

INFORMATIONAL REPORT ON MARINE PROTECTED AREA ACTIVITIES

Marine Protected Area Federal Advisory Committee

The Marine Protected Area (MPA) Federal Advisory Committee (FAC) met September 21-24, 2004 in Maui, Hawaii. The FAC is charged with providing advice to the Secretaries of Commerce and the Interior on implementation of Section 4 of Executive Order 13158 on MPAs. Executive Order 13158 directs federal agencies to strengthen and expand the national system of MPAs through three primary means: (a) strengthen the management, protection, and conservation of existing marine protected areas and establish new or expanded MPAs; (b) develop a scientifically based, comprehensive national system of MPAs representing diverse U.S. marine ecosystems, and the Nation's natural and cultural resources; and (c) avoid causing harm to MPAs through federally conducted, approved, or funded activities.

Several regional fishery management councils (RFMCs) were invited to the MPA FAC September meeting to provide RFMC perspective on MPAs and their integration into fishery management. Pacific Fishery Management Council (Council) staff presented information about ongoing marine reserve and MPA-related Council initiatives, including coordination with West Coast National Marine Sanctuaries, review of National Fisheries Conservation Center Consensus Conference preparatory materials, coordination with the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA)-led MPA Science Integration Project (described below), and the Scientific and Statistical Committee White Paper – *Marine Reserves: Objectives, Rationales, Fishery Management Implications and Regulatory Requirements* recently adopted by the Council.

Council staff will continue to track activities of the MPA FAC and provide updates to the Council as new information warrants.

Integration of Marine Protected Areas and Fishery Science and Management

This information was provided by the National Marine Fisheries Service, Santa Cruz Laboratory.

PROJECT LEADERS:

National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS), Santa Cruz Laboratory and the National Marine Protected Areas Science Institute.

PROJECT DESCRIPTION:

Differing scientific views and interpretations have tended to create confusion and concerns over the role of marine protected areas (MPAs) in the management of the Nation's fisheries and the conservation of its marine biodiversity. To address this problem, the NMFS Santa Cruz Lab (SCL) and NOAA's National Marine Protected Areas Center-Science Institute (NMPAC-SI) have convened a technical working group to develop the scientific information necessary to integrate MPAs and the broader context of fisheries. The working group will participate in a series of focused workshops over a span of two years to discuss and define the critical concepts and issues, and using in-depth analysis and synthesis, develop a rational approach for integration of MPAs and traditional

fishery science and management. The working group is composed of scientists, fishery managers, and representatives from the fishing industry and conservation community with appropriate expertise in marine ecology and fishery science and management.

STATUS REPORT – OCTOBER 2004:

Prior to convening the working group, we organized a NOAA planning effort in February 2004 to assist us with developing a list of main topics for the working group and a list of prospective members. The working group had its inaugural meeting October 6-8, 2004 at the NMFS Laboratory in Santa Cruz, California. After introductions and discussion of the relevant issues, which included a review of draft topics and questions developed by the NOAA planning team and NFCC's consensus statement, the working group defined three main topics for review and analysis by individual teams. The topics were distilled from a longer list based upon their relevance, urgency, and tractability for MPA science integration. Three teams were formed to address the following topics and main objectives:

- Fishery – Ecosystem Team: identify trade-offs of different fishery management measures (MPAs are one of them), in terms of common currencies for fisheries and ecosystems, including considerations of how an MPA would likely affect traditional fishery management science, such as stock assessment reference points.
- Connectivity Team: develop tools to identify connectivity patterns at the ecosystem scale and to translate that information into the design of effective MPAs that meet the needs of fishermen and other stakeholders.
- Natural Heritage MPA Team: develop guidance and measurable objectives for the design and evaluation of an MPA implemented for natural heritage purposes.

Each team discussed issues pertaining to their topic and developed a summary with specific questions and literature reviews to be investigated by members of their team according to a time line. The individual topics and objectives are to varying degrees linked to each other through their shared inputs and outputs. The working group conveners will facilitate avenues of communication among teams to foster the development of common currencies and to reduce duplication. The next team meetings are scheduled for late spring 2005, where the teams will share their interim work products.

PROJECT DELIVERABLES:

- Peer reviewed papers and reports
- Novel analytical approaches and models for integrating the science and management of fisheries and MPAs
- A conceptual framework to improve the integrative management of fisheries and MPAs

WORKING GROUP PARTICIPANTS:

Peter Auster – University of Connecticut
Steve Berkeley – University of California Santa Cruz
Jim Bohnsack – Southeast Fishery Science Center
Loo Botsford – University of California Davis
John Crofts – Southwest Fishery Science Center (staff)
Rikki Dunsmore – Southwest Fishery Science Center
John Field – Southwest Fishery Science Center
David Fluharty – University of Washington

Churchill Grimes – Southwest Fishery Science Center(convener)
Phil Levin – Northwest Fishery Science Center
Marc Mangel – University of California Santa Cruz
Rick Methot – NMFS/Science and Technology
André Punt – University of Washington
Gilbert Radonski – MPA FAC member and formerly president of Sport Fishing Institute
Paul Rago - Northeast Fishery Science Center
Steve Ralston – Southwest Fishery Science Center
Andy Rosenberg – University of New Hampshire
Elaine Soulanille – Southwest Fishery Science Center (staff)
Ana Spalding - National Marine Protected Areas - Science Institute (staff)
Cindy Thomson – Southwest Fishery Science Center
Charles Wahle – National Marine Protected Areas - Science Institute (convener)
Robert Warner – University of California Santa Barbara
Vidar Wespested – Pacific Whiting Conservation Cooperative
Jim Wilen – University of California Davis
Lisa Wooninck – Southwest Fishery Science Center (convener)
Mary Yoklavich - Southwest Fishery Science Center

A few invitees could not attend the meeting and may be added to the working group at a future date.

PFMC
10/19/04