43390
Name: johnston, jacob
Outside Organization: National Wildlife Federation Action Fund Unaffiliated Individual
Received: Nov,30,2011 19:08:41
Correspondence Type: Web Form
Correspondence: Drakes Estero is the ecological heart of Point Reyes National Seashore and a treasure that belongs to all Americans. In 1976, Congress promised that the Estero would receive full wilderness protection when the current lease for commercial oyster operations expires in 2012. I urge the Park Service to honor the wilderness promise and protect Drakes Estero for future generations.

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and other natural resources.

I urge you to return Drakes Estero to all Americans by selecting alternative "A" and ensuring full wilderness protection for Drakes Estero in 2012. It is time to protect Drakes Estero as Congress intended and to create the West Coast's only marine wilderness for the benefit of people and wildlife.

Correspondence ID: 48400 **Project:** 33043 **Document:** 43390
Name: Gellman-Rodriguez, Donna
Outside Organization: Sierra Club Unaffiliated Individual
Received: Nov.30,2011 19:10:03
Correspondence Type: Web Form

Correspondence: I am writing to urge the National Park Service to protect Drakes Estero wilderness next year as long-intended. The American public deserves to have the West Coast's only marine wilderness protected for future generations to enjoy. Drakes Estero is a rare wildlife refuge where migrating birds stop over, harbor seals give birth, and fish spawn. It deserves the highest level of protection as Congress long-intended. As someone who enjoys our nation's spectacular national parks, I urge you to not undermine protections at Drakes Estero and succumb to special interests seeking to commercialize these special places.

I urge the National Park Service and the Department of the Interior to select alternative "A", which protects marine wilderness and is the environmentally preferred alternative. The NPS is mandated to provide maximum protection to the natural resources, as stated in the Seashore's legislation, and selecting this alternative is the most consistent with the laws and policies affecting this park. Our national parks are for the people and wildlife protection, not commercial exploitation. The environmental review shows that alternative "A" best protects harbor seals, fish, birds and other wildlife and plants. Drakes Estero is our only marine wilderness on the West Coast, and it is irreplaceable, while oysters can be grown elsewhere.

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Correspondence ID: 48401 **Project:** 33043 **Document:** 43390
Name: Villero, Ofelia
Outside Organization: NRDC Unaffiliated Individual
Received: Nov.30,2011 19:17:42
Correspondence Type: Web Form

Correspondence: Drakes Estero is a national ecological treasure and should become a protected wilderness area. It has outstanding natural resources, including one of California's largest harbor seal colonies and tens of thousands of shorebirds, waterfowl, native fish and endangered species that use its wetlands, mudflats and eelgrass beds.

In the 1976 Point Reyes Wilderness Act, Congress recognized Drakes Estero as a unique recreational and biological resource and promised that this irreplaceable resource would formally become a wilderness area when non-conforming uses were eliminated. Your agency permitted a commercial oyster company to grow non-native oysters and clams on 1,050 acres in Drakes Estero for 40 years, or until 2012.

Your own draft environmental impact statement reveals the extensive damage that the existing operation has caused to Drakes Estero and Point Reyes National Seashore's beaches. As you know, commercial operations of any kind are not permitted in designated wilderness areas because of such damage. Further, the Park Service's Organic Act mandates protection of park resources and values and strictly limits commercial operations.

Your approval of the proposal to extend the oyster company's permit would be contrary to the Point Reyes Wilderness Act and would establish a dangerous precedent at a time when America's public lands and environmental laws are already under widespread attacks in Congress and elsewhere.

We've been waiting long enough. It is time to allow that permit to expire and to honor Congress' commitment. We want our bay back.

Correspondence ID: 48402 **Project:** 33043 **Document:** 43390
Name: Levy, Rita H
Outside Organization: Unaffiliated Individual
Received: Nov.30,2011 19:32:22
Correspondence Type: Web Form

Correspondence: "None of the proposed alternatives are appropriate. I support a renewable Special Use Permit for Drakes Bay Oyster Company."

Correspondence ID: 48403 **Project:** 33043 **Document:** 43390
Name: Matz, Tamara
Outside Organization: National Wildlife Federation Action Fund Unaffiliated Individual
Received: Nov.30,2011 19:40:37
Correspondence Type: Web Form

Correspondence: Drakes Estero is the ecological heart of Point Reyes National Seashore and a treasure that belongs to all Americans. In 1976, Congress promised that the Estero would receive full wilderness protection when the current lease for commercial oyster

operations expires in 2012. I urge the Park Service to honor the wilderness promise and protect Drakes Estero for future generations.

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I urge you to return Drakes Estero to all Americans by selecting alternative "A" and ensuring full wilderness protection for Drakes Estero in 2012. It is time to protect Drakes Estero as Congress intended and to create the West Coast's only marine wilderness for the benefit of people and wildlife.

Correspondence ID: 48404 **Project:** 33043 **Document:** 43390
Name: Singaraju, Camille
Outside Organization: National Wildlife Federation Action Fund Unaffiliated Individual
Received: Nov,30,2011 19:42:33
Correspondence Type: Web Form
Correspondence: Drakes Estero is the ecological heart of Point Reyes National Seashore and a treasure that belongs to all Americans. In 1976, Congress promised that the Estero would receive full wilderness protection when the current lease for commercial oyster operations expires in 2012. I urge the Park Service to honor the wilderness promise and protect Drakes Estero for future generations.

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I urge you to return Drakes Estero to all Americans by selecting alternative "A" and ensuring full wilderness protection for Drakes Estero in 2012. It is time to protect Drakes Estero as Congress intended and to create the West Coast's only marine wilderness for the benefit of people and wildlife.

Correspondence ID: 48405 **Project:** 33043 **Document:** 43390
Name: sandoval, roxana
Outside Organization: National Wildlife Federation Action Fund Unaffiliated Individual
Received: Nov,30,2011 19:44:10
Correspondence Type: Web Form
Correspondence: Drakes Estero is the ecological heart of Point Reyes National Seashore and a treasure that belongs to all Americans. In 1976, Congress promised that the Estero would receive full wilderness protection when the current lease for commercial oyster operations expires in 2012. I urge the Park Service to honor the wilderness promise and protect Drakes Estero for future generations.

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Correspondence ID: 48406 **Project:** 33043 **Document:** 43390
Name: Clausen, Nicole
Outside Organization: NRDC Unaffiliated Individual
Received: Nov,30,2011 19:45:28
Correspondence Type: Web Form

Correspondence: Drakes Estero is a national ecological treasure and should become a protected wilderness area. It has outstanding natural resources, including one of California's largest harbor seal colonies and tens of thousands of shorebirds, waterfowl, native fish and endangered species that use its wetlands, mudflats and eelgrass beds.

In the 1976 Point Reyes Wilderness Act, Congress recognized Drakes Estero as a unique recreational and biological resource and promised that this irreplaceable resource would formally become a wilderness area when non-conforming uses were eliminated. Your agency permitted a commercial oyster company to grow non-native oysters and clams on 1,050 acres in Drakes Estero for 40 years, or until 2012.

Your own draft environmental impact statement reveals the extensive damage that the existing operation has caused to Drakes Estero and Point Reyes National Seashore's beaches. As you know, commercial operations of any kind are not permitted in designated wilderness areas because of such damage. Further, the Park Service's Organic Act mandates protection of park resources and values and strictly limits commercial operations.

Your approval of the proposal to extend the oyster company's permit would be contrary to the Point Reyes Wilderness Act and would establish a dangerous precedent at a time when America's public lands and environmental laws are already under widespread attacks in Congress and elsewhere.

We've been waiting long enough. It is time to allow that permit to expire and to honor Congress' commitment. We want our bay back.

Correspondence ID: 48407 **Project:** 33043 **Document:** 43390
Name: Villarreal II, Arturo
Outside Organization: National Wildlife Federation Action Fund Unaffiliated Individual
Received: Nov.30,2011 19:45:31
Correspondence Type: Web Form

Correspondence: Drakes Estero is the ecological heart of Point Reyes National Seashore and a treasure that belongs to all Americans. In 1976, Congress promised that the Estero would receive full wilderness protection when the current lease for commercial oyster operations expires in 2012. I urge the Park Service to honor the wilderness promise and protect Drakes Estero for future generations.

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Your environmental review also shows that alternative "A"--no new permit for commercial oyster operations and protection of the Estero as full wilderness--is the environmentally preferred alternative and the one that best protects harbor seals, birds, fish and other natural resources.

I urge you to return Drakes Estero to all Americans by selecting alternative "A" and ensuring full wilderness protection for Drakes Estero in 2012. It is time to protect Drakes Estero as Congress intended and to create the West Coast's only marine wilderness for the benefit of people and wildlife.

Correspondence ID: 48408 **Project:** 33043 **Document:** 43390
Name: Walb-Gower, Wanda
Outside Organization: NRDC Unaffiliated Individual
Received: Nov.30,2011 19:48:01
Correspondence Type: Web Form

Correspondence: Drakes Estero is a national ecological treasure and should become a protected wilderness area. It has outstanding natural resources, including one of California's largest harbor seal colonies and tens of thousands of shorebirds, waterfowl, native fish and endangered species that use its wetlands, mudflats and eelgrass beds.

In the 1976 Point Reyes Wilderness Act, Congress recognized Drakes Estero as a unique recreational and biological resource and promised that this irreplaceable resource would formally become a wilderness area when non-conforming uses were eliminated. Your agency permitted a commercial oyster company to grow non-native oysters and clams on 1,050 acres in Drakes Estero for 40 years, or until 2012.

Your own draft environmental impact statement reveals the extensive damage that the existing operation has caused to Drakes Estero and Point Reyes National Seashore's beaches. As you know, commercial operations of any kind are not permitted in designated wilderness areas because of such damage. Further, the Park Service's Organic Act mandates protection of park resources and values and strictly limits commercial operations.

Your approval of the proposal to extend the oyster company's permit would be contrary to the Point Reyes Wilderness Act and would establish a dangerous precedent at a time when America's public lands and environmental laws are already under widespread attacks in Congress and elsewhere.

We've been waiting long enough. It is time to allow that permit to expire and to honor Congress' commitment. We want our bay back.

Correspondence ID: 48409 **Project:** 33043 **Document:** 43390
Name: Hache'-Gallant, Gilbert-Joseph
Outside Organization: National Wildlife Federation Action Fund Unaffiliated Individual
Received: Nov,30,2011 19:48:38
Correspondence Type: Web Form
Correspondence:

Drakes Estero is the ecological heart of Point Reyes National Seashore and a treasure that belongs to all Americans. In 1976, Congress promised that the Estero would receive full wilderness protection when the current lease for commercial oyster operations expires in 2012. I urge the Park Service to honor the wilderness promise and protect Drakes Estero for future generations.

Drakes Estero is home to 20 percent of the mainland breeding population of harbor seals in California and is used by tens of thousands of shorebirds and waterfowl and dozens of species of native fish. Your draft environmental impact statement makes clear that the existing commercial oyster operation is causing extensive damage to Drakes Estero and the Seashore's beaches, and that allowing these operations to continue would cause even more long-term harm.

Your environmental review also shows that alternative "A"--no new permit for commercial oyster operations and protection of the Estero as full wilderness--is the environmentally preferred alternative and the one that best protects harbor seals, birds, fish and other natural resources.

I urge you to return Drakes Estero to all Americans by selecting alternative "A" and ensuring full wilderness protection for Drakes Estero in 2012. It is time to protect Drakes Estero as Congress intended and to create the West Coast's only marine wilderness for the benefit of people and wildlife.

Correspondence ID: 48410 **Project:** 33043 **Document:** 43390
Name: Hanson, Judy
Outside Organization: National Wildlife Federation Action Fund Unaffiliated Individual
Received: Nov,30,2011 19:49:41
Correspondence Type: Web Form
Correspondence:

Drakes Estero is the ecological heart of Point Reyes National Seashore and a treasure that belongs to all Americans. In 1976, Congress promised that the Estero would receive full wilderness protection when the current lease for commercial oyster operations expires in 2012. I urge the Park Service to honor the wilderness promise and protect Drakes Estero for future generations.

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I urge you to return Drakes Estero to all Americans by selecting alternative "A" and ensuring full wilderness protection for Drakes Estero in 2012. It is time to protect Drakes Estero as Congress intended and to create the West Coast's only marine wilderness for the benefit of people and wildlife.

Correspondence ID: 48411 **Project:** 33043 **Document:** 43390
Name: Brewster, Sarah
Outside Organization: National Wildlife Federation Action Fund Unaffiliated Individual
Received: Nov,30,2011 19:49:43
Correspondence Type: Web Form
Correspondence:

Drakes Estero is the ecological heart of Point Reyes National Seashore and a treasure that belongs to all Americans. In 1976, Congress promised that the Estero would receive full wilderness protection when the current lease for commercial oyster operations expires in 2012. I urge the Park Service to honor the wilderness promise and protect Drakes Estero for future generations.

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and other natural resources.

I urge you to return Drakes Estero to all Americans by selecting alternative "A" and ensuring full wilderness protection for Drakes Estero in 2012. It is time to protect Drakes Estero as Congress intended and to create the West Coast's only marine wilderness for the benefit of people and wildlife.

Correspondence ID: 48412 **Project:** 33043 **Document:** 43390
Name: Couillard, Paul
Outside Organization: National Wildlife Federation Action Fund Unaffiliated Individual
Received: Nov.30,2011 19:53:05
Correspondence Type: Web Form
Correspondence: Drakes Estero is the ecological heart of Point Reyes National Seashore and a treasure that belongs to all Americans. In 1976, Congress promised that the Estero would receive full wilderness protection when the current lease for commercial oyster operations expires in 2012. I urge the Park Service to honor the wilderness promise and protect Drakes Estero for future generations.

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Correspondence ID: 48413 **Project:** 33043 **Document:** 43390
Name: N/A, N/A
Outside Organization: Unaffiliated Individual
Received: Nov.30,2011 20:06:52
Correspondence Type: Web Form
Correspondence: ? Support the NO ACTION Alternative. It is the Environmentally Preferred Alternative and would provide for the area to become Wilderness in 2012 as Congress intended since the 1970s. ? The Action Alternatives have significant long-term adverse impacts to the Drakes Estero environment, including to wetlands, birds, fish, harbor seals, native mollusks, endangered species, eelgrass beds and to wilderness and the national park experience. ? The Action Alternatives are a direct attack on the Wilderness Act of 1964, run counter to the 1962 Point Reyes enabling legislation and the 1976 Point Reyes Wilderness Act, and set a dangerous precedent for future commercialization of National Parks and Wilderness around the county. ? The oyster operation involves 3,700 motorboat trips per year through harbor seal and eelgrass habitat; promotes the spread of invasive species impacts to native oysters, eelgrass beds, bird, fish and endangered species habitat; and litters remote Point Reyes beaches with thousands of pieces of plastic trash.

Correspondence ID: 48414 **Project:** 33043 **Document:** 43390
Name: masters, peter
Outside Organization: National Wildlife Federation Action Fund Unaffiliated Individual
Received: Nov.30,2011 20:08:55
Correspondence Type: Web Form
Correspondence: Drakes Estero is the ecological heart of Point Reyes National Seashore and a treasure that belongs to all Americans. In 1976, Congress promised that the Estero would receive full wilderness protection when the current lease for commercial oyster operations expires in 2012. I urge the Park Service to honor the wilderness promise and protect Drakes Estero for future generations.

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Correspondence ID: 48415 **Project:** 33043 **Document:** 43390

Name: Ortiz, C
Outside Organization: National Wildlife Federation Action Fund Unaffiliated Individual
Received: Nov,30,2011 20:09:11
Correspondence Type: Web Form
Correspondence: Drakes Estero is the ecological heart of Point Reyes National Seashore and a treasure that belongs to all Americans. In 1976, Congress promised that the Estero would receive full wilderness protection when the current lease for commercial oyster operations expires in 2012. I urge the Park Service to honor the wilderness promise and protect Drakes Estero for future generations.

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Correspondence ID: 48416 **Project:** 33043 **Document:** 43390
Name: Buckner, Wayne
Outside Organization: National Wildlife Federation Action Fund Unaffiliated Individual
Received: Nov,30,2011 20:09:44
Correspondence Type: Web Form
Correspondence: Drakes Estero is the ecological heart of Point Reyes National Seashore and a treasure that belongs to all Americans. In 1976, Congress promised that the Estero would receive full wilderness protection when the current lease for commercial oyster operations expires in 2012. I urge the Park Service to honor the wilderness promise and protect Drakes Estero for future generations.

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Correspondence ID: 48417 **Project:** 33043 **Document:** 43390
Name: Jones, Deena
Outside Organization: National Wildlife Federation Action Fund Unaffiliated Individual
Received: Nov,30,2011 20:14:42
Correspondence Type: Web Form
Correspondence: Drakes Estero is the ecological heart of Point Reyes National Seashore and a treasure that belongs to all Americans. In 1976, Congress promised that the Estero would receive full wilderness protection when the current lease for commercial oyster operations expires in 2012. I urge the Park Service to honor the wilderness promise and protect Drakes Estero for future generations.

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Correspondence ID: 48418 **Project:** 33043 **Document:** 43390
Name: sky, gloria
Outside Organization: National Wildlife Federation Action Fund Unaffiliated Individual
Received: Nov.30,2011 20:15:46
Correspondence Type: Web Form
Correspondence:

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Correspondence ID: 48419 **Project:** 33043 **Document:** 43390
Name: humphrey, priscilla
Outside Organization: National Wildlife Federation Action Fund Unaffiliated Individual
Received: Nov.30,2011 20:16:13
Correspondence Type: Web Form
Correspondence:

Drakes Estero is the ecological heart of Point Reyes National Seashore and a treasure that belongs to all Americans. In 1976, Congress promised that the Estero would receive full wilderness protection when the current lease for commercial oyster operations expires in 2012. I urge the Park Service to honor the wilderness promise and protect Drakes Estero for future generations.

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Correspondence ID: 48420 **Project:** 33043 **Document:** 43390
Name: Gutshall, Tamra
Outside Organization: National Wildlife Federation Action Fund Unaffiliated Individual
Received: Nov.30,2011 20:16:40
Correspondence Type: Web Form
Correspondence:

Drakes Estero is the ecological heart of Point Reyes National Seashore and a treasure that belongs to all Americans. In 1976, Congress promised that the Estero would receive full wilderness protection when the current lease for commercial oyster operations expires in 2012. I urge the Park Service to honor the wilderness promise and protect Drakes Estero for future generations.

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Your environmental review also shows that alternative "A"--no new permit for commercial oyster operations and protection of the Estero as full wilderness--is the environmentally preferred alternative and the one that best protects harbor seals, birds, fish and other natural resources.

I urge you to return Drakes Estero to all Americans by selecting alternative "A" and ensuring full wilderness protection for

Drakes Estero in 2012. It is time to protect Drakes Estero as Congress intended and to create the West Coast's only marine wilderness for the benefit of people and wildlife.

Correspondence ID: 48421 **Project:** 33043 **Document:** 43390
Name: Dupree, Lisa
Outside Organization: National Wildlife Federation Action Fund Unaffiliated Individual
Received: Nov,30,2011 20:16:51
Correspondence Type: Web Form
Correspondence: Drakes Estero is the ecological heart of Point Reyes National Seashore and a treasure that belongs to all Americans. In 1976, Congress promised that the Estero would receive full wilderness protection when the current lease for commercial oyster operations expires in 2012. I urge the Park Service to honor the wilderness promise and protect Drakes Estero for future generations.

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Correspondence ID: 48422 **Project:** 33043 **Document:** 43390
Name: DeCicco, Richard
Outside Organization: National Wildlife Federation Action Fund Unaffiliated Individual
Received: Nov,30,2011 20:18:02
Correspondence Type: Web Form
Correspondence: Drakes Estero is the ecological heart of Point Reyes National Seashore and a treasure that belongs to all Americans. In 1976, Congress promised that the Estero would receive full wilderness protection when the current lease for commercial oyster operations expires in 2012. I urge the Park Service to honor the wilderness promise and protect Drakes Estero for future generations.

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I urge you to return Drakes Estero to all Americans by selecting alternative "A" and ensuring full wilderness protection for Drakes Estero in 2012. It is time to protect Drakes Estero as Congress intended and to create the West Coast's only marine wilderness for the benefit of people and wildlife.

Thank you very much for your time.

Correspondence ID: 48423 **Project:** 33043 **Document:** 43390
Name: Kladke, Robin
Outside Organization: National Wildlife Federation Action Fund Unaffiliated Individual
Received: Nov,30,2011 20:18:49
Correspondence Type: Web Form
Correspondence: Drakes Estero is the ecological heart of Point Reyes National Seashore and a treasure that belongs to all Americans. In 1976, Congress promised that the Estero would receive full wilderness protection when the current lease for commercial oyster operations expires in 2012. I urge the Park Service to honor the wilderness promise and protect Drakes Estero for future generations.

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the Estero as full wilderness--is the environmentally preferred alternative and the one that best protects harbor seals, birds, fish and other natural resources.

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Correspondence ID: 48424 **Project:** 33043 **Document:** 43390
Name: Thompson, Susan
Outside Organization: National Wildlife Federation Action Fund Unaffiliated Individual
Received: Nov,30,2011 20:41:41
Correspondence Type: Web Form
Correspondence: Drakes Estero is the ecological heart of Point Reyes National Seashore and a treasure that belongs to all Americans. In 1976, Congress promised that the Estero would receive full wilderness protection when the current lease for commercial oyster operations expires in 2012. I urge the Park Service to honor the wilderness promise and protect Drakes Estero for future generations.

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Correspondence ID: 48425 **Project:** 33043 **Document:** 43390
Name: Karadimos, Kathy
Outside Organization: National Parks Conservation Association Unaffiliated Individual
Received: Nov,30,2011 20:42:23
Correspondence Type: Web Form
Correspondence: I urge you to protect Drakes Estero wilderness next year, as long intended. It is in the public interest to create the West Coast's only marine wilderness for the enjoyment of all. The public has waited nearly four decades for these protections to be implemented, which is an immense compromise in itself. Drakes Estero is a rare wildlife refuge where migrating birds stop over, harbor seals give birth, and fish take shelter in eelgrass. As someone who enjoys our nation's national parks and their wildlife, I urge you to uphold the longstanding plan to convert this very special resource to wilderness.

I urge you to select alternative "A", which protects marine wilderness next year and is the Environmentally Preferred Alternative. The National Park Service is mandated to provide maximum protection to the natural resources at Drakes Estero and selecting this alternative is the most consistent with the laws and policies affecting this park. Our national parks are set aside for the public and for wildlife protection, and after waiting nearly 40 years for private commercial use rights to expire, it's time to give the estuary the protection it needs. The environmental review shows that alternative "A" is best for public policy, and best protects harbor seals, fish, birds and other natural resources. Drakes Estero is our only marine wilderness on the West Coast, and is irreplaceable, while oysters can be commercially grown elsewhere.

Please honor the promise made for a protected marine wilderness at Drakes Estero. In doing so, you will set a good policy example and reward the public with an enduring legacy feat found nowhere else on the West Coast.

Correspondence ID: 48426 **Project:** 33043 **Document:** 43390
Name: Bush, Helen
Outside Organization: NRDC Unaffiliated Individual
Received: Nov,30,2011 20:45:53
Correspondence Type: Web Form
Correspondence: Drakes Estero is a national ecological treasure and should become a protected wilderness area. It has outstanding natural resources, including one of California's largest harbor seal colonies and tens of thousands of shorebirds, waterfowl, native fish and endangered species that use its wetlands, mudflats and eelgrass beds.

In the 1976 Point Reyes Wilderness Act, Congress recognized Drakes Estero as a unique recreational and biological resource and promised that this irreplaceable resource would formally become a wilderness area when non-conforming uses were eliminated. Your agency permitted a commercial oyster company to grow non-native oysters and clams on 1,050 acres in Drakes Estero for 40 years, or until 2012.

Your own draft environmental impact statement reveals the extensive damage that the existing operation has caused to Drakes Estero and Point Reyes National Seashore's beaches. As you know, commercial operations of any kind are not permitted in

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Your approval of the proposal to extend the oyster company's permit would be contrary to the Point Reyes Wilderness Act and would establish a dangerous precedent at a time when America's public lands and environmental laws are already under widespread attacks in Congress and elsewhere.

We've been waiting long enough. It is time to allow that permit to expire and to honor Congress' commitment. We want our bay back.

Correspondence ID: 48427 **Project:** 33043 **Document:** 43390
Name: Heath, Diane
Outside Organization: NRDC Unaffiliated Individual
Received: Nov,30,2011 20:46:14
Correspondence Type: Web Form
Correspondence: Drakes Estero is a national ecological treasure and should become a protected wilderness area. It has outstanding natural resources, including one of California's largest harbor seal colonies and tens of thousands of shorebirds, waterfowl, native fish and endangered species that use its wetlands, mudflats and eelgrass beds.

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Correspondence ID: 48428 **Project:** 33043 **Document:** 43390
Name: Wygant, Mike
Outside Organization: National Wildlife Federation Action Fund Unaffiliated Individual
Received: Nov,30,2011 20:46:21
Correspondence Type: Web Form
Correspondence: Drakes Estero is the ecological heart of Point Reyes National Seashore and a treasure that belongs to all Americans. In 1976, Congress promised that the Estero would receive full wilderness protection when the current lease for commercial oyster operations expires in 2012. I urge the Park Service to honor the wilderness promise and protect Drakes Estero for future generations.

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Your environmental review also shows that alternative "A"--no new permit for commercial oyster operations and protection of the Estero as full wilderness--is the environmentally preferred alternative and the one that best protects harbor seals, birds, fish and other natural resources.

I urge you to return Drakes Estero to all Americans by selecting alternative "A" and ensuring full wilderness protection for Drakes Estero in 2012. It is time to protect Drakes Estero as Congress intended and to create the West Coast's only marine wilderness for the benefit of people and wildlife.

Correspondence ID: 48429 **Project:** 33043 **Document:** 43390
Name: Halizak, Kimberly Anne
Outside Organization: National Wildlife Federation Action Fund Unaffiliated Individual
Received: Nov,30,2011 20:48:44
Correspondence Type: Web Form
Correspondence: Drakes Estero is the ecological heart of Point Reyes National Seashore and a treasure that belongs to all Americans. In 1976, Congress promised that the Estero would receive full wilderness protection when the current lease for commercial oyster operations expires in 2012. I urge the Park Service to honor the wilderness promise and protect Drakes Estero for future

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Correspondence ID: 48430 **Project:** 33043 **Document:** 43390
Name: thompson, paula
Outside Organization: National Wildlife Federation Action Fund Unaffiliated Individual
Received: Nov,30,2011 21:11:57
Correspondence Type: Web Form

Correspondence: Drakes Estero is the ecological heart of Point Reyes National Seashore and a treasure that belongs to all Americans. In 1976, Congress promised that the Estero would receive full wilderness protection when the current lease for commercial oyster operations expires in 2012. I urge the Park Service to honor the wilderness promise and protect Drakes Estero for future generations.

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Correspondence ID: 48431 **Project:** 33043 **Document:** 43390
Name: Hering, Janine
Outside Organization: National Parks Conservation Association Unaffiliated Individual
Received: Nov,30,2011 21:12:14
Correspondence Type: Web Form

Correspondence: I urge you to protect Drakes Estero wilderness next year, as long intended. It is in the public interest to create the West Coast's only marine wilderness for the enjoyment of all. The public has waited nearly four decades for these protections to be implemented, which is an immense compromise in itself. Drakes Estero is a rare wildlife refuge where migrating birds stop over, harbor seals give birth, and fish take shelter in eelgrass. As someone who enjoys our nation's national parks and their wildlife, I urge you to uphold the longstanding plan to convert this very special resource to wilderness.

I urge you to select alternative "A", which protects marine wilderness next year and is the Environmentally Preferred Alternative. The National Park Service is mandated to provide maximum protection to the natural resources at Drakes Estero and selecting this alternative is the most consistent with the laws and policies affecting this park. Our national parks are set aside for the public and for wildlife protection, and after waiting nearly 40 years for private commercial use rights to expire, it's time to give the estuary the protection it needs. The environmental review shows that alternative "A" is best for public policy, and best protects harbor seals, fish, birds and other natural resources. Drakes Estero is our only marine wilderness on the West Coast, and is irreplaceable, while oysters can be commercially grown elsewhere.

Please honor the promise made for a protected marine wilderness at Drakes Estero. In doing so, you will set a good policy example and reward the public with an enduring legacy feat found nowhere else on the West Coast.

Correspondence ID: 48432 **Project:** 33043 **Document:** 43390
Name: Weaver, Tammy
Outside Organization: National Wildlife Federation Action Fund Unaffiliated Individual
Received: Nov,30,2011 21:12:18
Correspondence Type: Web Form

Correspondence: Drakes Estero is the ecological heart of Point Reyes National Seashore and a treasure that belongs to all Americans. In 1976, Congress promised that the Estero would receive full wilderness protection when the current lease for commercial oyster operations expires in 2012. I urge the Park Service to honor the wilderness promise and protect Drakes Estero for future

generations.

Drakes Estero is home to 20 percent of the mainland breeding population of harbor seals in California and is used by tens of thousands of shorebirds and waterfowl and dozens of species of native fish. Your draft environmental impact statement makes clear that the existing commercial oyster operation is causing extensive damage to Drakes Estero and the Seashore's beaches, and that allowing these operations to continue would cause even more long-term harm.

Your environmental review also shows that alternative "A"--no new permit for commercial oyster operations and protection of the Estero as full wilderness--is the environmentally preferred alternative and the one that best protects harbor seals, birds, fish and other natural resources.

I urge you to return Drakes Estero to all Americans by selecting alternative "A" and ensuring full wilderness protection for Drakes Estero in 2012. It is time to protect Drakes Estero as Congress intended and to create the West Coast's only marine wilderness for the benefit of people and wildlife.

Correspondence ID: 48433 **Project:** 33043 **Document:** 43390
Name: Scherek, Roxane
Outside Organization: National Wildlife Federation Action Fund Unaffiliated Individual
Received: Nov,30,2011 21:12:29
Correspondence Type: Web Form
Correspondence: Drakes Estero is the ecological heart of Point Reyes National Seashore and a treasure that belongs to all Americans. In 1976, Congress promised that the Estero would receive full wilderness protection when the current lease for commercial oyster operations expires in 2012. I urge the Park Service to honor the wilderness promise and protect Drakes Estero for future generations.

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Your environmental review also shows that alternative "A"--no new permit for commercial oyster operations and protection of the Estero as full wilderness--is the environmentally preferred alternative and the one that best protects harbor seals, birds, fish and other natural resources.

I urge you to return Drakes Estero to all Americans by selecting alternative "A" and ensuring full wilderness protection for Drakes Estero in 2012. It is time to protect Drakes Estero as Congress intended and to create the West Coast's only marine wilderness for the benefit of people and wildlife.

Correspondence ID: 48434 **Project:** 33043 **Document:** 43390
Name: Hunter, Leslie
Outside Organization: National Wildlife Federation Action Fund Unaffiliated Individual
Received: Nov,30,2011 21:12:34
Correspondence Type: Web Form
Correspondence: Drakes Estero is the ecological heart of Point Reyes National Seashore and a treasure that belongs to all Americans. In 1976, Congress promised that the Estero would receive full wilderness protection when the current lease for commercial oyster operations expires in 2012. I urge the Park Service to honor the wilderness promise and protect Drakes Estero for future generations.

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I urge you to return Drakes Estero to all Americans by selecting alternative "A" and ensuring full wilderness protection for Drakes Estero in 2012. It is time to protect Drakes Estero as Congress intended and to create the West Coast's only marine wilderness for the benefit of people and wildlife.

Correspondence ID: 48435 **Project:** 33043 **Document:** 43390
Name: Haley, Patty
Outside Organization: National Wildlife Federation Action Fund Unaffiliated Individual
Received: Nov,30,2011 21:13:50
Correspondence Type: Web Form
Correspondence: Drakes Estero is the ecological heart of Point Reyes National Seashore and a treasure that belongs to all Americans. In 1976,

Congress promised that the Estero would receive full wilderness protection when the current lease for commercial oyster operations expires in 2012. I urge the Park Service to honor the wilderness promise and protect Drakes Estero for future generations.

Drakes Estero is home to 20 percent of the mainland breeding population of harbor seals in California and is used by tens of thousands of shorebirds and waterfowl and dozens of species of native fish. Your draft environmental impact statement makes clear that the existing commercial oyster operation is causing extensive damage to Drakes Estero and the Seashore's beaches, and that allowing these operations to continue would cause even more long-term harm.

Your environmental review also shows that alternative "A"--no new permit for commercial oyster operations and protection of the Estero as full wilderness--is the environmentally preferred alternative and the one that best protects harbor seals, birds, fish and other natural resources.

I urge you to return Drakes Estero to all Americans by selecting alternative "A" and ensuring full wilderness protection for Drakes Estero in 2012. It is time to protect Drakes Estero as Congress intended and to create the West Coast's only marine wilderness for the benefit of people and wildlife.

Correspondence ID: 48436 **Project:** 33043 **Document:** 43390
Name: Hinnant, John
Outside Organization: National Wildlife Federation Action Fund Unaffiliated Individual
Received: Nov,30,2011 21:14:05
Correspondence Type: Web Form

Correspondence: Drakes Estero is the ecological heart of Point Reyes National Seashore and a treasure that belongs to all Americans. In 1976, Congress promised that the Estero would receive full wilderness protection when the current lease for commercial oyster operations expires in 2012. I urge the Park Service to honor the wilderness promise and protect Drakes Estero for future generations.

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I urge you to return Drakes Estero to all Americans by selecting alternative "A" and ensuring full wilderness protection for Drakes Estero in 2012. It is time to protect Drakes Estero as Congress intended and to create the West Coast's only marine wilderness for the benefit of people and wildlife.

Correspondence ID: 48437 **Project:** 33043 **Document:** 43390
Name: Castro, Claudia
Outside Organization: National Wildlife Federation Action Fund Unaffiliated Individual
Received: Nov,30,2011 21:14:22
Correspondence Type: Web Form

Correspondence: Drakes Estero is the ecological heart of Point Reyes National Seashore and a treasure that belongs to all Americans. In 1976, Congress promised that the Estero would receive full wilderness protection when the current lease for commercial oyster operations expires in 2012. I urge the Park Service to honor the wilderness promise and protect Drakes Estero for future generations.

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I urge you to return Drakes Estero to all Americans by selecting alternative "A" and ensuring full wilderness protection for Drakes Estero in 2012. It is time to protect Drakes Estero as Congress intended and to create the West Coast's only marine wilderness for the benefit of people and wildlife.

Correspondence ID: 48438 **Project:** 33043 **Document:** 43390
Name: Maxwell, Steve
Outside Organization: National Wildlife Federation Action Fund Unaffiliated Individual
Received: Nov,30,2011 21:14:48

Correspondence Type: Web Form
Correspondence: Drakes Estero is the ecological heart of Point Reyes National Seashore and a treasure that belongs to all Americans. In 1976, Congress promised that the Estero would receive full wilderness protection when the current lease for commercial oyster operations expires in 2012. I urge the Park Service to honor the wilderness promise and protect Drakes Estero for future generations.

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Your environmental review also shows that alternative "A"--no new permit for commercial oyster operations and protection of the Estero as full wilderness--is the environmentally preferred alternative and the one that best protects harbor seals, birds, fish and other natural resources.

I urge you to return Drakes Estero to all Americans by selecting alternative "A" and ensuring full wilderness protection for Drakes Estero in 2012. It is time to protect Drakes Estero as Congress intended and to create the West Coast's only marine wilderness for the benefit of people and wildlife.

Correspondence ID: 48439 **Project:** 33043 **Document:** 43390
Name: Michel, Paul
Outside Organization: National Wildlife Federation Action Fund Unaffiliated Individual
Received: Nov,30,2011 21:15:19
Correspondence Type: Web Form

Correspondence: Drakes Estero is the ecological heart of Point Reyes National Seashore and a treasure that belongs to all Americans. In 1976, Congress promised that the Estero would receive full wilderness protection when the current lease for commercial oyster operations expires in 2012. I urge the Park Service to honor the wilderness promise and protect Drakes Estero for future generations.

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I urge you to return Drakes Estero to all Americans by selecting alternative "A" and ensuring full wilderness protection for Drakes Estero in 2012. It is time to protect Drakes Estero as Congress intended and to create the West Coast's only marine wilderness for the benefit of people and wildlife.

Correspondence ID: 48440 **Project:** 33043 **Document:** 43390
Name: Ray, Kaeleigh
Outside Organization: National Wildlife Federation Action Fund Unaffiliated Individual
Received: Nov,30,2011 21:16:25
Correspondence Type: Web Form

Correspondence: Drakes Estero is the ecological heart of Point Reyes National Seashore and a treasure that belongs to all Americans. In 1976, Congress promised that the Estero would receive full wilderness protection when the current lease for commercial oyster operations expires in 2012. I urge the Park Service to honor the wilderness promise and protect Drakes Estero for future generations.

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I urge you to return Drakes Estero to all Americans by selecting alternative "A" and ensuring full wilderness protection for Drakes Estero in 2012. It is time to protect Drakes Estero as Congress intended and to create the West Coast's only marine wilderness for the benefit of people and wildlife.

Correspondence ID: 48441 **Project:** 33043 **Document:** 43390
Name: Conley, Cristen

Outside Organization: National Wildlife Federation Action Fund Unaffiliated Individual
Received: Nov,30,2011 21:39:35
Correspondence Type: Web Form
Correspondence: Drakes Estero is the ecological heart of Point Reyes National Seashore and a treasure that belongs to all Americans. In 1976, Congress promised that the Estero would receive full wilderness protection when the current lease for commercial oyster operations expires in 2012. I urge the Park Service to honor the wilderness promise and protect Drakes Estero for future generations.

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Your environmental review also shows that alternative "A"--no new permit for commercial oyster operations and protection of the Estero as full wilderness--is the environmentally preferred alternative and the one that best protects harbor seals, birds, fish and other natural resources.

I urge you to return Drakes Estero to all Americans by selecting alternative "A" and ensuring full wilderness protection for Drakes Estero in 2012. It is time to protect Drakes Estero as Congress intended and to create the West Coast's only marine wilderness for the benefit of people and wildlife.

Correspondence ID: 48442 **Project:** 33043 **Document:** 43390
Name: Laurent, Val
Outside Organization: National Wildlife Federation Action Fund Unaffiliated Individual
Received: Nov,30,2011 21:39:57
Correspondence Type: Web Form
Correspondence: Drakes Estero is the ecological heart of Point Reyes National Seashore and a treasure that belongs to all Americans. In 1976, Congress promised that the Estero would receive full wilderness protection when the current lease for commercial oyster operations expires in 2012. I urge the Park Service to honor the wilderness promise and protect Drakes Estero for future generations.

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Your environmental review also shows that alternative "A"--no new permit for commercial oyster operations and protection of the Estero as full wilderness--is the environmentally preferred alternative and the one that best protects harbor seals, birds, fish and other natural resources.

I urge you to return Drakes Estero to all Americans by selecting alternative "A" and ensuring full wilderness protection for Drakes Estero in 2012. It is time to protect Drakes Estero as Congress intended and to create the West Coast's only marine wilderness for the benefit of people and wildlife.

Correspondence ID: 48443 **Project:** 33043 **Document:** 43390
Name: Fernandez, Michael
Outside Organization: Sierra Club Unaffiliated Individual
Received: Nov,30,2011 21:40:12
Correspondence Type: Web Form
Correspondence: I am writing to urge the National Park Service to protect Drakes Estero wilderness next year as long-intended. The American public deserves to have the West Coast's only marine wilderness protected for future generations to enjoy. Drakes Estero is a rare wildlife refuge where migrating birds stop over, harbor seals give birth, and fish spawn. It deserves the highest level of protection as Congress long-intended. As someone who enjoys our nation's spectacular national parks, I urge you to not undermine protections at Drakes Estero and succumb to special interests seeking to commercialize these special places.

I urge the National Park Service and the Department of the Interior to select alternative "A", which protects marine wilderness and is the environmentally preferred alternative. The NPS is mandated to provide maximum protection to the natural resources, as stated in the Seashore's legislation, and selecting this alternative is the most consistent with the laws and policies affecting this park. Our national parks are for the people and wildlife protection, not commercial exploitation. The environmental review shows that alternative "A" best protects harbor seals, fish, birds and other wildlife and plants. Drakes Estero is our only marine wilderness on the West Coast, and it is irreplaceable, while oysters can be grown elsewhere.

National Parks and wilderness areas are treasured by the majority of Americans and are for the public interest, not for private commercial exploitation. By protecting wilderness, the National Park Service will set a positive policy example while commercializing it will set a negative example and help others seek their special exemptions from national park laws.

Correspondence ID: 48444 **Project:** 33043 **Document:** 43390
Name: Davis, Collin

Outside Organization: NRDC Unaffiliated Individual
Received: Nov,30,2011 21:46:02
Correspondence Type: Web Form
Correspondence: Drakes Estero is a national ecological treasure and should become a protected wilderness area. It has outstanding natural resources, including one of California's largest harbor seal colonies and tens of thousands of shorebirds, waterfowl, native fish and endangered species that use its wetlands, mudflats and eelgrass beds.

In the 1976 Point Reyes Wilderness Act, Congress recognized Drakes Estero as a unique recreational and biological resource and promised that this irreplaceable resource would formally become a wilderness area when non-conforming uses were eliminated. Your agency permitted a commercial oyster company to grow non-native oysters and clams on 1,050 acres in Drakes Estero for 40 years, or until 2012.

Your own draft environmental impact statement reveals the extensive damage that the existing operation has caused to Drakes Estero and Point Reyes National Seashore's beaches. As you know, commercial operations of any kind are not permitted in designated wilderness areas because of such damage. Further, the Park Service's Organic Act mandates protection of park resources and values and strictly limits commercial operations.

Your approval of the proposal to extend the oyster company's permit would be contrary to the Point Reyes Wilderness Act and would establish a dangerous precedent at a time when America's public lands and environmental laws are already under widespread attacks in Congress and elsewhere.

We've been waiting long enough. It is time to allow that permit to expire and to honor Congress' commitment. We want our bay back.

Correspondence ID: 48445 **Project:** 33043 **Document:** 43390
Name: Osada, Susan
Outside Organization: National Wildlife Federation Action Fund Unaffiliated Individual
Received: Nov,30,2011 22:09:25
Correspondence Type: Web Form
Correspondence:

Drakes Estero is the ecological heart of Point Reyes National Seashore and a treasure that belongs to all Americans. In 1976, Congress promised that the Estero would receive full wilderness protection when the current lease for commercial oyster operations expires in 2012. I urge the Park Service to honor the wilderness promise and protect Drakes Estero for future generations.

Drakes Estero is home to 20 percent of the mainland breeding population of harbor seals in California and is used by tens of thousands of shorebirds and waterfowl and dozens of species of native fish. Your draft environmental impact statement makes clear that the existing commercial oyster operation is causing extensive damage to Drakes Estero and the Seashore's beaches, and that allowing these operations to continue would cause even more long-term harm.

Your environmental review also shows that alternative "A"--no new permit for commercial oyster operations and protection of the Estero as full wilderness--is the environmentally preferred alternative and the one that best protects harbor seals, birds, fish and other natural resources.

I urge you to return Drakes Estero to all Americans by selecting alternative "A" and ensuring full wilderness protection for Drakes Estero in 2012. It is time to protect Drakes Estero as Congress intended and to create the West Coast's only marine wilderness for the benefit of people and wildlife.

Correspondence ID: 48446 **Project:** 33043 **Document:** 43390
Name: Galindo, Claudia
Outside Organization: National Wildlife Federation Action Fund Unaffiliated Individual
Received: Nov,30,2011 22:09:30
Correspondence Type: Web Form
Correspondence:

Drakes Estero is the ecological heart of Point Reyes National Seashore and a treasure that belongs to all Americans. In 1976, Congress promised that the Estero would receive full wilderness protection when the current lease for commercial oyster operations expires in 2012. I urge the Park Service to honor the wilderness promise and protect Drakes Estero for future generations.

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Your environmental review also shows that alternative "A"--no new permit for commercial oyster operations and protection of the Estero as full wilderness--is the environmentally preferred alternative and the one that best protects harbor seals, birds, fish and other natural resources.

I urge you to return Drakes Estero to all Americans by selecting alternative "A" and ensuring full wilderness protection for

Drakes Estero in 2012. It is time to protect Drakes Estero as Congress intended and to create the West Coast's only marine wilderness for the benefit of people and wildlife.

Correspondence ID: 48447 **Project:** 33043 **Document:** 43390
Name: Gaston-fowler, Nicole
Outside Organization: National Wildlife Federation Action Fund Unaffiliated Individual
Received: Nov,30,2011 22:09:45
Correspondence Type: Web Form
Correspondence: Drakes Estero is the ecological heart of Point Reyes National Seashore and a treasure that belongs to all Americans. In 1976, Congress promised that the Estero would receive full wilderness protection when the current lease for commercial oyster operations expires in 2012. I urge the Park Service to honor the wilderness promise and protect Drakes Estero for future generations.

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I urge you to return Drakes Estero to all Americans by selecting alternative "A" and ensuring full wilderness protection for Drakes Estero in 2012. It is time to protect Drakes Estero as Congress intended and to create the West Coast's only marine wilderness for the benefit of people and wildlife.

Correspondence ID: 48448 **Project:** 33043 **Document:** 43390
Name: Scott, Ashley
Outside Organization: National Wildlife Federation Action Fund Unaffiliated Individual
Received: Nov,30,2011 22:11:31
Correspondence Type: Web Form
Correspondence: Drakes Estero is the ecological heart of Point Reyes National Seashore and a treasure that belongs to all Americans. In 1976, Congress promised that the Estero would receive full wilderness protection when the current lease for commercial oyster operations expires in 2012. I urge the Park Service to honor the wilderness promise and protect Drakes Estero for future generations.

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I urge you to return Drakes Estero to all Americans by selecting alternative "A" and ensuring full wilderness protection for Drakes Estero in 2012. It is time to protect Drakes Estero as Congress intended and to create the West Coast's only marine wilderness for the benefit of people and wildlife.

Correspondence ID: 48449 **Project:** 33043 **Document:** 43390
Name: Ford, Nicole
Outside Organization: National Wildlife Federation Action Fund Unaffiliated Individual
Received: Nov,30,2011 22:12:09
Correspondence Type: Web Form
Correspondence: Drakes Estero is the ecological heart of Point Reyes National Seashore and a treasure that belongs to all Americans. In 1976, Congress promised that the Estero would receive full wilderness protection when the current lease for commercial oyster operations expires in 2012. I urge the Park Service to honor the wilderness promise and protect Drakes Estero for future generations.

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and other natural resources.

I urge you to return Drakes Estero to all Americans by selecting alternative "A" and ensuring full wilderness protection for Drakes Estero in 2012. It is time to protect Drakes Estero as Congress intended and to create the West Coast's only marine wilderness for the benefit of people and wildlife.

Correspondence ID: 48450 **Project:** 33043 **Document:** 43390
Name: Dows, Wena
Outside Organization: National Parks Conservation Association Unaffiliated Individual
Received: Nov.30,2011 22:12:20
Correspondence Type: Web Form
Correspondence: I urge you to protect Drakes Estero wilderness next year, as long intended. It is in the public interest to create the West Coast's only marine wilderness for the enjoyment of all. The public has waited nearly four decades for these protections to be implemented, which is an immense compromise in itself. Drakes Estero is a rare wildlife refuge where migrating birds stop over, harbor seals give birth, and fish take shelter in eelgrass. As someone who enjoys our nation's national parks and their wildlife, I urge you to uphold the longstanding plan to convert this very special resource to wilderness.

I urge you to select alternative "A", which protects marine wilderness next year and is the Environmentally Preferred Alternative. The National Park Service is mandated to provide maximum protection to the natural resources at Drakes Estero and selecting this alternative is the most consistent with the laws and policies affecting this park. Our national parks are set aside for the public and for wildlife protection, and after waiting nearly 40 years for private commercial use rights to expire, it's time to give the estuary the protection it needs. The environmental review shows that alternative "A" is best for public policy, and best protects harbor seals, fish, birds and other natural resources. Drakes Estero is our only marine wilderness on the West Coast, and is irreplaceable, while oysters can be commercially grown elsewhere.

Please honor the promise made for a protected marine wilderness at Drakes Estero. In doing so, you will set a good policy example and reward the public with an enduring legacy feat found nowhere else on the West Coast.

Correspondence ID: 48451 **Project:** 33043 **Document:** 43390
Name: Ruby, Jacki F
Outside Organization: Unaffiliated Individual
Received: Nov.30,2011 22:22:03
Correspondence Type: Web Form
Correspondence: "None of the proposed alternatives are appropriate. I support a renewable Special Use Permit for Drakes Bay Oyster Company."

Correspondence ID: 48452 **Project:** 33043 **Document:** 43390
Name: Lythgoe, Robin
Outside Organization: Unaffiliated Individual
Received: Nov.30,2011 22:30:42
Correspondence Type: Web Form
Correspondence: I support a renewable special use permit for Drakes Bay oyster company.

Correspondence ID: 48453 **Project:** 33043 **Document:** 43390
Name: Howe, serena
Outside Organization: National Wildlife Federation Action Fund Unaffiliated Individual
Received: Nov.30,2011 22:39:05
Correspondence Type: Web Form
Correspondence: Drakes Estero is the ecological heart of Point Reyes National Seashore and a treasure that belongs to all Americans. In 1976, Congress promised that the Estero would receive full wilderness protection when the current lease for commercial oyster operations expires in 2012. I urge the Park Service to honor the wilderness promise and protect Drakes Estero for future generations.

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Correspondence ID: 48454 **Project:** 33043 **Document:** 43390
Name: Cash, Felicia
Outside Organization: National Wildlife Federation Action Fund Unaffiliated Individual

Received: Nov,30,2011 22:40:41

Correspondence Type: Web Form

Correspondence: Drakes Estero is the ecological heart of Point Reyes National Seashore and a treasure that belongs to all Americans. In 1976, Congress promised that the Estero would receive full wilderness protection when the current lease for commercial oyster operations expires in 2012. I urge the Park Service to honor the wilderness promise and protect Drakes Estero for future generations.

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Correspondence ID: 48455 **Project:** 33043 **Document:** 43390

Name: Knesel, Pete

Outside Organization: National Parks Conservation Association Unaffiliated Individual

Received: Nov,30,2011 22:42:21

Correspondence Type: Web Form

Correspondence: I urge you to protect Drakes Estero wilderness next year, as long intended. It is in the public interest to create the West Coast's only marine wilderness for the enjoyment of all. The public has waited nearly four decades for these protections to be implemented, which is an immense compromise in itself. Drakes Estero is a rare wildlife refuge where migrating birds stop over, harbor seals give birth, and fish take shelter in eelgrass. As someone who enjoys our nation's national parks and their wildlife, I urge you to uphold the longstanding plan to convert this very special resource to wilderness.

I urge you to select alternative "A", which protects marine wilderness next year and is the Environmentally Preferred Alternative. The National Park Service is mandated to provide maximum protection to the natural resources at Drakes Estero and selecting this alternative is the most consistent with the laws and policies affecting this park. Our national parks are set aside for the public and for wildlife protection, and after waiting nearly 40 years for private commercial use rights to expire, it's time to give the estuary the protection it needs. The environmental review shows that alternative "A" is best for public policy, and best protects harbor seals, fish, birds and other natural resources. Drakes Estero is our only marine wilderness on the West Coast, and is irreplaceable, while oysters can be commercially grown elsewhere.

Please honor the promise made for a protected marine wilderness at Drakes Estero. In doing so, you will set a good policy example and reward the public with an enduring legacy feat found nowhere else on the West Coast.

Correspondence ID: 48456 **Project:** 33043 **Document:** 43390

Name: McCoy, Claudette

Outside Organization: National Wildlife Federation Action Fund Unaffiliated Individual

Received: Nov,30,2011 22:42:53

Correspondence Type: Web Form

Correspondence: Drakes Estero is the ecological heart of Point Reyes National Seashore and a treasure that belongs to all Americans. In 1976, Congress promised that the Estero would receive full wilderness protection when the current lease for commercial oyster operations expires in 2012. I urge the Park Service to honor the wilderness promise and protect Drakes Estero for future generations.

Drakes Estero is home to 20 percent of the mainland breeding population of harbor seals in California and is used by tens of thousands of shorebirds and waterfowl and dozens of species of native fish. Your draft environmental impact statement makes clear that the existing commercial oyster operation is causing extensive damage to Drakes Estero and the Seashore's beaches, and that allowing these operations to continue would cause even more long-term harm.

Your environmental review also shows that alternative "A"--no new permit for commercial oyster operations and protection of the Estero as full wilderness--is the environmentally preferred alternative and the one that best protects harbor seals, birds, fish and other natural resources.

I urge you to return Drakes Estero to all Americans by selecting alternative "A" and ensuring full wilderness protection for Drakes Estero in 2012. It is time to protect Drakes Estero as Congress intended and to create the West Coast's only marine wilderness for the benefit of people and wildlife.

Correspondence ID: 48457 **Project:** 33043 **Document:** 43390

Name: Liu, Sandy

Outside Organization: National Wildlife Federation Action Fund Unaffiliated Individual

Received: Nov,30,2011 23:10:15

Correspondence Type: Web Form

Correspondence: Drakes Estero is the ecological heart of Point Reyes National Seashore and a treasure that belongs to all Americans. In 1976, Congress promised that the Estero would receive full wilderness protection when the current lease for commercial oyster operations expires in 2012. I urge the Park Service to honor the wilderness promise and protect Drakes Estero for future generations.

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Correspondence ID: 48458 **Project:** 33043 **Document:** 43390

Name: Springer, Chemaine

Outside Organization: National Wildlife Federation Action Fund Unaffiliated Individual

Received: Nov,30,2011 23:10:42

Correspondence Type: Web Form

Correspondence: Drakes Estero is the ecological heart of Point Reyes National Seashore and a treasure that belongs to all Americans. In 1976, Congress promised that the Estero would receive full wilderness protection when the current lease for commercial oyster operations expires in 2012. I urge the Park Service to honor the wilderness promise and protect Drakes Estero for future generations.

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Correspondence ID: 48459 **Project:** 33043 **Document:** 43390

Name: Cubala, Ken

Outside Organization: National Wildlife Federation Action Fund Unaffiliated Individual

Received: Nov,30,2011 23:39:44

Correspondence Type: Web Form

Correspondence: Drakes Estero is the ecological heart of Point Reyes National Seashore and a treasure that belongs to all Americans. In 1976, Congress promised that the Estero would receive full wilderness protection when the current lease for commercial oyster operations expires in 2012. I urge the Park Service to honor the wilderness promise and protect Drakes Estero for future generations.

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Correspondence ID: 48460 **Project:** 33043 **Document:** 43390

Name: Bittle, Juanita
Outside Organization: National Wildlife Federation Action Fund Unaffiliated Individual
Received: Nov,30,2011 23:39:44
Correspondence Type: Web Form
Correspondence: Drakes Estero is the ecological heart of Point Reyes National Seashore and a treasure that belongs to all Americans. In 1976, Congress promised that the Estero would receive full wilderness protection when the current lease for commercial oyster operations expires in 2012. I urge the Park Service to honor the wilderness promise and protect Drakes Estero for future generations.

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Correspondence ID: 48461 **Project:** 33043 **Document:** 43390
Name: Mcpherson, Bill
Outside Organization: National Parks Conservation Association Unaffiliated Individual
Received: Nov,30,2011 23:42:24
Correspondence Type: Web Form
Correspondence: I urge you to protect Drakes Estero wilderness next year, as long intended. It is in the public interest to create the West Coast's only marine wilderness for the enjoyment of all. The public has waited nearly four decades for these protections to be implemented, which is an immense compromise in itself. Drakes Estero is a rare wildlife refuge where migrating birds stop over, harbor seals give birth, and fish take shelter in eelgrass. As someone who enjoys our nation's national parks and their wildlife, I urge you to uphold the longstanding plan to convert this very special resource to wilderness.

I urge you to select alternative "A", which protects marine wilderness next year and is the Environmentally Preferred Alternative. The National Park Service is mandated to provide maximum protection to the natural resources at Drakes Estero and selecting this alternative is the most consistent with the laws and policies affecting this park. Our national parks are set aside for the public and for wildlife protection, and after waiting nearly 40 years for private commercial use rights to expire, it's time to give the estuary the protection it needs. The environmental review shows that alternative "A" is best for public policy, and best protects harbor seals, fish, birds and other natural resources. Drakes Estero is our only marine wilderness on the West Coast, and is irreplaceable, while oysters can be commercially grown elsewhere.

Please honor the promise made for a protected marine wilderness at Drakes Estero. In doing so, you will set a good policy example and reward the public with an enduring legacy feat found nowhere else on the West Coast.

Correspondence ID: 48462 **Project:** 33043 **Document:** 43390
Name: KORONDY, ELIZABETH D
Outside Organization: Unaffiliated Individual
Received: Dec,01,2011 00:00:00
Correspondence Type: Web Form
Correspondence: None of the proposed alternatives are appropriate. I support a renewable Special Use Permit for Drakes Bay Oyster Company.

If you close down this farm you take away tourism opportunities for us all.

Correspondence ID: 48463 **Project:** 33043 **Document:** 43390
Name: Petroni, Nino
Outside Organization: National Wildlife Federation Action Fund Unaffiliated Individual
Received: Dec,01,2011 00:10:32
Correspondence Type: Web Form
Correspondence: Drakes Estero is the ecological heart of Point Reyes National Seashore and a treasure that belongs to all Americans. In 1976, Congress promised that the Estero would receive full wilderness protection when the current lease for commercial oyster operations expires in 2012. I urge the Park Service to honor the wilderness promise and protect Drakes Estero for future generations.

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Correspondence ID: 48464 **Project:** 33043 **Document:** 43390
Name: santacruz, german
Outside Organization: Unaffiliated Individual
Received: Dec.01.2011 00:18:02
Correspondence Type: Web Form
Correspondence: None of the proposed alternatives are appropriate. I support a renewable Special Use Permit for Drakes Bay Oyster Company."

Correspondence ID: 48465 **Project:** 33043 **Document:** 43390
Name: N/A, N/A
Outside Organization: Unaffiliated Individual
Received: Dec.01.2011 00:41:40
Correspondence Type: Web Form
Correspondence: Area's that we have already "developed" that sit dilapidating, unused need to be re-used. We NEED to leave our wilderness in it's natural state and not develop it. I support the "No Action Alternative."

Correspondence ID: 48466 **Project:** 33043 **Document:** 43390
Name: Voloshenko, Ella
Outside Organization: National Wildlife Federation Action Fund Unaffiliated Individual
Received: Dec.01.2011 01:09:32
Correspondence Type: Web Form
Correspondence: Drakes Estero is the ecological heart of Point Reyes National Seashore and a treasure that belongs to all Americans. In 1976, Congress promised that the Estero would receive full wilderness protection when the current lease for commercial oyster operations expires in 2012. I urge the Park Service to honor the wilderness promise and protect Drakes Estero for future generations.

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Correspondence ID: 48467 **Project:** 33043 **Document:** 43390
Name: Rice, Michelle
Outside Organization: National Wildlife Federation Action Fund Unaffiliated Individual
Received: Dec.01.2011 01:10:04
Correspondence Type: Web Form
Correspondence: Drakes Estero is the ecological heart of Point Reyes National Seashore and a treasure that belongs to all Americans. In 1976, Congress promised that the Estero would receive full wilderness protection when the current lease for commercial oyster operations expires in 2012. I urge the Park Service to honor the wilderness promise and protect Drakes Estero for future generations.

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Correspondence ID: 48468 **Project:** 33043 **Document:** 43390
Name: J.Golden, Julie
Outside Organization: NRDC Unaffiliated Individual
Received: Dec.01,2011 01:14:30
Correspondence Type: Web Form
Correspondence: Drakes Estero is a national ecological treasure and should become a protected wilderness area. It has outstanding natural resources, including one of California's largest harbor seal colonies and tens of thousands of shorebirds, waterfowl, native fish and endangered species that use its wetlands, mudflats and eelgrass beds.

In the 1976 Point Reyes Wilderness Act, Congress recognized Drakes Estero as a unique recreational and biological resource and promised that this irreplaceable resource would formally become a wilderness area when non-conforming uses were eliminated. Your agency permitted a commercial oyster company to grow non-native oysters and clams on 1,050 acres in Drakes Estero for 40 years, or until 2012.

Your own draft environmental impact statement reveals the extensive damage that the existing operation has caused to Drakes Estero and Point Reyes National Seashore's beaches. As you know, commercial operations of any kind are not permitted in designated wilderness areas because of such damage. Further, the Park Service's Organic Act mandates protection of park resources and values and strictly limits commercial operations.

Your approval of the proposal to extend the oyster company's permit would be contrary to the Point Reyes Wilderness Act and would establish a dangerous precedent at a time when America's public lands and environmental laws are already under widespread attacks in Congress and elsewhere.

We've been waiting long enough. It is time to allow that permit to expire and to honor Congress' commitment. We want our bay back.

Correspondence ID: 48469 **Project:** 33043 **Document:** 43390
Name: James, Thomas
Outside Organization: Unaffiliated Individual
Received: Dec.01,2011 00:00:00
Correspondence Type: Web Form
Correspondence: None of the proposed alternatives are appropriate. I support a renewable Special Use Permit for Drakes Bay Oyster Company. I love being able to drive there and buy fresh oysters.

Correspondence ID: 48470 **Project:** 33043 **Document:** 43390
Name: Aguirre, Lilia
Outside Organization: National Parks Conservation Association Unaffiliated Individual
Received: Dec.01,2011 01:42:49
Correspondence Type: Web Form
Correspondence: I urge you to protect Drakes Estero wilderness next year, as long intended. It is in the public interest to create the West Coast's only marine wilderness for the enjoyment of all. The public has waited nearly four decades for these protections to be implemented, which is an immense compromise in itself. Drakes Estero is a rare wildlife refuge where migrating birds stop over, harbor seals give birth, and fish take shelter in eelgrass. As someone who enjoys our nation's national parks and their wildlife, I urge you to uphold the longstanding plan to convert this very special resource to wilderness.

I urge you to select alternative "A", which protects marine wilderness next year and is the Environmentally Preferred Alternative. The National Park Service is mandated to provide maximum protection to the natural resources at Drakes Estero and selecting this alternative is the most consistent with the laws and policies affecting this park. Our national parks are set aside for the public and for wildlife protection, and after waiting nearly 40 years for private commercial use rights to expire, it's time to give the estuary the protection it needs. The environmental review shows that alternative "A" is best for public policy, and best protects harbor seals, fish, birds and other natural resources. Drakes Estero is our only marine wilderness on the West Coast, and is irreplaceable, while oysters can be commercially grown elsewhere.

Please honor the promise made for a protected marine wilderness at Drakes Estero. In doing so, you will set a good policy example and reward the public with an enduring legacy feat found nowhere else on the West Coast.

Correspondence ID: 48471 **Project:** 33043 **Document:** 43390
Name: Buelteman, Denise
Outside Organization: NRDC Unaffiliated Individual
Received: Dec.01,2011 01:44:43
Correspondence Type: Web Form
Correspondence: Drakes Estero is a national ecological treasure and should become a protected wilderness area. It has outstanding natural resources, including one of California's largest harbor seal colonies and tens of thousands of shorebirds, waterfowl, native fish and endangered species that use its wetlands, mudflats and eelgrass beds.

In the 1976 Point Reyes Wilderness Act, Congress recognized Drakes Estero as a unique recreational and biological resource and promised that this irreplaceable resource would formally become a wilderness area when non-conforming uses were

eliminated. Your agency permitted a commercial oyster company to grow non-native oysters and clams on 1,050 acres in Drakes Estero for 40 years, or until 2012.

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Your approval of the proposal to extend the oyster company's permit would be contrary to the Point Reyes Wilderness Act and would establish a dangerous precedent at a time when America's public lands and environmental laws are already under widespread attacks in Congress and elsewhere.

We've been waiting long enough. It is time to allow that permit to expire and to honor Congress' commitment. We want our bay back.

Correspondence ID:	48472	Project:	33043	Document:	43390
Name:	Bartley, Devin M				
Outside Organization:	Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations Unaffiliated Individual				
Received:	Dec.01,2011 02:08:17				
Correspondence Type:	Web Form				
Correspondence:	Dear colleagues,				

I am pleased to be able to comment on the draft environmental impact statement to consider the Drakes Bay Oyster Company Special-use permit in Drakes Estero, Point Reyes National Seashore, California. It is a well written and well organized document. However I find the technical content and conclusions seriously flawed; much of the text is misleading or inaccurate. In general the document ignores current studies, including the one specifically commissioned by the NAS, on the beneficial ecological services provided by oysters and the absence of significant environmental impact. The inaccurate and misleading statements are all biased in favor of the no action alternative. Thus it appears that the DEIS was written with a pre-determined outcome in mind. Oysters and oyster culture have helped maintain and improve water quality, eel grass and native wildlife in Drakes Estero and other similar estuaries. Removing the oysters would degrade the wetland habitat of the estero and be counter to the NPS's policy of no net degradation of wetlands. Given the inaccuracies and misleading statements in the DEIS, the conclusion that the 'no action alternative A' is the 'Environmentally Preferred Alternative' (Chapter 3) is unjustified. The DEIS further does not understand nor take into account relationship between the oyster farm and the habitat and the positive aspects of oyster culture. The DEIS also does not understand the oyster market in California and the fact that California oyster growers can't meet current demand. Thus, any reduction in supply of oysters from closing DBOC would require additional oysters to be imported. The DEIS also gives inappropriate attention to the positive aspects of a local business in Marin County. Action Alternative D would have additional benefits in that it would allow DBOC to grow and help ensure competitiveness and future viability. Specific comments on the DEIS follow. The statements given in Table ES-4 under Wetlands are inaccurate and biased. ? Oysters provide ecological services in the form of filtering water and thus improving overall wetland water quality. Historically the native oyster provided some of these services, but now it is the farmed oysters of DBOC that provide these services. ? Associated growing racks also support aquatic biodiversity that provides food and shelter for native species. ? There has been a demonstrated increase in native biodiversity associated with the oyster racks in Drakes Estero, therefore removing them would negatively impact this biodiversity. ? The removal of DBOC would degrade the quality of the wetland in Drakes Estero and therefore be counter to the NPS policy of 'no... loss, or degradation of wetlands'. ? Thus, the conclusion in this part of the table that alternative A 'would result in long-term beneficial impacts on wetlands...' is incorrect. ? Similarly, the conclusions for alternatives B-D that minor and moderate adverse impacts would result are also incorrect for the reasons stated above because of the ecological services provided by oysters. The statements given in Table ES-4 under Eel grass are inaccurate and biased. ? Maps from staff of the California Department of Fish and Game have shown increases in eel grass communities in association with oyster racks in Drakes Estero. The relationship between eel grass and oyster culture is complex, but in the estero the relationship is clearly positive. The NAS study further supported the positive relationship between eel grass and oyster culture, but these positive impacts are downplayed in the DEIS. ? Similarly, the conclusions for alternatives B-D that minor and moderate adverse impacts would result are also incorrect because of the positive relationship between oyster racks and eel grass. The statements given in Table ES-4 under Wildlife...benthic fauna and Wildlife...fish are inaccurate and biased. ? As stated above, oyster culture in Drakes Estero has positive impacts on eel grass and native biodiversity due to ecosystem services oysters provide in the form of filtering water, providing substrate and shelter for native species and providing nutrients. Removing DBOC will negatively impact the wildlife of the estero. ? Although invasive species are a concern in California waters, there is no indication that the oyster farm is the cause of such introductions. Thus, the real vector for introduction of invasive species would still be operating independently of the existence of the farm. The non-native oysters farmed by DBOC have not established in the estero because of unsuitable habitat and do not present a significant risk of establishment. ? Increased eel grass and presence of racks provide habitat and nutrients for fish and benthic fauna. ? Similarly, the conclusions for alternatives B-D that minor and moderate adverse impacts would result are also incorrect because of the positive relationship between oyster racks and native wildlife.

The statements given in Table ES-4 under Wildlife...harbor seals are misleading. The study cited to support the allegation that DBOC is adversely impacting harbor seals was conducted by NPS staff who have been implicated in misrepresenting the science by the NAS. Clearly, these researchers are not objective scientists, but rather employees of an organization that has an obvious pre-conceived desire to remove DBOC from the Seashore. The authors have ignored other possible reasons for the correlation between oyster harvest and slightly reduced indicators of seal populations. For example, environmental conditions that favor oyster production, e.g. warm water, might not favor seal populations. Thus the cited correlation would not signify causation. DBOC and marine mammals have co-existed for as long as the farm has operated, and populations are at record high levels. The NPS authors as well as the text of the DEIS uses terms such as, "'potential' impacts 'may' adversely affect " seals.

What may impact something also might not impact the thing. This is clearly worded to mislead the reader to thinking a causative relationship exists between oyster farming and slightly reduced seal numbers where one does not. The statements given in Table ES-4 under Water quality contradict earlier statements on benefits of bivalve culture on eel grass. The statements given in Table ES-4 under Wilderness are misleading. As a resident of California and a user of the Seashore, I do not think that removing DBOC will yield an 'enhancement of wilderness character'. Although the Wilderness Act allows cattle and farms, most people do not associate these activities with 'wilderness'. This is still a highly popular area where certain human impact is allowed due to an old deal made between ranchers and the US Government. The cattle ranching and other human activities around the estero cause much more environmental damage than the oyster farm, to the extent that oyster harvest must stop when rain washed land-based pollutants in the estero. We enjoy the Seashore because of its overall qualities, but we do not kid ourselves that it is wilderness. Given the above inaccuracies and misleading statements, the conclusion that no action alternative A is the 'Environmentally Preferred Alternative' (Chapter 3) is unjustified. Other comments on the DEIS. Background section should include the fact that the California Department of Fish and Game has been successfully managing DBOC for decades. Issues dismissed from analysis Table ES-2 on Climate Change and Greenhouse Gas Emission. The positive impacts on reducing green house gas emissions by producing oysters locally and not importing them is a valid concern and should be considered. California oyster growers currently can't meet current demand and in fact other growers do import oysters to grow and sell. Other oyster growers would produce more if they could, but they can't for a variety of reasons. Therefore the statement 'other local commercial shellfish operations may increase...' is clearly wrong. These aspects are not, as the table says, 'highly uncertain', but well proven. This positive aspect of the DBOC in terms of providing a locally grown food and the negative aspects of the increased GGE that would result from the no action alternative, should be considered in the DEIS. ELEMENTS COMMON TO ALL ACTION ALTERNATIVES In the 4th and 5th bullets on page xxiii, it is not certain how leasing arrangements would be handled under the action alternatives. The State has maintained management authority over the oyster leases and this may continue. DBOC may not be required to give up its State lease.

Correspondence ID: 48473 **Project:** 33043 **Document:** 43390
Name: Black, Dave
Outside Organization: National Wildlife Federation Action Fund Unaffiliated Individual
Received: Dec,01,2011 06:12:24
Correspondence Type: Web Form

Correspondence: Drakes Estero is the ecological heart of Point Reyes National Seashore and a treasure that belongs to all Americans. In 1976, Congress promised that the Estero would receive full wilderness protection when the current lease for commercial oyster operations expires in 2012. I urge the Park Service to honor the wilderness promise and protect Drakes Estero for future generations.

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Your environmental review also shows that alternative "A"--no new permit for commercial oyster operations and protection of the Estero as full wilderness--is the environmentally preferred alternative and the one that best protects harbor seals, birds, fish and other natural resources.

I urge you to return Drakes Estero to all Americans by selecting alternative "A" and ensuring full wilderness protection for Drakes Estero in 2012. It is time to protect Drakes Estero as Congress intended and to create the West Coast's only marine wilderness for the benefit of people and wildlife.

Correspondence ID: 48474 **Project:** 33043 **Document:** 43390
Name: Helwig, Chris
Outside Organization: National Wildlife Federation Action Fund Unaffiliated Individual
Received: Dec,01,2011 07:12:43
Correspondence Type: Web Form

Correspondence: Drakes Estero is the ecological heart of Point Reyes National Seashore and a treasure that belongs to all Americans. In 1976, Congress promised that the Estero would receive full wilderness protection when the current lease for commercial oyster operations expires in 2012. I urge the Park Service to honor the wilderness promise and protect Drakes Estero for future generations.

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Correspondence ID: 48475 **Project:** 33043 **Document:** 43390
Name: Harrison, Harry
Outside Organization: National Wildlife Federation Action Fund Unaffiliated Individual
Received: Dec,01,2011 08:11:16
Correspondence Type: Web Form

Correspondence: Drakes Estero is the ecological heart of Point Reyes National Seashore and a treasure that belongs to all Americans. In 1976, Congress promised that the Estero would receive full wilderness protection when the current lease for commercial oyster operations expires in 2012. I urge the Park Service to honor the wilderness promise and protect Drakes Estero for future generations.

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Correspondence ID: 48476 **Project:** 33043 **Document:** 43390
Name: Regan, Liza
Outside Organization: National Wildlife Federation Action Fund Unaffiliated Individual
Received: Dec,01,2011 08:11:43
Correspondence Type: Web Form

Correspondence: Drakes Estero is the ecological heart of Point Reyes National Seashore and a treasure that belongs to all Americans. In 1976, Congress promised that the Estero would receive full wilderness protection when the current lease for commercial oyster operations expires in 2012. I urge the Park Service to honor the wilderness promise and protect Drakes Estero for future generations.

Drakes Estero is home to 20 percent of the mainland breeding population of harbor seals in California and is used by tens of thousands of shorebirds and waterfowl and dozens of species of native fish. Your draft environmental impact statement makes clear that the existing commercial oyster operation is causing extensive damage to Drakes Estero and the Seashore's beaches, and that allowing these operations to continue would cause even more long-term harm.

Your environmental review also shows that alternative "A"--no new permit for commercial oyster operations and protection of the Estero as full wilderness--is the environmentally preferred alternative and the one that best protects harbor seals, birds, fish and other natural resources.

I urge you to return Drakes Estero to all Americans by selecting alternative "A" and ensuring full wilderness protection for Drakes Estero in 2012. It is time to protect Drakes Estero as Congress intended and to create the West Coast's only marine wilderness for the benefit of people and wildlife.

Correspondence ID: 48477 **Project:** 33043 **Document:** 43390
Name: Mikulan, Diane
Outside Organization: National Wildlife Federation Action Fund Unaffiliated Individual
Received: Dec,01,2011 08:11:48
Correspondence Type: Web Form

Correspondence: Drakes Estero is the ecological heart of Point Reyes National Seashore and a treasure that belongs to all Americans. In 1976, Congress promised that the Estero would receive full wilderness protection when the current lease for commercial oyster operations expires in 2012. I urge the Park Service to honor the wilderness promise and protect Drakes Estero for future generations.

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Correspondence ID: 48478 **Project:** 33043 **Document:** 43390
Name: Houck, Janice
Outside Organization: National Wildlife Federation Action Fund Unaffiliated Individual
Received: Dec.01,2011 08:14:09
Correspondence Type: Web Form

Correspondence: Drakes Estero is the ecological heart of Point Reyes National Seashore and a treasure that belongs to all Americans. In 1976, Congress promised that the Estero would receive full wilderness protection when the current lease for commercial oyster operations expires in 2012. I urge the Park Service to honor the wilderness promise and protect Drakes Estero for future generations.

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I urge you to return Drakes Estero to all Americans by selecting alternative "A" and ensuring full wilderness protection for Drakes Estero in 2012. It is time to protect Drakes Estero as Congress intended and to create the West Coast's only marine wilderness for the benefit of people and wildlife.

Correspondence ID: 48479 **Project:** 33043 **Document:** 43390
Name: Healy, Laura
Outside Organization: National Wildlife Federation Action Fund Unaffiliated Individual
Received: Dec.01,2011 08:15:20
Correspondence Type: Web Form

Correspondence: Drakes Estero is the ecological heart of Point Reyes National Seashore and a treasure that belongs to all Americans. In 1976, Congress promised that the Estero would receive full wilderness protection when the current lease for commercial oyster operations expires in 2012. I urge the Park Service to honor the wilderness promise and protect Drakes Estero for future generations.

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I urge you to return Drakes Estero to all Americans by selecting alternative "A" and ensuring full wilderness protection for Drakes Estero in 2012. It is time to protect Drakes Estero as Congress intended and to create the West Coast's only marine wilderness for the benefit of people and wildlife.

Correspondence ID: 48480 **Project:** 33043 **Document:** 43390
Name: Hoch, Lisa
Outside Organization: National Wildlife Federation Action Fund Unaffiliated Individual
Received: Dec.01,2011 08:40:52
Correspondence Type: Web Form

Correspondence: Drakes Estero is the ecological heart of Point Reyes National Seashore and a treasure that belongs to all Americans. In 1976, Congress promised that the Estero would receive full wilderness protection when the current lease for commercial oyster operations expires in 2012. I urge the Park Service to honor the wilderness promise and protect Drakes Estero for future generations.

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Your environmental review also shows that alternative "A"--no new permit for commercial oyster operations and protection of the Estero as full wilderness--is the environmentally preferred alternative and the one that best protects harbor seals, birds, fish and other natural resources.

I urge you to return Drakes Estero to all Americans by selecting alternative "A" and ensuring full wilderness protection for

Drakes Estero in 2012. It is time to protect Drakes Estero as Congress intended and to create the West Coast's only marine wilderness for the benefit of people and wildlife.

Correspondence ID: 48481 **Project:** 33043 **Document:** 43390
Name: Marshall, Lisa
Outside Organization: National Wildlife Federation Action Fund Unaffiliated Individual
Received: Dec,01,2011 08:41:09
Correspondence Type: Web Form
Correspondence:

Drakes Estero is the ecological heart of Point Reyes National Seashore and a treasure that belongs to all Americans. In 1976, Congress promised that the Estero would receive full wilderness protection when the current lease for commercial oyster operations expires in 2012. I urge the Park Service to honor the wilderness promise and protect Drakes Estero for future generations.

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Your environmental review also shows that alternative "A"--no new permit for commercial oyster operations and protection of the Estero as full wilderness--is the environmentally preferred alternative and the one that best protects harbor seals, birds, fish and other natural resources.

I urge you to return Drakes Estero to all Americans by selecting alternative "A" and ensuring full wilderness protection for Drakes Estero in 2012. It is time to protect Drakes Estero as Congress intended and to create the West Coast's only marine wilderness for the benefit of people and wildlife.

Correspondence ID: 48482 **Project:** 33043 **Document:** 43390
Name: Townsend, Carlos
Outside Organization: National Wildlife Federation Action Fund Unaffiliated Individual
Received: Dec,01,2011 08:41:37
Correspondence Type: Web Form
Correspondence:

Drakes Estero is the ecological heart of Point Reyes National Seashore and a treasure that belongs to all Americans. In 1976, Congress promised that the Estero would receive full wilderness protection when the current lease for commercial oyster operations expires in 2012. I urge the Park Service to honor the wilderness promise and protect Drakes Estero for future generations.

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Your environmental review also shows that alternative "A"--no new permit for commercial oyster operations and protection of the Estero as full wilderness--is the environmentally preferred alternative and the one that best protects harbor seals, birds, fish and other natural resources.

I urge you to return Drakes Estero to all Americans by selecting alternative "A" and ensuring full wilderness protection for Drakes Estero in 2012. It is time to protect Drakes Estero as Congress intended and to create the West Coast's only marine wilderness for the benefit of people and wildlife.

Correspondence ID: 48483 **Project:** 33043 **Document:** 43390
Name: Provenzano, Maria T
Outside Organization: Unaffiliated Individual
Received: Dec,01,2011 09:07:35
Correspondence Type: Web Form
Correspondence:

I support the wilderness designation for Drakes Estero within the Point Reyes National Seashore. I urge the National Park Service and Department of the Interior to uphold the 1976 Point Reyes Wilderness Act and select alternative A, which protects this important marine wilderness and is the environmentally preferred alternative.

Drakes Estero is a unique and ecologically significant wildlife area. It is an important stop on the flyway for migrating birds, a refuge and birthplace for harbor seals and a critical native fish nursery. Congress and the public have long intended that Drakes Estero be given the highest federal level of protection as a wilderness area when the commercial oyster lease expires in 2012.

This can only be accomplished by selecting Alternative "A" and ending commercial use of this sensitive wildlife refuge. Alternative A is the most consistent with National Park Service laws and policies. The Park Service's environmental review shows that alternative "A" best protects wildlife and the National Park experience.

Our national parks are for the people and wildlife protection, and wilderness areas with our parks should not prioritize

commercial exploitation. The American public deserves to have this unique marine wilderness protected in a natural state for future generations to enjoy.

Drakes Estero is the only marine wilderness on the West Coast, and is irreplaceable, while oysters can be grown elsewhere.

As someone who enjoys our spectacular national parks, I urge you to not undermine protections at Drakes Estero and succumb to special interests seeking to commercialize these special places.

Correspondence ID: 48484 **Project:** 33043 **Document:** 43390
Name: cairns, maureen
Outside Organization: National Wildlife Federation Action Fund Unaffiliated Individual
Received: Dec.01,2011 09:13:15
Correspondence Type: Web Form

Correspondence: Drakes Estero is the ecological heart of Point Reyes National Seashore and a treasure that belongs to all Americans. In 1976, Congress promised that the Estero would receive full wilderness protection when the current lease for commercial oyster operations expires in 2012. I urge the Park Service to honor the wilderness promise and protect Drakes Estero for future generations.

Drakes Estero is home to 20 percent of the mainland breeding population of harbor seals in California and is used by tens of thousands of shorebirds and waterfowl and dozens of species of native fish. Your draft environmental impact statement makes clear that the existing commercial oyster operation is causing extensive damage to Drakes Estero and the Seashore's beaches, and that allowing these operations to continue would cause even more long-term harm.

Your environmental review also shows that alternative "A"--no new permit for commercial oyster operations and protection of the Estero as full wilderness--is the environmentally preferred alternative and the one that best protects harbor seals, birds, fish and other natural resources.

I urge you to return Drakes Estero to all Americans by selecting alternative "A" and ensuring full wilderness protection for Drakes Estero in 2012. It is time to protect Drakes Estero as Congress intended and to create the West Coast's only marine wilderness for the benefit of people and wildlife.

Correspondence ID: 48485 **Project:** 33043 **Document:** 43390
Name: Luchi, Elena
Outside Organization: National Wildlife Federation Action Fund Unaffiliated Individual
Received: Dec.01,2011 09:13:53
Correspondence Type: Web Form

Correspondence: Drakes Estero is the ecological heart of Point Reyes National Seashore and a treasure that belongs to all Americans. In 1976, Congress promised that the Estero would receive full wilderness protection when the current lease for commercial oyster operations expires in 2012. I urge the Park Service to honor the wilderness promise and protect Drakes Estero for future generations.

Drakes Estero is home to 20 percent of the mainland breeding population of harbor seals in California and is used by tens of thousands of shorebirds and waterfowl and dozens of species of native fish. Your draft environmental impact statement makes clear that the existing commercial oyster operation is causing extensive damage to Drakes Estero and the Seashore's beaches, and that allowing these operations to continue would cause even more long-term harm.

Your environmental review also shows that alternative "A"--no new permit for commercial oyster operations and protection of the Estero as full wilderness--is the environmentally preferred alternative and the one that best protects harbor seals, birds, fish and other natural resources.

I urge you to return Drakes Estero to all Americans by selecting alternative "A" and ensuring full wilderness protection for Drakes Estero in 2012. It is time to protect Drakes Estero as Congress intended and to create the West Coast's only marine wilderness for the benefit of people and wildlife.

Correspondence ID: 48486 **Project:** 33043 **Document:** 43390
Name: Rago, Tina
Outside Organization: National Wildlife Federation Action Fund Unaffiliated Individual
Received: Dec.01,2011 09:13:59
Correspondence Type: Web Form

Correspondence: Drakes Estero is the ecological heart of Point Reyes National Seashore and a treasure that belongs to all Americans. In 1976, Congress promised that the Estero would receive full wilderness protection when the current lease for commercial oyster operations expires in 2012. I urge the Park Service to honor the wilderness promise and protect Drakes Estero for future generations.

Drakes Estero is home to 20 percent of the mainland breeding population of harbor seals in California and is used by tens of thousands of shorebirds and waterfowl and dozens of species of native fish. Your draft environmental impact statement makes clear that the existing commercial oyster operation is causing extensive damage to Drakes Estero and the Seashore's beaches,

and that allowing these operations to continue would cause even more long-term harm.

Your environmental review also shows that alternative "A"--no new permit for commercial oyster operations and protection of the Estero as full wilderness--is the environmentally preferred alternative and the one that best protects harbor seals, birds, fish and other natural resources.

I urge you to return Drakes Estero to all Americans by selecting alternative "A" and ensuring full wilderness protection for Drakes Estero in 2012. It is time to protect Drakes Estero as Congress intended and to create the West Coast's only marine wilderness for the benefit of people and wildlife.

Correspondence ID: 48487 **Project:** 33043 **Document:** 43390
Name: Forster, Carol M
Outside Organization: National Wildlife Federation Action Fund Unaffiliated Individual
Received: Dec,01,2011 09:14:26
Correspondence Type: Web Form
Correspondence: Drakes Estero is the ecological heart of Point Reyes National Seashore and a treasure that belongs to all Americans. In 1976, Congress promised that the Estero would receive full wilderness protection when the current lease for commercial oyster operations expires in 2012. I urge the Park Service to honor the wilderness promise and protect Drakes Estero for future generations.

Drakes Estero is home to 20 percent of the mainland breeding population of harbor seals in California and is used by tens of thousands of shorebirds and waterfowl and dozens of species of native fish. Your draft environmental impact statement makes clear that the existing commercial oyster operation is causing extensive damage to Drakes Estero and the Seashore's beaches, and that allowing these operations to continue would cause even more long-term harm.

Your environmental review also shows that alternative "A"--no new permit for commercial oyster operations and protection of the Estero as full wilderness--is the environmentally preferred alternative and the one that best protects harbor seals, birds, fish and other natural resources.

I urge you to return Drakes Estero to all Americans by selecting alternative "A" and ensuring full wilderness protection for Drakes Estero in 2012. It is time to protect Drakes Estero as Congress intended and to create the West Coast's only marine wilderness for the benefit of people and wildlife.

Correspondence ID: 48488 **Project:** 33043 **Document:** 43390
Name: Korondy, Erik
Outside Organization: Unaffiliated Individual
Received: Dec,01,2011 09:40:48
Correspondence Type: Web Form
Correspondence: I support a renewable permit.

Correspondence ID: 48489 **Project:** 33043 **Document:** 43390
Name: Peterson, Kelly
Outside Organization: Sierra Club Unaffiliated Individual
Received: Dec,01,2011 09:41:11
Correspondence Type: Web Form
Correspondence: I am writing to urge the National Park Service to protect Drakes Estero wilderness next year as long-intended. The American public deserves to have the West Coast's only marine wilderness protected for future generations to enjoy. Drakes Estero is a rare wildlife refuge where migrating birds stop over, harbor seals give birth, and fish spawn. It deserves the highest level of protection as Congress long-intended. As someone who enjoys our nation's spectacular national parks, I urge you to not undermine protections at Drakes Estero and succumb to special interests seeking to commercialize these special places.

I urge the National Park Service and the Department of the Interior to select alternative "A", which protects marine wilderness and is the environmentally preferred alternative. The NPS is mandated to provide maximum protection to the natural resources, as stated in the Seashore's legislation, and selecting this alternative is the most consistent with the laws and policies affecting this park. Our national parks are for the people and wildlife protection, not commercial exploitation. The environmental review shows that alternative "A" best protects harbor seals, fish, birds and other wildlife and plants. Drakes Estero is our only marine wilderness on the West Coast, and it is irreplaceable, while oysters can be grown elsewhere.

National Parks and wilderness areas are treasured by the majority of Americans and are for the public interest, not for private commercial exploitation. By protecting wilderness, the National Park Service will set a positive policy example while commercializing it will set a negative example and help others seek their special exemptions from national park laws.

Correspondence ID: 48490 **Project:** 33043 **Document:** 43390
Name: Reeves, Jason
Outside Organization: National Wildlife Federation Action Fund Unaffiliated Individual
Received: Dec,01,2011 09:42:10
Correspondence Type: Web Form
Correspondence: Drakes Estero is the ecological heart of Point Reyes National Seashore and a treasure that belongs to all Americans. In 1976,

Congress promised that the Estero would receive full wilderness protection when the current lease for commercial oyster operations expires in 2012. I urge the Park Service to honor the wilderness promise and protect Drakes Estero for future generations.

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Your environmental review also shows that alternative "A"--no new permit for commercial oyster operations and protection of the Estero as full wilderness--is the environmentally preferred alternative and the one that best protects harbor seals, birds, fish and other natural resources.

I urge you to return Drakes Estero to all Americans by selecting alternative "A" and ensuring full wilderness protection for Drakes Estero in 2012. It is time to protect Drakes Estero as Congress intended and to create the West Coast's only marine wilderness for the benefit of people and wildlife.

Correspondence ID: 48491 **Project:** 33043 **Document:** 43390
Name: Lizer, Deja
Outside Organization: National Wildlife Federation Action Fund Unaffiliated Individual
Received: Dec,01,2011 09:42:31
Correspondence Type: Web Form

Correspondence: Drakes Estero is the ecological heart of Point Reyes National Seashore and a treasure that belongs to all Americans. In 1976, Congress promised that the Estero would receive full wilderness protection when the current lease for commercial oyster operations expires in 2012. I urge the Park Service to honor the wilderness promise and protect Drakes Estero for future generations.

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I urge you to return Drakes Estero to all Americans by selecting alternative "A" and ensuring full wilderness protection for Drakes Estero in 2012. It is time to protect Drakes Estero as Congress intended and to create the West Coast's only marine wilderness for the benefit of people and wildlife.

Correspondence ID: 48492 **Project:** 33043 **Document:** 43390
Name: Pallas, Margaret
Outside Organization: National Wildlife Federation Action Fund Unaffiliated Individual
Received: Dec,01,2011 09:43:08
Correspondence Type: Web Form

Correspondence: Drakes Estero is the ecological heart of Point Reyes National Seashore and a treasure that belongs to all Americans. In 1976, Congress promised that the Estero would receive full wilderness protection when the current lease for commercial oyster operations expires in 2012. I urge the Park Service to honor the wilderness promise and protect Drakes Estero for future generations.

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I urge you to return Drakes Estero to all Americans by selecting alternative "A" and ensuring full wilderness protection for Drakes Estero in 2012. It is time to protect Drakes Estero as Congress intended and to create the West Coast's only marine wilderness for the benefit of people and wildlife.

Correspondence ID: 48493 **Project:** 33043 **Document:** 43390
Name: Masuda, Patricia
Outside Organization: National Wildlife Federation Action Fund Unaffiliated Individual
Received: Dec,01,2011 09:43:32

Correspondence Type: Web Form

Correspondence: Drakes Estero is the ecological heart of Point Reyes National Seashore and a treasure that belongs to all Americans. In 1976, Congress promised that the Estero would receive full wilderness protection when the current lease for commercial oyster operations expires in 2012. I urge the Park Service to honor the wilderness promise and protect Drakes Estero for future generations.

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Correspondence ID: 48494 **Project:** 33043 **Document:** 43390

Name: McKee, Phil

Outside Organization: Unaffiliated Individual

Received: Dec,01,2011 09:55:37

Correspondence Type: Web Form

Correspondence: None of the proposed alternatives of the draft EIS are appropriate. I instead support a renewable Special Use Permit for Drakes Bay Oyster Company. There is no supportable reason to change the policy that the NPS has had since 1980 permitting oyster cultivation in the estero. The NPS has failed to make the case that there is any other "environmentally preferable" alternative. There is no data suggesting that harbor seals are harmed by the oyster cultivation and the suggestion that plovers, terns, red-legged frogs, and leatherback turtles could be negatively affected is a "red herring", an irrelevant distraction, since they do not exist in the estero. On the contrary oysters actually filter sea water and the Lunny family has gone to great lengths to improve and maintain the cleanliness of the operation. They have dutifully marched to the complex tunes of the various regulatory agencies. They have even philanthropically contributed critical oyster shell byproduct to restoration projects for the endangered least tern and the declining snowy plover. This upstanding family operation is exactly the type we want to have in our local food production.

If this local sustainable food source were to be shut down replacing the seafood would mean either importing oysters by air transport and/or furthering the depletion of the world's ocean fish, either of which would mean further global environmental degradation, especially in carbon output, far outweighing any speculated benefit to the local estero. It is doubly ironic that another federal agency (NOAA) and some foreign governments are promoting shellfish aquaculture as a means to preserving wild fish stocks. Furthermore the farm is one of the largest local employers and shutting it down would effectively mean exporting yet more of our jobs overseas.

The suggestion that there can be an environmentally preferable alternative for this one little estero is an ideological position, akin to religious faith: beyond the realm of proof and unsupportable by empirical data. On the contrary we know that to replace our caloric intake in seafood will degrade the global environment and we know that the loss of this operation will mean a loss of local employment. The policy that has been sound for the last three decades should be allowed to continue well into the foreseeable future.

Correspondence ID: 48495 **Project:** 33043 **Document:** 43390

Name: Funaro, Carmela

Outside Organization: National Wildlife Federation Action Fund Unaffiliated Individual

Received: Dec,01,2011 10:10:09

Correspondence Type: Web Form

Correspondence: Drakes Estero is the ecological heart of Point Reyes National Seashore and a treasure that belongs to all Americans. In 1976, Congress promised that the Estero would receive full wilderness protection when the current lease for commercial oyster operations expires in 2012. I urge the Park Service to honor the wilderness promise and protect Drakes Estero for future generations.

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I urge you to return Drakes Estero to all Americans by selecting alternative "A" and ensuring full wilderness protection for

Drakes Estero in 2012. It is time to protect Drakes Estero as Congress intended and to create the West Coast's only marine wilderness for the benefit of people and wildlife.

Correspondence ID: 48496 **Project:** 33043 **Document:** 43390
Name: Gish, W.
Outside Organization: National Wildlife Federation Action Fund Unaffiliated Individual
Received: Dec,01,2011 10:11:44
Correspondence Type: Web Form
Correspondence:

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Correspondence ID: 48497 **Project:** 33043 **Document:** 43390
Name: Jablow, Lisa
Outside Organization: National Wildlife Federation Action Fund Unaffiliated Individual
Received: Dec,01,2011 10:40:10
Correspondence Type: Web Form
Correspondence:

Drakes Estero is the ecological heart of Point Reyes National Seashore and a treasure that belongs to all Americans. In 1976, Congress promised that the Estero would receive full wilderness protection when the current lease for commercial oyster operations expires in 2012. I urge the Park Service to honor the wilderness promise and protect Drakes Estero for future generations.

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I urge you to return Drakes Estero to all Americans by selecting alternative "A" and ensuring full wilderness protection for Drakes Estero in 2012. It is time to protect Drakes Estero as Congress intended and to create the West Coast's only marine wilderness for the benefit of people and wildlife.

Correspondence ID: 48498 **Project:** 33043 **Document:** 43390
Name: Holliday, J.W.F.
Outside Organization: National Wildlife Federation Action Fund Unaffiliated Individual
Received: Dec,01,2011 10:40:31
Correspondence Type: Web Form
Correspondence:

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and other natural resources.

I urge you to return Drakes Estero to all Americans by selecting alternative "A" and ensuring full wilderness protection for Drakes Estero in 2012. It is time to protect Drakes Estero as Congress intended and to create the West Coast's only marine wilderness for the benefit of people and wildlife.

Correspondence ID: 48499 **Project:** 33043 **Document:** 43390
Name: Cobb-Adams, Diane
Outside Organization: National Wildlife Federation Action Fund Unaffiliated Individual
Received: Dec.01,2011 10:41:40
Correspondence Type: Web Form

Correspondence: Drakes Estero is the ecological heart of Point Reyes National Seashore and a treasure that belongs to all Americans. In 1976, Congress promised that the Estero would receive full wilderness protection when the current lease for commercial oyster operations expires in 2012. I urge the Park Service to honor the wilderness promise and protect Drakes Estero for future generations.

Drakes Estero is home to 20 percent of the mainland breeding population of harbor seals in California and is used by tens of thousands of shorebirds and waterfowl and dozens of species of native fish. Your draft environmental impact statement makes clear that the existing commercial oyster operation is causing extensive damage to Drakes Estero and the Seashore's beaches, and that allowing these operations to continue would cause even more long-term harm.

Your environmental review also shows that alternative "A"--no new permit for commercial oyster operations and protection of the Estero as full wilderness--is the environmentally preferred alternative and the one that best protects harbor seals, birds, fish and other natural resources.

I urge you to return Drakes Estero to all Americans by selecting alternative "A" and ensuring full wilderness protection for Drakes Estero in 2012. It is time to protect Drakes Estero as Congress intended and to create the West Coast's only marine wilderness for the benefit of people and wildlife.

Correspondence ID: 48500 **Project:** 33043 **Document:** 43390
Name: peters, tammilynn
Outside Organization: National Wildlife Federation Action Fund Unaffiliated Individual
Received: Dec.01,2011 10:41:46
Correspondence Type: Web Form

Correspondence: Drakes Estero is the ecological heart of Point Reyes National Seashore and a treasure that belongs to all Americans. In 1976, Congress promised that the Estero would receive full wilderness protection when the current lease for commercial oyster operations expires in 2012. I urge the Park Service to honor the wilderness promise and protect Drakes Estero for future generations.

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Correspondence ID: 48501 **Project:** 33043 **Document:** 43390
Name: West, Paul
Outside Organization: National Wildlife Federation Action Fund Unaffiliated Individual
Received: Dec.01,2011 10:43:33
Correspondence Type: Web Form

Correspondence: Drakes Estero is the ecological heart of Point Reyes National Seashore and a treasure that belongs to all Americans. In 1976, Congress promised that the Estero would receive full wilderness protection when the current lease for commercial oyster operations expires in 2012. I urge the Park Service to honor the wilderness promise and protect Drakes Estero for future generations.

Drakes Estero is home to 20 percent of the mainland breeding population of harbor seals in California and is used by tens of thousands of shorebirds and waterfowl and dozens of species of native fish. Your draft environmental impact statement makes clear that the existing commercial oyster operation is causing extensive damage to Drakes Estero and the Seashore's beaches, and that allowing these operations to continue would cause even more long-term harm.

Your environmental review also shows that alternative "A", no new permit for commercial oyster operations and protection of the Estero as full wilderness, is the environmentally preferred alternative and the one that best protects harbor seals, birds, fish and other natural resources.

I urge you to return Drakes Estero to all Americans by selecting alternative "A" and ensuring full wilderness protection for Drakes Estero in 2012. It is time to protect Drakes Estero as Congress intended and to create the West Coast's only marine wilderness for the benefit of people and wildlife.

Correspondence ID: 48502 **Project:** 33043 **Document:** 43390
Name: moore, amanda
Outside Organization: NRDC Unaffiliated Individual
Received: Dec.01,2011 10:46:28
Correspondence Type: Web Form
Correspondence: Drakes Estero is a national ecological treasure and should become a protected wilderness area. It has outstanding natural resources, including one of California's largest harbor seal colonies and tens of thousands of shorebirds, waterfowl, native fish and endangered species that use its wetlands, mudflats and eelgrass beds.

In the 1976 Point Reyes Wilderness Act, Congress recognized Drakes Estero as a unique recreational and biological resource and promised that this irreplaceable resource would formally become a wilderness area when non-conforming uses were eliminated. Your agency permitted a commercial oyster company to grow non-native oysters and clams on 1,050 acres in Drakes Estero for 40 years, or until 2012.

Your own draft environmental impact statement reveals the extensive damage that the existing operation has caused to Drakes Estero and Point Reyes National Seashore's beaches. As you know, commercial operations of any kind are not permitted in designated wilderness areas because of such damage. Further, the Park Service's Organic Act mandates protection of park resources and values and strictly limits commercial operations.

Your approval of the proposal to extend the oyster company's permit would be contrary to the Point Reyes Wilderness Act and would establish a dangerous precedent at a time when America's public lands and environmental laws are already under widespread attacks in Congress and elsewhere.

We've been waiting long enough. It is time to allow that permit to expire and to honor Congress' commitment. We want our bay back.

Correspondence ID: 48503 **Project:** 33043 **Document:** 43390
Name: faulkner, nigel
Outside Organization: Unaffiliated Individual
Received: Dec.01,2011 10:51:15
Correspondence Type: Web Form
Correspondence: "None of the proposed alternatives are appropriate. I support a renewable Special Use Permit for Drakes Bay Oyster Company."

Correspondence ID: 48504 **Project:** 33043 **Document:** 43390
Name: Soska, Robbie
Outside Organization: National Wildlife Federation Action Fund Unaffiliated Individual
Received: Dec.01,2011 11:11:25
Correspondence Type: Web Form
Correspondence: Drakes Estero is the ecological heart of Point Reyes National Seashore and a treasure that belongs to all Americans. In 1976, Congress promised that the Estero would receive full wilderness protection when the current lease for commercial oyster operations expires in 2012. I urge the Park Service to honor the wilderness promise and protect Drakes Estero for future generations.

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Your environmental review also shows that alternative "A"--no new permit for commercial oyster operations and protection of the Estero as full wilderness--is the environmentally preferred alternative and the one that best protects harbor seals, birds, fish and other natural resources.

I urge you to return Drakes Estero to all Americans by selecting alternative "A" and ensuring full wilderness protection for Drakes Estero in 2012. It is time to protect Drakes Estero as Congress intended and to create the West Coast's only marine wilderness for the benefit of people and wildlife.

Correspondence ID: 48505 **Project:** 33043 **Document:** 43390
Name: Clewett, Barbara
Outside Organization: National Wildlife Federation Action Fund Unaffiliated Individual

Received: Dec,01,2011 11:11:39

Correspondence Type: Web Form

Correspondence: Drakes Estero is the ecological heart of Point Reyes National Seashore and a treasure that belongs to all Americans. In 1976, Congress promised that the Estero would receive full wilderness protection when the current lease for commercial oyster operations expires in 2012. I urge the Park Service to honor the wilderness promise and protect Drakes Estero for future generations.

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Return Drakes Estero to all Americans by selecting alternative "A" and ensuring full wilderness protection for Drakes Estero in 2012. It is time to protect Drakes Estero as Congress intended and to create the West Coast's only marine wilderness for the benefit of people and wildlife.

Correspondence ID: 48506 **Project:** 33043 **Document:** 43390

Name: Tusinac, Michele

Outside Organization: National Wildlife Federation Action Fund Unaffiliated Individual

Received: Dec,01,2011 11:11:59

Correspondence Type: Web Form

Correspondence: Drakes Estero is the ecological heart of Point Reyes National Seashore and a treasure that belongs to all Americans. In 1976, Congress promised that the Estero would receive full wilderness protection when the current lease for commercial oyster operations expires in 2012. I urge the Park Service to honor the wilderness promise and protect Drakes Estero for future generations.

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Correspondence ID: 48507 **Project:** 33043 **Document:** 43390

Name: Winkler, Amy

Outside Organization: National Wildlife Federation Action Fund Unaffiliated Individual

Received: Dec,01,2011 11:12:21

Correspondence Type: Web Form

Correspondence: Drakes Estero is the ecological heart of Point Reyes National Seashore and a treasure that belongs to all Americans. In 1976, Congress promised that the Estero would receive full wilderness protection when the current lease for commercial oyster operations expires in 2012. I urge the Park Service to honor the wilderness promise and protect Drakes Estero for future generations.

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Correspondence ID: 48508 **Project:** 33043 **Document:** 43390

Name: Dolan, Jerolyn B
Outside Organization: Unaffiliated Individual
Received: Dec,01,2011 00:00:00
Correspondence Type: Web Form
Correspondence: None of the proposed alternatives are appropriate. I support a renewable Special Use Permit for Drakes Bay Oyster Company.

1. All proposed alternatives put the oyster farm out of business - NPS should create a new alternative that supports oyster farming and maintains the renewal option. While the NEPA process mandates the consideration of a "no-action alternative," there are no alternatives here that qualify as "no-action." Alternative A forces DBOC out of business next year and the other alternatives shut DBOC down in ten years. The draft EIS fails to provide a valid status-quo baseline, which would include a lease with a renewal option. A new set of alternatives must be created that meet the actual criteria for this process.

2. NPS should support a renewable permit. Please support the issuance of a renewable permit for Drakes Bay Oyster Company. DBOC must be allowed to continue the existing uses pursuant to the existing California Department of Fish and Game leases in place since 1934.

3. NPS should adhere to its existing management policies, which support the continuation of the oyster farm. The current NPS General Management Plan for Point Reyes National Seashore, adopted in 1980, supports the continued operation of the oyster farm, as do all of the relevant Marin County planning documents. The draft EIS does not include justification for the decision to overturn the existing General Management Plan and Marin County's planning processes. The failure to address these issues is unacceptable.

4. NPS must consider the environmental benefits of the oyster farm and correct the misrepresentations. PRNS has misrepresented the facts about the environmental benefits of oyster farming. The draft EIS misrepresents those facts again, calling the removal of the oyster farm the "environmentally preferable" alternative. This fails to address the important ecological services provided by oysters, including filtering water. It also fails to address the environmental impacts of replacing a local, sustainable food source with the alternative of importing oysters in order to meet the current demand. The nation currently suffers a \$10 billion seafood deficit; any loss in domestic production correlates to an increase in international imports. Comparisons of the carbon footprint of the existing food source with the replacement food source must be analyzed in the EIS.

5. NPS must fully address the economic impacts of the oyster farm - the draft study fails to provide a complete analysis. The draft EIS mentions that removing the oyster farm would cause "major, long-term, adverse effects to the California shellfish market" but does not provide a complete analysis of these impacts, nor does it include these impacts in the overall analysis. Further, it does not analyze the impacts of eliminating one of the largest employers in West Marin County and the last remaining oyster cannery in California. The EIS must address the economic impacts of eliminating the production of nearly 40% of California's oysters and the subsequent impact on the economy.

6. NPS must fully address the socioeconomic impact of the oyster farm - this draft study section should be reformulated to address impacts on West Marin itself. The discussion of the socioeconomic impact of the alternatives is seriously flawed. Different geographic parameters are used throughout that chapter seemingly at random, switching from Inverness proper, to greater West Marin, to Marin, to multi-county, to statewide, to nationwide. This switching of parameters is used to argue that the job losses caused by shutting down the oyster farm would be minimal. Considered properly, in the context of West Marin, these job losses would be anything but minimal, as DBOC is one of the largest employers in the area. This section should be reformulated and corrected for the EIS.

7. NPS must fully address the historical cultural role of oyster farming in Drakes Estero - the draft study is inadequate. The EIS should assess the cultural impacts of eliminating an institution that has been in operation for generations and that is important to park visitors, local restaurants, and the local foodshed.

8. NPS must properly assess impacts (both actual and potential) on wildlife - the draft study makes claims of harm based on weak or non-existent evidence. The draft EIS claims that removing the oyster farm would benefit harbor seals; that claim is not supported by science. This issue has been reviewed by various agencies and individuals, including the National Academy of Sciences and many prominent scientists, with the conclusion that the impact of the oyster farm on the harbor seals cannot be determined. What is known, however, is that Drakes Estero is currently home to one of the largest harbor seal populations on the California coast and that the population seems to be stable.

The draft EIS also includes a tremendous amount of discussion about special-status species and concludes that the oyster farm has or could have a negative impact on these species - yet most of the species mentioned in the report don't even exist in the estero (plovers, terns, red-legged frogs, and leatherback turtles). The final EIS should reconsider all wildlife issues and provide a data-based assessment. 9. NPS must address the oyster farm's contributions to local habitat restoration and endangered bird restoration efforts - the draft study ignores these restoration services provided by the oyster farm. The oyster shell byproduct from the Drakes Bay Oyster Farm cannery is a critical resource for re-establishing native oyster beds and for restoring Least Tern and Snowy Plover habitat, both in the San Francisco Bay. The California Least Tern is a U.S. federally listed endangered species and the Snowy Plover is in decline due to habitat loss. These two restoration projects have relied very heavily on the philanthropic contributions of Drakes Bay Oyster Company and it is unlikely these projects would continue if shell were to be sourced out of state. The draft EIS does not address the impacts to wildlife or the environmental issues surrounding the loss of these restoration efforts.

10. NPS must address national aquaculture policies when considering the oyster farm - the draft study does not discuss the various government and private efforts to encourage shellfish aquaculture around the country and around the world. Shellfish aquaculture is widely recognized nationally and globally as having a valuable role in the protection of wild fish resources. The National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) is encouraging aquaculture for this and many other reasons. The EIS should take these policies into account.

Regards, Jerolyn and Steve Dolan

Correspondence ID: 48509 **Project:** 33043 **Document:** 43390
Name: Lowry, Jayne S
Outside Organization: Center for Biological Diversity Unaffiliated Individual
Received: Dec,01,2011 11:40:34
Correspondence Type: Web Form
Correspondence: I support the wilderness designation for Drakes Estero within the Point Reyes National Seashore. I urge the National Park Service and Department of the Interior to uphold the 1976 Point Reyes Wilderness Act and select alternative A, which protects this important marine wilderness and is the environmentally preferred alternative.

Drakes Estero is a unique and ecologically significant wildlife area. It is an important stop on the flyway for migrating birds, a refuge and birthplace for harbor seals and a critical native fish nursery. Congress and the public have long intended that Drakes Estero be given the highest federal level of protection as a wilderness area when the commercial oyster lease expires in 2012.

This can only be accomplished by selecting Alternative "A" and ending commercial use of this sensitive wildlife refuge. Alternative A is the most consistent with National Park Service laws and policies. The Park Service's environmental review shows that alternative "A" best protects wildlife and the National Park experience.

Our national parks are for the people and wildlife protection, and wilderness areas with our parks should not prioritize commercial exploitation. The American public deserves to have this unique marine wilderness protected in a natural state for future generations to enjoy.

Drakes Estero is the only marine wilderness on the West Coast, and is irreplaceable, while oysters can be grown elsewhere.

As someone who enjoys our spectacular national parks, I urge you to not undermine protections at Drakes Estero and succumb to special interests seeking to commercialize these special places.

Correspondence ID: 48510 **Project:** 33043 **Document:** 43390
Name: raman, lakshmi
Outside Organization: National Wildlife Federation Action Fund Unaffiliated Individual
Received: Dec,01,2011 11:41:17
Correspondence Type: Web Form
Correspondence: Drakes Estero is the ecological heart of Point Reyes National Seashore and a treasure that belongs to all Americans. In 1976, Congress promised that the Estero would receive full wilderness protection when the current lease for commercial oyster operations expires in 2012. I urge the Park Service to honor the wilderness promise and protect Drakes Estero for future generations.

Drakes Estero is home to 20 percent of the mainland breeding population of harbor seals in California and is used by tens of thousands of shorebirds and waterfowl and dozens of species of native fish. Your draft environmental impact statement makes clear that the existing commercial oyster operation is causing extensive damage to Drakes Estero and the Seashore's beaches, and that allowing these operations to continue would cause even more long-term harm.

Your environmental review also shows that alternative "A"--no new permit for commercial oyster operations and protection of the Estero as full wilderness--is the environmentally preferred alternative and the one that best protects harbor seals, birds, fish and other natural resources.

I urge you to return Drakes Estero to all Americans by selecting alternative "A" and ensuring full wilderness protection for Drakes Estero in 2012. It is time to protect Drakes Estero as Congress intended and to create the West Coast's only marine wilderness for the benefit of people and wildlife.

Correspondence ID: 48511 **Project:** 33043 **Document:** 43390
Name: Soto, Doreen
Outside Organization: National Parks Conservation Association Unaffiliated Individual
Received: Dec,01,2011 11:43:40
Correspondence Type: Web Form
Correspondence: I urge you to protect Drakes Estero wilderness next year, as long intended. It is in the public interest to create the West Coast's only marine wilderness for the enjoyment of all. The public has waited nearly four decades for these protections to be implemented, which is an immense compromise in itself. Drakes Estero is a rare wildlife refuge where migrating birds stop over, harbor seals give birth, and fish take shelter in eelgrass. As someone who enjoys our nation's national parks and their wildlife, I urge you to uphold the longstanding plan to convert this very special resource to wilderness.

I urge you to select alternative "A", which protects marine wilderness next year and is the Environmentally Preferred Alternative. The National Park Service is mandated to provide maximum protection to the natural resources at Drakes Estero and selecting this alternative is the most consistent with the laws and policies affecting this park. Our national parks are set aside for the public and for wildlife protection, and after waiting nearly 40 years for private commercial use rights to expire, it's time to give the estuary the protection it needs. The environmental review shows that alternative "A" is best for public policy, and best protects harbor seals, fish, birds and other natural resources. Drakes Estero is our only marine wilderness on the West Coast, and is irreplaceable, while oysters can be commercially grown elsewhere.

Please honor the promise made for a protected marine wilderness at Drakes Estero. In doing so, you will set a good policy example and reward the public with an enduring legacy feat found nowhere else on the West Coast.

Correspondence ID: 48512 **Project:** 33043 **Document:** 43390
Name: Howell, Lori A
Outside Organization: Spinney Creek Shellfish, Inc. Business
Received: Dec,01,2011 00:00:00
Correspondence Type: Web Form
Correspondence: December 1, 2011 To whom it may concern,

I am writing in support of continued oyster farming at Drake's Bay. By way of background this writer is co-owner of Spinney Creek Shellfish, Inc. and has been involved in shellfish aquaculture and purification form almost thirty years. Although we remain heavily invested in depurating shellfish and wild harvest, we have largely withdrawn from aquaculture because of the incredibly difficult, costly and public processes involved in permitting.

Many others have written to discuss the environmental benefits of shellfish aquaculture and to describe interactions with marine mammals. I wish to point out the unique benefits to the community that are derived from having the presence of watermen such as those at Drake's Bay Oyster Company, in our community. Watermen are those men and women who work on the water and are acutely attuned to natural processes and human activities in and around the water. These individuals are skilled in using boats, ropes, and reading the water. Here are other "benefits" of the presence of watermen. These are actual events in our own history.

? We rescued a small boy who fell through the ice and was submerged. We were working on our property and heard his cries. It is interesting that nearby neighbors, not watermen, did not notice anything amiss and did not respond once we mobilized the rescue.

? We prevented this same boy's brother from falling through the ice. This was possible because we understood salt ice and the extreme danger in the area and we placed ourselves in harm's way rather than see the brother take the same plunge.

? We participated in what, unfortunately, turned out to be a recovery. We were awakened after midnight by a call from the local police seeking information on water depths and tides. We immediately responded to the scene, volunteered our boats, and when the first responders were unsure where else to look for the body, we made a suggestion that resulted in us finding the body within 30 minutes.

? While crossing the causeway we spotted a dog struggling to get himself out of the freezing February water. The dog had chased some seabirds onto the ice and had fallen through. None of the previous drivers on the causeway noticed or stopped their vehicles. Most would not have had the skills or knowledge to save the dog.

? We assisted the coast guard when their vessel was too large to get close to an 80' commercial vessel stranded on ledge. As the tide ebbed, the vessel listed dangerously. We deployed our small fishing boat and were able to pull the vessel's outriggers out to prevent capsizing. After we did this, the crew of the commercial vessel turned off the lights, safely settled in to sleep and at high tide the next morning, backed off the ledge.

? This past summer after a pleasure boat ran aground on this same ledge we inspected the hull and brought water to the passengers on the hot summer day while they waited for the tide's return.

? We rescued a homing pigeon from the water, cared for it overnight, and took it to a wildlife center for veterinary care before return to its owner.

? We rescued a puppy that fell into the swift Piscataqua River and brought it back to a grateful master standing on the rocks.

? We spotted a confused man in standing in the water below the rocks on the Piscataqua, in a place no person should ever be. We provided backup as this man was transported to safety.

? We were first on-scene, provided pumps, ropes and other equipment as we directed a group of neighbors in salvaging a

pleasure boat that sank in the early hours one morning.

? We routinely remove trash and return windblown kayaks and children's toys to their rightful owners.

? We have served on harbor committees, the planning boards, the recreation commission, land use planning boards and have participated on innumerable water and environmental groups, councils and committees. We volunteer our time and we donate our products to worthwhile causes and families in need.

The contribution of aquaculturists must be measured in much more than the food we produce. In the absence of watermen, none of things described above would have happened. We have the equipment, the awareness, the skills, the knowledge, and the common sense to detect and safely resolve mishaps and tragedies alike. A community must be comprised of a diversity of businesses, residents and natural areas, and Drake's Bay is no exception.

Sincerely, Lori A. Howell Vice President

Correspondence ID: 48513 **Project:** 33043 **Document:** 43390
Name: Edelblute, Dena
Outside Organization: National Wildlife Federation Action Fund Unaffiliated Individual
Received: Dec,01,2011 12:11:28
Correspondence Type: Web Form

Correspondence: Drakes Estero is the ecological heart of Point Reyes National Seashore and a treasure that belongs to all Americans. In 1976, Congress promised that the Estero would receive full wilderness protection when the current lease for commercial oyster operations expires in 2012. I urge the Park Service to honor the wilderness promise and protect Drakes Estero for future generations.

Drakes Estero is home to 20 percent of the mainland breeding population of harbor seals in California and is used by tens of thousands of shorebirds and waterfowl and dozens of species of native fish. Your draft environmental impact statement makes clear that the existing commercial oyster operation is causing extensive damage to Drakes Estero and the Seashore's beaches, and that allowing these operations to continue would cause even more long-term harm.

Your environmental review also shows that alternative "A"--no new permit for commercial oyster operations and protection of the Estero as full wilderness--is the environmentally preferred alternative and the one that best protects harbor seals, birds, fish and other natural resources.

I urge you to return Drakes Estero to all Americans by selecting alternative "A" and ensuring full wilderness protection for Drakes Estero in 2012. It is time to protect Drakes Estero as Congress intended and to create the West Coast's only marine wilderness for the benefit of people and wildlife.

Correspondence ID: 48514 **Project:** 33043 **Document:** 43390
Name: Gross, Michelle
Outside Organization: Sierra Club Unaffiliated Individual
Received: Dec,01,2011 12:11:45
Correspondence Type: Web Form

Correspondence: I am writing to urge the National Park Service to protect Drakes Estero wilderness next year as long-intended. The American public deserves to have the West Coast's only marine wilderness protected for future generations to enjoy. Drakes Estero is a rare wildlife refuge where migrating birds stop over, harbor seals give birth, and fish spawn. It deserves the highest level of protection as Congress long-intended. As someone who enjoys our nation's spectacular national parks, I urge you to not undermine protections at Drakes Estero and succumb to special interests seeking to commercialize these special places.

I urge the National Park Service and the Department of the Interior to select alternative "A", which protects marine wilderness and is the environmentally preferred alternative. The NPS is mandated to provide maximum protection to the natural resources, as stated in the Seashore's legislation, and selecting this alternative is the most consistent with the laws and policies affecting this park. Our national parks are for the people and wildlife protection, not commercial exploitation. The environmental review shows that alternative "A" best protects harbor seals, fish, birds and other wildlife and plants. Drakes Estero is our only marine wilderness on the West Coast, and it is irreplaceable, while oysters can be grown elsewhere.

National Parks and wilderness areas are treasured by the majority of Americans and are for the public interest, not for private commercial exploitation. By protecting wilderness, the National Park Service will set a positive policy example while commercializing it will set a negative example and help others seek their special exemptions from national park laws.

Correspondence ID: 48515 **Project:** 33043 **Document:** 43390
Name: Barnett, Justin
Outside Organization: National Wildlife Federation Action Fund Unaffiliated Individual
Received: Dec,01,2011 12:11:56
Correspondence Type: Web Form

Correspondence: Drakes Estero is the ecological heart of Point Reyes National Seashore and a treasure that belongs to all Americans. In 1976, Congress promised that the Estero would receive full wilderness protection when the current lease for commercial oyster

operations expires in 2012. I urge the Park Service to honor the wilderness promise and protect Drakes Estero for future generations.

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I urge you to return Drakes Estero to all Americans by selecting alternative "A" and ensuring full wilderness protection for Drakes Estero in 2012. It is time to protect Drakes Estero as Congress intended and to create the West Coast's only marine wilderness for the benefit of people and wildlife.

Correspondence ID: 48516 **Project:** 33043 **Document:** 43390
Name: Vilches, Paul
Outside Organization: National Wildlife Federation Action Fund Unaffiliated Individual
Received: Dec,01,2011 12:12:06
Correspondence Type: Web Form
Correspondence: Drakes Estero is the ecological heart of Point Reyes National Seashore and a treasure that belongs to all Americans. In 1976, Congress promised that the Estero would receive full wilderness protection when the current lease for commercial oyster operations expires in 2012. I urge the Park Service to honor the wilderness promise and protect Drakes Estero for future generations.

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Correspondence ID: 48517 **Project:** 33043 **Document:** 43390
Name: McMenamin, Sharon
Outside Organization: National Wildlife Federation Action Fund Unaffiliated Individual
Received: Dec,01,2011 12:12:17
Correspondence Type: Web Form
Correspondence: Drakes Estero is the ecological heart of Point Reyes National Seashore and a treasure that belongs to all Americans. In 1976, Congress promised that the Estero would receive full wilderness protection when the current lease for commercial oyster operations expires in 2012. I urge the Park Service to honor the wilderness promise and protect Drakes Estero for future generations.

Drakes Estero is home to 20 percent of the mainland breeding population of harbor seals in California and is used by tens of thousands of shorebirds and waterfowl and dozens of species of native fish. Your draft environmental impact statement makes clear that the existing commercial oyster operation is causing extensive damage to Drakes Estero and the Seashore's beaches, and that allowing these operations to continue would cause even more long-term harm.

Your environmental review also shows that alternative "A"--no new permit for commercial oyster operations and protection of the Estero as full wilderness--is the environmentally preferred alternative and the one that best protects harbor seals, birds, fish and other natural resources.

I urge you to return Drakes Estero to all Americans by selecting alternative "A" and ensuring full wilderness protection for Drakes Estero in 2012. It is time to protect Drakes Estero as Congress intended and to create the West Coast's only marine wilderness for the benefit of people and wildlife.

Correspondence ID: 48518 **Project:** 33043 **Document:** 43390
Name: Weinstock, Michael
Outside Organization: National Wildlife Federation Action Fund Unaffiliated Individual
Received: Dec,01,2011 12:12:55
Correspondence Type: Web Form

Correspondence: Drakes Estero is the ecological heart of Point Reyes National Seashore and a treasure that belongs to all Americans. In 1976, Congress promised that the Estero would receive full wilderness protection when the current lease for commercial oyster operations expires in 2012. I urge the Park Service to honor the wilderness promise and protect Drakes Estero for future generations.

Drakes Estero is home to 20 percent of the mainland breeding population of harbor seals in California and is used by tens of thousands of shorebirds and waterfowl and dozens of species of native fish. Your draft environmental impact statement makes clear that the existing commercial oyster operation is causing extensive damage to Drakes Estero and the Seashore's beaches, and that allowing these operations to continue would cause even more long-term harm.

Your environmental review also shows that alternative "A"--no new permit for commercial oyster operations and protection of the Estero as full wilderness--is the environmentally preferred alternative and the one that best protects harbor seals, birds, fish and other natural resources.

I urge you to return Drakes Estero to all Americans by selecting alternative "A" and ensuring full wilderness protection for Drakes Estero in 2012. It is time to protect Drakes Estero as Congress intended and to create the West Coast's only marine wilderness for the benefit of people and wildlife.

Correspondence ID: 48519 **Project:** 33043 **Document:** 43390
Name: Kuehn, Richard
Outside Organization: National Wildlife Federation Action Fund Unaffiliated Individual
Received: Dec.01,2011 12:12:55
Correspondence Type: Web Form

Correspondence: Drakes Estero is the ecological heart of Point Reyes National Seashore and a treasure that belongs to all Americans. In 1976, Congress promised that the Estero would receive full wilderness protection when the current lease for commercial oyster operations expires in 2012. I urge the Park Service to honor the wilderness promise and protect Drakes Estero for future generations.

Drakes Estero is home to 20 percent of the mainland breeding population of harbor seals in California and is used by tens of thousands of shorebirds and waterfowl and dozens of species of native fish. Your draft environmental impact statement makes clear that the existing commercial oyster operation is causing extensive damage to Drakes Estero and the Seashore's beaches, and that allowing these operations to continue would cause even more long-term harm.

Your environmental review also shows that alternative "A"--no new permit for commercial oyster operations and protection of the Estero as full wilderness--is the environmentally preferred alternative and the one that best protects harbor seals, birds, fish and other natural resources.

I urge you to return Drakes Estero to all Americans by selecting alternative "A" and ensuring full wilderness protection for Drakes Estero in 2012. It is time to protect Drakes Estero as Congress intended and to create the West Coast's only marine wilderness for the benefit of people and wildlife.

Correspondence ID: 48520 **Project:** 33043 **Document:** 43390
Name: Junkermeier, Michelle
Outside Organization: National Wildlife Federation Action Fund Unaffiliated Individual
Received: Dec.01,2011 12:13:17
Correspondence Type: Web Form

Correspondence: Drakes Estero is the ecological heart of Point Reyes National Seashore and a treasure that belongs to all Americans. In 1976, Congress promised that the Estero would receive full wilderness protection when the current lease for commercial oyster operations expires in 2012. I urge the Park Service to honor the wilderness promise and protect Drakes Estero for future generations.

Drakes Estero is home to 20 percent of the mainland breeding population of harbor seals in California and is used by tens of thousands of shorebirds and waterfowl and dozens of species of native fish. Your draft environmental impact statement makes clear that the existing commercial oyster operation is causing extensive damage to Drakes Estero and the Seashore's beaches, and that allowing these operations to continue would cause even more long-term harm.

Your environmental review also shows that alternative "A"--no new permit for commercial oyster operations and protection of the Estero as full wilderness--is the environmentally preferred alternative and the one that best protects harbor seals, birds, fish and other natural resources.

I urge you to return Drakes Estero to all Americans by selecting alternative "A" and ensuring full wilderness protection for Drakes Estero in 2012. It is time to protect Drakes Estero as Congress intended and to create the West Coast's only marine wilderness for the benefit of people and wildlife.

Correspondence ID: 48521 **Project:** 33043 **Document:** 43390
Name: O'Neill, Katie
Outside Organization: National Wildlife Federation Action Fund Unaffiliated Individual

Received: Dec,01,2011 12:13:17
Correspondence Type: Web Form
Correspondence: Drakes Estero is the ecological heart of Point Reyes National Seashore and a treasure that belongs to all Americans and I was lucky enough to enjoy for decades in my youth. In 1976, Congress promised that the Estero would receive full wilderness protection when the current lease for commercial oyster operations expires in 2012. I urge the Park Service to honor the wilderness promise and protect Drakes Estero for future generations. Think of our grandchildren's grandchildren!

Drakes Estero is home to 20 percent of the mainland breeding population of harbor seals in California and is used by tens of thousands of shorebirds and waterfowl and dozens of species of native fish. Your draft environmental impact statement makes clear that the existing commercial oyster operation is causing extensive damage to Drakes Estero and the Seashore's beaches, and that allowing these operations to continue would cause even more long-term harm.

Your environmental review also shows that alternative "A"--no new permit for commercial oyster operations and protection of the Estero as full wilderness--is the environmentally preferred alternative and the one that best protects harbor seals, birds, fish and other natural resources.

I urge you to return Drakes Estero to all Americans by selecting alternative "A" and ensuring full wilderness protection for Drakes Estero in 2012. It is time to protect Drakes Estero as Congress intended and to create the West Coast's only marine wilderness for the benefit of people and wildlife.

Correspondence ID: 48522 **Project:** 33043 **Document:** 43390
Name: thomsen, zack
Outside Organization: NRDC Unaffiliated Individual
Received: Dec,01,2011 12:16:52
Correspondence Type: Web Form
Correspondence: Drakes Estero is a national ecological treasure and should become a protected wilderness area. It has outstanding natural resources, including one of California's largest harbor seal colonies and tens of thousands of shorebirds, waterfowl, native fish and endangered species that use its wetlands, mudflats and eelgrass beds.

In the 1976 Point Reyes Wilderness Act, Congress recognized Drakes Estero as a unique recreational and biological resource and promised that this irreplaceable resource would formally become a wilderness area when non-conforming uses were eliminated. Your agency permitted a commercial oyster company to grow non-native oysters and clams on 1,050 acres in Drakes Estero for 40 years, or until 2012.

Your own draft environmental impact statement reveals the extensive damage that the existing operation has caused to Drakes Estero and Point Reyes National Seashore's beaches. As you know, commercial operations of any kind are not permitted in designated wilderness areas because of such damage. Further, the Park Service's Organic Act mandates protection of park resources and values and strictly limits commercial operations.

Your approval of the proposal to extend the oyster company's permit would be contrary to the Point Reyes Wilderness Act and would establish a dangerous precedent at a time when America's public lands and environmental laws are already under widespread attacks in Congress and elsewhere.

We've been waiting long enough. It is time to allow that permit to expire and to honor Congress' commitment. We want our bay back.

Correspondence ID: 48523 **Project:** 33043 **Document:** 43390
Name: Webber, Jr., Robert
Outside Organization: Unaffiliated Individual
Received: Dec,01,2011 12:38:25
Correspondence Type: Web Form
Correspondence: None of the proposed alternatives are appropriate. I support a renewable Special Use Permit for Drakes Bay Oyster Company.

Correspondence ID: 48524 **Project:** 33043 **Document:** 43390
Name: shervs, art
Outside Organization: Unaffiliated Individual
Received: Dec,01,2011 12:39:48
Correspondence Type: Web Form
Correspondence: I urge the NPS to allow Drakes Estero to become wilderness again in 2012 by choosing the 'no action alternative'

Correspondence ID: 48525 **Project:** 33043 **Document:** 43390
Name: Anduskey, Susan
Outside Organization: National Wildlife Federation Action Fund Unaffiliated Individual
Received: Dec,01,2011 12:40:26
Correspondence Type: Web Form
Correspondence: Drakes Estero is the ecological heart of Point Reyes National Seashore and a treasure that belongs to all Americans. In 1976, Congress promised that the Estero would receive full wilderness protection when the current lease for commercial oyster operations expires in 2012. I urge the Park Service to honor the wilderness promise and protect Drakes Estero for future

generations.

Drakes Estero is home to 20 percent of the mainland breeding population of harbor seals in California and is used by tens of thousands of shorebirds and waterfowl and dozens of species of native fish. Your draft environmental impact statement makes clear that the existing commercial oyster operation is causing extensive damage to Drakes Estero and the Seashore's beaches, and that allowing these operations to continue would cause even more long-term harm.

Your environmental review also shows that alternative "A"--no new permit for commercial oyster operations and protection of the Estero as full wilderness--is the environmentally preferred alternative and the one that best protects harbor seals, birds, fish and other natural resources.

I urge you to return Drakes Estero to all Americans by selecting alternative "A" and ensuring full wilderness protection for Drakes Estero in 2012. It is time to protect Drakes Estero as Congress intended and to create the West Coast's only marine wilderness for the benefit of people and wildlife.

Correspondence ID: 48526 **Project:** 33043 **Document:** 43390
Name: Lewis, Kelly
Outside Organization: National Wildlife Federation Action Fund Unaffiliated Individual
Received: Dec,01,2011 12:40:37
Correspondence Type: Web Form
Correspondence:

Drakes Estero is the ecological heart of Point Reyes National Seashore and a treasure that belongs to all Americans. In 1976, Congress promised that the Estero would receive full wilderness protection when the current lease for commercial oyster operations expires in 2012. I urge the Park Service to honor the wilderness promise and protect Drakes Estero for future generations.

Drakes Estero is home to 20 percent of the mainland breeding population of harbor seals in California and is used by tens of thousands of shorebirds and waterfowl and dozens of species of native fish. Your draft environmental impact statement makes clear that the existing commercial oyster operation is causing extensive damage to Drakes Estero and the Seashore's beaches, and that allowing these operations to continue would cause even more long-term harm.

Your environmental review also shows that alternative "A"--no new permit for commercial oyster operations and protection of the Estero as full wilderness--is the environmentally preferred alternative and the one that best protects harbor seals, birds, fish and other natural resources.

I urge you to return Drakes Estero to all Americans by selecting alternative "A" and ensuring full wilderness protection for Drakes Estero in 2012. It is time to protect Drakes Estero as Congress intended and to create the West Coast's only marine wilderness for the benefit of people and wildlife.

Correspondence ID: 48527 **Project:** 33043 **Document:** 43390
Name: Monroe, Karen
Outside Organization: NRDC Unaffiliated Individual
Received: Dec,01,2011 12:46:29
Correspondence Type: Web Form
Correspondence:

Drakes Estero is a national ecological treasure and should become a protected wilderness area. It has outstanding natural resources, including one of California's largest harbor seal colonies and tens of thousands of shorebirds, waterfowl, native fish and endangered species that use its wetlands, mudflats and eelgrass beds.

In the 1976 Point Reyes Wilderness Act, Congress recognized Drakes Estero as a unique recreational and biological resource and promised that this irreplaceable resource would formally become a wilderness area when non-conforming uses were eliminated. Your agency permitted a commercial oyster company to grow non-native oysters and clams on 1,050 acres in Drakes Estero for 40 years, or until 2012.

Your own draft environmental impact statement reveals the extensive damage that the existing operation has caused to Drakes Estero and Point Reyes National Seashore's beaches. As you know, commercial operations of any kind are not permitted in designated wilderness areas because of such damage. Further, the Park Service's Organic Act mandates protection of park resources and values and strictly limits commercial operations.

Your approval of the proposal to extend the oyster company's permit would be contrary to the Point Reyes Wilderness Act and would establish a dangerous precedent at a time when America's public lands and environmental laws are already under widespread attacks in Congress and elsewhere.

We've been waiting long enough. It is time to allow that permit to expire and to honor Congress' commitment. We want our bay back.

Correspondence ID: 48528 **Project:** 33043 **Document:** 43390
Name: Derengowski, Mary
Outside Organization: National Parks Conservation Association Unaffiliated Individual

Received: Dec,01,2011 13:05:00

Correspondence Type: Web Form

Correspondence: I urge you to protect Drakes Estero wilderness next year, as long intended. It is in the public interest to create the West Coast's only marine wilderness for the enjoyment of all. The public has waited nearly four decades for these protections to be implemented, which is an immense compromise in itself. Drakes Estero is a rare wildlife refuge where migrating birds stop over, harbor seals give birth, and fish take shelter in eelgrass. As someone who enjoys our nation's national parks and their wildlife, I urge you to uphold the longstanding plan to convert this very special resource to wilderness.

I urge you to select alternative "A", which protects marine wilderness next year and is the Environmentally Preferred Alternative. The National Park Service is mandated to provide maximum protection to the natural resources at Drakes Estero and selecting this alternative is the most consistent with the laws and policies affecting this park. Our national parks are set aside for the public and for wildlife protection, and after waiting nearly 40 years for private commercial use rights to expire, it's time to give the estuary the protection it needs. The environmental review shows that alternative "A" is best for public policy, and best protects harbor seals, fish, birds and other natural resources. Drakes Estero is our only marine wilderness on the West Coast, and is irreplaceable, while oysters can be commercially grown elsewhere.

Please honor the promise made for a protected marine wilderness at Drakes Estero. In doing so, you will set a good policy example and reward the public with an enduring legacy feat found nowhere else on the West Coast.

Correspondence ID: 48529 **Project:** 33043 **Document:** 43390

Name: Harrison, Norma J

Outside Organization: Peace and Freedom Party, on the ballot in Ca. Unaffiliated Individual

Received: Dec,01,2011 13:08:29

Correspondence Type: Web Form

Correspondence: I support the wilderness designation for Drakes Estero within the Point Reyes National Seashore. I urge the National Park Service and Department of the Interior to uphold the 1976 Point Reyes Wilderness Act and select alternative A, which protects this important marine wilderness and is the environmentally preferred alternative. Drakes Estero is a unique and ecologically significant wildlife area. It is an important stop on the flyway for migrating birds, a refuge and birthplace for harbor seals and a critical native fish nursery. Congress and the public have long intended that Drakes Estero be given the highest federal level of protection as a wilderness area when the commercial oyster lease expires in 2012. This can only be accomplished by selecting Alternative "A" and ending commercial use of this sensitive wildlife refuge. Alternative A is the most consistent with National Park Service laws and policies. The Park Service's environmental review shows that alternative "A" best protects wildlife and the National Park experience. Our national parks are for the people and wildlife protection, and wilderness areas with our parks should not prioritize commercial exploitation. The American public deserves to have this unique marine wilderness protected in a natural state for future generations to enjoy. Drakes Estero is the only marine wilderness on the West Coast, and is irreplaceable, while oysters can be grown elsewhere. As someone who enjoys our spectacular national parks, I urge you to not undermine protections at Drakes Estero and succumb to special interests seeking to commercialize these special places.

Correspondence ID: 48530 **Project:** 33043 **Document:** 43390

Name: Macy, Virginia

Outside Organization: Sierra Club Unaffiliated Individual

Received: Dec,01,2011 13:11:25

Correspondence Type: Web Form

Correspondence: I am writing to urge the National Park Service to protect Drakes Estero wilderness next year as long-intended. The American public deserves to have the West Coast's only marine wilderness protected for future generations to enjoy. Drakes Estero is a rare wildlife refuge where migrating birds stop over, harbor seals give birth, and fish spawn. It deserves the highest level of protection as Congress long-intended. As someone who enjoys our nation's spectacular national parks, I urge you to not undermine protections at Drakes Estero and succumb to special interests seeking to commercialize these special places.

I urge the National Park Service and the Department of the Interior to select alternative "A", which protects marine wilderness and is the environmentally preferred alternative. The NPS is mandated to provide maximum protection to the natural resources, as stated in the Seashore's legislation, and selecting this alternative is the most consistent with the laws and policies affecting this park. Our national parks are for the people and wildlife protection, not commercial exploitation. The environmental review shows that alternative "A" best protects harbor seals, fish, birds and other wildlife and plants. Drakes Estero is our only marine wilderness on the West Coast, and it is irreplaceable, while oysters can be grown elsewhere.

National Parks and wilderness areas are treasured by the majority of Americans and are for the public interest, not for private commercial exploitation. By protecting wilderness, the National Park Service will set a positive policy example while commercializing it will set a negative example and help others seek their special exemptions from national park laws.

Correspondence ID: 48531 **Project:** 33043 **Document:** 43390

Name: Holmes, Paula

Outside Organization: National Wildlife Federation Action Fund Unaffiliated Individual

Received: Dec,01,2011 13:12:45

Correspondence Type: Web Form

Correspondence: Drakes Estero is the ecological heart of Point Reyes National Seashore and a treasure that belongs to all Americans. In 1976, Congress promised that the Estero would receive full wilderness protection when the current lease for commercial oyster operations expires in 2012. I urge the Park Service to honor the wilderness promise and protect Drakes Estero for future generations.

Drakes Estero is home to 20 percent of the mainland breeding population of harbor seals in California and is used by tens of thousands of shorebirds and waterfowl and dozens of species of native fish. Your draft environmental impact statement makes clear that the existing commercial oyster operation is causing extensive damage to Drakes Estero and the Seashore's beaches, and that allowing these operations to continue would cause even more long-term harm.

Your environmental review also shows that alternative "A"--no new permit for commercial oyster operations and protection of the Estero as full wilderness--is the environmentally preferred alternative and the one that best protects harbor seals, birds, fish and other natural resources.

I urge you to return Drakes Estero to all Americans by selecting alternative "A" and ensuring full wilderness protection for Drakes Estero in 2012. It is time to protect Drakes Estero as Congress intended and to create the West Coast's only marine wilderness for the benefit of people and wildlife.

Correspondence ID: 48532 **Project:** 33043 **Document:** 43390
Name: Leigh, Jordan
Outside Organization: National Wildlife Federation Action Fund Unaffiliated Individual
Received: Dec,01,2011 13:12:45
Correspondence Type: Web Form

Correspondence: Drakes Estero is the ecological heart of Point Reyes National Seashore and a treasure that belongs to all Americans. In 1976, Congress promised that the Estero would receive full wilderness protection when the current lease for commercial oyster operations expires in 2012. I urge the Park Service to honor the wilderness promise and protect Drakes Estero for future generations.

Drakes Estero is home to 20 percent of the mainland breeding population of harbor seals in California and is used by tens of thousands of shorebirds and waterfowl and dozens of species of native fish. Your draft environmental impact statement makes clear that the existing commercial oyster operation is causing extensive damage to Drakes Estero and the Seashore's beaches, and that allowing these operations to continue would cause even more long-term harm.

Your environmental review also shows that alternative "A"--no new permit for commercial oyster operations and protection of the Estero as full wilderness--is the environmentally preferred alternative and the one that best protects harbor seals, birds, fish and other natural resources.

I urge you to return Drakes Estero to all Americans by selecting alternative "A" and ensuring full wilderness protection for Drakes Estero in 2012. It is time to protect Drakes Estero as Congress intended and to create the West Coast's only marine wilderness for the benefit of people and wildlife.

Correspondence ID: 48533 **Project:** 33043 **Document:** 43390
Name: Lolli, Glauca S
Outside Organization: Unaffiliated Individual
Received: Dec,01,2011 13:14:31
Correspondence Type: Web Form

Correspondence: I support the wilderness designation for Drakes Estero within the Point Reyes National Seashore. I urge the National Park Service and Department of the Interior to uphold the 1976 Point Reyes Wilderness Act and select alternative A, which protects this important marine wilderness and is the environmentally preferred alternative.

Drakes Estero is a unique and ecologically significant wildlife area. It is an important stop on the flyway for migrating birds, a refuge and birthplace for harbor seals and a critical native fish nursery. Congress and the public have long intended that Drakes Estero be given the highest federal level of protection as a wilderness area when the commercial oyster lease expires in 2012.

This can only be accomplished by selecting Alternative "A" and ending commercial use of this sensitive wildlife refuge. Alternative A is the most consistent with National Park Service laws and policies. The Park Service's environmental review shows that alternative "A" best protects wildlife and the National Park experience.

Our national parks are for the people and wildlife protection, and wilderness areas with our parks should not prioritize commercial exploitation. The American public deserves to have this unique marine wilderness protected in a natural state for future generations to enjoy.

Drakes Estero is the only marine wilderness on the West Coast, and is irreplaceable, while oysters can be grown elsewhere.

As someone who enjoys our spectacular national parks, I urge you to not undermine protections at Drakes Estero and succumb to special interests seeking to commercialize these special places.

Correspondence ID: 48534 **Project:** 33043 **Document:** 43390
Name: Tom, Gary F
Outside Organization: Unaffiliated Individual

Received: Dec,01,2011 13:15:57
Correspondence Type: Web Form
Correspondence: Please allow the Drakes Bay Oyster Farm continue its renewable lease. They farm a great product and provide income and taxes.

Correspondence ID: 48535 **Project:** 33043 **Document:** 43390

Name: Zoya, Jan
Outside Organization: ZoyaArt Unaffiliated Individual

Received: Dec,01,2011 13:18:41

Correspondence Type: Web Form

Correspondence: I support the wilderness designation for Drakes Estero within the Point Reyes National Seashore. I urge the National Park Service and Department of the Interior to uphold the 1976 Point Reyes Wilderness Act and select alternative A, which protects this important marine wilderness and is the environmentally preferred alternative.

Drakes Estero is a unique and ecologically significant wildlife area. It is an important stop on the flyway for migrating birds, a refuge and birthplace for harbor seals and a critical native fish nursery. Congress and the public have long intended that Drakes Estero be given the highest federal level of protection as a wilderness area when the commercial oyster lease expires in 2012.

This can only be accomplished by selecting Alternative "A" and ending commercial use of this sensitive wildlife refuge. Alternative A is the most consistent with National Park Service laws and policies. The Park Service's environmental review shows that alternative "A" best protects wildlife and the National Park experience.

Our national parks are for the people and wildlife protection, and wilderness areas with our parks should not prioritize commercial exploitation. The American public deserves to have this unique marine wilderness protected in a natural state for future generations to enjoy.

Drakes Estero is the only marine wilderness on the West Coast, and is irreplaceable, while oysters can be grown elsewhere.

As someone who enjoys our spectacular national parks, I urge you to not undermine protections at Drakes Estero and succumb to special interests seeking to commercialize these special places.

Correspondence ID: 48536 **Project:** 33043 **Document:** 43390

Name: Brandt, V.
Outside Organization: Unaffiliated Individual

Received: Dec,01,2011 00:00:00

Correspondence Type: Web Form

Correspondence: I support the wilderness designation for Drakes Estero within the Point Reyes National Seashore. I urge the National Park Service and Department of the Interior to uphold the 1976 Point Reyes Wilderness Act and select alternative A, which protects this important marine wilderness and is the environmentally preferred alternative.

Drakes Estero is a unique and ecologically significant wildlife area. It is an important stop on the flyway for migrating birds, a refuge and birthplace for harbor seals and a critical native fish nursery. Congress and the public have long intended that Drakes Estero be given the highest federal level of protection as a wilderness area when the commercial oyster lease expires in 2012.

This can only be accomplished by selecting Alternative "A" and ending commercial use of this sensitive wildlife refuge. Alternative A is the most consistent with National Park Service laws and policies. The Park Service's environmental review shows that alternative "A" best protects wildlife and the National Park experience.

Our national parks are for the people and wildlife protection, and wilderness areas with our parks should not prioritize commercial exploitation. The American public deserves to have this unique marine wilderness protected in a natural state for future generations to enjoy.

Drakes Estero is the only marine wilderness on the West Coast, and is irreplaceable, while oysters can be grown elsewhere.

As someone who enjoys our spectacular national parks,

Correspondence ID: 48537 **Project:** 33043 **Document:** 43390

Name: Tom, Gary F
Outside Organization: Unaffiliated Individual

Received: Dec,01,2011 13:21:56

Correspondence Type: Web Form

Correspondence: None of the proposed alternatives are appropriate. I support a RENEWABLE special use permit for the Drake's Bay Oyster Co.

Correspondence ID: 48538 **Project:** 33043 **Document:** 43390

Name: N/A, N/A
Outside Organization: Unaffiliated Individual

Received: Dec,01,2011 13:26:32

Correspondence Type: Web Form

Correspondence: I support the wilderness designation for Drakes Estero within the Point Reyes National Seashore. I urge the National Park Service and Department of the Interior to uphold the 1976 Point Reyes Wilderness Act and select alternative A, which protects this important marine wilderness and is the environmentally preferred alternative. Drakes Estero is a unique and ecologically significant wildlife area. It is an important stop on the flyway for migrating birds, a refuge and birthplace for harbor seals and a critical native fish nursery. Congress and the public have long intended that Drakes Estero be given the highest federal level of protection as a wilderness area when the commercial oyster lease expires in 2012. This can only be accomplished by selecting Alternative "A" and ending commercial use of this sensitive wildlife refuge. Alternative A is the most consistent with National Park Service laws and policies. The Park Service's environmental review shows that alternative "A" best protects wildlife and the National Park experience. Our national parks are for the people and wildlife protection, and wilderness areas with our parks should not prioritize commercial exploitation. The American public deserves to have this unique marine wilderness protected in a natural state for future generations to enjoy. Drakes Estero is the only marine wilderness on the West Coast, and is irreplaceable, while oysters can be grown elsewhere. As someone who enjoys our spectacular national parks, I urge you to not undermine protections at Drakes Estero and succumb to special interests seeking to commercialize these special places.

Correspondence ID: 48539 **Project:** 33043 **Document:** 43390

Name: N/A, 3rdrail9er

Outside Organization: Unaffiliated Individual

Received: Dec,01,2011 13:30:05

Correspondence Type: Web Form

Correspondence: I support a renewable Special Use Permit for the Drakes Bay Oyster Farm.

Oyster protein and the culture of such is an important part of our diet and lifestyle. The Drakes Bay Oyster Farm is linked to the history of the area and we make special trips with out of country visitors to show them this unique and special place and sample the wares...

In this economy, are we ready to remove the livelihood of all the workers under the auspices of removing industry from National parks, yet continue to let the businesses in Yosemite operate? One sells a valuable source of self regenerating organic protein and maintains it's environment while the other feeds hordes of trucked in tourists with hamburgers and sell Chinese made trinkets...

SUPPORT THE DRAKES BAY OYSTER FARM and RENEW THE SPECIAL USE PERMIT!

Correspondence ID: 48540 **Project:** 33043 **Document:** 43390

Name: Genoff, Sean

Outside Organization: NRDC Unaffiliated Individual

Received: Dec,01,2011 13:37:31

Correspondence Type: Web Form

Correspondence: Drakes Estero is a national ecological treasure and should become a protected wilderness area. It has outstanding natural resources, including one of California's largest harbor seal colonies and tens of thousands of shorebirds, waterfowl, native fish and endangered species that use its wetlands, mudflats and eelgrass beds.

In the 1976 Point Reyes Wilderness Act, Congress recognized Drakes Estero as a unique recreational and biological resource and promised that this irreplaceable resource would formally become a wilderness area when non-conforming uses were eliminated. Your agency permitted a commercial oyster company to grow non-native oysters and clams on 1,050 acres in Drakes Estero for 40 years, or until 2012.

Your own draft environmental impact statement reveals the extensive damage that the existing operation has caused to Drakes Estero and Point Reyes National Seashore's beaches. As you know, commercial operations of any kind are not permitted in designated wilderness areas because of such damage. Further, the Park Service's Organic Act mandates protection of park resources and values and strictly limits commercial operations.

Your approval of the proposal to extend the oyster company's permit would be contrary to the Point Reyes Wilderness Act and would establish a dangerous precedent at a time when America's public lands and environmental laws are already under widespread attacks in Congress and elsewhere.

We've been waiting long enough. It is time to allow that permit to expire and to honor Congress' commitment. We want our bay back.

Correspondence ID: 48541 **Project:** 33043 **Document:** 43390

Name: McGraw, Kevin

Outside Organization: NRDC Unaffiliated Individual

Received: Dec,01,2011 13:37:35

Correspondence Type: Web Form

Correspondence: Drakes Estero is a national ecological treasure and should become a protected wilderness area. It has outstanding natural resources, including one of California's largest harbor seal colonies and tens of thousands of shorebirds, waterfowl, native fish and endangered species that use its wetlands, mudflats and eelgrass beds.

In the 1976 Point Reyes Wilderness Act, Congress recognized Drakes Estero as a unique recreational and biological resource and promised that this irreplaceable resource would formally become a wilderness area when non-conforming uses were eliminated. Your agency permitted a commercial oyster company to grow non-native oysters and clams on 1,050 acres in Drakes Estero for 40 years, or until 2012.

Your own draft environmental impact statement reveals the extensive damage that the existing operation has caused to Drakes Estero and Point Reyes National Seashore's beaches. As you know, commercial operations of any kind are not permitted in designated wilderness areas because of such damage. Further, the Park Service's Organic Act mandates protection of park resources and values and strictly limits commercial operations.

Your approval of the proposal to extend the oyster company's permit would be contrary to the Point Reyes Wilderness Act and would establish a dangerous precedent at a time when America's public lands and environmental laws are already under widespread attacks in Congress and elsewhere.

We've been waiting long enough. It is time to allow that permit to expire and to honor Congress' commitment. We want our bay back.

Correspondence ID: 48542 **Project:** 33043 **Document:** 43390

Name: Rowan, Jerry

Outside Organization: National Wildlife Federation Action Fund Unaffiliated Individual

Received: Dec.01,2011 13:40:37

Correspondence Type: Web Form

Correspondence: Drakes Estero is the ecological heart of Point Reyes National Seashore and a treasure that belongs to all Americans. In 1976, Congress promised that the Estero would receive full wilderness protection when the current lease for commercial oyster operations expires in 2012. I urge the Park Service to honor the wilderness promise and protect Drakes Estero for future generations.

Drakes Estero is home to 20 percent of the mainland breeding population of harbor seals in California and is used by tens of thousands of shorebirds and waterfowl and dozens of species of native fish. Your draft environmental impact statement makes clear that the existing commercial oyster operation is causing extensive damage to Drakes Estero and the Seashore's beaches, and that allowing these operations to continue would cause even more long-term harm.

Your environmental review also shows that alternative "A"--no new permit for commercial oyster operations and protection of the Estero as full wilderness--is the environmentally preferred alternative and the one that best protects harbor seals, birds, fish and other natural resources.

I urge you to return Drakes Estero to all Americans by selecting alternative "A" and ensuring full wilderness protection for Drakes Estero in 2012. It is time to protect Drakes Estero as Congress intended and to create the West Coast's only marine wilderness for the benefit of people and wildlife.

Correspondence ID: 48543 **Project:** 33043 **Document:** 43390

Name: goings, annette

Outside Organization: National Wildlife Federation Action Fund Unaffiliated Individual

Received: Dec.01,2011 13:40:49

Correspondence Type: Web Form

Correspondence: Drakes Estero is the ecological heart of Point Reyes National Seashore and a treasure that belongs to all Americans. In 1976, Congress promised that the Estero would receive full wilderness protection when the current lease for commercial oyster operations expires in 2012. I urge the Park Service to honor the wilderness promise and protect Drakes Estero for future generations.

Drakes Estero is home to 20 percent of the mainland breeding population of harbor seals in California and is used by tens of thousands of shorebirds and waterfowl and dozens of species of native fish. Your draft environmental impact statement makes clear that the existing commercial oyster operation is causing extensive damage to Drakes Estero and the Seashore's beaches, and that allowing these operations to continue would cause even more long-term harm.

Your environmental review also shows that alternative "A"--no new permit for commercial oyster operations and protection of the Estero as full wilderness--is the environmentally preferred alternative and the one that best protects harbor seals, birds, fish and other natural resources.

I urge you to return Drakes Estero to all Americans by selecting alternative "A" and ensuring full wilderness protection for Drakes Estero in 2012. It is time to protect Drakes Estero as Congress intended and to create the West Coast's only marine wilderness for the benefit of people and wildlife.

Correspondence ID: 48544 **Project:** 33043 **Document:** 43390

Name: fotos, tiffany

Outside Organization: National Wildlife Federation Action Fund Unaffiliated Individual

Received: Dec,01,2011 13:41:18

Correspondence Type: Web Form

Correspondence: Drakes Estero is the ecological heart of Point Reyes National Seashore and a treasure that belongs to all Americans. In 1976, Congress promised that the Estero would receive full wilderness protection when the current lease for commercial oyster operations expires in 2012. I urge the Park Service to honor the wilderness promise and protect Drakes Estero for future generations.

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I urge you to return Drakes Estero to all Americans by selecting alternative "A" and ensuring full wilderness protection for Drakes Estero in 2012. It is time to protect Drakes Estero as Congress intended and to create the West Coast's only marine wilderness for the benefit of people and wildlife.

Correspondence ID: 48545 **Project:** 33043 **Document:** 43390

Name: Taylor, Lore

Outside Organization: National Wildlife Federation Action Fund Unaffiliated Individual

Received: Dec,01,2011 13:42:14

Correspondence Type: Web Form

Correspondence: Drakes Estero is the ecological heart of Point Reyes National Seashore and a treasure that belongs to all Americans. In 1976, Congress promised that the Estero would receive full wilderness protection when the current lease for commercial oyster operations expires in 2012. I urge the Park Service to honor the wilderness promise and protect Drakes Estero for future generations.

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I urge you to return Drakes Estero to all Americans by selecting alternative "A" and ensuring full wilderness protection for Drakes Estero in 2012. It is time to protect Drakes Estero as Congress intended and to create the West Coast's only marine wilderness for the benefit of people and wildlife.

Correspondence ID: 48546 **Project:** 33043 **Document:** 43390

Name: Dunn, Kathy

Outside Organization: National Wildlife Federation Action Fund Unaffiliated Individual

Received: Dec,01,2011 13:42:19

Correspondence Type: Web Form

Correspondence: Drakes Estero is the ecological heart of Point Reyes National Seashore and a treasure that belongs to all Americans. In 1976, Congress promised that the Estero would receive full wilderness protection when the current lease for commercial oyster operations expires in 2012. I urge the Park Service to honor the wilderness promise and protect Drakes Estero for future generations.

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Your environmental review also shows that alternative "A"--no new permit for commercial oyster operations and protection of the Estero as full wilderness--is the environmentally preferred alternative and the one that best protects harbor seals, birds, fish and other natural resources.

I urge you to return Drakes Estero to all Americans by selecting alternative "A" and ensuring full wilderness protection for Drakes Estero in 2012. It is time to protect Drakes Estero as Congress intended and to create the West Coast's only marine wilderness for the benefit of people and wildlife.

Correspondence ID: 48547 **Project:** 33043 **Document:** 43390

Name: hinckley, sam
Outside Organization: Unaffiliated Individual
Received: Dec,01,2011 14:06:26
Correspondence Type: Web Form
Correspondence: I am against closing the Drakes Bay Oyster co. for many reasons.

1) The beauty and magic of the Pt. Reyes Peninsula (the "island in time") has been in part the long history of cohabitation and sustainability of man and nature. The Drakes Estero itself has proven evidence of the Miwok's presence going back hundreds of years. To designate the Estero and Pt Reyes Peninsula "Wilderness" seems conflicted with both history and the reality of today's world.

2) It is crucial that we promote education and sustainability with our natural resources. It is both the most socially and economically responsible path. It is not responsible to shut down farms and mariculture and yet promote tourism as the Park does.

3) It does not ring true that the Pt. Reyes Peninsula is "wilderness". On more than one occasion I have witnessed crowds around beached Sea Elephants at Drakes Beach. I have seen kayakers in Drakes Estero. I have seen surfers. There are many hikers, bikers and general human traffic including cars and buses. What does ring true is that the peninsula is a resource for humans to experience nature and understand the complexities we face in protecting our natural resources. It is a place of rare opportunity to see and experience nature in the broadest spectrum. It is important for visitors to see how man can interact respectfully with nature in recreation, habitation and farming. The Pt Reyes Peninsula does not have to be "wilderness" to shine as an exemplary model of one of our nation's finest parks.

4) Successful stewardship of the land can not be expected with governance being inflexible to the ever changing needs of our society, economy and physical environment (ie global warming). The Drakes Bay Oyster company, if only by it's presence, manages responsible and educational public access to one portion of the park. The Peninsula's ranches do the same. These park-land businesses are deeply committed and invested in their stewardship responsibilities.

5) Economically, by shutting down the oyster farm, I can only see negative impact. At this point in time the expense of pursuing the eviction of the Drakes Bay Oyster company seems irresponsible. Any possible gain that the eviction could achieve is suspect.

6) What is needed is a new socially and economically responsible mandate for the Pt Reyes National park. One that would incorporate the existing/historical businesses and communities into a greater plan. The park should see the oyster company and the ranches as enriching resources to be included.

Correspondence ID: 48548 **Project:** 33043 **Document:** 43390
Name: N/A, N/A
Outside Organization: Unaffiliated Individual
Received: Dec,01,2011 14:07:30
Correspondence Type: Web Form
Correspondence: I support the wilderness designation for Drakes Estero within the Point Reyes National Seashore. I urge the National Park Service and Department of the Interior to uphold the 1976 Point Reyes Wilderness Act and select alternative A, which protects this important marine wilderness and is the environmentally preferred alternative.

Drakes Estero is a unique and ecologically significant wildlife area. It is an important stop on the flyway for migrating birds, a refuge and birthplace for harbor seals and a critical native fish nursery. Congress and the public have long intended that Drakes Estero be given the highest federal level of protection as a wilderness area when the commercial oyster lease expires in 2012.

This can only be accomplished by selecting Alternative "A" and ending commercial use of this sensitive wildlife refuge. Alternative A is the most consistent with National Park Service laws and policies. The Park Service's environmental review shows that alternative "A" best protects wildlife and the National Park experience.

Our national parks are for the people and wildlife protection, and wilderness areas with our parks should not prioritize commercial exploitation. The American public deserves to have this unique marine wilderness protected in a natural state for future generations to enjoy.

Drakes Estero is the only marine wilderness on the West Coast, and is irreplaceable, while oysters can be grown elsewhere.

As someone who enjoys our spectacular national parks, I urge you to not undermine protections at Drakes Estero and succumb to special interests seeking to commercialize these special places.

Correspondence ID: 48549 **Project:** 33043 **Document:** 43390
Name: Ripberger, Michael
Outside Organization: National Wildlife Federation Action Fund Unaffiliated Individual
Received: Dec,01,2011 14:12:14
Correspondence Type: Web Form

Correspondence: Drakes Estero is the ecological heart of Point Reyes National Seashore and a treasure that belongs to all Americans. In 1976, Congress promised that the Estero would receive full wilderness protection when the current lease for commercial oyster operations expires in 2012. I urge the Park Service to honor the wilderness promise and protect Drakes Estero for future generations.

Drakes Estero is home to 20 percent of the mainland breeding population of harbor seals in California and is used by tens of thousands of shorebirds and waterfowl and dozens of species of native fish. Your draft environmental impact statement makes clear that the existing commercial oyster operation is causing extensive damage to Drakes Estero and the Seashore's beaches, and that allowing these operations to continue would cause even more long-term harm.

Your environmental review also shows that alternative "A"--no new permit for commercial oyster operations and protection of the Estero as full wilderness--is the environmentally preferred alternative and the one that best protects harbor seals, birds, fish and other natural resources.

I urge you to return Drakes Estero to all Americans by selecting alternative "A" and ensuring full wilderness protection for Drakes Estero in 2012. It is time to protect Drakes Estero as Congress intended and to create the West Coast's only marine wilderness for the benefit of people and wildlife.

Correspondence ID: 48550 **Project:** 33043 **Document:** 43390
Name: Lull, karen
Outside Organization: National Wildlife Federation Action Fund Unaffiliated Individual
Received: Dec.01,2011 14:12:19
Correspondence Type: Web Form

Correspondence: Drakes Estero is the ecological heart of Point Reyes National Seashore and a treasure that belongs to all Americans. In 1976, Congress promised that the Estero would receive full wilderness protection when the current lease for commercial oyster operations expires in 2012. I urge the Park Service to honor the wilderness promise and protect Drakes Estero for future generations.

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Your environmental review also shows that alternative "A"--no new permit for commercial oyster operations and protection of the Estero as full wilderness--is the environmentally preferred alternative and the one that best protects harbor seals, birds, fish and other natural resources.

I urge you to return Drakes Estero to all Americans by selecting alternative "A" and ensuring full wilderness protection for Drakes Estero in 2012. It is time to protect Drakes Estero as Congress intended and to create the West Coast's only marine wilderness for the benefit of people and wildlife.

Correspondence ID: 48551 **Project:** 33043 **Document:** 43390
Name: Reeves, Ken
Outside Organization: National Wildlife Federation Action Fund Unaffiliated Individual
Received: Dec.01,2011 14:13:33
Correspondence Type: Web Form

Correspondence: Drakes Estero is the ecological heart of Point Reyes National Seashore and a treasure that belongs to all Americans. In 1976, Congress promised that the Estero would receive full wilderness protection when the current lease for commercial oyster operations expires in 2012. I urge the Park Service to honor the wilderness promise and protect Drakes Estero for future generations.

Drakes Estero is home to 20 percent of the mainland breeding population of harbor seals in California and is used by tens of thousands of shorebirds and waterfowl and dozens of species of native fish. Your draft environmental impact statement makes clear that the existing commercial oyster operation is causing extensive damage to Drakes Estero and the Seashore's beaches, and that allowing these operations to continue would cause even more long-term harm.

Your environmental review also shows that alternative "A"--no new permit for commercial oyster operations and protection of the Estero as full wilderness--is the environmentally preferred alternative and the one that best protects harbor seals, birds, fish and other natural resources.

I urge you to return Drakes Estero to all Americans by selecting alternative "A" and ensuring full wilderness protection for Drakes Estero in 2012. It is time to protect Drakes Estero as Congress intended and to create the West Coast's only marine wilderness for the benefit of people and wildlife.

Correspondence ID: 48552 **Project:** 33043 **Document:** 43390
Name: Calderon, Tammy
Outside Organization: National Parks Conservation Association Unaffiliated Individual

Received: Dec,01,2011 00:00:00

Correspondence Type: Web Form

Correspondence: I urge you to protect Drakes Estero wilderness next year, as long intended. It is in the public interest to create the West Coast's only marine wilderness for the enjoyment of all. People enjoy wilderness. It is a calming and beautiful place to just go and relax. It would be a shame if this would be gone. I myself find wilderness to be a relaxing positive place. If I am stressed it just lifts my spirits. It helps me unwind and is a Happy Place!!!!

I urge you to select alternative "A", which protects marine wilderness next year and is the Environmentally Preferred Alternative. The National Park Service is mandated to provide maximum protection to the natural resources at Drakes Estero and selecting this alternative is the most consistent with the laws and policies affecting this park. Our national parks are set aside for the public and for wildlife protection, and after waiting nearly 40 years for private commercial use rights to expire, it's time to give the estuary the protection it needs. The environmental review shows that alternative "A" is best for public policy, and best protects harbor seals, fish, birds and other natural resources. Drakes Estero is our only marine wilderness on the West Coast, and is irreplaceable, while oysters can be commercially grown elsewhere.

Please honor the promise made for a protected marine wilderness at Drakes Estero. In doing so, you will set a good policy example and reward the public with an enduring legacy feat found nowhere else on the West Coast.

Correspondence ID: 48553 **Project:** 33043 **Document:** 43390

Name: Jessup, Nicole

Outside Organization: National Wildlife Federation Action Fund Unaffiliated Individual

Received: Dec,01,2011 14:40:47

Correspondence Type: Web Form

Correspondence: Drakes Estero is the ecological heart of Point Reyes National Seashore and a treasure that belongs to all Americans. In 1976, Congress promised that the Estero would receive full wilderness protection when the current lease for commercial oyster operations expires in 2012. I urge the Park Service to honor the wilderness promise and protect Drakes Estero for future generations.

Drakes Estero is home to 20 percent of the mainland breeding population of harbor seals in California and is used by tens of thousands of shorebirds and waterfowl and dozens of species of native fish. Your draft environmental impact statement makes clear that the existing commercial oyster operation is causing extensive damage to Drakes Estero and the Seashore's beaches, and that allowing these operations to continue would cause even more long-term harm.

Your environmental review also shows that alternative "A"--no new permit for commercial oyster operations and protection of the Estero as full wilderness--is the environmentally preferred alternative and the one that best protects harbor seals, birds, fish and other natural resources.

I urge you to return Drakes Estero to all Americans by selecting alternative "A" and ensuring full wilderness protection for Drakes Estero in 2012. It is time to protect Drakes Estero as Congress intended and to create the West Coast's only marine wilderness for the benefit of people and wildlife.

Correspondence ID: 48554 **Project:** 33043 **Document:** 43390

Name: Pineau, Rhiyana

Outside Organization: National Wildlife Federation Action Fund Unaffiliated Individual

Received: Dec,01,2011 14:41:45

Correspondence Type: Web Form

Correspondence: Drakes Estero is the ecological heart of Point Reyes National Seashore and a treasure that belongs to all Americans. In 1976, Congress promised that the Estero would receive full wilderness protection when the current lease for commercial oyster operations expires in 2012. I urge the Park Service to honor the wilderness promise and protect Drakes Estero for future generations.

Drakes Estero is home to 20 percent of the mainland breeding population of harbor seals in California and is used by tens of thousands of shorebirds and waterfowl and dozens of species of native fish. Your draft environmental impact statement makes clear that the existing commercial oyster operation is causing extensive damage to Drakes Estero and the Seashore's beaches, and that allowing these operations to continue would cause even more long-term harm.

Your environmental review also shows that alternative "A"--no new permit for commercial oyster operations and protection of the Estero as full wilderness--is the environmentally preferred alternative and the one that best protects harbor seals, birds, fish and other natural resources.

I urge you to return Drakes Estero to all Americans by selecting alternative "A" and ensuring full wilderness protection for Drakes Estero in 2012. It is time to protect Drakes Estero as Congress intended and to create the West Coast's only marine wilderness for the benefit of people and wildlife.

Correspondence ID: 48555 **Project:** 33043 **Document:** 43390

Name: Gates, Kathleen

Outside Organization: National Wildlife Federation Action Fund Unaffiliated Individual

Received: Dec,01,2011 14:42:07

Correspondence Type: Web Form
Correspondence: Drakes Estero is the ecological heart of Point Reyes National Seashore and a treasure that belongs to all Americans. In 1976, Congress promised that the Estero would receive full wilderness protection when the current lease for commercial oyster operations expires in 2012. I urge the Park Service to honor the wilderness promise and protect Drakes Estero for future generations.

Drakes Estero is home to 20 percent of the mainland breeding population of harbor seals in California and is used by tens of thousands of shorebirds and waterfowl and dozens of species of native fish. Your draft environmental impact statement makes clear that the existing commercial oyster operation is causing extensive damage to Drakes Estero and the Seashore's beaches, and that allowing these operations to continue would cause even more long-term harm.

Your environmental review also shows that alternative "A"--no new permit for commercial oyster operations and protection of the Estero as full wilderness--is the environmentally preferred alternative and the one that best protects harbor seals, birds, fish and other natural resources.

I urge you to return Drakes Estero to all Americans by selecting alternative "A" and ensuring full wilderness protection for Drakes Estero in 2012. It is time to protect Drakes Estero as Congress intended and to create the West Coast's only marine wilderness for the benefit of people and wildlife.

Correspondence ID: 48556 **Project:** 33043 **Document:** 43390
Name: Ferreira, Adriane
Outside Organization: PETA Unaffiliated Individual
Received: Dec,01,2011 15:04:39
Correspondence Type: Web Form
Correspondence: I support the wilderness designation for Drakes Estero within the Point Reyes National Seashore. I urge the National Park Service and Department of the Interior to uphold the 1976 Point Reyes Wilderness Act and select alternative A, which protects this important marine wilderness and is the environmentally preferred alternative.

Drakes Estero is a unique and ecologically significant wildlife area. It is an important stop on the flyway for migrating birds, a refuge and birthplace for harbor seals and a critical native fish nursery. Congress and the public have long intended that Drakes Estero be given the highest federal level of protection as a wilderness area when the commercial oyster lease expires in 2012.

This can only be accomplished--by selecting Alternative "A" and ending commercial use of this sensitive wildlife refuge. Alternative A is the most consistent with National Park Service laws and policies. The Park Service's environmental review shows that alternative "A" best protects wildlife and the National Park experience.

Our national parks are for the people and wildlife protection, and wilderness areas with our parks should not prioritize commercial exploitation. The American public deserves to have this unique marine wilderness protected in a natural state for future generations to enjoy.

Drakes Estero is the only marine wilderness on the West Coast, and is irreplaceable, while oysters can be grown elsewhere.

As someone who enjoys our spectacular national parks, I urge you to not undermine protections at Drakes Estero and succumb to special interests seeking to commercialize these special places

Correspondence ID: 48557 **Project:** 33043 **Document:** 43390
Name: Edwards, Norma
Outside Organization: Sierra Club Unaffiliated Individual
Received: Dec,01,2011 15:07:33
Correspondence Type: Web Form
Correspondence: I am writing to urge the National Park Service to protect Drakes Estero wilderness next year as long-intended. The American public deserves to have the West Coast's only marine wilderness protected for future generations to enjoy. Drakes Estero is a rare wildlife refuge where migrating birds stop over, harbor seals give birth, and fish spawn. It deserves the highest level of protection as Congress long-intended. As someone who enjoys our nation's spectacular national parks, I urge you to not undermine protections at Drakes Estero and succumb to special interests seeking to commercialize these special places.

I urge the National Park Service and the Department of the Interior to select alternative "A", which protects marine wilderness and is the environmentally preferred alternative. The NPS is mandated to provide maximum protection to the natural resources, as stated in the Seashore's legislation, and selecting this alternative is the most consistent with the laws and policies affecting this park. Our national parks are for the people and wildlife protection, not commercial exploitation. The environmental review shows that alternative "A" best protects harbor seals, fish, birds and other wildlife and plants. Drakes Estero is our only marine wilderness on the West Coast, and it is irreplaceable, while oysters can be grown elsewhere.

National Parks and wilderness areas are treasured by the majority of Americans and are for the public interest, not for private commercial exploitation. By protecting wilderness, the National Park Service will set a positive policy example while commercializing it will set a negative example and help others seek their special exemptions from national park laws.

Correspondence ID: 48558 **Project:** 33043 **Document:** 43390

Name: Hendrickson, Alec P

Outside Organization: Center for biological diversity Unaffiliated Individual

Received: Dec,01,2011 15:08:36

Correspondence Type: Web Form

Correspondence: I support the wilderness designation for Drakes Estero within the Point Reyes National Seashore. I urge the National Park Service and Department of the Interior to uphold the 1976 Point Reyes Wilderness Act and select alternative A, which protects this important marine wilderness and is the environmentally preferred alternative.

Drakes Estero is a unique and ecologically significant wildlife area. It is an important stop on the flyway for migrating birds, a refuge and birthplace for harbor seals and a critical native fish nursery. Congress and the public have long intended that Drakes Estero be given the highest federal level of protection as a wilderness area when the commercial oyster lease expires in 2012.

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Correspondence ID: 48559 **Project:** 33043 **Document:** 43390

Name: Sanger, Rachel

Outside Organization: National Wildlife Federation Action Fund Unaffiliated Individual

Received: Dec,01,2011 15:10:42

Correspondence Type: Web Form

Correspondence: Drakes Estero is the ecological heart of Point Reyes National Seashore and a treasure that belongs to all Americans. In 1976, Congress promised that the Estero would receive full wilderness protection when the current lease for commercial oyster operations expires in 2012. I urge the Park Service to honor the wilderness promise and protect Drakes Estero for future generations.

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Your environmental review also shows that alternative "A"--no new permit for commercial oyster operations and protection of the Estero as full wilderness--is the environmentally preferred alternative and the one that best protects harbor seals, birds, fish and other natural resources.

I urge you to return Drakes Estero to all Americans by selecting alternative "A" and ensuring full wilderness protection for Drakes Estero in 2012. It is time to protect Drakes Estero as Congress intended and to create the West Coast's only marine wilderness for the benefit of people and wildlife.

Correspondence ID: 48560 **Project:** 33043 **Document:** 43390

Name: Jarosz, O.P., Sister Paula Marie

Outside Organization: National Wildlife Federation Action Fund Unaffiliated Individual

Received: Dec,01,2011 15:10:49

Correspondence Type: Web Form

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and other natural resources.

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Correspondence ID: 48561 **Project:** 33043 **Document:** 43390
Name: Olsson, Debra
Outside Organization: National Wildlife Federation Action Fund Unaffiliated Individual
Received: Dec.01,2011 15:11:05
Correspondence Type: Web Form

Correspondence: Drakes Estero is the ecological heart of Point Reyes National Seashore and a treasure that belongs to all Americans. In 1976, Congress promised that the Estero would receive full wilderness protection when the current lease for commercial oyster operations expires in 2012. I urge the Park Service to honor the wilderness promise and protect Drakes Estero for future generations.

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Correspondence ID: 48562 **Project:** 33043 **Document:** 43390
Name: Welti, Sue
Outside Organization: National Wildlife Federation Action Fund Unaffiliated Individual
Received: Dec.01,2011 15:11:41
Correspondence Type: Web Form

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Correspondence ID: 48563 **Project:** 33043 **Document:** 43390
Name: Wells, Margie
Outside Organization: National Wildlife Federation Action Fund Unaffiliated Individual
Received: Dec.01,2011 15:12:09
Correspondence Type: Web Form

Correspondence: Drakes Estero is the ecological heart of Point Reyes National Seashore and a treasure that belongs to all Americans. In 1976, Congress promised that the Estero would receive full wilderness protection when the current lease for commercial oyster operations expires in 2012. I urge the Park Service to honor the wilderness promise and protect Drakes Estero for future generations.

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Correspondence ID: 48564 **Project:** 33043 **Document:** 43390
Name: Stewart, Rebekah
Outside Organization: National Wildlife Federation Action Fund Unaffiliated Individual
Received: Dec,01,2011 15:12:13
Correspondence Type: Web Form
Correspondence: Drakes Estero is the ecological heart of Point Reyes National Seashore and a treasure that belongs to all Americans. In 1976, Congress promised that the Estero would receive full wilderness protection when the current lease for commercial oyster operations expires in 2012. I urge the Park Service to honor the wilderness promise and protect Drakes Estero for future generations.

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I urge you to return Drakes Estero to all Americans by selecting alternative "A" and ensuring full wilderness protection for Drakes Estero in 2012. It is time to protect Drakes Estero as Congress intended and to create the West Coast's only marine wilderness for the benefit of people and wildlife.

Correspondence ID: 48565 **Project:** 33043 **Document:** 43390
Name: Hickman, Tammy
Outside Organization: National Wildlife Federation Action Fund Unaffiliated Individual
Received: Dec,01,2011 15:12:18
Correspondence Type: Web Form
Correspondence: Drakes Estero is the ecological heart of Point Reyes National Seashore and a treasure that belongs to all Americans. In 1976, Congress promised that the Estero would receive full wilderness protection when the current lease for commercial oyster operations expires in 2012. I urge the Park Service to honor the wilderness promise and protect Drakes Estero for future generations.

Drakes Estero is home to 20 percent of the mainland breeding population of harbor seals in California and is used by tens of thousands of shorebirds and waterfowl and dozens of species of native fish. Your draft environmental impact statement makes clear that the existing commercial oyster operation is causing extensive damage to Drakes Estero and the Seashore's beaches, and that allowing these operations to continue would cause even more long-term harm.

Your environmental review also shows that alternative "A"--no new permit for commercial oyster operations and protection of the Estero as full wilderness--is the environmentally preferred alternative and the one that best protects harbor seals, birds, fish and other natural resources.

I urge you to return Drakes Estero to all Americans by selecting alternative "A" and ensuring full wilderness protection for Drakes Estero in 2012. It is time to protect Drakes Estero as Congress intended and to create the West Coast's only marine wilderness for the benefit of people and wildlife.

Correspondence ID: 48566 **Project:** 33043 **Document:** 43390
Name: Marks, Pamela
Outside Organization: National Wildlife Federation Action Fund Unaffiliated Individual
Received: Dec,01,2011 15:12:29
Correspondence Type: Web Form
Correspondence: Drakes Estero is the ecological heart of Point Reyes National Seashore and a treasure that belongs to all Americans. In 1976, Congress promised that the Estero would receive full wilderness protection when the current lease for commercial oyster operations expires in 2012. I urge the Park Service to honor the wilderness promise and protect Drakes Estero for future generations.

Drakes Estero is home to 20 percent of the mainland breeding population of harbor seals in California and is used by tens of thousands of shorebirds and waterfowl and dozens of species of native fish. Your draft environmental impact statement makes clear that the existing commercial oyster operation is causing extensive damage to Drakes Estero and the Seashore's beaches,

and that allowing these operations to continue would cause even more long-term harm.

Your environmental review also shows that alternative "A"--no new permit for commercial oyster operations and protection of the Estero as full wilderness--is the environmentally preferred alternative and the one that best protects harbor seals, birds, fish and other natural resources.

I urge you to return Drakes Estero to all Americans by selecting alternative "A" and ensuring full wilderness protection for Drakes Estero in 2012. It is time to protect Drakes Estero as Congress intended and to create the West Coast's only marine wilderness for the benefit of people and wildlife.

Correspondence ID: 48567 **Project:** 33043 **Document:** 43390
Name: G, Jaimie
Outside Organization: Unaffiliated Individual
Received: Dec.01,2011 15:39:07
Correspondence Type: Web Form
Correspondence: I support the wilderness designation for Drakes Estero within the Point Reyes National Seashore. I urge the National Park Service and Department of the Interior to uphold the 1976 Point Reyes Wilderness Act and select alternative A, which protects this important marine wilderness and is the environmentally preferred alternative.

Drakes Estero is a unique and ecologically significant wildlife area. It is an important stop on the flyway for migrating birds, a refuge and birthplace for harbor seals and a critical native fish nursery. Congress and the public have long intended that Drakes Estero be given the highest federal level of protection as a wilderness area when the commercial oyster lease expires in 2012.

This can only be accomplished by selecting Alternative "A" and ending commercial use of this sensitive wildlife refuge. Alternative A is the most consistent with National Park Service laws and policies. The Park Service's environmental review shows that alternative "A" best protects wildlife and the National Park experience.

Our national parks are for the people and wildlife protection, and wilderness areas with our parks should not prioritize commercial exploitation. The American public deserves to have this unique marine wilderness protected in a natural state for future generations to enjoy.

Drakes Estero is the only marine wilderness on the West Coast, and is irreplaceable, while oysters can be grown elsewhere.

As someone who enjoys our spectacular national parks, I urge you to not undermine protections at Drakes Estero and succumb to special interests seeking to commercialize these special places.

Correspondence ID: 48568 **Project:** 33043 **Document:** 43390
Name: von Giebel, Robert G
Outside Organization: National Wildlife Federation Action Fund Unaffiliated Individual
Received: Dec.01,2011 15:40:34
Correspondence Type: Web Form
Correspondence: Drakes Estero is the ecological heart of Point Reyes National Seashore and a treasure that belongs to all Americans. In 1976, Congress promised that the Estero would receive full wilderness protection when the current lease for commercial oyster operations expires in 2012. I urge the Park Service to honor the wilderness promise and protect Drakes Estero for future generations.

Drakes Estero is home to 20 percent of the mainland breeding population of harbor seals in California and is used by tens of thousands of shorebirds and waterfowl and dozens of species of native fish. Your draft environmental impact statement makes clear that the existing commercial oyster operation is causing extensive damage to Drakes Estero and the Seashore's beaches, and that allowing these operations to continue would cause even more long-term harm.

Your environmental review also shows that alternative "A"--no new permit for commercial oyster operations and protection of the Estero as full wilderness--is the environmentally preferred alternative and the one that best protects harbor seals, birds, fish and other natural resources.

I urge you to return Drakes Estero to all Americans by selecting alternative "A" and ensuring full wilderness protection for Drakes Estero in 2012. It is time to protect Drakes Estero as Congress intended and to create the West Coast's only marine wilderness for the benefit of people and wildlife.

Correspondence ID: 48569 **Project:** 33043 **Document:** 43390
Name: Ramirez Walker, Carmen
Outside Organization: National Wildlife Federation Action Fund Unaffiliated Individual
Received: Dec.01,2011 15:40:44
Correspondence Type: Web Form
Correspondence: Drakes Estero is the ecological heart of Point Reyes National Seashore and a treasure that belongs to all Americans. In 1976, Congress promised that the Estero would receive full wilderness protection when the current lease for commercial oyster operations expires in 2012. I urge the Park Service to honor the wilderness promise and protect Drakes Estero for future

generations.

Drakes Estero is home to 20 percent of the mainland breeding population of harbor seals in California and is used by tens of thousands of shorebirds and waterfowl and dozens of species of native fish. Your draft environmental impact statement makes clear that the existing commercial oyster operation is causing extensive damage to Drakes Estero and the Seashore's beaches, and that allowing these operations to continue would cause even more long-term harm.

Your environmental review also shows that alternative "A"--no new permit for commercial oyster operations and protection of the Estero as full wilderness--is the environmentally preferred alternative and the one that best protects harbor seals, birds, fish and other natural resources.

I urge you to return Drakes Estero to all Americans by selecting alternative "A" and ensuring full wilderness protection for Drakes Estero in 2012. It is time to protect Drakes Estero as Congress intended and to create the West Coast's only marine wilderness for the benefit of people and wildlife.

Correspondence ID: 48570 **Project:** 33043 **Document:** 43390
Name: Root, Brady
Outside Organization: National Wildlife Federation Action Fund Unaffiliated Individual
Received: Dec,01,2011 15:41:16
Correspondence Type: Web Form
Correspondence: Drakes Estero is the ecological heart of Point Reyes National Seashore and a treasure that belongs to all Americans. In 1976, Congress promised that the Estero would receive full wilderness protection when the current lease for commercial oyster operations expires in 2012. I urge the Park Service to honor the wilderness promise and protect Drakes Estero for future generations.

Drakes Estero is home to 20 percent of the mainland breeding population of harbor seals in California and is used by tens of thousands of shorebirds and waterfowl and dozens of species of native fish. Your draft environmental impact statement makes clear that the existing commercial oyster operation is causing extensive damage to Drakes Estero and the Seashore's beaches, and that allowing these operations to continue would cause even more long-term harm.

Your environmental review also shows that alternative "A"--no new permit for commercial oyster operations and protection of the Estero as full wilderness--is the environmentally preferred alternative and the one that best protects harbor seals, birds, fish and other natural resources.

I urge you to return Drakes Estero to all Americans by selecting alternative "A" and ensuring full wilderness protection for Drakes Estero in 2012. It is time to protect Drakes Estero as Congress intended and to create the West Coast's only marine wilderness for the benefit of people and wildlife.

Correspondence ID: 48571 **Project:** 33043 **Document:** 43390
Name: McKenzie, Shannon
Outside Organization: National Wildlife Federation Action Fund Unaffiliated Individual
Received: Dec,01,2011 15:41:50
Correspondence Type: Web Form
Correspondence: Drakes Estero is the ecological heart of Point Reyes National Seashore and a treasure that belongs to all Americans. In 1976, Congress promised that the Estero would receive full wilderness protection when the current lease for commercial oyster operations expires in 2012. I urge the Park Service to honor the wilderness promise and protect Drakes Estero for future generations.

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Your environmental review also shows that alternative "A"--no new permit for commercial oyster operations and protection of the Estero as full wilderness--is the environmentally preferred alternative and the one that best protects harbor seals, birds, fish and other natural resources.

I urge you to return Drakes Estero to all Americans by selecting alternative "A" and ensuring full wilderness protection for Drakes Estero in 2012. It is time to protect Drakes Estero as Congress intended and to create the West Coast's only marine wilderness for the benefit of people and wildlife.

Correspondence ID: 48572 **Project:** 33043 **Document:** 43390
Name: Delker, Jennifer
Outside Organization: Unaffiliated Individual
Received: Dec,01,2011 15:53:18
Correspondence Type: Web Form
Correspondence: I urge you to exercise the No ACTION Alternative and protect the Drakes Estero as it was originally intended. Commercial

exposure is wreaking havoc with long term adverse affects on the fragile wildlife. Everything from seals, wetlands, fish, mollusks, endangered species, eel grass and etc. depend on this special land for survival. With the extensive boat trips going back and forth (estimated to be 3700 per year) it leaves a big percentage of damage in this beautiful land. From invasive species exposure, plastic pollution, disturbance of native oyster beds to pollution left in sensitive harbor seal and eel grass habitat. Please protect this important piece of wilderness!

Correspondence ID: 48573 **Project:** 33043 **Document:** 43390
Name: Wright, Linda
Outside Organization: National Wildlife Federation Action Fund Unaffiliated Individual
Received: Dec,01,2011 16:10:59
Correspondence Type: Web Form

Correspondence: Drakes Estero is the ecological heart of Point Reyes National Seashore and a treasure that belongs to all Americans. In 1976, Congress promised that the Estero would receive full wilderness protection when the current lease for commercial oyster operations expires in 2012. I urge the Park Service to honor the wilderness promise and protect Drakes Estero for future generations.

Drakes Estero is home to 20 percent of the mainland breeding population of harbor seals in California and is used by tens of thousands of shorebirds and waterfowl and dozens of species of native fish. Your draft environmental impact statement makes clear that the existing commercial oyster operation is causing extensive damage to Drakes Estero and the Seashore's beaches, and that allowing these operations to continue would cause even more long-term harm.

Your environmental review also shows that alternative "A"--no new permit for commercial oyster operations and protection of the Estero as full wilderness--is the environmentally preferred alternative and the one that best protects harbor seals, birds, fish and other natural resources.

I urge you to return Drakes Estero to all Americans by selecting alternative "A" and ensuring full wilderness protection for Drakes Estero in 2012. It is time to protect Drakes Estero as Congress intended and to create the West Coast's only marine wilderness for the benefit of people and wildlife.

Correspondence ID: 48574 **Project:** 33043 **Document:** 43390
Name: Navarrete Aguinaga, Adriana
Outside Organization: Unaffiliated Individual
Received: Dec,01,2011 16:30:36
Correspondence Type: Web Form

Correspondence: I support the wilderness designation for Drakes Estero within the Point Reyes National Seashore. I urge the National Park Service and Department of the Interior to uphold the 1976 Point Reyes Wilderness Act and select alternative A, which protects this important marine wilderness and is the environmentally preferred alternative.

Drakes Estero is a unique and ecologically significant wildlife area. It is an important stop on the flyway for migrating birds, a refuge and birthplace for harbor seals and a critical native fish nursery. Congress and the public have long intended that Drakes Estero be given the highest federal level of protection as a wilderness area when the commercial oyster lease expires in 2012.

This can only be accomplished by selecting Alternative "A" and ending commercial use of this sensitive wildlife refuge. Alternative A is the most consistent with National Park Service laws and policies. The Park Service's environmental review shows that alternative "A" best protects wildlife and the National Park experience.

Our national parks are for the people and wildlife protection, and wilderness areas with our parks should not prioritize commercial exploitation. The American public deserves to have this unique marine wilderness protected in a natural state for future generations to enjoy.

Drakes Estero is the only marine wilderness on the West Coast, and is irreplaceable, while oysters can be grown elsewhere.

As someone who enjoys our spectacular national parks, I urge you to not undermine protections at Drakes Estero and succumb to special interests seeking to commercialize these special places.

Correspondence ID: 48575 **Project:** 33043 **Document:** 43390
Name: Overholt, Roger
Outside Organization: National Wildlife Federation Action Fund Unaffiliated Individual
Received: Dec,01,2011 16:40:43
Correspondence Type: Web Form

Correspondence: Drakes Estero is the ecological heart of Point Reyes National Seashore and a treasure that belongs to all Americans. In 1976, Congress promised that the Estero would receive full wilderness protection when the current lease for commercial oyster operations expires in 2012. I urge the Park Service to honor the wilderness promise and protect Drakes Estero for future generations.

Drakes Estero is home to 20 percent of the mainland breeding population of harbor seals in California and is used by tens of thousands of shorebirds and waterfowl and dozens of species of native fish. Your draft environmental impact statement makes

clear that the existing commercial oyster operation is causing extensive damage to Drakes Estero and the Seashore's beaches, and that allowing these operations to continue would cause even more long-term harm.

Your environmental review also shows that alternative "A"--no new permit for commercial oyster operations and protection of the Estero as full wilderness--is the environmentally preferred alternative and the one that best protects harbor seals, birds, fish and other natural resources.

I urge you to return Drakes Estero to all Americans by selecting alternative "A" and ensuring full wilderness protection for Drakes Estero in 2012. It is time to protect Drakes Estero as Congress intended and to create the West Coast's only marine wilderness for the benefit of people and wildlife.

Correspondence ID: 48576 **Project:** 33043 **Document:** 43390
Name: Engelstein, Jennafer
Outside Organization: National Wildlife Federation Action Fund Unaffiliated Individual
Received: Dec,01,2011 16:41:21
Correspondence Type: Web Form
Correspondence: Drakes Estero is the ecological heart of Point Reyes National Seashore and a treasure that belongs to all Americans. In 1976, Congress promised that the Estero would receive full wilderness protection when the current lease for commercial oyster operations expires in 2012. I urge the Park Service to honor the wilderness promise and protect Drakes Estero for future generations.

Drakes Estero is home to 20 percent of the mainland breeding population of harbor seals in California and is used by tens of thousands of shorebirds and waterfowl and dozens of species of native fish. Your draft environmental impact statement makes clear that the existing commercial oyster operation is causing extensive damage to Drakes Estero and the Seashore's beaches, and that allowing these operations to continue would cause even more long-term harm.

Your environmental review also shows that alternative "A"--no new permit for commercial oyster operations and protection of the Estero as full wilderness--is the environmentally preferred alternative and the one that best protects harbor seals, birds, fish and other natural resources.

I urge you to return Drakes Estero to all Americans by selecting alternative "A" and ensuring full wilderness protection for Drakes Estero in 2012. It is time to protect Drakes Estero as Congress intended and to create the West Coast's only marine wilderness for the benefit of people and wildlife.

Correspondence ID: 48577 **Project:** 33043 **Document:** 43390
Name: Seeber, Gil
Outside Organization: National Wildlife Federation Action Fund Unaffiliated Individual
Received: Dec,01,2011 16:41:33
Correspondence Type: Web Form
Correspondence: Drakes Estero is the ecological heart of Point Reyes National Seashore and a treasure that belongs to all Americans. In 1976, Congress promised that the Estero would receive full wilderness protection when the current lease for commercial oyster operations expires in 2012. I urge the Park Service to honor the wilderness promise and protect Drakes Estero for future generations.

Drakes Estero is home to 20 percent of the mainland breeding population of harbor seals in California and is used by tens of thousands of shorebirds and waterfowl and dozens of species of native fish. Your draft environmental impact statement makes clear that the existing commercial oyster operation is causing extensive damage to Drakes Estero and the Seashore's beaches, and that allowing these operations to continue would cause even more long-term harm.

Your environmental review also shows that alternative "A"--no new permit for commercial oyster operations and protection of the Estero as full wilderness--is the environmentally preferred alternative and the one that best protects harbor seals, birds, fish and other natural resources.

I urge you to return Drakes Estero to all Americans by selecting alternative "A" and ensuring full wilderness protection for Drakes Estero in 2012. It is time to protect Drakes Estero as Congress intended and to create the West Coast's only marine wilderness for the benefit of people and wildlife.

Correspondence ID: 48578 **Project:** 33043 **Document:** 43390
Name: Paulk, Kelly
Outside Organization: National Wildlife Federation Action Fund Unaffiliated Individual
Received: Dec,01,2011 16:41:52
Correspondence Type: Web Form
Correspondence: Drakes Estero is the ecological heart of Point Reyes National Seashore and a treasure that belongs to all Americans. In 1976, Congress promised that the Estero would receive full wilderness protection when the current lease for commercial oyster operations expires in 2012. I urge the Park Service to honor the wilderness promise and protect Drakes Estero for future generations.

Drakes Estero is home to 20 percent of the mainland breeding population of harbor seals in California and is used by tens of thousands of shorebirds and waterfowl and dozens of species of native fish. Your draft environmental impact statement makes clear that the existing commercial oyster operation is causing extensive damage to Drakes Estero and the Seashore's beaches, and that allowing these operations to continue would cause even more long-term harm.

Your environmental review also shows that alternative "A"--no new permit for commercial oyster operations and protection of the Estero as full wilderness--is the environmentally preferred alternative and the one that best protects harbor seals, birds, fish and other natural resources.

I urge you to return Drakes Estero to all Americans by selecting alternative "A" and ensuring full wilderness protection for Drakes Estero in 2012. It is time to protect Drakes Estero as Congress intended and to create the West Coast's only marine wilderness for the benefit of people and wildlife.

Correspondence ID: 48579 **Project:** 33043 **Document:** 43390
Name: Blank, B
Outside Organization: National Wildlife Federation Action Fund Unaffiliated Individual
Received: Dec,01,2011 16:41:57
Correspondence Type: Web Form

Correspondence: Drakes Estero is the ecological heart of Point Reyes National Seashore and a treasure that belongs to all Americans. In 1976, Congress promised that the Estero would receive full wilderness protection when the current lease for commercial oyster operations expires in 2012. I urge the Park Service to honor the wilderness promise and protect Drakes Estero for future generations.

Drakes Estero is home to 20 percent of the mainland breeding population of harbor seals in California and is used by tens of thousands of shorebirds and waterfowl and dozens of species of native fish. Your draft environmental impact statement makes clear that the existing commercial oyster operation is causing extensive damage to Drakes Estero and the Seashore's beaches, and that allowing these operations to continue would cause even more long-term harm.

Your environmental review also shows that alternative "A"--no new permit for commercial oyster operations and protection of the Estero as full wilderness--is the environmentally preferred alternative and the one that best protects harbor seals, birds, fish and other natural resources.

I urge you to return Drakes Estero to all Americans by selecting alternative "A" and ensuring full wilderness protection for Drakes Estero in 2012. It is time to protect Drakes Estero as Congress intended and to create the West Coast's only marine wilderness for the benefit of people and wildlife.

Correspondence ID: 48580 **Project:** 33043 **Document:** 43390
Name: Garner, Harry
Outside Organization: National Wildlife Federation Action Fund Unaffiliated Individual
Received: Dec,01,2011 16:42:02
Correspondence Type: Web Form

Correspondence: Drakes Estero is the ecological heart of Point Reyes National Seashore and a treasure that belongs to all Americans. In 1976, Congress promised that the Estero would receive full wilderness protection when the current lease for commercial oyster operations expires in 2012. I urge the Park Service to honor the wilderness promise and protect Drakes Estero for future generations.

Drakes Estero is home to 20 percent of the mainland breeding population of harbor seals in California and is used by tens of thousands of shorebirds and waterfowl and dozens of species of native fish. Your draft environmental impact statement makes clear that the existing commercial oyster operation is causing extensive damage to Drakes Estero and the Seashore's beaches, and that allowing these operations to continue would cause even more long-term harm.

Your environmental review also shows that alternative "A"--no new permit for commercial oyster operations and protection of the Estero as full wilderness--is the environmentally preferred alternative and the one that best protects harbor seals, birds, fish and other natural resources.

I urge you to return Drakes Estero to all Americans by selecting alternative "A" and ensuring full wilderness protection for Drakes Estero in 2012. It is time to protect Drakes Estero as Congress intended and to create the West Coast's only marine wilderness for the benefit of people and wildlife.

Correspondence ID: 48581 **Project:** 33043 **Document:** 43390
Name: Western, Shane
Outside Organization: Sierra Club Unaffiliated Individual
Received: Dec,01,2011 17:07:48
Correspondence Type: Web Form

Correspondence: I am writing to urge the National Park Service to protect Drakes Estero wilderness next year as long-intended. The American public deserves to have the West Coast's only marine wilderness protected for future generations to enjoy. Drakes Estero is a

rare wildlife refuge where migrating birds stop over, harbor seals give birth, and fish spawn. It deserves the highest level of protection as Congress long-intended. As someone who enjoys our nation's spectacular national parks, I urge you to not undermine protections at Drakes Estero and succumb to special interests seeking to commercialize these special places.

I urge the National Park Service and the Department of the Interior to select alternative "A", which protects marine wilderness and is the environmentally preferred alternative. The NPS is mandated to provide maximum protection to the natural resources, as stated in the Seashore's legislation, and selecting this alternative is the most consistent with the laws and policies affecting this park. Our national parks are for the people and wildlife protection, not commercial exploitation. The environmental review shows that alternative "A" best protects harbor seals, fish, birds and other wildlife and plants. Drakes Estero is our only marine wilderness on the West Coast, and it is irreplaceable, while oysters can be grown elsewhere.

National Parks and wilderness areas are treasured by the majority of Americans and are for the public interest, not for private commercial exploitation. By protecting wilderness, the National Park Service will set a positive policy example while commercializing it will set a negative example and help others seek their special exemptions from national park laws.

Correspondence ID: 48582 **Project:** 33043 **Document:** 43390
Name: Souther, Phillip
Outside Organization: NRDC Unaffiliated Individual
Received: Dec.01.2011 17:10:24
Correspondence Type: Web Form
Correspondence: Drakes Estero is a national ecological treasure and should become a protected wilderness area. It has outstanding natural resources, including one of California's largest harbor seal colonies and tens of thousands of shorebirds, waterfowl, native fish and endangered species that use its wetlands, mudflats and eelgrass beds.

In the 1976 Point Reyes Wilderness Act, Congress recognized Drakes Estero as a unique recreational and biological resource and promised that this irreplaceable resource would formally become a wilderness area when non-conforming uses were eliminated. Your agency permitted a commercial oyster company to grow non-native oysters and clams on 1,050 acres in Drakes Estero for 40 years, or until 2012.

Your own draft environmental impact statement reveals the extensive damage that the existing operation has caused to Drakes Estero and Point Reyes National Seashore's beaches. As you know, commercial operations of any kind are not permitted in designated wilderness areas because of such damage. Further, the Park Service's Organic Act mandates protection of park resources and values and strictly limits commercial operations.

Your approval of the proposal to extend the oyster company's permit would be contrary to the Point Reyes Wilderness Act and would establish a dangerous precedent at a time when America's public lands and environmental laws are already under widespread attacks in Congress and elsewhere.

We've been waiting long enough. It is time to allow that permit to expire and to honor Congress' commitment. We want our bay back.

Correspondence ID: 48583 **Project:** 33043 **Document:** 43390
Name: Kasey, C.
Outside Organization: National Wildlife Federation Action Fund Unaffiliated Individual
Received: Dec.01.2011 17:40:37
Correspondence Type: Web Form
Correspondence: Drakes Estero is the ecological heart of Point Reyes National Seashore and a treasure that belongs to all Americans. In 1976, Congress promised that the Estero would receive full wilderness protection when the current lease for commercial oyster operations expires in 2012. I urge the Park Service to honor the wilderness promise and protect Drakes Estero for future generations.

Drakes Estero is home to 20 percent of the mainland breeding population of harbor seals in California and is used by tens of thousands of shorebirds and waterfowl and dozens of species of native fish. Your draft environmental impact statement makes clear that the existing commercial oyster operation is causing extensive damage to Drakes Estero and the Seashore's beaches, and that allowing these operations to continue would cause even more long-term harm.

Your environmental review also shows that alternative "A"--no new permit for commercial oyster operations and protection of the Estero as full wilderness--is the environmentally preferred alternative and the one that best protects harbor seals, birds, fish and other natural resources.

I urge you to return Drakes Estero to all Americans by selecting alternative "A" and ensuring full wilderness protection for Drakes Estero in 2012. It is time to protect Drakes Estero as Congress intended and to create the West Coast's only marine wilderness for the benefit of people and wildlife.

Correspondence ID: 48584 **Project:** 33043 **Document:** 43390
Name: Bragg, Terry
Outside Organization: National Wildlife Federation Action Fund Unaffiliated Individual

Received: Dec,01,2011 17:41:49

Correspondence Type: Web Form

Correspondence: Drakes Estero is the ecological heart of Point Reyes National Seashore and a treasure that belongs to all Americans. In 1976, Congress promised that the Estero would receive full wilderness protection when the current lease for commercial oyster operations expires in 2012. I urge the Park Service to honor the wilderness promise and protect Drakes Estero for future generations.

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Your environmental review also shows that alternative "A"--no new permit for commercial oyster operations and protection of the Estero as full wilderness--is the environmentally preferred alternative and the one that best protects harbor seals, birds, fish and other natural resources.

I urge you to return Drakes Estero to all Americans by selecting alternative "A" and ensuring full wilderness protection for Drakes Estero in 2012. It is time to protect Drakes Estero as Congress intended and to create the West Coast's only marine wilderness for the benefit of people and wildlife.

Correspondence ID: 48585 **Project:** 33043 **Document:** 43390

Name: Hart, Dannie

Outside Organization: National Wildlife Federation Action Fund Unaffiliated Individual

Received: Dec,01,2011 18:11:47

Correspondence Type: Web Form

Correspondence: Drakes Estero is the ecological heart of Point Reyes National Seashore and a treasure that belongs to all Americans. In 1976, Congress promised that the Estero would receive full wilderness protection when the current lease for commercial oyster operations expires in 2012. I urge the Park Service to honor the wilderness promise and protect Drakes Estero for future generations.

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I urge you to return Drakes Estero to all Americans by selecting alternative "A" and ensuring full wilderness protection for Drakes Estero in 2012. It is time to protect Drakes Estero as Congress intended and to create the West Coast's only marine wilderness for the benefit of people and wildlife.

Correspondence ID: 48586 **Project:** 33043 **Document:** 43390

Name: Cole, Courtney

Outside Organization: National Wildlife Federation Action Fund Unaffiliated Individual

Received: Dec,01,2011 18:12:03

Correspondence Type: Web Form

Correspondence: Drakes Estero is the ecological heart of Point Reyes National Seashore and a treasure that belongs to all Americans. In 1976, Congress promised that the Estero would receive full wilderness protection when the current lease for commercial oyster operations expires in 2012. I urge the Park Service to honor the wilderness promise and protect Drakes Estero for future generations.

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Your environmental review also shows that alternative "A"--no new permit for commercial oyster operations and protection of the Estero as full wilderness--is the environmentally preferred alternative and the one that best protects harbor seals, birds, fish and other natural resources.

I urge you to return Drakes Estero to all Americans by selecting alternative "A" and ensuring full wilderness protection for Drakes Estero in 2012. It is time to protect Drakes Estero as Congress intended and to create the West Coast's only marine wilderness for the benefit of people and wildlife.

Correspondence ID: 48587 **Project:** 33043 **Document:** 43390

Name: Archbald, Greg
Outside Organization: Unaffiliated Individual
Received: Dec,01,2011 18:23:18
Correspondence Type: Web Form
Correspondence: In the strongest sense, I support Alternative A - Conversion to Wilderness.

(1) Alternative A is consistent with Congressional intent, widespread public expectation, and the scientific evidence. It needs to happen now. Not later.

(2) The oyster farm is a chronic source of disturbance to wildlife including the hauling-out of seal pups. The oyster pens, associated facilities, and oyster farming activities are all things that do not belong in a wilderness. It needs to stop now. Not later.

(3) Allowing the oyster farming to continue would be in clear violation of consistently expressed Congressional intent and it would set a terrible precedent for wilderness preservation in the national parks.

(4) In the face of a clear deadline set by Congress, known to all parties, neither the operator nor the National Park Service has any legitimate grounds for continuing the oyster farming at Drakes Estero.

Correspondence ID: 48588 **Project:** 33043 **Document:** 43390

Name: Uecker, Gail
Outside Organization: National Wildlife Federation Action Fund Unaffiliated Individual
Received: Dec,01,2011 18:40:48
Correspondence Type: Web Form

Correspondence: Drakes Estero is the ecological heart of Point Reyes National Seashore and a treasure that belongs to all Americans. In 1976, Congress promised that the Estero would receive full wilderness protection when the current lease for commercial oyster operations expires in 2012. I urge the Park Service to honor the wilderness promise and protect Drakes Estero for future generations.

Drakes Estero is home to 20 percent of the mainland breeding population of harbor seals in California and is used by tens of thousands of shorebirds and waterfowl and dozens of species of native fish. Your draft environmental impact statement makes clear that the existing commercial oyster operation is causing extensive damage to Drakes Estero and the Seashore's beaches, and that allowing these operations to continue would cause even more long-term harm.

Your environmental review also shows that alternative "A"--no new permit for commercial oyster operations and protection of the Estero as full wilderness--is the environmentally preferred alternative and the one that best protects harbor seals, birds, fish and other natural resources.

I urge you to return Drakes Estero to all Americans by selecting alternative "A" and ensuring full wilderness protection for Drakes Estero in 2012. It is time to protect Drakes Estero as Congress intended and to create the West Coast's only marine wilderness for the benefit of people and wildlife.

Correspondence ID: 48589 **Project:** 33043 **Document:** 43390

Name: Haas, Amanda
Outside Organization: National Wildlife Federation Action Fund Unaffiliated Individual
Received: Dec,01,2011 18:40:59
Correspondence Type: Web Form

Correspondence: Drakes Estero is the ecological heart of Point Reyes National Seashore and a treasure that belongs to all Americans. In 1976, Congress promised that the Estero would receive full wilderness protection when the current lease for commercial oyster operations expires in 2012. I urge the Park Service to honor the wilderness promise and protect Drakes Estero for future generations.

Drakes Estero is home to 20 percent of the mainland breeding population of harbor seals in California and is used by tens of thousands of shorebirds and waterfowl and dozens of species of native fish. Your draft environmental impact statement makes clear that the existing commercial oyster operation is causing extensive damage to Drakes Estero and the Seashore's beaches, and that allowing these operations to continue would cause even more long-term harm.

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I urge you to return Drakes Estero to all Americans by selecting alternative "A" and ensuring full wilderness protection for Drakes Estero in 2012. It is time to protect Drakes Estero as Congress intended and to create the West Coast's only marine wilderness for the benefit of people and wildlife.

Correspondence ID: 48590 **Project:** 33043 **Document:** 43390

Name: Banister, John E

Outside Organization: Unaffiliated Individual
Received: Dec,01,2011 19:06:22
Correspondence Type: Web Form
Correspondence: I don't understand the problem you are having in continuing a special use permit for the Drakes Bay Oyster Company. None of the alternatives suggested provide for upgrades and continued use of the facilities as they have been in past years. Why not? I support a renewable special use permit for Drakes Day Oyster Company

Correspondence ID: 48591 **Project:** 33043 **Document:** 43390
Name: Goodale, Margaret
Outside Organization: National Parks Conservation Association Unaffiliated Individual
Received: Dec,01,2011 19:09:17
Correspondence Type: Web Form
Correspondence: I urge you to protect Drakes Estero wilderness next year, as long intended. It is in the public interest to create the West Coast's only marine wilderness for the enjoyment of all. The public has waited nearly four decades for these protections to be implemented, which is an immense compromise in itself. Drakes Estero is a rare wildlife refuge where migrating birds stop over, harbor seals give birth, and fish take shelter in eelgrass. As someone who enjoys our nation's national parks and their wildlife, I urge you to uphold the longstanding plan to convert this very special resource to wilderness.

I urge you to select alternative "A", which protects marine wilderness next year and is the Environmentally Preferred Alternative. The National Park Service is mandated to provide maximum protection to the natural resources at Drakes Estero and selecting this alternative is the most consistent with the laws and policies affecting this park. Our national parks are set aside for the public and for wildlife protection, and after waiting nearly 40 years for private commercial use rights to expire, it's time to give the estuary the protection it needs. The environmental review shows that alternative "A" is best for public policy, and best protects harbor seals, fish, birds and other natural resources. Drakes Estero is our only marine wilderness on the West Coast, and is irreplaceable, while oysters can be commercially grown elsewhere.

Please honor the promise made for a protected marine wilderness at Drakes Estero. In doing so, you will set a good policy example and reward the public with an enduring legacy feat found nowhere else on the West Coast.

Correspondence ID: 48592 **Project:** 33043 **Document:** 43390
Name: Chipman, Pamela
Outside Organization: National Wildlife Federation Action Fund Unaffiliated Individual
Received: Dec,01,2011 19:10:51
Correspondence Type: Web Form
Correspondence: Drakes Estero is the ecological heart of Point Reyes National Seashore and a treasure that belongs to all Americans. In 1976, Congress promised that the Estero would receive full wilderness protection when the current lease for commercial oyster operations expires in 2012. I urge the Park Service to honor the wilderness promise and protect Drakes Estero for future generations.

Drakes Estero is home to 20 percent of the mainland breeding population of harbor seals in California and is used by tens of thousands of shorebirds and waterfowl and dozens of species of native fish. Your draft environmental impact statement makes clear that the existing commercial oyster operation is causing extensive damage to Drakes Estero and the Seashore's beaches, and that allowing these operations to continue would cause even more long-term harm.

Your environmental review also shows that alternative "A"--no new permit for commercial oyster operations and protection of the Estero as full wilderness--is the environmentally preferred alternative and the one that best protects harbor seals, birds, fish and other natural resources.

I urge you to return Drakes Estero to all Americans by selecting alternative "A" and ensuring full wilderness protection for Drakes Estero in 2012. It is time to protect Drakes Estero as Congress intended and to create the West Coast's only marine wilderness for the benefit of people and wildlife.

Correspondence ID: 48593 **Project:** 33043 **Document:** 43390
Name: Boyes, Tyler
Outside Organization: Unaffiliated Individual
Received: Dec,01,2011 19:18:30
Correspondence Type: Web Form
Correspondence: How about all of the ranches on the National Seashore creating high nitrate runoff and algae blooms, why not focus on mitigating the risks to this "wilderness" with the ranchers. Honestly I feel the oyster farm does more good than harm to Point Reyes and if you think this area will ever be wilderness someone needs to look up the definition of Wilderness. Do you plan on removing roads and restricting access to foot traffic? Why is the oyster farm suddenly under such scrutiny when a long-time, local family cleaned up what had been a dirty operation (Johnson's Oyster Farm) and made it a good and sustainable business. I was born within PRNS and have lived there for most of my life. I don't understand why the park service has decided to take action on this relatively minor disturbance to the area. Look for support elsewhere if you are going to twist the facts and turn unknowing people against this family business.

Correspondence ID: 48594 **Project:** 33043 **Document:** 43390
Name: Spatafore, Cynddy
Outside Organization: Unaffiliated Individual

Received: Dec,01,2011 19:40:38

Correspondence Type: Web Form

Correspondence: I support the wilderness designation for Drakes Estero within the Point Reyes National Seashore. I urge the National Park Service and Department of the Interior to uphold the 1976 Point Reyes Wilderness Act and select alternative A, which protects this important marine wilderness and is the environmentally preferred alternative. Drakes Estero is a unique and ecologically significant wildlife area. It is an important stop on the flyway for migrating birds, a refuge and birthplace for harbor seals and a critical native fish nursery. Congress and the public have long intended that Drakes Estero be given the highest federal level of protection as a wilderness area when the commercial oyster lease expires in 2012. This can only be accomplished by selecting Alternative "A" and ending commercial use of this sensitive wildlife refuge. Alternative A is the most consistent with National Park Service laws and policies. The Park Service's environmental review shows that alternative "A" best protects wildlife and the National Park experience. Our national parks are for the people and wildlife protection, and wilderness areas with our parks should not prioritize commercial exploitation. The American public deserves to have this unique marine wilderness protected in a natural state for future generations to enjoy. Drakes Estero is the only marine wilderness on the West Coast, and is irreplaceable, while oysters can be grown elsewhere. As someone who enjoys our spectacular national parks, I urge you to not undermine protections at Drakes Estero and succumb to special interests seeking to commercialize these special places.

Sincerely, Cyndy Spatafore

Correspondence ID: 48595 **Project:** 33043 **Document:** 43390

Name: Grawl, Michael

Outside Organization: National Wildlife Federation Action Fund Unaffiliated Individual

Received: Dec,01,2011 19:41:01

Correspondence Type: Web Form

Correspondence: Drakes Estero is the ecological heart of Point Reyes National Seashore and a treasure that belongs to all Americans. In 1976, Congress promised that the Estero would receive full wilderness protection when the current lease for commercial oyster operations expires in 2012. I urge the Park Service to honor the wilderness promise and protect Drakes Estero for future generations.

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Your environmental review also shows that alternative "A"--no new permit for commercial oyster operations and protection of the Estero as full wilderness--is the environmentally preferred alternative and the one that best protects harbor seals, birds, fish and other natural resources.

I urge you to return Drakes Estero to all Americans by selecting alternative "A" and ensuring full wilderness protection for Drakes Estero in 2012. It is time to protect Drakes Estero as Congress intended and to create the West Coast's only marine wilderness for the benefit of people and wildlife.

Correspondence ID: 48596 **Project:** 33043 **Document:** 43390

Name: Heuertz, Rachel

Outside Organization: National Wildlife Federation Action Fund Unaffiliated Individual

Received: Dec,01,2011 19:41:01

Correspondence Type: Web Form

Correspondence: Drakes Estero is the ecological heart of Point Reyes National Seashore and a treasure that belongs to all Americans. In 1976, Congress promised that the Estero would receive full wilderness protection when the current lease for commercial oyster operations expires in 2012. I urge the Park Service to honor the wilderness promise and protect Drakes Estero for future generations.

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Correspondence ID: 48597 **Project:** 33043 **Document:** 43390

Name: Corbett, Anneke

Outside Organization: National Wildlife Federation Action Fund Unaffiliated Individual

Received: Dec,01,2011 19:41:06

Correspondence Type: Web Form
Correspondence: Drakes Estero is the ecological heart of Point Reyes National Seashore and a treasure that belongs to all Americans. In 1976, Congress promised that the Estero would receive full wilderness protection when the current lease for commercial oyster operations expires in 2012. I urge the Park Service to honor the wilderness promise and protect Drakes Estero for future generations.

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I urge you to return Drakes Estero to all Americans by selecting alternative "A" and ensuring full wilderness protection for Drakes Estero in 2012. It is time to protect Drakes Estero as Congress intended and to create the West Coast's only marine wilderness for the benefit of people and wildlife.

Correspondence ID: 48598 **Project:** 33043 **Document:** 43390
Name: Sparks, Michelle
Outside Organization: National Wildlife Federation Action Fund Unaffiliated Individual
Received: Dec,01,2011 19:41:34
Correspondence Type: Web Form
Correspondence: Drakes Estero is the ecological heart of Point Reyes National Seashore and a treasure that belongs to all Americans. In 1976, Congress promised that the Estero would receive full wilderness protection when the current lease for commercial oyster operations expires in 2012. I urge the Park Service to honor the wilderness promise and protect Drakes Estero for future generations.

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Correspondence ID: 48599 **Project:** 33043 **Document:** 43390
Name: Coyne, Lelia
Outside Organization: National Wildlife Federation Action Fund Unaffiliated Individual
Received: Dec,01,2011 19:41:51
Correspondence Type: Web Form
Correspondence: Drakes Estero is the ecological heart of Point Reyes National Seashore and a treasure that belongs to all Americans. In 1976, Congress promised that the Estero would receive full wilderness protection when the current lease for commercial oyster operations expires in 2012. I urge the Park Service to honor the wilderness promise and protect Drakes Estero for future generations.

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Correspondence ID: 48600 **Project:** 33043 **Document:** 43390
Name: Moreno, Olyme

Outside Organization: National Wildlife Federation Action Fund Unaffiliated Individual
Received: Dec.01,2011 19:42:07
Correspondence Type: Web Form
Correspondence: Drakes Estero is the ecological heart of Point Reyes National Seashore and a treasure that belongs to all Americans. In 1976, Congress promised that the Estero would receive full wilderness protection when the current lease for commercial oyster operations expires in 2012. I urge the Park Service to honor the wilderness promise and protect Drakes Estero for future generations.

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Correspondence ID: 48601 **Project:** 33043 **Document:** 43390
Name: Davie, Dennis P
Outside Organization: Sierra Club, Ventana Chapter, Santa Cruz Group Unaffiliated Individual
Received: Dec.01,2011 19:59:19
Correspondence Type: Web Form
Correspondence: I support the "No Action" Alternative A, based on procedural grounds. When Congress passed the bill creating the Philip Burton Wilderness, the oyster farm was designated "potential" wilderness with the expectation that the oyster farm would become part of the wilderness area when its permit expired in 2012. The present owner bought the operation knowing that. Presumably that was reflected in the price he paid. Only later did he decide that he wanted to continue operations past 2012.

Since only Congress can designate wilderness, any changes to the 1972 wilderness law should have taken place in Congress, with full hearings. That never happened. Instead, Sen. Dianne Feinstein (D) introduced a rider to another bill mandating an extension, though it was later changed to an "authorization" to the Interior Secretary. This EIS is the result. Though an EIS process is a public process, it still does not comply with the 1964 Wilderness Act, giving Congress the final say in designating areas.

Correspondence ID: 48602 **Project:** 33043 **Document:** 43390
Name: Sortland, Joyce
Outside Organization: National Parks Conservation Association Unaffiliated Individual
Received: Dec.01,2011 20:09:45
Correspondence Type: Web Form
Correspondence: I urge you to protect Drakes Estero wilderness next year, as long intended. It is in the public interest to create the West Coast's only marine wilderness for the enjoyment of all. The public has waited nearly four decades for these protections to be implemented, which is an immense compromise in itself. Drakes Estero is a rare wildlife refuge where migrating birds stop over, harbor seals give birth, and fish take shelter in eelgrass. As someone who enjoys our nation's national parks and their wildlife, I urge you to uphold the longstanding plan to convert this very special resource to wilderness.

I urge you to select alternative "A", which protects marine wilderness next year and is the Environmentally Preferred Alternative. The National Park Service is mandated to provide maximum protection to the natural resources at Drakes Estero and selecting this alternative is the most consistent with the laws and policies affecting this park. Our national parks are set aside for the public and for wildlife protection, and after waiting nearly 40 years for private commercial use rights to expire, it's time to give the estuary the protection it needs. The environmental review shows that alternative "A" is best for public policy, and best protects harbor seals, fish, birds and other natural resources. Drakes Estero is our only marine wilderness on the West Coast, and is irreplaceable, while oysters can be commercially grown elsewhere.

Please honor the promise made for a protected marine wilderness at Drakes Estero. In doing so, you will set a good policy example and reward the public with an enduring legacy feat found nowhere else on the West Coast.

Correspondence ID: 48603 **Project:** 33043 **Document:** 43390
Name: Oliver, Gary
Outside Organization: National Wildlife Federation Action Fund Unaffiliated Individual
Received: Dec.01,2011 20:11:25
Correspondence Type: Web Form
Correspondence: Drakes Estero is the ecological heart of Point Reyes National Seashore and a treasure that belongs to all Americans. In 1976, Congress promised that the Estero would receive full wilderness protection when the current lease for commercial oyster operations expires in 2012. I urge the Park Service to honor the wilderness promise and protect Drakes Estero for future generations.

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Your environmental review also shows that alternative "A"--no new permit for commercial oyster operations and protection of the Estero as full wilderness--is the environmentally preferred alternative and the one that best protects harbor seals, birds, fish and other natural resources.

I urge you to return Drakes Estero to all Americans by selecting alternative "A" and ensuring full wilderness protection for Drakes Estero in 2012. It is time to protect Drakes Estero as Congress intended and to create the West Coast's only marine wilderness for the benefit of people and wildlife.

Correspondence ID: 48604 **Project:** 33043 **Document:** 43390
Name: N/A, N/A
Outside Organization: Unaffiliated Individual
Received: Dec,01,2011 20:11:26
Correspondence Type: Web Form
Correspondence: I support the wilderness designation for Drakes Estero within the Point Reyes National Seashore. I urge the National Park Service and Department of the Interior to uphold the 1976 Point Reyes Wilderness Act and select alternative A, which protects this important marine wilderness and is the environmentally preferred alternative.

Drakes Estero is a unique and ecologically significant wildlife area. It is an important stop on the flyway for migrating birds, a refuge and birthplace for harbor seals and a critical native fish nursery. Congress and the public have long intended that Drakes Estero be given the highest federal level of protection as a wilderness area when the commercial oyster lease expires in 2012.

This can only be accomplished by selecting Alternative "A" and ending commercial use of this sensitive wildlife refuge. Alternative A is the most consistent with National Park Service laws and policies. The Park Service's environmental review shows that alternative "A" best protects wildlife and the National Park experience.

Our national parks are for the people and wildlife protection, and wilderness areas with our parks should not prioritize commercial exploitation. The American public deserves to have this unique marine wilderness protected in a natural state for future generations to enjoy.

Drakes Estero is the only marine wilderness on the West Coast, and is irreplaceable, while oysters can be grown elsewhere.

As someone who enjoys our spectacular national parks, I urge you to not undermine protections at Drakes Estero and succumb to special interests seeking to commercialize these special places.

Correspondence ID: 48605 **Project:** 33043 **Document:** 43390
Name: Ellis, Heather
Outside Organization: National Wildlife Federation Action Fund Unaffiliated Individual
Received: Dec,01,2011 20:11:46
Correspondence Type: Web Form
Correspondence: Drakes Estero is the ecological heart of Point Reyes National Seashore and a treasure that belongs to all Americans. In 1976, Congress promised that the Estero would receive full wilderness protection when the current lease for commercial oyster operations expires in 2012. I urge the Park Service to honor the wilderness promise and protect Drakes Estero for future generations.

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I urge you to return Drakes Estero to all Americans by selecting alternative "A" and ensuring full wilderness protection for Drakes Estero in 2012. It is time to protect Drakes Estero as Congress intended and to create the West Coast's only marine wilderness for the benefit of people and wildlife.

Correspondence ID: 48606 **Project:** 33043 **Document:** 43390
Name: Heon, Christina
Outside Organization: National Wildlife Federation Action Fund Unaffiliated Individual

Received: Dec,01,2011 20:11:46

Correspondence Type: Web Form

Correspondence: Drakes Estero is the ecological heart of Point Reyes National Seashore and a treasure that belongs to all Americans. In 1976, Congress promised that the Estero would receive full wilderness protection when the current lease for commercial oyster operations expires in 2012. I urge the Park Service to honor the wilderness promise and protect Drakes Estero for future generations.

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I urge you to return Drakes Estero to all Americans by selecting alternative "A" and ensuring full wilderness protection for Drakes Estero in 2012. It is time to protect Drakes Estero as Congress intended and to create the West Coast's only marine wilderness for the benefit of people and wildlife.

Correspondence ID: 48607 **Project:** 33043 **Document:** 43390

Name: Berry, Tamra

Outside Organization: National Wildlife Federation Action Fund Unaffiliated Individual

Received: Dec,01,2011 20:12:01

Correspondence Type: Web Form

Correspondence: Drakes Estero is the ecological heart of Point Reyes National Seashore and a treasure that belongs to all Americans. In 1976, Congress promised that the Estero would receive full wilderness protection when the current lease for commercial oyster operations expires in 2012. I urge the Park Service to honor the wilderness promise and protect Drakes Estero for future generations.

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Correspondence ID: 48608 **Project:** 33043 **Document:** 43390

Name: Bellesheim, George

Outside Organization: National Parks Conservation Association Unaffiliated Individual

Received: Dec,01,2011 20:39:50

Correspondence Type: Web Form

Correspondence: I urge you to protect Drakes Estero wilderness next year, as long intended. It is in the public interest to create the West Coast's only marine wilderness for the enjoyment of all. The public has waited nearly four decades for these protections to be implemented, which is an immense compromise in itself. Drakes Estero is a rare wildlife refuge where migrating birds stop over, harbor seals give birth, and fish take shelter in eelgrass. As someone who enjoys our nation's national parks and their wildlife, I urge you to uphold the longstanding plan to convert this very special resource to wilderness.

I urge you to select alternative "A", which protects marine wilderness next year and is the Environmentally Preferred Alternative. The National Park Service is mandated to provide maximum protection to the natural resources at Drakes Estero and selecting this alternative is the most consistent with the laws and policies affecting this park. Our national parks are set aside for the public and for wildlife protection, and after waiting nearly 40 years for private commercial use rights to expire, it's time to give the estuary the protection it needs. The environmental review shows that alternative "A" is best for public policy, and best protects harbor seals, fish, birds and other natural resources. Drakes Estero is our only marine wilderness on the West Coast, and is irreplaceable, while oysters can be commercially grown elsewhere.

Please honor the promise made for a protected marine wilderness at Drakes Estero. In doing so, you will set a good policy example and reward the public with an enduring legacy feat found nowhere else on the West Coast.

Correspondence ID: 48609 **Project:** 33043 **Document:** 43390

Name: Lapuyade, Larry

Outside Organization: National Parks Conservation Association Unaffiliated Individual

Received: Dec,01,2011 20:39:57

Correspondence Type: Web Form

Correspondence: I urge you to protect Drakes Estero wilderness next year, as long intended. It is in the public interest to create the West Coast's only marine wilderness for the enjoyment of all. The public has waited nearly four decades for these protections to be implemented, which is an immense compromise in itself. Drakes Estero is a rare wildlife refuge where migrating birds stop over, harbor seals give birth, and fish take shelter in eelgrass. As someone who enjoys our nation's national parks and their wildlife, I urge you to uphold the longstanding plan to convert this very special resource to wilderness.

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Correspondence ID: 48610 **Project:** 33043 **Document:** 43390

Name: Giese, John

Outside Organization: National Wildlife Federation Action Fund Unaffiliated Individual

Received: Dec,01,2011 20:41:18

Correspondence Type: Web Form

Correspondence: Drakes Estero is the ecological heart of Point Reyes National Seashore and a treasure that belongs to all Americans. In 1976, Congress promised that the Estero would receive full wilderness protection when the current lease for commercial oyster operations expires in 2012. I urge the Park Service to honor the wilderness promise and protect Drakes Estero for future generations.

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Correspondence ID: 48611 **Project:** 33043 **Document:** 43390

Name: Whitman, Cynthia

Outside Organization: National Wildlife Federation Action Fund Unaffiliated Individual

Received: Dec,01,2011 20:41:29

Correspondence Type: Web Form

Correspondence: Drakes Estero is the ecological heart of Point Reyes National Seashore and a treasure that belongs to all Americans. In 1976, Congress promised that the Estero would receive full wilderness protection when the current lease for commercial oyster operations expires in 2012. I urge the Park Service to honor the wilderness promise and protect Drakes Estero for future generations.

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Correspondence ID: 48612 **Project:** 33043 **Document:** 43390

Name: Quirk, Joseph

Outside Organization: National Wildlife Federation Action Fund Unaffiliated Individual

Received: Dec,01,2011 20:41:30

Correspondence Type: Web Form

Correspondence: Drakes Estero is the ecological heart of Point Reyes National Seashore and a treasure that belongs to all Americans. In 1976, Congress promised that the Estero would receive full wilderness protection when the current lease for commercial oyster operations expires in 2012. I urge the Park Service to honor the wilderness promise and protect Drakes Estero for future generations.

Drakes Estero is home to 20 percent of the mainland breeding population of harbor seals in California and is used by tens of thousands of shorebirds and waterfowl and dozens of species of native fish. Your draft environmental impact statement makes clear that the existing commercial oyster operation is causing extensive damage to Drakes Estero and the Seashore's beaches, and that allowing these operations to continue would cause even more long-term harm.

Your environmental review also shows that alternative "A"--no new permit for commercial oyster operations and protection of the Estero as full wilderness--is the environmentally preferred alternative and the one that best protects harbor seals, birds, fish and other natural resources.

I urge you to return Drakes Estero to all Americans by selecting alternative "A" and ensuring full wilderness protection for Drakes Estero in 2012. It is time to protect Drakes Estero as Congress intended and to create the West Coast's only marine wilderness for the benefit of people and wildlife.

Correspondence ID: 48613 **Project:** 33043 **Document:** 43390

Name: Villagomez, Sari

Outside Organization: National Wildlife Federation Action Fund Unaffiliated Individual

Received: Dec,01,2011 20:42:07

Correspondence Type: Web Form

Correspondence: Drakes Estero is the ecological heart of Point Reyes National Seashore and a treasure that belongs to all Americans. In 1976, Congress promised that the Estero would receive full wilderness protection when the current lease for commercial oyster operations expires in 2012. I urge the Park Service to honor the wilderness promise and protect Drakes Estero for future generations.

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I urge you to return Drakes Estero to all Americans by selecting alternative "A" and ensuring full wilderness protection for Drakes Estero in 2012. It is time to protect Drakes Estero as Congress intended and to create the West Coast's only marine wilderness for the benefit of people and wildlife.

Correspondence ID: 48614 **Project:** 33043 **Document:** 43390

Name: pouteau, j. c

Outside Organization: Unaffiliated Individual

Received: Dec,01,2011 20:53:45

Correspondence Type: Web Form

Correspondence: dear sirs, yesterday i gave my experience and education on point reyes national seashore . my strong feelings regarding renewal of the lease are these. 1. i have yet to hear or read one or more facts as to why not. their is not any scientific reason to suggest the oyster farm harms the enviroment. on the contrary , the production of oysters enhances the estuary. 2. if the park service were to enforce the wilderness act, i would support that only in a total primitive wilderness condition. in other words close the rangers quarters and the youth hostel at Limantour Beach. close the restaurant at Drakes Beach. close all ranch operations west of Mount Vision. close the radio/ satellite/LORAN operations at south beach. close the roads and parking lots to private vehicles. ban all non-native species including cows, horses, pigs, and chickens. also close the airspace above the seashore. i believe under these conditions the P. R. N. seashore might qualify as wilderness even though it lies an hour and a half from a community of seven million people. who, in the grand scheme of things benefit far more by maintianing the lease as is and encourage the park service to work WITH the Drakes Bay Oyster Company to enhance the experience at Drakes Estero. i have a few suggestions on that subject as well. signed , j.c. pouteau.

Correspondence ID: 48615 **Project:** 33043 **Document:** 43390

Name: Fogel, Byron J

Outside Organization: National Wildlife Federation Action Fund Unaffiliated Individual

Received: Dec,01,2011 21:11:11

Correspondence Type: Web Form

Correspondence: Drakes Estero is the ecological heart of Point Reyes National Seashore and a treasure that belongs to all Americans. In 1976, Congress promised that the Estero would receive full wilderness protection when the current lease for commercial oyster operations expires in 2012. I urge the Park Service to honor the wilderness promise and protect Drakes Estero for future generations.

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I urge you to return Drakes Estero to all Americans by selecting alternative "A" and ensuring full wilderness protection for Drakes Estero in 2012. It is time to protect Drakes Estero as Congress intended and to create the West Coast's only marine wilderness for the benefit of people and wildlife.

Correspondence ID: 48616 **Project:** 33043 **Document:** 43390
Name: Parham, Pamela
Outside Organization: National Wildlife Federation Action Fund Unaffiliated Individual
Received: Dec,01,2011 21:11:41
Correspondence Type: Web Form

Correspondence: Drakes Estero is the ecological heart of Point Reyes National Seashore and a treasure that belongs to all Americans. In 1976, Congress promised that the Estero would receive full wilderness protection when the current lease for commercial oyster operations expires in 2012. I urge the Park Service to honor the wilderness promise and protect Drakes Estero for future generations.

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Your environmental review also shows that alternative "A"--no new permit for commercial oyster operations and protection of the Estero as full wilderness--is the environmentally preferred alternative and the one that best protects harbor seals, birds, fish and other natural resources.

I urge you to return Drakes Estero to all Americans by selecting alternative "A" and ensuring full wilderness protection for Drakes Estero in 2012. It is time to protect Drakes Estero as Congress intended and to create the West Coast's only marine wilderness for the benefit of people and wildlife.

Correspondence ID: 48617 **Project:** 33043 **Document:** 43390
Name: Manke, Jana
Outside Organization: National Wildlife Federation Action Fund Unaffiliated Individual
Received: Dec,01,2011 21:11:49
Correspondence Type: Web Form

Correspondence: Drakes Estero is the ecological heart of Point Reyes National Seashore and a treasure that belongs to all Americans. In 1976, Congress promised that the Estero would receive full wilderness protection when the current lease for commercial oyster operations expires in 2012. I urge the Park Service to honor the wilderness promise and protect Drakes Estero for future generations.

Drakes Estero is home to 20 percent of the mainland breeding population of harbor seals in California and is used by tens of thousands of shorebirds and waterfowl and dozens of species of native fish. Your draft environmental impact statement makes clear that the existing commercial oyster operation is causing extensive damage to Drakes Estero and the Seashore's beaches, and that allowing these operations to continue would cause even more long-term harm.

Your environmental review also shows that alternative "A"--no new permit for commercial oyster operations and protection of the Estero as full wilderness--is the environmentally preferred alternative and the one that best protects harbor seals, birds, fish and other natural resources.

I urge you to return Drakes Estero to all Americans by selecting alternative "A" and ensuring full wilderness protection for Drakes Estero in 2012. It is time to protect Drakes Estero as Congress intended and to create the West Coast's only marine wilderness for the benefit of people and wildlife.

Correspondence ID: 48618 **Project:** 33043 **Document:** 43390
Name: Frawley, Stacy m
Outside Organization: Unaffiliated Individual
Received: Dec,01,2011 21:34:53
Correspondence Type: Web Form
Correspondence: To: The National Parks Service From: Stacy Frawley

I feel none of these alternatives are appropriate. I support a renewable Special Use Permit for Drakes Bay Oyster Company. I feel the facts have been misrepresented. Thank you, Stacy Frawley.

Correspondence ID: 48619 **Project:** 33043 **Document:** 43390
Name: Breidenthal, Sherry
Outside Organization: Sierra Club Unaffiliated Individual
Received: Dec,01,2011 21:38:08
Correspondence Type: Web Form
Correspondence:

I am writing to urge the National Park Service to protect Drakes Estero wilderness next year as long-intended. The American public deserves to have the West Coast's only marine wilderness protected for future generations to enjoy. Drakes Estero is a rare wildlife refuge where migrating birds stop over, harbor seals give birth, and fish spawn. It deserves the highest level of protection as Congress long-intended. As someone who enjoys our nation's spectacular national parks, I urge you to not undermine protections at Drakes Estero and succumb to special interests seeking to commercialize these special places.

I urge the National Park Service and the Department of the Interior to select alternative "A", which protects marine wilderness and is the environmentally preferred alternative. The NPS is mandated to provide maximum protection to the natural resources, as stated in the Seashore's legislation, and selecting this alternative is the most consistent with the laws and policies affecting this park. Our national parks are for the people and wildlife protection, not commercial exploitation. The environmental review shows that alternative "A" best protects harbor seals, fish, birds and other wildlife and plants. Drakes Estero is our only marine wilderness on the West Coast, and it is irreplaceable, while oysters can be grown elsewhere.

National Parks and wilderness areas are treasured by the majority of Americans and are for the public interest, not for private commercial exploitation. By protecting wilderness, the National Park Service will set a positive policy example while commercializing it will set a negative example and help others seek their special exemptions from national park laws.

Correspondence ID: 48620 **Project:** 33043 **Document:** 43390
Name: Regan, Hope
Outside Organization: National Wildlife Federation Action Fund Unaffiliated Individual
Received: Dec,01,2011 21:41:05
Correspondence Type: Web Form
Correspondence:

Drakes Estero is the ecological heart of Point Reyes National Seashore and a treasure that belongs to all Americans. In 1976, Congress promised that the Estero would receive full wilderness protection when the current lease for commercial oyster operations expires in 2012. I urge the Park Service to honor the wilderness promise and protect Drakes Estero for future generations.

Drakes Estero is home to 20 percent of the mainland breeding population of harbor seals in California and is used by tens of thousands of shorebirds and waterfowl and dozens of species of native fish. Your draft environmental impact statement makes clear that the existing commercial oyster operation is causing extensive damage to Drakes Estero and the Seashore's beaches, and that allowing these operations to continue would cause even more long-term harm.

Your environmental review also shows that alternative "A"--no new permit for commercial oyster operations and protection of the Estero as full wilderness--is the environmentally preferred alternative and the one that best protects harbor seals, birds, fish and other natural resources.

I urge you to return Drakes Estero to all Americans by selecting alternative "A" and ensuring full wilderness protection for Drakes Estero in 2012. It is time to protect Drakes Estero as Congress intended and to create the West Coast's only marine wilderness for the benefit of people and wildlife.

Correspondence ID: 48621 **Project:** 33043 **Document:** 43390
Name: Crane, Marcella
Outside Organization: National Wildlife Federation Action Fund Unaffiliated Individual
Received: Dec,01,2011 21:41:16
Correspondence Type: Web Form
Correspondence:

Drakes Estero is the ecological heart of Point Reyes National Seashore and a treasure that belongs to all Americans. In 1976, Congress promised that the Estero would receive full wilderness protection when the current lease for commercial oyster operations expires in 2012. I urge the Park Service to honor the wilderness promise and protect Drakes Estero for future generations.

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Your environmental review also shows that alternative "A"--no new permit for commercial oyster operations and protection of the Estero as full wilderness--is the environmentally preferred alternative and the one that best protects harbor seals, birds, fish

and other natural resources.

I urge you to return Drakes Estero to all Americans by selecting alternative "A" and ensuring full wilderness protection for Drakes Estero in 2012. It is time to protect Drakes Estero as Congress intended and to create the West Coast's only marine wilderness for the benefit of people and wildlife.

Correspondence ID: 48622 **Project:** 33043 **Document:** 43390
Name: Coons, Mitzi
Outside Organization: National Wildlife Federation Action Fund Unaffiliated Individual
Received: Dec.01,2011 21:41:55
Correspondence Type: Web Form
Correspondence: Drakes Estero is the ecological heart of Point Reyes National Seashore and a treasure that belongs to all Americans. In 1976, Congress promised that the Estero would receive full wilderness protection when the current lease for commercial oyster operations expires in 2012. I urge the Park Service to honor the wilderness promise and protect Drakes Estero for future generations.

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Your environmental review also shows that alternative "A"--no new permit for commercial oyster operations and protection of the Estero as full wilderness--is the environmentally preferred alternative and the one that best protects harbor seals, birds, fish and other natural resources.

I urge you to return Drakes Estero to all Americans by selecting alternative "A" and ensuring full wilderness protection for Drakes Estero in 2012. It is time to protect Drakes Estero as Congress intended and to create the West Coast's only marine wilderness for the benefit of people and wildlife.

Correspondence ID: 48623 **Project:** 33043 **Document:** 43390
Name: McMahon, Carol
Outside Organization: National Wildlife Federation Action Fund Unaffiliated Individual
Received: Dec.01,2011 21:41:55
Correspondence Type: Web Form
Correspondence: Drakes Estero is the ecological heart of Point Reyes National Seashore and a treasure that belongs to all Americans. In 1976, Congress promised that the Estero would receive full wilderness protection when the current lease for commercial oyster operations expires in 2012. I urge the Park Service to honor the wilderness promise and protect Drakes Estero for future generations.

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I urge you to return Drakes Estero to all Americans by selecting alternative "A" and ensuring full wilderness protection for Drakes Estero in 2012. It is time to protect Drakes Estero as Congress intended and to create the West Coast's only marine wilderness for the benefit of people and wildlife.

Correspondence ID: 48624 **Project:** 33043 **Document:** 43390
Name: Ostrowski, Angie
Outside Organization: Unaffiliated Individual
Received: Dec.01,2011 21:57:01
Correspondence Type: Web Form
Correspondence: ? Support the NO ACTION Alternative. It is the Environmentally Preferred Alternative and would provide for the area to become Wilderness in 2012 as Congress intended since the 1970s. ? The Action Alternatives have significant long-term adverse impacts to the Drakes Estero environment, including to wetlands, birds, fish, harbor seals, native mollusks, endangered species, eelgrass beds and to wilderness and the national park experience. ? The Action Alternatives are a direct attack on the Wilderness Act of 1964, run counter to the 1962 Point Reyes enabling legislation and the 1976 Point Reyes Wilderness Act, and set a dangerous precedent for future commercialization of National Parks and Wilderness around the county. ? The oyster operation involves 3,700 motorboat trips per year through harbor seal and eelgrass habitat; promotes the spread of invasive species impacts to native oysters, eelgrass beds, bird, fish and endangered species habitat; and litters remote Point Reyes beaches with thousands of pieces of plastic trash.

Correspondence ID: 48625 **Project:** 33043 **Document:** 43390

Name: Cardwell, Robert S
Outside Organization: Home Unaffiliated Individual
Received: Dec,01,2011 21:59:46
Correspondence Type: Web Form
Correspondence: Support Alternative A.

Correspondence ID: 48626 **Project:** 33043 **Document:** 43390
Name: Tabor, Alan A
Outside Organization: Unaffiliated Individual
Received: Dec,01,2011 22:06:26
Correspondence Type: Web Form

Correspondence: First, let me explain my background. For the last 35 years I've been working in the outdoor equipment and clothing business for Sierra Designs, The North Face (when they acquired SD) and, most recently, as one of the founders of Mountain Hardwear. Our business is absolutely dependent on wilderness preservation and focuses on human powered outdoor sports most specifically alpine mountaineering, backpacking, and backcountry skiing. Further, I've been hiking around and eating oysters from Drake's Estero for the past 30 years. We are blessed in the Bay Area by proximity to nature?some of it, such as Point Reyes National Seashore, hard won. Last, my wife and I have a vacation rental in Inverness that attracts people from all over who want to visit Pt Reyes National Seashore.

Over the 30 years I have been hiking the area, I personally have not observed a change in impact on Drake's Estero although there has certainly been an improvement in the oyster facility itself since Lunny took over. Visually, of course, the oyster farm has hardly any impact since most of what there is to see is below the water line and the oyster facility is much smaller than, say, the dairy barns that support agriculture on the rest of the pastoral side of the peninsula. My initial position on the oyster controversy was neutral but I have been slowly won over by an unremitting series of bad arguments and what appears to be bad faith on the side of those opposing it.

I urge you to extend the Drake's Oyster Company's lease.

- 1) The authors of the act have stated emphatically that the act was not written to exclude permanent aquaculture in Drake's Estero. It is, in fact, part of the heritage agriculture.
- 2) The oyster facility itself is exactly the type of sustainable, eco-friendly operation that we should be holding up as an exemplar.
- 3) There is no real evidence that the oyster operation is harming the ecosystem defined in terms of species diversity and population levels despite sustained attempts to gather some by the Park Service and others.
- 4) In fact, aerial photos show the Eel Grass expanding rather than contracting in comparison to other similar esteros!
- 5) Given that the grass is an anchor species and that it is likely that the oyster population is driving the grass expansion, it seems likely to me that removing the oyster facility could have an unintended consequence of actually reducing species diversity and count!!
- 6) Much of the controversy seems to me driven by inappropriate personal animosity towards the Lunnys and a willingness to use any argument that might work rather than evidence and analysis. Most recently for example, despite a collapse of the evidence that indicated a negative impact by the oyster company and a clear statement of the intent of the act that enabled the park to allow it, the EAC seems to have doubled down and actually hired an organizer to marshal forces against the oyster farm. I am certain they will be able to generate a wave of letters opposing it. I personally have received email from these groups telling me how Drake's Oyster is trying to undermine and destroy our precious national park system and urging me to write or call my representatives to oppose them. If I had not made a point of following the controversy in enough detail to know what was actually going on, I probably would be writing you on the opposite side.

Sincerely, Alan Tabor

Correspondence ID: 48627 **Project:** 33043 **Document:** 43390
Name: Mcglocklin, David
Outside Organization: National Parks Conservation Association Unaffiliated Individual
Received: Dec,01,2011 22:09:52
Correspondence Type: Web Form

Correspondence: I urge you to protect Drakes Estero wilderness next year, as long intended. It is in the public interest to create the West Coast's only marine wilderness for the enjoyment of all. The public has waited nearly four decades for these protections to be implemented, which is an immense compromise in itself. Drakes Estero is a rare wildlife refuge where migrating birds stop over, harbor seals give birth, and fish take shelter in eelgrass. As someone who enjoys our nation's national parks and their wildlife, I urge you to uphold the longstanding plan to convert this very special resource to wilderness.

I urge you to select alternative "A", which protects marine wilderness next year and is the Environmentally Preferred Alternative. The National Park Service is mandated to provide maximum protection to the natural resources at Drakes Estero

and selecting this alternative is the most consistent with the laws and policies affecting this park. Our national parks are set aside for the public and for wildlife protection, and after waiting nearly 40 years for private commercial use rights to expire, it's time to give the estuary the protection it needs. The environmental review shows that alternative "A" is best for public policy, and best protects harbor seals, fish, birds and other natural resources. Drakes Estero is our only marine wilderness on the West Coast, and is irreplaceable, while oysters can be commercially grown elsewhere.

Please honor the promise made for a protected marine wilderness at Drakes Estero. In doing so, you will set a good policy example and reward the public with an enduring legacy feat found nowhere else on the West Coast.

Correspondence ID: 48628 **Project:** 33043 **Document:** 43390
Name: Davis, Seiko
Outside Organization: National Wildlife Federation Action Fund Unaffiliated Individual
Received: Dec,01,2011 22:11:05
Correspondence Type: Web Form
Correspondence: Drakes Estero is the ecological heart of Point Reyes National Seashore and a treasure that belongs to all Americans. In 1976, Congress promised that the Estero would receive full wilderness protection when the current lease for commercial oyster operations expires in 2012. I urge the Park Service to honor the wilderness promise and protect Drakes Estero for future generations.

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Your environmental review also shows that alternative "A"--no new permit for commercial oyster operations and protection of the Estero as full wilderness--is the environmentally preferred alternative and the one that best protects harbor seals, birds, fish and other natural resources.

I urge you to return Drakes Estero to all Americans by selecting alternative "A" and ensuring full wilderness protection for Drakes Estero in 2012. It is time to protect Drakes Estero as Congress intended and to create the West Coast's only marine wilderness for the benefit of people and wildlife.

Correspondence ID: 48629 **Project:** 33043 **Document:** 43390
Name: Hoff, Michelle
Outside Organization: National Wildlife Federation Action Fund Unaffiliated Individual
Received: Dec,01,2011 22:11:45
Correspondence Type: Web Form
Correspondence: Drakes Estero is the ecological heart of Point Reyes National Seashore and a treasure that belongs to all Americans. In 1976, Congress promised that the Estero would receive full wilderness protection when the current lease for commercial oyster operations expires in 2012. I urge the Park Service to honor the wilderness promise and protect Drakes Estero for future generations.

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I urge you to return Drakes Estero to all Americans by selecting alternative "A" and ensuring full wilderness protection for Drakes Estero in 2012. It is time to protect Drakes Estero as Congress intended and to create the West Coast's only marine wilderness for the benefit of people and wildlife.

Correspondence ID: 48630 **Project:** 33043 **Document:** 43390
Name: Barr, Allison
Outside Organization: National Wildlife Federation Action Fund Unaffiliated Individual
Received: Dec,01,2011 22:11:49
Correspondence Type: Web Form
Correspondence: Drakes Estero is the ecological heart of Point Reyes National Seashore and a treasure that belongs to all Americans. In 1976, Congress promised that the Estero would receive full wilderness protection when the current lease for commercial oyster operations expires in 2012. I urge the Park Service to honor the wilderness promise and protect Drakes Estero for future generations.

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and that allowing these operations to continue would cause even more long-term harm.

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Correspondence ID: 48631 **Project:** 33043 **Document:** 43390
Name: Ahlgrim, Cate
Outside Organization: National Wildlife Federation Action Fund Unaffiliated Individual
Received: Dec,01,2011 22:11:49
Correspondence Type: Web Form
Correspondence: Drakes Estero is the ecological heart of Point Reyes National Seashore and a treasure that belongs to all Americans. In 1976, Congress promised that the Estero would receive full wilderness protection when the current lease for commercial oyster operations expires in 2012. I urge the Park Service to honor the wilderness promise and protect Drakes Estero for future generations.

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I urge you to return Drakes Estero to all Americans by selecting alternative "A" and ensuring full wilderness protection for Drakes Estero in 2012. It is time to protect Drakes Estero as Congress intended and to create the West Coast's only marine wilderness for the benefit of people and wildlife.

Correspondence ID: 48632 **Project:** 33043 **Document:** 43390
Name: Peppard, Dean
Outside Organization: Sierra Club Unaffiliated Individual
Received: Dec,01,2011 22:37:58
Correspondence Type: Web Form
Correspondence: I am writing to urge the National Park Service to protect Drakes Estero wilderness next year as long-intended. The American public deserves to have the West Coast's only marine wilderness protected for future generations to enjoy. Drakes Estero is a rare wildlife refuge where migrating birds stop over, harbor seals give birth, and fish spawn. It deserves the highest level of protection as Congress long-intended. As someone who enjoys our nation's spectacular national parks, I urge you to not undermine protections at Drakes Estero and succumb to special interests seeking to commercialize these special places.

I urge the National Park Service and the Department of the Interior to select alternative "A", which protects marine wilderness and is the environmentally preferred alternative. The NPS is mandated to provide maximum protection to the natural resources, as stated in the Seashore's legislation, and selecting this alternative is the most consistent with the laws and policies affecting this park. Our national parks are for the people and wildlife protection, not commercial exploitation. The environmental review shows that alternative "A" best protects harbor seals, fish, birds and other wildlife and plants. Drakes Estero is our only marine wilderness on the West Coast, and it is irreplaceable, while oysters can be grown elsewhere.

National Parks and wilderness areas are treasured by the majority of Americans and are for the public interest, not for private commercial exploitation. By protecting wilderness, the National Park Service will set a positive policy example while commercializing it will set a negative example and help others seek their special exemptions from national park laws.

Correspondence ID: 48633 **Project:** 33043 **Document:** 43390
Name: Devine, Irene
Outside Organization: NRDC Unaffiliated Individual
Received: Dec,01,2011 22:40:13
Correspondence Type: Web Form
Correspondence: Drakes Estero is a national ecological treasure and should become a protected wilderness area. It has outstanding natural resources, including one of California's largest harbor seal colonies and tens of thousands of shorebirds, waterfowl, native fish and endangered species that use its wetlands, mudflats and eelgrass beds.

In the 1976 Point Reyes Wilderness Act, Congress recognized Drakes Estero as a unique recreational and biological resource and promised that this irreplaceable resource would formally become a wilderness area when non-conforming uses were eliminated. Your agency permitted a commercial oyster company to grow non-native oysters and clams on 1,050 acres in

Drakes Estero for 40 years, or until 2012.

Your own draft environmental impact statement reveals the extensive damage that the existing operation has caused to Drakes Estero and Point Reyes National Seashore's beaches. As you know, commercial operations of any kind are not permitted in designated wilderness areas because of such damage. Further, the Park Service's Organic Act mandates protection of park resources and values and strictly limits commercial operations.

Your approval of the proposal to extend the oyster company's permit would be contrary to the Point Reyes Wilderness Act and would establish a dangerous precedent at a time when America's public lands and environmental laws are already under widespread attacks in Congress and elsewhere.

We've been waiting long enough. It is time to allow that permit to expire and to honor Congress' commitment. We want our bay back.

Correspondence ID: 48634 **Project:** 33043 **Document:** 43390
Name: Friberg, Adrienne L
Outside Organization: Unaffiliated Individual
Received: Dec,01,2011 22:51:26
Correspondence Type: Web Form
Correspondence: My husband and family of 15 persons respectfully request that you renew Drakes Bay Oyster farm lease.. We have enjoyed the fresh oysters there for over 50 years, and in that time, as an environmentalist I enjoy hiking in all areas of the Park..In no way does the oyster farm harm the environment..In fact the oysters filter water and help keep the Estero healthy for plants and sea birds, and the sea life in the area..Because the premises is small and set back off the main road, It is not intrusive to anyone..There are thousands of miles of wild lands for all to enjoy..For gods sake don't take away the Lunny family and their employees livlyhood..And especially do not deprive us of the fresh oysters we so enjoy

Correspondence ID: 48635 **Project:** 33043 **Document:** 43390
Name: Trevelyan, George
Outside Organization: Grassy Bar Oyster Company Unaffiliated Individual
Received: Dec,01,2011 22:56:04
Correspondence Type: Web Form
Correspondence: I think this DEIR greatly underestimates the economic and cultural value of the oyster farm. It would be a huge loss to the US if you refuse to renew their lease. Viable, sustainable, ecologically sound seafood production is a true rarity in the US. At a time when most seafood is imported over long distances, DBOC shows us how to grow our own in a benign manner. They make a beautiful example of a "green" fishery. Yes, there are some changes to the infauna caused by oyster cultivation, but these are minor when compared with other forms of food production. If you have a real concern, for instance, eel grass being destroyed by the motorboats, I know that Mr. Lunny will work with you to minimize or eliminate this. Other objections, such as noise, could also be reduced to a minimum by changing some practices. He wants to be a model of ecologically sound shellfish culture. For example, DBOC has applied for permits from the Fish and Game Department to culture native oysters. This shows that he is very willing to change and alter culture practices to address concerns. Please give him a chance to create a jewel of an oyster fishery.

There are very few places left along the west coast for shellfish culture. Indeed, all over the world, shellfish culture is being choked out by pollution as estuaries and bays are being surrounded with people and factories and filled with ships and ports. Shellfish culture can only survive where the water is pristine. There are only a few bays in California where shellfish can be grown. Most have been given over to other uses that make the water too polluted for shellfish culture. Please don't kill shellfish culture in this Estero. It is one of the last places left to cultivate shellfish in California. If you stopped a rancher from raising cattle on your Park, there still remain millions of acres of range land with cattle. But if you kill shellfish culture on Drakes Estero, you have taken away on of the only few places where shellfish can be grown. Furthermore, Drakes Estero is the best shellfish growing bay in all of California. Drakes Estero is a beautiful, pure gem with probably the best water quality of all of California's bays since there is so little development in the watershed. DBOC will keep it that way because it is in their own interest to have pristine water. No other bay is like Drakes Estero. Even Tomales Bay has much slower flushing. Please work with DBOC so that they can coexist in your Park as partners and caretakers, and as an example of a "green" fishery.

Correspondence ID: 48636 **Project:** 33043 **Document:** 43390
Name: DESIEYES, NICHOLAS R
Outside Organization: Unaffiliated Individual
Received: Dec,01,2011 23:04:42
Correspondence Type: Web Form
Correspondence: In Fall 2011, I brought graduate students from the course that I teach on coastal contamination at Stanford University to Drakes Bay Oyster Company for an educational tour of a working aquaculture operation. Drakes Bay did an excellent job with this outreach opportunity, helping my students better understand the scientific and regulatory impacts of aquaculture in coastal California waters, and provided an excellent and direct example of a business working to fill a sustainable agricultural niche in coastal waters. Education and outreach may not be a formal part of the environmental impact assessment of such an operation, but I believe that any private company operating in the coastal setting and benefiting to some degree from public resources should be rewarded for taking the time to provide high-quality educational opportunities to students and the public about the important coastal issues facing our state. From my experience, Drakes Bay Oyster Company is doing an excellent job on this front.

Correspondence ID: 48637 **Project:** 33043 **Document:** 43390

Name: Hobbs, Susan
Outside Organization: Sierra Club Unaffiliated Individual
Received: Dec,01,2011 23:07:56
Correspondence Type: Web Form

Correspondence: I am writing to urge the National Park Service to protect Drakes Estero wilderness next year as long-intended. The American public deserves to have the West Coast's only marine wilderness protected for future generations to enjoy. Drakes Estero is a rare wildlife refuge where migrating birds stop over, harbor seals give birth, and fish spawn. It deserves the highest level of protection as Congress long-intended. As someone who enjoys our nation's spectacular national parks, I urge you to not undermine protections at Drakes Estero and succumb to special interests seeking to commercialize these special places.

I urge the National Park Service and the Department of the Interior to select alternative "A", which protects marine wilderness and is the environmentally preferred alternative. The NPS is mandated to provide maximum protection to the natural resources, as stated in the Seashore's legislation, and selecting this alternative is the most consistent with the laws and policies affecting this park. Our national parks are for the people and wildlife protection, not commercial exploitation. The environmental review shows that alternative "A" best protects harbor seals, fish, birds and other wildlife and plants. Drakes Estero is our only marine wilderness on the West Coast, and it is irreplaceable, while oysters can be grown elsewhere.

National Parks and wilderness areas are treasured by the majority of Americans and are for the public interest, not for private commercial exploitation. By protecting wilderness, the National Park Service will set a positive policy example while commercializing it will set a negative example and help others seek their special exemptions from national park laws.

Correspondence ID: 48638 **Project:** 33043 **Document:** 43390
Name: Gillespie, Troy
Outside Organization: National Wildlife Federation Action Fund Unaffiliated Individual
Received: Dec,01,2011 23:11:14
Correspondence Type: Web Form

Correspondence: Drakes Estero is the ecological heart of Point Reyes National Seashore and a treasure that belongs to all Americans. In 1976, Congress promised that the Estero would receive full wilderness protection when the current lease for commercial oyster operations expires in 2012. I urge the Park Service to honor the wilderness promise and protect Drakes Estero for future generations.

Drakes Estero is home to 20 percent of the mainland breeding population of harbor seals in California and is used by tens of thousands of shorebirds and waterfowl and dozens of species of native fish. Your draft environmental impact statement makes clear that the existing commercial oyster operation is causing extensive damage to Drakes Estero and the Seashore's beaches, and that allowing these operations to continue would cause even more long-term harm.

Your environmental review also shows that alternative "A"--no new permit for commercial oyster operations and protection of the Estero as full wilderness--is the environmentally preferred alternative and the one that best protects harbor seals, birds, fish and other natural resources.

I urge you to return Drakes Estero to all Americans by selecting alternative "A" and ensuring full wilderness protection for Drakes Estero in 2012. It is time to protect Drakes Estero as Congress intended and to create the West Coast's only marine wilderness for the benefit of people and wildlife.

Correspondence ID: 48639 **Project:** 33043 **Document:** 43390
Name: Mijo, John E.
Outside Organization: National Wildlife Federation Action Fund Unaffiliated Individual
Received: Dec,01,2011 23:11:19
Correspondence Type: Web Form

Correspondence: Drakes Estero is the ecological heart of Point Reyes National Seashore and a treasure that belongs to all Americans. In 1976, Congress promised that the Estero would receive full wilderness protection when the current lease for commercial oyster operations expires in 2012. I urge the Park Service to honor the wilderness promise and protect Drakes Estero for future generations.

Drakes Estero is home to 20 percent of the mainland breeding population of harbor seals in California and is used by tens of thousands of shorebirds and waterfowl and dozens of species of native fish. Your draft environmental impact statement makes clear that the existing commercial oyster operation is causing extensive damage to Drakes Estero and the Seashore's beaches, and that allowing these operations to continue would cause even more long-term harm.

Your environmental review also shows that alternative "A"--no new permit for commercial oyster operations and protection of the Estero as full wilderness--is the environmentally preferred alternative and the one that best protects harbor seals, birds, fish and other natural resources.

I urge you to return Drakes Estero to all Americans by selecting alternative "A" and ensuring full wilderness protection for Drakes Estero in 2012. It is time to protect Drakes Estero as Congress intended and to create the West Coast's only marine wilderness for the benefit of people and wildlife.

Correspondence ID: 48640 **Project:** 33043 **Document:** 43390

Name: Rosenthal, Richard
Outside Organization: Unaffiliated Individual
Received: Dec,01,2011 23:36:57
Correspondence Type: Web Form
Correspondence: I support the wilderness designation for Drakes Estero within the Point Reyes National Seashore. I urge the National Park Service and Department of the Interior to uphold the 1976 Point Reyes Wilderness Act and select alternative A, which protects this important marine wilderness and is the environmentally preferred alternative.

Correspondence ID: 48641 **Project:** 33043 **Document:** 43390
Name: Crum, Hannah
Outside Organization: Unaffiliated Individual
Received: Dec,01,2011 23:45:50
Correspondence Type: Web Form
Correspondence: I would like to voice my support for Drakes Bay Oyster Company. It is frustrating that yet another small farm that is working in harmony with nature is being demonized. What we need are stewards of the land, not just a bunch of unused land.

Please keep this family farm alive and let them stay open! They are doing both the environment and us the consumers a service.

Correspondence ID: 48642 **Project:** 33043 **Document:** 43390
Name: Barker-Homek, Peter
Outside Organization: Sierra Club Unaffiliated Individual
Received: Dec,02,2011 00:08:01
Correspondence Type: Web Form
Correspondence: I am writing to urge the National Park Service to protect Drakes Estero wilderness next year as long-intended. The American public deserves to have the West Coast's only marine wilderness protected for future generations to enjoy. Drakes Estero is a rare wildlife refuge where migrating birds stop over, harbor seals give birth, and fish spawn. It deserves the highest level of protection as Congress long-intended. As someone who enjoys our nation's spectacular national parks, I urge you to not undermine protections at Drakes Estero and succumb to special interests seeking to commercialize these special places.

I urge the National Park Service and the Department of the Interior to select alternative "A", which protects marine wilderness and is the environmentally preferred alternative. The NPS is mandated to provide maximum protection to the natural resources, as stated in the Seashore's legislation, and selecting this alternative is the most consistent with the laws and policies affecting this park. Our national parks are for the people and wildlife protection, not commercial exploitation. The environmental review shows that alternative "A" best protects harbor seals, fish, birds and other wildlife and plants. Drakes Estero is our only marine wilderness on the West Coast, and it is irreplaceable, while oysters can be grown elsewhere.

National Parks and wilderness areas are treasured by the majority of Americans and are for the public interest, not for private commercial exploitation. By protecting wilderness, the National Park Service will set a positive policy example while commercializing it will set a negative example and help others seek their special exemptions from national park laws.

Correspondence ID: 48643 **Project:** 33043 **Document:** 43390
Name: O'Loughlin, Kathlene
Outside Organization: National Wildlife Federation Action Fund Unaffiliated Individual
Received: Dec,02,2011 00:11:19
Correspondence Type: Web Form
Correspondence: Drakes Estero is the ecological heart of Point Reyes National Seashore and a treasure that belongs to all Americans. In 1976, Congress promised that the Estero would receive full wilderness protection when the current lease for commercial oyster operations expires in 2012. I urge the Park Service to honor the wilderness promise and protect Drakes Estero for future generations.

Drakes Estero is home to 20 percent of the mainland breeding population of harbor seals in California and is used by tens of thousands of shorebirds and waterfowl and dozens of species of native fish. Your draft environmental impact statement makes clear that the existing commercial oyster operation is causing extensive damage to Drakes Estero and the Seashore's beaches, and that allowing these operations to continue would cause even more long-term harm.

Your environmental review also shows that alternative "A"--no new permit for commercial oyster operations and protection of the Estero as full wilderness--is the environmentally preferred alternative and the one that best protects harbor seals, birds, fish and other natural resources.

I urge you to return Drakes Estero to all Americans by selecting alternative "A" and ensuring full wilderness protection for Drakes Estero in 2012. It is time to protect Drakes Estero as Congress intended and to create the West Coast's only marine wilderness for the benefit of people and wildlife.

Correspondence ID: 48644 **Project:** 33043 **Document:** 43390
Name: Hui, Sng
Outside Organization: National Wildlife Federation Action Fund Unaffiliated Individual
Received: Dec,02,2011 00:11:19
Correspondence Type: Web Form

Correspondence: Drakes Estero is the ecological heart of Point Reyes National Seashore and a treasure that belongs to all Americans. In 1976, Congress promised that the Estero would receive full wilderness protection when the current lease for commercial oyster operations expires in 2012. I urge the Park Service to honor the wilderness promise and protect Drakes Estero for future generations.

Drakes Estero is home to 20 percent of the mainland breeding population of harbor seals in California and is used by tens of thousands of shorebirds and waterfowl and dozens of species of native fish. Your draft environmental impact statement makes clear that the existing commercial oyster operation is causing extensive damage to Drakes Estero and the Seashore's beaches, and that allowing these operations to continue would cause even more long-term harm.

Your environmental review also shows that alternative "A"--no new permit for commercial oyster operations and protection of the Estero as full wilderness--is the environmentally preferred alternative and the one that best protects harbor seals, birds, fish and other natural resources.

I urge you to return Drakes Estero to all Americans by selecting alternative "A" and ensuring full wilderness protection for Drakes Estero in 2012. It is time to protect Drakes Estero as Congress intended and to create the West Coast's only marine wilderness for the benefit of people and wildlife.

Correspondence ID: 48645 **Project:** 33043 **Document:** 43390
Name: LiVolsi, Elizabeth
Outside Organization: National Wildlife Federation Action Fund Unaffiliated Individual
Received: Dec.02,2011 00:11:19
Correspondence Type: Web Form

Correspondence: Drakes Estero is the ecological heart of Point Reyes National Seashore and a treasure that belongs to all Americans. In 1976, Congress promised that the Estero would receive full wilderness protection when the current lease for commercial oyster operations expires in 2012. I urge the Park Service to honor the wilderness promise and protect Drakes Estero for future generations.

Drakes Estero is home to 20 percent of the mainland breeding population of harbor seals in California and is used by tens of thousands of shorebirds and waterfowl and dozens of species of native fish. Your draft environmental impact statement makes clear that the existing commercial oyster operation is causing extensive damage to Drakes Estero and the Seashore's beaches, and that allowing these operations to continue would cause even more long-term harm.

Your environmental review also shows that alternative "A"--no new permit for commercial oyster operations and protection of the Estero as full wilderness--is the environmentally preferred alternative and the one that best protects harbor seals, birds, fish and other natural resources.

I urge you to return Drakes Estero to all Americans by selecting alternative "A" and ensuring full wilderness protection for Drakes Estero in 2012. It is time to protect Drakes Estero as Congress intended and to create the West Coast's only marine wilderness for the benefit of people and wildlife.

Correspondence ID: 48646 **Project:** 33043 **Document:** 43390
Name: Kaliner, David
Outside Organization: National Parks Conservation Association Unaffiliated Individual
Received: Dec.02,2011 00:40:11
Correspondence Type: Web Form

Correspondence: I urge you to protect Drakes Estero wilderness next year, as long intended. It is in the public interest to create the West Coast's only marine wilderness for the enjoyment of all. The public has waited nearly four decades for these protections to be implemented, which is an immense compromise in itself. Drakes Estero is a rare wildlife refuge where migrating birds stop over, harbor seals give birth, and fish take shelter in eelgrass. As someone who enjoys our nation's national parks and their wildlife, I urge you to uphold the longstanding plan to convert this very special resource to wilderness.

I urge you to select alternative "A", which protects marine wilderness next year and is the Environmentally Preferred Alternative. The National Park Service is mandated to provide maximum protection to the natural resources at Drakes Estero and selecting this alternative is the most consistent with the laws and policies affecting this park. Our national parks are set aside for the public and for wildlife protection, and after waiting nearly 40 years for private commercial use rights to expire, it's time to give the estuary the protection it needs. The environmental review shows that alternative "A" is best for public policy, and best protects harbor seals, fish, birds and other natural resources. Drakes Estero is our only marine wilderness on the West Coast, and is irreplaceable, while oysters can be commercially grown elsewhere.

Please honor the promise made for a protected marine wilderness at Drakes Estero. In doing so, you will set a good policy example and reward the public with an enduring legacy feat found nowhere else on the West Coast.

Correspondence ID: 48647 **Project:** 33043 **Document:** 43390
Name: Hubbard, James
Outside Organization: National Parks Conservation Association Unaffiliated Individual
Received: Dec.02,2011 00:40:11
Correspondence Type: Web Form

Correspondence: I urge you to protect Drakes Estero wilderness next year, as it is in the public interest to create the West Coast's only marine wilderness for the enjoyment of all. The public has waited nearly four decades for these protections to be implemented, which is already an immense compromise in itself. Drakes Estero is a rare wildlife refuge; and as someone who enjoys our nation's national parks and their wildlife, I urge you to uphold the longstanding plan to convert this very special resource to wilderness.

I urge you to select alternative "A", which protects marine wilderness next year and is the Environmentally Preferred Alternative. The National Park Service is mandated to provide maximum protection to the natural resources at Drakes Estero and selecting this alternative is the most consistent with the laws and policies affecting this park. Our national parks are set aside for the public and for wildlife protection, and after waiting nearly 40 years for private commercial use rights to expire, it's time to give the estuary the protection it needs. The environmental review shows that alternative "A" is best for public policy, and best protects harbor seals, fish, birds and other natural resources. Drakes Estero is our only marine wilderness on the West Coast, and is irreplaceable, while oysters can be commercially grown elsewhere.

Please honor the promise made for a protected marine wilderness at Drakes Estero. In doing so, you will set a good policy example and reward the public with an enduring legacy feat found nowhere else on the West Coast.

Correspondence ID: 48648 **Project:** 33043 **Document:** 43390
Name: Melton, Kathryn
Outside Organization: National Wildlife Federation Action Fund Unaffiliated Individual
Received: Dec,02,2011 00:41:19
Correspondence Type: Web Form

Correspondence: Drakes Estero is the ecological heart of Point Reyes National Seashore and a treasure that belongs to all Americans. In 1976, Congress promised that the Estero would receive full wilderness protection when the current lease for commercial oyster operations expires in 2012. I urge the Park Service to honor the wilderness promise and protect Drakes Estero for future generations.

Drakes Estero is home to 20 percent of the mainland breeding population of harbor seals in California and is used by tens of thousands of shorebirds and waterfowl and dozens of species of native fish. Your draft environmental impact statement makes clear that the existing commercial oyster operation is causing extensive damage to Drakes Estero and the Seashore's beaches, and that allowing these operations to continue would cause even more long-term harm.

Your environmental review also shows that alternative "A"--no new permit for commercial oyster operations and protection of the Estero as full wilderness--is the environmentally preferred alternative and the one that best protects harbor seals, birds, fish and other natural resources.

I urge you to return Drakes Estero to all Americans by selecting alternative "A" and ensuring full wilderness protection for Drakes Estero in 2012. It is time to protect Drakes Estero as Congress intended and to create the West Coast's only marine wilderness for the benefit of people and wildlife.

Correspondence ID: 48649 **Project:** 33043 **Document:** 43390
Name: Solaas, Katherine
Outside Organization: National Wildlife Federation Action Fund Unaffiliated Individual
Received: Dec,02,2011 00:41:19
Correspondence Type: Web Form

Correspondence: Drakes Estero is the ecological heart of Point Reyes National Seashore and a treasure that belongs to all Americans. In 1976, Congress promised that the Estero would receive full wilderness protection when the current lease for commercial oyster operations expires in 2012. I urge the Park Service to honor the wilderness promise and protect Drakes Estero for future generations.

Drakes Estero is home to 20 percent of the mainland breeding population of harbor seals in California and is used by tens of thousands of shorebirds and waterfowl and dozens of species of native fish. Your draft environmental impact statement makes clear that the existing commercial oyster operation is causing extensive damage to Drakes Estero and the Seashore's beaches, and that allowing these operations to continue would cause even more long-term harm.

Your environmental review also shows that alternative "A"--no new permit for commercial oyster operations and protection of the Estero as full wilderness--is the environmentally preferred alternative and the one that best protects harbor seals, birds, fish and other natural resources.

I urge you to return Drakes Estero to all Americans by selecting alternative "A" and ensuring full wilderness protection for Drakes Estero in 2012. It is time to protect Drakes Estero as Congress intended and to create the West Coast's only marine wilderness for the benefit of people and wildlife.

Correspondence ID: 48650 **Project:** 33043 **Document:** 43390
Name: Ewing, Tory
Outside Organization: National Wildlife Federation Action Fund Unaffiliated Individual
Received: Dec,02,2011 00:41:30
Correspondence Type: Web Form

Correspondence: Drakes Estero is the ecological heart of Point Reyes National Seashore and a treasure that belongs to all Americans. In 1976,

Congress promised that the Estero would receive full wilderness protection when the current lease for commercial oyster operations expires in 2012. I urge the Park Service to honor the wilderness promise and protect Drakes Estero for future generations.

Drakes Estero is home to 20 percent of the mainland breeding population of harbor seals in California and is used by tens of thousands of shorebirds and waterfowl and dozens of species of native fish. Your draft environmental impact statement makes clear that the existing commercial oyster operation is causing extensive damage to Drakes Estero and the Seashore's beaches, and that allowing these operations to continue would cause even more long-term harm.

Your environmental review also shows that alternative "A"--no new permit for commercial oyster operations and protection of the Estero as full wilderness--is the environmentally preferred alternative and the one that best protects harbor seals, birds, fish and other natural resources.

I urge you to return Drakes Estero to all Americans by selecting alternative "A" and ensuring full wilderness protection for Drakes Estero in 2012. It is time to protect Drakes Estero as Congress intended and to create the West Coast's only marine wilderness for the benefit of people and wildlife.

Correspondence ID: 48651 **Project:** 33043 **Document:** 43390
Name: N/A, N/A
Outside Organization: Unaffiliated Individual
Received: Dec,02,2011 01:05:41
Correspondence Type: Web Form
Correspondence: Hello, I support Drakes Bay Oyster Company and believe that sustainably farmed oysters improve the environment and do not harm it.

Thanks.

Correspondence ID: 48652 **Project:** 33043 **Document:** 43390
Name: B., Elise
Outside Organization: Unaffiliated Individual
Received: Dec,02,2011 01:14:19
Correspondence Type: Web Form
Correspondence: I SUPPORT Drakes Bay Oyster Company and all sustainably farmed oyster farms. I believe that sustainably farmed oysters IMPROVE the environment and do not harm it in any way.

Drakes Bay Oyster Farm is good for the environment and I demand that you let them stay open. Oysters are critical to our oceans and to the livelihoods of so many people. Why would we want to put more people out of work?

The National Parks Service is to serve the people. There is no you without We the People!

Correspondence ID: 48653 **Project:** 33043 **Document:** 43390
Name: Palladine, Michelle
Outside Organization: Unaffiliated Individual
Received: Dec,02,2011 01:25:48
Correspondence Type: Web Form
Correspondence: I urge the National Park Service and Department of the Interior to uphold the 1976 Point Reyes Wilderness Act and select alternative A, which protects this important marine wilderness and is the environmentally preferred alternative. Drakes Estero is a unique and ecologically significant wildlife area. It is an important stop on the flyway for migrating birds, a refuge and birthplace for harbor seals and a critical native fish nursery. Congress and the public have long intended that Drakes Estero be given the highest federal level of protection as a wilderness area when the commercial oyster lease expires in 2012. This can only be accomplished by selecting Alternative "A" and ending commercial use of this sensitive wildlife refuge. Alternative A is the most consistent with National Park Service laws and policies. The Park Service's environmental review shows that alternative "A" best protects wildlife and the National Park experience. Our national parks are for the people and wildlife protection, and wilderness areas with our parks should not prioritize commercial exploitation. The American public deserves to have this unique marine wilderness protected in a natural state for future generations to enjoy. Drakes Estero is the only marine wilderness on the West Coast, and is irreplaceable, while oysters can be grown elsewhere. As someone who enjoys our spectacular national parks, I urge you to not undermine protections at Drakes Estero and succumb to special interests seeking to commercialize these special places.

Correspondence ID: 48654 **Project:** 33043 **Document:** 43390
Name: Pach, Julianne
Outside Organization: National Wildlife Federation Action Fund Unaffiliated Individual
Received: Dec,02,2011 02:41:27
Correspondence Type: Web Form
Correspondence: Drakes Estero is the ecological heart of Point Reyes National Seashore and a treasure that belongs to all Americans. In 1976, Congress promised that the Estero would receive full wilderness protection when the current lease for commercial oyster operations expires in 2012. I urge the Park Service to honor the wilderness promise and protect Drakes Estero for future generations.

Drakes Estero is home to 20 percent of the mainland breeding population of harbor seals in California and is used by tens of thousands of shorebirds and waterfowl and dozens of species of native fish. Your draft environmental impact statement makes clear that the existing commercial oyster operation is causing extensive damage to Drakes Estero and the Seashore's beaches, and that allowing these operations to continue would cause even more long-term harm.

Your environmental review also shows that alternative "A"--no new permit for commercial oyster operations and protection of the Estero as full wilderness--is the environmentally preferred alternative and the one that best protects harbor seals, birds, fish and other natural resources.

I urge you to return Drakes Estero to all Americans by selecting alternative "A" and ensuring full wilderness protection for Drakes Estero in 2012. It is time to protect Drakes Estero as Congress intended and to create the West Coast's only marine wilderness for the benefit of people and wildlife.

Correspondence ID: 48655 **Project:** 33043 **Document:** 43390
Name: Nishikawa, Thomas
Outside Organization: Sierra Club Unaffiliated Individual
Received: Dec,02,2011 03:08:13
Correspondence Type: Web Form
Correspondence:

I am writing to urge the National Park Service to protect Drakes Estero wilderness next year as long-intended. The American public deserves to have the West Coast's only marine wilderness protected for future generations to enjoy. Drakes Estero is a rare wildlife refuge where migrating birds stop over, harbor seals give birth, and fish spawn. It deserves the highest level of protection as Congress long-intended. As someone who enjoys our nation's spectacular national parks, I urge you to not undermine protections at Drakes Estero and succumb to special interests seeking to commercialize these special places.

I urge the National Park Service and the Department of the Interior to select alternative "A", which protects marine wilderness and is the environmentally preferred alternative. The NPS is mandated to provide maximum protection to the natural resources, as stated in the Seashore's legislation, and selecting this alternative is the most consistent with the laws and policies affecting this park. Our national parks are for the people and wildlife protection, not commercial exploitation. The environmental review shows that alternative "A" best protects harbor seals, fish, birds and other wildlife and plants. Drakes Estero is our only marine wilderness on the West Coast, and it is irreplaceable, while oysters can be grown elsewhere.

National Parks and wilderness areas are treasured by the majority of Americans and are for the public interest, not for private commercial exploitation. By protecting wilderness, the National Park Service will set a positive policy example while commercializing it will set a negative example and help others seek their special exemptions from national park laws.

Correspondence ID: 48656 **Project:** 33043 **Document:** 43390
Name: Alfonso, Brittany O
Outside Organization: Unaffiliated Individual
Received: Dec,02,2011 03:09:09
Correspondence Type: Web Form
Correspondence:

As a student, I have learned of many instances where profit drives decisions. I can cite many examples of how the value of money is chosen over nature. I feel as if we are looking at Drakes Estero in terms of what it can give us, we are looking at it as a potential for profit. This is wrong. To not honor an agreement and contract is wrong. To ignore the fact that Drake's Estero is home to a large number of wild-life species is shameful. The Wilderness act protects nature from businesses who attempt to destroy it. The economy that the oyster farm brings to the local community and the jobs that are provided through the oyster farm are all great arguments. But the matter stands that this isn't about us-- it's about the wilderness. Drakes Bay Oyster Farm has found their way around the rules once before; let's not allow them to do it again.

Correspondence ID: 48657 **Project:** 33043 **Document:** 43390
Name: Kanter, David
Outside Organization: National Wildlife Federation Action Fund Unaffiliated Individual
Received: Dec,02,2011 03:11:31
Correspondence Type: Web Form
Correspondence:

Drakes Estero is the ecological heart of Point Reyes National Seashore and a treasure that belongs to all Americans. In 1976, Congress promised that the Estero would receive full wilderness protection when the current lease for commercial oyster operations expires in 2012. I urge the Park Service to honor the wilderness promise and protect Drakes Estero for future generations.

Drakes Estero is home to 20 percent of the mainland breeding population of harbor seals in California and is used by tens of thousands of shorebirds and waterfowl and dozens of species of native fish. Your draft environmental impact statement makes clear that the existing commercial oyster operation is causing extensive damage to Drakes Estero and the Seashore's beaches, and that allowing these operations to continue would cause even more long-term harm.

Your environmental review also shows that alternative "A"--no new permit for commercial oyster operations and protection of the Estero as full wilderness--is the environmentally preferred alternative and the one that best protects harbor seals, birds, fish and other natural resources.

I urge you to return Drakes Estero to all Americans by selecting alternative "A" and ensuring full wilderness protection for Drakes Estero in 2012. It is time to protect Drakes Estero as Congress intended and to create the West Coast's only marine wilderness for the benefit of people and wildlife.

Thank you so much for your time and consideration regarding this critical matter.

Correspondence ID: 48658 **Project:** 33043 **Document:** 43390
Name: Marshall, Carolyn
Outside Organization: National Wildlife Federation Action Fund Unaffiliated Individual
Received: Dec.02,2011 03:11:31
Correspondence Type: Web Form

Correspondence: Drakes Estero is the ecological heart of Point Reyes National Seashore and a treasure that belongs to all Americans. In 1976, Congress promised that the Estero would receive full wilderness protection when the current lease for commercial oyster operations expires in 2012. I urge the Park Service to honor the wilderness promise and protect Drakes Estero for future generations.

Drakes Estero is home to 20 percent of the mainland breeding population of harbor seals in California and is used by tens of thousands of shorebirds and waterfowl and dozens of species of native fish. Your draft environmental impact statement makes clear that the existing commercial oyster operation is causing extensive damage to Drakes Estero and the Seashore's beaches, and that allowing these operations to continue would cause even more long-term harm.

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I urge you to return Drakes Estero to all Americans by selecting alternative "A" and ensuring full wilderness protection for Drakes Estero in 2012. It is time to protect Drakes Estero as Congress intended and to create the West Coast's only marine wilderness for the benefit of people and wildlife.

Correspondence ID: 48659 **Project:** 33043 **Document:** 43390
Name: Spoerl, Tod Alan
Outside Organization: National Wildlife Federation Action Fund Unaffiliated Individual
Received: Dec.02,2011 03:41:32
Correspondence Type: Web Form

Correspondence: Drakes Estero is the ecological heart of Point Reyes National Seashore and a treasure that belongs to all Americans. In 1976, Congress promised that the Estero would receive full wilderness protection when the current lease for commercial oyster operations expires in 2012. I urge the Park Service to honor the wilderness promise and protect Drakes Estero for future generations.

Drakes Estero is home to 20 percent of the mainland breeding population of harbor seals in California and is used by tens of thousands of shorebirds and waterfowl and dozens of species of native fish. Your draft environmental impact statement makes clear that the existing commercial oyster operation is causing extensive damage to Drakes Estero and the Seashore's beaches, and that allowing these operations to continue would cause even more long-term harm.

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I urge you to return Drakes Estero to all Americans by selecting alternative "A" and ensuring full wilderness protection for Drakes Estero in 2012. It is time to protect Drakes Estero as Congress intended and to create the West Coast's only marine wilderness for the benefit of people and wildlife.

Correspondence ID: 48660 **Project:** 33043 **Document:** 43390
Name: bianco, diletta
Outside Organization: Sierra Club Unaffiliated Individual
Received: Dec.02,2011 04:38:29
Correspondence Type: Web Form

Correspondence: I am writing to urge the National Park Service to protect Drakes Estero wilderness next year as long-intended. The American public deserves to have the West Coast's only marine wilderness protected for future generations to enjoy. Drakes Estero is a rare wildlife refuge where migrating birds stop over, harbor seals give birth, and fish spawn. It deserves the highest level of protection as Congress long-intended. As someone who enjoys our nation's spectacular national parks, I urge you to not undermine protections at Drakes Estero and succumb to special interests seeking to commercialize these special places.

I urge the National Park Service and the Department of the Interior to select alternative "A", which protects marine wilderness and is the environmentally preferred alternative. The NPS is mandated to provide maximum protection to the natural resources, as stated in the Seashore's legislation, and selecting this alternative is the most consistent with the laws and policies affecting this park. Our national parks are for the people and wildlife protection, not commercial exploitation. The environmental review shows that alternative "A" best protects harbor seals, fish, birds and other wildlife and plants. Drakes Estero is our only marine

wilderness on the West Coast, and it is irreplaceable, while oysters can be grown elsewhere.

National Parks and wilderness areas are treasured by the majority of Americans and are for the public interest, not for private commercial exploitation. By protecting wilderness, the National Park Service will set a positive policy example while commercializing it will set a negative example and help others seek their special exemptions from national park laws.

Correspondence ID: 48661 **Project:** 33043 **Document:** 43390
Name: Jimenez, Roch
Outside Organization: National Parks Conservation Association Unaffiliated Individual
Received: Dec.02,2011 05:40:47
Correspondence Type: Web Form
Correspondence: I urge you to protect Drakes Estero wilderness next year, as long intended. It is in the public interest to create the West Coast's only marine wilderness for the enjoyment of all. The public has waited nearly four decades for these protections to be implemented, which is an immense compromise in itself. Drakes Estero is a rare wildlife refuge where migrating birds stop over, harbor seals give birth, and fish take shelter in eelgrass. As someone who enjoys our nation's national parks and their wildlife, I urge you to uphold the longstanding plan to convert this very special resource to wilderness.

I urge you to select alternative "A", which protects marine wilderness next year and is the Environmentally Preferred Alternative. The National Park Service is mandated to provide maximum protection to the natural resources at Drakes Estero and selecting this alternative is the most consistent with the laws and policies affecting this park. Our national parks are set aside for the public and for wildlife protection, and after waiting nearly 40 years for private commercial use rights to expire, it's time to give the estuary the protection it needs. The environmental review shows that alternative "A" is best for public policy, and best protects harbor seals, fish, birds and other natural resources. Drakes Estero is our only marine wilderness on the West Coast, and is irreplaceable, while oysters can be commercially grown elsewhere.

Please honor the promise made for a protected marine wilderness at Drakes Estero. In doing so, you will set a good policy example and reward the public with an enduring legacy feat found nowhere else on the West Coast.

Correspondence ID: 48662 **Project:** 33043 **Document:** 43390
Name: Spera, Kathy
Outside Organization: National Wildlife Federation Action Fund Unaffiliated Individual
Received: Dec,02,2011 06:11:46
Correspondence Type: Web Form
Correspondence: Drakes Estero is the ecological heart of Point Reyes National Seashore and a treasure that belongs to all Americans. In 1976, Congress promised that the Estero would receive full wilderness protection when the current lease for commercial oyster operations expires in 2012. I urge the Park Service to honor the wilderness promise and protect Drakes Estero for future generations.

Drakes Estero is home to 20 percent of the mainland breeding population of harbor seals in California and is used by tens of thousands of shorebirds and waterfowl and dozens of species of native fish. Your draft environmental impact statement makes clear that the existing commercial oyster operation is causing extensive damage to Drakes Estero and the Seashore's beaches, and that allowing these operations to continue would cause even more long-term harm.

Your environmental review also shows that alternative "A"--no new permit for commercial oyster operations and protection of the Estero as full wilderness--is the environmentally preferred alternative and the one that best protects harbor seals, birds, fish and other natural resources.

I urge you to return Drakes Estero to all Americans by selecting alternative "A" and ensuring full wilderness protection for Drakes Estero in 2012. It is time to protect Drakes Estero as Congress intended and to create the West Coast's only marine wilderness for the benefit of people and wildlife.

Correspondence ID: 48663 **Project:** 33043 **Document:** 43390
Name: Daniels-Dattilo, Stacey L
Outside Organization: Unaffiliated Individual
Received: Dec,02,2011 06:23:43
Correspondence Type: Web Form
Correspondence: I support the wilderness designation for Drakes Estero within the Point Reyes National Seashore. I urge the National Park Service and Department of the Interior to uphold the 1976 Point Reyes Wilderness Act and select alternative A, which protects this important marine wilderness and is the environmentally preferred alternative.

Drakes Estero is a unique and ecologically significant wildlife area. It is an important stop on the flyway for migrating birds, a refuge and birthplace for harbor seals and a critical native fish nursery. Congress and the public have long intended that Drakes Estero be given the highest federal level of protection as a wilderness area when the commercial oyster lease expires in 2012.

This can only be accomplished by selecting Alternative "A" and ending commercial use of this sensitive wildlife refuge. Alternative A is the most consistent with National Park Service laws and policies. The Park Service's environmental review

shows that alternative "A" best protects wildlife and the National Park experience.

Our national parks are for the people and wildlife protection, and wilderness areas with our parks should not prioritize commercial exploitation. The American public deserves to have this unique marine wilderness protected in a natural state for future generations to enjoy.

Drakes Estero is the only marine wilderness on the West Coast, and is irreplaceable, while oysters can be grown elsewhere.

As someone who enjoys our spectacular national parks, I urge you to not undermine protections at Drakes Estero and succumb to special interests seeking to commercialize these special places.

Correspondence ID: 48664 **Project:** 33043 **Document:** 43390
Name: Gardner, David
Outside Organization: National Wildlife Federation Action Fund Unaffiliated Individual
Received: Dec.02,2011 06:41:46
Correspondence Type: Web Form
Correspondence:

Drakes Estero is the ecological heart of Point Reyes National Seashore and a treasure that belongs to all Americans. In 1976, Congress promised that the Estero would receive full wilderness protection when the current lease for commercial oyster operations expires in 2012. I urge the Park Service to honor the wilderness promise and protect Drakes Estero for future generations.

Drakes Estero is home to 20 percent of the mainland breeding population of harbor seals in California and is used by tens of thousands of shorebirds and waterfowl and dozens of species of native fish. Your draft environmental impact statement makes clear that the existing commercial oyster operation is causing extensive damage to Drakes Estero and the Seashore's beaches, and that allowing these operations to continue would cause even more long-term harm.

Your environmental review also shows that alternative "A"--no new permit for commercial oyster operations and protection of the Estero as full wilderness--is the environmentally preferred alternative and the one that best protects harbor seals, birds, fish and other natural resources.

I urge you to return Drakes Estero to all Americans by selecting alternative "A" and ensuring full wilderness protection for Drakes Estero in 2012. It is time to protect Drakes Estero as Congress intended and to create the West Coast's only marine wilderness for the benefit of people and wildlife.

Correspondence ID: 48665 **Project:** 33043 **Document:** 43390
Name: Maret, Hunter
Outside Organization: National Wildlife Federation Action Fund Unaffiliated Individual
Received: Dec.02,2011 07:11:44
Correspondence Type: Web Form
Correspondence:

Drakes Estero is the ecological heart of Point Reyes National Seashore and a treasure that belongs to all Americans. In 1976, Congress promised that the Estero would receive full wilderness protection when the current lease for commercial oyster operations expires in 2012. I urge the Park Service to honor the wilderness promise and protect Drakes Estero for future generations.

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Your environmental review also shows that alternative "A"--no new permit for commercial oyster operations and protection of the Estero as full wilderness--is the environmentally preferred alternative and the one that best protects harbor seals, birds, fish and other natural resources.

I urge you to return Drakes Estero to all Americans by selecting alternative "A" and ensuring full wilderness protection for Drakes Estero in 2012. It is time to protect Drakes Estero as Congress intended and to create the West Coast's only marine wilderness for the benefit of people and wildlife.

Correspondence ID: 48666 **Project:** 33043 **Document:** 43390
Name: Monk-Warwick, Sylvie
Outside Organization: Unaffiliated Individual
Received: Dec.02,2011 07:27:21
Correspondence Type: Web Form
Correspondence:

"None of the proposed alternatives are appropriate. I support a renewable Special Use Permit for Drakes Bay Oyster Company."

Correspondence ID: 48667 **Project:** 33043 **Document:** 43390
Name: collard, Seychelle
Outside Organization: National Wildlife Federation Action Fund Unaffiliated Individual
Received: Dec,02,2011 07:41:50
Correspondence Type: Web Form

Correspondence: Drakes Estero is the ecological heart of Point Reyes National Seashore and a treasure that belongs to all Americans. In 1976, Congress promised that the Estero would receive full wilderness protection when the current lease for commercial oyster operations expires in 2012. I urge the Park Service to honor the wilderness promise and protect Drakes Estero for future generations.

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I urge you to return Drakes Estero to all Americans by selecting alternative "A" and ensuring full wilderness protection for Drakes Estero in 2012. It is time to protect Drakes Estero as Congress intended and to create the West Coast's only marine wilderness for the benefit of people and wildlife.

Correspondence ID: 48668 **Project:** 33043 **Document:** 43390
Name: Bowlin, Joyce
Outside Organization: National Wildlife Federation Action Fund Unaffiliated Individual
Received: Dec,02,2011 07:42:02
Correspondence Type: Web Form

Correspondence: Drakes Estero is the ecological heart of Point Reyes National Seashore and a treasure that belongs to all Americans. In 1976, Congress promised that the Estero would receive full wilderness protection when the current lease for commercial oyster operations expires in 2012. I urge the Park Service to honor the wilderness promise and protect Drakes Estero for future generations.

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Your environmental review also shows that alternative "A"--no new permit for commercial oyster operations and protection of the Estero as full wilderness--is the environmentally preferred alternative and the one that best protects harbor seals, birds, fish and other natural resources.

I urge you to return Drakes Estero to all Americans by selecting alternative "A" and ensuring full wilderness protection for Drakes Estero in 2012. It is time to protect Drakes Estero as Congress intended and to create the West Coast's only marine wilderness for the benefit of people and wildlife.

Correspondence ID: 48669 **Project:** 33043 **Document:** 43390
Name: Wilson, Thomas
Outside Organization: National Wildlife Federation Action Fund Unaffiliated Individual
Received: Dec,02,2011 07:42:09
Correspondence Type: Web Form

Correspondence: Drakes Estero is the ecological heart of Point Reyes National Seashore and a treasure that belongs to all Americans. In 1976, Congress promised that the Estero would receive full wilderness protection when the current lease for commercial oyster operations expires in 2012. I urge the Park Service to honor the wilderness promise and protect Drakes Estero for future generations.

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Your environmental review also shows that alternative "A"--no new permit for commercial oyster operations and protection of the Estero as full wilderness--is the environmentally preferred alternative and the one that best protects harbor seals, birds, fish and other natural resources.

I urge you to return Drakes Estero to all Americans by selecting alternative "A" and ensuring full wilderness protection for Drakes Estero in 2012. It is time to protect Drakes Estero as Congress intended and to create the West Coast's only marine wilderness for the benefit of people and wildlife.

Correspondence ID: 48670 **Project:** 33043 **Document:** 43390
Name: Mannsfeld, bjoern a
Outside Organization: Unaffiliated Individual
Received: Dec.02,2011 07:42:50
Correspondence Type: Web Form
Correspondence: I support the wilderness designation for Drakes Estero within the Point Reyes National Seashore. I urge the National Park Service and Department of the Interior to uphold the 1976 Point Reyes Wilderness Act and select alternative A, which protects this important marine wilderness and is the environmentally preferred alternative.

Drakes Estero is a unique and ecologically significant wildlife area. It is an important stop on the flyway for migrating birds, a refuge and birthplace for harbor seals and a critical native fish nursery. Congress and the public have long intended that Drakes Estero be given the highest federal level of protection as a wilderness area when the commercial oyster lease expires in 2012.

This can only be accomplished by selecting Alternative "A" and ending commercial use of this sensitive wildlife refuge. Alternative A is the most consistent with National Park Service laws and policies. The Park Service's environmental review shows that alternative "A" best protects wildlife and the National Park experience.

Our national parks are for the people and wildlife protection, and wilderness areas with our parks should not prioritize commercial exploitation. The American public deserves to have this unique marine wilderness protected in a natural state for future generations to enjoy.

Drakes Estero is the only marine wilderness on the West Coast, and is irreplaceable, while oysters can be grown elsewhere.

As someone who enjoys our spectacular national parks, I urge you to not undermine protections at Drakes Estero and succumb to special interests seeking to commercialize these special places.

Correspondence ID: 48671 **Project:** 33043 **Document:** 43390
Name: Hearn-Everitt, Jenae
Outside Organization: National Wildlife Federation Action Fund Unaffiliated Individual
Received: Dec.02,2011 08:11:51
Correspondence Type: Web Form
Correspondence: Drakes Estero is the ecological heart of Point Reyes National Seashore and a treasure that belongs to all Americans. In 1976, Congress promised that the Estero would receive full wilderness protection when the current lease for commercial oyster operations expires in 2012. I urge the Park Service to honor the wilderness promise and protect Drakes Estero for future generations.

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Your environmental review also shows that alternative "A"--no new permit for commercial oyster operations and protection of the Estero as full wilderness--is the environmentally preferred alternative and the one that best protects harbor seals, birds, fish and other natural resources.

I urge you to return Drakes Estero to all Americans by selecting alternative "A" and ensuring full wilderness protection for Drakes Estero in 2012. It is time to protect Drakes Estero as Congress intended and to create the West Coast's only marine wilderness for the benefit of people and wildlife.

Correspondence ID: 48672 **Project:** 33043 **Document:** 43390
Name: Pellecchia, Anthony
Outside Organization: National Wildlife Federation Action Fund Unaffiliated Individual
Received: Dec.02,2011 08:11:51
Correspondence Type: Web Form
Correspondence: Drakes Estero is the ecological heart of Point Reyes National Seashore and a treasure that belongs to all Americans. In 1976, Congress promised that the Estero would receive full wilderness protection when the current lease for commercial oyster operations expires in 2012. I urge the Park Service to honor the wilderness promise and protect Drakes Estero for future generations.

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and other natural resources.

I urge you to return Drakes Estero to all Americans by selecting alternative "A" and ensuring full wilderness protection for Drakes Estero in 2012. It is time to protect Drakes Estero as Congress intended and to create the West Coast's only marine wilderness for the benefit of people and wildlife.

Correspondence ID: 48673 **Project:** 33043 **Document:** 43390
Name: Arsenaault, Paula M.
Outside Organization: National Wildlife Federation Action Fund Unaffiliated Individual
Received: Dec.02,2011 08:11:51
Correspondence Type: Web Form

Correspondence: Drakes Estero is the ecological heart of Point Reyes National Seashore and a treasure that belongs to all Americans. In 1976, Congress promised that the Estero would receive full wilderness protection when the current lease for commercial oyster operations expires in 2012. I urge the Park Service to honor the wilderness promise and protect Drakes Estero for future generations.

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Your environmental review also shows that alternative "A"--no new permit for commercial oyster operations and protection of the Estero as full wilderness--is the environmentally preferred alternative and the one that best protects harbor seals, birds, fish and other natural resources.

I urge you to return Drakes Estero to all Americans by selecting alternative "A" and ensuring full wilderness protection for Drakes Estero in 2012. It is time to protect Drakes Estero as Congress intended and to create the West Coast's only marine wilderness for the benefit of people and wildlife.

Correspondence ID: 48674 **Project:** 33043 **Document:** 43390
Name: Wright, Carolyne
Outside Organization: NRDC Unaffiliated Individual
Received: Dec.02,2011 08:41:13
Correspondence Type: Web Form

Correspondence: Drakes Estero is a national ecological treasure and should become a protected wilderness area. It has outstanding natural resources, including one of California's largest harbor seal colonies and tens of thousands of shorebirds, waterfowl, native fish and endangered species that use its wetlands, mudflats and eelgrass beds.

In the 1976 Point Reyes Wilderness Act, Congress recognized Drakes Estero as a unique recreational and biological resource and promised that this irreplaceable resource would formally become a wilderness area when non-conforming uses were eliminated. Your agency permitted a commercial oyster company to grow non-native oysters and clams on 1,050 acres in Drakes Estero for 40 years, or until 2012.

Your own draft environmental impact statement reveals the extensive damage that the existing operation has caused to Drakes Estero and Point Reyes National Seashore's beaches. As you know, commercial operations of any kind are not permitted in designated wilderness areas because of such damage. Further, the Park Service's Organic Act mandates protection of park resources and values and strictly limits commercial operations.

Your approval of the proposal to extend the oyster company's permit would be contrary to the Point Reyes Wilderness Act and would establish a dangerous precedent at a time when America's public lands and environmental laws are already under widespread attacks in Congress and elsewhere.

We've been waiting long enough. It is time to allow that permit to expire and to honor Congress' commitment. We want our bay back.

Correspondence ID: 48675 **Project:** 33043 **Document:** 43390
Name: Jorabchi, Hadi
Outside Organization: Unaffiliated Individual
Received: Dec.02,2011 08:44:50
Correspondence Type: Web Form

Correspondence: I support the wilderness designation for Drakes Estero within the Point Reyes National Seashore. I urge the National Park Service and Department of the Interior to uphold the 1976 Point Reyes Wilderness Act and select alternative A, which protects this important marine wilderness and is the environmentally preferred alternative.

Drakes Estero is a unique and ecologically significant wildlife area. It is an important stop on the flyway for migrating birds, a refuge and birthplace for harbor seals and a critical native fish nursery. Congress and the public have long intended that Drakes

Estero be given the highest federal level of protection as a wilderness area when the commercial oyster lease expires in 2012.

This can only be accomplished by selecting Alternative "A" and ending commercial use of this sensitive wildlife refuge. Alternative A is the most consistent with National Park Service laws and policies. The Park Service's environmental review shows that alternative "A" best protects wildlife and the National Park experience.

Our national parks are for the people and wildlife protection, and wilderness areas with our parks should not prioritize commercial exploitation. The American public deserves to have this unique marine wilderness protected in a natural state for future generations to enjoy.

Drakes Estero is the only marine wilderness on the West Coast, and is irreplaceable, while oysters can be grown elsewhere.

As someone who enjoys our spectacular national parks, I urge you to not undermine protections at Drakes Estero and succumb to special interests seeking to commercialize these special places.

Correspondence ID: 48676 **Project:** 33043 **Document:** 43390
Name: Refes, Necia
Outside Organization: Unaffiliated Individual
Received: Dec,02,2011 08:50:48
Correspondence Type: Web Form

Correspondence: A large portion of our family lives on the West Coast and we always include one or more of our National Parks in our visits. Visiting our wild-lands is an important break from the "daily grind" of life; it is like going to church. We are very involved and concerned about these special places and want them to remain untouched. That is the reason for this comment.

The heart of the Point Reyes National Seashore in Northern California is where Drake's Bay Oyster Company" is attempting to overturn the wilderness designation passed by congress in 1976. In 2005 when Drake's bought out the Johnson Oyster Company they knew that only 7 years remained on the reservation of use and they assured all who are concerned that it fully understood that its right to operate would end in 2012. They told members of the community that it could make back its investment by that time.

All that was spoken out of one side of their mouth ? while, coming out of the other side of their mouth, they immediately started lobbying elected officials to extend its right to operate beyond 2012.

We have had enough political manipulation by corporate CEOs who do not care how they impact the environment, the wild life, or human lives, as long as they can make more money. We need this refuge as much as the wild life needs it for their habitat where they can be safe and breed.

DO NOT ALLOW DRAKE'S TO FURTHER IMPACT THIS AREA WITH THEIR COMMERCIAL VENTURE! ! !

THEY KNEW THE SCORE FROM THE START AND WE MUST NOT ALLOW THEM TO CHANGE THE RULES!

THIS NEEDS A FLAT-OUT REFUSAL! ! ! !

Correspondence ID: 48677 **Project:** 33043 **Document:** 43390
Name: Winkler, John
Outside Organization: NRDC Unaffiliated Individual
Received: Dec,02,2011 09:11:42
Correspondence Type: Web Form

Correspondence: Drakes Estero is a national ecological treasure and should become a protected wilderness area. It has outstanding natural resources, including one of California's largest harbor seal colonies and tens of thousands of shorebirds, waterfowl, native fish and endangered species that use its wetlands, mudflats and eelgrass beds.

In the 1976 Point Reyes Wilderness Act, Congress recognized Drakes Estero as a unique recreational and biological resource and promised that this irreplaceable resource would formally become a wilderness area when non-conforming uses were eliminated. Your agency permitted a commercial oyster company to grow non-native oysters and clams on 1,050 acres in Drakes Estero for 40 years, or until 2012.

Your own draft environmental impact statement reveals the extensive damage that the existing operation has caused to Drakes Estero and Point Reyes National Seashore's beaches. As you know, commercial operations of any kind are not permitted in designated wilderness areas because of such damage. Further, the Park Service's Organic Act mandates protection of park resources and values and strictly limits commercial operations.

Your approval of the proposal to extend the oyster company's permit would be contrary to the Point Reyes Wilderness Act and would establish a dangerous precedent at a time when America's public lands and environmental laws are already under

widespread attacks in Congress and elsewhere.

We've been waiting long enough. It is time to allow that permit to expire and to honor Congress' commitment. We want our bay back.

Correspondence ID: 48678 **Project:** 33043 **Document:** 43390

Name: waguespack, joanne

Outside Organization: National Wildlife Federation Action Fund Unaffiliated Individual

Received: Dec,02,2011 09:11:58

Correspondence Type: Web Form

Correspondence: Drakes Estero is the ecological heart of Point Reyes National Seashore and a treasure that belongs to all Americans. In 1976, Congress promised that the Estero would receive full wilderness protection when the current lease for commercial oyster operations expires in 2012. I urge the Park Service to honor the wilderness promise and protect Drakes Estero for future generations.

Drakes Estero is home to 20 percent of the mainland breeding population of harbor seals in California and is used by tens of thousands of shorebirds and waterfowl and dozens of species of native fish. Your draft environmental impact statement makes clear that the existing commercial oyster operation is causing extensive damage to Drakes Estero and the Seashore's beaches, and that allowing these operations to continue would cause even more long-term harm.

Your environmental review also shows that alternative "A"--no new permit for commercial oyster operations and protection of the Estero as full wilderness--is the environmentally preferred alternative and the one that best protects harbor seals, birds, fish and other natural resources.

I urge you to return Drakes Estero to all Americans by selecting alternative "A" and ensuring full wilderness protection for Drakes Estero in 2012. It is time to protect Drakes Estero as Congress intended and to create the West Coast's only marine wilderness for the benefit of people and wildlife.

Correspondence ID: 48679 **Project:** 33043 **Document:** 43390

Name: Kerston, Chris

Outside Organization: Unaffiliated Individual

Received: Dec,02,2011 09:12:12

Correspondence Type: Web Form

Correspondence: I am writing to show my support for the Lunny Family and Drakes Bay Oyster. Polluted places around the world plant oysters to clean the water and these people are to be shut down for making a positive contribution? The Lunny's have decades of a positive environmental record in addition to being a source of healthy local seafood for consumers. It's not often that you get to meet your food producers and find that they're people with such integrity as these folks. I believe these people have done incredible service to protecting and enhancing the estero, while serving the public's need for nutrient dense locally produced products. What environmental impact will shutting them down have as customers will have to find their oysters from a less reputable supplier that will have to travel much further to reach the bay area using precious fossil fuel resources and moving money outside of our local economies? Will this other oyster farm, most likely overseas, have the same dedication to environmental protection as the Lunny's have adhered to?

Regional family farms can do so much to solve ailments in our society. They're an integral piece of helping fix our countries declining health, struggling economy, and degrading environment. I'm so disappointed to see the unjust tribulations this wonderful business and family have had to suffer. None of the proposed alternatives are appropriate. I support a renewable Special Use Permit for Drakes Bay Oyster Company. Please examine the larger scope here and allow this amazing family business to stay open and stop harassing them.

Correspondence ID: 48680 **Project:** 33043 **Document:** 43390

Name: Wolf, Victoria

Outside Organization: Unaffiliated Individual

Received: Dec,02,2011 09:26:15

Correspondence Type: Web Form

Correspondence: Add my name to those who would like the special permit issued. Looking over the information it seems clear that this is an important long term, local business without serious ecological impact.

There are other way more seriously damaging fish to fry.

Correspondence ID: 48681 **Project:** 33043 **Document:** 43390

Name: Elliott, Tess

Outside Organization: Point Reyes Light Business

Received: Dec,02,2011 00:00:00

Correspondence Type: Web Form

Correspondence: I urge the National Park Service to add to its EIS and choose the "collaborative alternative" proposed by the Alliance for Local Sustainable Agriculture. That alternative:

- 1) Preserves local jobs and keeps local families in West Marin;
- 2) Preserves a vital, local and environmentally sound food source;
- 3) Develops a resource for education and research of the contributions of oysters and mariculture to marine ecosystems;
- 4) Is consistent with county, state and national policy and objectives;
- 5) Helps maintain the character of Point Reyes National Seashore, which was created to preserve the natural, cultural and historic elements of the Point Reyes Peninsula.

Correspondence ID: 48682 **Project:** 33043 **Document:** 43390
Name: McClain, Al
Outside Organization: National Wildlife Federation Action Fund Unaffiliated Individual
Received: Dec,02,2011 09:41:59
Correspondence Type: Web Form
Correspondence: Drakes Estero is the ecological heart of Point Reyes National Seashore and a treasure that belongs to all Americans. In 1976, Congress promised that the Estero would receive full wilderness protection when the current lease for commercial oyster operations expires in 2012. I urge the Park Service to honor the wilderness promise and protect Drakes Estero for future generations.

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Your environmental review also shows that alternative "A"--no new permit for commercial oyster operations and protection of the Estero as full wilderness--is the environmentally preferred alternative and the one that best protects harbor seals, birds, fish and other natural resources.

I urge you to return Drakes Estero to all Americans by selecting alternative "A" and ensuring full wilderness protection for Drakes Estero in 2012. It is time to protect Drakes Estero as Congress intended and to create the West Coast's only marine wilderness for the benefit of people and wildlife.

Correspondence ID: 48683 **Project:** 33043 **Document:** 43390
Name: Geaney, Samantha
Outside Organization: National Wildlife Federation Action Fund Unaffiliated Individual
Received: Dec,02,2011 09:42:10
Correspondence Type: Web Form
Correspondence: Drakes Estero is the ecological heart of Point Reyes National Seashore and a treasure that belongs to all Americans. In 1976, Congress promised that the Estero would receive full wilderness protection when the current lease for commercial oyster operations expires in 2012. I urge the Park Service to honor the wilderness promise and protect Drakes Estero for future generations.

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Correspondence ID: 48684 **Project:** 33043 **Document:** 43390
Name: Lakhavani, Deborah
Outside Organization: National Wildlife Federation Action Fund Unaffiliated Individual
Received: Dec,02,2011 09:42:37
Correspondence Type: Web Form
Correspondence: Drakes Estero is the ecological heart of Point Reyes National Seashore and a treasure that belongs to all Americans. In 1976, Congress promised that the Estero would receive full wilderness protection when the current lease for commercial oyster operations expires in 2012. I urge the Park Service to honor the wilderness promise and protect Drakes Estero for future generations.

generations.

Drakes Estero is home to 20 percent of the mainland breeding population of harbor seals in California and is used by tens of thousands of shorebirds and waterfowl and dozens of species of native fish. Your draft environmental impact statement makes clear that the existing commercial oyster operation is causing extensive damage to Drakes Estero and the Seashore's beaches, and that allowing these operations to continue would cause even more long-term harm.

Your environmental review also shows that alternative "A"--no new permit for commercial oyster operations and protection of the Estero as full wilderness--is the environmentally preferred alternative and the one that best protects harbor seals, birds, fish and other natural resources.

I urge you to return Drakes Estero to all Americans by selecting alternative "A" and ensuring full wilderness protection for Drakes Estero in 2012. It is time to protect Drakes Estero as Congress intended and to create the West Coast's only marine wilderness for the benefit of people and wildlife.

Correspondence ID: 48685 **Project:** 33043 **Document:** 43390
Name: P., John
Outside Organization: Unaffiliated Individual
Received: Dec.02,2011 09:54:25
Correspondence Type: Web Form
Correspondence: I SUPPORT Drakes Bay Oyster Company and absolutely believe that sustainably farmed oysters IMPROVE the environment and do not harm it in any way. Please help keep the small farmer alive and well in California.

Correspondence ID: 48687 **Project:** 33043 **Document:** 43390
Name: Briggs, David C
Outside Organization: Point Reyes Light Unaffiliated Individual
Received: Dec.02,2011 10:07:58
Correspondence Type: Web Form
Correspondence: I urge the National Park Service to add to its EIS and choose the "collaborative alternative" proposed by the Alliance for Local Sustainable Agriculture. That alternative:

- 1) Preserves local jobs and keeps local families in West Marin;
- 2) Preserves a vital, local and environmentally sound food source;
- 3) Develops a resource for education and research of the contributions of oysters and mariculture to marine ecosystems;
- 4) Is consistent with county, state and national policy and objectives;
- 5) Helps maintain the character of Point Reyes National Seashore, which was created to preserve the natural, cultural and historic elements of the Point Reyes Peninsula.

Correspondence ID: 48688 **Project:** 33043 **Document:** 43390
Name: Rivas, Mario
Outside Organization: Sierra Club Unaffiliated Individual
Received: Dec.02,2011 10:09:10
Correspondence Type: Web Form
Correspondence: I am writing to urge the National Park Service to protect Drakes Estero wilderness next year as long-intended. The American public deserves to have the West Coast's only marine wilderness protected for future generations to enjoy. Drakes Estero is a rare wildlife refuge where migrating birds stop over, harbor seals give birth, and fish spawn. It deserves the highest level of protection as Congress long-intended. As someone who enjoys our nation's spectacular national parks, I urge you to not undermine protections at Drakes Estero and succumb to special interests seeking to commercialize these special places.

I urge the National Park Service and the Department of the Interior to select alternative "A", which protects marine wilderness and is the environmentally preferred alternative. The NPS is mandated to provide maximum protection to the natural resources, as stated in the Seashore's legislation, and selecting this alternative is the most consistent with the laws and policies affecting this park. Our national parks are for the people and wildlife protection, not commercial exploitation. The environmental review shows that alternative "A" best protects harbor seals, fish, birds and other wildlife and plants. Drakes Estero is our only marine wilderness on the West Coast, and it is irreplaceable, while oysters can be grown elsewhere.

National Parks and wilderness areas are treasured by the majority of Americans and are for the public interest, not for private commercial exploitation. By protecting wilderness, the National Park Service will set a positive policy example while commercializing it will set a negative example and help others seek their special exemptions from national park laws.

Correspondence ID: 48689 **Project:** 33043 **Document:** 43390
Name: Silver, Margaret

Outside Organization: NRDC Unaffiliated Individual
Received: Dec.02,2011 10:12:02
Correspondence Type: Web Form
Correspondence: Drakes Estero is a national ecological treasure and should become a protected wilderness area. It has outstanding natural resources, including one of California's largest harbor seal colonies and tens of thousands of shorebirds, waterfowl, native fish and endangered species that use its wetlands, mudflats and eelgrass beds.

In the 1976 Point Reyes Wilderness Act, Congress recognized Drakes Estero as a unique recreational and biological resource and promised that this irreplaceable resource would formally become a wilderness area when non-conforming uses were eliminated. Your agency permitted a commercial oyster company to grow non-native oysters and clams on 1,050 acres in Drakes Estero for 40 years, or until 2012.

Your own draft environmental impact statement reveals the extensive damage that the existing operation has caused to Drakes Estero and Point Reyes National Seashore's beaches. As you know, commercial operations of any kind are not permitted in designated wilderness areas because of such damage. Further, the Park Service's Organic Act mandates protection of park resources and values and strictly limits commercial operations.

Your approval of the proposal to extend the oyster company's permit would be contrary to the Point Reyes Wilderness Act and would establish a dangerous precedent at a time when America's public lands and environmental laws are already under widespread attacks in Congress and elsewhere.

We've been waiting long enough. It is time to allow that permit to expire and to honor Congress' commitment. We want our bay back.

Correspondence ID: 48690 **Project:** 33043 **Document:** 43390
Name: Gomez, Barbara
Outside Organization: National Wildlife Federation Action Fund Unaffiliated Individual
Received: Dec.02,2011 10:12:03
Correspondence Type: Web Form
Correspondence: Drakes Estero is the ecological heart of Point Reyes National Seashore and a treasure that belongs to all Americans. In 1976, Congress promised that the Estero would receive full wilderness protection when the current lease for commercial oyster operations expires in 2012. I urge the Park Service to honor the wilderness promise and protect Drakes Estero for future generations.

Drakes Estero is home to 20 percent of the mainland breeding population of harbor seals in California and is used by tens of thousands of shorebirds and waterfowl and dozens of species of native fish. Your draft environmental impact statement makes clear that the existing commercial oyster operation is causing extensive damage to Drakes Estero and the Seashore's beaches, and that allowing these operations to continue would cause even more long-term harm.

Your environmental review also shows that alternative "A"--no new permit for commercial oyster operations and protection of the Estero as full wilderness--is the environmentally preferred alternative and the one that best protects harbor seals, birds, fish and other natural resources.

I urge you to return Drakes Estero to all Americans by selecting alternative "A" and ensuring full wilderness protection for Drakes Estero in 2012. It is time to protect Drakes Estero as Congress intended and to create the West Coast's only marine wilderness for the benefit of people and wildlife.

Correspondence ID: 48691 **Project:** 33043 **Document:** 43390
Name: McAndrew, Shane
Outside Organization: National Wildlife Federation Action Fund Unaffiliated Individual
Received: Dec.02,2011 10:12:09
Correspondence Type: Web Form
Correspondence: Drakes Estero is the ecological heart of Point Reyes National Seashore and a treasure that belongs to all Americans. In 1976, Congress promised that the Estero would receive full wilderness protection when the current lease for commercial oyster operations expires in 2012. I urge the Park Service to honor the wilderness promise and protect Drakes Estero for future generations.

Drakes Estero is home to 20 percent of the mainland breeding population of harbor seals in California and is used by tens of thousands of shorebirds and waterfowl and dozens of species of native fish. Your draft environmental impact statement makes clear that the existing commercial oyster operation is causing extensive damage to Drakes Estero and the Seashore's beaches, and that allowing these operations to continue would cause even more long-term harm.

Your environmental review also shows that alternative "A"--no new permit for commercial oyster operations and protection of the Estero as full wilderness--is the environmentally preferred alternative and the one that best protects harbor seals, birds, fish and other natural resources.

I urge you to return Drakes Estero to all Americans by selecting alternative "A" and ensuring full wilderness protection for

Drakes Estero in 2012. It is time to protect Drakes Estero as Congress intended and to create the West Coast's only marine wilderness for the benefit of people and wildlife.

Correspondence ID: 48692 **Project:** 33043 **Document:** 43390
Name: Bishop, Rachael
Outside Organization: National Wildlife Federation Action Fund Unaffiliated Individual
Received: Dec,02,2011 00:00:00
Correspondence Type: Web Form
Correspondence: Please suspend any extensions for at least 2 years to bring peace and serenity to the pups and wildlife. Everyone and wildlife deserves a break from noise pollution and even a break from humans. It's a known fact that constant noise can be stressful and take a toll on any body. Especially ones with sensitive hearing (all life, but humans). Thanks for your consideration of being considerate. Please remember that noise travels through water more intensely than in the air and all noise is made by wavelengths that penetrate flesh (especially ear matter) of some animals, including the skin and bones.

Drakes Estero is the ecological heart of Point Reyes National Seashore and a treasure that belongs to all Americans. In 1976, Congress promised that the Estero would receive full wilderness protection when the current lease for commercial oyster operations expires in 2012. I urge the Park Service to honor the wilderness promise and protect Drakes Estero for future generations.

Drakes Estero is home to 20 percent of the mainland breeding population of harbor seals in California and is used by tens of thousands of shorebirds and waterfowl and dozens of species of native fish. Your draft environmental impact statement makes clear that the existing commercial oyster operation is causing extensive damage to Drakes Estero and the Seashore's beaches, and that allowing these operations to continue would cause even more long-term harm.

Your environmental review also shows that alternative "A"--no new permit for commercial oyster operations and protection of the Estero as full wilderness--is the environmentally preferred alternative and the one that best protects harbor seals, birds, fish and other natural resources.

I urge you to return Drakes Estero to all Americans by selecting alternative "A" and ensuring full wilderness protection for Drakes Estero in 2012. It is time to protect Drakes Estero as Congress intended and to create the West Coast's only marine wilderness for the benefit of people and wildlife.

Correspondence ID: 48696 **Project:** 33043 **Document:** 43390
Name: Henriksen, James
Outside Organization: National Wildlife Federation Action Fund Unaffiliated Individual
Received: Dec,02,2011 10:42:15
Correspondence Type: Web Form
Correspondence: Drakes Estero is the ecological heart of Point Reyes National Seashore and a treasure that belongs to all Americans. In 1976, Congress promised that the Estero would receive full wilderness protection when the current lease for commercial oyster operations expires in 2012. I urge the Park Service to honor the wilderness promise and protect Drakes Estero for future generations.

Drakes Estero is home to 20 percent of the mainland breeding population of harbor seals in California and is used by tens of thousands of shorebirds and waterfowl and dozens of species of native fish. Your draft environmental impact statement makes clear that the existing commercial oyster operation is causing extensive damage to Drakes Estero and the Seashore's beaches, and that allowing these operations to continue would cause even more long-term harm.

Your environmental review also shows that alternative "A"--no new permit for commercial oyster operations and protection of the Estero as full wilderness--is the environmentally preferred alternative and the one that best protects harbor seals, birds, fish and other natural resources.

I urge you to return Drakes Estero to all Americans by selecting alternative "A" and ensuring full wilderness protection for Drakes Estero in 2012. It is time to protect Drakes Estero as Congress intended and to create the West Coast's only marine wilderness for the benefit of people and wildlife.

Correspondence ID: 48697 **Project:** 33043 **Document:** 43390
Name: Benton, Marla
Outside Organization: National Wildlife Federation Action Fund Unaffiliated Individual
Received: Dec,02,2011 10:42:20
Correspondence Type: Web Form
Correspondence: Drakes Estero is the ecological heart of Point Reyes National Seashore and a treasure that belongs to all Americans. In 1976, Congress promised that the Estero would receive full wilderness protection when the current lease for commercial oyster operations expires in 2012. I urge the Park Service to honor the wilderness promise and protect Drakes Estero for future generations.

Drakes Estero is home to 20 percent of the mainland breeding population of harbor seals in California and is used by tens of thousands of shorebirds and waterfowl and dozens of species of native fish. Your draft environmental impact statement makes clear that the existing commercial oyster operation is causing extensive damage to Drakes Estero and the Seashore's beaches,

and that allowing these operations to continue would cause even more long-term harm.

Your environmental review also shows that alternative "A"--no new permit for commercial oyster operations and protection of the Estero as full wilderness--is the environmentally preferred alternative and the one that best protects harbor seals, birds, fish and other natural resources.

I urge you to return Drakes Estero to all Americans by selecting alternative "A" and ensuring full wilderness protection for Drakes Estero in 2012. It is time to protect Drakes Estero as Congress intended and to create the West Coast's only marine wilderness for the benefit of people and wildlife.

Correspondence ID: 48698 **Project:** 33043 **Document:** 43390
Name: Meyer, Julie
Outside Organization: National Wildlife Federation Action Fund Unaffiliated Individual
Received: Dec,02,2011 10:42:36
Correspondence Type: Web Form
Correspondence: Drakes Estero is the ecological heart of Point Reyes National Seashore and a treasure that belongs to all Americans. In 1976, Congress promised that the Estero would receive full wilderness protection when the current lease for commercial oyster operations expires in 2012. I urge the Park Service to honor the wilderness promise and protect Drakes Estero for future generations.

Drakes Estero is home to 20 percent of the mainland breeding population of harbor seals in California and is used by tens of thousands of shorebirds and waterfowl and dozens of species of native fish. Your draft environmental impact statement makes clear that the existing commercial oyster operation is causing extensive damage to Drakes Estero and the Seashore's beaches, and that allowing these operations to continue would cause even more long-term harm.

Your environmental review also shows that alternative "A"--no new permit for commercial oyster operations and protection of the Estero as full wilderness--is the environmentally preferred alternative and the one that best protects harbor seals, birds, fish and other natural resources.

I urge you to return Drakes Estero to all Americans by selecting alternative "A" and ensuring full wilderness protection for Drakes Estero in 2012. It is time to protect Drakes Estero as Congress intended and to create the West Coast's only marine wilderness for the benefit of people and wildlife.

Correspondence ID: 48699 **Project:** 33043 **Document:** 43390
Name: Brown, Vera
Outside Organization: National Wildlife Federation Action Fund Unaffiliated Individual
Received: Dec,02,2011 10:42:39
Correspondence Type: Web Form
Correspondence: Drakes Estero is the ecological heart of Point Reyes National Seashore and a treasure that belongs to all Americans. In 1976, Congress promised that the Estero would receive full wilderness protection when the current lease for commercial oyster operations expires in 2012. I urge the Park Service to honor the wilderness promise and protect Drakes Estero for future generations.

Drakes Estero is home to 20 percent of the mainland breeding population of harbor seals in California and is used by tens of thousands of shorebirds and waterfowl and dozens of species of native fish. Your draft environmental impact statement makes clear that the existing commercial oyster operation is causing extensive damage to Drakes Estero and the Seashore's beaches, and that allowing these operations to continue would cause even more long-term harm.

Your environmental review also shows that alternative "A"--no new permit for commercial oyster operations and protection of the Estero as full wilderness--is the environmentally preferred alternative and the one that best protects harbor seals, birds, fish and other natural resources.

I urge you to return Drakes Estero to all Americans by selecting alternative "A" and ensuring full wilderness protection for Drakes Estero in 2012. It is time to protect Drakes Estero as Congress intended and to create the West Coast's only marine wilderness for the benefit of people and wildlife.

Correspondence ID: 48700 **Project:** 33043 **Document:** 43390
Name: Kooy, Heidi
Outside Organization: Unaffiliated Individual
Received: Dec,02,2011 10:45:09
Correspondence Type: Web Form
Correspondence: My family has frequented Point Reyes National Seashore and the Drakes Bay Oyster Company for many years now. To close this environmentally sustainable farm would be a travesty. Many farmers utilize this national park for the raising of food products, including cattle and chickens on the historic ranches. I do not understand the rationale for closing the oyster farm when all studies conducted by the NPS have found no detriment due to the farm's presence. Worldwide our oyster populations are dwindling. DBOC has been a beacon of hope by raising large and healthy populations of native oyster species, which help to keep our oceans clean since oysters are amazing water purifiers. Though I am usually a believer in keeping wild spaces wild, in the case of DBOC I can see that sustainable farming can sometimes lead to healthier wild spaces. Please reconsider the closure

of DBOC and keep our oceans healthy and clean!

Correspondence ID: 48701 **Project:** 33043 **Document:** 43390
Name: N/A, N/A
Outside Organization: Unaffiliated Individual
Received: Dec,02,2011 10:53:20
Correspondence Type: Web Form
Correspondence: We have been going to Drakes Bay for years now and we believe that the plan to close it is misinformed. We do not believe Drakes Bay Oyster Company is adversely impacting the environment with its operation and we support a renewable Special Use Permit for Drakes Bay Oyster Company.

Correspondence ID: 48703 **Project:** 33043 **Document:** 43390
Name: Helmer, Jake
Outside Organization: Sierra Club Unaffiliated Individual
Received: Dec,02,2011 11:09:26
Correspondence Type: Web Form
Correspondence: I am writing to urge the National Park Service to protect Drakes Estero wilderness next year as long-intended. The American public deserves to have the West Coast's only marine wilderness protected for future generations to enjoy. Drakes Estero is a rare wildlife refuge where migrating birds stop over, harbor seals give birth, and fish spawn. It deserves the highest level of protection as Congress long-intended. As someone who enjoys our nation's spectacular national parks, I urge you to not undermine protections at Drakes Estero and succumb to special interests seeking to commercialize these special places.

I urge the National Park Service and the Department of the Interior to select alternative "A", which protects marine wilderness and is the environmentally preferred alternative. The NPS is mandated to provide maximum protection to the natural resources, as stated in the Seashore's legislation, and selecting this alternative is the most consistent with the laws and policies affecting this park. Our national parks are for the people and wildlife protection, not commercial exploitation. The environmental review shows that alternative "A" best protects harbor seals, fish, birds and other wildlife and plants. Drakes Estero is our only marine wilderness on the West Coast, and it is irreplaceable, while oysters can be grown elsewhere.

National Parks and wilderness areas are treasured by the majority of Americans and are for the public interest, not for private commercial exploitation. By protecting wilderness, the National Park Service will set a positive policy example while commercializing it will set a negative example and help others seek their special exemptions from national park laws.

Correspondence ID: 48704 **Project:** 33043 **Document:** 43390
Name: Van Zant, S.
Outside Organization: National Wildlife Federation Action Fund Unaffiliated Individual
Received: Dec,02,2011 11:12:05
Correspondence Type: Web Form
Correspondence: Drakes Estero is the ecological heart of Point Reyes National Seashore and a treasure that belongs to all Americans. In 1976, Congress promised that the Estero would receive full wilderness protection when the current lease for commercial oyster operations expires in 2012. I urge the Park Service to honor the wilderness promise and protect Drakes Estero for future generations.

Drakes Estero is home to 20 percent of the mainland breeding population of harbor seals in California and is used by tens of thousands of shorebirds and waterfowl and dozens of species of native fish. Your draft environmental impact statement makes clear that the existing commercial oyster operation is causing extensive damage to Drakes Estero and the Seashore's beaches, and that allowing these operations to continue would cause even more long-term harm.

Your environmental review also shows that alternative "A"--no new permit for commercial oyster operations and protection of the Estero as full wilderness--is the environmentally preferred alternative and the one that best protects harbor seals, birds, fish and other natural resources.

I urge you to return Drakes Estero to all Americans by selecting alternative "A" and ensuring full wilderness protection for Drakes Estero in 2012. It is time to protect Drakes Estero as Congress intended and to create the West Coast's only marine wilderness for the benefit of people and wildlife.

Correspondence ID: 48705 **Project:** 33043 **Document:** 43390
Name: Swartz, Janet
Outside Organization: National Wildlife Federation Action Fund Unaffiliated Individual
Received: Dec,02,2011 11:13:40
Correspondence Type: Web Form
Correspondence: Drakes Estero is the ecological heart of Point Reyes National Seashore and a treasure that belongs to all Americans. In 1976, Congress promised that the Estero would receive full wilderness protection when the current lease for commercial oyster operations expires in 2012. I urge the Park Service to honor the wilderness promise and protect Drakes Estero for future generations.

Drakes Estero is home to 20 percent of the mainland breeding population of harbor seals in California and is used by tens of thousands of shorebirds and waterfowl and dozens of species of native fish. Your draft environmental impact statement makes

clear that the existing commercial oyster operation is causing extensive damage to Drakes Estero and the Seashore's beaches, and that allowing these operations to continue would cause even more long-term harm.

Your environmental review also shows that alternative "A"--no new permit for commercial oyster operations and protection of the Estero as full wilderness--is the environmentally preferred alternative and the one that best protects harbor seals, birds, fish and other natural resources.

I urge you to return Drakes Estero to all Americans by selecting alternative "A" and ensuring full wilderness protection for Drakes Estero in 2012. It is time to protect Drakes Estero as Congress intended and to create the West Coast's only marine wilderness for the benefit of people and wildlife.

Correspondence ID: 48707 **Project:** 33043 **Document:** 43390
Name: godfrey, laura
Outside Organization: Unaffiliated Individual
Received: Dec.02,2011 11:35:29
Correspondence Type: Web Form
Correspondence: I support the wilderness designation for Drakes Estero within the Point Reyes National Seashore. I urge the National Park Service and Department of the Interior to uphold the 1976 Point Reyes Wilderness Act and select alternative A, which protects this important marine wilderness and is the environmentally preferred alternative.

Drakes Estero is a unique and ecologically significant wildlife area. It is an important stop on the flyway for migrating birds, a refuge and birthplace for harbor seals and a critical native fish nursery. Congress and the public have long intended that Drakes Estero be given the highest federal level of protection as a wilderness area when the commercial oyster lease expires in 2012.

This can only be accomplished by selecting Alternative "A" and ending commercial use of this sensitive wildlife refuge. Alternative A is the most consistent with National Park Service laws and policies. The Park Service's environmental review shows that alternative "A" best protects wildlife and the National Park experience.

Our national parks are for the people and wildlife protection, and wilderness areas with our parks should not prioritize commercial exploitation. The American public deserves to have this unique marine wilderness protected in a natural state for future generations to enjoy.

Drakes Estero is the only marine wilderness on the West Coast, and is irreplaceable, while oysters can be grown elsewhere.

As someone who enjoys our spectacular national parks, I urge you to not undermine protections at Drakes Estero and succumb to special interests seeking to commercialize these special places.

Correspondence ID: 48708 **Project:** 33043 **Document:** 43390
Name: Breitner, Josh
Outside Organization: National Parks Conservation Association Unaffiliated Individual
Received: Dec.02,2011 11:41:33
Correspondence Type: Web Form
Correspondence: I urge you to protect Drakes Estero wilderness next year, as long intended. It is in the public interest to create the West Coast's only marine wilderness for the enjoyment of all. The public has waited nearly four decades for these protections to be implemented, which is an immense compromise in itself. Drakes Estero is a rare wildlife refuge where migrating birds stop over, harbor seals give birth, and fish take shelter in eelgrass. As someone who enjoys our nation's national parks and their wildlife, I urge you to uphold the longstanding plan to convert this very special resource to wilderness.

I urge you to select alternative "A", which protects marine wilderness next year and is the Environmentally Preferred Alternative. The National Park Service is mandated to provide maximum protection to the natural resources at Drakes Estero and selecting this alternative is the most consistent with the laws and policies affecting this park. Our national parks are set aside for the public and for wildlife protection, and after waiting nearly 40 years for private commercial use rights to expire, it's time to give the estuary the protection it needs. The environmental review shows that alternative "A" is best for public policy, and best protects harbor seals, fish, birds and other natural resources. Drakes Estero is our only marine wilderness on the West Coast, and is irreplaceable, while oysters can be commercially grown elsewhere.

Please honor the promise made for a protected marine wilderness at Drakes Estero. In doing so, you will set a good policy example and reward the public with an enduring legacy feat found nowhere else on the West Coast.

Correspondence ID: 48709 **Project:** 33043 **Document:** 43390
Name: Provow, Ronda
Outside Organization: National Wildlife Federation Action Fund Unaffiliated Individual
Received: Dec.02,2011 11:42:08
Correspondence Type: Web Form
Correspondence: Drakes Estero is the ecological heart of Point Reyes National Seashore and a treasure that belongs to all Americans. In 1976, Congress promised that the Estero would receive full wilderness protection when the current lease for commercial oyster operations expires in 2012. I urge the Park Service to honor the wilderness promise and protect Drakes Estero for future

generations.

Drakes Estero is home to 20 percent of the mainland breeding population of harbor seals in California and is used by tens of thousands of shorebirds and waterfowl and dozens of species of native fish. Your draft environmental impact statement makes clear that the existing commercial oyster operation is causing extensive damage to Drakes Estero and the Seashore's beaches, and that allowing these operations to continue would cause even more long-term harm.

Your environmental review also shows that alternative "A"--no new permit for commercial oyster operations and protection of the Estero as full wilderness--is the environmentally preferred alternative and the one that best protects harbor seals, birds, fish and other natural resources.

I urge you to return Drakes Estero to all Americans by selecting alternative "A" and ensuring full wilderness protection for Drakes Estero in 2012. It is time to protect Drakes Estero as Congress intended and to create the West Coast's only marine wilderness for the benefit of people and wildlife.

Correspondence ID: 48710 **Project:** 33043 **Document:** 43390
Name: Hugi, Chuck
Outside Organization: NRDC Unaffiliated Individual
Received: Dec,02,2011 11:42:20
Correspondence Type: Web Form
Correspondence: Drakes Estero is a national ecological treasure and should become a protected wilderness area. It has outstanding natural resources, including one of California's largest harbor seal colonies and tens of thousands of shorebirds, waterfowl, native fish and endangered species that use its wetlands, mudflats and eelgrass beds.

In the 1976 Point Reyes Wilderness Act, Congress recognized Drakes Estero as a unique recreational and biological resource and promised that this irreplaceable resource would formally become a wilderness area when non-conforming uses were eliminated. Your agency permitted a commercial oyster company to grow non-native oysters and clams on 1,050 acres in Drakes Estero for 40 years, or until 2012.

Your own draft environmental impact statement reveals the extensive damage that the existing operation has caused to Drakes Estero and Point Reyes National Seashore's beaches. As you know, commercial operations of any kind are not permitted in designated wilderness areas because of such damage. Further, the Park Service's Organic Act mandates protection of park resources and values and strictly limits commercial operations.

Your approval of the proposal to extend the oyster company's permit would be contrary to the Point Reyes Wilderness Act and would establish a dangerous precedent at a time when America's public lands and environmental laws are already under widespread attacks in Congress and elsewhere.

We've been waiting long enough. It is time to allow that permit to expire and to honor Congress' commitment. We want our bay back.

Correspondence ID: 48711 **Project:** 33043 **Document:** 43390
Name: McTague, Alice M
Outside Organization: National Wildlife Federation Action Fund Unaffiliated Individual
Received: Dec,02,2011 11:42:24
Correspondence Type: Web Form
Correspondence: Drakes Estero is the ecological heart of Point Reyes National Seashore and a treasure that belongs to all Americans. In 1976, Congress promised that the Estero would receive full wilderness protection when the current lease for commercial oyster operations expires in 2012. I urge the Park Service to honor the wilderness promise and protect Drakes Estero for future generations.

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Your environmental review also shows that alternative "A"--no new permit for commercial oyster operations and protection of the Estero as full wilderness--is the environmentally preferred alternative and the one that best protects harbor seals, birds, fish and other natural resources.

I urge you to return Drakes Estero to all Americans by selecting alternative "A" and ensuring full wilderness protection for Drakes Estero in 2012. It is time to protect Drakes Estero as Congress intended and to create the West Coast's only marine wilderness for the benefit of people and wildlife.

Correspondence ID: 48712 **Project:** 33043 **Document:** 43390
Name: N/A, N/A
Outside Organization: Unaffiliated Individual

Received: Dec,02,2011 11:46:32
Correspondence Type: Web Form
Correspondence: Please keep Drakes Bay oyster farm open!! They are operating in a responsible and environmentally ethical manner. They are great ambassadors to the area. None of the proposed alternatives are appropriate. I support a renewable Special Use Permit for Drakes Bay Oyster Company.

Correspondence ID: 48713 **Project:** 33043 **Document:** 43390
Name: Smith, Edwina
Outside Organization: National Parks Conservation Association Unaffiliated Individual
Received: Dec,02,2011 12:11:36
Correspondence Type: Web Form
Correspondence: I urge you to protect Drakes Estero wilderness next year, as long intended. It is in the public interest to create the West Coast's only marine wilderness for the enjoyment of all. The public has waited nearly four decades for these protections to be implemented, which is an immense compromise in itself. Drakes Estero is a rare wildlife refuge where migrating birds stop over, harbor seals give birth, and fish take shelter in eelgrass. As someone who enjoys our nation's national parks and their wildlife, I urge you to uphold the longstanding plan to convert this very special resource to wilderness.

I urge you to select alternative "A", which protects marine wilderness next year and is the Environmentally Preferred Alternative. The National Park Service is mandated to provide maximum protection to the natural resources at Drakes Estero and selecting this alternative is the most consistent with the laws and policies affecting this park. Our national parks are set aside for the public and for wildlife protection, and after waiting nearly 40 years for private commercial use rights to expire, it's time to give the estuary the protection it needs. The environmental review shows that alternative "A" is best for public policy, and best protects harbor seals, fish, birds and other natural resources. Drakes Estero is our only marine wilderness on the West Coast, and is irreplaceable, while oysters can be commercially grown elsewhere.

Please honor the promise made for a protected marine wilderness at Drakes Estero. In doing so, you will set a good policy example and reward the public with an enduring legacy feat found nowhere else on the West Coast.

Correspondence ID: 48714 **Project:** 33043 **Document:** 43390
Name: Frisina, Amy
Outside Organization: National Wildlife Federation Action Fund Unaffiliated Individual
Received: Dec,02,2011 12:12:19
Correspondence Type: Web Form
Correspondence: Drakes Estero is the ecological heart of Point Reyes National Seashore and a treasure that belongs to all Americans. In 1976, Congress promised that the Estero would receive full wilderness protection when the current lease for commercial oyster operations expires in 2012. I urge the Park Service to honor the wilderness promise and protect Drakes Estero for future generations.

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Your environmental review also shows that alternative "A"--no new permit for commercial oyster operations and protection of the Estero as full wilderness--is the environmentally preferred alternative and the one that best protects harbor seals, birds, fish and other natural resources.

I urge you to return Drakes Estero to all Americans by selecting alternative "A" and ensuring full wilderness protection for Drakes Estero in 2012. It is time to protect Drakes Estero as Congress intended and to create the West Coast's only marine wilderness for the benefit of people and wildlife.

Correspondence ID: 48715 **Project:** 33043 **Document:** 43390
Name: Cuba, Caty
Outside Organization: National Wildlife Federation Action Fund Unaffiliated Individual
Received: Dec,02,2011 12:12:24
Correspondence Type: Web Form
Correspondence: Drakes Estero is the ecological heart of Point Reyes National Seashore and a treasure that belongs to all Americans. In 1976, Congress promised that the Estero would receive full wilderness protection when the current lease for commercial oyster operations expires in 2012. I urge the Park Service to honor the wilderness promise and protect Drakes Estero for future generations.

Drakes Estero is home to 20 percent of the mainland breeding population of harbor seals in California and is used by tens of thousands of shorebirds and waterfowl and dozens of species of native fish. Your draft environmental impact statement makes clear that the existing commercial oyster operation is causing extensive damage to Drakes Estero and the Seashore's beaches, and that allowing these operations to continue would cause even more long-term harm.

Your environmental review also shows that alternative "A"--no new permit for commercial oyster operations and protection of the Estero as full wilderness--is the environmentally preferred alternative and the one that best protects harbor seals, birds, fish

and other natural resources.

I urge you to return Drakes Estero to all Americans by selecting alternative "A" and ensuring full wilderness protection for Drakes Estero in 2012. It is time to protect Drakes Estero as Congress intended and to create the West Coast's only marine wilderness for the benefit of people and wildlife.

Correspondence ID: 48716 **Project:** 33043 **Document:** 43390
Name: Frassl, Ingrid
Outside Organization: National Wildlife Federation Action Fund Unaffiliated Individual
Received: Dec.02,2011 12:12:26
Correspondence Type: Web Form

Correspondence: Drakes Estero is the ecological heart of Point Reyes National Seashore and a treasure that belongs to all Americans. In 1976, Congress promised that the Estero would receive full wilderness protection when the current lease for commercial oyster operations expires in 2012. I urge the Park Service to honor the wilderness promise and protect Drakes Estero for future generations.

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Correspondence ID: 48717 **Project:** 33043 **Document:** 43390
Name: N/A, N/A
Outside Organization: Unaffiliated Individual
Received: Dec.02,2011 12:36:08
Correspondence Type: Web Form

Correspondence: Please allow the Drake Bay Oyster Company to remain open. I believe they are an asset to our coastline and an important part of helping to reduce pollution, not to mention provide jobs in a down market.

Correspondence ID: 48718 **Project:** 33043 **Document:** 43390
Name: Slaughter, Brian
Outside Organization: Unaffiliated Individual
Received: Dec.02,2011 12:38:04
Correspondence Type: Web Form

Correspondence: It really is a shame that you want to close Drake's Bay Oyster farm. The property represents a valuable asset to the community, as well as a historic piece of Marin county. Oyster farming is the most sustainable protein resource there is and I believe that in and of itself is an argument against the farm's closure.

Correspondence ID: 48719 **Project:** 33043 **Document:** 43390
Name: Dobson, Ashley
Outside Organization: National Wildlife Federation Action Fund Unaffiliated Individual
Received: Dec.02,2011 12:42:13
Correspondence Type: Web Form

Correspondence: Drakes Estero is the ecological heart of Point Reyes National Seashore and a treasure that belongs to all Americans. In 1976, Congress promised that the Estero would receive full wilderness protection when the current lease for commercial oyster operations expires in 2012. I urge the Park Service to honor the wilderness promise and protect Drakes Estero for future generations.

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Correspondence ID: 48720 **Project:** 33043 **Document:** 43390
Name: Walker, Mary Pat
Outside Organization: National Wildlife Federation Action Fund Unaffiliated Individual
Received: Dec,02,2011 12:42:13
Correspondence Type: Web Form

Correspondence: Drakes Estero is the ecological heart of Point Reyes National Seashore and a treasure that belongs to all Americans. In 1976, Congress promised that the Estero would receive full wilderness protection when the current lease for commercial oyster operations expires in 2012. I urge the Park Service to honor the wilderness promise and protect Drakes Estero for future generations.

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Correspondence ID: 48721 **Project:** 33043 **Document:** 43390
Name: Little, Christina
Outside Organization: National Wildlife Federation Action Fund Unaffiliated Individual
Received: Dec,02,2011 12:42:19
Correspondence Type: Web Form

Correspondence: Drakes Estero is the ecological heart of Point Reyes National Seashore and a treasure that belongs to all Americans. In 1976, Congress promised that the Estero would receive full wilderness protection when the current lease for commercial oyster operations expires in 2012. I urge the Park Service to honor the wilderness promise and protect Drakes Estero for future generations.

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Correspondence ID: 48722 **Project:** 33043 **Document:** 43390
Name: Wendler, jeff
Outside Organization: NRDC Unaffiliated Individual
Received: Dec,02,2011 12:42:22
Correspondence Type: Web Form

Correspondence: Drakes Estero is a national ecological treasure and should become a protected wilderness area. It has outstanding natural resources, including one of California's largest harbor seal colonies and tens of thousands of shorebirds, waterfowl, native fish and endangered species that use its wetlands, mudflats and eelgrass beds.

In the 1976 Point Reyes Wilderness Act, Congress recognized Drakes Estero as a unique recreational and biological resource and promised that this irreplaceable resource would formally become a wilderness area when non-conforming uses were eliminated. Your agency permitted a commercial oyster company to grow non-native oysters and clams on 1,050 acres in Drakes Estero for 40 years, or until 2012.

Your own draft environmental impact statement reveals the extensive damage that the existing operation has caused to Drakes Estero and Point Reyes National Seashore's beaches. As you know, commercial operations of any kind are not permitted in designated wilderness areas because of such damage. Further, the Park Service's Organic Act mandates protection of park resources and values and strictly limits commercial operations.

Your approval of the proposal to extend the oyster company's permit would be contrary to the Point Reyes Wilderness Act and

would establish a dangerous precedent at a time when America's public lands and environmental laws are already under widespread attacks in Congress and elsewhere.

We've been waiting long enough. It is time to allow that permit to expire and to honor Congress' commitment. We want our bay back.

Correspondence ID: 48723 **Project:** 33043 **Document:** 43390

Name: Elchesen, Carla

Outside Organization: National Wildlife Federation Action Fund Unaffiliated Individual

Received: Dec.02,2011 12:42:24

Correspondence Type: Web Form

Correspondence: Drakes Estero is the ecological heart of Point Reyes National Seashore and a treasure that belongs to all Americans. In 1976, Congress promised that the Estero would receive full wilderness protection when the current lease for commercial oyster operations expires in 2012. I urge the Park Service to honor the wilderness promise and protect Drakes Estero for future generations.

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I urge you to return Drakes Estero to all Americans by selecting alternative "A" and ensuring full wilderness protection for Drakes Estero in 2012. It is time to protect Drakes Estero as Congress intended and to create the West Coast's only marine wilderness for the benefit of people and wildlife.

Correspondence ID: 48724 **Project:** 33043 **Document:** 43390

Name: Wells, Eric

Outside Organization: National Wildlife Federation Action Fund Unaffiliated Individual

Received: Dec.02,2011 12:42:45

Correspondence Type: Web Form

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Correspondence ID: 48726 **Project:** 33043 **Document:** 43390

Name: Manetta, Deborah

Outside Organization: Unaffiliated Individual

Received: Dec.02,2011 12:58:59

Correspondence Type: Web Form

Correspondence: I strongly support a renewable Special Use Permit for Drakes Bay Oyster Company. I like most West Marin residents find the Park Service's actions in the last five years to have reached a totally unacceptable level of deceit and arrogance. The Drakes's Bay Oyster Company is a major tourist attraction for all Americans and vast numbers of foreign visitors. Despite the idiotic position of the Sierra Club, the Point Reyes National Seashore is not now, nor will it ever be, "wilderness." Our National Parks are for all of our people and our guests, not for the interests of the Park Service or the Sierra Club. The Park Service has a dreadfully poor image in the Western United States because it has resorted to telling lies and distorting the facts in this case. It had been a greatly respected service until the service ceased being a collection of rangers who were naturalists, now they are all wanna-be cops with little or no knowledge of natural history or wild animal knowledge. It is time to reverse the poor record of the park service and return to being custodians of our natural beauty. A very good first step would be to begin by showing the public that the service can act reasonably and provide a renewable special use permit for Drake's Bay Oyster Company. The Lunny family are long time local residents and farmers who have a pristine record of achievement and sustainability. Given a

choice most people and many thousands if not millions of foreign visitors to this area would prefer to lose the Park Service, rather than Drake's Bay Oyster Company. That is an indication of how wrong headed the current policies are.

Correspondence ID: 48727 **Project:** 33043 **Document:** 43390
Name: martin, cynthia
Outside Organization: NRDC Unaffiliated Individual
Received: Dec,02,2011 13:12:05
Correspondence Type: Web Form
Correspondence: Drakes Estero is a national ecological treasure and should become a protected wilderness area. It has outstanding natural resources, including one of California's largest harbor seal colonies and tens of thousands of shorebirds, waterfowl, native fish and endangered species that use its wetlands, mudflats and eelgrass beds.

In the 1976 Point Reyes Wilderness Act, Congress recognized Drakes Estero as a unique recreational and biological resource and promised that this irreplaceable resource would formally become a wilderness area when non-conforming uses were eliminated. Your agency permitted a commercial oyster company to grow non-native oysters and clams on 1,050 acres in Drakes Estero for 40 years, or until 2012.

Your own draft environmental impact statement reveals the extensive damage that the existing operation has caused to Drakes Estero and Point Reyes National Seashore's beaches. As you know, commercial operations of any kind are not permitted in designated wilderness areas because of such damage. Further, the Park Service's Organic Act mandates protection of park resources and values and strictly limits commercial operations.

Your approval of the proposal to extend the oyster company's permit would be contrary to the Point Reyes Wilderness Act and would establish a dangerous precedent at a time when America's public lands and environmental laws are already under widespread attacks in Congress and elsewhere.

We've been waiting long enough. It is time to allow that permit to expire and to honor Congress' commitment. We want our bay back.

Correspondence ID: 48728 **Project:** 33043 **Document:** 43390
Name: Avanti, Annemarie
Outside Organization: National Wildlife Federation Action Fund Unaffiliated Individual
Received: Dec,02,2011 13:12:16
Correspondence Type: Web Form
Correspondence: Drakes Estero is the ecological heart of Point Reyes National Seashore and a treasure that belongs to all Americans. In 1976, Congress promised that the Estero would receive full wilderness protection when the current lease for commercial oyster operations expires in 2012. I urge the Park Service to honor the wilderness promise and protect Drakes Estero for future generations.

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Your environmental review also shows that alternative "A"--no new permit for commercial oyster operations and protection of the Estero as full wilderness--is the environmentally preferred alternative and the one that best protects harbor seals, birds, fish and other natural resources.

I urge you to return Drakes Estero to all Americans by selecting alternative "A" and ensuring full wilderness protection for Drakes Estero in 2012. It is time to protect Drakes Estero as Congress intended and to create the West Coast's only marine wilderness for the benefit of people and wildlife.

Correspondence ID: 48729 **Project:** 33043 **Document:** 43390
Name: Smith, karen
Outside Organization: NRDC Unaffiliated Individual
Received: Dec,02,2011 13:12:16
Correspondence Type: Web Form
Correspondence: Drakes Estero is a national ecological treasure and should become a protected wilderness area. It has outstanding natural resources, including one of California's largest harbor seal colonies and tens of thousands of shorebirds, waterfowl, native fish and endangered species that use its wetlands, mudflats and eelgrass beds.

In the 1976 Point Reyes Wilderness Act, Congress recognized Drakes Estero as a unique recreational and biological resource and promised that this irreplaceable resource would formally become a wilderness area when non-conforming uses were eliminated. Your agency permitted a commercial oyster company to grow non-native oysters and clams on 1,050 acres in Drakes Estero for 40 years, or until 2012.

Your own draft environmental impact statement reveals the extensive damage that the existing operation has caused to Drakes

Estero and Point Reyes National Seashore's beaches. As you know, commercial operations of any kind are not permitted in designated wilderness areas because of such damage. Further, the Park Service's Organic Act mandates protection of park resources and values and strictly limits commercial operations.

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Correspondence ID: 48730 **Project:** 33043 **Document:** 43390
Name: starkweather, chester
Outside Organization: National Wildlife Federation Action Fund Unaffiliated Individual
Received: Dec,02,2011 13:12:32
Correspondence Type: Web Form
Correspondence: Drakes Estero is the ecological heart of Point Reyes National Seashore and a treasure that belongs to all Americans. In 1976, Congress promised that the Estero would receive full wilderness protection when the current lease for commercial oyster operations expires in 2012. I urge the Park Service to honor the wilderness promise and protect Drakes Estero for future generations.

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Correspondence ID: 48731 **Project:** 33043 **Document:** 43390
Name: N/A, N/A
Outside Organization: Unaffiliated Individual
Received: Dec,02,2011 13:13:05
Correspondence Type: Web Form
Correspondence: I am very disappointed to hear about the proposal to remove Drake's Bay Oyster Farm. Not only do I think of it as a part of the landscape of the area and look forward to visiting it when I am in the area, I resolutely dispute the claims in support of removing the farm. Oysters are of great environmental benefit when farmed in a responsible and sustainable manner, and Drake's Bay is the last place to be doing this in California. This area has wineries, restaurants, and working historic dairies... why go after Drake's Bay? All of them are a part of the history of the area, and history makes a park as much as nature.

Correspondence ID: 48732 **Project:** 33043 **Document:** 43390
Name: Thistlethwaite, Rebecca D
Outside Organization: Unaffiliated Individual
Received: Dec,02,2011 13:16:59
Correspondence Type: Web Form
Correspondence: Please allow Drakes Bay Oyster Company to continue raising oysters within the NPS boundaries by renewing their special use permit. They have been raising oysters in a sustainable way for a very long time, proving that mindful, responsible food production can coexist with wildlife habitat and ecological processes. Drakes Bay Oyster Company is also an essential component of the local economy and they provide high-quality, nutritious food for people in the region, produced in an ecologically sensitive manner. Having them located within the boundaries of NPS lands also provides an essential educational experience for visitors to better understand aquaculture and food production in general. It is a great model of humans as a part of nature rather than removed from nature. Thank you.

Correspondence ID: 48736 **Project:** 33043 **Document:** 43390
Name: Thomas, Diana
Outside Organization: Sierra Club Unaffiliated Individual
Received: Dec,02,2011 13:37:50
Correspondence Type: Web Form
Correspondence: I am writing to urge the National Park Service to protect Drakes Estero wilderness next year as long-intended. The American public deserves to have the West Coast's only marine wilderness protected for future generations to enjoy. Drakes Estero is a rare wildlife refuge where migrating birds stop over, harbor seals give birth, and fish spawn. It deserves the highest level of protection as Congress long-intended. As someone who enjoys our nation's spectacular national parks, I urge you to not undermine protections at Drakes Estero and succumb to special interests seeking to commercialize these special places.

I urge the National Park Service and the Department of the Interior to select alternative "A", which protects marine wilderness and is the environmentally preferred alternative. The NPS is mandated to provide maximum protection to the natural resources, as stated in the Seashore's legislation, and selecting this alternative is the most consistent with the laws and policies affecting this park. Our national parks are for the people and wildlife protection, not commercial exploitation. The environmental review shows that alternative "A" best protects harbor seals, fish, birds and other wildlife and plants. Drakes Estero is our only marine wilderness on the West Coast, and it is irreplaceable, while oysters can be grown elsewhere.

National Parks and wilderness areas are treasured by the majority of Americans and are for the public interest, not for private commercial exploitation. By protecting wilderness, the National Park Service will set a positive policy example while commercializing it will set a negative example and help others seek their special exemptions from national park laws.

Correspondence ID: 48737 **Project:** 33043 **Document:** 43390

Name: Akins, Michael

Outside Organization: National Parks Conservation Association Unaffiliated Individual

Received: Dec,02,2011 13:41:44

Correspondence Type: Web Form

Correspondence: I urge you to protect Drakes Estero wilderness next year, as long intended. It is in the public interest to create the West Coast's only marine wilderness for the enjoyment of all. The public has waited nearly four decades for these protections to be implemented, which is an immense compromise in itself. Drakes Estero is a rare wildlife refuge where migrating birds stop over, harbor seals give birth, and fish take shelter in eelgrass. As someone who enjoys our nation's national parks and their wildlife, I urge you to uphold the longstanding plan to convert this very special resource to wilderness.

I urge you to select alternative "A", which protects marine wilderness next year and is the Environmentally Preferred Alternative. The National Park Service is mandated to provide maximum protection to the natural resources at Drakes Estero and selecting this alternative is the most consistent with the laws and policies affecting this park. Our national parks are set aside for the public and for wildlife protection, and after waiting nearly 40 years for private commercial use rights to expire, it's time to give the estuary the protection it needs. The environmental review shows that alternative "A" is best for public policy, and best protects harbor seals, fish, birds and other natural resources. Drakes Estero is our only marine wilderness on the West Coast, and is irreplaceable, while oysters can be commercially grown elsewhere.

Please honor the promise made for a protected marine wilderness at Drakes Estero. In doing so, you will set a good policy example and reward the public with an enduring legacy feat found nowhere else on the West Coast.

Correspondence ID: 48738 **Project:** 33043 **Document:** 43390

Name: Goodness, Nancy

Outside Organization: National Wildlife Federation Action Fund Unaffiliated Individual

Received: Dec,02,2011 13:42:31

Correspondence Type: Web Form

Correspondence: Drakes Estero is the ecological heart of Point Reyes National Seashore and a treasure that belongs to all Americans. In 1976, Congress promised that the Estero would receive full wilderness protection when the current lease for commercial oyster operations expires in 2012. I urge the Park Service to honor the wilderness promise and protect Drakes Estero for future generations.

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I urge you to return Drakes Estero to all Americans by selecting alternative "A" and ensuring full wilderness protection for Drakes Estero in 2012. It is time to protect Drakes Estero as Congress intended and to create the West Coast's only marine wilderness for the benefit of people and wildlife.

Correspondence ID: 48739 **Project:** 33043 **Document:** 43390

Name: petruzzi, cheryl

Outside Organization: National Wildlife Federation Action Fund Unaffiliated Individual

Received: Dec,02,2011 13:42:36

Correspondence Type: Web Form

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Correspondence ID: 48740 **Project:** 33043 **Document:** 43390
Name: N/A, N/A
Outside Organization: Unaffiliated Individual
Received: Dec,02,2011 13:58:15
Correspondence Type: Web Form
Correspondence: Please preserve Drakes Estero as Wilderness in 2012, rather than continue to allow commercial activity in this important wildlife area.

I Support the NO ACTION Alternative. It is the Environmentally Preferred Alternative and would provide for the area to become Wilderness in 2012 as Congress intended since the 1970s.

The Action Alternatives are a direct attack on the Wilderness Act of 1964, run counter to the 1962 Point Reyes enabling legislation and the 1976 Point Reyes Wilderness Act, and set a dangerous precedent for future commercialization of National Parks and Wilderness around the county.

Correspondence ID: 48741 **Project:** 33043 **Document:** 43390
Name: Moholt-Siebert, Kenneth
Outside Organization: Unaffiliated Individual
Received: Dec,02,2011 14:04:25
Correspondence Type: Web Form
Correspondence: I am writing to support the Drakes Bay Oyster Company Use Permit. I grew up in Berkeley, went to college in Southern California, lived in Portland, Oregon for 20 years and more recently returned to the family farm in Santa Rosa. One of the great blessings of the West Coast, that I have enjoyed and seek actively to share with my kids and with friends who visit, is our access and connection to the wild places around us, and that it is possible to live in a way that harmonizes with the environment. One of my favorite places to take people is Point Reyes. When people come they think wine, because we are in Sonoma County and have a vineyard (Siebert Vineyards) and a winery (Ancient Oak Cellars). But there is so much more here to know and to cherish. What I want people to know when they visit is that there is an extraordinary richness and diversity here, that is experienced as one moves from the bio-region of the Santa Rosa plain through the redwoods, the coastal hills and the coast. This is one thing to experience through the window of a car or on a hike on Mt. Tam or the beach, but people really "get" it when we stop at Pt. Reyes Station and taste the local cheeses, and then go to Drakes Bay and taste oysters on the half-shell, raised right there in a sustainable fishery and then go hang out on the beach. It is important that we experience the wonder and beauty of our environment with all our senses. If we lose Drakes Bay Oysters, we will lose a national treasure.

Correspondence ID: 48743 **Project:** 33043 **Document:** 43390
Name: Bahr, Richard
Outside Organization: NRDC Unaffiliated Individual
Received: Dec,02,2011 14:12:13
Correspondence Type: Web Form
Correspondence: Drakes Estero is a national ecological treasure and should become a protected wilderness area. It has outstanding natural resources, including one of California's largest harbor seal colonies and tens of thousands of shorebirds, waterfowl, native fish and endangered species that use its wetlands, mudflats and eelgrass beds.

In the 1976 Point Reyes Wilderness Act, Congress recognized Drakes Estero as a unique recreational and biological resource and promised that this irreplaceable resource would formally become a wilderness area when non-conforming uses were eliminated. Your agency permitted a commercial oyster company to grow non-native oysters and clams on 1,050 acres in Drakes Estero for 40 years, or until 2012.

Your own draft environmental impact statement reveals the extensive damage that the existing operation has caused to Drakes Estero and Point Reyes National Seashore's beaches. As you know, commercial operations of any kind are not permitted in designated wilderness areas because of such damage. Further, the Park Service's Organic Act mandates protection of park resources and values and strictly limits commercial operations.

Your approval of the proposal to extend the oyster company's permit would be contrary to the Point Reyes Wilderness Act and would establish a dangerous precedent at a time when America's public lands and environmental laws are already under widespread attacks in Congress and elsewhere.

We've been waiting long enough. It is time to allow that permit to expire and to honor Congress' commitment. We want our bay back.

Correspondence ID: 48744 **Project:** 33043 **Document:** 43390
Name: Motta, Michael
Outside Organization: National Wildlife Federation Action Fund Unaffiliated Individual
Received: Dec,02,2011 14:12:21
Correspondence Type: Web Form
Correspondence:

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I urge you to return Drakes Estero to all Americans by selecting alternative "A" and ensuring full wilderness protection for Drakes Estero in 2012. It is time to protect Drakes Estero as Congress intended and to create the West Coast's only marine wilderness for the benefit of people and wildlife.

Correspondence ID: 48745 **Project:** 33043 **Document:** 43390
Name: Boulton, Jenny
Outside Organization: National Wildlife Federation Action Fund Unaffiliated Individual
Received: Dec,02,2011 14:12:22
Correspondence Type: Web Form
Correspondence:

Drakes Estero is the ecological heart of Point Reyes National Seashore and a treasure that belongs to all Americans. In 1976, Congress promised that the Estero would receive full wilderness protection when the current lease for commercial oyster operations expires in 2012. I urge the Park Service to honor the wilderness promise and protect Drakes Estero for future generations.

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I urge you to return Drakes Estero to all Americans by selecting alternative "A" and ensuring full wilderness protection for Drakes Estero in 2012. It is time to protect Drakes Estero as Congress intended and to create the West Coast's only marine wilderness for the benefit of people and wildlife.

Correspondence ID: 48748 **Project:** 33043 **Document:** 43390
Name: Radford, Jeff
Outside Organization: National Wildlife Federation Action Fund Unaffiliated Individual
Received: Dec,02,2011 14:42:22
Correspondence Type: Web Form
Correspondence:

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Correspondence ID: 48749 **Project:** 33043 **Document:** 43390
Name: Thomas, Scott
Outside Organization: National Wildlife Federation Action Fund Unaffiliated Individual
Received: Dec.02,2011 14:42:22
Correspondence Type: Web Form
Correspondence: Drakes Estero is the ecological heart of Point Reyes National Seashore and a treasure that belongs to all Americans. In 1976, Congress promised that the Estero would receive full wilderness protection when the current lease for commercial oyster operations expires in 2012. I urge the Park Service to honor the wilderness promise and protect Drakes Estero for future generations.

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Correspondence ID: 48750 **Project:** 33043 **Document:** 43390
Name: Schmidt, Ann E.
Outside Organization: National Wildlife Federation Action Fund Unaffiliated Individual
Received: Dec.02,2011 14:42:56
Correspondence Type: Web Form
Correspondence: Drakes Estero is the ecological heart of Point Reyes National Seashore and a treasure that belongs to all Americans. In 1976, Congress promised that the Estero would receive full wilderness protection when the current lease for commercial oyster operations expires in 2012. I urge the Park Service to honor the wilderness promise and protect Drakes Estero for future generations.

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Correspondence ID: 48751 **Project:** 33043 **Document:** 43390
Name: Hoyle, Roger R
Outside Organization: San Francisco Marriott Marquis Unaffiliated Individual
Received: Dec.02,2011 14:48:29
Correspondence Type: Web Form
Correspondence: As an ambassador to the Bay Area, I deal with visitors from all over the world. My job is not only find them entertainment and dining but to also educate. On a trip to Drakes Bay Oyster in August 2011 I received a very educational tour about oyster farming the and very hard work and patience it takes for an oyster to reach our tables for consumption. Not only was the tour educational but quite entertaining. However, the best part was that the tour was free of charge. This type of experience is rare in the food and tourism industry. As agro-tourism grows the experience I had at Drakes Bay Oyster is something I can share with my guests. Regards, Renato Hoyle | Assistant Chief Concierge Member, San Francisco Concierge Association Member, Concierge Alliance of Napa Valley and Sonoma _____ San Francisco Marriott Marquis 55 Fourth Street San Francisco, CA 94103 (w) 415.442.6742 (f) 415.442.6764 (e) renato.hoyle@marriott.com www.sfmarrriott.com

Correspondence ID: 48755 **Project:** 33043 **Document:** 43390

Name: Lane, Tracy
Outside Organization: NRDC Unaffiliated Individual
Received: Dec,02,2011 15:12:25
Correspondence Type: Web Form
Correspondence: Drakes Estero is a national ecological treasure and should become a protected wilderness area. It has outstanding natural resources, including one of California's largest harbor seal colonies and tens of thousands of shorebirds, waterfowl, native fish and endangered species that use its wetlands, mudflats and eelgrass beds.

In the 1976 Point Reyes Wilderness Act, Congress recognized Drakes Estero as a unique recreational and biological resource and promised that this irreplaceable resource would formally become a wilderness area when non-conforming uses were eliminated. Your agency permitted a commercial oyster company to grow non-native oysters and clams on 1,050 acres in Drakes Estero for 40 years, or until 2012.

Your own draft environmental impact statement reveals the extensive damage that the existing operation has caused to Drakes Estero and Point Reyes National Seashore's beaches. As you know, commercial operations of any kind are not permitted in designated wilderness areas because of such damage. Further, the Park Service's Organic Act mandates protection of park resources and values and strictly limits commercial operations.

Your approval of the proposal to extend the oyster company's permit would be contrary to the Point Reyes Wilderness Act and would establish a dangerous precedent at a time when America's public lands and environmental laws are already under widespread attacks in Congress and elsewhere.

We've been waiting long enough. It is time to allow that permit to expire and to honor Congress' commitment. We want our bay back.

Correspondence ID: 48756 **Project:** 33043 **Document:** 43390
Name: Simrin, Harry S
Outside Organization: National Wildlife Federation Action Fund Unaffiliated Individual
Received: Dec,02,2011 15:12:28
Correspondence Type: Web Form
Correspondence:

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Your environmental review also shows that alternative "A"--no new permit for commercial oyster operations and protection of the Estero as full wilderness--is the environmentally preferred alternative and the one that best protects harbor seals, birds, fish and other natural resources.

I urge you to return Drakes Estero to all Americans by selecting alternative "A" and ensuring full wilderness protection for Drakes Estero in 2012. It is time to protect Drakes Estero as Congress intended and to create the West Coast's only marine wilderness for the benefit of people and wildlife.

Correspondence ID: 48757 **Project:** 33043 **Document:** 43390
Name: Rodin, Nick
Outside Organization: National Wildlife Federation Action Fund Unaffiliated Individual
Received: Dec,02,2011 15:12:35
Correspondence Type: Web Form
Correspondence:

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Correspondence ID: 48758 **Project:** 33043 **Document:** 43390
Name: Velez, Samantha
Outside Organization: National Wildlife Federation Action Fund Unaffiliated Individual
Received: Dec,02,2011 15:12:45
Correspondence Type: Web Form
Correspondence: Drakes Estero is the ecological heart of Point Reyes National Seashore and a treasure that belongs to all Americans. In 1976, Congress promised that the Estero would receive full wilderness protection when the current lease for commercial oyster operations expires in 2012. I urge the Park Service to honor the wilderness promise and protect Drakes Estero for future generations.

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Correspondence ID: 48764 **Project:** 33043 **Document:** 43390
Name: Fontaine, Joe B
Outside Organization: Unaffiliated Individual
Received: Dec,02,2011 16:04:25
Correspondence Type: Web Form
Correspondence: I am a native Californian and a frequent user of our National Parks. I supported the wilderness designations in Point Reyes National Seashore when they were established by Congress. I still support them strongly. Allowing the oyster operation to temporarily continue was a fair compromise. Now that the time for eliminating the operation in designated Wilderness has expired the operation should be terminated. I therefore support the no action alternative. The current owner of the permit knew about the termination deadline when he purchased the permit. I believe it was inappropriate and unethical to ask Congress to extend the operation. That would be a terrible precedent to set for future Wilderness areas that may face a similar issue. Thank you for considering my opinion on this matter.

Sincerely, Joe Fontaine

Correspondence ID: 48766 **Project:** 33043 **Document:** 43390
Name: Schuster, Jeanne
Outside Organization: National Wildlife Federation Action Fund Unaffiliated Individual
Received: Dec,02,2011 16:12:33
Correspondence Type: Web Form
Correspondence: Drakes Estero is the ecological heart of Point Reyes National Seashore and a treasure that belongs to all Americans. In 1976, Congress promised that the Estero would receive full wilderness protection when the current lease for commercial oyster operations expires in 2012. I urge the Park Service to honor the wilderness promise and protect Drakes Estero for future generations.

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Correspondence ID: 48767 **Project:** 33043 **Document:** 43390
Name: Adams, Cecile
Outside Organization: National Wildlife Federation Action Fund Unaffiliated Individual

Received: Dec,02,2011 16:12:54

Correspondence Type: Web Form

Correspondence: Drakes Estero is the ecological heart of Point Reyes National Seashore and a treasure that belongs to all Americans. In 1976, Congress promised that the Estero would receive full wilderness protection when the current lease for commercial oyster operations expires in 2012. I urge the Park Service to honor the wilderness promise and protect Drakes Estero for future generations.

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Correspondence ID: 48771 **Project:** 33043 **Document:** 43390

Name: brazis, christine

Outside Organization: National Wildlife Federation Action Fund Unaffiliated Individual

Received: Dec,02,2011 16:42:38

Correspondence Type: Web Form

Correspondence: Drakes Estero is the ecological heart of Point Reyes National Seashore and a treasure that belongs to all Americans. In 1976, Congress promised that the Estero would receive full wilderness protection when the current lease for commercial oyster operations expires in 2012. I urge the Park Service to honor the wilderness promise and protect Drakes Estero for future generations.

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Correspondence ID: 48772 **Project:** 33043 **Document:** 43390

Name: taigen, fredric

Outside Organization: Unaffiliated Individual

Received: Dec,02,2011 00:00:00

Correspondence Type: Web Form

Correspondence: None of the proposal alternatives are appropriate. I renewable special use permit. NPS should adhere to existing management policies.

Correspondence ID: 48773 **Project:** 33043 **Document:** 43390

Name: Voyles, Lauren

Outside Organization: National Wildlife Federation Action Fund Unaffiliated Individual

Received: Dec,02,2011 16:42:53

Correspondence Type: Web Form

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Correspondence ID: 48774 **Project:** 33043 **Document:** 43390
Name: Elvidge, Roseann
Outside Organization: National Wildlife Federation Action Fund Unaffiliated Individual
Received: Dec.02,2011 16:42:53
Correspondence Type: Web Form

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Correspondence ID: 48775 **Project:** 33043 **Document:** 43390
Name: Parker, Jeff
Outside Organization: National Wildlife Federation Action Fund Unaffiliated Individual
Received: Dec.02,2011 17:12:42
Correspondence Type: Web Form

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Correspondence ID: 48776 **Project:** 33043 **Document:** 43390
Name: Brown, Cynthia
Outside Organization: National Wildlife Federation Action Fund Unaffiliated Individual
Received: Dec.02,2011 17:12:42
Correspondence Type: Web Form

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Correspondence ID: 48777 **Project:** 33043 **Document:** 43390
Name: Mammano, Robert A
Outside Organization: Private Hiking Club Unaffiliated Individual
Received: Dec.02,2011 17:15:02
Correspondence Type: Web Form
Correspondence: I am writing this note in support of the Drake's Bay Oyster Farm because we visited their facility a couple of months ago and witnessed how their operation functions, and I believe that it should remain intact and operational as long as they maintain their current principles. This operation is a valuable historic and educational asset to Point Reyes and it is evident to me that it does no harm - not to the native oyster population, not to the seal or fish colonies in the area, not to the seawater purity, and not to the Point Reyes environment.

I see no justification for forcing them out of business on the basis of any time duration. Not now, not next year, and not 10 years from now. Instead they should be allowed to continue until such time as their operation actually does something to negatively impact the National Park.

Robert Mammano, independant hiker and environmental supporter.

Correspondence ID: 48778 **Project:** 33043 **Document:** 43390
Name: Panos, Greg
Outside Organization: Sierra Club Unaffiliated Individual
Received: Dec.02,2011 17:39:09
Correspondence Type: Web Form
Correspondence: I am writing to urge the National Park Service to protect Drakes Estero wilderness next year as long-intended. The American public deserves to have the West Coast's only marine wilderness protected for future generations to enjoy. Drakes Estero is a rare wildlife refuge where migrating birds stop over, harbor seals give birth, and fish spawn. It deserves the highest level of protection as Congress long-intended. As someone who enjoys our nation's spectacular national parks, I urge you to not undermine protections at Drakes Estero and succumb to special interests seeking to commercialize these special places.

I urge the National Park Service and the Department of the Interior to select alternative "A", which protects marine wilderness and is the environmentally preferred alternative. The NPS is mandated to provide maximum protection to the natural resources, as stated in the Seashore's legislation, and selecting this alternative is the most consistent with the laws and policies affecting this park. Our national parks are for the people and wildlife protection, not commercial exploitation. The environmental review shows that alternative "A" best protects harbor seals, fish, birds and other wildlife and plants. Drakes Estero is our only marine wilderness on the West Coast, and it is irreplaceable, while oysters can be grown elsewhere.

National Parks and wilderness areas are treasured by the majority of Americans and are for the public interest, not for private commercial exploitation. By protecting wilderness, the National Park Service will set a positive policy example while commercializing it will set a negative example and help others seek their special exemptions from national park laws.

Correspondence ID: 48779 **Project:** 33043 **Document:** 43390
Name: Kelly, John P
Outside Organization: Audubon Canyon Ranch Non-profit/Organization
Received: Dec.02,2011 00:00:00
Correspondence Type: Web Form
Correspondence: [Comments on the Draft EIS for the Drakes Bay Oyster Company Special Use Permit, submitted on 1 December 2011 by John P. Kelly, PhD, Director of Conservation Science, Audubon Canyon Ranch, Stinson Beach, CA.]

Audubon Canyon Ranch (ACR) owns and manages a system of wildlife sanctuaries that includes approximately 1,450 acres of shoreline properties in western Marin County near and adjacent to the Point Reyes National Seashore. Our mission includes programs in conservation science related to the management of natural areas that are ecologically associated with our sanctuaries, including the Point Reyes National Seashore and Drakes Estero. Therefore, ACR has demonstrated a long-standing interest and partnership with the National Seashore in the management of natural resources in this region. Of particular value to the Draft Environmental Impact Statement (DEIS) for the Drakes Bay Oyster Company Special Use Permit, we conducted a five-year investigation on the effects of oyster farming on habitat use by shorebirds in Tomales Bay (Kelly et al. 1996), which the National Academy of Sciences considered to be relevant to mariculture effects in Drakes Estero (NAS 2009).

We carefully reviewed the DEIS for the Drakes Bay Oyster Company Special Use Permit, with a focus on scientific evidence related to impacts on wildlife and habitat values in the estuary. Based on our review, we offer the following general comments and conclusions:

GENERAL CONCLUSIONS

ACR strongly supports the DEIS as (1) a thorough analysis of environmental concerns and (2) an accurate interpretation of the best available science.

ACR strongly supports Alternative A, allowing the expiration of the existing Special Use Permit and the planned conversion of the estuary to Wilderness. Scientific evidence presented in the DEIS substantiates the overriding importance of Alternative A.

ACR agrees with the conclusions of the DEIS that continued mariculture operations would limit or reduce the value of Drakes Estero to estuarine birds and, based on these conclusions, strongly opposes Alternatives B, C, and D. Scientific evidence presented in the DEIS indicates that continuing mariculture operations would likely limit or further degrade avian habitat quality, alter foraging behaviors, and limit the sizes of several wintering bird populations. The recent review draft of the California Coastal Waterbird Conservation Plan (Shuford 2011) is consistent with this conclusion, stating "oyster cultivation has the potential to degrade foraging habitat for waterbirds." In addition, the Southern Pacific Shorebird Conservation Plan recommends conservation efforts to "restrict further development of tidal flat for oyster culture" (Hickey et al. 2003).

The removal of mariculture operations, as indicated by Alternative A, is necessary to restore the natural character of the estuary, as intended by the planned conversion to Wilderness. Because of human activities and numerous adverse environmental impacts associated with continued mariculture, Alternatives B, C, or D would fail to achieve conditions consistent with the requirements of designated Wilderness.

IMPACTS ON SHOREBIRDS

The DEIS accurately concludes that mariculture operations reduce habitat quality for foraging shorebirds. In addition, our five-year investigation of mariculture operations on Tomales Bay revealed "a significant net decrease in total shorebird use of foraging areas developed for aquaculture" (Kelly et al. 1996). A finer point indicated by our work is that mariculture not only blocks shorebird access to the sediments directly beneath oyster bags and other structures, but it also reduces shorebird use in the general vicinity of mariculture structures. Such reductions in shorebird use are likely to involve one or more of the following processes: ? Introduction of racks, bags, or other structures that block the uninterrupted visibility shorebirds need for group (flock) foraging and the detection of approaching raptors ? Mariculture-induced changes in the abundance or availability of preferred shorebird prey (Triani 1994) * Altered foraging substrates related to mariculture-induced accumulation of oyster pseudofeces or other sediments (Day et al. 1987, Deslous-Paoli et al. 1992) ? Altered foraging substrates associated with foot traffic by oyster growers, maintenance of stakes and bags, or other mariculture-related activities ? Avoidance of oyster bags or racks as foraging substrates

Alternative A would restore tide-dependent foraging opportunities for shorebirds. Shorebirds must move routinely across and among available feeding areas as intertidal substrates are sequentially exposed and inundated by advancing and receding tides (Burger 1984, Kelly 2001). Therefore, mariculture-related loss of foraging opportunities may be substantial at particular tide levels—even if the overall extent of mariculture excludes shorebirds from only a portion of the Estero.

Mariculture-induced loss of foraging opportunities for shorebirds in Drakes Estero may limit the sizes of seasonally resident shorebird populations. Wintering shorebirds generally operate within areas smaller than Drakes Estero (Warnock and Takekawa 1995, Kelly 2001). Therefore, shorebirds that winter in the Estero are likely to represent resident populations that depend on local conditions. Several scientific authors have provided evidence that the sizes of winter shorebird populations may be limited by foraging opportunities or habitat modifications (Goss-Custard 1979; Evans and Pienkowski 1984; Senner and Howe 1984; Goss-Custard et al. 1995) such as those imposed by mariculture.

The significant impacts of mariculture on shorebird habitat (Kelly et al. 1996) provide an important basis for shorebird conservation goals in Drakes Estero. In a formal letter submitted to the National Research Council regarding the National Academy of Sciences Report on Shellfish Mariculture in Drakes Estero (Kelly 2009), we emphasized the importance of considering the effects of mariculture on shorebird habitat in conservation planning and management—even if the effects on shorebird population sizes are unknown. The U.S. Shorebird Conservation Plan emphasizes three major goals at different spatial scales for developing effective management practices. Conservation goals for maintaining shorebird populations are considered to be valuable at national and hemispheric scales. At regional scales, the primary conservation goal recommended by the U. S. Shorebird Conservation Plan is to maintain the quality and quantity of habitat at local levels to support shorebirds that breed, winter in, and migrate through each region. Within the Southern Pacific Region, the recommended habitat goal is to increase the extent and quality of tidal flats for shorebirds (Hickey et al. 2003). Therefore, the management objectives for Drakes Estero should clearly reflect efforts to protect and restore intertidal habitat for shorebirds.

IMPACTS ON WATERBIRDS

Alternative A would benefit waterbirds by ensuring the protection of eelgrass beds as key habitat areas. Eelgrass provides crucial winter food for Black Brant, surface-feeding ducks, and numerous other waterfowl (Yocum and Keller 1961, Baldassarre and Bolen 1994), and supports a rich estuarine fauna used by loons, grebes, cormorants, and other waterbird species to balance their daily energy needs (Day et al. 1989, Kelly and Tappen 1998, Weathers and Kelly 2007). Alternatives B, C, and D, would require careful management to minimize continuing impacts to this important waterbird habitat.

Alternative A would benefit waterbirds by reducing disturbances by boat traffic related to daily mariculture operations. The presences of boats in eelgrass areas can prevent most waterbirds from congregating in the area (Kelly and Tappen 1998). In addition, foraging waterfowl can be seriously affected by even occasional disturbance during key parts of the tide cycle. For example, if American Wigeon or Black Brant foraging in eelgrass are disturbed during low tide, they may abandon the area until the next tidal cycle (Fox et al. 1993, Stock 1993). Alternatives B, C, and D, would allow continuing disturbance to foraging waterbirds by boat traffic associated with daily mariculture operations.

IMPACTS ON THE PLANNED CONVERSION TO WILDERNESS

Alternative A is necessary to restore natural scenic values--an essential element of the natural character of Drakes Estero. Under Alternatives B, C, and D, the conspicuousness of oyster racks and human activity dominating intertidal and subtidal areas of the Estero, along with likely increases in the number of visitors to oyster processing facilities, would continue to compromise the scenic values of the Estero.

Alternative A would minimize long-term management costs to the National Park Service. In contrast, Alternatives B, C, and D would increase the costs of managing the Estuary as a natural system, because of increased costs related to policing mariculture operations, monitoring the ecological effects of mariculture, and conducting management efforts to minimize adverse impacts to the natural elements and processes in the system. For example, recent occurrences of nonnative *Spartina* species (cordgrass) in Drakes Estero (www.spartina.org) suggest that mariculture-related increases in human activity could increase the risk of additional introductions of this highly invasive pest plant. This risk, recognized by the Southern Pacific Shorebird Conservation Plan (Hickey et al. 2003), includes the threat of major ecological damage, potentially huge management costs, and extensive loss of shorebird foraging habitat (Goss-Custard and Moser 1988, Callaway and Josselyn 1992), if invasive *Spartina* were to become established in Drakes Estero.

Based on the considerations outlined above, Audubon Canyon Ranch strongly supports Alternative A as the only alternative that would adequately protect the natural values of Drakes Estero. Thank you for this opportunity to comment.

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Correspondence ID: 48780 **Project:** 33043 **Document:** 43390
Name: Joyce, Elizabeth
Outside Organization: Unaffiliated Individual
Received: Dec.02,2011 17:40:34
Correspondence Type: Web Form
Correspondence: I am very disappointed by the NPS's decision to decline a renewable permit for Drakes Bay Oyster Farm. We value the contributions that this fine small business has made to the area and applaud their efforts to promote sustainable oyster farming. The options that you have proposed will put the oyster farm out of business. I strongly object to this decision.

Correspondence ID: 48781 **Project:** 33043 **Document:** 43390
Name: Miller, Marilyn
Outside Organization: National Parks Conservation Association Unaffiliated Individual
Received: Dec.02,2011 17:42:22
Correspondence Type: Web Form
Correspondence: I urge you to protect Drakes Estero wilderness next year, as long intended. It is in the public interest to create the West Coast's only marine wilderness for the enjoyment of all. The public has waited nearly four decades for these protections to be implemented, which is an immense compromise in itself. Drakes Estero is a rare wildlife refuge where migrating birds stop over, harbor seals give birth, and fish take shelter in eelgrass. As someone who enjoys our nation's national parks and their wildlife, I urge you to uphold the longstanding plan to convert this very special resource to wilderness. I support your efforts to protect wilderness areas. Please follow through on this special area of Point Reyes National Seashore. Thank you for your attention.

I urge you to select alternative "A", which protects marine wilderness next year and is the Environmentally Preferred Alternative. The National Park Service is mandated to provide maximum protection to the natural resources at Drakes Estero and selecting this alternative is the most consistent with the laws and policies affecting this park. Our national parks are set aside for the public and for wildlife protection, and after waiting nearly 40 years for private commercial use rights to expire, it's time to give the estuary the protection it needs. The environmental review shows that alternative "A" is best for public policy, and best protects harbor seals, fish, birds and other natural resources. Drakes Estero is our only marine wilderness on the West Coast, and is irreplaceable, while oysters can be commercially grown elsewhere.

Please honor the promise made for a protected marine wilderness at Drakes Estero. In doing so, you will set a good policy example and reward the public with an enduring legacy feat found nowhere else on the West Coast.

Correspondence ID: 48782 **Project:** 33043 **Document:** 43390
Name: Snyder, Mark
Outside Organization: National Wildlife Federation Action Fund Unaffiliated Individual
Received: Dec.02,2011 17:42:52
Correspondence Type: Web Form
Correspondence: Drakes Estero is the ecological heart of Point Reyes National Seashore and a treasure that belongs to all Americans. In 1976, Congress promised that the Estero would receive full wilderness protection when the current lease for commercial oyster operations expires in 2012. I urge the Park Service to honor the wilderness promise and protect Drakes Estero for future

generations.

Drakes Estero is home to 20 percent of the mainland breeding population of harbor seals in California and is used by tens of thousands of shorebirds and waterfowl and dozens of species of native fish. Your draft environmental impact statement makes clear that the existing commercial oyster operation is causing extensive damage to Drakes Estero and the Seashore's beaches, and that allowing these operations to continue would cause even more long-term harm.

Your environmental review also shows that alternative "A"--no new permit for commercial oyster operations and protection of the Estero as full wilderness--is the environmentally preferred alternative and the one that best protects harbor seals, birds, fish and other natural resources.

I urge you to return Drakes Estero to all Americans by selecting alternative "A" and ensuring full wilderness protection for Drakes Estero in 2012. It is time to protect Drakes Estero as Congress intended and to create the West Coast's only marine wilderness for the benefit of people and wildlife.

Correspondence ID: 48783 **Project:** 33043 **Document:** 43390
Name: Richardson, Karen
Outside Organization: National Wildlife Federation Action Fund Unaffiliated Individual
Received: Dec,02,2011 17:42:57
Correspondence Type: Web Form
Correspondence: Drakes Estero is the ecological heart of Point Reyes National Seashore and a treasure that belongs to all Americans. In 1976, Congress promised that the Estero would receive full wilderness protection when the current lease for commercial oyster operations expires in 2012. I urge the Park Service to honor the wilderness promise and protect Drakes Estero for future generations.

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Your environmental review also shows that alternative "A"--no new permit for commercial oyster operations and protection of the Estero as full wilderness--is the environmentally preferred alternative and the one that best protects harbor seals, birds, fish and other natural resources.

I urge you to return Drakes Estero to all Americans by selecting alternative "A" and ensuring full wilderness protection for Drakes Estero in 2012. It is time to protect Drakes Estero as Congress intended and to create the West Coast's only marine wilderness for the benefit of people and wildlife.

Correspondence ID: 48784 **Project:** 33043 **Document:** 43390
Name: McGuinn, Sherry
Outside Organization: National Wildlife Federation Action Fund Unaffiliated Individual
Received: Dec,02,2011 17:42:57
Correspondence Type: Web Form
Correspondence: Drakes Estero is the ecological heart of Point Reyes National Seashore and a treasure that belongs to all Americans. In 1976, Congress promised that the Estero would receive full wilderness protection when the current lease for commercial oyster operations expires in 2012. I urge the Park Service to honor the wilderness promise and protect Drakes Estero for future generations.

Drakes Estero is home to 20 percent of the mainland breeding population of harbor seals in California and is used by tens of thousands of shorebirds and waterfowl and dozens of species of native fish. Your draft environmental impact statement makes clear that the existing commercial oyster operation is causing extensive damage to Drakes Estero and the Seashore's beaches, and that allowing these operations to continue would cause even more long-term harm.

Your environmental review also shows that alternative "A"--no new permit for commercial oyster operations and protection of the Estero as full wilderness--is the environmentally preferred alternative and the one that best protects harbor seals, birds, fish and other natural resources.

I urge you to return Drakes Estero to all Americans by selecting alternative "A" and ensuring full wilderness protection for Drakes Estero in 2012. It is time to protect Drakes Estero as Congress intended and to create the West Coast's only marine wilderness for the benefit of people and wildlife.

Correspondence ID: 48785 **Project:** 33043 **Document:** 43390
Name: Moubray, Michael
Outside Organization: National Wildlife Federation Action Fund Unaffiliated Individual
Received: Dec,02,2011 17:42:57
Correspondence Type: Web Form
Correspondence: Drakes Estero is the ecological heart of Point Reyes National Seashore and a treasure that belongs to all Americans. In 1976,

Congress promised that the Estero would receive full wilderness protection when the current lease for commercial oyster operations expires in 2012. I urge the Park Service to honor the wilderness promise and protect Drakes Estero for future generations.

Drakes Estero is home to 20 percent of the mainland breeding population of harbor seals in California and is used by tens of thousands of shorebirds and waterfowl and dozens of species of native fish. Your draft environmental impact statement makes clear that the existing commercial oyster operation is causing extensive damage to Drakes Estero and the Seashore's beaches, and that allowing these operations to continue would cause even more long-term harm.

Your environmental review also shows that alternative "A"--no new permit for commercial oyster operations and protection of the Estero as full wilderness--is the environmentally preferred alternative and the one that best protects harbor seals, birds, fish and other natural resources.

I urge you to return Drakes Estero to all Americans by selecting alternative "A" and ensuring full wilderness protection for Drakes Estero in 2012. It is time to protect Drakes Estero as Congress intended and to create the West Coast's only marine wilderness for the benefit of people and wildlife.

Correspondence ID: 48786 **Project:** 33043 **Document:** 43390

Name: Butler, Sheila

Outside Organization: National Wildlife Federation Action Fund Unaffiliated Individual

Received: Dec,02,2011 18:13:00

Correspondence Type: Web Form

Correspondence: Drakes Estero is the ecological heart of Point Reyes National Seashore and a treasure that belongs to all Americans. In 1976, Congress promised that the Estero would receive full wilderness protection when the current lease for commercial oyster operations expires in 2012. I urge the Park Service to honor the wilderness promise and protect Drakes Estero for future generations.

Drakes Estero is home to 20 percent of the mainland breeding population of harbor seals in California and is used by tens of thousands of shorebirds and waterfowl and dozens of species of native fish. Your draft environmental impact statement makes clear that the existing commercial oyster operation is causing extensive damage to Drakes Estero and the Seashore's beaches, and that allowing these operations to continue would cause even more long-term harm.

Your environmental review also shows that alternative "A"--no new permit for commercial oyster operations and protection of the Estero as full wilderness--is the environmentally preferred alternative and the one that best protects harbor seals, birds, fish and other natural resources.

I urge you to return Drakes Estero to all Americans by selecting alternative "A" and ensuring full wilderness protection for Drakes Estero in 2012. It is time to protect Drakes Estero as Congress intended and to create the West Coast's only marine wilderness for the benefit of people and wildlife.

Correspondence ID: 48787 **Project:** 33043 **Document:** 43390

Name: Silitsky, Alli

Outside Organization: National Wildlife Federation Action Fund Unaffiliated Individual

Received: Dec,02,2011 18:13:00

Correspondence Type: Web Form

Correspondence: Drakes Estero is the ecological heart of Point Reyes National Seashore and a treasure that belongs to all Americans. In 1976, Congress promised that the Estero would receive full wilderness protection when the current lease for commercial oyster operations expires in 2012. I urge the Park Service to honor the wilderness promise and protect Drakes Estero for future generations.

Drakes Estero is home to 20 percent of the mainland breeding population of harbor seals in California and is used by tens of thousands of shorebirds and waterfowl and dozens of species of native fish. Your draft environmental impact statement makes clear that the existing commercial oyster operation is causing extensive damage to Drakes Estero and the Seashore's beaches, and that allowing these operations to continue would cause even more long-term harm.

Your environmental review also shows that alternative "A"--no new permit for commercial oyster operations and protection of the Estero as full wilderness--is the environmentally preferred alternative and the one that best protects harbor seals, birds, fish and other natural resources.

I urge you to return Drakes Estero to all Americans by selecting alternative "A" and ensuring full wilderness protection for Drakes Estero in 2012. It is time to protect Drakes Estero as Congress intended and to create the West Coast's only marine wilderness for the benefit of people and wildlife.

Correspondence ID: 48788 **Project:** 33043 **Document:** 43390

Name: Joyce, Thomas E

Outside Organization: Unaffiliated Individual

Received: Dec,02,2011 18:38:02

Correspondence Type: Web Form
Correspondence: We have enjoyed DBOC oysters for many years. Our daughter lives in San Francisco and we have DBOC oysters almost every time we visit. Please renew this permit

Correspondence ID: 48789 **Project:** 33043 **Document:** 43390
Name: Seavey, Arthur V
Outside Organization: Monterey Abalone Company Unaffiliated Individual
Received: Dec,02,2011 18:40:23
Correspondence Type: Web Form
Correspondence: I am strongly in favor of allowing Drakes Bay Oyster Company to continue producing oysters and other shellfish at their current location. There are so many great reasons for doing so: 1. The long history of use that has benefited the local economy, the environment, and visitorship to the State Park. That the oyster farm and park have co-existed for several decades provides strong evidence that these benefits will continue. 2. Production of excellent quality oysters that are a healthy and delicious form of nutrition. 3. The oyster farm has a vested interest in preserving the excellent water quality that exists in Drakes Estero. 4. Shellfish farming is an environmentally sustainable form of aquaculture (aquaculture is agriculture) which should be promoted and supported by our government including State Parks. 5. The United States imports over \$9 billion worth of seafood annually, a major contributor to our trade deficit. We need more sustainable seafood production, not less. 6. The oyster farm does not detract from the mission or function of the State Park. Rather, it is an important attraction for visitors to the park.

Drakes Bay Oyster Company is a model for sustainable food production. Let it continue to serve our state food supply and the economy of western Marin county.

Thanks,

Art Seavey

Correspondence ID: 48790 **Project:** 33043 **Document:** 43390
Name: Havandjian, Julian
Outside Organization: NRDC Unaffiliated Individual
Received: Dec,02,2011 18:42:47
Correspondence Type: Web Form
Correspondence: Drakes Estero is a national ecological treasure and should become a protected wilderness area. It has outstanding natural resources, including one of California's largest harbor seal colonies and tens of thousands of shorebirds, waterfowl, native fish and endangered species that use its wetlands, mudflats and eelgrass beds.

In the 1976 Point Reyes Wilderness Act, Congress recognized Drakes Estero as a unique recreational and biological resource and promised that this irreplaceable resource would formally become a wilderness area when non-conforming uses were eliminated. Your agency permitted a commercial oyster company to grow non-native oysters and clams on 1,050 acres in Drakes Estero for 40 years, or until 2012.

Your own draft environmental impact statement reveals the extensive damage that the existing operation has caused to Drakes Estero and Point Reyes National Seashore's beaches. As you know, commercial operations of any kind are not permitted in designated wilderness areas because of such damage. Further, the Park Service's Organic Act mandates protection of park resources and values and strictly limits commercial operations.

Your approval of the proposal to extend the oyster company's permit would be contrary to the Point Reyes Wilderness Act and would establish a dangerous precedent at a time when America's public lands and environmental laws are already under widespread attacks in Congress and elsewhere.

We've been waiting long enough. It is time to allow that permit to expire and to honor Congress' commitment. We want our bay back.

Correspondence ID: 48791 **Project:** 33043 **Document:** 43390
Name: Ryzner, Celeste D
Outside Organization: National Wildlife Federation Action Fund Unaffiliated Individual
Received: Dec,02,2011 18:42:52
Correspondence Type: Web Form
Correspondence: Drakes Estero is the ecological heart of Point Reyes National Seashore and a treasure that belongs to all Americans. In 1976, Congress promised that the Estero would receive full wilderness protection when the current lease for commercial oyster operations expires in 2012. I urge the Park Service to honor the wilderness promise and protect Drakes Estero for future generations.

Drakes Estero is home to 20 percent of the mainland breeding population of harbor seals in California and is used by tens of thousands of shorebirds and waterfowl and dozens of species of native fish. Your draft environmental impact statement makes clear that the existing commercial oyster operation is causing extensive damage to Drakes Estero and the Seashore's beaches, and that allowing these operations to continue would cause even more long-term harm.

Your environmental review also shows that alternative "A"--no new permit for commercial oyster operations and protection of the Estero as full wilderness--is the environmentally preferred alternative and the one that best protects harbor seals, birds, fish and other natural resources.

I urge you to return Drakes Estero to all Americans by selecting alternative "A" and ensuring full wilderness protection for Drakes Estero in 2012. It is time to protect Drakes Estero as Congress intended and to create the West Coast's only marine wilderness for the benefit of people and wildlife.

Correspondence ID: 48792 **Project:** 33043 **Document:** 43390
Name: Roaman, Chet
Outside Organization: Unaffiliated Individual
Received: Dec,02,2011 18:44:03
Correspondence Type: Web Form
Correspondence: Don't fix what's not broken.

Correspondence ID: 48793 **Project:** 33043 **Document:** 43390
Name: Brown, Pauline
Outside Organization: National Wildlife Federation Action Fund Unaffiliated Individual
Received: Dec,02,2011 19:13:00
Correspondence Type: Web Form
Correspondence: Drakes Estero is the ecological heart of Point Reyes National Seashore and a treasure that belongs to all Americans. In 1976, Congress promised that the Estero would receive full wilderness protection when the current lease for commercial oyster operations expires in 2012. I urge the Park Service to honor the wilderness promise and protect Drakes Estero for future generations.

Drakes Estero is home to 20 percent of the mainland breeding population of harbor seals in California and is used by tens of thousands of shorebirds and waterfowl and dozens of species of native fish. Your draft environmental impact statement makes clear that the existing commercial oyster operation is causing extensive damage to Drakes Estero and the Seashore's beaches, and that allowing these operations to continue would cause even more long-term harm.

Your environmental review also shows that alternative "A"--no new permit for commercial oyster operations and protection of the Estero as full wilderness--is the environmentally preferred alternative and the one that best protects harbor seals, birds, fish and other natural resources.

I urge you to return Drakes Estero to all Americans by selecting alternative "A" and ensuring full wilderness protection for Drakes Estero in 2012. It is time to protect Drakes Estero as Congress intended and to create the West Coast's only marine wilderness for the benefit of people and wildlife.

Correspondence ID: 48794 **Project:** 33043 **Document:** 43390
Name: Luokka, Katie
Outside Organization: National Wildlife Federation Action Fund Unaffiliated Individual
Received: Dec,02,2011 19:42:56
Correspondence Type: Web Form
Correspondence: Drakes Estero is the ecological heart of Point Reyes National Seashore and a treasure that belongs to all Americans. In 1976, Congress promised that the Estero would receive full wilderness protection when the current lease for commercial oyster operations expires in 2012. I urge the Park Service to honor the wilderness promise and protect Drakes Estero for future generations.

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Your environmental review also shows that alternative "A"--no new permit for commercial oyster operations and protection of the Estero as full wilderness--is the environmentally preferred alternative and the one that best protects harbor seals, birds, fish and other natural resources.

I urge you to return Drakes Estero to all Americans by selecting alternative "A" and ensuring full wilderness protection for Drakes Estero in 2012. It is time to protect Drakes Estero as Congress intended and to create the West Coast's only marine wilderness for the benefit of people and wildlife.

Correspondence ID: 48795 **Project:** 33043 **Document:** 43390
Name: Milbrandt, Marilyn
Outside Organization: National Wildlife Federation Action Fund Unaffiliated Individual
Received: Dec,02,2011 19:43:02
Correspondence Type: Web Form
Correspondence: Drakes Estero is the ecological heart of Point Reyes National Seashore and a treasure that belongs to all Americans. In 1976, Congress promised that the Estero would receive full wilderness protection when the current lease for commercial oyster

operations expires in 2012. I urge the Park Service to honor the wilderness promise and protect Drakes Estero for future generations.

Drakes Estero is home to 20 percent of the mainland breeding population of harbor seals in California and is used by tens of thousands of shorebirds and waterfowl and dozens of species of native fish. Your draft environmental impact statement makes clear that the existing commercial oyster operation is causing extensive damage to Drakes Estero and the Seashore's beaches, and that allowing these operations to continue would cause even more long-term harm.

Your environmental review also shows that alternative "A"--no new permit for commercial oyster operations and protection of the Estero as full wilderness--is the environmentally preferred alternative and the one that best protects harbor seals, birds, fish and other natural resources.

I urge you to return Drakes Estero to all Americans by selecting alternative "A" and ensuring full wilderness protection for Drakes Estero in 2012. It is time to protect Drakes Estero as Congress intended and to create the West Coast's only marine wilderness for the benefit of people and wildlife.

Correspondence ID: 48796 **Project:** 33043 **Document:** 43390
Name: Malon, Mike
Outside Organization: National Wildlife Federation Action Fund Unaffiliated Individual
Received: Dec,02,2011 19:43:11
Correspondence Type: Web Form
Correspondence: Drakes Estero is the ecological heart of Point Reyes National Seashore and a treasure that belongs to all Americans. In 1976, Congress promised that the Estero would receive full wilderness protection when the current lease for commercial oyster operations expires in 2012. I urge the Park Service to honor the wilderness promise and protect Drakes Estero for future generations.

Drakes Estero is home to 20 percent of the mainland breeding population of harbor seals in California and is used by tens of thousands of shorebirds and waterfowl and dozens of species of native fish. Your draft environmental impact statement makes clear that the existing commercial oyster operation is causing extensive damage to Drakes Estero and the Seashore's beaches, and that allowing these operations to continue would cause even more long-term harm.

Your environmental review also shows that alternative "A"--no new permit for commercial oyster operations and protection of the Estero as full wilderness--is the environmentally preferred alternative and the one that best protects harbor seals, birds, fish and other natural resources.

I urge you to return Drakes Estero to all Americans by selecting alternative "A" and ensuring full wilderness protection for Drakes Estero in 2012. It is time to protect Drakes Estero as Congress intended and to create the West Coast's only marine wilderness for the benefit of people and wildlife.

Correspondence ID: 48797 **Project:** 33043 **Document:** 43390
Name: Higdon, Jennifer
Outside Organization: National Wildlife Federation Action Fund Unaffiliated Individual
Received: Dec,02,2011 19:43:14
Correspondence Type: Web Form
Correspondence: Drakes Estero is the ecological heart of Point Reyes National Seashore and a treasure that belongs to all Americans. In 1976, Congress promised that the Estero would receive full wilderness protection when the current lease for commercial oyster operations expires in 2012. I urge the Park Service to honor the wilderness promise and protect Drakes Estero for future generations.

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I urge you to return Drakes Estero to all Americans by selecting alternative "A" and ensuring full wilderness protection for Drakes Estero in 2012. It is time to protect Drakes Estero as Congress intended and to create the West Coast's only marine wilderness for the benefit of people and wildlife.

Correspondence ID: 48798 **Project:** 33043 **Document:** 43390
Name: McMullen, Gail
Outside Organization: Sierra Club Unaffiliated Individual
Received: Dec,02,2011 20:09:15
Correspondence Type: Web Form

Correspondence: I am writing to urge the National Park Service to protect Drakes Estero wilderness next year as long-intended. The American public deserves to have the West Coast's only marine wilderness protected for future generations to enjoy. Drakes Estero is a rare wildlife refuge where migrating birds stop over, harbor seals give birth, and fish spawn. It deserves the highest level of protection as Congress long-intended. As someone who enjoys our nation's spectacular national parks, I urge you to not undermine protections at Drakes Estero and succumb to special interests seeking to commercialize these special places.

I urge the National Park Service and the Department of the Interior to select alternative "A", which protects marine wilderness and is the environmentally preferred alternative. The NPS is mandated to provide maximum protection to the natural resources, as stated in the Seashore's legislation, and selecting this alternative is the most consistent with the laws and policies affecting this park. Our national parks are for the people and wildlife protection, not commercial exploitation. The environmental review shows that alternative "A" best protects harbor seals, fish, birds and other wildlife and plants. Drakes Estero is our only marine wilderness on the West Coast, and it is irreplaceable, while oysters can be grown elsewhere.

National Parks and wilderness areas are treasured by the majority of Americans and are for the public interest, not for private commercial exploitation. By protecting wilderness, the National Park Service will set a positive policy example while commercializing it will set a negative example and help others seek their special exemptions from national park laws.

Correspondence ID: 48799 **Project:** 33043 **Document:** 43390

Name: Cecil, Jon

Outside Organization: National Parks Conservation Association Unaffiliated Individual

Received: Dec.02,2011 20:12:43

Correspondence Type: Web Form

Correspondence: I urge you to protect Drakes Estero wilderness next year, as long intended. It is in the public interest to create the West Coast's only marine wilderness for the enjoyment of all. The public has waited nearly four decades for these protections to be implemented, which is an immense compromise in itself. Drakes Estero is a rare wildlife refuge where migrating birds stop over, harbor seals give birth, and fish take shelter in eelgrass. As someone who enjoys our nation's national parks and their wildlife, I urge you to uphold the longstanding plan to convert this very special resource to wilderness.

I urge you to select alternative "A", which protects marine wilderness next year and is the Environmentally Preferred Alternative. The National Park Service is mandated to provide maximum protection to the natural resources at Drakes Estero and selecting this alternative is the most consistent with the laws and policies affecting this park. Our national parks are set aside for the public and for wildlife protection, and after waiting nearly 40 years for private commercial use rights to expire, it's time to give the estuary the protection it needs. The environmental review shows that alternative "A" is best for public policy, and best protects harbor seals, fish, birds and other natural resources. Drakes Estero is our only marine wilderness on the West Coast, and is irreplaceable, while oysters can be commercially grown elsewhere.

Please honor the promise made for a protected marine wilderness at Drakes Estero. In doing so, you will set a good policy example and reward the public with an enduring legacy feat found nowhere else on the West Coast.

Correspondence ID: 48800 **Project:** 33043 **Document:** 43390

Name: Pannone, Joanne

Outside Organization: NRDC Unaffiliated Individual

Received: Dec.02,2011 20:13:04

Correspondence Type: Web Form

Correspondence: Drakes Estero is a national ecological treasure and should become a protected wilderness area. It has outstanding natural resources, including one of California's largest harbor seal colonies and tens of thousands of shorebirds, waterfowl, native fish and endangered species that use its wetlands, mudflats and eelgrass beds.

In the 1976 Point Reyes Wilderness Act, Congress recognized Drakes Estero as a unique recreational and biological resource and promised that this irreplaceable resource would formally become a wilderness area when non-conforming uses were eliminated. Your agency permitted a commercial oyster company to grow non-native oysters and clams on 1,050 acres in Drakes Estero for 40 years, or until 2012.

Your own draft environmental impact statement reveals the extensive damage that the existing operation has caused to Drakes Estero and Point Reyes National Seashore's beaches. As you know, commercial operations of any kind are not permitted in designated wilderness areas because of such damage. Further, the Park Service's Organic Act mandates protection of park resources and values and strictly limits commercial operations.

Your approval of the proposal to extend the oyster company's permit would be contrary to the Point Reyes Wilderness Act and would establish a dangerous precedent at a time when America's public lands and environmental laws are already under widespread attacks in Congress and elsewhere.

We've been waiting long enough. It is time to allow that permit to expire and to honor Congress' commitment. We want our bay back.

Correspondence ID: 48801 **Project:** 33043 **Document:** 43390

Name: bruton, babette

Outside Organization: National Wildlife Federation Action Fund Unaffiliated Individual

Received: Dec,02,2011 20:13:17

Correspondence Type: Web Form

Correspondence: Drakes Estero is the ecological heart of Point Reyes National Seashore and a treasure that belongs to all Americans. In 1976, Congress promised that the Estero would receive full wilderness protection when the current lease for commercial oyster operations expires in 2012. I urge the Park Service to honor the wilderness promise and protect Drakes Estero for future generations.

Drakes Estero is home to 20 percent of the mainland breeding population of harbor seals in California and is used by tens of thousands of shorebirds and waterfowl and dozens of species of native fish. Your draft environmental impact statement makes clear that the existing commercial oyster operation is causing extensive damage to Drakes Estero and the Seashore's beaches, and that allowing these operations to continue would cause even more long-term harm.

Your environmental review also shows that alternative "A"--no new permit for commercial oyster operations and protection of the Estero as full wilderness--is the environmentally preferred alternative and the one that best protects harbor seals, birds, fish and other natural resources.

I urge you to return Drakes Estero to all Americans by selecting alternative "A" and ensuring full wilderness protection for Drakes Estero in 2012. It is time to protect Drakes Estero as Congress intended and to create the West Coast's only marine wilderness for the benefit of people and wildlife.

Correspondence ID: 48802 **Project:** 33043 **Document:** 43390

Name: Bernstein, Howard

Outside Organization: NRDC Unaffiliated Individual

Received: Dec,02,2011 20:42:59

Correspondence Type: Web Form

Correspondence: Drakes Estero is a national ecological treasure and should become a protected wilderness area. It has outstanding natural resources, including one of California's largest harbor seal colonies and tens of thousands of shorebirds, waterfowl, native fish and endangered species that use its wetlands, mudflats and eelgrass beds.

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We've been waiting long enough. It is time to allow that permit to expire and to honor Congress' commitment. We want our bay back.

Correspondence ID: 48803 **Project:** 33043 **Document:** 43390

Name: Owen, Karyon

Outside Organization: National Wildlife Federation Action Fund Unaffiliated Individual

Received: Dec,02,2011 20:43:02

Correspondence Type: Web Form

Correspondence: Drakes Estero is the ecological heart of Point Reyes National Seashore and a treasure that belongs to all Americans. In 1976, Congress promised that the Estero would receive full wilderness protection when the current lease for commercial oyster operations expires in 2012. I urge the Park Service to honor the wilderness promise and protect Drakes Estero for future generations.

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wilderness for the benefit of people and wildlife.

Correspondence ID: 48804 **Project:** 33043 **Document:** 43390
Name: Cianelli, Don
Outside Organization: Unaffiliated Individual
Received: Dec,02,2011 20:55:53
Correspondence Type: Web Form
Correspondence:

? Support the NO ACTION Alternative. It is the Environmentally Preferred Alternative and would provide for the area to become Wilderness in 2012 as Congress intended since the 1970s. ? The Action Alternatives have significant long-term adverse impacts to the Drakes Estero environment, including to wetlands, birds, fish, harbor seals, native mollusks, endangered species, eelgrass beds and to wilderness and the national park experience. ? The Action Alternatives are a direct attack on the Wilderness Act of 1964, run counter to the 1962 Point Reyes enabling legislation and the 1976 Point Reyes Wilderness Act, and set a dangerous precedent for future commercialization of National Parks and Wilderness around the county. ? The oyster operation involves 3,700 motorboat trips per year through harbor seal and eelgrass habitat; promotes the spread of invasive species impacts to native oysters, eelgrass beds, bird, fish and endangered species habitat; and litters remote Point Reyes beaches with thousands of pieces of plastic trash.

Correspondence ID: 48805 **Project:** 33043 **Document:** 43390
Name: Wehrmeister, Wm. J
Outside Organization: Unaffiliated Individual
Received: Dec,02,2011 21:05:49
Correspondence Type: Web Form
Correspondence:

My family supports a renewable special use permit, for Drake's Bay Oyster Co, and none of the other proposals mentioned. Our hiking group has enjoyed cooking Drake's Bay oysters for many years, at picnics at Drake's Beach, and Bear Valley. Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely, W. J. Wehrmeister

Correspondence ID: 48806 **Project:** 33043 **Document:** 43390
Name: Napps, Shirley
Outside Organization: National Wildlife Federation Action Fund Unaffiliated Individual
Received: Dec,02,2011 21:13:20
Correspondence Type: Web Form
Correspondence:

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Correspondence ID: 48807 **Project:** 33043 **Document:** 43390
Name: Harvey, Mark and Judy
Outside Organization: Wilderness watch Unaffiliated Individual
Received: Dec,02,2011 21:20:42
Correspondence Type: Web Form
Correspondence:

We support the "no action" alternative. We urge the NPS to preserve Drakes Estero as Wilderness in 2012, rather than continue to allow commercial activity in this important wildlife area.

Correspondence ID: 48808 **Project:** 33043 **Document:** 43390
Name: Petruzzi, Maryke
Outside Organization: National Wildlife Federation Action Fund Unaffiliated Individual
Received: Dec,02,2011 21:43:14
Correspondence Type: Web Form
Correspondence:

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Correspondence ID: 48809 **Project:** 33043 **Document:** 43390
Name: Baldwin, Hannah
Outside Organization: NRDC Unaffiliated Individual
Received: Dec,02,2011 21:43:17
Correspondence Type: Web Form
Correspondence: Drakes Estero is a national ecological treasure and should become a protected wilderness area. It has outstanding natural resources, including one of California's largest harbor seal colonies and tens of thousands of shorebirds, waterfowl, native fish and endangered species that use its wetlands, mudflats and eelgrass beds.

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Your approval of the proposal to extend the oyster company's permit would be contrary to the Point Reyes Wilderness Act and would establish a dangerous precedent at a time when America's public lands and environmental laws are already under widespread attacks in Congress and elsewhere.

We've been waiting long enough. It is time to allow that permit to expire and to honor Congress' commitment. We want our bay back.

Correspondence ID: 48810 **Project:** 33043 **Document:** 43390
Name: Mosley, Michelle
Outside Organization: National Wildlife Federation Action Fund Unaffiliated Individual
Received: Dec,02,2011 21:43:20
Correspondence Type: Web Form
Correspondence: Drakes Estero is the ecological heart of Point Reyes National Seashore and a treasure that belongs to all Americans. In 1976, Congress promised that the Estero would receive full wilderness protection when the current lease for commercial oyster operations expires in 2012. I urge the Park Service to honor the wilderness promise and protect Drakes Estero for future generations.

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Correspondence ID: 48811 **Project:** 33043 **Document:** 43390
Name: Cox, Veronica
Outside Organization: NRDC Unaffiliated Individual

Received: Dec,02,2011 21:44:10
Correspondence Type: Web Form
Correspondence: Drakes Estero is a national ecological treasure and should become a protected wilderness area. It has outstanding natural resources, including one of California's largest harbor seal colonies and tens of thousands of shorebirds, waterfowl, native fish and endangered species that use its wetlands, mudflats and eelgrass beds.

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Correspondence ID: 48812 **Project:** 33043 **Document:** 43390
Name: Cox, Veronica
Outside Organization: NRDC Unaffiliated Individual
Received: Dec,02,2011 21:44:13
Correspondence Type: Web Form
Correspondence: Drakes Estero is a national ecological treasure and should become a protected wilderness area. It has outstanding natural resources, including one of California's largest harbor seal colonies and tens of thousands of shorebirds, waterfowl, native fish and endangered species that use its wetlands, mudflats and eelgrass beds.

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Correspondence ID: 48813 **Project:** 33043 **Document:** 43390
Name: munter, richard c
Outside Organization: Unaffiliated Individual
Received: Dec,02,2011 22:07:01
Correspondence Type: Web Form
Correspondence: "None of the proposed alternatives are appropriate. I support a renewable Special Use Permit for Drakes Bay Oyster Company."

Correspondence ID: 48814 **Project:** 33043 **Document:** 43390
Name: Bloom, Steve
Outside Organization: National Wildlife Federation Action Fund Unaffiliated Individual
Received: Dec,02,2011 22:13:12
Correspondence Type: Web Form
Correspondence: Drakes Estero is the ecological heart of Point Reyes National Seashore and a treasure that belongs to all Americans. In 1976, Congress promised that the Estero would receive full wilderness protection when the current lease for commercial oyster operations expires in 2012. I urge the Park Service to honor the wilderness promise and protect Drakes Estero for future generations.

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thousands of shorebirds and waterfowl and dozens of species of native fish. Your draft environmental impact statement makes clear that the existing commercial oyster operation is causing extensive damage to Drakes Estero and the Seashore's beaches, and that allowing these operations to continue would cause even more long-term harm.

Your environmental review also shows that alternative "A"--no new permit for commercial oyster operations and protection of the Estero as full wilderness--is the environmentally preferred alternative and the one that best protects harbor seals, birds, fish and other natural resources.

I urge you to return Drakes Estero to all Americans by selecting alternative "A" and ensuring full wilderness protection for Drakes Estero in 2012. It is time to protect Drakes Estero as Congress intended and to create the West Coast's only marine wilderness for the benefit of people and wildlife.

Correspondence ID: 48815 **Project:** 33043 **Document:** 43390
Name: MacGowan, Gail M
Outside Organization: Unaffiliated Individual
Received: Dec,02,2011 22:14:18
Correspondence Type: Web Form
Correspondence: None of the proposed alternatives are appropriate. I support a renewable Special Use Permit for Drakes Bay Oyster Company.

Correspondence ID: 48816 **Project:** 33043 **Document:** 43390
Name: N/A, N/A
Outside Organization: Unaffiliated Individual
Received: Dec,02,2011 00:00:00
Correspondence Type: Web Form
Correspondence: I do not feel that any of the proposed alternates are acceptable. I would like to see a renewable Special Use Permit given to the Drakes Bay Oyster Company.

Thank you

Correspondence ID: 48817 **Project:** 33043 **Document:** 43390
Name: Hughes, Patricia A
Outside Organization: Unaffiliated Individual
Received: Dec,02,2011 23:08:31
Correspondence Type: Web Form
Correspondence: "None of the proposed alternatives are appropriate. I support a renewable Special Use Permit for Drakes Bay Oyster Company."

I have been going to, buying and slurping oysters from this site for over 35 years. Supporting sustainable shellfish aquaculture has to be part of a country's priorities. This location has been growing oysters since 1934, with a valid use permit. Where else can you better grow a raw, wild food that tastes of the sea and is without toxins than at a site such as this, at the national seashore? San Francisco Bay was once a clean, huge oyster farm. It will never return to this state. We have to be able to grow oysters somewhere where the water is cold and clean. This is a wonderful place to do so, and being able to buy local, delicious seafood is part of the joy of going to Pt Reyes. We have enjoyed oysters BBQ'd right outside of the visitors center at Drake's Beach. We have bought quarts of them and taken them camping with the Boy Scouts at Coast Camp, eating them three ways. We have taken them home and distributed among friends and family, savoring them raw, fried, poached and BBQ'd. We have slurped raw oysters with seafood sauce and sourdough bread on North Beach. This oyster farm is a tremendous asset to the park. DO NOT SHUT DOWN THIS OYSTER FARM!!!! It would be a crime against all Bay Area oyster-loving residents. The park service is supposed to serve the citizens. My wish is to continue this oyster farm. I am an environmentalist, a former Sierra Club member, a former backpacker who loves wild and remote places. We also love locally sourced food and being able to combine delicious food with stunningly beautiful nature is a rare and wonderful thing. This Oyster farm is able to do this well. The people who are at the oyster store are helpful and serve my needs. The Park Service is being blind to the will of the people if they stubbornly refuse to consider keeping this oyster business intact. Blind governmental environmentalism that does not consider combining uses is myopic and unreasonable. We have visited many sites and countries where combining nature and commerce is done well. Please keep this oyster farm for all to enjoy! When we go on vacation we hike, camp and cook local food. This is part of the enjoyment of the place. We cook buffalo and elk in the Rockies, pick wild blueberries in Canada, buy veggies at the local farmer's market wherever and buy wonderful fish in Arcata. We pick blackberries along the river in Mendocino. We bought green chiles and beans in Hatch, New Mexico, dried chile powder at the farmer's market in Albuquerque, the best pecans I've ever tasted in Los Cruces. Going to Marin and Sonoma Counties is a gourmet paradise, with cheese, greens, olive oil, bread, apples, and oysters. The more places that grow oysters, the better. This oyster farm place is a historic and regional treasure! Kids love visiting it, seeing how it is done, seeing the piles of shells and shell-paved access road, smelling the salt air and sometimes stinky low tide smells. It is unique and wonderful. The entire extended Hughes Family and Boy Scout troop 156 families love it. PLEASE don't remove it from the current site! Renew the use permit!!

Correspondence ID: 48818 **Project:** 33043 **Document:** 43390
Name: Mooney, Holly
Outside Organization: National Wildlife Federation Action Fund Unaffiliated Individual
Received: Dec,02,2011 23:13:20
Correspondence Type: Web Form
Correspondence: Drakes Estero is the ecological heart of Point Reyes National Seashore and a treasure that belongs to all Americans. In 1976, Congress promised that the Estero would receive full wilderness protection when the current lease for commercial oyster operations expires in 2012. I urge the Park Service to honor the wilderness promise and protect Drakes Estero for future

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Correspondence ID: 48819 **Project:** 33043 **Document:** 43390
Name: Bland, Emilia
Outside Organization: NRDC Unaffiliated Individual
Received: Dec,02,2011 23:13:45
Correspondence Type: Web Form
Correspondence: Drakes Estero is a national ecological treasure and should become a protected wilderness area. It has outstanding natural resources, including one of California's largest harbor seal colonies and tens of thousands of shorebirds, waterfowl, native fish and endangered species that use its wetlands, mudflats and eelgrass beds.

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Correspondence ID: 48820 **Project:** 33043 **Document:** 43390
Name: Grossman, Richard
Outside Organization: National Wildlife Federation Action Fund Unaffiliated Individual
Received: Dec,03,2011 00:43:22
Correspondence Type: Web Form
Correspondence: Drakes Estero is the ecological heart of Point Reyes National Seashore and a treasure that belongs to all Americans. In 1976, Congress promised that the Estero would receive full wilderness protection when the current lease for commercial oyster operations expires in 2012. I urge the Park Service to honor the wilderness promise and protect Drakes Estero for future generations.

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Correspondence ID: 48821 **Project:** 33043 **Document:** 43390
Name: Ewald, Delena
Outside Organization: National Wildlife Federation Action Fund Unaffiliated Individual

Received: Dec,03,2011 01:13:24

Correspondence Type: Web Form

Correspondence: Drakes Estero is the ecological heart of Point Reyes National Seashore and a treasure that belongs to all Americans. In 1976, Congress promised that the Estero would receive full wilderness protection when the current lease for commercial oyster operations expires in 2012. I urge the Park Service to honor the wilderness promise and protect Drakes Estero for future generations.

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Correspondence ID: 48822 **Project:** 33043 **Document:** 43390

Name: Vayu, Satya

Outside Organization: National Wildlife Federation Action Fund Unaffiliated Individual

Received: Dec,03,2011 01:13:28

Correspondence Type: Web Form

Correspondence: Drakes Estero is the ecological heart of Point Reyes National Seashore and a treasure that belongs to all Americans. In 1976, Congress promised that the Estero would receive full wilderness protection when the current lease for commercial oyster operations expires in 2012. I urge the Park Service to honor the wilderness promise and protect Drakes Estero for future generations.

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Correspondence ID: 48823 **Project:** 33043 **Document:** 43390

Name: Goltz, Devonte

Outside Organization: National Wildlife Federation Action Fund Unaffiliated Individual

Received: Dec,03,2011 01:43:25

Correspondence Type: Web Form

Correspondence: Drakes Estero is the ecological heart of Point Reyes National Seashore and a treasure that belongs to all Americans. In 1976, Congress promised that the Estero would receive full wilderness protection when the current lease for commercial oyster operations expires in 2012. I urge the Park Service to honor the wilderness promise and protect Drakes Estero for future generations.

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Correspondence ID: 48824 **Project:** 33043 **Document:** 43390

Name: Neal, Cynthia
Outside Organization: National Wildlife Federation Action Fund Unaffiliated Individual
Received: Dec,03,2011 02:43:28
Correspondence Type: Web Form
Correspondence: Drakes Estero is the ecological heart of Point Reyes National Seashore and a treasure that belongs to all Americans. In 1976, Congress promised that the Estero would receive full wilderness protection when the current lease for commercial oyster operations expires in 2012. I urge the Park Service to honor the wilderness promise and protect Drakes Estero for future generations.

Drakes Estero is home to 20 percent of the mainland breeding population of harbor seals in California and is used by tens of thousands of shorebirds and waterfowl and dozens of species of native fish. Your draft environmental impact statement makes clear that the existing commercial oyster operation is causing extensive damage to Drakes Estero and the Seashore's beaches, and that allowing these operations to continue would cause even more long-term harm.

Your environmental review also shows that alternative "A"--no new permit for commercial oyster operations and protection of the Estero as full wilderness--is the environmentally preferred alternative and the one that best protects harbor seals, birds, fish and other natural resources.

I urge you to return Drakes Estero to all Americans by selecting alternative "A" and ensuring full wilderness protection for Drakes Estero in 2012. It is time to protect Drakes Estero as Congress intended and to create the West Coast's only marine wilderness for the benefit of people and wildlife.

Correspondence ID: 48825 **Project:** 33043 **Document:** 43390
Name: Britch, Joshua
Outside Organization: National Wildlife Federation Action Fund Unaffiliated Individual
Received: Dec,03,2011 02:43:29
Correspondence Type: Web Form
Correspondence: Drakes Estero is the ecological heart of Point Reyes National Seashore and a treasure that belongs to all Americans. In 1976, Congress promised that the Estero would receive full wilderness protection when the current lease for commercial oyster operations expires in 2012. I urge the Park Service to honor the wilderness promise and protect Drakes Estero for future generations.

Drakes Estero is home to 20 percent of the mainland breeding population of harbor seals in California and is used by tens of thousands of shorebirds and waterfowl and dozens of species of native fish. Your draft environmental impact statement makes clear that the existing commercial oyster operation is causing extensive damage to Drakes Estero and the Seashore's beaches, and that allowing these operations to continue would cause even more long-term harm.

Your environmental review also shows that alternative "A"--no new permit for commercial oyster operations and protection of the Estero as full wilderness--is the environmentally preferred alternative and the one that best protects harbor seals, birds, fish and other natural resources.

I urge you to return Drakes Estero to all Americans by selecting alternative "A" and ensuring full wilderness protection for Drakes Estero in 2012. It is time to protect Drakes Estero as Congress intended and to create the West Coast's only marine wilderness for the benefit of people and wildlife.

Correspondence ID: 48826 **Project:** 33043 **Document:** 43390
Name: Miller, Tiffany
Outside Organization: National Wildlife Federation Action Fund Unaffiliated Individual
Received: Dec,03,2011 03:13:43
Correspondence Type: Web Form
Correspondence: Drakes Estero is the ecological heart of Point Reyes National Seashore and a treasure that belongs to all Americans. In 1976, Congress promised that the Estero would receive full wilderness protection when the current lease for commercial oyster operations expires in 2012. I urge the Park Service to honor the wilderness promise and protect Drakes Estero for future generations.

Drakes Estero is home to 20 percent of the mainland breeding population of harbor seals in California and is used by tens of thousands of shorebirds and waterfowl and dozens of species of native fish. Your draft environmental impact statement makes clear that the existing commercial oyster operation is causing extensive damage to Drakes Estero and the Seashore's beaches, and that allowing these operations to continue would cause even more long-term harm.

Your environmental review also shows that alternative "A"--no new permit for commercial oyster operations and protection of the Estero as full wilderness--is the environmentally preferred alternative and the one that best protects harbor seals, birds, fish and other natural resources.

I urge you to return Drakes Estero to all Americans by selecting alternative "A" and ensuring full wilderness protection for Drakes Estero in 2012. It is time to protect Drakes Estero as Congress intended and to create the West Coast's only marine wilderness for the benefit of people and wildlife.

Correspondence ID: 48827 **Project:** 33043 **Document:** 43390
Name: P., Sofia
Outside Organization: National Wildlife Federation Action Fund Unaffiliated Individual
Received: Dec.03,2011 03:43:31
Correspondence Type: Web Form

Correspondence: Drakes Estero is the ecological heart of Point Reyes National Seashore and a treasure that belongs to all Americans. In 1976, Congress promised that the Estero would receive full wilderness protection when the current lease for commercial oyster operations expires in 2012. I urge the Park Service to honor the wilderness promise and protect Drakes Estero for future generations.

Drakes Estero is home to 20 percent of the mainland breeding population of harbor seals in California and is used by tens of thousands of shorebirds and waterfowl and dozens of species of native fish. Your draft environmental impact statement makes clear that the existing commercial oyster operation is causing extensive damage to Drakes Estero and the Seashore's beaches, and that allowing these operations to continue would cause even more long-term harm.

Your environmental review also shows that alternative "A"--no new permit for commercial oyster operations and protection of the Estero as full wilderness--is the environmentally preferred alternative and the one that best protects harbor seals, birds, fish and other natural resources.

I urge you to return Drakes Estero to all Americans by selecting alternative "A" and ensuring full wilderness protection for Drakes Estero in 2012. It is time to protect Drakes Estero as Congress intended and to create the West Coast's only marine wilderness for the benefit of people and wildlife.

Correspondence ID: 48828 **Project:** 33043 **Document:** 43390
Name: Trimble, Patricia M
Outside Organization: Unaffiliated Individual
Received: Dec.03,2011 00:00:00
Correspondence Type: Web Form

Correspondence: I travel frequently and know that are so few places where nature is protected in today's world: our national parks are for the people and wildlife protection.

Therefore, I urge you to support the wilderness designation for Drakes Estero within the Point Reyes National Seashore. I urge the National Park Service and Department of the Interior to uphold the 1976 Point Reyes Wilderness Act and select alternative A, which protects this important marine wilderness and is the environmentally preferred alternative.

Drakes Estero is a unique and ecologically significant wildlife area. It is an important stop on the flyway for migrating birds, a refuge and birthplace for harbor seals and a critical native fish nursery. Congress and the public have long intended that Drakes Estero be given the highest federal level of protection as a wilderness area when the commercial oyster lease expires in 2012.

The Park Service's environmental review shows that alternative "A" best protects wildlife and the National Park experience. As someone who enjoys our spectacular national parks, I urge you to not undermine protections at Drakes Estero and succumb to special interests seeking to commercialize these special places.

Thank you for continuing with the dream of the park's original plan. Times have changed since the 1960s and it is even more imperative to keep our remaining wilderness pristine.

best, Patti Trimble

Correspondence ID: 48829 **Project:** 33043 **Document:** 43390
Name: Mccright-Renteria, Shery
Outside Organization: National Wildlife Federation Action Fund Unaffiliated Individual
Received: Dec.03,2011 04:13:36
Correspondence Type: Web Form

Correspondence: Drakes Estero is the ecological heart of Point Reyes National Seashore and a treasure that belongs to all Americans. In 1976, Congress promised that the Estero would receive full wilderness protection when the current lease for commercial oyster operations expires in 2012. I urge the Park Service to honor the wilderness promise and protect Drakes Estero for future generations.

Drakes Estero is home to 20 percent of the mainland breeding population of harbor seals in California and is used by tens of thousands of shorebirds and waterfowl and dozens of species of native fish. Your draft environmental impact statement makes clear that the existing commercial oyster operation is causing extensive damage to Drakes Estero and the Seashore's beaches, and that allowing these operations to continue would cause even more long-term harm.

Your environmental review also shows that alternative "A"--no new permit for commercial oyster operations and protection of the Estero as full wilderness--is the environmentally preferred alternative and the one that best protects harbor seals, birds, fish

and other natural resources.

I urge you to return Drakes Estero to all Americans by selecting alternative "A" and ensuring full wilderness protection for Drakes Estero in 2012. It is time to protect Drakes Estero as Congress intended and to create the West Coast's only marine wilderness for the benefit of people and wildlife.

Correspondence ID: 48830 **Project:** 33043 **Document:** 43390
Name: DUGAS, ANNA
Outside Organization: National Parks Conservation Association Unaffiliated Individual
Received: Dec.03,2011 05:44:05
Correspondence Type: Web Form

Correspondence: I urge you to protect Drakes Estero wilderness next year, as long intended. It is in the public interest to create the West Coast's only marine wilderness for the enjoyment of all. The public has waited nearly four decades for these protections to be implemented, which is an immense compromise in itself. Drakes Estero is a rare wildlife refuge where migrating birds stop over, harbor seals give birth, and fish take shelter in eelgrass. As someone who enjoys our nation's national parks and their wildlife, I urge you to uphold the longstanding plan to convert this very special resource to wilderness.

I urge you to select alternative "A", which protects marine wilderness next year and is the Environmentally Preferred Alternative. The National Park Service is mandated to provide maximum protection to the natural resources at Drakes Estero and selecting this alternative is the most consistent with the laws and policies affecting this park. Our national parks are set aside for the public and for wildlife protection, and after waiting nearly 40 years for private commercial use rights to expire, it's time to give the estuary the protection it needs. The environmental review shows that alternative "A" is best for public policy, and best protects harbor seals, fish, birds and other natural resources. Drakes Estero is our only marine wilderness on the West Coast, and is irreplaceable, while oysters can be commercially grown elsewhere.

Please honor the promise made for a protected marine wilderness at Drakes Estero. In doing so, you will set a good policy example and reward the public with an enduring legacy feat found nowhere else on the West Coast.

Correspondence ID: 48831 **Project:** 33043 **Document:** 43390
Name: Swanson, Roberta
Outside Organization: National Wildlife Federation Action Fund Unaffiliated Individual
Received: Dec,03,2011 06:13:48
Correspondence Type: Web Form

Correspondence: Drakes Estero is the ecological heart of Point Reyes National Seashore and a treasure that belongs to ALL Americans. In 1976, Congress promised that the Estero would receive full wilderness protection when the current lease for commercial oyster operations expires in 2012. I urge the Park Service to honor the wilderness promise and PROTECT Drakes Estero for future generations!

Drakes Estero is home to 20 percent of the mainland breeding population of harbor seals in California and is used by tens of thousands of shorebirds and waterfowl and dozens of species of native fish. Your draft environmental impact statement makes clear that the existing commercial oyster operation is causing extensive damage to Drakes Estero and the Seashore's beaches, and that allowing these operations to continue would cause even more long-term harm.

Your environmental review also shows that alternative "A"--no new permit for commercial oyster operations and protection of the Estero as full wilderness--is the environmentally preferred alternative and the one that best protects harbor seals, birds, fish and other natural resources.

I urge you to return Drakes Estero to ALL Americans by selecting alternative "A" and ENSURING full wilderness protection for Drakes Estero in 2012. It is time to protect Drakes Estero as Congress intended and to create the West Coast's only marine wilderness for the benefit of people and wildlife!!

Correspondence ID: 48832 **Project:** 33043 **Document:** 43390
Name: Flament, Evelyne
Outside Organization: National Wildlife Federation Action Fund Unaffiliated Individual
Received: Dec,03,2011 06:13:48
Correspondence Type: Web Form

Correspondence: Drakes Estero is the ecological heart of Point Reyes National Seashore and a treasure that belongs to all Americans. In 1976, Congress promised that the Estero would receive full wilderness protection when the current lease for commercial oyster operations expires in 2012. I urge the Park Service to honor the wilderness promise and protect Drakes Estero for future generations.

Drakes Estero is home to 20 percent of the mainland breeding population of harbor seals in California and is used by tens of thousands of shorebirds and waterfowl and dozens of species of native fish. Your draft environmental impact statement makes clear that the existing commercial oyster operation is causing extensive damage to Drakes Estero and the Seashore's beaches, and that allowing these operations to continue would cause even more long-term harm.

Your environmental review also shows that alternative "A"--no new permit for commercial oyster operations and protection of the Estero as full wilderness--is the environmentally preferred alternative and the one that best protects harbor seals, birds, fish

and other natural resources.

I urge you to return Drakes Estero to all Americans by selecting alternative "A" and ensuring full wilderness protection for Drakes Estero in 2012. It is time to protect Drakes Estero as Congress intended and to create the West Coast's only marine wilderness for the benefit of people and wildlife.

Correspondence ID: 48833 **Project:** 33043 **Document:** 43390
Name: McLaughlin, Dan
Outside Organization: National Wildlife Federation Action Fund Unaffiliated Individual
Received: Dec.03,2011 07:13:52
Correspondence Type: Web Form
Correspondence: Drakes Estero is the ecological heart of Point Reyes National Seashore and a treasure that belongs to all Americans. In 1976, Congress promised that the Estero would receive full wilderness protection when the current lease for commercial oyster operations expires in 2012. I urge the Park Service to honor the wilderness promise and protect Drakes Estero for future generations.

Drakes Estero is home to 20 percent of the mainland breeding population of harbor seals in California and is used by tens of thousands of shorebirds and waterfowl and dozens of species of native fish. Your draft environmental impact statement makes clear that the existing commercial oyster operation is causing extensive damage to Drakes Estero and the Seashore's beaches, and that allowing these operations to continue would cause even more long-term harm.

Your environmental review also shows that alternative "A"--no new permit for commercial oyster operations and protection of the Estero as full wilderness--is the environmentally preferred alternative and the one that best protects harbor seals, birds, fish and other natural resources.

I urge you to return Drakes Estero to all Americans by selecting alternative "A" and ensuring full wilderness protection for Drakes Estero in 2012. It is time to protect Drakes Estero as Congress intended and to create the West Coast's only marine wilderness for the benefit of people and wildlife.

Correspondence ID: 48834 **Project:** 33043 **Document:** 43390
Name: Macgregor, Nicole
Outside Organization: National Wildlife Federation Action Fund Unaffiliated Individual
Received: Dec.03,2011 07:44:03
Correspondence Type: Web Form
Correspondence: Drakes Estero is the ecological heart of Point Reyes National Seashore and a treasure that belongs to all Americans. In 1976, Congress promised that the Estero would receive full wilderness protection when the current lease for commercial oyster operations expires in 2012. I urge the Park Service to honor the wilderness promise and protect Drakes Estero for future generations.

Drakes Estero is home to 20 percent of the mainland breeding population of harbor seals in California and is used by tens of thousands of shorebirds and waterfowl and dozens of species of native fish. Your draft environmental impact statement makes clear that the existing commercial oyster operation is causing extensive damage to Drakes Estero and the Seashore's beaches, and that allowing these operations to continue would cause even more long-term harm.

Your environmental review also shows that alternative "A"--no new permit for commercial oyster operations and protection of the Estero as full wilderness--is the environmentally preferred alternative and the one that best protects harbor seals, birds, fish and other natural resources.

I urge you to return Drakes Estero to all Americans by selecting alternative "A" and ensuring full wilderness protection for Drakes Estero in 2012. It is time to protect Drakes Estero as Congress intended and to create the West Coast's only marine wilderness for the benefit of people and wildlife.

Correspondence ID: 48835 **Project:** 33043 **Document:** 43390
Name: matthies, suzanne m
Outside Organization: Unaffiliated Individual
Received: Dec.03,2011 08:01:52
Correspondence Type: Web Form
Correspondence: I support the wilderness designation for Drakes Estero within the Point Reyes National Seashore. I urge the National Park Service and Department of the Interior to uphold the 1976 Point Reyes Wilderness Act and select alternative A, which protects this important marine wilderness and is the environmentally preferred alternative.

Drakes Estero is a unique and ecologically significant wildlife area. It is an important stop on the flyway for migrating birds, a refuge and birthplace for harbor seals and a critical native fish nursery. Congress and the public have long intended that Drakes Estero be given the highest federal level of protection as a wilderness area when the commercial oyster lease expires in 2012.

This can only be accomplished by selecting Alternative "A" and ending commercial use of this sensitive wildlife refuge. Alternative A is the most consistent with National Park Service laws and policies. The Park Service's environmental review

shows that alternative "A" best protects wildlife and the National Park experience.

Our national parks are for the people and wildlife protection, and wilderness areas with our parks should not prioritize commercial exploitation. The American public deserves to have this unique marine wilderness protected in a natural state for future generations to enjoy.

Drakes Estero is the only marine wilderness on the West Coast, and is irreplaceable, while oysters can be grown elsewhere.

As someone who enjoys our spectacular national parks, I urge you to not undermine protections at Drakes Estero and succumb to special interests seeking to commercialize these special places.

Correspondence ID: 48836 **Project:** 33043 **Document:** 43390

Name: Slote, Karen

Outside Organization: National Wildlife Federation Action Fund Unaffiliated Individual

Received: Dec.03,2011 08:14:04

Correspondence Type: Web Form

Correspondence: Drakes Estero is the ecological heart of Point Reyes National Seashore and a treasure that belongs to all Americans. In 1976, Congress promised that the Estero would receive full wilderness protection when the current lease for commercial oyster operations expires in 2012. I urge the Park Service to honor the wilderness promise and protect Drakes Estero for future generations.

Drakes Estero is home to 20 percent of the mainland breeding population of harbor seals in California and is used by tens of thousands of shorebirds and waterfowl and dozens of species of native fish. Your draft environmental impact statement makes clear that the existing commercial oyster operation is causing extensive damage to Drakes Estero and the Seashore's beaches, and that allowing these operations to continue would cause even more long-term harm.

Your environmental review also shows that alternative "A"--no new permit for commercial oyster operations and protection of the Estero as full wilderness--is the environmentally preferred alternative and the one that best protects harbor seals, birds, fish and other natural resources.

I urge you to return Drakes Estero to all Americans by selecting alternative "A" and ensuring full wilderness protection for Drakes Estero in 2012. It is time to protect Drakes Estero as Congress intended and to create the West Coast's only marine wilderness for the benefit of people and wildlife.

Correspondence ID: 48837 **Project:** 33043 **Document:** 43390

Name: McCaffrey, Kristen

Outside Organization: National Wildlife Federation Action Fund Unaffiliated Individual

Received: Dec.03,2011 09:14:05

Correspondence Type: Web Form

Correspondence: Drakes Estero is the ecological heart of Point Reyes National Seashore and a treasure that belongs to all Americans. In 1976, Congress promised that the Estero would receive full wilderness protection when the current lease for commercial oyster operations expires in 2012. I urge the Park Service to honor the wilderness promise and protect Drakes Estero for future generations.

Drakes Estero is home to 20 percent of the mainland breeding population of harbor seals in California and is used by tens of thousands of shorebirds and waterfowl and dozens of species of native fish. Your draft environmental impact statement makes clear that the existing commercial oyster operation is causing extensive damage to Drakes Estero and the Seashore's beaches, and that allowing these operations to continue would cause even more long-term harm.

Your environmental review also shows that alternative "A"--no new permit for commercial oyster operations and protection of the Estero as full wilderness--is the environmentally preferred alternative and the one that best protects harbor seals, birds, fish and other natural resources.

I urge you to return Drakes Estero to all Americans by selecting alternative "A" and ensuring full wilderness protection for Drakes Estero in 2012. It is time to protect Drakes Estero as Congress intended and to create the West Coast's only marine wilderness for the benefit of people and wildlife.

Correspondence ID: 48838 **Project:** 33043 **Document:** 43390

Name: N/A, N/A

Outside Organization: Unaffiliated Individual

Received: Dec.03,2011 09:39:30

Correspondence Type: Web Form

Correspondence: None of the proposed alternatives is appropriate. I support RENEWABLE Special Use Permit for DBOC.

Correspondence ID: 48839 **Project:** 33043 **Document:** 43390

Name: Banschbach, Lisa

Outside Organization: National Wildlife Federation Action Fund Unaffiliated Individual

Received: Dec,03,2011 09:44:10

Correspondence Type: Web Form

Correspondence: Drakes Estero is the ecological heart of Point Reyes National Seashore and a treasure that belongs to all Americans. In 1976, Congress promised that the Estero would receive full wilderness protection when the current lease for commercial oyster operations expires in 2012. I urge the Park Service to honor the wilderness promise and protect Drakes Estero for future generations.

Drakes Estero is home to 20 percent of the mainland breeding population of harbor seals in California and is used by tens of thousands of shorebirds and waterfowl and dozens of species of native fish. Your draft environmental impact statement makes clear that the existing commercial oyster operation is causing extensive damage to Drakes Estero and the Seashore's beaches, and that allowing these operations to continue would cause even more long-term harm.

Your environmental review also shows that alternative "A"--no new permit for commercial oyster operations and protection of the Estero as full wilderness--is the environmentally preferred alternative and the one that best protects harbor seals, birds, fish and other natural resources.

I urge you to return Drakes Estero to all Americans by selecting alternative "A" and ensuring full wilderness protection for Drakes Estero in 2012. It is time to protect Drakes Estero as Congress intended and to create the West Coast's only marine wilderness for the benefit of people and wildlife.

Correspondence ID: 48840 **Project:** 33043 **Document:** 43390

Name: Zucchi, Carlo

Outside Organization: Unaffiliated Individual

Received: Dec,03,2011 09:45:03

Correspondence Type: Web Form

Correspondence: I support the wilderness designation for Drakes Estero within the Point Reyes National Seashore. I urge the National Park Service and Department of the Interior to uphold the 1976 Point Reyes Wilderness Act and select alternative A, which protects this important marine wilderness and is the environmentally preferred alternative. Drakes Estero is a unique and ecologically significant wildlife area. It is an important stop on the flyway for migrating birds, a refuge and birthplace for harbor seals and a critical native fish nursery. Congress and the public have long intended that Drakes Estero be given the highest federal level of protection as a wilderness area when the commercial oyster lease expires in 2012. This can only be accomplished by selecting Alternative "A" and ending commercial use of this sensitive wildlife refuge. Alternative A is the most consistent with National Park Service laws and policies. The Park Service's environmental review shows that alternative "A" best protects wildlife and the National Park experience. Our national parks are for the people and wildlife protection, and wilderness areas with our parks should not prioritize commercial exploitation. The American public deserves to have this unique marine wilderness protected in a natural state for future generations to enjoy. Drakes Estero is the only marine wilderness on the West Coast, and is irreplaceable, while oysters can be grown elsewhere. As someone who enjoys our spectacular national parks, I urge you to not undermine protections at Drakes Estero and succumb to special interests seeking to commercialize these special places.

Correspondence ID: 48841 **Project:** 33043 **Document:** 43390

Name: Lehman, Allison

Outside Organization: Unaffiliated Individual

Received: Dec,03,2011 09:49:11

Correspondence Type: Web Form

Correspondence: "None of the proposed alternatives are appropriate. I support a renewable Special Use Permit for Drakes Bay Oyster Company."

Correspondence ID: 48842 **Project:** 33043 **Document:** 43390

Name: Donat, Maria

Outside Organization: Nature Conservancy Unaffiliated Individual

Received: Dec,03,2011 09:55:17

Correspondence Type: Web Form

Correspondence: To whom it concerns;

Enough has been said about this controversy that I don't think I need to repeat the arguments (pro and con) regarding the extension of the DBOC lease that have been expressed throughout the past four years and have caused such vitriol to pass between the members of the Point Reyes community (of which I count myself as one).

Therefore, I strongly urge the National Park Service to adopt the COLLABORATIVE MANAGEMENT ALTERNATIVE as the preferred alternative in the final EIS.

Sincerely, Maria C. Donat

Correspondence ID: 48843 **Project:** 33043 **Document:** 43390

Name: Brown, Coco Marie

Outside Organization: National Wildlife Federation Action Fund Unaffiliated Individual

Received: Dec,03,2011 10:14:09

Correspondence Type: Web Form

Correspondence: As a resident of Louisiana I truly understand the importance of wilderness protection. Thank you in advance for your attention

to this matter.

Drakes Estero is the ecological heart of Point Reyes National Seashore and a treasure that belongs to all Americans. In 1976, Congress promised that the Estero would receive full wilderness protection when the current lease for commercial oyster operations expires in 2012. I urge the Park Service to honor the wilderness promise and protect Drakes Estero for future generations.

Drakes Estero is home to 20 percent of the mainland breeding population of harbor seals in California and is used by tens of thousands of shorebirds and waterfowl and dozens of species of native fish. Your draft environmental impact statement makes clear that the existing commercial oyster operation is causing extensive damage to Drakes Estero and the Seashore's beaches, and that allowing these operations to continue would cause even more long-term harm.

Your environmental review also shows that alternative "A"--no new permit for commercial oyster operations and protection of the Estero as full wilderness--is the environmentally preferred alternative and the one that best protects harbor seals, birds, fish and other natural resources.

I urge you to return Drakes Estero to all Americans by selecting alternative "A" and ensuring full wilderness protection for Drakes Estero in 2012. It is time to protect Drakes Estero as Congress intended and to create the West Coast's only marine wilderness for the benefit of people and wildlife.

Correspondence ID: 48844 **Project:** 33043 **Document:** 43390
Name: Neiman, Colleen
Outside Organization: National Parks Conservation Association Unaffiliated Individual
Received: Dec.03,2011 10:14:57
Correspondence Type: Web Form
Correspondence: I urge you to protect Drakes Estero wilderness next year, as long intended. It is in the public interest to create the West Coast's only marine wilderness for the enjoyment of all. The public has waited nearly four decades for these protections to be implemented, which is an immense compromise in itself. Drakes Estero is a rare wildlife refuge where migrating birds stop over, harbor seals give birth, and fish take shelter in eelgrass. As someone who enjoys our nation's national parks and their wildlife, I urge you to uphold the longstanding plan to convert this very special resource to wilderness.

I urge you to select alternative "A", which protects marine wilderness next year and is the Environmentally Preferred Alternative. The National Park Service is mandated to provide maximum protection to the natural resources at Drakes Estero and selecting this alternative is the most consistent with the laws and policies affecting this park. Our national parks are set aside for the public and for wildlife protection, and after waiting nearly 40 years for private commercial use rights to expire, it's time to give the estuary the protection it needs. The environmental review shows that alternative "A" is best for public policy, and best protects harbor seals, fish, birds and other natural resources. Drakes Estero is our only marine wilderness on the West Coast, and is irreplaceable, while oysters can be commercially grown elsewhere.

Please honor the promise made for a protected marine wilderness at Drakes Estero. In doing so, you will set a good policy example and reward the public with an enduring legacy feat found nowhere else on the West Coast.

Correspondence ID: 48845 **Project:** 33043 **Document:** 43390
Name: Lees, Anna
Outside Organization: NRDC Unaffiliated Individual
Received: Dec.03,2011 10:15:56
Correspondence Type: Web Form
Correspondence: Drakes Estero is a national ecological treasure and should become a protected wilderness area. It has outstanding natural resources, including one of California's largest harbor seal colonies and tens of thousands of shorebirds, waterfowl, native fish and endangered species that use its wetlands, mudflats and eelgrass beds.

In the 1976 Point Reyes Wilderness Act, Congress recognized Drakes Estero as a unique recreational and biological resource and promised that this irreplaceable resource would formally become a wilderness area when non-conforming uses were eliminated. Your agency permitted a commercial oyster company to grow non-native oysters and clams on 1,050 acres in Drakes Estero for 40 years, or until 2012.

Your own draft environmental impact statement reveals the extensive damage that the existing operation has caused to Drakes Estero and Point Reyes National Seashore's beaches. As you know, commercial operations of any kind are not permitted in designated wilderness areas because of such damage. Further, the Park Service's Organic Act mandates protection of park resources and values and strictly limits commercial operations.

Your approval of the proposal to extend the oyster company's permit would be contrary to the Point Reyes Wilderness Act and would establish a dangerous precedent at a time when America's public lands and environmental laws are already under widespread attacks in Congress and elsewhere.

We've been waiting long enough. It is time to allow that permit to expire and to honor Congress' commitment. We want our bay back. Thank you.

Correspondence ID: 48846 **Project:** 33043 **Document:** 43390
Name: Evans, Terrence
Outside Organization: Sierra Club Unaffiliated Individual
Received: Dec.03,2011 10:40:32
Correspondence Type: Web Form

Correspondence: I am writing to urge the National Park Service to protect Drakes Estero wilderness next year as long-intended. The American public deserves to have the West Coast's only marine wilderness protected for future generations to enjoy. Drakes Estero is a rare wildlife refuge where migrating birds stop over, harbor seals give birth, and fish spawn. It deserves the highest level of protection as Congress long-intended. As someone who enjoys our nation's spectacular national parks, I urge you to not undermine protections at Drakes Estero and succumb to special interests seeking to commercialize these special places.

I urge the National Park Service and the Department of the Interior to select alternative "A", which protects marine wilderness and is the environmentally preferred alternative. The NPS is mandated to provide maximum protection to the natural resources, as stated in the Seashore's legislation, and selecting this alternative is the most consistent with the laws and policies affecting this park. Our national parks are for the people and wildlife protection, not commercial exploitation. The environmental review shows that alternative "A" best protects harbor seals, fish, birds and other wildlife and plants. Drakes Estero is our only marine wilderness on the West Coast, and it is irreplaceable, while oysters can be grown elsewhere.

National Parks and wilderness areas are treasured by the majority of Americans and are for the public interest, not for private commercial exploitation. By protecting wilderness, the National Park Service will set a positive policy example while commercializing it will set a negative example and help others seek their special exemptions from national park laws.

Correspondence ID: 48847 **Project:** 33043 **Document:** 43390
Name: Heany, Jonelle
Outside Organization: National Wildlife Federation Action Fund Unaffiliated Individual
Received: Dec.03,2011 00:00:00
Correspondence Type: Web Form

Correspondence: Drakes Estero is the ecological heart of Point Reyes National Seashore and a treasure that belongs to all Americans. In 1976, Congress promised that the Estero would receive full wilderness protection when the current lease for commercial oyster operations expires in 2012. I urge the Park Service to honor the wilderness promise and protect Drakes Estero for future generations.

Drakes Estero is home to 20 percent of the mainland breeding population of harbor seals in California and is used by tens of thousands of shorebirds and waterfowl and dozens of species of native fish. Your draft environmental impact statement makes clear that the existing commercial oyster operation is causing extensive damage to Drakes Estero and the Seashore's beaches, and that allowing these operations to continue would cause even more long-term harm.

Your environmental review also shows that alternative "A"--no new permit for commercial oyster operations and protection of the Estero as full wilderness--is the environmentally preferred alternative and the one that best protects harbor seals, birds, fish and other natural resources.

I urge you to return Drakes Estero to all Americans by selecting alternative "A" and ensuring full wilderness protection for Drakes Estero in 2012. It is time to protect Drakes Estero as Congress intended and to create the West Coast's only marine wilderness for the benefit of people and wildlife.

Please protect the Drakes Estero area so the wildlife living there can remain and be safe from any commercial operations.

Thank you for your time and understanding in this matter.

Correspondence ID: 48848 **Project:** 33043 **Document:** 43390
Name: Short, Marjorie
Outside Organization: National Wildlife Federation Action Fund Unaffiliated Individual
Received: Dec.03,2011 10:44:14
Correspondence Type: Web Form

Correspondence: Drakes Estero is the ecological heart of Point Reyes National Seashore and a treasure that belongs to all Americans. In 1976, Congress promised that the Estero would receive full wilderness protection when the current lease for commercial oyster operations expires in 2012. I urge the Park Service to honor the wilderness promise and protect Drakes Estero for future generations.

Drakes Estero is home to 20 percent of the mainland breeding population of harbor seals in California and is used by tens of thousands of shorebirds and waterfowl and dozens of species of native fish. Your draft environmental impact statement makes clear that the existing commercial oyster operation is causing extensive damage to Drakes Estero and the Seashore's beaches, and that allowing these operations to continue would cause even more long-term harm.

Your environmental review also shows that alternative "A"--no new permit for commercial oyster operations and protection of the Estero as full wilderness--is the environmentally preferred alternative and the one that best protects harbor seals, birds, fish

and other natural resources.

I urge you to return Drakes Estero to all Americans by selecting alternative "A" and ensuring full wilderness protection for Drakes Estero in 2012. It is time to protect Drakes Estero as Congress intended and to create the West Coast's only marine wilderness for the benefit of people and wildlife.

Correspondence ID: 48849 **Project:** 33043 **Document:** 43390
Name: Brownell, Kurt
Outside Organization: National Wildlife Federation Action Fund Unaffiliated Individual
Received: Dec.03,2011 10:44:14
Correspondence Type: Web Form

Correspondence: Drakes Estero is the ecological heart of Point Reyes National Seashore and a treasure that belongs to all Americans. In 1976, Congress promised that the Estero would receive full wilderness protection when the current lease for commercial oyster operations expires in 2012. I urge the Park Service to honor the wilderness promise and protect Drakes Estero for future generations.

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Correspondence ID: 48850 **Project:** 33043 **Document:** 43390
Name: McClure, L A
Outside Organization: National Wildlife Federation Action Fund Unaffiliated Individual
Received: Dec.03,2011 10:44:19
Correspondence Type: Web Form

Correspondence: Drakes Estero is the ecological heart of Point Reyes National Seashore and a treasure that belongs to all Americans. In 1976, Congress promised that the Estero would receive full wilderness protection when the current lease for commercial oyster operations expires in 2012. I urge the Park Service to honor the wilderness promise and protect Drakes Estero for future generations.

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Correspondence ID: 48851 **Project:** 33043 **Document:** 43390
Name: Huston, J.
Outside Organization: Unaffiliated Individual
Received: Dec.03,2011 11:10:13
Correspondence Type: Web Form

Correspondence: 2009 Monterey Bay Aquarium Report "Turning the Tide, The State of Seafood" creates the 'Super Green List, with oysters third on the list of eight seafoods, behind only Albacore Tuna and Mussels. Also found in this report is "Several kinds of shellfish aquaculture are recognized as environmentally responsible, including the farming of bivalves like clams, oysters, mussels and scallops?.farming shellfish has few negative impacts overall?.increased abundance of shellfish in an area is often considered to habe a positive effect on water quality?."

Need I say more?

Please, please, please, follow the science.

J. Huston

Correspondence ID: 48852 **Project:** 33043 **Document:** 43390

Name: Friend, Karen

Outside Organization: National Wildlife Federation Action Fund Unaffiliated Individual

Received: Dec,03,2011 11:14:48

Correspondence Type: Web Form

Correspondence: Drakes Estero is the ecological heart of Point Reyes National Seashore and a treasure that belongs to all Americans. In 1976, Congress promised that the Estero would receive full wilderness protection when the current lease for commercial oyster operations expires in 2012. I urge the Park Service to honor the wilderness promise and protect Drakes Estero for future generations.

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Correspondence ID: 48853 **Project:** 33043 **Document:** 43390

Name: Barr, Ellen

Outside Organization: National Wildlife Federation Action Fund Unaffiliated Individual

Received: Dec,03,2011 11:14:48

Correspondence Type: Web Form

Correspondence: Drakes Estero is the ecological heart of Point Reyes National Seashore and a treasure that belongs to all Americans. In 1976, Congress promised that the Estero would receive full wilderness protection when the current lease for commercial oyster operations expires in 2012. I urge the Park Service to honor the wilderness promise and protect Drakes Estero for future generations.

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Correspondence ID: 48854 **Project:** 33043 **Document:** 43390

Name: McLarnon, Tracy

Outside Organization: National Wildlife Federation Action Fund Unaffiliated Individual

Received: Dec,03,2011 11:44:25

Correspondence Type: Web Form

Correspondence: Drakes Estero is the ecological heart of Point Reyes National Seashore and a treasure that belongs to all Americans. In 1976, Congress promised that the Estero would receive full wilderness protection when the current lease for commercial oyster operations expires in 2012. I urge the Park Service to honor the wilderness promise and protect Drakes Estero for future generations.

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Correspondence ID: 48855 **Project:** 33043 **Document:** 43390
Name: Murphy, Jane
Outside Organization: National Wildlife Federation Action Fund Unaffiliated Individual
Received: Dec.03,2011 11:44:25
Correspondence Type: Web Form
Correspondence: Drakes Estero is the ecological heart of Point Reyes National Seashore and a treasure that belongs to all Americans. In 1976, Congress promised that the Estero would receive full wilderness protection when the current lease for commercial oyster operations expires in 2012. I urge the Park Service to honor the wilderness promise and protect Drakes Estero for future generations.

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Correspondence ID: 48856 **Project:** 33043 **Document:** 43390
Name: Byrne, Scott
Outside Organization: National Parks Conservation Association Unaffiliated Individual
Received: Dec.03,2011 00:00:00
Correspondence Type: Web Form
Correspondence: I urge you to protect Drakes Estero wilderness next year, as long intended. It is in the public interest to create the West Coast's only marine wilderness for the enjoyment of all. The public has waited nearly four decades for these protections to be implemented, which is an immense compromise in itself. Drakes Estero is a rare wildlife refuge where migrating birds stop over, harbor seals give birth, and fish take shelter in eelgrass. As someone who enjoys our nation's national parks and their wildlife, I urge you to uphold the longstanding plan to convert this very special resource to wilderness.

A place as rare & unique as Drakes Estero should be given protection equal to its uniqueness. The next few decades promises to include numerous threats & stress to all environments (from climate change to pressure from increasing population) - we should treat the Drakes with special care to ensure that it has all the possible protection to meet these threats. Also please include me in any future mailings from the National Park Service concerning the planning process for Point Reyes (thank you).

I urge you to select alternative "A", which protects marine wilderness next year and is the Environmentally Preferred Alternative. The National Park Service is mandated to provide maximum protection to the natural resources at Drakes Estero and selecting this alternative is the most consistent with the laws and policies affecting this park. Our national parks are set aside for the public and for wildlife protection, and after waiting nearly 40 years for private commercial use rights to expire, it's time to give the estuary the protection it needs. The environmental review shows that alternative "A" is best for public policy, and best protects harbor seals, fish, birds and other natural resources. Drakes Estero is our only marine wilderness on the West Coast, and is irreplaceable, while oysters can be commercially grown elsewhere.

Please honor the promise made for a protected marine wilderness at Drakes Estero. In doing so, you will set a good policy example and reward the public with an enduring legacy feat found nowhere else on the West Coast.

Correspondence ID: 48857 **Project:** 33043 **Document:** 43390
Name: Guerra, Ilaria
Outside Organization: Unaffiliated Individual
Received: Dec.03,2011 12:07:28
Correspondence Type: Web Form
Correspondence: The Wilderness Act must be followed and thus renewing the contract in a breach of the act set up by the federal government. It would be against the law to allow the oyster farming at Drakes Bay to continue.

Correspondence ID: 48858 **Project:** 33043 **Document:** 43390
Name: Lombardi, John
Outside Organization: NRDC Unaffiliated Individual
Received: Dec.03,2011 12:16:13
Correspondence Type: Web Form
Correspondence: Drakes Estero is a national ecological treasure and should become a protected wilderness area. It has outstanding natural

resources, including one of California's largest harbor seal colonies and tens of thousands of shorebirds, waterfowl, native fish and endangered species that use its wetlands, mudflats and eelgrass beds.

In the 1976 Point Reyes Wilderness Act, Congress recognized Drakes Estero as a unique recreational and biological resource and promised that this irreplaceable resource would formally become a wilderness area when non-conforming uses were eliminated. Your agency permitted a commercial oyster company to grow non-native oysters and clams on 1,050 acres in Drakes Estero for 40 years, or until 2012.

Your own draft environmental impact statement reveals the extensive damage that the existing operation has caused to Drakes Estero and Point Reyes National Seashore's beaches. As you know, commercial operations of any kind are not permitted in designated wilderness areas because of such damage. Further, the Park Service's Organic Act mandates protection of park resources and values and strictly limits commercial operations.

Your approval of the proposal to extend the oyster company's permit would be contrary to the Point Reyes Wilderness Act and would establish a dangerous precedent at a time when America's public lands and environmental laws are already under widespread attacks in Congress and elsewhere.

We've been waiting long enough. It is time to allow that permit to expire and to honor Congress' commitment. We want our bay back.

Correspondence ID: 48859 **Project:** 33043 **Document:** 43390
Name: N/A, N/A
Outside Organization: Unaffiliated Individual
Received: Dec.03,2011 12:26:36
Correspondence Type: Web Form
Correspondence: I think that the Drake's Bay Oyster Farm should be allowed to renew and continue on their work in Point Reyes. My family and I have met some of the workers at the Oyster Farm and have talked to them about their experiences being there, their families, their history, their livelihoods. Some of these people and their families have been a part of the oyster farm for years, and their entire existences depend upon them being able to continue doing what they know and love. It would be a horrible shame to displace so many loyal workers, especially given the unemployment mess the US is in at the moment. As far as environmental impacts go, there are so many innumerable other factors that are causing a far greater, far worse impact on the wildlife and natural habitats in Point Reyes. Pointing all fingers to the oyster farm is downright wrong and incompetent. We should be doing something to EDUCATE the public on the effects they are having on the environment, and asking them to talk to local and federal governments to build a better infrastructure that supports a greener lifestyle without compromising friendships and local job security. Also, if opponents of the oyster farm so strongly believe that Drake's Bay Oyster Farm is single-handedly driving Point Reyes into the ground, they should be supplying solutions to making the business and nature work hand-in-hand. If pollution and stray oyster tubes are a key concern, engineers, scientists, etc should be working towards finding ways to create eco-friendly substitutes and solutions. And this doesn't just apply in this situation - it's something that we ought to consider on a national and global scale. When it comes down to it, we need a more proactive approach by government. There is a way to make this work without destroying the lives of hundreds of workers.

Correspondence ID: 48860 **Project:** 33043 **Document:** 43390
Name: Janes, Susan S
Outside Organization: Unaffiliated Individual
Received: Dec.03,2011 12:46:02
Correspondence Type: Web Form
Correspondence: December 3, 2011

To Whom It May Concern:

I support a renewable Special Use Permit for Drakes Bay Oyster Company. It appears that all of the proposed alternatives put the oyster farm out of business - NPS should create a new alternative that supports oyster farming and maintains the renewal option.

While the Marine Mammal Commission, a federal agency, found that seal behavior at Drakes Estero in the national seashore was "at least correlated" with operations of the Drakes Bay Oyster Co., it also said more research is needed to determine a "cause and effect." I know that correlation does not imply causation.

Environmentally, the oysters filter the Estero waters. Because it is a locally sourced food, less transport is required and therefore there are fewer carbon emissions than if the oysters were imported from different states/countries. It is my understanding that the presence of the oyster farm discourages visitors from violating kayaking restrictions during harbor seal breeding season. Also oyster shells from DBOC are donated to benefit native oyster restoration and western snowy plover recovery projects.

The owners are true stewards of the land and waterways that they have a deep respect for and love of. They took over the oyster farm and invested a great deal of money, time and energy into cleaning up and improving the oyster harvesting operation and the working and living conditions of the 35 workers, both men and women. If the Special Use Permit does not have a renewable option there will be thirty-five locals (and their families) unemployed and unable to contribute economically and socially to the

West Marin community.

I am especially impressed how people of different social and ethnic backgrounds are drawn to and served by Drakes Bay Oyster Company. Drakes Bay Oyster Company serves the wider Bay Area, not just "foodie" Marin. They also generously donate oysters to fund-raising events of many local organizations.

Educationally, the oyster farm is a unique and fantastic opportunity for visitors and school children to learn about sustainable farming practices and the sensitive balance of producing food while protecting nature. They also learn about the oysters, which are a sustainable food source that is local and in great demand. Domestic shellfish demand already exceeds the supply and if DBOC is no longer in operation the supply will be depleted by approximately 500,000 pounds of oyster meat per year.

In addition, as a valuable food source oysters require no extra feed, no fertilizers, no chemicals or any cultivation. It would take considerably more beef pasture acres to provide equivalent amounts of protein that is gotten from the oysters on the 150 water bottom acres.

Personally, I enjoy the fresh-ocean taste of the oysters from Drakes Estero to the silt-bed-grown oysters of the Tomales Bay. Our friends comment DBOC oysters are the best they have ever tasted.

I support the Lunny Family in their endeavor to obtain a renewable Special Use Permit for Drakes Bay Oyster Company.

Most Sincerely, Susan Janes Point Reyes Station, CA

Correspondence ID: 48861 **Project:** 33043 **Document:** 43390
Name: Nielsen, Janet R
Outside Organization: Unaffiliated Individual
Received: Dec,03,2011 13:01:26
Correspondence Type: Web Form
Correspondence: None of the proposed alternatives are appropriate. I support a renewable Special Use Permit for Drakes Bay Oyster Company.

Correspondence ID: 48862 **Project:** 33043 **Document:** 43390
Name: Finetti, Sandra
Outside Organization: National Wildlife Federation Action Fund Unaffiliated Individual
Received: Dec,03,2011 13:14:26
Correspondence Type: Web Form
Correspondence: Drakes Estero is the ecological heart of Point Reyes National Seashore and a treasure that belongs to all Americans. In 1976, Congress promised that the Estero would receive full wilderness protection when the current lease for commercial oyster operations expires in 2012. I urge the Park Service to honor the wilderness promise and protect Drakes Estero for future generations.

Drakes Estero is home to 20 percent of the mainland breeding population of harbor seals in California and is used by tens of thousands of shorebirds and waterfowl and dozens of species of native fish. Your draft environmental impact statement makes clear that the existing commercial oyster operation is causing extensive damage to Drakes Estero and the Seashore's beaches, and that allowing these operations to continue would cause even more long-term harm.

Your environmental review also shows that alternative "A"--no new permit for commercial oyster operations and protection of the Estero as full wilderness--is the environmentally preferred alternative and the one that best protects harbor seals, birds, fish and other natural resources.

I urge you to return Drakes Estero to all Americans by selecting alternative "A" and ensuring full wilderness protection for Drakes Estero in 2012. It is time to protect Drakes Estero as Congress intended and to create the West Coast's only marine wilderness for the benefit of people and wildlife.

Correspondence ID: 48863 **Project:** 33043 **Document:** 43390
Name: Thomas-Brown, Pauline
Outside Organization: National Wildlife Federation Action Fund Unaffiliated Individual
Received: Dec,03,2011 13:14:26
Correspondence Type: Web Form
Correspondence: Drakes Estero is the ecological heart of Point Reyes National Seashore and a treasure that belongs to all Americans. In 1976, Congress promised that the Estero would receive full wilderness protection when the current lease for commercial oyster operations expires in 2012. I urge the Park Service to honor the wilderness promise and protect Drakes Estero for future generations.

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Correspondence ID: 48864 **Project:** 33043 **Document:** 43390
Name: Franklin, Laurel Fawn
Outside Organization: National Wildlife Federation Action Fund Unaffiliated Individual
Received: Dec.03,2011 13:14:32
Correspondence Type: Web Form
Correspondence: Drakes Estero is the ecological heart of Point Reyes National Seashore and a treasure that belongs to all Americans. In 1976, Congress promised that the Estero would receive full wilderness protection when the current lease for commercial oyster operations expires in 2012. I urge the Park Service to honor the wilderness promise and protect Drakes Estero for future generations.

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Correspondence ID: 48865 **Project:** 33043 **Document:** 43390
Name: DeFeo, Anthony
Outside Organization: National Wildlife Federation Action Fund Unaffiliated Individual
Received: Dec.03,2011 13:14:34
Correspondence Type: Web Form
Correspondence: Drakes Estero is the ecological heart of Point Reyes National Seashore and a treasure that belongs to all Americans. In 1976, Congress promised that the Estero would receive full wilderness protection when the current lease for commercial oyster operations expires in 2012. I urge the Park Service to honor the wilderness promise and protect Drakes Estero for future generations.

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Correspondence ID: 48866 **Project:** 33043 **Document:** 43390
Name: Dodd, Marianne
Outside Organization: NRDC Unaffiliated Individual
Received: Dec.03,2011 13:16:18
Correspondence Type: Web Form
Correspondence: Drakes Estero is a national ecological treasure and should become a protected wilderness area. It has outstanding natural resources, including one of California's largest harbor seal colonies and tens of thousands of shorebirds, waterfowl, native fish and endangered species that use its wetlands, mudflats and eelgrass beds.

In the 1976 Point Reyes Wilderness Act, Congress recognized Drakes Estero as a unique recreational and biological resource and promised that this irreplaceable resource would formally become a wilderness area when non-conforming uses were

eliminated. Your agency permitted a commercial oyster company to grow non-native oysters and clams on 1,050 acres in Drakes Estero for 40 years, or until 2012.

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Your approval of the proposal to extend the oyster company's permit would be contrary to the Point Reyes Wilderness Act and would establish a dangerous precedent at a time when America's public lands and environmental laws are already under widespread attacks in Congress and elsewhere.

We've been waiting long enough. It is time to allow that permit to expire and to honor Congress' commitment. We want our bay back.

Correspondence ID: 48867 **Project:** 33043 **Document:** 43390
Name: Armstrong M.D., William T
Outside Organization: Unaffiliated Individual
Received: Dec.03,2011 13:23:25
Correspondence Type: Web Form
Correspondence: None of tge proposed alternatives are appropriate. I support a renewable Special Use Permit for Drakes Bay Oyster Company. We believe that the Lunny family has done a wonderful job to rehabilitate the site and manage a clean and sustainable operation.

Correspondence ID: 48868 **Project:** 33043 **Document:** 43390
Name: N/A, N/A
Outside Organization: Unaffiliated Individual
Received: Dec.03,2011 13:32:07
Correspondence Type: Web Form
Correspondence: "None of the proposed alternatives are appropriate. I support a renewable Special Use Permit for Drakes Bay Oyster Company."

Correspondence ID: 48869 **Project:** 33043 **Document:** 43390
Name: Harlan, Derek
Outside Organization: National Wildlife Federation Action Fund Unaffiliated Individual
Received: Dec.03,2011 13:44:35
Correspondence Type: Web Form
Correspondence: Drakes Estero is the ecological heart of Point Reyes National Seashore and a treasure that belongs to all Americans. In 1976, Congress promised that the Estero would receive full wilderness protection when the current lease for commercial oyster operations expires in 2012. I urge the Park Service to honor the wilderness promise and protect Drakes Estero for future generations.

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Correspondence ID: 48870 **Project:** 33043 **Document:** 43390
Name: Olson, Linda
Outside Organization: National Wildlife Federation Action Fund Unaffiliated Individual
Received: Dec.03,2011 13:44:36
Correspondence Type: Web Form
Correspondence: Drakes Estero is the ecological heart of Point Reyes National Seashore and a treasure that belongs to all Americans. In 1976, Congress promised that the Estero would receive full wilderness protection when the current lease for commercial oyster operations expires in 2012. I urge the Park Service to honor the wilderness promise and protect Drakes Estero for future generations.

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Correspondence ID: 48871 **Project:** 33043 **Document:** 43390
Name: Faure, Roxanne
Outside Organization: National Wildlife Federation Action Fund Unaffiliated Individual
Received: Dec.03,2011 13:44:36
Correspondence Type: Web Form
Correspondence: Drakes Estero is the ecological heart of Point Reyes National Seashore and a treasure that belongs to all Americans. In 1976, Congress promised that the Estero would receive full wilderness protection when the current lease for commercial oyster operations expires in 2012. I urge the Park Service to honor the wilderness promise and protect Drakes Estero for future generations.

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Correspondence ID: 48872 **Project:** 33043 **Document:** 43390
Name: Fitzgibbon, David
Outside Organization: National Wildlife Federation Action Fund Unaffiliated Individual
Received: Dec.03,2011 14:14:30
Correspondence Type: Web Form
Correspondence: Drakes Estero is the ecological heart of Point Reyes National Seashore and a treasure that belongs to all Americans. In 1976, Congress promised that the Estero would receive full wilderness protection when the current lease for commercial oyster operations expires in 2012. I urge the Park Service to honor the wilderness promise and protect Drakes Estero for future generations.

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I urge you to return Drakes Estero to all Americans by selecting alternative "A" and ensuring full wilderness protection for Drakes Estero in 2012. It is time to protect Drakes Estero as Congress intended and to create the West Coast's only marine wilderness for the benefit of people and wildlife.

Correspondence ID: 48873 **Project:** 33043 **Document:** 43390
Name: Collins, C.
Outside Organization: National Wildlife Federation Action Fund Unaffiliated Individual
Received: Dec.03,2011 14:14:36
Correspondence Type: Web Form
Correspondence: Drakes Estero is the ecological heart of Point Reyes National Seashore and a treasure that belongs to all Americans. In 1976, Congress promised that the Estero would receive full wilderness protection when the current lease for commercial oyster operations expires in 2012. I urge the Park Service to honor the wilderness promise and protect Drakes Estero for future generations.

Drakes Estero is home to 20 percent of the mainland breeding population of harbor seals in California and is used by tens of

thousands of shorebirds and waterfowl and dozens of species of native fish. Your draft environmental impact statement makes clear that the existing commercial oyster operation is causing extensive damage to Drakes Estero and the Seashore's beaches, and that allowing these operations to continue would cause even more long-term harm.

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Correspondence ID: 48874 **Project:** 33043 **Document:** 43390
Name: johnston, lael
Outside Organization: NRDC Unaffiliated Individual
Received: Dec,03,2011 14:17:42
Correspondence Type: Web Form
Correspondence: Drakes Estero is a national ecological treasure and should become a protected wilderness area. It has outstanding natural resources, including one of California's largest harbor seal colonies and tens of thousands of shorebirds, waterfowl, native fish and endangered species that use its wetlands, mudflats and eelgrass beds.

In the 1976 Point Reyes Wilderness Act, Congress recognized Drakes Estero as a unique recreational and biological resource and promised that this irreplaceable resource would formally become a wilderness area when non-conforming uses were eliminated. Your agency permitted a commercial oyster company to grow non-native oysters and clams on 1,050 acres in Drakes Estero for 40 years, or until 2012.

Your own draft environmental impact statement reveals the extensive damage that the existing operation has caused to Drakes Estero and Point Reyes National Seashore's beaches. As you know, commercial operations of any kind are not permitted in designated wilderness areas because of such damage. Further, the Park Service's Organic Act mandates protection of park resources and values and strictly limits commercial operations.

Your approval of the proposal to extend the oyster company's permit would be contrary to the Point Reyes Wilderness Act and would establish a dangerous precedent at a time when America's public lands and environmental laws are already under widespread attacks in Congress and elsewhere.

We've been waiting long enough. It is time to allow that permit to expire and to honor Congress' commitment. We want our bay back.

Correspondence ID: 48875 **Project:** 33043 **Document:** 43390
Name: Pparness, Velma
Outside Organization: Unaffiliated Individual
Received: Dec,03,2011 14:18:06
Correspondence Type: Web Form
Correspondence: None of the proposed alternatives are appropriate. I support a renewable Special Use Permit for Drakes Bay Oyster Company.

Correspondence ID: 48876 **Project:** 33043 **Document:** 43390
Name: Jackson, Victoria L
Outside Organization: Unaffiliated Individual
Received: Dec,03,2011 14:18:13
Correspondence Type: Web Form
Correspondence: I support Alternative A. The current owners purchased the lease in 2005 with full knowledge of the impending expiration. Drakes Bay should be returned to wilderness as per the original agreement.

Correspondence ID: 48877 **Project:** 33043 **Document:** 43390
Name: Burke, Julia F
Outside Organization: Unaffiliated Individual
Received: Dec,03,2011 14:34:10
Correspondence Type: Web Form
Correspondence: Drakes Bay Oyster Farm is a unique business in a very unique place. None of the proposed alternatives are appropriate. I support a renewable Special Use Permit for Drakes Bay Oyster Company. I don't understand why you can't take a common sense view of the Oyster Farm. Sustainably produced shellfish is something we need more of, not less of and Drakes Bay Oyster Farm produces a large proportion of the Bay Area's fresh oysters. As there is less and less seafood available, we need this. There is plenty of open space and this takes up so little of it without hurting it a bit. I have followed the debate for several years and there is very little strong evidence that the Oyster Farm is hurting the environment. In fact, the oysters clean the water. The Lunnys are good stewards of the environment and willing to make the site an educational center as well continuing a viable business that employs 30 people. That may not sound like a lot but it's a huge percentage of the workforce in West Marin. My family has enjoyed the Point Reyes National Park for many years and have never felt the need to close down the oyster farm to create more open space. Drakes Bay Oyster Farm is a vital part of the tourist economy in the area as well as a family tradition

for generations of West Marin families. In this instance, the NPS is looking like Big Government ruining the lives of local people who are doing the right thing. Laws made by Congress to protect the environment cannot be applied everywhere the same. Please reconsider the motives and the science behind this decision.

Correspondence ID: 48878 **Project:** 33043 **Document:** 43390
Name: Smith, Keelan
Outside Organization: National Wildlife Federation Action Fund Unaffiliated Individual
Received: Dec,03,2011 14:44:33
Correspondence Type: Web Form
Correspondence:

Drakes Estero is the ecological heart of Point Reyes National Seashore and a treasure that belongs to all Americans. In 1976, Congress promised that the Estero would receive full wilderness protection when the current lease for commercial oyster operations expires in 2012. I urge the Park Service to honor the wilderness promise and protect Drakes Estero for future generations.

Drakes Estero is home to 20 percent of the mainland breeding population of harbor seals in California and is used by tens of thousands of shorebirds and waterfowl and dozens of species of native fish. Your draft environmental impact statement makes clear that the existing commercial oyster operation is causing extensive damage to Drakes Estero and the Seashore's beaches, and that allowing these operations to continue would cause even more long-term harm.

Your environmental review also shows that alternative "A"--no new permit for commercial oyster operations and protection of the Estero as full wilderness--is the environmentally preferred alternative and the one that best protects harbor seals, birds, fish and other natural resources.

I urge you to return Drakes Estero to all Americans by selecting alternative "A" and ensuring full wilderness protection for Drakes Estero in 2012. It is time to protect Drakes Estero as Congress intended and to create the West Coast's only marine wilderness for the benefit of people and wildlife.

Correspondence ID: 48879 **Project:** 33043 **Document:** 43390
Name: Valenzuela, Andrea
Outside Organization: National Wildlife Federation Action Fund Unaffiliated Individual
Received: Dec,03,2011 14:44:33
Correspondence Type: Web Form
Correspondence:

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I urge you to return Drakes Estero to all Americans by selecting alternative "A" and ensuring full wilderness protection for Drakes Estero in 2012. It is time to protect Drakes Estero as Congress intended and to create the West Coast's only marine wilderness for the benefit of people and wildlife.

Correspondence ID: 48880 **Project:** 33043 **Document:** 43390
Name: raman, lakshmi
Outside Organization: National Wildlife Federation Action Fund Unaffiliated Individual
Received: Dec,03,2011 14:44:34
Correspondence Type: Web Form
Correspondence:

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and other natural resources.

I urge you to return Drakes Estero to all Americans by selecting alternative "A" and ensuring full wilderness protection for Drakes Estero in 2012. It is time to protect Drakes Estero as Congress intended and to create the West Coast's only marine wilderness for the benefit of people and wildlife.

Correspondence ID: 48881 **Project:** 33043 **Document:** 43390
Name: Storrs, Andrea
Outside Organization: National Wildlife Federation Action Fund Unaffiliated Individual
Received: Dec.03,2011 14:44:44
Correspondence Type: Web Form
Correspondence: Drakes Estero is the ecological heart of Point Reyes National Seashore and a treasure that belongs to all Americans. In 1976, Congress promised that the Estero would receive full wilderness protection when the current lease for commercial oyster operations expires in 2012. I urge the Park Service to honor the wilderness promise and protect Drakes Estero for future generations.

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I urge you to return Drakes Estero to all Americans by selecting alternative "A" and ensuring full wilderness protection for Drakes Estero in 2012. It is time to protect Drakes Estero as Congress intended and to create the West Coast's only marine wilderness for the benefit of people and wildlife.

Correspondence ID: 48882 **Project:** 33043 **Document:** 43390
Name: Cisneros, Alexis
Outside Organization: National Parks Conservation Association Unaffiliated Individual
Received: Dec.03,2011 14:45:47
Correspondence Type: Web Form
Correspondence: I urge you to protect Drakes Estero wilderness next year, as long intended. It is in the public interest to create the West Coast's only marine wilderness for the enjoyment of all. The public has waited nearly four decades for these protections to be implemented, which is an immense compromise in itself. Drakes Estero is a rare wildlife refuge where migrating birds stop over, harbor seals give birth, and fish take shelter in eelgrass. As someone who enjoys our nation's national parks and their wildlife, I urge you to uphold the longstanding plan to convert this very special resource to wilderness.

I urge you to select alternative "A", which protects marine wilderness next year and is the Environmentally Preferred Alternative. The National Park Service is mandated to provide maximum protection to the natural resources at Drakes Estero and selecting this alternative is the most consistent with the laws and policies affecting this park. Our national parks are set aside for the public and for wildlife protection, and after waiting nearly 40 years for private commercial use rights to expire, it's time to give the estuary the protection it needs. The environmental review shows that alternative "A" is best for public policy, and best protects harbor seals, fish, birds and other natural resources. Drakes Estero is our only marine wilderness on the West Coast, and is irreplaceable, while oysters can be commercially grown elsewhere.

Please honor the promise made for a protected marine wilderness at Drakes Estero. In doing so, you will set a good policy example and reward the public with an enduring legacy feat found nowhere else on the West Coast.

Correspondence ID: 48883 **Project:** 33043 **Document:** 43390
Name: N/A, N/A
Outside Organization: Unaffiliated Individual
Received: Dec.03,2011 15:02:41
Correspondence Type: Web Form
Correspondence: Keep Drakes Oyster farm open! its one of the last places in california where you can find an attraction to such beautiful scenery like this! Its a place for not only my family, but its a huge part of my life.

Correspondence ID: 48884 **Project:** 33043 **Document:** 43390
Name: Williamson, Lisa
Outside Organization: National Wildlife Federation Action Fund Unaffiliated Individual
Received: Dec.03,2011 15:14:35
Correspondence Type: Web Form
Correspondence: Drakes Estero is the ecological heart of Point Reyes National Seashore and a treasure that belongs to all Americans. In 1976, Congress promised that the Estero would receive full wilderness protection when the current lease for commercial oyster operations expires in 2012. I urge the Park Service to honor the wilderness promise and protect Drakes Estero for future generations.

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Your environmental review also shows that alternative "A"--no new permit for commercial oyster operations and protection of the Estero as full wilderness--is the environmentally preferred alternative and the one that best protects harbor seals, birds, fish and other natural resources.

I urge you to return Drakes Estero to all Americans by selecting alternative "A" and ensuring full wilderness protection for Drakes Estero in 2012. It is time to protect Drakes Estero as Congress intended and to create the West Coast's only marine wilderness for the benefit of people and wildlife.

Correspondence ID: 48885 **Project:** 33043 **Document:** 43390
Name: Scott, Becky
Outside Organization: National Wildlife Federation Action Fund Unaffiliated Individual
Received: Dec,03,2011 15:14:40
Correspondence Type: Web Form
Correspondence: Drakes Estero is the ecological heart of Point Reyes National Seashore and a treasure that belongs to all Americans. In 1976, Congress promised that the Estero would receive full wilderness protection when the current lease for commercial oyster operations expires in 2012. I urge the Park Service to honor the wilderness promise and protect Drakes Estero for future generations.

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Correspondence ID: 48886 **Project:** 33043 **Document:** 43390
Name: De Nardis, Nicole
Outside Organization: National Wildlife Federation Action Fund Unaffiliated Individual
Received: Dec,03,2011 15:14:40
Correspondence Type: Web Form
Correspondence: Drakes Estero is the ecological heart of Point Reyes National Seashore and a treasure that belongs to all Americans. In 1976, Congress promised that the Estero would receive full wilderness protection when the current lease for commercial oyster operations expires in 2012. I urge the Park Service to honor the wilderness promise and protect Drakes Estero for future generations.

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Correspondence ID: 48887 **Project:** 33043 **Document:** 43390
Name: Short, John
Outside Organization: National Wildlife Federation Action Fund Unaffiliated Individual
Received: Dec,03,2011 15:14:51
Correspondence Type: Web Form
Correspondence: Drakes Estero is the ecological heart of Point Reyes National Seashore and a treasure that belongs to all Americans. In 1976, Congress promised that the Estero would receive full wilderness protection when the current lease for commercial oyster

operations expires in 2012. I urge the Park Service to honor the wilderness promise and protect Drakes Estero for future generations.

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Correspondence ID: 48888 **Project:** 33043 **Document:** 43390
Name: Terry, Jan
Outside Organization: Unaffiliated Individual
Received: Dec,03,2011 15:36:44
Correspondence Type: Web Form
Correspondence: "None of the proposed alternatives are appropriate. I support a renewable Special Use Permit for Drakes Bay Oyster Company."

Correspondence ID: 48889 **Project:** 33043 **Document:** 43390
Name: Brothag, Patty J
Outside Organization: National Wildlife Federation Action Fund Unaffiliated Individual
Received: Dec,03,2011 15:44:39
Correspondence Type: Web Form
Correspondence: Drakes Estero is the ecological heart of Point Reyes National Seashore and a treasure that belongs to all Americans. In 1976, Congress promised that the Estero would receive full wilderness protection when the current lease for commercial oyster operations expires in 2012. I urge the Park Service to honor the wilderness promise and protect Drakes Estero for future generations.

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Correspondence ID: 48890 **Project:** 33043 **Document:** 43390
Name: Carlile, NJ
Outside Organization: National Wildlife Federation Action Fund Unaffiliated Individual
Received: Dec,03,2011 15:44:39
Correspondence Type: Web Form
Correspondence: Drakes Estero is the ecological heart of Point Reyes National Seashore and a treasure that belongs to all Americans. In 1976, Congress promised that the Estero would receive full wilderness protection when the current lease for commercial oyster operations expires in 2012. I urge the Park Service to honor the wilderness promise and protect Drakes Estero for future generations.

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wilderness for the benefit of people and wildlife.

Correspondence ID: 48891 **Project:** 33043 **Document:** 43390
Name: O'Sullivan, Joseph
Outside Organization: National Wildlife Federation Action Fund Unaffiliated Individual
Received: Dec,03,2011 15:44:42
Correspondence Type: Web Form

Correspondence: Drakes Estero is the ecological heart of Point Reyes National Seashore and a treasure that belongs to all Americans. In 1976, Congress promised that the Estero would receive full wilderness protection when the current lease for commercial oyster operations expires in 2012. I urge the Park Service to honor the wilderness promise and protect Drakes Estero for future generations.

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Correspondence ID: 48892 **Project:** 33043 **Document:** 43390
Name: Sturtevant, Judy
Outside Organization: National Wildlife Federation Action Fund Unaffiliated Individual
Received: Dec,03,2011 15:44:50
Correspondence Type: Web Form

Correspondence: Drakes Estero is the ecological heart of Point Reyes National Seashore and a treasure that belongs to all Americans. In 1976, Congress promised that the Estero would receive full wilderness protection when the current lease for commercial oyster operations expires in 2012. I urge the Park Service to honor the wilderness promise and protect Drakes Estero for future generations.

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Correspondence ID: 48893 **Project:** 33043 **Document:** 43390
Name: Ruckdeschel, Jenny
Outside Organization: National Wildlife Federation Action Fund Unaffiliated Individual
Received: Dec,03,2011 15:44:51
Correspondence Type: Web Form

Correspondence: Drakes Estero is the ecological heart of Point Reyes National Seashore and a treasure that belongs to all Americans. In 1976, Congress promised that the Estero would receive full wilderness protection when the current lease for commercial oyster operations expires in 2012. I urge the Park Service to honor the wilderness promise and protect Drakes Estero for future generations.

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Correspondence ID: 48894 **Project:** 33043 **Document:** 43390
Name: Harrod, Florence
Outside Organization: National Wildlife Federation Action Fund Unaffiliated Individual
Received: Dec,03,2011 15:44:55
Correspondence Type: Web Form
Correspondence: Drakes Estero is the ecological heart of Point Reyes National Seashore and a treasure that belongs to all Americans. In 1976, Congress promised that the Estero would receive full wilderness protection when the current lease for commercial oyster operations expires in 2012. I urge the Park Service to honor the wilderness promise and protect Drakes Estero for future generations.

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Correspondence ID: 48895 **Project:** 33043 **Document:** 43390
Name: Wojahn, Arla
Outside Organization: National Wildlife Federation Action Fund Unaffiliated Individual
Received: Dec,03,2011 16:14:43
Correspondence Type: Web Form
Correspondence: Drakes Estero is the ecological heart of Point Reyes National Seashore and a treasure that belongs to all Americans. In 1976, Congress promised that the Estero would receive full wilderness protection when the current lease for commercial oyster operations expires in 2012. I urge the Park Service to honor the wilderness promise and protect Drakes Estero for future generations.

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Correspondence ID: 48896 **Project:** 33043 **Document:** 43390
Name: Hemingway, Carol
Outside Organization: National Wildlife Federation Action Fund Unaffiliated Individual
Received: Dec,03,2011 16:14:44
Correspondence Type: Web Form
Correspondence: Drakes Estero is the ecological heart of Point Reyes National Seashore and a treasure that belongs to all Americans. In 1976, Congress promised that the Estero would receive full wilderness protection when the current lease for commercial oyster operations expires in 2012. I urge the Park Service to honor the wilderness promise and protect Drakes Estero for future generations.

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Correspondence ID: 48897 **Project:** 33043 **Document:** 43390
Name: Hall, Edward
Outside Organization: National Parks Conservation Association Unaffiliated Individual
Received: Dec.03,2011 16:16:34
Correspondence Type: Web Form

Correspondence: I urge you to protect Drakes Estero wilderness next year, as long intended. It is in the public interest to create the West Coast's only marine wilderness for the enjoyment of all. The public has waited nearly four decades for these protections to be implemented, which is an immense compromise in itself. Drakes Estero is a rare wildlife refuge where migrating birds stop over, harbor seals give birth, and fish take shelter in eelgrass. As someone who enjoys our nation's national parks and their wildlife, I urge you to uphold the longstanding plan to convert this very special resource to wilderness.

I urge you to select alternative "A", which protects marine wilderness next year and is the Environmentally Preferred Alternative. The National Park Service is mandated to provide maximum protection to the natural resources at Drakes Estero and selecting this alternative is the most consistent with the laws and policies affecting this park. Our national parks are set aside for the public and for wildlife protection, and after waiting nearly 40 years for private commercial use rights to expire, it's time to give the estuary the protection it needs. The environmental review shows that alternative "A" is best for public policy, and best protects harbor seals, fish, birds and other natural resources. Drakes Estero is our only marine wilderness on the West Coast, and is irreplaceable, while oysters can be commercially grown elsewhere.

Please honor the promise made for a protected marine wilderness at Drakes Estero. In doing so, you will set a good policy example and reward the public with an enduring legacy feat found nowhere else on the West Coast.

Correspondence ID: 48898 **Project:** 33043 **Document:** 43390
Name: Bresson, Jaclyn
Outside Organization: NRDC Unaffiliated Individual
Received: Dec.03,2011 16:16:40
Correspondence Type: Web Form

Correspondence: Drakes Estero is a national ecological treasure and should become a protected wilderness area. It has outstanding natural resources, including one of California's largest harbor seal colonies and tens of thousands of shorebirds, waterfowl, native fish and endangered species that use its wetlands, mudflats and eelgrass beds.

In the 1976 Point Reyes Wilderness Act, Congress recognized Drakes Estero as a unique recreational and biological resource and promised that this irreplaceable resource would formally become a wilderness area when non-conforming uses were eliminated. Your agency permitted a commercial oyster company to grow non-native oysters and clams on 1,050 acres in Drakes Estero for 40 years, or until 2012.

Your own draft environmental impact statement reveals the extensive damage that the existing operation has caused to Drakes Estero and Point Reyes National Seashore's beaches. As you know, commercial operations of any kind are not permitted in designated wilderness areas because of such damage. Further, the Park Service's Organic Act mandates protection of park resources and values and strictly limits commercial operations.

Your approval of the proposal to extend the oyster company's permit would be contrary to the Point Reyes Wilderness Act and would establish a dangerous precedent at a time when America's public lands and environmental laws are already under widespread attacks in Congress and elsewhere.

We've been waiting long enough. It is time to allow that permit to expire and to honor Congress' commitment. We want our bay back.

Correspondence ID: 48899 **Project:** 33043 **Document:** 43390
Name: Cornelia, Maureen A
Outside Organization: Unaffiliated Individual
Received: Dec.03,2011 17:05:26
Correspondence Type: Web Form

Correspondence: Dear Superintendent Muldoon,

I support the issuance of a 10 year Special Use Permit for Drakes Bay Oyster Company with an option for extension; rehabilitation of existing facilities; and construction of new processing facilities.

One of my greatest disappointments with your leadership and that of the National Park Service (NPS) in the review of Drakes Bay Oyster Company is the complete lack of any honest collaborative effort with the Lunny Family as owners. This is a family with a history of excellent land management and responsible stewardship. They have applied those principles to their

management of Drakes Bay Oyster Company. Yet the NPS has made no genuine effort to engage in a cooperative discussion with the Lunny family regarding the future operations of Drakes Bay Oyster Company in Drakes Estero.

The NPS still has an opportunity to design a viable, long term management plan with Drakes Bay Oyster Company. I hope that will happen. It would restore my confidence in the NPS and process of fair and open government.

Correspondence ID: 48900 **Project:** 33043 **Document:** 43390
Name: Copeland, Jeanette
Outside Organization: National Wildlife Federation Action Fund Unaffiliated Individual
Received: Dec.03,2011 17:14:46
Correspondence Type: Web Form

Correspondence: Drakes Estero is the ecological heart of Point Reyes National Seashore and a treasure that belongs to all Americans. In 1976, Congress promised that the Estero would receive full wilderness protection when the current lease for commercial oyster operations expires in 2012. I urge the Park Service to honor the wilderness promise and protect Drakes Estero for future generations.

Drakes Estero is home to 20 percent of the mainland breeding population of harbor seals in California and is used by tens of thousands of shorebirds and waterfowl and dozens of species of native fish. Your draft environmental impact statement makes clear that the existing commercial oyster operation is causing extensive damage to Drakes Estero and the Seashore's beaches, and that allowing these operations to continue would cause even more long-term harm.

Your environmental review also shows that alternative "A"--no new permit for commercial oyster operations and protection of the Estero as full wilderness--is the environmentally preferred alternative and the one that best protects harbor seals, birds, fish and other natural resources.

I urge you to return Drakes Estero to all Americans by selecting alternative "A" and ensuring full wilderness protection for Drakes Estero in 2012. It is time to protect Drakes Estero as Congress intended and to create the West Coast's only marine wilderness for the benefit of people and wildlife.

Correspondence ID: 48901 **Project:** 33043 **Document:** 43390
Name: Beutel, Teresa
Outside Organization: National Wildlife Federation Action Fund Unaffiliated Individual
Received: Dec.03,2011 17:14:46
Correspondence Type: Web Form

Correspondence: Drakes Estero is the ecological heart of Point Reyes National Seashore and a treasure that belongs to all Americans. In 1976, Congress promised that the Estero would receive full wilderness protection when the current lease for commercial oyster operations expires in 2012. I urge the Park Service to honor the wilderness promise and protect Drakes Estero for future generations.

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I urge you to return Drakes Estero to all Americans by selecting alternative "A" and ensuring full wilderness protection for Drakes Estero in 2012. It is time to protect Drakes Estero as Congress intended and to create the West Coast's only marine wilderness for the benefit of people and wildlife.

Correspondence ID: 48902 **Project:** 33043 **Document:** 43390
Name: Lied, Katherine
Outside Organization: National Parks Conservation Association Unaffiliated Individual
Received: Dec.03,2011 17:16:56
Correspondence Type: Web Form

Correspondence: I urge you to protect Drakes Estero wilderness next year, as long intended. It is in the public interest to create the West Coast's only marine wilderness for the enjoyment of all. The public has waited nearly four decades for these protections to be implemented, which is an immense compromise in itself. Drakes Estero is a rare wildlife refuge where migrating birds stop over, harbor seals give birth, and fish take shelter in eelgrass. As someone who enjoys our nation's national parks and their wildlife, I urge you to uphold the longstanding plan to convert this very special resource to wilderness.

I urge you to select alternative "A", which protects marine wilderness next year and is the Environmentally Preferred Alternative. The National Park Service is mandated to provide maximum protection to the natural resources at Drakes Estero and selecting this alternative is the most consistent with the laws and policies affecting this park. Our national parks are set aside for the public and for wildlife protection, and after waiting nearly 40 years for private commercial use rights to expire, it's time to give the estuary the protection it needs. The environmental review shows that alternative "A" is best for public policy, and

best protects harbor seals, fish, birds and other natural resources. Drakes Estero is our only marine wilderness on the West Coast, and is irreplaceable, while oysters can be commercially grown elsewhere.

Please honor the promise made for a protected marine wilderness at Drakes Estero. In doing so, you will set a good policy example and reward the public with an enduring legacy feat found nowhere else on the West Coast.

Correspondence ID: 48903 **Project:** 33043 **Document:** 43390
Name: Weber, Marilyn
Outside Organization: Unaffiliated Individual
Received: Dec.03,2011 17:27:54
Correspondence Type: Web Form
Correspondence: "None of the proposed alternatives are appropriate. I support a renewable Special Use Permit for Drakes Bay Oyster Company."

Correspondence ID: 48904 **Project:** 33043 **Document:** 43390
Name: Starkweather, Chester
Outside Organization: Sierra Club Unaffiliated Individual
Received: Dec.03,2011 17:40:44
Correspondence Type: Web Form
Correspondence: I am writing to urge the National Park Service to protect Drakes Estero wilderness next year as long-intended. The American public deserves to have the West Coast's only marine wilderness protected for future generations to enjoy. Drakes Estero is a rare wildlife refuge where migrating birds stop over, harbor seals give birth, and fish spawn. It deserves the highest level of protection as Congress long-intended. As someone who enjoys our nation's spectacular national parks, I urge you to not undermine protections at Drakes Estero and succumb to special interests seeking to commercialize these special places.

I urge the National Park Service and the Department of the Interior to select alternative "A", which protects marine wilderness and is the environmentally preferred alternative. The NPS is mandated to provide maximum protection to the natural resources, as stated in the Seashore's legislation, and selecting this alternative is the most consistent with the laws and policies affecting this park. Our national parks are for the people and wildlife protection, not commercial exploitation. The environmental review shows that alternative "A" best protects harbor seals, fish, birds and other wildlife and plants. Drakes Estero is our only marine wilderness on the West Coast, and it is irreplaceable, while oysters can be grown elsewhere.

National Parks and wilderness areas are treasured by the majority of Americans and are for the public interest, not for private commercial exploitation. By protecting wilderness, the National Park Service will set a positive policy example while commercializing it will set a negative example and help others seek their special exemptions from national park laws.

Correspondence ID: 48905 **Project:** 33043 **Document:** 43390
Name: Chismar, Nancy
Outside Organization: National Wildlife Federation Action Fund Unaffiliated Individual
Received: Dec.03,2011 17:44:49
Correspondence Type: Web Form
Correspondence: Drakes Estero is the ecological heart of Point Reyes National Seashore and a treasure that belongs to all Americans. In 1976, Congress promised that the Estero would receive full wilderness protection when the current lease for commercial oyster operations expires in 2012. I urge the Park Service to honor the wilderness promise and protect Drakes Estero for future generations.

Drakes Estero is home to 20 percent of the mainland breeding population of harbor seals in California and is used by tens of thousands of shorebirds and waterfowl and dozens of species of native fish. Your draft environmental impact statement makes clear that the existing commercial oyster operation is causing extensive damage to Drakes Estero and the Seashore's beaches, and that allowing these operations to continue would cause even more long-term harm.

Your environmental review also shows that alternative "A"--no new permit for commercial oyster operations and protection of the Estero as full wilderness--is the environmentally preferred alternative and the one that best protects harbor seals, birds, fish and other natural resources.

I urge you to return Drakes Estero to all Americans by selecting alternative "A" and ensuring full wilderness protection for Drakes Estero in 2012. It is time to protect Drakes Estero as Congress intended and to create the West Coast's only marine wilderness for the benefit of people and wildlife.

Correspondence ID: 48906 **Project:** 33043 **Document:** 43390
Name: Fariss, Nan
Outside Organization: National Wildlife Federation Action Fund Unaffiliated Individual
Received: Dec.03,2011 17:44:49
Correspondence Type: Web Form
Correspondence: Drakes Estero is the ecological heart of Point Reyes National Seashore and a treasure that belongs to all Americans. In 1976, Congress promised that the Estero would receive full wilderness protection when the current lease for commercial oyster operations expires in 2012. I urge the Park Service to honor the wilderness promise and protect Drakes Estero for future generations.

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Your environmental review also shows that alternative "A"--no new permit for commercial oyster operations and protection of the Estero as full wilderness--is the environmentally preferred alternative and the one that best protects harbor seals, birds, fish and other natural resources.

I urge you to return Drakes Estero to all Americans by selecting alternative "A" and ensuring full wilderness protection for Drakes Estero in 2012. It is time to protect Drakes Estero as Congress intended and to create the West Coast's only marine wilderness for the benefit of people and wildlife.

Correspondence ID: 48907 **Project:** 33043 **Document:** 43390
Name: Bruscia, Maria Rosaria
Outside Organization: National Wildlife Federation Action Fund Unaffiliated Individual
Received: Dec,03,2011 18:14:59
Correspondence Type: Web Form

Correspondence: Drakes Estero is the ecological heart of Point Reyes National Seashore and a treasure that belongs to all Americans. In 1976, Congress promised that the Estero would receive full wilderness protection when the current lease for commercial oyster operations expires in 2012. I urge the Park Service to honor the wilderness promise and protect Drakes Estero for future generations.

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Your environmental review also shows that alternative "A"--no new permit for commercial oyster operations and protection of the Estero as full wilderness--is the environmentally preferred alternative and the one that best protects harbor seals, birds, fish and other natural resources.

I urge you to return Drakes Estero to all Americans by selecting alternative "A" and ensuring full wilderness protection for Drakes Estero in 2012. It is time to protect Drakes Estero as Congress intended and to create the West Coast's only marine wilderness for the benefit of people and wildlife.

Correspondence ID: 48908 **Project:** 33043 **Document:** 43390
Name: laurent, val
Outside Organization: NRDC Unaffiliated Individual
Received: Dec,03,2011 18:17:39
Correspondence Type: Web Form

Correspondence: Drakes Estero is a national ecological treasure and should become a protected wilderness area. It has outstanding natural resources, including one of California's largest harbor seal colonies and tens of thousands of shorebirds, waterfowl, native fish and endangered species that use its wetlands, mudflats and eelgrass beds.

In the 1976 Point Reyes Wilderness Act, Congress recognized Drakes Estero as a unique recreational and biological resource and promised that this irreplaceable resource would formally become a wilderness area when non-conforming uses were eliminated. Your agency permitted a commercial oyster company to grow non-native oysters and clams on 1,050 acres in Drakes Estero for 40 years, or until 2012.

Your own draft environmental impact statement reveals the extensive damage that the existing operation has caused to Drakes Estero and Point Reyes National Seashore's beaches. As you know, commercial operations of any kind are not permitted in designated wilderness areas because of such damage. Further, the Park Service's Organic Act mandates protection of park resources and values and strictly limits commercial operations.

Your approval of the proposal to extend the oyster company's permit would be contrary to the Point Reyes Wilderness Act and would establish a dangerous precedent at a time when America's public lands and environmental laws are already under widespread attacks in Congress and elsewhere.

We've been waiting long enough. It is time to allow that permit to expire and to honor Congress' commitment. We want our bay back.

Correspondence ID: 48909 **Project:** 33043 **Document:** 43390
Name: Cleveland, Robert R
Outside Organization: Unaffiliated Individual
Received: Dec,03,2011 18:26:09

Correspondence Type: Web Form

Correspondence: I have been going to Drakes Bay Oyster Farm Since I was a young boy. Don't know the exact age but I'm now 59 and It is one of fondness memory's of my life when my parents where alive. When they were alive they use to visit Mr. Johnson and slug raw oyster down and chat about all sorts of things and we use to play around the yard. Now there was a nice man. Now I and my wife have been going there since we've been married to get oysters and spend a day at the beach with or family. It is like a family tradition and would be a pure shame if you closed it down. Tell me something, Doe's the environmentalist wants everything on the West Coast Shut down. It seems to me that there making it harder and harder for a family man to find something to do with there families because It might infringe on the right of a bug or salamander or something else for the environmentalist to complain about. I'm a gold prospector and god knows what the environmentalist and the what our law makers in Sacramento is doing to do us over and line there pockets with more Money at our expense and take away a place that has been there for so long and is part of our family tradition. People should be upset at what you folks are doing to the American Families in the name of environmentalist. It is just your own personal greed. Thank You.

Correspondence ID: 48910 **Project:** 33043 **Document:** 43390

Name: Hubalek, Jon

Outside Organization: National Wildlife Federation Action Fund Unaffiliated Individual

Received: Dec,03,2011 18:44:55

Correspondence Type: Web Form

Correspondence: Drakes Estero is the ecological heart of Point Reyes National Seashore and a treasure that belongs to all Americans. In 1976, Congress promised that the Estero would receive full wilderness protection when the current lease for commercial oyster operations expires in 2012. I urge the Park Service to honor the wilderness promise and protect Drakes Estero for future generations.

Drakes Estero is home to 20 percent of the mainland breeding population of harbor seals in California and is used by tens of thousands of shorebirds and waterfowl and dozens of species of native fish. Your draft environmental impact statement makes clear that the existing commercial oyster operation is causing extensive damage to Drakes Estero and the Seashore's beaches, and that allowing these operations to continue would cause even more long-term harm.

Your environmental review also shows that alternative "A"--no new permit for commercial oyster operations and protection of the Estero as full wilderness--is the environmentally preferred alternative and the one that best protects harbor seals, birds, fish and other natural resources.

I urge you to return Drakes Estero to all Americans by selecting alternative "A" and ensuring full wilderness protection for Drakes Estero in 2012. It is time to protect Drakes Estero as Congress intended and to create the West Coast's only marine wilderness for the benefit of people and wildlife.

Correspondence ID: 48911 **Project:** 33043 **Document:** 43390

Name: Thompson, Hallie

Outside Organization: National Wildlife Federation Action Fund Unaffiliated Individual

Received: Dec,03,2011 18:44:55

Correspondence Type: Web Form

Correspondence: Drakes Estero is the ecological heart of Point Reyes National Seashore and a treasure that belongs to all Americans. In 1976, Congress promised that the Estero would receive full wilderness protection when the current lease for commercial oyster operations expires in 2012. I urge the Park Service to honor the wilderness promise and protect Drakes Estero for future generations.

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Your environmental review also shows that alternative "A"--no new permit for commercial oyster operations and protection of the Estero as full wilderness--is the environmentally preferred alternative and the one that best protects harbor seals, birds, fish and other natural resources.

I urge you to return Drakes Estero to all Americans by selecting alternative "A" and ensuring full wilderness protection for Drakes Estero in 2012. It is time to protect Drakes Estero as Congress intended and to create the West Coast's only marine wilderness for the benefit of people and wildlife.

Correspondence ID: 48912 **Project:** 33043 **Document:** 43390

Name: Fischer, Elaine

Outside Organization: National Wildlife Federation Action Fund Unaffiliated Individual

Received: Dec,03,2011 18:45:06

Correspondence Type: Web Form

Correspondence: Drakes Estero is the ecological heart of Point Reyes National Seashore and a treasure that belongs to all Americans. In 1976, Congress promised that the Estero would receive full wilderness protection when the current lease for commercial oyster operations expires in 2012. I urge the Park Service to honor the wilderness promise and protect Drakes Estero for future generations.

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Correspondence ID: 48913 **Project:** 33043 **Document:** 43390
Name: mccuskey, john m
Outside Organization: Unaffiliated Individual
Received: Dec,03,2011 18:54:06
Correspondence Type: Web Form
Correspondence: To whom it may concern: I am in full support of continuation of the Drake's Oyster Farm. I was married in Pt. Reyes Station 40 years ago and have half ownership of a cabin in Inverness. We have always enjoyed getting fresh oysters at Drake's- and enjoyed the ride and view of the farm.I believe the farm is a real asset to the park and to the Bay area as well. Sincerely, John McCuskey, MD

Correspondence ID: 48914 **Project:** 33043 **Document:** 43390
Name: Wullenwaber, Dana
Outside Organization: Sierra Club Unaffiliated Individual
Received: Dec,03,2011 19:11:02
Correspondence Type: Web Form
Correspondence: I am writing to urge the National Park Service to protect Drakes Estero wilderness next year as long-intended. The American public deserves to have the West Coast's only marine wilderness protected for future generations to enjoy. Drakes Estero is a rare wildlife refuge where migrating birds stop over, harbor seals give birth, and fish spawn. It deserves the highest level of protection as Congress long-intended. As someone who enjoys our nation's spectacular national parks, I urge you to not undermine protections at Drakes Estero and succumb to special interests seeking to commercialize these special places.

I urge the National Park Service and the Department of the Interior to select alternative "A", which protects marine wilderness and is the environmentally preferred alternative. The NPS is mandated to provide maximum protection to the natural resources, as stated in the Seashore's legislation, and selecting this alternative is the most consistent with the laws and policies affecting this park. Our national parks are for the people and wildlife protection, not commercial exploitation. The environmental review shows that alternative "A" best protects harbor seals, fish, birds and other wildlife and plants. Drakes Estero is our only marine wilderness on the West Coast, and it is irreplaceable, while oysters can be grown elsewhere.

National Parks and wilderness areas are treasured by the majority of Americans and are for the public interest, not for private commercial exploitation. By protecting wilderness, the National Park Service will set a positive policy example while commercializing it will set a negative example and help others seek their special exemptions from national park laws.

Correspondence ID: 48915 **Project:** 33043 **Document:** 43390
Name: Dornheim, Ed
Outside Organization: National Wildlife Federation Action Fund Unaffiliated Individual
Received: Dec,03,2011 19:15:12
Correspondence Type: Web Form
Correspondence: Drakes Estero is the ecological heart of Point Reyes National Seashore and a treasure that belongs to all Americans. In 1976, Congress promised that the Estero would receive full wilderness protection when the current lease for commercial oyster operations expires in 2012. I urge the Park Service to honor the wilderness promise and protect Drakes Estero for future generations.

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Correspondence ID: 48916 **Project:** 33043 **Document:** 43390
Name: Bender, Kristen
Outside Organization: Sierra Club Unaffiliated Individual
Received: Dec.03,2011 19:41:21
Correspondence Type: Web Form

Correspondence: I am writing to urge the National Park Service to protect Drakes Estero wilderness next year as long-intended. The American public deserves to have the West Coast's only marine wilderness protected for future generations to enjoy. Drakes Estero is a rare wildlife refuge where migrating birds stop over, harbor seals give birth, and fish spawn. It deserves the highest level of protection as Congress long-intended. As someone who enjoys our nation's spectacular national parks, I urge you to not undermine protections at Drakes Estero and succumb to special interests seeking to commercialize these special places.

I urge the National Park Service and the Department of the Interior to select alternative "A", which protects marine wilderness and is the environmentally preferred alternative. The NPS is mandated to provide maximum protection to the natural resources, as stated in the Seashore's legislation, and selecting this alternative is the most consistent with the laws and policies affecting this park. Our national parks are for the people and wildlife protection, not commercial exploitation. The environmental review shows that alternative "A" best protects harbor seals, fish, birds and other wildlife and plants. Drakes Estero is our only marine wilderness on the West Coast, and it is irreplaceable, while oysters can be grown elsewhere.

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Correspondence ID: 48917 **Project:** 33043 **Document:** 43390
Name: Moran, Kathy
Outside Organization: National Wildlife Federation Action Fund Unaffiliated Individual
Received: Dec.03,2011 19:45:00
Correspondence Type: Web Form

Correspondence: Drakes Estero is the ecological heart of Point Reyes National Seashore and a treasure that belongs to all Americans. In 1976, Congress promised that the Estero would receive full wilderness protection when the current lease for commercial oyster operations expires in 2012. I urge the Park Service to honor the wilderness promise and protect Drakes Estero for future generations.

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I urge you to return Drakes Estero to all Americans by selecting alternative "A" and ensuring full wilderness protection for Drakes Estero in 2012. It is time to protect Drakes Estero as Congress intended and to create the West Coast's only marine wilderness for the benefit of people and wildlife.

Correspondence ID: 48918 **Project:** 33043 **Document:** 43390
Name: Grasso, Lorraine
Outside Organization: National Wildlife Federation Action Fund Unaffiliated Individual
Received: Dec.03,2011 19:45:01
Correspondence Type: Web Form

Correspondence: Drakes Estero is the ecological heart of Point Reyes National Seashore and a treasure that belongs to all Americans. In 1976, Congress promised that the Estero would receive full wilderness protection when the current lease for commercial oyster operations expires in 2012. I urge the Park Service to honor the wilderness promise and protect Drakes Estero for future generations.

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Correspondence ID: 48919 **Project:** 33043 **Document:** 43390
Name: Sutton, Claudette E
Outside Organization: Unaffiliated Individual
Received: Dec.03,2011 20:33:50
Correspondence Type: Web Form
Correspondence: None of the proposed alternatives is appropriate. I support a renewable Special Use Permit for Drakes Bay Oyster Company.

Correspondence ID: 48920 **Project:** 33043 **Document:** 43390
Name: Benson, Eric
Outside Organization: National Wildlife Federation Action Fund Unaffiliated Individual
Received: Dec.03,2011 20:45:08
Correspondence Type: Web Form
Correspondence: Drakes Estero is the ecological heart of Point Reyes National Seashore and a treasure that belongs to all Americans. In 1976, Congress promised that the Estero would receive full wilderness protection when the current lease for commercial oyster operations expires in 2012. I urge the Park Service to honor the wilderness promise and protect Drakes Estero for future generations.

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Correspondence ID: 48921 **Project:** 33043 **Document:** 43390
Name: Furminger-Haist, Peggy
Outside Organization: National Parks Conservation Association Unaffiliated Individual
Received: Dec.03,2011 20:54:37
Correspondence Type: Web Form
Correspondence:

I urge you to protect Drakes Estero wilderness next year, as long intended. It is in the public interest to create the West Coast's only marine wilderness for the enjoyment of all. The public has waited nearly four decades for these protections to be implemented, which is an immense compromise in itself. Drakes Estero is a rare wildlife refuge where migrating birds stop over, harbor seals give birth, and fish take shelter in eelgrass. As someone who enjoys our nation's national parks and their wildlife, I urge you to uphold the longstanding plan to convert this very special resource to wilderness.

I urge you to select alternative "A", which protects marine wilderness next year and is the Environmentally Preferred Alternative. The National Park Service is mandated to provide maximum protection to the natural resources at Drakes Estero and selecting this alternative is the most consistent with the laws and policies affecting this park. Our national parks are set aside for the public and for wildlife protection, and after waiting nearly 40 years for private commercial use rights to expire, it's time to give the estuary the protection it needs. The environmental review shows that alternative "A" is best for public policy, and best protects harbor seals, fish, birds and other natural resources. Drakes Estero is our only marine wilderness on the West Coast, and is irreplaceable, while oysters can be commercially grown elsewhere.

Please honor the promise made for a protected marine wilderness at Drakes Estero. In doing so, you will set a good policy example and reward the public with an enduring legacy feat found nowhere else on the West Coast.

Correspondence ID: 48922 **Project:** 33043 **Document:** 43390
Name: McPhail, Alex
Outside Organization: Unaffiliated Individual
Received: Dec.03,2011 21:13:49
Correspondence Type: Web Form
Correspondence: "None of the proposed alternatives are appropriate. I support a renewable Special Use Permit for Drakes Bay Oyster Company."

Correspondence ID: 48923 **Project:** 33043 **Document:** 43390
Name: Simpson, Patricia
Outside Organization: National Wildlife Federation Action Fund Unaffiliated Individual
Received: Dec.03,2011 21:15:15
Correspondence Type: Web Form
Correspondence: Drakes Estero is the ecological heart of Point Reyes National Seashore and a treasure that belongs to all Americans. In 1976, Congress promised that the Estero would receive full wilderness protection when the current lease for commercial oyster operations expires in 2012. I urge the Park Service to honor the wilderness promise and protect Drakes Estero for future generations.

Drakes Estero is home to 20 percent of the mainland breeding population of harbor seals in California and is used by tens of thousands of shorebirds and waterfowl and dozens of species of native fish. Your draft environmental impact statement makes clear that the existing commercial oyster operation is causing extensive damage to Drakes Estero and the Seashore's beaches, and that allowing these operations to continue would cause even more long-term harm.

Your environmental review also shows that alternative "A"--no new permit for commercial oyster operations and protection of the Estero as full wilderness--is the environmentally preferred alternative and the one that best protects harbor seals, birds, fish and other natural resources.

I urge you to return Drakes Estero to all Americans by selecting alternative "A" and ensuring full wilderness protection for Drakes Estero in 2012. It is time to protect Drakes Estero as Congress intended and to create the West Coast's only marine wilderness for the benefit of people and wildlife.

Correspondence ID: 48924 **Project:** 33043 **Document:** 43390
Name: Neumann, Mary Ann
Outside Organization: National Wildlife Federation Action Fund Unaffiliated Individual
Received: Dec,03,2011 21:15:21
Correspondence Type: Web Form

Correspondence: Drakes Estero is the ecological heart of Point Reyes National Seashore and a treasure that belongs to all Americans. In 1976, Congress promised that the Estero would receive full wilderness protection when the current lease for commercial oyster operations expires in 2012. I urge the Park Service to honor the wilderness promise and protect Drakes Estero for future generations.

Drakes Estero is home to 20 percent of the mainland breeding population of harbor seals in California and is used by tens of thousands of shorebirds and waterfowl and dozens of species of native fish. Your draft environmental impact statement makes clear that the existing commercial oyster operation is causing extensive damage to Drakes Estero and the Seashore's beaches, and that allowing these operations to continue would cause even more long-term harm.

Your environmental review also shows that alternative "A"--no new permit for commercial oyster operations and protection of the Estero as full wilderness--is the environmentally preferred alternative and the one that best protects harbor seals, birds, fish and other natural resources.

I urge you to return Drakes Estero to all Americans by selecting alternative "A" and ensuring full wilderness protection for Drakes Estero in 2012. It is time to protect Drakes Estero as Congress intended and to create the West Coast's only marine wilderness for the benefit of people and wildlife.

Correspondence ID: 48925 **Project:** 33043 **Document:** 43390
Name: Rosenblum, Stephen
Outside Organization: Unaffiliated Individual
Received: Dec,03,2011 21:26:39
Correspondence Type: Web Form

Correspondence: The oyster growing operation has reached the end of its term in this wilderness area and needs to be phased out in 2012 as previously agreed with the operators. I urge the Park service to take the No Action Alternative so that this commercial activity is removed in 2012.

Correspondence ID: 48926 **Project:** 33043 **Document:** 43390
Name: Gallagher, Brian P
Outside Organization: National Wildlife Federation Action Fund Unaffiliated Individual
Received: Dec,03,2011 00:00:00
Correspondence Type: Web Form

Correspondence: Drakes Estero is home to 20 percent of the mainland breeding population of harbor seals in California and is used by tens of thousands of shorebirds and waterfowl and dozens of species of native fish. Your draft environmental impact statement makes clear that the existing commercial oyster operation is causing extensive damage to Drakes Estero and the Seashore's beaches, and that allowing these operations to continue would cause even more long-term harm.

Your environmental review also shows that alternative "A"--no new permit for commercial oyster operations and protection of the Estero as full wilderness--is the environmentally preferred alternative and the one that best protects harbor seals, birds, fish and other natural resources.

Please select alternative "A" and ensuring full wilderness protection for Drakes Estero in 2012.

Correspondence ID: 48927 **Project:** 33043 **Document:** 43390
Name: Sims, Rebecca
Outside Organization: National Wildlife Federation Action Fund Unaffiliated Individual
Received: Dec,03,2011 21:45:15
Correspondence Type: Web Form

Correspondence: Drakes Estero is the ecological heart of Point Reyes National Seashore and a treasure that belongs to all Americans. In 1976, Congress promised that the Estero would receive full wilderness protection when the current lease for commercial oyster operations expires in 2012. I urge the Park Service to honor the wilderness promise and protect Drakes Estero for future generations.

Drakes Estero is home to 20 percent of the mainland breeding population of harbor seals in California and is used by tens of thousands of shorebirds and waterfowl and dozens of species of native fish. Your draft environmental impact statement makes clear that the existing commercial oyster operation is causing extensive damage to Drakes Estero and the Seashore's beaches, and that allowing these operations to continue would cause even more long-term harm.

Your environmental review also shows that alternative "A"--no new permit for commercial oyster operations and protection of the Estero as full wilderness--is the environmentally preferred alternative and the one that best protects harbor seals, birds, fish and other natural resources.

I urge you to return Drakes Estero to all Americans by selecting alternative "A" and ensuring full wilderness protection for Drakes Estero in 2012. It is time to protect Drakes Estero as Congress intended and to create the West Coast's only marine wilderness for the benefit of people and wildlife.

Correspondence ID: 48928 **Project:** 33043 **Document:** 43390
Name: Pina, Evelio
Outside Organization: National Wildlife Federation Action Fund Unaffiliated Individual
Received: Dec.03,2011 22:15:15
Correspondence Type: Web Form

Correspondence: Drakes Estero is the ecological heart of Point Reyes National Seashore and a treasure that belongs to all Americans. In 1976, Congress promised that the Estero would receive full wilderness protection when the current lease for commercial oyster operations expires in 2012. I urge the Park Service to honor the wilderness promise and protect Drakes Estero for future generations.

Drakes Estero is home to 20 percent of the mainland breeding population of harbor seals in California and is used by tens of thousands of shorebirds and waterfowl and dozens of species of native fish. Your draft environmental impact statement makes clear that the existing commercial oyster operation is causing extensive damage to Drakes Estero and the Seashore's beaches, and that allowing these operations to continue would cause even more long-term harm.

Your environmental review also shows that alternative "A"--no new permit for commercial oyster operations and protection of the Estero as full wilderness--is the environmentally preferred alternative and the one that best protects harbor seals, birds, fish and other natural resources.

I urge you to return Drakes Estero to all Americans by selecting alternative "A" and ensuring full wilderness protection for Drakes Estero in 2012. It is time to protect Drakes Estero as Congress intended and to create the West Coast's only marine wilderness for the benefit of people and wildlife.

Correspondence ID: 48929 **Project:** 33043 **Document:** 43390
Name: Hichwa, Diane
Outside Organization: Madrone Audubon Society Non-profit/Organization
Received: Dec.03,2011 00:00:00
Correspondence Type: Web Form

Correspondence: I am commenting for the Madrone Audubon Chapter of the National Audubon Society, which has nearly 2000 members in Sonoma County. Many of our members visit Pt Reyes National Seashore on a regular basis for birding, hiking, camping, and other recreation.

As the oyster farming agreement reaches its endpoint we urge you to select Alternative A: No New Special Use Permit - Conversion to Wilderness

This area is of major importance to shorebirds and waterbirds. Many environmental improvements will result from Alternative A and the end of oyster farming:

Eelgrass beds in Drakes Estero would benefit from removal of shading by oyster racks and damage by motorboat propellers. These beds provide habitat, nursery grounds, and food for fish, waterfowl, and other marine species and would no longer be disrupted regularly under alternative A.

Removal of cultivated nonnative species under alternative A would better protect the natural ecosystem of Drakes Estero.

Alternative A would eliminate the regular repetitive daily use and operation of motorboats on Drakes Estero, thereby reducing the potential for disturbance to the resident and migratory wildlife that depend on its resources.

Wetland functions and values would be restored through natural processes under alternative A. Fringe wetland habitat and

eelgrass beds are susceptible to impacts from continued wave action (such as that caused by boat wakes) and placement of fill material. Alternative A would eliminate from Drakes Estero the daily motorboat traffic and the oyster growing bags, allowing these natural habitats to reestablish.

Atmospheric and underwater noise associated with boats and the oyster farming would be removed under alternative A, restoring a more natural soundscape within Drakes Estero.

Control of an invasive tunicate would be more manageable under alternative A. Alternative A would remove the artificial hard mariculture structures currently used as habitat by the Didemnum. (The other Alternatives B, C, and D would further continued expansion of this invasive species.)

It is time for this National Seashore to be converted to congressionally designated wilderness, as directed by Congress and NPS policies, providing a marine wilderness experience to the public.

Madrone Audubon Society strongly supports Alternative A as the only alternative that would adequately protect the natural values of Drakes Estero.

We thank you for this opportunity to comment.

Correspondence ID: 48930 **Project:** 33043 **Document:** 43390
Name: Revesz, Bruce
Outside Organization: National Wildlife Federation Action Fund Unaffiliated Individual
Received: Dec.03,2011 22:45:18
Correspondence Type: Web Form
Correspondence: Drakes Estero is the ecological heart of Point Reyes National Seashore and a treasure that belongs to all Americans. In 1976, Congress promised that the Estero would receive full wilderness protection when the current lease for commercial oyster operations expires in 2012. I urge the Park Service to honor the wilderness promise and protect Drakes Estero for future generations.

Drakes Estero is home to 20 percent of the mainland breeding population of harbor seals in California and is used by tens of thousands of shorebirds and waterfowl and dozens of species of native fish. Your draft environmental impact statement makes clear that the existing commercial oyster operation is causing extensive damage to Drakes Estero and the Seashore's beaches, and that allowing these operations to continue would cause even more long-term harm.

Your environmental review also shows that alternative "A"--no new permit for commercial oyster operations and protection of the Estero as full wilderness--is the environmentally preferred alternative and the one that best protects harbor seals, birds, fish and other natural resources.

I urge you to return Drakes Estero to all Americans by selecting alternative "A" and ensuring full wilderness protection for Drakes Estero in 2012. It is time to protect Drakes Estero as Congress intended and to create the West Coast's only marine wilderness for the benefit of people and wildlife.

Correspondence ID: 48931 **Project:** 33043 **Document:** 43390
Name: Pruitt, Cheryl
Outside Organization: Sierra Club Unaffiliated Individual
Received: Dec.03,2011 23:11:16
Correspondence Type: Web Form
Correspondence: I am writing to urge the National Park Service to protect Drakes Estero wilderness next year as long-intended. The American public deserves to have the West Coast's only marine wilderness protected for future generations to enjoy. Drakes Estero is a rare wildlife refuge where migrating birds stop over, harbor seals give birth, and fish spawn. It deserves the highest level of protection as Congress long-intended. As someone who enjoys our nation's spectacular national parks, I urge you to not undermine protections at Drakes Estero and succumb to special interests seeking to commercialize these special places.

I urge the National Park Service and the Department of the Interior to select alternative "A", which protects marine wilderness and is the environmentally preferred alternative. The NPS is mandated to provide maximum protection to the natural resources, as stated in the Seashore's legislation, and selecting this alternative is the most consistent with the laws and policies affecting this park. Our national parks are for the people and wildlife protection, not commercial exploitation. The environmental review shows that alternative "A" best protects harbor seals, fish, birds and other wildlife and plants. Drakes Estero is our only marine wilderness on the West Coast, and it is irreplaceable, while oysters can be grown elsewhere.

National Parks and wilderness areas are treasured by the majority of Americans and are for the public interest, not for private commercial exploitation. By protecting wilderness, the National Park Service will set a positive policy example while commercializing it will set a negative example and help others seek their special exemptions from national park laws.

Correspondence ID: 48932 **Project:** 33043 **Document:** 43390
Name: Werbowy, Sophia
Outside Organization: Center for Biological Diversity Unaffiliated Individual

Received: Dec,03,2011 23:58:29

Correspondence Type: Web Form

Correspondence: I support the wilderness designation for Drakes Estero within the Point Reyes National Seashore. I urge the National Park Service and Department of the Interior to uphold the 1976 Point Reyes Wilderness Act and select alternative A, which protects this important marine wilderness and is the environmentally preferred alternative.

Drakes Estero is a unique and ecologically significant wildlife area. It is an important stop on the flyway for migrating birds, a refuge and birthplace for harbor seals and a critical native fish nursery. Congress and the public have long intended that Drakes Estero be given the highest federal level of protection as a wilderness area when the commercial oyster lease expires in 2012.

This can only be accomplished by selecting Alternative "A" and ending commercial use of this sensitive wildlife refuge. Alternative A is the most consistent with National Park Service laws and policies. The Park Service's environmental review shows that alternative "A" best protects wildlife and the National Park experience.

Our national parks are for the people and wildlife protection, and wilderness areas with our parks should not prioritize commercial exploitation. The American public deserves to have this unique marine wilderness protected in a natural state for future generations to enjoy.

Drakes Estero is the only marine wilderness on the West Coast, and is irreplaceable, while oysters can be grown elsewhere.

As someone who enjoys our spectacular national parks, I urge you to not undermine protections at Drakes Estero and succumb to special interests seeking to commercialize these special places.

Correspondence ID: 48933 **Project:** 33043 **Document:** 43390

Name: Julson, Malena

Outside Organization: National Wildlife Federation Action Fund Unaffiliated Individual

Received: Dec,04,2011 00:15:23

Correspondence Type: Web Form

Correspondence: Drakes Estero is the ecological heart of Point Reyes National Seashore and a treasure that belongs to all Americans. In 1976, Congress promised that the Estero would receive full wilderness protection when the current lease for commercial oyster operations expires in 2012. I urge the Park Service to honor the wilderness promise and protect Drakes Estero for future generations.

Drakes Estero is home to 20 percent of the mainland breeding population of harbor seals in California and is used by tens of thousands of shorebirds and waterfowl and dozens of species of native fish. Your draft environmental impact statement makes clear that the existing commercial oyster operation is causing extensive damage to Drakes Estero and the Seashore's beaches, and that allowing these operations to continue would cause even more long-term harm.

Your environmental review also shows that alternative "A"--no new permit for commercial oyster operations and protection of the Estero as full wilderness--is the environmentally preferred alternative and the one that best protects harbor seals, birds, fish and other natural resources.

I urge you to return Drakes Estero to all Americans by selecting alternative "A" and ensuring full wilderness protection for Drakes Estero in 2012. It is time to protect Drakes Estero as Congress intended and to create the West Coast's only marine wilderness for the benefit of people and wildlife.

Correspondence ID: 48934 **Project:** 33043 **Document:** 43390

Name: Frazier, Margaret

Outside Organization: National Wildlife Federation Action Fund Unaffiliated Individual

Received: Dec,04,2011 00:15:23

Correspondence Type: Web Form

Correspondence: Drakes Estero is the ecological heart of Point Reyes National Seashore and a treasure that belongs to all Americans. In 1976, Congress promised that the Estero would receive full wilderness protection when the current lease for commercial oyster operations expires in 2012. I urge the Park Service to honor the wilderness promise and protect Drakes Estero for future generations.

Drakes Estero is home to 20 percent of the mainland breeding population of harbor seals in California and is used by tens of thousands of shorebirds and waterfowl and dozens of species of native fish. Your draft environmental impact statement makes clear that the existing commercial oyster operation is causing extensive damage to Drakes Estero and the Seashore's beaches, and that allowing these operations to continue would cause even more long-term harm.

Your environmental review also shows that alternative "A"--no new permit for commercial oyster operations and protection of the Estero as full wilderness--is the environmentally preferred alternative and the one that best protects harbor seals, birds, fish and other natural resources.

I urge you to return Drakes Estero to all Americans by selecting alternative "A" and ensuring full wilderness protection for Drakes Estero in 2012. It is time to protect Drakes Estero as Congress intended and to create the West Coast's only marine

wilderness for the benefit of people and wildlife.

Correspondence ID: 48935 **Project:** 33043 **Document:** 43390
Name: Alvarez, Sarah
Outside Organization: Sierra Club Unaffiliated Individual
Received: Dec,04,2011 00:41:11
Correspondence Type: Web Form

Correspondence: I am writing to urge the National Park Service to protect Drakes Estero wilderness next year as long-intended. The American public deserves to have the West Coast's only marine wilderness protected for future generations to enjoy. Drakes Estero is a rare wildlife refuge where migrating birds stop over, harbor seals give birth, and fish spawn. It deserves the highest level of protection as Congress long-intended. As someone who enjoys our nation's spectacular national parks, I urge you to not undermine protections at Drakes Estero and succumb to special interests seeking to commercialize these special places.

I urge the National Park Service and the Department of the Interior to select alternative "A", which protects marine wilderness and is the environmentally preferred alternative. The NPS is mandated to provide maximum protection to the natural resources, as stated in the Seashore's legislation, and selecting this alternative is the most consistent with the laws and policies affecting this park. Our national parks are for the people and wildlife protection, not commercial exploitation. The environmental review shows that alternative "A" best protects harbor seals, fish, birds and other wildlife and plants. Drakes Estero is our only marine wilderness on the West Coast, and it is irreplaceable, while oysters can be grown elsewhere.

National Parks and wilderness areas are treasured by the majority of Americans and are for the public interest, not for private commercial exploitation. By protecting wilderness, the National Park Service will set a positive policy example while commercializing it will set a negative example and help others seek their special exemptions from national park laws.

Correspondence ID: 48936 **Project:** 33043 **Document:** 43390
Name: Winthers, Mona
Outside Organization: National Wildlife Federation Action Fund Unaffiliated Individual
Received: Dec,04,2011 00:45:25
Correspondence Type: Web Form

Correspondence: Drakes Estero is the ecological heart of Point Reyes National Seashore and a treasure that belongs to all Americans. In 1976, Congress promised that the Estero would receive full wilderness protection when the current lease for commercial oyster operations expires in 2012. I urge the Park Service to honor the wilderness promise and protect Drakes Estero for future generations.

Drakes Estero is home to 20 percent of the mainland breeding population of harbor seals in California and is used by tens of thousands of shorebirds and waterfowl and dozens of species of native fish. Your draft environmental impact statement makes clear that the existing commercial oyster operation is causing extensive damage to Drakes Estero and the Seashore's beaches, and that allowing these operations to continue would cause even more long-term harm.

Your environmental review also shows that alternative "A"--no new permit for commercial oyster operations and protection of the Estero as full wilderness--is the environmentally preferred alternative and the one that best protects harbor seals, birds, fish and other natural resources.

I urge you to return Drakes Estero to all Americans by selecting alternative "A" and ensuring full wilderness protection for Drakes Estero in 2012. It is time to protect Drakes Estero as Congress intended and to create the West Coast's only marine wilderness for the benefit of people and wildlife.

Correspondence ID: 48937 **Project:** 33043 **Document:** 43390
Name: Cyman, Juliana
Outside Organization: National Wildlife Federation Action Fund Unaffiliated Individual
Received: Dec,04,2011 00:45:25
Correspondence Type: Web Form

Correspondence: Drakes Estero is the ecological heart of Point Reyes National Seashore and a treasure that belongs to all Americans. In 1976, Congress promised that the Estero would receive full wilderness protection when the current lease for commercial oyster operations expires in 2012. I urge the Park Service to honor the wilderness promise and protect Drakes Estero for future generations.

Drakes Estero is home to 20 percent of the mainland breeding population of harbor seals in California and is used by tens of thousands of shorebirds and waterfowl and dozens of species of native fish. Your draft environmental impact statement makes clear that the existing commercial oyster operation is causing extensive damage to Drakes Estero and the Seashore's beaches, and that allowing these operations to continue would cause even more long-term harm.

Your environmental review also shows that alternative "A"--no new permit for commercial oyster operations and protection of the Estero as full wilderness--is the environmentally preferred alternative and the one that best protects harbor seals, birds, fish and other natural resources.

I urge you to return Drakes Estero to all Americans by selecting alternative "A" and ensuring full wilderness protection for Drakes Estero in 2012. It is time to protect Drakes Estero as Congress intended and to create the West Coast's only marine

wilderness for the benefit of people and wildlife.

Correspondence ID: 48938 **Project:** 33043 **Document:** 43390
Name: Silverman, Barbara
Outside Organization: National Parks Conservation Association Unaffiliated Individual
Received: Dec,04,2011 00:56:00
Correspondence Type: Web Form

Correspondence: I urge you to protect Drakes Estero wilderness next year, as long intended. It is in the public interest to create the West Coast's only marine wilderness for the enjoyment of all. The public has waited nearly four decades for these protections to be implemented, which is an immense compromise in itself. Drakes Estero is a rare wildlife refuge where migrating birds stop over, harbor seals give birth, and fish take shelter in eelgrass. As someone who enjoys our nation's national parks and their wildlife, I urge you to uphold the longstanding plan to convert this very special resource to wilderness.

I urge you to select alternative "A", which protects marine wilderness next year and is the Environmentally Preferred Alternative. The National Park Service is mandated to provide maximum protection to the natural resources at Drakes Estero and selecting this alternative is the most consistent with the laws and policies affecting this park. Our national parks are set aside for the public and for wildlife protection, and after waiting nearly 40 years for private commercial use rights to expire, it's time to give the estuary the protection it needs. The environmental review shows that alternative "A" is best for public policy, and best protects harbor seals, fish, birds and other natural resources. Drakes Estero is our only marine wilderness on the West Coast, and is irreplaceable, while oysters can be commercially grown elsewhere.

Please honor the promise made for a protected marine wilderness at Drakes Estero. In doing so, you will set a good policy example and reward the public with an enduring legacy feat found nowhere else on the West Coast.

Correspondence ID: 48939 **Project:** 33043 **Document:** 43390
Name: Alvarez, Sarah
Outside Organization: National Wildlife Federation Action Fund Unaffiliated Individual
Received: Dec,04,2011 01:15:28
Correspondence Type: Web Form

Correspondence: Drakes Estero is the ecological heart of Point Reyes National Seashore and a treasure that belongs to all Americans. In 1976, Congress promised that the Estero would receive full wilderness protection when the current lease for commercial oyster operations expires in 2012. I urge the Park Service to honor the wilderness promise and protect Drakes Estero for future generations.

Drakes Estero is home to 20 percent of the mainland breeding population of harbor seals in California and is used by tens of thousands of shorebirds and waterfowl and dozens of species of native fish. Your draft environmental impact statement makes clear that the existing commercial oyster operation is causing extensive damage to Drakes Estero and the Seashore's beaches, and that allowing these operations to continue would cause even more long-term harm.

Your environmental review also shows that alternative "A"--no new permit for commercial oyster operations and protection of the Estero as full wilderness--is the environmentally preferred alternative and the one that best protects harbor seals, birds, fish and other natural resources.

I urge you to return Drakes Estero to all Americans by selecting alternative "A" and ensuring full wilderness protection for Drakes Estero in 2012. It is time to protect Drakes Estero as Congress intended and to create the West Coast's only marine wilderness for the benefit of people and wildlife.

Correspondence ID: 48940 **Project:** 33043 **Document:** 43390
Name: COLE, KEVIN
Outside Organization: NRDC Unaffiliated Individual
Received: Dec,04,2011 01:18:10
Correspondence Type: Web Form

Correspondence: Drakes Estero is a national ecological treasure and should become a protected wilderness area. It has outstanding natural resources, including one of California's largest harbor seal colonies and tens of thousands of shorebirds, waterfowl, native fish and endangered species that use its wetlands, mudflats and eelgrass beds.

In the 1976 Point Reyes Wilderness Act, Congress recognized Drakes Estero as a unique recreational and biological resource and promised that this irreplaceable resource would formally become a wilderness area when non-conforming uses were eliminated. Your agency permitted a commercial oyster company to grow non-native oysters and clams on 1,050 acres in Drakes Estero for 40 years, or until 2012.

Your own draft environmental impact statement reveals the extensive damage that the existing operation has caused to Drakes Estero and Point Reyes National Seashore's beaches. As you know, commercial operations of any kind are not permitted in designated wilderness areas because of such damage. Further, the Park Service's Organic Act mandates protection of park resources and values and strictly limits commercial operations.

Your approval of the proposal to extend the oyster company's permit would be contrary to the Point Reyes Wilderness Act and would establish a dangerous precedent at a time when America's public lands and environmental laws are already under

widespread attacks in Congress and elsewhere.

We've been waiting long enough. It is time to allow that permit to expire and to honor Congress' commitment. We want our bay back.

Correspondence ID: 48941 **Project:** 33043 **Document:** 43390
Name: Apicella, Scott
Outside Organization: National Parks Conservation Association Unaffiliated Individual
Received: Dec,04,2011 01:26:05
Correspondence Type: Web Form
Correspondence: I urge you to protect Drakes Estero wilderness next year, as long intended. It is in the public interest to create the West Coast's only marine wilderness for the enjoyment of all. The public has waited nearly four decades for these protections to be implemented, which is an immense compromise in itself. Drakes Estero is a rare wildlife refuge where migrating birds stop over, harbor seals give birth, and fish take shelter in eelgrass. As someone who enjoys our nation's national parks and their wildlife, I urge you to uphold the longstanding plan to convert this very special resource to wilderness.

I urge you to select alternative "A", which protects marine wilderness next year and is the Environmentally Preferred Alternative. The National Park Service is mandated to provide maximum protection to the natural resources at Drakes Estero and selecting this alternative is the most consistent with the laws and policies affecting this park. Our national parks are set aside for the public and for wildlife protection, and after waiting nearly 40 years for private commercial use rights to expire, it's time to give the estuary the protection it needs. The environmental review shows that alternative "A" is best for public policy, and best protects harbor seals, fish, birds and other natural resources. Drakes Estero is our only marine wilderness on the West Coast, and is irreplaceable, while oysters can be commercially grown elsewhere.

Please honor the promise made for a protected marine wilderness at Drakes Estero. In doing so, you will set a good policy example and reward the public with an enduring legacy feat found nowhere else on the West Coast.

Correspondence ID: 48942 **Project:** 33043 **Document:** 43390
Name: PEEPLEZ, KELLE
Outside Organization: National Wildlife Federation Action Fund Unaffiliated Individual
Received: Dec,04,2011 01:45:30
Correspondence Type: Web Form
Correspondence: Drakes Estero is the ecological heart of Point Reyes National Seashore and a treasure that belongs to all Americans. In 1976, Congress promised that the Estero would receive full wilderness protection when the current lease for commercial oyster operations expires in 2012. I urge the Park Service to honor the wilderness promise and protect Drakes Estero for future generations.

Drakes Estero is home to 20 percent of the mainland breeding population of harbor seals in California and is used by tens of thousands of shorebirds and waterfowl and dozens of species of native fish. Your draft environmental impact statement makes clear that the existing commercial oyster operation is causing extensive damage to Drakes Estero and the Seashore's beaches, and that allowing these operations to continue would cause even more long-term harm.

Your environmental review also shows that alternative "A"--no new permit for commercial oyster operations and protection of the Estero as full wilderness--is the environmentally preferred alternative and the one that best protects harbor seals, birds, fish and other natural resources.

I urge you to return Drakes Estero to all Americans by selecting alternative "A" and ensuring full wilderness protection for Drakes Estero in 2012. It is time to protect Drakes Estero as Congress intended and to create the West Coast's only marine wilderness for the benefit of people and wildlife.

Correspondence ID: 48943 **Project:** 33043 **Document:** 43390
Name: Narlock, Karen & Larry
Outside Organization: National Wildlife Federation Action Fund Unaffiliated Individual
Received: Dec,04,2011 02:45:35
Correspondence Type: Web Form
Correspondence: Drakes Estero is the ecological heart of Point Reyes National Seashore and a treasure that belongs to all Americans. In 1976, Congress promised that the Estero would receive full wilderness protection when the current lease for commercial oyster operations expires in 2012. I urge the Park Service to honor the wilderness promise and protect Drakes Estero for future generations.

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Your environmental review also shows that alternative "A"--no new permit for commercial oyster operations and protection of the Estero as full wilderness--is the environmentally preferred alternative and the one that best protects harbor seals, birds, fish

and other natural resources.

I urge you to return Drakes Estero to all Americans by selecting alternative "A" and ensuring full wilderness protection for Drakes Estero in 2012. It is time to protect Drakes Estero as Congress intended and to create the West Coast's only marine wilderness for the benefit of people and wildlife.

Correspondence ID: 48944 **Project:** 33043 **Document:** 43390
Name: Brealey, Judith
Outside Organization: Sierra Club Unaffiliated Individual
Received: Dec.04,2011 03:41:29
Correspondence Type: Web Form

Correspondence: I am writing to urge the National Park Service to protect Drakes Estero wilderness next year as long-intended. The American public deserves to have the West Coast's only marine wilderness protected for future generations to enjoy. Drakes Estero is a rare wildlife refuge where migrating birds stop over, harbor seals give birth, and fish spawn. It deserves the highest level of protection as Congress long-intended. As someone who enjoys our nation's spectacular national parks, I urge you to not undermine protections at Drakes Estero and succumb to special interests seeking to commercialize these special places.

I urge the National Park Service and the Department of the Interior to select alternative "A", which protects marine wilderness and is the environmentally preferred alternative. The NPS is mandated to provide maximum protection to the natural resources, as stated in the Seashore's legislation, and selecting this alternative is the most consistent with the laws and policies affecting this park. Our national parks are for the people and wildlife protection, not commercial exploitation. The environmental review shows that alternative "A" best protects harbor seals, fish, birds and other wildlife and plants. Drakes Estero is our only marine wilderness on the West Coast, and it is irreplaceable, while oysters can be grown elsewhere.

National Parks and wilderness areas are treasured by the majority of Americans and are for the public interest, not for private commercial exploitation. By protecting wilderness, the National Park Service will set a positive policy example while commercializing it will set a negative example and help others seek their special exemptions from national park laws.

Correspondence ID: 48945 **Project:** 33043 **Document:** 43390
Name: Koloze, Kathy
Outside Organization: Unaffiliated Individual
Received: Dec,04,2011 04:28:00
Correspondence Type: Web Form

Correspondence: Support the NO ACTION Alternative. It is the Environmentally Preferred Alternative and would provide for the area to become Wilderness in 2012 as Congress intended since the 1970s

Correspondence ID: 48946 **Project:** 33043 **Document:** 43390
Name: McMahon, Yvonne
Outside Organization: National Wildlife Federation Action Fund Unaffiliated Individual
Received: Dec,04,2011 04:45:52
Correspondence Type: Web Form

Correspondence: Drakes Estero is the ecological heart of Point Reyes National Seashore and a treasure that belongs to all Americans. In 1976, Congress promised that the Estero would receive full wilderness protection when the current lease for commercial oyster operations expires in 2012. I urge the Park Service to honor the wilderness promise and protect Drakes Estero for future generations.

Drakes Estero is home to 20 percent of the mainland breeding population of harbor seals in California and is used by tens of thousands of shorebirds and waterfowl and dozens of species of native fish. Your draft environmental impact statement makes clear that the existing commercial oyster operation is causing extensive damage to Drakes Estero and the Seashore's beaches, and that allowing these operations to continue would cause even more long-term harm.

Your environmental review also shows that alternative "A"--no new permit for commercial oyster operations and protection of the Estero as full wilderness--is the environmentally preferred alternative and the one that best protects harbor seals, birds, fish and other natural resources.

I urge you to return Drakes Estero to all Americans by selecting alternative "A" and ensuring full wilderness protection for Drakes Estero in 2012. It is time to protect Drakes Estero as Congress intended and to create the West Coast's only marine wilderness for the benefit of people and wildlife.

Correspondence ID: 48947 **Project:** 33043 **Document:** 43390
Name: Giuliani, Trevor
Outside Organization: National Wildlife Federation Action Fund Unaffiliated Individual
Received: Dec,04,2011 05:45:57
Correspondence Type: Web Form

Correspondence: Drakes Estero is the ecological heart of Point Reyes National Seashore and a treasure that belongs to all Americans. In 1976, Congress promised that the Estero would receive full wilderness protection when the current lease for commercial oyster operations expires in 2012. I urge the Park Service to honor the wilderness promise and protect Drakes Estero for future generations.

Drakes Estero is home to 20 percent of the mainland breeding population of harbor seals in California and is used by tens of thousands of shorebirds and waterfowl and dozens of species of native fish. Your draft environmental impact statement makes clear that the existing commercial oyster operation is causing extensive damage to Drakes Estero and the Seashore's beaches, and that allowing these operations to continue would cause even more long-term harm.

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I urge you to return Drakes Estero to all Americans by selecting alternative "A" and ensuring full wilderness protection for Drakes Estero in 2012. It is time to protect Drakes Estero as Congress intended and to create the West Coast's only marine wilderness for the benefit of people and wildlife.

Correspondence ID: 48948 **Project:** 33043 **Document:** 43390
Name: Olsen, Marjorie
Outside Organization: National Wildlife Federation Action Fund Unaffiliated Individual
Received: Dec,04,2011 06:15:57
Correspondence Type: Web Form

Correspondence: Drakes Estero is the ecological heart of Point Reyes National Seashore and a treasure that belongs to all Americans. In 1976, Congress promised that the Estero would receive full wilderness protection when the current lease for commercial oyster operations expires in 2012. I urge the Park Service to honor the wilderness promise and protect Drakes Estero for future generations.

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I urge you to return Drakes Estero to all Americans by selecting alternative "A" and ensuring full wilderness protection for Drakes Estero in 2012. It is time to protect Drakes Estero as Congress intended and to create the West Coast's only marine wilderness for the benefit of people and wildlife.

Correspondence ID: 48949 **Project:** 33043 **Document:** 43390
Name: Nanette, Desiree Cheri
Outside Organization: National Wildlife Federation Action Fund Unaffiliated Individual
Received: Dec,04,2011 07:16:04
Correspondence Type: Web Form

Correspondence: Drakes Estero is the ecological heart of Point Reyes National Seashore and a treasure that belongs to all Americans. In 1976, Congress promised that the Estero would receive full wilderness protection when the current lease for commercial oyster operations expires in 2012. I urge the Park Service to honor the wilderness promise and protect Drakes Estero for future generations.

Drakes Estero is home to 20 percent of the mainland breeding population of harbor seals in California and is used by tens of thousands of shorebirds and waterfowl and dozens of species of native fish. Your draft environmental impact statement makes clear that the existing commercial oyster operation is causing extensive damage to Drakes Estero and the Seashore's beaches, and that allowing these operations to continue would cause even more long-term harm.

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I urge you to return Drakes Estero to all Americans by selecting alternative "A" and ensuring full wilderness protection for Drakes Estero in 2012. It is time to protect Drakes Estero as Congress intended and to create the West Coast's only marine wilderness for the benefit of people and wildlife.

Correspondence ID: 48950 **Project:** 33043 **Document:** 43390
Name: Grubbs, Cheri
Outside Organization: National Wildlife Federation Action Fund Unaffiliated Individual
Received: Dec,04,2011 07:47:20
Correspondence Type: Web Form

Correspondence: Drakes Estero is the ecological heart of Point Reyes National Seashore and a treasure that belongs to all Americans. In 1976, Congress promised that the Estero would receive full wilderness protection when the current lease for commercial oyster

operations expires in 2012. I urge the Park Service to honor the wilderness promise and protect Drakes Estero for future generations.

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Your environmental review also shows that alternative "A"--no new permit for commercial oyster operations and protection of the Estero as full wilderness--is the environmentally preferred alternative and the one that best protects harbor seals, birds, fish and other natural resources.

I urge you to return Drakes Estero to all Americans by selecting alternative "A" and ensuring full wilderness protection for Drakes Estero in 2012. It is time to protect Drakes Estero as Congress intended and to create the West Coast's only marine wilderness for the benefit of people and wildlife.

Correspondence ID: 48951 **Project:** 33043 **Document:** 43390
Name: Steiner, Robert J
Outside Organization: Jennings County Soil & Water Conservation District Unaffiliated Individual
Received: Dec,04,2011 07:47:37
Correspondence Type: Web Form
Correspondence: None of the proposed alternatives are appropriate. I support a renewable Special Use Permit for Drakes Bay Oyster Company.

Correspondence ID: 48952 **Project:** 33043 **Document:** 43390
Name: Lane, Brian-Keith
Outside Organization: National Wildlife Federation Action Fund Unaffiliated Individual
Received: Dec,04,2011 07:48:46
Correspondence Type: Web Form
Correspondence: Drakes Estero is the ecological heart of Point Reyes National Seashore and a treasure that belongs to all Americans. In 1976, Congress promised that the Estero would receive full wilderness protection when the current lease for commercial oyster operations expires in 2012. I urge the Park Service to honor the wilderness promise and protect Drakes Estero for future generations.

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Your environmental review also shows that alternative "A"--no new permit for commercial oyster operations and protection of the Estero as full wilderness--is the environmentally preferred alternative and the one that best protects harbor seals, birds, fish and other natural resources.

I urge you to return Drakes Estero to all Americans by selecting alternative "A" and ensuring full wilderness protection for Drakes Estero in 2012. It is time to protect Drakes Estero as Congress intended and to create the West Coast's only marine wilderness for the benefit of people and wildlife.

Correspondence ID: 48953 **Project:** 33043 **Document:** 43390
Name: Steiner, Beth A
Outside Organization: Unaffiliated Individual
Received: Dec,04,2011 07:49:01
Correspondence Type: Web Form
Correspondence: None of the proposed alternatives are appropriate. I support a renewable Special Use Permit for Drakes Bay Oyster Company.

Correspondence ID: 48954 **Project:** 33043 **Document:** 43390
Name: Greenwood, Ken
Outside Organization: National Wildlife Federation Action Fund Unaffiliated Individual
Received: Dec,04,2011 08:20:37
Correspondence Type: Web Form
Correspondence: Drakes Estero is the ecological heart of Point Reyes National Seashore and a treasure that belongs to all Americans. In 1976, Congress promised that the Estero would receive full wilderness protection when the current lease for commercial oyster operations expires in 2012. I urge the Park Service to honor the wilderness promise and protect Drakes Estero for future generations.

Drakes Estero is home to 20 percent of the mainland breeding population of harbor seals in California and is used by tens of thousands of shorebirds and waterfowl and dozens of species of native fish. Your draft environmental impact statement makes clear that the existing commercial oyster operation is causing extensive damage to Drakes Estero and the Seashore's beaches,

and that allowing these operations to continue would cause even more long-term harm.

Your environmental review also shows that alternative "A"--no new permit for commercial oyster operations and protection of the Estero as full wilderness--is the environmentally preferred alternative and the one that best protects harbor seals, birds, fish and other natural resources.

I urge you to return Drakes Estero to all Americans by selecting alternative "A" and ensuring full wilderness protection for Drakes Estero in 2012. It is time to protect Drakes Estero as Congress intended and to create the West Coast's only marine wilderness for the benefit of people and wildlife.

Correspondence ID: 48955 **Project:** 33043 **Document:** 43390
Name: Garey, Jenene G
Outside Organization: National Wildlife Federation Action Fund Unaffiliated Individual
Received: Dec,04,2011 08:46:23
Correspondence Type: Web Form
Correspondence: Drakes Estero is the ecological heart of Point Reyes National Seashore and a treasure that belongs to all Americans. In 1976, Congress promised that the Estero would receive full wilderness protection when the current lease for commercial oyster operations expires in 2012. I urge the Park Service to honor the wilderness promise and protect Drakes Estero for future generations.

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I urge you to return Drakes Estero to all Americans by selecting alternative "A" and ensuring full wilderness protection for Drakes Estero in 2012. It is time to protect Drakes Estero as Congress intended and to create the West Coast's only marine wilderness for the benefit of people and wildlife.

Correspondence ID: 48956 **Project:** 33043 **Document:** 43390
Name: Hawks, Whitney
Outside Organization: National Wildlife Federation Action Fund Unaffiliated Individual
Received: Dec,04,2011 09:17:02
Correspondence Type: Web Form
Correspondence: Drakes Estero is the ecological heart of Point Reyes National Seashore and a treasure that belongs to all Americans. In 1976, Congress promised that the Estero would receive full wilderness protection when the current lease for commercial oyster operations expires in 2012. I urge the Park Service to honor the wilderness promise and protect Drakes Estero for future generations.

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I urge you to return Drakes Estero to all Americans by selecting alternative "A" and ensuring full wilderness protection for Drakes Estero in 2012. It is time to protect Drakes Estero as Congress intended and to create the West Coast's only marine wilderness for the benefit of people and wildlife.

Correspondence ID: 48957 **Project:** 33043 **Document:** 43390
Name: Serafin, Ania
Outside Organization: National Wildlife Federation Action Fund Unaffiliated Individual
Received: Dec,04,2011 09:17:51
Correspondence Type: Web Form
Correspondence: Drakes Estero is the ecological heart of Point Reyes National Seashore and a treasure that belongs to all Americans. In 1976, Congress promised that the Estero would receive full wilderness protection when the current lease for commercial oyster operations expires in 2012. I urge the Park Service to honor the wilderness promise and protect Drakes Estero for future generations.

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thousands of shorebirds and waterfowl and dozens of species of native fish. Your draft environmental impact statement makes clear that the existing commercial oyster operation is causing extensive damage to Drakes Estero and the Seashore's beaches, and that allowing these operations to continue would cause even more long-term harm.

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I urge you to return Drakes Estero to all Americans by selecting alternative "A" and ensuring full wilderness protection for Drakes Estero in 2012. It is time to protect Drakes Estero as Congress intended and to create the West Coast's only marine wilderness for the benefit of people and wildlife.

Correspondence ID: 48958 **Project:** 33043 **Document:** 43390
Name: Bragg, Thomas
Outside Organization: National Wildlife Federation Action Fund Unaffiliated Individual
Received: Dec,04,2011 09:47:12
Correspondence Type: Web Form
Correspondence: Drakes Estero is the ecological heart of Point Reyes National Seashore and a treasure that belongs to all Americans. In 1976, Congress promised that the Estero would receive full wilderness protection when the current lease for commercial oyster operations expires in 2012. I urge the Park Service to honor the wilderness promise and protect Drakes Estero for future generations.

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Correspondence ID: 48959 **Project:** 33043 **Document:** 43390
Name: graham, lesley j
Outside Organization: Unaffiliated Individual
Received: Dec,04,2011 10:00:21
Correspondence Type: Web Form
Correspondence: There are other ways to make money besides destroying nature. Why not enhance nature with all of our technology. Granted destruction is easier and there is not really any thought process required, but your not dumb even though the corporations want us to be dumb and not think beyond our next lame paycheck.

Please take an ecology class or a biology class and educate yourself in how nature and human beings are interconnected. Nature is vital to our survival.

Correspondence ID: 48960 **Project:** 33043 **Document:** 43390
Name: N/A, N/A
Outside Organization: Unaffiliated Individual
Received: Dec,04,2011 10:05:51
Correspondence Type: Web Form
Correspondence: "None of the proposed alternatives are appropriate. I support a renewable Special Use Permit for Drakes Bay Oyster Company."

Correspondence ID: 48961 **Project:** 33043 **Document:** 43390
Name: Mouzourakis, Nicholas
Outside Organization: National Wildlife Federation Action Fund Unaffiliated Individual
Received: Dec,04,2011 10:16:25
Correspondence Type: Web Form
Correspondence: Drakes Estero is the ecological heart of Point Reyes National Seashore and a treasure that belongs to all Americans. In 1976, Congress promised that the Estero would receive full wilderness protection when the current lease for commercial oyster operations expires in 2012. I urge the Park Service to honor the wilderness promise and protect Drakes Estero for future generations.

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Correspondence ID: 48962 **Project:** 33043 **Document:** 43390
Name: Burns, Vicki
Outside Organization: National Wildlife Federation Action Fund Unaffiliated Individual
Received: Dec,04,2011 10:19:37
Correspondence Type: Web Form
Correspondence: Drakes Estero is the ecological heart of Point Reyes National Seashore and a treasure that belongs to all Americans. In 1976, Congress promised that the Estero would receive full wilderness protection when the current lease for commercial oyster operations expires in 2012. I urge the Park Service to honor the wilderness promise and protect Drakes Estero for future generations.

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Correspondence ID: 48963 **Project:** 33043 **Document:** 43390
Name: Wiecek, Debra
Outside Organization: National Wildlife Federation Action Fund Unaffiliated Individual
Received: Dec,04,2011 10:20:41
Correspondence Type: Web Form
Correspondence: Drakes Estero is the ecological heart of Point Reyes National Seashore and a treasure that belongs to all Americans. In 1976, Congress promised that the Estero would receive full wilderness protection when the current lease for commercial oyster operations expires in 2012. I urge the Park Service to honor the wilderness promise and protect Drakes Estero for future generations.

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Correspondence ID: 48964 **Project:** 33043 **Document:** 43390
Name: sklar, madeleine
Outside Organization: NRDC Unaffiliated Individual
Received: Dec,04,2011 10:49:00
Correspondence Type: Web Form
Correspondence: Drakes Estero is a national ecological treasure and should become a protected wilderness area. It has outstanding natural resources, including one of California's largest harbor seal colonies and tens of thousands of shorebirds, waterfowl, native fish and endangered species that use its wetlands, mudflats and eelgrass beds.

In the 1976 Point Reyes Wilderness Act, Congress recognized Drakes Estero as a unique recreational and biological resource and promised that this irreplaceable resource would formally become a wilderness area when non-conforming uses were

eliminated. Your agency permitted a commercial oyster company to grow non-native oysters and clams on 1,050 acres in Drakes Estero for 40 years, or until 2012.

Your own draft environmental impact statement reveals the extensive damage that the existing operation has caused to Drakes Estero and Point Reyes National Seashore's beaches. As you know, commercial operations of any kind are not permitted in designated wilderness areas because of such damage. Further, the Park Service's Organic Act mandates protection of park resources and values and strictly limits commercial operations.

Your approval of the proposal to extend the oyster company's permit would be contrary to the Point Reyes Wilderness Act and would establish a dangerous precedent at a time when America's public lands and environmental laws are already under widespread attacks in Congress and elsewhere.

We've been waiting long enough. It is time to allow that permit to expire and to honor Congress' commitment. We want our bay back.

Correspondence ID: 48965 **Project:** 33043 **Document:** 43390
Name: Ball, Jeff
Outside Organization: Unaffiliated Individual
Received: Dec,04,2011 11:05:00
Correspondence Type: Web Form
Correspondence: I've been coming to Pt Reyes for 40 years. Drakes Bay Oyster Co is part of the Pt. Reyes experience. I see very little environmental impact of this operation. On the other hand, the cattle ranches are responsible for visible pollution and erosion. I was just at South Beach yesterday and cows were grazing everywhere on the drive in. I also purchased oysters as usual - hopefully not my last dozen. The cafe at Drakes Bay use to BBQ them to serve to the public - they should be allowed to serve them again.

Correspondence ID: 48966 **Project:** 33043 **Document:** 43390
Name: Smith, Dr. Donald L
Outside Organization: Sierra Club Unaffiliated Individual
Received: Dec,04,2011 11:26:48
Correspondence Type: Web Form
Correspondence: The DEIR on DBOC is disappointingly incomplete and disturbingly biased. I want my tax dollars to produce better policy documents and urgently request that this one be rewritten by an objective and knowledgeable third party for best service to both the public and the environment. Major fundamental topics that are given short shrift or ignored altogether include: 1) Presentation of the alternative that would retain the oystering operation at its present level indefinitely, which many experts assert that the law provides. 2) Statistical analysis of the vast inventory of photos taken by NPS cameras of Estero activities. 3) Data on all Estero activities' degree of disturbance to seals, particularly recreational boaters, hikers, sharks, and elephant seals. 4) Discussion of rate and degree of seal adaptation to locally relevant human activities. 5) Analysis of filter-cleaning effects of planted oysters on runoff from nearby livestock operations. 6) Adverse environmental impact of removing this major local food source of high-quality protein and replacing it with the same quantity of meat or fish imported by refrigerated truck or air freight to the SF Bay Area from more remote sources having verifiable capacity of protein that they are already exporting elsewhere as opposed to consuming locally.

Correspondence ID: 48967 **Project:** 33043 **Document:** 43390
Name: Sherard@aol.com, Mebane
Outside Organization: National Wildlife Federation Action Fund Unaffiliated Individual
Received: Dec,04,2011 11:47:38
Correspondence Type: Web Form
Correspondence: Drakes Estero is the ecological heart of Point Reyes National Seashore and a treasure that belongs to all Americans. In 1976, Congress promised that the Estero would receive full wilderness protection when the current lease for commercial oyster operations expires in 2012. I urge the Park Service to honor the wilderness promise and protect Drakes Estero for future generations.

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I urge you to return Drakes Estero to all Americans by selecting alternative "A" and ensuring full wilderness protection for Drakes Estero in 2012. It is time to protect Drakes Estero as Congress intended and to create the West Coast's only marine wilderness for the benefit of people and wildlife.

Correspondence ID: 48968 **Project:** 33043 **Document:** 43390
Name: Mullens, Martha

Outside Organization: NRDC Unaffiliated Individual
Received: Dec,04,2011 11:49:08
Correspondence Type: Web Form
Correspondence: Drakes Estero is a national ecological treasure and should become a protected wilderness area. It has outstanding natural resources, including one of California's largest harbor seal colonies and tens of thousands of shorebirds, waterfowl, native fish and endangered species that use its wetlands, mudflats and eelgrass beds.

In the 1976 Point Reyes Wilderness Act, Congress recognized Drakes Estero as a unique recreational and biological resource and promised that this irreplaceable resource would formally become a wilderness area when non-conforming uses were eliminated. Your agency permitted a commercial oyster company to grow non-native oysters and clams on 1,050 acres in Drakes Estero for 40 years, or until 2012.

Your own draft environmental impact statement reveals the extensive damage that the existing operation has caused to Drakes Estero and Point Reyes National Seashore's beaches. As you know, commercial operations of any kind are not permitted in designated wilderness areas because of such damage. Further, the Park Service's Organic Act mandates protection of park resources and values and strictly limits commercial operations.

Your approval of the proposal to extend the oyster company's permit would be contrary to the Point Reyes Wilderness Act and would establish a dangerous precedent at a time when America's public lands and environmental laws are already under widespread attacks in Congress and elsewhere.

We've been waiting long enough. It is time to allow that permit to expire and to honor Congress' commitment. We want our bay back.

Correspondence ID: 48969 **Project:** 33043 **Document:** 43390
Name: Reed, Randi
Outside Organization: National Wildlife Federation Action Fund Unaffiliated Individual
Received: Dec,04,2011 11:50:17
Correspondence Type: Web Form
Correspondence: Drakes Estero is the ecological heart of Point Reyes National Seashore and a treasure that belongs to all Americans. In 1976, Congress promised that the Estero would receive full wilderness protection when the current lease for commercial oyster operations expires in 2012. I urge the Park Service to honor the wilderness promise and protect Drakes Estero for future generations.

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I urge you to return Drakes Estero to all Americans by selecting alternative "A" and ensuring full wilderness protection for Drakes Estero in 2012. It is time to protect Drakes Estero as Congress intended and to create the West Coast's only marine wilderness for the benefit of people and wildlife.

Correspondence ID: 48970 **Project:** 33043 **Document:** 43390
Name: Nadeau, Cynthia
Outside Organization: National Parks Conservation Association Unaffiliated Individual
Received: Dec,04,2011 12:03:10
Correspondence Type: Web Form
Correspondence: I urge you to protect Drakes Estero wilderness next year, as long intended. It is in the public interest to create the West Coast's only marine wilderness for the enjoyment of all. The public has waited nearly four decades for these protections to be implemented, which is an immense compromise in itself. Drakes Estero is a rare wildlife refuge where migrating birds stop over, harbor seals give birth, and fish take shelter in eelgrass. As someone who enjoys our nation's national parks and their wildlife, I urge you to uphold the longstanding plan to convert this very special resource to wilderness.

I urge you to select alternative "A", which protects marine wilderness next year and is the Environmentally Preferred Alternative. The National Park Service is mandated to provide maximum protection to the natural resources at Drakes Estero and selecting this alternative is the most consistent with the laws and policies affecting this park. Our national parks are set aside for the public and for wildlife protection, and after waiting nearly 40 years for private commercial use rights to expire, it's time to give the estuary the protection it needs. The environmental review shows that alternative "A" is best for public policy, and best protects harbor seals, fish, birds and other natural resources. Drakes Estero is our only marine wilderness on the West Coast, and is irreplaceable, while oysters can be commercially grown elsewhere.

Please honor the promise made for a protected marine wilderness at Drakes Estero. In doing so, you will set a good policy example and reward the public with an enduring legacy feat found nowhere else on the West Coast.

Correspondence ID: 48971 **Project:** 33043 **Document:** 43390
Name: Nadeau, Cynthia
Outside Organization: National Parks Conservation Association Unaffiliated Individual
Received: Dec.04,2011 12:03:10
Correspondence Type: Web Form

Correspondence: I urge you to protect Drakes Estero wilderness next year, as long intended. It is in the public interest to create the West Coast's only marine wilderness for the enjoyment of all. The public has waited nearly four decades for these protections to be implemented, which is an immense compromise in itself. Drakes Estero is a rare wildlife refuge where migrating birds stop over, harbor seals give birth, and fish take shelter in eelgrass. As someone who enjoys our nation's national parks and their wildlife, I urge you to uphold the longstanding plan to convert this very special resource to wilderness.

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Please honor the promise made for a protected marine wilderness at Drakes Estero. In doing so, you will set a good policy example and reward the public with an enduring legacy feat found nowhere else on the West Coast.

Correspondence ID: 48972 **Project:** 33043 **Document:** 43390
Name: Spera, Starr
Outside Organization: National Wildlife Federation Action Fund Unaffiliated Individual
Received: Dec.04,2011 12:18:00
Correspondence Type: Web Form

Correspondence: Drakes Estero is the ecological heart of Point Reyes National Seashore and a treasure that belongs to all Americans. In 1976, Congress promised that the Estero would receive full wilderness protection when the current lease for commercial oyster operations expires in 2012. I urge the Park Service to honor the wilderness promise and protect Drakes Estero for future generations.

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Your environmental review also shows that alternative "A"--no new permit for commercial oyster operations and protection of the Estero as full wilderness--is the environmentally preferred alternative and the one that best protects harbor seals, birds, fish and other natural resources.

I urge you to return Drakes Estero to all Americans by selecting alternative "A" and ensuring full wilderness protection for Drakes Estero in 2012. It is time to protect Drakes Estero as Congress intended and to create the West Coast's only marine wilderness for the benefit of people and wildlife.

Correspondence ID: 48973 **Project:** 33043 **Document:** 43390
Name: Koutney, Darin
Outside Organization: NRDC Unaffiliated Individual
Received: Dec.04,2011 12:19:11
Correspondence Type: Web Form

Correspondence: Drakes Estero is a national ecological treasure and should become a protected wilderness area. It has outstanding natural resources, including one of California's largest harbor seal colonies and tens of thousands of shorebirds, waterfowl, native fish and endangered species that use its wetlands, mudflats and eelgrass beds.

In the 1976 Point Reyes Wilderness Act, Congress recognized Drakes Estero as a unique recreational and biological resource and promised that this irreplaceable resource would formally become a wilderness area when non-conforming uses were eliminated. Your agency permitted a commercial oyster company to grow non-native oysters and clams on 1,050 acres in Drakes Estero for 40 years, or until 2012.

Your own draft environmental impact statement reveals the extensive damage that the existing operation has caused to Drakes Estero and Point Reyes National Seashore's beaches. As you know, commercial operations of any kind are not permitted in designated wilderness areas because of such damage. Further, the Park Service's Organic Act mandates protection of park resources and values and strictly limits commercial operations.

Your approval of the proposal to extend the oyster company's permit would be contrary to the Point Reyes Wilderness Act and would establish a dangerous precedent at a time when America's public lands and environmental laws are already under

widespread attacks in Congress and elsewhere.

We've been waiting long enough. It is time to allow that permit to expire and to honor Congress' commitment. We want our bay back.

Correspondence ID: 48974 **Project:** 33043 **Document:** 43390

Name: Frerias, Maria Christina

Outside Organization: National Wildlife Federation Action Fund Unaffiliated Individual

Received: Dec,04,2011 12:20:02

Correspondence Type: Web Form

Correspondence: Drakes Estero is the ecological heart of Point Reyes National Seashore and a treasure that belongs to all Americans. In 1976, Congress promised that the Estero would receive full wilderness protection when the current lease for commercial oyster operations expires in 2012. I urge the Park Service to honor the wilderness promise and protect Drakes Estero for future generations.

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Your environmental review also shows that alternative "A"--no new permit for commercial oyster operations and protection of the Estero as full wilderness--is the environmentally preferred alternative and the one that best protects harbor seals, birds, fish and other natural resources.

I urge you to return Drakes Estero to all Americans by selecting alternative "A" and ensuring full wilderness protection for Drakes Estero in 2012. It is time to protect Drakes Estero as Congress intended and to create the West Coast's only marine wilderness for the benefit of people and wildlife.

Correspondence ID: 48975 **Project:** 33043 **Document:** 43390

Name: Nadeau, Cynthia

Outside Organization: National Parks Conservation Association Unaffiliated Individual

Received: Dec,04,2011 12:33:24

Correspondence Type: Web Form

Correspondence: I urge you to protect Drakes Estero wilderness next year, as long intended. It is in the public interest to create the West Coast's only marine wilderness for the enjoyment of all. The public has waited nearly four decades for these protections to be implemented, which is an immense compromise in itself. Drakes Estero is a rare wildlife refuge where migrating birds stop over, harbor seals give birth, and fish take shelter in eelgrass. As someone who enjoys our nation's national parks and their wildlife, I urge you to uphold the longstanding plan to convert this very special resource to wilderness.

I urge you to select alternative "A", which protects marine wilderness next year and is the Environmentally Preferred Alternative. The National Park Service is mandated to provide maximum protection to the natural resources at Drakes Estero and selecting this alternative is the most consistent with the laws and policies affecting this park. Our national parks are set aside for the public and for wildlife protection, and after waiting nearly 40 years for private commercial use rights to expire, it's time to give the estuary the protection it needs. The environmental review shows that alternative "A" is best for public policy, and best protects harbor seals, fish, birds and other natural resources. Drakes Estero is our only marine wilderness on the West Coast, and is irreplaceable, while oysters can be commercially grown elsewhere.

Please honor the promise made for a protected marine wilderness at Drakes Estero. In doing so, you will set a good policy example and reward the public with an enduring legacy feat found nowhere else on the West Coast.

Correspondence ID: 48976 **Project:** 33043 **Document:** 43390

Name: Fingerhut, Barry

Outside Organization: National Wildlife Federation Action Fund Unaffiliated Individual

Received: Dec,04,2011 12:49:34

Correspondence Type: Web Form

Correspondence: LET'S TAKE ACTION TO DO WHAT'S RIGHT! Drakes Estero is the ecological heart of Point Reyes National Seashore and a treasure that belongs to all Americans. In 1976, Congress promised that the Estero would receive full wilderness protection when the current lease for commercial oyster operations expires in 2012. I urge the Park Service to honor the wilderness promise and protect Drakes Estero for future generations.

Drakes Estero is home to 20 percent of the mainland breeding population of harbor seals in California and is used by tens of thousands of shorebirds and waterfowl and dozens of species of native fish. Your draft environmental impact statement makes clear that the existing commercial oyster operation is causing extensive damage to Drakes Estero and the Seashore's beaches, and that allowing these operations to continue would cause even more long-term harm.

Your environmental review also shows that alternative "A"--no new permit for commercial oyster operations and protection of the Estero as full wilderness--is the environmentally preferred alternative and the one that best protects harbor seals, birds, fish

and other natural resources.

I urge you to return Drakes Estero to all Americans by selecting alternative "A" and ensuring full wilderness protection for Drakes Estero in 2012. It is time to protect Drakes Estero as Congress intended and to create the West Coast's only marine wilderness for the benefit of people and wildlife.

Correspondence ID: 48977 **Project:** 33043 **Document:** 43390
Name: McCleary, Jane
Outside Organization: National Wildlife Federation Action Fund Unaffiliated Individual
Received: Dec.04,2011 12:49:34
Correspondence Type: Web Form
Correspondence: Drakes Estero is the ecological heart of Point Reyes National Seashore and a treasure that belongs to all Americans. In 1976, Congress promised that the Estero would receive full wilderness protection when the current lease for commercial oyster operations expires in 2012. I urge the Park Service to honor the wilderness promise and protect Drakes Estero for future generations.

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Correspondence ID: 48978 **Project:** 33043 **Document:** 43390
Name: Dayer, Anne
Outside Organization: National Wildlife Federation Action Fund Unaffiliated Individual
Received: Dec.04,2011 12:49:49
Correspondence Type: Web Form
Correspondence: Drakes Estero is the ecological heart of Point Reyes National Seashore and a treasure that belongs to all Americans. In 1976, Congress promised that the Estero would receive full wilderness protection when the current lease for commercial oyster operations expires in 2012. I urge the Park Service to honor the wilderness promise and protect Drakes Estero for future generations.

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Correspondence ID: 48979 **Project:** 33043 **Document:** 43390
Name: N/A, N/A
Outside Organization: Unaffiliated Individual
Received: Dec.04,2011 13:14:47
Correspondence Type: Web Form
Correspondence: None of the proposed alternatives are appropriate. I support a renewable Special Use Permit for Drakes Bay Oyster Company.

Correspondence ID: 48980 **Project:** 33043 **Document:** 43390
Name: N/A, N/A
Outside Organization: Unaffiliated Individual
Received: Dec.04,2011 13:15:05
Correspondence Type: Web Form
Correspondence: None of the proposed alternatives are appropriate. I support a renewable Special Use Permit for Drakes Bay Oyster Company.

Correspondence ID: 48981 **Project:** 33043 **Document:** 43390

Name: N/A, N/A
Outside Organization: Unaffiliated Individual
Received: Dec,04,2011 13:15:21
Correspondence Type: Web Form
Correspondence: None of the proposed alternatives are appropriate. I support a renewable Special Use Permit for Drakes Bay Oyster Company.

Correspondence ID: 48982 **Project:** 33043 **Document:** 43390
Name: N/A, N/A
Outside Organization: Unaffiliated Individual
Received: Dec,04,2011 13:15:39
Correspondence Type: Web Form
Correspondence: None of the proposed alternatives are appropriate. I support a renewable Special Use Permit for Drakes Bay Oyster Company.

Correspondence ID: 48983 **Project:** 33043 **Document:** 43390
Name: N/A, N/A
Outside Organization: Unaffiliated Individual
Received: Dec,04,2011 13:15:58
Correspondence Type: Web Form
Correspondence: None of the proposed alternatives are appropriate. I support a renewable Special Use Permit for Drakes Bay Oyster Company.

Correspondence ID: 48984 **Project:** 33043 **Document:** 43390
Name: N/A, N/A
Outside Organization: Unaffiliated Individual
Received: Dec,04,2011 13:16:12
Correspondence Type: Web Form
Correspondence: None of the proposed alternatives are appropriate. I support a renewable Special Use Permit for Drakes Bay Oyster Company.

Correspondence ID: 48985 **Project:** 33043 **Document:** 43390
Name: N/A, N/A
Outside Organization: Unaffiliated Individual
Received: Dec,04,2011 13:16:25
Correspondence Type: Web Form
Correspondence: None of the proposed alternatives are appropriate. I support a renewable Special Use Permit for Drakes Bay Oyster Company.

Correspondence ID: 48986 **Project:** 33043 **Document:** 43390
Name: N/A, N/A
Outside Organization: Unaffiliated Individual
Received: Dec,04,2011 13:16:38
Correspondence Type: Web Form
Correspondence: None of the proposed alternatives are appropriate. I support a renewable Special Use Permit for Drakes Bay Oyster Company.

Correspondence ID: 48987 **Project:** 33043 **Document:** 43390
Name: Ajoue, Paul A
Outside Organization: National Wildlife Federation Action Fund Unaffiliated Individual
Received: Dec,04,2011 13:16:40
Correspondence Type: Web Form
Correspondence: Drakes Estero is the ecological heart of Point Reyes National Seashore and a treasure that belongs to all Americans. In 1976, Congress promised that the Estero would receive full wilderness protection when the current lease for commercial oyster operations expires in 2012. I urge the Park Service to honor the wilderness promise and protect Drakes Estero for future generations.

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Correspondence ID: 48988 **Project:** 33043 **Document:** 43390
Name: N/A, N/A
Outside Organization: Unaffiliated Individual
Received: Dec,04,2011 13:16:56
Correspondence Type: Web Form

Correspondence: None of the proposed alternatives are appropriate. I support a renewable Special Use Permit for Drakes Bay Oyster Company.

Correspondence ID: 48989 **Project:** 33043 **Document:** 43390
Name: N/A, N/A
Outside Organization: Unaffiliated Individual
Received: Dec,04,2011 13:17:09
Correspondence Type: Web Form
Correspondence: None of the proposed alternatives are appropriate. I support a renewable Special Use Permit for Drakes Bay Oyster Company.

Correspondence ID: 48990 **Project:** 33043 **Document:** 43390
Name: N/A, N/A
Outside Organization: Unaffiliated Individual
Received: Dec,04,2011 13:17:22
Correspondence Type: Web Form
Correspondence: None of the proposed alternatives are appropriate. I support a renewable Special Use Permit for Drakes Bay Oyster Company.

Correspondence ID: 48991 **Project:** 33043 **Document:** 43390
Name: N/A, N/A
Outside Organization: Unaffiliated Individual
Received: Dec,04,2011 13:17:39
Correspondence Type: Web Form
Correspondence: None of the proposed alternatives are appropriate. I support a renewable Special Use Permit for Drakes Bay Oyster Company.

Correspondence ID: 48992 **Project:** 33043 **Document:** 43390
Name: N/A, N/A
Outside Organization: Unaffiliated Individual
Received: Dec,04,2011 13:17:52
Correspondence Type: Web Form
Correspondence: None of the proposed alternatives are appropriate. I support a renewable Special Use Permit for Drakes Bay Oyster Company.

Correspondence ID: 48993 **Project:** 33043 **Document:** 43390
Name: N/A, N/A
Outside Organization: Unaffiliated Individual
Received: Dec,04,2011 13:18:09
Correspondence Type: Web Form
Correspondence: None of the proposed alternatives are appropriate. I support a renewable Special Use Permit for Drakes Bay Oyster Company.

Correspondence ID: 48994 **Project:** 33043 **Document:** 43390
Name: N/A, N/A
Outside Organization: Unaffiliated Individual
Received: Dec,04,2011 13:18:22
Correspondence Type: Web Form
Correspondence: None of the proposed alternatives are appropriate. I support a renewable Special Use Permit for Drakes Bay Oyster Company.

Correspondence ID: 48995 **Project:** 33043 **Document:** 43390
Name: N/A, N/A
Outside Organization: Unaffiliated Individual
Received: Dec,04,2011 13:18:37
Correspondence Type: Web Form
Correspondence: None of the proposed alternatives are appropriate. I support a renewable Special Use Permit for Drakes Bay Oyster Company.

Correspondence ID: 48996 **Project:** 33043 **Document:** 43390
Name: N/A, N/A
Outside Organization: Unaffiliated Individual
Received: Dec,04,2011 13:18:55
Correspondence Type: Web Form
Correspondence: None of the proposed alternatives are appropriate. I support a renewable Special Use Permit for Drakes Bay Oyster Company.

Correspondence ID: 48997 **Project:** 33043 **Document:** 43390
Name: Pina, Jessica
Outside Organization: National Wildlife Federation Action Fund Unaffiliated Individual
Received: Dec,04,2011 13:18:59
Correspondence Type: Web Form
Correspondence: Drakes Estero is the ecological heart of Point Reyes National Seashore and a treasure that belongs to all Americans. In 1976, Congress promised that the Estero would receive full wilderness protection when the current lease for commercial oyster operations expires in 2012. I urge the Park Service to honor the wilderness promise and protect Drakes Estero for future generations.

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Correspondence ID: 48998 **Project:** 33043 **Document:** 43390
Name: Davis, Evelyn
Outside Organization: National Wildlife Federation Action Fund Unaffiliated Individual
Received: Dec,04,2011 13:19:04
Correspondence Type: Web Form
Correspondence: Drakes Estero is the ecological heart of Point Reyes National Seashore and a treasure that belongs to all Americans. In 1976, Congress promised that the Estero would receive full wilderness protection when the current lease for commercial oyster operations expires in 2012. I urge the Park Service to honor the wilderness promise and protect Drakes Estero for future generations.

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Correspondence ID: 48999 **Project:** 33043 **Document:** 43390
Name: Stephens, Robert
Outside Organization: Unaffiliated Individual
Received: Dec,04,2011 13:19:07
Correspondence Type: Web Form
Correspondence: November 30, 2011

Superintendent Point Reyes National Seashore 1 Bear Valley Road Point Reyes Station, CA 94956

Re: Draft EIS DBOC SUP

Below is a summary of my comments on the dEIS:

The dEIS addresses a range of potential impacts from oyster production within Drakes Estero. I will comment on a select subset of what the report deems to be most significant.

NAS 2009: The dEIS purports to be based on NAS 2009. The dEIS to a large extent ignores the NAS report, uses data and analysis called into question by the NAS, reaches conclusions contrary to the NAS committee.. This is very misleading and should be clarified. If in the report the NPS chooses to disagree with the NAS findings, it should state so clearly and defend this disagreement.

Intent of the Law: The report is an environmental impact statement. The opinions on the intent of Congress in the 1976 Wilderness Act are opinions of law of which there are many different views. The opinion as presented in the dEIS does not relate to an environmental/ecological consequence of oyster production in the Estero and therefore has no place in the report. In addition, as presented, it appears that the law is clear that the oyster operation should cease in 2012. This is contrary to the direction of Congress in 2010, as well as the opinion of the authors of the 1976 law as expressed by its authors. Sections relating to legal interpretation should be deleted.

Seal Disturbance: The report concludes that there is a correlation between oyster production levels and seal population and pupping in the upper Estero. This conclusion is supported by the latest MMC review. Both the dEIS and the MMC findings suggest a weak time correlation between oyster production levels and population over the past 15 years. Sophisticated statistical

calculations have been performed on very limited data sets representing production levels and populations. Credible reports suggest that significant events affecting seal populations have occurred during the 15 year period under evaluation (2003 sea elephant attacks). No baseline data is presented as to long term seal populations in the Estero, fluctuations of the populations, or timing and causes of such fluctuations. As a result, no conclusions can be reached as to whether changes in seal populations during the past 15 years are normal or abnormal. The MMC report suggests a weak temporal correlation between oyster production and seal activity/population, but makes no claim of causation. As no baseline for seal population/activity exists within the Estero that could be correlated with local or regional ecological factors (sea temperature, predator behavior, human presence, etc.) presuming that oyster production is an significant driver of seal population is not possible.

The MMC report does present limited data describing the various sources of possible seal disturbance. This includes fisherman, human presence, kayaks, motor boats (presumably oyster boats), and others. These data suggest that motor boats represent approximately 4% of observed seal disturbances. Association of oyster operations with changes in seal behavior in light of these data seems highly unlikely.

Eel Grass impacts: The dEIS discusses the negative impact of oyster boats on eel grass. Based on aerial photos, it is estimated that a few acres of grass have been lost due to the boat operation. The report ignores the finding, as reported in the NAS 2009 report, that during the time period evaluated the eel grass coverage in the upper Estero has nearly doubled. One conclusion that could be drawn is that the operations of the oyster farms and the presence of large populations of filter feeders in the Estero have promoted eel grass growth by providing a more favorable ecosystem in which to grow. This beneficial impact should be discussed in the report.

Local Economic, Community, and Cultural Impacts: The dEIS either dismisses or ignores the contribution made by local oyster production to the local community, its economy and culture. Oyster production has been a part of the Point Reyes area for nearly 100 years. The largest producer of oysters in the San Francisco Bay Area is the Drakes Bay Oyster Company. The presence of this high quality, locally produced, sustainable food supply is of great importance to many of the several million people living in the greater Bay Area. The National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) mandates consideration of human activity, local economies, and community health and well being. The report suggests that loss of the largest producer of shellfish in the Bay Area could be made up by increasing production in more distant areas such as Humboldt Bay. Notwithstanding the fact that there is no certainty that this local sustainably produced food product would be replaced by product from Humboldt Bay, rather than Puget Sound, or Southeast Asia, any of these alternatives would represent a significant increase in environmental impact due, at a minimum, to transportation. Mariculture methods vary greatly and the likelihood that oysters from remote locations would match the standards of the locally produced product is poor. The dEIS fails to consider the impacts of ceasing local shellfish production and shifting production to remote areas. The EIS process requires such an evaluation of the impacts of proposed changes. This was not done. More recent consideration of sustainable solutions, for example as expressed in President Obama's Executive Order, E.O 13514 on sustainability, should have been included in the dEIS. Forcing production of a high quality local sustainably produced food to a remote location is contrary to the basic principals of sustainability to which this country and much of the world are attempting to follow. Omission of these factors is a serious flaw.

Robert Stephens PhD Member, National Academies Roundtable on Science and Technology for Sustainability Former Assistant Secretary, California EPA for Sustainability
