

National Ocean Policy Implementation Plan

Agenda Item C.4.a

Marine planning Attachment 2

June 2013

The Implementation Plan supports voluntary regional marine planning, which brings together ocean users to share information to plan how we use and sustain ocean resources.

Marine planning is a science-based tool that regions can use to address specific ocean management challenges and advance their economic development and conservation objectives. It builds on and complements existing programs, partnerships, and initiatives, and engages stakeholders and the public.



Regions that choose to move forward will define the scope, scale and content of their efforts in accordance with their needs, interests, and capacities. Neither the National Ocean Policy nor marine planning creates or changes regulations or authorities.

Examples of effective marine planning in action include:

- Oregon has mapped resources and commercial and recreational uses to identify gaps in information and to avoid potential conflicts for wave energy;
- After finding overlap between migration routes for critically endangered right whales and shipping lanes, Massachusetts shifted the lanes to avoid dangerous and costly ship strikes; and
- Rhode Island has identified key resources and uses, like fishing and military needs, so that offshore wind energy can be sited in the best places with the least conflict.



The vision of the National Ocean Policy is an America whose stewardship ensures that the ocean, our coasts, and the Great Lakes are healthy and resilient, safe and productive, and understood and treasured so as to promote the well-being, prosperity, and security of present and future generations.

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Marine planning

Excerpts from the Implementation Plan:

“The scope, scale, and content of marine planning will be defined by the regions themselves, to solve problems that regions care about in ways that reflect their unique interests, capacity to participate, and ways of doing business.”

“Marine planning should build on and complement existing programs, partnerships, and initiatives. The intent is to ensure that a region can develop an approach that it determines works best. This approach balances regional and national interests and recognizes that actions commensurate with regional interests and capacities will provide the most immediate regional benefits. Knowledge and experience will build over time and contribute to achieving national objectives.”

“Robust stakeholder engagement and public participation are essential to ensure that actions are based on a full understanding of the range of interests and interactions that occur in each region. Consultation with scientists, technical experts, the business community, and those with traditional knowledge is a foundation of marine planning.”

The Appendix of the National Ocean Policy Implementation Plan lists the specific actions Federal agencies have committed to take.

The Implementation Plan and Appendix are available online at www.whitehouse.gov/oceans.