



COMDTINST 16003.2  
25 OCT 2010

COMMANDANT INSTRUCTION 16003.2

Subj: IMPLEMENTING NATIONAL OCEAN STEWARDSHIP POLICY AND GUIDANCE FOR COAST GUARD INVOLVEMENT IN COASTAL AND MARINE SPATIAL PLANNING

Ref: (a) Stewardship of the Ocean, Our Coasts, and the Great Lakes, Executive Order No. 13547 of 19 July 2010  
(b) Final Recommendations of the Interagency Ocean Policy Task Force of 19 July 2010  
(c) Information and Life Cycle Management Manual, COMDINST M5212.12 (series)

1. PURPOSE. This Instruction promulgates Coast Guard roles and responsibilities for implementing reference (a). It also provides guidance for Coast Guard involvement in coastal and marine spatial planning (CMSP) as further discussed in references (a) and (b).
2. ACTION. All Coast Guard unit commanders, commanding officers, officers-in-charge, deputy/assistant commandants, and chiefs of headquarters staff elements shall comply with the provisions of this Instruction. Internet release is authorized.
3. DIRECTIVES AFFECTED. None.
4. DISCUSSION.
  - a. In reference (a), the President directed all Federal departments and agencies to undertake a new approach to the Nation’s stewardship responsibilities concerning the ocean, our coasts, and the Great Lakes. These policy initiatives provide a balance between protecting and preserving the marine environment and promoting economic progress in the maritime domain. They are designed to protect the interests of all users, improve ocean and coastal stewardship, and provide the foundation for improving maritime governance at the national, regional, state, tribal, and local levels. Among other things, this new approach includes:
    - (1) adopting science- and ecosystem-based management for ocean and coastal stewardship;

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- (2) more efficient and effective collection, integration, sharing, and application of data concerning both natural processes and human activities affecting ocean and coastal resources;
  - (3) making wiser stewardship decisions in response to the changing environmental and other conditions in the Arctic region;
  - (4) implementing comprehensive CMSP based on national objectives and regional coordination and development; and
  - (5) establishing a stronger governance structure for ocean-stewardship-related issues under a cabinet-level National Ocean Council (the Council) and its subordinate bodies and staff.
- b. Both the Coast Guard and the Department of Homeland Security have significant equities in promoting these new ocean stewardship policies. The Coast Guard will represent the Department on both the Principal- and Deputy-level Council and subordinate bodies. The Coast Guard has assigned an officer as a full-time member of the Council staff.
  - c. References (a) and (b) provide a great deal of additional information and direction concerning these new initiatives. They also provide preliminary guidance on agency roles and interactions with State, regional, tribal, and local governmental entities, academic institutions, non-governmental organizations, recreational interests, private enterprise, and other stakeholders in carrying out the new national ocean stewardship policy. These two references and other relevant materials are available on line at <http://www.whitehouse.gov/administration/eop/oceans>.
  - d. Reference (b) also calls for the development at the national level, under the supervision of the Council and within the first 9-12 months of its inception, of detailed strategic action plans designed to best implement each of the nine priority objectives. The Coast Guard will participate in the development of these strategic action plans. Once the Council has approved these plans, they will be made widely available.

## 5. BACKGROUND.

- a. In June 2009, President Obama created the Interagency Ocean Policy Task Force (Task Force) and charged it with developing recommendations to enhance national stewardship of the ocean, our coasts, and the Great Lakes and to promote the long-term conservation and optimum use of the Nation's maritime resources. The White House Council on Environmental Quality led the Task Force, which included 24 senior-level officials from across the Federal Government. The Commandant of the Coast Guard represented the Secretary of Homeland Security on the Task Force. In response to the President's Directive, the Task Force prepared and submitted two interim reports to the White House, which were then made available for comments from stakeholders and the general public. After considering over 5000 such comments, the Task Force submitted its Final Recommendations, reference (b), in July 2010.
- b. Reference (a) is the Executive Order the President signed on 19 July 2010 to adopt and implement the comprehensive policy recommendations contained in reference (b). It established a cabinet-level National Ocean Council as part of an improved governance structure. It also approved a new national ocean stewardship policy to better ensure the protection, maintenance,

and restoration of the health of ocean, coastal, and Great Lakes ecosystems and resources. Among other things, these policies are designed to enhance the sustainability of ocean and coastal economies, maximize ocean-related uses and benefits, provide for adaptive management to enhance our understanding of and capacity to respond to climate change, and coordinate with our national security and foreign policy interests.

- c. The Executive Order also provided for a regionally based process to develop coastal and marine spatial plans that build upon and improve existing Federal, State, tribal, local, and regional coordination and planning processes. Regionally based CMSP will enable Federal departments and agencies, State governments, tribes, and other stakeholders to pursue a more integrated, comprehensive, ecosystem-based, effective, efficient, and proactive approach to planning and managing multiple uses across jurisdictional boundaries. Consistent with the guidance in reference (b), any regional planning body (RPB) may decide to include inland States and their watersheds and lakes, rivers, and other waterways within its CMSP processes.
- d. The Task Force concluded that these changes will improve the Nation's stewardship of its ocean and coastal waters. In addition, as reflected throughout reference (b), the new ocean policy initiatives and CMSP are designed to improve maritime safety, security, and economic uses. Indeed, stronger, more comprehensive, and better integrated ocean and coastal governance regimes will have positive impacts across virtually all Coast Guard mission areas.

## 6. PROCEDURES, RESPONSIBILITIES, AND GUIDANCE.

- a. Headquarters and Area commanders are directed to ensure appropriate participation and support from staff and units within their commands to comply with the provisions of references (a) and (b) and to develop procedures and regulations to best carry out the national policy objectives consistent with Coast Guard missions, equities, and resources.
- b. Commandant (CG-553) will have the primary responsibility to manage the program and develop and provide overall policy and technical guidance. As the Council and its structures develop additional national-level strategy and plans, this will include additional information and guidance on key agency roles and interaction with State, regional, tribal, and local government representatives and other key stakeholders. Other offices at Coast Guard headquarters will provide legal, technical, policy, and other subject-matter expertise and support as may be necessary and appropriate.
- c. Consistent with the President's direction in reference (a) and any subsequent guidance from the Council, Secretary of Homeland Security, and other senior leadership, Commandant (CG-553) will prepare and make publicly available an annual report including a concise description of actions taken by the Coast Guard in the previous calendar year to implement references (a) and (b), a description of written comments by persons or organizations regarding the Coast Guard's compliance with that Executive Order, and a summary of any responses that the Coast Guard has provided to any such comments. All records generated in support of this program will be maintained in accordance with reference (c).
- d. Reference (a) directed that all relevant departments and agencies coordinate and contribute the appropriate resources to assist in establishing a common information management system as

outlined in reference (b). Toward this end, the Coast Guard is accountable for managing its own maritime data information assets by keeping them current, easily accessible, and consistent with Federal standards. Commandant (DCO-M) will facilitate enterprise-wide coordination of maritime information sharing and access using existing Coast Guard MDA and Information Sharing governance bodies, including the Coast Guard MDA Executive Team and Coast Guard Information Sharing Executive. In addition, Commandant (DCO-M) has several initiatives underway to comply with this requirement and enhance its mission capabilities, including working within the interagency MDA structure on a maritime information exchange architecture. Guided by the work of these interagency committees, Commandant (CG-761) is the office that will have the Coast Guard lead for documenting capability requirements and will work with Commandant (CG-6 and CG-9) to deliver the capability that supports the information management aspects of this new national ocean policy.

- e. To the extent permitted by law and available resources, the Coast Guard will provide the Council and the Council staff such information, support, and assistance as the Council, through its Co-Chairs, may request. Commandant (CG-553) will coordinate this support.
- f. Area commanders will ensure that one of their staff elements or subordinate commands is designated to represent the Coast Guard on each of the regional planning bodies (RPBs) within their area of responsibility as discussed in reference (b). Such representation will consist of a Coast Guard officer and/or civilian employee with responsibility and authority to participate in the work of their respective RPB. As the program manager, Commandant (CG-553) shall be kept informed of the names, offices, and contact information of the RPB representatives. CG-553 will provide the chain of command an accurate and up-to-date account of the Coast Guard RPB membership and responsibilities, establish effective and timely communication channels to ensure policy alignment throughout the Coast Guard, and provide appropriate coordination and support.
- g. At least one Coast Guard representative will prepare for and participate in each meeting of an RPB to discuss and develop CMS plans as provided in reference (b). Each such representative should be experienced and knowledgeable in several of the following areas of expertise and skill sets: waterways and maritime traffic management; port safety and security; marine environmental protection; fisheries management, including aquaculture; maritime law enforcement, safety, and security; offshore oil and gas exploration and development; alternative off-shore energy production; maritime domain awareness; marine scientific research; maritime data collection, integration, and application; effective relations with indigenous peoples (as applicable) and the academic and scientific communities; and the ability to collaborate competently with Federal, regional, State, local, and tribal government planning officials. Each representative should develop and maintain appropriate awareness of these skill sets and in the practical implementation of CMSP.
- h. As discussed in reference (b), the Task Force identified regional planning areas that coincided with large marine ecosystems. In most cases, these regional planning areas are congruent with Coast Guard District boundaries and responsibilities. However, to the extent that any regional planning area overlaps more than one District boundary, Area commanders will determine who should represent the Coast Guard on that RPB and how best to reconcile any possible conflicts.

- i. Commandant (CG-553) will provide technical and policy support to Area and District personnel. This support will include draft position descriptions for RPB representatives, guidance with respect to dealing with legal, policy, and jurisdictional issues, and reference materials and other aids so that Coast Guard RPB representatives and other staff personnel will have the best and latest practices and supporting literature available.
  - j. At the discretion of the cognizant operational commander, qualified individuals may be assigned to represent the Coast Guard on more than one RPB.
  - k. If and when appropriate to best promote Coast Guard and national equities, cognizant senior commanders may elect to serve or nominate an appropriate senior official to serve as the Federal co-chair of an RPB as discussed in reference (b) within their area of responsibility. Commanders considering serving or nominating a senior official to serve as the Federal co-chair for an RPB will first coordinate such a decision with the Deputy Commandant for Operations.
7. ENVIRONMENTAL ASPECT AND IMPACT CONSIDERATIONS. Environmental considerations were examined in the development of this Instruction and have been determined not to be applicable.
8. FORMS/REPORTS. None.

/s/

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