

**Opening Statement**  
**Subcommittee on Energy & Environment Ranking Member Bob Inglis (R-SC)**  
**U.S. HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES**  
**HEARING**  
*Harmful Algal Blooms: Challenges on the Nation's Coastlines*  
**July 10, 2008**

Thank you for holding this hearing, Mr. Chairman.

South Carolina is home to the Phytoplankton Monitoring Network, an outreach tool that unites the community in monitoring marine phytoplankton and harmful algal blooms. This network has grown to include educators and scientists in several states such as North Carolina, Georgia, Florida in the southeast, to as far away as Hawaii, the Virgin Islands, Massachusetts, and Alaska. This network has reported more than 70 blooms since it started in 2001, quite a feat for an all volunteer network!

However, this monitoring program would be useless without simultaneous research on harmful algal blooms, how to mitigate their adverse effects and adapt to their presence. In the last ten years, Congress has enacted legislation for research on harmful algal blooms and directed NOAA to develop strategies on how to mitigate them. I am pleased that so much progress has been made since we passed these laws. I know there is still much to be done, particularly on the freshwater side. I hope our witnesses will give us insight on how we can address the shortcomings in existing law.

I look forward hearing from our distinguished witnesses, and I yield back the remainder of my time.