

# Ocean Policy Committee Update For the Northeast Regional Ocean Council

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# Summary (<https://www.noaa.gov/interagency-ocean-policy>)

- Support for regional coastal and ocean management
- Develop ocean-climate solutions to mitigate for and adapt to climate change
- Connect investment in and application of applied ocean science and technology to management needs
- Advance sustainable ocean economies



# Support for Regions

- Focus on support for regions increasingly reflected in policy and budgets
- Ocean Policy Committee (OPC) authorizing legislation directs engagement and support for regions
- Immediate example is \$56m/5 years in the IIJA
- OPC will build on NE, Mid-A, and other sources for lessons learned and engagement practices and data portals as national models



# Develop Ocean-Climate solutions

- Green shipping, blue carbon, and ocean renewables provide significant potential emissions reductions
- Other actions ongoing or under development provide adaptation benefits (coastal resilience, fisheries, other)
- OPC will coordinate development of ocean-climate action plan that builds on agency actions and timelines



# Applied Ocean Science and Technology

- Focus on “use-inspired” S&T as opportunity to advance regional management (wind/resource interactions, for ex)
- Strong support for agency engagement and private sector/regional partnerships in National Oceanographic Partnership Program
- Connect regionally identified needs with agency investment in NOPP projects: focus on communicating regional S&T priorities to OPC



# National Strategy for a Sustainable Ocean Economy

- In November, U.S. joined the High Level Panel for a Sustainable Ocean Economy
- Key commitment is to develop a plan to sustainably manage the U.S. EEZ
- To guide the plan, OPC will consult with Tribes, and collaborate with ocean stakeholders and key regional entities – ROPs, FMCs, R/As, others – to develop a National Strategy
- OPC will solicit comment and engage this spring/summer in regional conversations to help scope the approach that advances regional interests



# National Strategy for a Sustainable Ocean Economy

- Actions the U.S. are taking and/or will take towards achieving a sustainable ocean economy – advancing regional interests a key component
- ‘Sustainable ocean economy’ described by themes of ocean health, wealth, knowledge, equity, and finance, and associated outcomes:
  - ***Sustainable Ocean Energy***: Ocean-based renewable energy is fast-growing and on the path to becoming a leading source of energy for the world.
  - ***Sustainable New Ocean Industries***: Innovation and investments in new ocean industries have boosted environmentally responsible and inclusive economic growth.
  - ***Protect and Restore Marine and Coastal Ecosystems***: Marine and coastal ecosystems are healthy, resilient and productive, and nature-based solutions are key elements in developing coastal infrastructure.



# Use the National Strategy to Advance Regional Interests

- What are the key issues associated with NROC's vision of a sustainable ocean economy, what does NROC want to accomplish, and what does it need to do so?
- Don't need a grand regional 'sustainable ocean economy' visioning exercise: regions and regional entities already define the terms through their priorities and actions
- NROC can leverage its ocean and coastal management experience, priorities, and current workplans and use the National Strategy to highlight and drive needed action to help accomplish its objectives





# Discussion



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