

Presentation to the
NEP/CZM Joint Session
March 8, 2006



The U.S. Ocean Action Plan and SIMOR:

Making our Oceans, Coasts, and Great Lakes cleaner,
healthier and more productive

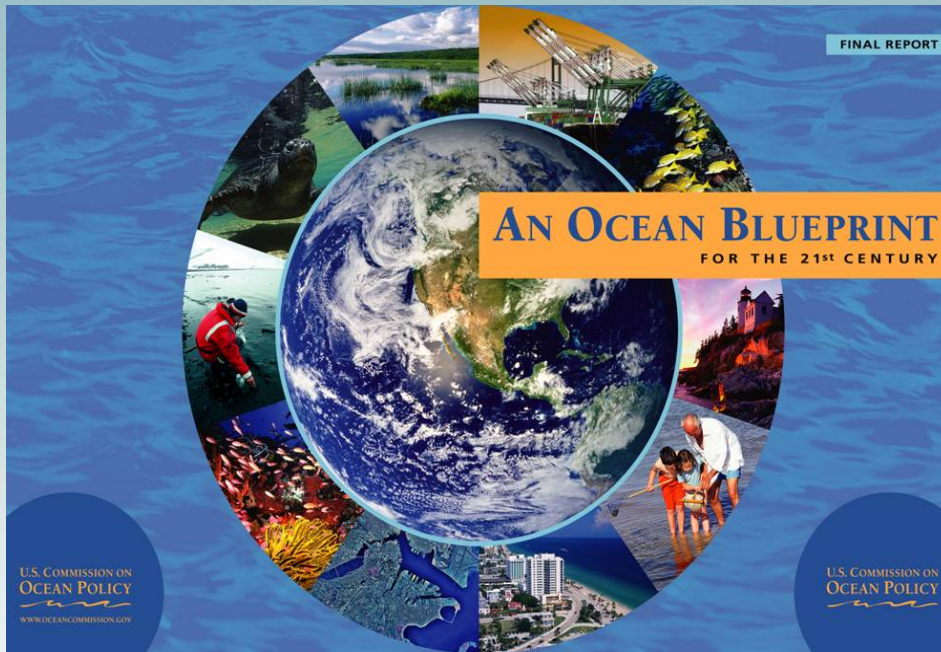
Dr. Gerhard F. Kuska

Council on Environmental Quality

Co-Chair, Subcommittee on Integrated Management of Ocean Resources



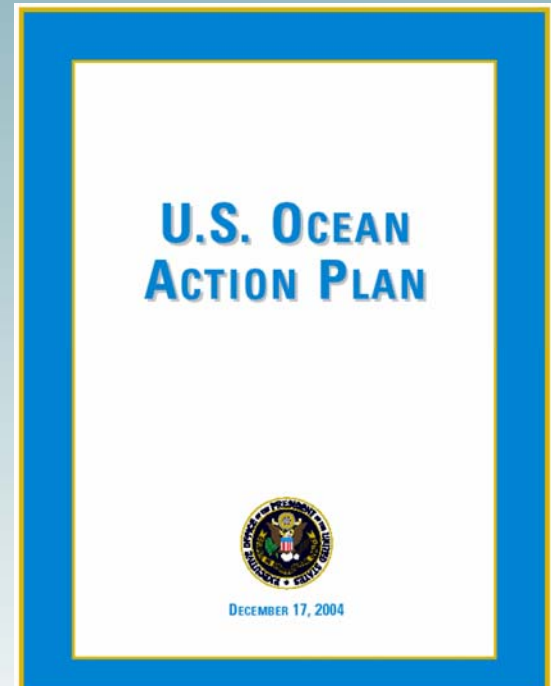
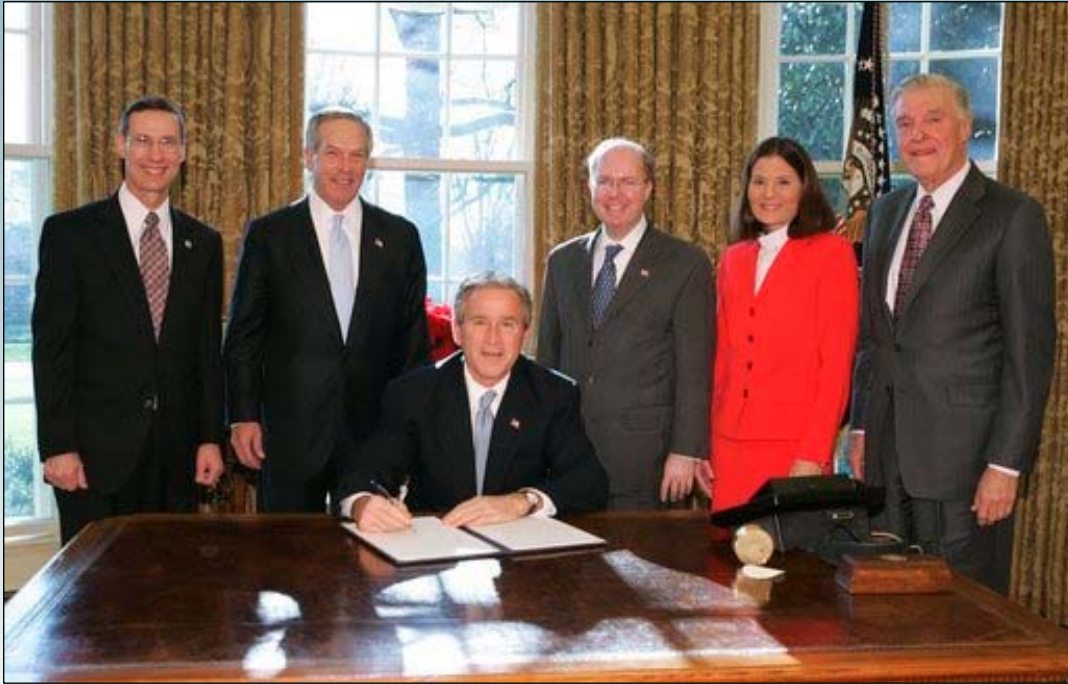
An Ocean Blueprint for the 21st Century



- Final report of the U.S. Commission on Ocean Policy: September 20, 2004
- Includes comments 37 governors
- 212 recommendations
- 31 Issue-based chapters



Administration Response

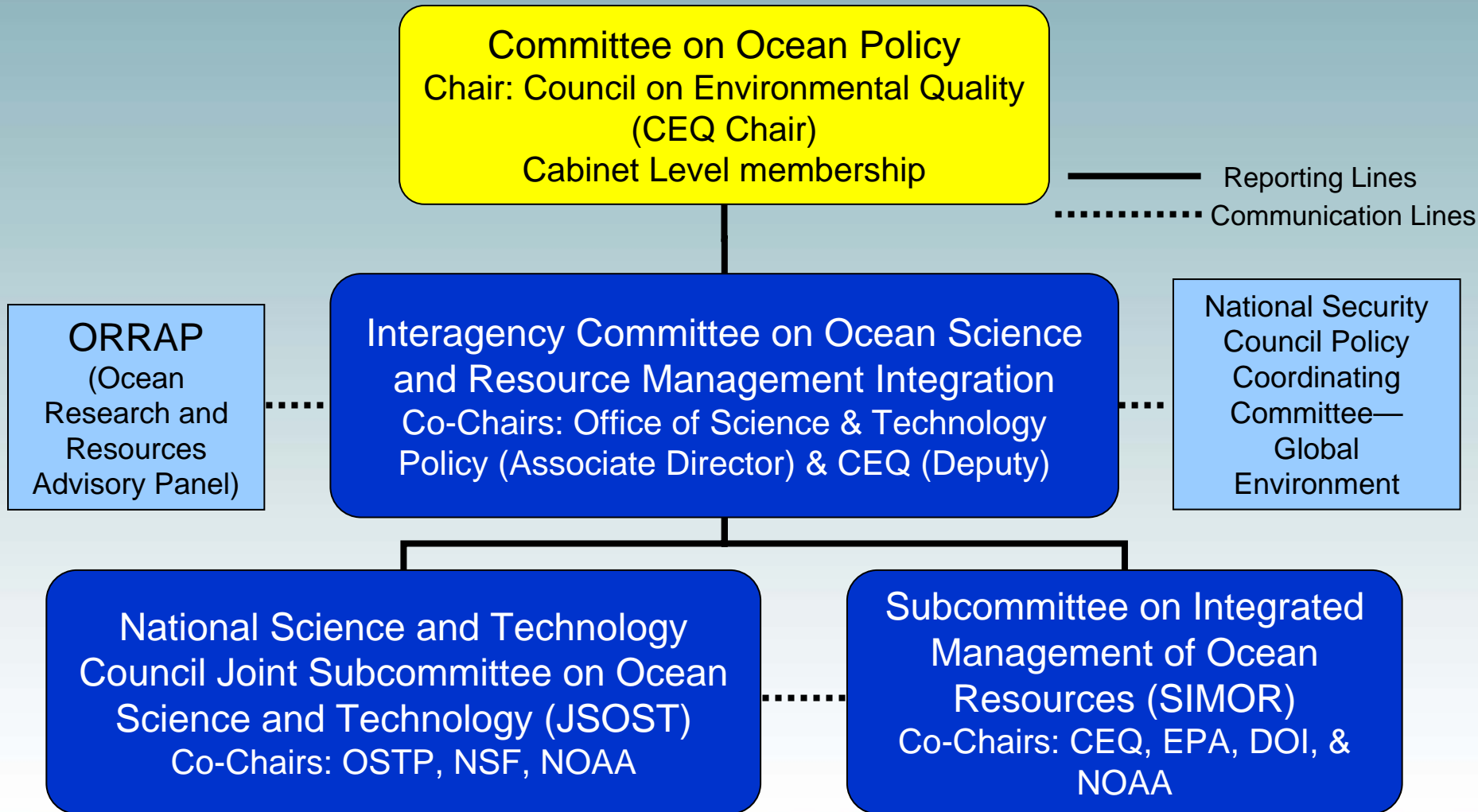


Executive Order 13366 and U.S. Ocean Action Plan

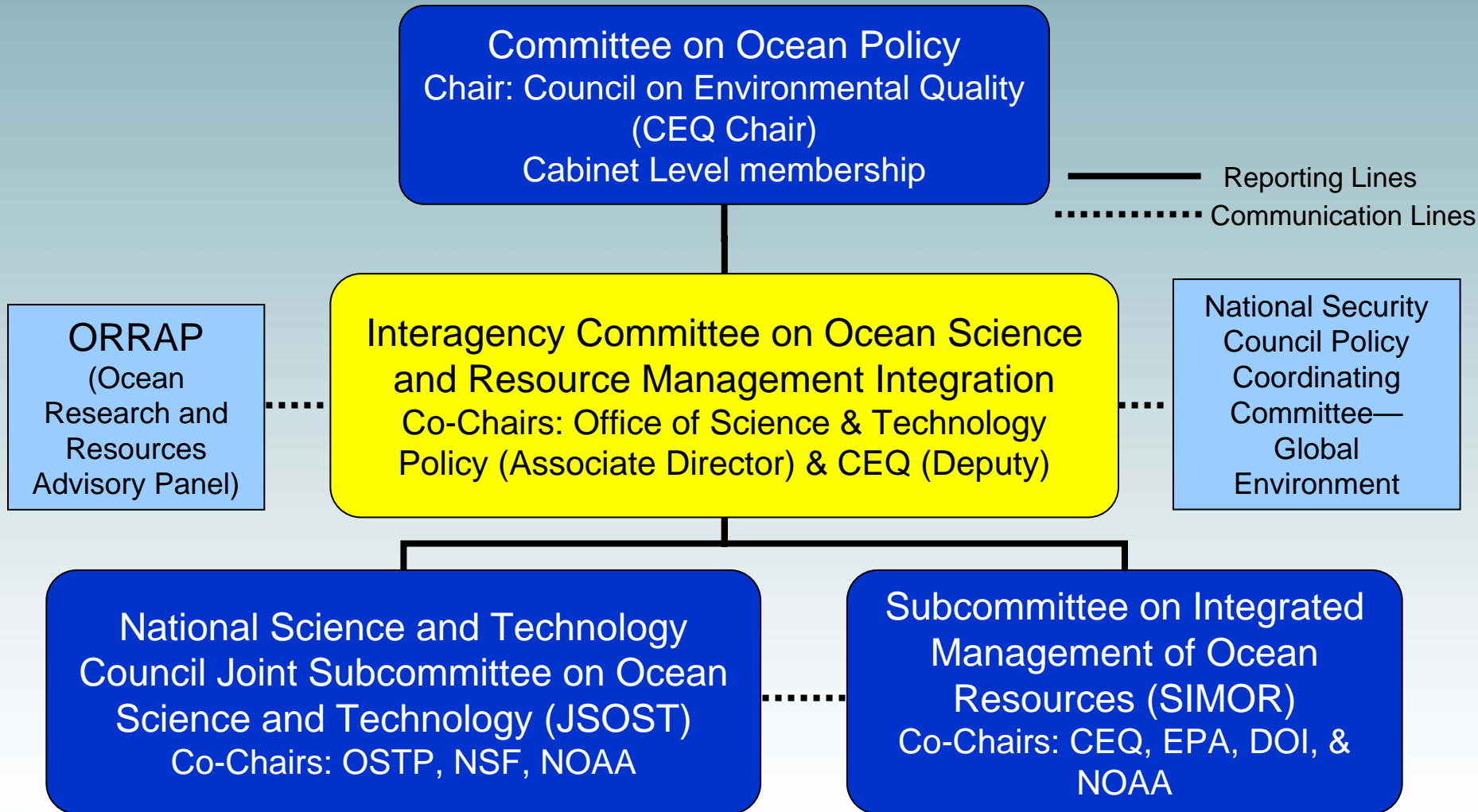
Released December 17, 2004



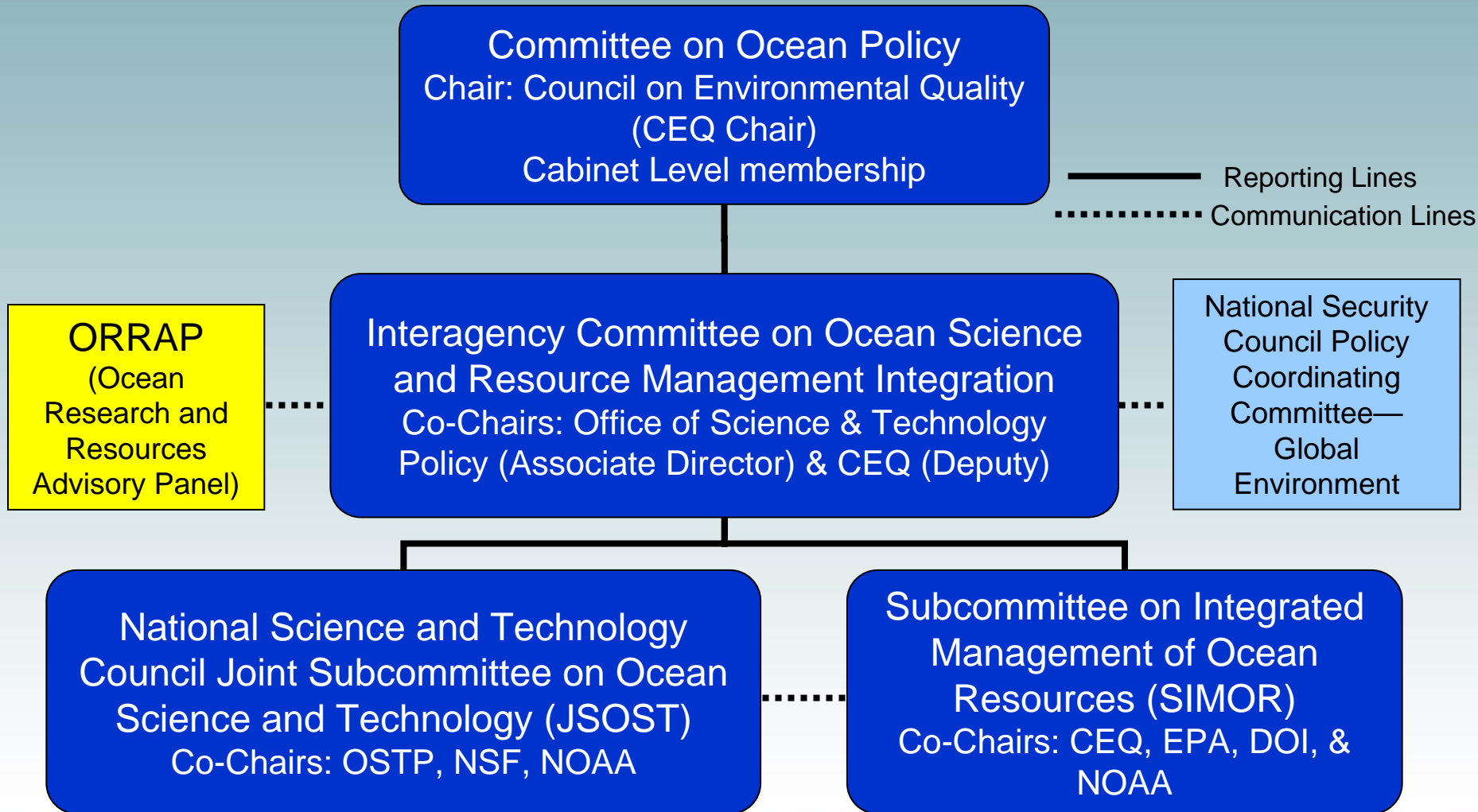
Coordinated Ocean Governance Structure



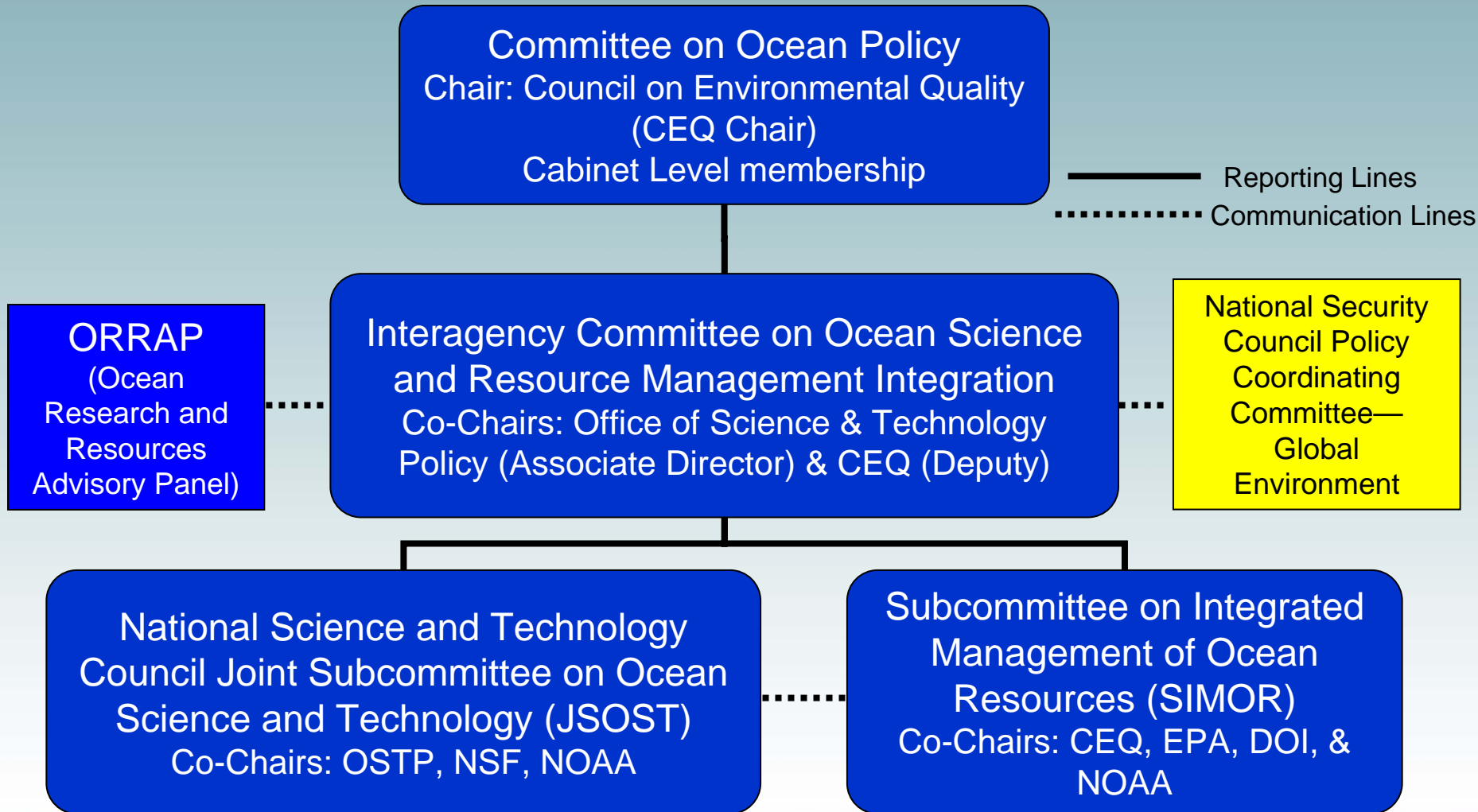
Coordinated Ocean Governance Structure



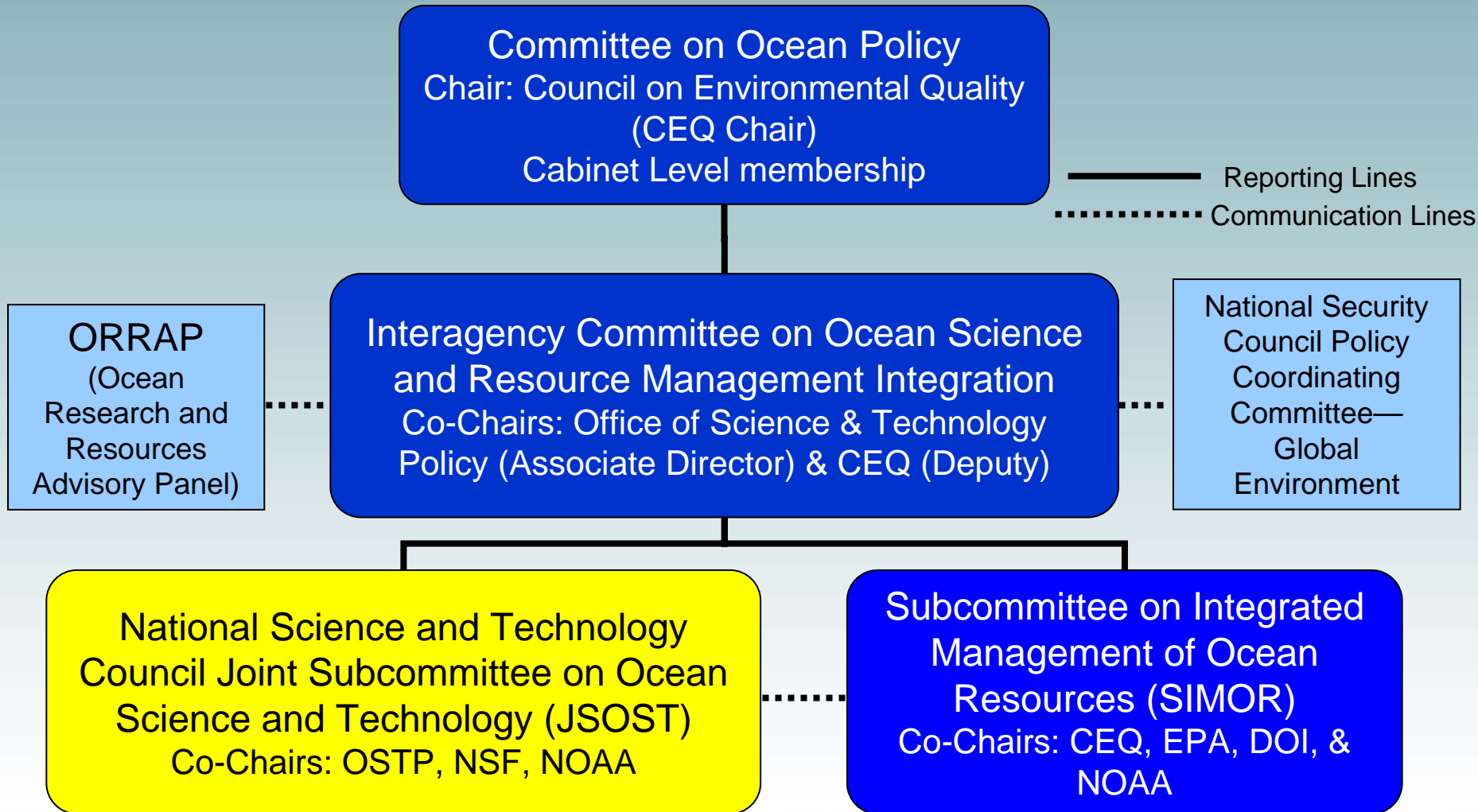
Coordinated Ocean Governance Structure



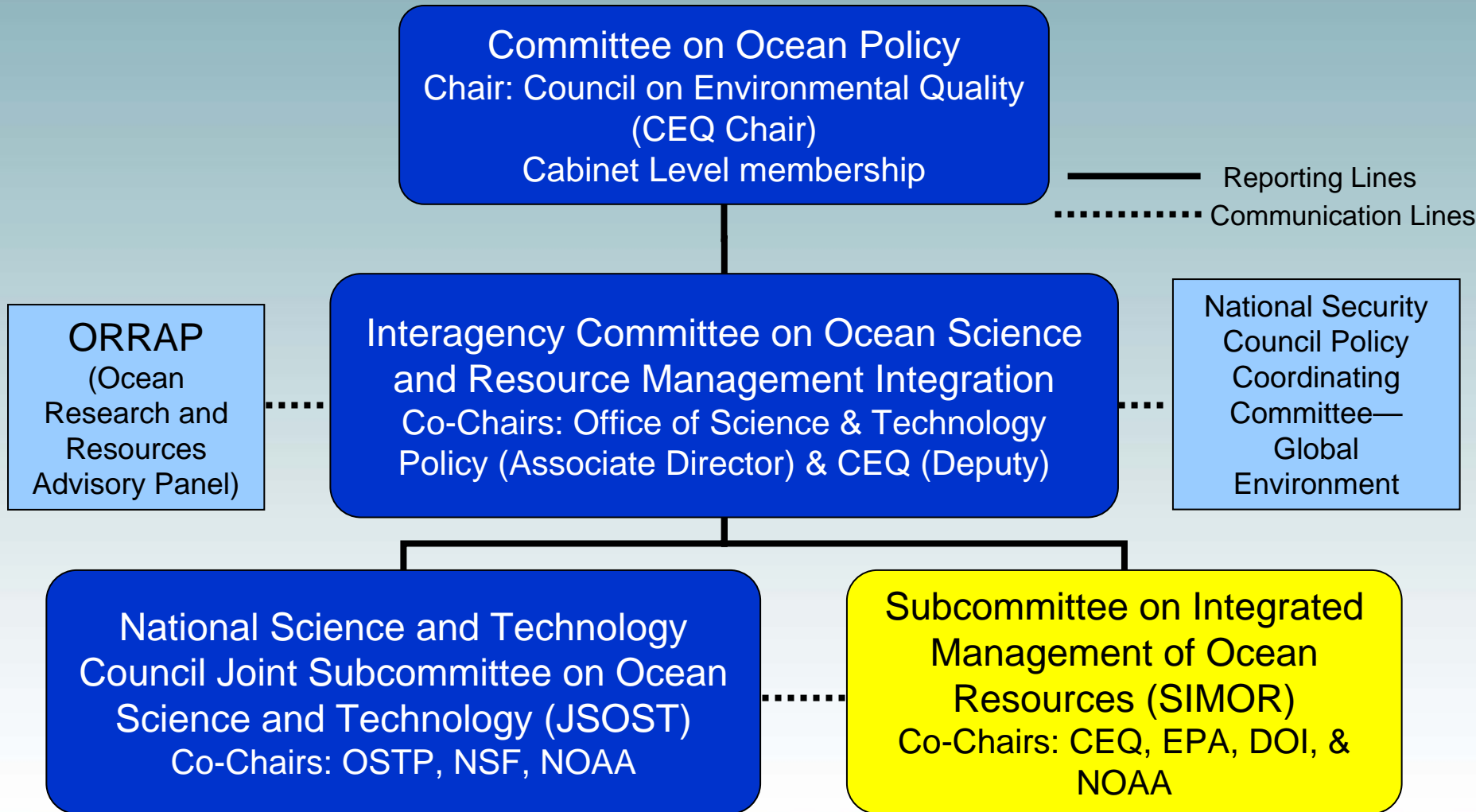
Coordinated Ocean Governance Structure



Coordinated Ocean Governance Structure



Coordinated Ocean Governance Structure



Approach

- Focus on achieving meaningful results
- Ensure continued conservation of coastal and marine resources while at the same time ensuring that the American public enjoys and benefits from those same resources
- Employ the best science and data to inform our decision making
- Continue to work toward an ecosystem-based approach
- Encourage innovation and employ economic incentives over mandates
- Work with States, tribal and local governments, communities and interested individuals to advance mutual objectives and ensure that programs are conducting effective and coordinated ocean and coastal activities



Ocean Action Plan Outline

- I. Enhancing Ocean Leadership and Coordination
- II. Advancing our Understanding of the Oceans, Coasts and Great Lakes
- III. Enhancing the Use and Conservation of our Ocean, Coastal and Great Lakes Resources
- IV. Managing Coasts and Their Watersheds
- V. Supporting Marine Transportation
- VI. Advancing International Ocean Science and Policy



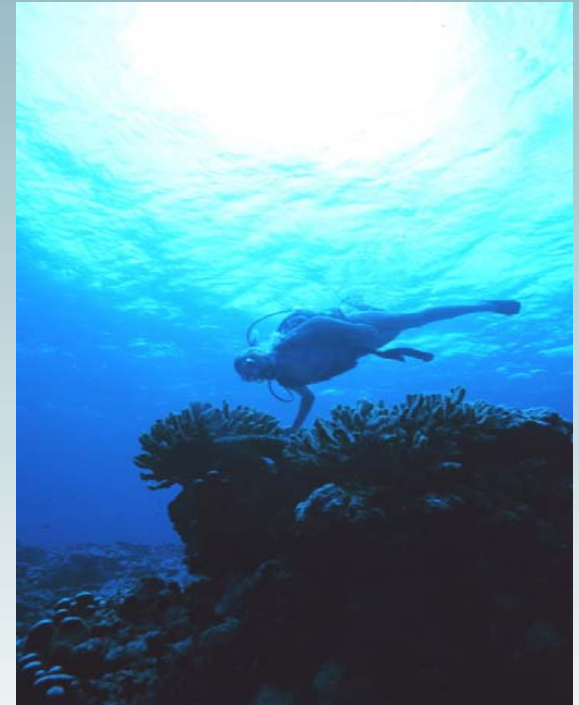
Enhancing Ocean Leadership and Coordination

- Cabinet-Level Committee on Ocean Policy
- Legislation Giving NOAA More Flexibility
- Regional Partnerships in Gulf of Mexico, Great Lakes, etc.
- Community Efforts



Advancing our Understanding of Oceans, Coasts and Great Lakes

- Ocean Research Priorities Plan
- Integrated Ocean Observing System
- Integrated Ocean Mapping Initiative
- Greater International Capability
- Education Initiatives



Enhancing Use and Conservation of Ocean, Coastal and Great Lakes Resources

- Sustainable Fisheries
- Coral Conservation
- Protected Species
- Aquaculture
- Marine Managed Areas
- Maritime Heritage



Managing Coasts and Their Watersheds

- Coastal Habitat
- Invasive Species
- Water Pollution



Supporting Marine Transportation

- New Cabinet-Level Committee on the Marine Transportation System
- National Freight Action Agenda
- Address Vessel Pollution



Advancing International Ocean Policy and Science

- Join Law of the Sea Treaty
- White Water to Blue Water
- Discharges at Sea
- Large Marine Ecosystems
- Global Marine Assessment



Next Steps

- Implementation of the Ocean Action Plan
- Communicate progress and activities
- Improve mechanisms and opportunities for external input
- Work with Congress to move legislation
- Address activities and areas that move beyond the Ocean Action Plan



Subcommittee on Integrated Management of Ocean Resources (SIMOR)

**Co-Chairs: Mary Glackin, NOAA, Chris Kearney, DOI,
Diane Regas, EPA, Gerhard Kuska, CEQ**

- Includes members from all agencies represented on the Committee on Ocean Policy
- Reports to the Interagency Committee on Ocean Science and Resource Management Integration (Aqua Box)
- Started work on March 7, 2005
- Operate under a Statement of Purpose and an initial Work Priorities Document
- SIMOR meets monthly; Working groups meet as needed



SIMOR Work Plans

- Organized by 4 Priority Areas, as approved by the Committee on Ocean Policy
 - Support Regional and Local Collaboration
 - Facilitate Use of Ocean Science and Technology in Ocean Resource Management
 - Enhance Ocean, Coastal, and Great Lakes Resource Management to Improve Use and Conservation
 - Enhance Ocean Education



SIMOR Work Plans

- 21 actions supported by 19 agencies
 - Responding to states
 - Other opportunities for improvement
- Short-term deliverables & long-term efforts
- Implementation with existing resources



SIMOR Initial Work Priority #1

Support Regional and Local Collaboration

- Identify and promote opportunities for collaboration among:
 - Federal, State, Tribal, and local authorities
 - Private Sector
 - International Partners
 - Other Stakeholders
- Identify steps to strengthen the use of an ecosystem approach to decision-making related to water, land, and resource management that do not erode local and State authorities and are flexible enough to address local conditions.



SIMOR Initial Work Priority #2

Facilitate Use of Ocean Science and Technology in Ocean Resource Management

- Work with the Joint Subcommittee on Ocean Science and Technology (JSOST) and others to foster the development and use of:
 - Management Tools
 - Strategies and
 - Information
- Based on best available science and technology



SIMOR Initial Work Priority #3

Enhance Ocean, Coastal, and Great Lakes Resource Management to Improve Use and Conservation

- Focus Areas:
 - Identify next steps to enhance interagency coordination on use/conservation of marine resources
 - Examine ways to improve efficiency and effectiveness of interagency ocean, coastal, and Great Lakes resource management activities
 - Work with States to evaluate/recommend ways to improve water quality programs



SIMOR Initial Work Priority #4

Enhance Ocean Education

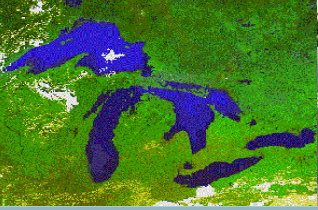
- Collaborate with JSOST to identify opportunities and articulate priorities for enhancing:
 - Ocean Education
 - Outreach
 - Capacity Building



SIMOR Moving Forward

- Planned finalization of plans within a month
- Continue activities begun under work plans (i.e. community workshops) and implement identified agency roles for Work Plan actions
- Begin more fully engaging and partnering with stakeholders → Expand interactions with external partners including States, local and tribal authorities, academia, industry, and non-governmental organizations
- Adapt other activities as needed (i.e. Gulf of Mexico Regional Partnership as a result of post-Hurricane Katrina needs)
- Collaborate with JSOST on the development of the Ocean Research Priorities Plan, developing and providing input through a Federal/State Resource Manager Task Team
- Develop collaboration strategies with other interagency coordination groups (National Dredging Team, Marine Debris Coordinating Committee, Committee on the Marine Transportation System)
- Work with ORRAP to obtain independent advice





Thank You

More information at the
Committee on Ocean Policy website:

www.ocean.ceq.gov

