

MBNMS MPA Planning Process Update

Paul Michel
Superintendent

Pacific Fishery Management Council
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MBNMS core values

- Science-based
- Public input and stakeholder involvement
- Collaborative: interagency, stakeholders, scientists
- Transparent management

A healthy Sanctuary ecosystem supports sustainable uses, economies and coastal communities

MBNMS MPA goals

- Protect unique and rare places within MBNMS in their natural state for future generations
- Protect areas within MBNMS where natural ecosystem components are maintained and/or restored
- Establish research areas within MBNMS that can be used to differentiate between natural variation versus human impacts to ecological processes and components

Recap of key steps along the way

- **2001:** Marine Protected Areas (MPAs) and Joint Management Review Process
- **2002 - 2007:** MPA Working Group convened
- **Feb-2008:** MBNMS announces decision “that there is a need for MPAs in the federal waters of the Sanctuary.”
- **April-2008:** MBNMS provides rationale for decision
 - Ecosystem-based management (EBM) approach
 - Precautionary approach

MBNMS's MPA Action Plan

Key Strategies

- 1) Develop partnerships with interagency partners to identify common goals within the geographic area of MBNMS
- 2) Ensure that the development of any additional MPAs are coordinated with other types of management measures
- 3) Develop interagency coordination mechanisms
- 4) Consider a range of options that allow for varying types of extractive and non-extractive uses within MPAs

PFMC Advice

- **July-2008:** PFMC provides feedback on MBNMS proposed process for moving forward with MPA planning process:
 - Mutual benefits from collaboration
 - Need to develop evaluation criteria and evaluate current management regime
 - Consider consolidation of spatial management measures

Other Partner Agency Advice

- Sanctuary Advisory Council & MPA subcommittee
- NMFS NWR
- NMFS SWR
- NMFS Science Centers
- PFMC staff
- CDFG
- NOAA's National MPA Center
- The Nature Conservancy

Complementary management programs

- MLPA MPAs
- Address fishing impacts to benthic habitat
- EFH - 5 year review
- PFMC's plans for an EFMP
- Economically and ecologically viable community-based fisheries.
- Community Fishing Association
- Sustainable fisheries certification program
- National System of MPAs

Integrated Ecosystem-Based Management

Comprehensive approach that considers multiple management objectives with partner agencies

Integrated Ecosystem Assessment (IEA)

- A process to inform and achieve ecosystem goals
- A process to evaluate various management actions
- NOAA's 2009-2014 Strategic Plan for ecosystem approaches to management
- Identified by NOAA scientists as a critical tool for EBM

West Coast IEA

- May be suited to address two analytical needs identified by PFMC for MPA process
 - Development and testing of indicators that reflect ecosystem attributes of interest: may inform the development of specific evaluation criteria for MPA goals
 - Overall ecosystem assessment and evaluation: may prove useful in evaluating existing and proposed management measures within the Sanctuary to ascertain if any modifications or additions are necessary to meet the MPA objectives.

MBNMS commitments

- MBNMS committed to working with SAC, NMFS and PFMC to ensure an effective and timely public process
- MBNMS committed to understanding the ecological and socioeconomic impacts on any proposed actions
- Any proposed action would be accompanied by full analysis, as required by NEPA and APA