



# Interior's Ocean & Coastal Role

From Continental Divide to Continental Shelf

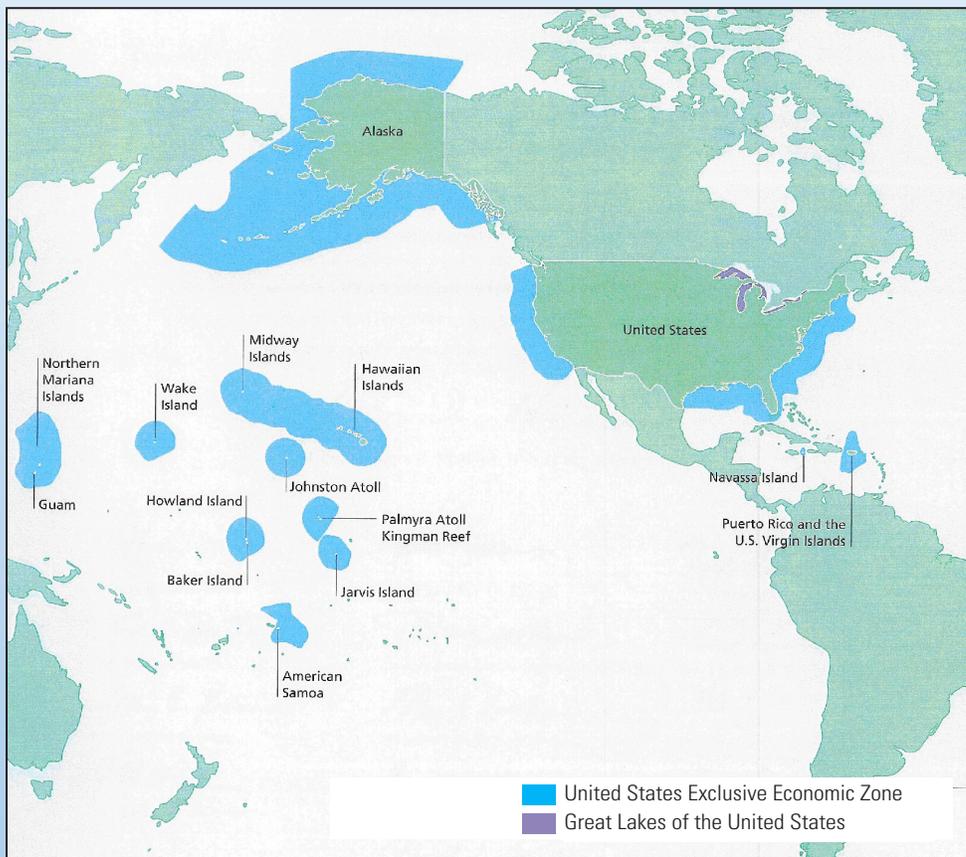
*The Department of the Interior is the Nation's principal resource stewardship agency and is responsible for protecting and providing access to our significant coastal and ocean resources.*

## **Interior's Mission for Ocean, Coasts and Great Lakes**

*To uphold the Department's ocean, coastal and Great Lakes stewardship responsibilities through science-based management, conservation, responsible use, and increased understanding of the environment.*

## **Interior manages vast coastal and ocean resources:**

- more than 35,000 miles of coastline
- 1.76 billion underwater acres of Outer Continental Shelf
- 3.6 million acres of coral reef ecosystems
- 180 island and coastal refuges
- 34 million acres in 74 coastal parks
- 4 Marine National Monuments --including Papahānaumokuākea Marine National Monument (with NOAA and the State of Hawaii)



Interior manages, protects and conserves its ocean and coastal resources as well as other lands and waters for native species and their habitats, provides recreational opportunities for the public, and ensures safe and responsible natural resource energy development. Interior scientists conduct extensive ocean, coastal, and Great Lakes research, and mapping to predict, assess, and manage impacts on coastal and marine environments. In collaboration with our partners, Interior integrates effective multiple-use management from upland ecosystems to deep oceanic waters.



# Meeting Today's Ocean Challenges

*Bureaus within Interior work together and with partners to manage and conserve the Nation's ocean, coastal and Great Lakes natural resources and cultural heritage, to provide scientific and management information about those resources, and to honor trust responsibilities and special commitments to American Indians, Alaska Natives, and affiliated Island Communities.*



The **National Park Service** established its Ocean Park Stewardship Action plan to protect ocean parks, engage visitors in stewardship, and increase exploration and ocean mapping.



The **U.S. Geological Survey** works closely with academic institutions, state, and other Federal agencies to better understand the processes that affect the health and sustainability of our natural resources. Sound Waves, a monthly newsletter, features coastal and marine research news from across the USGS. <http://soundwaves.usgs.gov/>



The **Fish and Wildlife Service** conserves and promotes the enjoyment and use of marine, coastal, and Great Lakes species and habitat.



The **Minerals Management Service** plays a key role in the U.S. energy supply by managing the development of traditional and renewable ocean energy and mineral resources on 1.76 billion acres of the Outer Continental Shelf.



The **Bureau of Land Management** manages the California Coastal National Monument which spans the entire 1,100 mile length of the California Coastline and extends 12 nautical miles from the shoreline.



The **Office of Insular Affairs** advances protection and sustainable management of coral reef resources in the insular areas through financial and technical assistance to support local initiatives.

For more information, please visit:  
[www.doi.gov/initiatives/ocean](http://www.doi.gov/initiatives/ocean)

