

From Design to Implementation: the National System of Marine Protected Areas

Presentation to
New England Fishery Management Council
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Presentation Outline

- Definition of MPAs
- Background on National System
- Nomination Process



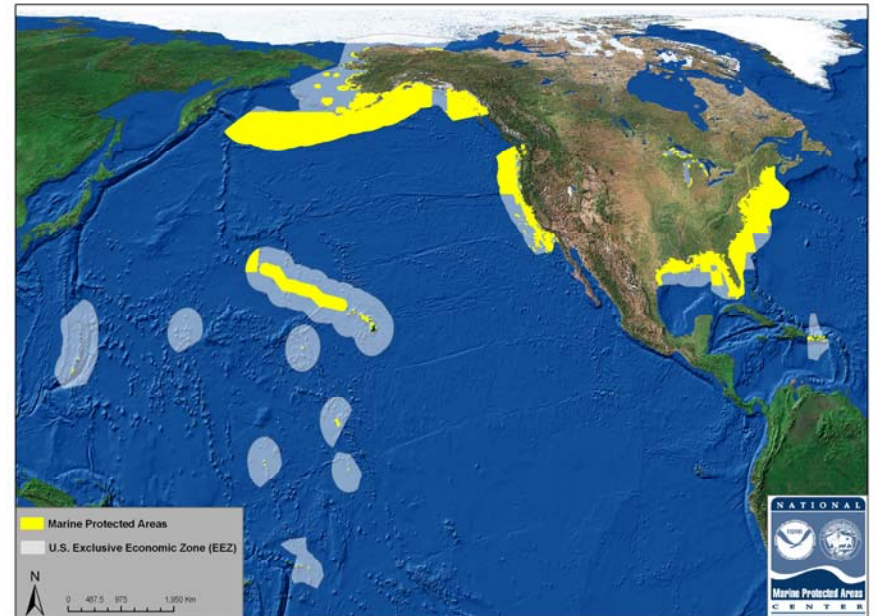
What is an MPA?

Marine Protected Area (MPA) – any area of the marine environment that has been reserved by Federal, state, territorial, tribal or local laws or regulations to provide lasting protection to part or all of the natural and cultural resources therein. (Executive Order 13158 of May 26, 2000)



National Picture of MPAs

- ~ 1800 MPAs in U.S. waters
- Hundreds of federal, state and local MPA authorities
- About 1/3 of US EEZ in some form of MPA, but purposes narrow
- Majority allow multiple uses (>99% of MPA area)
- Few prohibit all extractive activities (<1% of MPA area); no take MPAs are typically very small
- Federal programs manage most area; states manage most sites



Why A National System of MPAs?

- Confusion over MPA types, purposes, and terms
- About 200 independent legal authorities
- Lack of coordination among MPA designations and operations
- No existing forum for comprehensive planning for place-based management
- Lack of consideration of connectivity among different MPA types
- Missed opportunities to address multiple management objectives in one MPA



The Driving Force: MPA Executive Order 13158

- Signed by President William J. Clinton in May 2000
- Endorsed by President George W. Bush in July 2001
 - DOC/NOAA and Interior are co-Leads

- 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



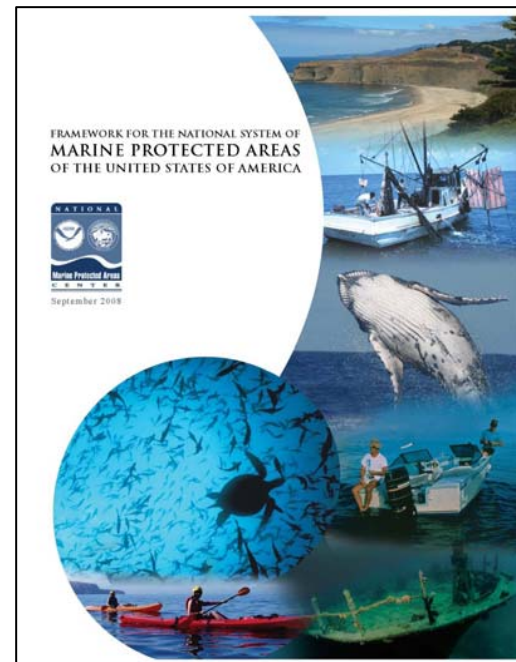
Benefits of a National System of MPAs

- To Participating MPAs
 - Enhancing stewardship through regional coordination
 - Building partnerships
 - Building public & international awareness and support
 - Mechanism to address issues beyond their boundaries
- To the Nation:
 - Protecting representative ecosystems and resources
 - Enhancing connectivity
 - Identifying conservation gaps
- To ocean stakeholders:
 - Transparent process for MPA planning
 - Better planning for diverse ocean uses
 - Better information on MPA resources, uses and fishing opportunities



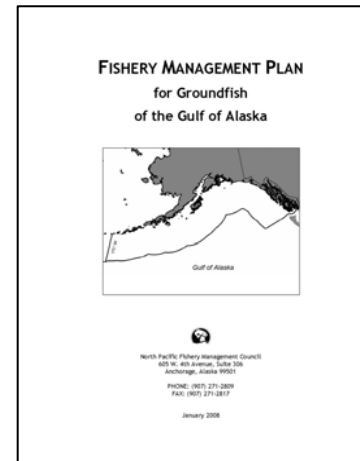
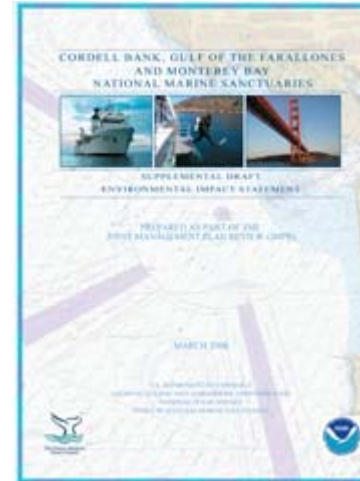
What will the National System do?

- Establish national goals and objectives
 - natural heritage, cultural heritage and sustainable production
 - 21 Priority Conservation Objectives
- Ensure a comparable set of information about MPAs across the nation
- Provide regional coordination of existing MPAs
 - Identifies common science and stewardship priorities
- Provide tools and technical assistance to enhance stewardship
- Conduct regional gap analyses to identify priority areas for potential new or enhanced MPAs
- No new regulatory authority



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
- Contributes to a priority conservation objective of the nation system
- Additional criteria for cultural resources



Priority Conservation Objectives: Natural Heritage Goal

Goal 1: Advance comprehensive conservation and management of the nation's biological communities, habitats, ecosystems, and processes, and the ecological services, uses, and values they provide to this and future generations through ecosystem-based MPA approaches.

Priority Conservation Objectives for Goal 1

Conserve and manage key reproduction areas and nursery grounds

Conserve key biogenic habitats

Conserve areas of high species and/or habitat diversity

Conserve ecologically important geological features and enduring/recurring oceanographic features

Conserve and manage critical habitat of threatened and endangered species

Conserve and manage unique or rare species, habitats and associated communities

Conserve and manage key areas for migratory species

Conserve linked areas important to life histories

Conserve key areas that provide compatible opportunities for education and research

Near Term

Mid Term

Long Term

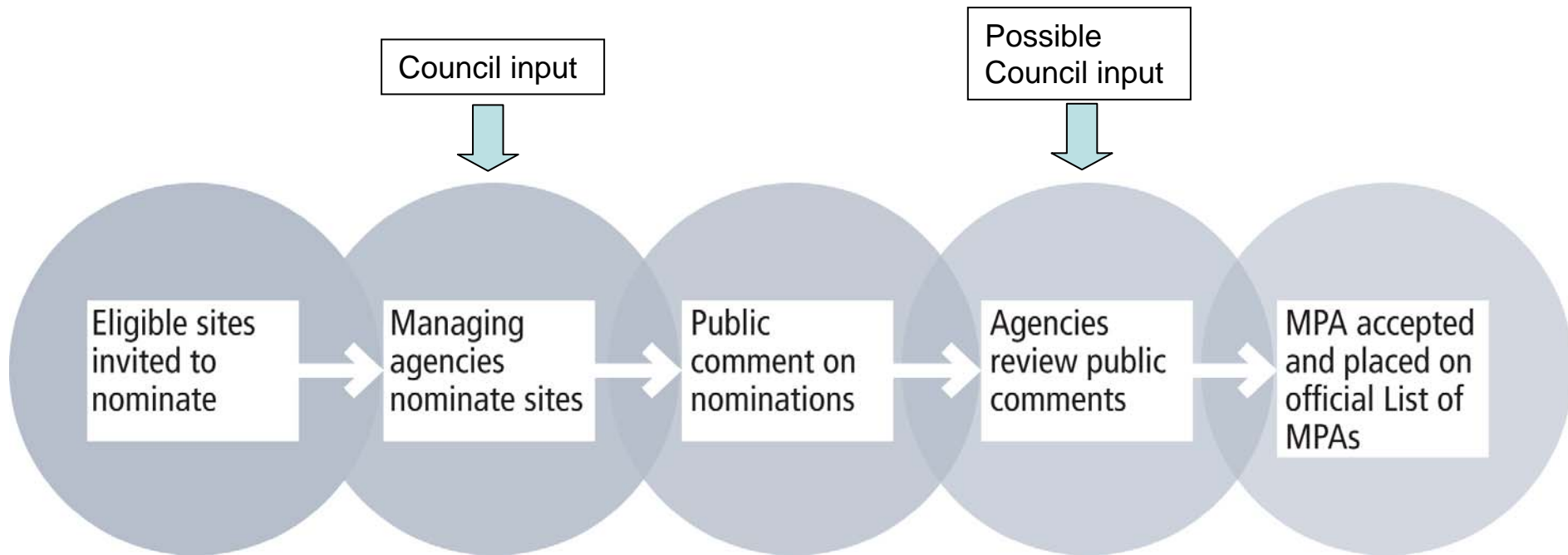
Priority Conservation Objectives: Sustainable Production Goal

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



Potential NOAA Fisheries Service MPAs

North Pacific:

Bering Sea Habitat Conservation Areas = 130,000 nm²
Steller Sea Lion Protection Areas, Gulf of Alaska - Groundfish,
Pollock, and Pacific Cod Closures = 83,725 km



Northeast:

Closed Area I = 3,940.44 km & Closed Area II = 6,734 km
Stellwagen Bank/Jeffreys Ledge Restricted Area = 5,271 km

Pacific:

Klamath River Salmon Conservation
Zone = 394.02 km
Big Sur/Port San Luis Bottom Trawl
Closed Area = 10,390 km



Mid-Atlantic:

Mid-Atlantic (Elephant Trunk) Closed
Area = 5,387 km
Southern Mid-Atlantic Waters Closure
Area = 113,534 km

Southeast:

Charleston Bump Closed Area = 125,494 km
East Florida Coast Closed Area = 103,448 km

Western Pacific

WestPac Bed = 39.47 km
Hancock Seamount = 61,481 km

Gulf of Mexico:

Tortugas Marine Reserves = 348.86 km
Reef Fish Stressed Area = 99,478 km

Caribbean:

Red Hind Spawning Aggregation Areas = 104.01 km
Mutton Snapper Spawning Aggregation Area = 8.72 km

Nomination of Federal Fisheries MPAs

- NOAA will update Councils on the launch of the national system and proposed nomination process
- NOAA's MPA Center will identify potentially eligible fisheries sites (that meet definition of MPA and have a management plan)
- NOAA Fisheries Service will determine which of these sites contribute to a priority conservation objective and develop list of sites to be nominated
- NOAA Fisheries Service will consult with Councils about proposed sites to be nominated in their region
- NOAA Fisheries Service will submit list of nominated sites to MPA Center
- Public comment period & review of comments
- NOAA Fisheries Service submits final nominations
- MPA Center reviews; mutually agreed upon MPAs accepted into national system

National System Milestones for FY09

- Initial Nomination Process: November – Spring 2009
 - Aiming for initial membership representing diverse levels of government and types of MPAs
 - NOAA Fisheries Service needs time to consult with Councils, but initial national system group could include MPAs established under MMPA or ESA
- Announcement first National System MPAs
- Nomination process will continue through 2009 (rolling)
- Annual nomination process cycle in future years
- Opportunity to coordinate with other federal and state MPA sites in the system
- First regional gap analysis workshop – West Coast

Questions?

A National System of MPAs, collaboratively conserving the nation's...



Kip Evans

Natural
Heritage,



Sustainable Production,
and



Cultural
Heritage.