

National Ocean Policy Implementation Plan

Recreational fishing and boating

To sustain the benefits of the ocean enjoyed by so many Americans, it is critical to maintain healthy, productive waters and recreational access to them. In 2010, marine tourism and recreation accounted for more than 1.9 million jobs, and recreational license and user fees contribute to many marine conservation programs.

The National Ocean Policy Implementation Plan identifies specific actions Federal agencies will take to spur our ocean economy, strengthen security, and improve ocean health. Recreational fishing will continue to be managed exclusively by the relevant State and Federal fisheries managers and Regional Fishery Management Councils or Commissions.



Federal agencies have committed to actions in the Implementation Plan that will benefit the recreational fishing and boating industry, including:

- Protect, restore, or enhance 100,000 acres of wetlands, wetland-associated uplands, and high-priority coastal, upland, urban, and island habitat;
- Conduct targeted research and disseminate findings to address valuable information needs related to the direct and indirect impacts of climate change, ocean acidification, and other stressors on coastal economies, and key species, habitats, and ecosystems; and
- Provide more accurate charts for safe and efficient navigations, and studies to support decisions on waterways management and other navigational priorities.



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.

National Ocean Policy Implementation Plan

Recreational fishing and boating

Excerpts from the Implementation Plan:

“A healthy marine environment provides significant economic benefits. For example, millions of Americans experience the ocean, coasts, and Great Lakes each year through recreational fishing and boating, which is a major contributor to the national economy. In 2010, marine tourism and recreation accounted for...1.9 million American jobs in total.”

“The recreational fishing and boating community directly contributes to and helps fund (through excise taxes and license sales) many marine conservation, State wildlife and fishery programs, and other initiatives that provide further benefits through vehicles such as the Sport Fish Restoration and Boating Trust Fund.”

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.