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COMMISSIONERS:

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

Dr. Robert Ballard, Ph.D.

Mrs. Lillian C. Borrone

Ms. Ann D'Amato

VADM Paul G. Gaffney, II, USN

Prof. Marc J. Hershman

Mr. Paul L. Kelly

Mr. Christopher L. Koch

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
I. Introduction to Policy Option Presentations and Procedures  

II. Consideration of Policy Options  

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2. Second Generation Coastal Management  

3. Oceans and Human Health  
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4. Informal Education  
   - Discussion (p. 140)  

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CHAIRMAN WATKINS: I would like to welcome all of you to the fourteenth public session of the U.S. Commission on Ocean Policy. This is our second open deliberative discussion which will focus today on a number of topics I will talk about later. We will have for the first time presentations on new topics not covered here in this auditorium two months ago during our last open deliberative session, and this will take us we believe to about 70 to maybe even three-quarters of the issues that we have to address as we commence our drafting of the report to the
14 President and to the Congress.

15 The Commission encourages anyone interested to

16 submit comments, ideas and recommendations on our work.

17 We have received them from all over the country, and, in

18 fact, other parts of the world as well.

19 The Commission will take public comment today

20 at 3:00 p.m. until 3:45. Individuals interested in

21 making public comments to the Ocean Commission must

22 complete a "Public Comment Form" in order to
participate. Sign-up will end at the beginning of the comment session at 3:00 p.m. today. In addition, we have established a link on our website at www.oceancommission.gov to make it easy as possible for people to send us additional comments, and you can also fax or mail comments to us. The sign-up for the public comment period, please go out to the front desk and fill out the sign-up form.

Before we commence the topical discussions today, I would like a motion from the Commission to address the minutes, any changes that you have to them, they are in Tab 7 of the "Briefing Book." I would like a motion to approve and have any discussion thereafter.

MOTION
MRS. BORRONE: So moved.

MR. KOCH: Second.

CHAIRMAN WATKINS: All in favor?

(Chorus of "ayes.")

CHAIRMAN WATKINS: Anybody have any -- no comments?

(No verbal response.)

CHAIRMAN WATKINS: So be it, they are
approved.

(Whereupon, the motion is carried.)

CHAIRMAN WATKINS: Now, today the topics will be presented by the designated working group chairs that are presenting those for consideration by the Commission as a whole. The "Draft Table of Contents" is available to the public, and sections will be shown on the screen as the issues are discussed so you can place them in the context of what we anticipate will be envelope that surrounds our entire set of issues within our final report.

There will be some issues, in fact there are probably just one or two today, that will be a follow on from our open deliberative discussions here in this
auditorium a couple of months ago. Those will be
generally in the first two topics that we bring up. You
will see a continuing discussion, because they deal with
governance issues that are very complex and do kind of
bring our entire report into some clear context so they
are the most complicated.

There will be continuing discussion probably
here and in April, when we meet again on April 1, 2 3,
and it will be on April 2 and 3 that we will probably
have a full two days of open deliberative discussions as
we close our various issues publicly before the drafting
of the final report.

This is part of our iterative process and
represents our evolving thought as the Commission moves
forward, so nothing in this discussion today will
eventuate in a final approval of any document or any
position. The Commission is not ready to do that, and
we have all made it very clear in the last open session
that we were not going to put our names to approval of
the final report until we see all of the words.

We want to see the justifications. We want to
see the report put in the context of a powerful letter
to the President, the Congress and the American public

that we are into serious issues here that face the

nation, and we want to ensure the maximum possible

success of the outcomes along the lines of our

recommendations. That is a serious task for us, and we

take it seriously. None of us are going to approve any

of these. The processes are being exchanged between

commissioners. You will hear today for the first time
the Commission as a whole addressing subjects that come
up from our three basic working groups of Research,
Education and Marine Operations; of Stewardship; and of
Governance.

Dr. John Ehrmann has been our facilitator. He
is sitting on my right here (indicating), a couple of
seats over, and he is going to describe the rules for
debate and facilitate discussion of the recommendations.

I am going to turn it over to John now to explain what
those rules are.

DR. EHRMANN: Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Just briefly to reiterate and emphasize a
couple of points the Chairman just made, the discussion
today will be initiated in each case by representatives
of the three working groups that he just referred to.

Our format will be to have a brief presentation of key points relative to issues that have either been agreed upon by the working group at the working group level and are being brought to the Commission for their full deliberation, or issues that the various working groups are looking for additional insight and guidance from the full Commission as they
proceed in thinking about these issues.

However, as the Chairman indicated, today we will not be seeking final approval on any of these issues, but the perspectives and input from commissioners that the staff can take into account as they prepare for the next phase of the deliberations.

Those opening presentations will be relatively brief, and they will be accompanied by slides that you will be able to see in front of you.

Following those presentations, then we will facilitate a discussion among the commissioners to solicit their perspectives and ideas on the potential recommendations that are being put forth by the various representatives of the working groups. We have asked
the commissioners to keep their comments concise and to

the point as we have that discussion, so we can have the

maximum amount of interchange among the commissioners.

At the end of each section, myself and the

Chair will do our best to summarize some of the key

points from that discussion, and we will also give an

opportunity for the staff leads of the various topics to

ask any questions in terms of follow-up of the various
commissioners so that they can be clear about the next steps that they are going to be following in their process to support the deliberations of the Commission.

As was indicated, there will be public comment opportunities at the end of the day. If the members of the public have any thoughts about any of these topics that we are going to be discussing, we of course welcome those comments and would ask that you enter those into the record at the end of the day in the appropriate public comment period.

With that, Mr. Chairman, I will turn it back to you.

CHAIRMAN WATKINS: I will ask each of the chairmen of the three working groups when they make
their presentations today to let us also know those

areas that you still have work to do on where you do not

have consensus within the working group, to let us all

know the order of magnitude of what is left to be done

to bring to open session deliberative action.