

Comprehensive MPA Planning



West Coast Regional MPA Governmental Partners Meeting

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What problems are we seeing?



- Depletion of key species
- Loss of key habitat
- General decline in ocean health
- Valuable ecosystem services lost
- Current, species-based approaches not sufficient
- Continuing loss of cultural/historical artifacts
- Need a new paradigm for ocean management

Evolving Ecosystem Approaches to Marine Conservation



- **Needs highlighted recently by:**
 - **National Commission on Ocean Policy**
 - **President's Ocean Action Plan**
 - **Pew Oceans Commission**
 - **Joint Ocean Commission (follow-up to Pew & National)**
 - **COMPASS conference on EAM**
 - **External panel report to NOAA on EAM**
 - **Regional coordinating bodies (e.g. Pacific tri-lateral)**
 - **International collaborations (e.g. CEC)**

Emerging Themes in Ocean + Coastal Management and Governance



- **Adopt a *regional or ecosystem* scale approach to identifying and meeting conservation objectives**
- **Understand and maintain critical linkages among ecosystem components and processes**
- **Incorporate the human dimension more fully**
- **Strengthen and encourage coordinated planning and implementation among management agencies**
- **Use comprehensive planning for large areas**
- **Place Matters: in the end, it's all about places (of various sizes)**

An Opportunity to Advance Place-Based EAM in “Places” (MMAs/MPAs)



- Places in the ocean that are managed are in fact MMAs or MPAs
- Importance of place-based management reflected in widespread use of MMAs and MPAs in US waters
- Currently over 1,500 documented MMAs
- Recent Example: Pres. Bush’s designation of NWHI Monument
- Managing places in the ocean is not simple; it requires spatially explicit info we rarely have and often sparks controversy among competing uses tied to those places

Moving Toward the Effective Use of MPAs



- The importance of place-based ocean management, and the challenges it poses, led to Executive Order 13158 in 2000.
- The EO is an attempt to provide a stronger scientific & stakeholder basis for MPAs, a vital tool in the EAM toolbox

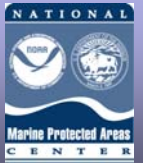
E.O. Highlights and Progress



Long Term Goal: *An effective national system of MPAs*

- Since 2001, we've
 - Made current MPA information available through MPA.gov web site
 - Developed new ways to describe and understand MPAs
 - Documented all existing MMA/MPA/Federal DeFacto MPAs + their potential contribution to place-based management in the US
 - Strengthened the scientific foundation for MPA planning and management
 - Engaged stakeholders thru the FAC, SAG, IAWG, public and organization meetings

Bringing The Pieces Together



And, based on all that work:

- Developed a draft Framework for a National System of MPAs
- Initiated this West Coast pilot effort to develop the first regional system of MPAs

MPAs in a Regional Context: Ongoing MPA Planning on the West Coast



- **California:**
 - major statewide initiative to designate integrated network of MPAs (MLPA);
 - recent creation of Channel Islands marine reserves
- **Oregon:**
 - ongoing assessments of MPA issues and needs
 - consideration of NMS
- **Washington:**
 - several ongoing agency planning processes
 - NW Straits Commission
- **Federal programs:**
 - sanctuaries, parks and refuges revising management plans, including potential changes in boundaries, restrictions and zoning
 - fisheries closures and EFH sites being established region-wide
- **International:**
 - Commission for Environmental in North America working on tri-national network of MPAs from Canada to Mexico (“Baja to Bering”)

Where We Go From Here



- Build on your good work to use MPAs to enhance ecosystem conservation and management
- West Coast Pilot
 - National test bed
 - Export to other regions
- Purpose of this meeting -- lay the foundation for collaborative planning and action to create an effective regional system of MPAs supporting sustainable ecosystem management