

Joint Initiative Recognizes Continued Benefits of the National Ocean Policy

June 1, 2018

On the first day of World Oceans Month and in advance of Capitol Hill Ocean Week, the [Joint Ocean Commission Initiative](#) recognizes the continued benefits that the National Ocean Policy delivers to Americans.

Without comprehensive ocean governance, the food, jobs, transportation, and recreation that oceans provide would not be secure. The Joint Initiative has always emphasized the critical need for a coordinating policy for America's oceans. The Joint Initiative's predecessors, the [U.S. Commission on Ocean Policy](#) (USCOP) and the [Pew Oceans Commission](#), both articulated a vision for comprehensive ocean governance in the United States, seeing a growing need to support stewardship, multiple use management, and science-based decision making. In 2010, the vision of the two commissions was realized through the establishment of the National Ocean Policy. In the past eight years, Americans have benefitted tremendously from the coordination, science, and stakeholder engagement that the National Ocean Policy facilitates.

Coordination

The National Ocean Policy improves coordination among federal agencies and between the federal government and state governments. It also ensures inclusion of tribal governments. This coordination is integral to America's ability to respond to the many cross-jurisdictional opportunities and challenges facing our oceans.

Science

By supporting the creation of new data products that increase ocean and coastal data availability to all stakeholders, the National Ocean Policy allows both the public and private sectors to transparently access the best-available science and information to inform decision-making.

Stakeholder Engagement

Through the implementation of the National Ocean Policy, stakeholders have gained broader access to ocean policy making. The NOP recognizes that to be effective, ocean and coastal planning must involve the full suite of stakeholders that can bring resources, information, and expertise to the table.

The National Ocean Policy fosters the stewardship, use of best-available science, multiple-use and adaptive management, coordination, participatory governance, and government efficiency that the USCOP and the Pew Commission envisioned. As the Administration confronts the multiple and growing challenges of managing our oceans, we urge them to make use of this forward-looking policy to allow present and future generations of Americans to benefit from the jobs, food, health, recreation, and overall well-being America's oceans, coasts, and Great Lakes provide. During 2018 Capitol Hill Ocean Week, please join us in recognizing the continued need for the coordination, science, and stakeholder engagement that the National Ocean Policy provides.