



National Commission on the
BP DEEPWATER HORIZON OIL SPILL
AND OFFSHORE DRILLING

STATEMENTS BY THE NATIONAL OIL SPILL COMMISSIONERS

FRANCES G. BEINECKE:

"This report strikes the right balance between energy production and the need to protect our workers, our oceans and all they support. That means an industry that puts safety and reliability first, a Congress that provides the protections we need, and an administration that gives regulators the tools to do their job. The stakes are too high for anything less."

DONALD F. BOESCH:

"I grew up in Louisiana. I have studied the environmental effects of offshore energy development, and I have watched it change both the environment and economy of the Gulf states. The Macondo blowout starkly illustrates the fact that we must take greater action to protect and restore the Gulf coast, one of this country's most valuable natural treasures. We have an opportunity now, some might say an obligation, to address the serious deterioration affecting the Gulf waters, wetlands and resources of the region."

TERRY D. GARCIA:

"During the months of investigation that went into this report, my fellow Commissioners and I toured the Gulf region repeatedly. We listened to the stories of countless citizens after the blowout. From fisherman to oil workers, they want one thing: a strong economy and a healthy coastal environment. This tragedy is a wakeup call to the energy industry and to our government to ensure safer economic activity and vastly improved protection of our natural resources."

CHERRY A. MURRAY:

"The Macondo blowout shows how far the technologies of drilling have accelerated beyond the technologies of well safety, containment, and response. As petroleum exploration moves ever deeper into the waters of the Gulf and other more challenging areas, the industry must develop new, safer equipment, instrumentation and other methods to monitor and manage deepwater wells. The people of the Gulf paid a terrible price for this disaster, and no one anywhere should have to pay such a price again. Major accidents will be far less likely in the future if recommended prescriptions like those in our report are engaged now."

FRAN ULMER:

"The *Deepwater Horizon* blowout cost society a huge loss in human, environmental and economic terms. We believe that the proposals suggested by our Commission represent a modest investment in prevention; so that we do not incur such unacceptable costs again. We have focused primarily on the Gulf, but that is not the only area of concern. Oil exploration will expand into deeper waters and new frontiers around the world, like the Arctic region. Oil is economically and strategically important to this nation, but we must improve both industry operation and government regulation to guarantee human and environmental safety."