

An underwater photograph showing a dense thicket of brown seaweed with serrated edges. Several yellow sea urchins are visible among the seaweed. The water is a clear, light blue color.

# **Charge to the MPA Federal Advisory Committee**

**George Geiger, MPA Federal Advisory Committee  
Chair**

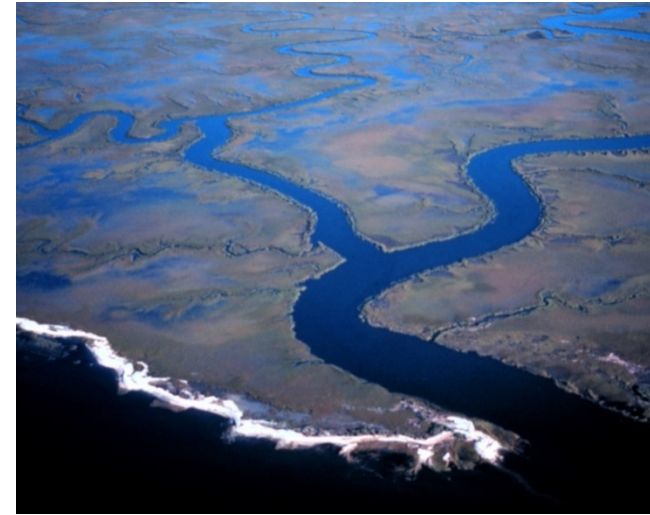
**Lauren Wenzel, National Marine Protected Areas  
Center**

# About the MPA Federal Advisory Committee

- Established in 2003
- Advises NOAA and DOI on MPA issues
- Made up of 20 members made up of diverse stakeholder groups
- Meets in person and virtually

# Connecting MPAs and MPA Programs at a Regional Scale: The Charge

- How can we define and measure connectivity at the regional level for MPAs?
- How can we work within existing regional and landscape-scale programs to foster MPA connectivity to meet common conservation objectives?
- What practical guidance can be provided to MPA and other marine conservation and management programs regarding planning for better connected protected area networks to help address climate change and other impacts?



# Connecting MPAs: The Plan

- Get organized in June: topics, timelines, products, roles and responsibilities
- Issues to consider may include:
  - Adapting existing MPAs to enhance connectivity
  - Designing new MPAs to create critical linkages
  - Incorporating different kinds of ecological connectivity into the mix
  - Recognizing the constraints and opportunities of working across programs, agencies and jurisdictions connect their MPAs
  - Monitoring and adaptively managing complex ecological processes
  - Staying focused and avoiding the (sea)weeds





# Managing Recreation and Tourism within MPA Programs: What's Next?

Build on FAC Recommendations and [“Call to Action”](#) (from FAC and Sanctuary Advisory Councils)

Explore practical approaches for MPAs, users and ocean recreation businesses to maintain responsible and ecologically sustainable uses?

How can we “scale up” and transfer these tools to MPAs facing this challenge?

When? Revisit this topic in FY16.



# External [Sustainable] Financing for MPAs

- External funding sources cannot substitute government/appropriated funding for core operations
- Some mechanisms include:
  - Donations,
  - Philanthropy
  - Public-private partnerships
  - Crowdsourcing and revenues from concessions
  - Permits and visitor fees
  - Special status (for donors)
  - Grants (foundations, donors, etc)
  - Endorsing/adopting sites



# Arctic MPA Network - Context

- Arctic Council's Protection of the Arctic Marine Environment Workgroup has developed a Framework for a Pan-Arctic MPA Network
- Focuses on strengthening and linking MPA networks across 8 Arctic states
- Presented to Arctic Council Ministers for approval in April 2015
- U.S. assumes Chairmanship of Arctic Council – May 2015 – MPAs will continue to be a priority

# Working toward an Arctic MPA Network

- What are the highest priorities for international collaboration in the Arctic to protect and conserve marine resources?
- What are the major needs and opportunities to strengthen the role of MPAs in conserving Arctic marine resources in U.S. waters?
- How can U.S. agencies best work to engage local communities and other stakeholders in a dialogue about the goals for conserving Arctic marine resources and the role of MPAs in achieving these goals?





# Arctic Boundary as defined by the Arctic Research and Policy Act (ARPA)

All United States and foreign territory north of the Arctic Circle and all United States territory north and west of the boundary formed by the Porcupine, Yukon, and Kuskokwim Rivers; all contiguous seas, including the Arctic Ocean and the Beaufort, Bering and Chukchi Seas; and the Aleutian chain.<sup>1</sup>



Credit: US Arctic Research Commission

Acknowledgement: Funding for this map was provided by the National Science Foundation through the Arctic Research Mapping Application ([amap.org](http://amap.org)) and Contract #0520837 to CH2M HILL for the Interagency Arctic Research Policy Committee (IARPC).

Map author: Allison Gaylord, Nuna Technologies. May 27, 2009.

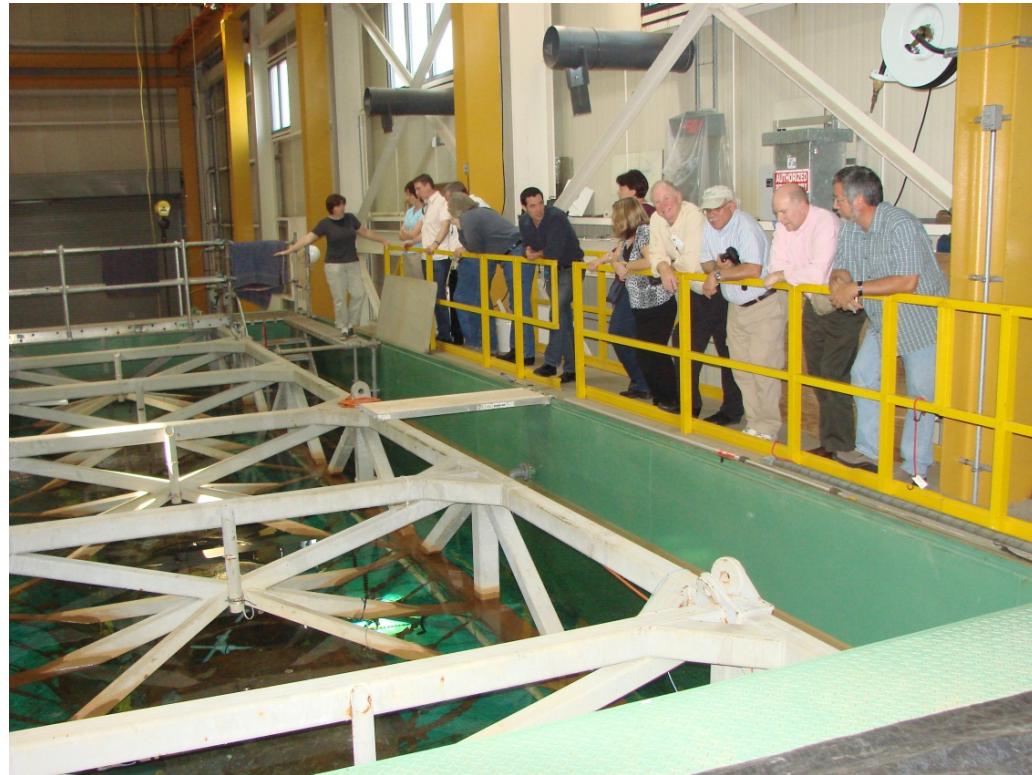
1. The Aleutian chain boundary is demarcated by the 'Contiguous zone' limit of 24-nautical miles.



# Cultural Heritage Resources

## Working Group

- 2009: CHRWG formed under MPA FAC
- Composed of federal, tribal, state, academic, and NGO cultural resource specialists
- 2011 MPA FAC White Paper: [Recommendations for Integrated Management Using a Cultural Landscape Approach in the National MPA System](#)



# Cultural Heritage Resources

- Existing workgroup will continue
- Incorporating cultural resources into FAC work
- [Online cultural resources toolkit](#)



# Discussion

- Organization into Subcommittees and Workgroups
- Membership
- Subcommittee & Workgroup Leadership



# Subcommittees and Workgroups

- Subcommittees – made up of and Chaired by MPA FAC members
- Workgroups – made up of FAC members and outside experts; co-chaired by MPA Center and MPA FAC member

# Arctic MPA Workgroup (forming)

- Co-Chairs:
  - Stephanie Madsen, At-Sea Processors Association (MPA FAC)
  - Lauren Wenzel, MPA Center
- Members:
  - Margaret Williams, WWF (MPA FAC)
  - Other stakeholder groups (TBD)
  - Federal agencies (ex officio)
- Membership Criteria:
  - Represents Alaska Natives or stakeholder group
  - Has leadership role and can reach out to constituency
  - Experience with marine protected areas (or similar place-based conservation)

# Cultural Heritage Resources Workgroup (Existing)

- Co-Chairs:
  - Della Scott-Ireton, Florida Public Archeology Network (MPA FAC)
  - Valerie Grussing, MPA Center
- Members:
  - Xx members from federal, state, tribal and non-governmental organizations

# Proposed Subcommittees

- MPA Connectivity
- External/Sustainable Financing



A scenic landscape featuring a large body of water in the foreground, with mountains in the background under a cloudy sky. The text "THANK YOU" is overlaid in the center of the image.

**THANK YOU**