

Interagency Ocean Policy Task Force

The oceans, our coasts, and the Great Lakes are a vital source of jobs, food, recreation, transportation, and energy resources in the United States. Yet the same oceans and coasts on which we depend are home to more than half of the Nation's population and face enormous environmental challenges. The United States needs to act within a unifying framework under a clear national policy, including a comprehensive, ecosystem-based framework for the long-term conservation and use of our resources.

In order better to meet our Nation's stewardship responsibilities for our oceans, coasts, and the Great Lakes, President Obama issued a June 12, 2009 memorandum to establish an Interagency Ocean Policy Task Force, led by the Chair of the Council on Environmental Quality (CEQ). The Task Force is composed of senior policy-level officials from federal executive departments, agencies, and offices. The President has asked the Task Force to develop the following recommendations:

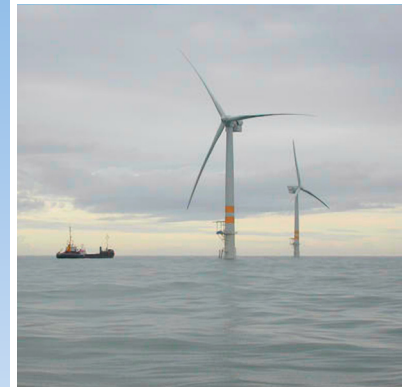
- ◆ A national policy for the ocean, our coasts and the Great Lakes;
- ◆ A framework for policy coordination to improve ocean stewardship;
- ◆ An implementation strategy to meet the objectives of the national policy; and
- ◆ A framework for coastal and marine spatial planning.

As the Task Force develops these recommendations, it builds on the extensive work of the previous U.S. Commission on Ocean Policy and the Pew Oceans Commission. These commissions benefitted from wide-spread public input. The Task Force has also engaged the public as it develops recommendations for the President. The Task Force has convened 24 expert round tables so far and is holding several regional public meetings to gather broad-based regional and public input. We want to hear from everyone with a stake in the health of our oceans, coasts and Great Lakes. The time frame for providing recommendations to the President is ambitious, but by working together we can deliver effective solutions to protect our natural resources.

We welcome your comments on the recommendations requested by President Obama, as well as on any emerging issues for ocean, coasts and the Great Lakes that you believe the Task Force should consider.



Credit: NOAA



Credit: American Wind Energy Association



Credit: NOAA



Credit: NOAA

To provide written comments to the Task Force, please visit our Web site at:
<http://www.whitehouse.gov/administration/eop/ceq/initiatives/oceans/>

Interagency Ocean Policy Task Force

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