



STATE OF WASHINGTON
Department of Fish and Wildlife

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Main Office Location: Natural Resources Building • 1111 Washington Street SE • Olympia WA

February 11, 2009

Mr. Joseph A. Uravitch, Director
National Marine Protected Areas Center
U.S. Department of Commerce, NOAA
Office of Ocean and Coastal Resource Management
Silver Spring, Maryland 20910

Dear Mr. Uravitch:

Thank you for your invitation to nominate eligible sites within Washington State marine protected area (MPA) programs to become part of a national system of MPAs. The enclosed checklists for sites listed in the Program Summary Sheet serve as nominations of eligible MPAs from Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife (WDFW), Washington Department of Natural Resources (DNR), and Washington Parks and Recreation Commission (State Parks).

Concurrently, Washington State is also conducting an inventory of MPAs in state waters. This inventory effort is required by the Washington State Legislature and is led by WDFW. Washington State Senate Bill 6231 (2008 legislative session) creates a MPA work group which is chaired by WDFW and includes representatives from DNR, State Parks, appropriate Marine Resource Committees, as well as representatives from tribal, federal, and other state agencies and local governments. The statute directs the MPA work group to:

- Examine and update the current inventory and management of Washington's MPAs;
- Develop recommendations to improve coordination and consistency among MPAs relative to goals for the MPA, criteria for establishment, management, and monitoring practices, and terminology;
- Develop recommendations to improve the integration of science into the MPA establishment and management decisions;
- Develop recommendations to further integrate local governments and non-governmental organizations into the establishment and management of MPAs; and
- Provide any other recommendations to improve the effectiveness of MPAs in Washington.

The work group is also directed to complete a written report by December 1, 2009, that includes: 1) an inventory of MPAs in all marine waters of the state; and 2) a summary of the issues and recommendations listed above.

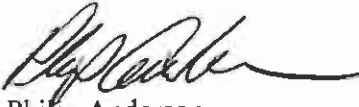


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Recognizing the need for consistency among inventories, the state inventory is based on the structure and criteria used by the MPA Center. The state inventory will be finalized by the end of March 2009. Upon completion, WDFW, on behalf of Washington State, will submit a comprehensive nomination package to the MPA Center. Therefore, please consider our submission of today's nomination package a timely and accurate response to your request for sites listed in the Program Summary Sheet. However, please be aware that these sites represent only a portion of state designated MPAs according to the in-process Washington State inventory.

Thank you for your consideration of these nominations.

Sincerely,



Philip Anderson
Interim Director

Enclosures:

Washington State Senate Bill 6231
WDFW Checklists
DNR Checklists
Parks and Recreation Checklist

cc: Peter Goldmark, Commissioner of Public Lands, DNR
Rex Derr, Director, State Parks
Jay Manning, Director, Washington Department of Ecology
Ken Sebens, University of Washington Friday Harbor Laboratories