

NATIONAL MARINE PROTECTED AREAS CENTER

www.mpa.gov

National System of Marine Protected Areas

Lauren Wenzel
National Marine Protected Areas Center



Executive Order 13158: MPAs

- Develop and implement a scientifically based, comprehensive **national system** of MPAs representing diverse U.S. marine ecosystems, and the Nation's natural and cultural resources
- Improve MPA **coordination, stewardship and effectiveness**
- This national system framework and the work of the MPA Center are intended **to support, not interfere with**, agencies' independent exercise of their own **existing authorities**.

Federal Register/Vol. 65, No. 105/Wednesday, May 31, 2000/Presidential Documents 34909

Presidential Documents


Executive Order 13158 of May 26, 2000

Marine Protected Areas

By the authority vested in me as President by the Constitution and the laws of the United States of America and in furtherance of the purposes of the National Marine Sanctuaries Act (16 U.S.C. 1431 *et seq.*), National Wildlife Refuge System Administration Act of 1966 (16 U.S.C. 668dd-ee), National Park Service Organic Act (16 U.S.C. 1 *et seq.*), National Historic Preservation Act (16 U.S.C. 470 *et seq.*), Wilderness Act (16 U.S.C. 1131 *et seq.*), Magnuson-Stevens Fishery Conservation and Management Act (16 U.S.C. 1801 *et seq.*), Coastal Zone Management Act (16 U.S.C. 1451 *et seq.*), Endangered Species Act of 1973 (16 U.S.C. 1531 *et seq.*), Marine Mammal Protection Act (16 U.S.C. 1362 *et seq.*), Clean Water Act of 1977 (33 U.S.C. 1251 *et seq.*), National Environmental Policy Act, as amended (42 U.S.C. 4321 *et seq.*), Outer Continental Shelf Lands Act (42 U.S.C. 1331 *et seq.*), and other pertinent statutes, it is ordered as follows:

Step 1 – Identify Existing MPAs

- MPA Inventory provides GIS and tabular information on all US MPAs
 - Name
 - Size
 - Management agency
 - Level of protection
 - Conservation Focus
 - Focal species v. ecosystem
 - etc

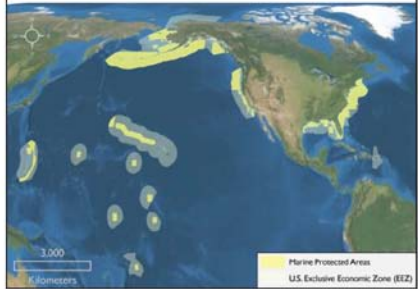


SNAPSHOT OF UNITED STATES MPAS

www.mpa.gov

The information provided here is current as of March 2010, and is from the Marine Protected Areas Inventory (MPA Inventory) – a comprehensive geospatial database designed to catalog and classify marine protected areas within U.S. waters. The MPA Inventory was developed from information provided by state, territorial, tribal and federal MPA programs, and other publicly available data.

WHAT IS A MARINE PROTECTED AREA?
Executive Order 13158 (see below) defines an MPA as "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." Key terms within the definition -- area, marine, reserved, lasting, and protection -- are defined in the Framework for the National System of Marine Protected Areas of the United States of America.



PRESIDENTIAL EXECUTIVE ORDER ON MPAS
In May 2000, Presidential Executive Order 13158 was signed to enhance the management, protection, and conservation of U.S. marine resources through more effective and collaborative uses of MPAs as an ecosystem management tool. It directs the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) and the Department of the Interior to work with other federal agencies and states, territories, tribes, and the public to develop a scientifically-based, comprehensive national system of MPAs. The national system of MPAs aims to conserve the nation's natural and cultural marine heritage, and to sustain production of living marine resources. It provides a transparent process to enhance coordination among MPAs across all levels of government to achieve common conservation goals and objectives.

UNITED STATES MPAS AT A GLANCE:

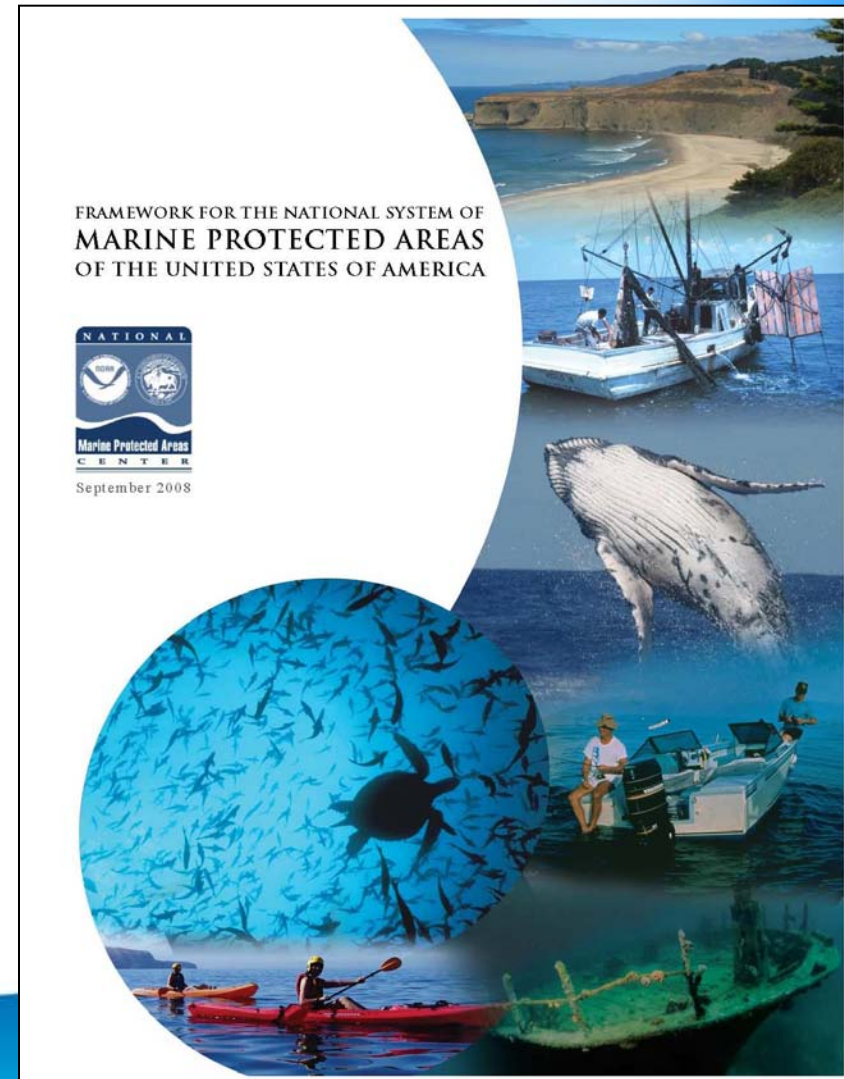
- The U.S. currently has more than 1,600 MPAs
- About 40% of all U.S. waters are in some form of MPA
- Nearly all (86%) U.S. MPAs are multiple use
- "No take" MPAs occupy only about 1% of all U.S. waters
- Less than 3% of the area in MPAs in the U.S. is "no take"
- The majority of U.S. MPAs are located within the Virginian-Atlantic marine ecoregion, which extends along Cape Hatteras northward to Cape Cod
- State and territorial governments manage approximately 75% of the nation's MPAs, but most MPA area is managed by federal agencies

NOAA's National Marine Protected Areas (MPA) Center's mission 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. The MPA Center works in partnership with federal, state, tribal, and local governments and stakeholders to develop a science-based, comprehensive national system of MPAs. These collaborative efforts will lead to a more effective use of MPAs now and in the future to conserve and sustain the nation's vital marine resources.

Office of Ocean and Coastal Resource Management, NOAA Ocean Service, 1305 East-West Hwy (NCR21), Silver Spring, MD 20910, U.S.A. April, 2010

Step 2 – Develop National System Framework

- Road map for developing national system
 - Goals & objectives
 - Entry criteria
 - Coordination
 - Avoid Harm



National System Goals



Natural Heritage



Cultural Heritage



Sustainable Production

National System of MPAs

- 254 MPAs
- Federal MPA Programs in 28 states/territories
- Federal/State Partnership sites
- MPAs of 11 States/Territories (AS, CA, FL, HI, MD, MA, NJ, PR, USVI, VA, WA)



Pelican Island, NWR

The National System Does:

- Recognize the conservation role of participating MPA programs
- Provide mechanism for cross-program collaboration
- Provide access to technical assistance and training
- Provide competitive MPA Grants



The National System Does NOT:

- Create new MPAs
- Impose new restrictions on use or access
- Require NOAA approval of management changes to participating sites
- Bring non-federal sites under federal authority

Marine Protected Areas established by U.S. Fishery Management Councils www.fisherycouncils.org



Marine protected areas (MPAs) are the "safest" part of the sea. They are the best places for species protection, habitat restoration, and where a single activity is normally prohibited. MPAs are also the places where all human activities are prohibited. The U.S. Regional Fishery Management Councils use both kinds of marine tools to meet specific objectives in the management of our nation's marine resources.

MPAs

The U.S. is a world leader in the use of marine protected areas. We have over 1,000 MPAs covering more than 10 million square miles of the world's oceans. The U.S. has the largest number of MPAs in the world. The U.S. has the largest number of MPAs in the world. The U.S. has the largest number of MPAs in the world.

The U.S. is a world leader in the use of marine protected areas. We have over 1,000 MPAs covering more than 10 million square miles of the world's oceans. The U.S. has the largest number of MPAs in the world. The U.S. has the largest number of MPAs in the world. The U.S. has the largest number of MPAs in the world.



MPAs are the best places for species protection, habitat restoration, and where a single activity is normally prohibited. MPAs are also the places where all human activities are prohibited. The U.S. Regional Fishery Management Councils use both kinds of marine tools to meet specific objectives in the management of our nation's marine resources.

PROTECT OUR OCEANS



SEA RESERVE FUND

U.S. Regional Fishery Management Councils

National System Benefit To Councils

- Recognizes contribution of Councils to marine conservation
- Potential leadership role for Councils in “sustainable production” goal of National System
- Provides Councils with the opportunity to participate in shaping the developing National MPA System partnership
- Provides framework for linkages to
 - Federal, state, territorial & international MPA programs
 - Emerging marine spatial planning initiatives
- Provides information on MPA management and planning at regional scale
- Enhances connectivity

Removing Sites from the System

- Sites may be removed at any time by written request of the managing agency for reasons including:
 - MPA ceases to exist
 - MPA no longer meets national system criteria
 - Managing agency requests removal
- Will be public notice in Federal Register
- Managing agency makes final determination

Defining “Avoid Harm”

- Executive Order calls for federal agencies to avoid harm to the resources protected by national system MPAs to the maximum extent practicable
- Requirement will be defined and implemented by each federal agency
- NOAA developing “avoid harm” policy; possible model for other agencies
 - NOAA role, definitions, operations, documentation
- Timeline: Fall 2010

Refocusing the Gap Analysis

- Partnering within NOAA to gather and analyze ecological information as proof of concept
 - Mapping ecological resources
 - Linking those resources to the national system's priority conservation objectives
 - Assessing the spatial coverage of those resources inside and outside existing MPAs
 - Focus on California 1st; then expand to W. Coast
- Working within broader CMSP context to align ecological gap analysis with CMSP needs





Merritt Island National Wildlife Refuge
(Florida)
Photo Credit: R. Edward

Definition of MPA

- **Area:** Legally defined geographic boundaries, may be of any size except that site must be a subset of the U.S. federal, state, local or tribal marine environment in which it is located.
- **Marine environment:** Ocean, coastal or estuarine waters, including intertidal areas (between mean low water and mean high water). Includes areas up to 0.5 ppt. Includes Great Lakes and estuarine-like sites in 8-digit watersheds adjacent to Great Lakes.
- **Reserved:** established by and currently subject to federal, state, local or tribal law or regulation.
- **Lasting:** Established with the intent to provide permanent protection. For sustainable production sites, of a duration to achieve the mandated long term sustainable production objectives of the site.
- **Protection:** Existing laws or regulations that afford the site with increased protection for the conservation of part or all of the natural or submerged cultural resources.

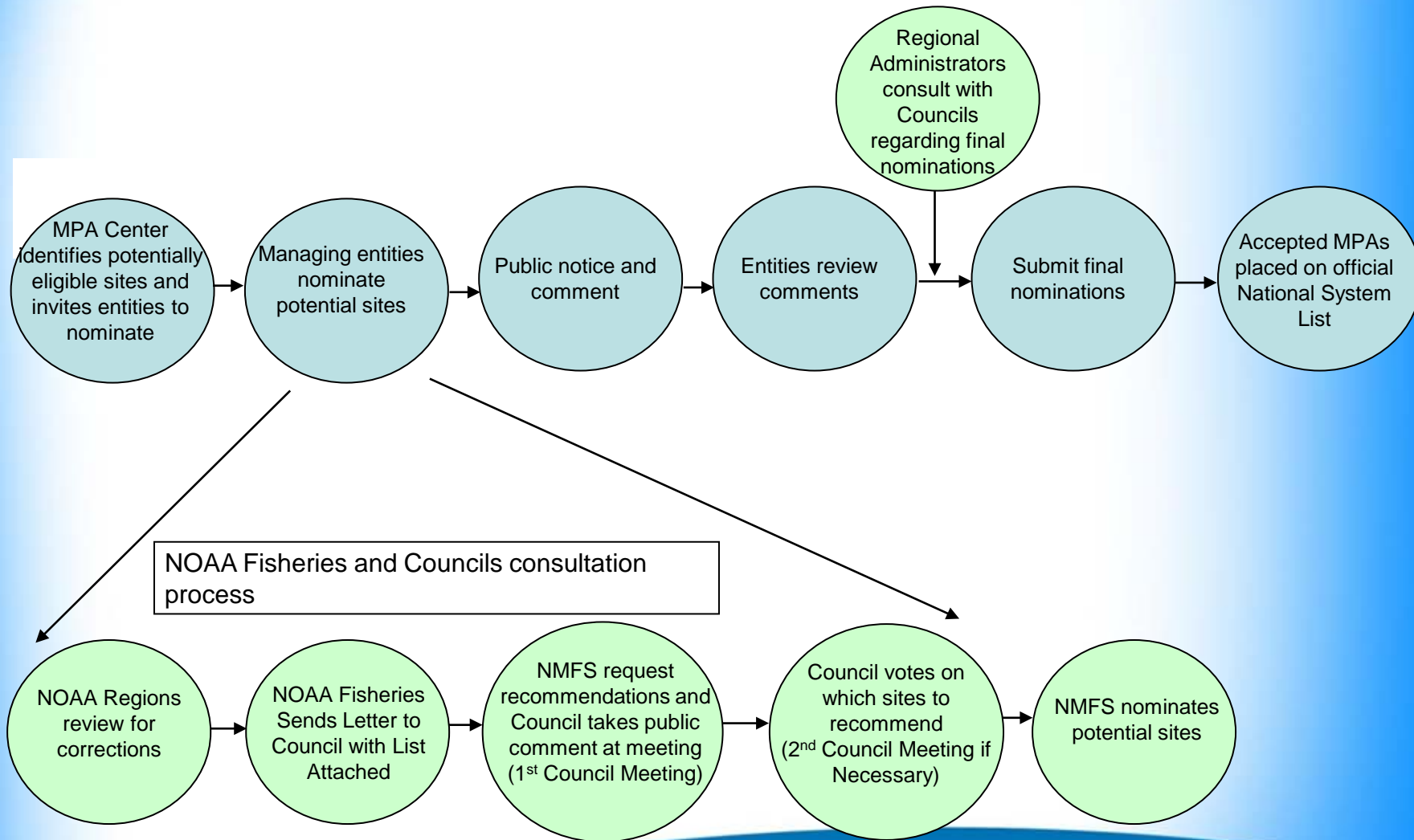
Priority Conservation Objectives: Sustainable Production Goal

Goal 3: Advance comprehensive conservation and management of the nation's renewable living resources and their habitats, including, but not limited to, spawning, mating, and nursery grounds, and areas established to minimize incidental by-catch of species, that are important to the nation's social, economic, and cultural well-being through ecosystem-based MPA approaches.

Priority Conservation Objectives for Goal 3

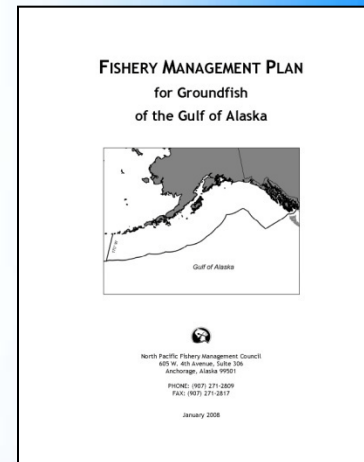
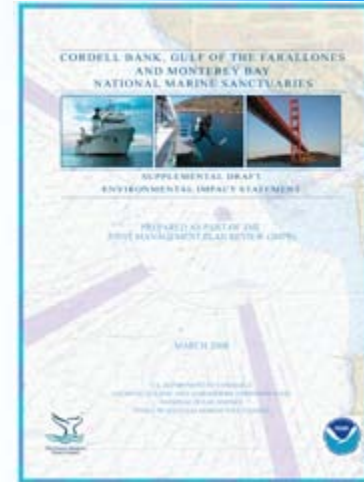
Conserve and manage key reproduction areas, including larval sources and nursery grounds	Near Term
Conserve key areas that sustain or restore high priority fishing grounds	
Conserve and manage key areas for maintaining natural age/sex structure of important harvestable species	Mid Term
Conserve key foraging grounds	
Conserve and manage key areas that mitigate the impacts of bycatch	
Conserve key areas that provide compatible opportunities for education and research	Long Term

Nomination Process: Coordination with Councils



Criteria for Entry to the National System

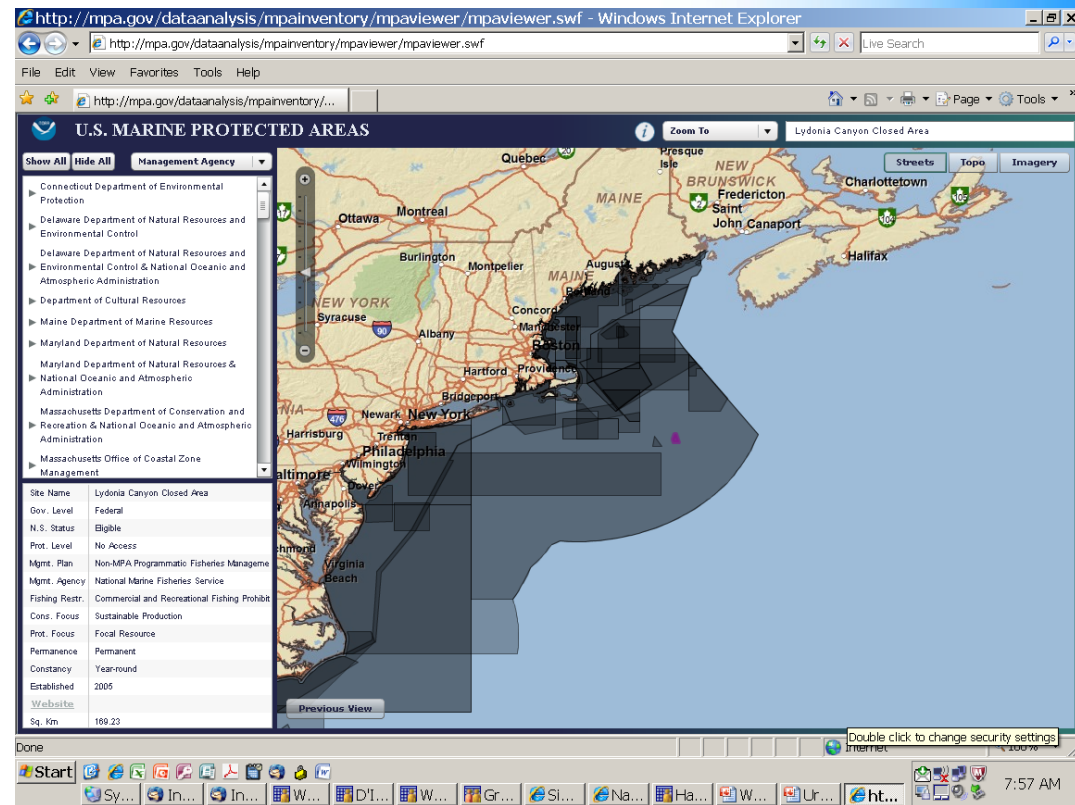
- Meets the definition of an MPA
 - Key terms: area, marine, reserved, lasting, protection
- Has a management plan
 - Includes site specific information; can be part of a broader fisheries management plan
 - Must include goals and objectives; call for monitoring and evaluation
- Contributes to a priority conservation objective of the nation system
- Additional criteria for cultural resources



3rd Round of Nominations

(Pending - Fall 2010)

- Four sites nominated by NMFS under Tilefish management plan
- Close coordination with Mid Atlantic Council
 - Norfolk Canyon
 - Lydonia Canyon
 - Oceanographer Canyon
 - Veach Canyon
- Timeline: Fall 2010



The US National System of MPAs: Origins and Status

- **Late 1990s** – scientific consensus on importance of MPAs and marine reserves as a conservation tool
- **Feb 2000** – CEQ + MCBI workshop on national system of MPAs
- **May 2000** – Executive Order signed by President Clinton
- **July 2001** – Executive Order endorsed by President Bush
- **November 2008** - System Final Framework Published
- **April 2009** – 225 federal, state/territorial MPAs join system

