

# mpa connections

A publication of the National Marine Protected Areas Center



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## Charter Members of National System of Marine Protected Areas Announced



NOAA Administrator Jane Lubchenco poses with "Sherman's Lagoon" creator Jim Toomey and the poster he created for the new National System of MPAs.

On Earth Day, April 22, the MPA Center, along with the Department of the Interior announced the admission of 225 existing federal, state and territorial MPAs into the National System of Marine Protected Areas. Dr. Jane Lubchenco, Under Secretary of Commerce for Oceans and Atmosphere and NOAA Administrator, and Will Shafroth, Acting Deputy Assistant Secretary of Interior for Fish, Wildlife and Parks attended the ceremony and provided opening remarks. Additional national system partners were represented by Melissa Miller-Henson (California) and Dr. Susan Langley (Maryland). Dr. Mark Hixon represented the MPA Federal Advisory Committee, and Dr. Anthony Chatwin, a member of the

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*MPA Connections* was first published by the National Marine Protected Areas Center in October 2002. The newsletter is available electronically and distributed via listserv. Issues are archived on [http://mpa.gov/information\\_tools/newsletters.html](http://mpa.gov/information_tools/newsletters.html). To subscribe, send an email to the editor, [Kara.Schwenke@noaa.gov](mailto:Kara.Schwenke@noaa.gov).



From Left to Right: Mark Hixon, Joe Uravitch, Jim Toomey, Jane Lubchenco, Will Shafroth and Anthony Chatwin pose at the announcement ceremony for the 225 charter members of the National System of MPAs.

Advisory Committee and Director of Coastal and Marine Conservation at the National Fish and Wildlife Foundation (NFWF), announced a new MPA fund at NFWF to support national system implementation. Jim Toomey, creator and author of Sherman's Lagoon, unveiled the MPA Center's new national system poster.

The charter group is comprised of MPAs from state, territorial, federal and federal/state partnership agencies in 28 states, plus additional offshore areas under federal jurisdiction. All 21 of the national system's priority conservation objectives, identified in the Framework for the National System of Marine Protected Areas of the United States, are addressed. Both fully protected (no-take) and multiple use MPAs are included in the charter group. This group of MPAs will be the focus of initial cooperative efforts to address common resource management challenges, and has been placed on the official List of National System MPAs, available on [www.mpa.gov](http://www.mpa.gov). The second round of nominations will be due in October 2009.

#### **Charter MPAs at a Glance:**

- The charter national system contains 225 sites and covers an area of 183,000 square miles
- 10% of U.S. waters (0-200 nautical miles) is covered by the national system sites
- About 25% of the total area of all national system sites is considered fully protected (no-take), due to the large, highly protected Papahānaumokuākea Marine National Monument
- Approximately 22% of all national system sites contribute to all three national system goals
- Almost all (94%) of the national system sites have a primary conservation focus on conserving natural heritage
- The west coast, California in particular, has the highest number of sites in the national system
- 54% of national system sites are managed by Federal agencies, while 41% are managed by state agencies. The remainder are managed by federal/state partnerships or territories.

For additional information on the National System of Marine Protected Areas, visit [www.mpa.gov](http://www.mpa.gov)

## **Upcoming Events and Conferences**

### July 2009

28-30: Central California Ocean Uses Atlas Workshop; Monterey, CA; [http://mpa.gov/science\\_analysis/atlas.html](http://mpa.gov/science_analysis/atlas.html)

### September 2009

9-11: MPA Federal Advisory Committee Meeting; Anchorage, AK; [http://mpa.gov/mpafac/mpafac\\_meetings.html](http://mpa.gov/mpafac/mpafac_meetings.html)

14-16: 3rd International Conference on Estuaries & Coasts; Sendai, Japan; [donko.civil.tohoku.ac.jp/icec2009/index.html](http://donko.civil.tohoku.ac.jp/icec2009/index.html)

### November 2009

1-5: 2009 Conference of the Coastal & Estuarine Research Foundation; Portland, OR; [www.erf.org/cerf2009/](http://www.erf.org/cerf2009/)

\*Events and conferences listed above are not necessarily events that NOAA or the MPA Center will be sponsoring and/or participating in.

## Successful International Marine Conservation Congress/International Marine Protected Area Congress 2 Held



Matt Dozier from the Office of National Marine Sanctuaries and Kara Schwenke from the MPA Center staff the NOAA booth at the IMCC.

From May 17-24, over 1,200 scientists, educators and MPA practitioners from around the world attended the combined International Marine Conservation Congress (IMCC)/ International Marine

Protected Areas Congress 2 (IMPAC2) at George Mason University in Virginia. Featured plenary speakers included Drs. Sylvia Earle, Daniel Pauly, Rod Fujita and Callum Roberts, among others. The IMPAC2 component, co-chaired by Elizabeth Moore (NOAA's Office of National Marine Sanctuaries) and MPA Center Director Joe Uravitch, featured a pre-conference "MPA U" series of training sessions, an "MPAs as Muse" program featuring visual and performing artists inspired by the sea, as well as a broad series of highly attended symposia, workshops and poster sessions. On May 23, a ceremony was held at the MPA reception, in which leadership for the IMPAC series was passed from the Australians to the U.S. to the French, who will host IMPAC3 in Marseilles in 2013.

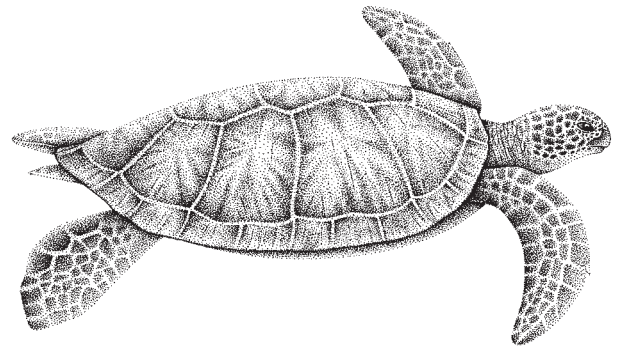
As a result of the number of sessions and meetings, the IMCC is believed to be the largest marine conservation conference ever held. A pdf of the conference program can be found at <http://www2.cedarcrest.edu/imcc/index.html>.



MPA Center Joe Uravitch and NOAA's Office of National Marine Sanctuaries Elizabeth Moore and Dan Basta pose with French and Australian Delegates at the IMPAC2 MPA Reception.

## Update on the National System Nomination Process

The next national system nominations will be due to the MPA Center on October 2, 2009. By August 1, the latest news regarding the nomination process will be posted at [www.mpa.gov](http://www.mpa.gov), including a list of eligible sites, an electronic copy of the nomination package, dates to remember, and other important information. Any updates regarding timing of the nomination process will be posted on the homepage of [www.mpa.gov](http://www.mpa.gov), as well as the National System page ([http://mpa.gov/national\\_system/nominating\\_mpas.html](http://mpa.gov/national_system/nominating_mpas.html)). If you have any additional questions, please contact [Lauren.Wenzel@noaa.gov](mailto:Lauren.Wenzel@noaa.gov).



## Did You Know...

The MPA Center has completed or is developing databases to support the consensus-based development, implementation, and evaluation of the National System of MPAs?

These databases are intended to inform public and private ecosystem-based management, marine spatial planning, operational planning, ocean zoning, and regional ocean governance activities. While differing in scale and emphasis, all these processes focus fundamentally on managing human use patterns within specific natural marine areas in the hopes of achieving certain ecological and/or societal objectives.

For more information on the use databases, visit <http://mpa.gov/pdf/helpful-resources/useofdatabasejan09.pdf>

## Update on the Marine Protected Areas Federal Advisory Committee



Jane Lubchenco and Will Shafroth address the MPA Federal Advisory Committee

The MPA Federal Advisory Committee (FAC) met in Annapolis, Maryland on April 21-23 to adopt recommendations on principles for conducting the national system gap analysis, and ways to enhance ecological resilience to climate change and other human impacts to the marine environment as part of the national system gap analysis. The meeting featured a presentation on NOAA's Next Generation Strategic Plan, given by Paul Doremus of NOAA's Office of Program, Planning, and Integration, along with a presentation focusing on a global perspective on MPAs, given by Dr. Dan Lafolley from the World Commission on Protected Areas. Additionally, an expert panel discussed options for evaluation of the national system.

On April 22, Under Secretary of Commerce for Oceans and Atmosphere and NOAA Administrator Jane Lubchenco and Will Shafroth, Acting Deputy Assistant Secretary of Interior for Fish, Wildlife and Parks, spoke to the FAC about their agency's perspectives on ocean conservation and management. Immediately following those remarks, Committee members, invited guests, and members of the public attended a ceremony to announce the first sites accepted into the national system.

Recommendations developed at the April meeting were transmitted to the Departments of Commerce (DOC) and Interior (DOI) on April 30th. The recommendations are intended to assist both DOC and DOI with developing an effective National System of MPAs. A copy of the recommendations, along with all other FAC products, can be found on [www.mpa.gov](http://www.mpa.gov).

The FAC is made up of diverse stakeholders who advise the Departments of Commerce and the Interior on the development and implementation of the National System of MPAs. The next FAC meeting is scheduled for September 9-11 in Anchorage, AK. For questions about the MPA FAC, contact [Lauren.Wenzel@noaa.gov](mailto:Lauren.Wenzel@noaa.gov), or visit [www.mpa.gov/mpafac/fac.html](http://www.mpa.gov/mpafac/fac.html).

## MPA Center's Dr. Charlie Wahle Featured in Washington Post Article on Marine Spatial Planning



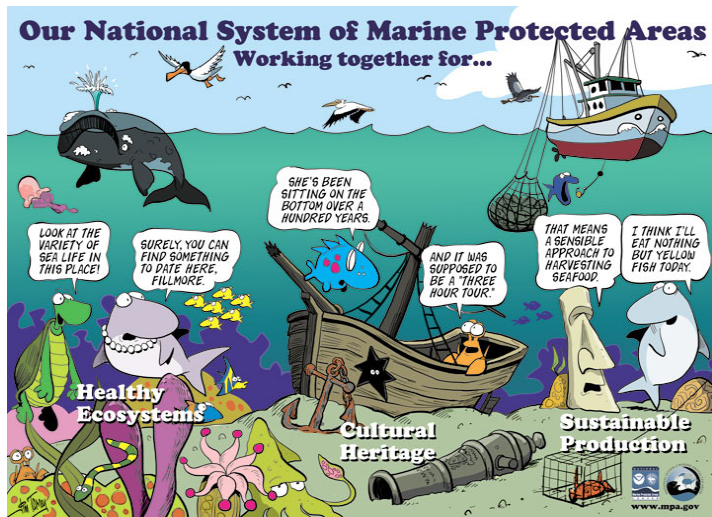
Dr. Charles Wahle, Senior Scientist for the MPA Center, was quoted in a story appearing in the May 4th publication of The Washington Post. The story, "Finding Space for All in Our Crowded Seas," focused on marine spatial planning, and the scientific and political issues that can arise with ocean zoning. The story cited several ocean zoning efforts, and referred to the MPA Center's Ocean Uses Atlas project as a "convening [of] experts in California to chart how groups including kayakers, the Coast Guard and fishermen use waters off the state's coast." Dr. Wahle was quoted as saying that workshop participants have been "willing to engage and share their information." The story also featured a quote from NOAA Administrator Dr. Jane Lubchenco, as well as several other ocean stakeholders. To view the article, visit

<http://www.washingtonpost.com/wp-dyn/content/article/2009/05/03/AR2009050301930.html>. For more information on the MPA Center's Ocean Uses Atlas project, visit [www.mpa.gov](http://www.mpa.gov), or contact [Charles.Wahle@noaa.gov](mailto:Charles.Wahle@noaa.gov).



**Ocean Uses Atlas Information now on [www.mpa.gov](http://www.mpa.gov)!**  
[http://mpa.gov/science\\_analysis/atlas.html](http://mpa.gov/science_analysis/atlas.html)

## Jim Toomey Partners with MPA Center on National System Poster



Somewhere in a lagoon near the fictional Kapupu Island in the North Pacific, a great white shark named Sherman is planning his next meal. And, thanks to the healthy and sustainable marine environment he calls home, Sherman has a delicious variety from which to choose.

Sherman, his wife Megan, and an assortment of his other marine friends and foes are all characters in "Sherman's Lagoon" - a nationally and globally syndicated comic strip created by cartoonist Jim Toomey.

Toomey recently lent his pen to help promote the National System of MPAs. Working with staff from the MPA Center, Toomey created the National System Sherman's Lagoon Poster, an engaging cartoon highlighting the system's three goals: natural heritage, cultural heritage, and sustainable production.

According to Toomey, the cartoon - which runs in more than 150 newspapers each day - features a "dimwitted shark named Sherman, his sea turtle sidekick, and an assortment of other coral reef critters who team up to battle the encroachment of civilization on their remote tropical paradise."

Because Sherman's Lagoon is such a widely recognized cartoon, the National System Sherman's Lagoon poster will appeal to audiences of all ages, as well as to those who may not be familiar with the MPA Center and the national system. Copies of the poster will be mailed out as part of an information welcome kit to all members of the national system, as well as distributed at MPA Center outreach events and conferences.

For more information on Sherman's Lagoon, visit <http://www.slagoon.com/>

## New MPA Center Staff

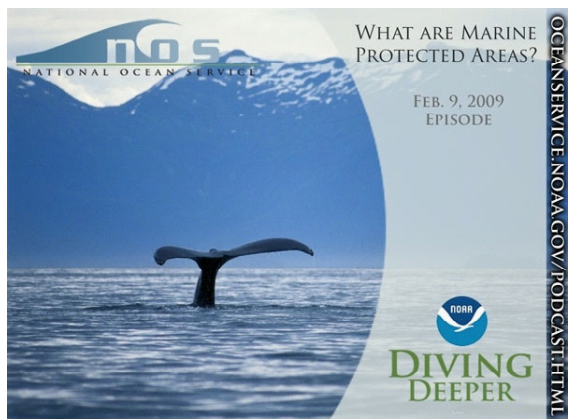
The MPA Center would like to welcome several new staff members, visiting scientists, graduate students and interns to its team! New staff includes:

- Nicholas Hayden, the new Ocean Uses Atlas GIS Specialist working in the MPA Center's Monterey, CA office on GIS and analytical support for the Ocean Uses Atlas Project. (Nicholas.Hayden@noaa.gov)
- Jae Kwan Chung, an International Fellow who is visiting with the MPA Center in Silver Spring, MD through July as a part of NOAA's Joint Partnership Agreement with the Republic of Korea. (JaeKwan.Chung@noaa.gov)
- Aline Kech, International Graduate Intern from France, who is stationed in the Monterey office through mid-July and is working on an ecological profile of MPAs in the national system.
- Julia Townsend was an intern from the Monterey Institute of International Studies who is now working on the International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN) classification of MPAs in the Monterey office. (Julia.Townsend@noaa.gov)
- Damon Denson, the MPA Center's new web developer, is working in the MPA Center office in Silver Spring, MD. Damon is working on redesigning [www.mpa.gov](http://www.mpa.gov) to better reflect the current work of the MPA Center. (Damon.Denson@noaa.gov)
- Abigail (Abby) Gray, Program Analyst for the MPA Center's Silver Spring, MD office. Abby is assisting the Center with national system policy work, as well as supporting the MPA FAC. (Abigail.Gray@noaa.gov)
- Jacqueline (Jackie) Sommers, new Administrative Assistant for the Monterey, CA office. Jackie is filling much needed role, providing administrative support for the MPA Center's west coast staff and projects. (Jacqueline.Sommers@noaa.gov)
- Mark Rasmussen, a recent graduate of the University of Vermont, is assisting the Silver Spring office with national system communication products. (Mark.Rasmussen@noaa.gov)



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## New Multimedia Products on MPAs from the MPA Center

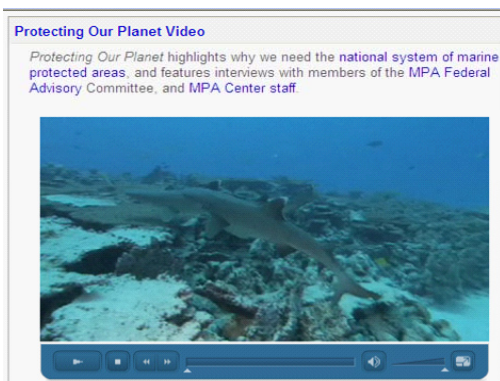


The MPA Center has recently worked on several new multimedia outreach products and is excited to make these products publicly available.

The first product, an audio podcast on “What are Marine Protected Areas?”, is part of a continuing podcast series produced by the National Ocean Service (NOS). The series, entitled *Diving Deeper*, is a bi-weekly audio podcast featuring discussions with NOS scientists on a wide variety of ocean topics. The episode focusing on MPAs featured an interview with MPA Center Director, Joe Uravitch, on what marine protected areas are, where they are located, and why they are important. The podcast, which originally aired in February, is archived on the NOS website, and will soon be posted on [www.mpa.gov](http://www.mpa.gov). To listen to the podcast, visit <http://oceanservice.noaa.gov/podcast/feb09/dd020909.mp3>. To access other Diving Deeper episodes, visit <http://oceanservice.noaa.gov/podcast.html>.

Additionally, the MPA Center recently worked with NOAA's Ocean Media Center to produce a short video on marine protected areas and the need for a national system. The video features interviews with members of the MPA Federal Advisory Committee, as well as MPA Center staff. The video is currently available to view on the homepage of [www.mpa.gov](http://www.mpa.gov), and will soon be posted on the NOS website (<http://oceanservice.noaa.gov/>).

Over the next several months, the MPA Center will be working on additional media outreach products. Keep checking [www.mpa.gov](http://www.mpa.gov) for the latest information on national system outreach.



Questions? Contact [Kara.Schwenke@noaa.gov](mailto:Kara.Schwenke@noaa.gov).

## MPA Center Holds First National System Partners Retreat

On June 2 and 3, the MPA Center held the first National System of MPAs Partners Retreat at the Aspen Wye River Conference Center in Queenstown, MD. Representatives from federal (National Wildlife Refuges, National Parks, National Marine Sanctuaries and the National Estuarine Research Reserves), and state and territorial (American Samoa, California, Florida, Hawaii, Maryland, Massachusetts, New Jersey, Virginia and Washington), MPA programs met to share information about their capabilities and needs. Specific objectives were to: 1) identify priorities for near term focus of the national system; 2) identify specific actions to address those priorities; 3) identify key opportunities for collaboration with other coastal and ocean initiatives, and; 4) identify interim measures for national system coordination and communication.

The meeting began with MPA Center Director Joe Uravitch providing a brief overview of the development of the national system, including the Framework, the MPA Federal Advisory Committee, and the MPA Center's stakeholder engagement efforts over the last several years. Charlie Wahle, MPA Center Senior Scientist, and Mimi D'Iorio, MPA Center GIS and Database Manager, presented on the MPA Center's scientific and mapping capabilities, and Kara Schwenke, MPA Center Communications Coordinator, gave an overview on the Center's outreach and education initiatives. Following the presentation by the MPA Center, state, Federal, territorial, and tribal representatives gave a brief summary on their MPA programs, focusing on their capabilities and needs. After the programmatic presentations, participants separated into breakout groups and were asked to identify key issues important to their MPA program and opportunities for action by the national system. The three breakout groups focused on: MPA Management, including stewardship and enforcement; MPA Outreach and Education; and MPA Science and Analysis. Key issues and actions identified in the breakout group discussions will help guide the MPA Center in identifying thematic and regional priorities for the next 1-3 years, and will identify key opportunities for collaboration with other coastal and ocean initiatives.

The partners retreat wasn't just attended by current national system partners, however. Prospective and future MPA partners attended the retreat as well, including representatives from the National Marine Fisheries Service, Mid Atlantic Fishery Management Council, Northwest Indian Tribes, Oregon, and cultural MPA programs. Discussions with these programs allowed the MPA Center to identify ways to increase outreach to these sites before the next national system nomination period starts later this year.

## Recent Additions to the MPA Virtual Library

**A new publication in the Marine Sanctuaries Conservation Series describes a multi-year study begun in June 2006 of the recovery of seafloor microhabitats and associated benthic fauna inside and outside two new Essential Fish Habitat (EFH) closures within the Cordell Bank and Gulf of the Farallones National Marine Sanctuaries.**

De Marignac, J. et al., "A Comparison of Seafloor Habitats and Associated Benthic Fauna in Areas Open and Closed to Bottom Trawling Along the Central California Continental Shelf". Silver Spring, MD: NOAA Office of National Marine Sanctuaries, March 2009.

[http://sanctuaries.noaa.gov/science/conservation/pdfs/benthic\\_trawling.pdf](http://sanctuaries.noaa.gov/science/conservation/pdfs/benthic_trawling.pdf)

**A final technical report from Counterpart International for a project designed to strengthen linkages between marine protected areas, conservation staff, and those supporting formation of new MPAs in the Dominican Republic, encourages established MPAs and those in the process of being formed to use a more participatory multi-stakeholder and community-based approach for reducing threats to reefs.**

Hicks, Christine, "Promoting a Multi-Stakeholder Network to Develop and Implement a Comprehensive and Effective National MPA Strategy in the Dominican Republic". Arlington, VA: Counterpart International, Tourism and Conservation Department, 2008.

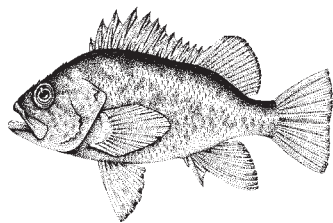
[http://data.nodc.noaa.gov/coris/library/NOAA/CRCP/project/1395/CRCP\\_ID\\_1395-06\\_Hicks\\_ComprehensiveAndEffectiveNationalMPAStrategy.pdf](http://data.nodc.noaa.gov/coris/library/NOAA/CRCP/project/1395/CRCP_ID_1395-06_Hicks_ComprehensiveAndEffectiveNationalMPAStrategy.pdf)

**A new conference proceedings publication from the International Collective in Support of Fishworkers (ICSF) contains a prospectus of an India MPA Workshop dealing with social dimensions of MPA implementation in India and fishing communities' perspectives.**

International Collective in Support of Fishworkers, "The India MPA Workshop Proceedings: Social Dimensions of Marine Protected Area Implementation in India: Do Fishing Communities Benefit? 21-22 January 2009 IMAGE Auditorium, Chennai, India". Chennai, India: International Collective in Support of Fishworkers, 2009.

[http://icsf.net/icsf2006/uploads/publications/proceeding/pdf/english/issue\\_101/ALL.pdf](http://icsf.net/icsf2006/uploads/publications/proceeding/pdf/english/issue_101/ALL.pdf)

The **mission of the National Marine Protected Areas Center** is to facilitate the effective use of science, technology, training, and information in the planning, management, and evaluation of the nation's system of marine protected areas.



*MPA Connections* was launched to meet continuing calls by agency and external stakeholders for information about MPA Center activities and to feature other actions that address Executive Order 13158 goals.

The next issue of *MPA Connections* will be published in Winter 2009/10. Comments, suggestions and news items can be sent to the editor, [Kara.Schwenke@noaa.gov](mailto:Kara.Schwenke@noaa.gov).

### MPA Center Science and Stewardship (A continuing series from the MPA Center)

**Results of Ocean Uses Atlas Workshop Presented to California MPA Regional Stakeholder Group:** On March 3, Dr. Charles Wahle summarized the results of the Southern California Ocean Uses Atlas workshop to California's South Coast Regional Stakeholder Group; a group of 30 members appointed by California's Marine Life Protection Act Initiative (MLPAI) to help California improve the design and management of the south coast portion of a statewide network of MPAs. Dr. Wahle spoke about the southern California Ocean Uses Atlas workshop, held September 16-18, 2008 in Costa Mesa, California. Spatial data and maps created at the workshop are currently being used by the MLPA process to inform ongoing management and policy decisions among federal and state agencies in California, but also have broader ocean management applications. For additional information, contact Charles. [Wahle@noaa.gov](mailto:Wahle@noaa.gov).