

NATIONAL SYSTEM OF MARINE PROTECTED AREAS

MARINE PROTECTED AREAS FUND

www.mpa.gov

The national system of marine protected areas was established in April 2009 to enhance protection of the nation's natural and cultural heritage resources by improving marine protected areas (MPA) stewardship and coordination and working with MPA managers and stakeholders to identify conservation gaps and future priorities.

ABOUT THE MPA FUND

The National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration and the Department of the Interior have formed a partnership with the National Fish and Wildlife Foundation to establish the **Marine Protected Areas Fund** to support coordination and stewardship among members of the National System of Marine Protected Areas. The National System includes existing MPAs across all levels of government that meet eligibility criteria and nominate themselves through a public process. There are currently 254 sites from 31 states and territories represented in the national system, plus additional offshore areas under federal jurisdiction. Non-federal agencies and organizations can apply for support from the MPA Fund for the following priorities:

Stewardship Projects as Part of a Regional/Sub-Regional MPA Plan: For MPAs and MPA programs that have already established regional or sub-regional coordination mechanisms, MPA plans and/or implementation priorities (e.g. through the Seamless Network initiative, Regional Ocean Councils, or other mechanisms), funds may be directed toward specific stewardship projects that have already been identified as a regional priority.

Development of a Regional/Sub-Regional MPA Plan: For MPAs and MPA programs that have not yet established regional or sub-regional coordination mechanisms, MPA plans and/or implementation priorities, funds may be directed toward a workshop or meeting to establish such plans and priorities.

Meeting National System Eligibility Criteria: For MPAs and MPA programs that do not meet the eligibility criteria for the national system of MPAs, funds may be directed toward a partnership with an existing national system partner to conduct activities to meet eligibility criteria (e.g. development of MPA management plans).

ELIGIBILITY

All persons, organizations, and agencies (excluding U.S. Federal Government) working on projects to enhance MPA stewardship among members of the national system of MPAs are eligible. Applicants may include non-governmental organizations, but must include at least two agencies responsible for MPA management. Federal agencies may not receive funds, but may be listed as partners on an application.

TIMELINE

Pre-proposals for 2011 grants are due November 19, 2010. Grant recipients will be announced in Spring 2011. All projects are funded for one year, and funds must be spent by May 2012.

FOR MORE INFORMATION:

Grant guidelines and format: visit www.nfwf.org, or contact Anthony.chatwin@nfwf.org
National System of MPAs: visit www.mpa.gov, or contact Lauren.wenzel@noaa.gov

continued on back

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 efficient, effective use of MPAs now and in the future to conserve and sustain the nation's vital marine resources.



2010 MPA FUND RECIPIENTS



Title: Developing a Regional MPA Plan for the Southeast

Recipient: Friends of Rookery Bay, Inc.

Amount: \$35,000

Activities: Workshop and follow up to create a Regional MPA Plan for the Southeast



Title: Strengthening Marine Protections in Puako, Hawaii Island

Recipient: The Nature Conservancy

Amount: \$44,280

Activities: Community-based MPA management plan to reduce threats to Puako's coral reef, and model a planning process for other protected areas in Hawaii



Title: Application of LiDAR Data to Support MPA Management

Recipient: Rutgers University

Amount: \$38,373

Activities: Create digital elevation model to analyze sea level rise impacts on salt marsh and barrier islands; workshop to share tool with other MPA managers



Title: MPA Management Plan Development: Pacific Remote Islands Marine National Monument

Recipient: Marine Conservation Biology Institute

Amount: \$50,000

Activities: Workshop to support development of Monument Management Plan; develop management model for other remote MPAs



Title: California MPA Interpretive Panel Design and Installation

Recipient: California Department of Parks & Recreation

Amount: \$20,347

Activities: Signs, maps and interpretive panels at newly designed MPAs to enhance public understanding



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The National Fish and Wildlife Foundation (NFWF) is an independent 501(c)3 charity established by the United States Congress in 1984 to restore and enhance the nation's fish, wildlife, plants and habitats.