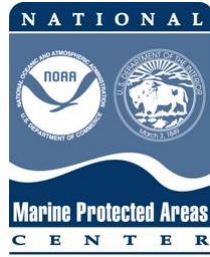


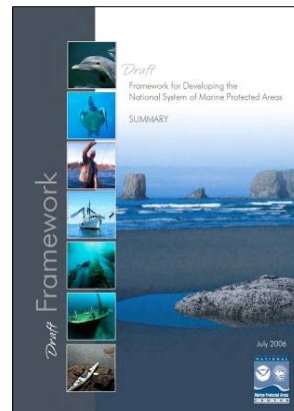
# The Draft Framework for Developing the National System of MPAs



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## Brief History

- May 2000: MPA Executive Order
- 2001 – 2004: Information gathering, needs assessments, science/technical assistance, & marine managed area inventory, federal advisory committee
- 2004 – 2006: Nationwide scoping of draft Framework – over 60 meetings; formal recommendations submitted.
- Sept 2006: Draft Framework released in *Federal Register* for 145-day public comment period (*ends Feb. 14, 2007*)
- Document widely distributed via mail and e-mail; electronic copies available on [MPA.gov](http://MPA.gov)



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## A Proposed Roadmap for National System Development

**A common sense approach for MPA programs, partners, and stakeholders to work together to better use MPAs to conserve and sustain marine resources**

- Adaptive and flexible
- *Partnership driven* to support existing efforts and improve future decisions through collaboration/cooperation
  - States, Territories, Tribes, Fishery Management Councils, & federal agencies are FULL partners.
- Promotes ecosystem and regional approaches, while maintaining a national outlook
- *Inclusive*: recognizes valuable contributions from the nation's many sites and program
- A mix of existing sites and programs, and, as needed, new or improved sites to fill important gaps in place-based protection



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## What's in the Draft Framework?

General guidance for governments and stakeholders to work together to develop the National System

- Comprehensive themes
  - *Natural heritage*
  - *Cultural heritage*
  - *Sustainable production*
- National System Goals and Objectives
  - *Goal 1. Advance comprehensive conservation and management of the Nation's marine natural and cultural heritage, and sustainable production marine resources through ecosystem-based MPA approaches.*
  - *Goal 2. Promote sound stewardship and improve the effectiveness of the National System.*
  - *Goal 3. Enhance effective coordination and integration among the National System and within the broader ecosystem management context.*



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## National System MPA Criteria

**MPA** - “Any area of the marine environment that has been reserved by federal, state, territorial, tribal, or local laws or regulations to provide lasting protection for part or all of the natural and cultural resources therein.”

### 1.) MPA definition & criteria

- Area,
- Marine environment,
- Reserved,
- Lasting, and
- Protection

### 2.) Additional criteria

- MPA Site or program must contribute to at least one national system objective
- Managing agency(ies) must give approval to participate
- Cultural resource criteria from National Register of Historic Places

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## Implications of Proposed MPA Criteria

### **National System will be inclusive:**

- Under proposed criteria, may be over 1500 ‘potentially eligible’ MPAs
- Most established after 1970 by state agencies
- Most of the largest sites are federal sites
- Many overlap geographically
- Many partners...even more opportunities to work together



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## How do Existing MPA Sites and Programs Become Part of the National System?

- The MPA Center or MPA programs identify existing sites that meet the criteria (e.g., search the MMA inventory)
- The MPA Center consults with agency to determine whether or not to nominate specific MPAs or all of a programs MPAs that meet criteria
- If yes, a brief 'nomination' form is filled out by MPA Center or agency and signed by a nominating agency representative
- The MPA Center publishes a list of nominated sites in the *Federal Register* for public comment; forwards any comments received to nominating agency
- The nominating agency reviews comments & makes final determination of whether or not to join
- Approved sites are added to official List of MPAs



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## Adding New MPAs to the National System

- MPA Executive Order does not have authority to designate new or increase protection within existing MPAs
- Draft Framework outlines how existing MPA programs can work together to use science and stakeholder input to identify priority places/resources in need of new or increased protection
- Designation of priority areas as new or enhanced MPAs must be done by existing MPA programs/authorities
- Newly designated MPAs are added to the national system through nomination process for existing MPAs

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## Priority Efforts of the National System

What happens next is driven by national system partners and can be facilitated by the MPA Center ...

- Participating MPA programs/sites get together regionally to share information, discuss issues, identify shared priority needs
- Work together and with MPA Center to identify solutions, catalyze funds, and take action to address shared needs
  - **Technical assistance** (e.g., GIS boundary assistance, etc.)
  - **Management assistance** (e.g., training on developing man. plans)
  - **Improved regional coord.** (e.g., regional forums, educ./outreach)
  - **Science needs** (e.g., monitoring effectiveness, targeted research)
  - **National, Regional, Ecosystem Gap analysis** (e.g., identify gaps in national system in need of enhanced or new protection)

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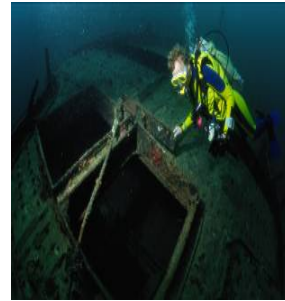
## Other Framework Components

- **Proposed National System Steering Committee**
  - Made up of regional and national state/tribe/fed representatives (need for input on design)
  - National forum for communicating/addressing regional needs
  - Helps set priority National System efforts and direction
  - Identifies international linkages
- **Avoid Harm Guidance (E.O. Section 5)**
  - Pertains to federal agency actions that affect resources protected by MPAs on the List of MPAs
  - Federal agencies use their existing authorities
  - Adds an 'MPA-specific lens' to agencies' evaluations of their actions under existing mandates.
  - Agencies must report on their efforts taken to 'avoid harm' an annual basis.

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## Tracking and Reporting

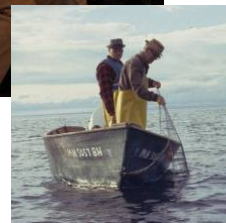
- Evaluation of national system effectiveness
- Federal agency annual reports
  - Efforts to implement the E.O.
- Biennial “State of the National System of MPAs” report
- Materials posted on MPA.gov



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## National System Benefits

- Highlights and supports MPA efforts of federal, state, and tribal governments and regional institutions
- More effective use of MPAs via opportunities to plan and work together across jurisdictions: *ecosystem approach to management*
- Promotes government coordination for efficient use of resources
- Improves public access to information and participation



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## Framework: Draft → Final → Implementation

- Fall/Winter 2006/07: Draft framework outreach: partner & stakeholder meetings, disseminate materials, etc. (*comment period ends Feb. 14*)
- Spring 2007: Revise Framework and develop response to comments
- Late 2007: NOAA and DOI publish Final Framework
- Early 2008: MPA Center and MPA programs identify existing MPAs and begin consultations re: nomination to national system



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## Questions?

***A National System of MPAs, working together to conserve the nation's...***



*Natural  
Heritage,*



*Sustainable Production,  
and*



*Cultural  
Heritage.*

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