

# Nomination Process and Initial National System of MPAs

Presentation to the MPA Federal Advisory Committee

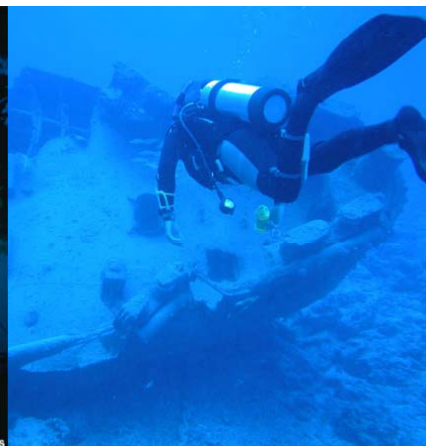
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National Marine Protected Areas Center  
April 21, 2009



[WWW.MPA.gov](http://WWW.MPA.gov)

# Initial National System

- Goal is for initial national system to be diverse in terms of:
  - Geographic region
  - Ecosystem type
  - Level of government
  - Conservation goals



# First Round of Nominations

- 225 MPAs
- Federal MPA Programs
  - National Marine Sanctuaries
  - National Parks
  - National Wildlife Refuges
- Federal/State Partnership
  - NERRS
  - Papahānaumokuākea Marine National Monument
- 9 States/Territories (includes NERRS sites)

**Proposed Checklist for Evaluating Whether Existing MPAs Meet National System PCOs**  
*To be filled out by managing programs based on existing knowledge and information. Please refer to the provided instructions for more information.*

Site Name: \_\_\_\_\_  
 Contact Name: \_\_\_\_\_  
 Contact Number/Email: \_\_\_\_\_

Primary Conservation Objectives Concern and Message	(1) PRESENCE: Site Contains the PCO?	(2) GOALS: Site Management Goals or Objectives Address the PCO?	(3) TOOLS: Does your Site's Program have Protection or Regulations that Benefit the PCO?	(4) Citation for Regulation in Column 3	(5) Information Source (Site manager, URL, etc.) Insert (A- thru G)
<b>Natural Heritage</b>					
Key reproduction areas and nursery grounds	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>		
Key biogenic habitats	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>		
Areas of high species and/or high diversity	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>		
Ecologically important geological features and enduring/recurring oceanographic features	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>		
Critical habitat of threatened and endangered species	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>		
Unique or rare species, habitats and associated communities	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>		
Key areas for migratory species	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>		
Linked areas important to life histories	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>		
Key areas that provide competitive opportunities for education and research	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>		
<b>Cultural Heritage</b>					
Key cultural and historic resources listed on the National Register of Historic Places (NRHP)	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>		
Key cultural historic resources determined eligible for the NRHP or listed on a State Register	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>		
Key cultural sites that are paramount to a culture's identity and/or survival	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>		
Key cultural and historic sites that may be threatened	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>		
Key cultural and historic sites that can be utilized for heritage tourism	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>		
Key cultural and historic sites that are under-represented	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>		

Legend for (5) Information Sources (indicate A-G)

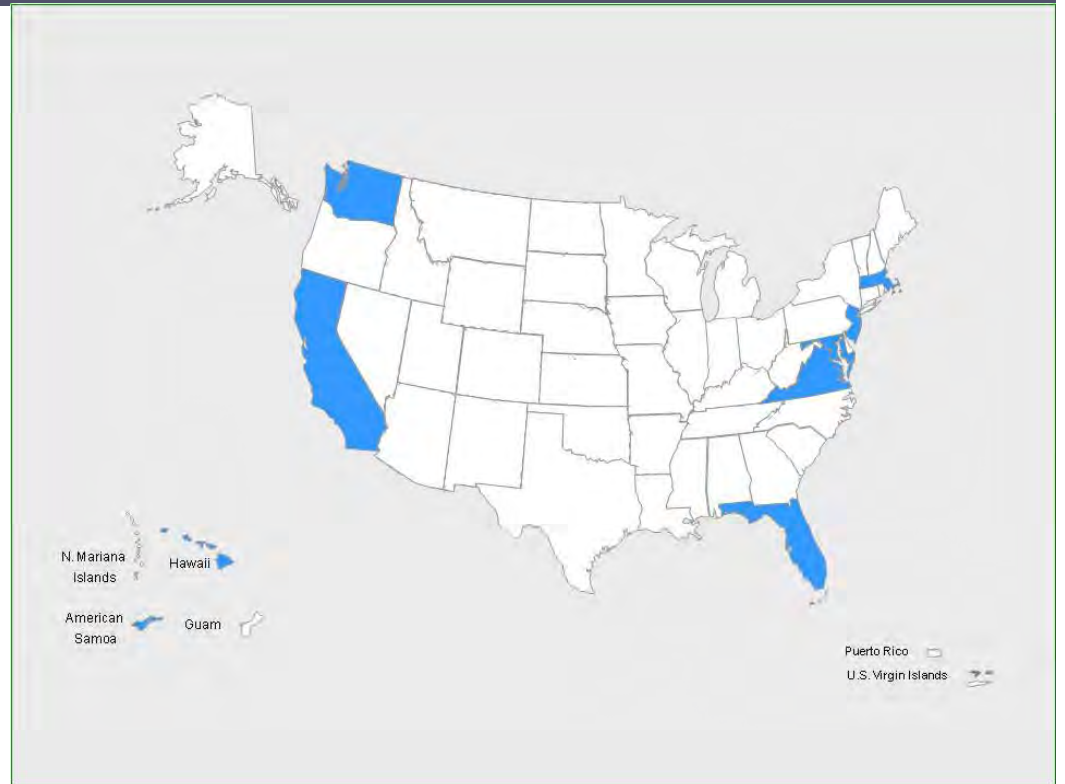
A.	Site Management Plan
B.	Code of Federal Regulations
C.	Code of State Regulations
D.	Site Manager
E.	Program Web Site
F.	Scientific Paper(s)
G.	Other

Note: The MPA Center has reviewed the MPA inventory and provided a list of potentially eligible sites to MPA Programs to invite them to nominate these sites by submitting this checklist. Potentially eligible sites are those that meet the criteria for 1) meeting the definition of an MPA; and 2) having a management plan. See attached instructions for details on completing this checklist for the priority conservation objectives component.

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# Participating States/Territories

- American Samoa (1)
- California (63)
- Florida (2)
- Hawaii (7)
- Maryland (1)
- Massachusetts (1)
- New Jersey (1)
- Virginia (7)
- Washington (19)



# Public Review

- 30-day public comment period
- List of nominated sites published in Federal Register
- Posted on [www.mpa.gov](http://www.mpa.gov)
- Notified stakeholders through email lists and newsletters

# Public Comments

- 26 public comments
  - Diverse sources – industry, conservation, fishing
  - Support or opposition to specific sites
  - Concerns about potential restrictions on use

# Final Nominations

- Public comments forwarded to managing agencies
- Managing agencies asked to make final determination on nomination package
- All nominations re-affirmed

# Highlights of the Initial National System

- **Total Number and Area of the National System**
  - 225 Sites
  - Marine Area: 183,000 miles<sup>2</sup>
- **Percent of EEZ covered by National System sites**
  - Percent of EEZ: 10%
- **Total Area of No-Take within National System**
  - Marine Area: 47,000 miles<sup>2</sup>
  - Percent of the EEZ: < 1%



# Highlights of the Initial National System

- **Largest Site (Pacific Islands)**
- Papahānaumokuākea Marine National Monument: 140,000 miles<sup>2</sup>
- **Smallest Site (Maryland)**
- Blackwater National Wildlife Refuge: 0.0021 miles<sup>2</sup>
- **Largest No-Take Zone**
- Ecological Reserve of Papahānaumokuākea Marine National Monument: 38,000 miles<sup>2</sup>
- Entire No-Take Area of this site = 45,000 miles<sup>2</sup> (10 SPAs and 1 ecological reserve)

# Highlights of the Initial National System

- **Oldest Site (located in Florida)**
- Pelican Island National Wildlife Refuge: Established in 1903
- **Newest Sites (located in California)**
- 24 Marine Life Protection Act sites throughout California: Established in 2007

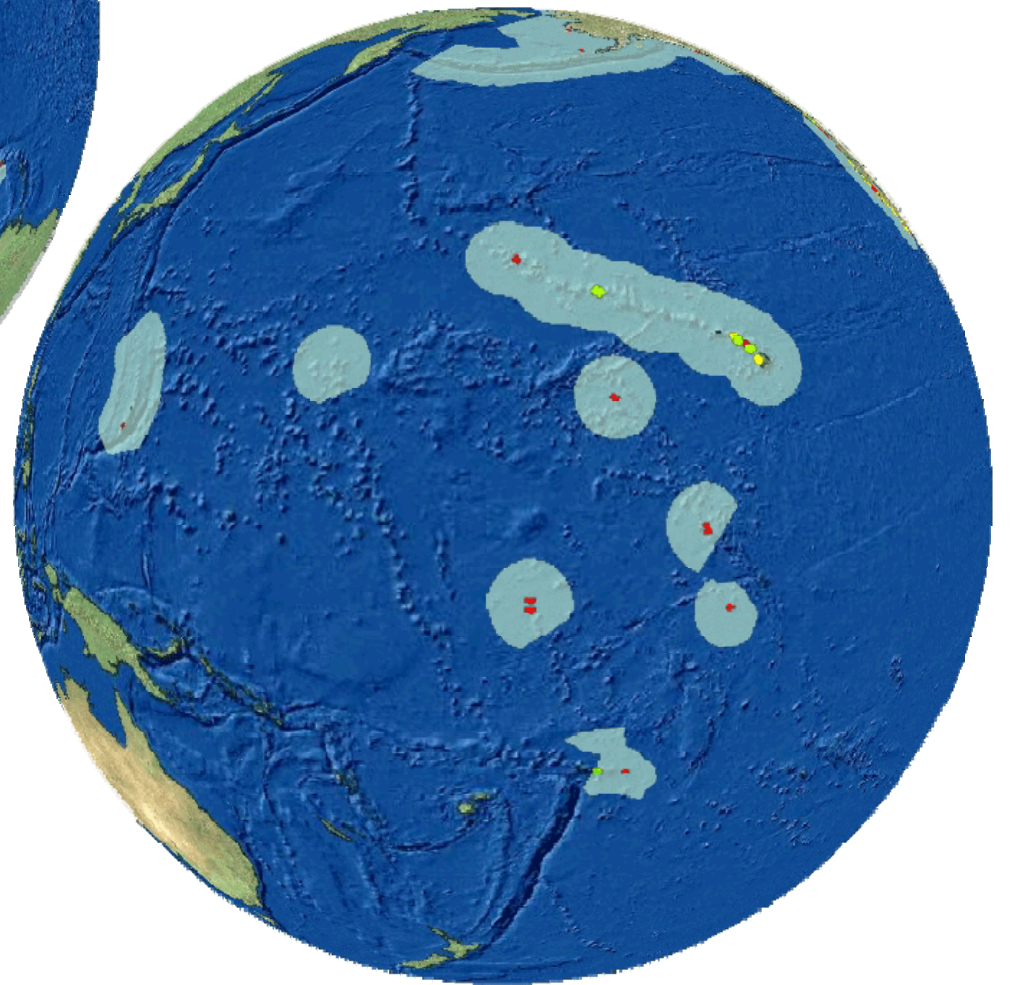


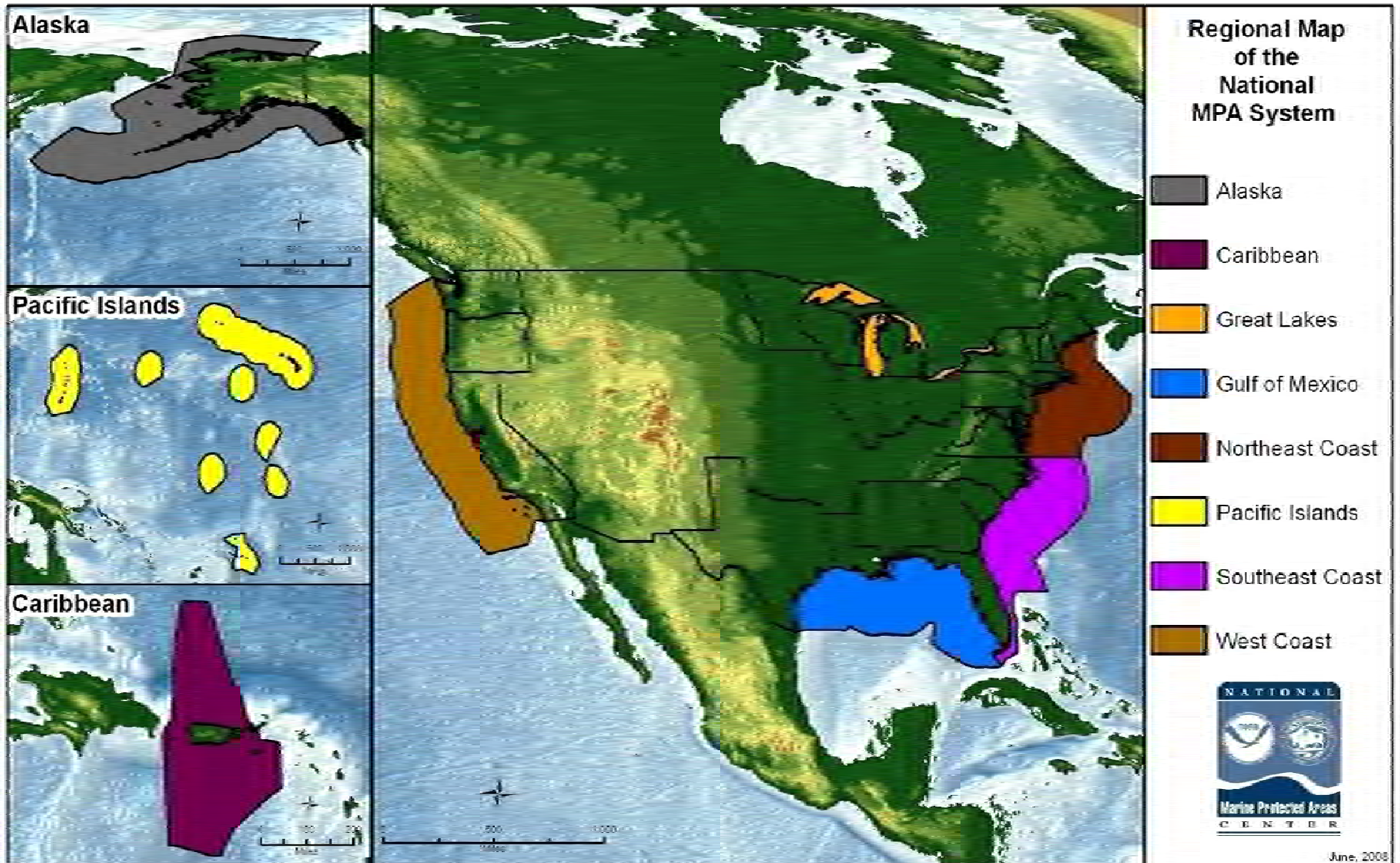


**Nominated Sites**

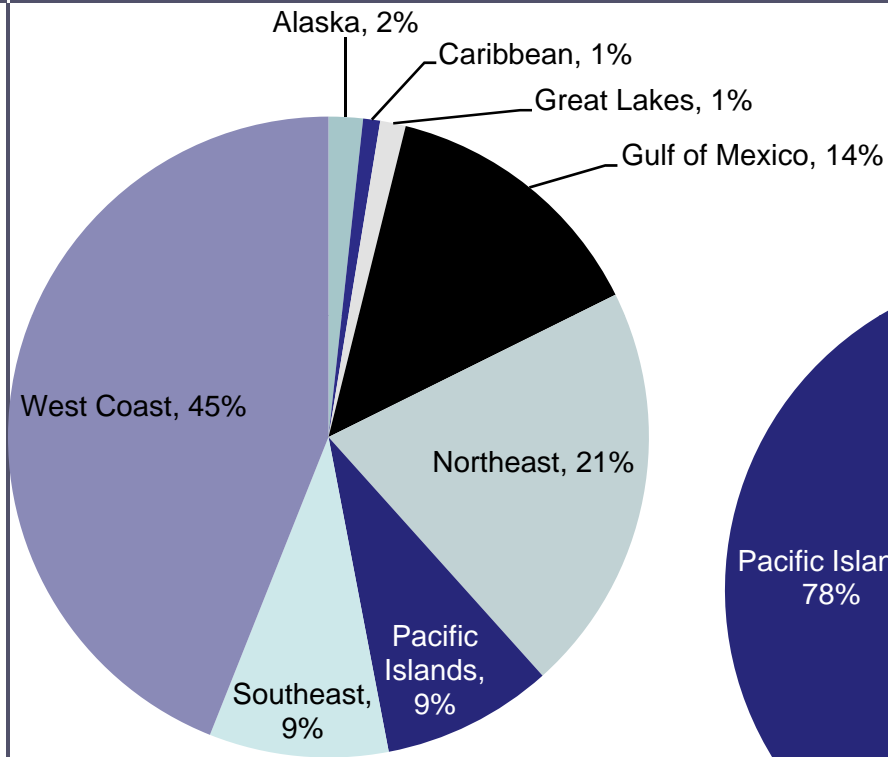
- Federal sites
- Partnership sites
- State, local & territorial sites

□ US EEZ

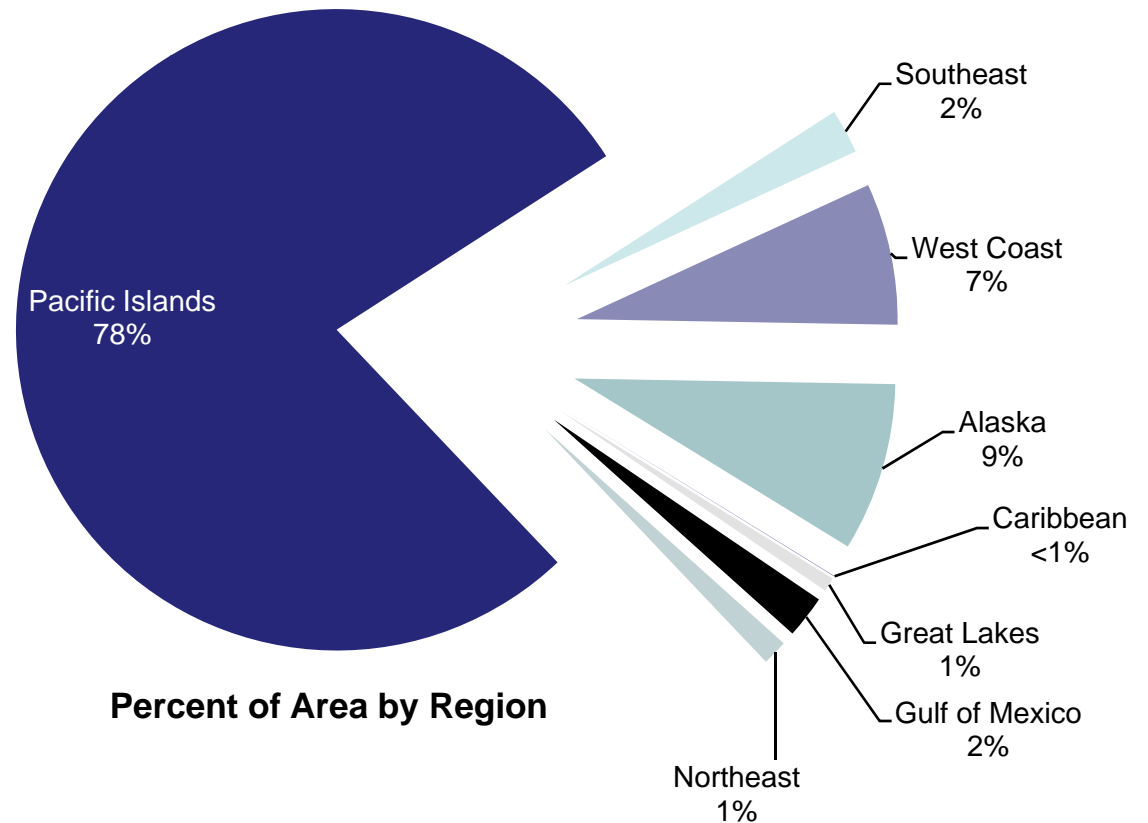




# Distribution of National System Sites by Region

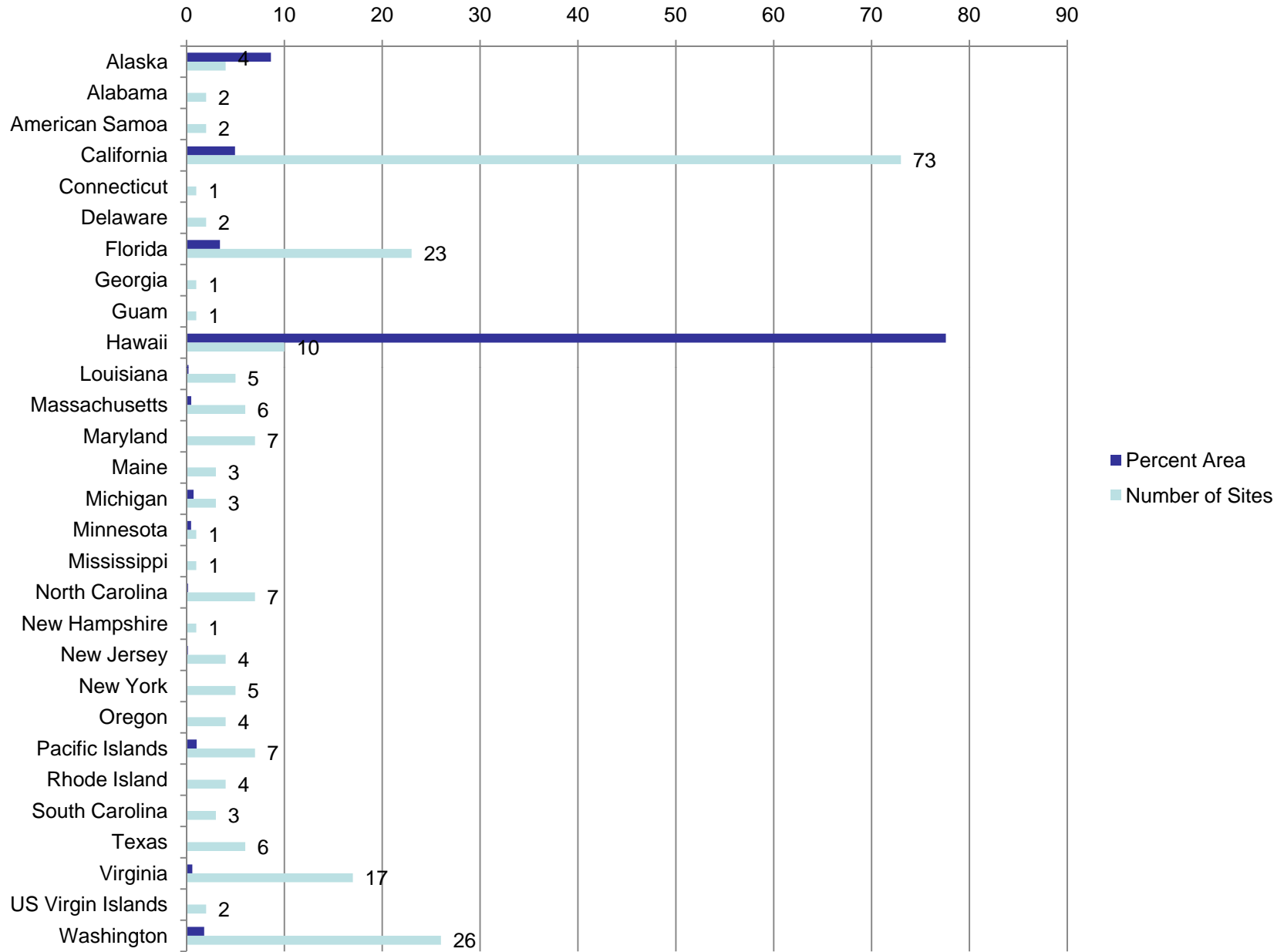


**Percent of Sites by Region**

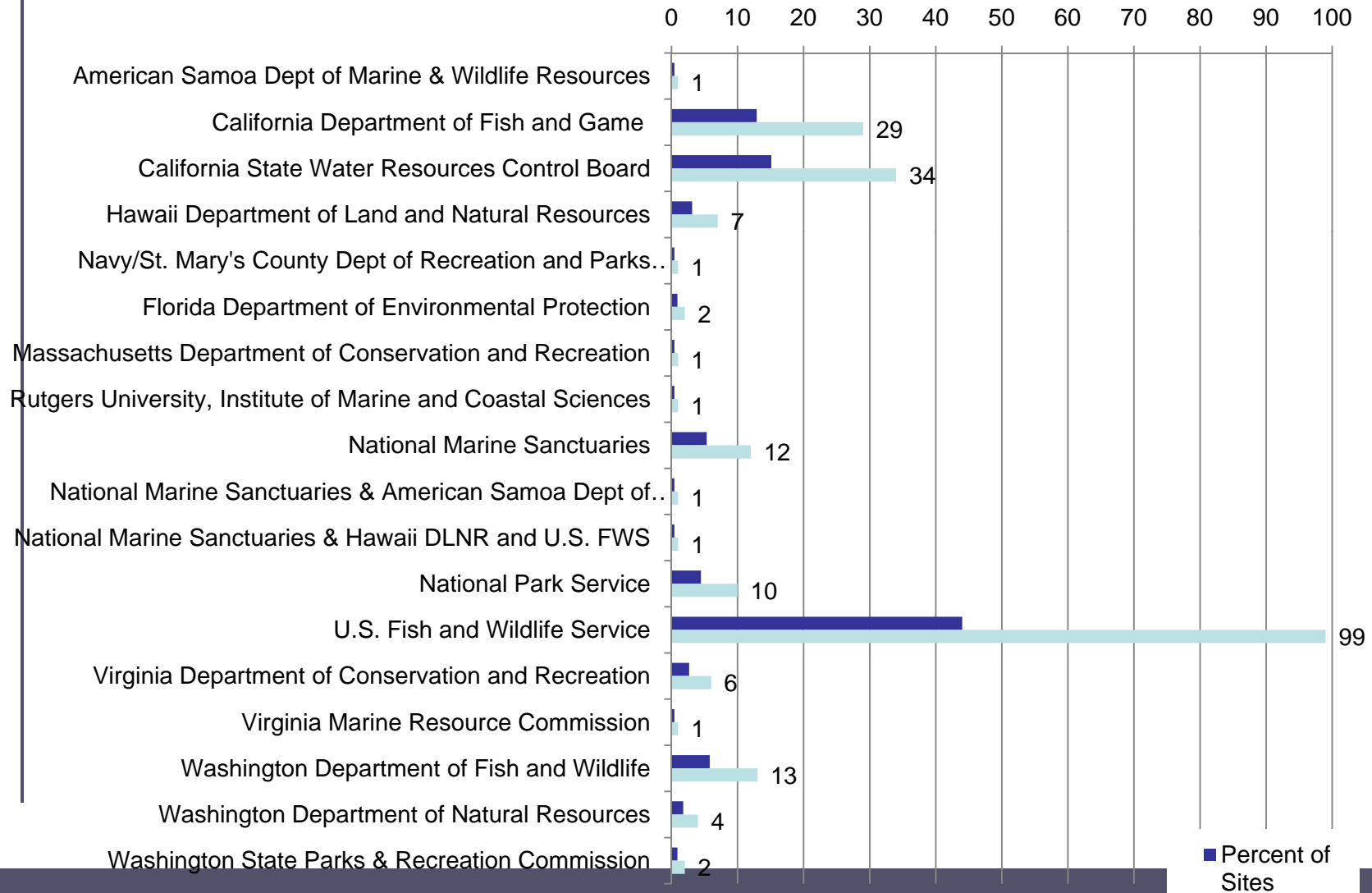


**Percent of Area by Region**

# Sites by Location

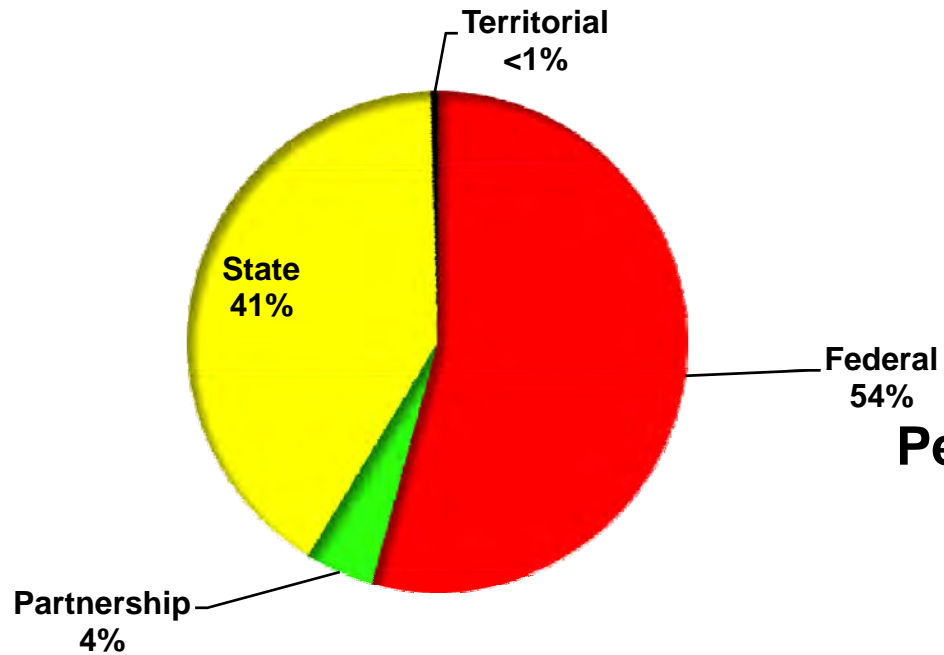


# Distribution of National System Sites by Agency

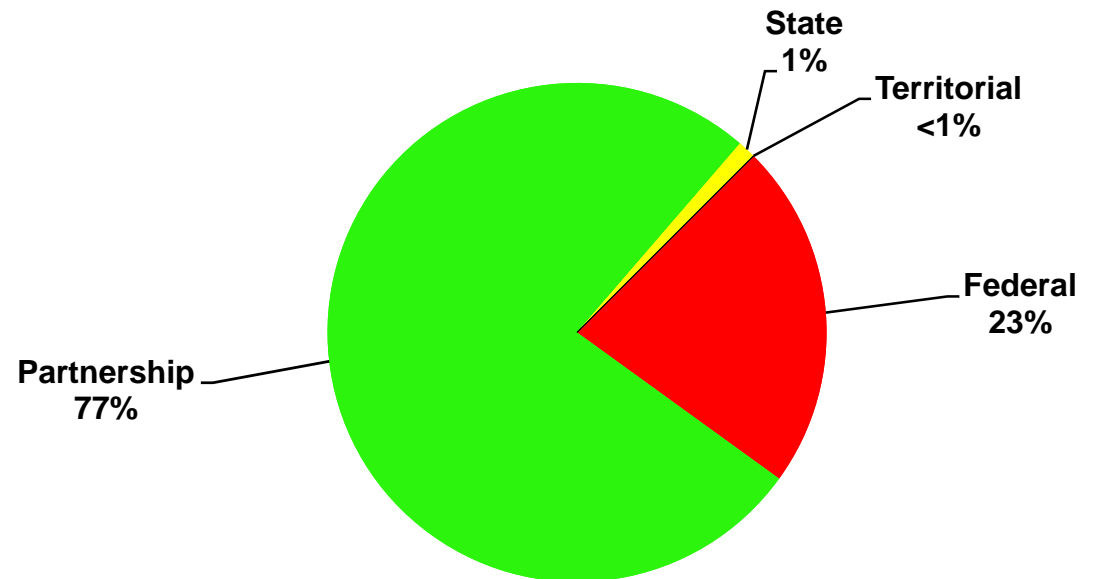




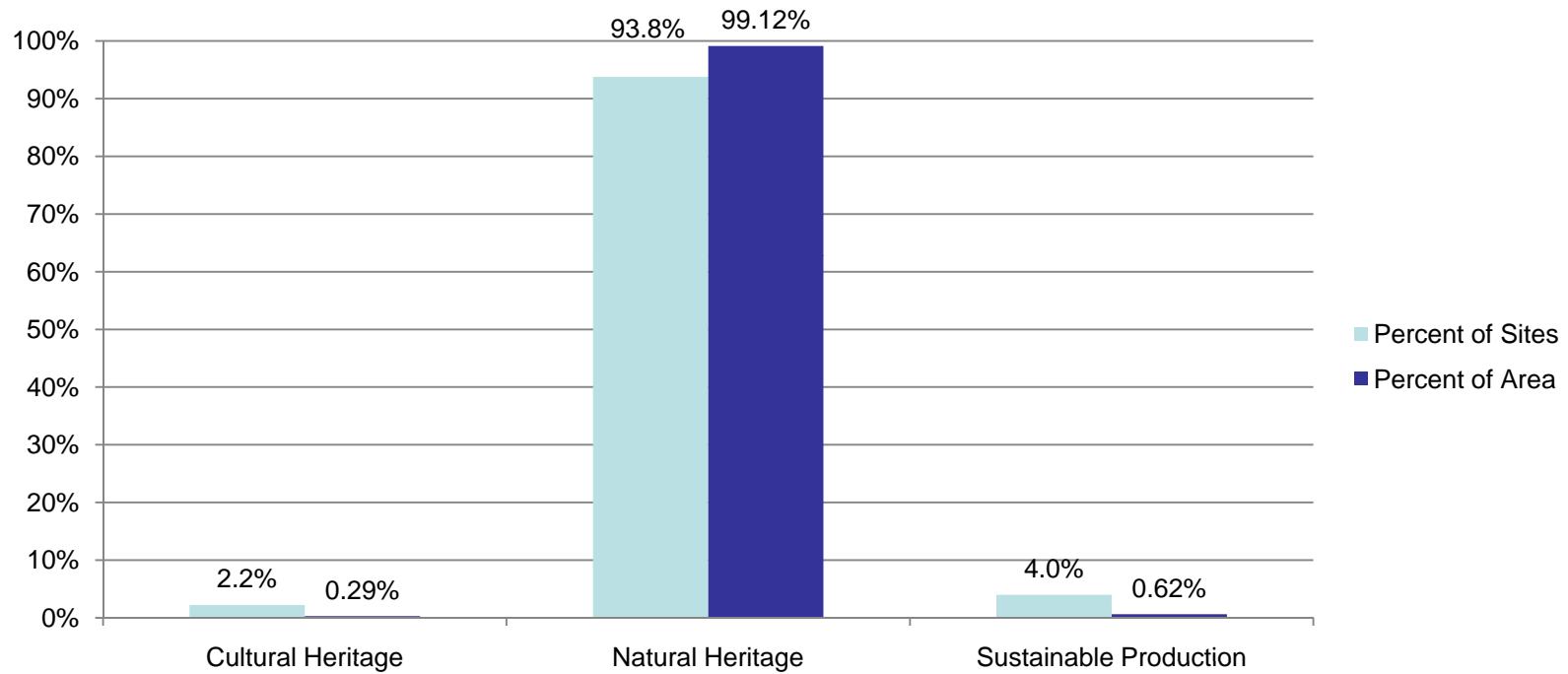
## Percent of Sites by Government Level



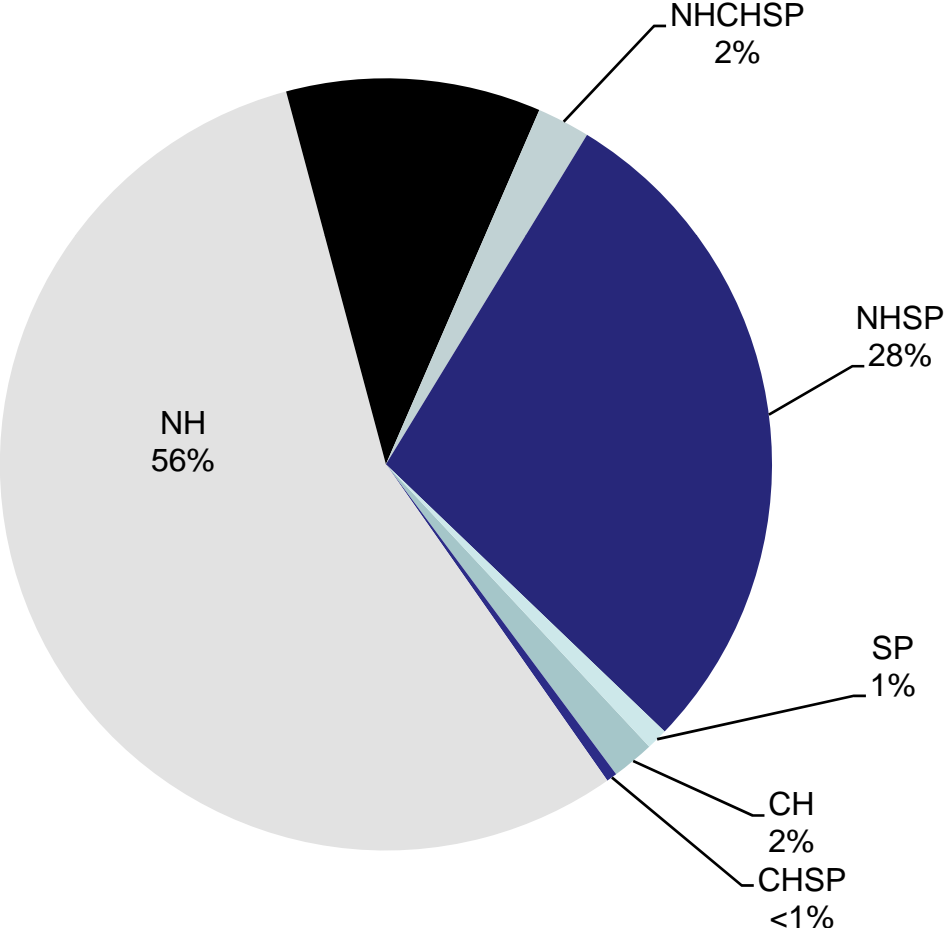
## Percent of Area by Government Level



# Primary Conservation Focus



# Number of Sites by Conservation Focus



NH = Natural Heritage; CH = Cultural Heritage, SP = Sustainable Production

# Levels of Protection



**Uniform Multiple-Use:** MPAs or zones with a consistent level of protection and allowable activities, including certain extractive uses, across the entire protected area.



**Zoned Multiple-Use:** MPAs that allow some extractive activities throughout the entire site, but that use marine zoning to allocate specific uses to compatible places or times in order to reduce user conflicts and adverse impacts.



**Zoned Multiple-Use With No-Take Area(s):** Multiple-use MPAs that contain at least one legally established management zone in which all resource extraction is prohibited.



**No-Take:** MPAs or zones that allow human access and even some potentially harmful uses, but that totally prohibit the extraction or significant destruction of natural or cultural resources.

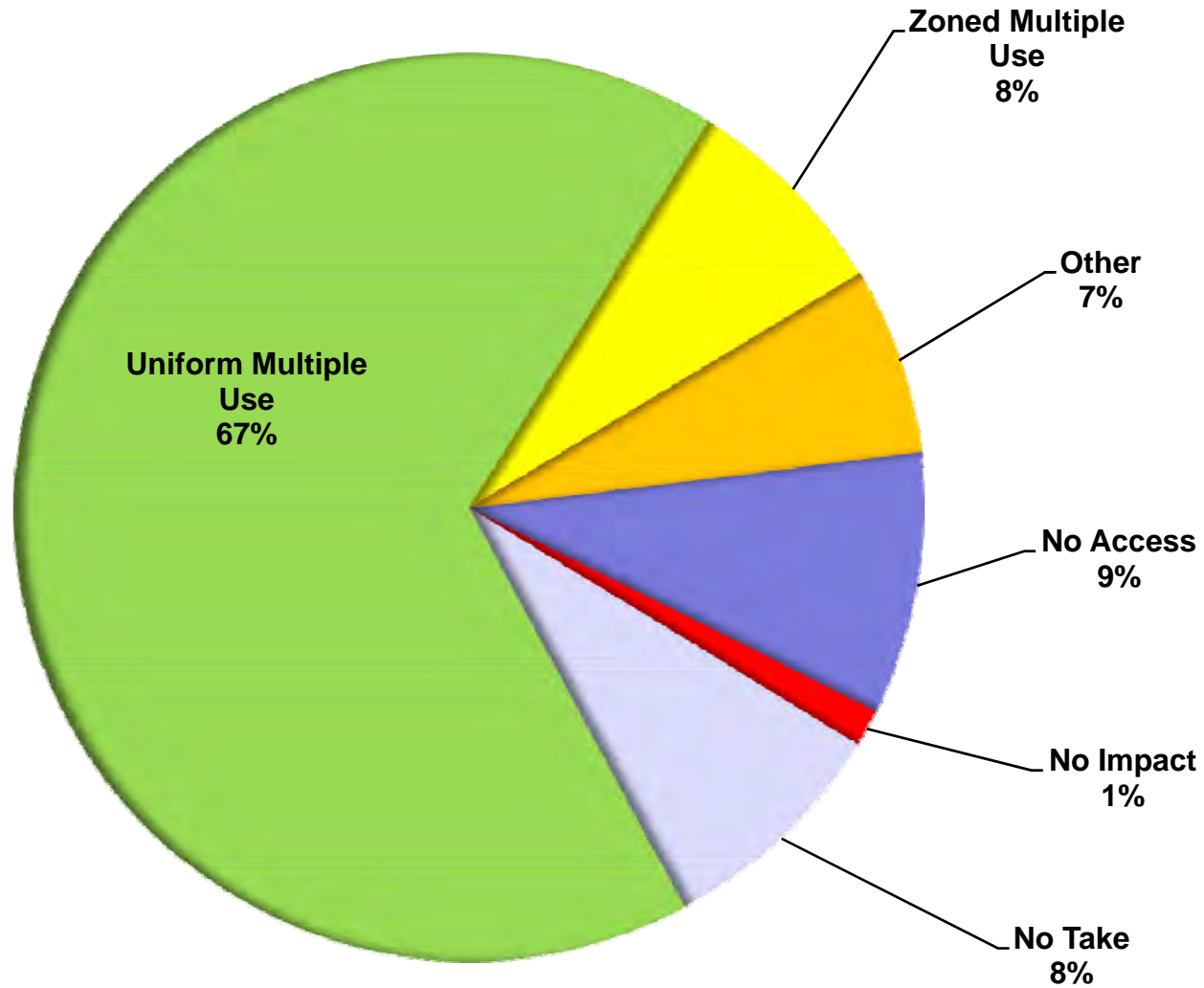


**No Impact:** MPAs or zones that allow human access, but that prohibit all activities that could harm the site's resources or disrupt the ecological or cultural services they provide.

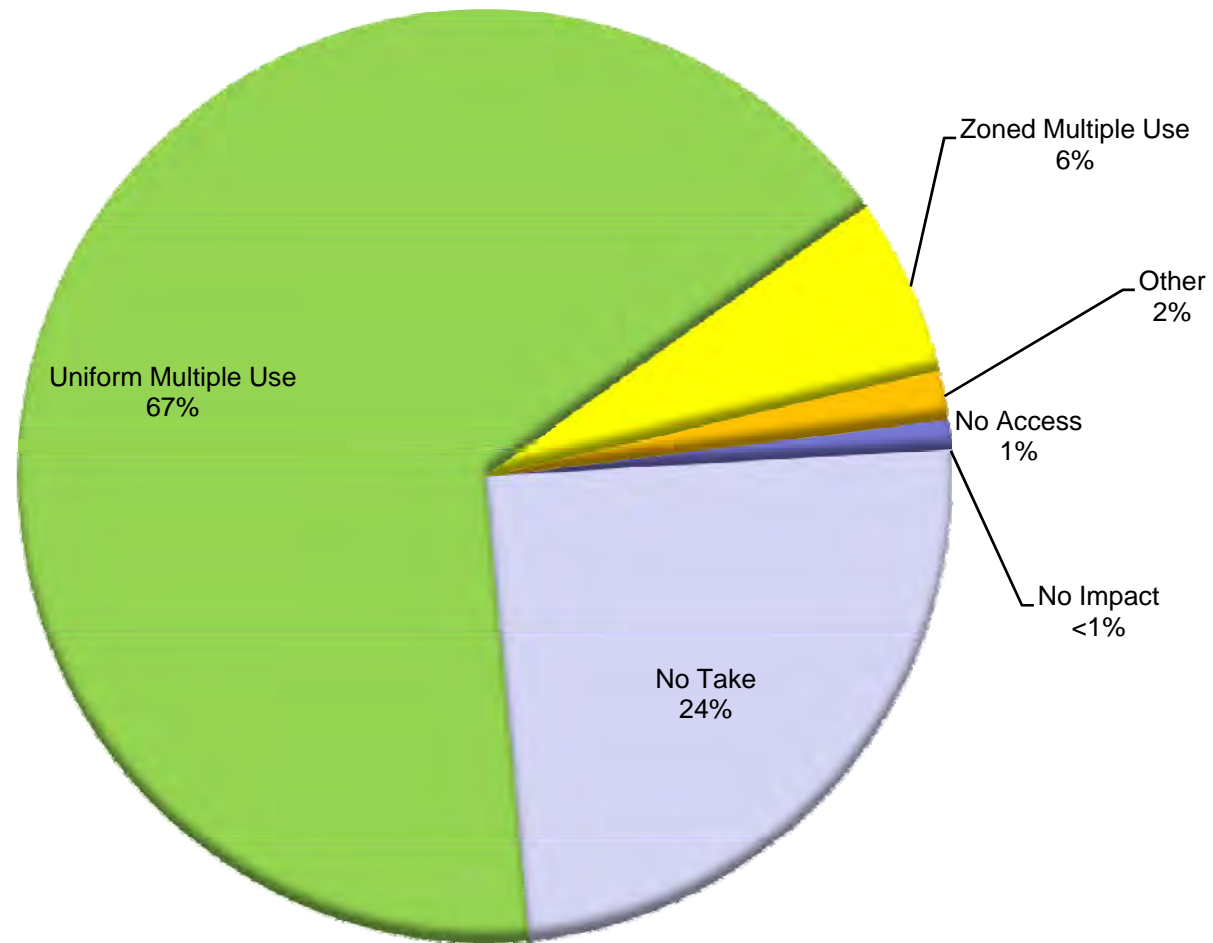


**No Access:** MPAs or zones that restrict all human access to the area in order to prevent potential ecological disturbance, unless specifically permitted for designated special uses such as research, monitoring or restoration.

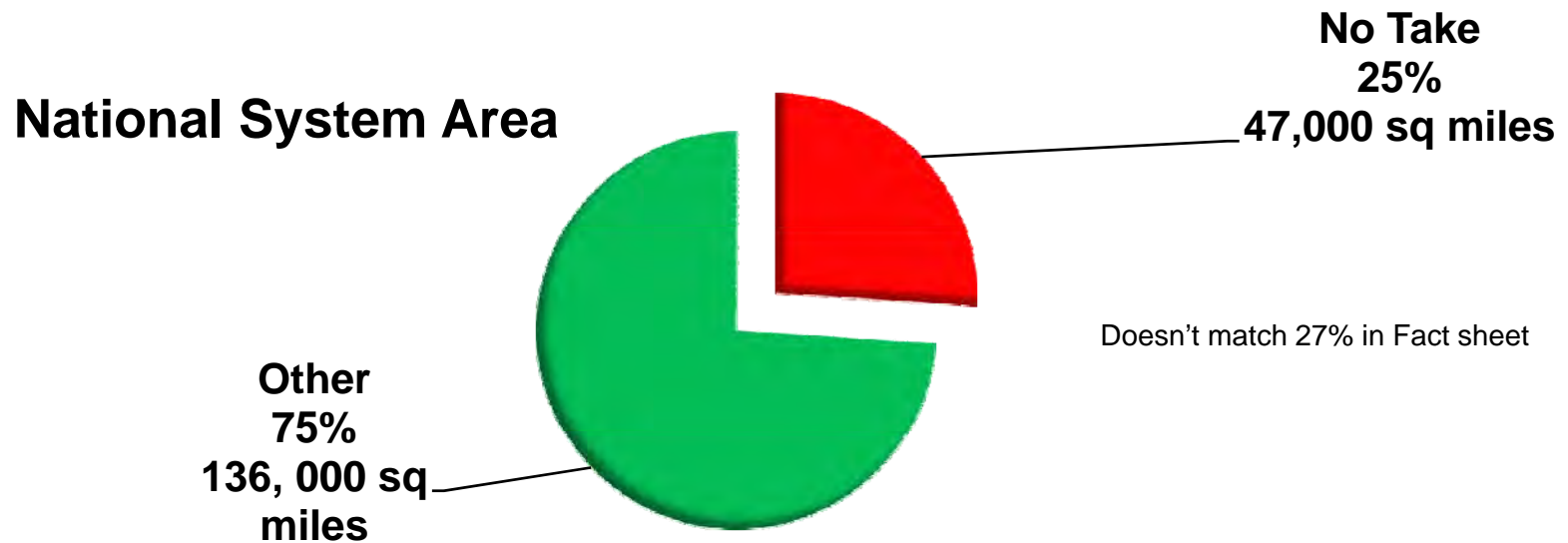
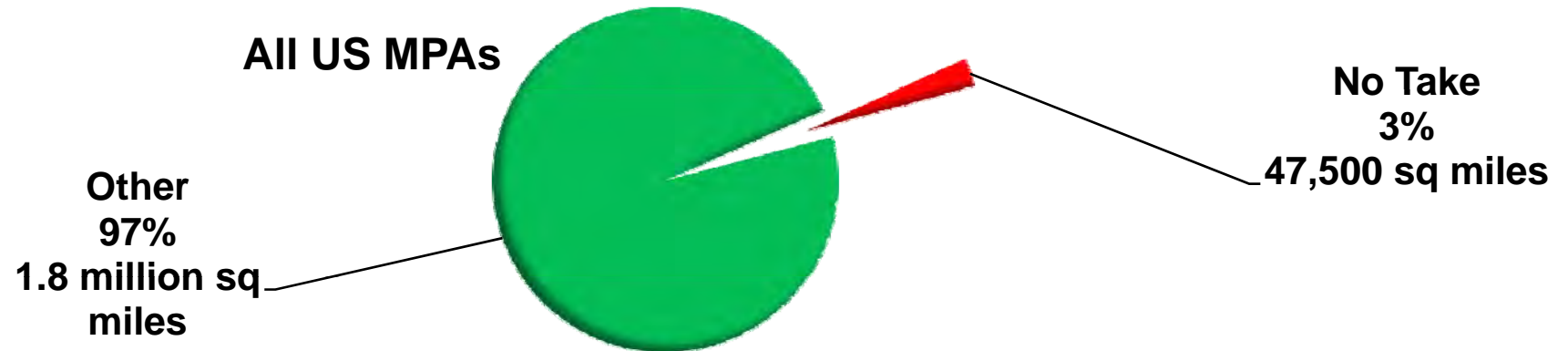
# Number of Sites by Level of Protection



# Area of Sites by Level of Protection



# Percent of No Take Area of US MPAs



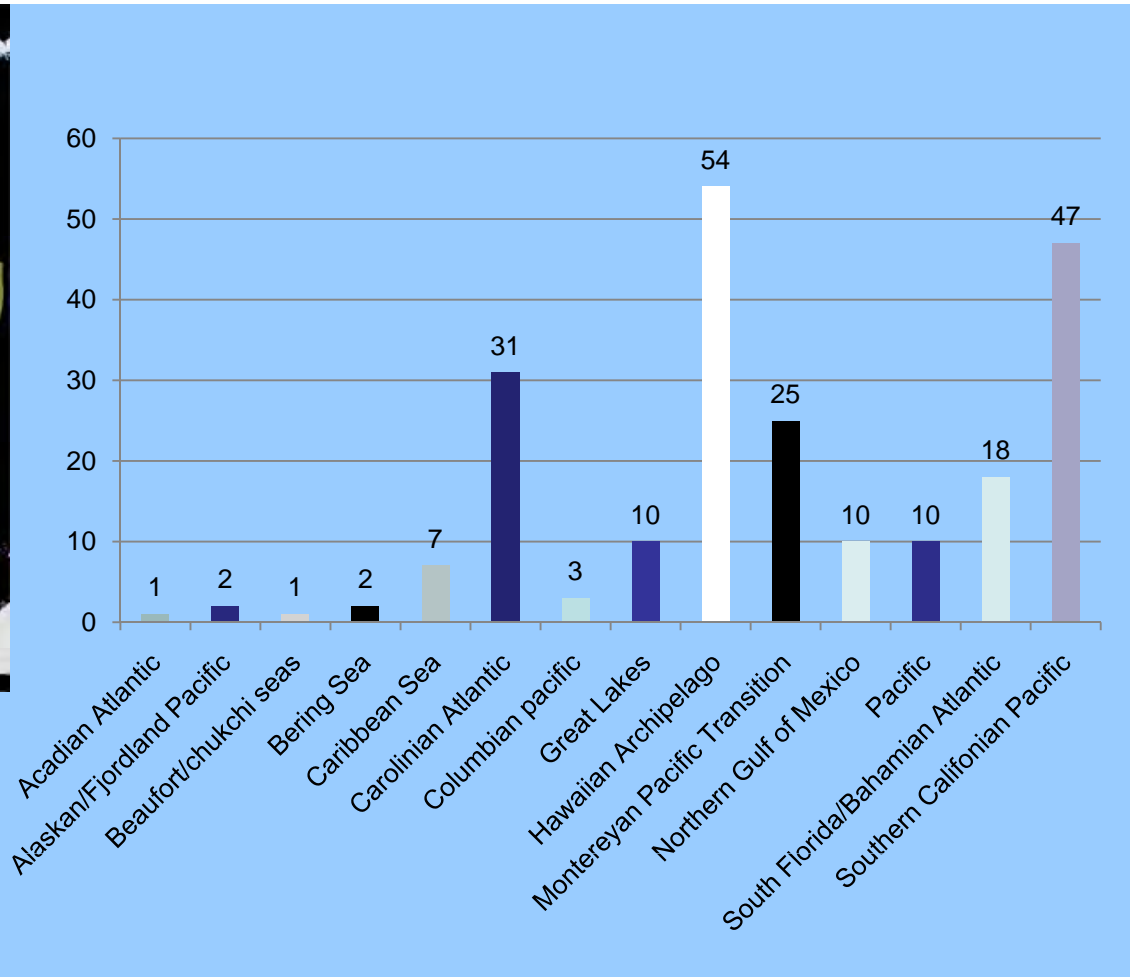
# Top Five Priority Conservation Objectives Met by National System

- **NATURAL HERITAGE GOAL:**
  - Key areas that provide compatible opportunities for education and research (193)
  - Areas of high species and/or high diversity (188)
  - Key biogenic habitats (160)
  - Key reproduction areas and nursery grounds (155)
  - Unique or rare species, habitats and associated communities (149)





# National System Sites by Ecoregion



# *Sneak Preview: U-1105 Black Panther, MD*

