

## **Thomas R. Kitsos**

Dr. Thomas R. Kitsos was appointed to the position of Executive Director of the Ocean Commission on November 13, 2001. Prior to this, he was with the Department of the Interior where he served as Deputy and then Acting Director of the Minerals Management Service (MMS), overseeing the daily operations and financial activities of the agency.

Prior to his nearly seven years of service at MMS, he enjoyed a fruitful, 20-year career working with the U.S. House of Representatives, his last position being Chief Counsel for the Committee on Merchant Marine and Fisheries. In this capacity, he managed a staff of 75 attorneys, scientists, professional and administrative support personnel; negotiated the Committee's position on behalf of the Chairman; and worked on numerous ocean and coastal legislative initiatives.

As its Executive Director, he manages the Ocean Commission's 18-month review of federal ocean-related laws and programs and will oversee the production of its final report recommending to the President and Congress "a coordinated and comprehensive national ocean policy."

Dr. Kitsos attended the University of Illinois, receiving M.S. and Ph. D. degrees in Political Science. A native of Chicago, he has received a number of awards from the Department of Interior for his public service.