

# Ocean Policy Committee

## Readout of the November 2, 2023 Ocean Policy Committee Deputies Meeting

The White House Office of Science and Technology Policy (OSTP) and the White House Council on Environmental Quality (CEQ) convened the first Deputies meeting of the Ocean Policy Committee (OPC), which was the sixth meeting of the OPC in the Biden-Harris Administration.<sup>1</sup> The agenda for this meeting, which was led by Dr. Jane Lubchenco, OSTP's Deputy Director for Climate and Environment, and Sara Gonzalez-Rothi, CEQ's Senior Director for Water, included establishing taskings for the Ocean Research Advisory Panel (ORAP), discussing implementation of the Ocean Climate Action Plan (OCAP), and discussing the Extended Continental Shelf (ECS) project and the National Ocean Mapping Exploration and Characterization Council (NOMECC), all of which contribute to the Biden-Harris Administration's many actions to conserve, protect, and restore the ocean.

### Ocean Research Advisory Panel

On September 21, 2023, the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration's Designated Federal Officer for the ORAP, which is governed by the Federal Advisory Committee Act, coordinated a virtual administrative orientation meeting of the ORAP. This ORAP meeting introduced the members of the new body, provided background on the OPC and expectations for ORAP's work, and described the administrative requirements associated with ORAP's operations. Please see <https://www.noaa.gov/ocean-research-advisory-panel> for more information on the Panel, including membership.

In the November 2023 meeting, the OPC discussed taskings and actions for ORAP. Following discussion in and subsequent to the meeting, the OPC tasked ORAP to address:

- **Emerging technology:** Advise on areas of opportunity for partnerships on emerging technology with ocean industry and other sectors over the next 5-10 years.
- **Self-tasking:** Identify a subject about which ORAP believes it is important for the Committee to receive more information and recommendations for consideration.

### Ocean Climate Action Plan

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<sup>1</sup> Readouts from previous OPC meetings, and additional information and resources related to the OPC, are available at <https://www.noaa.gov/interagency-ocean-policy-committee-0>.

The Ocean Climate Action Plan (OCAP), released in March, 2023, directed agencies to implement themes, actions, and sub-actions that address ocean-related climate mitigation and adaptation. The OPC discussed tracking the status of OCAP actions and agreed to continue interagency briefings and develop public materials describing the status of implementation actions at the one-year anniversary of the document. The OPC also agreed to further consider options for interagency coordination on Blue Carbon, and discussed continued coordination on Green Maritime Shipping.

#### Extended Continental Shelf (ECS) Project

Lastly, the State Department briefed the OPC on the Extended Continental Shelf (ECS) Project. The National Ocean Mapping Exploration and Characterization Council (NOMECC) described, and the OPC discussed, potential opportunities for NOMECC to support management of ECS areas. For more information on the ECS, please see <https://www.state.gov/continental-shelf/>.

OPC membership consists of the:

#### **Departments**

- Secretary of Agriculture
- Secretary of Commerce
- Secretary of Defense
- Secretary of Energy
- Secretary of Homeland Security
- Secretary of Justice
- Secretary of State
- Secretary of the Interior
- Secretary of Transportation

#### **Executive Office of the President**

- Assistant to the President and National Climate Advisor
- Assistant to the President for Domestic Policy
- Assistant to the President for Economic Policy
- Assistant to the President for Homeland Security and Counterterrorism
- Assistant to the President for National Security Affairs
- Chair of the Council on Environmental Quality
- Director of the Office of Management and Budget
- Director of the Office of Science and Technology Policy
- Representative from the Office of the Vice President

#### **Agencies and Service Branches**

- Administrator of the Environmental Protection Agency

- Administrator of the National Aeronautics and Space Administration
- Administrator of the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration
- Assistant Secretary of the Army (Civil Works)
- Chair of the Committee on Maritime Transportation Systems
- Chair of the Joint Chiefs of Staff
- Chief of Engineers and Commanding General of the of the Army Corps of Engineers
- Chief of Naval Operations
- Commandant of the Coast Guard
- Director of the National Science Foundation
- Executive Director of the Federal Permitting Improvement Steering Council
- Office of the Director of National Intelligence
- Office of the Special Presidential Envoy for Climate