

Understanding What We Have Now: Preliminary Trends from the MMA Inventory



MPA Federal Advisory Committee

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Why Bother?

Rationale for the MMA Inventory



Documenting the location, purpose and management approach of existing MMAs will help to:

Understand their potential ecological and socioeconomic effects.

Identify future place-based conservation gaps and priorities.

Identify the initial suite of existing MPAs in the national system.

Inform the List of MPAs subject to 'avoid harm' provision.

MMA Inventory at a Glance



Data collection initiated in 2001.

Federal-state partnership, guided by an interagency working group and a state advisory group.

Began by casting wide net (i.e. MMAs), of which MPAs are a subset.

Collects standard data on all MMA sites, including programmatic and functional information, and GIS boundaries.

Contains over 1,500 MMA sites throughout the US, from New England to the Gulf of Mexico to the Pacific Islands. And growing.

Ongoing push to fill key data gaps in certain states and programs.

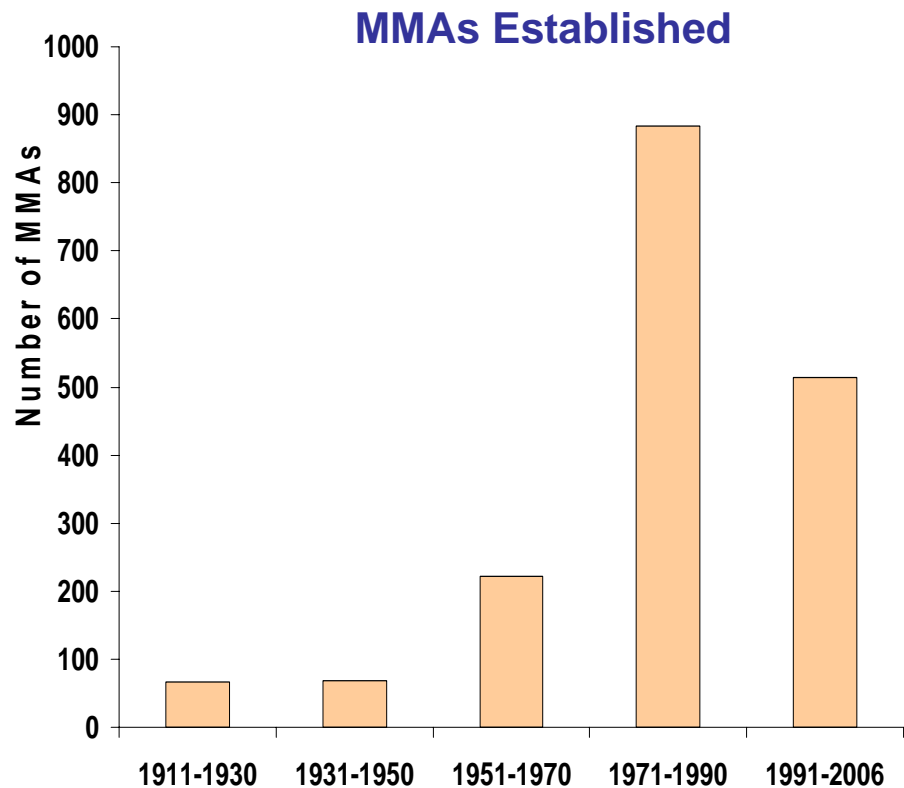
Important Note

- This presentation highlights some preliminary results of an analysis of data contained in the MMA Inventory, and the related Analysis Database, as of March 2006.
- Some significant data gaps still exist, which may ultimately affect the patterns of MMA usage emerging from the inventory.
- Presented here are broad, nation-wide trends that are most likely to remain qualitatively consistent as new MMA data are added.
- Interim and final analysis products will be posted on MPA.GOV as they are produced in FY06.

Historical Trends

Over 90% US MMAs were established after 1970.

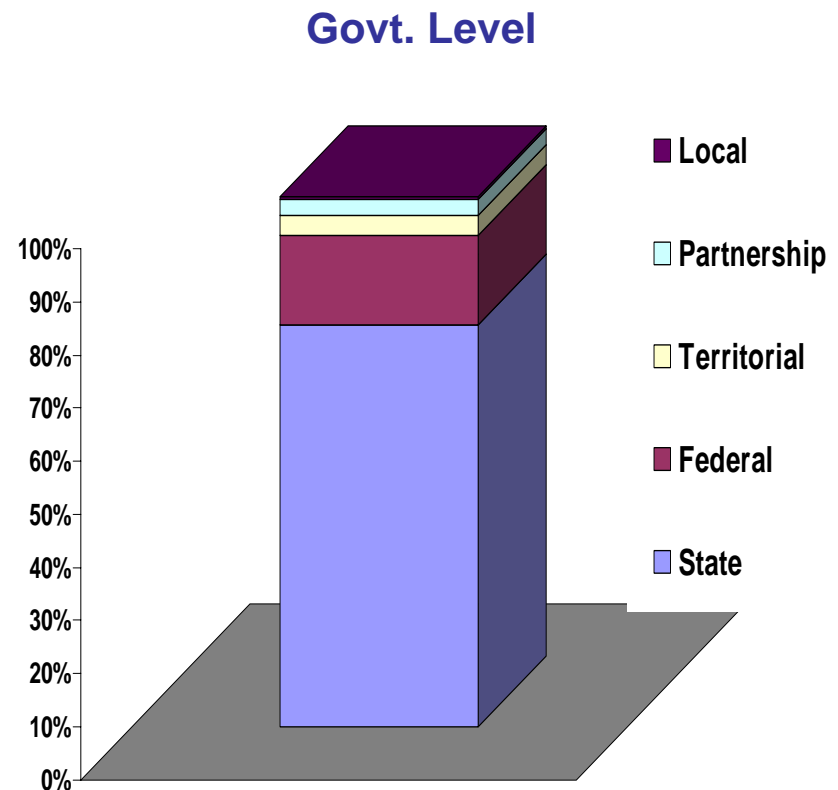
Upsurge in MMA designations coincides with new federal and state environmental management and protection laws.



Level of Government

Most (over 75%) US MMAs are created and managed by state and territorial agencies.

Relatively few (17%) are Federal.



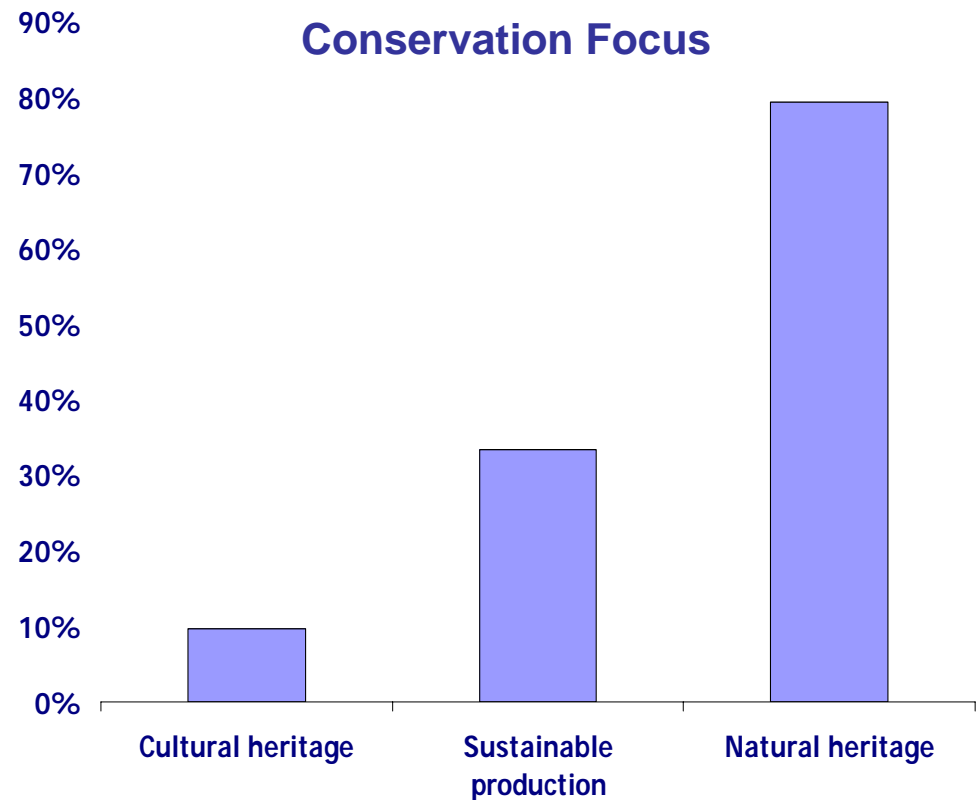
Conservation Focus

Many US MMAs have more than one conservation focus.

Most (75%) are, at least in part, focused on Natural Heritage conservation.

33% of US MMAs have a focus on Sustainable Production.

10% of all MMAs include a focus on Cultural Heritage conservation.



Permanence, Constancy and Ecological Scale of Protection



Permanence - Nearly all (98%) of US MMAs provide *permanent protection* to the habitats and resources they encompass. Fewer than 2% require active reauthorization.

Constancy -- 90% of MMAs provide *year-round protection* within their borders, while 10% protect seasonally important habitats such as spawning sites.

Scale -- 75% of US MMAs were created to conserve comprehensive *ecosystem functions and services*. Only 25% of sites target specific focal resources or features.

Level of Protection

Numbers (Nation-wide):

90% of US MMAs are 'multiple use' sites that allow fishing and other extractive activities.

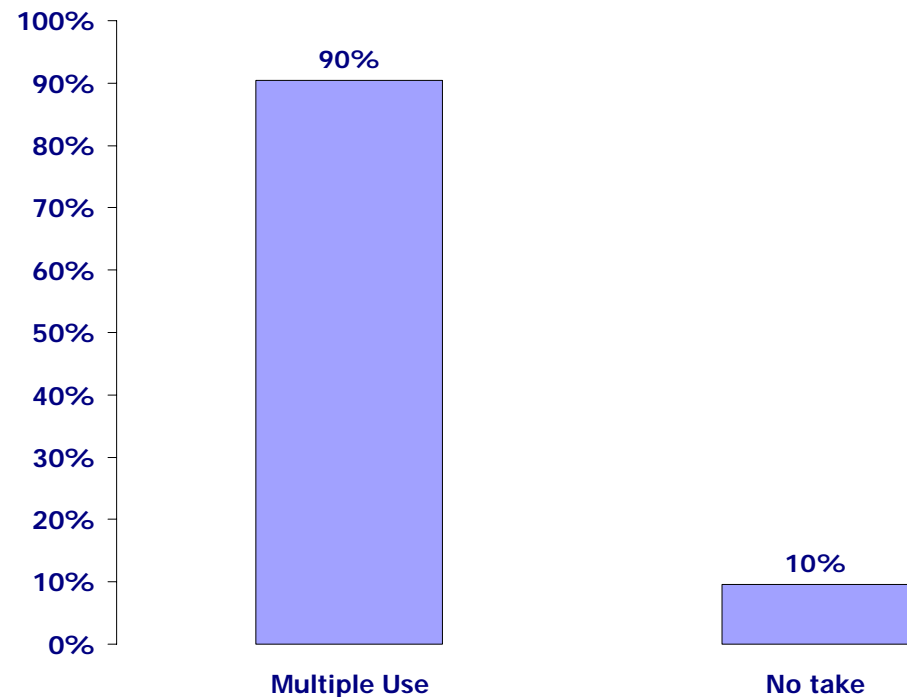
10% of MMAs are 'no take' reserves that prohibit extraction.

Size (West Coast Example):

No-take MMAs cover less than 1.1% of state waters.

No-take MMAs cover less than 0.04% of US waters from CA-WA.

Level of Protection



Preliminary Trends in MMA Patterns

There are many MMAs in US waters.

They vary widely in size, purpose and jurisdiction, *and* in the type, level and potential ecological and social effects of the protection provided.

Patterns emerging from the inventory confirm some, and refute other, widely held perceptions about how MMAs are used in US waters.

The most common MMAs in US waters are state-managed, multiple-use sites that allow a variety of extractive uses, including fishing. Rarest are federal, no-take reserves established to protect Natural Heritage values.

Insights gleaned from the MMA Inventory provides the foundation for developing an effective national system of MPAs in the United States.

Next Steps in MMA Analysis

FY2006

- **Fill data gaps in MMA Inventory and Analysis Data Base.**
- **Analyze spatial data to illustrate trends in MMA usage:**
 - Among States and regions
 - Across agencies and levels of government
 - Within areas of overlapping jurisdiction and protection

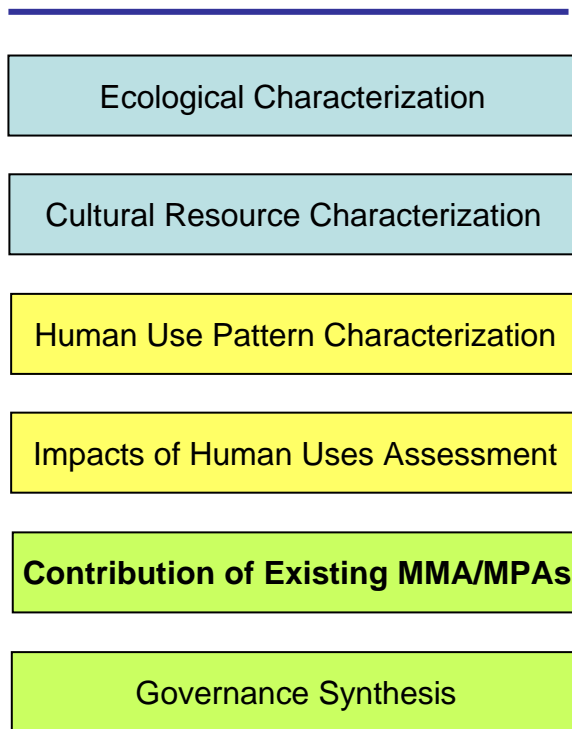
FY2007+

- **Combine MMA information with other data on resources, habitats, ecological processes, and human uses to:**
 - Assess the contribution of existing MMAs to regional + national conservation goals
 - Identify critical gaps in protection for regionally important habitats and resources

West Coast Pilot of the National System Phase I: Science and Analysis Components



Data Layers



Outputs

