



---

## National Marine Protected Areas Center Weekly Update July 19, 2011

### **Science and Stewardship**

**MPA Center participates in National Wildlife Refuge's Vision Conference:** Acting MPA Center Director Lauren Wenzel participated in a panel on ocean resources at the National Wildlife Refuges' "Conserving the Future" conference about the future vision for the National Wildlife Refuge System in Madison, Wisconsin last week. The conference is the culmination of months of internal and external dialogue about the role of the Refuge system over the coming years. The Fish and Wildlife Service is producing a vision document that captures the "bold ideas" generated over the past few months and refined at the conference. The MPA Center participated with Refuge leaders from Alaska Maritime NWR, the Pacific Islands NWR, and Florida Keys NWR on a panel to raise the visibility and focus on marine and coastal resources within the Refuge system. ([Lauren.Wenzel@noaa.gov](mailto:Lauren.Wenzel@noaa.gov))

**The MPA Center GIS team attended the annual ESRI Users Conference in San Diego last week.** With nearly 70 NOAA employees in attendance, this meeting provided a great opportunity for both inreach and outreach on NOAA GIS activities, specifically on topics related to spatial data management, sharing and accessibility. Through plenary sessions, workshops, seminars and special interest group meetings, the GIS team learned about the latest advancements in ESRI's geospatial tools and technology and explored new ways to visualize, distribute and analyze the Center's spatial data. The team also received a briefing and demo on the prototype tools being developed for NOAA by ESRI to assist in spatial data management for CMSP and related geospatial efforts. ([Mimi.Diorio@noaa.gov](mailto:Mimi.Diorio@noaa.gov))

### **Education and Outreach**

**MPA Center Publishes New Publication on National Wildlife Refuge MPAs:** With the National Wildlife Refuge System "Conserving the Future" Conference taking place last week, the MPA Center with help from our partners at US Fish and Wildlife Service, published a new factsheet on National Wildlife Refuge Marine Protected Areas. It illustrates the new data being gathered on natural and cultural resources and legal authorities for the MPA Inventory, making it an even more useful tool for telling stories about how our MPA programs are protecting marine resources. To download the fact sheet, visit [http://www.mpa.gov/pdf/helpful-resources/nwr\\_mpa\\_factsheet.pdf](http://www.mpa.gov/pdf/helpful-resources/nwr_mpa_factsheet.pdf)

**MPA Center Publishes New Publication on Great Lakes MPAs:** The MPA Center has also published a new factsheet on Great Lakes MPAs, in anticipation of the Coastal Zone Conference taking place in Chicago, Illinois this week. It describes the types of MPAs found within the Great Lakes, the history of

partnerships there and it details the rich cultural heritage of some of the MPAs within the region. To download the factsheet, visit [http://www.mpa.gov/pdf/helpful-resources/greatlakes\\_mpa\\_snapshot.pdf](http://www.mpa.gov/pdf/helpful-resources/greatlakes_mpa_snapshot.pdf)

## **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 (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)

###

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).