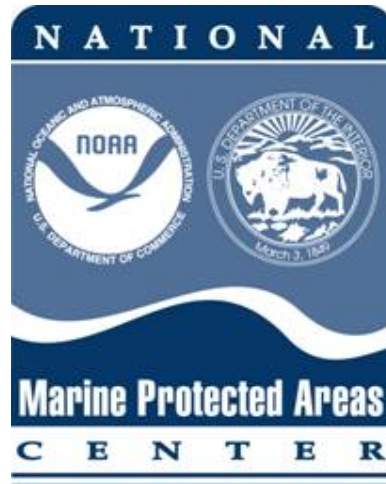


# The Draft Framework for Developing the National System of MPAs



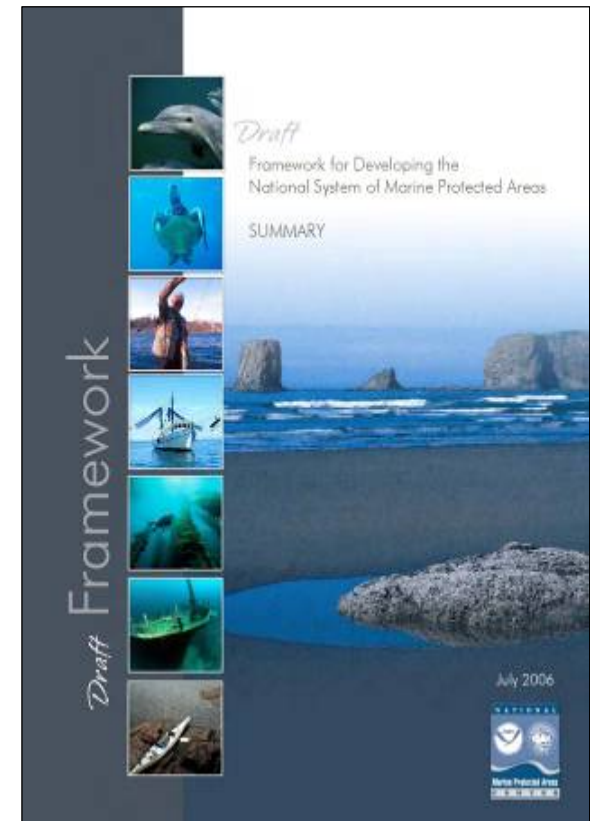
**Jonathan Kelsey, National MPA Center**

Meeting of the United States Coral Reef Task Force  
March 2, 2007 ~ Washington, DC

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

# MPA Framework: 2001 to Present

- Called for by MPA Executive Order, but few specifics given
- Extensive agency and public scoping and outreach process (*60+ meetings in 2 years*)
- Document widely distributed via mail and e-mail; electronic copies available on MPA.gov
  - *Secretaries of Commerce and the Interior co-send to coastal Governors and Tribal Leaders*
- Comment period *ended Feb. 28, 2007*
- Over 100 individual comments (>12,000 emails)



# A Proposed Roadmap for National System Development

***A mechanism for MPA programs, partner agencies, and stakeholders to work together to better use MPAs to conserve and sustain marine resources***

- Adaptive and flexible
- *Partnership driven* – States, Territories, Tribes and federal agencies are FULL partners.
- Supports existing MPA efforts and improves future decisions through collaboration & cooperation
- Promotes ecosystem and regional approaches, while maintaining a national outlook
- *Inclusive*: recognizes valuable contributions from the nation's many sites and programs



# What's in the Framework?

## Common sense guidance for governments and stakeholders to work together to build an effective National System

- Themes, principles, goals, objectives, and definitions
- Ecosystem, regional, and national processes:
  - Build the initial national system from existing sites (*nomination process*)
  - Collaborate to improve coordination and effectiveness of existing MPA sites and systems
  - Work together to identify gaps and future conservation priorities
- Guidance on “avoid harm” provision
- Mechanisms for reporting, tracking progress, and developing performance measures



# National System MPA Criteria

## 1.) MPA definition criteria

- *Area, marine environment, reserved, lasting, and protection*
- *Definitions are virtually the same as those for MMA, except...*
  - *“Lasting...” established with the intent at the time designation to provide permanent protection”*

## 2.) Additional criteria

- *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*

# Proposed MPA Criteria Reasoning and Implications

## **Reasoning: National patterns in marine managed area protection**

- Most offer year-round protection
- Most have a Natural Heritage conservation focus
- Most target broad ecosystem-wide protection
- Most allow multiple human uses including fishing
- Use varies widely by regions and state
- *\*Most provide permanent protection\**

## **Implications: National System is 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 provide overlapping protections
- Many partners...even more opportunities to work together

# Benefits of the National System

- 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 – *accomplish more together than separate*
- Promotes government coordination for efficient use of resources
- Improves public access to information and participation



# Framework: Draft → Final → Implementation

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- Spring 2007: Revise Framework and develop response to comments
- Late 2007: NOAA and DOI publish Final Framework; MPA Center and MPA programs identify existing MPAs and begin consultations re: nomination to national system
- 2008: Begin regional development of National System with participating sites and other partners





# Questions?

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



*Natural  
Heritage,*



*Sustainable Production,  
and*



*Cultural  
Heritage.*