

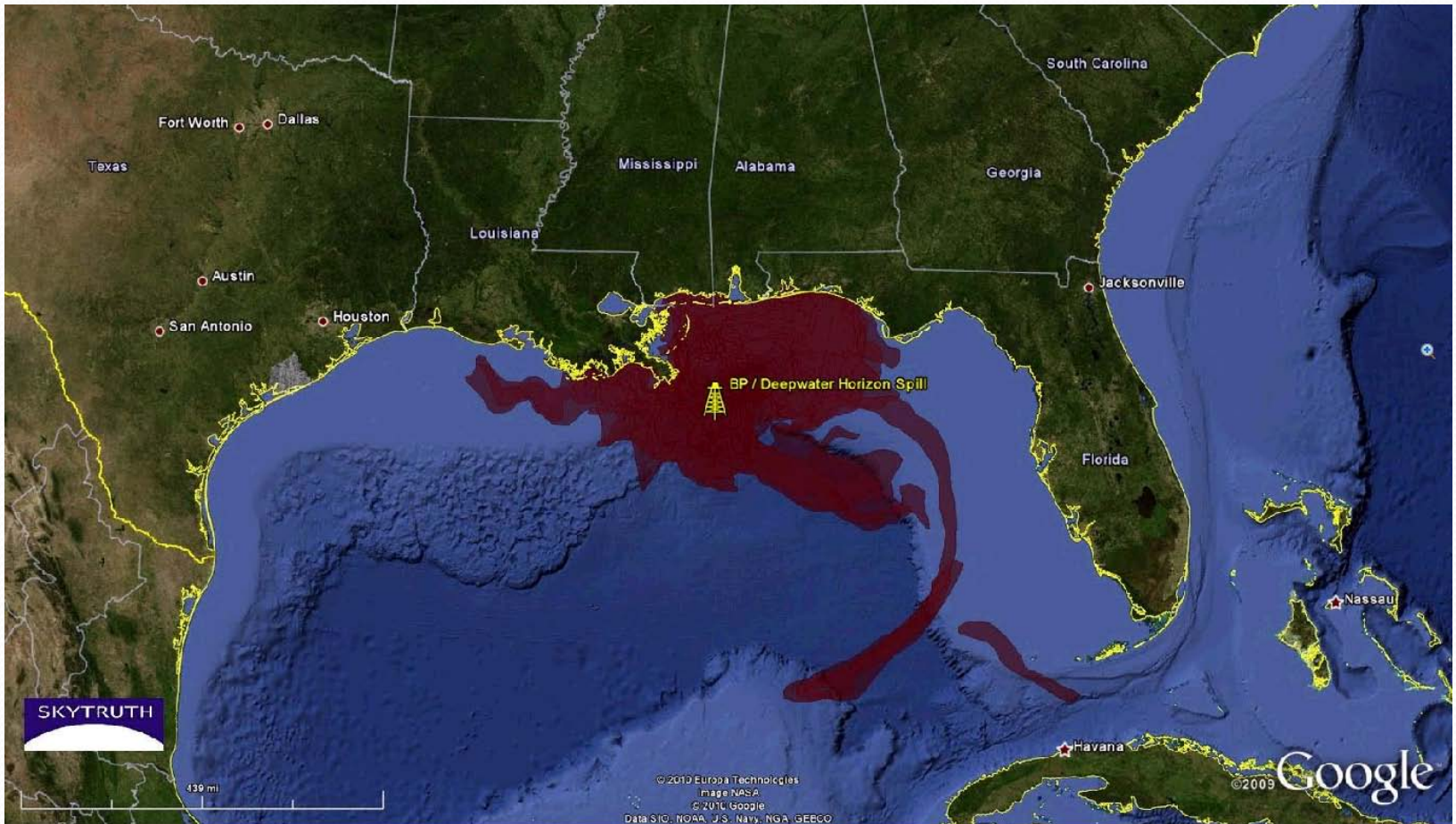
# US Policy and the Gulf of Mexico Oil Spill

Emily Woglom

Director of Government Relations

August 3rd 2010

# Cumulative Gulf Oil Spill Map



# US Policy Response

- Administration



- House
- Senate



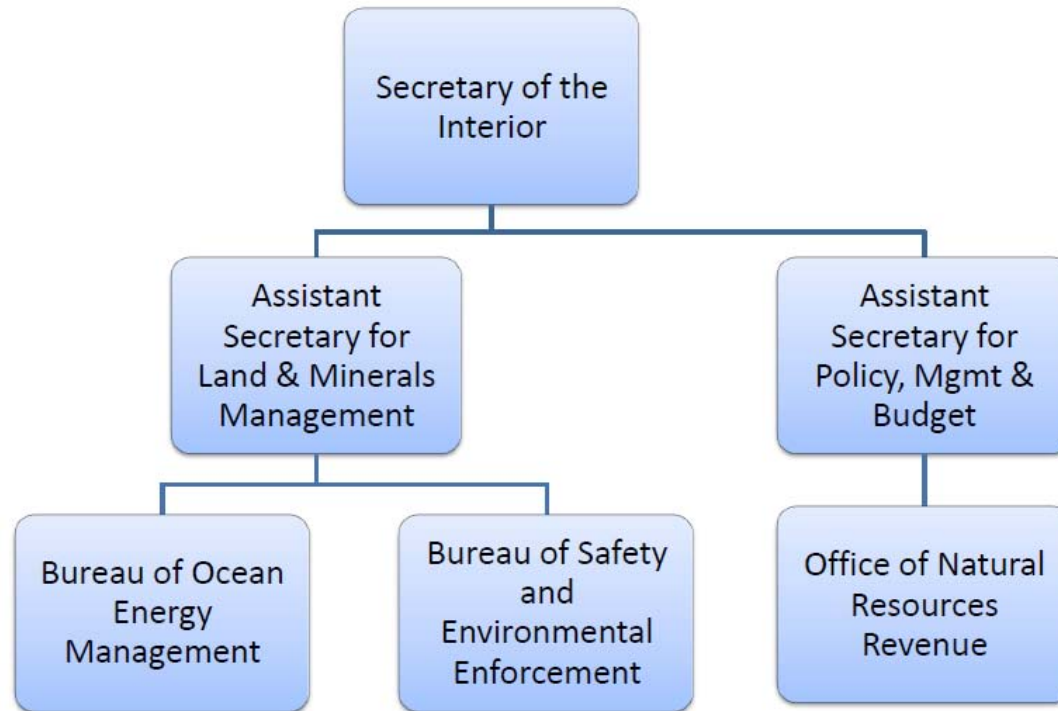
- What comes next?

# Administration

- “Press the pause button” and study what went wrong
  - 6 Month Moratorium on Deepwater Drilling
  - Suspension of Shell Exploratory Plans in the Arctic
  - Cancellation of VA lease sale
- Studies
  - 30 day safety review
  - National Academy of Engineering review
  - Oil Spill Commission
- Reorganize MMS

# Restructure MMS

## Post-reorganization Structure



# US Oil Spill Commission

- **Membership**

- Bob Graham and William K. Reilly co-Chairs
- Fred Bartlit, Chief Counsel
- Frances G. Beinecke, President of the Natural Resources Defense Council
- Donald Boesch, Pres. of the University of Maryland Center for Environmental Science
- Terry D. Garcia, Exec. Vice Pres. for Mission Programs for the National Geographic Society
- Cherry A. Murray, Dean of the Harvard School of Engineering and Applied Sciences
- Frances Ulmer, Chancellor of the University of Alaska Anchorage

# US Oil Spill Commission

- **Task:**

- Examine the facts and circumstances to determine the cause of the Deepwater Horizon Oil Disaster
- Develop options for guarding against future oil spills associated with offshore drilling
- Submit a final public report to the President with its findings within 6 months of the Commission's first meeting

- **Process/timeline:**

- **May 22:** President Obama established the National Commission on the BP Deepwater Horizon Oil Spill and Offshore Drilling.
- **July 12-13:** Meeting 1 (New Orleans, LA)
- **August 25:** Meeting 2
- Final report – early 2011

- More Information <http://www.oilspillcommission.gov/>

# National Ocean Policy

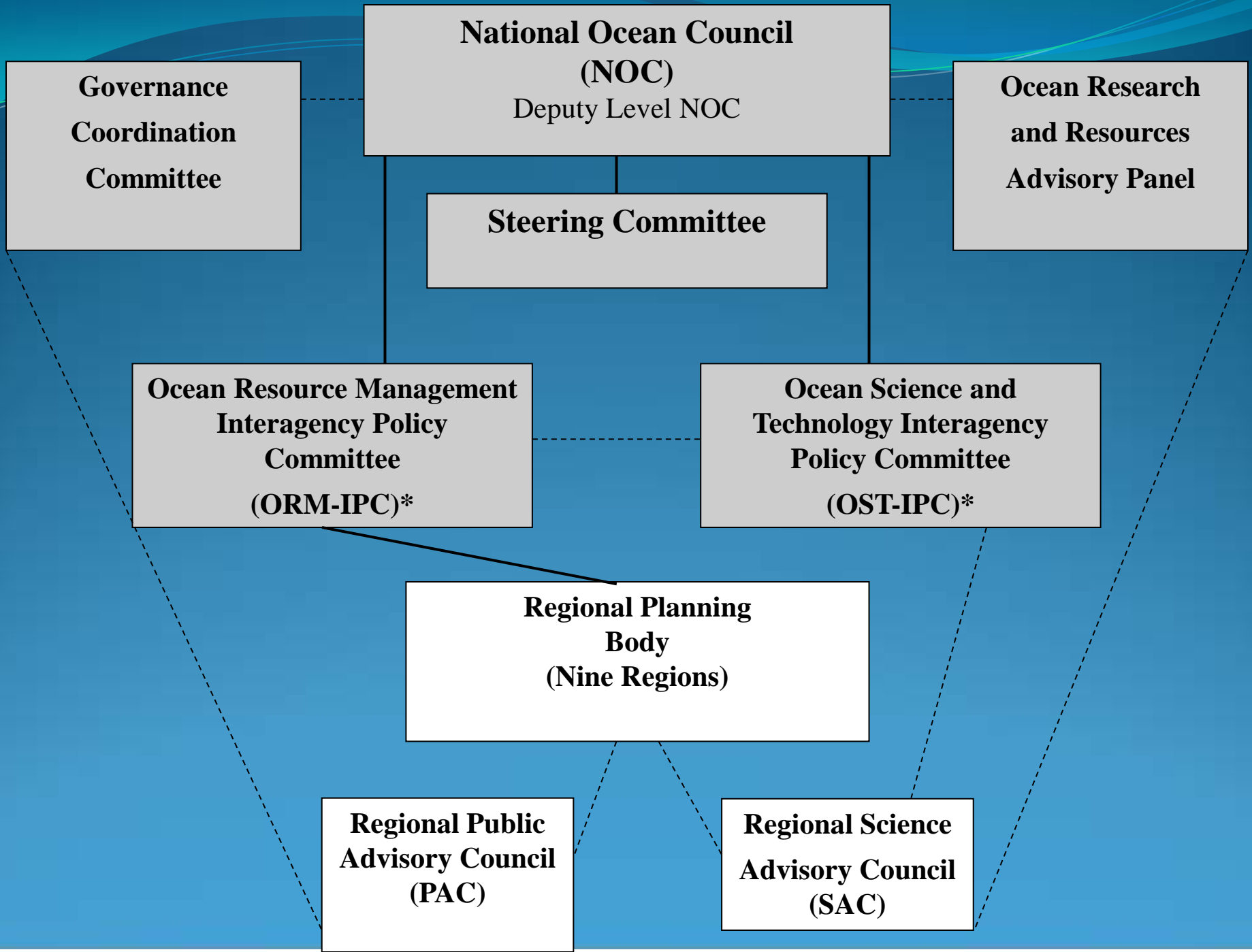
- Executive Order signed and Final Recommendations released 19 July, 2010
- Establishes a National Ocean Policy
  - National Ocean Council
  - Nine National Priorities
- Framework for Coastal and Marine Spatial Planning
  - Regional planning bodies
  - To promote more efficient use of ocean resources and space while providing for the protection of ecosystem health



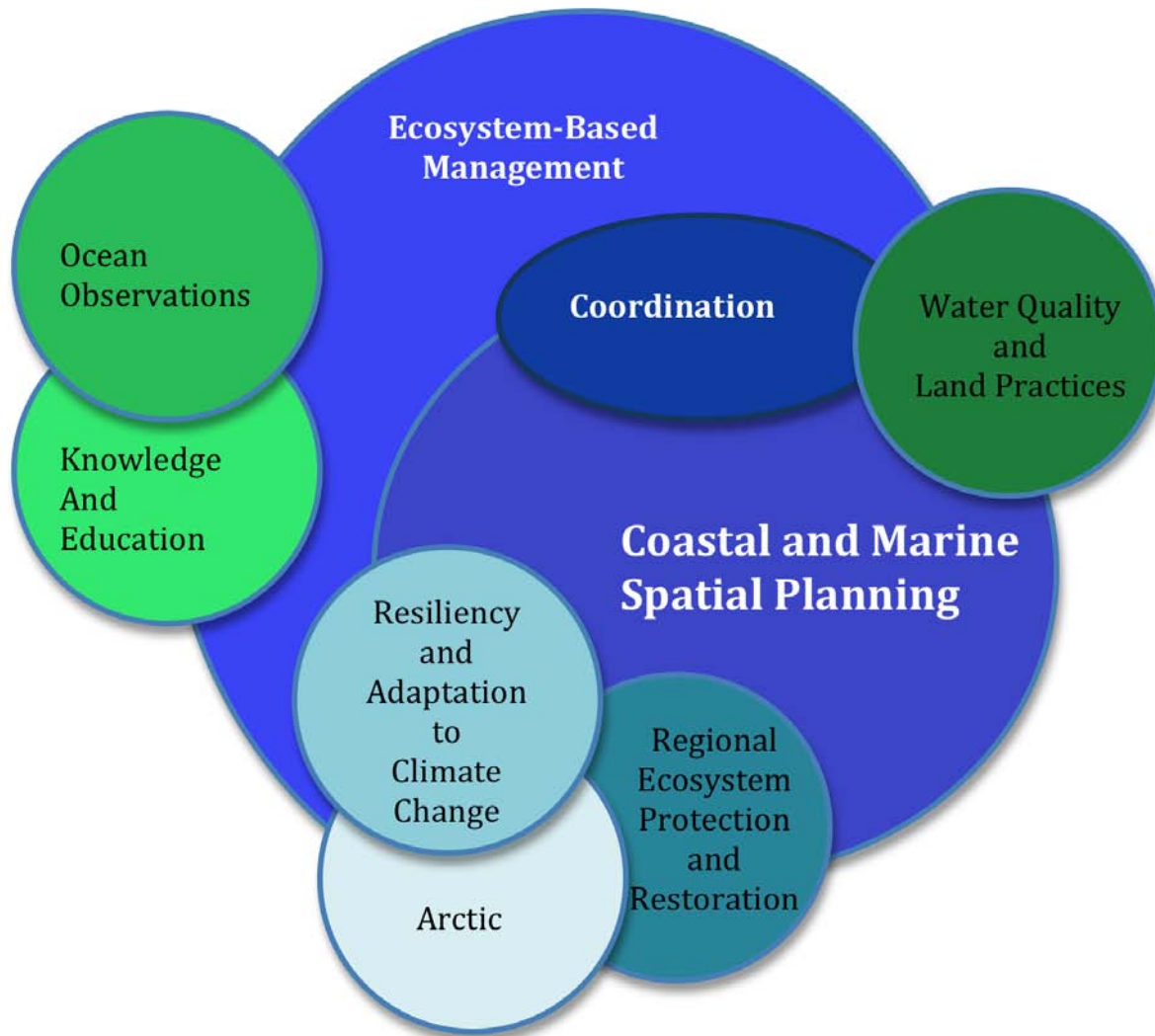
THE WHITE HOUSE COUNCIL ON ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY

*Final Recommendations  
Of The  
Interagency Ocean Policy  
Task Force  
July 19, 2010*

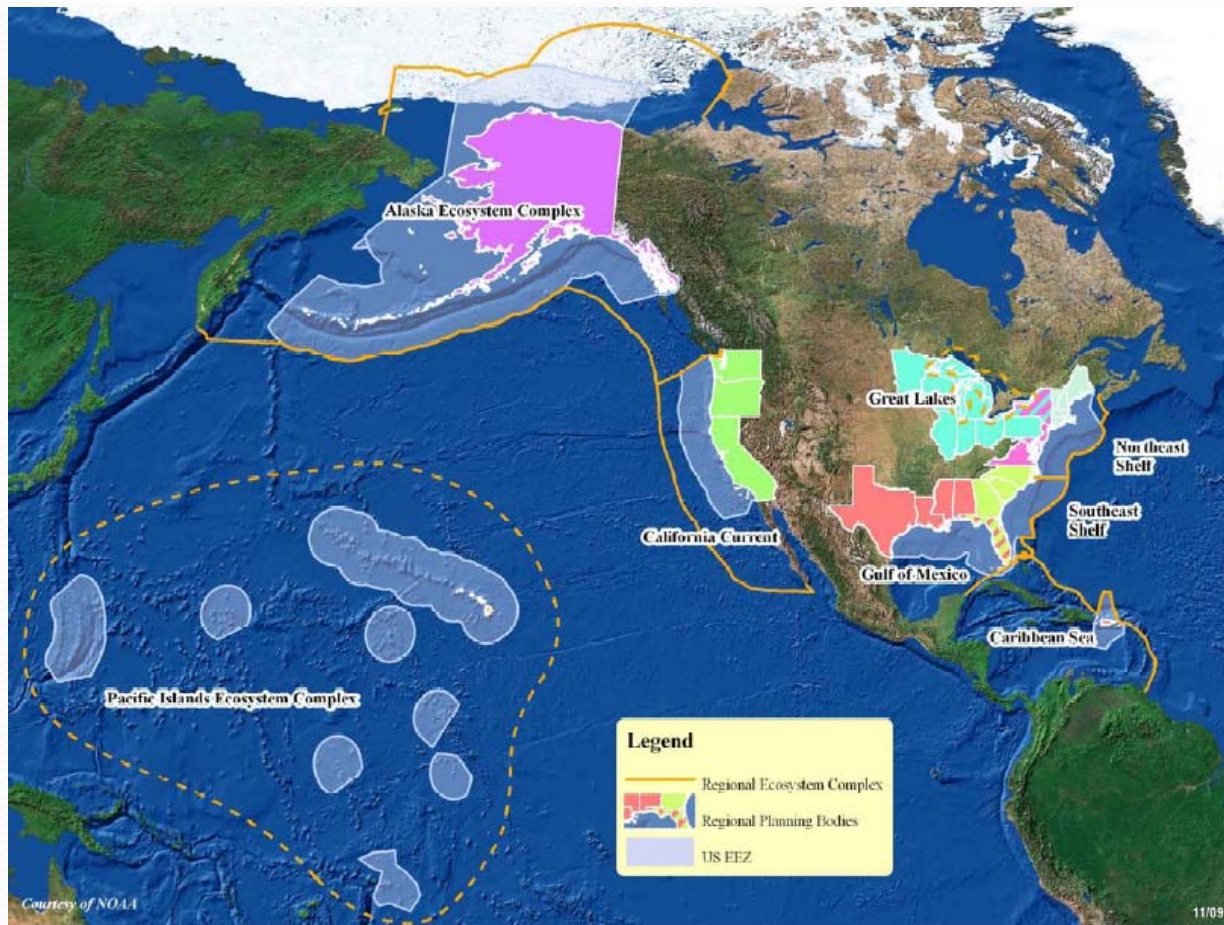




**A Diagram of the Nine Priority Objectives Defined  
by the  
Interim Report of the Interagency Ocean Policy task Force**



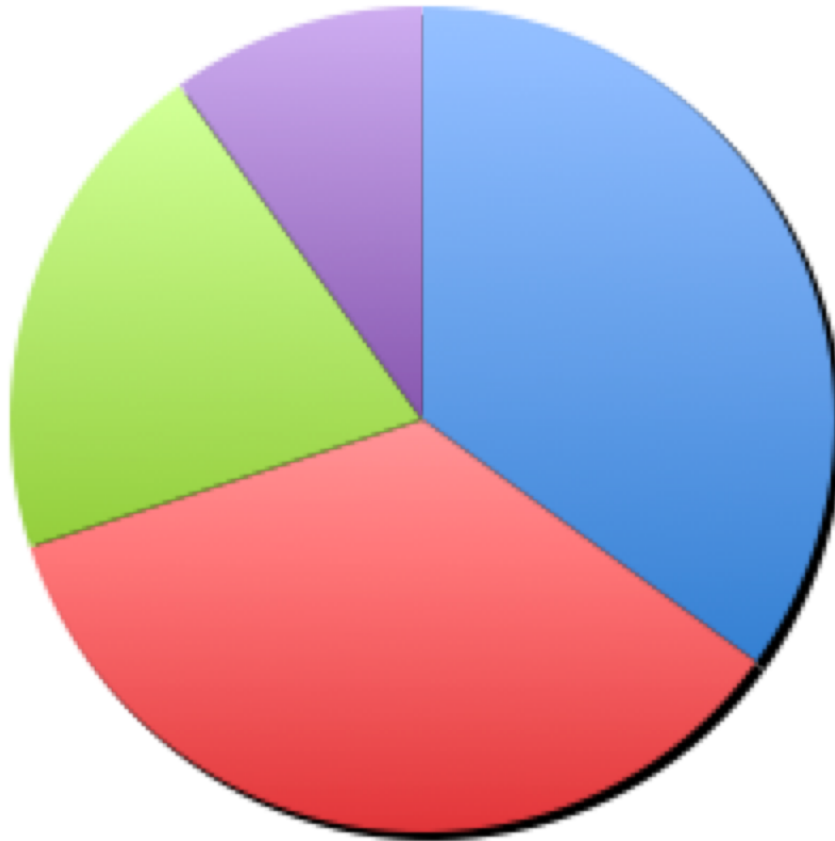
# Regional Planning Areas



# House

- HR 3534 the Consolidated Lands Energy and Aquatic Resources Act (CLEAR)
  - Lifted the liability cap
  - MMS restructuring
  - Reforms to OCSLA
  - Spill response and prevention
  - Coastal State planning for spill response
  - Gulf of Mexico Restoration Program
  - Land and Water Conservation Fund
  - Ocean Resources Conservation and Assistance Fund (ORCA)
  - Regional Planning

# ORCA



- 35% grants to coastal states and affected Indian tribes
- 35% ocean, coastal, and Great Lakes grants program
- 20% long-term ocean and coastal observations
- 10% grants to Regional Ocean Partnerships and Regional Coordination Councils

# House

- CLEAR Act Passed Friday July 30<sup>th</sup>
- Amendment to lift the deepwater drilling moratorium.

# Senate

## S.3663 The Clean Energy Jobs and Oil Company Accountability Act

- Lifts the liability cap
- MMS restructuring
- OCSLA Reforms
- Spill Prevention and Response
- Coastal State planning for spill response
- Oil Spill Liability Trust Fund
- Gulf of Mexico Restoration Program
- Land and Water Conservation Fund
- Oil Savings
  - Natural Gas and Electric Vehicles
  - Home Star

# Senate vs. House

## S.3663

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- MMS Restructuring
- OCSLA Reforms
- Spill Prevention and Response
- Coastal State planning for spill response
- Oil Spill Liability Trust Fund
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## CLEAR Act

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# Senate

- S 3663 Clean Energy Jobs and Oil Company Accountability Act
- Not likely to come up for a vote before recess
- Republican Alternative S. 3643 Oil Spill Response Improvement Act of 2010
  - Liability
  - Revenue Sharing

# Ocean Funding in the Senate

- National Endowment for the Ocean (NEO) S. 3641
- Introduced in July by Senators Whitehouse (D-RI) and Snowe (R-ME) with Senator Rockefeller (D-WV) as an original co-sponsor
- Not currently included in the Senate oil spill package.

# What comes next?

- Recess!
- Mid-term elections
- Lame duck?
- Findings of the US Oil Spill Commission?