



---

## National Marine Protected Areas Center Weekly Update September 15, 2011

### Science and Stewardship

#### **MPA Center Staff Conduct Special Symposium at the American Fisheries Society Annual**

**Meeting:** On September 6, MPA Center staff conducted and participated in a day-long special symposium at the American Fisheries Society (AFS) Annual Meeting in Seattle, which brought together fishery biologists, ecologists, stock assessment scientists, social scientists, and spatial policy experts. Whether they are labeled MPAs, habitat areas of particular concern (HAPCs), marine reserves, or fishery management zones, "special" spatial restrictive areas for habitat and fisheries protection are an important and often controversial management tool. Assessing the efficacy of these areas many times involves the response of fish (e.g., what has been the response inside the area? outside the area?) vs. the potential economic impact to commercial and recreational fishing interests and coastal communities. What affect, if any, have permanent, long-term, or short-term closures had on fish stocks? To better assess this management tool, Drs. Robert Brock (NOAA National MPA Center), Dvora Hart (NOAA Northeast Fisheries Science Center) and Susanne McDermott (NOAA Alaska Fisheries Science Center) organized the day-long special symposium at the AFS Annual Meeting, entitled *Assessing the Role of Marine Protected Areas in Restoring, Sustaining, and/or Enhancing Fisheries*. MPA Center Acting Director, Lauren Wenzel, presented on "A National Perspective on the Role of Marine Protected Areas in Sustaining Fisheries", during the symposium. ([Robert.Brock@noaa.gov](mailto:Robert.Brock@noaa.gov)) ([Lauren.Wenzel@noaa.gov](mailto:Lauren.Wenzel@noaa.gov))

#### **MPA Center Participates in Aligning State & NOAA Capabilities to Address Priority Issues**

**Workshop:** The MPA Center's GIS Manager, Dr. Mimi D'Iorio, presented on the MPA Center's participatory ocean uses mapping process at the NOAA Coastal Strategy meeting last week in Silver Spring. Through a series of plenary sessions, lightning talks, roundtable discussions, and one-on-one interviews, the meeting focused on aligning state and NOAA capacities to address priority coastal issues and was attended by NOAA program staff and over 40 representatives from state and territorial coastal zone management programs. Mimi presented a plenary case study detailing the NOAA and state partnership for the Hawaii Coastal Use Mapping Project, led two well-attended roundtable discussions on ocean use mapping methods and conducted a series of interviews with state and regional representatives interested in conducting similar mapping efforts for CMSP. ([Mimi.Diorio@noaa.gov](mailto:Mimi.Diorio@noaa.gov))

### Education and Outreach

**New MPA Center Publication Outlining the MPA Center's Mission and Goals:** The MPA Center released a new factsheet outlining the mission, work, goals and priority projects of the MPA Center. The MPA Center's work focuses on supporting effective marine protected areas through science, technology, information and training. The priority projects of the MPA Center include: Stewardship of

the National System of MPAs; Understanding Human Uses as Part of the Ecosystem; Understanding the MPAs We Have Now; Explaining MPAs; Sharing Lessons Learned; and Engaging Stakeholders. To download the factsheet, please visit: [http://www.mpa.gov/pdf/helpful-resources/factsheets/mpafactsheet\\_8\\_24\\_11.pdf](http://www.mpa.gov/pdf/helpful-resources/factsheets/mpafactsheet_8_24_11.pdf)

**MPA Center Publishes New Publication on NOAA's Fisheries Service MPAs:** In anticipation of the AFS Annual Meeting in which MPA Center Staff conducted a day-long symposium, the MPA Center and the Office of Sustainable Fisheries analyzed current [MPA Inventory](#) data to produce a *Snapshot of NOAA's Fisheries Service MPAs*. Currently, there are 177 NOAA Fisheries Service MPAs in the US, accounting for 87% of MPA area in US waters. Four of these sites are members of the National System of MPAs. The majority of NOAA Fisheries Service MPAs are multiple use sites which permit a variety of uses, with a main focus on sustainable production and natural heritage. To find out more and to download the factsheet, please visit: [http://www.mpa.gov/pdf/helpful-resources/nmfs\\_mpa\\_snapshot\\_aug2011.pdf](http://www.mpa.gov/pdf/helpful-resources/nmfs_mpa_snapshot_aug2011.pdf)

### **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 2011

15-16: United Nations General Assembly Workshop on vulnerable marine ecosystems and deep-sea fisheries (Brock)

#### October 2011

19: Scientist Is In, Smithsonian Museum of Natural History, Washington, DC (Grussing)

#### November 2011

14-18: MPA Federal Advisory Committee Meeting, New Orleans, LA (Yeager, Wenzel, Townsend, Grussing)

###

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).