Welcome, Commission Business and Introduction of Draft Policy Options

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U.S. COMMISSION ON OCEAN POLICY

FIFTEENTH PUBLIC MEETING

WEDNESDAY, APRIL 2, 2003

1:00 P.M. to 5:40 P.M.
GEORGE WASHINGTON UNIVERSITY

800 Twenty-First Street, N.W.

Grand Ballroom

Washington, D.C.
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COMMISSIONERS:

Admiral James D. Watkins, USN (Ret.), Chairman

Mrs. Lillian C. Borrone

Dr. James M. Coleman, Ph.D.

VADM Paul G. Gaffney, II, USN

Prof. Marc J. Hershman

Mr. Paul L. Kelly

Dr. Frank E. Muller-Karger, Ph.D.

Mr. Edward B. Rasmuson

Dr. Andrew A. Rosenberg, Ph.D.

Mr. William D. Ruckelshaus

Dr. Paul A. Sandifer, Ph.D.

ALSO PRESENT:

Thomas R. Kitsos, Ph.D., Executive Director

John Ehrmann, Facilitator
I. Welcome and Opening Remarks

II. Presentation from Research, Education and Marine Operations Group ("REMO")

by James M. Coleman, Ph.D.

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V. Adjournment
CHAIRMAN WATKINS: I will call the Commission to order. I would like to welcome all in the auditorium here today to the third deliberative and the fifteenth overall meeting of the U.S. Commission on Ocean Policy.

The Commission encourages anyone interested to submit comments, ideas and recommendations on our work. The Commission will take public comment tomorrow from 4:00 p.m. to 5:00 p.m. Individuals interested in making public comments to the Ocean Commission must complete a "Public Comment" form in order to participate and sign up will end at the beginning of the comment session at 4:00 p.m. tomorrow.

In addition, we have established a link on our Web site at www.oceancommission.gov to make it as easy as possible for anyone to send us additional comments.

To sign up for the public comment period, please go to
the front desk and fill out the sign-up form.

The scope of the Commission's work is so broad we decided that additional time was needed to adequately address the issues under our charge. While we have
announced on our Web site that we will not make our
June 20 deadline, we do expect to make our report by end
of summer. As soon as we can define that date more, we
will put it on the Web site.

I would like to give you a little rundown on
what we plan to do today. As you know, we have had two
deliberative sessions to which the public has been
invited in which we aired all of the directions given by
the commissioners to our staff towards the end of
providing a report to the President and the Congress on
what a national ocean policy should be for this country
in the twenty-first century.

We have piecemealed in a way the contributions
that we have made in the past and made public and put on
our Web site, and they certainly have not covered the
"waterfront." In fact, about only half of the issues
have already been presented.
In these two days, a day and a half really, we plan to put the working group chairs up to bat here and in sequence they can tell us what their working group recommendations to the staff for writing have been, which allow the other commissioners who have not been
engaged in those particular issues to have dialogue with them, make comments, suggestions and direction changes so that staff can start the writing.

This is the last open, deliberative meeting we will have before the fall report hits the President's desk. There will be a lot of opportunities for commissioners to in working documents to comment and so forth, and we have to be in the "Federal Register" in summertime, a month of so before it goes to the President's desk. At that time, it will be wide open as a full report to the entire country for comment.

The report will go out to every governor of the 50 states and the territories for their comments, because of some of the findings that we cannot separate watershed from the ocean beach area, and so we want all governors to be able to participate and to comment. Actually, Oceans Act 2000, the law that enabled this Commission, demands that we receive their comments and
incorporate them in our report.

It is a fast pace from this point on, but we will be writing. Our staff has 36 elements that stand alone that will be going out for comment to our
commissioners, come back to us for rewrite, Draft I,
Draft II will then go out, Draft II will become a draft
that will go out finally to the governors and in "The
Register." That is the broad look.

Today, now I want to introduce the first of
three of the chairs of our working groups, the governance
working group, whose items will not be taken up today,
they will be taken up tomorrow. I want him to review,
Bill Ruckelshaus to review, for us what he plans to do
in terms of what issues he is going to raise and have
any comments he would like to make at this point, brief
comments.

In depth today, we will be dealing with the
other two working groups. We will start with
Bill Ruckelshaus tomorrow morning at 9:00 a.m. when we
convene again to continue this deliberative process. I
will turn it over now to Bill Ruckelshaus. I will ask
our facilitator, John Ehrmann, sitting next to the
executive director here, to pick up the responsibility for facilitation of any discussion on Bill's and the follow-on chairs of the other working groups.

Bill?
MR. RUCKELSHAUS: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I
will be very brief because, as you have suggested, I
will be discussing this material tomorrow. Tomorrow, we
will be talking about some elaboration on the Ocean
Council, which we have already recommended in a public
hearing or at least in a preliminary sense recommended
it. Also, we will be attempting to show how our other
Governance recommendations, particularly for regional
councils as well as the coastal zone management issues,
will fit into this Ocean Council recommendation.

In addition, tomorrow we will be talking about
the development of offshore oil and gas, some general
recommendations about existing and emerging uses of the
ocean such as bioprospecting, offshore aquaculture,
desalination, and other issues that have to do with
either new or existing uses for which there is no regime
or the current regime is inadequate to appropriately
regulate it.

Finally, we will be addressing some other marine minerals and the necessity for some kind of regime to regulate their use. That is what I will discuss tomorrow.
Mr. Chairman, I will turn it back to you.

CHAIRMAN WATKINS: First, then will be for the detailed discussion of your working group outcomes will be Dr. Coleman of the Research, Education and Marine Operations Group.