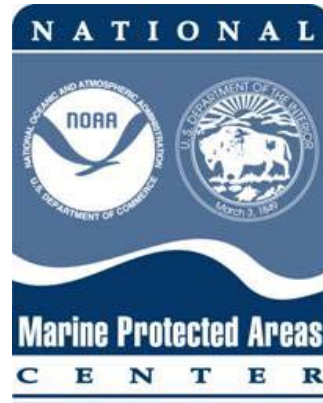


Envisioning a National System of Marine Protected Areas



***State Marine Fisheries Directors
St. Petersburg, FL***

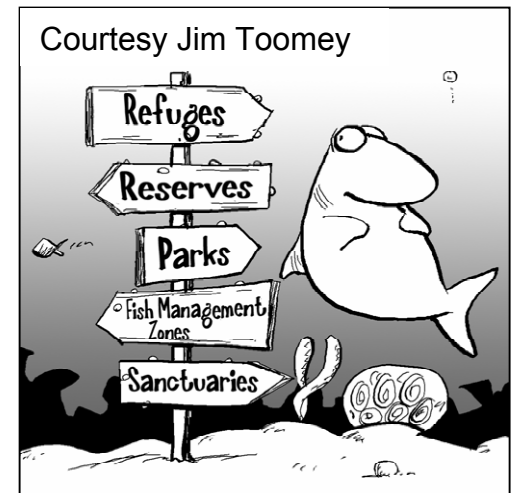
***Joseph A. Uravitch, AICP
Director, National MPA Center***

Overview

- Understanding U.S. MPAs
- Collaborative Regional Planning
- Coordinated Implementation
- Diverse Stakeholder Input Needed

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
 - 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

- Directed by the Executive Order
- Ensure representation of the nation's interests
- Build a strong, durable foundation of support
- Provide benefits at all levels
- Help clarify Executive Order's directions

Understanding the Executive Order

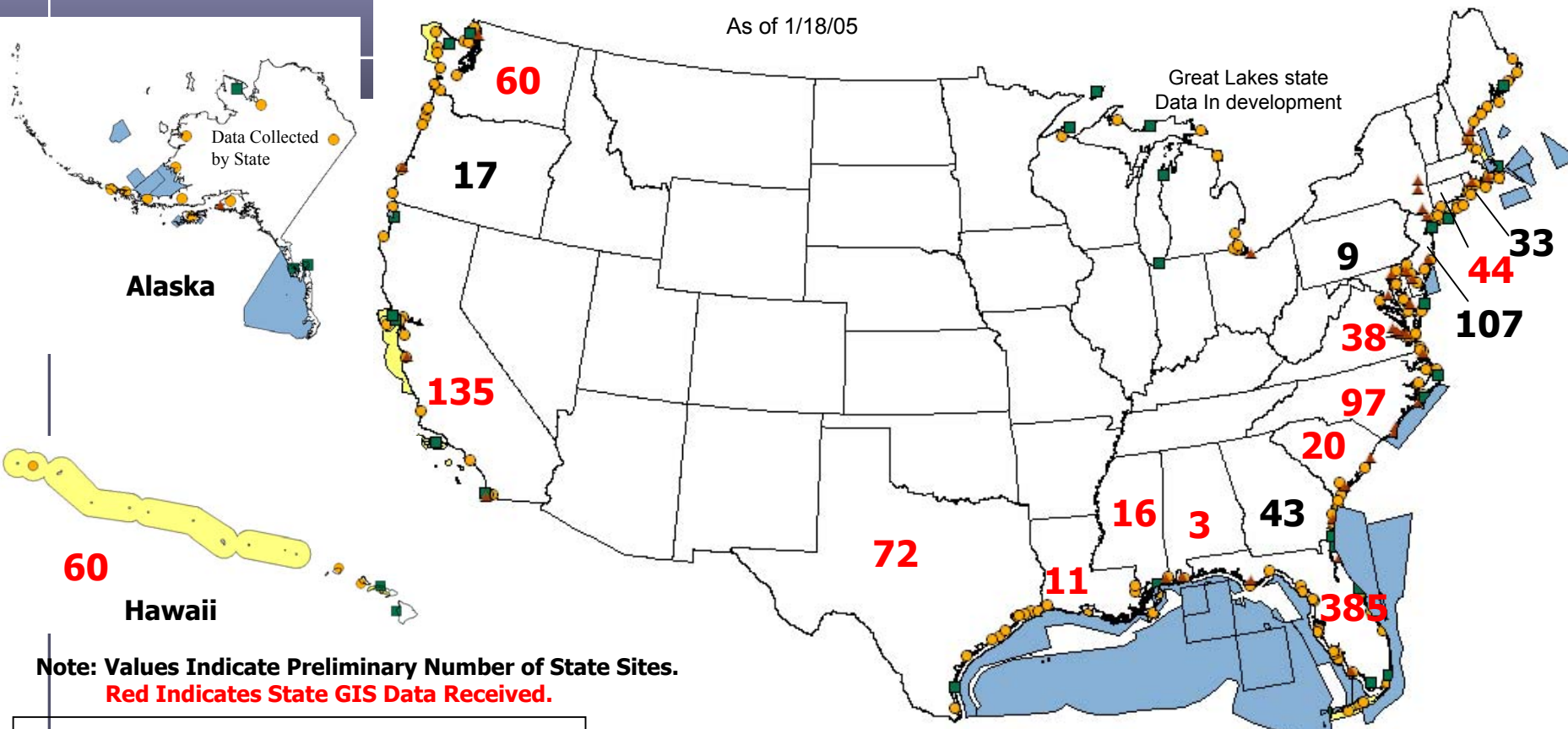
- What's clear:
 - Coordination and support of existing authorities
 - No new authority
 - Applies only to federal agencies
 - Supports voluntary participation by non-federal agencies
- What's not clear:
 - MPA definition's key terms – lasting, protection, area, marine, reserved – are too broad
 - No 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

The Effort to Inventory Marine Managed Areas

- First U.S. inventory of its kind
- Ambitious, multi agency effort
- State, territory, and federal agency participation
- Collects consistent data, including GIS
- Tool for managers and stakeholders
- “Completion” by end of 2005

Marine Managed Area Inventory Federal and State Data Collection Status

As of 1/18/05



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)

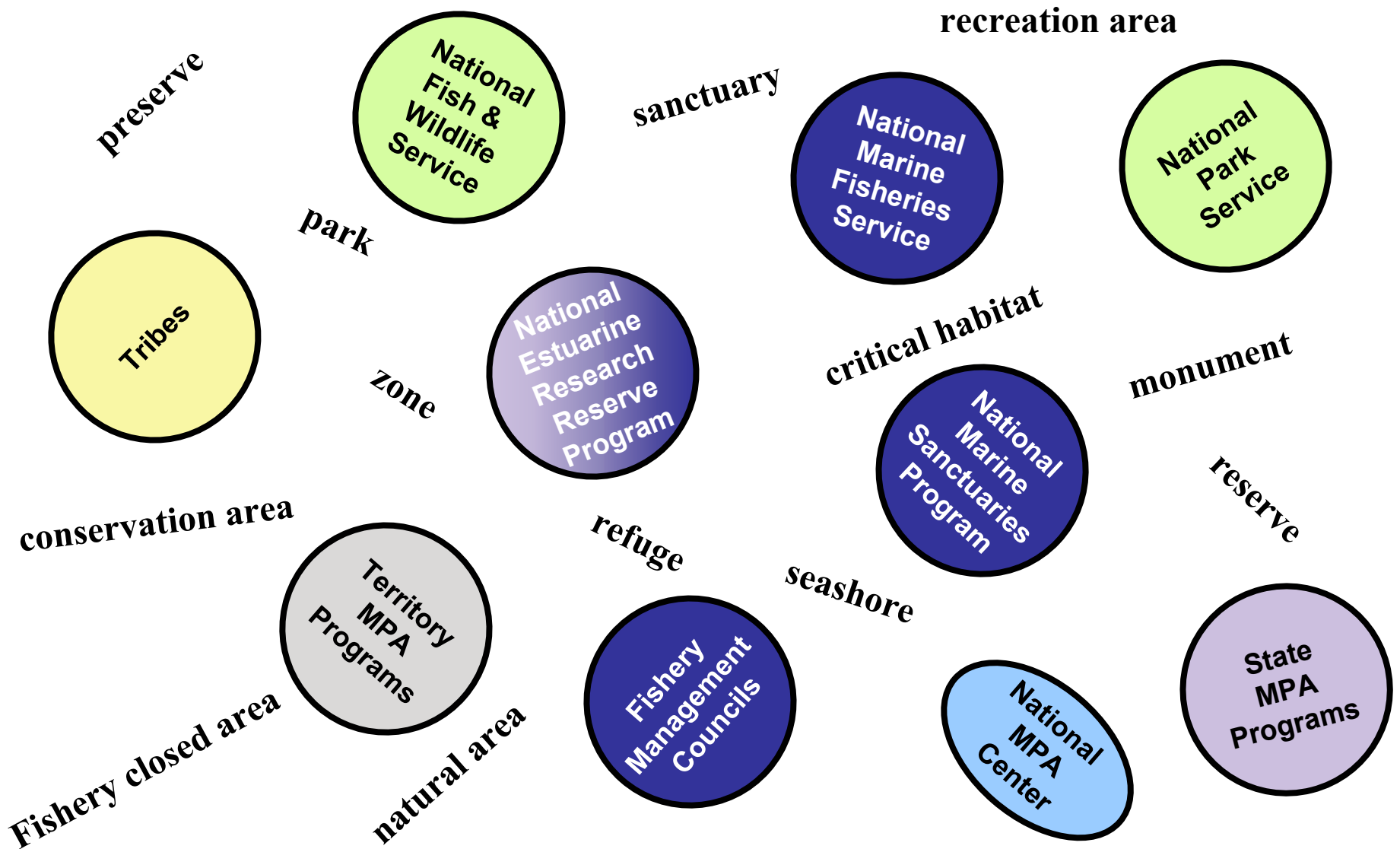


Inventory of Marine Managed Areas: Initial Analysis and Results

- 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?

- Flexible national system - 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

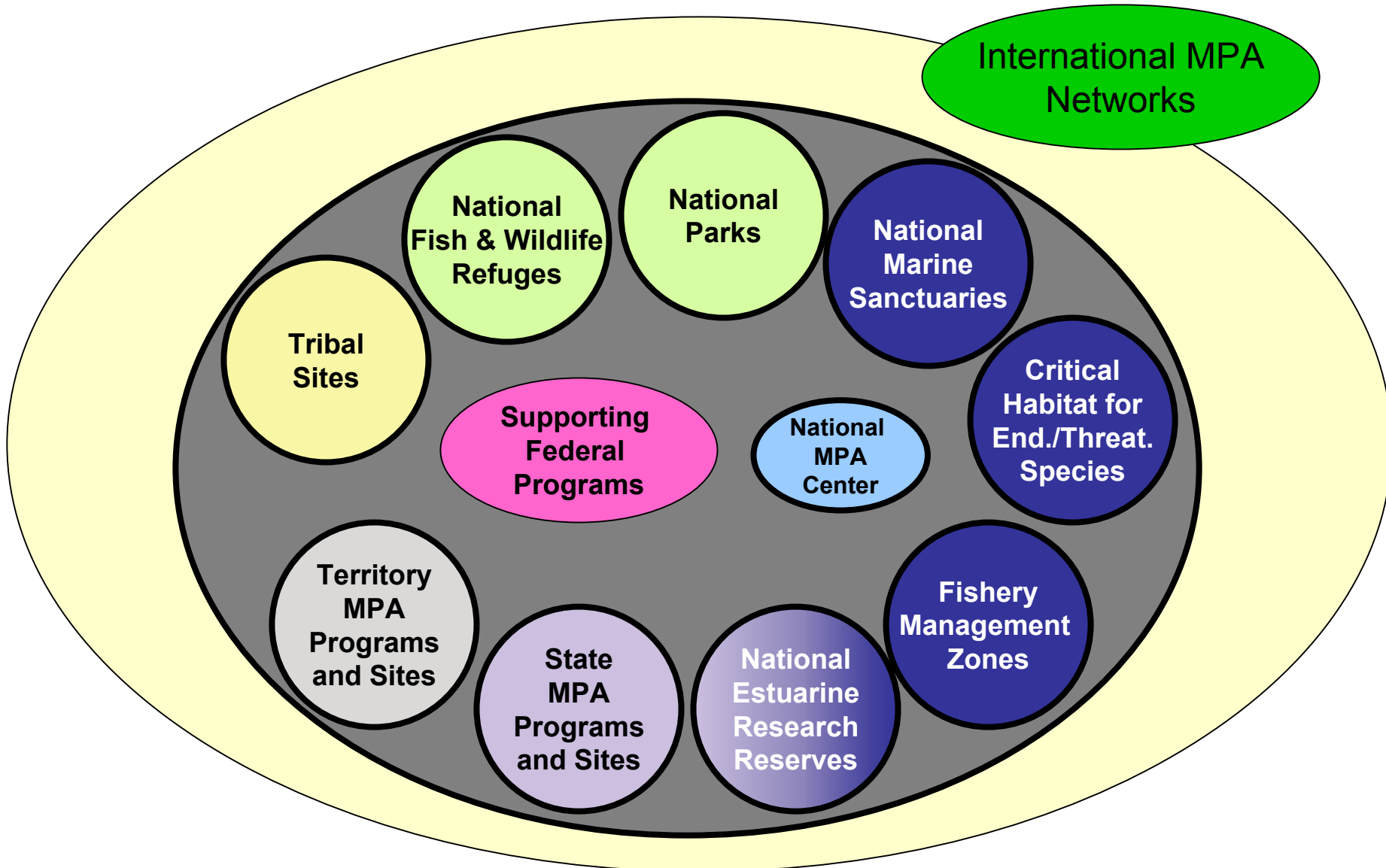


Core Principles

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



National System of MPAs: A System of Systems



An Effective National System of MPAs: A System of Systems

- Evolving portfolio of existing, enhanced, and new sites and networks, as needed
- Built on partnerships with existing MPA programs and authorities
- National framework based on regional coordination and stakeholder participation
- Collaboratively identify science-based regional and local priorities
- Support needs to enhance collective effectiveness of MPAs

Developing the National System

Phase 1. Understanding U.S. MPAs

- Policy and technical analysis (ongoing)
- Inventory MPAs (ongoing)
- Classification system (completed)

Phase 2. Collaborative Planning (WE ARE HERE)

- **Develop the framework**
- **Establish national system partnerships with existing MPAs**
- **Build the science foundation**
- **Support collaborative, ecosystem-based planning to identify regional MPA priorities and needs**

Phase 3. Coordinated Implementation

- Existing programs implement MPA priorities
- Build partnerships to provide technical and other assistance
- Monitor effectiveness and adaptively manage

Developing the Framework

2005 - 2006

- The framework aims to include:
 - National vision, goals and objectives
 - Criteria for natural, cultural, and sustainable production MPAs
 - Flexible, collaborative regional planning process
 - Stakeholder involvement, governance and adaptive management
 - Support to participating sites and programs



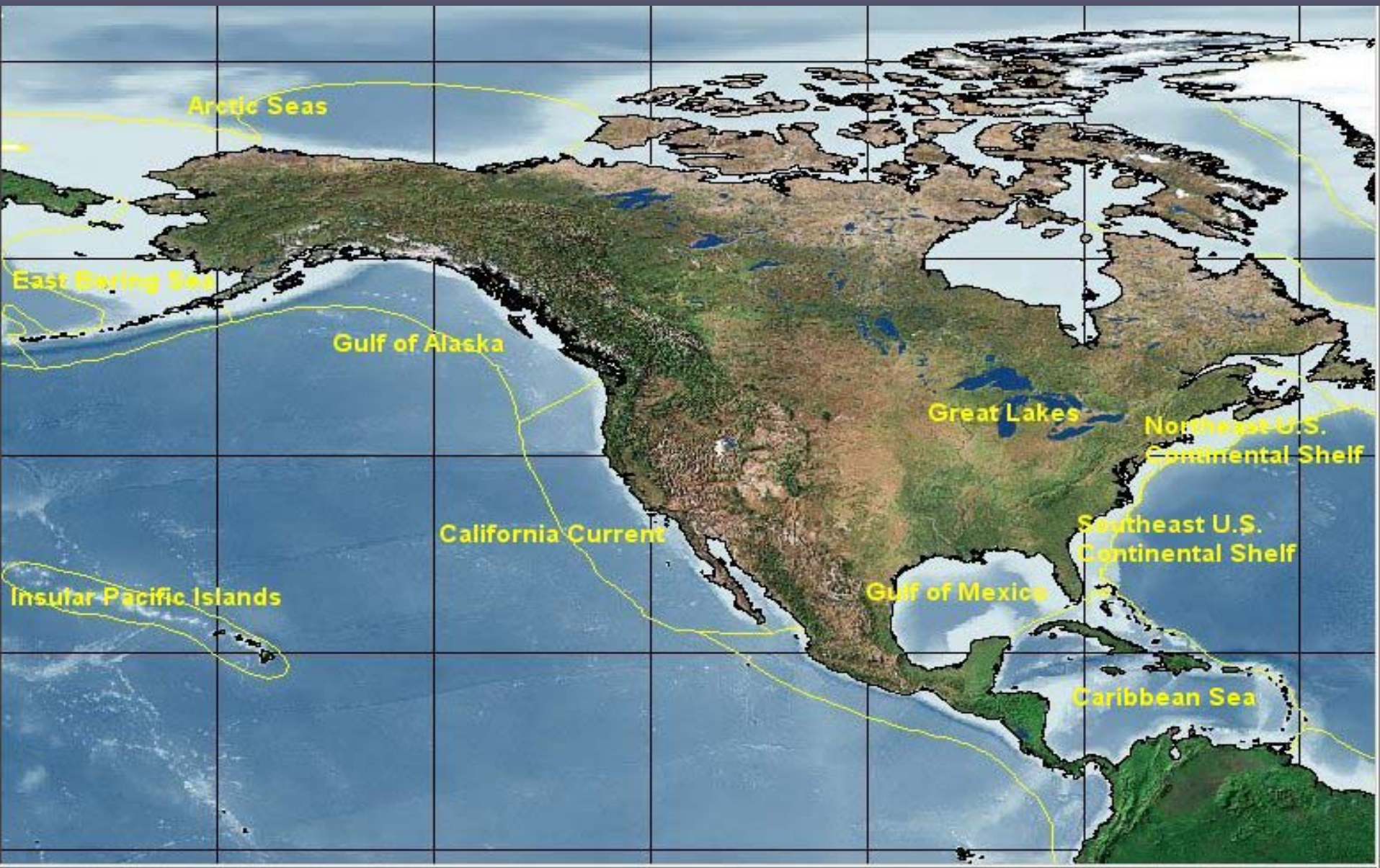
Photo courtesy of NOAA

Developing the Framework

2005 - 2006

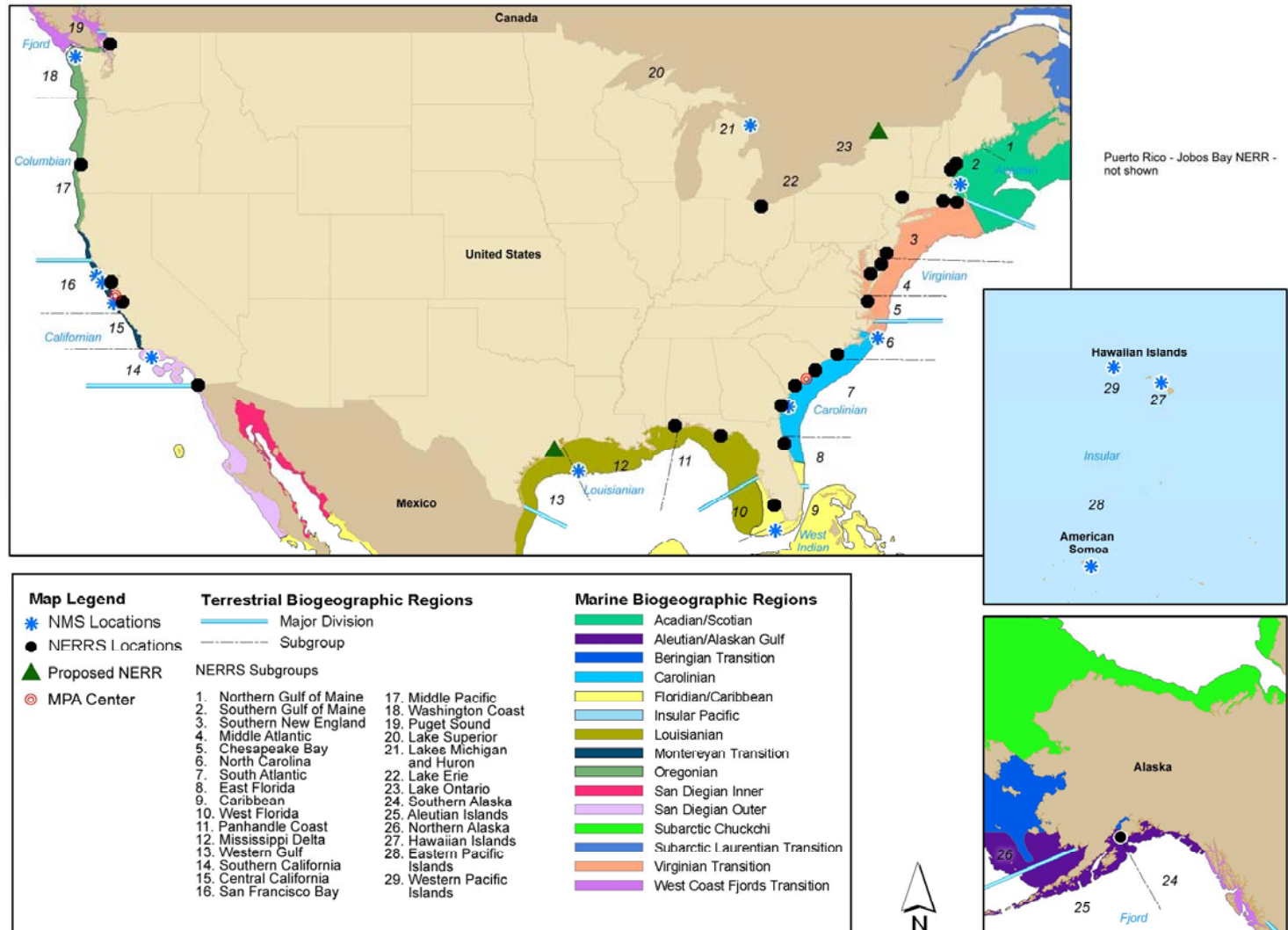
- Gathering significant input to build the framework:
 - MPA Federal Advisory Committee
 - Regional Public Dialogues
 - New England – May
 - Gulf of Mexico – July
 - Others - tbd
 - State Advisory Group & Workshops
 - Federal Workshop, Agency Meetings
 - Federal Interagency Working Group
 - Other experiences and linkages (e.g., international)
 - Draft framework to be published in the *Federal Register* for formal comment





Biogeographic Regions and Subregions

Locations of National Estuarine Research Reserves, National Marine Protected Areas Centers, and National Marine Sanctuaries



Benefits of a Effective 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 Effective National System of MPAs

To management and operational agencies:

- Offers a forum to coordinate ecosystem-based 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)

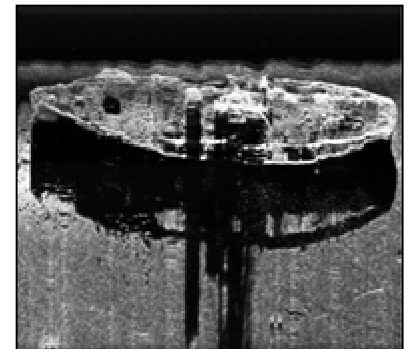


Photo courtesy of NOAA

Benefits of a Effective 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

Summary

- Coordinated, science-based process
- Multi-year effort to define and plan
- Benefits to resources, agencies, stakeholders, and nation
- Your ongoing input is needed to define the vision, scope and function

More Info?

<http://mpa.gov>

Questions?

mpa.comments@noaa.gov



Natural Heritage



**Sustainable
Production**



Cultural Heritage

Three Types of National System MPAs