

Exploration

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EXPLORATION

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DR. COLEMAN: Our next area that we have not

1 aired publicly is the area of exploration. We spent a
2 good bit of time on this because this area has the
3 potential to excite the public on our oceans and on the
4 coast. Again, we had four major recommendations.

5 The first one is we support strongly the two
6 panels that have reviewed exploration priorities for the
7 nation. The first, is the President's Panel on Ocean
8 Exploration and the second one is the National Research
9 Council's Panel for the Establishment of a Robust Long-
10 Term, and I stress that "long-term," "Effort in Global
11 Ocean Exploration."

12 The oceans, as you know, occupy 72 percent of
13 our planet, and yet we have only explored a very minor
14 part. We have also under this topic, although it is not
15 a specific recommendation, but we will prioritize some
16 of those areas that have been underexplored in the past
17 and recommend that they have a high priority for future
18 funding.

19 We strongly recommend that the program be bold
20 and innovative so that we can get a broad consensus on
21 its benefits to the nation. This is a public outreach
22 area. As you will see throughout the report, this

1 outreach is very important.

2 The third recommendation is to explore and map
3 the continental margin and the EEZ of the U.S. and it
4 should be a program component of any exploration program
5 that takes place. The strategy for doing this will be
6 recommended within the report, and we did have a
7 considerable amount of discussion on this. When we say
8 exploring and mapping, we not only mean the water column
9 or the atmosphere above it, but the bottom and the
10 sub-bottom of the ocean itself.

11 The last recommendation exploration is we
12 recommend a policy which asserts that ocean research,
13 education and exploration are linked to expand our
14 understanding of the oceanic realm. Very often,
15 exploration will go out and research will be conducted
16 that does not fit into the educational program. We
17 again will discuss under that topic our strategy for
18 accomplishing this.

