

## Public Comments Received 2/22/2012-2/27/2012

National Marine Manufacturers.....	11
Attachment: National Marine Manufacturers.....	12
NYC Environmental Protection.....	14
Attachment: NYC Environmental Protection.....	15
Catherine Walbridge.....	17
Elaine Balgemann.....	18
Jennifer Hoelzeman.....	19
Nancy Gathing.....	20
Richard Koda.....	21
Glenn & Debbie Carson.....	22
Veronica Hayes.....	23
Russell Weisz.....	24
Emily Mansfield.....	25
Rebecca McDonough.....	26
John Cannon.....	27
April Atwood.....	29
Alex Oshiro.....	30
Mark M Giese.....	31
Linda Brink.....	32
Ron Vanbianchi.....	33
Attachment: Ron Vanbianchi.....	34
Sandra Woodall.....	35
Bradley Buck.....	36
Chris Laughlin.....	38
Dana Laughlin.....	40
Laura Levey.....	42
Beverlee Goynes.....	43
Somerville Climate Action.....	44
April Ewaskey.....	45
Julie Slater-Giglioli.....	46
Donna Knipp.....	47

# NATIONAL OCEAN COUNCIL

Floss Shahbegian.....	48
John Richkus.....	50
Callie Riley.....	51
John Lovewell.....	52
Ron Silver.....	53
Margaret Silver.....	54
Eden Kennan.....	55
Joanne Larsen.....	56
Anthony Montapert.....	57
Vanessa Favero.....	58
Association of Zoos and Aquariums.....	59
Attachment: Association of Zoos and Aquariums.....	66
Keith Rizzardi.....	72
Attachment: Keith Rizzardi.....	73
Nanette Oggiono.....	76
Chelsea Krebs.....	77
Wanda Ballentine.....	78
Claire Flewitt.....	80
Amy Lagrone.....	81
Birdlegs Caughlan.....	82
J Kitts.....	83
Triple L, Ink.....	84
Global Oceans Forum working group on oceans, climate & security.....	85
Attachment: Global Oceans Forum working group on oceans, climate & security.....	86
Valerie Gilbert.....	88
Mark Marino.....	89
Joann Ramos.....	90
WATERWATCH Internatonal.....	91
Nick Berezansky.....	92
James Kirks.....	93
Gloria Shen.....	95
Joel Trupin.....	96
Bruce Odelberg.....	97
Lawrence Fischman.....	98
Edward Butler.....	99

# NATIONAL OCEAN COUNCIL

Jon Silver.....	100
Eric Fosburgh.....	101
Andrew Sutphin.....	102
Kirstin Wright.....	103
Art Hanson.....	104
Hiten Shah.....	105
E. James Nedeau.....	106
Craig Allen.....	107
Deanne O'Donnell.....	108
Mike Merrfield.....	109
Andrew Shepard.....	110
John Cielukowski.....	111
Alyson Shotz.....	112
Gail McGlone.....	113
National Marine Manufacturers Association.....	114
Attachment: National Marine Manufacturers Association.....	115
Elaine Gough.....	117
Richard Ordonez.....	118
Delia Lorenzo.....	119
Chris McCaffity.....	120
Denise Lytle.....	121
Helen Anderson.....	122
Cecelia Samp.....	123
Robert Roberto.....	124
Margot Backus.....	125
Susan Cadman.....	126
Maureen Wheeler.....	127
Marjorie Rathbone.....	128
Leslie Cassidy.....	129
Hollis Wood.....	130
Jessica Searson.....	131
Mark Tolson.....	132
Margaret A Brooks.....	133
Ocean River Institute.....	134

# NATIONAL OCEAN COUNCIL

Charles S Mitchell.....	135
Dena Verdesca.....	136
Marlene Vandyke.....	137
Vsevolod Gurevich.....	138
Constance St Jean.....	139
Judy and Lester Hoyle.....	140
Melissa Chapman.....	141
Luke Farrell.....	142
Elizabeth Bergey.....	143
Marilyn McCaullieuy.....	144
Deborah Hirsch.....	145
Madison Teachers, Inc.....	146
National Marine Sanctuary Foundation.....	147
Attachment: National Marine Sanctuary Foundation.....	149
Barbara Diederichs.....	155
Penny Gregorio.....	156
Center for Cultural Evolution.....	157
Indigenous Environmental Network.....	158
Susan Babbitt.....	159
Teresa Stilwell.....	160
Susan Martin.....	161
Annette Pieniazek.....	162
Susan Ibarra.....	163
Anka Jhangiani.....	164
Charlene Boydston.....	165
Audubon Society.....	166
Francois De La Giroday.....	167
Louis DeRosa.....	168
Sara Avery.....	169
Terrence Ward.....	170
Liz D.....	171
Nancy Fleming.....	172
Brian Hanks.....	173
Anthony Montapert.....	174
Teresa Jones.....	175

# NATIONAL OCEAN COUNCIL

Teresa Conahan.....	176
Adrienne Eisenberg.....	177
Somerville Climate Action.....	178
Keith Fabing.....	179
Maria Farina.....	180
Portland State University.....	181
Ellen Moyer.....	182
Amber Tidwell.....	183
Mitchell Mclean.....	184
Maggie Davidson.....	185
Jon Krueger.....	186
Portland State University.....	187
Portland State University.....	188
John Dugger.....	189
Portland State University.....	190
Richard Klene.....	191
Svetlana Pell.....	192
Joan Walker.....	193
Betty Ulbrich.....	194
Portland State University.....	195
Mike and Miriam kurland.....	196
Portland State University.....	197
Attachment: Portland State University.....	198
Ocean River Institute.....	199
Rita Clonts.....	200
Larry Brown.....	201
Ryan Sdano.....	202
Nancy Thompson.....	203
Sarah Keyishian.....	204
Jim Phillips.....	205
Josephine Polifroni.....	206
Robert Hill.....	207
Ann Cheng.....	208
Thayer Productions.....	209

# NATIONAL OCEAN COUNCIL

April Warwick.....	210
Jim Gayden.....	211
John Steiner.....	212
WATERWATCH Internatonal.....	213
Larry Cowden.....	214
Mha Atma S. Khalsa.....	215
John Papandrea.....	216
John Steiner.....	217
Lee Bailey.....	218
Susan Puscheck.....	219
Phil Lipari.....	220
Virgene Link.....	221
Lih Young.....	222
Rebecca Blubaugh.....	226
John R Donaldson.....	227
Mark Tolson.....	228
Joann Ramos.....	229
Heidi Bresilge.....	230
Andrea Bowen.....	231
Carroll Arkema.....	232
Bobbie Murray.....	233
The Conservation Agency.....	234
Melanie Kohn.....	235
Pamela Kelly Communications.....	236
Erin Marshall.....	237
Dina Frigo.....	238
Alex Oshiro.....	239
Toby Ann Reese.....	240
Ocean Institute.....	241
Fritzi Cohen.....	242
Portland State University.....	243
Attachment: Portland State University.....	244
Fred Krohn.....	246
Massachusetts School of Law.....	247
Joel Malkerson.....	248

# NATIONAL OCEAN COUNCIL

Marlena Lange .....	249
Nancy Kosnar Hartman.....	250
Ryan Witbeck .....	251
Millicent Sims.....	252
Liz Campbell .....	253
Jean Naples .....	254
Russell Riley .....	255
Elaine Balgemann.....	256
Stacy Green.....	257
Celia Daniels.....	258
Ransom D Stone.....	259
Jan Pfeiffer-Rios .....	260
Paula Myles .....	261
Broward County Natural Resources Planning and Management Division.....	262
Attachment: Broward County Natural Resources Planning and Management Division.....	263
Alan Francisco.....	265
Patti Packer .....	266
Harriette Harrison .....	267
Kirsten Lear .....	268
Robert Smith .....	269
Tom Bailey .....	270
Elizabeth Brown.....	271
Mark Holmgren.....	272
Eileen Anglin .....	273
Sharon Garlena .....	274
James Koenig .....	275
Renee and Robert Pound .....	276
Coastal States Organization.....	277
Attachment: Coastal States Organization .....	278
Goffinet McLaren.....	293
Amanda Wagy.....	294
Vicki Maher.....	295
North Pacific Fishery Management Council.....	296
Attachment: North Pacific Fishery Management Council.....	297
Pacific States Marine Fisheries Commission.....	299

# NATIONAL OCEAN COUNCIL

Attachment: Pacific States Marine Fisheries Commission .....	300
Mid-Atlantic Regional Council on the Ocean .....	304
Attachment: Mid-Atlantic Regional Council on the Ocean .....	305
Xiamen University .....	307
The Center for Regulatory Effectiveness .....	308
Attachment: The Center for Regulatory Effectiveness .....	309
Richard Nelson.....	318
Attachment: Richard Nelson .....	319
Atlantic States Marine Fisheries Commission.....	322
Attachment: Atlantic States Marine Fisheries Commission .....	323
Coastal Ecosystem Learning Center Network .....	324
Attachment: Coastal Ecosystem Learning Center Network .....	325
East Carolina University.....	330
Attachment: East Carolina University .....	331
K N.....	345
Western Pacific Regional Fishery Management Council.....	346
Attachment: Western Pacific Regional Fishery Management Council .....	347
Cape Cod Grassroots Environmental Activist.....	349
Mary WoodConstable.....	354
Elisabeth Anderson.....	355
Michael Bonoff.....	356
Dundee-Crown High School.....	357
University of Rhode Island.....	358
Attachment: University of Rhode Island .....	359
Beth Wilborn .....	361
Nature's Own.....	362
Kitty Hugenschmidt.....	363
Jenny Bramlette.....	364
Florida Ocean Alliance.....	365
Attachment: Florida Ocean Alliance.....	366
Joe Salazar.....	371
Edith Coleman.....	372
Eric Ziecheck.....	373
Attachment: Eric Ziecheck .....	374

# NATIONAL OCEAN COUNCIL

Nature's Own.....	380
Barbara Clark.....	381
Bill Nierstedt.....	382
Christopher Lish.....	383
Attachment: Christopher Lish .....	384
Paul Torrence.....	387
Council of Great Lakes Industries.....	389
Attachment: Council of Great Lakes Industries.....	390
Liz Cook.....	392
Ben Unger.....	393
Washington State Elected Officials.....	394
Attachment: Washington State Elected Officials .....	395
Kitsap County Commissioners.....	397
Attachment: Kitsap County Commissioners .....	398
Ruth Miller.....	400
Sierra Club RI.....	401
Attachment: Sierra Club RI.....	402
National Estuarine Research Reserve Association.....	405
Attachment: National Estuarine Research Reserve Association .....	406
NRDC Representing 10,494 Additional Signatures.....	412
Western Pacific Regional Fishery Management Council.....	413
Attachment: Western Pacific Regional Fishery Management Council .....	414
Smith River Rancheria.....	417
Attachment: Smith River Rancheria .....	418
Jersey Coast Anglers Association.....	423
Attachment: Jersey Coast Anglers Association .....	424
Kelley Drye & Warren LLP.....	425
Attachment: Kelley Drye & Warren LLP.....	426
All Island Committee.....	430
Attachment: All Island Committee .....	431
Bob Ballard.....	434
Aquarium of the Pacific.....	435
Columbia River Inter-Tribal Fish Commission.....	436
Attachment: Columbia River Inter-Tribal Fish Commission.....	437
National League of Cities/National Association of Counties.....	440

# NATIONAL OCEAN COUNCIL

Attachment: National League of Cities/National Association of Counties.....	441
Linn Barrett.....	443
Attachment: Linn Barrett .....	444
Pew Environment Group Representing 10,485 Additional Signatures.....	445
Attachment: Pew Environment Group.....	446
Pew Environment Group, et al. ....	921
Stephanie Campbell.....	1020
Attachment: Stephanie Campbell.....	1021
Pacific Coast Shellfish Growers Association.....	1139
Attachment: Pacific Coast Shellfish Growers Association .....	1140
Scripps Institution of Oceanography.....	1144
Attachment: Scripps Institution of Oceanography .....	1145
Surfrider Foundation.....	1147
Attachment: Surfrider Foundation .....	1148
Antarctic & Southern Ocean Coalition.....	1158
Attachment: Antarctic & Southern Ocean Coalition .....	1159

# NATIONAL OCEAN COUNCIL

Name: **James Currie**

Organization: NATIONAL MARINE MANUFACTURERS

Path: [http://edit.whitehouse.gov/sites/default/files/webform/response\\_on\\_national\\_ocean\\_policy\\_implementation\\_feb\\_2012.pdf](http://edit.whitehouse.gov/sites/default/files/webform/response_on_national_ocean_policy_implementation_feb_2012.pdf)

Comment:

February 22, 2012

National Ocean Council  
722 Jackson Place, NW  
Washington, DC 20503

Comment on the “Draft National Ocean Policy Implementation Plan” from the National Marine Manufacturers Association

In July 2011 the National Marine Manufacturers Association (NMMA) submitted comments on the National Ocean Council’s “Coastal and Marine Spatial Planning, Strategic Action Plan, Full Content Outline.” NMMA specifically applauded the outline’s recognition of the “social, economic, public health, and conservation benefits of sustainable recreational use of the ocean, coastal, and Great Lakes resources, such as fishing, **boating** [emphasis added], swimming and diving, by providing improved coordination with recreational users to ensure continued access and opportunities to enjoy these activities consistent with economic, safety, and conservation goals.”<sup>1</sup>

It was with the greatest disappointment, therefore, that NMMA read through the 118 pages of the “Draft National Ocean Policy Implementation Plan” and found no mention whatsoever of recreational boating. When an NMMA staff member raised this issue during the January 12, 2012, conference call after the Plan was released, he and others on the call were told that the authors of the plan “had not listed every activity, so as not to leave out any.” The NMMA staffer pointed out that both snorkeling and SCUBA diving were mentioned, not that he had any problem with them, but these activities are hardly of the same economic or participatory magnitude as recreational boating.

This disingenuous response by staff for the National Ocean Council leads us to wonder at the reason for the startling omission of recreational boating from the draft plan. It seems so obvious as not to require pointing out, but many of the activities that were named in the plan—SCUBA diving, snorkeling, whale watching, and fishing—are done quite frequently from recreational (i.e., non-commercial) boats. The omission of recreational boating is also glaring in light of the economic impact of an activity like recreational saltwater and Great Lakes fishing, which almost by necessity is conducted from a recreational boat. The economic effect of saltwater and Great Lakes recreational fishing is well-documented.

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<sup>1</sup> National Ocean Council, 06-02-11, “Coastal and Marine Spatial Planning, Strategic Action Plan, Full Content Outline,” P. 3.

According to the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA), 12 million saltwater recreational anglers take 85 million fishing trips a year.<sup>2</sup> This number does not reflect the millions of recreational fishing trips that are taken each year on the Great Lakes, but together these saltwater and Great Lakes anglers are a tremendous economic engine for our country.

Saltwater and Great Lakes anglers—precisely the geographic areas covered by the National Ocean Policy—generate approximately \$13.8 billion in retail sales and \$38.5 billion in total expenditures each year. Furthermore, saltwater and Great Lakes recreational anglers support some 363,000 jobs and contribute \$114 million to state income tax collections, \$1.6 billion in federal income tax payments, and over \$595 million in state sales taxes each year.<sup>3</sup>

It should be clear, then, that omission of the importance of recreational boating from any National Ocean Policy Implementation Plan is a serious error that must be corrected before the draft plan is finalized.

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<sup>2</sup> NOAA, National marine Fisheries Service, “Recreational Fisheries at NOAA: A Growing Legacy,” May 18, 2011, P. 3.

<sup>3</sup> National Marine Manufacturers Association, *2010 Recreational Boating Statistical Abstract*, P. 67.

# NATIONAL OCEAN COUNCIL

Name: **melinda sherer**

Organization: NYC DEP

Path: [http://edit.whitehouse.gov/sites/default/files/webform/reg\\_rev\\_comments\\_159e12512\\_national\\_ocean\\_policy\\_implementation\\_plan-2-22-12.pdf](http://edit.whitehouse.gov/sites/default/files/webform/reg_rev_comments_159e12512_national_ocean_policy_implementation_plan-2-22-12.pdf)

Comment:



**Environmental  
Protection**

**Carter H. Strickland Jr.**  
**Commissioner**

**Angela Licata**  
Deputy Commissioner  
Of Sustainability  
alicata@dep.nyc.gov

59-17 Junction Boulevard  
Flushing, NY 11373  
T: (718) 595-4398  
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Submitted electronically  
February 22, 2012  
<http://www.WhiteHouse.gov/oceans>  
Copy to:  
National Ocean Council  
722 Jackson Place NW  
Washington, DC 20503

Re: Comments on draft *National Ocean Policy Implementation Plan*

Dear Sir/Madam:

The draft National Ocean Policy Implementation Plan is a welcome effort to streamline the procedures and tools of various federal agencies as well as the programmatic requirements for State, regional and local government agencies. The New York City Department of Environmental Protection (DEP) sincerely commends this important effort. DEP appreciates that this Plan's outcomes, including streamlined compilation of data, data availability at one website, and increased emphasis on ecosystem valuation-based approach to coastal management, will be useful to local governments. In particular, the City believes that ecosystem-based management (EBM) is the best approach to quantifying the monetary and non-monetary benefits of water quality projects. Following are a number of questions or comments on this document, by which DEP requests additional guidance or clarification in the final Implementation Plan.

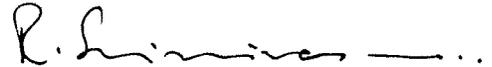
1. DEP suggests a minimization of the use of acronyms to enhance readability of the text. Acronyms that are used infrequently should be avoided.
2. Various federal entities are currently working on dozens of guidance documents or collaborative decision documents, anticipated to be issued in the next 1-10 years, which will benefit the existing ecosystem restoration programs undertaken by local, regional and state government agencies. DEP recommends that the production of these guidance documents be expedited to capture significant efficiency gains and cost savings. As an example, development of guidance for all federal agencies regarding implementation of EBM is slated for completion in 2013, and EBM is anticipated to be incorporated into federal agencies' planning and review processes by 2016. However, existing, ongoing coastal restoration projects can benefit from use of this unified EBM framework.
3. The Implementation Plan envisions the identification of three EBM pilot implementation areas. Can local governments volunteer as potential EBM pilot areas?

4. DEP supports the integration of observation systems and data maintained by various federal and other agencies, as well as universities and volunteer organizations. To facilitate this process, DEP recommends the development of a uniform protocol for data collection and compilation, along with consistent procedures for quality assurance.

5. On Page 58, precipitation data projections should be clearly identified under Action 3, similarly to the manner in which sea level rise projections are identified. Precipitation data projections are a major concern for the Northeast region, and particularly for local governments such as NYC; regional and local projections at 10-15 minute intervals will be beneficial as NYC's urban drainage systems are very vulnerable to increases in precipitation intensities. Models need to be enhanced to provide projections at this time-scale, and additional guidance should be provided on scientific sensitivity analyses to assess vulnerability.

DEP appreciates the opportunity to comment on the draft Plan as well as your consideration of our comments.

Sincerely,



*AL* Angela Licata  
Deputy Commissioner for  
Sustainability

cc: A. McCamphill  
M. Sherer

Name: **Catherine Walbridge**

Organization: none

Path:

Comment: I do not think the Draft goes far enough in caring for the seas. "Protected areas"? The ocean is one planetary body, which cannot be divided into chunks. I am enthusiastic about this Draft, but it cannot go far enough without world participation. Our great waters, besides really belonging to all world citizens, are important culturally. A U. N. International Decade for Action: Water for Life World Ocean Year, in 2015, the last year of the Decade, would celebrate and focus world attention on the oceans and their creatures, which are so important to our hearts as well as minds. The U. S. would be a leader in this world-uniting effort which would build on the Draft's concerns. Please ask the U. N. to declare World Ocean Year ("Sea Emocean") in 2015 so art exhibits and international cultural cooperation and education can be planned. This could be an Earth-changing event! Your concern over the oceans and Great Lakes is needed now and the Draft is great--just not enough. Thank you!

Name: **Elaine Balgemann**

Organization:

Path:

Comment: Protecting, maintaining and restoring the health of our oceans, coasts and Great Lakes must be of primary importance with an emphasis to achieve conservation milestones that can provide immediate ecological benefit such as the protection and restoration of coastal and marine habitat for priority species;

- Ensure the plan does not overlook needed new actions and does not only propose existing government plans and programs;

- Produce an implementation status report every two years that notes progress on reaching ecological indicators and the actions and milestones in the Plan; and

- Fully utilize existing legal authorities to implement the National Ocean Policy.

Name: **Jennifer Hoelzeman**

Organization:

Path:

Comment: Dear Chairs Sutley and Holdren and National Ocean Council Members:

The recently released Draft National Ocean Policy Implementation Plan is a giant step forward in advancing the National Ocean Policy and helping to create healthier oceans and coasts and stronger economies for our coastal communities. The Plan shows great strength in providing a cohesive framework for National Ocean Policy implementation and being an action-oriented plan that provides for government accountability.

As you move to finalize this plan, please consider the following recommendations: Protecting, maintaining and restoring the health of our oceans, coasts and Great Lakes must be of primary importance with an emphasis to achieve conservation milestones that can provide immediate ecological benefit such as the protection and restoration of coastal and marine habitat for priority species;

- Ensure the plan does not overlook needed new actions and does not only propose existing government plans and programs;
- Produce an implementation status report every two years that notes progress on reaching ecological indicators and the actions and milestones in the Plan; and
- Fully utilize existing legal authorities to implement the National Ocean Policy.

The National Ocean Council should also prioritize needed funding for regional ocean partnerships in those regions which are best prepared to begin regional planning bodies and convene stakeholder participation. Regional ocean partnerships can create the best value of scarce federal funding by bringing federal, state, tribal, scientific and non-governmental entities together to start to address ocean management challenges.

The National Ocean Policy is founded on sound science, an inclusive and transparent public and stakeholder engagement process, the protection of habitat and wildlife populations, and encourages government at all levels to work together. The Draft Implementation Plan reflects over two years worth of hard work, investment and commitment made by state governments, commercial and industrial ocean users, universities and scientists, 27 federal agencies and departments and tens of thousands of citizens across the country to move our oceans toward better ocean management. I urge the National Ocean Council to operationalize the National Ocean Policy as soon as possible through this Implementation Plan with the goal of creating the enduring environmental stewardship of our ocean, coastal and Great Lakes ecosystems.

Name: **Nancy Gathing**

Organization:

Path:

Comment: ear Chairs Sutley and Holdren and National Ocean Council Members:

The recently released Draft National Ocean Policy Implementation Plan is a giant step forward in advancing the National Ocean Policy and helping to create healthier oceans and coasts and stronger economies for our coastal communities. The Plan shows great strength in providing a cohesive framework for National Ocean Policy implementation and being an action-oriented plan that provides for government accountability. As you move to finalize this plan, please consider the following recommendations:

Protecting, maintaining and restoring the health of our oceans, coasts and Great Lakes must be of primary importance with an emphasis to achieve conservation milestones that can provide immediate ecological benefit such as the protection and restoration of coastal and marine habitat for priority species;

Ensure the plan does not overlook needed new actions and does not only propose existing government plans and programs;

Produce an implementation status report every two years that notes progress on reaching ecological indicators and the actions and milestones in the Plan; and

Fully utilize existing legal authorities to implement the National Ocean Policy.

The National Ocean Council should also prioritize needed funding for regional ocean partnerships in those regions which are best prepared to begin regional planning bodies and convene stakeholder participation. Regional ocean partnerships can create the best value of scarce federal funding by bringing federal, state, tribal, scientific and non-governmental entities together to start to address ocean management challenges.

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Name: **Richard Koda**

Organization:

Path:

Comment: Dear Chairs Sutley and Holdren and National Ocean Council Members:

The recently released Draft National Ocean Policy Implementation Plan is a giant step forward in advancing the National Ocean Policy and helping to create healthier oceans and coasts and stronger economies for our coastal communities. The Plan provides a cohesive framework for National Ocean Policy implementation and provides for government accountability, an important parameter. When you finalize this plan, please consider the following recommendations:

Protecting, maintaining and restoring the health of our oceans, coasts and Great Lakes must be of primary importance with an emphasis to achieve conservation milestones that can provide immediate ecological benefit such as the protection and restoration of coastal and marine habitat for priority species;

Ensure the plan includes needed new actions, not simply propose existing government plans and programs;

Produce an implementation status report every two years that notes progress on reaching ecological indicators and the actions and milestones in the Plan; and

Fully utilize existing legal authorities to implement the National Ocean Policy.

The National Ocean Council should also prioritize needed funding for regional ocean partnerships in those regions which are best prepared to begin regional planning bodies and convene stakeholder participation. Regional ocean partnerships can create the best value of scarce federal funding by bringing federal, state, tribal, scientific and non-governmental entities together to address ocean management challenges.

The National Ocean Policy is founded on sound science, an inclusive and transparent public and stakeholder engagement process, the protection of habitat and wildlife populations, and encourages government at all levels to work together. The Draft Implementation Plan reflects over two years worth of hard work, investment and commitment made by state governments, commercial and industrial ocean users, universities and scientists, 27 federal agencies and departments and tens of thousands of citizens across the country to move our oceans toward better ocean management.

I urge the National Ocean Council to make the National Ocean Policy operational as soon as possible through this Implementation Plan with the goal of creating the enduring environmental stewardship of our ocean, coastal and Great Lakes ecosystems.

Name: **Glenn & Debbie Carson**

Organization:

Path:

Comment: Dear Chairs Sutley and Holdren and National Ocean Council Members: The recently released Draft National Ocean Policy Implementation Plan is a giant step forward in advancing the National Ocean Policy and helping to create healthier oceans and coasts and stronger economies for our coastal communities. The Plan shows great strength in providing a cohesive framework for National Ocean Policy implementation and being an action-oriented plan that provides for government accountability. As you move to finalize this plan, please consider the following recommendations: Protecting, maintaining and restoring the health of our oceans, coasts and Great Lakes must be of primary importance with an emphasis to achieve conservation milestones that can provide immediate ecological benefit such as the protection and restoration of coastal and marine habitat for priority species; •Ensure the plan does not overlook needed new actions and does not only propose existing government plans and programs; •Produce an implementation status report every two years that notes progress on reaching ecological indicators and the actions and milestones in the Plan; and •Fully utilize existing legal authorities to implement the National Ocean Policy. The National Ocean Council should also prioritize needed funding for regional ocean partnerships in those regions which are best prepared to begin regional planning bodies and convene stakeholder participation. Regional ocean partnerships can create the best value of scarce federal funding by bringing federal, state, tribal, scientific and non-governmental entities together to start to address ocean management challenges. The National Ocean Policy is founded on sound science, an inclusive and transparent public and stakeholder engagement process, the protection of habitat and wildlife populations, and encourages government at all levels to work together. The Draft Implementation Plan reflects over two years worth of hard work, investment and commitment made by state governments, commercial and industrial ocean users, universities and scientists, 27 federal agencies and departments and tens of thousands of citizens across the country to move our oceans toward better ocean management. I urge the National Ocean Council to operationalize the National Ocean Policy as soon as possible through this Implementation Plan with the goal of creating the enduring environmental stewardship of our ocean, coastal and Great Lakes ecosystems.

Name: **VERONICA HAYES**

Organization:

Path:

Comment: Dear Chairs Sutley and Holdren and National Ocean Council Members:

The recently released Draft National Ocean Policy Implementation Plan is a giant step forward in advancing the National Ocean Policy and helping to create healthier oceans and coasts and stronger economies for our coastal communities. The Plan shows great strength in providing a cohesive framework for National Ocean Policy implementation and being an action-oriented plan that provides for government accountability. As you move to finalize this plan, please consider the following recommendations:

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Ensure the plan does not overlook needed new actions and does not only propose existing government plans and programs;

Produce an implementation status report every two years that notes progress on reaching ecological indicators and the actions and milestones in the Plan; and

Fully utilize existing legal authorities to implement the National Ocean Policy.

The National Ocean Council should also prioritize needed funding for regional ocean partnerships in those regions which are best prepared to begin regional planning bodies and convene stakeholder participation. Regional ocean partnerships can create the best value of scarce federal funding by bringing federal, state, tribal, scientific and non-governmental entities together to start to address ocean management challenges.

The National Ocean Policy is founded on sound science, an inclusive and transparent public and stakeholder engagement process, the protection of habitat and wildlife populations, and encourages government at all levels to work together. The Draft Implementation Plan reflects over two years worth of hard work, investment and commitment made by state governments, commercial and industrial ocean users, universities and scientists, 27 federal agencies and departments and tens of thousands of citizens across the country to move our oceans toward better ocean management. I urge the National Ocean Council to operationalize the National Ocean Policy as soon as possible through this Implementation Plan with the goal of creating the enduring environmental stewardship of our ocean, coastal and Great Lakes ecosystems.

Name: **Russell Weisz**

Organization:

Path:

Comment: Dear Chairs Sutley and Holdren and National Ocean Council Members:

The recently released Draft National Ocean Policy Implementation Plan is a giant step forward in advancing the National Ocean Policy and helping to create healthier oceans and coasts and stronger economies for our coastal communities. The Plan shows great strength in providing a cohesive framework for National Ocean Policy implementation and being an action-oriented plan that provides for government accountability. As you move to finalize this plan, please consider the following recommendations: Protecting, maintaining and restoring the health of our oceans, coasts and Great Lakes must be of primary importance with an emphasis to achieve conservation milestones that can provide immediate ecological benefit such as the protection and restoration of coastal and marine habitat for priority species;

- Ensure the plan does not overlook needed new actions and does not only propose existing government plans and programs;
- Produce an implementation status report every two years that notes progress on reaching ecological indicators and the actions and milestones in the Plan; and
- Fully utilize existing legal authorities to implement the National Ocean Policy. The National Ocean Council should also prioritize needed funding for regional ocean partnerships in those regions which are best prepared to begin regional planning bodies and convene stakeholder participation. Regional ocean partnerships can create the best value of scarce federal funding by bringing federal, state, tribal, scientific and non-governmental entities together to start to address ocean management challenges. The National Ocean Policy is founded on sound science, an inclusive and transparent public and stakeholder engagement process, the protection of habitat and wildlife populations, and encourages government at all levels to work together. The Draft Implementation Plan reflects over two years worth of hard work, investment and commitment made by state governments, commercial and industrial ocean users, universities and scientists, 27 federal agencies and departments and tens of thousands of citizens across the country to move our oceans toward better ocean management. I urge the National Ocean Council to operationalize the National Ocean Policy as soon as possible through this Implementation Plan with the goal of creating the enduring environmental stewardship of our ocean, coastal and Great Lakes ecosystems.

Name: **Emily Mansfield**

Organization:

Path:

Comment: Dear Chairs Sutley, Holdren, and National Ocean Council Members:

I would like to share my support for National Ocean Policy draft Implementation Plan. As an outdoor enthusiast from the Pacific Northwest, I believe that a strong Implementation Plan will help protect marine ecosystems and encourage sustainable ocean uses, including recreation and tourism.

The draft National Ocean Policy Implementation Plan establishes a strong blueprint for taking action and fostering agency coordination to sustain our ocean, coastal and Great Lakes resources. The draft plan has successfully incorporated the needs and concerns of governmental, non-profit, and commercial groups and provides clarifying details to improve accountability and monitor progress toward improved ocean management. Frequent notations on how implementing actions are related to one another provide confidence that activities will be coordinated and make good use of limited resources.

Nonetheless, the plan could be improved to achieve even more progress. It should more fully utilize all available authorities for habitat protection and management. Many of the milestones could be extended beyond cataloguing and planning to include action, with tangible, on-the-water activities. Regional need, support, and capacity should guide where coordinated actions should first take place. Federal agencies must continue to ask for input from other levels of the government and the public and incorporate this new information into implementation of the plan.

With these additions, President Obama's Implementation Plan will provide a better guide for achieving the goals of protecting, maintaining, and restoring the nation's oceans, coasts, and Great Lakes and ensuring resilient coastal economies. I look forward to the release of the final plan and hope to see policy translated into action on the water soon.

Sincerely,

Emily Mansfield

Name: **Rebecca McDonough**

Organization:

Path:

Comment: Dear Chairs Sutley and Holdren and National Ocean Council Members:

The recently released Draft National Ocean Policy Implementation Plan is a giant step forward in advancing the National Ocean Policy and helping to create healthier oceans and coasts and stronger economies for our coastal communities. The Plan shows great strength in providing a cohesive framework for National Ocean Policy implementation and being an action-oriented plan that provides for government accountability. As you move to finalize this plan, please consider the following recommendations:

Protecting, maintaining and restoring the health of our oceans, coasts and Great Lakes must be of primary importance with an emphasis to achieve conservation milestones that can provide immediate ecological benefit such as the protection and restoration of coastal and marine habitat for priority species;

Ensure the plan does not overlook needed new actions and does not only propose existing government plans and programs;

Produce an implementation status report every two years that notes progress on reaching ecological indicators and the actions and milestones in the Plan; and

Fully utilize existing legal authorities to implement the National Ocean Policy.

The National Ocean Council should also prioritize needed funding for regional ocean partnerships in those regions which are best prepared to begin regional planning bodies and convene stakeholder participation. Regional ocean partnerships can create the best value of scarce federal funding by bringing federal, state, tribal, scientific and non-governmental entities together to start to address ocean management challenges.

The National Ocean Policy is founded on sound science, an inclusive and transparent public and stakeholder engagement process, the protection of habitat and wildlife populations, and encourages government at all levels to work together. The Draft Implementation Plan reflects over two years worth of hard work, investment and commitment made by state governments, commercial and industrial ocean users, universities and scientists, 27 federal agencies and departments and tens of thousands of citizens across the country to move our oceans toward better ocean management. I urge the National Ocean Council to operationalize the National Ocean Policy as soon as possible through this Implementation Plan with the goal of creating the enduring environmental stewardship of our ocean, coastal and Great Lakes ecosystems.

Name: **John Cannon**

Organization: Conservation Science Institute

Path:

Comment: Dear Chairs Sutley and Holdren and National Ocean Council Members:

The recently released Draft National Ocean Policy Implementation Plan is a giant step forward in advancing the National Ocean Policy and helping to create healthier oceans and coasts and stronger economies for our coastal communities. The Plan shows great strength in providing a cohesive framework for National Ocean Policy implementation and being an action-oriented plan that provides for government accountability. As you move to finalize this plan, please consider the following recommendations:

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- Ensure the plan does not overlook needed new actions and does not only propose existing government plans and programs;

- Produce an implementation status report every two years that notes progress on reaching ecological indicators and the actions and milestones in the Plan; and

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Sincerely,

John R. Cannon, Ph.D  
Conservation Biologist  
Front Royal, Virginia

Name: **April Atwood**

Organization:

Path:

Comment: Dear Chairs Sutley and Holdren and National Ocean Council Members:

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2. Ensure the plan does not overlook needed new actions and does not only propose existing government plans and programs;
3. Produce an implementation status report every two years that notes progress on reaching ecological indicators and the actions and milestones in the Plan; and
4. Fully utilize existing legal authorities to implement the National Ocean Policy.

The National Ocean Council should also prioritize needed funding for regional ocean partnerships in those regions which are best prepared to begin regional planning bodies and convene stakeholder participation. Regional ocean partnerships can create the best value of scarce federal funding by bringing federal, state, tribal, scientific and non-governmental entities together to start to address ocean management challenges. The National Ocean Policy is founded on sound science, an inclusive and transparent public and stakeholder engagement process, the protection of habitat and wildlife populations, and encourages government at all levels to work together. The Draft Implementation Plan reflects over two years worth of hard work, investment and commitment made by state governments, commercial and industrial ocean users, universities and scientists, 27 federal agencies and departments and tens of thousands of citizens across the country to move our oceans toward better ocean management. I urge the National Ocean Council to operationalize the National Ocean Policy as soon as possible through this Implementation Plan with the goal of creating the enduring environmental stewardship of our ocean, coastal and Great Lakes ecosystems.

Name: **Alex Oshiro**

Organization:

Path:

Comment: Dear Chairs Sutley and Holdren and National Ocean Council Members:

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We need to work together to hold companies responsible and accountable for their actions and stop them from raping and polluting our planet for profit and greed.

Name: **Mark M Giese**

Organization:

Path:

Comment: Dear Chairs Sutley and Holdren and National Ocean Council Members: The recently released Draft National Ocean Policy Implementation Plan is a giant step forward in advancing the National Ocean Policy and helping to create healthier oceans and coasts and stronger economies for our coastal communities. The Plan shows great strength in providing a cohesive framework for National Ocean Policy implementation and being an action-oriented plan that provides for government accountability. As you move to finalize this plan, please consider the following recommendations: Protecting, maintaining and restoring the health of our oceans, coasts and Great Lakes must be of primary importance with an emphasis to achieve conservation milestones that can provide immediate ecological benefit such as the protection and restoration of coastal and marine habitat for priority species; Ensure the plan does not overlook needed new actions and does not only propose existing government plans and programs; Produce an implementation status report every two years that notes progress on reaching ecological indicators and the actions and milestones in the Plan; and Fully utilize existing legal authorities to implement the National Ocean Policy. The National Ocean Council should also prioritize needed funding for regional ocean partnerships in those regions which are best prepared to begin regional planning bodies and convene stakeholder participation. Regional ocean partnerships can create the best value of scarce federal funding by bringing federal, state, tribal, scientific and non-governmental entities together to start to address ocean management challenges. The National Ocean Policy is founded on sound science, an inclusive and transparent public and stakeholder engagement process, the protection of habitat and wildlife populations, and encourages government at all levels to work together. The Draft Implementation Plan reflects over two years worth of hard work, investment and commitment made by state governments, commercial and industrial ocean users, universities and scientists, 27 federal agencies and departments and tens of thousands of citizens across the country to move our oceans toward better ocean management. I urge the National Ocean Council to operationalize the National Ocean Policy as soon as possible through this Implementation Plan with the goal of creating the enduring environmental stewardship of our ocean, coastal and Great Lakes ecosystems.

Name: **Linda Brink**

Organization:

Path:

Comment: I have read the following summary and it expresses my views, exactly:

The recently released Draft National Ocean Policy Implementation Plan is a giant step forward in advancing the National Ocean Policy and helping to create healthier oceans and coasts and stronger economies for our coastal communities. The Plan shows great strength in providing a cohesive framework for National Ocean Policy implementation and being an action-oriented plan that provides for government accountability. As you move to finalize this plan, please consider the following recommendations:

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- Ensure the plan does not overlook needed new actions and does not only propose existing government plans and programs;

- Produce an implementation status report every two years that notes progress on reaching ecological indicators and the actions and milestones in the Plan; and

- Fully utilize existing legal authorities to implement the National Ocean Policy.

The National Ocean Council should also prioritize needed funding for regional ocean partnerships in those regions which are best prepared to begin regional planning bodies and convene stakeholder participation. Regional ocean partnerships can create the best value of scarce federal funding by bringing federal, state, tribal, scientific and non-governmental entities together to start to address ocean management challenges.

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Name: **ron vanbianchi**

Organization:

Path: [http://edit.whitehouse.gov/sites/default/files/webform/dear\\_chairs\\_sutley.doc](http://edit.whitehouse.gov/sites/default/files/webform/dear_chairs_sutley.doc)

Comment:

February 22, 2012

Dear Chairs Sutley, Holdren, and National Ocean Council Members:

I would like to share my support for National Ocean Policy draft Implementation Plan. As an outdoor enthusiast from the Pacific Northwest, I believe that a strong Implementation Plan will help protect marine ecosystems and encourage sustainable ocean uses, including recreation and tourism.

Although the draft National Ocean Policy Implementation Plan establishes a strong blueprint for taking action and fostering agency coordination to sustain our ocean, coastal and Great Lakes resources, the plan could be improved to achieve even more progress.

- Many of the milestones could be extended beyond cataloguing and planning to include action, with tangible, on-the-water activities.
- It should more fully utilize established methods for habitat protection and management. For example, ecosystem restoration plans typically define specific goals, objectives, and performance standards that help determine the success of the restoration effort.
- Regional need, support, and capacity should guide where coordinated actions should first take place.
- Federal agencies must continue to ask for input from other levels of the government and the public and incorporate this new information into implementation of the plan.

With these additions, President Obama's Implementation Plan will provide a better guide for achieving the goals of protecting, maintaining, and restoring the nation's oceans, coasts, and Great Lakes, and ensuring resilient coastal economies.

I look forward to the release of the final plan and hope to see policy translated into action on the water soon.

Sincerely,

Ron Vanbianchi

Name: **Sandra Woodall**

Organization:

Path:

Comment: Dear Chairs Sutley and Holdren and National Ocean Council Members:

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Produce an implementation status report every two years that notes progress on reaching ecological indicators and the actions and milestones in the Plan; and

Fully utilize existing legal authorities to implement the National Ocean Policy.

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The National Ocean Policy is founded on sound science, an inclusive and transparent public and stakeholder engagement process, the protection of habitat and wildlife populations. It encourages government at all levels to work together. The Draft Implementation Plan reflects over two years worth of hard work, investment and commitment made by state governments, commercial and industrial ocean users, universities and scientists, 27 federal agencies and departments and tens of thousands of citizens across the country to move our oceans toward better ocean management. I urge the National Ocean Council to put the National Ocean Policy in place as soon as possible through this Implementation Plan with the goal of creating the enduring environmental stewardship of our ocean, coastal and Great Lakes ecosystems.

Name: **Bradley Buck**

Organization:

Path:

Comment: Dear Chairs Sutley and Holdren and National Ocean Council Members:

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Plan with the goal of creating the enduring environmental stewardship of our ocean, coastal and Great Lakes ecosystems.

Name: **Chris Laughlin**

Organization:

Path:

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Name: **Dana Laughlin**

Organization:

Path:

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Name: **Laura Levey**

Organization:

Path:

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Name: **Beverlee Goynes**

Organization:

Path:

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Name: **Maureen Barillaro**

Organization: Somerville Climate Action

Path:

Comment: Dear Chairs Sutley and Holdren and National Ocean Council Members:

I am tired of going to the beach and sitting amongst garbage. I'm tired of being afraid of going in the vast sea because I'm scared of the pollution that has been for so long destroying our oceans, sealife and our bodies.

The recently released Draft National Ocean Policy Implementation Plan is a giant step forward in advancing the National Ocean Policy and helping to create healthier oceans and coasts and stronger economies for our coastal communities. The Plan shows great strength in providing a cohesive framework for National Ocean Policy implementation and being an action-oriented plan that provides for government accountability. As you move to finalize this plan, please consider the following recommendations:

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Name: **April Ewaskey**

Organization:

Path:

Comment:

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Name: **Julie Slater-Giglioli**

Organization:

Path:

Comment: PRESERVE MARINE LIFE AND STOP THREATENING ENDANGERED SPECIES AND SEALIFE IN GENERAL. DO NOT ALLOW DEVICES IN THE OCEAN THAT CAN HARM +/-OR THREATEN THE EXISTENCE OF DOLPHINS, WHALES AND OTHER MARINE LIFE.

Name: **Donna Knipp**

Organization:

Path:

Comment: The recently released Draft National Ocean Policy Implementation Plan is a giant step forward in advancing the National Ocean Policy and helping to create healthier oceans and coasts and stronger economies for our coastal communities. The Plan shows great strength in providing a cohesive framework for National Ocean Policy implementation and being an action-oriented plan that provides for government accountability. As you move to finalize this plan, please consider the following recommendations:

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Name: **Floss Shahbegian**

Organization: retired

Path:

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Ensure the plan does not overlook needed new actions and does not only propose existing government plans and programs;

\*

Produce an implementation status report every two years that notes progress on reaching ecological indicators and the actions and milestones in the Plan; and

Fully utilize existing legal authorities to implement the National Ocean Policy.

The National Ocean Council should also prioritize needed funding for regional ocean partnerships in those regions which are best prepared to begin regional planning bodies and convene stakeholder participation. Regional ocean partnerships can create the best value of scarce federal funding by bringing federal, state, tribal, scientific and non-governmental entities together to start to address ocean management challenges.

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coastal and Great Lakes ecosystems.

Name: **John Richkus**

Organization:

Path:

Comment:

1. **Ecosystem-Based Management:** Adopt ecosystem-based management as a foundational principle for comprehensive management of the ocean, our coasts, and the Great Lakes.
2. **Coastal and Marine Spatial Planning:** Implement comprehensive, integrated, ecosystem based coastal and marine spatial planning and management in the United States.
3. **Inform Decisions and Improve Understanding:** Increase knowledge to continually inform and improve management and policy decisions and the capacity to respond to change and challenges. Better educate the public through formal and informal programs about the ocean, our coasts, and the Great Lakes.
4. **Coordinate and Support:** Better coordinate and support Federal, State, tribal, local, and regional management of the ocean, our coasts, and the Great Lakes. Improve coordination and integration across the Federal Government and, as appropriate, engage with the international community.
5. **Resiliency and Adaptation to Climate Change and Ocean Acidification:** Strengthen resiliency of coastal communities and marine and Great Lakes environments and their abilities to adapt to climate change impacts and ocean acidification.
6. **Regional Ecosystem Protection and Restoration:** Establish and implement an integrated ecosystem protection and restoration strategy that is science-based and aligns conservation and restoration goals at the Federal, state, tribal, local and regional levels.
7. **Water Quality and Sustainable Practices on Land:** Enhance water quality in the ocean, along our coasts, and in the Great Lakes by promoting and implementing sustainable practices on land.
8. **Changing Conditions in the Arctic:** Address environmental stewardship needs in the Arctic Ocean and adjacent coastal areas in the face of climate-induced and other environmental changes.
9. **Ocean, Coastal, and Great Lakes Observations, Mapping, and Infrastructure:** Strengthen and integrate Federal and non-Federal ocean observing systems, sensors, data collection platforms, data management, and mapping capabilities into a national system, and integrate that system into international observation efforts.

Name: **Callie Riley**

Organization:

Path:

Comment: Dear Chairs Sutley and Holdren and National Ocean Council Members: The recently released Draft National Ocean Policy Implementation Plan is a giant step forward in advancing the National Ocean Policy and helping to create healthier oceans and coasts and stronger economies for our coastal communities. The Plan shows great strength in providing a cohesive framework for National Ocean Policy implementation and being an action-oriented plan that provides for government accountability. As you move to finalize this plan, please consider the following recommendations: Protecting, maintaining and restoring the health of our oceans, coasts and Great Lakes must be of primary importance with an emphasis to achieve conservation milestones that can provide immediate ecological benefit such as the protection and restoration of coastal and marine habitat for priority species; •Ensure the plan does not overlook needed new actions and does not only propose existing government plans and programs; •Produce an implementation status report every two years that notes progress on reaching ecological indicators and the actions and milestones in the Plan; and •Fully utilize existing legal authorities to implement the National Ocean Policy. The National Ocean Council should also prioritize needed funding for regional ocean partnerships in those regions which are best prepared to begin regional planning bodies and convene stakeholder participation. Regional ocean partnerships can create the best value of scarce federal funding by bringing federal, state, tribal, scientific and non-governmental entities together to start to address ocean management challenges. The National Ocean Policy is founded on sound science, an inclusive and transparent public and stakeholder engagement process, the protection of habitat and wildlife populations, and encourages government at all levels to work together. The Draft Implementation Plan reflects over two years worth of hard work, investment and commitment made by state governments, commercial and industrial ocean users, universities and scientists, 27 federal agencies and departments and tens of thousands of citizens across the country to move our oceans toward better ocean management. I urge the National Ocean Council to operationalize the National Ocean Policy as soon as possible through this Implementation Plan with the goal of creating the enduring environmental stewardship of our ocean, coastal and Great Lakes ecosystems.

Name: **John Lovewell**

Organization: World Sea Life Foundation / Sea Save

Path:

Comment: One of the biggest problems with the whole system is the definitions are all wrong. Words no longer mean what they were meant to be. Like...conservation has become a scam to make more funding and so-called education is so old school and fundamentally wrong it should not be taught. National as in Aquarium is not the best this country has to offer and is in fact a Non-profit scam that does not do rescues called living donations only take more money. The Aquarium industry wastes 90% of the marine life they bring in so they can sell more next month because fish, corals and inverts from the sea have no rights like other pets and has become a National scam to kill more life than last year for profit. If you want to really save lives we should begin by just taking better care of the ones we do have to take so we don't have to take more, which is real conservation.

Name: **ron silver**

Organization:

Path:

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Name: **margaret silver**

Organization:

Path:

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Name: **Eden Kennan**

Organization: none

Path:

Comment: I have read your proposals, and they generally look good to me. One of my concerns is the use of sonar in mapping, etc., as it can be harmful to wildlife. I hope you will address that issue. I would hope this proposal will discourage the same type of sonar as used by the U.S. Navy. I have to admit that I know little about this other than what certain environmental groups have mentioned.

Name: **Joanne Larsen**

Organization:

Path:

Comment: Dear Chairs Sutley and Holdren and National Ocean Council Members:

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Name: **Anthony Montapert**

Organization:

Path:

Comment: I support the funding of the National Ocean Policy.

Name: **Vanessa Favero**

Organization:

Path:

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# NATIONAL OCEAN COUNCIL

Name: **Steve Olson**  
Organization: Association of Zoos and Aquariums  
Path: [http://edit.whitehouse.gov/sites/default/files/webform/2012\\_aza\\_ocean\\_policy\\_letter\\_t\\_o\\_ceq.doc](http://edit.whitehouse.gov/sites/default/files/webform/2012_aza_ocean_policy_letter_t_o_ceq.doc)  
Comment:

February 22, 2012

The Honorable Nancy Sutley  
Chair, Council on Environmental Quality  
Co-Chair, National Ocean Council  
772 Jackson Place NW  
Washington, D.C., 20503

Dr. John Holdren, Director  
Office of Science and Technology Policy  
Co-Chair, National Ocean Council  
722 Jackson Place NW  
Washington D.C., 20503

RE: NOP Draft Implementation Plan

Dear Chair Sutley, Chair Holdren and Members of the National Ocean Council:

On behalf of the 225 accredited zoo and aquarium members of the Association of Zoos and Aquarium (AZA), we would like to thank you for the opportunity to provide support and input on the Draft National Ocean Policy Implementation Plan. We commend you for this ambitious effort to ensure better stewardship of the ocean, coasts, and Great Lakes. We are pleased the three priorities of AZA identified in our 2009 letter of support are in the Implementation Plan – ecosystem-based management/research, climate change/ocean acidification focus and ocean literacy as a foundation for achieving policy goals.

Every year, AZA-accredited zoos and aquariums across the country connect over 180 million visitors to animals and habitats. Our institutions play a critical role in aquatic conservation through broad-based public education and outreach activities, sponsor cutting-edge research projects around the globe, and participate in efforts to shape public policy. AZA members also represent the foremost authorities on wildlife care, husbandry, and behavior. We welcome the opportunity to join with partners in the federal

government to share our experience and expertise, and find ways to enhance the communication of science-based conservation messages to the general public and other audiences.

Our members are acutely aware of the escalating threats to our oceans, coasts, and Great Lakes. Climate change, pollution, overfishing, habitat loss, and invasive species stand out among a wide range of impacts that are putting the health of marine animals and ecosystems at increasing risk.

As stated in the Plan, aquariums play a critical role in Priority #2: Increase knowledge to continually inform and improve management and policy decisions and the capacity to respond to ocean change and challenges. Our programs derive from National Research Council findings that show informal science education to be effective at achieving ocean literacy knowledge and awareness.

Specifically, we support the milestones under Action 6: Increase ocean and coastal literacy by expanding the accessibility and use of ocean content in formal and informal educational programming for students, educators, and the public. In particular, we urge the Council to ensure ocean content is included in Next Generation Science Standards, and to support the development of stories and data sets to deliver the latest ocean science content to be shared via innovative exhibits in the nation's aquariums, museums and science centers. We look forward to working with you to achieve success with these milestones, as well as the other outcomes included in this section.

Thank you for your consideration of our recommendations and the opportunity to partner with you to better educate the public about the ocean, our coasts and the Great Lakes.

Sincerely,

Jim Maddy  
President & CEO

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Seattle Aquarium  
Monterey Bay Aquarium  
Point Defiance Zoo & Aquarium

Abilene Zoological Gardens  
Adventure Aquarium  
Africam Safari Park  
African Safari Wildlife Park

Akron Zoological Park  
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Newport Aquarium  
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Pueblo Zoo  
Queens Zoo  
Racine Zoological Gardens  
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Reid Park Zoo  
Ripley's Aquarium  
Ripley's Aquarium of the Smokies  
Riverbanks Zoo & Garden  
Riverside Discovery Center  
Roger Williams Park Zoo  
Rolling Hills Wildlife Adventure  
Roosevelt Park Zoo  
Rosamond Gifford Zoo at Burnet Park  
Sacramento Zoo  
Safari West Wildlife Preserve  
Saint Louis Zoo  
Salisbury Zoological Park  
San Antonio Zoological Gardens & Aquarium  
San Diego Zoo  
San Diego Zoo Safari Park  
San Francisco Zoological Gardens  
Santa Ana Zoo  
Santa Barbara Zoological Gardens  
Santa Fe College Teaching Zoo  
Scovill Zoo  
SeaWorld Orlando  
SeaWorld San Antonio  
SeaWorld San Diego  
Sedgwick County Zoo  
Seneca Park Zoo  
Sequoia Park Zoo  
Shark Reef at Mandalay Bay  
Six Flags Discovery Kingdom  
Smithsonian National Zoological Park  
South Carolina Aquarium  
Squam Lakes Natural Science Center  
St. Augustine Alligator Farm

Staten Island Zoo  
Steinhart Aquarium  
Sunset Zoological Park  
Tampa's Lowry Park Zoo  
Tautphaus Park Zoo  
Tennessee Aquarium  
Texas State Aquarium  
The Seas  
Toledo Zoological Gardens  
Topeka Zoo  
Toronto Zoo  
Tracy Aviary  
Trevor Zoo  
Tulsa Zoo and Living Museum  
Turtle Back Zoo  
Utah's Hogle Zoo  
Vancouver Aquarium Marine Science Centre  
Virginia Aquarium & Marine Science Center  
Virginia Living Museum  
Virginia Zoological Park  
Walter D. Stone Memorial Zoo  
Western North Carolina Nature Center  
Wildlife Safari  
Wilds  
Woodland Park Zoo  
Zoo Atlanta  
Zoo Boise  
Zoo de Granby  
Zoo Miami  
ZOOAMERICA North American Wildlife Park

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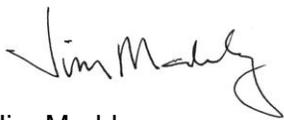
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Ripley's Aquarium  
Ripley's Aquarium of the Smokies  
Riverbanks Zoo & Garden  
Riverside Discovery Center  
Roger Williams Park Zoo  
Rolling Hills Wildlife Adventure  
Roosevelt Park Zoo  
Rosamond Gifford Zoo at Burnet Park  
Sacramento Zoo  
Safari West Wildlife Preserve  
Saint Louis Zoo  
Salisbury Zoological Park  
San Antonio Zoological Gardens & Aquarium  
San Diego Zoo  
San Diego Zoo Safari Park  
San Francisco Zoological Gardens  
Santa Ana Zoo  
Santa Barbara Zoological Gardens

Santa Fe College Teaching Zoo  
Scovill Zoo  
SeaWorld Orlando  
SeaWorld San Antonio  
SeaWorld San Diego  
Sedgwick County Zoo  
Seneca Park Zoo  
Sequoia Park Zoo  
Shark Reef at Mandalay Bay  
Six Flags Discovery Kingdom  
Smithsonian National Zoological Park  
South Carolina Aquarium  
Squam Lakes Natural Science Center  
St. Augustine Alligator Farm  
Staten Island Zoo  
Steinhart Aquarium  
Sunset Zoological Park  
Tampa's Lowry Park Zoo  
Tautphaus Park Zoo  
Tennessee Aquarium  
Texas State Aquarium  
The Seas  
Toledo Zoological Gardens  
Topeka Zoo  
Toronto Zoo  
Tracy Aviary  
Trevor Zoo  
Tulsa Zoo and Living Museum  
Turtle Back Zoo  
Utah's Hogle Zoo  
Vancouver Aquarium Marine Science Centre  
Virginia Aquarium & Marine Science Center  
Virginia Living Museum  
Virginia Zoological Park  
Walter D. Stone Memorial Zoo  
Western North Carolina Nature Center  
Wildlife Safari  
Wilds  
Woodland Park Zoo  
Zoo Atlanta  
Zoo Boise  
Zoo de Granby  
Zoo Miami  
ZOOAMERICA North American Wildlife Park

Name: **Keith Rizzardi**

Organization: Marine Fisheries Advisory Council

Path: [http://edit.whitehouse.gov/sites/default/files/webform/mafac\\_comments.pdf](http://edit.whitehouse.gov/sites/default/files/webform/mafac_comments.pdf)

Comment:



**UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE**  
**National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration**  
NATIONAL MARINE FISHERIES SERVICE  
Silver Spring, MD 20910

MARINE FISHERIES ADVISORY COMMITTEE

February 22, 2012

MEMORANDUM FOR: John Bryson  
Secretary of Commerce

FROM: Keith Rizzardi  
Chair, Marine Fisheries Advisory Committee

SUBJECT: Comments on National Ocean Policy Draft Implementation Plan

As requested, the Marine Fisheries Advisory Committee (MAFAC) prepared the attached comments on the National Ocean Policy Implementation Plan. The comments represent the consensus advice of a diverse group of experts and stakeholders who serve on this Federal Advisory Committee. We appreciate the opportunity to provide our perspective on living marine resource stewardship issues.

MAFAC has received multiple briefings from senior Executive Branch leaders on the National Ocean Policy (NOP), and agreed at its October 2011 meeting to comment on the Policy's draft Implementation Plan when it became available. MAFAC met in public session on February 7, 2012, and adopted the attached consensus findings and recommendation on the Implementation Plan.

Last summer, the Committee submitted detailed suggestions for each of the nine priority objectives in the NOP. Through those comments, we sought to rectify the lack of priority and focus given to living marine resources and their habitats. Our review of the draft Implementation Plan suggests that most of our recommendations went unheeded.

While we recognize the hard work and effort that has gone into the development of the NOP, we feel that the draft Implementation Plan is incomplete. The draft document does not, but should, emphasize the direct and unique link between fisheries, aquaculture, and the long-term sustainability of all our living marine resources and their habitats. Therefore, we now recommend the creation of a separate chapter that elevates the priority given to living marine resources.

Our reasoning is explained in more detail in the attached comments. We appreciate the opportunity to comment and look forward to seeing the revisions to the Implementation Plan.

Attachment





February 22, 2012

## **COMMENTS ON NATIONAL OCEAN POLICY IMPLEMENTATION PLAN**

### **SUMMARY**

**1. Living marine resources, fisheries and marine aquaculture should be given a central strategic priority in the National Ocean Policy Implementation plan.** These resources and industries are uniquely vulnerable to changes in conditions and resiliency of the ocean; without the oceans, they do not exist. They should be our foremost priority, not merely equated with other competing ocean uses and users. Equal priorities means no priorities.

**2. Living marine resources, fisheries and marine aquaculture provide substantial and irreplaceable benefits** because they generate sustainable jobs in the U.S. and abroad, promote stability in international affairs, provide an efficient, secure and healthy food supply, and preserve social and cultural heritage.

**3. The draft Implementation Plan should be revised** to include an independent section on sustainable living marine resources, fisheries and aquaculture, right after the statement of the national priority objectives, to emphasize their priority. In addition, MAFAC's previous comments (June 29, 2011) should be revisited.

The Marine Fisheries Advisory Committee (MAFAC) advises the Secretary of Commerce on matters related to living marine resources. MAFAC supports the need for a national vision for the oceans. However, the draft National Ocean Policy Implementation Plan does not adequately prioritize sustainability of living marine resources, fisheries and aquaculture, and the jobs that depend upon them. The oceans are the habitat for all marine resources. The oceans are the fisheries. Marine aquaculture depends on the ocean.

As currently written, the National Ocean Policy Implementation Plan gives relatively equal weight to all competing uses. Yet marine resources, fisheries and marine aquaculture exclusively depend upon and have no substitute for the ocean, and remain uniquely vulnerable to the changes in the conditions and resiliency of the ocean. Without the oceans, they do not exist. In contrast, other competing sectors, such as oil and gas and renewable energy in the ocean, have land-based substitutes. If our national policy goal for the oceans is truly to achieve sustainability, then this document should be revised to state, as a foremost priority, that all other uses and users in the ocean must remain fully compatible with living marine resources, fisheries and aquaculture.

Objective consideration of our past, present and future inescapably shows that living marine resources, and the fisheries and aquaculture industries that depend upon them, should be the top priority in our vision for the oceans. For centuries, fisheries have served as foundational

employers in many coastal communities, shaping the culture and traditions of American citizens and indigenous Tribes. Even today, commercial and recreational businesses based on marine resources, fisheries and aquaculture are often the sole economic prospect in small coastal communities.

Internationally, these industries represent enormous portions of the economy in many growing nations. Fisheries policy even has consequences for international relations and nation building, with fishing rights and treaties influencing the success or failure of many nations' economy, health and stability.

Fisheries and aquaculture also offer solutions for a sustainable future. In public health policy, these industries serve as energy-smart sources of new food supplies, presenting an alternative to pollution- and carbon-intensive livestock and agriculture. In addition, promotion of healthy fish protein choices will contribute to improved human health, and the highly efficient aquaculture industry can become an essential tool to achieve global food security.

Given the prospect of preparing a document that would be acceptable to all federal agencies with any kind of stake in the ocean, it is understandable that many uses and users of the ocean have been given equal weight and priority in the draft Implementation plan. But as a consequence, the scale and scope of objectives and strategies in the document remain large and abstract. The lack of strategic prioritization is likely to result in a paralysis of inaction that ensures the status quo. A document with many equal priorities really has no priorities.

To achieve greater strategic clarity, the Implementation Plan could be changed right after the statement of the national priority objectives, giving healthy living marine resources their own, independent section in the plan to reflect their priority. Additional details of how fisheries and aquaculture concepts intersect with the original nine priority objectives of the national policy were outlined by MAFAC in previous comments submitted electronically to CEQ on June 29, 2011. MAFAC also recommends those comments be re-evaluated.

In conclusion, MAFAC commends the authors of the National Ocean Policy on the extraordinary investment of time and effort into the creation of the National Ocean Policy, and the draft Implementation Plan. However, to enable meaningful implementation of these documents, and to provide guidance to all other uses and users about the priorities in our oceans, MAFAC recommends that living marine resources, fisheries and aquaculture be given an independent section within the plan, and a central strategic priority.

Name: **Nanette Oggiono**

Organization:

Path:

Comment: Dear Chairs Sutley and Holdren and National Ocean Council Members:

The recently released Draft National Ocean Policy Implementation Plan is a giant step forward in advancing the National Ocean Policy and helping to create healthier oceans and coasts and stronger economies for our coastal communities. The Plan shows great strength in providing a cohesive framework for National Ocean Policy implementation and being an action-oriented plan that provides for government accountability. As you move to finalize this plan, please consider the following recommendations:

Protecting, maintaining and restoring the health of our oceans, coasts and Great Lakes must be of primary importance with an emphasis to achieve conservation milestones that can provide immediate ecological benefit such as the protection and restoration of coastal and marine habitat for priority species;

Ensure the plan does not overlook needed new actions and does not only propose existing government plans and programs;

Produce an implementation status report every two years that notes progress on reaching ecological indicators and the actions and milestones in the Plan; and

Fully utilize existing legal authorities to implement the National Ocean Policy.

The National Ocean Council should also prioritize needed funding for regional ocean partnerships in those regions which are best prepared to begin regional planning bodies and convene stakeholder participation. Regional ocean partnerships can create the best value of scarce federal funding by bringing federal, state, tribal, scientific and non-governmental entities together to start to address ocean management challenges.

The National Ocean Policy is founded on sound science, an inclusive and transparent public and stakeholder engagement process, the protection of habitat and wildlife populations, and encourages government at all levels to work together. The Draft Implementation Plan reflects over two years worth of hard work, investment and commitment made by state governments, commercial and industrial ocean users, universities and scientists, 27 federal agencies and departments and tens of thousands of citizens across the country to move our oceans toward better ocean management. I urge the National Ocean Council to operationalize the National Ocean Policy as soon as possible through this Implementation Plan with the goal of creating the enduring environmental stewardship of our ocean, coastal and Great Lakes ecosystems.

Name: **Chelsea Krebs**

Organization:

Path:

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Name: **Wanda Ballentine**

Organization:

Path:

Comment: Dear Chairs Sutley and Holdren and National Ocean Council Members:

I couldn't believe it - I received a copy of the Draft National Ocean Policy Implementation Plan, and am just fine with what is written below - BUT there is nothing about the threat of global warming in the plan! Good grief! Increased temperature in the waters are killing some marine beings, like fish who have adapted to freezing temperatures. Others seek other areas. Meanwhile, as the ice is breaking up in the Arctic, Orcas are having a field day killing animals there. The ocean is becoming increasingly acidic, killing coral reefs and other species. And then, of course, the rising of the seas.

I also saw nothing about the horrendous overfishing of the oceans - the hideous "scraper" boats that just trample everything in their way, killing everything but the particular fish they want.

Also didn't see anything about the incredible garbage patch of plastic which extends as far as the eye can see and is killing ever more mammals. ☹

What we have done to this earth in our egregious search for money at any cost - will soon result in a planet none can live in.

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Name: **Claire Flewitt**

Organization:

Path:

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Name: amy lagrone

Organization: na

Path:

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Name: **Birdlegs Caughlan**

Organization: surfer

Path:

Comment: Acidification, the plastic gyres, overfishing, are much more important issues than whoever a Kardashian girl is getting married to this week. You have to be more forceful in getting your messages to the people and the politicians.

Name: **J Kitts**

Organization:

Path:

Comment: ear Chairs Sutley and Holdren and National Ocean Council Members:

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Name: **Linda Lillow**

Organization: Triple L, Ink

Path:

Comment: Dear Chairs Sutley and Holdren and National Ocean Council Members:

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I urge the National Ocean Council to operationalize the National Ocean Policy as soon as possible through this Implementation Plan with the goal of creating the enduring environmental stewardship of our ocean, coastal and Great Lakes ecosystems.

Name: **Janot Mendler de Suarez**

Organization: Global Oceans Forum working group on oceans, climate & security

Path: [http://edit.whitehouse.gov/sites/default/files/webform/natoceanplan\\_comment\\_mendler.doc](http://edit.whitehouse.gov/sites/default/files/webform/natoceanplan_comment_mendler.doc)

Comment: On the whole a commendably comprehensive plan which I am pleased to support and endorse, with some suggestions for consideration, based on over a decade working with the Global Environment Facility's International Waters portfolio.

## COMMENTS on National Ocean Policy Implementation Plan 22 Feb 2012

Janot Mendler de Suarez

Co-chair, Global Oceans Forum working group on oceans & climate

Advisor, U Mass-Boston Collaborative Institute on Oceans, Climate & Security

Games for a New Climate Task Force, BU Pardee Center for the Study of the Longer-Range Future

Senior Lecturer emeritus, Center for Developing Areas Research, Dept. of Geography, Royal Holloway, University of London

Founding Project Coordinator, GEF International Waters: LEARN ([www.iwlearn.org](http://www.iwlearn.org))

9 Priority Objectives are great, here are some suggestions for consideration:

### **Ecosystem-based Management**

EBM objective should include nominal mention of consistency with LME (large marine ecosystem) approach (<http://www.lme.noaa.gov/>) being used in many parts of the world as a basis for transboundary (international) implementation of EBM.

### **Inform Decisions and Improve Understanding**

You can lead a horse to water...but you can't make him read the case study: in my experience DSS tools and lessons learnt need intentional process support to facilitate uptake. Setting metrics for knowledge-sharing and peer learning offers means to measure uptake both objectively and subjectively.

In general, qualitative AND quantitative methods should be used to measure results; for learning objectives, it is also important to evaluate reflexively, to establish indicators that reveal whether people felt the learning process itself was effective and efficient.

### **Observations, Mapping, and Infrastructure**

Action 1, fleet assessment, should include development and schedule for deployment of a protocol for progressive adoption of new naval standards for energy efficiency, including conversion of fleet to solar power under 12knots, 50% reduction of fossil fuel use by 2020, and switch remainder to biofuel which does not compete with food agriculture (e.g. to use of biofuels from marine algae, etc.)

### **Coordinate and Support**

You can't be all things to all people, all the time... For this to gain traction you need to be able to demonstrate early impact. A good way to do this would be to add a pilot/demo 'Action 7' for EBM intensification at several scales – sites where the opportunity to change biz as usual is strong (local – w/a large municipality (like New Orleans), regional (Pacific NW) and transboundary/international (New England & Maritime Provinces).

### **Regional Ecosystem Protection and Restoration**

Again, what's going to change business as usual? Add some targeted actions, focus on one or two of our entrenched problems and give it 2-3 years to see if breakthrough can be achieved on some key impact indicators. For example: reverse some dead zones (go for it: tackle the Gulf of Mexico), mobilize serious clean-up of some (or all!) of the toxic superfund sites in the Great Lakes catchment.

## **Resiliency and Adaptation to Climate Change and Ocean Acidification**

To get more bang from our research bucks, the knowledge management plan for meeting this objective should additionally specify action to communicate and raise public awareness. This is an important feed-back loop that the plan must leverage. If the results are not communicated beyond the science/practitioner community we will not have informed democratic process – after all the most important driver of sustained EBM.

Coordinate Action 3 miniizing hypoxia w/suggestion for targeted restoration actions above.

## **Water Quality and Sustainable Practices on Land**

Don't dodge the bullet. A specific category of action should address restoration/protection measures targeting the agriculture sector specifically.

## **Changing Conditions in the Arctic**

Specific action to provide support needed to enable arctic residents to effectively engage as stakeholders in implementation of this plan – so that it can serve to ensure agency (especially of native peoples) and protect their and future generations' interests from plunder and resource-grabs that are inevitable w/the rapid acceleration of Arctic access as the polar region warms.

## **Coastal and Marine Spatial Planning**

We should not overlook or undervalue the importance of US leadership in adopting and implementing adaptive EBM through this exemplary national ocean policy implementation plan. Why not include specific action to support knowledge-sharing with other countries committed to implementation of EBM through technical support in coastal & MSP, perhaps prioritizing border states and wider Caribbean, but also recognizing countries like Vietnam which is already actively seeking to learn from US experience in watershed protection through payments for ecosystem services (modeled on NY city watershed protection) and MSP (in Massachusetts). US practitioners can learn more and accelerate the implementation learning curve through peer learning with practitioners in other countries as well as our own.

Name: **valerie gilbert**

Organization:

Path:

Comment: Ensure the plan does not overlook needed new actions and does not only propose existing government plans and programs;  
Produce an implementation status report every two years that notes progress on reaching ecological indicators and the actions and milestones in the Plan; and  
Fully utilize existing legal authorities to implement the National Ocean Policy.

Name: **Mark Marino**

Organization:

Path:

Comment: I have several questions:

- 1) Where in the Constitution is the authority for this sweeping a mandate supported?
- 2) What role does Congress have in reviewing and/or approving these changes?
- 3) How much of this plan is based on previously unratified U.N. proposals?
- 4) How will this impact U.S. based business community?
- 5) What will be the impact on Federal, State and Local taxes?

Name: **Joann Ramos**

Organization:

Path:

Comment: Dear Chairs Sutley and Holdren and National Ocean Council Members:

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Name: **Captain Joel S. Fogel**

Organization: WATERWATCH International

Path:

Comment: Ladies and Gentlemen,

The time is now to implement this visionary plan to save our seas.

From water quality with acidification of our oceans to the overfishing and destruction of habitat, our oceans are under attack from the human race.

We need to organize and coordinate a plan of action to protect and preserve our precious planet.

Please make this happen now !

VTY,

Captain Joel S. Fogel  
Chairman, The Explorers Club  
[www.explorers.org](http://www.explorers.org)

President, WATERWATCH International  
[www.waterwatchinternational.org](http://www.waterwatchinternational.org)

Name: **Nick Berezansky**

Organization:

Path:

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Name: **James Kirks**

Organization: retired

Path:

Comment: Dear Chairs Sutley and Holdren and National Ocean Council Members:

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Protecting, maintaining and restoring the health of our oceans, coasts and Great Lakes must be of primary importance with an emphasis to achieve conservation milestones that can provide immediate ecological benefit such as the protection and restoration of coastal and marine habitat for priority species;

\*

Ensure the plan does not overlook needed new actions and does not only propose existing government plans and programs;

\*

Produce an implementation status report every two years that notes progress on reaching ecological indicators and the actions and milestones in the Plan; and

\*

Fully utilize existing legal authorities to implement the National Ocean Policy.

The National Ocean Council should also prioritize needed funding for regional ocean partnerships in those regions which are best prepared to begin regional planning bodies and convene stakeholder participation. Regional ocean partnerships can create the best value of scarce federal funding by bringing federal, state, tribal, scientific and non-governmental entities together to start to address ocean management challenges.

The National Ocean Policy is founded on sound science, an inclusive and transparent public and stakeholder engagement process, the protection of habitat and wildlife populations, and encourages government at all levels to work together. The Draft Implementation Plan reflects over two years worth of hard work, investment and commitment made by state governments, commercial and industrial ocean users, universities and scientists, 27 federal agencies and departments and tens of thousands of citizens across the country to move our oceans toward better ocean management. I urge the National Ocean Council to operationalize the National Ocean Policy as soon as possible through this Implementation

Plan with the goal of creating the enduring environmental stewardship of our ocean, coastal and Great Lakes ecosystems.

Name: **Gloria Shen**

Organization:

Path:

Comment: Dear Chairs Sutley and Holdren and National Ocean Council Members:

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Name: **Joel Trupin**

Organization: none

Path:

Comment: Dear Chairs Sutley and Holdren and National Ocean Council Members:

I strongly support the recently released Draft National Ocean Policy Implementation Plan. It is a major step forward in advancing the National Ocean Policy and helping to create healthier oceans and coasts and stronger economies for our coastal communities. The Plan provides a cohesive framework for National Ocean Policy implementation. Moreover, it is an action-oriented plan that provides for government accountability. As you move to finalize this plan, please consider the following recommendations:

- Protecting, maintaining and restoring the health of our oceans, coasts and Great Lakes must be of primary importance with an emphasis to achieve conservation milestones that can provide immediate ecological benefit such as the protection and restoration of coastal and marine habitat for priority species;
- Ensure the plan does not overlook needed new actions while including existing government plans and programs;
- Produce an implementation status report every two years that notes progress on reaching ecological indicators and the actions and milestones in the Plan; and
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The National Ocean Council should also prioritize needed funding for regional ocean partnerships in those regions that are best prepared to begin regional planning bodies and convene stakeholder participation. Regional ocean partnerships can create the best value of scarce federal funding by bringing federal, state, tribal, scientific and non-governmental entities together to start to address ocean management challenges.

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Name: **Bruce Odelberg**

Organization:

Path:

Comment: Dear Chairs Holdren and Sutley and the National Ocean Council Members:

This is an important issue for me. I find that the recently released Draft National Ocean Policy Implementation Plan is a giant step forward in advancing the National Ocean Policy and helping to create healthier oceans and coasts and stronger economies for our coastal communities. The Plan shows great strength in providing a cohesive framework for National Ocean Policy implementation and being an action-oriented plan that provides for government accountability. As you move to finalize this plan, please consider the following recommendations:

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Name: **Lawrence Fischman**

Organization:

Path:

Comment: Dear Chairs Sutley and Holdren and National Ocean Council Members: The recently released Draft National Ocean Policy Implementation Plan is a giant step forward in advancing the National Ocean Policy and helping to create healthier oceans and coasts and stronger economies for our coastal communities. The Plan shows great strength in providing a cohesive framework for National Ocean Policy implementation and being an action-oriented plan that provides for government accountability. As you move to finalize this plan, please consider the following recommendations: Protecting, maintaining and restoring the health of our oceans, coasts and Great Lakes must be of primary importance with an emphasis to achieve conservation milestones that can provide immediate ecological benefit such as the protection and restoration of coastal and marine habitat for priority species; •Ensure the plan does not overlook needed new actions and does not only propose existing government plans and programs; •Produce an implementation status report every two years that notes progress on reaching ecological indicators and the actions and milestones in the Plan; and •Fully utilize existing legal authorities to implement the National Ocean Policy. The National Ocean Council should also prioritize needed funding for regional ocean partnerships in those regions which are best prepared to begin regional planning bodies and convene stakeholder participation. Regional ocean partnerships can create the best value of scarce federal funding by bringing federal, state, tribal, scientific and non-governmental entities together to start to address ocean management challenges. The National Ocean Policy is founded on sound science, an inclusive and transparent public and stakeholder engagement process, the protection of habitat and wildlife populations, and encourages government at all levels to work together. The Draft Implementation Plan reflects over two years worth of hard work, investment and commitment made by state governments, commercial and industrial ocean users, universities and scientists, 27 federal agencies and departments and tens of thousands of citizens across the country to move our oceans toward better ocean management. I urge the National Ocean Council to operationalize the National Ocean Policy as soon as possible through this Implementation Plan with the goal of creating the enduring environmental stewardship of our ocean, coastal and Great Lakes ecosystems.

Name: **Edward Butler**

Organization:

Path:

Comment: The recently released Draft National Ocean Policy Implementation Plan is a giant step forward in advancing the National Ocean Policy and helping to create healthier oceans and coasts and stronger economies for our coastal communities. The Plan provides a cohesive framework for National Ocean Policy implementation, an action-oriented plan that provides for government accountability. As you move to finalize this plan, please consider the following recommendations:

1. Protecting, maintaining and restoring the health of our oceans, coasts and Great Lakes must be of primary importance with an emphasis to achieve conservation milestones that can provide immediate ecological benefit such as the protection and restoration of coastal and marine habitat for priority species.
2. The plan must not overlook needed new actions and should not only propose existing government plans and programs.
3. An implementation status report should be produced every two years that notes progress on reaching ecological indicators and the actions and milestones in the Plan.
4. Existing legal authorities should be fully utilized to implement the National Ocean Policy.

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Name: **Jon Silver**

Organization:

Path:

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Name: **Eric Fosburgh**

Organization:

Path:

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Name: **Andrew Sutphin**

Organization:

Path:

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Name: **Kirstin Wright**

Organization: N/A

Path:

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Name: **Art Hanson**

Organization:

Path:

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Name: **Hiten Shah**

Organization:

Path:

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Name: **E. James Nedeau**

Organization:

Path:

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Name: **Craig Allen**

Organization:

Path:

Comment: Three comments: (1) people skilled at formulating policy are not always the best choice for drafting "strategic action plans" (now downgraded to a mere "implementation plan"). The NOPIP bears that out--it falls well short of an actionable plan. (2) Ports and the marine transportation system, which are so vital to our nation's economic health, are still missing in action in this plan, demonstrating that this is a plan focused on environmental protection, not comprehensive integrated coastal and ocean management. (3) Both commissions recognized the urgent need for legislative reforms. Nothing in the NOP or NOPIP suggests that the Administration intends to even draft proposed bills for congress to consider. Without a legislative basis, any CMS Plans will have no validity beyond the E.O. on which the NOP is based, and remember that one of the first things this President did was to repeal his predecessor's national ocean policy E.O. How serious will the CMS planning efforts be under such doubtful conditions?

Name: **Deanne O'Donnell**

Organization: private citizen

Path:

Comment: Dear Chairs Sutley and Holdren and National Ocean Council Members: The recently released Draft National Ocean Policy Implementation Plan is a giant step forward in advancing the National Ocean Policy and helping to create healthier oceans and coasts and stronger economies for our coastal communities. The Plan shows great strength in providing a cohesive framework for National Ocean Policy implementation and being an action-oriented plan that provides for government accountability. As you move to finalize this plan, please consider the following recommendations: Protecting, maintaining and restoring the health of our oceans, coasts and Great Lakes must be of primary importance with an emphasis to achieve conservation milestones that can provide immediate ecological benefit such as the protection and restoration of coastal and marine habitat for priority species; Ensure the plan does not overlook needed new actions and does not only propose existing government plans and programs; Produce an implementation status report every two years that notes progress on reaching ecological indicators and the actions and milestones in the Plan; and Fully utilize existing legal authorities to implement the National Ocean Policy. The National Ocean Council should also prioritize needed funding for regional ocean partnerships in those regions which are best prepared to begin regional planning bodies and convene stakeholder participation. Regional ocean partnerships can create the best value of scarce federal funding by bringing federal, state, tribal, scientific and non-governmental entities together to start to address ocean management challenges. The National Ocean Policy is founded on sound science, an inclusive and transparent public and stakeholder engagement process, the protection of habitat and wildlife populations, and encourages government at all levels to work together. The Draft Implementation Plan reflects over two years worth of hard work, investment and commitment made by state governments, commercial and industrial ocean users, universities and scientists, 27 federal agencies and departments and tens of thousands of citizens across the country to move our oceans toward better ocean management. I urge the National Ocean Council to operationalize the National Ocean Policy as soon as possible through this Implementation Plan with the goal of creating the enduring environmental stewardship of our ocean, coastal and Great Lakes ecosystems.

Name: **Mike Merrfield**

Organization:

Path:

Comment: NOAA needs to be using more of its budget for good science to manage the fisheries it has. Fisheries need to be managed to maximize the resources we have for maximum sustainable yield. NMFS is not even close to having a good process for achieving this. Instead NMFS employs the precautionary principle to keep yields down to a minimum. Concentrate the money on better science for better regulation to achieve the best maximum sustainable production of this most valuable resource - a healthy food supply.

Name: **Andrew Shepard**

Organization: University of South florida

Path:

Comment: CMSP actions are abysmally inadequate. In fact they are a list of non-actions; more meetings and planning. For decades regional science teams have identified CMSP a critical EBM tool. Over ten years ago, e.g., the NRC report on Marine Protected Areas concluded we have the information required to implement ocean networks. Actions should focus on using the NRC criteria (or any number of other reliable science reports) to develop national network and work with stakeholders to implement by 2015, NOT plan until 2015.

Name: **john cielukowski**

Organization:

Path:

Comment: To whom it may concern,  
The recently released Draft National Ocean Policy Implementation Plan is a giant step forward in advancing the National Ocean Policy and helping to create healthier oceans and coasts and stronger economies for our coastal communities. The Plan shows great strength in providing a cohesive framework for National Ocean Policy implementation and being an action-oriented plan that provides for government accountability. As you move to finalize this plan, please consider the following recommendations: Protecting, maintaining and restoring the health of our oceans, coasts and Great Lakes must be of primary importance with an emphasis to achieve conservation milestones that can provide immediate ecological benefit such as the protection and restoration of coastal and marine habitat for priority species; Ensure the plan does not overlook needed new actions and does not only propose existing government plans and programs; Produce an implementation status report every two years that notes progress on reaching ecological indicators and the actions and milestones in the Plan; and Fully utilize existing legal authorities to implement the National Ocean Policy. The National Ocean Council should also prioritize needed funding for regional ocean partnerships in those regions which are best prepared to begin regional planning bodies and convene stakeholder participation. Regional ocean partnerships can create the best value of scarce federal funding by bringing federal, state, tribal, scientific and non-governmental entities together to start to address ocean management challenges. The National Ocean Policy is founded on sound science, an inclusive and transparent public and stakeholder engagement process, the protection of habitat and wildlife populations, and encourages government at all levels to work together. The Draft Implementation Plan reflects over two years worth of hard work, investment and commitment made by state governments, commercial and industrial ocean users, universities and scientists, 27 federal agencies and departments and tens of thousands of citizens across the country to move our oceans toward better ocean management. I urge the National Ocean Council to operationalize the National Ocean Policy as soon as possible through this Implementation Plan with the goal of creating the enduring environmental stewardship of our ocean, coastal and Great Lakes ecosystems.

Name: **Alyson Shotz**

Organization:

Path:

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Name: **Gail McGlone**

Organization:

Path:

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# NATIONAL OCEAN COUNCIL

Name: **Jim Currie**

Organization: National Marine Manufacturers Association

Path: [http://edit.whitehouse.gov/sites/default/files/webform/response\\_on\\_national\\_ocean\\_policy\\_implementation\\_feb\\_2012\\_0.pdf](http://edit.whitehouse.gov/sites/default/files/webform/response_on_national_ocean_policy_implementation_feb_2012_0.pdf)

Comment:

February 22, 2012

National Ocean Council  
722 Jackson Place, NW  
Washington, DC 20503

Comment on the “Draft National Ocean Policy Implementation Plan” from the National Marine Manufacturers Association

In July 2011 the National Marine Manufacturers Association (NMMA) submitted comments on the National Ocean Council’s “Coastal and Marine Spatial Planning, Strategic Action Plan, Full Content Outline.” NMMA specifically applauded the outline’s recognition of the “social, economic, public health, and conservation benefits of sustainable recreational use of the ocean, coastal, and Great Lakes resources, such as fishing, **boating** [emphasis added], swimming and diving, by providing improved coordination with recreational users to ensure continued access and opportunities to enjoy these activities consistent with economic, safety, and conservation goals.”<sup>1</sup>

It was with the greatest disappointment, therefore, that NMMA read through the 118 pages of the “Draft National Ocean Policy Implementation Plan” and found no mention whatsoever of recreational boating. When an NMMA staff member raised this issue during the January 12, 2012, conference call after the Plan was released, he and others on the call were told that the authors of the plan “had not listed every activity, so as not to leave out any.” The NMMA staffer pointed out that both snorkeling and SCUBA diving were mentioned, not that he had any problem with them, but these activities are hardly of the same economic or participatory magnitude as recreational boating.

This disingenuous response by staff for the National Ocean Council leads us to wonder at the reason for the startling omission of recreational boating from the draft plan. It seems so obvious as not to require pointing out, but many of the activities that were named in the plan—SCUBA diving, snorkeling, whale watching, and fishing—are done quite frequently from recreational (i.e., non-commercial) boats. The omission of recreational boating is also glaring in light of the economic impact of an activity like recreational saltwater and Great Lakes fishing, which almost by necessity is conducted from a recreational boat. The economic effect of saltwater and Great Lakes recreational fishing is well-documented.

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<sup>1</sup> National Ocean Council, 06-02-11, “Coastal and Marine Spatial Planning, Strategic Action Plan, Full Content Outline,” P. 3.

According to the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA), 12 million saltwater recreational anglers take 85 million fishing trips a year.<sup>2</sup> This number does not reflect the millions of recreational fishing trips that are taken each year on the Great Lakes, but together these saltwater and Great Lakes anglers are a tremendous economic engine for our country.

Saltwater and Great Lakes anglers—precisely the geographic areas covered by the National Ocean Policy—generate approximately \$13.8 billion in retail sales and \$38.5 billion in total expenditures each year. Furthermore, saltwater and Great Lakes recreational anglers support some 363,000 jobs and contribute \$114 million to state income tax collections, \$1.6 billion in federal income tax payments, and over \$595 million in state sales taxes each year.<sup>3</sup>

It should be clear, then, that omission of the importance of recreational boating from any National Ocean Policy Implementation Plan is a serious error that must be corrected before the draft plan is finalized.

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<sup>2</sup> NOAA, National marine Fisheries Service, “Recreational Fisheries at NOAA: A Growing Legacy,” May 18, 2011, P. 3.

<sup>3</sup> National Marine Manufacturers Association, *2010 Recreational Boating Statistical Abstract*, P. 67.

Name: **eLAINE gOUGH**

Organization:

Path:

Comment: Life on Earth would end if the Oceans, Lakes, Rivers and Streams were filled with oil spills, depositing toxic sludge and garbage of any kind. If we had no regulations against these things, and corporations were just allowed to spill non-productive garbage into the waters of the Earth, the whole of mankind would be in danger of the poisoned air we would breathe, the waters we would drink and foods farmed in poisoned lands.

Name: **Richard Ordonez**

Organization:

Path:

Comment: Mr. President, if the National Ocean Policy is implemented in a proper manner, than it can become a lasting legacy. Long-term conservation should be at the fore-front of any plan. We need to remember that our rivers, lakes and oceans are the life blood of our planet. They need to be protected from degradation and wasteful practices. You have my full support when it comes to healthy oceans and coastal habitat!

Name: **delia lorenzo**

Organization:

Path:

Comment: Dear Chairs Sutley and Holdren and National Ocean Council Members:

The recently released Draft National Ocean Policy Implementation Plan is a giant step forward in advancing the National Ocean Policy and helping to create healthier oceans and coasts and stronger economies for our coastal communities. The Plan shows great strength in providing a cohesive framework for National Ocean Policy implementation and being an action-oriented plan that provides for government accountability. As you move to finalize this plan, please consider the following recommendations:

Protecting, maintaining and restoring the health of our oceans, coasts and Great Lakes must be of primary importance with an emphasis to achieve conservation milestones that can provide immediate ecological benefit such as the protection and restoration of coastal and marine habitat for priority species;

Ensure the plan does not overlook needed new actions and does not only propose existing government plans and programs;

Produce an implementation status report every two years that notes progress on reaching ecological indicators and the actions and milestones in the Plan; and

Fully utilize existing legal authorities to implement the National Ocean Policy.

The National Ocean Council should also prioritize needed funding for regional ocean partnerships in those regions which are best prepared to begin regional planning bodies and convene stakeholder participation. Regional ocean partnerships can create the best value of scarce federal funding by bringing federal, state, tribal, scientific and non-governmental entities together to start to address ocean management challenges.

The National Ocean Policy is founded on sound science, an inclusive and transparent public and stakeholder engagement process, the protection of habitat and wildlife populations, and encourages government at all levels to work together. The Draft Implementation Plan reflects over two years worth of hard work, investment and commitment made by state governments, commercial and industrial ocean users, universities and scientists, 27 federal agencies and departments and tens of thousands of citizens across the country to move our oceans toward better ocean management. I urge the National Ocean Council to operationalize the National Ocean Policy as soon as possible through this Implementation Plan with the goal of creating the enduring environmental stewardship of our ocean, coastal and Great Lakes ecosystems.

Name: **Chris McCaffity**

Organization:

Path:

Comment: I oppose the draft National Oceans Policy because I have ZERO confidence in NOAA's ability to do anything right under the leadership of Jane Lubchenco. She is a special interest insider with close ties to environmental charities that are advancing UN Agenda 21. This new oceans policy is designed to advance Agenda 21 despite the fact it was not ratified by Congress. Please do not allow this attack on our Nation's sovereignty and liberty to become the law of our land. Thank you.

Name: **Denise Lytle**

Organization:

Path:

Comment: The recently released Draft National Ocean Policy Implementation Plan is a giant step forward in advancing the National Ocean Policy and helping to create healthier oceans and coasts and stronger economies for our coastal communities. The Plan shows great strength in providing a cohesive framework for National Ocean Policy implementation and being an action-oriented plan that provides for government accountability. As you move to finalize this plan, please consider the following recommendations:

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- Ensure the plan does not overlook needed new actions and does not only propose existing government plans and programs;
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# NATIONAL OCEAN COUNCIL

Name: **Helen Anderson**

Organization:

Path:

Comment: As a resident of coastal Maine, I am heartened by the ideas contained in the National Ocean Council's draft National Ocean Policy Implementation Plan. This Plan addresses some of the primary challenges now facing the oceans, our coasts, and the Great Lakes. Please do all that you can to see that this Plan is put into effect as soon as possible. Our planet is largely water and we need to do all we can to take care of it. Thank you for listening.

Name: **Cecelia Samp**

Organization:

Path:

Comment:

Dear Chairs Sutley and Holdren and National Ocean Council Members: The recently released Draft National Ocean Policy Implementation Plan is a giant step forward in advancing the National Ocean Policy and helping to create healthier oceans and coasts and stronger economies for our coastal communities. The Plan shows great strength in providing a cohesive framework for National Ocean Policy implementation and being an action-oriented plan that provides for government accountability. As you move to finalize this plan, please consider the following recommendations: Protecting, maintaining and restoring the health of our oceans, coasts and Great Lakes must be of primary importance with an emphasis to achieve conservation milestones that can provide immediate ecological benefit such as the protection and restoration of coastal and marine habitat for priority species; •Ensure the plan does not overlook needed new actions and does not only propose existing government plans and programs; •Produce an implementation status report every two years that notes progress on reaching ecological indicators and the actions and milestones in the Plan; and •Fully utilize existing legal authorities to implement the National Ocean Policy. The National Ocean Council should also prioritize needed funding for regional ocean partnerships in those regions which are best prepared to begin regional planning bodies and convene stakeholder participation. Regional ocean partnerships can create the best value of scarce federal funding by bringing federal, state, tribal, scientific and non-governmental entities together to start to address ocean management challenges. The National Ocean Policy is founded on sound science, an inclusive and transparent public and stakeholder engagement process, the protection of habitat and wildlife populations, and encourages government at all levels to work together. The Draft Implementation Plan reflects over two years worth of hard work, investment and commitment made by state governments, commercial and industrial ocean users, universities and scientists, 27 federal agencies and departments and tens of thousands of citizens across the country to move our oceans toward better ocean management. I urge the National Ocean Council to operationalize the National Ocean Policy as soon as possible through this Implementation Plan with the goal of creating the enduring environmental stewardship of our ocean, coastal and Great Lakes ecosystems.

Name: **Robert Roberto**

Organization:

Path:

Comment: Dear Chairs Sutley and Holdren and National Ocean Council Members:

The recently released Draft National Ocean Policy Implementation Plan is a giant step forward in advancing the National Ocean Policy and helping to create healthier oceans and coasts and stronger economies for our coastal communities. The Plan shows great strength in providing a cohesive framework for National Ocean Policy implementation and being an action-oriented plan that provides for government accountability. As you move to finalize this plan, please consider the following recommendations: Protecting, maintaining and restoring the health of our oceans, coasts and Great Lakes must be of primary importance with an emphasis to achieve conservation milestones that can provide immediate ecological benefit such as the protection and restoration of coastal and marine habitat for priority species; •Ensure the plan does not overlook needed new actions and does not only propose existing government plans and programs; •Produce an implementation status report every two years that notes progress on reaching ecological indicators and the actions and milestones in the Plan; and •Fully utilize existing legal authorities to implement the National Ocean Policy. The National Ocean Council should also prioritize needed funding for regional ocean partnerships in those regions which are best prepared to begin regional planning bodies and convene stakeholder participation. Regional ocean partnerships can create the best value of scarce federal funding by bringing federal, state, tribal, scientific and non-governmental entities together to start to address ocean management challenges. The National Ocean Policy is founded on sound science, an inclusive and transparent public and stakeholder engagement process, the protection of habitat and wildlife populations, and encourages government at all levels to work together. The Draft Implementation Plan reflects over two years worth of hard work, investment and commitment made by state governments, commercial and industrial ocean users, universities and scientists, 27 federal agencies and departments and tens of thousands of citizens across the country to move our oceans toward better ocean management. I urge the National Ocean Council to operationalize the National Ocean Policy as soon as possible through this Implementation Plan with the goal of creating the enduring environmental stewardship of our ocean, coastal and Great Lakes ecosystems.

Name: **Margot Backus**

Organization:

Path:

Comment: I am writing to beg you to establish a strong set of policies protecting our oceans -- that we have been able to do so much damage to something so seemingly limitlessly vast as the world's oceans in such a relatively rapid period of time is utterly terrifying. Please protect the ecosystems of our coasts and oceans while we still have time to do so.

# NATIONAL OCEAN COUNCIL

Name: **Susan Cadman**

Organization:

Path:

Comment: We need to practice responsible stewardship and foster interagency cooperation, possibly by merging various agencies with conflicting interests and agendas into one well thought out whole.

# NATIONAL OCEAN COUNCIL

Name: **Maureen Wheeler**

Organization:

Path:

Comment: I want to ensure the protection, maintenance, and restoration of the health of ocean, coastal, and Great Lakes ecosystems and resources. Make a difference for healthy communities, coastal waters within 200 miles, and Great Lakes. Please tell the National Ocean Council to practice responsible stewardship and to implement a robust conservation-minded National Ocean Policy!

Name: **Marjorie Rathbone**

Organization:

Path:

Comment: NOP was created to “ensure the protection, maintenance, and restoration of the health of ocean, coastal, and Great Lakes ecosystems and resources”. Through four key themes, including ecosystem-based management and the best available science and data, the policy outlines action that must be taken to protect marine ecosystems and to encourage sustainable uses of the ocean. Please make sure this policy is implemented effectively.

# NATIONAL OCEAN COUNCIL

Name: **Leslie Cassidy**

Organization:

Path:

Comment: Please practice responsible stewardship and to implement a robust conservation-minded National Ocean Policy.

Name: **Hollis Wood**

Organization:

Path:

Comment: If anyone in government has not figured out that all life on Earth depends on the health of the Oceans and all water sources, then they're really too stupid and unqualified to hold office or have the power to affect water policy. The harsh truth is that the fate of life on Earth is too important to leave to delusional ideologues and corporate flunkies who only want to line their own pockets.

Name: **Jessica Searson**

Organization:

Path:

Comment: I read about a harbor seal sunning itself on the Hudson River Waterfront. The fact that the seal had come so far for fish is a great indication of the health of the Hudson River. This would not have been possible had it not been for the Clear Water Act of 1972. Why is it so hard to see that destroying our planet and our environment is not only a tragedy but also incredibly short-sighted. In particular the Great Lakes. Fresh water is going to be scarce one day and some say that the next war will be fought over resources like fresh water. I only wish that the US could take the lead in protecting our resources, developing clean energy, and keeping Big Coal and Big Oil from dictating our energy policy.

Name: **Mark Tolson**

Organization: Citizen

Path:

Comment: NOP was created to “ensure the protection, maintenance, and restoration of the health of ocean, coastal, and Great Lakes ecosystems and resources”. Through four key themes, including ecosystem-based management and the best available science and data, the policy outlines action that must be taken to protect marine ecosystems and to encourage sustainable uses of the ocean.

Let’s ensure that the plan is as strong as possible, beginning with better interagency cooperation and more emphasis on activities taking place on the water. Ths NOC must practice responsible stewardship and to implement a robust conservation-minded National Ocean Policy.

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Name: **Margaret A Brooks**

Organization:

Path:

Comment: The NOP implementation plan is a very good step in the right direction toward the recovery of our planetary water systems. Please make this plan viable for a healthier future and strong enough to avoid the so-common loopholes that destroy similar efforts in the US. Thank you for your support of NOP!

Name: **S Logan**

Organization: Ocean River Institute

Path:

Comment: NOP was created to “ensure the protection, maintenance, and restoration of the health of ocean, coastal, and Great Lakes ecosystems and resources”. Through four key themes, including ecosystem-based management and the best available science and data, the policy outlines action that must be taken to protect marine ecosystems and to encourage sustainable uses of the ocean.

In 2010, you wrote letters and rallied for the National Ocean Policy. Later that year, Obama made it so by Executive Order. The National Ocean Council (NOC) recently released a blueprint for implementation of the NOP and is seeking public comments now. Let’s ensure that the plan is as strong as possible, beginning with better interagency cooperation and more emphasis on activities taking place on the water.

Name: **Charles S Mitchell**

Organization:

Path:

Comment: This National Ocean Policy Plan you've drafted is a good one. Adopt it. Implement it.  
Before the deep blue sea is brown and empty.

Name: **dena verdesca**

Organization:

Path:

Comment: The National Ocean Policy is critical for the economy of all communities near waterways. In our interconnected world, we must preserve the oceans, the species we eat, the ones we admire such as whales and penguins, and the ones we can't even see at the micro level. Please act now before more irreparable damage occurs.

Name: **marlene vandyke**

Organization: none

Path:

Comment: NOP was created to “ensure the protection, maintenance, and restoration of the health of ocean, coastal, and Great Lakes ecosystems and resources”. Through four key themes, including ecosystem-based management and the best available science and data, the policy outlines action that must be taken to protect marine ecosystems and to encourage sustainable uses of the ocean. our oceans and its animals must be protected.

Name: **Vsevolod Gurevich**

Organization:

Path:

Comment: Please ensure that ecosystem management based on the best available science and data includes actions to protect marine ecosystems and to encourage sustainable uses of the ocean.

Most importantly, do not let any protections be weakened due to lobbying by oil industry and other major polluters who only have their pecuniary interests in mind.

Name: **constance st jean**

Organization:

Path:

Comment: Americans elected a DEMOCRAT in 2008, and we got a republican, instead. Our oceans don't know the difference, but they do support Earth as it is today. Different oceans full of toxic waste will have a negative impact on the life of all living things of both political parties. Think Democrat and instead of loving war and money, love our oceans.

Name: **Judy and Lester Hoyle**

Organization:

Path:

Comment: I grew up on Lake Michigan. I remember the first terrible summer when we couldn't walk on the our once-pristine beach without getting tar on our feet. Our oceans and Great Lakes are an irreplaceable resource. Let's clean up the Gulf of Mexico, the Pacific Gyre Texas-sized dump and outlaw off shore drilling immediately!

Name: **Melissa Chapman**

Organization:

Path:

Comment: Dear Chairs Sutley, Holdren, and National Ocean Council Members:

I would like to share my support for National Ocean Policy draft Implementation Plan. As an outdoor enthusiast, ocean advocate and frequent coastal visitor from the Pacific Northwest, I believe that a strong Implementation Plan will help protect marine ecosystems and encourage sustainable ocean uses, including recreation and tourism.

The draft National Ocean Policy Implementation Plan establishes a strong blueprint for taking action and fostering agency coordination to sustain our ocean, coastal and Great Lakes resources. The draft plan has successfully incorporated the needs and concerns of governmental, non-profit, and commercial groups and provides clarifying details to improve accountability and monitor progress toward improved ocean management. Frequent notations on how implementing actions are related to one another provide confidence that activities will be coordinated and make good use of limited resources.

Nonetheless, the plan could be improved to achieve even more progress. It should more fully utilize all available authorities for habitat protection and management. Many of the milestones could be extended beyond cataloguing and planning to include action, with tangible, on-the-water activities. Regional need, support, and capacity should guide where coordinated actions should first take place. Federal agencies must continue to ask for input from other levels of the government and the public and incorporate this new information into implementation of the plan.

With these additions, President Obama's Implementation Plan will provide a better guide for achieving the goals of protecting, maintaining, and restoring the nation's oceans, coasts, and Great Lakes and ensuring resilient coastal economies. I look forward to the release of the final plan and hope to see policy translated into action on the water soon.

Sincerely,

Melissa

# NATIONAL OCEAN COUNCIL

Name: **Luke Farrell**

Organization:

Path:

Comment: I urge this administration to implement a strong national ocean policy that will protect the oceans and to better manage sustainable use of our oceans and to help not over fish the marine population.

Name: **Elizabeth Bergey**

Organization:

Path:

Comment: I am pleased to see this federal conservation document for the oceans and Great Lakes. I especially applaud the ecosystem stance and the incorporation of ocean acidification and global climate change.

However, two obvious missing components are the lack of fishing and other extraction preserves (the aquatic equivalent of national parks, forests and wildlife management areas) and no mention of sound pollution (especially sonar, which can detrimentally affect cetaceans). Much of the sonar is produced by federal entities (e.g., the Navy); hence this document is especially pertinent.

# NATIONAL OCEAN COUNCIL

Name: **Marilyn McCaulleuy**

Organization:

Path:

Comment: Please initiate a strong conservation-minded National Ocean Policy and save our clean water.

# NATIONAL OCEAN COUNCIL

Name: **Deborah Hirsch**

Organization: Citizen

Path:

Comment: We urge you to adopt a National Oceans Policy that is strongly conservationist and forward-looking, with an emphasis on inter-agency cooperation and protection. Oceans should not be profit-centers for the short-sighted few.

# NATIONAL OCEAN COUNCIL

Name: **Nancy Gathing**

Organization: Madison Teachers, Inc.

Path:

Comment: Make a difference for healthy communities, coastal waters within 200 miles, and Great Lakes. Tell the National Ocean Council to practice responsible stewardship and to implement a robust conservation-minded National Ocean Policy.

Name: **Jeb Berman**

Organization: National Marine Sanctuary Foundation

Path: [http://edit.whitehouse.gov/sites/default/files/webform/2012-02-23\\_final\\_nmsf\\_comments\\_on\\_nop\\_draft\\_implementation\\_plan.pdf](http://edit.whitehouse.gov/sites/default/files/webform/2012-02-23_final_nmsf_comments_on_nop_draft_implementation_plan.pdf)

Comment: Dear Chair Sutley and Director Holdren:

Congratulations on the National Ocean Council's recent completion of its Draft National Ocean Policy Implementation Plan, a major milestone in ensuring that our ocean, coasts, and Great Lakes are healthy, resilient, and able to provide the goods and services that Americans desire. We look forward to working with you to ensure that national marine sanctuaries remain a priority as the National Ocean Council continues pursuing place-based and ecosystem-based approaches to ocean governance.

We strongly support the National Ocean Council's plan to reactivate and repopulate the national marine sanctuary Site Evaluation List during 2012.

It is critical that we ensure the greatest possible opportunity for public engagement concerning areas of our ocean that may be worthy targets for conservation, and we strongly support SEL reactivation and repopulation during 2012. By reactivating the SEL this year, the Council will restore the public's ability to identify nationally significant marine areas for science-based protection that balances the needs of human communities with those of the natural world.

Progress on the milestone "reactivate and repopulate the SEL... (NOAA; 2012)" should be measured using the following indicators:

- 1) Have draft criteria for inclusion of marine sites on a revised SEL been published in the Federal Register during 2012?
- 2) Has NOAA finished considering public comment on draft criteria for inclusion of marine sites on a revised SEL during 2012?
- 3) Have final criteria for inclusion of marine sites on a revised SEL been published in the Federal Register during 2012?
- 4) How many sites has NOAA added to the SEL during 2012?

We encourage the Council to prioritize the protection of already-identified areas before attempting to find new sites meriting conservation.

Sufficient science is available today to support the implementation of place-based protection at candidate locations for offshore conservation, including the coral reefs identified explicitly in the Draft Implementation Plan. It is counterintuitive for the Council to identify candidate areas directly while simultaneously recommending a resource-intensive identification and gap analysis enterprise that could take years to complete. Before starting initiatives to identify undiscovered sites meriting conservation, we strongly encourage the Council to support the swift implementation of place-based protection for ecologically significant areas already well known to scientists, fishermen, and state and federal authorities.

In addition to reactivating the SEL, we encourage the National Ocean Council to

recommend that the de-facto moratorium on new national marine sanctuaries, currently part of the National Marine Sanctuaries Act, be lifted.

This targeted statutory change, at 16 USC 1434(f), would address a serious deficiency in law that precludes even the potential use of sanctuaries – the federal government’s only tool for comprehensive protection of offshore areas, and one that has proven successful at enhancing both marine ecosystems and coastal communities – and we look forward to its consideration as the Council considers ways to better promote ecosystem-based management during its review of environmental statutes.

We hope that these comments highlight the important role of national marine sanctuaries in promoting the well-being, prosperity, and security of present and future generations, and we strongly urge the Council to continue prioritizing national marine sanctuaries as you develop a final National Ocean Policy Implementation Plan. For more detail on these recommendations, please see our initial comments to the Council in Appendix I.

Thank you for your support and for all you do to improve the health of our ocean,

Jason Patlis  
President & CEO



February 23, 2012

The Honorable Nancy Sutley  
Chair  
Council on Environmental Quality  
722 Jackson Place NW  
Washington, DC 20506

The Honorable John Holdren  
Director  
Office of Science and Technology Policy  
725 17<sup>th</sup> Street NW  
Washington, DC 20502

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**RE: National Marine Sanctuaries & the Draft NOP Implementation Plan**

Dear Chair Sutley and Director Holdren:

Congratulations on the National Ocean Council's recent completion of its Draft National Ocean Policy Implementation Plan, a major milestone in ensuring that our ocean, coasts, and Great Lakes are healthy, resilient, and able to provide the goods and services that Americans desire. We look forward to working with you to ensure that national marine sanctuaries remain a priority as the National Ocean Council continues pursuing place-based and ecosystem-based approaches to ocean governance.

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swift implementation of place-based protection for ecologically significant areas already well known to scientists, fishermen, and state and federal authorities.

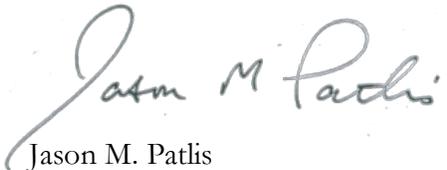
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Thank you for your support and for all you do to improve the health of our ocean,



Jason M. Patlis  
President & CEO

## Appendix I

ALASKA WILDERNESS LEAGUE • AMERICAN LITTORAL SOCIETY  
ASSOCIATION OF ZOOS & AQUARIUMS • BLUE FRONTIER CAMPAIGN  
CALIFORNIA CENTRAL COAST MARINE SANCTUARY ALLIANCE  
CAPTAIN SLATE'S ATLANTIS DIVE CENTER • CENTER FOR BIOLOGICAL DIVERSITY • CITY OF ALPENA  
CITY OF SANTA CRUZ • CITY OF SHEBOYGAN • CLEAN AIR–COOL PLANET  
CORDELL MARINE SANCTUARY FOUNDATION • DEFENDERS OF WILDLIFE • DIVE KEY WEST  
ENVIRONMENTAL DEFENSE CENTER • ENVIRONMENTAL MOORINGS INTERNATIONAL, INC.  
FARALLONES MARINE SANCTUARY ASSOCIATION • FLORIDA WILDLIFE FEDERATION  
FRIENDS OF MATANZAS • FRIENDS OF THE EARTH • FRIENDS OF THE HUMPBACK WHALE  
FRIENDS OF THE MARIANAS TRENCH MARINE NATIONAL MONUMENT  
FRIENDS OF THUNDER BAY NATIONAL MARINE SANCTUARY  
GREAT LAKES DIVERS & SWEETWATER CHARTERS • GULF OF MEXICO FOUNDATION  
MARATHON BOAT YARD MARINE CENTER • MARINE CONSERVATION INSTITUTE  
MONTEREY BAY SANCTUARY FOUNDATION • MOTE MARINE LABORATORY  
MULLER AND ASSOCIATES, INC. • NATIONAL MARINE SANCTUARY FOUNDATION  
NATURAL RESOURCES DEFENSE COUNCIL • OCEAN CHAMPIONS • OCEAN CONSERVANCY  
OCEAN CONSERVATION RESEARCH • OCEAN FUTURES SOCIETY • OCEANIC WORLDWIDE  
OLYMPIC COAST ALLIANCE • PASSAMAQUODDY TRIBE • PORT ORFORD OCEAN RESOURCE TEAM  
PRBO CONSERVATION SCIENCE • PROVINCETOWN CENTER FOR COASTAL STUDIES  
RESTORE AMERICA'S ESTUARIES • SEA RESEARCH FOUNDATION, INC. • STELLWAGEN ALIVE!  
SURFRIDER FOUNDATION • THE NATURE CONSERVANCY • THE OCEAN FOUNDATION  
WILDLIFE CONSERVATION SOCIETY • WISCONSIN HISTORICAL SOCIETY

July 2, 2011

The Honorable Nancy Sutley  
Chair  
Council on Environmental Quality  
722 Jackson Place NW  
Washington, DC 20506

The Honorable John Holdren  
Director  
Office of Science and Technology Policy  
725 17<sup>th</sup> Street NW  
Washington, DC 20502

**RE: National Marine Sanctuaries and SAP 6 – Regional Ecosystem Protection and Restoration**

Dear Chair Sutley and Director Holdren:

Congratulations on the National Ocean Council's recent completion of its Strategic Action Plan (SAP) outlines, a major milestone in implementation of the National Ocean Policy. We appreciate this opportunity to provide input on the National Ocean Council's SAP for Regional Ecosystem Protection and Restoration and look forward to working with you and the National Ocean Council to ensure that place-based approaches to ocean governance remain a priority.

**We strongly support the National Ocean Council's plan to reinvigorate our National Marine Sanctuary System through the SAP for Regional Ecosystem Protection and Restoration.**

Although the enduring value of the sanctuary system's 14 existing sites is appreciated each year by tens of thousands of Americans, it has been nearly two decades since the public last had a meaningful opportunity to identify nationally significant ocean areas and formally propose that protections be enacted for them as national marine sanctuaries. Community leaders, academics, elected officials, and interested citizens have been unable to propose new sites for potential designation since the deactivation of the Office of National Marine Sanctuaries' Site Evaluation List

(SEL) in 1995, and NOAA itself has not advanced any proposals for new sites since 2000 due to the inclusion of a budget-dependent, *de-facto* moratorium on new sanctuaries in the National Marine Sanctuaries Act. These two, separate barriers present a significant impediment to the use of existing authorities in implementation of the National Ocean Policy's protection and restoration goals, and they also offer challenges to the advancement of ecosystem-based ocean governance as conceived by the National Ocean Council. Moreover, it should be noted that while the identification of potential national marine sanctuaries is continuously postponed, there has been no parallel delay in the designation of areas for development.

**The process of reactivating the SEL, including a formal Federal Register proposal and multiple opportunities for comment, should begin as soon as possible (consistent with the SAP's initial call for consultation and engagement with states, regional planning bodies, and other interested parties).**

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It is critical that we ensure the greatest possible opportunity for public engagement concerning areas of our ocean that may be worthy targets for conservation. Accelerating the timeline for initiating the SEL process will allow the public sufficient time to comment on the proposed reactivation itself, propose sites for consideration, and comment on proposed criteria by which sites would be evaluated. In addition, we believe that commentary solicited under the SEL will make substantive contributions to achieving milestones under multiple SAPs and should therefore happen early in the overall process, not within the proposed three to five year timeframe.

**In addition to reactivating the SEL, we encourage the National Ocean Council to recommend that the *de-facto* moratorium on new national marine sanctuaries, currently part of the National Marine Sanctuaries Act, be lifted.**

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This targeted statutory change, at 16 USC 1434(f), would address a serious deficiency in law that precludes even the potential use of sanctuaries – the federal government's *only* tool for comprehensive protection of offshore areas, and one that has proven successful at enhancing both marine ecosystems and coastal communities – and we look forward to its consideration as the Council considers ways to better promote ecosystem-based management during its review of environmental statutes.

We hope that our comments concerning the role of national marine sanctuaries are helpful as you and the National Ocean Council begin to refine this SAP and develop final actions that promote regional ecosystem protection and restoration.

Thank you for your support and for all you do to improve the health of our ocean,

#### **National Organizations**

Cindy Shogan, Executive Director, Alaska Wilderness League

Tim Dillingham, Executive Director, American Littoral Society

Steve Olson, Vice President, Federal Relations, Association of Zoos & Aquariums

David Helvarg, Executive Director, Blue Frontier Campaign

Bill Snape, Senior Counsel, Center for Biological Diversity

Brooks B. Yeager, Executive Vice President, Clean Air–Cool Planet

Richard Charter, Senior Policy Advisor, Marine Programs, Defenders of Wildlife

Judy Halas, President, Environmental Moorings International, Inc.  
Marcie Keever, Oceans & Vessels Project Director, Friends of the Earth  
William J. Chandler, Vice President for Government Affairs, Marine Conservation Institute  
Jason M. Patlis, President & CEO, National Marine Sanctuary Foundation  
Karen Garrison, Co-Director, Oceans Program, Natural Resources Defense Council  
David Wilmot, Ph.D., President and Co-Founder, Ocean Champions  
Vikki Spruill, President and CEO, Ocean Conservancy  
Michael Stocker, Executive Director, Ocean Conservation Research  
Jean-Michel Cousteau, President, Ocean Futures Society  
Bob Hollis, Founder and CEO, Oceanic Worldwide, San Leandro, CA  
Jeff Benoit, President and CEO, Restore America's Estuaries  
Stephen Coan, Ph.D., President & CEO, Sea Research Foundation, Inc.  
Pete Stauffer, Ocean Ecosystem Manager, Surfrider Foundation  
Kameran L. Onley, Director, U.S. Marine Policy, The Nature Conservancy  
Mark J. Spalding, President, The Ocean Foundation  
Linda Krueger, Vice President, Policy, Wildlife Conservation Society

#### **Place-Based Organizations and Local Governments**

Carol Georgi, Coordinator, California Central Coast Marine Sanctuary Alliance, San Luis Obispo, CA  
Captain Spencer Slate, Captain Slate's Atlantis Dive Center, Key Largo, FL  
Carol Shafto, Mayor, City of Alpena, Alpena, MI  
Ryan Coonerty, Mayor, City of Santa Cruz, Santa Cruz, CA  
Robert Ryan, Mayor, City of Sheboygan, Sheboygan, WI  
Tom Lambert, President, Cordell Marine Sanctuary Foundation, Olema, CA  
Bob Holston, Owner/Operator, Dive Key West, Key West, FL  
Linda Krop, Chief Counsel, Environmental Defense Center, Santa Barbara, CA  
Terri Watson, Executive Director, Farallones Marine Sanctuary Association, San Francisco, CA  
Manley Fuller, President, Florida Wildlife Federation, Tallahassee, FL  
Michael J. Greenberg, PhD, President, Friends of Matanzas, Ponte Vedra Beach, FL  
Warren and Gloria Snyder, Friends of the Humpback Whale, Kihei, HI  
Ignacio V. Cabrera, Chairman, Friends of the Marianas Trench Marine National Monument, Saipan, MP  
Charles N. Wiesen, President, Friends of Thunder Bay National Marine Sanctuary, Alpena, MI  
Steve Kroll, Owner/Operator, Great Lakes Divers & Sweetwater Charters, Rogers City, MI  
Dr. Quenton R. Dokken, President/CEO, Gulf of Mexico Foundation, Corpus Christi, TX  
Bruce Popham, President, Marathon Boat Yard Marine Center, Marathon, FL  
Dennis J. Long, Executive Director, Monterey Bay Sanctuary Foundation, Monterey, CA  
Dr. Kumar Mahadevan, President & CEO, Mote Marine Laboratory, Sarasota, FL  
Jim Muller, Principal, Muller and Associates, Inc., Tallahassee, FL

John Wooley, President, Olympic Coast Alliance, Sequim, WA  
Steve Crawford, Environmental Director, Passamaquoddy Tribe, Pleasant Point, ME  
Leesa Cobb, Executive Director, Port Orford Ocean Resource Team, Port Orford, OR  
Ellie M. Cohen, President and CEO, PRBO Conservation Science, Petaluma, CA  
Richard F. Delaney, President & CEO, Provincetown Center for Coastal Studies, Provincetown, MA  
Michael Cohen, President, Stellwagen Alive!, Boston, MA  
John H. Broihahn, State Archaeologist, Historic Preservation-Public History Division, Wisconsin Historical Society, Madison, WI

### **Individuals**

Peter Auster, PhD, Research Professor of Marine Sciences, University of Connecticut, Groton, CT  
Mark H. Carr, Professor, Ecology and Evolutionary Biology, University of California, Santa Cruz, CA  
Mike De Luca, Senior Associate Director, Institute of Marine and Coastal Sciences, Rutgers University, New Brunswick, NJ  
Olin Joynton, President, Alpena Community College, Alpena, MI  
Captain Jim McManus, St. Thomas, USVI  
Lauren Mullineaux, Senior Scientist, Woods Hole Oceanographic Institution, Woods Hole, MA  
The Honorable Joan Patricia Murphy, Cook County Commissioner, Chicago, IL  
Dennis Nixon, Associate Dean for Research and Administration, Graduate School of Oceanography, University of Rhode Island, Narragansett, RI  
Rick Steiner, Professor, Oasis Earth, Anchorage, AK  
Robert S. Steneck, Ph.D., Professor of Oceanography, Marine Biology and Marine Policy, University of Maine, Walpole, ME  
John W. (Wes) Tunnell, Jr., Ph.D., Associate Director, Harte Research Institute for Gulf of Mexico Studies, Texas A&M University, Corpus Christi, TX  
Robert B. Whitlatch, Professor, Department of Marine Sciences, University of Connecticut, Groton, CT

# NATIONAL OCEAN COUNCIL

Name: **Barbara Diederichs**

Organization:

Path:

Comment: Conservation must be the main focus of the US's new ocean policy. Oceans are crucial for global climate as well as local resources. Please make protection the priority!

# NATIONAL OCEAN COUNCIL

Name: **Penny Gregorio**

Organization:

Path:

Comment:

Make a difference for healthy communities, coastal waters within 200 miles, and Great Lakes. Practice responsible stewardship and to implement a robust conservation-minded National Ocean Policy.

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Name: **Rebecca tippens**

Organization: center for cultural evolution

Path:

Comment: I am not a scientist, and am only encouraging you to think first in terms of protection and re-vitalization. We need to take care of the earth, her water and her lands #1: that must be our first covenant in anything we do. Now, there are debts to pay and healing/cleansing to be done. Be wise and be firm.

Name: **Manuel Pino**

Organization: Indigenous Environmental Network

Path:

Comment: Please protect our oceans. They are too unregulated as it is!

Name: **Susan Babbitt**

Organization:

Path:

Comment: A robust policy is needed to “ensure the protection, maintenance, and restoration of the health of ocean, coastal, and Great Lakes ecosystems and resources,” including ecosystem-based management and the best available science and data.

Name: **Teresa Stilwell**

Organization:

Path:

Comment: The Ocean is a terrible thing to waste. We must take care of this valuable resource. It will bring food resources, energy resources and beauty not only now but for future generations. We must take care of and protect the Oceans now.

Name: **Susan Martin**

Organization:

Path:

Comment: Okay, here's my public comment: Please implement a National Ocean Policy that practices conservation-minded, responsible stewardship. DO NOT sell out to Big Money, no matter how tempting their buy-out offers may be! The oceans, rivers, and Great Lakes are already damaged enough--we need to start cleaning them up yesterday!

Name: **Annette Pieniazek**

Organization:

Path:

Comment: Please ensure that the plan is as strong as possible, beginning with better interagency cooperation and more emphasis on activities taking place on the water.

Please practice responsible stewardship and implement a robust conservation-minded National Ocean Policy.

Name: **Susan Ibarra**

Organization: Care2

Path:

Comment: We MUST pay much closer attention to our oceans and seas, if we want life on this planet to survive!! Humans have been too lazy, too lax and too selfish for too long!! And the great huge ocean gyres full of plastic trash is the perfect example and voice speaking up for total change!!!!!! We MUST clean up what we caused, and make certain it is against the law to do so ever again!!!!!!!!!!

Name: **anka jhangiani**

Organization:

Path:

Comment: The ocean and all water sources have to be managed responsibly for the long term survival of our planet. Pollution has to be controlled, from industrial run-off and waste, and the shipping industry, including cruise ships. Overfishing has to be curbed.

# NATIONAL OCEAN COUNCIL

Name: **Charlene Boydston**

Organization: Retired

Path:

Comment: No more Drilling!!

Name: **Jan Brown**

Organization: Audubon Society

Path:

Comment: If we ever plan to 'sink' the carbon we are spewing in the atmosphere every hour, we need to protect the oceans, or biggest and most reliable carbon sink.

Name: **FRANCOIS DE LA GIRODAY**

Organization: PERSONAL

Path:

Comment:

NOP was created to “ensure the protection, maintenance, and restoration of the health of ocean, coastal, and Great Lakes ecosystems and resources”. Through four key themes, including ecosystem-based management and the best available science and data, the policy outlines action that must be taken to protect marine ecosystems and to encourage sustainable uses of the ocean.

In 2010 Obama made it so by Executive Order. The National Ocean Council (NOC) recently released a blueprint for implementation of the NOP and is seeking public comments now. Let’s ensure that the plan is as strong as possible, beginning with better interagency cooperation and more emphasis on activities taking place on the water.

Healthy communities, coastal waters within 200 miles, and Great Lakes.

Name: **Louis DeRosa**

Organization:

Path:

Comment: With the health of the Oceans and our fresh water supply, so goes life as we know it. It seems to me that the GOP and the super corporatists want to make as much money as possible and let god take care of the earth. If the GOP wants to disbelieve in the natural laws of science, they can do so at their own elected peril! The GOP is more concerned about the mountain of growing debt that their grand children will inherit, than the mountains of growing pollution that will guarantee that their grandchildren will suffer more miserably than can be imagined...This is the insanity of a new greed generation that was created by the GOP and years of Reganomic like trickle down policy's

Name: **Sara Avery**

Organization:

Path:

Comment: I hope that the National Ocean Policy will remain strong with the guiding principles of healthy water and air for all, including the animals that depend on the fresh- and salt-water ecosystems. I hope, too, that this policy will foster more interagency cooperation and have more emphasis placed on activities taking place on the water.

Name: **terrence ward**

Organization:

Path:

Comment: Let's ensure that the plan is as strong as possible, beginning with better interagency cooperation and more emphasis on activities taking place on the water.

# NATIONAL OCEAN COUNCIL

Name: **Liz D.**

Organization:

Path:

Comment: In order to protect our world's oceans, it is imperative that the National Ocean Council practice responsible stewardship and protect the fish, mammals, and other marine creatures that inhabit those oceans to the utmost.

Name: **Nancy Fleming**

Organization:

Path:

Comment: A strong national ocean policy is needed to ensure that the health of our oceans is immediately protected from further degradation. Special oil and gas interests should not be permitted to erode sound ocean policies. We must act as a nation with unwavering strength and conviction to protect our seas and marine life without wavering to special interest groups.

Name: **Brian Hanks**

Organization:

Path:

Comment: Please make the NOP Implementation Plan as strong as possible to protect our oceans, beginning with interagency cooperation and more emphasis on activities taking place on the water. Please practice responsible stewardship and implement a robust conservation-minded Nation Ocean Policy.

# NATIONAL OCEAN COUNCIL

Name: **Anthony Montapert**

Organization:

Path:

Comment: I urge you to implement a conservation-minded National Ocean Policy.

Name: **Teresa Jones**

Organization:

Path:

Comment: We need our oceans to keep our eco-system running smoothly. Please don't disregard these majestic waters and keep them pristine for future generations. Thank you for your consideration.

# NATIONAL OCEAN COUNCIL

Name: **Teresa Conahan**

Organization: soul of photography

Path:

Comment: I'm extremely concerned that the present state of our environment, usable oceans, available food source from the ocean, open spaces and species like bees, will become a thing of the past; something our grandchildren will only read about in history books. That scenario is sadly, very possible at the rate we're allowing our environment to deteriorate. I'm very worried and heartbroken.

Name: **Adrienne Eisenberg**

Organization:

Path:

Comment: Make sure this bill is as robust as can be for conservation and restoration of healthy ecosystems, please don't water down environmental legislation.

Name: **Maureen Barillaro**

Organization: Somerville Climate Action

Path:

Comment: "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."

These are the words that begin the draft plan. I ask you to take this simple phrase and apply to all things not so simple that protect our waterways. This is NOT happening now- our waterways are universally polluted and failing. Even the vast ocean is not without its tiny particles of plastic and its massive quantities of mercury and flame retardants.

The waterways are of the most common enjoyment of every American- the day at the beach, fishing at the lake, or paddling down the river.

Stop letting corporations run the country as they please and ruin the gifts of Nature that God has given to all of us.

Name: **Keith Fabing**

Organization: Individual US Citizen

Path:

Comment: As an aquatic biologist, I strongly urge you to practice responsible science based stewardship and to implement a robust conservation focused National Ocean Policy. Time is quickly running out for this largest of all ecosystems on earth.

Name: **Maria Farina**

Organization:

Path:

Comment: Implement the strongest policy to PROTECT oceans and the creatures that live in them.

Name: **Daniele Minniti**

Organization: Portland State University

Path:

Comment: Daniele Minniti  
Stephen Price  
Landon Moblo  
Brigette Rob  
Elec Morin

ESM 335

2/23/12

National Ocean Policy Comments:

The overall implementation plan focuses on the many different aspects of Great Lakes, coasts, and marine ecosystems management. The amount of different factors to consider causes vagueness within the plan and lacks specifics within set goals. Although the ideas and milestones are rather general, the mapping goals seem to have the most potential for improving our current knowledge. The installation of permanent observations centers, collaboration between various agencies and the sharing of new data, as well as the improvement of current maps with new technology will all lead to more comprehensive management plans. Each different section of the plan focused a large part on the collaboration between agencies.

# NATIONAL OCEAN COUNCIL

Name: **Ellen Moyer**

Organization:

Path:

Comment: We have neglected the health of our oceans for too long. Please adopt a strong policy of not only preventing further damage, but also of healing damage already done.

Name: **Amber Tidwell**

Organization:

Path:

Comment: NOP was created to “ensure the protection, maintenance, and restoration of the health of ocean, coastal, and Great Lakes ecosystems and resources”. Through four key themes, including ecosystem-based management and the best available science and data, the policy outlines action that must be taken to protect marine ecosystems and to encourage sustainable uses of the ocean.

The National Ocean Council (NOC) recently released a blueprint for implementation of the NOP and is seeking public comments now. I would like you to ensure that the plan is as strong as possible, beginning with better interagency cooperation and more emphasis on activities taking place on the water. Please enact a robust policy focusing on conservation and responsible stewardship.

Name: **Mitchell Mclean**

Organization: Portland State University Student

Path:

Comment: While the ideology of the National Ocean Policy Implementation Plan is a step in the right direction, we fear the implementation and accountability will be compromised by the lack of funding. The creation of the information portal is a great example of transparency and cross departmental cooperation. However we feel the lack of concrete incentives for agencies to accomplish their prospective goals is worrisome. We feel that a fuller understanding of the ocean and coastal processes will lead to more efficient uses of government resources and stronger economy. We would furthermore like to see this plan be implemented through the Congressional Houses to ensure its success in the future.

# NATIONAL OCEAN COUNCIL

Name: **Maggie Davidson**

Organization:

Path:

Comment: Make a difference for healthy communities, coastal waters within 200 miles, and Great Lakes. Tell the National Ocean Council to practice responsible stewardship and to implement a robust conservation-minded National Ocean Policy.

Name: **Jon Krueger**

Organization:

Path:

Comment: Conservation, conservation, conservation (and if Republicans are in power, guard the funds for conservation with your life!). Thanks for all your hard work on behalf of oceans.

Name: **Amara Hayden**

Organization: Portland State University

Path:

Comment: There is no specific framework or oversight specified for the collaboration, either between the regional planning committees, or the governmental agencies, which could leave the intended collaboration as simply an intention. Furthermore, there is no specific monitoring goals mentioned or timeframes that these re-evaluations will take place. It may present a problem that “maximum flexibility” is given to regional bodies to make their own objective, meaning there will be potentially little to no actual ecosystem management between the regions. . There is no specified method for funding sources for modernization, which may mean that this will not occur. . Furthermore, there is too much time given for regional planning to even designate goals. There is no way to evaluate the effectiveness of a measurement technique without knowing the specific technique that will be used. -Also contributed by Adam Fleck, Sean Griffin, Brett Hollerbach

Name: **Stephen Kravetzker**

Organization: Portland State University

Path:

Comment: We are for the NOPs overall framework, however, the lack of specificity, means of implementation, and enforcement ability are concerning. The importance of observations, mapping, and infrastructure along with coordination and support is the first critical step in placing a plan of this size in motion. Finally, as an executive order, the lack of perpetuity and permanence render the plan as less effective than its potential as a legislative mandate.

Composed by: Stephen Kravetzker, Shawn Ingersoll, Kelly Danielson, Daphne Cissell, John Dugger Jacob Ferryman

Name: **John Dugger**

Organization:

Path:

Comment: Good initial plan, coordination with Local/state/tribal governments has significant potential to be both cost effective and sustainable.

Name: **Environmental Management Students**

Organization: Portland State University

Path:

Comment: National Ocean Policy Draft Implementation Plan Public Comment

By Ben Burton, Chelsea Cannard, Kale Carlson, Austin Carnes

We support the implementation of ecosystem based management. However, we would like more specificity in the plan particularly on a regional level. We find that your implementation plan is more like a statement of goals than a plan for achieving action. We support the inclusion of more science in decision making, but it is important to recognize that scientific information cannot always or often be obtained at the same pace at which decision making needs to occur. Therefore, the implementation of management should be based on available science but not held up waiting for long-term data collection. The intensity of data collection should correlate to the magnitude of potential management actions. We strongly support the implementation of interagency and intergroup information sharing which would eventually flow into a public information forum.

Name: **Richard Klene**

Organization:

Path:

Comment: The oceans around us are a renewable resource of desperate importance to the future health of humanity. Our grandchildren will depend on a healthy earth for food and oxygen and other resources. They have suffered from a lot of insults and every delay in ocean conservation will set our species back further.

Name: **Svetlana Pell**

Organization:

Path:

Comment: We understand the benefit of this implementation plan. It is a great idea to gather agencies together to make decisions concerning ocean, coastal, and Great Lakes. We like the idea on developing a handbook that agencies can follow to stay on track with the regulations they have to follow. We like that this plan is trying to streamline the steps to increase efficiency through different agencies. We like that information from the plan will be available to every agency and public that is involved in the decision making. We like that you are trying to involve public in having meetings and workshops and having people meet with agencies to discuss the problems concerning oceans, coasts, and Great Lakes. However, we cannot see how your goals and objectives are going to be accomplished without an actual budget. We think that this plan lacks details about an actual enforcement and distribution of tasks. The timeline to 2015 that is proposed expands past the authority of the Executive Order. If a new president is elected and chooses to reverse this order, what are the proposed alternatives?

Signed by

Jack Wojciehowski, Cody Sharp, Brad Schaffer, and Svetlana Pell

Name: **Joan Walker**

Organization:

Path:

Comment: Writing as a life-long sailer, raised by another and married to yet another, I am seriously concerned about the health of our oceans, rivers and bays. Please implement the proposed policy to protect our vitally important bodies of water.

Name: **Betty Ulbrich**

Organization:

Path:

Comment: The ocean's supply us with not only food but a lot of the air that we breath made by algae. We must take care of the oceans the same as we must take care of the land. Money will do you no good in a dead world.

Name: **James Bedell**

Organization: Portland State University

Path:

Comment: The Good

Lays down some guide lines and some attainable goals. Making interagency communication more efficient so that reduces will be eliminated. The plan allows for Regional interpretation, of the overall plan which will give matter management. The plan creates a single data portal for governmental agencies, private entities and universities to accesses for the purpose of planning and research.

The Bad

Certain parts of the plan seem unattainable give the fiscal situation of government agency. No clear action as to what action will be taken to remediate these ecosystems. Milestones are lacking clear direction and tangible results. Goals should cite plans that could be implemented today.

The Ugly

Needs to quantify what the "Best" equals, although climate change is addressed the goals of the plan are not climate savvy, overall amount of vagueness throughout the plan makes it seem like it is destined to fail reaching most of its goals. A lack of enforcement has historically shown that plans usually will not be adhered without a motivating force, this plan completely lacks enforcement.

Final Comment

Overall the plan should be implemented because it does create a starting point to address a host of issues. Though the plan is filled with vague objectives and loosely developed goals, the fact that it does something to address the critical issue of our ocean policy and gives guidelines that other groups can utilize makes the pro's outweigh the cons.

Name: **mike and miriam kurland**

Organization:

Path:

Comment: Please ensure that the plan for the National Ocean Policy (NOP) is as strong in its protections of the ocean and ocean life as possible, beginning with better interagency cooperation and more emphasis on activities taking place on the water.

# NATIONAL OCEAN COUNCIL

Name: **Ryan Watts**

Organization: Portland State University

Path: <http://edit.whitehouse.gov/sites/default/files/webform/statement.pdf>

Comment:

## Draft Plan Funding and Voluntary Participation

A major goal of the Observation, Mapping, and Infrastructure is to develop and test the next generation of observation technologies and capacities in order to identify less costly means of observations (Pg. 29). However, this seems counter intuitive since the development of new monitoring technologies will no doubt be costly. One has to ask where funding for these technologies will come from, and what agencies will receive this funding. This issue must be addressed in more detail.

Also the Implementation Plan does not address the fundamental issue of agriculture pollution in the Water Quality and Sustainable Practices on Land. This Plan calls for a “voluntary participation by agriculture producers, supported by a strong public-private partnership to provide technical and financial assistance, is needed” (Pg. 64). Clearly, voluntary support has not addressed the issue of non-point nutrient pollution, and in particular the problems of Chesapeake Bay.

Written by,  
Ryan Watts  
Kevin White  
Kristen Shufflebarger  
Daren Walker  
Anthony Sherman

# NATIONAL OCEAN COUNCIL

Name: **Kathleen Lawrence**

Organization: Ocean River Institute

Path:

Comment: Make a difference for healthy communities, coastal waters within 200 miles, and Great Lakes - Tell the National Ocean Council to practice responsible stewardship and to implement a robust conservation-minded National Ocean Policy.

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Name: **Rita Clonts**

Organization:

Path:

Comment: We've waited until there is no longer a choice. We MUST now become better stewards of our oceans .....or loose them. We've allowed them to be trashed, sacrificed our oceans' sealife, used our greatest bodies of water as a sewage dump, and continue to kill intelligent mammals with our own Navy's intense sonar and pollution. This once bountiful good Earth is our home. For God's sake, if not our own, clean it up, change the rules, take responsibility. I'm sickened by all I know. Do something.

# NATIONAL OCEAN COUNCIL

Name: **Larry Brown**

Organization:

Path:

Comment: We must protect the oceans if the human race is to survive. The "religious right" in this country believes protecting the environment is a "communist" UN plot to bring in a world "green" government. Actually, that seems like a pretty good idea!

Name: **Ryan Sdano**

Organization: none

Path:

Comment: As a liberal citizen of faith who supports our oceans, wildlife, & the environment in general, wants the Obama Administration to preserve our marine life in the oceans. When the Obama Administration drafts the National Ocean Policy Implementation Plan, please remember that we need to keep our oceans safe for the marine life & humans. I am opposed to any kind of pollution being dumped into the oceans & our waterways by big corporations.

Name: **Nancy Thompson**

Organization:

Path:

Comment: NOPE is a wonderful step in the right direction to save the ecosystems in our large bodies of water. Our planet is mostly water and it is where all life on this planet began. We should protect these waterways in every way that we can.

Name: **sarah keyishian**

Organization:

Path:

Comment: An Ocean is a Terrible Thing to Waste; Ensure the protection, maintenance, and restoration of the health of ocean, coastal, and Great Lakes ecosystems and resources responsibly!

Name: **Jim Phillips**

Organization:

Path:

Comment: NOP was created to “ensure the protection, maintenance, and restoration of the health of ocean, coastal, and Great Lakes ecosystems and resources”. Through four key themes, including ecosystem-based management and the best available science and data, the policy outlines action that must be taken to protect marine ecosystems and to encourage sustainable uses of the ocean.

Name: **Josephine Polifroni**

Organization:

Path:

Comment: We have seen first hand what devastation can be caused by poor stewardship of our oceans with the Gulf oil spill. Catches are at a record low and even what is caught is often deformed or contaminated by oil.

Oceans are NOT an endlessly forgiving environment and they are under assault from oil, other pollution, plastic, overfishing, etc.

The health of the world is dependent on a healthy ocean and everything possible should be done to protect them.

Name: **Robert Hill**

Organization:

Path:

Comment: Do draft the National Ocean Policy Implementation Plan.

Name: **Ann Cheng**

Organization:

Path:

Comment: Dear Chairs Sutley, Holdren, and National Ocean Council Members:  
I would like to share my support for National Ocean Policy draft Implementation Plan. As an outdoor enthusiast from the Pacific Northwest, I believe that a strong Implementation Plan will help protect marine ecosystems and encourage sustainable ocean uses, including recreation and tourism.

The draft National Ocean Policy Implementation Plan establishes a strong blueprint for taking action and fostering agency coordination to sustain our ocean, coastal and Great Lakes resources. The draft plan has successfully incorporated the needs and concerns of governmental, non-profit, and commercial groups and provides clarifying details to improve accountability and monitor progress toward improved ocean management. Frequent notations on how implementing actions are related to one another provide confidence that activities will be coordinated and make good use of limited resources.

Nonetheless, the plan could be improved to achieve even more progress. It should more fully utilize all available authorities for habitat protection and management. Many of the milestones could be extended beyond cataloguing and planning to include action, with tangible, on-the-water activities. Regional need, support, and capacity should guide where coordinated actions should first take place. Federal agencies must continue to ask for input from other levels of the government and the public and incorporate this new information into implementation of the plan.

With these additions, President Obama's Implementation Plan will provide a better guide for achieving the goals of protecting, maintaining, and restoring the nation's oceans, coasts, and Great Lakes and ensuring resilient coastal economies. I look forward to the release of the final plan and hope to see policy translated into action on the water soon.

Sincerely,  
Ann Cheng

Name: **jennifer thayer**

Organization: thayer productions

Path:

Comment: The U.S. Navy is blasting sonar through the waters and killing the marine mammals. There is overfishing, and destructive fishing, and then there is the garbage patch floating in multiple places in the oceans. This is the legacy we are leaving our children. Finding ways to restore the ocean will benefit the ecosystems, and communities, and ultimately the world. Our children deserve a viable future.

Name: **April Warwick**

Organization:

Path:

Comment: Our oceans have been missused and abused too long and it's time we care for them rather than thinking of them as a dumpster. So much of our food comes from them and if they die out so will we.

Name: **Jim Gayden**

Organization:

Path:

Comment: Everything we do here on land inevitably has an impact on the oceans, and large bodies of water. So it is extremely important to take into consideration the adverse effects deforestation, new development, farming, sewage, and oil industry create towards sedimentation, hypertrophism, general pollution, and acidification. Recreation, and overfishing also have taken their toll, and are extremely important in regards to the adverse effects. We need to make ocean policy as strict as possible, and enforce these policies. If not, then we are doomed.

Name: **John Steiner**

Organization:

Path:

Comment: The U.S. Supreme Court decision on Citizens United represents the single largest threat to American democracy at least in my lifetime. Nothing the U.S.S.R. or today's al-Qaeda got as close to destroying American values as this one judicial activism.

You, Mr. President need to set the example by renouncing "superPAC" as the unholy byproduct of the SCOTUS's sorely lacking judgment, instead of taking in tens of millions of dollars the way these fanatical right wingers do.

Name: **Captain Joel S. Fogel**

Organization: WATERWATCH International

Path:

Comment: Now is the time to save our seas, fish water quality, habitat and Mother of all life.....the Ocean.

Please help to pass this important legislation. It is visionary and a plan for the future which must be enacted today.

Thank you.

VTY,

Captain Joel S. Fogel  
President, WATERWATCH International  
[www.waterwatchinternational.org](http://www.waterwatchinternational.org)

Chairman, The Explorers Club  
[www.explorers.org](http://www.explorers.org)

Name: **Larry Cowden**

Organization:

Path:

Comment: It is critical that a strong robust plan for the protection and conservation of our ocean be implemented now. With the increasing demands to open up vast areas offshore to environmentally devastating oil and gas drilling we as a nation cannot afford the loss of these vital renewable sources for food and jobs. No well can be pumped forever and it is not renewable. Our oceans provide renewable sources of food, energy, jobs spreading across a broad spectrum and life to this nation. History speaks loud and clear if we choose to listen. Exxon Valdez and the Gulf are disasters that should never have been allowed to happen. They will continue to have a serious detrimental effect on all wildlife, marinelife, jobs, and food sources for decades to come. And some of these areas are destroyed beyond all means of restoration. This nation should be a leader and example of strong stewardship in preserving, restoration and protecting these critical areas for future generations. Anything less, is dooming our nation to an economic disaster from which we may never recover.

# NATIONAL OCEAN COUNCIL

Name: **Mha Atma S. Khalsa**

Organization:

Path:

Comment: As a very concerned U.S. citizen and taxpayer I strongly urge you to practice responsible stewardship and implement a robust conservation-minded National Ocean Policy!

Name: **john papandrea**

Organization:

Path:

Comment: NOP was created to “ensure the protection, maintenance, and restoration of the health of ocean, coastal, and Great Lakes ecosystems and resources”. Through four key themes, including ecosystem-based management and the best available science and data, the policy outlines action that must be taken to protect marine ecosystems and to encourage sustainable uses of the ocean.

Name: **John Steiner**

Organization:

Path:

Comment: One of the quintessential elements to the success of human civilization was healthy oceanic and lake ecosystems. Today, the resources of the oceans and lakes are more critical than ever for our modern living standards as well as those of the developing world and indigenous peoples the world over.

But for that to continue sustainability has to be considered. That means regulations on which resources can be used, in what quantities, safety protocols governing the processes involved and stopping those activities that endanger the oceans or lakes. The United States is in a unique position to lead on these many issues. If we engage in massive pollution dumping or inhumane treatment that sets the example by which other nations and private enterprises will follow. We have to also safeguard against overfishing and ban certain harvests due to dangerously low populations of many species. Overall, the oceans' fish have taken a losses of 90% of more of what they were even twenty years ago. Governments and corporations alike must learn that the ocean isn't a bottomless hole from which a cornucopia of foods can be extract or into which endless chemical, metallurgical or radiological hazards may be dumped without dire consequences for all people, indeed all life on Earth.

Fully 70% of all CO<sub>2</sub> is absorbed and O<sub>2</sub> produced by the ocean's plant life. Which global warming threatening the ability for human civilization to function do we really want to discard that critical buffer?

Name: **Lee Bailey**

Organization: retired college Prof.

Path:

Comment: Protect our life-supporting oceans from military and commercial devastation.

Name: **Susan Puscheck**

Organization:

Path:

Comment: The National Ocean Council needs to practice responsible stewardship and to implement a strong conservation-minded National Ocean Policy. If a species numbers are heading to extinction, fishing grounds must be closed until the species can be brought back from the brink. This would also have to apply to "feeder" fish like herring before we leave nothing for the larger fish to consume.

# NATIONAL OCEAN COUNCIL

Name: **Phil Lipari**

Organization:

Path:

Comment: The National Ocean Council should practice responsible stewardship and to implement a robust conservation-minded National Ocean Policy.

Name: **Virgene Link**

Organization: individual

Path:

Comment: Please implement a NOP that protects our waters for all of us, now and in the future.  
Healthy water is a must for sustainable use by commercial users and sportsmen alike.

Thank you.

Name: **LIH YOUNG**

Organization:

Path:

Comment: PROMOTE FAIRNESS, FREEDOM, JUSTICE, PEACE, HUMANITY, PRODUCTIVITY, WELL-BEING OF GENERAL PUBLIC.

RESOLVE SOCIO- POLITICAL ISSUES, BALANCING BUDGET. OPPOSE SO CALLED "FAIR ELECTION ACT" PUBLIC FINANCE MATCHING SMALL DONORS FUND- DO MORE HARM THAN GOOD, RESOURCES BENEFIT "BAD GUYS" AS USUAL. TASKS: TOP PRIORITIES: Society in vicious cycles as in need of revolution, we MUST act:

(1). Prosecute, eliminate "MURDER- fraud- crime- injustice networks"= cruel tyranny= robbery machine = ROBBER- ISM; destroying essences of democracy, capitalism; continuing, on-going; relaying, penetrating every segment of our lives (inc. civic non- profit organizations); expanding here domestically to overseas- foreign countries; with threat, coercion, victimization, deprivation, discrimination; unjust practices, manipulation, influence; bad legislative bills; unjust hidden agenda with false/ misleading excuses (inc. private- public partnership, economic development, housing, school construction, transportation, abandonment of properties, maintenance of "paper roads", nonsense grants, programs; ..., whatever) to benefit/ facilitate "MURDER-fraud- crime- injustice networks" (inc. officials, judges, developers, lawyers, employees, etc.); expand further unjust operation; endless unlawful- immoral acts; rob/destroy resources (rights, land, properties, home, buildings, assets, accounts, income, pension, documents, evidences; public, private; business, civic, political); frivolous litigation, levies, foreclosures, garnishment, guardianship, power of attorney; improper processing of complaints, procedures, proceedings, docketing, bookkeeping, accounting; cause vicious cycles: socio-political- election-media- budget- legislative- system problems; civil-human rights backwards; people-slave. Examples of problems are provided below: \*\*

(2). Restore: principle, fairness, cost-effectiveness, accountability, reliability, capability; fair election, justice, peace (including civic, non-profit organizations), "check and balance"; Restore: TRUE essence of democracy, fair election process; easy access to government, files, records, transcripts; not unjustly manipulated, influenced, misled by wrong person, information, or "official misconduct- government gang- fraud- crime- injustice networks" = serious causes of socio- political – election –media- budget- legislative problems, which destroy people, families, society, peace, justice, democracy. Based on merits, justification; NO double standards, improper processing of complaints, procedures, proceedings; falsification, false records, tampering of evidence, data; harassment, intimidation (complainant, witnesses); false charges, citation, bond, imprisonment; disparities and improper treatments, etc.; abuse of laws, power, authorities.

(B). Promote democracy, fair election, quality, competition, people input (policies, issues, officials, judges); televise public hearings, citizen/candidate forum/debate; maintain, disseminate meaningful accurate information, records, capability, reasoning, good sense of justice, public interest, endurance. Objective screening by meaningful rigorous examinations, evaluations for quality, capability, endurance and public interest.

To capture extended serious problems of "MURDER-fraud- crime- injustice networks" with official misconduct- government gang, please incorporate the following: (A). complaints/ cases: administrative and judicial levels; (B) frequent testimonies before

government bodies, official, legislators, law enforcement, committees, public hearings; local – federal; (C) spin-off complaints, improper processing of complaints, procedures, proceedings, accounting, bookkeeping, docketing, etc.; (D) Candidate statements, see Webs and archives. Urge to re-open and investigate Congress.org, DNet (by League of Women Voters), links, etc.; (E) complaints and reports to police, law enforcement, consumer affairs, other authorities/agencies against “fraud- crime- injustice networks”; (F). Numerous TV programs on social issues (Dr. Lih Young: producer, host, speaker).

(G). Frequent recommendations/petitions to officials, agencies, law enforcement, local - federal; as individuals or with civic organizations. \*\* EXAMPLES OF PROBLEMS - “MURDER- FRAUD- CRIME- INJUSTICE NETWORKS” - with official misconduct, government gang- endless unlawful immoral acts:

(A): OPM, IRS, DHHS, SSA, DOJ, FBI, DOD, USDA, DOC, USCIS (US citizens/ neutralization services), custom services, various agencies, law enforcement; 3 branches, local – federal-global; National Park Service (Prettyman?), Library of Congress (Neil Gladd); many financial/brokerage/ accounting/ bill-payment processing/ collection institutions/agencies; insurance, car related businesses, utilities..., more; dealers Lakeforest Oldsmobile; phone/utilities/cable, judges, legal/court personnel, detective/ process server/ impersonators, with phony names, or would not provide names even in the court cases (Complainant could not get access to court files; could not even make copies); Leslie Gradet, Tamera Jones, William D Roessler; Offices of Treasury, Comptroller, Attorney General: Joel Jacob/Jacobson, Gail Malle-Davis, Sylvia J. Brokos, Mary Hawse, Linda Tanton, Gerald Langbaum, John Barry, Pamela Porter, Leo F. Partridge, Mark Vulcan, Jamis Riley, James Britt, Audrey Thomas, Jeanne Lippy, Jesse Rosenburger, Ralph Lepson; transcribers Margaret Bauer, Senators: Walter Baker, Barbara Hoffman, Thomas Middleton, Trooper: Marty Sealey, Vincent Mass, State Election Board Ross Goldstein; Maryland DOEd Susan Page, Barbara Smith(?), SSA employees and supervisors (especially in Rockville, Md), and Bullivant (?), probably in N. J.; or other states). Lobbyists/ municipal attorneys/lawyers/affiliates, Paul Glasgow, David Venable, Joseph Stoltz, Jr., Barry Gordon, Stephen Perouka, David Steinberg, Wolpoff & Abramson, Richard D. Mirsky, Poppleton, Garrett & Polott, P.C., accountant Hilda K. Matijevic; Marc Sliffman (Silver Spring, Wheaton area), Samuel White and his law firm and lawyers Shawn Bartley, Daniel Pesachowitz, Laura Jolly (phony person, named as "substitute trustee", but can never be found or contacted even through official agencies); many court personnel and judges (District Court – Court of Special Appeals). Court Auditor Robert Romero. State, county health services organizations/ agencies, Department of Health and Human Services, Montgomery County Crisis Center, Jean Burgess (white, female), Marsha Aaron; Department of Aging; Adult Protective Services, Sherry Davis, Suzanne Lord (?), Odick Esq., Bonnie Klem, etc.; Suburban Hospital, physicians, emergency staff; social worker Jody Crecensi (?), case manager Patricia Grafferty (?), Robert Rothstein, M. D. (?), Tipp Woodward; Manor- Care in Potomac Maryland: Cheryl Paulson (?), administrator) and nurses, etc.; forensic services, Maryland Department of Health and Mental Hygiene: Jolie Smith; numerous psychologists, psychiatrists, social workers, etc.: Potomac Ridge Steven Israel, Collin, Gabriel (?); social worker Tracy Lewit; Springfield Hospital Center: forensic services, Kevin Knight, Dr. Valadez (refused to give full name, despite repeated requests); Carla Craville, Francoise Reynolds, Roxanne Heyman, Amy True; Judges James Sasfield, Gary Crawford, Cheryl McCally, etc., prosecutors/government attorneys, e.g., John McCarthy, Nunylny (?),

Peter Mitchell (Montgomery County Office of Human Rights); District Court Commission (Rockville, Md) M. Dickerson; Court Personnel T.M. (only initials, no full name available); many judges, clerk of the courts (Jeffrey Ward, Loretta Knight, Bettie Skelton, Molly Rhul, etc.), other court personnel, various counties, states; local – federal; law enforcement, FBI; police e.g., in Rockville, Md. Sgt. Cowell (first name not available), C.P. Sadleson; officer Davis (MCPD); Denis Lewis (Baltimore County); sheriff: R. Lewis (Female, White, Montgomery County Md.), K. Naff (white, male, Montgomery County, Md); fire and rescues (abuse, even no fire; conspiracy).

(B): The problems are interrelated horizontally and vertically, among all issues, local-global. Clerks of the Circuit Court (Montgomery County, Md.) Loretta Knight, Bettie Skelton, Molly Rhul; District Court Clerk Jeffrey Ward, Administrative Judge Cornelius Vaughey, Sheriff Elliot Tolbert, etc. government attorney John McCarthy, Kristen Bender, court personnel, attorneys (public, private), law enforcement (FBI, sheriff, police, fire/rescue, etc., contractors) are part of the “:fraud- crime- networks: with spying, surveillance, harassment, unlawful search, stealing, robbery, injuries; false arrest, imprisonment, citation, trespass, testimony; withholding witnesses; destroy information, documents, evidence, etc.

( C). False/ unjust/ frivolous levies, liens, garnishment, guardianship, power of attorneys, foreclosure, tenant-hold-over- eviction, etc. Thousands of cases are pending in the court systems for years or even decades; believed to be filed by “fraud- crime- networks” to victimize people; without due process, proper services, proceedings; cause homelessness, poverty; not because of the problems of homeowners/citizens, but because of unjust judicial/court/legal personnel, court auditor Robert Romero as part of “official misconduct- government gang- fraud- crime- injustice networks”. Judges (unjust, irresponsible, judicially disabled) include Warren Donohue, John Debelius, Durk Thumpson, Ann Harrington, Louise Scrivener, Lawrence De Beard, Eric Johnson, James McKenna; District Judge Gary Everngam, Judge Gary Crawford; court personnel/ sheriff, attorneys, affiliated law firms; Sheriffs Earnest Turner, R. Lewis, K. Naff, etc.

(E). Problems of privatization, irresponsibility, disabilities of government attorneys and judicial/legal/court personnel are very serious, expanding, local- nationwide- global; exporting injustice overseas; Rockville city, Montgomery County, Maryland state; New Jersey Monmouth County, Judge Robert McLeod (private attorney), Judge Patricia Bueno Cleary, Prosecutor (private attorney) Patrick Healy, police David D’Arcy.

(F) Other people committed, conspired with police and fraud- crime- networks: Private attorneys: Robert McCarthy (Bethesda, Md.), Olivia Cammack (Silver Spring, Md.), David Slacker (Bethesda Md.); Ria Rochvarg (assigned as legal assistance provider to certain counties by Md. Department of Health and Mental Highgiene, but she went around the state for various abuses with Sherry Davis, Police Davis, etc. attorneys (public and private), Timonthy Adelman, Esq., (?) and law firms Adelman, Sheff and Smith(? in Annapolis, Md), Robert McCarthy, Suburban Hospital, etc. Landlord/ landladies e.g., Jiewen Tan (Rockville, Md.) and Chia Yao (Gaithersburg, Md.) had been unjustly influenced/ conspired.

(G). MURDER-FRAUD- CRIME- INJUSTICE NETWORKS inc. Montgomery County Council, Md, Nancy Floreen, Roger Berliner, Valerie Ervin; Sonya E. Healy, Esq. Legal counsel/Chief of staff (any relation to Patrick Healy, esq. in New Jersey??), Jackie Steward, council hearing coordinators/substitute; Md General Assembly, Jamie Raskin; U. S. Congress, Senate, legal staff; American U, administrative staff, security guard, students (4801

# NATIONAL OCEAN COUNCIL

Massachusetts Ave., NW, DC); Catholic U; US Institute of Peace, conference organizers/  
speakers.

# NATIONAL OCEAN COUNCIL

Name: **Rebecca Blubaugh**

Organization:

Path:

Comment: Please practice responsible stewardship and implement a robust conservation-minded National Ocean Policy. Our oceans are a terrible thing to waste and we'll all be dead without them!

Name: **John R Donaldson**

Organization: League of Women Voters member

Path:

Comment: The world needs an Ocean Policy which really preserves and strengthens our oceans. Global warming is going to stress them, possibly by an enormous, unforeseen amount, even as we go about eliminating coral reefs, killing off many species of fish, and causing other manmade disasters.

Name: **Mark Tolson**

Organization: Citizen

Path:

Comment: Dear Chairs Sutley and Holdren and National Ocean Council Members: The recently released Draft National Ocean Policy Implementation Plan is a giant step forward in advancing the National Ocean Policy and helping to create healthier oceans and coasts and stronger economies for our coastal communities. The Plan shows great strength in providing a cohesive framework for National Ocean Policy implementation and being an action-oriented plan that provides for government accountability. As you move to finalize this plan, please consider the following recommendations: Protecting, maintaining and restoring the health of our oceans, coasts and Great Lakes must be of primary importance with an emphasis to achieve conservation milestones that can provide immediate ecological benefit such as the protection and restoration of coastal and marine habitat for priority species; •Ensure the plan does not overlook needed new actions and does not only propose existing government plans and programs; •Produce an implementation status report every two years that notes progress on reaching ecological indicators and the actions and milestones in the Plan; and •Fully utilize existing legal authorities to implement the National Ocean Policy. The National Ocean Council should also prioritize needed funding for regional ocean partnerships in those regions which are best prepared to begin regional planning bodies and convene stakeholder participation. Regional ocean partnerships can create the best value of scarce federal funding by bringing federal, state, tribal, scientific and non-governmental entities together to start to address ocean management challenges. The National Ocean Policy is founded on sound science, an inclusive and transparent public and stakeholder engagement process, the protection of habitat and wildlife populations, and encourages government at all levels to work together. The Draft Implementation Plan reflects over two years worth of hard work, investment and commitment made by state governments, commercial and industrial ocean users, universities and scientists, 27 federal agencies and departments and tens of thousands of citizens across the country to move our oceans toward better ocean management. I urge the National Ocean Council to operationalize the National Ocean Policy as soon as possible through this Implementation Plan with the goal of creating the enduring environmental stewardship of our ocean, coastal and Great Lakes ecosystems.

Name: **Joann Ramos**

Organization:

Path:

Comment: NOP was created to “ensure the protection, maintenance, and restoration of the health of ocean, coastal, and Great Lakes ecosystems and resources”. Through four key themes, including ecosystem-based management and the best available science and data, the policy outlines action that must be taken to protect marine ecosystems and to encourage sustainable uses of the ocean. Make a difference for healthy communities, coastal waters within 200 miles, and Great Lakes - Practice responsible stewardship and implement a robust conservation-minded National Ocean Policy.

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Name: **Heidi Bresilge**

Organization:

Path:

Comment: Our oceans connect everything and we are connected through the oceans. Anyone who understands the importance and role our oceans play in our existence, will realize that they are imperiled and in need of rejuvenation, and cleaning. No more over-fishing, dumping of our wastes and garbage. Honor, respect and protect the oceans!

Name: **Andrea Bowen**

Organization:

Path:

Comment: Oceans and lakes should be protected not only for seafood but for abundance of nature and endangered species

# NATIONAL OCEAN COUNCIL

Name: **Carroll Arkema**

Organization:

Path:

Comment: Make a difference for healthy communities, coastal waters within 200 miles, and Great Lakes - Tell the National Ocean Council to practice responsible stewardship and to implement a robust conservation-minded National Ocean Policy.

Name: **Bobbie Murray**

Organization:

Path:

Comment: NOP was created to “ensure the protection, maintenance, and restoration of the health of ocean, coastal, and Great Lakes ecosystems and resources”. Through four key themes, including ecosystem-based management and the best available science and data, the policy outlines action that must be taken to protect marine ecosystems and to encourage sustainable uses of the ocean.

# NATIONAL OCEAN COUNCIL

Name: **James Lazell**

Organization: The Conservation Agency

Path:

Comment: I am a professional biologist and ecologist with a long career invested in conservation. As such I strongly support the draft Implementation Plan and urge its adoption. Our Oceans are at stake.

# NATIONAL OCEAN COUNCIL

Name: **Melanie Kohn**

Organization:

Path:

Comment: Please implement a conservation minded National Ocean Policy.

# NATIONAL OCEAN COUNCIL

Name: **Pamela Kelly**

Organization: Pamela Kelly Communications

Path:

Comment: Please practice responsible stewardship and to implement a robust conservation-minded National Ocean Policy.

Name: **Erin Marshall**

Organization: citizen activist

Path:

Comment: I demand that my government is responsible and accountable to the citizens of the united states and there is no higher priority than the state of the environment in which we dwell; as it is obvious that life, health and happiness is NOT POSSIBLE IN A DESTROYED ENVIRONMENT! Thus I urge my government to do everything in their power to curb the destruction of our oceans, air, water,lands etc and take a far more comprehensive, long term view rather than succumb to greedy short sighted business and military interests!

Name: **dina frigo**

Organization:

Path:

Comment: Dear Chairs Sutley and Holdren and National Ocean Council Members:

The recently released Draft National Ocean Policy Implementation Plan is a giant step forward in advancing the National Ocean Policy and helping to create healthier oceans and coasts and stronger economies for our coastal communities. The Plan shows great strength in providing a cohesive framework for National Ocean Policy implementation and being an action-oriented plan that provides for government accountability. As you move to finalize this plan, please consider the following recommendations:

Protecting, maintaining and restoring the health of our oceans, coasts and Great Lakes must be of primary importance with an emphasis to achieve conservation milestones that can provide immediate ecological benefit such as the protection and restoration of coastal and marine habitat for priority species;

Ensure the plan does not overlook needed new actions and does not only propose existing government plans and programs;

Produce an implementation status report every two years that notes progress on reaching ecological indicators and the actions and milestones in the Plan; and

Fully utilize existing legal authorities to implement the National Ocean Policy.

The National Ocean Council should also prioritize needed funding for regional ocean partnerships in those regions which are best prepared to begin regional planning bodies and convene stakeholder participation. Regional ocean partnerships can create the best value of scarce federal funding by bringing federal, state, tribal, scientific and non-governmental entities together to start to address ocean management challenges.

The National Ocean Policy is founded on sound science, an inclusive and transparent public and stakeholder engagement process, the protection of habitat and wildlife populations, and encourages government at all levels to work together. The Draft Implementation Plan reflects over two years worth of hard work, investment and commitment made by state governments, commercial and industrial ocean users, universities and scientists, 27 federal agencies and departments and tens of thousands of citizens across the country to move our oceans toward better ocean management. I urge the National Ocean Council to operationalise the National Ocean Policy as soon as possible through this Implementation Plan with the goal of creating the enduring environmental stewardship of our ocean, coastal and Great Lakes ecosystems.

Name: **Alex Oshiro**

Organization:

Path:

Comment: The health of our oceans affects us all, let's work together to hold companies responsible and accountable for their actions and stop them from raping and polluting our planet for profit and greed.

Name: **Toby Ann Reese**

Organization:

Path:

Comment: Please save our oceans from gas and oil wells. Protect the fragile wildlife that live there.  
Keep it safe of people.

Name: **Linda Costello**

Organization: Ocean Institute

Path:

Comment: One summer day several years ago, my husband and I sat quietly in a small boat off the New Hampshire coast. We were surrounded by whales, gentle giants who were clearly aware of us. They would submerge for a bit and then surface and blow. Other folks on the boat were enjoying the encounter too. It was totally quiet except for the noise of the water against our our boat and the sound of the whales. this experience will stay with me forever. I feel strongly that we must not destroy and pollute the environment of remarkable creatures like whales. It would be a disaster for both species.

Name: **fritzi cohen**

Organization: mobydickhotel and oysterfarm

Path:

Comment: I am supportive of the policy stated by the presidents council with the following proviso.  
There should be no habitat restoration that involves the use of pesticides.

# NATIONAL OCEAN COUNCIL

Name: **David Jay**

Organization: Portland State University

Path: [http://edit.whitehouse.gov/sites/default/files/webform/djay\\_dnopip\\_comments.pdf](http://edit.whitehouse.gov/sites/default/files/webform/djay_dnopip_comments.pdf)

Comment: I am a physical oceanographer with 35 years experience in coastal and estuarine science and management. I am present a member of the NOAA Hydrographic Services Review Panel



appropriate funding to our scientific and operational agencies that are active in the coastal zone and ocean.

- 2) The priority for observations, mapping and infrastructure is vital. Our PORTS and ocean observing systems are seriously underfunded, and both the academic and NOAA research fleets face serious challenges due to lack of funding and outdated platforms. There are challenges on both the operational and research sides. Satellites and unmanned observing platforms in the ocean are important, but use of the data they generate will require education of, and provision of funding to, the scientists and engineers who are needed to interpret and use the data. These points are addressed partially in Actions 3 to 7 (which I applaud), but substantial increases in funding will be required to implement these ideas.
- 3) The priority for resiliency and adaptation to climate change and ocean acidification is central, because of the issues it addresses. I would hope that this priority would be applauded even by climate skeptics. Problems like impacts of sea level rise, coastal erosion, flooding due to storm surges, and the decline of coastal ecosystems are real and ongoing. Regardless of the relevance of climate to these problems, we need to address them. Climate change simply makes the need more urgent. Funding for the relevant agencies (NASA, NOAA, EPA and the USACE) has, however, not been keeping pace with the demand for the services of these agencies.

Name: **Fred Krohn**

Organization: Private citizen

Path:

Comment: When considering the future of our nation's waterways and coasts, we must take the 'long view' rather than just trying to squeeze every last drop of oil out or throwing all our trash in. The worst examples include the Cuyahoga and Chalk rivers; one catching fire from its load of pollutants, the other a symbol of how radioactive pollution can permanently alter our environment. Our best effort should be made to ensure we keep clean water from mountain streams to ocean shores and river deltas; effective waste treatment, efficient industrial processes, and elimination of litter should be top priorities. And ban surface mining outright; with shaft mining using robot miners we can have our minerals, safely backfill the empty mine areas with the waste, and never either disturb the living surface of our world nor lose live people down in the shaft.

Name: **Kurt Olson**

Organization: Massachusetts School of Law

Path:

Comment: Please ensure that the National Ocean Council implements the National Ocean Policy based on a conservation-first philosophy. Currently, huge swirling volumes of plastics and other junk foul both the North Atlantic and North Pacific Oceans. These threaten wildlife and interfere with vital ecosystem services. Just as it is my duty to ensure that the students in my environmental law class understand the crucial issues being debated in policy circles today, so it is the duty of the National Ocean Council to ensure that our oceans and their fragile ecosystems are managed sustainably, so future generations will obtain the benefits inuring to present and past generations. Thank you.

Name: **Joel Malkerson**

Organization:

Path:

Comment: Please work to ensure that the plan is as strong as possible, beginning with better interagency cooperation and more emphasis on activities taking place on the water. Be sure to include a plan taht will practice responsible stewardship and to implement a robust conservation-minded National Ocean Policy.

Name: **Marlena Lange**

Organization:

Path:

Comment: We cannot be short sighted and not protect our oceans. We need a strong plan to insure that our oceans, reefs, ecosystems, etc. remain strong and clean. NOP was created to “ensure the protection, maintenance, and restoration of the health of ocean, coastal, and Great Lakes ecosystems and resources”. Through four key themes, including ecosystem-based management and the best available science and data, the policy outlines action that must be taken to protect marine ecosystems and to encourage sustainable uses of the ocean.

Name: **Nancy Kosnar Hartman**

Organization:

Path:

Comment: We need to protect, maintain, and restore the health of our ocean ecosystems and resources. The National Ocean Council needs a National Ocean Policy which implements responsible stewardship and and conservation policies in regard to our precious waters.

# NATIONAL OCEAN COUNCIL

Name: **Ryan Witbeck**

Organization: Carve

Path:

Comment: Please save our Oceans, stop the over fishing and reduce allowed toxin levels in our rivers and lakes that feed our seas and feed our families. There is a balance, we must act now before its too late.

Name: **Millicent Sims**

Organization:

Path:

Comment: Practice responsible stewardship and implement a robust conservation-minded National Ocean Policy.  
NOP was created to “ensure the protection, maintenance, and restoration of the health of ocean, coastal, and Great Lakes ecosystems and resources”. Through four key themes, including ecosystem-based management and the best available science and data, the policy outlines action that must be taken to protect marine ecosystems and to encourage sustainable uses of the ocean.  
Let’s ensure that the plan is as strong as possible, beginning with better interagency cooperation and more emphasis on activities taking place on the water.

Name: **Liz Campbell**

Organization:

Path:

Comment: The oceans die, we die, too. It's that simple. Sixty percent of the world's population live on the coasts and derives a significant portion, at least 60 percent, of their protein from the sea. The oceans and their phytoplankton produce the majority of our atmospheric oxygen. It is just being understood that the oceans play a large part in regulating the earth's temperature through a complex interaction between biology and atmospheric chemistry (plankton and other ocean plants consume and then shelve for long term storage vast amounts of carbon dioxide), and currents of both air and water are influenced by the ebb and flow of species. PLEASE do everything in your control to protect the oceans from over fishing, from potential oil spills, and from chemical runoff. Please create and maintain as much marine preserve as possible. Please do everything you can to prevent further dead zones and help our oceans regenerate before it is too late.

Name: **Jean Naples**

Organization:

Path:

Comment: The National Ocean Policy was created to “ensure the protection, maintenance, and restoration of the health of ocean, coastal, and Great Lakes ecosystems and resources”. Through four key themes, including ecosystem-based management and the best available science and data, the policy outlines action that must be taken to protect marine ecosystems and to encourage sustainable uses of the ocean.

President Obama made it so by Executive Order. The National Ocean Council (NOC) recently released a blueprint for implementation of the NOP and is seeking public comments now.

I am writing to urge that the plan is as strong as possible, beginning with better interagency cooperation and more emphasis on activities taking place on the water. Thank you for protection for all US ocean boundaries.  
Jean Marie Naples, MD-Ph.D.

Name: **Russell Riley**

Organization:

Path:

Comment: Seas and oceans are an valuable asset this earth; mankind cannot sustain life water. Oceans provide food, filtration, recreation and jobs for people. Plus, there's a lot to be learned about life, such as how man evolved and how marine life flourishes . Oceans and seas should not be destroyed because of greed. Lets keep them and protect them!

Name: **Elaine Balgemann**

Organization:

Path:

Comment: An Ocean is a Terrible Thing to Waste...  
NOP was created to “ensure the protection, maintenance, and restoration of the health of ocean, coastal, and Great Lakes ecosystems and resources”. Through four key themes, including ecosystem-based management and the best available science and data, the policy outlines action that must be taken to protect marine ecosystems and to encourage sustainable uses of the ocean.

National Ocean Council you MUST practice responsible stewardship and to implement a robust conservation-minded National Ocean Policy.

Name: **Stacy Green**

Organization:

Path:

Comment: We need an NOP that is robust, conservation-minded, and emphasizes interagency cooperation.

Name: **Celia Daniels**

Organization:

Path:

Comment: In our world, on our globe, the waters of the ocean continue to be our embryonic fluid--so important for life to continue and grow and evolve. Please incorporate science-based conservation of the oceans in your policy plan. And please consider how best to protect and preserve the flora and fauna that live in the ocean that both inspire us with their beauty and unique survival adaptations and also provide important resources for people and the economy in terms of food (fish, shell fish, seaweeds) and healthy supplements(fish oil, krill oil, kelp) and water to drink (many islands desalinate ocean water for their basic needs.) The ocean has the power and resources to sustain us physically, mentally, and spiritually. Oceans provide recreational opportunities such as swimming, snorkeling, diving, boating, and fishing. Scientists are learning about the origins of life on earth from the oceans. As a snorkeler, I find great joy in discovering the wonders of the ocean creatures and I am awed by the beauty found in the waters. All of these things matter. We must use our wisdom and our will to protect and preserve the ocean for all of us and for the future of our world. Thank you.

Name: **Ransom D Stone**

Organization: Retired Colonel,AUS

Path:

Comment: Please see to it that the plan is based on fact and science, not special interests and politics.

# NATIONAL OCEAN COUNCIL

Name: **Jan Pfeiffer-Rios**

Organization:

Path:

Comment: Please keep our oceans clean and free of noise.

Name: **Paula Myles**

Organization:

Path:

Comment: The draft Ocean Policy Implementation Plan is a necessary and positive first step to preserving and improving the quality of our oceans and waterways and the ecosystems and communities around them.

To be effective it must be open to new scientific mandates as they emerge and not be bound only by existing regulations. The Plan is the product of cooperation among many government and community entities: federal, state and community groups, commercial and industrial ocean-users, universities and scientists. It must continue to be the product of diverse interest groups, working together for the future of our oceans, waterways and inland water systems.

It is a good beginning, but it must be continually re-worked to meet needs as they arise. Reviews every few years and strict enforcement of existing regulations would insure that the Plan meets current needs.

I urge that the Plan be implemented immediately.

# NATIONAL OCEAN COUNCIL

Name: **Kenneth Banks**

Organization: Broward County Natural Resources Planning and Management Division

Path: [http://edit.whitehouse.gov/sites/default/files/webform/implementation\\_plan\\_comments\\_020612.doc](http://edit.whitehouse.gov/sites/default/files/webform/implementation_plan_comments_020612.doc)

Comment:



ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION and GROWTH MANAGEMENT DEPARTMENT  
**Natural Resources Planning & Management Division**  
Mailing Address: 115 South Andrews Avenue, Room 329H, Ft. Lauderdale, FL 33301  
954-519-1270 • FAX 954-519-1496

## National Ocean Council Draft National Ocean Policy Implementation Plan - Broward County, Florida, Natural Resources Planning and Management Division comments

From: Kenneth Banks, Ph.D., P.E., Manager, Marine Resources Section

Date: February 6, 2012

The above referenced implementation plan is intended to “lay out the initial steps required to achieve the vision and charge of the National Ocean Policy”. The National Ocean Policy (NOP) provides a framework for all Federal agencies to work together to ensure the protection, maintenance, and restoration of the health of ocean, coastal, and Great Lakes ecosystems and resources. The implementation plan focuses on the nine priority objectives of the NOP, which are ecosystem-based management; coastal and marine spatial planning; inform decisions and improve understanding; coordinate and support; resiliency and adaptation to climate change and ocean acidification; regional ecosystem protection and restoration; water quality and sustainable practices on land; changing conditions in the Arctic; and ocean, coastal, and Great Lakes observations, mapping, and infrastructure. Overall, this document provides a well thought out mosaic of actions which address the needs for the nine priority objectives of the Council. Specifically, review of the draft implementation plan leaves me with three overall comments:

1. This document is incomplete as an implementation plan.

The front matter of the implementation plan does acknowledge that it represents initial steps and that the document is a living one that will change. This comment, however, is intended to stress the importance of including a plan for funding and approximate costs of the proposed actions. This information will be critical in prioritizing actions to attain efficiency in a very costly process.

2. Agency collaboration listed for the actions and discussion is limited to Federal partnerships and limited state participation. Local government is excluded for the most part.

The shoreline of most states is short compared to their total area. As a result, coastal resources are managed by state or federal agencies. Florida and Hawaii are exceptions and many local government entities participate or take the lead in coastal management activities. Florida’s tidal shoreline is 2,276 miles long and spans three climatic zones and multiple habitat types. The difficulty of managing this spatial diversity has resulted in Florida forming partnerships with local government agencies (and others) for resource management. The National Ocean Policy Implementation Plan would be well served by following this model of partnership at the local government level. The implementation plan draft excludes local government resource agencies for the most part, functionally excluding a tremendous body of local and technical knowledge. We strongly recommend expanding participation to local government resources agencies where appropriate.

3. The actions presented in the implementation plan are spread among numerous federal agencies without an apparent coordinating agency.

Coordination of activities is imperative to maintain spending efficiency, prioritize tasks, critical path management, and report results and progress. This assignment, as well as a clear mechanism to track, report, and evaluate outcomes of actions, appears to be absent from the plan. A common report card, provided to a coordinating agency, would be a useful tool to address this. It would also allow comparisons among actions to determine relative resource benefits. An informal analysis of the actions listed in the implementation plan indicates that only about 6% of the actions directly result in resource benefits. However, this does not imply that other actions do not indirectly benefit resources. The end product of the majority of actions (~40%) is documentation, followed by research (~23%), education (~14%), and policy setting (~3%). We believe that action priorities should stress a direct benefit to resources, and this can only be done effectively through central coordination of the plan.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide comments on this implementation plan. We are pleased to see that the National Ocean Council values input from the wide spectrum of resource managers, scientists, and stakeholders. For further discussion of Broward County's comments please contact Kenneth Banks, [kbanks@broward.com](mailto:kbanks@broward.com) or (954) 519-1207.

Name: **Alan Francisco**

Organization:

Path:

Comment: submit the following:

or page 46, Action 1: Develop and transfer decision support tools to identify land protection and restoration priorities, you must create a plan to protect Pacific waters under U.S. jurisdiction from the ecological threat of Fukushima Daiichi radioactive debris.

or page 78, Action 1: Improve Arctic environmental response management, Shell's plans near the Chukchi Sea must be rejected or mitigated as much as possible. Oil spill recovery methods employing microbes that succeeded in parts of the Texas coast must be considered.

or page 88, National Objective 2: Reduce cumulative impacts on environmentally sensitive resources and habitats in ocean, coastal, and Great Lakes waters, you must dedicate effort to mitigating frontier energy exploration impacts that the President proposes to allow.

support this plan and hope it influences our operations. Thank you for your time.

Name: **Patti Packer**

Organization:

Path:

Comment: NOP was created to “ensure the protection, maintenance, and restoration of the health of ocean, coastal, and Great Lakes ecosystems and resources”. Please make sure policy is implemented to better ensure interagency cooperation and more emphasis on activities taking place on the water.

# NATIONAL OCEAN COUNCIL

Name: **Harriette Harrison**

Organization: Responsible, Concerned, Citizen

Path:

Comment: Unless there is some other unknown atmosphere that no one knows about, I suggest we get our environmental house in order in the time and space we have left. After all, everyone seems to be more concerned about economics but if you don't fix this kind of stuff, where are you going spend the MONEY????????????????????????????????  
THIS IS BIGGER THAN THE ALMIGHTY DOLLAR!

Sincerely,

H.B. Harrison

Name: **Kirsten Lear**

Organization:

Path:

Comment:

Dear Chairs Sutley and Holdren and National Ocean Council Members:

The recently released Draft National Ocean Policy Implementation Plan is a giant step forward in advancing the National Ocean Policy and helping to create healthier oceans and coasts and stronger economies for our coastal communities. The Plan shows great strength in providing a cohesive framework for National Ocean Policy implementation and being an action-oriented plan that provides for government accountability. As you move to finalize this plan, please consider the following recommendations:

Protecting, maintaining and restoring the health of our oceans, coasts and Great Lakes must be of primary importance with an emphasis to achieve conservation milestones that can provide immediate ecological benefit such as the protection and restoration of coastal and marine habitat for priority species;

Ensure the plan does not overlook needed new actions and does not only propose existing government plans and programs;

Produce an implementation status report every two years that notes progress on reaching ecological indicators and the actions and milestones in the Plan; and

Fully utilize existing legal authorities to implement the National Ocean Policy.

The National Ocean Council should also prioritize needed funding for regional ocean partnerships in those regions which are best prepared to begin regional planning bodies and convene stakeholder participation. Regional ocean partnerships can create the best value of scarce federal funding by bringing federal, state, tribal, scientific and non-governmental entities together to start to address ocean management challenges.

The National Ocean Policy is founded on sound science, an inclusive and transparent public and stakeholder engagement process, the protection of habitat and wildlife populations, and encourages government at all levels to work together. The Draft Implementation Plan reflects over two years worth of hard work, investment and commitment made by state governments, commercial and industrial ocean users, universities and scientists, 27 federal agencies and departments and tens of thousands of citizens across the country to move our oceans toward better ocean management. I urge the National Ocean Council to operationalize the National Ocean Policy as soon as possible through this Implementation Plan with the goal of creating the enduring environmental stewardship of our ocean, coastal and Great Lakes ecosystems.

Name: **ROBERT SMITH**

Organization:

Path:

Comment: Dear Chairs Sutley and Holdren and National Ocean Council Members: The recently released Draft National Ocean Policy Implementation Plan is a giant step forward in advancing the National Ocean Policy and helping to create healthier oceans and coasts and stronger economies for our coastal communities. The Plan shows great strength in providing a cohesive framework for National Ocean Policy implementation and being an action-oriented plan that provides for government accountability. As you move to finalize this plan, please consider the following recommendations: Protecting, maintaining and restoring the health of our oceans, coasts and Great Lakes must be of primary importance with an emphasis to achieve conservation milestones that can provide immediate ecological benefit such as the protection and restoration of coastal and marine habitat for priority species; Ensure the plan does not overlook needed new actions and does not only propose existing government plans and programs; Produce an implementation status report every two years that notes progress on reaching ecological indicators and the actions and milestones in the Plan; and Fully utilize existing legal authorities to implement the National Ocean Policy. The National Ocean Council should also prioritize needed funding for regional ocean partnerships in those regions which are best prepared to begin regional planning bodies and convene stakeholder participation. Regional ocean partnerships can create the best value of scarce federal funding by bringing federal, state, tribal, scientific and non-governmental entities together to start to address ocean management challenges. The National Ocean Policy is founded on sound science, an inclusive and transparent public and stakeholder engagement process, the protection of habitat and wildlife populations, and encourages government at all levels to work together. The Draft Implementation Plan reflects over two years worth of hard work, investment and commitment made by state governments, commercial and industrial ocean users, universities and scientists, 27 federal agencies and departments and tens of thousands of citizens across the country to move our oceans toward better ocean management. I urge the National Ocean Council to operationalize the National Ocean Policy as soon as possible through this Implementation Plan with the goal of creating the enduring environmental stewardship of our ocean, coastal and Great Lakes ecosystems.

Name: **Tom Bailey**

Organization:

Path:

Comment: I am a native of the State of Michigan and watched the Great Lakes deteriorate over the past 77 years. I now live in Massachusetts and have watched the New England coast be degraded. Please continue an aggressive effort to protect our oceans and the Great Lakes

Name: **Elizabeth Brown**

Organization:

Path:

Comment: Please choose a plan that will ensure thriving oceans for the long term future. This includes managing fisheries for ongoing catch and also fishing jobs, pollutant oversight, and run-off regulation.

Thank you for considering my comments

Name: **Mark Holmgren**

Organization:

Path:

Comment: Stop using our life-giving oceans as a toilet for fertilizers, pesticides, mercury and other coal by-products, and plastic, as well as polluting it with excessive noise as if whales, porpoises, and dolphins don't depend on the waterways as vital communication. We have the ability to become less anthropocentric for a balanced and more beautiful life, like growing up from babyhood where the baby is the center of the universe, to adulthood where one cares for others.

Name: **Eileen Anglin**

Organization:

Path:

Comment: NOP was created to “ensure the protection, maintenance, and restoration of the health of ocean, coastal, and Great Lakes ecosystems and resources”. Through four key themes, including ecosystem-based management and the best available science and data, the policy outlines action that must be taken to protect marine ecosystems and to encourage sustainable uses of the ocean.

Name: **Sharon Garlena**

Organization:

Path:

Comment: Dear Chairs Sutley and Holdren and National Ocean Council Members:

The recently released Draft National Ocean Policy Implementation Plan is a giant step forward in advancing the National Ocean Policy and helping to create healthier oceans and coasts and stronger economies for our coastal communities. The Plan shows great strength in providing a cohesive framework for National Ocean Policy implementation and being an action-oriented plan that provides for government accountability. As you move to finalize this plan, please consider the following recommendations: Protecting, maintaining and restoring the health of our oceans, coasts and Great Lakes must be of primary importance with an emphasis to achieve conservation milestones that can provide immediate ecological benefit such as the protection and restoration of coastal and marine habitat for priority species; Ensure the plan does not overlook needed new actions and does not only propose existing government plans and programs; Produce an implementation status report every two years that notes progress on reaching ecological indicators and the actions and milestones in the Plan; and Fully utilize existing legal authorities to implement the National Ocean Policy. The National Ocean Council should also prioritize needed funding for regional ocean partnerships in those regions which are best prepared to begin regional planning bodies and convene stakeholder participation. Regional ocean partnerships can create the best value of scarce federal funding by bringing federal, state, tribal, scientific and non-governmental entities together to start to address ocean management challenges. The National Ocean Policy is founded on sound science, an inclusive and transparent public and stakeholder engagement process, the protection of habitat and wildlife populations, and encourages government at all levels to work together. The Draft Implementation Plan reflects over two years worth of hard work, investment and commitment made by state governments, commercial and industrial ocean users, universities and scientists, 27 federal agencies and departments and tens of thousands of citizens across the country to move our oceans toward better ocean management. I urge the National Ocean Council to operationalize the National Ocean Policy as soon as possible through this Implementation Plan with the goal of creating the enduring environmental stewardship of our ocean, coastal and Great Lakes ecosystems.

Thank you in advance.

Name: **James Koenig**

Organization:

Path:

Comment: Fish don't like that CO2 emissions causes their oceans to become acidic, making it less pleasant for marine life to live in.

Name: **Renee and Robert Pound**

Organization:

Path:

Comment: Please pursue a path of conservation and protection of our oceanic realms, they are presently under siege from many different directions, overfishing, oil spills, acidification, warming, storm water runoff, pollution from rivers, waste from nuclear ships and cruise liners, plastic waste gyres, whaling ships, raw sewage (in third world countries), the list goes on and on!!

Name: **Kristen Fletcher**

Organization: Coastal States Organization

Path: [http://edit.whitehouse.gov/sites/default/files/webform/cso\\_comments\\_-\\_nop\\_imp\\_plan\\_2-24-12.pdf](http://edit.whitehouse.gov/sites/default/files/webform/cso_comments_-_nop_imp_plan_2-24-12.pdf)

Comment: CSO submits the attached comments regarding the Draft National Ocean Policy Implementation Plan. Thank you for the significant work that went into drafting the Plan and for the opportunity to comment.



*Coastal States Organization*  
*444 N Capitol St NW, Suite 322*  
*Washington, DC 20001*  
*202-508-3860*  
[www.coastalstates.org](http://www.coastalstates.org)

February 24, 2012

Ms. Nancy Sutley, Dr. John Holdren and Members  
National Ocean Council  
c/o Council on Environmental Quality  
722 Jackson Place NW  
Washington, DC 20503

Re: CSO Comments on NOP Implementation Plan

The Coastal States Organization (CSO) offers the following comments to the National Ocean Council (NOC) for use in amending its *Draft National Ocean Policy Implementation Plan*.

Since 1970, CSO has represented the interests of the Governors of the nation's thirty-five coastal states and territories, including the Great Lakes states, on issues relating to the sound management and development of coastal and ocean resources. CSO recognizes and appreciates the significant work reflected in the *Draft National Ocean Policy Implementation Plan* and its detailed actions and milestones. Comments are based in part on recommendations submitted by CSO in April 2011 toward developing Strategic Action Plans and comments submitted this month from CSO work groups made up of Governor-appointed delegates across the nation.

***Acknowledge Critical Partnership of the Coastal Zone Management Programs***

CSO's primary concern with the Implementation Plan is that it fails to acknowledge or build upon the foundational federal-state partnership of the 40-year Coastal Zone Management Program. These programs are in 34 of 35 US coastal states and span the globe addressing issues embedded within each of the nine NOP Priorities. In most cases, these programs also provide the foundation for the Regional Ocean Partnerships – recognized in the Implementation Plan as one of four key themes for advancing the NOP. Indeed, the failure to acknowledge the CZM Program – at the state and federal levels - and build upon its existing authorities, infrastructure and partnerships reduces the credibility of the Plan and its ability to advance a National Ocean Policy. As noted in greater detail below, CSO strongly recommends a greater acknowledgement of the role of the National Coastal Management Program and the 34 state programs on the ground in the Implementation Plan in order to: *“improve efficiency by leveraging expertise and resources, identifying and augmenting synergies, reducing redundancies, and streamlining management.”* (Implementation Plan p. 4.)

The following CSO comments focus on seven of the nine priorities.

## *Objective – Ecosystem Based Management*

### **Action 1: Establish a framework for collaboration and a shared set of goals for Federal implementation of ecosystem-based management.**

Under Action 1, given the comprehensive nature of coastal management programs around the country and reviews conducted under the CZMA consistency provision, CSO recommends that the CZMA be explicitly incorporated into the milestones. Specifically, CSO recommends amending milestone bullet 4 as: Develop guidance for all Federal agencies about how to implement EBM under existing regulatory and legislative authorities, such as the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) and Coastal Zone Management Act (CZMA), into agency-specific programs and associated actions.

As stated under Action 1, CSO and its state-based Legal Council look forward to partnering with the NOC to complete a review of EBM-relevant statutes and regulations to identify: agency authorities, opportunities to incorporate EBM principles into Federal laws, regulations, and policies, and potential legislative changes that would fill gaps and support full implementation of EBM.

In addition, CSO strongly recommends that the Plan describe in more detail how the federal agencies will carry out early and regular coordination with state, local, and tribal partners on EBM projects. Many reviews and case studies of successful EBM efforts focus on the importance of substantive involvement and input from stakeholders, indigenous groups and management agencies at a variety of levels during the project. CSO recommends revising Action 1 milestones to illustrate how federal efforts will integrate local knowledge and coordinate with existing resource management efforts at the state and local levels.

### **Action 2: Establish a science framework to support science-based EBM implementation.**

As stated under Action 2, CSO supports and looks forward to partnering with the NOC to:

- Identify regional information gaps to enable science-based EBM;
- Establish a process for adaptive resource management; and
- Develop national guidelines and best practices for EBM implementation.

### **Action 3: Build capacity to implement EBM through training on principles, best practices, and decision-support tools.**

Under Action 3, CSO applauds the focus on capacity to implement EBM. This capacity exists at the state and local levels. CSO recommends that the training called for under Action 3 be reframed as a two-way effort; i.e., state and local managers have expertise and can share key principles from on the ground efforts. CSO recommends that “Training will be made available to State, Tribal, and local government partners” be replaced with “Collaborative planning for federal, state, tribal and local government partners will ensure sharing of best management practices from all levels and build more trusted partnerships.”

Similarly, training programs exist that can be utilized with minimal cost and also strengthen collaborative relationships. Under Action 3 milestone bullet 3, CSO recommends that the statement “Provide formal training on EBM principles, best practices, and latest decision-support tools to Federal managers and scientists” be replaced with “Use existing collaborative training programs to provide training on EBM principles, best practices, and latest decision-support tools to ocean and coastal managers and scientists at the federal, state, tribal and local levels.”

Action 3 also can be strengthened by adding a milestone of: *Align federal funding and technical resources to support ecosystem priorities in state and federal programs.* An essential element of implementing ecosystem-based management will be the alignment of federal funds and resources. To do so, the Implementation Plan must ensure that federal agency programs and management activities for coastal ecosystems are coordinated, and where possible, integrated with each other and with state resource

management priorities and regional ocean partnership goals. A specific near-term action is to establish a process through the NOC to coordinate and align ecosystem-based programs of various federal agencies.

### ***Objective - Observations, Mapping, and Infrastructure***

CSO is encouraged to see the Draft Implementation Plan's observations, mapping, and infrastructure objective acknowledge the need to better integrate Federal and non-Federal ocean observing systems, sensors, data collection platforms, and mapping capabilities. Improved data acquisition and availability, more robust, coordinated coastal and nearshore observations, and better integrated mapping resources will be critical to improving understanding of the underlying physical and ecological processes driving the oceans, coasts, and Great Lakes systems. This, in turn, will help better address coastal zone management issues, including: coastal population growth and land use change, offshore energy activities, aquaculture, water quality and nearshore habitat degradation, coastal storms and hazards, sea level rise, and other emerging threats.

CSO supports the NOCs efforts to collect and deliver baseline data, improve predictive models, and provide critical information to enable sound decision-making; however, this investment should not come at the expense of implementing programs at the Federal, state, local, or regional levels – including the National Coastal Management Program and the federal-state partnerships under the CZMA. Data that is collected but is not actionable or relevant to identified ocean and coastal management needs is not an effective or efficient use of resources. CSO urges the NOC to ensure that the actions and milestones in this objective not only support the other NOP objectives but also consider the data, observation, and mapping priorities identified by coastal managers.

CSO looks forward to working with the NOC to help ensure that the nation's coastal and ocean observation and mapping efforts are cost-effective, well coordinated, and integrated into existing institutional frameworks and processes. Specific comments on Actions 4, 5, 6, and 7 follow.

#### **Action 4: Provide local and regional observation systems to support a variety of ocean, coastal, and Great Lakes users.**

CSO is pleased to see Action 4 acknowledge the need to further implement the U.S. Integrated Ocean Observing System (IOOS) observational and data management components and bring IOOS to a baseline operational level. Sustained observing systems in the oceans, coasts, and Great Lakes are critical for sound management and decision-making at regional and local scales. CSO urges the NOC to consider areas of the country that may be lacking any data collection, research sites, or observations systems. CSO recommends amending Milestone 4 which states "Establish a mechanism for obtaining external expert advice (e.g. a Federal Advisory Committee) to advise the IOOC," to specifically mention the state coastal programs which can play an important role in identifying observation needs and priority areas.

In addition, current IOOS funding levels are insufficient to meet coastal management needs. CSO recommends exploring options to provide a more consistent funding mechanism to support ocean and coastal observation and mapping.

#### **Action 5: Coordinate and leverage ocean and coastal mapping efforts to improve access to existing data and efficiently collect future data.**

As stated in Action 5, improvements in providing fundamental baseline data for defining and mapping ocean, coastal, and Great Lakes areas will be important to helping better define critical habitat areas, assess vulnerability to coastal hazards, manage marine resources, and support sound coastal management

decisions. As the NOC moves forward with Action 5, CSO looks forward to working with the NOC to leverage existing efforts, share best practices, and identify priority mapping needs and gaps.

CSO recommends the following for Action 5 milestones:

- “Develop, evaluate, and expand a prototype interagency Ocean and Coastal Mapping Inventory that includes information (metadata) on existing and planned acquisition of framework data meeting agreed standards...”
  - While CSO supports the development of this type of inventory and recognizes the value of more robust metadata descriptions, it will be critical to ensure the information is readily accessible and provided in a form that is valuable to users.
- “Obtain modern high-resolution seafloor mapping data in key coastal and shelf waters...”
  - How will “key coastal and shelf waters” be defined? CSO recommends the NOC to engage coastal managers and other on-the-ground stakeholders to help identify and define the criteria for designating “key coastal and shelf waters.”

CSO also recommends considering public-private partnerships whereby data is collected and government agencies can pool resources to process it at the scales and resolutions needed for decision making.

#### **Action 6: Improve mapping capabilities and mapping products.**

CSO is pleased to see that Action 6 addresses the need to improve mapping capabilities and products, and acknowledges that the majority of the nation’s oceans and coasts are not mapped to modern standards. Access to high-quality, easy-to-use ocean and coastal mapping data and derived products is highly valuable for supporting coastal management decision making. CSO supports efforts to improve the quality of and access to mapping products, but also recommends federal guidance and technical support for ongoing mapping efforts at the state and regional levels. CSO recommends the NOC to ensure that the milestones under Action 6 are carried forward in a manner that yields products and services that can be integrated into existing processes. CSO also recommends including a milestone to support the development of a centralized portal where mapping products and services are made available to users.

#### **Action 7: Develop an integrated ocean and coastal data collection, processing, and management system to support real-time observations.**

CSO is pleased to see that Action 7 recognizes the value of “end-to-end data services” (from data collection to product dissemination) and agrees that the development of an integrated, centralized portal for “data and information management, archiving, access, and stewardship” is needed to support easy access to relevant data and information for research, planning, and decision support. Linkages to existing ocean and coastal data portals and services such as [ocean.data.gov](http://ocean.data.gov), NOAA’s Digital Coast, and NOAA’s State of the Coast, will be particularly important to ensure continuity, improve access to existing resources, and reduce duplication of effort.

CSO specifically looks forward to working with the NOC to:

- Create a program for the notification, collection, and organization of Federal and non-Federal ocean observing systems that will reduce redundancies in collection, provide a central database for public information and connect to privately held information, and assist in prioritizing areas in need of additional collection.
- Adopt recommended best practices and standards to ensure consistent terminology for coastal and marine ecological features when describing and delivering ocean and coastal mapping data and derived products; and

- Extend the current data standards...to allow for increased interoperability between marine biological data and physical and social data.

While the NOC indicates a “long-term commitment to integrating biological data with other natural and social data”, CSO also recommends including a specific milestone to reflect that commitment. With over half of the American population living within 50 miles of the coast, the critical need to better link physical, biological, chemical, and social data is evident.

### *Objective – Coordinate & Support*

#### **Action 1: Support regional priorities and enhance regional partnerships.**

The Coastal Zone Management Programs have taken lead roles in the establishment and growth of the nation’s Regional Ocean Partnerships (ROPs), identifying regional priorities, and creating paths to successfully manage coastal ecosystems on a regional basis. For the coastal states that make up the ROPs, the CZMA is also a legal and policy foundation for many of the identified regional priorities. Given the significant contribution of CZM programs, CSO recommends the introductory language under Action 1 be reworded to: “They have different structures and employ varied methods and approaches to enhance the ecological and economic health of the region, but most are supported at the state level by Coastal Programs authorized under the CZMA.”

Under Action 1 milestones, CSO recommends the first bullet be changed from “Identify grant and non-monetary opportunities to support the continued development and organization of regional alliances and existing ROPs” to “Identify grant and non-monetary opportunities to support the continued development and organization of regional alliances and existing ROPs without undermining federal support to existing programs that support and make up the ROPs.”

As stated in this section, CSO looks forward to partnering with the NOC to identify and distribute, in coordination with ROPs, Best Management Practices (BMPs) that are broadly applicable for all ROPs.

#### **Action 2: Strengthen existing partnerships and establish new partnerships, as appropriate, to enhance the actions within this Implementation Plan.**

Given the significance of CZM Programs to the ROPs and the 40-year cooperative nature of the CZM state-federal partnership, CSO recommends the background language of Action 2 include the National Coastal Zone Management Program. Thus, that section would read: “In addition to facilitating new partnerships, this action will improve leveraging of existing partnerships (e.g., National Oceanographic Partnership Program, Corporate Wetlands Restoration Partnership, National Fish Habitat Partnerships, and National Coastal Zone Management Program).” CSO recommends including a milestone under Action 2 that reads: “Enhance collaboration with existing CZM Programs to advance NOP priorities.”

In Action 2 milestone bullet 4, CSO recommends editing “Identify, in coordination with the National Oceanographic Partnership Program, funding opportunities to support National Ocean Policy priorities” to include “including alignment of federal funds across agencies and multi-agency cooperative grant programs to external partners.”

#### **Action 3: Reduce barriers to implementation of the National Ocean Policy.**

CSO is pleased that the Plan recognizes needed improvements to the Coastal Zone Management Act to better support climate change adaptation efforts. CSO looks forward to partnering with the NOC to:

- Identify Federal legal or regulatory gaps, overlaps, redundancies, and inconsistencies to effective collaboration and governance that require further analysis.
- Review the interpretation and, as necessary, propose to strengthen content and/or application of Federal legislation, including the Coastal Zone Management Act, Coastal Barriers Resources Act, the Stafford Act, and others to incorporate and better support climate change adaptation efforts.

**Action 4: Develop cross-cutting budget analyses that address priority areas in the National Ocean Policy.**

CSO applauds Action 4. A cross-cutting Federal budget analyses will help governments and stakeholders to better understand the complexities of federal ocean and coastal funding and assist in making the funding more targeted and efforts more efficient.

**Action 5: Improve efficiency of permitting ocean, coastal, and Great Lakes uses.**

CSO supports efforts to improve efficiency in permitting activities but recommends assurances in this section that federal consistency authority provide to the states through the CZMA will not be undermined. Federal consistency is a critical tool to ensure that federally permitted or funded activities do not jeopardize resources within our respective state waters. In addition, CSO recommends that these efforts be more detailed to describe how these efforts will be coordinated with states so as to avoid undermining existing state permitting requirements.

*Objective – Regional Ecosystem Protection & Restoration*

**Action 1: Develop and transfer decision support tools to identify land protection and restoration priorities.**

CSO supports the NOC’s priority of developing and transferring decision support tools among various levels of government. CSO encourages the NOC to focus these tools for interagency use, so that the acquisition of lands and restoration activities will be coordinated and supported across agencies and to shorten some of the milestone deadlines so that initial partnership collaboration may begin this year. Consideration of the relationships between state and existing state coastal management programs and their respective standing relationships with local governments in this action will help ensure that decision support tools (as piloted in the build-out of the Chesapeake System) will be transferable into other regions and ensure their utility beyond the initial pilot area.

**Action 2: Reduce coastal wetland loss and improve understanding of coastal wetland status and trends.**

CSO applauds the goal of Action 2 to reduce coastal wetland loss. Recent work conducted through state coastal management programs has identified the loss of wetlands attributed to sea level rise and climate change as well as the economic impact the loss of these wetlands will have on the built environment. CSO encourages the NOC to use the wealth of existing research when “identify[ing] the underlying causes of loss” of these habitats. CSO recommends milestones be consolidated and the deadline moved earlier, so that on the ground benefits can be achieved as quickly as possible.

The Plan fails to recognize current programs, such as the Coastal and Estuarine Land Conservation Program, which address wetland degradation and loss. CSO recommends the addition of the following milestone.

- Incorporate and support state, local, and tribal government projects into this action, such as those pursued by coastal programs, non-profit organizations and academic institutions.

CSO also recommends the addition of the following milestone to address the issue of changing data quality and availability.

- Work with federal and state partners to develop mechanisms to share new technologies as they become available including the transfer of decision support tools (state, local, regional) and data sets.

**Action 4: Strengthen interagency collaboration to protect and conserve coral reef ecosystems.**

CSO supports Action 4 to address the needs of coral reef ecosystems. CSO recommends including the following early milestone.

- Quantify ecosystem services and economic impact analyses of healthy coral reef systems.

Because there are no milestones for 2013 and the milestone with the most tangible benefits is delayed by two years, CSO also recommends that the timeline for reducing land-based pollution be moved up as it is one of the most critical improvements for reducing coral reef degradation.

**Action 6: Identify nationally significant marine and Great Lakes natural and cultural resources in need of protection.**

Under Action 6, CSO is disappointed to see the lack of terrestrial coastal areas considered. Nationally significant coastal areas are also in need of protection, as evidenced by the Congressional designation of the Coastal and Estuarine Land Conservation Program (CELCP), the National Estuarine Research Reserves (NERRs), DOI's coastal programs, and other associated federal programs. CSO encourages the expansion of this action to include coastal areas, to build on the expertise of land acquisition programs such as CELCP and coordinate acquisition programs and restoration programs. The CZMA provides federal funding that is matched by the states and often leveraged by other partners that can be utilized to acquire, preserve, and/or restore areas within a state. CSO recommends the addition of the following milestones under Action 6.

- Increase support for the National Coastal Management Program to advance this priority.
- Engage the states and NGO community in the identification of significant areas.

CSO also supports milestones that align budget priorities within Federal agencies for the programs identified under this action.

**Action 7: Improve the effectiveness of coastal and estuarine habitat restoration projects.**

CSO looks forward to working with the NOC on Action 7. CSO recommends that the Plan include steps to coordinate coastal land acquisition and restoration programs across the federal agencies. To facilitate and support this activity, CSO recommends a milestone that states: "Agencies will develop a messaging campaign for the public and decision-makers highlighting how they complement and build upon each other to bring about ecosystem protection and restoration." It is important to grow the recognition and support of these programs to better protect and restore habitat.

## *Objective – Resiliency and Adaptation to Climate Change and Ocean Acidification*

CSO is encouraged to see that the Draft Implementation Plan’s climate change objective highlights gaps in scientific understanding and technology; notes the need for more accessible data, decision support tools, and training; and acknowledges the significant progress that can be made by “building on current efforts at Federal, State, Tribal, regional, and local levels and coordinating across political jurisdictions” (pp. 55). Many coastal states and territories are already taking action to address the impacts of climate change and ocean acidification through their existing coastal management programs. These state coastal programs, established through the CZMA, play a particularly important role in ensuring the consideration of social, environmental, and economic impacts of climate change along our nation’s coastlines.

CSO recommends strengthening the Plan by specifically including the National Coastal Management Program and the federal-state partnerships under the CZMA. CSO looks forward to working with the National Ocean Council to help foster better collaboration with State, Tribal, regional, and local efforts. With increased coordination, a consistent federal funding mechanism, and capacity building, states can play a central role in carrying out this priority objective of the National Ocean Policy.

### **Action 1: Strengthen and integrate observations from the Nation’s protected areas, research sites, and observing systems into a coordinated network of sentinel sites to track changes in the condition of ocean, coastal, and Great Lakes environments and communities.**

While CSO supports a coordinated and integrated network of climate “sentinel sites” to increase the quality, consistency, and availability of past and current climate and ocean acidification information, it will be critical to ensure that an integrated “network” of sites adequately represent a variety of coastal areas throughout the country. CSO urges the NOC to be mindful that sentinel sites are selected with consideration to areas of the country that may be lacking any data collection, research sites, or observations systems. It will also be important to ensure that the information produced readily available on decision-relevant scales that are easily understood and useful for decision-makers and coastal resource managers.

CSO looks forward to partnering with the NOC to:

- Determine priority observation areas and identify potential sentinel sites.
- Develop a framework for indicators of community and ecosystem impacts (physical, biological, chemical, cultural, social, and economic) to track changes in vulnerability and resiliency through time.
- Disseminate and implement best practices and standardized monitoring protocols.
- Build and expand on partnerships with both Federal and non-Federal entities to increase integration of existing observing activities into sentinel site networks.

### **Action 2: Determine the impacts of climate change, ocean acidification, and interacting stressors on ecological, economic, and social systems.**

As stated in Action 2, an “integrated research agenda that includes physical, chemical, biological, and social sciences” (pp. 57) is key to not only addressing gaps in understanding, but also developing more robust models, tools, and services to inform climate adaptation efforts and increase the ecological and economic resilience of coastal communities. As the NOC moves forward on Action 2, states and academic programs should be close partners in the effort to establish an integrated, interdisciplinary research agenda.

While the milestones under Action 2 focus on research and dissemination of findings, CSO notes that *how* this information is presented and used by stakeholders is critical. CSO recommends specifying that these

findings be disseminated in formats that are understood and useful for a variety of audiences, including decision-makers and resource managers. To do so, CSO recommends adding the following milestones:

- Utilize research findings to support the development of models, decision support tools, and services to guide efforts to increase the resiliency of coastal ecosystems, communities, infrastructure, and economies to the impacts of climate change and ocean acidification.
- Integrate and support the ongoing research efforts of states and academic institutions to address the impacts of climate change, ocean acidification, and interacting stressors on ecological, economic, and social systems and work with states and academic institutions to set scientific research priorities in a collaborative way.
- Ensure that new research efforts reflect or incorporate state research priorities.

**Action 3: Provide critical projections of climate change impacts on coasts and oceans at decision-relevant scales.**

Under Action 3, CSO is pleased that the NOC has acknowledged the need for “accurate, timely, and relevant multi-decadal projections” (pp. 58) and improved regional-scale projections. Impacts from climate change and ocean acidification vary regionally. Armed with a range of regional climate projections on physical, ecological, and social systems, decision-makers and resource managers can more effectively plan and take adaptive action in their states and regions. It is important, however, that these projections be founded on credible, peer-reviewed science.

CSO encourages the NOC to consider adding milestones regarding how these critical projections will be incorporated into existing federal agency policies and programs, such as FEMA flood hazard maps and the National Flood Insurance Program.

CSO looks forward to working with the NOC to implement the milestones identified as well as adding more explicit language stating how the federal agency partners will work through the CZMA and state coastal programs to do the following:

- Develop and disseminate a suite of regional climate projections for all coastal and marine regions of the United States.
- Develop and disseminate a set of estimates for global mean sea-level rise that incorporates thermal expansion and ice-sheet melting, as well as a summary of what is known regarding regional variations from the global trend.
- Make available coastal inundation and sea-level change visualization and decision support tools at decision-relevant scales.
- Provide and integrate coastal and ocean job trends data via NOAA’s Digital Coast to enable decision-makers and planners to better assess economic impacts.

**Action 4: Assess the vulnerability of coastal and ocean environments and communities to climate change and ocean acidification.**

CSO looks forward to working with the NOC on the development of “methods, best practices, and guidance for assessing the vulnerability and resiliency of resources, infrastructure, and communities to a changing climate” (pp. 59). The integrated focus of this Action item – looking at natural resources, built infrastructure, and communities – will support a necessarily coordinated approach across sectors impacted by climate change. CSO is also pleased to see the emphasis on collaboration with and support of ongoing State, Tribal, and local efforts.

CSO looks forward to working with the NOC on the following milestones:

- Provide guidance for performing comprehensive, risk-based vulnerability assessments of climate change impacts for voluntary adoption by coastal programs.
- Develop and disseminate methods, best practices, and standards for assessing the resiliency of natural resources, cultural resources, populations, and infrastructure.
- Develop tools for and conduct training courses on design and implementation of vulnerability assessments for coastal and ocean infrastructure, communities, and natural and cultural resources.
- Collaborate with State, Tribal, and local efforts on climate change vulnerability assessments for communities.

**Action 5: Strengthen interagency coordination on the development and provision of information, training, guidance, tools, and support for adaptation practitioners.**

Under Action 5, CSO appreciates the acknowledgement of the “complex landscape of Federally-produced science” (pp. 60) and the challenge for decision-makers to locate, access, and use information that meets their needs. CSO supports a sustained, mutual information exchange among scientists, decision-makers, and managers, and is encouraged by the focus in Action 5 on the development of an infrastructure that will improve the accessibility of relevant science, sharing of lessons learned among practitioners, and training opportunities. It will be important to ensure that the guidance and tools produced can be easily incorporated into existing institutional frameworks and processes.

CSO supports the following milestones included under Action 5:

- Develop a strategic plan for continuously identifying information needs of decision-makers and addressing them through an integrated research agenda.
- Integrate climate information, tools, and services on coasts and oceans into the online interagency global change information system.
- Provide accessible, standardized guidance and training for incorporating climate change information into ecosystem management, restoration, and CMSP activities.
- Provide guidance on the effective use of regional climate projections and local sea-level rise scenarios, including associated uncertainties.

**Action 6: Design, implement, and evaluate adaptation strategies to reduce vulnerabilities and promote informed decisions.**

The focus in Action 6 on improved communication of adaptation actions across all levels of government is helpful; however, CSO recommends amending “improved communication” to “improved collaboration and coordination” to reflect the need for active integration and action. A coordination of effort and resources will enable more efficient implementation of adaptation activities that will reduce vulnerability, improve resiliency, and help avoid maladaptive action.

CSO acknowledges the importance of climate adaptation guidance and is pleased to see that the NOC plans to provide guidance to local jurisdictions that may lack resources and capacity to prepare for climate change. CSO urges the NOC to ensure that federal adaptation guidance, particularly guidance related to land use activities, is well coordinated with state and local land use laws and policies, as these policies ultimately govern the implementation of on-the-ground adaptation strategies. This is especially true for

waterfront properties faced with challenges posed by sea level rise, changes in storm conditions, and shoreline erosion. It should also be noted that there is not a “one-size-fits all” approach to adaptation.

CSO also recommends adding the following milestone:

- Identify Federal policies, programs, and projects that reduce the resilience of coastal ecosystems, infrastructure, and communities, and make changes, as appropriate.

### ***Objective – Water Quality and Sustainable Practices on Land***

#### ***Amend Section to Include and Enhance Coastal Nonpoint Pollution Program***

CSO is pleased to see the priorities and actions identified in the Water Quality section but strongly urges amending the section to include the National Coastal Nonpoint Pollution Program. By the late 1980s, Congress recognized that land use practices were inextricably linked to water quality and that protection of coastal waters from nonpoint source pollution demanded a federal-state shared approach and better coordination of programs between coastal area managers and water quality experts. In response, Congress enacted the Coastal Zone Act Reauthorization Amendments in 1990, adding Section 6217 entitled “Protecting Coastal Waters,” which establishes a framework for collaboration, the development of shared goals and best management practices and encourages adaptive strategies.

Section 6217 requires that states with federally-approved coastal zone management programs develop Coastal Nonpoint Pollution Control Programs. Currently 34 of 35 coastal states participate in this Program and Section 6217 delineates parallel coordinative and collaborative roles for federal and state partnerships:

- 1) Partnership of state coastal zone management agencies and state water quality agencies and
- 2) Partnership of NOAA (with authority under CZMA § 6217) and EPA (with authority under Clean Water Act § 319).

While CSO appreciates acknowledgement of the “number of programs that exist to address point and nonpoint source pollution within the federal government,” the lack of reference to the Coastal Nonpoint Pollution Program fundamentally disregards one of the core reasons for this implementation plan, namely: “improve efficiency by leveraging expertise” and “reducing redundancies” (Implementation Plan p. 4). The Plan needs to incorporate this unique federal-state partnership with its 20+ year history of coordination and enhancement of two existing programs under the CZMA and CWA, led by NOAA and EPA respectively. The program is playing a vital role toward improving coastal waters and conditions by providing a local liaison that integrates EPA and NOAA objectives. The Program works well to leverage implementation of effective projects and enhance interagency understanding of important environmental goals at the state and local levels.

CSO recommends the following specific changes to incorporate this program into the implementation plan to address the nation’s water quality issues.

#### **Action 1: Reduce rural sources of excessive nutrients, sediments, toxics, and pathogens.**

CSO supports the priorities and milestones under Action 1. CSO recommends that the Implementation Plan amend the ninth milestone to include the Coastal Nonpoint Pollution Program under CZMA section 6217. Thus the milestone would read:

- Target State CWA section 319 programs and CZMA section 6217 programs to current regional landscape initiatives and other priority areas identified by States as they develop comprehensive

strategies for reducing nitrogen and phosphorus pollution, and encourage the use of Clean Water State Revolving Fund funding to high-priority projects in each state, including those that address nutrient pollution. (EPA, [NOAA](#); 2015)

**Action 2: Reduce urban sources of excessive nutrients, sediments, toxins, and pathogens.**

CSO supports the priorities and milestones under Action 2. CSO recommends that the fourth milestone be amended to include the role of the Coastal Nonpoint Pollution Program and coastal programs around the nation. Specifically, that milestone would read:

- Implement an effective storm-water control program through existing mechanisms like the Coastal Nonpoint Pollution Program and state coastal zone management programs that promote green infrastructure and low-impact development approaches in urban and suburban areas to reduce discharges and their impacts from newly developed and existing sites. (EPA, [NOAA](#); 2015)

States, working with local partners, have already made significant progress in implementing green infrastructure, low-impact development projects, and best management practices for constructing roads and other infrastructure. Failure to include the program disregards these successes. NOAA should be added in the list of agencies assigned to work on Action 2.

We also recommend adding a milestone to Action 2 that states:

Ensure adequate resources are available to implement actions related to improving water quality under existing federal-state partnerships such as the Coastal Nonpoint Pollution Program under the CZMA.

**Action 6: Reduce the impacts of trash and marine debris on ocean, coastal, and Great Lakes waters and associated watersheds, through cooperative efforts aimed at pollution prevention, reduction, and removal.**

Under Action 6, CSO recommends amending the fifth milestone to read:

- Facilitate removal of trash and marine debris through community-based grants, coastal zone management program support, and other means. (NOAA, USCG, EPA, DOI; 2014)

Also under Action 6, CSO recommends amending the ninth milestone to read:

- Improve use of existing regulatory tools (e.g., Coastal Nonpoint Pollution Program, TMDLs, Combined Sewer Overflow controls, waste management, storm-water management, and Superfund) to reduce land-based sources of trash and marine debris (EPA, [NOAA](#); 2014)

**Action 7: Identify, seek to protect, and maintain high-quality near-shore ocean, coastal, and Great Lakes waters.**

CSO recommends amending the second milestone to read:

- Support habitat restoration and acquisition programs and other innovative land protection tools to protect, restore, or enhance 100,000 acres of wetlands, wetland-associated uplands, and high-priority coastal, upland, urban, and island habitat. (USDA, USACE, NOAA, DOI, EPA; 2014)

CSO recommends adding additional milestones to read:

- EPA and NOAA shall clarify coastal nonpoint pollution standards within the agencies so that regions and agency headquarters are applying the standards of review consistently.
- EPA and NOAA shall facilitate the full approval of all Coastal Nonpoint Programs by striving for faster resolution of remaining issues and improved coordination amongst federal partners.
- Utilize and strengthen the National Coastal Management and Coastal Nonpoint Source Programs in their mandates to identify, protect and maintain priority near-shore ocean, coastal and Great Lakes waters.

### ***Objective – Coastal and Marine Spatial Planning***

CSO has several recommendations concerning Coastal and Marine Spatial Planning (CMSP) that do not fall under a specific action outlined in the Draft Implementation Plan. CSO recommends that the following areas be considered.

*Build upon the Efforts of Coastal States and Regions:* CSO recommends that the Plan build upon existing successful efforts in coastal states. States have led the move toward comprehensive, ecosystem-based coastal and ocean management, as evidenced by state Coastal Programs taking a leadership role in ROPs and the employment of CMSP concepts in state waters.

To effectively build upon the work of the ROPs, CSO recommends that the Regional Planning Bodies (RPB) recognize and endorse the existing planning priorities and activities already identified in a region by the existing ROPs, including the Northeast Regional Ocean Council, Mid-Atlantic Regional Council on the Ocean, Southeast Governors' Alliance, Gulf of Mexico Alliance, West Coast Governors Alliance, Council of Great Lakes Governors, and the priorities emerging from efforts in the Pacific and Caribbean islands and Alaska. In terms of implementing CMSP, states are the leaders: utilizing CMSP on the ground as an effective tool to move toward a system of comprehensive management.

*Develop Results-Oriented Messaging:* CMSP is a planning tool that is used to build capacity in order to solve one or more management problems. To date, too much emphasis has been placed on the process of CMSP, not the intended on-the-ground outcomes. CSO recommends that the Plan include messaging for CMSP focused on actions and outcomes. CSO recommends a milestone for this objective rather than a particular action focused on messaging CMSP as a spatial tool, within a larger complement of tools, used to achieve more proactive, ecosystem-based management.

#### **Action 1: Distribute a Handbook for Regional Coastal and Marine Spatial Planning.**

CSO supports the development of a Handbook as web-based that highlights case studies or regional profiles of existing successful efforts in coastal states. CSO recommends including the following early milestones for the development of the Handbook.

- Information of links to handbooks, guides, and data portals developed by states and ROPs is compiled for inclusion in the Handbook.
- Information regarding scaling up current state CMSP efforts to a regional level, including collecting and analyzing data, information, and science, negotiating regulatory issues across boundaries, and broadening stakeholder processes is developed.

**Action 2: Convene regional workshops and CMSP exercises.**

CSO looks forward to working with the NOC through the regional workshops and meetings under Action 2. Because it is vital that the initiative avoid the top-down perception, CSO recommends that federal agency representatives in the regions, states, tribes and the ROPs are at the table when implementation discussions begin. To assist in meeting this goal, CSO recommends a milestone that “NOC Staff meet with each ROP to learn how to best engage regional stakeholders for each particular region.”

**Action 3: By 2015, all of the applicable non-confidential and other non-classified Federal data identified for inclusion will be incorporated into a National Information Management System and Data Portal (ocean.data.gov).**

Action 3 outlines a critically important component for the success of comprehensive ocean planning – baseline data for mapping and decision making. However, CSO notes that this action applies only to Federal data. Recognizing that this is a good first step, it will be necessary to expand this effort to external data sources as well. CSO suggests that the milestones are expanded to include:

- Establish an agreement on the data sets that will be used for both site planning and regulatory management decisions;
- Conduct a gap analysis as to the availability of the data sets;
- Create a geospatial data acquisition action dissemination plan;
- Establish MOAs between agencies, states, academia and/or NGOs to formulize the use of a specific framework around data and information gathering;
- Ensure compliance with map accuracy standards;
- Include a special award condition in federal grants affecting data and information requiring public data sharing through data portals;
- Develop user-friendly, open-source, efficient and transparent tools for data visualization, integration, and sharing; and,
- Summarize and evaluate decision-support tools.

A number of the existing ROPs have developed their own regional mapping and planning portals. CSO encourages the acknowledgement and support of these developing efforts.

**Action 4: Establish Regional Planning Bodies.**

With this action in particular, CSO recommends that the NOC continue to build upon existing successful efforts in coastal states. The ROPs have shown significant leadership by producing meaningful and measurable results on-the-ground benefiting both the economy and the environment across a broad set of issues relevant to the National Ocean Policy. This will help avoid redundancy and maximize efficiencies.

In the Implementation Plan, CSO recommends clarification of the language within the *Final Recommendations* around the adherence mechanism and the dispute resolution process. Governors and other constituencies will need to understand the specific requirements or restrictions that are likely to be included in these mechanisms before they can commit to participate in the RPBs.

Toward these goals, CSO recommends the following early milestones be included during the phase of development of the RPBs.

- Develop incentives for states to ensure broad interest and participation in the RPBs in the form of a business case that clearly presents why CMSP is essential and provides concrete examples highlighting the benefits to states of engaging in the RPBs.

- Focus initial efforts and resources in regions where interest in CMSP activities exists amongst partner states and ROPs.
- Establish robust stakeholder processes for the development of CMS Plans including input opportunities for stakeholders, an estimated timeline for those opportunities and a common place that notice will be made public online.

**Action 5: Within 3 to 5 years of their establishment, nine regional planning bodies (i.e., one per region) will have developed Council-certified regional CMS Plans for the sustainable use and long term protection of the ocean, our coasts and the Great Lakes.**

CSO recommends that the NOC add milestones to those in the Draft Implementation Plan to acknowledge CZMA as a foundational tool for comprehensive planning. CSO recommends adding the following milestones.

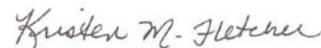
- Develop a strategy for streamlining permitting and programmatic environmental impact statements for projects in planned areas.
- The NOC and the RPBs will work with the CZM programs of the coastal states and territories throughout the planning process.
- The RPBs will work with state coastal programs to identify priorities and key regional players.

The states and territories strongly support the NOC in its work to implement the priority objectives. CSO appreciates the opportunity to comment and work with the National Ocean Council on the Implementation Plan.

Sincerely,



Braxton Davis  
Chair  
Coastal States Organization



Kristen M. Fletcher  
Executive Director  
Coastal States Organization

Name: **Goffinet McLaren**

Organization: Self motivated ocean conservationist.

Path:

Comment: I would like to see more action on reducing the amount of plastic products that enter the oceans torturing and killing our marine life.

Name: **Amanda Wagy**

Organization:

Path:

Comment: You would expect a kid from Florida to love the ocean but you wouldn't expect that kid to grow up, move to the big city, and work at one of the largest conservation organizations in the world and education hundreds of people about the importance of the ocean ecosystems. The health of the entire planet depends on them. They are to important to waste.

Name: **Vicki Maher**

Organization:

Path:

Comment: Somebody needs to do something about our oceans & great lakes. We can't just allow them to keep being polluted by toxins. Also the cruise ships are dumping sewage into them. Our marine life needs to survive in order for us to survive. We can't replace the oceans & great lakes after they are destroyed by man. Please take action now.

Thank you

# NATIONAL OCEAN COUNCIL

Name: **chris oliver**

Organization: North Pacific Fishery Management Council

Path: [http://edit.whitehouse.gov/sites/default/files/webform/february\\_2012\\_noc\\_comments.pdf](http://edit.whitehouse.gov/sites/default/files/webform/february_2012_noc_comments.pdf)

Comment: please see attached letter

# North Pacific Fishery Management Council

Eric A. Olson, Chairman  
Chris Oliver, Executive Director



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Visit our website: <http://www.alaskafisheries.noaa.gov/npfmc>

February 24, 2012

RE: Comments on Draft National Ocean Policy Implementation Plan

To: Members and Staff of the National Ocean Council

The North Pacific Fishery Management Council has submitted numerous comments throughout the development of the National Ocean Policy attendant to Executive Order 13547. While we will not reiterate all of those comments, we do wish to emphasize one previous comment (regarding the diversion of existing agency resources), and to provide additional comment on one specific aspect of the Implementation Plan (the role of the Regional Fishery Management Councils in the CMSP process).

The Draft Implementation Plan clearly underscores our original concerns regarding the diversion of existing resources to accomplish the goals of the Plan. In the response to comments section of the Plan, we note the statement that “*agencies have been instructed to prioritize the Policy in their budgets*, and on page 5 of the Plan, under the heading “Fiscal Responsibility”, it is recognized that this Plan can only be achieved based on expected Federal budgets for the coming years, and further states that in order to do so that “*Federal agencies involved in each action will periodically evaluate resource allocations within the parameters of agency-specific statutory or regulatory mandates...and, An annual memorandum from the NOC to its member agencies will provide further guidance and prioritization toward allocating Federal resources to achieve implementation goals*”. We once again respectfully suggest that implementation of this plan not come at the expense to ongoing, mission critical activities of NOAA and other agencies as they pertain to our fisheries management mission under the Magnuson-Stevens Act.

Our second comment has to do with the role of the Regional Fishery Management Councils in the CMSP process. While the Draft Plan is silent on the specific consultation role with the Councils, we do understand and appreciate the NOC’s recently stated intent to include a Council representative on each of the regional planning bodies. We also understand and appreciate the intent to develop technical committees to support the regional planning bodies, which could provide additional opportunities for inclusion of Council perspectives. However, we are concerned with the limitation that the Council representative on the regional planning bodies must be a Council member who is also a governmental representative – not only does this greatly constrain the Council’s choice of its representative on the regional planning body, it also may create the perception that such a representative is not so much a Council representative as an additional State or Federal agency representative. We believe that the NOC should re-evaluate this determination, and be more explicit in the Implementation Plan regarding the Councils’ role in the CMSP process.

More importantly, we also believe that, in addition to a single (somewhat constrained) seat on the regional planning body, there should be an explicit mechanism for formal, body-to-body consultation. In other words, the Councils should be recognized not only through participation in the regional planning bodies, but also in a broader sense through some type of consultation process that allows the Councils as a regulatory body, in their capacity as Executive Agencies of the Department of Commerce, to review and

provide input on recommendations of the regional planning bodies that may involve fisheries management issues under the purview of the Magnuson-Stevens Act. We believe this to be a critical consultation mechanism that is not addressed by inclusion of a single Council member on the regional planning body.

I appreciate the opportunity, on behalf of the North Pacific Fishery Management Council, to once again comment on this important initiative.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Chris Oliver". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large initial "C".

Chris Oliver  
Executive Director

Name: **stephen phillips**

Organization: Pacific States Marine Fisheries Commission

Path: [http://edit.whitehouse.gov/sites/default/files/webform/noc\\_implementation\\_plan\\_comments\\_feb\\_2012\\_iii.doc](http://edit.whitehouse.gov/sites/default/files/webform/noc_implementation_plan_comments_feb_2012_iii.doc)

Comment:

Summary of attached file below:

Requested Changes to Draft Implementation Plan:

We believe it is critical that vessel biofouling be identified as a vector of concern under the NOP's Implementation plan. Under "Action 7: Identify, seek to protect, and maintain high-quality near-shore ocean, coastal, and Great Lakes waters" We recommend including the following language:

Support regionally-based coordination efforts to convene technical working groups of vessel biofouling experts, regulatory agencies, researchers and shipping industry representatives for the development of protective and practicable regional vessel biofouling policies. These efforts should incorporate lessons learned and information gathered by states actively developing biofouling policies and seek to identify the technical and management aspects of a regionally compatible marine vessel biofouling program. Ultimately, the working groups should produce policy recommendations, including research priorities and a system for an interactive information sharing process.



## PACIFIC STATES MARINE FISHERIES COMMISSION

205 S.E. SPOKANE STREET, SUITE 100, PORTLAND, OREGON 97202

PHONE (503) 595-3100 FAX (503) 595-3232

February 24, 2012

National Ocean Council  
722 Jackson Place, NW  
Washington, DC 20503

Re: Addition of the Vessel Biofouling Vector to Action 7: “Identify, seek to protect, and maintain high-quality near-shore ocean, coastal, and Great Lakes waters.”

To Whom It May Concern,

Below please find comments on the draft National Ocean Policy Implementation Plan.

Please feel free to contact me at (503) 595-3100 or by email @ [sphillips@psmfc.org](mailto:sphillips@psmfc.org) if you have any questions.

Sincerely,

Stephen Phillips  
Senior Program Manager  
Aquatic Nuisance Species Project

Addition of the Vessel Biofouling Vector to draft National Ocean Policy Implementation Plan  
Action 7: “Identify, seek to protect, and maintain high-quality near-shore ocean, coastal, and Great Lakes waters.”

## I. BACKGROUND

Nonindigenous aquatic invasive species (AIS) can reduce the diversity and abundance of native species; threaten the ecological stability of infested waters; and negatively impact the commercial, agricultural, municipal or recreational activities and services dependent on such waters. AIS are incredibly difficult to manage after they become established, and may result in severe economic and ecological damage. Non-native species are the second greatest risk to the threatened and endangered species in the United States behind habitat loss (Wilcove et al 1998). Efforts are necessary to prevent new AIS from entering the region as well as actions focused on controlling or eradicating AIS that are already present. Vectors responsible for transporting AIS need to be identified and a review of action plans and current management strategies is needed. Where gaps are identified in management programs, plans need to be developed to address the AIS threat.

An example of an opportunity to reduce the threat that AIS pose to marine and estuarine systems is the shipping vector. Shipping has been identified as the major vector of organism transfers on a global scale (Fofonoff et al., 2003; Hewitt & Campbell, 2010). On the west coast, numerous AIS have been introduced through shipping related activities including invasive kelp (*Undaria pinnatifida*), naval shipworm (*Teredo navalis*), burrowing isopod (*Sphaeroma quoianum*), several species of invasive tunicates (e.g., *Styela clava*), and scores of zooplankton species. There are over 250 AIS in the San Francisco Bay alone (Ruiz et al. 2011), and in some regions of the Bay, 100% of the common species are introduced (Cohen and Carlton 1995).

In the past two to three decades, most research and policy attention has been focused on ballast water mediated transport of organisms, and not on vessel biofouling (also referred to as hull fouling): a vector that had been primarily considered of historical importance. In recent years, however, research is now emerging to rigorously examine the current rates, extent and composition of organism transfers via vessel hulls (e.g. Davidson et al., 2009, Hewitt et al. 2008, Ruiz et al. 2011). Biofouling research is showing that large commercial vessels, as well as recreational and commercial fishing boats (small boats), can play an important role in both the initial introduction and subsequent coastwise spread of AIS (Floerl and Inglis 2005, Minchin et al. 2006, Darbyson et al. 2009 and Zabin et al. 2011). Vessel biofouling is also responsible for AIS transfers among inland waters as highlighted by the movement of highly destructive dreissenid (zebra and quagga) mussels across the continental United States.

Both the US Coast Guard (under the National Invasive Species Act) and the Environmental Protection Agency (under the Clean Water Act’s NPDES/Vessel General Permit Program) have federal regulatory responsibility to prevent shipping mediated transport of AIS. Currently, however, policy development is primarily focused on ballast water discharge standards and it is unlikely that pending rule and permit developments will adequately address vessel biofouling risks in the near term.

Opportunities exist to reduce the threat of AIS introduced by vessel biofouling, and multiple states are in the process of developing risk-reduction policies. For example, in 2007, California passed legislation requiring the development and adoption of biofouling regulations by January 1, 2012 (Article 4.8)<sup>1</sup>. The California regulations will likely establish performance standard measures for vessel biofouling and mandate that

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<sup>1</sup> go to [http://www.slc.ca.gov/spec\\_pub/mfd/ballast\\_water/Laws\\_Regulations.html](http://www.slc.ca.gov/spec_pub/mfd/ballast_water/Laws_Regulations.html)

commercial vessels develop biofouling management plans and maintain records of hull husbandry practices. In preparation for making policy decisions, the California State Lands Commission (CLSC) has also been collecting a substantial amount of information on hull management practices for vessels operating in California. In addition, CSLC has provided funding for several vessel biofouling research studies and have been closely monitoring policy development initiatives in other countries (e.g., Australia, New Zealand, International Maritime Organization). The other US Pacific states have taken an active interest in assessing biofouling risks and obtaining data on hull management policy options. For example, the Oregon Task Force on Shipping Transport of Aquatic Invasive Species directed the Oregon Department of Environmental Quality to conduct a voluntary survey of vessel management practices that would help inform the need for potential policy solutions to reduce the threat of biofouling introductions. It is widely recognized that it would be most beneficial to stakeholders and the environment if new policy initiatives were developed and implemented in a regionally consistent manner.

## **II. NEED:**

There is a window of opportunity to regionally coordinate the development of consistent vessel biofouling regulations amongst west coast states. The lessons being learned in California, with their biofouling regulatory action, will be an invaluable tool if and when vessel biofouling regulations are implemented in Washington and/or Oregon (as well as Alaska, Hawaii and British Columbia). Therefore, we believe there is an invaluable opportunity to develop consistent policies and procedures for vessel biofouling management practices for US Pacific states. Based on the disparate state and federal ballast water regulations that evolved over the past decade, we anticipate that the shipping industry would welcome efforts to align vessel biofouling management programs.

### **Requested Changes to Draft Implementation Plan:**

We believe it is critical that vessel biofouling be identified as a vector of concern under the NOP's Implementation plan. Under "Action 7: Identify, seek to protect, and maintain high-quality near-shore ocean, coastal, and Great Lakes waters" We recommend including the following language:

Support regionally-based coordination efforts to convene technical working groups of vessel biofouling experts, regulatory agencies, researchers and shipping industry representatives for the development of protective and practicable regional vessel biofouling policies. These efforts should incorporate lessons learned and information gathered by states actively developing biofouling policies and seek to identify the technical and management aspects of a regionally compatible marine vessel biofouling program. Ultimately, the working groups should produce policy recommendations, including research priorities and a system for an interactive information sharing process.

## **V. REFERENCES**

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Name: **Sarah Cooksey**

Organization: Mid-Atlantic Regional Council on the Ocean

Path: <http://edit.whitehouse.gov/sites/default/files/webform/marcoonnopiprev.doc>

Comment: Please see the attached comments from the Mid-Atlantic Regional Council on the Ocean (MARCO) on the Draft Implementation Plan.



## **Comments of the Mid-Atlantic Regional Council on the Ocean (MARCO) on *Draft National Ocean Policy Implementation Plan***

To address regional coastal and ocean management priorities, the governors of New York, New Jersey, Delaware, Maryland and Virginia created the Mid-Atlantic Regional Council on the Ocean (MARCO). Through MARCO, the Mid-Atlantic States agreed to focus on the following priority issue areas: support for offshore renewable energy; protection of unique offshore habitats; preparation for climate change impacts; and improvement in water quality.

MARCO looks forward to working with Federal agencies to implement the National Ocean Policy. We believe that the states are critical partners in ensuring that the ocean, our coasts, and the Great Lakes are healthy, resilient, safe and productive. These resources should be treasured so as to promote the well-being, prosperity, and security of present and future generations. While the *Final Recommendations of the Interagency Ocean Policy Task Force* and the *Draft National Ocean Policy Implementation Plan (Implementation Plan)* focus on Federal actions, both documents recognize the critical role of States, Tribes and other partners in finding common solutions to key coastal and ocean management challenges. In fact, the *Implementation Plan* makes it clear that while it “. . . does not direct action beyond Federal efforts. . . it is prefaced on the need for partnerships and collaboration across the nation at all levels . . . “ MARCO thinks it is critical for Federal agencies to reach out and collaborate with state coastal management programs as the Nation moves forward to implement the National Ocean Policy.

In August of 2009, MARCO provided a number of recommendations to the Interagency Ocean Policy Task Force. These included the following recommendations related to the implementation strategies:

- States need to be recognized as full partners
- Comprehensive management approaches will be best achieved by complementing the strides being made in each State
- Appropriate flexibility must be provided for state participation
- Existing mechanisms and regional initiatives should be utilized.

MARCO also requested that the implementation strategy should:

- focus on action;
- coordinate regulatory approaches;
- define objectives on an ecosystem basis;
- expand regional data and research collection and coordination;
- align funding and programs to achieve regional objectives;

- support state and regional roles through strong legislative initiatives; and,
- dedicate funding and staff support to sustain regional efforts.

MARCO believes that the current draft of the *Implementation Plan* does a good job of addressing many of these recommendations. MARCO is particularly pleased with the actions identified under the 'Coordinate and Support' objective<sup>1</sup>, which include:

- Support regional priorities and enhance regional partnerships:
  - Identify grant and non-monetary opportunities to support the continued development and organization of regional alliances and existing Regional Ocean Partnerships (ROPs).
  - Compile a list of tools, resources, and in-kind services that are available to ROPs to enhance accomplishment of mutual regional goals
  - Identify and distribute . . . Best Management Practices (BMPs) that are broadly applicable for all ROPs.
- Reduce barriers to the implementation of the National Ocean Policy.
  - Review the interpretation and, as necessary, propose to strengthen content and/or application of Federal legislation, including the Coastal Zone Management Act . . . and others to incorporate and better support climate change adaptation efforts.
- Develop cross-cutting budget analyses that address priority areas in the National Ocean Policy.

MARCO looks forward to implementing comprehensive, integrated, ecosystem-based coastal and marine spatial planning in the Mid-Atlantic region. There is significant pressure to develop offshore renewable energy along the Atlantic coast, and the Mid-Atlantic States have initiated planning efforts to ensure that critical offshore habitats are protected concurrently with developing offshore wind. MARCO intends to work closely with the Mid-Atlantic Regional Planning Body, and hopes that the regional body can build off the investments the states have already made toward making better decisions about ongoing and emerging activities in ocean and coastal areas of the Mid-Atlantic.

*Submitted by Sarah Cooksey on behalf of the State leads for the Mid-Atlantic Regional Council on the Ocean (MARCO) on February 27, 2012*



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<sup>1</sup> The 'Coordinate and Support' objective is: "Better coordinate and support Federal, State, Tribal, local and regional management of the oceans, our coasts, and the Great Lakes. Improve coordination and integration across the Federal Government and, as appropriate, engage with the international community."

Name: **Luoping Zhang**

Organization: Xiamen University, China

Path:

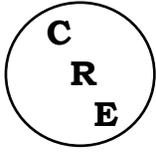
Comment: I am now in Salt Lake City to participate Ocean Sciences Meeting 2012, and got the info of National Ocean Policy Implementation Plan on the Conference. It's a very good Plan. But I think the Coastal and Marine Spacial Planning (CMSP) would more serve as local management level, a management scheme, and not a strategic decision-making process. I think US needs a more strategic approach to lay down strategic decision towards sustainability for national and regional ocean and coast.

Name: **Jim Tozzi**

Organization: The Center for Regulatory Effectiveness

Path: [http://edit.whitehouse.gov/sites/default/files/webform/comments\\_on\\_noc\\_draft\\_implementation\\_plan--center\\_for\\_regulatory\\_effectiveness\\_2-24.pdf](http://edit.whitehouse.gov/sites/default/files/webform/comments_on_noc_draft_implementation_plan--center_for_regulatory_effectiveness_2-24.pdf)

Comment: Please see the attached.



# Center for Regulatory Effectiveness

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February 24, 2012

## SUBMITTED ELECTRONICALLY

National Ocean Council  
722 Jackson Place NW  
Washington, DC 20503

**Re: Comments on Draft Implementation Plan, 77 Fed. Reg. 2514 (Jan 18, 2012)**

Dear Sir or Madam:

The Center for Regulatory Effectiveness (CRE) would first like to applaud the National Ocean Council's (NOC) commitment to comply with the Data Quality Act (DQA) as evidenced by the webpage dedicated to data quality guidelines on [ocean.data.gov](http://ocean.data.gov).<sup>1</sup> The fact that NOC has dedicated an entire webpage to the DQA demonstrates that NOC is committed to full compliance with the Act. To assist these efforts, the CRE is pleased to submit these comments to the NOC regarding the Draft National Ocean Policy Implementation Plan ("Draft Implementation Plan").<sup>2</sup> Under the National Ocean Policy, access to Federal data and information has been widely identified as a critical need by ocean users, managers, and stakeholders. As a result, the Draft Implementation Plan seeks to create a "robust national information system dedicated to coastal and marine scientific data and information products." In order to do so, the National Ocean

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<sup>1</sup> Available at <http://www.data.gov/communities/node/237/community-of-practice/data-quality> (see subsection on Data Quality Standards).

<sup>2</sup> National Ocean Council, *Draft National Ocean Policy Implementation Plan*, page 3, (January 12, 2012) available at [http://www.whitehouse.gov/sites/default/files/microsites/ceq/national\\_ocean\\_policy\\_draft\\_implementation\\_plan\\_01-12-12.pdf](http://www.whitehouse.gov/sites/default/files/microsites/ceq/national_ocean_policy_draft_implementation_plan_01-12-12.pdf)

Council (NOC) has created the data web portal ocean.data.gov. The CRE offers the following recommendation for the effective management of the ocean.data.gov and to ensure and maximize “the quality, objectivity, utility and integrity of information (including statistical information) disseminated [in the portal]”<sup>3</sup>

**I. THE PUBLIC SHOULD HAVE THE OPPORTUNITY TO COMMENT BEFORE THE NOC DISSEMINATES INFORMATION THROUGH OCEAN.DATA.GOV**

Over the past year, the implementation of CMSP has been marked by a lack of transparency and participation by stakeholders. There has been extremely limited information on the source of funding for CMSP and the details of what CMSP will look like and how it will affect ocean users. Of more concern, is the limited transparency and participation by current ocean users in CMSP. Admittedly, NOC has identified the failure to include current ocean users and stakeholders in the process of developing CMSP. Specifically, NOC states, “Access to Federal data and information has been widely identified as a critical need by ocean users, managers, and stakeholders.”<sup>4</sup> NOC responded by creating ocean.data.gov in order to give the public access to the data used in implementing CMSP. However, NOC must ensure that the public has the opportunity to provide input and feedback on the data disseminated by NOC at ocean.data.gov prior to being added to the portal.

Accordingly, NOC should provide the public with notice of its intention to disseminate any information or data through ocean.data.gov by publishing a notice in the Federal Register. In the Federal Register notice, NOC should state how and why it intends to use the data for CMSP and it should provide the public with 30 days to comment on the integrity of the data and determine its relevancy in implementing CMSP. After consideration of the public comments, NOC should then publish in the Federal Register its response to the public comments and whether the data is going to be included on ocean.data.gov. The need for public input on the quality of the underlying data is even more important given that non-federal planning bodies will be furnishing considerable information to the NOC. The “third-party” provisions of the DQA

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<sup>3</sup> Data Quality Act, Pub. L. No. 106-554, § 515, 114 Stat. 2763, 2763A-153 (2000).

<sup>4</sup> National Ocean Council, *Draft National Ocean Policy Implementation Plan*, page 3, (January 12, 2012) available at [http://www.whitehouse.gov/sites/default/files/microsites/ceq/national\\_ocean\\_policy\\_draft\\_implementation\\_plan\\_01-12-12.pdf](http://www.whitehouse.gov/sites/default/files/microsites/ceq/national_ocean_policy_draft_implementation_plan_01-12-12.pdf)

preclude federal agencies from using such data until it is demonstrated that the said data is DQA compliant.

## II. OCEAN.DATA.GOV SHOULD INCLUDE RESEARCH AND DATA FROM THE PRIVATE SECTOR

In the Draft Implementation Plan, NOC identifies the need for coordination and collaboration with state and local governments, regional governance structures, NGOs, and the private sector.<sup>5</sup> The CRE applauds NOC for identifying the goal of “integrating data across the Federal Government, as well as creating the opportunity to extend this approach to State, local, Tribal, and territorial governments and to industry, academia, and nongovernmental.”<sup>6</sup> This is essential, because NGOs and the private sector have compiled substantial data and research that will be crucial to CMSP.

One such organization that has made great research contributions to the understandings of the ocean uses and the impact of human activity on marine mammals is the International Association of Oil and Gas Producers Joint Industry Project (“JIP”). In addition to important research on oil spill response technology, JIP has conducted a great deal of research on the effect of ocean noises on marine life. Once such report includes the 2008 *Joint Industry Programme on Sound and Marine Life Review of Existing Data on Underwater Sounds Produced by the Oil and Gas Industry*.<sup>7</sup> This is an extensive report analyzing the available data on noise in the ocean created by human activity and its impact on marine life. To effectively implement CMSP, CRE recommends that NOC and JIP explores procedures for utilizing the respective work products of both organizations.

Another key contribution of JIP has been PAMGUARD. PAMGUARD is open source software that has been developed and made freely available by JIP “for acoustic detection, localisation and classification for mitigation against harm to marine mammals, and for research into their abundance, distribution and behaviour.” PAMGUARD is a software package “that can

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<sup>5</sup> *Id.*

<sup>6</sup> *Id.* at 90-91.

<sup>7</sup> Roy Wyatt, *Joint Industry Programme on Sound and Marine Life Review of Existing Data on Underwater Sounds Produced by the Oil and Gas Industry*, Joint Industry Programme, (2008) available at [http://www.soundandmarinelife.org/Site/Products/Seiche\\_Aug08.pdf](http://www.soundandmarinelife.org/Site/Products/Seiche_Aug08.pdf)

interpret and display calls of vocalising marine mammals, locate them by azimuth and range and identify some of them by species. These abilities are critical for detecting animals within safety zones and enabling shut-down.”<sup>8</sup> The 2010 seismic guidelines for the UK’s Joint Nature Conservation Committee (“JNCC”) include the following section encouraging the use of PAMGUARD:

In the last few years, software that processes and analyses cetacean sounds has been developed. PAMGUARD is open source software that has been developed as part of the International Association of Oil and Gas Producers Joint Industry Project (JIP). JNCC recognises that PAMGUARD is currently in a transition period between use as a research tool and widespread adoption as a monitoring technique. Moreover, JNCC recognises the need to balance proactive implementation of PAM with the need to further develop its capability, for example to include species recognition and baleen whale detection, and therefore encourages users of these systems to actively contribute to their development and refinement.”<sup>9</sup>

PAMGUARD is an example of how the private sector has worked to minimize human impacts on the ocean and marine life. It would be beneficial for NOC to collaborate with JIP to integrate the work and data collected by JIP into ocean.data.gov to assist with the effective implementation of CMSP.

### III. ALL DATA PUBLISHED ON OCEAN.DATA.GOV MUST COMPLY WITH THE DATA QUALITY ACT

The Data Quality Act (DQA) and its general government-wide guidance<sup>10</sup> requires that information disseminated to the public shall be “accurate, clear, complete and unbiased,” shall be developed “using sound statistical and research methods,” and shall be useful for its intended purpose.<sup>11</sup> If the information is considered “influential,” it should be held to higher standards.<sup>12</sup> In particular, “influential” scientific information must be transparent with regard to the data and

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<sup>8</sup> *Id* at 1.

<sup>9</sup> JNCC Guidelines for Minimising the Risk of Injury and Disturbance to Marine Mammals from Seismic Surveys (August 2010), Section 4,1, available at [http://jncc.defra.gov.uk/pdf/JNCC\\_Guidelines\\_Seismic%20Guidelines\\_August%202010.pdf](http://jncc.defra.gov.uk/pdf/JNCC_Guidelines_Seismic%20Guidelines_August%202010.pdf)

<sup>10</sup> After OMB issued the government-wide guidance, all agencies issued their own conforming guidance.

<sup>11</sup> 67 Fed. Reg. at 8459.

<sup>12</sup> *Id.* at 8452.

methodology used so that it is substantially reproducible.<sup>13</sup> Information is “influential” if it would have a “clear and substantial impact on important public policies or important private sector decisions.”

If CMSP is to proceed as planned, the National Ocean Council must comply with the Data Quality Act (DQA). The data portal, [ocean.data.gov](http://ocean.data.gov), will be an information dissemination subject to the DQA. As stated by the NOC, to yield economic, ecological, and social benefits, CMSP “must incorporate the principles of *sound science* for ecosystem-based and adaptive management”<sup>14</sup> as the concept of Ecosystem Based Management “is underpinned by sound science.” Full compliance with the DQA and its general government-wide guidance will ensure that the CMSP incorporates the principles of sound science.

It is encouraging that NOC has expressed its commitment to the DQA by listing the data quality guidelines on [ocean.data.gov](http://ocean.data.gov) for each agency that has contributed data to [ocean.data.gov](http://ocean.data.gov). Although it is implied that the data will already be compliant with the DQA because the only data currently being derived is from agencies that already must comply with the DQA, it is nevertheless NOC’s responsibility to ensure that the data it receives from agencies for dissemination on [ocean.data.gov](http://ocean.data.gov) is compliant with the DQA.

#### IV. NOC MUST ENSURE DQA COMPLIANCE WITH NON-FEDERAL DATA

NOC’s oversight of DQA compliance for CMSP is especially important as NOC begins receiving data from non-Federal entities. For example, the Gulf of Mexico Geospatial Assessment of Marine Ecosystems (GAME) has been creating datasets for use in marine spatial planning. The purpose of the GAME is “to identify, inventory, and catalog existing data sets and information related to coastal and marine habitats of the Gulf of Mexico, both in U.S. and Mexican waters” for the purpose of the Gulf of Mexico Alliance Governors' Action Plan and

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<sup>13</sup> *Id.* at 8460.

<sup>14</sup> National Ocean Council, *Coastal and Marine Spatial Planning Strategic Action Plan: Full Content Outline*, p. 2, June 2, 2011, available at [http://www.whitehouse.gov/sites/default/files/microsites/ceq/sap\\_2\\_cmsp\\_full\\_content\\_outline\\_06-02-11\\_clean.pdf](http://www.whitehouse.gov/sites/default/files/microsites/ceq/sap_2_cmsp_full_content_outline_06-02-11_clean.pdf) (emphasis added).

federal agencies.<sup>15</sup> Although some of the data GAME works with is collected from Federal agencies, most of the data is created by the organization itself or comes from state agencies, such as the Florida Water Management Districts.<sup>16</sup> Thus, much of the data collected by GAME is not derived from Federal agencies and consequently there is no assurance that it is compliant with the DQA.

GAME has conducted some important research on ocean uses and it is presumable that its data and GIS mapping will be integrated into ocean.data.gov and CMSP more generally.<sup>17</sup> For example, the Marine Resource GIS (MRGIS) dataset can, and most likely will, contribute greatly to CMSP. However, the integrity of the data has not been verified to be compliant with the DQA. More specifically, the dataset on the Coastal and Marine Wildlife Habitat, Environmental Sensitivity Index updates the shoreline habitat component of the Environmental Sensitivity Index (ESI) and Gulf-Wide Information System (G-WIS) databases.<sup>18</sup> The use of this dataset for CMSP has the potential to have far-reaching consequences. However, since its not published by a Federal Agency but rather the Florida Marine Research Institute (FMRI), Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission (FFWCC), there is no evidence that this dataset has been peer reviewed, subject to a determination that it is DQA compliant, or has an Integrated Error Correction Process. Thus, it is essential that when NOC incorporates datasets such as this into ocean.data.gov and CMSP, NOC ensures the data's compliance with the DQA.

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<sup>15</sup> Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission, *Geospatial Assessment of Marine Ecosystems: Gulf GAME* available at <http://myfwc.com/research/gis/game/>.

<sup>16</sup> Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission, *GIS Mapping, Data and Maps, FAQs and Links*, available at <http://myfwc.com/research/gis/data-maps/faq-links/faq/>.

<sup>17</sup> See Paper produced by GAME emphasizing the collaboration between federal, state, and local governments for Ecosystem-based management. [Ecosystem-based management institutional design: Balance between federal, state, and local governments within the Gulf of Mexico Alliance](http://myfwc.com/research/gis/game/gulf/publications/), available at <http://myfwc.com/research/gis/game/gulf/publications/>.

<sup>18</sup> Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission: Fish and Wildlife Research Institute, *MRGIS Data: Coastal and Marine Habitats: Environmental Sensitivity Index*, available at [http://ocean.floridamarine.org/mrgis/Description\\_Layers\\_Marine.htm#benthic](http://ocean.floridamarine.org/mrgis/Description_Layers_Marine.htm#benthic). For the specific Environmental Sensitivity Index dataset see [http://atoll.floridamarine.org/Data/Metadata/SDE\\_Current/esi\\_classification\\_fl\\_arc.htm](http://atoll.floridamarine.org/Data/Metadata/SDE_Current/esi_classification_fl_arc.htm)

**V. NOC SHOULD ISSUE AN ICR FOR PUBLIC INPUT ON NON-FEDERAL DATASETS TO BE INCLUDED ON OCEAN.DATA.GOV AS WAS THE CASE WITH HHS ON HEALTHDATA.GOV**

NOC should seek public input on which non-Federal datasets to use on ocean.data.gov. Accordingly, NOC should obtain an Information Collection Request (ICR) for the public input on non-Federal datasets to be included, and provide the public with a public comment period on the ICR.

This is the precise procedure followed by the Department of Health and Human Service (HHS) when HHS sought “Public Input to Nominate Non-Federal Health and Health Care Data Sets and Application for Listing on Healthdata.gov.”<sup>19</sup> HHS set an important precedent for incorporating non-Federal data into federal databases, specifically data.gov. NOC should closely follow the process established by HHS by seeking an ICR.

NOC should establish “rules of governance” for allowing non-federal parties to have a link to the NOC website. The rules governing the family of CRE’s Interactive Public Dockets should be considered when establishing such rules:

- 1 *No Barrier to Entry:* Any person or organization can post on a CRE IPD as long as the posts do not contain profanity and do not include personal attacks on federal employees.
- 2 *Interactive:* All posts on CRE IPD’s have the capability for a reader to either post comments on an existing post or initiate a new post.
- 3 *Accept Criticism:* The host of the IPD must allow dissenting opinions to be expressed on the IPD.
- 4 *Hassle Free:* CRE IPD’s require no registration, no personal information including email address and will accept anonymous posts and with large attachments.

**VI. THE CRE WOULD NOMINATE ITS OCEAN ZONING IPD FOR INCLUSION ON OCEAN.DATA.GOV**

The CRE would nominate its Ocean Zoning Interactive Public Docket<sup>20</sup> (IPD) , which is available at <http://www.thecre.com/creipd/>., for inclusion on ocean.data.gov.

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<sup>19</sup> 76 Fed. Reg. 4904, January 27, 2011.

<sup>20</sup> See [http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Interactive\\_Public\\_Docket](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Interactive_Public_Docket)

An IPD is a mechanism that allows the public to communicate with regulators on a 24 hour, 7 days a week basis. An IPD continues throughout the life of a proceeding, and allows the public the opportunity to provide meaningful comments beyond the formal public comment period. Although NOC is not required to respond to the public's comments on the IPD, the IPD will enable NOC to draw upon the collective wisdom of industry, academia, state and local governments, and affected citizens as NOC proceeds to implement CMSP.

The CRE encourages the NOC and ocean users to participate on the IPD. The IPD provides an invaluable resource of analysis and comments for NOC to continue to draw from as developments occur beyond this public comment period. The IPD provides the public with the opportunity to agree or question NOC data, present differing views, and offer relevant analysis on a continuous basis. The IPD will be a particularly useful tool, because there are a substantial number of parties, across government and private sector lines, which will be affected by CMSP. The IPD will function to keep all parties apprised of developments, while also providing a collective resource of information for NOC and policymakers to make well-informed decisions regarding ocean uses. Most importantly, the CMSP IPD will create a dialogue between the federal government, local and state governments, and the public to ensure that ocean.data.gov only contains data that is "clear, complete and unbiased." CRE does not modify any posts to the IPD with the exception when there is profanity or objectionable material.

Moreover, the President's Open Government Directive charges Agencies that in order "To increase accountability, promote informed participation by the public....Agencies shall respect the presumption of openness by publishing information online."<sup>21</sup> Accordingly, **CRE recommends that the NOC publish on its website the availability of the IPD** as a discussion forum for ocean data. One of the great strengths of the IPD is the government's and the public's unfettered access to comments by stakeholders, and it is an existing tool that the NOC could benefit greatly from.

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<sup>21</sup> Peter Orzag, Office of Management and Budget, *Memorandum For the Heads of Executive Departments And Agencies: Open Government Initiative*, December 8, 2009, available at [http://www.whitehouse.gov/sites/default/files/omb/assets/memoranda\\_2010/m10-06.pdf](http://www.whitehouse.gov/sites/default/files/omb/assets/memoranda_2010/m10-06.pdf)

## VII. CONCLUSIONS

To ensure public involvement in the implementation of CMSP and to ensure that CMSP is based on sound science, CRE recommends that:

- (1) NOC publishes in the Federal Register a notice of its intentions to include non-federal datasets on ocean.data.gov, thereby giving the public an opportunity to provide meaningful data to the NOC on a 24/7 basis.
- (2) NOC continue to emphasize that no data from a non-federal database can be utilized by the NOC unless it determines that such data is DQA compliant.
- (3) NOC submit and obtain approval from OMB of an Information Collection Request (ICR) for public input on the use of non-federal data for ocean.data.gov.

In this era of tight fiscal constraints, it is important for the NOC to have the ability to use data from a wide range of non-federal sources

Respectfully Submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Jim Tozzi". The signature is stylized with a large, sweeping initial "J" and a cursive "Tozzi".

Jim Tozzi  
Member, Board of Advisors

Name: **Richard Nelson**

Organization: commercial fisherman

Path: [http://edit.whitehouse.gov/sites/default/files/webform/nop\\_plan\\_comment.pdf](http://edit.whitehouse.gov/sites/default/files/webform/nop_plan_comment.pdf)

Comment:

February 27, 2012

Ms. Nancy Sutley, Dr. John Holdren, and Members  
National Ocean Council  
c/o Council on Environmental Quality  
722 Jackson Place, NW  
Washington, DC 20503

**Re: Recommendations for the Draft Implementation Plan**

Dear Chairs Sutley and Holdren and National Ocean Council Members,

I am writing to provide comments to the NOP Implementation Plan, believing that perhaps I can offer a rather unique perspective from one who has been both a commercial lobster fisherman, and one who has kept informed and involved with the NOP and CMSP. For 27 years I have fished out of Friendship, Maine, a small village in which 200 of its 1,200 residents hold commercial fishing licenses, and 2 of its 3 visible businesses are a boat shop and a lobster trap manufacturer.

Beyond being a fisherman, for the past few years I have been interested in, and become involved in, ocean policy. This began with my participation in 2 co-operative science projects (ocean currents and lobster tracking). I then attended 3 marine education courses, offered by the Gulf of Maine Research Institute, on fisheries science and management. At one of these, I was impressed by the statements from Paul Howard (NEFMC), as to the importance for fishermen to follow the efforts towards MSP and the NOP. I then was a participant at the Symposium on NOP at Bowdoin College where I established a local connection to the Island Institute, who were working on MSP and mapping of local fishing grounds. There I became aware of the push towards Ocean Renewable Energy and its' ramifications to our coastal region and communities. This led to attending, and later assisting with, the Institutes' outreach and education programs dealing with ocean energy. Also, at their suggestion, I became a member of the New England Ocean Action Network, becoming actively involved in helping policy makers figure out how best to engage fishermen in Marine Spatial Planning and issues related to the NOP.

As a fisherman I believe and support the National Oceans Policy and most of its objectives. We who work on the ocean live day to day with the effects of small changes in climate and the destruction caused by such things as ocean acidification. We are also solely dependent on a resource that must be managed intelligently and effectively and, at the same time, remain accessible to us. I believe, through proper planning and decision making, we can achieve these goals without jeopardizing the traditional ocean uses such as commercial fishing. In order to make sure the NOP is effective, and that the Implementation Plan goes smoothly, I urge you to consider the following comments:

1. Increase the role and opportunities for fishermen to participate in the process, including ensuring fisheries managed under interstate fisheries compacts like the Atlantic States Marine Fisheries Council have a voice equal to the 8 regional fisheries management councils.
2. Acknowledge that science alone cannot guide the decisions we must make concerning ocean policy and that while our decisions must be based on strong scientific fundamentals, they must also be tempered by an awareness of human needs and values that reflect the history and culture of the unique regions and people involved.

3. Create policies and funding sources to alleviate hardships encountered by traditional and new waterfront businesses in acquiring land for ocean access and to eliminate legal barriers as much as possible.

The first comment would seek to provide a more meaningful input and participation for fishermen into the process. The NOP Implementation Plan begins this conversation by describing an “open and transparent...Participatory process” inclusive of “NGOs, the public, private sector, citizens and industry.” The list then changes, with every other turn of the page, leaving the only consistency being that at every point decisions or policy are made, the citizens and private sector are shown the door. This plan could actually be the most critical point in which to engage fishermen and others with direct knowledge and experience.

One small step was recently made here in New England when the NEFMC was allowed to have representation on the Regional Planning Body. From the perspective of someone familiar with the various fisheries in Maine, the vast majority of fishermen in our coastal communities do not fish in fisheries managed by the NEFMC. The Council only manages a very small portion of the fisheries, measured either by poundage or landed value. The rest are managed by the ASMFC or the State Department of Marine Resources. I urge you to make sure that state fisheries managed through the ASMFC are given equal weight to those of the Regional Councils. Without their representation, a significant number of fishermen up and down the east coast will be left out of the process. This would include the more than 4,500 Maine licensed lobstermen, such as myself. These are the people whose lives are spent on the water and whose communities will be so greatly affected by Ocean Policy.

The second area of concern is the fact that the Implementation Plan does not set up an explicit and up front process for decision making. I'm a little taken aback by the almost total reliance on and push toward the “science based,” “best available science,” and “data base,” concept of decision making. Science is a tool for learning, discovery, and gathering information that should aid us in making beneficial decisions, but not to usurp our judgments based on social, moral, or practical values, or replace our sense of history and vision of the future. Our decisions can be grounded in science but, particularly with those that have a direct economic impact on fishermen, there needs to be an acknowledgment that science can never provide the answers to questions about how to manage interactions between user groups or other tradeoffs that will have to be made. In many instances, our science has not kept pace with the need for certainty sought by managers. The recent troubles with the Gulf of Maine Cod stock assessment should be a cautionary example. While basing our choices on sound science is important, ultimately, these choices remain our responsibility and that should be reflected in the Implementation Plan from the onset. Let's take Ocean Aquaculture as an example. We certainly have the scientific and technological expertise to create a productive and prosperous industry. The questions become; should we, and, if so, where do we want to do this, and on what scale? Also, what existing industries and uses will be impacted, and what are the needs of this particular region?

We might also look back to our history on land. What were our mistakes, our successes, and did we achieve what we see now as a proper balance? Did we cause damage that was difficult or impossible to undo? Recently there has been quite a push to take a step back towards smaller farms using more sustainable practices and inter-spaced with natural habitats. When, and if, we bring this to the ocean, do we presuppose our abilities to outdo Mother Nature by creating better, more productive, and safer mini ecosystems in which to farm? And as to our vision of the future, will that entail a Gulf of Maine so filled with aquaculture plots and turbines, that it has our grandchildren wishing to return to the wild and natural elements of the past.

The third element of my comment would be the need to commit to the development and support of waterfront accessibility. Ocean Policies would certainly have little meaning to Americans if they continually lose their direct connection to the beauty and enjoyment of the oceans or ability to access its resources. Although the recreational requirements for access are multiple and far reaching, be it scuba divers looking for a point to enter the water or a small town looking to retain its traditional right of way to a beach, my concern is mainly with working waterfront activities such as commercial fishing or various marine trades. Historically, such users found and, for the most part, could afford the waterfront lands and access points necessary for their endeavors. As we might expect, this is getting more difficult today because of increasingly limited availability, rising values and the burden of property taxes. Much of the time such businesses are competing with the wealthy seeking second homes or investments in condominiums and such. With these new interests often comes restrictive zoning regulations seeking to combat the sights, sounds, smells, and even working hours associated with traditional waterfront businesses. These are some of the problems that need to be dealt with if we are going to retain these businesses and the heritage that surrounds them. Alleviating these restrictions and undoing financial burdens would not only help established traditional waterfront businesses but also aid in the establishment of new uses that require like access. This would require making concrete policies towards these goals and providing the funding to carry them out.

In conclusion, all of my comments would be well served by initiating a process that strongly considers the unique qualities, history, and needs of the regions and communities involved, while at the same time establishes the most direct participation possible, for their citizens.

Sincerely,

Richard Nelson  
Captain, F/V Pescadero  
P.O. Box 62  
Friendship, ME 04547  
[fvpescadero@yahoo.com](mailto:fvpescadero@yahoo.com)

# NATIONAL OCEAN COUNCIL

Name: **John V. O'Shea**

Organization: Atlantic States Marine Fisheries Commission

Path: [http://edit.whitehouse.gov/sites/default/files/webform/sutley\\_draft\\_implementation\\_plan\\_asmfc\\_24feb2012\\_v2.pdf](http://edit.whitehouse.gov/sites/default/files/webform/sutley_draft_implementation_plan_asmfc_24feb2012_v2.pdf)

Comment: Please see attached document



# Atlantic States Marine Fisheries Commission

1050 N. Highland Street • Suite 200A-N • Arlington, VA 22201

703.842.0740 • 703.842.0741 (fax) • www.asmfc.org

*Paul J. Diodati, (MA), Chair*

*Dr. Louis B. Daniel, III, (NC), Vice-Chair*

*John V. O'Shea, Executive Director*

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*Healthy, self-sustaining populations for all Atlantic coast fish species or successful restoration well in progress by the year 2015*

February 24, 2012

Nancy Sutley, Chair  
White House Council on Environmental Quality  
722 Jackson Place, NW  
Washington, D.C. 20503

Dear Dr. Sutley,

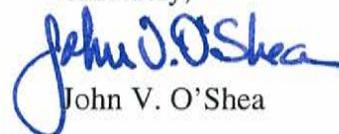
Thank you for the opportunity, again, to offer comments on the National Ocean Council on the National Ocean Policy Draft Implementation Plan for you to consider as the Administration and the public move forward in managing and preserving our oceans.

For nearly 70 years, the Atlantic States Marine Fisheries Commission has supported fisheries management across jurisdictional boundaries, demonstrating the effectiveness of cooperative fisheries management. The National Ocean Policy Implementation Plan needs to reflect a similar emphasis on cooperation, especially when supporting decision-making and ecosystem-based management.

Implementing ecosystem-based management (EBM), as I noted in my previous comments on the Draft Strategic Action Plans, requires increased monitoring, background data, and assessments, and thus increases the need for resources to sustain these efforts. These include fiscal and human resources to support data collection, monitoring, and integration. The Plan commits to offer training and capacity building to the state and regional partners; I applaud and support these commitments. However, there are regional and local partners, including our member states, who have already invested into EBM. These projects, already underway, would provide an obvious choice for the EBM pilot projects called for in the Plan. A budgetary approach that cuts these existing projects, on the promise of a broader EBM approach in the future, draws concern, as the trade off for a larger approach has not yet been shown to be more advantageous, either fiscally or ecologically, than continuing current regional efforts.

As you move forward with the National Ocean Policy, I encourage a direct and coordinated approach to management between the federal agencies and their state and regional partners. The Interstate Fisheries Commissions and their member states possess extensive knowledge and experience in interjurisdictional management and should be considered important constituents and partners in developing and executing a sustainable ocean policy.

Sincerely,

  
John V. O'Shea

cc: ASMFC Commissioners

Name: **Jerry Enzler**

Organization: Coastal Ecosystem Learning Center Network

Path: [http://edit.whitehouse.gov/sites/default/files/webform/celc\\_comments\\_on\\_national\\_ocean\\_policy.pdf](http://edit.whitehouse.gov/sites/default/files/webform/celc_comments_on_national_ocean_policy.pdf)

Comment: The Coastal Ecosystem Learning Center (CELC) Network is pleased that the administration is supportive of the many types of programs and projects spearheaded by our Network of 24 aquariums and marine science centers. However, we urge the drafters to consider inclusion of milestones to clarify how partners such as the CELC Network will be involved in implementing the National Ocean Policy. Please see the attached specific comments from our member organizations across the United States.



# *Coastal America*

## *Coastal Ecosystem Learning Center Network*

300 7th Street SW • Suite 680  
Washington, DC 20024  
Phone: (202) 401-9928 • Fax (202) 401-9821

February 24, 2012

### **Coastal America Coastal Ecosystem Learning Center Network Comments on National Ocean Policy DRAFT Implementation Plan**

The Coastal America Coastal Ecosystem Learning Center (CELC) Network was established in 1996 to improve public understanding of coastal and marine issues. The network creates a partnership between the Federal government and informal centers. These Learning Centers are represented by: aquariums, marine science centers and laboratories and make up a unique and dynamic network. Today, the network is comprised of 24 Learning Centers including 22 across the United States, one in Mexico and one in Canada, working together to educate and involve the public in efforts to restore and protect our Nation's coastal and marine ecosystems. The CELC Network is proud of its relationship with its Federal partners and we offer the following comment on the *President's National Ocean Policy Draft Implementation Plan*:

First, the CELC Network is pleased to read that the Administration is supportive of the many types of programs and projects spearheaded by the CELC Network. However, CELC members are disappointed there are no milestones or references related specifically to it in the *Plan*. We urge the drafters to consider inclusion of milestones to clarify how partners such as the CELC Network will be involved in implementing the National Ocean Policy.

The CELC Network believes it is important that the *Plan* recognize that the Federal government has long collaborated with this established CELC Network to inform and educate the public. The Federal government has in place overarching MOUs with each of its 24 individual learning centers. These MOUs were entered into by the political leaders at that time and are maintained by NOAA. The members of the Coastal America Ecosystem Learning Center Network have collaborated with the Federal government for many years to implement programs that promote public awareness and understanding of ocean and coastal issues. If the Administration is truly interested in encouraging such public-private partnerships, non-governmental partners must see themselves as allies in the government's goal to implement the National Ocean Policy. To this end, members of the CELC Network offer the following specific recommendations:

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Acuario de Veracruz • Adventure Aquarium & NJAAS • Alaska SeaLife Center • Aquarium of the Pacific • Audubon Aquarium of the Americas • Dauphin Island Sea Lab • The Florida Aquarium • Georgia Aquarium • Hatfield Marine Science Center & Oregon Coast Aquarium • IGFA Fishing Hall of Fame and Museum • John G. Shedd Aquarium • J.L. Scott Marine Education Center-Gulf Coast Research Laboratory • Monterey Bay Aquarium • Mystic Aquarium • National Aquarium In Baltimore • National Mississippi River Museum & Aquarium • New England Aquarium • New York Aquarium • North Carolina Aquariums • Seattle Aquarium • South Carolina Aquarium • Texas State Aquarium • Vancouver Aquarium • Waikiki Aquarium

- Insert language to direct expansion of NOAA's Ocean Today Kiosk Network:  
Expand the Ocean Today Kiosk network to all participating Coastal Ecosystem Learning Centers utilizing both public and private sector resources available to these partner aquariums, museums, and science centers. Expand content for the kiosk, web, and other social media outlets beginning with materials on Marine Protected Areas (MPAs). Develop and deploy a survey instrument to measure outcomes consistently across the Network.
- Insert a sidebar (similar to those provided on p. 37 "Leveraging Partnerships") to stress the value of networks such as the CELC Network and illustrate that the Network is already accomplishing many of the tasks outlined in the *Plan*.
- Insert language in the existing specific milestone on p. 25 to illustrate how the CELCs are working with the Federal partners in each region to "Develop stories and information sets to deliver the latest ocean science content through innovative exhibits and programs through networks of aquariums, museums, and science centers,"... like the Coastal Ecosystem Learning Center Network.
- Recognize the importance of youth educational programs implemented through the CELC Network such as the Coastal America Student Ocean Art Contest and the National Student Summits which are inspiring ocean stewardship and promoting public awareness and understanding of the world's ocean, its coasts and watersheds, and the Great Lakes.

We are also concerned about reductions in funding for ocean literacy. For example, NOAA Office of Education's Environmental Literacy Grants have been eliminated from the President's FY2013 proposed budget. The CELCs' ability to partner with NOAA and other agencies to bring significant resources from the private sector will be severely limited, as will its ability to bring ocean stewardship and awareness messages to tens of millions of people each year, if this funding is not restored.

On behalf of the CELC Network of 24 committed Aquariums throughout North America, we applaud the National Ocean Council's success thus far and are enthusiastic about helping to implement the *Plan*. Members of the CELC Network are confident that we have long been working to achieve many of the *Inform Decisions and Improve Understanding* priority milestones and actions in the *Plan*. However, we now have a network operating plan that outlines our proposed activities and projects in response to the specific actions in the *National Ocean Policy Implementation Plan*. The CELC Executive Committee would be pleased to brief NOC staff at anytime to detail these long-standing efforts. In the meantime, it is our collective hope you will agree that the Coastal America Coastal Ecosystem Learning Center Network is a time-tested, far-reaching and unique education partnership model. After 15 years, members of the CELC Network continue to be the ideal conduit to deliver the latest national ocean science information from Federal sources to the Public.

Sincerely,

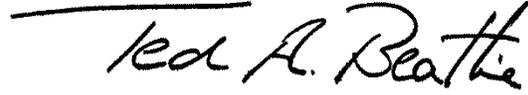
Coastal America  
Coastal Ecosystem Learning Center Network

**CELC Executive Committee:**



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Jerry R. Schubel, Ph.D., President & CEO  
Aquarium of the Pacific



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Ted A. Beattie, President & CEO  
John G. Shedd Aquarium



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Stephen Coan, President & CEO  
Mystic Aquarium



---

Jerry Enzler, Executive Director  
National Mississippi River Museum & Aquarium



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Tom Schmid, Ph.D., President & CEO  
Texas State Aquarium

**CELC Members:**



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Brian DuVall, President & CEO  
New Jersey Academy for Aquatic Sciences at  
Adventure Aquarium



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Tara Riemer Jones, Ph.D., Interim President & CEO  
Alaska SeaLife Center



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Karyn Kearney, Senior Vice President & Managing Director  
Audubon Aquarium of the Americas



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John F. Valentine, Ph.D., Executive Director  
Dauphin Island Sea Lab



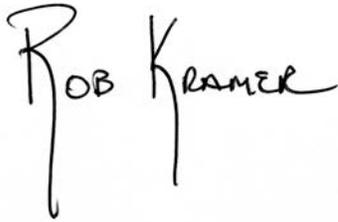
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Thomas Stork, President & CEO  
The Florida Aquarium



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David Kimmel, President and Chief Operating Officer  
Georgia Aquarium



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Rob Kramer, President  
IGFA Fishing Hall of Fame and Museum



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Chris Snyder, Director  
J.L Scott Marine Education Center-Gulf Coast Research  
Laboratory



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Julie Packard, Executive Director  
Monterey Bay Aquarium



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John C. Racanelli, Chief Executive Officer  
National Aquarium in Baltimore



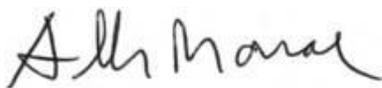
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Jon Forrest Dohlin, Vice President & Director  
Wildlife Conservation Society's  
New York Aquarium



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Maylon White, Director  
North Carolina Aquarium at Roanoke



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Allen Monroe, Director  
North Carolina Aquarium at Pine Knoll Shores



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Peggy Sloan, Director  
North Carolina Aquarium at Fort Fisher

Carrie Lewis, President & CEO  
Oregon Coast Aquarium

Robert Davidson, Chief Executive Officer  
Seattle Aquarium

Kevin Mills, President & CEO  
South Carolina Aquarium

Andrew Rossiter, Ph.D., Director  
Waikiki Aquarium



Map of Coastal Ecosystem Learning Center Network

Name: **John Rummel**

Organization: East Carolina University

Path: [http://edit.whitehouse.gov/sites/default/files/webform/ecu-icsp\\_comments\\_on\\_nop\\_dip\\_24feb12.pdf](http://edit.whitehouse.gov/sites/default/files/webform/ecu-icsp_comments_on_nop_dip_24feb12.pdf)

Comment: Attached are comments from the Institute for Coastal Science and Policy at East Carolina University.



**John D. Rummel**  
Director  
1-252-328-1755  
rummelj@ecu.edu

## Institute for Coastal Science and Policy (ICSP)

250 Flanagan Building  
East Carolina University  
Greenville, North Carolina 27858-4353

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**24 February 2012**

Nancy Sutley  
National Ocean Council Co-Chair  
Chair of Council on  
Environmental Quality  
Executive Office of the President  
722 Jackson Place NW  
Washington, DC 20503

John Holdren  
National Ocean Council Co-Chair  
Director of the Office of Science and  
Technology Policy  
New Executive Office Building  
17th Street, NW  
Washington, DC 20502

Dear Chairs Sutley and Holdren:

On behalf of East Carolina University (ECU), I am submitting the following recommendations and comments on the Draft National Ocean Policy (NOP) Implementation Plan. While we have joined with the Consortium for Ocean Leadership in their comments on the Draft, there remain some specific issues that are important to stress from the coastal science and policy perspective which are beyond the scope of what a member-institution might feel appropriate. We are therefore providing these comments with the intention to highlight areas in the plan that we believe could benefit from improvement or altered emphasis; and to suggest a framework for providing near-, mid- and long-term actions, while noting some of the perceived major obstacles to achieving the priorities of the plan.

Particularly, we would like to emphasize three crosscutting recommendations regarding NOP implementation for consideration by the National Ocean Council:

1. Adoption of an explicit ecosystem goods and services framework for the policy;
2. An emphasis on public engagement as integral to the NOP; and
3. A focus on strengthening governance performance under the NOP at the international, federal, state/tribal, and local levels.

ECU's comments on the Draft Implementation Plan are largely the work of Ms. Sarah E. Young <youngs10@students.ecu.edu>, who is a student within our Coastal Resources Management Ph.D. program. Either she or I would be happy to answer any questions you may have about these recommendations and comments.

Yours truly,

Enclosure

cc: Ms. Staci Lewis, Consortium for Ocean Leadership

## East Carolina University

### Comments on the National Ocean Policy Draft Implementation Plan – 02/12

(Sarah E. Young <youngs10@students.ecu.edu> with minor edits by John D. Rummel <rummelj@ecu.edu>)

Drafting an implementation plan for the nation's first National Ocean Policy (NOP) is a commendable achievement. The following comments are intended to highlight areas in the plan that we believe could use improvement or altered emphasis; suggest a framework for providing near, mid and long term actions; and to note some of the perceived major obstacles to achieving the priorities for the plan, as currently stated.

In addition to the nine priority areas already embraced in the Draft Implementation Plan (DIP), we would encourage the National Ocean Council (NOC) to develop a set of crosscutting recommendations that support adopting a broader and more explicit **ecosystems services** approach to management, effective **community engagement** strategies, and a focus on **governance standards** that can be implemented at multiple governmental levels (e.g., international, Federal, State/Tribal, local).

Given their abundant human populations, coasts and oceans must always be managed to meet multiple, competing, and often contradictory needs. The aim of a national policy is to prioritize goals, provide guidelines on an ideal state, and suggest approaches that could be used to achieve those priority objectives. National policy also provides guidance on how the spirit of the law should be interpreted. The underlying philosophy laid out in the NOP is clear—decisions should be guided by the principles of: sustainability; ecosystem-based management (EBM); adaptive management; productive, healthy oceans and coasts; efficiency and collaboration; and by using tools such as marine spatial planning (MSP). What is less clear in the NOP is how these still-to-be-fully-defined concepts can be turned into evaluatable management actions, how the priorities can be integrated into current ocean and coastal management, and how this is going to be achieved without legislative (or even constitutional) change or additional financial investment.

In pursuit of those objective, we propose here three crosscutting recommendations regarding NOP implementation for consideration by the NOC:

1. Adoption of an explicit ecosystem goods and services framework
2. Public engagement as integral to the NOP
3. Strengthening governance performance (at International, Federal, State/Tribal, & Local Levels)

#### 1. An Explicit Ecosystem Goods and Services Approach

[Scientific] information is an input into a (politically) value-driven trade-off decision about what to regulate, what enterprises and initiatives to promote, and what we want the coast and the marine environment to look like—how we want it to function, which ecosystem goods and services are most important to us. The key to success is a balance between public goods, private enterprise, and development.

An ecosystem services approach moves beyond how people affect ecosystems to include how people depend on ecosystems. Instead of protecting ecosystems from development, *per se*, it also considers how to invest in managing ecosystems for sustainable development. Our daily

lives depend on a range of services the environment provides. Balancing demands for energy security, environmental conservation, food production, fresh water provisions, health, natural hazard protection, infrastructure, and housing, etc.

The ecosystems services approach incorporates a variety of methods including: ecosystem service dependency; impact assessment; valuation; production of scenarios, policies and other interventions aimed at sustaining ecosystem services. (Ranganathan et al., 2008). These methods are applied at the ecosystem, landscape or watershed scale and involve providing for future uses. It builds on the Ecosystem Approach developed under the Convention of Biological Diversity (UNEP, 2007). Ecosystem services provide a framework to align management objectives across sectors providing a common language for expressing values and objectives. The framework helps conceptualize and compare the goals of different parties aiding informed choices between alternatives.

Since many of the benefits derived from ecosystem services and the costs of degradation are often not part of the traditional economy, nor are traded in markets, many ecosystem services are easily (and frequently) neglected when decisions are made. They are off the ledgers of the public and policymakers, taken for granted, and yet nonetheless prized once made scarce. This contributes to the gradual erosion of some of the essential, communal life support services such as climate regulation, carbon storage, cultural heritage, aesthetics, erosion protection, waste disposal etc. Explicitly accounting for these benefits would reveal hidden costs to many current practices and yield more sustainable, widely accepted decisions.

Adopting EBM, while effectively changing the name of the governance system, does not mean that these non-use values are magically going to be taken into account in future decisions. To do that we also change the indicators and trade-off assessment system into one that uses the approach and language of ecosystem services. More research and investment is required to bring the public-good ecosystem services into trade-off decisions.

The advantages of encouraging an ecosystem services approach include: common terminology across sectors; a way to clearly state policy and management objectives; a framework for developing indicators for evaluation and monitoring; making the trade-offs between public-good provision and other forms of development more explicit; a pro-active approach; and use of the 'best available' natural resource science.

## **Suggestions**

Elevate the understanding and influence of ecosystem services by:

- Supporting, directly and through Regional Planning Bodies, pilot studies to test the usefulness of information about ecosystem service values, ecosystem attributes, and human well-being in coastal and marine spatial planning and restoration strategies.
- Developing guidance on the use of the ecosystem services approach to meeting multiple objectives.

- Conducting quantitative, spatially explicit assessments of ecosystem service values, ecosystem attributes, and human dimensions.
- Identifying a science advisory structure to include information about ecosystem service values, ecosystem attributes, and human dimensions in coastal and marine decisions.

## **2. Public Engagement as Integral to the NOP**

Recovery of our marine ecosystems is a societal choice and requires a vision of what we want from our environment. In order to obtain this vision it is essential to understand how people value the seas, what they value, and what they expect from their environment. Understanding broad societal desires allows for a meaningful debate into what options and policies are acceptable to the public and identifies what policy mechanisms may be used to move towards the vision of a sustainable marine environment. It also reflects the degree to which information on marine issues and policies have been communicated to the public and incorporated into their own values (Potts et al., 2011).

The National Ocean Council should take this significant opportunity to prioritize public involvement as a foundational theme of the National Ocean Policy Implementation Plan. Public engagement will be essential to the success of this policy and if conducted in a thoughtful, active and transparent way, may lead to meaningful and lasting connections between the public, Federal agencies state, tribal and regional governance structures with benefits beyond the sustainable management of our ocean environment.

By focusing on public engagement, we are advocating an approach that goes much further than the traditional model of government/public interaction using formal comment periods and sporadic public meetings, to one which embraces a two way flow of information between the public and decision-makers. We support opening new channels of communication between policy makers and the public, creating informal discussion spaces, making use of new technology and social media, reducing the transaction costs to the public of participating in policy and management formation and having trained, professional facilitators mediate this interaction. Community engagement will not only provide an opportunity to increase marine and coastal literacy, as suggested in the plan, but also to integrate public values, local knowledge and strengthen regional planning efforts.

Community engagement is integral to the implementation of the NOP. As it stands the draft implementation plan does not lay out a comprehensive engagement strategy or consider how public engagement will be integrated into the NOP priorities. In light of this we fully endorse the public engagement action items put forward by Strategic Earth Consulting which include:

- Building public engagement into the overall framework of the NOP with specific action items within each of the nine priority objectives;
- Developing a “National Ocean Policy Public Engagement and Community Relations Strategy”;
- Developing management and policy tools with the public in mind;

- Supporting the creation of public advisory panels to strengthen regional planning efforts.
- Producing outreach documents that make policy and management decisions (such as the NOP) accessible to a general audience that have varying levels of knowledge and understanding;
- Improve the public input solicitation process by making it more public friendly;
- Active dissemination of policy documents through a variety of fora—rather than only as a technical document posted to a website.

### **3. Strengthening Governance Performance (at International, Federal, State/Tribal, & Local Levels)**

Natural resource management and policy decisions often cause conflict and protest due to procedural rather than substantive outcomes. People feel aggrieved because they feel their concerns weren't adequately taken into account, because the information used to make a decision was flawed, because those making the decisions were biased, because they didn't have an adequate opportunity to voice their concerns, because the people who gain from a decision are generally people who always gain, or because many value-driven concerns are difficult to translate in scientific or monetary terms and consequently are down-graded in importance. The list goes on, but the perceived and actual outcomes of governance are often tightly wed to procedural issues rather than to the substance of the decisions made.

In this light, the priorities prescribed by the national ocean policy framework do not adequately address the issues that lead to controversy and civil upset in ocean and coastal management. The issues highlighted in the NOP and the DIP are all important. We believe that serious problems and conflict regarding how to deal with them do not stem from general disagreement over ocean acidification, the need for improvements in water quality, for investing in science, about the changing conditions in the Arctic. Instead, they arise from how the trade-offs among the various competing resource uses are arrived at, and how the agreed-upon solutions are implemented. Unfunded mandates from the Federal government and lawsuits by the Justice Department may be necessary in some cases, but they should hardly be considered best practices in the implementation of the NOP.

A cross-cutting theme of 'good governance' or an emphasis on the procedural justice elements of ocean and coastal management is therefore imperative. Good governance, especially good governance across multiple governmental levels, addresses issues of accountability, transparency, responsiveness, legitimacy of governing bodies, etc. Procedural justice provides 'ideal conditions' that can be used to evaluate progress towards good governance. The basic indicators span: representation; consistency (equal treatment across people and over time); impartiality (bias suppression); accuracy of information; correctability (opportunity for review of complaints); and ethicality (moral and ethical values extended to all). By providing high-level guidance for decision-processes, as well as substantive participation in the process by those most affected, the aim is to filter out the inequality of influence different citizens/constituencies have over ocean and coastal decisions so that the final decisions made do not mirror the discrimination

present in society or the inequalities of the governmental system. For instance, on the citizen-scale not everyone is comfortable speaking at a public meetings, not everyone can afford to travel to the public forums, not everyone has access to the Internet and therefore the informational documents provided by the agencies and others, and not everyone feels comfortable providing formal comments on policy documents. On the cross-governmental scale, the issues are different. Without a proper forum for state/tribal and local governments to provide input and respond to NOP/NOC actions, those governments will not have a substantive voice nor an important conduit about how ocean policy *actually* works, and how it *actually* is perceived by them. Programs designed to both improve data input from the public and meet participants' perceptions of procedural fairness can be expected to result in substantial improvements in public satisfaction, while inputs from state and local governments are essential to the process of implementing the policy both in the US and in concert with international partners.

As it is, we do not see that the NOP/DIP has included any substantive actions related to strengthening or improving governance. While an (optional) advisory committee function is specified, the current NOP and the DIP include no milestones or evaluation criteria for such governance input, other than a legal review. With the increase in public participation necessary with EBM and MSP (i.e., the NOP's intentional significant change in governance structure), it would be wise to make good governance and excellence in multi-level governmental coordination an explicit cross-cutting theme for all the NOP priorities.

## **Other Comments on the Specific NOP Priorities (By DIP Section)**

### **Ecosystem-Based Management**

A clear vision of what EBM would look like on a large scale is required. Measurable targets and goals for implementing EBM are needed beyond the relatively foundational, short-term milestone as outlined in the plan. It would be good to do a case study or analysis on how regional fisheries management councils could adopt EBM - what is the role of the fisheries management councils in an EBM resource model?

### **Obstacles:**

- Ecosystem-based management is fraught with contradictions (Cortner & Moote, 1999). EBM and adaptive management require flexibility to allow response to change or new knowledge; yet EBM also requires uniformity among management goals for evaluation. Overly prescriptive laws and regulations could be seen as impediments to EBM, yet too much flexibility could lead to arbitrary and capricious decision-making.
- EBM emphasizes both collaborative decision-making and the importance of using holistic science. It will require a much more active role for citizens than has been true of past resource planning efforts. Yet at the same time, the strong role envisioned for science has the effect of delegating decision-making authority to experts, limiting the role of citizen.

- Legitimacy of decision-making, openness and inclusiveness, is diffused in a EBM process making it difficult to hold people or agencies directly accountable for management success or failure.
- The same balance needs to be struck between expert scientific knowledge and social consensus/civic discourse (FEMAT, 1993); between healthy conflict and collaboration (Lee, 1993); between bureaucracy and responsiveness (Kaufman, 1994). EBM requires a new structure of governance built around communication and coordination, yet few structural adjustments have been proposed.
- The complexity of EBM will hamper participants capability to understand the approach and partake in tradeoff decisions.
- EBM is a very data intensive approach to a problem that has traditionally lacked comprehensive data input. Another challenge for EBM is the integration of social and biological data, and the pure quantity of data required to look systems in an integrated and holistic manner (Hall & Mainprize, 2004). The quality and quantity of social data on marine and coastal issues lags behind the relatively well-established biological monitoring efforts. Data forms are different, and often not commensurate. Socio-ecological modeling, as well as the tools and techniques necessary for combining differing data-sources into comparative trade-off scenarios are still immature.
- One of the greatest challenges to introducing EBM is that of scale (Levin & Lubchenco, 2008). The spatial scale of EBM is both large and small-landscape scale decisions combined with management prescriptions relevant to local conditions. The ecological scale of EBM is mismatched to the scale and temporal drivers of institutional and agency responsibility, which tend to be centralized with policy directives structured around short-term political schedules.
- Society holds economic development and ecological sustainability goals, both equally valid, yet often mutually exclusive. Sustainability includes an intergenerational dimension, balancing the ‘needs of the present without compromising the ability of future generations to meet their own needs’ (Brundtland Report, 1987) however it is difficult to know what those future needs will be, or if we are capable of managing for ecological integrity to meet those needs. The tension between maintaining ecological functions and continued demographic and economic growth remains a challenge to EBM. These trade-off decisions are not limited to conservation versus growth, they encompass numerous other societal goals, preferences and values which tend to be ambiguous, continuously changing and often in conflict.
- EBM may not be an appropriate approach for all marine and coastal resource management issues. It has had limited success so far, due in part to issues of scale. What is needed is a reflective discussion of the benefits and limitation of EBM rather than a high-level policy prescription that might not be suitable in all situations. The adoption of the EBM approach is a very heavy handed, top-down decision, with the associated one-way flow of information to the public “outreach and education to inform stakeholders and the public of the benefits of EBM”. What is required is an admission of the limitations, room for flexibility as we work

out if it is possible to manage ecosystems on this scale and to strengthen avenues for the public to educate the government about its practical strengths and limitations.

- Action 3 of the EBM—train practitioners and decision-makers—is a particularly important one... but who are you going to train? How are you going to facilitate the spread of EBM knowledge? There are plenty of people the new generation of graduates and practitioners that are well versed with the interdisciplinary nature of natural resource management and are ready to operationalize these paradigms... but they are walking into heavy bureaucratic agencies, and working for senior staff who resist change and were themselves trained to think within a particular discipline. Need a fast track process to grease the institutional wheels.

### **Suggestions:**

- Use programs that have a proven track record of success such as NOAAs National Estuarine Research Reserve System and EPAs National Estuarine Research Reserves. Talk to people with experience implementing EBM about the challenges of scaling up there efforts;
- Incorporate EBM into existing policies, management plans, mapping, permitting, and planning;
- Identify and engage scientists who work on the most relevant data and latest thinking about ecosystem services science and resilience;
- Develop an assessment of social science data gaps and needs – in addition to economics;
- It would be useful if the training materials, decision-support tools and outreach materials were available through a variety of outlets rather than one central government operated portal. Investment in a program supporting face to face results sharing and learning, from practitioner to practitioner from participant to participant would be much more effective than dry information sheets on a website.

### **Inform Decisions and Improve Understanding**

Action 2 mentions using information to support sustainable resource use including: energy, traditional ocean uses, working waterfronts, fisheries, tourism and creating jobs, however the milestones only relate to aquaculture, biotechnology and energy. What about goals and milestones for the other ‘sustainable uses’?

### **Ocean, Coastal, and Great Lakes Observations, Mapping, and Infrastructure**

This is an important, well structured priority objective. The key to it’s success will be data interoperability and access, as well as a focus on synergistic benefits of collaborative data collection efforts.

### **Coordinate and Support**

- The DIP states “The actions below will increase communication, streamline processes, leverage resources, resolve disparities and enhance synergies within and between Federal, State, Tribal, regional, and local ocean, coastal and Great Lakes programs, and as

appropriate, with the international community” (p.35) Increase communication between or among whom? Streamline which processes? Leverage resources from where to do what?

- The complexity of integrating the NOP priorities into current governance structures is overwhelming. This plan should include an action to identify what hampers coordination and support, to identify the real barriers to cooperation, before milestones are suggested to fix an undefined problem.
- Action 3 regarding reducing barriers to implementation only addresses legal constraints. There are certainly more pertinent barriers to participation such as access to information and transaction costs.
- Action 4 does not mention improving communication and information dissemination – the Federal government is in an excellent position to collect large-scale data on civic priorities, preferences (national polling for example).
- Other countries have the potential to serve as a great source of information and experience for many of the priority objectives contained within the NOP. Several countries are already engaged in EBM and MSP, such as Australia, Canada, the United Kingdom, and other European Union member countries, and they have important lessons to share. Action 6 needs to reflect the flow of knowledge and skills into the NOP process rather than purely suggestion ways to raise the profile of the NOP outside the U.S.

### **Regional Ecosystem Protection and Restoration**

- The DIP states, “Programs aimed at reducing impacts in coastal landscapes, bays, wetlands, and estuaries include innovative growth-management initiatives that incorporate low-impact design elements, plans for improving management and control of storm water and wastewater discharges into coastal and ocean waters, and removal of incentives for new infrastructure and increased density in vulnerable or high-quality habitat areas.” (pg.44) Despite being an incredibly long sentence, this is full of great ideas that are not reflected in any of the actions or milestones. Please include some indicators for progress on these ideas.
- Action 1 is the 3<sup>rd</sup> or 4<sup>th</sup> action so far to ‘development and transfer decision support tools’. Whilst building capacity and facilitating information exchange is a good role for the Federal agencies to play, reliance on support tools to reach objectives is disquieting. It is the mantra of the ‘technical-fix’ to a non-technical / social problem. Tools are only as good as they are appropriate to the issue. Problems are often heavily context dependent and available tools frustratingly generic or overly specific. The focus needs to be on flexible, scale relevant tools that do not require heavy investment or training (GIS has its place but it is expensive to maintain and relies on expert input). If public participation is encouraged then the potential for innovative, locally appropriate tools multiplies exponentially. We need to give people the opportunity to be creative in developing solutions and the Federal government needs to facilitate the spread of innovation between locales. The milestones for this action need to aim higher than a pilot project in Chesapeake Bay.

- Specific actions related to wetlands and coral reefs are welcome but exclude other types of coastline. This is an example of symptoms over causes. There needs to be an analysis on the causes of habitat loss as well as work on status, trends, and identification of potential restoration/conservation areas. I would say that coastal land-use change, both in terms of agriculture and urban development is the major cause of many of the symptoms identified as ‘priorities’ (habitat loss, water quality, the need for marine spatial planning, changes in access and recreational opportunities), but coastal land-use change is not addressed directly in the NOP. Stronger links and associated milestones need to be provided that integrate EBM (and the other philosophies proposed in this policy document—resilience, adaptive management etc.) in to local and regional planning regulations, so that this major cause of environmental change can be addressed as an explicit tradeoff with other marine ecosystem services.
- It’s an age old question, but what status are you hoping to restore-to? Without clarification of an ‘ideal state’ the argument over the definition and goals of restoration will continue to stall progress in this area. I would suggest ‘preservation’ and ‘restoration’ are inoperable concepts in the dynamic marine and coastal environment that conjure images of pre-Columbian America to some, and smacks of over-regulation to others. In it’s place a focus on enhancing and maintaining ecosystem goods and services offers more potential and a clear path to well-defined management objectives.
- In terms of restoration monitoring and evaluation, human dimensions indicators need to be included along-side ‘minimum ecological data standards’. Research on social and economic indicators for marine and coastal restoration projects has already been undertaken and should be put to good use (Salz & Loomis 2005)

### **Resiliency and Adaptation to Climate Change and Ocean Acidification**

- It would make sense to group the low-frequency, high-risk anthropogenic and natural coastal impacts into one category that calls for risk identification and quantification, resilience building, monitoring and emergency planning. This group might include sea-level change, invasive species, hurricanes, oil spills, ocean acidification, flooding etc. Rather than have the invasive section under ‘restoration’. Events such as these benefit from the larger scale strategic planning that Federal government has the expertise and resources to support and under-resourced local governments tend to put-off.
- It is good that climate change and ocean acidification are both highlighted as priority issues. It is also commendable that the response to these potential impacts is a focus on resiliency and adaptive management. The effects of these phenomena will vary greatly from place to place so support to state and regional planning bodies will be the most effective way to proactively meet these challenges.
- Resilience in the NOP concentrates on community and environment response to climate change impacts, but it can also be used as a framework to identify opportunities and strengths—resilience as a set of capabilities. It can also be used to assess different types of impact i.e. a community’s resilience to regulation, management actions, natural hazards or economic shocks. Embracing the breadth of this concept as a tool for measuring both

community and environmental structure and function adds potential for it's application in other areas of the NOP.

- Again, if you really want to address climate change and ocean acidification issues you need to use the NOP to tackle the causes of the problem rather than the symptoms. Both are related to changes in the concentration of atmospheric CO<sub>2</sub>, so some of the actions and milestones should address reducing the several billion tons of carbon dioxide released into the atmosphere from the burning of coal, oil and natural gases. Becoming part of the international debate on this issue and setting ambitious national standards would help.

### **Water Quality and Sustainable Practices on Land**

- Any action on marine debris should focus on waste disposal and collection systems – investment in waste removal technology, encouraging reduced consumption and recycling, effective incineration or landfill systems will all go a long way to reduce marine debris. Just monitoring its sources is not enough.
- Look to the Water Framework Directive in Europe for ideas and standards regarding improving water quality – it has worked wonders in many parts of Europe and led to strong partnerships between government and public organizations.
- This priority, in particular, will require integrating standards across Federal agency policies – how do you intend to make progress on embedding sustainable land practices into transportation, energy, transport, trade, port authorities, manufacturing, agriculture etc.?

### **Coastal and Marine Spatial Planning**

- Marine Spatial Planning (MSP) is just one tool, not a goal in and of itself, or a panacea for marine and coastal management problems.
- Marine Spatial Planning is in-effect assigning property rights (of access and use) to previously open access areas—therefore the initial allocation of these rights needs to be carefully scrutinized by the public—rather than bought/sold/gifted by a unilateral government zoning decision. Decisions made in the early stages of any marine spatial planning initiatives will have ramifications for generations to come, so must be made in light of long-term marine and coastal management objectives.
- As with EBM, MSP is data intensive—the data we have on much of the marine environment is limited—allowances for new information, precaution and flexibility in zoning plans is vital.
- Many forms of social data do not fit neatly into a GIS map and therefore, inadvertently, get left behind, or set-aside when comparisons are made of different zoning options. We need to make sure that we improve the way in which we collate and visualize different zoning scenarios so that all information is treated with respect irrespective of its ability to fit neatly into quantitative spatial representations.

## General Comments on the DIP

- The ‘shared priorities’ seemed to have been identified already without much input from the States and Tribes—setting the agenda bolsters the governments concerns and priorities, over what might have evolved through a more inclusive collaborative process. The NOP seems to advocate collaboration and yet the development of this plan relied primarily on consultation and expert advise. The best way to demonstrate commitment to collaborative ocean and coastal management is to commit to using that approach in the development of this very plan.
- If the objective of this comment period is to reflect on what priorities should exist for oceans and coasts and to assess if the suggested actions will lead to intended outcomes, then surely the priorities should be stated as outcomes? It will be very difficult for managers to turn this policy into SMART objectives, and therefore very difficult to incorporate these priorities into management plans.
- Stagnant funding remains the major constraint to making substantial progress in addressing the problems facing oceans and coasts. Without sustainable funding there will be no sustainable change. Any and all major overalls of this nature require money – this is a substantive area of concern with the NOP.
- With no new USG funding forthcoming, the NOP priorities need to be prioritized.
- Why is there no national priority related to fishing? The depletion and inadequacy of fisheries management is probably the most pressing marine and coastal issue and yet is only mentioned in reference to overall EBM.
- Many of the priority areas identified are symptoms rather than causes; hypoxia, algal blooms, climate change, ocean acidification.... Are all symptoms rather than actions to address causes. The priorities need to state clear objectives and be transparent about the enormous challenge addressing some of these symptoms are, well beyond the boundaries of ocean and coastal policy.
- The document relies to heavily on buzzwords that have little practical or legal meaning: ecosystem health, resilient conditions, sustainability, productive system and restoration. This is going to make the policy particularly difficult to translate into law and problematic when it comes to designing valid and reliable measures to evaluate progress towards these fluffy goals. As one commenter to the NOC website (Nuckols, 2011) put it,  
“The ocean resource management community continues to be significantly impaired by a lack of knowledge of how ecosystems actually function, and without a robust understanding EBM is as much a buzzword as a public policy. We’ve been down similar roads before. Watershed management was the rave a decade ago, but we failed to include everything in the watersheds, leaving out key management decisions if those decisions meant the inclusion of things we either poorly understood or those land-based activities which appeared more politically influential than the water parts of the watersheds.”  
Let’s include some definitions in the policy, or at least an action related to clarifying the key

concepts.

- There is a strong emphasis on science in the NOP. Science can not decide what are essentially value questions, and scientists do not know enough to make such decisions. The concept and language of science-based decision-making reinforces the perception that science alone decides outcomes. It needs to be balanced with social consensus and civic discourse. Science is one informational input into a decision-making process that is inherently political – that allocates (the costs and benefits of) resources between competing interests. Improving the science – the informational input, is not necessarily going to give us better decisions, if the process in which that science is manipulated is biased or unfair – hence again a governance focus is required. Science as the standard for information: there are lots of other repositories of knowledge and information on marine and coastal systems not readily transposable into ‘science’. Such as traditional knowledge of tribes, local knowledge of resource users, and trends data held by local citizens. Efforts should be made to include these other important sources of local and regional information that would be de-valued by a complete emphasis on ‘science’.
- Encouragement for incentive structures in universities and agencies for collaborative, practical outreach projects targeted at the NOP priorities. Not just in terms of financially with respect to NSF funding or strategic budget increases, but recognition for significant individual and group contributions.
- Every priority objective needs an advocate, a champion, a face for outreach, publicity and information requests. The NOP needs to be marketed in a way that makes it accessible and relevant to people.

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Name: **KN**

Organization:

Path:

Comment: Dear Chairs Sutley and Holdren and National Ocean Council Members:

The recently released Draft National Ocean Policy Implementation Plan is a giant step forward in advancing the National Ocean Policy and helping to create healthier oceans and coasts and stronger economies for our coastal communities. The Plan shows great strength in providing a cohesive framework for National Ocean Policy implementation and being an action-oriented plan that provides for government accountability. As you move to finalize this plan, please consider the following recommendations:

Protecting, maintaining and restoring the health of our oceans, coasts and Great Lakes must be of primary importance with an emphasis to achieve conservation milestones that can provide immediate ecological benefit such as the protection and restoration of coastal and marine habitat for priority species;

- Ensure the plan does not overlook needed new actions and does not only propose existing government plans and programs;

- Produce an implementation status report every two years that notes progress on reaching ecological indicators and the actions and milestones in the Plan; and

- Fully utilize existing legal authorities to implement the National Ocean Policy.

The National Ocean Council should also prioritize needed funding for regional ocean partnerships in those regions which are best prepared to begin regional planning bodies and convene stakeholder participation. Regional ocean partnerships can create the best value of scarce federal funding by bringing federal, state, tribal, scientific and non-governmental entities together to start to address ocean management challenges.

The National Ocean Policy is founded on sound science, an inclusive and transparent public and stakeholder engagement process, the protection of habitat and wildlife populations, and encourages government at all levels to work together. The Draft Implementation Plan reflects over two years worth of hard work, investment and commitment made by state governments, commercial and industrial ocean users, universities and scientists, 27 federal agencies and departments and tens of thousands of citizens across the country to move our oceans toward better ocean management. I urge the National Ocean Council to operationalize the National Ocean Policy as soon as possible through this Implementation Plan with the goal of creating the enduring environmental stewardship of our ocean, coastal and Great Lakes ecosystems.

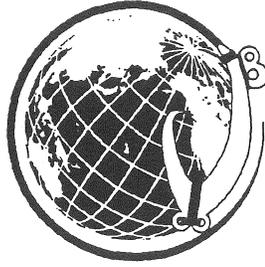
# NATIONAL OCEAN COUNCIL

Name: **Kitty Simonds**

Organization: Western Pacific Regional Fishery Management Council

Path: [http://edit.whitehouse.gov/sites/default/files/webform/nop\\_draft\\_implementation\\_plan-wprfmc\\_comments.pdf](http://edit.whitehouse.gov/sites/default/files/webform/nop_draft_implementation_plan-wprfmc_comments.pdf)

Comment: Please find attached, the comments on the draft National Ocean Policy Implementation Plan from the Western Pacific Regional Fishery Management Council.



**Western  
Pacific  
Regional  
Fishery  
Management  
Council**

February 24, 2012

National Ocean Council  
722 Jackson Place, NW  
Washington D.C. 20503

To Whom it May Concern

Thank you for the opportunity to provide comments on the National Ocean Council's draft *National Ocean Policy Implementation Plan*. The Western Pacific Regional Fishery Management Council (Council) agrees that this plan is needed to ensure the effective use of government resources to provide quality service to the American people.

The Council has previously provided comments at public meetings held in Honolulu, Hawaii by the Ocean Policy Task Force and asked the task force to support and strengthen the authorities that are already in place to help us do our job better. While the draft implementation plan does provide some support of the work that we already do (e.g. ecosystem-based management), the plan should look at broadening existing federal funding solicitations to support existing efforts. This would allow for all agencies to effectively use their resources without the need to develop "new programs and opportunities," as these activities are being done just not supported.

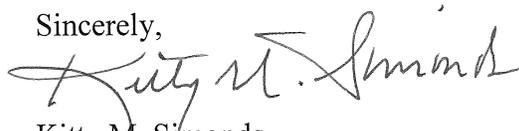
The Council also has specific comments on the text of the draft plan:

- On page 50, under Action 4 milestones, a bullet point should be included between the existing second and third bullet that specifies that research is needed to both assess the effects of land-based sources of pollution (LBSP) and to identify the means whereby LBSP would be reduced:
  - Sample text "Conduct timely and cost-effective applied research for specific pilot projects that would provide case studies assessing the effects of land-based sources of pollution (LBSP) in order to identify the practical means whereby these LBSP would be reduced."
- On page 52, under Action 6 milestones, third bullet, there needs to be further specification to expand the scope beyond the conventional "estuarine-coastal" mindset to explicitly recognize other, not necessarily estuary-linked, coastal and insular reef habitats and resources that are so important to the Western Pacific region:
  - Sample text added on to the third bullet at the end "and that also includes fish habitat assessments for additional, important marine habitats and linkages such as both estuary-linked and other coastal reefs and insular tropical coral reefs."
- On page 53, under Action 7 milestones, first bullet, there needs to be further, more comprehensive specification about the milestone:

- Sample text “Complete an interagency review of existing monitoring data standards; revise and approve minimum ecological monitoring data standards for coastal estuarine, non-estuarine coastal, and insular reef habitat restoration projects. (NOAA, USACE, DOI, EPA, USDA; 2014)”
- The plan should include a List of Acronyms in the appendix which includes LBSP, Land-based Sources of Pollution, and the plan should add its definition to the glossary of terms used.

Thank you again for the opportunity to provide comments on the draft National Ocean Policy Implementation Plan. We hope that the final Plan will include the Council’s comments and we look forward to working with you on its implementation.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Kitty M. Simonds". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a large initial "K" and a distinct "M".

Kitty M. Simonds  
Executive Director

Name: **David Dow**

Organization: Cape Cod Grassroots Environmental Activist

Path:

Comment: As a grassroots environmental activist/retired oceanographer, my comments focus on action items under the NOP SAP Implementation Plan that are relevant to southern New England. Thus I didn't address all of the nine priorities or make suggestions from a policy perspective. I do point out areas where in my view some of the proposed policies appear to be out of touch with current scientific understanding. Since many federal government regulations are based upon generally accepted scientific principles and other considerations (political, socioeconomic, legislative, etc.), local citizens deal primarily with town, county and state policies that differ from those in Washington. Thus here in Massachusetts we have separate state climate mitigation and adaptation plans with Barnstable County and the towns in the process of developing climate adaptation plans (an area in which I comment).

New England and the West Coast states are probably better situated to move forward in implementing the NOP SAPs than many other parts of the country because of state legislation/interstate agreements. The Gulf of Maine Council on the Marine Environment and regional National Estuarine Research Reserves have good capacities for public outreach and education of local managers/legislators that might be utilized by the New England ROC (which is likely to be poorly funded with limited staff capabilities). I gather that the NOC uses conference calls to designated constituent groups as an outreach approach. This process does not engage the wider public, whose support is critical to gaining Congressional funding for the NOP in the future. Congress should have acted long before now on the recommendations of the Pew and U.S. Ocean Commission reports.

#### 1. EbM SAP:

\* Replacing sector-based management with EbM approaches by the New England Fishery Management Council (NEFMC) should be considered a priority.

\* Impacts of climate disruption on New England wetlands should consider multiple issues: buffer to relative sea level rise (including changes in coastal geomorphology and flooding/tidal surge from storms; changes in distribution/abundance of marine biota; wetland restoration by restoring traditional tidal flows; providing a habitat for migratory birds along the Atlantic coast Flyway; coastal adaptation plans that include wetlands; etc.)

\* Coastal tourism needs to be approached from an integrated perspective that includes: population growth and reducing "ecological footprints" in coastal watersheds; retaining working waterfront and traditional water-dependent uses for land along the water; job creation/livable wages and addressing environmental justice concerns for working poor in coastal communities; maintaining integrity of wildlife habitats and biota in the face of development to support tourism and recreation; finding ways to allow coastal homeowners to afford homeowners insurance policies at reasonable rates; etc.

- \* incorporating resilience and adaptive management into coastal planning/management efforts at local level; need for an integrated, cross-sector management approach that aids the transition to sustainability for coastal communities.

- \* The Waquoit Bay watershed on Cape Cod might offer a good pilot project locale for EbM (to build upon EPA Waquoit Bay Watershed Ecological Risk Assessment and SMAST Massachusetts Estuary Program models and reports on nutrient loading impacts (water quality problems and eelgrass bed loss).

## 2. Inform Decisions & Improve Understanding SAP

- \* Many of the essential fish habitats (EFH) suffer from a shortage of benthic mapping to support the NEFMC's new Omnibus Habitat Amendment

- \* On land Massachusetts needs better lidar vertical elevation data to support coastal inundation models and climate adaptation plans to address challenges from RSLR (relative sea level rise). We need better groundtruthing to decrease the uncertainty in the lidar vertical elevation estimates.

- \* Coastal climate adaptation plans suffer from being data rich, but information poor when it comes to socioeconomic input (restoration of potential of impacted coastal water bodies depends on ecological capacity; environmental stressors and human context). Socioeconomic information would support the human context GIS data layers.

- \* We need to know more about the direct, indirect and induced economic benefits from fishing in supporting local communities

- \* We need more data from ROVs (remotely operated vehicles)/AUVs (autonomous underwater vehicles) and moored, ocean observation systems to groundtruth satellite data. Depending on large research vessels to provide this data is not a cost effective approach. Research vessels should use hydro-acoustic data collection techniques for species beyond forage fish.

- \* Need better access for the public to state/federal ocean databases/GIS systems in order to develop more effective comments on proposed multiple human uses in the ocean, while promoting conservation of wild places, wild things

- \* Need to identify minimum performance standards for data collection used to support public policy and management programs (i.e. operational systems and not academic experiments)

## 3. Regional Ecosystem Protection & Restoration SAP

- \* Our wetland loss challenges come from RSLR occurring faster than marsh elevation growth (low nutrient concentrations reduce peat formation) and development near the coast that cuts down the opportunities for wetland retreat inland as RSLR occurs. The

RSLR in southern New England (sNE) comes from subsidence on land (geological adjustments as land to the north of us rises as a result of the retreat of the continental glaciers) and ocean height increases (thermal expansion of seawater; polar ice shelf melting; etc.)

\* Eelgrass bed loss is a serious problem in sNE and has wider ramifications since these grass beds are EFH for fish and shellfish populations/hold sediments in place to decrease erosion. Many of our sandy/mixed sediments have been replaced by mucky sediments which have high levels of hydrogen sulfide/heavy metals (which is inimical to benthic infauna). Thus we need to mitigate sediments in many coastal areas In addition to improve water quality in the water column ( to reduce fish kills from low oxygen concentrations in the bottom waters during the Summer).

\* We have a lot of issues associated with invasive marine species in the Gulf of Maine ecosystem. Many of our common intertidal species are exotic species that came from Europe during colonial times. This problem has been exacerbated by more recent invasion (including tunicates out on Georges Bank). The benthic biodiversity on Cape Cod is only a shadow of what existed 50 years ago, even though the causes are poorly understood.

\* The large whale populations in our coastal waters have been diminished and the North Atlantic right whale population is critically endangered. Most of the large whales in New England waters are listed as strategic stocks under the Marine Mammal Protection Act. The role of open water habitat protection/restoration on recovery of these stocks is poorly understood, but is critical to recovery planning.

\* The role of EFH in the recovery of depleted groundfish populations is poorly understood, but the proposed NEFMC Omnibus Habitat Amendment is likely to recommend significant Habitat Areas of Particular Concern (HAPCs) to promote the recovery/conservation of depleted groundfish populations.

#### 4. Resiliency and Adaptation to Climate Change and Ocean Acidification SAP

\* Studies in Narragansett Bay have suggested that ocean climate change has increased zooplankton grazing on phytoplankton during the Winter which has profound impacts on the Spring diatom bloom and the marine food chain (from changes in the sediment/water column nutrient exchanges). Given the mild Winter in New England this year, we are likely to soon find out how widespread this phenomena is. This problem is completely ignored here on Cape Cod in the dialog on restoring our coastal embayments from excess nutrient enrichment. Climate change will obviously exacerbate the problem of dealing with our eutrophication-impacted coastal waters/estuaries.

Our mild Winter and booming zooplankton populations have also lead to an earlier than usual appearance of North Atlantic right whales in Cape Cod Bay ( a critical habitat for this highly endangered species).

\* After participating in this week's EPA Webinar on the Recovery Potential Screening Tool,

I feel that a lot more work needs to be done on coming up with a useful tool for the first milestone on page 56 of the NOP SAP implementation document. The EPA approach is a science-light concept that has little relevance to real world aquatic restoration challenges. The EPA approach is probably correct in assuming a restoration potential indicator needs to combine ecosystem capacity; environmental stressors and human context components. Dr. Les Kaufman (Boston University) and his colleagues have developed the MIDAS/MIMES model of ecosystem services and natural capital in the Gulf of Maine that might be more useful for planning and coordination than the EPA RPS approach. MIDAS: Marine Integrated Decision Analysis System; MIMES: Multiscale Integrated Model for Ecosystem Services.

\* Vulnerability analysis and the coastal inundation models for storms is critical in developing coastal adaptation plans to revise town building codes and enact bylaws to make coastal communities more climate disruption ready. There is something to be said for developing these climate adaptation plans without getting into the controversy about climate change science.

## 5. Water Quality and Sustainable Practices on Land SAP

\* A large percentage (50-60%) of the population in New England lives within 100 miles of the coast, so that land use activities; population size and ecological footprints per household cause a lot of problems in local estuaries/coastal waters (toxic chemicals; nutrient enrichment; habitat loss/degradation; excess harvesting of fish/shellfish; sediment changes; etc.) This is our major environmental challenge in southern New England/southern Maine from my perspective.

\* Pathogens from stormwater discharge leads to beach and shellfish bed closures which negatively effects tourism/recreational/commercial fishing opportunities.

\* Even though we have occasional problems from hypoxia in coastal embayments, most of our coastal waters are well mixed and have wide tidal ranges which makes this an isolated problem compared to other parts of the country.

\* The Gulf of Maine mussel watch program is a good monitoring program for toxic chemicals which is a key environmental problem in more urbanized regions (Long Island Sound; Boston, , Portland area, etc.). Methyl mercury bioaccumulates through the food chain with the regional airshed being the major source (coal fired power plants in the mid-west). Most of the mercury in fish occurs as methyl mercury which can pose seafood health threats/generate consumption advisories for pregnant women and kids (these occur in freshwater ponds on Cape Cod).

\* Harmful algal blooms (red tides) are a major problem in the Gulf of Maine and frequently lead to shellfish bed closures. Since the resting stages of the red tide phytoplankton (Alexandrium) over-Winter in the sediments, this problem has expanded in recent years to Cape Cod and the Islands.

## 6. Coastal and Marine Spatial Planning SAP

\* It should be made clear that the role of the Regional Ocean Councils (ROC) is planning and coordination, not developing an ocean zoning plan for multiple users of the same ocean space (i.e. state/federal government agencies maintain their traditional regulatory oversight roles). The development of ocean wind energy off of our coast has created a lot of skepticism amongst our citizens/media on the use of ocean bottomlands in state/federal jurisdictional waters and the Bureau of Ocean Energy Management State Task Force Planning process. The NOC/ROC process is also top down with limited public engagement because of FACA. In developing the public outreach and advisory committee process the New England ROC needs to use the states (Rhode Island and Massachusetts) as a model and not BOEM (which has created opposition to the development of wind energy in the ocean).

Name: **Mary WoodConstable**

Organization:

Path:

Comment: NOP was created to “ensure the protection, maintenance, and restoration of the health of ocean, coastal, and Great Lakes ecosystems and resources”. Through four key themes, including ecosystem-based management and the best available science and data, the policy outlines action that must be taken to protect marine ecosystems and to encourage sustainable uses of the ocean.

Let’s ensure that the plan is as strong as possible, beginning with better interagency cooperation and more emphasis on activities taking place on the water.

Make a difference for healthy communities, coastal waters within 200 miles, and Great Lakes and practice responsible stewardship by implementing a robust conservation-minded National Ocean Policy now!

---

Name: **Elisabeth Anderson**

Organization:

Path:

Comment: I am writing in absolute support of the National Ocean Policy Implementation Plan. By concentrating on four themes the policy offers an innovative and focused way to ensure success for healthy oceans, coastal areas and Great Lake ecosystems. The health of our waters are of the utmost importance to the future of a healthy planet.

Name: **Michael Bonoff**

Organization:

Path:

Comment: I believe that this Implementation Plan provides new emphasis on two areas previously under represented. The application of sustainable practices have increased the likelihood that harvest goals are set realistically over time. The adoption of regional ecosystem protocols takes into account the variability of marine systems from one eco type to another. The protocols then are more realistic when allowed to reflect local conditions.

Name: **Deborah Chabi**

Organization: Dundee-Crown High School

Path:

Comment: It is absolutely imperative that our water ecosystems are sustained in purity and kept from harm. Involving student researchers in this endeavor to encourage them to pursue science in order to preserve our water systems is of the utmost importance. Water is life to us and the creatures in it necessary for its preservation. We need to protect the water from those wishing to exploit and destroy it.

Name: **Barry Costa-Pierce**

Organization: University of Rhode Island

Path: [http://edit.whitehouse.gov/sites/default/files/webform/bcp\\_comments\\_on\\_draft\\_nopip.pdf](http://edit.whitehouse.gov/sites/default/files/webform/bcp_comments_on_draft_nopip.pdf)

Comment:



*Rhode Island Sea Grant College Program  
University of Rhode Island Narragansett Bay Campus  
Narragansett, RI 02882-1197  
Phone: 401-874-6800 Fax: 401-789-8340  
e-mail: [bcp@gso.uri.edu](mailto:bcp@gso.uri.edu)  
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THE  
UNIVERSITY  
OF RHODE ISLAND



February 25, 2012

Distinguished Chairs and Members  
ORM-IPC and OST-IPC

**RE: Comments on the Draft National Ocean Policy Implementation Plan**

Dear Colleagues,

I appreciate the opportunity to comment on the draft plan of which I believe will bring us forward towards making critical science and policy investments in our oceans that are vital to America's future, both economically and socially.

The Plan outlines six, vital societal themes for an "Ocean Nation", plus provides important overall guidance to the Plan, which is that science information will be used to support emerging sustainable uses of ocean resources including: energy, aquaculture, and biotechnology.

My comments are directed to the neglect of food security as a vital societal theme in the draft Plan, especially in regards to the lack of comprehensive, strategic implementations actions for America's seafood economy, specifically for aquaculture. The Plan does identify some important policy actions necessary to advance aquaculture in America, but there is inadequate national guidance provided on how America's science establishment will provide advanced science information and innovation to support the emerging sustainable development of marine aquaculture.

It is widely recognized that America's food security is endangered by our overdependence on food imports. This is especially so with seafoods, the most nutrient-dense, healthy proteins we can provide to society. Doctors recommend that Americans should be eating at least 8 oz. per week of seafoods, but Americans eat less than one half this amount.

The growth of the middle class in Asia where seafoods are more of a staple source of animal proteins threatens America's seafood security since over 80% of the seafood consumed by Americans is imported, mostly from Asia. Seafood imports adversely impact our economy with

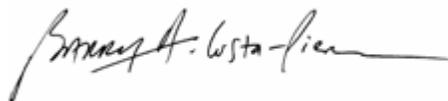
our balance of trade deficit in seafoods running close to \$10 billion, including almost a \$2 billion trade deficit in shrimp alone. Most of the seafoods America imports are cultured on farms which now provide over half of the world's seafood, with production dominated by Asia, especially China. Recently, China's seafood demands - due to its burgeoning middle class - have exceeded its production, and Chinese seafood imports exceeded its exports for the first time. A similar future trend is predicted by 2020 for India, Thailand and Vietnam, all major exporting countries to the U.S.A.

As an American aquaculture scientist I have worked worldwide in aquaculture development for over 35 years in both large-scale and "aquaculture for the poor" programs. In all of these efforts, American aquaculture scientists, agencies, universities, and the USAID were essential partners providing innovation and science-based information to aquaculture developments. But in the USA, aquaculture development has been stymied for many reasons, in my opinion largely by the lack of adequate attention in the federal ocean planning process, and by a poor funding base for environmentally sustainable development. No NSF funding, for example, is allocated to aquaculture, and NOAA invests a paltry sum in comparison with even Vietnam, while the possibilities for developing a new social contract for marine aquaculture in the USA today are at an all time high.

In summary, my recommendations are to: (i) elevate food (seafood) security to one of the major societal themes in this National Ocean Policy Implementation Plan, and (ii) create an ORP or other appropriate study committee on marine aquaculture to provide overall actionable guidance on science, policy and funding needs to more rapidly advance marine aquaculture in the USA.

I appreciate the opportunity to comment on this very important Plan, and offer my great thanks to the many professionals who developed it.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, reading "Barry A. Costa-Pierce". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a long horizontal line extending to the right.

Barry A. Costa-Pierce  
*Director and Professor*

Name: **Beth Wilborn**

Organization:

Path:

Comment: I grew up in Gulfport, Mississippi. My Gulf of Mexico has nealy been destroyed by the BP Oil Disaster. Prevent things like that from happening again. Please be responsible stewards and enact conservation measures that will protect our oceans, river deltas, rivers, and lakes before it is too late.

Name: **Roy Young**

Organization: Nature's Own

Path:

Comment: Inform Decisions and Improve Understanding (pp. 21 -19)

Lacks any focus on ecosystem services or understanding and conservation of biodiversity mentioned in previous chapter. Action 2 Outcomes are all about "uses, uses, uses / fostering economic growth / resource exploitation / commerce."

This section should be renamed "Exploitation of the Marine Environment for Human Benefit." This chapter has little or nothing to do with "Improved Understanding." Why is USGS not listed here?

Action 6: DOE is mostly missing in outcomes and milestones. If we are talking about middle and H.S K - 12 experience and increased ocean literacy where is the in-depth involvement of DOE??

In the chapter "Resiliency and Adaptation to Climate Change and Ocean Acidification" the DOD is listed only once and never in Outcomes or Milestones. (Or, USCG?? or DS??) One sidebar on security issues, then this is ignored. Both CC and OA have huge geopolitical security implications leading from economic and social instability and the displacement of sovereign governments. This is NOT just about low lying coastal military facilities. DOD, USCG and DS need to be networked into this process at the highest levels using their resources cooperatively with all other lead agencies.

The Arctic Chapter is a good beginning, but, whoops, did we somehow forget about the Antarctic?? Similar needs for coordination which is absent in the NOPIP.

Name: **Kitty Hugenschmidt**

Organization:

Path:

Comment: The most critical issues is prevention of pollution from toxic chemicals, and the devastation of Oil Spills. The irresponsibility of the Corporations who cause these things have been proven over and over by themselves. They are not capable of self regulation. Enough with the Carte Blanche for them to Poison Everything and Everybody! If you would not want your own Children's lives to be victimized by this, then PROTECT US ALL!

Name: **Jenny Bramlette**

Organization:

Path:

Comment: Dear Chairs Sutley and Holdren and National Ocean Council Members: The recently released Draft National Ocean Policy Implementation Plan is a giant step forward in advancing the National Ocean Policy and helping to create healthier oceans and coasts and stronger economies for our coastal communities. The Plan shows great strength in providing a cohesive framework for National Ocean Policy implementation and being an action-oriented plan that provides for government accountability. As you move to finalize this plan, please consider the following recommendations: Protecting, maintaining and restoring the health of our oceans, coasts and Great Lakes must be of primary importance with an emphasis to achieve conservation milestones that can provide immediate ecological benefit such as the protection and restoration of coastal and marine habitat for priority species; Ensure the plan does not overlook needed new actions and does not only propose existing government plans and programs; Produce an implementation status report every two years that notes progress on reaching ecological indicators and the actions and milestones in the Plan; and Fully utilize existing legal authorities to implement the National Ocean Policy. The National Ocean Council should also prioritize needed funding for regional ocean partnerships in those regions which are best prepared to begin regional planning bodies and convene stakeholder participation. Regional ocean partnerships can create the best value of scarce federal funding by bringing federal, state, tribal, scientific and non-governmental entities together to start to address ocean management challenges. The National Ocean Policy is founded on sound science, an inclusive and transparent public and stakeholder engagement process, the protection of habitat and wildlife populations, and encourages government at all levels to work together. The Draft Implementation Plan reflects over two years worth of hard work, investment and commitment made by state governments, commercial and industrial ocean users, universities and scientists, 27 federal agencies and departments and tens of thousands of citizens across the country to move our oceans toward better ocean management. I urge the National Ocean Council to operationalize the National Ocean Policy as soon as possible through this Implementation Plan with the goal of creating the enduring environmental stewardship of our ocean, coastal and Great Lakes ecosystems.

Name: **Manuel Almira**

Organization: Florida Ocean Alliance

Path: [http://edit.whitehouse.gov/sites/default/files/webform/foa\\_comments\\_to\\_noc\\_exec\\_summary.pdf](http://edit.whitehouse.gov/sites/default/files/webform/foa_comments_to_noc_exec_summary.pdf)

Comment: Attached is a comment letter from the Florida Ocean Alliance and an Executive Summary of a report on ocean management released by the Florida Ocean Alliance in 2011. The report (“Oceans of Opportunity”) referenced in the letter will be sent separately via regular mail since it too large to be submitted online. It can also be accessed at the Alliance website [www.floridaoceanalliance.org](http://www.floridaoceanalliance.org). 



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**Board Members**

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*Florida Ports Council*

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*Florida Sea Grant College Program*

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*FL Shore & Beach Preservation Assoc.*

**Ken Haddad, Retired**  
*FL Fish & Wildlife Conservation Com.*

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*Marine Industries Assoc. of So. Florida*

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*International Game Fish Association*

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*FAU Harbor Branch Oceanographic Institute*

**R. Steven Lewis, Esq.**  
*Lewis, Longman & Walker, P.A.*

**Kumar Mahadevan, Ph.D.**  
*Mote Marine Laboratory*

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*Walt Disney Parks & Resorts*

**Megan Stolen**  
*Hubbs-Sea World Research Institute*

**R. Bruce Taylor, Ph.D., P.E.**  
*Taylor Engineering*

**Lenore Alpert, Ph.D. (Exec. Director)**

February 24, 2012

National Ocean Council  
722 Jackson Place, NW  
Washington, D. C. 20503

Re: Comments on National Ocean Policy Implementation Plan

The Florida Ocean Alliance respectfully submits comments on the National Ocean Policy Draft Implementation Plan prepared by the National Ocean Council. We applaud the National Ocean Council for this ocean management initiative and want to ensure the potential for its success as it is implemented in the coastal states.

The Florida Ocean Alliance is a nonpartisan, nonprofit organization dedicated to bringing together the private sector, academia, nonprofit research organizations and environmental groups to protect and enhance Florida's ocean and coastal resources for continued social and economic benefits. Our membership is broad and inclusive, providing a healthy stakeholder perspective on the Draft Plan. We believe that increased stakeholder involvement at the state and local level is not only critical but that it will also significantly increase the chances for success of this Plan. Over the past three years, the Florida Ocean Alliance has raised the ocean management issue within the state of Florida. Our latest report ("Oceans of Opportunity") is attached to this letter and contains specific recommendations for involving stakeholders in this effort. We also wish to urge the Council to include Florida as one region, rather than splitting it into two parts between the southeast and the Gulf regions. While Florida borders both the Gulf of Mexico and Atlantic Ocean, it is counterproductive to split it between two regions, instead of focusing on the integration of ocean policy within the state. This includes the unified treatment of ocean observing, mapping and infrastructure. The state deserves special recognition for its lengthy coastline, and should either be a new region or contained as a whole within an existing region. Lastly, it is critical to provide for funding if this Plan is to be successfully implemented.

Thank you for considering our comments. We wish you success in your efforts towards implementation.

Sincerely,

Manuel Almira  
Chair

attachment

## Background

Coastal and ocean spatial planning is an essential first step for Florida to become a national and global leader in marine industry development, emergency planning and response and natural resource asset protection. The Florida Ocean Alliance (FOA) recommends that Florida be proactive in developing a comprehensive plan for use and protection of its oceans to leverage emerging opportunities for industry diversification, cluster development and job creation, while preserving the long-term integrity of natural systems. FOA members represent ocean-related industries in tourism, ports, shipping, fishing, boating, cruising, technology, as well as scientific research organizations, academic institutions and public interest groups.



"Florida's beaches are the reason that tourists visit our coasts to enjoy Florida's clear waters, pristine sands and beautiful sunshine. Tourism is rebounding in Florida in 2010 and 2011, and the beaches of St. Petersburg and Clearwater demonstrate how critical this sector is to the state's economic well-being. Our beaches alone produce \$2.8 billion in economic impact to the state's economy, with \$88 million in state and local taxes."

*DT Minich, Executive Director of the St. Petersburg/Clearwater Convention and Visitors Bureau*

Emerging opportunities for job creation and sustained economic growth are associated with Florida's coastal oceans. These opportunities include oil and gas exploration and production, energy from wind and currents, offshore aquaculture, mineral mining, applied research and technology development and opportunities created by expansion of Florida's coastal and ocean observing system. As these opportunities

arise, so do the potential conflicts they create with existing activities and the need for healthy oceans. It is widely acknowledged that the nation's oceans are being overwhelmed with increasing demands and competing activities, ranging from renewable energy to aquaculture, new activities that present conflicts with more traditional uses of the oceans for fishing, recreational boating and shipping. To encourage the development of new ocean industries in Florida and ensure that current uses and resources are managed sustainably, the state needs a plan for use of its ocean waters, just as it has for its land. Florida's economic, environmental and social well-being depends on it.

"Florida will recover from its economic downturn. With the use of marine spatial planning to develop new uses of the oceans and enhance existing uses for better economic gain, we can hasten such recovery while ensuring sustainable benefits from our ocean resources."

*Michael W. Sole, former Secretary of the Florida Department of Environmental Protection*



Our oceans and coasts drive our economy. In Florida, oceans and coasts generate a total of almost \$562 billion in cash flow and hundreds of thousands of jobs.<sup>1</sup> Directly related to the ocean are over 500,000 jobs and over \$13 billion in wages, for a total contribution of \$25 billion to Florida's total gross domestic product.<sup>2</sup> These varied uses are "often incompatible not only with one another, but also with

<sup>1</sup>National Ocean Economics Project. *Phase II, Facts and Figures: Florida's Ocean and Coastal Economies Report*. (2008). Monterey Bay Aquarium Research Institute for Florida Oceans and Coastal Council. Available at <http://www.floridaoceanalliance.org>

<sup>2</sup>Ibid.

the need to protect what remains of fragile marine ecosystems.<sup>3</sup> As a result, governments are redesigning regulatory strategies to accommodate and coordinate multiple uses of oceans, relying on coastal and marine spatial planning. While these changes challenge Florida's policymakers to make wise choices on the use of oceans, they also provide great promise for the state's economic rebound.

"Florida's cruise industry attracts millions of passengers to the state every year, with five cruise ports, including several of the leading ports in the world: Port of Miami, Port Everglades, Port Canaveral, Port of Tampa and Port of Jacksonville. Cruise lines contribute \$5.8 billion in direct spending and 115,093 jobs, with wages of nearly \$4.9 billion for Florida workers. Onshore visits produce an estimated \$784 million in spending from 7.6 million passengers and crew." *Bob Sharak, Executive Vice President of Marketing and Distribution, Cruise Lines International Association*

As the state's economy begins regaining lost ground, marine spatial planning can help guide policymakers to better develop its ocean resources in an effective and efficient way. Activities related to ocean management are ongoing and the needs will only increase in the near future. Several important developments at the state and federal level have brought ocean management to the forefront of policymaking. Florida's legislative activity is moving parallel to the federal initiative for a new national ocean policy and final recommendations released in 2010 by the Interagency Ocean Policy Task Force and announced in President Obama's Executive Order.<sup>4</sup> The order establishes a National Ocean Council to direct implementation by executive agencies and specifically calls for marine spatial planning on a regional level to enhance planning and management of the nation's oceans and coasts. Regional Advisory Committees will help regional planning bodies develop regional plans.<sup>5</sup> The National Ocean Council is developing Strategic Action Plans to achieve nine priority objectives, and draft plans will be released in the summer of 2011. In February 2011, the President appointed a Governance Coordinating Committee to manage ocean policy issues and assist the National Ocean Council in soliciting input from local

stakeholders and government. Commissioner Kristin Jacobs of Broward County, Florida, has been appointed to the Coordinating Committee, along with 12 other committee members from across the nation. This activity demonstrates progress on marine spatial planning in the federal arena.

"Maritime activities at Florida's ports generate more than 550,000 direct and indirect jobs and \$66 billion in total economic value, including \$1.7 billion in state and local tax revenues. In addition, every dollar invested in ports yields nearly \$7 to the state's economy. Add in the opportunities with the Panama Canal expansion, and I think it is clear that Florida's seaports have much to offer when it comes to assisting with recovery of the state's economy."

*Doug Wheeler, President of the Florida Ports Council*



At the state level, a report was issued by the Florida Select Policy Council on Strategic and Economic Planning, Florida House of Representatives, in April 2010,<sup>6</sup> assessing the main risks to the state of oil and gas development in Florida's coastal waters. The number one recommendation from this risk reduction study is that "Integrated maritime planning and management is critical to reducing risks from prospective oil and gas activities."<sup>7</sup> In 2010, the Florida Legislature appropriated \$250,000 to develop a web mapping tool to track natural resources and activity in the oceans as a means to aid the state in coastal and marine spatial planning. This appropriation marks the beginning of data collection essential for marine spatial planning. The Florida Oceans and Coastal Council, charged with developing priorities for ocean and coastal research, recommended ocean management using marine spatial planning and assessment to achieve ecosystem-based management

<sup>3</sup> "A plan for the ocean." *Nature* 465 (May 6, 2010) 9.

<sup>4</sup> Executive Order 13547—Stewardship of the Oceans, Our Coasts and the Great Lakes, July 19, 2010, and White House Council on Environmental Quality, *Final Recommendations of the Interagency Ocean Policy Task Force*, July 19, 2010.

<sup>5</sup> *Ibid.*, Sections 4, 8.

<sup>6</sup> Florida Select Policy Council on Strategic and Economic Planning, Florida House of Representatives, *Florida Gulf Coast Oil and Gas Risk Assessment*. Prepared by Willis Structured Risk Solutions, April 9, 2010.

<sup>7</sup> *Ibid.*, p. 6.



in their 2011-2012 research priorities. A Florida Marine Spatial Plan can be used as a framework to guide decision-making that protects and expands the state's ocean and coastal economy. The marine spatial planning process will include opportunities to diversify industries and create jobs as part of a sustainable ocean and coastal economy.

"Florida's coastal and ocean economies are extremely important. Florida is a significant leader in that almost 80% of Florida's economic activity occurs in the 35 coastal counties. Considering industry groups in Florida that depend completely on the ocean's resources, tourism and recreation generates 72% of all economic activity, and marine transportation generates 18%. These same two industry groups contribute 15% and 10%, respectively, to the US ocean dependent economic activity."

*Dr. James Cato, Professor Emeritus, University of Florida*

### Response of the Florida Ocean Alliance

To ensure that Florida becomes a national and global leader in coastal ocean economic development and the protection of natural resource assets, the Florida Ocean Alliance recognizes that comprehensive coastal and marine spatial planning is urgently needed in Florida. The Florida Ocean Alliance is uniquely positioned to help develop the case for coastal and marine spatial planning as a response to escalating activity surrounding uses of Florida's ocean and coastal assets. For over three years, the Florida Ocean Alliance has championed the need to improve how oceans and coasts are managed in Florida. The organization has held three Oceans Day Workshops on this topic, in 2009, 2010, and 2011. Three reports were issued: "Oceans of Opportunity: Managing Future Uses of Florida's Ocean Spaces," "Florida's Journey Towards Marine Spatial Planning" and "Moving Ahead: The Next Step in Ocean Management for Florida."<sup>8</sup> These reports provide a foundation for understanding why ocean management in Florida waters has importance to the state as well as national and global importance and summarize recent activity in this area. The need to balance the economic value of Florida's ocean and coastal resources with their use and conservation is also highlighted and is consistent with the current and future energy needs of the state.

### Conclusion

A sea change is underway in state and national policy that may significantly impact Florida's oceans and coasts. That policy shift has signaled an economic transition for the nation, from an economy based on fossil fuels and foreign oil to one based on domestic fuels and clean energy. The state needs a Coastal and Marine Spatial Plan to guide the prioritization of resources in state waters and to help direct activity in federal waters. Coastal and marine spatial planning is critical to adequately address and protect Florida's resources, stakeholder needs, potential stakeholder conflicts, the risks involved and emergency response actions for the state and its citizens.

### Description of the Florida Ocean Alliance

The Florida Ocean Alliance is a nonpartisan, nonprofit organization dedicated to protecting and enhancing Florida's coastal and ocean resources for continued social and economic benefits. Its members represent ocean-related industries in tourism, ports, shipping, fishing, boating and cruising, as well as those from nonprofit research organizations, academia and public interest groups. The Florida Ocean Alliance is committed to positioning Florida as an international leader in integrating ocean conservation, education and responsible economic development.



<sup>8</sup> *Oceans of Opportunity: Managing Future Uses of Florida's Ocean Spaces* (2011, forthcoming), *Florida's Journey Towards Marine Spatial Planning* (2010) and *Moving Ahead: The Next Step in Ocean Management for Florida*. (2009). Florida Ocean Alliance. Ft. Lauderdale, Florida. Available at <http://www.floridaoceanalliance.org>



## Recommendations

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The Florida Ocean Alliance respectfully submits the following recommendations to foster the dialogue on coastal and marine spatial planning in Florida. These recommendations are based on discussions at the Florida Oceans Day Workshop held in Tallahassee on March 22, 2011.

### Recommendation 1

A Marine Spatial Plan for Florida should be initiated immediately, consistent with reports by the Florida House of Representatives and the Florida Senate in 2010 that recommended proceeding with marine spatial planning. The marine spatial planning process should consider opportunities for industry diversification and job creation as a component of a robust and sustainable ocean and coastal economy.

### Recommendation 2

The Florida Ocean Alliance and the ocean science community applaud the recent appropriation by the Florida Legislature to provide start-up funding to initiate marine spatial planning. The state appropriation is a positive step, but additional funding will be required to complete the process. Adequate funding should be secured to pursue and complete this marine spatial planning process, either with federal, state, or private sector funding, or some combination of these source funds. The Legislature should ask the Florida Oceans and Coastal Council to collaborate with the Florida Department of Environmental Protection and the Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission in developing a 2012 work plan for proceeding with marine spatial planning in Florida waters, with external funding from private or public sources.

### Recommendation 3

The Governor and Legislature, singly or in concert, should take a leadership role in the marine spatial planning process by convening a body of ocean and coastal stakeholders immediately. This body should include Florida's ocean industries (including both traditional and new uses), state and federal government agency representatives, ocean research scientists in Florida, non-governmental organizations, and representatives of the public to help advise the state as it develops a Marine Spatial Plan.

### Recommendation 4

The ocean stakeholder group should be charged with developing an inventory of the state's ocean management issues and begin the process of spatially prioritizing the uses of Florida's ocean and coastal assets. This should include analysis of data, uses, services, and impacts. The group should develop and evaluate future spatial management scenarios and tradeoffs. They should also coordinate actions with the National Ocean Council and regional bodies as they begin the process of federal implementation of MSP in Florida's offshore waters. The state should cooperate with neighboring states in the Gulf of Mexico and the South Atlantic region and the federal government in implementing plans in the President's Executive Order.

### Recommendation 5

A communication plan should be developed immediately to target interested groups of ocean users and engage them in the marine spatial planning process. Information should be provided in a consistent and transparent manner so ocean and coastal stakeholders can work together with both insight and foresight to plan for Florida's ocean and coastal future. It is critical to engage stakeholders and the public at key points in the process so that future implementation has addressed their concerns earlier in the process.

"Our oceans and coasts drive our state economy. We have an opportunity for careful and planned use of ocean spaces in Florida to maximize economic benefits to the state and nation. There is a need to balance the growing demands for conflicting ocean uses with the public's use and stewardship of its ocean resources." *Kumar Mahadevan, President and CEO of Mote Marine Laboratory*



Name: **Joe Salazar**

Organization:

Path:

Comment: Dear Chairs Sutley and Holdren and National Ocean Council Members:

The recently released Draft National Ocean Policy Implementation Plan is a giant step forward in advancing the National Ocean Policy and helping to create healthier oceans and coasts and stronger economies for our coastal communities. The Plan shows great strength in providing a cohesive framework for National Ocean Policy implementation and being an action-oriented plan that provides for government accountability. As you move to finalize this plan, please consider the following recommendations:

Protecting, maintaining and restoring the health of our oceans, coasts and Great Lakes must be of primary importance with an emphasis to achieve conservation milestones that can provide immediate ecological benefit such as the protection and restoration of coastal and marine habitat for priority species;

Ensure the plan does not overlook needed new actions and does not only propose existing government plans and programs;

Produce an implementation status report every two years that notes progress on reaching ecological indicators and the actions and milestones in the Plan; and

Fully utilize existing legal authorities to implement the National Ocean Policy.

The National Ocean Council should also prioritize needed funding for regional ocean partnerships in those regions which are best prepared to begin regional planning bodies and convene stakeholder participation. Regional ocean partnerships can create the best value of scarce federal funding by bringing federal, state, tribal, scientific and non-governmental entities together to start to address ocean management challenges.

The National Ocean Policy is founded on sound science, an inclusive and transparent public and stakeholder engagement process, the protection of habitat and wildlife populations, and encourages government at all levels to work together. The Draft Implementation Plan reflects over two years worth of hard work, investment and commitment made by state governments, commercial and industrial ocean users, universities and scientists, 27 federal agencies and departments and tens of thousands of citizens across the country to move our oceans toward better ocean management. I urge the National Ocean Council to operationalize the National Ocean Policy as soon as possible through this Implementation Plan with the goal of creating the enduring environmental stewardship of our ocean, coastal and Great Lakes ecosystems.

Name: **Edith Coleman**

Organization:

Path:

Comment: Many thanks to Representative [YOUR REP'S NAME] who recently stood up for our nation's wildlife and wild places by voting against a fiscally irresponsible plan to fund the Transportation Bill with highly speculative revenue from opening the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge's coastal plain and some of our most sensitive coastal waters to oil and gas drilling.

Sadly, the plan that will open the refuge and our coasts to exploitation by the oil companies still managed to pass the House of Representatives even though any revenue that might come from production in the Arctic would not be seen for at least ten years.

If this bill is not stopped, all 1.5 million acres of the biologically rich Arctic National Wildlife Refuge's coastal plain, and almost every acre of our coasts including along the Atlantic and Pacific coasts, protected areas of the Eastern Gulf of Mexico and Alaska's Bristol Bay will be open for drilling.

Name: **Eric Ziecheck**

Organization:

Path: <http://edit.whitehouse.gov/sites/default/files/webform/earthcharter.pdf>

Comment: Earth Charter, Precautionary Principle, Sharing and Caring for Future Generations. We can do it, please protect and support the oceans! Thank you.....

# The Earth Charter



## PREAMBLE

We stand at a critical moment in Earth's history, a time when humanity must choose its future. As the world becomes increasingly interdependent and fragile, the future at once holds great peril and great promise. To move forward we must recognize that in the midst of a magnificent diversity of cultures and life forms we are one human family and one Earth community with a common destiny. We must join together to bring forth a sustainable global society founded on respect for nature, universal human rights, economic justice, and a culture of peace. Towards this end, it is imperative that we, the peoples of Earth, declare our responsibility to one another, to the greater community of life, and to future generations.

### Earth, Our Home

Humanity is part of a vast evolving universe. Earth, our home, is alive with a unique community of life. The forces of nature make existence a demanding and uncertain adventure, but Earth has provided the conditions essential to life's evolution. The resilience of the community of life and the well-being of humanity depend upon preserving a healthy biosphere with all its ecological systems, a rich variety of plants and animals, fertile soils, pure waters, and clean air. The global environment with its finite resources is a common concern of all peoples. The protection of Earth's vitality, diversity, and beauty is a sacred trust.

### The Global Situation

The dominant patterns of production and consumption are causing environmental devastation, the depletion of resources, and a massive extinction of species. Communities are being undermined. The benefits of development are not shared equitably and the gap between rich and poor is widening. Injustice, poverty, ignorance, and violent conflict are widespread and the cause of great suffering. An unprecedented rise in human population has overburdened ecological and social systems. The foundations of global security are threatened. These trends are perilous—but not inevitable.

### The Challenges Ahead

The choice is ours: form a global partnership to care for Earth and one another or risk the destruction of ourselves and the diversity of life. Fundamental changes are needed in our values, institutions, and ways of living. We must realize that when basic needs have been met, human development is primarily about being more, not having more. We have the knowledge and technology to provide for all and to reduce our impacts on the environment. The emergence of a global civil society is creating new opportunities to build a democratic and humane world. Our environmental, economic, political, social, and spiritual challenges are interconnected, and together we can forge inclusive solutions.

### Universal Responsibility

To realize these aspirations, we must decide to live with a sense of universal responsibility, identifying ourselves with the whole Earth community as well as our local communities. We are at once citizens of different nations and of one world in which the local and global are linked. Everyone shares responsibility for the present and future well-being of the human family and the larger living world. The spirit of human solidarity and kinship with all life is strengthened when we live with reverence for the mystery of being, gratitude for the gift of life, and humility regarding the human place in nature.

We urgently need a shared vision of basic values to provide an ethical foundation for the emerging world community. Therefore, together in hope we affirm the following interdependent principles for a sustainable way of life as a common standard by which the conduct of all individuals, organizations, businesses, governments, and transnational institutions is to be guided and assessed.

## PRINCIPLES

### I. RESPECT AND CARE FOR THE COMMUNITY OF LIFE

#### 1. Respect Earth and life in all its diversity.

- a. Recognize that all beings are interdependent and every form of life has value regardless of its worth to human beings.
- b. Affirm faith in the inherent dignity of all human beings and in the intellectual, artistic, ethical, and spiritual potential of humanity.

#### 2. Care for the community of life with understanding, compassion, and love.

- a. Accept that with the right to own, manage, and use natural resources comes the duty to prevent environmental harm and to protect the rights of people.
- b. Affirm that with increased freedom, knowledge, and power comes increased responsibility to promote the common good.

#### 3. Build democratic societies that are just, participatory, sustainable, and peaceful.

- a. Ensure that communities at all levels guarantee human rights and fundamental freedoms and provide everyone an opportunity to realize his or her full potential.
- b. Promote social and economic justice, enabling all to achieve a secure and meaningful livelihood that is ecologically responsible.

#### 4. Secure Earth's bounty and beauty for present and future generations.

- a. Recognize that the freedom of action of each generation is qualified by the needs of future generations.
- b. Transmit to future generations values, traditions, and institutions that support the long-term flourishing of Earth's human and ecological communities.

In order to fulfill these four broad commitments, it is necessary to:

## II. ECOLOGICAL INTEGRITY

### **5. Protect and restore the integrity of Earth's ecological systems, with special concern for biological diversity and the natural processes that sustain life.**

- a. Adopt at all levels sustainable development plans and regulations that make environmental conservation and rehabilitation integral to all development initiatives.
- b. Establish and safeguard viable nature and biosphere reserves, including wild lands and marine areas, to protect Earth's life support systems, maintain biodiversity, and preserve our natural heritage.
- c. Promote the recovery of endangered species and ecosystems.
- d. Control and eradicate non-native or genetically modified organisms harmful to native species and the environment, and prevent introduction of such harmful organisms.
- e. Manage the use of renewable resources such as water, soil, forest products, and marine life in ways that do not exceed rates of regeneration and that protect the health of ecosystems.
- f. Manage the extraction and use of non-renewable resources such as minerals and fossil fuels in ways that minimize depletion and cause no serious environmental damage.

### **6. Prevent harm as the best method of environmental protection and, when knowledge is limited, apply a precautionary approach.**

- a. Take action to avoid the possibility of serious or irreversible environmental harm even when scientific knowledge is incomplete or inconclusive.
- b. Place the burden of proof on those who argue that a proposed activity will not cause significant harm, and make the responsible parties liable for environmental harm.
- c. Ensure that decision making addresses the cumulative, long-term, indirect, long distance, and global consequences of human activities.
- d. Prevent pollution of any part of the environment and allow no build-up of radioactive, toxic, or other hazardous substances.
- e. Avoid military activities damaging to the environment.

### **7. Adopt patterns of production, consumption, and reproduction that safeguard Earth's regenerative capacities, human rights, and community well-being.**

- a. Reduce, reuse, and recycle the materials used in production and consumption systems, and ensure that residual waste can be assimilated by ecological systems.
- b. Act with restraint and efficiency when using energy, and rely increasingly on renewable energy sources such as solar and wind.
- c. Promote the development, adoption, and equitable transfer of environmentally sound technologies.
- d. Internalize the full environmental and social costs of goods and services in the selling price, and enable consumers to identify products that meet the highest social and environmental standards.
- e. Ensure universal access to health care that fosters reproductive health and responsible reproduction.
- f. Adopt lifestyles that emphasize the quality of life and material sufficiency in a finite world.

### **8. Advance the study of ecological sustainability and promote the open exchange and wide application of the knowledge acquired.**

- a. Support international scientific and technical cooperation on sustainability, with special attention to the needs of developing nations.
- b. Recognize and preserve the traditional knowledge and spiritual wisdom in all cultures that contribute to environmental protection and human well-being.
- c. Ensure that information of vital importance to human health and environmental protection, including genetic information, remains available in the public domain.

### III. SOCIAL AND ECONOMIC JUSTICE

#### **9. Eradicate poverty as an ethical, social, and environmental imperative.**

- a. Guarantee the right to potable water, clean air, food security, uncontaminated soil, shelter, and safe sanitation, allocating the national and international resources required.
- b. Empower every human being with the education and resources to secure a sustainable livelihood, and provide social security and safety nets for those who are unable to support themselves.
- c. Recognize the ignored, protect the vulnerable, serve those who suffer, and enable them to develop their capacities and to pursue their aspirations.

#### **10. Ensure that economic activities and institutions at all levels promote human development in an equitable and sustainable manner.**

- a. Promote the equitable distribution of wealth within nations and among nations.
- b. Enhance the intellectual, financial, technical, and social resources of developing nations, and relieve them of onerous international debt.
- c. Ensure that all trade supports sustainable resource use, environmental protection, and progressive labor standards.
- d. Require multinational corporations and international financial organizations to act transparently in the public good, and hold them accountable for the consequences of their activities.

#### **11. Affirm gender equality and equity as prerequisites to sustainable development and ensure universal access to education, health care, and economic opportunity.**

- a. Secure the human rights of women and girls and end all violence against them.
- b. Promote the active participation of women in all aspects of economic, political, civil, social, and cultural life as full and equal partners, decision makers, leaders, and beneficiaries.
- c. Strengthen families and ensure the safety and loving nurture of all family members.

#### **12. Uphold the right of all, without discrimination, to a natural and social environment supportive of human dignity, bodily health, and spiritual well-being, with special attention to the rights of indigenous peoples and minorities.**

- a. Eliminate discrimination in all its forms, such as that based on race, color, sex, sexual orientation, religion, language, and national, ethnic or social origin.
- b. Affirm the right of indigenous peoples to their spirituality, knowledge, lands and resources and to their related practice of sustainable livelihoods.
- c. Honor and support the young people of our communities, enabling them to fulfill their essential role in creating sustainable societies.
- d. Protect and restore outstanding places of cultural and spiritual significance.

## IV. DEMOCRACY, NONVIOLENCE, AND PEACE

### **13. Strengthen democratic institutions at all levels, and provide transparency and accountability in governance, inclusive participation in decision making, and access to justice.**

- a. Uphold the right of everyone to receive clear and timely information on environmental matters and all development plans and activities which are likely to affect them or in which they have an interest.
- b. Support local, regional and global civil society, and promote the meaningful participation of all interested individuals and organizations in decision making.
- c. Protect the rights to freedom of opinion, expression, peaceful assembly, association, and dissent.
- d. Institute effective and efficient access to administrative and independent judicial procedures, including remedies and redress for environmental harm and the threat of such harm.
- e. Eliminate corruption in all public and private institutions.
- f. Strengthen local communities, enabling them to care for their environments, and assign environmental responsibilities to the levels of government where they can be carried out most effectively.

### **14. Integrate into formal education and life-long learning the knowledge, values, and skills needed for a sustainable way of life.**

- a. Provide all, especially children and youth, with educational opportunities that empower them to contribute actively to sustainable development.
- b. Promote the contribution of the arts and humanities as well as the sciences in sustainability education.
- c. Enhance the role of the mass media in raising awareness of ecological and social challenges.
- d. Recognize the importance of moral and spiritual education for sustainable living.

### **15. Treat all living beings with respect and consideration.**

- a. Prevent cruelty to animals kept in human societies and protect them from suffering.
- b. Protect wild animals from methods of hunting, trapping, and fishing that cause extreme, prolonged, or avoidable suffering.
- c. Avoid or eliminate to the full extent possible the taking or destruction of non-targeted species.

### **16. Promote a culture of tolerance, nonviolence, and peace.**

- a. Encourage and support mutual understanding, solidarity, and cooperation among all peoples and within and among nations.
- b. Implement comprehensive strategies to prevent violent conflict and use collaborative problem solving to manage and resolve environmental conflicts and other disputes.
- c. Demilitarize national security systems to the level of a non-provocative defense posture, and convert military resources to peaceful purposes, including ecological restoration.
- d. Eliminate nuclear, biological, and toxic weapons and other weapons of mass destruction.
- e. Ensure that the use of orbital and outer space supports environmental protection and peace.
- f. Recognize that peace is the wholeness created by right relationships with oneself, other persons, other cultures, other life, Earth, and the larger whole of which all are a part.

## THE WAY FORWARD

As never before in history, common destiny beckons us to seek a new beginning. Such renewal is the promise of these Earth Charter principles. To fulfill this promise, we must commit ourselves to adopt and promote the values and objectives of the Charter.

This requires a change of mind and heart. It requires a new sense of global interdependence and universal responsibility. We must imaginatively develop and apply the vision of a sustainable way of life locally, nationally, regionally, and globally. Our cultural diversity is a precious heritage and different cultures will find their own distinctive ways to realize the vision. We must deepen and expand the global dialogue that generated the Earth Charter, for we have much to learn from the ongoing collaborative search for truth and wisdom.

Life often involves tensions between important values. This can mean difficult choices. However, we must find ways to harmonize diversity with unity, the exercise of freedom with the common good, short-term objectives with long-term goals. Every individual, family, organization, and community has a vital role to play. The arts, sciences, religions, educational institutions, media, businesses, nongovernmental organizations, and governments are all called to offer creative leadership. The partnership of government, civil society, and business is essential for effective governance.

In order to build a sustainable global community, the nations of the world must renew their commitment to the United Nations, fulfill their obligations under existing international agreements, and support the implementation of Earth Charter principles with an international legally binding instrument on environment and development.

Let ours be a time remembered for the awakening of a new reverence for life, the firm resolve to achieve sustainability, the quickening of the struggle for justice and peace, and the joyful celebration of life.

Name: **Roy Young**

Organization: Nature's Own

Path:

Comment: The NOP is a disturbing document in many ways. I will continue the mistakes of a wholly US centric policy. Despite emphasis on EBM, there is no mention of Canada or Russia in any form of active collaboration or cooperation in the Arctic. There seems to be no recognition of the oceans, let alone the Arctic, as the great "Global Commons" nor any strategy for addressing transboundary issues. This is a failure of vision and leadership. How can we attain a meaningful Arctic policy without Canada? Without Russia?

On a careful second reading, I fear that the NOPP is set up to fail. Much talk of ECM but barely a mention of the need to address biodiversity issues. More talk of Ecosystem Services in the context of commerce and "uses."

This is the problem, the ocean ecosystems have been over utilized and exploited, not under-used. Aquaculture will not lift our economy. EBM needs detailed study to identify complex synergies in ocean systems or we will fail in our commitment to sustainability.

The NOPP lacks passion and a clear vision for moving forward. It portrays a grab bag of agencies, special interests and competing agendas. The NOC lacks a clear attainable mandate and the funding to "knock heads" and pull agencies together.

This is not a holistic document. We have expended more effort and money on the moon than we have in the study and understanding of ocean systems on this planet. If the NOPP goes no further than the narrow confines of the RPB's, it will lose the hopeful mandate with which it began. We recognize a globalized economy which interconnects our different cultures. It is time to stop pretending that the ocean stops at our shoreline and our national EEZ. As we lose or degrade parts of our ocean systems anywhere on the planet, we will eventually lose the source of life which sustains us all.

Name: **Barbara Clark**

Organization:

Path:

Comment: Dear Chairs Sutley, Holdren, and National Ocean Council Members:

I would like to share my support for National Ocean Policy draft Implementation Plan. As an outdoor enthusiast from the Pacific Northwest, I believe that a strong Implementation Plan will help protect marine ecosystems and encourage sustainable ocean uses, including recreation and tourism.

The draft National Ocean Policy Implementation Plan establishes a strong blueprint for taking action and fostering agency coordination to sustain our ocean, coastal and Great Lakes resources. The draft plan has successfully incorporated the needs and concerns of governmental, non-profit, and commercial groups and provides clarifying details to improve accountability and monitor progress toward improved ocean management. Frequent notations on how implementing actions are related to one another provide confidence that activities will be coordinated and make good use of limited resources.

Nonetheless, the plan could be improved to achieve even more progress. It should more fully utilize all available authorities for habitat protection and management. Many of the milestones could be extended beyond cataloging and planning to include action, with tangible, on-the-water activities. Regional need, support, and capacity should guide where coordinated actions should first take place. Federal agencies must continue to ask for input from other levels of the government and the public and incorporate this new information into implementation of the plan.

With these additions, President Obama's Implementation Plan will provide a better guide for achieving the goals of protecting, maintaining, and restoring the nation's oceans, coasts, and Great Lakes and ensuring resilient coastal economies. I look forward to the release of the final plan and hope to see policy translated into action on the water soon.

Sincerely,

Barbara Clark  
Bainbridge Island, WA 98110

Name: **bill nierstedt**

Organization: citizen

Path:

Comment: I urge you to ensure that our country's ocean policy makes a difference for healthy communities located within 200 miles of coastal waters and the Great Lakes. Just as the oceans are believed to be where 'it all began', oceans are also a key to our survival. We cannot let them be further degraded, or we ourselves will become further degraded due to their loss. I urge the National Ocean Council to practice responsible stewardship and to implement a robust conservation-minded National Ocean Policy. Not a development, or oil drilling first ocean policy.

# NATIONAL OCEAN COUNCIL

Name: **Christopher Lish**

Organization:

Path: [http://edit.whitehouse.gov/sites/default/files/webform/120226\\_national\\_ocean\\_policy\\_implementation\\_plan.doc](http://edit.whitehouse.gov/sites/default/files/webform/120226_national_ocean_policy_implementation_plan.doc)

Comment: Please see attached document.

Sunday, February 26, 2012

Subject: Strengthen the National Ocean Policy Implementation Plan

Dear National Ocean Council Chairs Nancy Sutley and John Holdren,

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on the Draft National Ocean Policy Implementation Plan (NOP), which establishes a decent blueprint for taking action and fostering agency coordination to sustain our ocean, coastal, and Great Lakes resources. The draft NOP has successfully incorporated the needs and concerns of governmental, non-profit, and commercial groups and provides clarifying details to improve accountability and monitor progress toward improved ocean management. Frequent notations on how implementing actions are related to one another provides confidence that activities will be coordinated to make good use of limited resources. I appreciate your leadership in establishing an ocean policy and draft implementation plan, and I encourage you to continue that leadership by maintaining and strengthening the conservation provisions within the NOP. I support the NOP as it provides the foundation for an effective and efficient framework for a new approach to managing the ocean, coastal, and Great Lakes natural resources for present and future generations.

“Our duty to the whole, including to the unborn generations, bids us to restrain an unprincipled present-day minority from wasting the heritage of these unborn generations. The movement for the conservation of wildlife and the larger movement for the conservation of all our natural resources are essentially democratic in spirit, purpose and method.”

-- Theodore Roosevelt

The abundance of resources, natural beauty, and economic value of our oceans and coasts are essential to our wellbeing and our Nation's prosperity, but we have not always given it the care that it deserves. Issues such as overfishing, pollution, unsustainable development, and devastating oil spills threaten the fragile health of the marine ecosystems, as growing and competing uses and interests are currently inadequately managed by the Federal agencies responsible. The outline suggested by the NOP would improve the functionality of this system so the Federal agencies work together through a network of information sharing, research, and transparency.

“As we peer into society's future, we—you and I, and our government—must avoid the impulse to live only for today, plundering for our own ease and convenience the precious resources of tomorrow. We cannot mortgage the material assets of our grandchildren without risking the loss also of their political and spiritual heritage. We want democracy to survive for all generations to come, not to become the insolvent phantom of tomorrow.”

-- Dwight D. Eisenhower

Nonetheless, the plan could be improved to achieve even more progress. It should more fully utilize all available authorities for habitat protection and management. Many

of the milestones could be extended beyond cataloguing and planning to include action, with tangible, on-the-water activities. Regional need, support, and capacity should guide where coordinated actions should first take place. Federal agencies must continue to ask for input from other levels of the government and the public and incorporate this new information into implementation of the plan.

“The nation behaves well if it treats the natural resources as assets which it must turn over to the next generation increased, and not impaired, in value.”

-- Theodore Roosevelt

The use of an ecosystem-based management approach would greatly improve our current systems of management in addressing ocean issues. It requires extensive research and science-based methods to study the complex relationships among species, their habitats, and human impacts before action is taken to address an issue or protect a resource, which should include identifying and protecting important ecological areas. It is essential that sound methods of science be applied and information sharing be used to study the unique functions of the various ecosystems, in order to ensure that the proper protection, maintenance, and restoration will be planned and implemented.

“Then I say the Earth belongs to each generation during its course, fully and in its own right, no generation can contract debts greater than may be paid during the course of its own existence.”

-- Thomas Jefferson

Even with great leadership, the goals of the NOP will not be achievable unless there is sufficient funding. The budget for the NOP must be made public and reflect the commitment the Federal government has to making the National Ocean Policy a success. The funding and implementation of this policy will help ensure the coasts remain a place where our children can whale watch, swim in the water, and enjoy fishing on healthy populations of fish.

“Every man who appreciates the majesty and beauty of the wilderness and of wild life, should strike hands with the farsighted men who wish to preserve our material resources, in the effort to keep our forests and our game beasts, game-birds, and game-fish—indeed, all the living creatures of prairie and woodland and seashore—from wanton destruction. Above all, we should realize that the effort toward this end is essentially a democratic movement.”

-- Theodore Roosevelt

With these additions, President Obama’s Implementation Plan will provide a better guide for achieving the goals of protecting, maintaining, and restoring the nation's oceans, coasts, and Great Lakes and ensuring resilient coastal economies. I look forward to the release of the final plan and hope to see policy translated into action on the water soon.

“A thing is right when it tends to preserve the integrity, stability, and beauty of the biotic community. It is wrong when it tends otherwise.”

-- Aldo Leopold

Thank you for your consideration of my comments. Please do NOT add my name to your mailing list. I will learn about future developments on this issue from other sources.

Sincerely,  
Christopher Lish  
Olema, CA

Name: **Paul Torrence**

Organization:

Path:

Comment: I am writing in regards to the National Ocean Policy Draft Plan as a Ph.D> scientist with 38 years of National Institute of Health and Academic experience in biochemistry, medicinal chemistry, and drug discovery. I endorse the basics of this policy with the knowledge and conviction that the marine environment is in serious decline from human exploitation and misuse while at the same time humans are more and more dependent on the oceans for many benefits including future pharmaceuticals.

Earth's oceans provide at least one-half of the oxygen we breathe based on photosynthesis from phytoplankton, one-celled plants that live at the ocean surface. Since 1950, phytoplankton biomass has shrunk by about 40 percent. If I were traveling to Mars and my oxygen generation system was in decline, I would certainly like to know what is happening and why. We seem incapable of concern about such questions about our present spaceship Earth. I'd also be concerned about my food supply and climate control. The World Ocean provides food to 25% of the people on Earth and plays a huge unappreciated role in determining climate. Oh yes, it also houses some 98% of the biological zones where plants and animals live.

In the past several decades, important advances in marine natural products have been made, thanks largely to the work of academic scientists and our ability to visit and work in Neptune's realm.

These ocean frontier explorations have revealed an incredible chemical diversity synthesized by marine organisms, thereby providing a stunning array of largely unknown molecular motifs providing a wealth of potential novel drugs or leads thereto. Life evolved in the oceans and has had a longer time to address survival problems in an environment much more hostile than terrestrial species have to face. The profound difference of the marine from the terrestrial environment spawns a corresponding gap in the natural products found in each world. The sessile nature of many marine creatures has led to an evolution of a staggering array of chemicals for defense, as well as for communication and reproduction. The world ocean contains much greater biodiversity than is found on land, but exploration of this biodiversity and the identification of marine natural products has just gotten started when compared to chemicals produced by terrestrial organisms. There are about 11,000 marine-derived natural products identified thus far. In contrast, more than 155,000 natural products from terrestrial sources are known. In the period 1998 – 2006, the literature records the identification and characterization of more than 6900 new marine chemical entities. Of these, 592 were evaluated in preclinical or clinical cancer studies, and another 666 were involved in preclinical or clinical studies for their antiviral, antifungal, anti-parasitic, antibacterial, anti-inflammatory or other pharmacological activities.

In the near future, marine bioprospecting efforts will likely focus not only on natural products from ocean plants, animals, and microbes, but also on the potential for biotech to exploit the information stored in the genomes of these organisms. In the wake of the

Human Genome Project and with the expertise and technology that emerged from it, scientists are sequencing increasing numbers non-human genomes. Total genome sequencing of a handful of marine microbes has been completed, and the first sequencing of marine vertebrate (e.g., fish) genomes has commenced as well. This and similar research will likely lead to the development of gene probes that can identify the genes in target organisms that code for the elaboration of novel natural products of potential value to humans. Increasingly, new projects are expected to target the as yet unrealized biomolecular potential of the vast and almost entirely unknown marine microbial community. These research efforts could be instrumental in developing the next generation of pharmaceuticals for improving human health, as well as contributing to improved animal and agricultural crop health.

In summary, the marine world has become an important source of therapeutic agents with novel mechanisms of action. Even though thousands of new molecules are discovered every year only small number of candidates is incorporated in clinical trials. The main problem underlying this is sustainable supply of these compounds from natural sources. To battle this problem various strategies are developed, such as mariculture or aquaculture of source organisms, development of synthetic analogues of active compounds, fermentation of microorganisms producing the compound, etc. Another possible solution is the use of genetic engineering to transfer the genes encoding the synthetic enzymes that produce the desired compound to microorganisms that can be grown in huge quantities.

Development of these products and services, as well as the fundamental research from which they must be derived will be enhanced by greater dependence on interdisciplinary sciences such as pharmacology, chemical ecology, molecular biology, genomics, metagenomics, computational and combinatorial chemistry and biology.

The field of marine natural products is passing its discovery phase and moving to the second phase where understanding relationships and processes is driving the research towards novel drugs from the sea. Marine plants, animals and microorganisms will be the basis of new products and services important to technology in the future. With rich biodiversity and vast marine resources along the Indian coast, in the form of estuaries, creeks, deep seas and continental shelf, the opportunities for research in the area of marine drug development are endless.

In view of the promises that marine ecosystems hold for the future of human health, there can never be too much conservation and preservation action taken on its behalf. I urge forward movement now with specific, defined, and bold actions to help the oceans recover from the many insults we have hurled at them.

Very truly yours,

Paul F. Torrence, Ph.D.  
Emeritus Professor of Chemistry and Biochemistry  
Northern Arizona University  
Flagstaff, AZ

Name: **Evelyn Strader**

Organization: Council of Great Lakes Industries

Path: [http://edit.whitehouse.gov/sites/default/files/webform/cgli\\_comments\\_on\\_draft\\_national\\_ocean\\_policy\\_implementation\\_plan\\_27\\_feb\\_2012.pdf](http://edit.whitehouse.gov/sites/default/files/webform/cgli_comments_on_draft_national_ocean_policy_implementation_plan_27_feb_2012.pdf)

Comment: The Council of Great Lakes Industries is please to provide the attached comments.



## **Council of Great Lakes Industries (CGLI) Comments on the Draft National Ocean Policy Implementation Plan**

**27 February 2012**

The Council of Great Lakes Industries, representing the common interest of more than two dozen U.S. and Canadian industrial organizations and associations that have investment in the Great Lakes Basin, is pleased to submit the following comments on issues of particular importance to our members and our Region.

We appreciate the opportunity to provide input in the National Ocean Policy process. We are commenting specifically on the Great Lakes issues and we believe that the unique needs of this fresh water system should be in the forefront of policies dealing with the Region.

### **Ecosystem Based Management**

Even with the expanded definition of ecosystem based management (EBM) that includes humans and recognizes complexity and considers diverse ecological, social, economic, cultural and institutional perspectives and assess trade-offs, EBM has to be fully developed for good policy. We continue to suggest that the Council rely on established sustainable development management principles for comprehensive management of ecosystem functions in the context of Great Lakes societal and economic needs.

In addition, the existing resource management models in the Great Lakes Region were developed with extensive stakeholder involvement and should be the basis for implementation of EBM in the Region.

### **Observations, Mapping and Infrastructure**

CGLI favors support for local and regional observation systems and believes the Great Lakes Observing System will enhance data collection, data availability and data management in the Region.

### **Regional Ecosystem Protection and Restoration**

We are pleased that you have highlighted the Great Lakes Restoration Initiative (GLRI) and said that the GLRI exemplifies “the principles of the National Ocean Policy”. We urge you to rely on the current efforts of the GLRI in National Ocean Plans for integrated ecosystem protection and restoration, not create new ones. These efforts were created with extensive multi-stakeholder efforts and should not be duplicated.

### **Resiliency and Adaption to Climate Change and Ocean Acidification**

Climate change adaptation agendas are currently being developed and incorporated in Great Lakes ecosystem protection activities and should be the basis of action for regional resource managers.

### **Water Quality and Sustainable Practices on Land**

Extensive and innovative land practices have been implemented by the States in the Great Lakes Basin. These activities are spatial planning type programs advanced and tracked by multi-stakeholder Lakewide Management Plans (LaMPs).

### **Coastal and Marine Spatial Planning Objectives**

The first National objective for coastal and marine spatial planning “preserve and enhance opportunities for sustainable ocean use through promotion of regulatory efficiency, consistency and transparency.....” defines “sustainability” as “compatibility of current and proposed ocean and coastal uses and the long-term maintenance of important ecosystem services...” The final draft of the plan should include defining “sustainable uses” as those that support economic and societal contributions.

This draft implementation plan continues to limit the Regional planning body to government stakeholders. Other regional stakeholders must have the opportunity to not only comment on CMSP work products, but also participate in the location and review of scientific information and region specific data used in the planning process and other implementation activities. Only through collaboration with knowledgeable regional stakeholders will the CMSP effort result in viable outcomes that reflect the unique needs and circumstances associated with each individual region. Regional Body workshops proposed in this plan do not appear to provide the interaction with stakeholders required.

The *Handbook for Regional, Coastal and Marine Spatial Planning* that is to be released in 2012 provides guidance for stakeholder engagement but there is no stakeholder input into this *Handbook*.

### **CMSP Processes Should Recognize Existing Environmental Permitting Authorities**

Environmental permitting processes administered by State and Federal agencies have been developed via lengthy and complex legislative and legal processes. The CMSP Interim Framework should recognize that these processes are in place and stipulate that existing permits are to be considered “grandfathered” in accordance with their respective permissions and conditions. In addition, the CMSP Framework should be structured so that new permitting proceedings which go forward under the Framework are not be burdened with new layers of review and/or approval. The Framework must recognize and utilize the environmental permitting authorities that are already in place.

We appreciate this opportunity to provide comments. For more information contact:  
George H. Kuper, President  
Council of Great Lakes Industries  
Email: ghk@cgli.org  
Phone: 734-663-1944

Name: **Liz Cook**

Organization:

Path:

Comment: The ocean ecosystems we all depend on are in danger from over-fishing, global warming and all kinds of pollution. A strong, viable, science based, sustainable ocean policy is critical for preserving these life giving systems. We've dithered and stall too long. We must act now.

Name: **Ben Unger**

Organization:

Path:

Comment:

Dear Chairs Sutley and Holdren and National Ocean Council Members:

The recently released Draft National Ocean Policy Implementation Plan is a giant step forward in advancing the National Ocean Policy and helping to create healthier oceans and coasts and stronger economies for our coastal communities. The Plan shows great strength in providing a cohesive framework for National Ocean Policy implementation and being an action-oriented plan that provides for government accountability. As you move to finalize this plan, please consider the following recommendations:

Protecting, maintaining and restoring the health of our oceans, coasts and Great Lakes must be of primary importance with an emphasis to achieve conservation milestones that can provide immediate ecological benefit such as the protection and restoration of coastal and marine habitat for priority species;

Ensure the plan does not overlook needed new actions and does not only propose existing government plans and programs;

Produce an implementation status report every two years that notes progress on reaching ecological indicators and the actions and milestones in the Plan; and

Fully utilize existing legal authorities to implement the National Ocean Policy.

The National Ocean Council should also prioritize needed funding for regional ocean partnerships in those regions which are best prepared to begin regional planning bodies and convene stakeholder participation. Regional ocean partnerships can create the best value of scarce federal funding by bringing federal, state, tribal, scientific and non-governmental entities together to start to address ocean management challenges.

The National Ocean Policy is founded on sound science, an inclusive and transparent public and stakeholder engagement process, the protection of habitat and wildlife populations, and encourages government at all levels to work together. The Draft Implementation Plan reflects over two years worth of hard work, investment and commitment made by state governments, commercial and industrial ocean users, universities and scientists, 27 federal agencies and departments and tens of thousands of citizens across the country to move our oceans toward better ocean management. I urge the National Ocean Council to operationalize the National Ocean Policy as soon as possible through this Implementation Plan with the goal of creating the enduring environmental stewardship of our ocean, coastal and Great Lakes ecosystems.

Name: **Washington State Elected Officials**

Organization:

Path: [http://edit.whitehouse.gov/sites/default/files/webform/nop\\_sign\\_on\\_letter\\_-\\_washington\\_electeds.pdf](http://edit.whitehouse.gov/sites/default/files/webform/nop_sign_on_letter_-_washington_electeds.pdf)

Comment:

**A letter from Washington state local elected leaders:**

Ms. Nancy Sutley, Dr. John Holdren, and National Ocean Council Members  
National Ocean Council  
722 Jackson Place, NW  
Washington, DC 20503

Dear Chairs Sutley, Holdren, and National Ocean Council Members:

We would like to share our support for National Ocean Policy draft Implementation Plan. As elected officials from Washington, we are charged with promoting and protecting our communities' assets, including our coast and ocean.

The draft Plan establishes a strong blueprint for taking action and fostering agency coordination to sustain our ocean, coastal and Great Lakes resources. The draft Plan has successfully incorporated the needs and concerns of governmental, non-profit, and commercial groups and provides clarifying details to improve accountability and monitor progress toward improved ocean management. Frequent notations on how implementing actions are related to one another provide confidence that activities will be coordinated and make good use of limited resources.

Nonetheless, the plan could be improved to achieve even more progress. It should more fully utilize all available authorities for habitat protection and management. Many of the milestones could be extended beyond cataloguing and planning to include action, with tangible, on-the-water activities. Regional need, support, and capacity should guide where coordinated actions should first take place. Federal agencies must continue to ask for input from other levels of the government and the public and incorporate this new information into implementation of the plan.

With these additions, President Obama's Implementation Plan will provide a better guide for achieving the goals of protecting, maintaining, and restoring the nation's oceans, coasts, and Great Lakes and ensuring resilient coastal economies. As elected officials from Washington, we look forward to the release of the final plan and hope to see policy translated into action on the water soon.

Sincerely,

Councilmember Larry Phillips, Metropolitan King County Council  
Commissioner Karen Valenzuela, Thurston County Board of Commissioners  
Councilmember Fred Butler, Issaquah City Council  
Councilmember Joshua Schaer, Issaquah City Council  
Council Member Dana Ralph, Kent City Council  
Mayor Bruce Bassett, Mercer Island  
Mayor Pro-Tem Doug Osterman, Normandy Park City Council  
Councilmember Stacia Jenkins, Normandy Park City Council  
Councilmember Hank Margeson, Vice-President of Redmond City Council

Councilmember Barry Ladenburg, SeaTac City Council  
Councilmember Dave Bush, SeaTac City Council  
Deputy Mayor Mia Gregerson, SeaTac City Council  
Councilmember Jean Godden, Seattle City Council  
Councilmember Richard Conlin, Seattle City Council  
Councilmember Mike O'Brien, Seattle City Council  
Deputy Mayor Chris Eggen, Shoreline  
Councilmember Jesse Salomon, Shoreline City Council  
Councilmember Katherine Kruller, Tukwila City Council  
Councilmember Jeff Gadman, Lacey City Council  
Councilmember Cynthia Pratt, Lacey City Council  
Councilmember Andy Ryder, Lacey City Council  
Council Member Jack Weiss, Bellingham City Council  
Council Member Terry Bornemann, Bellingham City Council  
Council Member Seth Fleetwood, Bellingham City Council  
Council Member Michael Lilliquist, Bellingham City Council  
Commissioner John Creighton, Port of Seattle Commission  
Council Member Susan Boundy-Sanders, Woodinville City Council  
Councilmember Carl Weimer, Whatcom County Council  
Council President Strom Peterson, Edmonds City Council  
Councilmember Rick Talbert, Pierce County Council

# NATIONAL OCEAN COUNCIL

Name: **Kitsap County Commissioners**

Organization:

Path: [http://edit.whitehouse.gov/sites/default/files/webform/kitsap\\_county\\_noc\\_letter\\_copy.pdf](http://edit.whitehouse.gov/sites/default/files/webform/kitsap_county_noc_letter_copy.pdf)

Comment:



# KITSAP COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS

*Efficient, accessible and effective county services*

February 22, 2012

Robert Gelder  
DISTRICT 1

Charlotte Garrido  
DISTRICT 2

Josh Brown  
DISTRICT 3

MS. NANCY SUTLEY  
DR. JOHN HOLDREN  
NATIONAL OCEAN POLICY COUNCIL MEMBERS  
NATIONAL OCEAN COUNCIL  
722 JACKSON PLACE, NW  
WASHINGTON DC 20503

Re: President's National Ocean Policy Action Plan

Dear Chairs Sutley, Holdren and National Ocean Council Members:

Kitsap County is situated in the Central Puget Sound region of Washington State and possesses over 270 miles of shoreline and associated nearshore habitat. The Kitsap County Board of Commissioners is writing to support the National Ocean Policy draft Implementation Plan. The vitality of our economy and of our citizens depends upon healthy shorelines and on clean and protected saltwater. We are constantly reminded that proper and careful management of our ocean and coastal resources areas is a key factor that supports our vibrant, healthy shoreline communities. Our fragile saltwater environments depend on clean oceanic waters and healthy intact coastal ecosystems. We believe that the implementing actions described in the Plan will improve accountability and better leverage scarce resources on all levels of government so that the sustainability of our ocean and coastal resources is ensured.

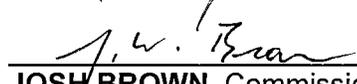
We believe that the plan should place more emphasis on habitat protection. In this County and throughout this state, salmon fisheries serve vital natural, cultural and recreational purposes. The recent findings on recovery of federally-listed salmon published by the US Department of Commerce point out that for the State of Washington and for the Puget Sound region in particular, habitat protection especially for our endangered salmon stocks is failing to meet goals. We believe more needs to be and can be done and that the President's National Ocean Policy can help address the shortfalls in salmon recovery.

With this important addition, President Obama's Implementation Plan will provide a better guide to all levels of government and the private sectors to protect, maintain

and restore our nation's oceans and coasts and help ensure resilient, vibrant coastal economies and environments for present and future generations.

Once again, thank you for this opportunity to provide comment. We look forward to following the successful implementation of the President's National Ocean Policy.

**BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS**

KITSAP COUNTY, WASHINGTON  
  
\_\_\_\_\_  
ROBERT GELDER, Chair  
  
\_\_\_\_\_  
JOSH BROWN, Commissioner  
  
\_\_\_\_\_  
CHARLOTTE GARRIDO, Commissioner

- cc: Department of Community Development
- Department of Public Works
- Department of Parks and Recreation
- Hood Canal Coordinating Council
- Suquamish Tribe
- Port Gamble S'Klallam Tribe
- Skokomish Tribe
- Point-No-Point Treaty Council
- Alliance for a Healthy South Sound LIO
- Interested Parties List

Name: **Ruth Miller**

Organization:

Path:

Comment: Dear Chairs Sutley and Holdren and National Ocean Council Members:

The recently released Draft National Ocean Policy Implementation Plan is a giant step forward in advancing the National Ocean Policy and helping to create healthier oceans and coasts and stronger economies for our coastal communities. The Plan shows great strength in providing a cohesive framework for National Ocean Policy implementation and being an action-oriented plan that provides for government accountability. As you move to finalize this plan, please consider the following recommendations:

Protecting, maintaining and restoring the health of our oceans, coasts and Great Lakes must be of primary importance with an emphasis to achieve conservation milestones that can provide immediate ecological benefit such as the protection and restoration of coastal and marine habitat for priority species;

Ensure the plan does not overlook needed new actions and does not only propose existing government plans and programs;

Produce an implementation status report every two years that notes progress on reaching ecological indicators and the actions and milestones in the Plan; and

Fully utilize existing legal authorities to implement the National Ocean Policy.

The National Ocean Council should also prioritize needed funding for regional ocean partnerships in those regions which are best prepared to begin regional planning bodies and convene stakeholder participation. Regional ocean partnerships can create the best value of scarce federal funding by bringing federal, state, tribal, scientific and non-governmental entities together to start to address ocean management challenges.

The National Ocean Policy is founded on sound science, an inclusive and transparent public and stakeholder engagement process, the protection of habitat and wildlife populations, and encourages government at all levels to work together. The Draft Implementation Plan reflects over two years worth of hard work, investment and commitment made by state governments, commercial and industrial ocean users, universities and scientists, 27 federal agencies and departments and tens of thousands of citizens across the country to move our oceans toward better ocean management. I urge the National Ocean Council to operationalize the National Ocean Policy as soon as possible through this Implementation Plan with the goal of creating the enduring environmental stewardship of our ocean, coastal and Great Lakes ecosystems.

Name: **Sarah Schumann**

Organization: Sierra Club RI

Path: <http://edit.whitehouse.gov/sites/default/files/webform/scricommentsonnopdraftimplementationplan.doc.pdf>

Comment:

February 27, 2012

Ms. Nancy Sutley, Dr. John Holdren, and Members  
National Ocean Council  
c/o Council on Environmental Quality  
722 Jackson Place, NW  
Washington, DC 20503



Subject: Comments on Draft National Ocean Policy Implementation Plan

Dear Ms. Sutley, Dr. Holdren and National Ocean Council Members,

The Rhode Island Chapter of the Sierra Club thanks you for the work that you and your staff have put into developing the Draft National Ocean Policy Implementation Plan. On behalf of our 2400-member grassroots organization, we applaud the draft plan's institution of ecosystem-based management (EBM) as a foundational principle for ocean governance.

Our oceans provide us with innumerable ecosystem services: seafood, climate regulation, nutrient cycling, recreational and cultural opportunities, and more. But these services are neither inexhaustible nor indestructible. The foremost priority of the National Ocean Policy should be to uphold the oceans' ability to provide these valuable yet vulnerable ecosystem services on a perpetual basis. This means (1) supporting ocean uses that are compatible with maintenance of a healthy ocean ecosystem and that provide for continued enjoyment of ecosystem services, and (2) identifying and addressing threats to ocean ecosystems emanating from both ocean- and land-based activities.

The scale and complexity of human alteration of our oceans and coasts necessitates a policy approach that is as deeply integrated as the marine ecosystems that we rely on. We support the draft implementation plan's emphasis on interagency coordination and information sharing in support of EBM objectives, and we applaud the draft plan's near-term timeline to establish a framework for collaboration and a shared set of goals for implementation of ecosystem-based management.

We recognize that the increasing number of uses vying for space in our oceans is a major driver of the National Ocean Policy. In this context, we feel that the implementation plan must be clear about the potential for trade-offs and should include guidelines favoring uses that are nonexclusive and sustainable in perpetuity over uses that are non-renewable or that take away from the enjoyment of our oceans by others. We suggest that you add language to this effect in the implementation plan section on CMSP and in the CMSP handbook slated to be issued in the near future.

We are pleased that coastal restoration is a high priority in the draft implementation plan. Actions to reverse coastal wetland loss and to incorporate carbon sequestration goals into marsh and seagrass restoration are admirable policy objectives that rightfully deserve to be at the forefront of NOP policy objectives. We also support the draft plan's emphasis on identifying key portions of fish habitat as areas in need of special protection. However, we caution that changing habitat conditions brought about by climate change mean that the spatial aspects of fish stock structure and fish habitat are not static, and we advocate an adaptive approach in the face of such changes. Currently, there is little mention of climate change in the restoration section; we advocate a deeper discussion of its causes and effects in this section and encourage the use of habitat

restoration as an adaptation action.

We applaud the draft implementation plan's attention to the negative side effects that certain ocean- and land-based activities have on the oceans. We encourage implementing agencies to make a high priority of preventing oil spills, pesticide and fertilizer runoff, mining and industrial effluents, wastewater and pharmaceutical pollution, and water diversion in arid areas, for the sake of our near-shore ocean environment and all those who depend on its services. We also suggest adding an action item specifying the development of mechanisms for citizens and stakeholders to identify potential pollution threats and trigger an evaluation of their effects on the marine environment.

We urge you to include in the plan a clear statement supporting the mitigation of the greenhouse gases causing climate change and ocean acidification. Climate change threatens to affect our ecosystems and our lives in unprecedented ways, and nowhere is this truer than in the ocean. No ocean policy can be complete without a robust effort to tackle the root causes of warming waters, sea level rise, increased storminess, and ocean acidification – a change in the very chemical balance of ocean waters that threatens to wreak havoc on entire food webs, starting with silica-based plankton.

While we realize that NOP implementing agencies do not have the authority to restrict greenhouse gas emissions, we feel the NOP presents an opportunity to quantify and draw attention to the destructiveness of these emissions. We ask that you add an action item to the draft plan requiring federal agencies and regional ocean partnerships (ROPs) to take into account the lifecycle greenhouse gas emissions caused by an ocean project and its deliverable products when making decisions about permitted uses in the ocean.

Knowledge is key to implementing EBM, and we support the draft implementation plan's solid framework for fostering marine science. But we feel that the implementation plan should also include a greater focus on citizen science and stakeholder knowledge as a basis for EBM. Public participation in data collection tends to be more cost-effective than extensive marine research projects, and has the added benefit of engaging the public in studying our delicate marine ecosystems. In the final implementation plan, low-input, broadly accessible forms of monitoring and data collection should be promoted alongside technically advanced scientific research. In the same vein, it is important that ocean science be communicated to the public in ways that are easily understandable to non-scientists.

We are glad to see these principles reflected in Acton 1 under "Resiliency and Adaptation to Climate Change and Ocean Acidification," and we encourage full involvement of the public, local organizations, and the fishing industry in monitoring climate change impacts at sentinel sites and beyond. Budgetary constraints and the value of local knowledge represent just two of the many reasons that the people who use the oceans and coasts should be regarded not just as stakeholders but as active contributors and seekers of policy-relevant information. As with scientific research, clear pathways for integrating new information should be laid out at the outset of a data collection process and adhered to.

The final plan should also recognize that no amount of research can ever eliminate all doubt from a policy decision, and decisions about our oceans will have to be made in the context of uncertainty. In anticipation of situations where decisions must be made in spite of a partial understanding of the consequences, the implementation plan should include guidance on employing the precautionary approach.

Lastly, we endorse the recent NOC decision to include a representative of each regional Fisheries Management Council (FMC) on its relevant ROP. We feel that care must be taken to ensure that National Ocean Policy implementation acts as a boon to the fisheries management process, rather than an added layer of complexity. We encourage FMCs and ROPs to work together to improve management of the multitude of factors affecting fish and fisheries. Specifically, we urge you to establish in the implementation plan a formal mechanism by which FMCs may take advantage of the NOP process to address impacts on fisheries caused by activities other than fishing.

Currently, FMCs are limited to addressing the impacts on fish *by* fishing and are unable to address non-fishing issues like climate change, ocean acidification, and coastal pollution, that hamper the effectiveness of their fishery management plans. At present, the only mechanism for FMCs to address non-fishing impacts is through EFH Final Rule (50 CFR 600), which enables FMCs to identify activities such as dredging, mining, water diversions, thermal additions, non-point source pollution, and habitat conversion that may impact essential fish habitat; FMCs may then raise these issues with the relevant federal entities governing those uses.

The EFH Rule is a good model for interagency collaboration, but in the NOP, this model must be strengthened. Clear pathways for FMCs to address pollution and other non-fishing impacts of fisheries through the NOP and ROP processes must be established, and the list of such impacts must be broad enough to include climate change and ocean acidification caused by greenhouse gases. Moreover, avenues to raise awareness in the policy process of the effects non-fishing impacts must not be limited to FMCs, but must extend to fishing associations and all members of the fishing public, who are often the first to observe and first to be affected by ocean changes.

We close by thanking you again for the time and effort you have put into developing an admirable draft implementation plan for the NOP. We ask that you kindly consider our recommendations, and we look forward to release of the final product.

Sincerely,

Sarah Schumann  
Oceans Working Group  
Sierra Club Rhode Island Chapter

Name: **Rebecca Roth**

Organization: National Estuarine Research Reserve Association

Path: [http://edit.whitehouse.gov/sites/default/files/webform/nerra\\_draft\\_nop\\_implementation\\_plan\\_2.26.12.pdf](http://edit.whitehouse.gov/sites/default/files/webform/nerra_draft_nop_implementation_plan_2.26.12.pdf)

Comment: General and Specific Comments Attached in letter.



February 26, 2012

Ms. Nancy Sutley, Dr. John Holdren, and Members  
National Ocean Council  
c/o Council on Environmental Quality  
722 Jackson Place NW  
Washington, DC 20503

*Re: NERRA Recommendations on the Draft National Ocean Policy Implementation Plan*

On behalf of the National Estuarine Research Reserve Association (NERRA), we offer the following recommendations to the National Ocean Council (NOC) for use in completing the *Draft National Ocean Policy Implementation Plan*.

NERRA is a not-for-profit scientific and educational organization that was established in 1987. Our members are the 28 reserves that make up the National Estuarine Research Reserve System (NERRS). NERRA applauds the Final Recommendations of the Interagency National Ocean Policy Task Force and the Strategic Action Plans as they lead the nation's management of ocean and coastal resources in a balanced approach. NERRA offers the following general comments, as well as specific recommendations on six of the nine plans.

*General Comments*

***Promote efficiency and collaboration by leveraging the expertise and resources and vital role of NOAA's programs in the communities to advance the National Ocean Policy.***

NERRA commends the guiding theme of promoting efficiencies and collaboration as a critical priority for the implementation of the National Ocean Policy. Yet, the heavily weighted reliance of the National Ocean Plan on federal agencies is bound to fall short of implementing the plan's goals without increasing the participation of key partners. Stewardship and protection of our coasts and oceans relies heavily on work done in the states, regions, and communities, and is often implemented collaboratively with entities beyond the Federal government. The Reserves are an excellent example of a program that connects the Federal government (NOAA) to local communities. NERRA strongly recommends a greater acknowledgement of the role of partnership programs, such as the NERRS, in the Implementation Plan.

## *Objective-Specific Comments*

### **Ecosystem Based Management Objective**

NERRA recommends the following:

*Action 1: Establish a framework for collaboration and a shared set of goals for Federal implementation of ecosystem based management (EBM).*

Under Action 1, a framework should be based on actual work getting done so that results/measured outcomes include on-the-ground ecosystem protection and restoration. For example, many states have plans in place that have identified habitats to restore and ecosystems to protect. Progress towards achieving these existing plans should be assessed as a measurable milestone.

*Action 3: Build capacity to implement EBM through training on principles, best practices, and decision-support tools.*

NERRA underscores the plan's focus on building capacity to implement EBM. The priority to do this, however, stops short of prioritizing EMB capacity building at all levels of government. The plan should include the use of existing state and local capabilities. While this capacity does exist at the state and local levels, it could certainly benefit from a collaborative effort that helps expand upon the already existing EMB training, best practices, and support tools. This action should, therefore, be expanded to reflect a broader, holistic approach to building capacity.

Action 3 also can be strengthened by adding a milestone of: *Align federal funding and technical resources to support ecosystem priorities in state and federal programs.* An essential element of implementing EBM will be the alignment of federal funds and resources. To do so, the Implementation Plan must ensure that federal agency programs and management activities for coastal ecosystems are coordinated, and where possible, integrated with each other and with state resource management priorities. A specific near-term action is to establish a process through the NOC to coordinate and align ecosystem based programs of various federal agencies. NERRA recommends that the following three milestones be added to this action.

1. Through implementation of the Coastal Zone Management Act and other foundational legislation, apply ecosystem based management at the watershed scale.
2. Align federal funding and technical resources to support ecosystem priorities in state and federal programs.
3. Utilize the existing pilot projects being conducted through the NERRS Research Programs. These projects provide a wealth of information that will help inform the strategies for implementing ecosystem based management.

## **Coordinate and Support Objective**

*Action 4: Develop cross-cutting budget analyses that address priority areas in the National Ocean Policy.*

NERRA supports efforts to maximize the implementation of the National Ocean Policy by insuring a comprehensive Federal management scheme is in place. The plan, however, does not reflect priorities for the coast and ocean because it leaves out acknowledgement of programs that have statutory authority, such as those created under the Coastal Zone Management Act. The milestone that calls for identifying “...programs that contribute significantly to the National Ocean Policy.” (pg 40), seems to repeat the work that has already been put into the process of the development of the plan and the Strategic Action Plans. It would be of greater benefit to vet the plan with the very stakeholders and groups that currently are working on the priority areas identified in plan. .

NERRA is encouraged by the focus of this objective to integrate conservation efforts at all levels, leverage ongoing science-based initiatives, and offers the following recommendations to enhance implementation and achieve desired outcomes.

NERRA recommends an action be added, similar to Action 4 (“Strengthen interagency collaboration to protect and conserve coral reef ecosystems”) that focuses on estuarine ecosystems. The reason for this is that the same interagency collaboration is required for estuarine ecosystems, areas that also are extremely productive and subject to multiple environmental and human stressors. Consistent with this, NERRA suggests a milestone be added that advances a “seamless” network of coastal and estuarine programs that collaborate on resource management issues at scales beyond their immediate borders. Candidate programs include the National Estuarine Research Reserve System, National Marine Sanctuary Program, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Refuge System, coastal holdings of the National Park Service, and the National Estuary Program. Additionally, NERRA recommends a milestone that acknowledges the need for continued investment by the Federal government in already protected coastal and estuarine Federal trust resources to advance the priorities of the National Ocean Policy.

## **Regional Ecosystem Protection and Restoration Objective**

*Action 6: Identify nationally significant marine and Great Lakes natural and cultural areas in need of protection.*

NERRA recommends that action 6 include land acquisition as a milestone strategy for regional ecosystem protection and restoration, including areas where marine protected area boundaries connect with adjacent inland areas as a way to account for potential future impacts from sea level rise. Acquisition of lands for protection or restoration provides a clear metric to evaluate performance of regional conservation efforts. Strong support should be noted for existing programs that provide funding for such acquisition including the Coastal and Estuarine Land Conservation Program and the Land and Water Conservation Fund.

### **Resiliency and Adaptation to Climate Change Objective**

NERRA applauds the goals of this objective and offers recommendations to further strengthen the actions contained in the plan.

*Action 2: Determine the impacts of climate change, ocean acidification, and interacting stressors on ecological, economic, and social systems.*

NERRA believes this action item to be very important to achieving a critical objective, and suggests that the plan explicitly include both “consumptive and nonconsumptive” economic analyses.

*Action 5: Strengthening interagency coordination on the development and provisions of information, training, guidance, tools, and support for adaptation practitioners.*

NERRA agrees that this is a priority action for the coasts and oceans, but urges the plan to look beyond “federally produced science” to implement this action. Consistent with our past comments, NERRA underscores the need to utilize sites, like the reserves, that produce scientifically measured parameters to provide up-to-date information to coastal managers and serve as platforms for applied research on coastal and estuarine issues. For example, reserve sites facilitate and support research at the sites conducted by a multitude of partners, utilizing the resources at reserves to aid in these efforts. This brings added value to reserve investments and serves as a multiplier of science that is conducted at the sites.

The last milestone in this action calls for “Train science “translators,” such as Sea Grant Extension agents, to communicate and connect adaptation-relevant information to practitioners” (pg 61). This milestone is currently being met by the NERRS Coastal Training Program that has created a training template for addressing climate and sea level rise, and implemented courses across the country for hundreds of practitioners. This training incorporates reserve generated science into training programs. Therefore, the milestone should be revised to build on work and actions that have already occurred.

### **Water Quality and Sustainable Practices on Land Objective**

NERRA views actions contained in the objective as priorities for the ocean and offer suggestions to strengthen them.

*Actions 1 and 2: Reducing rural (action 1) and urban (action 2) sources of excessive nutrients, sediments, toxins, and pathogens.*

NERRA agrees these are critical to our coasts and oceans, and recommends each item include monitoring as part of the actions and milestones. By including consistent water quality monitoring, immediate community and decision-maker education can occur across the country to inform policy decisions and revisions to meet this action. In many regions, key efforts are underway to implement best management practices at the watershed scale to mitigate nonpoint impacts. An additional milestone should be added that seeks to expand program work like the NERRS System-wide Monitoring Program where water quality monitoring is conducted at each of its 28 sites.

*Action 6: Reduce impacts of trash and marine debris on ocean, coastal, and Great Lakes waters and associated watersheds through cooperative efforts aimed at pollution, prevention, reduction, and removal.*

NERRA recommends that the first milestone (pg 72) calling for “publish a report” also include working across jurisdictions to seek the removal of derelict fishing gear, as well as clearing trash and marine debris. NERRA further recommends adding an action that encourages states to assess their authorities and take the steps necessary to address these issues.

*Action 7: Identify, seek to protect, and maintain high-quality near-shore ocean, coastal, and Great Lakes water.*

NERRA supports this action as critical for our coasts and oceans. Yet, the milestones do not utilize existing statutory authorities. Specifically, the first bullet on pg 74 calls to “Protect, restore, or enhance 100,000 acres of wetlands. . .” The milestone should look to cite existing authorities such as the Coastal Zone Management Act that sets the framework to do exactly what is listed. In addition, high frequency and long-term data collection should be included as a necessary milestone. Databases housing water and weather information should be linked in order to identify the primary drivers involved in water quality issues. The milestone should reflect the value of high frequency data collection, and the need for long-term data sets which is required to conduct adequate water quality assessments and track progress in waterbodies. Likewise, NERRA urges that primary contaminant delivery sources, atmosphere deposition and groundwater (both direct and baseflow loadings) be included within this action because they are important relative to nitrogen loading and mercury.

### **Ocean, Coastal and Great Lakes Observation, Mapping and Infrastructure Objective**

NERRA believes that this objective has identified major information gaps that can be addressed with expanded capabilities on ocean observing infrastructure, and offers the following recommendations to advance implementation and ensure responsiveness to stakeholder needs. First, NERRA recommends that a milestone be added to specify that the regional ocean observing associations integrate existing coastal observing capabilities fully. One such coastal observing network is the System-wide Monitoring Program operated by the National Estuarine Research Reserve System. Another example is the emerging capacity to forecast inundation, model shoreline changes and the impacts of sea level rise on coastal habitats and communities. A variety of federal and state programs have developed these capabilities, but these are not integrated into the national observing system network.

*Action 6: Improve mapping capabilities and mapping products.*

NERRA believes that this action is essential to the management and restoration of coastal and marine resources, and the establishment and sustainability of marine protected areas. NERRA recommends that this action place emphasis on coastal and estuarine systems, areas where most of the change due to human activity occurs and which are critical to the economy. A national capacity must be developed to detect, track and forecast change in coastal and

estuarine bottom habitats and communities in response to needs of the resource management community. Suspended sediments, dynamic currents and tides, and the shallow depths of estuarine systems combine to make this sampling difficult and costly. Compounding these challenges is the diversity represented by coastal and estuarine environments, including the broad range of coastal ocean dynamics, weather, and land use stressors and practices that influence estuarine habitat quality and distribution. A recommended milestone and key outcome sought by the coastal and estuarine resource management community is:

Long-term ecological functions and values of coastal and estuarine bottom habitats at local and bioregional scales are protected or restored with science-based information provided by routine assessment of benthic habitat change.

This outcome can be measured by the routine availability of updated benthic maps for the resource management community, and how maps are used to inform management programs and activities.

NERRA strongly supports the NOC in its work to finalize the National Ocean Policy Implementation Plan. NERRA stands ready to further support the NOC in the implementation of the plan as a partner in protecting and managing our nation's coasts, oceans, and estuaries.

Sincerely,



David Ruple  
President  
NERRA



Rebecca K. Roth  
Executive Director  
NERRA

Name:

Organization: National Resource Defense Council & 10,494 Additional Signatures

Path:

Comment: Letter sent, via CD

February 27, 2012  
National Ocean Council Members  
722 Jackson Place, NW  
Washington, DC 20503

Subject: Finalize a strong ocean action plan to protect, maintain and restore our oceans' health

Dear National Ocean Council members,  
Thank you for all of your work to develop the Draft National Ocean Policy Implementation Plan.

I am pleased to see a strengthened definition for ecosystem-based management guiding the plan's work and urge you to even more clearly state this plan's primary and ultimate goal – to protect, maintain and restore the health of our oceans' natural ecosystems. One critical way to ensure healthy ocean resources is to identify and protect important ecological areas and processes. Certain areas of the ocean host important habitat for endangered species or serve as critical areas for spawning, breeding and feeding marine life. Places like these are part of our ocean heritage and need to be protected, now and for the future. I urge you to ensure the regional ocean plans are based on scientifically sound ecological assessments and help protect our natural ocean ecosystems. These assessments should be undertaken immediately to direct future restoration and protection efforts. Additionally, I recommend that the plan advance the timelines for actions related to jumpstarting ecosystem-based management, preventing harmful impacts to water quality, and protecting and restoring marine habitat. The plan also should include more near-term actions that go beyond planning and will make a difference in the water. Our oceans need immediate action to restore and protect their health.

Thank you again for your work on this important effort to ensure a healthy future for our oceans and the millions of people who depend upon them.

Sincerely,

Alison Granshaw

Name: **Kitty Simonds**  
Organization: Western Pacific Regional Fishery Management Council  
Path:  
Comment: Attachment, sent via Fax.



## DEPARTMENT OF BUSINESS, ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT & TOURISM

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### OFFICE OF PLANNING

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February 27, 2012

National Ocean Council  
722 Jackson Place, NW  
Washington, D.C. 20503

Dear Members of the National Ocean Council:

**Subject: Comments on the Draft National Ocean Policy Implementation Plan**

Thank you for the opportunity to provide comments on the Draft National Ocean Policy Implementation Plan. The Office of Planning (OP), Coastal Zone Management (CZM) Program appreciates the administration's efforts to prioritize healthy and productive oceans and coastal communities through the National Ocean Policy (NOP) and the National Ocean Council. Hawaii's local ocean and coastal resource management priorities of connecting the land and the sea, preserving our ocean heritage, and promoting collaborative governance and stewardship have been laid out in the state's Ocean Resources Management Plan (ORMP). The Hawaii CZM Program is charged with periodically updating the ORMP and coordinating implementation (Hawaii Revised Statutes Chapter 205A). The ORMP as well as the rest of our program and policies align very closely with the goals and priority objectives of the NOP. We support a comprehensive national ocean policy and offer the following comments on the Draft Implementation Plan:

**Emphasis on Federal Agencies:** The Draft Implementation Plan is federally focused, which seems to be inconsistent with the priority objectives in the NOP. The plan provides guidance for federal agencies, and aims to reduce redundancies and streamline management; however, this cannot happen without an equal partnership with coastal states, territories, and commonwealths. The implementation and effectiveness of the NOP and in particular the ecosystem perspective will depend on state and local governments. Focusing on federal agencies in this plan appears to contradict the following priority objectives:

- **Inform Decisions and Improve Understanding** – The natural and cultural resources of our coastlines are managed and regulated by state and local governments. Furthermore, much of the on-the-ground stewardship and restoration activities are carried out by local communities, non-governmental organizations, and other partners. This is where our true ecosystem knowledge and understanding lies.
- **Observations, Mapping, and Infrastructure** – In order for data, observations, and mapping to be useful to policy makers and decision makers at the local level, they need to be well

integrated with the details of our place, whether it be a small bay or community, a specific island or county, or an entire state.

- **Coordinate and Support** – As the objective clearly states, coordination and support of federal, state, tribal, local, and regional management is needed; however, this draft plan focuses mostly on federal agencies, with the rest appearing as an afterthought.
- **Regional Ecosystem Protection and Restoration** – Ecosystems know no physical boundaries. Much of our prime habitat for ocean resources lies close to the shoreline, if not directly connected to the shoreline, which is under state and local jurisdiction.
- **Resiliency and Adaptation to Climate Change and Ocean Acidification** – Many states, including Hawaii, have started and will continue to work at the local level to address adaptation to climate change. Climate change impacts will be felt to different degrees in different geographic areas, so adaptation measures essentially *have* to be localized. Furthermore, many of the coral reefs in the U.S. that will be impacted by ocean acidification lie in shallow waters under state jurisdiction.
- **Water Quality and Sustainable Practices on Land** - As the title of this objective suggests, coastal water quality directly depends on sustainable practices on land, which falls under state jurisdiction.
- **Coastal and Marine Spatial Planning** – Conflicting uses are generally prolific along the shorelines and within state waters where there are more people using the resources. An attempt to lead the coastal and marine spatial planning efforts without significant collaboration with local and state governments, as well as local communities and other stewards and stakeholders, will not result in effective planning.

The Draft Implementation Plan notes a constrained, uncertain federal budget and appropriation process. States can play a part in advocating for funding for coastal and ocean resource management, as well as finding innovative funding mechanisms with private and non-governmental partners. For example, the Coastal States Organization does an effective job advocating for state coastal programs in Congress; state coastal programs are where much of the implementation of the NOP occurs.

### **Missing Recognition of Insular Areas**

As an island state, the people of Hawaii know firsthand that our environment, our economy, our cultural and social well being, and our quality of life depend directly on the health and productivity of our ocean that surrounds us. We recognize that nearly everything we do on land will have an impact on the sea. We ask that the NOP also recognize these unique island differences and be flexible and adaptable to these differences with regard to implementation. A one-size-fits-all approach will not work for insular areas.

### **Stakeholder Involvement**

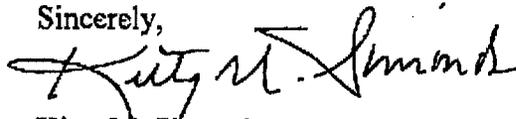
Before the final NOP was released, the National Ocean Council requested input and toured the U.S. to conduct “listening sessions.” We are concerned that much of the comments and sentiments heard at the Honolulu listening session are not included in this Draft Implementation Plan. In particular, the following are extremely important yet missing from the plan:

- **Emphasis on traditional and cultural resource management approaches and activities** - In Hawaii, Native Hawaiian concepts of resource management have been clearly recognized

- Sample text “Complete an interagency review of existing monitoring data standards; revise and approve minimum ecological monitoring data standards for coastal estuarine, non-estuarine coastal, and insular reef habitat restoration projects. (NOAA, USACE, DOI, EPA, USDA; 2014)”
- The plan should include a List of Acronyms in the appendix which includes LBSP, Land-based Sources of Pollution, and the plan should add its definition to the glossary of terms used.

Thank you again for the opportunity to provide comments on the draft National Ocean Policy Implementation Plan. We hope that the final Plan will include the Council’s comments and we look forward to working with you on its implementation.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Kitty M. Simonds". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a large initial "K" and a long, sweeping underline.

Kitty M. Simonds  
Executive Director

Name: **Kara Miller**  
Organization: Smith River Rancheria  
Path:  
Comment: Attachment, via fax.



# Smith River Rancheria

140 Rowdy Creek Rd, Smith River, CA 95567-9525  
Ph: (707) 487-9255 Fax: (707) 487-0930

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Denise Padgett  
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Dr. Joseph  
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Council Member

Lenora Hall  
Council Member

Russ Crabtree  
Tribal  
Administrator

February 27, 2012

National Ocean Council  
722 Jackson Place, NW  
Washington, DC 20503

RE: Comments on Draft National Ocean Policy Implementation Plan

Dear National Ocean Council:

On behalf of the Smith River Rancheria Tribal Council, we submit the following comments on the Draft National Ocean Policy Implementation Plan. The ancestral land of the *Tolowa Dee-Ni'* is located in Northern California-Southern Oregon, principally within the Wilson Creek, Smith River, Winchuck River, Chetco River, Pistol River, Rogue River, Elk River, Sixes River, and lower Rogue River Watersheds. Our ancestral territory include nearly 30 miles of coastline and the Pacific Ocean waters in which we rely for subsistence, ceremonial, customary, and economic uses. The Smith River Rancheria is a federally-recognized Tribe, governing approximately 1,458 *Tolowa Dee-Ni'*. Our current reservation lands are located in Smith River, CA and include coastal land and an offshore rock known as Prince Island. *Yontocket*, our principle village located at the mouth of the Smith River is our place of beginnings and we remain within our homeland since time immemorial.

We appreciate the opportunity to provide comments on the *Draft National Ocean Policy Implementation Plan*, particularly because the marine environment is an integral part of who we are as *Tolowa Dee-Ni'*. Furthermore, as a federally-recognized Tribe that has never relinquished our inherent rights to continue to rely on the ocean for subsistence, ceremonial, customary, and economic uses and as a Tribe that have never had these rights ever explicitly extinguished, we retain the right to use and manage these waters and the resources within our ancestral waters. We have an interest in being involved and participate in this process since it has a direct impact on the health and welfare of the ocean waters and to us as indigenous peoples.

We look forward to engaging in the National Ocean Policy Implementation and assuring that the voice of the Smith River Rancheria is incorporated. Please find our comments attached.

Respectfully,

Kara Brundin Miller,  
Smith River Rancheria Tribal Chair

Attachment: Smith River Rancheria Comments to the Draft National Ocean Policy Implementation Plan

*Waa-saa-ghitlh-'a~ Wee-ni Naa-ch'aa-ghitlh-ni*  
*Our Heritage Is Why We Are Strong*

**ATTACHMENT A:**  
**Smith River Rancheria Comments to the Draft National Ocean Policy Implementation Plan**

The following comments are in response to the first question posed, “Does the draft *Implementation Plan* reflect actions you see are needed to address the nine priorities for the ocean, coasts, and the Great Lakes?” Responses follow the pagination of the *Implementation Plan* according to the identified Priority and Action, followed by General Comments.

*Priority 1: Ecosystem-Based Management-* We support the approach of ecosystem-based management (EBM) because it aligns with our traditional management, as well as our scientific knowledge of the local ecology much more intuitively than single-species management. Our traditional ecological knowledge and worldview has developed through countless generations of observations, which are evident in our stories, ceremonies, customs, technology, and lifeway. We have a deep understanding of how species interconnect and interact within an ecosystem and it is important that the *Implementation Plan* recognize the integral part of humans within those systems and the emphasis that this knowledge is place-based. We look forward to participating in this process to identify ways in which this knowledge can inform EBM

*Action 2: Establish a science framework to support science-based EBM implementation-* The last point in this item talks about the need to identify and validate ecosystem indices and routinely incorporate them into EBM tools. This should also include human use indices related to a given ecosystem.

*Action 3: Build capacity to implement EBM through training on principles, best practices, and decision-support tools-* When discussing this critical item, the *Implementation Plan* notes that “[t]raining will be made available to State, Tribal, and local government partners” (page 16). However, the Milestones for this item do not reflect this; training is only identified for “Federal managers and scientists” (page 16). Therefore, Milestones bullet points 2 and 3 need to be amended to include Tribal managers and scientists. This will ensure consistency in approach and assure that Tribal partners are building the capacity necessary to implement EBM.

*Action 4: Identify and implement place-based pilot projects that foster an EBM approach to managing ocean and coastal resources-* The key to EBM is that it is place-based, which the *Implementation Plan* recognizes throughout. However, this Milestone focuses on conducting pilot projects in only three locations, which is certain to provide inadequate data for the variety of ecosystems that exist throughout the ocean, coastal, and Great Lakes waters of concern. The number of pilot projects must increase to provide adequate information on how place-based EBM will work, at a minimum, to one pilot project within each of the Regions identified in this process.

*Priority 2: Inform Decisions and Improve Understanding-* Sound science is certainly the basis to inform decisions and to improving our understanding of how species, including humans, interact in the marine environment. To this end, it is important for the inclusion of an Ethnoecologist or Cultural

Anthropologist on all scientific and regional planning bodies in this process and seek to identify ways in which traditional ecological knowledge is incorporated to advance the fundamental scientific knowledge and success of EBM.

*Action 4: Integrate social and natural scientific information into decision-making-* It is important here when characterizing human interactions with the ocean, our coasts, and Great Lakes to consider the unique inherent rights and cultural interconnectedness of Tribes. It is also important to recognize subsistence economies and their critical role for our Tribe, as well as many other traditional coastal Tribes. Environmental Justice issues should also be considered here.

*Action 6: Increase ocean and coastal literacy by expanding the accessibility and use of ocean content in formal and informal education programming for students, educators, and the public-* "Enhance information of native and traditional observations and knowledge, along with information on native peoples and their cultural traditions, into ocean education materials" is included as a Milestone (page 25). There is no argument that this information is important to increase ocean and coastal literacy. However, these traditional observations and knowledge must not only be confined to educational programming for students, educators, and the public. Rather, this information must be included as a Milestone to informing policymakers, scientists, and managers as well. Furthermore, this information must not only be supplemental education information, but must be integral to scientific data collection, decision-making, ocean policy, and the adaptive management of EBM.

*Priority 3: Observations, Mapping, and Infrastructure-* An invaluable tool for EBM is the integration of data and the development of protocols to assure data interoperability. It will be important for the early identification and publication of metadata standards so that partners, including Smith River Rancheria may integrate them into our current marine conservation efforts. It is also important to note the confidentiality concerns of some data, particularly related to cultural harvesting, and we are pleased to see an approach included here that recognizes the need to retain some information as confidential, which can be made available only by permission of the identified contact.

*Priority 4: Coordinate and Support-* The flexibility of a regional approach is strongest if completely allowed to design EBM and the related Coastal Marine Spatial Planning to the most appropriate needs of the region. Beyond regional differences, there must also be opportunities within the process to be flexible to the sub-regional diversity within each region.

*Action 2: Strength existing partnerships and establish new partnership, as appropriate, to enhance the actions within this Implementation Plan-* Since this item identifies Tribes as partners, it should also include the Department of the Interior (DOI) under Agency, as well as under Milestones, bullet 1 as a federal agency/entity responsible for that action.

*Action 3: Reduce barriers to implementation of the National Ocean Policy-* One of the legal barriers that should be resolved in order to improve the federal government's ability to reduce barriers to implementation is a practical means to develop co-management agreements with federally-recognized Tribes that retain inherent rights to harvest and manage ocean and coastal resources and waters. This includes the Smith River Rancheria.

Priority 5: Regional Ecosystem Protection and Restoration- Restoration is critical to revitalizing coastal habitats and it is important to include this when considering marine conservation. The goals of restoration and the means in which to measure effectiveness must be developed. Restoration must be contextualized primarily based on the need to enhance the health and diversity of the habitat(s), rather than primarily on the precautionary principle.

*Action 6: Identify nationally significant marine and Great Lakes natural and cultural areas in need of protection*- When identifying ecologically important and culturally significant areas in need of protection, this must include areas requiring protection to ensure that traditional harvesting and ceremonial uses by indigenous peoples may continue. The associated traditional cultural properties and trust resources should be a priority for protection from other threats and agreements should be developed between the federal agency and the related Tribe(s) on the management of these culturally significant areas and resources. The evaluation of cultural resources for additional protection based on the National Historic Preservation Act must be sure to evaluate the habitat of cultural keystone species as traditional cultural properties and the entirety of our ancestral territory as a cultural landscape.

*Action 7: Improve the effectiveness of coastal and estuarine habitat restoration projects*- This section does not mention that the monitoring data gathered specific to coastal and estuarine habitat restoration projects would be integrated into the oceandata.gov tool and it seems that it should. All data gathered through this process should be integrated into a singular tool.

Priority 6: Resiliency and Adaption to Climate Change and Ocean Acidification- These are two issues that require attention and an increased focus nationally on data collection and monitoring.

*Action 4: Assess the vulnerability of coastal and ocean environments and communities to climate change and ocean acidification*- Vulnerability assessments need to consider Tribal subsistence economies, the effects to health and welfare from insufficient and/or unhealthy cultural keystone species in which we rely, and environmental justice. Training on how to conduct these assessments must include Tribes and funding should be provided for Tribes to collaborate on performing these assessments for our community.

*Action 6: Design, implement, and evaluate adaptation strategies to reduce vulnerabilities and promote informed decisions*- This must not only be developed in consultation with "Tribes and State Historic Preservation Offices" (page 62), but also with Tribal Historic Preservation Offices.

Priority 7: Water Quality and Sustainable Practices on Land- There is an inability to dissect the water quality and practices taking place on land from the ocean, coasts, and Great Lakes. Sustainability has always been an integral part of who we are as *Tolowa Dee-Ni'* and these practices have been interwoven into our contemporary community and economic development.

*Action 4: Minimize impacts to harmful algal blooms*- Algal blooms are becoming an increasing threat, including to tribal trust resources. Tribes on the North Coast are actively monitoring and informing the public of occurrences, potential effects, and ways to reduce exposure.

Tribal citizens have already been identified as a human sub-population at an increased health risk because of the reliance on the resources and waterways impacted by harmful algal blooms and must be identified here as key partners for monitoring, training, data dissemination, etc...

Priority 8: Changing Condition in the Arctic – No Comments

Priority 9: Coastal and Marine Spatial Planning (CMSP)– The *Implementation Plan* mentions that regional planning body members will be of an appropriate level of responsibility within their respective governing body to make decisions and commitments. It must be recognized that a Tribal representative on the regional planning body can only speak on behalf of the Tribe that nominated him/her. This Tribal representative can in no way speak for other Tribes across the region without the express consent of each Tribe. This can be resolved to some satisfaction in many ways. One way may be that a separate Tribal body/ies must be created that can provide input and direction to the Tribal representative(s) so they may then bring forth input. Regardless, direct government-to-government consultation with each Tribe must take place during the process to fulfill the federal government's commitment. Lastly, CMSP regarding traditional uses by Tribes and Tribal communities will require a means by which to keep the specific information confidential, while remaining useful and informative to the process. Although the need to keep some information confidential is acknowledged in the document previously, this point is not made here (page 87) and it must be.

Action 4: Establish Regional Planning Bodies- To increase the likelihood of success for the regional planning bodies, it will important to include Tribal representatives and in a number sufficient to provide adequate representation. For example, the region with the most Tribes should not have the same number of representatives as the region with the least. Tribal representation on the regional planning bodies certainly "acknowledges the sovereign status of Federally-recognized Tribes"... However, it does not, "preserve the principle of government-to-government consultation..." as the *Implementation Plan* notes (page 91). The federal government retains the responsibility to consult with each Tribe on a government-to-government basis as individual sovereign nations throughout the process. It is not legally appropriate to dilute this responsibility through this means.

General Comments- There is a need to include Tribes in every reference regarding collaboration with other governmental and non-governmental entities. There is a lack of consistency throughout the document as to including Tribes when identifying these entities. For an example, please see pages 50 and 60 where Tribes are left out as potential collaborators. There is also inconsistency as to the use of Tribes vs. federally-recognized Tribes throughout the document. This leaves a question as to if "Tribes" refers to those that are not federally-recognized or if there is simply a need to revise the document for consistency. Lastly, the impacts to tribal trust resources are not acknowledged in the document at all. This is a critical responsibility that the federal government must take into account in management, including the ocean, coasts, and Great Lakes and must be incorporated throughout the document.

Secondly, the request was to provide input in response to, "*What is the most effective way to measure outcomes and to detect whether a particular action in the Implementation Plan has achieved its intended outcome? Would a report card format be useful?*"

Name: **Bruce Freeman**

Organization: Jersey Coast Anglers Association

Path:

Comment: Attachment, via fax.



## **JERSEY COAST ANGLERS ASSOCIATION**

**Working For the Saltwater Resource & Marine Anglers**

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Phone 732-506-6565

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National Ocean Council

White House

Washington, D.C.

Subject: Draft National Ocean Policy Implementation Plan

These comments are being provided on behalf of the Science and Research Committee of the Jersey Coast Anglers Association ( JCAA ). The JCAA is a non-profit association of some 75 saltwater fishing clubs organized to represent recreational anglers in matters pertaining to the well-being of marine, estuarine and anadromous fishes and environmental issues, especially water quality issues, that impact fish and fishing. Since JCAA has been directly involved in fishery management and water quality issues for many years, our comments will focus on these areas of the Draft Plan.

Since ecosystem-based management (EBM) is one of the underpinnings of the National Ocean Policy, there needs to be a clear and understandable definition of this term. The Plan indicates that it integrates ecological, social, economics, commerce, health and security goals, but does not indicate how this will be accomplished. How will competing management goals be reconciled? EMB is becoming a popular term used by many organizations and agencies, yet it engenders different definitions depending on which group you question. Because of the importance of this concept with regards to being the nations' policy, it is very important that it be fully understood and accepted by the public.

The Draft Plan stresses a high standard for water quality; certainly a laudable goal. But in order to achieve this, especially in near shore water, it requires implementing and carrying out sustainable land-use practices which are mostly set and carried out by the states. Also, the same is true for coastal development which is listed as one of the major contributors to altering ecosystems, reducing biological diversity and stressing wildlife and natural resources. How will the federal goal be met without total cooperation from all the states?

The Plan indicates that ESM is a comprehensive big picture approach to resource management with its actions supported by science. Based upon our state of knowledge today and what is needed to understand the complex interrelationships of the biological world, considerably more scientific studies will be needed. The Plan states that no new bureaucracy will be created and any necessary operating funds will come from the existing federal budget. Nevertheless, we see that the FY 2013 budget calls for the elimination of existing programs to monitor water quality, end cooperating programs with coastal states and interstate fishery commissions, and close federal fishery laboratories critical to understanding the relationships of the biological world. What the Plan advocates as a critical need and what we see occurring seems diametrically opposed. How will the Ocean Council address this issue?

The Plan gives little mention of how the public will be directly involved in any sort of advisory capacity. It is our experience that public advisors are important to federal fishery programs. Public advisors play an important role in both interstate fishery commissions as well as federal councils. Will such advisors be part of the NOC, and if so, what is the process?

We trust these comments are helpful to you.

Respectfully,

Bruce L Freeman

Chairman, JCAA Science and Research Committee

Name: **David Frulla**

Organization: Kelley Drye & Warren LLP

Path:

Comment: Attachement, via fax.

**KELLEY DRYE & WARREN LLP**

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February 27, 2012

**VIA ELECTRONIC MAIL**National Ocean Council  
722 Jackson Place, NW  
Washington, DC 20503

Re: National Ocean Policy Draft Implementation Plan

Dear Sir or Madam:

On January 13, 2012, as part of President Obama's National Policy for the Stewardship of the Ocean, Our Coasts, and the Great Lakes (the "National Ocean Policy"), the National Ocean Council ("NOC") released a Draft National Ocean Policy Implementation Plan (the "Implementation Plan"). The Implementation Plan describes more than fifty actions the Federal Government must take in pursuit of nine priority objectives identified in the National Ocean Policy. In total, the plan requires forty-six federal agencies and subdivisions to undertake fifty-four actions and reach 293 milestones by deadlines that range from this year to within the next five years. The Implementation Plan will require enormous amounts of work from federal agencies and has the potential to reshape greatly the legal landscape familiar to current ocean users.

Implementing the National Ocean Policy, as set forth in the Implementation Plan, represents a massive undertaking and commitment of federal, and potentially state and local, resources. Like the Draft Interim Framework for Effective Coastal and Marine Spatial Planning ("CMSP") before it, the Implementation Plan conflicts with existing statutory schemes for fisheries management, offshore oil, gas, and renewable energy development, aquaculture, and marine transportation, to name a few. As such, the Administration ought to proceed cautiously, particularly during these economic times.

Kelley Drye represents a wide variety of clients involved in regulated marine industries, but submits these comments on its own behalf. We also incorporate prior comments on the CMSP Interim Framework.

## KELLEY DRYE &amp; WARREN LLP

National Ocean Council  
February 27, 2012  
Page Two

## I. Concerns

### Presidential action

The principal problem with the Implementation Plan is that it originated in the White House, not Congress. The National Ocean Policy and its progeny, including the Implementation Plan, are not rooted in statute. In fact, Congress refused to propose implementing legislation that would have legitimized the National Ocean Policy and made it law. The House Committee on Natural Resources held an oversight hearing on October 4, 2011, on this very issue. The idea died in committee. Neither a bill nor other legislative action have been forthcoming.

The NOC is at the helm of all things related to the National Ocean Policy and thus the Implementation Plan. From providing guidance regarding workshops and handbooks to certifying CMS Plans, the NOC is in charge of ensuring that all other agencies adhere to the plan. The NOC also is an insulated entity within the White House, meaning that many of its internal workings are shielded from public inspection because of the Federal Advisory Committee Act. (Draft Plan, 31, 89, 108, 110).

Unilateral Administration action on the National Ocean Policy, the NOC, and the Implementation Plan raises questions as to their legality and how interested parties are supposed to interact with the NOC, if at all. It also muddies how agencies' noncompliance will be evaluated and may even foreclose avenues of recourse for affected parties. Whether considered a parallel or superior governing structure, it appears to be a new body of government with which industry, agencies, and interested parties must interact. As such, the NOC represents an additional layer of bureaucracy that is non-transparent and inaccessible.

That said, however, we do believe in the value of coordination and streamlining permitting and like processes among federal agencies. The infrastructure to do so, however, was already in place, via the Committee on Ocean Policy created by President George W. Bush in Executive Order 13366, 69 Fed. Reg. 76591 (Dec. 17, 2004). It is that purely interagency communication and coordination process that should be built upon and strengthened. Our concerns are more directed to the new regulatory infrastructure, such as the proposed regional planning bodies, and CMSP rulemaking processes, that the Implementation Plan envisages.

### Limited federal resources

The volume of work involved in effectuating the Implementation Plan will require tremendous amounts of agency time, staff, money, and resources. Each identified agency is expected to use its resources and concurrently work on all tasks assigned to it. The NOC expects

## KELLEY DRYE &amp; WARREN LLP

National Ocean Council  
February 27, 2012  
Page Three

every milestone to be achievable within expected federal budgets in the coming years, but recognizes that the timeframes will be contingent on the availability of funds. (Draft Plan, 5.) Although not explicitly stated, agencies are expected to allocate their limited resources and funding to effectuate the Implementation Plan. Indeed, the NOC will provide to each agency an annual memorandum that "will provide further guidance and prioritization toward allocating federal resources to achieve implementation goals." (Draft Plan, 5; *see also id.* at 39, 92.)

A review of the number of tasks assigned to already strapped agencies suggests that the Implementation Plan will have major consequences for interested parties. The agency most heavily burdened is the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration ("NOAA"), which is responsible for participating in thirty-eight actions entailing 233 milestones. Other examples include the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency ("EPA"), which must be involved in twenty-six actions in pursuit of 163 milestones; the Department of Defense ("DOD") with twelve actions associated with seventy-four milestones; the Department of Commerce ("DOC") with eight actions and fifty-seven milestones; and the Department of Energy ("DOE") with six actions and twenty-seven milestones.

The current state of the economy dictates that if an agency's limited budget must be used implementing the White House's National Ocean Policy, money may not be available for other issues. This creates a zero-sum game. Congress generally appropriates money to each agency. The agency, in turn, has discretion on how it uses its resources in meeting statutory mandates and complying with its statutory objectives (which do not exist here). Both the Implementation Plan and the NOC effectively have decided for agencies how each will spend its funding and allocate its resources. Agency resources, which already are spread thinly, will be stretched further to effectuate the National Ocean Policy, meet statutory deadlines, and regulate industry. Budget and staff shortages are likely. Existing, often resource-intensive and data-hungry agency regulatory regimes governing day-to-day ocean uses undoubtedly will suffer.

#### Predetermined outcomes

In addition to usurping agency resources, the Implementation Plan also short-circuits congressionally delegated rulemaking authority. The rulemaking process generally requires agencies to implement legislation by proposing rules, receiving public comment on the proposed rules, and finalizing appropriate rules after all issues are considered. 5 U.S.C. Chap. 5. Ultimately, under the Implementation Plan, the rules will essentially be predetermined via the NOC decision-making process. Research aligned with the NOC priority objectives also will be given preference. (Draft Plan, 15.) Although the plan recognizes the current lack of useful scientific data, it adds a new variable to the process of determining which research ventures obtain funding first.

**KELLEY DRYE & WARREN LLP**

National Ocean Council  
February 27, 2012  
Page Four

The NOC's answer to these problems is simply to advocate changing the law. The Implementation Plan calls on agencies to seek congressional action, amending statutes so that the National Ocean Policy may be effectuated in full. (Draft Plan, 13.) The National Ocean Policy will remain at odds with those statutes that are not changed.

**II. Constructive Elements**

There is value in making government more efficient and better coordinating federal actions. For instance, early efforts to identify and offer offshore wind energy sites were done without sufficient interagency communication and, more importantly, outreach to stakeholders including fishermen at the earliest stages. We have seen improvement in communication and responsiveness to input in later efforts. We also applaud the recent decision to formally include members of each Regional Fishery Management Council on the respective regional planning bodies. This is exactly the type of coordination which needs to be improved.

Also, we strongly support sound science, cooperative research, and data sharing. We only caution that the NOC be careful to preserve confidential information in its public databases. We also strongly endorse the highest standards of scientific inquiry, consistent with this Administration's scientific integrity policy.

**III. Conclusion**

The stakes of this process are potentially enormous, particularly for regulated entities involved in marine-based enterprises. We strongly urge the Administration to seek the authority it needs for this undertaking from Congress. Something this consequential should not be implemented by administrative action alone.

Sincerely,



David E. Frulla

Name: **Lelei Peau**

Organization: All Island Committee

Path:

Comment: Attachment, via sent email.

# **U.S. All Islands Coral Reef Committee**

## **Comments on the Draft National Ocean Policy Implementation Plan**

### **February 24, 2012**

#### **General Comments**

The U.S. All Islands Coral Reef Committee (AIC) welcomes the Draft National Ocean Policy Implementation Plan which describes more than 50 actions the Federal Government will take to improve the health of our oceans, coasts and Great Lakes. The AIC appreciates the opportunity to provide comments on the plan.

We agree that the draft Implementation Plan reflects federal actions needed to address the nine priorities for the oceans, coasts and the Great Lakes to achieve the vision and charge of the National Ocean Policy. We are optimistic that the Plan will ensure the Federal Government targets limited resources more effectively to deliver demonstrable results for the nation, including predictability for users, more efficient and coordinated decision-making, and improved sharing of data and technology.

We agree with the four themes that guide the draft Implementation Plan: Adopt ecosystem-based management (EBM); Obtain, use and share the best science and data; Promote efficiency and collaboration; and Strengthen regional efforts. CMSP is an important tool for implementing EBM.

We endorse Plan's intention to ensure that the Federal Government targets limited resources more effectively to deliver demonstrable results for the American people, including predictability for users, more efficient and coordinated decision-making, and improved sharing of data and technology.

Since 1994, the AIC has represented the interests of the Governors of the nation's seven coral jurisdictions<sup>1</sup> (states, territories and commonwealths) on issues related to the sound management and development of coastal and ocean resources.

The states and territories are on the front lines of the work of balancing competing uses in the coastal zone, managing the development of traditional and renewable energy sources, and adapting to climate change impacts. The seven states and territories that are members of the AIC are in a unique partnership position to lead efforts to address the most pressing challenges facing our oceans and coasts.

Like the federal government, our member states and territories are sovereigns, landowners, regulators, and managers of marine and coastal resources. The jurisdiction of coastal states extends seaward to encompass significant ocean areas, resources, and uses, out to three miles in most cases and, in a few cases, beyond three miles.

Coastal states and territories have Public Trust responsibilities for the nation's coastal submerged lands and state ocean waters and for protecting fish and wildlife resources in these areas. These

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<sup>1</sup> *American Samoa, Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands (CNMI), Florida, Guam, Hawaii, Puerto Rico, U.S. Virgin Islands*

responsibilities are exercised on behalf of all citizens, including future generations. States regulate and manage these marine and coastal resources, often in partnership or consultation with federal agencies. In addition, coastal states and territories have specific authority delegated to them under the Coastal Zone Management Act to ensure that activities and permits of federal agencies that may affect their coastal zone are consistent with approved state policies. Also, member jurisdictions of the AIC have specific mandates under the Coral Reef Conservation Act and Presidential Executive Order 13089 (1998) to protect and conserve coral reefs in the United States. Thus, AIC recommends that the NOP Implementation Plan reflect these unique Constitutional responsibilities and the states and territories' major role in managing ocean and coastal resources.

Under the Public Trust Doctrine, coastal states and territories have trust responsibilities over these resources. Also, under the Coastal Zone Management Act, Coral Reef Conservation Act and Presidential Executive Order 13089, coastal states and territories have the responsibility to manage coastal and coral reef resources within the coastal zone and review activities outside of the coastal zone that might affect it.

## **RECOMMENDATIONS**

Given these significant roles, the AIC strongly recommends that the federal government

- Work with states and territories as equal partners in managing ocean resources and implementing the National Ocean Policy.
- Provide additional resources, including funding and technical assistance, to the states and territories to implement the National Ocean Policy and CMSP.
- Support Reauthorization of the Coastal Zone Management Act and Coral Reef Conservation Act.
- Ensure that the Implementation Plan builds on existing state, regional, and federal partnerships, including the U.S. Coral Reef Task Force.
- Support state, territorial and local efforts to provide critical projections of climate change impacts on coasts and oceans at decision-relevant scales to reduce risks and impacts.
- Support states and territories to assess the vulnerability of coastal and ocean environments and communities to climate change and ocean acidification.
- Support states and territories in managing renewable energy development.
- Enhance ecosystem based management through improved tools including adaptive management and coastal marine spatial planning.
- Acknowledge Public Trust responsibilities of Federal Agencies.

## **Implementation Plan Actions**

The following are comments on selected strategies in the Plan:

**Improve permitting** – we support the Federal agencies of working together with states and territories to more efficiently coordinate their permitting processes to eliminate unnecessary delays and burdens for applicants, and more effectively protect ocean health.

**Provide scientific information to support emerging sustainable uses of resources including for fisheries, renewable energy, aquaculture and biotechnology** - we fully support the NOC's initiatives to increase access to data and information to provide new and expanded opportunities for sustainable economic growth in traditional and emerging sectors, including renewable energy, aquaculture and biotechnology.

**Locate, control and eradication of invasive species populations.** We fully support Federal agencies working together with state and local partners to promote and coordinate actions to locate, monitor, control and where possible, eradicate invasive species populations.

**Improve water quality by reducing the impacts of trash, marine debris** and sources of excess nutrients, sediments, pollutants, and pathogens. Pollution to streams, rivers, estuaries and coasts is a significant cause of declining ocean and coastal ecosystem health. Corals are particularly vulnerable to pollutants and sedimentation. We look forward to working in partnership with federal agencies to implement conservation and best management practices to reduce rural and urban sources of pollution to improve local water quality and enhance ecosystem services.

**Support vulnerable coastal communities in addressing impacts of climate change on infrastructure and economies.** We agree with the NOP strategy to strengthen and integrate observations from the National's protected areas, research activities and observing systems into a coordinated network to provide decision-makers with information to reduce risks and increase resilience of ocean and coastal communities. Increased understanding of climate change and ocean acidification impacts will improve vulnerability assessments and effectiveness of adaptation actions to reduce risks and impacts.

**Regional ecosystem protection and restoration** – We fully support Action 4: to Strengthen interagency collaboration to protect and conserve coral reef ecosystems. Improving coral reef conservation by strengthening interagency coordination will promote a ridge-to-reef or watershed approach to address-land based sources of pollution, and facilitate a more consistent approach to evaluating, assessing and mitigating impacts to coral reef ecosystems. We agree with the initiatives to establish a mechanism for controlling invasive species to help improve water quality and ecosystem services; identifying significant marine areas for science-based protection that balances conservation and human uses; and increased monitoring and data collection to improve the effectiveness of habitat restoration.

**CMSP** – We look forward to receiving the Handbook for regional CMSP which will assist our regional planning bodies with guidance and information to support the regional planning process. We also look forward to receiving assistance to implement regional CMSP workshops in the Pacific Islands and Caribbean Regions. Our jurisdictions will also actively participate on the Regional Planning Bodies, when they are established.

Name: **Bob Ballard**

Organization:

Path:

- Comment:
1. I would add the Department of Interior, NSF, and DOD to the “Agencies” since those agencies were recommended by the President’s Panel on Ocean Exploration and the President’s Commission on Ocean Policy.
  2. I like Jerry’s suggestion since it give Tim an opportunity to role out his “Vision” document.
  3. I like “international and NGO partnerships”, “Effective use of available renewable and non-renewable resources”.
  4. I think we need a word or two that specifically mentions the bottom of the ocean since the Ocean Exploration Program has a major emphasis on the Earth Sciences which NOAA historically is weak in, tending to over emphasis as far as I am concerned the life sciences. Just look at all of these words in the document you sent” “environment, biodiversity, ecosystem, climate, changing environmental conditions, human activities in the ocean, biomedical.” I am not sure those words were in the minds of Lewis and Clark when they explored the Louisiana Purchase or when Captain Cook went on his three voyages of discovery. What about modifying the second sentence to say: “It promotes scientific exploration, particularly of the 95-percent of the ocean and its underwater terrain that remains poorly known, ....”

Also modify the third sentence to say: “.....oceanic biodiversity, geological processes, cultural resources, biochemical processes, .....”

RDB

Name: **Jerry Schubel**

Organization: Aquarium of the Pacific

Path:

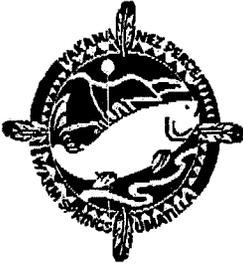
Comment: Under: "Inform Decisions and Improve Understanding" (p. 18)

Under: Advance fundamental scientific knowledge through exploration and research (p. 19)

Under Milestones: We suggest adding the following as a 3rd bullet.

"Develop a five-year strategy for ocean exploration under  
PL 111-11's ocean exploration provisions." (NOAA 2013).

Name: **Babtist Paul Lumley**  
Organization: Columbia River Inter-Tribal Fish Commission  
Path:  
Comment: Attachment, via fax.

**COLUMBIA RIVER INTER-TRIBAL FISH COMMISSION**

729 NE Oregon, Suite 200, Portland, Oregon 97232

Telephone 503 238 0667

Fax 503 235 4228

February 27, 2012

Michael Weiss  
Acting Director  
National Ocean Council  
722 Jackson Place NW  
Washington, DC 20503

Dear Mr. Weiss:

On behalf of our member tribes, CRITFC takes this opportunity to comment on the National Ocean Policy Implementation Plan. CRITFC previously provided comments on the Draft Action Plan during the listening session in Portland in July 2011. The Commission was formed in 1977 to provide a unified voice in the protection of the treaty fishing rights of the Nez Perce, Umatilla, Warm Springs, and Yakama tribes, which were reserved in treaties with the United States government in 1855. Our treaty protected resources include salmon, steelhead, sturgeon, and lamprey, which spend part of their life in the ocean. The federal government has a trust responsibility to the tribes to maintain these resources.

From a substantive perspective, the Implementation Plan has many positive aspects to addressing such a large and complex set of issues. From a process perspective, we are concerned that the Implementation Plan does not adequately address the trust responsibility obligations of the federal government to the tribes. Additional comments are attached.

The tribes look forward to working on the important issue of a National Ocean Policy. The health of the ocean environment is important to all people of the United States. Sound policies for the ocean environment will contribute to sustainable treaty protected resources that will benefit future generations.

Thank you for the opportunity to comment.

Sincerely,

Babtist Paul Lumley  
Executive Director

Attachment

CRITFC Comments on  
National Ocean Policy Implementation Plan  
February 27, 2012

1. Organizing the nine National Priority Objectives into four themes helps focus the implementation efforts.
2. Adopting an ecosystem-based approach that recognizes the human impact on the environment is consistent with the tribal approach to natural resources management. Establishing a collaborative framework and a shared set of goals is a challenge given the wide array of interests in the ocean environment.
3. We support the use and sharing of the best science and data. Transparency in the collection of data and the use of analytical tools is necessary to achieve a well-informed decision-making process that effectively addresses the interests of affected groups and clearly lays out the consequences of alternatives.
4. In order to promote efficiency and collaboration, the recommendation is to support existing regional ocean partnerships, which are state government forums. While we appreciate the need to address issues on a regional basis, a more inclusive forum that includes tribal representation must be developed. The federal government must live up to its treaty trust responsibility and ensure that meaningful tribal participation and consultation takes place.
5. Strengthening regional efforts in developing actions that are fair, efficient, wise and stable. Regional efforts must be inclusive of all affected groups.
6. The lack of acknowledgement of the relationship between the federal government and the treaty tribes throughout the document is troubling. The government-to-government relationship of the tribes and the federal government recognizes the sovereignty of the tribes and the tribes' role as co-managers of the resource. Meaningful tribal consultation and participation in the development and implementation of the National Ocean Policy is part of the federal government's treaty trust obligations.
7. We support the development of federal cross-cut budget for implementation of the National Ocean Policy to promote efficiency and collaboration. This is especially important given the current economic climate.
8. The coordination of the activities of the thirty-seven federal agencies identified in the implementation of the plan is a challenging task. Including tribal, state, and local entities multiplies the complexity of coordination. Such extensive coordination and collaboration is necessary to meaningful implementation.

9. Activities in upland areas affect the quality of the ocean environment. Many of the same federal agencies are involved in these activities. The concepts of a federal cross-cut budget and coordination of activities affecting environmental quality should be extended to upland activities. Water quality effects from upland activities will have an impact on the ocean environment. It is unclear where the boundary will be drawn for the purposes of implementation of the National Ocean Policy.
10. Climate change will have many effects on the ocean environment. One effect is the quantity and timing of runoffs from upland areas will change the input into the ocean environment. In the Columbia River Basin, the management of the hydropower system also affects input. We are examining climate change scenarios for the projected effects of water management on treaty trust resources. Other geographic regions will also endure climate change effects. This is another connection between inland practices and the quality of the ocean environment.
11. The decision making framework must be flexible enough to address uncertainties, such as the effects of climate change. In a changing environment it is important to develop a framework that learns from previous experience and can be adapted for future conditions. Using our current knowledge base to identify and address gaps is necessary for any decision making tool to have utility.

Name: **Larry Naake, et al.**

Organization: National League of Cities/Natinoal Association of Counties

Path:

Comment: Attachment, via fax.

Signed by:

Larry Naake, Donald Borut, and Tom Cochran



February 27, 2012

National Ocean Council  
722 Jackson Place, NW  
Washington, DC 20503

Dear National Ocean Council Members:

On behalf of cities, counties and mayors, we thank you for the opportunity to provide comments on the National Ocean Council's (NOC) Draft National Ocean Policy Implementation Plan.

We would like to thank the NOC for including state, local and tribal governments throughout the process in helping to develop a national ocean policy. The most successful partnerships recognize the unique role each level of government—federal, state, local and tribal—plays in crafting complex proposals. Throughout the document, this vital partnership is emphasized, particularly in the recognition that protection of the environment and wise development of our nation's resources are obligations shared by all levels of government.

We are concerned, however, about the lack of local government representation on the nine proposed planning bodies (coinciding with the nine regional planning areas) for the development of regional Coastal and Marine Spatial Planning (CMSP). We believe this omission is a significant oversight of NOC that could undermine the process and spirit of the effort. The membership plan for CMSP is as follows:

*"The membership of each regional planning body will consist of Federal, State, and Tribal authorities relevant to CMSP for that region..."*

According to the draft plan, the benefits of this regional group, comprised of federal, state and tribal members will:

*"Define local and regional objectives and develop and implement CMSP in a way that is meaningful to regionally specific concerns... Leverage, strengthen, and magnify local planning objectives through integration with regional and national planning efforts."*

While the plan is vague on how the regional CMSP groups may impact local planning policies, processes and/or decisions, we would oppose any federal attempt to preempt a local government's authority in these areas.

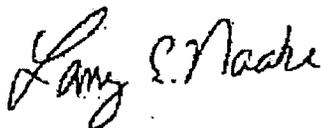
Barring local government representation on the CMSP invites a top-down approach to regional and local planning and processes. Cities and counties are highly diverse communities with immense variation in natural resources, social and political systems, cultural, economic and

National Ocean Council  
February 27, 2012  
Page Two

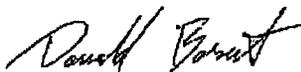
structural circumstances, and public health and environmental concerns. It is important that local governments be involved as a significant partner in the formative stages of developing standards, policies and guidance and have the ability to tailor such measures to meet their communities' unique needs, where appropriate. We would urge you to reconsider local government's representation on the CMSP.

As you move forward with this process, we encourage you to continue to include local government representation in ensuring the protection, maintenance, and restoration of oceans, our coasts and the Great Lakes.

Sincerely,



Larry E. Naake  
Executive Director  
National Association of Counties



Donald J. Borut  
Executive Director  
National League of Cities



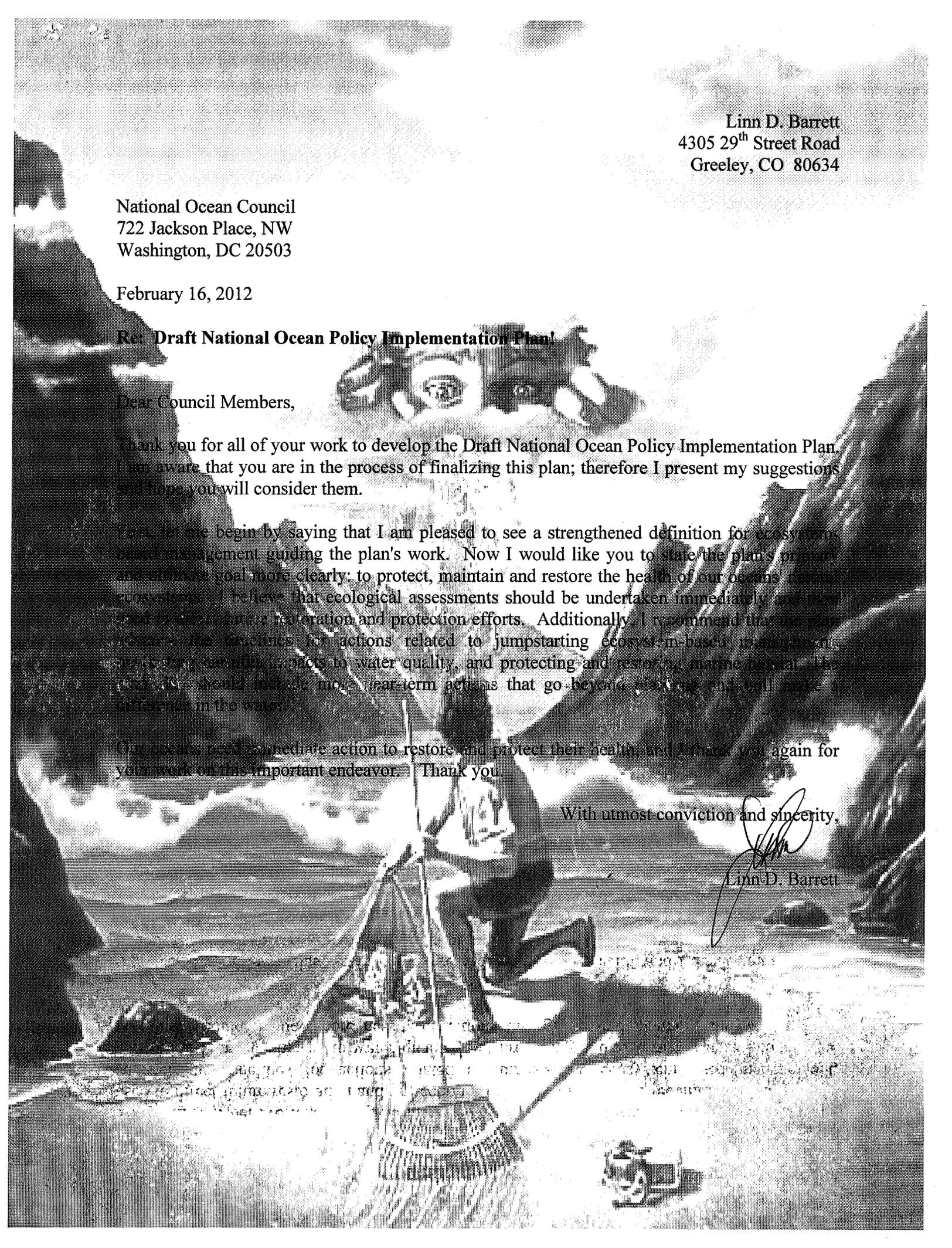
Tom Cochran  
CEO and Executive Director  
The United States Conference  
of Mayors

Name: **Linn Barrett**

Organization:

Path:

Comment: Attachment, via mail.



Linn D. Barrett  
4305 29<sup>th</sup> Street Road  
Greeley, CO 80634

National Ocean Council  
722 Jackson Place, NW  
Washington, DC 20503

February 16, 2012

**Re: Draft National Ocean Policy Implementation Plan!**

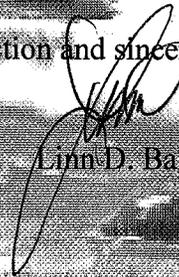
Dear Council Members,

Thank you for all of your work to develop the Draft National Ocean Policy Implementation Plan. I am aware that you are in the process of finalizing this plan; therefore I present my suggestions and hope you will consider them.

First, let me begin by saying that I am pleased to see a strengthened definition for ecosystem-based management guiding the plan's work. Now I would like you to state the plan's primary and ultimate goal more clearly: to protect, maintain and restore the health of our oceans' natural ecosystems. I believe that ecological assessments should be undertaken immediately and then used to guide future restoration and protection efforts. Additionally, I recommend that the plan describe the techniques for actions related to jumpstarting ecosystem-based management, including satellite tracking, water quality, and protecting and restoring marine habitat. The plan also should include more near-term actions that go beyond planning and will make a difference in the water.

Our oceans need immediate action to restore and protect their health, and I thank you again for your work on this important endeavor. Thank you.

With utmost conviction and sincerity,

  
Linn D. Barrett

Name:

Organization: Pew Environment Group

Path:

Comment: Dear Chairs Nancy Sutley and John Holdren, National Ocean Council, The draft National Ocean Policy Implementation Plan establishes a strong blueprint for taking action and fostering agency coordination to sustain our ocean, coastal and Great Lakes resources. The draft plan has successfully incorporated the needs and concerns of governmental, non-profit, and commercial groups and provides clarifying details to improve accountability and monitor progress toward improved ocean management. Frequent notations on how implementing actions are related to one another provides confidence that activities will be coordinated and make good use of limited resources. Nonetheless, the plan could be improved to achieve even more progress. It should more fully utilize all available authorities for habitat protection and management. Many of the milestones could be extended beyond cataloguing and planning to include action, with tangible, on-the-water activities. Regional need, support, and capacity should guide where coordinated actions should first take place. Federal agencies must continue to ask for input from other levels of the government and the public and incorporate this new information into implementation of the plan. With these additions, President Obama's Implementation Plan will provide a better guide for achieving the goals of protecting, maintaining, and restoring the nation's oceans, coasts, and Great Lakes and ensuring resilient coastal economies. I look forward to the release of the final plan and hope to see policy translated into action on the water soon. Sincerely,

Mr. Bill Carroll  
301 Country Club Rd  
Pocahontas, AR 72455-8802

Feb 6, 2012

Chairs Nancy Sutley and John Holdren, National Ocean Council

Subject: Strengthen the National Ocean Policy Implementation Plan

Dear Chairs Nancy Sutley and John Holdren, National Ocean Council,

Our oceans are in serious trouble. that means dwe're all in serious trouble.

The draft National Ocean Policy Implementation Plan establishes a strong blueprint for taking action and fostering agency coordination to sustain our ocean, coastal and Great Lakes resources. The draft plan has successfully incorporated the needs and concerns of governmental, non-profit, and commercial groups and provides clarifying details to improve accountability and monitor progress toward improved ocean management. Frequent notations on how implementing actions are related to one another provides confidence that activities will be coordinated and make good use of limited resources.

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Sincerely,  
Mr. Bill Carroll

Mr. Phillip Crabill  
430 Copperas Trl  
Highland Village, TX 75077-7256  
(972) 317-4772

Feb 6, 2012

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Future generations need a decent world to live in!! Help make that happen with a strong Implementation Plan!

With these additions, President Obama's Implementation Plan will provide a better guide for achieving the goals of protecting, maintaining, and restoring the nation's oceans, coasts, and Great Lakes and ensuring resilient coastal economies. I look forward to the release of the final plan and hope to see policy translated into action on the water soon.

Sincerely,  
Mr. Phillip Crabill

Mr. F. Robert Wesley  
212 Hill Rd  
Ithaca, NY 14850-8602

Feb 6, 2012

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Sincerely,  
Mr. F. Robert Wesley

Mrs. Carol Jurczewski  
452 Shenstone Rd  
Riverside, IL 60546-2032

Feb 6, 2012

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**\*\*THE OCEANS AND MARINE AND PLANT LIFE THAT LIVE IN THEM ARE BEING DESTROYED FROM POLLUTION, OVERFISHING, GLOBAL WARMING, AMONG OTHER THINGS. PLEASE PROTECT THE OCEANS!**

Sincerely,  
Mrs. Carol Jurczewski

Miss Kristine Andarmani  
19616 Ladera Ct  
Saratoga, CA 95070-3329

Feb 6, 2012

Chairs Nancy Sutley and John Holdren, National Ocean Council

Subject: Strengthen the National Ocean Policy Implementation Plan

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Thank you.

Sincerely,  
Miss Kristine Andarmani

Miss laura ferrara  
12595 Sunbird Ln  
Victorville, CA 92392-7490

Feb 6, 2012

Chairs Nancy Sutley and John Holdren, National Ocean Council

Subject: Strengthen the National Ocean Policy Implementation Plan

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Sincerely,  
Miss laura ferrara

Mr. Edward Vaughn  
10710 Evergreen Way Apt H106  
Everett, WA 98204-4335  
(425) 353-1772

Feb 6, 2012

Chairs Nancy Sutley and John Holdren, National Ocean Council

Subject: Strengthen the National Ocean Policy Implementation Plan

Dear Chairs Nancy Sutley and John Holdren, National Ocean Council,

Protecting the oceans is critical to the future of all life on this planet.

Stand up for oceans!

Stand up for life!

Sincerely,  
Mr. Edward Vaughn

Mr. Eugene Gorrin  
2607 Frederick Ter  
Union, NJ 07083-5603

Feb 6, 2012

Chairs Nancy Sutley and John Holdren, National Ocean Council

Subject: Strengthen The National Ocean Policy Implementation Plan

Dear Chairs Nancy Sutley and John Holdren, National Ocean Council,

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Thank you.

Sincerely,  
Mr. Eugene Gorrin

Ms. Jennifer Denham  
6807 Joyce St  
Austin, TX 78757-2333

Feb 6, 2012

Chairs Nancy Sutley and John Holdren, National Ocean Council

Subject: Strengthen the National Ocean Policy Implementation Plan

Dear Chairs Nancy Sutley and John Holdren, National Ocean Council,

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Sincerely,  
Ms. Jennifer Denham

Dr. d Carr  
22a School St  
Hanover, NH 03755-2027

Feb 6, 2012

Chairs Nancy Sutley and John Holdren, National Ocean Council

Subject: Strengthen the National Ocean Policy Implementation Plan

Dear Chairs Nancy Sutley and John Holdren, National Ocean Council,

The draft National Ocean Policy Implementation Plan establishes a strong blueprint for taking action and fostering agency coordination to sustain our ocean, coastal and Great Lakes resources. The draft plan has successfully incorporated the needs and concerns of governmental, non-profit, and commercial groups and provides clarifying details to improve accountability and monitor progress toward improved ocean management. Frequent notations on how implementing actions are related to one another provide confidence that activities will be coordinated and make good use of limited resources.

Nonetheless, the plan could be improved in such a way as to achieve even more progress. It should more fully utilize all available authorities for habitat protection and management. Many of the milestones could be extended beyond cataloging and planning to include action, with tangible, on-the-water activities. Regional need, support, and capacity should guide where coordinated actions should first take place. Federal agencies must continue to ask for input from other levels of the government and the public, and should incorporate this new information into the implementation of the plan.

With these additions, President Obama's Implementation Plan will provide a better guide for achieving the goals of protecting, maintaining, and restoring the nation's oceans, coasts, and Great Lakes and ensuring resilient coastal economies. I look forward to the release of the final plan and hope to see policy translated into action on the water soon.

Sincerely,  
Dr. d Carr

Ms. Karen Vasily  
306 Rogers Rd  
Norristown, PA 19403-1648

Feb 6, 2012

Chairs Nancy Sutley and John Holdren, National Ocean Council

Subject: Strengthen the National Ocean Policy Implementation Plan

Dear Chairs Nancy Sutley and John Holdren, National Ocean Council,

Our oceans need help now! The draft National Ocean Policy Implementation Plan establishes a strong blueprint for taking action and fostering agency coordination to sustain our ocean, coastal and Great Lakes resources. The draft plan has successfully incorporated the needs and concerns of governmental, non-profit, and commercial groups and provides clarifying details to improve accountability and monitor progress toward improved ocean management. Frequent notations on how implementing actions are related to one another provides confidence that activities will be coordinated and make good use of limited resources.

Nonetheless, the plan could be improved to achieve even more progress. It should more fully utilize all available authorities for habitat protection and management. Many of the milestones could be extended beyond cataloguing and planning to include action, with tangible, on-the-water activities. Regional need, support, and capacity should guide where coordinated actions should first take place. Federal agencies must continue to ask for input from other levels of the government and the public and incorporate this new information into implementation of the plan.

With these additions, President Obama's Implementation Plan will provide a better guide for achieving the goals of protecting, maintaining, and restoring the nation's oceans, coasts, and Great Lakes and ensuring resilient coastal economies. I look forward to the release of the final plan and hope to see policy translated into action on the water soon.

Sincerely,  
Ms. Karen Vasily

Miss Linda Andrews  
PO Box 97  
Canterbury, CT 06331-0097

Feb 6, 2012

Chairs Nancy Sutley and John Holdren, National Ocean Council

Subject: Strengthen the National Ocean Policy Implementation Plan

Dear Chairs Nancy Sutley and John Holdren, National Ocean Council,

The draft National Ocean Policy Implementation Plan establishes a strong blueprint for taking action and fostering agency coordination to sustain our ocean, coastal and Great Lakes resources. The draft plan has successfully incorporated the needs and concerns of governmental, non-profit, and commercial groups and provides clarifying details to improve accountability and monitor progress toward improved ocean management. Frequent notations on how implementing actions are related to one another provides confidence that activities will be coordinated and make good use of limited resources.

However, the plan could be improved to achieve even more progress. It should more fully utilize all available authorities for habitat protection and management. Many of the milestones could be extended beyond cataloguing and planning to include action, with tangible, on-the-water activities. Regional need, support, and capacity should guide where coordinated actions should first take place. Federal agencies must continue to ask for input from other levels of the government and the public and incorporate this new information into implementation of the plan.

With these additions, President Obama's Implementation Plan will provide a better guide for achieving the goals of protecting, maintaining, and restoring the nation's oceans, coasts, and Great Lakes and ensuring resilient coastal economies. I look forward to the release of the final plan and hope to see policy translated into action on the water soon.

Thank you!

Sincerely,  
Miss Linda Andrews

Mrs. Tamara Dreier  
830 Cardiff Ct  
O Fallon, IL 62269-6863

Feb 6, 2012

Chairs Nancy Sutley and John Holdren, National Ocean Council

Subject: Strengthen the National Ocean Policy Implementation Plan

Dear Chairs Nancy Sutley and John Holdren, National Ocean Council,

The draft National Ocean Policy Implementation Plan establishes a strong blueprint for taking action and fostering agency coordination to sustain our ocean, coastal and Great Lakes resources. The draft plan has successfully incorporated the needs and concerns of governmental, non-profit, and commercial groups and provides clarifying details to improve accountability and monitor progress toward improved ocean management. Frequent notations on how implementing actions are related to one another provides confidence that activities will be coordinated and make good use of limited resources.

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With these additions, President Obama's Implementation Plan will provide a better guide for achieving the goals of protecting, maintaining, and restoring the nation's oceans, coasts, and Great Lakes and ensuring resilient coastal economies. I look forward to the release of the final plan and hope to see policy translated into action on the water soon.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,  
Mrs. Tamara Dreier

Ms. Georgia Brewer  
5518 Ventura Canyon Ave  
Sherman Oaks, CA 91401-5228

Feb 6, 2012

Chairs Nancy Sutley and John Holdren, National Ocean Council

Subject: Strengthen the National Ocean Policy Implementation Plan

Dear Chairs Nancy Sutley and John Holdren, National Ocean Council,

The draft National Ocean Policy Implementation Plan does not go far enough in taking action and fostering agency coordination to sustain our ocean, coastal and Great Lakes resources. Yes, it incorporates the needs and concerns of governmental, non-profit, and commercial groups and provides clarifying details to improve accountability and monitor progress toward improved ocean management. It also encourages coordinated actions and makes good use of limited resources.

Nonetheless, the plan needs improvement to achieve even more progress. It should more fully utilize all available authorities for habitat protection and management. Many of the milestones could be extended beyond cataloguing and planning to include action, with tangible, on-the-water activities. Regional need, support, and capacity should guide where coordinated actions should first take place. Federal agencies must continue to ask for input from other levels of the government and the public and incorporate this new information into implementation of the plan.

With these additions, President Obama's Implementation Plan will provide a better guide for achieving the goals of protecting, maintaining, and restoring the nation's oceans, coasts, and Great Lakes and ensuring resilient coastal economies. I look forward to the release of the final plan and hope to see policy translated into action on the water soon.

Sincerely,  
Ms. Georgia Brewer

Dr. Carol Steinhart  
104 Lathrop St  
Madison, WI 53726-4019

Feb 6, 2012

Chairs Nancy Sutley and John Holdren, National Ocean Council

Subject: Strengthen the National Ocean Policy Implementation Plan

Dear Chairs Nancy Sutley and John Holdren, National Ocean Council,

The draft National Ocean Policy Implementation Plan establishes a strong blueprint for action and agency coordination to sustain ocean, coastal, and Great Lakes resources. The plan incorporates the needs and concerns of government, non-profit, and commercial groups and provides clarification to improve accountability and monitor progress toward improved ocean management. Notes on how implementing actions are related to one another provide confidence that activities will be coordinated and make good use of limited resources.

But the plan could be improved. It should more fully utilize all available authorities for habitat protection and management. Many of the milestones could be extended beyond cataloguing and planning to include action, with tangible, on-the-water activities. Regional need, support, and capacity should guide where coordinated actions first take place. Federal agencies must continue to seek input from other levels of the government and the public and incorporate this information into implementation of the plan.

With these additions, President Obama's Implementation Plan will provide a better guide for achieving the goals of protecting, maintaining, and restoring the nation's oceans, coasts, and Great Lakes and ensuring resilient coastal economies. I hope to see policy translated into action on the water soon.

Sincerely,  
Dr. Carol Steinhart

Mrs. Teresa Koschmeder  
20384 Alpine Dr  
Lawrenceburg, IN 47025-9092  
(812) 637-0573

Feb 6, 2012

Chairs Nancy Sutley and John Holdren, National Ocean Council

Subject: Strengthen the National Ocean Policy Implementation Plan

Dear Chairs Nancy Sutley and John Holdren, National Ocean Council,

The draft National Ocean Policy Implementation Plan establishes a strong blueprint for taking action and fostering agency coordination to sustain our ocean, coastal and Great Lakes resources. The draft plan has successfully incorporated the needs and concerns of governmental, non-profit, and commercial groups and provides clarifying details to improve accountability and monitor progress toward improved ocean management. Frequent notations on how implementing actions are related to one another provides confidence that activities will be coordinated and make good use of limited resources.

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With these additions, President Obama's Implementation Plan will provide a better guide for achieving the goals of protecting, maintaining, and restoring the nation's oceans, coasts, and Great Lakes and ensuring resilient coastal economies. I look forward to the release of the final plan and hope to see policy translated into action on the water soon.

Sincerely,  
Mrs. Teresa Koschmeder

Mrs. Anita Buffer  
Winding Way  
Warminster, PA 18974-5453  
(267) 282-5147

Feb 6, 2012

Chairs Nancy Sutley and John Holdren, National Ocean Council

Subject: Strengthen the National Ocean Policy Implementation Plan

Dear Chairs Nancy Sutley and John Holdren, National Ocean Council,

The plan could be IMPROVED to achieve EVEN MORE PROGRESS to include ACTION WITH TANGIBLE ACTIVITIES.

President Obama's Implementation Plan will provide a better guide for achieving the goals of protecting, maintaining, and restoring the nation's oceans, coasts, and Great Lakes and ensuring resilient coastal economies.

I hope to see policy translated into ACTION on the water.

Sincerely,  
Mrs. Anita Buffer

Mr. George Hague  
26711 Ironwood Ave  
Moreno Valley, CA 92555-1906

Feb 6, 2012

Chairs Nancy Sutley and John Holdren, National Ocean Council

Subject: Strengthen the National Ocean Policy Implementation Plan

Dear Chairs Nancy Sutley and John Holdren, National Ocean Council,

The draft National Ocean Policy Implementation Plan establishes a strong blueprint for taking action and fostering agency coordination to sustain our ocean, coastal and Great Lakes resources. The draft plan has successfully incorporated the needs and concerns of governmental, non-profit, and commercial groups and provides clarifying details to improve accountability and monitor progress toward improved ocean management. Frequent notations on how implementing actions are related to one another provides confidence that activities will be coordinated and make good use of limited resources.

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With these additions, President Obama's Implementation Plan will provide a better guide for achieving the goals of protecting, maintaining, and restoring the nation's oceans, coasts, and Great Lakes and ensuring resilient coastal economies. I look forward to the release of the final plan and hope to see policy translated into action on the water soon.

PLEASE===PLEASE===PLEASE DO WHAT IS RECOMMENDED ABOVE

Sincerely,  
Mr. George Hague

Mr. Glenn Ross  
PO Box 3807  
Eureka, CA 95502-3807

Feb 6, 2012

Chairs Nancy Sutley and John Holdren, National Ocean Council

Subject: Strengthen the National Ocean Policy Implementation Plan

Dear Chairs Nancy Sutley and John Holdren, National Ocean Council,

The draft National Ocean Policy Implementation Plan establishes a strong blueprint for taking action and fostering agency coordination to sustain our ocean, coastal and Great Lakes resources. The draft plan has successfully incorporated the needs and concerns of governmental, non-profit, and commercial groups and provides clarifying details to improve accountability and monitor progress toward improved ocean management. Frequent notations on how implementing actions are related to one another provides confidence that activities will be coordinated and make good use of limited resources.

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With these additions, President Obama's Implementation Plan will provide a better guide for achieving the goals of protecting, maintaining, and restoring the nation's oceans, coasts, and Great Lakes and ensuring resilient coastal economies. I look forward to the release of the final plan and hope to see policy translated into action on the water soon.

If you can keep the GOP from getting involved, it might work...

Sincerely,  
Mr. Glenn Ross

Ms. V. & B. Jones  
POB 9050  
Torrance, CA 90508

Feb 6, 2012

Chairs Nancy Sutley and John Holdren, National Ocean Council

Subject: Strengthen the National Ocean Policy Implementation Plan

Dear Chairs Nancy Sutley and John Holdren, National Ocean Council,

The draft National Ocean Policy Implementation Plan establishes a strong blueprint for taking action and fostering agency coordination to sustain our ocean, coastal and Great Lakes resources. The draft plan has successfully incorporated the needs and concerns of governmental, non-profit, and commercial groups and provides clarifying details to improve accountability and monitor progress toward improved ocean management. Frequent notations on how implementing actions are related to one another provides confidence that activities will be coordinated and make good use of limited resources.

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With these additions, President Obama's Implementation Plan will provide a better guide for achieving the goals of protecting, maintaining, and restoring the nation's oceans, coasts, and Great Lakes and ensuring resilient coastal economies. We look forward to the release of the final plan and hope to see policy translated into action on the water soon.

Sincerely,  
Ms. V. & B. Jones

Ms. Marilyn Martin  
6020 Loganwood Dr  
Rockville, MD 20852-3458  
(301) 881-8519

Feb 6, 2012

Chairs Nancy Sutley and John Holdren, National Ocean Council

Subject: Improve the National Ocean Policy Implementation Plan

Dear Chairs Nancy Sutley and John Holdren, National Ocean Council,

The draft National Ocean Policy Implementation Plan establishes a strong blueprint for taking action and fostering agency coordination to sustain our ocean, coastal, and Great Lakes resources. The draft plan successfully incorporates the needs and concerns of governmental, non-profit, and commercial groups, and provides clarifying details to improve accountability and monitor progress toward improved ocean management. Frequent notations on how implementing actions relate to one another provide confidence that activities will be coordinated and make good use of limited resources.

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With these additions, President Obama's Implementation Plan will provide a better guide for achieving the goals of protecting, maintaining, and restoring the nation's oceans, coasts, and Great Lakes, and ensuring resilient coastal economies. I look forward to the final plan's release and hope to see policy translated into action on the water soon.

Sincerely,  
Ms. Marilyn Martin

Ms. Robin Pasholk  
113 High St  
Neenah, WI 54956-2635

Feb 6, 2012

Chairs Nancy Sutley and John Holdren, National Ocean Council

Subject: Strengthen the National Ocean Policy Implementation Plan

Dear Chairs Nancy Sutley and John Holdren, National Ocean Council,

The draft National Ocean Policy Implementation Plan establishes a strong blueprint for taking action and fostering agency coordination to sustain our ocean, coastal, and Great Lakes resources. The draft plan has successfully incorporated the needs and concerns of governmental, non-profit, and commercial groups, and provides clarifying details to improve accountability and monitor progress toward improved ocean management. Frequent notations on how implementing actions are related to one another provides confidence that activities will be coordinated and make good use of limited resources.

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With these additions, President Obama's Implementation Plan will provide a better guide for achieving the goals of protecting, maintaining, and restoring the nation's oceans, coasts, and Great Lakes and ensuring resilient coastal economies. I look forward to the release of the final plan and hope to see policy translated into action on the water soon.

Sincerely,  
Ms. Robin Pasholk

Ms. Rose Ann Kaiser  
1900 W Park Dr  
Huntington, IN 46750-8957

Feb 6, 2012

Chairs Nancy Sutley and John Holdren, National Ocean Council

Subject: Strengthen the National Ocean Policy Implementation Plan

Dear Chairs Nancy Sutley and John Holdren, National Ocean Council,

The draft National Ocean Policy Implementation Plan establishes a strong blueprint for taking action and fostering agency coordination to sustain our ocean, coastal and Great Lakes resources. The draft plan has successfully incorporated the needs and concerns of governmental, non-profit, and commercial groups and provides clarifying details to improve accountability and monitor progress toward improved ocean management. Frequent notations on how implementing actions are related to one another provides confidence that activities will be coordinated and make good use of limited resources.

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With these additions, President Obama's Implementation Plan will provide a better guide for achieving the goals of protecting, maintaining, and restoring the nation's oceans, coasts, and Great Lakes and ensuring resilient coastal economies. I look forward to the release of the final plan and hope to see policy translated into action on the water soon.

It is crucial to the future of all of us and to planet Earth that environmental plans that protect our planet and its inhabitants from further damage be given careful thought, accepted and adhered to. Thank you for this opportunity to cooperate with and support what all of us need to expect from our environmentalists and scientists who are working for the good of all creation.

Sincerely,  
Ms. Rose Ann Kaiser

Mrs. Jill Cassady  
13828 Albers St  
Sherman Oaks, CA 91401-5811

Feb 6, 2012

Chairs Nancy Sutley and John Holdren, National Ocean Council

Subject: Strengthen the National Ocean Policy Implementation Plan

Dear Chairs Nancy Sutley and John Holdren, National Ocean Council,

The draft National Ocean Policy Implementation Plan establishes a strong blueprint for taking action and fostering agency coordination to sustain our ocean, coastal and Great Lakes resources. The draft plan has successfully incorporated the needs and concerns of governmental, non-profit, and commercial groups and provides clarifying details to improve accountability and monitor progress toward improved ocean management. Frequent notations on how implementing actions are related to one another provides confidence that activities will be coordinated and make good use of limited resources.

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With these additions, President Obama's Implementation Plan will provide a better guide for achieving the goals of protecting, maintaining, and restoring the nation's oceans, coasts, and Great Lakes and ensuring resilient coastal economies. I look forward to the release of the final plan and hope to see policy translated into action on the water soon.

Our Ocean's are so important to the world, for the next generation and on.

Sincerely,  
Mrs. Jill Cassady

Ms. bonnie bick  
7601 Oxon Hill Rd  
Oxon Hill, MD 20745-1437

Feb 6, 2012

Chairs Nancy Sutley and John Holdren, National Ocean Council

Subject: We need a strong National Ocean Policy Implementation Plan

Dear Chairs Nancy Sutley and John Holdren, National Ocean Council,

I support the draft National Ocean Policy Implementation Plan because it establishes a an action plan to foster coordination to protect our ocean.

The draft plan has successfully incorporated the needs and concerns of governmental, non-profit, and commercial groups and provides clarifying details to improve accountability and monitor progress toward improved ocean management. Frequent notations on how implementing actions are related to one another provides confidence that activities will be coordinated and make good use of limited resources.

I would like this plan to more fully utilize all available authorities for habitat protection and management. Many of the milestones could be extended beyond cataloguing and planning to include action, with tangible, on-the-water activities. Regional need, support, and capacity should guide where coordinated actions should first take place. Federal agencies must continue to ask for input from other levels of the government and the public and incorporate this new information into implementation of the plan.

After these improvement have been completed , President Obama's Implementation Plan will provide a better guide for achieving the goals of protecting, maintaining, and restoring the nation's oceans, coasts, and Great Lakes and ensuring resilient coastal economies. I look forward to the release of the final plan and hope to see policy translated into action on the water soon.

Sincerely,  
Ms. bonnie bick

Dr. Martha Booz  
3823 Valley Ln  
El Sobrante, CA 94803-3118  
(510) 222-4698

Feb 6, 2012

Chairs Nancy Sutley and John Holdren, National Ocean Council

Subject: Strengthen the National Ocean Policy Implementation Plan

Dear Chairs Nancy Sutley and John Holdren, National Ocean Council,

I support this campaign by the Pew Environmental Group to strengthen the draft National Ocean Policy.

The draft National Ocean Policy Implementation Plan establishes a strong blueprint for taking action and fostering agency coordination to sustain our ocean, coastal and Great Lakes resources. The draft plan has successfully incorporated the needs and concerns of governmental, non-profit, and commercial groups and provides clarifying details to improve accountability and monitor progress toward improved ocean management. Frequent notations on how implementing actions are related to one another provides confidence that activities will be coordinated and make good use of limited resources.

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With these additions, President Obama's Implementation Plan will provide a better guide for achieving the goals of protecting, maintaining, and restoring the nation's oceans, coasts, and Great Lakes and ensuring resilient coastal economies. I look forward to the release of the final plan and hope to see policy translated into action on the water soon.

Sincerely,  
Dr. Martha Booz

Mrs. Nora Gyetko  
20a Longview Ave  
White Plains, NY 10605-1122

Feb 6, 2012

Chairs Nancy Sutley and John Holdren, National Ocean Council

Subject: Strengthen the National Ocean Policy Implementation Plan

Dear Chairs Nancy Sutley and John Holdren, National Ocean Council,

The draft National Ocean Policy Implementation Plan establishes a strong blueprint for taking action and fostering agency coordination to sustain our ocean, coastal and Great Lakes resources. The draft plan has successfully incorporated the needs and concerns of governmental, non-profit, and commercial groups and provides clarifying details to improve accountability and monitor progress toward improved ocean management. Frequent notations on how implementing actions are related to one another provides confidence that activities will be coordinated and make good use of limited resources.

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With these additions, President Obama's Implementation Plan will provide a better guide for achieving the goals of protecting, maintaining, and restoring the nation's oceans, coasts, and Great Lakes and ensuring resilient coastal economies. I look forward to the release of the final plan and hope to see policy translated into action on the water soon. (My words) In short, protect the oceans, despite right-wing bully tactics.

Sincerely,  
Mrs. Nora Gyetko

Ms. Jackie Feulner  
6038 Owens St  
Arvada, CO 80004-4645

Feb 6, 2012

Chairs Nancy Sutley and John Holdren, National Ocean Council

Subject: Please, Strengthen the National Ocean Policy Implementation Plan

Dear Chairs Nancy Sutley and John Holdren, National Ocean Council,

Although the draft National Ocean Policy Implementation Plan establishes a strong blueprint to sustain our ocean, coastal and Great Lakes resources, it should be improved to achieve even more progress. It should more fully utilize all available authorities for habitat protection and management. Many of the milestones could be extended beyond cataloguing and planning to include action, with tangible, on-the-water activities. Regional need, support, and capacity should guide where coordinated actions should first take place. Federal agencies must continue to ask for input from other levels of the government and the public and incorporate this new information into implementation of the plan.

With these additions, President Obama's Implementation Plan will provide a better guide for achieving the goals of protecting, maintaining, and restoring the nation's oceans, coasts, and Great Lakes and ensuring resilient coastal economies. I look forward to the release of the final plan and hope to see policy translated into action on the water soon.

Sincerely,  
Ms. Jackie Feulner

Mr. Marc Maloney  
6824 Woodlock Way  
Citrus Heights, CA 95621-6318

Feb 6, 2012

Chairs Nancy Sutley and John Holdren, National Ocean Council

Subject: Strengthen the National Ocean Policy Implementation Plan

Dear Chairs Nancy Sutley and John Holdren, National Ocean Council,

The draft National Ocean Policy Implementation Plan establishes a strong blueprint for taking action and fostering agency coordination to sustain our ocean, coastal and Great Lakes resources. The draft plan has successfully incorporated the needs and concerns of governmental, non-profit, and commercial groups and provides clarifying details to improve accountability and monitor progress toward improved ocean management. Frequent notations on how implementing actions are related to one another provides confidence that activities will be coordinated and make good use of limited resources.

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With these additions, President Obama's Implementation Plan will provide a better guide for achieving the goals of protecting, maintaining, and restoring the nation's oceans, coasts, and Great Lakes and ensuring resilient coastal economies.

I look forward to the release of the final plan and hope to see policy translated into action on the water soon.

Sincerely,  
Mr. Marc Maloney

Mr. Vincent Patti  
2924 E 2nd St Apt 6  
Long Beach, CA 90803-7314  
(562) 439-6890

Feb 6, 2012

Chairs Nancy Sutley and John Holdren, National Ocean Council

Subject: Strengthen the National Ocean Policy Implementation Plan

Dear Chairs Nancy Sutley and John Holdren, National Ocean Council,

The draft National Ocean Policy Implementation Plan establishes a strong blueprint for taking action and fostering agency coordination to sustain our ocean, coastal and Great Lakes resources. The draft plan has successfully incorporated the needs and concerns of governmental, non-profit, and commercial groups and provides clarifying details to improve accountability and monitor progress toward improved ocean management. Frequent notations on how implementing actions are related to one another provides confidence that activities will be coordinated and make good use of limited resources.

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With these additions, President Obama's Implementation Plan will provide a better guide for achieving the goals of protecting, maintaining, and restoring the nation's oceans, coasts, and Great Lakes and ensuring resilient coastal economies. I look forward to the release of the final plan and hope to see policy translated into action on the water soon.

We must stop raping the Earth for a buck.

Sincerely,  
Mr. Vincent Patti

Mrs. Varda Burns  
82 Turnpike Rd  
Norwich, VT 05055-9448

Feb 6, 2012

Chairs Nancy Sutley and John Holdren, National Ocean Council

Subject: Strengthen the National Ocean Policy Implementation Plan

Dear Chairs Nancy Sutley and John Holdren, National Ocean Council,

The draft National Ocean Policy Implementation Plan establishes a strong blueprint for taking action and fostering agency coordination to sustain our ocean, coastal and Great Lakes resources. The draft plan has successfully incorporated the needs and concerns of governmental, non-profit, and commercial groups and provides clarifying details to improve accountability and monitor progress toward improved ocean management. Frequent notations on how implementing actions are related to one another provides confidence that activities will be coordinated and make good use of limited resources.

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The world's reefs and marine life are dying. We use our oceans, that sustain all life on Earth, as a toilet. The question is do we care more about momentary profits than the survival of our species? When will polluters be held responsible? We have put the fate of the Earth in the hands of those who don't appear to care.

Sincerely,  
Mrs. Varda Burns

Mr. Martin Horwitz  
1326 23rd Ave  
San Francisco, CA 94122-1608

Feb 6, 2012

Chairs Nancy Sutley and John Holdren, National Ocean Council

Subject: Strengthen the National Ocean Policy Implementation Plan

Dear Chairs Nancy Sutley and John Holdren, National Ocean Council,

The draft National Ocean Policy Implementation Plan establishes a strong blueprint for taking action and fostering agency coordination to sustain our ocean, coastal and Great Lakes resources. The draft plan has successfully incorporated the needs and concerns of governmental, non-profit, and commercial groups and provides clarifying details to improve accountability and monitor progress toward improved ocean management. Frequent notations on how implementing actions are related to one another provides confidence that activities will be coordinated and make good use of limited resources.

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With these additions, President Obama's Implementation Plan will provide a better guide for achieving the goals of protecting, maintaining, and restoring the nation's oceans, coasts, and Great Lakes and ensuring resilient coastal economies. I look forward to the release of the final plan and hope to see policy translated into action on the water soon.

Stop all the damn drilling. It is not courageous to leave everything on the table. No deepwater drilling, and no drilling in the arctic!

Sincerely,  
Mr. Martin Horwitz

Ms. Mary Zawoysky  
PO Box 521  
Woods Hole, MA 02543-0521

Feb 6, 2012

Chairs Nancy Sutley and John Holdren, National Ocean Council

Subject: Strengthen the National Ocean Policy Implementation Plan

Dear Chairs Nancy Sutley and John Holdren, National Ocean Council,

The draft National Ocean Policy Implementation Plan establishes a strong blueprint for taking action and fostering agency coordination to sustain our ocean, coastal and Great Lakes resources. The draft plan has successfully incorporated the needs and concerns of governmental, non-profit, and commercial groups and provides clarifying details to improve accountability and monitor progress toward improved ocean management. Frequent notations on how implementing actions are related to one another provides confidence that activities will be coordinated and make good use of limited resources.

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Sincerely,  
Ms. Mary Zawoysky

Ms. Diane Luck  
3204 NE 27th Ave  
Portland, OR 97212-2524  
(503) 284-5377

Feb 6, 2012

Chairs Nancy Sutley and John Holdren, National Ocean Council

Subject: Strengthen the National Ocean Policy Implementation Plan

Dear Chairs Nancy Sutley and John Holdren, National Ocean Council,

I am writing regarding the draft National Ocean Policy Implementation Plan. The plan goes a long way in protecting our oceans, but it could be improved to achieve even more progress. It should more fully utilize all available authorities for habitat protection and management. Many of the milestones could be extended beyond cataloguing and planning to include action, with tangible, on-the-water activities. Regional need, support, and capacity should guide where coordinated actions should first take place. Federal agencies must continue to ask for input from other levels of the government and the public and incorporate this new information into implementation of the plan.

Please make this plan as strong as possible to protect our oceans!

Thank you.

Sincerely,  
Ms. Diane Luck

Mr. Jack Stansfield  
16314 62nd Ave NW  
Stanwood, WA 98292-8981

Feb 6, 2012

Chairs Nancy Sutley and John Holdren, National Ocean Council

Subject: Strengthen the National Ocean Policy Implementation Plan

Dear Chairs Nancy Sutley and John Holdren, National Ocean Council,

I write as an American who has lived for nearly seventy years in the Puget Sound area, one of America's most precious and treasured marine environments.

The draft National Ocean Policy Implementation Plan establishes a strong blueprint for taking action and fostering agency coordination to sustain our ocean, coastal and Great Lakes resources. The draft plan has successfully incorporated the needs and concerns of governmental, non-profit, and commercial groups and provides clarifying details to improve accountability and monitor progress toward improved ocean management. Frequent notations on how implementing actions are related to one another provides confidence that activities will be coordinated and make good use of limited resources.

Nonetheless, the plan could be improved to achieve even more progress. It should more fully utilize all available authorities for habitat protection and management. Many of the milestones could be extended beyond cataloguing and planning to include action, with tangible, on-the-water activities. Regional need, support, and capacity should guide where coordinated actions should first take place. Federal agencies must continue to ask for input from other levels of the government and the public and incorporate this new information into implementation of the plan.

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Sincerely,  
Mr. Jack Stansfield

Ms. Susan Wolter  
411 E 2nd St Apt 105  
Flint, MI 48503-1962

Feb 6, 2012

Chairs Nancy Sutley and John Holdren, National Ocean Council

Subject: Strengthen the National Ocean Policy Implementation Plan

Dear Chairs Nancy Sutley and John Holdren, National Ocean Council,

The draft National Ocean Policy Implementation Plan establishes a strong blueprint for taking action and fostering agency coordination to sustain our ocean, coastal and Great Lakes resources. The draft plan has successfully incorporated the needs and concerns of governmental, non-profit, and commercial groups and provides clarifying details to improve accountability and monitor progress toward improved ocean management. Frequent notations on how implementing actions are related to one another provides confidence that activities will be coordinated and make good use of limited resources.

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With these additions, President Obama's Implementation Plan will provide a better guide for achieving the goals of protecting, maintaining, and restoring the nation's oceans, coasts, and Great Lakes and ensuring resilient coastal economies. I look forward to the release of the final plan and hope to see policy translated into action on the water soon. Water ecosystems are very vulnerable. Please be active in protecting them.

Sincerely,  
Ms. Susan Wolter

Dr. Yvonne Hansen  
6206 Hillston Dr  
Austin, TX 78745-4351  
(512) 693-0293

Feb 6, 2012

Chairs Nancy Sutley and John Holdren, National Ocean Council

Subject: Strengthen the National Ocean Policy Implementation Plan

Dear Chairs Nancy Sutley and John Holdren, National Ocean Council,

The draft of the National Ocean Policy Implementation Plan establishes a strong blueprint for taking action and fostering agency coordination to sustain our ocean, coastal and Great Lakes resources. The draft plan has successfully incorporated the needs and concerns of governmental, non-profit, and commercial groups and provides clarifying details to improve accountability and monitor progress toward improved ocean management. Frequent notations on how implementing actions are related to one another provides confidence that activities will be coordinated and make good use of limited resources. A comprehensive plan for other agencies to adopt and follow.

Nonetheless, the plan could be improved to achieve even more progress. All available authorities for habitat protection and management should be more fully utilized. Many of the milestones could be extended beyond cataloguing and planning to include action that identifies tangible, on-the-water activities. Regional need, support, and capacity should guide sites where coordinated actions should first take place. Federal agencies must continue to ask for input from other levels of the government and from the public, and incorporate this new information into implementation of the plan.

With these additions, President Obama's Implementation Plan will provide a better guide for achieving the goals of protecting, maintaining, and restoring the nation's oceans, coasts, and Great Lakes and ensuring resilient coastal economies. I look forward to the release of the final plan and hope to see policy translated into action on the water soon.

Sincerely,  
Dr. Yvonne Hansen

Mr. David Henry  
4613 Willis St  
Bellingham, WA 98229-3499

Feb 6, 2012

Chairs Nancy Sutley and John Holdren, National Ocean Council

Subject: National Ocean Policy Implementation Plan

Dear Chairs Nancy Sutley and John Holdren, National Ocean Council,

Please give our oceans long-term, strong protections

The draft National Ocean Policy Implementation Plan establishes a strong blueprint for taking action and fostering agency coordination to sustain our ocean, coastal and Great Lakes resources. The draft plan has successfully incorporated the needs and concerns of governmental, non-profit, and commercial groups and provides clarifying details to improve accountability and monitor progress toward improved ocean management. Frequent notations on how implementing actions are related to one another provides confidence that activities will be coordinated and make good use of limited resources.

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Sincerely,  
Mr. David Henry

Ms. Sherry Halbrook  
28 Birchwood Ln  
Ballston Spa, NY 12020-2465  
(518) 885-4465

Feb 6, 2012

Chairs Nancy Sutley and John Holdren, National Ocean Council

Subject: Strengthen the National Ocean Policy Implementation Plan

Dear Chairs Nancy Sutley and John Holdren, National Ocean Council,

You've made a strong beginning in drafting your plan for implementing a national ocean policy, but please strengthen the commitment to involving the public and other levels of government in guiding decisions taken under the plan.

The draft National Ocean Policy Implementation Plan establishes a strong blueprint for taking action and fostering agency coordination to sustain our ocean, coastal and Great Lakes resources. The draft plan has successfully incorporated the needs and concerns of governmental, non-profit, and commercial groups and provides clarifying details to improve accountability and monitor progress toward improved ocean management. Frequent notations on how implementing actions are related to one another provides confidence that activities will be coordinated and make good use of limited resources.

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Sincerely,  
Ms. Sherry Halbrook

Ms. Barbara Nekola  
603 Houston Acres  
Millsboro, DE 19966-1626

Feb 6, 2012

Chairs Nancy Sutley and John Holdren, National Ocean Council

Subject: Strengthen the National Ocean Policy Implementation Plan

Dear Chairs Nancy Sutley and John Holdren, National Ocean Council,

The draft National Ocean Policy Implementation Plan establishes a strong blueprint for taking action and fostering agency coordination to sustain our ocean, coastal and Great Lakes resources. The draft plan has successfully incorporated the needs and concerns of governmental, non-profit, and commercial groups and provides clarifying details to improve accountability and monitor progress toward improved ocean management. Frequent notations on how implementing actions are related to one another provides confidence that activities will be coordinated and make good use of limited resources.

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With these additions, President Obama's Implementation Plan will provide a better guide for achieving the goals of protecting, maintaining, and restoring the nation's oceans, coasts, and Great Lakes and ensuring resilient coastal economies. I look forward to the release of the final plan and hope to see policy translated into action on the water soon.

Our environment and wildlife need to be protected, no question!!

Barbara J. Nekola

Sincerely,  
Ms. Barbara Nekola

Dr. mARY pICARDI, M.D.  
219 55th St  
Virginia Beach, VA 23451-2211

Feb 6, 2012

Chairs Nancy Sutley and John Holdren, National Ocean Council

Subject: Strengthen the National Ocean Policy Implementation Plan

Dear Chairs Nancy Sutley and John Holdren, National Ocean Council,

The draft National Ocean Policy Implementation Plan establishes a strong blueprint for taking action and fostering agency coordination to sustain our ocean, coastal and Great Lakes resources. The draft plan has successfully incorporated the needs and concerns of governmental, non-profit, and commercial groups and provides clarifying details to improve accountability and monitor progress toward improved ocean management. Frequent notations on how implementing actions are related to one another provides confidence that activities will be coordinated and make good use of limited resources.

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AS AN ACTIVE MEMBER OF OUR LOCAL WATERSHED GROUP, LYNNHAVEN RIVER NOW, I AM VERY AWARE OF THE IMPORTANCE OF PROTECTING OUR WATERWAYS FOR RECREATIONAL, QUALITY OF LIFE, AND ECONOMIC REASONS.

NOW IS THE TIME TO STEP UP TO THE PLATE AND DO THE RIGHT THINGS. THIS IS OUR/YOUR LEGACY.

THANK YOU FOR YOUR SERVICE.

Sincerely,  
Dr. mARY pICARDI, M.D.

Mrs. Claudia Hall  
14865 SW Osprey Dr Apt 813  
Beaverton, OR 97007-7961

Feb 6, 2012

Chairs Nancy Sutley and John Holdren, National Ocean Council

Subject: Strengthen the National Ocean Policy Implementation Plan

Dear Chairs Nancy Sutley and John Holdren, National Ocean Council,

The draft National Ocean Policy Implementation Plan establishes a strong blueprint for taking action and fostering agency coordination to sustain our ocean, coastal and Great Lakes resources. The draft plan has successfully incorporated the needs and concerns of governmental, non-profit, and commercial groups and provides clarifying details to improve accountability and monitor progress toward improved ocean management. Frequent notations on how implementing actions are related to one another provides confidence that activities will be coordinated and make good use of limited resources.

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With these additions, President Obama's Implementation Plan will provide a better guide for achieving the goals of protecting, maintaining, and restoring the nation's oceans, coasts, and Great Lakes and ensuring resilient coastal economies. I look forward to the release of the final plan and hope to see policy translated into action on the water soon.

OUR WORLD "WAS" BEAUTIFUL, THEN "MAN DISCOVERED"  
OUR CONTINENTS.

WE MAY HELP TO PUT OUR HUMPTY DUMPTY EARTH BACK TOGETHER & STOP  
DESTROYING LIVES, OUR ENVIRONMENT, AIR, LAND, SEA, ALL LIVING THINGS!!  
PLEASE, I BEG YOU, DO NOT ALLOW THE GREED OF A FEW, TO DESTROY THE  
LIVES OF MANY!!! LISTEN TO YOUR CONSCIENCE, I BEG YOU! SUPPORT,  
PROTECT, RESTORE, & MAINTAIN THE PRISTINE & DELICATE  
ECOSYSTEMS, WHO WERE ON OUR PLANET, FIRST!

Thank You, for reading my PLEA

Light,Life,Respect,&Peace,Claudia  
Claudia Hall  
14865 SW Osprey Dr. #813  
Beaverton, Oregon 97007  
USA

aliceforest@comcast.net

Sincerely,  
Mrs. Claudia Hall

Dr. Beth Slikas  
9844 NE Benton St  
Newport, OR 97365-9517

Feb 6, 2012

Chairs Nancy Sutley and John Holdren, National Ocean Council

Subject: Strengthen the National Ocean Policy Implementation Plan

Dear Chairs Nancy Sutley and John Holdren, National Ocean Council,

The draft National Ocean Policy Implementation Plan establishes a strong blueprint for taking action and fostering agency coordination to sustain our ocean, coastal and Great Lakes resources. The draft plan has successfully incorporated the needs and concerns of governmental, non-profit, and commercial groups and provides clarifying details to improve accountability and monitor progress toward improved ocean management. Frequent notations on how implementing actions are related to one another provides confidence that activities will be coordinated and make good use of limited resources.

Nonetheless, the plan could be improved to achieve even more progress. It should more fully utilize all available authorities for habitat protection and management. Many of the milestones could be extended beyond cataloguing and planning to include action, with tangible, on-the-water activities. Regional need, support, and capacity should guide where coordinated actions should first take place. Federal agencies must continue to ask for input from other levels of the government and the public and incorporate this new information into implementation of the plan.

With these additions, President Obama's Implementation Plan will provide a better guide for achieving the goals of protecting, maintaining, and restoring the nation's oceans, coasts, and Great Lakes and ensuring resilient coastal economies. Our oceans, coasts, and Great Lakes are valuable and irreplaceable resources, and utilization of these resources must focus on sustainability. I look forward to the release of the final plan and hope to see policy translated into action on the water soon.

Sincerely,  
Dr. Beth Slikas

Mr. Frank Millin  
2209 N.E. 2 nd. St. # 10  
n/a  
Pompano Beach, FL 33062-4857

Feb 6, 2012

Chairs Nancy Sutley and John Holdren, National Ocean Council

Subject: Strengthen the National Ocean Policy Implementation Plan

Dear Chairs Nancy Sutley and John Holdren, National Ocean Council,

The draft National Ocean Policy Implementation Plan establishes a strong blueprint for taking action and fostering agency coordination to sustain our ocean, coastal and Great Lakes resources. The draft plan has successfully incorporated the needs and concerns of governmental, non-profit, and commercial groups and provides clarifying details to improve accountability and monitor progress toward improved ocean management. Frequent notations on how implementing actions are related to one another provides confidence that activities will be coordinated and make good use of limited resources.

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With these additions, President Obama's Implementation Plan will provide a better guide for achieving the goals of protecting, maintaining, and restoring the nation's oceans, coasts, and Great Lakes and ensuring resilient coastal economies. I look forward to the release of the final plan and hope to see policy translated into action on the water soon.

In closing let me state it is imperative that We do everything possible to improve the health of all Eco Systems. It is every generations moral obligation to leave the Environment in a healthier state for future generations.

Sincerely,  
Mr. Frank Millin

Mr. Joseph Cross  
1138 Cotton Rd NE  
Palm Bay, FL 32905-4502

Feb 6, 2012

Chairs Nancy Sutley and John Holdren, National Ocean Council

Subject: Strengthen the National Ocean Policy Implementation Plan

Dear Chairs Nancy Sutley and John Holdren, National Ocean Council,

The draft National Ocean Policy Implementation Plan establishes a strong blueprint for taking action and fostering agency coordination to sustain our ocean, coastal and Great Lakes resources. The draft plan has successfully incorporated the needs and concerns of governmental, non-profit, and commercial groups and provides clarifying details to improve accountability and monitor progress toward improved ocean management. Frequent notations on how implementing actions are related to one another provides confidence that activities will be coordinated and make good use of limited resources.

Nonetheless, the plan could be improved to achieve even more progress. It should more fully utilize all available authorities including the EPA and Coast Guard for habitat protection and management. Many of the milestones could be extended beyond cataloguing and planning to include action, with tangible, on-the-water activities. Regional need, support, and capacity should guide where coordinated actions should first take place. Federal agencies must continue to ask for input from other levels of the government and the public and incorporate this new information into implementation of the plan.

With these additions, the Implementation Plan will provide a better guide for achieving the goals of protecting, maintaining, and restoring the nation's oceans, coasts, and Great Lakes and ensuring resilient coastal economies. I look forward to the release of the final plan and hope to see policy translated into action on the water soon.

Sincerely,  
Mr. Joseph Cross

Ms. Trish Tuley  
PO Box 1191  
Idyllwild, CA 92549-1191

Feb 6, 2012

Chairs Nancy Sutley and John Holdren, National Ocean Council

Subject: Strengthen the National Ocean Policy Implementation Plan

Dear Chairs Nancy Sutley and John Holdren, National Ocean Council,

The draft National Ocean Policy Implementation Plan has made a good first step in protecting our oceans and Great Lakes. Please consider the following:

1. Many of the milestones could be extended beyond cataloguing and planning to include action, with tangible, on-the-water activities.
2. Regional need, support, and capacity should guide where coordinated actions should first take place.
3. Federal agencies must continue to ask for input from other levels of the government and the public and incorporate this new information into implementation of the plan.

With these additions, President Obama's Implementation Plan will provide a better guide for achieving the goals of protecting, maintaining, and restoring the nation's oceans, coasts, and Great Lakes and ensuring resilient coastal economies. I look forward to the release of the final plan and hope to see policy translated into action on the water soon.

Sincerely,  
Ms. Trish Tuley

Ms. Anne Macaulay  
PO Box 50  
(25 Meadow Lane)  
Falmouth, MA 02541-0050

Feb 6, 2012

Chairs Nancy Sutley and John Holdren, National Ocean Council

Subject: Strengthen the National Ocean Policy Implementation Plan

Dear Chairs Nancy Sutley and John Holdren, National Ocean Council,

I do so hope you will take a moment to read this excellent letter. I am worried about our oceans. Already, on Cape Cod, we are dealing with tough water quality issues, thanks to nitrogen loading into the waters from road runoff and fertilizer and septic systems. We on the Cape are, in short, leaching waste in the ocean!

The draft National Ocean Policy Implementation Plan establishes a strong blueprint for taking action and fostering agency coordination to sustain our ocean, coastal and Great Lakes resources. The draft plan has successfully incorporated the needs and concerns of governmental, non-profit, and commercial groups and provides clarifying details to improve accountability and monitor progress toward improved ocean management. Frequent notations on how implementing actions are related to one another provides confidence that activities will be coordinated and make good use of limited resources.

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Sincerely,  
Ms. Anne Macaulay

Ms. Emily Lee  
404 S 3rd St  
Belen, NM 87002-4421

Feb 6, 2012

Chairs Nancy Sutley and John Holdren, National Ocean Council

Subject: Strengthen the National Ocean Policy Implementation Plan

Dear Chairs Nancy Sutley and John Holdren, National Ocean Council,

The draft National Ocean Policy Implementation Plan establishes a strong blueprint for taking action and fostering agency coordination to sustain our ocean, coastal and Great Lakes resources. The draft plan has successfully incorporated the needs and concerns of governmental, non-profit, and commercial groups and provides clarifying details to improve accountability and monitor progress toward improved ocean management. Frequent notations on how implementing actions are related to one another provides confidence that activities will be coordinated and make good use of limited resources.

Nonetheless, the plan could be improved to achieve even more progress. It should more fully utilize all available authorities for habitat protection and management. Many of the milestones could be extended beyond cataloguing and planning to include action, with tangible, on-the-water activities. Words without deeds lack teeth. Regional need, support, and capacity should guide where coordinated actions should first take place. Federal agencies must continue to ask for input from other levels of the government and the public and incorporate this new information into implementation of the plan.

With these additions, President Obama's Implementation Plan will provide a better guide for achieving the goals of protecting, maintaining, and restoring the nation's oceans, coasts, and Great Lakes and ensuring resilient coastal economies. I look forward to the release of the final plan and hope to see policy translated into action on the water soon.

Sincerely,  
Ms. Emily Lee

Dr. Judith Weis  
Dept. of Biological Sciences  
Rutgers University  
Newark, NJ 07102

Feb 6, 2012

Chairs Nancy Sutley and John Holdren, National Ocean Council

Subject: Strengthen the National Ocean Policy Implementation Plan

Dear Chairs Nancy Sutley and John Holdren, National Ocean Council,

The draft National Ocean Policy Implementation Plan establishes a strong blueprint for taking action and fostering agency coordination to sustain our ocean, coastal and Great Lakes resources. The draft plan has successfully incorporated the needs and concerns of governmental, non-profit, and commercial groups and provides clarifying details to improve accountability and monitor progress toward improved ocean management. Frequent notations on how implementing actions are related to one another provides confidence that activities will be coordinated and make good use of limited resources.

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Sincerely,  
Dr. Judith Weis

Mr. Richard Booth  
26250 Dreschfield Ave  
Grosse Ile, MI 48138-1601

Feb 6, 2012

Chairs Nancy Sutley and John Holdren, National Ocean Council

Subject: Strengthen the National Ocean Policy Implementation Plan

Dear Chairs Nancy Sutley and John Holdren, National Ocean Council,

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Thank you.

Sincerely,  
Mr. Richard Booth

Mr. Mark Meeks  
399 Blackbird Dr  
Bailey, CO 80421-2077  
(303) 816-1454

Feb 6, 2012

Chairs Nancy Sutley and John Holdren, National Ocean Council

Subject: Strengthen the National Ocean Policy Implementation Plan

Dear Chairs Nancy Sutley and John Holdren, National Ocean Council,

The draft National Ocean Policy Implementation Plan establishes a strong blueprint for taking action and fostering agency coordination to sustain our ocean, coastal and Great Lakes resources. The draft plan has successfully incorporated the needs and concerns of governmental, non-profit, and commercial groups and provides clarifying details to improve accountability and monitor progress toward improved ocean management.

We must maximize our commitment to the health of the oceans, given the massive changes in our environment now underway, due to climate change, diminishing fish populations, pollution, and other pressures. We must pursue all the information we can and give full attention to what scientifically can be described as what is happening today. We must face the challenges fully in order to alter human activity as befits a healthy ocean environment. It is critical that we not allow interests in economic activities to diminish understanding of impacts on the oceans or cloud our insights into what the environment of the waters requires for health. We must prioritize protection and the acquisition of information from all sources which serves such understanding and action.

Sincerely,  
Mr. Mark Meeks

Mr. Wayne Foote  
40 Briarroot Dr  
Smithtown, NY 11787-4933

Feb 6, 2012

Chairs Nancy Sutley and John Holdren, National Ocean Council

Subject: Strengthen the National Ocean Policy Implementation Plan

Dear Chairs Nancy Sutley and John Holdren, National Ocean Council,

Acting now, to save our oceans, great lakes and coastal areas will pay dividends which, at times, may seem transparent. With myriad problems we face we should not overlook these needed actions.

The draft National Ocean Policy Implementation Plan establishes a strong blueprint for taking action and fostering agency coordination to sustain our ocean, coastal and Great Lakes resources. The draft plan has successfully incorporated the needs and concerns of governmental, non-profit, and commercial groups and provides clarifying details to improve accountability and monitor progress toward improved ocean management. Frequent notations on how implementing actions are related to one another provides confidence that activities will be coordinated and make good use of limited resources.

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Sincerely,  
Mr. Wayne Foote

Mr. Bill & Marilyn Voorhies  
38 Clark Point Rd  
West Tremont, ME 04612-3656

Feb 6, 2012

Chairs Nancy Sutley and John Holdren, National Ocean Council

Subject: Strengthen the National Ocean Policy Implementation Plan

Dear Chairs Nancy Sutley and John Holdren, National Ocean Council,

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With these additions, President Obama's Implementation Plan will provide a better guide for achieving the goals of protecting, maintaining, and restoring the nation's oceans, coasts, and Great Lakes and ensuring resilient coastal economies. We look forward to the release of the final plan and hope to see policy translated into action on the water very soon.

Sincerely,  
Mr. Bill & Marilyn Voorhies

Ms. Lana Shea  
4461 One One rd  
Haean, HI 96714

Feb 6, 2012

Chairs Nancy Sutley and John Holdren, National Ocean Council

Subject: Strengthen the National Ocean Policy Implementation Plan

Dear Chairs Nancy Sutley and John Holdren, National Ocean Council,

The draft National Ocean Policy Implementation Plan establishes a strong blueprint for taking action and fostering agency coordination to sustain our ocean, coastal and Great Lakes resources. The draft plan has successfully incorporated the needs and concerns of governmental, non-profit, and commercial groups and provides clarifying details to improve accountability and monitor progress toward improved ocean management. Frequent notations on how implementing actions are related to one another provides confidence that activities will be coordinated and make good use of limited resources.

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LOVE and RESPECT!

Sincerely,  
Ms. Lana Shea

Ms. mr & mrs warren  
PO Box 463  
Gladwyne, PA 19035-0463

Feb 6, 2012

Chairs Nancy Sutley and John Holdren, National Ocean Council

Subject: Strengthen the National Ocean Policy Implementation Plan

Dear Chairs Nancy Sutley and John Holdren, National Ocean Council,

The NOP was created to "ensure the protection, maintenance, and restoration of the health of ocean, coastal, and Great Lakes ecosystems and resources". Through four key themes--ecosystem-based management; best available science and data; efficiency and collaboration; and strong regional efforts--the policy outlines action that must be taken to protect marine ecosystems and to encourage sustainable ocean uses.

The draft National Ocean Policy Implementation Plan establishes a strong blueprint for taking action and fostering agency coordination to sustain our ocean, coastal and Great Lakes resources. The draft plan has successfully incorporated the needs and concerns of governmental, non-profit, and commercial groups and provides clarifying details to improve accountability and monitor progress toward improved ocean management. Frequent notations on how implementing actions are related to one another provides confidence that activities will be coordinated and make good use of limited resources.

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Sincerely,  
Ms. mr & mrs warren

Ms. Barbara Juskiewicz  
600 Doat St  
Buffalo, NY 14211-2602

Feb 6, 2012

Chairs Nancy Sutley and John Holdren, National Ocean Council

Subject: Strengthen the National Ocean Policy Implementation Plan

Dear Chairs Nancy Sutley and John Holdren, National Ocean Council,

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Let us work to protect our natural environment and its inhabitants.

Sincerely,  
Ms. Barbara Juskiewicz

Mrs. Sandy Dvorsky  
433 Mary St S  
Saint Paul, MN 55119-5534

Feb 6, 2012

Chairs Nancy Sutley and John Holdren, National Ocean Council

Subject: Strengthen the National Ocean Policy Implementation Plan

Dear Chairs Nancy Sutley and John Holdren, National Ocean Council,

The draft National Ocean Policy Implementation Plan should be improved:

It should more fully utilize all available authorities for habitat protection and management.

Many of the milestones could be extended beyond cataloguing and planning to include action, with tangible, on-the-water activities.

Regional need, support, and capacity should guide where coordinated actions should first take place. Federal agencies must continue to ask for input from other levels of the government and the public and incorporate this new information into implementation of the plan.

By making these additions, President Obama's Implementation Plan will provide a better guide for achieving the goals of protecting, maintaining, and restoring the nation's oceans, coasts, and Great Lakes. A huge benefit to that is resilient coastal economies. And beyond that is a long term healthy environment for when my two daughters are my age. I care deeply about this.

I look forward to the release of the final plan and hope to see policy translated into action on the water soon.

Sincerely,  
Mrs. Sandy Dvorsky

Mr. Tom Wood  
1815 Ridgemont  
Columbia, MO 65203-1949

Feb 6, 2012

Chairs Nancy Sutley and John Holdren, National Ocean Council

Subject: Strengthen the National Ocean Policy Implementation Plan

Dear Chairs Nancy Sutley and John Holdren, National Ocean Council,

Stop the Japanese from killing whales for "research" (and sushi), and sharks for soup. Stop overfishing of fish used for human consumption (before they are essentially extinct). Reduce wasted by-catch fish that are thrown away - dead, which damages the marine ecosystems. Establish larger no-fishing reserves to allow depleted species to recover. PAY ATTENTION, and stop screwing up the Natural World - we're dead without it!

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Sincerely,  
Mr. Tom Wood

Ms. Karen L. Bauer  
104 8th Ave  
# 2n  
New York, NY 10011-5130

Feb 6, 2012

Chairs Nancy Sutley and John Holdren, National Ocean Council

Subject: Strengthen the National Ocean Policy Implementation Plan

Dear Chairs Nancy Sutley and John Holdren, National Ocean Council,

As a lifelong surfer, sailor and diver, I feel the draft National Ocean Policy Implementation Plan establishes a strong blueprint for taking action and fostering agency coordination to sustain our ocean, coastal and Great Lakes resources. The draft plan has successfully incorporated the needs and concerns of governmental, non-profit, and commercial groups and provides clarifying details to improve accountability and monitor progress toward improved ocean management. Frequent notations on how implementing actions are related to one another provides confidence that activities will be coordinated and make good use of limited resources.

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Sincerely,  
Ms. Karen L. Bauer

Ms. Julia O'Neal  
1973 King Bee Rd  
Perkinston, MS 39573-3543  
(601) 928-8510

Feb 6, 2012

Chairs Nancy Sutley and John Holdren, National Ocean Council

Subject: Strengthen the National Ocean Policy Implementation Plan

Dear Chairs Nancy Sutley and John Holdren, National Ocean Council,

I have not only not read the plan, I fear that even if I did I wouldn't have the expertise to make comments that are useful and scientifically valid. But I have read a lot of EISs for local projects, and examined NRDA plans for my state (MS), so I am not a complete virgin.

Thus I sign on to the Pew letter. But I would like to add one thing, which I am constantly harping on in NRDA comments: "No Fish Zones" or "Marine Protected Areas." I saw a great piece on PBS news about a small community in the Philippines that has used Marine Protected Areas (and big-time birth control availability) to try to control a crash in the fish population, and thus the sustenance, of the area. There are places in CA where it works. The policing is probably expensive and formidable, but the benefits are undeniable. We need it desperately here on the Gulf Coast, where our menhaden (the bottom of the chain, the source of food for every higher animal, including megafauna and birds) are disappearing through the inexorable, constant "Omega" boats. I don't understand why they can't make the cholesterol-lowering pills out of Asian carp in Michigan....

Anyway, here's the Pew boilerplate. And I've put in my two cents.  
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Sincerely,  
Ms. Julia O'Neal

Mr. William Armstrong  
10849 Weiner Creek Dr  
Baton Rouge, LA 70816-4022  
(225) 296-5348

Feb 6, 2012

Chairs Nancy Sutley and John Holdren, National Ocean Council

Subject: Strengthen the National Ocean Policy Implementation Plan

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Sincerely,  
Mr. William Armstrong

Mrs. Carole Ehrhardt  
PO Box 243  
Pebble Beach, CA 93953-0243

Feb 6, 2012

Chairs Nancy Sutley and John Holdren, National Ocean Council

Subject: Strengthen the National Ocean Policy Implementation Plan

Dear Chairs Nancy Sutley and John Holdren, National Ocean Council,

We need to have healthy oceans as we draw much of our food from them. We cannot pollute, overfish and destroy them and strong legislation to protect them is important.

The draft National Ocean Policy Implementation Plan establishes a strong blueprint for taking action and fostering agency coordination to sustain our ocean, coastal and Great Lakes resources. The draft plan has successfully incorporated the needs and concerns of governmental, non-profit, and commercial groups and provides clarifying details to improve accountability and monitor progress toward improved ocean management. Frequent notations on how implementing actions are related to one another provides confidence that activities will be coordinated and make good use of limited resources.

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Sincerely,  
Mrs. Carole Ehrhardt

Ms. Beverly Williams  
104 Wildwood Trce  
Hattiesburg, MS 39402-2350

Feb 6, 2012

Chairs Nancy Sutley and John Holdren, National Ocean Council

Subject: Strengthen the National Ocean Policy Implementation Plan

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More safety requirements must be required with offshore oil and gas exploration and drilling. We will be dealing with problems from the Deepwater Horizon spill for the rest of my lifetime.

With these additions, President Obama's Implementation Plan will provide a better guide for achieving the goals of protecting, maintaining, and restoring the nation's oceans, coasts, and Great Lakes and ensuring resilient coastal economies. I look forward to the release of the final plan and hope to see policy translated into action on the water soon.

Sincerely,  
Ms. Beverly Williams

Ms. Kate Sky  
PO Box 1699  
Gualala, CA 95445-1699

Feb 6, 2012

Chairs Nancy Sutley and John Holdren, National Ocean Council

Subject: Strengthen the National Ocean Policy Implementation Plan

Dear Chairs Nancy Sutley and John Holdren, National Ocean Council,

The draft National Ocean Policy Implementation Plan has successfully incorporated the needs and concerns of governmental, non-profit, and commercial groups and provides clarifying details to improve accountability and monitor progress toward improved ocean management. It establishes a strong blueprint for taking action and fostering agency coordination to sustain our ocean, coastal and Great Lakes resources.

This plan could be improved to achieve even more progress. It should more fully utilize all available authorities for habitat protection and management. Many of the milestones could be extended beyond cataloging and planning to include action, with tangible, on-the-water activities. Regional need, support, and capacity should guide where coordinated actions should first take place. Federal agencies must continue to ask for input from other levels of the government and the public and incorporate this new information into implementation of the plan.

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Sincerely,  
Ms. Kate Sky

Mrs. Marianne Corona  
245 Cherry Hill Rd  
Middlefield, CT 06455-1223

Feb 6, 2012

Chairs Nancy Sutley and John Holdren, National Ocean Council

Subject: Strengthen the National Ocean Policy Implementation Plan

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Please do this for us and the generations yet to come.

Sincerely,  
Mrs. Marianne Corona

Ms. Kaye Aurigemma  
10846 Martindale Dr  
Westchester, IL 60154-5021  
(708) 562-6642

Feb 6, 2012

Chairs Nancy Sutley and John Holdren, National Ocean Council

Subject: Strengthen the National Ocean Policy Implementation Plan

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Thank you.

Sincerely,  
Ms. Kaye Aurigemma

Ms. Barbara Chally  
828 Purvis Rd  
Sunrise Beach, MO 65079-6581

Feb 6, 2012

Chairs Nancy Sutley and John Holdren, National Ocean Council

Subject: National Ocean Policy Implementation Plan needs improvement

Dear Chairs Nancy Sutley and John Holdren, National Ocean Council,

I support the National Ocean Policy Implementation Plan drafted to establish a strong blueprint for taking action and fostering agency coordination to sustain our ocean, coastal and Great Lakes resources.

Were it to more fully utilize everything available for habitat protection and management even more progress could be achieved with tangible, on-the-water activities. Regional need, capacity and support with input from other levels of the government and the public could help it succeed. I look forward to the release of the final plan and hope to see policy translated into action on the water soon.

Sincerely,  
Ms. Barbara Chally

Ms. Kandace Loewen  
720 N 75th St  
Seattle, WA 98103-4721

Feb 6, 2012

Chairs Nancy Sutley and John Holdren, National Ocean Council

Subject: Strengthen the National Ocean Policy Implementation Plan

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Thank you.

Sincerely,  
Ms. Kandace Loewen

Mr. J.B. Van Wely  
2210 E Lombard St  
Baltimore, MD 21231-2021  
(410) 675-8271

Feb 6, 2012

Chairs Nancy Sutley and John Holdren, National Ocean Council

Subject: Strengthen the National Ocean Policy Implementation Plan

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I want my grandchildren to be able to enjoy the seafood that was available in my childhood-- and that is now largely dwindling or outright endangered.

Sincerely,  
Mr. J.B. Van Wely

Mrs. Terry Vaccaro  
Corbett  
Plainfield, NJ 07060-4472

Feb 6, 2012

Chairs Nancy Sutley and John Holdren, National Ocean Council

Subject: Strengthen the National Ocean Policy Implementation Plan

Dear Chairs Nancy Sutley and John Holdren, National Ocean Council,

Working in a private school we teach our children to respect all living things and the environment. We are now teaching them about the importance of taking care of the earth and trying to be green. With the help of other's and organizations we can all make a difference to make it a better world. But it has to be done all together. When we all start to make changes these differences will help to encourage other people. So please for the future of our children make it a better world.

"Go into the world and do well. But more importantly go into the world and do good."

Minor Meyers Jr.

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Sincerely,  
Mrs. Terry Vaccaro

Ms. Peggy Malnati  
35935 W 14 Mile Rd  
Farmington Hills, MI 48331-1303

Feb 6, 2012

Chairs Nancy Sutley and John Holdren, National Ocean Council

Subject: Strengthen the National Ocean Policy Implementation Plan

Dear Chairs Nancy Sutley and John Holdren, National Ocean Council,

The draft National Ocean Policy Implementation Plan establishes a **STRONG BLUEPRINT** for taking action and fostering agency coordination to sustain our ocean, coastal and Great Lakes resources. The draft plan has successfully incorporated the needs and concerns of governmental, non-profit, and commercial groups and provides clarifying details to improve accountability and monitor progress toward improved ocean management. Frequent notations on how implementing actions are related to one another provides confidence that activities will be coordinated and make good use of limited resources.

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Sincerely,  
Ms. Peggy Malnati

Ms. Linda Lippner  
3121 SE Canby Rd  
Port St Lucie, FL 34952-5860

Feb 6, 2012

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Subject: Strengthen the National Ocean Policy Implementation Plan

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Read an article the other day from a young man who has seen garbage, plastic, and more plastic on the beaches around the world. He also noted that when he went to the waters edge to get in the ocean (a beach in Costa Rica) he saw that the water was very murky and full of something. This something was tiny bits of plastic that had eroded into small pieces. This plastic is circulating the oceans of our earth due to the currents. He saw the same thing a few years ago on a ocean beach of China.

Now, with this plastic in our ocean waters it seems to me that the smaller fish will ingest the water. Then they will be eaten by larger fish, and on and on. So, when we now eat seafood, we are ingesting plastic!!! We the people of this earth are partly to blame for killing our oceans!!

Also, read an article where there has been an oil spill for seven years

in the Gulf of Mexico. The oil has been seeping from the rig and it is know to many that this has been going on. The oil company knows about it and nothing has been done. I dare say that our government knows about this, as well.

Please take action NOW to restore our oceans to the creatures in the oceans and to the people of the world.

Sincerely,  
Ms. Linda Lippner

Mrs. Margaret Hastings  
9175 Great Blue Heron Ln  
Blaine, WA 98230-9330

Feb 6, 2012

Chairs Nancy Sutley and John Holdren, National Ocean Council

Subject: Strengthen the National Ocean Policy Implementation Plan

Dear Chairs Nancy Sutley and John Holdren, National Ocean Council,

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Nonetheless, the plan could be improved to achieve even more progress. It should more fully utilize all available authorities for habitat protection and management. Many of the milestones could be extended beyond cataloguing and planning to include action, with tangible, on-the-water activities. Regional need, support, and capacity should guide where coordinated actions should first take place. Federal agencies must continue to ask for input from other levels of the government and the public and incorporate this new information into implementation of the plan.

With these additions, President Obama's Implementation Plan will provide a better guide for achieving the goals of protecting, maintaining, and restoring the nation's oceans, coasts, and Great Lakes and ensuring resilient coastal economies. I look forward to the release of the final plan and hope to see policy translated into action on the water soon.

Please consider the entire planet, not just the humans, in your decision.

Sincerely,  
Mrs. Margaret Hastings

Mrs. Bobette Seymour-Linder  
308 Goodrich Rd  
Bellevue, OH 44811-1135

Feb 6, 2012

Chairs Nancy Sutley and John Holdren, National Ocean Council

Subject: Strengthen the National Ocean Policy Implementation Plan!

Dear Chairs Nancy Sutley and John Holdren, National Ocean Council,

The draft National Ocean Policy Implementation Plan establishes a strong blueprint for taking action and fostering agency coordination to sustain our ocean, coastal and Great Lakes resources. The draft plan has successfully incorporated the needs and concerns of governmental, non-profit, and commercial groups and provides clarifying details to improve accountability and monitor progress toward improved ocean management. Frequent notations on how implementing actions are related to one another provides confidence that activities will be coordinated and make good use of limited resources.

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With these additions, President Obama's Implementation Plan will provide a better guide for achieving the goals of protecting, maintaining, and restoring the nation's oceans, coasts, and Great Lakes and ensuring resilient coastal economies

Sincerely,  
Mrs. Bobette Seymour-Linder

Ms. Janet Nelson  
411 Durant St  
Harlan, IA 51537-1760

Feb 6, 2012

Chairs Nancy Sutley and John Holdren, National Ocean Council

Subject: Strengthen the National Ocean Policy Implementation Plan

Dear Chairs Nancy Sutley and John Holdren, National Ocean Council,

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My comments after reading the above: The draft that is proposed is just that, a draft. I have a favorite saying "Ya gotta start somewhere" and I hope that this draft will incorporate additional features that will make it better at protecting the oceans and other waters from abuse, Thanks you, Janet Nelson

Sincerely,  
Ms. Janet Nelson

Mrs. Chris McGatha Goldey  
16014 Windermere Dr  
Pflugerville, TX 78660-2435

Feb 6, 2012

Chairs Nancy Sutley and John Holdren, National Ocean Council

Subject: Strengthen the National Ocean Policy Implementation Plan

Dear Chairs Nancy Sutley and John Holdren, National Ocean Council,

We must protect our oceans and the creatures that inhabit them if we want to leave the world a better place than we found it. The draft National Ocean Policy Implementation Plan establishes a strong blueprint for taking action and fostering agency coordination to sustain our ocean, coastal and Great Lakes resources. The draft plan has successfully incorporated the needs and concerns of governmental, non-profit, and commercial groups and provides clarifying details to improve accountability and monitor progress toward improved ocean management. Frequent notations on how implementing actions are related to one another provides confidence that activities will be coordinated and make good use of limited resources.

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Sincerely,  
Mrs. Chris McGatha Goldey

Mrs. Nancy Gault  
35 Brown Brook Rd  
Southbury, CT 06488-1010

Feb 6, 2012

Chairs Nancy Sutley and John Holdren, National Ocean Council

Subject: Strengthen the National Ocean Policy Implementation Plan

Dear Chairs Nancy Sutley and John Holdren, National Ocean Council,

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Sincerely,  
Mrs. Nancy Gault

Mrs. Susan Snow  
417 Brentwood Blvd  
Lafayette, LA 70503-4015

Feb 6, 2012

Chairs Nancy Sutley and John Holdren, National Ocean Council

Subject: Strengthen the National Ocean Policy Implementation Plan

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Sincerely,  
Mrs. Susan Snow

Mr. Robert Mihaly  
1611 Rosewood Ave  
Lakewood, OH 44107-3737

Feb 6, 2012

Chairs Nancy Sutley and John Holdren, National Ocean Council

Subject: Strengthen the National Ocean Policy Implementation Plan

Dear Chairs Nancy Sutley and John Holdren, National Ocean Council,

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With these additions, President Obama's Implementation Plan will provide a better guide for achieving the goals of protecting, maintaining, and restoring the nation's oceans, coasts, and Great Lakes and ensuring resilient coastal economies. I am especially concerned, living on the lake Erie coast, that we must move forward on protecting the world's largest source of fresh water, particularly against invasive species that are only an electric barrier away from forever spoiling our shallowest lake and the spawning ground for the most valuable of our native fish species. I look forward to the release of the final plan and hope to see policy translated into action on the water soon.

Sincerely,  
Mr. Robert Mihaly

Mr. jcarlton simon  
42 Lake Avenue Ext  
Danbury, CT 06811-5279

Feb 6, 2012

Chairs Nancy Sutley and John Holdren, National Ocean Council

Subject: Strengthen the National Ocean Policy Implementation Plan

Dear Chairs Nancy Sutley and John Holdren, National Ocean Council,

The draft National Ocean Policy Implementation Plan establishes a strong blueprint for taking action and fostering agency coordination to sustain our ocean, coastal and Great Lakes resources. The draft plan has successfully incorporated the needs and concerns of governmental, non-profit, and commercial groups and provides clarifying details to improve accountability and monitor progress toward improved ocean management. Frequent notations on how implementing actions are related to one another provides confidence that activities will be coordinated and make good use of limited resources.

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COULD YOU PLEASE SEND ME A COPY OF THE FINAL DRAFT PROPOSAL OR ANY OTHER MATERIALS RELATING TO THESE POLICIES. THANKS!

Sincerely,  
Mr. jcarlton simon

Ms. Lara Dean  
PO Box 1226  
Solana Beach, CA 92075-7226

Feb 6, 2012

Chairs Nancy Sutley and John Holdren, National Ocean Council

Subject: Strengthen the National Ocean Policy Implementation Plan

Dear Chairs Nancy Sutley and John Holdren, National Ocean Council,

The draft National Ocean Policy Implementation Plan establishes a strong blueprint for taking action and fostering agency coordination to sustain our ocean, coastal and Great Lakes resources. The draft plan has successfully incorporated the needs and concerns of governmental, non-profit, and commercial groups and provides clarifying details to improve accountability and monitor progress toward improved ocean management. Frequent notations on how implementing actions are related to one another provides confidence that activities will be coordinated and make good use of limited resources.

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Our worlds H2Os R NOT TOILETS & it's TIME we stop USING them as such!

Sincerely,  
Ms. Lara Dean

Mr. Stewart Wilber  
801 Tom Smith Rd SW  
Lilburn, GA 30047-2215  
0017709730038

Feb 6, 2012

Chairs Nancy Sutley and John Holdren, National Ocean Council

Subject: Strengthen the National Ocean Policy Implementation Plan

Dear Chairs Nancy Sutley and John Holdren, National Ocean Council,

The draft National Ocean Policy Implementation Plan establishes a strong blueprint for taking action and fostering agency coordination to sustain our ocean, coastal and Great Lakes resources.

Nonetheless, the plan could be improved to achieve even more progress. It should more fully utilize all available authorities for habitat protection and management. Many of the milestones could be extended beyond cataloguing and planning to include action, with tangible, on-the-water activities.

With these additions, President Obama's Implementation Plan will provide a better guide for achieving the goals of protecting, maintaining, and restoring the nation's oceans, coasts, and Great Lakes and ensuring resilient coastal economies. I look forward to the release of the final plan and hope to see policy translated into action on the water soon.

Sincerely,  
Mr. Stewart Wilber

Ms. Judith Fletcher  
525 W 238th St Apt 1a  
Bronx, NY 10463-1820

Feb 6, 2012

Chairs Nancy Sutley and John Holdren, National Ocean Council

Subject: Suggestions for Improving the National Ocean Policy Implementation Plan

Dear Chairs Nancy Sutley and John Holdren, National Ocean Council,

President Obama's Implementation Plan provides a good foundation for progress.

However, it could be improved:

- 1) Many of the milestones could be extended beyond cataloguing and planning to include action, with tangible, on-the-water activities.
- 2) The plan should more fully make use of all available authorities for habitat protection and management.
- 3) Regional need, support, and capacity should guide where coordinated actions first take place.
- 4) Federal agencies must continue to ask for input from other levels of the government and the public and incorporate this new information into the implementation of the plan.

These additions would enable the Plan to more successfully accomplish the goals of protecting, maintaining, and restoring the nation's oceans, coasts, and Great Lakes and ensuring the resilience of coastal economies.

Sincerely,  
Ms. Judith Fletcher

Mrs. Mary Michaelis  
12224 East River Rd  
Columbia Station, OH 44028-9578

Feb 6, 2012

Chairs Nancy Sutley and John Holdren, National Ocean Council

Subject: Strengthen the National Ocean Policy Implementation Plan

Dear Chairs Nancy Sutley and John Holdren, National Ocean Council,

The draft National Ocean Policy Implementation Plan establishes a strong blueprint for taking action and fostering agency coordination to sustain our ocean, coastal and Great Lakes resources. The draft plan has successfully incorporated the needs and concerns of governmental, non-profit, and commercial groups and provides clarifying details to improve accountability and monitor progress toward improved ocean management. Frequent notations on how implementing actions are related to one another provides confidence that activities will be coordinated and make good use of limited resources.

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With these additions, President Obama's Implementation Plan will provide a better guide for achieving the goals of protecting, maintaining, and restoring the nation's oceans, coasts, and Great Lakes and ensuring resilient coastal economies. I look forward to the release of the final plan and hope to see policy translated into action on the water soon.

We are in danger of making a mess we can never clean up.

Sincerely,  
Mrs. Mary Michaelis

Mr. thomas adams  
311 Nutmeg St  
Port St Joe, FL 32456-5955  
(850) 381-1313

Feb 6, 2012

Chairs Nancy Sutley and John Holdren, National Ocean Council

Subject: Stop the National Ocean Policy Implementation Plan

Dear Chairs Nancy Sutley and John Holdren, National Ocean Council,

Please stop the Oceans policy. It is trying to fix something that is not broken. we have too much government already. I is a crime and a shame that the EDF and Pew and other like groups have the money to send out this propoganda under the false guise of saving our natural resources.

Stop this madness before you put more people out of work with more regulations. If anyone is actually reading this or listening How about a shout back.

Sincerely,  
Mr. thomas adams

Mr. William Montgomery  
124 Lindley Ln  
Pottstown, PA 19465-7567

Feb 6, 2012

Chairs Nancy Sutley and John Holdren, National Ocean Council

Subject: Strengthen the National Ocean Policy Implementation Plan

Dear Chairs Nancy Sutley and John Holdren, National Ocean Council,

The draft National Ocean Policy Implementation Plan establishes a strong blueprint for taking action and fostering agency coordination to sustain our ocean, coastal, and Great Lakes resources. The draft plan has successfully incorporated the needs and concerns of governmental, non-profit, and commercial groups, and it provides clarifying details to improve accountability and monitor progress toward improved ocean management. Frequent notations on how implementing actions are related to one another provides confidence that activities will be coordinated and make good use of limited resources.

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Sincerely,  
Mr. William Montgomery

Mr. bob zales, II  
PO Box 4335  
Panama City, FL 32401-8335

Feb 6, 2012

Chairs Nancy Sutley and John Holdren, National Ocean Council

Subject: Eliminate the National Ocean Policy

Dear Chairs Nancy Sutley and John Holdren, National Ocean Council,

The draft National Ocean Policy Implementation Plan establishes too much unaccountable control of our National Oceans management. There is entirely too much control proposed and too many agencies providing unrestricted control to eliminate people off our oceans, coastal areas, and Great Lakes resources. The draft plan is entirely too complicated and has no congressional oversight.

The plan should be eliminated.

Sincerely,  
Mr. bob zales, II

Mrs. Diana Goodman  
123 Mendosa Ave  
San Francisco, CA 94116-1944

Feb 6, 2012

Chairs Nancy Sutley and John Holdren, National Ocean Council

Subject: Strengthen the National Ocean Policy Implementation Plan

Dear Chairs Nancy Sutley and John Holdren, National Ocean Council,

The draft National Ocean Policy Implementation Plan establishes a strong blueprint for taking action and fostering agency coordination to sustain our ocean, coastal and Great Lakes resources.

The draft plan incorporates the needs and concerns of governmental, non-profit, and commercial groups and provides details to improve accountability and monitor progress toward improved ocean management. Frequent notations on how implementing actions are related to one another provides confidence that activities will be coordinated and make good use of limited resources.

The plan could achieve even more fully/utilize all available authorities for habitat protection and management. Many of the milestones could be extended beyond cataloguing and planning.

With these additions, President Obama's Implementation Plan will provide a better guide for achieving the goals of protecting, maintaining, and restoring the nation's oceans, coasts, and Great Lakes and ensuring resilient coastal economies. I look forward to the release of the final plan and hope to see policy translated into action on the water soon.

Sincerely,  
Mrs. Diana Goodman

Ms. Vanessa Walko  
1011 Oakwood Ave  
Blackwood, NJ 08012-2708

Feb 6, 2012

Chairs Nancy Sutley and John Holdren, National Ocean Council

Subject: Strengthen the National Ocean Policy Implementation Plan

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Sincerely,  
Ms. Vanessa Walko

Mrs. Sally Smith  
11309 E 34th St  
Yuma, AZ 85367-5623

Feb 6, 2012

Chairs Nancy Sutley and John Holdren, National Ocean Council

Subject: Strengthen the National Ocean Policy Implementation Plan

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With these additions, President Obama's Implementation Plan will provide a better guide for achieving the goals of protecting, maintaining, and restoring the nation's oceans, coasts, and Great Lakes and ensuring resilient coastal economies. I look forward to the release of the final plan and hope to see policy translated into action on the water soon.

We all depend on our oceans being there. The future of our oceans is at stake now. Our health and future depends on healthy sustainable seas.

Sincerely,  
Mrs. Sally Smith

Ms. anne wolf  
1452 Townview Ave  
Santa Rosa, CA 95405-7561

Feb 6, 2012

Chairs Nancy Sutley and John Holdren, National Ocean Council

Subject: Strengthen the National Ocean Policy Implementation Plan

Dear Chairs Nancy Sutley and John Holdren, National Ocean Council,

The draft National Ocean Policy Implementation Plan provides a blueprint to sustain our ocean, coastal and Great Lakes resources.

The Plan does need to utilize all available authorities for habitat protection and management. Many of the milestones could be extended beyond cataloguing and planning to include action, with tangible, on-the-water activities. Regional need, support, and capacity should guide where coordinated actions should first take place. Federal agencies must continue to ask for input from other levels of the government and the public and incorporate this new information into implementation of the plan.

With these additions, the Plan will provide a better guide for achieving the goals of protecting, maintaining, and restoring the nation's oceans, coasts, and Great Lakes and ensuring resilient coastal economies.

Sincerely,  
Ms. anne wolf

Ms. Sheri Kuticka  
820 Weaver Ln  
Concord, CA 94518-3526

Feb 6, 2012

Chairs Nancy Sutley and John Holdren, National Ocean Council

Subject: Strengthen the National Ocean Policy Implementation Plan

Dear Chairs Nancy Sutley and John Holdren, National Ocean Council,

The draft National Ocean Policy Implementation Plan establishes a blueprint for taking action and fostering agency coordination to sustain our ocean, coastal and Great Lakes resources. But the plan could be improved to achieve more progress. It should more fully utilize all available authorities for habitat protection and management. It could be extended beyond cataloguing and planning to include action, with on-the-water activities. Federal agencies must continue to ask for input from other levels of the government and the public and incorporate this new information into implementation of the plan.

Sincerely,  
Ms. Sheri Kuticka

Ms. Eleanor Kuhl  
809 Brookside Dr  
Cortez, CO 81321-2509

Feb 6, 2012

Chairs Nancy Sutley and John Holdren, National Ocean Council

Subject: Strengthen the National Ocean Policy Implementation Plan

Dear Chairs Nancy Sutley and John Holdren, National Ocean Council,

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Sincerely,  
Ms. Eleanor Kuhl

Dr. charlotte cook  
1133 55th St  
Sacramento, CA 95819-3911

Feb 6, 2012

Chairs Nancy Sutley and John Holdren, National Ocean Council

Subject: Strengthen the National Ocean Policy Implementation Plan

Dear Chairs Nancy Sutley and John Holdren, National Ocean Council,

The draft National Ocean Policy Implementation Plan establishes a strong blueprint for taking action and fostering agency coordination to sustain our ocean, coastal and Great Lakes resources. The draft plan has successfully incorporated the needs and concerns of governmental, non-profit, and commercial groups and provides clarifying details to improve accountability and monitor progress toward improved ocean management. Frequent notations on how implementing actions are related to one another provides confidence that activities will be coordinated and make good use of limited resources.

However, I believe that the plan should more fully utilize all available authorities for habitat protection and management. Many of the milestones could be extended beyond cataloguing and planning to include action, with tangible, on-the-water activities. Regional need, support, and capacity should guide where coordinated actions should first take place. Federal agencies must continue to ask for input from other levels of the government and the public and incorporate this new information into implementation of the plan.

With these additions, President Obama's Implementation Plan will provide a better guide for achieving the goals of protecting, maintaining, and restoring the nation's oceans, coasts, and Great Lakes and ensuring resilient coastal economies.

I look forward to the release of the final plan and hope to see policy translated into action on the water soon.

Sincerely,  
Dr. charlotte cook

Mr. Robert Shorin  
30 Wynn Ct  
Syosset, NY 11791-2426

Feb 6, 2012

Chairs Nancy Sutley and John Holdren, National Ocean Council

Subject: Strengthen the National Ocean Policy Implementation Plan

Dear Chairs Nancy Sutley and John Holdren, National Ocean Council,

The NOP was created to "ensure the protection, maintenance, and restoration of the health of ocean, coastal, and Great Lakes ecosystems and resources." Through four key themes--ecosystem-based management; best available science and data; efficiency and collaboration; and strong regional efforts--the policy outlines action that must be taken to protect marine ecosystems and to encourage sustainable ocean uses.

The National Ocean Council has released a blueprint for implementation of the NOP. While it's a good start, more can be done to ensure that the plan is as strong as possible, starting with more interagency cooperation and greater emphasis on activities taking place on the water.

The draft National Ocean Policy Implementation Plan establishes a strong blueprint for taking action and fostering agency coordination to sustain our ocean, coastal and Great Lakes resources. Nonetheless, the plan could be improved to achieve even more progress.

It should more fully utilize all available authorities for habitat protection and management. Many of the milestones could be extended beyond cataloguing and planning to include action, with tangible, on-the-water activities. Regional need, support, and capacity should guide where coordinated actions should first take place. Federal agencies must continue to ask for input from other levels of the government and the public and incorporate this new information into implementation of the plan.

With these additions, President Obama's Implementation Plan will provide a better guide for achieving the goals of protecting, maintaining, and restoring the nation's oceans, coasts, and Great Lakes and ensuring resilient coastal economies. I look forward to the release of the final plan and hope to see policy translated into action on the water soon.

Sincerely,  
Mr. Robert Shorin

Mr. Denis Moore  
417 NE 2nd Ave  
Fort Lauderdale, FL 33301-3230

Feb 6, 2012

Chairs Nancy Sutley and John Holdren, National Ocean Council

Subject: Strengthen the National Ocean Policy Implementation Plan

Dear Chairs Nancy Sutley and John Holdren, National Ocean Council,

Corporate farming - monocultures, herbicides, pesticides, plowing, fertilizers containing mercury and other are destroying all our living eco-systems on this planet we need a draft legislation that includes the correction of these atrocities and stops subsidising them. The draft National Ocean Policy Implementation Plan only begins to take action to sustain our ocean, coastal and Great Lakes resources and needs to go a lot further. Must improve accountability and monitor progress toward improved ocean conditions. Frequent notations on how implementing actions are related to one another provides confidence that activities will be coordinated and make good use of limited resources.

Nonetheless, the plan could be improved to achieve even more progress. It should more fully utilize all available authorities for habitat protection and management. Many of the milestones could be extended beyond cataloguing and planning to include action, with tangible, on-the-water activities. Regional need, support, and capacity should guide where coordinated actions should first take place. Federal agencies must continue to ask for input from other levels of the government and the public and incorporate this new information into implementation of the plan.

I look forward to the release of a more comprehensive plan and hope to see policy translated into action on the water soon.

Sincerely,  
Mr. Denis Moore

Ms. Sarah Manno  
211 Clover Ln  
Fort Collins, CO 80521-1632

Feb 6, 2012

Chairs Nancy Sutley and John Holdren, National Ocean Council

Subject: Strengthen the National Ocean Policy Implementation Plan

Dear Chairs Nancy Sutley and John Holdren, National Ocean Council,

Our oceans are in big trouble. The draft National Ocean Policy Implementation Plan establishes a strong blueprint for taking action and fostering agency coordination to sustain our ocean, coastal and Great Lakes resources. The draft plan has successfully incorporated the needs and concerns of governmental, non-profit, and commercial groups and provides clarifying details to improve accountability and monitor progress toward improved ocean management. Frequent notations on how implementing actions are related to one another provides confidence that activities will be coordinated and make good use of limited resources.

Nonetheless, the plan could be improved to achieve even more progress. It should more fully utilize all available authorities for habitat protection and management. Many of the milestones could be extended beyond cataloguing and planning to include action, with tangible, on-the-water activities. Regional need, support, and capacity should guide where coordinated actions should first take place. Federal agencies must continue to ask for input from other levels of the government and the public and incorporate this new information into implementation of the plan.

With these additions, President Obama's Implementation Plan will provide a better guide for achieving the goals of protecting, maintaining, and restoring the nation's oceans, coasts, and Great Lakes and ensuring resilient coastal economies. I look forward to the release of the final plan and hope to see policy translated into action on the water soon.

Sincerely,  
Ms. Sarah Manno

Ms. Eugenie Borrelli  
PO Box 51  
Assaria, KS 67416-0051

Feb 6, 2012

Chairs Nancy Sutley and John Holdren, National Ocean Council

Subject: Strengthen the National Ocean Policy Implementation Plan

Dear Chairs Nancy Sutley and John Holdren, National Ocean Council,

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Sincerely,  
Ms. Eugenie Borrelli

Ms. Marylee McInnes  
2397 Camino Capitan  
Santa Fe, NM 87505-6473

Feb 6, 2012

Chairs Nancy Sutley and John Holdren, National Ocean Council

Subject: Strengthen the National Ocean Policy Implementation Plan

Dear Chairs Nancy Sutley and John Holdren, National Ocean Council,

Without a healthy ocean, our whole environment is at risk. We continue to degrade our oceans by the dumping of trash and toxic waste. Cooperation among government agencies is key to fostering strong implementation.

The draft National Ocean Policy Implementation Plan establishes a strong blueprint for taking action and fostering agency coordination to sustain our ocean, coastal and Great Lakes resources. The draft plan has successfully incorporated the needs and concerns of governmental, non-profit, and commercial groups and provides clarifying details to improve accountability and monitor progress toward improved ocean management. Frequent notations on how implementing actions are related to one another provides confidence that activities will be coordinated and make good use of limited resources.

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Sincerely,  
Ms. Marylee McInnes

Mr. (The Rev.) Allan B. Jones  
722 Orchard St Apt 2  
Santa Rosa, CA 95404-3737

Feb 6, 2012

Chairs Nancy Sutley and John Holdren, National Ocean Council

Subject: Strengthen the National Ocean Policy Implementation Plan

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Sincerely,  
Mr. (The Rev.) Allan B. Jones

Mrs. Renae McKeon  
711 13th Ave  
Kearney, NE 68845-6665

Feb 6, 2012

Chairs Nancy Sutley and John Holdren, National Ocean Council

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Our oceans are the lifeblood of this planet. We must protect them at all costs. Delaying protections for our oceans will spell disaster for everyone.

Sincerely,  
Mrs. Renae McKeon

Ms. Joyce Kowalczyk  
3a Pilgrim Hbr  
Wallingford, CT 06492-5434

Feb 6, 2012

Chairs Nancy Sutley and John Holdren, National Ocean Council

Subject: Strengthen the National Ocean Policy Implementation Plan

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Sincerely,  
Ms. Joyce Kowalczyk

Ms. Lynn Wilbur  
617 Katlian St  
Sitka, AK 99835-7322

Feb 6, 2012

Chairs Nancy Sutley and John Holdren, National Ocean Council

Subject: Strengthen the National Ocean Policy Implementation Plan

Dear Chairs Nancy Sutley and John Holdren, National Ocean Council,

Please ensure that the policy is strengthened by interagency cooperation. Thank you.

Sincerely,  
Ms. Lynn Wilbur

Mr. Bruce Jackson  
2531 Neptune Pl  
Port Hueneme, CA 93041-1913

Feb 6, 2012

Chairs Nancy Sutley and John Holdren, National Ocean Council

Subject: Strengthen the National Ocean Policy Implementation Plan

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Whales and Dolphins must be protected concerning Naval sonar experimentation so they aren't harmed by loud sonar acoustics since they also use their own natural sonar to echo locate while they swim, we MUST share the ocean with them.

Sincerely,  
Mr. Bruce Jackson

Ms. Virginia Newlin  
299 Devon Ln  
West Chester, PA 19380-6823

Feb 6, 2012

Chairs Nancy Sutley and John Holdren, National Ocean Council

Subject: Strengthen the National Ocean Policy Implementation Plan

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Nonetheless, I'd like the plan to be improved with more progress, by utilizing all available authorities for habitat protection and management. Many milestones could be extended beyond cataloguing and planning to include action, with on-the-water activities. Regional need, support, and capacity should guide where coordinated actions should first take place. Federal agencies must continue to ask for input from other levels of the government and the public and incorporate this new information into implementation of the plan.

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Our oceans must be cleaned and preserved for the sake of the world.

Sincerely,  
Ms. Virginia Newlin

Dr. Evan Hazard  
3119 Appletree Ct NW  
Bemidji, MN 56601-2107  
(218) 444-7857

Feb 6, 2012

Chairs Nancy Sutley and John Holdren, National Ocean Council

Subject: Strengthen the National Ocean Policy Implementation Plan

Dear Chairs Nancy Sutley and John Holdren, National Ocean Council,

The draft National Ocean Policy Implementation Plan establishes a good plan for action and for fostering agency coordination to sustain our ocean, coastal, and Great Lakes resources. The draft plan successfully incorporates needs and concerns of governmental, non-profit, and commercial groups and provides clarifying details to improve accountability and monitor progress toward improved ocean management. Frequent notations on how implementing actions relate to one another provides confidence that activities will be coordinated and make good use of limited resources.

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Sincerely,  
Dr. Evan Hazard

Dr. Jim Fary  
2836 Blue Spruce Ln  
Silver Spring, MD 20906-3166  
(301) 460-1561

Feb 6, 2012

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Subject: Strengthen the National Ocean Policy Implementation Plan

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With these additions, President Obama's Implementation Plan will provide a better guide for achieving the goals of protecting, maintaining, and restoring the nation's oceans, coasts, and Great Lakes and ensuring resilient coastal economies. For our families and our future, i look forward to the release of the final plan and hope to see policy translated into action on the water soon.

Sincerely,  
Dr. Jim Fary

Mr. John Walker  
PO Box 1462  
Albuquerque, NM 87103-1462

Feb 6, 2012

Chairs Nancy Sutley and John Holdren, National Ocean Council

Subject: Strengthen the National Ocean Policy Implementation Plan

Dear Chairs Nancy Sutley and John Holdren, National Ocean Council,

I live in New Mexico (no ocean here) but take great interest in our ocean policy generally.

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Sincerely,  
Mr. John Walker

Ms. Sarah McDougal  
1305 Scovill St Apt A  
Urbana, IL 61801-6955

Feb 6, 2012

Chairs Nancy Sutley and John Holdren, National Ocean Council

Subject: Strengthen the National Ocean Policy Implementation Plan

Dear Chairs Nancy Sutley and John Holdren, National Ocean Council,

Tell Katy I'm proud of her.

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Sincerely,  
Ms. Sarah McDougal

Mr. David York  
PO Box 131  
Stevenson, CT 06491-0131

Feb 6, 2012

Chairs Nancy Sutley and John Holdren, National Ocean Council

Subject: Strengthen the National Ocean Policy Implementation Plan

Dear Chairs Nancy Sutley and John Holdren, National Ocean Council,

We need to care for our environment and the ocean obviously is a major component that must be protected.

The draft National Ocean Policy Implementation Plan establishes a strong blueprint for taking action and fostering agency coordination to sustain our ocean, coastal and Great Lakes resources. The draft plan has successfully incorporated the needs and concerns of governmental, non-profit, and commercial groups and provides clarifying details to improve accountability and monitor progress toward improved ocean management. Frequent notations on how implementing actions are related to one another provides confidence that activities will be coordinated and make good use of limited resources.

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Sincerely,  
Mr. David York

Ms. Sharon Intilli  
260 Pine Island Tpke  
Warwick, NY 10990-2432

Feb 6, 2012

Chairs Nancy Sutley and John Holdren, National Ocean Council

Subject: Strengthen the National Ocean Policy Implementation Plan

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We MUST remember that approaching our oceans with all the above things in mind is just the beginning because WE CANNOT HAVE HEALTHY OCEANS UNTIL PEOPLE STOP USING THEM AS A SEWER. IN IGNORANCE AND ARROGANCE, WE THINK WE CAN DO WHATEVER WE WANT AND THE OCEANS WILL SURVIVE. WE ARE IN DENIAL IF WE KEEP TO THOSE THOUGHTS AND DESTROYING OUR OCEANS IS ULTIMATELY DESTROYING OUR VERY LIVES.

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Sincerely,  
Ms. Sharon Intilli

Mrs. Lynne Harrington-Bullock  
18839 Nikki Dr  
Sonoma, CA 95476-4549

Feb 6, 2012

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Thank you.

Sincerely,  
Mrs. Lynne Harrington-Bullock

Dr. Barbara Warren  
3653 N Prince Village Pl  
Tucson, AZ 85719-2028

Feb 6, 2012

Chairs Nancy Sutley and John Holdren, National Ocean Council

Subject: Strengthen the National Ocean Policy Implementation Plan

Dear Chairs Nancy Sutley and John Holdren, National Ocean Council,

In addition to a ban on off shore drilling for oil, I want to urge your support for the following. The 2 efforts are inextricably linked.

The draft National Ocean Policy Implementation Plan establishes a strong blueprint for taking action and fostering agency coordination to sustain our ocean, coastal and Great Lakes resources. The draft plan has successfully incorporated the needs and concerns of governmental, non-profit, and commercial groups and provides clarifying details to improve accountability and monitor progress toward improved ocean management. Frequent notations on how implementing actions are related to one another provides confidence that activities will be coordinated and make good use of limited resources.

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Sincerely,  
Dr. Barbara Warren

Mr. Diarmaid McGleenan  
7908 Chelton Rd  
Bethesda, MD 20814-4614

Feb 6, 2012

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Sincerely,  
Mr. Diarmaid McGleenan

Ms. Lovenda Garrison  
4539 Beachcomber Ct  
Boulder, CO 80301-3147  
(303) 530-3087

Feb 6, 2012

Chairs Nancy Sutley and John Holdren, National Ocean Council

Subject: Strengthen the National Ocean Policy Implementation Plan

Dear Chairs Nancy Sutley and John Holdren, National Ocean Council,

Preserving the oceans and all bodies of water and all water ways will ensure many future generations the pleasures we have had. We need to take care of this planet. I would like to feel the human race is here to take care of this planet not destroy it in the name of \$\$\$\$\$, I would like to think that my grandchildren's children wont have to clean up past mistakes just to live if they can live on the planet. We share this planet with more life than ourselves. My granddaughter wants to be a marine biologist, it would be nice for her to experience all marine life and not have to worry about species becoming extinct because of mistakes this generation and past generations have made. We are the ones with knowledge. How can we hold all life in the palm of our hands and only think of the money it will make and with no regard our own future?...

Sincerely,  
Ms. Lovenda Garrison

Ms. Carolyn Al-Qadi  
830 Nash Ave  
Ypsilanti, MI 48198-8021

Feb 6, 2012

Chairs Nancy Sutley and John Holdren, National Ocean Council

Subject: Strengthen the National Ocean Policy Implementation Plan

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With these additions, President Obama's Implementation Plan will provide a better guide for achieving the goals of protecting, maintaining, and restoring the nation's oceans, coasts, and Great Lakes and ensuring resilient coastal economies. As a resident of Michigan, I am especially concerned about the protection of the Great Lakes. I look forward to the release of the final plan and hope to see policy translated into action on the water soon.

Sincerely,  
Ms. Carolyn Al-Qadi

Ms. Gale Wallach  
46 School Ln  
Huntington, NY 11743-1042

Feb 6, 2012

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Subject: Strengthen the National Ocean Policy Implementation Plan

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Sincerely,  
Ms. Gale Wallach

Ms. heather mctammany  
3450 S Ocean Blvd  
Apt 806  
Palm Beach, FL 33480-5940  
(561) 588-0335

Feb 6, 2012

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And keep up the good work!

Sincerely,  
Ms. heather mctammany

Dr. Wayne Teel  
3715 Hidden Meadow Ln  
Keezletown, VA 22832-2033  
(540) 568-2798

Feb 6, 2012

Chairs Nancy Sutley and John Holdren, National Ocean Council

Subject: Strengthen the National Ocean Policy Implementation Plan

Dear Chairs Nancy Sutley and John Holdren, National Ocean Council,

The draft National Ocean Policy Implementation Plan establishes a strong blueprint for taking action and fostering agency coordination to sustain our ocean, coastal and Great Lakes resources. The draft plan has successfully incorporated the needs and concerns of governmental, non-profit, and commercial groups and provides clarifying details to improve accountability and monitor progress toward improved ocean management. Frequent notations on how implementing actions are related to one another provides confidence that activities will be coordinated and make good use of limited resources.

Nonetheless, the plan could be improved to achieve even more progress. It should more fully utilize all available authorities for habitat protection and management. Many of the milestones could be extended beyond cataloguing and planning to include action, with tangible, on-the-water activities. Regional need, support, and capacity should guide where coordinated actions should first take place. Federal agencies must continue to ask for input from other levels of the government and the public and incorporate this new information into implementation of the plan.

I am especially intrigued by the success of oceanic conservation reserves that provide habitat for entire ecosystems to reproduce sufficiently to repopulated surrounding commercially exploited areas. By strategically increasing the number of these areas around the US Coastline we could, in theory, repopulate the entire coastal fishery. Without these reserves the gradual degradation and depopulation of these ecosystems will continue. They work. Let's make them work for the entire country.

With these additions, President Obama's Implementation Plan will provide a better guide for achieving the goals of protecting, maintaining, and restoring the nation's oceans, coasts, and Great Lakes and ensuring resilient coastal economies. I look forward to the release of the final plan and hope to see policy translated into action on the water soon.

Sincerely,  
Dr. Wayne Teel

Mr. John Deneen  
24 Heritage Oaks Rd  
Pleasant Hill, CA 94523-1621

Feb 6, 2012

Chairs Nancy Sutley and John Holdren, National Ocean Council

Subject: Strengthen the National Ocean Policy Implementation Plan

Dear Chairs Nancy Sutley and John Holdren, National Ocean Council,

Re: Ocean Acidification

<http://ngm.nationalgeographic.com/2011/04/ocean-acidification/kolbert-text>

Calera.com - Green Cement for a Blue Planet - using Clean Tech to Turn CO2 Waste into Cement like corals for the production of shell materials and reefs <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=6UQWJn1rlgY&sns=em> - because:

- 1) Sea water contains billions of tons of calcium and magnesium covers 70% of the planet and the 2775 power plants in the US alone pumped out 2.5bnt of CO2 in 2006.
- 2) CO2 is recycled along with fly ash, wastewater and brines from fossil fuels and desalination. The process essentially mimics 'marine cement,' which is produced by corals for the production of shell materials and reefs. Such organisms take the calcium and magnesium ions present in sea-water salts and use them to form carbonates at ambient temperatures and pressures.

Besides, Calera's process remixes the ingredients and outputs fresh water and cement. Using waste materials to produce cement means not having to mine limestone. Meanwhile, pollutants like sulfur oxides, mercury and CO2 are captured, purifying the flue gas emitting from power and cement plants and preventing acid rain.

Accordingly, please invest more in Calera.com - Green Cement for a Blue Planet - using Clean Tech to Turn CO2 Waste into Cement like Coral & Sea Shells Do for Creating New Jobs  
<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=6UQWJn1rlgY&sns=em>

See Calera Case Study: Entrepreneurship, Innovation, and Sustainability  
<http://www.flatworldknowledge.com/pub/sustainability-innovation-and-/485364#web-485364>

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Nonetheless, the plan could be improved to achieve even more progress.

It should more fully utilize all available authorities for habitat protection and management. Many of the milestones could be extended beyond cataloguing and planning to include action, with tangible, on-the-water activities. Regional need, support, and capacity should guide where coordinated actions should first take place. Federal agencies must continue to ask for input from other levels of the government and the public and incorporate this new information into implementation of the plan.

With these additions, President Obama's Implementation Plan will provide a better guide for achieving the goals of protecting, maintaining, and restoring the nation's oceans, coasts, and Great Lakes and ensuring resilient coastal economies. I look forward to the release of the final plan and hope to see policy translated into action on the water soon.

Sincerely,  
Mr. John Deneen

Dr. Gerrit Crouse  
38 4th Ave  
Apt 2n  
Nyack, NY 10960-2119  
(845) 358-0934

Feb 6, 2012

Chairs Nancy Sutley and John Holdren, National Ocean Council

Subject: National Ocean Policy Implementation Plan

Dear Chairs Nancy Sutley and John Holdren, National Ocean Council,

The draft National Ocean Policy Implementation Plan establishes a blueprint for fostering agency coordination to sustain our ocean, coastal & Great Lakes resources, incorporating needs of government, nonprofit, & commercial groups, & clarifying details to improve accountability & monitor progress toward more effective ocean management. Frequent notations on how implementing actions are related to one another provides confidence that activities will be coordinated & make efficient use of limited resources.

The plan could be improved to fully utilize available authorities for habitat protection & management. Milestones can be extended beyond cataloging & planning, to include tangible, on-the-water activities. Regional need, support, & capacity should guide where coordinated actions should take place. Federal agencies must continue to ask for input from other levels of government & the public, & incorporate this new information into implementation of the plan. With these additions Pres. Obama's Implementation Plan will provide a better guide for protecting, maintaining, & restoring our badly stressed oceans, coasts, Great Lakes, & coastal economies.

I write as an emeritus member of the American Institute of Biological Sciences (AIBS).

References:

[www.globalchange.gov/usimpacts](http://www.globalchange.gov/usimpacts)

"Summary for Decision-makers", /Millennium Ecosystem Assessment Synthesis/ (Washington, DC: Island Press, 2005).

Sincerely,  
Dr. Gerrit Crouse

Ms. Kay Mamiya  
2104 W 34th Ave  
Kennewick, WA 99337-3007

Feb 6, 2012

Chairs Nancy Sutley and John Holdren, National Ocean Council

Subject: Strengthen the National Ocean Policy Implementation Plan

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With these additions, President Obama's Implementation Plan will provide a better guide for achieving the goals of protecting, maintaining, and restoring the nation's oceans, coasts, and Great Lakes and ensuring resilient coastal economies. I look forward to the release of the final plan and hope to see policy translated into action on the water soon. I support the implementation of this plan, plus additional milestones to assure action steps are taken and positive results are achieved! Thank you.

Sincerely,

Kay Mamiya  
Kennewick WA

Sincerely,  
Ms. Kay Mamiya

Dr. Peter McLean  
SAINT ANDREWS SCHOOL  
350 Noxontown Rd  
Middletown, DE 19709-1621

Feb 6, 2012

Chairs Nancy Sutley and John Holdren, National Ocean Council

Subject: Strengthen the National Ocean Policy Implementation Plan

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Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,  
Dr. Peter McLean

Ms. Ester Fuchs  
PO Box 502  
Lapeer, MI 48446-0502

Feb 6, 2012

Chairs Nancy Sutley and John Holdren, National Ocean Council

Subject: Strengthen the National Ocean Policy Implementation Plan

Dear Chairs Nancy Sutley and John Holdren, National Ocean Council,

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We have to leave a livable world to our children.

Sincerely,  
Ms. Ester Fuchs

Ms. Patricia Morris  
233 Northrop Pl  
Santa Cruz, CA 95060-3129

Feb 6, 2012

Chairs Nancy Sutley and John Holdren, National Ocean Council

Subject: Strengthen the National Ocean Policy Implementation Plan

Dear Chairs Nancy Sutley and John Holdren, National Ocean Council,

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I hope that states will be encouraged and supported in efforts to establish marine protected areas as we have in California and if other states do not take action, the federal government should in areas identified as important for ocean conservation and long term productivity.

With these additions, President Obama's Implementation Plan will provide a better guide for achieving the goals of protecting, maintaining, and restoring the nation's oceans, coasts, and Great Lakes and ensuring resilient coastal economies. I look forward to the release of the final plan and hope to see policy translated into action on the water soon.

Sincerely,  
Ms. Patricia Morris

Ms. Heather Walters  
25 Parade Pl Apt 3b  
Brooklyn, NY 11226-1020

Feb 6, 2012

Chairs Nancy Sutley and John Holdren, National Ocean Council

Subject: Strengthen the National Ocean Policy Implementation Plan

Dear Chairs Nancy Sutley and John Holdren, National Ocean Council,

The draft National Ocean Policy Implementation Plan establishes a strong blueprint for taking action and fostering agency coordination to sustain our ocean, coastal and Great Lakes resources. The draft plan has successfully incorporated the needs and concerns of governmental, non-profit, and commercial groups and provides clarifying details to improve accountability and monitor progress toward improved ocean management. Frequent notations on how implementing actions are related to one another provides confidence that activities will be coordinated and make good use of limited resources.

Federal agencies must continue to ask for input from other levels of the government and the public and incorporate this new information into implementation of the plan.

With these additions, President Obama's Implementation Plan will provide a better guide for achieving the goals of protecting, maintaining, and restoring the nation's oceans, coasts, and Great Lakes and ensuring resilient coastal economies. I look forward to the release of the final plan and hope to see policy translated into action on the water soon.

Sincerely,  
Ms. Heather Walters

Mrs. Martha Abell  
390 Pleasant St  
Rome, PA 18837-8424

Feb 6, 2012

Chairs Nancy Sutley and John Holdren, National Ocean Council

Subject: Strengthen the National Ocean Policy Implementation Plan

Dear Chairs Nancy Sutley and John Holdren, National Ocean Council,

The draft National Ocean Policy Implementation Plan establishes a strong blueprint for taking action and fostering agency coordination to sustain our ocean, coastal and Great Lakes resources. The draft plan has successfully incorporated the needs and concerns of governmental, non-profit, and commercial groups and provides clarifying details to improve accountability and monitor progress toward improved ocean management. Frequent notations on how implementing actions are related to one another provides confidence that activities will be coordinated and make good use of limited resources.

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We need to be sure that industry is not polluting the oceans, along with boats and ships that travel there. Other countries might have to be educated to not over fish the waters, and allow whales and other mammals to live free.

With these additions, President Obama's Implementation Plan will provide a better guide for achieving the goals of protecting, maintaining, and restoring the nation's oceans, coasts, and Great Lakes and ensuring resilient coastal economies. I look forward to the release of the final plan and hope to see policy translated into action on the water soon.

Sincerely,  
Mrs. Martha Abell

Dr. Ross McCluney  
3517 Elderview Rd  
Chattanooga, TN 37419-1151  
(423) 821-0981

Feb 6, 2012

Chairs Nancy Sutley and John Holdren, National Ocean Council

Subject: Strengthen the National Ocean Policy Implementation Plan

Dear Chairs Nancy Sutley and John Holdren, National Ocean Council,

As an optical oceanographer from NASA/GSFC a number of years ago and a research scientist more recently retired from the Florida Solar Energy Center, I place a high value on protecting the seas and lakes.

My son Kevin McCluney is an ecologist on the faculty of Arizona State University in Tempe and is studying what he has termed "the water web" in plant and animal species. He spent much of his childhood on (and in) the Indian River estuary near our home in Cocoa Florida, so is equally fond of protecting our aquatic resources and their biota generally.

The draft National Ocean Policy Implementation Plan establishes a strong blueprint for taking action and fostering agency coordination to sustain our ocean, coastal and Great Lakes resources. The draft plan has successfully incorporated the needs and concerns of governmental, non-profit, and commercial groups and provides clarifying details to improve accountability and monitor progress toward improved ocean management. Frequent notations on how implementing actions are related to one another provides confidence that activities will be coordinated and make good use of limited resources.

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Sincerely,  
Dr. Ross McCluney

Ms. Susan D. Lannin  
7100 N Greenview Ave  
Chicago, IL 60626-2629  
(773) 818-4825

Feb 6, 2012

Chairs Nancy Sutley and John Holdren, National Ocean Council

Subject: Please Strengthen the National Ocean Policy Implementation Plan

Dear Chairs Nancy Sutley and John Holdren, National Ocean Council,

The draft National Ocean Policy Implementation Plan maps out how action will be taken and agencies coordinated to sustain our ocean, coastal and Great Lakes resources. The draft plan identifies the needs and concerns of governmental, non-profit, and commercial groups and provides specific steps to improve accountability and monitor progress toward improved ocean management.

However, the plan could be strengthened by drawing more fully upon all available authorities for habitat protection and management. While it is vital to catalogue and plan for the milestones identified, specific on-the-water action should also be taken. Regional need, support, and capacity should guide where coordinated actions first occur. Federal agencies must continue to engage other levels of the government and the public, incorporating this input into plan implementation.

I believe that, strengthened by these additions, President Obama's Implementation Plan will be able to achieve the goals of protecting, maintaining, and restoring our oceans, coasts, and Great Lakes and the coastal economies dependent upon healthy ecosystems. Please notify me when the final plan will be released. Thank you for this opportunity to add my comments as you develop the National Ocean Policy Implementation Plan.

Sincerely,  
Ms. Susan D. Lannin

Mr. Joseph Hardin  
2349 Pier Ave  
Santa Monica, CA 90405-6051

Feb 6, 2012

Chairs Nancy Sutley and John Holdren, National Ocean Council

Subject: Strengthen the National Ocean Policy Implementation Plan

Dear Chairs Nancy Sutley and John Holdren, National Ocean Council,

The draft National Ocean Policy Implementation Plan establishes a strong blueprint for taking action and fostering agency coordination to sustain our ocean, coastal and Great Lakes resources. The draft plan has successfully incorporated the needs and concerns of governmental, non-profit, and commercial groups and provides clarifying details to improve accountability and monitor progress toward improved ocean management. Frequent notations on how implementing actions are related to one another provides confidence that activities will be coordinated and make good use of limited resources.

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With these additions, President Obama's Implementation Plan will provide a better guide for achieving the goals of protecting, maintaining, and restoring the nation's oceans, coasts, and Great Lakes and ensuring resilient coastal economies. I look forward to the release of the final plan and hope to see policy translated into action on the water soon.

Thanks,  
Joe

Sincerely,  
Mr. Joseph Hardin

Mrs. L Eleanor Finney  
29571 Via Alto Cerro  
Laguna Niguel, CA 92677-1811

Feb 6, 2012

Chairs Nancy Sutley and John Holdren, National Ocean Council

Subject: Strengthen the National Ocean Policy Implementation Plan

Dear Chairs Nancy Sutley and John Holdren, National Ocean Council,

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This plan can be improved to achieve even more progress. It should more fully utilize all available authorities for habitat protection and management. It could be extended beyond cataloguing and planning to include action, with tangible, on-the-water activities. Regional need, support, and capacity should guide where coordinated actions should first take place. Federal agencies must continue to ask for input from other levels of the government and the public and incorporate this new information into implementation of the plan. All of these improvements would and should go to further protect our oceans upon which all nations depend for food and other needs.

I personally, as an Orange County activist, have studied and attended many lectures, presentations, discussions and read widely on the issues involving our ocean/oceans lakes and the current and advancing attacks upon these waters. It is one of our most serious issues and these improvement are much needed.

With these additions, President Obama's Implementation Plan will provide a better guide for achieving the goals of protecting, maintaining, and restoring the nation's oceans, coasts, and Great Lakes and ensuring resilient coastal economies. I look forward to the release of the final plan and hope to see policy translated into action on the water soon.

Sincerely,  
Mrs. L Eleanor Finney

Ms. Gayle Janzen  
11232 Dayton Ave N  
Seattle, WA 98133-8611  
(206) 362-9278

Feb 6, 2012

Chairs Nancy Sutley and John Holdren, National Ocean Council

Subject: Please Strengthen the National Ocean Policy Implementation Plan

Dear Chairs Nancy Sutley and John Holdren, National Ocean Council,

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Sincerely,  
Ms. Gayle Janzen

Ms. Natalie Tennison  
7918 Solstice Way  
Castle Rock, CO 80108-3065

Feb 6, 2012

Chairs Nancy Sutley and John Holdren, National Ocean Council

Subject: Strengthen the National Ocean Policy Implementation Plan

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Sincerely,  
Ms. Natalie Tennison

Ms. Peggy B. La Point  
1900 Highland Park Cir  
Denton, TX 76205-6932

Feb 6, 2012

Chairs Nancy Sutley and John Holdren, National Ocean Council

Subject: National Ocean Policy Implementation Plan

Dear Chairs Nancy Sutley and John Holdren, National Ocean Council,

The draft National Ocean Policy Implementation Plan establishes a strong blueprint for taking action and fostering agency coordination, and has successfully incorporated the needs and concerns of governmental, non-profit, and commercial groups and provides clarifying details to improve accountability and monitor progress toward improved ocean management.

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Sincerely,  
Ms. Peggy B. La Point

Ms. Maggie Friedenbach  
604 Eaton St  
Savanna, IL 61074-2606

Feb 6, 2012

Chairs Nancy Sutley and John Holdren, National Ocean Council

Subject: Strengthen the National Ocean Policy Implementation Plan

Dear Chairs Nancy Sutley and John Holdren, National Ocean Council,

Let our Nation be the leader on protecting oceans for overuse, abuse, and pollution!

The draft National Ocean Policy Implementation Plan establishes a strong blueprint for taking action and fostering agency coordination to sustain our ocean, coastal and Great Lakes resources. The draft plan has successfully incorporated the needs and concerns of governmental, non-profit, and commercial groups and provides clarifying details to improve accountability and monitor progress toward improved ocean management. Frequent notations on how implementing actions are related to one another provides confidence that activities will be coordinated and make good use of limited resources.

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Sincerely,  
Ms. Maggie Friedenbach

Ms. Judy Chucker  
2260 Ridge Dr Apt 32  
Saint Louis Park, MN 55416-5631

Feb 6, 2012

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Sincerely,  
Ms. Judy Chucker

Mr. Marc Woersching  
PO Box 4471  
Valley Village, CA 91617-0471

Feb 6, 2012

Chairs Nancy Sutley and John Holdren, National Ocean Council

Subject: Strengthen the National Ocean Policy Implementation Plan

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Sincerely,  
Mr. Marc Woersching

Ms. Diane Serafini  
86 Coleridge St  
San Francisco, CA 94110-5168

Feb 6, 2012

Chairs Nancy Sutley and John Holdren, National Ocean Council

Subject: Strengthen the National Ocean Policy Implementation Plan

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John Holdren, I took a resources class from you at UCB in 1978 or 1979, I was an economics major and learned more about how to improve almost everything in the world from your class than I did in all of my economics class. It was, when you include all of the externalized costs and put a monetizable value on what you are losing either socially or environmentally into the price of a good or service at the point of purchase, then people can be closer to making a rational decision about what they produce and buy. With your current position, I would hope you bring this point of view to the process. Our waters are such a precious resource we need to do much more to protect them now.

With these additions, President Obama's Implementation Plan will provide a better guide for achieving the goals of protecting, maintaining, and restoring the nation's oceans, coasts, and Great Lakes and ensuring resilient coastal economies. I look forward to the release of the final plan and hope to see policy translated into action on the water soon.

Sincerely,  
Ms. Diane Serafini

Dr. Dr. Robert Cospito  
11156 76th Dr  
Forest Hills, NY 11375-7057

Feb 6, 2012

Chairs Nancy Sutley and John Holdren, National Ocean Council

Subject: Strengthen the National Ocean Policy Implementation Plan

Dear Chairs Nancy Sutley and John Holdren, National Ocean Council,

The draft National Ocean Policy Implementation Plan establishes a strong blueprint for taking action and fostering agency coordination to sustain our ocean, coastal and Great Lakes resources. The draft plan has successfully incorporated the needs and concerns of governmental, non-profit, and commercial groups and provides clarifying details to improve accountability and monitor progress toward improved ocean management. Frequent notations on how implementing actions are related to one another provides confidence that activities will be coordinated and make good use of limited resources.

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With these additions, President Obama's Implementation Plan will provide a better guide for achieving the goals of protecting, maintaining, and restoring the nation's oceans, coasts, and Great Lakes and ensuring resilient coastal economies. I look forward to the release of the final plan and hope to see policy translated into action on the water soon.

Sincerely,  
Dr. Robert A. Cospito  
[www.zoologyresearch.com](http://www.zoologyresearch.com)

Sincerely,  
Dr. Dr. Robert Cospito

Ms. Regina Carpenter  
907 Hocking Rd Apt 1  
Belpre, OH 45714-1445

Feb 6, 2012

Chairs Nancy Sutley and John Holdren, National Ocean Council

Subject: Strengthen the National Ocean Policy Implementation Plan

Dear Chairs Nancy Sutley and John Holdren, National Ocean Council,

Our oceans have been severely polluted and overfished for many years and we can no longer afford to allow this. I am an American who is very passionate about protecting them, and preserving the ocean life that is struggling to survive. The draft National Ocean Policy Implementation Plan establishes a strong blueprint for taking action and fostering agency coordination to sustain our ocean, coastal and Great Lakes resources. The draft plan has successfully incorporated the needs and concerns of governmental, non-profit, and commercial groups and provides clarifying details to improve accountability and monitor progress toward improved ocean management. Frequent notations on how implementing actions are related to one another provides confidence that activities will be coordinated and make good use of limited resources.

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Sincerely,  
Ms. Regina Carpenter

Dr. V.E. Perkins  
11151 E Grant Rd  
Franktown, CO 80116-9221  
(303) 841-4059

Feb 6, 2012

Chairs Nancy Sutley and John Holdren, National Ocean Council

Subject: Strengthen the National Ocean Policy Implementation Plan

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THERE IS NOTHING MORE IMPORTANT THAN SAVING THE OCEANS, SO THE PLAN should more fully utilize all available authorities for habitat protection and management. Many of the milestones could be extended beyond cataloguing and planning to include action, with tangible efforts TO SAVE OUR WETLANDS. Regional need, support, and capacity should guide where coordinated actions should first take place. Federal agencies must continue to ask for input from other levels of the government and the public and incorporate this new information into implementation of the plan.

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Sincerely,  
Dr. V.E. Perkins

Ms. Lisa Petrie  
11 Debra Dr  
Carolina, RI 02812-1007

Feb 6, 2012

Chairs Nancy Sutley and John Holdren, National Ocean Council

Subject: Strengthen the National Ocean Policy Implementation Plan

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Our oceans are a vital part of the web of life that supports human beings as well as all other species. We must do everything we can--guided by the best science, not politics, and always erring on the side of safety--to protect all marine ecosystems and the wide array of species they encompass. We owe it to our children and grandchildren to keep the oceans clean, healthy, and teeming with life.

Sincerely,  
Ms. Lisa Petrie

Mr. Jim Dailey  
6 Hart Pl  
Woburn, MA 01801-2331

Feb 6, 2012

Chairs Nancy Sutley and John Holdren, National Ocean Council

Subject: Strengthen the National Ocean Policy Implementation Plan

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If it isn't already included, there should be strict rules against dumping refuse and manufacturing pollutants into US waters and to ensure polluters do the clean up, pay for all other clean up and be prosecuted for despoiling the waters.

Sincerely,  
Mr. Jim Dailey

Ms. Claire Nivola  
6 Columbus St  
Newton Highlands, MA 02461-1418

Feb 6, 2012

Chairs Nancy Sutley and John Holdren, National Ocean Council

Subject: Strengthen the National Ocean Policy Implementation Plan

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Sincerely,  
Claire Nivola  
6 Columbus Street  
Newton Highlands,  
MA 02461

Sincerely,  
Ms. Claire Nivola

Ms. Susan Heffernon  
1710 Neal Ter  
Nashville, TN 37203-5533

Feb 6, 2012

Chairs Nancy Sutley and John Holdren, National Ocean Council

Subject: Strengthen the National Ocean Policy Implementation Plan

Dear Chairs Nancy Sutley and John Holdren, National Ocean Council,

\*\*\* This Earth that we all live on needs to be cared for, not destroyed by the Greedy, Self-serving, or Unconcerned groups or persons.

\*\*\*\*\*  
\*\*\*\*\*

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Sincerely,  
Ms. Susan Heffernon

Mrs. Mary Thoma  
326 Spirea Dr  
Dayton, OH 45419-3541  
(937) 299-9389

Feb 6, 2012

Chairs Nancy Sutley and John Holdren, National Ocean Council

Subject: Strengthen the National Ocean Policy Implementation Plan

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Too much trash and chemicals are dumped into the lakes and oceans, including the cruise ships who dump raw sewage..

Sincerely,  
Mrs. Mary Thoma

Mrs. G Schlegel  
52206 Maxine  
Cabazon, CA 92230-5231

Feb 6, 2012

Chairs Nancy Sutley and John Holdren, National Ocean Council

Subject: PLEASE Strengthen the National Ocean Policy Implementation Plan

Dear Chairs Nancy Sutley and John Holdren, National Ocean Council,

Our oceans are the lifeblood of our planet and every living thing on it. The draft National Ocean Policy Implementation Plan establishes a strong blueprint for taking action and fostering agency coordination to sustain our ocean, coastal and Great Lakes resources. The draft plan has successfully incorporated the needs and concerns of governmental, non-profit, and commercial groups and provides clarifying details to improve accountability and monitor progress toward improved ocean management. Frequent notations on how implementing actions are related to one another provides confidence that activities will be coordinated and make good use of limited resources.

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Sincerely,  
Mrs. G Schlegel

Mr. Thomas & Bonnie Keenan  
1415 E McFarland Ave  
Coeur D Alene, ID 83814-4876

Feb 6, 2012

Chairs Nancy Sutley and John Holdren, National Ocean Council

Subject: Strengthen the National Ocean Policy Implementation Plan

Dear Chairs Nancy Sutley and John Holdren, National Ocean Council,

If ever there was a time to act, it is now! If you want a wake up as to how dire this issue is, just find the latest reports on the current state of pH shift in the world's oceans, and read what effect is predicted, and how fast! It will scare you pale!

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Sincerely,  
Mr. Thomas & Bonnie Keenan

Mr. Vikram Neal Seetharaman  
32280 Wintergreen Dr  
Solon, OH 44139-1356

Feb 6, 2012

Chairs Nancy Sutley and John Holdren, National Ocean Council

Subject: Strengthen the National Ocean Policy Implementation Plan

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Sincerely,  
Mr. Vikram Neal Seetharaman

Ms. Christina Murphy  
345 Belden Hill Rd  
Wilton, CT 06897-3800

Feb 6, 2012

Chairs Nancy Sutley and John Holdren, National Ocean Council

Subject: Strengthen the National Ocean Policy Implementation Plan

Dear Chairs Nancy Sutley and John Holdren, National Ocean Council,

I hope to God this draft passes because it would be a wonderful gift to our nation and it's people. The draft National Ocean Policy Implementation Plan establishes a strong blueprint for taking action and fostering agency coordination to sustain our ocean, coastal and Great Lakes resources. The draft plan has successfully incorporated the needs and concerns of governmental, non-profit, and commercial groups and provides clarifying details to improve accountability and monitor progress toward improved ocean management. Frequent notations on how implementing actions are related to one another provides confidence that activities will be coordinated and make good use of limited resources.

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Sincerely,  
Ms. Christina Murphy

Dr. joanne szamreta  
37 Wilshire Park  
Needham, MA 02492-3722

Feb 6, 2012

Chairs Nancy Sutley and John Holdren, National Ocean Council

Subject: Strengthen the National Ocean Policy Implementation Plan

Dear Chairs Nancy Sutley and John Holdren, National Ocean Council,

Our oceans are suffering from lots of dumping and from rising temperatures. We need to act quickly and definitively to save them.

The draft National Ocean Policy Implementation Plan establishes a strong blueprint for taking action and fostering agency coordination to sustain our ocean, coastal and Great Lakes resources. The draft plan has successfully incorporated the needs and concerns of governmental, non-profit, and commercial groups and provides clarifying details to improve accountability and monitor progress toward improved ocean management. Frequent notations on how implementing actions are related to one another provides confidence that activities will be coordinated and make good use of limited resources.

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Sincerely,  
Dr. joanne szamreta

Ms. June MacArthur  
60 W Schuyler St  
Oswego, NY 13126-1333

Feb 6, 2012

Chairs Nancy Sutley and John Holdren, National Ocean Council

Subject: Strengthen the National Ocean Policy Implementation Plan

Dear Chairs Nancy Sutley and John Holdren, National Ocean Council,

It's important that we do the right things for sustainability and protecting clean water for all creatures on this earth. Corporations are polluting and destroying our air and water and a depressing rate. Please help establish a strong blueprint for action as stated below. The draft National Ocean Policy Implementation Plan establishes a strong blueprint for taking action and fostering agency coordination to sustain our ocean, coastal and Great Lakes resources. The draft plan has successfully incorporated the needs and concerns of governmental, non-profit, and commercial groups and provides clarifying details to improve accountability and monitor progress toward improved ocean management. Frequent notations on how implementing actions are related to one another provides confidence that activities will be coordinated and make good use of limited resources.

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Sincerely,  
Ms. June MacArthur

Mr. Charles Caron  
PO Box 525  
Natchitoches, LA 71458-0525

Feb 6, 2012

Chairs Nancy Sutley and John Holdren, National Ocean Council

Subject: Strengthen the National Ocean Policy Implementation Plan

Dear Chairs Nancy Sutley and John Holdren, National Ocean Council,

I agree with the follow....charlie

The draft National Ocean Policy Implementation Plan establishes a strong blueprint for taking action and fostering agency coordination to sustain our ocean, coastal and Great Lakes resources. The draft plan has successfully incorporated the needs and concerns of governmental, non-profit, and commercial groups and provides clarifying details to improve accountability and monitor progress toward improved ocean management. Frequent notations on how implementing actions are related to one another provides confidence that activities will be coordinated and make good use of limited resources.

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Sincerely,  
Mr. Charles Caron

Ms. Nina Rollow  
1333 SE Nehalem St  
Portland, OR 97202-6627  
(503) 232-1445

Feb 6, 2012

Chairs Nancy Sutley and John Holdren, National Ocean Council

Subject: Please Strengthen the National Ocean Policy Implementation Plan

Dear Chairs Nancy Sutley and John Holdren, National Ocean Council,

I know that the draft National Ocean Policy Implementation Plan establishes a strong blueprint for taking action and fostering agency coordination to sustain our ocean, coastal and Great Lakes resources. The draft plan has successfully incorporated the needs and concerns of governmental, non-profit, and commercial groups and provides clarifying details to improve accountability and monitor progress toward improved ocean management. Frequent notations on how implementing actions are related to one another provides confidence that activities will be coordinated and make good use of limited resources.

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I believe with these additions, President Obama's Implementation Plan will provide a better guide for achieving the goals of protecting, maintaining, and restoring the nation's oceans, coasts, and Great Lakes and ensuring resilient coastal economies. I look forward to the release of the final plan and hope to see policy translated into action on the water soon.

Thank you very much for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,  
Ms. Nina Rollow

Ms. Connie Conine  
123 E Arkansas Ave  
Denver, CO 80210-2203

Feb 6, 2012

Chairs Nancy Sutley and John Holdren, National Ocean Council

Subject: Strengthen the National Ocean Policy Implementation Plan

Dear Chairs Nancy Sutley and John Holdren, National Ocean Council,

The health of our oceans are vital to the health of the whole world. Please support a balanced approach that helps meet present needs but preserves the our oceans for future generations and the ocean's diverse creatures and ecosystems.

The draft National Ocean Policy Implementation Plan establishes a strong blueprint for taking action and fostering agency coordination to sustain our ocean, coastal and Great Lakes resources. The draft plan has successfully incorporated the needs and concerns of governmental, non-profit, and commercial groups and provides clarifying details to improve accountability and monitor progress toward improved ocean management. Frequent notations on how implementing actions are related to one another provides confidence that activities will be coordinated and make good use of limited resources.

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Sincerely,  
Ms. Connie Conine

Ms. Jude Iam  
PO Box 4963  
Santa Rosa, CA 95402-4963

Feb 6, 2012

Chairs Nancy Sutley and John Holdren, National Ocean Council

Subject: VITAL TO STRENGTHEN National Ocean Policy Plan

Dear Chairs Nancy Sutley and John Holdren, National Ocean Council,

Humanity and our planet depend upon our oceans, which are dying.

President Obama's Implementation Plan will provide a better guide for achieving the goals of protecting, maintaining, and restoring the nation's oceans, coasts, and Great Lakes and ensuring resilient coastal economies.

I look forward to the release of the final plan and hope to see policy translated into action on the water soon.

Sincerely,  
Ms. Jude Iam

Mr. Jeff Archuleta  
6 Broadway Apt 217  
Denver, CO 80203-3907  
(303) 333-3333

Feb 6, 2012

Chairs Nancy Sutley and John Holdren, National Ocean Council

Subject: Strengthen the National Ocean Policy Implementation Plan

Dear Chairs Nancy Sutley and John Holdren, National Ocean Council,

After watching this you'll say, "I did not see that coming!"

<http://vimeo.com/7761485>

In the Can, Under budget, without a Screenplay or even an Outline.

Masterful.

<http://www.imdb.com/name/nm0033811/>

jeff, great job on your short.

> very clean. i am impressed

> peace

<http://www.imdb.com/name/nm1843310/>

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Sincerely,  
Mr. Jeff Archuleta

Mr. James Mathews  
2001 Alameda Apt 169  
San Mateo, CA 94403-1253  
(650) 573-7039

Feb 6, 2012

Chairs Nancy Sutley and John Holdren, National Ocean Council

Subject: Strengthen the National Ocean Policy Implementation Plan

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After all, without oceans this planet's ecosystem evolution would not have HAPPENED and WE wouldn't BE here! A great sense of gestalt and patience is necessary for the homo sapien leaders of this planet to ensure our species will continue to exist for thousands of eons! The poorly parented brats who are threatening our ecology for the sake of more immediate financial gain shall NOT ruin our planet's future...for ANY reason!!

Sincerely,  
Mr. James Mathews

Mr. Charles Alexander  
PO Box 4752  
Lutherville Timonium, MD 21094-4752

Feb 6, 2012

Chairs Nancy Sutley and John Holdren, National Ocean Council

Subject: Strengthen the National Ocean Policy Implementation Plan

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With these additions, President Obama's Implementation Plan will provide a better guide for achieving the goals of protecting, maintaining, and restoring the nation's oceans, coasts, and Great Lakes and ensuring resilient coastal economies. I look forward to the release of the final plan and hope to see policy translated into action on the water soon.

With overfishing becoming more of a concern lately, as well as increased threats to endangered species such as sea turtles, we need more protection for our oceans. More marine reserves, greater enforcement of existing laws, and new laws for greater protections are needed.

Sincerely,  
Mr. Charles Alexander

Mrs. Gwen Nesselde  
53 Arboro Dr  
Sharon, MA 02067-2250

Feb 6, 2012

Chairs Nancy Sutley and John Holdren, National Ocean Council

Subject: Strengthen the National Ocean Policy Implementation Plan

Dear Chairs Nancy Sutley and John Holdren, National Ocean Council,

If the districition continues, we won't be able to tell the difference between a cesspool, and the open oceans.

The draft National Ocean Policy Implementation Plan establishes a strong blueprint for taking action and fostering agency coordination to sustain our ocean, coastal and Great Lakes resources. The draft plan has successfully incorporated the needs and concerns of governmental, non-profit, and commercial groups and provides clarifying details to improve accountability and monitor progress toward improved ocean management. Frequent notations on how implementing actions are related to one another provides confidence that activities will be coordinated and make good use of limited resources.

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Sincerely,  
Mrs. Gwen Nesselde

Mr. T.Ed.&Marie Webb  
825 Kimry Moor  
Fayetteville, NY 13066-1840

Feb 6, 2012

Chairs Nancy Sutley and John Holdren, National Ocean Council

Subject: Strengthen the National Ocean Policy Implementation Plan

Dear Chairs Nancy Sutley and John Holdren, National Ocean Council,

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Sincerely,  
Mr. T.Ed.&Marie Webb

Dr. Greg Chester  
6312 164th St NW  
Cass Lake, MN 56633-3010

Feb 6, 2012

Chairs Nancy Sutley and John Holdren, National Ocean Council

Subject: Strengthen the National Ocean Policy Implementation Plan

Dear Chairs Nancy Sutley and John Holdren, National Ocean Council,

I was much saddened by the dramatic decline of the beluga whales in the Gulf of St. Lawrence. When I learned that the probable causes were the aluminum mills on the St. Lawrence River I knew we had to do a better job as humans. We must do a better job of sharing this planet with other living beings.

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Sincerely,  
Dr. Greg Chester

Dr. David Dow  
18 Treetop Lane  
East Falmouth, MA 02536-4814

Feb 6, 2012

Chairs Nancy Sutley and John Holdren, National Ocean Council

Subject: Strengthen the National Ocean Policy Implementation Plan

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I represent the Sierra Club's Marine Action Team on the New England Ocean Action Network that is promoting President Obama's National Ocean Policy and supporting the endeavors of the Northeast Regional Ocean Commission. NEOAN represents a coalition of environmental and various user groups (including commercial fishing interests); transport industry; ocean wind farm interests; etc.). This action follows up on the recommendations of the U.S. and Pew Ocean Commissions which were left lagging by Congressional inaction.

As a resident of Cape Cod the adjacent ocean is key to our economy, cultural heritage and what makes this a special place to live. We need a way to integrate the protection of our offshore ocean with compatible human uses (fishing; shipping; recreation; renewable energy development; preservation of essential marine habitats for protected/natural trust resource species; and restoring the ecosystem services and natural capital in our coastal embayments which have been damaged by nutrient enrichment and climate change.

With these additions, President Obama's Implementation Plan will provide a better guide for achieving the goals of protecting, maintaining, and restoring the nation's oceans, coasts, and Great Lakes and ensuring resilient coastal economies. I look forward to the release of the final plan and hope to see policy translated into action on the

water soon.

Sincerely,  
Dr. David Dow

Mr. Jerry Broadbent  
410 S Main  
Bucoda, WA 98530  
(360) 278-3277

Feb 6, 2012

Chairs Nancy Sutley and John Holdren, National Ocean Council

Subject: Strengthen the National Ocean Policy Implementation Plan

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Nonetheless, the plan could be improved to achieve even more progress. It should more fully utilize all available authorities for habitat protection and management.

We need to do all we can to insure a healthy vibrant ocean. Other than water and air, it is the basis of life here on earth. I look forward to the release of the final plan and hope to see policy translated into action on the water soon.

Sincerely,  
Mr. Jerry Broadbent

Mr. Frank Pilholski  
1 Nixon Rd  
Framingham, MA 01701-3016

Feb 6, 2012

Chairs Nancy Sutley and John Holdren, National Ocean Council

Subject: Strengthen the National Ocean Policy Implementation Plan

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I look forward to the release of the final plan and hope to see policy translated into action on the water soon. Thank you.

Sincerely,  
Mr. Frank Pilholski

Mrs. Bonnie Ann Peate Donohue  
474 Niantic Rd  
Barto, PA 19504-9531  
(610) 845-2834

Feb 6, 2012

Chairs Nancy Sutley and John Holdren, National Ocean Council

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don't destroy the oceans.

Blessed Be  
bonnie

Sincerely,  
Mrs. Bonnie Ann Peate Donohue

Dr. John Laubenthal  
5809 N Lagoon Dr  
Panama City Beach, FL 32408-3706  
(850) 233-8832

Feb 6, 2012

Chairs Nancy Sutley and John Holdren, National Ocean Council

Subject: Abandon the National Ocean Policy Implementation Plan

Dear Chairs Nancy Sutley and John Holdren, National Ocean Council,

The draft National Ocean Policy Implementation Plan is poorly disguised attempt to have our Gov. take more control over our national resources & block access to waterways & other resources meant for our citizens to enjoy. As a Recreational Fishermen & avid outdoorsman I strongly oppose many of the over-reaching aspects of this policy.

Sincerely,  
Dr. John Laubenthal

Mr. Peter Janhunen  
155 East Rd  
Westminster, MA 01473-1629  
(978) 874-5532

Feb 6, 2012

Chairs Nancy Sutley and John Holdren, National Ocean Council

Subject: Strengthen the National Ocean Policy Implementation Plan

Dear Chairs Nancy Sutley and John Holdren, National Ocean Council,

My name is Peter Janhunen of Westminster MA, and I strongly support the ocean policy restoration plan. I urge the Congress to implement all the improvements within the proposed measure.

The draft National Ocean Policy Implementation Plan establishes a strong blueprint for taking action and fostering agency coordination to sustain our ocean, coastal and Great Lakes resources. The draft plan has successfully incorporated the needs and concerns of governmental, non-profit, and commercial groups and provides clarifying details to improve accountability and monitor progress toward improved ocean management. Frequent notations on how implementing actions are related to one another provides confidence that activities will be coordinated and make good use of limited resources.

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Sincerely,  
Mr. Peter Janhunen

Mr. Charles Fox  
2300 W Alameda St Apt A5  
Santa Fe, NM 87507-9655

Feb 6, 2012

Chairs Nancy Sutley and John Holdren, National Ocean Council

Subject: Strengthen the National Ocean Policy Implementation Plan

Dear Chairs Nancy Sutley and John Holdren, National Ocean Council,

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Many fisheries have collapsed or are headed into collapse due to industrial overfishing, pollution, and quite possibly climate change. Surely the prevention of biotic impoverishment is the preferred alternative.

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Sincerely,  
Mr. Charles Fox

Mrs. Corinne Livesay  
3955 E County Line N  
White Bear Lake, MN 55110-4552

Feb 6, 2012

Chairs Nancy Sutley and John Holdren, National Ocean Council

Subject: Strengthen the National Ocean Policy Implementation Plan

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With these additions, President Obama's Implementation Plan will provide a better guide for achieving the goals of protecting, maintaining, and restoring the nation's oceans, coasts, and Great Lakes and ensuring resilient coastal economies. I look forward to the release of the final plan and hope to see policy translated into action on the water soon.

Sincerely,  
Mrs. Corinne Livesay

Mrs. Margo Vanderhill  
504 Garfield St  
Alton, IA 51003-8749

Feb 6, 2012

Chairs Nancy Sutley and John Holdren, National Ocean Council

Subject: Strengthen the National Ocean Policy Implementation Plan

Dear Chairs Nancy Sutley and John Holdren, National Ocean Council,

Growing up along the shores of Lake Michigan, I understand the value and complexity of our lake and ocean resources. I support the draft plan, but think that it could be strengthened in key aspects.

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Sincerely,  
Mrs. Margo Vanderhill

Mr. Kent Mollohan  
524 S Roberts St  
Helena, MT 59601-5435  
(406) 442-9028

Feb 6, 2012

Chairs Nancy Sutley and John Holdren, National Ocean Council

Subject: Strengthen the National Ocean Policy Implementation Plan

Dear Chairs Nancy Sutley and John Holdren, National Ocean Council,

About everyday, and soon every hour, I'll be signing these petitions to you and to others about doing much better in your work to IMPROVE the damn place we live. Quit "mucking it up!" PASS IT ON.

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Sincerely,  
Mr. Kent Mollohan

Ms. Ruth Sandefur  
1709 W McRainey Rd  
Parkton, NC 28371-9441

Feb 6, 2012

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Subject: Strengthen the National Ocean Policy Implementation Plan

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Keep irresponsible greedy big oil corporations out of the oceans! As long as there are not any guarantee that their drilling is safe, our oceans will not be safe from big greedy irresponsible oil corporations that have no concerns for the health of our citizens.

With these additions, President Obama's Implementation Plan will provide a better guide for achieving the goals of protecting, maintaining, and restoring the nation's oceans, coasts, and Great Lakes and ensuring resilient coastal economies. I look forward to the release of the final plan and hope to see policy translated into action on the water soon.

Sincerely,  
Ms. Ruth Sandefur

Ms. Shan Albert  
1881 Washington Ave  
Apt 15f  
Miami Beach, FL 33139-7446

Feb 6, 2012

Chairs Nancy Sutley and John Holdren, National Ocean Council

Subject: Strengthen the National Ocean Policy Implementation Plan

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Sincerely,  
Ms. Shan Albert

Ms. Karla Long  
2508 Quince St NW  
Albany, OR 97321-9684

Feb 6, 2012

Chairs Nancy Sutley and John Holdren, National Ocean Council

Subject: Strengthen the National Ocean Policy Implementation Plan

Dear Chairs Nancy Sutley and John Holdren, National Ocean Council,

The following is the standardized form letter that the Pew Environment Group has formulated. I cannot improve upon their argument for having a strong National Ocean Policy. I do want to emphasize that as a citizen, I believe that the care of the oceans on this planet may be the single most important first step we, as caregivers of our planet, can take to better ensure a healthy future for our children and the other species in this wondrous world.

The draft National Ocean Policy Implementation Plan establishes a strong blueprint for taking action and fostering agency coordination to sustain our ocean, coastal and Great Lakes resources. The draft plan has successfully incorporated the needs and concerns of governmental, non-profit, and commercial groups and provides clarifying details to improve accountability and monitor progress toward improved ocean management. Frequent notations on how implementing actions are related to one another provides confidence that activities will be coordinated and make good use of limited resources.

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Sincerely,  
Ms. Karla Long

Mr. George and Frances Alderson  
112 Hilton Ave  
Catonsville, MD 21228-5727  
(410) 788-7096

Feb 6, 2012

Chairs Nancy Sutley and John Holdren, National Ocean Council

Subject: National Ocean Policy Implementation Plan

Dear Chairs Nancy Sutley and John Holdren, National Ocean Council,

We heartily support the draft National Ocean Policy Implementation Plan. Living in a coastal state renowned for the Chesapeake Bay, we take the health of the ocean ecosystems very seriously. We are old enough to have seen food fish disappear from our grocery stores over the past 30 years. It is time to restore the ecosystems that supported the once-great fisheries of the Atlantic Ocean and Chesapeake Bay.

We see that the draft plan reflects needs and concerns voiced by a diversity of stakeholders, including state and local governments, nonprofit organizations, and businesses. It calls for more accountability and monitoring so we will know whether restoration efforts are getting results.

However, we urge several improvements in the plan to get results faster. All the available authorities should be used to improve habitat and manage ocean ecosystems. We would like to see milestones set for tangible on-the-water activities, rather than just cataloguing and planning. Coordinated actions should be required where regional needs, support and capacity have been identified. Federal agencies should have a continuing obligation to seek feedback from state and local governments and nonprofit organizations, and their recommendations should be incorporated into implementation of the plan.

Again, we support the President's Implementation Plan with these improvements, and we look forward to a final plan that will effectively restore our oceans and coasts and their ecosystems. Thank you for considering our views.

Sincerely,  
Mr. George and Frances Alderson

Ms. Nancy Hiestand  
526 S Campus Way  
Davis, CA 95616-3523  
(916) 756-1796

Feb 6, 2012

Chairs Nancy Sutley and John Holdren, National Ocean Council

Subject: Strengthen the National Ocean Policy Implementation Plan

Dear Chairs Nancy Sutley and John Holdren, National Ocean Council,

Our oceans give us life in many ways and must be protected.

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Sincerely,  
Ms. Nancy Hiestand

Mrs. Saran Kirschbaum  
1710 Bagley Ave  
Los Angeles, CA 90035-4110  
(310) 559-1281

Feb 6, 2012

Chairs Nancy Sutley and John Holdren, National Ocean Council

Subject: Strengthen the National Ocean Policy Implementation Plan

Dear Chairs Nancy Sutley and John Holdren, National Ocean Council,

Since over 60% of our oxygen and much of the world's food comes from the ocean it behooves us to protect it.

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Sincerely,  
Mrs. Saran Kirschbaum

Ms. R Sangdahl  
essen  
cleveland, OH 44129

Feb 6, 2012

Chairs Nancy Sutley and John Holdren, National Ocean Council

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First and foremost, the need to create a Clean Air Act that assures the air is not polluted by anyone and thus further pollute the water as well. This measure would carry penalties for those who pollute the air and set standards for the rest of the world. We must face the truth, if the world doesn't cherish clean air and water everything else is of no consequence.

Sincerely,  
Ms. R Sangdahl

Ms. JoAnn Keller  
780 Excalibur St  
Lafayette, CO 80026-1911

Feb 6, 2012

Chairs Nancy Sutley and John Holdren, National Ocean Council

Subject: Strengthen the National Ocean Policy Implementation Plan

Dear Chairs Nancy Sutley and John Holdren, National Ocean Council,

The draft National Ocean Policy Implementation Plan establishes a strong blueprint for taking action and fostering agency coordination to sustain our ocean, coastal and Great Lakes resources. The draft plan has successfully incorporated the needs and concerns of governmental, non-profit, and commercial groups and provides clarifying details to improve accountability and monitor progress toward improved ocean management. Frequent notations on how implementing actions are related to one another provides confidence that activities will be coordinated and make good use of limited resources.

Nonetheless, the plan could be improved to achieve even more progress. It should more fully utilize all available authorities for habitat protection and management. Many of the milestones could be extended beyond cataloguing and planning to include action, with tangible, on-the-water activities. Regional need, support, and capacity should guide where coordinated actions should first take place. Federal agencies must continue to ask for input from other levels of the government and the public and incorporate this new information into implementation of the plan. In addition we must stop the sonar activity. It is creating havoc with the dolphins and whales.

With these additions, President Obama's Implementation Plan will provide a better guide for achieving the goals of protecting, maintaining, and restoring the nation's oceans, coasts, and Great Lakes and ensuring resilient coastal economies. I look forward to the release of the final plan and hope to see policy translated into action on the water soon.

Sincerely,  
Ms. JoAnn Keller

Mrs. M. Buckner  
104 Wildflower Ln  
Shepherdstown, WV 25443-4197  
(304) 876-0690

Feb 6, 2012

Chairs Nancy Sutley and John Holdren, National Ocean Council

Subject: Strengthen the National Ocean Policy Implementation Plan

Dear Chairs Nancy Sutley and John Holdren, National Ocean Council,

The draft National Ocean Policy Implementation Plan should be improved.

What is good about the present draft Plan is that it establishes a strong blueprint for taking action and fostering agency coordination to sustain our ocean, coastal and Great Lakes resources. The draft plan has successfully incorporated the needs and concerns of governmental, non-profit, and commercial groups. It provides clarifying details to improve accountability and monitor progress toward improved ocean management. Frequent notations on how implementing actions are related to one another provides confidence that activities will be coordinated and make good use of limited resources.

Here is how it could be improved.

The plan could achieve even more progress. It could do so by more fully utilizing all available authorities for habitat protection and management. Many milestones could be extended beyond cataloguing and planning to include action, with tangible, on-the-water activities. Regional need, support, and capacity should guide where coordinated actions should first take place. Federal agencies must continue to ask for input from other levels of the government and the public. This new information should be incorporated into implementation of the plan.

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Sincerely,  
Mrs. M. Buckner

Ms. Elsie Pope  
3256 Thirteen Colony Mall  
Memphis, TN 38115-2918

Feb 6, 2012

Chairs Nancy Sutley and John Holdren, National Ocean Council

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Please. It's the right thing to do.

Sincerely,  
Ms. Elsie Pope

Mr. Robert Grillo  
1752 W Olive Ave  
Chicago, IL 60660-3941

Feb 6, 2012

Chairs Nancy Sutley and John Holdren, National Ocean Council

Subject: The National Ocean Policy Implementation Plan

Dear Chairs Nancy Sutley and John Holdren, National Ocean Council,

Let's stop exploiting our oceans as a resource. What justification do we have to place our interests as humans above the other species that inhabit these oceans? None. Failure to recognize this fact is blatant speciesism and exploitation of other species, reducing them and the environment they inhabit to commodities and resources for our own ends.

Sincerely,  
Mr. Robert Grillo

Mr. Joseph M. Varon, Past President  
244 Lindberg St  
West Hempstead, NY 11552-2431

Feb 6, 2012

Chairs Nancy Sutley and John Holdren, National Ocean Council

Subject: Strengthen the National Ocean Policy Implementation Plan

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Sincerely,  
Mr. Joseph M. Varon, Past President

Ms. Theresa Lepthien  
23 Tulane St  
Pueblo, CO 81005-1635

Feb 6, 2012

Chairs Nancy Sutley and John Holdren, National Ocean Council

Subject: Strengthen the National Ocean Policy Implementation Plan

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If we don't protect our oceans, we are all doomed.

With these additions, President Obama's Implementation Plan will provide a better guide for achieving the goals of protecting, maintaining, and restoring the nation's oceans, coasts, and Great Lakes and ensuring resilient coastal economies. I look forward to the release of the final plan and hope to see policy translated into action on the water soon.

Sincerely,  
Ms. Theresa Lepthien

Ms. Kay Quackenbush  
2076 Ridgecrest Dr  
Dunedin, FL 34698-6539  
(727) 734-1120

Feb 6, 2012

Chairs Nancy Sutley and John Holdren, National Ocean Council

Subject: Strengthen the National Ocean Policy Implementation Plan

Dear Chairs Nancy Sutley and John Holdren, National Ocean Council,

We need as strong a plan as possible. There are some things like this that cannot wait until tomorrow..

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Sincerely,  
Ms. Kay Quackenbush

Ms. Barbara Cowan  
5 Roberts Rd # 3  
Cambridge, MA 02138-3203

Feb 6, 2012

Chairs Nancy Sutley and John Holdren, National Ocean Council

Subject: Strengthen the National Ocean Policy Implementation Plan

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Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,  
Ms. Barbara Cowan

Mr. Corey E. Olsen  
CEO Pipe Organs/Golden Ponds Farm  
W334s724 Cushing Park Rd  
Delafield, WI 53018-2441  
(262) 646-8647

Feb 6, 2012

Chairs Nancy Sutley and John Holdren, National Ocean Council

Subject: Strengthen the National Ocean Policy Implementation Plan

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I look forward to the release of the final plan and hope to see policy translated into action on the water soon.

Sincerely,  
Mr. Corey E. Olsen

Mrs. Mary Beattie  
9614 W Raintree Dr  
Sun City, AZ 85351-2451

Feb 6, 2012

Chairs Nancy Sutley and John Holdren, National Ocean Council

Subject: Strengthen the National Ocean Policy Implementation Plan

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The laws need to be enforceable and actually enforced. Lax management and lax enforcement is destroying the beach ecosystems. This will lead to annihilation of entire marine species.

Sincerely,  
Mrs. Mary Beattie

Ms. Kateri Kosek  
420 Route 82  
Hopewell Jct, NY 12533-3610  
(845) 226-6267

Feb 6, 2012

Chairs Nancy Sutley and John Holdren, National Ocean Council

Subject: Strengthen the National Ocean Policy Implementation Plan

Dear Chairs Nancy Sutley and John Holdren, National Ocean Council,

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With these additions, President Obama's Implementation Plan will provide a better guide for achieving the goals of protecting, maintaining, and restoring the nation's oceans, coasts, and Great Lakes and ensuring resilient coastal economies. I look forward to the release of the final plan and hope to see policy translated into action on the water soon.

Sincerely,  
Ms. Kateri Kosek

Mrs. Joan Walker  
1800 SW 15th St  
Bell, FL 32619-2262

Feb 6, 2012

Chairs Nancy Sutley and John Holdren, National Ocean Council

Subject: Strengthen the National Ocean Policy Implementation Plan

Dear Chairs Nancy Sutley and John Holdren, National Ocean Council,

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With these additions, President Obama's Implementation Plan will provide a better guide for achieving the goals of protecting, maintaining, and restoring the nation's oceans, coasts, and Great Lakes and ensuring resilient coastal economies.

As a life-long sailer and lover of the ocean, I look forward to the release of the final plan and hope to see policy translated into action on the water soon.

Sincerely,  
Mrs. Joan Walker

Mrs. Sally Cogan  
706 Pequot Trl  
Stonington, CT 06378-2223

Feb 6, 2012

Chairs Nancy Sutley and John Holdren, National Ocean Council

Subject: Strengthen the National Ocean Policy Implementation Plan

Dear Chairs Nancy Sutley and John Holdren, National Ocean Council,

During the past three years I have tested the waters in Fisher's Island Sound (Long Island Sound) and it's watershed. While we have found that well flushed areas test well, the watershed is frequently so high in pollutants and low in oxygen that it cannot sustain life. These are the waters I have played and sailed in since I was a young child and it saddens me that my grandchildren might not have the same opportunity, not to mention how important the oceans are to our global health and survival. While I am pleased that NOP Implementation Plan will help to preserve our oceans, I urge you to give careful consideration to the following.

The draft National Ocean Policy Implementation Plan establishes a strong blueprint for taking action and fostering agency coordination to sustain our ocean, coastal and Great Lakes resources. The draft plan has successfully incorporated the needs and concerns of governmental, non-profit, and commercial groups and provides clarifying details to improve accountability and monitor progress toward improved ocean management. Frequent notations on how implementing actions are related to one another provides confidence that activities will be coordinated and make good use of limited resources.

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Sincerely,  
Mrs. Sally Cogan

Ms. Emily Lancaster  
95 Renfield St.  
Guelph, MO 65483

Feb 6, 2012

Chairs Nancy Sutley and John Holdren, National Ocean Council

Subject: Strengthen the National Ocean Policy Implementation Plan

Dear Chairs Nancy Sutley and John Holdren, National Ocean Council,

This issue is very important to me!

The draft National Ocean Policy Implementation Plan establishes a strong blueprint for taking action and fostering agency coordination to sustain our ocean, coastal and Great Lakes resources. The draft plan has successfully incorporated the needs and concerns of governmental, non-profit, and commercial groups and provides clarifying details to improve accountability and monitor progress toward improved ocean management. Frequent notations on how implementing actions are related to one another provides confidence that activities will be coordinated and make good use of limited resources.

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Sincerely,  
Ms. Emily Lancaster

Ms. Beverly Harris  
2215 South St  
Anderson, CA 96007-3442

Feb 6, 2012

Chairs Nancy Sutley and John Holdren, National Ocean Council

Subject: Strengthen the National Ocean Policy Implementation Plan

Dear Chairs Nancy Sutley and John Holdren, National Ocean Council,

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I hope that the use of sonar is limited to protect whales, porpoises and sea turtles, etc., that protective policy is in place in that regard. Also, please, no more added oil wells or mining to foul up our coasts, in particular, the West coast and the Arctic.

Sincerely,  
Ms. Beverly Harris

Mrs. Michael Sowards  
27925 CR 209  
Clark, CO 80428

Feb 6, 2012

Chairs Nancy Sutley and John Holdren, National Ocean Council

Subject: Strengthen the National Ocean Policy Implementation Plan

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We would plead with all agencies, commercial outfits and NGOs to recognize the three biggest threats to our oceans:

1. ocean acidification (a result of the enormous build-up of CO<sub>2</sub> in our atmosphere;
2. over-fishing and destructive fishing practices; and,
3. pollution (due to oils spills/leaks, dumping of garbage including plastics and toxins)

If we do not address these issues, I don't see much hope for the implementation of other well intentioned plans.

With these additions, President Obama's Implementation Plan will provide a better guide for achieving the goals of protecting, maintaining, and restoring the nation's oceans, coasts, and Great Lakes and ensuring resilient coastal economies. I look forward to the release of the final plan and hope to see policy translated into action on the water soon.

Sincerely,  
Mrs. Michael Sowards

Mrs. elizabeth peabody  
635 Academy Rd  
Thetford Center, VT 05075-9056

Feb 6, 2012

Chairs Nancy Sutley and John Holdren, National Ocean Council

Subject: Strengthen the National Ocean Policy Implementation Plan

Dear Chairs Nancy Sutley and John Holdren, National Ocean Council,

Having grown up summers on Lake Huron, I am pleased to see that the Great Lakes are included in this policy. I hope that you are utilizing the research of the TNC as well as others. We need a very strong and scientifically based plan. The draft National Ocean Policy Implementation Plan establishes a strong blueprint for taking action and fostering agency coordination to sustain our ocean, coastal and Great Lakes resources. The draft plan has successfully incorporated the needs and concerns of governmental, non-profit, and commercial groups and provides clarifying details to improve accountability and monitor progress toward improved ocean management. Frequent notations on how implementing actions are related to one another provides confidence that activities will be coordinated and make good use of limited resources.

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Sincerely,  
Mrs. elizabeth peabody

Ms. Anna Cruikshank  
1495 W Possum Rd  
Springfield, OH 45506-2832

Feb 6, 2012

Chairs Nancy Sutley and John Holdren, National Ocean Council

Subject: Strengthen the National Ocean Policy Implementation Plan

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Sincerely,  
Anna Cruikshank  
1495 W.Possum Road  
Springfield, OH 45506-2832  
United States

Sincerely,  
Ms. Anna Cruikshank

Ms. Martha Jaegers  
4095 Robert Ave  
Saint Louis, MO 63116-2752

Feb 6, 2012

Chairs Nancy Sutley and John Holdren, National Ocean Council

Subject: Strengthen the National Ocean Policy Implementation Plan

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Sincerely,  
Ms. Martha Jaegers

Mr. Sergey Galushko  
5515 156th St SW  
Edmonds, WA 98026-4705  
(425) 741-9057

Feb 6, 2012

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Sincerely,  
Sergey Galushko  
5515 156TH ST SW  
Edmonds, WA 98026-4705  
US

Sincerely,  
Mr. Sergey Galushko

Mr. ken gunther  
11024 161st St N  
Jupiter, FL 33478-6204  
(561) 746-0741

Feb 6, 2012

Chairs Nancy Sutley and John Holdren, National Ocean Council

Subject: We want a life-affirming oceans policy

Dear Chairs Nancy Sutley and John Holdren, National Ocean Council,

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Sincerely,  
Mr. ken gunther

Ms. Paulette Zimmerman  
5254a Oleatha Ave  
Saint Louis, MO 63139-1338

Feb 6, 2012

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Dear Chairs Nancy Sutley and John Holdren, National Ocean Council,

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Nonetheless, the plan could be improved to achieve even more vitally needed progress. It should more fully utilize all available authorities for habitat protection and management. Many of the milestones could be extended beyond cataloguing and planning to include action, with tangible, on-the-water activities. Regional need, support, and capacity should guide where coordinated actions should first take place. Federal agencies must continue to ask for input from other levels of the government and the public and incorporate this new information into implementation of the plan.

With these additions, President Obama's Implementation Plan will provide a better guide for achieving the goals of protecting, maintaining, and restoring the nation's oceans, coasts, and Great Lakes and ensuring resilient coastal economies. I look forward to the release of the final plan and hope to see policy translated into action on the water soon.

Sincerely,  
Ms. Paulette Zimmerman

Mrs. Lucy Kaufman  
141 E Ponderosa Dr  
Goldendale, WA 98620-2413

Feb 6, 2012

Chairs Nancy Sutley and John Holdren, National Ocean Council

Subject: Strengthen the National Ocean Policy Implementation Plan

Dear Chairs Nancy Sutley and John Holdren, National Ocean Council,

The draft National Ocean Policy Implementation Plan establishes a strong blueprint for taking action and fostering agency coordination to sustain our ocean, coastal and Great Lakes resources. The draft plan has successfully incorporated the needs and concerns of governmental, non-profit, and commercial groups and provides clarifying details to improve accountability and monitor progress toward improved ocean management. Frequent notations on how implementing actions are related to one another provides confidence that activities will be coordinated and make good use of limited resources.

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With these additions, President Obama's Implementation Plan will provide a better guide for achieving the goals of protecting, maintaining, and restoring the nation's oceans, coasts, and Great Lakes and ensuring resilient coastal economies. I look forward to the release of the final plan and hope to see policy translated into action on the water soon. After all, without clean water resources that sustain life, humans will ultimately die.

Sincerely,  
Mrs. Lucy Kaufman

Mr. Mike Snyder  
4400 W University Blvd Apt 15202  
Dallas, TX 75209-3889

Feb 6, 2012

Chairs Nancy Sutley and John Holdren, National Ocean Council

Subject: Strengthen the National Ocean Policy Implementation Plan

Dear Chairs Nancy Sutley and John Holdren, National Ocean Council,

The draft National Ocean Policy Implementation Plan establishes a strong blueprint for taking action and fostering agency coordination to sustain our ocean, coastal and Great Lakes resources. The draft plan has successfully incorporated the needs and concerns of governmental, non-profit, and commercial groups and provides clarifying details to improve accountability and monitor progress toward improved ocean management. Frequent notations on how implementing actions are related to one another provides confidence that activities will be coordinated and make good use of limited resources.

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With these additions, President Obama's Implementation Plan will provide a better guide for achieving the goals of protecting, maintaining, and restoring the nation's oceans, coasts, and Great Lakes and ensuring resilient coastal economies. I look forward to the release of the final plan and hope to see policy translated into action on the water soon.

Sincerely,  
Mr. Mike Snyder

Ms. Ruth Stambaugh  
93 Bird Creek Estate Rd  
Black Mountain, NC 28711-8622  
(828) 664-9236

Feb 6, 2012

Chairs Nancy Sutley and John Holdren, National Ocean Council

Subject: National Ocean Policy Implementation Plan

Dear Chairs Nancy Sutley and John Holdren, National Ocean Council,

Please read the following form letter and let it speak for me. Thank you. Ruth Stambaugh

The draft National Ocean Policy Implementation Plan establishes a strong blueprint for taking action and fostering agency coordination to sustain our ocean, coastal and Great Lakes resources. The draft plan has successfully incorporated the needs and concerns of governmental, non-profit, and commercial groups and provides clarifying details to improve accountability and monitor progress toward improved ocean management. Frequent notations on how implementing actions are related to one another provides confidence that activities will be coordinated and make good use of limited resources.

Nonetheless, the plan could be improved to achieve even more progress. It should more fully utilize all available authorities for habitat protection and management. Many of the milestones could be extended beyond cataloguing and planning to include action, with tangible, on-the-water activities. Regional need, support, and capacity should guide where coordinated actions should first take place. Federal agencies must continue to ask for input from other levels of the government and the public and incorporate this new information into implementation of the plan.

With these additions, President Obama's Implementation Plan will provide a better guide for achieving the goals of protecting, maintaining, and restoring the nation's oceans, coasts, and Great Lakes and ensuring resilient coastal economies. I look forward to the release of the final plan and hope to see policy translated into action on the water soon.

Sincerely,  
Ms. Ruth Stambaugh

Mr. Thomas Wargo  
22400 Skyline Blvd Apt 7  
La Honda, CA 94020-9709

Feb 6, 2012

Chairs Nancy Sutley and John Holdren, National Ocean Council

Subject: Strengthen the National Ocean Policy Implementation Plan

Dear Chairs Nancy Sutley and John Holdren, National Ocean Council,

The draft National Ocean Policy Implementation Plan establishes a strong blueprint for action to sustain our ocean, coastal and Great Lakes resources. The draft plan has successfully incorporated the needs and concerns of governmental, non-profit, and commercial groups, and provides clarifying details to improve accountability and monitor progress toward improved ocean management. Regional need, support, and capacity should guide where coordinated actions should first take place. Federal agencies must continue to ask for input from other levels of the government and the public, and incorporate this new information into implementation of the plan.

With these additions, President Obama's Implementation Plan will provide a better guide for achieving the goals of protecting, maintaining, and restoring the nation's oceans, coasts, and Great Lakes and ensuring resilient coastal economies. I look forward to the release of the final plan and hope to see policy translated into action on the water soon.

Sincerely,  
Mr. Thomas Wargo

Mrs. Kim Brush  
PO Box 28158  
Scottsdale, AZ 85255-0152

Feb 6, 2012

Chairs Nancy Sutley and John Holdren, National Ocean Council

Subject: Strengthen the National Ocean Policy Implementation Plan

Dear Chairs Nancy Sutley and John Holdren, National Ocean Council,

I agree with the below statement in its entirety.

The draft National Ocean Policy Implementation Plan establishes a strong blueprint for taking action and fostering agency coordination to sustain our ocean, coastal and Great Lakes resources. The draft plan has successfully incorporated the needs and concerns of governmental, non-profit, and commercial groups and provides clarifying details to improve accountability and monitor progress toward improved ocean management. Frequent notations on how implementing actions are related to one another provides confidence that activities will be coordinated and make good use of limited resources.

Nonetheless, the plan could be improved to achieve even more progress. It should more fully utilize all available authorities for habitat protection and management. Many of the milestones could be extended beyond cataloguing and planning to include action, with tangible, on-the-water activities. Regional need, support, and capacity should guide where coordinated actions should first take place. Federal agencies must continue to ask for input from other levels of the government and the public and incorporate this new information into implementation of the plan.

With these additions, President Obama's Implementation Plan will provide a better guide for achieving the goals of protecting, maintaining, and restoring the nation's oceans, coasts, and Great Lakes and ensuring resilient coastal economies. I look forward to the release of the final plan and hope to see policy translated into action on the water soon.

Sincerely,  
Mrs. Kim Brush

Mrs. Jean Genasci  
6147 Tallsman Dr NW  
Albuquerque, NM 87120-5401

Feb 6, 2012

Chairs Nancy Sutley and John Holdren, National Ocean Council

Subject: Strengthen the National Ocean Policy Implementation Plan

Dear Chairs Nancy Sutley and John Holdren, National Ocean Council,

My spouse, James, and I recognize that the draft National Ocean Policy Implementation Plan establishes a strong blueprint for taking action and fostering agency coordination to sustain our ocean, coastal and Great Lakes resources. The draft plan has successfully incorporated the needs and concerns of governmental, non-profit, and commercial groups and provides clarifying details to improve accountability and monitor progress toward improved ocean management. Frequent notations on how implementing actions are related to one another provides confidence that activities will be coordinated and make good use of limited resources.

HOWEVER, the plan could be improved to achieve even more progress. It should more fully utilize all available authorities for habitat protection and management. Many of the milestones could be extended beyond cataloguing and planning to include action, with tangible, on-the-water activities. Regional need, support, and capacity should guide where coordinated actions should first take place. Federal agencies must continue to ask for input from other levels of the government and the public and incorporate this new information into implementation of the plan.

With these additions, President Obama's Implementation Plan will provide a better guide for achieving the goals of protecting, maintaining, and restoring the nation's oceans, coasts, and Great Lakes and ensuring resilient coastal economies. I look forward to the release of the final plan and hope to see policy translated into action on the water soon.

Sincerely,  
Mrs. Jean Genasci

Ms. Paula Bourgeois  
108 Cedar Trl  
Woodland Park, CO 80863-8600

Feb 6, 2012

Chairs Nancy Sutley and John Holdren, National Ocean Council

Subject: Strengthen the National Ocean Policy Implementation Plan

Dear Chairs Nancy Sutley and John Holdren, National Ocean Council,

The draft National Ocean Policy Implementation Plan establishes a strong blueprint for taking action and fostering agency coordination to sustain our ocean, coastal and Great Lakes resources. The draft plan has successfully incorporated the needs and concerns of governmental, non-profit, and commercial groups and provides clarifying details to improve accountability and monitor progress toward improved ocean management. Frequent notations on how implementing actions are related to one another provides confidence that activities will be coordinated and make good use of limited resources.

Nonetheless, the plan could be improved to achieve even more progress. It should more fully utilize all available authorities for habitat protection and management. Many of the milestones could be extended beyond cataloging and planning to include action, with tangible, on-the-water activities. Regional need, support, and capacity should guide where coordinated actions should first take place. Federal agencies must continue to ask for input from other levels of the government and the public and incorporate this new information into implementation of the plan.

With these additions, President Obama's Implementation Plan will provide a better guide for achieving the goals of protecting, maintaining, and restoring the nation's oceans, coasts, and Great Lakes and ensuring resilient coastal economies. I look forward to the release of the final plan and hope to see policy translated into action on the water soon.

This is a great opportunity to save our oceans which are direly threatened.

Sincerely,  
Ms. Paula Bourgeois

Dr. George Brieger  
181 Webster Ave  
Brooklyn, NY 11230-1105

Feb 6, 2012

Chairs Nancy Sutley and John Holdren, National Ocean Council

Subject: Strengthen the National Ocean Policy Implementation Plan

Dear Chairs Nancy Sutley and John Holdren, National Ocean Council,

I am a New Yorker from the Midwood section of Brooklyn. The draft National Ocean Policy Implementation Plan establishes a strong blueprint for taking action and fostering agency coordination to sustain our ocean, coastal and Great Lakes resources.

The draft plan has successfully incorporated the needs and concerns of governmental, non-profit, and commercial groups and provides clarifying details to improve accountability and monitor progress toward improved ocean management. Frequent notations on how implementing actions are related to one another provides confidence that activities will be coordinated and make good use of limited resources.

Improvements to the plan are needed to fully utilize all available authorities for habitat protection and management. Many of the milestones could be extended beyond cataloguing and planning to include action, with tangible, on-the-water activities. Regional need, support, and capacity should guide where coordinated actions should first take place. Federal agencies must continue to ask for input from other levels of the government and the public and incorporate this new information into implementation of the plan.

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Sincerely,  
Dr. George Brieger

Mr. Tim Durnell  
3087 Daisy Mine Rd  
Rice, WA 99167-9745

Feb 6, 2012

Chairs Nancy Sutley and John Holdren, National Ocean Council

Subject: Strengthen the National Ocean Policy Implementation Plan

Dear Chairs Nancy Sutley and John Holdren, National Ocean Council,

Our oceans are underprotected. We need strong regulation to return our fisheries to viable populations. There is too much over-fishing and some of the fishing that is done is detrimental to wildlife and the ocean ecosystem like long-line fishing and scraping the bottom with huge nets.

The draft National Ocean Policy Implementation Plan establishes a strong blueprint for taking action and fostering agency coordination to sustain our ocean, coastal and Great Lakes resources. The draft plan has successfully incorporated the needs and concerns of governmental, non-profit, and commercial groups and provides clarifying details to improve accountability and monitor progress toward improved ocean management. Frequent notations on how implementing actions are related to one another provides confidence that activities will be coordinated and make good use of limited resources.

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Sincerely,  
Mr. Tim Durnell

Mr. Randall Paske  
3958 Warwick Blvd  
Kansas City, MO 64111-1522

Feb 6, 2012

Chairs Nancy Sutley and John Holdren, National Ocean Council

Subject: Strengthen the National Ocean Policy Implementation Plan

Dear Chairs Nancy Sutley and John Holdren, National Ocean Council,

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Sincerely,  
Mr. Randall Paske

Ms. Miriam Amari  
213 Upper Byrdcliffe Rd  
Woodstock, NY 12498-1055  
(845) 679-5437

Feb 6, 2012

Chairs Nancy Sutley and John Holdren, National Ocean Council

Subject: Strengthen the National Ocean Policy Implementation Plan

Dear Chairs Nancy Sutley and John Holdren, National Ocean Council,

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Sincerely,  
Ms. Miriam Amari

Mrs. Sheila Davis  
2196 Camino Way  
Salt Lake City, UT 84121-4957

Feb 6, 2012

Chairs Nancy Sutley and John Holdren, National Ocean Council

Subject: Strengthen the National Ocean Policy Implementation Plan

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With these additions, President Obama's Implementation Plan will provide a better guide for achieving the goals of protecting, maintaining, and restoring the nation's oceans, coasts, and Great Lakes and ensuring resilient coastal economies. I look forward to the release of the final plan and hope to see policy translated into action on the water soon. All Life is Sacred.

Sincerely,  
Mrs. Sheila Davis

Ms. Deborah Filipelli, Ph. D.  
p.o. bo x 341  
the sea ranch, CA 95497

Feb 6, 2012

Chairs Nancy Sutley and John Holdren, National Ocean Council

Subject: Strengthen the National Ocean Policy Implementation Plan

Dear Chairs Nancy Sutley and John Holdren, National Ocean Council,

The following represents my position in support of improving and strengthening the National Ocean Policy Implementation Plan.

The draft National Ocean Policy Implementation Plan establishes a strong blueprint for taking action and fostering agency coordination to sustain our ocean, coastal and Great Lakes resources. The draft plan has successfully incorporated the needs and concerns of governmental, non-profit, and commercial groups and provides clarifying details to improve accountability and monitor progress toward improved ocean management. Frequent notations on how implementing actions are related to one another provides confidence that activities will be coordinated and make good use of limited resources.

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Sincerely,  
Ms. Deborah Filipelli, Ph. D.

Ms. Janet Williams  
3366 Kiwanis St  
Oakland, CA 94602-4006

Feb 6, 2012

Chairs Nancy Sutley and John Holdren, National Ocean Council

Subject: Strengthen the National Ocean Policy Implementation Plan

Dear Chairs Nancy Sutley and John Holdren, National Ocean Council,

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Our oceans are our most precious resource; clean and healthy oceans are essential to the survival of our health, our economy, and our planet.

Sincerely,  
Ms. Janet Williams

Mr. Karl David Reinhardt  
456 Oak Tree Dr  
Saint Louis, MO 63119-4849

Feb 6, 2012

Chairs Nancy Sutley and John Holdren, National Ocean Council

Subject: Strengthen the National Ocean Policy Implementation Plan

Dear Chairs Nancy Sutley and John Holdren, National Ocean Council,

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Sincerely,  
Mr. Karl David Reinhardt

Mr. Robert A. Mertz  
1205 Mulberry Rdg  
Spencer, WV 25276-8561

Feb 6, 2012

Chairs Nancy Sutley and John Holdren, National Ocean Council

Subject: Strengthen the National Ocean Policy Implementation Plan

Dear Chairs Nancy Sutley and John Holdren, National Ocean Council,

As a Biology, Wildlife Management and Environmental Earth Science teacher working in the public school systems of several states, for thirty one years, 29 in West Virginia, I have been teaching students as well as our two sons, the importance of a sustainable life style. I want them to learn to live within the ecological budget of Earth. The quality of life for the present and future generations depends on keeping the life sustaining diversity of our complex life systems healthy. Although there are some impressive self-maintaining dynamics at work to stabilize these systems, there are limits to their ability to correct for continued stress. The geological record is full of evidence showing sudden drastic upheavals and ecological disasters. We have no valid reason to believe that we humans with our huge powers to alter the climate and ecosystems will not trigger another watershed shift in the world's balance that will result in condition that renders the Earth unsuitable for human life, or that degrades the quality of our existence to a much lower level. It is our duty as the most powerful species to exist on this planet to use our might to protect the integrity of our life support systems for the benefit of all living things, to do anything is the extreme in narrow minded, short sighted self indulgent stupidity.

Our sons, and our beautiful two year old granddaughter, are the most important and joyful parts of my life. Although both my wife and I have spent the greater part of our adult lives interacting with young people as teachers, nothing comes close to the emotional intensity of raising your own children. They are grown and mostly independent of us now, but our commitment to them continues. Today the growth of the human population and the selfish consumerism that is spreading over the Earth is endangering the future of all humans. Will we be able to both save ourselves from self-destruction and maintain our freedom and individuality? I have been teaching students the value of developing a sustainable culture and personal life style for 31 years as a Biology and Environmental Earth Science teacher. I hope that the knowledge I have gained from my masters degree in Biology as well as my extensive reading have been delivered with the passion that I feel for the welfare of our planet. Teaching is a powerful way to have a positive influence on the future, but many issues are too important and too immediate to wait for the future. I am writing today about one of these issues.

The draft National Ocean Policy Implementation Plan establishes a strong blueprint for taking action and fostering agency coordination to sustain our ocean, coastal and Great Lakes resources. The draft plan

has successfully incorporated the needs and concerns of governmental, non-profit, and commercial groups and provides clarifying details to improve accountability and monitor progress toward improved ocean management. Frequent notations on how implementing actions are related to one another provides confidence that activities will be coordinated and make good use of limited resources.

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With these additions, President Obama's Implementation Plan will provide a better guide for achieving the goals of protecting, maintaining, and restoring the nation's oceans, coasts, and Great Lakes and ensuring resilient coastal economies. I look forward to the release of the final plan and hope to see policy translated into action on the water soon.

Sincerely,  
Mr. Robert A. Mertz

Ms. Ellen Jahos  
PO Box 891  
Alstead, NH 03602-0891

Feb 6, 2012

Chairs Nancy Sutley and John Holdren, National Ocean Council

Subject: Strengthen the National Ocean Policy Implementation Plan

Dear Chairs Nancy Sutley and John Holdren, National Ocean Council,

The oceans are crucial to the survival of this planet. We are already seeing dwindling whale and coral populations. Our children now express worry that they will see the disappearance of many species of our oceans' inhabitants during their lifetime.

The draft National Ocean Policy Implementation Plan establishes a strong blueprint for taking action and fostering agency coordination to sustain our ocean, coastal and Great Lakes resources. The draft plan has successfully incorporated the needs and concerns of governmental, non-profit, and commercial groups and provides clarifying details to improve accountability and monitor progress toward improved ocean management. Frequent notations on how implementing actions are related to one another provides confidence that activities will be coordinated and make good use of limited resources.

Nonetheless, the plan could be improved to achieve even more progress. It should more fully utilize all available authorities for habitat protection and management. Many of the milestones could be extended beyond cataloguing and planning to include action, with tangible, on-the-water activities. Regional need, support, and capacity should guide where coordinated actions should first take place. Federal agencies must continue to ask for input from other levels of the government and the public and incorporate this new information into implementation of the plan.

With these additions, President Obama's Implementation Plan will provide a better guide for achieving the goals of protecting, maintaining, and restoring the nation's oceans, coasts, and Great Lakes and ensuring resilient coastal economies. I look forward to the release of the final plan and hope to see policy translated into action on the water soon.

Sincerely,  
Ms. Ellen Jahos

Ms. Marcia Bailey  
3301 Alt 19 Lot 338  
Dunedin, FL 34698-1533

Feb 6, 2012

Chairs Nancy Sutley and John Holdren, National Ocean Council

Subject: Strengthen the National Ocean Policy Implementation Plan

Dear Chairs Nancy Sutley and John Holdren, National Ocean Council,

I'm happy that the draft National Ocean Policy Implementation Plan has successfully incorporated the needs and concerns of governmental, non-profit, and commercial groups and provides clarifying details to improve accountability and monitor progress toward improved ocean management. Frequent notations on how implementing actions are related to one another provides confidence that activities will be coordinated and make good use of limited resources. I am very concerned about our water ways as they are the source of our drinking water and home to many of the fish that we eat. I'm glad you are conscientiously taking on the issues pertinent to them.

Maybe the plan could more fully utilize all available authorities for habitat protection and management, extend beyond cataloging and planning to include action, with tangible, on-the-water activities. I think regional need, support, and capacity should guide where coordinated actions should first take place. Also Federal agencies must continue to ask for input from other levels of the government and the public and incorporate this new information into implementation of the plan.

With these additions, President Obama's Implementation Plan will provide a better guide for achieving the goals of protecting, maintaining, and restoring the nation's oceans, coasts, and Great Lakes and ensuring resilient coastal economies. I hope to see policy translated into action on the water soon.

Sincerely,  
Ms. Marcia Bailey

Mr. Peter Curia  
2048 N 68th Pl  
Scottsdale, AZ 85257-2637

Feb 6, 2012

Chairs Nancy Sutley and John Holdren, National Ocean Council

Subject: Strengthen the National Ocean Policy Implementation Plan

Dear Chairs Nancy Sutley and John Holdren, National Ocean Council,

The draft National Ocean Policy Implementation Plan establishes a strong blueprint for taking action and fostering agency coordination to sustain our ocean, coastal and Great Lakes resources. The draft plan has successfully incorporated the needs and concerns of governmental, non-profit, and commercial groups and provides clarifying details to improve accountability and monitor progress toward improved ocean management. Frequent notations on how implementing actions are related to one another provides confidence that activities will be coordinated and make good use of limited resources.

Nonetheless, the plan could be improved to achieve even more progress. It should more fully utilize all available authorities for habitat protection and management. Many of the milestones could be extended beyond cataloguing and planning to include action, with tangible, on-the-water activities. Regional need, support, and capacity should guide where coordinated actions should first take place. Federal agencies must continue to ask for input from other levels of the government and the public and incorporate this new information into implementation of the plan.

With these additions, President Obama's Implementation Plan will provide a better guide for achieving the goals of protecting, maintaining, and restoring the nation's oceans, coasts, and Great Lakes and ensuring resilient coastal economies. I look forward to the release of the final plan and hope to see policy translated into action on the water soon.

PROTECT. PROTECT. PROTECT.

Sincerely,  
Mr. Peter Curia

Ms. Holly F. Malarney  
50 Boatswains Way  
Apt 205  
Chelsea, MA 02150-4062  
(617) 884-4126

Feb 6, 2012

Chairs Nancy Sutley and John Holdren, National Ocean Council

Subject: Strengthen the National Ocean Policy Implementation Plan

Dear Chairs Nancy Sutley and John Holdren, National Ocean Council,

I was happy to learn that the draft National Ocean Policy Implementation Plan establishes a strong blueprint for taking action and fostering agency coordination to sustain our ocean, coastal and Great Lakes resources. It is my understanding that the draft plan has successfully incorporated the needs and concerns of governmental, non-profit, and commercial groups and provides clarifying details to improve accountability and monitor progress toward improved ocean management. Frequent notations on how implementing actions are related to one another provides confidence that activities will be coordinated and make good use of limited resources.

It appears, however, that the plan could be improved to achieve even more progress. In particular, it should more fully utilize all available authorities for habitat protection and management. Many of the milestones could be extended beyond cataloguing and planning to include action, with tangible, on-the-water activities. Regional need, support, and capacity should guide where coordinated actions should first take place. Federal agencies must continue to ask for input from other levels of the government and the public and incorporate this new information into implementation of the plan.

I believe that, with these additions, President Obama's Implementation Plan will provide a better guide for achieving the goals of protecting, maintaining, and restoring the nation's oceans, coasts, and Great Lakes and ensuring resilient coastal economies. I look forward to the release of the final plan and hope to see policy translated into action on the water soon.

Thank you for your time and consideration of my thoughts.

Sincerely,  
Ms. Holly F. Malarney

Dr. Virginia Bennett  
1201 Wilder Ave  
Honolulu, HI 96822-3166  
(808) 956-4165

Feb 6, 2012

Chairs Nancy Sutley and John Holdren, National Ocean Council

Subject: Strengthen the National Ocean Policy Implementation Plan

Dear Chairs Nancy Sutley and John Holdren, National Ocean Council,

The draft National Ocean Policy Implementation Plan establishes a strong blueprint for taking action and fostering agency coordination to sustain our ocean, coastal and Great Lakes resources. The draft plan has successfully incorporated the needs and concerns of governmental, non-profit, and commercial groups and provides clarifying details to improve accountability and monitor progress toward improved ocean management. Frequent notations on how implementing actions are related to one another provides confidence that activities will be coordinated and make good use of limited resources.

Nonetheless, the plan could be improved to achieve even more progress. It should more fully utilize all available authorities for habitat protection and management. Many of the milestones could be extended beyond cataloguing and planning to include action, with tangible, on-the-water activities. Regional need, support, and capacity should guide where coordinated actions should first take place. Federal agencies must continue to ask for input from other levels of the government and the public and incorporate this new information into implementation of the plan.

Let's move out of these planning stages on to actions, in many cases -- desperately needed NOW!

With these additions, President Obama's Implementation Plan will provide a better guide for achieving the goals of protecting, maintaining, and restoring the nation's oceans, coasts, and Great Lakes and ensuring resilient coastal economies. I look forward to the release of the final plan and hope to see policy translated into action on the water soon.

Sincerely,  
Dr. Virginia Bennett

Dr. Jenene G Garey  
111 Barrow St Apt 6e  
New York, NY 10014-2894  
(908) 230-5167

Feb 6, 2012

Chairs Nancy Sutley and John Holdren, National Ocean Council

Subject: Strengthen the National Ocean Policy Implementation Plan

Dear Chairs Nancy Sutley and John Holdren, National Ocean Council,

I believe this is critical for the future of our sustainable fishing industry and water life! The draft National Ocean Policy Implementation Plan establishes a strong blueprint for taking action and fostering agency coordination to sustain our ocean, coastal and Great Lakes resources. The draft plan has successfully incorporated the needs and concerns of governmental, non-profit, and commercial groups and provides clarifying details to improve accountability and monitor progress toward improved ocean management. Frequent notations on how implementing actions are related to one another provides confidence that activities will be coordinated and make good use of limited resources.

Nonetheless, the plan could be improved to achieve even more progress. It should more fully utilize all available authorities for habitat protection and management. Many of the milestones could be extended beyond cataloguing and planning to include action, with tangible, on-the-water activities. Regional need, support, and capacity should guide where coordinated actions should first take place. Federal agencies must continue to ask for input from other levels of the government and the public and incorporate this new information into implementation of the plan.

With these additions, President Obama's Implementation Plan will provide a better guide for achieving the goals of protecting, maintaining, and restoring the nation's oceans, coasts, and Great Lakes and ensuring resilient coastal economies. I look forward to the release of the final plan and hope to see policy translated into action on the water soon.

Sincerely,  
Dr. Jenene G Garey

Ms. Elizabeth Clark  
29 Boardwalk One  
Larkspur, CA 94939-1463

Feb 6, 2012

Chairs Nancy Sutley and John Holdren, National Ocean Council

Subject: Strengthen the National Ocean Policy Implementation Plan

Dear Chairs Nancy Sutley and John Holdren, National Ocean Council,

The draft National Ocean Policy Implementation Plan establishes a strong blueprint for taking action and fostering agency coordination to sustain our ocean, coastal and Great Lakes resources. The draft plan has successfully incorporated the needs and concerns of governmental, non-profit, and commercial groups and provides clarifying details to improve accountability and monitor progress toward improved ocean management. Frequent notations on how implementing actions are related to one another provides confidence that activities will be coordinated and make good use of limited resources.

Nonetheless, the plan could be improved to achieve even more progress. It should more fully utilize all available authorities for habitat protection and management. Many of the milestones could be extended beyond cataloguing and planning to include action, with tangible, on-the-water activities, such as for debris clean-up. Regional need, support, and capacity should guide where coordinated actions should first take place. Federal agencies must continue to ask for input from other levels of the government and the public and incorporate this new information into implementation of the plan.

With these additions, President Obama's Implementation Plan will provide a better guide for achieving the goals of protecting, maintaining, and restoring the nation's oceans, coasts, and Great Lakes and ensuring resilient coastal economies. I look forward to the release of the final plan and hope to see policy translated into action on the water soon.

Sincerely,  
Ms. Elizabeth Clark

Ms. shelley isom  
PO Box 845  
Taos, NM 87571-0845

Feb 6, 2012

Chairs Nancy Sutley and John Holdren, National Ocean Council

Subject: Strengthen the National Ocean Policy Implementation Plan

Dear Chairs Nancy Sutley and John Holdren, National Ocean Council,

We need to end this mindless rape of the oceans. If we are the oceans' stewards, then we need to take responsibility for overfishing, polluting and the declining health of wetlands, bays, arctic ocean, etc.

The draft National Ocean Policy Implementation Plan establishes a strong blueprint for taking action and fostering agency coordination to sustain our ocean, coastal and Great Lakes resources. The draft plan has successfully incorporated the needs and concerns of governmental, non-profit, and commercial groups and provides clarifying details to improve accountability and monitor progress toward improved ocean management. Frequent notations on how implementing actions are related to one another provides confidence that activities will be coordinated and make good use of limited resources.

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Sincerely,  
Ms. shelley isom

Mr. Thomas Renninger  
1005 Sheldon Dr  
Newark, DE 19711-4322

Feb 6, 2012

Chairs Nancy Sutley and John Holdren, National Ocean Council

Subject: Strengthen the National Ocean Policy Implementation Plan

Dear Chairs Nancy Sutley and John Holdren, National Ocean Council,

The draft National Ocean Policy Implementation Plan establishes a strong blueprint for taking action and fostering agency coordination to sustain our ocean, coastal and Great Lakes resources. The draft plan has successfully incorporated the needs and concerns of governmental, non-profit, and commercial groups and provides clarifying details to improve accountability and monitor progress toward improved ocean management. Frequent notations on how implementing actions are related to one another provides confidence that activities will be coordinated and make good use of limited resources.

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With these additions, President Obama's Implementation Plan will provide a better guide for achieving the goals of protecting, maintaining, and restoring the nation's oceans, coasts, and Great Lakes and ensuring resilient coastal economies. I look forward to the release of the final plan and hope to see policy translated into action on the water soon.

Sincerely,  
Mr. Thomas Renninger

Mr. Allan Gleason  
3557 Packsaddle Rd  
Kingman, AZ 86401-6523

Feb 6, 2012

Chairs Nancy Sutley and John Holdren, National Ocean Council

Subject: Strengthen the National Ocean Policy Implementation Plan

Dear Chairs Nancy Sutley and John Holdren, National Ocean Council,

I happen to like to eat fish so I don't care to see the ocean's polluted nor over-fished. We must support a balanced ecology in the oceans and seas of this world because life depends upon it.

The draft National Ocean Policy Implementation Plan establishes a strong blueprint for taking action and fostering agency coordination to sustain our ocean, coastal and Great Lakes resources. The draft plan has successfully incorporated the needs and concerns of governmental, non-profit, and commercial groups and provides clarifying details to improve accountability and monitor progress toward improved ocean management. Frequent notations on how implementing actions are related to one another provides confidence that activities will be coordinated and make good use of limited resources.

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Sincerely,  
Mr. Allan Gleason

Mr. Nicolas Petersen  
3229 SW Luradel St  
Portland, OR 97219-6936  
(503) 244-4152

Feb 6, 2012

Chairs Nancy Sutley and John Holdren, National Ocean Council

Subject: Strengthen the National Ocean Policy Implementation Plan

Dear Chairs Nancy Sutley and John Holdren, National Ocean Council,

The draft National Ocean Policy Implementation Plan establishes a strong blueprint for taking action and fostering agency coordination to sustain our ocean, coastal and Great Lakes resources. The draft plan has successfully incorporated the needs and concerns of governmental, non-profit, and commercial groups and provides clarifying details to improve accountability and monitor progress toward improved ocean management. Frequent notations on how implementing actions are related to one another provides confidence that activities will be coordinated and make good use of limited resources.

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Sincerely,  
Mr. Nicolas Petersen

Ms. Virgene Link  
PO Box 543  
Anacortes, WA 98221-0543

Feb 6, 2012

Chairs Nancy Sutley and John Holdren, National Ocean Council

Subject: Strengthen the National Ocean Policy Implementation Plan

Dear Chairs Nancy Sutley and John Holdren, National Ocean Council,

The draft National Ocean Policy Implementation Plan establishes a strong blueprint for taking action and fostering agency coordination to sustain our ocean, coastal and Great Lakes resources. The draft plan has successfully incorporated the needs and concerns of governmental, non-profit, and commercial groups and provides clarifying details to improve accountability and monitor progress toward improved ocean management. Frequent notations on how implementing actions are related to one another provides confidence that activities will be coordinated and make good use of limited resources.

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Thank you.

Sincerely,  
Ms. Virgene Link

Mr. EDWARD LOEFFLER  
334 E 77th St  
Apt 2  
New York, NY 10075-2479

Feb 6, 2012

Chairs Nancy Sutley and John Holdren, National Ocean Council

Subject: Strengthen the National Ocean Policy Implementation Plan

Dear Chairs Nancy Sutley and John Holdren, National Ocean Council,

The draft National Ocean Policy Implementation Plan establishes a strong blueprint for taking action and fostering agency coordination to sustain our ocean, coastal and Great Lakes resources. The draft plan has successfully incorporated the needs and concerns of governmental, non-profit, and commercial groups and provides clarifying details to improve accountability and monitor progress toward improved ocean management. Frequent notations on how implementing actions are related to one another provides confidence that activities will be coordinated and make good use of limited resources.

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Four-fifths of the surface of our planet is water and it seems to make absolute sense that protecting and maintaining the oceans and Great Lakes is the only thing to do.

The oceans, the coasts, and the lakes are sources of recreational enjoyment and are important to a strong economic policy. Conservation is essential.

Sincerely,  
Mr. EDWARD LOEFFLER

Mr. Douglas Mason  
313 E Jackson St  
Seneca, IL 61360-9429

Feb 6, 2012

Chairs Nancy Sutley and John Holdren, National Ocean Council

Subject: Strengthen the National Ocean Policy Implementation Plan

Dear Chairs Nancy Sutley and John Holdren, National Ocean Council,

the pacific garbage patch should have a fleet of renewable energy running them to recycle the plastic. Arista wind power and Nanosolar could run syphons and propellers to collect and steer the barges. when enough plastics are collected they can be harvested. otherwise we poisen ourselves and children! stop the navy and cruise ships dumping 11 miles out immediately!

The draft National Ocean Policy Implementation Plan establishes a strong blueprint for taking action and fostering agency coordination to sustain our ocean, coastal and Great Lakes resources. The draft plan has successfully incorporated the needs and concerns of governmental, non-profit, and commercial groups and provides clarifying details to improve accountability and monitor progress toward improved ocean management. Frequent notations on how implementing actions are related to one another provides confidence that activities will be coordinated and make good use of limited resources.

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Sincerely,  
Mr. Douglas Mason

Dr. Richard Gorringer, Ph. D.  
3574 NE Stanton St  
Portland, OR 97212-2747

Feb 6, 2012

Chairs Nancy Sutley and John Holdren, National Ocean Council

Subject: Strengthen the National Ocean Policy Implementation Plan

Dear Chairs Nancy Sutley and John Holdren, National Ocean Council,

The draft National Ocean Policy Implementation Plan could be improved to achieve even more progress. It should more fully utilize all available authorities for habitat protection and management. Many of the milestones could be extended beyond cataloguing and planning to include action, with tangible, on-the-water activities. Regional need, support, and capacity should guide where coordinated actions should first take place. Federal agencies must continue to ask for input from other levels of the government and the public and incorporate this new information into implementation of the plan.

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Sincerely,  
Dr. Richard Gorringer, Ph. D.

Ms. carole donovan  
1531 NW 45th St Apt B6  
Pompano Beach, FL 33064-1176

Feb 6, 2012

Chairs Nancy Sutley and John Holdren, National Ocean Council

Subject: Strengthen the National Ocean Policy Implementation Plan

Dear Chairs Nancy Sutley and John Holdren, National Ocean Council,

There are so many people and animals that depend on a clean environment of which the ocean is the most important. Please protect it. Our future depends on it.

Sincerely,  
Ms. carole donovan

Mrs. Elizabeth Yeager  
225 Robin Ave  
Cotati, CA 94931-5316  
(707) 664-0862

Feb 6, 2012

Chairs Nancy Sutley and John Holdren, National Ocean Council

Subject: Strengthen the National Ocean Policy Implementation Plan

Dear Chairs Nancy Sutley and John Holdren, National Ocean Council,

The Implementation Plan establishes a blueprint to foster agency coordination sustaining ocean, coastal and Great Lakes resources. The draft plan has incorporated needs and concerns of governmental, non-profit, and commercial groups to provide clarify details to improve accountability and monitor progress toward improved ocean management. Frequent notations on how implementing actions are related to one another provides confidence that activities will be coordinated and make good use of limited resources.

Nonetheless, the plan could be improved to achieve even more progress. It should more fully utilize all available authorities for habitat protection and management. Many of the milestones could be extended beyond cataloguing and planning to include action, with tangible, on-the-water activities. Regional need, support, and capacity should guide where coordinated actions should first take place. Federal agencies must continue to ask for input from other levels of the government and the public and incorporate this new information into implementation of the plan.

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Sincerely,  
Mrs. Elizabeth Yeager

Ms. Yovonne Autrey-Schell  
603a Point Brown Ave SW  
Ocean Shores, WA 98569-9456

Feb 6, 2012

Chairs Nancy Sutley and John Holdren, National Ocean Council

Subject: Strengthen the National Ocean Policy Implementation Plan

Dear Chairs Nancy Sutley and John Holdren, National Ocean Council,

The wording of the stock letter says it all better than I can, so I'm sticking with it.

The draft National Ocean Policy Implementation Plan establishes a strong blueprint for taking action and fostering agency coordination to sustain our ocean, coastal and Great Lakes resources. The draft plan has successfully incorporated the needs and concerns of governmental, non-profit, and commercial groups and provides clarifying details to improve accountability and monitor progress toward improved ocean management. Frequent notations on how implementing actions are related to one another provides confidence that activities will be coordinated and make good use of limited resources.

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Sincerely,  
Ms. Yovonne Autrey-Schell

Ms. C. K.  
Buckby Rd.  
Lake Geneva, WI 53147

Feb 6, 2012

Chairs Nancy Sutley and John Holdren, National Ocean Council

Subject: Strengthen the National Ocean Policy Implementation Plan

Dear Chairs Nancy Sutley and John Holdren, National Ocean Council,

The draft National Ocean Policy Implementation Plan establishes a strong blueprint for taking action and fostering agency coordination to sustain our ocean, coastal and Great Lakes resources. The draft plan has successfully incorporated the needs and concerns of governmental, non-profit, and commercial groups and provides clarifying details to improve accountability and monitor progress toward improved ocean management. Frequent notations on how implementing actions are related to one another provides confidence that activities will be coordinated and make good use of limited resources.

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With these additions, President Obama's Implementation Plan will provide a better guide for achieving the goals of protecting, maintaining, and restoring the nation's oceans, coasts, and Great Lakes and ensuring resilient coastal economies. I look forward to the release of the final plan and hope to see policy translated into action on the water soon.

One of the biggest concerns of this planet is the rising ocean temperature, the pollution, and the dying fish. If we lose the ocean, it's game over for humanity. The scientists all agree. Please keep this carefully in mind when you are enacting legislation. We need the oceans to survive, to prosper, and to grow.

Sincerely,  
Ms. C. K.

Mr. Cliff Josephson  
2801 Holly Ave  
Naples, FL 34112-7318  
(239) 269-2641

Feb 6, 2012

Chairs Nancy Sutley and John Holdren, National Ocean Council

Subject: Strengthen the National Ocean Policy Implementation Plan

Dear Chairs Nancy Sutley and John Holdren, National Ocean Council,

It is imperative that we do everything possible to save our Oceans. Instead of giving people negative labels we should all agree that we have serious problems in our Oceans, pollution and overfishing being two of the biggest. The draft National Ocean Policy Implementation Plan establishes a strong blueprint for taking action and fostering agency coordination to sustain our ocean, coastal and Great Lakes resources. The draft plan has successfully incorporated the needs and concerns of governmental, non-profit, and commercial groups and provides clarifying details to improve accountability and monitor progress toward improved ocean management. Frequent notations on how implementing actions are related to one another provides confidence that activities will be coordinated and make good use of limited resources.

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Sincerely,  
Mr. Cliff Josephson

Mrs. Arlene Adelman  
635 Loretta St  
Pittsburgh, PA 15217-2823

Feb 6, 2012

Chairs Nancy Sutley and John Holdren, National Ocean Council

Subject: Strengthen the National Ocean Policy Implementation Plan

Dear Chairs Nancy Sutley and John Holdren, National Ocean Council,

The draft National Ocean Policy Implementation Plan establishes a strong blueprint for taking action and fostering agency coordination to sustain our ocean, coastal and Great Lakes resources. The draft plan has successfully incorporated the needs and concerns of governmental, non-profit, and commercial groups and provides clarifying details to improve accountability and monitor progress toward improved ocean management. Frequent notations on how implementing actions are related to one another provides confidence that activities will be coordinated and make good use of limited resources.

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**IF WE DO NOT TAKE CARE OF OUR RIVERS AND OCEANS THAN REPETITIVE DIRE CONSEQUENCES WILL OCCUR FOR A LONG TIME. IT IS ALMOST TOO LATE; HOWEVER ONE MUST TRY TO HELP NOW AND SAVE WHAT WE CAN.**

Sincerely,  
Mrs. Arlene Adelman

Dr. Elizabeth Cole, MD  
751 Acacia Ave  
Burlingame, CA 94010-3701

Feb 6, 2012

Chairs Nancy Sutley and John Holdren, National Ocean Council

Subject: Strengthen the National Ocean Policy Implementation Plan

Dear Chairs Nancy Sutley and John Holdren, National Ocean Council,

They planets and islands humans live on....in addition, we hope, to the plants and animals we share space with....depends on healthy oceans.. They cannot be despoiled by our garbage and our poisons and species of fish and mammals that live there. The oceans should be alive and healthy for us to continue to exist, so lets get busy. We've wrecked enough already. Now lets take care of all of it.

The draft National Ocean Policy Implementation Plan establishes a strong blueprint for taking action and fostering agency coordination to sustain our ocean, coastal and Great Lakes resources. The draft plan has successfully incorporated the needs and concerns of governmental, non-profit, and commercial groups and provides clarifying details to improve accountability and monitor progress toward improved ocean management. Frequent notations on how implementing actions are related to one another provides confidence that activities will be coordinated and make good use of limited resources.

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Sincerely,  
Dr. Elizabeth Cole, MD

Ms. Fran Watson  
9734 Jamacha Blvd  
Spring Valley, CA 91977-5227

Feb 6, 2012

Chairs Nancy Sutley and John Holdren, National Ocean Council

Subject: Strengthen the National Ocean Policy Implementation Plan

Dear Chairs Nancy Sutley and John Holdren, National Ocean Council,

I support the draft National Ocean Policy Implementation Plan which establishes a strong blueprint for taking action and fostering agency coordination to sustain our ocean, coastal and Great Lakes resources. The draft plan has successfully incorporated the needs and concerns of governmental, non-profit, and commercial groups and provides clarifying details to improve accountability and monitor progress toward improved ocean management. Frequent notations on how implementing actions are related to one another provides confidence that activities will be coordinated and make good use of limited resources.

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Sincerely,  
Ms. Fran Watson

Mrs. Shirley White  
357 8th St  
# 3  
Springfield, OR 97477-4748

Feb 6, 2012

Chairs Nancy Sutley and John Holdren, National Ocean Council

Subject: Strengthening the National Ocean Policy Implementation Plan

Dear Chairs Nancy Sutley and John Holdren, National Ocean Council,

The draft National Ocean Policy Implementation Plan establishes a strong blueprint for taking action and fostering agency coordination to sustain our ocean, coastal and Great Lakes resources. The draft plan has successfully incorporated the needs and concerns of governmental, non-profit, and commercial groups and provides clarifying details to improve accountability and monitor progress toward improved ocean management. Frequent notations on how implementing actions are related to one another provides confidence that activities will be coordinated and make good use of limited resources.

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Thank you for your sincere consideration on behalf of our oceans.

Sincerely,  
Mrs. Shirley White

Ms. Michelle Buerger  
50 Schroeder Ct Apt 104  
Madison, WI 53711-2520

Feb 6, 2012

Chairs Nancy Sutley and John Holdren, National Ocean Council

Subject: Please strengthen the National Ocean Policy Implementation Plan

Dear Chairs Nancy Sutley and John Holdren, National Ocean Council,

The draft National Ocean Policy Implementation Plan establishes a strong blueprint for taking action and fostering agency coordination to sustain our ocean, coastal and Great Lakes resources. The draft plan has successfully incorporated the needs and concerns of governmental, non-profit, and commercial groups and provides clarifying details to improve accountability and monitor progress toward improved ocean management. Frequent notations on how implementing actions are related to one another provides confidence that activities will be coordinated and make good use of limited resources.

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Thank you for your time!

Sincerely,  
Ms. Michelle Buerger

Mrs. Virginia D'Auria  
3192 Grandeur Ave  
Altadena, CA 91001-4302

Feb 6, 2012

Chairs Nancy Sutley and John Holdren, National Ocean Council

Subject: Strengthen the National Ocean Policy Implementation Plan

Dear Chairs Nancy Sutley and John Holdren, National Ocean Council,

The draft National Ocean Policy Implementation Plan establishes a strong blueprint for taking action and fostering agency coordination to sustain our ocean, coastal and Great Lakes resources. The draft plan has successfully incorporated the needs and concerns of governmental, non-profit, and commercial groups and provides clarifying details to improve accountability and monitor progress toward improved ocean management. Frequent notations on how implementing actions are related to one another provides confidence that activities will be coordinated and make good use of limited resources.

Nonetheless, the plan could be improved to achieve even more progress. It should more fully utilize all available authorities for habitat protection and management. Many of the milestones could be extended beyond cataloguing and planning to include action, with tangible, on-the-water activities. Regional need, support, and capacity should guide where coordinated actions should first take place. Federal agencies must continue to ask for input from other levels of the government and the public and incorporate this new information into implementation of the plan.

With these additions, President Obama's Implementation Plan will provide a better guide for achieving the goals of protecting, maintaining, and restoring the nation's oceans, coasts, and Great Lakes and ensuring resilient coastal economies. I look forward to the release of the final plan and hope to see policy translated into action on the water soon.

We must not be half-hearted in our efforts to insure the health and economy of our waters and coasts. The time to do good things in the right direction is always now.

Sincerely,  
Mrs. Virginia D'Auria

Ms. Pamela Szatanek  
1525 Opal Dr  
Elko, NV 89801-3408

Feb 6, 2012

Chairs Nancy Sutley and John Holdren, National Ocean Council

Subject: Strengthen the National Ocean Policy Implementation Plan

Dear Chairs Nancy Sutley and John Holdren, National Ocean Council,

Lets just call it what it is. The oceans are being raped. Fisheries have collapsed, there is a huge patch of plastic waste twice the size of Texas north of Hawaii, and over 100 known hypoxic zones. As a scuba diver, I am highly offended by the mass scale slaughter of whales and dolphins by the Japanese, seal pups by the Canadians and the concept of shark finning.

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Sincerely,  
Ms. Pamela Szatanek

Ms. Susan Love  
9985 W 59th Pl Apt 1  
Arvada, CO 80004-5038  
(720) 242-6506

Feb 6, 2012

Chairs Nancy Sutley and John Holdren, National Ocean Council

Subject: Strengthen the National Ocean Policy Implementation Plan

Dear Chairs Nancy Sutley and John Holdren, National Ocean Council,

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We have lost so many animals, fish and coral and plant life due to negligence. I hope that there will be an effort to work together to address quickly what needs done first, and that all authorities will be able to submit their ideas and needs to this effort, taking care of what is imminent and then moving on to those things that can wait a small while. Input from all authorities is necessary so nothing of importance is missed.

Sincerely,  
Ms. Susan Love

Dr. Jonathan Matthews  
1601 N Benton Ave  
Helena, MT 59625-0001

Feb 6, 2012

Chairs Nancy Sutley and John Holdren, National Ocean Council

Subject: Please Strengthen the National Ocean Policy Implementation Plan

Dear Chairs Nancy Sutley and John Holdren, National Ocean Council,

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Sincerely,  
Dr. Jonathan Matthews

Ms. Emma Miniscalco  
658 Acker Pl NE  
Washington, DC 20002-5212

Feb 6, 2012

Chairs Nancy Sutley and John Holdren, National Ocean Council

Subject: Please strengthen the National Ocean Policy Implementation Plan

Dear Chairs Nancy Sutley and John Holdren, National Ocean Council,

I am so pleased that our government is creating a comprehensive plan for how we manage and protect our oceans, coasts, and the Great Lakes. While this is still a work in progress, I encourage the National Ocean Council to consider giving greater weight to protection of our water resources through enhanced interagency cooperation and through greater emphasis on concrete actions agencies can take as stewards of these resources. This is a time to lay out guidance and precedents, and I urge the Council to make protection, maintenance, and restoration the touchstones of a national ocean policy.

The draft National Ocean Policy Implementation Plan establishes a strong blueprint for taking action and fostering agency coordination to sustain our ocean, coastal and Great Lakes resources. The draft plan has successfully incorporated the needs and concerns of governmental, non-profit, and commercial groups and provides clarifying details to improve accountability and monitor progress toward improved ocean management. Frequent notations on how implementing actions are related to one another provides confidence that activities will be coordinated and make good use of limited resources.

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Sincerely,  
Ms. Emma Miniscalco

Miss Olivia Lim  
Address  
Fremont, CA 94539

Feb 6, 2012

Chairs Nancy Sutley and John Holdren, National Ocean Council

Subject: Strengthen the National Ocean Policy Implementation Plan

Dear Chairs Nancy Sutley and John Holdren, National Ocean Council,

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Sincerely,  
Miss Olivia Lim

Ms. Patricia Montijo  
357 8th St  
Springfield, OR 97477-4748

Feb 6, 2012

Chairs Nancy Sutley and John Holdren, National Ocean Council

Subject: Strengthen the National Ocean Policy Implementation Plan

Dear Chairs Nancy Sutley and John Holdren, National Ocean Council,

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Thank you.

Sincerely,  
Ms. Patricia Montijo

Dr. James Lazell  
1140 Monroe St  
Jackson, MS 39202-2134

Feb 6, 2012

Chairs Nancy Sutley and John Holdren, National Ocean Council

Subject: Strengthen the National Ocean Policy Implementation Plan

Dear Chairs Nancy Sutley and John Holdren, National Ocean Council,

As a professional conservation biologist I recognize that the draft National Ocean Policy Implementation Plan establishes a strong blueprint for taking action and fostering agency coordination to sustain our ocean, coastal and Great Lakes resources. The draft plan has successfully incorporated the needs and concerns of governmental, non-profit, and commercial groups and provides clarifying details to improve accountability and monitor progress toward improved ocean management. Frequent notations on how implementing actions are related to one another provides confidence that activities will be coordinated and make good use of limited resources.

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Sincerely,  
Dr. James Lazell

Mr. John Viacrucis  
3002 17th St S Apt 206  
Moorhead, MN 56560-5225

Feb 6, 2012

Chairs Nancy Sutley and John Holdren, National Ocean Council

Subject: Strengthen the National Ocean Policy Implementation Plan

Dear Chairs Nancy Sutley and John Holdren, National Ocean Council,

The draft National Ocean Policy Implementation Plan establishes a strong blueprint for taking action and fostering agency coordination to sustain our ocean, coastal and Great Lakes resources. The draft plan has successfully incorporated the needs and concerns of governmental, non-profit, and commercial groups and provides clarifying details to improve accountability and monitor progress toward improved ocean management. Frequent notations on how implementing actions are related to one another provides confidence that activities will be coordinated and make good use of limited resources.

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Thank you for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,  
Mr. John Viacrucis

Ms. Toby Lopez  
800 E 1st Ave  
Lenoir City, TN 37771-2015  
(865) 986-3172

Feb 6, 2012

Chairs Nancy Sutley and John Holdren, National Ocean Council

Subject: Strengthen the National Ocean Policy Implementation Plan

Dear Chairs Nancy Sutley and John Holdren, National Ocean Council,

The draft National Ocean Policy Implementation Plan establishes a strong blueprint for taking action and fostering agency coordination to sustain our ocean, coastal and Great Lakes resources. The draft plan has successfully incorporated the needs and concerns of governmental, non-profit, and commercial groups and provides clarifying details to improve accountability and monitor progress toward improved ocean management. Frequent notations on how implementing actions are related to one another provides confidence that activities will be coordinated and make good use of limited resources.

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I have lived in Florida and cleaned the beaches with other, planted sea oats to help slow down the erosion. I now live in Tennessee and see the polluted waterways that are no different than I saw in Florida. People need to see the Great Garbage Patch. Children need to learn about the importance of our waterways and how rely on these wonderous ecosystems for our own survival. We must see and touch the consequences caused by our own ignorance and negligence. Our coral reefs are dying, but how many people really know what that means to the balance of life? Education is key, more strict penalties for criminal action on all wildlife and waterways! First we must educate, even Washington. There are people that go out paddling boats regularly cleaning debris caused by man, on their own time with their own equipment. Does anyone know about that, or does anyone care? There are way too many cruise ships killing our oceans. Education is the key!!!

Sincerely,

Ms. Toby Lopez

Mrs. Elaine Mayer  
1432 20th St NW  
Rochester, MN 55901-1598

Feb 6, 2012

Chairs Nancy Sutley and John Holdren, National Ocean Council

Subject: Strengthen the National Ocean Policy Implementation Plan

Dear Chairs Nancy Sutley and John Holdren, National Ocean Council,

The draft National Ocean Policy Implementation Plan is a blueprint for sustaining our ocean, coastal and Great Lakes resources. The draft plan has successfully incorporated the needs and concerns of governmental, non-profit, and commercial groups and will improve accountability and monitor progress toward improved ocean management. Relating the actions to one another will assure good use of resources.

For even more progress, authorities for habitat protection and management should be included. Federal agencies I am sure will garner input from other levels of the government and the public, and incorporate this new information into the plan.

Thank you for working on this important issue.

Sincerely,  
Mrs. Elaine Mayer

Mr. Brett Forray  
PO Box 2124  
Turlock, CA 95381-2124

Feb 6, 2012

Chairs Nancy Sutley and John Holdren, National Ocean Council

Subject: Strengthen the National Ocean Policy Implementation Plan

Dear Chairs Nancy Sutley and John Holdren, National Ocean Council,

I support this message. The draft National Ocean Policy Implementation Plan establishes a strong blueprint for taking action and fostering agency coordination to sustain our ocean, coastal and Great Lakes resources. The draft plan has successfully incorporated the needs and concerns of governmental, non-profit, and commercial groups and provides clarifying details to improve accountability and monitor progress toward improved ocean management. Frequent notations on how implementing actions are related to one another provides confidence that activities will be coordinated and make good use of limited resources.

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Sincerely,  
Mr. Brett Forray

Mr. David Klass  
136 W 24th St  
New York, NY 10011-1908

Feb 6, 2012

Chairs Nancy Sutley and John Holdren, National Ocean Council

Subject: Strengthen the National Ocean Policy Implementation Plan

Dear Chairs Nancy Sutley and John Holdren, National Ocean Council,

The draft National Ocean Policy Implementation Plan establishes a strong blueprint for taking action and fostering agency coordination to sustain our ocean, coastal and Great Lakes resources. The draft plan has successfully incorporated the needs and concerns of governmental, non-profit, and commercial groups and provides clarifying details to improve accountability and monitor progress toward improved ocean management. Frequent notations on how implementing actions are related to one another provides confidence that activities will be coordinated and make good use of limited resources.

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Thank you.

Sincerely,  
Mr. David Klass

Mrs. Karen And John Waller  
2313 Treesong Trl  
Virginia Beach, VA 23456-6721  
(757) 721-5004

Feb 6, 2012

Chairs Nancy Sutley and John Holdren, National Ocean Council

Subject: Strengthen the National Ocean Policy Implementation Plan

Dear Chairs Nancy Sutley and John Holdren, National Ocean Council,

Our survival as human beings depends on our taking steps NOW to preserve what's left of our environment and resources, most especially our OCEANS and waterways.

I support the draft National Ocean Policy Implementation Plan, which establishes a strong blueprint for taking action and fostering agency coordination to sustain our ocean, coastal and Great Lakes resources, but with these reservations:

The draft plan has included the needs and concerns of governmental, non-profit, and commercial groups and provides clarifying details to improve accountability and monitor progress toward improved ocean management. Frequent notations on how implementing actions are related to one another provides confidence that activities will be coordinated and make good use of limited resources.

However, the plan could be stronger. It should incorporate all available authorities for habitat protection and management. Extension of the milestones beyond cataloguing and planning to include action, with tangible, on-the-water activities, would be helpful. Regional need, support, and capacity should guide where coordinated actions should first take place. Federal agencies must continue to ask for input from other levels of the government and the public and incorporate this new information into implementation of the plan.

With these additions, President Obama's Implementation Plan will provide a better guide for achieving the goals of protecting, maintaining, and restoring the nation's oceans, coasts, and Great Lakes and ensuring resilient coastal economies. I look forward to the release of the final plan and hope to see policy translated into action on the water soon.

Sincerely,  
Mrs. Karen And John Waller

Mrs. Michael Bayouth  
636 S Eastern St Apt 101  
Wichita, KS 67207-2468

Feb 6, 2012

Chairs Nancy Sutley and John Holdren, National Ocean Council

Subject: Strengthen the National Ocean Policy Implementation Plan

Dear Chairs Nancy Sutley and John Holdren, National Ocean Council,

Please help us with this matter.

The draft National Ocean Policy Implementation Plan establishes a strong blueprint for taking action and fostering agency coordination to sustain our ocean, coastal and Great Lakes resources. The draft plan has successfully incorporated the needs and concerns of governmental, non-profit, and commercial groups and provides clarifying details to improve accountability and monitor progress toward improved ocean management. Frequent notations on how implementing actions are related to one another provides confidence that activities will be coordinated and make good use of limited resources.

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Sincerely,  
Mrs. Michael Bayouth

Mr. Richard Spotts  
1125 W Emerald Dr  
St George, UT 84770-6026  
(435) 574-2883

Feb 6, 2012

Chairs Nancy Sutley and John Holdren, National Ocean Council

Subject: Please Strengthen the National Ocean Policy Implementation Plan

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Thank you very much for your leadership and for considering my comments.

Sincerely,  
Mr. Richard Spotts

Ms. Edith M. Davis  
327-329 4th Street #2F  
Brooklyn, NY 11215 7414

Feb 6, 2012

Chairs Nancy Sutley and John Holdren, National Ocean Council

Subject: Strengthen the National Ocean Policy Implementation Plan

Dear Chairs Nancy Sutley and John Holdren, National Ocean Council,

Thank you for the opportunity to comment. I strongly support the advocacy that the Pew Environmental Trust engages in to protect Earth's marine, coastal and lake environments.

The draft National Ocean Policy Implementation Plan establishes a strong blueprint for taking action and fostering agency coordination to sustain our ocean, coastal and Great Lakes resources. The draft plan has successfully incorporated the needs and concerns of governmental, non-profit, and commercial groups and provides clarifying details to improve accountability and monitor progress toward improved ocean management. Frequent notations on how implementing actions are related to one another provides confidence that activities will be coordinated and make good use of limited resources.

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Sincerely,  
Ms. Edith M. Davis

Ms. Wendy James  
520 Whitecap Rd  
Bellingham, WA 98229-8911

Feb 6, 2012

Chairs Nancy Sutley and John Holdren, National Ocean Council

Subject: Strengthen the National Ocean Policy Implementation Plan

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I am also very concerned about the plastic pollution in our oceans. Please address this issue as well.

With these additions, President Obama's Implementation Plan will provide a better guide for achieving the goals of protecting, maintaining, and restoring the nation's oceans, coasts, and Great Lakes and ensuring resilient coastal economies. I look forward to the release of the final plan and hope to see policy translated into action on the water soon.

Sincerely,  
Ms. Wendy James

Mr. Achmad Chadran  
206 Stow Rd  
Harvard, MA 01451-1905

Feb 6, 2012

Chairs Nancy Sutley and John Holdren, National Ocean Council

Subject: Strengthen the National Ocean Policy Implementation Plan

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Sincerely,  
Mr. Achmad Chadran

Mr. Francis Schilling  
11651 S Lava Peak Ave  
Vail, AZ 85641-6177

Feb 6, 2012

Chairs Nancy Sutley and John Holdren, National Ocean Council

Subject: Please Strengthen the National Ocean Policy Implementation Plan

Dear Chairs Nancy Sutley and John Holdren, National Ocean Council,

As someone deeply concerned about the pollution and depletion of our precious and irreplaceable ocean resources, I am writing to comment on the draft National Ocean Policy Implementation Plan. The plan establishes a strong blueprint for taking action and fostering agency coordination to sustain our ocean, coastal and Great Lakes resources. The draft plan has successfully incorporated the needs and concerns of governmental, non-profit, and commercial groups and provides clarifying details to improve accountability and monitor progress toward improved ocean management. Frequent notations on how implementing actions are related to one another provides confidence that activities will be coordinated and make good use of limited resources.

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Sincerely,  
Mr. Francis Schilling

Mr. Derek Gendvil  
9030 W Sahara Ave # 360  
Las Vegas, NV 89117-5744  
(702) 290-2013

Feb 6, 2012

Chairs Nancy Sutley and John Holdren, National Ocean Council

Subject: Strengthen the National Ocean Policy Implementation Plan

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Sincerely,  
Derek Gendvil  
Las Vegas, NV

Sincerely,  
Mr. Derek Gendvil

Ms. Karin Winegar  
1832 Carroll Ave  
Saint Paul, MN 55104-3512

Feb 6, 2012

Chairs Nancy Sutley and John Holdren, National Ocean Council

Subject: Strengthen the National Ocean Policy Implementation Plan

Dear Chairs Nancy Sutley and John Holdren, National Ocean Council,

The draft National Ocean Policy Implementation Plan establishes a strong blueprint for taking action and fostering agency coordination to sustain our ocean, coastal and Great Lakes resources.

The draft plan has successfully incorporated the needs and concerns of governmental, non-profit, and commercial groups and provides clarifying details to improve accountability and monitor progress toward improved ocean management. Frequent notations on how implementing actions are related to one another provides confidence that activities will be coordinated and make good use of limited resources.

Nonetheless, the plan could be improved to achieve even more progress. It should more fully utilize all available authorities for habitat protection and management. Many of the milestones could be extended beyond cataloguing and planning to include action, with tangible, on-the-water activities.

Regional need, support, and capacity should guide where coordinated actions should first take place. Federal agencies must continue to ask for input from other levels of the government and the public and incorporate this new information into implementation of the plan.

With these additions, President Obama's Implementation Plan will provide a better guide for achieving the goals of protecting, maintaining, and restoring the nation's oceans, coasts, and Great Lakes and ensuring resilient coastal economies. I look forward to the release of the final plan and hope to see policy translated into action on the water soon.

Sincerely,  
Ms. Karin Winegar

Mr. Paul Carlton  
3280 Paseo Gallita  
San Clemente, CA 92672-3520

Feb 6, 2012

Chairs Nancy Sutley and John Holdren, National Ocean Council

Subject: Strengthen the National Ocean Policy Implementation Plan

Dear Chairs Nancy Sutley and John Holdren, National Ocean Council,

The draft National Ocean Policy Implementation Plan establishes a strong blueprint for taking action and fostering agency coordination to sustain our ocean, coastal and Great Lakes resources. The draft plan has successfully incorporated the needs and concerns of governmental, non-profit, and commercial groups and provides clarifying details to improve accountability and monitor progress toward improved ocean management. Frequent notations on how implementing actions are related to one another provides confidence that activities will be coordinated and make good use of limited resources.

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Sincerely,  
Mr. Paul Carlton

Ms. Margaret Sellers  
PO Box 802  
North Grosvenordale, CT 06255-0802

Feb 6, 2012

Chairs Nancy Sutley and John Holdren, National Ocean Council

Subject: Strengthen the National Ocean Policy Implementation Plan

Dear Chairs Nancy Sutley and John Holdren, National Ocean Council,

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With these additions, President Obama's Implementation Plan will provide a better guide for achieving the goals of protecting, maintaining, and restoring the nation's oceans, coasts, and Great Lakes and ensuring resilient coastal economies. I look forward to the release of the final plan and hope to see policy translated into action on the water soon.

Time is running out and immediate and decisive action is required now.

Sincerely,  
Ms. Margaret Sellers

Dr. Susan Virostek  
44 Beckwith Rd  
Killingworth, CT 06419-1105

Feb 6, 2012

Chairs Nancy Sutley and John Holdren, National Ocean Council

Subject: Strengthen the National Ocean Policy Implementation Plan

Dear Chairs Nancy Sutley and John Holdren, National Ocean Council,

The draft National Ocean Policy Implementation Plan is an important step, but my feeling is it doesn't go far enough.

I wish that it would use more of the available authorities for habitat protection and management. In addition, I'd prefer to see action plans, rather than being limited to more passive documentation and recommendations.

In these ways, President Obama's Implementation Plan would provide a better guide for achieving the goals of protecting, maintaining, and restoring the nation's oceans, coasts, and Great Lakes and ensuring resilient coastal economies. I hope that the final version of the plan will give us policy in terms of action plans to protect our MOST IMPORTANT natural resource.

Sincerely,  
Dr. Susan Virostek

Mr. Richard Boyd  
111 Silver Bow Homes  
Butte, MT 59701-1833

Feb 6, 2012

Chairs Nancy Sutley and John Holdren, National Ocean Council

Subject: Strengthen the National Ocean Policy Implementation Plan

Dear Chairs Nancy Sutley and John Holdren, National Ocean Council,

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Nonetheless, the plan could be improved to achieve even more progress. It should more fully utilize all available authorities for habitat protection and management. Many of the milestones could be extended beyond cataloguing and planning to include action, with tangible, on-the-water activities. Regional need, support, and capacity should guide where coordinated actions should first take place. Federal agencies must continue

Sincerely,  
Mr. Richard Boyd

Mr. George L. Trigg  
143 W Franklin Ave  
Apt 316  
Pennington, NJ 08534-1442  
(609) 730-4209

Feb 6, 2012

Chairs Nancy Sutley and John Holdren, National Ocean Council

Subject: Strengthen the National Ocean Policy Implementation Plan

Dear Chairs Nancy Sutley and John Holdren, National Ocean Council,

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With these additions, President Obama's Implementation Plan will provide a better guide for achieving the goals of protecting, maintaining, and restoring the nation's oceans, coasts, and Great Lakes and ensuring resilient coastal economies. I look forward to the release of the final plan and hope to see policy translated into action on the water soon.

Sincerely,  
Mr. George L. Trigg

Ms. BILLI HANLON  
3310 French Ave  
West Sacramento, CA 95691-5204

Feb 6, 2012

Chairs Nancy Sutley and John Holdren, National Ocean Council

Subject: Strengthen the National Ocean Policy Implementation Plan

Dear Chairs Nancy Sutley and John Holdren, National Ocean Council,

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With these additions, President Obama's Implementation Plan will provide a better guide for achieving the goals of protecting, maintaining, and restoring the nation's oceans and so forth.

Sincerely,  
Ms. BILLI HANLON

Mrs. Gayle Spencer  
2603 Alpine Rd  
Menlo Park, CA 94025-6315  
(650) 854-5495

Feb 6, 2012

Chairs Nancy Sutley and John Holdren, National Ocean Council

Subject: Strengthen the National Ocean Policy Implementation Plan

Dear Chairs Nancy Sutley and John Holdren, National Ocean Council,

The draft National Ocean Policy Implementation Plan establishes a strong blueprint for taking action and fostering agency coordination to sustain our ocean, coastal and Great Lakes resources. The draft plan has successfully incorporated the needs and concerns of governmental, non-profit, and commercial groups and provides clarifying details to improve accountability and monitor progress toward improved ocean management. Frequent notations on how implementing actions are related to one another provides confidence that activities will be coordinated and make good use of limited resources.

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With these additions, President Obama's Implementation Plan will provide a better guide for achieving the goals of protecting, maintaining, and restoring the nation's oceans, coasts, and Great Lakes and ensuring resilient coastal economies. I look forward to the release of the final plan and hope to see policy translated into action on the water soon.

Sincerely,  
Mrs. Gayle Spencer

Ms. Judith Watson  
8375 118th St  
Kew Gardens, NY 11415-2443

Feb 6, 2012

Chairs Nancy Sutley and John Holdren, National Ocean Council

Subject: Strengthen the National Ocean Policy Implementation Plan

Dear Chairs Nancy Sutley and John Holdren, National Ocean Council,

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With these additions, President Obama's Implementation Plan will provide a better guide for achieving the goals of protecting, maintaining, and restoring the nation's oceans, coasts, and Great Lakes and ensuring resilient coastal economies. I look forward to the release of the final plan and hope to see policy translated into action on the water soon.

Our oceans are in peril and they must be protected.

Sincerely,  
Ms. Judith Watson

Mrs. Le Hunt  
9945 E White Birch Rd  
Port Wing, WI 54865-4797

Feb 6, 2012

Chairs Nancy Sutley and John Holdren, National Ocean Council

Subject: Strengthen the National Ocean Policy Implementation Plan

Dear Chairs Nancy Sutley and John Holdren, National Ocean Council,

The draft National Ocean Policy Implementation Plan establishes a strong blueprint for taking action and fostering agency coordination to sustain our ocean, coastal and Great Lakes resources. The draft plan has successfully incorporated the needs and concerns of governmental, non-profit, and commercial groups and provides clarifying details to improve accountability and monitor progress toward improved ocean management. Frequent notations on how implementing actions are related to one another provides confidence that activities will be coordinated and make good use of limited resources.

Only a few years ago it was speculated that cod would actually go extinct from overfishing. Oceans, coastal regions, and lakes have provided a bounty of food for mankind for thousands of years. Poor techniques for fishing can destroy entire ecosystems, allowing for a few monstrosly large harvests then a paucity that will last for years. Not protecting these resources is simply economically stupid -- it is killing the goose that laid the golden egg. Restricting large commercial fishing fleets and encouraging smaller concerns might be one answer to the problem.

Nonetheless, the plan could be improved to achieve even more progress. It should more fully utilize all available authorities for habitat protection and management. Many of the milestones could be extended beyond cataloguing and planning to include action, with tangible, on-the-water activities. Regional need, support, and capacity should guide where coordinated actions should first take place. Federal agencies must continue to ask for input from other levels of the government and the public and incorporate this new information into implementation of the plan.

With these additions, President Obama's Implementation Plan will provide a better guide for achieving the goals of protecting, maintaining, and restoring the nation's oceans, coasts, and Great Lakes and ensuring resilient coastal economies. I look forward to the release of the final plan and hope to see policy translated into action on the water soon.

Sincerely,  
Mrs. Le Hunt

Dr. Lewis & Jeannette Patrie  
99 Eastmoor Dr  
Asheville, NC 28805-9211

Feb 6, 2012

Chairs Nancy Sutley and John Holdren, National Ocean Council

Subject: Strengthen the National Ocean Policy Implementation Plan

Dear Chairs Nancy Sutley and John Holdren, National Ocean Council,

Please support the draft National Ocean Policy Implementation Plan, to establish a strong blueprint for improving our future chances for the sustenance of our ocean, coastal and Great Lakes resources. The draft plan has successfully incorporated the needs and concerns of governmental, non-profit, and commercial groups and provides clarifying details to improve accountability and monitor progress toward improved ocean management. Frequent notations on how implementing actions are related to one another provides confidence that activities will be coordinated and make good use of limited resources.

But please make efforts to improve it, in order to achieve even more progress. It should more fully utilize all available authorities for habitat protection and management. Many of the milestones could be extended beyond cataloguing and planning to include action, with tangible, on-the-water activities. Regional need, support, and capacity should guide where coordinated actions should first take place. Federal agencies must continue to ask for input from other levels of the government and the public and incorporate this new information into implementation of the plan.

Such additions would provide an even better guide for achieving the goals of protecting, maintaining, and restoring these vital resources and ensuring resilient coastal economies.  
Please keep us informed as to the final plan.

Sincerely,  
Dr. Lewis & Jeannette Patrie

Mr. Bruce Odelberg  
33900 Dangberg Drive  
Kirkwood, CA 95646

Feb 6, 2012

Chairs Nancy Sutley and John Holdren, National Ocean Council

Subject: We need to strengthen our National Ocean Policy Plan

Dear Chairs Nancy Sutley and John Holdren, National Ocean Council,

Please, this is important. The draft National Ocean Policy Implementation Plan establishes a strong blueprint for taking action and fostering agency coordination to sustain our ocean, coastal and Great Lakes resources. The draft plan has successfully incorporated the needs and concerns of governmental, non-profit, and commercial groups and provides clarifying details to improve accountability and monitor progress toward improved ocean management. Frequent notations on how implementing actions are related to one another provides confidence that activities will be coordinated and make good use of limited resources.

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With these additions, President Obama's Implementation Plan will provide a better guide for achieving the goals of protecting, maintaining, and restoring the nation's oceans, coasts, and Great Lakes and ensuring resilient coastal economies. I look forward to the release of the final plan and hope to see policy translated into action on the water soon.

Sincerely,  
Mr. Bruce Odelberg

Mr. Malcolm Wormser  
1334 Soquili Dr  
Brevard, NC 28712-9079

Feb 6, 2012

Chairs Nancy Sutley and John Holdren, National Ocean Council

Subject: Strengthen the National Ocean Policy Implementation Plan

Dear Chairs Nancy Sutley and John Holdren, National Ocean Council,

The draft National Ocean Policy Implementation Plan establishes a strong blueprint for taking action and fostering agency coordination to sustain our ocean, coastal and Great Lakes resources. The draft plan has successfully incorporated the needs and concerns of governmental, non-profit, and commercial groups and provides clarifying details to improve accountability and monitor progress toward improved ocean management. Frequent notations on how implementing actions are related to one another provides confidence that activities will be coordinated and make good use of limited resources.

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With these additions, President Obama's Implementation Plan will provide a better guide for achieving the goals of protecting, maintaining, and restoring the nation's oceans, coasts, and Great Lakes and ensuring resilient coastal economies. I look forward to the release of the final plan and hope to see policy translated into action on the water soon.

**GET THE REPUBLICANS TO BACK THIS IMPORTANT FOOD DECISION**

Sincerely,  
Mr. Malcolm Wormser

Mr. Jim Steitz  
564 Esslinger Dr  
Gatlinburg, TN 37738-5040  
(435) 770-4797

Feb 6, 2012

Chairs Nancy Sutley and John Holdren, National Ocean Council

Subject: Stronger Ocean Protection Policy Needed

Dear Chairs Nancy Sutley and John Holdren, National Ocean Council,

\*\*\*Our oceans have been beaten, trashed, mined, polluted, and overfished to death. They are now being poisoned by carbon dioxide acidification. Please use the National Ocean Policy to establish the strongest ocean protections available under US law to all waters under US jurisdiction. Our oceans are out of space and out of time, and there exists no room for compromise with commercial interests who wish to finish off our remaining fish stocks, drag deep-sea trawlers over the benthic ecosystems, and use oceans near river deltas as open sewers for agricultural runoff, as is now the sad condition of the Gulf of Mexico.\*\*\*

The draft National Ocean Policy Implementation Plan establishes a strong blueprint for taking action and fostering agency coordination to sustain our ocean, coastal and Great Lakes resources. The draft plan has successfully incorporated the needs and concerns of governmental, non-profit, and commercial groups and provides clarifying details to improve accountability and monitor progress toward improved ocean management. Frequent notations on how implementing actions are related to one another provides confidence that activities will be coordinated and make good use of limited resources.

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With these additions, President Obama's Implementation Plan will provide a better guide for achieving the goals of protecting, maintaining, and restoring the nation's oceans, coasts, and Great Lakes and ensuring resilient coastal economies. I look forward to the release of the final plan and hope to see policy translated into action on the water soon.

Sincerely,  
Mr. Jim Steitz

Ms. Eileen Levin  
5379 Beachside Dr  
Minnetonka, MN 55343-4119

Feb 6, 2012

Chairs Nancy Sutley and John Holdren, National Ocean Council

Subject: Strengthen the National Ocean Policy Implementation Plan

Dear Chairs Nancy Sutley and John Holdren, National Ocean Council,

The draft National Ocean Policy Implementation Plan is a good first step for taking action and fostering agency coordination to sustain our ocean, coastal and Great Lakes resources.

However, the plan could be improved to achieve even more progress. It could more fully utilize all available authorities for habitat protection and management. Many of the milestones could be extended beyond cataloguing and planning to include action, with tangible, on-the-water activities. Regional need, support, and capacity should guide where coordinated actions should first take place. Federal agencies must continue to ask for input from other levels of the government and the public and incorporate this new information into implementation of the plan.

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Sincerely,  
Ms. Eileen Levin

Mrs. Marie Leven  
321 Bellewood Dr  
Flushing, MI 48433-1879  
(810) 659-4471

Feb 6, 2012

Chairs Nancy Sutley and John Holdren, National Ocean Council

Subject: Strengthen the National Ocean Policy Implementation Plan

Dear Chairs Nancy Sutley and John Holdren, National Ocean Council,

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With these additions, President Obama's Implementation Plan will provide a better guide for achieving the goals of protecting, maintaining, and restoring the nation's oceans, coasts, and Great Lakes and ensuring resilient coastal economies. I look forward to the release of the final plan and hope to see policy translated into action on the water soon.

We need the best science to restore our waters and to keep the few that are still pristine from being polluted. The public must be made aware of what lurks under the water surface. In a lot of places it is pretty disgusting. We need to take action for our future and that of our children.

Sincerely,  
Mrs. Marie Leven

Mr. Charles Roth  
171 N Wilson Ave  
Apt 205  
Pasadena, CA 91106-1760

Feb 6, 2012

Chairs Nancy Sutley and John Holdren, National Ocean Council

Subject: Strengthen the National Ocean Policy Implementation Plan

Dear Chairs Nancy Sutley and John Holdren, National Ocean Council,

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With these additions, President Obama's Implementation Plan will provide a better guide for achieving the goals of protecting, maintaining, and restoring the nation's oceans, coasts, and Great Lakes and ensuring resilient coastal economies. I look forward to the release of the final plan and hope to see policy translated into action on the water soon.

After air, water is the one of the two essential element we need to survive. The third is food, and food depends on the availability of water. Corporations are trying to "buy up" the "people of California's water, through the legal means. A bond.

Sincerely,  
Mr. Charles Roth

Ms. Felicia Dale  
2321 Fairview Ave E Slip 10  
Seattle, WA 98102-3369

Feb 6, 2012

Chairs Nancy Sutley and John Holdren, National Ocean Council

Subject: Strengthen the National Ocean Policy Implementation Plan

Dear Chairs Nancy Sutley and John Holdren, National Ocean Council,

No clean healthy oceans means, eventually, no healthy clean humans. GET A CLUE. This is not about anything as mundane as jobs, this is about the sustainability of the human race!

The draft National Ocean Policy Implementation Plan establishes a strong blueprint for taking action and fostering agency coordination to sustain our ocean, coastal and Great Lakes resources. The draft plan has successfully incorporated the needs and concerns of governmental, non-profit, and commercial groups and provides clarifying details to improve accountability and monitor progress toward improved ocean management. Frequent notations on how implementing actions are related to one another provides confidence that activities will be coordinated and make good use of limited resources.

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Sincerely,  
Ms. Felicia Dale

Ms. Louise Simrell  
PO Box 888  
Waialua, HI 96791-0888

Feb 6, 2012

Chairs Nancy Sutley and John Holdren, National Ocean Council

Subject: Strengthen the National Ocean Policy Implementation Plan

Dear Chairs Nancy Sutley and John Holdren, National Ocean Council,

If more isn't done to protect the planet, it will not sustain life.. The draft National Ocean Policy Implementation Plan establishes a strong blueprint for taking action and fostering agency coordination to sustain our ocean, coastal and Great Lakes resources. The draft plan has successfully incorporated the needs and concerns of governmental, non-profit, and commercial groups and provides clarifying details to improve accountability and monitor progress toward improved ocean management. Frequent notations on how implementing actions are related to one another provides confidence that activities will be coordinated and make good use of limited resources.

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Sincerely,  
Ms. Louise Simrell

Ms. Pam Robertson  
PO Box 692  
Toano, VA 23168-0692

Feb 6, 2012

Chairs Nancy Sutley and John Holdren, National Ocean Council

Subject: Strengthen the National Ocean Policy Implementation Plan

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Please, let's not wait. This is so extremely important.

Sincerely,  
Ms. Pam Robertson

Mr. Paul Franzmann  
420 Catherine St Apt 12  
Walla Walla, WA 99362-3192

Feb 6, 2012

Chairs Nancy Sutley and John Holdren, National Ocean Council

Subject: Strengthen the National Ocean Policy Implementation Plan

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Nevertheless, this plan could be significantly improved to achieve even more progress. It should fully utilize all available authorities for habitat protection and management. Many of the milestones should be extended beyond cataloguing and planning to include action, with tangible, on-the-water activities. Regional need, support, and capacity should always guide where coordinated actions should first take place. Federal agencies must continue to ask for input from other levels of the government and the public and incorporate this new information into implementation of the plan.

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Sincerely,  
Mr. Paul Franzmann

Mr. Dale Overman  
3027 Roxborough Park St  
West Valley City, UT 84119-5983

Feb 6, 2012

Chairs Nancy Sutley and John Holdren, National Ocean Council

Subject: Strengthen the National Ocean Policy Implementation Plan

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Our oceans are not cesspools that we can continue to dump trash and poisons into. What we put into the oceans we end up with in our bodies. We as a species have been over fishing as well and damaging the coral reefs. Indeed we are at the crossroads here of killing off and damaging many species on this planet. When we do so we set ourselves up to fail as a species as well. Mankind is part of the natural world, the earth is our home. We need to stop our greedy, arrogant ways or suffer a huge natural disaster.

Sincerely,  
Mr. Dale Overman

Mr. Steven Fenster  
12 Davis St  
Pemberton, NJ 08068-1231

Feb 6, 2012

Chairs Nancy Sutley and John Holdren, National Ocean Council

Subject: Strengthen the National Ocean Policy Implementation Plan

Dear Chairs Nancy Sutley and John Holdren, National Ocean Council,

Having grown up in New Jersey and having frequent family vacations at the shore, I value our oceans.

The draft National Ocean Policy Implementation Plan establishes a strong blueprint for taking action and fostering agency coordination to sustain our ocean, coastal and Great Lakes resources. The draft plan has successfully incorporated the needs and concerns of governmental, non-profit, and commercial groups and provides clarifying details to improve accountability and monitor progress toward improved ocean management. Frequent notations on how implementing actions are related to one another provides confidence that activities will be coordinated and make good use of limited resources.

Nonetheless, the plan could be improved to achieve even more progress. It should more fully utilize all available authorities for habitat protection and management. Many of the milestones could be extended beyond cataloguing and planning to include action, with tangible, on-the-water activities. Regional need, support, and capacity should guide where coordinated actions should first take place. Federal agencies must continue to ask for input from other levels of the government and the public and incorporate this new information into implementation of the plan.

With these additions, President Obama's Implementation Plan will provide a better guide for achieving the goals of protecting, maintaining, and restoring the nation's oceans, coasts, and Great Lakes and ensuring resilient coastal economies. I look forward to the release of the final plan and hope to see policy translated into action on the water soon.

Sincerely,  
Mr. Steven Fenster

Ms. Rebecca Richman  
PO Box 1780  
Parker, CO 80134-1406

Feb 6, 2012

Chairs Nancy Sutley and John Holdren, National Ocean Council

Subject: Strengthen the National Ocean Policy Implementation Plan

Dear Chairs Nancy Sutley and John Holdren, National Ocean Council,

I've written you about several, in fact numerous conservation initiatives, and I hope someday this administration will take heed on what's good for our nation and our environment; be it forest, prairie or aquatic/ocean viability. The draft National Ocean Policy Implementation Plan establishes a strong blueprint for taking action and fostering agency coordination to sustain our ocean, coastal and Great Lakes resources. The draft plan has successfully incorporated the needs and concerns of governmental, non-profit, and commercial groups and provides clarifying details to improve accountability and monitor progress toward improved ocean management. Frequent notations on how implementing actions are related to one another provides confidence that activities will be coordinated and make good use of limited resources.

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Thank you for protecting our nation's ocean ecosystems which so desperately need our help. I ask that you write, informing me about how you intend to take action, which you have yet to do about anything I've written to you in the last three years. And I voted for you!!! Please write me about this critical issue.

Sincerely,  
Ms. Rebecca Richman

Ms. Carmen Benoit  
PO Box 1511  
Port Orchard, WA 98366-0120

Feb 6, 2012

Chairs Nancy Sutley and John Holdren, National Ocean Council

Subject: Strengthen the National Ocean Policy Implementation Plan

Dear Chairs Nancy Sutley and John Holdren, National Ocean Council,

It would be hard to live without the water the ocean, coastal and Great Lakes has. Why shouldn't we take better care of these areas? Humans are the ones that have been polluting it for years. The draft National Ocean Policy Implementation Plan establishes a strong blueprint for taking action and fostering agency coordination to sustain our ocean, coastal and Great Lakes resources. The draft plan has successfully incorporated the needs and concerns of governmental, non-profit, and commercial groups and provides clarifying details to improve accountability and monitor progress toward improved ocean management. Frequent notations on how implementing actions are related to one another provides confidence that activities will be coordinated and make good use of limited resources.

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Sincerely,  
Ms. Carmen Benoit

Ms. Judith Baldwin  
788 Columbus Ave  
New York, NY 10025-5951

Feb 6, 2012

Chairs Nancy Sutley and John Holdren, National Ocean Council

Subject: Strengthen the National Ocean Policy Implementation Plan

Dear Chairs Nancy Sutley and John Holdren, National Ocean Council,

Big fish feed on smaller fish, feeding on smaller fish. You get the picture. It all matter, and so do we.

The draft National Ocean Policy Implementation Plan establishes a strong blueprint for taking action and fostering agency coordination to sustain our ocean, coastal and Great Lakes resources. The draft plan has successfully incorporated the needs and concerns of governmental, non-profit, and commercial groups and provides clarifying details to improve accountability and monitor progress toward improved ocean management. Frequent notations on how implementing actions are related to one another provides confidence that activities will be coordinated and make good use of limited resources.

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Sincerely,  
Ms. Judith Baldwin

Mrs. Rose Defawe  
801 Deercliff Rd NE  
Bainbridge Island, WA 98110-1997

Feb 6, 2012

Chairs Nancy Sutley and John Holdren, National Ocean Council

Subject: Strengthen the National Ocean Policy Implementation Plan

Dear Chairs Nancy Sutley and John Holdren, National Ocean Council,

FIVE of the worlds top endangered species are ocean dwellers!!!! WAKE UP CALL!!!! Plastics, toxins, stormwater runoff, CFO Runoff, leaking septics, OIL SPILLS, when will it stop. Our ocean is not a TOILET. NOW I SAY!!!! JUST DO IT, SAVE THE OCEANS and STAND UP FOR WHAT IS RIGHT. Unless you want to never eat salmon again or see a killer whale in the wild. BE SMART, DO THE RIGHT THING!!!!!!

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Sincerely,  
Mrs. Rose Defawe

Mr. matt miksys  
7s065 Suffield Ct  
Westmont, IL 60559-3055

Feb 6, 2012

Chairs Nancy Sutley and John Holdren, National Ocean Council

Subject: Strengthen the National Ocean Policy Implementation Plan

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Sincerely,  
Mr. matt miksys

Mr. john pasqua  
209w3rdave  
Escondido, CA 92025-4018  
(760) 484-6337

Feb 6, 2012

Chairs Nancy Sutley and John Holdren, National Ocean Council

Subject: Strengthen the National Ocean Policy Implementation Plan

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Sincerely,  
Mr. john pasqua

Ms. Alyson Garvey  
PO Box 18  
Newburg, MO 65550-0018

Feb 6, 2012

Chairs Nancy Sutley and John Holdren, National Ocean Council

Subject: Strengthen the National Ocean Policy Implementation Plan

Dear Chairs Nancy Sutley and John Holdren, National Ocean Council,

Either we take action and undo the terrible damage, or face the wide swath of damage a dying ocean will leave very soon. No more tepid proposals, make it strong and clear an future oriented.

The draft National Ocean Policy Implementation Plan establishes a strong blueprint for taking action and fostering agency coordination to sustain our ocean, coastal and Great Lakes resources. The draft plan has successfully incorporated the needs and concerns of governmental, non-profit, and commercial groups and provides clarifying details to improve accountability and monitor progress toward improved ocean management. Frequent notations on how implementing actions are related to one another provides confidence that activities will be coordinated and make good use of limited resources.

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Sincerely,  
Ms. Alyson Garvey

Mr. Ron Stock  
PO Box 896  
Paso Robles, CA 93447-0896

Feb 6, 2012

Chairs Nancy Sutley and John Holdren, National Ocean Council

Subject: Strengthen the National Ocean Policy Implementation Plan

Dear Chairs Nancy Sutley and John Holdren, National Ocean Council,

The oceans are a LIFE source - without IT being healthy - either are we!!!! The ocean takes up the majority of earths space and we know so little about it, but what we do know is troubling as to how we have treated it in the past and present - it's time to take better care of its inhabitants which in turn will benefit ALL!!!!

The draft National Ocean Policy Implementation Plan establishes a strong blueprint for taking action and fostering agency coordination to sustain our ocean, coastal and Great Lakes resources. The draft plan has successfully incorporated the needs and concerns of governmental, non-profit, and commercial groups and provides clarifying details to improve accountability and monitor progress toward improved ocean management. Frequent notations on how implementing actions are related to one another provides confidence that activities will be coordinated and make good use of limited resources.

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Sincerely,  
Mr. Ron Stock

Mr. michael behrendt  
334 W Hyman Ave  
Aspen, CO 81611-1650

Feb 6, 2012

Chairs Nancy Sutley and John Holdren, National Ocean Council

Subject: Strengthen the National Ocean Policy Implementation Plan

Dear Chairs Nancy Sutley and John Holdren, National Ocean Council,

Having sailed my own vessel around the world for seven years, I am more than aware of the problem we face with our oceans. The draft National Ocean Policy Implementation Plan establishes a strong blueprint for taking action and fostering agency coordination to sustain our ocean, coastal and Great Lakes resources. The draft plan has successfully incorporated the needs and concerns of governmental, non-profit, and commercial groups and provides clarifying details to improve accountability and monitor progress toward improved ocean management. Frequent notations on how implementing actions are related to one another provides confidence that activities will be coordinated and make good use of limited resources.

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Sincerely,  
Mr. michael behrendt

Mrs. Muriel Kotin  
6801 Las Olas Way  
Malibu, CA 90265-4139  
(310) 457-5796

Feb 6, 2012

Chairs Nancy Sutley and John Holdren, National Ocean Council

Subject: Strengthen the National Ocean Policy Implementation Plan

Dear Chairs Nancy Sutley and John Holdren, National Ocean Council,

This message is to ask you to strengthen the draft National Ocean Policy Implementation Plan to create an even stronger blueprint for taking action and fostering agency coordination to sustain our ocean, coastal and Great Lakes resources. The draft plan has successfully incorporated the needs and concerns of governmental, non-profit, and commercial groups and provides clarifying details to improve accountability and monitor progress toward improved ocean management. Frequent notations on how implementing actions are related to one another provides confidence that activities will be coordinated and make good use of limited resources.

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Sincerely,  
Mrs. Muriel Kotin

Ms. Sharon Morris  
23693 Glenbrook Ln  
Hayward, CA 94541-4458

Feb 6, 2012

Chairs Nancy Sutley and John Holdren, National Ocean Council

Subject: Please Strengthen the National Ocean Policy Implementation Plan

Dear Chairs Nancy Sutley and John Holdren, National Ocean Council,

The draft National Ocean Policy Implementation Plan establishes a strong blueprint for acting and fostering agency coordination to sustain our ocean, coastal and Great Lakes resources. The draft plan has successfully incorporated the needs and concerns of governmental, non-profit, and commercial groups and provides clarifying details to improve accountability and to monitor progress toward improved ocean management. Frequent notations on how implementing actions are related to one another provides confidence that activities will be coordinated and will make good use of limited resources.

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Thank you for your careful consideration of these comments.

Sincerely,  
Ms. Sharon Morris

Mr. Dmichael Cervenak  
3933 Centre St.  
p.o. Box 632723, San Diego, CA,  
92163-2723  
San Diego, CA 92103-3410  
(619) 817-8765

Feb 6, 2012

Chairs Nancy Sutley and John Holdren, National Ocean Council

Subject: Strengthen the National Ocean Policy Implementation Plan

Dear Chairs Nancy Sutley and John Holdren, National Ocean Council,

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Kindly do the right thing, Sir, as you can do this. We are one planet, & science must prevail. Greed seems to get us nowhere. We saw that with the Bush years. You are doing such a tremendous amount of work for our country; believe me, we know it. And You & Your Family are greatly appreciated by all of us who believe in your talents as our Commander and Chief.

Nonetheless, the plan could be improved to achieve even more progress. It should more fully utilize all available authorities for habitat protection and management. Many of the milestones could be extended beyond cataloguing and planning to include action, with tangible, on-the-water activities. Regional need, support, and capacity should guide where coordinated actions should first take place. Federal agencies must continue to ask for input from other levels of the government and the public and incorporate this new information into implementation of the plan.

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Sincerely,  
Mr. Dmichael Cervenak

Ms. Carolyn Ricketts  
207 Riverside Rd  
Edgewater, MD 21037-1507

Feb 6, 2012

Chairs Nancy Sutley and John Holdren, National Ocean Council

Subject: Strengthen the National Ocean Policy Implementation Plan

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Nonetheless, the PLAN COULD BE IMPROVED TO ACHIEVE EVEN MORE PROGRESS. IT SHOULD MORE FULLY UTILIZE ALL AVAILABLE AUTHORITIES FOR HABITAT PROTECTION AND MANAGEMENT. Many of the milestones could be extended beyond cataloguing and planning to include action, with tangible, on-the-water activities. Regional need, support, and capacity should guide where coordinated actions should first take place. Federal agencies must continue to ask for input from other levels of the government and the public and incorporate this new information into implementation of the plan.

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Sincerely,  
Ms. Carolyn Ricketts

Ms. Christine Hertzog  
80 Loyola Ave  
Menlo Park, CA 94025-3811

Feb 6, 2012

Chairs Nancy Sutley and John Holdren, National Ocean Council

Subject: Strengthen the National Ocean Policy Implementation Plan

Dear Chairs Nancy Sutley and John Holdren, National Ocean Council,

The draft National Ocean Policy Implementation Plan is a great start, but I have a few suggestions to make it even better.

First, let's engage all resources to manage and protect habitat.  
Second, create milestones that are actionable and include activities on water.  
Third, consider the regional needs and support abilities to prioritize coordinated actions.  
Fourth, ensure that federal agencies continue to obtain feedback from the public as well as other governmental levels for inclusion in the plan.

These changes make the plan stronger and more effective in protecting our oceans. Thank you.

Sincerely,  
Ms. Christine Hertzog

Mrs. Frances Hinckley  
9 Pepper Ave  
Corte Madera, CA 94925-1463

Feb 6, 2012

Chairs Nancy Sutley and John Holdren, National Ocean Council

Subject: Strengthen the National Ocean Policy Implementation Plan

Dear Chairs Nancy Sutley and John Holdren, National Ocean Council,

The NOP was created to "ensure the protection, maintenance, and restoration of the health of ocean, coastal, and Great Lakes ecosystems and resources." Through four key themes--ecosystem-based management; best available science and data; efficiency and collaboration; and strong regional efforts--the policy outlines action that must be taken to protect marine ecosystems and to encourage sustainable ocean uses.

The draft National Ocean Policy Implementation Plan establishes a strong blueprint for taking action and fostering agency coordination to sustain our ocean, coastal and Great Lakes resources. The draft plan has successfully incorporated the needs and concerns of governmental, non-profit, and commercial groups and provides clarifying details to improve accountability and monitor progress toward improved ocean management. Frequent notations on how implementing actions are related to one another provides confidence that activities will be coordinated and make good use of limited resources.

The draft plan is a great start AND could be improved to achieve even more progress. It should more fully utilize all available authorities for habitat protection and management. Many of the milestones could be extended beyond cataloging and planning, to include action, with tangible, on-the-water activities. Regional need, support, and capacity should guide where coordinated actions should first take place. Federal agencies must continue to ask for input from other levels of the government and the public and incorporate this new information into implementation of the plan.

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Again, the draft plan shows a lot of real, thoughtful progress and I hope we can even take it one step further.

Sincerely,  
Mrs. Frances Hinckley

Mr. James Reinke  
2845 Moland St Apt 13  
Madison, WI 53704-4581  
(608) 242-4226

Feb 6, 2012

Chairs Nancy Sutley and John Holdren, National Ocean Council

Subject: Strengthen the National Ocean Policy Implementation Plan

Dear Chairs Nancy Sutley and John Holdren, National Ocean Council,

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Sincerely,  
Mr. James Reinke

Ms. Deborah Newman  
301 E 22nd St  
New York, NY 10010-4816

Feb 6, 2012

Chairs Nancy Sutley and John Holdren, National Ocean Council

Subject: Strengthen the National Ocean Policy Implementation Plan

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Sincerely,  
Ms. Deborah Newman

Ms. Carol Keltner  
1415 W 25th St  
Merced, CA 95340-3454

Feb 6, 2012

Chairs Nancy Sutley and John Holdren, National Ocean Council

Subject: Strengthen the National Ocean Policy Implementation Plan

Dear Chairs Nancy Sutley and John Holdren, National Ocean Council,

Essential in our efforts to save our planet!!!!!!

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Sincerely,  
Ms. Carol Keltner

Dr. Bonny Schumaker  
PO Box 583  
La Canada Flt, CA 91012-0583

Feb 6, 2012

Chairs Nancy Sutley and John Holdren, National Ocean Council

Subject: Please, Strengthen the National Ocean Policy Implementation Plan!

Dear Chairs Nancy Sutley and John Holdren, National Ocean Council,

The draft National Ocean Policy Implementation Plan is a good start, but it's still weak. More can and should be done to protect, manage, and preserve natural habitat. Don't just observe and catalog, implement activities on and around the water as needed. Ask for input from the public and do something with the inputs you receive. If the Gulf of Mexico in the past 18 months is any example, you really need to start listening. The public decried the use of Corexit from the start, and you the government continue to approve it, and ONLY it! You must show better faith with regard to the rest of our oceans, coastlines, and lakes. Let's see some changes for the better, and show us you really mean it!

Thanks,

Bonny L. Schumaker, Ph.D.  
5218 Donna Maria Lane  
La Canada, CA 91011-1740

Sincerely,  
Dr. Bonny Schumaker

Mr. William Wing  
52 Northwood Dr  
West Milford, NJ 07480-3725  
(973) 838-8935

Feb 6, 2012

Chairs Nancy Sutley and John Holdren, National Ocean Council

Subject: Strengthen the National Ocean Policy Implementation Plan

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Sincerely,  
Mr. William Wing

Ms. Donna Fine  
3012 W Coriander Dr  
Tucson, AZ 85741-3658  
(520) 531-9493

Feb 6, 2012

Chairs Nancy Sutley and John Holdren, National Ocean Council

Subject: Please Make the National Ocean Policy Implementation Plan Stronger

Dear Chairs Nancy Sutley and John Holdren, National Ocean Council,

The oceans have suffered greatly due to multiple factors. The draft National Ocean Policy Implementation Plan establishes a strong blueprint for taking action and fostering agency coordination to sustain our ocean, coastal and Great Lakes resources. The draft plan has successfully incorporated the needs and concerns of governmental, non-profit, and commercial groups and provides clarifying details to improve accountability and monitor progress toward improved ocean management. Frequent notations on how implementing actions are related to one another provides confidence that activities will be coordinated and make good use of limited resources.

Nonetheless, the plan could be improved to achieve even more progress. It should more fully utilize all available authorities for habitat protection and management. Many of the milestones could be extended beyond cataloguing and planning to include action, with tangible, on-the-water activities. Regional need, support, and capacity should guide where coordinated actions should first take place. Federal agencies must continue to ask for input from other levels of the government and the public and incorporate this new information into implementation of the plan.

With these additions, President Obama's Implementation Plan will provide a better guide for achieving the goals of protecting, maintaining, and restoring the nation's oceans, coasts, and Great Lakes and ensuring resilient coastal economies. I look forward to the release of the final plan and hope to see policy translated into action on the water soon.

Sincerely,  
Ms. Donna Fine

Mrs. Mary Helen Stephens  
PO Box 1272  
Valdez, AK 99686-1272

Feb 6, 2012

Chairs Nancy Sutley and John Holdren, National Ocean Council

Subject: Strengthen the National Ocean Policy Implementation Plan

Dear Chairs Nancy Sutley and John Holdren, National Ocean Council,

My husband, one daughter and I live in or on coastal Alaska, and believe strongly in good planning for maintaining healthy oceans. The whole environment- wildlife and habitat are important for the diversity of life. Please read the following and act for that environment.

The draft National Ocean Policy Implementation Plan establishes a strong blueprint for taking action and fostering agency coordination to sustain our ocean, coastal and Great Lakes resources. The draft plan has successfully incorporated the needs and concerns of governmental, non-profit, and commercial groups and provides clarifying details to improve accountability and monitor progress toward improved ocean management. Frequent notations on how implementing actions are related to one another provides confidence that activities will be coordinated and make good use of limited resources.

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Sincerely,  
Mrs. Mary Helen Stephens

Ms. Moraima Suarez  
215 21st St  
Brooklyn, NY 11232-1189

Feb 6, 2012

Chairs Nancy Sutley and John Holdren, National Ocean Council

Subject: Strengthen the National Ocean Policy Implementation Plan

Dear Chairs Nancy Sutley and John Holdren, National Ocean Council,

The draft National Ocean Policy Implementation Plan establishes a strong blueprint for taking action and fostering agency coordination to sustain our ocean, coastal, and Great Lakes resources. The draft plan has successfully incorporated the needs and concerns of governmental, non-profit, and commercial groups and provides clarifying details to improve accountability and monitor progress toward improved ocean management. Frequent notations on how implementing actions are related to one another provides confidence that activities will be coordinated and make good use of limited resources.

Nonetheless, the plan could be improved to achieve even more progress. It should more fully utilize all available authorities for habitat protection and management. Many of the milestones could be extended beyond cataloguing and planning to include action with tangible, on-the-water activities. Regional need, support, and capacity should guide where coordinated actions should first take place. Federal agencies must continue to ask for input from other levels of the government and the public and incorporate this new information into implementation of the plan.

With these additions, President Obama's Implementation Plan will provide a better guide for achieving the goals of protecting, maintaining, and restoring the nation's oceans, coasts, and Great Lakes and ensuring resilient coastal economies.

I look forward to the release of the final plan and hope to see policy translated into action on the water soon. Thank you for considering my comments.

Sincerely,  
Ms. Moraima Suarez

Mr. Richard DiMatteo  
236 Kalmia St Apt 107  
San Diego, CA 92101-1541  
619-234-0236

Feb 6, 2012

Chairs Nancy Sutley and John Holdren, National Ocean Council

Subject: Strengthen the National Ocean Policy Implementation Plan

Dear Chairs Nancy Sutley and John Holdren, National Ocean Council,

The draft National Ocean Policy Implementation Plan is a solid start for taking action and coordinating various agencies to sustain our ocean, coastal and Great Lakes resources. It includes the needs and concerns of governmental, non-profit, and commercial groups, clarifying enough details to improve accountability and monitor progress toward improved ocean management. Frequent notations on how implementing actions are related to one another provides confidence that activities will be coordinated and make good use of limited resources.

The plan could be improved, however. It could achieve even more progress, since it could fully utilize all available authorities for habitat protection and management. Many of the milestones could be extended beyond cataloguing and planning to include action, with tangible, on-the-water activities. Regional need, support, and capacity should guide where coordinated actions should first take place. Federal agencies must continue to ask for input from other levels of the government and the public and incorporate this new information into implementation of the plan.

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Sincerely,  
Mr. Richard DiMatteo

Ms. Betty Ramsey  
8217 Cactus Canyon Ct  
Las Vegas, NV 89128-8239

Feb 6, 2012

Chairs Nancy Sutley and John Holdren, National Ocean Council

Subject: Strengthen the National Ocean Policy Implementation Plan

Dear Chairs Nancy Sutley and John Holdren, National Ocean Council,

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With these additions, President Obama's Implementation Plan will provide a better guide for achieving the goals of protecting, maintaining, and restoring the nation's oceans, coasts, and Great Lakes and ensuring resilient coastal economies. I look forward to the release of the final plan and hope to see policy translated into action on the water soon. Having lived the first part of my life in Cleveland, Ohio, when Lake Erie was at its worst, I know first-hand how important it is to keep our waters clean.

Sincerely,  
Ms. Betty Ramsey

Mr. Rick Siegfried  
2125 18th St  
Eureka, CA 95501-2638

Feb 6, 2012

Chairs Nancy Sutley and John Holdren, National Ocean Council

Subject: Strengthen the National Ocean Policy Implementation Plan

Dear Chairs Nancy Sutley and John Holdren, National Ocean Council,

The draft National Ocean Policy Implementation Plan establishes a strong blueprint for taking action and fostering agency coordination to sustain our ocean, coastal and Great Lakes resources. The draft plan has successfully incorporated the needs and concerns of governmental, non-profit, and commercial groups and provides clarifying details to improve accountability and monitor progress toward improved ocean management. Frequent notations on how implementing actions are related to one another provides confidence that activities will be coordinated and make good use of limited resources.

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The plan must be based on science, and corporate influence should be deflected every time. The health of the oceans should trump all corporate and recreational interests.

With these additions, President Obama's Implementation Plan will provide a better guide for achieving the goals of protecting, maintaining, and restoring the nation's oceans, coasts, and Great Lakes and ensuring resilient coastal economies. I look forward to the release of the final plan and hope to see policy translated into action on the water soon.

Sincerely,  
Mr. Rick Siegfried

Dr. Lara Wright, MD  
1165 Santa Fe Ave  
Albany, CA 94706-2343

Feb 6, 2012

Chairs Nancy Sutley and John Holdren, National Ocean Council

Subject: Strengthen the National Ocean Policy Implementation Plan

Dear Chairs Nancy Sutley and John Holdren, National Ocean Council,

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With these additions, President Obama's Implementation Plan will provide a better guide for achieving the goals of protecting, maintaining, and restoring the nation's oceans, coasts, and Great Lakes and ensuring resilient coastal economies.

I look forward to the release of the final plan and hope to see policy translated into action on the water soon.

Sincerely,  
Dr. Lara Wright, MD

Mr. Peter Sweeny  
92 Stephen Dr  
Pleasantville, NY 10570-1824  
(914) 769-7182

Feb 6, 2012

Chairs Nancy Sutley and John Holdren, National Ocean Council

Subject: Strengthen the National Ocean Policy Implementation Plan

Dear Chairs Nancy Sutley and John Holdren, National Ocean Council,

I am writing to strongly support strengthening the proposed National Ocean Policy with the points listed below. I believe it is in the national interest to manage our oceans in the best possible way and stronger habitat protections and management are essential. I have added stars, \*\*\*\*, next to the paragraph outlining strengthened considerations for the policy. Thank you for working to draft the strongest and most effective National Ocean Policy possible.

The draft National Ocean Policy Implementation Plan establishes a strong blueprint for taking action and fostering agency coordination to sustain our ocean, coastal and Great Lakes resources. The draft plan has successfully incorporated the needs and concerns of governmental, non-profit, and commercial groups and provides clarifying details to improve accountability and monitor progress toward improved ocean management. Frequent notations on how implementing actions are related to one another provides confidence that activities will be coordinated and make good use of limited resources.

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Sincerely,  
Mr. Peter Sweeny

Mr. John Walenta  
420 N 39th St Apt 303  
Seattle, WA 98103-8572

Feb 6, 2012

Chairs Nancy Sutley and John Holdren, National Ocean Council

Subject: Strengthen the National Ocean Policy Implementation Plan

Dear Chairs Nancy Sutley and John Holdren, National Ocean Council,

The draft National Ocean Policy Implementation Plan establishes a strong blueprint for taking action and fostering agency coordination to sustain our ocean, coastal and Great Lakes resources. The draft plan has successfully incorporated the needs and concerns of governmental, non-profit, and commercial groups and provides clarifying details to improve accountability and monitor progress toward improved ocean management. Frequent notations on how implementing actions are related to one another provides confidence that activities will be coordinated and make good use of limited resources.

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I have been educating myself about the damages done to oceans and other bodies of water in the name of making money or having fun. I have read Sylvia Earle and Ted Danson's "Oceana." I have learned that most of the damage is below the surface where it cannot be seen. Yet I see plenty of damage when I take a ferry across Puget Sound or go to the ocean beaches. It is vital that the condition of the oceans be improved.

Sincerely,  
Mr. John Walenta

Mr. Andres Roman  
109 W French Pl  
Apt E307  
San Antonio, TX 78212-5813

Feb 6, 2012

Chairs Nancy Sutley and John Holdren, National Ocean Council

Subject: National Ocean Policy

Dear Chairs Nancy Sutley and John Holdren, National Ocean Council,

Act now to strengthen the policies the protect this countries' oceans.

Sincerely,  
Mr. Andres Roman

Mr. Tim Holt  
Via Fabbri 1  
Paciano (PG), CT 06060  
+39 3349207987

Feb 6, 2012

Chairs Nancy Sutley and John Holdren, National Ocean Council

Subject: Strengthen the National Ocean Policy Implementation Plan

Dear Chairs Nancy Sutley and John Holdren, National Ocean Council,

Protection of whales and other cetaceans is of primary importance and NOAA should have a firmer attitude when dealing with the absolute ban on Japanese & Scandinavian whalers.

The draft National Ocean Policy Implementation Plan establishes a strong blueprint for taking action and fostering agency coordination to sustain our ocean, coastal and Great Lakes resources. The draft plan has successfully incorporated the needs and concerns of governmental, non-profit, and commercial groups and provides clarifying details to improve accountability and monitor progress toward improved ocean management. Frequent notations on how implementing actions are related to one another provides confidence that activities will be coordinated and make good use of limited resources.

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Sincerely,  
Mr. Tim Holt

Ms. Patricia Orlinski  
10511 W Kingswood Cir  
Sun City, AZ 85351-2246  
(623) 876-1525

Feb 6, 2012

Chairs Nancy Sutley and John Holdren, National Ocean Council

Subject: Strengthen the National Ocean Policy Implementation Plan

Dear Chairs Nancy Sutley and John Holdren, National Ocean Council,

I am a retired Elementary teacher. I spent many years exploring the ocean life on videos with my students. Keeping our oceans clean and healthy is enormously important to me. The draft National Ocean Policy Implementation Plan establishes a strong blueprint for taking action and fostering agency coordination to sustain our ocean, coastal and Great Lakes resources. The draft plan has successfully incorporated the needs and concerns of governmental, non-profit, and commercial groups and provides clarifying details to improve accountability and monitor progress toward improved ocean management. Frequent notations on how implementing actions are related to one another provides confidence that activities will be coordinated and make good use of limited resources.

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Sincerely,  
Ms. Patricia Orlinski

Dr. Karla McNamara  
155 McCartney Ln  
Baden, PA 15005-2827  
(724) 933-0128

Feb 6, 2012

Chairs Nancy Sutley and John Holdren, National Ocean Council

Subject: Strengthen the National Ocean Policy Implementation Plan

Dear Chairs Nancy Sutley and John Holdren, National Ocean Council,

The draft National Ocean Policy Implementation Plan establishes a strong blueprint for taking action and fostering agency coordination to sustain our ocean, coastal and Great Lakes resources. The draft plan has successfully incorporated the needs and concerns of governmental, non-profit, and commercial groups and provides clarifying details to improve accountability and monitor progress toward improved ocean management. Frequent notations on how implementing actions are related to one another provides confidence that activities will be coordinated and make good use of limited resources.

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The Ocean is our cradle as well. We ruin it, we ruin life on earth for all.

Sincerely,  
Dr. Karla McNamara

Mrs. Kathy Shimata  
3453 Pawaina St  
Honolulu, HI 96822-1356

Feb 6, 2012

Chairs Nancy Sutley and John Holdren, National Ocean Council

Subject: Strengthen the National Ocean Policy Implementation Plan

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Sincerely,  
Mrs. Kathy Shimata

Ms. Lys Burden  
310 Willow St  
Port Townsend, WA 98368-6417  
(350) 385-4881

Feb 6, 2012

Chairs Nancy Sutley and John Holdren, National Ocean Council

Subject: Strengthen the National Ocean Policy Implementation Plan

Dear Chairs Nancy Sutley and John Holdren, National Ocean Council,

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Sincerely,  
Ms. Lys Burden

Ms. Dee Grimsrud  
309 N Brearly St  
Madison, WI 53703-1601

Feb 6, 2012

Chairs Nancy Sutley and John Holdren, National Ocean Council

Subject: Strengthen the National Ocean Policy Implementation Plan

Dear Chairs Nancy Sutley and John Holdren, National Ocean Council,

**PLEASE CONTINUE TO STAND STRONG ON PROPOSED LAWS AND REGULATIONS THAT  
WOULD THREATEN OUR ECOLOGY!**

The draft National Ocean Policy Implementation Plan establishes a strong blueprint for taking action and fostering agency coordination to sustain our ocean, coastal and Great Lakes resources. The draft plan has successfully incorporated the needs and concerns of governmental, non-profit, and commercial groups and provides clarifying details to improve accountability and monitor progress toward improved ocean management. Frequent notations on how implementing actions are related to one another provides confidence that activities will be coordinated and make good use of limited resources.

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Sincerely,  
Ms. Dee Grimsrud

Mrs. Gaile Carr  
1821 Eddy Dr  
Mount Shasta, CA 96067-9617  
(530) 926-4923

Feb 6, 2012

Chairs Nancy Sutley and John Holdren, National Ocean Council

Subject: Strengthen the National Ocean Policy Implementation Plan

Dear Chairs Nancy Sutley and John Holdren, National Ocean Council,

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Sincerely,  
Mrs. Gaile Carr

Ms. Deidre Moderacki  
626 E 14th St  
Apt 10  
New York, NY 10009-3319

Feb 6, 2012

Chairs Nancy Sutley and John Holdren, National Ocean Council

Subject: Strengthen the National Ocean Policy Implementation Plan

Dear Chairs Nancy Sutley and John Holdren, National Ocean Council,

Our oceans are already declining from a variety uncontrolled toxic pollutants. Can you take the lead in their rehabilitation?

Please strengthen the draft National Ocean Policy Implementation Plan to include action of protecting, maintaining, and restoring our oceans, coasts and Great Lakes resources.

Sincerely,  
Ms. Deidre Moderacki

Mrs. Jennifer Schultz  
56 Edgebrook Est Apt 7  
Buffalo, NY 14227-2028  
(716) 683-2628

Feb 6, 2012

Chairs Nancy Sutley and John Holdren, National Ocean Council

Subject: Strengthen the National Ocean Policy Implementation Plan

Dear Chairs Nancy Sutley and John Holdren, National Ocean Council,

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We need to protect our oceans. daily, oceans become more acidified and more destruciton. no pipeline and no drilling.

Sincerely,  
Mrs. Jennifer Schultz

Mr. Kraig Schweiss  
19720 Pennington Rd  
Sterling, IL 61081-9517

Feb 7, 2012

Chairs Nancy Sutley and John Holdren, National Ocean Council

Subject: Strengthen the National Ocean Policy Implementation Plan

Dear Chairs Nancy Sutley and John Holdren, National Ocean Council,

The draft National Ocean Policy Implementation Plan establishes a strong blueprint for taking action and fostering agency coordination to sustain our ocean, coastal, and Great Lakes' resources. The draft plan has successfully incorporated the needs and concerns of governmental, non-profit, and commercial groups and provides clarifying details to improve accountability and monitor progress toward improved ocean management. Frequent notations on how implementing actions are related to one another provides confidence that activities will be coordinated and make good use of limited resources.

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Sincerely,  
Mr. Kraig Schweiss

Mr. Randy Juras  
14351 S Oak Trl  
Homer Glen, IL 60491-5966

Feb 7, 2012

Chairs Nancy Sutley and John Holdren, National Ocean Council

Subject: Strengthen the National Ocean Policy Implementation Plan

Dear Chairs Nancy Sutley and John Holdren, National Ocean Council,

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We are fighting very hard to stop the Keystone pipeline, so we also need to fight to save our Oceans. If we, the Tree Huggers and the public, do not write in support of these issues, who will???

Not the GOP! And especially not the Tea Party!!!

Sincerely,  
Mr. Randy Juras

Mr. Edward Johnson  
PO Box 241  
449 Elkland Crt.  
Cannon Beach, OR 97110-0241

Feb 7, 2012

Chairs Nancy Sutley and John Holdren, National Ocean Council

Subject: Strengthen the National Ocean Policy Implementation Plan

Dear Chairs Nancy Sutley and John Holdren, National Ocean Council,

I am encouraged that a plan is evolving that would promote a sustainable ocean. As one who has long advocated a healthy ocean this action plan can not be implemented too soon.

Edward Johnson  
PO Box 241  
Cannon Beach, OR. 97110

Sincerely,  
Mr. Edward Johnson

Mr. Vu Nguyen  
18415 Fairwood Meadow Ct  
Houston, TX 77084-1996

Feb 7, 2012

Chairs Nancy Sutley and John Holdren, National Ocean Council

Subject: Please Strengthen the National Ocean Policy Implementation Plan

Dear Chairs Nancy Sutley and John Holdren, National Ocean Council,

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With these additions, President Obama's Implementation Plan will provide a better guide for achieving the goals of protecting, maintaining, and restoring the nation's oceans, coasts, and Great Lakes and ensuring resilient coastal economies. And please support American and communities to build and advance democratic, inclusive, free, universal human rights, open/fair/just/decent, empathetic and meaningful societies to advance global collective social accountability and responsibility, the common and greater good and well being of people, families and communities and the essence of being and humanity.

Sincerely,  
Mr. Vu Nguyen

Mr. C Soraghan  
4366 Saratoga Ave  
San Diego, CA 92107-2336

Feb 7, 2012

Chairs Nancy Sutley and John Holdren, National Ocean Council

Subject: Strengthen the National Ocean Policy Implementation Plan

Dear Chairs Nancy Sutley and John Holdren, National Ocean Council,

The draft National Ocean Policy Implementation Plan establishes a strong blueprint for taking action and fostering agency coordination to sustain our ocean, coastal and Great Lakes resources. The draft plan has successfully incorporated the needs and concerns of governmental, non-profit, and commercial groups and provides clarifying details to improve accountability and monitor progress toward improved ocean management. Frequent notations on how implementing actions are related to one another provides confidence that activities will be coordinated and make good use of limited resources.

Nonetheless, the plan could be improved to achieve even more progress. It should more fully utilize all available authorities for habitat protection and management. Many of the milestones could be extended beyond cataloguing and planning to include action, with tangible, on-the-water activities. Regional need, support, and capacity should guide where coordinated actions should first take place. Federal agencies must continue to ask for input from other levels of the government and the public and incorporate this new information into implementation of the plan.

With these additions, President Obama's Implementation Plan will provide a better guide for achieving the goals of protecting, maintaining, and restoring the nation's oceans, coasts, and Great Lakes and ensuring resilient coastal economies. I look forward to the release of the final plan and hope to see policy translated into action on the water soon.

PLEASE PROTECT OUR OCEANS & STRENGTHEN THE NATIONAL OCEAN POLICY IMPLEMENTATION PLAN. THANK YOU.

Sincerely,  
Mr. C Soraghan

Mr. arlie siebert  
50447 Hays Beach Rd  
Scotland, MD 20687-3415

Feb 7, 2012

Chairs Nancy Sutley and John Holdren, National Ocean Council

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While I am not sure it belongs in the plan, I am outraged by Japan's exploitation of the whales and tunas in the oceans. This greedy county encourages the stripping of oceans for 40 dollars a bite of sushi. They kill whales under false pretenses and in violation of international treaties. America's plans should incorporate the strongest political strictures on Japan for their killing and denuding the oceans of all of our resources. If you think about it this is a longer term threat to all mankind than the Iranian nuke program. Yet we do nothing about Japan and concentrate all our diplomatic efforts on Iran.

With these additions, President Obama's Implementation Plan will provide a better guide for achieving the goals of protecting, maintaining, and restoring the nation's oceans, coasts, and Great Lakes and ensuring resilient coastal economies. I look forward to the release of the final plan and hope to see policy translated into action on the water soon.

Sincerely,  
Mr. arlie siebert

Ms. Amy Harlib  
212 W 22nd St Apt 2n  
New York, NY 10011-2707  
(212) 989-8217

Feb 7, 2012

Chairs Nancy Sutley and John Holdren, National Ocean Council

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**STOP ALL OIL DRILLING IN THE OCEAN! STOP OVER-FISHING! STOP DUMPING GARBAGE IN THE OCEAN! REDUCE, RE-USE, RECYCLE AND LIVE SUSTAINABLY!**

Nonetheless, the plan could be improved to achieve even more progress. It should more fully utilize all available authorities for habitat protection and management. Many of the milestones could be extended beyond cataloguing and planning to include action, with tangible, on-the-water activities. Regional need, support, and capacity should guide where coordinated actions should first take place. Federal agencies must continue to ask for input from other levels of the government and the public and incorporate this new information into implementation of the plan.

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Sincerely,  
Ms. Amy Harlib

Mr. Scott Korman  
20 Linford Rd  
Great Neck, NY 11021-4929

Feb 7, 2012

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Sincerely,  
Mr. Scott Korman

Miss Ginger Neimo  
Adelaide  
Adelaide, IA 50072

Feb 7, 2012

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Thankyou, Ginger

Sincerely,  
Miss Ginger Neimo

Dr. Edith Borie  
604 S Washington Sq Ofc  
Philadelphia, PA 19106-4119  
(215) 627-7478

Feb 7, 2012

Chairs Nancy Sutley and John Holdren, National Ocean Council

Subject: Strengthen the National Ocean Policy Implementation Plan

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Four concepts--ecosystem-based management; best available science and data; efficiency and collaboration; and strong regional efforts--must be integrated to protect marine ecosystems and to encourage sustainable ocean uses. Frequent notations on how implementing actions are related to one another provides confidence that activities will be coordinated and make good use of limited resources.

Nonetheless, the plan could be improved to achieve even more progress. It should more fully utilize all available authorities for habitat protection and management. This will require more interagency cooperation than is currently foreseen. Many of the milestones could be extended beyond cataloguing and planning to include action, with tangible, on-the-water activities. Regional need, support, and capacity should guide where coordinated actions should first take place. Federal agencies must continue to ask for input from other levels of the government and the public and incorporate this new information into implementation of the plan.

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Sincerely,  
Dr. Edith Borie

Mr. Vincent Seiwel  
543 Main St  
Sugar Notch, PA 18706-2124

Feb 7, 2012

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Our Country should take the lead to ensure our oceans stay vital. It takes the lead on many destructive wars. Let's use our stature for taking care of our planet.

Sincerely,  
Mr. Vincent Seiwel

Ms. JINNY LEE  
402 Centre St  
Melrose, FL 32666-3950

Feb 7, 2012

Chairs Nancy Sutley and John Holdren, National Ocean Council

Subject: Strengthen the National Ocean Policy Implementation Plan

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Sincerely,  
Ms. JINNY LEE

Ms. Syreeta Batiste  
8710 Independence Ave  
Apt 104  
Canoga Park, CA 91304-2067

Feb 7, 2012

Chairs Nancy Sutley and John Holdren, National Ocean Council

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Sincerely,  
Ms. Syreeta Batiste

Ms. Judith Frey  
15 Abingdon Sq  
New York, NY 10014-1837

Feb 7, 2012

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If we don't act to protect our oceans they will become so polluted with trash and acidification fish and marine life will not be able to exist.

Sincerely,  
Ms. Judith Frey

Mrs. Margaret Wood  
213 Jennifer Ct  
Suffolk, VA 23434-2076

Feb 7, 2012

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Sincerely,  
Mrs. Margaret Wood

Mrs. Lisa Phillips  
4742 Sherman Hills Pkwy  
Jacksonville, FL 32210-0431

Feb 7, 2012

Chairs Nancy Sutley and John Holdren, National Ocean Council

Subject: Strengthen the National Ocean Policy Implementation Plan

Dear Chairs Nancy Sutley and John Holdren, National Ocean Council,

For so many reasons, our waters must be protected. The draft National Ocean Policy Implementation Plan establishes a strong blueprint for taking action and fostering agency coordination to sustain our ocean, coastal and Great Lakes resources. The draft plan has successfully incorporated the needs and concerns of governmental, non-profit, and commercial groups and provides clarifying details to improve accountability and monitor progress toward improved ocean management. Frequent notations on how implementing actions are related to one another provides confidence that activities will be coordinated and make good use of limited resources.

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Sincerely,  
Mrs. Lisa Phillips

Mrs. Nancy Lonsdale  
218 Papillon Dr  
Swansea, IL 62226-1061

Feb 7, 2012

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Protect the oceans for our children and grandchildren.

Sincerely,  
Mrs. Nancy Lonsdale

Ms. Kitty Hugenschmidt  
6825 Woodcreek Pl  
Colorado Springs, CO 80918-4633

Feb 7, 2012

Chairs Nancy Sutley and John Holdren, National Ocean Council

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The important thing to remember here is: WITHOUT A RIGHT ACTION - NOW - IN THE PRESENT, THERE WILL BE NOTHING RIGHT IN THE FUTURE.

Sincerely,  
Ms. Kitty Hugenschmidt

Dr. Timothy Schacht  
1330 Whittier Rd  
Grosse Pointe Park, MI 48230-1114

Feb 7, 2012

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Sincerely,  
Dr. Timothy Schacht

Mr. Seth Merritt  
116 Flintlock Rd  
Williamsburg, VA 23185-5364

Feb 7, 2012

Chairs Nancy Sutley and John Holdren, National Ocean Council

Subject: Please strengthen the National Ocean Policy Implementation Plan

Dear Chairs Nancy Sutley and John Holdren, National Ocean Council,

The draft National Ocean Policy Implementation Plan is a good start. However, the plan could be improved, in order to further safeguard precious natural resources, such as the Great Lakes and the Chesapeake Bay. The plan should more fully utilize all available authorities for habitat protection and management. Many of the milestones could be extended to include action, with tangible, on-the-water activities. Regional need, support, and capacity should guide where coordinated actions should first take place. Federal agencies must continue to ask for input from other levels of the government and the public and incorporate this new information into implementation of the plan.

For example, in the Chesapeake Bay, the Virginia Institute for Marine Science needs at least one new research vessel to keep up with mandated measurements, and monitor important changes in aquatic life, pollutant levels, parasites that impact commercial fisheries, and other key indicators. Funding for similar research vessels and other infrastructure could be part of the Implementation Plan, based on requests and input from VIMS and other organizations.

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Sincerely,  
Mr. Seth Merritt

Ms. Joscelyn Blumenthal  
1162 Cherryvale Rd  
Boulder, CO 80303-1302

Feb 7, 2012

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Please stop draining the Great Lakes simply to enhance bottled water companies' profits. Please don't let Shell drill off the coast of ANWR; the chance of a spill is great and the hopes for a clean up in such cold water is nil. Please regulate off-shore drilling and dumping of waste. Please don't let the fracking pollute underground aquifers.

Humankind simply can't survive without fresh water. It's imperative you help protect the oceans and not sell them off for the short-term profits of corporations.

Sincerely,  
Ms. Joscelyn Blumenthal

Mrs. Gerald & Margaret Schuth  
60 Brookline Dr  
Clifton Park, NY 12065-1133

Feb 7, 2012

Chairs Nancy Sutley and John Holdren, National Ocean Council

Subject: Strengthen the National Ocean Policy Implementation Plan

Dear Chairs Nancy Sutley and John Holdren, National Ocean Council,

We cannot continue to ravage our environment and leave anything of natural value for posterity. We enjoy today what many before us protected and cherished. We must do as much or more!!

The draft National Ocean Policy Implementation Plan establishes a strong blueprint for taking action and fostering agency coordination to sustain our ocean, coastal and Great Lakes resources. The draft plan has successfully incorporated the needs and concerns of governmental, non-profit, and commercial groups and provides clarifying details to improve accountability and monitor progress toward improved ocean management. Frequent notations on how implementing actions are related to one another provides confidence that activities will be coordinated and make good use of limited resources.

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Sincerely,  
Mrs. Gerald & Margaret Schuth

Mr. Gary Swanson  
25425 Swiftshore Dr  
West Linn, OR 97068-4331

Feb 7, 2012

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We must begin to turn back the damage we have created in the worlds oceans and this is a logical and well thought out first step.

Consider the impact on future generations of not taking this opportunity to do the right thing now!

Sincerely,  
Mr. Gary Swanson

Ms. Mary-Anne Young  
22 Lucille Dr  
Asheville, NC 28805-9772

Feb 7, 2012

Chairs Nancy Sutley and John Holdren, National Ocean Council

Subject: Strengthen the National Ocean Policy Implementation Plan

Dear Chairs Nancy Sutley and John Holdren, National Ocean Council,

"Out of sight, out of mind" is a phrase that springs to mind when I read of issues that address the waters of this planet. People can't actually see the damage we are doing to the marine life so they just don't think about it.

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Sincerely,  
Ms. Mary-Anne Young

Ms. Marcia Halligan  
S4001 River Rd  
Viroqua, WI 54665-8121  
(608) 637-2079

Feb 7, 2012

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Sincerely,  
Ms. Marcia Halligan

Ms. Joan Dobkin  
2243 N Summit Ave  
Milwaukee, WI 53202-1245

Feb 7, 2012

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Subject: Strengthen the National Ocean Policy Implementation Plan

Dear Chairs Nancy Sutley and John Holdren, National Ocean Council,

The draft National Ocean Policy Implementation Plan establishes a strong blueprint for taking action and fostering agency coordination to sustain our ocean, coastal and Great Lakes resources. The draft plan has successfully incorporated the needs and concerns of governmental, non-profit, and commercial groups and provides clarifying details to improve accountability and monitor progress toward improved ocean management. Frequent notations on how implementing actions are related to one another provides confidence that activities will be coordinated and make good use of limited resources.

Nonetheless, the plan could be improved to achieve even more progress and I sincerely hope that it will be. It should more fully utilize all available authorities for habitat protection and management. Many of the milestones could be extended beyond cataloguing and planning to include action, with tangible, on-the-water activities. Regional need, support, and capacity should guide where coordinated actions should first take place. Federal agencies must continue to ask for input from other levels of the government and the public and incorporate this new information into implementation of the plan.

With these additions, President Obama's Implementation Plan will provide a better guide for achieving the goals of protecting, maintaining, and restoring the nation's oceans, coasts, and Great Lakes and ensuring resilient coastal economies. I look forward to the release of the final plan and hope to see policy translated into action on the water soon.

Sincerely,  
Ms. Joan Dobkin

Ms. Renee Weiss  
4040 N Sheridan Rd  
Apt 705  
Chicago, IL 60613-5454

Feb 7, 2012

Chairs Nancy Sutley and John Holdren, National Ocean Council

Subject: Strengthen the National Ocean Policy Implementation Plan

Dear Chairs Nancy Sutley and John Holdren, National Ocean Council,

The draft National Ocean Policy Implementation Plan establishes a strong blueprint for taking action and fostering agency coordination to sustain our ocean, coastal and Great Lakes resources. The draft plan has successfully incorporated the needs and concerns of governmental, non-profit, and commercial groups and provides clarifying details to improve accountability and monitor progress toward improved ocean management. Frequent notations on how implementing actions are related to one another provides confidence that activities will be coordinated and make good use of limited resources.

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Sincerely,  
Ms. Renee Weiss

Ms. Grace Adams  
406 Valley St # 3  
Willimantic, CT 06226-2006  
(999) 999-9999

Feb 7, 2012

Chairs Nancy Sutley and John Holdren, National Ocean Council

Subject: Strengthen the National Ocean Policy Implementation Plan

Dear Chairs Nancy Sutley and John Holdren, National Ocean Council,

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With these additions, President Obama's Implementation Plan will provide a better guide for achieving the goals of protecting, maintaining, and restoring the nation's oceans, coasts, and Great Lakes and ensuring resilient coastal economies. I look forward to the release of the final plan and hope to see policy translated into action on the water soon.

Fine rhetoric. Action PLEASE. It remains to be seen how much you manage to accomplish for fish and their neighbors.

Sincerely,  
Ms. Grace Adams

Ms. Sandra J. Carrubba  
200 E Hazeltine Ave  
Buffalo, NY 14217-2802

Feb 7, 2012

Chairs Nancy Sutley and John Holdren, National Ocean Council

Subject: Strengthen the National Ocean Policy Implementation Plan

Dear Chairs Nancy Sutley and John Holdren, National Ocean Council,

The draft National Ocean Policy Implementation Plan establishes a strong blueprint for taking action and fostering agency coordination to sustain our ocean, coastal and Great Lakes resources. The draft plan has successfully incorporated the needs and concerns of governmental, non-profit, and commercial groups and provides clarifying details to improve accountability and monitor progress toward improved ocean management. Frequent notations on how implementing actions are related to one another provides confidence that activities will be coordinated and make good use of limited resources. Everyone knows our oceans are under stress. The Great Lakes are threatened by invasive species and climate change altering the water levels.

Nonetheless, the plan could be improved to achieve even more progress. It should more fully utilize all available authorities for habitat protection and management. Many of the milestones could be extended beyond cataloguing and planning to include action, with tangible, on-the-water activities. Regional need, support, and capacity should guide where coordinated actions should first take place. Federal agencies must continue to ask for input from other levels of the government and the public and incorporate this new information into implementation of the plan.

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Sincerely,  
Ms. Sandra J. Carrubba

Ms. Wendy Fast  
8406 Green Rd  
Dansville, NY 14437-9140

Feb 7, 2012

Chairs Nancy Sutley and John Holdren, National Ocean Council

Subject: Strengthen the National Ocean Policy Implementation Plan

Dear Chairs Nancy Sutley and John Holdren, National Ocean Council,

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I want my grandchildren to live in a sustainable world. Please help us get there.

Sincerely,  
Ms. Wendy Fast

Ms. Anne Harbut  
436 S Paseo Cerro  
Unit C  
Green Valley, AZ 85614-0994

Feb 7, 2012

Chairs Nancy Sutley and John Holdren, National Ocean Council

Subject: Strengthen the National Ocean Policy Implementation Plan

Dear Chairs Nancy Sutley and John Holdren, National Ocean Council,

The draft National Ocean Policy Implementation Plan establishes a strong blueprint for taking action and fostering agency coordination to sustain our ocean, coastal and Great Lakes resources. The draft plan has successfully incorporated the needs and concerns of governmental, non-profit, and commercial groups and provides clarifying details to improve accountability and monitor progress toward improved ocean management. Frequent notations on how implementing actions are related to one another provides confidence that activities will be coordinated and make good use of limited resources.

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I would very much appreciate any efforts you may make regarding this issue.

Sincerely,  
Ms. Anne Harbut

Ms. Joyce Weir  
PO Box 973  
Newport, WA 99156-0973

Feb 7, 2012

Chairs Nancy Sutley and John Holdren, National Ocean Council

Subject: Strengthen the National Ocean Policy I

Dear Chairs Nancy Sutley and John Holdren, National Ocean Council,

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Sincerely,  
Ms. Joyce Weir

Ms. Therese MacKenzie  
7040 N Sheridan Rd  
Apt 503  
Chicago, IL 60626-2947  
(773) 262-1863

Feb 7, 2012

Chairs Nancy Sutley and John Holdren, National Ocean Council

Subject: Strengthen the National Ocean Policy Implementation Plan

Dear Chairs Nancy Sutley and John Holdren, National Ocean Council,

During the past few years I have become newly aware of the importance of healthy oceans on all of the planet. I strongly, even passionately, support taking action and fostering agency coordination to sustain our ocean, coastal and Great Lakes resources.

I live in Chicago and see the damage done to Lake Michigan by industries that do not make connections. Your draft plan has successfully incorporated the needs and concerns of governmental, non-profit, and commercial groups and provides clarifying details to improve accountability and monitor progress toward improved ocean management. Frequent notations on how implementing actions are related to one another provides confidence that activities will be coordinated and make good use of limited resources.

Suggestion: include action, with tangible, on-the-water activities. Regional need, support, and capacity should guide where coordinated actions should first take place. Federal agencies must continue to ask for input from other levels of the government and the public and incorporate this new information into implementation of the plan.

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Sincerely,  
Ms. Therese MacKenzie

Mrs. Sarah Reid  
105 Sheldon Rd  
Ithaca, NY 14850-2501

Feb 7, 2012

Chairs Nancy Sutley and John Holdren, National Ocean Council

Subject: Strengthen the National Ocean Policy Implementation Plan

Dear Chairs Nancy Sutley and John Holdren, National Ocean Council,

The draft National Ocean Policy Implementation Plan establishes a strong blueprint for taking action and fostering agency coordination to sustain our ocean, coastal and Great Lakes resources. The draft plan has successfully incorporated the needs and concerns of governmental, non-profit, and commercial groups and provides clarifying details to improve accountability and monitor progress toward improved ocean management. Frequent notations on how implementing actions are related to one another provides confidence that activities will be coordinated and make good use of limited resources.

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**WHY MUST PROPOSED LAWS ALWAYS BE REGRESSIVE? IT'S A WASTE OF OUR TAXPAYERS' MONEY AND A WASTE OF CONGRESS' TIME. ONCE GOOD LEGISLATION IS PASSED, LET'S STICK WITH IT - OR IMPROVE IT. NO MORE WASTE AND NO MORE DAMAGE TO OUR PRECIOUS, LIFE-SUPPORTING ENVIRONMENT.**

Sincerely,  
Mrs. Sarah Reid

Mrs. Maria Paez  
8443 64th Rd Apt 46b  
Middle Village, NY 11379-2404

Feb 7, 2012

Chairs Nancy Sutley and John Holdren, National Ocean Council

Subject: Very Important: Strengthen the National Ocean Policy Implementation Plan

Dear Chairs Nancy Sutley and John Holdren, National Ocean Council,

The draft National Ocean Policy Implementation Plan establishes a strong blueprint for taking action and fostering agency coordination to sustain our ocean, coastal and Great Lakes resources. The draft plan has successfully incorporated the needs and concerns of governmental, non-profit, and commercial groups and provides clarifying details to improve accountability and monitor progress toward improved ocean management. Frequent notations on how implementing actions are related to one another provides confidence that activities will be coordinated and make good use of limited resources.

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With these additions, President Obama's Implementation Plan will provide a better guide for achieving the goals of protecting, maintaining, and restoring the nation's oceans, coasts, and Great Lakes and ensuring resilient coastal economies.

I look forward to the release of the final plan and hope to see policy translated into action on the water soon.

Sincerely,  
Mrs. Maria Paez

Dr. Jed Fuhrman  
21587 Encina Rd  
Topanga, CA 90290-3523

Feb 7, 2012

Chairs Nancy Sutley and John Holdren, National Ocean Council

Subject: Strengthen the National Ocean Policy Implementation Plan

Dear Chairs Nancy Sutley and John Holdren, National Ocean Council,

I have been a professor of Oceanography for over 30 years (Ph.D. Scripps Institution of Oceanography 1981, Endowed Chair, USC). I agree that the draft National Ocean Policy Implementation Plan establishes a strong blueprint for taking action and fostering agency coordination to sustain our ocean, coastal and Great Lakes resources. The draft plan has successfully incorporated the needs and concerns of governmental, non-profit, and commercial groups and provides clarifying details to improve accountability and monitor progress toward improved ocean management. Frequent notations on how implementing actions are related to one another provides confidence that activities will be coordinated and make good use of limited resources.

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Sincerely,  
Dr. Jed Fuhrman

Mr. Dick Reiss  
827 Harold Ave  
Kent, OH 44240-2132

Feb 7, 2012

Chairs Nancy Sutley and John Holdren, National Ocean Council

Subject: Strengthen the National Ocean Policy Implementation Plan

Dear Chairs Nancy Sutley and John Holdren, National Ocean Council,

The draft National Ocean Policy Implementation Plan establishes a strong blueprint for taking action and fostering agency coordination to sustain our ocean, coastal and Great Lakes resources. The draft plan has successfully incorporated the needs and concerns of governmental, non-profit, and commercial groups and provides clarifying details to improve accountability and monitor progress toward improved ocean management. Frequent notations on how implementing actions are related to one another provides confidence that activities will be coordinated and make good use of limited resources.

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Sincerely,  
Mr. Dick Reiss

Mr. Michael Guyette  
1100 Whitehead St  
Key West, FL 33040-7593

Feb 7, 2012

Chairs Nancy Sutley and John Holdren, National Ocean Council

Subject: Strengthen the National Ocean Policy Implementation Plan

Dear Chairs Nancy Sutley and John Holdren, National Ocean Council,

The draft National Ocean Policy Implementation Plan establishes a strong blueprint for taking action and fostering agency coordination to sustain our ocean, coastal and Great Lakes resources. The draft plan has successfully incorporated the needs and concerns of governmental, non-profit, and commercial groups and provides clarifying details to improve accountability and monitor progress toward improved ocean management. Frequent notations on how implementing actions are related to one another provides confidence that activities will be coordinated and make good use of limited resources.

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Sincerely,  
Mr. Michael Guyette

Mr. Gary Lee  
90 Big Chief St  
Palm Springs, CA 92264-2714

Feb 7, 2012

Chairs Nancy Sutley and John Holdren, National Ocean Council

Subject: National Ocean Policy Implementation Plan

Dear Chairs Nancy Sutley and John Holdren, National Ocean Council,

The draft of the National Ocean Policy Implementation Plan establishes a strong blueprint for taking action and fostering agency coordination to sustain our ocean, coastal and Great Lakes resources. The draft plan has successfully incorporated the needs and concerns of governmental, non-profit, and commercial groups and provides clarifying details to improve accountability and monitor progress toward improved ocean management.

Nonetheless, the plan could be improved to achieve even more progress. It should more fully utilize all available authorities for habitat protection and management. Federal agencies must continue to ask for input from other levels of the government and the public and incorporate this new information into implementation of the plan.

With these additions, President Obama's Implementation Plan will provide a better guide for achieving the goals of protecting, maintaining, and restoring the nation's oceans, coasts, and Great Lakes and ensuring resilient coastal economies. I look forward to the release of the final plan and hope to see policy translated into action on the water soon.

Sincerely,  
Mr. Gary Lee

Ms. Norma Campbell  
37 Decorah Ln  
Campbell, CA 95008-2424

Feb 7, 2012

Chairs Nancy Sutley and John Holdren, National Ocean Council

Subject: Strengthen the National Ocean Policy Implementation Plan

Dear Chairs Nancy Sutley and John Holdren, National Ocean Council,

The draft National Ocean Policy Implementation Plan establishes a strong blueprint for taking action and fostering agency coordination to sustain our ocean, coastal and Great Lakes resources.

However this plan could be improved to achieve even more progress. It should more fully utilize all available authorities for habitat protection and management. Many of the milestones could be extended beyond cataloguing and planning to include action, with tangible, on-the-water activities. Regional need, support, and capacity should guide where coordinated actions should first take place. Federal agencies must continue to ask for input from other levels of the government and the public and incorporate this new information into implementation of the plan.

With these additions, President Obama's Implementation Plan will provide a better guide for achieving the goals of protecting, maintaining, and restoring the nation's oceans, coasts, and Great Lakes and ensuring resilient coastal economies. I look forward to the release of the final plan and hope to see policy translated into action on the water soon.

Sincerely,  
Ms. Norma Campbell

Dr. Howard Wilshire  
3727 Burnside Rd  
Sebastopol, CA 95472-9459

Feb 7, 2012

Chairs Nancy Sutley and John Holdren, National Ocean Council

Subject: Strengthen the National Ocean Policy Implementation Plan

Dear Chairs Nancy Sutley and John Holdren, National Ocean Council,

As a scientist with a lifetime dedication to taking care of the planet on which we live, I strongly endorse creation of a strong conservation policy for protection of the oceans on which we are utterly dependent for our survival.

The draft National Ocean Policy Implementation Plan is a big step in the right direction, but it can be improved by more fully utilizing all available authorities for habitat protection and management. Many of the milestones can be strengthened by planning to include action, with tangible, on-the-water activities. Regional need, support, and capacity should guide where coordinated actions should first take place. Federal agencies must continue to ask for input from other levels of the government and the public and incorporate this new information into implementation of the plan.

With these additions, President Obama's Implementation Plan will provide a better guide for achieving the goals of protecting, maintaining, and restoring the nation's oceans, coasts, and Great Lakes and ensuring resilient coastal economies. I look forward to the release of the final plan and hope to see policy translated into action on the water soon.

Sincerely,  
Dr. Howard Wilshire

Ms. Holly Windle  
3521 Aldrich Ave S  
Minneapolis, MN 55408-4149

Feb 7, 2012

Chairs Nancy Sutley and John Holdren, National Ocean Council

Subject: Make the National Ocean Policy Implementation Plan Even Stronger

Dear Chairs Nancy Sutley and John Holdren, National Ocean Council,

I am pleased to see the progress on the draft National Ocean Policy Implementation Plan. It establishes a strong blueprint for taking action and fostering agency coordination to sustain our ocean, coastal and Great Lakes resources.

However, I urge you to make it even stronger by including more tangible, on-the water activities as specific milestones of progress. Regional need, support, and capacity should guide where coordinated actions should first take place. The plan could also strengthen inter-agency cooperation. Frequent notations on how implementing actions are related to one another provides confidence that activities will be coordinated and make good use of limited resources.

This document is a powerful step toward protecting and improving our nation's oceans, coasts, and Great Lakes -- while ensuring resilient coastal economies. I look forward to the release of the final plan and hope to see policy translated into action on the water soon.

Sincerely,  
Ms. Holly Windle

Mr. Fendrick Smith  
12 Lakeshore Dr  
Shalimar, FL 32579-2210

Feb 7, 2012

Chairs Nancy Sutley and John Holdren, National Ocean Council

Subject: Strengthen the National Ocean Policy Implementation Plan

Dear Chairs Nancy Sutley and John Holdren, National Ocean Council,

The draft National Ocean Policy Implementation Plan establishes a strong blueprint for taking action and fostering agency coordination to sustain our ocean, coastal and Great Lakes resources. The draft plan has successfully incorporated the needs and concerns of governmental, non-profit, and commercial groups and provides clarifying details to improve accountability and monitor progress toward improved ocean management. Frequent notations on how implementing actions are related to one another provides confidence that activities will be coordinated and make good use of limited resources.

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With these additions, the Implementation Plan will provide a better guide for achieving the goals of protecting, maintaining, and restoring the nation's oceans, coasts, and Great Lakes and ensuring resilient coastal economies. I look forward to the release of the final plan and hope to see policy translated into action on the water soon.

Sincerely,  
Mr. Fendrick Smith

Mrs. Melanie Griffith  
514 W 28th St  
Cedar Falls, IA 50613-5085

Feb 7, 2012

Chairs Nancy Sutley and John Holdren, National Ocean Council

Subject: Strengthen the National Ocean Policy Implementation Plan

Dear Chairs Nancy Sutley and John Holdren, National Ocean Council,

The draft National Ocean Policy Implementation Plan should more fully utilize all available authorities for habitat protection and management. Many of the milestones should include action, with tangible, on-the-water activities. Regional need, support, and capacity should guide where coordinated actions should first take place. Federal agencies must continue to ask for input from other levels of the government and the public and incorporate this new information into implementation of the plan.

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Sincerely,  
Mrs. Melanie Griffith

Mr. Tom McCarter  
765 E Meadow Dr  
Palo Alto, CA 94303-4438

Feb 7, 2012

Chairs Nancy Sutley and John Holdren, National Ocean Council

Subject: Strengthen the National Ocean Policy Implementation Plan

Dear Chairs Nancy Sutley and John Holdren, National Ocean Council,

We've been kicking the responsibility for managing our oceans down the road for too long. As a result, some of our major fish stocks have been depleted, some almost to the point of no return. If we don't act now, it may be too late. It may already be too late, but we could go down trying.

The draft National Ocean Policy Implementation Plan establishes a strong blueprint for taking action and fostering agency coordination to sustain our ocean, coastal and Great Lakes resources. The draft plan has successfully incorporated the needs and concerns of governmental, non-profit, and commercial groups and provides clarifying details to improve accountability and monitor progress toward improved ocean management. Frequent notations on how implementing actions are related to one another provides confidence that activities will be coordinated and make good use of limited resources.

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Sincerely,  
Mr. Tom McCarter

Mr. Mark Feldman  
n/a  
n/a, CA 95401-9137

Feb 7, 2012

Chairs Nancy Sutley and John Holdren, National Ocean Council

Subject: STRENGTHEN THE NATIONAL OCEAN POLICY IMPLEMENTATION PLAN

Dear Chairs Nancy Sutley and John Holdren, National Ocean Council,

The draft National Ocean Policy Implementation Plan establishes a strong blueprint for taking action and fostering agency coordination TO SUSTAIN our ocean, coastal and Great Lakes resources. The draft plan has successfully incorporated the needs and concerns of governmental, non-profit, and commercial groups and provides clarifying details to improve accountability and monitor progress toward improved ocean management. Frequent notations on how implementing actions are related to one another provides confidence that activities will be coordinated and make good use of limited resources.

Nonetheless, the plan SHOULD BE IMPROVED to achieve even more progress. It should more fully utilize all available authorities for habitat protection and management. Many of the milestones could be extended beyond cataloguing and planning to include action, with tangible, on-the-water activities. Regional need, support, and capacity should guide where coordinated actions should first take place. Federal agencies must continue to ask for input from other levels of the government and the public and incorporate this new information into implementation of the plan.

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Sincerely,  
Mr. Mark Feldman

Mrs. Margie Rhodes  
6917 Guy Johnson Ln  
Raleigh, NC 27603-8385

Feb 7, 2012

Chairs Nancy Sutley and John Holdren, National Ocean Council

Subject: Strengthen the National Ocean Policy Implementation Plan

Dear Chairs Nancy Sutley and John Holdren, National Ocean Council,

I've made my living for the past 25 years as a diver. Leading recreational trips to attractive sites, teaching scuba, and promoting the beauty and need for education to understand the jewels we have, just below the surface. While this has been an excellent experience, it has also meant witnessing the destruction of life and water quality in the oceans. Year after year.

Please include actions to take that will help our oceans survive. Educate the people. They are largely ignorant of the damage they've done, continue to do. Most people believe that the ocean is so large 'it'll take care of itself'. They fail to understand the destructive ability of our species.

The draft National Ocean Policy Implementation Plan establishes a strong blueprint for taking action and fostering agency coordination to sustain our ocean, coastal and Great Lakes resources.

Nonetheless, the plan could be improved to achieve even more progress. It should more fully utilize all available authorities for habitat protection and management. Many of the milestones could be extended beyond cataloging and planning to include action.

With these additions, President Obama's Implementation Plan will provide a better guide for achieving the goals of protecting, maintaining, and restoring the nation's oceans, coasts, and Great Lakes and ensuring resilient coastal economies. I look forward to the release of the final plan and hope to see policy translated into action on the water soon. Thank you for your efforts.

Sincerely,  
Mrs. Margie Rhodes

Miss Felicia Hoeniger  
PO Box 269  
193 Clatter Valley Road,  
Bridgewater, CT 06752-0269

Feb 7, 2012

Chairs Nancy Sutley and John Holdren, National Ocean Council

Subject: Strengthen the National Ocean Policy Implementation Plan

Dear Chairs Nancy Sutley and John Holdren, National Ocean Council,

This is so critically important, please give it your attention.

The draft National Ocean Policy Implementation Plan establishes a strong blueprint for taking action and fostering agency coordination to sustain our ocean, coastal and Great Lakes resources. The draft plan has successfully incorporated the needs and concerns of governmental, non-profit, and commercial groups and provides clarifying details to improve accountability and monitor progress toward improved ocean management. Frequent notations on how implementing actions are related to one another provides confidence that activities will be coordinated and make good use of limited resources.

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Sincerely,  
Miss Felicia Hoeniger

Ms. Lee Pesce  
201 Physics Bldg.  
Syracuse, NY 13244-0001

Feb 7, 2012

Chairs Nancy Sutley and John Holdren, National Ocean Council

Subject: Strengthen the National Ocean Policy Implementation Plan

Dear Chairs Nancy Sutley and John Holdren, National Ocean Council,

All ecosystems are an integral part of sustaining life on this planet, including mankind's!

The draft National Ocean Policy Implementation Plan establishes a strong blueprint for taking action and fostering agency coordination to sustain our ocean, coastal and Great Lakes resources. The draft plan has successfully incorporated the needs and concerns of governmental, non-profit, and commercial groups and provides clarifying details to improve accountability and monitor progress toward improved ocean management. Frequent notations on how implementing actions are related to one another provides confidence that activities will be coordinated and make good use of limited resources.

Nonetheless, the plan could be improved to achieve even more progress. It should more fully utilize all available authorities for habitat protection and management. Many of the milestones could be extended beyond cataloguing and planning to include action, with tangible, on-the-water activities. Regional need, support, and capacity should guide where coordinated actions should first take place. Federal agencies must continue to ask for input from other levels of the government and the public and incorporate this new information into implementation of the plan.

With these additions, President Obama's Implementation Plan will provide a better guide for achieving the goals of protecting, maintaining, and restoring the nation's oceans, coasts, and Great Lakes and ensuring resilient coastal economies. I look forward to the release of the final plan and hope to see policy translated into action on the water soon.

Sincerely,  
Ms. Lee Pesce

Mrs. Ruth Meyer  
143 Daniels Hill Rd  
Keene, NH 03431-5704

Feb 7, 2012

Chairs Nancy Sutley and John Holdren, National Ocean Council

Subject: Strengthen the National Ocean Policy Implementation Plan

Dear Chairs Nancy Sutley and John Holdren, National Ocean Council,

I must admit to getting increasingly frustrated and fatigued to have to appeal so often for things that are so obvious.

The draft National Ocean Policy Implementation Plan establishes a strong blueprint for taking action and fostering agency coordination to sustain our ocean, coastal and Great Lakes resources. The draft plan has successfully incorporated the needs and concerns of governmental, non-profit, and commercial groups and provides clarifying details to improve accountability and monitor progress toward improved ocean management. Frequent notations on how implementing actions are related to one another provides confidence that activities will be coordinated and make good use of limited resources.

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Sincerely,  
Mrs. Ruth Meyer

Mr. Wayne B. Peters  
4340 S 68th St  
Greenfield, WI 53220-3428

Feb 7, 2012

Chairs Nancy Sutley and John Holdren, National Ocean Council

Subject: Strengthen the National Ocean Policy Implementation Plan

Dear Chairs Nancy Sutley and John Holdren, National Ocean Council,

We must do whatever we can to protect our nation's waters. The draft National Ocean Policy Implementation Plan establishes a strong blueprint for taking action and fostering agency coordination to sustain our ocean, coastal and Great Lakes resources. The draft plan has successfully incorporated the needs and concerns of governmental, non-profit, and commercial groups and provides clarifying details to improve accountability and monitor progress toward improved ocean management. Frequent notations on how implementing actions are related to one another provides confidence that activities will be coordinated and make good use of limited resources.

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Sincerely,  
Mr. Wayne B. Peters

Ms. Matilda essig  
PO Box 625  
Sonoita, AZ 85637-0625

Feb 7, 2012

Chairs Nancy Sutley and John Holdren, National Ocean Council

Subject: Strengthen the National Ocean Policy Implementation Plan

Dear Chairs Nancy Sutley and John Holdren, National Ocean Council,

LISTEN TO THESE WISE WORDS:

The draft National Ocean Policy Implementation Plan establishes a strong blueprint for taking action and fostering agency coordination to sustain our ocean, coastal and Great Lakes resources. The draft plan has successfully incorporated the needs and concerns of governmental, non-profit, and commercial groups and provides clarifying details to improve accountability and monitor progress toward improved ocean management. Frequent notations on how implementing actions are related to one another provides confidence that activities will be coordinated and make good use of limited resources.

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With these additions, President Obama's Implementation Plan will provide a better guide for achieving the goals of protecting, maintaining, and restoring the nation's oceans, coasts, and Great Lakes and ensuring resilient coastal economies. I look forward to the release of the final plan and hope to see policy translated into action on the water soon.

Sincerely,  
Ms. Matilda essig

Mrs. sheryl Sussbauer  
10401 County Road 17  
Longmont, CO 80504-9441

Feb 7, 2012

Chairs Nancy Sutley and John Holdren, National Ocean Council

Subject: Strengthen the National Ocean Policy Implementation Plan

Dear Chairs Nancy Sutley and John Holdren, National Ocean Council,

I am a Colorado resident who is very concerned about the constant threats to our environment. Our oceans are being polluted and unsustainably fished. For this and more reasons, we need a stonger Ocean Policy Plan.

The draft National Ocean Policy Implementation Plan establishes a strong blueprint for taking action and fostering agency coordination to sustain our ocean, coastal and Great Lakes resources. The draft plan has successfully incorporated the needs and concerns of governmental, non-profit, and commercial groups and provides clarifying details to improve accountability and monitor progress toward improved ocean management. Frequent notations on how implementing actions are related to one another provides confidence that activities will be coordinated and make good use of limited resources.

Nonetheless, the plan could be improved to achieve even more progress. It should more fully utilize all available authorities for habitat protection and management. Many of the milestones could be extended beyond cataloguing and planning to include action, with tangible, on-the-water activities. Regional need, support, and capacity should guide where coordinated actions should first take place. Federal agencies must continue to ask for input from other levels of the government and the public and incorporate this new information into implementation of the plan.

With these additions, President Obama's Implementation Plan will provide a better guide for achieving the goals of protecting, maintaining, and restoring the nation's oceans, coasts, and Great Lakes and ensuring resilient coastal economies. I look forward to the release of the final plan and hope to see policy translated into action on the water soon.

Sincerely,  
Mrs. sheryl Sussbauer

Ms. Sharie Foster  
7617 Kyle St  
Tujunga, CA 91042-1625

Feb 7, 2012

Chairs Nancy Sutley and John Holdren, National Ocean Council

Subject: Strengthen the National Ocean Policy Implementation Plan

Dear Chairs Nancy Sutley and John Holdren, National Ocean Council,

**WARNING! OUR OCEANS ARE OUR FOOD BASKET. WE MUST PROTECT THEM.**

The draft National Ocean Policy Implementation Plan establishes a strong blueprint for taking action and fostering agency coordination to sustain our ocean, coastal and Great Lakes resources. Nonetheless, the Plan should more fully utilize all available authorities for habitat protection and management. Many of the benefits of the Plan could be extended far beyond cataloguing and planning, to include ACTION, with tangible, on-the-water protective regulations and activities.

With these additions, President Obama's Implementation Plan will provide a better guide for achieving the goals of protecting, maintaining, and restoring the nation's oceans, coasts, and Great Lakes, ensuring resilient coastal economies, and feeding everyone who depends on them with pure, clean food.

I look forward to the release of the final Plan and hope to see policy translated into ACTION on the water soon.

Sincerely,  
Ms. Sharie Foster

Mr. David Donofrio  
2011 W Cleveland St  
Tampa, FL 33606-1756

Feb 7, 2012

Chairs Nancy Sutley and John Holdren, National Ocean Council

Subject: WEAKEN ----- the National Ocean Policy Implementation Plan

Dear Chairs Nancy Sutley and John Holdren, National Ocean Council,

The NOP Plan IS A FARSE, BASED ON BIASED SCIENCE ESTABLISHED BY THOSE SEEKING TO OBTAIN POWER THROUGH MANIPULATED AND UNSUPPORTABLE DATA.

For over 25 years I have been a recreational fisherman, scuba diver and spearfisherman residing in Tampa FLorida. I have never seen more fish of all species, particularly red snapper, sharks, red, gag and especially Goliath Grouper as I have witnessed in the last three years.

The most substantive action you could take is open a Goliath Grouper season as this species has gotten out of control in the Gulf of Mexico.

Incorporating NOP will destroy the recreational boating and fishing industries, benefitting a few greedy insiders in the name of CONSERVATION. Like the vast majority of boaters and fisherman, I do not want depleted fisheries, to the contrary, I want a healthy, robust environment both ecologically and economically, however, ringing a false bell to further a corrupt cause as NOP is not a solution but the problem.

Sincerely,  
Mr. David Donofrio

Ms. J. Capozzelli  
315 W 90th St  
New York, NY 10024-1646

Feb 7, 2012

Chairs Nancy Sutley and John Holdren, National Ocean Council

Subject: Please Strengthen the National Ocean Policy Implementation Plan

Dear Chairs Nancy Sutley and John Holdren, National Ocean Council,

The draft National Ocean Policy Implementation Plan establishes a strong blueprint for taking action and fostering agency coordination to sustain our ocean, coastal and Great Lakes resources.

The draft plan has successfully incorporated the needs and concerns of governmental, non-profit, and commercial groups and provides clarifying details to improve accountability and monitor progress toward improved ocean management. Frequent notations on how implementing actions are related to one another provide confidence that activities will be coordinated and make good use of limited resources.

However the plan could be improved to achieve even more progress: It should more fully utilize all available authorities for habitat protection and management.

Many of the milestones could be extended beyond cataloguing and planning to include action, with tangible, on-the-water activities.

Regional need, support, and capacity should guide where coordinated actions should first take place.

Federal agencies must continue to ask for input from other levels of the government and the public and incorporate this new information into implementation of the plan.

With these additions, President Obama's Implementation Plan will provide a better guide for achieving the goals of protecting, maintaining, and restoring our nation's oceans, coasts, and Great Lakes and ensuring resilient coastal economies.

The NOP was created to "ensure the protection, maintenance, and restoration of the health of ocean, coastal, and Great Lakes ecosystems and resources."

Thank you for your consideration of my comments. I hope to see policy translated into action on the water soon.

Sincerely,  
Ms. J. Capozzelli

Ms. Rachael Denny  
4082 Interlake Rd  
Bradley, CA 93426-6933  
(805) 472-9036

Feb 7, 2012

Chairs Nancy Sutley and John Holdren, National Ocean Council

Subject: Strengthen the National Ocean Policy Implementation Plan

Dear Chairs Nancy Sutley and John Holdren, National Ocean Council,

The draft National Ocean Policy Implementation Plan establishes a strong blueprint for taking action and fostering agency coordination to sustain our ocean, coastal and Great Lakes resources. The draft plan has successfully incorporated the needs and concerns of governmental, non-profit, and commercial groups and provides clarifying details to improve accountability and monitor progress toward improved ocean management. Frequent notations on how implementing actions are related to one another provides confidence that activities will be coordinated and make good use of limited resources.

Nonetheless, the plan could be improved to achieve even more progress. It should more fully utilize all available authorities for habitat protection and management. Many of the milestones could be extended beyond cataloguing and planning to include action, with tangible, on-the-water activities. Regional need, support, and capacity should guide where coordinated actions should first take place. Federal agencies must continue to ask for input from other levels of the government and the public and incorporate this new information into implementation of the plan.

With these additions, President Obama's Implementation Plan will provide a better guide for achieving the goals of protecting, maintaining, and restoring the nation's oceans, coasts, and Great Lakes and ensuring resilient coastal economies. I look forward to the release of the final plan and hope to see policy translated into action on the water soon. Thank you.

Sincerely,  
Ms. Rachael Denny

Ms. Janice Carduner  
79 Pines Edge Dr  
Northampton, MA 01060-1562

Feb 7, 2012

Chairs Nancy Sutley and John Holdren, National Ocean Council

Subject: Strengthen the National Ocean Policy Implementation Plan

Dear Chairs Nancy Sutley and John Holdren, National Ocean Council,

The draft National Ocean Policy Implementation Plan establishes a strong blueprint for taking action and fostering agency coordination to sustain our ocean, coastal and Great Lakes resources.

The plan could be improved to achieve even more progress. Briefly, it should:

1. Be sure to utilize all available authorities for habitat protection and management.
2. Extend milestones beyond cataloguing and planning -- to include ACTION, with tangible, on-the-water activities.
3. Assess regional need, support, and capacity to determine where coordinated actions should first take place.

Thank you for considering these ideas.

Sincerely,  
Ms. Janice Carduner

Mr. DAVID THUROW  
991 Nennig Rd  
Neenah, WI 54956-1211

Feb 7, 2012

Chairs Nancy Sutley and John Holdren, National Ocean Council

Subject: Strengthen the National Ocean Policy Implementation Plan

Dear Chairs Nancy Sutley and John Holdren, National Ocean Council,

The draft National Ocean Policy Implementation Plan establishes a strong blueprint for taking action and fostering agency coordination to sustain our ocean, coastal and Great Lakes resources. The draft plan has successfully incorporated the needs and concerns of governmental, non-profit, and commercial groups and provides clarifying details to improve accountability and monitor progress toward improved ocean management. Frequent notations on how implementing actions are related to one another provides confidence that activities will be coordinated and make good use of limited resources.

Nonetheless, the plan could be improved to achieve even more progress. I am especially concerned about Asian carp reaching the Great Lakes. It should more fully utilize all available authorities for habitat protection and management. Many of the milestones could be extended beyond cataloging and planning to include action, with tangible, on-the-water activities. Regional need, support, and capacity should guide where coordinated actions should first take place. Federal agencies must continue to ask for input from other levels of the government and the public and incorporate this new information into implementation of the plan.

With these additions, President Obama's Implementation Plan will provide a better guide for achieving the goals of protecting, maintaining, and restoring the nation's oceans, coasts, and Great Lakes and ensuring resilient coastal economies. I look forward to the release of the final plan and hope to see policy translated into action on the water soon.

Sincerely,  
Mr. DAVID THUROW

Mr. Roger Kofler  
17177 SE Jennings Crest Ln  
Portland, OR 97267-6365

Feb 7, 2012

Chairs Nancy Sutley and John Holdren, National Ocean Council

Subject: Strengthen the National Ocean Policy Implementation Plan

Dear Chairs Nancy Sutley and John Holdren, National Ocean Council,

The draft National Ocean Policy Implementation Plan establishes a strong blueprint for taking action and fostering agency coordination to sustain our ocean, coastal and Great Lakes resources. Frequent notations on how implementing actions are related to one another provides confidence that activities will be coordinated and make good use of limited resources.

Regional need, support, and capacity should guide where coordinated actions should first take place. Federal agencies must continue to ask for input from other levels of the government and the public and incorporate this new information into implementation of the plan.

I look forward to the release of the final plan and hope to see policy translated into action on the water soon.

Sincerely,  
Mr. Roger Kofler

Ms. Natalie Houghton  
Woods Trl  
Prescott, AZ 86305

Feb 7, 2012

Chairs Nancy Sutley and John Holdren, National Ocean Council

Subject: Strengthen the National Ocean Policy Implementation Plan

Dear Chairs Nancy Sutley and John Holdren, National Ocean Council,

The draft National Ocean Policy Implementation Plan establishes a strong blueprint for taking action and fostering agency coordination to sustain our ocean, coastal and Great Lakes resources. This plan has incorporated needs and concerns of governmental, non-profit, and commercial groups, and provides clarifying details to improve accountability and monitor progress toward improved ocean management. Frequent notations on how implementing actions are related to one another provide confidence that activities will be coordinated and make good use of limited resources.

Even so, the plan could be improved. It should more fully utilize all available authorities for habitat protection and management. Many of the milestones could be extended beyond cataloguing and planning to include action, with tangible, on-the-water activities. Regional need, support, and capacity should guide where coordinated actions should first take place. Federal agencies must continue to ask for input from other levels of the government AND the public, incorporating new information into implementation of the plan.

With these additions, President Obama's Implementation Plan will provide a better guide for achieving the protection, maintenance, and restoration of the nation's oceans, coasts, and Great Lakes, and ensuring resilient coastal economies. I look forward to the release of the final plan and hope to see policy translated into action on the water soon.

Sincerely,  
Ms. Natalie Houghton

Mr. William Underwood  
4465 Black Diamond Dr  
Sparks, NV 89436-2625

Feb 7, 2012

Chairs Nancy Sutley and John Holdren, National Ocean Council

Subject: Strengthen the National Ocean Policy Implementation Plan

Dear Chairs Nancy Sutley and John Holdren, National Ocean Council,

The draft National Ocean Policy Implementation Plan establishes a strong blueprint for taking action and fostering agency coordination to sustain our ocean, coastal and Great Lakes resources. The draft plan has successfully incorporated the needs and concerns of governmental, non-profit, and commercial groups and provides clarifying details to improve accountability and monitor progress toward improved ocean management. Frequent notations on how implementing actions are related to one another provides confidence that activities will be coordinated and make good use of limited resources.

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With these additions, President Obama's Implementation Plan will provide a better guide for achieving the goals of protecting, maintaining, and restoring the nation's oceans, coasts, and Great Lakes and ensuring resilient coastal economies. I look forward to the release of the final plan and hope to see policy translated into action on the water soon.

Sincerely,  
Mr. William Underwood

Mrs. Deborah Gordon-Brown  
10 Linden Ln  
Kingston, NY 12401-7867

Feb 7, 2012

Chairs Nancy Sutley and John Holdren, National Ocean Council

Subject: Strengthen the National Ocean Policy Implementation Plan

Dear Chairs Nancy Sutley and John Holdren, National Ocean Council,

I have been watching the decline of oceans and sounds, bays and inlets for decades now. I am fully behind the request this petition makes. There is no more time. There is no going back. There has been too much permanent damage already.

The draft National Ocean Policy Implementation Plan establishes a strong blueprint for taking action and fostering agency coordination to sustain our ocean, coastal and Great Lakes resources. The draft plan has successfully incorporated the needs and concerns of governmental, non-profit, and commercial groups and provides clarifying details to improve accountability and monitor progress toward improved ocean management. Frequent notations on how implementing actions are related to one another provides confidence that activities will be coordinated and make good use of limited resources.

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Sincerely,  
Mrs. Deborah Gordon-Brown

Ms. Shelli Schmidt  
223 S Main St Apt 4f  
Aberdeen, SD 57401-4260

Feb 7, 2012

Chairs Nancy Sutley and John Holdren, National Ocean Council

Subject: Strengthen the National Ocean Policy Implementation Plan

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Sincerely,  
Ms. Shelli Schmidt

Mrs. Jacquie Hoggard  
40 Ridgewood Pkwy  
Newport News, VA 23608-1925  
(757) 874-2297

Feb 7, 2012

Chairs Nancy Sutley and John Holdren, National Ocean Council

Subject: Strengthen the National Ocean Policy Implementation Plan

Dear Chairs Nancy Sutley and John Holdren, National Ocean Council,

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With these additions, President Obama's Implementation Plan will provide a better guide for achieving the goals of protecting, maintaining, and restoring the nation's oceans, coasts, and Great Lakes and ensuring resilient coastal economies. I look forward to the release of the final plan and hope to see policy translated into action on the water soon.

It would also be helpful of the Arctic Ocean were also included! The dangers there are unbelievable!

Sincerely,  
Mrs. Jacquie Hoggard

Mr. Terrence and Elizabeth McCloskey  
1602 Michigan Ave  
Laporte, IN 46350-5214

Feb 7, 2012

Chairs Nancy Sutley and John Holdren, National Ocean Council

Subject: Strengthen the National Ocean Policy Implementation Plan

Dear Chairs Nancy Sutley and John Holdren, National Ocean Council,

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With these additions, President Obama's Implementation Plan will provide a better guide for achieving the goals of protecting, maintaining, and restoring the nation's oceans, coasts, and Great Lakes and ensuring resilient coastal economies.

We look forward to the release of the final plan and hope to see policy translated into action on the water soon.

Thank you for this opportunity to provide comments.

Sincerely,  
Mr. Terrence and Elizabeth McCloskey

Ms. Rosemary Ahtuanguak  
PO Box 843  
Barrow, AK 99723-0843

Feb 7, 2012

Chairs Nancy Sutley and John Holdren, National Ocean Council

Subject: Strengthen the National Ocean Policy Implementation Plan

Dear Chairs Nancy Sutley and John Holdren, National Ocean Council,

We have depended on the ocean and the sustenance from our foods to live in the Arctic. We need a clean ocean to eat our foods safely. The importance of our health and traditional and cultural activities are part of this policy. Keep the Arctic ocean from losing species as other oceans are already doing. Our government failed to protect other oceans and need to make this policy strong to give us hope we will continue our traditional and cultural uses for our health depends on it as other natives in the nation have proven.

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With these additions, President Obama's Implementation Plan will provide a better guide for achieving the goals of protecting, maintaining, and restoring the nation's oceans, coasts, and Great Lakes and ensuring resilient coastal economies. I look forward to the release of the final plan and hope to see policy translated into action on the water soon.

Sincerely,  
Ms. Rosemary Ahtuanguak

Ms. Donna Dennison  
4224 Woodridge Blvd  
Indianapolis, IN 46205-2962

Feb 7, 2012

Chairs Nancy Sutley and John Holdren, National Ocean Council

Subject: Strengthen the National Ocean Policy Implementation Plan

Dear Chairs Nancy Sutley and John Holdren, National Ocean Council,

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With these additions, President Obama's Implementation Plan will provide a better guide for achieving the goals of protecting, maintaining, and restoring the nation's oceans, coasts, and Great Lakes and ensuring resilient coastal economies. I look forward to the release of the final plan and hope to see policy translated into action on the water soon.

Thank you for your time and assistance in this matter it is greatly appreciated.

Sincerely,  
Ms. Donna Dennison

Ms. Kelley Cathcart  
148 Cummings Hill Rd  
Plymouth, NH 03264-4201  
(603) 254-9511

Feb 7, 2012

Chairs Nancy Sutley and John Holdren, National Ocean Council

Subject: Strengthen the National Ocean Policy Implementation Plan

Dear Chairs Nancy Sutley and John Holdren, National Ocean Council,

There are many different elements in our world and the ocean is pretty near the most precious to life. The draft National Ocean Policy Implementation Plan establishes a strong blueprint for taking action and fostering agency coordination to sustain our ocean, coastal and Great Lakes resources. The draft plan has successfully incorporated the needs and concerns of governmental, non-profit, and commercial groups and provides clarifying details to improve accountability and monitor progress toward improved ocean management. Frequent notations on how implementing actions are related to one another provides confidence that activities will be coordinated and make good use of limited resources.

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With these additions, President Obama's Implementation Plan will provide a better guide for achieving the goals of protecting, maintaining, and restoring the nation's oceans, coasts, and Great Lakes and ensuring resilient coastal economies. I look forward to the release of the final plan and hope to see policy translated into action on the water soon.

Sincerely,  
Ms. Kelley Cathcart

Dr. Rodney Patterson  
5 Miller Rd  
Canaan, NY 12029-2600

Feb 7, 2012

Chairs Nancy Sutley and John Holdren, National Ocean Council

Subject: Strengthen the National Ocean Policy Implementation Plan

Dear Chairs Nancy Sutley and John Holdren, National Ocean Council,

Please implement the OPIP. It's vitally necessary for national ecosystem health.

The draft National Ocean Policy Implementation Plan establishes a strong blueprint for taking action and fostering agency coordination to sustain our ocean, coastal and Great Lakes resources. The draft plan has successfully incorporated the needs and concerns of governmental, non-profit, and commercial groups and provides clarifying details to improve accountability and monitor progress toward improved ocean management. Frequent notations on how implementing actions are related to one another provides confidence that activities will be coordinated and make good use of limited resources.

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With these additions, President Obama's Implementation Plan will provide a better guide for achieving the goals of protecting, maintaining, and restoring the nation's oceans, coasts, and Great Lakes and ensuring resilient coastal economies. I look forward to the release of the final plan and hope to see policy translated into action on the water soon.

Sincerely,  
Dr. Rodney Patterson

Ms. Marisa Morales  
202 Ran Rd  
Leander, TX 78641-7862  
(512) 986-0970

Feb 7, 2012

Chairs Nancy Sutley and John Holdren, National Ocean Council

Subject: Strengthen the National Ocean Policy Implementation Plan

Dear Chairs Nancy Sutley and John Holdren, National Ocean Council,

The draft National Ocean Policy Implementation Plan establishes a strong blueprint for taking action and fostering agency coordination to sustain our ocean, coastal and Great Lakes resources. The draft plan has successfully incorporated the needs and concerns of governmental, non-profit, and commercial groups and provides clarifying details to improve accountability and monitor progress toward improved ocean management. Frequent notations on how implementing actions are related to one another provides confidence that activities will be coordinated and make good use of limited resources.

Nonetheless, the plan could be improved to achieve even more progress. It should more fully utilize all available authorities for habitat protection and management. Many of the milestones could be extended beyond cataloguing and planning to include action, with tangible, on-the-water activities. Regional need, support, and capacity should guide where coordinated actions should first take place. Federal agencies must continue to ask for input from other levels of the government and the public and incorporate this new information into implementation of the plan.

With these additions, President Obama's Implementation Plan will provide a better guide for achieving the goals of protecting, maintaining, and restoring the nation's oceans, coasts, and Great Lakes and ensuring resilient coastal economies. I look forward to the release of the final plan and hope to see policy translated into action on the water soon.

Sincerely,  
Marisa Morales  
Leander TX 78641

Sincerely,  
Ms. Marisa Morales

Ms. Mary Micek  
15840 E LEVY ST  
WILLISTON, FL 32696-9066  
(352) 256-6167

Feb 7, 2012

Chairs Nancy Sutley and John Holdren, National Ocean Council

Subject: Strengthen the National Ocean Policy Implementation Plan

Dear Chairs Nancy Sutley and John Holdren, National Ocean Council,

Something's got to give! The draft National Ocean Policy Implementation Plan establishes a strong blueprint for taking action and fostering agency coordination to sustain our ocean, coastal and Great Lakes resources. The draft plan has successfully incorporated the needs and concerns of governmental, non-profit, and commercial groups and provides clarifying details to improve accountability and monitor progress toward improved ocean management. Frequent notations on how implementing actions are related to one another provides confidence that activities will be coordinated and make good use of limited resources.

Nonetheless, the plan could be improved to achieve even more progress. It should more fully utilize all available authorities for habitat protection and management. Many of the milestones could be extended beyond cataloguing and planning to include action, with tangible, on-the-water activities. Regional need, support, and capacity should guide where coordinated actions should first take place. Federal agencies must continue to ask for input from other levels of the government and the public and incorporate this new information into implementation of the plan.

With these additions, President Obama's Implementation Plan will provide a better guide for achieving the goals of protecting, maintaining, and restoring the nation's oceans, coasts, and Great Lakes and ensuring resilient coastal economies. I look forward to the release of the final plan and hope to see policy translated into action on the water soon.

Sincerely,  
Ms. Mary Micek

Dr. David Newton  
129 Carter St  
Auburn, AL 36830-6320

Feb 7, 2012

Chairs Nancy Sutley and John Holdren, National Ocean Council

Subject: Strengthen the National Ocean Policy Implementation Plan

Dear Chairs Nancy Sutley and John Holdren, National Ocean Council,

I believe the draft National Ocean Policy Implementation Plan establishes a strong blueprint for taking action and fostering agency coordination to sustain our ocean, coastal, and Great Lakes resources. The draft plan has successfully incorporated the needs and concerns of governmental, non-profit, and commercial groups and provides clarifying details to improve accountability and monitor progress toward improved ocean management. Frequent notations on how implementing actions are related to one another provides confidence that activities will be coordinated and make good use of limited resources.

However, the plan could be improved to achieve even more progress. It should more fully utilize all available authorities for habitat protection and management. Many of the milestones could be extended beyond cataloguing and planning to include action, with tangible, on-the-water activities. Regional need, support, and capacity should guide where coordinated actions should first take place. Federal agencies must continue to ask for input from other levels of the government and the public and incorporate this new information into implementation of the plan.

With these additions, President Obama's Implementation Plan will provide a better guide for achieving the goals of protecting, maintaining, and restoring the nation's oceans, coasts, and Great Lakes and ensuring resilient coastal economies. I look forward to the release of the final plan and hope to see policy translated into action on the water soon.

Thank you.

Sincerely,  
Dr. David Newton

Ms. Lori Stone, Esq.  
4 Old Hunt Rd  
Northfield, IL 60093-1073

Feb 7, 2012

Chairs Nancy Sutley and John Holdren, National Ocean Council

Subject: Strengthen the National Ocean Policy Implementation Plan

Dear Chairs Nancy Sutley and John Holdren, National Ocean Council,

Please help preserve our magnificent oceans! The draft National Ocean Policy Implementation Plan establishes a strong blueprint for taking action and fostering agency coordination to sustain our ocean, coastal and Great Lakes resources. The draft plan has successfully incorporated the needs and concerns of governmental, non-profit, and commercial groups and provides clarifying details to improve accountability and monitor progress toward improved ocean management. Frequent notations on how implementing actions are related to one another provides confidence that activities will be coordinated and make good use of limited resources.

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Sincerely,  
Ms. Lori Stone, Esq.

Ms. Paulette Spoon  
2755 Cross Country Cir  
Verona, WI 53593-9712

Feb 7, 2012

Chairs Nancy Sutley and John Holdren, National Ocean Council

Subject: Strengthen the National Ocean Policy Implementation Plan

Dear Chairs Nancy Sutley and John Holdren, National Ocean Council,

The draft National Ocean Policy Implementation Plan establishes a strong blueprint for taking action and fostering agency coordination to sustain our ocean, coastal and Great Lakes resources. The draft plan has successfully incorporated the needs and concerns of governmental, non-profit, and commercial groups and provides clarifying details to improve accountability and monitor progress toward improved ocean management. Frequent notations on how implementing actions are related to one another provides confidence that activities will be coordinated and make good use of limited resources.

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With these additions, President Obama's Implementation Plan will provide a better guide for achieving the goals of protecting, maintaining, and restoring the nation's oceans, coasts, and Great Lakes and ensuring resilient coastal economies. I look forward to the release of the final plan and hope to see policy translated into action on the water soon.

Please don't sell out on our oceans. Support this plan to really help our oceans and fresh water bodies!

Sincerely,  
Ms. Paulette Spoon

Mr. Ted Matts  
1433 Iron St  
Bellingham, WA 98225-4939

Feb 7, 2012

Chairs Nancy Sutley and John Holdren, National Ocean Council

Subject: Strengthen the National Ocean Policy Implementation Plan

Dear Chairs Nancy Sutley and John Holdren, National Ocean Council,

From the parts I've read from it so far, the general direction of the draft National Ocean Policy Implementation Plan seems like a minimally sustainable-oriented plan that balances the requests and concerns of government agencies involved, non-profit, and commercial groups. Many of my concerns about accountability and how various agencies coordinate their roles and activities seems adequately addressed to make good use of limited resources. My remaining concerns involve an overly-top down approach regionally when it might take more localized know-how to efficiently and effectively implement actions taken in that region, as well as some habitat protection and management issues that need to be addressed and increased.

But overall, this plan improves collective goals of protecting, maintaining, and restoring the salt and fresh water ecosystems and their coasts to help our food security, marine environment, and coastal marine-oriented industries.

Sincerely,  
Mr. Ted Matts

Ms. Alexa Ross  
763 Poplar St  
Nelsonville, OH 45764-1440  
(740) 753-4362

Feb 7, 2012

Chairs Nancy Sutley and John Holdren, National Ocean Council

Subject: Strengthen the National Ocean Policy Implementation Plan

Dear Chairs Nancy Sutley and John Holdren, National Ocean Council,

The draft National Ocean Policy Implementation Plan must be science-driven and activist.

Sincerely,  
Ms. Alexa Ross

Mr. rob kennedy  
000  
voorhees, NJ 08043

Feb 7, 2012

Chairs Nancy Sutley and John Holdren, National Ocean Council

Subject: Strengthen the National Ocean Policy Implementation Plan

Dear Chairs Nancy Sutley and John Holdren, National Ocean Council,

The draft National Ocean Policy Implementation Plan establishes a strong blueprint for taking action and fostering agency coordination to sustain our ocean, coastal and Great Lakes resources. The draft plan has successfully incorporated the needs and concerns of governmental, non-profit, and commercial groups and provides clarifying details to improve accountability and monitor progress toward improved ocean management. Frequent notations on how implementing actions are related to one another provides confidence that activities will be coordinated and make good use of limited resources.

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With these additions, President Obama's Implementation Plan will provide a better guide for achieving the goals of protecting, maintaining, and restoring the nation's oceans, coasts, and Great Lakes and ensuring resilient coastal economies. I look forward to the release of the final plan and hope to see policy translated into action on the water soon.

Hopefully the goon we call president will improve our environment and our fight!

Sincerely,  
Mr. rob kennedy

Mrs. Julie Penny  
3662 Noyac Ed  
Sag Harbor, NY 11963-1910

Feb 8, 2012

Chairs Nancy Sutley and John Holdren, National Ocean Council

Subject: Strengthen the National Ocean Policy Implementation Plan

Dear Chairs Nancy Sutley and John Holdren, National Ocean Council,

Great swaths of our ocean are dead zones. It's incumbent we get the best possible plan to restore them.

The draft National Ocean Policy Implementation Plan establishes a strong blueprint for taking action and fostering agency coordination to sustain our ocean, coastal and Great Lakes resources. The draft plan has successfully incorporated the needs and concerns of governmental, non-profit, and commercial groups and provides clarifying details to improve accountability and monitor progress toward improved ocean management. Frequent notations on how implementing actions are related to one another provides confidence that activities will be coordinated and make good use of limited resources.

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Sincerely,  
Mrs. Julie Penny

Mr. Thomas Hutton  
936 Mission Hill Rd  
Boynton Beach, FL 33435-8551

Feb 8, 2012

Chairs Nancy Sutley and John Holdren, National Ocean Council

Subject: Strengthen the National Ocean Policy Implementation Plan

Dear Chairs Nancy Sutley and John Holdren, National Ocean Council,

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With these additions, President Obama's Implementation Plan will provide a better guide for achieving the goals of protecting, maintaining, and restoring the nation's oceans, coasts, and Great Lakes and ensuring resilient coastal economies. I look forward to the release of the final plan and hope to see policy translated into action on the water soon.

Thank you for taking the time to read my views on this important issue.

Sincerely,  
Mr. Thomas Hutton

Mr. Raymond Gettins  
218 Worthington Ave  
Wyoming, OH 45215-4342

Feb 8, 2012

Chairs Nancy Sutley and John Holdren, National Ocean Council

Subject: Strengthen the National Ocean Policy Implementation Plan

Dear Chairs Nancy Sutley and John Holdren, National Ocean Council,

The draft National Ocean Policy Implementation Plan establishes a strong blueprint for taking action and fostering agency coordination to sustain our ocean, coastal and Great Lakes resources. The draft plan has successfully incorporated the needs and concerns of governmental, non-profit, and commercial groups and provides clarifying details to improve accountability and monitor progress toward improved ocean management. Frequent notations on how implementing actions are related to one another provides confidence that activities will be coordinated and make good use of limited resources.

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With these additions, President Obama's Implementation Plan will provide a better guide for achieving the goals of protecting, maintaining, and restoring the nation's oceans, coasts, and Great Lakes and ensuring resilient coastal economies. I look forward to the release of the final plan and hope to see policy translated into action on the water soon.

Create a legacy worth remembering - not one we will wish to forget.

Sincerely,  
Mr. Raymond Gettins

Dr. Bert Lustig  
3476 Mauzy Rd  
Berkeley Springs, WV 25411-4020

Feb 8, 2012

Chairs Nancy Sutley and John Holdren, National Ocean Council

Subject: Strengthen the National Ocean Policy Implementation Plan

Dear Chairs Nancy Sutley and John Holdren, National Ocean Council,

Dear Sirs:

The draft National Ocean Policy Implementation Plan establishes a strong blueprint for taking action and fostering agency coordination to sustain our ocean, coastal and Great Lakes resources. The draft plan has successfully incorporated the needs and concerns of governmental, non-profit, and commercial groups and provides clarifying details to improve accountability and monitor progress toward improved ocean management. Frequent notations on how implementing actions are related to one another provides confidence that activities will be coordinated and make good use of limited resources.

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With these additions, President Obama's Implementation Plan will provide a better guide for achieving the goals of protecting, maintaining, and restoring the nation's oceans, coasts, and Great Lakes and ensuring resilient coastal economies. I look forward to the release of the final plan and hope to see policy translated into action on the water soon.

Sincerely,  
Dr. Bert Lustig

Ms. Priscilla Dies  
828 E Butcher Switch Rd  
Lafayette, LA 70507-3911

Feb 8, 2012

Chairs Nancy Sutley and John Holdren, National Ocean Council

Subject: Strengthen the National Ocean Policy Implementation Plan

Dear Chairs Nancy Sutley and John Holdren, National Ocean Council,

I find this Draft very exciting. It makes my heart feel good to see that a policy is being created to establish agency coordination. Please push this through.

The draft National Ocean Policy Implementation Plan establishes a strong blueprint for taking action and fostering agency coordination to sustain our ocean, coastal and Great Lakes resources. The draft plan has successfully incorporated the needs and concerns of governmental, non-profit, and commercial groups and provides clarifying details to improve accountability and monitor progress toward improved ocean management. Frequent notations on how implementing actions are related to one another provides confidence that activities will be coordinated and make good use of limited resources.

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With these additions, President Obama's Implementation Plan will provide a better guide for achieving the goals of protecting, maintaining, and restoring the nation's oceans, coasts, and Great Lakes and ensuring resilient coastal economies. I look forward to the release of the final plan and hope to see policy translated into action on the water soon.

Sincerely,  
Ms. Priscilla Dies

Ms. Janeth Diaz  
3307 W County 17 1/2 St  
Somerton, AZ 85350-8255

Feb 8, 2012

Chairs Nancy Sutley and John Holdren, National Ocean Council

Subject: Strengthen the National Ocean Policy Implementation Plan

Dear Chairs Nancy Sutley and John Holdren, National Ocean Council,

As an eco/natural resources preservation: The draft National Ocean Policy Implementation Plan establishes a strong blueprint for taking action and fostering agency coordination to sustain our ocean, coastal and Great Lakes resources. The draft plan has successfully incorporated the needs and concerns of governmental, non-profit, and commercial groups and provides clarifying details to improve accountability and monitor progress toward improved ocean management. Frequent notations on how implementing actions are related to one another provides confidence that activities will be coordinated and make good use of limited resources.

Nonetheless, the plan could be improved to achieve even more progress. It should more fully utilize all available authorities for habitat protection and management. Many of the milestones could be extended beyond cataloguing and planning to include action, with tangible, on-the-water activities. Regional need, support, and capacity should guide where coordinated actions should first take place. Federal agencies must continue to ask for input from other levels of the government and the public and incorporate this new information into implementation of the plan. The more we wait the more we waste.

With these additions, President Obama's Implementation Plan will provide a better guide for achieving the goals of protecting, maintaining, and restoring the nation's oceans, coasts, and Great Lakes and ensuring resilient coastal economies. I look forward to the release of the final plan and hope to see policy translated into action on the water soon.

Sincerely,  
Ms. Janeth Diaz

Mr. William Lewis  
15493 E Milan Dr  
Aurora, CO 80013-2517

Feb 8, 2012

Chairs Nancy Sutley and John Holdren, National Ocean Council

Subject: Strengthen the National Ocean Policy Implementation Plan

Dear Chairs Nancy Sutley and John Holdren, National Ocean Council,

The draft National Ocean Policy Implementation Plan establishes a strong blueprint for taking action and fostering agency coordination to sustain our ocean, coastal and Great Lakes resources. The draft plan has successfully incorporated the needs and concerns of governmental, non-profit, and commercial groups and provides clarifying details to improve accountability and monitor progress toward improved ocean management. Frequent notations on how implementing actions are related to one another provides confidence that activities will be coordinated and make good use of limited resources.

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With these additions, President Obama's Implementation Plan will provide a better guide for achieving the goals of protecting, maintaining, and restoring the nation's oceans, coasts, and Great Lakes and ensuring resilient coastal economies. I look forward to the release of the final plan and hope to see policy translated into action on the water soon.

Sincerely,  
Mr. William Lewis

Mrs. Ellen O'Connor  
64 Oak Ave  
Riverside, RI 02915-4440  
(401) 437-2255

Feb 8, 2012

Chairs Nancy Sutley and John Holdren, National Ocean Council

Subject: Strengthen the National Ocean Policy Implementation Plan

Dear Chairs Nancy Sutley and John Holdren, National Ocean Council,

The draft National Ocean Policy Implementation Plan establishes a strong blueprint for taking action and fostering agency coordination to sustain our ocean, coastal and Great Lakes resources. The draft plan has successfully incorporated the needs and concerns of governmental, non-profit, and commercial groups and provides clarifying details to improve accountability and monitor progress toward improved ocean management. Frequent notations on how implementing actions are related to one another provides confidence that activities will be coordinated and make good use of limited resources.

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With these additions, President Obama's Implementation Plan will provide a better guide for achieving the goals of protecting, maintaining, and restoring the nation's oceans, coasts, and Great Lakes and ensuring resilient coastal economies. I look forward to the release of the final plan and hope to see policy translated into action on the water soon.

Please remember that the ocean is the cradle of life, and all inland waterways rock it!

Sincerely,  
Mrs. Ellen O'Connor

Ms. Brenda Stone  
3236 Stabler St  
Lansing, MI 48910-2928

Feb 8, 2012

Chairs Nancy Sutley and John Holdren, National Ocean Council

Subject: Strengthen the National Ocean Policy Implementation Plan

Dear Chairs Nancy Sutley and John Holdren, National Ocean Council,

The draft National Ocean Policy Implementation Plan establishes a strong blueprint for taking action and fostering agency coordination to sustain our ocean, coastal and Great Lakes resources. The draft plan has successfully incorporated the needs and concerns of governmental, non-profit, and commercial groups and provides clarifying details to improve accountability and monitor progress toward improved ocean management. Frequent notations on how implementing actions are related to one another provides confidence that activities will be coordinated and make good use of limited resources.

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With these additions, President Obama's Implementation Plan will provide a better guide for achieving the goals of protecting, maintaining, and restoring the nation's oceans, coasts, and Great Lakes and ensuring resilient coastal economies. As a native Michigander, I look forward to the release of the final plan and hope to see policy translated into action on the water soon.

Sincerely,  
Ms. Brenda Stone

Ms. Sarah Peters  
11302 Treeview Ln  
Monrovia, MD 21770-9506

Feb 8, 2012

Chairs Nancy Sutley and John Holdren, National Ocean Council

Subject: Strengthen the National Ocean Policy Implementation Plan!

Dear Chairs Nancy Sutley and John Holdren, National Ocean Council,

I am writing about the draft National Ocean Policy Implementation Plan establishes a strong blueprint for taking action and fostering agency coordination to sustain our ocean, coastal and Great Lakes resources. The draft plan has successfully incorporated the needs and concerns of governmental, non-profit, and commercial groups and provides clarifying details to improve accountability and monitor progress toward improved ocean management. Frequent notations on how implementing actions are related to one another provides confidence that activities will be coordinated and make good use of limited resources.

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I strongly urge you to incorporate these additions in order for President Obama's Implementation Plan to provide a better guide for achieving the goals of protecting, maintaining, and restoring the nation's oceans, coasts, and Great Lakes and ensuring resilient coastal economies. I look forward to the release of the final plan and hope to see policy translated into action on the water soon.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,  
Ms. Sarah Peters

Mr. Thomas Noon  
3920 Prado Dr  
Laporte, CO 80535-9766

Feb 8, 2012

Chairs Nancy Sutley and John Holdren, National Ocean Council

Subject: Strengthen the National Ocean Policy Implementation Plan

Dear Chairs Nancy Sutley and John Holdren, National Ocean Council,

The draft National Ocean Policy Implementation Plan establishes a strong blueprint for taking action and fostering agency coordination to sustain our ocean, coastal and Great Lakes resources. The draft plan has successfully incorporated the needs and concerns of governmental, non-profit, and commercial groups and provides clarifying details to improve accountability and monitor progress toward improved ocean management. Frequent notations on how implementing actions are related to one another provides confidence that activities will be coordinated and make good use of limited resources.

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With these additions, President Obama's Implementation Plan will provide a better guide for achieving the goals of protecting, maintaining, and restoring the nation's oceans, coasts, and Great Lakes and ensuring resilient coastal economies. I look forward to the release of the final plan and hope to see policy translated into action on the water soon.

We must start being proactive in protecting and preserving our natural resources for our future.

Sincerely,  
Mr. Thomas Noon

Mr. Tom Hart  
PO Box 1512  
Lutz, FL 33548-1512

Feb 8, 2012

Chairs Nancy Sutley and John Holdren, National Ocean Council

Subject: Strengthen the National Ocean Policy Implementation Plan

Dear Chairs Nancy Sutley and John Holdren, National Ocean Council,

The draft National Ocean Policy Implementation Plan establishes a strong blueprint for taking action and fostering agency coordination to sustain our ocean, coastal and Great Lakes resources. The draft plan has successfully incorporated the needs and concerns of governmental, non-profit, and commercial groups and provides clarifying details to improve accountability and monitor progress toward improved ocean management. Frequent notations on how implementing actions are related to one another provides confidence that activities will be coordinated and make good use of limited resources.

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Sincerely,  
Mr. Tom Hart

Dr. Eric Carlson  
2316 Bayview Heights Dr  
Los Osos, CA 93402-3916  
(805) 698-4874

Feb 8, 2012

Chairs Nancy Sutley and John Holdren, National Ocean Council

Subject: Strengthen the National Ocean Policy Implementation Plan

Dear Chairs Nancy Sutley and John Holdren, National Ocean Council,

The draft National Ocean Policy Implementation Plan establishes a strong blueprint for taking action and fostering agency coordination to sustain our ocean, coastal and Great Lakes resources. The draft plan has successfully incorporated the needs and concerns of governmental, non-profit, and commercial groups and provides clarifying details to improve accountability and monitor progress toward improved ocean management. Frequent notations on how implementing actions are related to one another provides confidence that activities will be coordinated and make good use of limited resources.

Nonetheless, the plan could be improved to achieve even more progress by including the following components:

1. It should more fully utilize all available authorities for habitat protection and management.
2. Many of the milestones should be extended beyond cataloguing and planning to include on-the-water activities.
3. A coordinated prioritization of actions should be guided by regional needs, available supports, and capacity.
4. Federal agencies should continue to solicit input from other levels of the government and the public and incorporate this new information into implementation of the plan.

With these additions, President Obama's Implementation Plan will provide a better guide for achieving the goals of protecting, maintaining, and restoring the nation's oceans, coasts, and Great Lakes and ensuring resilient coastal economies. I look forward to the release of the final plan and hope to see policy translated into action on the water soon.

Sincerely,  
Dr. Eric Carlson

Ms. Barbara Jones  
Everdell  
West Islip, NY 11795

Feb 8, 2012

Chairs Nancy Sutley and John Holdren, National Ocean Council

Subject: Strengthen the National Ocean Policy Implementation Plan

Dear Chairs Nancy Sutley and John Holdren, National Ocean Council,

We as humans, have had the greatest impact on the oceans over the years. We have dumped raw sewage, plastics and chemicals that never existed before in them. We've over fished, taken away shorelines and the marshlands that acted as natural filters, for development instead. And all for whom? Us, it's all about human consumption, profits and entertainment. All this at who's expense? The oceans are slowly dying and we can't seem to see the forest for the trees here. This is not an endless resource that we can continue to plunder. There are consequences to our actions...bleaching and destruction of natural reefs, 90% loss of sea life. What has to happen to get you and everyone else on board to see the severity of our collective actions? We have to start looking at ourselves to solve this problem, many moratoreums must be implemented and regulation of the human population worldwide needs to be seriously considered in order for the oceans to get healthy and strong once again.

The draft National Ocean Policy Implementation Plan establishes a strong blueprint for taking action and fostering agency coordination to sustain our ocean, coastal and Great Lakes resources. The draft plan has successfully incorporated the needs and concerns of governmental, non-profit, and commercial groups and provides clarifying details to improve accountability and monitor progress toward improved ocean management. Frequent notations on how implementing actions are related to one another provides confidence that activities will be coordinated and make good use of limited resources.

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Sincerely,  
Ms. Barbara Jones

Mrs. Christine Fouhy  
15 Ogden Rd  
West Islip, NY 11795-3906

Feb 8, 2012

Chairs Nancy Sutley and John Holdren, National Ocean Council

Subject: Strengthen the National Ocean Policy Implementation Plan

Dear Chairs Nancy Sutley and John Holdren, National Ocean Council,

The draft National Ocean Policy Implementation Plan establishes a strong blueprint for taking action and fostering agency coordination to sustain our ocean, coastal and Great Lakes resources. The draft plan has successfully incorporated the needs and concerns of governmental, non-profit, and commercial groups and provides clarifying details to improve accountability and monitor progress toward improved ocean management. Frequent notations on how implementing actions are related to one another provides confidence that activities will be coordinated and make good use of limited resources.

Nonetheless, the plan could be improved to achieve even more progress. It should more fully utilize all available authorities for habitat protection and management. Many of the milestones could be extended beyond cataloguing and planning to include action, with tangible, on-the-water activities. Regional need, support, and capacity should guide where coordinated actions should first take place. Federal agencies must continue to ask for input from other levels of the government and the public and incorporate this new information into implementation of the plan.

With these additions, President Obama's Implementation Plan will provide a better guide for achieving the goals of protecting, maintaining, and restoring the nation's oceans, coasts, and Great Lakes and ensuring resilient coastal economies. I look forward to the release of the final plan and hope to see policy translated into action on the water soon.

We live on this earth with all of the wild things. If they do not have a healthy environment then we do not either. Water is our most valuable resource, more than oil, believe it or not. We can and must protect our oceans, lakes, rivers and streams.

Sincerely,  
Mrs. Christine Fouhy

Ms. betty trentlyon  
409 W 21st St  
New York, NY 10011-2949

Feb 8, 2012

Chairs Nancy Sutley and John Holdren, National Ocean Council

Subject: Strengthen the National Ocean Policy Implementation Plan

Dear Chairs Nancy Sutley and John Holdren, National Ocean Council,

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The oceans and other water bodies have suffered greatly from human activity. They, and the wildlife dependent on them, need all the help they can get.

Sincerely,  
Ms. betty trentlyon

Ms. Terelle Terry  
1672 Bannon Creek Dr  
Sacramento, CA 95833-1523

Feb 8, 2012

Chairs Nancy Sutley and John Holdren, National Ocean Council

Subject: Strengthen the National Ocean Policy Implementation Plan

Dear Chairs Nancy Sutley and John Holdren, National Ocean Council,

We have a planet to save!

The draft National Ocean Policy Implementation Plan establishes a strong blueprint for taking action and fostering agency coordination to sustain our ocean, coastal and Great Lakes resources. The draft plan has successfully incorporated the needs and concerns of governmental, non-profit, and commercial groups and provides clarifying details to improve accountability and monitor progress toward improved ocean management. Frequent notations on how implementing actions are related to one another provides confidence that activities will be coordinated and make good use of limited resources.

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Sincerely,  
Ms. Terelle Terry

Dr. Kyle Crocker  
806 Balsam Ridge Rd NW  
Bemidji, MN 56601-5587

Feb 8, 2012

Chairs Nancy Sutley and John Holdren, National Ocean Council

Subject: Strengthen the National Ocean Policy Implementation Plan

Dear Chairs Nancy Sutley and John Holdren, National Ocean Council,

I live about as far from an ocean as anyone can, BUT I understand that my personal well-being and the survival of our planet depend on them.

The draft National Ocean Policy Implementation Plan establishes a strong blueprint for taking action and fostering agency coordination to sustain our ocean, coastal and Great Lakes resources. The draft plan has successfully incorporated the needs and concerns of governmental, non-profit, and commercial groups and provides clarifying details to improve accountability and monitor progress toward improved ocean management. Frequent notations on how implementing actions are related to one another provides confidence that activities will be coordinated and make good use of limited resources.

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Sincerely,  
Dr. Kyle Crocker

Mrs. Ella Craig  
203 Chaparral Ln  
Nipomo, CA 93444-9504

Feb 8, 2012

Chairs Nancy Sutley and John Holdren, National Ocean Council

Subject: Strengthen the National Ocean Policy Implementation Plan

Dear Chairs Nancy Sutley and John Holdren, National Ocean Council,

When you are making plans for the ocean, please make sure that you do your best for the animals that live in the ocean. The draft National Ocean Policy Implementation Plan establishes a strong blueprint for taking action and fostering agency coordination to sustain our ocean, coastal and Great Lakes resources. The draft plan has successfully incorporated the needs and concerns of governmental, non-profit, and commercial groups and provides clarifying details to improve accountability and monitor progress toward improved ocean management. Frequent notations on how implementing actions are related to one another provides confidence that activities will be coordinated and make good use of limited resources.

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Sincerely,  
Mrs. Ella Craig

Mr. Ryan Sdano  
240 E Main St  
Whitewater, WI 53190-2071

Feb 8, 2012

Chairs Nancy Sutley and John Holdren, National Ocean Council

Subject: Strengthen the National Ocean Policy Implementation Plan

Dear Chairs Nancy Sutley and John Holdren, National Ocean Council,

As a liberal citizen of faith who fully supports strengthening the National Ocean Policy Implementation Plan to preserve our marine life. I urge that President Obama to stand firm for the environment & not to cave into big corporations or the right-wing Republicans demands on destroying our planet for the sake of greed.

The draft National Ocean Policy Implementation Plan establishes a strong blueprint for taking action and fostering agency coordination to sustain our ocean, coastal and Great Lakes resources. The draft plan has successfully incorporated the needs and concerns of governmental, non-profit, and commercial groups and provides clarifying details to improve accountability and monitor progress toward improved ocean management. Frequent notations on how implementing actions are related to one another provides confidence that activities will be coordinated and make good use of limited resources.

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Sincerely,  
Mr. Ryan Sdano

Ms. Kathleen Doyle  
607 Cascade Dr  
Golden, CO 80403-1583

Feb 8, 2012

Chairs Nancy Sutley and John Holdren, National Ocean Council

Subject: Strengthen the National Ocean Policy Implementation Plan

Dear Chairs Nancy Sutley and John Holdren, National Ocean Council,

The draft National Ocean Policy Implementation Plan establishes a strong blueprint for taking action and fostering agency coordination to sustain our ocean, coastal and Great Lakes resources.

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Sincerely,  
Ms. Kathleen Doyle

Mr. Jesse Marsden  
540 Hope St  
Providence, RI 02906-2661

Feb 8, 2012

Chairs Nancy Sutley and John Holdren, National Ocean Council

Subject: Strengthen the NOP Implementation Plan

Dear Chairs Nancy Sutley and John Holdren, National Ocean Council,

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Sincerely,  
Mr. Jesse Marsden

Mr. Steven Gaber  
5023 Edgewater Ln  
Oldsmar, FL 34677-6345

Feb 8, 2012

Chairs Nancy Sutley and John Holdren, National Ocean Council

Subject: Strengthen the National Ocean Policy Implementation Plan

Dear Chairs Nancy Sutley and John Holdren, National Ocean Council,

The nation's ocean and coastal habitats are already in trouble from a wide variety of sources, including development, pollution and toxicants, overfishing, climate change and oil spills, among others. We need to make all efforts to improve our stewardship of these irreplaceable resources.

The draft National Ocean Policy Implementation Plan establishes a strong blueprint for taking action and fostering agency coordination to sustain our ocean, coastal and Great Lakes resources. The draft plan has successfully incorporated the needs and concerns of governmental, non-profit, and commercial groups and provides clarifying details to improve accountability and monitor progress toward improved ocean management. Frequent notations on how implementing actions are related to one another provides confidence that activities will be coordinated and make good use of limited resources.

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Sincerely,  
Mr. Steven Gaber

Mr. Scott Johnsen  
4610 SW Cullen Blvd  
Portland, OR 97221-2966

Feb 8, 2012

Chairs Nancy Sutley and John Holdren, National Ocean Council

Subject: We need a strong National Ocean Policy Implementation Plan

Dear Chairs Nancy Sutley and John Holdren, National Ocean Council,

It is in our nation's interest to have the strongest ocean policies possible. I support the recommendations of the PEW environment group for the current plan:

The plan should more fully utilize all available authorities for habitat protection and management. Many of the milestones could be extended beyond cataloguing and planning to include action, with tangible, on-the-water activities. Regional need, support, and capacity should guide where coordinated actions should first take place. Federal agencies must continue to ask for input from other levels of the government and the public and incorporate this new information into implementation of the plan.

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Sincerely,  
Mr. Scott Johnsen

Ms. l c  
39 ave 1  
sg, KS 60977

Feb 9, 2012

Chairs Nancy Sutley and John Holdren, National Ocean Council

Subject: Strengthen the National Ocean Policy Implementation Plan

Dear Chairs Nancy Sutley and John Holdren, National Ocean Council,

The draft National Ocean Policy Implementation Plan establishes a strong blueprint for taking action and fostering agency coordination to sustain our ocean, coastal and Great Lakes resources. The draft plan has successfully incorporated the needs and concerns of governmental, non-profit, and commercial groups and provides clarifying details to improve accountability and monitor progress toward improved ocean management. Frequent notations on how implementing actions are related to one another provides confidence that activities will be coordinated and make good use of limited resources.

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Thank you.

Sincerely,  
Ms. l c

Mr. Matt Lahm  
778 W Main St  
Hillsboro, OR 97123-3723

Feb 9, 2012

Chairs Nancy Sutley and John Holdren, National Ocean Council

Subject: Strengthen the National Ocean Policy Implementation Plan

Dear Chairs Nancy Sutley and John Holdren, National Ocean Council,

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Sincerely,  
Mr. Matt Lahm

Ms. Danielle Medina  
6421 French Angel Ter  
Margate, FL 33063-8317

Feb 9, 2012

Chairs Nancy Sutley and John Holdren, National Ocean Council

Subject: Strengthen the National Ocean Policy Implementation Plan

Dear Chairs Nancy Sutley and John Holdren, National Ocean Council,

Dear Sir or Madam,

The draft National Ocean Policy Implementation Plan establishes a strong blueprint for taking action and fostering agency coordination to sustain our ocean, coastal and Great Lakes resources. The draft plan has successfully incorporated the needs and concerns of governmental, non-profit, and commercial groups and provides clarifying details to improve accountability and monitor progress toward improved ocean management. Frequent notations on how implementing actions are related to one another provides confidence that activities will be coordinated and make good use of limited resources.

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Sincerely,  
Danielle Medina  
6421 French Angel Terrace  
Margate, FL 33063-8317  
US

Sincerely,  
Ms. Danielle Medina

Mr. Neil Mingledorff  
12133 Riverhills Dr  
Tampa, FL 33617-1743

Feb 9, 2012

Chairs Nancy Sutley and John Holdren, National Ocean Council

Subject: Strengthen the National Ocean Policy Implementation Plan

Dear Chairs Nancy Sutley and John Holdren, National Ocean Council,

This is such an important issue! Please follow-up on it!

The draft National Ocean Policy Implementation Plan establishes a strong blueprint for taking action and fostering agency coordination to sustain our ocean, coastal and Great Lakes resources. The draft plan has successfully incorporated the needs and concerns of governmental, non-profit, and commercial groups and provides clarifying details to improve accountability and monitor progress toward improved ocean management. Frequent notations on how implementing actions are related to one another provides confidence that activities will be coordinated and make good use of limited resources.

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Sincerely,  
Mr. Neil Mingledorff

Mr. Michael Haines  
null  
san rafael, CA 94901

Feb 9, 2012

Chairs Nancy Sutley and John Holdren, National Ocean Council

Subject: Strengthen the National Ocean Policy Implementation Plan

Dear Chairs Nancy Sutley and John Holdren, National Ocean Council,

We must have policies for the oceans that protect aquatic life as well as preserve the sustainability of fisheries that depend on them.

The draft National Ocean Policy Implementation Plan establishes a strong blueprint for taking action and fostering agency coordination to sustain our ocean, coastal and Great Lakes resources.

However, the plan could be improved to achieve even more progress. It should more fully utilize all available authorities for habitat protection and management. Many of the milestones could be extended beyond cataloguing and planning to include action, with tangible, on-the-water activities. Regional need, support, and capacity should guide where coordinated actions should first take place. Federal agencies must continue to ask for input from other levels of the government and the public and incorporate this new information into implementation of the plan.

Thank you.

Sincerely,  
Mr. Michael Haines

Mr. Gary Rost  
1776 Arona St  
Falcon Heights, MN 55113-6248

Feb 9, 2012

Chairs Nancy Sutley and John Holdren, National Ocean Council

Subject: Strengthen the National Ocean Policy Implementation Plan

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Sincerely,  
Mr. Gary Rost

Ms. Lee Bartell  
7 E 14th St Apt 927  
New York, NY 10003-3123

Feb 9, 2012

Chairs Nancy Sutley and John Holdren, National Ocean Council

Subject: Strengthen the National Ocean Policy Implementation Plan

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Nonetheless, the plan could be even better to achieve even more progress:

1. It should more fully utilize all available authorities for habitat protection and management;
2. Many of the milestones could be extended beyond cataloguing and planning to include action, with tangible, on-the-water activities;
3. Regional need, support, and capacity should guide where coordinated actions should first take place; and
4. Federal agencies must continue to ask for input from other levels of the government and the public and incorporate this new information into implementation of the plan.

With these additions, President Obama's Implementation Plan will provide a better guide for achieving the goals of protecting, maintaining, and restoring the nation's oceans, coasts, and Great Lakes and ensuring resilient coastal economies. I look forward to the release of the final plan and hope to see policy translated into action on the water soon.

Thanks for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,  
Ms. Lee Bartell

Ms. Randi Reed  
10712 Camarillo St Apt 3  
North Hollywood, CA 91602-1467

Feb 10, 2012

Chairs Nancy Sutley and John Holdren, National Ocean Council

Subject: Strengthen the National Ocean Policy Implementation Plan

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Sincerely,  
Ms. Randi Reed

Mr. James Sorrells  
564 Timber Run Ln  
Groveland, FL 34736-8205

Feb 10, 2012

Chairs Nancy Sutley and John Holdren, National Ocean Council

Subject: Strengthen the National Ocean Policy Implementation Plan

Dear Chairs Nancy Sutley and John Holdren, National Ocean Council,

We must change our vision with a sense of urgency. It is time to approach environmental destruction proactively rather than reactively.

"All we desire to save from civilization is... that extremely minor fraction of outdoor America which yet remains free from mechanical sights and sounds and smell."

- Robert Marshall, co-founder, The Wilderness Society

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Sincerely,  
Mr. James Sorrells

Ms. Gail Caswell  
839 Post St Apt 208  
San Francisco, CA 94109-6047

Feb 10, 2012

Chairs Nancy Sutley and John Holdren, National Ocean Council

Subject: Strengthen the National Ocean Policy Implementation Plan

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Save our waters!

Sincerely,  
Ms. Gail Caswell

Mr. John Farina  
85 Courtland Ave Apt 06  
Stamford, CT 06902-3409

Feb 10, 2012

Chairs Nancy Sutley and John Holdren, National Ocean Council

Subject: Strengthen the National Ocean Policy Implementation Plan

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Sincerely,  
Mr. John Farina

Mrs. Rose Bertrand  
201 Division St  
Madison, WI 53704-5330

Feb 10, 2012

Chairs Nancy Sutley and John Holdren, National Ocean Council

Subject: Strengthen the National Ocean Policy Implementation Plan

Dear Chairs Nancy Sutley and John Holdren, National Ocean Council,

I have lived as lightly as I can on this good planet. I am even a vegan. I have studied science at the post graduate levels. I have been doing this since the 1960s and am growing depressed by insufficient efforts to preserve the purity of the environment. Please, let us work hard to keep this planet livable.

The draft National Ocean Policy Implementation Plan establishes a strong blueprint for taking action and fostering agency coordination to sustain our ocean, coastal and Great Lakes resources. The draft plan has successfully incorporated the needs and concerns of governmental, non-profit, and commercial groups and provides clarifying details to improve accountability and monitor progress toward improved ocean management. Frequent notations on how implementing actions are related to one another provides confidence that activities will be coordinated and make good use of limited resources.

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Sincerely,  
Mrs. Rose Bertrand

Ms. Theo Giesy  
4411 Colonial Ave  
Norfolk, VA 23508-2805  
(757) 625-7558

Feb 11, 2012

Chairs Nancy Sutley and John Holdren, National Ocean Council

Subject: Strengthen the National Ocean Policy Implementation Plan

Dear Chairs Nancy Sutley and John Holdren, National Ocean Council,

The draft National Ocean Policy Implementation Plan establishes a strong blueprint for taking action and fostering agency coordination to sustain our ocean, coastal and Great Lakes resources. The draft plan has successfully incorporated the needs and concerns of governmental, non-profit, and commercial groups and provides clarifying details to improve accountability and monitor progress toward improved ocean management. Frequent notations on how implementing actions are related to one another provides confidence that activities will be coordinated and make good use of limited resources.

Nonetheless, the plan could be improved to achieve even more progress. It should more fully utilize all available authorities for habitat protection and management. Many of the milestones could be extended beyond cataloguing and planning to include action, with tangible, on-the-water activities. Regional need, support, and capacity should guide where coordinated actions should first take place. Federal agencies must continue to ask for input from other levels of the government and the public and incorporate this new information into implementation of the plan.

Without good over-site, a few profit at the expense of the rest of us. The waters are too important to allow that to continue to happen.

With these additions, President Obama's Implementation Plan will provide a better guide for achieving the goals of protecting, maintaining, and restoring the nation's oceans, coasts, and Great Lakes and ensuring resilient coastal economies. I look forward to the release of the final plan and hope to see policy translated into action on the water soon.

Sincerely,  
Ms. Theo Giesy

Ms. Jennifer Kundrot  
101 Fairview Ave  
Belmont, MA 02478-3770

Feb 11, 2012

Chairs Nancy Sutley and John Holdren, National Ocean Council

Subject: Strengthen the National Ocean Policy Implementation Plan

Dear Chairs Nancy Sutley and John Holdren, National Ocean Council,

A haiku:

The draft plan is good,  
But could be even better.  
Protect the oceans.

The draft National Ocean Policy Implementation Plan establishes a strong blueprint for taking action and fostering agency coordination to sustain our ocean, coastal and Great Lakes resources. The draft plan has successfully incorporated the needs and concerns of governmental, non-profit, and commercial groups and provides clarifying details to improve accountability and monitor progress toward improved ocean management. Frequent notations on how implementing actions are related to one another provides confidence that activities will be coordinated and make good use of limited resources.

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With these additions, President Obama's Implementation Plan will provide a better guide for achieving the goals of protecting, maintaining, and restoring the nation's oceans, coasts, and Great Lakes and ensuring resilient coastal economies. I look forward to the release of the final plan and hope to see policy translated into action on the water soon.

Sincerely,  
Ms. Jennifer Kundrot

Ms. Mary E Breitlow  
607 Ventura St  
Richmond, CA 94805-1934

Feb 11, 2012

Chairs Nancy Sutley and John Holdren, National Ocean Council

Subject: Strengthen the National Ocean Policy Implementation Plan

Dear Chairs Nancy Sutley and John Holdren, National Ocean Council,

The draft National Ocean Policy Implementation Plan establishes a strong blueprint for taking action and fostering agency coordination to sustain our ocean, coastal and Great Lakes resources. The draft plan has successfully incorporated the needs and concerns of governmental, non-profit, and commercial groups and provides clarifying details to improve accountability and monitor progress toward improved ocean management. Frequent notations on how implementing actions are related to one another provides confidence that activities will be coordinated and make good use of limited resources.

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With these additions, President Obama's Implementation Plan will provide a better guide for achieving the goals of protecting, maintaining, and restoring the nation's oceans, coasts, and Great Lakes and ensuring resilient coastal economies. I look forward to the release of the final plan and hope to see policy translated into action on the water soon.

Sincerely,  
Ms. Mary E Breitlow

Mr. Larry Cowden  
526 Chester St  
South Hempstead, NY 11550-8003  
(516) 489-4041

Feb 11, 2012

Chairs Nancy Sutley and John Holdren, National Ocean Council

Subject: Strengthen the National Ocean Policy Implementation Plan

Dear Chairs Nancy Sutley and John Holdren, National Ocean Council,

The draft National Ocean Policy Implementation Plan establishes a strong blueprint for taking action and fostering agency coordination to sustain our ocean, coastal and Great Lakes resources. The draft plan has successfully incorporated the needs and concerns of governmental, non-profit, and commercial groups and provides clarifying details to improve accountability and monitor progress toward improved ocean management. Frequent notations on how implementing actions are related to one another provides confidence that activities will be coordinated and make good use of limited resources.

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With these additions, President Obama's Implementation Plan will provide a better guide for achieving the goals of protecting, maintaining, and restoring the nation's oceans, coasts, and Great Lakes and ensuring resilient coastal economies. I look forward to the release of the final plan and hope to see policy translated into action on the water soon.

Sincerely,  
Mr. Larry Cowden

Mr. Gregory King  
5116 17th Ave S  
Minneapolis, MN 55417-1214  
(612) 722-8665

Feb 11, 2012

Chairs Nancy Sutley and John Holdren, National Ocean Council

Subject: Please present a strong National Ocean Policy Implementation Plan

Dear Chairs Nancy Sutley and John Holdren, National Ocean Council,

As a supporter of the Pew Environment Group, I am joining their call for a National Ocean Policy Implementation Plan that establishes a strong blueprint for taking action and fostering agency coordination to sustain our ocean, coastal and Great Lakes resources. The draft plan has successfully incorporated the needs and concerns of governmental, non-profit, and commercial groups and provides clarifying details to improve accountability and monitor progress toward improved ocean management. Frequent notations on how implementing actions are related to one another provides confidence that activities will be coordinated and make good use of limited resources.

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Sincerely,  
Mr. Gregory King

Ms. Lorinda Roland  
PO Box 55  
Olga, WA 98279-0055

Feb 12, 2012

Chairs Nancy Sutley and John Holdren, National Ocean Council

Subject: Strengthen the National Ocean Policy Implementation Plan

Dear Chairs Nancy Sutley and John Holdren, National Ocean Council,

The draft National Ocean Policy Implementation Plan establishes a strong blueprint for taking action and fostering agency coordination to sustain our ocean, coastal and Great Lakes resources. The draft plan has successfully incorporated the needs and concerns of governmental, non-profit, and commercial groups and provides clarifying details to improve accountability and monitor progress toward improved ocean management. Frequent notations on how implementing actions are related to one another provides confidence that activities will be coordinated and make good use of limited resources.

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With these additions, President Obama's Implementation Plan will provide a better guide for achieving the goals of protecting, maintaining, and restoring the nation's oceans, coasts, and Great Lakes and ensuring resilient coastal economies. I look forward to the release of the final plan and hope to see policy translated into action on the water soon.

Our oceans, lakes, waters need strong protections. Please do everything you can to insure they get the strongest protections .

Sincerely,  
Ms. Lorinda Roland

Ms. Judith Stetson  
261 Quissett Ave  
Woods Hole, MA 02543-1301

Feb 12, 2012

Chairs Nancy Sutley and John Holdren, National Ocean Council

Subject: Strengthen the National Ocean Policy Implementation Plan

Dear Chairs Nancy Sutley and John Holdren, National Ocean Council,

The EPA is being sued by our local Buzzards Bay Coalition to get it to enforce its own policies on pollution and eutrophication. This is an appalling waste of time and energy. Why does a local environmental group have to sue the EPA to get it to do its work?

The draft National Ocean Policy Implementation Plan establishes a strong blueprint for taking action and fostering agency coordination to sustain our ocean, coastal and Great Lakes resources. The draft plan has successfully incorporated the needs and concerns of governmental, non-profit, and commercial groups and provides clarifying details to improve accountability and monitor progress toward improved ocean management. Frequent notations on how implementing actions are related to one another provides confidence that activities will be coordinated and make good use of limited resources.

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Sincerely,  
Ms. Judith Stetson

Ms. Joy Cassidy  
604 W Stonington Ct  
Coeur D Alene, ID 83815-9186

Feb 12, 2012

Chairs Nancy Sutley and John Holdren, National Ocean Council

Subject: Strengthen the National Ocean Policy Implementation Plan

Dear Chairs Nancy Sutley and John Holdren, National Ocean Council,

The draft National Ocean Policy Implementation Plan establishes a strong blueprint for taking action and fostering agency coordination to sustain our ocean, coastal and Great Lakes resources. The draft plan has successfully incorporated the needs and concerns of governmental, non-profit, and commercial groups and provides clarifying details to improve accountability and monitor progress toward improved ocean management. Frequent notations on how implementing actions are related to one another provides confidence that activities will be coordinated and make good use of limited resources.

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**IF YOU DON'T PROTECT OUR OCEANS, THEN YOU WILL BE SIGNING DEATH WARRANTS FOR THE HUMAN RACE AND ALL LIFE ON THIS PLANET!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!**

Sincerely,  
Ms. Joy Cassidy

Ms. Heather Miller  
73 E Elm St  
Chicago, IL 60611-1052

Feb 12, 2012

Chairs Nancy Sutley and John Holdren, National Ocean Council

Subject: Strengthen the National Ocean Policy Implementation Plan

Dear Chairs Nancy Sutley and John Holdren, National Ocean Council,

The draft National Ocean Policy Implementation Plan establishes a strong blueprint for taking action and fostering agency coordination to sustain our ocean, coastal and Great Lakes resources. The draft plan has successfully incorporated the needs and concerns of governmental, non-profit, and commercial groups and provides clarifying details to improve accountability and monitor progress toward improved ocean management. Frequent notations on how implementing actions are related to one another provides confidence that activities will be coordinated and make good use of our limited resources.

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Sincerely,  
Ms. Heather Miller

Mr. David MacClement  
Ausable Hall, 273F Windermere Rd  
London, N6G 2J7 "The zip code must  
be a numeric 5-digit or 9-digit code";  
Fairport Harbor, OH 44077

Feb 12, 2012

Chairs Nancy Sutley and John Holdren, National Ocean Council

Subject: Strengthen the National Ocean Policy Implementation Plan

Dear Chairs Nancy Sutley and John Holdren, National Ocean Council,

The draft National Ocean Policy Implementation Plan establishes a strong blueprint for taking action and fostering agency coordination to sustain our ocean, coastal and Great Lakes resources. The draft plan has successfully incorporated the needs and concerns of governmental, non-profit, and commercial groups and provides clarifying details to improve accountability and monitor progress toward improved ocean management. Frequent notations on how implementing actions are related to one another provides confidence that activities will be coordinated and make good use of limited resources.

Nonetheless, the plan could be improved to achieve even more progress.

\*\* It should more fully utilize all available authorities for habitat protection and management. \*\*\*

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With these additions, President Obama's Implementation Plan will provide a better guide for achieving the goals of protecting, maintaining, and restoring the nation's oceans, coasts, and Great Lakes and ensuring resilient coastal economies. I look forward to the release of the final plan and hope to see policy translated into action on the water soon.

Sincerely,  
Mr. David MacClement

Mr. Nick Heath  
25 Warren Ave  
Boston, MA 02116-6150

Feb 12, 2012

Chairs Nancy Sutley and John Holdren, National Ocean Council

Subject: Strengthen the National Ocean Policy Implementation Plan

Dear Chairs Nancy Sutley and John Holdren, National Ocean Council,

The draft National Ocean Policy Implementation Plan establishes a strong blueprint for taking action and fostering agency coordination to sustain our ocean, coastal and Great Lakes resources. The draft plan has successfully incorporated the needs and concerns of governmental, non-profit, and commercial groups and provides clarifying details to improve accountability and monitor progress toward improved ocean management. Frequent notations on how implementing actions are related to one another provides confidence that activities will be coordinated and make good use of limited resources.

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With these additions, President Obama's Implementation Plan will provide a better guide for achieving the goals of protecting, maintaining, and restoring the nation's oceans, coasts, and Great Lakes and ensuring resilient coastal economies. I look forward to the release of the final plan and hope to see policy translated into action on the water soon.

Sincerely,  
Mr. Nick Heath

Mr. Benjamin Boorman  
3275 Remington Trce  
Apt 202  
Memphis, TN 38119-3063

Feb 12, 2012

Chairs Nancy Sutley and John Holdren, National Ocean Council

Subject: Strengthen the National Ocean Policy Implementation Plan

Dear Chairs Nancy Sutley and John Holdren, National Ocean Council,

The draft National Ocean Policy Implementation Plan establishes a strong blueprint for taking action and fostering agency coordination to sustain our ocean, coastal, and Great Lakes resources. The draft plan has successfully incorporated the needs and concerns of governmental, non-profit, and commercial groups and provides clarifying details to improve accountability and monitor progress toward improved ocean management. Frequent notations on how implementing actions are related to one another provides confidence that activities will be coordinated and make good use of limited resources.

Nonetheless, the plan could be improved to achieve even more progress. It should more fully utilize all available authorities for habitat protection and management. Many of the milestones could be extended beyond cataloguing and planning to include action, with tangible, on-the-water activities. Regional need, support, and capacity should guide where coordinated actions should first take place. Federal agencies must continue to ask for input from other levels of the government and the public and incorporate this new information into implementation of the plan.

With these additions, President Obama's Implementation Plan will provide a better guide for achieving the goals of protecting, maintaining, and restoring the nation's oceans, coasts, and Great Lakes and ensuring resilient coastal economies. I look forward to the release of the final plan and hope to see policy translated into action on the water soon.

Sincerely,  
Mr. Benjamin Boorman

Ms. Margaret Nagel  
631 Hinman Ave  
Evanston, IL 60202-2514  
(847) 475-0198

Feb 13, 2012

Chairs Nancy Sutley and John Holdren, National Ocean Council

Subject: Strengthen the National Ocean Policy Implementation Plan

Dear Chairs Nancy Sutley and John Holdren, National Ocean Council,

We had better start taking environmental problems very seriously, if we do not want to face starvation, water deprivation, and general chaos. The draft National Ocean Policy Implementation Plan establishes a strong blueprint for taking action and fostering agency coordination to sustain our ocean, coastal and Great Lakes resources. The draft plan has successfully incorporated the needs and concerns of governmental, non-profit, and commercial groups and provides clarifying details to improve accountability and monitor progress toward improved ocean management. Frequent notations on how implementing actions are related to one another provides confidence that activities will be coordinated and make good use of limited resources.

Nonetheless, the plan could be improved to achieve even more progress. It should more fully utilize all available authorities for habitat protection and management. Many of the milestones could be extended beyond cataloguing and planning to include action, with tangible, on-the-water activities. Regional need, support, and capacity should guide where coordinated actions should first take place. Federal agencies must continue to ask for input from other levels of the government and the public and incorporate this new information into implementation of the plan.

With these additions, President Obama's Implementation Plan will provide a better guide for achieving the goals of protecting, maintaining, and restoring the nation's oceans, coasts, and Great Lakes and ensuring resilient coastal economies. I look forward to the release of the final plan and hope to see policy translated into action on the water soon.

Sincerely,  
Ms. Margaret Nagel

Ms. Diana Artemis  
2930 Marshall St  
Falls Church, VA 22042-1956

Feb 13, 2012

Chairs Nancy Sutley and John Holdren, National Ocean Council

Subject: Improvements to the National Ocean Policy Implementation Plan

Dear Chairs Nancy Sutley and John Holdren, National Ocean Council,

The draft National Ocean Policy Implementation Plan is a good start. The draft plan has successfully incorporated the needs and concerns of governmental, non-profit, and commercial groups and provides clarifying details to improve accountability and monitor progress toward improved ocean management.

The draft plan could, however, be improved by more fully utilizing all available authorities for habitat protection and management, and milestones could be extended beyond cataloguing and planning to include action, with tangible, on-the-water activities. Furthermore, I believe that federal agencies should continue to ask for input from other levels of the government and the public and incorporate this new information into implementation of the plan.

With these improvements, the new Implementation Plan will provide a better guide for achieving the goals of protecting, maintaining, and restoring the nation's oceans, coasts, and Great Lakes.

Sincerely,  
Ms. Diana Artemis

Dr. Lawrence Thompson  
1069 Felicia Ct  
Livermore, CA 94550-8134

Feb 14, 2012

Chairs Nancy Sutley and John Holdren, National Ocean Council

Subject: Strengthen the National Ocean Policy Implementation Plan

Dear Chairs Nancy Sutley and John Holdren, National Ocean Council,

The draft National Ocean Policy Implementation Plan can be improved by using all available authorities for habitat protection and management. Regional need and support should guide where coordinated actions first take place. Federal agencies should solicit input from other levels of the government and the public, and should incorporate this new information into implementation of the plan.

Sincerely,  
Dr. Lawrence Thompson

Mrs. Margaret Cheney  
41d Windsor Ct  
Keene, NH 03431-1735

Feb 14, 2012

Chairs Nancy Sutley and John Holdren, National Ocean Council

Subject: Strengthen the National Ocean Policy Implementation Plan

Dear Chairs Nancy Sutley and John Holdren, National Ocean Council,

The draft National Ocean Policy Implementation Plan establishes a strong blueprint for taking action and fostering agency coordination to sustain our ocean, coastal and Great Lakes resources. The draft plan has successfully incorporated the needs and concerns of governmental, non-profit, and commercial groups and provides clarifying details to improve accountability and monitor progress toward improved ocean management. Frequent notations on how implementing actions are related to one another provides confidence that activities will be coordinated and make good use of limited resources.

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I look forward to the release of the final plan and hope to see policy translated into action on the water soon.

Sincerely,  
Mrs. Margaret Cheney

Mr. don cooke  
47-146 A Pulama rd  
Kaneohe, HI 96744-5088

Feb 14, 2012

Chairs Nancy Sutley and John Holdren, National Ocean Council

Subject: Strengthen the National Ocean Policy Implementation Plan

Dear Chairs Nancy Sutley and John Holdren, National Ocean Council,

I attended hearings here in Honolulu when this plan was being formulated about a year and a half ago. My HIDLNR director testified. She was not truthful. In state of hawaii hearings regarding community input to ocean related policies, she testified against community input. At the fed. hearings she testified for public input. The coast guard admiral present slouched and his blouse was wrinkled. Bad body language spoke for him....I don't trust this process.I don't believe it has any chance to do any good.The draft National Ocean Policy Implementation Plan establishes a strong blueprint for taking action and fostering agency coordination to sustain our ocean, coastal and Great Lakes resources. The draft plan has successfully incorporated the needs and concerns of governmental, non-profit, and commercial groups and provides clarifying details to improve accountability and monitor progress toward improved ocean management. Frequent notations on how implementing actions are related to one another provides confidence that activities will be coordinated and make good use of limited resources.

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With these additions, President Obama's Implementation Plan will provide a better guide for achieving the goals of protecting, maintaining, and restoring the nation's oceans, coasts, and Great Lakes and ensuring resilient coastal economies. I look forward to the release of the final plan and hope to see policy translated into action on the water soon.

Sincerely,  
Mr. don cooke

Ms. Gigi Spates  
PO Box 786  
PO Box 786  
Southold, NY 11971-0786

Feb 15, 2012

Chairs Nancy Sutley and John Holdren, National Ocean Council

Subject: Strengthen the National Ocean Policy Implementation Plan

Dear Chairs Nancy Sutley and John Holdren, National Ocean Council,

I am writing regarding the draft National Ocean Policy Implementation Plan. It is an excellent beginning for a relatively new agency--congratulations! My hope is that you will strengthen this plan even further as our oceans and other major waters are under great duress and need the most immediate actions possible.

The plan should use all habitat management and protection agencies to form these actions out of known science. Of course, priorities need to be set, and knowledge and ideas coordinated, but this plan should not be "studied to death". Input from other levels of government and also the public should be incorporated, but again, always with the need to move swiftly and decisively.

With this strengthening, the National Ocean Plan will achieve more goals in a shorter amount of time. I look forward to reviewing the final plan in the near future and hope it will include many policies translated into action for our nation's major waters.

Thanks for your consideration of my comments.

Sincerely,  
Ms. Gigi Spates

Ms. Kelly Paulk  
3112 Ozark Cir  
Chattanooga, TN 37415-5106

Feb 15, 2012

Chairs Nancy Sutley and John Holdren, National Ocean Council

Subject: Strengthen the National Ocean Policy Implementation Plan

Dear Chairs Nancy Sutley and John Holdren, National Ocean Council,

The National Ocean Policy Implementation Plan draft establishes a strong blueprint for taking action and fostering agency coordination to sustain our ocean, coastal and Great Lakes resources. The draft plan has successfully incorporated the needs and concerns of governmental, non-profit, and commercial groups and provides clarifying details to improve accountability and monitor progress toward improved ocean management. Frequent notations on how implementing actions are related to one another provides confidence that activities will be coordinated and make good use of limited resources.

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With these additions, President Obama's Implementation Plan will provide a better guide for achieving the goals of protecting, maintaining, and restoring the nation's oceans, coasts, and Great Lakes and ensuring resilient coastal economies. I look forward to the release of the final plan and hope to see policy translated into action on the water soon.

Sincerely,  
Ms. Kelly Paulk

Ms. Rita Gentry  
2202 N Norton Ave  
Tucson, AZ 85719-3831

Feb 17, 2012

Chairs Nancy Sutley and John Holdren, National Ocean Council

Subject: Strengthen the National Ocean Policy Implementation Plan

Dear Chairs Nancy Sutley and John Holdren, National Ocean Council,

The draft National Ocean Policy Implementation Plan establishes a strong blueprint for taking action and fostering agency coordination to sustain our ocean, coastal and Great Lakes resources. The draft plan has successfully incorporated the needs and concerns of governmental, non-profit, and commercial groups and provides clarifying details to improve accountability and monitor progress toward improved ocean management. Frequent notations on how implementing actions are related to one another provides confidence that activities will be coordinated and make good use of limited resources.

Nonetheless, the plan must be improved to achieve even more progress. It should more fully utilize all available authorities for habitat protection and management. Many of the milestones need to include action, with tangible, on-the-water activities. Regional need, support, and capacity should guide where coordinated actions should first take place. Federal agencies must continue to ask for input from other levels of the government and the public and incorporate this new information into implementation of the plan.

With these additions, President Obama's Implementation Plan will provide a better guide for achieving the goals of protecting, maintaining, and restoring the nation's oceans, coasts, and Great Lakes and ensuring resilient coastal economies.

I look forward to the release of the final plan and hope to see policy translated into action on the water soon. Thank you.

Sincerely,  
Ms. Rita Gentry

miss Emily Owens  
11698 NE Sunset Loop  
Bainbridge Island, WA 98110-4290

Feb 18, 2012

Chairs Nancy Sutley and John Holdren, National Ocean Council

Subject: Strengthen the National Ocean Policy Implementation Plan

Dear Chairs Nancy Sutley and John Holdren, National Ocean Council,

I am a current biology graduate student at the University of Washington, with a concentration in conservation biology. I am deeply concerned about so many issues, but marine affairs are close to my heart. I encourage you to read this message, as it lays out the importance of this draft plan, and the potential for even more improvement. We need this plan!!

The draft National Ocean Policy Implementation Plan establishes a strong blueprint for taking action and fostering agency coordination to sustain our ocean, coastal and Great Lakes resources. The draft plan has successfully incorporated the needs and concerns of governmental, non-profit, and commercial groups and provides clarifying details to improve accountability and monitor progress toward improved ocean management. Frequent notations on how implementing actions are related to one another provides confidence that activities will be coordinated and make good use of limited resources.

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With these additions, President Obama's Implementation Plan will provide a better guide for achieving the goals of protecting, maintaining, and restoring the nation's oceans, coasts, and Great Lakes and ensuring resilient coastal economies. I look forward to the release of the final plan and hope to see policy translated into action on the water soon.

Sincerely,  
miss Emily Owens

dr Philip C. Kreitner  
2814 SW Carolina St  
Portland, OR 97239-1094  
(503) 245-5181

Feb 18, 2012

Chairs Nancy Sutley and John Holdren, National Ocean Council

Subject: Strengthen the National Ocean Policy Implementation Plan

Dear Chairs Nancy Sutley and John Holdren, National Ocean Council,

The draft National Ocean Policy Implementation Plan establishes a strong blueprint for taking action and fostering agency coordination to sustain our ocean, coastal and Great Lakes resources.

However, the plan could be improved by more fully utilizing available authorities for habitat protection and management. Indicators of accomplishment need to cover the full loop of sustainable natural resource management: monitor/survey, catalog, analyze/evaluate, goal strategy/execution plan embracing exploit/conserves/restore -- and waltz me around again, Willy.

Discussion among relevant state & local resource management/advocacy/exploitation agencies and enterprises should be encouraged by relevant Federal agencies, with express intent of using the former bodies' input in the latter body's international promotion of the integrity of the global hydrosphere and its denizens.

To the extent that President Obama's Implementation Plan will provide a better guide for achieving the goals of protecting, maintaining, and restoring the nation's -- and, ultimately, the world's -- oceans, coasts, and lakes and ensuring sustainable coastal economies, I look forward to the release of the final plan in anticipation of seeing globally-sensitive/replicable policy translated into action on the water soon.

Sincerely,  
dr Philip C. Kreitner

ms Rosalie Hewitt  
13 Brown St  
Norwich, NY 13815-1823

Feb 20, 2012

Chairs Nancy Sutley and John Holdren, National Ocean Council

Subject: Strengthen the National Ocean Policy Implementation Plan

Dear Chairs Nancy Sutley and John Holdren, National Ocean Council,

Our oceans need to remain clean and strong. Without them we perish,

The draft National Ocean Policy Implementation Plan establishes a strong blueprint for taking action and fostering agency coordination to sustain our ocean, coastal and Great Lakes resources. The draft plan has successfully incorporated the needs and concerns of governmental, non-profit, and commercial groups and provides clarifying details to improve accountability and monitor progress toward improved ocean management. Frequent notations on how implementing actions are related to one another provides confidence that activities will be coordinated and make good use of limited resources.

Nonetheless, the plan could be improved to achieve even more progress. It should more fully utilize all available authorities for habitat protection and management. Many of the milestones could be extended beyond cataloguing and planning to include action, with tangible, on-the-water activities. Regional need, support, and capacity should guide where coordinated actions should first take place. Federal agencies must continue to ask for input from other levels of the government and the public and incorporate this new information into implementation of the plan.

With these additions, President Obama's Implementation Plan will provide a better guide for achieving the goals of protecting, maintaining, and restoring the nation's oceans, coasts, and Great Lakes and ensuring resilient coastal economies. I look forward to the release of the final plan and hope to see policy translated into action on the water soon.

Sincerely,  
ms Rosalie Hewitt

Ms. Linda Judd  
156 Sylvan Rd  
Walnut Creek, CA 94596-6036

Feb 22, 2012

Chairs Nancy Sutley and John Holdren, National Ocean Council

Subject: Strengthen the National Ocean Policy Implementation Plan

Dear Chairs Nancy Sutley and John Holdren, National Ocean Council,

The draft National Ocean Policy Implementation Plan establishes a strong blueprint for taking action and fostering agency coordination to sustain our ocean, coastal and Great Lakes resources. The draft plan has successfully incorporated the needs and concerns of governmental, non-profit, and commercial groups and provides clarifying details to improve accountability and monitor progress toward improved ocean management. Frequent notations on how implementing actions are related to one another provides confidence that activities will be coordinated and make good use of limited resources. I am encouraged with the thoughtful planning that has already shown progress.

The plan, however, could be improved to achieve even more progress. It should more fully utilize all available authorities for habitat protection and management. Many of the milestones could be extended beyond cataloguing and planning to include action, with tangible, on-the-water activities. Regional need, support, and capacity should guide where coordinated actions should first take place. Federal agencies must continue to ask for input from other levels of the government and the public and incorporate this new information into implementation of the plan.

With these additions, President Obama's Implementation Plan will provide a better guide for achieving the goals of protecting, maintaining, and restoring the nation's oceans, coasts, and Great Lakes and ensuring resilient coastal economies. I look forward to the release of the final plan and hope to see policy translated into action on the water soon.

Sincerely,  
Ms. Linda Judd

Mrs. heidemarie khalek  
129 W Walnut St  
Farmingdale, NY 11735-3142

Feb 24, 2012

Chairs Nancy Sutley and John Holdren, National Ocean Council

Subject: Strengthen the National Ocean Policy Implementation Plan

Dear Chairs Nancy Sutley and John Holdren, National Ocean Council,

The draft National Ocean Policy Implementation Plan establishes a strong blueprint for taking action and fostering agency coordination to sustain our ocean, coastal and Great Lakes resources. The draft plan has successfully incorporated the needs and concerns of governmental, non-profit, and commercial groups and provides clarifying details to improve accountability and monitor progress toward improved ocean management. Frequent notations on how implementing actions are related to one another provides confidence that activities will be coordinated and make good use of limited resources.

And lets not forget the Navy and their sonar drills....they're harming the whales! Give these poor animals a chance to get away from the detrimental sounds.

Nonetheless, the plan could be improved to achieve even more progress. It should more fully utilize all available authorities for habitat protection and management. Many of the milestones could be extended beyond cataloguing and planning to include action, with tangible, on-the-water activities. Regional need, support, and capacity should guide where coordinated actions should first take place. Federal agencies must continue to ask for input from other levels of the government and the public and incorporate this new information into implementation of the plan.

With these additions, President Obama's Implementation Plan will provide a better guide for achieving the goals of protecting, maintaining, and restoring the nation's oceans, coasts, and Great Lakes and ensuring resilient coastal economies. I look forward to the release of the final plan and hope to see policy translated into action on the water soon.

Sincerely,  
Mrs. heidemarie khalek

Mr. Amitav Dash  
26 Hasler Crescent  
Guelph, Ontario, Canada N1L 0A2, TX  
75056-6509

Feb 26, 2012

Chairs Nancy Sutley and John Holdren, National Ocean Council

Subject: Strengthen the National Ocean Policy Implementation Plan

Dear Chairs Nancy Sutley and John Holdren, National Ocean Council,

I know that as a neighbour to the U.S., and not a citizen, I cannot effect the political system, but I believe America's policies help set standards for the rest of the world, and it is why I try to contact U.S. politicians in the hope of supporting various legislative efforts that eventually will benefit my country, Canada, as well as the rest of the world.

And, when it comes to the ecosystem of which we are all a part, there can be no boundaries, as a problem in one area, however isolated, will eventually (and sometimes immediately) affect all of us.

That is why I support strengthening the draft National Ocean Policy Implementation Plan. While the plan establishes a strong blueprint for taking action and fostering agency co-ordination to sustain America's ocean, coastal and Great Lakes resources, more can be done.

Yes, the draft plan has successfully incorporated the needs and concerns of governmental, non-profit, and commercial groups and provides clarifying details to improve accountability and monitor progress toward improved ocean management. And, yes, frequent notations on how implementing actions are related to one another, providing confidence that activities will be co-ordinated and will make good use of limited resources.

Nonetheless, more progress can be enabled.

The plan should more fully utilize all available authorities for habitat protection and management. Many of the milestones could be extended beyond cataloguing and planning to include action, with tangible, on-the-water activities. Regional need, support, and capacity should guide where coordinated actions should first take place. Federal agencies must continue to ask for input from other levels of the government and the public and incorporate this new information into implementation of the plan.

With these additions, President Obama's Implementation Plan will provide a better guide for achieving the goals of protecting, maintaining, and restoring your nation's oceans, coasts, and Great Lakes and ensuring resilient coastal economies. I look forward to the release of the final plan and hope to see policy translated into action on the water soon.

Sincerely,  
Mr. Amitav Dash

Dr. Linda Carroll  
390 Audubon St Apt D  
New Orleans, LA 70118-4951

Feb 26, 2012

Chairs Nancy Sutley and John Holdren, National Ocean Council

Subject: Strengthen the National Ocean Policy Implementation Plan

Dear Chairs Nancy Sutley and John Holdren, National Ocean Council,

As a citizen who is concerned about the health of our oceans and how it affects all of us, I am pleased that the draft National Ocean Policy Implementation Plan establishes a strong blueprint for taking action and fostering agency coordination to sustain our ocean, coastal and Great Lakes resources. The draft plan has successfully incorporated the needs and concerns of governmental, non-profit, and commercial groups and provides clarifying details to improve accountability and monitor progress toward improved ocean management. Frequent notations on how implementing actions are related to one another provides confidence that activities will be coordinated and make good use of limited resources.

Nonetheless, the plan could be improved to achieve even more progress. It should more fully utilize all available authorities for habitat protection and management. Many of the milestones could be extended beyond cataloguing and planning to include action, with tangible, on-the-water activities. Regional need, support, and capacity should guide where coordinated actions should first take place. Federal agencies must continue to ask for input from other levels of the government and the public and incorporate this new information into implementation of the plan.

With these additions, President Obama's Implementation Plan will provide a better guide for achieving the goals of protecting, maintaining, and restoring the nation's oceans, coasts, and Great Lakes and ensuring resilient coastal economies. I look forward to the release of the final plan and hope to see policy translated into action on the water soon.

Sincerely,  
Dr. Linda Carroll

Name: **Anita Buffer**

Organization: Pew Environment Group, et al.

Path:

Comment: Chairs Nancy Sutley and John Holdren, National Ocean Council  
Subject: Strengthen the National Ocean Policy Implementation Plan  
Dear Chairs Nancy Sutley and John Holdren, National Ocean Council,  
The plan could be IMPROVED to achieve EVEN MORE PROGRESS to include  
ACTION WITH TANGIBLE ACTIVITIES.  
President Obama's Implementation Plan will provide a better guide for  
achieving the goals of protecting, maintaining, and restoring the  
nation's oceans, coasts, and Great Lakes and ensuring resilient coastal  
economies.  
I hope to see policy translated into ACTION on the water.  
Sincerely

Name: **Bonnie Bick**

Organization: Pew Environment Group, et al.

Path:

Comment: Dear Chairs Nancy Sutley and John Holdren, National Ocean Council, I support the draft National Ocean Policy Implementation Plan because it establishes a an action plan to foster coordination to protect our ocean.

The draft plan has successfully incorporated the needs and concerns of governmental, non-profit, and commercial groups and provides clarifying details to improve accountability and monitor progress toward improved ocean management. Frequent notations on how implementing actions are related to one another provides confidence that activities will be coordinated and make good use of limited resources.

I would like this plan to more fully utilize all available authorities for habitat protection and management. Many of the milestones could be extended beyond cataloguing and planning to include action, with tangible, on-the-water activities. Regional need, support, and capacity should guide where coordinated actions should first take place. Federal agencies must continue to ask for input from other levels of the government and the public and incorporate this new information into implementation of the plan.

After these improvement have been completed , President Obama's Implementation Plan will provide a better guide for achieving the goals of protecting, maintaining, and restoring the nation's oceans, coasts, and Great Lakes and ensuring resilient coastal economies. I look forward to the release of the final plan and hope to see policy translated into action on the water soon.

Sincerely,

Name: **Jackie Feulner**

Organization: Pew Environment Group, et al.

Path:

Comment: Dear Chairs Nancy Sutley and John Holdren, National Ocean Council, Although the draft National Ocean Policy Implementation Plan establishes a strong blueprint to sustain our ocean, coastal and Great Lakes resources, it should be improved to achieve even more progress. It should more fully utilize all available authorities for habitat protection and management. Many of the milestones could be extended beyond cataloguing and planning to include action, with tangible, on-the-water activities. Regional need, support, and capacity should guide where coordinated actions should first take place. Federal agencies must continue to ask for input from other levels of the government and the public and incorporate this new information into implementation of the plan.

With these additions, President Obama's Implementation Plan will provide a better guide for achieving the goals of protecting, maintaining, and restoring the nation's oceans, coasts, and Great Lakes and ensuring resilient coastal economies. I look forward to the release of the final plan and hope to see policy translated into action on the water soon.

Name: **Varda Burns**

Organization: Pew Environment Group, et al.

Path:

Comment: Dear Chairs Nancy Sutley and John Holdren, National Ocean Council, The draft National Ocean Policy Implementation Plan establishes a strong blueprint for taking action and fostering agency coordination to sustain our ocean, coastal and Great Lakes resources. The draft plan has successfully incorporated the needs and concerns of governmental, non-profit, and commercial groups and provides clarifying details to improve accountability and monitor progress toward improved ocean management. Frequent notations on how implementing actions are related to one another provides confidence that activities will be coordinated and make good use of limited resources. Nonetheless, the plan could be improved to achieve even more progress. It should more fully utilize all available authorities for habitat protection and management. Many of the milestones could be extended beyond cataloguing and planning to include action, with tangible, on-the-water activities. Regional need, support, and capacity should guide where coordinated actions should first take place. Federal agencies must continue to ask for input from other levels of the government and the public and incorporate this new information into implementation of the plan. With these additions, President Obama's Implementation Plan will provide a better guide for achieving the goals of protecting, maintaining, and restoring the nation's oceans, coasts, and Great Lakes and ensuring resilient coastal economies. I look forward to the release of the final plan and hope to see policy translated into action on the water soon. The world's reefs and marine life are dying. We use our oceans, that sustain all life on Earth, as a toilet. The question is do we care more about momentary profits then the survival of our species? When will polluters be held responsible? We have put the fate of the Earth in the hands of those who don't appear to care.

Name: **Martin Horwitz**

Organization: Pew Environment Group, et al.

Path:

Comment: Dear Chairs Nancy Sutley and John Holdren, National Ocean Council, The draft National Ocean Policy Implementation Plan establishes a strong blueprint for taking action and fostering agency coordination to sustain our ocean, coastal and Great Lakes resources. The draft plan has successfully incorporated the needs and concerns of governmental, non-profit, and commercial groups and provides clarifying details to improve accountability and monitor progress toward improved ocean management. Frequent notations on how implementing actions are related to one another provides confidence that activities will be coordinated and make good use of limited resources. Nonetheless, the plan could be improved to achieve even more progress. It should more fully utilize all available authorities for habitat protection and management. Many of the milestones could be extended beyond cataloguing and planning to include action, with tangible, on-the-water activities. Regional need, support, and capacity should guide where coordinated actions should first take place. Federal agencies must continue to ask for input from other levels of the government and the public and incorporate this new information into implementation of the plan. With these additions, President Obama's Implementation Plan will provide a better guide for achieving the goals of protecting, maintaining, and restoring the nation's oceans, coasts, and Great Lakes and ensuring resilient coastal economies. I look forward to the release of the final plan and hope to see policy translated into action on the water soon. Stop all the damn drilling. It is not courageous to leave everything on the table. No deepwater drilling, and no drilling in the arctic!

Name: **Diane Luck**

Organization: Pew Environment Group, et al.

Path:

Comment: Dear Chairs Nancy Sutley and John Holdren, National Ocean Council, I am writing regarding the draft National Ocean Policy Implementation Plan. The plan goes a long way in protecting our oceans, but it could be improved to achieve even more progress. It should more fully utilize all available authorities for habitat protection and management. Many of the milestones could be extended beyond cataloguing and planning to include action, with tangible, on-the-water activities. Regional need, support, and capacity should guide where coordinated actions should first take place. Federal agencies must continue to ask for input from other levels of the government and the public and incorporate this new information into implementation of the plan. Please make this plan as strong as possible to protect our oceans! Thank you. Sincerely,

Name: **Trish Tuley**

Organization: Pew Environment Group, et al.

Path:

Comment: Dear Chairs Nancy Sutley and John Holdren, National Ocean Council, The draft National Ocean Policy Implementation Plan has made a good first step in protecting our oceans and Great Lakes. Please consider the following:

1. Many of the milestones could be extended beyond cataloguing and planning to include action, with tangible, on-the-water activities.
2. Regional need, support, and capacity should guide where coordinated actions should first take place.
3. Federal agencies must continue to ask for input from other levels of the government and the public and incorporate this new information into implementation of the plan.

With these additions, President Obama's Implementation Plan will provide a better guide for achieving the goals of protecting, maintaining, and restoring the nation's oceans, coasts, and Great Lakes and ensuring resilient coastal economies. I look forward to the release of the final plan and hope to see policy translated into action on the water soon.

Sincerely,

Name: **Mark Meeks**

Organization: Pew Environment Group, et al.

Path:

Comment: Dear Chairs Nancy Sutley and John Holdren, National Ocean Council, The draft National Ocean Policy Implementation Plan establishes a strong blueprint for taking action and fostering agency coordination to sustain our ocean, coastal and Great Lakes resources. The draft plan has successfully incorporated the needs and concerns of governmental, non-profit, and commercial groups and provides clarifying details to improve accountability and monitor progress toward improved ocean management.

We must maximize our commitment to the health of the oceans, given the massive changes in our environment now underway, due to climate change, diminishing fish populations, pollution, and other pressures. We must pursue all the information we can and give full attention to what scientifically can be described as what is happening today. We must face the challenges fully in order to alter human activity as befits a healthy ocean environment. It is critical that we not allow interests in economic activities to diminish understanding of impacts on the oceans or cloud our insights into what the environment of the waters requires for health. We must prioritize protection and the acquisition of information from all sources which serves such understanding and action.

Sincerely

Name: **Sandy Dvorsky**

Organization: Pew Environment Group, et al.

Path:

Comment: Dear Chairs Nancy Sutley and John Holdren, National Ocean Council, The draft National Ocean Policy Implementation Plan should be improved:  
It should more fully utilize all available authorities for habitat protection and management.  
Many of the milestones could be extended beyond cataloguing and planning to include action, with tangible, on-the-water activities. Regional need, support, and capacity should guide where coordinated actions should first take place. Federal agencies must continue to ask for input from other levels of the government and the public and incorporate this new information into implementation of the plan. By making these additions, President Obama's Implementation Plan will provide a better guide for achieving the goals of protecting, maintaining, and restoring the nation's oceans, coasts, and Great Lakes. A huge benefit to that is resilient coastal economies. And beyond that is a long term healthy environment for when my two daughters are my age. I care deeply about this.  
I look forward to the release of the final plan and hope to see policy translated into action on the water soon.  
Sincerely

Name: **Tom Wood**

Organization: Pew Environment Group, et al.

Path:

Comment: Dear Chairs Nancy Sutley and John Holdren, National Ocean Council, Stop the Japanese from killing whales for "research" (and sushi), and sharks for soup. Stop overfishing of fish used for human consumption (before they are essentially extinct). Reduce wasted by-catch fish that are thrown away - dead, which damages the marine ecosystems. Establish larger no-fishing reserves to allow depleted species to recover. PAY ATTENTION, and stop screwing up the Natural World - we're dead without it!.

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The draft National Ocean Policy Implementation Plan establishes a strong blueprint for taking action and fostering agency coordination to sustain our ocean, coastal and Great Lakes resources. The draft plan has successfully incorporated the needs and concerns of governmental, non-profit, and commercial groups and provides clarifying details to improve accountability and monitor progress toward improved ocean management. Frequent notations on how implementing actions are related to one another provides confidence that activities will be coordinated and make good use of limited resources. Nonetheless, the plan could be improved to achieve even more progress. It should more fully utilize all available authorities for habitat protection and management. Many of the milestones could be extended beyond cataloguing and planning to include action, with tangible, on-the-water activities. Regional need, support, and capacity should guide where coordinated actions should first take place. Federal agencies must continue to ask for input from other levels of the government and the public and incorporate this new information into implementation of the plan. With these additions, President Obama's Implementation Plan will provide a better guide for achieving the goals of protecting, maintaining, and restoring the nation's oceans, coasts, and Great Lakes and ensuring resilient coastal economies. I look forward to the release of the final plan and hope to see policy translated into action on the water soon. Sincerely,

Name: **Karen Bauer**

Organization: Pew Environment Group, et al.

Path:

Comment: Dear Chairs Nancy Sutley and John Holdren, National Ocean Council, As a lifelong surfer, sailor and diver, I feel the draft National Ocean Policy Implementation Plan establishes a strong blueprint for taking action and fostering agency coordination to sustain our ocean, coastal and Great Lakes resources. The draft plan has successfully incorporated the needs and concerns of governmental, non-profit, and commercial groups and provides clarifying details to improve accountability and monitor progress toward improved ocean management. Frequent notations on how implementing actions are related to one another provides confidence that activities will be coordinated and make good use of limited resources.

Nonetheless, the plan could be improved to achieve even more progress. It should more fully utilize all available authorities for habitat protection and management. Many of the milestones could be extended beyond cataloguing and planning to include action, with tangible, on-the-water activities. Regional need, support, and capacity should guide where coordinated actions should first take place. Federal agencies must continue to ask for input from other levels of the government and the public and incorporate this new information into implementation of the plan.

With these additions, President Obama's Implementation Plan will provide a better guide for achieving the goals of protecting, maintaining, and restoring the nation's oceans, coasts, and Great Lakes and ensuring resilient coastal economies. I look forward to the release of the final plan and hope to see policy translated into action on the water soon.

Sincerely,

Name: **Julia O'Neal**

Organization: Pew Environment Group, et al.

Path:

Comment: Dear Chairs Nancy Sutley and John Holdren, National Ocean Council, I have not only not read the plan, I fear that even if I did I wouldn't have the expertise to make comments that are useful and scientifically valid. But I have read a lot of EISs for local projects, and examined NRDA plans for my state (MS), so I am not a complete virgin. Thus I sign on to the Pew letter. But I would like to add one thing, which I am constantly harping on in NRDA comments: "No Fish Zones" or "Marine Protected Areas." I saw a great piece on PBS news about a small community in the Philippines that has used Marine Protected Areas (and big-time birth control availability) to try to control a crash in the fish population, and thus the sustenance, of the area. There are places in CA where it works. The policing is probably expensive and formidable, but the benefits are undeniable. We need it desperately here on the Gulf Coast, where our menhaden (the bottom of the chain, the source of food for every higher animal, including megafauna and birds) are disappearing through the inexorable, constant "Omega" boats. I don't understand why they can't make the cholesterol-lowering pills out of Asian carp in Michigan....

Name: **Beverly Williams**

Organization: Pew Environment Group, et al.

Path:

Comment: More safety requirements must be required with offshore oil and gas exploration and drilling. We will be dealing with problems from the Deepwater Horizon spill for the rest of my lifetime.

Name: **Barbara Chally**

Organization: Pew Environment Group, et al.

Path:

Comment: Dear Chairs Nancy Sutley and John Holdren, National Ocean Council, I support the National Ocean Policy Implementation Plan drafted to establish a strong blueprint for taking action and fostering agency coordination to sustain our ocean, coastal and Great Lakes resources. Were it to more fully utilize everything available for habitat protection and management even more progress could be achieved with tangible, on-the-water activities. Regional need, capacity and support with input from other levels of the government and the public could help it succeed. I look forward to the release of the final plan and hope to see policy translated into action on the water soon.  
Sincerely,

Name: **Linda Lippner**

Organization: Pew Environment Group, et al.

Path:

Comment: Dear Chairs Nancy Sutley and John Holdren, National Ocean Council, The draft National Ocean Policy Implementation Plan establishes a strong blueprint for taking action and fostering agency coordination to sustain our ocean, coastal and Great Lakes resources. The draft plan has successfully incorporated the needs and concerns of governmental, non-profit, and commercial groups and provides clarifying details to improve accountability and monitor progress toward improved ocean management. Frequent notations on how implementing actions are related to one another provides confidence that activities will be coordinated and make good use of limited resources. Nonetheless, the plan could be improved to achieve even more progress. It should more fully utilize all available authorities for habitat protection and management. Many of the milestones could be extended beyond cataloguing and planning to include action, with tangible, on-the-water activities. Regional need, support, and capacity should guide where coordinated actions should first take place. Federal agencies must continue to ask for input from other levels of the government and the public and incorporate this new information into implementation of the plan. With these additions, President Obama's Implementation Plan will provide a better guide for achieving the goals of protecting, maintaining, and restoring the nation's oceans, coasts, and Great Lakes and ensuring resilient coastal economies. I look forward to the release of the final plan and hope to see policy translated into action on the water soon. Read an article the other day from a young man who has seen garbage, plastic, and more plastic on the beaches around the world. He also noted that when he went to the waters edge to get in the ocean (a beach in Costa Rica) he saw that the water was very murky and full of something. This something was tiny bits of plastic that had eroded into small pieces. This plastic is circulating the oceans of our earth due to the currents. He saw the same thing a few years ago on a ocean beach of China. Now, with this plastic in our ocean waters it seems to me that the smaller fish will ingest the water. Then they will be eaten by larger fish, and on and on. So, when we now eat seafood, we are ingesting plastic!!! We the people of this earth are partly to blame for killing our oceans!! Also, read an article where there has been an oil spill for seven years in the Gulf of Mexico. The oil has been seeping from the rig and it is know to many that this has been going on. The oil company knows about it and nothing has been done. I dare say that our government knows

about this, as well.

Please take action NOW to restore our oceans to the creatures in the oceans and to the people of the world.

Name: **Chris Goldey**

Organization: Pew Environment Group, et al.

Path:

Comment: Dear Chairs Nancy Sutley and John Holdren, National Ocean Council, We must protect our oceans and the creatures that inhabit them if we want to leave the world a better place than we found it. The draft National Ocean Policy Implementation Plan establishes a strong blueprint for taking action and fostering agency coordination to sustain our ocean, coastal and Great Lakes resources. The draft plan has successfully incorporated the needs and concerns of governmental, non-profit, and commercial groups and provides clarifying details to improve accountability and monitor progress toward improved ocean management. Frequent notations on how implementing actions are related to one another provides confidence that activities will be coordinated and make good use of limited resources. Nonetheless, the plan could be improved to achieve even more progress. It should more fully utilize all available authorities for habitat protection and management. Many of the milestones could be extended beyond cataloguing and planning to include action, with tangible, on-the-water activities. Regional need, support, and capacity should guide where coordinated actions should first take place. Federal agencies must continue to ask for input from other levels of the government and the public and incorporate this new information into implementation of the plan. With these additions, President Obama's Implementation Plan will provide a better guide for achieving the goals of protecting, maintaining, and restoring the nation's oceans, coasts, and Great Lakes and ensuring resilient coastal economies. I look forward to the release of the final plan and hope to see policy translated into action on the water soon. Sincerely,

Name: **Judith Fletcher**

Organization: Pew Environment Group, et al.

Path:

Comment: Dear Chairs Nancy Sutley and John Holdren, National Ocean Council, President Obama's Implementation Plan provides a good foundation for progress.

However, it could be improved:

- 1) Many of the milestones could be extended beyond cataloguing and planning to include action, with tangible, on-the-water activities.
- 2) The plan should more fully make use of all available authorities for habitat protection and management.
- 3) Regional need, support, and capacity should guide where coordinated actions first take place.
- 4) Federal agencies must continue to ask for input from other levels of the government and the public and incorporate this new information into the implementation of the plan.

These additions would enable the Plan to more successfully accomplish the goals of protecting, maintaining, and restoring the nation's oceans, coasts, and Great Lakes and ensuring the resilience of coastal economies.

Sincerely,

Name: **Thomas Adams**

Organization: Pew Environment Group, et al.

Path:

Comment: Dear Chairs Nancy Sutley and John Holdren, National Ocean Council,  
Please stop the Oceans policy. It is trying to fix something that is not broken. we have too much government already. I is a crime and a shame that the EDF and Pew and other like groups have the money to send out this propoganda under the false guise of saving our natural resources.  
Stop this madness before you put more people out of work with more regulations. If anyone is actually reading this or listening How about a shout back.  
Sincerely,

Name: **Bob Zales**

Organization: Pew Environment Group, et al.

Path:

Comment: Dear Chairs Nancy Sutley and John Holdren, National Ocean Council,  
The draft National Ocean Policy Implementation Plan establishes too much unaccountable control of our National Oceans management. There is entirely too much control proposed and too many agencies providing unrestricted control to eliminate people off our oceans, coastal areas, and Great Lakes resources. The draft plan is entirely too complicated and has no congressional oversight.  
The plan should be eliminated.  
Sincerely,

Name: **Diana Goodman**

Organization: Pew Environment Group, et al.

Path:

Comment: Dear Chairs Nancy Sutley and John Holdren, National Ocean Council, The draft National Ocean Policy Implementation Plan establishes a strong blueprint for taking action and fostering agency coordination to sustain our ocean, coastal and Great Lakes resources. The draft plan incorporates the needs and concerns of governmental, non-profit, and commercial groups and provides details to improve accountability and monitor progress toward improved ocean management. Frequent notations on how implementing actions are related to one another provides confidence that activities will be coordinated and make good use of limited resources. The plan could achieve even more fully/utilize all available authorities for habitat protection and management. Many of the milestones could be extended beyond cataloguing and planning. With these additions, President Obama's Implementation Plan will provide a better guide for achieving the goals of protecting, maintaining, and restoring the nation's oceans, coasts, and Great Lakes and ensuring resilient coastal economies. I look forward to the release of the final plan and hope to see policy translated into action on the water soon.  
Sincerely

Name: **Anne Wolf**

Organization: Pew Environment Group, et al.

Path:

Comment: Dear Chairs Nancy Sutley and John Holdren, National Ocean Council, The draft National Ocean Policy Implementation Plan provides a blueprint to sustain our ocean, coastal and Great Lakes resources. The Plan does need to utilize all available authorities for habitat protection and management. Many of the milestones could be extended beyond cataloguing and planning to include action, with tangible, on-the-water activities. Regional need, support, and capacity should guide where coordinated actions should first take place. Federal agencies must continue to ask for input from other levels of the government and the public and incorporate this new information into implementation of the plan. With these additions, the Plan will provide a better guide for achieving the goals of protecting, maintaining, and restoring the nation's oceans, coasts, and Great Lakes and ensuring resilient coastal economies.  
Sincerely

Name: **Sheri Kuticka**

Organization: Pew Environment Group, et al.

Path:

Comment: Dear Chairs Nancy Sutley and John Holdren, National Ocean Council, The draft National Ocean Policy Implementation Plan establishes a blueprint for taking action and fostering agency coordination to sustain our ocean, coastal and Great Lakes resources. But the plan could be improved to achieve more progress. It should more fully utilize all available authorities for habitat protection and management. It could be extended beyond cataloguing and planning to include action, with on-the-water activities. Federal agencies must continue to ask for input from other levels of the government and the public and incorporate this new information into implementation of the plan.  
Sincerely

Name: **Robert Shorin**

Organization: Pew Environment Group, et al.

Path:

Comment: Dear Chairs Nancy Sutley and John Holdren, National Ocean Council, The NOP was created to "ensure the protection, maintenance, and restoration of the health of ocean, coastal, and Great Lakes ecosystems and resources." Through four key themes--ecosystem-based management; best available science and data; efficiency and collaboration; and strong regional efforts--the policy outlines action that must be taken to protect marine ecosystems and to encourage sustainable ocean uses. The National Ocean Council has released a blueprint for implementation of the NOP. While it's a good start, more can be done to ensure that the plan is as strong as possible, starting with more interagency cooperation and greater emphasis on activities taking place on the water.

The draft National Ocean Policy Implementation Plan establishes a strong blueprint for taking action and fostering agency coordination to sustain our ocean, coastal and Great Lakes resources. Nonetheless, the plan could be improved to achieve even more progress. It should more fully utilize all available authorities for habitat protection and management. Many of the milestones could be extended beyond cataloguing and planning to include action, with tangible, on-the-water activities. Regional need, support, and capacity should guide where coordinated actions should first take place. Federal agencies must continue to ask for input from other levels of the government and the public and incorporate this new information into implementation of the plan.

With these additions, President Obama's Implementation Plan will provide a better guide for achieving the goals of protecting, maintaining, and restoring the nation's oceans, coasts, and Great Lakes and ensuring resilient coastal economies. I look forward to the release of the final plan and hope to see policy translated into action on the water soon.

Sincerely,  
Mr. Robert

Name: **Denis Moore**

Organization: Pew Environment Group, et al.

Path:

Comment: Dear Chairs Nancy Sutley and John Holdren, National Ocean Council, Corporate farming - monocultures, herbicides, pesticides. plowing, fertilizers containing mercury and other are destroying all our living eco-systems on this planet we need a draft legislation that includes the correction of these atrocities and stops subsidising them.

The draft National Ocean Policy Implementation Plan only begins to take action to sustain our ocean, coastal and Great Lakes resources and needs to go a lot further. Must improve accountability and monitor progress toward improved ocean conditions. Frequent notations on how implementing actions are related to one another provides confidence that activities will be coordinated and make good use of limited resources.

Nonetheless, the plan could be improved to achieve even more progress. It should more fully utilize all available authorities for habitat protection and management. Many of the milestones could be extended beyond cataloguing and planning to include action, with tangible, on-the-water activities. Regional need, support, and capacity should guide where coordinated actions should first take place. Federal agencies must continue to ask for input from other levels of the government and the public and incorporate this new information into implementation of the plan.

I look forward to the release of a more comprehensive plan and hope to see policy translated into action on the water soon.

Sincerely

Name: **Sarah Manno**

Organization: Pew Environment Group, et al.

Path:

Comment: Dear Chairs Nancy Sutley and John Holdren, National Ocean Council, Our oceans are in big trouble. The draft National Ocean Policy Implementation Plan establishes a strong blueprint for taking action and fostering agency coordination to sustain our ocean, coastal and Great Lakes resources. The draft plan has successfully incorporated the needs and concerns of governmental, non-profit, and commercial groups and provides clarifying details to improve accountability and monitor progress toward improved ocean management. Frequent notations on how implementing actions are related to one another provides confidence that activities will be coordinated and make good use of limited resources.

Nonetheless, the plan could be improved to achieve even more progress. It should more fully utilize all available authorities for habitat protection and management. Many of the milestones could be extended beyond cataloguing and planning to include action, with tangible, on-the-water activities. Regional need, support, and capacity should guide where coordinated actions should first take place. Federal agencies must continue to ask for input from other levels of the government and the public and incorporate this new information into implementation of the plan.

With these additions, President Obama's Implementation Plan will provide a better guide for achieving the goals of protecting, maintaining, and restoring the nation's oceans, coasts, and Great Lakes and ensuring resilient coastal economies. I look forward to the release of the final plan and hope to see policy translated into action on the water soon.

Sincerely

Name: **Lynn Wilbur**

Organization: Pew Environment Group, et al.

Path:

Comment: Chairs Nancy Sutley and John Holdren, National Ocean Council  
Subject: Strengthen the National Ocean Policy Implementation Plan  
Dear Chairs Nancy Sutley and John Holdren, National Ocean Council,  
Please ensure that the policy is strengthened by interagency  
cooperation. Thank you.  
Sincerely

Name: **Bruce Jackson**

Organization: Pew Environment Group, et al.

Path:

Comment: Whales and Dolphins must be protected concerning Naval sonar experimentation so they aren't harmed by loud sonar acoustics since they also use their own natural sonar to echo locate while they swim, we MUST share the ocean with them.

Name: **Lovenda Garrison**

Organization: Pew Environment Group, et al.

Path:

Comment: Dear Chairs Nancy Sutley and John Holdren, National Ocean Council, Preserving the oceans and all bodies of water and all water ways will ensure many future generations the pleasures we have had. We need to take care of this planet. I would like to feel the human race is here to take care of this planet not destroy it in the name of \$\$\$\$\$, I would like to think that my grandchildren's children wont have to clean up past mistakes just to live if they can live on the planet. We share this planet with more life than ourselves. My granddaughter wants to be a marine biologist, it would be nice for her to experience all marine life and not have to worry about species becoming extinct because of mistakes this generation and past generations have made. We are the ones with knowledge. How can we hold all life in the palm of our hands and only think of the money it will make and with no regard our own future

Name: **Wayne Teel**

Organization: Pew Environment Group, et al.

Path:

Comment: I am especially intrigued by the success of oceanic conservation reserves that provide habitat for entire ecosystems to reproduce sufficiently to repopulated surrounding commercially exploited areas. By strategically increasing the number of these areas around the US Coastline we could, in theory, repopulate the entire coastal fishery. Without these reserves the gradual degradation and depopulation of these ecosystems will continue. They work. Let's make them work for the entire country.

Name: **John Deneen**

Organization: Pew Environment Group, et al.

Path:

Comment: Dear Chairs Nancy Sutley and John Holdren, National Ocean Council,  
Re: Ocean Acidification  
<http://ngm.nationalgeographic.com/2011/04/ocean-acidification/kolbert-text>  
Calera.com - Green Cement for a Blue Planet - using Clean Tech to Turn CO2 Waste into Cement like corals for the production of shell materials and reefs <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=6UQWJn1rlgY&sns=em> - because:  
1) Sea water contains billions of tons of calcium and magnesium covers 70% of the planet and the 2775 power plants in the US alone pumped out 2.5bnt of CO2 in 2006.  
2) CO2 is recycled along with fly ash, wastewater and brines from fossil fuels and desalination. The process essentially mimics 'marine cement,' which is produced by corals for the production of shell materials and reefs. Such organisms take the calcium and magnesium ions present in sea-water salts and use them to form carbonates at ambient temperatures and pressures.  
Besides, Calera's process remixes the ingredients and outputs fresh water and cement. Using waste materials to produce cement means not having to mine limestone. Meanwhile, pollutants like sulfur oxides, mercury and CO2 are captured, purifying the flue gas emitting from power and cement plants and preventing acid rain.  
Accordingly, please invest more in Calera.com - Green Cement for a Blue Planet - using Clean Tech to Turn CO2 Waste into Cement like Coral & Sea Shells Do for Creating New Jobs  
<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=6UQWJn1rlgY&sns=em>  
See Calera Case Study: Entrepreneurship, Innovation, and Sustainability  
<http://www.flatworldknowledge.com/pub/sustainability-innovation-and-/485364#web-485364>  
The draft National Ocean Policy Implementation Plan establishes a strong blueprint for taking action and fostering agency coordination to sustain our ocean, coastal and Great Lakes resources. The draft plan has successfully incorporated the needs and concerns of governmental, non-profit, and commercial groups and provides clarifying details to improve accountability and monitor progress toward improved ocean management. Frequent notations on how implementing actions are related to one another provides confidence that activities will be coordinated and make good use of limited resources.  
Nonetheless, the plan could be improved to achieve even more progress. It should more fully utilize all available authorities for habitat protection and management. Many of the milestones could be extended beyond cataloguing and planning to include action, with tangible, on-the-water activities. Regional need, support, and capacity should

guide where coordinated actions should first take place. Federal agencies must continue to ask for input from other levels of the government and the public and incorporate this new information into implementation of the plan.

With these additions, President Obama's Implementation Plan will provide a better guide for achieving the goals of protecting, maintaining, and restoring the nation's oceans, coasts, and Great Lakes and ensuring resilient coastal economies. I look forward to the release of the final plan and hope to see policy translated into action on the water soon.

Sincerely

Name: **Patricia Morris**

Organization: Pew Environment Group, et al.

Path:

Comment: I hope that states will be encouraged and supported in efforts to establish marine protected areas as we have in California and if other states do not take action, the federal government should in areas identified as important for ocean conservation and long term productivity.

Name: **Heather Walters**

Organization: Pew Environment Group, et al.

Path:

Comment: Federal agencies must continue to ask for input from other levels of the government and the public and incorporate this new information into implementation of the plan.

Name: **Martha Abell**

Organization: Pew Environment Group, et al.

Path:

Comment: We need to be sure that industry is not polluting the oceans, along with boats and ships that travel there. Other countries might have to be educated to not over fish the waters, and allow whales and other mammals to live free.

Name: **Gayle Janzen**

Organization: Pew Environment Group, et al.

Path:

Comment: Dear Chairs Nancy Sutley and John Holdren, National Ocean Council, The draft National Ocean Policy Implementation Plan establishes a strong blueprint for taking action and fostering agency coordination to sustain our ocean, coastal and Great Lakes resources. The draft plan has successfully incorporated the needs and concerns of governmental, non-profit, and commercial groups and provides clarifying details to improve accountability and monitor progress toward improved ocean management. Frequent notations on how implementing actions are related to one another provides confidence that activities will be coordinated and make good use of limited resources. Nonetheless, the plan could be improved to achieve even more progress: It should more fully utilize all available authorities for habitat protection and management. Many of the milestones could be extended beyond cataloguing and planning to include action, with tangible, on-the-water activities. Regional need, support, and capacity should guide where coordinated actions should first take place. Federal agencies must continue to ask for input from other levels of the government and the public and incorporate this new information into implementation of the plan. With these additions, President Obama's Implementation Plan will provide a better guide for achieving the goals of protecting, maintaining, and restoring the nation's oceans, coasts, and Great Lakes and ensuring resilient coastal economies. I look forward to the release of the final plan and hope to see policy translated into action on the water soon.  
Sincerely

Name: **Diane Serafini**

Organization: Pew Environment Group, et al.

Path:

Comment: John Holdren, I took a resources class from you at UCB in 1978 or 1979, I was an economics major and learned more about how to improve almost everything in the world from your class than I did in all of my economics class. It was, when you include all of the externalized costs and put a monetizable value on what you are losing either socially or environmentally into the price of a good or service at the point of purchase, then people can be closer to making a rational decision about what they produce and buy. With your current position, I would hope you bring this point of view to the process. Our waters are such a precious resource we need to do much more to protect them now.

Name: **Jim Dailey**

Organization: Pew Environment Group, et al.

Path:

Comment: If it isn't already included, there should be strict rules against dumping refuse and manufacturing pollutants into US waters and to ensure polluters do the clean up, pay for all other clean up and be prosecuted for despoiling the waters.

Name: **Christina Murphy**

Organization: Pew Environment Group, et al.

Path:

Comment: I hope to God this draft passes because it would be a wonderful gift to our nation and it's people

Name: **Jeff Archuleta**

Organization: Pew Environment Group, et al.

Path:

Comment: Dear Chairs Nancy Sutley and John Holdren, National Ocean Council,  
After watching this you'll say, "I did not see that coming!"  
<http://vimeo.com/7761485>  
In the Can, Under budget, without a Screenplay or even an Outline.  
Masterful.  
<http://www.imdb.com/name/nm0033811/>  
jeff, great job on your short.  
> very clean. i am impressed  
> peace  
<http://www.imdb.com/name/nm1843310/>

Name: **Charles Alexander**

Organization: Pew Environment Group, et al.

Path:

Comment: With overfishing becoming more of a concern lately , as well as increased threats to endangered species such as sea turtles, we need more protection for our oceans. More marine reserves, greater enforcement of existing laws, and new laws for greater protections are needed.

Name: **Greg Chester**

Organization: Pew Environment Group, et al.

Path:

Comment: I was much saddened by the dramatic decline of the beluga whales in the Gulf of St. Lawrence. When I learned that the probable causes were the aluminum mills on the St. Lawrence River I knew we had to do a better job as humans. We must do a better job of sharing this planet with other living beings.

Name: **David Dow**

Organization: Pew Environment Group, et al.

Path:

Comment: As a resident of Cape Cod the adjacent ocean is key to our economy, cultural heritage and what makes this a special place to live. We need a way to integrate the protection of our offshore ocean with compatible human uses (fishing; shipping; recreation; renewable energy development; preservation of essential marine habitats for protected/natural trust resource species; and restoring the ecosystem services and natural capital in our coastal embayments which have been damaged by nutrient enrichment and climate change.

Name: **Frank Pilholski**

Organization: Pew Environment Group, et al.

Path:

Comment: Dear Chairs Nancy Sutley and John Holdren, National Ocean Council, The draft National Ocean Policy Implementation Plan establishes a strong blueprint for taking action and fostering agency coordination to sustain our ocean, coastal and Great Lakes resources. The draft plan has successfully incorporated the needs and concerns of governmental, non-profit, and commercial groups and provides clarifying details to improve accountability and monitor progress toward improved ocean management. Frequent notations on how implementing actions are related to one another provides confidence that activities will be coordinated and make good use of limited resources. Nonetheless, the plan could be improved to achieve even more progress. It should more fully utilize all available authorities for habitat protection and management. Many of the milestones could be extended beyond cataloguing and planning to include action, with tangible, on-the-water activities. Regional need, support, and capacity should guide where coordinated actions should first take place. Federal agencies must continue to ask for input from other levels of the government and the public and incorporate this new information into implementation of the plan. With these additions, President Obama's Implementation Plan will provide a better guide for achieving the goals of protecting, maintaining, and restoring the nation's oceans, coasts, and Great Lakes and ensuring resilient coastal economies. I look forward to the release of the final plan and hope to see policy translated into action on the water soon. Thank you. Sincerely

Name: **John Laubenthal**

Organization: Pew Environment Group, et al.

Path:

Comment: Dear Chairs Nancy Sutley and John Holdren, National Ocean Council,  
The draft National Ocean Policy Implementation Plan is poorly disguised attempt to have our Gov. take more control over our national resources & block access to waterways & other resources meant for our citizens to enjoy. As a Recreational Fishermen & avid outdoorsman I strongly oppose many of the over-reaching aspects of this policy.  
Sincerely,

Name: **Charles Fox**

Organization: Pew Environment Group, et al.

Path:

Comment: Many fisheries have collapsed or are headed into collapse due to industrial overfishing, pollution, and quite possibly climate change. Surely the prevention of biotic impoverishment is the preferred alternative.

Name: **Kent Mollohan**

Organization: Pew Environment Group, et al.

Path:

Comment: About everyday, and soon every hour, I'll be signing these petitions to you and to others about doing much better in your work to IMPROVE the damn place we live. Quit "mucking it up!" PASS IT ON.

Name: **Ruth Sandefur**

Organization: Pew Environment Group, et al.

Path:

Comment: Keep irresponsible greedy big oil corporatons out of the oceans! As long as there are not any guarantee that their drilling is safe, our oceans will not be safe from big greedy irresponsible oil corporations that have no concerns for the health of our citizens.

Name: **George and Frances Alderson**

Organization: Pew Environment Group, et al.

Path:

Comment: Dear Chairs Nancy Sutley and John Holdren, National Ocean Council, We heartily support the draft National Ocean Policy Implementation Plan. Living in a coastal state renowned for the Chesapeake Bay, we take the health of the ocean ecosystems very seriously. We are old enough to have seen food fish disappear from our grocery stores over the past 30 years. It is time to restore the ecosystems that supported the once-great fisheries of the Atlantic Ocean and Chesapeake Bay. We see that the draft plan reflects needs and concerns voiced by a diversity of stakeholders, including state and local governments, nonprofit organizations, and businesses. It calls for more accountability and monitoring so we will know whether restoration efforts are getting results.

However, we urge several improvements in the plan to get results faster. All the available authorities should be used to improve habitat and manage ocean ecosystems. We would like to see milestones set for tangible on-the-water activities, rather than just cataloguing and planning. Coordinated actions should be required where regional needs, support and capacity have been identified. Federal agencies should have a continuing obligation to seek feedback from state and local governments and nonprofit organizations, and their recommendations should be incorporated into implementation of the plan.

Again, we support the President's Implementation Plan with these improvements, and we look forward to a final plan that will effectively restore our oceans and coasts and their ecosystems. Thank you for considering our views.

Sincerely,

Name: **R Sangdahl**

Organization: Pew Environmnet Group, et al.

Path:

Comment: First and foremost, the need to crate a Clean Air Act that assures the air is not polluted by anyone and thus further pollute the water as well. This measure would carry penalties for those who pollute the air and set standards for the rest of the world. We must face the truth, if the world doesn't cherish clean air and water everything else is of no consequence.

Name: **Robert Grillo**

Organization: Pew Environment Group, et al.

Path:

Comment: Dear Chairs Nancy Sutley and John Holdren, National Ocean Council,  
Let's stop exploiting our oceans as a resource. What justification do we have to place our interests as humans above the other species that inhabit these oceans? None. Failure to recognize this fact is blatant speciesism and exploitation of other species, reducing them and the environment they inhabit to commodities and resources for our own ends.  
Sincerely

Name: **Mary Beattie**

Organization: Pew Environment Group, et al.

Path:

Comment: The laws need to be enforceable and actually enforced. Lax management and lax enforcement is destroying the beach ecosystems. This will lead to annihilation of entire marine species.

Name: **Beverly Harris**

Organization: Pew Environment Group, et al.

Path:

Comment: I hope that the use of sonar is limited to protect whales, porpoises and sea turtles, etc., that protective policy is in place in that regard. Also, please, no more added oil wells or mining to foul up our coasts, in particular, the West coast and the Arctic.

Name: **Michael Sowards**

Organization: Pew Environment Group, et al.

Path:

Comment: Dear Chairs Nancy Sutley and John Holdren, National Ocean Council, The draft National Ocean Policy Implementation Plan establishes a strong blueprint for taking action and fostering agency coordination to sustain our ocean, coastal and Great Lakes resources. The draft plan has successfully incorporated the needs and concerns of governmental, non-profit, and commercial groups and provides clarifying details to improve accountability and monitor progress toward improved ocean management. Frequent notations on how implementing actions are related to one another provides confidence that activities will be coordinated and make good use of limited resources. Nonetheless, the plan could be improved to achieve even more progress. It should more fully utilize all available authorities for habitat protection and management. Many of the milestones could be extended beyond cataloguing and planning to include action, with tangible, on-the-water activities. Regional need, support, and capacity should guide where coordinated actions should first take place. Federal agencies must continue to ask for input from other levels of the government and the public and incorporate this new information into implementation of the plan. We would plead with all agencies, commercial outfits and NGOs to recognize the three biggest threats to our oceans:

1. ocean acidification (a result of the enormous build-up of CO<sub>2</sub> in our atmosphere;
2. over-fishing and destructive fishing practices; and,
3. pollution (due to oils spills/leaks, dumping of garbage including plastics and toxins)

If we do not address these issues, I don't see much hope for the implementation of other well intentioned plans. With these additions, President Obama's Implementation Plan will provide a better guide for achieving the goals of protecting, maintaining, and restoring the nation's oceans, coasts, and Great Lakes and ensuring resilient coastal economies. I look forward to the release of the final plan and hope to see policy translated into action on the water soon.

Sincerely,  
Mrs. Michael Sowards

Name: **Elizabeth Peabody**

Organization: Pew Environment Group, et al.

Path:

Comment: Having grown up summers on Lake Huron, I am pleased to see that the Great Lakes are included in this policy. I hope that you are utilizing the research of the TNC as well as others. We need a very strong and scientifically based plan. The draft National Ocean Policy Implementation Plan establishes a strong blueprint for taking action and fostering agency coordination to sustain our ocean, coastal and Great Lakes resources. The draft plan has successfully incorporated the needs and concerns of governmental, non-profit, and commercial groups and provides clarifying details to improve accountability and monitor progress toward improved ocean management. Frequent notations on how implementing actions are related to one another provides confidence that activities will be coordinated and make good use of limited resources.

Name: **Thomas Wargo**

Organization: Pew Environment Group, et al.

Path:

Comment: The draft National Ocean Policy Implementation Plan establishes a strong blueprint for action to sustain our ocean, coastal and Great Lakes resources. The draft plan has successfully incorporated the needs and concerns of governmental, non-profit, and commercial groups, and provides clarifying details to improve accountability and monitor progress toward improved ocean management. Regional need, support, and capacity should guide where coordinated actions should first take place. Federal agencies must continue to ask for input from other levels of the government and the public, and incorporate this new information into implementation of the plan.

Name: **Tim Durnell**

Organization: Pew Environment Group, et al.

Path:

Comment: Our oceans are underprotected. We need strong regulation to return our fisheries to viable populations. There is too much over-fishing and some of the fishing that is done is detrimental to wildlife and the ocean ecosystem like long-line fishing and scraping the bottom with huge nets.

Name: **Robert Mertz**

Organization: Pew Environment Group, et al.

Path:

Comment: Dear Chairs Nancy Sutley and John Holdren, National Ocean Council, As a Biology, Wildlife Management and Environmental Earth Science teacher working in the public school systems of several states, for thirty one years, 29 in West Virginia, I have been teaching students as well as our two sons, the importance of a sustainable life style. I want them to learn to live within the ecological budget of Earth. The quality of life for the present and future generations depends on keeping the life sustaining diversity of our complex life systems healthy. Although there are some impressive self-maintaining dynamics at work to stabilize these systems, there are limits to their ability to correct for continued stress. The geological record is full of evidence showing sudden drastic upheavals and ecological disasters. We have no valid reason to believe that we humans with our huge powers to alter the climate and ecosystems will not trigger another watershed shift in the world's balance that will result in condition that renders the Earth unsuitable for human life, or that degrades the quality of our existence to a much lower level. It is our duty as the most powerful species to exist on this planet to use our might to protect the integrity of our life support systems for the benefit of all living things, to do anything is the extreme in narrow minded, short sighted self indulgent stupidity.

Our sons, and our beautiful two year old granddaughter, are the most important and joyful parts of my life. Although both my wife and I have spent the greater part of our adult lives interacting with young people as teachers, nothing comes close to the emotional intensity of raising your own children. They are grown and mostly independent of us now, but our commitment to them continues. Today the growth of the human population and the selfish consumerism that is spreading over the Earth is endangering the future of all humans. Will we be able to both save ourselves from self-destruction and maintain our freedom and individuality? I have been teaching students the value of developing a sustainable culture and personal life style for 31 years as a Biology and Environmental Earth Science teacher. I hope that the knowledge I have gained from my masters degree in Biology as well as my extensive reading have been delivered with the passion that I feel for the welfare of our planet. Teaching is a powerful way to have a positive influence on the future, but many issues are too important and too immediate to wait for the future. I am writing today about one of these issues.

The draft National Ocean Policy Implementation Plan establishes a strong blueprint for taking action and fostering agency coordination to sustain our ocean, coastal and Great Lakes resources. The draft plan

has successfully incorporated the needs and concerns of governmental, non-profit, and commercial groups and provides clarifying details to improve accountability and monitor progress toward improved ocean management. Frequent notations on how implementing actions are related to one another provides confidence that activities will be coordinated and make good use of limited resources.

Nonetheless, the plan could be improved to achieve even more progress. It should more fully utilize all available authorities for habitat protection and management. Many of the milestones could be extended beyond cataloguing and planning to include action, with tangible, on-the-water activities. Regional need, support, and capacity should guide where coordinated actions should first take place. Federal agencies must continue to ask for input from other levels of the government and the public and incorporate this new information into implementation of the plan.

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Sincerely,

Mr. Robert A. Mertz

Name: **Marcia Bailey**

Organization: Pew Environment Group, et al.

Path:

Comment: Dear Chairs Nancy Sutley and John Holdren, National Ocean Council, I'm happy that the draft National Ocean Policy Implementation Plan has successfully incorporated the needs and concerns of governmental, non-profit, and commercial groups and provides clarifying details to improve accountability and monitor progress toward improved ocean management. Frequent notations on how implementing actions are related to one another provides confidence that activities will be coordinated and make good use of limited resources. I am very concerned about our water ways as they are the source of our drinking water and home to many of the fish that we eat. I'm glad you are conscientiously taking on the issues pertinent to them.

Maybe the plan could more fully utilize all available authorities for habitat protection and management, extend beyond cataloging and planning to include action, with tangible, on-the-water activities. I think regional need, support, and capacity should guide where coordinated actions should first take place. Also Federal agencies must continue to ask for input from other levels of the government and the public and incorporate this new information into implementation of the plan.

Name: **Douglas Mason**

Organization: Pew Environment Group, et al.

Path:

Comment: Dear Chairs Nancy Sutley and John Holdren, National Ocean Council, the pacific garbage patch should have a fleet of renewable energy running them to recycle the plastic. Arista wind power and Nanosolar could run syphons and propellers to collect and steer the barges. when enough plastics are collected they can be harvested. otherwise we poison ourselves and children! stop the navy and cruise ships dumping 11 miles out immediately!

The draft National Ocean Policy Implementation Plan establishes a strong blueprint for taking action and fostering agency coordination to sustain our ocean, coastal and Great Lakes resources. The draft plan has successfully incorporated the needs and concerns of governmental, non-profit, and commercial groups and provides clarifying details to improve accountability and monitor progress toward improved ocean management. Frequent notations on how implementing actions are related to one another provides confidence that activities will be coordinated and make good use of limited resources.

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Sincerely,

Name: **Carole Donovan**

Organization: Pew Environment Group, et al.

Path:

Comment: Dear Chairs Nancy Sutley and John Holdren, National Ocean Council,  
There are so many people and animals that depend on a clean environment  
of which the ocean is the most important. Please protect it. Our future  
depends on it.  
Sincerely,

Name: **C K**

Organization: Pew Environment Group, et al.

Path:

Comment: One of the biggest concerns of this planet is the rising ocean temperature, the pollution, and the dying fish. If we lose the ocean, it's game over for humanity. The scientists all agree. Please keep this carefully in mind when you are enacting legislation. We need the oceans to survive, to prosper, and to grow.

Name: **Cliff Josephson**

Organization: Pew Environment Group, et al.

Path:

Comment: It is imperative that we do everything possible to save our Oceans. Instead of giving people negative labels we should all agree that we have serious problems in our Oceans, pollution and overfishing being two of the biggest.

Name: **Pamel Szatanek**

Organization: Pew Environment Group, et al.

Path:

Comment: Lets just call it what it is. The oceans are being raped. Fisheries have collapsed, there is a huge patch of plastic waste twice the size of Texas north of Hawaii, and over 100 known hypoxic zones. As a scuba diver, I am highly offended by the mass scale slaughter of whales and dolphins by the Japanese, seal pups by the Canadians and the concept of shark finning.

Name: **Jonathon Matthews**

Organization: Pew Environment Group, et al.

Path:

Comment: The draft National Ocean Policy Implementation Plan could be improved to achieve even more progress. It should more fully utilize all available authorities for habitat protection and management. Many of the milestones could be extended beyond cataloging and planning to include action, with tangible, on-the-water activities. Regional need, support, and capacity should guide where coordinated actions should first take place. Federal agencies must continue to ask for input from other levels of the government and the public and incorporate this new information into implementation of the plan. With these additions, President Obama's Implementation Plan will provide a better guide for achieving the goals of protecting, maintaining, and restoring the nation's oceans, coasts, and Great Lakes and ensuring resilient coastal economies. I look forward to the release of the final plan and hope to see policy translated into action on the water soon.

Name: **Emma Miniscalco**

Organization: Pew Environment Group, et al.

Path:

Comment: I am so pleased that our government is creating a comprehensive plan for how we manage and protect our oceans, coasts, and the Great Lakes. While this is still a work in progress, I encourage the National Ocean Council to consider giving greater weight to protection of our water resources through enhanced interagency cooperation and through greater emphasis on concrete actions agencies can take as stewards of these resources. This is a time to lay out guidance and precedents, and I urge the Council to make protection, maintenance, and restoration the touchstones of a national ocean policy.

Name: **Toby Lopez**

Organization: Pew Environment Group, et al.

Path:

Comment: I have lived in Florida and cleaned the beaches with other, planted sea oats to help slow down the erosion. I now live in Tennessee and see the polluted waterways that are no different than I saw in Florida. People need to see the Great Garbage Patch. Children need to learn about the importance of our waterways and how they rely on these wonderful ecosystems for our own survival. We must see and touch the consequences caused by our own ignorance and negligence. Our coral reefs are dying, but how many people really know what that means to the balance of life? Education is key, more strict penalties for criminal action on all wildlife and waterways! First we must educate, even Washington. There are people that go out paddling boats regularly cleaning debris caused by man, on their own time with their own equipment. Does anyone know about that, or does anyone care? There are way too many cruise ships killing our oceans. Education is the key!!!

Name: **Karin Winegar**

Organization: Pew Environment Group, et al.

Path:

Comment: The draft plan has successfully incorporated the needs and concerns of governmental, non-profit, and commercial groups and provides clarifying details to improve accountability and monitor progress toward improved ocean management. Frequent notations on how implementing actions are related to one another provides confidence that activities will be coordinated and make good use of limited resources.

Regional need, support, and capacity should guide where coordinated actions should first take place. Federal agencies must continue to ask for input from other levels of the government and the public and incorporate this new information into implementation of the plan.

Name: **Le Hunt**

Organization: Pew Environment Group, et al.

Path:

Comment: Only a few years ago it was speculated that cod would actually go extinct from overfishing. Oceans, coastal regions, and lakes have provided a bounty of food for mankind for thousands of years. Poor techniques for fishing can destroy entire ecosystems, allowing for a few monstrously large harvests then a paucity that will last for years. Not protecting these resources is simply economically stupid -- it is killing the goose that laid the golden egg. Restricting large commercial fishing fleets and encouraging smaller concerns might be one answer to the problem.

Name: **Jim Steitz**

Organization: Pew Environment Group, et al.

Path:

Comment: \*\*\*Our oceans have been beaten, trashed, mined, polluted, and overfished to death. They are now being poisoned by carbon dioxide acidification. Please use the National Ocean Policy to establish the strongest ocean protections available under US law to all waters under US jurisdiction. Our oceans are out of space and out of time, and there exists no room for compromise with commercial interests who wish to finish off our remaining fish stocks, drag deep-sea trawlers over the benthic ecosystems, and use oceans near river deltas as open sewers for agricultural runoff, as is now the sad condition of the Gulf of Mexico.\*\*\*

Name: **Marie Leven**

Organization: Pew Environment Group, et al.

Path:

Comment: We need the best science to restore our waters and to keep the few that are still pristine from being polluted. The public must be made aware of what lurks under the water surface. In a lot of places it is pretty disgusting. We need to take action for our future and that of our children.

Name: **Dale Overman**

Organization: Pew Environment Group, et al.

Path:

Comment: Our oceans are not cesspools that we can continue to dump trash and poisons into. What we put into the oceans we end up with in our bodies. We as a species have been over fishing as well and damaging the coral reefs. Indeed we are at the crossroads here of killing off and damaging many species on this planet. When we do so we set ourselves up to fail as a species as well. Mankind is part of the natural world, the earth is our home. We need to stop our greedy, arrogant ways or suffer a huge natural disaster.

Name: **Rose Defawe**

Organization: Pew Environment Group, et al.

Path:

Comment: FIVE of the worlds top endangered species are ocean dwellers!!!! WAKE UP CALL!!!! Plastics, toxins, stormwater runoff, CFO Runoff, leaking septics, OIL SPILLS, when will it stop. Our ocean is not a TOILET. NOW I SAY!!!! JUST DO IT, SAVE THE OCEANS and STAND UP FOR WHAT IS RIGHT. Unless you want to never eat salmon again or see a killer whale in the wild. BE SMART, DO THE RIGHT THING!!!!!!

Name: **Christine Hertzog**

Organization: Pew Environment Group, et al.

Path:

Comment: Dear Chairs Nancy Sutley and John Holdren, National Ocean Council, The draft National Ocean Policy Implementation Plan is a great start, but I have a few suggestions to make it even better. First, let's engage all resources to manage and protect habitat. Second, create milestones that are actionable and include activities on water. Third, consider the regional needs and support abilities to prioritize coordinated actions. Fourth, ensure that federal agencies continue to obtain feedback from the public as well as other governmental levels for inclusion in the plan. These changes make the plan stronger and more effective in protecting our oceans. Thank you. Sincerely,

Name: **Bonny Schumaker**

Organization: Pew Environment Group, et al.

Path:

Comment: Dear Chairs Nancy Sutley and John Holdren, National Ocean Council, The draft National Ocean Policy Implementation Plan is a good start, but it's still weak. More can and should be done to protect, manage, and preserve natural habitat. Don't just observe and catalog, implement activities on and around the water as needed. Ask for input from the public and do something with the inputs you receive. If the Gulf of Mexico in the past 18 months is any example, you really need to start listening. The public decried the use of Corexit from the start, and you the government continue to approve it, and ONLY it! You must show better faith with regard to the rest of our oceans, coastlines, and lakes. Let's see some changes for the better, and show us you really mean it!  
Thanks,

Name: **William Wing**

Organization: Pew Environment Group, et al.

Path:

Comment: Many of the milestones could be extended beyond cataloguing and planning to include action, with tangible, on-the-water activities. Regional need, support, and capacity should guide where coordinated actions should first take place. Federal agencies must continue to ask for input from other levels of the government and the public and incorporate this new information into implementation of the plan.

Name: **Rick Siegfried**

Organization: Pew Environment Group, et al.

Path:

Comment: The plan must be based on science, and corporate influence should be deflected every time. The health of the oceans should trump all corporate and recreational interests.

Name: **Arlie Siebert**

Organization: Pew Environment Group, et al.

Path:

Comment: While I am not sure it belongs in the plan, I am outraged by Japan's exploitation of the whales and tunas in the oceans. This greedy county encourages the stripping of oceans for 40 dollars a bite of sushi. They kill whales under false pretenses and in violation of international treaties. America's plans should incorporate the strongest political strictures on Japan for their killing and denuding the oceans of all of our resources. If you think about it this is a longer term threat to all mankind than the Iranian nuke program. Yet we do nothing about Japan and concentrate all our diplomatic efforts on Iran.

Name: **Edith Borie**

Organization: Pew Environment Group, et al.

Path:

Comment: Four concepts--ecosystem-based management; best available science and data; efficiency and collaboration; and strong regional efforts--must be integrated to protect marine ecosystems and to encourage sustainable ocean uses. Frequent notations on how implementing actions are related to one another provides confidence that activities will be coordinated and make good use of limited resources.

Name: **Seth Merritt**

Organization: Pew Environment Group, et al.

Path:

Comment: For example, in the Chesapeake Bay, the Virginia Institute for Marine Science needs at least one new research vessel to keep up with mandated measurements, and monitor important changes in aquatic life, pollutant levels, parasites that impact commercial fisheries, and other key indicators. Funding for similar research vessels and other infrastructure could be part of the Implementation Plan, based on requests and input from VIMS and other organizations.

Name: **Joscelyn Blumenthal**

Organization: Pew Environment Group, et al.

Path:

Comment: Please stop draining the Great Lakes simply to enhance bottled water companies' profits. Please don't let Shell drill off the coast of ANWR; the chance of a spill is great and the hopes for a clean up in such cold water is nil. Please regulate off-shore drilling and dumping of waste. Please don't let the fracking pollute underground aquifers.

Name: **Therese MacKenzie**

Organization: Pew Environment Group, et al.

Path:

Comment: Dear Chairs Nancy Sutley and John Holdren, National Ocean Council, During the past few years I have become newly aware of the importance of healthy oceans on all of the planet. I strongly, even passionately, support taking action and fostering agency coordination to sustain our ocean, coastal and Great Lakes resources.

I live in Chicago and see the damage done to Lake Michigan by industries that do not make connections. Your draft plan has successfully incorporated the needs and concerns of governmental, non-profit, and commercial groups and provides clarifying details to improve accountability and monitor progress toward improved ocean management. Frequent notations on how implementing actions are related to one another provides confidence that activities will be coordinated and make good use of limited resources.

Suggestion: include action, with tangible, on-the-water activities. Regional need, support, and capacity should guide where coordinated actions should first take place. Federal agencies must continue to ask for input from other levels of the government and the public and incorporate this new information into implementation of the plan. With these additions, President Obama's Implementation Plan will provide a better guide for achieving the goals of protecting, maintaining, and restoring the nation's oceans, coasts, and Great Lakes and ensuring resilient coastal economies. I look forward to the release of the final plan and hope to see policy translated into action on the water soon.

Since

Name: **Holly Windle**

Organization: Pew Environment Group, et al.

Path:

Comment: Dear Chairs Nancy Sutley and John Holdren, National Ocean Council, I am pleased to see the progress on the draft National Ocean Policy Implementation Plan. It establishes a strong blueprint for taking action and fostering agency coordination to sustain our ocean, coastal and Great Lakes resources.

However, I urge you to make it even stronger by including more tangible, on-the water activities as specific milestones of progress. Regional need, support, and capacity should guide where coordinated actions should first take place. The plan could also strengthen inter-agency cooperation. Frequent notations on how implementing actions are related to one another provides confidence that activities will be coordinated and make good use of limited resources.

This document is a powerful step toward protecting and improving our nation's oceans, coasts, and Great Lakes -- while ensuring resilient coastal economies. I look forward to the release of the final plan and hope to see policy translated into action on the water soon.

Sincerely,

Name: **Margie Rhodes**

Organization: Pew Environment Group, et al.

Path:

Comment: I've made my living for the past 25 years as a diver. Leading recreational trips to attractive sites, teaching scuba, and promoting the beauty and need for education to understand the jewels we have, just below the surface. While this has been an excellent experience, it has also meant witnessing the destruction of life and water quality in the oceans. Year after year.  
Please include actions to take that will help our oceans survive. Educate the people. They are largely ignorant of the damage they've done, continue to do. Most people believe that the ocean is so large 'it'll take care of itself'. They fail to understand the destructive ability of our species.

Name: **David Donofrio**

Organization: Pew Environment Group, et al.

Path:

Comment: Dear Chairs Nancy Sutley and John Holdren, National Ocean Council, The NOP Plan IS A FARSE, BASED ON BIASED SCIENCE ESTABLISHED BY THOSE SEEKING TO OBTAIN POWER THROUGH MANIPULATED AND UNSUPPORTABLE DATA.

For over 25 years I have been a recreational fisherman, scuba diver and spearfisherman residing in Tampa FLorida. I have never seen more fish of all species, particularly red snapper, sharks, red, gag and especially Goliath Grouper as I have witnessed in the last three years. The most substantive action you could take is open a Goliath Grouper season as this species has gotten out of control in the Gulf of Mexico.

Incorporating NOP will destroy the recreational boating and fishing industries, benefitting a few greedy insiders in the name of CONSERVATION. Like the vast majority of boaters and fisherman, I do not want depleted fisheries, to the contrary, I want a healthy, robust envrionment both ecologically and economically, however, ringing a false bell to further a corrupt cause as NOP is not a solution but the problem.

Sincerely,

Name: **Roger Kofler**

Organization: Pew Environment Group, et al.

Path:

Comment: Regional need, support, and capacity should guide where coordinated actions should first take place. Federal agencies must continue to ask for input from other levels of the government and the public and incorporate this new information into implementation of the plan.

Name: **Jacquie Hoggard**

Organization: Pew Environment Group, et al.

Path:

Comment: It would also be helpful of the Arctic Ocean were also included! The dangers there are unbelievable!

Name: **Rosemary Ahtuanguaruak**

Organization: Pew Environmnet Group, et al.

Path:

Comment: We have depended on the ocean and the sustinence from our foods to live in the Arctic. We need a clean ocean to eat our foods safely. The importance of our health and traditional and cultural activities are part of this policy. Keep the Arctic ocean from loosing species as other oceans are already doing. Our governement falied to protect other oceans and need to make this policy strong to give us hope we will continue our traditional and cultural uses for our health depends on it as other natives in the natition have proven.

Name: **Ted Matts**

Organization: Pew Environment Group, et al.

Path:

Comment: Dear Chairs Nancy Sutley and John Holdren, National Ocean Council, From the parts I've read from it so far, the general direction of the draft National Ocean Policy Implementation Plan seems like a minimally sustainable-oriented plan that balances the requests and concerns of government agencies involved, non-profit, and commercial groups. Many of my concerns about accountability and how various agencies coordinate their roles and activities seems adequately addressed to make good use of limited resources. My remaining concerns involve an overly-top down approach regionally when it might take more localized know-how to efficiently and effectively implement actions taken in that region, as well as some habitat protection and management issues that need to be addressed and increased.

But overall, this plan improves collective goals of protecting, maintaining, and restoring the salt and fresh water ecosystems and their coasts to help our food security, marine environment, and coastal marine-oriented industries.

Name: **Alexa Ross**

Organization: Pew Environment Group, et al.

Path:

Comment: The draft National Ocean Policy Implementation Plan must be science-driven and activist.

Name: **Julie Penny**

Organization: Pew Environment Group, et al.

Path:

Comment: Great swaths of our ocean are dead zones. It's incumbent we get the best possible plan to restore them.

Name: **Barbara Jones**

Organization: Pew Environment Group, et al.

Path:

Comment: We as humans, have had the greatest impact on the oceans over the years. We have dumped raw sewage, plastics and chemicals that never existed before in them. We've over fished, taken away shorelines and the marshlands that acted as natural filters, for development instead. And all for whom? Us, it's all about human consumption, profits and entertainment. All this at who's expense? The oceans are slowly dying and we can't seem to see the forest for the trees here. This is not an endless resource that we can continue to plunder. There are consequences to our actions...bleaching and destruction of natural reefs, 90% loss of sea life. What has to happen to get you and everyone else on board to see the severity of our collective actions? We have to start looking at ourselves to solve this problem, many moratoreums must be implemented and regulation of the human population worldwide needs to be seriously considered in order for the oceans to get healthy and strong once again.

Name: **Steven Gaber**

Organization: Pew Environment Group, et al.

Path:

Comment: The nation's ocean and coastal habitats are already in trouble from a wide variety of sources, including development, pollution and toxicants, overfishing, climate change and oil spills, among others. We need to make all efforts to improve our stewardship of these irreplaceable resources.

Name: **Larry Cowden**

Organization: Pew Environment Group, et al.

Path:

Comment: Safeguards must be included to prevent future attacks by special interest groups to weaken or do away with this important legislature. These attacks will come and they must be defeated before they even make it to court. Ensure that this legislation can never be challenged or overturned in court.

Name: **Judith Stetson**

Organization: Pew Environment Group, et al.

Path:

Comment: The EPA is being sued by our local Buzzards Bay Coalition to get it to enforce its own policies on pollution and eutrophication. This is an appalling waste of time and energy. Why does a local environmental group have to sue the EPA to get it to do its work?

Name: **Don Cooke**

Organization: Pew Environment Group, et al.

Path:

Comment: I attended hearings here in Honolulu when this plan was being formulated about a year and a half ago. My HIDLNR director testified. She was not truthful. In state of hawaii hearings regarding community input to ocean related policies, she testified against community input. At the fed. hearings she testified for public input. The coast guard admiral present slouched and his blouse was wrinkled. Bad body language spoke for him....I don't trust this process.I don't believe it has any chance to do any good.The draft National Ocean Policy Implementation Plan establishes a strong blueprint for taking action and fostering agency coordination to sustain our ocean, coastal and Great Lakes resources. The draft plan has successfully incorporated the needs and concerns of governmental, non-profit, and commercial groups and provides clarifying details to improve accountability and monitor progress toward improved ocean management. Frequent notations on how implementing actions are related to one another provides confidence that activities will be coordinated and make good use of limited resources.

Name: **Philip Kreitner**

Organization: Pew Environment Group, et al.

Path:

Comment: Indicators of accomplishment need to cover the full loop of sustainable natural resource management: monitor/survey, catalog, analyze/evaluate, goal strategy/execution plan embracing exploit/conserves/restore -- and waltz me around again, Willy.  
Discussion among relevant state & local resource management/advocacy/exploitation agencies and enterprises should be encouraged by relevant Federal agencies, with express intent of using the former bodies' input in the latter body's international promotion of the integrity of the global hydrosphere and its denizens.

Name: **Amitav Dash**

Organization: Pew Environment Group, et al.

Path:

Comment: Dear Chairs Nancy Sutley and John Holdren, National Ocean Council, I know that as a neighbour to the U.S., and not a citizen, I cannot effect the political system, but I believe America's policies help set standards for the rest of the world, and it is why I try to contact U.S. politicians in the hope of supporting various legislative efforts that eventually will benefit my country, Canada, as well as the rest of the world.

And, when it comes to the ecosystem of which we are all a part, there can be no boundaries, as a problem in one area, however isolated, will eventually (and sometimes immediately) affect all of us.

That is why I support strengthening the draft National Ocean Policy Implementation Plan. While the plan establishes a strong blueprint for taking action and fostering agency co-ordination to sustain America's ocean, coastal and Great Lakes resources, more can be done.

Yes, the draft plan has successfully incorporated the needs and concerns of governmental, non-profit, and commercial groups and provides clarifying details to improve accountability and monitor progress toward improved ocean management. And, yes, frequent notations on how implementing actions are related to one another, providing confidence that activities will be co-ordinated and will make good use of limited resources.

Nonetheless, more progress can be enabled.

The plan should more fully utilize all available authorities for habitat protection and management. Many of the milestones could be extended beyond cataloguing and planning to include action, with tangible, on-the-water activities. Regional need, support, and capacity should guide where coordinated actions should first take place. Federal agencies must continue to ask for input from other levels of the government and the public and incorporate this new information into implementation of the plan.

With these additions, President Obama's Implementation Plan will provide a better guide for achieving the goals of protecting, maintaining, and restoring your nation's oceans, coasts, and Great Lakes and ensuring resilient coastal economies. I look forward to the release of the final plan and hope to see policy translated into action on the water soon.

Sincerely,  
Mr. Amitav Das

Name: **Stephanie Campbell**

Organization:

Path:

Comment: attachment, via email.

# Draft National Ocean Policy Implementation Plan

National Ocean Council



*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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# Table of Contents

<b>Introduction</b>	<b>1</b>
<b>List of National Priority Objectives</b>	<b>8</b>
<b>Ecosystem-based Management</b>	<b>9</b>
<b>Inform Decisions and Improve Understanding</b>	<b>18</b>
<b>Observations, Mapping, and Infrastructure</b>	<b>26</b>
<b>Coordinate and Support</b>	<b>35</b>
<b>Regional Ecosystem Protection and Restoration</b>	<b>43</b>
<b>Resiliency and Adaptation to Climate Change and Ocean Acidification</b>	<b>54</b>
<b>Water Quality and Sustainable Practices on Land</b>	<b>63</b>
<b>Changing Conditions in the Arctic</b>	<b>75</b>
<b>Coastal and Marine Spatial Planning</b>	<b>85</b>
<b>Conclusion</b>	<b>93</b>
<b>Appendix: Summary of Public Comments</b>	<b>95</b>
<b>Appendix: List of Acronyms</b>	<b>111</b>

# DRAFT IMPLEMENTATION PLAN

## Introduction

The ocean, our coasts, and the Great Lakes are integral to who we are as a Nation, and are among our greatest assets. They feed us, support millions of jobs, and provide recreation. They are part of our communities and cultures, and enhance our national security by their mere presence. With 53 percent of our population living in coastal counties according to the most recent census, and that percentage expected to grow to 63 percent by 2020, the United States is a coastal nation. Our valuable ocean and coastal resources are vulnerable to misuse, and need to be thoughtfully managed to ensure they will be healthy and productive for current and future generations.

The Federal Government has a critical role to play as a steward, leading the way in sound management of these ecosystems working with States, Tribes, and other partners to find common solutions to key challenges, and ensuring the Nation’s valuable ocean, coastal, and Great Lakes resources continue to provide us with the wealth of benefits that ensure our well-being and prosperity. Recognizing this, the National Policy for the Stewardship of the Ocean, Our Coasts, and the Great Lakes (hereinafter “National Ocean Policy”) was established by Executive Order 13547 on July 19, 2010. The National Ocean Policy provides that Federal agencies will “ensure the protection, maintenance, and restoration of the health of ocean, coastal, and Great Lakes ecosystems and resources, enhance the sustainability of ocean and coastal economies, preserve our maritime heritage, support sustainable uses and access, provide for adaptive management to enhance our understanding of and capacity to respond to climate change and ocean acidification, and coordinate with our national security and foreign policy interests.”

### Vision of the National Ocean Policy:

“To achieve 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.”

- Executive Order 13547

For the first time in our Nation’s history, the National Ocean Policy provides the framework for all Federal agencies to work together to pursue these goals with cohesive actions across the Federal Government, and for engaging State, Tribal, and local authorities, regional governance structures, non-governmental organizations, the public, and the private sector. Fishing, energy, transportation, recreation, security, and other uses will be considered collectively and managed comprehensively and collaboratively.

## IMPLEMENTATION PLAN

This draft Implementation Plan lays out the initial steps required to achieve the vision and charge of the National Ocean Policy, and to address the most pressing challenges facing the ocean, our coasts, and the Great Lakes. This document describes specific actions the Federal Government will take to deliver tangible results to the American people.

This draft Implementation Plan does not encompass all Federal actions relating to ocean, coastal, and Great Lakes matters; rather, it focuses on the nine priority objectives highlighted under the National Ocean Policy. For each priority objective, a suite of actions and their intended outcomes are described. For each action, key milestones are outlined, lead agencies or other responsible entities are identified, and timeframes are listed. This structure is designed to provide a clear layout of what will be accomplished when and who will be engaged.

## THEMES

This draft Implementation Plan is guided by four themes: (1) adopt ecosystem-based management; (2) obtain, use, and share the best science and data; (3) promote efficiency and collaboration; and (4) strengthen regional efforts.

### *Adopt Ecosystem-Based Management*

Ecosystem-based management (EBM) is an integrated approach to resource management that considers the entire ecosystem, including humans. It requires managing ecosystems as a whole instead of separately managing their individual components or uses, considers all the elements that are integral to ecosystem functions, and accounts for economic and social benefits as well as environmental stewardship concerns. The concept of EBM is underpinned by sound science and a commitment to adaptive management as information or changing conditions present new challenges and opportunities. It also recognizes that ecosystems are not defined or constrained by political boundaries; thus, it requires collaboration among Federal agencies and with other entities at local, State, Tribal, and regional scales.

The EBM implementation actions outlined in this document are designed to ensure that the necessary collaborative and scientific frameworks are in place, and that training is provided to support an ecosystem-scale approach to management at national, regional, and local levels. Further, it lays out how pilot projects will be used to develop best practices for implementing EBM at scales relevant to addressing specific resource management objectives. While the EBM concept is not new, the Federal Government-wide implementation of EBM is a major shift in how the Nation considers human uses of ecosystems, moving away from a sector-by-sector approach to management toward a more integrated way of doing business. Through the *Ecosystem-Based Management* priority objective, this draft Implementation Plan provides a foundation for integrating EBM into the other National Ocean Policy priority objectives.

### *Obtain, Advance, Use, and Share the Best Science and Data*

In many regards, our understanding of marine ecosystems has not kept pace with the cumulative impacts of human uses and the environmental changes that are occurring. “Best science” is a guiding concept that requires using the best available science when making a current policy decision and improving upon that knowledge as the basis for future decisions. To implement EBM successfully, decisions must be informed by the best available ecological, social, and economic science and data. At the same time, we must improve greatly upon our understanding of ecosystem structure and function. This is especially true in a world increasingly reshaped by extreme events, climate change, coastal development, and other drivers. Ongoing research, monitoring, and modeling efforts will enable management to adapt to changing conditions.

This draft Implementation Plan aims to ensure that high-quality science is carried out, made available, and used in decision-making so that our knowledge of ecosystem science is advanced, thereby enabling more informed decisions in the future. It also aims to ensure that the quality, quantity, availability, integration, and transparency of management-relevant data are continually improved. It prioritizes ocean research, education, observation, and exploration through actions that provide a strong scientific foundation for management and stewardship and that enable translation of scientific and technological advances into support for decision-making. Two priority objectives focus specifically on advancing knowledge and providing data and science: *Inform Decisions and Improve Understanding*, and *Observations, Mapping, and Infrastructure*.

Access to Federal data and information has been widely identified as a critical need by ocean users, managers, and stakeholders. As a significant example, the ocean.data.gov web portal, described under the *Coastal and Marine Spatial Planning* priority objective, addresses the National Ocean Policy’s call for a “robust national information management system dedicated to coastal and marine scientific data and information products.” The intent of this portal is to manage and disseminate information relevant to conducting collaborative and comprehensive planning and provide access to important information at national and regional scales by making existing and new databases available and interoperable.

### *Promote Efficiency and Collaboration*

The National Ocean Policy depends on coordination across the Federal Government, as well as coordination and collaboration with our partners. Management of ocean and coastal resources will greatly benefit from strengthening and fostering collaboration among Federal agencies and partnerships with State, Tribal, and local authorities, regional governance structures, non-governmental organizations, the private sector, the public, and the international community. While the actions in this draft Implementation Plan provide guidance to Federal entities regarding the use of tools and resources, the effectiveness of these efforts will also depend on management decisions made by communities. There is potential to improve efficiency by

leveraging expertise and resources, identifying and augmenting synergies, reducing redundancies, and streamlining management.

The actions in this draft Implementation Plan will improve cooperation among multiple jurisdictions, and enhance and initiate partnerships within the Federal Government and with external entities. This draft Implementation Plan creates no new regulations. However, within existing authorities, legal and regulatory barriers to full implementation of the National Ocean Policy will be identified and permitting processes will be streamlined. One priority objective, *Coordinate and Support*, is focused exclusively on partnerships and collaboration, but these themes are woven through all nine priority objectives.

#### *Strengthen Regional Efforts*

Ocean, coastal, and Great Lakes ecosystem protection and restoration are currently being carried out at State and regional scales. Regionally based efforts to address ocean and coastal issues are already in place. For example, Governors in six regions have established State-led regional ocean governance bodies to advance coastal and ocean use, management, protection, and restoration priorities. Federal agencies are also engaged in various regions through interagency collaborations focused on regional ecosystem restoration and management. This draft Implementation Plan seeks to support these existing efforts, foster new efforts, and provide data and decision-support tools, including coastal and marine spatial planning (CMSP), that would greatly contribute to the success of this important regional work.

The actions in this draft Implementation Plan support regional alliances and move toward a set of shared priorities across the Federal Government and with States and Tribes. Issues range from conservation of coral reef ecosystems, to assessing the impacts of ocean acidification, to minimizing the impacts of harmful algal blooms, to observing and forecasting Arctic sea ice. Five of the priority objectives include a regional focus: *Regional Ecosystem Protection and Restoration, Resiliency and Adaptation to Climate Change and Ocean Acidification, Water Quality and Sustainable Practices on Land, Changing Conditions in the Arctic, and Coastal and Marine Spatial Planning*.

### **COASTAL AND MARINE SPATIAL PLANNING**

CMSP is an important tool for implementing EBM. It involves increased coordination and collaboration across all levels of government, leading to a more efficient, streamlined, and certain decision-making process for managing activities in the ocean, coasts, and Great Lakes. CMSP provides a framework for engaging stakeholders and a process for comprehensively planning how to balance the myriad demands on ocean and coastal resources. It encourages States, Tribes, localities, and regions to collaborate in an inclusive manner to meet regional needs. CMSP offers an opportunity to better facilitate sustainable economic growth, without

compromising national security or ecosystem protection, by providing the data and information, transparency, and predictability the private sector needs to make informed business decisions.

CMSP is science-based. A core component is integrating ocean and coastal data and developing innovative visualization and other decision support tools. Robust science, data, and mapping tools will help managers understand and reduce conflicts among present and potential uses. The results of accomplishing actions and milestones throughout this draft Implementation Plan regarding research, data, and best practices will help the CMSP process realize its full potential.

This draft Implementation Plan includes preliminary national objectives and actions for CMSP. Additional information, guidelines, and implementation options will be included in a separate handbook, addressed by one of the actions, which will provide suggestions for how CMSP may be adapted to suit each region's specific challenges and to best achieve the opportunities it presents.

## **FISCAL RESPONSIBILITY**

In today's fiscal climate, it is important to leverage existing resources and prioritize use of funds among projects and programs. As the actions in this draft Implementation Plan were developed, Federal agencies were asked to consider three questions: What activities can be accomplished with existing Federal and partner resources? How can existing resources be repurposed for greater efficiency and effectiveness? Where do we need to include activities that with minimal additional resources may allow for additional truly transformative and far-reaching impacts? This draft Implementation Plan prioritizes efforts and thereby enables us to better apply limited Federal resources to address some of the key challenges facing the ocean, coasts, and Great Lakes.

Efforts have been made to ensure the actions within this draft Implementation Plan can be achieved based on expected Federal budgets for the coming years. However, given the constrained fiscal climate and the uncertainty in the budget and appropriations processes, completion of every action and milestone in this draft Implementation Plan within the timeframes expected are contingent on the availability of funds. Federal agencies involved in each action will periodically evaluate resource allocations within the parameters of agency-specific statutory or regulatory mandates. Plans for long-term activities requiring additional resources will be further developed in future years. An annual memorandum from the National Ocean Council (NOC) to its member agencies will provide further guidance and prioritization toward allocating Federal resources to achieve implementation goals.

## **STAKEHOLDER INVOLVEMENT IN DEVELOPMENT OF THE DRAFT IMPLEMENTATION PLAN**

Experts from Federal agencies and offices developed the actions in this draft Implementation Plan with significant input from national, regional, and local stakeholders and the general public. The development process included public comment periods from January through April 2011 and June through July 2011, and 12 regional listening sessions around the country. In addition, the NOC's Governance Coordinating Committee—composed of State, Tribal, and local government officials—and the Ocean Research Advisory Panel—composed of expert representatives from a range of ocean sectors—provided input on preliminary documents used in developing this draft Implementation Plan. Many of the actions in this draft Implementation Plan reflect the comments received. A description of how substantive comments were addressed is provided as an Appendix. We will continue to seek public and stakeholder input as the Implementation Plan is finalized. Comments will be used to develop the final approach to improving how the Federal agencies implement the National Ocean Policy.

### **NEXT STEPS**

This draft Implementation Plan is available for public comment through February 27, 2012. In particular, the public is asked to provide comments regarding (1) priorities for the ocean, our coasts, and the Great Lakes and whether this draft Implementation Plan reflects those priorities, and (2) the most effective way to measure outcomes and to detect whether a particular action in the Implementation Plan has achieved its intended outcome.

The NOC expects to complete and approve the final Implementation Plan in the spring of 2012. Federal agencies will then implement its initial set of actions. The Implementation Plan is designed to be adaptive and allow for modification of existing actions and addition of new actions based on new information or changing conditions.

This draft Implementation Plan is not meant to be exhaustive or final. Rather, it represents an alignment of priorities and agreement across the Federal Government on the initial actions required to achieve the goals of the National Ocean Policy. It will be updated periodically as we make progress toward completing these actions, plan new initiatives, and continually strive to improve our stewardship.

While the actions for addressing the National Ocean Policy's priority objectives are presented here in separate chapters, they are not intended to be pursued independently, but as interrelated and often simultaneously executed activities that together form a comprehensive approach to meet the needs of our coastal Nation. The National Ocean Policy and this draft Implementation Plan do not change existing Federal authorities and responsibilities. However, the outlined actions are designed to work synergistically to spur an ecosystem-based management approach, expand our scientific knowledge, forge increased efficiency and collaboration, and strive to meet

regional needs by pursuing stewardship through comprehensive management. Overall, implementing this set of actions will be far more than the sum of its parts, and will represent a pivotal step toward improving the management of the ocean and coastal resources upon which our Nation depends.

### **MAKING INFORMATION EASILY AVAILABLE: OCEAN.DATA.GOV AND BEYOND**

The National Ocean Policy calls for strengthening and integrating Federal and non-Federal ocean observing systems, sensors, data collection platforms, technology, data management, and mapping capabilities into a national system, and integrating that system into international observation efforts. Observations, monitoring, and data are essential to ensuring timely, certain, and objective information for managing ocean, coastal, and Great Lakes resources. Access to Federal data and information has been widely identified as a critical need by ocean users, managers, and stakeholders. A number of actions in this Plan identify efforts to provide easier and more transparent open access to Federal scientific data, tools, and information.

The most prominent tool is the [ocean.data.gov](https://ocean.data.gov) web portal, which addresses the National Ocean Policy's call for a "robust national information management system dedicated to coastal and marine scientific data and information products." This portal is an effective and central system for users and stakeholders, as well as NOC partners, to manage and disseminate relevant information at scales needed for regional planning.

This draft Implementation Plan also includes development or use of information systems for specific actions. A key action for the *Observations, Mapping, and Infrastructure* priority objective is to develop an integrated observations and data collection, processing, and management system for coastal and ocean data and information. Federal agencies will also conduct an evaluation of a prototype portal to make available the Federal Oceanographic Fleet schedule. An action addressing the Inform Decisions and Improve Understanding priority objective calls for the delivery of a portal to access decision-support tools and to make results and "lessons learned" of pilot ecosystem-based management studies available to decision-makers and interested non-Federal partners and stakeholders.

Under the *Regional Ecosystem Restoration and Protection* priority objective, to improve the effectiveness of coastal and estuarine habitat restoration projects, information will be made available to the public via an Estuary Habitat Restoration Council website. In addition, the Chesapeake land conservation priority system will be accessible to stakeholders through a regional data portal.

Other actions in this draft Implementation Plan will build on the success of existing Federal data portals. A national hypoxia data portal for seamless data sharing and information dissemination for regional ecosystem protection and restoration will use the EPA/USGS data portal. Another action includes steps that will be taken to further implement the U.S. Integrated Ocean Observing System observational and data management components to provide local and regional observations.

Collectively, these Federal data services will be a coordinated part of an overarching and interoperable national system. The implementation of this Plan will include ways to make existing and new databases and services available and connected through [ocean.data.gov](https://ocean.data.gov) and other interconnected systems.

## NATIONAL PRIORITY OBJECTIVES

**Ecosystem-Based Management:** Adopt ecosystem-based management as a foundational principle for the comprehensive management of the ocean, our coasts, and the Great Lakes.

**Inform Decisions and Improve Understanding:** Increase knowledge to continually inform and improve management and policy decisions and the capacity to respond to change and challenges. Better educate the public through formal and informal programs about the ocean, our coasts, and the Great Lakes.

**Observations, Mapping, and Infrastructure:** Strengthen and integrate Federal and non-Federal ocean observing systems, sensors, data collection platforms, data management, and mapping capabilities into a national system, and integrate that system into international observation efforts.

**Coordinate and Support:** Better coordinate and support Federal, State, Tribal, local, and regional management of the ocean, our coasts, and the Great Lakes. Improve coordination and integration across the Federal Government and, as appropriate, engage with the international community.

**Regional Ecosystem Protection and Restoration:** Establish and implement an integrated ecosystem protection and restoration strategy that is science-based and aligns conservation and restoration goals at the Federal, State, Tribal, local, and regional levels.

**Resiliency and Adaptation to Climate Change and Ocean Acidification:** Strengthen resiliency of coastal communities and marine and Great Lakes environments and their abilities to adapt to climate change impacts and ocean acidification.

**Water Quality and Sustainable Practices on Land:** Enhance water quality in the ocean, along our coasts, and in the Great Lakes by promoting and implementing sustainable practices on land.

**Changing Conditions in the Arctic:** Address environmental stewardship needs in the Arctic Ocean and adjacent coastal areas in the face of climate-induced and other environmental changes.

**Coastal and Marine Spatial Planning:** Implement comprehensive, integrated, ecosystem-based coastal and marine spatial planning and management in the United States.

## Ecosystem-Based Management

Adopt ecosystem-based management as a foundational principle for the comprehensive management of the ocean, our coasts, and the Great Lakes.

Traditional approaches to management of natural resources focus on single species or uses, and may not adequately consider the entire ecosystem. This single-issue approach is inconsistent with the reality that ecosystems are complex, dynamic assemblages of diverse, interacting organisms, habitats, and environmental factors shaped by natural and human influences. More importantly, this approach has not been effective in preventing degradation of ocean and coastal resources and habitats. Over the past century of management, the health of most ocean and coastal resources has severely declined. The deep interdependence and dynamic relationships between all ecosystem components make it imperative to take an ecosystem-wide approach to protect, maintain, and restore the health, function, and biological diversity of ocean, coastal, and Great Lakes ecosystems and resources. A narrow single-species or single-use approach to resource management is inherently inadequate, and often results in resource depletion, economic hardships, and environmental risks. A holistic approach that examines and accounts for the complex relationships among species and their habitats is required.

For example:

- Fisheries can be better managed by considering not only fishing and targeted fish population dynamics, but also competitors, predators, and prey; the quantity and quality of the habitat that supports each life-stage; cultural, societal, and economic importance; the effects of climate change and invasive species; and the dynamic interactions among these components. Considering interactions with other human uses such as energy, mineral extraction, coastal development, tourism, shipping, and national security will improve future management decisions.

- Wetlands should not be managed by focusing only on the importance of habitat for wildlife species, but should also ensure the ecosystem’s ability to sequester atmospheric carbon, mitigate natural hazards, filter pollution and excess nutrients out of water flowing into the ocean and Great Lakes, and provide nursery grounds for fish species while coastal development and climate change occur.
- The coastal tourism industry should not only endeavor to maintain sandy beaches, but also the value of healthy ecosystems broadly, including water quality and clarity, biodiversity, and healthy habitats that make recreational opportunities such as surfing, SCUBA diving, snorkeling, whale watching, and fishing enjoyable.

This comprehensive, big-picture approach to management is called ecosystem-based management, and is a foundational principle for stewardship and sustainable use of natural resources. In a consensus statement signed by over 200 highly regarded academic scientists, McLeod et al. (2005) defined EBM as “an integrated approach to resource management that considers the entire ecosystem, including humans,” and noted that the goal of EBM is “to maintain an ecosystem in a healthy, productive, and resilient condition so that it can provide the services humans want and need.” The NOC has built upon this definition, and its accompanying list of elements and characteristics, with modifications that reflect the views of multiple Federal agencies as they address implementation of EBM.

Accordingly, the term EBM describes an integrated approach to management, including resource management, that considers the entire ecosystem, including humans, and elements that are integral to ecosystem functioning. Informed by both natural and social science, EBM is intended to conserve and restore our natural and cultural heritage by sustaining diverse, productive, resilient ecosystems and the services they provide, thereby promoting the long-term health, security, and well-being of our Nation. Specifically, EBM:

- Recognizes that humans are a part of ecosystems and that healthy ecosystems are essential to human welfare;

## Benefits provided by healthy ecosystems:

Sustainable fisheries provide food, create jobs, and support local economies.

Mangroves and salt marshes are natural filters, trapping harmful sediments and excessive nutrients.

Offshore reefs create sand and protect the shoreline from flooding and severe storm erosion.

Healthy, oxygen-rich seabeds with large invertebrates provide prey and important habitat for sustainable fisheries.

Offshore energy provides power to support the economy.

Healthy coral reefs are hotspots of marine biodiversity, are of major importance for tourism, and can be a source for new medicines and health care products.

Marine ecosystems such as seagrasses, mangroves, and salt marshes are carbon sinks, reducing greenhouse gases.

Clean, navigable oceans enable marine transportation and commerce, and are vital to national and homeland security.

## Examples of Implementing EBM around the United States

**The Puget Sound Partnership (PSP)** is a community effort of citizens, governments, Tribes, scientists, and businesses working together to restore and protect the Puget Sound. The PSP uses ecosystem health metrics and modeling to provide stakeholders and managers with a framework for making decisions.

**Landscape Conservation Cooperatives (LCCs)** are a network of public-private partnerships seeking to identify best practices, connect efforts, identify gaps, and avoid duplication through improved conservation planning and design.

**The National Estuary Program (NEP)** is a place-based partnership effort that uses a voluntary, collaborative approach to address protection and restoration priorities in 28 diverse estuarine watersheds. NEPs identify local estuarine watershed priorities, develop long-term management plans, and implement short-term actions to improve water quality and living resources in their watersheds.

**Eco-Logical** is a framework for integrating plans across agencies, and endorses ecosystem-based mitigation for unavoidable infrastructure impacts.

**Integrated Ecosystem Assessments (IEAs)** are syntheses and quantitative analyses of information on relevant physical, chemical, ecological, and human processes in relation to specified management objectives. IEAs integrate ecological and economic models that reveal the full suite of trade-offs among different ocean-use sectors inherent in different management actions.

- Focuses on ensuring the abundance and long-term sustainability of natural resources and the benefits they provide (see sidebar) by emphasizing protection and restoration of ecosystem structure, functioning, and key processes;
  - Is place-based, with a focus on a specific ecosystem, is implemented on a range of scales, and addresses a range of activities and cumulative impacts affecting the ecosystem;
  - Recognizes ecological complexity and accounts for the interconnectedness within individual systems, including interactions among target and non-target species and key services;
  - Acknowledges the interconnectedness among different systems, such as between air, land, and sea, while remaining open and flexible to change and adaptation;
  - Is based on sound natural and social science, is information-driven, and is adaptable to changing environmental, social, and economic conditions;
  - Considers diverse ecological, social, economic, cultural, and institutional perspectives, recognizing their strong interdependencies, and assesses trade-offs among diverse management objectives; and
  - Aims to conserve and protect our natural and cultural heritage.

EBM is information-driven, multidisciplinary by nature, comprehensive in scope, and adaptive in practice. Adopting EBM as the foundation for resource stewardship requires a fundamental shift in the way Federal agencies manage the ocean, our coasts, and the Great Lakes. Although there are some examples of EBM efforts with multiple Federal agencies, State and local governments, and other stakeholders working together with a focus on particular ecosystems (for example, under the National Estuary Program), generally management has focused largely on single species, uses, and ecosystem benefits. No single agency can accomplish EBM alone because it requires simultaneous consideration of the gamut of natural resources and human uses—from sharks to shipping, oysters to oil drilling, pharmaceuticals to fish farming, and wetlands to wind energy. To implement EBM, Federal agencies must work together, share their expertise, integrate their data, educate their workforces and constituencies, and provide science-based information to decision-makers. Existing regulatory requirements and programs that were developed based on a fundamentally different model may need to be modified (to the extent consistent with existing statutory frameworks). In addition, Federal agencies must work with Tribal, State, and local governments to best manage the system holistically. This comprehensive approach will not result in increased bureaucracy but will increase efficiency by eroding divisions between Federal agencies, provide a unified framework within

which collaboration among Federal agencies and with States and Tribes can flourish, and unify implementation of all nine National Ocean Policy priority objectives.

Achieving EBM will require application of the information and knowledge gained through the actions identified in the other eight priority objectives. The ocean.data.gov portal, decision support tools, and best practices revealed through pilot studies will be particularly valuable for implementing EBM. Everything from how to adapt to climate change, strengthen ocean observing systems, manage water quality, restore ecosystems, and improve data integration and modeling will inform EBM. This is not to discount important past EBM efforts, but to build on them, institutionalize them within and among Federal agencies, and increase the number of EBM efforts nationally. Furthermore, an EBM approach supports adaptive, iterative management that is responsive to new information and to changing conditions that present new challenges and opportunities. Integrated Ecosystem Assessments (IEAs) and CMSP are important tools for implementing EBM at local to regional scales appropriate for addressing diverse management objectives.

EBM is not viewed as a replacement of our Nation's current management strategies, but rather as a means to capitalize on their strengths, increase efficiency and streamline processes, and expand the scope of information and knowledge to account for the complexity of our oceans, coasts, and Great Lakes. Implementing EBM is an incremental process that builds on existing knowledge and management structures. Since EBM is more about a change in approach, initial implementation will not require major new resources, but possibly some realignment and leveraging of existing resources. As pursued through the actions and milestones identified below, strategic implementation of EBM will establish a framework for collaboration and a shared set of goals (Action 1), establish a scientific framework to provide information to decision-makers (Action 2), train practitioners and decision-makers (Action 3), and develop a set of best practices via pilot projects (Action 4). In the implementation of pilot projects, Federal, State, and Tribal entities will also learn about the impediments to EBM that can be associated with existing statutory and regulatory mandates and requirements that were established based on very different frameworks. Depending on the nature of the pilot project, various responses or actions may become necessary given the limits of existing regulatory or statutory authority. Implementing EBM necessitates a long-term commitment. Progress toward EBM will be more an evolution than a

revolution. The actions below will facilitate efficient collaborative efforts across agencies and levels of governments, and enable well-informed, holistic decisions for managing ocean, coastal, and Great Lakes resources in a manner that promotes the long-term economic and environmental health, security, and well-being of our Nation and to the benefit of all.

### **Action 1: Establish a framework for collaboration and a shared set of goals for Federal implementation of ecosystem-based management.**

Establishing a framework to guide Federal agencies will provide the necessary structure for a Government-wide transition toward collaborative EBM, and facilitate the development of measurable standards for effective and streamlined resource management based on existing statutory and regulatory regimes. Developing a shared set of goals will further synchronize and enhance the productivity of interagency EBM implementation. These set the stage for comprehensive EBM.

#### **Outcomes**

Shared goals and a collaborative approach to EBM will improve management and yield healthy and productive ecosystems for the long term.

**Agencies:** OSTP, CEQ, USDA, DOC, DOD, EPA, DOE, HHS, DHS, DOI, DOJ, JCS, DOL, NASA, NSF, DOS, DOT, OVP, DNI, OMB, NSS, DPC, NEC, USACE 

#### **Milestones**

- Develop EBM principles, goals, and performance measures; produce a policy statement; and coordinate adoption by NOC member agencies. (CEQ, ORM-IPC<sup>1</sup>, OST-IPC; 2012)
- Complete formal interagency partnership agreements (e.g., Memoranda of Agreement) between NOC agencies regarding coordination and leveraging efforts to achieve EBM. (NOC; 2013)
- Complete a review of EBM-relevant statutes and regulations to identify agency authorities (particularly those currently underutilized); opportunities to incorporate EBM principles into Federal laws, regulations, and policies; and potential legislative changes that would fill gaps and support full implementation of EBM. (NOC Legal Working Group, 2013)
- Conduct an inventory of and develop plans to strengthen existing agency and interagency EBM efforts, focusing on increasing collaboration, efficiency, consistency, and transparency of management efforts across agencies, and on involving additional

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<sup>1</sup> The Ocean Resource Management Interagency Policy Committee (ORM-IPC) and the Ocean Science and Technology Interagency Policy Committee (OST-IPC) themselves do not have the capacity to carry out the milestones in this Implementation Plan to which these two groups are assigned. It is envisioned that, by the time this document is completed, subcommittees within each of the IPCs will be created to coordinate implementation of such milestones by a range of Federal agencies.

agencies in efforts that are currently occurring within a single agency. (ORM-IPC member agencies; 2013)

- Develop guidance for all Federal agencies about how to implement EBM under existing regulatory and legislative authorities, such as the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA), into agency-specific programs and associated actions (e.g., risk analyses and permit reviews). (ORM-IPC, OST-IPC, NOC Legal Working Group; 2013)
- Incorporate EBM into Federal agency environmental planning and review processes. (CEQ, NOC member agencies; 2016)

## **Action 2: Establish a science framework to support science-based EBM implementation.**

Sustainably managing human uses of an ecosystem requires a robust understanding of the nature of the dynamically interacting biological, physical, chemical, and geological components and processes; the effects of human and natural forces; and the results of management efforts. A science framework for EBM will provide a mechanism to identify and fill data gaps; target research, monitoring, modeling, assessments, and forecasting to management objectives and priority information needs; and ensure best practices to guide future EBM efforts. This action draws upon data, information, and tools prepared in Action 3 of the *Inform Decisions and Improve Understanding* (i.e., data and tools to support EBM) and Action 5 of the *Coastal and Marine Spatial Planning* priority objective (i.e., development of ocean.data.gov) to identify information requirements to implement EBM and provide guidance on how these data could be used in making decisions.

### **Outcomes**

An EBM science framework will enable reliable natural and social science data and tools to inform management decisions, evaluate trade-offs between alternative management scenarios, and enhance our ability to balance competing demands on ecosystems and adapt to changing resource scenarios.

**Agencies:** OSTP, CEQ, USDA, DOC, DOD, EPA, DOE, HHS, DHS, DOI, DOJ, JCS, DOL, NASA, NSF, DOS, DOT, OVP, DNI, OMB, NSS, DPC, NEC, USACE 

### **Milestones**

- Inventory programs and projects that use EBM, analyze their successes and shortcomings, and identify and fully describe the key characteristics of effective EBM efforts. (ORM-IPC; 2012)

- Phase EBM principles and goals (developed under Action 1) into the Federal process for awarding future grants related to the restoration of ocean, coastal, and Great Lakes ecosystems, to the extent practicable. Require future funded projects to collect data in accordance with the data practices developed in Action 3 of the *Coastal and Marine Spatial Planning* priority objective, to the extent feasible. (NOAA; 2013)
- Using ocean.data.gov and other data sources, identify regional information gaps to fully enable science-based EBM, and develop a plan to fill them. In addition to necessary basic data, this should focus on gaps in synergistic and cumulative ecosystem effects of various human and natural forces. (OST-IPC; 2013)
- Develop national guidelines and best practices for EBM implementation based on engagement of non-Federal partners and stakeholders. This should be based on the inventory above and honed considering the results of pilot projects. (CEQ, OSTP, ORM-IPC, OST-IPC; 2013)
- Establish a process for adaptive resource management, engaging partners and stakeholders. (CEQ, OSTP, ORM-IPC, OST-IPC; 2013)
- Monitor performance and complete biannual progress reports on meeting EBM and adaptive management goals and objectives. (CEQ, OSTP, ORM-IPC, OST-IPC; 2014, 2016)
- Identify and validate ecosystem indices and routinely incorporate them into EBM tools (e.g., integrated ecosystem assessments). (NOAA; 2017)

### **Action 3: Build capacity to implement EBM through training on principles, best practices, and decision-support tools.**

The data, tools, and guidance developed to support EBM will only be valuable if they are applied to management. It is important to train Federal and other managers to use these decision-support tools to inform their approach to and implementation of EBM. Training will enable decision-makers to better assess trade-offs associated with alternative policy options, and promote collaboration and innovation among agencies responsible for managing our oceans, coasts, and Great Lakes. Training is important to ensure the successful shift in management that an EBM approach represents, and to inform non-

Federal partners and stakeholders to ensure they understand the processes and benefits of implementing EBM. Training will be made available to State, Tribal, and local government partners.

### **Outcomes**

Building proficiency in EBM principles, best practices, and use of decision-support tools will further enable decision-makers and managers to fully adopt an EBM approach and balance competing demands on ecosystems by evaluating trade-offs within alternative management scenarios.

**Agencies:** OSTP, CEQ, USDA, DOC, DOD, EPA, DOE, FERC, HHS, DHS, DOI, DOJ, JCS, DOL, NASA, NSF, DOS, DOT, OVP, DNI, OMB, NSS, DPC, NEC 

### **Milestones**

- Develop and initiate an outreach and education program to inform stakeholders and the public of the benefits and principles of EBM. (NOAA, DOI; 2012)
- Develop introductory and advanced training materials for Federal managers and scientists to obtain a common understanding of EBM principles, best practices, and latest decision-support tools. (ORM-IPC; OST-IPC; 2013)
- Provide formal training on EBM principles, best practices, and latest decision-support tools to Federal managers and scientists. (NOAA, EPA, DOI, USDA, DOT; 2013)

### **Action 4: Identify and implement place-based pilot projects that foster an EBM approach to managing ocean and coastal resources.**

Conducting pilot projects will hone EBM best practices, test on-the-ground effectiveness of decision-support tools, and demonstrate the practical utility of the EBM approach. Pilot projects will determine what additional data, tools, and training are required; identify how the collaborative and scientific frameworks may need to be altered to achieve EBM objectives; enable decision-makers and managers to understand how EBM can be most effectively implemented; and help identify what, if any, changes may be needed in existing statutory and regulatory mandates and requirements.

### **Outcomes**

Pilot projects in locations primed for near-term implementation of EBM will facilitate the development and improvement of tools, methods, and capabilities for broader use. EBM is implemented at regional scales relevant to address specific resource management objectives.

**Agencies:** OSTP, CEQ, USDA, DOC, DOD, EPA, DOE, FERC, HHS, DHS, DOI, DOJ, JCS, DOL, NASA, NSF, DOS, DOT, OVP, DNI, OMB, NSS, DPC, NEC, USACE 

## Milestones

- Develop criteria for identifying priority geographic areas for pilot implementation of EBM, and use those criteria to identify three locations for pilot projects. (ORM-IPC; 2012)
- Determine what additional data and tools are needed for implementing EBM in the selected pilot project locations, develop plans to fill those gaps, and initiate the requisite research, monitoring, and modeling needed to support EBM in pilot project locations. (OST-IPC; 2013)
- Conduct EBM pilot projects in the identified areas, ensuring that EBM data and tools (e.g. Integrated Ecosystem Assessments) are available for use, data/tool gaps are filled, and data are collected in accordance with ocean.data.gov requirements. (ORM-IPC; 2016)
- Compile and disseminate initial EBM best practices and case studies to Federal agencies, non-Federal partners, and stakeholders via the EBM portal developed in Action 3 of “Inform Decisions and Improve Understanding,” and refine best practices based on results of pilot projects (ORM-IPC member agencies; 2017)

### GAPS AND NEEDS IN SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY

Implementation of EBM requires research to improve our understanding of ecosystem structure, functions, and processes. This includes understanding how ecosystems respond to various drivers and stressors over various spatial and temporal scales. Key indicators of ecosystem health and spatial areas of high or unique value must be identified. To effectively apply EBM principles and guidance to decision-making, protocols or standards must be developed and adopted to account for ecosystem services and the value of EBM-relevant nonmarket goods and services that are not represented in current decision-making. Adequate capability and capacity for state-of-art decision support, ecosystem modeling, and forecasting are needed. Models that effectively integrate disparate ecological, social, and economic data are an important component of this capacity. EBM relies on a data and information management system. This begins with enhanced ocean observing systems (e.g., the Integrated Ocean Observing System, the Ocean Observatories Initiative) to collect physical, chemical, biological, and ocean use data in (near) real-time. Technology must be available to easily input, archive, access, share, integrate, analyze, visualize, and explain disparate data and information, using mapping and geospatial analysis tools. Data access must be facilitated by developing formal metadata standards and specific guidance for data input, integration, and preservation. Requirements for “open access” and “open science” for data and research methods must be followed.

## Inform Decisions and Improve Understanding

Increase knowledge to continually inform and improve management and policy decisions and the capacity to respond to change and challenges. Better educate the public through formal and informal programs about the ocean, our coasts, and the Great Lakes.

Strong science, technology, and engineering capabilities are the foundation for making informed decisions and improving our understanding of how best to manage the Nation's ocean, coastal, and Great Lakes resources. These capabilities also provide the innovative spark that drives our economy and improves our quality of life. Advances in science allow us to adapt to a changing environment and foster economic growth across multiple existing and emerging sectors, which benefit our overall economic and environmental health and security.

The health and productivity of regional economies requires a balanced and judicious approach to managing human activities in our ocean and coastal areas. Sound management of our valuable natural resources requires accurate scientific information. Improved science is particularly needed in regard to emerging sectors such as renewable energy, aquaculture, and biotechnology. More remains to be learned about traditional economic sectors as well, such as water resource development; fisheries; marine transportation; oil, gas, and mineral extraction; and tourism. Augmenting the breadth and depth of the knowledge upon which we base our decisions will allow us to respond more appropriately to new challenges and resource uses, and to adapt to changing conditions. Science supports increased understanding of the interactions between natural and human social systems. Improved information will enable management to become more proactive and visionary, identify opportunities for growth, and create effective, long-term, ecosystem-based strategies for sustainable resource use.

Advances in science and technology will provide significant opportunities for international commerce. For example, improving communication, observational, and predictive capabilities can increase the security of shipping, which is critical because 90 percent of international goods are shipped over the oceans. Enhancing aquaculture technologies will create jobs, provide affordable and accessible food, and lower our trade deficit (currently 86-percent of seafood consumed in the United States is

imported). Improving biotechnology will lead to medical discoveries that increase the quality and duration of our lives. Advancing renewable energy technologies will reduce our dependency on foreign sources, reduce greenhouse gas emissions, and stimulate local economies.

The actions in this section are designed to provide significant, long-term commitments of intellectual, financial, and educational support to build increasingly nuanced and management-applicable knowledge. Discoveries and technological advances will provide data to improve decision-making and enhance the effectiveness of management actions. A focus on fundamental and exploratory activities must be maintained to ensure continued advances in basic scientific understanding. An informed society and workforce will enable innovative and effective entrepreneurship and stewardship. Collectively, these actions will lead to enhanced economies, improved human well-being, and increased national security.

### **Action 1: Advance fundamental scientific knowledge through exploration and research.**

This action focuses on the importance of conducting fundamental and mission-driven research and sustaining Federal research and exploration activities. It promotes scientific exploration, particularly of the 95-percent of the ocean that remains poorly known, through international and Federal–non-governmental partnerships. New ocean discoveries will expand our knowledge and understanding of Great Lakes and oceanic biodiversity, biogeochemical processes, ecosystem services, and climate interactions at local to global scales. Increased scientific knowledge will improve our awareness of changing environmental conditions and trends, and help us understand the causes of such changes. Scientific information will help us better understand the range of human activities in ocean, coastal, and Great Lakes waters, and of the potential to make more responsible and effective use of available renewable and non-renewable resources. Scientific insights and innovative technologies will enhance the Nation’s competitiveness by increasing scientific and technological capability and discovering new opportunities for biomedical and business development. Scientific activities will be informed by recommendations from *Science for an Ocean Nation: An Update of the Ocean Research Priorities Plan*, a comprehensive and interagency Federal ocean research plan.

#### **Outcomes**

Insight gained from scientific research and innovative technologies will strengthen the Nation’s competitiveness and enhance sustainable uses of ocean, coastal, and Great Lakes resources.

**Agencies:** OST-IPC, IPC member agencies, NOAA, NASA

#### **Milestones**

- Release *Science for an Ocean Nation: An Update of the Ocean Research Priorities Plan*. (OST-IPC; 2012)

- Prioritize Federal research activities informed by recommendations from *Science for an Ocean Nation: An Update of the Ocean Research Priorities Plan* as appropriate. (IPC member agencies; 2013)
- Establish a new cost-sharing partnership with domestic and international governmental and nongovernmental entities that supports global-scale systematic exploration. (NOAA, NASA; 2014)
- Execute expeditions in poorly known or unknown Great Lakes and national and international ocean regions. (NOAA, NASA; 2014)

## **Action 2: Provide scientific information to support emerging sustainable uses of resources including renewable energy, aquaculture, and biotechnology.**

Quality scientific information will strengthen our confidence that emerging and future uses of ocean, coastal, and Great Lakes resources are economically and ecologically sustainable. Fundamental and applied scientific information and technology are used to characterize features of ocean resources, their uses, and potential environmental impacts. Scientific information will increase opportunities for economic growth, create new jobs, and optimize traditional ocean uses such as working waterfronts, sustainable fisheries, tourism, and domestically produced energy. Collaboration among Federal government agencies, private industry, and other partners will facilitate the transition from basic research to applying the findings in commercial markets.

### **Outcomes**

Greater access to data and information will enable better informed decisions about the feasibility and optimization of operations for sustainable uses of ocean, coastal, and Great Lakes resources and services.

**Agencies:** NOAA, DOC, USDA, DOE, DOI, FERC, DOL, NSF

### **Milestones**

- Establish a National Shellfish Initiative, in partnership with commercial and restoration aquaculture communities, that includes pilot projects to identify ways to simultaneously maximize the ecosystem benefits (i.e., nutrient filtration, habitat provision, restoration) and commercial value of shellfish aquaculture, and develop a plan to increase shellfish production in U.S. waters. (NOAA, USDA-ARS, USDA-NIFA; 2013)
- Establish an interagency aquaculture initiative that supports jobs and innovation, through the National Science and Technology Council's Interagency Working Group on Aquaculture and other partnerships. (DOC, USDA-NIFA, USDA-ARS; 2015)
- Estimate the contribution and impacts (including job creation) of emerging uses—including renewable energy, aquaculture, and biotechnology—on the economies of the communities and regions dependent on marine and coastal resources. (NOAA, DOE, DOI, FERC, DOL, DOC; 2015)

- Compile and make available relevant climate, water, wind, and weather data; environmental models of seasonal and extreme conditions; and other information to support development of the Nation’s coastal and offshore renewable energy, including wind, ocean thermal, and hydrokinetic (e.g., waves, tidal energy) resources. (DOE, NOAA, DOI, DOC, NSF; 2017)
- To the extent they may be discovered, characterize new natural products and biotechnological processes from ocean, coastal, and Great Lakes environments and evaluate their potential for commercial development. (NOAA, DOI, DOE, DOC, NIH, NSF; 2017).

**Action 3: Provide the data and tools necessary to support science-based decision-making and ecosystem-based management.**

To enable science-based decisions, Federal agencies and partners will provide data and information; develop and refine decision-support tools; and expand outreach, training, technical assistance, and expertise. Robust decision-support tools and processes will provide ecological, social, and economic data and information to support timely and effective policy development and EBM. Timely, objective, and high-quality scientific information can be evaluated for management purposes through the use of decision-support tools. These tools enable informed, iterative decision-making that can adapt to changing resource scenarios, better understanding of ecosystem functioning, and improved scientific assessments of the efficacy and consequences of management approaches.

**Outcomes**

Improved decision-support tools and information services will further enable evaluation of trade-offs between alternative management scenarios, and enhance our ability to balance competing demands on ecosystems.

**Agencies:** ORM-IPC, OST-IPC, NOAA, DOI, EPA, DOE

**Milestones**

- Develop and complete an assessment of existing and needed decision-support tools, including tools for EBM, and training

to support ocean and coastal decision-makers. (OST-IPC, ORM-IPC; 2013)

- Develop and provide decision-support tools and information services to meet the needs of Federal, State, Tribal, regional, and local ocean, coastal, and Great Lakes resource managers, policymakers, and stakeholders. (NOAA, DOI, EPA, DOE, DOD; 2016)
- Provide training curricula to meet the needs of Federal, State, Tribal, regional, and local ocean, coastal, and Great Lakes resource managers, policymakers, and stakeholders. (USDA, NOAA, USACE, DOD, DOI; 2016)
- Deliver an EBM portal for agencies and stakeholders to access decision-support tools and share the results of and lessons learned from pilot studies. (DOI, NOAA; 2016)

#### **Action 4: Integrate social and natural scientific information into decision-making.**

Many controversial or urgent ocean policy issues need to place biophysical scientific research into political and socioeconomic contexts. Integration of natural and social science data, information, and knowledge is necessary to support the development and maintenance of sustainable ocean, coastal, and Great Lakes resources and economies, and to understand the social context for planning and implementing ocean policy. We need to understand how ocean science, environmental resources, and human socioeconomic systems affect each other and communicate these interactions to stakeholders and the public.

Knowledge of human behavior, attitudes, and preferences; societal values; economics; and human use of and dependence on ecosystem services will be routinely acquired and incorporated into research, ecosystem assessments, decision-making, and management of ocean, coastal, and Great Lakes resources. Natural and social scientific data will be incorporated into models and analyses that inform planning, policy, and management decisions. Public attitudes and preferences will be routinely incorporated into ecosystem assessments, policy, and management decisions.

#### **Outcomes**

Incorporating natural, social, and behavioral information in decision support tools will enable Federal, State, and Tribal authorities to manage ocean, coastal, and Great Lakes resources more efficiently and effectively.

**Agencies:** NOAA, DOC, DOI, DOL, DOT, IWG-OSS, EPA

#### **Milestones**

- Develop a set of indicators to characterize human interactions with the ocean, our coasts, and Great Lakes and identify cutting-edge issues, with intent to maintain relevant data collections and analyses for long-term trends. (NOAA; 2012)
- Complete an initial analysis of ocean and coastal economic statistics and jobs. (DOC, DOI, DOL, DOT, USACE; 2012)

- Plan and conduct one or more showcase projects employing public input that use socioeconomics and natural sciences to identify, develop, and apply valuation frameworks for ecosystem services. (IWG-OSS; 2014)
- Initiate a pilot project to include one or more public health or economic indicators, such as port commerce and storm damage prevented, in the Coastal Condition Report. (EPA, DOT; 2015)

### **Action 5: Develop human capacity and the skilled workforce necessary to conduct ocean research and manage ocean, coastal, and Great Lakes resources.**

A diverse workforce with interdisciplinary skills and training is needed to keep the United States a world leader in ocean science research, and to provide the most knowledgeable management of our ocean, coastal, and Great Lakes resources possible. Current graduation rates in the ocean sciences are low. Support for students, particularly those from underrepresented groups, is needed to expand these ocean and coastal topics to a wider demographic that better represents the U.S. population.

This action will build the technical, scientific, and managerial workforce capacity to ensure that management of and research on the ocean and U.S. coastal and Great Lakes regions are of the highest quality possible; that educational programs include a diverse group of students; and that a highly competent workforce, including experts capable of communicating with and understanding many different cultures, is available for U.S. employers.

#### **Outcomes**

More students, particularly from underrepresented groups at the undergraduate and graduate level, graduating in academic fields related to ocean, coastal, and Great Lakes science and management will support U.S. leadership in ocean research and development and application of the best management approaches possible.

**Lead Agencies:** NOAA, DOT, DOC, DOL, NSF, DOE, DOI, DOD, USCG, EPA

#### **Milestones**

- Complete studies of future ocean workforce requirements, including in the areas of science and technology, ocean industry and infrastructure, and water transportation. (NOAA, DOT, DOC, DOL; 2014).
- Provide scholarship, fellowship, and internship opportunities in ocean, coastal, and Great Lakes programs to underrepresented groups, working with professional societies, nonprofits, and minority-serving institutions. (NOAA, EPA, DOT; 2016)
- Support periodic competitions and other activities for middle and high school students that demonstrate a positive impact on students' choices of future academic and career paths. (NOAA, NSF, NASA, DOI, SI, EPA, USACE; 2017)

- Provide scholarship, fellowship, and internship opportunities to high school, undergraduate, and graduate/postgraduate students that leverage Federal investment in ocean research, laboratories, and natural areas to support education. (NOAA, NSF, DOE, DOT, DOI, DOD, USCG; 2016)

**Action 6: Increase ocean and coastal literacy by expanding the accessibility and use of ocean content in formal and informal educational programming for students, educators, and the public.**

Every student in the Nation should encounter ocean sciences concepts in their K-12 educational experience. Federal agencies seek to improve ocean literacy through a variety of programs for students, educators, and the public. These programs provide professional development opportunities for teachers to engage students in science and work with partners at aquariums, museums, and science centers to engage the public. These activities are responsive to studies by the National Research Council and others that show how formal and informal science education programs are effective at raising levels of knowledge and awareness and at improving understanding about trade-offs. This action addresses increased opportunities for systematic inclusion of ocean topics and concepts into mainstream K-12 and informal education systems.

**Outcomes**

Increased public understanding of ocean and coastal science and the importance of the ocean in Earth systems will produce a more informed citizenry; create better stewards of ocean, coastal, and Great Lakes resources; and increase awareness of business opportunities related to these resources. It will also increase interest in activities to address the issues facing the ocean, our coasts, and the Great Lakes.

**Lead Agencies:** IWG-OE, CEQ, NOAA, DOI, NSF

**Milestones**

- Include ocean content in Next Generation Science Standards. (IWG-OE; 2012)
- Incorporate, in collaboration with the Department of Education, ocean and coastal criteria into the Green Ribbon Schools initiative. (CEQ; 2012)
- Execute formal and informal education strategies for the Chesapeake Bay region that build on Federal and non-Federal education resources. (NOAA, DOI; 2017)

- Complete a study of environmental knowledge of middle school students and use study results to refine educational programming. (NOAA; 2017)
- Execute infrastructure and demonstration projects that deliver ocean observing data for formal and informal education. (NOAA, NSF; 2017)
- Enhance incorporation of native and traditional observations and knowledge, along with information on native peoples and their cultural traditions, into ocean education materials. (NSF, DOI; 2017)
- Make available education and training tools that can be used to improve national and international educational opportunities on ocean issues (EPA; 2014)
- Develop stories and data sets to deliver the latest ocean science content for coordinated networks of innovative exhibits in aquariums, museums, science centers, and National Parks (NOAA; 2014)

## Observations, Mapping, and Infrastructure

Strengthen and integrate Federal and non-Federal ocean observing systems, sensors, data collection platforms, data management, and mapping capabilities into a national system and integrate that system into international observation efforts.

Vital to ocean and coastal research and management in the United States is the availability of modern ships, undersea vehicles, moorings, satellites, laboratories, instruments, and observing systems. Ocean data provide the information needed to support decisions every day, from routine operations to emergency responses. A glider in the Gulf of Mexico maps contaminants below the ocean's surface. A wave buoy supplies real-time information for safe marine operations. A network of floats provides the first-ever global real-time observations of the deep sea. Coastal and ocean observations and mapping provide critical information for protecting human lives and property from marine hazards, enhancing national and homeland security, predicting global climate change, improving ocean health, and providing for the protection, sustainable use, and enjoyment of ocean resources.

Many years of integrated infrastructure and technology planning and coordination have allowed us to provide this critical information to enable decision-making, further cross-disciplinary research efforts, improve predictive models, and deliver essential baseline mapping data. However, continued interagency coordination is needed to plan for the most cost-effective acquisition, maintenance, and operation of these expensive, large-scale assets.

In addition, collecting and delivering data to better support future decisions in a complex environment requires an understanding of the requirements of the other eight National Ocean Policy priority objectives and matching them with a well-coordinated effort that integrates Federal and non-Federal expertise, resources, and assets. The actions below will allow us to continue to increase efficiency, enable integration, and provide sustainability of observations, data, and information while laying the foundation for continuing long-term efforts.

## **Action 1: Assess the status of the Federal Oceanographic Fleet.**

The Federal Oceanographic Fleet (Fleet) is a critical national infrastructure that supports Federal agency and academic oceanographic operations, surveys, and research across a broad spectrum of needs. Ships provide access to the sea and Great Lakes and enable data collection and research that informs and/or addresses needs in national security, weather and climate, ocean mapping, biomedical research, seismic and tsunami activity, living and non-living marine resources, disaster warnings and response, and ocean and seafloor physical, chemical, geological, and biological processes. The Fleet is composed of Federally-owned research and survey ships greater than 40 meters in length owned and operated by Federal agencies, Federally owned ships operated by academic organizations, and the human capital required to operate the Fleet to modern standards.

This action will provide a status report of the Fleet to inform future planning, and address the Fleet's capacity to support the National Ocean Policy. A more efficient interagency approach to managing the Fleet could lessen the impact of steadily increasing operational costs by ensuring efficient and effective operations are conducted at the lowest possible life-cycle costs.

### **Outcomes**

Assessing the Federal Oceanographic Fleet will provide a foundation to ensure an efficient and effective infrastructure to address the Nation's seagoing data collection and research needs.

**Agencies:** IWG-FI

### **Milestones**

- Identify at-sea survey (oceanographic and living marine resource) and research mission requirements to support the National Ocean Policy. (IWG-FI; 2013)
- Update the *Federal Oceanographic Fleet Status Report*. (IWG-FI; 2013)
- Complete analysis and selection of Fleet utilization performance measurements. (IWG-FI; 2013)
- Complete evaluation of a prototype Fleet schedule portal. (IWG-FI; 2013)
- Assess the capabilities for oceanographic ships to support multi-mission agency activities in the Arctic. (IWG-FI; 2013)

## **Action 2: Improve unmanned and satellite remote sensing systems.**

Observing the environment with unmanned systems reduces uncertainties in our science, thereby improving predictive capability and, ultimately, decision-making. Improving unmanned and satellite remote sensing systems, Federal and non-Federal unmanned undersea vehicles (both tethered and autonomous), unmanned airborne systems, and unmanned surface vehicles will improve our research and management capabilities. Developing a fully coordinated pool of

unmanned assets designed for multiple users within 10 years will increase our Nation's capabilities for thorough environmental sampling by coupling the spatial and temporal coverage of multiple unmanned and satellite remote sensing system types.

This action will determine the priorities for unmanned observing systems and conduct an inventory of Federal and non-Federal systems. It will produce a status report on the use and application of unmanned and satellite remote sensing systems, an examination of the inherent efficiencies attributable to their use, and ongoing identification of ways to improve use of these systems to achieve the priorities of the National Ocean Policy. This is a first step toward improvements in the Nation's unmanned and satellite remote-sensing fleets.

### Outcomes

Better coordinated and efficient use of existing unmanned observing systems will improve cost-effective data collection to meet National Ocean Policy operational and research mission priorities. Examining unmanned systems will identify gaps in and potential for expanding capacity and infrastructure for such systems based on clearly defined requirements for the future.

**Agencies:** IWG-FI

### Milestones

- Identify observation priorities for all National Ocean Policy priority objectives that are suitable for accomplishment with unmanned and/or satellite remote-sensing systems, including an assessment for developing unmanned undersea vehicles with under-ice data collection capability. (IWG-FI; 2012)
- Complete an inventory of available Federal and non-Federal unmanned undersea vehicles (both tethered and autonomous) and satellite remote-sensing systems. (IWG-FI; 2013)
- Complete an analysis and selection of performance measurements for unmanned and satellite remote-sensing system utilization. (DOD, NASA, NOAA, NSF; 2014)
- Complete an evaluation of a prototype unmanned system inventory and allocation planning tool. (IWG-FI; 2014)
- Identify and report on regulatory restrictions to the use of Federal and non-Federal unmanned systems and identify ways

**Global Earth Observation System of Systems** is a distributed system of systems, built on current international cooperation efforts among existing Earth observing and processing systems, that enables the collection and distribution of accurate, reliable Earth observation data, information, products, and services to both suppliers and consumers worldwide.

### Integrated Ocean Observing System

**(IOOS®)** is a partnership of Federal and State agencies, regional partners, private enterprise, academia, and nongovernmental organizations that gathers physical, geological, chemical, and biological information on our oceans and coasts— and conditions that affect, and are affected by, humans and their activities. This coordinated network of people and technology generates and disseminates continuous data, information, models, products, and services on our coastal waters, Great Lakes, and oceans.

### Ocean Observatories

**Initiative (OOI)** is a long-term, NSF-funded program to provide 25 to 30 years of sustained ocean measurements to study climate variability, ocean circulation and ecosystem dynamics, air-sea exchange, seafloor processes, and plate-scale geodynamics.

to enable better use of these systems to achieve National Ocean Policy priorities. (IWG-FI; 2014)

- Demonstrate capability for coordinated unmanned and satellite remote sensor sampling in a limited region of environmental interest as a step toward a fully operational capability. (DOD, NASA, NOAA, NSF; 2017).

### **Action 3: Advance observation and sampling technologies for exploring and understanding the complexities of land, ocean, atmosphere, ice, biological, and social interactions on a global scale.**

Short-term experimental and pilot observation projects support new discoveries and improvements to our understanding of the ocean. These observations provide the basis for informing decision-making and EBM. Our Nation needs a broad array of observations from an infrastructure that incorporates in situ observation systems, satellites, data use and integration, and the development and testing of the next generation of observation technologies and capabilities. These new technologies are critical to improve understanding of the underlying physical and ecological processes driving the ocean, coasts, and Great Lakes and to identify less costly means of monitoring these ecosystems. This new understanding will inform planning, decision-making, management, and stewardship of these ecosystems.

#### **Outcomes**

Advanced technologies will improve scientific understanding of the underlying physical and ecological processes driving the ocean, coasts, and Great Lakes to inform and support EBM, CMSP, and other decision-making.

**Agencies:** NASA, NOAA, NSF, USGS

#### **Milestones**

- Identify the limitations of existing methodologies for integrating observational data, including coastal and global ocean remote and in situ data, physical and biological data, and ocean observations and socioeconomic data. (NASA, NOAA, NSF, USGS; 2013)
- Identify the potential for developing deep Argo profiling floats and integrating additional sensors on them. (NOAA, NSF; 2013)
- Construct and deploy the Ocean Observatories Initiative as a long-term platform for testing and developing innovative ocean sensors and communication standards. (NSF; 2015)
- Identify the limitations of existing methodologies for integrating short-term and sustained long-term ocean observational data, and develop initial activities to improve integration. (NASA, NOAA, NSF; 2016)
- Implement data and modeling techniques to support a global mapping capability for seasonal, inter-annual, and decadal changes. (NASA, USGS; 2017)

## Offshore remote-sensing observations allow:

Utility companies to monitor cooling water intake at their nuclear power plants for safety.

Oil companies to assess impact of local oceanographic conditions on offshore rigs to assist with oil platform management.

State and local governments to make decisions whether to close a beach to protect public safety, while allowing them to limit the amount of time it is closed to minimize economic impacts on local business.

Maritime situational awareness to support our homeland and national security and maritime law enforcement needs.

Regional Fishery Management Councils to inform their decisions to set annual quotas and prevent overfishing.

### **Action 4: Provide local and regional observation systems to support a variety of ocean, coastal, and Great Lakes users.**

Sustained observation systems provide the observational backbone underlying decisions made at regional and local scales to address maritime commerce, safety at sea, weather and climate forecasts and effects, national and homeland security, maritime law enforcement, sustainable living marine resources, and ecosystem health. Easier and better access to observations and information is improving our ability to understand and predict ecosystem events—such as harmful algal blooms and changes in habitat—as well as long-term planning and decision-making. This action will coordinate with specific observing activities outlined for the *Resiliency and Adaptation to Climate Change and Ocean Acidification* and *Changing Conditions in the Arctic* priority objectives.

This action includes the steps that will be taken to further implement the U.S. Integrated Ocean Observing System (IOOS®) observational and data management components and the Physical Oceanographic Real-Time System (PORTS), bringing them to a baseline operational level. These components will provide users with standardized data discovery and access to a minimum set of ocean observing data from Federal and non-Federal sources.

#### **Outcomes**

Sustained observing systems in the ocean, coasts, and Great Lakes will provide the information for sound planning and decision-making at regional and local scales.

**Agencies:** NOAA, USACE, IOOC, USGS, EPA, NASA, NOAA

#### **Milestones**

- Complete a detailed inventory of non-fleet operational ocean observation assets for the 11 IOOS® Regions and develop/release build-out plans within available resources. (NOAA; 2013)
- Develop and release an inventory of both Federal and non-Federal IOOS® capabilities by comparing observing requirements with standardized requirement specifications. (NOAA; 2013)
- Within existing statutory authorities, develop, evaluate, and expand an integrated geospatial database of Federal and non-Federal, certified and non-certified ocean observation data to provide access to public

information and provide extracts or contact information for privately held information. (IOOC member agencies, NOAA, DOD; 2013)

- Establish a mechanism for obtaining external expert advice (e.g., a Federal Advisory Committee) to advise the IOOC. (NOAA; 2013).
- Announce the standards for certifying non-Federal data providers to IOOS® and certify at least one provider. (NOAA; 2014)
- Update the National Surface Current Mapping Plan to include a gap-filling component and up-to-date coverage, including prioritization of new radar sites. (NOAA; 2014)
- Update the National Operational Wave Observation Plan. (USACE, NOAA; 2015)
- Complete plans for the PORTS. (NOAA, 2015)
- Provide remotely sensed imagery and data, including those from shore-based and sea-mounted sensors, to the National Water Quality Monitoring Network design. (USGS, EPA, NASA, USCG, NOAA; 2017)

### **Action 5: Coordinate and leverage ocean and coastal mapping efforts to improve access to existing data and efficiently collect future data.**

Improvements in providing fundamental baseline data for defining and mapping ocean, coastal, and Great Lakes areas—notably critical habitat—will support spatial planners and decision-makers in improving resource management. Interagency coordination will provide more effective planning, acquisition, processing, and access to ocean and coastal mapping data by increasing data sharing, developing appropriate data acquisition and metadata standards, and facilitating the interoperability of in situ data collection systems, data processing, archiving, and distribution of data products.

This action will strengthen and integrate Federal and non-Federal ocean and coastal mapping resources. It will improve the efficiency of mapping assets (including program, platforms, technologies, and resultant data), facilitate the use and re-use of our mapping data, and enable the integration of these data and products. This will in turn allow us to better define critical habitat areas, assess vulnerability to coastal change, manage marine resources, and identify and mitigate threats to marine transportation. Specifically, this action will develop a comprehensive, integrated inventory of ocean and coastal mapping data, to improve planning for the efficient response of Federally-funded mapping programs to the diverse needs in the National Ocean Policy.

#### **Outcomes**

Sustained and coordinated ocean and coastal mapping will support planning and decision-making about ocean and coastal uses.

**Agencies:** NOAA, USGS, USACE, IC-OCM

## **Milestones**

- Integrate existing and emerging coastal and seafloor mapping guidelines, best practices, and standards to ensure interoperability of data. (IC-OCM, NOAA; 2013)
- Develop, evaluate, and expand a prototype interagency Ocean and Coastal Mapping (OCM) Inventory that includes information (metadata) on existing and planned acquisition of framework data meeting agreed standards, including elevation, imagery, and geophysical data. (NOAA, USGS, USACE, IC-OCM; 2014)
- Obtain modern high-resolution seafloor mapping data in key coastal and shelf waters, including the National Shoreline, in accordance with the priorities and standards of the National Ocean and Coastal Mapping Plan. (IC-OCM; 2014)
- Develop an annually updated National Ocean and Coastal Mapping Plan, using the OCM Inventory, that defines priority mapping needs and gaps, and implement the plan through interagency collaboration in planning, budgeting, and execution. (IC-OCM; 2017)

## **Action 6: Improve mapping capabilities and mapping products.**

The majority of the ocean and our coasts is not mapped to modern standards. Improved mapping capabilities and products—inventoried in a national system—will serve user communities with varied interests, needs, and responsibilities, as well as support tsunami modeling and storm surge planning, enhance safety of navigation, improve EBM and decision-making for conservation and management of marine resources and habitats, and advance ocean and coastal science.

This action will improve technologies and methodologies that are needed to acquire data in a manner that enables re-use. It will develop methods and strategies for more consistent and integrated data products. Integration of mapping data will allow timely access to high-quality ocean and coastal mapping data and derived products.

## **Outcomes**

Improved mapping capabilities and products will better support a range of activities, including navigation, emergency planning, search and rescue, and conservation practices.

**Agencies:** IC-OCM, USGS, USACE, NOAA

## **Milestones**

- Improve and implement coastal change analysis products and a sustained and seamless description of coastal and marine elevation extending from on-shore coastal areas (Coastal National Elevation Dataset) through the U.S. Exclusive Economic Zone and extended continental shelf, including elevation models and derived map products, which meet the needs of decision-makers. (IC-OCM, USGS, USACE, NOAA; 2013)

- Improve and implement technology and techniques for acoustic characterization of seafloor properties to enable multiple uses of data for nautical charting and marine habitat mapping. (IC-OCM, NOAA; 2014)
- Improve and implement airborne and other techniques for coastal elevation, bathymetric mapping, and nautical charting, including low-lying coastal areas with turbid waters. (USACE, USGS, NOAA, IC-OCM; 2017)

**Action 7: Develop an integrated ocean and coastal data collection, processing, and management system to support real-time observations.**

Development of a national, enterprise-wide, integrated management system for physical, biological, chemical, and social data is an essential component of the larger, overarching ocean and coastal infrastructure that supports all nine National Ocean Policy priority objectives. A system for data and information management, archiving, access, and stewardship—with supporting policies—is needed to ensure the full value of the Nation’s investment in ocean, coastal, and Great Lakes data and information. This effort will be part of the national information management infrastructure to provide easy access to relevant data and information for research, planning, and decision support, and will be closely linked with [ocean.data.gov](http://ocean.data.gov) and other ocean and coastal data portals and services.

This action provides the initial steps that will identify and integrate the data and information required by the eight other priority objectives. It will also provide the end-to-end data services required (e.g., data collection, management, stewardship, integration, and product dissemination to all end users) to make this a truly national capability for current and future applications. Data collected from existing systems will be submitted regularly to relevant national archive centers for long-term stewardship. The action includes a long-term commitment to integrating biological data with other natural and social data.

**Outcomes**

A national data and information management system and supporting policies will ensure the full value of the Nation’s investment in ocean, coastal, and Great Lakes data and information.

**Agencies:** IOOC member agencies, IC-OCM, NOAA, DOI, NSF, USDA, EPA, NASA, DOC, United States Global Change Research Program (USGCRP), USACE

### **Milestones**

- Define Federal and non-Federal partners' data and information management, archive, access, and long-term stewardship systems modeled on the U.S. IOOS®: A Blueprint for Full Capability. (NOAA; 2012)
- Within existing statutory authorities, create a program for the notification, collection, and organization of Federal and non-Federal ocean observing systems that will reduce redundancies in collection, provide a central database for public information and connect to privately held information, and assist in prioritizing areas in need of additional collection. (IOOC member agencies, NOAA, DOD; 2012)
- Identify the existing data services and systems, as well as the requirements to support integrated discovery and access through an information management system and integrative functions required for the management system. (IOOC member agencies; 2013)
- Adopt recommended best practices and standards (such as the Coastal and Marine Ecological Classification Standard) to ensure consistent terminology for coastal and marine ecological features when describing and delivering ocean and coastal mapping data and derived products. (IC-OCM; 2013)
- Implement a fully coordinated, nationally integrated system that includes international partners under the Global Earth Observation System of Systems framework and supports the Global Climate Observing System Implementation Plan. (IOOC member agencies, USGCRP; 2016)
- Begin implementing well-accepted international standards for data transmission formats, metadata, and version control via the Global Telecommunications System (GTS), as well as best practices for observing and data quality. (NOAA, USACE; 2016)
- Extend the current data standards within the biological domain to allow for increased interoperability between marine biological data and physical and social data within an ocean observation context. (NOAA, DOI, NSF, USDA, EPA, NASA, DOC; 2020)

## COORDINATE AND SUPPORT

Better coordinate and support Federal, State, Tribal, local, and regional management of the ocean, our coasts, and the Great Lakes. Improve coordination and integration across the Federal Government and, as appropriate, engage with the international community.

One of the significant obstacles to effective management of the ocean, our coasts, and the Great Lakes is the complex set of Federal, State, Tribal, and local laws, authorities, mandates, and governance structures for resource management and conservation. Managing resources and uses consistently is difficult to achieve given statutorily mandated divisions of authority among overlapping jurisdictions of the various Federal agencies. In addition, many of the Nation's most pressing ocean and coastal issues are local or regional in nature and their resolution requires strong support for regional governance structures.

The effects of climate change, overfishing, and the depletion of many of the world's fish stocks, the global reach of regional disasters, ocean habitat degradation, and an increased need to take advantage of observation platforms have drawn attention to the international nature of ocean and coastal challenges and opportunities that our Nation faces. These far-reaching issues require both bilateral and multilateral collaboration and cooperation with our international partners.

To move toward EBM, the Nation needs to improve its ability to respond to ocean and coastal issues in a coordinated fashion across jurisdictional boundaries and at all levels of governance. The actions below will increase communication, streamline processes, leverage resources, resolve disparities, and enhance synergies within and between Federal, State, Tribal, regional, and local ocean, coastal and Great Lakes programs, and, as appropriate, with the international community. The actions work to strengthen and leverage existing partnerships and build new partnerships, such as assisting the States in advancing the network of regional alliances to protect ocean, coastal, and Great Lakes health. Partnerships with local governments and private interests are also needed to leverage limited resources. Cooperation among Federal agencies in regionally focused efforts, as described in the *Regional Ecosystem Protection and Restoration* priority objective, is critical. Development of cross-cutting budget

analyses for ocean activities will further identify areas of redundancy and opportunities for partnering.

### **Action 1: Support regional priorities and enhance regional partnerships.**

Existing regional ocean and Great Lakes partnerships (ROPs) are voluntary, usually multi-state, Governor-established forums that develop shared priorities and take critical action on a broad diversity of ocean, coastal, and Great Lakes needs as relevant to their region. They have different structures and employ varied methods and approaches to enhance the ecological and economic health of the region. Their efforts involve nongovernmental stakeholders and multiple State and Federal agencies involved in coastal and ocean management.

The ROPs have many priorities in common—such as habitat restoration, outreach and education, and increasing science and data—and in many cases are well aligned with the National Ocean Policy. Enhancing communication and coordination among these groups and with the NOC will further the priorities addressed in the Policy. For example, with the anticipated creation of regional planning bodies to implement the National Ocean Policy’s framework for effective coastal and marine spatial planning (hereinafter “CMSP Framework”), several ROPs are considering possible ways to align their existing regional collaborations with those envisioned specifically for CMSP.

In implementing this action, Federal agencies will enhance progress in the regions by supporting ROP priorities and by improving coordination among Federal offices based in the regions. Increased involvement by Federal agencies in ROPs will facilitate greater exchange of information and access to technical, scientific, and training support. (See also the “Restoration in Action” text box in the *Regional Ecosystem Protection and Restoration* priority objective.) In addition, this action will assist ROPs with sharing lessons learned about methods or techniques they have found most effective in achieving regional objectives using limited resources.

### **Outcomes**

Improved inter-jurisdictional cooperation and collaboration will facilitate the development of regional goals and priorities and improve responses to regional challenges.

## **Regional Ocean and Great Lakes Partnerships**

### *Great Lakes Regional Collaboration*

([www.glrc.us](http://www.glrc.us))

Illinois  
Indiana  
Michigan  
Minnesota  
New York  
Ohio  
Pennsylvania  
Wisconsin

### *Governors’ South Atlantic Alliance*

([www.southatlanticalliance.org](http://www.southatlanticalliance.org))

Florida  
Georgia  
North Carolina  
South Carolina

### *Gulf of Mexico Alliance*

(<http://gulfofmexicoalliance.org>)

Alabama  
Florida  
Louisiana  
Mississippi  
Texas

### *Mid-Atlantic Regional Council on the Ocean*

([www.midatlanticocean.org](http://www.midatlanticocean.org))

Delaware  
Maryland  
New Jersey  
New York  
Virginia

### *Northeast Regional Ocean Council*

(<http://community.csc.noaa.gov/nroc>)

Connecticut  
Maine  
Massachusetts  
New Hampshire  
Rhode Island  
Vermont

### *West Coast Governors’ Alliance on Ocean Health*

(<http://westcoastcoceans.gov>)

California  
Oregon  
Washington

## Leveraging Partnerships

**National Oceanographic Partnership Program (NOPP)** works to coordinate and strengthen oceanographic efforts to support national security, economic development, and ocean science and education. The NOPP identifies and carries out partnerships among Federal agencies, academia, industry, and other members of the oceanographic scientific community in the areas of data, resources, education, and communication.

**Corporate Wetlands Restoration Partnership (CWRP)** is an innovative private–public initiative aimed at preserving, restoring, enhancing, and protecting aquatic habitats throughout the United States. Bringing together over 300 corporations, Federal and State agencies, non-profit organizations, and academia, the CWRP allows members to contribute in a fundamental way to crucial projects involving America’s coastal and inland aquatic resources and to support related education programs.

**National Fish Habitat Partnerships** are regional partnerships among State and Tribal governments, the Federal Government, businesses, and NGOs working to reverse declines in fish habitat across the Federal Government.

**Agencies:** NOAA, EPA, DOI, all agencies who are members of Federal regional task forces.

### Milestones

- Identify grant and non-monetary opportunities to support the continued development and organization of regional alliances and existing ROPs (e.g., support for regional action plans). (NOAA, EPA, DOI; 2012)
- Compile a list of tools, resources, and in-kind services that are available to ROPs to enhance accomplishment of mutual regional goals (e.g., facilitators, use of Federal facilities, grant opportunities, decision-support tools, scientific information, and technical experts). (NOAA, EPA, DOI, USACE; 2012)
- Identify and distribute, in coordination with ROPs, Best Management Practices (BMPs) that are broadly applicable for all ROPs (e.g., how to effectively engage stakeholders, develop partnerships, identify priorities, develop regional action plans, measure success). (NOAA, EPA, DOI, USACE; 2012)

### **Action 2: Strengthen existing partnerships and establish new partnerships, as appropriate, to enhance the actions within this Implementation Plan.**

Improving collaboration through partnerships allows the Federal Government to leverage the unique and diverse strengths of Tribal and State partners, the private sector, and other stakeholders. These partnerships allow Federal agencies to better address national problems that are beyond the mandate or capability of any single Federal agency or the Federal Government acting alone. Engaging the private sector and communities in ocean, coastal, and Great Lakes stewardship promotes environmental conservation, economic growth, and other societal benefits.

In addition to facilitating new partnerships, this action will improve leveraging of existing partnerships (e.g., National Oceanographic Partnership Program, Corporate Wetlands Restoration Partnership, and National Fish Habitat Partnerships). This action aligns with other national and regional initiatives, including “America’s Great Outdoors” and the Administration’s “Commitment to Clean Water.” NOC member

agencies would also work through their ongoing stakeholder partnerships as appropriate to address actions in this draft Implementation Plan.

## **Outcomes**

Strengthening existing and establishing new partnerships will result in greater efficiency, extended capacity, improved effectiveness, and greater joint public–private partnerships to support mutual objectives.

**Agencies:** ORM-IPC, OST-IPC, NOAA, USDA, NFHP Federal Caucus

## **Milestones**

- Identify and prioritize specific opportunities to partner with non-Federal entities and organizations on National Ocean Policy priorities. (ORM-IPC, OST-IPC; 2012)
- Establish and work with a national coastal conservation corps network to identify potential sites and projects for phased regional implementation. (NOAA; 2012)
- Identify and prioritize ocean, coastal, and Great Lakes protection and restoration projects that would benefit from involvement of public–private partnerships, such as Corporate Wetlands Restoration Partnerships. (ORM-IPC; 2012)
- Identify, in coordination with the National Oceanographic Partnership Program, funding opportunities to support National Ocean Policy priorities. (OST-IPC; 2013)
- Officially recognize one new coastal, estuarine, or marine focused Fish Habitat Partnership. (NFHP Federal Caucus; 2013)
- Assess Federal grant solicitations to determine whether additional criteria can be identified and added to better coordinate with priorities of the coastal and marine Fish Habitat Partnerships. (NFHP Federal Caucus; 2014)

## **Action 3: Reduce barriers to implementation of the National Ocean Policy.**

When authorities and responsibilities remain dispersed, poorly defined, or nonexistent, the decision-making process is unclear. The resulting confusion can create roadblocks to public participation, discourage private investment, cause harmful delays, and generate unnecessary costs. This action will help Federal agencies identify and make recommendations to resolve gaps, inconsistencies, and duplications in statutory authorities, policies, and regulations. This will be particularly beneficial in instances when decision-making responsibilities are poorly defined or non-existent due to lack of coherency among differing agency mandates, policies, regulations, practices, or funding. As part of this analysis, opportunities to incorporate EBM principles into statutory authorities, policies, and regulations will be identified.

## **Outcomes**

Identification and resolution of legal barriers will improve the Federal Government's ability to improve management of activities taking place or being proposed in our ocean, coasts, and Great Lakes.

**Agency:** NOC Legal Working Group

## **Milestones**

- Identify Federal legal or regulatory gaps, overlaps, redundancies, and inconsistencies to effective collaboration and governance that require further analysis. (NOC Legal Working Group; 2012)
- Review the interpretation and, as necessary, propose to strengthen content and/or application of Federal legislation, including the Coastal Zone Management Act, Coastal Barriers Resources Act, the Stafford Act, and others to incorporate and better support climate change adaptation efforts. (NOAA, DOI; 2013)
- Deliver a report on priority recommendations to accelerate Federal decision-making with actions that would address the regulatory and legislative issues identified in the milestone above. (NOC Legal Working Group; 2014)

## **Action 4: Develop cross-cutting budget analyses that address priority areas in the National Ocean Policy.**

Ocean and coastal cross-cutting Federal budget analyses will help to address the complexity of organizing, managing, and implementing the National Ocean Policy, including EBM, and will facilitate the formation of a comprehensive Federal management scheme. These analyses can also assist in making budget information more understandable across the 26 agencies, offices, and departments represented on the NOC. It may also be used to track accomplishments, measure progress toward achieving policy goals, and compare activities conducted by various agencies aimed at the same goal.

## **Outcomes**

Federal cross-cutting budget analyses will result in more efficient and economical uses of limited Federal resources.

**Agencies:** NOC Co-Chairs, OMB, NOC Member Agencies

## **Milestones**

- In consultation with the NOC and OMB, develop a timely annual interagency budget guidance memo on ocean priorities consistent with the goals and objectives of the National Ocean Policy. (NOC Co-Chairs; 2012)

- In consultation with the NOC and OMB, identify Federal programs that contribute significantly to the National Ocean Policy. (NOC Co-Chairs; 2013)
- In consultation with the NOC and OMB, develop crosscuts to inform the annual priorities on ocean, coastal, and Great Lakes stewardship. (NOC Co-Chairs; 2014)

### **Action 5: Improve efficiency of permitting of ocean, coastal, and Great Lakes uses.**

There are a number of overlapping, redundant, and sometimes conflicting permit review processes that result in unnecessary delays, increased costs, and lack of predictability for commercial investments. Relevant agencies, offices, and departments represented on the NOC will work together to review permitting processes to determine how these processes may be better coordinated. The initial focus, or pilot, will be on aquaculture permitting. Currently, at least five Federal agencies must be consulted or grant permits before an aquaculture facility can proceed. This includes NOAA, USFWS, the USACE for shellfish operations or for operations attached to the sea floor, the U.S. Coast Guard if there is a potential obstruction to safe navigation, and EPA for any facility that discharges a pollutant into U.S. navigable waters or the exclusive economic zone. Additionally, Federal agencies need to coordinate with the States on the respective State aquaculture permit requirements. To facilitate and ensure interagency coordination, the Interagency Working Group on Aquaculture under the National Science and Technology Council will collaborate with the NOC to create a senior-level interagency coordinating task force to improve permitting efficiencies for aquaculture and address key milestones.

#### **Outcomes**

Efficient, coordinated permitting processes will allow ocean industries to save time and money and encourage economic development and growth without compromising Federal agency responsibilities to protect health, safety, and the environment. Improved coordination and decreased redundancies will also reduce administrative waste and burden on Federal agencies.

**Agencies:** NOAA, USDA, EPA, USACE, USCG, DOI

## **Milestones**

- Develop and make available communication tools that educate the U.S. aquaculture community and public on Federal laws and regulations that apply to aquaculture operations. (NOAA, USDA; 2012)
- Identify opportunities and pursue agreements to integrate aquaculture operations permit review processes (e.g., NEPA). (NOAA, USDA, EPA, USACE, USFWS; 2012)
- Identify and pursue aquaculture permitting regulatory efficiencies. (NOAA, USDA, EPA, USACE, USCG, USFWS; 2013)
- Identify and make available BMPs to inform and improve other Federal permitting processes. (NOAA, USDA, EPA, USACE, USCG, USFWS; 2015).

## **Action 6: Address high-priority ocean policy issues through international engagement by promoting the exchange of information and expertise.**

Greater collaboration by U.S agencies with international partners to share scientific knowledge and to develop and expand scientific expertise is important for addressing ocean and coastal issues on a global scale. These efforts will increase awareness of the National Ocean Policy by other countries and international organizations. This may lead to strengthened coordination with countries sharing a maritime boundary with the United States, improve the exchange of information, and address key transboundary and relevant ocean issues, as well as generally enhance communication and collaboration with the international community on ocean issues.

## **Outcomes**

International engagement and cooperation on information and science will enhance support for and collaboration on addressing ocean issues. At this point in the implementation of the National Ocean Policy, we envision that such engagement will yield three main outcomes internationally: (1) awareness of the National Ocean Policy by other interested countries and appropriate international organizations and fora; (2) enhanced U.S. efforts at information exchange on matters related to the National Ocean Policy; and (3) engagement with countries sharing a maritime boundary with the United States, in particular on matters relating to CMSP.

**Agencies:** DOS, CEQ, OSTP, DOJ, DOD, NOAA, USCG, NSS, EPA, NSF, NASA, DOI, DOT

## **Milestones**

- At international fora, the United States will present relevant information on the National Ocean Policy in an effort to raise awareness of the Policy. Specific aspects of the Policy to be highlighted (e.g., CMSP, EBM) and specific fora in 2012 and 2013 (e.g., the UN Conference on Sustainable Development [“Rio +20”]) will be determined through interagency preparations. (DOS, DOJ; 2012)

- Identify and pursue specific opportunities to exchange information, expertise, and science on matters related to the National Ocean Policy with international organizations that address ocean and maritime issues contained in the Policy and with countries that may have an interest on such matters. (DOS, USCG, NOAA, EPA, NSF, NASA, USCG, DOI, USACE, DOT, DOJ; 2013)
- Engage with relevant countries sharing a maritime boundary with the United States to make them aware of the National Ocean Policy, in particular the CMSP efforts. (DOS, DOJ; 2012)

## Regional Ecosystem Protection and Restoration

Establish and implement an integrated ecosystem protection and restoration strategy that is science-based and aligns conservation and restoration goals at the Federal, State, Tribal, local, and regional levels.

Regional ocean, coastal, and Great Lakes ecosystems are diverse and complex, ranging from tropical coral reefs and mangroves to temperate salt marshes and sea grass beds. They comprise 25 percent of the Nation's wetlands, and include our bays, estuaries, and gulfs. They provide spawning grounds, nurseries, shelter, and food for finfish, shellfish, migratory birds and waterfowl, and other wildlife. They provide a multitude of services; for example, more than half of the recreational and commercial fish caught in U.S. waters depend on estuaries and coastal wetlands at some point in their life cycles. Ocean, coastal, and Great Lakes ecosystems provide components for pharmaceuticals, act as a barrier against hurricanes, and offer areas of natural beauty for recreation and relaxation. Coastal wetlands also sequester vast amounts of carbon in organic material and sediments. The combined value of these ecosystems is estimated to be in the hundreds of billions of dollars.

However, the health of ocean, coastal, and Great Lakes ecosystems and their ability to provide such a wealth of products and services is being degraded by urban, rural, and agricultural development; unsustainable land-use practices; and other human activities. An estimated 27 percent of coral reefs have already been lost, and an estimated 60 percent are threatened by ocean warming and reef bleaching, as well as human impacts. Between 1998 and 2004, an estimated 59,000 acres of coastal freshwater and saltwater wetlands were lost each year. These threats are exacerbated by the environmental impacts of climate change, invasive species, and shifts in wildlife populations and abundance. Marine and aquatic invasive species alter habitats and push out native species. They cost hundreds of millions of dollars each year because invasions limit the ability of natural ecosystems to support fisheries, raw water uses, wildlife watching, and other uses. In addition, they damage vessels, piers, bridges, water systems, and other coastal infrastructure. As

development and human activity in coastal areas increase and resources decline, addressing these threats is becoming more complex.

Ocean, coastal, and Great Lakes ecosystem protection and restoration is being carried out at local, Tribal, State, and regional scales through implementation of Federal and State resource management and land-use planning initiatives. Programs aimed at reducing impacts in coastal landscapes, bays, wetlands, and estuaries include innovative growth-management initiatives that incorporate low-impact design elements, plans for improving management and control of storm water and wastewater discharges into coastal and ocean waters, and removal of incentives for new infrastructure and increased density in vulnerable or high-quality habitat areas.

Federal agencies implement a variety of habitat conservation programs at national, regional, and local scales to sustain valuable ecosystem services for the benefit of future generations of Americans. These programs help keep working forests and farmland in production, protect high-quality fish and wildlife habitats, direct development away from flood hazard areas, conserve cultural sites, and provide opportunities for outdoor recreation. (See text box on “Restoration in Action” for specific regional interagency efforts.)

While many restoration efforts have identified priority areas, there is no mechanism to assemble this information and align priorities across the landscape. The following actions address areas where increased coordination and prioritization among Federal agencies and with their non-Federal partners, enhancement of program effectiveness, or development and improvement of methodologies and protocols will help increase conservation success. The actions will build on and be informed by the processes, priorities, and existing ecosystem restoration and protection programs at the State, regional, and local levels. They will also complement other place-based EBM and CMSP efforts. Future updates will provide an opportunity to include next steps to advance solutions to the issues and identify other issues and priorities.

## RESTORATION IN ACTION

The National Ocean Council is charged with implementing the National Ocean Policy and addressing broad, national enhanced stewardship of our ocean, coasts, and Great Lakes, including economic, environmental, social, and national security issues. One priority area is regional ecosystem restoration, including issues such as water quality impacts and other large-scale threats, ecosystem-based management, and coordination and support among Federal and State agencies at the regional scale.

Federal agencies are engaged in various regions through interagency collaborations focused on regional ecosystem restoration and management. The National Ocean Policy and the National Ocean Council provide an overarching framework for ongoing ecosystem-specific efforts.

Two ongoing restoration initiatives that exemplify the principles of the National Ocean Policy are the Great Lakes Restoration Initiative (GLRI) and the Gulf Coast Ecosystem Restoration Task Force. Both initiatives demonstrate how regional, State, and local entities can work together to address common goals for protecting and restoring natural resources in concert with building strong coastal economies and resilient communities.

The GLRI integrates and aligns restoration plans for the Great Lakes region. This initiative is an excellent example of how regional efforts can address common goals and build broad consensus throughout a larger ecosystem and community. It is the largest investment in the Great Lakes in two decades. It addresses urgent issues such as toxics, invasive species, near-shore health, and wetland restoration. Through reduced duplication of effort, the GLRI plans are addressing high-priority issues. The initial GLRI effort continues to be strengthened by the additional focus on implementing the National Ocean Policy.

The Gulf Coast Ecosystem Restoration Task Force supports implementing an important piece of the National Ocean Policy—ecosystem restoration. As the varied communities come together, their collective restoration activities promote and sustain a culture of shared stewardship, both across Federal agencies and between Federal, Tribal, State, and local jurisdictions. Through the Task Force, these multi-level entities work together to better coordinate planning, decision-making, and regulatory enforcement. Together, these activities ensure that best practices, information, discoveries, and advancements in science and management of coastal ecosystems are integrated and aligned with common goals that benefit multiple stakeholders and sectors.

Additionally, through groups such as the U.S. Coral Reef Task Force (USCRTF) and the Aquatic Nuisance Species Task Force, interagency efforts are coordinated across several regions to preserve and protect coral reef ecosystems and to prevent and control aquatic nuisance species.

## **Action 1: Develop and transfer decision support tools to identify land protection and restoration priorities.**

Coastal landscapes, bays, wetlands, and estuaries provide numerous ecosystem services: habitat for fish and wildlife, a resource base for communities that depend on fishing and other water-dependent or water-based industries, rich farmland, productive forests, scenic and recreational opportunities that enhance quality of life, and natural buffers from floods and storms.

This action will promote better coordination between Federal agencies and local, Tribal, State, and regional entities in identifying protection and restoration priorities across the coastal landscape. As an initial step, agencies would build on the work under Executive Order 13508 to create a mapping tool for the Chesapeake Bay that provides such a mechanism for coordination. This tool will enable the sharing of information, data, and ideas between geographically based initiatives and provide opportunities for addressing gaps or areas of common concern and mutual benefit. It will focus initially on the Chesapeake Bay watershed, with a focus on transferability to other regions where Federal agencies are working collaboratively with States, local governments, other stakeholders, and Tribes to support regional ecosystem priorities. The Chesapeake Land Conservation Priority System (Chesapeake System) will be made available to stakeholders through a regional data portal linked to [ocean.data.gov](http://ocean.data.gov).

### **Outcomes**

Watershed-wide decision support tools will promote strategic coastal land conservation, restoration planning, and decision-making.

**Agencies:** USGS, NPS, DOD

### **Milestones**

- Institute collaborative partnership(s) (e.g., State, local, private, academic) within the Chesapeake Bay to augment an initial system prototype. (USGS, NPS, DOD; 2013)
- Complete the initial build-out of the Chesapeake System and initiate its use for collaborative conservation efforts, including development of data standards. (USGS, NPS, DOD; 2013)
- Assess the Chesapeake System's functionality and accessibility via focus groups. (USGS, NPS, DOD; 2013)
- Deliver a documented plan for storage, access, updating, and maintenance of source data used in prioritization tool. (USGS, NPS; 2013)
- Convene a small working group of representatives from other interested regions to advise on system infrastructure development and to facilitate transferability. (USGS, NPS, DOD; 2014)
- Make the Chesapeake System infrastructure available for other regional initiatives. (USGS, NPS, DOD; 2014)

## **Action 2: Reduce coastal wetland loss and improve understanding of coastal wetland status and trends.**

To reduce, and work toward the goal of reversing, coastal wetland loss, Federal agencies (principally EPA, NOAA, USACE, and USFWS) will work together and in cooperation with States and Tribes to identify the underlying causes of loss and opportunities to more effectively protect and restore the important functions and values provided by wetlands in coastal watersheds. Due to a number of factors, which include natural processes and increasing human impacts in densely populated coastal areas, wetlands in coastal counties are being lost at a rate four to five times higher than inland wetlands. Some of the most well-known coastal wetland losses are estuarine saltmarsh wetlands, particularly along the coast of Louisiana and throughout the Gulf of Mexico. The overarching strategy to address wetland loss will be based on the results of pilot studies conducted to identify the most common underlying factors responsible for coastal wetland loss and the most successful tools for addressing this loss. There are numerous ongoing efforts to protect and restore coastal wetland ecosystems (e.g., the Gulf Coast Ecosystem Restoration Task Force, the South Florida Ecosystem Restoration Task Force). The actions discussed here are intended to complement these ecosystem restoration plans.

### **Outcomes**

Conservation of coastal wetlands (including freshwater and saltwater wetlands in coastal watersheds) will improve through recommended strategies and collaborative actions that can be taken by Federal, State, Tribal, regional, and/or local entities to reduce and ultimately reverse the loss of coastal wetlands.

**Agencies:** NOAA, USFWS, EPA, USACE

### **Milestones**

- Complete an assessment of the status and trends of coastal wetlands using the most recent data from 2004 to 2009, including status and trends across the U.S. coastal regions. (NOAA, USFWS; 2012)
- Develop an analytical framework and pilot assessment selection strategy. (EPA, NOAA, USACE, USFWS; 2012)
- Identify coastal watersheds for pilot assessments using the pilot assessment selection strategy and updated wetland inventories and geospatial data. (EPA, NOAA, USACE, USFWS; 2012)
- For each pilot watershed, complete analyses of data and information from the 2011 *Status and Trends of Wetlands in the Conterminous United States*, NOAA's Coastal Change Analysis Program, Clean Water Act Section 404 program, State regulatory programs, USACE Civil Works programs, and geospatial sources. (EPA, NOAA, USACE, USFWS; 2013)

- Complete a report recommending actions Federal agencies can take, in coordination with State, Tribal, regional, and local agencies, to improve the management of coastal wetlands and reduce losses nationwide. (EPA, NOAA, USACE, USFWS; 2014)

### **Action 3: Incorporate carbon sequestration into coastal habitat conservation.**

The capability of coastal habitats to sequester carbon is an important but undervalued ecosystem service. It could provide incentives for increased protection of these habitats. This capability requires increased protection and restoration of salt marsh, mangrove, and sea grass habitats and better implementation of mitigation requirements for impacts to these systems. A greater understanding of the opportunities and barriers to including carbon sequestration in ecosystem service assessments is also needed.

Federal agencies will incorporate the carbon sequestration and storage function of coastal wetlands into public policy regarding management, protection, and restoration of coastal wetlands, and develop a better understanding of this ecosystem service. Agencies will also develop tools, models, and methods for quantifying greenhouse gas impacts of coastal habitat alteration to improve the ability of Federal and State agencies to implement effective protection and restoration programs. The ability to quantify carbon sequestration as an offset in a voluntary carbon market could also lead to significant private investment in coastal habitat conservation.

### **Outcomes**

Accounting for coastal wetlands' carbon sequestration and storage functions will increase their protection and restoration, contribute to reducing the release of greenhouse gases (GHGs) to the atmosphere, and facilitate a greater understanding of the opportunities and barriers to including carbon sequestration in ecosystem service assessments.

**Agencies:** DOI, NOAA, USDA, EPA, USFWS, USGS, NSF

### **Milestones**

- Assess the role of coastal habitat carbon storage and sequestration to increase the ability to incorporate these ecological services into habitat protection, restoration, management, and adaptation efforts. (DOI, NOAA; 2013)
- Complete an assessment of Federal policy opportunities and barriers for including carbon sequestration in ecosystem service assessments for coastal wetlands. (NOAA, USDA, EPA, USFWS; 2012)
- Develop methods and models to improve the assessment of carbon sequestration capacities for different coastal wetland types (e.g. mangroves and sea grasses). (USGS; 2013)

- Identify coastal wetland demonstration sites appropriate for carbon sequestration and emission research, with emphasis on sites already identified for the purposes of long-term ecological research. (USGS, USDA, EPA, NSF, NOAA, USACE; 2013)
- Develop a protocol for carbon sequestration as an ecosystem service that can be incorporated into existing Federal policies and laws that require the use of ecosystem-based management approaches for environmental management. (USGS, NOAA, USDA; 2015)
- Provide quantitative data on coastal habitat carbon sequestration and facilitate the use of results from pilot projects in supporting private-sector development of greenhouse gas offset protocols for use in voluntary carbon markets. (USGS; 2015)

#### **Action 4: Strengthen interagency collaboration to protect and conserve coral reef ecosystems.**

Coral reefs are among the most diverse and biologically complex ecosystems on Earth, and they support more species per unit area than any other marine environment. They provide important fish, areas of natural beauty, recreational opportunities, and effective shoreline protection. Under threat from multiple environmental stressors, coral reefs are deteriorating worldwide at an alarming rate.

Agencies will coordinate to address two key threats to coral reef ecosystems: impacts from land-based sources of pollution, and impacts from planned (e.g., permitted/authorized) and unplanned (e.g., vessel groundings, spills) activities. Principal agencies engaged in coral reef activities (e.g., regulation, management, water quality, and damage response) and agencies conducting and/or funding activities that take place in coral reef ecosystems working in partnership with the U.S. Coral Reef Task Force (USCRTF), will work within existing authorities, mandates, and programs to effectively enhance protection and conservation of coral reef ecosystems.

#### **Outcomes**

Improving coral reef conservation by strengthening interagency coordination will promote a ridge-to-reef or watershed approach to

address land-based sources of pollution and facilitate a more consistent approach to evaluating, assessing, and mitigating impacts to coral reef ecosystems.

**Agencies:** USCRTF, USACE, EPA, NOAA, DOI, USDA

### **Milestones**

- Compile and make publically available an online reference library to include general background materials, case studies, and protocols for addressing planned and unplanned activities impacting coral reef ecosystems. (USCRTF; 2012).
- Complete and disseminate a reference handbook to include a review of existing policies, agency and State/territory roles and responsibilities, a compendium of best practices, science-based methodologies for quantifying ecosystem services, and protocols for use when responding, assessing, mitigating, and restoring coral reef ecosystems. (USCRTF; 2014).
- Implement coordinated projects in targeted locations to reduce land-based pollutants. Provide information and tools necessary for managers and decision-makers to identify and implement the most effective and efficient management practices in upstream environments. (USCRTF; 2014)

### **Action 5: Locate, control, and, where possible, eradicate invasive species populations.**

Invasive species introduced into our coastal and Great Lakes waters can rapidly spread and degrade marine, estuarine, and freshwater ecosystems habitats, and push out native species. Slowing the spread of invasive species and reducing the likelihood of future invasions will improve protection of commercial and recreational fish stocks, shellfish, native plants, and threatened and endangered species and their habitats. It will also improve water quality, sustain jobs, and save millions of dollars in lost revenue and infrastructure damage.

The National Invasive Species Council (NISC), supported by the Aquatic Nuisance Species Task Force (ANSTF), will partner with the National Fish and Wildlife Foundation (NFWF) to establish a mechanism to support Federal, State, regional, and local actions to prevent the establishment and spread of invasive species, particularly those species that impact aquatic environments. This partnership will protect native marine and freshwater species and their habitats by encouraging and supporting coordinated efforts to locate, monitor, control, and, where possible, eradicate invasive species populations.

### **Outcomes**

Controlling invasive species will improve water quality and ecosystem services; protect commercially, recreationally, culturally, and ecologically important marine species and their habitats; and help sustain the jobs and industries that depend upon healthy aquatic ecosystems.

**Agencies:** NISC, ANSTF

**Milestones**

- Analyze potential models and identify strategic gaps and opportunities, with the ANSTF, to improve our ability to conduct Early Detection Rapid Response operations. (NISC; 2013)
- Develop the processes for requesting Early Detection Rapid Response proposals and evaluation criteria in concert with the Invasive Species Advisory Committee, Aquatic Nuisance Species regional panels, and Federal invasive species program experts. (NISC, ANSTF; 2013)
- Develop mechanisms to facilitate public–private partnerships such as Memoranda of Understanding and related joint planning documents, and submit them for review and approval by participating entities. (NISC; 2013)
- Identify potential Federal and non-Federal funding sources that can contribute to the funding of a pilot-scale request for proposals. (NISC; 2013)
- Review the initial round of pilot-scale proposals, and report on the pilot program’s effectiveness and make recommendations for its continued improvement. (NISC, ANSTF; 2014)

**Action 6: Identify nationally significant marine and Great Lakes natural and cultural areas in need of protection.**

Identifying ecologically important and culturally significant areas in need of protection is the first step in planning for future marine protected or managed areas, and for other ocean uses. Several Federal agencies have processes by which to identify important marine areas for management or protection under various authorities, such as designation of national marine sanctuaries, national estuary programs, and national marine monuments. This action will address the protection of essential fish habitat (EFH) and support reactivation of the National Marine Sanctuary Site Evaluation List (SEL)—a tool for evaluating marine areas that may be considered for national marine sanctuaries—and conducting a gap analysis to identify areas that may be considered for other levels of protection.

Prioritizing actions to identify and conserve habitat for priority fish species will enhance existing EFH efforts and provide both ecosystem and economic benefits. An updated SEL will include marine areas that have been identified as nationally significant due to their conservation, recreational, ecological, historical, scientific, cultural, archaeological,

educational, or aesthetic qualities, and inform the designation of future national marine sanctuaries. The SEL process is designed specifically to help designate national marine sanctuaries. However, the information gained through communities' identification of significant marine areas could also be used to inform other processes. Showcasing a comprehensive marine gap analysis in one region will develop the methodology for conducting a broader scientific analysis, and will integrate information on ecological resources, human uses, threats, and current levels of protection to identify ecologically important and culturally significant marine areas that should be considered for additional protection through existing marine protected area (MPA) programs and authorities. This information could be used in other site selection processes as well.

### **Outcomes**

Nationally significant marine areas will be identified for science-based protection that balances conservation and human uses.

**Agencies:** NOAA, NFHP Federal Caucus, DOI

### **Milestones**

- Identify actions encouraging the conservation and enhancement of habitat for priority species through EFH Provisions, including Habitat Areas of Particular Concern (HAPCs), to avoid, minimize, or compensate for adverse effects from impacts. (NOAA; 2012)
- Identify priority species and their high-value habitats that would benefit most from habitat assessments and conservation actions. (NOAA; 2013)
- As part of the national fish habitat assessment, complete a marine fish habitat assessment that includes an analysis of the links between estuarine and upland habitats to inform future habitat conservation work under the National Fish Habitat Partnership. (NFHP Federal Caucus; 2015)
- Reactivate and repopulate the SEL with marine areas that have been identified as nationally significant due to their conservation, recreational, ecological, historical, scientific, cultural, archaeological, educational, or aesthetic qualities. (NOAA; 2012)
- Develop and pilot a methodology for conducting a marine gap analysis and inventorying information sources to support the analysis. (NOAA; 2012)
- Showcase the gap analysis in one U.S. region. (NOAA; 2013)
- Evaluate cultural resources for additional protection based on the National Historic Preservation Act. (DOI, NOAA; 2014)

### **Action 7: Improve the effectiveness of coastal and estuarine habitat restoration projects.**

Several Federal agencies fund and implement coastal and estuarine habitat restoration projects. These efforts must be coordinated, evaluated, and tracked to ensure that restoration is effective

and efficient. Project monitoring provides an opportunity to improve the science of restoration and document the benefits to the ecosystem and society, such as increases in fishing opportunities, fish populations, and biological diversity.

### **Outcomes**

Increased monitoring and data collection to document the ecological and socioeconomic benefits of habitat restoration projects will improve the effectiveness of habitat restoration.

**Agencies:** NOAA, USACE, DOI, EPA, USDA

### **Milestones**

- Complete an interagency review of existing monitoring data standards; revise and approve minimum ecological monitoring data standards for coastal and estuarine habitat restoration projects. (NOAA, USACE, DOI, EPA, USDA; 2014)
- Make project information available for projects using the approved minimum monitoring standards available to the public via an Estuary Restoration Act website. (NOAA, USACE, DOI, EPA; 2014)
- Implement the revised ecological monitoring standards for restoration projects where project monitoring is required. (NOAA, USACE, DOI, EPA, USDA; 2015)

#### **GAPS AND NEEDS IN SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY**

Methods for evaluating ecosystem response to conservation measures are evolving, as is the approach to conserving historically altered landscapes. Data and information have not been sufficiently integrated to describe the environmental, economic, and social impacts to working coastal communities and culturally significant landscapes. For example, coral reef ecosystems are extremely complex and can vary considerably from one area to the next. A case-by-case approach must be used to assess the complexity and services provided by ecosystems, as well as mitigation costs.

## Resiliency and Adaptation to Climate Change and Ocean Acidification

Strengthen resiliency of coastal communities and marine and Great Lakes environments and their abilities to adapt to climate change impacts and ocean acidification.

We have an opportunity and a responsibility to reduce the vulnerability and increase the resilience of human and natural systems to climate change impacts. The scale, scope, and pace of climate change is having and will continue to have complex impacts on food, flood protection, tourism and recreation, economic activity, jobs, and cultural heritage. Sea-level rise, increased severe storm events, rapid erosion, changing ocean temperature, and saltwater intrusion present serious and growing threats to low-lying coastal communities through the destruction of infrastructure, flood inundation, loss of arable land, and the potential displacement of millions of people. At the same time, climate change is predicted to lower the water levels of the Great Lakes, thereby altering water cycles and supply, habitats, and economic uses of the Lakes. In addition, changing ocean temperature and ocean acidification are expected to have significant impacts on many marine species, food webs, and ocean ecosystem structure and function, and the many benefits they provide.

The best scientific information must be accessible and relevant to inform decisions that enhance the resiliency of the Nation in the face of climate change and ocean acidification. Decision-makers rely on science to understand and envision potential impacts, assess vulnerability and risk to a plausible range of climate change scenarios, and inform adaptive actions. Sustained, mutual information exchange among scientists, decision-makers, and practitioners increases the Nation's ability to provide early warnings and to track, model, and project climate-related impacts over time and geography, fostering more timely and effective responses in support of managing and adapting to changing conditions. Fostering coordination and advancements in understanding, observing, and projecting the impacts of climate change will result in the core information base needed for vulnerability assessments and adaptation efforts.

Decision-makers at all levels are beginning to implement actions to enhance the resilience of ecosystems and coastal communities. We can make significant progress in this area by building on current efforts at Federal, State, Tribal, regional, and local levels and coordinating across political jurisdictions. Strengthening and integrating observations from the Nation’s protected areas, research activities, and observing systems into a coordinated network is an efficient and effective way to provide decision-makers with the information they need to reduce risks and increase resilience of ocean and coastal environments and communities in a changing climate. In addition, coordinated vulnerability assessments of ecosystems, communities, and economies will inform adaptation actions. Investing now by developing and deploying adaptive approaches to climate change will better enable the Nation to manage the risks and reduce negative impacts to society now and into the future.

The following set of coordinated, interdependent actions will yield better understanding of, preparation for, and response to the impacts of climate change and ocean acidification on ecosystems and communities.

**Action 1: Strengthen and integrate observations from the Nation’s protected areas, research sites, and observing systems into a coordinated network of sentinel sites to track changes in the condition of ocean, coastal, and Great Lakes environments and communities.**

Robust information on the magnitude, scope, and timing of climate-related changes is critical for providing decision-makers with the current trends, early warnings, and future scenarios they need in order to take action to reduce vulnerabilities and impacts on environments and communities. While the *Observations, Mapping, and Infrastructure* priority objective focuses on ocean, coastal, and Great Lakes observations, integrating observations is essential to advancing our understanding of how communities and ecosystems respond and adapt to climate change. Strengthening and integrating observations from the Nation’s protected areas, research activities, and observing systems into a coordinated and integrated network of climate “sentinel sites” is an efficient and effective way to provide decision-makers with the information they need to reduce risks and increase

Among other concerns, climate change poses challenges to our national, homeland, and economic security, including rising seas that threaten low-lying bases, increasing ocean temperatures and acidification that threaten food sources, an increasingly accessible Arctic frontier, and increasing demand for humanitarian aid.

resilience of ocean and coastal environments and communities in a changing climate.

A network of sentinel sites, including a number of existing monitoring systems, will strengthen the Nation's ability to provide early warnings, risk assessments, and forecasts for climate and ocean acidification impacts. This network will allow the Federal Government and partners to track changes in the conditions of ocean and coastal ecosystems and communities. Common protocols and mechanisms will ensure collecting, synthesizing, and communicating this information is consistent and on decision-relevant scales.

### **Outcomes**

Decision-makers have increased information about past and current climate-related changes that improves assessment of risks and impacts, and significantly increases the efficiency and effectiveness of adaptation efforts.

**Agencies:** USGCRP, NOAA, USGS, DOD, USACE, DOC, DOL, EPA, DOI, IWG-OA

### **Milestones**

- Develop a framework for indicators of community and ecosystem impacts (physical, biological, chemical, cultural, social, and economic) to track changes in vulnerability and resiliency through time as part of the sustained National Climate Assessment process. (USGCRP, NOAA; 2013)
- Develop an interagency plan for topographic (primarily LiDAR or equivalent accuracy) and shallow bathymetric mapping in order to ensure comprehensive and accurate seamless elevation information for coastlines. (USGS, NOAA, USACE; 2013)
- Integrate relevant socioeconomic monitoring information (e.g., U.S. Census and Bureau of Labor Statistics data) with ecosystem monitoring information to understand changes in coupled human–natural systems in selected areas. (NOAA, DOC, DOL; 2013)
- Produce an inventory and assessment of observations and monitoring capabilities in networks and systems of ocean, coastal, and Great Lakes protected areas, research sites, and observing systems. (NOAA, DOI, EPA, DOD; 2014)
- Disseminate and implement best practices (including guidance for relevant parameters that should be measured at each observing system), standardized monitoring protocols, and quality assurance and quality control procedures and provide appropriate training opportunities. (NOAA, EPA; 2014)
- Develop and begin to implement a plan for incorporating species phenology information (i.e., the annual timing of major life cycle events such as migration, reproduction, and flowering) from coastal and ocean ecosystems into the National Phenology Network. (DOI, NOAA; 2014)
- Build and expand on partnerships with both Federal and non-Federal entities (e.g., State agencies, Tribal agencies, and academic institutions) to increase integration of their existing observing activities into sentinel site networks. (NOAA; 2014)

- Integrate and strengthen sentinel site networks to track the impacts of climate change and ocean acidification on living marine resources (e.g., fisheries and marine protected species), protected areas, and coastal and Great Lakes communities in selected areas. (NOAA, DOI; 2015)
- Create and implement an interagency plan for coordinated monitoring of the impacts of climate change and ocean acidification through existing networks using standardized and/or interoperable techniques, databases, and indicators when and wherever possible, to maximize integration of information across networks and agencies, leveraging existing protocols where practical and relevant. (IWG-OA, USGCRP Ecosystems Working Group, IOCM, IOOS; 2020)

## **Action 2: Determine the impacts of climate change, ocean acidification, and interacting stressors on ecological, economic, and social systems.**

Preparing for and responding to the impacts of climate change and ocean acidification requires improved understanding of the scale, scope, and intensity of these impacts on the Nation's valuable ocean and coastal ecosystems, and on the human communities that depend on them. An integrated research agenda, including physical, chemical, biological, and social sciences, will help address gaps in our current understanding and build a foundation for the development of models, tools, and services to better inform future planning and decisions.

This integrated, interdisciplinary agenda will foster understanding of climate change and ocean acidification impacts in the context of other environmental stressors to more accurately predict and enhance resilience to future conditions. It will provide information for improved forecasts of changes in ecological, economic, and social systems due to climate change and ocean acidification. It will fill critical gaps in understanding and build a foundation for the development of observations, models, tools, and services that support the information needs of decision-makers at all levels. This improved knowledge will underlie the development of effective EBM and adaptation strategies to increase resilience of ecologically and economically important populations and ecosystems, and the coastal communities that rely on them.

### **Outcomes**

Increased understanding of climate change and ocean acidification impacts improves vulnerability assessments and effectiveness of adaptation actions reducing risks and impacts.

**Agencies:** NOAA, NSF, DOT, DOI, USACE

### **Milestones**

- Conduct targeted research and disseminate findings to address valuable information needs related to the direct and indirect impacts of climate change, ocean acidification, and interacting stressors (e.g., land-use changes) on coastal communities, infrastructure, and economies. (NOAA, NSF, DOT; 2013)

- Conduct targeted research and disseminate findings to address valuable information needs related to the direct and indirect impacts of climate change, ocean acidification, and interacting stressors (e.g. land-use changes) on key species, habitats, and ecosystems. (NSF, NOAA, DOI, USACE; 2014)

### **Action 3: Provide critical projections of climate change impacts on coasts and oceans at decision-relevant scales.**

Planning and management communities have identified the need for accurate, timely, and relevant multi-decadal projections of future impacts of climate change and ocean acidification to inform planning and prepare for future conditions. As current and new information on climate change and ocean acidification is collected and assimilated, we can provide increasingly robust projections of impacts at scales useful to decision-makers.

This action will allow Federal agencies and the external research community to improve regional-scale projections and provide decision-makers with information and tools to conduct vulnerability assessments and adaptation efforts.

#### **Outcomes**

Access to a range of regional projections of future climate conditions on physical, ecological, and social systems will help decision-makers reduce risks and increase the effectiveness of adaptation efforts.

**Agencies:** USGCRP, NOAA, USGS, DOI, USACE

#### **Milestones**

- Develop and disseminate a suite of regional climate projections for all coastal and marine regions of the United States. (USGCRP, NOAA; 2014)
- Develop and disseminate a set of estimates for global mean sea-level rise that incorporates thermal expansion and ice-sheet melting, as well as a summary of what is known regarding regional variations from the global trend. (USGCRP, NOAA; 2014)
- Develop regional-scale, decision-relevant models and projections for selected areas that link changes in climate to changes in the physical, chemical, and biological conditions of coastal and marine ecosystems (e.g., ocean currents, primary and secondary productivity, trophic relationships, species interactions, and higher trophic levels such as fish and marine mammals). (NOAA, USGS; 2014)
- Make available coastal inundation and sea-level change visualization and decision support tools at decision-relevant scales. (NOAA, DOI, USACE; 2015)
- Provide and integrate county-level coastal and ocean job trends data via NOAA's Digital Coast to enable decision-makers and planners to better assess the economic impacts of climate change. (NOAA,DOI, USACE, FEMA; 2015)

#### **Action 4: Assess the vulnerability of coastal and ocean environments and communities to climate change and ocean acidification.**

Assessing vulnerability is a crucial step in preparing for and responding to the impacts of climate change and ocean acidification on coastal and ocean environments and coastal communities and economies. A vulnerability assessment is the identification of current and foreseeable risks that provides decision-makers with information they need to develop appropriate responses to reduce vulnerability and impacts, and strengthen resiliency in a changing climate. Understanding the current and future threats to and vulnerabilities of environments and communities enables decision-makers and stakeholders to plan and implement more effective actions to reduce risks and impacts in a changing climate.

Methods, best practices, and guidance will be developed for assessing the vulnerability and resiliency of resources, infrastructure, and communities to a changing climate. These tools will help avoid actions that increase vulnerability (i.e., maladaptation) and identify how coastal and ocean managers can reduce risks and increase adaptation of human communities and economies.

#### **Outcomes**

Improved information on vulnerability of coastal and ocean environments and communities will enable decision-makers at Federal, State, Tribal, regional, and local levels to design and implement actions that more effectively reduce risks and impacts.

**Agencies:** CEQ, EPA, NOAA, DOI, FEMA, USACE, USGCRP, DOT

#### **Milestones**

- Provide guidance for performing comprehensive, risk-based vulnerability assessments of climate change impacts for voluntary adoption by coastal programs. (EPA, NOAA, DOI; 2013)
- Develop and disseminate methods, best practices, and standards for assessing the resiliency of natural resources, cultural resources, populations, and infrastructure in a changing climate. (DOI, NOAA, EPA, FEMA; DOT; 2013)
- Update USACE guidance on incorporating sea-level rise into project planning. (USACE, NOAA; 2013)

- Develop tools for and conduct training courses on design and implementation of vulnerability assessments for coastal and ocean infrastructure, communities, and natural and cultural resources. (NOAA, EPA, FEMA, USACE, DOT; 2013)
- Develop a national synthesis and assessment of coastal and ocean vulnerability to climate change, ocean acidification, and sea-level change, in cooperation with stakeholder groups. (USGCRP; 2014)
- Develop best practices for climate change vulnerability assessments for Federally managed cultural and natural resources, tailored to different ecosystems and landscapes as needed. (NOAA, DOI, DOT, EPA; 2014)
- Develop best practices for climate change vulnerability assessments for Federally funded and/or managed coastal and ocean facilities and infrastructure in high-hazard areas. (NOAA, DOI, EPA, DOD, DOT; 2014)
- Collaborate with State, Tribal, and local efforts on climate change vulnerability assessments for communities. (NOAA, DOI/USGS, EPA; 2014)

**Action 5: Strengthen interagency coordination on the development and provision of information, training, guidance, tools, and support for adaptation practitioners.**

Accessible and relevant scientific information will enhance the resilience of our Nation in the face of a changing climate. Decision-makers rely on science that understands and envisions potential impacts, assesses vulnerability and risk to a plausible range of climate change scenarios, and informs adaptive actions. However, they often have difficulty navigating the complex landscape of Federally produced science to locate, access, and use information that meets their needs.

Through sustained, mutual information exchange among scientists, decision-makers, and managers, the Federal Government can help ensure that decision-makers have the information they need to make adaptation decisions. Online infrastructure will support these efforts by improving the accessibility of relevant science and sharing lessons learned among practitioners. Guidance and training will help Federal, State, regional, and local managers understand and use climate information, tools, and projections in vulnerability assessments and adaptation planning.

**Outcomes**

Improved access and utility of information, tools, and guidance will support actions by individuals, communities, and governments that increase the resilience of ecosystems, societies, and economies to climate change and ocean acidification.

**Agencies:** USGCRP, NOAA, EPA, DOI

## **Milestones**

- Develop a strategic plan for continuously identifying information needs of decision-makers and addressing them through an integrated research agenda. (USGCRP; 2014)
- Integrate ocean, coastal, and Great Lakes climate change risks, impacts, and vulnerabilities into national and international climate assessments. (USGCRP; 2014)
- Integrate climate information, tools, and services on coasts and oceans into the online interagency global change information system. (USGCRP, NOAA, EPA, DOI; 2014)
- Provide accessible, standardized guidance and training for incorporating climate change and ocean acidification information into ecosystem management, restoration, and CMSP activities. (NOAA, DOI, EPA; 2014)
- Provide guidance on the effective use of regional climate projections and local sea-level rise scenarios, including associated uncertainties. (USGCRP, ; 2013)
- Train science “translators,” such as Sea Grant Extension agents, to communicate and connect adaptation-relevant information to practitioners. (NOAA, DOI; 2014)

## **Action 6: Design, implement, and evaluate adaptation strategies to reduce vulnerabilities and promote informed decisions.**

Climate change adaptation is a critical component of the broader effort to build a more sustainable future through enhancing social, economic, and ecosystem resilience. Developing and deploying adaptive approaches now will better enable the Nation to manage the risks posed by climate change, thus reducing negative impacts to society now and in the future. Adaptation actions can lead to more robust and forward-looking management strategies, as well as co-benefits.

This action will develop and promote strategies to allow coastal communities and the public to prepare to address the risks posed by climate change and ocean acidification. The result will be reduced vulnerability and improved resilience of communities, ecosystems, and infrastructure through actions that lead to smart siting and design, restoration and protection of ecosystem services, improved public health and safety, reductions in the loss of life and property, decreased costs of disaster response, and avoidance of maladaptive actions. Improved communication of adaptation actions across levels of government will enable a more coordinated approach to enhance resiliency to climate change and ocean acidification.

## **Outcomes**

Implementation of adaptation actions will reduce vulnerability and improve resilience of communities, ecosystems, and infrastructure.

**Agencies:** DOI, NOAA, USDA, FEMA, USCG, DOT, CEQ, EPA, USACE

## Milestones

- Foster and apply ecosystem-based approaches to adaptation, using the adaptive services of natural systems to help reduce vulnerabilities and risks to people and the built environment. (DOI, NOAA; 2013)
- Develop adaptation strategies, in consultation with Tribes and State Historic Preservation Offices, to address the impacts of climate change on coastal and ocean cultural resources. (DOI, NOAA, USDA; 2013)
- Develop an interagency coordinating framework to strengthen the institutions, mechanisms, and capacities for systematically enhancing resilience to hazards. (FEMA, USCG, DOT, working with National Science and Technology Council Subcommittee on Disaster Reduction; 2013)
- Complete the National Fish, Wildlife, and Plants Climate Adaptation Strategy to help guide development and application of vulnerability assessments for coastal and ocean living resources and environments. (DOI, NOAA, CEQ, USACE; 2013)
- Provide guidance to waterfront property owners on adaptive management options for shoreline erosion. (USACE, DOI, EPA, FEMA, NOAA; 2015)
- Develop and incorporate adaptation strategies for coastal and ocean species and habitats into future planning and management processes (e.g., fisheries, protected species, and shellfish aquaculture). (NOAA, DOI; 2016)

### GAPS AND NEEDS IN SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY

To advance our understanding of climate change and its impacts on marine ecosystems and human communities, our monitoring capacity must be strengthened. Improved design of chemical and biological sensors and development of an integrated, geographically distributed database would help meet this need. In addition, existing social, behavioral, and economic monitoring efforts should be coordinated with ecosystem monitoring efforts. Comprehensive vulnerability assessments will be important elements in the development of adaptation strategies in response to climate change. Effective vulnerability assessments require mechanisms to incorporate improved knowledge about sensitivity, exposure, and adaptive capacity, as well as future environmental changes and impacts. A mechanism also is needed to deploy and maintain an interagency adaptation information clearinghouse, and additional research is needed to improve risk communication.

## Water Quality and Sustainable Practices on Land

Enhance water quality in the ocean, along our coasts, and in the Great Lakes by promoting and implementing sustainable practices on land.

There is nothing more vital to life on our planet than clean water. Healthy watersheds and coasts contribute to our health and our Nation's well-being by providing sources of clean water, as well as food and shelter for both human and natural communities. Healthy coastal watersheds also support commercial enterprises, recreational activities, and tourism. When the health of our watersheds and coasts is in danger, so is the health of our Nation's people and economy. Maintaining high-quality waters and healthy watersheds is key to ensuring resilient and adaptable aquatic ecosystems so they may withstand human and natural stresses and continue to provide services to humans and all other species that depend on them.

What we do on our land impacts our waters. Runoff from suburban streets and lawns, agricultural and industrial uses, transportation activities, and urban development—even hundreds of miles away—affects water quality. The resulting effects on the ocean, our coasts, and the Great Lakes manifest as beach and fisheries closures, fish kills, harmful algal blooms, areas of toxic sediments, “dead zones,” increased incidents of human illness, and massive amounts of plastic debris that kill seabirds and other marine life.

Because this pollution comes from an array of sources throughout the country, addressing it requires a commitment to cooperation among Federal, State, and Tribal governments, regional governance structures, local authorities, multiple stakeholders, and the public. Water quality can be improved by coordinating protection and restoration efforts that occur on land with those that occur across our coastlines and into the ocean. Successful implementation will require concerted activities, including the

use of regulatory and non-regulatory measures to enhance water quality.

Marine debris warrants particular attention. The debris and trash entering our waterways from both land and ocean sources and the damage it causes is preventable. But it can only be dealt with effectively using a comprehensive approach that is local in scale and global in scope involving engagement and action by stakeholders and the public. This approach will ensure changes in attitudes and practices to prevent marine debris, especially plastic waste, at the source and reduce its long-term impact.

A number of programs at various levels exist to address point and non-point source pollution. They offer opportunities to significantly reduce the input of pollutants to water through concrete mechanisms that integrate and coordinate with land-based pollution reduction programs. The actions in this Plan are designed to address the major impacts of urban and suburban development and agriculture—including forestry and animal feedlots—on ocean, coastal, and Great Lakes waters. Voluntary participation by agricultural producers, supported by a strong public-private partnership to provide technical and financial assistance, is needed. Strong partnerships can be achieved through improved coordination of existing programs. The overarching goal of the actions below is to identify and

### Preventing and Responding to Oil Spills

The Federal Government has a long history of ongoing programs and regulations to prevent, prepare for, and mitigate oil spills. There have been many significant changes and advances on these topics during this Administration. In particular, a number of interagency efforts are underway. The Department of the Interior's Bureau of Safety and Environmental Enforcement (BSEE), through coordinated interagency review, approves oil spill prevention and response plans submitted by private-sector entities engaged or proposing to engage in oil exploration and production in the offshore environment. BSEE has established the Offshore Energy Safety Advisory Committee—made up of 15 members from Federal agencies, the offshore oil and gas industry, academia, and research organizations—to provide critical policy advice to the Secretary of the Interior through the BSEE Director on improving all aspects of ocean energy safety. USCG and the EPA lead regional and local area oil spill preparedness and response contingency planning efforts in cooperation with Tribal, State, and local officials and the private sector. These efforts focus on optimizing community awareness of threats, consensus understanding of priorities for protection and mitigation, the tools and strategies available to protect and mitigate, and the challenges in employing those tools effectively in the environment. USCG and NOAA lead coordination efforts on research and development needs and activities through the Interagency Coordination Committee on Oil Pollution Research and the National Response Team Science and Technology Committee. In addition, Federal agencies coordinate with industry and international efforts on research and development of enhanced oil spill prevention and response tools and methods. The National Ocean Policy will help to accelerate these efforts nationally, fostering even greater coordination and helping to identify priorities.

address the most significant land-based sources of pollutants and contaminants to coastal waters.

### **Action 1: Reduce rural sources of excessive nutrients, sediments, toxics, and pathogens.**

Pollution to our streams, rivers, estuaries, and coasts from diffuse sources (non-point source pollution) is the leading cause of water quality problems in the United States and a major cause of rapidly declining ocean and coastal ecosystem health. Pollutants from rural sources include nutrients, sediment, toxins, pesticides, and pathogens. Reducing the rural input of these materials means considering all components of the landscape, including soil, water, air, and plant and animal communities.

Well-managed watersheds are fundamental to clean and abundant water resources. This action will enhance water quality in the ocean, along our coasts, and in the Great Lakes by promoting conservation and best management practices in rural and forested watersheds to reduce non-point sources of pollution. Because this pollution comes from many diffuse sources throughout rural watersheds, addressing it requires a strong commitment to setting priorities and collaboration between multiple sectors and among Federal, State, and Tribal governments; regional governance structures; and local authorities.

#### **Outcomes**

Reducing pollutants from rural sources will improve local water quality and enhance ecosystem services and benefits within rural watersheds and in downstream waters.

**Agencies:** USDA, EPA, USGS, NOAA, USACE, DOI

#### **Milestones**

- Establish Priority Watersheds within current Regional Landscape Initiatives (e.g., Mississippi River Basin Healthy Watershed Initiative) and other water quality restoration efforts on public and private lands. (USDA, EPA, USGS; 2012)
- Evaluate the effectiveness of restoration efforts and BMPs for mitigating hypoxia through watershed nutrient loading reductions, using quantitative performance measures and an adaptive management approach. (NOAA, NRCS; 2013)
- Establish integrated interagency monitoring, modeling, and assessment partnerships in priority watersheds to better evaluate the effectiveness of land treatment practices (e.g., the Mississippi River Basin Healthy Watersheds Initiative, Chesapeake Bay Initiative, and Great Lakes Restoration Initiative). (USDA, EPA, USACE, DOI, NOAA; 2013)
- Make financial cost-sharing assistance available to assist private landowners in priority watersheds (e.g., Mississippi River Basin Healthy Watersheds Initiative) on a voluntary basis with the application of conservation practices to reduce excessive nutrient and sediment loadings from entering the Nation's waters. (USDA; 2012)

- Complete implementation of the EPA 2008 Concentrated Animal Feeding Operations regulation. (EPA; 2012)
- Implement environmental market pilot projects (e.g., USDA Chesapeake Bay Watershed Initiative) between Federal and regional partners for nutrient and sediment reduction. (USDA, DOI, EPA; 2013)
- Identify and develop specific Federal, State, regional, and local partnership opportunities through the USCRTF to reduce watershed pollution in coral reef areas. (USDA, NOAA; 2013)
- Support the development and implementation of State-wide nitrogen and phosphorus reduction strategies in the Mississippi River Basin and Gulf region, working collaboratively with interested states, and verify and communicate these results to the public. (EPA; 2014)
- Target State CWA section 319 programs to current regional landscape initiatives and other priority areas identified by States as they develop comprehensive strategies for reducing nitrogen and phosphorus pollution, and encourage the use of Clean Water State Revolving Fund funding to high-priority projects in each state, including those that address nutrient pollution. (EPA; 2015)
- Support development of State regulatory certainty programs for reducing nutrient and sediment loads that will accelerate the adoption of voluntary conservation efforts. (USDA, EPA; 2013)

## **Action 2: Reduce urban sources of excessive nutrients, sediments, toxins, and pathogens.**

More than half of the U.S. population lives in coastal counties, which has a significant impact on the quality of the waters that reach the ocean, coasts, and Great Lakes. Cities, suburbs, and towns have large areas of impervious surfaces (e.g., paved streets, roads, parking lots, and rooftops) that do not allow rain to drain into the ground, resulting in polluted storm-water runoff. Runoff from roads and highways can have adverse effects if measures are not taken to remove sediments before the runoff reaches the receiving water. Municipal wastewater treatment plants contribute significant amounts of nitrogen and phosphorus to waterways, and septic systems, lawns, and golf courses contribute materials that harm water quality.

This action will enhance water quality in the ocean, along our coasts, and in the Great Lakes by reducing urban, suburban, and ex-urban sources of water pollution. A collaborative approach at the national level, along with targeted State and regional efforts, will be the most successful approach to reduce pollutant loadings in the near term. Federal agencies in partnership with States and Tribes, and in collaboration with stakeholders, will make greater progress in reducing pollutant loadings in the Great Lakes, coastal zone, and in downstream communities from both land-based and air-based pollution sources. This action also will lead to innovation in improving water quality by linking upstream actions to downstream impacts. It will complement the efforts of the Urban Waters Partnership.

### **Outcomes**

Reducing urban, suburban, and ex-urban pollutant loads in coastal and Great Lakes communities will improve water quality and lead to healthier waterways and communities, both at the source and downstream.

**Agencies:** DOT, EPA, Urban Waters Federal Partnership

### **Milestones**

- Reduce air deposition of sulfur, nitrogen, and other pollutants to ocean, coastal, and Great Lakes waters. (EPA; 2012)
- Determine number of significant municipal wastewater treatment plants in coastal and Great Lakes States that have National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (NPDES) permit limits for nitrogen and phosphorus based on numeric water quality criteria and those based on narrative water quality criteria. Implement strategies to promote information sharing about reduction levels among States, Tribes, regional partners, landowners, and local stakeholders. (EPA; 2013 )
- Develop pilot projects to increase access to the Urban Waters Federal Partnership for nearby residents, implement environmental improvements in or near these areas, and increase economic activity in or near urban water bodies. (Urban Waters Federal Partnership; 2015)
- Implement an effective storm-water control program that promotes green infrastructure and low-impact development approaches in urban and suburban areas to reduce impacts of discharges from newly developed and existing sites. (EPA; 2015)
- Inventory and evaluate best management practices to address storm-water runoff from the Federal-aid highway system, the efficiency of measures implemented to reduce pollutants, and the costs associated with construction, operation, and maintenance to establish performance measures that can be applied consistently across the Nation. (DOT; 2015)
- Reduce air deposition of mercury and other toxic pollution to help achieve water quality standards. (EPA;2015)

### **Action 3: Minimize impacts of hypoxia.**

Hypoxia occurs when the amount of oxygen in water becomes too low to support most life (usually around 2 mg/L or less). This condition can kill aquatic organisms, resulting in depleted fisheries and disrupted ecosystems. Hypoxia is predominantly regional in nature and is often associated with excess nutrients entering water from the watershed, but it can form farther offshore, away from direct coastal influences.

More than 80 bodies of water on the U.S. East Coast alone have been identified as having symptoms of hypoxia and its associated ecological, public health, and economic consequences. Both Congress and the Administration have recognized hypoxia's increasing frequency and severity. The Harmful Algal Bloom and Hypoxia Research and Control Act provides a national framework for research, education, and support for coastal resource management strategies for preventing, forecasting, reducing, and controlling hypoxia and harmful algal blooms, addressed in Action 4 for this priority objective. The Administration has developed a restoration strategy for the Gulf of Mexico hypoxia zone, the Nation's largest.

This action will address and reverse widespread environmental degradation and ensure a healthier environment and improved regional economies. Monitoring, science, data access, modeling, and forecasting of hypoxia will be strengthened.

#### **Outcomes**

Increased scientific knowledge and more effective environmental monitoring and forecasting will provide decision-makers with the necessary information to minimize and mitigate impacts of hypoxia on regional ecosystems, fisheries resources, wildlife, and human populations.

**Agencies:** NOAA, USDA, USGS, Gulf of Mexico Hypoxia Task Force, , EPA, DOC

#### **Milestones**

- Identify collaborative measures with regional partnerships to improve water quality in the Gulf of Mexico. (NOAA, USDA, USGS, Gulf of Mexico Hypoxia Task Force; 2012)
- Advance the development and application of scenario-based ecosystem models to quantitatively evaluate hypoxia causes and impacts, using an integrative modeling approach, and develop outreach tools to communicate advanced understanding to coastal managers and other stakeholders. (NOAA, USGS; 2013)
- Produce and implement at least 12 State-wide nutrient reduction strategies. (EPA; 2013)
- Provide results of integrated modeling and resulting tool kits for communicating hypoxia-related information to coastal managers and other stakeholders. (NOAA, USGS, USDA; 2013)

- Produce an interagency report on socioeconomic benefits to coastal communities of restoring hypoxic zones. (NOAA, EPA, DOC; 2015)
- Develop a national hypoxia data portal for seamless data sharing and information dissemination, building on the success of the EPA/USGS data portal, and link to ocean.data.gov. (NOAA, USGS, EPA; 2015)

#### **Action 4: Minimize impacts of harmful algal blooms.**

Harmful algal blooms (HABs) are occurrences of certain algal species and other micro-organisms, often in large concentrations, that produce potent toxins or cause other harm to humans, domestic animals, regional fisheries, and wildlife. The nature, frequency, and severity of HABs in the United States have changed markedly over the past two decades. Coastal and inland states are now increasingly threatened by their occurrence, which often results in exposure of humans, wildlife, and seafood to toxins; habitat degradation and loss of species; restricted commercial and sport fishing areas; and reduced recreational use of the coast and shorelines. We can improve our understanding of the factors responsible for HABs—and our ability to forecast, monitor, and reduce their impacts—through enhanced observation and experiments to fill in missing data and understand their sources.

This action will improve infrastructure and monitoring for detecting HABs regionally, understanding the science behind their occurrence, and providing State and local officials with products and guidance for more rapid and certain decision-making.

#### **Outcomes**

Increased scientific knowledge, monitoring, and forecasting will minimize and mitigate the impacts of harmful algal blooms on regional ecosystems and human populations.

**Agencies:** NOAA, USGS, CDC

#### **Milestones**

- Develop and deploy rapid, field-based detection systems for various HAB-causing species and their toxins. (NOAA, USGS; 2015)
- Develop consistent and comparable reporting procedures for HABs and associated environmental parameters. (NOAA, CDC; 2013)
- Improve infrastructure—including availability of standards and probes, shared-use facilities, monitoring platforms, and training—to develop the expertise necessary for state-of-the-art national capabilities for HAB monitoring and detection and improving accuracy of HAB forecasting. (NOAA, NIST, USGS; 2015)
- Provide more reliable models for HAB forecasts and coordinated training for State and local officials to improve regional capabilities for HAB monitoring, assessment, forecasting, and response. (NOAA, CDC; 2015)

- Produce analysis of human dimensions of impacts and economic benefits of HAB forecasting at various spatial and temporal scales, and identify human sub-populations and wildlife that may be at increased health risk. (NOAA; 2015)

**Action 5: Address threats posed by toxic chemicals and land-use practices to human, environmental, and wildlife health.**

Contaminated seafood, disease outbreaks, and other threats to human and animal health not only take a toll on our Nation’s people and environments, but impose economic costs. Identifying and understanding essential links between human, environmental, and wildlife health and the threats posed by toxic chemicals and land-use alterations on valued coastal and marine resources is an important national priority. Federal agencies have long been engaged in research and related activities that deal with fish, shellfish, marine mammal, and coral health and with environmental aspects of human and wildlife health, notably in the context of contaminants, pathogens, and toxins.

This action will provide a measureable reduction in targeted land-derived contaminants by focusing on water quality improvements through coordinated, cohesive approaches. It will improve analytical and monitoring methods, indicators, and models, and result in operational forecasts of pathogens on beaches, shorelines, and shellfish harvesting areas that allow more time to respond and minimize economic impacts. The result will be more reliable seafood consumption advisories, fewer unwarranted beach and shellfish fisheries closures, and a proactive outreach program aimed at seafood processors, consumers, regulators, and medical providers.

**Outcomes**

Improved analyses, monitoring, and notifications will protect human and wildlife health, and safeguard valuable coastal and marine resources and habitats.

**Agencies:** NOAA, EPA, CDC, FDA, USGS, USACE

## Milestones

- Establish a Health Early Warning (HEW) System (i.e., a disease/toxin/pathogen surveillance system) to provide effective procedures for information dissemination and to alert public health officials and managers to protect against emerging threats to human, wildlife, and ecosystem health posed by degraded water quality. (NOAA, EPA, CDC; 2014)
- Institute an outreach program aimed at seafood processors, consumers, regulators, and medical providers. (NOAA, EPA, CDC, FDA; 2014)
- Establish baseline levels of selected contaminants in bays, estuaries, and Great Lakes waters, sentinel species, and people living in coastal communities and, where sufficient data exist, describe temporal trends and an assessment of the impact of Federal programs designed to abate degradation of water quality. (NOAA, EPA, USGS, USACE; 2014)
- Enhance contaminant monitoring and disease surveillance programs in a showcase region, ensuring broader agency participation by providing a continuum of observations from the watershed to the coastal ocean, and producing a government-wide monitoring portfolio that links across States, Tribes, regions, academia, and other stakeholders and volunteer organizations. (NOAA, EPA, USGS; 2014)
- Develop new, rapid assessment methods to detect microbial contamination and spoilage in seafood, and broadly disseminate information or transfer the technology to the seafood industry. (NOAA; 2015).
- Deliver an assessment of the impacts of toxic chemicals on valued resources and an evaluation of current measures to curtail or eliminate environmental contamination for a State or region where such strategies exist (such as the Great Lakes). (NOAA, EPA, USGS; 2015)
- Incorporate into forecast models more realistic hydrological characterization of the coastal watershed and of human-use activities, and deliver the model output (or forecasts) to coastal resource managers in a timely manner. (NOAA, EPA; 2015)
- Develop or enhance conceptual or analytical models that simulate contaminant transport, fate, and effects; take a holistic “atmosphere-watershed-coastal ocean” approach; and offer a capability of resolving outcomes of cost-effective options to achieve further reduction in the use and disposition of the target chemical or chemicals. (NOAA, EPA, USGS; 2016)

## **Action 6: Reduce the impacts of trash and marine debris on ocean, coastal, and Great Lakes waters and associated watersheds, through cooperative efforts aimed at pollution prevention, reduction, and removal.**

Marine debris and trash, especially non-biodegradable plastics, are pervasive problems in and along our watersheds, Great Lakes, coasts, and the ocean. They enter our waterways through land- and ocean-based sources, and injure and kill marine wildlife; degrade ocean habitats; interfere with navigation safety; cause economic losses to shipping, fishing, tourism, and coastal

communities; and pose a threat to human health. This issue can be effectively resolved only through a comprehensive approach involving all levels, from local to global. Marine debris prevention efforts must focus on source reduction and prevention, and on community education and empowerment to action.

This action will increase research and monitoring efforts regarding marine debris baselines and volumes along the coast and in the oceans, and the environmental and human health impacts of key marine debris items. It will strengthen partnerships with affected communities, Tribes, stakeholders, industry, and government for a more comprehensive approach to addressing marine debris and trash in the environment. Promoting and identifying the availability of both non-regulatory and regulatory tools will prevent the build-up of trash and marine debris in our coastal waters.

### **Outcomes**

Pollution prevention, mitigation, research, and removal activities will reduce impacts from marine debris and trash on ocean, coastal, and Great Lakes waters and associated watersheds.

**Agencies:** NOAA, USCG, EPA, DOI; Interagency Marine Debris Coordinating Committee

### **Milestones**

- Publish a report on derelict traps/pots and fishing gear as a source of marine debris, and include information regarding the extent of the problem, mechanisms of the debris transport and accumulation in the sea, its impacts on wildlife and on ocean users, and the success of voluntary efforts and best management practices for reuse, accountability, or recycling of fishing gear and equipment. (NOAA; Interagency Marine Debris Coordinating Committee; 2012)
- Create a Federal Marine Debris Information Clearinghouse for scientific literature and information products that is accessible to researchers and other interested persons to improve marine debris source identification, research collaboration, and open sharing of data. (NOAA; Interagency Marine Debris Coordinating Committee; 2012)
- Identify and promote non-regulatory measures to reduce marine debris, such as market-based incentives, use of litter receptacles along shorelines, and use of litter traps in rivers and estuaries. (EPA, NOAA; 2013)
- Establish a marine debris monitoring protocol—including consistent nomenclature, sampling methods, source attrition, and data reporting requirements—and encourage its use by Federal agencies and non-Federal entities, including nongovernmental organizations and volunteer groups. (NOAA; 2013)
- Facilitate removal of trash and marine debris through community-based grants and other means. (NOAA, USCG, EPA, DOI; 2014)

- Increase research efforts regarding the relationship between marine debris (specifically microplastics) and toxic chemicals and the resulting impacts to marine organisms and human health via the food chain. (EPA, NOAA; 2014)
- Conduct research to identify the types of marine debris producing significant negative effects on the marine environment, and quantify these impacts to focus targeted prevention, removal, and mitigation efforts. (NOAA; 2014)
- Identify principal sources of debris and areas of accumulation in coastal waters, along shorelines, and in marine areas in each region. (NOAA; 2016)
- Improve use of existing regulatory tools (e.g., TMDLs, Combined Sewer Overflow controls, waste management, storm-water management, and Superfund) to reduce land-based sources of trash and marine debris (EPA; 2014)

**Action 7: Identify, seek to protect, and maintain high-quality near-shore ocean, coastal, and Great Lakes waters.**

Abundant, high-quality coastal waters provide billions of dollars annually in economic benefits to the Nation. Identifying and maintaining high-quality waters—those waters in healthy watersheds whose existing quality is better than the established standards—is a key to ensuring the continued resiliency and adaptability of aquatic ecosystems. Protecting high-quality waters and healthy watersheds is an economically beneficial long-term solution for ensuring the sustainable conditions of ocean, coastal, and Great Lakes habitats, along with the services healthy, high-quality waters provide, including human uses.

This action will identify and assess high-quality ocean and coastal waters and the waters that drain into them, establish new or modify existing water quality monitoring protocols and programs, and reduce or eliminate the impacts of vessel discharge on marine waters, with a special focus on invasive species. This action will also establish a comprehensive ocean and coastal water quality monitoring framework that will be integrated with other Federal, State, Tribal, and regional governance structures and local activities, as well as with existing freshwater water quality monitoring programs.

**Outcomes**

Maintaining the integrity of high-quality waters will sustain the valuable services they provide.

**Agencies:** DOI, EPA, NOAA, USDA, USACE, USFWS

**Milestones**

- Produce a biennial report card on the status of water quality in identified Federally managed or protected areas and outline success of management actions to conserve or enhance water quality. (DOI, EPA, NOAA, USFS; 2013)

- Protect, restore, or enhance 100,000 acres of wetlands, wetland-associated uplands, and high-priority coastal, upland, urban, and island habitat. (USDA, USACE, NOAA, DOI, EPA; 2014)
- Develop, coordinate, and integrate stakeholder/partner monitoring programs to encourage community involvement, education, and stewardship in the protection of healthy watersheds. (DOI, EPA, NOAA, USDA; 2015)
- Develop tools (e.g., climate change models) and water quality protection measures (e.g., BMPs) aimed at assessing and mitigating the impact of future climate change within existing ocean and coastal programs (e.g., National Wildlife Refuge System, National Park System, National Forests, National Estuarine Research Reserves, National Estuary Program, and State counterpart areas). (DOI, EPA, NOAA, USFS; 2015)
- Implement the design of the National Water Quality Monitoring Network for U.S. coastal waters and their tributaries through the National Water Quality Monitoring Council. (DOI, EPA, NOAA, USDA; 2017)
- Assess and augment water quality information in the NFHP National Assessment (see Action 7 in Regional Ecosystem Protection and Restoration), to identify high-quality coastal and Great Lakes waters. (DOI, EPA, USDA, NOAA; 2017)
- Initiate a showcase project linking healthy watershed protection to estuary protection, and evaluate the success in protecting and conserving high-quality coastal waters. (EPA, USDA; 2017)
- Protect 2 million acres of lands identified as high conservation priorities, with at least 35 percent being forestlands of highest value for maintaining water quality. (USDA; 2025)
- Improve control and regulation of water pollutants and other constituents in discharges (e.g., invasive species, pathogens, toxics, sediments) from vessels and ocean dumping. (EPA, USCG; 2015)
- Propose a draft permit, take public comments, and finalize a Vessel General Permit that will reduce the risk of the introduction of invasive species via ballast water from vessels through effective treatment and management of ballast water discharges. (EPA; 2012)
- Evaluate and disseminate lessons learned from efforts to improve the quality and quantity of freshwater flow into priority estuaries to protect their health and resiliency. (NOAA, , EPA, 2014)

#### GAPS AND NEEDS IN SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY

Our ability to address overall water quality, as well as hypoxia and harmful algal blooms, would be greatly enhanced by a coordinated monitoring network to assess nutrients, suspended sediment, and other chemicals. Basic information about new chemicals is also needed to improve predictions of impacts. In addition, resources could be prioritized if the costs associated with poor water quality, marine debris, and harmful algal blooms could be quantified.

## Changing Conditions in the Arctic

Address environmental stewardship needs in the Arctic Ocean and adjacent coastal areas in the face of climate-induced and other environmental changes.

The Arctic is rapidly changing. The United States has broad interests in this region, from national security and territorial sovereignty to sustainable management of domestic energy and living resources, environmental protection, cultural heritage, and scientific research, all of which must be addressed in the context of these dramatic changes. The Nation, the State of Alaska, Tribal governments, and coastal communities are faced with critical decisions about how best to maintain natural resources and manage sustainable human activities in this region. They must do so in concert with other countries which share a stake in the Arctic.

One of the most dramatic changes in the Arctic is the decrease in sea ice. Protective barriers provided by the sea ice are diminishing, leaving large coastal areas vulnerable to threats from rising sea level, stronger storms, and increased erosion. Marine and terrestrial ecosystems, regional weather patterns, and even the global climate system are affected by the retreat of sea ice. Ice-diminished transit routes in the Bering, Chukchi, and Beaufort Seas and other regions of the Arctic invite increased international resource development, commerce, and transportation, which will, in turn, bring new socioeconomic and environmental stressors.

Such rapid changes underscore the need for better and timelier information across diverse scales and disciplines to provide effective stewardship, ensure that natural resource management and economic development in the region are environmentally sustainable, and support effective early warning and emergency response systems. Improved science and technology are needed to help the scientific community forecast changes with greater certainty and provide guidance for local communities, resource managers, and commercial interests in this remote region. Improvements in daily and weekly sea ice forecasts, for example, would benefit local community activities and safety, while also helping to provide a safe, secure, and reliable Arctic marine transportation system.

Improved mapping resources for mariners and other users of marine transportation systems are also needed. These resources could reduce the risks of maritime incidents and facilitate more resilient ocean and coastal economies. Another crucial resource will be a distributed biological observatory that will allow us to collect and share baseline ecosystem data, and better monitor, assess, and forecast environmental conditions under changing climate scenarios.

For the Arctic region, this draft Implementation Plan strives to balance economic growth, community resilience, and environmental stewardship. By working through interagency structures, and by placing an emphasis on improved coordination among Federal, State, and local governments; academia; the private sector and non-governmental organizations; and native communities and entities, the draft Implementation Plan will ensure that initiatives to advance national priorities in the Arctic are informed by the latest developments in science and technology and that this new information is shared across sectors. The transboundary effectiveness of all of these activities, including meeting the needs of the indigenous communities of Alaska, will be enhanced primarily through sustained cooperation within the Arctic Council.

## ADDRESSING A CHANGING ARCTIC: PROGRESS THROUGH COORDINATION

Undertaking a comprehensive approach to U.S. Arctic Ocean policy relies on a foundation of coordination among Federal, State, and local entities; engagement with Alaska natives; and clear links between domestic and international Arctic activities. Through partnerships and collaboration, Federal resources and capabilities will be better leveraged and awareness of Arctic Ocean activities will increase. For example, collaborative planning can help address the increased risk of pollution incidents and help mitigate impacts of pollution events should they occur. Coordinating Arctic research will increase data sharing and improve understanding of the Arctic Ocean, providing more and better information to guide natural resource management. Clearer communication among Federal agencies will also benefit interactions between Federal groups and the State of Alaska, Alaska native communities, and international organizations.

In the United States, a number of interagency groups have coordination roles when it comes to Arctic Ocean policy. These include the Arctic Policy Group, led by the State Department to coordinate domestic efforts that relate to initiatives and activities of the Arctic Council (see below), and the Interagency Arctic Research Policy Committee, established through the Arctic Research Policy Act of 1984 to convene leadership from Federal agencies to develop an integrated Arctic Research Program Plan based on the recommendations of the U.S. Arctic Research Commission. The Interagency Working Group on Coordination of Domestic Energy Development and Permitting in Alaska facilitates coordinated and efficient domestic energy development and permitting in Alaska, and ensures the integrity of scientific, environmental, and cultural information that supports the permit evaluation process of energy development projects there. Internationally, the Arctic Council is an intergovernmental forum for promoting coordination and interaction among the Arctic States and other entities to help strengthen cooperation. Collaboration among these and other groups is essential to implement the Arctic priorities in the National Ocean Policy, as well as the overarching U.S. Arctic Region Policy, which guides interagency coordination and provides guidance on security, economics, energy, science, and environmental protection across the Arctic region.

Achieving a comprehensive approach to U.S. Arctic Ocean Policy requires taking full advantage of Federal interagency efforts now focused on the Arctic region, clarifying the division of labor and responsibilities among these groups, and strengthening interaction with local, State, and native entities. To this end, a number of Federal entities are developing a joint report describing interagency roles, responsibilities, and mechanisms for coordinated decision-making. We also are working toward routine coordination with regional groups such as the Alaska Climate Change Executive Roundtable, the North Slope Science Initiative, the Landscape Conservation Cooperatives, and the Arctic Ocean Observing System. The United States is also increasing its involvement in the Arctic Council to help strengthen cooperation among the Arctic nations and increase the involvement of the Arctic's indigenous communities in decisions that affect them.

## **Action 1: Improve Arctic environmental response management.**

The melting of sea ice will facilitate access for developing natural resources in the Arctic. A commensurate rise in marine traffic could increase the potential for significant marine accidents and pollution incidents. Preparing and responding to emergencies related to resource development and marine transportation in the Arctic requires improved coordination, planning, and training; stronger interagency research; and enhanced international cooperation and collaboration.

In the event that responsible private parties fail to meet their statutory responsibilities for prevention, mitigation, and cleanup of marine pollution events in the Arctic, this action addresses development and implementation of response coordination, procedures, and decision support systems to protect communities and ecosystems from oil spills and other incidents associated with resource extraction (e.g., oil and gas) and Arctic marine transportation (e.g., commercial shipping and tourism). Specifically, this action supports the development and implementation of response coordination and decision-support mechanisms to support agency responsibilities, such as the Arctic Environmental Response Management Application (ERMA®), Alaska Joint Assessment Team, State–Federal Alaska Data Integration Working Group, and Alaska Regional Response Team (ARRT). A number of Federal departments and agencies are charged with ensuring that resource development projects and marine transportation comply with health, safety, and environmental protection standards. Implementation of this action will require close coordination with a number of existing entities, including the Interagency Working Group on Coordination of Domestic Energy Development and Permitting in Alaska, and internationally with the working groups and task forces of the Arctic Council.

### **Outcomes**

A coordinated and prepared response management system will mitigate the impacts of pollution events on protected Arctic communities and ecosystems.

**Agencies:** NOAA, USCG, BSEE, DOT, DOS, ARRT, BOEM, NOAA, EPA, DOD

### **Milestones**

- Compile integrated datasets needed to populate an Arctic oil spill planning, coordination, and response tool such as ERMA® and complete and deploy a public and responder Arctic ERMA®. (NOAA; 2013)
- In cooperation with other Arctic Council members, participate in the U.S. co-chaired Task Force on Oil Spill Preparedness and Response to develop an Arctic-wide instrument on oil spill preparedness and response and provide technical expertise and political support. (USCG, NOAA, DOJ, DOS; 2012-2013)

- Participate in joint training and workshops with other Arctic nations on oil spill response activities in the Arctic, such as the use of mechanical recovery, dispersants, and in situ burning following major spill events. (USCG, MARAD, NOAA, BSEE, DOT; 2012)
- In cooperation with other Arctic countries, develop international guidelines for both spill prevention and for spill response activities in the Arctic, such as the provision of improved sea ice forecasts for mariners and the use of mechanical recovery, dispersants, and in situ burning following major spill events. (USCG, NOAA, BSEE, DOJ, DOS; 2012)
- Identify resource and infrastructure shortfalls for high-risk scenarios and assess strategies to address those shortfalls. Complete a resource-neutral plan to address the significant logistical issues (e.g., housing and feeding personnel, staging and deploying equipment, and managing waste) that would be involved in a large-scale oil spill response in the Arctic during any season. (BSEE, NOAA, USCG, ARRT, DOT; 2014)
- Improve oil spill prevention, containment, and response infrastructure, plans, and technology for use in ice-covered seas, using all available sources, such as Federal agencies, industry, academia, and international partners. (BSEE, USCG, DOT, NOAA; 2013)
- Make available through ocean.data.gov assessments of current scientific research as well as traditional knowledge related to the impacts of resource development and pollution applicable to the Arctic. (USCG, BOEM; 2013)
- Initiate interagency research and integration of data to improve models for spill trajectory, oil fate, and weathering, and natural resource maps based on Arctic conditions in order to feed scenario development and risk assessment. (USCG, BSEE, BOEM, NOAA; 2013)
- If permits can be secured, complete scientifically based field experiments and tests of response tools in U.S. Arctic marine waters. If not, continue to conduct experiments in test tank facilities (e.g., National Oil Spill Response Research and Renewable Energy Test Facility (OHMSETT)) and partner with non-U.S. entities in Norway and Canada to conduct field experiments in foreign waters. (USCG, BSEE, EPA; 2013)
- Identify options to minimize and/or mitigate the risk associated with vessel use and carriage of heavy-grade fuel oil in the Arctic. (NOAA, DOS, DOJ, USCG; 2013)

## **Action 2: Observe and forecast Arctic sea ice.**

Sea ice forecasting is one of the most urgent and timely ocean issues in the Arctic region. Continued rapid loss of sea ice will be a major driver of changes throughout the Arctic. Polar regions, although physically remote from major population centers, have profound significance for the global climate. They act not only as regulators of global temperature, but also as barometers of change. The loss of sea ice affects marine access, regional weather, global climate, marine and terrestrial ecosystems, and coastal communities. For example, a better

understanding of how loss of sea ice in the Bering Sea, the largest commercial fishery in the United States, will influence the entire marine ecosystem is of critical importance.

All-season observations from spaceborne and airborne platforms, ships and ice camps, and instruments on and under Arctic sea ice provide short-term information on ice conditions for tactical users. Such observations also support research into understanding Arctic processes and environmental variability and in improving forecasts, predictions, and projections. This action will improve daily to weekly sea ice models and provide forecasts and new seasonal predictions in formats that are amenable to a wide variety of government agencies and regional users.

### **Outcomes**

Improved sea ice maps, analyses, and forecasts will support the management of protected marine resources, community and subsistence activities, homeland and national security, and safe ship operation and navigation through Arctic waters. It will also provide the information needed to forecast changes in the composition of three Large Marine Ecosystems (LMEs) that make up the U.S. Arctic.

**Agencies:** NOAA, DOD, USCG

### **Milestones**

- Initiate international activity to improve sea ice forecasting through generalization of buoy/mooring data from a single point to a broader area and satellite data calibration using this buoy/mooring data. (NOAA, DOD; 2012)
  - Initiate a study of the marginal ice zone to better measure the rate of sea ice melt and regrowth. (NOAA, DOD; 2012)
  - Initiate data cataloging to improve and update the existing U.S. Arctic Sea Ice Atlas. (NOAA; 2012)
  - Train and expand Volunteer Observing Ship and coastal community participation in the sea ice observation program, and catalog user requirements for sea ice products, services, and delivery. (NOAA; 2012)
  - Deliver tactical-scale sea ice analysis and forecasts in GIS-enabled broad-scale format to meet USCG requirements. (NOAA, DOD, USCG; 2012)
  - Deliver tactical-scale sea ice analysis and forecasts in formats that meet additional user requirements. (NOAA, DOD; 2014)

- Develop better maps of the ice edge, and make field data available early enough in the year to be useful for seasonal ice forecasts (NASA, 2013).

### **Action 3: Implement a distributed biological observatory.**

Changes in location and timing of the seasonal ice edge can have profound effects on benthic and pelagic marine ecology and human activity. These changes affect the distribution and abundance of baleen whales, and the ability of ice-dependent marine mammals to reproduce and rear young on ice. Likewise, stranding of ice-dependent species on land reduces their likelihood of survival or reproductive rate, and may make the animals less available to subsistence hunters. The effects of these changes on Arctic ecosystems and Alaska Natives who depend on these species are poorly understood.

Continued observations are needed to form the basis of understanding the changing processes in the Arctic region. A distributed biological observatory (DBO) is one distinct component of the integrated Arctic Observing Network. A distributed biological observatory will improve our understanding of how changes in climate and the Arctic ecosystem will affect subsistence cultures in the region. New collaborations and partnerships will increase our capacity to monitor and assess changing environmental conditions. In addition, all participating agencies will be better able to determine and mitigate the effects of their decisions on marine resources, resulting in improved conservation, protection, and management of Arctic coastal and ocean resources.

#### **Outcomes**

A distributed biological observatory will help experts track and understand changing environmental conditions in the Arctic.

**Agencies:** NOAA, USFWS

#### **Milestones**

- Conduct and coordinate multi-year DBO research cruises with Federal, State, and international partners to document change in distribution, abundance, biomass, species composition, and rates of primary production at two of five stations along the DBO latitudinal gradient. (NOAA; 2012)
- Review pilot DBO activities and plan upcoming cruises in collaboration with international partners via Pacific Arctic Group meetings. (NOAA; 2012)
- Complete pilot phase analysis and prepare international report on distributed biological observatory activities and results to date. (NOAA; 2013)
- Update DBO concept and Implementation Plan for longer-term implementation. (NOAA, USFWS; 2014)
- Execute DBO plans and prepare annual assessments on physical and ecological state of Pacific Arctic marine environment. (NOAA, USFWS; 2015)

#### **Action 4: Enhance communication systems in the Arctic.**

Communications are essential to implementing the Arctic priorities in the National Ocean Policy and the overarching U.S. Arctic Region Policy. Early warning and emergency response systems would improve our ability to assess the timing and nature of emerging events in the Arctic region, such as environmental disasters, and will improve responses to them.

The Federal Government will advance two aspects of communications: technical capabilities and outreach. On the technical side, the Federal Government will strengthen existing communication systems to allow vessels, aircraft, and other users to effectively communicate with each other and to receive information (e.g., real-time weather and sea ice forecasts) that will significantly decrease the risk of environmental damage and loss of life and property at sea. On the outreach side, special emphasis will be placed on communications with native communities. This is in addition to enhancing the technical capabilities in these areas. The enhancements described here will build upon and support the guidelines and responsibilities in the Arctic Search and Rescue Agreement, to which the United States is a signatory.

#### **Outcomes**

A stronger communications infrastructure will improve our capability to prevent and respond to environmental disasters and maritime incidents, which will reduce loss of life or loss or damage to property at sea.

**Agencies:** DOD, USCG, DOT, NOAA, USAF

#### **Milestones**

- Complete inventory of existing DHS, DOD and partner communication capabilities in the Arctic region. (DOD, USCG; 2012)
- Coordinate and integrate common assets for voice/data and distress communications. (DOD, USCG, DOT; 2012)
- Incorporate the inventory above into GIS-based decision-support tools for planning, preparedness, and response such as Arctic ERMA®. (NOAA, 2013)
- Establish and strengthen at least one partnership each with industry (e.g., oil companies, ship operators), other governments (e.g., Canada, Russia, Norway), and Alaska native organizations to build on existing and new communications solutions and capabilities, such as the Canadian Space Agency Polar Communication and Weather Mission. (DOD, USCG, NOAA; 2012)
- Establish baseline of the performance capabilities of mid-frequency (MF), high-frequency (HF), very high-frequency (VHF), and ultra high-frequency (UHF) communications systems to air and surface vessels in the Arctic. (USAF; 2012)

- Establish baseline of the performance of air-, surface-, and available shore-based sensors. (USAF; 2013)
- Identify, analyze, rank, and implement the most cost-effective options to reduce communication gaps and boost Federal capabilities in the Arctic Operational Region, commensurate with available resources and user needs. (DOD, USCG, NOAA; 2014)

### **Action 5: Advance Arctic mapping and charting.**

Maps and charts are central to our understanding of the Arctic region, and they are essential for effective stewardship of this rapidly evolving environment. Knowledge of Arctic marine ecosystems, marine transportation, Arctic sovereignty and governance, and climate change adaptation strategies that coastal communities must develop to sustain their cultures and traditions all fundamentally rely on maps to visualize and depict critical aspects of the operating environment.

While ocean and coastal mapping in general is part of the *Observations, Mapping, and Infrastructure* priority objective in this draft Implementation Plan, this action will support the unique needs for accurate hydrographic surveys and shoreline mapping essential to modernizing nautical charts of U.S. Arctic waters and the Alaskan coastline. The action will enhance maritime commerce and help coastal communities develop adaptation strategies and disaster preparedness plans. It will increase the effectiveness of decisions regarding permitting, future ecosystem studies, and environmental stewardship. Mapping also supports biological habitat characterizations for ecosystem stewardship and restoration, development of storm readiness adaptation strategies for coastal communities facing the impacts of climate change, and emergency preparedness and response tools such as Arctic ERMA®.

### **Outcomes**

Advanced mapping and charting will improve navigation and reduce the risk of maritime incidents, loss of life, and environmental damage.

**Agencies:** NOAA, IC-OCM, DOD, DOS, USGS, USCG, CMTS

### **Milestones**

- Establish mapping guidelines, standards, vessel of opportunity protocols, and standard operating procedures to facilitate integrated ocean and coastal mapping and acquisition of Arctic hydrographic, shoreline, habitat mapping, and water column data in the Bering, Chukchi, and Beaufort Seas. (NOAA, IC-OCM, DOD; 2013)
- Prepare the material that could support a U.S. submission on Extended Continental Shelf delimitation. (NOAA, DOJ, DOS, USGS; 2015)

- Archive a minimum of 1 terabyte of Arctic physical and biological mapping data annually at national data centers to facilitate additional uses and scientific study. (NOAA; 2012)
- Update nautical charts, environmental sensitivity indices, and other Arctic feature maps with mapping data acquired during annual field seasons. (NOAA; 2012)
- Refine, in collaboration with stakeholders, a priority list of Arctic maritime regions and shorelines for surveying. (NOAA, USGS; 2012)
- Conduct coordinated interagency ocean and coastal mapping operations and incorporate results into the Ocean and Coastal Mapping Inventory. (IC-OCM, NOAA; 2013)
- Conduct Waterway Analysis and Management System (WAMS) assessments and Port Access Route Studies (PARS) of the Arctic region, beginning with ongoing PARS for the Bering Strait, and focusing on other areas indicated by risk/return analysis, to support decisions on mapping and charting priorities and waterways management. (USCG; 2013)
- Complete electronic navigational chart coverage as agreed to by the Arctic Regional Hydrographic Commission. (NOAA; 2013)
- Advance appropriate tidal or hydrodynamic models, and datum transformation tools to foster accurate and efficient Arctic surveys. (NOAA; 2013)
- Conduct airborne gravity data collection over the State of Alaska to help correct meters-level errors in Arctic positioning. (NOAA; 2013, (over the Aleutians, 2019))

#### GAPS AND NEEDS IN SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY

In the Arctic, research is needed to describe ecosystem changes and impacts from ocean acidification, sea ice retreat, increased use of land, human disturbance, and food web dynamics. In the area of communications, current capabilities restrict effective operation and management in the unique Arctic environment, particularly to support safe maritime operations. Also critically needed are real-time monitoring and measurements of atmosphere, ice, and ocean variables that control sea ice movement, melt, and growth, as well as the foundational geospatial infrastructure upon which to base operational and scientific decisions. Improved applications of remote sensing and buoy/mooring data collection technology are needed for sea ice characteristics and related scientific variables—including new real-time *in situ* observational technologies. Research, development, and testing of oil spill response and containment in Arctic conditions is another area in need of attention. All involved agencies and officials must understand the assets and capabilities in the U.S. Arctic in the event of an oil spill or other emergency.

In addition to this section on Coastal and Marine Spatial Planning, there will be a supporting Handbook to assist regions as they implement the framework for effective CMSP. This priority objective identifies national CMSP objectives, specific actions, and milestones to support implementation of CMSP on the regional level.

## Coastal and Marine Spatial Planning

**Implement comprehensive, integrated, ecosystem-based coastal and marine spatial planning and management in the United States.**

Americans treasure the ocean, our coasts, and the Great Lakes as sources of food, income, energy, and security, and as places to recreate and connect with our cultural history. However, our uses of the ocean are expanding, and it is becoming increasingly challenging to effectively coordinate sometimes competing uses through traditional management approaches that historically were designed to manage single activities and sectors independent of other objectives. Today there is a need to consider human uses through a broader lens that more accurately reflects the connectivity and diversity of marine resources. To that end, an ecosystem-based approach to management is required, and an effective way to advance such an approach is through CMSP.

The national framework for effective CMSP assumes increased coordination and collaboration across the Federal Government, leading to a more efficient, streamlined, and predictable decision-making process on activities in the ocean, coasts, and Great Lakes. CMSP is an important tool to meet today's challenges by empowering coastal communities through a public planning process to use integrated data and information to make decisions about ongoing and emerging activities in their ocean and coastal regions. CMSP is a tool for looking across the full spectrum ocean, coastal, and Great Lakes activities and for using the best available science and information to identify specific areas that can simultaneously sustain desired activities and the ecosystem services they require. Through this open and transparent science-based participatory process, industry, government, and citizens can work together to evaluate broad categories of current and emerging ocean uses, such as renewable energy and aquaculture, and to consider how those uses might be most appropriately pursued.

### Benefits of State and Tribal participation in the CMSP process

- Encourage and inform the Federal Government to better manage resources or address processes that transcend jurisdictional boundaries
- Define local and regional objectives and develop and implement CMSP in a way that is meaningful to regionally specific concerns
- Leverage, strengthen, and magnify local planning objectives through integration with regional and national planning efforts
- Proactively address concerns over proposed activities impacting State and Tribal interests and minimize use conflicts before they escalate
- Leverage support from the Federal Government to build CMSP capacity, access CMSP data, and acquire scientific, technical, and financial assistance
- Access data through CMSP portals and use science tools developed, established, and maintained for CMSP efforts
- Improve intergovernmental decision-making
- Achieve regulatory efficiencies, reduction in administrative delays, and cost savings

For CMSP purposes, the United States is geographically subdivided into nine regional planning areas based on recognized LMEs and the Great Lakes (with modifications as necessary to ensure inclusion of the entire U.S. EEZ and Continental Shelf and to allow for consistency with existing regional ocean governance bodies). This geographic scope may include inland bays and estuaries, and excludes privately owned lands as defined by law. Each region may also decide to consider inland areas in the planning area. Each of the nine planning regions may decide whether one coastal and marine spatial plan (CMS Plan) for the whole region can meet the regional objectives for the process, or whether a sub-regional approach may better suit regional needs.

The NOC will work with the States and Federally-recognized Tribes, including Alaska Native Villages, to create nine regional planning bodies—coinciding with the nine regional planning areas—for the development of regional CMS Plans. The membership of each regional planning body will consist of Federal, State, and Tribal authorities relevant to CMSP for that region (e.g., resource management [including coastal zone management and fisheries management], science, homeland and national security, transportation, and public health). Members will be of an appropriate level of responsibility within their respective governing body to be able to make decisions and commitments throughout the process. Each regional planning body will identify Federal and non-Federal co-leads. Appropriate State and Tribal representation will be determined by applicable States and Tribes.

A core component of CMSP is integrating ocean and coastal data and developing innovative visualization and other decision support tools. Providing access to data for transparent, science-based decision-making will translate to businesses and all stakeholders knowing what information government agencies have, and being able to use it without having to spend time and money searching for it. Today, when an industry proposes a coastal or ocean activity, the information needed to obtain permits or to determine the most suitable placement is often hard to find or is fragmented. The National Ocean Policy calls

for the creation of an information management system and portal to provide public access to those data and information in support of coordinated planning. The prototype portal, [www.ocean.data.gov](http://www.ocean.data.gov), is designed to provide streamlined access to the full suite of data needed for transparent and science-based collaborative planning. Relevant visualization and analytical tools to support the planning process will also be provided through the portal. The public is invited to provide feedback and suggestions through a forums page, and the NOC will further develop and expand the portal based upon the feedback received. While only Federal data will initially be accessible through the portal, users of the portal will eventually be able to discover and access both Federal and non-Federal data to combine for their own needs.

This priority objective differs from the other eight in this draft Implementation Plan because it includes elements (e.g., national objectives) specifically identified in the CMSP Framework. The CMSP Framework describes the scope and elements of CMSP. Topics not covered in this draft Implementation Plan will be included in a CMSP handbook as discussed in Action 1 below.

## **NATIONAL OBJECTIVES AND ACTIONS**

This draft Implementation Plan identifies the Council's two preliminary national objectives and five actions for the successful implementation of CMSP.

### **National Objectives**

The national objectives afford the regional planning bodies maximum flexibility in developing regional objectives. These national objectives should serve as models for regions to develop their own regional objectives based on their unique circumstances. The two national objectives are based on and complement the national goals and guiding principles described in the CMSP Framework. Designed to tier off these goals and guiding principles, these national objectives are not a stand-alone list of objectives. Rather, the national objectives will help inform a regional planning body's participation in collaborative regional planning and the development of CMS Plans and subsequent Federal implementation.

#### **National Objective 1: Preserve and enhance opportunities for sustainable ocean use through the promotion of regulatory efficiency, consistency, and transparency, as well as improved coordination across Federal agencies.**

Efficient regulatory processes are essential to preserve and enhance sustainable use of the ocean, coasts, and Great Lakes. Sustainability in this context means compatibility of current and proposed ocean and coastal uses with the long-term maintenance of important ecosystem services, including other uses. Improving efficiency and coordination across Federal agencies and with States, Tribes, territories, and international partners, where appropriate, will help reduce

conflicts among user groups, promote compatible uses, illustrate the net benefits of alternative uses, ensure effective environmental protection, and minimize the burdens of regulatory processes on both agencies and ocean users.

Most Federal laws prescribe timeframes within which review and analysis of permitted activities must be completed. However, it is currently difficult to meet these timeframes, which often leads to increased scrutiny, legal filings, and even financial constraints for the industries seeking the permits as well as the responsible Federal, State, and local agencies. A well-designed and data-supported CMSP process can reduce these delays and reduce costs by pre-assessing areas where certain uses may be better suited; providing frameworks for compiling all the relevant environmental, economic, and social data and information; and identifying in advance those uses that might have synergistic relationships. Coordinated efforts for data integration as outlined above through [ocean.data.gov](https://ocean.data.gov) will also provide efficiencies and consistencies, and should aid in the reduction of effort and time (by both Federal and private entities) required to support comprehensive determinations under NEPA and other Federal law. An example of how this approach could work—although for only a single type of activity rather than on a comprehensive basis as will occur under CMSP—is the Department of the Interior’s “Smart from the Start” initiative for offshore renewable energy projects, which looks at existing uses and resources in the NEPA process.

This national objective will help meet the Administration's goal of creating more efficient Federal regulatory review. An overall reduction in delays and costs through CMSP allows for the mandates of environmental laws such as NEPA to be fulfilled more efficiently and should not be interpreted as weakening them or subverting their requirements in any way.

**National Objective 2: Reduce cumulative  impacts on environmentally sensitive resources and habitats in ocean, coastal, and Great Lakes waters.**

A cumulative effect to sensitive ocean and coastal resources and habitats is that which results from the incremental impact of an action when added to other past, present, and reasonably foreseeable future actions. Properly accounting for cumulative effects can be challenging. The CMSP Framework allows for a comprehensive look at multiple sector demands, which would provide a more complete evaluation of cumulative effects.

Regional CMSP should strive to improve our ability to characterize the past, present, and, if possible, potential future conditions of an ecosystem spatially—*before* any particular new activity is implemented. Past conditions provide information on what ecosystem services we already may have lost, in order to maintain or restore natural ecosystems. As comprehensive integrated assessment tools and analytical methods (e.g., bioassessment, modeling) are developed and strengthened, so too will be the outputs of these efforts. Thus, this objective strives to provide tools and information that will improve the ability of decision-makers to

identify and define sensitive areas and habitats, identify opportunities to mitigate or completely avoid impacts to sensitive areas, identify areas where future activities would cause the least amount of negative impact, maximize sustainable and beneficial uses of the marine environment, and protect the integrity of marine and coastal ecosystems.

## **Actions**

The following are specific actions to implement regional CMSP.

### **Action 1: Distribute a *Handbook for Regional Coastal and Marine Spatial Planning*.**

The NOC is developing a *Handbook for Regional Coastal and Marine Spatial Planning* (Handbook) to assist regional planning bodies with the CMSP process. As called for in the CMSP Framework, the Handbook will provide further guidance and information intended to support the regional planning process, identify potential ways ocean.data.gov could enhance regional efforts, and provide more detailed information about visualization and analytical tools and their development to help compare proposed alternatives for future ocean uses. Engaging the public and stakeholders in the CMSP process is essential, and the Handbook will also provide relevant informational guidance, including how to comply with the Federal Advisory Committee Act (FACA). Such information will assist regional planning bodies in determining how best to engage with certain groups of scientific, technical, and other experts or establish regional advisory councils, as appropriate.

**Agencies:** NOC Office, Federal regional planning body co-leads

### **Milestones**

- Provide the Interim Handbook to Federal agency regional planning body co-leads. (NOC Office; 2012)
- Concurrently post the Interim Handbook on the NOC website. (NOC Office; 2012)
- Finalize the Handbook and distribute to Federal agency regional planning body co-leads. (NOC Office; 2012)
- Circulate the Handbook among State and Tribal co-leads and regional planning body members. (Federal regional planning body co-leads; 2012)

### **Action 2: Convene regional workshops and CMSP exercises**

In June 2011, the NOC brought together more than 500 Federal, Tribal, State, territorial, and local government representatives; indigenous community leaders; and stakeholders and members of the public from across the country for a National CMSP Workshop. This workshop allowed

the Federal Government to collaboratively identify key challenges, solutions, and strategies for regional CMSP, and respond to stakeholder priorities. Workshop participants emphasized the importance of science, evidence-based data, and traditional knowledge in the CMSP process; representation and coordination with existing local and regional entities; and the challenges associated with balancing the value of national consistency with the need for regional flexibility.

The National CMSP Workshop provided an overview of the CMSP process, presented an opportunity to bring together future CMSP practitioners from across the Nation, and helped set the stage for future locally focused regional workshops. Like the National CMSP Workshops, the regional workshops will have the following objectives:

- Develop and carry forward a shared understanding of regional CMSP and the development of CMS Plans.
- Build greater understanding of the value of regional CMSP in the United States.
- Identify key challenges, solutions, and collaborative strategies for regional CMSP, including next steps for developing the tools, resources, and guidance to implement regional CMSP.
- Engage the public and other stakeholders in a dedicated session that provides further opportunity to educate, listen to, and connect with the American people about CMSP.

Technology such as webinars and teleconferencing will be considered as low-cost mechanisms for engaging a large number of people in these workshops.

**Agency:** NOC Office, Federal regional planning body co-leads

### **Milestones**

- Hold, in conjunction with regional, State, and Tribal partners, CMSP workshops and simulation exercise in four regions. (NOC Office, 2013)
- Hold, in conjunction with regional, State, and Tribal partners, CMSP workshops and simulation exercise in five additional regions. (NOC Office, 2014)

**Action 3: By 2015, all of the applicable non-confidential and other non-classified Federal data identified for inclusion will be incorporated into a National Information Management System and Data Portal ([ocean.data.gov](http://ocean.data.gov)).**

The underpinning of the National Ocean Policy and its CMSP framework is science-based decision-making. While additional data are needed in some sectors or regions, the United States has a solid information foundation to begin CMSP. However, not all existing data are accessible or in a useable format for CMSP purposes. This action calls for integrating data across the Federal Government, as well as creating the opportunity to extend this approach to State, local, Tribal, and territorial governments and to industry, academia, and nongovernmental

organizations (NGOs). The ocean.data.gov portal provides open access to the National information management system called for in the National Ocean Policy. It not only targets the integration of diverse datasets, but also makes these data readily available to decision-makers, ocean users, stakeholders, and the public. These data will directly support the development of new and/or improved decision support tools critical to the CMSP process.

**Agencies:** NOC Interagency Information Management System and CMSP Data Portal Working Group, NOAA, USCG, DOD, DOI, EPA, DOE, USACE, NOC Office

### **Milestones**

- Develop a prototype data portal and adoption of minimum data standards. (NOC Interagency Information Management System and CMSP Data Portal Working Group; 2011)
- Complete initial individual agency data plans for accessibility through ocean.data.gov. (NOAA, USCG, DOD, DOI, EPA, DOE, USACE; 2012)
- Identify and begin making available analytical decision support tools and visualization capabilities via ocean.data.gov. (NOAA, USCG, DOD, DOI, EPA, DOE, USACE; 2012)
- Implement data integration plans into the complete ocean.data.gov portal. (NOAA, USCG, DOD, DOI, EPA, DOE, USACE 2013)
- Integrate and synthesize the ecological, social, and economic data provided by Federal agencies and non-Federal partners for inclusion in ocean.data.gov. (All NOC agencies; 2013)
- Launch initial ocean.data.gov system and CMSP national portal. (NOC Office; 2015)

### **Action 4: Establish Regional Planning Bodies**

As envisioned by the National Ocean Policy, nine regional planning bodies will bring together Federal, State, and Federally-recognized Tribal partners to engage in collaborative regional planning and develop regional CMS Plans to improve stewardship and streamline processes. The regional planning body structure acknowledges the sovereign status of Federally-recognized American Indian and Alaska Native Tribal Governments, preserves the principle of government-to-government consultation, recognizes the authorities and responsibilities delegated to the various Federal agencies by Congress, and improves intergovernmental processes. While membership on each regional planning body is currently reserved for Federal, State, and Tribal entities with authorities relevant to CMSP, the policy is explicit about the importance of stakeholder participation throughout the key steps of the process. To contribute to its success and scope, CMSP will also ensure coordination and collaboration with existing ROPs, engagement with stakeholders and the public, and consultation with scientific, technical, and other experts.

**Agencies:** Regional planning bodies

## Milestones

- Phase 1: Establish a regional planning body in up to four of the nine regions, and complete initial regional steps as described in the CMSP framework. (Regional planning bodies; 2013)
- Phase 2: Establish regional planning bodies in the remaining five regions, and complete initial steps as described in the CMSP framework. (Regional planning bodies; 2015)

## **Action 5: Within 3 to 5 years of their establishment, nine regional planning bodies (i.e., one per region) will have developed Council-certified regional CMS Plans for the sustainable use and long-term protection of the ocean, our coasts, and the Great Lakes.**

Regional planning bodies will implement CMSP leading to the development of CMS Plans appropriate for each region. Each region is unique in geographic scope, natural resources, cultural expectations and sensitivities, economic homeland and national security tributes, and existing structures and planning for environmental protection and resource management. This action is premised on the Council's recognition that development of CMS Plans will occur along different timelines among the regions—including differing timelines for establishing the regional planning bodies—with differing specific regional objectives consistent with the national goals and objectives for CMSP. Each region under the framework for CMSP has 3 to 5 years to develop and secure NOC certification of its initial CMS Plan.

**Agencies:** Regional planning bodies

## Milestones

- Complete regional capacity assessments in at least four regions—beginning with Phase 1 areas—within 2 years of release of this draft Implementation Plan, identify initial regional steps, develop NOC-approved work plans, and initiate the CMSP process as described in the CMSP Framework. (Regional planning bodies; 2014)
- Complete regional capacity assessments in remaining Phase 2 regions within 4 years of release of this strategic action plan, identify initial regional steps, develop NOC-approved work plans, and initiate the CMSP process as described in the CMSP Framework. (Regional planning bodies; 2016)
- Complete initial regional CMS Plan and submit for NOC certification within 5 years of a regional planning body's establishment. (Regional planning bodies; 2019)

## CONCLUSION

Since long before our Nation was founded, the ocean has been a source of nourishment, protection, employment, inspiration, and adventure. The National Ocean Policy responds to more than a decade of bipartisan discussions and was established to resolve a long-standing, well-recognized, and significant problem: the oceans, coasts, and Great Lakes are a crucial resource for America and they are in trouble. This Implementation Plan presents the initial actions Federal agencies will take to change how we conduct our work to realize the benefits that the National Ocean Policy will provide to our Nation by supporting our people, resources, economy, security, and opportunities.

We realize improvements must be centered on EBM to managing resources and uses. This approach considers all ecosystem inhabitants, processes, and impacts as a holistic unit rather than focusing on each in isolation. It recognizes humans and human activities as part of ecosystems. Making progress on this new management foundation is not something a single agency, or level of government, can do on its own. Nor is it something government can do on its own. But it will be done without creating new bureaucracy and without negative economic impacts, by improved incorporation and use of solid science, collaboration and efficiency in action, and a focus on regional issues and interests.

The actions for each of the priority objectives in this draft Implementation Plan were developed to meet high standards for ecosystem-

### *It is the policy of the United States to:*

- Protect, maintain, and restore the health and biological diversity of ocean, coastal, and Great Lakes ecosystems and resources;
- Improve the resiliency of ocean, coastal, and Great Lakes ecosystems, communities, and economies;
- Bolster the conservation and sustainable uses of land in ways that will improve the health of ocean, coastal, and Great Lakes ecosystems;
- Use the best available science and knowledge to inform decisions affecting the ocean, our coasts, and the Great Lakes, and enhance humanity's capacity to understand, respond, and adapt to a changing global environment;
- Support sustainable, safe, secure, and productive access to and uses of the ocean, our coasts, and the Great Lakes;
- Respect and preserve our Nation's maritime heritage, including our social, cultural, recreational, and historical values;
- Exercise rights and jurisdiction and perform duties in accordance with applicable international law, including respect for and preservation of navigational rights and freedoms, which are essential for the global economy and international peace and security;
- Increase scientific understanding of ocean, coastal, and Great Lakes ecosystems as part of the global interconnected systems of air, land, ice, and water, including their relationships to humans and their activities;
- Improve our understanding and awareness of changing environmental conditions, trends, and their causes, and of human activities taking place in ocean, coastal, and Great Lakes waters; and
- Foster a public understanding of the value of the ocean, our coasts, and the Great Lakes to build a foundation for improved stewardship.

based management, sound data and information, efficiency in process, and coordinated effort. Through this draft Implementation Plan, Federal agencies will work together to take prioritized action to make a difference in the most pressing needs facing the ocean, our coasts, and the Great Lakes. Guided by the National Ocean Policy, the Federal Government will set out on a new science-driven, coordinated, efficient path to maximize the wise use of marine and Great Lakes environments, and the ecosystem services they provide. As we move ahead, we will regularly revisit this Plan and seek input from those who live and work on the ocean and along the coasts, as well as experts in science and traditional knowledge who know and understand these ecosystems and the communities they support. Simply put, the result of this draft Implementation Plan will be the environmental, economic, social, and cultural benefits that accrue from ecosystems and resources that are better managed.

This draft Implementation Plan presents what the Federal agencies will do to ensure healthy ocean, coasts, and Great Lakes now and for generations to come. But we also want it to serve as an open book for localities, States, Tribes, organizations, industry, and individual citizens to view and understand how and where the Federal agencies will focus their resources and attention. This draft Implementation Plan does not direct action beyond Federal efforts, but it is prefaced on the need for partnership and collaboration across the Nation at all levels to build *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.*

# APPENDIX: PUBLIC COMMENTS ON DRAFT STRATEGIC ACTION PLAN OUTLINES

The National Ocean Council (NOC) released nine strategic action plan outlines for public review to provide an initial view as to how Federal agencies might address the priority objectives as described in the National Ocean Policy (Policy). The outlines, by design, were draft products that served as an early and valuable point in the plan development process for focusing public and stakeholder input.

During the public comment period June 2-July 2 2011, the NOC received over 400 contributions to the NOC web page from over 200 individuals and groups. In addition, about 1000 individuals and groups participated in and provided comments at 12 regional listening sessions.<sup>2</sup> The NOC agencies evaluated more than 850 specific comments from stakeholders and the public, many representing multiple submissions of very similar comments. The NOC considered all of the comments and accepted many of these, incorporating them into the draft Implementation Plan.

This Appendix summarizes the most substantive and frequent public comments and how they are addressed in this draft Implementation Plan. Reflecting the diversity of stakeholder input, this Appendix consolidates the comments and NOC responses under four themes, which the NOC used to guide the development of this draft Implementation Plan. These are: (1) adopt ecosystem-based management; (2) obtain, use, and share the best science and data; (3) promote efficiency and collaboration; and (4) strengthen regional efforts.

## ADOPT ECOSYSTEM-BASED MANAGEMENT (EBM)

**The public comments on EBM indicated broad support for this approach to management. Some mentioned that EBM has been used with success previously.**

*The Executive Order specifies that EBM is critical to how we govern and manage our ocean, coasts, and Great Lakes, and charges the Plan to address how it will be defined and implemented. In the draft Implementation Plan, the EBM section (pp. 9-17) focuses on actions that will provide the collaboration and science frameworks, training and education, and best practices for implementing EBM. In addition, actions to support EBM or apply it to specific regional efforts are included throughout the draft Plan.*

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<sup>2</sup> Washington, DC; Barrow, AK; Anchorage, AK; Chicago, IL; Jacksonville, FL; Honolulu, HI; Exeter, NH; Galveston, TX; Ocean Shores, WA; San Francisco, CA; West Long Branch, NJ; Portland, OR

**Many comments pointed out the need for a clear and consistent definition for EBM that will be incorporated into management decisions, including project planning, policies, and programs.**

*The Final Recommendations of the Interagency Ocean Policy Task Force called upon the NOC to define EBM as it develops strategic action plans (now the draft Implementation Plan). The NOP started with MacLeod et al. (2005), which defined EBM as “an integrated approach to resource management that considers the entire ecosystem, including humans”, and noted that the goal of EBM is “to maintain an ecosystem in a healthy, productive, and resilient condition so that it can provide the services humans want and need”. The NOC built upon this definition, and its accompanying list of elements and characteristics, with modifications that reflect the views of multiple Federal agencies as they address implementation of EBM. The resulting definition is on pages 10-11 of the Plan.*

**Several comments suggested that potential actions to address the EBM priority objective should focus on the important beginning steps that will lead to EBM forming the foundation for management decisions regarding the ocean, our coasts, and Great Lakes. However, this must be based on good science and scientific information that is transparent to all participants and interested parties, and communicated to all levels of government and to all stakeholders and users.**

*Strategic use of EBM as an approach to implementing the NOP and science-based planning and decision-making is an incremental process. The Ecosystem-based Management section of the draft Plan describes actions establishing frameworks for the science to support EBM and for Federal collaboration. Other actions provide training and the conduct of EBM pilot projects. These are important initial steps toward implementing EBM nationally. Action 3 in the Inform Decisions and Improve Understanding section (pp. 21-22) supports EBM through robust science, information, and decision-support tools. Other actions throughout the draft Implementation Plan will apply these frameworks and tools to implement EBM regionally.*

**EBM should rely on science-based decision-support tools, including but not limited to CMSP, so that CMSP is not a goal, but a process to help inform and implement EBM.**

*The draft Plan clarifies that CMSP is an important EBM tool that provides transparent information about ocean use, relies upon significant public and stakeholder participation, and will inform management decisions affecting the ocean, coasts, and Great Lakes. It creates an inclusive, bottom-up, regionally-driven planning approach that gives Federal agencies, States, Tribes, and regions the ability to make informed decisions about how best to use ocean and coastal resources. The regional CMSP process will build upon and expand, as appropriate, successful regional efforts.*

**Some comments recommended that EBM should be included in non-Federal planning and regulatory frameworks for coastal development.**

*Action 3 in the Ecosystem-based Management section (pp. 15-16) will make training on EBM principles, best practices, and decision-support tools available to State, Tribal, and local government officials.*

**A range of comments was received concerning the use of the precautionary approach. Many comments supported its adoption while others were concerned it would restrict ongoing or future activities.**

*One of the Policy's guiding stewardship principles provides that decision-making will be guided by a precautionary approach as reflected in the Rio Declaration of 1992, which states in pertinent part, "[w]here there are threats of serious or irreversible damage, lack of full scientific certainty shall not be used as a reason for postponing cost-effective measures to prevent environmental degradation" The United States has long taken the position that precaution is a tool or approach rather than a "principle," given the lack of a single definition or agreed formulation and the differing implications of its various forms. However, it is clear that the precautionary approach does not mandate action or prohibit activities. Application of a precautionary approach as so defined is consistent with the EBM approach and essential for improved stewardship.*

**Some comments expressed concern that potential changes in legislation to incorporate EBM principles into policy and governance are premature without a shared understanding of its meaning and application. EBM efforts should consider broader science-based authorities and regulations of marine resources, in addition to broader consideration of information and interactions.**

*As described above, the Plan provides a definition of EBM for the purposes of implementing the NOP. Any recommendations to seek changes to existing statutory or regulatory authorities—as part of any priority objective – would only be made based upon the experiences of those agencies charged with implementing the Policy. No such changes are mandated by the Policy and it would be premature to suggest any such changes at this juncture. The draft Implementation Plan calls for the NOC Legal Working Group to further analyze these efforts in Action 3 in the Coordinate and Support section (pp. 38-39).*

#### OBTAIN, USE, AND SHARE THE BEST SCIENCE AND DATA

**Many comments emphasized the great value of and need for the best data, science, analyses, information, and tools to guide managers and policymakers in evaluating trade-offs and decision support. The Implementation Plan should include actions that focus on better-informed decisions through improvements on the linkage between science and management actions.**

*The Policy places a great emphasis on increasing our scientific understanding. Under the Policy, a fundamental stewardship principle guiding U.S. management decisions and actions affecting the ocean, our coasts, and the Great Lakes is that such decisions will be informed by and consistent with the best available science. Accordingly, numerous actions, milestones, and national objectives set forth throughout the draft Implementation Plan have the specific intent to foster, strengthen, and improve the linkage between science and management actions. Further, the Inform Decisions and Improve Understanding section (pp. 18-25) of the draft Plan outlines actions to sustain and expand the science framework to provide knowledge for improved decision-making and an informed society and workforce.*

**One key to successful implementation of the Policy is to determine the critical science questions that can best inform decisions about emerging and future uses of the ocean, and to focus limited resources on understanding and addressing them.**

*Action 2 in the Inform Decisions and Improve Understanding section (pp. 20-21) focuses on providing the science to support emerging uses of the ocean and Great Lakes, which will increase opportunities for sustainable economic development and new jobs.*

**Many comments emphasized the great need for science-based data, information, and tools to implement the NOP. The foundation for better stewardship must include accurate and timely data and information about the environment and human activities. Active and continuous observations are necessary to obtain these.**

*Actions in the Observations, Mapping, and Infrastructure section (pp. 26-34) address the national need for maintaining and modernizing observing systems, and collecting and delivering data to better support decisions. The Changing Conditions in the Arctic section (pp. 75-84) includes actions to meet the specific observing and data requirements of the Arctic region. These are linked with actions from the Inform Decisions and Improve Understanding section (pp. 18-25) to ensure data and information meet high scientific standards and inform models, assessments, and decisions.*

**Data and information are a high priority for most stakeholder groups, as well as resource managers. Comments from a broad range of sectors expect actions in the Implementation Plan to make Federal data readily available, maintain existing observations and product sources, and provide new data that regions and stakeholders need. Socio-economic and traditional knowledge data and information should be made available and used in addition. Standards for including non-governmental and industry data need to be identified. A number of comments called for a national data and information management system.**

*Providing natural and socio-economic data and information to support management and business decisions is a high priority in implementing the Policy. A national integrated information management system is an essential component of the infrastructure that supports*

*the NOP. The NOC has established a prototype national information management system and portal (ocean.data.gov) as a mechanism to more easily discover and access Federal data and information for use in regional planning. Action 7 in the Observations, Monitoring, and Infrastructure section (pp. 33-34) will develop an integrated data collection, processing, and management system. Data and information will be provided through other actions in the draft Plan. Action 3 in the Coastal and Marine Spatial Planning section (pp. 90-91) provides that by 2015 all of the applicable non-confidential and other non-classified Federal data identified for inclusion will be incorporated into a national information management system and data portal (ocean.data.gov).*

**Several comments urged the development and application of new, efficient, low-cost technologies to assess environmental change across a broad range of spatial and temporal scales, and keep the nation in the forefront of ocean science and technology.**

*Modern observing systems are essential to ocean research and management. Cost-effective and advanced technology sensors and platforms are addressed in the Observations, Monitoring, and Infrastructure section. Actions 2 and 3 (pp. 27-29) focus on developing, testing, and deploying new observing and sampling technologies.*

**A number of comments highlighted the importance of improved seafloor mapping and bathymetry.**

*Coordinating ocean and coastal mapping efforts, improving access to mapping data, and upgrading mapping capabilities and products are the focus of Actions 5 and 6 in the Observations, Monitoring, and Infrastructure section (p. 31-33).*

## PROMOTE EFFICIENCY AND COLLABORATION

**Numerous comments from many sectors called for improved coordination among all levels of government, including with the international community. Federal support for these coordinating activities should be the focus of actions in this Implementation Plan. All levels of government must participate in coordinating and planning, from local to Federal. Tribal governments should be consulted during these coordination efforts.**

*Improved coordination and increased efficiency are key elements throughout the draft Implementation Plan. The focus of the Coordinate and Support section (pp. 35-42) is to coordinate our response to ocean and coastal issues across jurisdictional boundaries and at all levels of governance. The actions are designed to strengthen and leverage partnerships and develop new partnerships. Federal agencies will support regional partnerships through grants, tools, resources, and other services. Agencies will consult with Tribal representatives on relevant activities.*

**The Implementation Plan should clearly define which Federal agencies will be responsible for which actions – both as lead and supporting agencies – and how collaboration between the agencies will be addressed. Lead agencies should be given clear guidance by the NOC on how to incorporate the implementation actions.**

*The draft Plan clearly identifies the Federal agencies responsible for accomplishing each action and milestone. Most milestones include multiple agencies who will work collaboratively to increase efficiencies, leverage resources, and improve the ability to achieve successful outcomes.*

**Several comments recommended that the Plan encourage the use of existing regulations and statutory authorities, and coordinate with them. It should include the promotion of uniform regulations.**

*The Policy emphasizes better coordination of existing authorities and does not impose new regulations. The NOC Legal Working Group will identify gaps, inconsistencies, and duplications in statutory authorities, policies, and regulation, and the NOC will work to reduce barriers to implementing the Policy, per Action 3 of the Coordinate and Support section (pp. 38-39).*

**Much is already known about how to solve problems using existing authorities; what is needed is action. A number of comments expressed concern that the strategic action plan outlines did not identify enough near-term actions. The Implementation Plan must include more concrete and immediate actions with specific timelines for which Federal agencies can be held accountable. More specificity to actions should be provided.**

*The draft Implementation Plan recognizes the need to include specific actions, with well-defined milestones, to establish Federal agency accountability. The draft Plan includes a better balance of near-term actions, to foster timely implementation of the National Ocean Policy. Milestones have been expanded and refined, and the NOC is also determining how to establish performance measures to track progress on actions.*

**Adaptability and flexibility should be built into the implementation of the Policy. The Implementation Plan should be adaptive to regional context and regulatory frameworks.**

*The Policy recognizes as a guiding stewardship principle the need for adaptive management in a coordinated and collaborative approach to respond to environmental, social, economic, and security challenges. The draft Implementation Plan adopts this approach through numerous actions, and affords flexibility in achieving these actions and milestones as conditions change, knowledge is updated, or new issues or uses emerge.*

**More efficient permitting was requested in some comments. Planning needs to ensure that the Federal permitting processes are well coordinated, grounded in standards that provide for changing conditions, and assure protection of the natural and built environments.**

*Action 5 of the Coordinate and Support section (pp. 40-41) will seek efficient, coordinated Federal permitting processes. It will consider ways to save applicants and permitting agencies time and money, and encourage economic investment without compromising public safety, health, and the environment.*

**Numerous comments called for the NOC to pick some priority areas to initiate projects. These comments recommended the use of pilot projects to develop realistic approaches to implementing the Policy, keep initial costs down, and determine approaches to maximize benefits-to-cost.**

*Action 4 in the Ecosystem-based Management section (pp 16-17) will identify and implement pilot projects to demonstrate the practicality of the EBM approach. Pilot projects are proposed elsewhere throughout the draft Plan.*

**Some comments advised that international coordination is required for many ocean, coastal, and Great Lakes issues, noting that some mechanisms for coordination are already in place and should be used.**

*The draft Implementation Plan recognizes the need for international coordination to address many ocean, coastal, and Great Lakes issues, and allows for Federal agencies to work through existing mechanisms as appropriate to achieve the best results. Actions in the Inform Decisions and Improve Understanding; Observations, Mapping, and Infrastructure; Adaptation to Climate Change and Ocean Acidification; and Changing Conditions in the Arctic sections highlight international connections.*

**Some comments recommended that the NOC develop a closer linkage between the actions to address the priority objectives.**

*This draft Implementation Plan builds upon the actions as proposed in the outlines submitted for public comment in June 2011 and, based on comments received, now reflects a more cohesive approach to addressing the nine priority objectives identified by the Policy.*

## **STRENGTHEN REGIONAL EFFORTS**

**Many of the public comments focused on some aspect of regional coordination, planning, and implementation of the Policy. The Implementation Plan should support actions where Federal agencies work with States, Tribes, and regions. Actions should be**

**tailored to regional and local needs and priorities. Planning frameworks need to be national (providing for both horizontal integration across agencies, and vertical integration across levels of government), but adaptable to regional variations.**

*Throughout the draft Plan, the NOC places an emphasis on supporting regional activities and regionally-focused implementation, as appropriate, of the Policy. Five priority objectives include actions with a regional focus: Regional Ecosystem Protection and Restoration, Resiliency and Adaptation to Climate Change and Ocean Acidification, Water Quality and Sustainable Practices on Land, Changing Conditions in the Arctic, and Coastal and Marine Spatial Planning.*

*Many of the actions designed to address these priority objectives build upon the efforts of existing partnerships, priorities, and programs, and are adaptable to local, state, and regional needs. They also cut across the priority objectives to connect national frameworks for science, information management, or coordination, for example, to regional and local actions as varied as restoring coastal wetlands, reducing excess nutrients and sediment in local watersheds, developing climate adaptation strategies for vulnerable coastal communities, minimizing the impacts of harmful algal blooms, and observing and forecasting Arctic sea ice.*

**Actions need to explicitly include integration between Federal agencies and their partners. The Implementation Plan should encourage public/private partnerships and incentivize private-sector cooperation and investment. It should increase collaboration with outreach partners.**

*The draft Plan emphasizes the value of public-private partnerships in leveraging and incentivizing investments. Actions in the Coordinate and Support, Regional Ecosystem Protection and Restoration, and Water Quality and Sustainable Practices on Land sections promote opportunities for public-private partnerships and private investments.*

**Several comments recommended that the Implementation Plan should complement and build on regional activities and successes, existing programs, and pending actions, and not duplicate existing programs and processes. It should reinforce the implementation of existing regional or State management plans, rather than create new management systems. It should take full advantage of the existing resources, capabilities, and knowledge of the myriad organizations that play a role in the management of resources. The NOC should ensure that Federal agencies implement their activities to ensure increased and better coordination between and among these entities.**

*The draft Plan contemplates that Federal agencies will collaborate closely with existing Regional Ocean and Great Lakes Partnerships (ROPs) to apply the most successful approaches in those areas of greatest need. The nine regional planning bodies that will be established under the CMSP Framework provide for State and Tribal membership, and will*

*closely coordinate with existing ROPs. The CMSP Framework provides that the regional planning bodies will build upon the efforts of these existing partnerships. Essential steps of the CMSP require engagement with the public and stakeholders at key steps throughout the process, as well as consultation with scientific, technical, and other experts. The CMSP Handbook called for by Action 2 in the Coastal and Marine Spatial Planning section (pp. 89-90).*

**Several comments addressed the importance of partnerships between the NOC and States and Territories. Actions in the Implementation Plan should be developed and implemented in coordination with the States to ensure that Federal resources address States priorities. The development and implementation of Federal guidance, programs, and protocols should take into consideration existing State and Territorial priorities and protocols. ROPs can help identify the restoration projects of greatest concern in each region.**

*The Federal-State partnership is addressed directly or indirectly in actions for all priority objectives. Action 1 in the Coordinate and Support section (pp. 36-37) will support ROP priorities and facilitate access to information, training, and resources that meet ROP goals. State agency managers and decision-makers will benefit from the information, tools, strategies, and practices developed through actions in the Regional Ecosystem Protection and Restoration (pp. 43-53), and Water Quality and Sustainable Practices on Land (pp. 63-74) sections. The regional planning bodies established by Action 4 in the CMSP section (pp. 91-92) include States as members. In addition, CMSP National Objective 1 (pp. 87-88) notes the need to improve efficiency and coordination across Federal agencies and with States, Tribes, and others.*

**A number of comments emphasized the unique consultative relationship between the United States Government and the Tribal Governments, and the need for this to be reflected in the implementation of the Policy.**

*The draft Implementation Plan addresses the need to work with Tribes in a number of areas. For example, Action 6 in the Adaptation to Climate Change and Ocean Acidification section (pp. 61-62) calls for developing adaptation strategies in consultation with Tribes. Action 5 in the Water Quality and Sustainable Practices on Land section (pp. 70-71) addresses the need for enhancing contaminant monitoring and disease surveillance programs, ultimately producing a government-wide monitoring portfolio that links across States, Tribes, regions, and stakeholders. The regional planning bodies established in Action 4 in the CMSP section (pp. 91-92) include Tribes as members. In addition, CMSP National Objective 1 (pp. 87-88) notes the need to improve efficiency and coordination across Federal agencies and with States, Tribes, and others.*

**Some comments recommended scale-appropriate actions. Planning must initiate sub-regional development with full consideration of local impacts, empowering local coastal communities to care for and nurture the long-term well-being of the coast.**

*The draft Implementation Plan recognizes the importance of working at the local community level to provide resources, information, and projects for sound planning and decision-making. Actions in each of the priority objectives directly or indirectly address this need.*

**Several comments urged the NOC to work within the existing statutory framework, and to complement existing ocean and coastal resources management efforts.**

*As with the importance of engaging at the local level, the draft Implementation Plan recognizes the need to collaborate closely with existing ROPs to build upon existing programs, protocols, and successes, and to apply the most successful approaches in areas of greatest need, including interaction between the existing partnerships and the regional planning bodies that will be established under the CMSP Framework. Actions in each of the priority objectives directly or indirectly address this need.*

**Some comments recommended that the NOC incorporate the Policy and its guiding stewardship principles into agency procedures, rules, and guidance.**

*Federal agencies will implement the Policy consistent with existing legal authorities. Under Action 3 in the Coordinate and Support section (pp. 38-39), the NOC Legal Working Group will identify gaps, inconsistencies, and duplications in statutory authorities, policies, and regulation, and the NOC will work to reduce barriers to implementing the Policy.*

**Some comments endorsed the value of strict regional water quality and sustainable environmental waste management practices, and actions to promote them. A comprehensive approach is needed. Standards should be applied uniformly across similar industry activities.**

*Many of the regional comments refer to specific strategic action plan outlines submitted for public comment in June 2011, which were drafted to address specific priority objectives. Some of these objectives are addressed with a combination of national actions to develop the processes and tools to meet them, and regional activities that will apply those processes and tools on the ground and in the water.*

*A number of programs exist at various levels to address water quality and pollution. The draft Implementation Plan includes actions to coordinate, through existing regulatory and non-regulatory measures, protection and restoration efforts on land and in coastal areas that will enhance water quality. Actions in the Water Quality and Sustainable Practices on Land section (pp. 63-74) will develop consistent water quality standards, identify priority areas,*

*and support and implement projects between Federal, State, and local partners to improve and maintain healthy coastal watersheds.*

**Several comments called for science-based uniform standards for wastewater that are consistently and fairly applied. These standards should be based on the best available data, raise the standards for everybody, and not disadvantage local coastal communities.**

*Action 2 in the Water Quality and Sustainable Practices on Land (pp. 66-67) will enhance water quality in the ocean, along our coasts, and in the Great Lakes by reducing municipal wastewater and other urban sources of water pollution. A collaborative approach at the national level, along with targeted State, Tribal, and regional efforts, will apply national standards to reduce pollutant loadings during the near-term. Pilot projects will promote information sharing about reduction levels, improve water quality at the source and downstream, and increase economic activity in or near urban water bodies.*

**Several comments identified that reducing nutrients and sediment from regional land-based sources should be an area of focus. Increased monitoring is needed. Comments indicate trash debris, particularly plastics, is a major concern.**

*Actions 1 and 2 (pp. 65-67) in the Water Quality and Sustainable Practices on Land section address the major urban and rural sources of excessive nutrients and sediments, as well as toxics and pathogens. These actions will enhance water quality in priority watersheds through a collaborative national approach combined with targeted state and regional efforts. Action 6 (pp. 71-73) will increase research and monitoring of marine debris, to reduce its impacts through cooperative pollution prevention, reduction, and removal efforts.*

**Several comments requested action to strengthen coordination of environmental science, technology, and management of oil production and transportation to avoid unacceptable impacts on water quality and on environmental, wildlife, and human health.**

*The Federal government has a number of ongoing programs and regulations to prevent, prepare for, and mitigate oil spills. These are highlighted in the box on page 64. Agencies also coordinate with industry and international efforts. The Policy will help accelerate these programs and efforts nationally, foster greater cooperation, and help identify priorities.*

**Several comments focused on protecting and restoring ecosystem components on a regional level. An ecosystem protection and restoration plan developed by multi-stakeholders should be the basis for activity by the NOC. It should not place a disproportional burden on the viability of resource-based businesses and local coastal communities.**

*Actions in the Regional Ecosystem Protection and Restoration section address areas where improved coordination between Federal agencies and with non-Federal partners will enhance the effectiveness of conservation programs that will increase the success of these programs at the regional and local levels. Action 1 (p. 46) will institute collaborative partnerships to develop tools to identify land protection and restoration priorities for the Chesapeake Bay watershed, and make these tools available for other regions.*

**Several comments emphasized the need to build upon regional ecosystem projects that are underway across the country. The Implementation Plan should focus on sharing lessons learned, such as identifying successful restoration practices. In addition to existing coastal and Great Lakes activities, the Implementation Plan should identify ecologically important ocean areas for preservation or restoration. Some comments identified the importance of coastal ecosystems, particularly marshes, for carbon sequestration.**

*The draft Plan reflects the NOC's acknowledgement that there are many existing regional restoration and protection projects that support stewardship of the ocean, coasts, and Great Lakes, and their value to inform Federal programs. Action 2 in the Regional Ecosystem Protection and Restoration section (pp. 47-48) will enable Federal agencies to learn from and complement coastal wetland protection and restoration efforts in areas such as the Gulf of Mexico. Action 6 (pp. 51-52) will identify nationally significant ecologically and culturally areas in need of protection. Action 3 (pp. 48-49) focuses on carbon sequestration services provided by coastal habitats.*

**Several comments identified invasive species as an economic and environmental issue in many regions.**

*Action 5 in the Regional Ecosystem Protection and Restoration section (pp. 50-51) provides Federal activities to locate, control, and, where possible, eradicate invasive species in our nation's coastal and Great Lakes waters. This action is broader in scope than that proposed in the strategic action plan outline.*

**Several comments identified the rapidly changing conditions in the Arctic as warranting special focus on this region. Actions should improve forecasts of sea ice change to enable better planning for future human activities. Local coastal communities, which rely on the ocean, request research to improve understanding of the marine ecosystems and the changes that are occurring.**

*The draft Implementation Plan features a series of actions in the Changing Conditions in the Arctic section (pp. 75-84) that specifically address these comments. Actions strive to balance economic growth, community resilience, and environmental stewardship. Concern for the ability to respond to an unintentional release of oil is addressed through Action 1 on improving response management. Actions 2, 3, and 5 provide the observations and science to*

*improve understanding and support operations in the Arctic. Action 2 specifically addresses improving sea ice forecasts. These actions are linked with those in the Inform Decisions and Improve Understanding and Observations, Monitoring, and Infrastructure sections.*

**A number of comments asked for actions to address the full spectrum of activities necessary for resiliency and adaptation in the face of climate change and ocean acidification. These include forecasting impacts, integrating observations, delivering information, assessing vulnerability, developing and evaluating strategies, and implanting on the ground. It is important to define areas of high risk to climate change and to identify sentinel sites to monitor the effects of climate change. The Implementation Plan should recognize that resiliency and adaptation strategies will occur at the local level.**

*The draft Plan features a series of actions in the Resiliency and Adaptation to Climate Change and Ocean Acidification section (pp. 54-62) that specifically incorporate these comments. Actions 5 and 6 support the development and implementation of adaptation strategies that will allow vulnerable coastal communities to adapt and to increase the resilience of ecosystems, societies, and economies to climate change.*

#### OTHER AREAS OF COMMENT

**Several stakeholders recommended that the Implementation Plan should seek economic and environmental balance. This balance was not adequately emphasized in the strategic action plan outlines. The Policy must not create additional, unnecessary barriers to responsible development and use of natural resources. It should develop actions that allow managers to consider all consequences of a decision - economic, environmental, security, and social/cultural.**

*The Policy provides that Federal agencies will “ensure the protection, maintenance, and restoration of the health of ocean, coastal and Great Lakes ecosystems and resources, enhance the sustainability of ocean and coastal economies, preserve our maritime heritage, support sustainable uses and access, provide for adaptive management to enhance our understanding of and capacity to respond to climate change and ocean acidification, and coordinate with our national security and foreign policy interests”. Through a number of actions, the draft Plan clarifies that effective stewardship of our ocean, coastal, and Great Lakes ecosystems is directly tied to a strong national economy, affecting multiple sectors and thousands of jobs in many ocean, coastal, and Great Lakes communities.*

**Many comments recognized the current fiscal climate and expressed concerns about funding programs or diverting resources from existing critical programs and activities. Regions and States need resources targeted to their priority areas.**

*The Policy provides a framework for the improved application of predominantly existing budget authorities across the entire portfolio of Federal ocean and coastal activities. The Implementation Plan will help agencies to structure their ocean and coastal activities to better complement those of other agencies. Action 4 in the Coordinate and Support section (pp. 39-40) will develop a cross-cutting analysis of the Federal ocean and coastal budget to make more efficient and economical use of limited financial resources. While we cannot speak to the details of the FY 2013 Budget at this time, agencies have been instructed to prioritize the Policy in their budgets, such as [ocean.data.gov](http://ocean.data.gov).*

**Several comments raised the importance of ocean education and literacy, including integrating ocean literacy into science education guidelines, and targeting K-12 or early childhood-adult age groups. What tools will the NOC provide the next generation of leaders in terms of education about the oceans and Great Lakes? Educating the public about the pressing issues facing our oceans is vital. Recognize the value of informal education programs in raising awareness, improving the public's abilities to assess risk and trade-offs, and to make informed and responsible decisions based. The NOC should increase collaboration with its aquarium and zoo partners.**

*Actions 5 and 6 in the Inform Decisions and Improve Understanding section (pp. 23-25) focus on developing a skilled workforce and increasing ocean and coastal literacy, respectively.*

## OTHER COMMENTS

A small subset of the public comments received were outside the scope of the draft Implementation Plan or would require changes to the Executive Order or to existing legal authorities, and therefore, are not addressed in the draft Implementation Plan.

Similarly, some of the public comments addressed the Framework for Coastal and Marine Spatial Planning. Action #3 in the Coastal and Marine Spatial Planning section (pp. 90-91) requires the NOC to develop a separate CMSP Handbook. This Handbook will provide further guidance, recommendations, and information intended to support the regional planning process, identify potential ways [ocean.data.gov](http://ocean.data.gov) could enhance regional efforts, and provide more detailed information about visualization and analytical tools and their development to help compare proposed alternatives for future ocean uses. Engaging the public and stakeholders in the CMSP process is essential, and the Handbook will also provide relevant informational guidance, including how to comply with the Federal Advisory Committee Act (FACA). Such information will also assist regional planning bodies in determining how best to engage with certain groups of scientific, technical, and other experts or establish regional advisory councils, as appropriate.

While many of these comments will be addressed by the Handbook, the NOC has determined that the following comments warrant a response as they are tied to the development of the Handbook.

**The planning process must bring everyone to the table through robust public and stakeholder participation. It must provide for significant input opportunities for regional, State and local stakeholders. The process should be regionally flexible.**

*CMSP is inherently a regionally-focused effort. The regional planning body would ensure there is frequent and regular stakeholder engagement throughout all phases of the CMSP process, including development, adoption, implementation, evaluation, and adaptive management phases. To better ensure all concerns and ideas are considered, stakeholder engagement should be emphasized with those most impacted (or potentially impacted) by the planning process.*

*Considerations should also be given to ensuring inclusion of underserved communities. Regions would establish an inclusive and transparent process for stakeholder participation (or, if applicable, utilize an existing process) that ensures engagement with a representative balance of major social, cultural, economic, environmental, recreational, human health, and security interests. The draft Implementation Plan provides for the development of a CMSP Handbook, which will recognize the need for maximum flexibility among the regions, and will provide specific suggestions and recommendations to regional planning bodies to maximize these engagement and outreach efforts.*

**Planning bodies should work with existing regional bodies and structures. There should be a mechanism to get input from industries and economic user sectors.**

*Per the CMSP Framework, an essential step in the CMSP process is the requirement to engage stakeholders and the public at key steps throughout the process. This necessarily includes industries and economic user sections. Further, recognizing that many of these same stakeholders have scientific, technical, and other knowledge relevant to the development of CMS Plans, the CMSP process also requires regional planning bodies to consult with scientific, technical, and other experts. The draft Implementation Plan provides for the development of a CMSP Handbook, which will provide specific suggestions and recommendations to maximize these engagement and consultation efforts, including establishment of regional advisory committees as provided for in the Executive Order.*

**The Administration should clarify that it will not be the purpose of Regional Planning Bodies to override the duties of regional fishery management councils.**

*The Executive Order expressly provides that Federal agencies will implement NOC-certified CMS Plans consistent with existing statutory authority, including the Magnuson-Stevens Act. Regional planning bodies will be established to develop these plans. They do not have any legal*

*authority or mandate that would override the statutory or regulatory duties of any existing entity, including Regional Fishery Management Councils.*

**Several commenters advocated that a formal role for non-governmental stakeholders is needed.**

*The CMSP Framework provides that the regional planning bodies are inherently intergovernmental bodies. The Framework, however, recognizes that substantial and meaningful public and stakeholder engagement is essential to the success of CMSP. Accordingly, essential elements of the CMSP process require engagement with the public and stakeholders throughout the CMSP process, and consultation with scientific, technical, and other experts. Each region has substantial flexibility in meeting these requirements, with options ranging from formal structures such as establishment of a Federal advisory committee (identified as Regional Advisory Committees in the Executive Order) to informal engagement mechanisms. Action 3 in the Coastal and Marine Spatial Planning section (pp xx) calls for the development of a CMSP handbook, which will provide recommendations and guidance to regional planning bodies in meeting these requirements.*

## Appendix: List of Acronyms

ANSTF	Aquatic Nuisance Species Task Force
APG	Arctic Policy Group
ARC	Arctic Research Commission
ARPA	Arctic Research Policy Act of 1984
ARRT	Alaska Regional Response Team
BMP	Best management practice
BOEM	Bureau of Ocean Energy Management
BSEE	Bureau of Safety and Environmental Enforcement
CDC	Centers for Disease Control and Prevention
CEQ	White House Council on Environmental Quality
CMECS	Coastal and Marine Ecological Classification Standards
CMSP	Coastal and Marine Spatial Planning
CWRP	Corporate Wetlands Restoration Partnership
DBO	Distributed Biological Observatory
DHS	Department of Homeland Security
DNI	Director of National Intelligence
DOC	Department of Commerce
DOD	Department of Defense
DOE	Department of Energy
DOI	Department of the Interior
DOJ	Department of Justice
DOL	Department of Labor
DOS	Department of State

DOT	Department of Transportation
DPC	Domestic Policy Council
EA	Environmental Assessment
EBM	Ecosystem-based management
EEZ	Exclusive Economic Zone
EFH	Essential Fish Habitat
EIS	Environmental Impact Statement
ERMA®	Environmental Response Management Application
EPA	Environmental Protection Agency
FAA	Federal Aviation Administration
FACA	Federal Advisory Committee Act
FDA	U.S. Food and Drug Administration
FEMA	Federal Emergency Management Agency
FERC	Federal Energy Regulatory Commission
FY	Fiscal Year
GHG	Greenhouse gas
GIS	Geographic Information System
GLRI	Great Lakes Restoration Initiative
GTS	Global Telecommunications System
HAB	Harmful algal bloom
HAPC	Habitat Area of Particular Concern
HEW	Health Early Warning
HF	High frequency
HHS	Department of Health and Human Services
HSPD	Homeland Security Presidential Directive

IARPC	Interagency Arctic Research Policy Committee
IC	Interagency Committee
ICCOPR	Interagency Coordination Committee on Oil Pollution Research
IC-OCM	Interagency Committee for Ocean and Coastal Mapping
IEA	Integrated Ecosystem Assessment
IMS	Information Management System
IOOC	Interagency Ocean Observation Committee
IOOS®	Integrated Ocean Observing System
IPC	Interagency Policy Committee
IWG	Interagency Working Group
IWG-FI	Interagency Working Group on Facilities and Infrastructure
IWG-OA	Interagency Working Group on Ocean Acidification
IWG-OSS	Interagency Working Group for Ocean Social Science
IWG-OE	Interagency Working Group on Ocean Education
JCS	Joint Chiefs of Staff
LCC	Landscape Conservation Cooperative
LME	Large Marine Ecosystem
LiDAR	Light Detection and Ranging
MARAD	Maritime Administration
MF	Medium frequency
MPA	Marine protected area
MRBI	Mississippi River Basin Healthy Watersheds Initiative
NASA	National Aeronautics and Space Administration
NEC	National Economic Council
NEPA	National Environmental Policy Act

NFHP	National Fish Habitat Partnership
NFWF	National Fish and Wildlife Foundation
NGO	Non-governmental organization
NISC	National Invasive Species Council
NOAA	National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration
NOC	National Ocean Council
NOP	National Ocean Policy
NPDES	National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System
NPS	National Park Service
NRC	National Research Council
NRCS	Natural Resources Conservation Service
NRTS&T	National Response Team Science and Technology Committee
NSF	National Science Foundation
NSPD	National Security Presidential Directives
NSS	National Security Staff
OA-IWG	Ocean Acidification Interagency Working Group
OCM	Ocean and Coastal Mapping
OHMSETT	National Oil Spill Response Research & Renewable Energy Test Facility
OOI	Ocean Observations Initiative
OMB	Office of Management and Budget
ORM- IPC	Ocean Resource Management Interagency Policy Committee
OST-IPC	Ocean Science and Technology Interagency Policy Committee
OSTP	White House Office of Science and Technology Policy
OVP	Office of the Vice President
PARS	Port Access Route Studies

PSP	Puget Sound Partnership
PCW	Polar Communication and Weather
PORTS	Physical Oceanographic Real-time System
ROPs	Regional ocean and Great Lakes partnerships
SCUBA	Self contained underwater breathing apparatus
SEL	Site Evaluation List
STEM	Science, Technology, Engineering, and Mathematics
TFUS	Task Force on Unmanned Systems
UHF	Ultra high frequency
USACE	U.S. Army Corps of Engineers
USAF	U.S. Air Force
USCG	U.S. Coast Guard
USCRTF	U.S. Coral Reef Task Force
USDA	U.S. Department of Agriculture
USFS	U.S. Forest Service
USFWS	U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service
USGCRP	U.S. Global Change Research Program
USGS	U.S. Geological Survey
VHF	Very high frequency
WAMS	Waterway Analysis and Management System

Name: **Margaret Barrette**

Organization: Pacific Coast Shellfish Growers Association

Path:

Comment: attachment, via email.

February 27, 2012

Michael Weiss, Acting Director  
National Ocean Council  
722 Jackson Place, NW  
Washington, DC 20503



Re: Comments on the National Ocean Policy Draft Implementation Plan

Dear Mr. Weiss:

On behalf of the Pacific Coast Shellfish Growers Association (PCSGA) thank you and your staff for meeting with us and shellfish growers from around the country while we were in Washington DC on February 9<sup>th</sup>. Following up on that meeting we're taking this opportunity to provide you with additional written comments on the NOP Draft Implementation Plan (Plan). We appreciate the President and the National Ocean Council (NOC) creating a national plan devoted to ocean issues and your efforts to solicit input during the process from shellfish growers and other stakeholders.

The Pacific Coast Shellfish Growers Association, founded in 1930, represents shellfish growers from Alaska, Washington, Oregon, Hawaii and California who sustainably produce oysters, clams, mussels, scallops and geoduck. These dedicated individuals pride themselves not only on the quality and freshness of their shellfish but also in their role as environmental stewards, mindful of the dynamic conditions in the marine environment. PCSGA represents both private and tribal shellfishing interests and most members farm because their parents, grandparents and even great-grandparents did – demonstrating a longstanding commitment to natural resources. We ask NOC, through this process and the implementation of the Plan, to ensure that existing sustainable uses, such as shellfish aquaculture, are not impacted by new emerging uses.

Shellfish growers know that it is absolutely critical to have stakeholder input in order to achieve support for Coastal and Marine Spatial Planning. Stakeholder engagement is an effective way to educate decision makers and results in a truly “bottom-up” approach to policy development. To that end, while stakeholder engagement is noted at the bottom of page 92 as critical for the Regional Planning Bodies (RPBs) there is not an associated action in the Plan that directs RPBs to include stakeholder representation. Keeping stakeholders at arm's length and subordinate to the process fosters distrust and fear that it will be a top down process. In 2011 Washington State created the Advisory Group for Ocean Policy. This Advisory Group is to advise the interagency State Ocean Caucus on ocean policy and management issues along the state's Pacific Coast. We're currently attempting to more formally recognize the Advisory Group, and its function and relationship with marine spatial planning efforts with [pending legislation](#) in Washington State. We request that the National Ocean Policy Implementation Plan address this as well.

As we discussed with you on February 9<sup>th</sup>, we are pleased the NOP has prioritized improving efficiency of permitting of ocean, coastal, and Great Lakes uses (page 40). In particular, we are VERY pleased you have opted to address aquaculture permitting first. You will recall from our February 9<sup>th</sup> meeting, a high level of frustration from the West Coast shellfish growers over our inability to get new farms permitted. Multiple individual permit applications for new shellfish farms have been pending in the Army Corps of Engineers, Seattle District for several years. The Seattle District has not issued a single individual permit for a new commercial shellfish farm since NWP 48 first went into effect in 2007.<sup>1</sup> The District's inability to issue individual permits has halted the expansion of shellfish farming in Washington, forcing Washington companies to locate farms in other states and foreign countries to meet the tremendous demand they are experiencing for their products.

PCSGA likes that the Plan proposes to integrate the aquaculture permit review processes as well as identify and pursue efficiencies. Once again, we see value in stakeholder involvement. No one knows better the problems and inefficiencies of the permitting process than proponents who have navigated or are stuck in it. We recommend the NOC consider adding ex-officio stakeholder members to the Interagency Working Group on Aquaculture. If you are not willing to do that, we recommend you define a process that would allow the shellfish growing community to engage the Working Group to identify road blocks, inconsistencies and inefficiencies.

PCSGA also recommends this effort include an in-depth analysis of state aquaculture regulations and related environmental protection and conservation regulations with the goals of 1) eliminating redundant federal environmental reviews, requirements or permits and 2) creating a federal appreciation and recognition for state laws, rules and programs. The 2012 Army Corps Nationwide Permits have just been released. To the Corps' credit, the permit is trying to simplify permitting for shellfish aquaculture. To this point of eliminating redundant federal reviews, requirements or permits, the Corps is allowing new farms to be programmatically permitted by the NWP48 when there are adequate state or local permits already required. This is a very positive step towards the NOP's goal of achieving permit efficiencies.

Similar and parallel to this national effort to improve permitting, the [Washington State Shellfish Initiative](#) (launched December 9, 2011) is encouraging local, state and federal agencies to collaborate to develop a Model Permit Program (MPP). The Shellfish Interagency Permit Team (SIP) that is developing the MPP is currently finalizing a Business and Operations Plan which could serve as a template for the Interagency Working Group on Aquaculture, if one doesn't already exist. If you are interested, please contact Alan Bogner in Governor Gregoire's Office of Regulatory Assistance at (360) 407-6957 or [alan.bogner@ora.wa.gov](mailto:alan.bogner@ora.wa.gov).

PCSGA is very pleased to see the National Shellfish Initiative called out as a milestone under Action 2 of Inform Decisions and Improve Understanding (page 20). As mentioned above, on December 9<sup>th</sup> 2011 Washington State's Governor Gregoire and NOAA Administrator Jane Lubchenco launched the [Washington State Shellfish Initiative](#). The Washington Shellfish Initiative is a powerful partnership between the federal government, state government, Tribes,

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<sup>1</sup> The Seattle District has processed an application for a floating shellfish nursery and an application for a community shellfish farm. Those are obviously different activities than typical intertidal shellfish farming.

and the shellfish industry to promote critical clean-water commerce, elevate the role that shellfish play in keeping our marine waters healthy, and create family wage jobs. The positive press and momentum garnered by the launch of Washington's initiative is something the shellfish community is interested in repeating in other states and regions. PCSGA is prepared to assist and would appreciate anything that the NOC can do to facilitate this. During our Hill visits the week of February 6<sup>th</sup> we urged leadership from NOAA, DOC and USDA to consider jointly reaching out to Governor's and Delegates for the coastal states and regions, informing them of the National Shellfish Initiative and encouraging their participation to stimulate coastal jobs and shellfish resources. Perhaps the NOC could facilitate this outreach.

On page 20 you list the partner agencies for establishing the National Shellfish Initiative. We urge you to add EPA to this list. Clearly EPA has a role in keeping the country's waters clean. We believe they also have a role in facilitating the use of shellfish to naturally mitigate eutrophication of our coastal estuaries. After meeting with you on February 9<sup>th</sup>, we met with EPA Administrator Jackson and informed her of the opportunity presented by the National Shellfish Initiative. In addition, shellfish as a natural mitigation tool for reducing nitrogen in coastal waters should be included as a milestone in the water quality section under Action 1. An appropriate milestone might read:

Conduct a review of available filter feeding models to quantitatively evaluate the capacity of cultivated and restored shellfish to mitigate nitrogen pollution in coastal estuaries. Explore the possibility of implementing a nitrogen credit system using shellfish for pollution reduction.

Also under Action 2 of Inform Decisions and Improve Understanding, PCSGA strongly agrees that quality scientific information is critical to ensuring aquaculture is economically and ecologically sustainable. To that end we urge the NOC and its participating agencies to maintain and strengthen their commitments to funding research. USDA's ARS, NIFA and Regional Aquaculture Centers provide critical support in this regard as do their SBIR grants. NOAA's Marine Aquaculture Initiative, SBIR and Saltonstall Kennedy (SK) grants are also critical to advancing domestic aquaculture production. NOAA should be discouraged from redirecting SK funds for administrative purposes and urged to use them for aquaculture and fisheries research they are intended for.

The final milestone on page 20 calls for estimating the contribution and impacts of emerging uses including aquaculture on the economies of the communities and regions dependent on marine and coastal resources. Since this is not scheduled until 2015 we wanted to make you aware of a NOAA funded project currently being conducted by the [Pacific Shellfish Institute](#) titled: [West Coast Shellfish Aquaculture - Economic Impacts, Barriers to entry, and Opportunities for Expanded Production](#). The results of this research should be informative to your effort.

As already mentioned in our meeting on February 9<sup>th</sup>, we are pleased to see the Plan addressing ocean acidification (page 54). This is a critical issue for the shellfish industry particularly in the Pacific Northwest where we're already experiencing production problems associated with corrosive sea water upwelling off our coast. Monitoring and research have already significantly

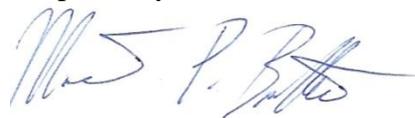
helped our industry adapt. We're fortunate that much of our production relies on hatchery produced seed and that we can dodge or manipulate corrosive sea water. The actions and milestones proposed in the NOC Plan will facilitate continued understanding and development of critical adaptation strategies.

Relative to ocean acidification, there are two activities we'd like you to be aware of for coordination with NOC Plan efforts. Under the Washington State Shellfish Initiative, Governor Gregoire and NOAA Administrator Jane Lubchenco are co-convening an Ocean Acidification Blue Ribbon Panel. The Panel will make recommendations to the Governor and Administrator, regional research groups, and other policy-makers regarding additional research and monitoring needs and actions to understand, prevent/mitigate, and adapt to acidification of Washington State marine waters. The second activity is the work of the [California Current Acidification Network \(C-CAN\)](#). This is a collaborative effort between members of the West Coast shellfish industry and scientists to explore what is causing shellfish losses on the Pacific coast, what role ocean acidification and other factors might be playing in this problem, and how to adapt to these changes in order to sustain West coast shellfish resources.

It goes without saying that the PCSGA supports and appreciates the attention the Plan puts on addressing water quality and sustainable practices on land (pages 63-77). Action 1 on page 65 calls for the reduction of rural sources of excessive nutrients, sediments, toxics, and pathogens. For shellfish growers, pathogens are perhaps our greatest concern. Ensuring pathogens are not present in our shellfish growing waters is one of most critical functions of the National Shellfish Sanitation Program and the [Interstate Shellfish Sanitation Conference](#). Unfortunately, all of the milestones listed under Action 1 are targeting nutrient pollution and not pathogens. To some extent if you eliminate the source of nutrients you will also address pathogens, but not always. In addition to agricultural runoff, pathogens are introduced from failing on-site sewage systems, pet waste, overboard discharges from vessels and shoreline recreation without adequate toilet facilities. Agriculture-related pathogens will likely be addressed with the nutrient milestones in the Plan however pathogens from these other sources may not. PCSGA requests the NOC consider specific milestones to address the sources of pathogens to shellfish growing areas.

Thank you again for meeting with us earlier this month and for considering our comments on the Plan. As an industry that totally relies on a healthy ocean and responsible planning we applaud your efforts. If and when you and/or your staff are planning to be in the Pacific Northwest please contact me so I can arrange to get you out to experience shellfish farming at its finest!

Respectfully,



Margaret Pilaro Barrette  
Executive Director

# NATIONAL OCEAN COUNCIL

Name: **Kelly Dorgan**

Organization: Scripps Institution of Oceanography

Path: [http://edit.whitehouse.gov/sites/default/files/webform/ocean\\_policy\\_plan\\_comment.pdf](http://edit.whitehouse.gov/sites/default/files/webform/ocean_policy_plan_comment.pdf)

Comment:

## Comments to National Ocean Council regarding Draft National Ocean Policy Implementation Plan

To whom it may concern:

We are writing on behalf of our marine invertebrate phylogenetics lab at Scripps Institution of Oceanography. We recently read the Draft National Ocean Policy Implementation Plan and discussed the priorities outlined in the plan.

We found the emphasis on ecosystem-based management and the focus on coordinating research across agencies to be major strengths of the plan and in general we agree with the priorities outlined in the plan. Our primary concern, however, is that ecosystem-based management requires understanding complex relationships among biotic and abiotic factors and that these relationships are in many cases poorly understood. The priority to “Inform decisions and improve understanding” does include exploratory research but seems to be focused primarily on research to inform management and facilitate development and use of economic resources. Our primary goals as scientists are to increase our knowledge of marine ecosystems, including biodiversity and the functional roles of marine organisms, and to share that knowledge, both within the scientific community and with the general public. We agree that research to inform management is critical and agree with the priority to inform decisions and improve understanding, but suggest that an additional priority to “Increase knowledge of marine ecosystems” should be added, with a focus on developing baseline surveys of biodiversity, understanding relationships between marine organisms and their environment, and fostering interdisciplinary collaborations to study the marine environment. Having a baseline understanding of ecosystems is critical in assessing the impact of disasters such as the Deepwater Horizon spill as well as longer-term stresses from climate change and anthropogenic pollutants. Only a very small fraction of the deep sea has been explored, yet fisheries are moving into deeper waters and interest in mining deep sea environments is increasing.

Also included under “Inform decisions and improve understanding” are two actions focused on education. We felt that these actions, especially action 6 to increase coastal and ocean literacy, are important enough to merit a separate priority to educate policy-makers, students, and the general public about marine ecosystems, including important ecosystem services and conservation priorities. A major benefit of incorporating ocean science into K-12 curricula is that ocean science is inherently interdisciplinary, whereas most courses for high school and even undergraduate students are taught as discrete disciplines with little opportunity for students to make connections. Given the emphasis on improving STEM education, the interdisciplinary nature of coastal and ocean science makes this field an ideal example for educating students about science and engineering, as well as social sciences such as geography and policy. The other education-related action, to “develop human capacity and the skilled workforce to conduct ocean research and manage ocean, coastal, and Great Lakes resources” is certainly important, but both federal agencies and universities have been affected by the recession and jobs in ocean sciences seem to be increasingly difficult to find. This issue should be addressed in the plan, as training more students than there are jobs once students graduate is a major problem. One suggestion we have is to develop within government agencies or to encourage within the private sector internships for recent college graduates in the ocean sciences. Many college graduates have strong science backgrounds and are interested in ocean sciences, but there are few job opportunities without an advanced degree. NOAA’s National Observer Program is a great opportunity for seasonal work experience, and this and similar programs should be

expanded and new programs developed to introduce recent college graduates to marine science.

We felt that the “coordination and support” priority is very important, and suggest that it be expanded to include university scientists as well as scientists in government agencies. As academic scientists, we have little interaction with scientists from federal, state, and local agencies, but are often working in the same environments and studying similar organisms and ecosystem processes. One suggestion to increase these interactions is to use the scientific permitting process to generate a database of scientists working in different environments on different taxonomic groups. The current scientific permitting process run by California Department of Fish and Game is all on paper rather than online and the information about who is working on different questions is not generally available. Making a database of scientists working within a region would be useful not only to the scientific community, but could be a reference for journalists, entrepreneurs, policy-makers, educators, and members of the public who have targeted questions.

Specific minor points include:

The action, “Assess the status of the Federal Oceanographic Fleet” should ideally include a plan to fund improvements, which are costly but necessary. Many of the ships are old and in need of extensive improvements, and having a US-owned icebreaker to service McMurdo Station in Antarctica should be a priority.

Under action “Strengthen interagency collaboration to protect and conserve coral reef ecosystems,” consider specifically mentioning deep/cold-water coral and sponge habitat. These animals are long-lived, provide habitat for diverse communities, and are severely impacted by trawling.

Under action, “Locate, control, and where possible, eradicate invasive species populations,” consider placing more emphasis on prevention, specifically ballast water regulation and actions to reduce/prevent transport of non-native species through shipping.

We agree with the main priorities in the plan, and we hope you will consider our suggestions in revising the plan.

Sincerely,

Kelly Dorgan, Postdoctoral researcher  
Sigrid Katz, Postdoctoral researcher  
Jenna Moore, Graduate student

Name: **Pete Stauffer**

Organization: Surfrider Foundation

Path: [http://edit.whitehouse.gov/sites/default/files/webform/surfrider\\_nop\\_actionplan\\_comments\\_final.pdf](http://edit.whitehouse.gov/sites/default/files/webform/surfrider_nop_actionplan_comments_final.pdf)

Comment:



Surfrider Foundation  
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February 27, 2012

The Honorable Nancy Sutley  
Co-Chair, National Ocean Council  
Chair, White House Council on Environmental Quality  
Executive Office of the President  
722 Jackson Place NW  
Washington, DC 20503

The Honorable John Holdren  
Co-Chair, National Ocean Council  
Director, White House Office of Science and Technology Policy  
Executive Office of the President  
722 Jackson Place NW  
Washington, DC 20503

**Re: Comments on Draft National Ocean Policy Implementation Plan**

Dear Chairs Sutley and Holdren:

The Surfrider Foundation is a grassroots environmental organization dedicated to the protection and enjoyment of the world's oceans, waves, and beaches for all people. On behalf of our 250,000 supporters, activists, and members, the Surfrider Foundation submits the following comments on the *Draft National Ocean Policy Implementation Plan*.

The Surfrider Foundation strongly supports the National Ocean Policy including the goal to “*protect, maintain, and restore the health and biological diversity of ocean, coastal, and Great Lakes ecosystems and resources.*” We believe that the National Ocean Policy provides an important and necessary framework for federal agencies to collaborate and engage states, tribes, regional alliances, local governments, non-governmental organizations, and the public in advancing ocean and coastal stewardship. As such, we appreciate your efforts to develop a draft implementation plan with specific actions for advancing the policy's objectives.

The Surfrider Foundation agrees with the National Ocean Council (NOC) that the National Ocean Policy must deliver tangible results to the American people.

While the draft plan represents just an initial step, its success will be crucial to building momentum for more robust implementation of the policy, not to mention cultivating the necessary support and funding from Congress. As such, we applaud the inclusion of milestones, timeframes, and outcomes for each identified action. We believe these metrics will help to improve agency focus and accountability for achieving successful execution of the plan. We suggest that the NOC make these benchmarks more explicit through further defining the milestones and outcomes, and providing specific dates for completion of actions.

The Surfrider Foundation also appreciates the NOC's efforts to engage stakeholders and the public in the process of developing an implementation plan. Meaningful public engagement is essential - both for leveraging ideas and feedback, as well as for building understanding and support to achieve a more durable policy. As a grassroots organization, the Surfrider Foundation has provided extensive input to the draft plan through our members' participation in listening sessions across the country and public comment opportunities. We look forward to complementing federal agency activities in the plan through on-the-ground stewardship efforts of our 80 local chapters and 250,000 supporters, activists, and members.

Please see below for Surfrider Foundation's comments on specific actions in the draft plan.

### **Ecosystem-Based Management**

The Surfrider Foundation strongly supports the NOC's decision to expand the definition of ecosystem-based management (EBM) to better reflect the importance of natural resource protection. Prioritizing environmental protection within the EBM Priority Objective is essential to meeting the goals of the National Ocean Policy, including securing the lasting stewardship of our oceans, coasts, and Great Lakes.

We believe that the actions identified in this section provide a solid pathway for advancing EBM in the next several years. However, we urge the NOC to consider the important role that non-federal agencies and authorities have to play in advancing EBM, and to include specific milestones that focus on providing federal support and coordination with these various entities.

#### ***Action 1: Establish a framework for collaboration and a shared set of goals for Federal implementation of ecosystem-based management***

The Surfrider supports Action 1 as an important step to advance EBM implementation. Such a framework should help to foster the use of EBM approaches by federal agencies within the construct of existing statutes. In addition, we hope that it will spur the development of new laws and policies to provide expanded mandates for federal implementation of EBM. However, we believe this action must also recognize the crucial role that states, tribes, and local governments have to play in ecosystem-based management. Accordingly,

we recommend that the NOC add a milestone focused on identifying ways the federal government can support state, tribal, and local efforts to implement EBM approaches.

**Action 4:** *Identify and implement place-based pilot projects that foster an EBM approach to managing ocean and coastal resources*

The Surfrider Foundation supports the use of pilot projects as a strategy for identifying ‘best practices’ and demonstrating the value of EBM. We suggest that the three pilot projects encompass a range of geographic scales, including at least one community-based project. A local-scale project will help to illustrate the importance of federal agency coordination with local governments and stakeholders, who both play such an important role in coastal and ocean management. We also recommend that the NOC include a specific milestone to collaborate with the West Coast Ecosystem-Based Management Network as part of this action. The Network is a partnership of six community-based initiatives focused on the successful implementation of ecosystem-based management (EBM) along the coasts of Washington, Oregon and California [www.westcoastebm.org/](http://www.westcoastebm.org/).

## **Coordinate and Support**

**Action 3:** *Reduce barriers to implementation of the National Ocean Policy*

The Surfrider Foundation fully supports milestone 3 of this action, which calls for potentially strengthening the Coastal Zone Management Act (CZMA). The CZMA, the overarching law designed to manage our nation’s coasts, establishes a partnership between states and the federal government to enact shared priorities for protecting and managing the nation’s coastline. The CZMA allows states to implement objectives of federal law. Another important law dealing with ocean governance is the public trust doctrine, which allows for public access to coastal resources and gives the government authority to manage the resources of these areas in trust for the public. These powerful laws should be used to obtain the objectives of the NOP implementation, including conservation and sustainable resource management. These laws can be used to help reconcile state and federal objectives, as well. The NOP has the opportunity to vary from state to state as interpretations of the CZMA and public trust doctrine typically do.

## **Resiliency and Adaption to Climate Change and Ocean Acidification**

The Surfrider Foundation agrees with the goal of reducing risk to communities from coastal storms and shoreline erosion. It is critical that state and local agencies have and understand the most current information and data in order to make proper decisions in the management of the coast. Successful adaptation to coming climate and sea level changes will depend on the availability of this information as well as proper guidance for implementing risk-reduction strategies. Historically the response to shoreline erosion threats has often

included armoring of the coast, leading to a narrowing of the public sandy beach. Pressure to continue this will only be exacerbated by predicted sea-level rise. We encourage you to provide and utilize alternative strategies that better maintain the integrity of natural systems while allowing the protection of critical public infrastructure. Overall, this section sets forward a solid foundation for addressing these critical issues in the coming years.

**Action 3:** *Provide critical projections of climate change impacts on coasts and oceans at decision-relevant scales.*

Coastal and ocean jobs trends and forecasts should be specifically delineated by industries, as each community relies on differing natural services for creating vibrant local economies (e.g. transport, tourism, energy, recreation, etc.) To that end, impacts on recreational resources have multi-layered effects, providing jobs for the communities where those resources are located, but also in the well-being and aesthetic benefit to those who undertake ocean-related recreational activities. We encourage you to provide guidance on how changing natural conditions will impact those recreational resources.

**Action 5:** *Strengthen interagency coordination on the development and provision of information, training, guidance, tools, and support for adaptation practitioners.*

The use of science “translators” is a very useful and practical method for disseminating adaptation-relevant information. We encourage you to move beyond the traditional government organizations and partner with NGO’s with strong community ties. Direct connection with organizations that understand local needs and attitudes (such as Surfrider Foundation) will provide a necessary communication “stepping stone” to be able to reach local decision-makers and practitioners.

**Action 6:** *Design, implement and evaluate adaptation strategies to reduce vulnerabilities and promote informed decisions.*

Adaptation strategies should encourage use of non-structural alternatives for erosion response. This was recently supported by Congress in reforms for USACE activities in WRDA 2007 and will likely be reiterated and clarified in upcoming Principles and Guidelines for all water-related federal activities being prepared by the administration.

Vulnerability assessments and adaptation plans should delineate between private and public infrastructure, with priorities being made for critical public utilities that most benefit the nation. Some infrastructure can be protected from rising seas and storms *in situ* but most adaptation plans that are implemented by federal and local governments should optimize the use of funds by providing greater natural buffers, relying on the “adaptive services of natural systems.” Risk can be reduced by adjusting to the changing conditions and recognizing that waterfront property has an inherent risk that should be accounted for in prioritizing where public resources are expended.

## **Water Quality and Sustainable Practices on Land**

The Surfrider Foundation strongly agrees that Water Quality and Sustainable Practices on Land should be a priority objective of the National Ocean Policy. Yet, while connecting the protection of upland watersheds with downstream coastal waters is certainly necessary to protect and restore the water quality at our beaches and in our oceans, it still represents a limited vision. The Surfrider Foundation would like to see a vision of integrated water management reflected in this section. Integrated water management should coordinate all aspects of freshwater management - how we gather and deliver freshwater, how we use it and how we dispose of it, for multiple benefits to our communities, including pollution prevention, coastal habitat restoration, securing freshwater sources, and flood protection. The draft plan emphasizes taking the pollutants out of our discharges from land to sea, but if we take a more holistic approach to protecting the natural water cycle and allow rain and the freshwater that we use to soak back into the ground, we can conserve water, revitalize coastal habitats, and keep pollutants from washing out to sea with our precious freshwater resources.

The absence of a vision for integrated water management in the draft implementation plan is an example of what the U.S. Commission on Ocean Policy and the Pew Oceans Commission referred to as “fragmented governance.” So, while we support the current language in the draft plan, we offer some suggestions that we think will improve the document both in substantive content, as well as painting a better picture of how the “pieces of the puzzle” fit together to maximize the benefits from holistic integrated water management reforms.

First, we recommend a narrative in the preamble to the section on “Water Quality and Sustainable Practices on Land” that identifies the cumulative multiple benefits of holistic urban watershed reforms, including:

- Landscape designs, both for new development and retrofitting existing development, that utilize native plant selection and healthy soils, replacement of impermeable surfaces, as well as on-site retention areas
- “Green infrastructure” implementation, including “green streets”, “green roofs” and other rainwater harvesting and/or non-point source pollution prevention
- Restoration of degraded wetlands and construction of networks of treatment wetlands

Additionally, we recommend studies that establish baseline data for pollutant loading, habitat and wildlife populations, groundwater replenishment and in-stream flows. Ongoing monitoring should document the multiple benefits of:

- Sustainable local water supplies
- Pollution prevention
- Reducing the “embedded energy” in water supply and use
- Sediment transport and natural beach replenishment
- Natural flood abatement

- Greenhouse gas emission reduction and climate change adaptation
- Economic, environmental and intrinsic quality of life benefits from holistic urban watershed restoration

**Action 2: *Reduce urban sources of excessive nutrients, sediments, toxins, and pathogens***

This action and others in the section should acknowledge the significant contribution that failing wastewater infrastructure and combined sewage overflows make in polluting coastal waters and beaches. Billions of gallons of sewage are discharged into coastal waters from overflows, leaky pipes and infrastructure malfunctions. The health, safety and economic vitality of our nation's communities depend on the infrastructure that provides clean drinking water and wastewater disposal. Many of these critical facilities, however, are aging and in dire need of replacement or repair. In order to protect water quality in coastal areas, we need to ensure that wastewater pipelines and treatment facilities meet the demands of the 21st century.

The implementation plan should identify milestones that measure the federal government's commitment to helping states and local governments address wastewater infrastructure issues through the Clean Water State Revolving Funds and other funding mechanisms. There is a \$534 billion gap between current investment in repairing and upgrading water infrastructure and projected needs over the next 20 years. We need to address this critical source of pollution in our coastal waters in order to protect water quality now and in the future.

Additionally, we recommend the inclusion of language documenting the benefits of wastewater recycling including:

- Reducing partially treated discharges to coastal streams and the ocean
- Developing beneficial uses for the concentrated effluent from wastewater recycling (e.g., bio-solid alternative fuels for electrical energy generation, etc)
- Securing local and reliable potable and non-potable water supplies
- Reducing the embedded energy in local water supply portfolios.

Further, we encourage some discussion in the plan of "de-centralizing" our wastewater treatment and recycling facilities to locate the volume of treated wastewater, as well as the desired water quality, for the diverse uses and demands in the watershed. We encourage a watershed-wide de-centralized wastewater recycling pilot program to document the benefits listed above, as well as a strategy for moving important infrastructure from the hazards of sea level rise.

**Action 3: *Minimize impacts of hypoxia***

**Action 4: *Minimize impacts of harmful algal blooms***

Actions 3 and 4 list milestones to minimize the impacts of hypoxia and harmful algal blooms. The Surfrider Foundation certainly agrees that more needs to be done to understand the causes and impacts of these events so that we can take

steps to reduce their occurrence, but the reality is that the very basic protections of the Clean Water Act are currently being eroded. Recent proposals and decisions being made by the EPA and Congress demonstrate that our government is not willing to do what is necessary to cut back on nutrient pollution and clean up our waterways. For instance, the last two funding cycles have included several proposals to specifically prohibit the EPA from enforcing or implementing numeric nutrient criteria in Florida, and the EPA itself recently passed the responsibility back to Florida to move forward with less protective standards that will not require any action to be taken until a water body is already polluted and showing stress from eutrophication.

The implementation plan should include language that stresses the importance of maintaining the basic protections of the Clean Air Act and Clean Water Act in our efforts to improve coastal water quality and better manage our ocean and Great Lake resources and ecosystems. This should be a priority.

Similarly, the implementation plan includes milestones aimed at advancing the state of science to detect microbial contamination in seafood and to develop communication tools for emerging threats to public health from exposure to water-borne pollutants and diseases. It also includes actions to increase water quality information to identify and protect high quality waters, including marine protected areas. However, the plan does not prioritize maintaining and improving water quality monitoring at recreational beaches, and Surfrider finds this to be deficient.

Just like health safety inspections for food, we rely on water quality monitoring and reporting to ensure that the water we recreate in is safe. In 2000, when the [BEACH Act](#) was passed, water quality monitoring made big advancements in setting standards and funding monitoring programs to protect public health. Since then, beach monitoring programs have been a true collaboration between federal, state and local governments, but recent proposals by the current administration and the EPA demonstrate that the federal government is not as vested in protecting our county's 90 million beach goers and the \$70 billion plus tourism and recreation-based coastal economies that they support, as it should be.

The draft revised recreational water quality criteria published by the EPA in December 2011, seem to show an agency that is intent on maintaining status quo rather than advancing the science we use to provide water quality information. While these criteria do include one specific qPCR, rapid method, EPA does not require its use, nor does it provide a clear path to facilitate implementation of this technology. The draft criteria seems to imply that a potentially lengthy period of side-by-side testing using both existing culture methods and the new rapid methods is required before rapid methods alone can be used. This imposes a financial burden on states that may preclude the use of rapid methods. EPA should further clarify the process by which states can receive approval for use of new rapid methods through simultaneous culture-

based testing. Beachgoers in the United States deserve protection based on the best available science and detection technology.

The draft criteria also relax the standards that are used to classify a water body as impaired. The EPA is recommending an exceedance rate of up to 25% of single samples be allowed before a waterbody is classified as impaired and will allow long averaging periods for water quality data that can mask pollution incidences such as short term sewage leaks or spills.

Even more distressing than the disappointing water quality criteria, is the President's recent proposal to cut all 2013 federal funding for the EPA's BEACH grant program that funds beach monitoring programs in Great Lake and coastal states across the country. Clean beaches provide revenue and valuable recreational opportunities to American citizens living in land-locked and coastal states alike, and our federal government should continue to share the responsibility for water quality testing to protect public health with state and local governments.

The Surfrider Foundation would like to see language and outcomes added to the Water Quality and Sustainable Practices on Land section of the implementation plan that demonstrate that providing critical information on the quality and safety of beach and other recreational waters is a priority of the National Ocean Policy.

Additionally, while we agree that preventing and responding to oil spills should be a priority for the NOP, we do not see any language that cautions that actions taken in response to an oil spill should not cause more harm than good. We also should not take actions with unknown risks, such as the large-scale use of chemical dispersants when their addition to the environment could potentially cause more harm to aquatic organisms than the oil itself. The overseeing federal agency should be in control of dispersant use, not a culpable oil company.

**Action 5:** *Address threats posed by toxic chemicals and land-use practices to human, environmental, and wildlife health.*

The Surfrider Foundation suggests that this action include a milestone to assess toxicity of certain marine debris items, including the leaching of toxins by plastics.

**Action 6:** *Reduce the impacts of trash and marine debris on ocean, coastal, and Great Lakes waters and associated watersheds, through cooperative efforts aimed at pollution prevention, reduction, and removal.*

The Surfrider Foundation appreciates the draft plan's acknowledgement that "[m]arine debris warrants particular attention." The Surfrider Foundation is especially thankful that the draft plan non-biodegradable plastics are an especially caustic form of marine trash.

The Surfrider Foundation urges you to develop and provide for the implementation and enforcement of a strong trash policy. Our 80 local chapters

conduct regular beach clean ups where they see plastic in the form of bags, bottles, cigarette butts, and other marine litter that degrades our beaches and the marine environment. This trash can ruin the recreational experience of enjoying a day at the beach. In addition, trash can contribute to the spread of bacteria, viruses and waterborne diseases at our beaches. The Surfrider Foundation urges the drafters to set clear, strong and meaningful trash prevention and reduction goals. The development of an insightful and enduring trash policy will be good for beach-going United States citizens and the U.S. economy and environment.

The Surfrider Foundation calls upon the drafters to prioritize the land-based side of marine debris, which accounts for up to 80% of the plastic in our oceans, with plastics comprising up to 90% of floating marine debris. For this reason, we ask that you please prioritize land-based marine debris in the near-term, including through the establishment of target reductions. The long-term goal for the marine debris strategy should be a zero waste/zero discharge strategy to fully protect our ocean resources.

The drafters should support education and outreach efforts to inform the public of the sources and harms of plastic pollution. Once the public understands the magnitude and vastness of the problem of plastic pollution, they will also be empowered to act in their individual capacity to prevent such harms. For instance, the Surfrider Foundation encourages community members to reduce the likelihood of unintentional litter by switching to reusable items, such as reusable bags, water bottles and coffee cups.

The NOP should leverage statewide efforts used to address these harms. Instances of successful local and statewide efforts to address marine debris include single-use plastic bag bans and fees, bans on expanded polystyrene foam takeout ware, fostering reusable bottles and bags, development and use of Extended Producer Responsibility concepts and tools, and development of more comprehensive waste and recycling collection at waterways.

### **Coastal and Marine Spatial Planning**

The Surfrider Foundation agrees that an increase in existing and emerging uses of our oceans and coasts is necessitating a more integrated approach to planning and management. We also believe that a national framework for coastal and marine spatial planning (CMSP) must prioritize protection of the natural ecosystem, including recreational resources, and incorporate significant opportunities for public and stakeholder engagement.

The Surfrider Foundation generally supports the Council's two preliminary national objectives, as well as the five actions identified to advance successful implementation of CMSP. We recognize that current limitations in federal funding preclude a more ambitious plan to implement CMSP in the nine regions. Further, we recognize that some significant (and misplaced) political opposition to CMSP exists in Congress and in some regions of the country. For both of these reasons, we believe the most prudent strategy to advance CMSP is to focus on

“demonstrating success” in regions and sub-regions of the nation that are ready to move forward. These include the New England and Mid-Atlantic regions and the Pacific Northwest (Oregon & Washington) sub-region.

We also would like to emphasize that successful CMSP cannot be a “top-down” process. Rather, it must provide for the meaningful engagement of states, tribes, local governments, NGOs, stakeholders, and the public. Our experience with ocean planning processes has shown that top-down ocean planning efforts generally fail due to a lack of understanding and buy-in from affected communities and stakeholders. Accordingly, we suggest that the *Handbook for Regional Coastal and Marine Spatial Planning* include significant focus on how states, tribes, and local authorities will participate in the planning process, as well as effective strategies for public and stakeholder engagement.

**Action 3: Convene regional workshops and CMSP exercises**

The Surfrider Foundation supports the organizing of regional workshops and CMSP exercises, as these may play an important role in helping regions identify key challenges, solutions, and strategies for CMSP. In order to ensure that these workshops and exercises deliver optimal benefits, we suggest that the NOC Office and the federal regional planning body co-leads identify other partners (i.e., regional governance bodies, state agencies, and NGOs) who can assist with organizing and implementing these efforts. This will help to ensure that all relevant parties are invited to participate in advance (with sufficient lead time), and that the workshops and exercises, themselves, are well designed and effective at achieving their goals.

The Surfrider Foundation appreciates the opportunity to provide these comments on behalf of our 250,000 supporters, activists, and members. The Surfrider Foundation is a non-profit grassroots organization dedicated to the protection and enjoyment of our world’s oceans, waves and beaches through a powerful activist network. For more information on the Surfrider Foundation, visit [www.surfrider.org](http://www.surfrider.org).

Sincerely,

Pete Stauffer  
Ocean Ecosystem Manager  
Surfrider Foundation

Name: **James Barnes**  
Organization: Antarctic & Southern Ocean Coalition  
Path: [http://edit.whitehouse.gov/sites/default/files/webform/asoc\\_comments\\_on\\_oceans\\_task\\_force\\_report\\_022712.pdf](http://edit.whitehouse.gov/sites/default/files/webform/asoc_comments_on_oceans_task_force_report_022712.pdf)  
Comment: February 27, 2012

Dear Chairs Sutley and Holdren and National Ocean Council Members:

ASOC is submitting comments recommending that Antarctica be included within the ambit of the plan, given US leadership in Antarctic research, environmental management and marine protection. There are ongoing efforts at the International Maritime Organization (for a Polar Code) and the Commission for the Conservation of Antarctic Marine Living Resources (CCAMLR) on a network of marine protected areas and marine reserves in the Antarctic, which is high seas. There are important legacy opportunities associated with both initiatives. Stronger, more visible US leadership internationally will be required to achieve the most successful outcomes.

Just as you have a section on Arctic challenges and opportunities, so should Antarctica be included. Antarctic science has a large role on climate change and ocean acidification, which should be mentioned in that section of the report.

As you move to finalize this plan, please consider these recommendations, and the information contained in the attached file.

Separately I will send you our detailed report on the Ross Sea that outlines the case for it being protected as a marine reserve.

Sincerely,  
Jim Barnes  
Executive Director



# Antarctic and Southern Ocean Coalition

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February 27, 2012

## **ASOC Comments on Draft National Ocean Policy Implementation Plan**

The Antarctic and Southern Ocean Coalition (ASOC) recommends that the framework and action plan for the oceans outlined in the draft apply its excellent principles to U.S. participation in Antarctic governance. The U.S. is a key player in the Antarctic Treaty System and the International Maritime Organization, two organizations with substantive responsibilities regarding the Antarctic marine environment, which is all high seas.

U.S. leadership in the science and governance of Antarctica and the Southern Ocean -- at meetings of the Antarctic Treaty Consultative Parties, CCAMLR Commission and the IMO make the region an important component in developing a unified Southern Ocean policy reflecting the new national ocean priorities.

ASOC submits that the final framework should provide an interagency mechanism for developing a plan that develops specific policies for the US to promote at meetings relevant to the Antarctic, including particularly creation of a robust network of marine protected areas and marine reserves, and development of a legally binding Polar Code that covers all vessels operating in the polar regions. ASOC and its member groups urge the U.S. to take a leadership role in moving these concepts forward.

ASOC recognizes that the consensus-based decision making of international bodies makes it more challenging to implement plans and goals. However, this makes it all the more important to identify objectives for the Antarctic region over a reasonable time frame, and an action plan to obtain those results, including consultation with scientists and other experts; analysis of data, uses, services, and impacts; and creation of a plan for NOC review. Doing so will help other Antarctic Treaty System parties formulate specific goals for relevant instruments at these meetings.