

National Ocean Policy *Implementation Plan*

The National Ocean Policy Implementation Plan translates the National Ocean Policy into on-the-ground actions that will help Americans all across the Nation sustain and enjoy our ocean resources.

The Plan identifies the specific actions Federal agencies will take to implement the Policy. It is organized to describe how those actions will benefit the ocean economy, safety and security, and coastal and ocean resilience, by supporting local choices and providing foundational science and information.



The Implementation Plan is an example of common-sense good government that will help spur economic growth, empower states and communities, and save taxpayer dollars through better coordination that avoids conflicts. Americans nationwide will benefit through:

- Better forecasting of ocean conditions and events, to protect beachgoers, consumers and fishermen from threats to their health and safety;
- More and better data about severe storms and sea level rise, which will help coastal communities prepare for threats; and
- Restoration and protection of important habitats that protect communities and support healthy ocean ecosystems.

The Implementation Plan also supports voluntary regional marine planning, which brings together ocean users to share information to plan how we use and sustain ocean resources. Neither the National Ocean Policy nor marine planning creates or changes regulations or authorities.

The vision of the National Ocean Policy is an America whose stewardship ensures that the ocean, our coasts, and the Great Lakes are healthy and resilient, safe and productive, and understood and treasured so as to promote the well-being, prosperity, and security of present and future generations.

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Excerpts from the Implementation Plan:

“Developed collaboratively by the agencies of the National Ocean Council and based on the work initiated by the Interagency Ocean Policy Task Force in 2009, this National Ocean Policy Implementation Plan (Plan) provides clear direction to Federal agencies and increased specificity to partners and stakeholders.”

“Importantly, this Plan was informed by thoughtful input from national, regional, and local stakeholders from all marine sectors; tribal, State, and local governments; private sector partners, academic scientists, and the general public. It reflects careful consideration of extensive public comments, particularly those that relate to the importance of incremental change, pilot projects, support for local and regional capacity and self-determination, and the fundamental need for more and better information.”

The Appendix of the National Ocean Policy Implementation Plan lists the specific actions Federal agencies have committed to take.

The Implementation Plan and Appendix are available online at www.whitehouse.gov/oceans.