

**Opening Statement
The Honorable Edward J. Markey
Ranking Member
Committee on Natural Resources
Wednesday, March 2, 2011**

Subcommittee on Fisheries, Wildlife, Oceans and Insular Affairs

Oversight Hearing on the President's Fiscal Year 2012 Budget Request for the United States Fish and Wildlife Service and Office of Insular Affairs

Thank you Mr. Chairman. The Administration has requested \$1.7 billion for the Fish and Wildlife Service (Service), an increase of \$48 million from the enacted level for Fiscal Year 2010. Despite these fiscally austere times, the Service has proposed \$140 million for the Land and Water Conservation Fund to acquire lands that the Service has identified as having the greatest conservation benefit; almost \$28 million for the Cooperative Landscape Conservation Initiative to focus on science-based management actions in the face of climate change; and \$4 million for the New Energy Frontier Initiative to assist industry and State fish and wildlife agencies as they plan for the siting of renewable energy projects.

These forward looking initiatives stand in stark contrast to H.R. 1, which recklessly cut almost \$400 million from the Service's discretionary budget. Even Dale Hall, the CEO of Ducks Unlimited and the former director of the Service under President George W. Bush, called for us to "approach the budget challenge with facts and analyses, not a meat cleaver." I commend the Administration for using a surgical knife, and not a cleaver, to make the strategic choices that conserve fish, wildlife, and habitat and the livelihoods and local economies which depend on them.