

Minutes of Marine Protected Areas Federal Advisory Committee
April 6, 2015, 12:30-2:30 EDT
Via Webinar / Teleconference

Meeting Opening and Committee Business

The meeting was called to order by Designated Federal Official Lauren Wenzel. Lauren noted that this meeting is the first one for the 10 members appointed in Fall 2014, and welcomed them. She also welcomed returning members. Lauren called the roll based on the webinar sign-in, and asked members on the phone to identify themselves (see attendance list).

Remarks from Office of National Marine Sanctuaries Director

Dan Basta, Director of the Office of National Marine Sanctuaries, spoke about the three advisory structures within the Office. These include the MPA Federal Advisory Committee (MPA FAC), the Sanctuary Advisory Councils and the Business Advisory Council. The 14 Sanctuary Advisory Councils provide a mechanism for stakeholders to be actively involved in an ongoing basis in the activities and management of the 13 National Marine Sanctuaries and the Papahānaumokuākea Marine National Monument. The Business Advisory Council (BAC) was recently formed (in 2013) and is the first of its kind within NOAA. It includes senior staff of major corporations and nonprofit organizations (at the Vice President level) who can advise the program on ways to engage corporate America in the management of Sanctuaries. Dan highlighted the importance of the MPA FAC to the Office of National Marine Sanctuaries, and particularly commended the collaborative work with the Sanctuary Advisory Council Chairs on sustainable recreation at MPAs.

Brian Baird asked how BAC members are selected, and Dan responded that companies and individuals are targeted for what they can bring to the discussion, rather than an open call for members.

Approval of the Minutes

George Geiger, MPA FAC Chair, welcomed all members. He then asked for any comments on the minutes of the most recent full MPA FAC meeting in June 2014 meeting. Lauren explained that MPA FAC meeting minutes are reviewed by the Chair following the meeting and then posted on the National Marine Protected Areas Center website (marineprotectedareas.noaa.gov), but are not formally approved until the next MPA FAC meeting. No comments were made and the minutes were approved by group consent.

Review of MPA FAC Charge

Lauren, Charlie Wahle, Gonzalo Cid, and Valerie Grussing from the MPA Center and the Office of National Marine Sanctuaries reviewed the charge to the MPA FAC. This is the summary of issues the MPA FAC will work on over the coming two years. The presentation is posted [here](#). Issues included in the charge are: MPA connectivity; recreation and tourism at MPAs; external financing for MPAs; developing an Arctic MPA network; cultural heritage resources; and other issues that may arise where the agencies seek input from the MPA FAC.

There were several questions about the scope of the charge related to MPA connectivity. Brian Baird noted the importance of connecting MPA programs so that efforts to achieve ecological connectivity can be effectively implemented. Gary Davis asked whether planning, stewardship/management, or imagination, and ethical connectivity would be included. Charlie noted that the intention was to

primarily focus on ecological connectivity, but that it would be important to also address how to connect MPA programs to achieve this goal. Mark Carr suggested that perhaps the Subcommittee could start with a focus on ecological connectivity, then expand out to address other linkages.

[Asked during webinar, but not addressed at that time on the topic of external funding: Martha Honey asked what types of restrictions governments have on external funding. She noted that her organization is involved in working with tourism businesses to raise funds for conservation. Response: We would like the Subcommittee to delve into these issues.]

Regarding the Arctic MPA network, Stephanie Madsen asked how the group could avoid duplication of effort. Lauren responded that she hoped to do this by selecting diverse members who will be aware of related efforts and can make relevant connections. Margaret Williams noted that there is a great amount of expertise internationally on Arctic MPAs and asked whether there might be resources to include those experts. Lauren said that outside experts have been invited to speak to MPA FAC meetings in the past, and this could be done in the future, resources permitting. She also said that because it is so important to involve local stakeholders from Alaska in these discussions, resources have been set aside for one in person meeting in Alaska during 2015. Cathy Coon asked how many MPAs in Alaska meet the criteria for the MPA network. Lauren said initial reporting on Alaska MPAs has been done for the Arctic Council MPA Framework and can be shared with the MPA FAC when this report is public later in April 2015. [Asked during webinar, but not addressed at that time: Joe Schumacker asked how the workgroup would interface with the State of Alaska and Alaska Natives. Response: Both of these groups will be represented on the Working Group.]

Committee Organization to Address the Charge

Lauren explained that there are two types of groups that can be formed to address the charge. Subcommittees are made up only of MPA FAC members, while Working Groups are made up of both MPA FAC and outside members, in order to provide an opportunity to engage more external experts and stakeholders. She proposed that MPA connectivity and external financing be addressed through separate Subcommittees formed for each, and that a new Working Group be formed to address Arctic MPAs that could include substantial representation from the region. The existing Cultural Heritage Resources Working Group will continue. Recreation and tourism has been a major focus for the MPA FAC over the past two years, so it is envisioned that the MPA FAC may provide advice on this issue on an ad hoc basis (rather than forming a Subcommittee or Working Group). Members asked about the size of the Subcommittees and about the staff support available to them. Lauren responded that Subcommittees are typically 8-12 people (about half the Committee on each one). An MPA Center or Sanctuaries staff person will work with each Subcommittee or Working Group to help arrange conference calls. A large part of the in-person MPA FAC meeting in June will be dedicated to Subcommittee meetings, and following that most of the work will be done by conference call.

Lauren asked all members to respond to her and Gonzalo with their first choice of Subcommittee by April 20. She also asked that any members interested in serving as a Subcommittee Chair or Vice Chair also note their interest. Gary Davis, a former Subcommittee chair, explained the role as “herding cats” – making sure that the group stays on task and completes their work. Lauren said that an effort will be made to give all members their first choice of Subcommittee assignments, but there may be a need to balance the groups if many people prefer one over the other. The Arctic MPA Workgroup will be limited as to MPA FAC participation in order to provide an opportunity for more members from Alaska to participate. All interested members are welcome to join the Cultural Heritage Resources Working Group. George Geiger noted that all Subcommittee and Working Group recommendations must be

approved by the full MPA FAC, so members will have an opportunity to be engaged in all issues before the MPA FAC.

How NOAA and DOI Have Used Past MPA FAC Recommendations

Lauren and Chiara Zuccarino-Crowe gave a presentation (available [here](#)) on how NOAA and DOI have used past recommendations of the MPA FAC. This focused on the major contribution the MPA FAC has made to the [National System Framework](#) (just published in March 2015) and on recreation and tourism via the “[Call to Action](#).” In addition to an overview of existing and ongoing NOAA activities that are relevant to the priority areas outlined in the “Call to Action,” Chiara specifically focused on new/expanded projects related to recreation and tourism that the Office of National Marine Sanctuaries and the MPA Center developed to internally follow-through on some of the recommendations identified in this joint statement.

Pete Stauffer asked when the next round of nominations of MPAs to the National System would be. Lauren responded that now that the Framework document is done, the nomination process will take place within the next few months.

Planning for In Person Meeting – June 2015

Lauren announced that the next meeting of the MPA FAC will be June 2-4, 2015 in Tacoma, Washington. The meeting will primarily focus on Subcommittee time to develop workplans and begin delving into the issues. A travel memo will be sent out within the next few days with additional information. All members must book air travel through AdTrav, the government contractor for air travel.

Closing

George Geiger thanked all the members for their participation and said he looked forward to seeing everyone in Tacoma.

Attendees:

FAC Members

Brian Baird
Mark Carr
Gary Davis
George Geiger
Martha Honey
John Jensen
Stephen Kroll
Stephanie Madsen
Samantha Murray
Ryan Orgera
Jason Patlis
Cathy Reheis-Boyd
Sarah Robinson
Joe Schumacker
Della Scott-Ireton
Pete Stauffer
Trisha Watson
Stephen Welch
Margaret Williams

Ex Officio Members

Cliff McCreedy, National Park Service
Steve Tucker, US Coast Guard
Michael Weiss, NOAA (for Dr. Holly Bamford)
Brian Melzian, U.S. EPA
Roxanne Nikolaus, National Science Foundation

NOAA Staff

Robert Brock, MPA Center
Gonzalo Cid, NOAA Office of National Marine Sanctuaries
Joanne Flanders, NOAA Office of Exploration and Research
Valerie Grussing, MPA Center
Rachel Kelly, MPA Center
Heather Sagar, NOAA Fisheries
Charles Wahle, MPA Center
Lauren Wenzel , MPA Center
Chiara Zuccarino-Crowe, ONMS

Guests

Cathy Coon, BOEM, Alaska Region
Sharleen Gargiulo
George Hart
Jack Isaacs
Carliane Johnson
Yunzhou Li
Glorimar Lorenzo