



Meridian Institute

Connecting People to Solve Problems

*ELI Ocean Webinar*  
Ocean Management under  
Trump

---

Rich Innes

July 23, 2018

# Outline

---

- Brief Meridian and JOCI Background and History
- Overview of our National Ocean Policy: How We Got Here
- Securing Gains and Sustaining Momentum



Meridian Institute

Connecting People to Solve Problems

# Meridian Institute

---

- We design collaborative approaches that bring together people who understand the issues and have a stake in their resolution.
- We facilitate processes that range from local, site-specific dispute resolutions to national policy dialogues to international negotiations.
- Our processes regularly involve government officials, business leaders, scientists, foundation executives, and representatives of nongovernmental organizations.
- We work with multiple parties to address challenging public policy issues, such as climate change, food security, emerging technologies, public health, sustainability, and oceans.



# Meridian Ocean Initiatives

---

- Played a pivotal role in the establishment of Regional Planning Bodies in the Mid-Atlantic and New England and facilitated the development of the nation's first regional ocean plan in the mid-Atlantic.
- Supporting US funders collaborating to advance sustainable fisheries management efforts through aligned grant making in Indonesia and Mexico.
- Along with the Consortium for Ocean Leadership co-sponsoring a major forum on domestic aquaculture.
- Also supporting the convening of aquaculture stakeholders to discuss regulatory and licensing barriers affecting the industry in federal waters.
- Advising senior policy makers on efforts to revisit the Magnuson-Stevens fisheries law.



Meridian Institute

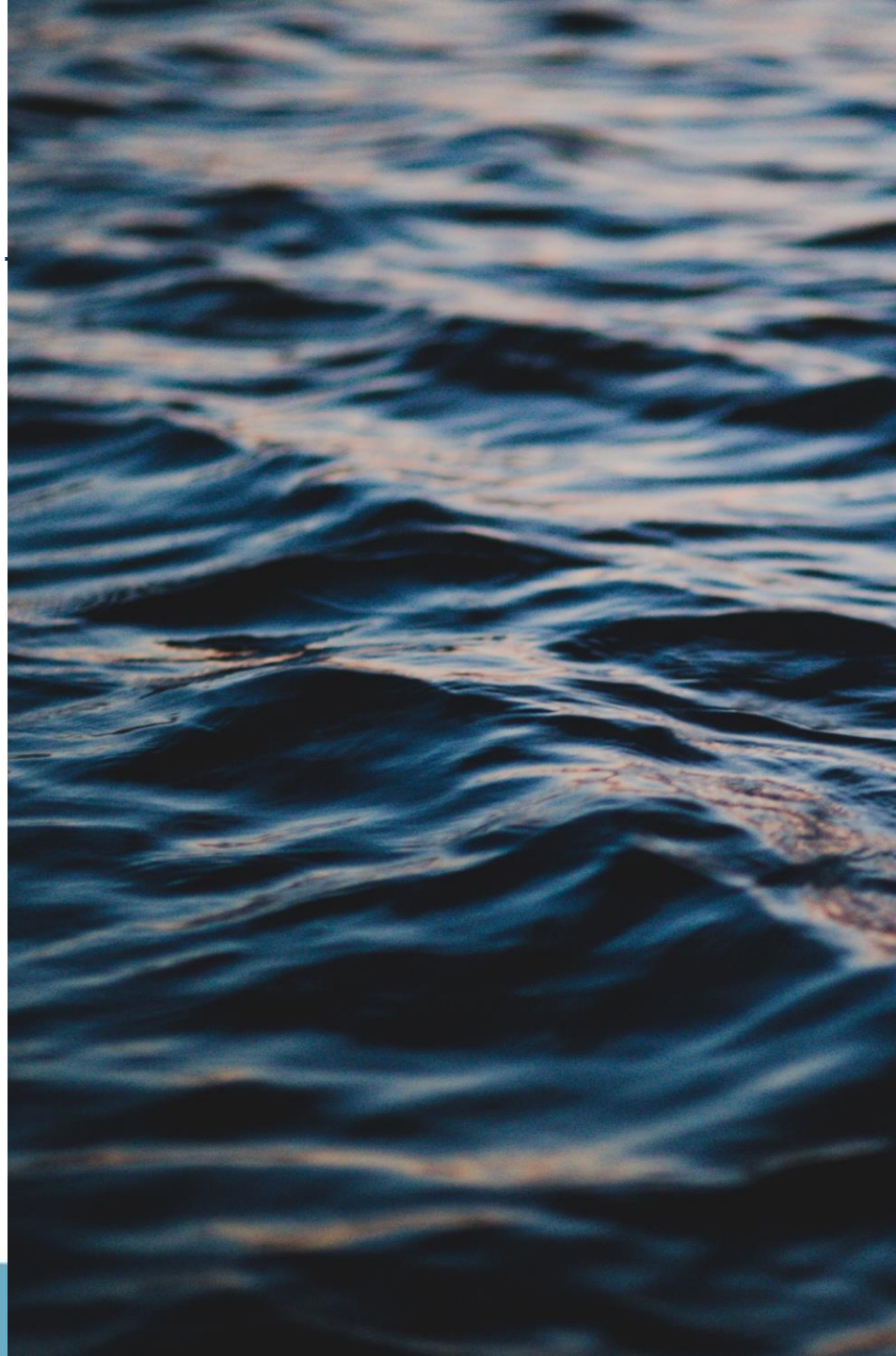
Connecting People to Solve Problems

# JOCI Background and History



Meridian Institute

Connecting People to Solve Problems

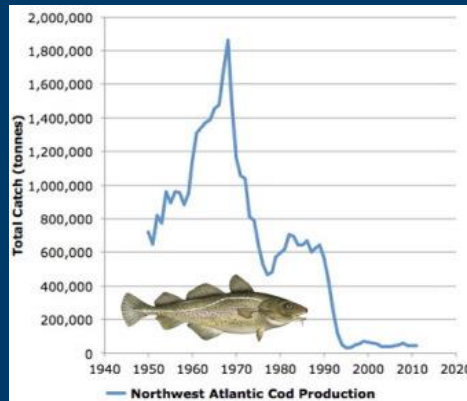


# What motivated creation of these commissions?

Factors that drove thought leaders to push for the creation of these commissions include:



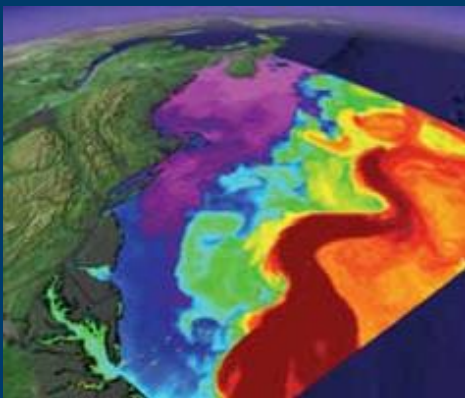
Coastal development



Overfishing



Increasing ocean uses



Science-based decision making



Environmental degradation



Marine conservation and environmental education

# Ocean Commissions

---

- There have been three major ocean policy commissions in the United States:
  - Stratton Commission (1966 - 1969)
  - Pew Oceans Commission (2000 - 2003)
  - U.S. Commission on Ocean Policy (2000 - 2004)
- These commissions, comprised of experts and leaders from multiple ocean sectors, conducted a review of the U.S. ocean policy landscape and issued recommendations for improving ocean governance



# The Stratton Commission

---

- Published in 1969 - Stratton Report: *“Our Nation and the Sea: a Plan for National Action”*
  - The first comprehensive review of U.S. ocean policy
  - Product of 3 years of work by a 15 member commission
  - Contained over 120 specific recommendations
- Instrumental in defining the structure of federal ocean policy and management.
  - NOAA formally created in 1970
  - Major ocean governance laws soon followed
    - Magnuson-Stevens Fishery Conservation and Management Act (1976)
    - Coastal Zone Management Act (1972)
    - Marine Mammal Protection Act (1972)
    - Marine Protection, Research, and Sanctuaries Act (1972)





# 1990s: Updating the Stratton Commission

---

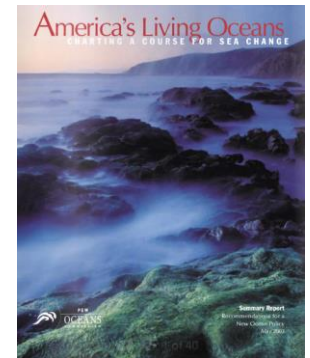
- Momentum was building in the 1990s to reexamine and update the Stratton Commission's 30-year old recommendations.
- The Pew Charitable Trusts formed an ocean commission in 2000.
- Soon after, Congress passed the Oceans Act of 2000 to establish the U.S. Commission on Ocean Policy (USCOP).
  - USCOP was tasked with developing a national oceans report in coordination with states, a scientific advisory panel, and the public.



# Updating Stratton: Two Ocean Commissions

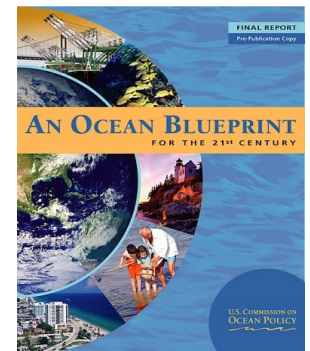
## Pew Oceans Commission

- Formed in 2000, preceded the Oceans Act
- Independent group of ocean experts
- Funded by the Pew Charitable Trusts
- Led by the Honorable Leon E. Panetta
- Released *America's Living Oceans: Charting a Course for Sea Change* in May 2003, as well as nine science reports



## U.S. Commission on Ocean Policy (USCOP)

- Established in 2000 by the Oceans Act
- Former government, NGO, academic, and private sector members
- Led by Admiral James D. Watkins, U.S. Navy (retired)
- Released *An Ocean Blueprint for the 21<sup>st</sup> Century* in July 2004



Meridian Institute

Connecting People to Solve Problems

# Commission Visions and Principles

---

## **Vision for the future:**

- Oceans that are clean, safe, sustainably managed, with high levels of biodiversity and contributing significantly to the economy through producing food, medicines, minerals, energy, transportation.
- Coasts that are healthy, vibrant, and offer people place to live, work, and enjoy.
- Increased public awareness of importance of oceans and interconnectedness and increased sense of stewardship.
- In other words—healthy ocean and coastal ecosystems that support healthy communities and economies.

## **Broad guiding principles to achieve that vision:**

- Ecosystem-based management
- Precautionary and adaptive management
- Biodiversity
- Science based decision making
- Effective governance framework



**Meridian Institute**

Connecting People to Solve Problems

# Creating the Joint Ocean Commission Initiative

---

- The Pew Oceans Commission and USCOP reports (issued in 2003 and 2004 respectively) contained similar recommendations
- To further their shared recommendations and unify efforts, the members of the two commissions came together in 2005 as the Joint Ocean Commission Initiative (JOCI) with initial support from the David and Lucile Packard Foundation
- JOCI is housed at Meridian Institute, which has served as its secretariat and institutional home since its inception



Meridian Institute

Connecting People to Solve Problems

# JOCI Structure and Roles

---

- JOCI is led by 2 Co-chairs, one from each political party, and a 23 member bipartisan Leadership Council.
  - Current Co-chairs: Governor Christine Todd Whitman and the Honorable Norman Y. Mineta.
  - Original Co-Chairs: the Honorable Leon E. Panetta, former chair of the Pew Oceans Commission, and Admiral James D. Watkins (retired), former USCOP chair.
- Meridian Institute provides staff support and coordinates strategy and implementation efforts.
- JOCI provides testimony on funding priorities for Congress, advises senior level federal, state and local officials on sound ocean policy, and has briefed each incoming presidential transition team. It engages in key policy issues directly impacting ocean health.



Meridian Institute

Connecting People to Solve Problems

# What does JOCI do?

---



ENCOURAGES BIPARTISAN PROBLEM SOLVING



DEVELOPS POLICY RECOMMENDATIONS WITH DIVERSE STAKEHOLDERS



DEFENDS OCEAN POLICIES AND FUNDING



PROVIDES VISIBILITY TO OCEAN ISSUES



CULTIVATES OCEAN CHAMPIONS AT ALL LEVELS OF GOVERNMENT



CONVENES INFLUENTIAL PEOPLE

# Constructing a National Ocean Policy



Meridian Institute

Connecting People to Solve Problems

# Legislative efforts

---

- Sam Farr, BOB
- H.R. 21, the Oceans, Conservation, Education, and National Strategy for the 21st Century Act (OCEANS-21), would have provided a framework for establishing a national ocean strategy.
- Support/opposition split largely along party lines.
- Ultimately sections were absorbed into the Consolidated Land, Energy and Aquatic Resources Act (CLEAR).
- Deepwater Horizon in 2010 resulted in the creation of a National Commission which issued compelling recommendations, several new regulations, but no legislation. This in sharp contrast to the Oil Pollution Act of 1990, a direct response to the Exxon Valdez spill.





# Moving to an Executive Order

---

- Oceans, traditionally a bi-partisan issue, had become polarized.
- Only avenue for establishing an NOP was an EO
- Downside is lack of permanence and expressed, bi-partisan support from a majority in Congress.
- 2010, Obama signs EO13547 establishing a National Ocean Policy emphasizing stewardship.



Meridian Institute

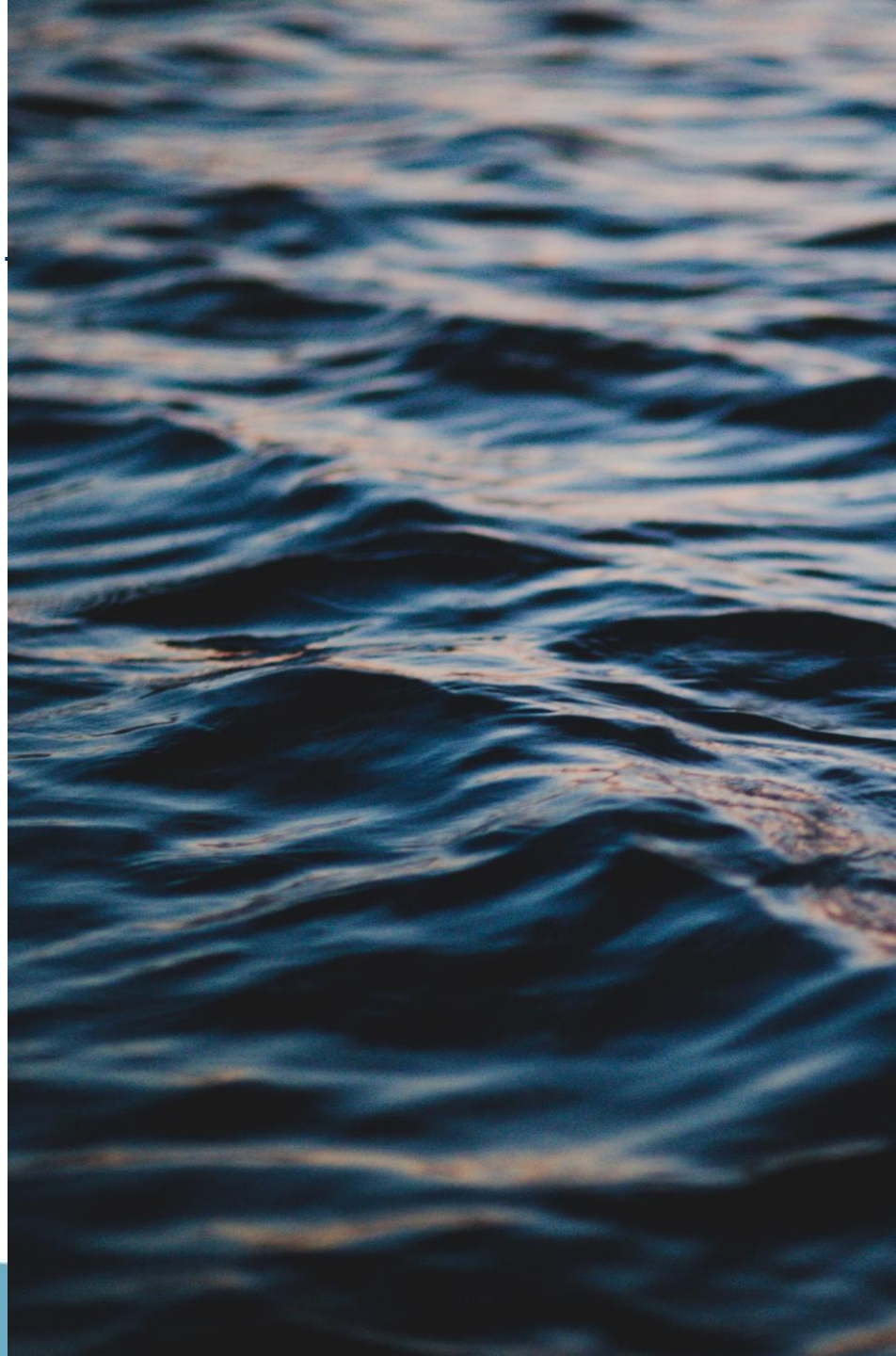
Connecting People to Solve Problems

# Ocean Management under Trump



Meridian Institute

Connecting People to Solve Problems



# 2018 Update to the National Ocean Policy

---

- Trump Executive Order Regarding the Ocean Policy to Advance the Economic, Security, and Environmental Interests of the United States (2018)
- Highlights the following areas:
  - Economic growth of coastal communities
  - Promotion of ocean industries
  - Productive and sustainable use of the ocean
  - Improve public access to best available ocean-related science and data
  - support efficient interagency coordination on ocean-related matters
  - Support Federal participation in regional ocean partnerships



Meridian Institute

Connecting People to Solve Problems

# Differences between the 2010 and 2018 National Ocean Policy

[http://www.jointoceancommission.org/en/newsroom/Press\\_Release/2018-NOP\\_Repeal.aspx](http://www.jointoceancommission.org/en/newsroom/Press_Release/2018-NOP_Repeal.aspx)

- Protect, maintain, and restore the **health and biological diversity** of ocean, coastal, and Great Lakes ecosystems and resources
- **Improve the resiliency** of ocean, coastal, and Great Lakes ecosystems, communities, and economies
- **Perform duties in accordance with applicable international law**
- Bolster the **conservation and sustainable uses of land** use the **best available science** and knowledge to inform decisions affecting the ocean, our coasts, and the Great Lakes
- Support sustainable, safe, secure, and productive **access to, and uses of the ocean**, our coasts, and the Great Lakes
- Respect and preserve our Nation's **maritime heritage**
- **Increase scientific understanding of ocean**, coastal, and Great Lakes ecosystems
- Improve our understanding and **awareness of changing environmental conditions**, including climate change, and their causes
- **Build a foundation for improved stewardship**
- Ensure **effective management of ocean, coastal, and Great Lakes**
- Promote the **lawful use of the ocean**
- Perform duties in accordance with applicable **domestic law and** — if consistent with applicable domestic law — **international law**
- Facilitate the **economic growth** of coastal communities and promote ocean industries
- **Productive and sustainable use of ocean**
- Modernize the acquisition, distribution, and **use of the best available ocean-related science and knowledge**
- Facilitate, as appropriate, **coordination, consultation, and collaboration** regarding ocean-related matters



Meridian Institute

Connecting People to Solve Problems

# Moving Forward

---

- New policy provides tools to build on work of previous administrations to improve data and reduce conflicts.
- Potential support for voluntary Regional Ocean Partnerships.
- Support for Regional Ocean Data Portals, leading to more informed ocean management decisions
- Federal coordination through Interagency Ocean Policy Committee.
- JOCI, with public and private partners, remains committed to ensuring this policy effectively manages for healthy ocean resources to support our future.



Meridian Institute

Connecting People to Solve Problems

# Holding Leaders Accountable

---

- Blue economy depends on healthy ecosystems, sustainable fisheries, and resilient coasts.
- JOCI urges federal leaders to support ocean health, stewardship, and improved understanding of inextricable link between oceans and a changing climate.
- JOCI disappointed that these elements are not apparent in the new policy, but stands ready to work with both parties to assure they remain a priority.
- Emphasis on high quality data and science in Trump EO is crucial, and gives us much to build on.
- JOCI encouraged that coordination among stakeholders will remain a priority, and emphasis on public access to data. Portals have proven to be vital tools.



Meridian Institute

Connecting People to Solve Problems

# Questions?

---

Other Meridian Staff supporting JOCI include:

John Ehrmann ([Jehrmann@merid.org](mailto:Jehrmann@merid.org))

Ingrid Irigoyen ([lirigoyen@merid.org](mailto:lirigoyen@merid.org))

Meghan Massaua ([Mmassau2@merid.org](mailto:Mmassau2@merid.org))

Please feel free to contact me at [richinnes@merid.org](mailto:richinnes@merid.org). 202-236-7171

Please visit the JOCI website,  
<http://www.jointoceancommission.org>

to learn more about our work.



Meridian Institute

Connecting People to Solve Problems