

## MEMORANDUM FOR DISTRIBUTION

**FROM:** Scott Rayder, Chief of Staff

**RE:** Guidelines for Referencing the U.S. Commission on Ocean Policy

**DATE:** July 27, 2004



### Overview

The preliminary report of the U.S. Commission on Ocean Policy includes recommendations for actions which are either already underway or that we are planning to announce. The White House Council on Environmental Quality (CEQ) has told the Interagency Ocean Policy Group tasked with generating the Administration's response to the report, that agencies can begin referencing these Ocean Commission response activities on a limited basis. We will need to get CEQ's approval each time, but this will be an informal review and you are encouraged to submit items for consideration.

Two announcements have been made so far and info can be found at CEQ's Ocean Commission website <http://ocean.ceq.gov> :

- The transmittal to Congress of a draft NOAA Organic Act on June 10, 2004, was called the Administration's first response to the Ocean Commission.
- EPA's July 19<sup>th</sup> announcement of \$15 million for the Targeted Watersheds Grant Program. This is FY04 money and the announcement highlights which watersheds are eligible for the program.

### Types of Activities Warranting Ocean Commission References

- Initiation of program or milestone for existing program that directly deals with an Ocean Commission recommendation.
- Release of report that directly deals with an Ocean Commission recommendation. For example, the upcoming release of the draft *Strategic Plan for a U.S. Integrated Earth Observing System* for public comment.
- Award of significant grant that directly deals with an Ocean Commission recommendation.
- Speech by a member of NOAA Leadership on an issue or to an audience highlighted by the Ocean Commission report.
- High level constituent meetings, workshops, or other events.

### Approval Process

If you have an activity or announcement that you believe responds to a recommendation in the Ocean Commission report, contact Stephanie Bailenson ([stephanie.bailenson@noaa.gov](mailto:stephanie.bailenson@noaa.gov) or 202-482-6797) and she will facilitate review and approval by CEQ. It should take no more than 2-3 days to get a response from CEQ.