

JOINT INITIATIVE APPLAUDS NATIONAL OCEAN POLICY IMPLEMENTATION PLAN APRIL 2013

On April 16, the National Ocean Council released the National Ocean Policy Implementation Plan. The Implementation Plan provides a solid foundation for coordination and improved management of ocean resources. The Joint Initiative Co-Chairs Bill Ruckelshaus and Norm Mineta released the following statement on behalf of the Leadership Council.

The Joint Ocean Commission Initiative Leadership Council applauds the National Ocean Council's release of its National Ocean Policy Implementation Plan. Executing this plan will improve management of our oceans, coasts, and Great Lakes and help ensure our vital ocean resources are able to support the communities, businesses and ecosystems that rely on them now and into the future. By incorporating the most advanced scientific knowledge in the field and focusing on increasing efficiency and effectiveness of governmental decision making, the National Ocean Policy Implementation Plan offers a stronger, simpler path to healthy, well-managed oceans. We appreciate the thoughtful work the National Ocean Council has done to include feedback from all sectors and we look forward to continuing to work together to improve our economy, our environment and our national security.

The National Ocean Policy Implementation Plan can be found White House website [here](#)

UPDATE OF THE OCEAN RESEARCH PRIORITIES PLAN RELEASED FEBRUARY 2013

On February 7, 2013, the Subcommittee on Ocean Science and Technology National Science and Technology Council released the updated ocean research priorities plan, Science for an Ocean Nation: An Update of the Ocean Research Priorities Plan. [The updated plan](#) recommends research priorities designed to advance our understanding of critical ocean processes and supports the National Ocean Policy, which calls for science-based decision making to manage our ocean resources. The report also addresses issues of growing importance, such as ocean acidification and rapidly changing conditions in the Arctic Ocean, that were not a focus of the original plan published in 2007.

JOINT INITIATIVE LEADERSHIP FEATURED IN SEA TECHNOLOGY JANUARY 2013

Joint Initiative Co-Chair Norm Mineta and Leadership Council member Robert Gagorian both authored articles that appeared in the January 2013 issue of Sea Technology Magazine. Mr. Mineta's article is titled "The National Ocean Policy Fosters Collaboration for Healthier Oceans" and Dr. Gagorian's article is titled "Prioritizing Ocean Sciences in A Challenging Funding Environment." [Click here](#) to view the issue and the articles.

OCEANS AND COASTS

are severely threatened, domestically and around the world. The Joint Initiative's primary goal is to accelerate the pace of change that results in meaningful ocean policy reform. The Joint Initiative brings extraordinary expertise, perspective, and diversity of interests to the ocean policy dialogue. The Joint Initiative works with people and organizations at the national, regional, state, and local levels to build durable support for ocean policy reform at all levels of decision making. Through its work the Joint Initiative seeks to expand our collective understanding of the threats facing our oceans and to enable actions that address them so that our oceans remain vibrant and healthy for current and future generations. (www.jointoceancommission.org)