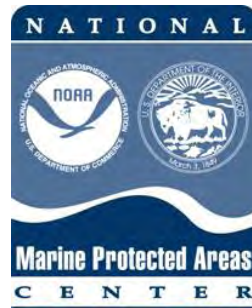


# From Design to Implementation: the National System of Marine Protected Areas

Presentation to  
Marine Protected Areas Federal Advisory Committee

Lauren Wenzel  
National Marine Protected Areas Center

**November 19, 2008**



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

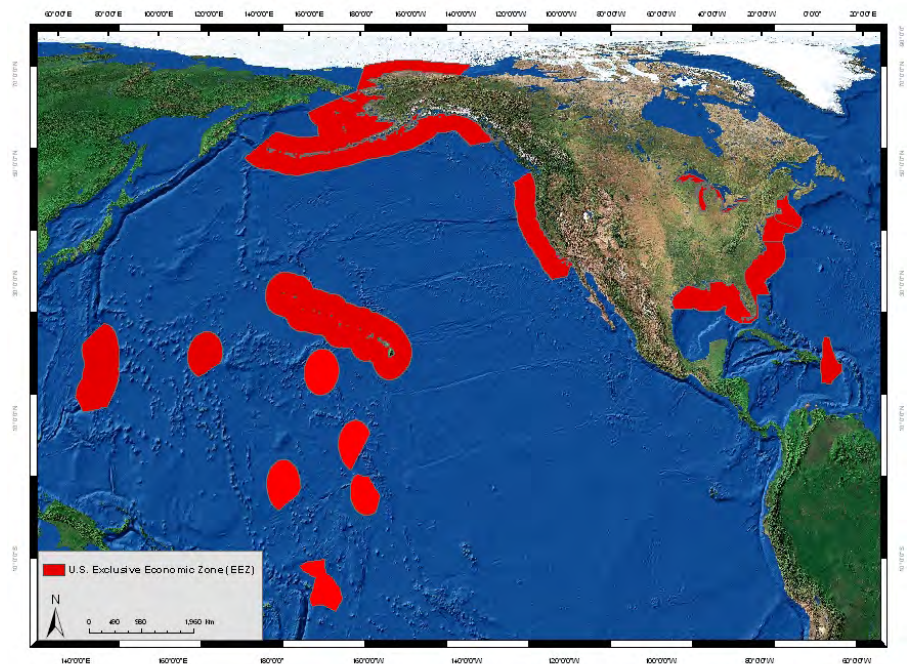
# Presentation Outline

- Background on National System
- “WIIFM”
- Nomination Process



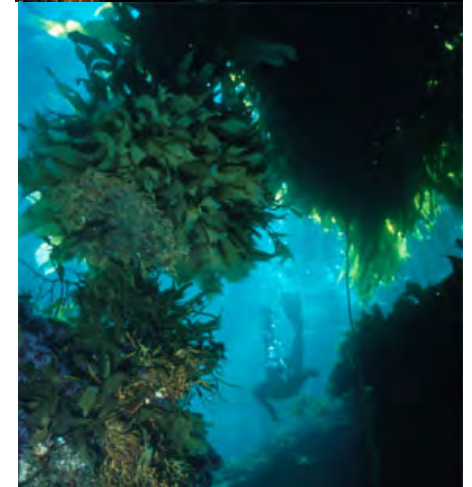
# National Picture of MPAs

- ~ 1,700 MPAs in U.S. waters
- Hundreds of federal, state and local MPA authorities
- About 1/3 of US EEZ in some form of MPA, but purposes narrow
- Majority allow multiple uses (>99% of MPA area)
- Few prohibit all extractive activities (<1% of MPA area); no take MPAs are typically very small
- Federal programs manage most area; states manage most sites



# Benefits of a National System of MPAs

- To Participating MPA Programs
  - Enhancing stewardship through regional coordination
  - Building partnerships
  - Building public & international awareness and support
  - Formal mechanism for addressing large scale issues
- To the Nation:
  - Protecting representative ecosystems and resources
  - Enhancing connectivity
  - Identifying conservation gaps
- To ocean stakeholders:
  - Transparent process for MPA planning
  - Better planning for diverse ocean uses
  - Better information on MPA resources, uses and fishing opportunities



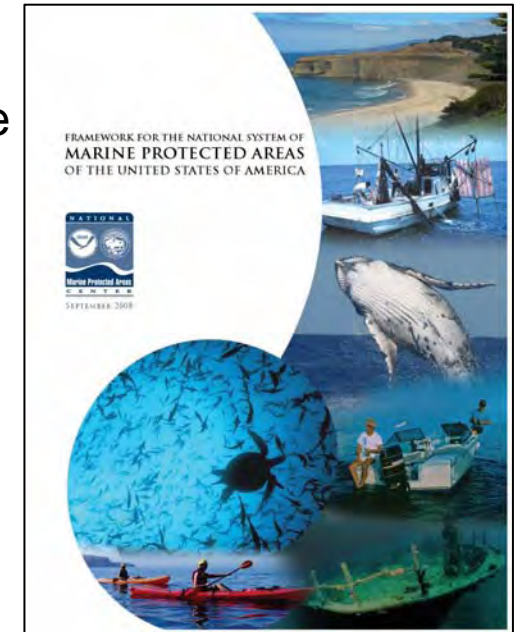
# Examples of National System Benefits

- Recognition for MPA programs and sites
  - New web pages on [mpa.gov](http://mpa.gov)
  - Communications toolkit
- Information for regional ocean governance and MPA planning and management:
  - MPA inventories
  - Ocean Use Atlas (CA)
  - MPA Virtual Library ([www.mpa.gov](http://www.mpa.gov))
- Program Integration
  - Observing Systems
  - Navigation resources
- Facilitation of Regional Assessments & Gap Analyses
- International Linkages
  - North American MPA Network



# What will the National System do?

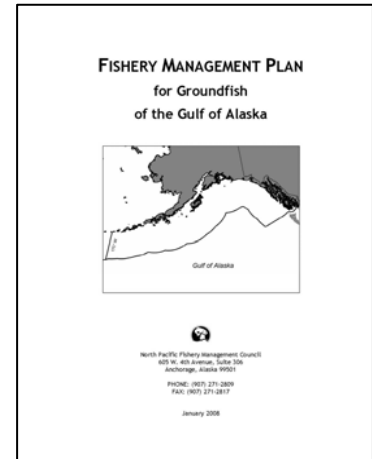
- Establish national goals and objectives
  - for natural heritage, cultural heritage and sustainable production
- Ensure a comparable set of information about MPAs across the nation
- Provide regional coordination of existing MPAs
  - Identifies common science and stewardship priorities
- Provide tools and technical assistance to enhance stewardship
- Conduct regional gap analyses to identify priority areas for new or enhanced MPAs
- No new regulatory authority





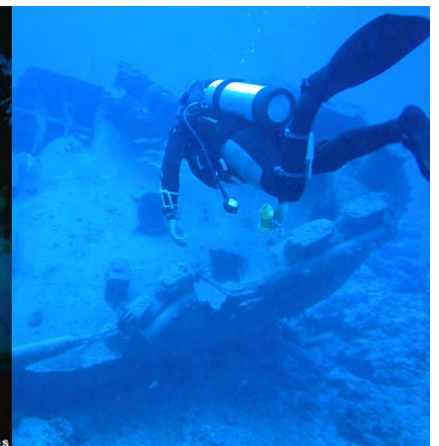
# Criteria for Entry to the National System

- Meets the definition of an MPA
  - Key terms: area, marine, reserved, lasting, protection
- Has a management plan
  - Includes site specific information; can be part of a broader fisheries management plan
  - Must include goals and objectives; call for monitoring and evaluation
- Contributes to a priority conservation objective of the nation system
- Additional criteria for cultural resources



# Initial National System

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





# Priority Conservation Objectives: Natural Heritage Goal

**Goal 1: Advance comprehensive conservation and management of the nation's significant natural heritage marine resources through ecosystem-based MPA approaches.**

**Priority Conservation Objectives for Goal 1: Conserve and Manage:**

key reproduction areas and nursery grounds	<b>Near Term</b>
key biogenic habitats	
areas of high species and/or habitat diversity	
ecologically important geological features + enduring/recurring oceanographic features	
critical habitat of threatened and endangered species	
unique or rare species, habitats and associated communities	<b>Mid Term</b>
key areas for migratory species	
linked areas important to life histories	<b>Long Term</b>
key areas that provide compatible opportunities for education and research	

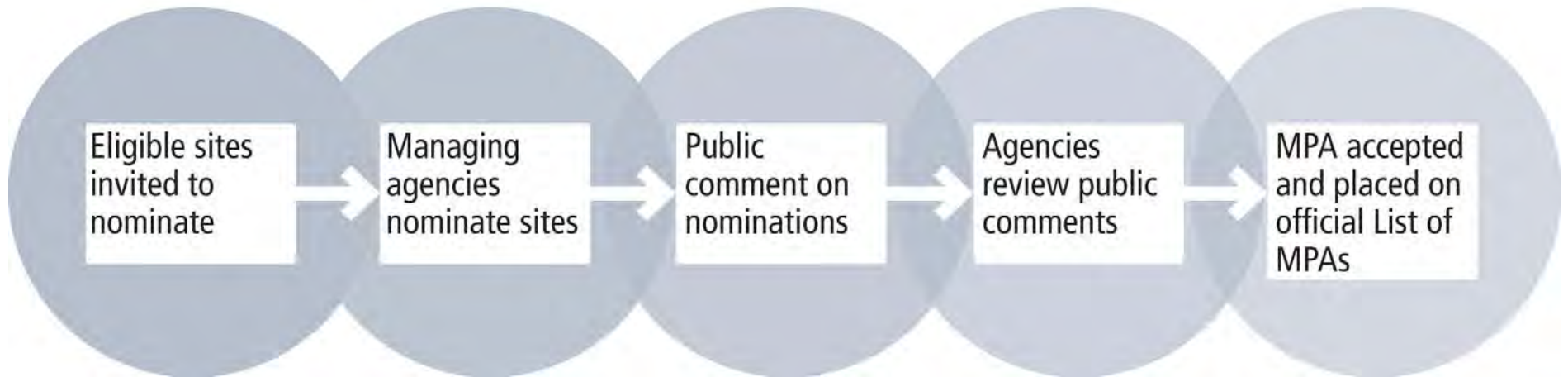
# Priority Conservation Objectives: Sustainable Production Goal

**Goal 3:** Advance comprehensive conservation and management of the nation's renewable living resources and their habitats, including, but not limited to, spawning, mating, and nursery grounds, and areas established to minimize incidental by-catch of species, that are important to the nation's social, economic, and cultural well-being through ecosystem-based MPA approaches.

## Priority Conservation Objectives for Goal 3

Conserve and manage key reproduction areas, including larval sources and nursery grounds	Near Term
Conserve key areas that sustain or restore high priority fishing grounds	
Conserve and manage key areas for maintaining natural age/sex structure of important harvestable species	Mid Term
Conserve key foraging grounds	
Conserve and manage key areas that mitigate the impacts of bycatch	
Conserve key areas that provide compatible opportunities for education and research	Long Term

# Nomination Process



# Nomination Package

- Process reviewed by federal and state MPA programs
- Hard copies and electronic copies to be sent to MPA Program contacts
- Responses requested in excel spreadsheet
- Package includes:
  - Cover letter
  - Program Summary Sheet
    - list of potentially eligible MPAs from MPA Inventory – request to update and correct information
  - Checklist for Priority Conservation Objectives

## 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 Conserve and Manage:	(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 compatible 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	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>		

# Coordination of Nomination Process

- States/Territories
  - Cover letter and nomination package sent to each state MPA program with potentially eligible sites (e.g. DNR, Fisheries, Cultural Heritage)
  - States requested to coordinate internally on nominations
- Federal Fisheries
  - NOAA Fisheries will consult with Councils; NOAA will make final determination
- NERRS
  - NOAA will be point of contact
- Sanctuaries / National Parks / National Wildlife Refuges
  - DC staff will be point of contact



# Nomination Timeline

- Late Nov 2008: Begin nomination process
- Late Jan 2009: Nomination forms due
- Feb 2009: Public comment period (30 days)
- March 2009: Review public comments; finalize list of National System sites with MPA Programs
- Spring 2009: Announcement of first set of sites in system

# Priorities for Operating the Initial National System

- Build on existing stewardship efforts
  - Identify a few national and regional science and stewardship priorities
  - Begin to develop regional MPA Stewardship Strategies
- Focus on national coordination
  - Establish of national Management Committee
  - Integration with other ocean management priorities (e.g. regional ocean governance, ocean observation systems)
  - Plan for national system evaluation
- Recognition
  - Develop new visual identity
  - Outreach materials for use by MPA Programs/Sites
  - Web pages



# New Members for MPA Federal Advisory Committee

- Please encourage qualified individuals to nominate by Jan 31



# New Members for MPA Federal Advisory Committee

## MPA FAC Vacancies By Interest:

- 3 commercial fishing (3)
- 2 recreational fishing (1)
- 1 ocean industry (currently oil & gas) (0)
- 2 conservation (4)
- 1 state/territorial (2)
- 2 natural science (3)
- 2 social science (1)
- 1 cultural (0)

## MPA FAC Vacancies By Geography:

- 2 New England (3)
- 2 Great Lakes (0)
- 2 Gulf of Mexico (2)
- 2 Southeast (2)
- 3 Pacific Coast (4)
- 1 Pacific Islands (1)
- 2 National (0)
- 0 Alaska (2)

# Questions?



**A National System of MPAs, collaboratively conserving the nation's...**



Kip Evans

Natural  
Heritage,



Sustainable Production,  
and



Cultural  
Heritage.

# New Members for MPA Federal Advisory Committee

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