



Ocean Policy Committee Meeting Summary August 1, 2018

Background: On June 19, 2018, President Trump signed [Executive Order 13840](#) titled, “Ocean Policy To Advance the Economic, Security, and Environmental Interests of the United States.” Executive Order (EO) 13840 established the Ocean Policy Committee (OPC), co-chaired by the Council on Environmental Quality (CEQ) and the Office of Science and Technology Policy (OSTP), to streamline Federal agency coordination on matters involving the ocean, coastal, and Great Lakes waters of the United States. The OPC convened its first meeting on August 1, 2018, and a summary of the actions taken at the meeting is provided below.

➤ **Establishment of OPC Subcommittees**

The OPC established two subcommittees, including the Ocean Resource Management (ORM) and the Ocean Science and Technology (OST) subcommittees. These subcommittees were established pursuant to Section 4(b) of EO 13840.

The ORM subcommittee will address regulatory and policy coordination associated with ocean management, including through engagement with regional ocean partnerships (ROPs) and stakeholders. This will include addressing data and information needs, and other ocean-related matters that may require interagency or intergovernmental solutions. Engaging and collaborating with stakeholders, including ROPs, to address ocean-related matters that may require interagency or intergovernmental solutions is addressed in Section 5(b) of EO 13840.

The OST subcommittee, whose functions will be performed by the existing National Science and Technology Council (NSTC) Subcommittee on Ocean Science and Technology, will address research and technology issues across agencies. This will include identifying priority ocean research and technology needs, participating as appropriate in the work of the National Oceanographic Partnership Program (NOPP), and supporting research and technology collaboration among the agencies and departments represented on the OPC.

➤ **Increasing Public Access to Ocean-Related Data and Information**

The OPC tasked the ORM subcommittee to coordinate the timely public release of unclassified ocean-related data and other information. Given the importance of timely, accurate data, the OPC directed the ORM subcommittee to conduct outreach to stakeholders, such as ROPs, to identify local and regional data needs, and to develop recommendations to streamline the release of unclassified Federal data that addresses key regional data needs. The data will be provided to the public through the Marine Cadastre, which is a common

information management system that facilitates the sharing of ocean data and serves as a platform to expand public access to ocean-related data. Information relating to this data tool is available at <https://marinecadastre.gov/>. The release of ocean-related Federal data and information is addressed in Section 5(c) of EO 13840.

➤ **Identifying Priority Research & Technology Needs**

The OPC also tasked the OST subcommittee with identifying priority research and technology needs for Federal agencies, in order to facilitate the use of science in the establishment of policy, and to facilitate the collection, development, dissemination and exchange of information between agencies on ocean-related matters. The subcommittee will develop a recommended list of priority research and technology needs and propose a related implementation plan. This effort will complement the NSTC report *Science and Technology for America's Ocean: A Decadal Vision*, a longer-term Federal priority document currently under public review. The identification of priority research and technology needs is addressed in Section 5(d) of EO 13840.

➤ **Facilitating Federal Participation in the National Oceanographic Partnership Program**

The OPC also agreed to coordinate and support Federal agency participation in the NOPP to maximize the effectiveness of agency investments in ocean research and to leverage collaborations with academia and the private sector. The OPC members will work with the NOPP to conduct outreach to stakeholders and to develop recommendations for Federal agency engagement. The NOPP was established by Congress in 1997 and for over 20 years has been the primary mechanism by which Federal agencies, academia, and private sector organizations conducting ocean research have partnered to further promote national security, economic development, quality of life, and science education. Information relating to the NOPP is available at <http://www.nopp.org/>. The facilitation of Federal participation in the NOPP is addressed in Section 5(e) of EO 13840.

➤ **Interagency Coordination: Proposals and Opportunities**

Members of the OPC also discussed potential opportunities for interagency coordination. In particular, the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) presented on potential actions to promote domestic aquaculture. Additionally, members of the OPC discussed the importance of addressing marine debris issues and related pending legislation.

➤ **Next Steps**

The subcommittees will work with the OPC co-chairs and staff, the OPC member agencies, and the NOPP, to pursue the actions described above. The OPC expects to convene its next meeting in early December.

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