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Working the National Ocean Policy and Making the National Ocean Policy Work

BY STEVE FETTER AND JAY JENSEN

EARLIER THIS YEAR, the newly minted National Ocean Council launched *Oceanography's* Ocean Policy Department with an article introducing to you President Obama's National Policy for the Stewardship of the Ocean, Our Coasts, and the Great Lakes (National Ocean Policy). In that article, Council Co-chairs, John Holdren, Director of the White House Office of Science and Technology Policy, and Nancy Sutley, Chair of the White House Council on Environmental Quality, described how the National Ocean Policy set the nation on a new course to address growing demands on ocean, coastal, and Great Lakes space and resources. The National Ocean Policy organizes a conversation with the American people about how to advance the nation's environmental, social, economic, and security interests through sustainable and productive practices. As the Deputy Co-chairs of the Council, we ask you to lend your experience and expertise to help us refine the Policy's implementation plan.

Over the past year, the Council has been turning the vision of the National Ocean Policy into reality. To assist in this endeavor, Council agencies are making their data available to the public, businesses, and stakeholders through a single, user-friendly portal, and a prototype will be open to the public later this year. Additionally, the

BOX 1 | NATIONAL OCEAN POLICY PRIORITY OBJECTIVES

1. ECOSYSTEM-BASED MANAGEMENT | Adopt ecosystem-based management as a foundational principle for the comprehensive management of the ocean, our coasts, and the Great Lakes.
2. COASTAL AND MARINE SPATIAL PLANNING | Implement comprehensive, integrated, ecosystem-based coastal and marine spatial planning and management in the United States.
3. INFORM DECISIONS AND IMPROVE UNDERSTANDING | Increase knowledge to continually inform and improve management and policy decisions and the capacity to respond to change and challenges. Better educate the public through formal and informal programs about the ocean, our coasts, and the Great Lakes.
4. COORDINATE AND SUPPORT | Better coordinate and support federal, state, tribal, local, and regional management of the ocean, our coasts, and the Great Lakes. Improve coordination and integration across the federal government, and as appropriate, engage with the international community.
5. RESILIENCY AND ADAPTATION TO CLIMATE CHANGE AND OCEAN ACIDIFICATION | Strengthen resiliency of coastal communities and marine and Great Lakes environments and their abilities to adapt to climate change impacts and ocean acidification.
6. REGIONAL ECOSYSTEM PROTECTION AND RESTORATION | Establish and implement an integrated ecosystem protection and restoration strategy that is science-based and aligns conservation and restoration goals at the federal, state, tribal, local, and regional levels.
7. WATER QUALITY AND SUSTAINABLE PRACTICES ON LAND | Enhance water quality in the ocean, along our coasts, and in the Great Lakes by promoting and implementing sustainable practices on land.
8. CHANGING CONDITIONS IN THE ARCTIC | Address environmental stewardship needs in the Arctic Ocean and adjacent coastal areas in the face of climate-induced and other environmental changes.
9. OCEAN, COASTAL, AND GREAT LAKES OBSERVATIONS, MAPPING, AND INFRASTRUCTURE | Strengthen and integrate federal and nonfederal ocean-observing systems, sensors, data-collection platforms, data management, and mapping capabilities into a national system, and integrate that system into international observation efforts.

National Institute of Environmental Health Sciences and the National Science Foundation are collaborating to support research focused on marine processes and systems with an objective to improve public health. The National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration and the Department of Energy are working together to improve understanding of meteorological phenomena that affect renewable energy technologies. With support from the National Ocean Policy, the United States worked with other Arctic nations toward establishing an Arctic ecosystem-based management framework to improve future activities and decision-making. These efforts are making early contributions toward the National Ocean Policy's commitment to using the best available science to guide decision-making.


Through a concerted and coordinated effort among the Council members and partners, policy implementation is

focused on making advances across nine priority areas (see Box 1). Taking action in these areas will bring our collective capabilities and experience to bear on the most pressing challenges facing the ocean, our coasts, and the Great Lakes.

We have compiled our approach into a single implementation plan, which presents actions and outcomes in an easy-to-understand compendium so readers can see the path for improving the health of our nation's people, economy, and natural resources. With a bias toward action, this plan has been developed and will be implemented through collaboration and transparency.

We expect to release the draft implementation plan for public comment in early January. We also will hold public listening sessions and targeted stakeholder engagement opportunities to get input from everyone who wants to contribute toward refining the plan. We very much want to hear

from you. We will update the plan on a regular basis, and we rely on continual engagement with the ocean community to keep us on the best and most informed course possible.

Please visit the Council's website at <http://www.whitehouse.gov/oceans> to review and comment on the draft implementation plan and see information on listening sessions and other activities we are planning to ensure the National Ocean Policy is working for our nation. 

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Breaking Waves CALL FOR MANUSCRIPTS

Breaking Waves provides an outlet for short papers describing novel approaches to multidisciplinary problems in oceanography. These provocative papers will present findings that are synthetic by design, and have the potential to move the field of oceanography forward or in new directions.

Papers should be written in a style that is both concise and accessible to a broad readership. While these papers should be thought-provoking for the professional oceanographer, they should also be written in a manner that is engaging for the educated non-professional. As in other sections of *Oceanography*, we encourage the use of color photographs and figures to help illustrate a paper's main points and add to its aesthetic appeal. Consistent with our effort to publish papers on rapidly advancing topics in oceanography, all submissions to the *Breaking Waves* section will

be given a special fast-track in the peer-review and publishing process. Our goal will be to publish papers no more than two issues (i.e., six months) after their submission.

The Associate Editor overseeing *Breaking Waves* manuscripts is Charles H. Greene (chg2@cornell.edu), Department of Earth and Atmospheric Sciences, Cornell University. Authors should submit a brief email message to the Associate Editor outlining their ideas for papers prior to actual manuscript preparation. This step will ensure that authors receive appropriate feedback prior to investing their time and energy in preparing manuscripts that may be unsuitable for publication in this forum. Correspondence with the Associate Editor and submission of manuscripts should be done electronically whenever possible. File formats for text, figures, and photographs must be consistent with existing style guidelines for *Oceanography*.