



National Ocean Policy  
Role of National System of MPAs  
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# June 12, 2009 Presidential Memo

THE WHITE HOUSE  
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MEMORANDUM FOR THE HEADS OF EXECUTIVE DEPARTMENTS AND AGENCIES

SUBJECT: NATIONAL POLICY FOR THE OCEANS, OUR COASTS,  
AND THE GREAT LAKES

The oceans, our coasts, and the Great Lakes provide jobs, food, energy resources, ecological services, recreation, and tourism opportunities, and play critical roles in our Nation's transportation, economy, and trade, as well as the global mobility of our Armed Forces and the maintenance of international peace and security. 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.

Yet, the oceans, coasts, and Great Lakes are subject to substantial pressures and face significant environmental challenges. Challenges include water pollution and degraded coastal water quality caused by industrial and commercial activities both onshore and offshore, habitat loss, fishing impacts, invasive species, disease, rising sea levels, and ocean acidification. Oceans both influence and are affected by climate change. They not only affect climate processes but they are also under stress from the impacts of climate change. Renewable energy, shipping, and aquaculture are also expected to place growing demands on ocean and Great Lakes resources. These resources therefore require protection through the numerous Federal, State, and local authorities with responsibility and jurisdiction over the oceans, coasts, and Great Lakes.

To succeed in protecting the oceans, coasts, and Great Lakes, the United States needs to act within a unifying framework under a clear national policy, including a comprehensive, ecosystem-based framework for the longterm conservation and use of our resources.

In order to better meet our Nation's stewardship responsibilities for the oceans, coasts, and Great Lakes, there is established an Interagency Ocean Policy Task Force (Task Force), to be led by the Chair of the Council on Environmental Quality. The Task Force shall be composed of senior policy-level officials from the executive departments, agencies, and offices represented on the Committee on Ocean Policy established by section 3 of Executive Order 13366 of December 17, 2004. This Task Force is not meant to duplicate that structure, but rather is intended to be a temporary entity with the following responsibilities:

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(OVER)

*"An America whose stewardship ensures that the ocean, our coasts, and the Great Lakes are healthy and resilient, safe and productive, understood and treasured so as to promote the well-being, prosperity, and security of present and future generations."*



# Interagency Ocean Policy Task Force

- Task Force to develop National Policy for stewardship of ocean, our coasts and Great Lakes, including:
  - Framework for Policy Coordination
  - Implementation Strategy
  - Framework for Effective Coastal and Marine Spatial Planning
- Ready, Set, Go! Policy in 90 days – CMSP Framework in 180 days!



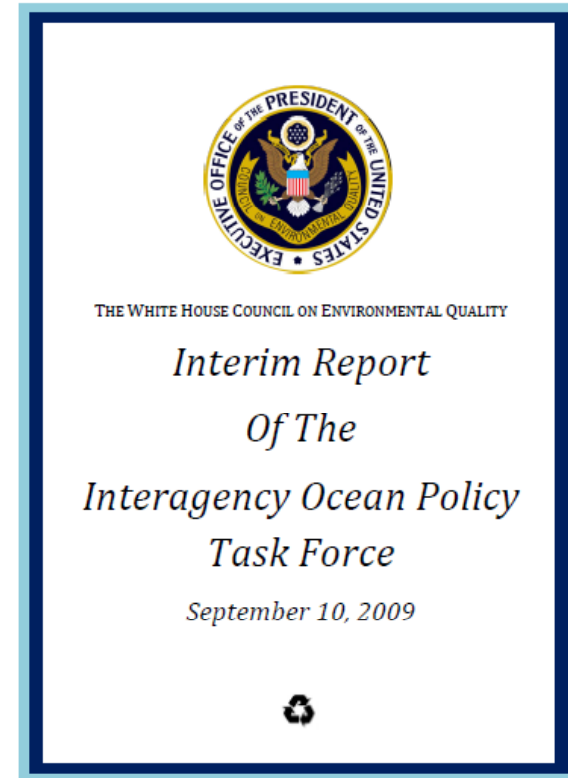
# Public Engagement Process

- 38 Expert Roundtables
  - Stakeholders and Interest Groups
  - State, Local, and Tribal Governments
- 6 Regional Public Meetings Aug – Oct '09
  - Anchorage, Alaska
  - San Francisco, California
  - Providence, Rhode Island
  - Honolulu, Hawai'i
  - New Orleans, Louisiana
  - Cleveland, Ohio
- 30 & 60 day public comment periods



# Interagency Ocean Policy Task Force Report

- How we do business:
  - Ecosystem-based management
  - Coastal and marine spatial planning
  - Inform decisions and improve understanding
  - Coordinate and support



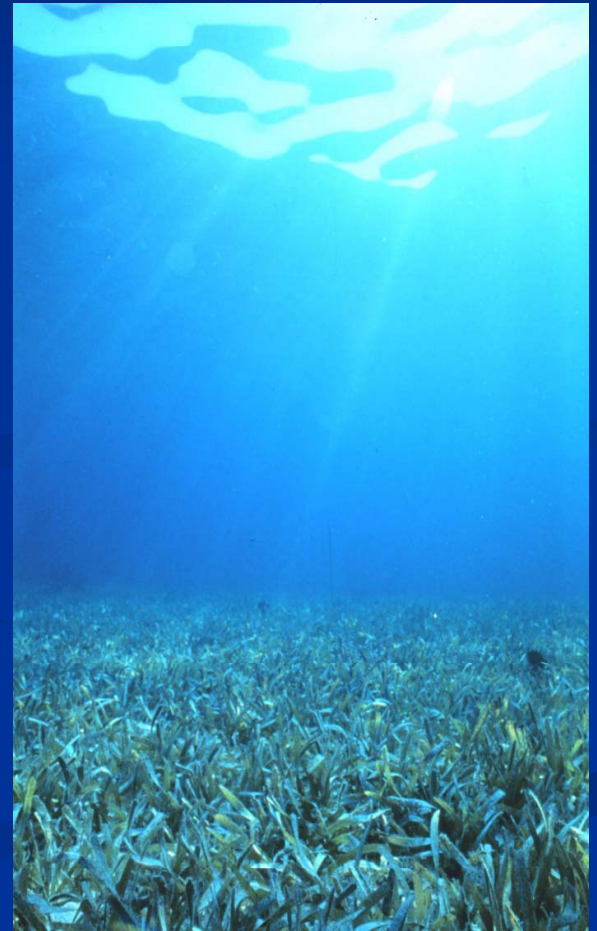
# Interagency Ocean Policy Task Force Report

- Areas of special emphasis
  - 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
  - Ocean and Great Lakes observations and infrastructure



# Past Work of MPA FAC Supports Ocean Policy Objectives

- Resilience to Climate Change
  - Gap analysis process to address ecological resilience - Apr 2009
  - Planning for climate change -Apr 2010
- Ocean and Great Lakes observations
  - Linking ocean observing systems to national system of MPAs - Dec 2008



# New Work of MPA FAC Informs Ocean Policy Objectives

- Integration of national system into Coastal/Marine Spatial Planning (CMSP)
- Protected areas/land sea interactions
- Healthy & resilient coastal communities
- Stewardship of cultural heritage





# Climate Change/Ocean Policy Priorities

- Climate Change initiatives will support ocean policy objectives
  - CEQ's Interagency National Climate Change Adaptation Strategy
  - DOI-wide climate change science, adaptation, and mitigation strategy
  - Landscape Conservation Cooperatives
  - Climate Science Centers



# Role of National System in Ocean Policy

- 225 National System MPAs (1,600 potential sites) including marine, estuarine and intertidal areas
- Scientific contributions to ecosystem-based management and cultural resource stewardship
- MPAs protect “critical ecosystem functions and services”
- Place-based conservation strategy for CMSP
- Gap analysis will inform regional adaptation to climate change
- Connects to watersheds across all 35 coastal states and territories
- Enormous recreational and economic value



# America's Great Outdoors Launched April 16

- Reconnect citizens with outdoors – especially youth
- Focus on state, local & private partners
- Science-based management to restore and protect land & waters

*"We understand what an incredible bounty that we have been given. And it's our obligation to make sure that the next generation enjoys that same bounty."*

