

Memorial Day is a time when millions of families head to beaches, lakes and other water vacation spots to enjoy the long weekend. To kick off the summer season, the President could announce two new executive actions that build on our progress in protecting the health of our oceans, beaches and coastlines:

- **Protecting Coral Reefs:** To protect the nation's most precious water resources for future generations, the President would direct the Secretary of Commerce and the Secretary of Interior to develop a plan to permanently protect coral reefs off the Northwest Hawaiian Islands (more than two-thirds of the coral reefs under U.S. jurisdiction).
- **Protecting Oceans, Beaches and Coastlines:** To protect public health and preserve our oceans, beaches and coastlines for future generations, the President would direct agencies to create a network of "marine protected areas" -- the equivalent of national monuments or parks in the ocean. In addition, EPA would use its authority to establish "no-pollution zones" that effectively preclude development activities such as offshore oil drilling, mining, aquaculture, or new sewage treatment plants in protected areas. This would protect both ocean waters and the health and safety of the millions of families that enjoy our nation's beaches each year.

In addition to these announcements, the President could highlight the Republican budget cuts to the environmental budget, and urge Congress to continue building on the progress we've made in protecting public health and the environment by fully funding the nation's environmental priorities.

To make this announcement, the President could travel to a spot on the Chesapeake Bay to highlight the progress we've made in protecting our ocean waters and the challenges that remain. He could take a tour of the Bay on the NOAA ship Ferrel – a research vessel currently doing oceanographic research in the Chesapeake – and then make the announcement of the two new executive orders in a nearby state park – such as Sandy Point State Park -- or at a research center. He could be joined by children, leading researchers, environmental and public health groups, and others.

Site Notes:

Sandy Point MD State Park is located about 30 miles from DC on the Chesapeake Bay, off of Rt. 50 Northeast of Annapolis. This site may be the best option logistically as it offers large grass areas and sandy beaches, a dock to stage a boat/research vessel, plenty of parking space, and a scenic backdrop of the Bay and Sandy Point light house. The President could helo to the Naval Academy and then motorcade 10 miles to Sandy Point.

Contact is: Gerry Thompson, Park Manager, (410) 974-2149

Chesapeake Bay Maritime Museum located on the Eastern Bay where the Miles River runs into the Chesapeake in St. Michaels, MD. This site is about 70 miles from DC but the President could helo to Easton airport only a ten mile drive from the museum. The museum has a lighthouse, several open grass areas next to the water where an event could be staged and a beach

bandstand where summer concerts are often held. In addition, the museum has a docked cruise boat that is used for to take children on ecology tours. The boat has an on-board aquarium and testing materials to check the water health of the Miles River. They have accomodated festivals and weddings in the past of up to 2,500 people. I believe the facility is private and would have to be rented. Additional information about the museum can be found at www.cbmm.org

Smithsonian Environmental Research Center in Edgewater, MD (only 31 miles away on the Chesapeake Bay, south of Annapolis). One of the things this center studies is the ecology of coastal ecosystems: linkages of estuaries to terrestrial watersheds and oceanic processes; ecological impacts of commercial fisheries; causes and effects of plankton blooms; regulation of productivity in wetlands and estuaries. The center has a dock on the Rhodes River that flows directly into the Chesapeake Bay and provides many beautiful nature views. Not sure there is enough room near the water to stage a large event but it may be worth taking a look at.

Additional information about the center can be found at www.serc.si.edu/

Contact is: Mark Hadden, Education Dept. and event coordinator, (410) 798-4424 x218

The following sites are within 70 miles of The White House.

It is understood that we would prefer to stage an event on the water and maybe have the President get on board some sort of a boat/research vessel.

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Contact is: John Ford, event planner, (410) 745-2916

Echo Hill Outdoor School is located on a 350-acre working farm situated on the upper Eastern Shore of the Chesapeake Bay east of Baltimore. The school has plenty of space to stage an event including a mile stretch of sandy beach and fields to land helicopters. The school's remodeled sailboat used for ecology tours could provide an opportunity for the President to interact with children while looking at water samples. The school's primary mission is to create awareness in our youth about the natural environment. The Science and Ecology classes address specific information about particular environments, such as the role of wetlands in the Bay's water quality, and broader environmental concepts. Additional information about the school can be found at www.ehos.com

Contact is: Betsy McCowan, (410) 348-5880

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U.S. Navy Yard located on the Potomac River in Washington, DC. The NOAA ship could be docked in the backdrop with the Potomac River. NOAA did the swearing in of Admiral Fields at this site in July of 1999. The area could accommodate a crowd of 100-150.

University of Maryland Chesapeake Marine Biology Lab located on the Chesapeake in Solomons, MD. This lab is located where the Patuxent River flows into the Chesapeake Bay and is nearby Patuxent Naval Air Station for easy hello access. The lab itself does not provide a beautiful photo but there is a dock to stage a boat/research vessel.

I'm waiting to hear back from Verna Harrison (Assist. Sec. for Chesapeake Watershed programs) in MD #410-260-8116) for park contacts.

Thomas Pointe Park is a beautiful park just outside the city limits of Annapolis. It is about a 15 minute drive from the Naval Academy. This park offers a wooded peninsula with a 340 degree panoramic view of the Chesapeake Bay and a light house that is Maryland's most popular photograph. While this may be the most picturesque site it is a little difficult logistically since it sits at the end of a residential area. There is little parking for guests and the water surrounding the point is too shallow for boat access.

Havre de Grace Town Park is located northeast of Baltimore on the Chesapeake Bay where the Susquehanna River runs into the Bay. The President and Vice President held there 94/95 Earth Day address at this site. The site offers a small boardwalk, dock and lighthouse with the Bay in the backdrop. There is a national guard reservation nearby and the site is easily accessible to guests.

Jefferson Patterson State Park and Museum is located near Solomons, MD on the Patuxent River. This park is in close proximity to Patuxent Naval Center and is home to a National Academy of Sciences Lab and Research Vessel. The park does have a dock to accommodate a boat or vessel and open fields along the river to stage an event.

Additional Notes

Chesapeake Bay Foundation may be able to provide a boat/research vessel that it uses for its student Baysavers program (environmental education program for middle & high school students). Chesapeake Bay Foundation provides resource protection, restoration, and environmental education to area residents and their families.

NOAA Research Vessel- The NOAA ship FERREL is currently doing research in the Chesapeake Bay so it would be no problem to divert it for a day to stage at an event. This also would prevent any controversy since it is already commissioned to the Bay to do research. The ship is equipped specifically for oceanographic studies of coastal and inshore waters. More info and photos of the ship can be found at www.pmc.noaa.gov/fe/

Contact: Justin Kenney at Commerce #202-482-5533