

The Marine Managed Areas Inventory of the United States

The
National
Marine
Protected
Areas
Center

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Federal Advisory Committee Meeting
Wednesday, June 25, 2003



Overview

- MMA Inventory Basics
- Status of Data Collection
- Analyzing the Inventory
- Linking to International Efforts
- Take Home Messages



MMA Inventory Strategy

Three Step Process

- **Step I: Build an Inventory of existing U.S. MMAs**
 - Develop MMA criteria definitions
 - Seek public comment
 - Populate the database with descriptive information – location, physical and biological features, authorities, management approaches, and issues of concern
 - Collaborate with partners to ensure the information is useful
- **Step II: Conduct science–based assessments to help define a National System of MPAs**
- **Step III: Develop the list of U.S. MPAs**
 - Process to be developed through consultation with Federal Advisory Committee



Defining Marine Protected Areas

Executive Order 13158's Definition:

" Marine Protected Area means any **area** of the **marine environment** that has been **reserved** by Federal, State, territorial, tribal local laws or regulations to provide **lasting protection** for part or all of the natural and **cultural resources** therein."

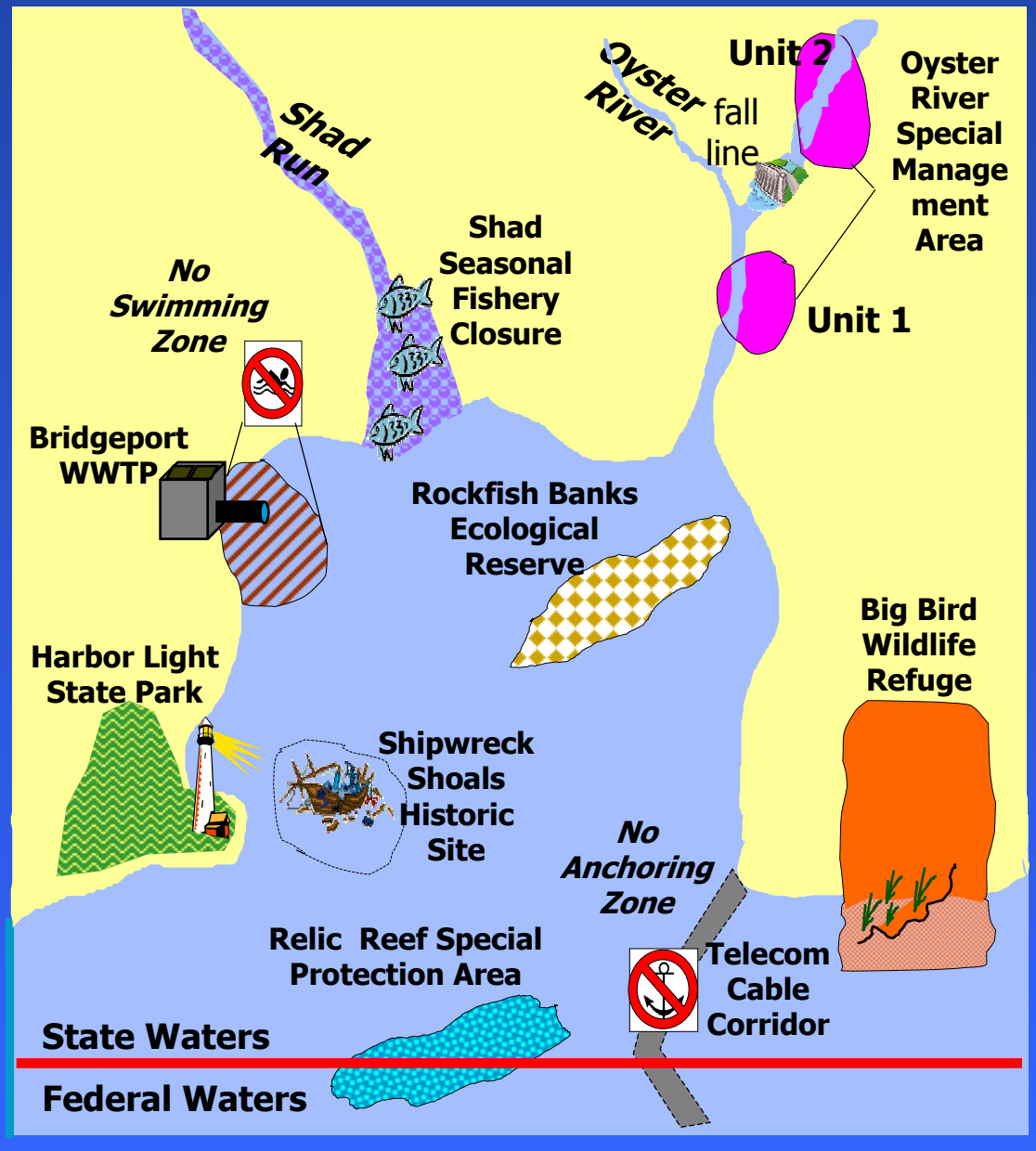
Key Terms:

1. Area
2. Marine environment
3. Reserved
4. Lasting
5. Protection
6. Cultural resources



Current MMA Criteria

Criteria	Current MMA Criteria (from Fed. Reg. Notice)
Area	must have boundaries <i>upland areas are not included, though GIS will include boundary of upland area</i>
Reserved	established through legislation/regulations
Duration (Lasting)	protections enacted for a minimum of 2 years duration; within each year, a minimum of 3 months continuous protection at the same location
Protections	greater within boundaries <i>can be single species</i>
Marine	a) an area of the ocean or coastal waters (including intertidal areas, bays or estuaries) or b) an area of the Great Lakes or their connecting waters
Cultural	submerged cultural resources



Data collection form and tool

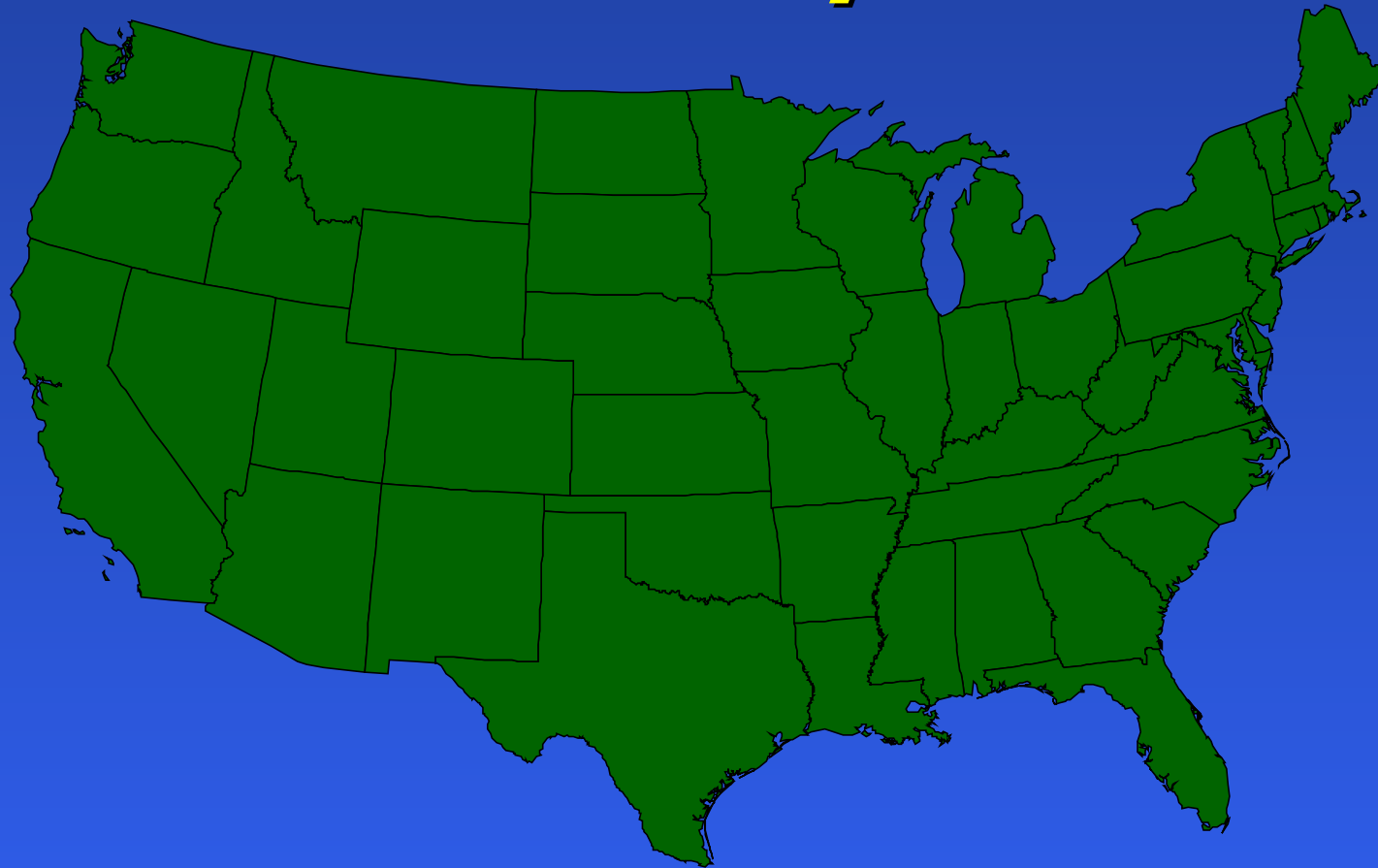
- Data form has 5 sections
 - **General Information**
 - Contact & structural Information
 - **Site Description**
 - Boundaries & land/water areas
 - **Legal Authority and Regulations**
 - **Site Management & purpose**
 - Issues of management concern
 - Activities allowed/restricted
 - **Zones**
- Existing data can be loaded from Excel spreadsheets
- Stand-alone data collection tool
- Approximate time per site: 1 1/2 – 4 hours

The screenshot shows a web-based data collection form titled "General Information" with a "Main Menu" button in the top right. A yellow banner at the top contains a question mark icon and the text: "Click on the ? or text of a question for information and examples." The form contains six numbered questions:

- 1. What is the name of the protected site?** (Text input field)
- 2. Provide a primary data contact for this site.** (Form with "Last Name" and "First Name" dropdown menus. Below the fields is a link: "If address information has NOT been filled in for this contact, click the following link: [Add Contact Address Information.](#)")
- 3. What type of site is this?** (List box with options: National Marine Sanctuary, National Estuarine Research Reserve, Federal Fisheries Management Zone, Federal Threatened/Endangered Critical Habitat, Federal Threatened/Endangered Species Protected Area, National Park System, National Wildlife Refuge, State Beach, State Park, Area of Critical Environmental Concern, Marine Conservation Area, Gear Restricted Area, Other...)
- 4.** (Text input field)
- 5.** (Text input field)
- 6. Provide a brief description of the site.**
 - a. Location and General Features: (Text input field)



MMA Inventory Federal Status



Total – 251 sites

- National Estuarine Research Reserve (25)**
- National Marine Sanctuaries (14)**
- National Marine Fisheries Service (47)**
- National Park Service (39)**
- National Wildlife Refuge (162)**

*Federal Advisory Committee Meeting
MMA Inventory Status – National MPA Center*



Working with the States, Territories and Commonwealths

State Advisory Group

- Advise on state/territorial data collection & other issues
- Contacts for wider state group needs
- Members:

Bob Bailey (OR) – Chair

Kathleen Leyden (ME)

Athline Clark – Vice Chair (HI)

Cathy Cunningham (MI)

Brian Baird (CA)

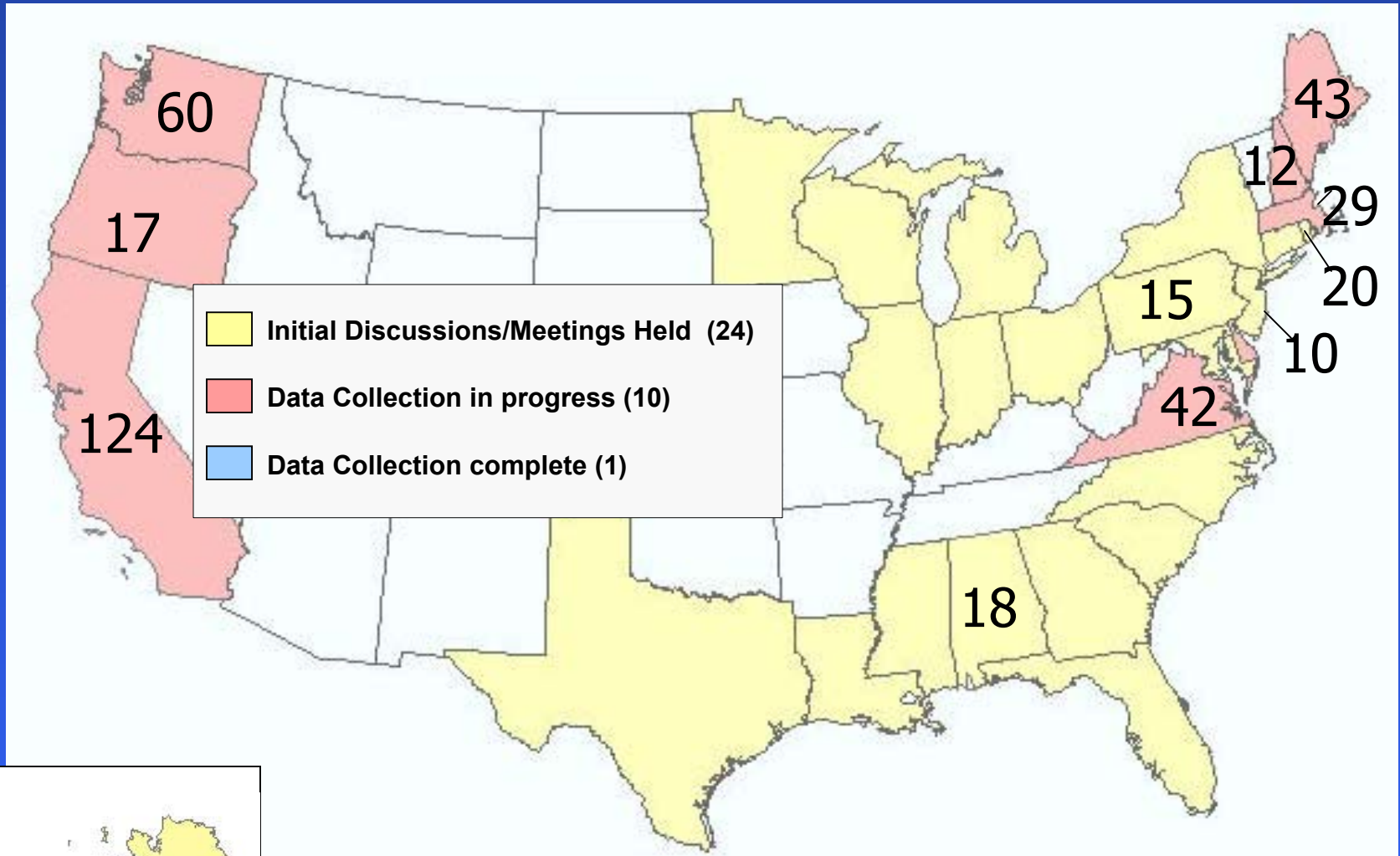
Jeb Boyt (TX)

Susan Snow-Cotter (MA)

Dr. Gerry Davis (GU)



MMA Inventory State Status



Initial Discussions/Meetings Held (24)
 Data Collection in progress (10)
 Data Collection complete (1)

Alaska

60
Hawaii

Guam

11
Northern Mariana Islands

American Samoa

Puerto Rico

U.S. Virgin Islands

Frequently Asked Questions

- ✓ How many sites are currently in the MMA Inventory, defined by program ?
- ✓ What is the total area of U.S. waters managed for conservation or cultural purposes ?
- ✓ What is the overlap of MMA sites among different agencies?
- ✓ What are the top four reasons sites are established?
- Are sites effective in meeting their management goals?



Information on MPA.GOV Web Site

Launched in Dec. 2000

- Background on E.O.
- Inventory
- Searchable database
- Atlas
- State section (coming)
- Library
- Case studies
- Advisory Committee
- Monthly updates

Slide 11

The screenshot displays the MPA.GOV website interface. At the top, it reads "Marine Protected Areas of the United States" with navigation links for "Foreword" and "Introduction". Below this, a search bar is visible with the text "The MPA Inventory: Query the Inventory" and "Profiles of U.S. Marine Protected Areas".

The main content area is titled "Florida Keys National Marine Sanctuary". It includes a map of Florida with a star indicating the sanctuary's location. To the right, a larger map of the South Atlantic region is shown with lettered boxes (A-E) indicating specific sites. A legend on the right side of this map lists various MPA types and their counts in the South Atlantic region:

- National Marine Sanctuary (3)
- National Estuarine Research Reserve (5)
- National Wildlife Refuge (22)
- National Marine Fisheries Service (5)
- Critical Habitat Area
- Fisheries Management Zone
- National Park System (8)
- National Park
- National Seashore
- National Historical Park
- Ecological Preserve

Text on the page includes: "There are currently 43 sites in the South Atlantic Region." and "There are several types of MPA's in the South Atlantic. The number of each type located in the region is listed in parentheses. Click the program name to link to a description of the program."

The "Site Description" section for the Florida Keys National Marine Sanctuary states: "Florida Keys National Marine Sanctuary was established on 11/16/1990, under the authority of the National Marine Sanctuaries Act. The site is managed by the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, National Ocean Service, and is located in or near, FL. Co-management agencies, if any, include the Florida Department of Environmental Protection, Coastal and Aquatic Management Areas."

At the bottom, there are "Links" for "Official Web Site" and "Regulations Text".

Linking to International Efforts

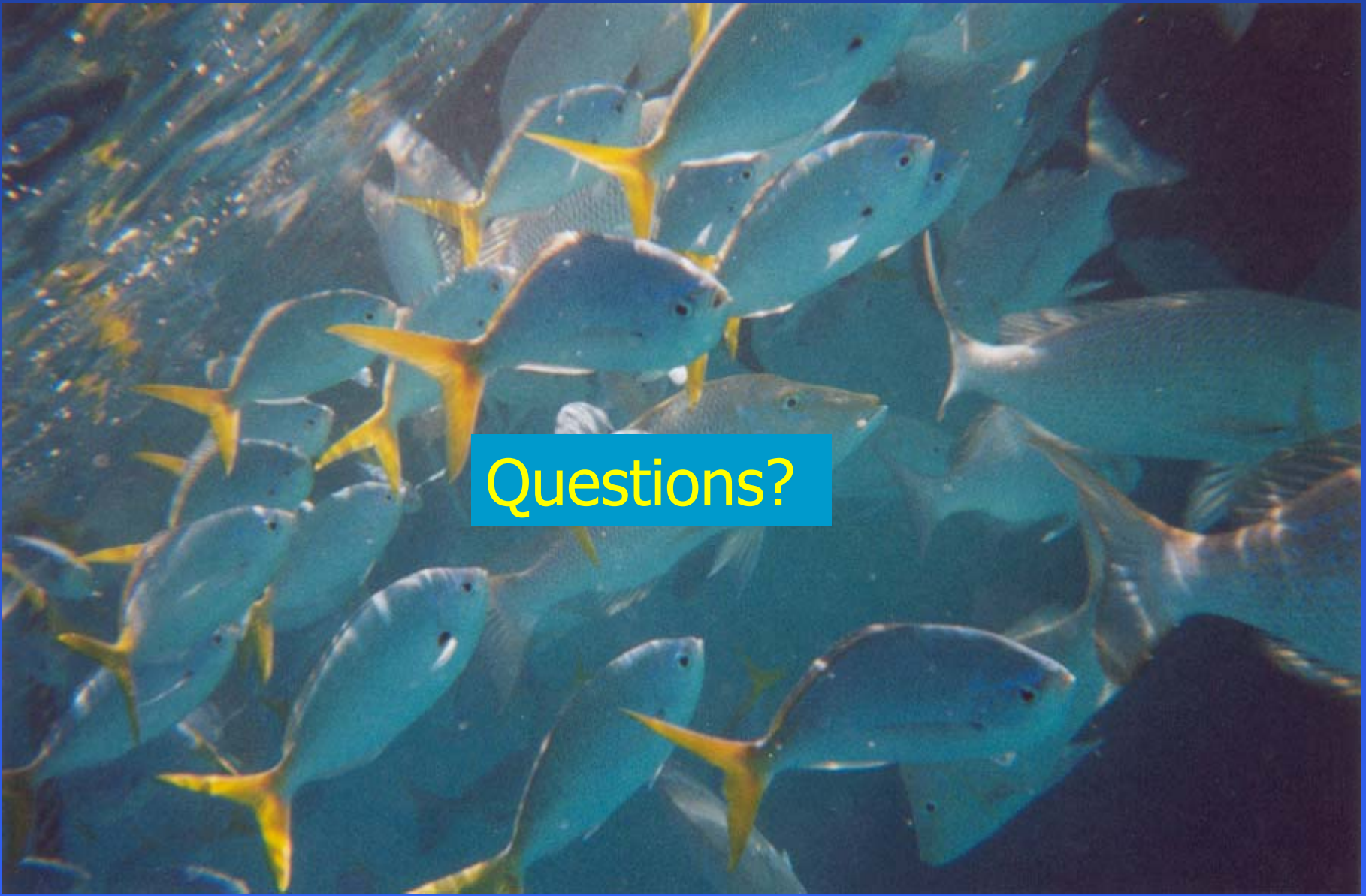
- Partnerships with The Commission of Environmental Cooperation
 - North American Marine Protected Areas Network
 - North American Biodiversity Information Network Portal
- World Commission Monitoring Centre
- World Congress on Protected Areas



Next Steps

- Complete federal and state data collection – target date Jan 2004
- Compile GIS boundaries for all sites by June 2004
- Improve data collection, editing, distribution and mapping capabilities on web site
- Conduct pilot regional analysis on West Coast in fall 2003





Questions?

