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Let me start with reviewing the Stratton Commission mandate.

(Viewgraph 1) There were 122 recommendations in our report. Nearly all were the product of some seven panels. Many of the recommendations were enacted, although sometimes modified in the process. Amongst the most important I believe was the Coastal Zone Management Act, an idea generated in a panel I chaired.

I wish to speak to two of the recommendations based in part on my experience as NOAA Administrator. The first is the importance of combining the oceans and the atmosphere in a single agency. The second is that NOAA as originally formulated had almost no regulatory responsibility.

(Viewgraph 2) At the time we made our recommendation about the importance of combining the oceans and atmosphere in a single agency, I confess we were speaking more in theory than in practice, certainly as it applies to the influence of the ocean on our ability to forecast either changes in weather or climate. But now we are gaining increased understanding of how the El Niño, the North Atlantic oscillation and similar changes in oceanic conditions affect our weather patterns. Having the responsibility for both ocean and atmospheric in a single agency made it much easier for me to marshal the necessary observational resources than was the case for some of my European colleagues whose responsibility was limited to either atmosphere or ocean, but not both.

(Viewgraph 3) Finally a few words about NOAA's mandate. Note NOAA was seen primarily as a service agency. Our major regulatory function came some years after NOAA's formation with the passage of the Magnuson fisheries act. Those of you who know the details of that act, know that most management decisions reside in fishery councils over which NOAA has limited jurisdiction. However, as NOAA administrator I became concerned that our fisheries research program was becoming weaker, or at least it was not as strong as it might be, because of its continuing involvement in such highly politicized issues as catch limits, gear restrictions, closed areas, etc. If President Bush had won reelection and I had had an opportunity to stay on, I was prepared to tackle some major fisheries reorganization, to fence off so to speak, that part of the agency dedicated to fisheries regulation.

View Graph 1

Examine the Nation's stake in the development, utilization, and preservation of our marine environment

Review all current and contemplated marine activities and to assess their adequacy to achieve the national goals set forth in the Act

Formulate a comprehensive, long-term, national program for marine affairs designed to meet present and future national needs.

Recommend a plan of government organization best adapted to the support of the program

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View Graph 2

The Nation must have a comprehensive system for monitoring and predicting the state of the oceans and the atmosphere. The United States has the beginnings of such a system today, but it is inadequate to our needs and its organization is fragmented.

The oceans, the atmosphere..... are interacting parts.....They cannot be understood, monitored, or predicted except as parts of a single system, and technology for their monitoring and prediction has many common elements. This system is planet-wide. It determines weather and climate everywhere and affects both land and sea operations.

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View Graph 3

The Commission recommends.....an agency:

- To explore the marine frontier and its interrelationships with the atmosphere
- To define its resources
- To advance capabilities for its use
- To provide supporting services including weather and ocean forecasts
 - o To minimize conflicts over use of the marine environment
 - o To coordinate scientific and technical requirements and recommendations in support of foreign policy objectives.
- To serve marine industry and the marine interests of the American people.

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