



National Marine Protected Areas Center Weekly Update July 29, 2010

Science and Stewardship

MPA Center Staff Attends National Marine Educators Association Conference: From July 19-22, Kara Schwenke, MPA Center Communications Coordinator, attended the National Marine Educators Association's (NMEA) Annual Conference in Gatlinburg, TN. The conference, which brought together marine science and environmental educators from around the country, provided an opportunity for formal and informal educators to interact with each other, as well as with governmental and non-profit organizations. The NMEA publishes *Current: The Journal of Marine Education*, and the MPA Center recently sponsored a special edition of *Current*, focused on networks and systems of MPAs. The MPA Center also worked with a curriculum writer to develop a set of lesson plans focused on the national system of MPAs. Both the special edition of *Current*, and the new national system lesson plans are available on www.mpa.gov. (Kara.Schwenke@noaa.gov)

MPA Center GIS Staff Attend ESRI International User Conference: From July 12-16, MPA Center staff attended the 30th Annual ESRI International User Conference in San Diego, CA, the world's largest conference devoted to geographic information systems (GIS). Mimi D'Iorio, the MPA Center's GIS and Database Manager, presented the MPA online mapping tool at the Federal showcase forum, highlighting the tool's functionality, its applications and technical specifications. Additionally, Mimi, Nicholas Hayden, and Jordan Gass (GIS Specialists) networked with other NOAA GIS staff, attended technical sessions and presentations, and played a large role in setting up and staffing the NOAA exhibit booth. The exhibit featured interactive computer kiosks where staff demonstrated GIS data, products, and services that support NOAA's mission in the areas of Coastal and Marine Spatial Planning, weather and climate, and the Deepwater Horizon oil spill response efforts. (Jordan.Gass@noaa.gov) (Nicholas.Hayden@noaa.gov) (Mimi.Diorio@noaa.gov)

MPA Center Staff

MPA Center Welcomes Peruvian Fellow: The MPA Center would like to welcome Cynthia Cespedes, a fellow from the American Government Fellows Program, who will be working with the MPA Center through late August. Her fellowship is funded by Partners of the Americas. In Peru, Cynthia works at the National Service of Protected Areas by the Government (SERNANP), a public institution in charge of the management of Peru's natural protected areas. At SERNANP, Cynthia is the head of the Paracas National Reserve, and coordinates the Guano Islands and Points National Reserve - a network of 22 Guano Islands and Points that are distributed along the Peruvian Coast and were just established as a National Reserve last December. While visiting NOAA, Cynthia will be interacting with the MPA Center, the National Marine Sanctuary Program, and NOS International, among others.

Cynthia has an M.S. in Natural Resources Conservation and a B.S. in Biology from La Molina Agrarian National University in Peru. (Cynthia.Cespedes@noaa.gov)

Library Links of the Week

Students from the Johns Hopkins University Paul H. Nitze School of Advanced International Studies, in collaboration with IUCN's Global Marine Programme have recently published a study examining four governance options to improve the conservation and management of marine areas lying outside national jurisdiction. The four options discussed in the study are: (1) improve the status quo without adopting any new regulations or forming new governance entities, (2) expand regional fisheries management organizations and Regional Seas Conventions, (3) develop a new United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea implementing agreement, and (4) develop new United Nations General Assembly resolutions. The news release announcing the study can be found at:

<http://www.iucn.org/about/work/programmes/marine/?5452/A-fresh-look-at-improving-ocean-governance---new-study>

The full text of the report can be found at:

http://cmsdata.iucn.org/downloads/sais_iucn_report_final.pdf
(Chris.Belter@noaa.gov)

The final recommendations of the Interagency Ocean Policy Task Force were released on July 19, 2010. The Task Force, led by the White House Council on Environmental Quality and consisting of senior-level policy officials from across the government, was established by President Obama last June in order to make recommendations and enhance the stewardship and preservation of the nation's oceans, coasts, and Great Lakes. In order to implement the recommendations made by the Task Force, President Obama also signed an executive order last week establishing a National Policy for the Stewardship of the Ocean, Coasts, and Great Lakes and creating a National Ocean Council to strengthen ocean governance and to improve coordination between the multiple existing federal laws, executive orders, and agencies tasked with protecting the nation's marine, coastal, and Great Lakes resources. The final recommendations of the Task Force and the executive order creating the National Ocean Council can be downloaded from the Council's website: <http://www.whitehouse.gov/administration/eop/oceans>
(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.

September 2010

7-10: California and the World Ocean Conference, San Francisco, CA (Townsend, Uravitch)

12-16: American Fisheries Society Annual Meeting, Pittsburgh, PA (Brock, Wenzel)

11-16: Association of Zoos and Aquariums, Houston, TX (Schwenke, Uravitch)

15-19: 9th Maritime Heritage Conference, Baltimore, MD (Grussing)

20-24: ICES Annual Science Conference & Business, Nantes, France (Brock)

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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.