

MINUTES
Marine Protected Areas Federal Advisory Committee Meeting
February 1, 2007
Via Web and Phone Conference

The Committee Convened at 2:05 PM (Eastern Time)

Meeting Opening

Mark Hixon, Committee Chair, called the roll and determined that a quorum was present. Lauren Wenzel, Designated Federal Official, opened the meeting and turned the meeting over to the Chair.

Jonathan Kelsey, Acting Director for the National Marine Protected Areas Center, thanked the Committee for their dedication in commenting on the draft Framework, particularly the ad hoc Subcommittee chaired by Steve Murray that prepared the comments document. He noted that public comments have been coming in, and the MPA Center looks forward to reviewing all the comments. The deadline for comments is being extended from February 14, 2007, to February 28, 2007.

Mark Hixon reviewed the voting procedures that were sent to the Committee via email. He encouraged all members to submit comments as individuals, in addition to those submitted by the full Committee. Dr. Hixon thanked Steve Murray and the other members of the ad hoc Subcommittee, including Mike Cruickshank, Dennis Heinemann, Max Peterson, and Jim Ray. He then asked Steve Murray to chair the voting process. In view of the limitations of conducting Committee business over the phone, the voting procedure was outlined as follows: Steve Murray would read each recommendation aloud, then ask if any member wished to make a key question or comment. Finally, Dr. Murray would take a roll call vote for each recommendation.

The roll call vote for each of the 24 proposed recommendations is attached. Only Recommendation 6 did not pass. Recommendation 4 was voted on twice, as the first vote included four abstentions. The vote was close, and some members felt that those who abstained might not have fully understood the implications of that decision. The Chair called for a second vote, which is recorded on the attached tally sheet. Several members expressed concern regarding this voting procedure and that the very close vote on this recommendation did not reflect the consensus-based approach that the Committee has previously taken in developing recommendations.

After the voting was complete, Dr. Hixon thanked the members for their focus and brevity. He explained that he will write a cover letter that will highlight the Committee's June 2005 report and note that the Committee believes that report should be incorporated more thoroughly into the Framework. The Committee agreed that the Chair should write the cover letter to the Departments of Commerce (DOC) and the Interior (DOI) on the Committee's behalf. As one of the recommendations did not pass, the recommendations will be renumbered in the submission to DOC and DOI.

Mark Hixon thanked all the members for their dedication in developing the comments via email and telephone between Committee meetings.

Lauren Wenzel adjourned the meeting at 3:35 PM.

I hereby certify that, to the best of my knowledge, the foregoing minutes are accurate and complete.

Lauren Wenzel
Designated Federal Official

Dr. Mark Hixon
Chair
Marine Protected Areas Federal Advisory
Committee

These minutes will be formally considered by the MPA FAC at its next meeting, and any corrections or notations will be incorporated in the minutes of that meeting.

Committee members present:

Dr. Tundi Agardy
Mr. Bob Bendick
Mr. Dave Benton
Dr. Anthony Chatwin
Dr. Michael Cruickshank
Mr. Eric Gilman
Ms. Ellen Goethel
Dr. John Halsey
Dr. Dennis Heinemann
Dr. Mark Hixon
Dr. Bonnie McCay
Dr. Steve Murray
Dr. John Ogden
Mr. R. Max Peterson
Mr. Gil Radonski
Dr. Jim Ray
Ms. Kay Williams
Mr. Jim Woods
Mr. Bob Zales II

NOAA National Marine Protected Areas Center staff:

Mr. Jonathan Kelsey, Acting Director
Ms. Bunny Sparks, Committee Support
Ms. Lauren Wenzel, Designated Federal Officer
Dr. Charles Wahle, Science Institute Director

NOAA Fisheries staff:

Mr. Ralph Lopez, Office of Habitat Conservation

Marine Protected Areas Federal Advisory Committee Voting Summary
1-Feb-07

Recommendation #	PASS/FAIL	Number of Votes		
		Yes	No	Abstain
R1	PASS	18	0	0
R2	PASS	17	1	0
R3	PASS	16	2	0
R4	PASS	10	9	0
R5	PASS	19	0	0
R6	FAIL	9	9	1
R7	PASS	18	0	1
R8	PASS	19	0	0
R9	PASS	18	1	0
R10	PASS	17	1	1
R11	PASS	13	5	1
R12	PASS	19	0	0
R13	PASS	18	1	0
R14	PASS	19	0	0
R15	PASS	17	1	1
R16	PASS	19	0	0
R17	PASS	19	0	0
R18	PASS	19	0	0
R19	PASS	19	0	0
R20	PASS	19	0	0
R21	PASS	19	0	0
R22	PASS	19	0	0
R23	PASS	19	0	0