

Table of Contents

Executive Summary	3
I. Introduction	5
A. Background	5
B. Process for Developing the Framework.....	7
C. Benefits of an Effective National System	7
II. About MPAs and MPA Networks	9
A. Definition of MPA and its Key Terms	9
B. MPA Networks	10
III. What is the National System of MPAs?	12
A. National System Purpose	12
B. National System Goals and Conservation Objectives	12
C. Building the National System from Existing and New Sites	14
IV. Nominating MPAs to the National System	14
V. Strengthening the National System of MPAs and MPA Programs	14
A. Improving MPA Stewardship, Science, and Effectiveness	16
B. Fostering Regional MPA Networks and Collaboration.....	17
C. National Coordination.....	18
D. International Coordination	18
E. Federal Agency Responsibilities to Avoid Harm	19
VI. Expanding the National System of MPAs	21
A. Identifying Conservation Gaps.....	22
B. National System Design Principles.....	22
VII. Tracking, Reporting and Evaluation	23
A. Marineprotectedareas.noaa.gov Website	23
B. Evaluating National System Effectiveness	24
VIII. Role of the MPA Center	25
A. Strengthening the National System of MPAs and MPA Programs.....	25
B. Expanding the National System of MPAs.....	25

