
UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF
COMMERCE

NEWS

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NATIONAL
OCEANIC AND
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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

March 17, 2004

**NOAA TO JOIN FEDERAL AND CARIBBEAN PARTNERS IN WHITE WATER TO
BLUE WATER CONFERENCE**

Miami Conference Aims to Unite Efforts to Protect Caribbean Ecosystems

Over 600 representatives from 31 countries of the wider Caribbean region and other coastal nations, the travel and tourism industry, academia, international organizations, the private sector and environmental groups will meet at the White Water to Blue Water (WW2BW) conference in Miami, March 22-26. The conference is designed to forge partnerships that safeguard the Caribbean's marine and coastal ecosystems. Participants will also spend the week attending workshops that cover topics such as managing oil spills, fighting coral diseases, environmentally sound marine transportation, and instituting a reef-friendly mooring buoy program.

The conference, sponsored by the United States government, kicks off the White Water to Blue Water Partnership, an initiative announced at the World Summit on Sustainable Development in 2002. The National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) is an agency of the U.S. Department of Commerce.

WHAT: White Water to Blue Water Conference

WHEN: March 22-26, 2004

WHERE: Hyatt Regency Miami
400 South East Second Avenue
Miami, Fla.

WHO: Retired Navy Vice Adm. Conrad C. Lautenbacher, Ph.D., undersecretary of commerce for oceans and atmosphere and NOAA administrator
Paula Dobriansky, undersecretary of state for global affairs
John F. Turner, assistant secretary of state, Bureau of Oceans and International Environmental and Scientific Affairs

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Benjamin Grumbles, acting assistant administrator of the Environmental Protection Agency, Office of Water

Media is invited to attend the conference. Announcements regarding a media briefing and additional media availabilities to follow. During the conference media may also contact public affairs representatives at (305) 679-3270 or by email at ww2bwpress@yahoo.com.

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On the Web:

NOAA: <http://www.noaa.gov>

NOAA WW2BW: <http://www.international.noaa.gov/ww2bw>

WW2BW: <http://www.ww2bw.org>

Conference information: <http://www.umiami.edu/ww2bw>