

**Marine Protected Areas Federal Advisory Committee
Focus Areas for Subcommittees
Draft 3-16-04**

SUBCOMMITTEE 1: Developing a National System of MPAs

Long Term Goal for FAC: To advise DOC and DOI on the framework for a national system of MPAs.

NOAA Priority for FAC by June 2005:

What should be the goals of the national system?

(Note: may be modified, given the Subcommittee's significant work to-date on this task.)

Discussion:

The task of this subcommittee is to advise the federal government on how it envisions the concept and the practice of a national system of MPAs as an essential tool for the management and protection of critical ocean habitats and what goals the nation should seek to achieve through such management and protection.

Central here is the development of recommendations for identifying critical ocean habitats and assets (including cultural assets) whose integrity and sustainability is deemed in the national interest. These recommendations will be developed in the light of existing and anticipated patterns of uses and impacts on marine ecosystems. These recommendations will be developed in full awareness of existing MPAs and they will focus on perceived gaps in current protection. In addition, the recommendations will address the matter of the appropriate scale for enhanced management and protection.

SUBCOMMITTEE 2: Stewardship and MPA Effectiveness

Long Term Goal for FAC: To advise DOC and DOI on ways to improve stewardship and effectiveness of MPAs.

NOAA Priority for FAC by June 2005:

What are the priorities for improving stewardship of MPAs?

Discussion:

The task of this subcommittee is to advise the federal government on improving the management of MPAs so that the founding purposes of each protected area, and its role within a national system of MPAs, can be obtained in the most efficacious and cost effective manner.

Central here is the assessment of effectiveness and impacts of MPAs, advising the federal government on how to improve program planning and public participation, alerting agencies as to emergent technologies that will

enhance the effectiveness of MPA management, and providing guidance on questions of general compliance with MPA implications for users of the oceans. The subcommittee will help the FAC to develop recommendations for monitoring MPAs, for managing visitors to MPAs and the impacts of those visitors, and will advise on general goals and means for education and outreach activities.

SUBCOMMITTEE 3: National and Regional Coordination of MPA Efforts

Long Term Goal for FAC: To advise DOC and DOI on ways to improve coordination and collaboration among federal, state, tribal and local governments, and on a governance framework for the national system of MPAs.

NOAA Priority for FAC by June 2005:

How should cultural resources be defined for the purposes of the national system?

Discussion:

The task of this subcommittee is to advise the federal government on how to make sure that a system of marine protected areas (under various names and under the jurisdiction of different levels of government) works in concert to assure the sustainable protection and management of all such areas in U.S. waters. A key issue here is federal/territory/state/tribal coordination and cooperation so that redundancies and conflicts are avoided.

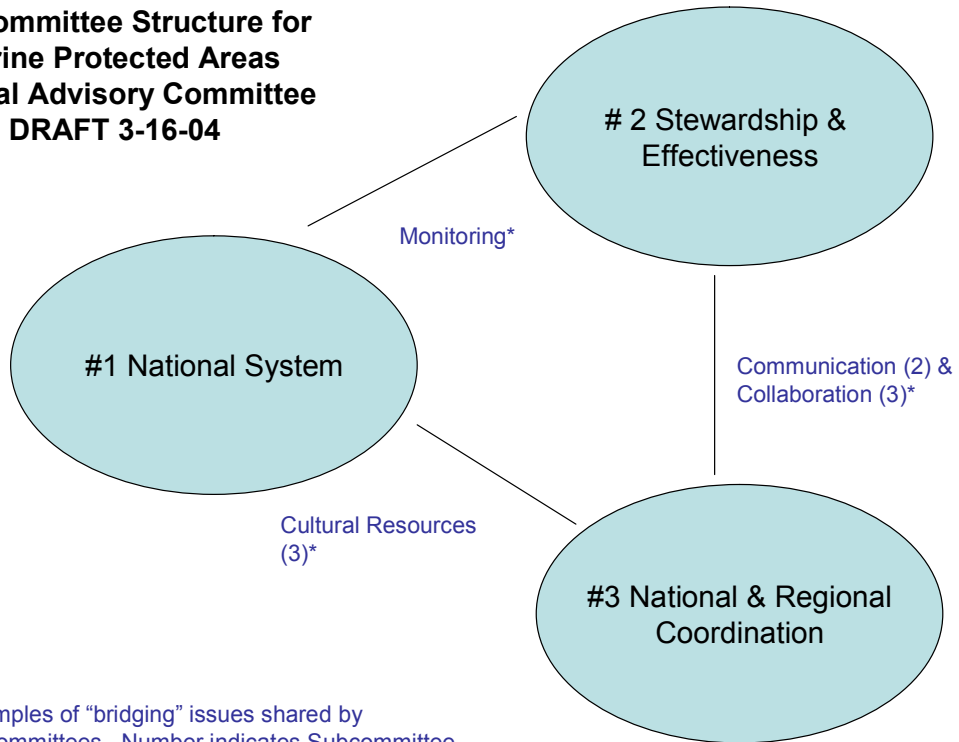
Central here is the need to offer assistance that will ensure the cooperative collaboration of federal, territorial, state and tribal officials in the matter of ocean habitat management and protection. This subcommittee will help the FAC develop recommendations and models of intergovernmental cooperation in natural resource management and protection. This subcommittee will also take the leading role in defining the "cultural heritage" to be protected by a national system, and the coordination and governance structures necessary to achieve this goal.

FAC AS A WHOLE

NOAA Priority for FAC by June 2005:

How can DOC and DOI most effectively engage stakeholders in a dialogue about the goals, development and implementation of the national system?

**Subcommittee Structure for
Marine Protected Areas
Federal Advisory Committee
DRAFT 3-16-04**



*Examples of "bridging" issues shared by
Subcommittees. Number indicates Subcommittee
w/primary responsibility.