



Working Table of Contents – Draft Final Report

The Oceans Act of 2000 established the 16-member U.S. Commission on Ocean Policy to make recommendations for a coordinated and comprehensive national ocean policy for the United States. During its fact-finding phase, the Commission held 15 meetings and heard 440 presentations from individuals around the country.

In the fall 2003, the Commission will issue a final report to the President and Congress of its findings and recommendations. The Working Table of Contents is the initial framework for the Commission's report. As the title indicates, this is a living document which will continue to evolve based on ongoing analyses, discussions, deliberations, writing and editing. Because the Commission is in its report drafting phase, some sections of the outline reflect more detail than others. This should not be interpreted as an indication of the relative importance of the sections. As the report develops, the Table of Contents will be updated on an ongoing basis, with the date clearly indicated at the top of the document.

Working Table of Contents UPDATED: JUNE 26, 2003

COVER PAGE

LETTER TO PRESIDENT/CONGRESS

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PREFACE

- Why the Commission Was Formed
- Oceans Are of Vital Importance to the U.S.
- Congress Acknowledged by Passing the *Oceans Act*
- History of U.S. Ocean Policy
- Commission Process
- Organization of the Report

Acknowledgments

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY (*To include selected overarching findings and recommendations*)

CHAPTER I : OUR OCEANS: A NATIONAL ASSET

- A. Overview
- B. State of the Oceans
 - 1. Ocean Assets/Value
 - 2. Ocean Areas (*include text describing jurisdictional areas with graphic*)
 - 3. Current Status
 - 4. Trends and Forecasts
- C. Goals of a National Ocean Policy
- D. Guiding Principles
- E. Elements of a Desirable Future

CHAPTER II : A COMPREHENSIVE AND COORDINATED APPROACH

- A. Overview: The Need for Integrated and Ecosystem-based Ocean Planning and Management
- B. Executive Branch Leadership: National Ocean Policy Framework
 - 1. Assistant to the President
 - 2. Office of Ocean Policy in the Executive Office of the President
 - 3. National Ocean Council (Federal)
 - 4. Presidential Council of Advisors on Ocean Policy (non-Federal)
 - 5. Other Framework Components
- C. Legislative Branch Leadership: Legislative Implementation Act
- D. State/Regional/Local Leadership: New Governance Concepts
- E. Summary of Recommendations

CHAPTER III : LIVING ON THE EDGE

- A. Overview
- B. Overall Management Approach
 - 1. Federal Role
 - 2. State Role
 - 3. Local Role
 - 4. Watershed Management Approach
 - 5. Relationship to the National and Regional Ocean Councils
- C. Specific Management Challenges
 - 1. Planning and Management of Growth
 - 2. Protection of Coastal Waters (including point and nonpoint sources of pollution)
 - 3. Protection of Coastal Habitats
 - 4. Protection of People and Property from Natural Hazards
 - 5. Management of Shorelines and Sediment

6. Coastal Tourism and Recreation
7. A National Watershed Monitoring System
 - a. Existing Watershed Monitoring Programs
 - i. EPA Programs
 - ii. USGS Programs
 - iii. NOAA Programs
 - iv. Other Programs
 - b. Interagency Monitoring Initiatives
 - i. Intergovernmental Task Force
 - ii. National Water Quality Monitoring Council
 - iii. CENR Initiative
 - iv. EPA–USDA Action Plan
 - c. Framework for a National Monitoring Strategy
 - i. Ensuring Comprehensive, Coordinated Coverage
 - ii. Designating a Lead Coordinator
 - iii. Designating Lead Federal Agencies
 - iv. Creating Regional Flexibility
 - v. Developing Consistent, Comparable Technical Procedures
 - vi. Integrating Data across Time and Space
 - vii. Ensuring Representative Sampling
 - viii. Monitoring Best Management Practices
 - ix. Translating Data into Useful Information
 - x. Improving Access to Data
 - xi. Expanding the Existing Monitoring System

D. Maritime Commerce and Transportation

1. Maritime Commerce and its Importance
2. The Maritime Transportation System
 - a. Ports
 - b. Vessels
 - c. Navigation Aids
 - d. Ship Building and Repair
 - e. Harbors, Channels and Waterways
3. Projected Demand on the Nation’s MTS
 - a. Domestic Maritime Commerce
4. Positioning the Nation’s MTS to Meet Future Demands
5. Improved Data Acquisition and Long-range Forecasting
6. Improved Port Planning and Permitting Processes
7. Develop and Implement a National Freight Policy
8. Comprehensive Port Management Planning
 - a. Port Development and Dredging
 - i. Port Development as Part of Coastal Management
 - ii. Streamlining the Planning and Approval Process
 - b. Support for the Comprehensive Port Planning Approach
 - i. Research and Monitoring
 - ii. Technical Expertise and Resource Allocation
 - c. Funding Issues and Alternatives

E. Summary of Recommendations

CHAPTER IV: ENHANCING OCEAN VALUE AND VITALITY

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B. Living Marine Resources

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- a. History of LMR Management
 - b. Status of Living Marine Resources
 - c. Restoration of Lost Economic Value
2. Ecosystem-based Management Approach
 - a. Sustainability
 - b. Precautionary Approach
 - c. Marine Biodiversity
 - d. Habitat Protection
 - e. Marine Protected Areas
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 - i. Fishery Management Authority and Jurisdiction
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 - Training New Council Members
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 - Ensuring Independent Peer Review
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 - Dedicated Access Privileges
 - Reducing Overcapitalization of Fishing Fleets
 - iv. Fisheries Research
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 - b. Marine Mammal Protection Act
 - i. Unclear Permitting Standards
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 - iii. Inefficient Managerial Jurisdiction
 - c. Coral Reefs
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 - Research Priorities
 - Monitoring and Assessment
 - Public Outreach
 - Damage Recovery
 - ii. International Activities
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 - iv. Implementing Aquaculture Policy
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- ii. Enhancing Coordinated Training and Information Sharing
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 - Integrating VMS into a Data Collection and Dissemination System
 - Increasing VMS Reporting Capabilities
 - Expanding the Application of VMS
 - Charging VMS Users for Access to a Public Resource
 - Using Other Technologies to Enhance Enforcement
- iv. Focusing on Enforceable Regulatory Regimes
- v. Strengthening Case Processing and Penalties
- vi. Emphasizing Public Outreach and Education

C. Marine Pollution

- 1. Background
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 - b. Marine Debris
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- 1. Background
- 2. Overall Management Approach
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- 3. Specific Management Challenges
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 - i. Oil & Gas
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E. Ocean Commerce, Security, and Safety

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 - 2. R&D Partnerships and Roles
 - 3. Exploration – A New Thrust to Discover More About the Ocean’s Role in the Earth’s Systems
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 2. Growing Pains for Data Management
 3. The National Environmental Data Management System
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 - ii. Access to Source Observational Data
 - c. Data Assimilation and Modeling
 - d. Dissemination of Information Products and Forecasts
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2. Promoting the Oceans as Science Ambassadors
3. Building Ocean Awareness
4. Incorporating Ocean Sciences in Science Education Standards
5. Teaching the Teachers
 - a. Prepping Teachers in Science and Math
 - b. Exploiting the Power of Ocean Sciences
6. Bringing the Oceans to Students
 - a. Upgrading Ocean-based Curriculum Materials

- b. Using Scientific Data as a Teaching Tool
 - c. Getting Students' Feet Wet
 - d. Using Technology in Science Education
 - e. Engaging Underrepresented Groups
 - f. Researching and Evaluating Educational Programs
 - 7. Bridging the Gap Between Research and Education
 - 8. Pulling It Together

 - C. Ocean Sciences: Higher Education and the Workforce
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 - 2. Strength Through Human Diversity
 - 3. Engaging Undergraduates

 - D. Informal Education: Increasing the Public's Ocean Awareness
 - 1. A "Second-Tier" Concern
 - 2. A Vast Domain
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 - b. Federal Informal Education Activities
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 - b. Increased, Sustained Funding
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 - d. Reaching the Community
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 - D. Summary of Conclusions and Recommendations
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OCEANS ACT OF 2000 (P.L. 106-256)