



EXTERNAL PANEL REVIEW OF THE NOAA NATIONAL MARINE PROTECTED AREAS CENTER

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Why an external review?

- Assess progress during first decade of MPA Center.
- Provide an opportunity for stakeholder input about past work and future direction.
- Provide recommendations about future direction.





Panelists' Expertise

- Science and technology (natural and social sciences, economics, cultural heritage)

MPA management (implementing the needs of federal, state and territorial managers that can be addressed through the national MPA system)

Public/private partnerships (knowledge of public-private partnerships that supports effective mpa management and ocean conservation)

International affairs (best practices in development of mpa networks and successful collaborations)

Panelists

- Dr. Mark Hixon (Chair), Oregon State University

Ms. Lori Arguelles, Alice Ferguson Foundation

Dr. Patrick Christie, University of Washington

Ms. Petra McGowan, The Nature Conservancy



Review Format



REVIEW QUESTIONS posed by the MPA Center



Request for **WRITTEN COMMENTS** from the public via website, *Federal Register* and other outreach



INTERVIEWS with select National System MPA partners

INTERVIEWS with select MPA Center senior staff



RECOMMENDATIONS developed by panelists

Review questions

1. Is the MPA Center focusing on the most important activities to fulfill its Goals and Objectives?
2. How successfully has the MPA Center addressed the requirements of Executive Order 13158?
3. Is the MPA Center providing the necessary leadership to strengthen and expand the National System of MPA's?
4. Are resources (human and financial) allocated appropriately to effectively address the Goals and Objectives of the MPA Center?
5. How effective has the MPA Center been in solidifying public/private partnerships and engaging stakeholders to support efficient management of MPA's and MPA networks?
6. Should the MPA Center change its priorities or activities to more effectively meet the requirements of Executive Order 13158?





Public Comments

- 44 Comments were received from:
 - MPA program managers
 - Tribes
 - Natural scientists
 - Social scientists
 - Environmental organizations
 - Cultural resource experts
 - Industry
 - Recreational fishing
 - Other

Setting Priorities

1. For each of the mandated goals in Executive Order, the Center should focus strategically on key activities where the Center can make a unique and important difference.



Evaluating the Current Context

2. Carefully evaluate the list of requirements in Executive Order 13158 in light of the evolving landscape of place-based management in the U.S.



Leadership

3. Operationally define “strengthening and expanding the Nation’s System of MPAs,” and fill the MPA Center Director position.



Provide Substantial and Stable Resources

4. MPA Center should be provided with substantial and stable resources commensurate with its broad and important mission. DOI should become a full partner with NOAA in funding and staffing the Center.



Increase Outreach and Engagement

5. MPA Center should substantially increase its outreach and engagement with diverse national and regional constituencies. The Center should play a pivotal role in facilitating a professional network of MPA managers.





Maintain Autonomy and Focus on All MPA Programs

6. In any new organization, the Center should have:
 - A continued focus on all MPA programs
 - Autonomy, enhancing the reality and perception of an independent, service-oriented unit
 - Separation from specific regulatory authorities.

Questions ?

www.mpa.gov

Photo courtesy of Robert J. Brock