

Priorities for the Subcommittee on Integrated Management of Ocean Resources

The Subcommittee on Integrated Management of Ocean Resources seeks to identify and promote opportunities for collaboration and cooperation among federal agencies and to build partnerships among Federal, State, Tribal and local authorities, the private sector, international partners, and other interested parties. These cooperative efforts will help develop and implement management strategies that ensure continued conservation of coastal and marine habitats and living and non-living resources while also ensuring that the American public enjoys and benefits from those same resources. The Subcommittee on Integrated Management of Ocean Resources, which reports to and provides advice to the Interagency Committee on Ocean Science and Resource Management Integration, will collaborate with the Joint Subcommittee on Ocean Science and Technology to accomplish many priorities. These priorities include strengthening the use of science in resource management decisions, promoting ocean literacy, strengthening infrastructure, advancing observation and modeling capabilities, and fostering interagency partnerships. In addition, the Subcommittee on Integrated Management of Ocean Resources will coordinate with the Subcommittee on Oceans Policy (a subgroup of the National Security Council Global Environment Policy Coordinating Committee), the Interagency Committee on the Marine Transportation System, and other interagency groups with ocean, coastal, and Great Lakes responsibilities. Subcommittee on Integrated Management of Ocean Resources has identified the following work priorities as initial focus areas:

- **Support Regional and Local Collaboration.** Identify and promote opportunities for collaboration among Federal, State, Tribal, and local authorities; the private sector; international partners; and other stakeholders.

Initial Focus Areas:

- (1) Advance ocean stewardship by implementing the Cooperative Conservation Executive Order (E.O. 13352, August 26, 2004) and promoting cooperative conservation efforts;
 - (2) Foster and highlight regional collaboration efforts;
 - (3) Conduct community workshops to help improve local capacity for watershed protection;
 - (4) Identify steps to strengthen use of an ecosystem approach to making decisions related to water, land, and resource management in ways that do not erode local and State authorities and are flexible to address local conditions; and
 - (5) Identify opportunities for improvements in the application of science in collaborative efforts.
- **Facilitate Use of Ocean Science and Technology in Ocean Resource Management.** Work with the Joint Subcommittee on Ocean Science and Technology and others to foster the development and use of management tools, strategies, and information based on the best available science and technology.

Initial Focus Areas:

- (1) Collaborate with the Joint Subcommittee on Ocean Science and Technology and seek guidance from external advisory groups, including the Ocean Research and Resources Advisory Panel, facilitate a process to identify resource management research requirements and ensure that the Ocean Research Priorities Plan promotes the development of tools and data useful for resource managers.
- (2) Collaborate with the Joint Subcommittee on Ocean Science and Technology and Advisory Committee on Water Information and ensure that the National Water Quality Monitoring Network improves efficiency and serves the needs of coastal managers at all levels.
- (3) Work with the Joint Subcommittee on Ocean Science and Technology as it develops a strategy to integrate existing and future coastal observing systems of the U.S. Integrated Ocean Observing System to ensure that it serves the needs of resource managers and scientists. The Integrated Ocean Observing System contributes to the intergovernmental Global Earth Observation System of Systems.

- **Enhance Ocean, Coastal, and Great Lakes Resource Management to Improve Use and Conservation.**

Initial Focus Areas:

- (1) Identify next steps to enhance interagency coordination on use and conservation of marine resources (e.g. energy, fisheries, recreation, and transportation).
- (2) Analyze ways to improve efficiency and effectiveness of interagency ocean, coastal, and Great Lakes resource management activities and make recommendations to the Interagency Committee on Ocean Science and Resource Management Integration.
- (3) Working with the states, evaluate and recommend ways to improve water quality programs, initially focusing on programs that address the impacts of land-based sources of pollution on coastal, ocean, and Great Lakes resources, such as the Coastal Zone Management Act (CZMA) nonpoint source pollution control program.

- **Enhance Ocean Education.** Collaborating with the Joint Subcommittee on Ocean Science and Technology, identify opportunities and articulate priorities for enhancing ocean education, outreach, and capacity building.

Initial Focus Areas:

- (1) Identify public-private educational partnership opportunities to reach and engage the public.
- (2) Develop and implement a short-term strategy for coordinating Administration ocean outreach/informal education activities.