



May 2008

# mpa connections

*A publication of the National Marine Protected Areas Center*

## TABLE OF CONTENTS

MPA Center Releases Revised Draft Framework for Developing the National System of MPAs .....	1
Addressing Public Comments: The Revised Draft Framework .....	2
New Improved MPA Inventory to Debut on www.MPA.gov .....	2
California Ocean Uses Atlas Project... ..	3
MPA Center Partners with Filmmaker on Elephant Seal Documentary ...	3
13 New Members Appointed to MPA FAC .....	4
MPA FAC Publishes Second Set of Recommendations .....	4
International Marine Conservation Congress .....	5
New Staff at MPA Center .....	5
Events and Conferences .....	5
Recent Additions to MPA Virtual Library .....	6
MPA Center Science and Stewardship .....	6

## MPA Center Releases *Revised Draft Framework for Developing the National System of Marine Protected Areas* for Public Comment

The *Framework for Developing the National System of MPAs* is the blueprint for the national system, outlining its goals, objectives, and key steps for implementation. The national system will represent the nation's diverse marine ecosystems and marine resources and enhance their conservation. On March 17, the National MPA Center released the *Revised Draft* of the Framework, a second draft. The first draft framework was released in September 2006, and was available for public comment through February 2007. The revised draft reflects revisions made with due consideration of over 11,000 comments and recommendations received during the public comment period, as well as advice from the 30-member Marine Protected Areas Federal Advisory Committee (FAC). Comments to the revised draft will be accepted if received by 11:59 PM EDT, May 16, 2008. After the public comment period ends, the MPA Center will address all comments received, and begin working with government partners to establish the national system.

The revised draft framework describes a national system of MPAs built in partnership with federal, state, territorial, tribal agencies, and local governments as well as other stakeholders. New focus areas in the revised draft include a phased in approach to building the national system based on prioritized resource conservation objectives, national system design principles, and a clearer description of the process for identifying gaps in the system. For a more detailed description of the differences between this revised draft framework and the original draft framework published in September 2006, see page 2 of this newsletter. To view the revised draft, and for information on how to submit comments, visit [www.mpa.gov](http://www.mpa.gov).

*MPA Connections* was first published by the National Marine Protected Areas Center in October 2002. The newsletter is available electronically and distributed via listserve. Issues are archived on [http://mpa.gov/information\\_tools/newsletters.html](http://mpa.gov/information_tools/newsletters.html). To subscribe, send an email to the editor, [Kara.Schwenke@noaa.gov](mailto:Kara.Schwenke@noaa.gov).

## Addressing Public Comments: *The Revised Draft Framework for Developing the National System of Marine Protected Areas*

Based on a review of public comments received on the original *Draft Framework for Developing the National System of Marine Protected Areas*, it was clear that substantial revisions were necessary. Overall, a simplified, more deliberate and action-oriented approach to building and implementing the national system of MPAs was needed.

### What's Different from the Original Draft Framework?

#### **Overall Approach**

- A simplified, clearer framework document

#### **Process for Building the System over Time**

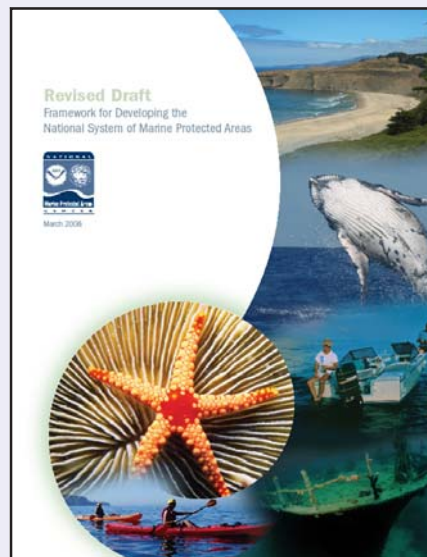
- A phased approach to building the national system based on prioritized resource conservation objectives
- A clearer description of the process for identifying gaps in the system, including a set of “National System Design Principles”

#### **Additional MPA Eligibility Criteria**

- A set of new priority conservation objectives for each of the three national system goals: natural heritage, cultural heritage, and sustainable production
- A new management plan entry criterion

#### **Process for Implementing the System**

- A new set of user-friendly national system MPA categories for organizing MPAs in the system by their conservation focus
- A new set of “National System Planning and Implementation Principles”
- A clearer description of system benefits and more deliberate process for developing science and technical support priorities via regional assistance action strategies
- A strengthened regional implementation approach, including use of NOAA regions and new mechanisms for regional information sharing and collaboration among MPA sites and programs in the national system (e.g., regional MPA working groups)



For More Information, contact: [Lauren.Wenzel@noaa.gov](mailto:Lauren.Wenzel@noaa.gov)

## New Improved MPA Inventory to Debut on [www.MPA.gov](http://www.MPA.gov)

In mid-May, the MPA Center will unveil the new Marine Protected Areas Inventory (MPA Inventory) on [www.mpa.gov](http://www.mpa.gov). The MPA Inventory is based on the previously developed Marine Managed Areas (MMA) Inventory, which was active from 2001-2007. MMAs are a more inclusive category of place-based management than MPAs. The MPA Center decided to adopt this more inclusive approach at the start of the inventory process because the criteria for identifying MPAs were still being defined through a public process. With that process now coming to a close, the draft definition of “MPA” used in the *Revised Draft Framework for Establishing a National System of Marine Protected Areas* is being used as the criteria for the MPA Inventory. The MMA Inventory has been archived, as it is no longer the most accurate or complete data set on marine protected areas. Information from the MMA Inventory (for sites that meet the criteria for MPAs) was included in the MPA Inventory.

The MPA Inventory contains information on each MPA established or managed by federal, state, or territorial agencies or programs. For each site, it includes: Site Name, Region, Level of Government, Level of Protection, Permanence, Constancy, Scale of Protection, Conservation Focus, Primary Conservation Focus, Fishing Restrictions and Area. Information in the MPA Inventory is current as of December 2007.

The MPA Inventory contains information on nearly 1,800 sites and is the only such dataset in the nation. This unique, comprehensive inventory provides governments and stakeholders with access to information to make better decisions about the current and future use of place-based conservation. The information will also be used to inform the development of the National System of Marine Protected Areas, as required by Executive Order 13158.

## California Ocean Uses Atlas Project

The California Ocean Uses Atlas (Atlas) Project is an innovative public-private partnership between the MPA Center and the **Marine Conservation Biology Institute (MCBI)**. Funded by grants from the **Gordon and Betty Moore Foundation** and the **Resources Legacy Fund**, the Atlas Project was created to fill a critical gap in ocean management by documenting the full range of significant human uses of the ocean in state and federal waters off the coast of California.

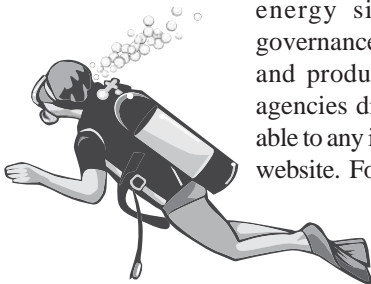
Faced with increasing pressures from a growing variety of uses, the West Coast states are actively pursuing innovative approaches to conserving the California Current Ecosystem and the services it provides. Examples of these evolving initiatives include new marine protected area networks, ecosystem-based management, marine spatial planning, ocean zoning and regional ocean governance. While differing in scale and emphasis, all of these focus on managing - and thus changing- human use patterns within specific areas in order to achieve specific ecological and/or societal objectives.

Notable recent advances have occurred in building broad support for regional ocean conservation initiatives, as well as in developing a toolbox of strategies to achieve them. Still missing from this picture, however, is robust information about the main driver of ecosystem health and services: human uses of ocean areas. Without better and more comprehensive data on patterns and significance of ocean uses in the ocean, our ability to effectively design, justify, or evaluate place-based marine management measures will continue to be limited, uneven and ultimately compromised.

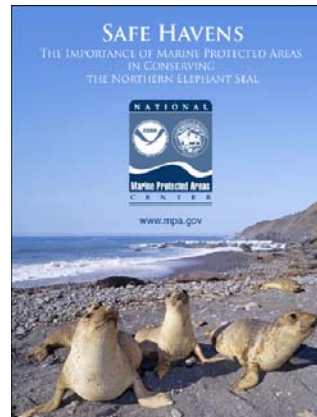
The Atlas project will paint a rapid, reliable, and repeatable picture of the full range of human uses of state and federal waters off California. It will generate three major products between January 2008 and June 2009:

- Regional Maps of Ocean Uses
- Sustainability Plan for Long-Term Mapping of Changes in Ocean Uses (as part of a broader ocean monitoring effort in California)
- Design Criteria for an Online Mapping Tool

The Atlas Project was designed specifically to inform ongoing management and policy decisions among federal and state agencies responsible for ocean ecosystems in California. Among these are the Marine Life Protection Act Initiative (MLPAI), federal MPA initiatives, fisheries management actions, ocean energy siting, and regional ocean governance issues. To this end, all data and products will be delivered to key agencies directly and will be made available to any interested parties on the [mpa.gov](http://mpa.gov) website. For questions on the Atlas Project, email Charlie Wahle at: [Charles.Wahle@noaa.gov](mailto:Charles.Wahle@noaa.gov).



## MPA Center Partners with California Filmmaker to Highlight Importance of MPAs to the Northern Elephant Seal



**“A Seal’s Life: The Story of the Northern Elephant Seal”** is a 45 minute film for general audiences about the natural history of this remarkable animal. The MPA Center has partnered with its creator, California filmmaker Drew Wharton, to produce an educational insert accompanying the DVD that illustrates the importance of MPAs to the Northern Elephant Seal. To

highlight the important contribution MPAs make to conserving the elephant seal, the MPA Center created a map that illustrates the relationship between northern elephant seal haul out and rookery sites and MPAs along the California coastline. The educational insert explains how beach MPAs provide habitat protection, while offshore MPAs help protect elephant seal feeding grounds (both along the west coast of the United States and in international waters). The insert and DVD was distributed to 1,000 nonprofit and educational associations this spring.

### What do MPAs have to do with Northern Elephant Seals?

Northern Elephant Seal migratory paths span thousands of miles and cross international boundaries. But they do visit the land as well, and those places are vitally important to their life cycle and survival. Northern elephant seals haul out and breed on the beaches of several MPAs along the California coast including the Gulf of the Farallones and Channel Islands National Marine Sanctuaries and state parks. Protected waters adjacent to beach habitat are not the only way MPAs help elephant seals, however. Because elephant seals spend the majority of their life diving, swimming and searching for food, it is important that the offshore environments in which they live are biologically diverse. Some offshore MPAs also protect elephant seal feeding grounds, ensuring that fish populations (and elephant seal prey!) remain healthy and productive.

### How will the National System of MPAs help conserve animals like the Northern Elephant Seal?

The National System of MPAs will focus on specified goals and priority conservation objectives such as conserving key reproduction areas and nursery grounds, and conserving key areas for migratory species. These goals and objectives will



Photo courtesy of NOAA

guide the development of the National System, using the best available scientific information to identify existing MPAs and gaps in protection of critical areas.

## 13 New Members Appointed to Marine Protected Areas Federal Advisory Committee

The U.S. Secretary of Commerce, in consultation with the Department of the Interior, has appointed 13 new members to the Marine Protected Areas Federal Advisory Committee (FAC). The agency also reappointed one member to a new two-year term. The new members join 15 continuing members of the Committee. Two vacancies are currently being filled.

Required as part of Presidential Executive Order 13158, the 30-person FAC represents a wide range of stakeholder interests, including representatives of natural and social scientists, commercial and recreational fishermen, energy, tourism and other industries, state and tribal resource managers, and environmentalists. In addition, nine representatives of federal agencies serve in a non-voting capacity.

The FAC's duties include providing advice and recommendations to the Secretaries of Commerce and the Interior on implementation of aspects of MPA Executive Order 13158.

On April 22-24th, the FAC met for the 11th time in Silver Spring, MD. This meeting was the first for the 13 new members and focused primarily on committee comments on the Revised Draft Framework and the development of subcommittee workplans to address the committee's new charge. The meeting was attended by several NOAA leaders, including Mary Glackin, Deputy Under Secretary for Oceans and Atmosphere, and NOS Assistant Administrator John H. Dunnigan.

The following members have been newly appointed to the MPA Federal Advisory Committee:

- Lori Arguelles, president and CEO, National Marine Sanctuaries Foundation, Silver Spring, Md. (representing conservation)
- Victor Mastone, director and chief archaeologist, Massachusetts Board of Underwater Archaeological Resources, Boston, Mass. (representing cultural resources)
- Melissa Miller-Henson, program manager, California Marine Life Protection Act Initiative, Sacramento, Calif. (representing coastal states)
- Russell Moll, Ph.D., director, California Sea Grant College Program, La Jolla, Calif. (representing natural science)
- Elliott Norse, Ph.D., president, marine Conservation Biology Institute, Bellevue, Wash. (representing conservation)
- Alvin Osterback, port director, City of Unalaska/Port of Dutch Harbor; Dutch Harbor, Alaska (representing rural and native Alaskans)

- Robert Pomeroy, Ph.D., associate professor and Sea Grant fisheries specialist, Connecticut Sea Grant, Groton, Conn. (representing social science)
- Eugenio Pinerio Soler, chairman, Caribbean Fishery Management Council, Rincon, Puerto Rico (representing commercial fisheries)
- Capt. Philip Renaud, USN (Ret.), executive director, Living Oceans Foundation, Landover, Md. (representing conservation)
- Jesús Ruiz, scuba instructor, San Jose, Calif. (representing scuba divers)
- Bruce A. Tackett, regulatory affairs advisor, ExxonMobil Exploration Company, Fairfax, Va. (representing ocean industry)
- David Wallace, owner, Wallace and Associates, Cambridge, Md. (representing commercial fisheries)
- Robert Wargo, marine liaison, AT&T, Bedminster, N.J. (representing ocean industry)

The following member has been reappointed to a two-year term:

- Ellen Goethel, ocean educator/commercial fishing, Hampton, N.H. (representing commercial fisheries)

A full list of committee members, presentations, committee recommendations, and other documents from meetings are available at: <http://www.mpa.gov/mpafac/fac.html>

### MPA Federal Advisory Committee Publishes Second Set of Recommendations

In February 2008, the MPA FAC published its second set of recommendations entitled "Toward a National System of Marine Protected Areas: A Report by the MPA Federal Advisory Committee, Recommendations from 2006-2007."

The recommendations were provided to the Secretaries of Commerce and the Interior, and focus on the development and implementation of the National System of MPAs. Recommendations address:

- developing processes for determining which existing MPAs will constitute the initial national system;
- developing plans for effective MPA management;
- incentives for participation in the national system; and
- regional approaches to planning and coordinating MPAs.

To download the 2008 MPA FAC Report, visit: [http://www.mpa.gov/pdf/fac/fac\\_recmd\\_06\\_07.pdf](http://www.mpa.gov/pdf/fac/fac_recmd_06_07.pdf)

*continued on next page*

## 1st Call for Symposia: International Marine Conservation Congress 20-24 May 2009, Washington D.C.

The IMCC will be an interdisciplinary meeting that will engage natural and social scientists, managers, policy-makers, and the public. The goal of the IMCC is to put conservation science into practice through public and media outreach and the development of science-based deliverables (e.g., policy briefs, blue ribbon position papers) that will be used to drive policy change and implementation.

This meeting will also serve as the 2nd International Marine Protected Areas Congress (IMPAC2) and will maintain the scope and vision of IMPAC1 (held in Geelong, Australia in October 2005). An MPA track has been established as a cross-cutting issue working across four major themes.

Major themes that will be addressed include:

- Global climate change
- The land-sea interface
- Ecosystem-based management
- Poverty and globalization

Cross cutting issues include:

- Marine protected areas
- Education, outreach and capacity building
- Governance arrangements
- Fisheries and aquaculture
- Economics

The IMCC encourages authors to submit proposals that apply to the above major themes and tracks, describing original work, including methods, techniques, applications, tools, issues, reporting research results and/or indicating future directions.

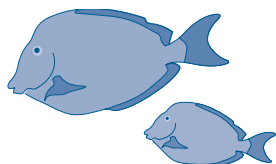
1st call for symposia, workshops, break-out sessions:

1 April - 1 June 2008

1st call for contributed papers and posters:

1 September - 15 October 2008

The meeting will be held at George Mason University in Fairfax, VA. Please visit the conference website at [www.conbio.org/imcc](http://www.conbio.org/imcc) for more information.



## New Staff at the MPA Center

The MPA Center welcomes five new employees to its team: Rondi Robison, Chad Miller, Cheryl Butner, Jordan Gass (all based out of Monterey, CA), and Katya Wowk (based out of Silver Spring, MD).

Rondi Robison started April 1 as the new Conservation Planner, and will fill a key role in the MPA Center's ongoing effort to design and establish a comprehensive and effective national system of MPAs. Rondi earned a MS degree from Oregon State University and joins us from the Center for Integrated Marine Technologies at UC Santa Cruz.

Chad Miller started March 31 as a GIS Specialist for the MPA Center, and will provide GIS and analytical support for the national system and other MPA Center efforts. Chad earned his BS in GIS and remote sensing from Humboldt State University and joins us from the California Dept. of Fish and Game's Marine Life Protection Act Initiative, where he has been working in a stakeholder process to design a state-wide network of MPAs.

Cheryl Butner started March 31 as the Atlas Project Coordinator. Cheryl will fill a central coordinating role in the MPA Center's California Ocean Uses Atlas project. Cheryl combines a background in coastal tourism with a masters degree in environmental policy from the Monterey Institute for International Studies.

Jordan Gass joined the MPA Center's office on May 1 as a GIS Specialist. Jordan will provide GIS and analytical support for the California Ocean Uses Atlas project. Jordan joins us from the U.S. Virgin Islands Coastal Zone Management Program in St. Thomas, where he served as a NOAA Coastal Management Fellow. Jordan earned a masters degree in environmental management from Duke University.

Katya Wowk is the MPA Center's 2008 Knauss Sea Grant Fellow. Katya is a PhD candidate in Marine Policy at the University of Delaware and has extensive experience in regional ocean governance. Katya will assist the MPA Center with the Revised Draft Framework, identifying potentially eligible sites for inclusion in the national system, and facilitating the national system nomination process.

### Upcoming Events and Conferences\*

#### May

11-16: Trilateral Committee for Wildlife and Ecosystem Conservation and Management, XIII Annual Meeting; Veracruz, Mexico; [www.trilat.org/](http://www.trilat.org/)

25-29: Coastal Zone Canada 2008 Conference; Vancouver, British Columbia, Canada; [http://www.czca-azcc.org/html/conferences/czc08\\_papers.html](http://www.czca-azcc.org/html/conferences/czc08_papers.html)

#### June

29-July 2: 21st International Conference of the Coastal Society; Los Angeles, CA; [www.thecoastalsociety.org/conference/tcs21/](http://www.thecoastalsociety.org/conference/tcs21/)

#### July

7-11: 11th International Coral Reef Symposium; Ft. Lauderdale, FL; [www.nova.edu/ncr/11icrs/](http://www.nova.edu/ncr/11icrs/)



\*Events and conferences listed above are not necessarily events that NOAA or the MPA Center will be sponsoring and/or participating in.

## Recent Additions to the MPA Virtual Library

- **A guide to facilitate better understanding of the legal context, international processes, existing approaches and possible solutions to establishing MPAs in areas beyond national jurisdiction covers background on MPA global network issues, a review of relevant public international law, legal concepts related to the high seas, global international and regional treaties and relevant ‘soft’ law, MPA establishment and policy issues, and stakeholder issues.**  
Schwarte, Christoph and Linda Siegele, “Marine Protected Areas on the High Seas? An Introductory Guide to the Legal Issues Surrounding the Establishment of Marine Protected Areas on the High Seas”. London, United Kingdom: Foundation for International Environmental Law and Development, January 2008.  
[http://www.field.org.uk/PDF/Marine%20protected%20areas\\_screen.pdf](http://www.field.org.uk/PDF/Marine%20protected%20areas_screen.pdf)
- **A rapid response report focuses on the impacts to the marine environment to assess how multiple stresses including climate change might shape the marine world over coming years and decades, and discusses the need for MPAs in deeper waters and areas beyond natural jurisdiction, along with the need to increase MPA establishment to meet international targets for MPA networks.**  
Nellemann, C. and J. Alder, editors, “In Dead Water: Merging of Climate Change with Pollution, Over-Harvest, and Infestations in the World’s Fishing Grounds”. Norway: United Nations Environment Programme, GRID-Arendal, February 2008. [http://www.unep.org/pdf/InDeadWater\\_LR.pdf](http://www.unep.org/pdf/InDeadWater_LR.pdf)
- **A report from an IUCN workshop held to explore policy and regulatory options to improve oceans governance in areas beyond national jurisdiction summarizes key findings on the environmental impacts of human activities in these areas, coordination among States and international organizations, the role of area-based management tools, genetic resources in these areas, and how to address governance or regulatory gaps.**  
Freestone, David et al., “Workshop on High Seas Governance for the 21st Century, New York, October 17-19, 2007, Co-Chairs Summary Report”. Gland, Switzerland: IUCN Global Marine Programme, 2007.  
[http://www.iucn.org/themes/marine/pdf/IUCN%20Workshop%20Co-Chairs%20Summary\\_FINAL%20VERSION.pdf](http://www.iucn.org/themes/marine/pdf/IUCN%20Workshop%20Co-Chairs%20Summary_FINAL%20VERSION.pdf)

The *mission of the National Marine Protected Areas Center* 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.



*MPA Connections* was launched to meet continuing calls by agency and external stakeholders for information about MPA Center activities and to feature other actions that address Executive Order 13158 goals.

The next issue of *MPA Connections* will be published in the fall of 2008.

### MPA Center Science and Stewardship (A continuing series from the MPA Center)

**Climate Change and the National System of MPAs Highlighted in “MPA News”:** The March issue of the newsletter, *MPA News*, includes a Perspectives piece written by Joe Uravitch, Director of the MPA Center, on the importance of conserving geologic features that could serve as surrogates for biodiversity in the context of climate change. One of the proposed near-term conservation objectives for the national system of MPAs is to “conserve ecologically important geological features and enduring/recurring oceanographic features.” Although the intensity and rate at which climate change may occur is unknown, it is likely that submerged geologic features like reefs, hard bottoms, canyons, seamounts, etc., will be places where new species assemblages and ecosystems will form over time. A national system of MPAs will allow researchers and managers to better understand existing resources of key geologic features (both existing and potential sites), and establish monitoring capabilities to understand change over time. To view the March 2008 issue of *MPA News*, visit: <http://depts.washington.edu/mpanews/MPA94.htm>