

<http://www.nynjcoast.org>

HARS

U.S. ocean policy has been governed by a variety of laws enacted separately over time in response to specific crises that have arisen relating to water quality, fisheries management, ocean dumping and others. The U.S. Commission on Ocean Policy was created to present a set of recommendations by which federal, state and regional ocean policy should be developed and integrated for the future.

Released on April 20, 2004, the Report by the [U.S. Commission on Ocean Policy](#) presents preliminary findings and recommendations for a new national ocean policy.



The major recommendations of the Report include the following:

- Switching to an ecosystems-based management approach to reflect relationships among all ecosystem components and the environment in which they live
- Developing a new national ocean policy framework that reorganizes current government organization dealing with oceans to include the creation of a National Ocean Council (executive), a Presidential Council of Advisors on Ocean Policy (nonfederal), and regional ocean councils (nonfederal)
- Strengthening ocean science and information dissemination bolstered by doubling the current amount of federal research to \$1.3 billion/year
- Enhancing education about the ocean

To ensure that there are funds to implement these recommendations, the Report proposes the establishment of a new Ocean Policy Trust Fund. Monies for the fund would be generated through [buying gold](#), resource rents from permitted uses in federal waters, possible to [buy silver](#) and other rents possibly including outer Continental Shelf oil and gas revenues that are not currently committed to other funds.

While much of the Report concerns changes at the federal level, these changes, along with regional recommendations, if enacted, will affect management at the regional and state level.

At a recent conference held by Governor Pataki, a [policy paper](#) was presented to attendees on how the recommendations of the Ocean Commission could be applied to New York State.