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## Joint Initiative Applauds New Joint Effort between U.S. and Canada on Arctic Issues

March 10, 2016 (Washington, D.C.) — The Joint Ocean Commission Initiative applauds the recently announced joint effort between the U.S. and Canada to better protect and manage a changing Arctic. The agreement addresses issues related to climate change, renewable energy, marine conservation, traditional knowledge and cultural respect in the Arctic region and includes commitments for action from both the Obama and Trudeau Administrations. This agreement demonstrates the leadership necessary to effectively manage the Arctic’s ocean and coastal resources.

“This kind of cooperation between two great Arctic nations signals hope that we can address the monumental challenges facing the Arctic, including the issue of a rapidly changing climate. Nowhere on earth are conditions changing faster, as evidenced by the retreat of Arctic sea ice resulting from climate change,” said JOCI Co-Chair Bill Ruckelshaus. The melting of Arctic sea ice will transform global shipping and transportation routes, energy production and markets, commercial fishing activities, and will significantly impact ecosystems and communities. All of this presents the United States, and other Arctic nations, with a pressing need to use collaborative and innovative approaches to effectively manage this rapidly changing region.

The need for increased intentional cooperation was echoed by Arctic leaders at the Joint Initiative’s [Arctic Ocean Leadership Roundtables](#). They emphasized that there is both a need and opportunity to strengthen diplomatic efforts and relationships across the Arctic to improve economic and living conditions for Arctic communities, improve Arctic ocean safety and security, and address the impacts of climate change. Arctic leaders also called for the United States to establish partnerships with other Arctic nations to build capacity for research, oil spill response, search and rescue, and risk analysis and mitigation efforts.

Mr. Ruckelshaus praised the agreement for “laying the groundwork for establishing a sound international management framework consistent with our responsibility for stewardship of this dynamic and ecologically sensitive region. The Joint Ocean Commission Initiative highly commends this example of leadership and action to secure the future of the Arctic and its ocean and coasts.” For more information on the Joint Ocean Commission Initiative and our work, please visit [www.jointoceancommission.org](http://www.jointoceancommission.org) or call Laura Cantral at 202-354-6444.

*The Joint Ocean Commission Initiative is a collaborative effort of the U.S. Commission on Ocean Policy and Pew Oceans Commission. The primary goal of the Joint Initiative is to accelerate the pace of change that results in meaningful ocean policy reform.*