

Santa Cruz, California

The National Marine Protected Areas Center's Science Institute

Mission of the National Marine Protected Areas Center

The National Marine Protected Areas Center works closely with states, territories, regions, tribal trustees, and other stakeholders to improve understanding of marine protected areas (MPAs) in order to protect significant coastal marine resources for present and future generations.

The Center's mission is to facilitate the effective use of science, technology, training, and information in the planning, management and evaluation of the nation's system of marine protected areas.



The Role of the Science Institute

The Science Institute in Santa Cruz supports the design and effective management of all MPAs by developing partnerships with individuals and organizations to fulfill the key scientific, technical and policy assessment needs of MPAs nationwide.

The Science Institute provides a bridge between the science and policy of MPAs using a variety of methods and partnerships. These methods include:

- * Targeted research on ecological processes vital to successful MPA conservation
- * Expert workshops focused on high priority themes in MPA design and management
- * Exploration and characterization of ocean habitats for potential new MPA sites
- * Assessment of emerging threats and user conflicts affecting MPAs
- * Practical and equitable MPA management solutions
- * Analysis of policy, socioeconomic and resource use issues affecting MPAs or their resources

Partners

The Science Institute develops collaborative relationships with marine institutions, universities, aquaria, and others. In order to inspire, support, and coordinate MPA science and policy analysis throughout the country, the Science Institute is developing a strong network of governmental and non-governmental MPA experts from around the world.

For additional information, visit www.mpa.gov or contact:

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