

2. **LEGISLATION AND EXECUTIVE ORDERS**

A. Oceans Act of 2000 (P.L. 106-256)

On August 7, 2000, President Clinton signed into law the Oceans Act of 2000 (Public Law 106-256). The purpose of this law is to establish a Commission on Ocean Policy to make recommendations for a coordinated and comprehensive national ocean policy that will promote:

1. the protection of life and property against natural and manmade hazards;
2. responsible stewardship, including use, of fishery resources and other ocean and coastal resources;
3. the protection of the marine environment and prevention of marine pollution;
4. the enhancement of marine-related commerce and transportation, the resolution of conflicts among users of the marine environment, and the engagement of the private sector in innovative approaches for sustainable use of living marine resources and responsible use of non-living marine resources;
5. the expansion of human knowledge of the marine environment, including the role of the oceans in climate and global environmental change and the advancement of education and training in fields related to ocean and coastal activities;
6. the continued investment in the development and improvement of the capabilities, performance, use, and efficiency of technologies for use in ocean and coastal activities, including investments and technologies designed to promote national energy and food security.
7. close cooperation among all government agencies and departments and the private sector to ensure: (a) coherent and consistent regulation and management of ocean and coastal activities; (b) availability and appropriate allocation of federal funding, personnel, facilities, and equipment for such activities; (c) cost-effective and efficient operation of federal departments, agencies, and programs involved in ocean and coastal activities; and (d) enhancement of partnerships with state and local governments with respect to ocean and coastal activities, including the management of ocean and coastal resources and identification of appropriate opportunities for policy-making and decision-making at the state and local levels; and
8. the preservation of the role of the United States as a leader in ocean and coastal activities, and, when it is in the national interest, the cooperation by the United States with other nations and international organizations in ocean and coastal activities.

For further information, contact Ashley Cooper, Legislative Counsel, Office of Senator Ernest F. Hollings, U.S. Senate, Washington, DC 20510-4002, (phone: (202) 224-6121).