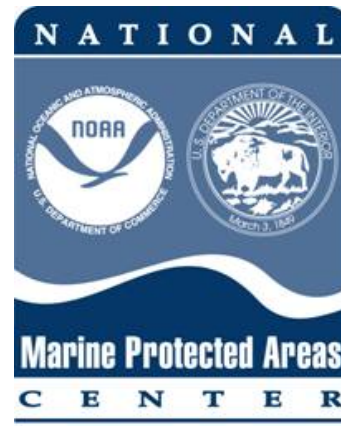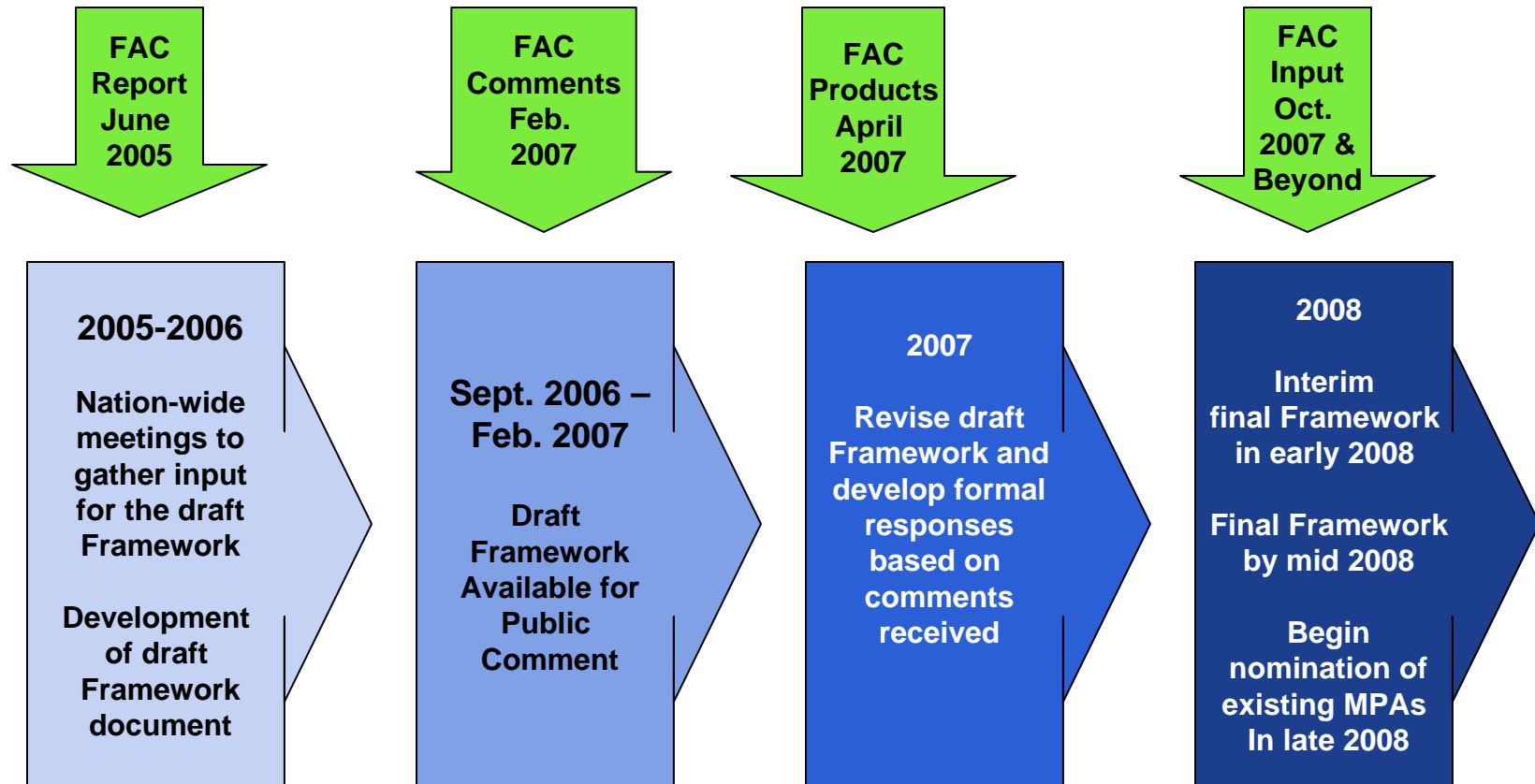# Building the National System of MPAs: Update on Progress and Plans
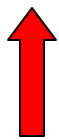
MPA Federal Advisory Committee
Fall 2007 Meeting

www.MPA.gov

Framework: Where are we now?

FAC Report June 2005

FAC Comments Feb. 2007

FAC Products April 2007

FAC Input Oct. 2007 & Beyond

2005-2006

Nation-wide meetings to gather input for the draft Framework

Development of draft Framework document

Sept. 2006 – Feb. 2007

Draft Framework Available for Public Comment

2007

Revise draft Framework and develop formal responses based on comments received

2008

Interim final Framework in early 2008

Final Framework by mid 2008

Begin nomination of existing MPAs In late 2008

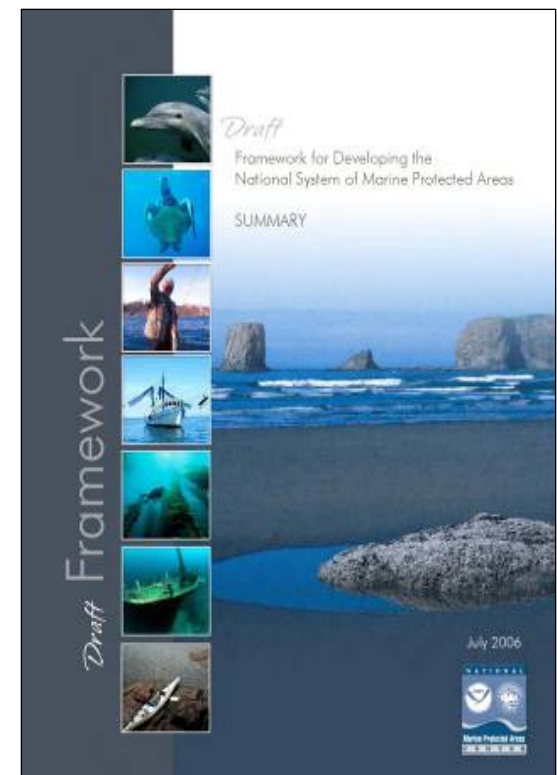You are here!

Draft Framework Comments

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

- Over 11,000 submissions, representing over 100 individual comments:
  - *State and tribal governments*
  - *Conservation and industry organizations*
  - *Private individuals*
  - *Commercial and rec fishers/industry*
  - *FAC and members*
  - *Fishery councils and commissions*
  - *Academia*
  - *Other*

- Addt'l advice from MPA FAC – April 07

Big Picture Issues Raised

- 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 eligible MPAs could render the system 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 support to participating MPA programs

- Overall simplification

April 2007 MPA FAC Products 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

Natural Heritage:
1. *Reproduction areas and nurseries*
2. *Species and habitat diversity*
…..
5. *Linked habitats*

Product 2. MPA management criteria to be used as entry criteria for the national system

• *Site management plan*
• *Traditional/community agreement or*
• *contributes to major system purpose*

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

Marine Cultural Heritage Areas
• *Cultural Resource Conservation Areas*
• *Cultural Resource Reserve*

FAC Recommendations: Priority Conservation Objectives

Some potential modifications:

- Add verbs:
  - E.g., "<u>Conserve </u>key areas that sustain or restore high priority fishing grounds."

- Minor changes to overall order based on data availability and effort required

- Use near, mid, and long term, instead of phases 1, 2 & 3
  - Added flexibility to tackle subset of grouping
  - Keep Framework a 'foundational' document that doesn't need to be updated every 1-2 years

PRIORITY OBJECTIVES		
	FAC	**MPAC**
Goal 1: Natural Heritage		
Conserve key reproduction areas and nursery grounds	1	Near Term
Conserve key biogenic habitats	1	Near Term
Conserve areas of high species and/or habitat diversity	2	Near Term
Conserve ecologically important geological features + enduring/recurring oceanographic features	3	Near Term
Conserve critical habitat of threatened and endangered species	1	Mid Term
Conserve unique or rare habitats and associated communities	2	Mid Term
Conserve key areas for migratory species	2	Long Term
Conserve linked areas important to life histories (e.g. spawning areas and nursery habitats)	3	Long Term
Conserve key areas that provide compatible opportunities for education and research	3	Long Term

EXAMPLE

FAC Recommendations: MPA Management Criteria

Some potential modifications:

- Expand to include a robust set of 'National System Design Criteria'
  - For building the system, not evaluating individual MPAs
  - e.g., representative, resiliency, replication, precautionary design

- Refine management plan criteria based on MMA analysis
  - Allowable scales of plans:
    - MPA Site-specific management plan,
    - MPA programmatic management plan,
    - Other Programmatic management plan (e.g., FMPs), or
    - Verbal or written community agreement
  - Necessary components
    - Specified conservation goals
    - Monitoring and evaluation of goals

FAC Recommendations: National System Categories

Some potential modifications:

- Add a fourth category, combined 'Marine Natural and Cultural Heritage Areas'

- Remove dual focus of 'Marine Natural Heritage Areas' and 'Marine Cultural Heritage Areas' categories

- Add a 'Purpose' column

National System Purpose	MPA Category	Sub-category
Conserve Marine Heritage	Marine Natural Heritage Areas	Natural Resource Conservation Areas
		Natural Resource Reserve Areas
	Marine Cultural Heritage Areas	Cultural Resource Conservation Areas
		Cultural Resource Reserve Areas
	Marine Natural and Cultural Heritage Areas	Natural Resource Conservation Areas
		Natural Resource Reserve Areas
Sustain Marine Production	Marine Sustainable Production Areas	Sustainable Production Conservation Areas
		Sustainable Production Reserve Areas

Potential Solutions to Explore

Potential solutions that could <u>work in concert</u> to address big picture issues:

Simplify the Overall Approach

1) A simplified, clearer framework document with "priorities" published on as needed basis.

Build the System Gradually over Time

1) Gradual approach to building the national system – both nomination of existing MPAs and identification of gaps - based on prioritized resource conservation objectives

   – System starts small and grows over time as capacity allows

   – Focuses on highest priorities first – existing sites and gaps

2) A new management plan entry criteria to prioritize entry of sites, but with flexibility to allow MPAs that don't have plans if they make a significant contribution to system

Strengthen Identification of Gaps

1) A revised and expanded set of system design principles, such as resiliency, representative, precautionary design, etc.

   – To guide system design, not evaluation of individual MPAs

2) A clearer, more deliberate process for identifying gaps in the system

More Potential Solutions to Explore

Clearer, More Deliberate Approach for Implementing the System

1) A new set of user-friendly national system MPA categories for organizing MPAs in the system by their conservation purpose and level of protection

    – To group similar sites to better describe and communicate what the national system is accomplishing and help identify gaps

    – Continue to allow for a diversity of sites to make up the system

2) Clearer description of system benefits and more deliberate process for identifying and delivering science and technical support to MPA programs

    – Better outline a process and set priorities for assistance to participating MPA programs

    – Develop 'MPA science and technical assistance regional strategies' to drive assistance to participating MPA programs based on their identified needs

3) Strengthened regional implementation approach

    – Adopt large marine ecosystem regions, allowing for nested regional and ecosystem approaches

    – Formation of regional MPA working groups or other mechanisms for information sharing and collaboration among participating MPA sites and programs

Questions?

Natural Heritage

Sustainable Production

Cultural Heritage