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## National Marine Protected Areas Center Weekly Update April 11, 2011

### Science and Stewardship

**MPA Center Scientist Attends International Workshop on MPAs and Fisheries Management:** At the invitation of Norway's Institute of Marine Research, Dr. Robert Brock, MPA Center Marine Biologist, participated in an international workshop entitled *Exploring the Role of MPAs in Reconciling Fisheries Management with Conservation*. The workshop, held from March 29-31 Bergen, Norway, involved participants from 30 countries, the United Nations (UN Environmental Program and Food and Agricultural Organization), Nordic Council of Ministers, Norway's Ministry of Fisheries and Coastal Affairs, and the Norwegian Institute for Nature Research. The impetus for the workshop was that MPAs with a fisheries management objective versus MPAs with conservation objective might have positive or negative impacts on each other. Reconciling these differing starting points is needed to achieve successful ecosystem-based management of the marine environment. Breakout groups reviewed policy and institutional frameworks and experiences in order to provide practical advice and guidance for dealing with management trade-offs when developing MPAs. ([Robert.Brock@noaa.gov](mailto:Robert.Brock@noaa.gov))

### Library Links of the Week

A recent article accepted for publication in the peer-reviewed journal *Environmental Management* provides a global assessment of the effectiveness of coral reef MPAs. The authors compiled self-reviews from a broadly representative sample of 78 coral reef MPAs from around the world and analyzed them for indications of ecological and socioeconomic improvements. They found that the vast majority demonstrated improvements in slowing coral loss, reducing destructive usage, and increasing local tourism and employment. However, in some cases these improvements seemed to reflect similar changes outside the MPA. They also found that many MPAs (25%) do not demonstrate improvements in coral cover or conflict reduction. The article, "A Global Evaluation of Coral Reef Management Performance: Are MPAs Producing Conservation and Socio-Economic Improvements?" is available online at: <http://dx.doi.org/10.1007/s00267-011-9616-5> ([Chris.Belter@noaa.gov](mailto:Chris.Belter@noaa.gov))

A recent technical report from the United Nations Environment Programme provides guidance on MPA governance. In particular, the report explores how to balance top-down, bottom-up, and market approaches to managing MPAs in various regional contexts. The report summarizes the results of 20 case studies from around the world in order to explore various methods of combining these three approaches to achieve positive conservation outcomes. Through these case studies, the report identifies five broad approaches to MPA governance: government-led, decentralized governance, community-led, private-led, and no governance. The report also identifies 40 incentives in five broad categories - economic, interpretative, knowledge, legal, and participative - that encourage individual behavior that contributes to the MPA's policy objectives and conservation goals. The full report, "Governing Marine

Protected Areas - Getting the Balance Right" is available at:

[http://www.imr.no/filarkiv/2011/03/unep\\_2011\\_governing\\_marine\\_protected\\_areas\\_getting\\_the\\_balance\\_right.pdf/en](http://www.imr.no/filarkiv/2011/03/unep_2011_governing_marine_protected_areas_getting_the_balance_right.pdf/en) (Chris.Belter@noaa.gov)

## **Events and Conferences**

The following is a listing of events and conferences that the MPA Center is organizing or that MPA Center staff members plan to attend.

### July 2011

17-21: Coastal Zone 2011, Chicago, IL (Grussing)

### September 2011

American Fisheries Society Annual Conference, Seattle, WA (Brock, Wenzel)

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The mission of the National Marine Protected Areas Center 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's goals are to:

1. Build and maintain the National System of MPAs
2. Improve MPA Stewardship and Effectiveness
3. Coordinate International, National, and Regional MPA Activities

For more information, go to: [www.MPA.gov](http://www.MPA.gov).