U.S. Commission on Ocean Policy

Oceans Act of 2000 (Pub Law 106-256)

- 16 Commissioners, chaired by ADM James Watkins
- 26 Science Advisory Panel Members
- The U.S. Commission on Ocean Policy is required to establish findings and make recommendations to the President and Congress for a coordinated and comprehensive national ocean policy.
- The Commission's final recommendations to the President and Congress will be delivered in 2003.

Public Meetings

Information Gathering Phase

- 9 Regional Meetings: SC, FL, LA, CA, HI, WA, MA, AK, IL
- 2 Washington, DC Meetings prior to, and following the Regional Meetings

Deliberative Phase

- November 2002
- January 2003
- Next Meeting – Week of March 31, Washington, DC

Final Report

- Original schedule called for submission of Report to Congress and the President by June 20, 2003
- Commissioners will decide on a new schedule at their next meeting

U.S. Commission on Ocean Policy

Washington, D.C.

January 24, 2003

Coral Reef Ecosystem Protection

- Recognize serious decline by direct (e.g. ship strikes; ornamental fish trade) or indirect (e.g. pollution; sediment runoff) human action

Recommendations:

- Retain Coral Reef Task Force (CRTF) and develop coral reef strategies for NCB
  - Include Department of Energy in CRTF
  - Gain a “seat” at Integrated Ocean Observing System design table

Coral Reef Ecosystem Protection (cont.)

- Complete a comprehensive map of U.S. coral reefs
- Expand marine sanctuary “damage recovery” provision to designated coral reefs
- Continue active international leadership
  - Offer “debt forgiveness” to foreign nations which demonstrate good stewardship
  - Strive for international standards to limit ornamental capture
  - Use U.S. research strength to gain leadership