

# Marine Protected Area Science, Assessment and Analysis: A Coordinated Effort on the US West Coast



**West Coast Regional Coastal Management Meeting**  
January 24, 2007

**Sarah Fischer**, Pacific Regional Coordinator  
**Charles Wahle**, Director, MPA Center Science Institute

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

# Outline

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- MPA Center Overview
- Goals and Scope of West Coast Pilot
- Core Components
- Agency Coordination

# MPA Executive Order 13158

- MPA EO calls on NOAA and DOI to work with states and feds to establish a national system of MPAs
- MPA Center has published a draft framework for a national system for public comment until Feb 14
- West coast pilot tests many of processes and approaches in proposed in draft framework



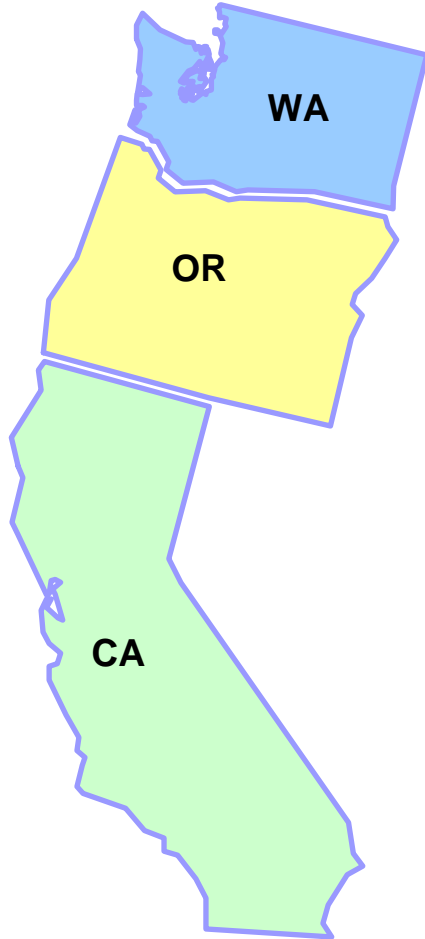
# What do we mean by 'MPA'?

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“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.”

**--Executive Order 13158**

# The West Coast Pilot: Goals and Scope



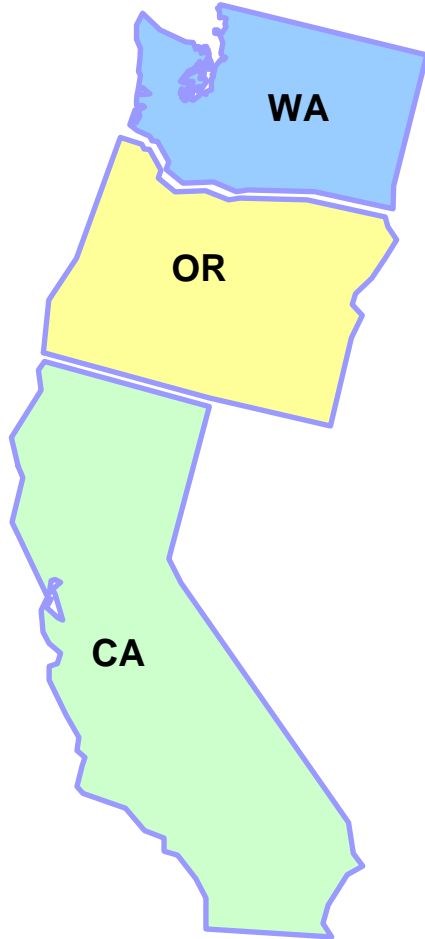
- **Goals**

- To facilitate the effective use of MPAs as an ecosystem management tool to conserve and protect important marine areas and resources on the west coast
- To support the development of a regionally-based national system of MPAs

- **Geographic Scope**

- From WA to CA
- Coastal and marine waters out to 200 miles

# The West Coast Pilot: Results



- Expected Results

- A suite of tools, methods, and information for regional MPA planning and adaptive management that may be transferred to other regions
- An ongoing regional forum for west coast state, federal and tribal programs to efficiently coordinate their management of existing MPAs and collaboratively plan future conservation efforts

# West Coast Pilot Analysis

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## Core Components

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Ecological Characterization

Cultural Resource Characterization

Human Use Pattern Characterization

Impacts of Human Uses Assessment

Governance Synthesis

Contribution of Existing MMA/MPAs

# West Coast Pilot Analysis

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## Data Layers

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Ecological Characterization



# Science and Analysis: Ecological Characterization

## Overview

- Provide the comprehensive natural resource data necessary to support an ecosystem approach for developing a regional system of MPAs on the west coast

## Outputs

- Important places, processes and linkages identified
- Contact list for data sources

## Status

- Preliminary data sets collected
- New staff in October '06



# West Coast Pilot Analysis

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## Data Layers

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Ecological Characterization

Cultural Resource Characterization

# Science and Analysis: Cultural Resource Characterization

## Overview

- Standardized inventory of marine cultural resources
- Assist with documenting their historical and cultural connectivity within regional ecosystems

## Outputs

- Tools for assessing the historical and cultural connectivity of marine cultural resources
- Tools for identifying marine cultural resources that are sensitive to natural or human induced changes and gaps in protection

## Status

- Database built and populated
- Initial analysis underway



Photo: Robert Schwammer



Photo: NOAA National Marine Sanctuary Program

# West Coast Pilot Analysis

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## Data Layers

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Ecological Characterization

Cultural Resource Characterization

Human Use Pattern Characterization

Impacts of Human Uses Assessment

# Science and Analysis: Human Use Patterns



## Overview

- Document spatial patterns of use activities in the marine environment on the west coast
- Begin building the baseline socioeconomic information needed to inform regional MPA planning

## Outputs

- Directory of available secondary data
- Models for predicting use compatibilities and resource threats
- Method for collecting primary data on use patterns

## Status

- Secondary data directory in review
- Initial mapping underway

# West Coast Pilot Analysis

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## Data Layers

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Ecological Characterization

Cultural Resource Characterization

Human Use Pattern Characterization

Impacts of Human Uses Assessment

Governance Synthesis

# Science and Analysis: Governance



## Overview

- Understand the existing legal framework through which marine natural and cultural resources in the region are managed
- Develop a comprehensive overview of marine protected area (MPA) policy authorities at the international, federal, state, and tribal levels

## Outputs

- Searchable database of existing legislation
- Geographic Information System (GIS) for west coast MPA laws

## Status

- Database built and populated, QA/QC underway
- Tagging for GIS in progress

# West Coast Pilot Analysis

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## Data Layers

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Ecological Characterization

Cultural Resource Characterization

Human Use Pattern Characterization

Impacts of Human Uses Assessment

Governance Synthesis

Contribution of Existing MMA/MPAs



# Science and Analysis

## Existing MMAs/MPAs

### Overview

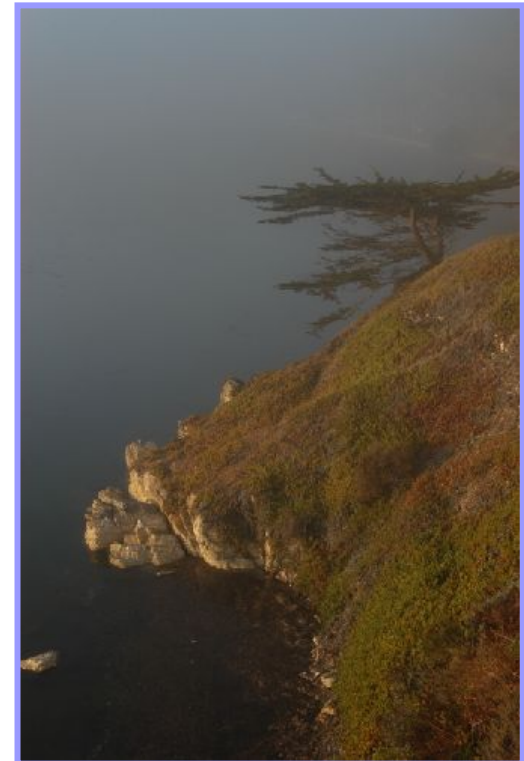
- Document the location, purpose and type of protection offered by existing MMAs and MPAs.
- Understand the potential contribution of existing MMAs/MPAs to regional and national conservational goals.
- Understand the potential effects of existing MMAs/MPAs on ocean users.

### Outputs

- Reports describing patterns and implications of MPA usage on the west coast
- Web-based synthesis products and database

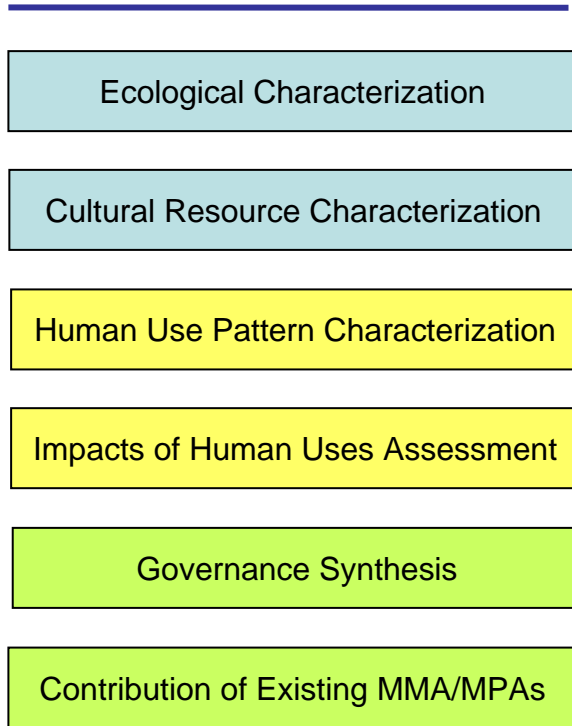
### Status

- National report available Nov. 06
- West coast report in review
- De Facto report in review

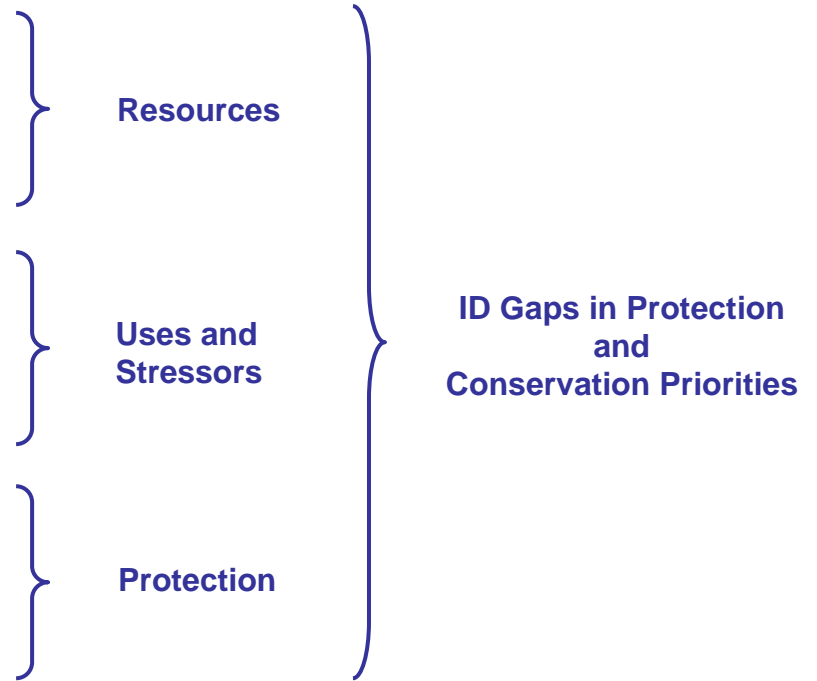


# West Coast Pilot Analysis

## Data Layers



## Outputs



# West Coast Pilot Applications and Users

## Characterizations

Ecological

Cultural Resources

Human Use Patterns

Impacts of Human Uses

Governance

Existing MMAs / MPAs

## Applications

Current MPAs – monitoring adaptive management

New MPAs - siting and design

Traditional fisheries management

Area-based fisheries management (e.g. EFH)

Ecosystem approaches to management

Ocean zoning and governance

Coastal Zone Management

Ocean observations

Emergency planning and response

Ocean industries

Military operations

# Collaboration and Stakeholder Engagement

**Work with federal, state, and tribal organizations to:**

**Near Term**

- June 2006: kick-off meeting; potential data workshop in FY 2007
- Share information and develop project partnerships
- Establish steering group/committee

**Long Term**

- Identify and/or develop opportunities for stakeholder involvement
- Identify regional science, technical assistance and other stewardship priorities
- Identify opportunities for projects and activities to address priority needs

# West Coast Gov't. Partners Meeting

## June 20 and 21, 2006

**Goals:** To create a shared understanding and craft a collaborative regional roadmap

**Attendance:** 37 tribal, federal and state government partners

**Process:**

- Context Setting
- Visioning
- Strategy

**Outcomes:**

- Regional Messages
- Characterizations
- Coordinated Management



# MPA Center Contacts

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## **West Coast Pilot Web Site:**

[mpa.gov/national\\_system/west-coast-pilot.html](http://mpa.gov/national_system/west-coast-pilot.html)

## **Co-Leads:**

Charlie Wahle, Director, MPA Center Science Institute  
[charles.wahle@noaa.gov](mailto:charles.wahle@noaa.gov), 831-242-2052

Sarah Fischer, Pacific Regional Coordinator  
[sarah.fischer@noaa.gov](mailto:sarah.fischer@noaa.gov), 831-242-2054