

MEDIA ADVISORY

For Immediate Release
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New Report Card on National Ocean Policy: Oceans Being Left Behind, Low GPA

**Oceans Still in Peril More Than a Year after
U.S. Ocean Commission Report
Hurricane Recovery Effort Highlights Impact of Oceans
on Economy Environment**

**Bipartisan Leaders, the Honorable Leon E. Panetta and
Admiral James D. Watkins, to Highlight Opportunities for Progress**

**9:30 am, Friday, February 3 at National Press Club, Holeman Lounge
(529 14th Street NW, Washington, DC)**

**Out-of-town Media: Conference Call-In to Press Conference Available
Dial: 1-800-531-3250
Conference Id: 6673822**

Washington, DC - National ocean policy reform gets below average to failing grades in six key subject areas according to a new report card to be released by the bipartisan *Joint Ocean Commission Initiative* at a National Press Club briefing, 9:30 am Friday, February 3, 2006.

One year after the release of the U.S. Commission on Ocean Policy's historic report and over two years from the release of the Pew Oceans Commission report, some progress on ocean policy reform has been made. However, hundreds of recommendations made by the two Commissions have not been addressed. This lack of progress is reflected in the Initiative's

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U.S. Ocean Policy Report Card, which assesses the initial reaction to the reports, and also assigns grades for actions in 2005 in the subject areas of national ocean governance reform; funding; fisheries management reform; state and regional ocean governance reform; science and education; and international leadership.

Admiral James D. Watkins and the Honorable Leon E. Panetta, co-chairs of the Joint Ocean Commission Initiative, will discuss these areas of concern and highlight opportunities available to Congress, the Administration, and states for moving forward more quickly on implementing a comprehensive ocean policy at all levels of government.

The impacts and extended recovery time associated with Hurricanes Katrina and Rita showcase the importance of the oceans, coasts, and Great Lakes to our nation's economy and environment, underscoring the need for a long-term strategy to address problems that continue to plague us due to a lack of understanding and appreciation of our nation's key natural resources.

The Joint Ocean Commission Initiative is a collaborative effort of the U.S. Commission on Ocean Policy and Pew Oceans Commission to catalyze ocean policy reform. The Initiative is guided by a ten-member Task Force, five from each Commission, and led by Admiral James D. Watkins and The Honorable Leon E. Panetta, chairs of the U.S. Commission and Pew Commission, respectively. The primary goal of the Joint Ocean Commission Initiative is to accelerate the pace of change that results in meaningful ocean policy reform. For more information about the Joint Ocean Commission Initiative, visit www.jointoceancommission.org.