

# Ecological Connectivity Subcommittee

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## ***MPA Connectivity Subcommittee Initial Charge:***

- *How can we define and measure connectivity at the regional level for MPAs?*
- *How can we work within existing regional and landscape-scale programs to foster MPA connectivity to meet common conservation objectives?*
- *What practical guidance can be provided to MPA and other marine conservation and management programs regarding planning for better connected protected area networks to help address climate change impacts?*

***Incorporating spatial ecological connectivity and climate change into the use, design and management of MPAs (networks)***

# Four Products

## *I. What Is Ecological Spatial Connectivity and Why Does It Matter for Effective Marine Protected Areas?*

- a primer on ecological spatial connectivity (ESC)
- population, genetic, community, ecosystem
- implications for the conservation and management objectives of MPAs
- **Status:** text essentially done; focus on graphics

# Four Products

## *II. Accounting for Ecological Spatial Connectivity in the Use, Design, and Management of Marine Protected Areas*

- how ESC influences the use of MPAs as conservation and management tools
- how ESC influences the design of MPAs
- implications of ESC for management inside and outside of MPAs
- **Status:** some structural work; focus on graphics

# Four Products

## *III. Implications of ecological spatial connectivity for MPAs in the face of a changing climate*

- environmental and ecological consequences of climate change in the ocean
- how these changes influence ESC
- implications for the use of MPAs for conservation and management tools
- Implications for the design and management of MPAs
- **Status:** first draft to review and edit; focus on graphics

## Four Products

### *IV. Recommendations to NOAA and DOI to incorporate ESC and climate change into the use, design and management of MPAs*

- Recommendations for using, designing and managing MPAs (networks) to leverage ESC
- Recommendations for the use, design and management of MPAs to mitigate impacts of climate change
- **Status:** draft recommendations here