

# THE NORTH AMERICAN MARINE PROTECTED AREAS NETWORK (NAMPAN)

[www.mpa.gov](http://www.mpa.gov)

The **North American Marine Protected Areas Network (NAMPAN)** was catalyzed by a tri-national, multi-disciplinary workshop in November 1999 with support from the Commission for Environmental Cooperation in North America's Conservation of Biodiversity Program. The goal of NAMPAN is to work with a tri-national, multi-sectoral group of stakeholders in establishing an effective system of North American MPA networks that enhances and strengthens the protection of marine biodiversity.

## The NAMPAN Project seeks to:

- Enhance collaboration among the three countries to address common challenges inherent in the protection of marine biodiversity and jointly prioritize conservation actions
- Develop effective conservation approaches and cross-cutting conservation initiatives that help conserve critical marine and coastal habitats and North American biodiversity, and recognize ecological, economic, social, and cultural issues
- Build regional, national, and international capacity to manage, conserve, and monitor the status of critical marine and coastal habitats by sharing effective conservation approaches, lessons learned, new technologies and management strategies, as well as by increasing access to and synthesis of relevant information
- Facilitate the strategic design and establishment of a global system of MPAs throughout North America and the world, as called for by IUCN (World Conservation Union)

The Commission for Environmental Cooperation (CEC) is an international organization created by Canada, Mexico and the United States under the North American Agreement on Environmental Cooperation. The CEC was established to address regional environmental concerns, help prevent potential trade and environmental conflicts, and to promote the effective enforcement of environmental law. The Agreement complements the environmental provisions of the North American Free Trade Agreement (NAFTA).

## ACCOMPLISHMENTS AND WORKS IN PROGRESS

The NAMPAN partnership has produced several technical products and conducted technical workshops and symposia, including:



Marine Priority Conservation Areas: Baja California to the Bering Sea (2005)

- *Institutional Options for Integrated Management of a North American Marine Protected Areas Network* (2002)
- *Sustainable Whale Watching Practices for the B2B* (2002)
- *North American MPA Practitioners Exchange* (2002)
- *A North American Blue Print for Marine Species of Common Conservation Concern* (2003)
- *North American Action Plan Framework* (2004)

NOAA's National Marine Protected Areas (MPA) Center's mission 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. The MPA Center works in partnership with federal, state, tribal, and local governments and stakeholders to develop a science-based, comprehensive national system of MPAs. These collaborative efforts will lead to a more efficient, effective use of MPAs now and in the future to conserve and sustain the nation's vital marine resources.



- North American Conservation Action Plan for Marine Species of Common Conservation Concern:
  - Humpback Whale (2005)
  - Leatherback Sea Turtle (2005)
  - Pink-Footed Shearwater (2005)
  - Vaquita (2008)

- Priority Conservation Areas: Baja California to the Bering Sea (2005)

- A Blueprint for Conservation from Baja to the Bering Sea (map of priority conservation areas) (2005)

- North American MPA Network Symposium on Financing and Economic Benefits of MPAs (2005)

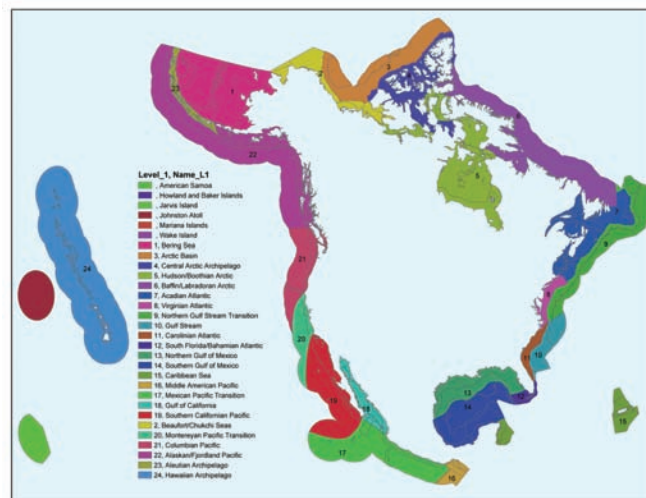
- An Inventory of MPA Inclusive Monitoring Programs for the Baja to Bering (2006)

- Ecological Scorecard Framework for MPAs in the B2B Region (2007)

- Marine Ecological Regions of North America (2007) (maps and book in printing)

- A prototype Condition Report for Marine Protected Areas in the Baja to Bering Region (2008)

- A map of marine and terrestrial protected areas of North America (2008, planned in cooperation with the CEC's Ecological Information Program)



Marine Ecological Regions of North America (publication in 2008)

In 2007, work completed under NAMPAN was cited as a “Key Accomplishment” in collaboration on management planning for shared marine resources in a joint statement issued by President Bush, Canadian Prime Minister Harper, and Mexican President Calderón at their Security and Prosperity Partnership meeting in Montebello, Canada.

## FUTURE WORK

The tri-national partnership met in October 2008 to determine future actions including: identifying the Olympic Peninsula as the location of where to conduct a Spring 2009 workshop to expand the NAMPAN “Baja to Bering” condition report process; selecting the extended Atlantic coast (Yucatan to Labrador) for Ministerial approval as the next priority region for NAMPAN project focus; and ways to better integrate NAMPAN activities into country agencies to provide a long term structure for NAMPAN project operation.

## FOR MORE INFORMATION

### NAMPAN National Steering Committee and CEC Representatives

**Canada:** Douglas Yurick, Chief, Marine Coordination Park Establishment Branch, Parks Canada (Doug\_Yurick@pch.gc.ca)

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