

# Envisioning a National System of MPAs



## ***West Coast Region Public Dialogues***

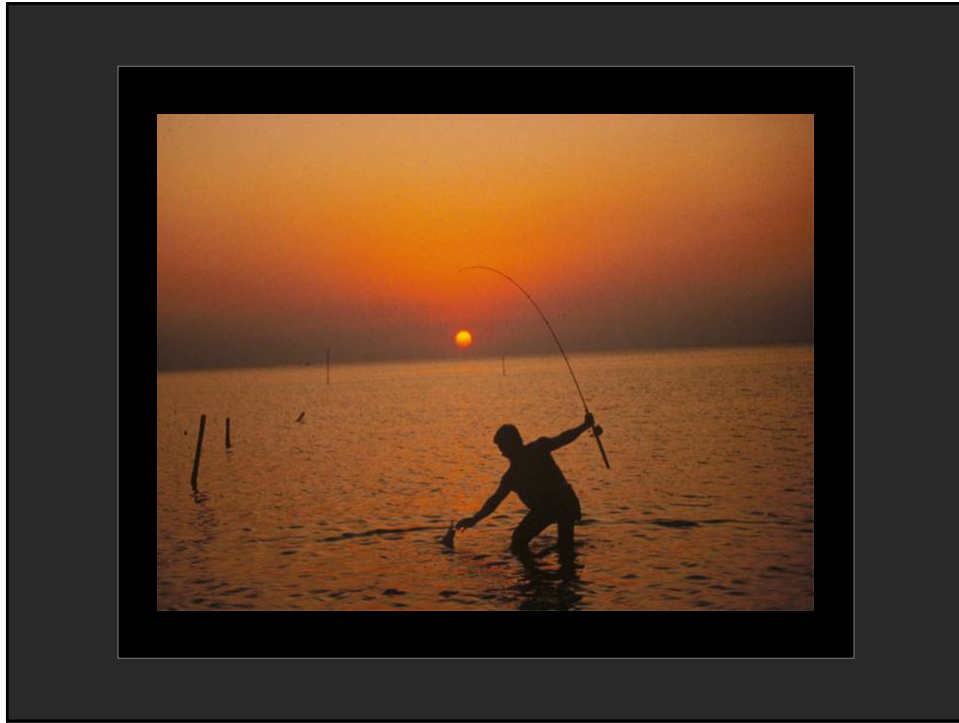
*December 12 and 13, 2005*

[www.mpa.gov](http://www.mpa.gov)

## Overview

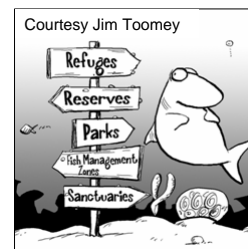
- Clarifying the MPA Executive Order
- Your Input is Needed
- Building a common vision for an effective national system
- Benefits of a national system

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## MPAs: Many types, many purposes

- Conservation and sustainable use
- Important natural and cultural resources
- Range from multiple use to no take/no access
- Definition and criteria vary across agencies, programs, and regions
- Just one type of place-based marine management



## MPA Executive Order 13158

- Requires the development of “a scientifically based, comprehensive national system of MPAs representing diverse U.S. marine ecosystems, and the Nation’s natural and cultural resources.”
  - Establishes National MPA Center & calls for Framework
  - Provides an MPA Federal Advisory Committee
  - Defines “marine protected area” as:
    - “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.”
  - Requires consultation and coordination with states, territories, tribes, Regional Fishery Management Councils, and others

## We Need Your Input

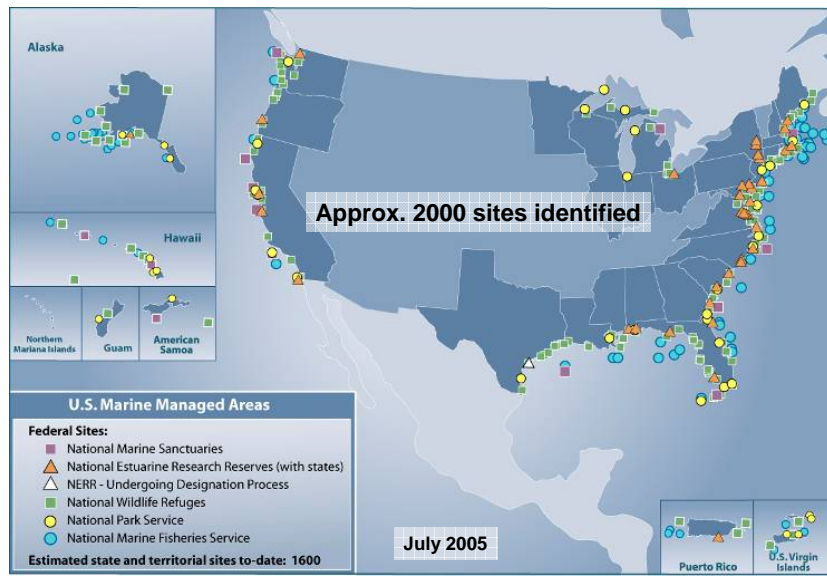
- Ensure representation of the nation’s interests
- Build a strong, durable foundation of support
- Provide benefits at all levels
- Help clarify Order’s directions and develop Framework

## Clarifying the Executive Order and National System

- What's clear:
  - Coordination and support of existing authorities
  - No new authority
  - Applies only to federal agencies
  - Supports voluntary participation by non-federal agencies
- What's not clear:
  - MPA definition's key terms – lasting, protection, area, marine, reserved – are very vague
  - No process specified on how to develop the national system
- Actions to begin implementation:
  - Developed and defined the term MMA
  - Initiated MMA Inventory to survey U.S. sites

## Marine Managed Areas Inventory

Sites Established for Conservation Purposes

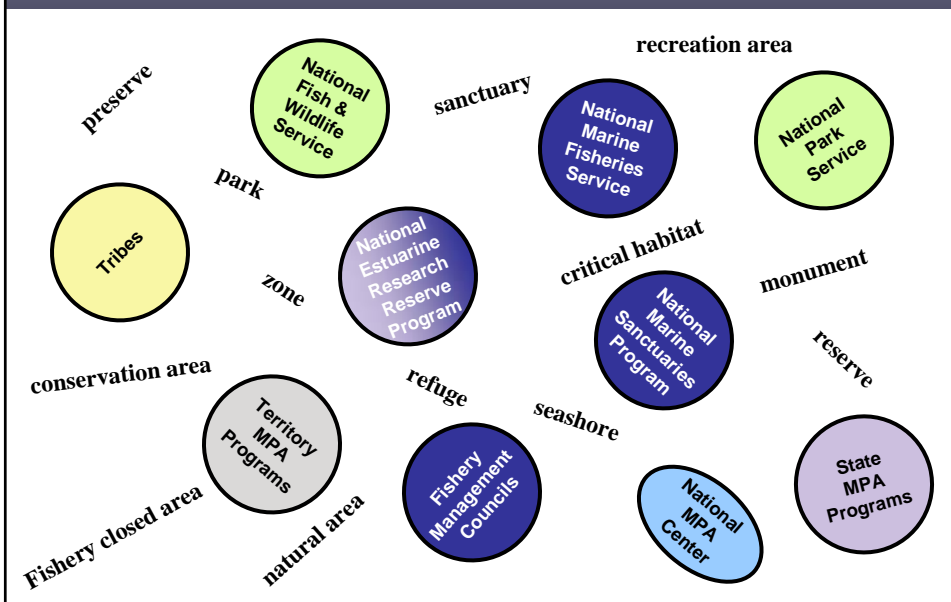


## Inventory of Marine Managed Areas: Initial Analysis and Results

- Hundreds of authorities
- Nearly 2,000 sites in U.S. waters
- Countless types, purposes, and terms
- Lack of integration – “stove-piping”
- No framework for planned, ecologically-based connectivity
- No mechanism for comprehensive planning and coordination



## Complex Scope of U.S. MPAs: A Mix of Programs and Terms



## Where do we go from here?

- Work with Federal partners
- Build partnerships with states and tribes
- Need significant consultation and input from all stakeholders
- Follow the Order's core principles to guide developing the framework

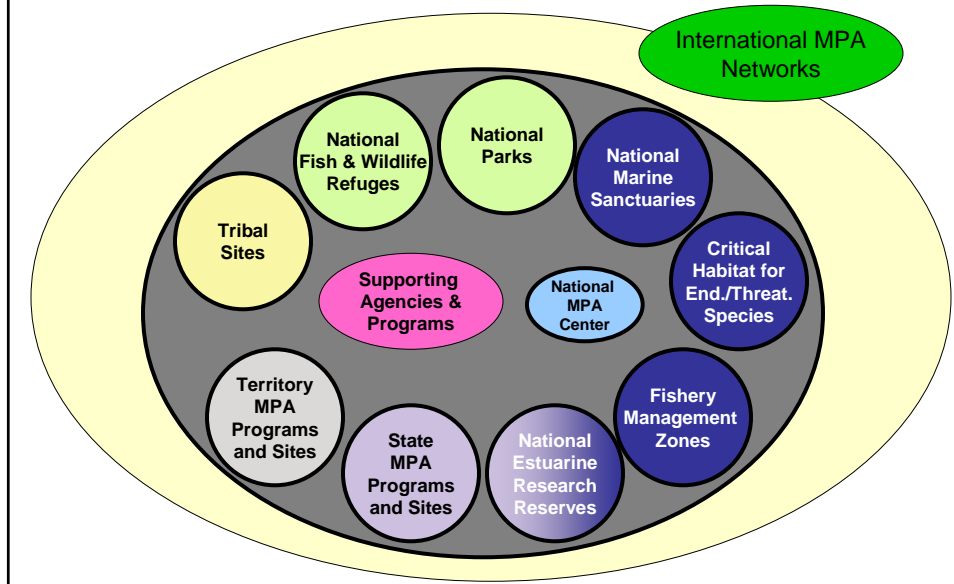


## Core Principles

- Recognize and support existing MPA programs
  - enhance partnerships and coordination
- Three system tracks:
  - natural heritage
  - sustainable production
  - cultural heritage
- Represent diverse ecosystems
- Use best available science and integrate with ecosystem management
- Provide clear opportunities for input and participation and establish common terminology



## National System of MPAs: A System of Systems



## Developing the National System

Phase 1. Understanding U.S. MPAs

Phase 2. Recognize & Support the 'Initial' System

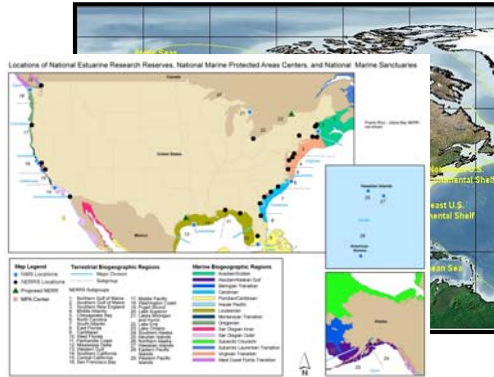
Phase 3. Collaborative Regional Planning

Phase 4. Evaluate and Adapt



## Regional?

- Many 'regions'
- Balance approach:
  - existing regional organizations
  - ecosystems
- Use 'national' system to connect regions



## Developing the Framework 2005 - 2006

The framework will describe:

- National system vision, goals and objectives
- MPAs definition and criteria for natural, cultural, and sustainable production
- Guidance ('how to') for:
  - Recognizing and supporting sites and programs (phase 2)
  - Flexible, collaborative regional planning process (phase 3)
  - Evaluating and adapting (phase 4)



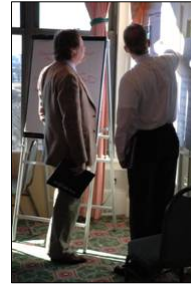
Photo courtesy of NOAA



## Developing the Framework 2005 - 2006

### Gathering significant input to build the framework:

- MPA Federal Advisory Committee Recommendations
- Regional Public Dialogues
  - Capitol – March
  - New England – May
  - Gulf of Mexico – July
  - West Coast (San Francisco & Seattle) – December
- Federal Interagency Working Group
- State Advisory Group and Recommendations (est. Jan 06)
- International experiences and linkages
- Draft framework to be published in the *Federal Register* for public comment (April 2006)



## Benefits of a Effective National System of MPAs

### To users and other stakeholders:

- Provides clear opportunities for meaningful participation in the MPA process
- Offers improved access to science, tools and techniques to assess and respond to MPA proposals
- Supports conservation and sustainable use of important natural and cultural resources for current and future generations

## Benefits of a Effective National System of MPAs

### To MPA programs and other agencies:

- Offers a forum to coordinate ecosystem planning and management of MPAs across federal, state, territory, and tribal boundaries
- Leverages resources and builds partnerships to meet needs (e.g., research, training, technical assistance, monitoring effectiveness)
- Recognition of existing MPAs

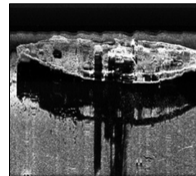


Photo courtesy of NOAA

## Summary

- Multi-year effort to define and plan
- Built on partnerships and coordination with existing MPA and other authorities
- Benefits to resources, agencies, stakeholders, and nation
- Ongoing public and other stakeholder input is needed to define and make happen

## More Info?

<http://mpa.gov>

## Questions?

[mpa.comments@noaa.gov](mailto:mpa.comments@noaa.gov)



**Natural Heritage**



**Sustainable  
Production**



**Cultural Heritage**

*The National System of MPAs*

## Directions for Break out Groups

- What are the West Coast's important marine economic, recreational, and other types of uses and values that you want to be considered in developing a national system of MPAs?
- What are the West Coast's important natural and cultural resources that you think a national system of MPAs should conserve and sustain for future generations?
- How could your interests in the West Coast's natural and cultural resource issues benefit from some kind of national system of MPAs?
- How should NOAA and Department of the Interior continue to work with stakeholders like you on the West Coast to develop the vision for the national system?
- Other comments?