

## Coordinate and Support

### Objective

Better coordinate and support Federal, State, tribal, local, and regional management of the ocean, our coasts, and the Great Lakes. Improve coordination and integration across the Federal Government, and as appropriate, engage with the international community.

### Why Do This?

One of the significant obstacles to effective management of the ocean, our coasts, and the Great Lakes is the complex set of Federal, State, tribal, and local laws, authorities, mandates, and governance structures intended to manage their use and conservation. Furthermore, the United States is party to numerous international agreements and subject to customary international law regarding use and protection of the ocean and the Great Lakes. This makes it difficult to achieve consistent approaches to resource management, including ecosystem-based and adaptive management. Through increased communication, coordination, and integration across all levels of government, we can streamline processes, reduce duplication, and leverage resources.

### Potential Actions and Expected Outcomes

- **Develop a regional communication framework under the National Oceanographic Partnership Program** – Improved information exchange, communication, and coordination among interested parties will enhance our ability to work across jurisdictions to advance National Ocean Policy goals.
- **Identify, prioritize, and seek to resolve legal barriers to implementation of the National Ocean Policy** - Legal barriers inhibiting effective implementation of the National Ocean Policy, such as uncertainty and inconsistency or overlap of authorities, will be addressed. Identifying overlaps in statutory authority on particular topics will lead to greater efficiencies.
- **Identify barriers and obstacles to successful collaborative efforts** – Examining barriers and offering opportunities to work together among regional, State, and Federal entities will allow regional ocean governance (ROGs) entities to function with greater integration and efficiency.
- **Identify and disseminate Best Management Practices (BMPs) utilized in Federal or regional partnerships** – Successful practices among Federal agencies, ROGs, and other regional ocean partnerships will be evaluated. Their use will help ensure successful and consistent National Ocean Policy implementation throughout the regions.
- **Identify specific ways to prioritize and coordinate resources, reduce spending overlap, and leverage funding between and among Federal agencies and ROGs** - Collaboration among agencies will streamline processes, enhance coordination and leverage resources. This will improve processes and maximize benefits relative to costs.
- **Identify appropriate opportunities for engaging the international community about the National Ocean Policy** - Engage with international partners bilaterally and multilaterally to achieve increased cooperation and coordination on ocean issues. Improved international communication and coordination will facilitate implementation of the National Ocean Policy.