

Working Toward an Arctic MPA Network

Arctic MPA Working Group, September 2015

About the MPA Center

- Develop information and tools to strengthen and connect the nation's MPA programs
- Coordinate international activities and the MPA Federal Advisory Committee
- A collaboration of NOAA and DOI
- Located within NOAA's Office of National Marine Sanctuaries; serve all MPA programs



Setting the Stage

- Interest in conserving biodiversity, cultural heritage, fisheries
- Impacts of climate change on marine resources
- Impacts of climate change on ocean uses
- Opportunity to work through Arctic Council with other Arctic nations



About MPAs



MPA Definition

US

- Any area of the marine environment that has been reserved by Federal, State, territorial, tribal, or local laws or regulations to provide lasting protection for part or all of the natural and cultural resources therein.

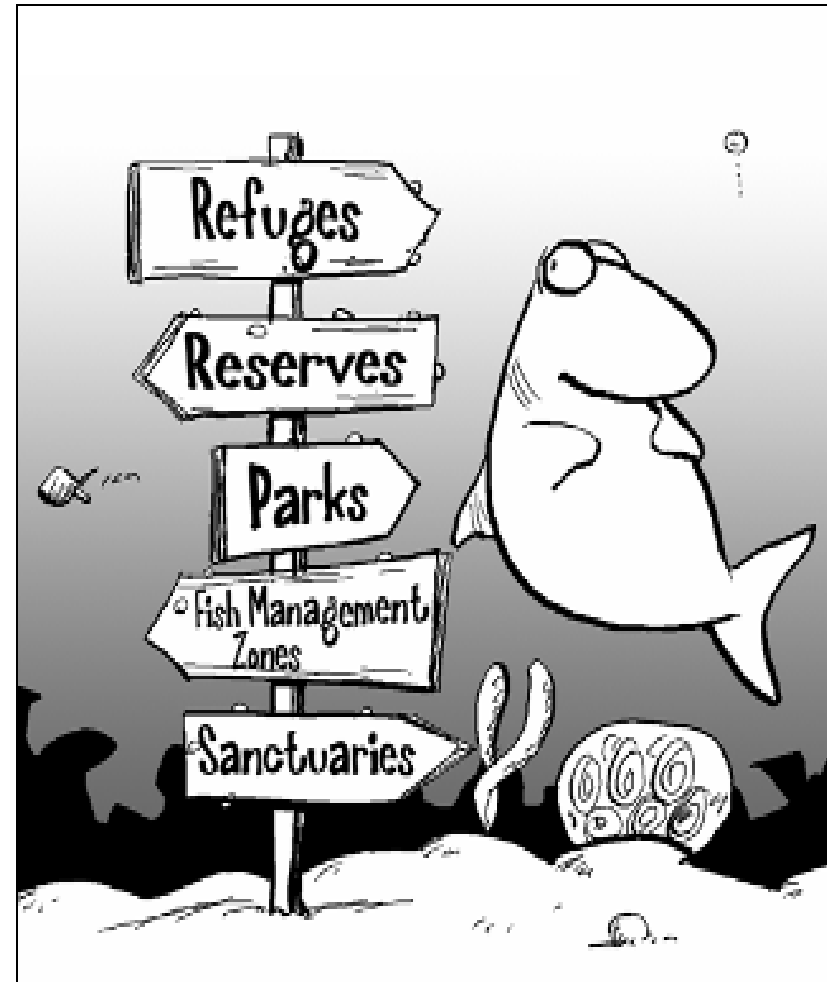
IUCN

- A clearly defined geographical space recognized, dedicated, and managed, through legal or other effective means, to achieve the long-term conservation of nature with associated ecosystem services and cultural values.

Terminology

Marine Protected Area (MPA)

- *Marine – mean high tide to EEZ, includes estuaries and Great Lakes*
- *Protected – legally protected by federal, state or tribal authority*
- *Area - has defined geographic boundaries*



Ecological Network (IUCN)

- A collection of individual MPAs operating cooperatively and synergistically at various spatial scales and with a range of protection levels that are designed to meet objectives that a single reserve cannot achieve.



MPA Programs



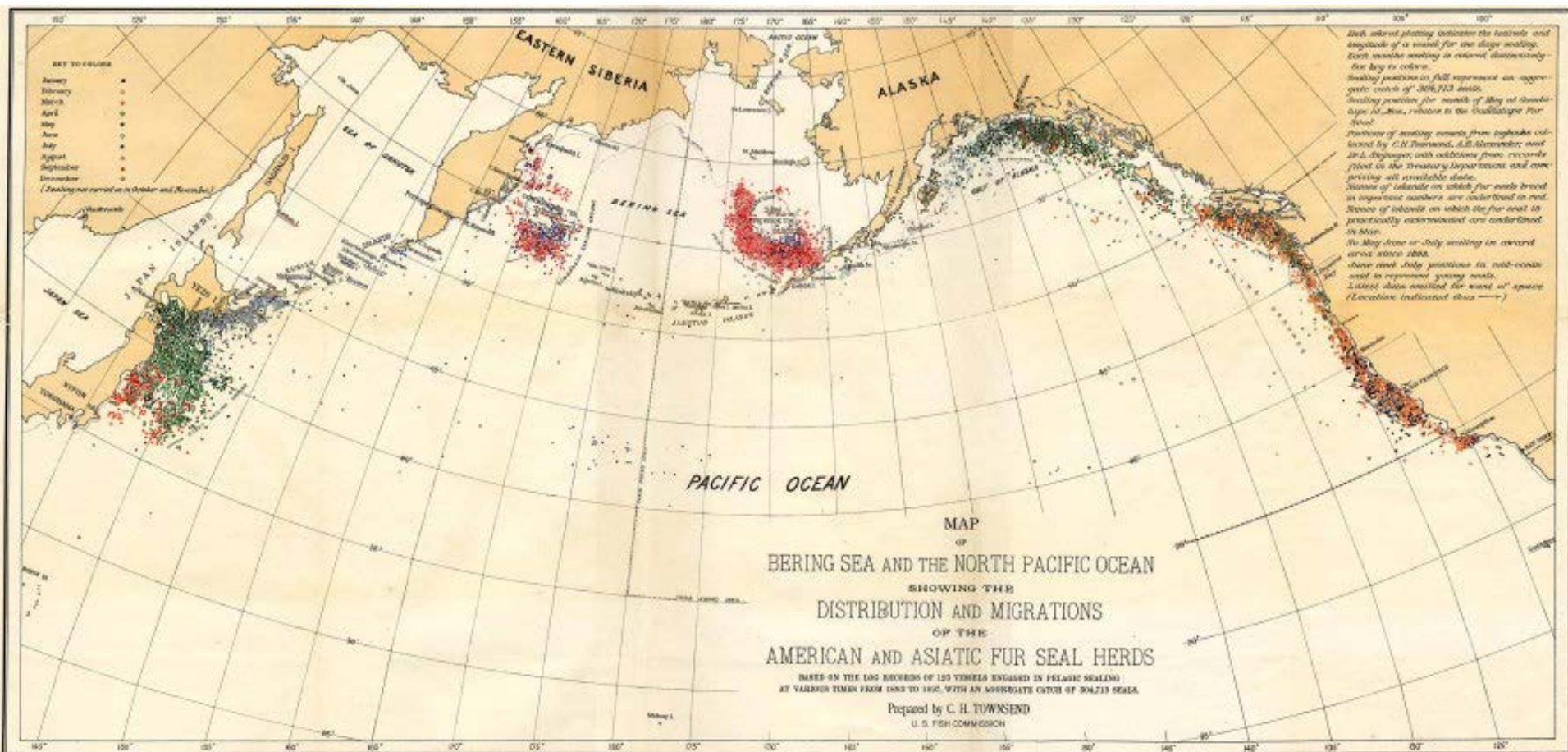
NATIONAL
ESTUARINE
RESEARCH
RESERVE
SYSTEM

Background on US MPAs

- Over 100 years of marine protected areas
- Diverse programs with diverse goals
- Complex and overlapping jurisdictions



Pelican Island, NWR



MPA Program Goals

Natural Heritage



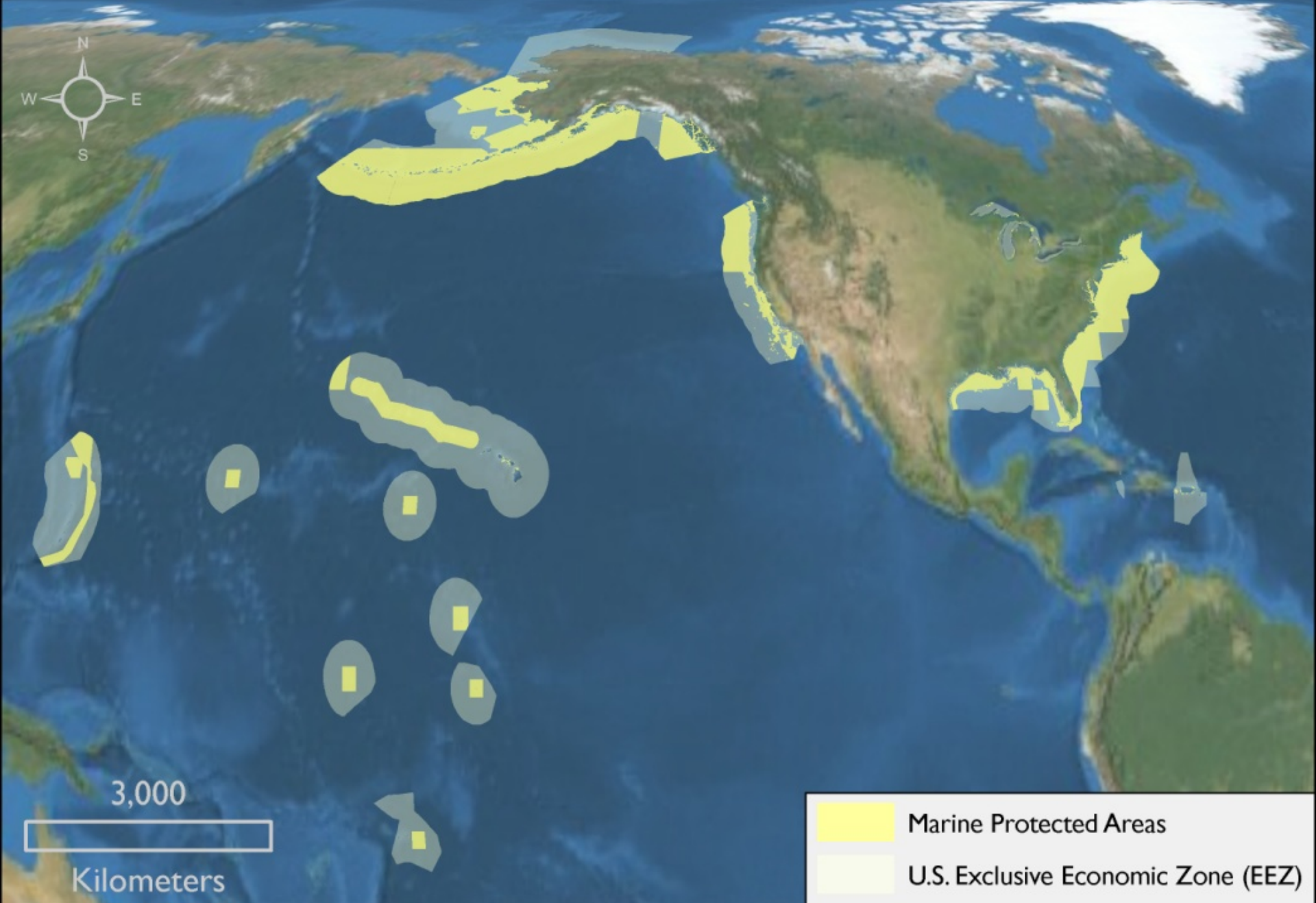
Kip Evans

Cultural Heritage



Sustainable Production







MPAs within the context of many ocean uses



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.¹



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) 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.

About the Arctic Council

- International forum for promoting cooperation, coordination and interaction among the Arctic States, indigenous communities and other interested parties on common Arctic issues, with particular emphasis on sustainable development and environmental protection.



ARCTIC COUNCIL

Arctic Council Members

- Canada
- Kingdom of Denmark (Greenland)
- Finland
- Iceland
- Norway
- Russia
- Sweden
- United States



US Chairmanship Priorities

- Improving Economic & Living Conditions for Arctic Communities
- Arctic Ocean Safety, Security & Stewardship
- Addressing the Impacts of Climate Change

Framework for a Pan-Arctic Network of Marine Protected Areas

April 2015



M A R I N

PAME
Protection of the Arctic Marine Environment



O A A . G O V

Vision

An ecologically connected, representative and well-managed network of protected and specially managed areas that protects and promotes the resilience of the biological diversity, ecological processes and cultural heritage of the Arctic marine environment, and the social and economic benefits they provide to present and future generations.



Alaska Arctic Policy Commission Vision

- Economically vibrant communities sustained by development activities consistent with the state's responsibility for a healthy environment.
- Collaborate with all levels of government, tribes, industry and NGOs to achieve transparent and inclusive decision-making
- Enhance the security of the state through a safe and secure Arctic for individuals and communities.
- Value and strengthen the resilience of communities and respect and integrate the culture and knowledge of Arctic peoples.

Final Report
of the Alaska Arctic Policy Commission

January 30, 2015



About the US MPA Federal Advisory Committee

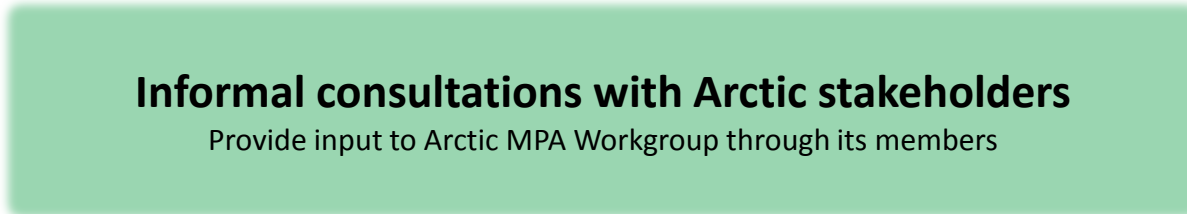
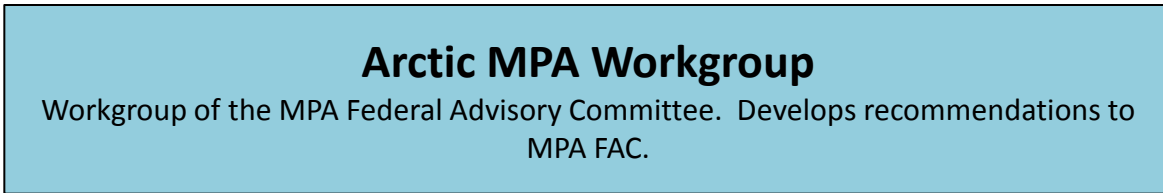
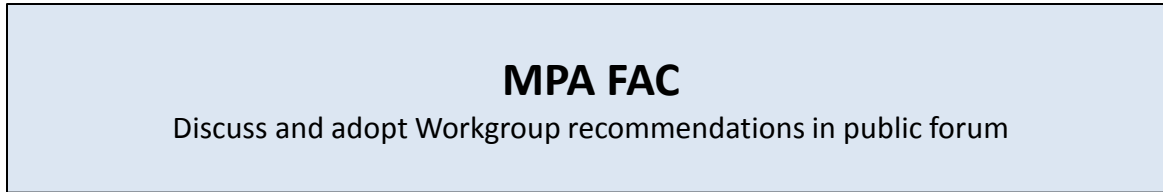
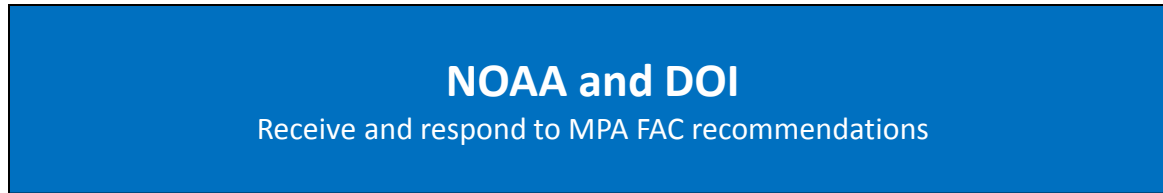
- Authorized by Executive Order 13158 on MPAs (2000)
- Advises NOAA and DOI on MPA issues
- 20 members representing diverse stakeholder groups
- Operates primarily via consensus
- Authorized to establish subcommittees and working groups
- Coordinated by NOAA's MPA Center

MPA Federal Advisory Committee

Arctic Working Group Charge

- 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?
- How can the U.S. best work to strengthen and connect MPAs in the Arctic while recognizing the importance of subsistence and other uses?
- From a U.S. perspective, what are the highest priorities for international collaboration in the Arctic to protect and conserve marine resources?

Developing Input into U.S. Implementation Arctic MPA Activities



Arctic MPA Working Group Product

- Recommendations to MPA FAC addressing key questions in the charge.
- Includes, but not limited to:
 - Priorities
 - Needs
 - Opportunities
 - Community engagement
 - International connections
 - The broader context of ocean uses



Definition of Pan Arctic MPA Network

- An ecologically representative and well-connected collection of individual marine protected areas and other effective area-based conservation measures in the Arctic that operate cooperatively, at various spatial scales and with a range of protection levels, in order to achieve the long-term conservation of the marine environment with associated ecosystem services and cultural values more effectively and comprehensively than individual sites could alone.

