



National Marine Protected Areas Center Weekly Update May 23, 2011

MPA Inventory

Updated MPA Mapping Tool, MPA Inventory Now Available: Together with [NOAA's Special Projects Office](#), the National Marine Protected Areas Center has updated its interactive online mapping tool that allows users to view boundaries and access data for more than 1,600 marine protected areas (MPAs) in the United States. The [MPA mapping tool](#) includes simple functions to visualize MPA boundaries, review MPA classification information (e.g., level of protection, managing agency, fishing restrictions), and explore all MPAs in a given location. Updates to the viewer include the addition of Google background maps, the ability to search by place name (not just MPA), new metadata, and the identification of national system sites, regardless of which search filter is used. Data for the mapping tool are from the newly updated [MPA Inventory](#), a comprehensive database of existing U.S. MPAs. The inventory contains a range of information on each of the 1,681 protected areas established or managed by federal, state, or territorial agencies or programs. Updates to the Inventory have allowed for more accurate [analyses of U.S. MPAs](#). To access the MPA Mapping Tool and Inventory, visit <http://www.mpa.gov/dataanalysis/mpainventory/>. (Mimi.Diorio@noaa.gov, Jordan.Gass@noaa.gov, Erick.DiFiore@noaa.gov)

Science and Stewardship

MPA Center Participates in International Marine Conservation Congress: From May 14-18, Dr. Robert Brock, presented at the 2nd International Marine Conservation Congress (IMCC2) in Victoria, British Columbia, Canada, which had over 1100 participants from several countries. Several pre-congress workshops focused on a range of issues including the use of “citizen science” in marine conservation to the current status of deep sea corals. The main symposia consisted of concurrent sessions with a wide range of natural, cultural, economic, and political science oral and poster presentations.

Dr. Brock delivered an oral presentation on the use of ecological scorecards, moderated a session on sustainable fisheries, and held a side meeting with the representatives of the Commission for Environmental Cooperation (CEC) (Montreal, Canada) to discuss an anticipated future CEC-MPA Center project on designing marine protected areas under a changing climate. For more information on the IMCC2, visit <http://www.conbio.org/imcc2011/>. (Robert.Brock@noaa.gov)

New “Science Briefs” Available on www.mpa.gov: The MPA Center is developing a series of “MPA Science Briefs” to address questions relating to the effectiveness of MPAs at meeting fisheries and/or biodiversity conservation goals. Summarizing recent scientific studies about MPA effectiveness, these briefs are intended to provide an explanation of some of the most frequently asked questions about the

science of marine protected areas. The inaugural brief “Do Fish Swim In and Out of MPAs?” is now available at <http://www.mpa.gov/sciencestewardship/mpascience/>. (Robert.Brock@noaa.gov, Carlos.Mireles@noaa.gov)

Library Link of the Week

A new article to be published in the journal *Conservation Letters* finds that a large no-take marine reserve may be less expensive to manage than a marine protected area that allows for multiple uses within its boundaries. In order to compare the expected management costs of a single large marine reserve to a multiple-use MPA with a 30% no-take zone, the authors used a global model of MPA management costs, a new statistical model based on actual management costs in Australia, and expert opinion based on the Great Barrier Reef Marine Park. They found that the statistical model and expert opinion both indicate that, due to additional expenses related to compliance, the multiple-use MPA was estimated to be more expensive to manage than the marine reserve. The article, "Promise and problems for estimating management costs of marine protected areas," is available online at: <http://dx.doi.org/10.1111/j.1755-263X.2011.00171.x> (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

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

17-21: Coastal Zone 2011, Chicago, IL (Wenzel, Grussing, D’Iorio)

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.