MBNMS MPA Initiative
Products and Timeline

2001
- MPAs identified by the public and the SAC as a priority issue for the JMPR

2002
- Multi-stakeholder working group formed of approximately 20 individuals from the research, diving, fishing, environmental, and management communities
- The group met throughout the year to develop the strategies of the MPA action plan

2003
- Working group continued developing action plan
- Action plan completed and adopted by SAC

2004
- Compiled ecological background information (80 relevant data layers)
- Set Goals and Objectives based on the NMSA, including Conservation, Educational and Social, Research, and Compatible Use objectives
- Defined habitat categories (defined by depth and substrate type; 12 categories including the nearshore)

2005
- Gathered socioeconomic data through interviews with fishermen and non-consumptive users
- Developed MPA decision support tool which allows users to view socioeconomic, biological, and physical data layers, create MPAs, and develop reports based on what information is of interest to the user
- Working Group hiatus during MLPA

2006
- Identified 13 areas of interest (AOIs) – areas on a map that the working group wanted more information on. Each area was evaluated based on habitat, biological resources, and use patterns
- Developed GIS tool that allows user to view the complete list of fisheries management measures in place at a given location
- Held regional science workshop on the "Science of MPA Design in Offshore Waters". Science guidelines were developed for the working group for their consideration of MPAs in offshore habitats (deeper than 100 m)
- Completed draft resource assessment, "The Natural Resources of the Monterey Bay National Marine Sanctuary: A Focus on Federal Waters". Assessment paralleled conservation goals of Action Plan; included regional habitat characterizations, and information on habitat function, habitat structure, movement and dispersal, and species of special interest

2007
- Refined habitat categories (12 categories; nearshore excluded)
- Evaluations of how much of each habitat category fell within existing spatial protection (MLPA, EFH, RCA)
- Members shared their perspectives on need for MPAs