

CONTACT:

Laura Cantral, 202-354-6444

Joint Initiative Applauds the U.S. Commitments to Protecting Our Oceans Announced at 2015 Our Ocean Conference

October 6, 2015 (Washington, D.C.) — The Joint Ocean Commission Initiative commends our nation's leaders for their demonstrated commitment to protecting our ocean resources through the series of concrete actions announced at the 2015 Our Ocean Conference in Chile. These actions represent important steps needed to protect marine ecosystems and should be implemented in conjunction with other efforts that address the wide range of challenges facing the world's oceans.

Our oceans and coasts are vital to our nation's economy and security, as well as the health and quality of life of its citizens. Yet our oceans, their resources, and the communities that depend on them are threatened by warming temperatures, rising seas, and more intense and frequent extreme weather events. The Joint Initiative has continuously urged our leaders to make meaningful progress toward protecting our oceans and our planet. The Obama Administration's recent announcements demonstrate a serious commitment to addressing the risks that our oceans face and protecting their valuable resources for generations to come.

The United States announced a number of new initiatives including the establishment of the first National Marine Sanctuaries since 2001, a substantial investment in climate change research and data collection, new efforts to combat IUU fishing and seafood fraud, commitments to address marine debris and ocean pollution, and the deployment of tsunami-sensing buoys to improve extreme weather event preparation time for coastal communities. The Joint Initiative applauds the Administration's dedication to making progress on a number of critical priorities that will improve the health, productivity, and resilience of our oceans and coasts.

The Joint Initiative will continue to encourage our nation's leaders to regard our oceans and coasts as top priorities and to show leadership in their protection and restoration. The commitments announced at the 2015 Our Ocean Conference represent significant progress toward ensuring healthy, productive, resilient ocean resources for current and future generations. We stand ready to assist the Administration in acting on these critical issues. For more information on the Joint Ocean Commission Initiative, please visit www.jointoceancommission.org or contact 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.