



***Developing a National Ocean and Coastal Strategic Action Plan
- Pre-workshop Thought Provocation -***

In preparation for the February 26-28 National Ocean and Coastal Mapping Strategic Action Plan Workshop, the Interagency Working Group co-chairs ask that you begin thinking about the numerous challenges facing the ocean and coastal mapping community: what are the priorities that must be addressed and what are the strategies requiring development to ensure that the nation's ocean and coastal geospatial data users are fully served?

The following challenges -- summarized from the National Research Council report entitled A Geospatial Framework for the Coastal Zone – National Needs for Coastal Mapping and Charting and the U.S. Ocean Action Plan -- are offered to provoke your creative and strategic thought processes.

- Developing a seamless bathymetric/topographic data set for all coastal regions*
- Defining a consistent national shoreline*
- Establishing and maintaining a single web portal to facilitate easy access to ocean and coastal geospatial data and derived products*
- Establishing data acquisition and metadata standards and transformation tools to facilitate data integration and interchangeability*
- Reducing redundancy and overlap in mapping activities by improving coordination and collaboration between federally-funded ocean and coastal mapping activities and with state, academic, non-governmental and private-sector mapping interests*
- Developing tools and techniques to facilitate data analysis, data integration, and product development*
- Developing shared and standardized mechanisms for processing, archiving and disseminating ocean and coastal data*
- Acquiring ocean and coastal geospatial data and identifying areas where there is insufficient or inadequate data and re-surveying as required*
- Developing new remote sensing and in-situ technologies to address near-shore data gaps and improve the cost-effectiveness of data acquisition activities*
- Determining the research and development needs of the ocean and coastal mapping community*