

# National Ocean Policy

## Priorities in the Arctic

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November 10, 2010

# Enacting the New U.S. National Ocean Policy

## Why:

Result of the Final Recommendations of an Interagency Ocean Policy Task Force charged with developing recommendations to enhance our ability to maintain healthy, resilient, and sustainable ocean, coasts, and Great Lakes resources

## When:

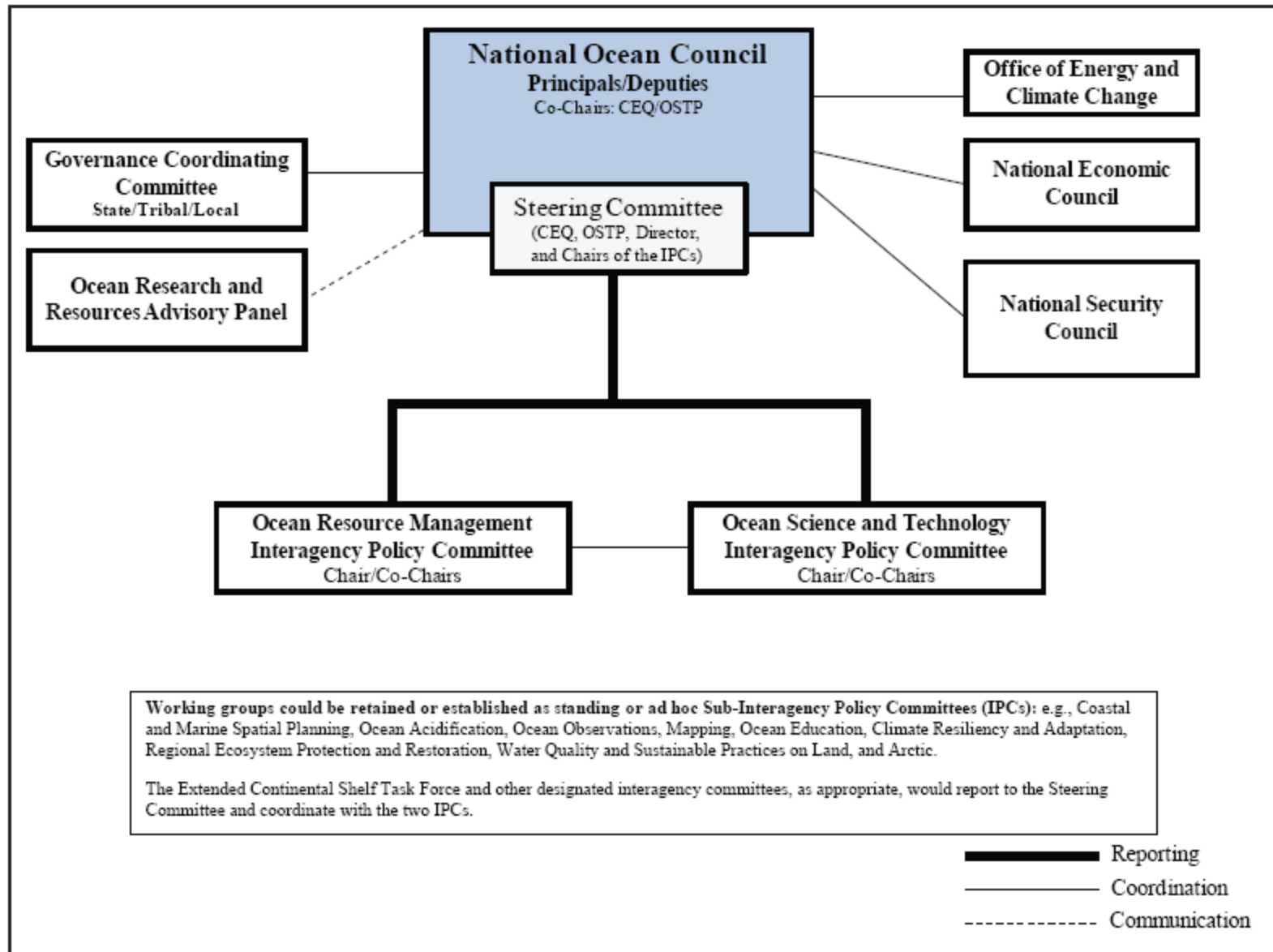
July 19, 2010 – President Obama signed Executive Order 13547 (EO) for “Stewardship of the Ocean, Our Coasts, and the Great Lakes”

# Implementing Policy

## The Executive Order 13547:

- adopts the Final Recommendations of the Task Force into Policy including the National Priority Objectives
- establishes the National Ocean Council to oversee policy objectives
  - co-Chaired by the Chair of the Center for Environmental Quality and the Director for the Office of Science and Technology Policy
- establishes the Governance Coordinating Committee

# Policy Coordination Framework



# Governance Coordinating Committee

The GCC will consist of eighteen (18) members from States, federally-recognized tribes, and local governments.

Members are chosen by the NOC to serve for staggered one- or two-year terms and include:

- One representative each from the six regions, Alaska, the Pacific Islands, and the Caribbean;
- Two at-large representatives from inland States;
- One State legislative representative;
- Three at-large tribal representatives; and
- Three local government representatives from coastal States.

# U.S. Extended Continental Shelf Project

- ECS Task Forces formerly established in 2007
- The Final Recommendations set for that the ECS Task Force reports to the NOC Steering Committee
- Purpose is to determine the true extent of the U.S. ECS for purposes of natural resources, national security and economic prosperity

# National Priority Objectives

## *How We Do Business*

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.

# National Priority Objectives

## *Areas of Special Emphasis*

- 1. 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.
- 2. 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.
- 3. 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.
- 4. 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.
- 5. Ocean, Coastal, and Great Lakes Observations, Mapping, and Infrastructure:** Strengthen and integrate Federal and non-Federal ocean observing systems, sensors, data collection platforms, data management, and mapping capabilities into a national system and integrate that system into international observation efforts.



# Coastal and Marine Spatial Planning

1. Support sustainable, safe, secure, efficient, and productive uses of the ocean, our coasts, and the Great Lakes, including those that contribute to the economy, commerce, recreation, conservation, homeland and national security, human health, safety, and welfare;
2. Protect, maintain, and restore the Nation's ocean, coastal, and Great Lakes resources and ensure resilient ecosystems and their ability to provide sustained delivery of ecosystem services;
3. Provide for and maintain public access to the ocean, coasts, and Great Lakes;
4. Promote compatibility among uses and reduce user conflicts and environmental impacts;
5. Improve the rigor, coherence, efficiency, and consistency of decision-making and regulatory processes;
6. Increase certainty and predictability in planning for and implementing new investments for ocean, coastal, and Great Lakes uses; and
7. Enhance interagency, intergovernmental, and international communication and collaboration.