

## Advocacy



The Consortium for Ocean Leadership (COL) advocates for sound ocean policy and wise investment in ocean science, infrastructure, and education. Having established a reputation for being a credible, reliable, non-partisan, and trustworthy source of information for policymakers in the nation's capital, COL elevates the awareness of the importance of the ocean to the nation's economic and social well-being. Consequently, COL has positively influenced ocean policy and federal financial support for ocean research and technology.

### Consortium for Ocean Leadership:

- Develops and promotes ocean science community positions
- Drafts and comments on legislation and federal ocean science policies
- Submits congressional testimony and appropriations recommendations
- Facilitates meetings with federal agencies, the administration, and Congress
- Coordinates with the broader science community through a variety of coalitions
- Hosts policy events to educate COL members and policymakers on emerging research challenges and opportunities:
  - Annual Public Policy Forum
  - Annual Industry Forum
  - Congressional briefings
  - Annual congressional visit days
  - Town hall events
  - Regional and local science events



[www.policy.oceanleadership.org](http://www.policy.oceanleadership.org)



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## The Ocean Affects Everyday Americans Every Day

While 50% of Americans live within 50 miles of a coastline, no matter who you are, where you live, or what you do - the ocean affects your life in ways that you probably aren't aware!

- Marine organisms produce over half of the oxygen that land animals (like humans) need to breathe.
- The ocean and coastal economy employs 3 million Americans, contributing \$359 billion to U.S. GDP.
- It is pretty clear that you're enjoying the ocean's bounty while eating sushi - Americans eat almost 15 pounds of seafood on average each year. But you are likely eating from the sea without noticing; some mayonnaise contains beta carotene extracted from algae, yogurt and ice cream often contain agar (a thickening agent made from seaweed), and even milk and beef come from cows that are often fed fish meal!
- It's hard to avoid electronics these days, and many ways that technology impacts your day would not be possible without the ocean. Did you know that the Internet relies on thin (3 inch), fiber-optic submarine cables?

## Major Federal Ocean Science and Technology Agencies

