



National Marine Protected Areas Center Weekly Update June 30, 2011

Science and Stewardship

Mapping Human Uses of the Ocean Webinar Draws Large Audience: On June 29, Mimi D'Iorio, GIS Manager for the MPA Center, led an online seminar for approximately 80 participants on mapping human uses of the ocean. The presentation was sponsored by NOAA's National Ocean Service's "Science Seminar Series", and provided a summary of the MPA Center's various participatory mapping efforts to document human uses of the ocean, key lessons learned throughout the process, and tips for designing and implementing a successful participatory GIS project for related applications. Understanding human uses of the ocean is an essential component to successful marine resource planning and management. Unfortunately, spatial data on ocean uses are limited, as use patterns are often qualitative, subjective and difficult to capture consistently over large areas.

Through a refined participatory process, the MPA Center has mapped nearly 30 distinct uses of the ocean at multiple scales, across different domains and for a variety of marine management applications. These projects have targeted a wide variety of uses, but broadly include consumptive, non-consumptive, industrial and military activities. The process has been successfully completed for California's state and federal waters, the coastal and marine environments of New Hampshire and Southern Maine and the state waters off the Northwest coast of Hawaii. To learn more about the MPA Center's efforts to map human uses, visit: http://www.mpa.gov/dataanalysis/ocean_uses/.
(Mimi.Diorio@noaa.gov)

International

Florida Keys National Marine Sanctuary Formally Nominated for Listing Under the SPAW Protocol: On June 28, the NOS International Program Office (IPO) transmitted a letter from Dr. James Turner, Director of NOAA's Office of International Affairs, to the United Nations Environment Program, Caribbean Environment Program, to formally list the Florida Keys National Marine Sanctuary (FKNMS) under the Protocol Concerning Specially Protected Areas and Wildlife (SPAW Protocol).

The SPAW Protocol, ratified by the U.S. in 2003, commits to take the necessary measures to protect, preserve and sustainably manage areas that require conservation to safeguard their special value, and threatened or endangered species of flora and fauna. Examples of these areas include representative habitats; critical habitats; economically and/or socially valuable areas; and other areas of special significance within the Wider Caribbean region.

IPO, in collaboration with the U.S. State Department, oversees the reporting requirements for the Protocol. The U.S. is required to report the status of existing and newly established protected areas,

buffer zones and protected species, as well as any changes in the delimitation or legal status of protected areas and species. The FKNMS is the first of many protected areas that the U.S. anticipates listing under the Protocol. The MPA Center and IPO will facilitate an interagency process to list additional sites and report on the SPAW Protocol. (Annie.Hillary@noaa.gov (IPO), Lauren.Wenzel@noaa.gov (MPA Center), William.Kiene@noaa.gov (NOAA's Office of National Marine Sanctuaries))

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.