

Building a National System of Marine Protected Areas

Presentation to:

Council Coordination Committee

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MPA Executive Order 13158



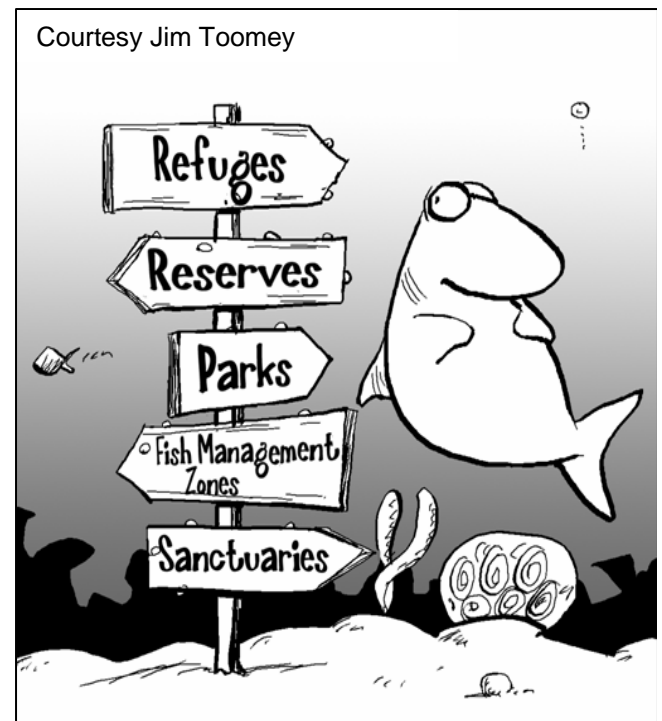
- Signed by President William J. Clinton in May 2000
- Endorsed by President George W. Bush in July 2001
 - DOC/NOAA and Interior are co-Leads

- 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
- Improve MPA coordination, stewardship and effectiveness



Why Develop a National System of MPAs?

- **Nearly 200 federal, state, and territorial authorities**
- **As many as 1,500 existing sites**
- **Many independent and overlapping MPA planning and designation processes**
- **Lack of a collaborative approach to planning and coordination to meet national and regional goals**



Value of a National System of MPAs

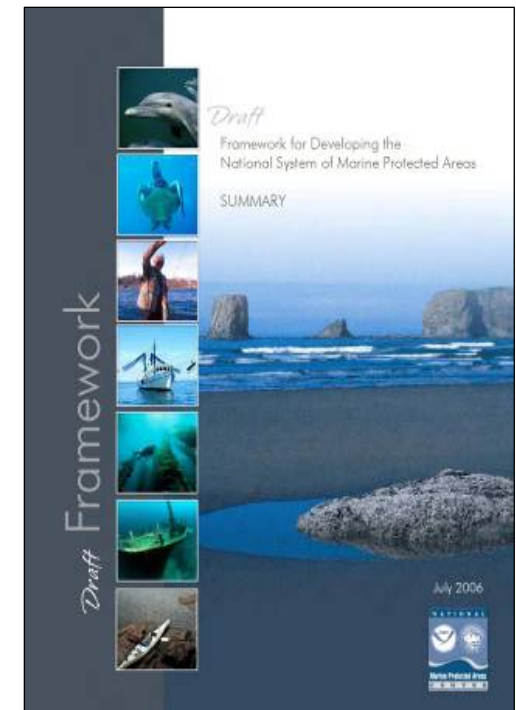
- Establishes a national vision for developing and using MPAs appropriately to conserve and sustain important natural and cultural resources
- Provides a neutral forum (“no turf”) for collaboration across states, tribes and federal agencies
- Builds the scientific foundation and technical capacity for effective use of MPAs and networks of MPAs – design, management, and evaluation
- Provides the public with opportunities for participation in and valuable information about US MPAs
- Addresses resource conservation issues that cannot be addressed by individual sites or programs on their own



Framework for the National System of MPAs

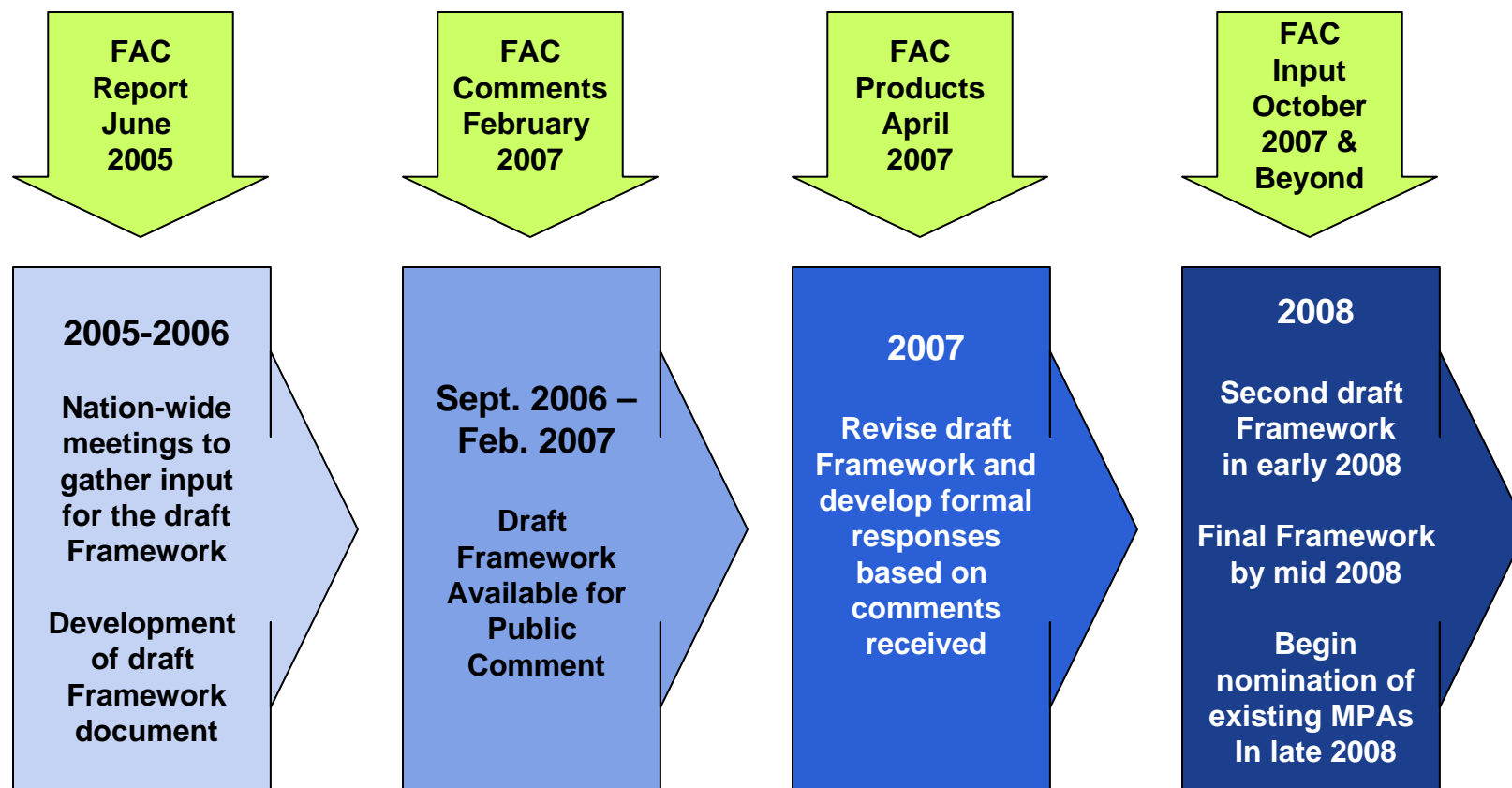


- Establishes vision, goals and objectives for the national system
- Outlines steps for building and implementing the national system
 - Nomination process for existing MPAs
 - Identification of gaps in protection
 - Improving regional and national coordination and MPA effectiveness




Emphasizes regional approaches to build national system

Framework: Where are we now?



“FAC” = MPA Federal Advisory Committee

 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*

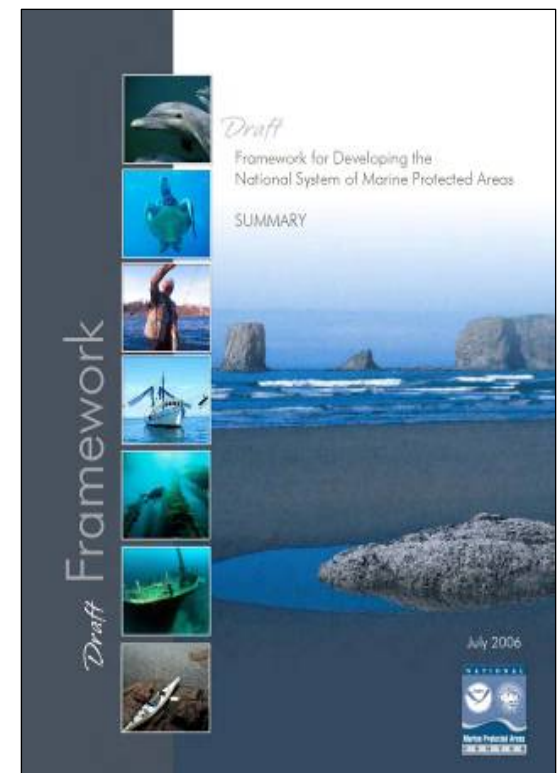


• Addt'l advice from MPA FAC – April 07



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 of document required



Major Revisions in Forthcoming Draft

1. Simplified document with “priorities” published on as needed basis
2. Revised implementation process that builds the system gradually over time using a new set of conservation objectives (targets) for:
 - prioritizing nomination of existing MPAs, and
 - identifying gaps that need new protection
3. Clearer, more deliberate process for identifying conservation gaps, including system design criteria (e.g., resiliency, representative, etc.)
4. A new set of user-friendly national system MPA categories for organizing MPAs in the system to better communicate accomplishments
5. Clearer description of national system benefits and more deliberate process for identifying and delivering science and technical support to MPA programs
6. Strengthened regional approach based on large marine eco-regions and forming regional MPA working groups

Priority Conservation Objectives: Sustainable Production Goal

Goal 3: Advance comprehensive conservation and management of the nation's significant sustainable production marine resources through ecosystem-based MPA approaches.

Priority Conservation Objectives for Goal 3

Conserve key reproduction areas (including larval sources) and nursery grounds	Near Term
Conserve key areas that sustain or restore high priority fishing grounds	
Conserve key areas for maintaining natural age/sex structure of important harvestable species	Mid Term
Conserve key foraging grounds	
Conserve key areas that mitigate the impacts of bycatch	
Conserve key areas that provide compatible opportunities for education and research	Long Term

Priority Conservation Objectives: Natural Heritage Goal

Goal 1: Advance comprehensive conservation and management of the nation's significant natural heritage marine resources through ecosystem-based MPA approaches.

Priority Conservation Objectives for Goal 1

Conserve key reproduction areas and nursery grounds	Near Term
Conserve key biogenic habitats	
Conserve areas of high species and/or habitat diversity	
Conserve ecologically important geological features + enduring/recurring oceanographic features	
Conserve critical habitat of threatened and endangered species	
Conserve unique or rare habitats and associated communities	Mid Term
Conserve key areas for migratory species	
Conserve linked areas important to life histories	Long Term
Conserve key areas that provide compatible opportunities for education and research	

Questions?

A National System of MPAs, collaboratively conserving the nation's...



Natural
Heritage,



Sustainable Production,
and



Cultural
Heritage.