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## National Marine Protected Areas Center Weekly Update October 20, 2011

### Science and Stewardship

**MPA Center Publishes Report on Recommendations from MPA and IOOS Task Team:** The report, released on Friday October 14, was developed by the Marine Protected Area/Integrated Ocean Observing System (MPA/IOOS) Task Team. Overall recommendations focused around three main areas: identifying key end user products; key environmental parameters and processes; and expanding partnerships. Recommendations highlight the importance of using MPAs as platforms for ocean monitoring both inside and outside MPA boundaries. In addition, scientific and technical experts consulted in the process recommended the use of MPAs to monitor impacts of climate change. The Task Team was formed to follow up on the recommendations from the Marine Protected Areas Federal Advisory Committee (November 2008) sent to the Department of Interior and Department of Commerce regarding Linking Ocean Observing Systems with the National System of Marine Protected Areas. "Building and Strengthening Linkages between the National System of Marine Protected Areas and the Integrated Ocean Observing System, Final recommendations from the Marine Protected Area (MPA) and Integrated Ocean Observing System (IOOS) Task Team" is available to download at [www.mpa.gov](http://www.mpa.gov). ([Rondi.Robison@noaa.gov](mailto:Rondi.Robison@noaa.gov)).

### Education and Outreach

**MPA Center Staff Participates in the "Scientist is In" Program at the Smithsonian:** Dr. Valerie Grussing, the Cultural Resources Coordinator with the National MPA Center, was the guest scientist at this month's "Scientist Is In" Program (<http://ocean.si.edu/ocean-news/scientist>) at the Smithsonian Institution's National Museum of Natural History in Washington, DC. Dr. Grussing demonstrated to a diverse museum audience the variety of marine cultural heritage resources, from shipwrecks to other culturally important sites, and how we can all work together to help preserve them for future generations. Dr. Grussing presented some exciting new technologies that enable remote exploration of underwater resources, and discussed the cultural heritage exhibit in the Ocean Hall, and the maritime heritage exhibits in the National Museum of American History. ([Valerie.Grussing@noaa.gov](mailto:Valerie.Grussing@noaa.gov))

**MPA Center Featured in Interactive Display at Museum of Monterey:** The MPA Center's [Interactive MPA Mapping Tool](#) is featured in a new exhibition in the [Museum of Monterey](#) (MoM), which opened October 15, 2011. The exhibition, titled "The Catch" features historic and contemporary photographs of fishing vessels, the MPA Center's Mapping Tool, and [a wall map of California MPAs](#), created by the MPA Center. "The Catch" is part of a collection of maritime-themed exhibits, located on the newly opened second floor of the museum. Visitors to the MPA Center exhibit can learn more about California MPAs through the wall map, and use the mapping tool to better understand how many MPAs

exist in a certain geographic area, search for a specific site by name, and find out what their favorite MPA was created to protect, among other features. ([Jacqueline.Sommers@noaa.gov](mailto:Jacqueline.Sommers@noaa.gov))

**MPA Center Speaks at Wellfleet Oyster Festival:** At the invitation of the NOAA Fisheries Service (Office of the Assistant Administrator and Northeast Regional Office), Wellfleet Bay Sanctuary, and the Shellfish Promotion and Tasting organization, Dr. Robert Brock, Marine Biologist for the MPA Center, was a guest speaker at the Wellfleet Oyster Festival ([www.wellfleetoysterfest.org](http://www.wellfleetoysterfest.org)) during October 15-16. Along with a scientist from the University of Massachusetts-Boston, Dr. Brock discussed the importance of filter-feeders in water quality issues as well as the ecological benefits of no-take reserves. The Town of Wellfleet has begun a research project with a 2-acre *Oyster Propagation Zone* where they hope to demonstrate that increasing the population of oysters will have positive benefits on the harbor's water quality, and making the Zone a no-harvest area will lead to increased settlement of oysters in adjacent harvested areas. ([Robert.Brock@noaa.gov](mailto:Robert.Brock@noaa.gov))

**New MPA Center Publication on the MPA Inventory Expansion:** The MPA Center has published a new factsheet on the MPA Inventory expansion, "[Improving the MPA Inventory](#)". The MPA Inventory is a geospatial database that stores information for over 1600 MPAs nationwide. The Inventory is updated annually and is hosted online in various formats to enable users to view boundaries and basic classification information about MPAs. To improve the capabilities of the Inventory database and to reflect the best available information on MPA resources and management, the Inventory is currently being expanded to incorporate data on physical, cultural and ecological resources, scientific monitoring activities, major management activities, and legal authority data at the site level. ([Hugo.Selbie@noaa.gov](mailto:Hugo.Selbie@noaa.gov))

## Events and Conferences

The following is a listing of events and conferences that the MPA Center is organizing or that MPA Center staff members plan to attend.

### October 2011

18-21: Great Lakes Regional Meeting of Coastal Management Programs, Sturgeon Bay, WI (D'iorio)

31- 1: North American Marine Protected Areas Network & Coastal Ecosystem Learning Centers Video & Outreach Workshop, Baltimore, MD (Wenzel, Yeager, Ellis-Hibbett)

### November 2011

3: The Lawyers' Committee for Cultural Heritage Preservation Annual Conference, Washington, DC (Grussing)

14-18: MPA Federal Advisory Committee Meeting, New Orleans, LA (Yeager, Wenzel, Townsend, Grussing, Ellis-Hibbett)

### December 2011

2-4: International Marine Conservation Think Tanks, Auckland, New Zealand (Brock)

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The mission of the National Marine Protected Areas Center is to facilitate the effective use of science, technology, training, and information in the planning, management, and evaluation of the nation's system of marine protected areas.

The MPA Center's goals are to:

1. Build and maintain the National System of MPAs
2. Improve MPA Stewardship and Effectiveness
3. Coordinate International, National, and Regional MPA Activities

For more information, go to: [www.MPA.gov](http://www.MPA.gov).