



National Marine Protected Areas Center Weekly Update May 2, 2011

Navigating MPAs

MPA Center Produces Updated Version of "MPA Booklet Chart" for Monterey Bay: Working with the NOS Special Projects Office, the Office of Coast Survey, and federal and state MPA programs in the Monterey Bay region, the MPA Center developed the first MPA Booklet Chart, targeting ocean users in the Monterey Bay region. The Booklet Chart was originally published back in July 2010. Now, an updated version is available with more accurate information on MPA purposes and restrictions. The Booklet Chart is a user friendly version of a nautical chart that also provides an overlay of all MPAs in the Monterey Bay area. It includes a key with specific information, including restrictions, for each MPA depicted on the chart. Information on the marine resources of Monterey Bay and how individuals can help protect these resources is also shown. The MPA Center is working with MPA programs and stakeholders in the region to distribute the chart and obtain feedback. To download a copy, visit: http://mpa.gov/bookletchart_mbay. (Lauren.Wenzel@noaa.gov, Mimi.Diorio@noaa.gov, Julia.Townsend@noaa.gov)

Science and Stewardship

MPA Center Supports Workshop to Establish Gulf of Mexico MPA Network: The National Marine Protected Areas Center, in partnership with the National Fish and Wildlife Foundation, supported a regional workshop for marine protected area managers in the Gulf of Mexico to identify common goals, objectives and actions for collaboration through a regional MPA network. The workshop was hosted by Rookery Bay National Estuarine Research Reserve, and included participants from National Wildlife Refuges, National Parks, National Marine Sanctuaries, National Estuarine Research Reserves and the MPA Center. Participants identified three priority focus areas: adaptation to climate change, emergency planning and response, and education and outreach. The group also agreed to establish a steering committee to ensure ongoing communication and coordination with Gulf of Mexico restoration efforts. (Lauren.Wenzel@noaa.gov)

Library Links of the Week

A new article that has been accepted for publication in the peer-reviewed journal *Hydrobiologia* examines the attitudes of commercial fishers toward MPAs. The authors conducted a 'rapid review' of the literature published through August 2009 in order to identify the most frequently studied topics, summarize the main findings of each article, and analyze the implications of those findings for MPA management. The authors found that few of the articles published on the human dimensions of MPAs are actually based on empirical research. They conclude, therefore, that further research on fishers' attitudes toward MPAs is "critically needed." The article, "An overview of commercial fishers' attitudes

towards marine protected areas," is available at: <http://dx.doi.org/10.1007/s10750-011-0665-9>
(Chris.Belter@noaa.gov)

A recent report from NOAA's Office of National Marine Sanctuaries examines ways of reducing the risk of ship strikes on large whales in and around the Channel Islands National Marine Sanctuary (CINMS). Following an "Unusual Mortality Event" of ship strikes on blue whales during September 2007 in the region, CINMS held a series of participatory workshops and compiled four case studies with the goal of reducing the number of ship strikes on protected species. This report presents the results of these four case studies and presents the recommendations that resulted from analysis of these case studies and the participatory process. These recommendations were adopted by the CINMS Sanctuary Advisory Council last fall. The full report, "Reducing the Threat of Ship Strikes on Large Cetaceans in the Santa Barbara Channel Region and Channel Islands National Marine Sanctuary: Recommendations and Case Studies," is available online at: http://sanctuaries.noaa.gov/science/conservation/pdfs/ship_strikes.pdf
(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.

May 2011

11-13: "Beyond the Horizon: Creating a Network of Special Ocean Places", Sarasota, FL (Wenzel)
14-18: International Marine Conservation Congress, Victoria, B.C., Canada (Brock)

July 2011

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.