

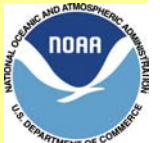
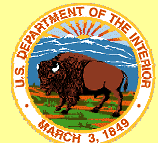
OVERVIEW OF NATIONAL MARINE PROTECTED AREAS CENTER GOALS AND ACTIVITIES

**MPA Federal Advisory Committee
Meeting
June 24, 2003
Washington, DC**

**Joseph A. Uravitch, A.I.C.P.
Director, National MPA Center**

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Science, tools, and training for the Nation's MPAs



Established by Section 4 of MPA Executive Order

**The Department of Commerce's National
Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration
shall establish a Marine Protected Area
Center in cooperation with the
Department of the Interior... Section 4(e)**

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National MPA Center Responsibilities - 1

MPA Executive Order Tasks

- Carry out **requirements of subsection 4(a)** of the order
- Partner with governmental and nongovernmental entities to conduct necessary **research, analysis, and exploration**
- **Consult** with states, territories, commonwealths, tribes, Federal Fishery Management Councils and other entities
- Develop a **framework for a national system of MPAs**
- Provide Federal, State, territorial, tribal, and local governments with the **information, technologies, and strategies**

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National MPA Center Responsibilities - 2

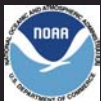
MPA Executive Order Tasks

- Coordinate the **website** established pursuant to subsection 4(d)
- Prepare and publish a **List of MPAs**
- Publish **Federal Agency Reports** on the web site
- Support the **MPA Federal Advisory Committee**

Special Assignment for MPA Center NOAA Staff

- *Coordinate NOAA MPA activities*

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Comparison of MPA Program & National MPA Center Responsibilities

Agency Programs

- MPA designation
- MPA management
- MPA improvements

Priorities

National MPA Center*

- Information
- Tools & training for improved stewardship
- Strategies for effective design and management of the nation's MPA network

Support

Internal NOAA role: coordination of NOAA MPA activities

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* *“the MPA Center is intended to support, not interfere with, agencies’ independent exercise of their own existing authorities.”* (Executive Order Sec. 4(e))

National MPA Center

Headquarters

Silver Spring, MD

Joseph Uravitch, Center Director
Marjorie Ernst, Deputy Headquarters
Director & Designated Federal
Officer for the MPA
Federal Advisory Committee

Training & Technical Assistance Institute

Charleston, SC

Ginger Hinchcliff, Institute Director
Heidi Recksiek, MPA Center Manager

Science Institute

Santa Cruz, CA

Charles Wahle, Institute Director

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National MPA Center Mission & Goals

MISSION

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.

GOALS

1. Enhance MPA stewardship by strengthening capacity for planning, management and evaluation (“Site Stewardship”)
2. Facilitate the development of a framework for a science-based national system of MPAs

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Implementing Goal 1: Site Stewardship

COMMUNICATION: INFORMATION AND COORDINATION

- Strengthen electronic library collections and other aspects of the MPA.gov web site
- Provide or support regional scale MPA coordination efforts
- Provide easy access to information on a regional basis through web-based information centers and other mechanism (e.g., PacificMPA.org)
- Synthesize existing science and stakeholder participation information
- Support “state” participation in national inventory development and policy analyses

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Implementing Goal 1: Site Stewardship

COMMUNICATION: OUTREACH, EDUCATION

- **Conduct needs assessments to help shape MPA Center priorities and projects**
- **Partnerships to develop public information and education materials**
- **Support conferences, workshops and symposia**
- **Build public participation into development and review processes**

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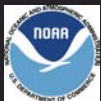


Implementing Goal 1: Site Stewardship

SCIENCE AND ANALYSIS

- **Common language - MPA classification System and definitions**
- **Strategies - Develop national and regional strategies natural and social science research on MPA issues**
- **Integration – Integrate the science – fisheries and biodiversity in MPAs**
- **Application – Incorporate MPA information into navigation products and systems**
- **Analysis – evaluate the implications of network design and phased development**
- **National System – develop framework for a national system of MPAs (inventory, analyses, characterization, design)**

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Implementing Goal 1: Site Stewardship

TRAINING AND TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE

- **Establish a data base of existing service providers relevant to the MPA community to support a training and technical assistance referral service**
- **Develop GIS data and tools to enhance usability of data during MPA processes**
- **Provide guidance and support on creation of digital marine boundaries for protected areas**
- **Develop methods to monitor, evaluate and illustrate effectiveness**
- **Develop new ways to effectively enforce MPA regulations and enhance user understanding and compliance**

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Implementing Goal 1: Site Stewardship

TRAINING AND TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE

- Provide training to practitioners and the public on MPA uses and issues
- Develop methods to monitor, evaluate and illustrate effectiveness
- Facilitate the exchange of information and sharing of best management practices among the MPA community
- Develop “lesson learned” case studies of MPA zoning and designation processes

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Implementing Goal 2: National System

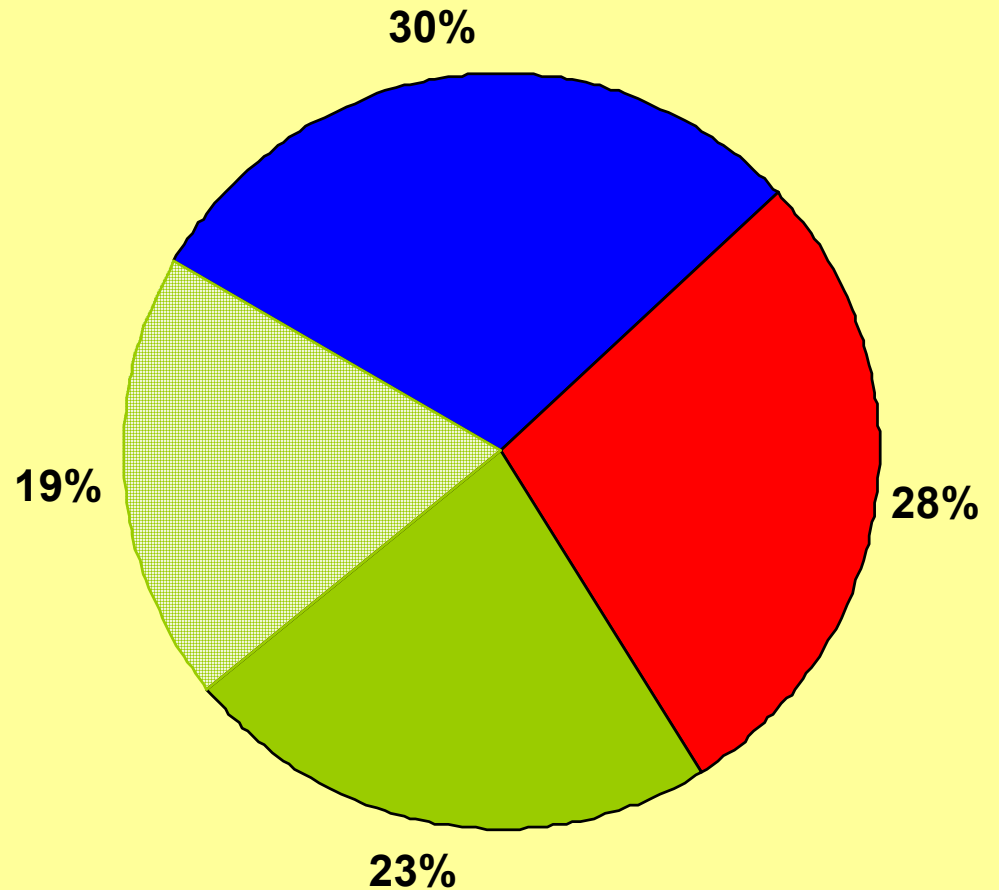
- Complete inventory of existing federal, state, commonwealth, and tribal marine managed areas and initiate analyses
- Incorporate the MPA classification system and definitions into the national dialogue
 - Enhance the public's understanding of MPA definition and issues
- Assess uses and threats
- Support partnership-based natural and cultural resource characterization efforts
 - Use existing databases and develop partnerships to fill information gaps
- Initiate the design of the framework for a national system
 - Involve the public, stakeholders, resource management and research communities in discussing the nature and goals of a national system of MPAs

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MPA Center FY2003 Budget -- \$4,000,000

- Communication, Information & Coordination
- Training & Technical Assistance
- Science & Analysis
- Science & Analysis: Inventory & National System Framework



Staff: 5 Federal positions supported by contractors, post docs, interns and others

Locations: CA, MD, MA, SC (with temporary Intern support in most coastal states, territories and commonwealths for national inventory data collection)

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MPA Center General Operating Principles

- Priorities based on Executive Order requirements and user needs defined through needs assessments and other mechanisms
- The basic *modus operandi* is one of inclusion across agencies and interested stakeholders
- Seek and employ partnerships
- Focus on national and regionally-based activities or pilot projects that have applicability elsewhere
- Agencies and programs respect the mandates and authorities of others and work cooperatively within that framework
- The Center does not “manage” MPAs, have the authority to establish new MPAs, expand existing MPAs, or set, disseminate or oversee an agency’s programmatic policies

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