

National Ocean Policy

Implementation Plan Actions to Address Changing Conditions in the Arctic



PURPOSE:

Address environmental stewardship needs in the Arctic Ocean and adjacent coastal areas in the face of climate-induced and other environmental changes.

BACKGROUND:

Changing Conditions in the Arctic is one of the 9 priority objectives within the National Ocean Policy (NOP). To achieve the objective, the NOP Implementation Plan contains a section identifying specific actions the Federal Government will take to deliver tangible results to the American people.

NEXT STEPS:

- Public Comment Period (Jan 12-Feb 26, 2012)
- Comments specifically sought on prioritization and means to measure progress.
- Incorporate comments and issue final Plan (Spring of 2012)
- Federal agencies initiate actions (ongoing)

For more information see www.whitehouse.gov/oceans

Changing Conditions in the Arctic: Actions and Outcomes

ACTION	OUTCOME
Improve Arctic environmental response management	A coordinated and prepared response management system will mitigate the impacts of pollution events on protected Arctic communities and ecosystems.
Observe and forecast Arctic sea ice	Improved sea-ice maps, analyses, and forecasts will support the management of protected marine resources, community and subsistence activities, homeland and national security, and safe ship operation and navigation through Arctic waters. They will also provide the information needed to forecast changes in the composition of three Large Marine Ecosystems that make up the U.S. Arctic.
Implement a distributed biological observatory	A distributed biological observatory will help experts track and understand changing environmental conditions in the Arctic.
Enhance communication systems in the Arctic	A stronger communications infrastructure will improve our capability to prevent and respond to environmental disasters and maritime incidents, which will reduce loss of life or loss or damage to property at sea.
Advance Arctic mapping and charting	Advanced mapping and charting will improve navigation and reduce the risk of maritime incident, loss of life, and environmental damage.



TIMELINE

2010
 July 19 2010:
 President Signed Executive Order Establishing A National Ocean Policy

2011
 January-April 2011:
 Changing Conditions In The Arctic Strategic Plan Public Comment Period

2011
 June 2011:
 Strategic Action Plan Public Comment Period & Listening Sessions

2012
 January 12-February 26 2012:
 Implementation Plan Public Comment Period

2012
 Spring 2012:
 Implementation Plans finalized

2013 & Beyond
 Ongoing:
 Agencies Implement Plans