

## **Instructions for Completing Marine Protected Areas Inventory Site Input Form**

Below are instructions for completing the Site Input Form for the Marine Protected Areas Inventory. In order to provide a complete picture of all MPAs in U.S. waters, we ask that managing agencies complete this form for all of their MPAs. In addition, the instructions below provide information on the criteria for MPAs to join the national system of MPAs. MPAs do not need to meet all the criteria for the national system of MPAs to be included in the MPA Inventory; the national system is a subset of sites in the Inventory. For more information on the MPA Inventory and the national system of MPAs, see [www.mpa.gov](http://www.mpa.gov).

The Inventory input form is provided as a fillable PDF. Please complete the form in PDF format, save your changes and email the form to:

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(831) 645-2711

### **1. Site Name**

The official name of the MPA or zone.

### **2. Contact Name**

Please fill in your name or the name of the appropriate contact person regarding the site.

### **3. Contact Email**

Please fill in the email address for the contact person.

### **4. Contact Telephone**

Please fill in the telephone number for the contact person.

### **5. Website**

If the MPA or zone has a public website, please provide the url.

### **6. Management Agency**

MPAs are designated and managed at all levels of government by a variety of agencies including parks, fisheries, wildlife, natural resource and historic resource departments, among others. U.S. MPAs have been established by well over 100 legal authorities, with some federal and state agencies managing more than one MPA program, each with its own legal purpose.

In certain instances, authority is formally shared among two or more entities. In such cases, the lead managing agency should be listed. For example, those sites dually managed by NOAA Fisheries Service and by Regional Fishery Management Councils should list NOAA Fisheries as the managing agency. Those National Estuarine Research Reserve System (NERRS) sites dually managed by states and NOAA should list the state as the managing agency. If no distinction can be made, list all managing agencies.

### **7. Location(s)**

Please provide the state/territory where the site is located. If the site is federal, it may be located offshore of multiple states. In this case, please list all relevant states and/or territories.

### **8. Legal Authority**

Please provide the name of the primary legislation under which the site was designated. If a site was established as part of a larger system (e.g. National Marine Sanctuaries), the primary legislation should refer to the umbrella authority (e.g. National Marine Sanctuaries Act) for that system.

## 9. Secondary Legal Authority

If there is an additional statute or act that designated the site, provide the specific statute as the secondary authority. Secondary authority may also include regulations that authorized establishment of a site.

## 10. Year Established

Please provide the year the site was established.

## 11. Level of Government

Please select the level of government that designated and manages the MPA. If the MPA is managed by multiple agencies, please select 'Partnership.'

## 12. Management Plan Status

Please indicate the current status of the management plan for the site. Management plans that are final, designation, or draft are considered to meet the national system management plan requirement.

- **Final** – The site has a management plan that has been approved.
- **Designation** – Management goals, monitoring and evaluation and other activities are listed in a designation document (e.g., state or federal law or regulation, Executive Order, etc.), rather than a separate management plan.
- **Draft** – A management plan for the site is in draft, but has not yet been approved.
- **Planned** – Management plan is planned, but not yet in draft.
- **None** – No management plan exists for the site, and there are not currently plans to draft one.

### 12a. Management Plan Type

To be eligible for nomination to the national system, an MPA must have a management plan that has been developed at one of the following scales:

- A site-specific MPA management plan
- Part of a larger MPA programmatic management plan
- A component of a broader, non-MPA programmatic management plan
  - Fishery management plan
  - Species management plan
  - Habitat management plan
- A verbal or written community agreement

### 12b. Conservation Goals

Does the management plan have one or more clearly stated goals, purposes or objectives? This could include a statement in a management plan, or another document, such as the authorizing statute.

### 12c. Monitoring and Evaluation

Does the management plan address resource monitoring (specifically monitoring the conservation goals of the site)? Not all elements of a site's conservation goals may have been monitored. In fact, often only one element within the site is being monitored. For example, if the site conservation goal is ecosystem protection and water quality is being monitored, then a YES should be indicated. Monitoring could be done by the site or by any program associated with the goals or objectives of the site. For example, stock assessments conducted to evaluate the health of a fishery are considered to be monitoring for MPAs established to conserve or manage that fishery because they add to the scientific understanding of the contribution of the MPA to the health of that fishery. The MPA Center does not determine whether such monitoring and evaluation activities are actually occurring, only that they are called for in an official management plan or other site authority. The MPA Center deliberately chose to develop an inclusive definition of monitoring and evaluation for the purposes of national system eligibility based on best available data.

A site is considered to have monitoring (YES) when resources that are tied to the goals of the site are evaluated/monitored. Examples:

a) Fisheries sites that monitor the total biomass in the system (including the site). The sites were implemented to improve stock status; evaluating total biomass is an indicator of stock.

b) Sites that monitor bird counts, crocodile counts, fish counts or seagrass extent. The sites were implemented to protect marine ecosystem function and structure, and these populations are components of the ecosystem.

Examples for sites that have monitoring and are evaluated NO are:

a) Sites that monitor strictly terrestrial resources (e.g. game refuges that have prescribed burns)

b) Sites that have monitoring for resources not part of the goals of the site. For example, a site that monitors mussel beds by a graduate student for a thesis when the site's goals are for protecting ducks (unless the ducks rely on the mussels as a source of food).

#### **12d. Management Activities List**

A management activities list includes those activities required under the legal authority that apply directly to the conservation goals, objectives or purposes of the site.

#### **12e. Staff and Budget**

Indicate whether staff and budget needs are included in the management plan.

### **13. Fishing Restriction**

MPAs may restrict fishing to achieve their conservation objectives.

- **No Restrictions to Fishing:** MPAs or zones place no restrictions on any type of fishing throughout the site, including both commercial and recreational.
- **All Fishing Prohibited:** MPAs or zones prohibit any type of fishing throughout the site, including both commercial and recreational.  
*Example: No-take MPAs, which are relatively rare in the U.S., occurring mainly in state MPAs, in some federal areas closed for either fisheries management or the protection of endangered species, or as small special use (research) zones within larger multiple-use MPAs. Other commonly used terms to connote no-take MPAs include marine reserves or ecological reserves.*
- **Commercial Fishing Prohibited:** MPAs or zones prohibit any type of commercial fishing. Recreational fishing may be allowed.  
*Example: Year-round MPAs, including all marine sanctuaries, national parks, refuges, monuments, and some fisheries sites.*
- **Recreational Fishing Prohibited:** MPAs or zones prohibit any type of recreational fishing. Commercial fishing may be allowed.  
*Example: Permanent MPAs, including most national marine sanctuaries and all national parks.*
- **All Fishing Restricted:** MPAs or zones place some type of restriction on all types of fishing, including both commercial and recreational. The level of restriction may vary throughout the MPA according to different zones or areas.  
*Example: Zoned multiple-use MPAs, which are increasingly common in U.S. waters, including some marine sanctuaries, national parks, national wildlife refuges, and state MPAs.*
- **Commercial Fishing Restricted:** MPAs or zones place some type of restriction on commercial fishing, which might vary throughout the MPA according to different zones or areas. Recreational fishing may be unrestricted.  
*Example: Rotating MPAs, which are still rare in the U.S. They include some dynamic fisheries closures created for the purpose of serially recovering a suite of localized population to harvestable levels.*

- **Recreational Fishing Restricted:** MPAs or zones place some type of restriction on recreational fishing, which might vary throughout the MPA according to different zones or areas. Commercial fishing may be unrestricted.  
*Example: Seasonal MPAs, including some fisheries and endangered species closures around sensitive habitats.*
- **Recreational Fishing Prohibited and Commercial Fishing Restricted:** MPAs or zones prohibit any type of recreational fishing and place some type of restriction on commercial fishing.  
*Example: A Sanctuary that includes multiple zones or specified areas within which some areas recreational fishing is prohibited and commercial fishing is restricted.*
- **Commercial Fishing Prohibited and Recreational Fishing Restricted:** MPAs or zones prohibit any type of commercial fishing and place some type of restriction on recreational fishing.  
*Example: A Sanctuary that includes multiple zones or specified areas within which some areas commercial fishing is prohibited and recreational fishing is restricted.*

#### 14. Level of Protection

MPAs in the U.S. vary widely in the level and type of legal protection afforded to the site's natural and cultural resources and ecological processes. Any MPA, or management zone within a larger MPA, can be characterized by one of the following six levels of protection. Please note that site level information provided reflects the lowest level of protection that exists for all management zones of the MPA.

- **Uniform Multiple-Use:** MPAs or zones with a consistent level of protection and allowable activities, including certain extractive uses, across the entire protected area.  
*Examples: Uniform multiple-use MPAs are among the most common types in the U.S., and include many sanctuaries, national and state parks, and cultural resource MPAs.*
- **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.  
*Examples: Zoned multiple-use MPAs are increasingly common in U.S. waters, including some marine sanctuaries, national parks, national wildlife refuges, and state MPAs.*
- **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.  
*Examples: Zoned no-take MPAs are emerging gradually in U.S. waters, primarily in some national marine sanctuaries and national parks.*
- **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.  
*Examples: No-take MPAs are relatively rare in the U.S., occurring mainly in state MPAs, in some federal areas closed for either fisheries management or the protection of endangered species, or as small special use (research) zones within larger multiple-use MPAs. Other commonly used terms to connote no-take MPAs include marine reserves or ecological reserves.*
- **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. Examples of activities typically prohibited in no-impact MPAs include resource extraction of any kind (fishing, collecting, or mining); discharge of pollutants; disposal or installation of materials; and alteration or disturbance of submerged cultural resources, biological assemblages, ecological interactions, physiochemical environmental features, protected habitats, or the natural processes that support them.

*Examples: No- impact MPAs are rare in U.S. waters, occurring mainly as small isolated MPAs or in small research-only zones within larger multiple-use MPAs. Other commonly used terms include fully protected marine (or ecological) reserves.*

- **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.

*Examples: No-access MPAs are extremely rare in the U.S., occurring mainly as small research-only zones within larger multiple-use MPAs. Other commonly used terms for no access MPAs include wilderness areas or marine preserves.*

## **15. Primary Conservation Focus**

Most MPAs have legally established goals, conservation objectives, and intended purpose(s). Common examples include MPAs created to conserve biodiversity in support of research and education; to protect benthic habitat in order to recover over-fished stocks; and to protect and interpret shipwrecks for maritime education. These descriptors of an MPA are reflected in the site's conservation focus, which represents the characteristics of the area that the MPA was established to conserve. U.S. MPAs may have more than one conservation focus, but generally address one as a Primary Conservation Focus.

- **Natural Heritage:** MPAs or zones established and managed wholly or in part to sustain, conserve, restore, and understand the protected area's natural biodiversity, populations, communities, habitats, and ecosystems; the ecological and physical processes upon which they depend; and, the ecological services, human uses and values they provide to this and future generations.

*Examples: Natural Heritage MPAs include most national marine sanctuaries, national parks, national wildlife refuges, and many state MPAs.*

- **Cultural Heritage:** MPAs or zones established and managed wholly or in part to protect and understand submerged cultural resources that reflect the nation's maritime history and traditional cultural connections to the sea.

*Examples: Cultural Heritage MPAs include some national marine sanctuaries, national and state parks, and national historic monuments.*

- **Sustainable Production:** MPAs or zones established and managed wholly or in part with the explicit purpose of supporting the continued extraction of renewable living resources (such as fish, shellfish, plants, birds, or mammals) that live within the MPA, or that are exploited elsewhere but depend upon the protected area's habitat for essential aspects of their ecology or life history (feeding, spawning, mating, or nursery grounds).

*Examples: Sustainable Production MPAs include some national wildlife refuges and many federal and state fisheries areas, including those established to recover over-fished stocks, protect by-catch species, or protect essential fish habitats*

## **16. Conservation Focus**

MPAs that have more than one conservation focus should indicate all foci here. If the MPA includes a cultural heritage conservation focus, please complete questions a-d. Otherwise, skip to question 17.

### **a. Cultural Heritage MPAs**

Is the cultural resource a shipwreck, an aircraft, a submerged archaeological site, a site of cultural significance, or other? Sites of cultural significance include, for example, key cultural sites that have been identified as significant by Native Americans, Pacific Islanders or Native Alaskans. If the MPA contains more than one type of cultural resource, check all that apply.

**b. National Register of Historic Places (NRHP)**

For inclusion in the national system, cultural heritage MPAs must meet criteria for inclusion on the National Register of Historic Places. (Yes=either listed on NRHP, *or* determined eligible for NRHP or listed on a State Register; No=not listed or determined eligible for NRHP).

**National Register of Historic Places Criteria**

- The cultural resource within the MPA must be at least 50 years of age.  
*If it is not:*
  - *The cultural marine resource within the MPA must be important or unique to the nation's maritime history or cultural connections to the sea.*
- The cultural marine resource within the MPA must demonstrate “the quality of significance in American history, architecture, archeology, engineering and culture in districts, sites, buildings, structures and objects that possess integrity of location, design, setting, materials, workmanship, feeling and association.”  
*It must meet at least one of the following:*
  - *Associated with events that have made a significant contribution to the broad patterns of our history;*
  - *Associated with the lives of significant persons in our past;*
  - *Embodying the distinctive characteristics of a type, period or method of construction, or that represent the work of a master, or that possess high artistic values, or that represent a significant and distinguishable entity whose components may lack individual distinction;*
  - *Yielded or may be likely to yield, information important in history or prehistory.*

**c. Diving**

Note whether the MPA allows diving (Unrestricted=allows diving; Restricted=diving is restricted; Prohibited=diving is prohibited).

**d. Exploitive/Extractive Activities**

Note whether the MPA or site allows exploitive or extractive activities. These activities include salvage, recovery, dredging, drilling, detonation, and similar activities that would exploit, extract, or destroy the cultural resource. Scientific excavation and/or permitted activities are not included within this definition (Unrestricted=allows activities; Restricted=activities are restricted; Prohibited=activities are prohibited).

**17. Site Permanence**

Not all MPAs are permanently protected. Many sites differ in how long their protections remain in effect.

- **Permanent:** MPAs or zones whose legal authorities provide some level of protection to the site *in perpetuity* for future generations, unless reversed by unanticipated future legislation or regulatory actions.  
*Examples: Permanent MPAs include most national marine sanctuaries and all national parks.*
- **Conditional:** MPAs or zones that have the potential, and often the expectation, to persist administratively over time, but whose legal authority has a finite duration and must be actively renewed or ratified based on periodic governmental reviews of performance.  
*Examples: Conditional MPAs include some national marine sanctuaries with ‘sunset clauses’ applying to portions of the MPA in state waters*
- **Temporary:** MPAs that are designed to address relatively short-term conservation and/or management needs by protecting a specific habitat or species for a finite duration, with no expectation or specific mechanism for renewal.  
*Examples: Temporary MPAs include some fisheries closures focusing on rapidly recovering species (e.g. scallops).*

## 18. Site Constancy

Not all MPAs provide year-round protection to the protected habitat and resources. Three degrees of constancy throughout the year are seen among U.S. MPAs.

- **Year-Round:** MPAs or zones that provide constant protection to the site throughout the year.  
*Examples: Year-round MPAs include all marine sanctuaries, national parks, refuges, monuments, and some fisheries sites.*
- **Seasonal:** MPAs or zones that protect specific habitats and resources, but only during fixed seasons or periods when human uses may disrupt ecologically sensitive seasonal processes such as spawning, breeding, or feeding aggregations.  
*Examples: Seasonal MPAs include some fisheries and endangered species closures around sensitive habitats.*
- **Rotating:** MPAs that cycle serially and predictably among a set of fixed geographic areas in order to meet short-term conservation or management goals (such as local stock replenishment followed by renewed exploitation of recovered populations).  
*Examples: Rotating MPAs are still rare in the U.S. They include some dynamic fisheries closures created for the purpose of serially recovering a suite of localized population to harvestable levels.*

## 19. Protection Focus

MPAs in the U.S. vary widely in the ecological scale of the protection they provide. MPA conservation targets range from entire ecosystems and their associated biophysical processes, to focal habitats, species, or other resources deemed to be of economic or ecological importance. The ecological scale of a site's conservation target generally reflects its underlying legal authorities.

- **Ecosystem:** MPAs or zones whose legal authorities and management measures are intended to protect all of the components and processes of the ecosystem within its boundaries.  
*Examples: Ecosystem-scale MPAs include most marine sanctuaries, national parks and national monuments.*
- **Focal Resource:** MPAs or zones whose legal authorities and management measures specifically target a particular habitat, species complex, or single resource (either natural or cultural). Please specify the targeted resource(s) in the space provided.  
*Examples: Focal-resource MPAs include many fisheries and cultural resource sites, including some national wildlife refuges and marine sanctuaries. MPAs established specifically to protect seabird or sea turtle nesting areas are other examples of focal resource MPAs.*

## 20. International Designation

Note whether the MPA or site has one or more of the following international designations.

- **World Heritage List:** Adopted by UNESCO in 1972, the World Heritage Convention established the World Heritage List to encourage the identification, protection and preservation of cultural and natural heritage around the world considered to be of outstanding value to humanity.
- **Ramsar Site:** The Convention on Wetlands of International Importance, called the Ramsar Convention, is an intergovernmental treaty that provides the framework for national action and international cooperation for the conservation and wise use of wetlands and their resources. The Convention uses a broad definition of the types of wetlands covered in its mission, including lakes and rivers, swamps and marshes, wet grasslands and peatlands, oases, estuaries, deltas and tidal flats, near-shore marine areas, mangroves and coral reefs, and human-made sites such as fish ponds, rice paddies, reservoirs, and salt pans.

- **Area To Be Avoided (ATBA):** An area within defined limits in which either navigation is particularly hazardous or it is exceptionally important to avoid casualties and which should be avoided by all ships, or by certain classes of ships.
- **Particularly Sensitive Sea Areas (PSSA):** A PSSA is an area that needs special protection through action by the International Maritime Organization (IMO) because of its significance for recognized ecological or socio-economic or scientific reasons and which may be vulnerable to damage by international maritime activities. The criteria for the identification of particularly sensitive sea areas and the criteria for the designation of special areas are not mutually exclusive. In many cases a Particularly Sensitive Sea Area may be identified within a Special Area and vice versa.
- **Man and the Biosphere Reserve:** Man and the Biosphere reserves are sites recognized under UNESCO's Man and the Biosphere Program, which innovate and demonstrate approaches to conservation and sustainable development. They are of course under national sovereign jurisdiction, yet share their experience and ideas nationally, regionally and internationally within the World Network of Biosphere Reserves.

### **21. Is Vessel Access Allowed?**

Note whether the MPA or site allows vessel access (Unrestricted = allows vessel access; Restricted = vessel access is restricted; Prohibited = vessel access is prohibited).

### **22. Anchoring?**

Note whether the MPA or site allows anchoring (Unrestricted = allows anchoring; Restricted = anchoring is restricted; Prohibited = anchoring is prohibited).

### **23. GIS Data?**

Note whether the MPA or site has available GIS data (Yes = have GIS data; No = no GIS data).



## DATA FORM FOR NATIONAL MARINE PROTECTED AREAS INVENTORY

Welcome to the U.S. Marine Protected Areas (MPA) inventory data entry form. This is the official data entry form for submitting information on marine protected areas in U.S. ocean waters, coastal bays and estuaries, coastal intertidal waters, and the Great Lakes. The purpose of this form is to collect information needed to develop a comprehensive inventory of existing Marine Protected Areas (see About the MPA Inventory) in the United States and territorial waters. The information collected will be used to better understand the status and nature of existing MPAs, provide information and tools for environmental assessments, and better coordinate and manage the existing system of MPAs.

### Paperwork Reduction Act Information

OMB Control Number: 0648-0449

Expires: 12/31/11

This effort is in compliance with the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995 in order to solicit information from persons not employed by the U.S. Federal Government. The Office of Management and Budget has given clearance and approval to NOAA and DOI to use this survey tool to request state, local and tribal marine management agencies/organizations to fill out the form to provide information to the U.S. marine managed areas database and inventory. Responding to this data entry form is voluntary and no personal information is requested. However, confidentiality is not promised in the submission of this survey. Public reporting burden for this collection of information is estimated to average 30 minutes per response, including the time for reviewing instructions, searching existing data sources, gathering and maintaining the data needed, and completing and reviewing the collection of information. Send comments regarding this burden estimate or any other aspect of this collection of information, including suggestions for reducing this burden, to Lauren Wenzel (see contact information, below). Notwithstanding any other provision of the law, no person is required to respond to, nor shall any person be subject to a penalty for failure to comply with, a collection of information subject to the requirements of the Paperwork Reduction Act, unless that collection of information displays a currently valid OMB Control Number.

### Contact Information

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13. Fishing Restrictions (Check one for commercial and one for recreational):

Commercial:

- Prohibited  
 Restricted  
 Unrestricted

Recreational:

- Prohibited  
 Restricted  
 Unrestricted

14. Level of Protection (check one):

- Uniform Multiple-Use  
 Zoned Multiple-Use  
 Zoned Multiple-Use With No Take Area(s)  
 No-Take  
 No Impact  
 No Access

15. Primary Conservation Focus (check one):

- Natural Heritage  
 Sustainable Production  
 Cultural Heritage

16. Conservation Focus (check all that apply):

- Natural Heritage  
 Sustainable Production  
 Cultural Heritage

If Conservation Focus includes Cultural Heritage, please answer questions a-d.

a. Type of cultural heritage resource (check all that apply):

- Vessel/shipwreck  
 Aircraft  
 Site of cultural significance  
 Submerged archaeological site  
 Other

b. Does MPA meet criteria for National Register of Historic Places?

- Yes  
 No

c. Is Diving Allowed?

- Unrestricted  
 Restricted  
 Prohibited

d. Are Exploitive or Extractive Activities Allowed?

- Unrestricted  
 Restricted  
 Prohibited

17. Site Permanence (check one):

- Permanent  
 Conditional  
 Temporary

18. Site Constancy (check one):

- Year-Round  
 Seasonal  
 Rotating

19. Protection Focus (check one):

- Ecosystem  
 Focal Resource (please specify) \_\_\_\_\_

20. International Designations

- World Heritage List  
 Ramsar Site  
 Area To Be Avoided  
 Man And The Biosphere Reserve  
 Particularly Sensitive Sea Area

21. Is Vessel Access Allowed?

- Unrestricted  
 Restricted  
 Prohibited

22. Is Anchoring Allowed?

- Unrestricted  
 Restricted  
 Prohibited

23. Is GIS Data Available?

- Yes (Please submit with form)  
 No