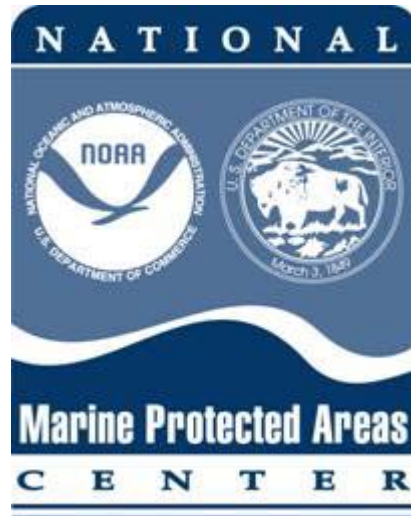


Developing the National System of Marine Protected Areas

Bringing Order to Complexity



A Presentation to the U.S. Coral Reef Task Force

March 3, 2005

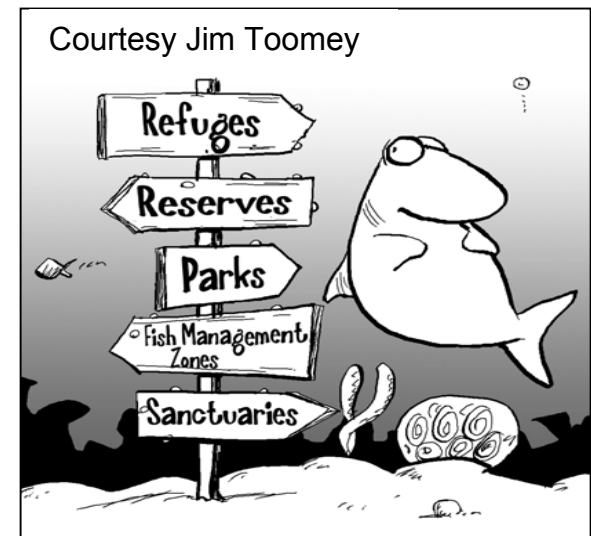
Jonathan Kelsey
NOAA National MPA Center
www.mpa.gov

Overview

- Refresh and update on efforts
- Links to the US Coral Reef Task Force

MPAs: Many types, many purposes

- Conservation and sustainable use
- Important natural and cultural resources
- Significant economic contributions
- 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

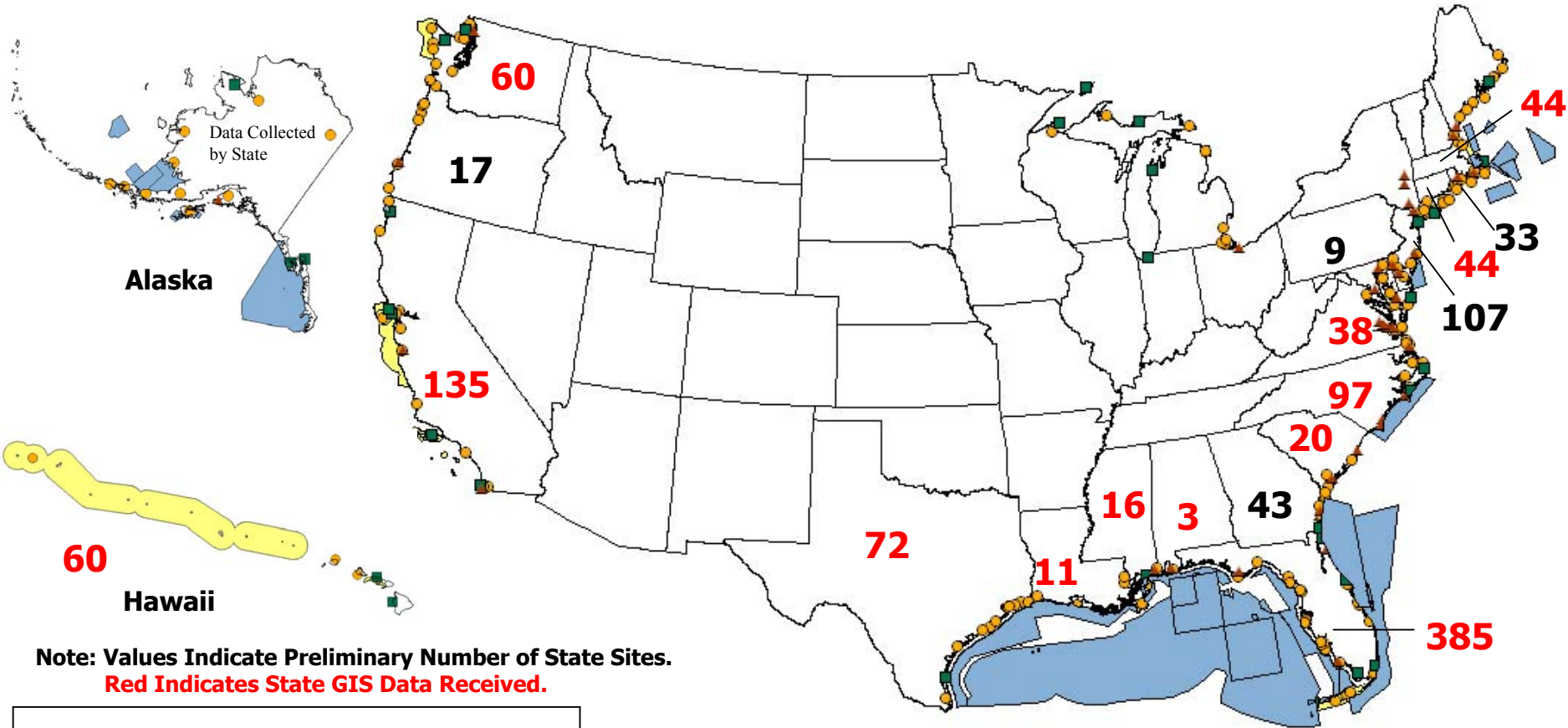
- Requires the development of “a scientifically based, comprehensive national system of MPAs representing diverse U.S. marine ecosystems, and the Nation’s natural and cultural resources.”
 - Establishes National Marine Protected Areas Center
 - Calls for MPA Federal Advisory Committee
 - Requires consultation and coordination with states, territories, tribes, Regional Fishery Management Councils, and others
- 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.”

Understanding the MPA Executive Order

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




Marine Managed Area Inventory

Federal and State Status



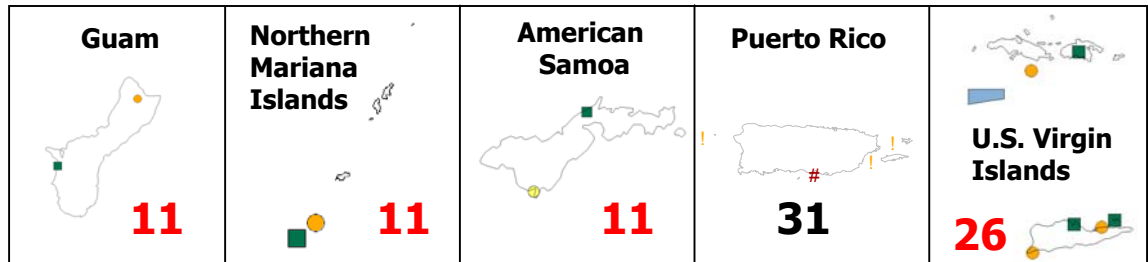
Note: Values Indicate Preliminary Number of State Sites.
Red Indicates State GIS Data Received.

Initial Data Collection Complete

-  National Estuarine Research Reserve (25)
-  National Marine Sanctuaries (14)
-  National Marine Fisheries Service (45)

Initial Data Collection In Progress

-  National Park Service (39)
-  National Wildlife Refuge (162)

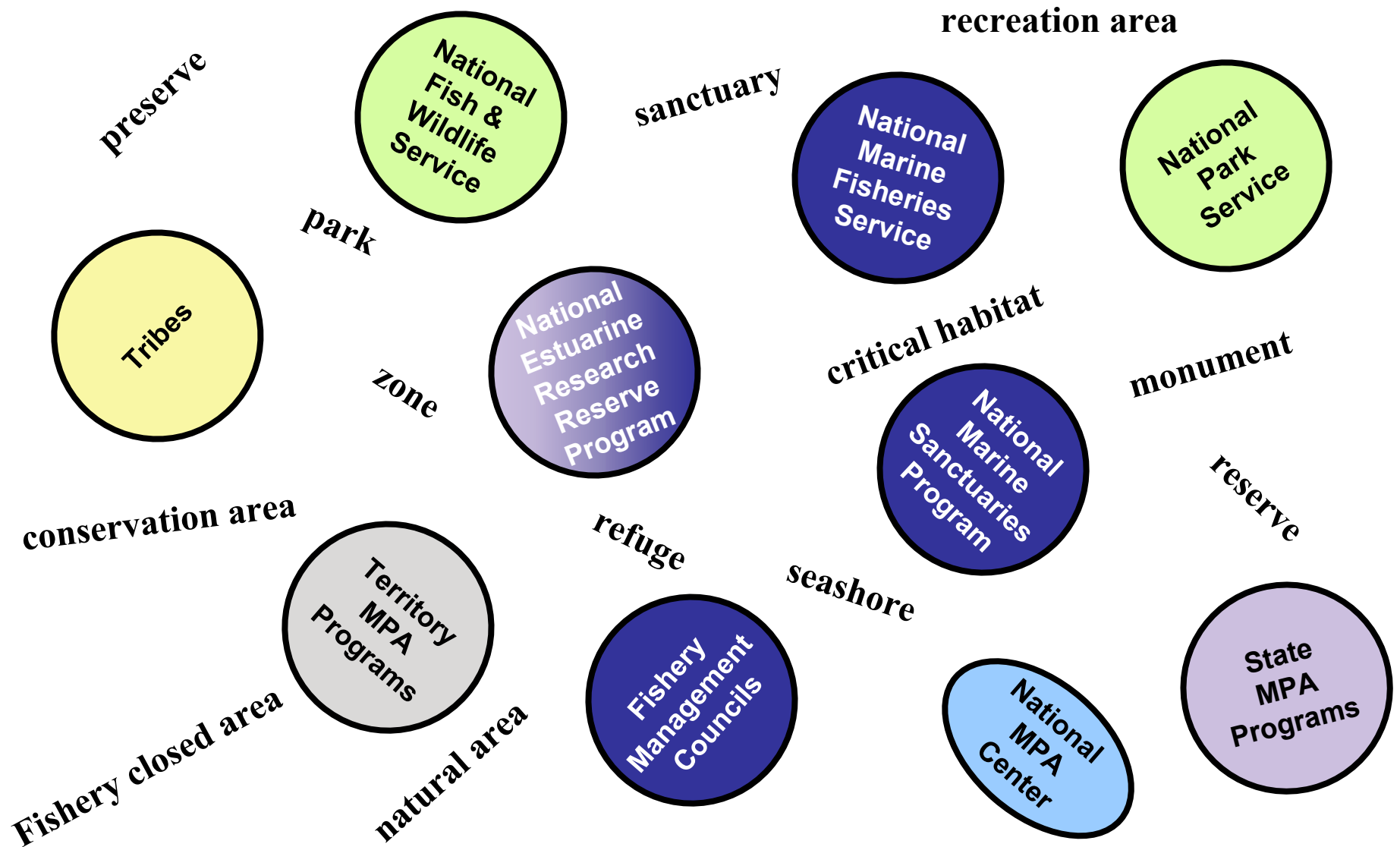


Inventory of Marine Managed Areas: Initial Analysis and Results

- Hundreds of authorities
- Nearly 2,000 sites in U.S. waters
- Countless types, purposes, and terms
- Lack of integration
- 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?

- A flexible national system to identify and support regional priorities
- Need significant consultation and input from stakeholders at all levels
- Build partnerships with states and tribes
- Follow core principles from the MPA Executive Order to guide the process

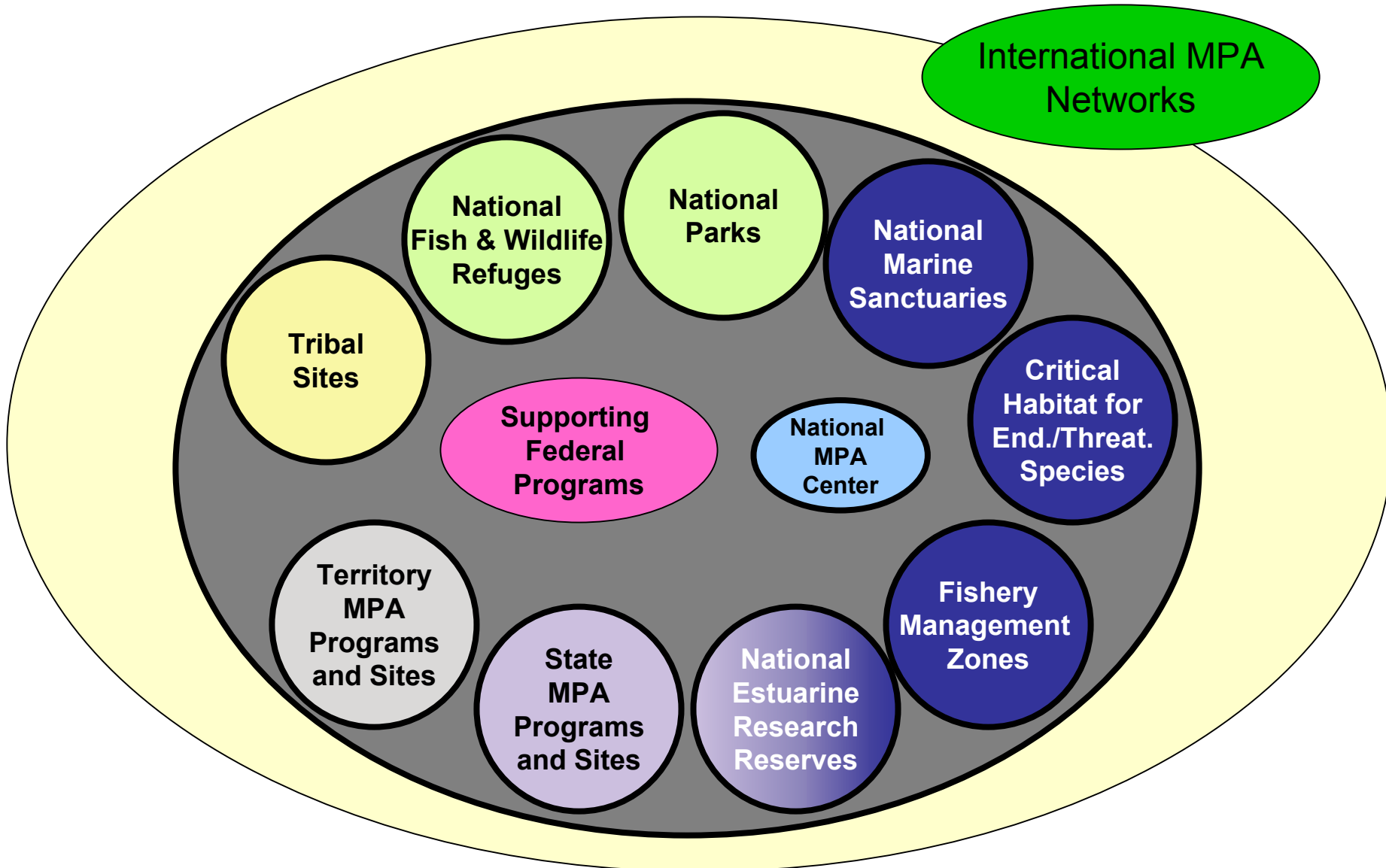


Core Principles

- Build and enhance partnerships and coordination across MPA programs
- Three system tracks:
 - natural heritage
 - sustainable production
 - cultural heritage
- Represent diverse ecosystems
- Use best available science, integrates with ecosystem management
- Provide clear opportunities for input and participation, and establish common terms



National System of MPAs: A System of Systems



Developing the National System

Phase 1. Understanding U.S. MPAs

- Policy and technical analysis
- Inventory MMAs
- Classification system

Phase 2. Collaborative Planning

- Develop the framework
- Identify existing MPAs and support site efforts
- Resource characterization & human use and impacts analyses
- Regional ecosystem-based planning and identification of opportunities

Phase 3. Coordinated Implementation

- Monitor effectiveness and adaptively manage
- Enhance stewardship with partnerships to provide technical and other assistance

Developing the Framework

2005 - 2006

- The framework aims to include:
 - Vision, goals and objectives
 - Criteria for natural, cultural, and sustainable production MPAs
 - Flexible regional planning process and stakeholder involvement
 - Governance and adaptive management guidance
 - Support to participating sites and programs



Photo courtesy of NOAA

Developing the Framework

2005 - 2006

- Gathering significant input to build the framework:
 - MPA Federal Advisory Committee
 - State Advisory Group & Workshops
 - Regional Public Dialogues
 - Federal Interagency Working Group
 - Other experiences and linkages (e.g., international, USCRTF)
 - Draft framework to be published in the *Federal Register* for formal comment



Benefits of a Comprehensive National System of MPAs

To the nation:

- Supports efficient, effective conservation and sustainable use of important natural and cultural resources for current and future generations



Photo courtesy of NOAA

Benefits of a Comprehensive National System of MPAs

To management and operational 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)

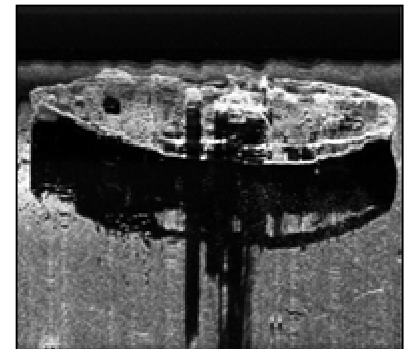


Photo courtesy of NOAA

Benefits of a Comprehensive National System of MPAs

To users and other stakeholders:

- Provides clearly defined opportunities for meaningful participation in the MPA process and enhances the importance of the human dimension
- Offers improved access to science, tools and techniques to assess and respond to MPA proposals
- Provides common MPA terminology



Photo courtesy of NOAA

Links to the US Coral Reef Task Force

- Recognized importance of MPAs in conservation and sustainable use of coral ecosystems
- Similarity of agency representation
- Many related USCRTF agency activities and opportunities (e.g. resource characterization)
- Training and technical assistance opportunities
- Learn from USCRTF experience:
 - Establishing national coordination
 - Identifying and meeting local and regional priorities



Photo courtesy of NOAA

Summary

- Coordinated, science-based process
- Multi-year process to define and plan
- Benefits to resources, agencies, stakeholders, and nation
- Significant stakeholder input is needed:
 - Federal Advisory Committee, public, NGOs, states, territories, tribes, federal agencies, Fishery Management Councils
- USCRTF efforts and experiences are valuable recommendations

More information?

<http://mpa.gov/>

or

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Natural Heritage



**Sustainable
Production**



Cultural Heritage

Three Types of National System MPAs