

Quotes submitted by the following individuals for the media to use regarding Secretary Salazar's decision today regarding Drake Estero Wilderness

Statement by Dr. Sylvia Earle, oceanographer, National Geographic Explorer in Residence, former Chief Scientist for National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, and first TIME "Hero for the Planet."

"A heartfelt salute to Secretary Salazar for his wisdom and statesmanship in choosing long term public good over short term private interests."

"Protecting Drakes Estero, America's only west coast marine wilderness park, will restore health-- and hope -- for the ocean and for the interests of all of the people of this country."

Statement by Bill Kortum, former chairman of the California Coastal Alliance, which helped create the California Coastal Commission. He is a retired veterinarian, a former Sonoma County supervisor and leader of the county's environmental movement for more than 40 years. He is a member of the board of Sonoma County Conservation Action.

"I am forever grateful to Secretary Salazar for honoring the hard-won environmental protections from decades ago. A deal is a deal, and I have been waiting more than three decades for this coastal refuge to start healing."

"Point Reyes National Seashore sustains our rich natural and cultural landscape because of the decisions forged years ago to protect the wilderness of Drake's Estero while preserving ranching and dairy operations in the Seashore's pastoral landscape. Secretary Salazar has demonstrated that he respects these agreements by saving this place for generations to come."

Statement by Amy Meyer, vice-chairwoman of the former federal advisory commission for Golden Gate National Recreation Area and the Point Reyes National Seashore when Congress enacted the 1976 Point Reyes Wilderness Act. Amy is author of "New Guardians for the Golden Gate: How America Got a Great National Park".

"I am deeply grateful to Secretary of the Interior Ken Salazar for his decision not to renew a commercial non-conforming lease in Point Reyes National Seashore and allow Drakes Estero to achieve full wilderness status."

"In 1975 the people of the Bay Area, recognizing that there could be no wilderness in the Golden Gate National Recreation Area because of its proximity to urban populations, spoke eloquently at a major public hearing by the Federal advisory commission serving both parks, of the need for the largest possible wilderness at the Point Reyes National Seashore. Following the commission's advice, Congress made a promise to the American people in the Point Reyes Wilderness Act of 1976 that this five-

bay estuary, the ecological heart of the National Seashore, would achieve full wilderness designation in 2012.”

“The Secretary recognized the dangers of precedent if the commercial use of the estero were allowed to continue after 2012. Environmentally, legally, and ideologically he has kept the promise of Congress for the west coast's only marine wilderness, a promise made 36 years ago.”

“We of this generation commend and celebrate his decision to protect an outstanding place in the American landscape. He has protected the natural environment of Drakes Estero on our behalf and for all future generations.”

Statement by Dr. Martin Griffin, long-time Sonoma-Marin conservationist, founder of Audubon Canyon Ranch, founder of Hop Kiln Winery, public health director for 15 years of Sonoma Developmental Center, and author of “Saving the Marin-Sonoma Coast”

“Having been involved in protecting our magnificent coast, bays, estuaries, and rivers of Marin and Sonoma for decades, I am overjoyed that Interior Secretary Ken Salazar has protected the legacy so many of us have dedicated our lives to.”

“For nearly 40 years, the people of this country have held up their end of the deal and waited for the oyster lease to expire. Today’s historic decision to protect the core values of our National Park System will be celebrated for generations to come.”

“There are many places in California to grow oysters, but only one Drakes Estero.”