

*We welcome you to the 2003 Oceanography Society - Oceanology International Americas Ocean Conference. This conference represents an exciting integration of both organizations, combining the best of both, featuring marine science, technology, operational oceanography, policy, and education as well as special events. Building on the success when these two groups combined for the 2001 conference in Miami, Florida, this conference will include plenary oral and poster presentations spanning various societal issues concerning climate, marine operations, natural hazards, national security, living and non-living resources, health of marine ecosystems, and public health. The presentations will be very nicely complemented by more than 200 exhibits, featuring the products of a diverse group of companies, government agencies, and other organizations. The format and layout of the conference is designed so that the thousands of attendees can enjoy both the conference and the exhibition. In addition to the conference, there will be a number of associated meetings held at the same time spanning important marine topics such as remote sensing, regional coastal observing systems and biogeochemical fluxes. There will be representatives from academia, industry, government, and non-governmental organizations spanning practically every nation in the Americas. We urge each attendee to enjoy every aspect of the conference, from presentations to exhibits, meet old friends and make new contacts, and learn more about the state of the art of their own field as well as become acquainted with important areas outside their expertise. This will be an exciting and informative event. Enjoy!*



*Dr. Timothy Stanton,  
Woods Hole Oceanographic Institution*



*Dr. Richard Spinrad,  
Office of the Oceanographer  
of the Navy*