

NATIONAL SYSTEM OF MARINE PROTECTED AREAS

MPA PARTNERSHIP GRANTS

www.mpa.gov

The national system of marine protected areas was established in April 2009 to enhance protection of the nation's natural and cultural heritage resources by improving marine protected areas (MPA) stewardship and coordination and working with MPA managers and stakeholders to identify conservation gaps and future priorities.

ABOUT THE MPA PARTNERSHIP GRANTS

The National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration and the Department of the Interior have formed a partnership with the National Fish and Wildlife Foundation to establish **MPA Partnership Grants** to support coordination and stewardship among members of the National System of Marine Protected Areas. The National System includes existing MPAs across all levels of government that meet eligibility criteria and nominate themselves through a public process. There are currently 297 sites from 30 states and territories represented in the national system, plus additional offshore areas under federal jurisdiction. Non-federal agencies and organizations can apply for support from the grants for the following priorities:

Stewardship Projects as Part of a Regional/Sub-Regional MPA Plan: For MPAs and MPA programs that have already established regional or sub-regional coordination mechanisms, MPA plans and/or implementation priorities (e.g. through the Seamless Network initiative, Regional Ocean Councils, or other mechanisms), funds may be directed toward specific stewardship projects that have already been identified as a regional priority.

Development of a Regional/Sub-Regional MPA Plan: For MPAs and MPA programs that have not yet established regional or sub-regional coordination mechanisms, MPA plans and/or implementation priorities, funds may be directed toward a workshop or meeting to establish such plans and priorities.

Meeting National System Eligibility Criteria: For MPAs and MPA programs that do not meet the eligibility criteria for the national system of MPAs, funds may be directed toward a partnership with an existing national system partner to conduct activities to meet eligibility criteria (e.g. development of MPA management plans).

ELIGIBILITY

All persons, organizations, and agencies (excluding U.S. Federal Government) working on projects to enhance MPA stewardship among members of the national system of MPAs are eligible. Applicants may include non-governmental organizations, but must include at least two agencies responsible for MPA management. Federal agencies may not receive funds, but may be listed as partners on an application.

TIMELINE

Pre-proposals for the second round of grant applications were due in November 2010. The first grant recipients were announced in June 2010 (see <http://www.mpa.gov/nationalsystem/effectiveness/partnershipgrants/> for project descriptions). Second round recipients were announced in June 2011 (see back for project description). All projects are funded for one year, and funds must be spent by May 2012.

FOR MORE INFORMATION:

Grant guidelines and format: visit www.nfwf.org, or contact Anthony.chatwin@nfwf.org
National System of MPAs: visit www.mpa.gov, or contact Lauren.wenzel@noaa.gov

continued on back

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.



2011 MPA PARTNERSHIP GRANT RECIPIENTS



Title: Channel Islands Chumash MPA Stewardship Education Project

Recipient: Wishtoyo Foundation

Amount: \$23,988

Activities: Educational activities to enhance MPA stewardship for K-12 youth and incorporation of cultural resource content into MPA education programs at Channel Islands National Marine Sanctuary and National Park.



Title: Optimizing Monitoring and Surveillance in MPAs

Recipient: Marine Conservation Institute

Amount: \$35,000

Activities: Workshop for multiple MPA agencies in Central California to identify enforcement and surveillance priorities and how these can be integrated with monitoring needs and community outreach strategies.



Title: Development of MPA Coordination Framework in the U.S. Virgin Islands

Recipient: The Nature Conservancy

Amount: \$30,075

Activities: Development of a shared MPA Framework document for five MPAs in the U.S. Virgin Islands to address improved management, evaluation and enforcement capacity across MPAs and islands.



Title: Phase II: Implementing the Gulf of Mexico Regional MPA Plan

Recipient: Friends of Rookery Bay, Inc.

Amount: \$35,000

Activities: Follow up on Spring 2011 workshop to implement components of a regional plan, including activities on coordination for emergency response; science and training related to climate change; outreach and education; and sustaining regional MPA coordination over the long term.



Title: Oyster Habitat in the Cape Romain Refuge

Recipient: South Carolina Department of Natural Resources

Amount: \$30,658

Activities: Oyster restoration to enhance shorebird habitat, shoreline protection and water quality. Project will be implemented by volunteers, helping build a stewardship ethic and expand education efforts at the refuge and nearby national estuarine research reserve.



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The National Fish and Wildlife Foundation (NFWF) is an independent 501(c)3 charity established by the United States Congress in 1984 to restore and enhance the nation's fish, wildlife, plants and habitats.