

MINUTES
Marine Protected Areas Federal Advisory Committee Meeting
August 16, 2011
Meeting via WebEx and Conference Call

The meeting convened at 1:00pm EST.

Meeting called to order by Acting Designated Federal Official Lauren Wenzel and opened by Committee Chair, Eugenio Piñeiro-Soler. MPA Center Staff Member Denise Ellis-Hibbett took the roll call and established that there was a quorum present. The Chair reviewed the meeting goals and Ms. Wenzel reviewed the agenda. Coastal and Marine Spatial Planning (CMSP) Subcommittee Chair Russell Moll then gave a recap of the process of drafting the white paper on Marine Protected Areas and CMSP to date.

Dr. Moll thanked the Subcommittee members and writing team – Bruce Tackett, Joe Schumacker, Priscilla Brooks and Karen Garrison, as well as Julia Townsend for staffing. The purpose of the paper was to address the charge received from the Department of Commerce and the Department of the Interior (DOI) focused on the following questions:

1. What role should the National System of Marine Protected Areas play within the broader CMSP initiative?
2. What steps are needed to ensure that conservation is sufficiently addressed within regional coastal and marine spatial plans?
3. How can NOAA and DOI build on the spatial data decision support tools and conservation planning processes used to develop the national system of MPAs to inform CMSP?

Dr. Moll noted that the CMSP Subcommittee's writing team received many useful comments (approximately 500) from Committee members during the review process for this first draft. The writing team leads considered all comments carefully and did their best to accommodate all comments received recognizing that some were in opposition to each other.

Dr. Moll and Ms. Wenzel facilitated a discussion of the CMSP white paper by content section beginning with general comments and moving on to the executive summary and sections A-G. The floor was opened for general comments.

GENERAL COMMENTS

Jesus Ruiz appreciated the detailed information in the Executive Summary, but thought it should be shortened to one page total. David Wallace expressed his concern that the document does not address the charge and focuses on the role of CMSP as a conservation tool, rather than as a tool for resolving conflicts among multiple users. He also expressed concern about the paper's support for the creation of new National Marine Sanctuaries. Gary Kania asked for conservation to be defined in the document and that sustainable human use be included as part of the definition of conservation. Karen Garrison agreed that the definition of conservation includes protection, preservation and sustainable use.

Sarah Robinson commented about the overall structure of the paper. She suggested that it be organized around the three questions of the charge to better present the Committee's recommendations. Jesus Ruiz recommended that the boundaries between the Executive Summary and the rest of the paper be more clearly delineated.

COMMENTS BY SECTION

Executive Summary – Dr. Moll explained that the reason for the lengthy executive summary was to include all of the paper's recommendations up front. Karen Garrison offered to help shorten the Executive Summary and noted that Gary Davis had offered a one page alternative in the previous round of comments that captures most of the main ideas. Michelle Ridgway cautioned against condensing the Executive Summary too much and losing some important ideas.

Sections A&B – Dr. Moll introduced the main authors of these sections: Karen Garrison and Priscilla Brooks. Ms. Garrison explained that the language on the "role of the National System" was taken from a letter previously produced by the FAC. Other sections refer to items in the CMSP Strategic Action Plan content outline, being developed by the federal agencies as part of the National Ocean Policy. While the white paper does recommend the identification of biologically important areas, it does not recommend protection of most of them or set specific numeric targets. Dr. Robinson highlighted the need for more integration of the discussion of the "best available spatial information" on p.8. She recommended that the paper speak explicitly to the need for developing additional human use information. Bruce Tackett agreed that there is a lack of information on human use and on the impacts of ocean uses and management decisions on communities. He noted that the question of when there is enough information to make a good decision is a perennial issue. The Committee discussed other data related issues, decided to recommend that agencies prioritize and collect data as resources are available.

SECTIONS C&D – Joe Schumacker introduced this section which he worked on with Bruce Tackett with input from Hans Radke and Bob Wargo. The intent was to capture the interests of coastal communities in coastal and marine spatial planning and conservation. Mr. Tackett stated that the writers used the definition of CMSP as it appears in policy papers from the National Ocean Council. The writers also wanted to provide linkages to Committee's earlier work on evaluation. Jesus Ruiz asked that the term "non-consumptive" be replaced with the term "non-extractive" on p.15, lines 12-13 and wherever it appears in the document. Gary Kania highlighted several places where the term "fishers" is used in the paper to include recreational and commercial fishing as distinct from conservation interests. He suggested that recreational fishing is a conservation interest and that the paper should reflect this.

SECTIONS E & F – Dr. Robinson suggested that the discussion of decision support tools be expanded and noted that one of the recommendations listed in Section F actually applied to Section E. David Blazer asked for more background on the Cultural Landscape Approach described on p.24. Joe Schumacker noted that the idea was suggested by the Cultural Heritage Resources Working Group (CHRWG), and offered to provide additional context about the Cultural Landscape Approach. Victor Mastone spoke on behalf of the CHRWG and noted that the Cultural Landscape Approach is viewed as a tool, and should not be separated from the broader discussion of decision support tools. The Committee agreed that Sections E&F be combined.

Karen Garrison suggested that with adaptive management there will be a need for additional information on both ecological characteristics and human uses. Sarah Robinson suggested that the paper note gaps in social science data to inform both MPAs and CMSP.

Lauren Wenzel asked the group how close to consensus they were. There was discussion among the members about of the degree to which fishing should be characterized as a conservation interest. Jesus Ruiz, Gary Kania and the Dave Wallace all provided input to be considered in revisions by the writing team. Alvin Osterback presented the example of Alaskan fisheries which are well managed and healthy and reminded everyone that users in all sectors vary widely. Bruce Tackett acknowledged the time that has gone into the drafting of this paper and expressed his concern that making any large changes could upset the balance of the paper that the writing team worked so hard to attain. He reminded the group that the perfect can be the enemy of the good. Hans Radke cautioned the group against getting into the definitional issues of conservation. He pointed out that it is in the best interest of all user groups to be sustainable long term.

Sarah Robinson reiterated her suggestion that the paper be re-organized into three sections corresponding to the sections of charge, which would make it easier to read and better convey the Committee's intent. Members of the writing team agreed.

Joe Schumacker presented some late tribal input regarding tribal treaty rights. The Committee was generally receptive, but asked the writing team to review the suggested edits to ascertain whether there were any legal issues of concern and to determine whether the input was germane to meeting the Committee's charge and was a good fit for this paper.

The Committee discussed the length of the document with some members suggesting it is too long. While several members agreed that a shorter paper was desirable, others noted that it was difficult to cover such a complex subject in a shorter paper. The Committee agreed that a substantial rewrite in the time available was not feasible. Lauren Wenzel asked if it is feasible to get all changes made in two days, and the writing team agreed this was doable. Julia Townsend asked that any late comments from last round be resent to the writing team for this round.

Lauren Wenzel gave a recap of the meeting and comments received during the call as well as next steps. Key changes agreed to by the Committee were:

- Revision / shortening of Executive Summary
- Revisit language on recreational fishing and commercial fishing and conservation (use language on page 1 of the Executive Summary lines 18-19 as a model)
- New headers on document to correspond to three questions in DOC and DOI charge to the MPA FAC (and rewriting of language on page 5; lines 22-26)
- Improved integration of language on scientific data and information (particularly human use information); also note need for more social science and ecological science to inform CMSP
- Combining Sections E (tools) and F (cultural landscape approach), as the cultural landscape approach is a type of tool (and provide context about cultural landscape approach as a tool)

- Edits suggested by tribal reviewers (upon review by writing team)
- Format paper so Executive Summary and other sections are clearly distinguished

The Committee was asked to provide any additional comments by August 17th to provide any additional comments to Subcommittee Staff Member Julia Townsend. The white paper leads (Karen Garrison, Priscilla Brooks, Joe Schumacker and Bruce Tackett) along with Subcommittee Vice Chair David Blazer agreed to provide a new draft out to the Committee by Friday, August 19th. The FAC's next meeting is Tuesday, August 23rd to clarify any outstanding issues with and then vote on the final paper.

The Committee adjourned at 3:00pm EST.

Committee members present:

Mr. Eugenio Piñero-Soler, Chair
 Ms. Lori Arguelles, Vice Chair
 Dr. Russ Moll, CMSP Subcommittee, Chair
 Mr. David Blazer, CMSP Subcommittee, Vice Chair
 Dr. Priscilla Brooks, CMSP Subcommittee, Writing Team
 Ms. Karen Garrison, CMSP Subcommittee, Writing Team
 Mr. Bruce A. Tackett, CMSP Subcommittee, Writing Team
 Mr. Joe Schumacker*, CMSP Subcommittee, Writing Team
 Mr. Rick Gaffney
 Mr. George Geiger
 Dr. David Hyrenbach
 Mr. Gary Kania
 Mr. Victor Mastone*
 Mr. Alvin Osterback
 Dr. Robert Pomeroy
 Dr. Hans Radtke
 Ms. Michelle Ridgway
 Dr. Sarah Robinson
 Mr. Jesús Ruiz*
 Mr. David H. Wallace

*Also a member of the Cultural Heritage Resources Workgroup.

Ex Officio Federal Representatives and Other Federal Staff present:

Dr. Steven Jameson, NOAA, Program Planning and Integration
 Dr. Brian Jordan, Bureau of Ocean, Energy and Mineral Resources
 Mr. Rick Swanson, USDA/US Forest Service
 Mr. Bret Wolfe, US Fish and Wildlife Service
 Ms. Heather Sagar, National Marine Fisheries Service

NOAA National Marine Protected Areas Center staff:

Ms. Lauren Wenzel, Acting Director/Acting Designated Federal Official
 Dr. Valerie Grussing, Cultural Resources Coordinator
 Ms. Julia Townsend, CMSP Subcommittee Staff, Program Analyst
 Dr. Robert Brock, Marine Biologist
 Ms. Denise Ellis-Hibbett, Knauss Sea Grant Fellow