



# National Park Service Marine Protected Areas

West Coast Regional MPA  
Government Partners Meeting  
Monterey, CA 2006

# National Park Service Mission



“Promote and regulate the use of ...national parks... to conserve the scenery and the natural and historic objects and wild life therein and to provide for the enjoyment of the same in such manner and by such means as will leave them unimpaired for the enjoyment of future generations.”

# 74 Ocean Parks in the National Park System



- ✔ 141,600 km<sup>2</sup> of prime coastal habitats
- ✔ 8,200 km of shoreline
- ✔ 40 parks include 12,950 km<sup>2</sup> of ocean and submerged lands adjacent to park watersheds
- ✔ 26 States & Territories—diverse land and seascapes
- ✔ 77 million visits hosted in 2004



# West Coast Ocean Parks



- ▼ Olympic National Park, WA
- ▼ Redwood National & State Parks, CA
- ▼ Point Reyes National Seashore, CA
- ▼ Golden Gate National Recreation Area, CA
- ▼ Channel Islands National Park
- ▼ Cabrillo National Monument, CA



# GMPs, Ocean Action Plan, Seamless System of Protected Areas



- ✓ All parks have management plans
- ✓ NPS Ocean Action Plan
  - Adaptive management—I&M, reserve performance evaluation, fishery management
  - Watershed assessments
  - Increase capacity for ocean exploration
  - Seamless system of protected areas—partnerships

# National Park Monitoring Organization



- ✓ 32 Networks of parks with shared features
- ✓ Establish shared, quasi-independent, monitoring program with CEO & Board of Directors
- ✓ Provide technical critical mass (~25% of network needs) initially to foster cooperation and collaboration



# Vital Signs Monitoring Networks



# Monitoring Integrated With Park Operations



- ✓ Vital Signs Monitoring part of stewardship program—Natural Resource Challenge
- ✓ Integrated with Learning Centers, Ecological Restoration Teams, CESUs
- ✓ Began with resource inventories
- ✓ Phased in budget increase of \$78 M over 6 years (\$48 M monitoring)



# Indicators Selected for Monitoring by West Coast National Parks



## ▼ Southern California

- Kelp Forest
- Park Visitors
- Pinnipeds
- Rocky Intertidal Communities
- Sand Beaches
- Sea Birds
- Weather & Climate

## ▼ San Francisco Bay

- Invasive Plants
- Marine Water Quality
- Park Visitors
- Pinnipeds
- Rocky Intertidal Communities
- Weather & Climate
- Western Snowy Plover

# CEC Sister Marine Protected Areas



- ✓ San Francisco-Monterey—14 sites
  - 5 National Wildlife Refuges
  - 4 National Parks
  - 3 National Marine Sanctuaries
  - 2 National Estuarine Research Reserves
- ✓ Southern California—10 sites
  - 5 National Wildlife Refuges
  - 3 National Parks
  - 1 National Marine Sanctuary
  - 1 National Estuarine Research Reserve



# Seamless System of MPAs

- ✓ Coop Agreement Parks & Sanctuaries 2000-2006
  - Focus on Law Enforcement, Education & Monitoring
- ✓ Expand to include FWS Refuges & Estuarine Research Reserves—August 2006 ceremony
- ✓ Exploration of field-based cooperative programs and headquarters resolution of administrative hurdles to cooperation