

# JOINT OCEAN COMMISSION INITIATIVE



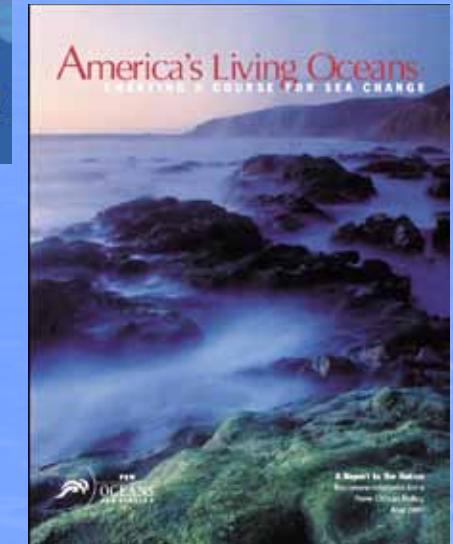
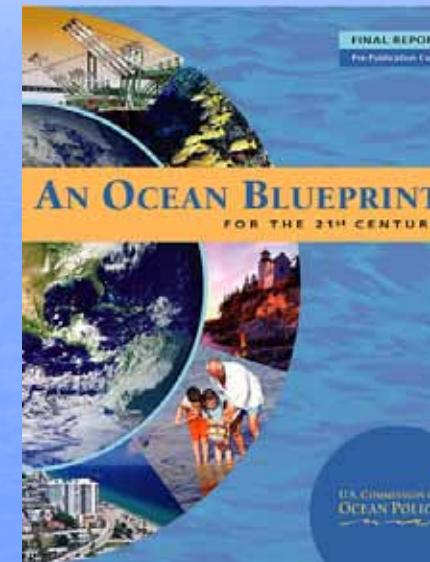
# Overview

- What is the Joint Ocean Commission Initiative?
- What are the Initiative's current priorities?
- How is the Initiative pursuing those priorities?

# The Joint Ocean Commission Initiative

A collaborative effort of the U.S. Commission on Ocean Policy and Pew Oceans Commission

**Goal:** To accelerate the pace of change toward meaningful ocean and coastal policy reform at all levels of government



# The Joint Ocean Commission Initiative

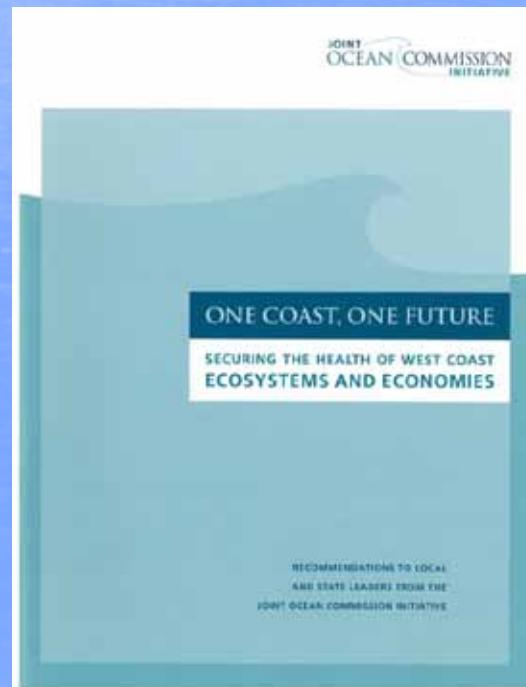
- Broaden the base of involved parties and build awareness of the importance of ocean policy reform
- Build upon the consensus processes, diverse membership, and outcomes of the two Commissions
- Meridian Institute coordinates the design and implementation and serves as the secretariat for the Joint Initiative.

# Joint Initiative Priorities

- National ocean governance reform
- Regional and state ocean governance reform
- International leadership
- Research, science, and education
- Fisheries management reform
- New funding for ocean policy and programs
- Oceans and climate change

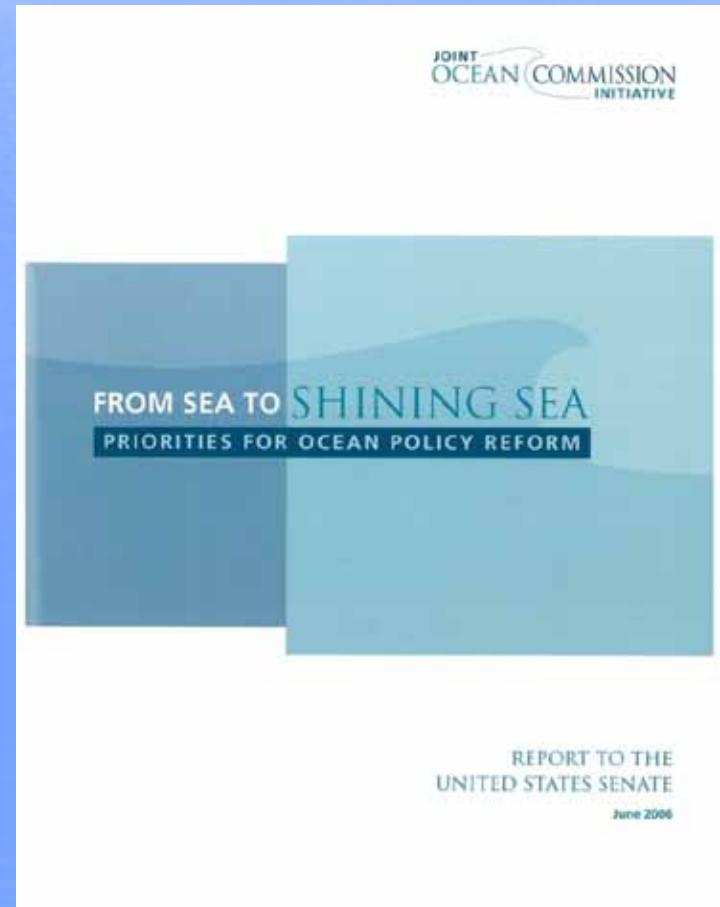
# Engagement in States and Regions

- Help catalyze action on local, state, and regional ocean-related initiatives
- Bring value added to existing or potential efforts
  - Gulf of Mexico
  - West Coast
  - Northeast
  - Southeast
  - Mid-Atlantic



# Engagement at the National Level

- Seek and create opportunities to inform members of the Administration and Congress of the Initiative's priorities
- Build diverse coalitions to send coordinated messages
- Coordinate activities and messages with others in the ocean community
- Place articles and op-eds in national media to gain wider attention to ocean issues



# Joint Initiative Recent Report

## *Changing Oceans, Changing World*



- Recommended top priority ocean policy reforms for the Obama Administration and 111<sup>th</sup> Congress
- Incorporates input from broad representation of ocean interests: conservation, industry, science and research, and academia

CHANGING OCEANS,  
CHANGING WORLD

OCEAN PRIORITIES FOR THE OBAMA  
ADMINISTRATION AND CONGRESS

April 2009

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## Improving Ocean and Coastal Policy and Management

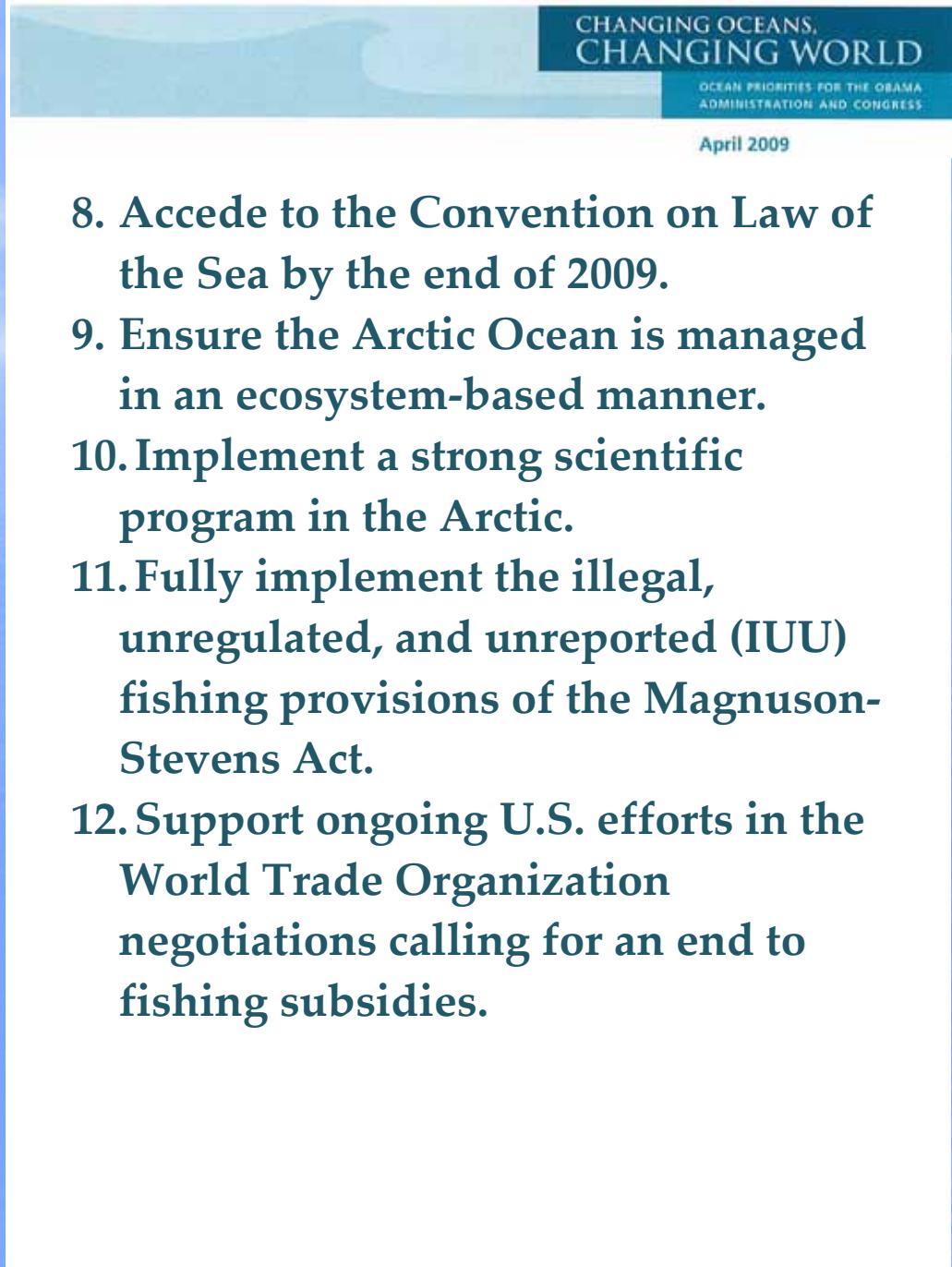
- A national ocean policy would strengthen and unify ocean and coastal management.
- Structural changes can lead to better decision making. Integrated, ecosystem-based management is key.
- Strengthening existing laws and policies can be effective and feasible.

April 2009

1. Establish a national ocean policy.
2. Codify and strengthen the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA).
3. Support regional, ecosystem-based approaches.
4. Strengthen and reauthorize the Coastal Zone Management Act.
5. Strengthen the Clean Water Act.
6. Support expedited implementation of the Magnuson-Stevens Fishery Conservation and Management Act.
7. Actively encourage the use of innovative, science-based approaches to ecosystem and fisheries management.

## Bolstering International Leadership

- The U.S. must be a leader on key international issues.
- Accession to the Convention on Law of the Sea is an immediate and urgent priority.



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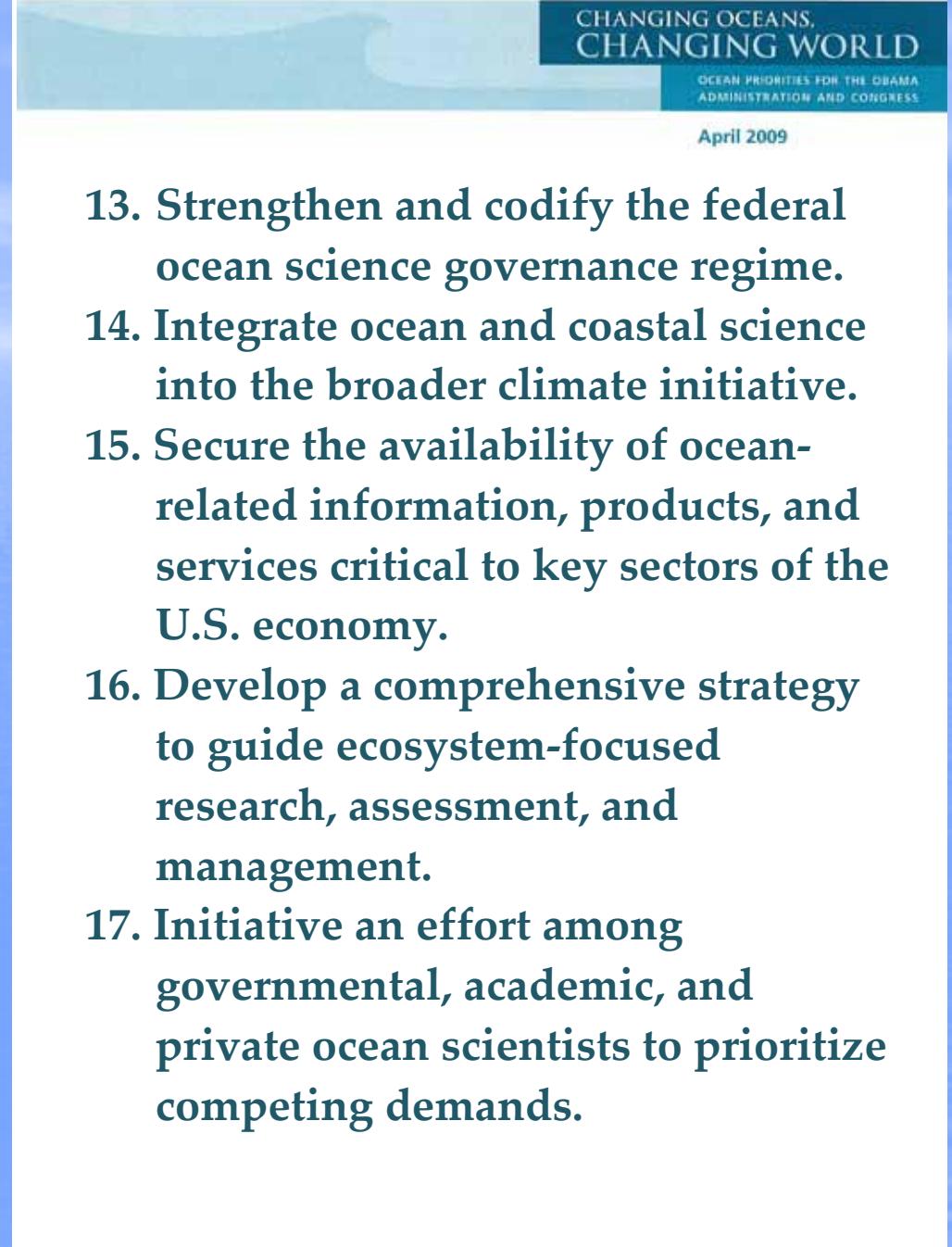
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8. Accede to the Convention on Law of the Sea by the end of 2009.
9. Ensure the Arctic Ocean is managed in an ecosystem-based manner.
10. Implement a strong scientific program in the Arctic.
11. Fully implement the illegal, unregulated, and unreported (IUU) fishing provisions of the Magnuson-Stevens Act.
12. Support ongoing U.S. efforts in the World Trade Organization negotiations calling for an end to fishing subsidies.

## Strengthening Ocean Science

- Oceans are a critical piece of the climate puzzle.
- Sound science must be connected to decision making.
- Science agencies must be coordinated and adequately funded.



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13. Strengthen and codify the federal ocean science governance regime.
14. Integrate ocean and coastal science into the broader climate initiative.
15. Secure the availability of ocean-related information, products, and services critical to key sectors of the U.S. economy.
16. Develop a comprehensive strategy to guide ecosystem-focused research, assessment, and management.
17. Initiative an effort among governmental, academic, and private ocean scientists to prioritize competing demands.

## Funding Ocean and Coastal Policies and Programs

- Revenues from the use of ocean space and resources should contribute to ocean protection, management, and restoration.
- Funding is a strong measure of government's commitment.



18. Establish an Ocean Investment Fund, using resource rents generated by private commercial activities occurring in federal waters on the Outer Continental Shelf.
19. Dedicate a portion of any funds generated from the sale of carbon credits pursuant to a cap and trade or carbon tax system to protecting, maintaining, and restoring ocean and coastal ecosystems.
20. Develop an integrated ocean and coastal budget.

# The Joint Initiative Report Card

JOINT OCEAN COMMISSION INITIATIVE 2007 U.S. OCEAN POLICY REPORT CARD	
Subject	Grade
National Ocean Governance Reform (2006=C-)	D
Regional and State Ocean Governance Reform (2006=A-)	A-
International Leadership (2006=D-)	C+
Research, Science, and Education (2006=D+)	C-
Fisheries Management Reform (2006=B+)	C+
New Funding for Ocean Policy and Programs (2006=F)	D+
Links between Oceans and Climate Change (New)	C

Assesses the nation's collective progress toward implementing a coordinated, comprehensive, and coherent national ocean policy that is consistent with the recommendations of the two Commissions.

For more information

[www.jointoceanccommission.org](http://www.jointoceanccommission.org)

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