

The Council on Environmental Quality (CEQ) and the Office of Science and Technology Policy (OSTP), on behalf of the Ocean Policy Committee (OPC), recently announced that the Biden Administration is developing an "Ocean Justice Strategy."<sup>1</sup>

This announcement comes on the heels of an April 21, 2023 Executive Order entitled "Revitalizing Our Nation's Commitment to Environmental Justice for All"<sup>2</sup> and the release, on May 22, 2023, of the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration Fisheries' "National Equity and Environmental Justice Strategy."<sup>3</sup> The proposed Ocean Justice Strategy is also part of the Biden Administration's overall climate policy.

The CEQ states that the Ocean Justice Strategy will (1) assess how ocean justice should be defined; (2) identify barriers to, and opportunities for, ocean justice; (3) describe how ocean justice should apply to scientific enterprises and knowledge building; (4) describe how ocean justice should apply to access to, and management of, the ocean, coasts and Great Lakes; and (5) describe how ocean justice should be implemented by various levels of government.

The OPC is charged with developing federal ocean policy. At this preliminary stage, the OPC is soliciting public input to formulate the substance of the Ocean Justice Strategy. Due on July 24, 2023, the OPC seeks comments on the following:

- Defining Ocean Justice
- Potential barriers to Ocean Justice
- Opportunities for Ocean Justice
- Research and knowledge gaps
- How Ocean Justice would work in practice and which tools should be used – whether existing or new
- Potential collaboration and partnership with external stakeholders
- Any additional considerations

The notice indicates that the Ocean Justice Strategy would likely include the following topics: climate change, sea level rise, coastal flooding, storm intensity, pollution, overfishing, loss of habitat and biodiversity. Given the broad range of potential issues, the CEQ announcement should garner significant attention from a diverse group of stakeholders.

## Contact



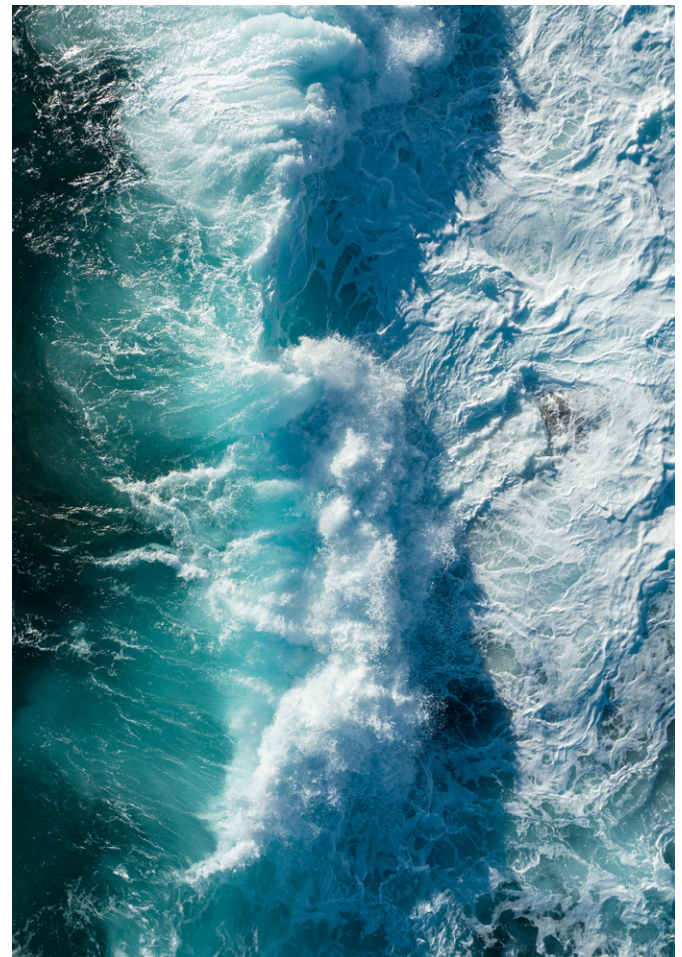
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<sup>1</sup> See 88 FR 37518-01, 2023 WL 3864858(F.R.)

<sup>2</sup> See E.O 14096 (April 21, 2023)

<sup>3</sup> The NOAA Fisheries statement is available at <https://media.fisheries.noaa.gov/2023-05/NOAA-Fisheries-EEJ-Strategy-Final.pdf>