

MPA Center:

Purpose, History and Accomplishments

Lauren Wenzel, Acting Director



Johnston Island National Wildlife Refuge

Background on MPA Executive Order

- Late 1990s – scientific consensus on importance of MPAs and marine reserves as a conservation tool
- Feb 2000 – CEQ holds workshop on need for national system of MPAs
- May 2000 – Executive Order signed by President Clinton
- July 2001 – Executive Order endorsed by President Bush

Executive Order 13158

- Develop a scientifically based, comprehensive national system of MPAs representing diverse U.S. marine ecosystems, and the Nation's natural and cultural resources

Federal Register / Vol. 65, No. 105 / Wednesday, May 31, 2000 / Presidential Documents 34909

Presidential Documents

Executive Order 13158 of May 26, 2000

Marine Protected Areas

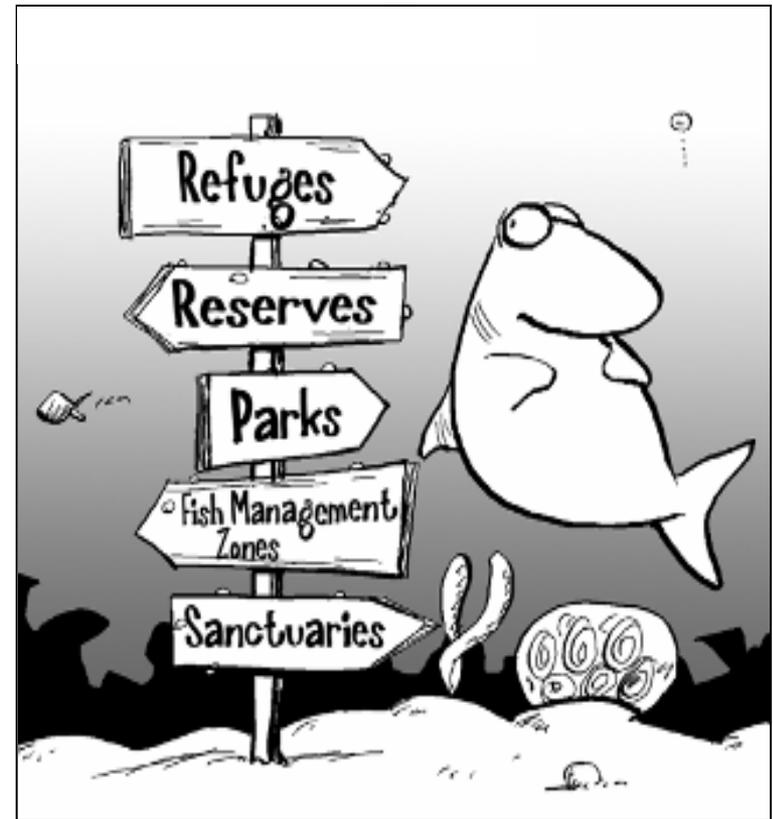
By the authority vested in me as President by the Constitution and the laws of the United States of America and in furtherance of the purposes of the National Marine Sanctuaries Act (16 U.S.C. 1431 *et seq.*), National Wildlife Refuge System Administration Act of 1966 (16 U.S.C. 668dd-ee), National Park Service Organic Act (16 U.S.C. 1 *et seq.*), National Historic Preservation Act (16 U.S.C. 470 *et seq.*), Wilderness Act (16 U.S.C. 1131 *et seq.*), Magnuson-Stevens Fishery Conservation and Management Act (16 U.S.C. 1801 *et seq.*), Coastal Zone Management Act (16 U.S.C. 1451 *et seq.*), Endangered Species Act of 1973 (16 U.S.C. 1531 *et seq.*), Marine Mammal Protection Act (16 U.S.C. 1362 *et seq.*), Clean Water Act of 1977 (33 U.S.C. 1251 *et seq.*), National Environmental Policy Act, as amended (42 U.S.C. 4321 *et seq.*), Outer Continental Shelf Lands Act (42 U.S.C. 1331 *et seq.*), and other pertinent statutes, it is ordered as follows:

Section 1. Purpose. This Executive Order will help protect the significant natural and cultural resources within the marine environment for the benefit of present and future generations by strengthening and expanding the Nation's system of marine protected areas (MPAs). An expanded and strengthened comprehensive system of marine protected areas throughout the marine environment would enhance the conservation of our Nation's natural and cultural marine heritage and the ecologically and economically sustainable use of the marine environment for future generations. To this end, the purpose of this order is to, consistent with domestic and international law: (a) strengthen the management, protection, and conservation of existing marine protected areas and establish new or expanded MPAs; (b) develop a scientifically based, comprehensive national system of MPAs representing

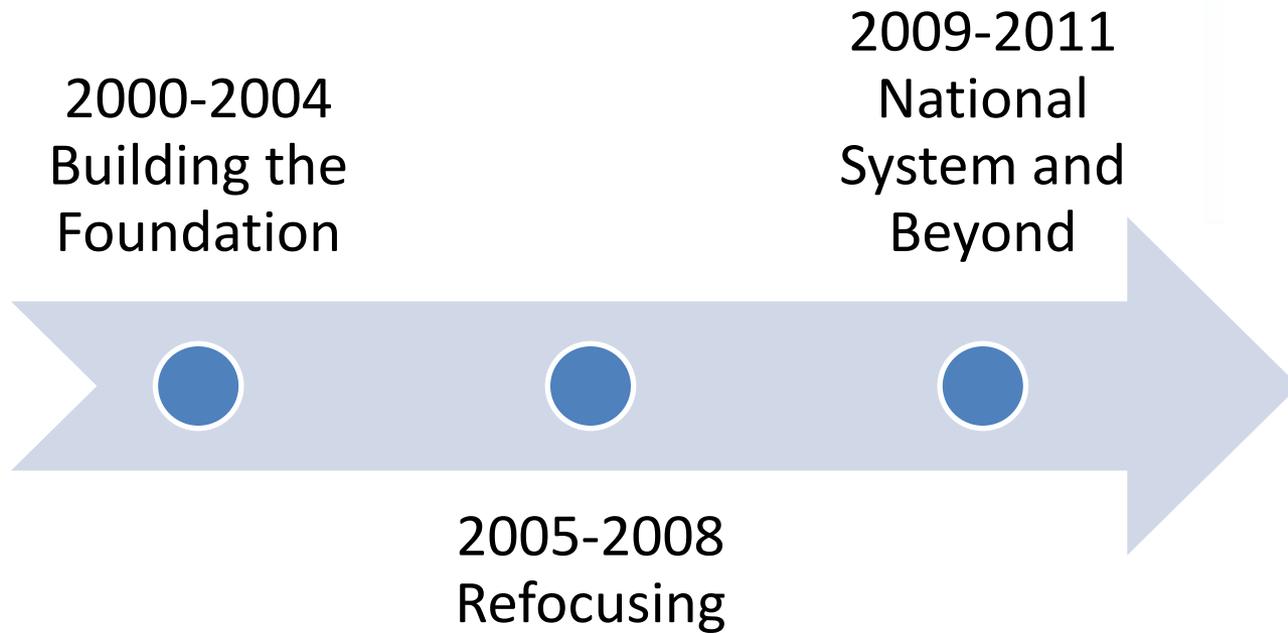
Terminology

Marine Protected Area (MPA) – any area of the marine environment that has been reserved by Federal, state, territorial, tribal or local laws or regulations to provide lasting protection to part or all of the natural and cultural resources therein.

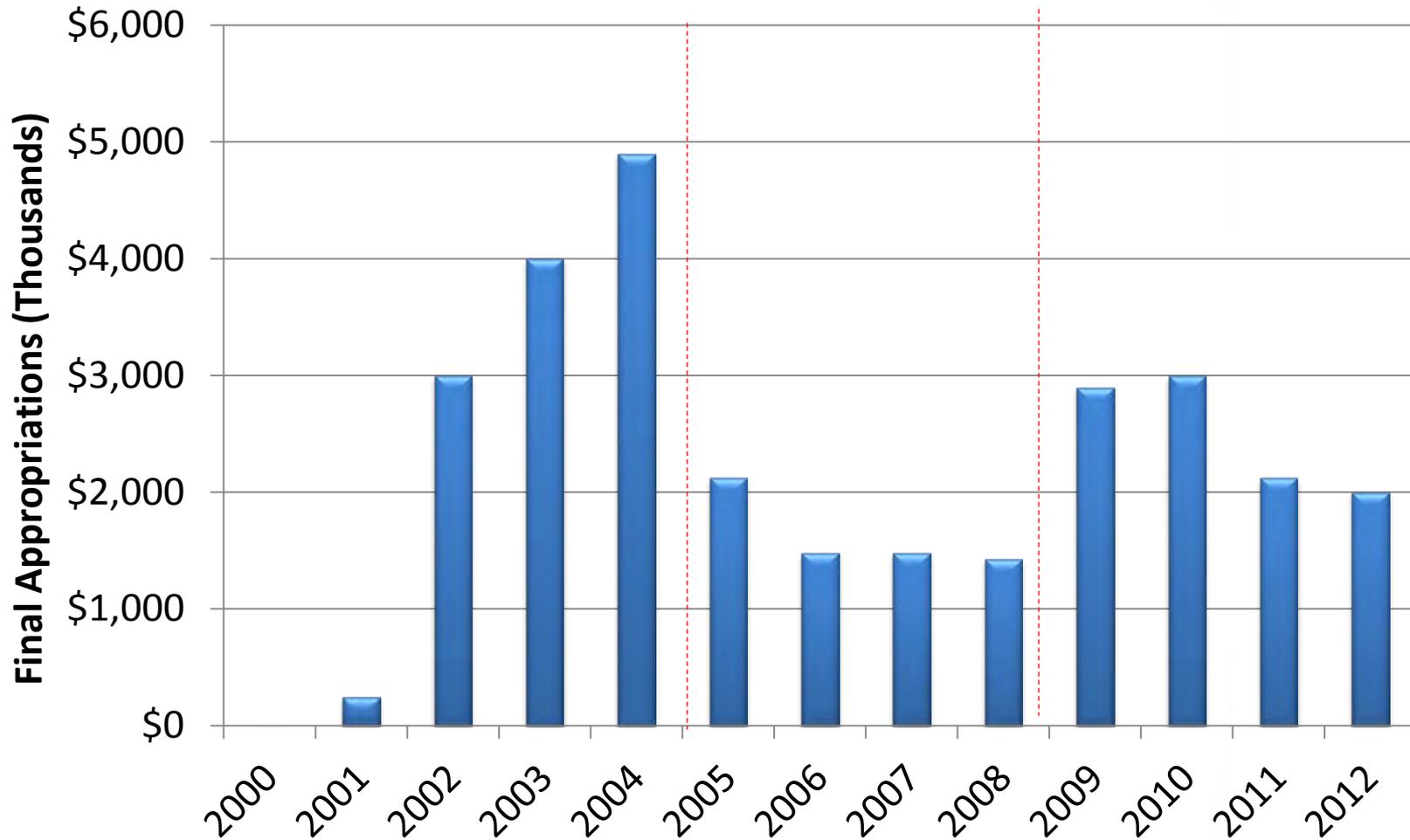
Marine Reserve – “no take” area – one type of MPA where extractive uses are prohibited



Key Phases for MPA Center



MPA Center Budget History



2000-2004: Building the Foundation

- Major Drivers:
 - Transition to new Administration
 - Focus on understanding what we have now
- Major Activities:
 - MPA Inventory
 - Training and Technical Assistance
 - Science Institute
 - Build website (mpa.gov)

National MPA Center (2004)

- Headquarters**
Silver Spring, MD
- Operational Policy
 - Inter-Governmental Coordination
 - Advisory Committee
 - Outreach
 - Education
 - Information
 - Inventory
 - Web Site

- Training & Technical Assistance Institute**
Charleston, SC
- Technology & Issue-base Training and Assistance
 - Process training
 - Needs Assessment

- Science Institute**
Santa Cruz, CA
- Targeted research
- Workshops on MPA design and management
 - Habitat characterization
 - Threat & conflict assessments
 - Policy analysis

NATIONAL MARINE PROTECTED AREAS CENTER – FY2003

Joseph Uravitch, A.I.C.P.
Director
SILVER SPRING, MD

SCIENCE INSTITUTE
Dr. Charles Wahle
Director
SANTA CRUZ & MONTEREY, CA

HEADQUARTERS STAFF
SILVER SPRING, MD

TRAINING & TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE INSTITUTE
Ginger Hinchcliff, Director
CHARLESTON, SC (NOAA/CSC)

MPA Center Coordinator
Heidi Recksiek, NOAA/MPA

Coastal Mgmt GIS Spec
Hamilton Smillie, NOAA/CSC

Coastal Mgmt. GIS Specialist
Kim Cohen

Coastal Mgmt. Specialist
Brie Kessler

Marine Scientist
David Stein

Coastal Management Specialist
Greg Moretti

Librarian – Electronic Archive,
Lisc Lott

Contract positions above are wholly or partially funded by MPA Center, balance by NOAA/CSC

Fisheries Biologist
Dr. Lisa Wooninck, NOAA/NMFS
(Santa Cruz)

Senior Scientist
Dr. Gary Davis, DOI/NPS
(Monterey)

Visiting Ecologist
Daniel Brumbaugh
(Santa Cruz)

Program Manager
Aaron King
(Monterey)

MPA Post Doc with COMPASS
Dr. Karen Overholzer, OSU
(Santa Cruz)

Policy Analyst
Sarah Lyons
(Monterey)

Visiting Ecologist
Dr. M. Lynch – late FY03

Social Science Research Fellow
Ana Spalding
(Monterey)

Ecologist
FY2003-04 recruit
(Santa Cruz)

Navigating MPAs/State Intern Support -
Marnie Meyer
(Monterey)

Advisory Committee Designated Federal Officer
VACANT

Administrative Assistant
Dorinda Sparks

Advisory Committee Support
Phyllis Clark, DOI/MMS
(Herndon, VA)

NOAA & Inter Agency MPA Coordinator
Lauren Wenzel

Yardena Zilbertstein
Program Analyst

Outreach Coordinator
Dana Topousis

State Coordinator
John Lopez

MPA System/List Outreach
Daphne Pee

Graphic Artist – MPA/NERR
Matt McIntosh

MPA.gov Web Master
Alex Choe

Tribal & North East Coord.
Kate Smukler
(Boston, MA)

Education Coordinator
Phyllis Dermer

Historic Resources
VACANT

Tribal/Native Peoples
VACANT

NON-MPA CENTER PROJECT MANAGERS, STAFF & LIAISONS
(not inclusive list of members of large teams, some tasks partially supported by MPA Center funds)

Inventory
Project Manager
Dan Farrow, NOS/SPD

GIS Specialist
Julia Brownlee, NOS/SPD

MPA.GOV
Web Master FY2003
Tom Lapointe, NOS/MB

MPA Library, NESDIS
Reference Librarian
Mary Lou Cumberpatch

Librarian
Lea Wade-Torres

NOAA/NMFS Liaison
Ralph Lopez

OAR/Sea Grant
To be determined

NOAA Public Affairs
Glenda Tyson, NOS
Marty Golden, NMFS

POSITION STATUS: FULL AND PART TIME STAFF, INTERNS AND SPECIAL POSITIONS

MPA Center FTE

4 on board
1 vacancy

MPA Center funded positions:
Non Center FTEs, contract,
or other type

24 on board
0 vacancies

MPA Center funded Interns

3 on board (excludes states)
2 vacancies (excludes states)

Non-MPA Center Funded Staff

4 on board
None identified

TOTAL

35 on board
3 vacancies

2005-2008: Refocusing

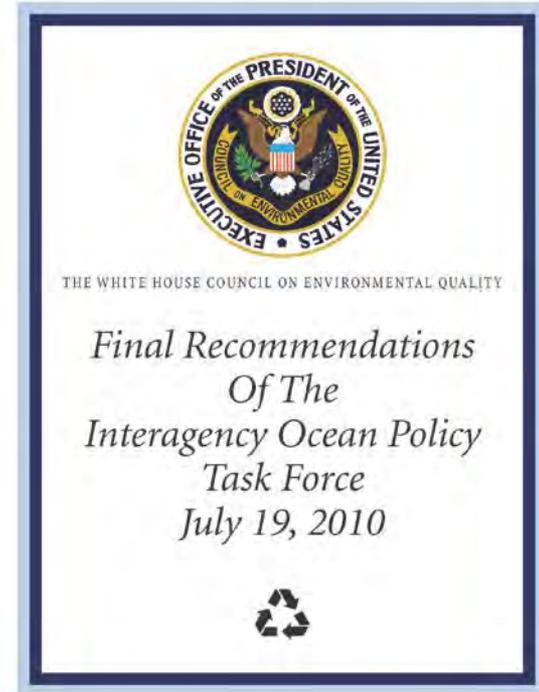
- Major Drivers:
 - Major budget cuts
- Major Activities:
 - Developing the Framework document
 - Federal Advisory Committee
 - Federal and state agency engagement
 - Public meetings
 - MPA Inventory

2005-2008: Refocusing

- Discontinued Activities:
 - Regional Coordination Staff (New England, Pacific Islands, West Coast)
 - Training and Technical Assistance Institute
 - Science Institute
 - Cultural Resource Coordination
 - Education

2009-2011: the National System & Beyond

- Major Drivers:
 - Implementing the National System Framework
 - National Ocean Policy / Coastal & Marine Spatial Planning



2009-2011: the National System & Beyond

- Major Activities:
 - Bringing MPAs into the National System
 - Capacity building
 - Strengthening cultural resource focus
 - Ocean Uses Atlas
 - Expanding the Inventory



Stakeholder Engagement

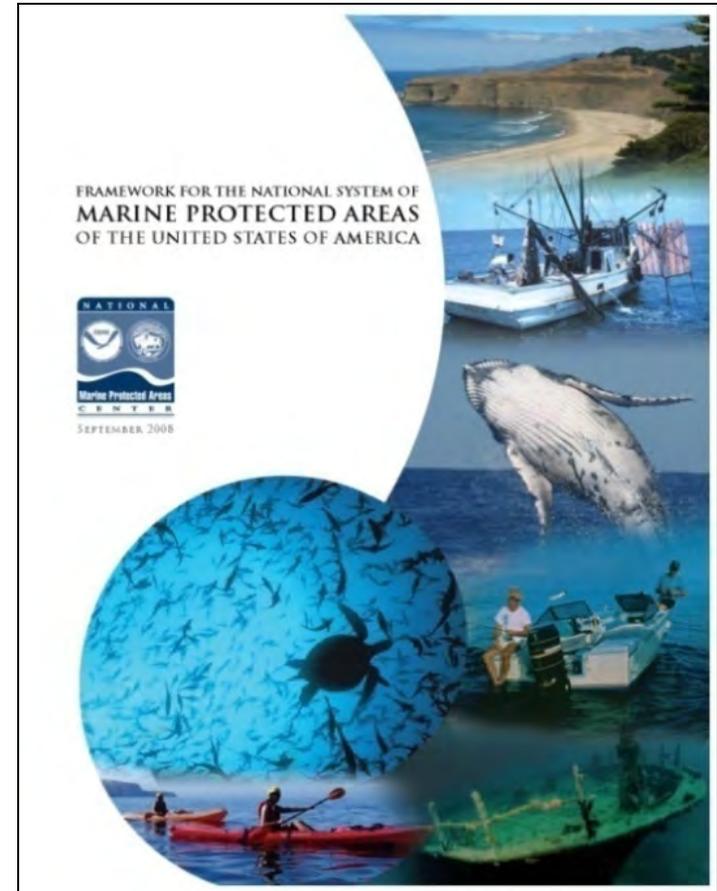
Marine Protected Areas Federal Advisory Committee

- Diverse membership
- Provides expert advice and recommendations to Section 4 of Executive Order 13158
- Meets twice annually; has met 20 times since inception
- Open meetings, public comment sessions
- Has developed an extensive list of recommendations, many of which have been adopted
- New “charge” delivered every 2 years



National System Framework

- Overall policy document for national system
- Goals and objectives
- Nomination process



National System of MPAs

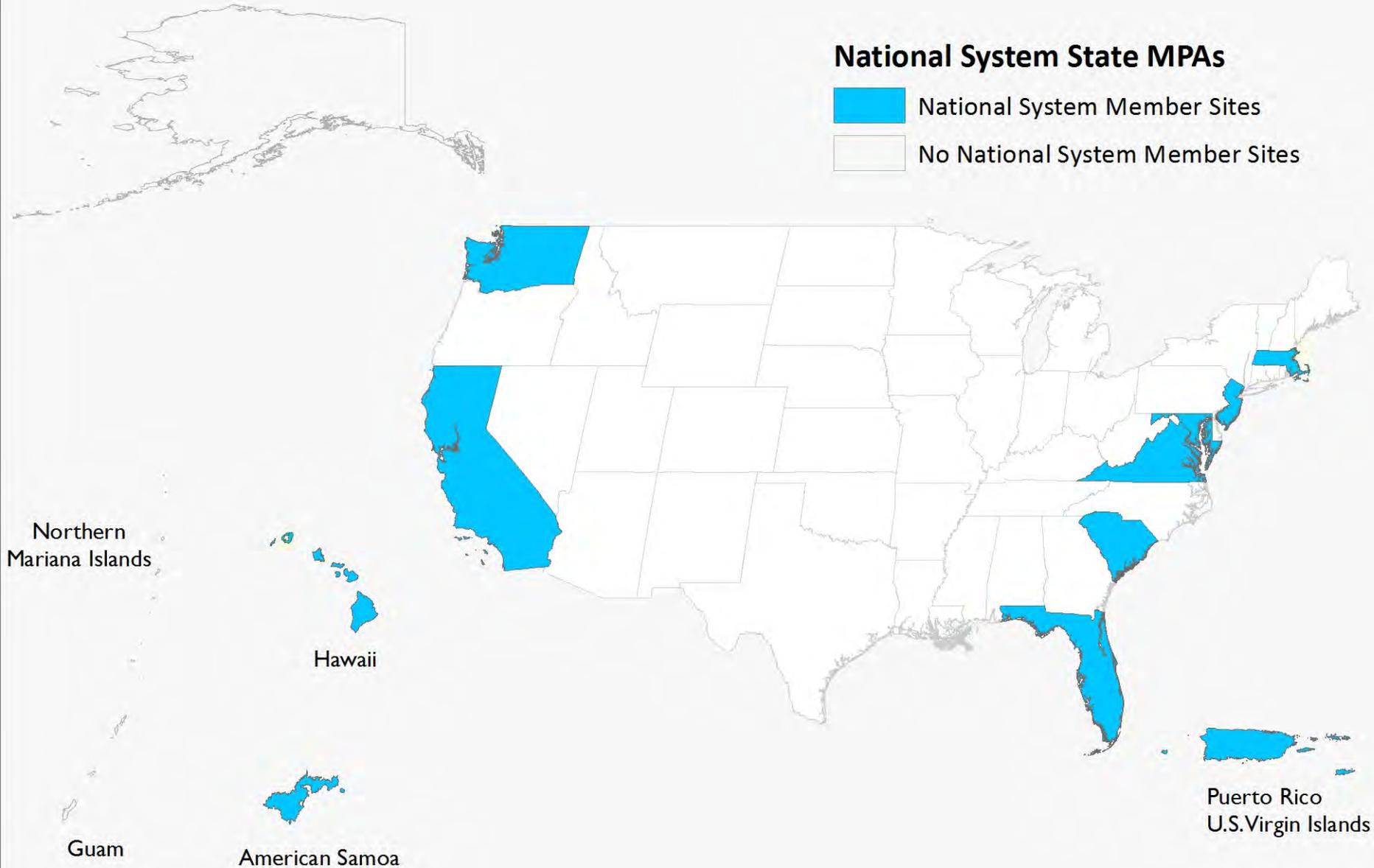
- **Currently 297 MPAs**
- **Federal MPA Programs in 30 states/territories**
- **11 state partners**



Pelican Island, NWR

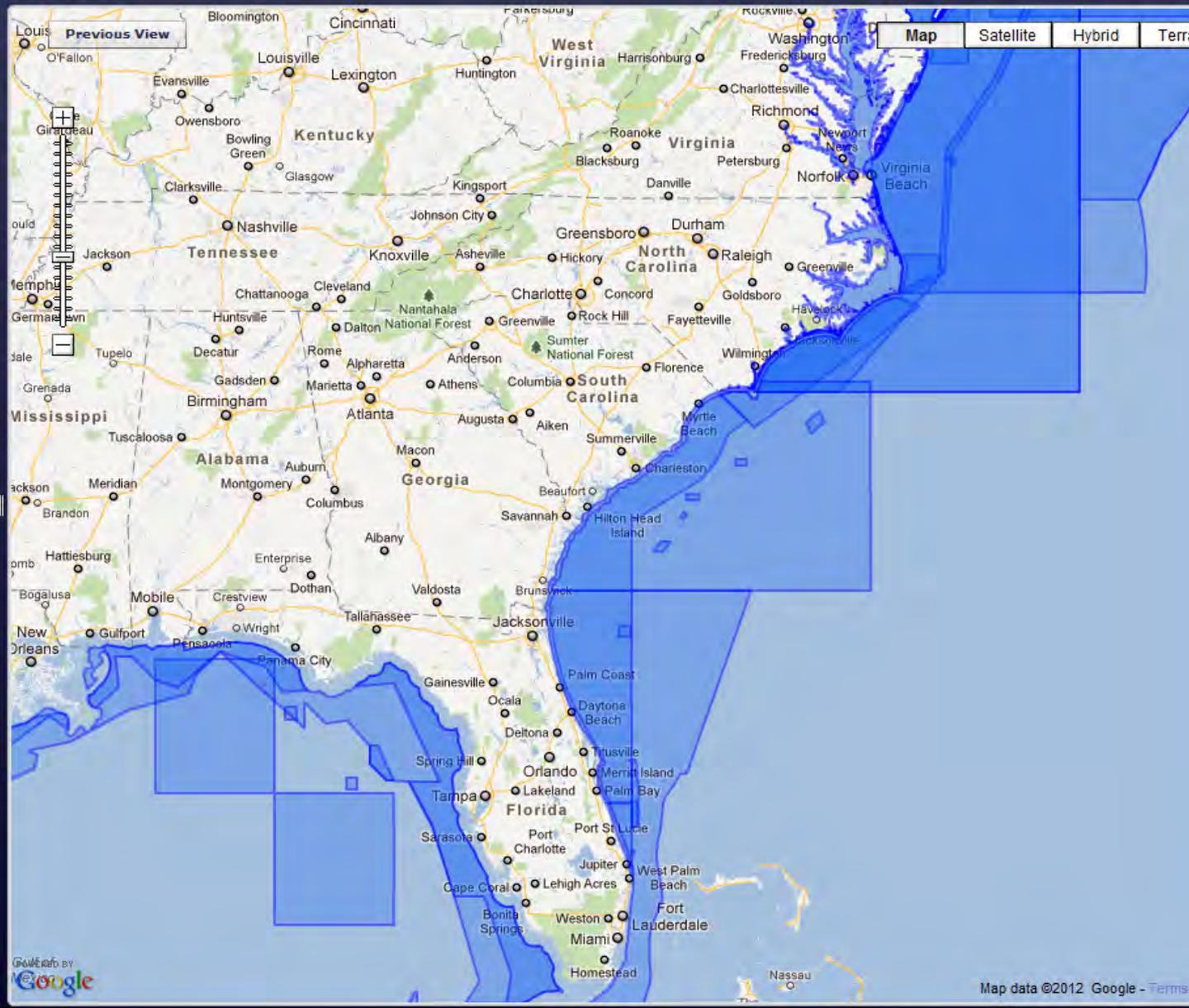
National System State MPAs

-  National System Member Sites
-  No National System Member Sites



U.S. Marine Protected Areas

- Show All Hide All Management Agency
- ▼ 31 National Marine Fisheries Service
- Carl N. Shuster, Jr. Horseshoe Crab Reserve
 - Charleston Bump Closed Area
 - Charleston Deep Reef MPA
 - Closure of the Madison and Swanson Sites
 - Desoto Canyon Closed Area
 - East Florida Coast Closed Area
 - Edisto MPA
 - Experimental Oculina Research Reserve
 - Florida Middle Grounds Habitat Area of Particular Concern
 - Flynet Closure
 - Georgia MPA
 - Mid-Atlantic Coastal Waters Area
 - Mid-Atlantic Shark Area
 - ★ Norfolk Canyon Gear Restricted Area
 - North Florida MPA
 - Northeastern US Closure
 - Northern South Carolina MPA
 - Oculina Bank Habitat Area of Particular Concern



IMPROVING THE MPA INVENTORY

www.mpa.gov

The information provided here is current as of August 2011, and is from the Marine Protected Areas Inventory (MPA Inventory) – a comprehensive geospatial database designed to catalog and classify marine protected areas within U.S. waters. The MPA Inventory was developed from information provided by state, territorial, tribal and federal MPA programs, and other publicly available data.

WHAT IS A MARINE PROTECTED AREA?

According to Executive Order 13158 (May 2000), an MPA is “an area of the marine environment that has been reserved by federal, state, territorial, tribal or local laws or regulations to provide lasting protection to part or all of the natural and cultural resources therein.”

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 and to assist in the development of a National System of MPAs, as defined in Executive Order 13158.

MPA INVENTORY EXPANSION

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. In order to create a repeatable and robust protocol for data collection and storage that can be replicated on a regional or national scale, this effort is being undertaken in phases:

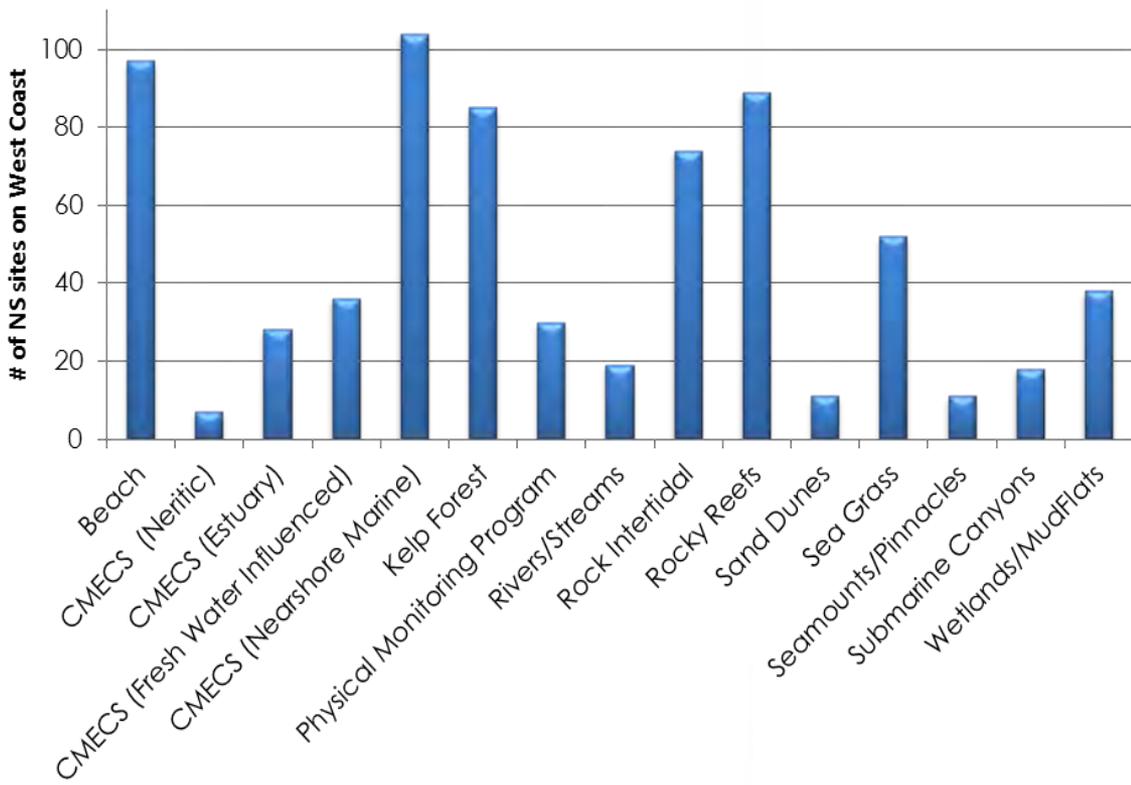
- Phase I: California MPAs (completed)
- Phase II: US West Coast MPAs (completed)
- Phase III: National System MPAs (ongoing)
- Phase IV: All Remaining US MPAs

While aimed at improving the quality and depth of the information available for MPAs, this effort is not designed to characterize all the specific resources within each site, but rather to summarize the resource groups present and the variety of management strategies applied to protect natural and cultural resources in MPAs at regional and national scales. These improvements to the MPA Inventory will link existing spatial data with new cultural and natural resource (presence/absence) data to better understand the legal protection, biological composition and resource representation of US MPAs.



NMCA's National Marine Protected Areas (MPA) Center's mission 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 works in partnership with federal, state, tribal, and local governments and stakeholders to develop a science-based, comprehensive national system of MPAs. These collaborative efforts will lead to a more efficient, effective use of MPAs, now and in the future to conserve and sustain the nation's vital marine resources.

MPA Inventory Expansion

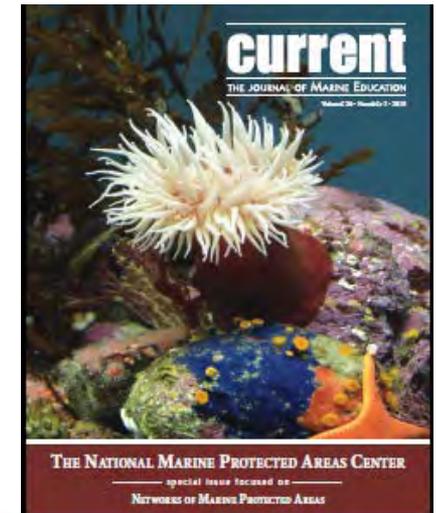


Improve level of detail about resources and management practices at the site level

Increase capacity to analyze MPA representativeness

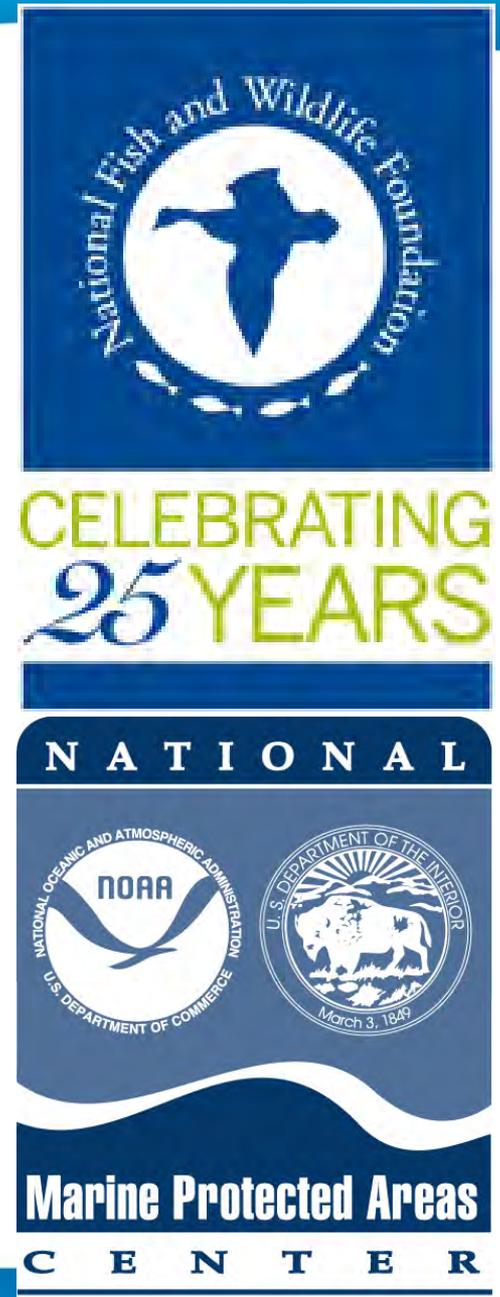
Communication and Outreach

- www.mpa.gov
 - In 2011, there were over 540,000 page views
 - Multi-media (videos, podcasts)
 - Interactive tools
- Social Media
 - MPA Center Facebook page
 - Featured on NOS Twitter feed several times in FY10,11 and 12
- Newsletters and other print material
- Education
 - *Current* sponsorship
 - Partnership with CELCs and NAMPAN



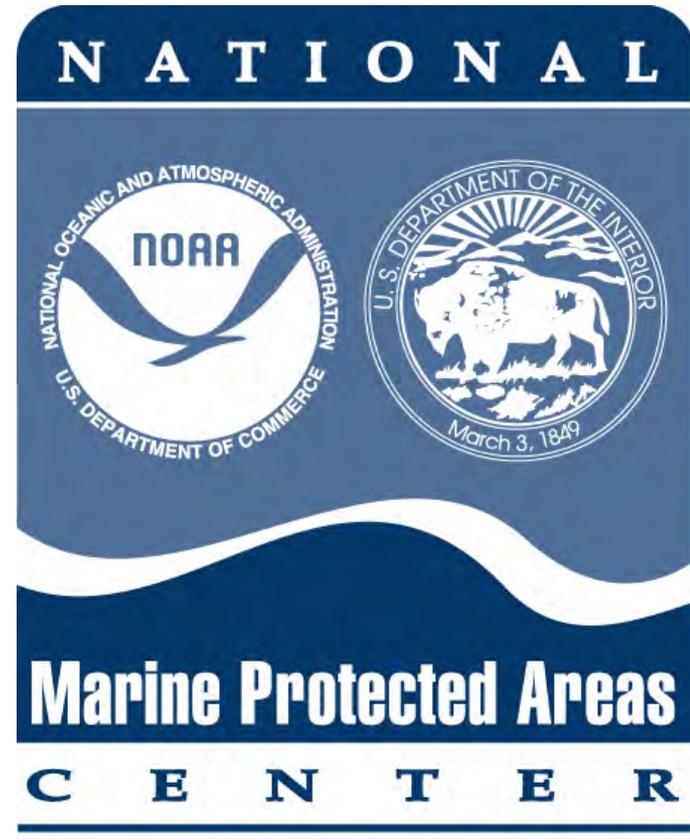
MPA Fund

- Partnership with National Fish and Wildlife Foundation
- Tangible incentive for MPA national system partners
- Fosters collaboration among MPA programs
- Strengthens stewardship, planning and System membership
- Awarded 9 MPA partnership grants in FY10 & FY11



MPA Center Niche Today

- Capacity building – technical assistance and training
- Stakeholder engagement – through Federal Advisory Committee and other mechanisms
- Syntheses, information and tools

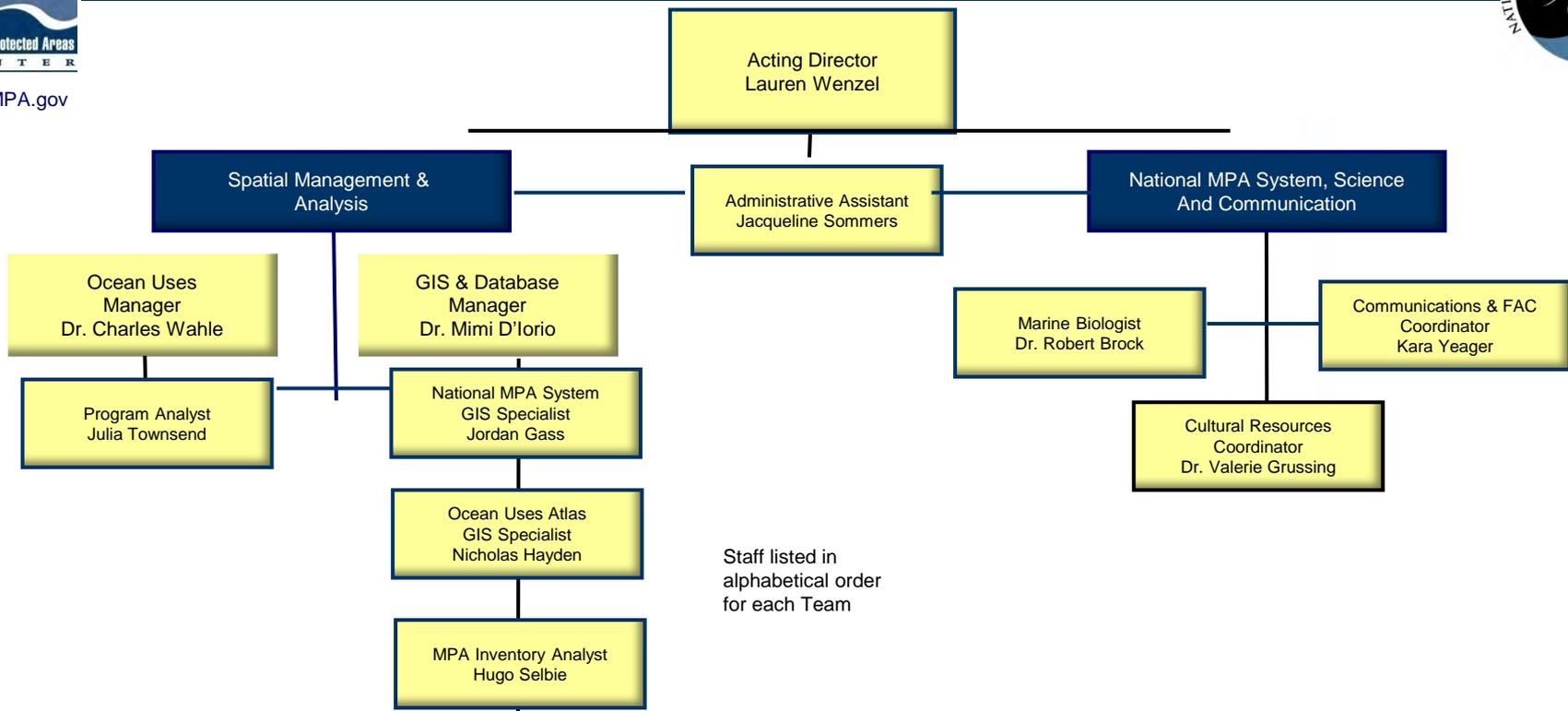


National Marine Protected Areas Center

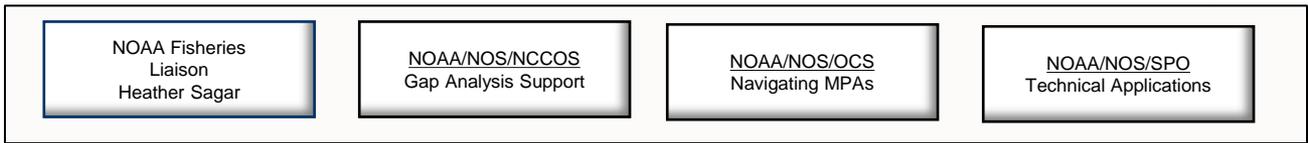
June 2012



www.MPA.gov



MPA Center Project Partners in NOAA



U.S. Department of Commerce, National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, National Ocean Service, Office of Ocean and Coastal Resource Management

The Big Squeeze: Outlook for FY13 and Beyond

- FY12:
 - Congressional Appropriation:
\$2M
- FY13: President's Budget:
\$1M



Some Observations on Global Context

- MPAs increasingly used as a conservation and management tool
- Many large, offshore MPAs being established
- Enforcement/effectiveness issues
- Global commitments on MPA networks for 2012, now aiming for 2020

Some Observations on US Context

- Federally, most new MPAs being established through Antiquities Act, Magnuson-Stevens
- Continued interest from some states in MPAs & networks
 - Requires major investment of time & staff
- Increasing interest in ocean planning, esp for renewable energy
- Budget constraints at federal and state levels

Annual National System Partners Retreats (2009-10)

Some Major Messages

- “think big” about MPAs & ocean planning
- Expand outreach & agency inreach
- Support MPA effectiveness in meeting site & program goals and national system goals
- Interest in supporting joint capacity building efforts
- Lack of awareness of cultural resources
- Need to engage tribes, Fishery Management Councils & others who are not yet partners



Questions?



Backup Slides

U.S. National System

Strengths

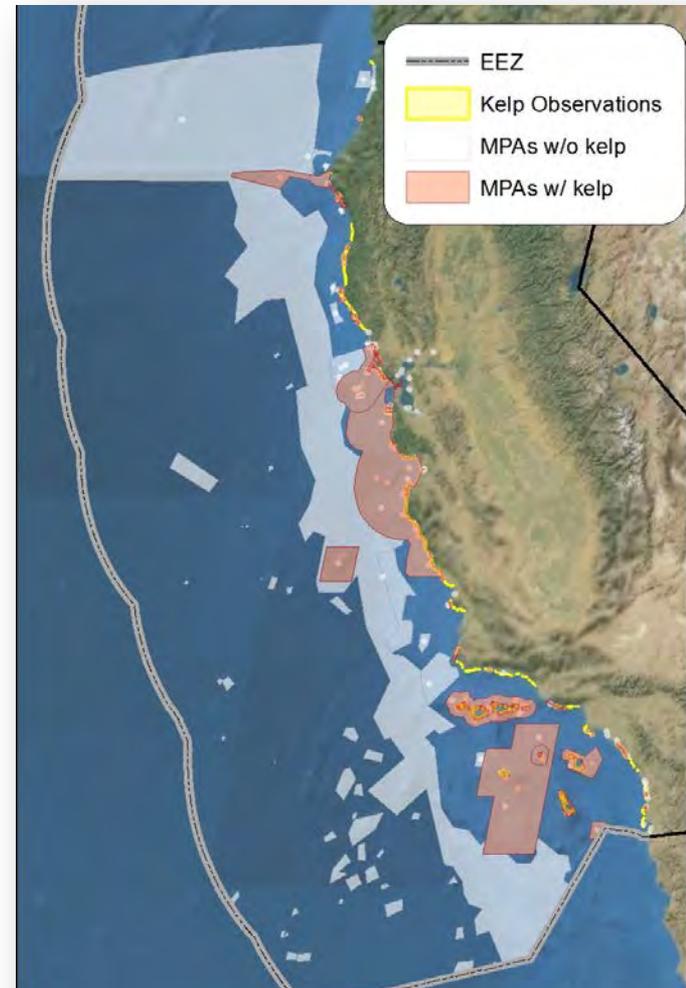
- Platform for engaging diverse MPA programs across all levels of government
- Builds on capacity and authority of MPA managing agencies as partners
- Links to other ocean management efforts
- Comprehensive MPA database to inform decision-making
- Requires federal agencies to “avoid harm” to resources

Weaknesses

- No regulatory or management authority
- Not designed as a representative ecological network
- Lack of financial incentives for MPA programs and sites
- Inclusion of fisheries sites may over-represent MPA coverage
- Gap analysis has not been completed
- Still working to demonstrate “value added”

SPatial Assessment & Resource Characterization (SPARC)

- Partnership with NOAA's National Centers for Coastal Ocean Science
- GIS Analysis Toolkit for ArcGIS
 - Increases workflow efficiency
 - Manages complex datasets & iterations
 - Creates organized statistical reports
- Analyzes Resource Distribution
 - Over varying spatial domains
 - Inside/outside MPA boundaries
 - Relative to each other (hot spots)



- Kelp covers 124 km² of California waters
- 109/213 (51%) of CA MPAs have kelp resources
- Kelp covers 0.03% of total CA MPA area
- 66 km² (53%) of kelp area is within MPAs
- 28 km² (23%) of kelp is within no-take MPAs