

Charleston, South Carolina

The National Marine Protected Areas Center's Training And Technical Assistance Institute

Mission of the National Marine Protected Areas Center

The National Marine Protected Areas Center works closely with states, territories, regions, tribal trustees, and other stakeholders to improve understanding of marine protected areas (MPAs) in order to protect significant coastal marine resources for present and future generations.

The Center's mission is to facilitate the effective use of science, technology, training, and information in the planning, management and evaluation of the nation's system of marine protected areas.



The Role of the Training and Technical Assistance Institute

Building upon existing capacity and expertise, the MPA Training and Technical Assistance Institute is integrated with the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration's Coastal Services Center (CSC), in Charleston, South Carolina. The Institute is working to improve the skills and effectiveness of federal, state, local, tribal, and non-governmental coastal marine resource managers, strengthening their ability to protect and enhance the nation's MPAs.

The Training and Technical Assistance Institute is currently focused on offering:

- * Technology training and assistance, using GIS, metadata, and remote sensing tools
- * Issue-based training and assistance on MPA management tools and techniques (e.g. marine boundaries, hazards, and ocean zoning)
- * Process training on techniques such as facilitation, collaborative processes, and public issue management

Activities of the Training and Technical Assistance Institute

In response to the results of an initial MPA needs assessment, the Training and Technical Assistance Institute is working on the following projects over the next year:

- * Collecting GIS data and and spatial analysis tools
- * Building the providers network
- * Working on marine boundaries issues:
The Institute will organize a handbook of best practices, which will provide technical and legal guidance to effectively create and describe marine boundaries.
- * Mapping benthic habitat
- * Assessing visitor use impacts



Partners

The Institute works with other programs within the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA), such as the National Estuarine Research Reserve System and the Sea Grant Extension Service, to provide field-based delivery of training and technical assistance. The Institute is also developing a network of other government agencies and non-governmental training and technical assistance providers.

For additional information, visit www.mpa.gov or contact:

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