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**Impact of the National Ocean Policy in the
United States**

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Abstrakt

Tato diplomová práce analyzuje názory na nově ustanovenou politiku oceánu ve Spojených státech amerických. Pomocí obsahové analýzy potvrzuje nebo vyvrací hlavní stanovenou hypotézu, která předpokládá, že Republikáni budou danou politiku kritizovat ze zřejmých ideologických důvodů, a naopak Demokraté danou politiku podpoří, neboť politika pramení z jejich administrativy a navazuje na jejich pozitivní přístup k environmentálním otázkám. Oceán je nejen pro USA, ale rovněž pro celý svět výrazným zdrojem potravin a potřebných minerálů, ovlivňuje klima, produkuje výrazné množství kyslíku a pohlcuje velké množství škodlivin z ovzduší. Jeho ekonomický potenciál je v USA velmi zřejmý a zhoršující se stav oceánu by mohl mít významný dopad na prosperitu státu v budoucnu. Nejen z toho důvodu prezident Barack Obama podpořil novou politiku oceánu, která by měla reagovat na zhoršující se stav oceánu, zaměřit se na zlepšení jeho využití a současně utužit ochranu jeho ekosystémů. Tato politika začala vznikat v roce 2010 a její teorie byla dokončena v roce 2013. Její implementace je záležitostí dlouhých let, během kterých by tento politický rámec měl směřovat ke zlepšení managementu oceánu a současně podpořit ekonomické aktivity, které s oceánem souvisí. Na adresu této politiky se ozvalo množství názorů od politických aktérů, environmentálních skupin i nevládních organizací. Tyto názory jsou podrobeny analýze v této diplomové práci a na základě této analýzy je potvrzena nebo vyvrácena hlavní hypotéza práce.

Abstract

This thesis analyzes the newly established U.S. National Ocean Policy. Through a content analysis of all obtained sources concerning the opinions on the policy, the main hypothesis is either confirmed or disproved. It can be assumed that Republicans would oppose this

policy from obvious ideological reasons, whilst Democrats would support this policy, because it originated from their administration and follows their positive approach to environmental issues. The ocean is not only for the United States, but also for the whole world an important source of food and various minerals, affects weather, produces a great amount of oxygen and absorbs noticeable amount of pollutants. Its economic potential for the United States is imperative and the worsening conditions of the ocean ecosystems represent an enormous potential threat to the future economic prosperity of the United States. President Barack Obama reinforced this ocean policy, which should response to the worsening conditions of the ocean, aim focus on the improvements of the ocean management and simultaneously enhance the protection of the ocean ecosystems. This policy began its journey in 2010 and was finished on paper in 2013. Its implementation will take many years, during which this political framework should lead to improvement of the ocean management and simultaneously enhance the economic activities that are related to the ocean access. This policy provoked many opinions from political sphere, environmental groups and non-governmental organizations. These opinions are analyzed through a content analysis in this thesis and its results are used to confirm or disprove the main hypothesis.

Klíčová slova

národní politika oceánu; Obamova administrativa; správa oceánu; realizační plán; acidifikace oceánu; Národní rada oceánu; ekonomie oceánu; Richard Hastings; vládní nařízení; znečištění oceánu

Keywords

National Ocean Policy; Obama administration; Ocean management; Implementation Plan; Ocean acidification; National Ocean Council; Ocean economy; Richard Hastings; Executive order; ocean pollution

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Prohlášení

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V Praze dne 12. 5. 2016

Petra Ouředníková

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INTRODUCTION

The existence of oceans is essential to any life on our planet. Its significance is frequently undermined or worse, forgotten, but oceans are more vital to our lives than we can imagine. Oceans cover over $\frac{3}{4}$ of the Earth's surface and hold about 97% of the planet's water. The most notable feature is that they produce over half of the oxygen in the atmosphere and correspondingly absorb most of the carbon.¹ Oceans provide us with a wide variety of food from the coastlines, as well as from the open ocean. Their waters also provide important shipping routes as ships carry 90% of all trade. Temperature and the weather around the globe are likewise influenced by the ocean currents, which redistribute heat around the world.² Oceans undoubtedly effect daily life of every person on our planet, in spite of the fact that millions of people do not live anywhere near the coastline.

As this thesis focus on the United States, it is necessary to highlight the importance of the ocean from its perspective. The United States is an ocean nation as it is surrounded by water at each cardinal point. The U.S. exclusive economic zone (EEZ)³ is the largest in the world, covering 3.4 million square nautical miles of ocean – an area bigger than the landmass of all fifty states combined.⁴ For the United States, oceans are particularly essential for their economic benefits. Ships carry about 95% of all U.S. trade, as they move about 2 billion tons of freight each year. Furthermore, millions of jobs in the United States are directly reliant on the ocean, which correspondingly plays a substantial role in nation's GDP.⁵ More often than not, humans fail to notice the value of the ocean, even though it serves as the biggest provider on our planet.

¹ "Protect Planet Ocean is about Marine Conservation," *Protect Planet Ocean*, <http://www.protectplanetocean.org/collections/introduction/introbox/oceans/introduction-item.html> (accessed on February 20, 2016).

² H el ene, Petit. "Open ocean: impotence," WWF, http://wwf.panda.org/about_our_earth/blue_planet/open_ocean/ocean_importance/ (accessed on February 20, 2016).

³ EEZ is an ocean area that expands to 200 nautical miles from the nation's territorial sea baseline, which extends to 12 nautical miles from the coastline. The nation has a right to explore, exploit, conserve or manage its natural resource in its EEZ ("What is the EEZ?" *National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration*, <http://oceanservice.noaa.gov/facts/eez.html> (accessed on February 21, 2016).

⁴ U.S. Commission on Ocean Policy, "An Ocean Blueprint for the 21st Century," U.S. Commission on Ocean Policy (Washington: 2004), pdf, http://govinfo.library.unt.edu/oceancommission/documents/full_color_rpt/000_ocean_full_report.pdf (accessed on February 21, 2016).

⁵ "How important is the ocean to our economy?" *National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration*, <http://oceanservice.noaa.gov/facts/oceaneconomy.html> (accessed on February 21, 2016).

One of the very influential people in our world society, who decided to take action, was President Barack Obama. In 2010, he established the first comprehensive National Ocean Policy in the United States and oversaw the formation of the National Ocean Council. This established Council is supposed to ensure the implementation of a new policy on ocean.⁶ However, whether it is an effective and suitable policy after all is a question still to be answered.

The policy provoked diverse opinions and responses across the political spectrum in the United States. It can be logically assumed that Democrats would support the policy, since they embrace policies concerning the environmental issues and the policy comes from the their administration. On the other hand, it can be assumed that Republicans could oppose this policy as they oppose any expansion of the federal bureaucracy and the possibility of new regulations. The main purpose of this thesis is to confirm or disprove this hypothesis through a content analysis conducted on all obtained sources concerning the opinions and statements on the policy. For the analysis, all sources containing opinions and statements will be used; meaning sources authored by politicians, groups' statements on their websites and cited opinions of other people in the newspaper articles.

Because this policy provoked a noticeable amount of opinions among diverse people, environmental groups, non-governmental organizations and governmental agencies, the analysis will be used to answer two sub-questions in this thesis:

- When focusing on each category, which themes concerning the policy were most prevalent in the analyzed opinions?
- Were the themes of expanded bureaucracy and new regulations most abundant in the criticizing opinions?

⁶ "National Ocean Policy," *Beachapedia*, modified on August 23, 2016, http://www.beachapedia.org/National_Ocean_Policy (accessed on February 21, 2016).

Based on the content analysis, these questions will be answered to disprove or confirm the hypothesis of this thesis. Even though it can be rationally assumed that from their political ideology, Democrats would support this policy in contrast with Republicans, who would oppose it, it is imperative to examine this hypothesis through analysis of appropriate sources.

In the first part of this thesis, the ocean's significance and the ocean issues will be described. It is imperative to display the significance of the ocean economy for the United States to explain the value of the new policy. The ocean issues will be presented in essence to better comprehend several topics in the policy itself. In the next chapter, the policy will be described through its several documents. The last part of this thesis will be dedicated to the opinions, which occurred after the policy's establishment. They will be distinguished into two categories of praising and criticizing opinions. In the last part of this chapter, the content analysis will be conducted to confirm or disprove the hypothesis. The mechanism of the content analysis will be in a greater detail described in the research framework of this thesis.

It is still very early to see how effective the work of Obama's appointed Council is, but it is important to look at the documents themselves and analyze the strong opinions they generated. It is not the first ever attempt to grasp the issue of worsening ocean conditions, but it is crucial to focus on the latest policy, as it is the policy currently in effect. However, this thesis will not focus on the implementation of the policy or any potential changes the policy might have already produced. This paper will be strictly concentrated on the opinions that occurred after the policy's establishment to disprove or confirm the hypothesis, whether we can assume that Democrats would support the policy and Republicans would oppose it.

The policy is still very new and the examination of its implementation would be rather biased when focusing on such a short time of its existence. The main purpose of this thesis is to analyze the opinions of the policy's establishment and the atmosphere, which it created. When focusing on the policies, every so often it is imperative to look at the opinions and public response, not to focus on the implementation of the policy itself. The opinions and responses might have certain value in the future course of the policy. This thesis will thus focus on the analysis of those opinions.

1. RESEARCH FRAMEWORK

In this chapter, the main hypothesis of this paper will be depicted and the literature will be evaluated. Similarly, the method used in this thesis will be described in a greater detail as the procedure of analyzing the opinions is important for the better understanding of its interpretation.

1.1. *The Main Hypothesis*

The main purpose of this thesis is to confirm or disprove the hypothesis of this thesis through the content analysis of all obtained sources concerning the U.S. National Ocean Policy. The hypothesis for this thesis reads as follows:

We can assume that Democrats would support this policy as they generally enhance any policy tackling the environmental issues and this policy came from their administration. Contrary to that, Republicans generally oppose any expansion of the federal bureaucracy and criticize new regulations; therefore, we can rationally assume that they would condemn this new policy.

For the purpose of disproving or confirmation of this hypothesis, the content analysis will be conducted. Through the analysis, any possible relationships between the opinions and the people's social status or political inclination and groups' agendas will be examined, which will provide the necessary ground for disproving or confirmation of the hypothesis.

When analyzing the opinions of various people and organizations, it is important to take their social status, political inclination and agendas into consideration to allow for a broader objectivity in interpreting the results. This thesis will focus on the opinions that appeared after the policy's establishment and not the implementation of the policy itself, nor will it depict what possible changes the policy might have already done. This thesis will purely concentrate on the atmosphere of the post-establishment of the policy and the analysis of opinions and statements. These opinions will be divided into two categories and then put into perspective with the individual people's social status and political inclination,

or groups' agendas. Based on this process, the hypothesis of this thesis will be either confirmed or disproved.

Because this policy provoked a various number of responses from diverse organizations, groups and figures, three questions will answered through the analysis for the purpose of either confirmation or disproving the thesis' hypothesis. The analysis will focus on whether any opinion predominates amongst certain groups or people from similar backgrounds, or contrarily from very diverse backgrounds, and which opinion does generally prevail in each category. Subsequently, any relation between the analyzed figures and their opinions will be explored and put into perspective with the hypothesis. The three questions that will be answered through the analysis are:

- When focusing on each category, which themes concerning the policy were most prevalent in the analyzed opinions?
- Were the themes of expanded bureaucracy and new regulations most abundant in the criticizing opinions?

For analyzing the opinions and statements of people, organizations and other bodies, the content analysis will be used.

1.2. *Content analysis*

In this thesis, the method of content analysis will be used for analyzing the opinions and statements concerning the matter of the National Ocean Policy. The content analysis serves as “a research technique for making replicable and valid inferences from texts (or other meaningful matter) to the contexts of their use”⁷. This analysis should enhance the understanding of the explored topic and offer new and reliable insights. Results of this analysis should be replicable; therefore, any replicated analysis of the same topic should

⁷ Klaus Krippendorff, *Content Analysis: An Introduction To Its Methodology*, 2nd ed. (Thousand Oaks: Sage, 2004) pp. 18.

conclude in quite similar outcomes.⁸ In the content analysis, it is important to distinguish what will be observed and how the analysis will be conducted.⁹ This thesis will focus on disproving or confirmation of the hypothesis through the content analysis of all obtained sources concerning the National Ocean Policy. The analysis will be conducted for the purpose of answering the three questions presented in the previous subchapter. Based on these answers and interpretation of the analysis, the hypothesis will be either confirmed or disproved.

Numerous diverse key words will be set for each category of the presented opinions and their frequency in the applied sources will be explored. The praising comments and statements will constitute the first category and the criticizing opinions will comprise the second category. Each key word has to be logically and conceptually distinct and one key word cannot depend on the other as well as they cannot overlap.¹⁰ Based on these principles, various key words will be assigned to each category and their abundance in the obtained sources will be explored. Based on the results of this analysis, the prevalence of certain key words in each category will be uncovered and interpreted.

Before each key word will be determined, all sources concerning the opinions, statements and views will be read through and then allocated to one of the two categories. The key words will be set based on what the people or groups considered as imperative when focusing on the policy, as they aimed their criticism or their praise on the certain topics of the policy. The key words should most accurately express the tone of their opinions and statements. To be more specific, if the source concentrated mostly on economic and recreational impacts of this policy, the *recreational* and *economic* words and their derivations were set for that source. The abundance of each semantic group should thus display the importance of that topic in evaluating the policy in general for each category. The abundance of these key words in the obtained sources will be later analyzed and the results interpreted. The main goal of this analysis is to explore whether any opinion predominates amongst subjects from the similar background or contrarily from the different background, or whether there are no prevailing opinions. These findings will be used to

⁸ Klaus Krippendorff, *Content Analysis: An Introduction To Its Methodology*, 2nd ed. (Thousand Oaks: Sage, 2004) pp. 18.

⁹ *Ibid.*, pp. 97.

¹⁰ *Ibid.*

confirm or disprove the hypothesis of this thesis. In the following illustrative figure, we can see the precise mechanism used for the content analysis in this thesis.

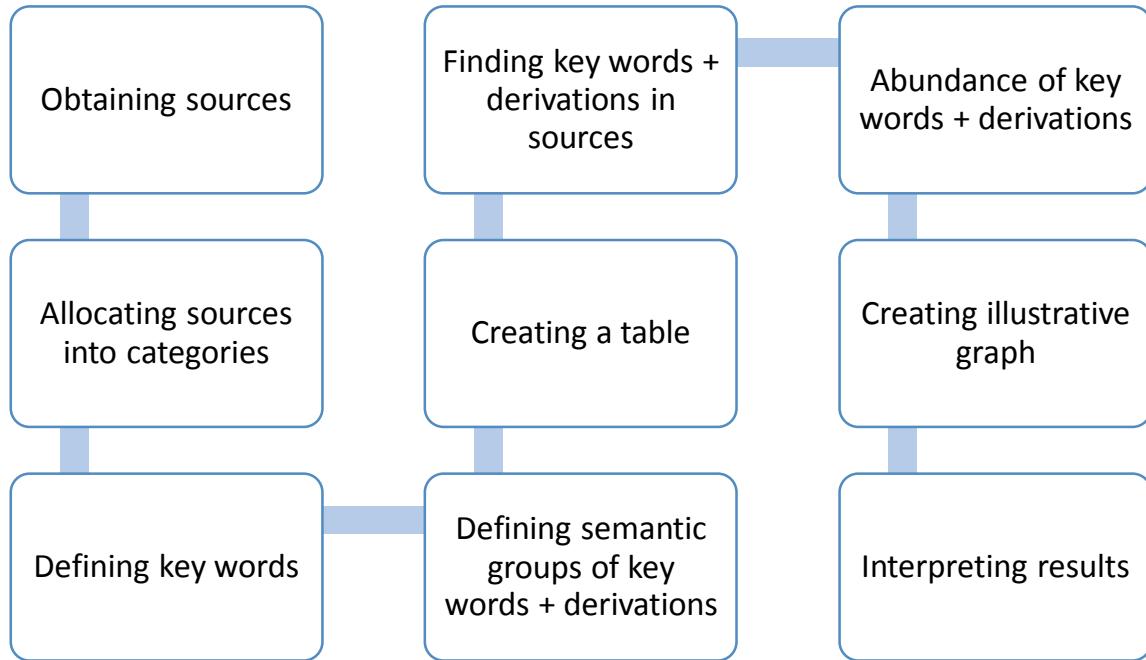


Figure 1 Scheme of the content analysis Source: Author

1.3. Sources

This subchapter will be dedicated to the evaluation of the sources obtained for this thesis. This topic is rather recent and not entirely broadly evaluated on, so for that reason all sources in this thesis are electronic. Governmental documents, executive orders and the Memorandum were taken from the U.S. governmental website. Most of the opinions, statements and views of the people and groups concerning the ocean policy were taken from their individual websites or from the newspaper websites such as The Washington Post. No printed sources or books were used, because the topic is so new that the debate occurs only in an electronic form.

All sources are in English as this issue is primarily a matter of the United States, therefore all governmental documents and other sources were in English, as well as the electronic articles from the newspaper websites. Data, information and other sources mostly

did not overlap, as this topic is not very broadly addressed in comparison with the other political issues in the United States, e.g. the topic of gay marriages. Search for the different opinions and statements was rather difficult as not many people or organizations demonstrated any urge to express their opinions, and when they did, it was demanding to find them considering my place of residence.

The great advantage of the governmental documents is that they can be found and recovered without difficulty as they are placed on the governmental websites. To the contrary, any possible changes that might have been done with the policy are very difficult to retrieve. Search for the opinions and was very time-consuming and exploratory. The sources concerning the opinions, statements and views were mostly tinged with the subject's personal views, occupation or political inclination. This phenomenon will be later explored in the fourth chapter, in the analysis itself.

The obtained sources can be divided into two sections – primary and secondary sources. This thesis mostly draws information and data from the primary sources, as governmental documents, statistical data and executive orders are used. The secondary sources such as newspaper articles are predominantly used in the fourth part of this thesis, where opinions and statements for the analysis are presented. Number of these opinions are taken from the secondary sources such as The Washington Post or The Hill. Some of the opinions and statements are taken from the websites of individual organizations, therefore they are considered as primary sources. Overall, this thesis uses a broad variety of sources, from primary to secondary, in order to avoid the irrelevance and the lack of objectivity.

2. OCEAN'S SIGNIFICANCE

The ocean is unquestionably more than essential to every single form of life on our planet. Unfortunately, a vast majority of the human population is blind to its significance, in spite of the clear signs in the environmental field such as air and water pollution, climate change and rising sea level. Even though the ocean covers a massive territory in our world, this thesis will put an emphasis most notably on the United States, as it has the biggest

EEZ¹¹ in the world.¹² At first, the ocean's significance to the United States will be presented, predominantly for the purpose of clarification of the main topic of this thesis. Secondly, it is necessary to lay out the most pressing issues the ocean currently has to come to terms with, as it is important to understand them in the whole complexity of the policy itself. The policy strongly reacts to these particular ocean issues listed in this thesis.

2.1. *Ocean Economy of the United States*

Before portraying the policy itself, it is essential to depict the economic, as well as social and environmental importance of the ocean for the United States. The state firmly recognizes the ocean's role in terms of providing job opportunities, food and energy resources, or recreation and tourism opportunities. The ocean is also vital in the field of transportation, trade and economy.¹³ According to the 2014 estimates, nearly 259.8 million people (81.5% of the U.S. population) inhabit the coastal states. Even more, GDP of these thirty states was \$13.2 trillion (83.7% of the U.S. GDP) and the employment was around 111 million (81.5% of the U.S. employment).¹⁴ Even though these numbers might seem very high, it is of the utmost importance to point out that these figures do not paint the right image of the ocean's importance. It is necessary to understand that not all economic activities from the coastal states are directly related to the ocean, and therefore, it is indispensable to distinguish between the coastal and ocean economy. The coastal economy is a "total economic activity in coastal states and counties organized by geographic relationship to the shorelines of the oceans and Great Lakes"¹⁵. Conversely, the ocean

¹¹ EEZ is an ocean area that expands to 200 nautical miles from the nation's territorial sea baseline, which extends to 12 nautical miles from the coastline. The nation has a right to explore, exploit, conserve or manage its natural resource in its EEZ ("What is the EEZ?" *National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration*, <http://oceanservice.noaa.gov/facts/eez.html> (accessed on February 21, 2016).

¹² U.S. Commission on Ocean Policy, "An Ocean Blueprint for the 21st Century," U.S. Commission on Ocean Policy (Washington: 2004), pdf, http://govinfo.library.unt.edu/oceancommission/documents/full_color_rpt/000_ocean_full_report.pdf (accessed on February 21, 2016).

¹³ Exec. Order No. 13547, 3. C. F. R. (2010), <https://www.whitehouse.gov/files/documents/2010stewardship-eo.pdf> (accessed February 23, 2016).

¹⁴ Kildow, Judith T.; Colgan, Charles S.; Johnston, Pat; Scorse, Jason D.; Gardiner Farnum, Maren, "State of the U.S. Ocean and Coastal Economies – 2016 Update," *NOEP*, 2016, pdf, pp.5, <http://www.oceaneconomics.org/Download/> (accessed on March 7, 2016).

¹⁵ Kildow, Judith T.; Colgan, Charles S.; Scorse, Jason D.; Johnston, Pat; Nichols, Matt, "State of the U.S. Ocean and Coastal Economies 2014," *NOEP*, 2014, pdf, pp. 13, <http://www.oceaneconomics.org/Download/> (accessed on March 7, 2016).

economy is “that portion of U.S. economic activity directly connected in some way to the oceans or Great Lakes”¹⁶.

According to the 2013 estimates, the ocean economy itself employs around 3 million people¹⁷, which is more than sectors of telecommunications, building construction and crop production altogether.¹⁸ In 2013, the ocean related economic sectors produced goods and services worth \$359 billion, which accounted for 2.17% of the U.S. overall GDP. In the broader context, no other natural resource industry has been able to generate a bigger share of the U.S. GDP than the ocean economy. And what is more, its share of employment has been nearly as big as most of the other natural resource industries (food products, forest products, farming, oil and gas extraction) combined.¹⁹

The ocean economy in the United States comprises of six separate sectors: marine construction, living resources (fisheries and seafood markets and processing), offshore minerals (oil and gas extraction, limestone, gravel and sand mining), ship and boat building, tourism and recreation, and marine transportation. The sector of offshore minerals generates the biggest share of the GDP across all the sectors of the ocean economy. On the other hand, the tourism sector has the largest share of the employment and the number of established industries within the sector, as it comprises of hotels, marinas, restaurants and other recreation services. Putting the sectors aside though, the ocean economy displays a substantial strength in comparison with the overall U.S. economy. The ocean economy correspondingly showed a more resilient recovery after the recession of 2007–2009. Between the years of 2010–2013, the ocean economy rose at an annual average of 5.4% in comparison with the overall U.S. annual average of 4.4%. From 2013 to 2014, the ocean economy continued to rise by 4.1%, in contrast with the 2.3% of the overall U.S.

¹⁶ Kildow, Judith T.; Colgan, Charles S.; Scorse, Jason D.; Johnston, Pat; Nichols, Matt, “State of the U.S. Ocean and Coastal Economies 2014,” *NOEP*, 2014, pdf, pp. 13, <http://www.oceaneconomics.org/Download/> (accessed on March 7, 2016).

¹⁷ Kildow, Judith T.; Colgan, Charles S.; Johnston, Pat; Scorse, Jason D.; Gardiner Farnum, Maren, “State of the U.S. Ocean and Coastal Economies – 2016 Update,” *NOEP*, 2016, pdf, pp.8, <http://www.oceaneconomics.org/Download/> (accessed on March 7, 2016).

¹⁸ National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, Office for Coastal Management. 2015. “NOAA Report on the U.S. Ocean and Great Lakes Economy.” Charleston, SC: NOAA Office for Coastal Management, pp. 4, <http://coast.noaa.gov/digitalcoast/publications/econreport> (accessed on March 7, 2016).

¹⁹ Kildow, Judith T.; Colgan, Charles S.; Johnston, Pat; Scorse, Jason D.; Gardiner Farnum, Maren, “State of the U.S. Ocean and Coastal Economies – 2016 Update,” *NOEP*, 2016, pdf, pp.7, <http://www.oceaneconomics.org/Download/> (accessed on March 7, 2016).

economy.²⁰ From the above-mentioned figures, the importance of the ocean economy is quite evident. As described in this subchapter, the ocean is a source of food, transportation possibilities and economic benefits; therefore, it is more than vital for the United States to tackle this matter in a best way possible. With the contemporary environmental challenges that the Earth has to cope with, the ocean economy is understandably threatened by future environmental changes as well. The subject of what kind of challenges the ocean has to deal with in the 21st century will be introduced in the next subchapter.

2.2. *Ocean Issues*

The National Ocean Council²¹ of the United States is very well aware of the significance of the ocean's well-being. The ocean, as a source of the most treasured resources, is more than vital for the nation's economy, security and self-reliance. While the Council itself recognizes the importance of keeping the ocean healthy, productive and resilient, it also acknowledges the crucial threats the ocean is challenged with in the present day. Besides many potential threats to the waters of the oceans (e.g. proliferation of marine debris, coral bleaching...), three principal threats will be listed for the purpose of this thesis, because they are broadly recognized by the Council as threats to the world as well as to the United States. These three major threats are pollution, overfishing and ocean acidification.²²

Overfishing is a problem that threatens the world community as a whole. As fish are enormously nutritious, they are hugely significant in the world, where more than 800 million people continue to suffer from chronic malnourishment. Fisheries and aquaculture employ tens of millions of people and support livelihoods of other hundreds of millions. Fish has become the most-traded food commodity in the world, as people are consuming

²⁰ Kildow, Judith T.; Colgan, Charles S.; Johnston, Pat; Scorse, Jason D.; Gardiner Farnum, Maren, "State of the U.S. Ocean and Coastal Economies – 2016 Update," *NOEP*, 2016, pdf, pp.7-20, <http://www.oceaneconomics.org/Download/> (accessed on March 7, 2016).

²¹ Based on the Task Force's recommendations this Council was established to strengthen the decision-making concerning the ocean and improve the coordination and collaboration among the ocean users. The Council will be later in this thesis described in a detail (The White House Council on Environmental Quality, "Final Recommendations Of The Interagency Ocean Policy Task Force," *The White House, Executive Office of the President of the United States*, July 19, 2010, pp. 4, https://www.whitehouse.gov/files/documents/OPTF_FinalRecs.pdf, accessed on March 25, 2016).

²² National Ocean Council, "National Ocean Policy Implementation Plan," *The White House*, April, 2013, pp. 1 – 15, https://www.whitehouse.gov/sites/default/files/national_ocean_policy_implementation_plan.pdf (accessed on March 15, 2016).

more fish than ever before. Global fish production is capable of outpacing the world population growth, as aquaculture maintains its first place among the fastest-growing food producing sectors. The global production of fishery in captivity was 93.7 million tonnes in 2011.²³ The global production from fishing in marine waters was 82.6 million tonnes in 2011 and 79.7 million tonnes in 2012.²⁴ Global aquaculture (aquatic algae, food fish...) produced about 90.4 million tonnes in 2012.²⁵ Approximately 25 million tonnes of seaweeds and algae are harvested every year for the purpose of food processing or the usage in cosmetics and fertilizers. In 2012, the number of fishing vessels was estimated to be around 4.72 million. Even though the significance of the ocean is evident, we still have to look beyond the economics and guarantee the environmental well-being in accordance with the human well-being.²⁶

The severity of the overfishing problem becomes clearer when we look at the numbers. Around 61.3% of fish stocks are fully exploited, according to the 2011 estimates.²⁷ Another 28.8% of fish stocks are being fished at a biologically unsustainable level, in contrast with only 9.9% of underfished stocks.²⁸ From these figures, it is vastly obvious that about 29% of the fish stocks are being overexploited or depleted. Further 61.3% of fish stocks are fully exploited, therefore, on the verge of being overexploited. This implies that about 90% of the world's fish stocks are fully- to over-exploited, on the verge of depletion or full depletion.²⁹ These figures give a terrifying overview of this problem's significance. It is more than obvious that overfishing can bring serious challenges in the future globally as well as for the United States. Certain species can be lost alongside with entire ecosystems. As a severe outcome, this can bring the marine ecosystems at risk of collapse. Furthermore, this implies a potential risk of losing precious food sources.³⁰ In any case, the ocean is tremendously challenged by human activities. If the circumstances remain

²³ Food and Agriculture Organization of the United States, "The State of World Fisheries and Aquaculture," FAO (Rome, 2014), pp. iii – 7, <http://www.fao.org/3/d1eaa9a1-5a71-4e42-86c0-f2111f07de16/i3720e.pdf> (accessed on March 20, 2016).

²⁴ Ibid, pp. 5.

²⁵ Ibid, pp. 6.

²⁶ Ibid, pp. iii – 7.

²⁷ Ibid, pp. 7.

²⁸ Ibid, pp. 7.

²⁹ Ibid., pp. 7; "Why is overfishing a problem," Overfishing.org, http://overfishing.org/pages/why_is_overfishing_a_problem.php (accessed on March 20, 2016).

³⁰ "Why is overfishing a problem," Overfishing.org, http://overfishing.org/pages/why_is_overfishing_a_problem.php (accessed on March 20, 2016).

unchanged, the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) claims in its report that “virtually all commercial fisheries will have collapsed by 2050 unless urgent action is taken to bring far more intelligent management to fisheries north and south”³¹. As it is more than clear from these figures, this problem has to be tackled more strongly in the upcoming future from the global perspective as well as from side of the United States. The U.S. economy is clearly connected to fishing; therefore, tackling this problem through a new policy might have some future economic implications.

Another massive problem that the ocean has to deal with is marine pollution. Naturally, the human activities near the coastline as well as far inland have an effect on the ocean’s well-being. Therefore, it is not a surprise that the majority of the ocean pollution is caused by land-based activities. Theoretically, we can distinguish between two types of pollution – nonpoint and point source pollution. The former is the largest cause of pollution, as it occurs as a result of runoff. This type of pollution includes septic tanks, trucks and cars, or bigger sources like farms, ranches and timber harvest areas. The latter type of pollution includes single sources such as oil and chemical spills. Fortunately, these accidents do not happen very often.³²

Generally, about 80% of marine pollution comes from the land-based sources (agricultural run-off, pesticides, untreated sewage and plastics...). Excessive nutrients, which derive from sewages and agriculture runoffs, are the dominant cause of so-called dead zones in the ocean.³³ These hypoxic areas (low oxygen) are filled with triple the amount of nitrogen and phosphorus in comparison with the pre-industrial times; therefore, it is impossible for marine organisms to exist in these extreme conditions. Unfortunately, the number of these areas continues to grow.³⁴ Worldwide, there are almost 500 dead zones

³¹ UNEP, “Turning the Tide on Falling Fish Stocks – UNEP – Led Green Economy Charts Sustainable Investment Path,” UNEP, 17 May, 2010, New York, <http://www.unep.org/Documents.Multilingual/Default.asp?DocumentID=624&ArticleID=6566&l=en&t=long> (accessed on March 20, 2016).

³² National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, “Ocean Pollution,” NOAA, http://www.education.noaa.gov/Ocean_and_Coasts/Ocean_Pollution.html (accessed on March 20, 2016).

³³ UNESCO, “Facts and figures on marine pollution,” *UNESCO.gov*, <http://www.unesco.org/new/en/natural-sciences/ioc-oceans/priority-areas/rio-20-ocean/blueprint-for-the-future-we-want/marine-pollution/facts-and-figures-on-marine-pollution/> (accessed on March 20, 2016).

³⁴ IOC/UNESCO, IMO, FAO, UNDP, “A Blueprint for Ocean and Coastal Sustainability,” IOC/UNESCO, Paris: 2011, pp. 13, <http://unesdoc.unesco.org/images/0021/002150/215002e.pdf> (accessed on March 20, 2016).

covering close to 245, 000 km², which is an area about the size of the Great Britain.³⁵ Sadly, research has estimated that the amount of dissolved inorganic nitrogen would increase by 50% by 2050.³⁶ These nutrients such as nitrogen and phosphorus can also fuel algae to overgrow and subsequently cause an algal bloom, which can be harmful to nearby living organisms, including humans³⁷. As it is very clear from the above stated, pollution represents a fundamental challenge in the matter of oceanic and environmental sustainability. The Council recognized its significance, as it declared the water pollution a leading cause of rapidly declining health of marine ecosystems.³⁸

The last of the three alarming challenges, which the ocean has to cope with, is ocean acidification. This phenomenon is a direct result of the growing concentration of CO₂ in the atmosphere, more or less caused by human activities, such as burning of fossil fuels, deforestation or cement production. Unfortunately, the bigger concentration of CO₂ is in the atmosphere, the more enters the ocean. Apart from many negative aspects, the ocean acidification brings about just one important benefit: by absorbing approximately a quarter of the CO₂ from the atmosphere, the ocean has been subsequently slowing the climate change. Nevertheless, this process has a massive number of negative effects on the ocean itself, as well as on the human society. Absorbing the CO₂ from the atmosphere modifies the ocean's chemistry and changes the pH of the seawater. This process increases acidity of the ocean and, therefore, transforms the living conditions of many marine organisms. It is important to add, that since the pre-industrial times, the ocean's acidity increased by approximately 26%.³⁹ This growth in acidity is 100 times faster than any previous change in acidity in the last 20 million years. Regrettably, as long as we continue to generate as

³⁵ UNESCO, "Facts and figures on marine pollution," *UNESCO.gov*, <http://www.unesco.org/new/en/natural-sciences/ioc-oceans/priority-areas/rio-20-ocean/blueprint-for-the-future-we-want/marine-pollution/facts-and-figures-on-marine-pollution/> (accessed on March 20, 2016).

³⁶ IOC/UNESCO, IMO, FAO, UNDP, "A Blueprint for Ocean and Coastal Sustainability," IOC/UNESCO, Paris: 2011, pp. 13, <http://unesdoc.unesco.org/images/0021/002150/215002e.pdf> (accessed on March 20, 2016).

³⁷ National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, "Ocean Pollution," NOAA, http://www.education.noaa.gov/Ocean_and_Coasts/Ocean_Pollution.html (accessed on March 20, 2016).

³⁸ National Ocean Council, "National Ocean Policy Implementation Plan," *The White House*, April, 2013, pp. 14-15, https://www.whitehouse.gov/sites/default/files/national_ocean_policy_implementation_plan.pdf (accessed on March 25, 2016).

³⁹ S. Hennige, J. M. Roberts and P. Williamson, eds., "An Updated Synthesis of the Impacts of Ocean Acidification on Marine Biodiversity," *Secretariat of the Convention on Biological Diversity* (2014: Montreal), Technical Series No. 75, pp. 11, <https://www.cbd.int/doc/publications/cbd-ts-75-en.pdf> (accessed on March 20, 2016).

much CO₂ emissions as we do now, we can expect the ocean to get up to 150% more acidic by 2100.⁴⁰

As a result of CO₂ absorption from the atmosphere, the upper layers of the ocean warm up by approximately 0.1°C per decade. Certain temperature changes have been detected in deeper ocean as well. This process generates significant modifications in the ocean salinity and oxygen concentration in particular places. These trends lead to several biological and environmental responses in the ocean. As a consequence of the temperature rise, certain species are migrating to cooler areas, which can lead to a separation between predator and prey and, therefore, transformation of the whole ecosystem. This modification of the living conditions can pose a threat to certain seabed organisms that are unable to migrate (such as corals). Furthermore, areas with significantly reduced concentration of oxygen represent disastrous living conditions, in which fish and other marine organisms are unable to exist.⁴¹

Another vastly observable impact of the ocean acidification is a physiological change in selected organisms. These organisms usually use carbonate ions in their shells or skeleton formation. As the water's pH decreases along with the concentration of the carbonate ions, these certain organisms are faced with life-sustaining dangers. By the worsening conditions in the ocean, the human society is threatened through its dependency on food sources and other services the ocean provides. These include food from fisheries, economic benefits from tourism and storm protection from reefs.⁴² It is more than obvious then that the ocean acidification has a potential deep impact on the marine ecosystems as well as on the human sustainability in the near future. As for the United States, the Council recognized the potential impacts of the ocean acidification on recreationally and commercially vital fish species and shellfish. Marine industries linked to these species

⁴⁰ UNESCO, "Facts and figures on ocean acidification," *UNESCO*, <http://www.unesco.org/new/en/natural-sciences/ioc-oceans/priority-areas/rio-20-ocean/blueprint-for-the-future-we-want/ocean-acidification/facts-and-figures-on-ocean-acidification/> (accessed on March 20, 2016).

⁴¹ Global Ocean Commission, "Policy Options Paper # 2: Climate change, ocean acidification and geo-engineering," *Global Ocean Commission*, November 2013, pp. 1-2, <http://www.globaloceancommission.org/wp-content/uploads/GOC-paper02-climate-change.pdf> (accessed on March 22, 2016).

⁴² Dorothee Herr, Kirsten Isensee and Carol Turley, "Ocean acidification: Overview of the international policy landscape and activities on ocean acidification," *International Atomic Energy Agency*, June 2013, pp. 3-4, https://www.iaea.org/ocean-acidification/download/OA%20Policy%20white%20paper_final.pdf (accessed on March 22, 2016).

could be significantly impacted by the change of the water chemistry and therefore, cause a challenge to economic activities.⁴³

One apparent way how to curtail the impacts of the ocean acidification is a reduction of CO₂ emissions, along with a creation of marine protected areas and reduction of local sources of ocean acidification. Nonetheless, these measures would simply slow down the whole process of the worsening environmental conditions.⁴⁴ It is important to add that approximately 22 million tons of CO₂ is currently being absorbed by the ocean every day⁴⁵ and, as research shows, by 2100, the upper 100 meters of the ocean is estimated to be warmer by 2°C. The future challenge sets in when we realize that the cold water absorbs CO₂ more easily than warm water and, therefore, the ocean will over time absorb less CO₂ and consequently accelerate the warming in the atmosphere.⁴⁶ Researchers from the *Potsdam Institute for Climate Impact Research* in Germany estimated that it would “take more than 700 years to reverse ocean acidification to the point of pre-industrial conditions, even with the most aggressive carbon dioxide removal techniques”⁴⁷. For some, these facts might not seem disastrous, but the researchers’ predictions are certainly far from optimistic. To keep the ocean healthy and self-sustainable is a substantial goal not only from the obvious environmental perspective, but also from the social standpoint of the human population. Because the ocean generates significant economic resources and affects the environmental processes on land as well (such as weather), it is imperative to assure the ocean’s sustainability and health of its ecosystems not only from the general global

⁴³ National Ocean Council, “National Ocean Policy Implementation Plan,” *The White House*, April, 2013, pp. 15, https://www.whitehouse.gov/sites/default/files/national_ocean_policy_implementation_plan.pdf (accessed on March 25, 2016).

⁴⁴ Dorothee Herr, Kirsten Isensee and Carol Turley, “Ocean acidification: Overview of the international policy landscape and activities on ocean acidification,” *International Atomic Energy Agency*, June 2013, pp. 3-4, https://www.iaea.org/ocean-acidification/download/OA%20Policy%20white%20paper_final.pdf (accessed on March 22, 2016).

⁴⁵ UNESCO, “Facts and figures on ocean acidification,” *UNESCO*, <http://www.unesco.org/new/en/natural-sciences/ioc-oceans/priority-areas/rio-20-ocean/blueprint-for-the-future-we-want/ocean-acidification/facts-and-figures-on-ocean-acidification/> (accessed on March 22, 2016).

⁴⁶ Global Ocean Commission, “Policy Options Paper # 2: Climate change, ocean acidification and geo-engineering,” *Global Ocean Commission*, November 2013, pp. 2, <http://www.globaloceancommission.org/wp-content/uploads/GOC-paper02-climate-change.pdf> (accessed on March 22, 2016).

⁴⁷ Hannah Osborne, “Reversing ocean acidification with aggressive CO₂ removal will take more than 700 years,” *International Business Times*, August 3, 2015, <http://www.ibtimes.co.uk/reversing-ocean-acidification-aggressive-co2-removal-will-take-more-700-years-1513897> (accessed on March 22, 2016).

perspective, but also from the U.S. perspective concerning its economy, culture and environment.

These two previous subchapters painted a relevant picture of the ocean's significance and value for the humans, as well as for the whole Earth. For the purpose of this thesis, the economic importance for the United States was presented to show the ocean's importance for the nation from the economic, cultural and environmental perspective. For the sustainability and prosperity of the United States, as for the whole world, the ocean plays a massive role. From the above stated it is very clear that the ocean is an enormous source of food and mineral resources, represents a huge employer, affects the climate and plays a significant part in the environmental changes. As a reaction to the worsening conditions of the ocean's waters, the United States presented its first comprehensive policy, which will be portrayed in the next subchapter.

3. NATIONAL OCEAN POLICY DOCUMENTS

Before the National Ocean Policy establishment process began, President Obama was very active in the matter of environmental issues. Obama's presidential campaign in 2008 was marked by the emphasis on the environment, specifically on the climate change. He put the matter of climate change as his second top priority, right behind the revitalizing of the nation's economy.⁴⁸ President Obama said that his "presidency will mark a new chapter in America's leadership on climate change"⁴⁹. His perception of this pressing topic was met by a strong support from scientists⁵⁰ and non-governmental organizations, such as The Pew Charitable Trusts, which strongly advocated for the necessity of curtailing the ocean's deteriorating health.⁵¹ In 2010, the Deepwater Horizon oil spill occurred in the Gulf of Mexico and became the worst oil spill in the U.S. history. Approximately 3.19 million

⁴⁸ John Broder, "Obama Affirms Climate Change Goals," *NY Times*, November 18, 2008, <http://www.nytimes.com/2008/11/19/us/politics/19climate.html> (accessed on May 10, 2016).

⁴⁹ Ibid.

⁵⁰ Marine Conservation Biology Institute, written on February 5, 2010, https://mcbi.marine-conservation.org/what/what_pdfs/NOP_letter.pdf (accessed on April 13, 2016).

⁵¹ The Pew Charitable Trusts, "Pew Applauds President Obama's Oceans Policy Directive," *The Pew Charitable Trusts*, June 12, 2009, <http://www.pewtrusts.org/en/about/news-room/press-releases/2009/06/12/pew-applauds-president-obamas-oceans-policy-directive> (accessed May10, 2016).

barrels of oil leaked to the ocean and left disastrous consequences for the ocean ecosystem.⁵² This incident even highlighted the importance of a new strategic and comprehensive ocean policy.

This section of the thesis presents several documents produced by committees and governmental agencies that resulted in the adoption of the National Ocean Policy. For a better understanding of the policy, it is crucial to introduce the particular documents in a detail, starting with the Memorandum from 2009 and closing with the Implementation Plan from 2013.

3.1. Memorandum for the Heads of Executive Departments and Agencies

On June 12, 2009, President Barack Obama issued a Memorandum for the Heads of Executive Departments and Agencies in the matter of national policy for the oceans and the Great Lakes. In this document, the definite importance of the ocean, coasts and the Great Lakes is fully recognized. The ocean's economic significance is clearly identified in the matter of transportation, job provision, tourism and trade. The document correspondingly stresses out the responsibility we have for maintaining the ocean's health, resilience and sustainability. The Memorandum points out that, even though, numerous human activities put pressure on the ocean well-being, we have to face environmental changes, which are associated with them, in terms of keeping the ocean the most healthy and resilient as possible. As President Obama states in the document, in order to protect the ocean, coasts and the Great Lakes on a sustainable level, there ought to be an agency created on the national platform under the unifying framework of comprehensive national policy.⁵³

For this purpose, this Memorandum established an Interagency Ocean Policy Task Force (Task Force), which comprised of senior policy-level officials, who were closely connected to the Committee on Ocean Policy established in 2004. Its existence was supposed to be merely temporary until fulfilling its responsibilities. Within 90 days, the

⁵² The Ocean Portal "Gulf Oil Spill," The Ocean Portal, <http://ocean.si.edu/gulf-oil-spill> (accessed May 10, 2016).

⁵³ "Memorandum for the Heads of Executive Departments and Agencies," *The White House, Office of the Press Secretary*, June 12, 2009, pp. 1, https://www.whitehouse.gov/assets/documents/2009ocean_mem_rel.pdf (accessed on March 22, 2016).

Task Force was mandated to draft recommendations, which should improve the stewardship of the ocean, coasts and the Great Lakes, as well as maintain the sustainability and well-being of the ocean. The Committee would coordinate the ocean policy framework with the National Security Council and Homeland Security Council, mainly in the matter of the maritime security. Additionally, the aim was to deepen the collaboration between federal, state, tribal and local authorities on the matter of ocean policy framework. In accordance with the Memorandum, the Task Force was assigned to form a comprehensive policy framework for efficient coastal and marine spatial planning within 180 days. This policy, with fitting public input, was supposed to address the issue of sustainable use of the ocean, contrasted with the rising demand from the economic platform.⁵⁴ This Memorandum set up a process that resulted in wide-ranging national ocean policy that concluded its way on the legislative platform, as presented in the next subchapters.

3.2. Final Recommendations of the Interagency Ocean Policy Task Force

As stated in the previous part of this thesis, the Task Force was mandated to draft recommendations for the sustainable use of the ocean and to form a framework of the national ocean policy while taking into account the two former Ocean Commission's reports⁵⁵, past and pending legislation and public comments. Final recommendations were released on July 19, 2010 with almost 80 pages of material, proposals and ideas. The content of this document was created with a collaboration of experts and the public, as the Task Force hosted 38 expert roundtables and reviewed more than 5,000 public comments. The 24-member Task Force was predominantly assigned to present reasonable recommendations how to maintain the ocean healthy and resilient on behalf of present and

⁵⁴ "Memorandum for the Heads of Executive Departments and Agencies," *The White House, Office of the Press Secretary*, June 12, 2009, pp. 1-2, https://www.whitehouse.gov/assets/documents/2009ocean_mem_rel.pdf (accessed on March 22, 2016).

⁵⁵ These two reports were America's Living Oceans by the Pew Oceans Commission from 2003 [Pew Oceans Commission, "America's Living Oceans" Joint Ocean Commission, May 2003, http://www.jointoceancommission.org/~media/JOCI/PDFs/Report_PewOcean.pdf (accessed on May 10, 2016)] and Changing Oceans, Changing World by the Joint Ocean Commission Initiative from 2009 [Joint Ocean Commission, "Changing Oceans, Changing World," Joint Ocean Commission, April 2009, <http://www.jointoceancommission.org/~media/JOCI/PDFs/20090407JOCICChangingOceansChangingWorld.pdf> (accessed on May 10, 2016).]

future generations. These recommendations included the first U.S. *National Policy for the Stewardship of the Ocean, Our Coasts, and the Great Lakes*, the structure and function of the future National Ocean Council, the implementation strategy for the National Ocean Policy and a framework for the efficient marine spatial planning. In other words, this document is the foundation for the whole concept of the National Ocean Policy of the United States, as it forms the basis for the National Ocean Council and aims for the strengthened unified governance of the ocean, coasts and the Great Lakes.⁵⁶

In this document, the Task Force presented its draft of the National Ocean Policy in ten points, in which it clearly acknowledged the significance of the ocean and emphasized the necessity of “balanced, productive, efficient, sustainable, and informed ocean, coastal, and Great Lakes use, management, and conservation”⁵⁷. It correspondingly recognized that the ocean’s well-being and resilience are essential for the national prosperity, national security and adaptation to environmental changes. Since the ocean as the pressing and complex topic on the political and economic platform could not be resolved by a single agency, the Task Force recommended a stronger mandate and structural modification of the existing Committee on Ocean Policy.⁵⁸ In this context, an establishment of the National Ocean Council (NOC) with expansion of NOC Steering Committee was proposed.⁵⁹

A major part of this particular document was devoted to coastal and marine spatial planning (CMSP), which is essentially appropriately suited approach applied to a specific ecosystem of the ocean. With collaboration of scientific approaches, the marine spatial planning introduced a management that aims to reduce the environmental impacts and conflicts of a certain area, and still aspires to meet the economic, security and environmental objectives. CMSP is expected to build upon existing legislation and planning processes and explore multiple demands of specific sectors for a better understanding of cumulative effects that the ocean is threatened by.⁶⁰ For the spatial planning, the United States was split

⁵⁶ The White House Council on Environmental Quality, “Final Recommendations Of The Interagency Ocean Policy Task Force,” *The White House, Executive Office of the President of the United States*, July 19, 2010, pp. cover – 4, https://www.whitehouse.gov/files/documents/OPTF_FinalRecs.pdf (accessed on March 25, 2016).

⁵⁷ *Ibid*, pp. 3 – 4.

⁵⁸ This agency was created in 2004 and was relatively efficient in hosting forums for Federal agencies in the matter of ocean-related issues management (*Ibid*, pp. 4).

⁵⁹ The White House Council on Environmental Quality, “Final Recommendations Of The Interagency Ocean Policy Task Force,” *The White House, Executive Office of the President of the United States*, July 19, 2010, pp. 4, https://www.whitehouse.gov/files/documents/OPTF_FinalRecs.pdf (accessed on March 25, 2016).

⁶⁰ *Ibid*, pp. 41 – 44.

into nine regions: Alaska/Arctic, Caribbean, Great Lakes, Gulf of Mexico, Mid-Atlantic, Northeast, Pacific Islands, South Atlantic, West Coast. The National Ocean Council would guide and overview all regional plans and aim for a coherent and consistent policy.⁶¹ The Final Recommendations introduced the structure and functions of the National Ocean Council, the National Ocean Policy, and the proposed Implementation Plan, all of which will be presented in the next subchapters.

3.3. *National Ocean Council*

As stated above, the Task Force proposed an important change in the organizational structure of governmental agencies concerning the management of the ocean, coasts and the Great Lakes. The members endorsed a formation of a supervising agency, which would strengthen and combine the Principal- and Deputy-level constituents of the previously existing Committee on Ocean Policy in a single structure. With a clear framework of the National Ocean Policy, the establishment of the Council would reinforce the decision-making and dispute-resolution procedures on the Council's platform. Moreover, the linkage between management and science would be bolstered through the establishment of the NOC Steering Committee. Additionally, the National Ocean Council shall, of course, collaborate with the National Security Council, the National Economic Council, the Council on Environmental Quality and other White House entities.⁶²

The National Ocean Council would reinforce the Principal- and Deputy-level constituents. Because each level would focus on its responsibilities and collaborate if necessary, the council would be a dual committee. The Council shall comprise of a various membership; it would include the Secretaries of State, Defense, Energy, Transportation, and Homeland Security; the Chair of the Council on Environmental Quality (SEQ); the Director of the Office of Management and Budget (OMB); an employee of the United States government appointed by the Vice President; the Director of the Office of Science and Technology Policy (OSTP); the Under Secretary of Commerce for Oceans and Atmosphere

⁶¹ The White House Council on Environmental Quality, "Final Recommendations Of The Interagency Ocean Policy Task Force," *The White House, Executive Office of the President of the United States*, July 19, 2010, pp. 8, https://www.whitehouse.gov/files/documents/OPTF_FinalRecs.pdf (accessed on March 25, 2016).

⁶² *Ibid*, pp. 4-19.

(NOAA Administrator); and many other employees and officers of the United States. The functions of the Council would be similarly performed through the two-level structure. The Principal-level of the Council will oversee the implementation of the National Ocean Policy, continually update and review the Policy based on the recommendations from the Deputy-level, and handle the decision-making and dispute-resolution in case the Deputy-level is not efficiently able to. On this higher level, the NOC shall meet a minimum of twice per year, more frequently if the circumstances demand. The Deputy-level of the Council should ensure the overall implementation of the National Ocean Policy as well as the coastal and marine spatial planning. Likewise, it will assure the policies and products of the NOC subcommittees are consistent with the Administration policy, and receive and elaborate on external contributions from the advisory agencies and other bodies. The Deputy-level should also manage the decision-making and dispute-resolution and collaborate with the National Security Council, National Economic Council, and other departments, if required. For the better performance of the Council, the Deputy-level will meet a minimum of quarterly.⁶³

Inside the NOC structure, the position of the Co-Chairs (the Chair of the CEQ and the Director of OSTP) is indispensable, as they advise the President on the status of the National Ocean Policy implementation, and supervise and coordinate the implementation process from the point of the budget, reporting and accountability. They also collaborate with the Secretary of State and other pertinent agencies to incorporate the topics important for the international platform as well (whaling, fisheries...). The Co-Chairs could propose any emerging issues or Presidential priorities to the Council and supervise the development of the implementation plan, as the circumstances require. They correspondingly have an authority to call the additional Council meetings.⁶⁴

For the harmonization of the management and science issues, the 5-member NOC Steering Committee was created along with the National Ocean Council. This committee will integrate and coordinate priority issues in the matter of the oceans, coasts and the Great Lakes, and overview that the activities of the Ocean Resource Management Interagency

⁶³ The White House Council on Environmental Quality, "Final Recommendations Of The Interagency Ocean Policy Task Force," *The White House, Executive Office of the President of the United States*, July 19, 2010, pp. 20-21, https://www.whitehouse.gov/files/documents/OPTF_FinalRecs.pdf (accessed on March 25, 2016).

⁶⁴ *Ibid*, pp. 20 – 22.

Policy Committee (ORM-IPC) and the Ocean Science and Technology Interagency Policy Committee (OST-IPC) are consistent with the Council's policy. The ORM-IPC provides the Council with necessary groundwork for the proper implementation of the policy. The OST-IPC will function as a science and technology body in collaboration with the ORM-IPC. These two committees would support the implementation process and provide the members with suitable information and groundwork if required. The Governance Coordinating Committee (GCC) was created for the purpose of coordination of the state, tribal and local governance structures and cooperation within this structure. This committee will submit specific local issues and topics, such as overfishing of a certain species important for that area, to the higher level of the Council for an advice, deliberation or decision-making.⁶⁵ The Council displays a very clear and firm structure, with each committee focusing on specific topic or interest area concerning the policy. The whole structure of the Council is oriented towards the smooth implementation of the policy, which will be explored closely below.

3.4. *National Ocean Policy*

This subchapter is fully devoted to the National Ocean Policy, as it is the first comprehensive policy in the matter of the ocean, coasts and the Great Lakes in the United States.⁶⁶ At the beginning, the Task Force was mandated to present recommendations for a sustainable use of the ocean in contrast with the growing economic demand from the social and economic sphere. Subsequently, the Task Force recognized the evident significance of the ocean, coasts and the Great Lakes by identifying its economic, social and cultural benefits. The understanding of the linkages between the ocean and human activities as well as needs was vital for the formation of the necessary policy concerning the ocean. As presented in the Final Recommendations, the ocean is a vast source of food and renewable energy and basically shapes and sustains life on our planet. Even though, the Task Force identified the importance of the ocean use, it also acknowledged that certain human actions

⁶⁵ The White House Council on Environmental Quality, "Final Recommendations Of The Interagency Ocean Policy Task Force," *The White House, Executive Office of the President of the United States*, July 19, 2010, pp. 23-27, https://www.whitehouse.gov/files/documents/OPTF_FinalRecs.pdf (accessed on March 25, 2016).

⁶⁶ "National Ocean Policy," *Beachapedia*, modified on August 23, 2016, http://www.beachapedia.org/National_Ocean_Policy (accessed on February 21, 2016).

deeply affect the ocean. Demands from the ocean are unfortunately growing in a rate that is unable to match the level, which can be satisfied. At the same time, there is a common consensus that we need to preserve the ocean and keep it healthy in order to ensure the overall prosperity of the human population.⁶⁷

The Task Force proposed a specific ocean policy of the United States, after recognizing the importance of the ocean for the well-being of the nation. The National Ocean Policy⁶⁸, as the Task Force designed, comprises of ten points that give a certain direction to the use of the ocean, coasts and the Great Lakes. The first part of the policy is based on the concept of protection and restoration of the ocean's health. Predominantly, the ocean's biodiversity is expected to be maintained and protected, as well as the diverse ecosystems and important resources. The ability of the ocean to overcome pollution, ocean acidification and other ocean's challenges is also expected to be improved and maintained. The Task Force also recommended strengthening the conservation and improving uses of the land in order to make the ocean healthier. For better management and adaptability of the ocean, science will be involved in the best way possible.⁶⁹

The second part of the National Ocean Policy is based on the security and preservation of the ocean's heritage and maritime biodiversity wealth. The Task Force openly implied that the ocean should be used only in a safe and sustainable way. Maritime wealth should be deeply respected and preserved in order to protect the nation's cultural, social, historical and recreational values.⁷⁰ Moreover, the rights and jurisdiction should be exercised "in accordance with applicable international law, including respect for and preservation of navigational rights and freedoms, which are essential for the global economy and international peace and security"⁷¹.

The third part of the Policy, which the Task Force presented, includes an understanding for the ocean's important heritage. The Task Force considered essential to

⁶⁷ The White House Council on Environmental Quality, "Final Recommendations Of The Interagency Ocean Policy Task Force," *The White House, Executive Office of the President of the United States*, July 19, 2010, pp. 1 – 13, https://www.whitehouse.gov/files/documents/OPTF_FinalRecs.pdf (accessed on March 25, 2016).

⁶⁸ This policy will be paraphrased for the purpose of the length of this thesis, the original text of this policy will be enclosed in the Appendix 1 of this thesis.

⁶⁹ *Ibid*, pp. 14 – 15.

⁷⁰ *Ibid*, pp. 14.

⁷¹ The White House Council on Environmental Quality, "Final Recommendations Of The Interagency Ocean Policy Task Force," *The White House, Executive Office of the President of the United States*, July 19, 2010, pp. 14, https://www.whitehouse.gov/files/documents/OPTF_FinalRecs.pdf (accessed on March 25, 2016).

improve the scientific understanding of the ocean as a part of the global interconnected system that the planet is comprised of. The understanding of the connection between the ocean and the occurring environmental changes in the world is also expected to be improved. The Task Force also recommended promoting a better understanding of the ocean's heritage and importance of its well-being to the public.⁷² We can view these principles more as general statements of intent rather than as a policy. The ten points of the policy resemble more to a directional framework of general guidance for the ocean usage. It does not offer any concrete actions or specific approaches.

This National Ocean Policy should be supported by a collaboration at the international level, particularly by endorsing the United States to join the Law of the Sea Convention. The framework of the policy concerning the ocean, coasts and the Great Lakes should be comprehensive and cooperative and should simplify coherent actions across all the levels of the governance structure. Moreover, pursuing the objectives of the National Ocean Policy should be done in a fiscally responsible manner.⁷³

This Policy should be naturally promoted by certain principles, therefore any further policies and activities should be done in an environmental-friendly manner to minimize the negative impacts for the ocean. Furthermore, these activities should not undermine in any way the protection and restoration of the maritime biodiversity and heritage. All environmental costs should be curtailed and decision-making should follow the latest available science. Every activity concerning the ocean should respect the principles of ecosystem-based management (in which humans are part of the ecosystem, whose health is vital for the prosperity of humans) and adaptive management (regularly management actions in accordance with the present conditions). Better science allows for the better management of the ocean usage; therefore, the United States should support the improvement of any ocean research, mapping, modeling, forecasting and assessments in order to better understand the processes and changes of the ocean. According to the Task Force, the framework for the National Ocean Policy will be unquestionably open and

⁷² The White House Council on Environmental Quality, "Final Recommendations Of The Interagency Ocean Policy Task Force," *The White House, Executive Office of the President of the United States*, July 19, 2010, pp. 14, https://www.whitehouse.gov/files/documents/OPTF_FinalRecs.pdf (accessed on March 25, 2016).

⁷³ Exec. Order No. 13547, 3. C. F. R. (2010), pp. 2 – 3, <https://www.whitehouse.gov/files/documents/2010stewardship-eo.pdf> (accessed February 23, 2016).

transparent by allowing a broad public participation⁷⁴. It is important to point out that this policy framework could potentially affect businesses dependent on the ocean access and ocean resources. These impacts might include limits on fish catches or ocean resources exploitation. Despite these possible limitations, the policy is ultimately a beneficial approach for the ocean and its environment. Without healthy ocean ecosystems, there might not be any future businesses concerning the ocean existent anymore. Sometimes it is important to accept the present partial limitations for the future benefits.

Based on the recommendations of the Task Force, the National Ocean Policy was officially established by the Executive order #13547, which was issued by the President of the United States on July 19, 2010. The Executive order also validated the formation of the National Ocean Council as an agency that would overview and guide particular plans initiated from all the levels of the governance structure, in conformity with the National Ocean Policy. The order also provided for the advancement of the coastal and marine spatial planning, which is expected to boost the improvement of the regional planning and development. The implementation of the Final Recommendations will be, of course, in accordance with the international law in the matter of the ocean usage.⁷⁵ It is noticeable that the National Ocean Policy is certainly a courageous move towards strengthening the national comprehensive approach for tackling the worsening conditions of the ocean, which have an impact on the environmental well-being of the whole planet. Whether the policy is viewed as more beneficial than a burden in general is a question, which will be elaborated on in the next chapter of this thesis.

3.5. Implementation Strategy and the Implementation Plan

For the better understanding of the policy as a complex directional framework, it is more than essential to mention the implementation strategy presented in the Final Recommendations by the Task Force. By elaborating on the implementation strategy, we

⁷⁴ The White House Council on Environmental Quality, "Final Recommendations Of The Interagency Ocean Policy Task Force," *The White House, Executive Office of the President of the United States*, July 19, 2010, pp. 14 – 18, https://www.whitehouse.gov/files/documents/OPTF_FinalRecs.pdf (accessed on March 25, 2016).

⁷⁵ Exec. Order No. 13547, 3. C. F. R. (2010), pp. 1, <https://www.whitehouse.gov/files/documents/2010stewardship-eo.pdf> (accessed February 23, 2016).

have to look at the nine priority objectives⁷⁶, which the Task Force introduced and which should serve as a linkage between the National Ocean Policy and the action on the ground as well as in the water. Despite the fact that these priority objectives do not propose a specific action plan, they provide a general framework, which should specific action plans strongly follow. The actual development of the specific action plans should be in the authority of ORM-IPC and OST-IPC. Depending on the circumstances, information and changing conditions, the plans should be adaptive if the situation requires it. They similarly will be transparent and fully available to public for any possible inputs.⁷⁷ The nine priority objectives should serve as a component to the directional framework of the policy, but do not provide any concrete action plans concerning the ocean, only general statements of intent.

As the nine national priority objectives are split into two categories, the first four objectives are harmonized under the group of “How We Do Business”. They are primarily based on the principle of the ecosystem-based management, conscious use of the ocean, and the importance of the best available information and understanding. Similarly, the decision-making should be made in accordance with the latest science, and the management of the ocean, coasts, and the Great Lakes shall be done with the coordination of the state, tribal and local governance structures. Furthermore, the coastal and marine spatial planning should be done for the enhanced management of the ocean’s use.⁷⁸ It is therefore obvious, that these four objectives aim to improve the overall management of the ocean and enhance the cooperation at all levels of the government while using the best available science.

The next five national priority objectives are put in the category of “Areas of Special Emphasis”, which focuses on the overall restoration of the marine ecosystems and on the ocean’s ability to curtail the ocean acidification by integrating science in to the dialogue and focusing on activities that might potentially endorse the acidification processes.⁷⁹ The ocean’s ecosystems should be protected and conserved merely in accordance with the

⁷⁶ These nine national priority objectives will be paraphrased for the purpose of the length of this thesis. Their full text will be enclosed in the Appendix 2.

⁷⁷ The White House Council on Environmental Quality, “Final Recommendations Of The Interagency Ocean Policy Task Force,” *The White House, Executive Office of the President of the United States*, July 19, 2010, pp. 28 – 31, https://www.whitehouse.gov/files/documents/OPTF_FinalRecs.pdf (accessed on March 25, 2016).

⁷⁸ *Ibid*, pp. 28.

⁷⁹ *Ibid*, pp. 28-37.

science-based approaches. Moreover, an emphasis should be put on the water quality and minimization of the pollution-causing actions on the land. Specific plans should be also introduced concerning the environmental changes in the Arctic, for curtailing the climate-induced impacts in this area through new collaborations and partnerships, through integrating science into the dialogue and by extensive research on how to efficiently respond to increasing pollution.⁸⁰ Furthermore, mapping and data collections and their management should be improved for drawing the best available information.⁸¹ These five priority objectives are clearly based on the protection of the ocean's well-being and sustainability, and maintaining of the ocean's adaptability. Nevertheless, this implementation strategy can be encountered with certain challenges. Potential costs of this process can be strongly opposed on the legislative platform. Interests of many businesses, which are dependent on the ocean access and ocean resources, can also challenge the implementation process. Any potential limitations of transport and other businesses' interests can be also met by a strong wave of disapproval. Furthermore, science as a tool for improving the current ocean usage is not sufficient.

The implementation strategy was further evolved and followed by the Implementation Plan, which shadowed the implementation framework drafted in the Final Recommendations. This Implementation Plan was issued in April 2013 as "a document that translates the National Ocean Policy into on-the-ground actions that will benefit Americans"⁸². This Plan introduces five specific sectors of interests, in which the Plan should boost the economic growth, the ocean's well-being and sustainability, guarantee its security, and aid the local communities, along with ensuring the best available science and information accessibility. This document intends to assure the benefits and resources the ocean is able to provide, as well as maintain the ocean healthy, resilient and productive. The Implementation Plan was created with the collaboration of the public and is expected to be a living document, adaptable to changing conditions and circumstances. The content

⁸⁰ The White House Council on Environmental Quality, "Final Recommendations Of The Interagency Ocean Policy Task Force," *The White House, Executive Office of the President of the United States*, July 19, 2010, pp. 28-40, https://www.whitehouse.gov/files/documents/OPTF_FinalRecs.pdf (accessed on March 25, 2016).

⁸¹ *Ibid*, pp. 28.

⁸² National Ocean Council, "National Ocean Policy Implementation Plan," *The White House*, April, 2013, pp. ii, https://www.whitehouse.gov/sites/default/files/national_ocean_policy_implementation_plan.pdf (accessed on March 25, 2016).

of the document is organized into five separate sections, in which each of them displays the benefits the Plan should bring to the specific field of interest. Those five sections include The Ocean Economy, Safety and Security, Coastal and Ocean Resilience, Local Choices, and Science and Information. Under each of these categories, there are several specific benefits for the United States listed and briefly explained.⁸³ These individual beneficial actions are further portrayed in a greater detail with a specific time outline in the National Ocean Policy Implementation Plan Appendix.⁸⁴

The first category revolves around the ocean economy as the ocean provides valuable resources and holds powerful economic drivers for the United States. For boosting the economic growth, the necessity of improving the high-quality scientific data and information is strongly recognized. The Council highly recommends the advancement of mapping and supports a broader accessibility to data and information. It also acknowledges the importance of boosting the employment in the ocean economy and improving the skills of the ocean workforce. Through the prevention of lost employment opportunities and protection and restoration of the marine ecosystems, the employment in the ocean economy should remain the same or even better, to improve.⁸⁵ In another words the idea of keeping the ocean and the coastal areas healthy and productive, should ensure employment in the ocean economy on the rise; and therefore, produce even more benefits for the United States. The health of the ocean should be assured by improved science and reduction of activities with a high potential of worsening the ocean health such as nonpoint-polluted areas.

The second category focuses on the safety and security of the ocean, coastal areas, and the Great Lakes. The Council strongly recommends the improvement of the data through enhanced mapping, assessments and other approaches as the better understanding of the ocean processes allows for better decision-making concerning the ocean usage. Enhancement of the remote sensing systems for ocean observations is similarly emphasized

⁸³ National Ocean Council, “National Ocean Policy Implementation Plan,” *The White House*, April, 2013, pp. ii-4, https://www.whitehouse.gov/sites/default/files/national_ocean_policy_implementation_plan.pdf (accessed on March 25, 2016).

⁸⁴ National Ocean Council, “National Ocean Policy Implementation Plan Appendix,” *The White House*, April 2013, pp. 1, https://www.whitehouse.gov/sites/default/files/national_ocean_policy_ip_appendix.pdf (accessed on March 25, 2016).

⁸⁵ National Ocean Council, “National Ocean Policy Implementation Plan,” *The White House*, April, 2013, pp. 5 – 8, https://www.whitehouse.gov/sites/default/files/national_ocean_policy_implementation_plan.pdf (accessed on March 25, 2016).

for creating a stronger awareness for the decision-makers by providing a more comprehensive picture of the marine ecosystems. The Council also proposes a greater international collaboration for the purpose of exchanging knowledge and valuable information. For ensuring the safety in the Arctic region, the Council suggested the advancement of communication systems so that response to marine incidents and environmental impacts would be enhanced. The improvement of mapping and sea ice forecasting in the Arctic region should assure the safety of the U.S. Arctic vessels. In addition, focusing on the safety and security of ports and waterways would benefit the marine environment as well as the humans, as they greatly support the economic activities of the United States.⁸⁶ The provision of the safety and security of the ocean and coastal areas would strongly benefit the marine environment and the humans as the usage of the ocean would be managed more carefully from the environmental perspective.

The next category is based on the coastal and ocean resilience, as it is very important to maintain the well-being and sustainability of the marine environment. Pollution and ocean acidification are greatly recognized as massive threats to the well-being of the ocean, coasts and the Great Lakes, as they also affect other environmental changes. The NOC supports actions and efforts to minimize the impacts of the ocean acidification and the growing general use of the ocean. The Council promotes protection and restoration of coastal and ocean ecosystems, reduction of the wetlands loss, and regulation of invasive species populations. It also supports the formation of many new assessments on how to improve the resilience of marine ecosystems, mostly for the purpose of future protection, preparation, adaptation and improved response to environmental changes. By supporting a number of agencies and plans (e.g. The Strategic Plan for Federal Research and Monitoring the Ocean Acidification) and collaborating on the international platform through the Law of the Sea Convention, the U.S. capacity to address the ocean challenges and potential ocean environmental disasters (such as oil spills) should enhance in the future.⁸⁷

As the second to the last, the fourth category revolves around the support for the state, regional, and local marine economies while still enhancing the protection and

⁸⁶ National Ocean Council, "National Ocean Policy Implementation Plan," *The White House*, April, 2013, pp. 10-13, https://www.whitehouse.gov/sites/default/files/national_ocean_policy_implementation_plan.pdf (accessed on March 25, 2016).

⁸⁷ *Ibid*, pp. 14-18.

conservation of the coastal regions and marine ecosystems. The NOC promotes the ability to address each region and community in compliance with their specific and diverse marine uses. For example, in the Caribbean, the biggest emphasis is put on the coral reef ecosystem conservation, while in the Pacific Northwest, they try to minimize the effects of ocean acidification on local shellfish growers. In each region, the Council proposes the implementation of a suitable plan for addressing local challenges and problems. Furthermore, the Council supports the marine spatial planning, which would be suitable for each specific region. The enhancement of local partnerships and collaboration is correspondingly strongly encouraged.⁸⁸ It is important to state that, again, these principles and approaches do not present any concrete actions or detailed approaches and they can be considered only general statements of intent. They are more of a directional framework, through which the concrete policy should be applied.

The last category focuses on the advancement of science and information. The NOC supports innovative technologies and research, and promotes further improvements in the ability to respond to the effects of the climate change and ocean acidification. Better understanding of the processes in the ocean should support the enhancement in their management and curtailing. The NOC stresses out the importance of best available data and information for the purpose of reasonable decision-making.⁸⁹ It is therefore obvious that the best obtainable science and information is crucial for effective ocean management. As stated above, it is imperative to have an access to the best data and figures in order to respond to environmental changes and challenges in an efficient and successful way. The best information can be obtained by e.g. more accurate mapping, assessing or seabed screening.

It is greatly relevant to briefly mention the National Ocean Policy Implementation Plan Appendix, which outlines the time framework for the each category that is portrayed in the Implementation plan itself. For an understandable illustration, a short example will be presented from the category of coastal and ocean resilience. From the part of protection and conservation of marine ecosystems, it was expected to establish a marine debris

⁸⁸ National Ocean Council, "National Ocean Policy Implementation Plan," *The White House*, April, 2013, pp. 19-23, https://www.whitehouse.gov/sites/default/files/national_ocean_policy_implementation_plan.pdf (accessed on March 25, 2016).

⁸⁹ *Ibid*, pp. 24 – 27.

monitoring protocol and identify actions to reduce this phenomenon by 2013.⁹⁰ The marine debris monitoring protocol was completed by 100% and the data has been already published.⁹¹ By 2014, the coral bleaching response plans should have been constructed and a review of existing policies and measures for the restoration of coral reefs should have been created.⁹² The coral bleaching response plans were completed by 85%, because Guam and American Samoa are still in the draft phase, but Hawaii and Florida have already completed the plans.⁹³ Similarly, about 2 million acres of lands, which are classified as high conservation priorities, shall be protected by 2025.⁹⁴ This appendix identifies concrete plans and distinct actions for each of the five categories in a timely manner, and sets a strong and clear pathway for the National Ocean Policy in the United States. The policy itself without the Appendix would serve only as a comprehensive, directional framework without any real potential to change the situation, because it does not introduce any concrete actions, only creates a framework that should be abode. The Appendix offers detailed actions that are compliant with the implementation strategy, but there are no sanctions or alternative actions if the original plans do not work or are unable to be implemented.

In 2014, the United States hosted the first Our Ocean Conference, which should tackle the most pressing global ocean challenges – ocean pollution, overfishing and ocean acidification.⁹⁵ In 2015, the second Conference took place in Chile and hosted about 500 participants from 50 countries. The United States committed to curtailing the illegal fishing,

⁹⁰ National Ocean Council, “National Ocean Policy Implementation Plan Appendix,” *The White House*, April 2013, pp. 1 – 13, https://www.whitehouse.gov/sites/default/files/national_ocean_policy_ip_appendix.pdf (accessed on March 25, 2016).

⁹¹ The White House, “Report on the Implementation of the National Ocean Policy,” *The White House*, March 2015, pp. 2 (Appendix), https://www.whitehouse.gov/sites/default/files/docs/nop_highlights__annual_report_final_-_150310.pdf (accessed May 10, 2016).

⁹² National Ocean Council, “National Ocean Policy Implementation Plan Appendix,” *The White House*, April 2013, pp. 12, https://www.whitehouse.gov/sites/default/files/national_ocean_policy_ip_appendix.pdf (accessed on March 25, 2016).

⁹³ The White House, “Report on the Implementation of the National Ocean Policy,” *The White House*, March 2015, pp. 19 (Appendix), https://www.whitehouse.gov/sites/default/files/docs/nop_highlights__annual_report_final_-_150310.pdf (accessed May 10, 2016).

⁹⁴ National Ocean Council, “National Ocean Policy Implementation Plan Appendix,” *The White House*, April 2013, pp. 1 – 13, https://www.whitehouse.gov/sites/default/files/national_ocean_policy_ip_appendix.pdf (accessed on March 25, 2016).

⁹⁵ U.S. Department of State, “Turning The Tide,” *Our Ocean Conference*, 2014, pp. 4, <http://www.state.gov/documents/organization/248084.pdf> (accessed on April 12, 2016).; The White House, “FACT SHEET: Leading at Home and Internationally to Protect Our Ocean and Coasts,” *The White House*, June 17, 2014, <https://www.whitehouse.gov/the-press-office/2014/06/17/fact-sheet-leading-home-and-internationally-protect-our-ocean-and-coasts> (accessed on April 12, 2016).

creating more marine sanctuaries, along with the list of many other initiatives for the future.⁹⁶ It is more than important to tackle the ocean challenges, “[B]ecause we share nothing so completely as our ocean, each of us also shares the responsibility to protect it”⁹⁷. Secretary of State John Kerry played a massive role in the launching the conferences, which have become an annual convention of more than 90 countries. Through these conferences, new partnerships and initiatives were created at estimated value of \$1.8 billion, and new commitments towards the ocean protection were produced. States committed to ocean protection and specific actions such as combating illegal fishing or expanding marine reserves.⁹⁸ These conferences are certainly aimed at improving the ocean water quality and health of the ocean ecosystems, and therefore, bringing benefits to future generations.

This chapter was fully dedicated to the description of the National Ocean Policy and its numerous documents, which formed a clear pathway at whose end the policy was finally created and implemented. The process began in 2009 through the release of a Memorandum by President Barack Obama and resulted in a well-defined timeline of actions and plans that should improve the conditions of marine environment under the U.S. jurisdiction. As mentioned in this chapter, the United States correspondingly promotes actions on the international platform e.g. through international conferences like *Our Ocean*; therefore, changes in other states’ jurisdiction might be achieved in the future. The journey of the comprehensive National Ocean Policy was presented to illustrate the process as well as the rich content of this policy, which is built on multiple documents ultimately. It is important to grasp the policy behind the multiple documents to fully understand its course. As this policy was implemented, it also provoked a diverse reaction from the public as well as from the political sphere. The next chapter will focus on the diverse opinions, which appeared after the National Ocean Policy was released, and, if possible, analyze the relations between them and the people’ social status and political inclination, and groups’ agenda. This analysis will be later used to either confirm or disprove the hypothesis of this thesis.

⁹⁶ U.S. Department of State, “Our Ocean 2015 Initiatives,” *Our Ocean Conference*, October 6, 2015, pp. 1 – 5, <http://www.state.gov/documents/organization/248350.pdf> (accessed on April 12, 2016).

⁹⁷ U.S. Department of State, “Turning the Tide,” *Our Ocean Conference*, 2014, pp. 3, <http://www.state.gov/documents/organization/248084.pdf> (accessed on April 12, 2016).

⁹⁸ *Ibid*, pp. 3-7.

4. OPINIONS ABOUT THE NATIONAL OCEAN POLICY

In the previous chapter, the formation process and the main features of the National Ocean Policy were presented through several governmental documents, along with the current problems and challenges the ocean has to cope with. The establishment of the National Ocean Policy produced a massive number of diverse opinions and reactions all across the political and social sphere of the United States. The main goal of this thesis is to analyze the opinions and reactions, which appeared after the policy establishment and if possible, to try find any relations between the opinions and the people's social status and political inclination, and groups' agenda. In this chapter, the various opinions and responses of numerous figures and agencies will be presented and later analyzed. Two categories of responses will be displayed – praises and criticism. In the first subchapter, the commending responses will be presented. In the second subchapter, the negative and criticizing responses will be portrayed. In the last part of this chapter, the analysis of both praising and criticizing opinions will be conducted and if existent, relationships between opinions and the people's social status and political inclination, and groups' agenda. Through the analysis will be confirmed or disproved the hypothesis of this thesis.

4.1. *Praising Opinions About the NOP*

As explained above, this subchapter will be dedicated to the positive and praising opinions and comments towards the establishment of the policy as they appeared after its release. Responses of political figures, companies, agencies, and scientists will be presented in this part of the thesis, beginning with The Pew Charitable Trusts organization, which frequently cooperates with the Congress and the administration.⁹⁹ All opinions will be analyzed in the last part of this chapter and the results will be interpreted. The main hypothesis of this thesis will be either confirmed or disproved through the content analysis. First, praising opinions will be presented.

⁹⁹ The Pew Charitable Trusts, "Campaign for Healthy Oceans," *The Pew Charitable Trusts*, <http://www.pewtrusts.org/en/archived-projects/campaign-for-healthy-oceans/about> (accessed on April 12, 2016).

4.1.1. The Pew Charitable Trusts

The work of The Pew Charitable Trusts began in 1948, when the Pew family created an organization with a noble aim to use their knowledge to solve contemporary pressing world problems. It is an independent, nonprofit, non-governmental, non-partisan public policy organization with a substantial emphasis on research. The scope of their fields of interests include environment, health, arts and culture, public opinion, and state and consumer policy.¹⁰⁰ In relation to their involvement on the environmental issues, they launched a robust Campaign for Healthy Oceans, through which they closely worked with the Obama administration, as well as with the Congress. The organization strongly endorsed the National Ocean Policy and promoted the importance of regional conservation objectives in the process.¹⁰¹ Because of the organization's strong environmental support, the director of The Pew Charitable Trusts' environmental program Christopher Mann issued a statement following the release of the National Ocean Policy Implementation Plan. In his response, he praised the administration for releasing the document and remarked that numerous federal agencies committed themselves to certain actions and deadlines, which should lead to a more effective protection and restoration of the ocean. Because the demands on the ocean are growing exponentially, the unifying blueprint framework of the national policy should stimulate the collaboration among agencies with ocean management responsibilities. Through a clear cooperation with tribal and state governance structures, the sustainable use of the ocean and marine environmental quality under the national policy framework should be improved.¹⁰² Furthermore, Mr. Mann stated that the Implementation Plan "is a major milestone in moving the United States toward ecosystem-based management and sustainable use of its marine resources"¹⁰³.

In the name of the Pew Environment Group, Christopher Mann correspondingly got involved in a letter addressed to the US Senate in the year of 2011. The letter, under which

¹⁰⁰ The Pew Charitable Trusts, "Mission & Values," *The Pew Charitable Trusts*, <http://www.pewtrusts.org/en/about/mission-and-values> (accessed on April 12, 2016).

¹⁰¹ The Pew Charitable Trusts, "Campaign for Healthy Oceans," *The Pew Charitable Trusts*, <http://www.pewtrusts.org/en/archived-projects/campaign-for-healthy-oceans/about> (accessed on April 12, 2016).

¹⁰² The Pew Charitable Trusts, "Obama Administration Announces Implementation Plan for the National Ocean Policy," *The Pew Charitable Trusts*, April 16, 2013, <http://www.pewtrusts.org/en/about/news-room/press-releases/2013/04/16/obama-administration-announces-implementation-plan-for-the-national-ocean-policy> (accessed on April 12, 2016).

¹⁰³ *Ibid.*

numerous agencies¹⁰⁴ gladly appended their signature, was a strong reaction to the GOP criticism of the policy such as expansion of the bureaucracy. The groups' letter identified the importance of unifying strategy of protection and restoration of the ocean under the existing law. They also recognized that the comprehensive ocean planning would bring all users together for overall general benefits.¹⁰⁵ Mr. Mann emphasized the fact that the National Ocean Policy should not be seen as a controversial matter and commented on behalf of the GOP criticism that "[I]t's hard to understand what's so threatening about a process that brings all interests together to plan for the future uses of the ocean"¹⁰⁶. He similarly added that from the budgetary point of view, it is important to focus on the regions, where a more comprehensive approach has desire.¹⁰⁷ It is therefore obvious that Mr. Mann views the Implementation Plan as a tool for unifying the policy framework concerning the ocean management and supports the plan as a step forward for the society as well as for the ocean management. The distinct goal is to improve the sustainable use of the ocean while the demands on the ocean intensify. Nevertheless, it is expected that this organization would support the policy as they closely worked with the administration and supported such an initiative, which would result in a policy concerning the environmental questions of the ocean.

4.1.2. Sarah Chasis

Sarah Chasis is a senior attorney and director of the Oceans program at the National Resources Defense Council. She has been a longtime activist for ocean protection and restoration. She has been involved in the protection from the offshore drilling and from the polluted waters, and she has been focusing on the smarter ocean planning campaign. She has been a member of various commissions and boards and, in response to her continuous work; she has been chosen to be the first Coastal Steward of the Year by the National

¹⁰⁴ Those agencies included e.g. the Conservation Law Foundation, Natural Resources Defense Council, Nature Conservancy, and Ocean Conservancy (Pete Kasperowicz, "Republicans look to defund Obama's ocean policy," *TheHill.com*, October 18, 2011, <http://thehill.com/blogs/floor-action/senate/188225-republicans-look-to-defund-obamas-ocean-policy>, accessed on April 12, 2016).

¹⁰⁵ Pete Kasperowicz, "Republicans look to defund Obama's ocean policy," *The Hill.com*, October 18, 2011, <http://thehill.com/blogs/floor-action/senate/188225-republicans-look-to-defund-obamas-ocean-policy>, (accessed on April 12, 2016).

¹⁰⁶ *Ibid.*

¹⁰⁷ *Ibid.*

Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA).¹⁰⁸ In 2012, she released an article, in which she pointed out the baseless criticism of the policy concerning e.g. its bureaucracy expansion. Mrs. Chasis claimed that the NOP would be quite beneficial for fishing, as it would endorse the protection and preservation of important fish habitat and will not limit recreational fishing. Fishermen should be consulted; therefore, the resulting policy shall benefit both the ocean as well as fishermen themselves. In her article, Mrs. Chasis wrote that the NOP should show the path for sustainable use of the ocean in various fields, including fishing, military, energy and tourism. Furthermore, healthier and cleaner seawater, which is the aim of the NOP, should certainly be beneficial for fishing.¹⁰⁹ It is important to add, that the National Ocean Policy certainly does not ban the fishing activities. On the contrary, the policy endorses fishing and recreational uses of the ocean as it recognizes its importance from the social, cultural and economic perspective. Marine spatial planning should improve the management of these activities, as well as the conservation of the ocean, where needed. The policy would advance the coordination of these activities following the safety and conservation goals.¹¹⁰

In Mrs. Chasis' next article from 2013, she praised the importance of the NOP as the ocean currently faces a strong industrialization. According to her, the NOP framework directs all ocean-related activities towards a healthier and more resilient ocean. Mrs. Chasis specifically commended the collaboration on all governance levels, from tribal to federal, and she considered the ordinary people', companies' or federal agencies' chance to stimulate a change in the ocean management as an important step forward. As she mentioned in her article, the Natural Resources Defense Council (NRDC) campaigns for the public to take action and to engage in the process of developing sustainable use of the ocean, as suitable changes stem from the regional or local inducements.¹¹¹ As presented in this subchapter, Sarah Chasis noticeably commends the room for a collaboration across all

¹⁰⁸ National Resources Defense Council, "Sarah Chasis," NRDC.org, <https://www.nrdc.org/experts/sarah-chasis> (accessed on April 11, 2016).

¹⁰⁹ Sarah Chasis, "The National Ocean Policy Will Help Fishermen," *NRDC.org*, March 22, 2012, <https://www.nrdc.org/experts/sarah-chasis/national-ocean-policy-will-help-fishermen> (accessed on April 11, 2016).

¹¹⁰ The White House Council on Environmental Quality, "Final Recommendations Of The Interagency Ocean Policy Task Force," *The White House, Executive Office of the President of the United States*, July 19, 2010, pp. 45, C-III, C-VI, https://www.whitehouse.gov/files/documents/OPTF_FinalRecs.pdf (accessed on March 25, 2016).

¹¹¹ Sarah Chasis, "The National Ocean Policy Turns Three," *NRDC.org*, July 18, 2013, <https://www.nrdc.org/experts/sarah-chasis/national-ocean-policy-turns-three> (accessed on April 12, 2016).

levels of the ocean governance and the ability of a single person, group or company to influence the upcoming changes in the ocean management. Because Mrs. Chasis is a longtime activist for the ocean protection and focuses on environmental questions, she is expected to support the policy as a new beneficial approach to ocean usage.

4.1.3. Taryn Tuss

Taryn Tuss works as a Deputy Communications Director at the Council on Environmental Quality¹¹², which manages environmental efforts of the White House, and collaborates with specific agencies and other White House departments in developing environmental policies and proposals.¹¹³ Mrs. Tuss released an article in 2011 as a reaction to the GOP criticism such as expansion of bureaucracy, which emerged after the National Ocean Policy release. She strongly praised that the policy will provide a framework, under which the ocean management will be developed more efficiently. According to her, previous collaboration within the ocean governance structure was ineffective and the new national policy will deliver a solution. Mrs. Tuss correspondingly presented a number of facts to disclaim the criticism from various members of Congress. She stated that no congressional approval of the policy is actually needed, since the policy should function within the existing system of laws and regulations and simply directs toward a better coordination of the prevailing laws and regulations. Furthermore, the policy should guarantee the public and stakeholders' voice in the decision-making processes concerning the ocean management.¹¹⁴

Mr. Tuss similarly rejected the notion that the National Ocean Policy might jeopardize the ocean economy. To the contrary, she praised the policy for its unifying framework, which should make the decision-making more efficient and; therefore, make jobs safer. According to Mrs. Tuss, inefficiency and delays caused by the poor coordination among all ocean governance levels is the reason for a possible growing unemployment in

¹¹² Taryn Tuss, "The Truth about the National Ocean Policy," *The White House*, October 4, 2011, <https://www.whitehouse.gov/blog/2011/10/04/truth-about-national-ocean-policy>) accessed on April 12, 2016).

¹¹³ Council on Environmental Quality, "About the Council," *The White House*, <https://www.whitehouse.gov/administration/eop/ceq> (accessed on April 12, 2016).

¹¹⁴ Taryn Tuss, "The Truth about the National Ocean Policy," *The White House*, October 4, 2011, <https://www.whitehouse.gov/blog/2011/10/04/truth-about-national-ocean-policy> (accessed on April 12, 2016).

the ocean economy. Every participant of the ocean governance structure has been left to independently interpret existing laws and regulations, which has made the whole system very ineffective and disorganized. Mrs. Tuss also rejected the idea of possible new costs for the taxpayers, as the policy will reduce any delays and ineffectiveness and consequently save money. According to Mrs. Tuss, the critical point about no inputs and impulses from the people, communities and businesses is very misleading, since marine spatial planning is based on collaborative participation of the public and local communities. Mrs. Tuss furthermore reacted to the notion that the policy might have inland impacts as well. She responded that the policy places no new regulations or laws, and that the regional planning bodies have a choice to assess the inland impacts by themselves.¹¹⁵ She strongly concluded that “any attempt to link the policy with inland regulations is purely speculative and misleading”¹¹⁶. As it is vastly obvious, Mrs. Tuss rejected a number of critical points raised by various members of the Congress and provided reasonable arguments to the contrary. Because Mrs. Tuss works within the administration and focuses on the management of environmental issues, she is, of course, expected to support this policy and defend it.

4.1.4. Michael Conathan and Kiley Kroh

Michael Conathan is a Director of Ocean Policy and Kiley Kroh works as an Associate Director of Communications at the Center for American Progress. They strongly advocated for the National Ocean Policy when they released an article in 2011, highlighting numerous advances that the policy should endorse. They both praised the unifying framework of the policy that will make the ocean management more efficient, since the previous disunited system resulted in serious delays and inefficiency. They similarly commended the marine spatial planning, which will involve stakeholders and the public for the improvement of the ocean management in places, where a new approach is needed. Conathan and Kroh furthermore mentioned the benefits of marine spatial planning, as they specifically referenced to the Rhone Island and Massachusetts collaboration in the development of offshore wind energy. Conathan and Kroh correspondingly rejected the

¹¹⁵ Taryn Tuss, “The Truth about the National Ocean Policy,” *The White House*, October 4, 2011,; <https://www.whitehouse.gov/blog/2011/10/04/truth-about-national-ocean-policy> (accessed on April 12, 2016).

¹¹⁶ *Ibid.*

criticism of the National Ocean Policy as a hyper-regulatory economic anchor, since the policy should become an overarching framework above existing laws and regulations. They specifically mentioned a report by the Joint Ocean Commission, which stated that the existing system is inadequate and incapable of providing comprehensive and sufficient approach needed for the effective ocean management. Contrary to this system, the National Ocean Policy should bring all individual parties of the ocean governance together for the future improvement and reduce possible delays or any inefficiency.¹¹⁷ Regarding the preceding disunited system of individual parties of the ocean governance, they additionally indicated that the “[l]ack of certainty means a lack of financing. A lack of financing means a lack of economic growth. And a lack of growth means a lack of jobs”¹¹⁸. It is furthermore obvious that they both praise the policy as a unifying framework for the previously disunited system of numerous individual parties of the ocean governance system. They strongly believe that the newly established policy will improve the previous delays and inefficiency and consequently save the employment and the overall ocean economy. Nevertheless, their position towards the policy is not surprising, since they are both strong advocates for dealing with environmental issues.

4.1.5. Ocean Champions

The Ocean Champions is the first national organization whose agenda is purely focused on the ocean and its healthy environment. Their “goal is to develop a broad, bipartisan base of supporters from which to cultivate political champions for ocean conservation in the U.S. Congress and in key states”¹¹⁹. They broadly concentrate on the election support of those candidates who openly promote ocean conservation and healthy ocean environment. Since 2004, this organization has spent more than \$1.6 million in their election support. Their essential aim is to create a political environment inclined to the protection and restoration of the ocean environments.¹²⁰ Ocean Champions ultimately

¹¹⁷ Michael Conathan, Kiley Kroh, “Why We Need a National Ocean Policy,” *Think Progress*, October 5, 2011, <http://thinkprogress.org/climate/2011/10/05/336251/why-we-need-a-national-ocean-policy/> (accessed on April 13, 2016).

¹¹⁸ *Ibid.*

¹¹⁹ Ocean Champions, “About Ocean Champions,” *Ocean Champions*, <https://www.oceanchampions.org/overview/> (accessed on April 12, 2016).

¹²⁰ *Ibid.*

believe that the direction of the ocean management should be stimulated from the ocean users themselves; therefore, from sailors, surfers, beachgoers, divers, and environmentalists.¹²¹ This organization has played a key role in the process of the National Ocean Policy establishment, since they have collaborated with the Obama administration prior to the Executive Order in 2010.¹²² During the establishment of the policy, Ocean Champions campaigned for public engagement and encouraged individuals through their website to take action in the process.¹²³ Since this organization broadly participated in the process of the policy establishment and collaborated with the administration, it is not surprising that they would praise the policy for its benefits.

In 2014, Ocean Champions released a newsletter, in which they praised their success in 2014 congressional elections, as they endorsed 59 candidates, of which 40 won in the House of Representatives and 11 in the Senate. Their biggest accomplishment was believed to be the defeat of Congressman Steve Southerland¹²⁴, who was branded by the organization as “Ocean Enemy #1”¹²⁵. It is therefore clear; the Ocean Champions concentrate their action and broad support on creating a political environment, in which the supporters of the ocean protection and resilience form a majority in the Congress. Unmistakably, this organization plays an important role on the political platform in the matter of the ocean management.

4.1.6. Other Important Supporters

Apart from the above-mentioned, the National Ocean Policy establishment stirred up a noticeable number of further praising comments, statements and opinions. These numerous supporters will be presented in this single subchapter, as their responses or statements were rather short, but clear and persuasive. The National Corn Growers

¹²¹ Ocean Champions, “The Ocean Champions Philosophy,” *Ocean Champions*, <https://www.oceanchampions.org/philosophy/> (accessed on April 12, 2016).

¹²² Ocean Champions, “National Ocean Policy,” *Ocean Champions*, <https://www.oceanchampions.org/national-ocean-policy/> (accessed on April 12, 2016).

¹²³ Ocean Champions, “Last Chance To Speak Out On the National Ocean Policy,” *Ocean Champions*, February 22, 2012, <https://www.oceanchampions.org/last-chance-to-speak-out-on-the-national-ocean-policy/> (accessed on April 12, 2016).

¹²⁴ More information about the Congressman will be presented in the next subchapter, which is dedicated to the criticism of the National Ocean Policy.

¹²⁵ Ocean Champions, “Ocean Enemy #1 Goes Down; 50+ Ocean Champions Prevail!” *Ocean Champions*, November 5, 2014, <https://www.oceanchampions.org/ocean-enemy-1-goes-down-50-ocean-champions-prevail/#> (accessed on April 13, 2016).

Association commended the policy for its “emphasis on voluntary conservation programs and nutrient trading pilot opportunities, as well as expanded research to better understand the complex causes of hypoxia”¹²⁶. The association correspondingly praised the collaboration between coastal and farming communities concerning the water quality preservation.¹²⁷ Since this organization plays an important role in the collaboration between coastal and farming communities, the policy can have potential impacts on their activities and agenda and; therefore, their statement is relevant for incorporation in this thesis.

According to the Rhode Island Democrat Sheldon Whitehouse, the National Ocean Policy was certainly pro-business and presented quite rational approaches sorting out conflicts in the matter of ocean usage.¹²⁸ Similarly, Terry Gibson, who is a long-time editor and testified at a House Natural Resources subcommittee hearing, viewed the policy as a means of making the ocean management more efficient and closer to those who are directly affected. He saw the policy as a settlement for various parties, which were involved in the ocean management.¹²⁹

It is important to mention Ocean Conservancy, as it is a key player in the promotion of healthy ocean environments. This organization focuses on citizen mobilization and encourages advancements of science, which might lead to a massive improvement in the ocean management.¹³⁰ They launched a strong advocacy for the National Ocean Policy and they are trying to mobilize the public through their website to take action towards a healthier and more resilient ocean.¹³¹ Because this organization focuses on the promotion of healthy and resilient ocean, it can be expected that they would support any policy, which would advocate for the improvement of the ocean conditions.

Two other important statements from the Co-Chairs of the National Ocean Council have to be mentioned. Nancy Sutley, who is also a Chair of the Council on Environmental

¹²⁶ National Corn Growers Association, “NCGA Responds To White House Plan For Managing Oceans,” *NCGA.com*, April 19, 2013, <http://ncga.com/news-and-resources/news-stories/article/2013/04/ncga-responds-to-white-house-plan-for-managing-oceans>, (accessed on April 13, 2016).

¹²⁷ *Ibid.*

¹²⁸ Lauren Gardner, “Oceans Plan Meets Wave of GOP Resistance,” *Congressional Quarterly*, June 2, 2012, <http://public.cq.com/docs/weeklyreport/weeklyreport-000004098268.html> (accessed on April 12, 2016).

¹²⁹ *Ibid.*

¹³⁰ Ocean Conservancy, “What We Do,” *Ocean Conservancy*, <http://www.oceanconservancy.org/who-we-are/our-work.html> (accessed on April 12, 2016).

¹³¹ Ocean Conservancy, “Support the National Ocean Policy,” *Ocean Conservancy*, <https://secure.oceanconservancy.org/site/Advocacy?cmd=display&page=UserAction&id=799> (accessed on April 12, 2016).

Quality, praised the policy for establishing an effective framework, under which all individual parties of the ocean governance will collaborate and transform the current system into a more efficient one. According to Mrs. Sutley, this policy is a necessity as the ocean is challenged with growing demands. She further stated that it was imperative to maintain the ocean's health as well as cultivate the nation's economy for the future prosperity.¹³² John P. Holdren, Co-Chair of the National Ocean Council and Director of the White House Office of Science and Technology commended the policy for promoting science advancement and for focusing on the regional economies' improvements with the simultaneous focus on the ocean's protection and conservation.¹³³ It can be anticipated that these Co-Chairs would support the policy, since it is their job occupation.

President of the Offshore Wind Development Coalition Jim Lanard stated that the policy would clarify the current disunited ocean management and endorse the economically and environmentally sustainable usage of ocean resources. With relation to the Coalition, this policy should similarly enhance the expansion of the offshore wind industry. The Co-Chair of the Joint Ocean Commission Initiative Bill Ruckelshaus expressed enthusiasm for the policy by commending its obvious economic as well as environmental benefits for the future. The nation and the ocean should both benefit from this policy.¹³⁴ He correspondingly articulated future collaboration of the Initiative and the National Ocean Policy. Very similarly, the owner and operator of the Priority Fishing Charters from Rhone Island Rick Bellavance praised the policy for allowing fishermen to collaborate with governmental agencies on crucial matters of individual coastal areas. He stated that this approach was vital for tackling local problems while protecting specific coastal economies.¹³⁵

The Executive Director of Alaska Ocean Observing System Molly McCammon commended the policy for recognizing the Arctic region as an important area that needed attention, and thematically for focusing on the significance of ocean monitoring.¹³⁶ Director

¹³² The White House, "Obama Administration Releases Plan to Promote Ocean Economy and Resilience," *The White House*, April 16, 2013, https://www.whitehouse.gov/administration/eop/ceq/Press_Releases/April_16_2013 (accessed on April 12, 2016).

¹³³ Ibid.

¹³⁴ Michael Weiss, "Praise for the National Ocean Policy Implementation Plan," *The White House*, January 12, 2012, <https://www.whitehouse.gov/blog/2012/01/12/praise-national-ocean-policy-implementation-plan> (accessed on April 12, 2016).

¹³⁵ Ibid.

¹³⁶ Ibid.

of Public Policy & Government Relations at the Massachusetts Audubon Society Jack Clarke praised the policy for its unifying framework and enhancing of collaboration between the regions and the federal governmental level. He expressed his positive attitude towards the cooperation between the federal agencies and the region of New England.¹³⁷ Similarly, the Ranking Member of the House Natural Resources Committee Rep. Ed Markey applauded the policy for enhancing the collaboration among different levels of government for strengthening and improving the ocean management. He correspondingly stated that the Implementation Plan should provide a unifying policy framework for coastal regions in addressing critical barriers on the way to a healthier and more resilient ocean.¹³⁸

On a more regional note, the Deputy Port Director from Port of New Bedford Edward Anthes-Washburn praised the policy for the marine spatial planning as he claimed it was more than important to tackle the local challenges while maintaining the coastal economies undamaged. He also noted that active participation of public and local stakeholders was vital for the adequate and efficient approach to advance local developments.¹³⁹ Director of Environmental Affairs for the Ocean Renewable Power Company Nathan Johnson expressed his positive attitude towards the cultivating cooperation among the federal governance structures and the local stakeholders as they have already recorded a success in their collaborative projects in New England¹⁴⁰.

It is important to add that in 2010, President Barack Obama received a passionate letter from 262 university professors and scientists, pleading for a strong action on behalf of the ocean and its environment. These signatories argued that the ocean was vital for the general environmental well-being of our planet and deemed it crucial to protect its heritage as well as unique habitat.¹⁴¹ They contended that “federal agencies have long focused mainly on their individual mandates rather than the overall health of our oceans, thereby jeopardizing the interests of the American people”¹⁴². Through that letter, they endorsed the

¹³⁷ Michael Weiss, “Praise for the National Ocean Policy Implementation Plan,” *The White House*, January 12, 2012, <https://www.whitehouse.gov/blog/2012/01/12/praise-national-ocean-policy-implementation-plan> (accessed on April 13, 2016).

¹³⁸ *Ibid.*

¹³⁹ Emily Woglom, “Why the National Ocean Policy Matters,” *Ocean Conservancy*, April 17, 2013, <http://blog.oceanconservancy.org/2013/04/17/why-the-national-ocean-policy-matters/> (accessed on April 13, 2016).

¹⁴⁰ *Ibid.*

¹⁴¹ Marine Conservation Biology Institute, written on February 5, 2010, https://mcbi.marine-conservation.org/what/what_pdfs/NOP_letter.pdf (accessed on April 13, 2016).

¹⁴² *Ibid.*

Executive Order establishing the Task Force and promoted the ocean's well-being, protection and enhanced resilience.¹⁴³ It can be expected that scientists would support this policy from obvious environmental reasons.

This subchapter was dedicated to a number of supporters of the policy and to their comments, opinions and statements. For the purpose of this thesis, almost every found opinion and response was included on account of a greater objectivity and a wider range of analysis material. Supportive opinions from these figures can be logically expected. It is, of course, very unlikely that opinions from people not directly engaged in the policy establishment, in the political sphere or in the environmental matter, would be available on this topic. Nevertheless, all obtained material was incorporated in this thesis and used for the content analysis. The next part of this thesis will be dedicated to the critical opinions of the National Ocean Policy.

4.2. *Negative Opinions*

The policy correspondingly provoked a number of critical statements and disapproving opinions, from which four will be presented in this part of the thesis. These opinions with frequent occurrence, comprehensiveness and intensity were simply the only available and accessible material for this paper. Their main critique of the National Ocean Policy will be described for the purpose of the later analysis, which will be conducted to either confirm or disprove the hypothesis of this thesis.

4.2.1. Steve Southerland, Bill Flores, Richard Hastings

William Steve Southerland II is a Republican politician, who served as a member of the U.S. House of Representatives from 2011 to 2015. In 2014, he was not successful in his reelection.¹⁴⁴ Ocean Champions noticeably praised that Southerland does not stand as a

¹⁴³ Marine Conservation Biology Institute, written on February 5, 2010, https://mcbi.marine-conservation.org/what/what_pdfs/NOP_letter.pdf (accessed on April 13, 2016).

¹⁴⁴ Ballotpedia, "Steve Southerland (Florida)," *Ballotpedia.org*, [https://ballotpedia.org/Steve_Southerland_\(Florida\)](https://ballotpedia.org/Steve_Southerland_(Florida)) (accessed on April 14, 2016).

supporter of the National Ocean Policy as it was mentioned in the previous subchapter.¹⁴⁵ However, this can be expected, since he is a Republican and; therefore, generally criticizes new regulations and opposes any potential expansion of the bureaucracy. Southerland has served on numerous committees during his time as a Congressman, such as a Committee on Natural Resources or a Committee on Agriculture.¹⁴⁶ He very strongly opposed the National Ocean Policy, because he saw the policy as a powerful instrument of the President's administration to impose new regulations and expand its authority.¹⁴⁷ This can be considered as a typical Republican argument, as Republicans generally do not support policies concerning environmental issues. Leaving aside the predictability of these arguments, it is still important to include these opinions in the analysis for objective results.

According to Southerland, the administration falsely claimed that the policy would not endorse any new federal authority or enforce any new regulations.¹⁴⁸ He pointed out that the Task Force's document clearly approved of imposing supplementary "regulation, where appropriate, that include enforcement as a critical component"¹⁴⁹. Southerland similarly stated that the new regulations would severely damage the ocean economy and might cause a drop in the ocean economy employment. Through potential limitations and regulations, businesses might reduce the number of their employees. As a powerful example, he used the regulations of the amount of caught fish per a year. According to him, only a few would be gifted by the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) with a share of the annual allowable catch and the rest, mostly small-scale fishermen and recreational fishermen, would be excluded; therefore, economically damaged at some point. Furthermore, decisions about fish catching would be based on unreliable science and data from the Marine Recreational Fishing Statistical Survey as

¹⁴⁵ Ocean Champions, "Ocean Enemy #1 Goes Down; 50+ Ocean Champions Prevail!" *Ocean Champions*, November 5, 2014, <https://www.oceanchampions.org/ocean-enemy-1-goes-down-50-ocean-champions-prevail/#> (accessed on April 13, 2016).

¹⁴⁶ Ballotpedia, "Steve Southerland (Florida)," *Ballotpedia.org*, [https://ballotpedia.org/Steve_Southerland_\(Florida\)](https://ballotpedia.org/Steve_Southerland_(Florida)) (accessed on April 14, 2016).

¹⁴⁷ Steve Southerland, "National Ocean Policy: Bad for coastal economies," *TheHill.com*, April 5, 2012, <http://thehill.com/blogs/congress-blog/energy-a-environment/220211-national-ocean-policy-bad-for-coastal-economies> (accessed on April 14, 2016).

¹⁴⁸ *Ibid.*

¹⁴⁹ The White House Council on Environmental Quality, "Final Recommendations Of The Interagency Ocean Policy Task Force," *The White House, Executive Office of the President of the United States*, July 19, 2010, pp. 30, https://www.whitehouse.gov/files/documents/OPTF_FinalRecs.pdf (accessed on March 25, 2016).

Southerland claimed.¹⁵⁰ To state the facts, NOAA reviews any fishery management plans or management measures for fisheries from the Regional Fishery Management Council and if necessary, implements suitable regulations.¹⁵¹ However, that is far from stating that the NOAA would favor any parties and actors from the pool of ocean users.

Southerland correspondingly considered the policy a tool of the Obama administration to stretch its authority over the sea as well as the land.¹⁵² This concern can be considered as an extension of the opposition towards the expansion of federal bureaucracy; therefore, it is an ideologically driven concern rather than a concern based on real critique of the policy. He unquestionably recognized the importance of the ocean resources; nevertheless, he rejected the necessity to further expand the regulatory authority. According to Southerland, new regulations could inflict unnecessary consequences on businesses whilst delivering insignificant effects for the ocean environment.¹⁵³ Number of other Republicans from the House of Representatives comparably feared that the policy might extend its authority inland as well, as the rivers flow from the land to the ocean.¹⁵⁴ In relation to that, all but five Republicans supported a bill H.R.2822 for the Department of the Interior in 2015, which would prohibit “the use of any funds to support ‘ecosystem-based management components of the National Ocean Policy’”¹⁵⁵. Southerland clearly demonstrated a strong disapproval of the policy as he viewed it as an extension of the federal bureaucracy and authority at the expense of the ocean users ultimately. His use of these traditional Republican arguments makes it difficult to ascertain whether his opposition towards the policy is based on following the party’s ideological opposition to

¹⁵⁰ Steve Southerland, “National Ocean Policy: Bad for coastal economies,” *TheHill.com*, April 5, 2012, <http://thehill.com/blogs/congress-blog/energy-a-environment/220211-national-ocean-policy-bad-for-coastal-economies> (accessed on April 14, 2016).

¹⁵¹ The White House Council on Environmental Quality, “Final Recommendations Of The Interagency Ocean Policy Task Force,” *The White House, Executive Office of the President of the United States*, July 19, 2010, pp. C-VII, https://www.whitehouse.gov/files/documents/OTPF_FinalRecs.pdf (accessed on March 25, 2016).

¹⁵² Pete Kasperowicz, “Republicans look to defund Obama’s ocean policy,” *TheHill.com*, October 18, 2011, <http://thehill.com/blogs/floor-action/senate/188225-republicans-look-to-defund-obamas-ocean-policy> (accessed on April 16, 2016).

¹⁵³ *Ibid.*

¹⁵⁴ Juliet Eilperin, “White House finalizes national ocean policy,” *WashingtonPost.com*, April 16, 2013, <https://www.washingtonpost.com/news/post-politics/wp/2013/04/16/white-house-finalizes-national-ocean-policy/> (accessed on April 14, 2016).

¹⁵⁵ The Green Man, “Republicans In Congress Vote To Trash National Ocean Policy,” *IrregularTimes.com*, July 9, 2015, <http://irregulartimes.com/2015/07/09/republicans-in-congress-votes-to-trash-national-ocean-policy/> (accessed on April 16, 2016).

comprehensive extension of federal power or his own opposing position towards the Obama administration. This ambiguity is a common feature among many of other Republican commentators.

Congressman Bill Flores is a Republican lawmaker and member of the House of Representatives since 2010. Residing in Texas, he served on numerous committees, including Natural Resources committee and House Energy and Commerce Committee.¹⁵⁶ Flores has been trying to defund the implementation of the ocean policy six times for the past two years. He supported an appropriations bill, which would defund the implementation and consequently pause the policy measures.¹⁵⁷ More than 80 groups, organizations and businesses expressed a strong support for Flores as they claimed their industries support tens of millions of jobs and contribute to the national GDP by a great deal; therefore, in case of any potential limitations resulting from the implementation would be carried out, they could damage their businesses. In their letter, they encouraged a pause on the policy's funding until true economic impacts are known. Amongst these groups were e.g. National Fisheries Institute, National Ocean Policy Coalition, Recreational Fishing Alliance and many more.¹⁵⁸ All these groups could be affected by potential new regulations as they could limit their activities and damage their revenues through e.g. limits on fish catch. It is evident that behind Flores stood many other figures and organizations and supported his move to defund the policy's implementation as it might potentially limit activities concerning their businesses.

Richard Norman 'Doc' Hastings was a Republican representative for the fourth congressional district in Washington from 1995 to 2014¹⁵⁹ and he currently serves as the House Natural Resources Committee Chairman. During the period of the ocean policy's establishment process, Hastings expressed a strong disapproval of the Obama administration's actions towards the ocean usage and exploitation. He articulated intensely

¹⁵⁶ U.S. House of Representatives, "Biography," *flores.house.gov*, <http://flores.house.gov/aboutbill/> (accessed on April 17, 2016).

¹⁵⁷ Pete Stauffer, "Texas Lawmaker Leads Attack on our National Ocean Policy," *Surfrider.org*, June 1, 2014, <http://www.surfrider.org/coastal-blog/entry/congress-takes-aim-at-our-national-ocean-policy> (accessed on April 17, 2016).

¹⁵⁸ "Over 80 Groups Support Passage of Flores Amendment," Richard Hastings to Bill Flores, May 9, 2012, <http://naturalresources.house.gov/uploadedfiles/dc-groupssupportfloresamdt05-09-12.pdf> (accessed on April 17, 2016).

¹⁵⁹ Govtrack, "Rep. Doc Hastings," *Govtrack.us*, https://www.govtrack.us/congress/members/doc_hastings/400171 (accessed on April 17, 2016).

that the American people should be cautious about the upcoming policy towards the ocean and its usage.¹⁶⁰ He explicitly noted the following.

“President Obama is using the ocean as his latest regulatory weapon to impose new bureaucratic restrictions on nearly every sector of our economy. While marketed as a common sense plan for the development and protection of our oceans, it is instead being used to create a massive new bureaucracy that would harm our economy”¹⁶¹.

Hastings believed that the new policy would enforce an immense top-down federal bureaucracy, which would tighten the control over the sea, rivers and even watersheds. Hastings similarly considered the concept of marine spatial planning as a disadvantageous measure, because it might seriously limit the recreational activities and commercial fishing, and it might overall curtail the ocean’s accessibility for its daily users. He sharply expressed a concern that the policy might impose new regulatory measures as far as inland, because rivers eventually flow into the ocean and inland actions can affect to some extent the ocean environment.¹⁶² It is important to add that the implementation process of the policy has so far led to new partnerships, deeper collaboration between the ocean users and improved monitoring systems through a unified database.¹⁶³ As to whether Hastings’ criticism is valid, it is too early to assess.

Hastings offers, again, very typical criticism of the policy, concentrating on the expansive bureaucracy and potential new regulations. As a reaction to Hastings’ arguments, it is imperative to state that the policy “does not create new regulations, supersede current

¹⁶⁰ Richard Hastings, “Obama’s national ocean policy threatens jobs and economic activities onshore and off,” *FoxNews.com*, June 19, 2012, <http://www.foxnews.com/opinion/2012/06/19/obama-national-ocean-policy-threatens-jobs-and-economic-activities-onshore-and.html> (accessed on April 17, 2016).

¹⁶¹ Richard Hastings, “Obama’s national ocean policy threatens jobs and economic activities onshore and off,” *FoxNews.com*, June 19, 2012, <http://www.foxnews.com/opinion/2012/06/19/obama-national-ocean-policy-threatens-jobs-and-economic-activities-onshore-and.html> (accessed on April 17, 2016).

¹⁶² *Ibid.*

¹⁶³ The White House, “Report on the Implementation of the National Ocean Policy,” *The White House*, March 2015, https://www.whitehouse.gov/sites/default/files/docs/nop_highlights__annual_report_final_-_150310.pdf (accessed May 10, 2016).

regulations, or modify any agency's established mission, jurisdiction, or authority"¹⁶⁴. The policy should openly operate through the already existing regulations and laws and efficiently improve the collaboration between numerous agencies to effectively use the taxpayers' dollars.¹⁶⁵ It is obvious that the intention of the Obama administration is not to create a new incomprehensible bureaucratic maze, but rather to improve the already existing system for the benefit of the both parties.

Hastings correspondingly criticized the fact that the implementation of the policy would considerably affect taxpayers, because the indefinite objectives of this policy might lead to numerous costly lawsuits to stop or delay enforced measures by the federal bureaucracy. He furthermore claimed that the economic sphere will suffer from the newly imposed regulations and the job creation will be reduced as a consequence of the policy, which might lead to potential limitations and regulations. In relation to this, Hastings joined the bipartisan attempts in the House of Representatives to stop funding for the National Ocean Policy until its accurate economic consequences are assumed and fully understood. Approximately 80 organizations backed this funding pause in 2012, including the American Farm Bureau Federation, National Association of Homebuilders and the National Fisheries Institute.¹⁶⁶ New potential regulations might curtail their regular activities and; therefore, reduce their revenues and damage their businesses.

In 2012, Hastings similarly criticized the policy and the National Ocean Council for insufficient transparency and openness. In a letter addressed to the National Ocean Council Cho-Chairs, Mrs. Sutley and Mr. Holdren, Hastings emphasized that majority of the previously asked questions about the policy and its implementation were still left unanswered. He correspondingly complained about the lack of willingness to provide required documentation and information as the administration likely attempted to avoid scrutiny of its plans. He also questioned Sutley's response that all President's actions were

¹⁶⁴ National Ocean Council, "National Ocean Policy Implementation Plan," *The White House*, April, 2013, pp. 2, https://www.whitehouse.gov/sites/default/files/national_ocean_policy_implementation_plan.pdf (accessed on March 25, 2016).

¹⁶⁵ *Ibid.*

¹⁶⁶ Richard Hastings, "Obama's national ocean policy threatens jobs and economic activities onshore and off," *FoxNews.com*, June 19, 2012, <http://www.foxnews.com/opinion/2012/06/19/obama-national-ocean-policy-threatens-jobs-and-economic-activities-onshore-and.html> (accessed on April 17, 2016).

in line with the Constitution, as well as with several environmental laws.¹⁶⁷ Nevertheless, Hastings claimed that “in none of the laws cited did Congress authorize the President to establish this new federal bureaucracy to manage ocean activities or resources or to create new regulations and policies that could close off parts of the ocean and stifle American job creation”¹⁶⁸. He also brought to attention that the role of the environmental groups and other non-governmental agencies was not very clear in the developmental process of the policy. Another critique was pointed to the lack of transparency about the policy’s possible effects on the federal budget.¹⁶⁹ Hastings requested numerous answers to ease his concerns and dug deeper than anyone else in his assessment of the policy’s effectiveness, sufficiency and transparency. Nevertheless, his arguments are mostly stereotypically oriented on regulations and expanded bureaucracy; however, they need to be included in the analysis for its better objectivity.

4.2.2. The American Sportfishing Association (ASA)

The American Sportfishing Association was founded in 1933 to represent the manufacturers’ business interests. Nowadays, the organization focuses on the wellbeing of the recreational fishing and supports numerous businesses, agencies and other organizations, as it advocates for the sportfishing industry. Amongst its members are outdoor retail stores, state fish and welfare agencies, federal land and water management agencies, conservation organizations and so on.¹⁷⁰ The Association expressed a general concern about how the policy would impacts the recreational access to the ocean and the coastal areas. In certain areas, ocean access could be curtailed or limited and that might consequently damage local businesses, which are dependent on the ocean access, and limit fishing activities of recreational fishermen and businesses.¹⁷¹

¹⁶⁷ Richard Norman Hastings to Nancy Sutley and John P. Holdren, August 15, 2012, pp. 1 – 2, <http://naturalresources.house.gov/uploadedfiles/ltrtosutleyholdrennatlcoceanpolicy08-15-12.pdf> (accessed on April 17, 2016).

¹⁶⁸ Ibid, pp. 2.

¹⁶⁹ Ibid, pp. 2 – 3.

¹⁷⁰ American Sportfishing Association, “About the Sportfishing Industry’s Trade Association,” *ASAFishing.org*, <http://asafishing.org/about-us/> (accessed on April 17, 2016).

¹⁷¹ American Sportfishing Association, “National Ocean Policy,” *ASAFishing.org*, <http://asafishing.org/advocacy/issues-archive/national-ocean-policy/> (accessed on April 17, 2016).

Senior vice-president of Big Rock Sport in North Carolina and a member of the Board of Directors of ASA, Gary Zurn, condemned the policy for lack of clarity, especially regarding the impact on the nation's 13 million saltwater anglers. He strongly expressed concerns about the policy imposing new regulations and restrictions and producing new threats to fishing access as fisheries and public water are being closed.¹⁷² He further claimed that “anglers cannot help but view the National Ocean Policy, particularly the Coastal and Marine Spatial Planning process, as another effort to make public resources inaccessible to the people who help pay for their management and conservation”¹⁷³. According to the Association, “the policy does not adequately acknowledge the important economic, social and conservation value of recreational fishing”¹⁷⁴ as the recreational use of the ocean is essentially beneficial for the public health. The ASA provided numerous inputs to the administration regarding the importance of recreational use of the ocean and they would accept any policy more cautious about the recreational access. ASA Vice President Gordon Robertson expressed his concerns about the impacts on businesses and livelihoods of many people as they rely on the daily ocean access. The establishment of the marine spatial planning was condemned as it could result in the additional fishing closures.¹⁷⁵

4.2.3. The National Ocean Policy Coalition

This organization based in Houston includes various firms and businesses, ranging from mining to farming, and represents their diverse interests.¹⁷⁶ Among the member firms and organizations are ExxonMobil, National Association of Home Builders, Pacific Seafood Processors Association, and US Oil & Gas Association.¹⁷⁷ This group claims that they aim for the implementation of the policy, which would be beneficial rather than

¹⁷² American Sportfishing Association, “New National Ocean Policy Draws Criticism from the Sportfishing Community in House Hearing,” *ASAFishing.org*, March 22, 2012, <http://asafishing.org/newsroom/news-releases/new-national-ocean-policy-draws-criticism-from-the-sportfishing-community-i/> (accessed on April 17, 2016).

¹⁷³ *Ibid.*

¹⁷⁴ *Ibid.*

¹⁷⁵ *Ibid.*

¹⁷⁶ Juliet Eilperin, “National ocean policy sparks partisan fight,” *The Washington Post*, October 28, 2012, https://www.washingtonpost.com/national/health-science/national-ocean-policy-sparks-partisan-fight/2012/10/28/af73e464-17a7-11e2-a55c-39408f6e6a4b_story.html (accessed on April 17, 2016).

¹⁷⁷ National Ocean Policy Coalition, “Members,” *oceanpolicy.com*, <http://oceanpolicy.com/members/> (accessed on April 17, 2016).

damaging for the national interests, as well as for the commercial and recreational users.¹⁷⁸ This criticism is not directed towards a complete rejection of the policy, but more towards a cautious implementation that would not harm the businesses dependent on the ocean access. This organization encourages guiding the policy implementation towards the economic and recreational benefits and emphasizes the role of participation of ocean users. Their corresponding ambition is to assure the public's access to the ocean and its resources for the maximum economic and social benefits of the nation.¹⁷⁹ In 2012, NOPC Executive Director Brent Greenfield released a concerning statement, in which he criticized the policy for inadequate cooperation with the Congress and insufficient inclusion of the ocean, coastal or inland user groups and organizations, as well as recreational interests. According to him, ocean users could be significantly harmed and restricted through additional layers of bureaucracy.¹⁸⁰

Greenfield strongly expressed concerns about the policy in relation to the inadequate cooperation with the various ocean users, from anglers to businesses and organizations, and therefore, the policy could essentially generate unfavorable economic and social impacts on the communities and the nation itself.¹⁸¹ It is explicable that the Coalition expressed concerns about restrictions and new regulations that might curtail their activities as their businesses usually rely on the unlimited access to the ocean.

This subchapter was dedicated to several criticizing opinions of the policy. Even though their arguments were predictable and could have been logically expected, it is still imperative to include them in this thesis for the content analysis. This analysis includes all available sources to ensure objective results. The analysis conducted in the next subchapter will answer the two sub-questions of this thesis and confirm or disprove the main hypothesis.

¹⁷⁸ National Ocean Policy Coalition, "About NOPC," *oceanpolicy.com*, <http://oceanpolicy.com/about/> (accessed on April 17, 2016).

¹⁷⁹ *Ibid.*

¹⁸⁰ National Ocean Policy Coalition, "National Ocean Policy Coalition Responds to Draft Ocean Action Plan," *oceanpolicy.com*, January 12, 2012, <http://oceanpolicy.com/2012/01/12/national-ocean-policy-coalition-responds-to-draft-ocean-action-plan/> (accessed on April 17, 2016).

¹⁸¹ *Ibid.*

4.3. *Analysis Results*

The main goal of this thesis is to analyze the opinions that appeared directly after the establishment of the National Ocean Policy and through a conducted content analysis either confirm or disprove the main hypothesis of this thesis. The main hypothesis reads as follow.

We can logically assume that the newly established policy will be supported by Democrats, as the policy came from their administration and follows their political ideology concerning the supportive attitude towards the environmental issues. On the other hand, we can assume that Republicans will oppose this policy from predictable reasons such as expansion of federal bureaucracy or potential of new regulations.

This hypothesis will be either confirmed or disproved through a content analysis, which will be conducted on all obtained sources concerning the opinions and statements about the U.S. National Ocean Policy. Because the comments of Democrats and Republicans logically flowed from their political stance, opinions of nonpolitical actors have been included as well to ensure the results are objective. Despite being able to expect how Democrats and Republicans could respond to this national policy, it was important to conduct this analysis of whether or not these ideological positions prevailed in light of the novelty of this national policy and the important environmental focus of the policy. It would be misguided to assume that in light of scientific consensus regarding climate change and growing concern for environmental matters the traditional positions of each party will always be reflected in their comments on new policies.

For the content analysis, two categories of opinions and statements are created – the first category includes numerous praising opinions and views, the second category contains criticizing statements and condemnation. These opinions and statements were in detail described in the previous subchapters. There was a strong intention to find and incorporate into this thesis as many opinions as was possible for a more useful and objective sampling unit. One might criticize the choice of these opinions as inadequately diverse, but these are all the opinions that could have been found. Their similarity in each category is also rather

understandable as these groups and people share the same standpoint towards the policy – they either support it or condemn it from obvious ideological or economic reasons. It is the goal of this thesis to focus on each category and answer the two sub-questions of this thesis. For the purpose of this content analysis, all sources containing opinions and statements were analyzed, meaning sources authored by politicians, groups’ statements on their websites and cited opinions of other people in the newspaper articles.

After reading through each source of each category, various key words were set. These key words were selected on the basis of what people and groups from each category seemingly considered as imperative within the evaluated policy. Within their criticism or praise, they focused on certain topics and the chosen key words should reflect most accurately the attitude in their voiced opinions. To present an example, if the particular opinion was focused only on economy and bureaucracy, the key words *economic* and *bureaucracy* and their derivations were set for this source. If any new topics were present in the source, they were also counted in the first round of setting the key words. If the abundance of these words was ultimately below two, they were not included in the final analysis.

4.3.1. Category of the Praising Opinions

At the beginning of the research and the analysis itself, all corresponding sources were read through and distributed into one of the two categories. This subchapter will focus on the analysis of the first category comprising of the praising opinions and statements. For this category, 10 various keywords were set based on the process described above. Because a number of sources following the same flow of thought used a derived form of the chosen key words, these derivations were used for the analysis as well, as they express the very similar thought within the sentence. For a clarification, if the chosen word was e.g. *buy*, the derived form could be *buying* or *bought*. All these three words would be then incorporated into one word group, representing the same meaning and thought in the analyzed text. The individual key word used for the definition of the each word group would be the one with the largest abundance in the analyzed texts. One might question the objectivity of these derived forms from the key words, but all these derivations were chosen based on their continuity with the topic of the National Ocean Policy.

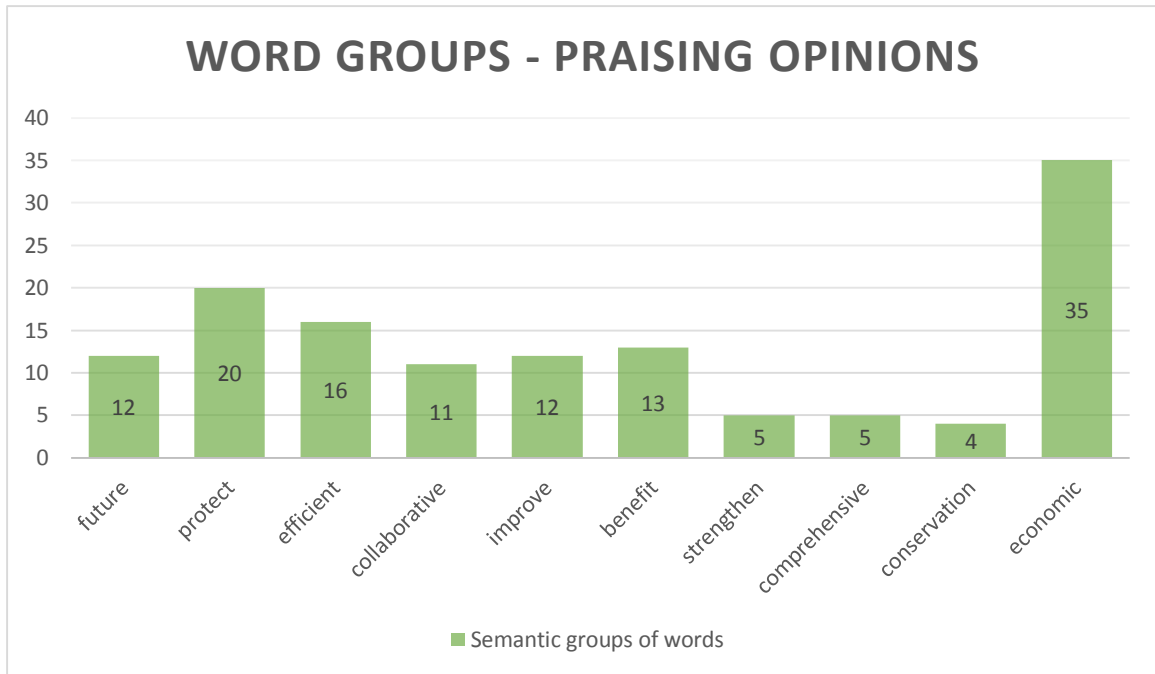
All key words, no matter of their form, were counted separately. After their assessment, the key words and their derivations were put into individual semantic groups. The abundance of these groups were subsequently counted, analyzed and then used for a graph construction.

For this category, following Table 1 presents the chosen key words in the first table column and their found derivations in the second column. The third column comprises of group words that were chosen to represent the whole group, as their abundance in the analyzing material was the largest.

Key word	Derivations	Group word
future	future	future
protection	protect, protected, protecting	protect
effective	efficient, efficiently, efficiency, effectively	efficient
collaboration	collaborative, collaborate, cooperative	collaborative
improve	improvements	improve
benefit	benefits, benefitted	benefit
strengthen	strengthening	strengthen
comprehensive	-	comprehensive
conservation	-	conservation
economy	economic, economies, economically	economic

Table 1 Key words of the praising opinions Source: author

After the group words were identified, the abundance of all words, meaning the key words as well as their derivations, were analyzed in all corresponding sources and their abundance was calculated. Based on this process, Graph 1 was constructed to illustrate the abundance of the word groups in the analyzed material.



Graph 1 Graph for analysis of the praising opinions Source: author

All the key words were chosen based on the abundance in the sources and based on which themes people and groups considered as important within evaluating the policy. To present an example, the key word *future* was chosen, because numerous respondents expressed an opinion that the policy might provide a better future concerning the ocean issues and ocean management.

It is obvious from the graph that the word *economic* and its various derivations predominated by far; therefore, we can conclude that the policy was mostly evaluated in a relation to the economic activities in the United States. The positive evaluation of the policy's role within the U.S. economy was a frequent occurrence among the analyzed texts. The word *economic* was for example six times directly joined with the word *growth* or used with the words *support*, *improve*, *bolster* and *development*. It can be thus indicated that the policy was viewed as a contributive means to the economic improvement or, at least, a positive aspect in relation to the U.S. economy. For example, Mrs. Tuss said the policy should “ensure sustainable economic growth through common-sense”¹⁸² and Jim Lanard claimed that the policy “will ensure the orderly and economically- and environmentally-

¹⁸² Taryn Tuss, “The Truth about the National Ocean Policy,” *The White House*, October 4, 2011, <https://www.whitehouse.gov/blog/2011/10/04/truth-about-national-ocean-policy> (accessed on April 12, 2016).

sustainable development of ocean resources”¹⁸³. We can deduce that the use of the word *economic* was to play a positive role in the context of the policy and the U.S. economy.

As the second most abundant key word was assessed the word *protect* and its derivations such as *protection*, *protecting* and *protected*. This word group was most often used in connection with the words *health*, *marine areas*, *marine ecosystems*, *jobs* and *ocean*. For example, Berl Hartman praised the policy for being “a major milestone to protect the health of our valuable ocean resources”¹⁸⁴ and Jim Lanard said the policy “will result in the protection of marine ecosystems”¹⁸⁵. It can be therefore indicated that the policy was praised for its contributive features towards the ocean environment and it should, according to the analyzed material, improve the protection of the ocean resources as well as jobs that are dependent on the ocean.

Another very abundant key word was *efficient* with many derivations such as *effective*, *efficiently*, *efficiency* and *effectively*. This word group was used with the following words: *government*, *coordination*, *implementation*, *promote* and *increase*. Within the analyzed material, five times was the word *efficient* put into a direct phrase with *more*, by which the improving and contributing character of the policy was demonstrated. In their article, Michael Conathan and Kiley Kroh claimed that the policy “will increase government efficiency”¹⁸⁶ and “pave the way for a more efficient, forward-thinking approach”¹⁸⁷. From these evidences, we can conclude that the policy was evaluated as a tool in the improvement process of the exploitation of the ocean and its resources. From the analyzed texts, it is obvious that the policy was viewed as a framework that should improve the governmental efficiency in context of the ocean use and increase efficiency of the ocean treatment.

¹⁸³ Michael Weiss, “Praise for the National Ocean Policy Implementation Plan,” *The White House*, January 12, 2012, <https://www.whitehouse.gov/blog/2012/01/12/praise-national-ocean-policy-implementation-plan> (accessed on April 13, 2016).

¹⁸⁴ Michael Weiss, “Praise for the National Ocean Policy Implementation Plan,” *The White House*, January 12, 2012, <https://www.whitehouse.gov/blog/2012/01/12/praise-national-ocean-policy-implementation-plan> (accessed on April 13, 2016).

¹⁸⁵ *Ibid.*

¹⁸⁶ Michael Conathan, Kiley Kroh, “Why We Need a National Ocean Policy,” *Think Progress*, October 5, 2011, <http://thinkprogress.org/climate/2011/10/05/336251/why-we-need-a-national-ocean-policy/> (accessed on April 13, 2016).

¹⁸⁷ *Ibid.*

The words *benefit*, *benefitted* and *benefits* were used in context of American jobs and the American people. According to Michael Conathan and Kiley Kroh, the policy should introduce an “approach that will benefit both new and existing uses of the ocean space”¹⁸⁸. From the analyzed material, we can deduce that the policy was viewed as an improving instrument within the ocean treatment, which should bring numerous benefits to people as well as to the ocean itself. Similarly was numerous times used the word *improve* and its derivation *improvements*. These words were mostly used in connection with *coordination*, *health*, *climate* and *stewardship*. It can be therefore indicated that the policy should, according to the opinions, advance collaboration between numerous ocean users and operate as a critical element in the improvement of the ocean use.

The word *future* was often used in connection of the future generations and the future of our oceans. That implies that the people’ and groups’ perception of the policy was clearly oriented towards the improvement of the ocean use in the future, for the future generations.

Essentially, the policy was overall perceived as an important and long needed means to strengthen and further advance the U.S. economy, improve the protection of the marine ecosystems, enhance efficient collaboration between the ocean users and eventually bring benefits to the American people and future generations.

4.3.2. Category of the Criticizing Opinions

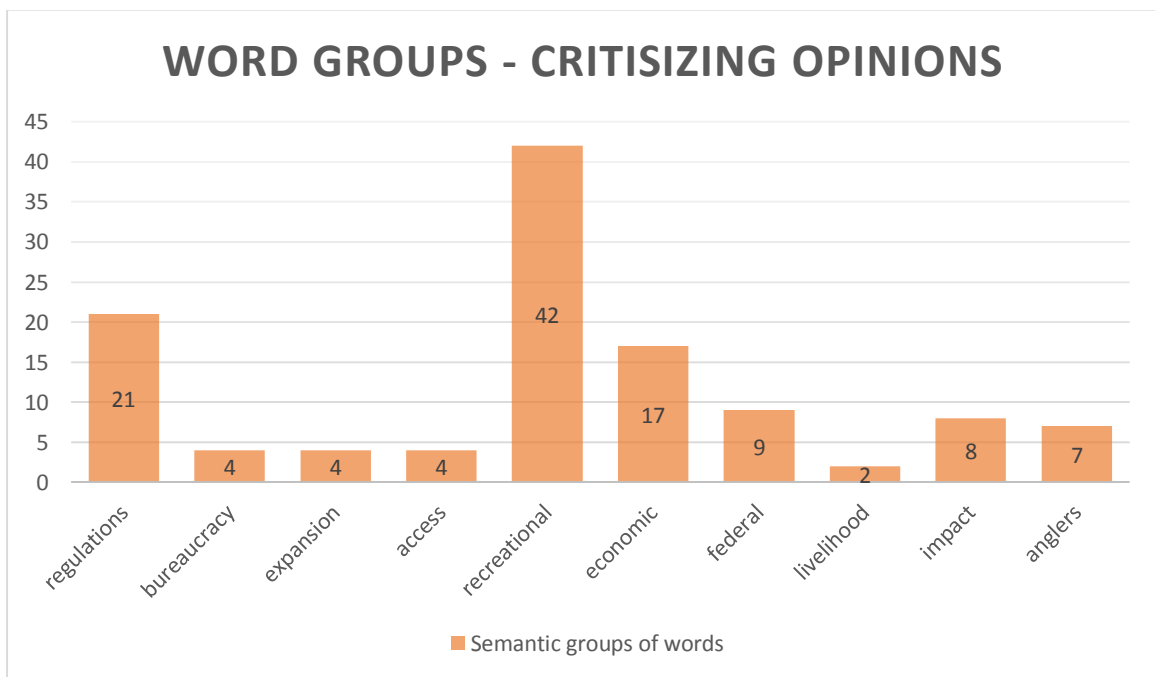
This subchapter will focus on the analysis of the criticizing opinions in the studied material. As well as in the previous analysis of the praising opinions, key words were distinguished for the disapproving statements and were later analyzed. For this second category of opinions, 10 key words were set and their derivations recognized. After the assessment of their abundance, word groups were created under the most abundant word in each semantic word group. Based on this procedure, a transparent Table 2 was created, followed by an illustrative graph. The table below presents the chosen key words, their derivations and the group words from the second category of criticizing opinions.

¹⁸⁸ Michael Conathan, Kiley Kroh, “Why We Need a National Ocean Policy,” *Think Progress*, October 5, 2011, <http://thinkprogress.org/climate/2011/10/05/336251/why-we-need-a-national-ocean-policy/> (accessed on April 13, 2016).

Key words	Derivations	Group word
regulations	regulatory, regulate	regulations
bureaucracy	bureaucratic	bureaucracy
expand	expansion	expansion
access	-	access
recreational	-	recreational
economy	economic, economies	economic
federal	-	federal
livelihood	-	livelihood
impact	impacts	impact
fishermen	anglers	anglers

Table 2 Key words of the criticizing opinions Source: author

From the presented Table 2, it is evident that most of the original key words match the group words. The abundance of all key words and their derivations was assessed and on that base, an illustrative graph was created. Graph 2, which is presented below, displays the abundance of each semantic group of key words and their derivations in the analyzed material.



Graph 2 Graph for analysis of the criticizing opinions Source: author

From the presented Graph 2, it is apparent that the word *recreational* was the most abundant from all key words assessed in the analyzed material. However, it is important to explain that the two source materials acquired from the American Sportfishing Association cause the unusually large frequency of this word. This organization expressed a strong concern that the policy could impose certain regulations and restriction upon the recreational fishing activities; and therefore, the abundance of the key word *recreational* in the two source materials obtained on their website was calculated to 28. Without these two sources, the word *recreational* was found 14 times in all remaining sources concerning the criticizing opinions. In the overall source materials for this category, the word *recreational* was used in connection with the following words: *interests*, *activities*, *fishermen*, *anglers* and *fishing*. It is important to add that the connection with the word *fishing* was most frequently used in the sources concerning the American Sportfishing Association. For example, the ASA very intensely expressed their worries that the policy “will place more restrictions on recreational fishing”¹⁸⁹ and “expressed concerns about how recreational access will be treated”¹⁹⁰. It can be therefore deduced that the policy was perceived in many of the assessed opinions as a possible threat to the recreational activities concerning the ocean, as it might limit the ocean access and consequently prohibit the recreational activities in certain areas completely. The policy was evidently viewed as a negative element in connection with the recreational activities.

The second most abundant key word from the analyzed material was *regulations*. This word was most frequently used with the words *fishing*, *deeper*, *control*, *expansion* and *new*. The phrase *new regulations* was found overall three times, therefore, it can be indicated that the policy was viewed as a means to impose potential new regulations and limit thus certain recreational activities. Republican Steve Southerland perceived the policy as “the steady expansion of regulatory control over our oceans”¹⁹¹ that “kills jobs and crushes coastal economies”¹⁹². It can be deduced that the people’ and group’ negative

¹⁸⁹ American Sportfishing Association, “New National Ocean Policy Draws Criticism from the Sportfishing Community in House Hearing,” *ASAFishing.org*, March 22, 2012, <http://asafishing.org/newsroom/news-releases/new-national-ocean-policy-draws-criticism-from-the-sportfishing-community-i/> (accessed on April 17, 2016).

¹⁹⁰ *Ibid.*

¹⁹¹ Steve Southerland, “National Ocean Policy: Bad for coastal economies,” *TheHill.com*, April 5, 2012, <http://thehill.com/blogs/congress-blog/energy-a-environment/220211-national-ocean-policy-bad-for-coastal-economies> (accessed on April 16, 2016).

¹⁹² *Ibid.*

opinions veered towards the concern of the limitation and regulations that might the policy bring in the future.

Vastly abundant was similarly the semantic group concerning the economy. This group of words was mostly used in connection with the words *activities*, *impacts*, *coastal* and *harm*. To provide an example, the National Ocean Policy Coalition claimed that the policy “could create uncertainty and harm economic activity at a time when our economy is struggling to recover”¹⁹³. It can be indicated that the policy was viewed as an element, which might have some potential impacts to the economic activities concerning the ocean. It can be pointed out that this semantic group was included in the positive category as well, nevertheless, this semantic group was mostly used in this category with words such as *harm*, *activities* and *impacts*; therefore, we can assume that it was not used in a positive way.

Another abundant key word was *federal*, which was frequently used with the following words: *government*, *officials*, *agencies*, *bureaucracy* and *authorities*. The phrase federal government was found overall in the materials concerning the negative opinions five times. We can assume that the strong concerns about the policy’s potential impacts were quite frequently aimed to the nation’s government and its role in the new established policy framework. Richard Hastings voiced an opinion that “Mr. Obama with a simple stroke of a pen took unilateral action to improve a massive top-down federal bureaucracy with broad regulatory control”¹⁹⁴. From this evidence, we can deduce that the policy was viewed as negative means in federal expansion and function.

As a fifth most abundant key word was assessed the word *impact*, which was frequently used with the words *economic*, *recreational fishing*, *devastating*, *negatively* and *significant*. Republican Steve Southerland claimed that the policy “could unnecessarily impose significant impacts on housebuilders, private landowners and other businesses”¹⁹⁵.

¹⁹³ National Ocean Policy Coalition, “National Ocean Policy Coalition Responds To Draft Ocean Action Plan,” *oceanpolicy.com*, January 12, 2012, <http://oceanpolicy.com/2012/01/12/national-ocean-policy-coalition-responds-to-draft-ocean-action-plan/> (accessed on April 17, 2016).

¹⁹⁴ Richard Hastings, “Obama’s national ocean policy threatens jobs and economic activities onshore and off,” *FoxNews.com*, June 19, 2012, <http://www.foxnews.com/opinion/2012/06/19/obama-national-ocean-policy-threatens-jobs-and-economic-activities-onshore-and-off.html> (accessed on April 17, 2016).

¹⁹⁵ Pete Kasperowicz, “Republicans look to defund Obama’s ocean policy,” *TheHill.com*, October 18, 2011, <http://thehill.com/blogs/floor-action/senate/188225-republicans-look-to-defund-obamas-ocean-policy> (accessed on April 16, 2016).

We can thus assume that the policy was perceived as an instrument that could have potential negative impacts on the recreational and economic activities concerning the ocean.

Other quite abundant words were *anglers* and *fishermen*. These words were found predominantly in connection with the word *recreational*. For example, conservatives clearly described the policy “as an example of how the Obama administration is overreaching and seeking to limit the rights of recreational anglers and others”¹⁹⁶. It can be therefore indicated that the policy was recognized as a framework that could influence the fishing activities and potentially limit or regulate them.

Based on the analysis of this category, it can be indicated that the most frequent believe among the disapproving opinions was that the policy could impose new regulations that could harm the U.S. economy, limit the recreational activities and ocean access, expand the U.S. bureaucracy and affect the fishing activities.

4.3.3. Answering the Thesis’ Sub-questions

The main goal of this thesis is to analyze the opinions and statements that appeared directly after the establishment of the National Ocean Policy and either confirm or disprove the main hypothesis through a content analysis conducted on all obtained sources concerning the opinions and statements. In the second part of this paper, criticizing and praising opinions were presented to illustrate the atmosphere that emerged around the policy’s establishment. After the opinions presentation, the content analysis was conducted to determine what topics of the overall opinions were the most abundant and what people and groups focused on when evaluating the policy. Number of key words were set for each category of the opinions and their possible derivations, as the same point could have been said in a various form of that word. Subsequently, the material was analyzed and the data were put into tables and graphs. Later, the result were analyzed and interpreted. Within the analysis, the abundance of the key words and their derivations was the priority of the research.

¹⁹⁶ Juliet Eilperin, “White House finalizes national ocean policy,” *WashingtonPost.com*, April 16, 2013, <https://www.washingtonpost.com/news/post-politics/wp/2013/04/16/white-house-finalizes-national-ocean-policy/> (accessed on April 14, 2016).

At the beginning of this thesis, two questions were set to be answered through the analysis of the obtained source material. In this subchapter, these questions will be individually reiterated and answered in accordance with the analysis' results.

- When focusing on each category, which themes concerning the policy were most prevalent in the analyzed opinions?

We can look for the answer in the illustrative graphs for each of the two categories of opinions. Among the praising opinions and statements, the topic of economy conclusively predominated. Similarly, the matter of protection and efficiency was very high on the scale as well. We can assume that these topics were in the analyzed material considered as the most imperative when evaluating the policy. From the first category of opinions, people and groups mostly focused on the positive economic effects that the policy could result in, and the improved efficiency in the protection of the ocean environment.

When focusing on the criticizing opinions, we can see that the recreational activities concerning the ocean predominated by far. Nonetheless, it was mentioned above that the disproportionate abundance of the word *recreational* was mostly caused by the usage of two sources from the American Sportfishing Association. Apart from that, the topics of economy and regulatory control was very frequent as well. We can deduce that the policy was perceived through its potential economic and regulatory impacts.

- Were the themes of expanded bureaucracy and new regulations most abundant in the criticizing opinions?

The answer can be found in the illustrative graph of the second category, which was focused on the criticizing opinions. The most abundant theme across all negative opinions was the topic of recreational activities and fishing. Nevertheless, the amount of this word was explained above through two specific sources obtained from the website of American Sportfishing Association. Leaving this key word aside, the most abundant themes of these opinions were economy and regulations. Very low on the scale was the theme of bureaucracy and its potential expansion. The possible economic impacts of the policy and

the potential of new regulations overcame the concern of the bureaucracy expansion. It can be therefore assumed that the negative perception of the policy veered towards possible economic impacts and new regulations, which might limit the economic activities dependent on ocean access.

4.3.4. Analysis Conclusion and the Main Hypothesis

From the above mentioned information throughout the whole fourth chapter and from the above conducted analysis, we can draw a conclusion that the commending statements were in several cases voiced by Democrats, specifically Nancy Sutley, John Holdren and Sheldon Whitehouse. When focusing on the occupation, the approving opinions were expressed by scientists, environmental groups and non-governmental organizations such as Ocean Conservancy and The Pew Charitable Trusts. As these people focus on the environmental questions, it can be therefore expected that they would support any policy aiming at curtailing the worsening conditions of the ocean. It can be expected that these people and groups would support the policy as they either focus on environmental matters or work for the administration that drafted the policy.

Contrarily, Republicans and groups representing interests of many businesses mostly articulated the criticizing opinions. To be more specific, Steve Southerland, Bill Flores and Richard Hastings are Republicans; American Sportfishing Association represents the interests concerning fishing activities and related businesses, and National Ocean Policy Coalition defends interests of many businesses, from oil to farming. Because Republicans generally oppose the expansion of bureaucracy and establishment of new regulations, it is not surprising that they voiced the criticizing opinions concerning the policy. It can be also assumed that groups representing interests of various businesses will oppose the policy as they naturally defend their interests. People, who depend on the economic activities concerning the ocean, naturally do not want to see the businesses being curtailed or regulated. Contrarily, people working in the agencies focusing on the environmental issues and topics would most likely support such a policy.

The main hypothesis set for this thesis reads as follows:

We can logically assume that the newly established policy will be supported by Democrats, as the policy came from their administration and follows their political ideology concerning the supportive attitude towards the environmental issues. On the other hand, we can assume that Republicans will oppose this policy from predictable reasons such as expansion of federal bureaucracy or potential of new regulations.

Through the conducted analysis of all obtained sources concerning the opinions on the U.S. National Ocean Policy, we can confirm the main hypothesis. All Democrats presented in this thesis supported the policy as they worked for the administration and followed the ideological perception of the environmental matters. Contrarily, all Republicans in this thesis opposed the policy from obvious reasons such as expansion of the bureaucracy, potential of new regulations, possible economic impacts and numerous other reasons. Even though the outcome of this analysis could have been expected, it was imperative to conduct this analysis of whether or not these ideological positions prevailed in light of the new national policy and the important environmental focus of the policy. It is interesting to see that the traditional positions of each party prevails despite the scientific consensus regarding the climate change and growing concern for environmental matter.

It is important to add that without any potential current regulations, there might be not a healthy and resilient ocean in the future, which would simultaneously lead to deteriorating business activities concerning the ocean in the future. Therefore, potential current regulations could eventually prolong the business activities.

There are no black and white policies as any policy could potentially limit one or more players in the game. But the point is to direct the policy towards the greater outcome for the future. The National Ocean Policy can benefit many as well as affect certain other activities; therefore, it can be expected to have two categories of opinions on the same matter. In this thesis, two categories of opinions – negative and positive – were analyzed and the results were later interpreted. The criticizing opinions were mostly expressed by Republicans and groups representing interests of various businesses, and their most frequently mentioned topics when evaluation the policy were potential new regulations, curtailed recreational activities and possible economic impacts of the policy. Conversely,

the praising opinions were voiced predominantly by the environmental groups, scientists, Democrats and non-governmental organizations, and their most frequently referenced topics were potential economic growth, improved efficiency of the current system and enhanced protection of the ocean environment. The main hypothesis was confirmed as Republicans traditionally opposed the policy because of potential new regulations and possible economic impacts. Democrats supported the policy from their traditional approach to environmental matters and, because the policy originated from their administration.

CONCLUSION

The importance of the ocean is often underestimated and taken for granted. It is imperative to understand that the oceans cover more than $\frac{3}{4}$ of our planet, and they provide enormous amount of food sources, mineral resources and they play a crucial role in any temperature changes. Similarly, they are a vital source of oxygen for all living creatures on our planet. The oceans undoubtedly affect every person's daily live regardless of any substantial recognition. Its economic value to the United States and other coastal states around the globe is rather significant. As was said in this thesis, about 80% of the U.S. population reside near in the coastal states. More than 3 million people work directly in the ocean economy, which contributed itself to the nation's GDP by approximately \$359 billion in 2013. It is therefore obvious that if conditions of the ocean would deteriorate and the ocean environment would be damaged, it would have enormous impacts on the human population. This thesis presented important information for the complex understanding of the ocean's importance, as it was imperative for the later description of the National Ocean Policy and the consequent opinions on the policy. The ocean is important for many people and for many businesses; therefore, it could have been expected that the policy might provoke certain opinions and statements. The importance of the ocean was presented mostly for the broader understanding why was this thesis wrote in the first place.

In 2010, the whole process of the National Ocean Policy establishment began by releasing a Memorandum, which initiated the creation of the initial commission to pave the way for the policy direction. The third chapter of this thesis was predominantly dedicated to the National Ocean Policy description and its establishment process, which took more than 3 years on paper and is still in the implementation process. The policy was introduced through its documents for a broader comprehension of the subsequent opinions and critiques concerning the policy itself.

The main goal of this thesis was to analyze the opinions, which appeared directly after the National Ocean Policy establishment, and to either confirm or disprove the main hypothesis through a content analysis of all obtained sources concerning the opinions on the policy. The fourth chapter of this thesis was dedicated to the presentation of various opinions and to the subsequent analysis of all obtained opinions. At the beginning of the

research, the acquired opinions were separated into two categories – praising and criticizing opinions. These two categories of opinions were firstly described, and then analyzed in each category individually. Within each category, certain number of the key words was set and their derivations were recognized. The key words were defined based on what the analyzed people and groups considered as the most imperative when evaluating the policy. After choosing the key words, semantic groups of words were created based on the key words and their derivations. Through this analysis, the abundance of each semantic group in the analyzed material was examined. Based on the results of the analysis, an illustrative graph was constructed.

From the conducted analysis, it is evident that certain topics predominated in each category when evaluating the policy. Among the praising opinions, the topic of economy dominated. It was followed by the topics of protection and efficiency. It was indicated that the policy was viewed as a contributive means to ensure the protection of the ocean environment, improve the efficiency of the ocean usage and enhance the economic development of the United States. Conversely, the topics of recreational activities, economy and regulations predominated in the second category of the criticizing opinions. It was indicated that the policy was viewed as a negative element with possible damaging economic impacts. The belief that the policy might introduce new regulations that would limit the recreational activities of anglers as well as ordinary ocean users was very frequent. Two sub-questions were set at the beginning of this thesis and later answered through the analysis. The first question of this thesis focused on which themes were most prevalent in each category of opinions. The results indicated that the topics of economy, protection and efficiency dominated among the praising opinions. To the contrary, the themes of recreational activities, economy and regulations dominated among the criticizing opinions.

The second question focused on whether the themes of the bureaucracy expansion and potential new regulations dominated among the criticizing opinions. The analysis illustrated that the most abundant theme within the criticizing opinions was recreational activities and fishing. However, it was later elaborated on that this was mostly caused by the two specific sources concerning the American Sportfishing Association. Leaving aside this particular theme, the topics of economy and regulations were most prevalent among

the negative opinions. The theme of the bureaucratic expansion was very low on the scale ultimately.

The main hypothesis was confirmed through the results of the content analysis of all obtained sources concerning the opinions on the policy. The National Ocean Policy was traditionally opposed by Republicans from predictable reasons such as the potential of new regulations and the possibility of economic impacts. Contrarily, Democrats supported the policy as they worked for the administration, which drafted the policy, and followed the ideological perception of the environmental matters. Even though the outcome of this analysis could have been expected, it was imperative to conduct this analysis of whether or not these ideological positions prevailed in light of the new national policy and the important environmental focus of the policy. It is important to see that the traditional positions of each party has prevailed despite the scientific consensus regarding the climate change and growing concern for environmental matter. It is interesting to see that the perception of this policy by both political parties follow the traditional position by going over the scientific consensus regarding the climate change and worsening conditions of the ocean.

We cannot expect to see any major results overnight, because the environmental impacts are generally very difficult to contain. However, we can definitely observe the rise of the environmental consciousness on the political platform, as new international conferences bring the pressing issue of climate change to light. Even though high-ranking politicians are signing treaties and documents, neither major nor slight changes have been actually produced. Nevertheless, all changes have to start somewhere. The future course of this policy could bring improvements in the ocean management and its implementation process should be followed by additional research.

Shrnutí

Hlavním tématem této diplomové práce bylo podrobit analýze názory, které reagovaly na nově ustanovenou politiku oceánu ve Spojených státech amerických, a potvrdit či vyvrátit hlavní hypotézu této práce. Hypotéza stanovila, že můžeme racionálně očekávat opozici Republikánů a podporu Demokratů k dané politice ze zřejmých důvodů politické ideologie. Republikánská strana obecně kritizuje jakoukoli expanzi federální byrokracie nebo nastolení nových regulací. Demokratická strana obecně podporuje environmentální politiky z důvodu specifického přístupu k problémům životního prostředí. Tato hypotéza měla být potvrzena či vyvrácena pomocí obsahovou analýzou všech použitých a dohledaných zdrojů, které obsahovaly názory na danou politiku oceánu.

Pro účel analýzy byly názory rozděleny do dvou kategorií – tedy na kritické a pochvalné názory. V rámci každé kategorie byla stanovena klíčová slova, která vystihovala dané názory různých autorů (jednotlivci, nevládní organizace, vládní agentury nebo environmentální skupiny atd.). Ke klíčovým slovům byla vyhledána i související odvozená slova a jejich četnost byla posléze zjištěna. Na základě výsledků analýzy byl vytvořen ilustrativní graf, který přehledně ukázal četnost veškerých klíčových slov ve zkoumaných materiálech. Pomocí daného grafu byly zodpovězeny dvě pod-otázky analýzy. První otázka se soustředila na nejčastější téma v rámci každé kategorie názorů. V první kategorii pochvalných názorů dominovalo téma ekonomie a ochrany ekosystému oceánu. Naopak, v rámci kritických názorů dominovaly témata jako regulace, ekonomie a rekreační aktivity. Druhá otázka se stanovovala, zda v rámci kritických názorů dominovaly témata regulací a expanze federální byrokracie. Jak již bylo zmíněno, téma regulací bylo velmi časté, nicméně téma byrokratické expanze bylo málo frekventované.

Hlavní hypotéza práce byla potvrzena. Jak bylo předpokládáno v hypotéze, Republikáni kritizovali politiku z důvodu potencionálních regulací a možných ekonomických důsledků politiky, naopak Demokráté politiku podporovali, neboť politika pramenila z jejich administrativy a Demokratická strana všeobecně podporuje politiky zabývající se environmentálními otázkami. I přes to, že výsledek mohl být očekáván, bylo důležité analýzu provést, aby ukázala, zda tradiční ideologické postoje dvou amerických politických stran přetrvávají i ve světle nově ustanovené politiky a jejího environmentálního významu. Bylo důležité ukázat, zda tyto tradiční postoje přetrvávají i přes rostoucí vědecký

koncensus ohledně změn klimatu a rostoucího povědomí o environmentálních změnách na naší planetě. Bude zajímavé tuto politiku sledovat v rámci jejího vývoje s rostoucím mezinárodním zájmem o životní prostředí.

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Appendix 1 National Ocean Policy

It is the Policy of the United States to:

- Protect, maintain, and restore the health and biological diversity of ocean, coastal, and Great Lakes ecosystems and resources;
- Improve the resiliency of ocean, coastal, and Great Lakes ecosystems, communities, and economies;
- Bolster the conservation and sustainable uses of land in ways that will improve the health of ocean, coastal, and Great Lakes ecosystems;
- Use the best available science and knowledge to inform decisions affecting the ocean, our coasts, and the Great Lakes, and enhance humanity's capacity to understand, respond, and adapt to a changing global environment;
- Support sustainable, safe, secure, and productive access to, and uses of the ocean, our coasts, and the Great Lakes;
- Respect and preserve our Nation's maritime heritage, including our social, cultural, recreational, and historical values;
- Exercise rights and jurisdiction and perform duties in accordance with applicable international law, including respect for and preservation of navigational rights and freedoms, which are essential for the global economy and international peace and security;
- Increase scientific understanding of ocean, coastal, and Great Lakes ecosystems as part of the global interconnected system of air, land, ice, and water, including their relationships to humans and their activities;
- Improve our understanding and awareness of changing environmental conditions, trends, and their causes, and of human activities taking place in ocean, coastal, and Great Lakes waters; and
- Foster a public understanding of the value of the ocean, our coasts, and the Great Lakes to build a foundation for improved stewardship.

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Appendix 2 National Priority Objectives

1. **Ecosystem-Based Management:** Adopt ecosystem-based management as a foundational principle for the comprehensive management of the ocean, our coasts, and the Great Lakes.
2. **Coastal and Marine Spatial Planning:** Implement comprehensive, integrated, ecosystem-based coastal and marine spatial planning and management in the United States.
3. **Inform Decisions and Improve Understanding:** Increase knowledge to continually inform and improve management and policy decisions and the capacity to respond to change and challenges. Better educate the public through formal and informal programs about the ocean, our coasts, and the Great Lakes.
4. **Coordinate and Support:** Better coordinate and support Federal, State, tribal, local, and regional management of the ocean, our coasts, and the Great Lakes. Improve coordination and integration across the Federal Government, and as appropriate, engage with the international community.
5. **Resiliency and Adaptation to Climate Change and Ocean Acidification:** Strengthen resiliency of coastal communities and marine and Great Lakes environments and their abilities to adapt to climate change impacts and ocean acidification.
6. **Regional Ecosystems Protection and Restoration:** Establish and implement an integrated ecosystem protection and restoration strategy that is science-based and aligns conservation and restoration goals at the Federal, State, tribal, local, and regional levels.
7. **Water Quality and Sustainable Practices on Land:** Enhance water quality in the ocean, along our coasts, and in the Great Lakes by promoting and implementing sustainable practices on land.
8. **Changing Conditions in the Arctic:** Address environmental stewardship needs in the Arctic Ocean and adjacent coastal areas in the face of climate-induced and other environmental changes.
9. **Ocean, Coastal, and Great Lakes Observations, Mapping, and Infrastructure:** Strengthen and integrate Federal and non-Federal ocean observing systems, sensors, data collection platforms, data management, and mapping capabilities into a national system, and integrate that system into international observation efforts.

The White House Council on Environmental Quality. "Final Recommendations Of The Interagency Ocean Policy Task Force" *The White House, Executive Office of the President of the United States*, July 19, 2010, pp. 6, https://www.whitehouse.gov/files/documents/OPTF_FinalRecs.pdf (first accessed on March 5, 2016).