



National Marine Protected Areas Center Weekly Update September 22, 2011

Federal Advisory Committee

MPA Federal Advisory Committee Approves Recommendations on Coastal and Marine Spatial Planning: The MPA Federal Advisory Committee (MPA FAC), a diverse group comprised of ocean stakeholders, met via teleconference on September 12 and, by majority vote, approved a white paper including recommendations on coastal and marine spatial planning (CMSP). The vote was the culmination of months of work by the MPA FAC's CMSP Subcommittee, and two previous full Committee calls to discuss the recommendations in detail. The MPA FAC was charged by NOAA and the Department of the Interior with developing recommendations on the linkages between CMSP and the national system of MPAs, including lessons learned from MPA processes that may be applicable to CMSP. Recommendations are posted at www.mpa.gov (Lauren.Wenzel@noaa.gov)

Science and Stewardship

MPA Center Briefs NOAA Fisheries Science Board: Acting MPA Center Director Lauren Wenzel and Marine Biologist Dr. Robert Brock briefed the NOAA Fisheries Science Board on the work on the MPA Center via teleconference at their quarterly meeting. The Science Board is made up of the Directors of the six regional NOAA Fishery Science Centers and the Director of the Office of Science and Technology, who serves as the Board's Chair. Presenters described the status of the MPA Center as a NOAA-wide Center, its mission to create and national system of MPAs and support diverse federal and state MPA programs, its expertise in geo-spatial analysis through the MPA Inventory and ocean uses mapping, and existing science partnerships with NOAA Fisheries and other entities. (Robert.Brock@noaa.gov) (Lauren.Wenzel@noaa.gov)

MPA Center Meets with ESRI: Acting MPA Center Director Lauren Wenzel and Database Manger Dr. Mimi D'Iorio met with Dr. Dawn Wright, a newly appointed Vice President for Science at ESRI, a leading maker of GIS software and applications. Dr. Wright expressed strong support for the MPA Center's geospatial work, and interest in having the MPA Center serve as "beta testers" for the Ocean Planner application currently in development that will support coastal and marine spatial planning. She also noted that she will soon be appointed to the NOAA Science Advisory Board, and is interested in championing the role of geospatial analysis and tools to support NOAA's mission. (Mimi.Diorio@noaa.gov)

International

MPA Center Staff Serves as Technical Advisor to NOAA Fisheries Service Office of International Affairs at United Nations Workshop: At the invitation of the U.S. Dept. of State and the NOAA Fisheries Office of International Affairs, Dr. Robert Brock of the Marine Protected Areas Center served as a technical advisor to the U.S. Delegation at a United Nations workshop on addressing the impacts of bottom fishing on vulnerable marine ecosystems and the long-term sustainability of deep sea fish stocks. Dr. Brock served on a panel addressing scientific and technical exchange and strengthening research programs as well as on a panel on addressing the impacts of bottom fisheries on vulnerable marine ecosystems and the long-term sustainability of deep sea fish stocks. (Robert.Brock@noaa.gov)

National System of MPAs

MPA Center Hosts Webinar: How to Nominate an MPA to the National System: On September 14th, the MPA Center hosted a webinar to discuss the function and benefits of the National System of MPAs and explain the nomination process. Several programs, including the National Park Service and state agencies, from various regions participated in the call. The annual round of nominations to the national system is currently open, with all nominations due to the MPA Center by October 31, 2011.

(Lauren.Wenzel@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.

October 2011

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

November 2011

3: The Lawyers' Committee for Cultural Heritage Preservation Annual Conference, Washington, DC (Grussing)

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

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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.