

**Opening Statement**  
**The Honorable Madeleine Z. Bordallo**  
**Chairwoman**  
**Subcommittee on Insular Affairs, Oceans and Wildlife**  
**Tuesday, July 27, 2010**

**Legislative Hearing on H.R. 3850, *The Nutria Eradication and Control Act of 2000*;  
H.R. 3910, *The Longline Catcher Processor Subsector Single Fishery Cooperative Act*;  
H.R. 4914, *The Coastal Jobs Creation Act of 2010*;  
H.R. 5180, *The National Marine Fisheries Service Ombudsman Act of 2010*;  
H.R. 5331, *To revise the boundaries of John H. Chaffee Coastal Barrier Resources System*;  
H.R. 5380, *The Hakalau Forest National Wildlife Refuge Expansion Act of 2010*; and  
H.R. 5482, *The Corolla Wild Horses Protection Act***

Welcome to today's legislative hearing, where we will review several bills that address fish, wildlife, and habitat management. I thank my colleagues for being here to consider these important measures.

Two of the bills we will discuss today address the management of non-native wildlife that has ventured far from their native habitat. H.R. 3850, legislation introduced by Congressman Frank Kratovil, would reauthorize and expand the scope of the existing program designed to control nutria, a large, destructive aquatic rodent that has devastated wetland habitat in Maryland and Louisiana, and apparently, in other States, too. H.R. 5482, the Corolla Wild Horse Protection Act, would statutorily direct the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service to formally enter into an agreement with other governmental and non-governmental partners to ensure a long-term sustainable wild horse herd on the Currituck Outer Banks in North Carolina. The management of non-native wildlife is always a challenge, and I will be interested to hear the different perspectives of our witnesses.

We will also discuss two other bills that address issues drawn from the broad portfolio of the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service. H.R. 5331, non-controversial legislation introduced by Congressman Patrick Kennedy, would make several technical corrections to the boundaries of Coastal Barrier Resources System (CBRA) maps in the State of Rhode Island. The CBRA program has saved taxpayers billions of dollars by prohibiting Federal financial incentives in these highly hazardous areas, but everyone agrees these corrections are warranted. Additionally, the Hakalau Forest National Wildlife Refuge preserves some of the rarest and most sensitive wildlife habitats on the Island of Hawaii. H.R. 5380 would authorize the expansion of this Refuge to conserve additional tropical forest habitat.

We also have three fisheries bills on today's hearing agenda. First, H.R. 4914, legislation introduced by Congressman Frank Pallone, would promote job opportunities for fishermen and other members of these coastal communities, while investing in activities to support sustainable fisheries and working waterfronts. Second, H.R. 5180, which was introduced by Congresswoman Carol Shea-Porter, creates an office of the ombudsman within the National Marine Fisheries Service to act as a neutral third party to identify points of conflict between the fishing industry and fishery managers. Finally, we will hear testimony on H.R. 3910, legislation

to authorize the establishment of a fishery cooperative in the Bering Sea and Gulf of Alaska Pacific Cod longline catcher processor fishery.

We have a lot of business to attend to today, so with that, I thank my colleagues for being here today and look forward to discussing these important pieces of legislation.