



CONTACT: Laura Cantral, 202-354-6444

Joint Initiative Supportive of Ocean Policy Task Force Interim Framework for Effective Coastal and Marine Spatial Planning

Statement from the Joint Ocean Commission Initiative:

December 15, 2009 (Washington, D.C.) – The Joint Ocean Commission Initiative applauds the Ocean Policy Task Force for its continued leadership and commitment to advancing healthy oceans, coasts, and Great Lakes with the release of the December 14 Interim Framework for Effective Coastal and Marine Spatial Planning.

The current laws and management responsibilities that govern our oceans, coasts, and Great Lakes are often confusing, overlapping, and even conflicting. Coastal and marine resources and communities are vital components of our economy that face increasing challenges and threats and it is imperative that we develop a coherent management framework that effectively balances conservation and economic demands to ensure their long-term sustainability and viability. Coastal and marine spatial planning offers a cooperative, integrated approach to ocean, coastal, and Great Lakes management that emphasizes the importance of a regional focus and stakeholder input, which are critical to the success of a national ocean policy.

We look forward to working with the Obama Administration as it moves toward establishing and implementing a cohesive national ocean policy that utilizes coastal and marine spatial planning as an effective tool for sustaining our oceans, coasts, and Great Lakes. For more information on the Joint Ocean Commission Initiative and our work, please visit 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.