



Presentation at the
SIMOR Workshop
August 24, 2006



The U.S. Ocean Action Plan and SIMOR:

Making our Oceans, Coasts, and Great Lakes Cleaner,
Healthier and More Productive

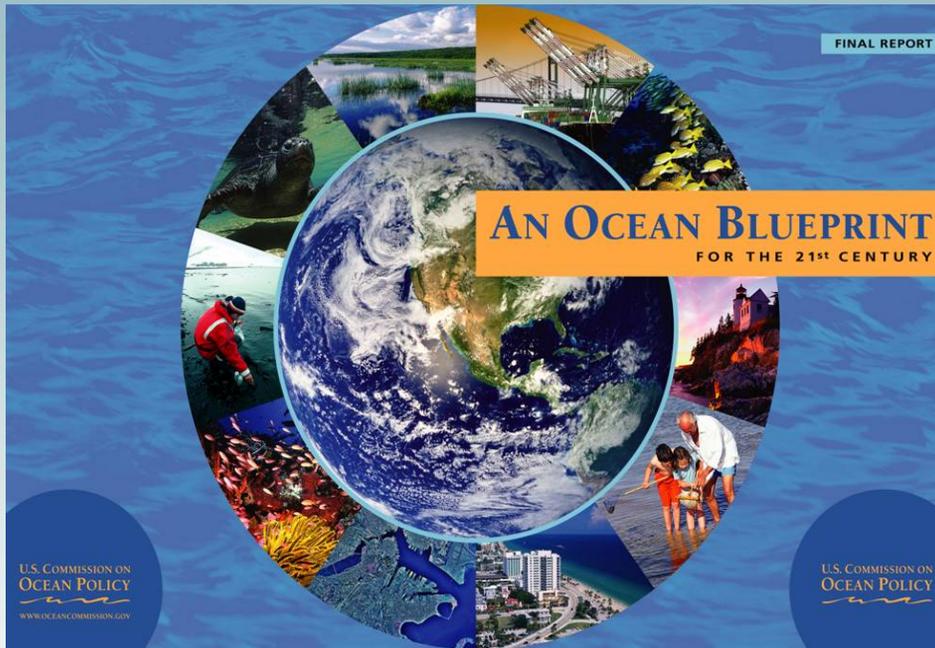
Dr. Gerhard F. Kuska

Council on Environmental Quality

Co-Chair, Subcommittee on Integrated Management of Ocean Resources



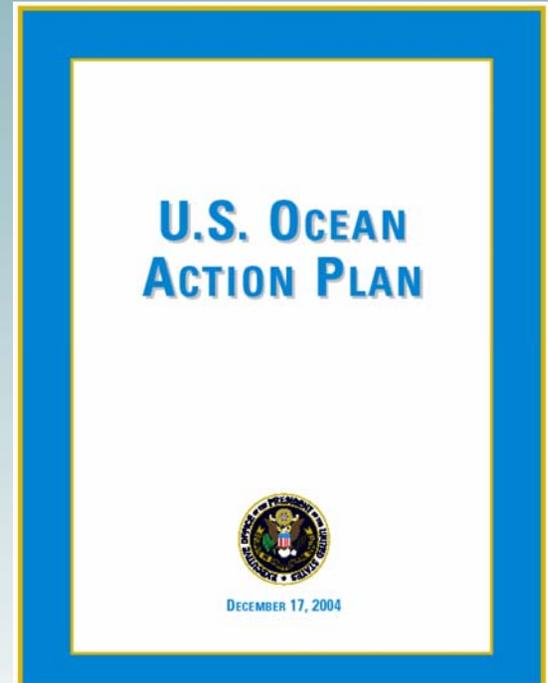
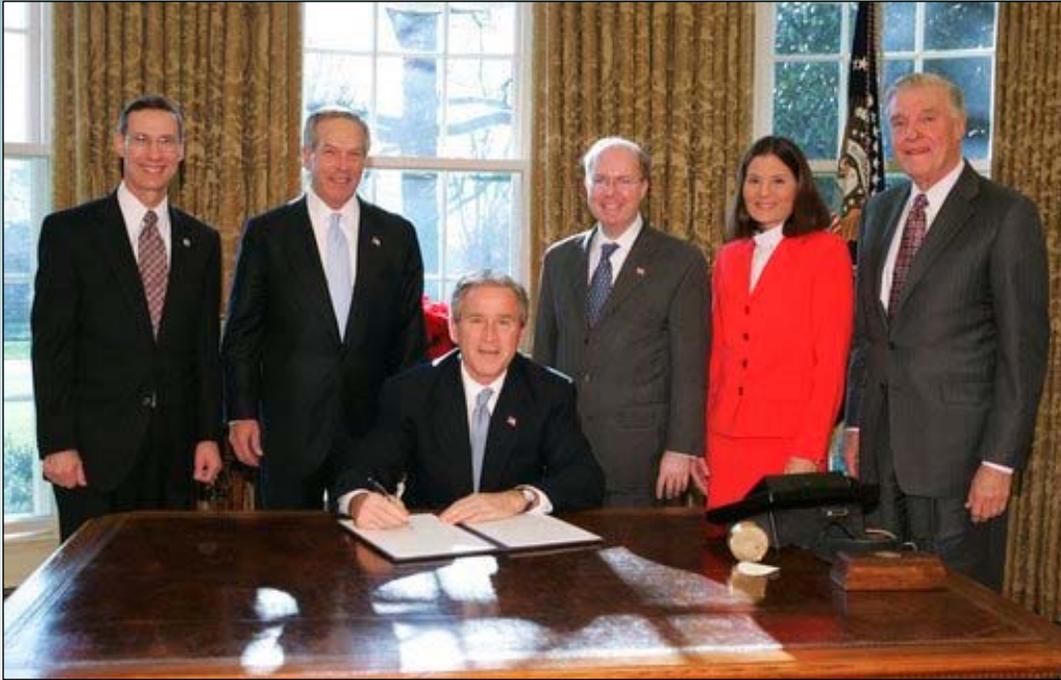
An Ocean Blueprint for the 21st Century



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

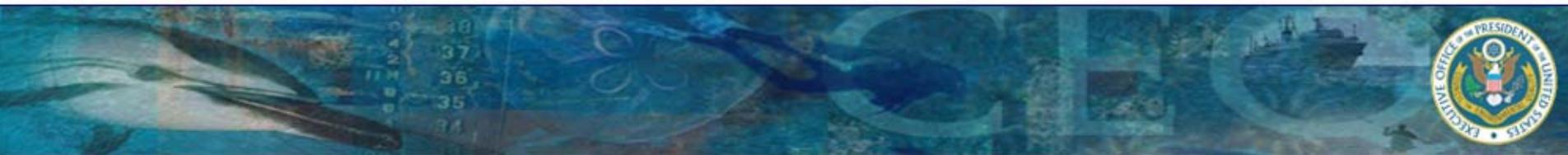


Administration Response

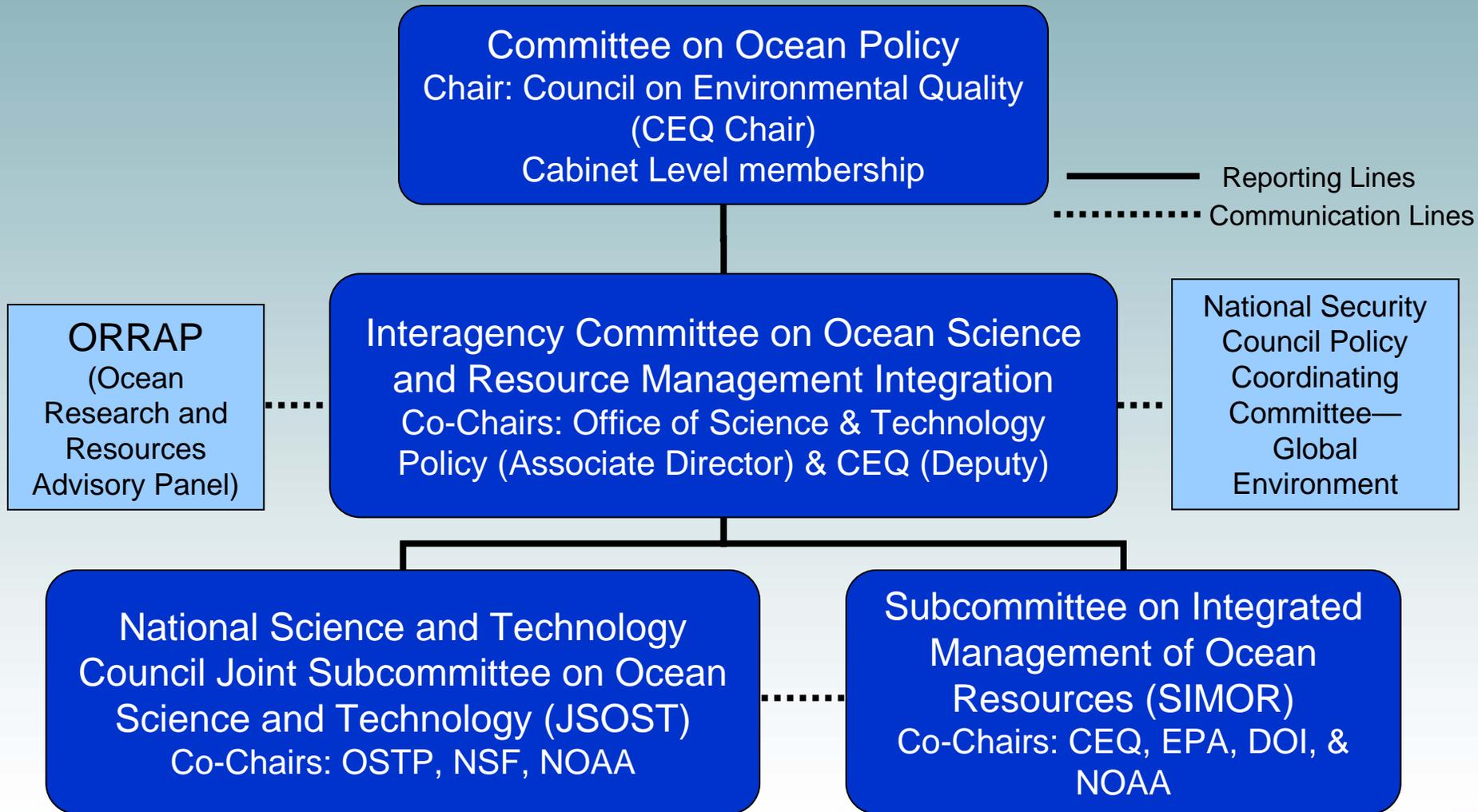


Executive Order 13366 and U.S. Ocean Action Plan

Released December 17, 2004



Coordinated Ocean Governance Structure



Ocean Action Plan 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



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)

- Includes members from all agencies represented on the Committee on Ocean Policy
- Started work on March 7, 2005; holds monthly meetings
- Operating under a Statement of Purpose and an initial Work Priorities Document
- SIMOR Work Plan approved by the ICOSRMI in March, 2006



SIMOR Work Plan

- Organized by 4 Priority Areas approved by ICOSRMI in April 2005
- 21 actions supported by 19 agencies
- Initiates short-term deliverables and long-term efforts
- Represents efforts that can be accomplished with existing resources

Implementing the Work Priorities
of the Subcommittee on Integrated
Management of Ocean Resources
(SIMOR)

Work Plan

March 2006



Highlights of Expected Outcomes

Priority Area 1: Support Regional & Local Collaborations

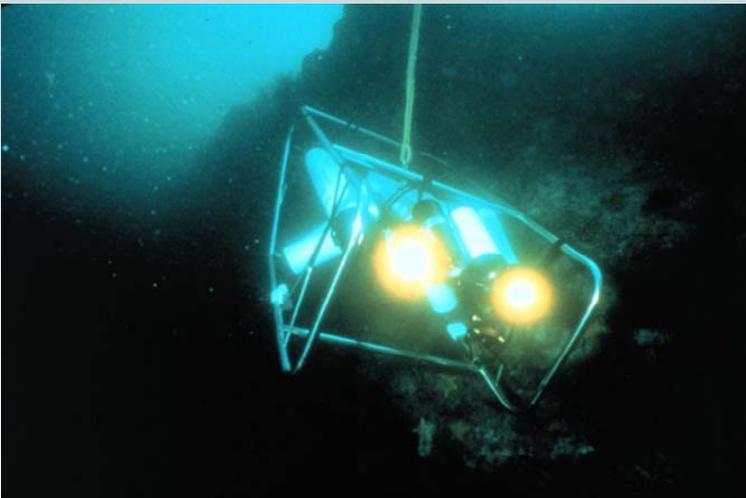
- Increased collaboration in the Gulf of Mexico
 - Lessons learned and best practices (i.e. water quality, wetland restoration)
- Great Lakes lessons learned
 - Clean marina certifications
 - Best practices for managing dredged material and sediment
- Improved federal coordination in the northeast; support the Northeast Regional Oceans Council
- Support local communities with the most effective techniques for watershed protection
- State decision making supported by Federal ocean economics data
- Improved management of urban estuaries



Highlights of Expected Outcomes

Priority Area 2: Facilitate Use of Ocean Science & Technology

- Regionally-networked research plans based on resource management priorities
- Federal, State, and local collaboration for improved application of science to management
- Integrated ecosystem approach to research with common data standards to support decision making
- Routine sharing of new science from the research community to resource managers
- Use of research results in operations and use of operationally-collected measurements in research



Highlights of Expected Outcomes

Priority Area 3: Improve Use & Conservation

- Interagency coordination structure for sustainable use and conservation of marine resources
 - Comprehensive inventory of interagency activities and areas of interest
 - Efficient and inclusive interagency communications network
 - Readily available and easily utilized data on chemical, pathogenic, and toxin constituents that affect the risks to human health of eating shellfish



- Model for federal-state collaboration to improve water quality programs and reduce the impacts of land-based pollution on coasts



Highlights of Expected Outcomes

Priority Area 4: Enhance Ocean Education

- Ocean Education Implementation Plan
 - Comprehensive inventory of current ocean education activities
 - Metrics suitable for evaluation of Federal ocean education programs
 - Readily available and easily utilized data from ocean and earth observations systems for teachers, students, and the general public
 - Understanding of the status of the current and future ocean workforce and areas for additional efforts
 - Host a high-level ocean education event



Status of Work Plan Implementation

- Interagency work groups responsible for implementing each action item, with SIMOR oversight
- Work groups drafted action item implementation plans:
 - Key milestones
 - Expected outcomes/deliverables
 - Anticipated dates of completion
 - Outreach to external partners
- Draft implementation plans submitted for all 21 Work Plan action items
 - Represent extensive interagency coordination and effort
 - Generally respond to SIMOR Work Plan charge
 - Several seek input/direction from SIMOR
- Input from SIMOR members at July meeting
- Following opportunity for SIMOR Co-chair discussion, feedback will be provided to all work groups and implementation will proceed





Thank You

More information at the
Committee on Ocean Policy website:

www.ocean.ceq.gov

