



REVEALED:

# THE 4 BIG OCEAN FIGHTS OF THE NEXT 4 YEARS

HOW **YOU** CAN HELP PROTECT THE OCEAN,  
EVEN IF YOU DON'T KNOW WHERE TO START

## A MESSAGE FROM THE OCEAN CONSERVANCY TEAM

# THE OCEAN NEEDS YOU, NOW MORE THAN EVER.

As Donald Trump is poised to begin a second term in the White House, it's worth remembering that he has repeatedly said that he supports clean air and clean water. We **want** him to fulfill that promise, and all of us at Ocean Conservancy intend to hold him to it.

But we are also clear-eyed about what we are seeing and hearing about President Trump's second-term agenda for the ocean. And the signs are alarming.

Simply put, his plans threaten the ocean, its wildlife, our coastal communities and our planet. Our team of science, policy and legal experts see giant, red warning signs flashing all around us.

Let us level with you about politics for a moment. At Ocean Conservancy we don't engage in partisan politics **at all**. We will work with anyone from any political party who cares about the ocean. As a 501(c)(3) nonprofit charity, it's not our place to have an opinion about Donald Trump the politician.

But while politics isn't our role, ocean policy **absolutely** is. And that means it is our job to oppose President Trump's policy agenda where it will hurt the ocean.

This report lifts the curtain on the four major ocean fights that loom under his second administration:

1. Fighting for a Clean Ocean Energy Future
2. Safeguarding Ocean Wildlife & Fish
3. Defending NOAA and Standing up for Science
4. Saving Special Ocean Places

The outcomes of these four fights will be deeply consequential—for all of us. The future of our ocean and our planet are being decided now.

We know you love the ocean as much as we do. That's why we're laying out in this report what's at stake and how you can get involved. At Ocean Conservancy, we have a deeply experienced team of some of the top ocean science, policy and advocacy experts in the entire world. We are passionate. We are effective. We are relentless. And we are here to help you fight for the ocean.

Together, we sit on the cusp of some of the most important struggles for the health of the ocean in our lifetime. Ocean Conservancy will never stop working toward a healthy ocean and a thriving planet, forever and for everyone. Together, we will fight for our ocean. And together, we will win.

## WILL YOU JOIN US?

## THE FOUR BIG OCEAN FIGHTS:

- #1** Fighting for a Clean Ocean Energy Future
- #2** Safeguarding Ocean Wildlife
- #3** Defending NOAA and Standing up for Science
- #4** Saving Special Ocean Places

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WILL FIGHT FOR  
OUR OCEAN.  
AND TOGETHER,  
WE WILL WIN.**



## BIG OCEAN FIGHT #1

# FIGHTING FOR A CLEAN OCEAN ENERGY FUTURE

While the ocean faces many threats, none are as urgent and existential to its health as climate change. The greatest opportunity to address climate change is to change how we produce energy – moving away from harmful fossil fuels like offshore oil drilling, to clean renewable energy sources like offshore wind. In fact, clean ocean energy could meet one third of global energy demands, and it is impossible to hit climate targets without it. But President Trump has repeatedly called for ramping up offshore oil and gas drilling, while also vilifying offshore wind. His agenda is the polar opposite of what a healthy ocean needs. Our ocean is already suffering from climate change—it absorbs 90% of the world’s excess heat and as a result we see mass die-offs of marine life. And our world is suffering—from heatwaves to floods to more devastating hurricanes. The choice is stark, but clear: we need to fight for an energy future that protects the ocean, people and the climate. This means more renewable ocean energy, not more fossil fuels.

“ *We need to fight for an energy future that protects the ocean, people and the climate.* ”



### WHAT A HEALTHY OCEAN NEEDS

- Eliminate offshore oil and gas drilling
- Accelerate responsible, clean ocean energy from offshore wind, waves and tides
- Achieve zero emissions from global shipping



### TRUMP’S AGENDA

- Dramatically expand offshore oil and gas drilling
- Destroy offshore wind and clean energy industries
- Bonanza of giveaways for the fossil fuel industry

## FIGHTING CLIMATE CHANGE BY DEPLOYING SUSTAINABLE OFFSHORE WIND

Ocean Conservancy supports a transition to 100% clean ocean energy by 2050. The future should not be dependent on the destructive methods of past ocean energy development. By phasing out offshore oil and gas drilling, and replacing it with clean, responsibly developed renewable energy such as offshore wind, the ocean and its ecosystems can be protected from the future impacts of climate change. Ocean Conservancy is boldly leading efforts towards this complete sea change in ocean energy. Through evidence-based research and targeted policy changes, we can advance responsible offshore wind to provide clean energy while protecting ocean ecosystems, wildlife and communities.



## BIG OCEAN FIGHT #2

# SAFEGUARDING OCEAN WILDLIFE & FISH

We can't have a healthy ocean without safeguarding the wildlife and fish that inhabit it. Tireless efforts have been invested in protecting our ocean's inhabitants—from campaigns to protect endangered whales, to laws that defend all marine mammals, to safeguards for endangered species, to relentless efforts to steward our nation's fisheries. And there's still more work to be done for ocean wildlife at risk! But President Trump has laid out a vision that threatens to undo this progress. He wants to eliminate or undermine environmental protections for ocean wildlife. We cannot afford to go back to the days where whales, manatees and sea turtles were left unprotected, and fisheries were widely overfished.

*“ We cannot afford to go back to the days where whales, manatees and sea turtles were left unprotected, and fisheries were widely overfished. ”*



### WHAT A HEALTHY OCEAN NEEDS

- Ensure 100% of U.S. federally managed fisheries are sustainable and climate ready
- Achieve zero loss of fishing gear in the ocean, the deadliest form of marine debris
- Maintain and strengthen protections for ocean wildlife, marine mammals and endangered species



### TRUMP'S AGENDA

- Repeal conservation rules for federal fisheries
- Weaken or rescind environmental protections for ocean wildlife like the Endangered Species Act, Marine Mammal Protection Act, and the Migratory Bird Treaty Act
- Create loopholes for the fossil fuel sector and other industries to avoid protecting marine wildlife and stop complying with environmental precautions

### SAFEGUARDING SUSTAINABLE FISHERIES IN THE U.S.

For decades, Ocean Conservancy has been at the forefront of fighting for sustainable ocean fisheries across the U.S. Whether it's walking the halls of Congress or working in Fishery Management Councils across the country, our vision is healthy fish populations and resilient ocean ecosystems that support thriving fishing businesses, provide ample fishing opportunities, and deliver nutritious protein on our dinner plates for generations to come. Globally, fisheries put seafood on the table for billions of people and offer jobs and livelihoods for millions. Many people fish for fun and to connect with the ocean, and subsistence fishing is a key component of food security and culture. In short, much of the world depends on fish. Whether we fish, live in a coastal town, or just like to eat seafood, we can all benefit from healthy, sustainable fisheries.

## BIG OCEAN FIGHT #3

# DEFENDING NOAA AND STANDING UP FOR SCIENCE

As a country, we rely on ocean and climate science to provide us the unbiased, unvarnished truth about the crises facing our ocean and our planet. Scientists don't always tell us what we want to hear, but truth and transparency matter. The National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) plays that role for our country on the ocean. NOAA monitors and scientifically predicts our weather, tracks our climate, monitors our oceans, manages our fisheries, and protects sensitive ocean places and wildlife. Without the robust, unbiased science that NOAA provides to all Americans, we would be facing the ocean biodiversity, plastic pollution and climate crises blindfolded. But President Trump and his allies are sending clear signals that they want to dismantle, disable and defund critical environmental agencies like NOAA. Whether it's through abolishing NOAA entirely, privatizing parts of NOAA like the National Weather Service, withholding critical funding, or firing NOAA scientists and employees en masse, a barrage of proposals would attempt to sideline science and silence common sense. Our country and our ocean need NOAA. We cannot let that happen.

“ *Truth and transparency matter.* ”



## WHAT A HEALTHY OCEAN NEEDS

- A strong, robustly-funded NOAA to study climate, protect ocean wildlife and habitats, enforce our environmental laws, and support coastal communities
- Evidence-based ocean conservation
- Climate action informed by unbiased science accessible to all



## TRUMP'S AGENDA

- Dismantling or dramatically weakening NOAA
- Eliminating NOAA's climate functions and defunding climate science
- Weakening or eliminating NOAA's environmental protection functions
- Privatizing the National Weather Service

## DEFENDING AGAINST DRACONIAN NOAA BUDGET CUTS

During President Trump's first term, Ocean Conservancy was at the forefront of defending NOAA and protecting the agency against draconian, multi-billion-dollar budget cuts proposed by his administration. We pulled together a national coalition of ocean allies to defend NOAA, successfully defeating most of the proposed cuts. The stakes were high then, but they are even higher now. The proposed attacks against NOAA are more draconian this time around and involve weakening the very foundation of NOAA, well beyond just funding levels. We defended NOAA before, and we're ready to do it again. But we anticipate that this could be the biggest fight over the future of NOAA that we've ever seen. The fate of our ocean and climate hangs in the balance.

## BIG OCEAN FIGHT #4

# SAVING SPECIAL OCEAN PLACES

Our ocean holds some of America's greatest natural treasures. Some ocean places are so special, so vulnerable, and so important that they require protection. As a country, we protect these places by designating marine sanctuaries, establishing marine monuments, and declaring sensitive areas off-limits to harmful offshore oil and gas drilling. During his first term, President Trump proved eager to undo those protections. He tried to rescind protections against drilling in some of our most delicate ocean habitats; he tried to unwind protections for marine monuments; and he considered wide-ranging actions to repeal entire ocean protected areas. There are strong indications that he'll do it all again, and more, during his second term. We cannot put our most important ocean environments on the auction block – available for exploitation for the highest bidder. If we allow that to happen, our country, our ocean and our planet will be all the poorer.

“ *We cannot put our most important ocean environments on the auction block.* ”



## WHAT A HEALTHY OCEAN NEEDS

- Establish protections for vital ocean habitats
- Protect 30 percent of the ocean by 2030
- Ban offshore oil and gas drilling
- Support Indigenous-led conservation for culturally and environmentally important ocean areas like the Northern Bering Sea Climate Resilience Area



## TRUMP'S AGENDA

- Oppose all efforts to achieve protection of 30 percent of the ocean by 2030
- Rescind, revoke and weaken protections for existing marine protected areas
- Allow offshore drilling in currently protected sensitive ocean habitats

## SUPPORTING THE FUTURE OF THE ARCTIC AND NORTHERN BERING SEA

For years, Ocean Conservancy has worked closely with partners in Alaska to protect critical ocean habitats across the Northern Bering Sea, the Bering Strait, and the Arctic Ocean—regions that support vibrant communities and cultural traditions. These lands and waters are integral to Indigenous ways of life, providing sustenance, transportation, and cultural connection across generations. The area is also home to one of the largest animal migrations in the world, hosting diverse marine life like beluga whales, walrus, seals, and humpback whales, which are essential not only to the ecosystem but to the people who rely on them.

Collaborative efforts placed large areas of the Northern Bering Sea and U.S. Arctic Ocean off-limits to offshore oil and gas drilling, recognizing the critical need to protect these vulnerable waters from the impacts of oil spills and industrial activity. Alaska Native Tribes led the successful establishment of the Northern Bering Sea Climate Resilience Area, a designation reflecting their deep commitment to safeguarding these waters for the benefit of future generations. We were grateful to support and amplify this effort—but now these protections are at risk. Honoring and upholding these hard-won protections that support both communities and the environment is more urgent than ever.



## HOW WE WIN, AND WHAT YOU CAN DO TO PROTECT THE OCEAN

We **can** win the four big ocean fights if we work together and use our collective voice. But winning requires action and advocacy. Here's the reality: the outcomes of the four big ocean fights don't just depend on what President Trump does. They depend on what members of Congress do, what governors and state attorneys general do, what state legislatures do, and how elected officials across the board engage in these fights. And all these elected officials depend on YOU as a constituent to tell them how the four big ocean fights affect your communities and our planet. We win by showing up, getting involved, and making our voices heard. There are lots of ways to be an ocean advocate, so let's get started.

## SIX WAYS TO ADVOCATE

### TAKE ACTION ONLINE

[Take action](#) and join thousands of other ocean advocates by signing your name and telling elected officials they should support ocean-healthy policies to protect our ocean and win the four big ocean fights. Join our newsletter to be kept in the loop on what you can do to protect our ocean.

### LEVERAGE SOCIAL MEDIA

Use your voice! Utilize social media to raise awareness, frame the issues, influence elected officials, create a sense of community, promote ideas, and celebrate success. Follow us on [Facebook](#), [LinkedIn](#), [Instagram](#), and [X \(Twitter\)](#) for ideas on what to share—and text OCEAN to 52551 to join our mobile list.

### CALL OR EMAIL YOUR REPRESENTATIVE

Constituent calls and emails are an effective way to remind your members of Congress that their constituents care about ocean issues.

### WRITE A LETTER TO THE EDITOR OR OP-ED

[Publishing an op-ed](#), letter to the editor or blog is a great way to get the attention of your elected officials and neighbors.

### SCHEDULE IN-PERSON MEETINGS

Face-to-face meetings with congressional offices and other elected officials are one of the most effective ways to put your views on ocean health front and center. Show up and have a conversation!

### BECOME A MEMBER, DONATE TO OCEAN CONSERVANCY

When you [donate to Ocean Conservancy](#), you're standing up for our ocean and the life it sustains. Every new member and supporter strengthens our collective voice, helping us champion the issues that matter. To learn more about making an investment, contact us at [vision@oceanconservancy.org](mailto:vision@oceanconservancy.org).



# HELPFUL RESOURCES

## FIND YOUR REPRESENTATIVE

Not sure of your congressional district or who your member of the House of Representatives is? This service will assist you by matching your ZIP code to your congressional district, with links to your member's website and contact page.

## FIND YOUR SENATORS

Choose your state to instantly find your U.S. Senators and their email, phone number and address contact information.

## CONGRESSIONAL MANAGEMENT FOUNDATION

Detailed guide for meeting face-to-face with Congress—what to do before, during, and after meetings with your legislators.

## HOW TO BECOME A SUPER-CITIZEN ADVOCATE

See one man's story (and accompanying video) on how he became a highly effective advocate with his members of congress.

