

# MPAs, Recreation and Tourism: Connecting the Dots between MPAs and Humans

A photograph of three children on a beach. On the left, a girl with long brown hair, wearing a pink and purple patterned shirt and white shorts, is holding a pair of black sandals. In the center, a boy in a black long-sleeved shirt and khaki shorts is gesturing with his right hand towards the ocean. On the right, another boy in a dark blue t-shirt with a graphic and dark shorts is standing with his back to the camera. The ocean waves are breaking in the background, and the sky is overcast. Three blue arrows are overlaid on the image: one pointing from the text 'Connecting the Dots' down to the girl, one pointing from the text 'MPAs' up and to the right towards the sky, and one pointing from the text 'Recreation and Tourism' up and to the right towards the sky.

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# Overview

- **How we use the ocean**
- **MPAs as a tool for sustainable ocean use**
- **Looking ahead**



*The ocean is a busy place, getting busier everyday.*



*Understanding how and where we use the ocean is essential to improving how we manage our resource and avoid use conflicts.*

# Ocean Uses and MPAs

- MPAs are a tool to manage human uses in valued places
- Ocean uses are how we connect to the oceans
- Uses generate value and opportunity
- Sometimes uses create conflict and harm
- MPAs can help facilitate sustainable ocean uses
- Challenge: pervasive gaps in spatial data on ocean use



## Ocean Uses Mapping

Applies participatory GIS mapping methods to capture community knowledge about ocean use activities.

Provides a means to document:

- **Spatial distribution** of human use
- **Use Hotspots**
- **Overlap** of different uses
- **Seasonal** elements of activities
- Potential use **impacts** and/or **conflicts**



# Types of Ocean Uses Mapped

## Non-Consumptive

- Swimming
- Surface water sports
- Paddling
- SCUBA and snorkeling
- Motorized boating
- Sailing
- Tide pooling
- Beach use
- Wildlife viewing
- Tribal spiritual/cultural places



## Industrial and Military

- Offshore oil and gas
- Offshore alternative energy
- Mining + mineral extraction
- Underwater cables
- Maritime shipping
- Cruise ships
- Military operations
- Aquaculture

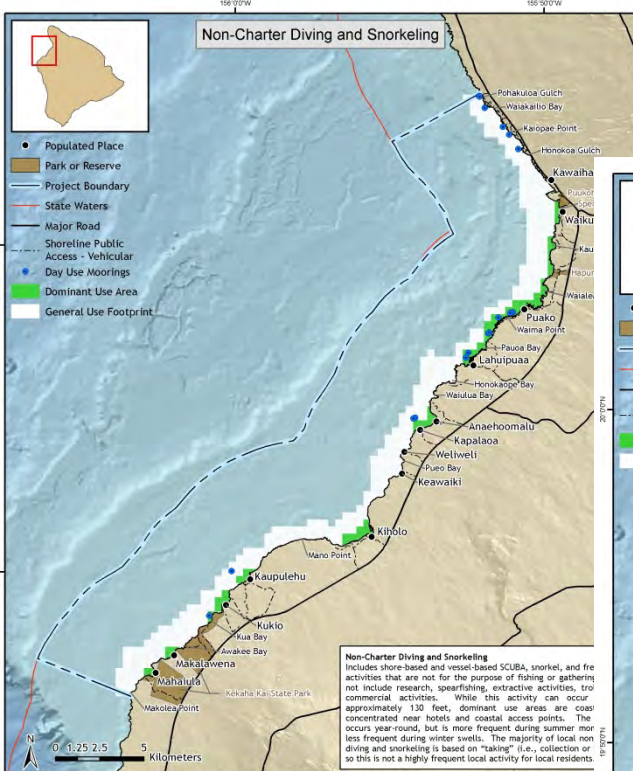


## Fishing

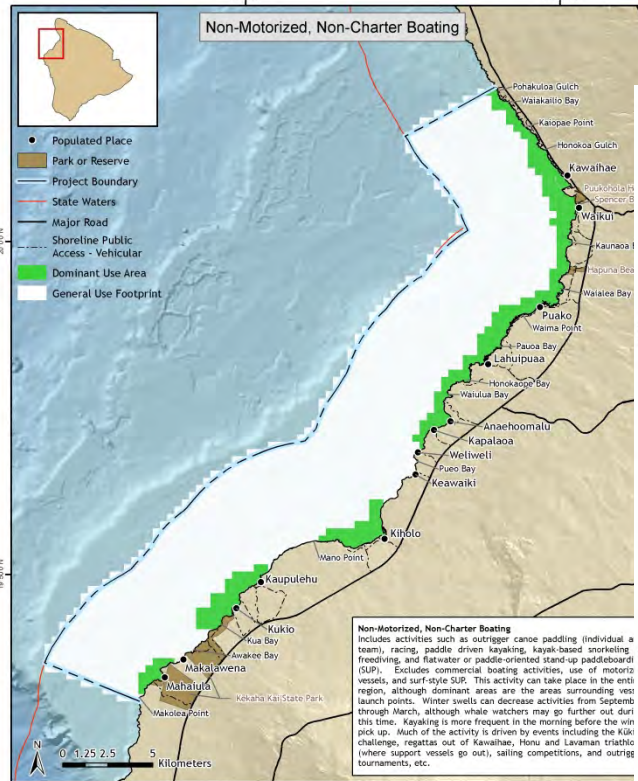
- Recreational pelagic fishing from boats
- Recreational benthic fishing from boats
- Recreational fishing from shore
- Recreational dive fishing
- Recreational kayak fishing
- Commercial pelagic fishing
- Commercial fishing w/ benthic fixed gear
- Commercial fishing w/ benthic mobile gear
- Commercial dive fishing
- Commercial algae harvesting
- Shore-based recreational harvest



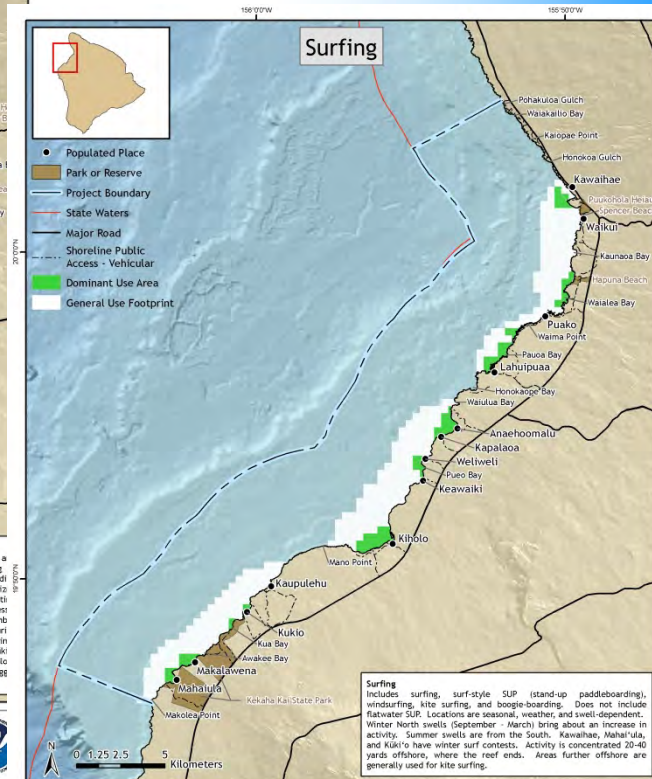
## Sample Maps of Ocean Use in Hawai'i



Hawai'i Coastal Use Mapping Project  
North Kona & South Kohala  
February, 2011



Hawai'i Coastal Use Mapping Project  
North Kona & South Kohala  
February, 2011



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# Executive Order 13158

- Develop and implement a scientifically based, comprehensive national system of MPAs representing diverse U.S. marine ecosystems, and the Nation's natural and cultural resources

Federal Register / Vol. 65, No. 105 / Wednesday, May 31, 2000 / Presidential Documents 34909

## Presidential Documents

Executive Order 13158 of May 26, 2000

### Marine Protected Areas

By the authority vested in me as President by the Constitution and the laws of the United States of America and in furtherance of the purposes of the National Marine Sanctuaries Act (16 U.S.C. 1431 *et seq.*), National Wildlife Refuge System Administration Act of 1966 (16 U.S.C. 668dd-ee), National Park Service Organic Act (16 U.S.C. 1 *et seq.*), National Historic Preservation Act (16 U.S.C. 470 *et seq.*), Wilderness Act (16 U.S.C. 1131 *et seq.*), Magnuson-Stevens Fishery Conservation and Management Act (16 U.S.C. 1801 *et seq.*), Coastal Zone Management Act (16 U.S.C. 1451 *et seq.*), Endangered Species Act of 1973 (16 U.S.C. 1531 *et seq.*), Marine Mammal Protection Act (16 U.S.C. 1362 *et seq.*), Clean Water Act of 1977 (33 U.S.C. 1251 *et seq.*), National Environmental Policy Act, as amended (42 U.S.C. 4321 *et seq.*), Outer Continental Shelf Lands Act (42 U.S.C. 1331 *et seq.*), and other pertinent statutes, it is ordered as follows:

**Section 1. Purpose.** This Executive Order will help protect the significant natural and cultural resources within the marine environment for the benefit of present and future generations by strengthening and expanding the Nation's system of marine protected areas (MPAs). An expanded and strengthened comprehensive system of marine protected areas throughout the marine environment would enhance the conservation of our Nation's natural and cultural marine heritage and the ecologically and economically sustainable use of the marine environment for future generations. To this end, the purpose of this order is to, consistent with domestic and international law: (a) strengthen the management, protection, and conservation of existing marine protected areas and establish new or expanded MPAs; (b) develop a scientifically based, comprehensive national system of MPAs representing diverse U.S. marine ecosystems, and the Nation's natural and cultural resources; and (c) avoid causing harm to MPAs through federally conducted, approved, or funded activities.



# MPAs: Many Types, Names, Agencies

## Federal:

- National Marine Sanctuaries
- National Estuarine Research Reserves
- National Parks
- Maritime Memorials
- National Seashores
- National Monuments
- National Wildlife Refuges
- Coral Reef Ecosystem Reserves

## State, Commonwealth, Territory, and Tribal:

- Marine Life Conservation Districts
- Aquatic Preserves
- Areas of Special Biological Significance
- Ecological Reserves
- Critical Habitats
- Marine Conservation Areas
- Research Reserves
- Coastal and Marine Parks
- Underwater Preserves



# Making Sense of it All: US MPA Inventory

The screenshot shows a web browser window displaying the National Marine Protected Areas Center website. The browser's address bar shows the URL "National Marine Protected Areas Center: The Marine ...". The website header includes the NOAA logo, "US Department of Commerce", and "National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration". A search bar is located in the top right corner. A navigation menu contains links for "About MPAs", "National System", "Data & Analysis", "Resources", "Science & Stewardship", and "Advisory Committee". The main content area features a large blue background with a whale and the text "NATIONAL MARINE PROTECTED AREAS CENTER" and "www.mpa.gov". On the left side, there are logos for the "NATIONAL Marine Protected Areas CENTER" and the "NATIONAL SYSTEM OF MARINE PROTECTED AREAS". Below these logos is a "Data & Analysis" section with links to "MPA Inventory", "Ocean Uses Atlas", "De Facto MPAs", "Analysis of U.S. MPAs", and "Maps". The main heading is "The Marine Protected Areas Inventory", followed by a breadcrumb trail: "Home > Data & Analysis > MPA Inventory". The main text describes the MPA Inventory as a comprehensive geospatial database designed to catalog and classify marine protected areas within US waters, containing information on over 1,600 sites. It states that the database is used for marine management and conservation, but its primary purpose is to maintain baseline information on MPAs to assist in the development of the National System of MPAs, as defined in Executive Order 13158. A disclaimer notes that the information should not be used for regulatory purposes and that users should consult the Federal Register for the official record. The MPA Inventory was developed with extensive input from state and federal MPA programs and drawn from other publically available data. The data and products are available for use by the public.

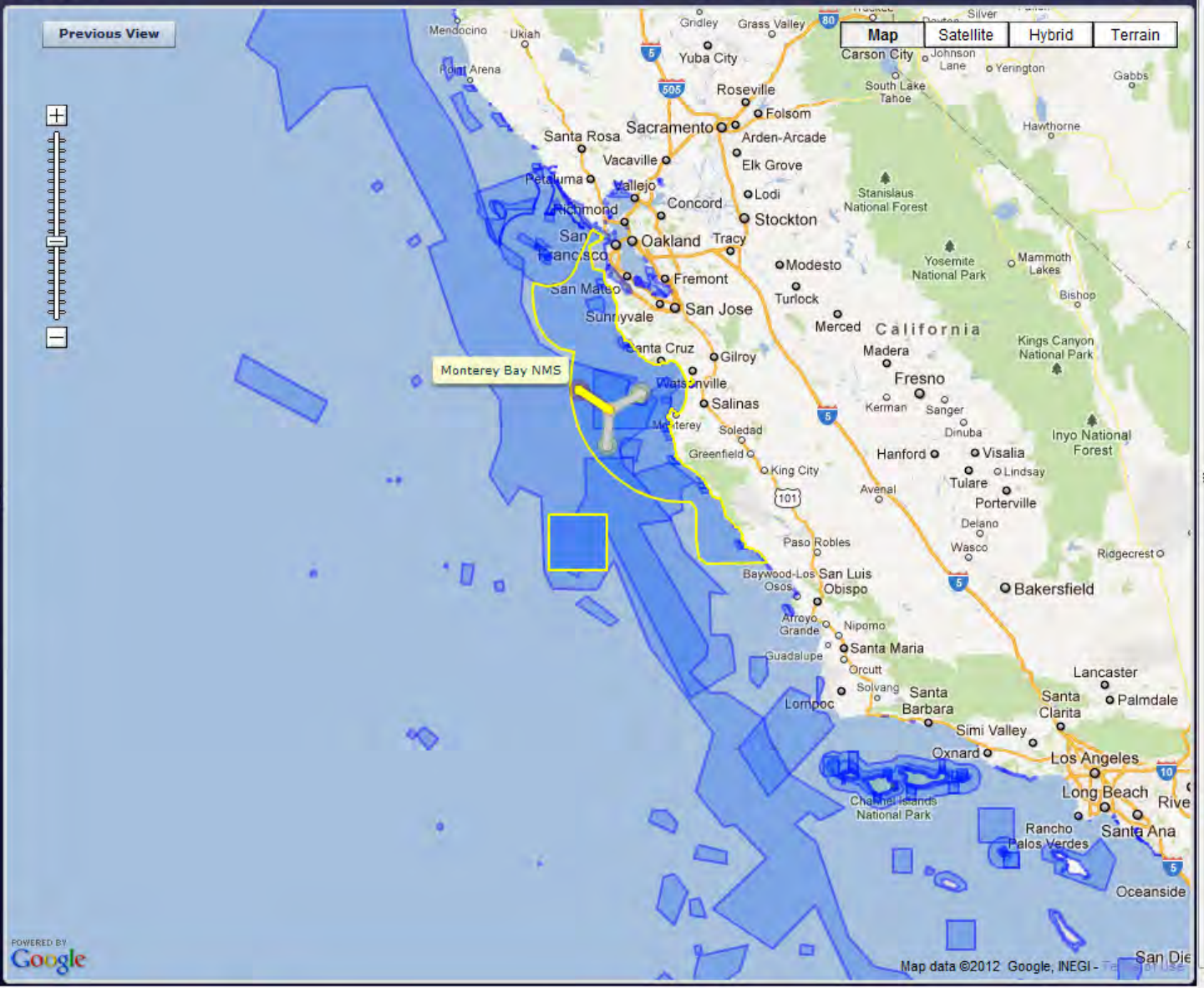
Done  
National Marine Protected Areas Center

Internet 100%  
www.mpa.gov

# U.S. Marine Protected Areas

Show All Hide All National System

- 77 Eligible
- Abalone Cove State Marine Park
  - Albany Mudflats State Marine Park
  - Anacapa Island Essential Fish Habitat Conservation Area
  - Anacapa Island State Marine Reserve
  - Anacapa Special Closure (A)
  - Bair Island State Marine Park
  - Big Sur/Port San Luis Essential Fish Habitat Conservation Area
  - Big Sycamore Canyon State Marine Reserve
  - Bolsa Chica State Marine Park
  - Carrington Point (Santa Rosa Island) State Marine Reserve
  - Carrington Point Essential Fish Habitat Conservation Area
  - Catalina Island Essential Fish Habitat Conservation Area
  - Catalina Marine Science Center State Marine Reserve
  - Cherry Bank Essential Fish Habitat Conservation Area
  - Cordell Bank (50 fm (91m) isobath) Essential Fish Habitat Conservation Area
  - Cordell Bank/Biogenic Area Essential Fish Habitat Conservation Area
  - Corte Madera Marsh State Marine Park
  - Cowdood Conservation Area East Essential Fish Habitat Conservation Area

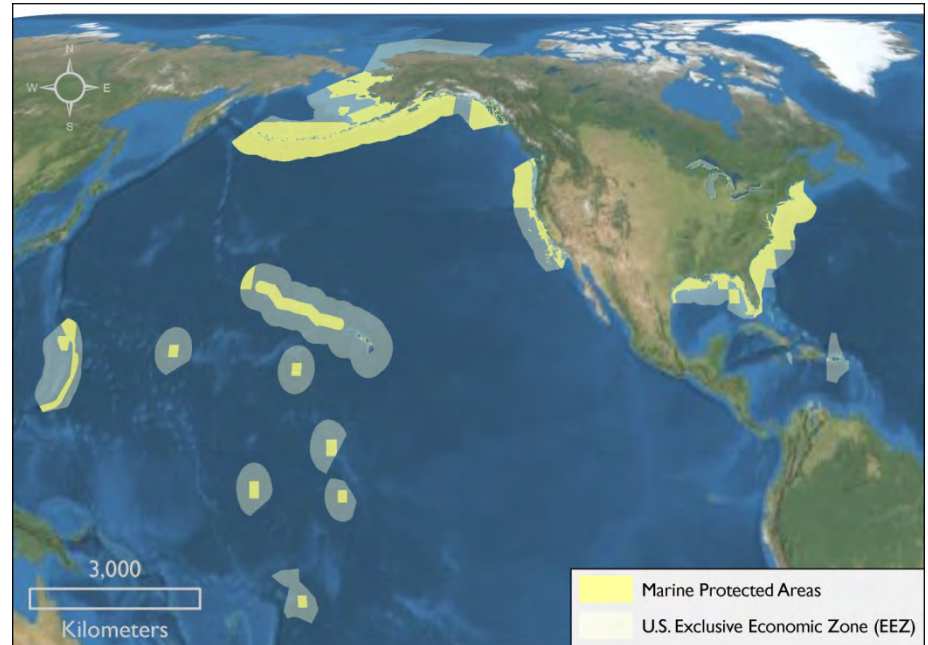


POWERED BY Google

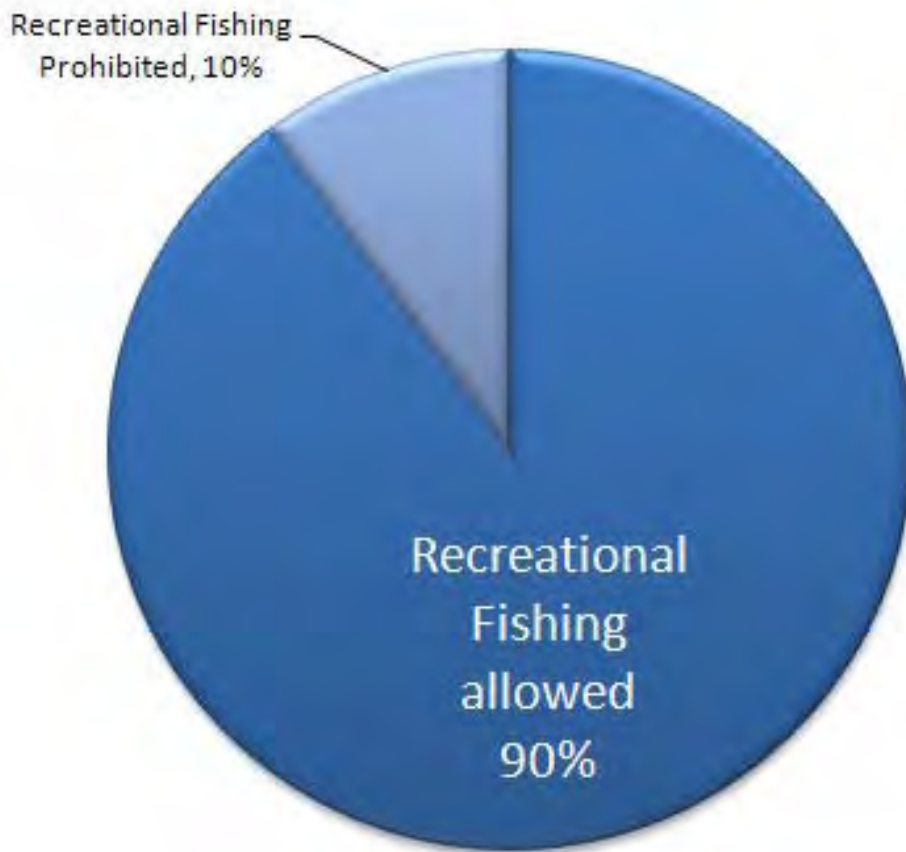
Map data ©2012 Google, INEGI

# National Picture of MPAs

- Over 1,700 MPAs in U.S. waters
- About 40% of all U.S. waters are in some form of MPA , but...
- Excluding fisheries MPAs, about 8% of US waters are in an MPA
- Nearly all U.S. MPAs are multiple use
- "No take" MPAs occupy only about 3% of all U.S. waters
- State and territorial governments manage approximately most of the nation's MPAs, but most MPA area is managed by federal agencies



# Perception vs. Reality: % US MPA Area Open to Recreational Fishing



# MPAs, Tourism and Recreation

Most US MPAs:

- have goals to enhance ocean uses and the coastal communities that depend on them
- allow a wide variety of recreational use, including fishing
- are coastal and accessible to human visitation
- provide often-untapped opportunities for gateway communities and economies



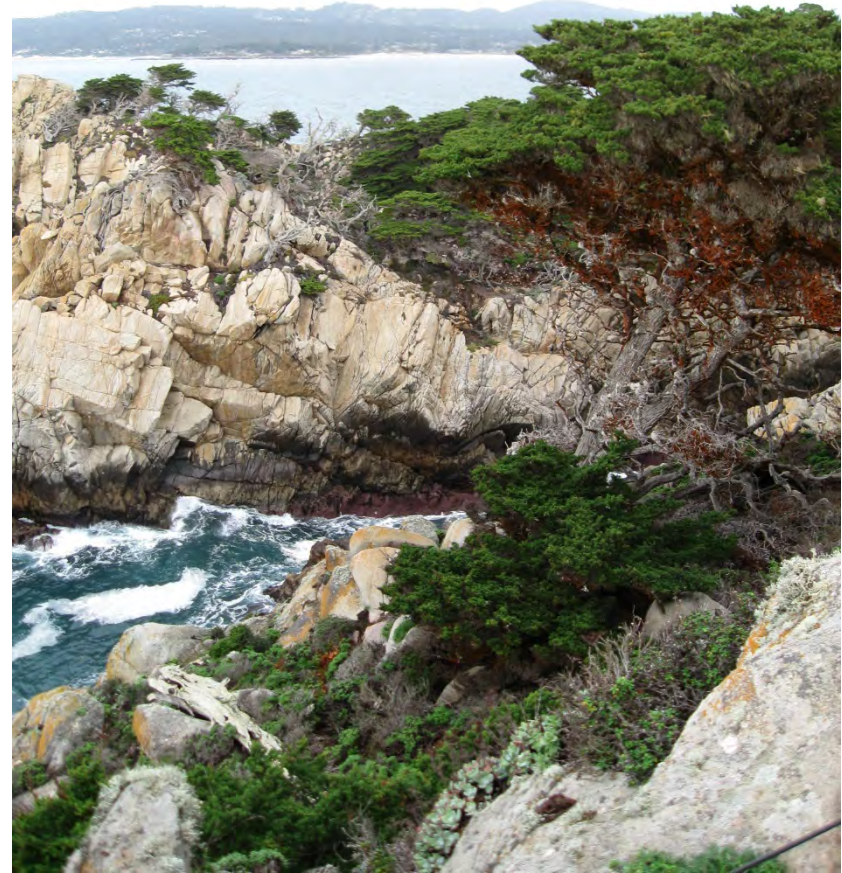
# National Travel & Tourism Strategy

## Goal:

- increase international travel to the U.S. (to 100 million international visitors by 2021)
- expected to generate \$250 billion annually in visitor spending by 2021
- encourages Americans to travel within the United States.

*“As a travel destination, no other nation can compete with the diversity of experiences found across the United States and its territories, with its public lands, waters, and iconic cultural and historic sites.”*

-National Travel and  
Tourism Strategy





# Travel & Tourism Strategy and MPAs



- MPAs include public lands, waters, and iconic cultural and historic sites
- MPAs as destinations for travel and tourism uses: camping, hiking, visiting ecological sites
- Nature-based, culture-based, heritage and outdoor adventure travel represent a significant segment of the tourism market

# Related MPA FAC Accomplishments

- Recommendations on
  - Coastal and Marine Spatial Planning (Dec 2011)
  - Cultural Landscape Approach (Dec 2011)
  - MPAs and Healthy Coastal Communities (Dec 2011)
  - *Evaluation* framework for the National System of MPAs (Dec 2008)
  - MPA management principles on *compliance and enforcement* (May 2008)



# Some Key Points from Recent Recommendations

- Conservation and management are social processes, and marine protected areas (MPAs) are social institutions.
- Wide adoption and success of CMSP requires meeting both conservation and sustainable human use objectives
- Achieving and maintaining healthy coastal and marine ecosystems requires a fundamental understanding of the relationships between people and the environment. Cultural heritage, which belongs to all people, emphasizes these connections.
- A rigorous application of Ecosystem-Based Management (EBM) combined with a Cultural Landscape Approach (CLA) will strengthen conservation of resources that cross the land/sea interface, promote sustainability of those resources and improve the socio-economic resilience of communities which depend upon them.



# Moving Forward: 2012 and Beyond

## The current charge

- Vision statement
- Connecting people to the oceans through MPAs
- Social and economic impacts of MPAs
- Role of MPAs in recreation and tourism
- Recognizing and protecting cultural heritage resources



Questions?

