

**MINUTES**  
**Marine Protected Areas Federal Advisory Committee Meeting**  
**September 9-11, 2009**  
**Anchorage, Alaska**

**WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 9, 2009**

The Committee convened at 9:10 A.M.

**Meeting Opening**

Lauren Wenzel, National System Coordinator and designated Federal Official, opened the meeting and called the roll. Twenty-five members were present, representing a quorum. The Chair, Mark Hixon, welcomed members and guests. Members and guests introduced themselves, including their respective affiliations and interest in marine protected areas (MPAs).

Dr. Hixon reviewed the meeting agenda for the next three days. He mentioned that hard copies of the minutes from the April 2009 meeting were not in the Federal Advisory Committee (FAC) member folders. To ensure all members had hard copies and sufficient time to review the minutes, the Committee decided to postpone approval of the minutes until Thursday.

**MPA FAC Elections**

Dr. Hixon reviewed the nomination and election process for the upcoming change in Committee leadership, as previously determined by the FAC Executive Committee. Dr. Hixon clarified that nominations must come from FAC members at the meeting, though candidates need not be present to run for a position. Nominations for Chair were to take place at the end of the first day, at which point each nominee would be given five minutes to present to the Committee on their qualifications. The election of the Chair would take place on the beginning of the second day. Nominations for Vice-Chair were to be held on the end of the second day, again followed by five minute presentations by nominees. Election of the Vice-Chair would then take place on the beginning of the third day, followed by the nomination and election of Parliamentarian. Elections were to be decided by majority vote via secret ballot. Dr. Hixon also noted a revision to the eligible FAC member list, adding Joe Shumacker, who is an approved member of the FAC and eligible for election.

**Subcommittees Meet**

The Subcommittees met from 10:30 A.M. to 12:00 P.M. The Committee broke for lunch and resumed at 1:15 P.M.

**National System Updates**

**Presentation: MPA Center Updates**

Joseph Uravitch, director of the National Marine Protected Areas Center, gave an overview of FY2009 activities. Highlights included the restoration of staff capabilities due to an increase in

the budget, from \$1,463,000 in FY2008 to \$2,900,000 for FY2009. The Center has hired a Cultural Resources Coordinator to address and develop aspects of the cultural heritage component of the National System, a webmaster (position shared with the NOAA Coral Reef Program), and three program analysts to support the national system, inventory, and international activities. Mr. Uravitch also noted that the MPA Center will continue to address the question of how sites and programs will benefit from being part of the National System. The MPA Center is working with the National Fish and Wildlife Foundation to establish an MPA Fund to support stewardship activities of the National System. The first grants will be made in 2010. Ellen Goethel inquired about whether language to authorize the National System of MPAs is still being considered for inclusion in the reauthorization of the Coastal Zone Management Act (CZMA). Mr. Uravitch replied that the CZMA reauthorization is under review by the new Administration.

### **Presentation: National System Coordination and Second Nomination Process**

Lauren Wenzel presented a review of the first National System Partners Retreat that was held in June 2009. The retreat highlighted the first 225 sites accepted into the National System and was attended by nine States/Territories (including National Estuarine Research Reserve sites), four Federal programs and representatives of MPA programs that may join the National System in the future (e.g., tribal governments and Fishery Management Councils). The purpose of the retreat was to identify the capabilities and needs of National System partners, identify opportunities for collaboration among other coastal and ocean initiatives and identify near-term regional priorities for the National System and its partners.

Additionally, Ms. Wenzel discussed the second nomination process of the National System that is now underway. Nominations are due to the MPA Center by November 6, 2009, and the second suite of sites will be announced January 30, 2010. Jesús Ruiz asked if the MPA Center was accepting nominations on a rolling basis. Ms. Wenzel explained that the MPA Center plans to accept nominations annually and that a rolling deadline does not work well with the need to include a public comment period on all nominations. Ms. Wenzel also mentioned that the MPA Center's website, MPA.gov, now has a password protected section where FAC members and MPA Center staff can post and share working documents.

### **Gap Analysis Guidelines**

Charlie Wahle, MPA Center Senior Scientist, updated the Committee on the regional gap analysis, which will be developed in two phases. During the first phase, the MPA Center and its partners will analyze existing MPAs and identify conservation gaps in MPA coverage, analyze patterns and impacts of ocean uses, and evaluate the contributions of existing MPAs to National System priority conservation objectives. During the second phase, the MPA Center will work with partners to engage MPA agencies and stakeholders in setting priorities for new or enhanced MPAs, generating information that can help inform decision making for managing agencies.

As discussed previously at the FAC's April 2009 meeting, the MPA Center is developing guidelines for how the gap analysis will be conducted. A draft of these guidelines was sent to the Committee in early September. A revised draft will be sent to the Committee for their review and comment following this meeting. After review by the FAC, the guidelines will be available for public comment. Dr. Wahle also noted the completion of the California Ocean Uses Atlas

Project, which conducted its last workshop in July 2009. This marks the end of the data collection phase. The MPA Center will now begin analyzing data.

To clarify the gap analysis process, Tony Chatwin asked if eligible sites not yet in the National System will be included in the analysis. Dr. Wahle responded that they will be. The MPA Center and appropriate partners will conduct a comprehensive assessment of all MPAs.

Joe Shumacker inquired whether the MPA Center thinks the Ocean Uses Atlas project shows an effective and accurate portrayal of uses. Dr. Wahle confirmed the project had worked the way the Center had hoped, but emphasized that it is a tool with limited uses. The data are best used to illustrate a broad picture of human uses. Bruce Tackett supported Dr. Wahle's statement and added that the Ocean Uses Atlas data will feed into other management strategies, such as marine spatial planning (MSP).

**Invited Panel Discussion: Importance of Climate Change and Ecosystem Resilience to the Design of National System of MPAs**

The Chair of the Scientific and Technical Subcommittee, Dr. Dennis Heinemann, introduced the invited panel, which was asked to focus on the role MPAs could play in building and maintaining the resilience of the nation's ocean resources.

Jennifer Hoffman (EcoAdapt) discussed the increasing national awareness of MSP and the importance of human use data in the MSP process. She also discussed MPAs in the spatial context of land-sea linkages. These linkages are becoming increasingly important as sea level rises, causing an increase in the release of terrestrial pollutants into coastal waters. Dr. Hoffman noted that we need to manage for uncertainty, explaining that the marine environment will continue to change as climate impacts become more pronounced. It is important to investigate different management approaches in different geographic locations. She stressed the need to pursue adaptive management strategies through an experimental process, and further emphasized the importance of monitoring programs in new and existing plans. As the National System continues to develop, the MPA Center can help support the monitoring efforts of partner programs. Dr. Hoffman also addressed the role MPAs play in providing refugia, and recommended including refugia as an element of MPA coverage. Limiting local point and non-point pollution sources and protecting and restoring shoreline accretion can contribute to establishing refugia for marine species. Lastly, Dr. Hoffman stated the necessity of building climate change into existing MPA frameworks, management plans, regulations and other management strategies, and further that managing MPAs and managing for climate change should be a fully integrated process.

Jeffrey Short (Oceana) explained the chemical and thermal effects of climate change on the marine environment. Approximately 55 million years ago a "methane burp" released large quantities of methane from the seafloor into the ocean and atmosphere. This methane greatly increased the acidity and temperature of the ocean, and led to a mass extinction. Dr. Short questioned how today's world would plan for and manage the effects of a similar event. He recommended that fundamental design criteria for MPA construction focus on protecting hotspots, i.e., areas of high primary productivity and reproductive habitat. Additionally, MPAs need to be integrated with other management tools such as fishing regulations, pollution control

and carbon dioxide emission standards. Finally, scientists and managers need to confront the issue of performing triage on the marine environment. There will be difficult decisions to make as to what to save and what to let go. Placing MPAs in areas where other stressors, anthropogenic and natural, are not as great will increase the likelihood that some representative ecosystems will survive.

Gordon Kruse (University of Alaska, Fairbanks) discussed the impacts of climate change on species and habitats managed by MPAs. Though MPAs are static areas with specific boundaries, migratory species are not restricted by those boundaries. Dr. Kruse explained that while many species can be expected to shift their geographical distribution poleward due to increasing temperatures in the ocean, many Arctic species (Arctic cod, polar bears) will be unable to shift their habitat range any further north. Ecosystems specifically associated with certain geomorphic areas will likewise be unable to shift and adapt to increasing oceanic temperatures. However, more southern pelagic species are predicted to shift their geographic range northward, including Pacific salmon, Pacific herring, tuna and others. He added that MPAs can help address the ecological effects of climate change but need to adapt and work together with other management tools, such as effective monitoring, in order to foster resilience.

Dolly Garza (University of Alaska Marine Advisory Program) examined MPAs through a social science lens, focusing on the importance of community involvement and support in managing shared resources. Dr. Garza spoke of the diversity of the National System including its managing agencies and programs. Such diversity poses a great challenge with respect to climate change. To address this issue MPA programs and agencies must have clearly defined goals, strong community and stakeholder buy-in, and a keen understanding of geographic variation. To generate local support and commitment to an MPA, Dr. Garza suggested involving local residents in monitoring and training. Participation will not only build support but also will provide valuable data and traditional ecological knowledge to guide MPA management. She noted a joint management model in Alaska that has proven successful. Dr. Garza strongly urged the FAC to involve local communities throughout the MPA designation and management process, and to incorporate MPAs into other climate change management strategies. In closing Dr. Garza complimented the MPA Center and the FAC on the usability of the National System Framework and recommended that the Framework be more accessible to a broader audience.

Henry Huntington (Pew Environmental Group/Oceans North) discussed the varying types of environmental uncertainty and our (sometimes) limited understanding of ocean ecosystems. The scientific community continues to learn new information about species and systems that have been studied for decades. Dr. Huntington noted the inherent variability of all systems and how we, as stewards of the ocean, need to accommodate changes and not plan too far into the future. Dr. Huntington recommended building flexibility into MPA design and management. This will help MPAs buffer a range of threats. Further, we must recognize that our predictive capabilities are not always sound. For example, the summer 2007 Arctic sea ice retreat was greater than models predicted. Thus, some amount of flexibility should be woven into management plans to accommodate the limits of our understanding. Dr. Huntington also noted the importance of creating MPAs that can account for land-sea interactions. Finally, Dr. Huntington commended the North Pacific Fishery Management Council for its proactive measures in closing large ocean areas to fishing. However, he noted that other sectors (e.g., oil and gas) were not included in this

effort. Coordination among all sectors with interests in the area is needed to safeguard the environment.

The floor was opened to questions for the panelists. George Lapointe acknowledged the need to manage for all types of uncertainty - biological and political - but asked how to accelerate the regulatory process when we know the environment is changing so rapidly. Dr. Garza explained that Alaska is thinking about this issue and has delegated regional authorities. These managers are able to put a commercial fishery on hold if needed, which would be difficult in a more centralized management scheme. Dr. Kruse added that at the state fishery level, the Alaska Department of Fish and Game is unique, but even at the federal level actions are occurring much more rapidly than in the past. Regardless of the level of government, however, some amount of time will be required to gather appropriate comments and public input to management initiatives.

Phil Renaud asked the panel to identify the most critical gap in scientific knowledge regarding climate change. Dr. Short answered that we know ocean acidification is occurring but we do not know at what specific rate or what specific coastal and global changes are taking place. Dr. Kruse noted that changes in ocean temperatures will affect the physiology of species and ecological interactions, but that we do not know precise impacts and changes. Dr. Garza added that feed fish (smelt and herring) are a major food source for many pelagic species. It is essential to learn how feed fish will be affected by physical changes in the ocean to ensure the survival of larger pelagic species.

Considering the pace at which climate change impacts are occurring, John Ogden inquired whether we have sufficient scientific knowledge and political buy-in to make the requisite changes in ocean management. Dr. Short responded by noting that the scientific justification of networks of MPAs is widely known, but that we must balance this information with the reality of what we can expect to accomplish. Dr. Huntington added that interest in the ocean is widespread. As such, we need to frame MPAs to create a compelling story with a positive outlook. Science cannot predict exactly what will happen with climate change. There are and will be negative effects but there will be some positive effects that present new opportunities. Dr. Garza highlighted marine food resources and the people who rely on them, noting that a sense of ownership is very important. Shortening the distance between marine food resources and the people that use them will promote their conservation.

David Benton inquired about the global issue of ocean acidification and how MPAs specifically buffer acidification, if at all. The fishing industry in Alaska is well managed, yet actions around the globe are harming local resources. Dr. Short agreed, explaining that MPAs cannot stop the effects of ocean acidification. However, MPAs can help lower the effects of stressors from other sources. MPAs can be managed to promote healthy, abundant populations. Larger populations are more likely to have individuals who are able to adapt to changing conditions. Dr. Hoffman added that MPA design should include areas where acidification is occurring at a slower rate and that more research is needed on evolutionary biology and population size. He also explained that MPAs that protect the food sources of calcifying organisms can help reduce stress on these organisms and may help slow the effects of acidification.

Bob Zales noted the destruction resulting from Hurricane Katrina and asked how we can design MPAs that will mitigate the impacts from natural disasters. Dr. Hoffman explained that an MPA is not able to protect an area from storm impacts; but a protected area that is more resilient might recover faster than other areas. Dr. Garza added that an advantage of having an MPA in a hard hit area is that there will be valuable data from monitoring that can be used to form a baseline of what the area looked like before the storm. Mr. Zales expressed his concern with designating MPAs focused on mitigating the effects of climate change. He noted that we should be cautious about creating MPAs to address climate change impacts when the real issue could be overfishing or land-based terrestrial pollutants. Dr. Hoffman explained that when designating an MPA we should look for areas that will naturally experience less change. Dr. Short emphasizing that MPAs are only tools and need be balanced with other management strategies.

### **Public Comment**

Bob Palolowski, Capt. Retired, Nautical Institute, emphasized the need for updated navigational charts and data on local currents and tides, especially in western Alaska and the Arctic.

Molly McCammon, representing the Alaska Ocean Observing System (AOOS), suggested that management programs should all have robust monitoring systems. She recommended monitoring programs be multiuse and multi-sensor. Ms. McCammon also emphasized the importance of coordinating the many groups involved in climate change adaptation efforts.

### **Nominations for Chair and Brief Statements from Candidates**

Dr. Hixon reminded the FAC of the nomination process and opened the floor to members to put forward names for nominations of the Chair. There were four nominations. Bob Zales nominated Mr. Eugenio Piñeiro-Soler, John Ogden nominated Captain Philip Renaud, Jesús Ruiz nominated Dr. Steve Gaines, and Terry O'Halloran nominated Ms. Lori Arguelles.

## **THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 10, 2009**

The Committee convened at 8:30 A.M.

### **Approval of Minutes**

Dr. Hixon asked members to review the minutes from the April 2009 meeting. Victor Mastone moved to approve the minutes, which were seconded by David Wallace. The minutes were then approved unanimously.

### **Election of Chair**

Eugenio Piñeiro-Soler was elected to the position of Chair by a majority of votes.

### **Presentation: Update on National Ocean Governance and Marine Spatial Planning**

Laura Furgione presented an update on the Interagency Ocean Policy Task Force that was created in June 2009 by Presidential Memorandum. The task force is chaired by Nancy Sutley (Council on Environmental Quality) and includes 24 senior policy officials supported by a working group and five subgroups. The subgroups focus on four themes: policy, coordination framework, implementation strategy and public engagement.

The memorandum called for recommendations to address the following deliverables:

1. a national ocean, coast and Great Lakes policy;
2. a framework for policy coordination;
3. implementation strategies; and
4. a framework for effective coastal and marine spatial planning.

The new administration is eager to engage interested parties and has facilitated 24 expert roundtables and six regional public meetings during the first 90 days. Five additional public meetings are scheduled for the second 90 days. The first three deliverables are addressed in an interim report published on September 14, 2009, for public comment. FAC members are encouraged to provide comments.

By December 9, 2009, the task force will address the fourth deliverable. Ms. Furgione noted the linkages between MSP and the National System. The National System Framework can be used as model for broader future MSP in the nation's waters.

Dr. Brian Melzian encouraged members of the FAC to participate in the public comment period and stay involved as the work moves forward. Jim Ray asked how the proposed ocean policy will be implemented. Ms. Furgione said this had not yet been decided, but the FAC will be kept informed and encouraged members to check the Ocean Policy Task Force website, (<http://www.whitehouse.gov/administration/eop/ceq/initiatives/oceans/>).

John Ogden inquired as to how the new policy will incorporate ongoing regional ocean governance efforts that have already begun to incorporate MSP into their management. Ms. Furgione stated that the task force is interested in sharing information and best practices across regions.

### **Subcommittees Meet**

The Subcommittees met from 9:30 A.M. to 12:00 P.M. The Committee broke for lunch and resumed at 1:30 P.M.

### **Subcommittee Reports**

Tony Chatwin, Chair of the Review and Evaluation Subcommittee, reported on the status of the subcommittee's National System evaluation tool. The FAC adopted its first set of recommendations on National System evaluation in November 2008. This tool builds on those recommendations. Dr. Chatwin also noted that the tool is anchored in the *Framework for the National System of Marine Protected Areas of the United States of America* and that the outcomes in the tool are taken directly from the benefits of the National System listed in the framework. The subcommittee also developed a background piece to accompany the evaluation tool. Dr. Chatwin expected the subcommittee to submit both the planning tool and background piece to the full FAC on Friday for review and action.

Dr. Dennis Heinemann, Chair of the Scientific and Technical Subcommittee, reported that prior to the meeting the subcommittee had prepared a draft white paper addressing climate change, resilience and MPAs. This paper has undergone many revisions and is quite long, and would

probably not be submitted to the full FAC for action during this meeting. Dr. Heinemann noted that the subcommittee is developing recommendations based on the previous day's climate change panel and the white paper, which the subcommittee will eventually submit to the FAC for review and action. Areas of focus include implications of climate change for design and implementation of MPAs, how MPAs can contribute to resilience, and principles for implementation.

### **Invited Panel Discussion: MPAs in Alaska**

Laura Furgione introduced a diverse panel of MPA practitioners, managers and stakeholders to discuss MPAs in Alaska.

Todd Logan (US Fish and Wildlife Service) oversees Alaska's 16 National Wildlife Refuges. Ten of those refuges include coastal habitat and have been formally designated as MPAs. Management of a refuge is determined by the purpose of the refuge. Key management challenges include defining jurisdictions and roles, adapting to climate change and monitoring these huge areas. In Alaska the refuge system is interested in enhancing stewardship, building new partnerships and promoting cultural heritage.

David Witherell (North Pacific Fishery Management Council) manages a 1,000 vessel fishing fleet in the North Pacific region. Fish stocks are healthy and are able to support viable and profitable fisheries. The council received the MPA Center's first round nomination package and has identified the following issues of concern:

- How would the "avoid harm" provision of the National System affect MPAs managed by NOAA Fisheries and the Councils?
- Gap analysis - how do you determine the correct amount of adequate coverage?
- How will the authority of the Council change, if at all?

Deborah Cooper (National Parks Service) presented a brief history of the Parks Service beginning with the establishment of the first marine national park, Acadia, in 1916. There are now 74 national parks that include the marine environment, and ten of those are in Alaska. Ms. Cooper explained that coastal parks are vulnerable to the effects of climate change such as ocean warming and sea level rise. She continued that climate change requires a new management strategy. The Park Service has developed a Pacific Ocean Park Strategy that is a collaborative effort between federal and private partners.

Doug Woodby (Alaska Department of Fish and Game) and Randy Bates (Alaska Coastal Management Program) gave a joint presentation on state managed MPAs in Alaska. Mr. Bates began by highlighting Alaska's 44,500 miles of shoreline, 60 percent of which is in federal ownership. The commercial fishing industry is the largest in-state private sector employer, providing approximately \$6 billion in economic activity to Alaska, but the energy and tourism sectors are also very important. The state owns submerged lands out to three miles; these are managed by the Department of Natural Resources. Mr. Woodby described commercial fishing restrictions, including gear restrictions, target species restrictions, and research closures. Priorities for management include protection of critical habitat, sustainable production, research, and evaluation of existing MPAs. The State is concerned about potential federal oversight of state areas, affects on federal permitting, ongoing federal/state jurisdictional disputes.



Randy Hagenstein (The Nature Conservancy) noted that Alaska communities are heavily reliant upon marine resources and the effects of climate change are already being seen in some areas. Dr. Hagenstein expressed his support of the precautionary decision by NOAA and the Council to close commercial fishing in the Arctic. He mentioned that Alaska needs more funding to sustain effective monitoring and research programs, especially to gather socioeconomic data. Dr. Hagenstein also noted that The Nature Conservancy has completed a gap analysis process in the past and is available to share lessons learned in preparation for the National System's gap analysis process.

Dr. Allen Reese (Arctic R&D, Shell Oil) gave a brief overview of the oil and gas industry in Alaska, providing examples of drilling in the Beaufort Sea and other areas, stating that there is potential to explore oil and gas resources in the next 30 years in the Beaufort and Chuckchi Seas. Dr. Reese suggested that MPAs and oil and gas can work in tandem, noting that both rely on the best available science and support larger multi-interest groups.

John Gauvin (Best Use Cooperative) presented the fishing industry's perspective on the use of trawl closure areas for benthic habitat protection in federally managed fisheries in Alaska. He compared closures in the Bering Sea shelf and the Aleutian Island chain and emphasized the importance of site specific information in designing MPAs. The Aleutian Island chain is home to very old, slow growing, deepwater coral gardens. Because the fish aggregations in the area are static in nature, the fishing industry supported the closure of large areas to bottom trawling. The Bering Sea shelf substrate is mostly sand and mud and is home to lower profile invertebrates. The fish aggregations across the shelf are not as predictable as those in the Aleutian Islands and their distribution varies by season and year. Due to this variation, the National Marine Fishery Service (NMFS) concluded that closing areas of the shelf to bottom trawling would not have the same benefit to both fisherman and bottom substrate as in the Aleutians. Alternatively, the NMFS explored gear modification for trawling vessels which prevented the gear from resting directly on the bottom. Protected area designation needs to consider bathymetry, food web and nutrient mechanisms, species characteristics and be tailored to the specific area.

Peggy Osterback (Aleut Marine Mammal Commission of Indigenous People's Council) discussed the need to better understand marine mammal habitat usage in Alaskan waters. Native communities rely on marine mammals for sustenance and a greater understanding of marine mammal behavior is needed to inform future development projects and MPA design. Ms. Osterback also emphasized the need to involve local native communities in the planning and designation process.

The floor was opened for questions. Bob Zales asked Dr. Reese if oil platforms in Arctic waters create additional fish habitat as they do in the Gulf of Mexico. Dr. Reese answered that there are no structures in Arctic waters at this time, so their impact is uncertain. Russ Moll noted the success of the Alaska fisheries and the mixed feelings regarding MPAs in the state. He asked the panelists whether they thought they need MPAs in Alaska, and more particularly, a network of MPAs. Mr. Wetherall acknowledged the importance of MPAs as a useful conservation tool. Randy Bates answered that Alaska does not need extra layers of bureaucracy, and is not convinced that the system will confer additional benefits. Randy Hagenstein noted the success

MPAs and fishery closures have had in Alaska and how they have improved state and federal management of resources. Dr. Hagenstein also mentioned the importance MPAs play in MSP and the potential for MSP will help to resolve user conflicts.

Andrew Gude complimented Alaska on its well-managed resources and highlighted the unique opportunity Alaska has to emerge as a leader in the National System. Dr. Chatwin further clarified that the system is not a federal system but a national system, and its efforts are not solely focused on sustainable production. Dr. Chatwin enquired if there are any MPAs in Alaska designated for natural or cultural heritage purposes. Randy Hagenstein answered that although the Aleutian Islands are designated as a fishery closure, the area can be viewed as protecting natural heritage.

Terry O'Halloran asked the panel to address the different types of closures in Alaska and how many are no-take, if any. Doug Woodby recommended reading Alaska's 2005 review of MPAs publication, which gives an overview of all Alaskan MPAs. He also noted that Glacier Bay National Park is Alaska's largest no-take area. David Witherall added that some areas are too rough to fish and that gives them a certain amount of de facto protection. Although certain areas do not have formal MPA designation they are, by default, a functional marine reserve.

Charlie Beeker inquired about submerged cultural resources and if Alaska has any designated cultural sites. Randy Bates explained that the Department of Natural Resources oversees shipwrecks and there are a few wrecks in state marine parks.

#### **Receive Nominations for Vice Chair and Brief Statements from Candidates**

Dr. Hixon opened the floor to FAC members to nominate a new candidate for Vice Chair. Terry O'Halloran nominated Lori Arguelles, Russ Moll nominated Phil Renault, and Gilbert Radonski nominated David Wallace.

#### **FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 11, 2009**

The Committee convened at 8:35 A.M.

#### **Cultural Resources Update and Cultural Heritage Resources Workgroup**

Charlie Beeker and Victor Mastone updated the FAC on the cultural resources component of the Nation System of MPAs. Mr. Beeker noted that the Center had hired a cultural resources coordinator and was encouraged that program development will move forward. Victor Mastone suggested the FAC establish a standing cultural resources workgroup to help guide cultural resource development in the national system. He recommended the workgroup be comprised of both FAC and external members to provide a broad base of expertise. David Benton motioned for the establishment of a standing Cultural Heritage Resources Workgroup. Terry O'Halloran seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

#### **Election of Vice Chair and Parliamentarian**

Lori Arguelles was elected to the position of Vice Chair by a majority of votes.

Jesús Ruiz nominated Victor Mastone for the position of Parliamentarian. George Lapointe nominated Rick Gaffney for the position. Victor Mastone was elected to the position by a majority of vote.

### **Public Comment**

John Oswald, representing JOA Surveys LLC, is a registered land surveyor and a consultant to NOAA. He addressed the need for additional hydrographic surveys of tides and currents for Alaska. He encouraged the FAC to coordinate with the Hydrographic Services Review Panel, another NOAA advisory committee.

Tom Lákosh has expertise in spill prevention and response measures and is concerned with the cumulative impacts of oil spills in view of climate change. Mr. Lákosh requested the FAC look over a Homeland Security report about oil spill response and regulatory oversight of transportation and the oil industry. He expressed the need for stricter spill prevention and response measures in Alaska, as it is one of the most vulnerable areas to the effects of oil spills. Mr. Lákosh noted a single spill could affect 80 percent of the avian species in North America and there is little capacity to prevent or respond to such a spill.

Dolly Garza, representing herself, spoke on the noncommercial issues of rural residents. Dr. Garza explained that the Alaska Constitution states resources should be managed for maximum economic benefit, which does not take into account natural and cultural heritage. Most of Alaska's coastline is occupied by villages of 200 people or less. Villages rely on marine resources for sustenance. Dr. Garza urged the FAC to address community resilience and ecosystem resilience and emphasized the connections between the two concepts. She also suggested additional outreach to the Alaskan Federation of Natives to provide native knowledge of changing communities and ecosystems.

Ellen Goethel added that community resilience is an important issue everywhere. Dennis Heinemann noted the Subcommittee discussed community resilience and suggests that it be included in a future FAC charge.

Dave McMahon from the Alaska Historic Preservation Office said there are an estimated 3,000 shipwrecks in Alaskan waters and no infrastructure to collect baseline data on the submerged sites. Alaska has no dedicated archeology program or maritime heritage program. The Office has worked in partnership with NOAA and other institutions outside of Alaska. Mr. McMahon was excited to hear of the MPA FAC Cultural Heritage Resources Workgroup and agreed MPAs are a good way to protect submerged heritage sites.

Michele Ridgeway from the Deep Ocean Science Institute encouraged the FAC to continue to reach out to Alaska and its MPA programs. Ms. Ridgeway recently stepped down from the North Pacific Fishery Management Council, which has focused on MPAs for specific purposes related to fisheries management. She noted that the Council and the State do not have the authority to protect resources from other stressors. She conveyed that the National System can help bring new resources for ecosystem protection in Alaska, and encouraged the FAC to continue their dialogue with Alaskan agencies and groups.

Paul McGregor with the At-Sea Processors Association represents the largest fishing group in Alaska. At-Sea Processors catches 50 percent of Alaska's pollock quota. Mr. McGregor noted that the industry is very aware of the need to involve Native people in decision-making, and that Native villages now own half the pollock fleet. He also spoke about how rolling closures are being used to address the problem of the salmon by catch concern in the pollock industry. Mr. McGregor stated the program has worked well thus far and encouraged the MPA FAC to consider flexibility when thinking of MPAs.

Brenda Trefon, Environmental Director of the Kenaitze Indian Tribe, stated that community resilience and ecological resilience are one and the same. She is seeing rapid changes in bull kelp and invasive species in her community. Ms. Trefon encouraged the FAC to seek out and use traditional knowledge when working on ecological reliance plans.

Steve McLain from The Nature Conservancy spoke of Alaska's national and global ecological importance. Alaska is home to an amazing biodiversity of sea birds and mammals and manages its fisheries relatively well. There is potential for conventional and renewable energy resources offshore and it is one of the last places where native cultures rely on marine resources for sustenance. Alaskans care deeply about the oceans and the resources/opportunities they provide to native cultures. MPAs are a vital part of MSP and can help integrate all ocean uses from recreation to commercial industry to native uses.

Paul Kendall from Alaska Ocean Power stated that Anchorage is a great location for renewable energy development, and that he wants the city of Anchorage to convert to all electric hydrogen fuel cells.

This concluded the public comment period. Dr. Hixon thanked everyone for providing their comments.

### **Subcommittees Meet**

The Subcommittees met from 10:00 A.M. to 12:00 P.M. and then broke for lunch. The Committee reconvened at 1:45 P. M.

### **Subcommittee Reports to Full Committee/Product Approval**

In the absence of the Subcommittee Chair, Tony Chatwin, the Vice Chair Bob Pomeroy thanked the Subcommittee for their time and hard work in developing the National System evaluation planning tool. He then gave a brief explanation of the matrix and contextual background piece. The full Committee reviewed the document with Lauren Wenzel incorporating minor revisions to the document based on Committee comments.

Bob Zales motioned approval of the product and Terry O'Halloran seconded the motion. The Committee adopted the planning tool unanimously. Dr. Hixon thanked Tony, Bob, and Lauren Wenzel for all of their hard work and dedication. It was agreed that Dr. John Parks of the Nature Conservancy will be acknowledged for assisting the Committee in Dr. Hixon's cover letter for these recommendations.

### **Committee Business**

Lauren Wenzel discussed the next MPA FAC meeting. Members with terms expiring in October 2009 have been asked to continue serving until their replacements are appointed. The MPA Center plans for the spring 2010 meeting to include both departing and newly appointed members to provide for a transition. Possible meeting locations are the southeast United States (perhaps Charleston) or the Caribbean (perhaps Puerto Rico).

Joe Uravitch presented the Center's initial thoughts regarding the new charge for the MPA FAC. These include:

- cultural heritage resources;
- exploring community resilience and what it means to the National System;
- land-sea interactions, including how to address land portions of marine sites;
- the National System's role in MSP; and
- international engagement priorities.

Lauren Wenzel addressed travel reimbursement and reassured the Committee that Center staff and other NOAA staff are working to make the reimbursement process more efficient. She thanked everyone for their patience in the matter.

The Scientific and Technical Subcommittee updated the full Committee on the draft white paper and recommendations. Dennis Heinemann stated that the Subcommittee hopes finish the paper in the next few months and present a product at the next FAC meeting.

### **Changes in Committee Leadership**

George Lapointe handed Robert's Rules of Order to the new Parliamentarian, Victor Mastone. Bob Zales handed the gavel to the new Vice Chair, Lori Arguelles. Dr. Mark Hixon handed the gavel to the new Chair, Eugenio Piñero-Soler.

The Committee adjourned at 4:30 P.M.

### **Committee members present:**

Ms. Lori Arguelles  
Mr. Charles Beeker  
Mr. David Benton  
Dr. Anthony Chatwin  
Mr. Rick Gaffney  
Ms. Ellen Goethel  
Dr. Dennis Heinemann  
Dr. Mark Hixon, Chair  
Mr. George Lapointe  
Mr. Victor T. Mastone  
Dr. Russell Moll  
Dr. John Ogden  
Mr. Terry O'Halloran  
Mr. Alvin D. Osterback  
Mr. Eugenio Piñero Soler

Dr. Robert Pomeroy  
Mr. Gilbert Radonski  
Dr. James Ray  
Captain Philip G. Renaud, USN (Ret.)  
Mr. Jesús C. Ruiz  
Mr. Joe Schumacker  
Mr. Bruce A. Tackett  
Mr. David H. Wallace  
Mr. Robert Wargo  
Mr. Robert Zales II, Vice Chair

**Ex officio members/representatives present:**

Ms. Laura Furgione, Program Planning and Integration, NOAA  
Mr. Andrew Gude, DOI/US Fish and Wildlife Service  
Dr. Brian Melzian, US Environmental Protection Agency  
Mr. Steven Tucker, US Coast Guard / Department of Homeland Security

**NOAA National Marine Protected Areas Center staff:**

Mr. Joseph A. Uravitch, Director  
Dr. Charles Wahle, Senior Scientist  
Ms. Lauren Wenzel, National System Coordinator  
Ms. Karen Abrams, NMFS Detailee  
Ms. Abigail Gray, Program Analyst  
Ms. Valerie Grussing, Cultural Resources Coordinator  
Ms. Kara Schwenke, Communications Coordinator  
Ms. Katya Wowk, Policy Specialist