

DRAFT MINUTES & MEETING SUMMARY
Marine Protected Areas Federal Advisory Committee
May 1, 2013
Virtual call, based in Silver Spring, MD

Wednesday, May 1, 2013

Proceedings

The meeting convened at 1:15 p.m. Eastern. Powerpoint presentations provided during the meeting are posted at <http://www.mpa.gov/fac/meetings/>. Some members had problems initially connecting to the virtual meeting. The virtual format did not lend itself to open discussion. Members were able to ask some questions, and to use the webinar interface to ask questions and make comments in writing.

Meeting Opening and Committee Business

The meeting was called to order by Designated Federal Official Lauren Wenzel. Lauren called roll in accordance with the names registered on the webinar. George Geiger, MPA FAC Chair, reviewed the agenda.

Committee Chair George Geiger called for review and approval of the December 2012 MPA FAC meeting minutes. The minutes were approved with no changes to text.

Guest Remarks: Daniel J. Basta, Director, Office of National Marine Sanctuaries

Dan Basta addressed the FY13 budget. He noted that while budgets have been severely cut, retrenchment is not the answer. Dan reminded the FAC that the MPA Center's separate budget line has been zeroed out as part of its integration with the Office of National Marine Sanctuaries, and noted that no funding was provided for the Center in FY13. Meanwhile, the ONMS budget has been cut due to operational cuts, sequestration, and the elimination of all construction (PAC) funds. Dan noted that the concept of MPAs is on an upward trajectory and encouraged the FAC to persist in their efforts.

Dan offered kudos to the National Marine Sanctuary Foundation which drafted a letter advocating resources for ONMS that had signatures from 42 members of Congress. Dan observed that there is an opportunity to build Congressional support for diverse MPA programs through the MPA Center.

Dan made note of the recently released National Ocean Policy Implementation Plan, which calls for reactivation of the Sanctuary Evaluation List. The Sanctuary Evaluation List process will be replaced by a new Sanctuary Nomination and Evaluation Process that will allow communities to initiate a process to explore and request new sanctuaries. Dan noted that our nation makes a powerful statement when petitioning to nominate places as sanctuaries. He expects the Sanctuary Nomination and Evaluation Process to roll out in the next month. He thanked the FAC for their letter in support of the National Ocean Policy and the Sanctuary Evaluation List.

Regarding The ONMS Campaign of Engagement, Dan mentioned that it's going well, and that the office is pursuing several activities to engage the travel and tourism industries.

Dan noted the upcoming Capitol Hill Oceans Week (CHOW), taking place in the first week in June, and organized by the National Marine Sanctuary Foundation with support from ONMS. This is a major

event for ocean policy and engaging key decision makers. He encouraged FAC members attend in person if possible, or participate via streaming video on OceansLive.org

Dan concluded his remarks by encouraging ongoing actions from the FAC.

Questions and discussion

Priscilla Brooks, MPA FAC member asked: How/who will roll-out the Sanctuary Nomination and Evaluation Process? Dan responded that he couldn't provide all the details now, but that a Federal Register notice will be published in May, and ONMS has a communications plan for outreach following the release.

George Geiger commented that the FAC has not retrenched from its charge and that both subcommittees remain active. Dan's leadership is appreciated.

Update from MPA Center: Lauren Wenzel and Charlie Wahle on making sense of our nation's MPAs

Lauren described some key challenges regarding the current US definition of an MPA namely that: 1) the U.S. is an outlier when it comes to the definition of MPAs as our definition of MPAs is different than that used by IUCN (a discrepancy leads to issues of comparability and a lack of clear messaging); 2) Approximately 40% of U.S. EEZ is in some kind of MPA - by the U.S. definition - a statistic that can breed misperceptions; and 3) the big difference between U.S. and IUCN definition is that IUCN explicitly excludes areas protected for fisheries management.

Lauren referenced the Convention on Biological Diversity's (CBD) Aichi 2011 biodiversity targets, which include a goal of protecting 10% of coastal and marine areas by 2020. If the U.S. used a definition comparable to that of IUCN, we have not yet reached this target.

The MPA Center is developing a white paper to define MPAs according to three different categories:

- Category 1 – focuses on ecosystems
- Category 2 – focuses on focal resources (which can mean species, a species group, or cultural resources)
- Category 3 – focuses on fisheries

The new approach to the MPA definition will allow for better communication of MPAs by increasing consistency. The new approach will not change the definition of U.S. MPAs or the eligibility of entrance into the national MPA system.

Questions and discussion

George Geiger asked if the white paper would be shared with the Fishery Management Councils. Lauren answered that it would – following FAC review, the draft paper will be sent to MPA programs for their review. Ultimately, it will be incorporated into updates to the National System Framework. Michelle Ridgway noted that this would be helpful to get to the North Pacific Council before their June 4-11 meeting. Priscilla Brooks asked if seasonal no take areas should be classified as no take. She also questioned whether fisheries areas were truly no take in prohibiting take of all living resources. Sarah Robinson suggested that the MPA Center consider adding a third subcategory of "restricted take," in addition to "no take" and "multiple use." Lauren said the MPA Center was looking into these questions.

Next steps: FAC members provide written comments to Lauren by Friday, May 17, 2013.

Update: Della Scott-Ireton and the Cultural Heritage Resource Working Group

Della mentioned that the working group is working with Valerie Grussing, cultural resources coordinator at the MPA Center, to create an online cultural resources handbook for MPA managers. Valerie and Lauren are looking into possible funding options. The working group will continue working virtually. Ultimately, the online site will provide cultural resources and landscape information for coastal and marine resource managers who may not have a background in cultural resource management. It will also address tribal issues, landscape change, etc. Della noted that the overall goal is improved MPA management.

Update: Eileen Sobeck, Deputy Assistant Secretary for Fish and Wildlife and Parks at the Department of the Interior (DOI) and Acting Assistant Secretary for Insular Affairs

Eileen provided an overview of the National Ocean Policy Implementation Plan. In her remarks, she mentioned tough budget times, but a steadfast commitment by the administration to healthy oceans.

Eileen also mentioned the new Secretary of Interior who is from a coastal state, and will be heading up many new DOI initiatives. Eileen suggested that within these initiatives there exist opportunities to take advantage of promoting MPA goals. Travel and recreation are the foci for initiatives this year. DOI is also gearing up for the 100th anniversary of the National Park System in 2016.

Regarding the National Ocean Policy Implementation Plan, the focus will now be on action. Eileen mentioned that the implementation plan differs from first draft in that there is less detail and the document is organized more thematically. The implementation plan, for example, articulates more of the broader “whys.” The plan includes a section on marine recreational fishing and boating. She noted that certain jurisdictions and Members of Congress are not enthusiastic about the National Ocean Policy. The Policy makes clear that federal agencies will move ahead toward implementation, but that it is voluntary for states and territories.

While regional planning bodies have already been established, Eileen encourages a push to ensure that state/regional representatives work on factoring in both present and future MPAs throughout their implementation strategies.

Eileen also noted that travel and tourism are important administration priorities, and there is a lot of potential to promote MPAs in connection with tourism, particularly in the territories.

Questions and Discussion

Dan Basta commented regarding Capitol Hill Ocean Week (CHOW), noting that on the:

- 2nd day of CHOW, there will be a focus on business development; and on the
- 3rd day there will be an emphasis on local economies (e.g. “Did you know, MPAs work” session).

Michelle Ridgway asked if the National Ocean Policy is sufficiently funded. Eileen answered that as the implementation plan was created, it was intended to be comprised of actions that were funded, but this may have changed due to sequestration.

Subcommittee update: Recreation, travel and tourism - presentation by John Jensen

John addressed the status of working group, noting that they had an engaging and effective subcommittee meeting on April 30. During their last meeting, the subcommittee focused on three questions:

- What baseline studies are needed?
- What conditions make sense in MPAs?
- What enabling factors are needed to move forward?

John mentioned that the subcommittee asked itself what was the first thing that the FAC could do distinctly from the Sanctuary Advisory Councils and within in a relatively short timeframe? The decision was made to provide a detailed, and multi-faceted, survey of MPA managers to learn more about what tourism and recreation at their sites. The following sections of the survey were discussed:

- Part 1: Descriptive themes; trends; perceptions
 - In part, this section would focus on “perceived” data
- Part 2: Management themes, including:
 - Social and political drivers
 - Conflicts (use conflicts and user conflicts)
- Part 3: Outreach, including the following facets:
 - Increasing the utility of this broad-scale survey
 - Leveraging opportunities to reach and engage
 - Attending to ideas that may have escaped in past
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John noted that the survey is under construction and builds directly from the survey the MPA Center and the MPA FAC conducted early in 2013 in preparation for the George Wright Society conference. This survey had 62 respondents. A key finding from the earlier survey was that recreational uses of MPAs were increasing; not one MPA reported diminished recreational uses. John also noted the considerations that could not be overlooked, including the issue of carrying capacity as it relates to long-term sustainability.

Based on results of the survey, the subcommittee, followed by the FAC, will make recommendations. Eventually, the reach of the results will extend beyond MPA managers.

George Geiger commented that input should be received from people who are not on the working group.

John noted that the timeline looked as follows:

- Draft report to be out September 15, 2013 – in time for the fall FAC
- Post release, the FAC will discuss at the fall meeting
- After discussion, FAC will submit a final report to NOAA

Questions and Discussion

Dan Basta asked whether the subcommittee should be surveying MPA managers or the recreation businesses themselves. Dan suggested that the subcommittee could use the studies published by (for

example) the outdoor recreation industry. He also mentioned the National Survey on Outdoor Recreation conducted by the U.S. Forest Service which comes out every two to three years and could be a vehicle for some of the questions we wanted posed. John Jensen replied to Dan by agreeing for the most part, but noting that the deeper question is, “what are the conditions necessary to move forward?” John noted that there are good and bad places to focus on tourism – which is what the survey would draw out.

Subcommittee members clarified that 1,500 MPAs (amount country-wide) are to receive the survey.

Subcommittee update: Stakeholder engagement working group – presentation by Joe Schumacker

Joe introduced subcommittee work plan and reported on its status as follows:

- **Work Plan Element #1: Developing Communications Plans for New Audiences**
 - The aim of this work plan is to engage communities that have not been involved in MPAs, using fishing communities and tribal organizations as initial target audiences.
 - Subcommittee members are still working on engagement plans.
 - This component is led by Joe Schumacker and Steve Tucker and will have a report at the fall FAC meeting.

- **Work Plan Element #2: MPA Center as an Information Clearinghouse**
 - The aim of this work plan is to promote the MPA Center as a clearinghouse of Information and case studies.
 - Della added that this element goes hand-in-hand with element #5 (and with cultural resource training, etc.)
 - This component is led by Della Scott-Ireton and Dave Blazer.

- **Work Plan Element #3: Developing Peer to Peer Networks**
 - Lauren introduced this work plan by describing the aim to establish a peer-to-peer network and develop more effective ways of traditional networking. The aim has partly developed in response to the results of the 2013 survey that reached 62 managers nationwide.
 - Lauren noted that one key finding of the survey was that managers had an interest in developing a professional network, and currently relied on email, telephone calls and meetings as their primary networking mechanisms (not on social media such as Facebook).
 - Bret Wolfe, subcommittee member mentioned that more information can be pulled from the survey data. He also mentioned that one could not overlook the main mechanism for info exchange as determined by the survey: traditional networking.
 - This element is being led by Gary Davis and Bret Wolfe.

- **Work Plan Element #4: Engaging Travel and Tourism Audiences**
 - The aim of this work plan is to engage travel and tourism audiences nationwide.
 - Jason Patlis, MPA FAC member commented that CHOW and World Oceans Day are coming up and questioned how we may be able to promote these days in advance.

- Work Plan Element #5: Improving the MPA Center Website
 - The aim of this work plan is to improve the MPA Center website.
 - There have been many suggestions for changes, though implementation will rely on capacity.
 - Felicia has been through the website and provided many very helpful ideas – these are being reviewed by Subcommittee members and will be transmitted to the MPA Center.

Closing Remarks: Lauren Wenzel

Lauren Wenzel's closing remarks reminded FAC members that the charge was intended to be accomplished over two years (June 2012-May 2014). However, some FAC members have membership terms that expire in October 2013. Given the need to complete work on the FAC charge, Lauren wanted to get a sense from members about their willingness to extend their terms and continue working through May 2014. FAC members were generally in agreement with the proposal. Lauren will follow up via email with individual members.

Closing Discussion

George Geiger made a plea to Dan Basta for a face-to-face FAC meeting, mentioning that together, in person, the FAC conducts business most effectively. Dan replied that he too would prefer face-to-face meetings, but can't promise this given the budget constraints ONMS faces. Dan also noted that if possible, he would like to bring the Sanctuary Advisory Councils together at the same time.

Steve Tucker and Bret Wolfe commented that there exists the potential for the FAC to meet with other advisory committees as well, such as those that work with DOI.

George proposed that the FAC write a letter to DOC and DOI about their concerns about the MPA Center budget; there was agreement to proceed. Dan offered to meet with George to talk about the role of the FAC in assisting the Center.

Brian Melzian, EPA representative, commented that he plans to submit comments to the MPA Center on how to improve virtual calls.

George invited any members of the public who wished to make comments, but no comments were made.

MPA FAC members called for presentation slides to be sent to the full committee, to which Lauren replied that she will post presentation slides to the web.

Dan provided closing remarks, congratulating the FAC for their commitment and vision.

George thanked everyone for participating.

The meeting adjourned at 2:45 pm, Eastern.

Attendance

MPA FAC Members:

- Chair: George Geiger
- Vice Chair: Della Scott-Ireton
- Priscilla Brooks
- Felicia Coleman
- Karen Garrison
- David Hyrenbach
- John Jensen
- Gary Kania
- Stephen Kroll
- Jason Patlis
- Sarah Robinson
- Joe Schumacker
- Rick Swanson
- Catherine Reheis-Boyd
- Michelle Ridgway

Ex Officio Members:

- Robin Fitch, US Navy
- Brian Melzian, US EPA
- Eileen Sobeck, Department of the Interior
- Rick Swanson, US Forest Service
- Steve Tucker, US Coast Guard

NOAA and DOI Staff:

- Dan Basta, ONMS Director
- Robert Brock, ONMS/MPA Center
- Cirse Gonzalez, ONMS
- Valerie Grussing, ONMS/MPA Center
- MaryLee Haughwout, NOAA National Ocean Service
- Brittany King, ONMS
- Becky Holyoke, ONMS
- Cliff McCreedy, National Park Service
- Heather Sagar, NOAA Fisheries
- Jonathon Shannon, NOAA Fisheries – Protected Resources
- Becky Shortland, ONMS
- Charles Wahle, ONMS/MPA Center
- Lauren Wenzel, ONMS/MPA Center – Designated Federal Official
- Bret Wolfe, US Fish and Wildlife Service
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Other Guests:

- Anne Rosinski

- Brent Greenfield
- Emma Anders
- James Haussener
- Sally Karr