



Executive Office of the President
Council on Environmental Quality



Executive Office of the President
Office of Science and Technology Policy

THE WHITE HOUSE

Office of Science and Technology Policy and Council on Environmental Quality

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

June 11, 2020

Contact: (Daniel.J.Schneider@ceq.eop.gov)
(Jordan.C.Hunter@ostp.eop.gov)

Ocean Policy Committee Delivers on Strategies and Recommendations to Advance Ocean Exploration

White House OSTP and CEQ Release Three Documents to Improve Understanding of the United States' Exclusive Economic Zone

Washington, D.C. – The White House Office of Science and Technology Policy (OSTP) Director Dr. Kelvin Droegemeier and the White House Council on Environmental Quality (CEQ) Chairman Mary Neumayr, as Co-chairs of the Ocean Policy Committee (OPC), today announced the release of strategies and recommendations to advance ocean exploration. The documents were developed pursuant to the November 19, 2019, [Presidential Memorandum](#) directing Federal agencies to develop [a National strategy](#) to map the Exclusive Economic Zone (EEZ) of the United States, [a strategy](#) to map the Alaskan coastline and [recommendations](#) to streamline permitting for ocean exploration and research.

“There is so much yet to be discovered in our vast oceans. Understanding the untapped potential of our oceans and coastlines, the Trump Administration is dedicated to further mapping and studying the United States’ EEZ to support the conservation, management, and balanced use of our ocean resources. With more knowledge of this great asset we are sure to harness groundbreaking science, innovative technologies, and lasting partnerships that will benefit our Nation,” **Dr. Kelvin Droegemeier, Director of OSTP.**

“In recognition of the foundational role our ocean has to our Nation’s economy, security, global competitiveness, and well-being, one of the many areas where President Trump has taken bold action is Federal ocean policy,” said **Mary Neumayr, Chairman of CEQ.** “Further mapping and exploring the U.S. EEZ and Alaska coast, and developing efficient permitting processes for ocean research and exploration activities, will improve our economic competitiveness, strengthen our national security, protect our environment, and promote continued prosperity.”

“Cutting-edge science, new technologies, and expanded public-private partnerships will help unlock the vast potential of our oceans through increased ocean exploration, characterization and mapping, and the Administration is in the forefront of these efforts. NOAA has been America’s premier ocean science agency for 50 years, and these strategies will help advance America’s ocean interests as we look forward to another 50 years of science, service and stewardship,” **said retired Navy Rear Adm. Tim Gallaudet, Ph.D., assistant secretary of commerce for oceans and atmosphere and deputy NOAA administrator.**

“The United States ocean agencies such as NSF, NOAA, NASA, the United States Navy, among many others, are at the ready to demonstrate global leadership creating new ocean knowledge, by the application of new technologies that allow us to explore the underexplored ocean environment and make fundamental ocean discoveries. Mapping, exploring, and characterizing the ocean and coastal shoreline advances scientific understanding, safeguards the Nation’s economic prosperity, and promotes the health and security of our people,” noted **Dr. Fleming Crim, Chief Operating Officer of the National Science Foundation.**

“The USGS is proud to be an interagency partner in the efforts to increase American exploration of our planet’s oceans,” **said U.S. Geological Survey director Dr. Jim Reilly.** “We have a long history of providing science expertise on marine geology, and geological processes to better understand the hazard and resource potential of the Nation’s submerged lands. The strategic vision put forward by the Ocean Policy Committee is an important step forward in advancing ocean exploration, and the USGS stands ready to collaborate with our federal and state partners to execute that vision.”

“The U.S. Navy’s role in ocean sciences has never been more important to the country’s and to the world’s well-being. The re-invigoration of Navy’s partnership with academia under Task Force Ocean is fully underway and couples Navy-relevant science with that of other federal ocean science agencies” **said Dr. Tom Drake, Head of the Ocean Battlespace and Expeditionary Access Department at the Office of Naval Research.**

“The Navy’s leading role in the scientific understanding of the world’s oceans has sparked new commercial interests and a growing desire for public-private partnerships. The National Oceanographic Partnership Program (NOPP), managed by the Office of Naval Research, is not only focused on the undersea realm,” **Drake said.** “Recent NOPP partnerships are developing CubeSat payloads to explore ocean phenomena from space in partnerships with industry, academia and government.”

STRATEGIES AND RECOMMENDATIONS:

- **[ESTABLISHING A NATIONAL STRATEGY FOR MAPPING, EXPLORING, AND CHARACTERIZING THE U.S. EXCLUSIVE ECONOMIC ZONE:](#)** The OPC has developed a National strategy in coordination with the National

Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) to coordinate interagency mapping and exploration activities for the U.S. EEZ, develop new and emerging science and mapping technologies, build public and private partnerships, and complete mapping of the deep water of the U.S. EEZ by 2030 and the near shore by 2040.

- **[MAPPING THE COAST OF ALASKA:](#)** NOAA, the State of Alaska, and Alaska Mapping Executive Committee have developed a 10-year strategy for mapping the Arctic and Sub-Arctic Shoreline and Nearshore of Alaska.
- **[PROMOTING EFFICIENT PERMITTING:](#)** The OPC has developed recommendations to increase the efficiency of the permitting processes for ocean research, mapping and characterization activities across Federal agencies.

For a fact sheet on the strategies and recommendations, click [HERE](#).

###