Introduction to Policy Discussion

CHAIRMAN WATKINS: For the Commission now,

before we start our deliberative process here, we will
take a break until five minutes to 11:00 -- I mean, five
minutes to 10:00, I'm sorry.

(Whereupon, there was a pause in the
proceedings from 9:45 a.m. to 10:05 a.m.)

CHAIRMAN WATKINS: Come back to the dais and
we will commence our next phase of the meeting.
INTRODUCTION TO POLICY OPTION

PRESENTATIONS AND PROCEDURES

CHAIRMAN WATKINS:

All right, we are going to commence the introduction to policy option presentations and the procedures that the Commission intends to follow now in its open, deliberative process on a variety of issues that we are prepared within our working groups to present to the Commission as a whole.

The topics are going to be presented for the Commission's consideration in order that they appear in the draft table of contents. Now, that draft table of contents is going to be provided to the public at the end of our meeting today, and all of the slides that you see.
They will be up here, but they will also be available for public access on the table outside following our meeting today, so I want everybody to know that. I think you will be able to follow here, and you will also be able to get copies later.

The draft table of contents was prepared as
the mechanism to be used by the Commission to ensure it

capsulated all of the issues that have come to our

attention during the multiple hearings and visits

throughout the country. We believe that at this point

in time, although it is still a draft, that it is a good

starting point for our efforts here today.

The whole point of the open session now for

this Commission at this point in time is to give

guidance to the Commission staff in which direction to

go as they prepare a draft, the first draft, of a report

to be considered at a later time by the Commission as a

whole.

That obviously will be an iterative process as

we move through. There will be much debate, both in
public and within the individual working groups as they prepare their final documents, but this is a first start at the real work of the Commission.

I am going to ask the relevant working group chair -- and as you know from our Web site, we have three working groups at this point in time that are activated and working. The Implementation and Investment Working Group will be much more able to do
its work after a first draft is received. We can

begin to look at how implementation and investment might

then follow. Until we see something like that, it is

probably impossible for the fourth working group to do

its job.

We have a facilitator today sitting next to me on my left, Dr. John Ehrmann, experienced in this business, who will announce the rules for debate and facilitate discussion of the recommendations. As a matter of fact, I think I will turn it over to John now to review what he considers to be the rules of debate for today's activities.

John?

DR. EHRMANN: Thank you, Mr. Chairman.
The process we are going to follow as the Chair has introduced will be for each of the working group co-chairs to say a few words to introduce a particular recommendation. There are about 16 to 18 sets of recommendations that we will be going over today that have been forwarded to the full Commission by the working groups. Given the time we have allotted on the agenda
for discussion, that will allow us about 15 minutes per

issue area for discussion. After that brief

presentation by the chair, there will be an opportunity

for discussion among the Commission members.

Again, the goal here, as the Chair indicated,

is to provide guidance to the staff as they go forward

with additional work in drafting, moving toward the

initial draft of the Commission's report. We are

looking for input from the commissioners to be specific,

be concise, given the amount of issues we need to get

through, and to focus particularly on those areas that

the Commission would suggest modifications or changes to

the ideas that are being put forth by the individual

working groups.
This is not intended to be a word-smithing session, but really a chance to raise issues, focus and direct the staff as they go forward with the drafting for future consideration. As the Chair also indicated, we are not looking for final approval of any items today. This is a discussion opportunity.

The Commission, of course, will need to view its entire draft entire report before anyone formally
signs on in a binding way to the recommendations in the report. As we go through the discussion, we will keep adjusting our time allotments accordingly; but, as I say, we have a lot to get through, so we will try to move those with about 15 minutes per recommendation.

Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

(A slide presentation in progress.)

CHAIRMAN WATKINS: Let me have the first slide on the chapter headings. These are the current chapter headings that we have in the draft table of contents against which we are going to be discussing the issues today.

As you can see, on each one of these slides we
have the words "Draft - Predecisional Document." We are asking that it not be cited and quoted because these are working group documents being presented for the first time in the public session to the Commission as a whole. Therefore, there is no indication that all of these things are in concrete in any way. These are all flexible working tools that we are using now as we move towards our final product. Not
all of the areas that are in the more expansive version
of the table of contents are going to be addressed
today. The estimate is that we are probably at about
the one-third point of all of the time and effort on
issues that still have to be placed in our report
language, but this is the first time.

There will be a follow-on session at some
point, an open session, where we will pick up additional
or the remainder of the items and discuss those in open
session and give further guidance to the staff as we
move towards the second and third, perhaps, edition of
our draft report.

At any rate, this is the process we are going
to follow today, and you will see presented on the slide
as I introduce each of the chairs to present about a
five-minute overview. We will flip up a repeat of the
chapter heading, but under that will be some of the
broad elements which will be addressed by the chairs of
each working group as they get to that point.

But right now, I am going to introduce each of
the working chairs for about a five-minute summary of
their progress in the major areas and perhaps what they
have left to do. With that, I will open the presentations here with Chairman of the Governance Working Group, Mr. Bill Ruckelshaus.

MR. RUCKELSHAUS: Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

The other members of the working group, the Governance Working Group, are: Andy Rosenberg, Marc Hershman, Lillian Borrone, Larry Dickerson, and Chris Koch. The Governance Working Group has been hard at work. One of the things that you mentioned that is in this outline, topic outline, under the chapter headings is not there, and that is the question of principles. We will be addressing that.

The Governance Working Group has worked on a set of principles, and the Stewardship Working Group has
done this as well. These are principles that underlie,

will underlie our final report, and we will be talking

about those in more detail in a few minutes.

The three broad areas that our Governance

Working Group has been focusing on are coastal

management, non-living resources, and of course the

question of governance itself, which is, if you look at

this outline, sort of tying it all together as to how do
we do this with a governance structure either as it currently exists or as we would recommend it be changed so that all of these other recommendations would, in fact, work.

We have been talking about issues and ways of resolving many of the questions that have arisen during our working group meetings. We will spend most of the time today on coastal management. Mark Hershman will be presenting that a little later on this morning. We have drafted some tentative draft recommendations to consider. We are probably further along on those recommendations than the others, and that is the reason for scheduling them for a formal presentation this morning.
The kinds of issues that we will be talking about have to do with the framework for coastal management, habitat protection, restoration and management of things like natural hazards, sediments. There are other issues like federal consistency and nonpoint source pollution, which, in fact, we are sharing with the Stewardship Working Group, which we will not reach today. We have not come close enough to
resolving those issues even among our working group to
bring them in front of the broader Commission.

Non-living marine resources is another issue
we won't be touching on today in a more formalized way.

That involves issues like oil and gas and other
minerals. New and emerging ocean issues -- for example,
renewable resources such as wind farms, offshore
aquaculture, bio-prospecting -- those are issues that we
are addressing, but they are not ripe enough for
presentation to the larger Commission. Submerged
cultural resource is another example of that kind.

Governance is obviously the issue that must
underpin a good deal of our recommendations. We have
discussed this a lot and we sort of need to find out
where we are headed in terms of recommendations in many
of these other areas in order to suggest a governance
regime, either that exist currently or one that would be
changed.

I think it is fairly apparent to most of us at
this juncture that we are going to need to have some
kind of transition mechanism into a new form of
governance in order for us to get from where we are
today to where we would like to be. In fact, it was much along the lines that Admiral Collins mentioned in his testimony and made recommendations for some kind of coordinating mechanism transition mechanism that our deliberations have been taking place. We are not far enough along yet really to discuss them with the whole Commission. In fact, the rest of the working groups have been working on some of these issues involving governance as well. It is inevitable when you begin to make recommendations for things like stewardship and management of our science education issues that governance comes in. The governance structures are important. Obviously, whether we should have a national ocean
policy, as suggested by statute, obviously we need

better coordination, better alignment of government

functions than they now are. All of these things will

be discussed and be part of our recommendations. We are

not ready yet to service them for more broader

discussion.

That is sort of an outline of where we are and

what we look forward to, Mr. Chairman.
CHAIRMAN WATKINS: Thanks, Bill.

Dr. Sandifer, on stewardship.

DR. SANDIFER: Thanks, Mr. Chairman.

Among many other things, the Oceans Act of 2000 tasked this Commission with making recommendations for, and I quote, "Coordinating comprehensive national ocean policy that will promote responsible stewardship including use of fishery resources and other ocean and coastal resources." That statute also tasked our Commission to develop recommendations for, "the protection of the marine environment and prevention of marine pollution."

The Stewardship Working Group that I have been privileged to chair this last 13 months or so was given
the responsibility to develop recommendations in these two areas, that is the living marine resource management and pollution and water quality.

I have been privileged to serve with several other commissioners -- Ann D'Amato, Paul Gaffney, Paul Kelly, and Frank Muller-Karger -- in attempting to fulfill these very challenging tasks.

Today, the report I will give a little later
will focus on the recommendations from the Stewardship Working Group in three areas: primarily related, but not exclusively, to living marine resources. These will include three guiding principles, several fairly specific recommendations related to marine fisheries management, and a recommendation regarding marine protected areas.

Other recommendations related to living marine resources, and especially to the water quality and pollution area, are still under development. Like Bill Ruckelshaus just said, these will take a little bit more time to come to fruition and they will be reported later.

Our working group has been assisted
tremendously in our efforts by the vast amount of information we have received during nearly a year of public meetings across the country, information we have received from numerous experts including our Scientific Advisory Panel members, other members of this Commission, a variety of other sources, and especially by the dedicated and extremely conscientious staff. I can't tell you how much that has meant to us in accomplishing
what we have done to date.

With regard to living marine resources,

several major themes emerged during our information gathering and review processes. One message that has been consistently emphasized is the need for management decisions to reflect the complexity and the interdependence of ocean ecosystems. Activities impacting the ocean cannot be viewed in isolation.

In this context, our working group has focused on the need to approach marine resource management including living marine resource management, fisheries management in a broader ecosystem-based context. I will give some more on that a little bit later.

A second consistent message has been the need
for a science-based precautionary approach to resource stewardship. In addition to change some changes in overall management philosophy, this will highlight the need to develop a substantially more comprehensive and coordinated research monitoring and data management program in support of ocean stewardship initiatives.

The third overarching principal, we will discuss a bit later, is the need to consider
conservation of biological diversity in our management activities. With regards specifically to the fisheries management arena, the Stewardship Working Group has considered and will present specific recommendations to improve the long-term sustainability and the economic viability of America's marine fisheries.

Our recommendations will be grouped in six areas based upon the existing system of reasonable fishery management councils. These six areas are: the use and review of scientific information in the council process, the nomination and appointment of council members, delineation of lead jurisdiction, the involvement of fishers and other non-scientists in appropriate cooperative research activities, the use of
dedicated access privileges as a management tool, and

the need to reduce overcapacity in some fisheries.

After I present these, a little later we will also

present a relatively brief but very important

recommendation with regard to marine-protected areas.

In addition, the Stewardship Working Group is

continuing its work on other living marine resource

issues including those related to marine mammals, coral
reefs, aquaculture and a lot of other things. We are also actively considering water pollution and water quality issues within the larger context of the ecosystem-based management approach.

What we will be attempting to do is look at the cumulative impacts within an entire watershed on coastal ocean and human health. We are focusing on such diverse issues as nonpoint source pollution, invasive species, and toxic contaminants.

Our goals are to identify and recommend improvements in infrastructure and resource management practices that will help the nation better deal with emerging challenges to ecosystem health. We will continue to work closely with members of the
Commission, our scientific advisors, and others as we move forward in the process of developing our recommendations in these areas, and those you will hear at a later time.

Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

CHAIRMAN WATKINS: Thank you, Paul.

We will shift now to the Chair of the Research, Education and Marine Operations Working Group,
Dr. Coleman.

DR. COLEMAN: Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

We refer to our working group as REMO, so when you hear me refer to that, it is "Research, Education and Marine Operations." Besides myself, there are three other commissioners: Mr. Ted Beattie,

Dr. Robert Ballard, and Mr. Ed Rasmuson.

During the past two days at our retreat, these commissioners and some of our science advisors have reached consensus on the recommendations in six major issue areas: The first one was a rational investment strategy for the U.S. ocean sciences in which we reached two recommendations, and those will be presented later this afternoon.
The second issue area is research partnerships and roles. Again, two recommendations have been brought forward. The third issue area is an integrated and sustained coastal and ocean observing and prediction system, a topic that was mandated in the Oceans 2000 Act. We have seven recommendations in this area. The fourth issue area was data management. Throughout our visits around the country we heard
testimony after testimony of the sad shape that data management, from a national perspective, are in. We have four recommendations in that area.

Of prime importance to this particular working group is a K-12 education in the marine and ocean sciences. We had excellent support from some of our science advisors, and we have five recommendations in this area. The last issue area that we have reached consensus on is the ocean sciences graduate education in the workforce. Again, we have five areas, five recommendations.

We deferred during our discussions, making recommendations or trying to reach consensus on recommendations in the marine transportation system.
arena. The reason for this is a very complex issue.

Several of our working group and on our Science Advisory Panel felt that they did not have the capability and knowledge in order to discuss this, and so we have deferred this until the January meeting and have invited about six of the other commissioners who have expertise in this area to convene with us.

Again, something has been mandated by the
Oceans Act of 2000 that concerns vessels, laboratories, submersibles, satellites, computers, and so forth. We are in the process of drafting our recommendations in that area. The second area that we have deferred until a later date is oceans and human health. A third area is ocean exploration. And an area that we have really just started obtaining the data in order to help us arrive at recommendations is in the field of academic research.

Then, the last two are public outreach, which we are working with Stewardship on that area. The last one really has an emphasis on the international activities, U.S. leadership in the ocean sciences. The reason for the delay in these is that we are still
waiting on background and informational reports so that

the working group can formulate their recommendations.

Mr. Chairman, I think we had an excellent
discussion and debate, and I look forward to presenting

the recommendations this afternoon.

CHAIRMAN WATKINS: Thank you, Jim.

Now I want to remind everyone here,

commissioners as well, that we are operating under the
Federal Advisory Committee Act. None of the debate on the working group presentations to the Commission as a whole has taken place anywhere; this is the first time.

We are doing that in compliance with the Act and its provisions.

I also want to remind everybody,

Commissioners, nothing is being presented here for your approval today. The whole point of this drill today is to give guidance to staff to start writing. None of us are going to agree to anything, I believe, until we see the package as a whole and understand its supportive rationale and the like. So, I want to reemphasize that.

Not all areas of the report will be covered,
not discussed today are going to be discussed in an open session at some future date not yet pinned down. With that, I would like to shift to the slide that you now see up.

(A slide presentation in progress.)

CHAIRMAN WATKINS: You can see "Guiding Principles" underlined. Each time one of the chairs will make a presentation, he will do it under the
context of where that particular issue sits within the Table of Contents and this happens to be in Chapter I, which happens to include a number of things, and they will be the basis for executive summary preparation, which will come much later.

So, "Guiding Principles," then, and that is under the purview of the Chairman of the Governance Committee, and I will turn it over to Bill Ruckelshaus to present to the Commission as a whole what guiding principles that working group has come up with for consideration by the Commission.

Bill?