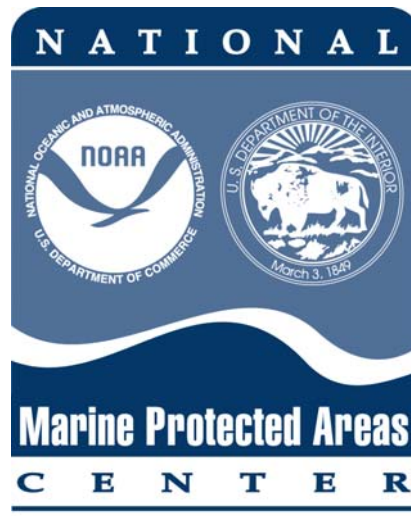


Developing the Comprehensive National System of Marine Protected Areas

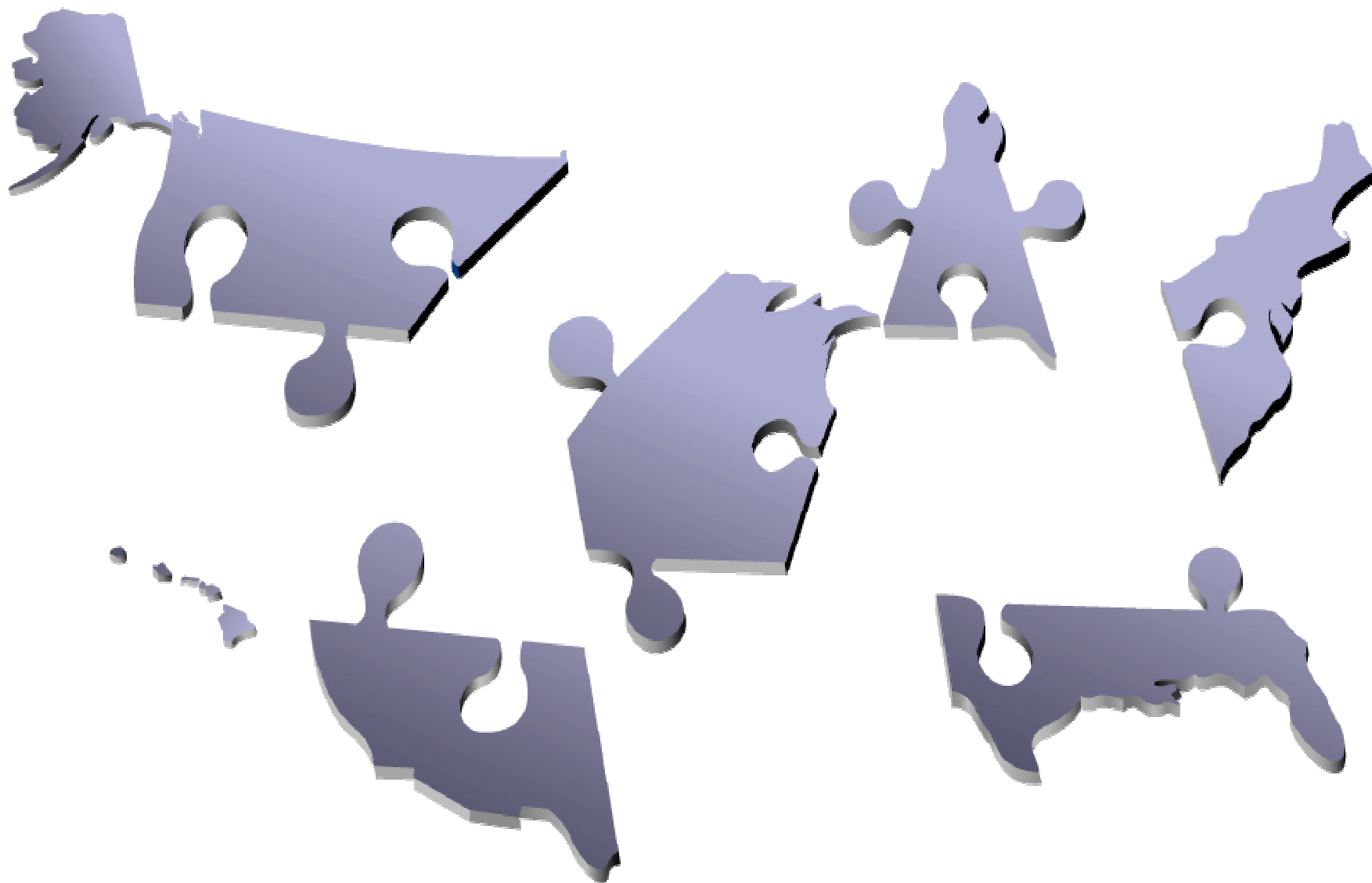


Presentation to:

MPA Federal Advisory Committee
September 21, 2004
Maui, Hawaii

Why does the U.S. need a National System of MPAs?

- Hundreds of federal, state, commonwealth, territory, and tribal MPA authorities in the U.S.
- Many MPA types and purposes
- Lack of comprehensive planning to meet national and regional goals
- Lack of ecologically-based connectivity among MPAs
- Thousands of federal, state, commonwealth, territory, and tribal sites
- No comprehensive mechanism for coordinating MPA efforts



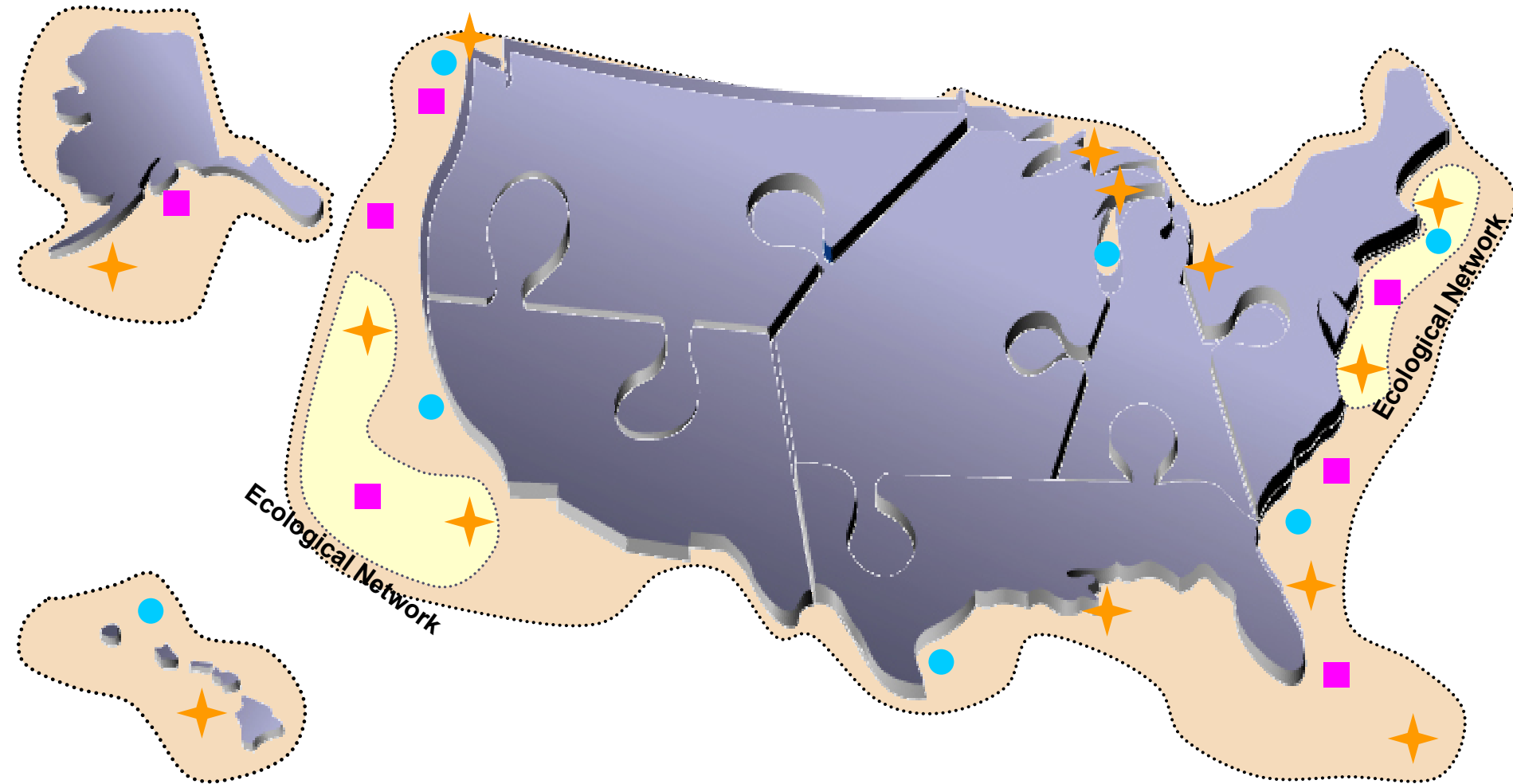
What is the national system of MPAs?

An evolving portfolio of existing, enhanced, and new MPA sites and MPA networks as needed that:

- Incorporates the best available science
- Represents diverse ecosystems from marine, coastal, estuarine, and Great Lakes waters
- Protects the nation's natural and cultural marine heritage, and ensures sustainable production of renewable marine resources
- Includes federal, state, commonwealth, territory, and tribal sites
- Incorporates input from agencies, users, and stakeholders to support the nation's broad natural and cultural marine conservation and management goals

A Conceptual Model of a National System of MPAs

for illustration only



★ Existing Sites

■ Enhanced

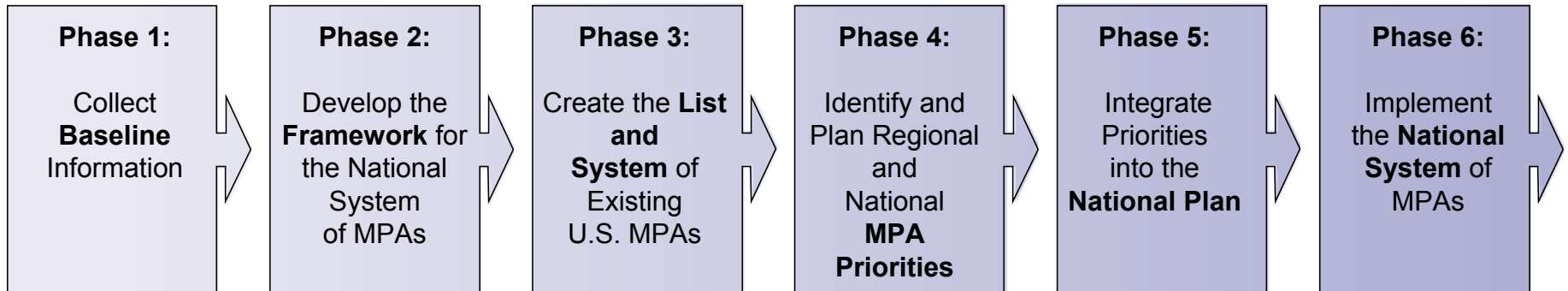
● New Sites

What are the benefits of the national system of MPAs?

- Common MPA terminology and language
- Comprehensive conservation of nationally significant natural and cultural resources
- Common criteria for designing and evaluating MPAs for national goals
- Scientifically-based networks designed for ecological connectivity
- Enhanced planning at the local, regional, and national level to identify conservation priorities
- Improved coordination among government agencies
- Sustained stakeholder engagement in and support for MPAs

Development Process for the National System of MPAs

Gather and Communicate Information



Based on Sound Science and Continuous Stakeholder Input

Ongoing Efforts

Gather and Communicate Information

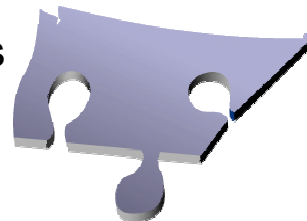
- MPA.gov Website
- MPA Online Regional Information Centers
- *MPA Connections* Newsletter
- MPA Education Program
- “Understanding MPAs” Course

Sound Science

- National and regional research priorities for social science
- National and regional research priorities for natural science
- Improved understanding of recovery in MPAs

Stakeholder Input

- State Advisory Group
- MPA Federal Advisory Committee
- Federal Inter-Agency Working Group
- Public Listening Sessions



Phase 1: Collect Baseline Information

Inventory and Organize:

Marine Managed Areas (MMA) Inventory

MMA Criteria

Inventory of de facto sites

Classification System

Assess Needs:

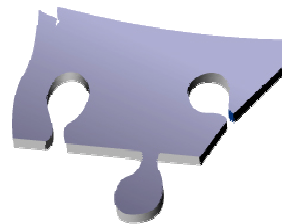
MPA Needs Assessment

MPA Enforcement Assessment

Lessons Learned

Legal Assessment

Science Strategies



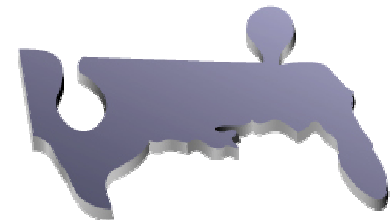
Phase 2: Develop the Framework for the National System of MPAs

What might the framework for the national system of MPAs include?

- **Components** of the framework, including goals, governance, coordination, and process
- **MPA definitions** (lasting, representative, etc.), incorporating:
 - MPA classification system
 - Draft MPA criteria

How will the National Marine Protected Areas Center get feedback and guidance on developing the national system of MPAs?

- **MPA Federal Advisory Committee**
- U.S. Departments of Commerce and the Interior
- Agencies, users, and stakeholders
- Draw lessons from international examples



Phase 3: Create the List and System of Existing U.S. MPAs

What is the List and National System of existing MPAs?

- Existing areas that meet national system goals and MPA criteria outlined in the Framework
- Sites and resources therein that Federal agencies must avoid harming to the extent practicable

How will the List and National System of existing MPAs be created?

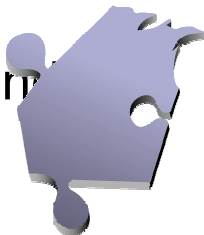
- National system goals and MPA criteria will filter sites listed in the MMA Inventory
- **Ongoing input from the MPA Federal Advisory Committee and agencies, users, and stakeholders**



Phase 4: Identify and Plan Regional and National MPA Priorities

How will science and stakeholder input inform national and regional conservation and management priorities?

- Assess conservation gaps, opportunities and priorities in context of:
 - Natural Heritage
 - Cultural Heritage
 - Sustainable Production
- Inform regional and national MPA priorities based on identified gaps and opportunities
- Inform national system governance and coordination priorities based on identified gaps and opportunities
- Integrate priorities into a draft system with existing, enhanced and potentially new sites



Phase 5: Integrate Priorities into the National Plan

How will priorities be integrated into the plan for the national system of MPAs?

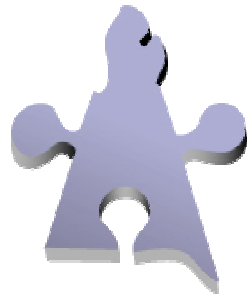
- Ongoing effort to develop new science to optimize MPA design to meet multiple conservation and management objectives
- Priorities will be integrated into a draft system with ongoing input from:
 - **MPA Federal Advisory Committee**
 - Agencies, users, and stakeholders
- Based on input and feedback, the integrated plan for the comprehensive national system of MPAs will be finalized



Phase 6: Implement the National System of MPAs

How will be the integrated National System of MPAs be implemented?

- Existing authorities will establish priority new sites, as identified
- Effectiveness
- Monitoring
- Coordination/Governance



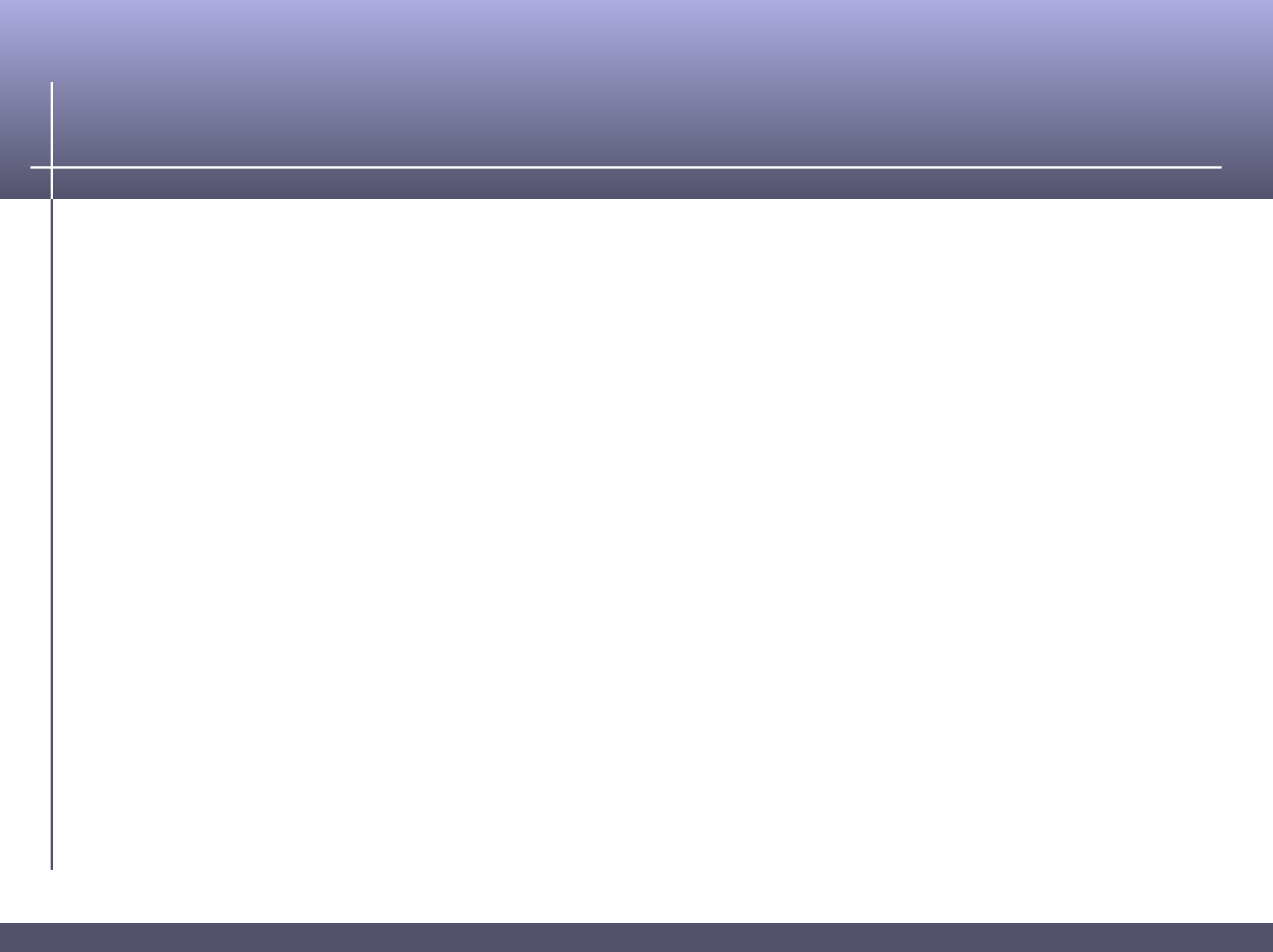
Order out of Chaos: The National System of MPAs



A science-based, national system of marine protected areas that effectively conserves the nation's natural and cultural marine heritage and the ecologically and economically sustainable use of the marine environment for future generations.

Key Input from MPA FAC

- Recommendations on developing the national system of MPAs framework: definitions, goals, and process
- Access to stakeholder groups to help communicate national system of MPAs development process and for interactive input
- Identify national and regional priorities for planning national system
- Ongoing advice and recommendations throughout the six phases



Development Process for the National System of MPAs

Gather and Communicate Information

Phase 1:

Collect
Baseline
Information

Phase 2:

Develop the
Framework for
the National
System
of MPAs

Phase 3:

Create the **List**
and
System of
Existing
U.S. MPAs

Phase 4:

Identify and
Plan Regional
and
National
MPA
Priorities

Phase 5:

Integrate
Priorities
into the
National Plan

Phase 6:

Implement
the **National**
System of
MPAs

Based on Sound Science and Continuous Stakeholder Input

6 Phases to the Comprehensive National System of Marine Protected Areas

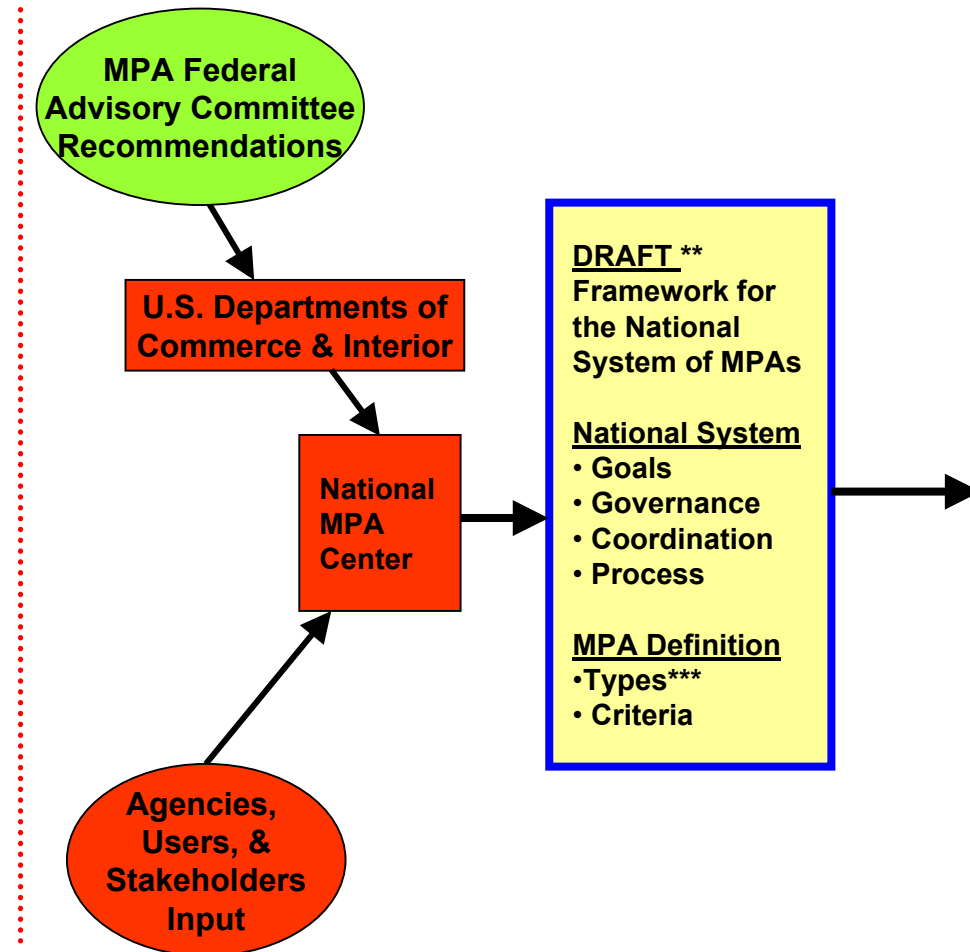
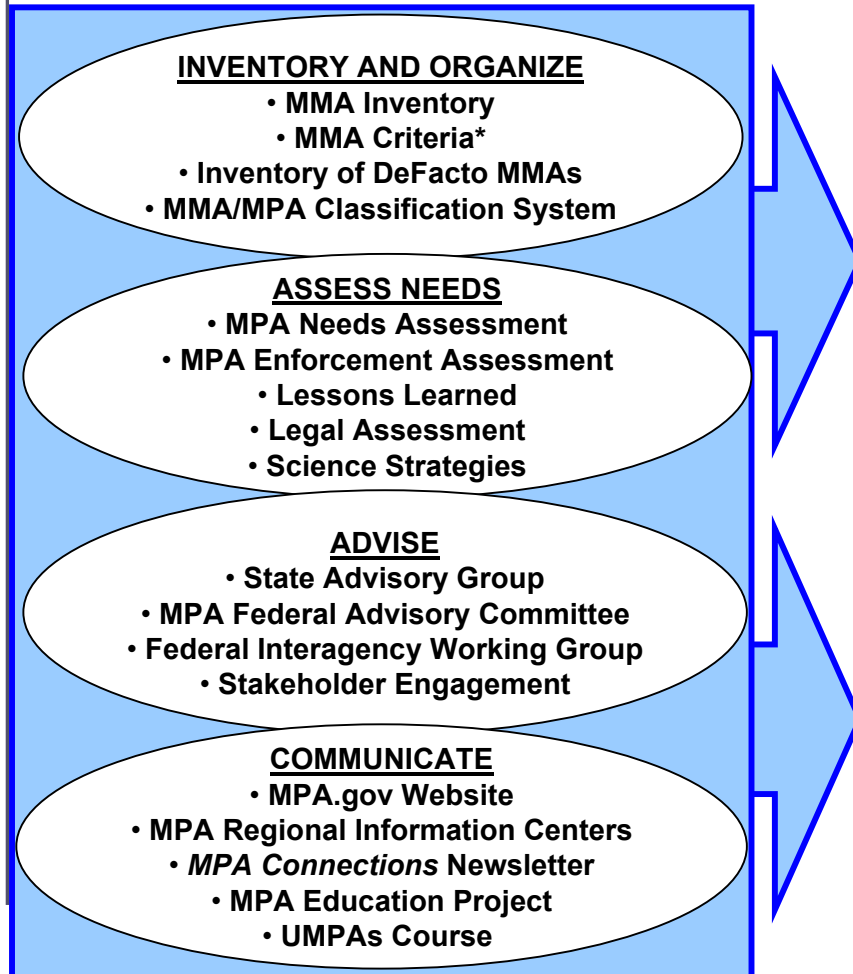
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Phase 1: Laying The Foundation

Gathering and Communicating Information

Phase 2: Drafting the Structure

Developing The National MPA System Framework



Marine Managed Area = MMA
Marine Protected Area = MPA

6 Phases to the Comprehensive National System of Marine Protected Areas

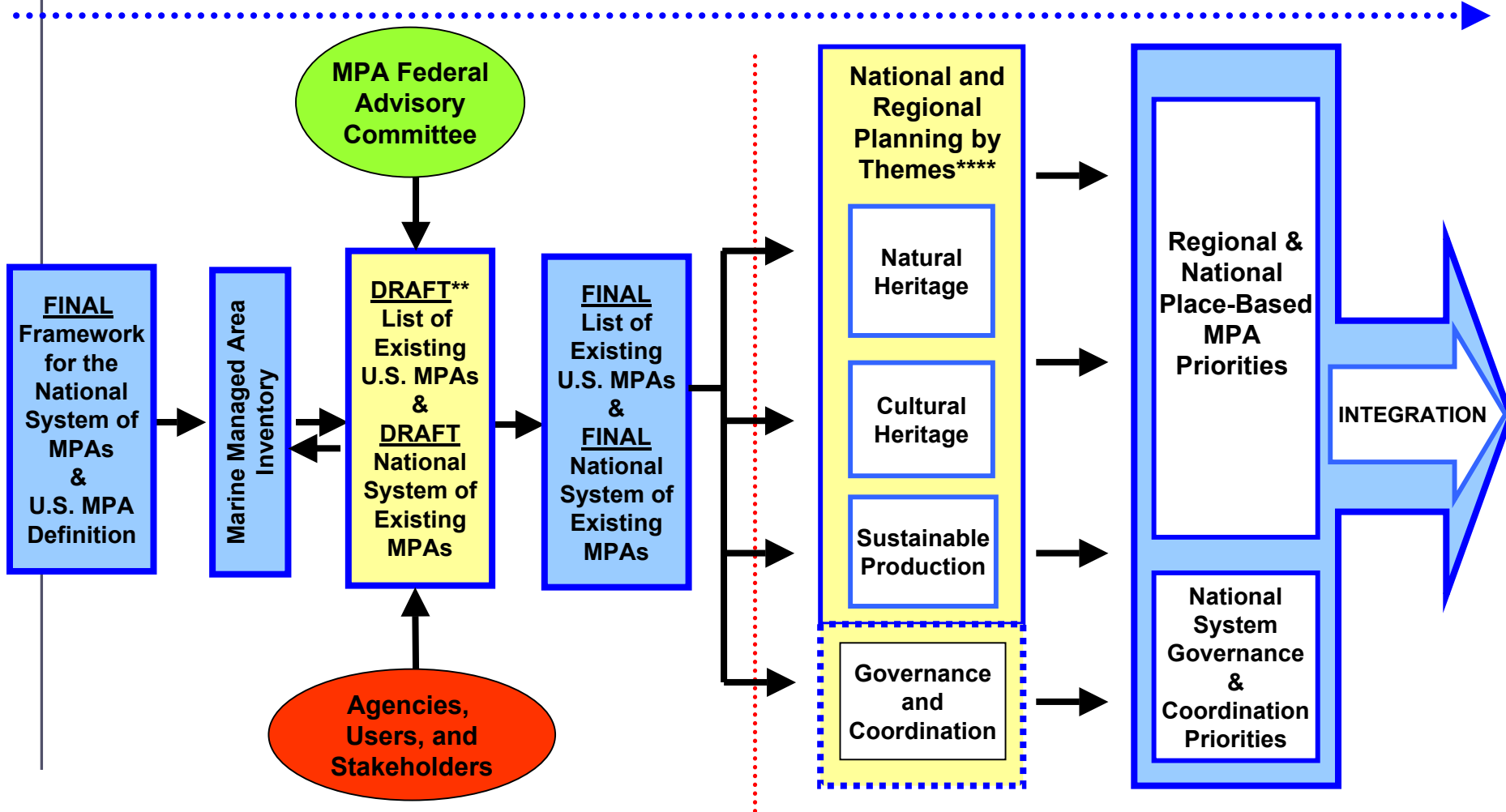
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Phase 3: Defining the Existing System

Creating the MPA List and National System of MPAs from Existing Sites

Phase 4: Planning the Comprehensive System

Identifying Regional and National Opportunities, Gaps and Priorities



Marine Managed Area = MMA

Marine Protected Area = MPA

**To be published in *Federal Register* for public comment

**** Under consideration by the MPA FAC

6 Phases to the Comprehensive National System of Marine Protected Areas

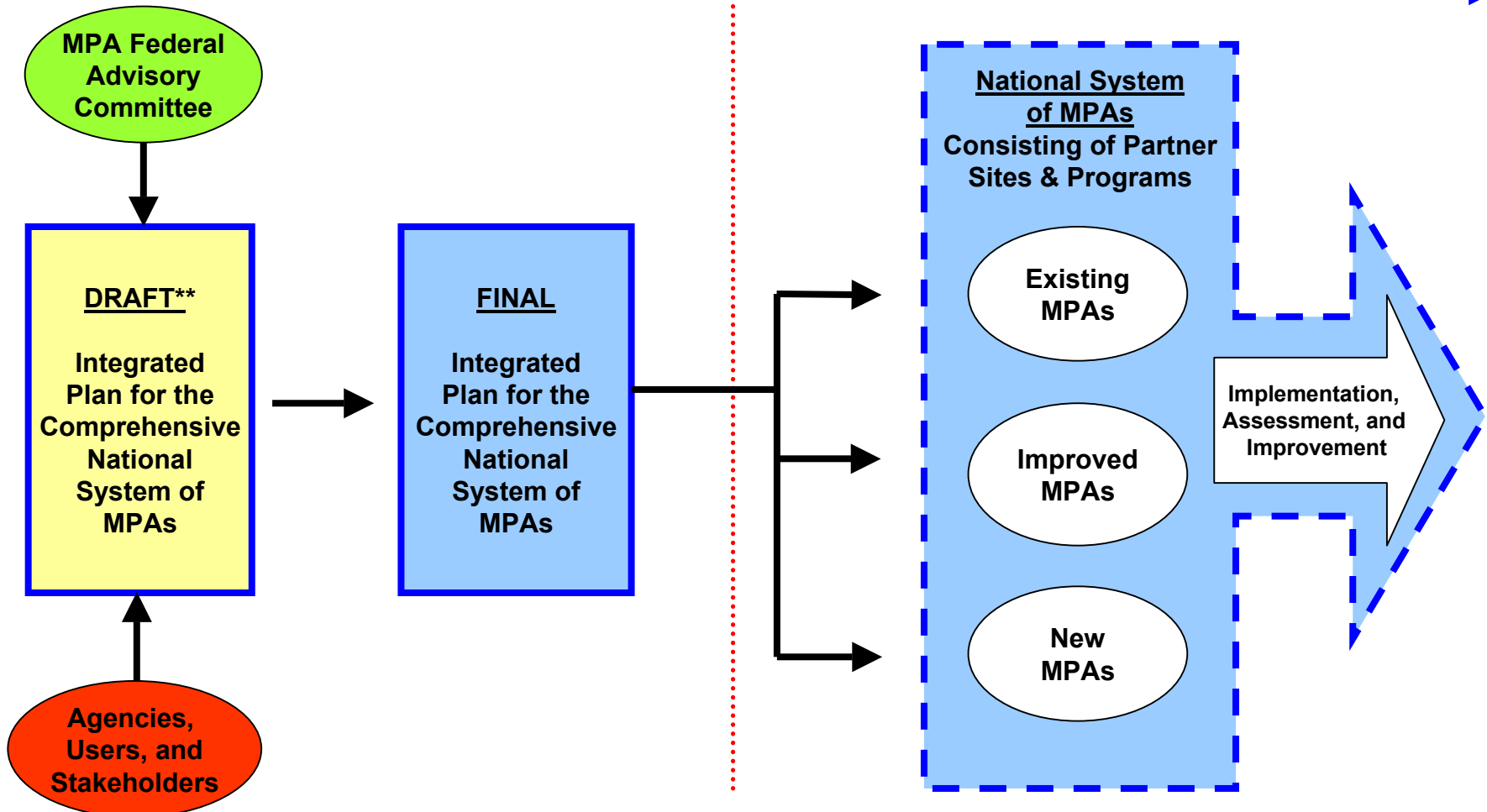
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Phase 5: Integrating the Comprehensive System

Developing the Integrated Plan for the National System of MPAs

Phase 6: Implementing the Comprehensive System

Supporting Effective MPA Programs and the National System of MPAs



Marine Managed Area = MMA
Marine Protected Area = MPA

**To be published in *Federal Register* for public comment

Science and Analysis in the National System Planning Process

Phases in the Planning Process

1 – Laying The Foundation

2 – Drafting the Structure

3 – Defining the Existing System

4 – Planning the Compreh. System

5 – Integrating the Compr. System

6 – Implementing The System

MMA Inventory Data Collection

Assess Existing Sites

Ecosys/Hab

Resources and Processes

Human Uses: Natl Patterns

Human Uses: Potntl Impx

Prior Resrcs

Rgnl Threats

Gaps / Areas

Integ Sci

Monitor

