

North Pacific Fishery Management Council Status of MPA Nominations

CCC Meeting, May 2010

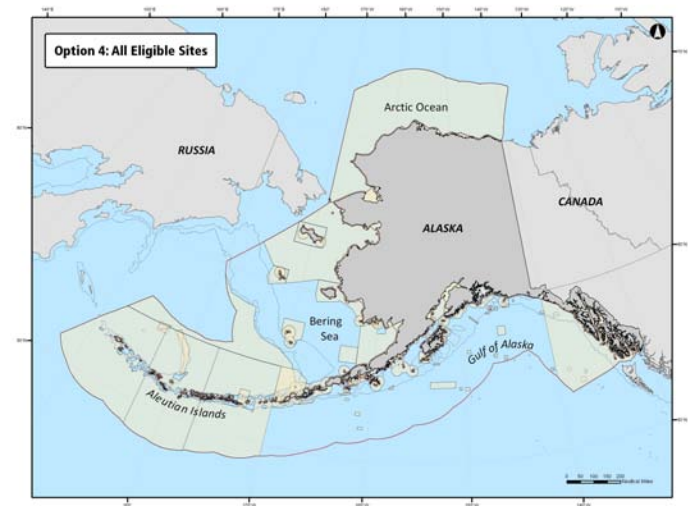


MPA Nomination Process Initiated

- NMFS sent letter May 2009 with 26 eligible sites.
- Council tasked staff to prepare discussion paper to review potential sites and discuss issues and concerns with the MPA process:
 - Council Authority
 - ‘Avoid Harm’ provision
 - Gap analysis

Issues Discussion Paper

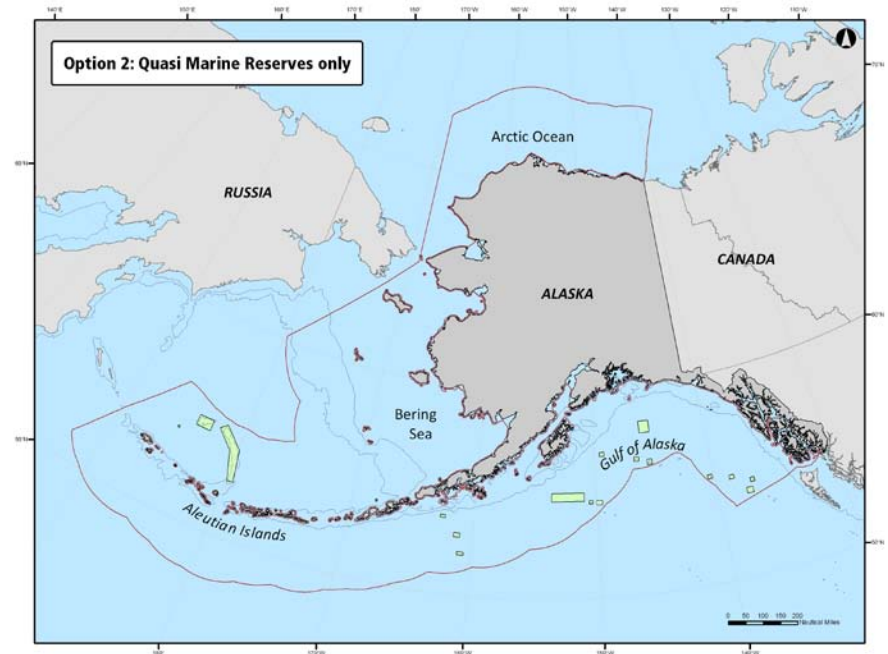
- Revised list included 251 sites that appear eligible for MPA list.
- Proposed 4 options for which sites should be nominated:
 1. No sites
 2. Quasi marine reserves
 3. Stable boundary sites
 4. All sites eligible



Site Evaluation Paper

In December, Council tasked staff to evaluate the quasi marine reserves (option 2) for possible MPA nomination:

- AK seamounts
- AI coral gardens
- Bowers Ridge
- GOA coral areas
- Sitka pinnacles
- No-transit zones at 39 SSL rookeries



Site Evaluation Paper

The evaluation paper will:

- Incorporate forthcoming NOAA guidance on 'avoid harm to the extent practicable'
- Examine fishing effort intensity relative to the avoid harm provision
- Review the original list of 26 eligible sites and justify why sites should be included or not
- Discuss integration of MPA nominations with EFH/HAPC process specified in FMPs

Council will review the paper in October.

Evaluation of Alaska MPA Sites

There are 4 MPAs in Alaska:

- The Alaska Marine National Wildlife Refuge
- The Arctic National Wildlife Refuge
- Glacier Bay National Park and Preserve
- The Yukon Delta National Wildlife Refuge

Council tasked staff to evaluate
FMP fisheries with respect to the
'avoid harm' provision

- Paper will be reviewed
in June