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## National Marine Protected Areas Center Weekly Update May 25, 2010

### Federal Advisory Committee

**MPA Federal Advisory Committee Writes to NOAA and DOI About CMSP:** On May 13, the Marine Protected Areas Federal Advisory Committee (MPA FAC) formally transmitted a letter on coastal and marine spatial planning (CMSP) to Under Secretary of Commerce for Oceans and Atmosphere and NOAA Administrator Dr. Jane Lubchenco, and Assistant Secretary of the Interior for Fish and Wildlife and Parks Thomas Strickland. The letter was developed by the MPA FAC during their recent meeting from April 20-22 in Charleston, South Carolina, and describes how the work of the MPA FAC broadly overlaps with the objectives laid out in the *Interim Framework for Effective Coastal and Marine Spatial Planning*. The MPA FAC was recently charged with providing recommendations on three issues that directly link the National System of MPAs and CMSP efforts. These include: 1) the role the national system plays within the broader CMSP initiative; 2) steps needed to ensure that conservation is sufficiently addressed within regional coastal and marine spatial plans; and 3) how DOC and DOI can build on the spatial data decision support tools and conservation planning processes used to develop the national system to inform CMSP. The letter, along with the recommendations that were developed at the April 2010 FAC meeting is available on [www.mpa.gov](http://www.mpa.gov). ([Lauren.Wenzel@noaa.gov](mailto:Lauren.Wenzel@noaa.gov))

### Cultural Heritage Resources

**MPA Center Staff Attends Joint Annual Meeting of Maritime Heritage Organizations:** From May 12-15, Valerie Grussing, Cultural Resources Coordinator for the MPA Center, attended the joint Annual Meeting of the North American Society for Oceanic History (NASOH), the National Maritime Historical Society (NMHS), the Society of Nautical Research (SNR), the Council of American Maritime Museums (CAMM), and the Steamship Historical Society of America (SSHSA). This year's meeting was in Mystic Seaport, CT, and was structured by the theme of "Maritime Environments." Historians, museum professionals, archaeologists, historical ecologists, and graduate students presented papers exploring the scholarly contexts of a range of contemporary crises in the world's oceans. Valerie gave a presentation on Maritime Cultural Heritage in the National MPA System, discussing the ways that the national system can benefit submerged cultural resources. ([Valerie.Grussing@noaa.gov](mailto:Valerie.Grussing@noaa.gov))

### International

**MPA Center Staff Attend the Trilateral Committee on Ecosystem and Conservation Management:** This year's Trilateral Committee meeting was held in Halifax, Nova Scotia, Canada May 10-14<sup>th</sup>. The Trilateral Committee facilitates and enhances cooperation and coordination among the wildlife agencies of Canada, Mexico and the United States in projects and programs for the conservation and management of wildlife, plants, biological diversity, and ecosystems of mutual interest. As the NOAA lead for the

Trilateral, Joseph Uravitch, participated in the ecosystem conservation working table and updated the committee on the progress and future plans of the North American Marine Protected Areas Network. ([Joseph.Uravitch@noaa.gov](mailto:Joseph.Uravitch@noaa.gov)).

**North American Marine Protected Areas Network (NAMPAN) Hosts Atlantic to Caribbean (A2C) MPA Network Planning Workshop:** The North American Marine Protected Areas Network met with selected climate change experts in Halifax, Nova Scotia, Canada to begin discussions of how to develop a methodology that applies current, science-driven network planning criteria, to help North America MPA agencies collectively and individually consider how to plan an Atlantic to Caribbean network that builds on nationally-identified, existing and candidate MPA sites, that takes into account climate change considerations. The Commission for Environmental Cooperation and NAMPAN will hold an additional planning workshop in the fall of 2010. ([Joseph.Uravitch@noaa.gov](mailto:Joseph.Uravitch@noaa.gov)).

**NAMPAN and Coastal Ecosystem Learning Centers Meet to Discuss Outreach and Education Partnership:** On May 17 and 18, representatives from the North American Marine Protected Areas Network (NAMPAN), including NOAA's National MPA Center on behalf of US partners, the Director of Coastal America, and representatives of Coastal America's Coastal Ecosystem Learning Centers (CELC) met to discuss a NAMPAN/CELC outreach and education partnership project on MPAs and networks of MPAs. The meeting, which took place at the Aquarium of the Pacific in Long Beach, CA, resulted in the development of two general public targeted project proposals focusing on: 1) an MPA educational project to develop a series of stories that focus on both regional, national and international MPA issues, and; 2) a proposal focusing on "citizen science" to encourage public participation in monitoring and enforcing regional MPAs. Ultimate approval will require joint agreement by the tri-national NAMPAN governmental partners and the CELCs. A joint statement of intention to form a collaboration between NAMPAN and the CELC network to develop and deliver a comprehensive program of MPA education and outreach was developed at the meeting and is under review. For more information about NAMPAN, visit <http://mpa.gov/nationalsystem/international/nampan/>. For more information about the CELC network, click [here](#). ([Joseph.Uravitch@noaa.gov](mailto:Joseph.Uravitch@noaa.gov), [Kara.Schwenke@noaa.gov](mailto:Kara.Schwenke@noaa.gov))

### **Library Links of the Week**

A new report from the IUCN World Commission on Protected Areas (IUCN-WCPA) and partners discusses the role of protected areas in mitigating and adapting to climate change. It notes how climate change issues can be included in protected area design, management, and governance. A Mitigation chapter discusses how marine and coastal ecosystems sequester carbon dioxide, and a chapter on Adaptation discusses how marine and freshwater protected areas can help rebuild fish stocks and replenish stocks beyond their borders. The report discusses specific cases of MPAs being designed or managed to maintain marine resources and biodiversity in the face of climate change. "Natural Solutions: Protected Areas Helping People Cope with Climate Change" is available at: [http://cmsdata.iucn.org/downloads/natural\\_solutions.pdf](http://cmsdata.iucn.org/downloads/natural_solutions.pdf) ([Kathleen.A.Kelly@noaa.gov](mailto:Kathleen.A.Kelly@noaa.gov))

In a new article in the open-access journal PLoS One, authors E.R. Selig and J.F. Bruno discuss their compilation of a global database of 8534 live coral cover surveys from 1969-2006 to compare annual changes in coral cover inside 310 MPAs to those in unprotected areas. They found that on average coral cover within MPAs remained constant, while coral cover on unprotected reefs declined. Their results also suggested that older MPAs were generally more effective than unprotected areas in preventing coral loss. The authors conclude that since MPAs are a useful tool for maintaining coral cover and benefits from MPAs increase with number of years from MPA establishment, there should be a greater emphasis on implementing new MPAs and strengthening enforcement of existing MPAs. "A Global Analysis of the Effectiveness of Marine Protected Areas in Preventing Coral Loss" (PLoS One 5, 2 (2010): e9278) is available at: <http://www.plosone.org/article/info:doi/10.1371/journal.pone.0009278>

## **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.

### June 2010

13-16: The Coastal Society's 22nd International Coastal Conference, Wilmington, NC (Grussing)

21-25: National MPA System Partners Annual Meeting and Training, Tiburon, CA (Wenzel)

### July 2010

18-22: National Marine Educators Association Annual Conference, Gatlinburg, TN (Schwenke)

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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](http://www.MPA.gov).