

U.S. COMMISSION ON OCEAN POLICY



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**Statement of Admiral James Watkins
Chairman, U.S. Commission on Ocean Policy**

**On the Release of the
Pew Oceans Commission Report
America's Living Oceans: Charting a Course for Sea Change**

The Pew Oceans Commission Report is an important document adding substance to the growing body of knowledge on ocean issues. Their report focuses on selected issues this nation should address regarding a national ocean policy. On the other hand, the mandate given to the U.S. Commission on Ocean Policy by Congress is much broader than the scope of the work Pew determined for itself. Our report not only will include many of these same issues, but others not discussed by the Pew Report.

As the U.S. Commission on Ocean Policy moves forward into our final deliberations, the Pew Report will be examined closely and taken under serious consideration as we finalize our recommendations for a comprehensive and coordinated ocean policy for the nation.

I cannot speculate as to the degree to which the U.S. Commission on Ocean Policy Report and the Pew Report will have overlapping issues, common themes or similar outcomes. Because the U.S. Commission on Ocean Policy still has months of additional work to do – intensive analysis, final discussion and deliberation and report drafting – we welcome the Pew Commission's report as an important component of our reference material. We also hope that their report will continue to raise public awareness of the serious ocean and coastal issues facing this nation and what can be done to address them effectively.

The Pew Commission had a prestigious team of individuals develop their report, including a most able chairman. We look forward to reading their final report and the recommendations they offer. We applaud their commitment to a shared concern over the world's oceans and their dedication to achieving sustainability of the resources of the sea.

Mandated by the Oceans Act of 2000, authorized by Congress, with its 16 members appointed by the President, the U.S. Commission on Ocean Policy will establish findings and make final recommendations to the President and Congress for a coordinated and comprehensive national ocean policy by early fall 2003. The new policy will address a broad range of issues, from ocean governance to the stewardship of marine resources and pollution prevention to enhancing and supporting marine science, commerce and transportation.

*To see the U.S. Commission on Ocean Policy draft Table of Contents document or for more information go to:
www.oceancommission.gov.*