

**March 2008****In the Headlines**

**Report Card Continues to Receive Press Coverage.** Several regional newspapers have editorialized about the findings of the 2007 U.S. Ocean Policy Report Card including *New York Times*, *The Providence Journal*, *The Tampa Tribune*, *Seattle Post-Intelligencer*, *Newsday*, and *Asbury Park Press*. Editorials ranged in topic, featuring commentary on regional ocean collaborations, criticism of federal inaction, and support for U.S. accession to the Law of the Sea Convention. In addition, Woods Hole Oceanographic Institution's magazine *Oceanus* featured an article on the Joint Ocean Commission Initiative and the burgeoning need for ocean policy reforms at the national level. All of the recent editorials can be viewed at the following site, [www.jointoceancommission.org/news-in-the-news.html](http://www.jointoceancommission.org/news-in-the-news.html).

**Joint Initiative Activities**

**Watkins Addresses the Council on Foreign Relations.** Joint Initiative Co-Chair Admiral James D. Watkins (U.S. Navy, Retired) participated in a panel discussion, "Strange Bedfellows: The Law of the Sea and Its Stakeholders" at the Council on Foreign Relations. The March 20 event also included John Norton Moore, Director of the University of Virginia's Center for National Security Law and was moderated by Scott Borgerson, International Affairs Fellow at the Council on Foreign Relations. Emphasizing the importance of U.S. accession to the treaty, Admiral Watkins underscored its political challenges and the need for outreach to Senate Republicans and action by the members of the Council on Foreign Relations. Furthermore, Admiral Watkins called on members to publicly contest the exaggerations of opponents and press for strong and active support by President Bush.

**Items of Note**

**Ocean Conservation Featured as Educational Theme at Annual White House Egg Roll.** At this year's White House egg roll on March 24, children and their families were educated on the importance of ocean conservation while partaking in the annual historic event. President Bush encouraged children to develop into environmental stewards, equating ocean conservation as an important aspect of public service. In addition to rolling eggs, children and parents could view and touch displays on marine life and received information on cleaning up marine debris. First Lady Laura Bush also honored volunteers from the Ocean Conservancy, Keep America Beautiful, and Take Pride in America.