



National Marine Protected Areas Center Weekly Update July 12, 2011

Science and Stewardship

MPA Center Sponsored Symposium Accepted for AAAS Meeting: A special symposium proposal entitled *Designing Marine Protected Area Networks Within Changing Global Climate Conditions* has been accepted by the American Association for the Advancement of Science (AAAS) Program Committee for inclusion in the 2012 AAAS Annual Meeting, to be held February 17-20, 2012 in Vancouver, Canada. Discussions are expected to focus on climate change and corresponding changes in physical oceanographic conditions and processes, and assessing the effectiveness of current MPAs. Dr. Robert Brock, Senior Marine Biologist at the MPA Center, will organize and moderate this special symposium. For more information about the 2012 AAAS Meeting, visit <http://www.aaas.org/meetings/>. (Robert.Brock@noaa.gov)

MPA Center and NOS Special Projects Publish Web Mapping Services (WMS): The MPA Center and the NOS Special Projects Office have published Web Mapping Services (WMS) for several key geospatial datasets important to the developing coastal and marine spatial planning initiative. The [MPA Inventory](#) database and all MPA Center [ocean use mapping](#) datasets (California, New Hampshire and Southern Maine, and Hawaii) are now available as web mapping services, enabling users to seamlessly access these datasets and use them in their own custom applications. MPA boundaries and human uses data can now be easily added to other spatial data viewers (such as those that support IOOS applications like NERACOOS), while maintaining the MPA Center's standardized symbology, labeling and links to project metadata. Additionally, these services will automatically push updates to clients as the databases change, eliminating the need to continually download or check for new versions. (Mimi.Diorio@noaa.gov)

MPA Center Contributes to the U.S. Department of Interior's (DOI) State of the Birds Report 2011: The MPA Center contributed information regarding marine protected areas (MPAs) from its MPA Inventory as well as its project with the Point Reyes Bird Observatory Conservation Science (PRBO) on *Identifying Wildlife Hotspots in the California Current* to the DOI State of the Birds Report 2011. The MPA Center's contributions are found in the ocean and coast chapters as well as providing input in the agencies section under the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration. This report provides the nation's first assessment of the distribution of birds on public lands and the opportunities for public agencies in each habitat. The report generally describes the *nearly 850 million acres of land and 3.5 million square miles of ocean in the U.S. that are owned by the American people. About 40% of U.S. waters are in MPAs, of which most are multiple-use and only 1% do not allow any take of natural resources.* The State of the Birds Report 2011 can be downloaded at <http://www.stateofthebirds.org/> (Rondi.Robison@noaa.gov)

Education and Outreach

MPA Videos Featured on National Ocean Service Podcast: The MPA Center's [videos on the national system](#) have been highlighted in a National Ocean Service (NOS) *Making Waves* Podcast, released on Friday, July 8. The videos showcase the national system, and focus on the three goals of the national system: conserving and managing cultural heritage, natural heritage and sustainable production resources. *Making Waves* is a bi-weekly audio podcast reporting on the latest National Ocean Service news and information. To access the podcast, visit [\(http://oceanservice.noaa.gov/podcast/supp_july11.html#mw78\)](http://oceanservice.noaa.gov/podcast/supp_july11.html#mw78) (Denise.Ellis-Hibbett@noaa.gov)

MPA Center Publishes New Publication on Marine Reserves: The MPA Center has published a new fact sheet on Marine Reserves, describing what they are, why they are necessary, and highlighting three case-studies that illustrate the ways marine reserves are playing a key role in conserving our ocean resources. The publication "[Marine Reserves in the United States](#)," was recently featured in an online [story](#) on marine reserves published in *Yale Environment 360*, a publication of the Yale School of Forestry & Environmental Studies. To download the fact sheet, visit http://www.mpa.gov/pdf/helpful-resources/factsheets/us_marinereserves.pdf. (Lauren.Wenzel@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

11-15: 2011 ESRI International User Conference, San Diego, CA (D'Iorio, Gass, Hayden)

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

September 2011

4-8: American Fisheries Society Annual Conference, Seattle, WA (Brock, Wenzel)

November 2011

14-18: MPA Federal Advisory Committee Meeting, New Orleans, LA (Yeager, 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.