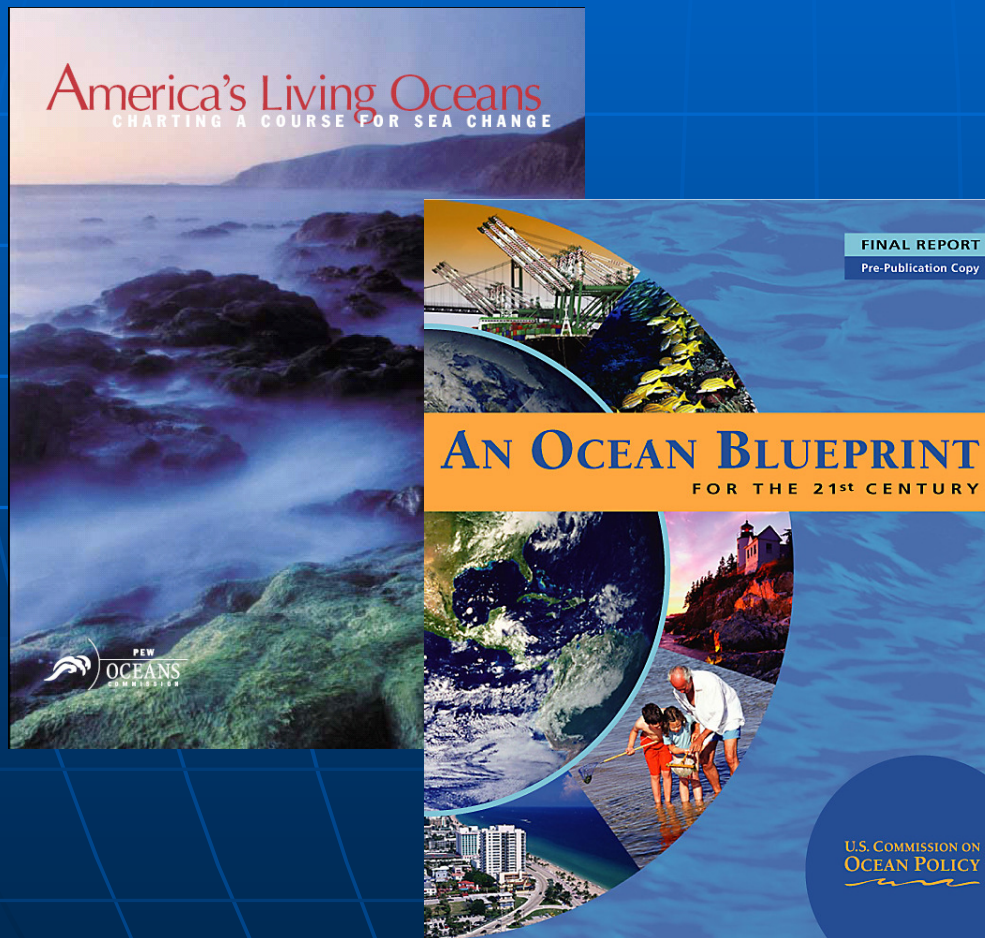


Joint Ocean Commission Initiative



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Overview

- What is the Joint Ocean Commission Initiative?
- What are the Initiative's current priorities?
- How might the Joint Initiative and the Coastal States Organization collaborate to promote common or complementary priorities?

Context

Steps leading to creation of Joint Ocean Commission Initiative

- Pew Oceans Commission 2003
- U.S. Commission on Ocean Policy 2004
- President's U.S. Ocean Action Plan 2004
- Joint Ocean Commission Initiative 2005

Joint Ocean Commission Initiative

- Led by the Hon. Leon Panetta and Admiral James Watkins
- Guided by a ten-member Task Force (five from each Commission)
- Initial funding from Packard Foundation
- Meridian Institute coordinates the design and implementation and serves as the secretariat

Joint Ocean Commission Initiative

- To accelerate the pace of change toward meaningful ocean and coastal policy reform at all levels of government
- Building upon the consensus processes, diverse membership, and outcomes of the two Commissions

Joint Ocean Commission Initiative

- Broaden the base of involved parties and build awareness of the importance of ocean policy reform
- Identify, engage in, and help catalyze action on local, state, and regional ocean-related initiatives.
- Facilitate ocean policy reform at the national level. Current priority issues for the Initiative
 - Governance reform (national and regional)
 - Fisheries management reform
 - Funding for ocean management and science
 - U.S. accession to UN Convention on the Law of the Sea

Joint Ocean Commission Initiative Engagement in States and Regions

- Goal of the Joint Initiative is to seek involvement in states and regions where its presence brings “value added” to existing or potential efforts, e.g.,
 - Gulf of Mexico
 - California/West Coast
 - Mid-Atlantic
 - Northeast

Ways the Initiative can bring value added include:

- Active presence and participation by Commissions' chairs and by commissioners in a particular region
- Monitor what's going on in different regions to communicate and help heighten awareness and visibility
- Convening and facilitating workshops or other forums to discuss the Commissions' recommendations and how adapt them to state/regional needs
- Network—help increase communication and exchange among people active in regions

Opportunities for the Joint Initiative and CSO to Collaborate

- Working in regions and states as suggested above
- Coordinating activities as appropriate regarding Hill visits, public forums, etc. (e.g., March and June in DC)
- Developing common messages—broad messages that we can all embrace and deliver to amplify the drumbeat for key issues (e.g. funding)

For More Information

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- The Pew Oceans Commission: www.pewoceans.org
- The U.S. Ocean Action Plan: <http://ocean.ceq.gov>