

# Public Testimony Sign-Up Sheet

Agenda Item C-5 MPA NOMINATIONS

|    | NAME (PLEASE PRINT) | AFFILIATION |
|----|---------------------|-------------|
| 1  | Brent PRINE         | UCB         |
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NOTE to persons providing oral or written testimony to the Council: Section 307(1)(I) of the Magnuson-Stevens Fishery Conservation and Management Act prohibits any person "to knowingly and willfully submit to a Council, the Secretary, or the Governor of a State false information (including, but not limited to, false information regarding the capacity and extent to which a United State fish processor, on an annual basis, will process a portion of the optimum yield of a fishery that will be harvested by fishing vessels of the United States) regarding any matter that the Council, Secretary, or Governor is considering in the course of carrying out this Act.

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## Presidential Documents

Executive Order 13158 of May 26, 2000

### Marine Protected Areas

By the authority vested in me as President by the Constitution and the laws of the United States of America and in furtherance of the purposes of the National Marine Sanctuaries Act (16 U.S.C. 1431 *et seq.*), National Wildlife Refuge System Administration Act of 1966 (16 U.S.C. 668dd-ee), National Park Service Organic Act (16 U.S.C. 1 *et seq.*), National Historic Preservation Act (16 U.S.C. 470 *et seq.*), Wilderness Act (16 U.S.C. 1131 *et seq.*), Magnuson-Stevens Fishery Conservation and Management Act (16 U.S.C. 1801 *et seq.*), Coastal Zone Management Act (16 U.S.C. 1451 *et seq.*), Endangered Species Act of 1973 (16 U.S.C. 1531 *et seq.*), Marine Mammal Protection Act (16 U.S.C. 1362 *et seq.*), Clean Water Act of 1977 (33 U.S.C. 1251 *et seq.*), National Environmental Policy Act, as amended (42 U.S.C. 4321 *et seq.*), Outer Continental Shelf Lands Act (42 U.S.C. 1331 *et seq.*), and other pertinent statutes, it is ordered as follows:

**Section 1. Purpose.** This Executive Order will help protect the significant natural and cultural resources within the marine environment for the benefit of present and future generations by strengthening and expanding the Nation's system of marine protected areas (MPAs). An expanded and strengthened comprehensive system of marine protected areas throughout the marine environment would enhance the conservation of our Nation's natural and cultural marine heritage and the ecologically and economically sustainable use of the marine environment for future generations. To this end, the purpose of this order is to, consistent with domestic and international law: (a) strengthen the management, protection, and conservation of existing marine protected areas and establish new or expanded MPAs; (b) develop a scientifically based, comprehensive national system of MPAs representing diverse U.S. marine ecosystems, and the Nation's natural and cultural resources; and (c) avoid causing harm to MPAs through federally conducted, approved, or funded activities.

**Sec. 2. Definitions.** For the purposes of this order: (a) "Marine protected area" means any area of the marine environment that has been reserved by Federal, State, territorial, tribal, or local laws or regulations to provide lasting protection for part or all of the natural and cultural resources therein.

(b) "Marine environment" means those areas of coastal and ocean waters, the Great Lakes and their connecting waters, and submerged lands thereunder, over which the United States exercises jurisdiction, consistent with international law.

(c) The term "United States" includes the several States, the District of Columbia, the Commonwealth of Puerto Rico, the Virgin Islands of the United States, American Samoa, Guam, and the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands.

**Sec. 3. MPA Establishment, Protection, and Management.** Each Federal agency whose authorities provide for the establishment or management of MPAs shall take appropriate actions to enhance or expand protection of existing MPAs and establish or recommend, as appropriate, new MPAs. Agencies implementing this section shall consult with the agencies identified in subsection 4(a) of this order, consistent with existing requirements.

**Sec. 4. National System of MPAs.** (a) To the extent permitted by law and subject to the availability of appropriations, the Department of Commerce and the Department of the Interior, in consultation with the Department

of Defense, the Department of State, the United States Agency for International Development, the Department of Transportation, the Environmental Protection Agency, the National Science Foundation, and other pertinent Federal agencies shall develop a national system of MPAs. They shall coordinate and share information, tools, and strategies, and provide guidance to enable and encourage the use of the following in the exercise of each agency's respective authorities to further enhance and expand protection of existing MPAs and to establish or recommend new MPAs, as appropriate:

(1) science-based identification and prioritization of natural and cultural resources for additional protection;

(2) integrated assessments of ecological linkages among MPAs, including ecological reserves in which consumptive uses of resources are prohibited, to provide synergistic benefits;

(3) a biological assessment of the minimum area where consumptive uses would be prohibited that is necessary to preserve representative habitats in different geographic areas of the marine environment;

(4) an assessment of threats and gaps in levels of protection currently afforded to natural and cultural resources, as appropriate;

(5) practical, science-based criteria and protocols for monitoring and evaluating the effectiveness of MPAs;

(6) identification of emerging threats and user conflicts affecting MPAs and appropriate, practical, and equitable management solutions, including effective enforcement strategies, to eliminate or reduce such threats and conflicts;

(7) assessment of the economic effects of the preferred management solutions; and

(8) identification of opportunities to improve linkages with, and technical assistance to, international marine protected area programs.

(b) In carrying out the requirements of section 4 of this order, the Department of Commerce and the Department of the Interior shall consult with those States that contain portions of the marine environment, the Commonwealth of Puerto Rico, the Virgin Islands of the United States, American Samoa, Guam, and the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands, tribes, Regional Fishery Management Councils, and other entities, as appropriate, to promote coordination of Federal, State, territorial, and tribal actions to establish and manage MPAs.

(c) In carrying out the requirements of this section, the Department of Commerce and the Department of the Interior shall seek the expert advice and recommendations of non-Federal scientists, resource managers, and other interested persons and organizations through a Marine Protected Area Federal Advisory Committee. The Committee shall be established by the Department of Commerce.

(d) The Secretary of Commerce and the Secretary of the Interior shall establish and jointly manage a website for information on MPAs and Federal agency reports required by this order. They shall also publish and maintain a list of MPAs that meet the definition of MPA for the purposes of this order.

(e) The Department of Commerce's National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration shall establish a Marine Protected Area Center to carry out, in cooperation with the Department of the Interior, the requirements of subsection 4(a) of this order, coordinate the website established pursuant to subsection 4(d) of this order, and partner with governmental and non-governmental entities to conduct necessary research, analysis, and exploration. The goal of the MPA Center shall be, in cooperation with the Department of the Interior, to develop a framework for a national system of MPAs, and to provide Federal, State, territorial, tribal, and local governments with the information, technologies, and strategies to support the system. This

national system framework and the work of the MPA Center is intended to support, not interfere with, agencies' independent exercise of their own existing authorities.

(f) To better protect beaches, coasts, and the marine environment from pollution, the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA), relying upon existing Clean Water Act authorities, shall expeditiously propose new science-based regulations, as necessary, to ensure appropriate levels of protection for the marine environment. Such regulations may include the identification of areas that warrant additional pollution protections and the enhancement of marine water quality standards. The EPA shall consult with the Federal agencies identified in subsection 4(a) of this order, States, territories, tribes, and the public in the development of such new regulations.

**Sec. 5. Agency Responsibilities.** Each Federal agency whose actions affect the natural or cultural resources that are protected by an MPA shall identify such actions. To the extent permitted by law and to the maximum extent practicable, each Federal agency, in taking such actions, shall avoid harm to the natural and cultural resources that are protected by an MPA. In implementing this section, each Federal agency shall refer to the MPAs identified under subsection 4(d) of this order.

**Sec. 6. Accountability.** Each Federal agency that is required to take actions under this order shall prepare and make public annually a concise description of actions taken by it in the previous year to implement the order, including a description of written comments by any person or organization stating that the agency has not complied with this order and a response to such comments by the agency.

**Sec. 7. International Law.** Federal agencies taking actions pursuant to this Executive Order must act in accordance with international law and with Presidential Proclamation 5928 of December 27, 1988, on the Territorial Sea of the United States of America, Presidential Proclamation 5030 of March 10, 1983, on the Exclusive Economic Zone of the United States of America, and Presidential Proclamation 7219 of September 2, 1999, on the Contiguous Zone of the United States.

**Sec. 8. General.** (a) Nothing in this order shall be construed as altering existing authorities regarding the establishment of Federal MPAs in areas of the marine environment subject to the jurisdiction and control of States, the District of Columbia, the Commonwealth of Puerto Rico, the Virgin Islands of the United States, American Samoa, Guam, the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands, and Indian tribes.

(b) This order does not diminish, affect, or abrogate Indian treaty rights or United States trust responsibilities to Indian tribes.

(c) This order does not create any right or benefit, substantive or procedural, enforceable in law or equity by a party against the United States, its agencies, its officers, or any person.

*William Clinton*

THE WHITE HOUSE,  
May 26, 2000.

# IMPLEMENTING THE NATIONAL SYSTEM OF MARINE PROTECTED AREAS: NOMINATION PROCESS

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

The U.S. is implementing a comprehensive, science-based and effective national system of marine protected areas (MPAs). The national system will include eligible existing MPAs across all levels of government to protect important habitats and resources. For more information, visit [www.mpa.gov](http://www.mpa.gov).

## NOMINATION PROCESS FOR EXISTING SITES TO JOIN THE NATIONAL SYSTEM

The nomination process for the National System of Marine Protected Areas (MPAs) is designed to be transparent, science-based, and to provide an opportunity for public comment. The National Marine Protected Areas Center will be responsible for the technical review of nominations.

There are three entry criteria for existing MPAs to join the national system (plus a fourth for cultural heritage).

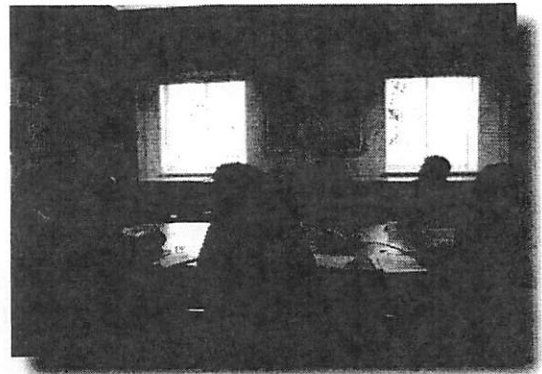
Sites that meet the following three criteria (four for cultural heritage) are eligible for the national system:

1. Meets the definition of an MPA as defined in the *Framework for the National System of Marine Protected Areas of the United States of America*.
2. Has a management plan (can be site-specific or part of a broader programmatic management plan; must have site goals and objectives and call for monitoring or evaluation of those goals and objectives).
3. Contributes to at least one priority conservation objective as listed in the Framework.
4. Cultural heritage MPAs must also conform to criteria for the National Register for Historic Places.

The MPA Center will use existing information from the MPA Inventory to determine which sites meet the first two criteria. These identified sites will be potentially eligible MPAs. The managing entities of potentially eligible MPAs will be sent a nomination package and invited to nominate some or all of their potentially eligible sites for inclusion in the national system. To do so, they will be asked to document how each nominated MPA meets criterion number three above.

## ENSURING PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

All nominated sites will be available for public comment. The public will be notified through a *Federal Register* notice, information on [www.mpa.gov](http://www.mpa.gov), and other targeted outreach. The MPA Center will receive, evaluate and forward public comment to the relevant managing entity or entities, which will then reaffirm or withdraw the nomination based on public comment received and other factors deemed relevant. After final MPA Center review, mutually agreed upon MPAs will be accepted into the national system.



The National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) and the Department of the Interior (DOI) will make a public announcement of the first group of MPAs accepted into the national system. MPAs accepted into the national system will also be added to the official List of National System MPAs, which will be made available to the public via the *Federal Register*, the website [www.mpa.gov](http://www.mpa.gov), and other means.

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NOAA's National Marine Protected Areas (MPA) 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 MPA Center works in partnership with federal, state, tribal, and local governments and stakeholders to develop a science-based, comprehensive national system of MPAs. These collaborative efforts will lead to a more efficient, effective use of MPAs now and in the future to conserve and sustain the nation's vital marine resources.



# IMPLEMENTING THE NATIONAL SYSTEM OF MPAS: NOMINATION PROCESS

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

The nomination process will remain open after the first group of sites has been accepted. Nominations will be accepted on a rolling basis, with formal updates to the List and public announcements provided on a periodic basis.

## DRAFT TIMELINE FOR INITIAL NOMINATION PROCESS:

### LATE NOVEMBER 2008:

Announce publication of *Framework for the National System of Marine Protected Areas of the United States of America* and beginning of nomination process.

MPA Center sends out nomination packages to federal, state and territorial MPA managing entities with potentially eligible existing sites.

### LATE JANUARY 2009:

Nomination forms due

### MID FEBRUARY 2009:

MPA Center makes list of nominated national system MPAs available for public review; notice in *Federal Register* and on [www.mpa.gov](http://www.mpa.gov).

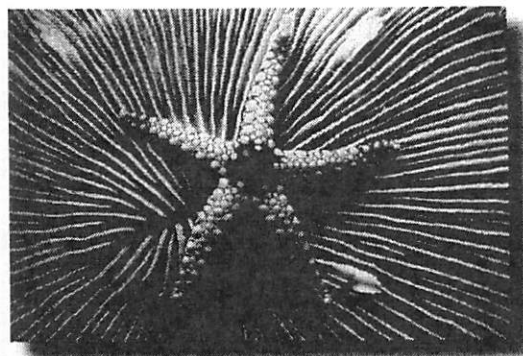
### LATE MARCH 2009:

MPA Center and managing entities review public comments received. Managing entities make final determination about which sites to nominate.

MPA Center reviews final nominations to ensure criteria are met.

### APRIL 2009:

MPA Center notifies the managing entities of accepted sites. NOAA and DOI make announcement of first sites to join the National System of MPAs. Official List of National System sites posted on [www.mpa.gov](http://www.mpa.gov).



For more information on the National System of Marine Protected Areas, visit [www.mpa.gov](http://www.mpa.gov)

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## Checklist for Evaluating Whether Existing Marine Protected Areas (MPAs) Meet Priority Conservation Objectives For The National System of MPAs

*To be filled out by managing programs based on existing knowledge and information.*

*Please refer to the provided instructions for more information.*

Site Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Contact Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Contact Number: \_\_\_\_\_

Contact Email: \_\_\_\_\_

| <u>Priority Conservation Objectives (PCOs)</u><br>Conserve and Manage:                         | (1)<br>Presence:<br>Site Contains<br>the PCO? | (2)<br>Goals:<br>Site Management<br>Goals or<br>Objectives<br>Address the PCO? | (3)<br>Tools:<br>Site Has<br>Protection or<br>Regulations<br>That Benefit the<br>PCO? | (4)<br>Citation for<br>Regulation in<br>Column 3 | (5)<br>Information<br>Source:<br>Site Manager,<br>URL, etc.)<br>Insert (A thru<br>G) |
|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|--------------------------------------------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| <b>Natural Heritage</b>                                                                        |                                               |                                                                                |                                                                                       |                                                  |                                                                                      |
| Key reproduction areas and nursery grounds                                                     | <input type="checkbox"/>                      | <input type="checkbox"/>                                                       | <input type="checkbox"/>                                                              |                                                  |                                                                                      |
| Key biogenic habitats                                                                          | <input type="checkbox"/>                      | <input type="checkbox"/>                                                       | <input type="checkbox"/>                                                              |                                                  |                                                                                      |
| Areas of high species and/or high diversity                                                    | <input type="checkbox"/>                      | <input type="checkbox"/>                                                       | <input type="checkbox"/>                                                              |                                                  |                                                                                      |
| Ecologically important geological features and enduring/recurring oceanographic features       | <input type="checkbox"/>                      | <input type="checkbox"/>                                                       | <input type="checkbox"/>                                                              |                                                  |                                                                                      |
| Critical habitat of threatened and endangered species                                          | <input type="checkbox"/>                      | <input type="checkbox"/>                                                       | <input type="checkbox"/>                                                              |                                                  |                                                                                      |
| Unique or rare species, habitats and associated communities                                    | <input type="checkbox"/>                      | <input type="checkbox"/>                                                       | <input type="checkbox"/>                                                              |                                                  |                                                                                      |
| Key areas for migratory species                                                                | <input type="checkbox"/>                      | <input type="checkbox"/>                                                       | <input type="checkbox"/>                                                              |                                                  |                                                                                      |
| Linked areas important to life histories                                                       | <input type="checkbox"/>                      | <input type="checkbox"/>                                                       | <input type="checkbox"/>                                                              |                                                  |                                                                                      |
| Key areas that provide compatible opportunities for education and research                     | <input type="checkbox"/>                      | <input type="checkbox"/>                                                       | <input type="checkbox"/>                                                              |                                                  |                                                                                      |
| <b>Cultural Heritage</b>                                                                       |                                               |                                                                                |                                                                                       |                                                  |                                                                                      |
| Key cultural and historic resources listed on the National Register of Historic Places (NRHP)  | <input type="checkbox"/>                      | <input type="checkbox"/>                                                       | <input type="checkbox"/>                                                              |                                                  |                                                                                      |
| Key cultural historic resources determined eligible for the NRHP or listed on a State Register | <input type="checkbox"/>                      | <input type="checkbox"/>                                                       | <input type="checkbox"/>                                                              |                                                  |                                                                                      |
| Key cultural sites that are paramount to a culture's identity and/or survival                  | <input type="checkbox"/>                      | <input type="checkbox"/>                                                       | <input type="checkbox"/>                                                              |                                                  |                                                                                      |
| Key cultural and historic sites that may be threatened                                         | <input type="checkbox"/>                      | <input type="checkbox"/>                                                       | <input type="checkbox"/>                                                              |                                                  |                                                                                      |
| Key cultural and historic sites that can be utilized for heritage tourism                      | <input type="checkbox"/>                      | <input type="checkbox"/>                                                       | <input type="checkbox"/>                                                              |                                                  |                                                                                      |
| Key cultural and historic sites that are under-represented                                     | <input type="checkbox"/>                      | <input type="checkbox"/>                                                       | <input type="checkbox"/>                                                              |                                                  |                                                                                      |
| <b>Sustainable Production</b>                                                                  |                                               |                                                                                |                                                                                       |                                                  |                                                                                      |
| Key reproduction areas, including larval sources and nursery grounds                           | <input type="checkbox"/>                      | <input type="checkbox"/>                                                       | <input type="checkbox"/>                                                              |                                                  |                                                                                      |
| Key areas that sustain or restore high priority fishing grounds                                | <input type="checkbox"/>                      | <input type="checkbox"/>                                                       | <input type="checkbox"/>                                                              |                                                  |                                                                                      |
| Key areas for maintaining natural age/sex structure of important harvestable species           | <input type="checkbox"/>                      | <input type="checkbox"/>                                                       | <input type="checkbox"/>                                                              |                                                  |                                                                                      |
| Key foraging grounds                                                                           | <input type="checkbox"/>                      | <input type="checkbox"/>                                                       | <input type="checkbox"/>                                                              |                                                  |                                                                                      |
| Key areas that mitigate the impacts of bycatch                                                 | <input type="checkbox"/>                      | <input type="checkbox"/>                                                       | <input type="checkbox"/>                                                              |                                                  |                                                                                      |
| Key areas that provide compatible opportunities for education and research                     | <input type="checkbox"/>                      | <input type="checkbox"/>                                                       | <input type="checkbox"/>                                                              |                                                  |                                                                                      |

**Legend for (5) Information Sources (Indicate all that apply A-G)**

- |                                |                        |
|--------------------------------|------------------------|
| A. Site Management Plan        | E. Program Web Site    |
| B. Code of Federal Regulations | F. Scientific Paper(s) |
| C. Code of State Regulations   | G. Other               |
| D. Site Manager                |                        |

Note: The National Marine Protected Areas Center has reviewed the MPA Inventory and provided a list of potentially eligible sites to MPA Programs to invite them to nominate these sites by submitting this checklist. Potentially eligible sites are those that meet the criteria for 1) meeting the definition of an MPA; and 2) having a management plan. See attached instructions for details on completing this checklist for the priority conservation objectives component.

**Instructions and Definitions**  
**Checklist for Evaluating Whether Existing Marine Protected Areas (MPAs)**  
**Meet Priority Conservation Objectives of the National System of MPAs**

**November 2008**

The National Marine Protected Area Center (MPAC) invites you to complete the enclosed checklist for your program's potentially eligible marine protected area(s) (MPA) for nomination of the site(s) into the National System of MPAs. A list of sites that the MPA Center has determined to meet most of the national system eligibility criteria has been enclosed with this nomination package. This checklist provides information on the remaining eligibility criteria, contribution to the national system's priority conservation objectives. One form should be submitted for each potentially eligible site that the Program wishes to nominate.

The checklist should be completed by the managing agency of the MPA, in consultation with any other entities with management responsibilities for that site. The managing agency has the ultimate responsibility for nominating their sites to the national system. Non-governmental organizations or members of the public wishing to nominate sites will be referred to the managing agency.

The initial deadline for nominations is January 30, 2009. (Nominations will be accepted on a rolling basis with an annual announcement thereafter.) For further information about the National System of MPAs please refer to [www.mpa.gov](http://www.mpa.gov) and the *Framework for Developing the National System of Marine Protected Areas of the United States of America (November 2008)* For questions about completing the checklist please contact Lauren Wenzel at 301-563-1136 or [Lauren.Wenzel@noaa.gov](mailto:Lauren.Wenzel@noaa.gov)

**Instructions for completing the Priority Conservation Objectives Checklist**

- Please read all instructions carefully and refer to the definitions below for further clarification.
- The checklist should be completed electronically in the attached Excel spreadsheet and emailed to: [Lauren.Wenzel@noaa.gov](mailto:Lauren.Wenzel@noaa.gov).
- Please fill in the name of the site. Use a separate checklist for each site.
- Please fill in your name or the name of the appropriate contact person regarding the site and the answers on the checklist.
- Please fill in the telephone number and email for the contact person
- Mark an X in each box where your answer to the question in columns (1)-(3) is a YES,
  - X = Yes



- Leave the box blank if the answer to the question in columns (1)-(3) is a NO.
  - leave blank = No
- For column (4) please enter letter(s) A-G. A legend is provided on the checklist for descriptions of A-G.
  - A. Site Management Plan
  - B. Code of Federal Regulations
  - C. Code of State Regulations
  - D. Site Manager
  - E. Program Web Site
  - F. Scientific Paper(s)
  - G. Other

**Checklist for Evaluating Whether Existing MPAs Meet National System  
Priority Conservation Objectives (PCOs) Column Definitions**

**Note:** The Program must answer "YES" to questions 1, 2, and 3 to meet the eligibility criteria for contributing to a PCO. Question 4 provides additional information about the site to the MPA Center. Information on your Program's sites is a very valuable addition to the MPA Inventory. Even if you are not able to answer "YES" to all three questions, please answer the questions for each PCO in relation to your site.

**(1) PRESENCE: Site Contains the PCO?** Referencing the Priority Conservation Objective (PCO) definitions below, are there geographic areas within the site boundary that meet the definition described by the PCO? If the site meets this PCO mark an X for YES. If the site does not meet the PCO leave the space blank.

**(2) GOALS: Site Management Goals or Objectives Address the PCO?** If the site management goals and/or objectives explicitly focus on the PCO mark an X for YES. If the site does not meet the PCO leave the space blank.

**(3) TOOLS: Site has Protection or Regulations that Benefit the PCO?** If the site has protections or regulations of your program that directly target the PCO mark an X for YES. If there are no such protections or regulations, leave the space blank. Your answer should reflect the protections and regulations established by your program for your site, not other authorities that may occur within your site. Do not answer YES if your site is protected by the regulations of another agency. For example, if a National Marine Sanctuary formally adopts a state or federal fisheries regulation, then the site should answer YES to relevant PCOs for this question because those regulations are part of its program. However, if the regulation has not been formally adopted by the Sanctuary but applies there, the answer should be NO. As another example, if regulations for a National Estuarine Research Reserve are resource specific, rather than site-specific, but are formally networked and referenced in the designation document

for the reserve or some other subsequent legal authority, then the answer for the relevant PCOs would be YES. Education and research programs are non-regulatory and are therefore non-applicable.

**(4) Citation for Regulation in Column 3.** If you answered YES in column 3, cite the federal or state regulation here.

**(5) Information Source (Insert A-G, reference legend provided).** What is the most applicable information source for this PCO within your site that the Marine Protected Area Center should reference? (Indicate all that apply.)

- A. Site Management Plan
- B. Code of Federal Regulations
- C. Code of State Regulations
- D. Site Manager
- E. Program Web Site
- F. Scientific Paper(s)
- G. Other

## Priority Conservation Objective Definitions

*Note: The intent of these definitions is to be broad enough to encompass a diversity of areas within the marine, coastal and estuarine environments. Many definitions are intended to overlap.*

**Key** is defined as controlling or important. When considering the objective, an area is “key” if it directly controls or is important to the objective named.

**Goal 1: For Natural Heritage Marine Resources** - Advance comprehensive conservation and management of the nation’s biological communities, habitats, ecosystems, and processes, and the ecological services, uses, and values they provide to present and future generations through ecosystem-based MPA approaches.

### **Priority Conservation Objectives for Goal 1: Conserve and manage:**

- **Key reproduction areas and nursery grounds:** These areas may include marine, estuarine, and coastal sites where resting, hauling-out, mating, spawning, loafing, feeding, or foraging take place that is important to marine species reproduction and nursery behaviors such as mating, rearing, feeding, weaning, etc.
- **Key biogenic habitats:** Habitat created by a living organism. Some examples include sea grasses, macroalgae, ascidians, sponges, bivalve reefs, corals, hydrothermal vents and kelp forests.
- **Areas of high species and/or habitat diversity:** Areas that have high species diversity or habitat diversity within the marine, coastal and estuarine environments. Species diversity is defined as a variety of species present in a given area. Habitat diversity is defined as a variety of habitats present in a given area.
- **Ecologically important geological features and enduring/recurring oceanographic features:** Ecologically important geological formations within the marine, estuarine and coastal environment and oceanographic features that are relatively consistent in form and location. Marine or coastal geologic features can include, but are not limited to, seamounts, banks, canyons, and rocky outcrops. Ecologically important enduring/recurring oceanographic features can include, but are not limited to currents, transition zones and water masses.
- **Critical habitat of threatened and endangered species:** Defined as a habitat type or location that is critical or essential to a threatened or endangered species as defined by the Endangered Species Act.

- **Unique or rare species, habitats and associated communities:** Associated communities can mean any marine, coastal or estuarine area that supports a unique or rare species or habitat.
- **Key areas for migratory species:** Areas that have been identified or are thought to be important to migratory species (including fish, birds, mammals, etc).
- **Linked areas important to life histories:** Linked areas are those locations a species might use at different life stages that are important to the maintenance of a particular species' life cycle and should be protected as a network.
- **Key areas that provide compatible opportunities for education and research:** Areas that are important to education and research can include but are not limited to formal and informal education, interpretation and study locations.

**Goal 2: For Cultural Heritage Marine Resources** - Advance comprehensive conservation and management of cultural resources that reflect the nation's maritime history and traditional cultural connections to the sea, as well as the uses and values they provide to present and future generations through ecosystem-based MPA approaches. Under the cultural heritage goal, only MPAs with submerged cultural heritage resources are eligible for the national system. Cultural resources associated with the marine environment that are not submerged, such as lighthouses, are not included within this definition.

**Priority Conservation Objectives for Goal 2 – Conserve and manage:**

- **Key cultural and historic resources listed on the National Register of Historic Places (NRHP).** The resource(s) is (are) listed on the NRHP. Standards developed by the National Park Service for inclusion of a cultural resource in the National Register of Historical Places (NRHP) require that the cultural marine resources within those MPAs must be historic, defined as at least 50 years of age, unless otherwise determined to be unique to the nation's maritime history or traditional connections to the sea as defined by the NRHP. In addition, the resources must also meet the following NRHP evaluation criteria:

*“The quality of significance in American history, architecture, archeology, engineering, and culture is present in districts, sites, buildings, structures, and objects that possess integrity of location, design, setting, materials, workmanship, feeling, and association, and:*

*A. That are associated with events that have made a significant contribution to the broad patterns of our history; or*

*B. That are associated with the lives of significant persons in our past; or*

*C. That embody the distinctive characteristics of a type, period, or method of construction, or that represent the work of a master, or that possess high artistic values, or that represent a significant and distinguishable entity whose components may lack individual distinction; or*

*D. That have yielded or may be likely to yield, information important in history or prehistory.”*

- ***Key cultural and historic resources determined eligible for the NRHP or listed on a State Register.*** If the cultural or historic resource(s) is (are) determined eligible for the NRHP or is listed on the State Register. This determination is made by the State Historic Preservation Officer. See criteria for the NRHP listed under the bullet above.
- ***Key cultural sites that are paramount to a culture's identity and/or survival.*** Sites determined by a culture to be paramount to that culture's identity and/or survival. This includes sacred places identified by tribal or community officials representing Native Americans, Pacific Islanders, or Native Alaskans. Federally recognized tribes have a Tribal Historic Preservation Officer who may be responsible for this determination.
- ***Key cultural and historic sites that may be threatened.*** A cultural and/or historic site that is threatened by anthropogenic or natural harm.
- ***Key cultural and historic sites that can be utilized for heritage tourism.*** A site that can be used for tourism about cultural and/or historic heritage.
- ***Key cultural and historic sites that are underrepresented.*** If a particular cultural and/or historic sites is underrepresented within the National System. This objective will be used to guide gap analysis for cultural resources, and once there are cultural resource sites within the national system, to review them for representativeness.

**Goal 3: For Sustainable Production Marine Resources** - Advance comprehensive conservation and management of the nation's renewable living resources and their habitats (including, but not limited to, spawning, mating, and nursery grounds, and areas established to minimize incidental bycatch of species) and the social, cultural, and economic values and services they provide to present and future generations through ecosystem-based MPA approaches.

**Priority Conservation Objectives for Goal 3 – Conserve and manage:**

- **Key reproduction areas, including larval sources and nursery grounds** These areas may include, marine, estuarine, and coastal sites where resting, hauling-out, mating, spawning, loafing, feeding, or foraging take place that is important to marine species reproduction and nursery behaviors such as mating, rearing, feeding, weaning, etc.
- **Key areas that sustain or restore high priority fishing grounds.** Areas that have been determined to be vital to maintaining or bringing back high priority fishing grounds. High priority fishing grounds are determined by historic catch data, scientific study, or expert knowledge.
- **Key areas for maintaining natural age/sex structure of important harvestable species.** The natural age and sex structure of species can be altered by fishing effort. This refers to areas that are important to maintain or restore this structure. Important harvestable species are those species harvested for consumption or for the economic market.
- **Key foraging grounds.** Important foraging grounds that have been determined to be valuable as feeding areas for resource production.
- **Key areas that mitigate the impacts of bycatch.** Bycatch is the unintentional or unanticipated take of non-targeted species or individuals. These areas are important for decreasing the impacts of bycatch within the marine, coastal, and estuarine environments.
- **Key areas that provide compatible opportunities for education and research.** Areas that are important to education and research can include, but are not limited, to formal and informal education, interpretation, and study locations.

**Definitions of Terms**  
**Program Summary Sheet – Potentially Eligible MPAs for the**  
**National System of Marine Protected Areas**

**Background**

This glossary provides definitions of terms used in the Program Summary Sheets developed by the National Marine Protected Areas Center for each federal MPA program, or state/territory. The Program Summary Sheets are derived from the MPA Center's MPA Inventory, and include MPAs that are potentially eligible for the national system of MPAs because they meet most of the entry criteria specified in the *Framework for a National System of Marine Protected Areas of the United States of America*. As part of the nomination process for the national system of MPAs, Program Summary Sheets are made available to each managing agency with eligible sites so that the managing agency can determine which, if any, sites it wishes to nominate. More information on the nomination process and the MPA Inventory is available on-line at [www.mpa.gov](http://www.mpa.gov).

**How to Make Corrections to the Program Summary Sheets**

Please make corrections to the Program Summary Sheets on the attached Excel spreadsheet for your MPA program(s). Note changes in the spreadsheet by highlighting the appropriate row. If you have questions, or do not have a copy of the Excel spreadsheet, please contact: Lauren Wenzel at [Lauren.wenzel@noaa.gov](mailto:Lauren.wenzel@noaa.gov) or 301-563-1136.

**GLOSSARY**

**Site Name**

The official name of the MPA or zone.

**Management Agency**

MPAs are designated and managed at all levels of government by a variety of agencies including parks, fisheries, wildlife, natural resource and historic resource departments, among others. U.S. MPAs have been established by well over 100 legal authorities, with some federal and state agencies managing more than one MPA program, each with its own legal purpose.

In certain instances, authority is formally shared among two or more entities. In such cases, the agency at the higher level of government should be listed. For example, those sites dually managed by NOAA Fisheries Service and by Regional Fishery Management Councils should list NOAA Fisheries as the managing agency. Likewise, those sites dually managed by NOAA National Estuarine Research Reserve System (NERRS) and by a state agency should list NERRS as the managing agency. If no distinction can be made, list all managing agencies.

**Level of Protection**

MPAs in the U.S. vary widely in the level and type of legal protections afforded to the site's natural and cultural resources and ecological processes. Any MPA, or

management zone within a larger MPA, can be characterized by one of the following six levels of protection, which will directly influence its effects on the environment and human uses. Please note that site level information provided, reflects the lowest level of protection that exists for all management zones of the MPA.

- **Uniform Multiple-Use (UML):** MPAs or zones with a consistent level of protection and allowable activities, including certain extractive uses, across the entire protected area.  
*Examples: Uniform multiple-use MPAs are among the most common types in the U.S., and include many sanctuaries, national and state parks, and cultural resource MPAs.*
- **Zoned Multiple-Use (ZML):** MPAs that allow some extractive activities throughout the entire site, but that use marine zoning to allocate specific uses to compatible places or times in order to reduce user conflicts and adverse impacts.  
*Examples: Zoned multiple-use MPAs are increasingly common in U.S. waters, including some marine sanctuaries, national parks, national wildlife refuges, and state MPAs.*
- **Zoned Multiple-Use With No-Take Area(s) (ZNL):** Multiple-use MPAs that contain at least one legally established management zone in which all resource extraction is prohibited.  
*Examples: Zoned no-take MPAs are emerging gradually in U.S. waters, primarily in some national marine sanctuaries and national parks.*
- **No-Take (NTL):** MPAs or zones that allow human access and even some potentially harmful uses, but that totally prohibit the extraction or significant destruction of natural or cultural resources.  
*Examples: No-take MPAs are relatively rare in the U.S., occurring mainly in state MPAs, in some federal areas closed for either fisheries management or the protection of endangered species, or as small special use (research) zones within larger multiple-use MPAs. Other commonly used terms to connote no-take MPAs include marine reserves or ecological reserves.*
- **No Impact (NIL):** MPAs or zones that allow human access, but that prohibit all activities that could harm the site's resources or disrupt the ecological or cultural services they provide. Examples of activities typically prohibited in no-impact MPAs include resource extraction of any kind (fishing, collecting, or mining); discharge of pollutants; disposal or installation of materials; and alteration or disturbance of submerged cultural resources, biological assemblages, ecological interactions, physiochemical environmental features, protected habitats, or the natural processes that support them.  
*Examples: No- impact MPAs are rare in U.S. waters, occurring mainly as small isolated MPAs or in small research-only zones within larger multiple-use MPAs. Other commonly used terms include fully protected marine (or ecological) reserves.*
- **No Access (NAL):** MPAs or zones that restrict all human access to the area in order to prevent potential ecological disturbance, unless specifically permitted for designated special uses such as research, monitoring or restoration.



*Examples: No-access MPAs are extremely rare in the U.S., occurring mainly as small research-only zones within larger multiple-use MPAs. Other commonly used terms for no access MPAs include wilderness areas or marine preserves.*

## **Permanence**

Not all MPAs are permanently protected. Many sites differ in how long their protections remain in effect, which may in turn profoundly affect their ultimate effects on ecosystems and users.

- **Permanent (PP):** MPAs or zones whose legal authorities provide some level of protection to the site *in perpetuity* for future generations, unless reversed by unanticipated future legislation or regulatory actions.  
*Examples: Permanent MPAs include most national marine sanctuaries and all national parks.*
- **Conditional (CP):** MPAs or zones that have the potential, and often the expectation, to persist administratively over time, but whose legal authority has a finite duration and must be actively renewed or ratified based on periodic governmental reviews of performance.  
*Examples: Conditional MPAs include some national marine sanctuaries with 'sunset clauses' applying to portions of the MPA in state waters*
- **Temporary (TP):** MPAs that are designed to address relatively short-term conservation and/or management needs by protecting a specific habitat or species for a finite duration, with no expectation or specific mechanism for renewal.  
*Examples: Temporary MPAs include some fisheries closures focusing on rapidly recovering species (e.g. scallops).*

## **Constancy**

Not all MPAs provide year-round protection to the protected habitat and resources. Three degrees of constancy throughout the year are seen among U.S. MPAs.

- **Year-Round (YP):** MPAs or zones that provide constant protection to the site throughout the year.  
*Examples: Year-round MPAs include all marine sanctuaries, national parks, refuges, monuments, and some fisheries sites.*
- **Seasonal (SP):** MPAs or zones that protect specific habitats and resources, but only during fixed seasons or periods when human uses may disrupt ecologically sensitive seasonal processes such as spawning, breeding, or feeding aggregations.  
*Examples: Seasonal MPAs include some fisheries and endangered species closures around sensitive habitats.*
- **Rotating (RP):** MPAs that cycle serially and predictably among a set of fixed geographic areas in order to meet short-term conservation or management goals

*Examples: Rotating MPAs are still rare in the U.S. They include some dynamic fisheries closures created for the purpose of serially recovering a suite of localized population to harvestable levels.*

## **Protection Focus**

MPAs in the U.S. vary widely in the ecological scale of the protection they provide. MPA conservation targets range from entire ecosystems and their associated biophysical processes, to focal habitats, species, or other resources deemed to be of economic or ecological importance. The ecological scale of a site's conservation target generally reflects its underlying legal authorities and, in turn, strongly influences the area's design, siting, management approach, and likely effects.

- **Ecosystem (ES):** MPAs or zones whose legal authorities and management measures are intended to protect all of the components and processes of the ecosystem within its boundaries.  
*Examples: Ecosystem-scale MPAs include most marine sanctuaries, national parks and national monuments.*
- **Focal Resource (FS):** MPAs or zones whose legal authorities and management measures specifically target a particular habitat, species complex, or single resource (either natural or cultural).  
*Examples: Focal-resource MPAs include many fisheries and cultural resource sites, including some national wildlife refuges and marine sanctuaries.*

## **Primary Conservation Focus**

Most MPAs have legally established goals, conservation objectives, and intended purpose(s). Common examples include MPAs created to conserve biodiversity in support of research and education; to protect benthic habitat in order to recover over-fished stocks; and to protect and interpret shipwrecks for maritime education. These descriptors of an MPA are reflected in the site's conservation focus, which represents the characteristics of the area that the MPA was established to conserve. The conservation focus, in turn, influences many fundamental aspects of the site, including its design, location, size, scale, management strategies and potential contribution to surrounding ecosystems. U.S. MPAs may have more than one conservation focus, but generally address one as a Primary Conservation Focus.

- **Natural Heritage (NH):** MPAs or zones established and managed wholly or in part to sustain, conserve, restore, and understand the protected area's natural biodiversity, populations, communities, habitats, and ecosystems; the ecological and physical processes upon which they depend; and, the ecological services, human uses and values they provide to this and future generations.  
*Examples: Natural Heritage MPAs include most national marine sanctuaries, national parks, national wildlife refuges, and many state MPAs.*

- **Cultural Heritage (CH):** MPAs or zones established and managed wholly or in part to protect and understand submerged cultural resources that reflect the nation's maritime history and traditional cultural connections to the sea.  
*Examples: Cultural Heritage MPAs include some national marine sanctuaries, national and state parks, and national historic monuments.*
  
- **Sustainable Production (SP):** MPAs or zones established and managed wholly or in part with the explicit purpose of supporting the continued extraction of renewable living resources (such as fish, shellfish, plants, birds, or mammals) that live within the MPA, or that are exploited elsewhere but depend upon the protected area's habitat for essential aspects of their ecology or life history (feeding, spawning, mating, or nursery grounds).  
*Examples: Sustainable Production MPAs include some national wildlife refuges and many federal and state fisheries areas, including those established to recover over-fished stocks, protect by-catch species, or protect essential fish habitats.*

### Fishing Restriction

MPAs may restrict fishing to achieve their conservation objectives.

- **No Restrictions to Fishing (NoRstr):** MPAs or zones place no restrictions on any type of fishing throughout the site, including both commercial and recreational.
  
- **All Fishing Prohibited (ProAll):** MPAs or zones prohibit any type of fishing throughout the site, including both commercial and recreational.  
*Example: No-take MPAs, which are relatively rare in the U.S., occurring mainly in state MPAs, in some federal areas closed for either fisheries management or the protection of endangered species, or as small special use (research) zones within larger multiple-use MPAs. Other commonly used terms to connote no-take MPAs include marine reserves or ecological reserves.*
  
- **Commercial Fishing Prohibited (ComPro):** MPAs or zones prohibit any type of commercial fishing. Recreational fishing may be allowed.  
*Example: Year-round MPAs, including all marine sanctuaries, national parks, refuges, monuments, and some fisheries sites.*
  
- **Recreational Fishing Prohibited (RecPro):** MPAs or zones prohibit any type of recreational fishing. Commercial fishing may be allowed.  
*Example: Permanent MPAs, including most national marine sanctuaries and all national parks.*
  
- **All Fishing Restricted (ResAll):** MPAs or zones place some type of restriction on all types of fishing, including both commercial and recreational. The level of restriction may vary throughout the MPA according to different zones or areas.  
*Example: Zoned multiple-use MPAs, which are increasingly common in U.S. waters, including some marine sanctuaries, national parks, national wildlife refuges, and state MPAs.*

- **Commercial Fishing Restricted (ComRes):** MPAs or zones place some type of restriction on commercial fishing, which might vary throughout the MPA according to different zones or areas. Recreational fishing may be unrestricted. *Example: Rotating MPAs, which are still rare in the U.S. They include some dynamic fisheries closures created for the purpose of serially recovering a suite of localized population to harvestable levels.*
- **Recreational Fishing Restricted (RecRes):** MPAs or zones place some type of restriction on recreational fishing, which might vary throughout the MPA according to different zones or areas. Commercial fishing may be unrestricted. *Example: Seasonal MPAs, including some fisheries and endangered species closures around sensitive habitats.*
- **Recreational Fishing Prohibited and Commercial Fishing Restricted (RecProComRes):** MPAs or zones prohibit any type of recreational fishing and place some type of restriction on commercial fishing. *Example: A Sanctuary that includes multiple zones or specified areas within which some areas recreational fishing is prohibited and commercial fishing is restricted.*
- **Commercial Fishing Prohibited and Recreational Fishing Restricted (ComProRecRes):** MPAs or zones prohibit any type of commercial fishing and place some type of restriction on recreational fishing. *Example: A Sanctuary that includes multiple zones or specified areas within which some areas commercial fishing is prohibited and recreational fishing is restricted.*
- **Unknown Restrictions to Fishing (Unknown):** Restrictions to fishing are unknown.

### Management Plan Type

To be eligible for nomination to the national system, an MPA must have a management plan that has been developed at one of the following scales:

- a site-specific MPA management plan (SS),
- part of a larger MPA programmatic management plan (PR),
- component of a broader, non-MPA programmatic management plan (e.g., fishery management plan [FMP], species management plan [SMP] or habitat management plan [HMP]), or
- a verbal or written community agreement (CA)

DE = Designation. Management goals, monitoring and evaluation and other activities are listed in a designation document (e.g., state or federal law or regulation, Executive Order, etc.), rather than a separate management plan. This is considered to meet the management plan requirement.

D = Draft management plan. Considered to meet the management plan requirement.

P = Planned. Management plan is planned, but not yet in draft. Not considered to meet the management plan requirement.

N = no management plan.

The management plan must include both of the following components:

- a. specified conservation goals, and
- b. a process or requirement for monitoring and evaluation of goals.

Sites were considered to meet (a) above if they had one or more clearly stated goals, purposes, or objectives. This could include a statement in a management plan, or another document, such as the authorizing statute.

Sites were considered to meet (b) above if their plan authorizes or calls for monitoring their conservation goal. Not all elements of a site's conservation goals must be monitored to meet this criterion. For example, if the site conservation goal was ecosystem protection and water quality was being monitored, then a "yes" was indicated.

Monitoring may be done by the site or by any program associated with the goals or objectives of the site. For example, stock assessments conducted to evaluate the health of a fishery were considered to be monitoring for MPAs established to conserve or manage that fishery because they add to the scientific understanding of the contribution of the MPA to the health of that fishery. The MPA Center did not determine whether such monitoring and evaluation activities were actually occurring, only that they were called for in an official management plan or other site authority.

#### **GIS Data**

Note whether the MPA or site has available GIS data (Yes=have GIS data; No=no GIS data).

#### **Vessel Access**

Note whether the MPA or site allows vessel access (Yes=allows vessel access; Restricted=vessel access is restricted; No=vessel access is prohibited).

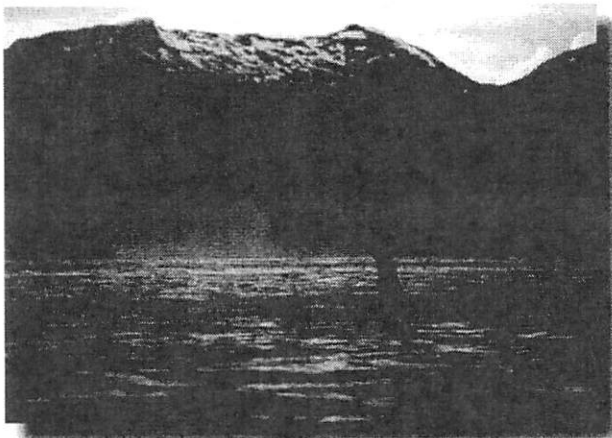
#### **Anchoring**

Note whether the MPA or site allows anchoring (Yes=allows anchoring; Restricted=anchoring is restricted; No=anchoring is prohibited).

# BENEFITS

## of a National System of Marine Protected Areas

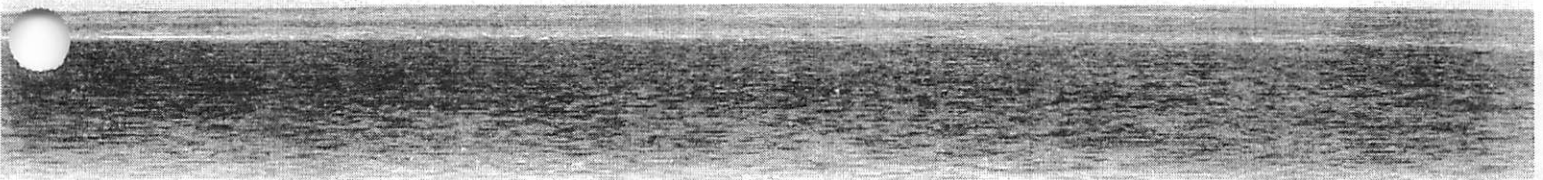
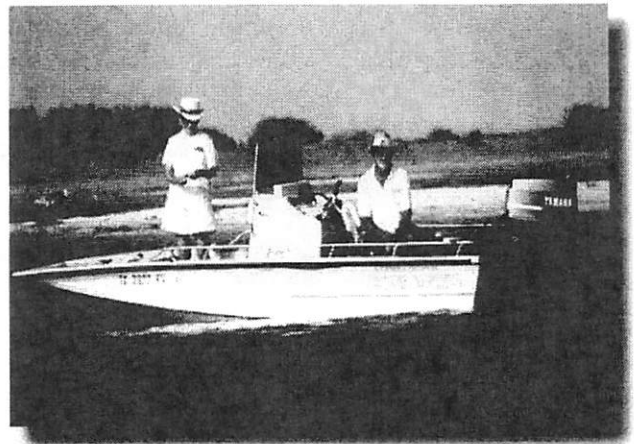
The national system of MPAs provides the first comprehensive mechanism for coordinating MPAs managed by diverse federal, state, territorial, tribal and local agencies to work toward national conservation objectives. The system will benefit the nation's collective conservation efforts and participating MPAs, providing those sites with a means to address issues beyond their boundaries. The following list reflects some of the potential benefits from the creation and effective management of the national system.



### Benefits to Participating MPAs

- **Enhancing Stewardship** - The national system will help protect MPAs against the harmful effects of activities through enhanced regional coordination, public awareness, site management capacity, and recognition of these MPAs as important conservation areas.
- **Building Partnerships** - By establishing a mechanism for coordination around common conservation objectives, the national system provides opportunities for MPAs to work together more effectively. The system will also build partnerships between member MPAs and related ocean management initiatives, such as ocean observing systems, ocean mapping, navigational charting, and others.

- **Increasing Support for Marine Conservation** - The designation of MPAs as part of the national system can enhance the stature of these sites within their managing entities and their local communities, as well as nationally and internationally. This designation will also build support for investment in national system MPAs. National system MPAs may benefit from the same type of support and recognition that MPAs who joined international networks have received; such as the World Heritage Sites, Ramsar Wetlands, or other U.S. national level systems like the National Estuarine Research Reserves, National Marine Sanctuaries, National Parks and Wildlife Refuges.
- **More Effective and Efficient Outreach** - The national system will be an important mechanism for increased public awareness and understanding of the importance of marine resources and conservation efforts. Coordinated outreach efforts will increase the impact of outreach by individual MPAs, and could result in cost savings. Including eligible, but currently little known, sites in the national system could bring increased recognition and visibility to these areas.
- **Promoting Cultural Heritage** - Participation in the national system elevates and enhances the recognition of and appreciation for the cultural heritage value of MPA sites, an often overlooked focus of marine conservation.
- **Protecting MPA Resources** - Section 5 of Executive Order 13158 calls for federal agencies to "avoid harm" to the natural and cultural resources protected by MPAs that are part of the national system. Federal agencies are required to identify their activities that affect the natural and cultural resources protected by individual national system MPAs, and, to the extent permitted by law and the maximum extent practicable, avoid harm to those resources. These activities are to be accomplished through existing resource management or review authorities.



## Benefits to the Nation

- **Protecting Representative Ecosystems and Resources** - The national system will significantly boost ongoing efforts to preserve the natural and cultural heritage of the United States by ensuring that the diverse characteristics of the nation's seas are conserved for future generations in a systematic way. The representation of all ecosystem or habitat types in all the nation's marine regions, which includes the Great Lakes, within a single system will help ensure a full complement of biodiversity, habitat types and representative cultural resources.



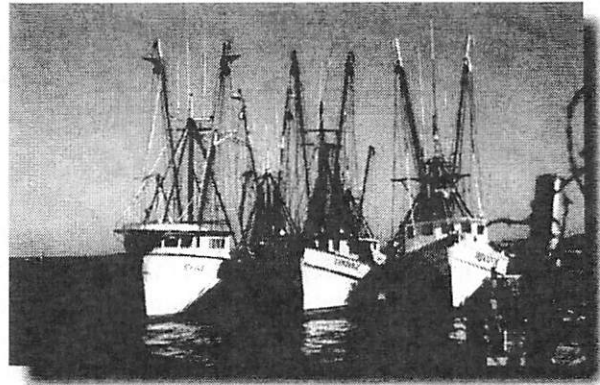
- **Enhancing Connectivity Among MPAs** - The national system provides an opportunity to identify and establish networks of MPAs that are ecologically connected. An ecological network of MPAs is a set of discrete MPAs within a region that are functionally connected through dispersal of eggs and larvae or movement of juveniles and adults. These networks would enhance linkages between sources and sinks for many marine organisms, which may be essential for some local populations to persist—an increasingly serious challenge in the face of climate change and other impacts. Planning and analysis at the national and regional scales provides an opportunity to address connectivity for many different marine organisms at different spatial scales.



- **Identifying Gaps in Current Protection of Ocean Resources** - The national system will help identify and highlight gaps in protection of important places where MPAs may be an appropriate tool to meet priority conservation objectives. Regional gap analyses will help inform future planning efforts to create MPAs to fill the identified gaps.
- **Providing New Educational Opportunities** - The creation of the national system will enhance opportunities for natural and cultural heritage education. This may include onsite education and interpretation, as well as classroom and web-based resources. The national system will be a valuable tool for educating students and visitors about the nation's diverse marine and coastal ecosystems and cultural resources. It will also provide a mechanism to share educational materials about resources or management approaches among MPAs.
- **Enhancing Research Opportunities** - The national system will provide scientists and managers with more opportunities to understand the dynamics of marine ecosystems and human interactions with them under different management regimes. Increased awareness of the national system may lead to additional funding for research.
- **Improved International Coordination** - By focusing on national objectives, and providing a comprehensive picture of the nation's MPA coverage and focus, the national system will promote more effective links with international MPA programs, encourage the exchange of expertise, and enhance conservation efforts across international boundaries.

## Benefits to Ocean Stakeholders

- **Sustaining Fisheries** - One goal of the national system is supporting sustainable production of harvested marine resources. The national system provides a mechanism to coordinate fisheries management activities by regional fisheries management councils, inter-state fisheries commissions, states and tribes with other conservation efforts at the regional scale. This contributes to species recovery, spillover and seeding effects, habitat protection, conservation of old-growth age structure and genetic diversity, as well as providing improved information about access opportunities.
- **Transparent Process for MPA Planning** - The national system outlines a science-based, transparent process for identifying gaps in current protection where new or enhanced MPAs may be needed to address resource conservation needs. The national system does not provide any new authority for establishing or managing MPAs, but lays out design and implementation principles that will guide the development of the system. These include a commitment to balanced stakeholder involvement, respecting local and indigenous values, and adaptive management.
- **Better Planning for Diverse Ocean Uses** - Identifying national system MPAs, as well as identifying areas important for conservation through regional gap analyses, will help inform regional-scale planning and decision making associated with a wide range of ocean uses. This would also contribute to a more predictable regulatory environment for ocean industries.
- **Better Information on MPA Resources, Uses and Recreational Opportunities** - As part of the development of the national system, the MPA Center has developed a comprehensive database on the number, location and types of U.S. MPAs. This information will answer questions from visitors and other users, such as: "Where can I go fishing?" and "What is the purpose of my local MPA?"



## How the National System of MPAs Can Work for All of Us...

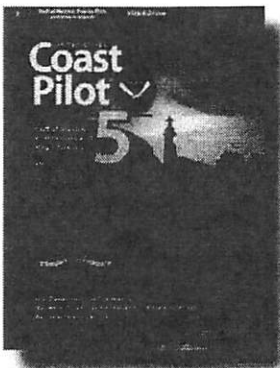
The National MPA Center is committed to focusing its efforts on projects and activities to strengthen MPAs and MPA programs, ocean and Great Lakes planning and management, and through them, the conservation of our Nation's natural and cultural marine heritage and the ecologically and economically sustainable use of the marine environment for future generations. Coordinated, cooperative work to achieve common conservation objectives is especially critical during these times of limited operating resources at all levels of government and the private sector. Priorities include:

- **Recognition for MPA Programs and Sites** - Recognition helps build public support for MPA programs. The national system will highlight participating MPA programs and sites on its web site, [www.mpa.gov](http://www.mpa.gov) -- an internationally recognized resource for MPA information. Participating programs will also receive a Communications Toolkit to assist them in their outreach efforts, and the right to use the national system identity on materials related to participating MPAs.



## How the National System of MPAs Can Work for All of Us... (cont'd)

- **Information for Regional Ocean Governance and MPA Planning and Management** - Information about protected areas, other closures, and ocean uses is critical for a wide range of ocean management decisions. The MPA Center has developed several national databases to address this need:
  - MPA Inventory - The only comprehensive national inventory of U.S. MPAs, the MPA Inventory includes information on nearly 1,700 U.S. MPAs, including GIS data for most sites.
  - "De Facto" MPA Inventory - Many areas are restricted for reasons other than conservation, such as military closures, safety zones, hazard areas and anchorages. The MPA Center has developed a national inventory of these federal "de facto" MPAs, which will be available on [www.mpa.gov](http://www.mpa.gov) in 2009.
  - Ocean Uses Atlas - The MPA Center is developing a comprehensive atlas of consumptive and non-consumptive ocean uses for California, and is seeking partnerships to expand this work in other states and regions.
  - MPA Virtual Library - Maintained on [www.mpa.gov](http://www.mpa.gov), the MPA Virtual Library provides searchable citations, articles, web sites and conferences on a wide range of MPA management and design issues.



- **Integration with Ocean and Coastal Management Programs** - The national system provides an opportunity to enhance our collective conservation efforts through the integration of MPA programs with other ocean management programs with complementary goals. For example, the MPA Federal Advisory Committee is currently working on recommendations for integrating the national system with the Integrated Ocean Observing System (IOOS). The needs of the national system can help guide the future development of IOOS, and MPAs in the national system can serve as platforms for ocean observations. The MPA Center is also working with NOAA's Office of Coast Survey to include MPAs in navigational pockets for mariners and recreational users, such as Coast Pilot, Pocket Charts, and electronic navigational charts.

▪ **Facilitation of Regional Assessments and Gap Analyses** - Identifying conservation gaps is a critical step toward achieving the conservation objectives of the national system. These gaps are areas in the ocean and Great Lakes that meet the conservation objectives of the national system but are not adequately protected to ensure their long-term viability. The MPA Center will work collaboratively with partners in each region to complete a gap analysis for U.S. marine ecosystems. These gap analyses can be used by existing federal, state, territorial, tribal and local MPA programs and other ocean and coastal managers to guide future effort to establish new MPAs, strengthen existing ones, or take other protection measures. The gap analysis process will begin on the West Coast (California, Oregon and Washington) in 2009-10.

- **International Linkages to Address Issues of Common Concern** - The national system will help connect regional, state and territorial MPA efforts with relevant international initiatives to address issues of common concern. For example, the North American MPA Network, an initiative of the Commission on Environmental Cooperation (U.S., Canada and Mexico) has focused on the Baja to Bering region, and will begin work in other regions in 2009. Projects include developing common indicators and condition reports from MPAs across the three countries, identification of priority conservation areas, mapping marine ecosystems, training, and technical assistance and exchanges.



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Department of Commerce • National Oceanic & Atmospheric Administration • National Marine Fisheries Service

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|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|--------------------------------------|
| <b><i>NATIONAL MARINE FISHERIES SERVICE POLICY DIRECTIVE 01-114-01</i></b><br><b><i>EFFECTIVE DATE: March 9, 2009</i></b>                  |                                      |
| <b><i>Fisheries Management</i></b>                                                                                                         |                                      |
| <b><i>Regional Fishery Management Council Consultation in MPA Nomination Process</i></b>                                                   |                                      |
| <b>NOTICE:</b> This publication is available at: <a href="http://www.nmfs.noaa.gov/directives/">http://www.nmfs.noaa.gov/directives/</a> . |                                      |
| <b>OPR:</b> F/SF (A. Risenhoover)<br><b>Type of Issuance:</b> Initial                                                                      | <b>Certified by:</b> F (J. Balsiger) |
| <b><i>SUMMARY OF REVISIONS:</i></b>                                                                                                        |                                      |

### 1.0 Introduction

In the United States and around the world, marine protected areas (MPAs) are increasingly recognized as an important and promising management tool for mitigating or buffering impacts to the world's oceans from human activities. Presidential Executive Order 13158 of May 26, 2000 (Order) calls for the development of a National System of Marine Protected Areas (National System) and directs the establishment of a National MPA Center within NOAA to lead its development and implementation. The Order requires collaboration with federal agencies as well as coastal states and territories, tribes, regional fishery management councils (Councils), and other entities as appropriate, including the MPA Federal Advisory Committee. (The collaborative process described in this policy applies only to sites established through conservation and management measures per the Magnuson-Stevens Fishery Conservation and Management Act, 16 U.S.C. §§ 1801 *et seq.* (MSA), as a result of Council action.)

The Order further specifies that the National System be scientifically based, comprehensive, and represent the nation's diverse marine ecosystems and natural and cultural resources.

The National System provides the first comprehensive mechanism for coordinating MPAs managed by diverse federal, state, territorial, tribal, and local agencies to work toward national conservation objectives. The National System will benefit the nation's collective conservation efforts and participating MPAs, providing those sites with a means to address issues beyond their boundaries. The National System should benefit participating MPAs by enhancing stewardship, building partnerships, increasing support for marine conservation, fostering more effective and efficient outreach, promoting cultural heritage, and protecting MPA resources. The National System should benefit the nation by protecting representative ecosystems and resources, enhancing connectivity among MPAs, identifying gaps in current protection of ocean resources, providing new educational opportunities, enhancing research opportunities, and improving international coordination.

The National System outlines a science-based, transparent process for identifying gaps in current protection efforts where new or enhanced MPAs may be needed to address resource conservation needs. Effective stakeholder review and consultation is critical to this process. The National System does not provide any new authority for establishing or managing MPAs, but lays out design and implementation principles that will guide the development of the system. These principles include a commitment to balanced stakeholder involvement, respect for local and indigenous values, and adaptive management.

Additional information about Marine Protected Areas, the National Framework for a National System of MPAs, and the nomination process can be found at: <http://www.mpa.gov>.

## 2.0 Objective

The objective of this policy directive is to establish the process for consulting with Councils:

1. on whether sites that were established under the authorities of the MSA as a result of Council action should be nominated to be included in the National System, and
2. when adding, modifying, or removing MPAs in the National System.

To provide a roadmap for building the National System, the Order calls for the development of a framework for a National System. The 2008 Framework for the National System of MPAs of the United States of America (Framework) is the result of a multi-year development effort. The Framework proposes a National System that is, initially, an assemblage of existing MPA sites, systems, and networks established and managed by federal, state, tribal, or local governments. The Framework outlines several key components of the National System, including:

- A set of overarching National System goals and priority conservation objectives;
- MPA eligibility criteria and other key definitions; and
- A nomination process for MPAs to be included in the National System.

MPA eligibility criteria are:

1. Meets the definition of an MPA as defined in the Framework.
2. Has a management plan (can be site-specific or part of a broader programmatic management plan; must have specified conservation goals and call for monitoring or evaluation of those goals).
3. Contributes to at least one priority conservation objective as listed in the Framework.
4. Cultural heritage MPAs must conform to criteria for the National Register of Historic Places.

Additional information about the Framework can be found at:  
[http://www.mpa.gov/national\\_system/final\\_framework\\_sup.html](http://www.mpa.gov/national_system/final_framework_sup.html)

## 3.0 Overview of Nomination Process

As established in the Framework, the nomination process includes the following steps:

1. The MPA Center will review sites in the U.S. MPA Inventory and identify the set of sites that, on initial review, meet the three (or four, for cultural sites) MPA eligibility criteria described above. Information on whether sites meet criterion 3, supporting at least one priority goal and conservation objective of the National System, will be provided by the managing entity as part of the nomination process. The MPA Inventory ([www.mpa.gov](http://www.mpa.gov)) is a refinement of the early NOAA Marine Managed Areas Inventory, which was a broader collection of place-based management areas in U.S. waters.
2. For those sites that are potentially eligible, the MPA Center will send the managing entity or entities a letter of invitation to nominate the site, including the rationale for eligibility. In the case of sites established through conservation and management measures per the MSA, the managing entity is NOAA Fisheries.
3. The managing entity or entities will be asked to consider nominating identified sites for

inclusion in the National System and provide any additional information required to evaluate site eligibility relative to meeting priority conservation objectives. The managing entity may also provide a brief justification and nomination for (a) unsolicited sites believed to meet the requirements for entry into the National System, or (b) other sites that do not appear to currently meet the management plan eligibility criterion but are deemed to be a priority for inclusion based on their ability to fill gaps in national system coverage of the priority conservation objectives and design principles.

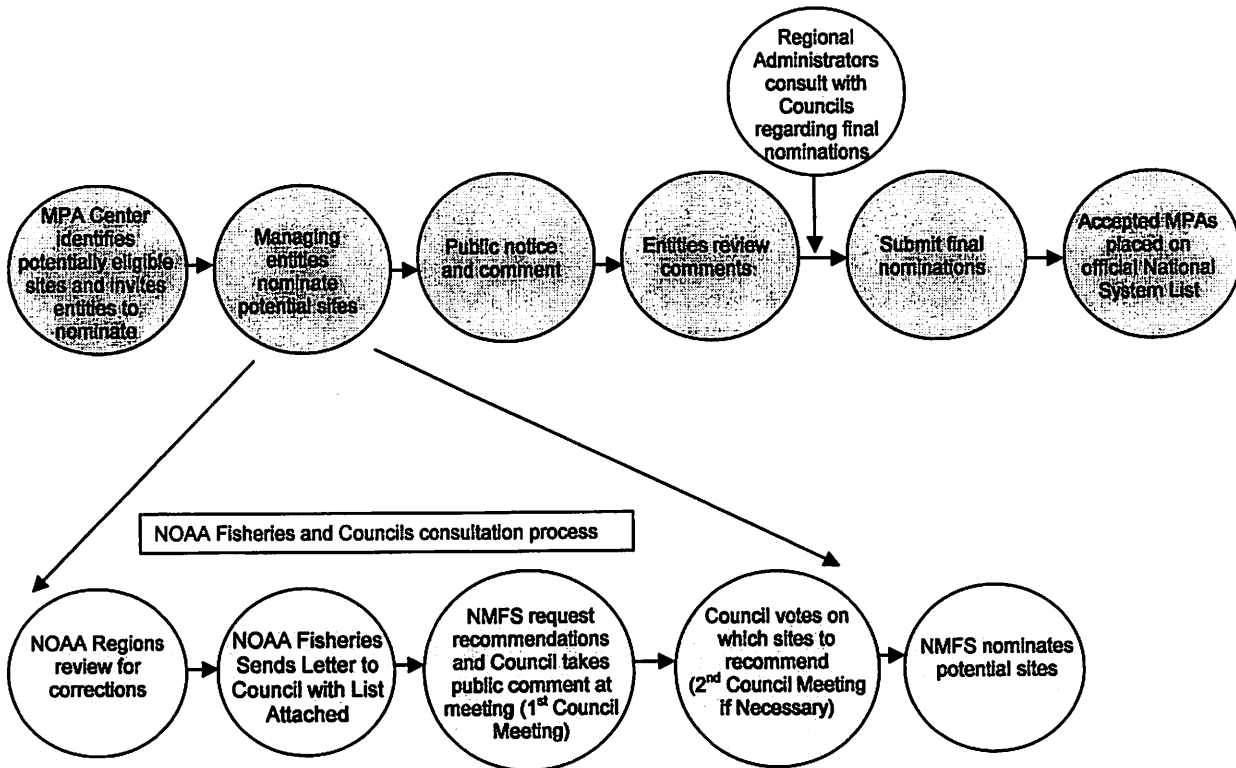
4. The MPA Center will review the set of nominated sites to ensure that nominations are sufficiently justified.
5. The MPA Center will notify the public, via the *Federal Register* and other means, of the sites nominated for inclusion in the National System and provide the opportunity to comment on the eligibility of nominated sites (or sites that have not been nominated) relative to eligibility criteria and any additional justification. The MPA Center will work with the managing entities to ensure adequate public involvement, including public meetings and tribal coordination, as appropriate.
6. The MPA Center will receive, evaluate, and forward public comment to the relevant managing entity or entities, which will then have the opportunity to reaffirm or withdraw the nomination based on public comment received and any other factors deemed relevant.
7. The MPA Center will review the final determination for each nomination, consult as necessary with the managing entity or entities should there be any discrepancies, and accept mutually agreed upon MPAs into the National System.
8. MPAs that are accepted into the National System will be listed in the official List of National System MPAs comprising the National System and made available to the public via the *Federal Register*, the website <http://www.mpa.gov>, and other means.

#### 4.0 Process to Consult with Regional Fishery Management Councils in MPA Nominations and Revisions to Designations

The Councils have a unique and important role as partners with NOAA Fisheries in fisheries management, which includes establishing federal fishery management plans and plan amendments and habitat conservation areas. Therefore, the Councils will be a key partner with NOAA Fisheries in nominating sites to the National System and, conversely, identifying sites that should be removed from the National System due to management or other changes. Through a transparent process, NOAA Fisheries will consult with the Councils and nominate fisheries sites to the National System. This process applies only to sites established through conservation and management measures per the MSA as a result of Council action. Figure 1 shows how the Council consultation process fits within the overall nomination process. Because of the need for a transparent consultation process, MSA sites will be nominated and accepted into the National System as indicated below.

Figure 1. Summary of Nomination Process

# Nomination Process



**4.1 NOAA Fisheries Service and Regional Fishery Management Council Consultation for Nomination to National System. [Steps in brackets correspond to the overall nomination process discussed in Section 3.0]**

- [Steps 1, 2] The MPA center will send NOAA Fisheries a list of sites that are eligible to be included in the National System.
- [Step 3] After receiving the list of eligible sites from the MPA Center, NOAA Fisheries will notify each Council, by letter, of those sites that fall within each Council's jurisdiction.
- [Step 3] In consultation with the appropriate Regional Administrator, each Council will establish a process for reviewing the list of eligible sites, including providing opportunity for public comment at Council meetings. The Council process is expected to occur over the course of two consecutive Council meetings, and conclude with a Council vote on a proposed list of sites to be included in the National System. Should an MPA fall in an area where two Councils or Regions have jurisdiction, the Council or Region that has the lead on the FMP implementing the MPA will nominate the site. The Council recommendations should be documented in a letter to the Regional Administrator and include the following:
  - For sites that a Council recommends be included in the National System, the Council should provide any additional supporting information as required by the MPA Center (<http://www.mpa.gov/pdf/national-system/nominationpackage1208.pdf>)
  - For sites that a Council recommends not be included in the National System, the Council should include a brief justification for that conclusion.
  - Note: The Councils may also use this process to nominate additional sites that are not currently on the list of eligible sites for inclusion in the National System.
- [Step 3] The Regional Administrator will review the Council's recommendation and prepare the proposed list of sites for submission to the MPA Center. NOAA Fisheries will justify the reasons for any changes from the Council's recommendations and in such a case will provide the required supporting information to the MPA Center.
- [Steps 4, 5] NOAA Fisheries will submit the nominations to the MPA Center for review and publication in the Federal Register and provide opportunity for public comment
- [Step 6] After the public comment period has ended, the MPA Center will provide the comments received back to NOAA Fisheries, which will in turn share the public comments received with the applicable Councils.
- [Step 6] The Regional Administrators will coordinate with the respective Council to review the comments and determine whether changes should be made to the list of nominated sites. Council recommendations for changes to the list of nominated sites should be documented in a letter to the Regional Administrator, including any required supporting information required by the MPA Center. It is expected that this process would occur over the course of one Council meeting.
- [Steps 7, 8] The Regional Administrator will review the Council's final recommendation and a final list of sites for submission to the MPA Center. NOAA Fisheries will justify the reasons for any changes from the Council's recommendations and in such a case will provide the required supporting information to the MPA Center.

**4.2 Regional Fishery Management Council Consultation for Modifying or Removing MPAs**  
Participation in the National System does not constrain the managing entity from changing its

management of the MPA. The managing entity has the ability to, within its own authorities and processes, add or reduce levels of MPA protection, change the size of an MPA, or make other changes. It is expected that a similar consultation process between NOAA Fisheries and the Council as described in section 4.1 would be followed for modifying or removing sites from the National System, although the process may be modified to fit into the overall management process that a Council is following.

In general, to make changes to the National System, the managing entity will provide all significant updates to the MPA Center, but would not be required to re-nominate a site in the case of changes. If NOAA Fisheries and the appropriate Council determine that an MPA no longer meets the National System MPA criteria, then the MPA would be removed from the system by following the procedures established by the MPA Center.

MPA sites that have been included in the List of National System MPAs may be removed at any time by the MPA Center in response to a written request from the managing entity for reasons including:

- The MPA ceases to exist;
- The MPA no longer meets National System MPA eligibility criteria; or
- The managing entity requests removal

All requests from managing entities or actions by the MPA Center to remove an MPA from the National System will be published at [www.mpa.gov](http://www.mpa.gov) and in the *Federal Register* for comment. Any comments received will be forwarded to the managing entity for consideration in making its final determination for removal. Upon request of the managing entity, and based upon a supporting rationale, the MPA will be removed from the List of National System MPAs.

For additional detail on the process that the MPA Center will follow for adding, modifying, or removing sites from the National System, refer to the MPA Framework at: [http://www.mpa.gov/national\\_system/final\\_framework\\_sup.html](http://www.mpa.gov/national_system/final_framework_sup.html)

The duration of this policy directive will be indefinite because the National System will be continuously updated with new MPA designations or revisions to existing MPA designations. This policy directive's objective will be attained when the above-described consultation process is carried out effectively on a routine basis. Procedural directives will be issued to implement this policy as needed.

#### References

This policy directive is supported by the references listed in Attachment 1.

/s/ Jim Balsiger  
 Assistant Administrator for Fisheries (acting)

2/23/2009



**UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE**  
**National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration**  
*National Marine Fisheries Service*  
P.O. Box 21668  
Juneau, Alaska 99802-1668

May 28, 2009

Eric Olson, Chairman  
North Pacific Fishery Management Council  
605 W. 4<sup>th</sup> Avenue, Suite 306  
Anchorage, Alaska 99501

Dear Mr. Olson:

We are writing to initiate consultation with the Council regarding the potential nomination of sites to the National System of Marine Protected Areas (MPAs) pursuant to Executive Order 13158. The National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration's MPA Center has begun the process of soliciting nominations for sites to be included in the National System of MPAs by inviting managing entities to submit nominations. For purposes of the Executive Order, the National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS) is considered the managing entity for sites established through the Magnuson-Stevens Fishery Conservation and Management Act. NMFS intends to collaborate with the Council to consider the possibility of nominating any such sites off Alaska.

Enclosed are several documents that are pertinent to this discussion:

- A cover letter from the MPA Center inviting NMFS to nominate sites to the National System;
- A list developed by the MPA Center of Council management areas that appear to meet the criteria for inclusion in the National System of MPAs (we should treat this list as a starting point that may need to be revised to reflect existing management areas accurately);
- Background information including a checklist from the MPA Center for evaluating whether existing MPAs meet priority conservation objectives for the National System of MPAs; and
- A national NMFS policy regarding consultation with the Fishery Management Councils for potential nominations of areas established through the Magnuson-Stevens Act.

The prospect of designating sites as MPAs has raised a number of questions that have been discussed at Council meetings and by the Council Coordinating Committee. Our understanding is that nominations to the National System of MPAs may be submitted on a rolling basis, so there is no firm deadline for Council action on this issue, and the Council has the flexibility to start the process of considering potential nominations at your convenience. We look forward to working with you to consider the implications of MPA designation and determine how best to proceed.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Robert D. Mecum".

Robert D. Mecum  
Acting Administrator, Alaska Region

Enclosures







UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE  
National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration  
NATIONAL OCEAN SERVICE  
OFFICE OF OCEAN AND COASTAL RESOURCE MANAGEMENT  
Silver Spring, Maryland 20910

December 4, 2008

Ms. Heather Sagar  
NOAA Fisheries  
NMFS/OAA  
1315 East West Highway  
Silver Spring, MD 20910

Dear Heather:

Marine Protected Areas (MPAs) are a valuable tool for conserving significant natural and cultural marine resources and are increasingly used for a wide range of purposes, including protecting ecosystems, restoring fisheries, and conserving important cultural and historic resources. To enhance the effective use of MPAs in the U.S., the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration and the Department of the Interior, working with federal, state, territorial and tribal agencies, the MPA Federal Advisory Committee, and the public, have established a national system of MPAs. The national system of MPAs is a key requirement of Executive Order 13158 on marine protected areas, and is described in the *Framework for the National System of Marine Protected Areas of the United States of America*, which was released last week and is posted at [www.mpa.gov](http://www.mpa.gov).

I am writing to invite NOAA Fisheries to participate in this important marine conservation initiative by nominating eligible sites within your MPA program to become part of the national system. The national system will benefit participating state, territorial, federal and tribal MPAs through regional coordination to address common resource management issues, providing a mechanism to address local and regional MPA priorities through federal ocean management initiatives, raising awareness of MPAs and the ocean resources they conserve, and supporting targeted regional science and stewardship initiatives. To facilitate your response, this nomination package is being sent in hard copy as well as electronically.

The National Marine Protected Areas Center coordinates the national system and maintains an MPA Inventory, built from data provided by federal and state MPA programs. Based on an analysis of this data, the MPA Center has determined that the site(s) listed in the enclosed Program Summary Sheet are potentially eligible for the national system.

There are three entry criteria for the national system (plus a fourth for cultural heritage). Sites that meet all the criteria, listed below, are eligible for the national system.

1. Meets the definition of an MPA as defined in the Framework
2. Has a management plan (can be site-specific or part of a broader programmatic management plan; must have goals and objectives and call for monitoring or evaluation of those goals and objectives)



3. Contributes to at least one priority conservation objective as listed in the Framework
4. Cultural heritage MPAs must also conform to criteria for the National Register for Historic Places.

According to our records, the enclosed Program Summary Sheet includes a list of potentially eligible sites for your program that meet criteria #1 and #2. If you would like to nominate some or all of these sites to the national system, we ask that you provide documentation as to whether and how these sites meet criterion #3 (and #4, if applicable). Please see the enclosed checklist and instructions.

The MPA Center is committed to maintaining accurate and current records. Therefore, we ask that you review the attached information on the Program Summary Sheet and verify that the information is correct. In addition, member sites of the national system may be contacted following their acceptance to provide additional information that will help the MPA Center target its national system science and stewardship activities.

This letter is being sent to managers and designated points of contact for federal, state and territorial MPA programs. Please complete the checklist and any corrections to the Program Summary Sheet electronically by returning the attached excel spreadsheets. Copies of these documents are also attached in PDF format for readability.

Please email your nomination checklists to Lauren Wenzel at the MPA Center by **January 30, 2009**. Lauren can also respond to questions about completing the checklist or other issues related to the national system nomination process, and can be reached at 301-563-1136 or [Lauren.Wenzel@noaa.gov](mailto:Lauren.Wenzel@noaa.gov).

Sincerely,



Joseph A. Uravitch  
Director  
National Marine Protected Areas Center

Attachments:

- Nomination Process Fact Sheet
- Checklist for Evaluating Whether Existing Marine Protected Areas (MPAs) Meet Priority Conservation Objectives for the National System of MPAs (in PDF and Excel)
- Instructions and Definitions Sheet for Checklist
- Definitions of Terms for Program Summary Sheet – Potentially Eligible MPAs for the National System of MPAs
- Benefits of a National System of Marine Protected Areas Fact Sheet
- Program Summary Sheet (List of Potentially Eligible MPAs) (in PDF and Excel)



Attachment 1

References:

*Framework for the National System of Marine Protected Areas of the United States of America*

*Presidential Executive Order 13158*

*Magnuson-Stevens Fishery Conservation and Management Act, 16 U.S.C. §§ 1801 et seq.*

# Program Summary Sheet -

# National Marine Fisheries Service Sites North Pacific FMC

| Site Name                                                          | Management Agency                 | Level of Protection  | Permanence | Constancy  | Protection Focus | Primary Conservation Focus | Fishing Restriction                            | Management Plan Type           | GIS Data | Vessel Traffic | Anchoring |
|--------------------------------------------------------------------|-----------------------------------|----------------------|------------|------------|------------------|----------------------------|------------------------------------------------|--------------------------------|----------|----------------|-----------|
| Alaska Seamount Habitat Protected Area                             | National Marine Fisheries Service | Uniform Multiple Use | Permanent  | Year-round | Focal Resource   | Sustainable Production     | Commercial and Recreational Fishing Restricted | Non-MPA Programmatic Habitat   | Yes      |                |           |
| Aleutian Islands Coral Habitat Protected Area                      | National Marine Fisheries Service | Uniform Multiple Use | Permanent  | Year-round | Focal Resource   | Sustainable Production     | Commercial and Recreational Fishing Restricted | Non-MPA Programmatic Habitat   | Yes      |                |           |
| Aleutian Islands Habitat Conservation Area                         | National Marine Fisheries Service | Uniform Multiple Use | Permanent  | Year-round | Focal Resource   | Sustainable Production     | Commercial and Recreational Fishing Restricted | Non-MPA Programmatic Habitat   | Yes      |                |           |
| Bowers Ridge Habitat Conservation Zone                             | National Marine Fisheries Service | Uniform Multiple Use | Permanent  | Year-round | Focal Resource   | Sustainable Production     | Commercial and Recreational Fishing Restricted | Non-MPA Programmatic Habitat   | Yes      |                |           |
| Chum Salmon Saving Area                                            | National Marine Fisheries Service | Uniform Multiple Use | Permanent  | Seasonal   | Focal Resource   | Sustainable Production     | Commercial Fishing Restricted                  | Non-MPA Programmatic Fisheries | Yes      | Yes            | Yes       |
| Cook Inlet                                                         | National Marine Fisheries Service | Uniform Multiple Use | Permanent  | Year-round | Focal Resource   | Sustainable Production     | Commercial and Recreational Fishing Restricted | Non-MPA Programmatic Fisheries | Yes      | Yes            | Yes       |
| Gulf of Alaska Coral Habitat Protected Area                        | National Marine Fisheries Service | Uniform Multiple Use | Permanent  | Year-round | Focal Resource   | Sustainable Production     | Commercial and Recreational Fishing Restricted | Non-MPA Programmatic Habitat   | Yes      |                |           |
| Gulf of Alaska Slope Habitat Conservation Areas                    | National Marine Fisheries Service | Uniform Multiple Use | Permanent  | Year-round | Focal Resource   | Sustainable Production     | Commercial and Recreational Fishing Restricted | Non-MPA Programmatic Habitat   | Yes      |                |           |
| Halibut Longline Closure Area                                      | National Marine Fisheries Service | Uniform Multiple Use | Permanent  | Year-round | Focal Resource   | Sustainable Production     | Commercial Fishing Restricted                  | Non-MPA Programmatic Fisheries | No       |                |           |
| Kodiak Island, Trawls Other Than Pelagic Trawls - Type I Closures  | National Marine Fisheries Service | Uniform Multiple Use | Permanent  | Year-round | Focal Resource   | Sustainable Production     | Commercial Fishing Restricted                  | Non-MPA Programmatic Fisheries | Yes      | Yes            | Yes       |
| Kodiak Island, Trawls Other Than Pelagic Trawls - Type II Closures | National Marine Fisheries Service | Uniform Multiple Use | Permanent  | Seasonal   | Focal Resource   | Sustainable Production     | Commercial Fishing Restricted                  | Non-MPA Programmatic Fisheries | Yes      | Yes            | Yes       |
| Nearshore Bristol Bay Trawl Closure                                | National Marine Fisheries Service | Zoned Multiple Use   | Permanent  | Year-round | Ecosystem        | Sustainable Production     | Commercial and Recreational Fishing Restricted | Non-MPA Programmatic Fisheries | Yes      | Yes            | Yes       |

Thursday, December 04, 2008

# Program Summary Sheet -

# National Marine Fisheries Service Sites

## North Pacific FMC

| <i>Site Name</i>                                                                     | <i>Management Agency</i>          | <i>Level of Protection</i> | <i>Permanence</i> | <i>Constancy</i> | <i>Protection Focus</i> | <i>Primary Conservation Focus</i> | <i>Fishing Restriction</i>                     | <i>Management Plan Type</i>    | <i>GIS Data</i> | <i>Vessel Traffic</i> | <i>Anchoring</i> |
|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-----------------------------------|----------------------------|-------------------|------------------|-------------------------|-----------------------------------|------------------------------------------------|--------------------------------|-----------------|-----------------------|------------------|
| Pribilof Island Area Habitat Conservation Zone                                       | National Marine Fisheries Service | Uniform Multiple Use       | Permanent         | Year-round       | Ecosystem               | Sustainable Production            | Commercial Fishing Restricted                  | Non-MPA Programmatic Habitat   | Yes             | Yes                   |                  |
| Red King Crab Savings Area                                                           | National Marine Fisheries Service | Zoned Multiple Use         | Permanent         | Year-round       | Focal Resource          | Sustainable Production            | Commercial and Recreational Fishing Restricted | Non-MPA Programmatic Fisheries | Yes             | Yes                   | Yes              |
| Sitka Pinnacles Marine Reserve                                                       | National Marine Fisheries Service | Uniform Multiple Use       | Permanent         | Year-round       | Ecosystem               | Sustainable Production            | Commercial and Recreational Fishing Restricted | Non-MPA Programmatic Habitat   | Yes             | Yes                   | Restricted       |
| Southeast Alaska Trawl Closure                                                       | National Marine Fisheries Service | Uniform Multiple Use       | Permanent         | Year-round       | Focal Resource          | Sustainable Production            | Commercial Fishing Restricted                  | Non-MPA Programmatic Habitat   | Yes             |                       |                  |
| Steller Sea Lion Protection Areas, Aleutian Islands Subarea - Groundfish,            | National Marine Fisheries Service | Zoned Multiple Use         | Permanent         | Year-round       | Focal Resource          | Natural Heritage                  | Commercial Fishing Restricted                  | Non-MPA Programmatic Fisheries | Yes             | Yes                   | Yes              |
| Steller Sea Lion Protection Areas, Aleutian Islands Subarea - Seguam Foraging        | National Marine Fisheries Service | Uniform Multiple Use       | Permanent         | Year-round       | Focal Resource          | Natural Heritage                  | Commercial Fishing Restricted                  | Non-MPA Programmatic Fisheries | Yes             | Yes                   | Yes              |
| Steller Sea Lion Protection Areas, Bering Sea Subarea - Bogoslof Area                | National Marine Fisheries Service | Zoned Multiple Use         | Permanent         | Year-round       | Focal Resource          | Natural Heritage                  | Commercial Fishing Restricted                  | Non-MPA Programmatic Habitat   | Yes             | Yes                   | Yes              |
| Steller Sea Lion Protection Areas, Bering Sea Subarea - Groundfish, Pollock, Pacific | National Marine Fisheries Service | Zoned Multiple Use         | Permanent         | Year-round       | Focal Resource          | Natural Heritage                  | Commercial Fishing Restricted                  | Non-MPA Programmatic Fisheries | Yes             | Yes                   | Yes              |
| Steller Sea Lion Protection Areas, Bering Sea Subarea - Pollock Restriction Area     | National Marine Fisheries Service | Uniform Multiple Use       | Permanent         | Seasonal         | Focal Resource          | Natural Heritage                  | Commercial Fishing Restricted                  | Non-MPA Programmatic Fisheries | Yes             | Yes                   | Yes              |
| Steller Sea Lion Protection Areas, Gulf of Alaska - Atka Mackerel Closure            | National Marine Fisheries Service | Uniform Multiple Use       | Permanent         | Year-round       | Focal Resource          | Natural Heritage                  | Commercial Fishing Restricted                  | Non-MPA Programmatic Fisheries | Yes             | Yes                   | Yes              |
| Steller Sea Lion Protection Areas, Gulf of Alaska - Groundfish, Pollock, and         | National Marine Fisheries Service | Zoned Multiple Use         | Permanent         | Year-round       | Focal Resource          | Natural Heritage                  | Commercial and Recreational Fishing Restricted | Non-MPA Programmatic Fisheries | Yes             | Yes                   | Yes              |
| Wetrus Protection Areas                                                              | National Marine Fisheries Service | Uniform Multiple Use       | Permanent         | Seasonal         | Focal Resource          | Natural Heritage                  | Commercial Fishing Restricted                  | Non-MPA Programmatic Fisheries | No              | Restricted            | Yes              |

Thursday, December 04, 2008

**Program Summary Sheet -**

**National Marine Fisheries Service Sites  
North Pacific FMC**

| <i>Site Name</i>                   | <i>Management Agency</i>          | <i>Level of Protection</i> | <i>Permanence</i> | <i>Constancy</i> | <i>Protection Focus</i> | <i>Primary Conservation Focus</i> | <i>Fishing Restriction</i>    | <i>Management Plan Type</i>    | <i>GIS Data</i> | <i>Vessel Traffic</i> | <i>Anchoring</i> |
|------------------------------------|-----------------------------------|----------------------------|-------------------|------------------|-------------------------|-----------------------------------|-------------------------------|--------------------------------|-----------------|-----------------------|------------------|
| Zone 1 (512) Closure to Trawl Gear | National Marine Fisheries Service | Uniform Multiple Use       | Permanent         | Year-round       | Focal Resource          | Sustainable Production            | Commercial Fishing Restricted | Non-MPA Programmatic Fisheries | Yes             | Yes                   | Yes              |
| Zone 1 (518) Closure to Trawl Gear | National Marine Fisheries Service | Uniform Multiple Use       | Permanent         | Seasonal         | Focal Resource          | Sustainable Production            | Commercial Fishing Restricted | Non-MPA Programmatic Fisheries | Yes             | Yes                   | Yes              |

**# of sites: 26**