

National Ocean Policy Implementation Plan

Commercial fishing

Commercial fishing is an important part of America's history and economy, and contributes healthy local food to our country. The commercial fishing community relies on healthy coastal and ocean resources, and safe access to those resources.

The National Ocean Policy Implementation Plan identifies specific actions Federal agencies will take to spur our ocean economy, strengthen security, and improve ocean health.

Commercial fishing will continue to be managed exclusively by the relevant State and Federal fisheries managers and Regional Fishery Management Councils or Commissions.



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

- Protect, restore, or enhance 100,000 acres of wetlands, wetland-associated uplands, and high-priority coastal, upland, urban, and island habitat.
- Conduct targeted research and disseminate findings to address valuable information needs related to the direct and indirect impacts of climate change, ocean acidification, and other stressors on coastal economies, and key species, habitats, and ecosystems.

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

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

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Excerpts from the Implementation Plan:

“Commercial fishermen will be better equipped to meet our Nation’s growing demand for healthy seafood through improved science that supports increased sustainable fishing opportunity.”

“Restoration activities provide direct economic opportunities, and healthy natural systems support jobs in industries such as tourism, recreation, and commercial fishing. Agencies will coordinate to protect, restore, and enhance wetlands, coral reefs, and other high-priority ocean, coastal, and Great Lakes habitats. Agencies will also establish a National Shellfish Initiative with commercial and restoration aquaculture communities to identify ways to both responsibly maximize the commercial value of shellfish aquaculture and achieve environmental benefits such as nutrient filtration and fish habitat.”

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

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