

NOAA'S OCEAN CONSERVATION ROLE



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Summary



An Ecologist's Perspective

Ecosystem Approach to Management

Restoring Fisheries

Climate Change

Coastal Management

Marine Spatial Planning

Role of the National System of MPAs



What people want from our oceans and coasts



Clean Beaches

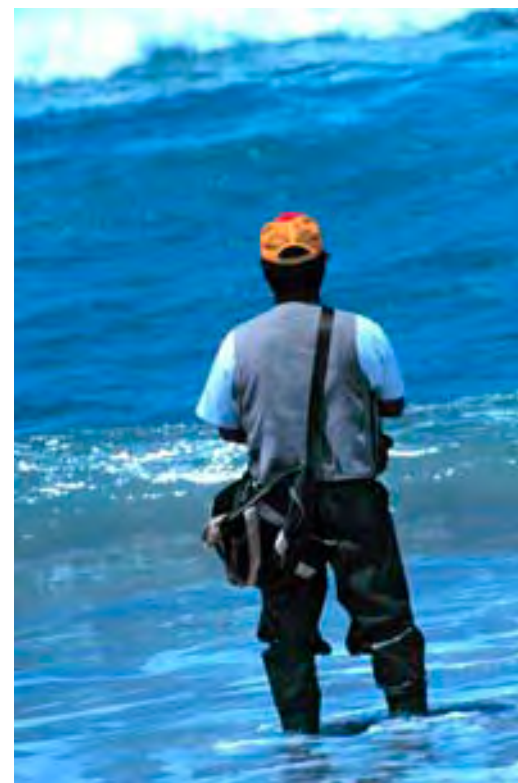
Safe and Healthy Seafood

Abundant Wildlife

Stable Fisheries

Vibrant Coastal Communities

Renewable Sources of Energy



Ecosystem Approaches to Management



Moving from traditional single-sector management toward more comprehensive approaches

Draws on multi-disciplinary science

Considers the full range of human interactions and interests

Requires integrative syntheses of scientific information

Ecosystem Approaches to Management and MPAs



MPAs are an important component of an ecosystem approach to management

Most US MPAs have an ecosystem-scale focus, (rather than single, focal resource)

National system can foster viable, productive ecosystems and services

MPA FAC has made significant contributions to this goal

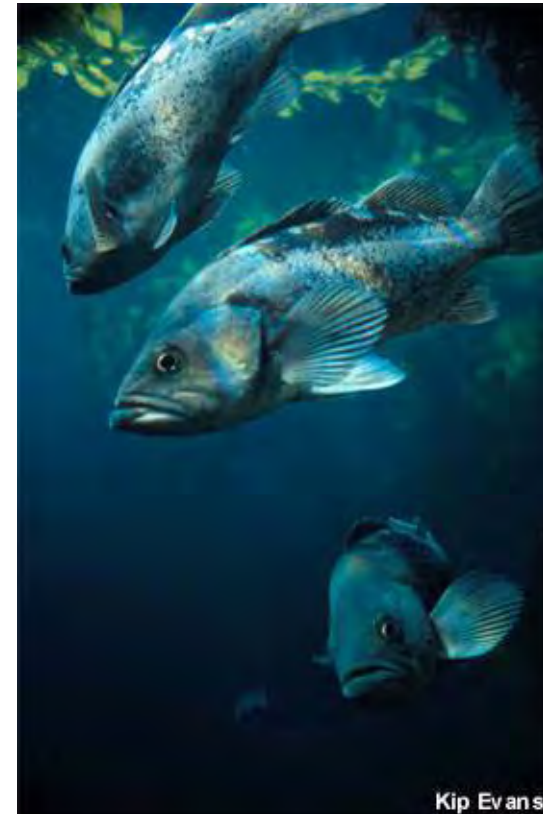
NOAA's Role in Fisheries Management



Maintain healthy stocks important to commercial, recreational, and subsistence fisheries.

Eliminate overfishing and rebuild overfished stocks important to commercial, recreational, and subsistence fisheries.

Increase long-term economic and social benefits to the nation from living marine resources.



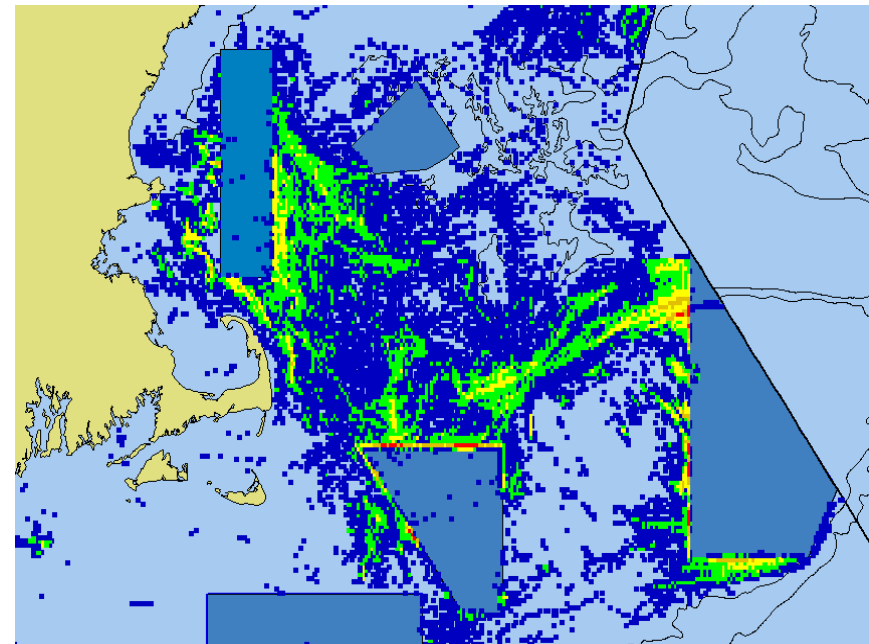
Kip Evans

Fisheries and MPAs

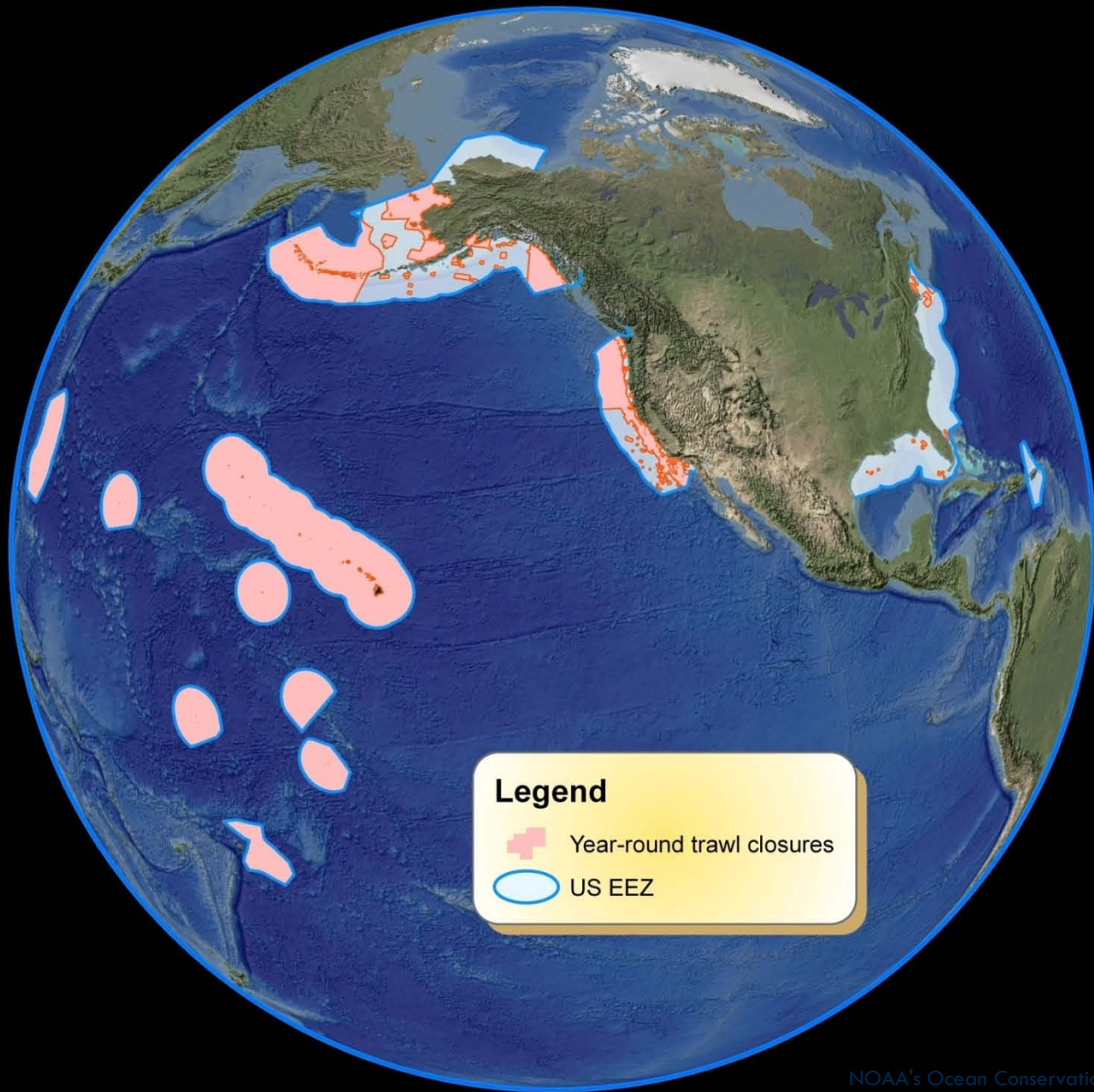


Closed areas for specific purposes are an important tool for fisheries management

Key role of Fishery Management Councils and stakeholders in planning and management



MPAs and Fishing Effort in New England, 2003



Legend

- Year-round trawl closures
- US EEZ

Climate Change



Greatest threat to ocean health in our history

Increasing concern about impacts, including:

- ✔ Ocean acidification
- ✔ Ocean warming / coral bleaching
- ✔ Loss of sea ice
- ✔ Sea level rise / coastal habitat loss
- ✔ Changes in species distribution
- ✔ Changes in currents, waves and storms
- ✔ Invasive species

Global social, economic and ecological impacts will be felt far beyond the shoreline



Bleached Coral



Storm surge on a Louisiana highway shows the affects of rising sea levels

NOAA's Role in Climate Change

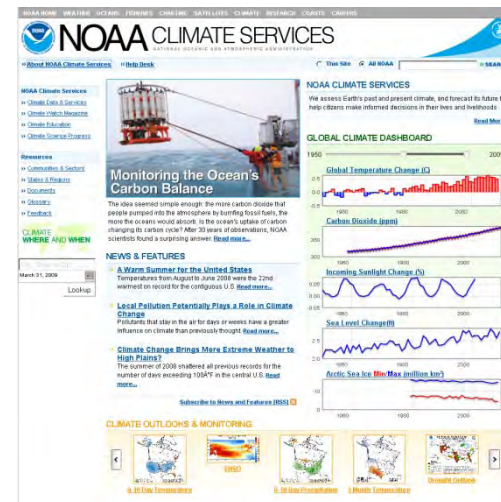
Provide the best science to inform management decisions

Develop and implement conservation strategies that buffer and adapt to climate change

Establishing NOAA Climate Service



Extent of Arctic Sea Ice, Sept 2007



Climate Change and MPAs



The national system of MPA should

- ✔ build MPA capacity for adaptation
- ✔ buffer climate impacts on surrounding areas and resources
- ✔ Account for climate impacts in analyzing conservation gaps

Look forward to MPA FAC recommendations on building resilience

Coastal Management and MPAs

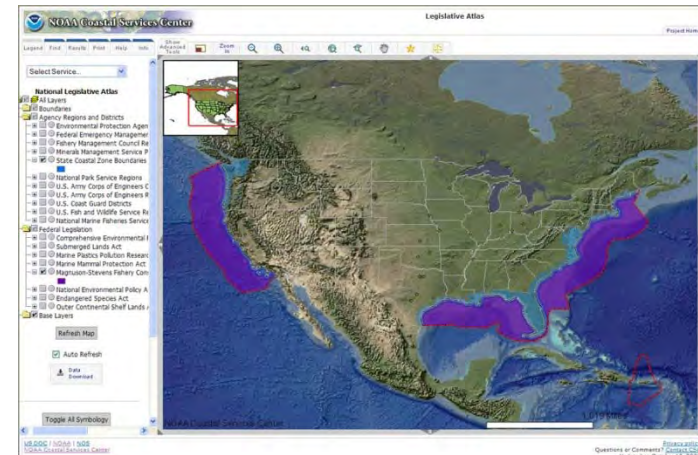
Development of NOAA Coastal Strategy

Priority issue areas

- ☑ Coastal Hazards & Climate Change
- ☑ Competing Coastal Uses & Habitat Loss
- ☑ Coastal Pollution & Human Health Effects

Coastal MPAs

- ☑ Affect and are affected by priority issue areas
- ☑ Account for most US MPAs
- ☑ Managed by states; importance of partnerships



NOAA Coastal Services Center's
Searchable Online Legislative Atlas

Marine Spatial Planning (MSP)

Suite of ocean uses and conflicts are growing faster than our ability to manage them

US needs a comprehensive, multi-sectoral approach to ocean planning

Supports state-led ocean governance initiatives

Builds on and supports NOAA's broad place-based management mandates



NOAA's Role in Marine Spatial Planning



NOAA capabilities include ecosystem based science, service, and stewardship necessary for such a comprehensive task

Provide critical spatial data on ocean resources and uses to support regional planning

Provide decision support tools to managers

Support emerging regional ocean governance initiatives

NOAA has unique portfolio of place-based trustee responsibilities



Marine Spatial Planning and MPAs



MPAs are an essential component of a marine spatial plan

The national system of MPAs and an integrated marine spatial plan are built on the same information foundation

MPA Federal Advisory Committee should explore how the national system can support and be integrated with broader marine spatial planning efforts



In closing...

