

# Marine Protected Area Science, Assessment and Analysis: A Coordinated Effort on the US West Coast



## MPA Federal Advisory Committee Meeting

October 12, 2006

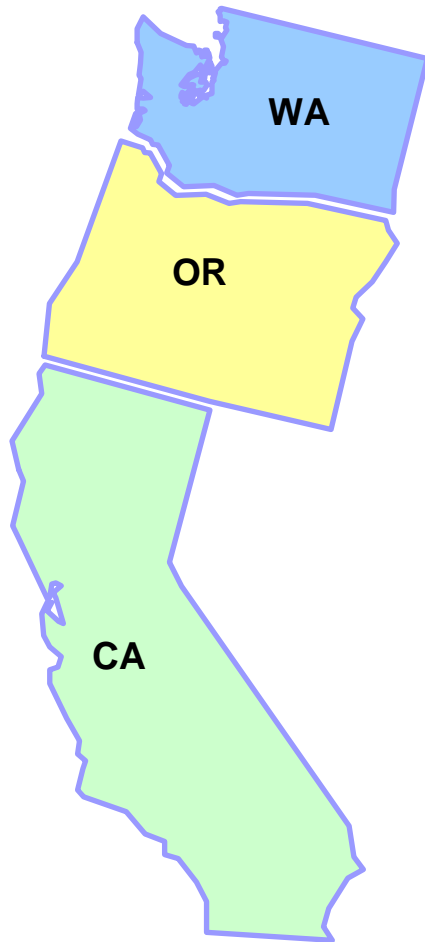
Sarah Fischer, Pacific Regional Coordinator

[www.MPA.gov](http://www.MPA.gov)

# Outline

- Goals and Scope
- Core Components
- Agency Coordination

# The West Coast Pilot: Goals and Scope



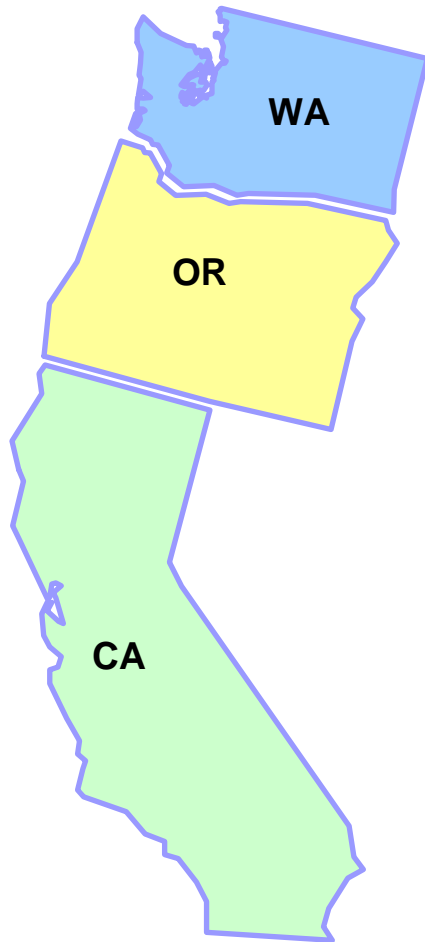
- **Goals**

- To facilitate the effective use of MPAs as an ecosystem management tool to conserve and protect important marine areas and resources on the west coast
- To support the development of a regionally-based national system of MPAs

- **Geographic Scope**

- From WA to CA
- Coastal and marine waters out to 200 miles

# The West Coast Pilot: Results



- Expected Results
  - A suite of tools, methods, and information for regional MPA planning and adaptive management that may be transferred to other regions
  - An ongoing regional forum for west coast state, federal and tribal programs to efficiently coordinate their management of existing MPAs and collaboratively plan future conservation efforts

# West Coast Pilot Analysis

## Core Components

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Ecological Characterization

Cultural Resource Characterization

Human Use Pattern Characterization

Impacts of Human Uses Assessment

Governance Synthesis

Contribution of Existing MMA/MPAs

# West Coast Pilot Analysis

## Data Layers

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Ecological Characterization

# Science and Analysis: Ecological Characterization

## Overview

- Provide the comprehensive natural resource data necessary to support an ecosystem approach for developing a regional system of MPAs on the west coast

## Outputs

- Important places, processes and linkages identified
- Contact list for data sources

## Status

- Preliminary data sets collected
- New staff in October '06



# West Coast Pilot Analysis

## Data Layers

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Ecological Characterization

Cultural Resource Characterization



# Science and Analysis: Cultural Resource Characterization

## Overview

- Standardized inventory of marine cultural resources
- Assist with documenting their historical and cultural connectivity within regional ecosystems

## Outputs

- Tools for assessing the historical and cultural connectivity of marine cultural resources
- Tools for identifying marine cultural resources that are sensitive to natural or human induced changes and gaps in protection

## Status

- Database built and populated
- Initial analysis underway



Photo: Robert Schwermer



Photo: NOAA National Marine Sanctuary Program

# West Coast Pilot Analysis

## Data Layers

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Ecological Characterization

Cultural Resource Characterization

Human Use Pattern Characterization

Impacts of Human Uses Assessment

# Science and Analysis: Human Use Patterns



## Overview

- Document spatial patterns of use activities in the marine environment on the west coast
- Begin building the baseline socioeconomic information needed to inform regional MPA planning

## Outputs

- Directory of available secondary data
- Models for predicting use compatibilities and resource threats
- Method for collecting primary data on use patterns

## Status

- Secondary data directory in review
- Initial mapping underway

# West Coast Pilot Analysis

## Data Layers

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Ecological Characterization

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Governance Synthesis

# Science and Analysis: Governance



## Overview

- Understand the existing legal framework through which marine natural and cultural resources in the region are managed
- Develop a comprehensive overview of marine protected area (MPA) policy authorities at the international, federal, state, and tribal levels

## Outputs

- Searchable database of existing legislation
- Geographic Information System (GIS) for west coast MPA laws

## Status

- Database built and populated, QA/QC underway
- Tagging for GIS in progress

# West Coast Pilot Analysis

## Data Layers

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Ecological Characterization

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# Science and Analysis Existing MMAs/MPAs

## Overview

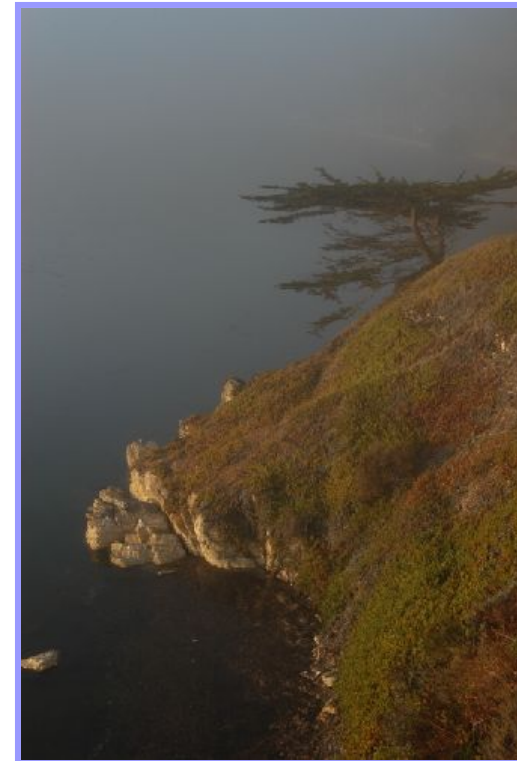
- Document the location, purpose and type of protection offered by existing MMAs and MPAs.
- Understand the potential contribution of existing MMAs/MPAs to regional and national conservational goals.
- Understand the potential effects of existing MMAs/MPAs on ocean users.

## Outputs

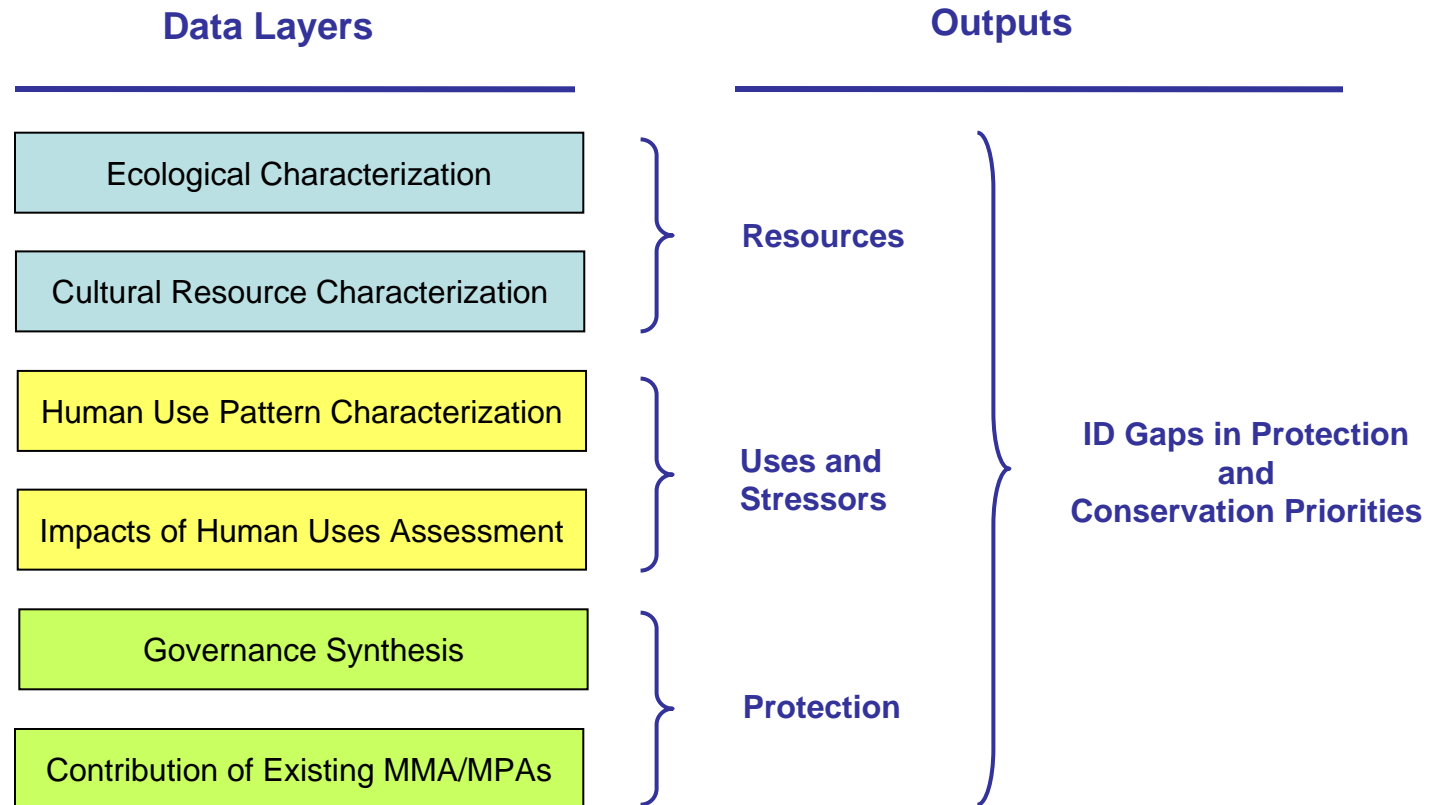
- Reports describing patterns and implications of MPA usage on the west coast
- Web-based synthesis products and database

## Status

- National report available Nov. 06
- West coast report in review
- De Facto report in review



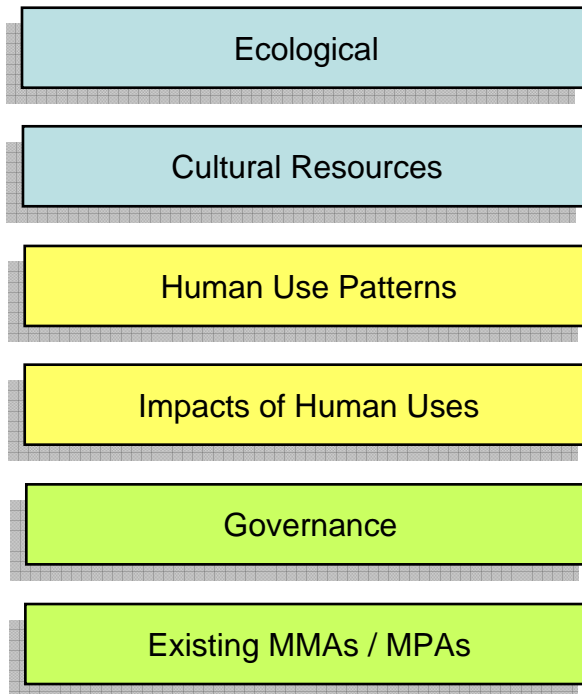
# West Coast Pilot Analysis





# West Coast Pilot Applications and Users

## Characterizations



## Applications

Current MPAs – monitoring adaptive management

New MPAs - siting and design

Traditional fisheries management

Area-based fisheries management (e.g. EFH)

Ecosystem approaches to management

Ocean zoning and governance

Ocean observations

Emergency planning and response

Ocean industries

Military operations

# Collaboration and Stakeholder Engagement

**Work with federal, state, and tribal organizations to:**

**Near Term**

- June 2006: kick-off meeting; potential data workshop in FY 2007
- Share information and develop project partnerships
- Establish steering group/committee

**Long Term**

- Identify and/or develop opportunities for stakeholder involvement
- Identify regional science, technical assistance and other stewardship priorities
- Identify opportunities for projects and activities to address priority needs

# MPA Center Contacts

## **West Coast Pilot Web Site:**

[mpa.gov/national\\_system/west-coast-pilot.html](http://mpa.gov/national_system/west-coast-pilot.html)

## **Co-Leads:**

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