

MINUTES
Marine Protected Areas Federal Advisory Committee Meeting
April 24-26, 2007
National Science Foundation – Arlington, VA

TUESDAY, APRIL 24, 2007

The Committee convened at 8:38 AM

Meeting Opening

Lauren Wenzel, Designated Federal Official, opened the meeting and called the roll. Seventeen members were present. She then turned the meeting over to Chair Mark Hixon. Dr. Hixon asked if there were any corrections to the minutes for the October 2006 or February 2007 minutes. Hearing none, he asked for a motion to approve both sets of minutes. Dave Benton moved that the minutes be approved; Jim Ray seconded the motion. Both sets of minutes were approved. It was noted that the cover letter was part of the formal record of the February 2007 meeting.

Dr. Hixon reviewed the agenda. He commented that both he and Vice Chair Bob Zales appreciated the unanimous support they received from Committee members when elected in October, and expressed his intent to be “friendly, firm, patient, focused, neutral and fair,” as advised by Max Peterson. Dr. Hixon said that he would continue to seek consensus for the Committee’s recommendations, as has been done to date.

Dr. Hixon noted the need for a parliamentarian to serve the Committee in an advisory capacity on procedural issues. George Lapointe, who was not present, had agreed to serve in this capacity for future meetings. Max Peterson offered to serve as parliamentarian for the current meeting only. The Committee unanimously approved these nominations.

Dr. Hixon provided a preliminary outline of the ad hoc charge to the Committee and assignments to Ad Hoc Subcommittees.

Brian Melzian updated the Committee on recent activities related to the National Water Quality Monitoring Network, and provided summary materials for members.

Ms. Robin Brake, representing the U.S. Navy, introduced herself to the Committee.

Congressman Sam Farr

Congressman Sam Farr (CA) described the lack of coordination on ocean issues and conflicts in ocean governance that led to his decision to introduce H.R. 21, the Ocean Conservation, Education and National Strategy for the 21st Century Act, known as “Oceans 21.” The bill is based on the recommendations of the Pew Oceans Commission and the U.S. Commission

on Ocean Policy. He also described his involvement in the development of Executive Order 13158 on Marine Protected Areas, which authorized the National Marine Protected Areas Center and the Marine Protected Areas Federal Advisory Committee. H.R. 21 proposes a national and regional ocean governance structure to establish national policies and require coordination among all with jurisdiction over the ocean. Rep. Farr encouraged the Committee members to support the legislation. He also emphasized the need for additional funding for ocean science and management within the NOAA budget, but acknowledged that in the tight budget climate, all increases need a strong justification and an identified revenue source.

Rep. Farr answered questions from Committee members. He emphasized the growing importance of non-consumptive uses of the ocean as part of a sustainable development strategy, and the need to communicate the importance of marine conservation benefits to the decision-makers and the general public. He also commented on the need for additional science to support decision-making.

Julie Morris and Phil Taylor, National Science Foundation (NSF)

Julie Morris, Director of the NSF Division of Ocean Sciences, provided an overview of the NSF's support for ocean science and its applications to marine conservation. She emphasized that NSF has been funding research on ecosystem approaches to management (including MPAs) for over a decade. Dr. Morris discussed the importance of looking at marine systems in their entirety, at a variety of spatial scales. The recently completed Ocean Research Priorities Plan and Implementation Strategy outlines priorities for 25 federal agencies, and will provide a mechanism for interagency coordination. Dr. Morris also discussed the Comparative Analysis of Marine Ecosystem Organization (CAMEO), which will link integrated ecosystem assessments to research on how human and other pressures affect ecosystems. Dr. Hixon will serve on the CAMEO Steering Committee, and presently serves on the NSF Geosciences Directorate FAC.

Phil Taylor discussed population connectivity and how coastal circulation can affect the dispersal of early life stages of marine populations. MPAs can be used as part of studies to understand marine populations at different spatial scales. Dr. Morris and Dr. Taylor answered questions from Committee members, noting that MPAs can play an important role in ocean research in helping to understand the impacts of different management alternatives on populations of marine species.

FAC and Public Comments on Draft Framework and Next Steps

Joseph Uravitch acknowledged the hard work of Jonathan Kelsey in developing the draft Framework, and thanked the Committee for their substantive comments on the document. He noted that the Committee's recommendations at this meeting would help shape the final Framework due for completion at the end of 2007. Jonathan Kelsey then gave a presentation on the public comments received on the Draft Framework, and the ad hoc charge to the Committee for this meeting. The Committee was asked to

address questions about the scope and size of the National System in order to help NOAA and DOI address these critical issues within the final Framework.

Mr. Kelsey described the input being sought from the Committee, and the ways in which it could be used in implementing the National System. Specifically, the Committee was asked to develop: 1) a set of categories for the National System based on site purpose and type of protection; 2) a set of management criteria that could serve as entry criteria for the System, and/or evaluative criteria for determining needed management improvements to sites that are admitted to the System; and 3) prioritized lists of National System conservation objectives for each of the following three MPA purposes -- natural heritage, cultural heritage, and sustainable production. These products would be used to help define the National System in a way that would begin with the highest priorities and grow over time as resources permit.

Chair's Direction to the Ad Hoc Subcommittee

Mark Hixon reviewed the charge to the Committee for this meeting, which is to develop and adopt recommendations through the full Committee from each ad hoc Subcommittee. He announced that due to the last minute cancellations of some Committee members, Ad Hoc Subcommittees A (Developing Categories for the National System) and C2 (Prioritizing Conservation Objectives for Cultural Heritage) would meet together, and that Ad Hoc Subcommittees C1 (Prioritizing Conservation Objectives for Natural Heritage) and C3 (Prioritizing Conservation Objectives for Sustainable Production) would meet together. Ad Hoc Subcommittee B (Developing Management Criteria) would meet alone.

Working Lunch and Ad Hoc Subcommittee Meetings

The Committee broke for lunch and Subcommittee meetings.

Ad Hoc Subcommittee Reports

At 3:35, the Committee reconvened to hear reports from each Ad Hoc Subcommittee. Each Subcommittee was given 10 minutes to report their progress and respond to a few questions from the Committee.

Public Comment

No public comments were offered.

Committee Discussion

The Committee resumed discussion of the Subcommittee reports. The discussion focused primarily on the development of categories for the National System, and management criteria.

The Committee recessed for the day at 5:00 p.m.

WEDNESDAY, APRIL 25, 2007

Dr. Hixon called the Committee back to order at 8:15 a.m. He asked the Ad Hoc Subcommittees to provide a brief update on their status, then break into the Subcommittee working groups.

Ad Hoc Subcommittees Meet

The Subcommittees met from 8:30 until 10:35.

Ad Hoc Subcommittee Reports

The Committee reconvened to hear the Subcommittee reports and raise any questions or issues needing resolution. Each Subcommittee group was given 20 minutes to report.

Working Lunch / Coastal Visioning Discussion

At 12:15, the Committee broke for a working lunch. Donna Wieting, Deputy Director of NOAA's Office of Ocean and Coastal Resource Management, gave a presentation on the "coastal visioning" process to solicit stakeholder input on the future of coastal management. This is being done in preparation for the reauthorization of the Coastal Zone Management Act. She noted that coastal managers had been invited to provide input, and had identified growth as the leading issue. Other issues included planning for coastal hazards and climate change, and coordination across multiple levels of government. Ms. Wieting invited the Committee members to comment on how coastal management could be strengthened to enhance links to ocean management, and how best to engage ocean stakeholders in the process.

Questions and comments from the Committee included concerns about the impact of coastal runoff on MPAs and the resources they protect, and being prepared to deal with emerging issues, such as hormone impacts on fish and siting of offshore energy facilities. Preparing for and responding to hazards and climate change was identified as a central issue. Members also advised identifying examples of what has worked well under CZMA, and what has not. Many members expressed support for expanding the CZMA further into "wet" issues of ocean management. It was also suggested that coastal MPAs are very important for protecting fish larvae, and should be integrated with state CZM plans. State CZM programs could also benefit from additional regional coordination.

Committee Deliberations

The Committee resumed its discussions of the Ad Hoc Subcommittee recommendations. Ellen Goethel moved that the Committee accept the recommendations of Ad Hoc Subcommittee C2 (Cultural Heritage), which was seconded. The motion was adopted unanimously.

Steven Murray then proposed some changes to the language for the recommendation from Ad Hoc Subcommittee A (Categories for a National System). The Committee discussed the six categories, which include "conservation areas" and "reserve areas" for each of the three natural

system purposes: natural heritage, cultural heritage, and sustainable production. Discussion focused on the description of reserve areas as including “no extractive uses” or “destructive or disruptive activities.” Steve Murray moved adoption of the Ad Hoc Subcommittee’s report, which was seconded by Terry O’Halloran. The Chair called for a vote by show of hands, the motion passed by clear majority

The Committee recessed for the day at 2:00 p.m.

THURSDAY, APRIL 26, 2007

Dr. Hixon called the Committee to order at 8:15. He emphasized the need for members to inform the Chair and Designated Federal Official if they must be absent or late, in order to ensure that a quorum is present to conduct Committee business.

Public Comments

No public comments were offered.

Recap of Status of Deliberations

Dr. Hixon recapped the status of recommendations by the Ad Hoc Subcommittees, noting that the work of Ad Hoc Subcommittees B, C1 and C3 needed to be completed.

The Committee discussed potential management criteria and how inclusive vs. selective the National System should be. Members also discussed the difficulty of ranking the conservation objectives for natural heritage and sustainable production.

Ad Hoc Subcommittee Meetings

The Committee broke into Ad Hoc Subcommittees from 8:45 until 10:30. Members of Ad Hoc Subcommittees A and C2, who had completed their work, joined the remaining three Ad Hoc Subcommittees.

Committee Deliberations

The Committee reconvened, and discussed the expected loss of a quorum. Bob Zales reported on the recommendations from Ad Hoc Subcommittee B (Management Criteria). The report described the broad scope of the National System, as well as proposed entry criteria, including a site-specific management plan and/or a community-based management agreement. It also included a provision for sites that did not meet these entry criteria to be admitted on a case-by-case basis if they fill a key gap in the national system.

Ellen Goethel expressed concern that existing marine managed areas (MMAs) would be referred to as “MPAs” in the National System process, and that this would raise concerns that they were being brought into the National System without the support of their managing agency and undermine stakeholder trust in the process. Joe Uravitch and Jonathan Kelsey explained that no

MMA would become a part of the National System without being nominated by that site's managing agency. Members agreed that terminology is important, and that the process should refer to "sites that meet the criteria for an MPA" for those sites that meet the criteria but have not yet been nominated by their managing agency.

Tony Chatwin emphasized the importance of publishing a list of sites that meet the criteria to be in the National System, so that members of the public know how the criteria in the Framework apply to specific sites.

The report from Ad Hoc Subcommittee B was amended. Bob Zales moved that the Ad Hoc Subcommittee's report be adopted; this was seconded by Max Peterson. The report was unanimously adopted.

The Committee then discussed the report of Ad Hoc Subcommittee C1 (natural heritage). Members agreed to drop the ranking of the priority objectives, and retain the phases that were based on the rankings. With this change, Tony Chatwin moved and Terry O'Halloran seconded that the Ad Hoc Committee report be adopted. It was passed unanimously.

The Committee turned to the report of Ad Hoc Subcommittee C3 (sustainable production). Members agreed to drop the ranking of priority objectives, and include phases only for sustainable production and cultural heritage, as was done for natural heritage. Members discussed the importance of MPAs as a tool for reducing bycatch, which varies greatly by region and fishery. Bob Zales moved to change the objective for reducing bycatch from phase 2 to phase 3, and Wally Pereyra seconded the motion. However, some members objected to changing the process that was agreed upon, so the motion was withdrawn. The report from Ad Hoc Subcommittee C3 was then adopted unanimously.

Tony Chatwin offered the following motion, which was seconded by Gil Radonski:

"The FAC recommends that NOAA, in consultation with the Department of the Interior, publish a compilation of sites that meet both the criteria for an MPA and the criteria for entry into the National System of MPAs. This compilation should be published in conjunction with the publication of the Framework for the National System of MPAs."

Following discussion, the Committee adopted the following amended version of the motion unanimously:

"The FAC recommends that the Department of Commerce, in consultation with the Department of the Interior, publish a compilation of sites that meet (1) the definition of an MPA (including key terms) and (2) the criteria for entry into a National System of MPAs. This compilation should be published in conjunction with the publication of the Framework for the National System of MPAs."

Update from Standing Subcommittees

Mark Hixon announced that the MPA Center would make resources available to standing subcommittees to meet between now and the next meeting in October 2007. This could be done if the subcommittee determines a need. Dr. Hixon asked each subcommittee to meet and identify what they plan to accomplish by the end of the October meeting. These subcommittees are: 1) Identifying Regional Priorities; 2) Incentives and Implementation; and 3) Natural and Social MPA Science.

Each Subcommittee chair was asked to provide a brief update of activities and accomplishments to date. Max Peterson explained that Subcommittee 1 is developing case studies and lessons learned from regional marine management initiatives. Tony Chatwin noted that much of Subcommittee 2's work informed the Committee's comments on the draft Framework that were submitted in February. The future focus will be on identifying incentives for sites to join the National System. Steve Murray updated the group on Subcommittee 3's activities, which included the creation and adoption of the white paper on MPAs and ecosystem approaches to management and input to the Committee's comments on the draft Framework. Two issues had been previously identified for the future focus: ocean zoning, and evaluation and monitoring of MPAs.

Standing Subcommittee Meetings

The Committee broke at 2:25 to meet in subcommittees until 3:30.

Report Outs from Subcommittees

Bob Zales reported on Subcommittee 1's work on regional case studies. They will produce a paper that describes the case studies, identifies characteristics of effective coordination, and makes recommendations to managers and stakeholders who want to work regionally. The subcommittee will send a draft to the Committee members before the October meeting.

Tony Chatwin reported on Subcommittee 2's work on incentives. The subcommittee developed a work plan that will result in a document with clear recommendations related to incentives for the National System by October. The subcommittee plans to review existing information with regard to incentives, complete a first draft (possibly meeting before October), and identifying a few outside reviewers to provide feedback on the draft before the October meeting.

Steve Murray reported on Subcommittee 3's plans to address key science issues. These include: 1) a panel at the October meeting on MPA monitoring and links to the Integrated Ocean Observing System; 2) recommendations on the contents of site management plans; 3) how to apply the phases for natural heritage, cultural heritage and sustainable production objectives, approved at this meeting, as a facilitated discussion at the October meeting; and 4) a work plan for how the subcommittee will address ocean zoning.

Recognition of Bunny Sparks

Gil Radonski offered a motion that the Chairman of the Committee send Bunny Sparks, formerly staff to the Committee, a letter of thanks on behalf of the entire Committee. Tony Chatwin seconded the motion and it was approved unanimously.

Committee Business

Members expressed concern about problems with travel arrangements and reimbursements for travel. Lauren Wenzel replied that the MPA Center plans to bring on a new staff person who can assist the Committee.

Mark Hixon announced that the next meeting will be held October 23-25 in Alpena, Michigan. John Halsey will assist in planning the agenda for this meeting, along with staff from the Thunder Bay National Marine Sanctuary.

Lauren Wenzel adjourned the meeting at 4:37.

I hereby certify that, to the best of my knowledge, the foregoing minutes are accurate and complete.

Lauren Wenzel
Designated Federal Official

Dr. Mark Hixon
Chair
Marine Protected Areas Federal Advisory
Committee

These minutes will be formally considered by the MPA FAC at its next meeting, and any corrections or notations will be incorporated in the minutes of that meeting.

Committee members present:

Dr. Tundi Agardy
Mr. Charles Beeker
Mr. Bob Bendick
Mr. Dave Benton
Dr. Dan Bromley
Dr. Anthony Chatwin
Dr. Michael Cruickshank
Ms. Ellen Goethel
Dr. John Halsey
Dr. Dennis Heinemann
Dr. Mark Hixon, Chair
Dr. Steve Murray
Mr. Terry O'Halloran
Mr. Walter Pereyra
Mr. R. Max Peterson
Mr. Gil Radonski

Dr. Jim Ray
Dr. Daniel Suman
Mr. Bob Zales II, Vice Chair

Ex officio members/representatives present:

Mr. Randal Bowman, US Department of the Interior / Office of the Assistant Secretary for Fish, Wildlife and Parks
Ms. Robin Brake, US Department of the Navy
Ms. Mary Glackin, US Department of Commerce
Ms. Margaret Hayes, US Department of State
Dr. Brian Melzian, US Environmental Protection Agency
LT Jeff Pearson, US Coast Guard / Department of Homeland Security

NOAA National Marine Protected Areas Center staff:

Mr. Joseph Uravitch, Director
Dr. Rikki Grober-Dunsmore, National System Ecologist
Dr. Brian Jordan, Marine Archeologist
Mr. Jonathan Kelsey, National System Development Coordinator
Ms. Lauren Wenzel, Designated Federal Officer
Dr. Charles Wahle, Science Institute Director
Dr. Lisa Wooninck, NOAA Fisheries Detailee

Other NOAA Staff:

Mr. Ralph Lopez, NOAA Fisheries, Office of Habitat
Mr. Christopher Meaney, NOAA Fisheries, Office of Habitat
Ms. Kara Meckley, Office of Ocean and Coastal Resource Management
Ms. Laura Walko, Office of Ocean and Coastal Resource Management