

Department of the Interior Departmental Manual

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Chapter 2: Senior Ocean Policy Team

Originating Office: Office of the Assistant Secretary – Insular and International Affairs

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2.1 Purpose. This chapter provides policy guidance and describes the responsibilities of the Department’s Senior Ocean Policy Team.

2.2 Scope. The policy in this chapter applies to all activities of the Senior Ocean Policy Team and its collaborative efforts among the Department’s Bureaus/offices.

2.3 Policy. It is the policy of the Department to enhance collaborative and coordinated efforts among ocean and coastal-related programs in all Bureaus to support stewardship, conservation, and management of our nation’s ocean and coastal resources.

2.4 Authority. Executive Order 13840, Executive Order Regarding the Ocean Policy to Advance the Economic, Security, and Environmental Interests of the United States, signed on June 19, 2018 (EO 13840), establishes a national ocean policy and directs implementation of that policy under the guidance of the Ocean Policy Committee.

2.5 Definition. Ocean and coasts mean the ocean, Great Lakes, coasts of the United States (including its territories and possessions), and related seabed, subsoil, and natural resources.

2.6 Policy and Program Oversight.

A. Assistant Secretary – Insular and International Affairs provides policy and program oversight and directs the collaborative and coordinated efforts related to the Department’s ocean and coastal activities, and provides for:

(1) Managing and overseeing activities and developing policies related to ocean and coastal programs.

(2) Serving as the Department’s principal official for ocean and coastal-related initiatives.

(3) Ensuring that the Department is represented at the appropriate level on the Ocean Policy Committee, the Ocean Resource Management Subcommittee, the Ocean Science and Technology Subcommittee, and other intergovernmental committees.

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B. Ocean, Great Lakes, and Coastal Program Coordinator is responsible for the following:

- (1) Facilitating collaborative efforts and assisting Bureaus in implementing EO 13840 and recommendations made by the Senior Ocean Policy Team.
- (2) Developing long-term partnership initiatives and cross-Bureau budget initiatives.
- (3) Working with the Office of Budget, Office of Communications, and Office of Congressional and Legislative Affairs on congressional and public outreach.
- (4) Coordinating the Department's Senior Ocean Policy Team.
- (5) Ensuring that ocean and coastal-related initiatives are communicated effectively to key audiences by the Department's Bureaus/offices in order to strengthen the stewardship of America's ocean and coastal resources.

2.7 Senior Ocean Policy Team. The Department's Senior Ocean Policy Team, chaired by the Assistant Secretary – Insular and International Affairs, coordinates with the Ocean Policy Committee and its subordinate committees and facilitates implementation of EO 13840 within the Department.

A. Membership. The Senior Ocean Policy Team includes representatives from Bureaus/offices that have ocean and coastal responsibilities. Representatives include but are not limited to the following:

- (1) Office of the Secretary - Deputy Assistant Secretary – Policy and Environmental Management; Director, Office of Budget; Director, Office of Congressional and Legislative Affairs; and Director, Office of Communications.
- (2) Water and Science - Deputy Assistant Secretary – Water and Science; Deputy Director, U.S. Geological Survey; Associate Director for Natural Hazards, U.S. Geological Survey; and Regional Executive, Pacific Northwest, U.S. Geological Survey.
- (3) Fish, Wildlife, and Parks - Deputy Assistant Secretary for Fish and Wildlife and Parks; Deputy Director, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service; Assistant Director, Fisheries and Habitat Conservation, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service; Assistant Director, National Wildlife Refuge System, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service; Assistant Director, Wildlife and Sport Fish Restoration Program, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service; Deputy Director, National Park Service; and Associate Director, Natural Resource Stewardship and Science, National Park Service.
- (4) Land and Minerals Management - Deputy Assistant Secretary – Land and Minerals Management; Deputy Director, Bureau of Ocean Energy Management, Regulation and Enforcement; Associate Director, Offshore Energy and Minerals Management, Bureau of Ocean

Energy Management, Regulation and Enforcement; and Deputy Director, Bureau of Land Management.

(5) Indian Affairs - Deputy Director, Bureau of Indian Affairs.

(6) Insular Areas - Director, Office of Insular Affairs.

B. Responsibilities. The responsibilities of the Senior Ocean Policy Team include, but are not limited to:

(1) Facilitating coordination and consistency among the ocean management agencies on ocean, Great Lakes, and coastal policies.

(2) Ensuring that the Department has a coordinated approach to implementing ocean policies and ocean-related matters to more effectively fulfill the Department's mandated responsibilities, including, but not limited to, budgeting, leveraging internal resources, and developing plans to maintain or increase the Department's obligations under EO 13840 and to its implementing organizations, as well as any subsequent or related ocean governance structure and plans.

(3) Strengthening internal partnerships and identifying and fostering external partnerships and shared stewardship to more effectively advance the Department's ocean, Great Lakes, and coastal mission.

2.8 Subcommittees/Working Groups. The Senior Ocean Policy Team may establish subcommittees or working groups to address specific issues in subject areas such as internal and external communications, Congressional relations, conservation partnerships, science needs, public education, and related topics. Subcommittees or working groups shall generally be designed to draw upon the expertise of Bureau/office employees who are not members of the Senior Ocean Policy Team. Teams include, but are not limited to the following:

A. Ocean, Great Lakes, and Coastal Program Technical Team. The Ocean, Great Lakes, and Coastal Program Technical Team is responsible for:

(1) Advising the Department's Senior Ocean Policy Team on all aspects of implementing EO 13840, and any subsequent ocean plans, including coordination among the Bureaus/offices to ensure consistency on ocean-related matters.

(2) Ensuring that the Bureaus/offices are responsive to crosscutting budget requests.

(3) Participating in interagency working groups and developing regional partnerships.

B. Ocean, Great Lakes, and Coastal Program Communications Team. The Ocean, Great Lakes, and Coastal Program Communications Team is responsible for:

- (1) Ensuring that communication among Bureaus/offices is timely and efficient.
- (2) Communicating the Department's ocean and coastal role externally.