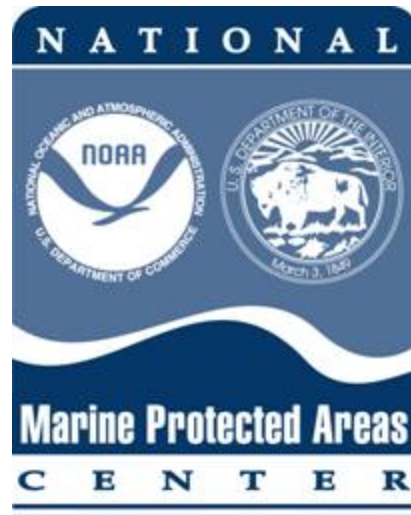# The Draft Framework for Developing the National System of MPAs
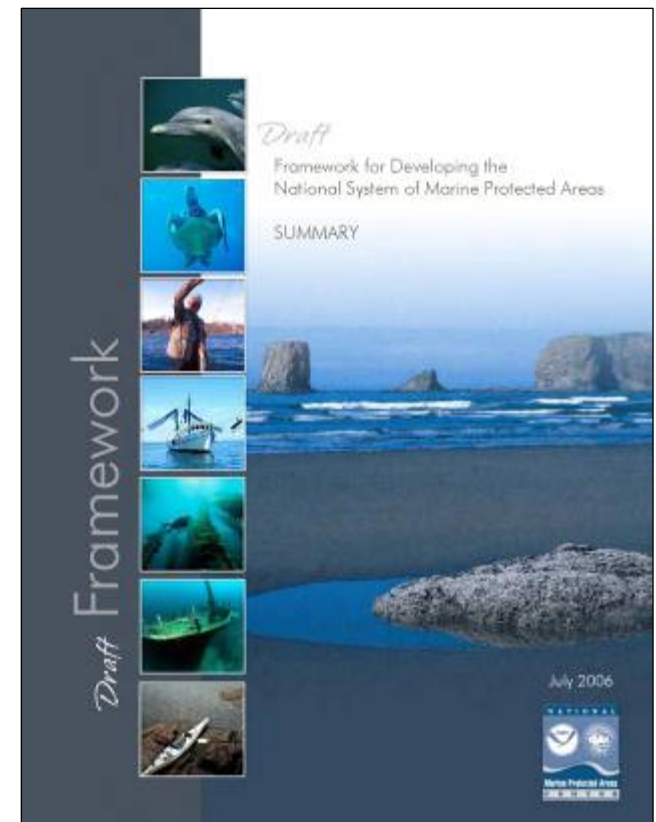

Jonathan Kelsey, National MPA Center
MPA Federal Advisory Committee Meeting, Fall 2006
Newport, Oregon

www.MPA.gov

Since We Last Met…A Brief Update

- NOAA and DOI approve the draft Framework

- Secretaries of Commerce and the Interior co-sign transmittal letter to coastal Governors and Tribal Leaders.

- Draft Framework 145-day comment period announced in *Federal Register* on Sept. 22, 2006, *(ends Feb. 14, 2007)*

- Document widely distributed via mail and e-mail; electronic copies available on MPA.gov

Draft
Framework for Developing the
National System of Marine Protected Areas

SUMMARY

Draft Framework

July 2006

A *Proposed* Roadmap
for National System Development

A common sense approach for MPA programs, partners, and stakeholders to work together to better use MPAs to conserve and sustain marine resources

- Input from MPAFAC, governments, & other stakeholders

- Adaptive and flexible

- *Partnership driven* to support existing efforts and improve future decisions through collaboration/cooperation

- States, Territories, Tribes and federal agencies are FULL partners.

- Promotes ecosystem and regional approaches, while maintaining a national outlook

- *Inclusive:* recognizes valuable contributions from the nation's many sites and program

What's in the Draft Framework?

General guidance for governments and stakeholders to work together to develop the National System

- Comprehensive themes
  - *Natural heritage*
  - *Cultural heritage*
  - *Sustainable production*

- National System Goals and Objectives
  - *Goal 1. Advance comprehensive conservation and management of the Nation's marine natural and cultural heritage, and sustainable production marine resources through ecosystem-based MPA approaches.*

  - *Goal 2. Promote sound stewardship and improve the effectiveness of the National System.*

  - *Goal 3. Enhance effective coordination and integration among the National System and within the broader ecosystem management context.*

National System MPA Criteria

1.) MPA definition criteria

- *Area, marine environment, reserved, lasting, and protection*
- *Definitions are virtually the same as those for MMA, except…*
  - *Lasting…"established with the intent at the time designation to provide permanent protection"*

2.) Additional criteria

- *Site or program must contribute to at least one national system objective*
- *Managing agency(ies) must give approval to participate*
- *Cultural resource criteria from National Register of Historic Places*

Proposed MPA Criteria
Reasoning and Implications

Reasoning: National patterns in marine managed area protection

- Most offer year-round protection
- Most have a Natural Heritage conservation focus
- Most target broad ecosystem-wide protection
- Most allow multiple human uses including fishing
- Use varies widely by regions and state
- *Most provide permanent protection*

Implications: MPA Criteria are <u>inclusive</u>

- Under proposed criteria, may be over 1500 'potentially eligible' MPAs
- Most established after 1970 by state agencies
- Most of the largest sites are federal sites
- Many provide overlapping protections
- Many partners…even more opportunities to work together

How do MPAs and Programs Partner in the National System?

- The MPA Center or MPA programs identify existing sites that meet the criteria (e.g., filter the MMA inventory)

- The MPA Center consults with agency to determine whether to nominate MPA sites or programs that meet criteria

- If yes, a brief 'nomination' form is filled out by MPA Center or agency and signed by a nominating agency representative

- The MPA Center publishes a list of nominated sites in the *Federal Register* for comment; forwards any comments received to nominating agency

- The nominating agency reviews comments & makes a final determination of whether or not to partner

- Approved sites are added to official List of MPAs

What happens next…??

What happens next is driven by national system partners and can be facilitated by the MPA Center …

- Participating MPA programs/sites in regions get together to share information, discuss issues, identify shared priority needs
  - **Technical assistance** *(e.g., GIS, boundaries, etc.)*
  - **Management assistance** *(e.g., training on developing man. plans)*
  - **Improve regional coordination** *(e.g., educ./outreach, regional forums)*
  - **Science needs** *(e.g., monitoring effectiveness, targeted research)*
  - **Gap analysis** *(e.g., identify areas needing enhanced or new protection)*

- Partners work together and with MPA Center to identify solutions, catalyze funds, and take action to address shared needs

Other Framework Components

- ## National System Steering Committee
  - Made up of regional and national state/tribe/fed representatives (need for input on design)
  - National forum for communicating regional needs
  - Helps set priority National System efforts and direction
  - Identifies international linkages

- ## Avoid Harm Guidance (E.O. Section 5)
  - Pertains to federal agency actions that affect resources protected by MPAs on the List of MPAs
  - Federal agencies use their existing authorities
  - Adds an 'MPA-specific lens' to agencies' evaluations of their actions under existing mandates.
  - Agencies must report on their efforts taken to 'avoid harm' an annual basis.

Tracking and Reporting

- Federal agency annual reports
  - Efforts to implement the E.O.

- Biennial "State of the National System of MPAs" report

- National System Plan/Priorities
  - National and regional MPA goals/objectives
  - Areas and resources identified as future conservation priorities
  - Stewardship and Coordination priorities

National System Benefits

- <u>Highlights</u> and <u>supports</u> MPA efforts of federal, state, and tribal governments and regional institutions

- More effective use of MPAs via opportunities to plan and work together across jurisdictions: *ecosystem approach to management*

- Promotes government coordination for efficient use of resources

- Improves public access to information and participation

Framework:
Draft → Final → Implementation

- Fall/Winter 2006/07: Draft framework outreach: partner & stakeholder meetings, disseminate materials, etc. *(comment period ends Feb. 14)*

- Spring 2007: Revise Framework and develop response to comments

- Late 2007: NOAA and DOI publish Final Framework; MPA Center and MPA programs identify existing MPAs and begin consultations re: nomination to national system

- 2008: Begin facilitating regional implementation of Nat. Sys. with participating sites and other partners *(e.g., identify shared needs)*

Questions?

A National System of MPAs, working together to conserve the nation's…

*Natural
Heritage,*

*Sustainable Production,
and*

*Cultural
Heritage.*

Cultural Resource Definition

- Cultural resource - A tangible entity that is valued by or significantly representative of a culture, or that contains significant information about a culture. Cultural resources for purposes of the MPA Executive Order are tangible entities at least 50 years in age that reflect the nation's maritime history and traditional cultural connections to the sea, such as archaeological sites, historic structures, shipwrecks, artifacts, and traditional cultural properties.

  Cultural resources are categorized as districts, sites, buildings, structures, and objects for the National Register of Historic Places, and as archaeological resources, cultural landscapes, structures, and ethnographic resources for MPA management purposes.

National Historic Register Criteria

» Age: To qualify, the age of the protected cultural resource must be at least 50 years of age, unless otherwise determined to be unique to the nation's maritime history or traditional connections to the sea as defined by the National Register Criteria for Evaluation (NRCE).

» b. Significance and Context: A cultural resource must represent a significant part of the history, architecture, archaeology, engineering, or culture of an area, and it must have the characteristics that make it a representative example of resources associated with that aspect of the past. The resource must be associated with one or more important historic contexts, as defined by the NRCE. Historic contexts are historical patterns that can be identified through consideration of the history of the resource and the history of the surrounding area. In addition, the historic context of a cultural resource must be relevant on a regional or national geographic scale (i.e., resources must be significant to the history of the state, region, or nation as a whole).

» c. Integrity: A cultural resource's physical features must have the ability to convey its significance by retaining the identity for which it is significant.