

**STATEMENT OF
CHAIRMAN MICHAEL K. POWELL**

Re: In the Matter of Procedures to Govern the Use of Satellite Earth Stations on Board Vessels in the 5925-6425 MHz/3700-4200 MHz Bands and the 14.0-14.5 GHz/11.7-12.2 GHz Bands (Adopted December 15, 2004).

Today we open another frontier for broadband – the world’s oceans. We expect to be connected wherever we are, even if that means in the middle of the ocean. Whether for vacationers on a cruise ship, students taking academic courses at sea, or merchant ships communicating to their coastal headquarters – Earth Stations on Vessels (ESVs) help to provide telecommunications services and internet access for any marine craft large enough for a satellite dish.

Today we establish licensing and service rules for ESVs in the C- and Ku-bands. It is our goal to strike the appropriate balance between the interests of ESV and incumbent users in the bands. Thus, today’s order allows ESVs to continue operating in the C-and Ku-bands, but requires ESV operators to protect fixed terrestrial and fixed-satellite service incumbents from interference and requires operators in both bands to collect and maintain vessel tracking data to assist in identifying and resolving sources of interference.

As broadband technologies continue to expand and become an increasingly vital component of modern communications, the market for broadband via satellite continues to grow. Thus, by continuing to support licenses for ESV operations, we are today, advancing the Commission’s goals and objectives for market-driven deployment of broadband technologies. I thank the International Bureau and my fellow Commissioners for all of their hard work on this item.