

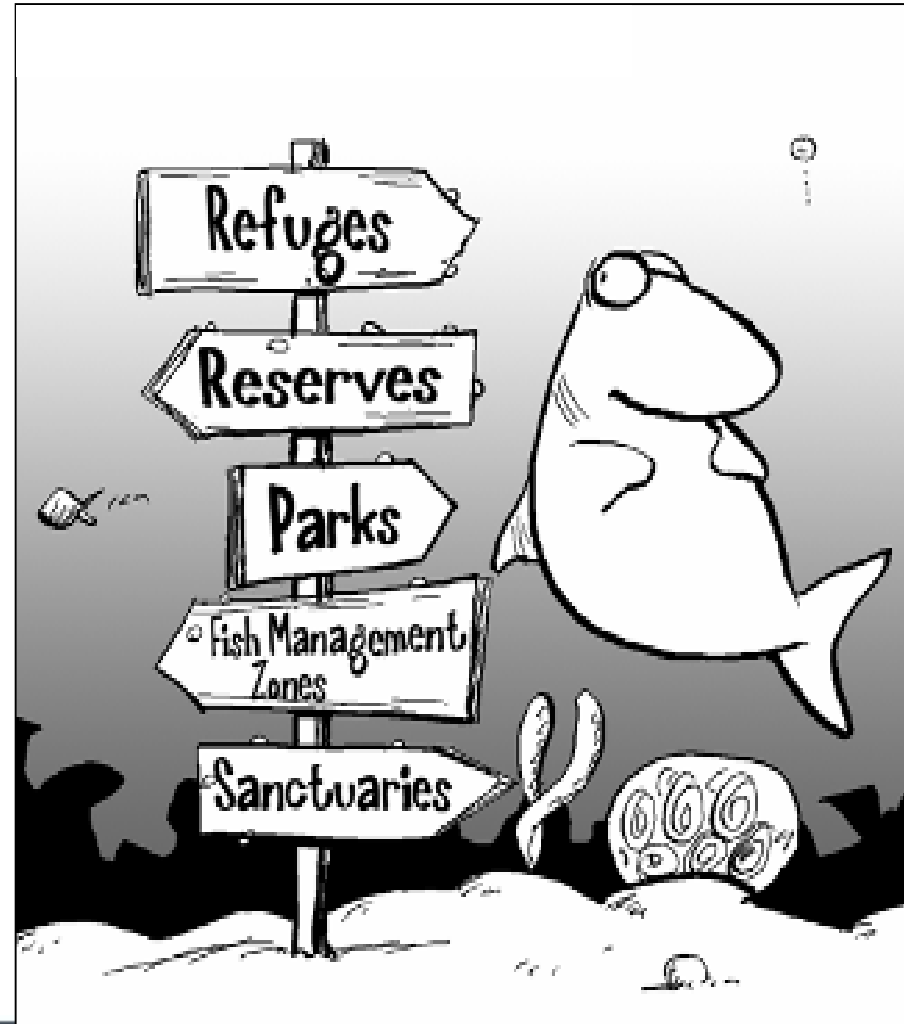


What is an MPA Anyway?



Definition

"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."



US MPA Programs



NATIONAL MARINE
SANCTUARIES



NATIONAL
ESTUARINE
RESEARCH
RESERVE
SYSTEM



Background on US MPAs

- Over 100 years of marine protected areas
- Diverse programs with diverse goals
- Complex and overlapping jurisdictions



Pelican Island, NWR

NOAA Definition of MPA

- ✓ Area
- ✓ Marine
- ✓ Reserved
- ✓ Lasting
- ✓ Protection

Key Term	Definition
Lasting	<p>For natural heritage and cultural heritage MPAs, the site's authority must clearly state its intent to provide permanent protection. This definition recognizes that subsequent to establishment, MPA designation and level of protection may change for various reasons, including natural disasters that may destroy or alter resources or changes in societal values. Should any of these changes occur, the status of the MPA relative to the national system could be re-evaluated.</p> <p>Sites and/or protections that must have a specific legislative or other administrative action to be decommissioned shall be considered to have been established with the intent to provide permanent protection. This would include, for example, sites that have a requirement for periodic renewal contingent on evaluation of effectiveness, with no specified expiration date.</p> <p>For sustainable production MPAs, the site must be established with the intent at the time of designation to provide, at a minimum, the duration of protection necessary to achieve the mandated long-term sustainable production objectives for which the site was established.</p> <p>For all MPAs, the site must provide the same level and type of protection at a fixed location and fixed and regular period of any duration during a year.</p>
Protection	<p>Must have existing laws or regulations that are designed and applied to afford the site with increased protection for part or all of the natural and submerged cultural resources therein for the purpose of maintaining or enhancing the lasting conservation of these resources, beyond any general protections that apply outside the site.</p> <p>Application of this criterion would exclude restricted areas that are established for purposes other than conservation. The term would not include, for example, areas closed for navigational safety, areas closed to safeguard modern human-made structures (e.g., submarine cable no-anchor zones), polluted shellfish-bed closure areas, areas closed to avoid fishing gear conflicts, and areas subject to area-based regulations that are established solely to limit fisheries by quota management or to facilitate enforcement.</p>

IUCN Definition of Protected Area

*“A protected area is a clearly defined geographical space, recognised, dedicated and managed, through legal or other effective means, to achieve the long-term **conservation of nature** with associated ecosystem services and cultural values”*



The MPA Inventory

A **comprehensive geospatial database** designed to catalog and classify marine protected areas within U.S. waters, containing information on **over 1,700 sites** developed with extensive input from state and federal MPA programs.



MARINE PROTECTED AREAS

About Understanding ▾ Connecting ▾ Managing ▾ Experiencing ▾ Resources ▾

HOME / EXPERIENCING / VIEWER



NOAA's MPA Inventory

Explore U.S. Marine Protected Areas

More about the MPA Inventory



Search for MPA by name

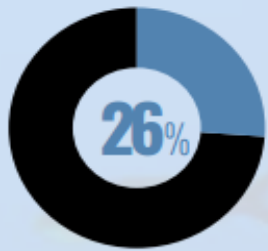


MPA Inventory Data

- Site Name ➤ Walrus Islands State Game Sanctuary
- Management Agency ➤ Alaska Department of Fish and Game
- Level of Government ➤ State
- Level of Protection ➤ Zoned w/No Take Areas
- Marine Area ➤ 750 sq km
- Year Established ➤ 1989
- Permanence ➤ Permanent
- Constancy ➤ Year-round
- Scale of Protection ➤ Focal Resource
- Primary Conservation Focus ➤ Sustainable Production
- Fishing Restrictions ➤ Commercial Fishing Restricted

MARINE PROTECTED AREAS in U.S. WATERS

Marine protected areas (MPA's) are vital tools for conserving the ocean's most valuable places. They come in all shapes and sizes in order to address specific conservation needs. The following figures are for MPAs focused on conserving ecosystems, biodiversity and cultural heritage.



U.S. WATERS

The U.S. has more than 1,200 MPAs covering more than **3.2 million** square kilometers or 26% of U.S. waters



NO TAKE

~ **3%** of all U.S. waters are in no take MPAs that prohibit all extractive uses (fishing, mining, etc) to provide the highest level of protection to marine life



PACIFIC ISLANDS

96% of US MPA area is in the Pacific Islands



AGENCIES

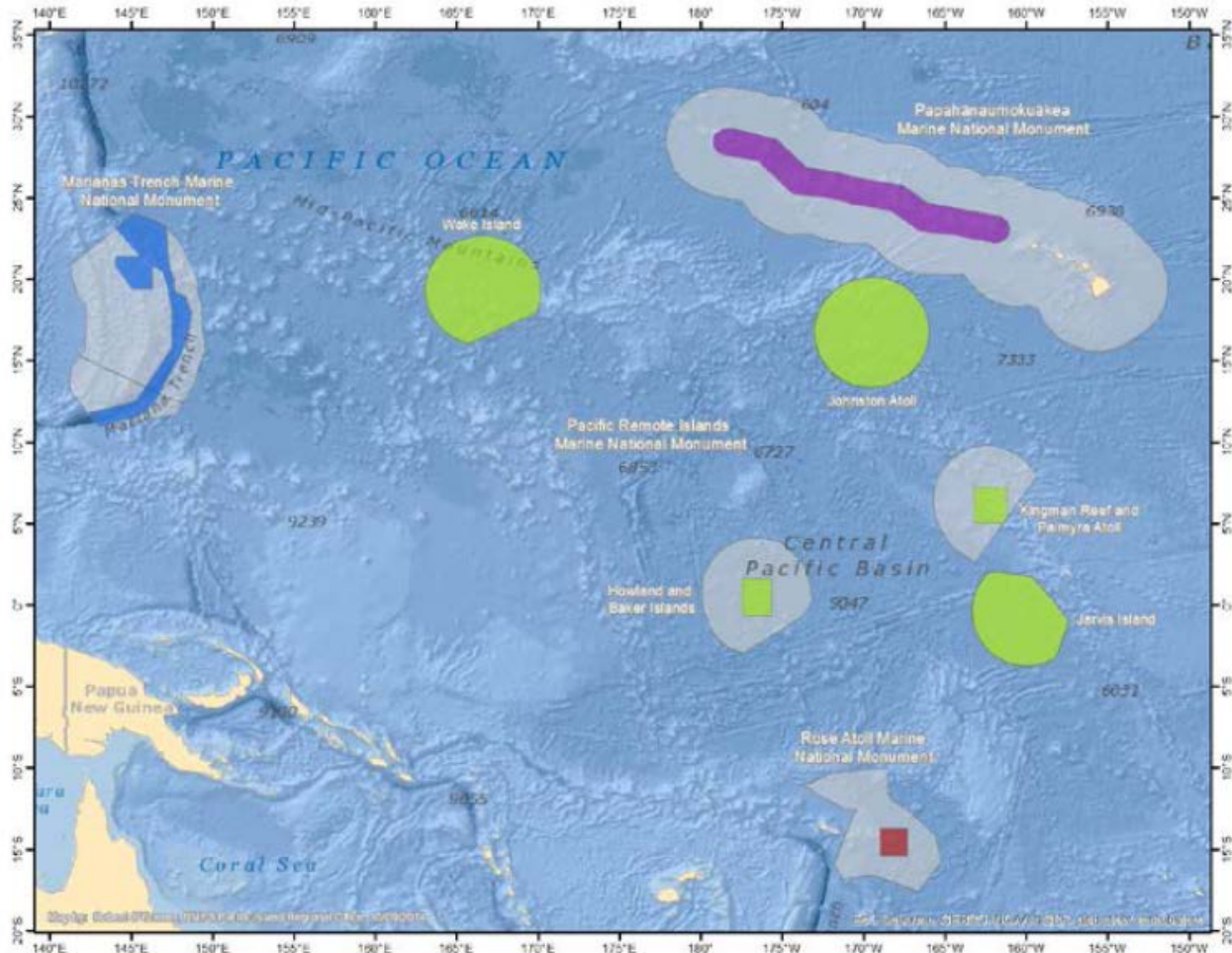
Federal agencies manage larger MPAs that make up almost all U.S. MPA area (99%), but state agencies manage many smaller coastal sites (<1000).

20x

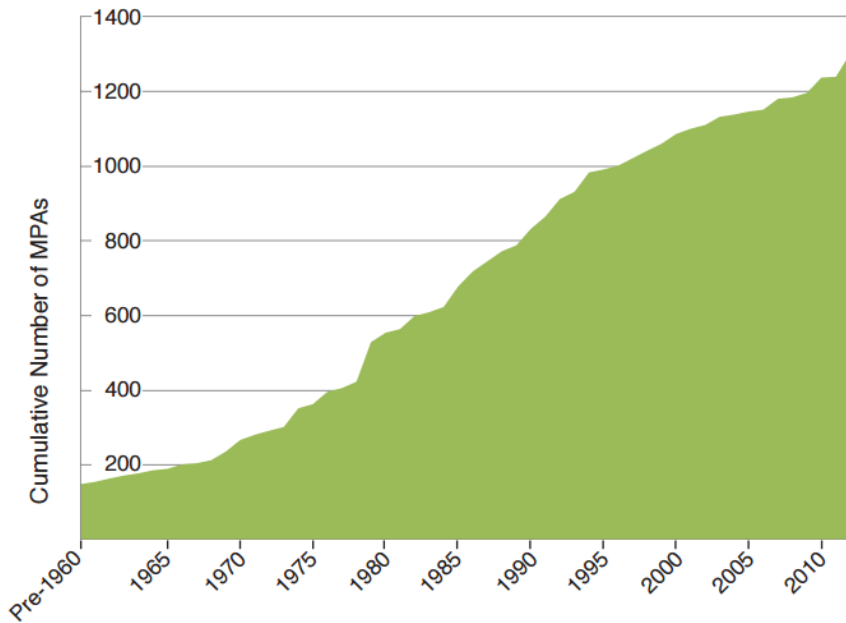
ECOSYSTEMS CONSERVED

The area of U.S. MPAs conserved for ecosystems, biodiversity and cultural heritage increased over **20 times** between 2005 and 2016.

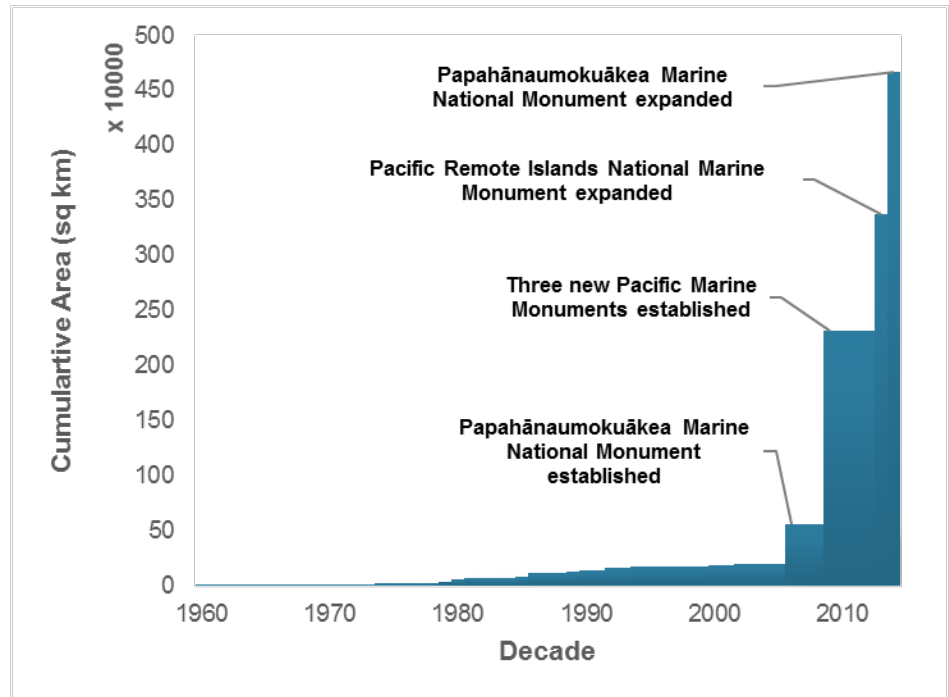
Recent Big Changes



Change over time...

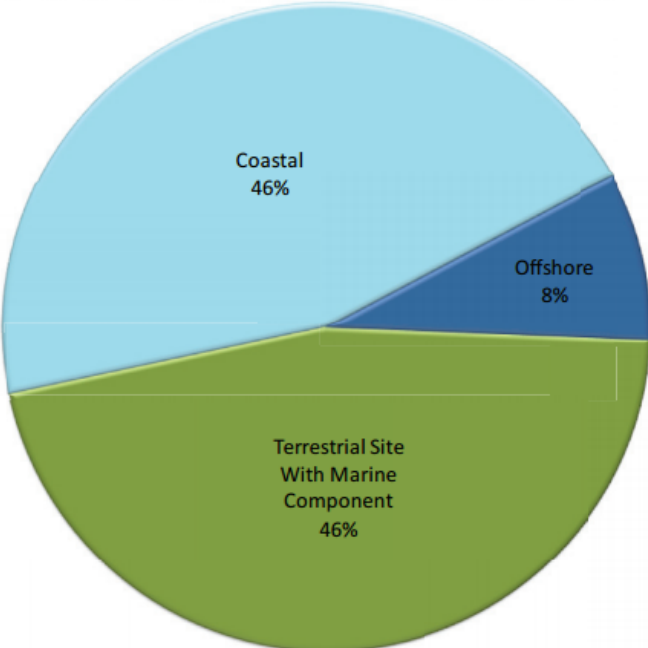


Growth in numbers

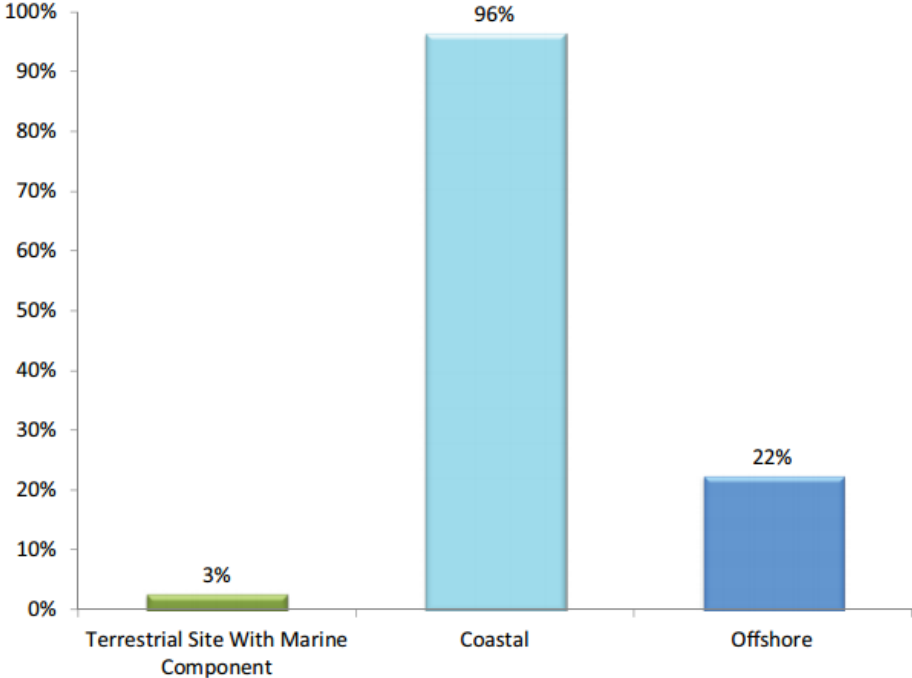


Growth in area

Where are MPAs?

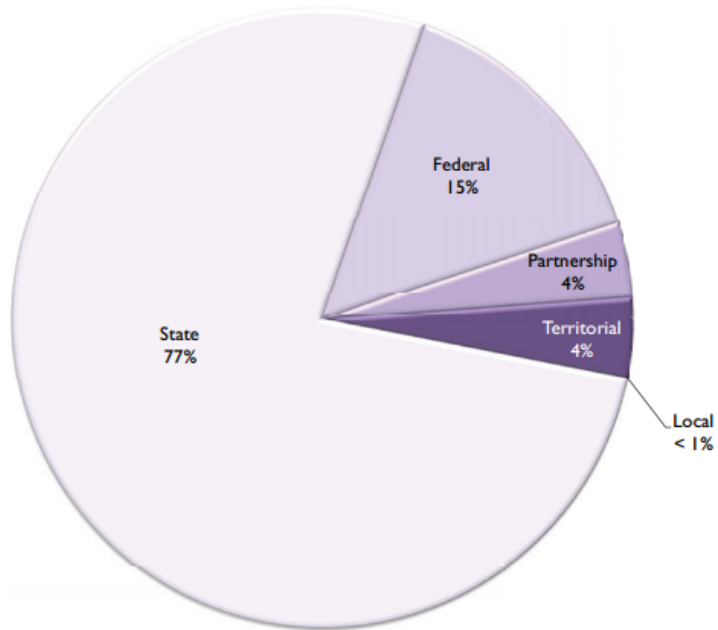


Number of Natural Heritage and Cultural Heritage MPAs by Coastal vs. Offshore

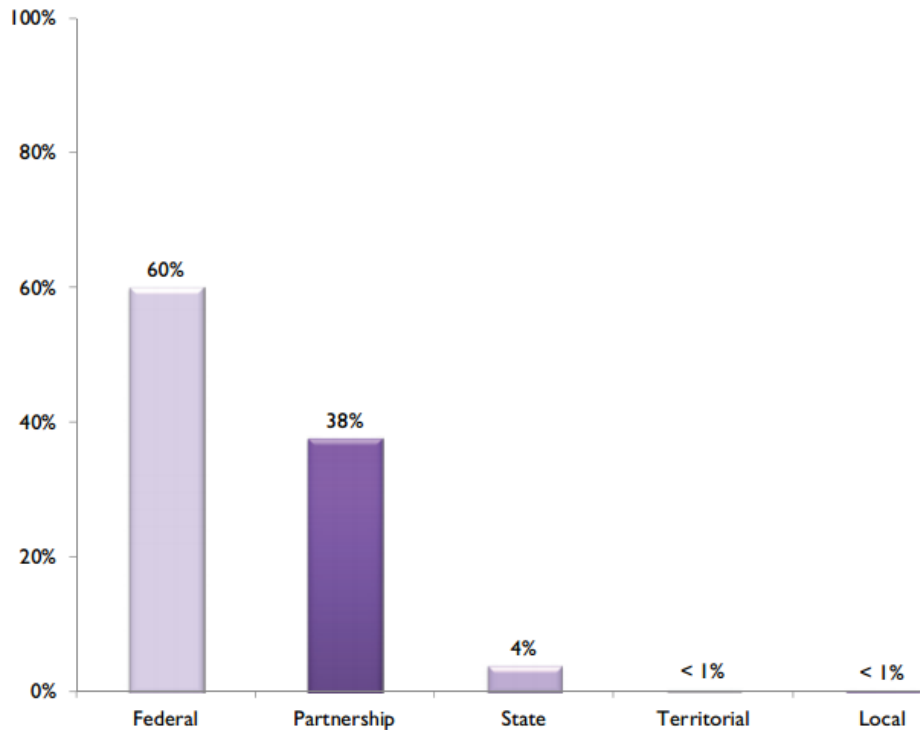


Area of Natural Heritage and Cultural Heritage MPAs by Coastal vs. Offshore

Who Manages MPAs?



Number of Natural Heritage and Cultural Heritage MPAs by Level of Government



Area of Natural Heritage and Cultural Heritage MPAs by Level of Government

Common Misconceptions

- All MPAs are “no take” (MPAs keep out all fishing)
- My site isn’t an MPA
- MPAs fix everything
- MPAs fix nothing
- MPAs are only open ocean
- MPAs are only in California
- What are you even talking about?





MPAs by Conservation Focus



Natural Heritage: 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: MPAs or zones established and managed wholly or in part to protect and understand the legacy of physical evidence and intangible attributes of a group or society which is inherited and maintained in the present and bestowed for the benefit of future generations.

Examples: Cultural Heritage MPAs include some national marine sanctuaries, national and state parks, and national historic monuments.



Sustainable Production: 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.

MPA Representativeness


RESOURCES PRESENT IN U.S. NATURAL HERITAGE AND CULTURAL HERITAGE MARINE PROTECTED AREAS

RESOURCE	PERCENT OF MPAs WITH RESOURCE PRESENT
Coastal wetlands	47
Mangroves	16
Barrier Islands	15
Rocky Intertidal Areas	11
Corals (tropical)	14
Corals (deepwater)	3
Seagrasses & Kelp	40
Marine Mammal Haulouts	10
Bird Nesting Areas	60
Migratory Birds	48
Fish Spawning Areas	22
Fish Nursery Areas	19
Anadromous Fish	14
Turtle Nesting Areas	14
Fissipeds (sea otters & polar bears)	5
Cetaceans (whales, dolphins, porpoises)	31
Pinnipeds	16

National Marine Protected Areas Center
A collaboration between
National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration and
Department of the Interior



Representativeness of Marine Protected Areas of the United States



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