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Peter Oppenheimer joined the NOAA Office of General Counsel for International Law in May 2006. As the Senior Counselor, he leads an office that currently includes three other attorneys and a support staffer.

Before joining the NOAA GC team, Mr. Oppenheimer worked for seven years as an attorney in the Law and Policy Section of the U.S. Department of Justice's Environment and Natural Resources Division. In that role, he advised Justice Department officials on legislative and policy issues relating to oceans, vessel pollution, shipwrecks, transportation, energy, and homeland security. He was the principal Division staff attorney on all oceans policy and legislative issues, and represented the Department on several interagency committees dealing with oceans issues. Peter also participated in the development, amendment, or implementation of several multilateral environmental agreements, including the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea, the International Convention on the Control of Harmful Anti-fouling Systems on Ships, and the International Convention for the Control and Management of Ships' Ballast Water and Sediment.

Prior to his work at the Justice Department, Mr. Oppenheimer was an associate in the environmental client services group of the Washington, D.C. office of Bryan Cave, LLP for six years.

Mr. Oppenheimer is a graduate of Yale University (B.A. 1986), Yale Law School (J.D. 1992), and the Fletcher School of Law and Diplomacy (M.A. 1992). He and his wife, Stephanie, live in Alexandria, Virginia with their two young and energetic sons.