The U.S. Interagency Ocean Policy Task Force

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“We have a stewardship responsibility to maintain healthy, resilient, and sustainable oceans, coasts and Great Lakes resources for the benefit of this and future generations.”

“To succeed in protecting the oceans, coasts and Great Lakes, the U.S. needs to act within a unifying framework under a clear national policy, including a comprehensive, ecosystem-based framework for the long term conservation and use of our resources.”
Ocean Policy Task Force (OPTF) Responsibilities

• **Within 90 Days** Develop Recommendations For:
  - A National Policy
  - A United States Framework for Policy Coordination
  - An Implementation Strategy

• **Within 180 Days** Develop:
  - A Recommended Framework for Effective Coastal and Marine Spatial Planning (CMSP)
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• Public Engagement Process
  - 38 Expert Roundtables
    ◦ Stakeholders and Interest Groups
    ◦ State, Local, and Tribal Governments
  - 6 Regional Public Meetings
    ◦ Anchorage, Alaska - August 21
    ◦ San Francisco, California - September 17
    ◦ Providence, Rhode Island - September 24
    ◦ Honolulu, Hawaii - September 29
    ◦ New Orleans, Louisiana - October 19
    ◦ Cleveland, Ohio - October 29
  - 30 & 60 day public comment periods
INTERIM REPORT OF THE INTERAGENCY OCEAN POLICY TASK FORCE

PROPOSED NATIONAL POLICY FOR THE STEWARDSHIP OF THE OCEAN, OUR COASTS, AND THE GREAT LAKES

I. Vision
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.

II. National Policy Context
The Value of the Ocean, Our Coasts, and the Great Lakes:
America is intricately connected to and directly reliant on the ocean, our coasts, and the Great Lakes. Each of us — whether living and working in the country’s heartland or along its coasts — affects and is affected by these places. Their beauty inspires us, and their bounty contributes to our national well-being and security. Nearly half of our population is located in coastal counties. Our rich and productive coastal regions and waters account for the great majority of the national economy, totaling trillions of dollars each year, and support distant communities that may not even be aware of the connection between the land and sea. Millions of visitors enjoy our Nation’s seashores each year, contributing not only to the economy, but also to personal and communal satisfaction and fulfillment. The sea is both a refuge for spiritual reflection and a powerhouse of excitement for educating students of all ages and interests.
- CEQ and OSTP would lead an interagency National Ocean Council to coordinate ocean-related issues across the Federal Government and to implement the National Ocean Policy

- Establishes Interagency Policy Committees for Ocean Resource Mgmt. and Ocean Science and Technology

- Creation of a Governance Advisory Committee of the National Ocean Council to improve coordination and collaboration with State, tribal, and local authorities, and regional governance structures
Ocean Policy Task Force - Proposed Nine Priority Objectives

How we do business:
1. Ecosystem-Based Management
2. Coastal and Marine Spatial Planning
3. Inform Decisions and Improve Understanding
4. Coordinate and Support

Areas of Special Emphasis:
1. Resiliency and Adaptation to Climate Change and Ocean Acidification
2. Regional Ecosystem Protection and Restoration
3. Water Quality and Sustainable Practices on Land
4. Changing Conditions in the Arctic
5. Ocean, Coastal, and Great Lakes Observations and Infrastructure
Definition of CMSP:
A comprehensive, adaptive, integrated, ecosystem-based, and transparent spatial planning process, based on sound science, for analyzing current and anticipated uses of ocean, coastal, and Great Lakes areas.

The CMSP Process:
Identifies areas most suitable for various types or classes of activities in order to reduce conflicts among uses, reduce environmental impacts, facilitate compatible uses, and preserve critical ecosystem services to meet economic, environmental, security, and social objectives.
Outlines 7 national goals for CMSP that link back to the National Ocean Policy goals with a focus on:

- Promoting compatibility among uses and reducing user conflicts
- Streamlining and improving the rigor and consistency of decision-making and regulatory processes
- Increasing certainty and predictability in planning

Lists 12 Guiding Principles for CMSP that include:

- Ecosystem-based management
- Stakeholder and public engagement
- Informed by best available science
- Flexibility to accommodate changing conditions (environment, science, policy, technology)
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Benefits of CMSP

- Aims to maximize benefits of existing and emerging uses while minimizing conflicts and sustaining ecosystem services
- Ensures all uses and stakeholders have ‘seat at the table’
- Creates a greater degree of certainty for investment and development
- Streamlines permitting, regulation + governance
- Makes decision-making transparent to all
Large Marine Ecosystems & Regional Planning Areas
Authority for Coastal and Marine Spatial Planning:

- Existing federal and state statutes authorize agency planning efforts and provide a legal basis to implement CMS plans within these authorities.

Development Agreement:

- An express commitment signed by agencies to work cooperatively to engage in CMSP and develop CMS plans.

Adherence and Compliance:

- Signatories would be expected to adhere to CMS plans within the limits of their statutory and regulatory authorities. If an agency deviates from the plan, it would need to provide advance notice and justification.
Essential Elements of the CMSP Process:

- Identify Regional Objectives
- Identify Existing Efforts that Should Help Shape the Plan throughout the Process
- Engage Stakeholders and the Public at Key Points throughout Process
- Consult Scientists and Other Experts
- Analyze Data, Uses, Services, and Impacts
- Develop and Evaluate Alternative Future Use Scenarios and Tradeoffs
- Prepare and Release a Draft CMS Plan with Supporting Environmental Impact Analysis Documentation for Public Comment
- Create a Final CMS Plan and Submit for National Ocean Council (NOC) Review
- Implement, Monitor, Evaluate, and Modify the NOC-certified CMS Plan
Scientific Knowledge & Data Integration, Research, Management and Access:

- Acknowledges that CMSP is fundamentally science-based and that existing scientific data and knowledge must be supplemented by additional research.

- Calls for mechanisms to identify priority research needs.

- Directs development of a national information management system with a central or regional portals to connect CMSP information.

- Nationally consistent derived data products to be developed to provide a consistent framework for regional assessments.
Ocean Policy Task Force - Interim CMSP Framework
Example of Multiple Sector Approach

Reconfiguration of Boston Traffic Separation Scheme through Stellwagen Bank NMS
FY2011 Proposed Initiatives for CMSP:

- $6.77M for NOAA capability to support CMSP
- $20M for Regional Ocean Partnership Grants
- $2M for Gulf of Mexico Elevation Pilot
- $5.4M to expedite Integrated Ecosystem Assessments
Next Steps

• 60 Day Public Comment Period on CMSP Framework Closed February 12, 2010
  
  www.whitehouse.gov/oceans

• Finalize Reports and Submit to President in Early 2010

• Presidential Action (?)