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Joint Initiative Hosts Gulf Coast Ocean Leadership Roundtable in New Orleans

May 5, 2016 (New Orleans, LA)—Today, the Joint Ocean Commission Initiative (Joint Initiative) will host the Gulf Coast Ocean Leadership Roundtable that brings together leaders in important sectors to identify regional approaches to major ocean challenges, generate creative solutions, and inspire state and local leadership. This Roundtable is part of a series of meetings convened by the Joint Initiative as part of its 2014-2016 strategy to engage and generate conversation around ocean policy reform at the national, regional, state and local levels. Already, the Joint Initiative hosted the West Coast Ocean Leadership Roundtable in Seattle, Washington, the East Coast Ocean Leadership Roundtable in New York and the Arctic Ocean Leadership Roundtable in Washington, DC and Fairbanks and Barrow, Alaska.

“The Gulf of Mexico is a region of critical economic, environmental, and cultural importance. From supplying a significant portion of the U.S. energy supply to a serving as a vital shipping conduit, the Gulf is immensely important to the national economy. The changing environment provides an incredible opportunity to think critically about future of the Gulf.” said Joint Initiative Co-Chair Christine Todd Whitman. “This meeting is important to better identify what works and what doesn’t and bring it to bear on the national policy conversation.”

The Gulf Coast Ocean Leadership Roundtable will bring together thought leaders, scientists, and experts from the public, private, and non-profit sectors to discuss the future of the economy and environment of the Gulf of Mexico. The discussions at the Gulf Roundtable will address how to ensure the health and productivity of the ocean and coastal areas and will focus on the following themes:

- The ocean and coastal economy
- Oil and gas development
- Mitigation and resilience
- Environmental restoration

Through this week’s discussions in New Orleans, the Joint Initiative hopes to gain an understanding of the unique challenges facing the Gulf of Mexico and generate momentum for managing change along the coastline. Following the meeting, the Joint Initiative will leverage its extensive network to amplify messages about changes facing the Gulf of Mexico to our nation’s leaders and elevate key policy and action priorities shared by diverse stakeholders.

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.