**Marine Fish Conservation Network, Quote from Bruce Stedman, Executive Director**

“As detailed in the fisheries sections of the Green Budget document, additional investments in the nation’s underfunded fisheries are clearly needed, especially for expanding data collection, fishery monitoring and stock assessments.  MFCN and its member groups understand the difficult fiscal times facing the nation, but cutting the fisheries budget would be short-sighted and hurt fishing economies rather than help. We are confident these investments will repay themselves many times over in the form of healthier, more productive fisheries that support jobs in fishing-dependent coastal communities.”

Media contact: Bruce Stedman, Executive Director, Marine Fish Conservation Network, 202-543-5509 x 209, bstedman@conservefish.org

**Defenders of Wildlife, Quote from Rodger Schlickeisen, President**

“To protect wildlife, we must protect the habitat upon which it depends. Protecting habitat in turn safeguards healthy natural systems that provide us with clean air and water, food and even medicines. And don’t overlook the fact that outdoor recreation contributes $730 billion annually to our economy. So money spent on making sure these natural assets remain healthy is not only a personal and moral responsibility but an economic no-brainer too.”

Media contact: Jessica Brand, Communications Associate, Defenders of Wildlife, 202-772-0239, jbrand@defenders.org

**American Rivers, Quote from Rebecca Wodder, President**

“Safeguarding our environment is one of the most responsible investments we can make for our children, our health, and the economy,” said Rebecca Wodder, president of American Rivers. “Our communities simply can’t afford polluted rivers and dirty drinking water. We need to invest in healthy rivers if we want healthy communities.”

Media contact: Amy Kober, Senior Communications Director, American Rivers, 503-708-1145, akober@americanrivers.org

**Marine Conservation Biology Institute, Quote from Elliott Norse, President and CEO**

“Covering 71% of the Earth, our living oceans are humankinds’ biggest life support system.  They provide jobs, food, medicines, energy, recreation and tourism opportunities, and are crucial highways for our trade with other nations.  As economist Judith Kildow and coauthors showed, coastal counties contribute an astounding 43% of the USA’s Gross Domestic Product.  Sustained funding for the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, the USA’s lead agency for ocean scientific research and management, is therefore absolutely essential to maintain and recover our country’s jobs and economic might.”

Media contact: Emily Douce, Conservation Advocate, Marine Conservation Biology Institute, 202-546-5346, emily.douce@mcbi.org

**National Parks Conservation Association, Quote from Tom Kiernan, President**

“National parks protect our American heritage and deliver substantial economic returns to local communities nationwide.  As we approach the National Park System’s centennial in 2016, we look to Congress and the Administration to provide the funding our national parks need to welcome visitors and thrive in their second century of service and beyond.  Advancing recommendations from the Green Budget will provide a roadmap for decision makers and offer solutions for investing in our future.”

Media contact: Shannon Andrea, Director of Media Relations, National Parks Conservation Association, 202-454-3371, sandrea@npca.org

**National Wildlife Federation, Quote from Larry Schweiger, President and CEO.**

“It’s now clear that a polluter bailout bill is being cloaked as a proposal to answer America’s budget crisis,” said Larry Schweiger, president and CEO, National Wildlife Federation. “Bailing out polluters means selling out Americans’ basic rights that we expect our elected officials to protect: breathable air, drinkable water and access to clean natural resources. Our public health and quality of life aren’t negotiating chips – they’re the foundation of a strong American economy and healthy communities.”

Media contact: Aileo Weinmann, Associate Communications Director, National Wildlife Federation, 202-797-6801, weinmanna@nwf.org

**National Marine Sanctuary Foundation, Quote from Jason Patlis, President and CEO**

“In addition to protecting priceless resources like the wreck of the *USS Monitor* and pristine reefs of the Northwestern Hawaiian Islands, national marine sanctuary sites are incredibly important economic engines for coastal communities.  Sanctuaries are living proof that economic revitalization can go hand in hand with conserving natural resources – each year, tourism and recreation centered on sanctuaries contributes almost $30 billion to local economies from coast to coast.  Much more than protected areas, locally managed sanctuaries encourage sustainable use of the ocean resources that will create and sustain American jobs for generations to come.”

Media contact: Sarah van Schagen, Communications and Outreach Manager, National Marine Sanctuary Foundation, 301-608-3040 x 5, Sarah@nmsfocean.org

**Natural Resources Defense Council, Quote from Frances Beinecke, President**

“The investments we make today to protect our health, by giving us cleaner air and water, also will improve our environment and the economy for decades to come,” said Frances Beinecke, president of the Natural Resources Defense Council. “President Obama and Congress face tough choices when it comes to cutting spending in fiscal year 2012, but this budget shows the way to continue to work in the public interest without crippling environmental programs.”

Media contact: Suzanne Struglinski, Press Secretary for Legislative Affairs, Natural Resources Defense Council, 202-289-2387, sstruglinski@nrdc.org

**Friends of the Earth, Quote from Erich Pica, President**

“Just by ending giveaways to Big Oil and King Coal, we can save over $60 billion. It’s outrageous that politicians are trying to cut everything from environmental protection to education to Social Security, while giving away tens of billions to some of the most profitable companies with CEOs making million dollar salaries.”

Media contact: Nick Berning, Director of Communications, Friends of the Earth, 202-222-0748, Nberning@foe.org

**Restore America’s Estuaries, Quote from Jeff Benoit, President and CEO**

Healthy coasts and estuaries contribute nearly a trillion dollars annually to our national economy—providing essential habitat for commercial fisheries, playgrounds and resorts for tourism and outdoor recreation, and housing vital industries.  However, our coasts and estuaries are in poor health, leading to a demonstrated backlog of shovel-ready restoration projects totaling more than $3 billion.  Using targeted investments to restore the nation’s coasts, we can reinvigorate these economic engines, strengthen coastal communities and regional economies, and provide employment for hundreds of thousands of American workers.

Media contact: Howard White, Communications Specialist, Restore America’s Estuaries, 703-524-0248, hwhite@estuaries.org