

Ocean Policy Committee
Ocean Resource Management Subcommittee
Workplan to Identify and Publish Federal Geospatial Data
February 2019

ORM Charge

Pursuant to Executive Order 13840 (EO 13840), accompanying guidance, and at the direction of the Ocean Policy Committee, the Ocean Resource Management subcommittee (ORM) will address regulatory and policy coordination associated with ocean management, including through engagement with regional ocean partnerships and stakeholders. This will include addressing data and information needs and other ocean related matters that may require interagency or intergovernmental coordination. Engaging and collaborating with stakeholders, including regional ocean partnerships, to address ocean-related matters that may require interagency or intergovernmental solutions is addressed in Section 5(b) of EO 13840. As its first action, the ORM will develop and implement a plan to identify and publish Federal geospatial data that address regionally identified data needs.

Action: Timely Release of Ocean-Related Data

Marine industries, researchers, the public, and governments all rely on accurate and current ocean-related data. The Federal government collects and disseminates many types of marine data, including those related to habitats and living resources, human uses and activities, physical and chemical conditions, economic indicators, jurisdictional boundaries, and other characteristics. EO 13840 highlights the importance of these data in ocean-related matters, and in Section 5(c) directs the OPC to “coordinate the timely public release of unclassified data and other information related to the ocean, coasts, and Great Lakes that agencies collect, and support the common information management systems, such as the Marine Cadastre, that organize and disseminate this information.”

The Marine Cadastre serves as an effective platform to expand public access to Federal ocean data. The Marine Cadastre is a central resource for visualizing and sharing authoritative ocean data used for conflict avoidance, project siting, permitting, project planning, outreach, and impact assessments. In addition, the Marine Cadastre provides an efficient way for regional ocean partnerships to acquire and customize Federal data for use by regional stakeholders through regional ocean data portals. While data come from many sources, the site is managed and maintained by the Bureau of Ocean Energy Management (BOEM) and the National Oceanographic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA).

The ORM will coordinate the timely public release of Federal unclassified ocean-related data and other information guided by and consistent with existing policy and specific direction established by EO 13840. BOEM and NOAA will closely coordinate with the ORM in the conduct of outreach to stakeholders, such as regional ocean partnerships, to identify local and regional data needs, and to develop recommendations to streamline the release of unclassified Federal data that addresses key regional data needs.

ORM Workplan

1. *Identify regional data needs.* To help inform the ORM’s work, NOAA and BOEM will conduct outreach to stakeholders such as Regional Ocean Partnerships or their equivalents to identify ocean datasets responsive to local and regional data needs. (November 2018)
 - This Action was **completed** in November 2018 as Phase 1 of a regional data platform study being conducted by NOAA and BOEM. See the Regional Data Platform Scoping Study: Federal

Data Task Report at <https://marinecadastre.gov/scopingstudy/>. Phase 1 was conducted as an action item under Executive Order 13840 to understand and document what federally-sourced geospatial data are needed to help states and regional organizations address pressing ocean and coastal management decisions. It focuses primarily on data that have already been collected, but are not easily accessible or provided in a way that meets the needs of the ocean and coastal management community.

The report identifies the top ten regional data needs and includes a ranked table of the complete list of data priorities showing which regions identified them. The report also provides a ranked table of the priority coastal and ocean management issues that drive the need for specific data, showing which regions identified them. The ORM will use these findings to inform its data plan as described below.

2. *Identify and review agency data availability.* The ORM will compare stakeholder requested datasets to available agency data collections. The ORM will also identify agencies responsible for primary datasets and propose methods for the release of those datasets. The ORM will also explore ways to increase access to data collected by industry. (March 2019)
 3. *Develop and implement data plan.* The ORM will develop an implementation plan for the prioritization and release of new datasets for OPC review. The plan will focus on streamlining and speeding the release of data already provided to the public. The Plan will: 1) identify datasets responsive to regional interests; 2) present timelines for making data available to the appropriate publicly accessible data portal; and 3) identify and propose options to address issues that may affect agencies' ability to make data available and/or the ability of the Marine Cadastre to process and publish that data. (Plan July 2019; Implementation October 2019 forward)
-