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UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE
National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration
NATIONAL OCEAN SERVICE
Senior Scientist
Silver Spring, Maryland 20910

OCT - 9 2001

PFMC
Dr. Jim Seger
Pacific Fishery Management Council
7700 NE Ambassador Place
Portland, OR 97220-1384

October 4, 2001

Dear Dr. Seger,

We are writing to invite you to participate in a meeting to finalize plans for an integrated assessment related to the network of MPAs on the West Coast. The meeting is scheduled for 9:00-5:00 October 25, 2001 at the San Francisco Airport Marriott in Burlingame, CA.

The goals of the meeting are to outline the assessment's time and space scales, issue content, and approach to integrating and synthesizing the best current natural and social science information needed to address critical coast-wide MPA-related questions. As many of you may recall from Don Scavia's presentation at the Pacific Coast MPA Science and Coordination Workshop, the proposed overarching question for this assessment is "How would a network of west coast MPAs affect our goals of sustaining fisheries, maintaining biodiversity, and conserving submerged cultural artifacts?"

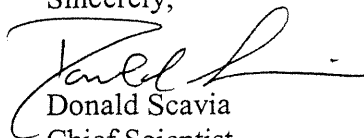
In this one-day workshop we will develop a plan for conducting the integrated assessment. Specifically, we hope to identify the following:


- Processes/decisions that the assessment is intends to inform;
- Specific questions and sub-questions that the assessment should address;
- How to best organize the assessment to answer these questions;
- Support necessary to complete the assessment;
- Timelines, milestones, and target audiences; and
- Resulting products suite.

The attached pages outline a proposed approach and will be the starting point for our discussion.

We hope you can participate in this meeting. Please RSVP to Ruth Kelty (ruth.kelty@noaa.gov, 301-713-3020 x133) by October 15. A block of rooms has been reserved at the San Francisco Airport Marriott (650-692-9100) for \$110/night; reservations must be made by Oct. 10. Please also call Ruth if you notice that we've omitted a key player and we will do our best to include them.

Sincerely,


Donald Scavia
Chief Scientist
National Ocean Service


Charlie Wahle
Acting Director
Institute for MPA Science



Invited participants:

Bob Bailey, Brian Baird, Loo Botsford, Ed Bowlby, David Gutierrez Carbonell, Mark Carr, Liz Clarke, Gary Davis, Paul Dayton, Andrew DeVogelaere, Sarah Fangman, Bob Fletcher, Dave Fluharty, Rod Fujita, Steve Gaines, Jim Glock, David Gutierrez Carbonell, Susan Hanna, Will Hildesley, Mark Hixon, Ruth Kelty, George Leonard, Jane Lubchencho, Gary Matlock, Mark Miller, Melissa Miller-Henson, Mary Lou Mills, Mel Moon, Rod Moore, Lance Morgan, Mike Orbach, Fred Piltz, Carrie Pomeroy, Steve Rumrill, Eva Rupp, Don Scavia, Jim Seger, Cindy Thompson, Jodie Wilson, John Ugoretz, Joe Uravitch, Charlie Wahle, and Mary Yoklavich.

Proposed Organizational Structure for the Integrated Assessment of West Coast MPAs

Executive Order #13158 directs Federal agencies to work collaboratively with public and private interests to develop a science-based framework for the national system of marine protected areas (MPAs). To insure compliance with this order, NOAA's National Ocean Services will work with partners to conduct an integrated assessment (IA) that examines how various uses of marine resources in a network of MPAs impact sustainable fisheries, biodiversity, and submerged cultural artifacts.

To effectively carry out an IA that will be a useful tool for decision makers, the assessment must be structured in a manner that is broadly integrated, synthetic, predictive, and relevant. The proposed structure for the West Coast MPA Integrated Assessment outline below will be the starting point for our discussion at this meeting. However, the discussion will not be limited to this approach; alternate ideas and proposals are welcome.

How would a network of West Coast MPA's affect sustainability of fisheries and conservation of biodiversity and submerged cultural artifacts?

The proposed approach follows the steps of an Integrated Assessment:

1. Document status and trends of environmental, social, and economic conditions relevant to the three issues identified in the overarching question.
2. Evaluate environmental, social, and economic causes and consequences of those changes.
3. Forecast potential environmental, social, and economic impacts of a range of alternatives for addressing those changes.
4. Provide guidance as to best practices for implementing those alternatives.

To attack this complex issue in a comprehensive way, we propose to establish and support (fiscally and in-kind) 5 scientific teams.

- Team 1 would document the status and trends of environmental, social, and economic conditions relevant to the three issues of concern. ***The work of this team will be closely coordinated with the others to ensure a common geographic framework, scale, and data set for analysis and interpretation.***
- Teams 2, 3, and 4 would each evaluate the causes and consequences of related ecosystem changes within the context of sustaining fisheries (Team 2), maintaining biodiversity (Team 3), and conserving artifacts (Team 4). These teams will look at how various uses (e.g. fishing, recreational use, extraction, navigation, defense, dilution, no use, and habitat modification) affect each of the three goals.

These three teams would also provide estimates (forecasts) of future conditions related to these three issues for a range of policy options relevant to MPAs. ***These policy options should include the full range of uses and be focused at the regional scale in the context of a network of MPAs, as opposed to focusing on the design of any one particular existing or proposed MPA.***

- Team 5 would use the results of the other teams to examine the potential for identifying a common set of actions (network) that would serve all three sub-goals. ***This team's effort would continue to be a scientific analysis in the context of institutional, political, and societal constraints. It will not recommend specific actions, but rather continue to analyze alternatives.***