

**MINUTES**  
**Marine Protected Areas Federal Advisory Committee Meeting**  
**October 23-25, 2007**  
**Great Lakes Maritime Heritage Center -- Alpena, Michigan**

**TUESDAY, OCTOBER 23, 2007**

The Committee convened at 8:46 AM.

**Meeting Opening**

Lauren Wenzel, Designated Federal Official, opened the meeting and handed the gavel to the Chair, Mark Hixon. Dr. Hixon noted that it is a time of transition for the Marine Protected Areas Federal Advisory Committee (FAC) with half the members rotating off at the end of this month, and 15 new members coming on next year. He invited Dr. John Halsey to welcome the members to Michigan.

Dr. Halsey welcomed all the members and guests on behalf of the people of Michigan.

Ms. Wenzel called the roll. Members introduced themselves to the guests present. Eighteen members were present, constituting a quorum. Ex officio members and MPA Center staff introduced themselves. The Chair then invited the prospective new members to introduce themselves, including who they represent. They included:

- Victor Mastone, Board of Underwater Archeological Resources, Massachusetts
- Bob Pomeroy, Connecticut Sea Grant / University of Connecticut
- John Reed, Harbor Branch Oceanographic Institute, Florida
- Jesus Ruiz, nonconsumptive uses, California
- David Wallace, commercial fishing, Maryland

Dr. Hixon reviewed the agenda, noting that this is a working meeting, focused on completing and approving documents being developed by the three subcommittees. He asked if there were new issues to add to the agenda, but none were raised.

**Approval of Minutes**

Dr. Hixon asked members to review the minutes from the April 2007 meeting. Brian Melzian recommended that new members look at minutes of past meetings on the mpa.gov website to learn more about the FAC's work. Dan Bromley moved approval of the minutes, seconded by Bob Zales. The minutes were unanimously approved.

**Quorum Policy**

Dr. Hixon moved to the proposed quorum policy developed by the Chair, Vice Chair, and designated federal officer. The following policy was proposed to

address concerns about the lack of a quorum on the last day of the April 2007 meeting.

*As a best practice, the MPA Center should hold FAC meetings only if a majority of Committee members can attend. If, during any point in the meeting, the number of members falls below half plus one (the number required in Roberts Rules for a quorum), the meeting will continue and remaining members may conduct all required business, including voting.*

Discussion of the proposed policy followed. Major points included the need for flexibility for the MPA Center to follow through with a scheduled meeting if members were unable to attend at the last minute; that the representation of the attending members be considered; and that a minimum number should be required for voting on recommendations. Dr. Hixon thanked the members for their input and agreed to develop a revised policy for consideration by the FAC later in the meeting.

### **Welcome to Thunder Bay**

Jeff Gray, Superintendent of Thunder Bay National Marine Sanctuary thanked John Halsey for his role in getting the FAC to Alpena. He explained that Thunder Bay National Marine Sanctuary is the only sanctuary solely in state waters, and that it focuses on historic shipwrecks. The sanctuary was controversial when it was first proposed in 1998, with 70% of the local people voting against it in a referendum. Negotiations continued, and the sanctuary was established in 2000, with a sunset clause giving the state authority to eliminate it after five years if it chose. Instead, the sanctuary has become an integral part of the community, and has garnered widespread support. This year, the Sanctuary Advisory Council recommended expanding the sanctuary boundaries by eight-fold. The sanctuary supports local efforts to build heritage tourism, and connects people to the cultural history of the area. The building itself is a green building, "gold" certified by Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design (LEED), and will have permanent exhibits next year.

### **Subcommittee Reports/FAC Discussion**

Dr. Hixon asked each of the three Subcommittees to report on their work to-date and receive initial feedback from the full FAC.

#### Subcommittee 1: Identifying Regional Priorities for Conservation:

Subcommittee Co-Chair Bob Zales reported that Subcommittee 1 had developed a draft report that was distributed to the full FAC and was near completion. At this meeting, the Subcommittee will focus on adding a section on recommendations or findings to describe their conclusions. John Ogden noted that regional ocean governance has become a very hot issue, and urged the Subcommittee to make a clear link between its case studies and recommendations on regional governance. Other members noted the importance of fostering cooperation and addressing overlapping jurisdictions and authorities. Brian Melzian noted the example of the Gulf of Mexico Alliance, and suggested that the FAC to try to influence current

administration efforts related to regional ocean governance. Peter Fippingger suggested that the FAC could be helpful in identifying roles of different levels of government and organizations in regional ocean governance processes.

Subcommittee 2: Incentives and Implementation for an Effective National System of MPAs :

Subcommittee Co-Chair Tony Chatwin reported that Subcommittee 2 had held four conference calls and worked over two meetings to produce a draft document. He read the three draft recommendations from the report. Bob Bendick supported the recommendation to develop a cost estimate for the national system, and citing Natural Heritage Areas and National Estuarine Research Reserves as examples of systems that provide an incentive for state investment. John Ogden asked about the status of the Coastal Zone Management Act (CZMA), cited in the draft report as a potential legislative authority for the national system. Jonathan Kelsey reported that NOAA and the Coastal States Organization have produced a document that outlines common principles for the reauthorization of the CZMA, and that each organization is now working separately to develop draft legislation.

Subcommittee 3: MPA Natural and Social Science:

Subcommittee Co-Chair Steve Murray reported that Subcommittee 3 focused on two tasks for this meeting: describing an effective management plan for an MPA, and outlining an approach for FAC work on ocean zoning and the national system of MPAs. Dan Bromley was the lead for describing the elements of an effective management plan, and Dr. Murray described the major elements of Dr. Bromley's short paper. Subcommittee Co-Chair Ellen Goethel reported on the Subcommittee's discussion of MPA management plans as entry criteria for the national system. Mark Hixon reminded members that the FAC recommended this approach at their April 2007 meeting. The MPA Center has been conducting analyses to assess the current status of management plans for sites within the marine managed areas inventory and make an initial assessment of how many meet this entry criterion. Tony Chatwin asked if the Subcommittee had discussed the need for the national system to have measurable goals.

At approximately 11:00 the FAC broke into Subcommittees to continue their work.

**Finalizing the National System Framework**

At 12:50, the FAC reconvened after lunch to hear a presentation from the MPA Center. Joe Uravitch, MPA Center Director, provided an update on the fiscal year 2008 budget. Both the House and the Senate have proposed funding for the MPA Center at the level requested by the President's budget, \$2.13 M. Mr. Uravitch reviewed major projects for the coming year, and noted that the MPA Center is working to expand its external partnerships, such as those with the California Marine Life Protection Act Initiative. He noted that the National System Framework process is moving ahead, and that NOAA plans to publish an interim final Framework in early 2008.

Jonathan Kelsey explained the revisions to the draft Framework being considered, based on comments from the public and the FAC, and the ways in which the FAC's recommendations have been included or modified. Several members asked for more information about why the FAC's recommendations were modified in the proposal for the revised Framework. Among the reasons were the availability of scientific information on particular resources, and the need to maintain flexibility in implementing the national system. FAC members were also interested in the work the MPA Center has done since the April 2007 meeting to analyze the current status of management plans for MPAs and the implications of using management plans as entry criteria for the national system. Jim Woods expressed concern about the limited way in which "cultural resources" are defined in the Draft Framework, seemingly excluding tribal uses of the ocean. Other comments from FAC members included a recommendation that the MPA Center provide opportunities for public comment on the conservation priorities, and interest in the geographic boundaries of regions for the national system process.

Mr. Kelsey noted that the interim final Framework document will likely be out for public comment before the next FAC meeting in April 2008, and asked the FAC to think about how they might be engaged in commenting on the document during this period. Dr. Hixon agreed that this was important and that the FAC would return to this topic.

At 1:40, the Subcommittees reconvened.

#### **Public Comment**

No public comments were offered.

The Committee recessed for the day at 5:00 p.m.

### **WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 24, 2007**

Dr. Hixon called the Committee back to order at 8:10 a.m. He welcomed three new prospective members:

- Lori Arguelles, National Marine Sanctuaries Foundation, Maryland
- Eugenio Pinero Soler, Caribbean Fisheries Management Council, Puerto Rico
- Bruce Tackett, Exxon Mobil, Virginia

#### **Quorum Policy**

Dr. Hixon distributed a revised version of the quorum policy discussed the previous day. Members were concerned that the draft policy allowed members in attendance to vote via phone if they needed to leave the meeting early and agreed to strike this provision. The following policy, as amended, was adapted unanimously:

*The MPA Center will plan FAC meeting for dates when the majority of FAC members can attend. Members will inform the MPA Center if their*

*plans to attend a meeting change, as well as if they must arrive late to a meeting or leave a meeting early.*

*The MPA Center will determine a cut-off date for the purpose of moving ahead with scheduling the meeting venue based on members' intention to attend. The scheduled meeting will proceed if more than half the members express their intention to attend by the cut-off date.*

*It is agreed that all FAC members will do their utmost to attend the entirety of all FAC meetings.*

*Should less than half plus one of the FAC members be present at the meeting, the designated federal official will decide whether the number and representation of members present is sufficient to proceed with the meeting and conduct required business. However, at least half plus one of the FAC members must be present to vote on recommendations to be submitted to the Secretaries of Commerce and the Interior.*

### **Subcommittee Reports/FAC Discussion**

#### Subcommittee 1: Identifying Regional Priorities for Conservation:

Bob Zales reported that Subcommittee 1 was on track, but still working on changes to their report. No major concerns were raised.

#### Subcommittee 2: Incentives and Implementation for an Effective National System of MPAs:

Tony Chatwin reported that Subcommittee 2 had developed additional recommendations and inserted new language on monetary incentives. He asked the FAC to review the recommendations and provide feedback. Members asked whether the National Environmental Policy Act would apply to the national system, and whether the Subcommittee intended to refer to offshore oil and gas revenues, or other revenues as well. Comments included a recommendation to be clearer about the need for additional funding for the national system and for monetary incentives, as well as a stronger emphasis on non-monetary incentives. There was also concern about suggesting that "a cost estimate" be developed for the national system, since this will depend on what the system will do. Rather, a range of cost estimates was recommended.

#### Subcommittee 3: MPA Natural and Social Science:

Steve Murray reported two components of Subcommittee 3's work related to management plans. First, the Subcommittee developed the components of an effective MPA management plan. In addition, they agreed that there should be a "management plan" for the national system (though this may not be the correct term since the MPA Center has no authority over member sites) and recommends that the MPA Center develop a guidance document to fill this need. Second, the Subcommittee worked on the process for selecting sites for the first phase of the national system of MPAs. Tony Chatwin

reminded the members about the motion passed at the April 2007 meeting calling on the MPA Center to include a list of MPAs eligible for the national system in the final Framework and asked if this would be done. Joe Uravitch explained that because of the analysis required, the list of MPAs eligible for the national system would be included in the final framework, but not in the interim final draft. Members also called for some minor changes to provide context about the purpose of these recommendations and how they would contribute to national system development.

**Lunch Presentation: Concept for an Ecological Network of MPAs in the Gulf of Mexico**

Billy Causey, Southeast and Gulf Regional Manager for the National Marine Sanctuaries Program, gave a presentation on a proposal for an ecological network of MPAs in the Gulf of Mexico. He discussed the ecological connectivity of the Gulf, first widely recognized following the Caribbean-wide die-off of long spine sea urchins in the early 1980s. The Sanctuaries Program is now exploring the opportunity to establish the first ecological network of MPAs in the Gulf of Mexico, largely based on existing MPA sites that protect coral reefs, banks, ridges and pinnacles. This "Islands in the Stream" concept grew out of the five year "Sustainable Seas" research expedition. The proposal has not been approved by NOAA, and is at the conceptual stage. Dr. Causey noted that if the proposal moves forward, public participation would be an essential part of the process. Sanctuaries staff have met with oil and gas interests in the Gulf to seek their support, and are now beginning to meet with other interested stakeholders.

Several members expressed concern about the lack of public participation in the process as currently proposed. They emphasized that, regardless of the merits of the proposal, the lack of public participation would damage the outcome. Dr. Causey noted that an Executive Order would provide for a public participation process. Several members replied that this is an after-the-fact and insufficient approach.

There were also questions about how much additional protection would be provided by the proposal, as eight of the nine sites included in the network already have some protection. Mr. Causey replied that the Sanctuaries Program would work with the Gulf of Mexico Fisheries Management Council on any issues related to fishing, and would apply a regional approach to enhance monitoring, research, and education. There were concerns expressed regarding how the proposal would be funded, and how the network would be managed and enforced. Jim Ray asked about the Sanctuaries Program's plans for expansion over the next 3-5 years. Mr. Causey replied that Congress has placed a moratorium on new designations. In the Southeast, there has been interest from the Secretary of Natural Resources in Puerto Rico in a sanctuary.

Several members commented on the ecological connectivity in the Gulf, and the potential for this network to contribute to improved scientific understanding and management. There was interest in ensuring that

regional networks were linked to the national system, and also that the FAC's work on processes for developing the national system be applied to the development of regional networks.

At 1:30 the discussion concluded and members met with their Subcommittees.

### **Subcommittee Reports/FAC Discussion**

The FAC reconvened at 3:40 for Subcommittee reports.

#### Subcommittee 1: Identifying Regional Priorities for Conservation:

Bob Zales handed-out and described a short addition to the longer Subcommittee report, focusing on findings. The FAC agreed to read the new section and vote on it tomorrow.

#### Subcommittee 2: Incentives and Implementation for an Effective National System of MPAs:

Tony Chatwin reported that Subcommittee 2 had finished its work and addressed the comments raised this morning. The report was being printed so members could read it and vote on it Thursday.

#### Subcommittee 3: MPA Natural and Social Science:

Steve Murray explained the changes in Subcommittee 3's first product, "Developing Plans for Effective MPA Management: A Model," to address the members' comments. George Lapointe moved that the Committee approve the document, and Ellen Goethel seconded the motion. The FAC unanimously approved the document.

Ellen Goethel described the changes to the second Subcommittee 3 document, "Process for Determining the MPA Sites that Will Constitute the Initial National System of MPAs." Several clarifying edits were made to the document. Ellen Goethel moved that the Committee accept the document as amended. George Lapointe seconded the motion. The FAC unanimously approved the amended document.

### **Remarks of Departing Members**

Dr. Hixon turned to departing members who would not be present tomorrow and invited them to comment on their experience serving with the FAC.

Bonnie McCay said it was "nothing short of a miracle" that the diverse members of the FAC were able to come together and arrive at consensus on recommendations for the national system. She noted that individuals accepted the larger vision in order to get things done. As an anthropologist, she would like to see more interest and respect for communities and the human dimension, and hopes the FAC will follow up on the interests of other cultural entities.

Steve Murray noted that it was a great opportunity to participate in a challenging and important effort, and thanked all the members for educating

him. He noted that the MPA Center has a tough job, and that at times the FAC wants to be more in control of the process. It is a problem that not all in NOAA are supportive of the national system. Progress has been good, but still slow. This has sometimes been dictated by the budget, which limited the FAC's meetings. He encouraged the MPA Center to think carefully about what the FAC should accomplish between meetings, and thanked Dan Bromley and Mark Hixon for their leadership.

The Committee recessed for the day at 5:00 p.m.

## **THURSDAY, OCTOBER 25, 2007**

Dr. Hixon called the Committee to order at 8:10.

### **Public Comments**

No public comments were offered.

### **Committee Action on Subcommittee Reports**

The Committee took up Subcommittee 1's report. A wording change was proposed and accepted. Ellen Goethel made a motion to accept Subcommittee 1's report as amended. John Halsey seconded the motion. The report was passed unanimously.

The Committee took up Subcommittee 2's report. Bob Bendick proposed that a recommendation be included regarding the need for a visual identity and outreach on the national system, as a means to enhance the visibility of the national system and its member sites. This change was made. Members discussed clarifying language referring to outer continental shelf revenues and joint enforcement agreements. Bob Bendick moved that the report be adopted as amended. Charles Beeker seconded the motion. The report was passed unanimously.

### **Preliminary Ideas for the New Charge for the MPA FAC**

Joe Uravitch provided an overview of ideas for the new charge to the MPA FAC, which will be formally delivered to the Committee at its next meeting in April 2008. The purpose of the discussion was to share ideas from NOAA and DOI with the FAC, and seek input from members and prospective members on additional issues of interest. Topics included in the draft charge and comments from the Committee are summarized below. John Ogden also discussed his proposed outline on ocean zoning during the discussion of the new charge.

### **Issues Regarding Preliminary Concepts Draft Presented to FAC:**

- Integration with Ocean Observing Systems:
  - Should include integration with other systems, not just IOOS (include National Water Quality Monitoring Network).
  
- Role of MPAs within Ocean Zoning:



- Does not have concurrence from DOI as topic for MPA FAC; lacks federal framework for action.
- Some concern about negative reaction to ocean zoning; should discuss in the context of regional ocean governance.
- Should focus on the role of the national system within the context of other uses.
- Very important topic; necessary to discuss the national system and how it affects and is affected by other ocean uses.
- Distinction between zoning with a big “Z” (regulatory role of zoning on land) and with a little “z” (spatial planning).
- Designing and Managing the National System for Resilience:
  - Mark Hixon provided some background about ecological resilience and how it could be maintained within a national system.
  - Should also include human community resilience, but maintain the distinction between ecological and community resilience.
  - Very important; will help inform the gap analysis work in the next phase of the national system.
  - Should also look at ability of the national system of MPAs to adapt to changing environments.
  - Challenge to balance competing needs, including economic resilience.
  - Could be valuable as technical assistance to sites in the national system.
- Evaluation of the National System of MPAs:
  - Would put FAC in a leadership role internationally; increasing focus globally on MPA systems.
  - Has links to this meeting’s discussion about national system management.
  - Opportunity to build-in evaluation up-front.
- Scoping for External Review of MPA Center:
  - Important issue.
  - Written description needs to be tightened-up.

**Possible New Topics for FAC Charge Suggested by FAC Members:**

- National System Guidance Document (“Management Plan”) – Tony Chatwin:
  - Links to discussion of evaluation of national system.
  - Will likely contain some content that already exists in Framework and MPA Center Strategic Plan.
  - Provides opportunity to integrate many disparate efforts.
- Enforcement and Compliance – Draft in Progress:
  - Tundi Agardy, Dennis Heinemann, Bob Zales, and Chris German worked on current draft. Need more involvement from additional FAC members.

- Established a FAC Working Group of existing and prospective members to work on between now and April 2008. Dan Bromley, Jim Ray, Bob Zales, Bob Pomeroy, Charles Beeker, Eugenio Pinero, David Wallace, John Reed, Chris German and Brian Melizan offered to serve on this working group.
- Working Group will develop next draft for Committee consideration and distribute it for review before the April 2008 meeting.
- Evaluation of emergent ecological and social-economic characteristics of the national system – Dennis Heinemann:
  - These might include connectivity, representativeness, redundancy or replication, resilience, productivity, and impacts on / benefits to users, economic and social systems.
  - Related to and could be combined with the MPA Center's proposed charges related to resiliency and evaluation.
- Selection criteria for newly established MPAs – Jim Ray:
  - Guidance for other MPA programs.
- Structure and sources of funding for the national system – Bob Bendick:
  - Provide more detail based on Subcommittee 2's work.
  - Include discussion of funding for MPA Center.
- Evaluating the value of the national system – Tony Chatwin:
  - Concern about difficulties in monetizing benefits; controversial.
  - Important to do this – a way to talk about benefits in a more tangible way.
- International MPA linkages / lessons learned – Jesus Ruiz, Bob Pomeroy, Dan Suman, Lelei Peau.
- Scientific baseline assessment of the national system – Jesus Ruiz:
  - Could be part of the evaluation of the national system.
- Guidance on gap analysis for the national system – Ellen Goethel.

Dr. Hixon asked for a show of hands for each topic proposed by NOAA and DOI to assess the level of interest in working on these issues.

At 12:30 the Committee broke for lunch. The Committee reconvened at 1:40.

### **Supporting Funding for the MPA Center**

Dr. Hixon read a draft letter of two paragraphs outlining the FAC's support for additional funding for the MPA Center to complete critical tasks associated with national system development. Gil Radonski moved that the letter be approved. John Ogden seconded the motion. It was agreed not to request a specific amount in the letter. The letter was unanimously approved.

### **Resolution on the Gulf of Mexico MPA Network**

John Ogden proposed a resolution regarding the proposed Gulf of Mexico MPA network for the purpose of (1) strengthening linkages between the National Marine Sanctuaries Program and the national system, (2) emphasizing the importance of public participation, and (3) reminding NOAA and DOI of the FAC's work on national system processes that are relevant to other designations. Bob Zales commented that it was not the role of the FAC to get involved in local issues, and proposed then withdrew alternative wording. Jim Woods expressed concern from tribes at the expansion of the Sanctuary Program. Some members noted their support for the network concept. George Lapointe proposed alternative language, as follows:

*The Marine Protected Area Federal Advisory Committee is aware that proposals are being discussed to create systems of MPA's in the Gulf of Mexico and, potentially, elsewhere. Without taking a position on individual proposals, the MPAFAC strongly recommends that all such proposals apply the principles and processes for the development of a national system of marine protected areas that has been developed over the past four years to this proposed regional system and other MPA proposals with particular attention to public participation.*

*The recommendations developed by the MPAFAC to promote a national system stressed the need for a logical, public process. We believe that the specific proposal in the Gulf of Mexico and the development of a national system of MPAs will be weakened if these guidelines are not followed. Therefore, we urge the Secretaries of Interior and Commerce direct their respective agencies to use these guidelines when considering all MPA proposals*

Gil Radonski moved that the alternative language be accepted. Jim Ray seconded the motion. The FAC adopted the language, to be corrected for grammar by Dr. Hixon and sent in a separate letter to NOAA and the Department of the Interior. Bob Zales expressed interest in having the President's Council on Environmental Quality (CEQ) see the letter, and Randy Bowman agreed to forward the letter from DOI to CEQ.

### **FAC Comments on Interim Final Framework**

Jonathan Kelsey informed that FAC that the interim final National System Framework will be available for public comment in early 2008, but the comment period will likely close before the FAC's April meeting. The MPA Center plans to seek the FAC's comments on the interim final Framework during the public comment period. FAC members agreed that they would like to comment, and would likely meet via a teleconference meeting to finalize official FAC comments for submission. Dr. Hixon encouraged FAC members and prospective members to also submit comments as individuals.

### **Comments from Departing Members**

Dr. Hixon invited departing members to comment on their experience serving with the FAC.

Bob Bendick said that he appreciated the opportunity to participate in such a diverse group. He expressed his appreciation to the staff for their hard work. He is proud of the FAC's 2005 report, which brought together a diverse group to say something meaningful, and was action oriented. He feels that the FAC has gone more slowly since then. Important issues that remain include getting beyond simply an "inventory" approach to the national system, expanding work on regional cooperation and governance, and addressing the need for funding as the engine that drives the work. The FAC should continue to work on these three issues.

Mike Cruickshank said that he had fun on the committee and learned a lot. He noted that field trips are an excellent part of the meetings, and perhaps should be scheduled for the middle of the meeting to encourage participation. He also asked if departing members could retain their access to the internal FAC website. Lauren Wenzel said that they could.

John Halsey said that he particularly appreciated the camaraderie of the FAC and felt he had gained a whole new set of colleagues. He was initially worried about the group's ability to compromise, but this was allayed by the adoption of the 2005 report. He recognized the leadership of Dan Bromley, Mark Hixon and Steve Murray. He appreciated the variety of places the FAC has met, and has been honored to serve as the representative for the Great Lakes and cultural resources. He urged that another member be appointed with a Great Lakes focus, and was very happy that the committee had the opportunity to meet in Thunder Bay.

Lelei Peau said that he had been appointed to bring an island perspective to the committee. He is concerned about the impact of climate change on islands, especially damage to coral reefs. MPAs are not a panacea, but an essential tool for managing and protecting ocean resources. The national system is a key concept. American Samoa is working with the independent state of Samoa on a regional MPA network, along with Tonga and Fiji. It has been a great honor to serve on the FAC, and the challenge is how to translate our work into practice. He regretted that the FAC did not have the opportunity to meet in American Samoa, but invited the FAC to hold a future meeting there to see how MPA management works in the islands.

Dan Suman thanked all the FAC members and the MPA Center for the opportunity to participate. He said that he had brought many ideas from the Committee to his classes, and it has been a good resource for research and teaching. He noted the mutual respect and camaraderie among committee members, and the value on reaching consensus from many different perspectives. He noted a recent paper on poor management of MPAs in the Dominican Republic as a result of conflicting language in laws and regulations, and commended the FAC's attention to language and definitions. Dr. Suman

recommended that the FAC look closely at international examples of MPA networks.

Dr. Hixon thanked the departing members for their contributions to the FAC's work and urged them to remain involved in the process.

### **Committee Business**

Lauren Wenzel reminded members that the next meeting of the FAC will be the week of April 21-25 in the Washington, D.C. area. The first day will be orientation for new members.

As new members complete their background checks, they will be formally appointed to the FAC by the Secretary of Commerce. Ms. Wenzel will notify the FAC as new members join.

Members should send their receipts for expenses (not including meals, which are covered by per diem) to the MPA Center's new administrative assistant Jeff Harrison. Mr. Harrison will send contact information and instructions via e-mail.

Lori Arguelles raised the idea of matching prospective members with continuing members as mentors. Dr. Hixon liked the idea and suggested that prospective members who were present could approach continuing members.

Dr. Hixon thanked everyone for their remarkably focused and hard work, and congratulated all for successfully completing the final products of the current FAC membership by consensus and unanimous approval.

Ms. Wenzel adjourned the meeting at 3:25.

I hereby certify that, to the best of my knowledge, the foregoing minutes are accurate and complete.

Lauren Wenzel  
Designated Federal Official

Dr. Mark Hixon  
Chair  
Marine Protected Areas Federal Advisory  
Committee

These minutes will be formally considered by the MPA FAC at its next meeting, and any corrections or notations will be incorporated in the minutes of that meeting.

**Committee members present:**

Mr. Charles Beeker  
Mr. Bob Bendick  
Dr. Dan Bromley  
Dr. Anthony Chatwin  
Dr. Michael Cruickshank  
Ms. Ellen Goethel  
Dr. John Halsey  
Dr. Dennis Heinemann  
Dr. Mark Hixon, Chair  
Mr. George Lapointe, Parliamentarian  
Dr. Bonnie McCay  
Dr. Steve Murray  
Dr. John Odgen  
Mr. Lelei Peau  
Mr. Gil Radonski  
Dr. Jim Ray  
Dr. Daniel Suman  
Mr. Jim Woods  
Mr. Bob Zales II, Vice Chair

**Ex officio members/representatives present:**

Mr. Randal Bowman, US Department of the Interior / Office of the Assistant Secretary for Fish, Wildlife and Parks  
Mr. Peter Fippinger, US Department of Commerce  
Mr. Chris German, US Coast Guard / Department of Homeland Security  
Dr. Brian Melzian, US Environmental Protection Agency

**NOAA National Marine Protected Areas Center staff:**

Mr. Joseph Uravitch, Director  
Mr. Jeffrey Harrison, Administrative Assistant  
Mr. Jonathan Kelsey, National System Development Coordinator  
Ms. Kara Schwenke, Communications Coordinator  
Ms. Lauren Wenzel, Designated Federal Officer

**Guests:**

Lori Arguelles, National Marine Sanctuaries Foundation  
Victor Mastone, Board of Underwater Archeological Resources, Massachusetts  
Eugenio Pinero Soler, Caribbean Fishery Management Council  
Robert Pomeroy, Connecticut Sea Grant/ University of Connecticut  
John Reed, Harbor Branch Oceanographic Institute  
Jesus Ruiz, California Divers  
Bruce Tackett, Exxon Mobil  
David Wallace, Wallace and Associates