

National Marine Protected Areas Center FY2008 Projects



The **National MPA Center** (MPA Center) was established in 2001 to establish an effective national system of marine protected areas, as required by Executive Order (E.O.) 13158, Marine Protected Areas (MPAs). The MPA Center is a division of NOAA's National Ocean Service, Office of Ocean and Coastal Resource Management, and works in cooperation with the Department of the Interior and other Federal agencies. A total of \$1,464,000 was appropriated for the MPA Center for FY2008.

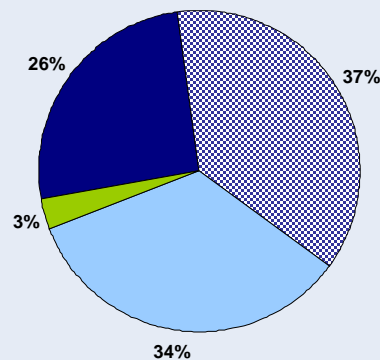
Mission: The MPA Center's mission is to facilitate the effective use of science, technology, training, and information in the planning, management, and evaluation of the nation's system of marine protected areas.

Goals:

- Build and maintain the National System of MPAs
- Improve MPA stewardship and effectiveness
- Facilitate international, national, and regional coordination of MPA activities

Building the National System of MPAs: The MPA Center's Activities for FY2008

- Completion of the final **Framework for the National System of MPAs**
- Identification of the first set of sites as the nucleus of the national system
- Continued development of foundation information and processes for the system through the multidisciplinary, inter-governmental **West Coast Pilot Project** and **National Inventory Analysis**



FY2008 Expenditures

- National MPA System Development
- Science, Analysis & Stewardship
- Communication & Coordination
- International

These actions will be supported by outreach to tribes, agencies, organizations, businesses and the public, continued international engagement, and targeted research and technical application partnerships to support and strengthen stewardship of MPA networks, programs, and component sites.

National MPA System Development

- Respond to public comments on the Draft Framework
- Publish a second Draft and the Final Framework, including priority conservation objectives
- Identify existing sites meeting national system of MPAs near-term conservation objectives

Science, Analysis, and Stewardship in Support of the National System

- **National Inventory of Marine Protected Areas and De Facto MPAs**
 - Fill in data gaps for national inventory of MPAs in U.S. and obtain and verify all spatial (GIS) information
 - Improve quality, accessibility, and utility of inventory information to the public
 - Publish West Coast Analysis Report of areas established for conservation of marine resources
 - Publish National Analysis Report of De Facto MPAs

- **West Coast Pilot Project (CA, OR, WA & adjacent Federal Waters, 0 - 200 nautical miles)**
 - Initiate human use mapping for the California coastal ocean
 - Initiate planning for analysis to identify gaps in place-based conservation of natural and cultural resources
- **Navigating MPAs**
 - Electronic Charts & MPAs: Conduct workshop with U.S. and international experts on common protocols
 - Pocket Nautical Charts: Produce prototypes with MPA information for California and the Florida Keys
- **MPA Science**
 - Network Connectivity: Publish conference proceedings on Caribbean connectivity
 - MPA-Fisheries Science Integration Project: Publish working group papers and convene new issue teams
- **MPA Design for Deep Federal Waters**
 - Publish paper in collaboration with Monterey Bay National Marine Sanctuary on design principles for offshore waters

Communication and Coordination

- **MPA Federal Advisory Committee:** Support development of Committee recommendations to the U.S. Departments of Commerce and the Interior on implementation of the MPA Executive Order
- **National System of MPAs:** Conduct an open process of agency (federal, state, and local), tribal, stakeholder, and public engagement in development of the national system of MPAs
- **Federal Inter-Agency Working Group:** Consult with agencies and strengthen participation in national system of MPAs
- **MPA.gov Web Site:** Maintain timely content and make information more accessible to the public
- **MPA Connections:** Resume publication of quarterly newsletter



International Linkages

- **North American MPA Network (NAMPAN), Commission for Environmental Cooperation**
 - MPA-based pilot monitoring/condition report program in the Baja to Bering Region
 - Contribute to Atlas of North American Protected Areas (marine and terrestrial)
- **Contribute to "MPA Global Inventory"**
- **Support NOAA High Seas Team**

For More Information

Visit www.mpa.gov or contact:

Joseph A. Uravitch, Director, National MPA Center: joseph.uravitch@noaa.gov