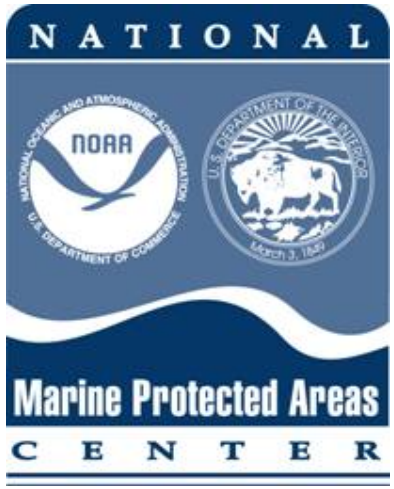
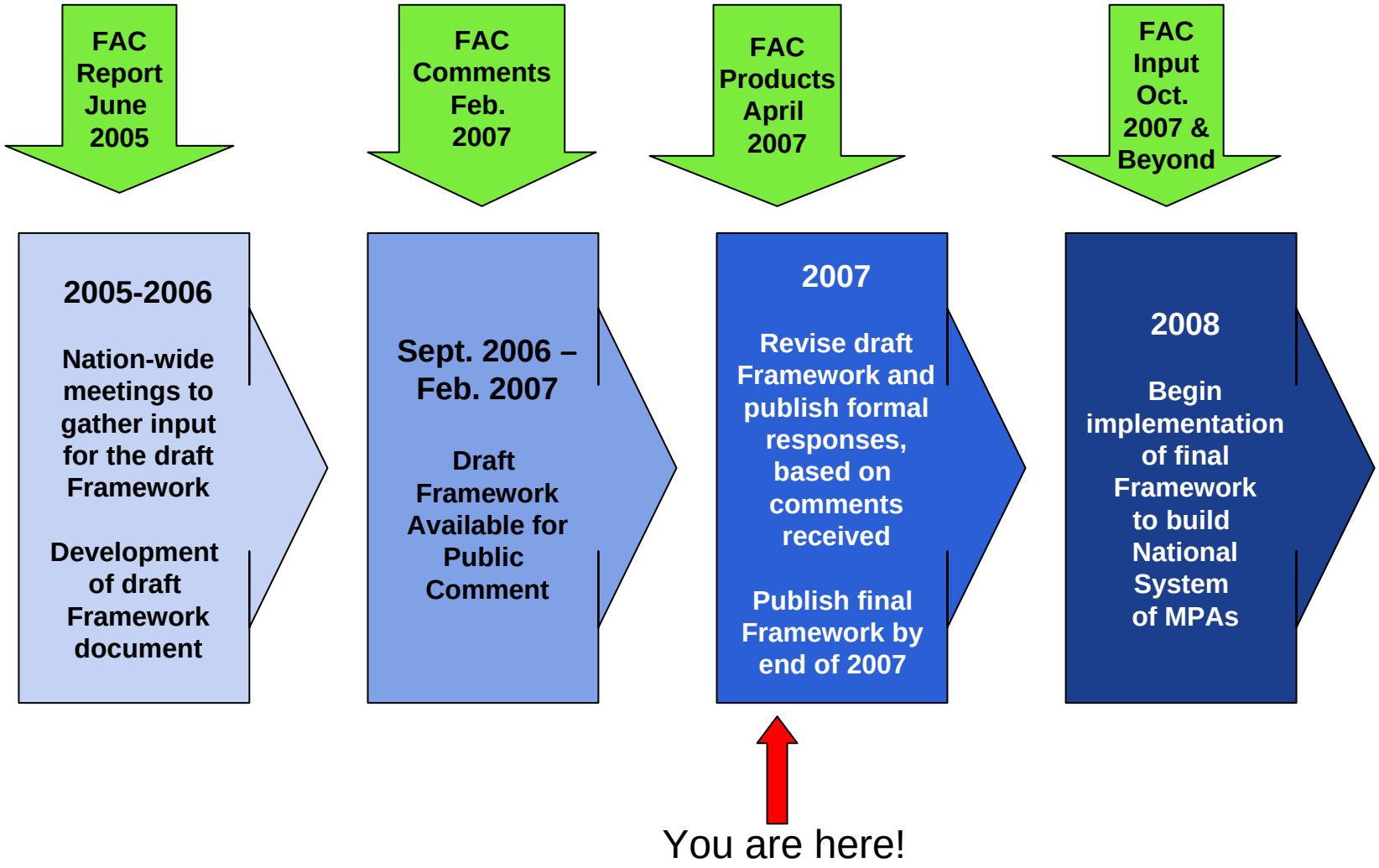
Draft MPA Framework Comments and Committee Charge



Jonathan Kelsey, National MPA Center

Meeting of the Marine Protected Areas Federal Advisory Committee
April 24, 2007 ~ Arlington, Virginia

Framework: Where are we now?



Draft Framework Comments

- Five month comment period ended *Feb. 28, 2007*

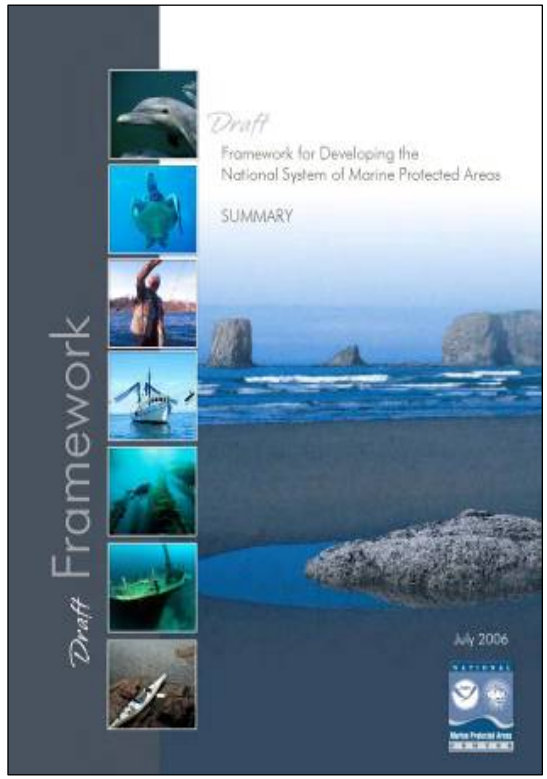
- 102 individual comments (>11,000 emails) from:
  - *State and tribal governments*
  - *Conservation and industry organizations*
  - *Private individuals*
  - *Commercial and rec fishers/industry*
  - *FAC and members*
  - *Fishery councils and commissions*
  - *Academia*
  - *Other*

Comment Overview

- Comments were received on nearly every aspect of the framework
  - E.g., goals, definitions, nomination process, state/tribal roles, avoid harm, monitoring, etc.
  - Some commenters simply noted that ‘MPAs are unwanted in their backyard’
- Represent the full range of possible perspectives on the framework and national system
  - Not needed → good as proposed → needs improvement
- Preliminarily identified some big picture issues for reconsideration

Big Picture Issues

- Scope of the system
  - attempting to achieve all encompassing goals/objectives, all at once
  - little to no prioritization
- Size of the system
  - large number of sites could render ineffective
  - Inclusiveness is, however, important
- Stronger emphasis on identifying and filling gaps (new areas) in addition to existing sites
- Better process for identifying and providing priority support to participating MPAs



Potential Solutions to Explore

A set of potential solutions that could <u>work in concert</u> together to address these big picture issues:

- **Prioritize system conservation objectives & work iteratively over time**
  - System starts small and grows over time as capacity allows
  - Focuses on highest priorities first – existing sites and gaps
  - Adaptively reassess and prioritize

- **Management criteria to serve as a filter for sites entering the system, <u>OR</u> a way to assess assistance needed by MPAs once in the system**
  - Better outline a process and set priorities for assistance to MPAs in the system
  - Useful as entry or assessment criteria for improving management of MPAs in the system

- **A set user-friendly of categories within the system based on general conservation purpose and level of protection**
  - Groups like sites together to better communicate and understand what the national system is accomplishing and where there are gaps
  - Allows for a diversity of sites to make up the system

FAC Input to Address Issues of Size and Scope of National System

Product 1(a-c). A prioritized list of phased national system conservation objectives for each conservation goal:

a. Natural Heritage
b. Cultural Heritage
c. Sustainable Production

E.g., Sustainable production:

1. *Conserve spawning aggregations of commercially important species*

…..

5. Conserve unique habitats

Product 2. A list of MPA management criteria that could be used as either:

a. Entry criteria for the national system, or
b. Evaluative criteria for identifying priority technical assistance needed by MPAs that have been added to the system

E.g.,

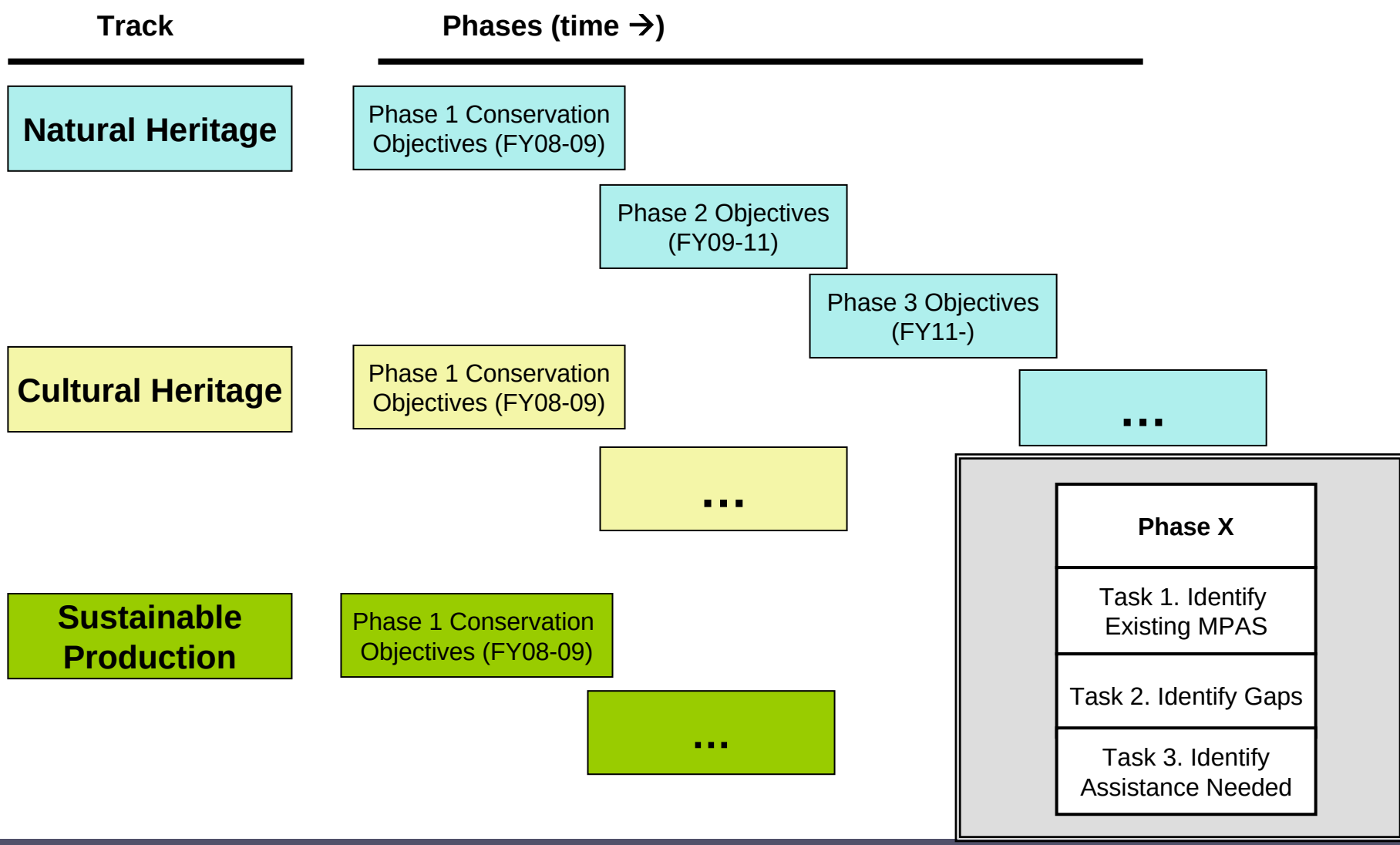
- *Site has a management plan*
- *Site has a monitoring program*
- *Site has mechanism for stakeholder input*

Product 3. A set of MPA categories based on MPA purpose and level of protection to use for grouping within the National System

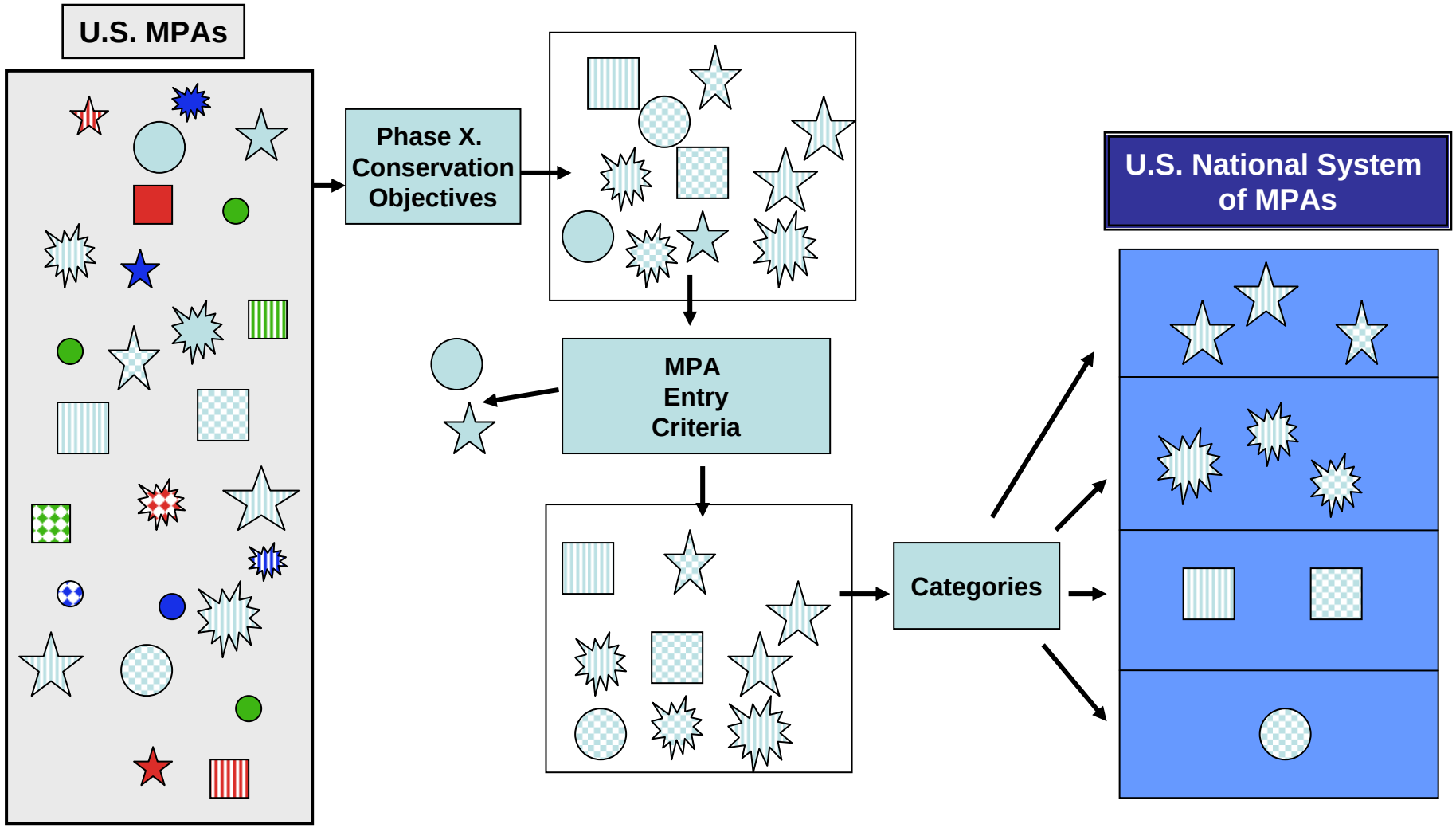
E.g.,

- *Marine Heritage Area*
- *Marine Heritage Reserve*
- *Sustainable Production Area*
- *Marine Cultural Preserve*

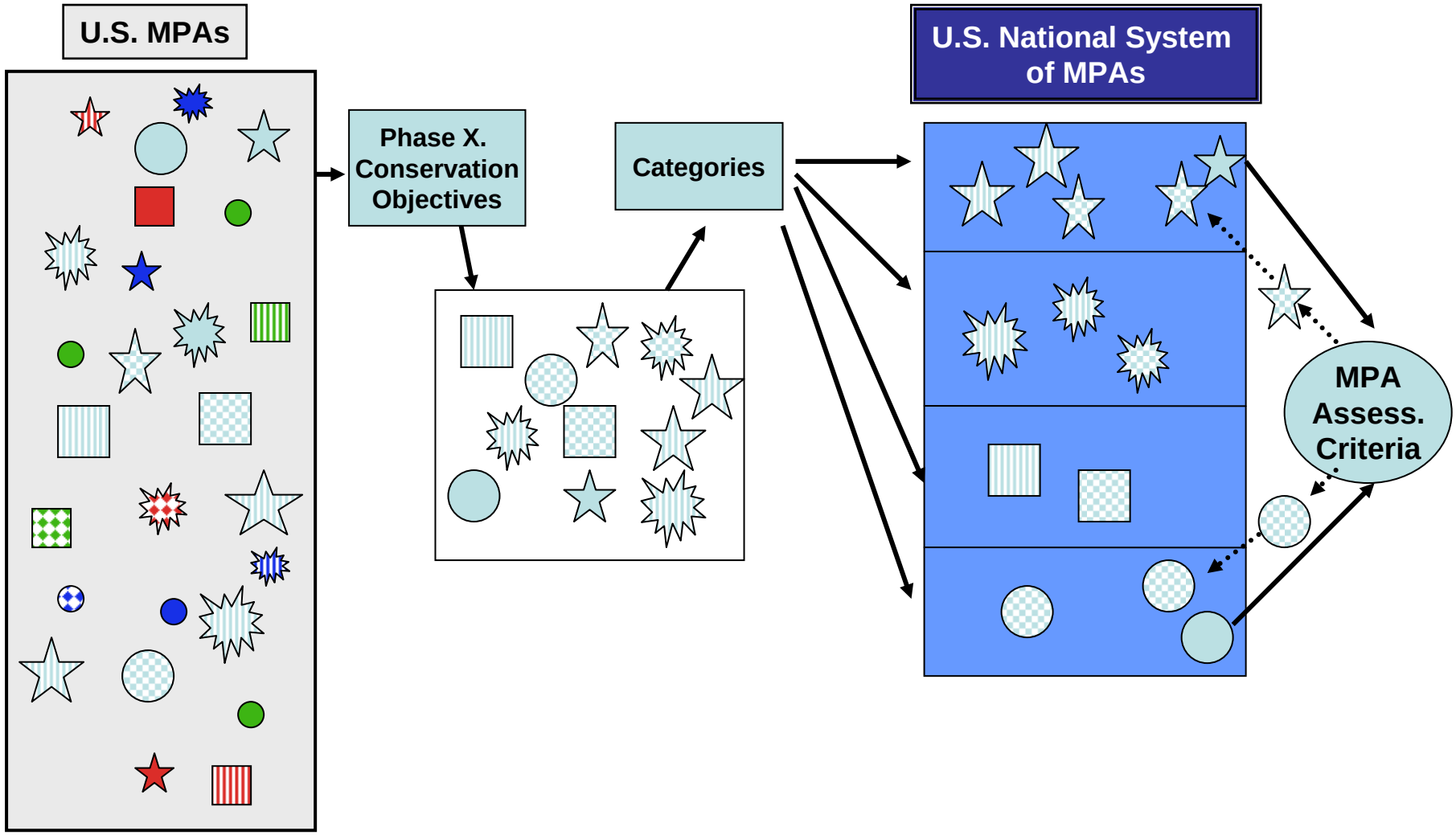
Building the National System: Phased Implementation of Priority Conservation Objectives



How the Subcommittee Products Would Be Used (w/ entry criteria)



How the Subcommittee Products Would Be Used (w/o entry criteria)



Questions?

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

Natural Heritage,

Sustainable Production, and

Cultural Heritage.

Framework: Draft → Final → Implementation

- Spring/Summer 2007: Revise Framework and develop response to comments
- Late 2007: NOAA and DOI publish Final Framework MPA Center
- Early 2008: MPA Center and MPA programs begin to identify existing, eligible MPAs and consult regarding nomination to national system

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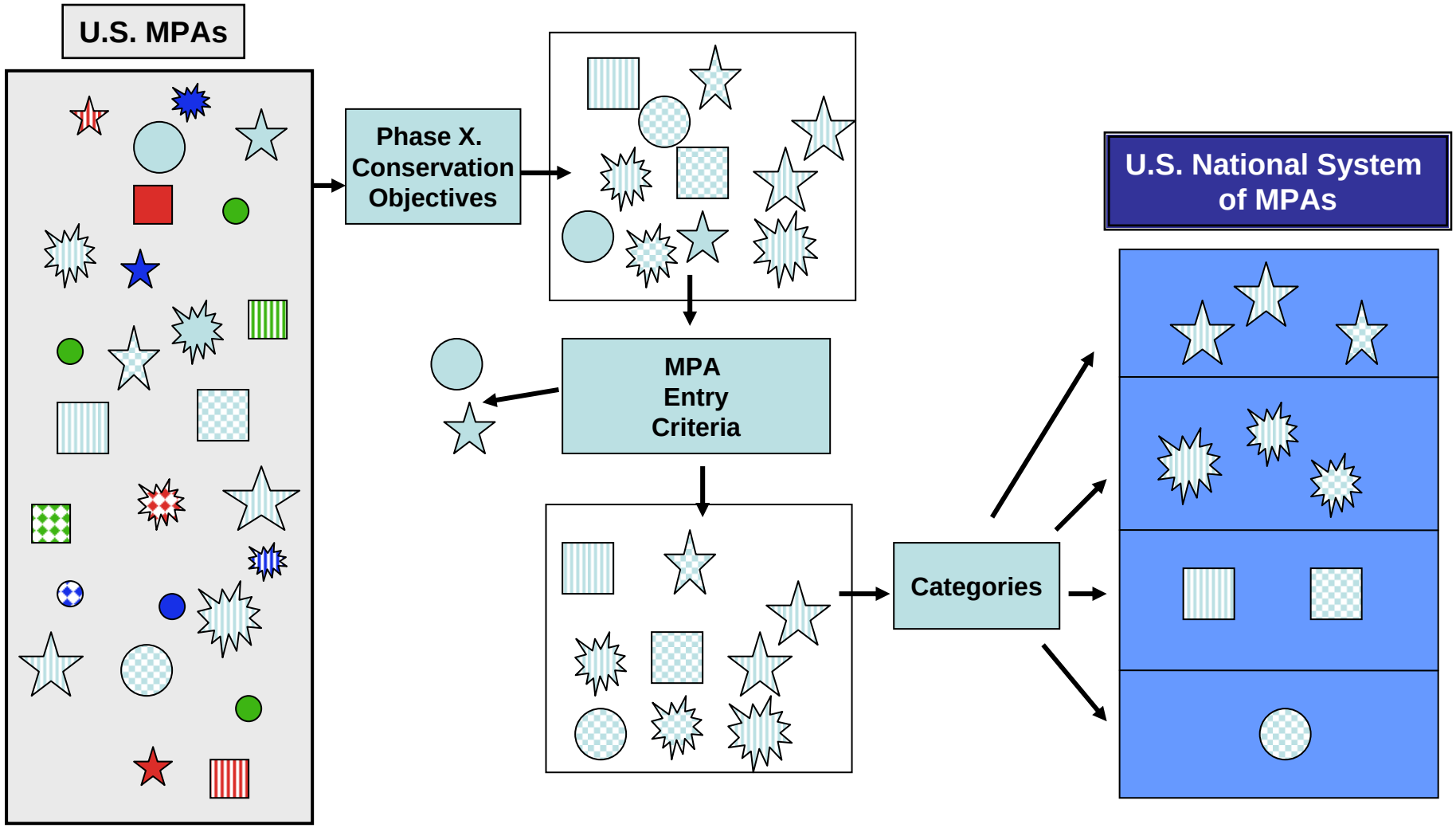

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