



National Marine Protected Areas Center Weekly Update September 27, 2010

Science and Stewardship

MPA Center Participates in California and the World Ocean Conference: From September 7-10, MPA Center Staff attended the California and the World Ocean Conference in San Francisco. The conference, which brought together experts from throughout California, the United States, and the international community to address ocean and coastal resource management issues, was organized by the California Ocean Protection Council, the California Natural Resources Agency, and the California Environmental Protection Agency. The conference addressed emerging topics such as climate change impacts, marine spatial planning, marine protected areas, regional ocean governance, and renewable offshore energy. MPA Center staff also coordinated the marine spatial planning portion of NOAA's interactive booth in the exhibit hall which featured the following themes: climate change, ocean literacy, sustainable economies and ecosystems, freshwater, and coastal and marine spatial planning. (Julia.Townsend@noaa.gov)

MPA Center Staff Brief Pacific Fisheries Management Council: Staff from the National Marine Protected Areas Center briefed the Pacific Fisheries Management Council on the nomination process for the National System of MPAs at their meeting in Boise, Idaho on September 13. Center staff also briefed the Council's Habitat Committee and Groundfish Advisory Panel. Members had questions about many different aspects of the national system. The Council decided to defer action until the list of eligible sites can be further reviewed and supplemented, and looks forward to reviewing the draft NOAA Guidance on how the agency will implement the "avoid harm" requirement of Executive Order 13158 (MPAs), which will be sent to the Councils for review this fall. (Lauren.Wenzel@noaa.gov)

Ocean Uses Atlas

MPA Center Holds Hawaii Coastal Use Atlas Workshop: The MPA Center co-lead* a Hawaii Coastal Use Atlas workshop from September 23 -25 at the Ka'upulehu Interpretive Center at Kalaemano. Over 50 resource managers, stakeholders, and scientists used innovative Geographic Information System (GIS) techniques to map patterns of nearly 20 human uses of the ocean in state waters throughout the region from Kawaihae to Keahole point (South Kohala - North Kona districts). The resulting data, maps, and analytical products will be used in an upcoming Conservation Action Planning (CAP) Process, in collaboration with Hawaii's Division of Aquatic Resources, the Nature Conservancy, and the Keahole – Kawaihae community. Data and related products will also be made available to state and federal ocean management agencies and all other interested parties.

*The Hawaii Coastal Use Mapping Project is a partnership of the Hawaii's Division of Aquatic Resources (DAR), NOAA's Pacific Islands Fisheries Science Center (PIFSC), NOAA's Pacific Island Regional Office (PIRO), NOAA's Office of Ocean and Coastal Resource Management (OCRM), and the Nature Conservancy (TNC). Primary funding for the project is from NOAA's Coral Reef Conservation Program, with in-kind support from DAR and TNC. (Mimi.Diorio@noaa.gov)

Cultural Heritage

MPA Center Staff Attends 9th Maritime Heritage Conference: From Sept. 15-19, Joe Uravitch, MPA Center Director, and Valerie Grussing, MPA Center Cultural Resources Coordinator, attended the 9th Maritime Heritage Conference in Baltimore, MD. This year's conference was structured by the theme "The Maritime Nexus: Re-connecting Landsmen to Their Seagoing Heritage." Historians, museum professionals, archaeologists, cultural resource managers, and graduate students presented papers exploring a range of maritime cultural topics. Joe and Valerie participated in the MPA workshop series, "Maritime Heritage and Marine Protected Areas: An International Perspective," and Valerie presented her dissertation, "Reanimating the Graveyard: Heritage Tourism Development of North Carolina Shipwrecks." Valerie also participated in the subsequent Maritime Heritage Program Meeting on Sept. 20-21, focused this year on building partnerships in submerged cultural resource management. (Valerie.Grussing@noaa.gov)

International

MPA Center Staff Attends ICES Annual Science Conference: From September 20–24, Dr. Robert Brock, MPA Center Marine Biologist and current Chair of the ICES-Northwest Atlantic Fisheries Organization (NAFO) Working Group on Deepwater Ecology, attended the International Council for the Exploration of the Sea's (ICES) Annual Science Conference (ASC) in Nantes, France. The conference brought together approximately 800 participants from 40 countries. The 2010 ASC opening welcome lecture was delivered by Dr. Jane Lubchenco, NOAA Administrator, and focused on managing marine biodiversity and the host of ecosystem services the ocean provides. Several theme sessions were relevant to the work of the NOAA National MPA Center, including (a) the risk of failing in coastal zone management; (b) the use of benthic indicators to assess quality status; (c) delivering and communicating more science with fewer resources; and (d) response to climate variability of northern hemisphere marine ecosystems. Dr. Robert Brock attended ICES business meetings as well and presented a poster on using standard protocols to assess MPA's across Canada, Mexico, and the United States. (Robert.Brock@noaa.gov)

Library Links of the Week

A new article published in the peer-reviewed open-access journal PLoS Biology finds that resilience-based marine ecosystem management may actually increase an ecosystem's vulnerability to climate change. Using coral reefs as their model, the authors argue that while closing areas to fishing pressure does increase the overall health of coral reefs, "the dominant impact of climate change can override any advantage provided by protection from fishing." They go on to argue that because marine reserves increase the prevalence of taxa that are more susceptible to environmental stressors, reserves may actually increase the overall vulnerability of a protected ecosystem to the effects of climate change. The full text of the article, "Rethinking Ecosystem Resilience in the Face of Climate Change," can be found at: <http://dx.doi.org/10.1371/journal.pbio.1000438> (Chris.Belter@noaa.gov)

A new report from an implementation forum on New Zealand's South Island recommends protecting approximately 8% of the island's west coasts as marine protected areas. The report was produced by the West Coast Marine Protection Forum, a group consisting of community members, fishers, tangata whenua, conservation groups and local authorities tasked with implementing New Zealand's Marine

Protected Areas Policy in the South Island's West Coast biogeographic region. The report recommends establishing four marine protected areas and also presents five secondary, or "educational showcase sites," that would promote community appreciation and enjoyment of the island's coastal areas. The report is available at: <http://www.westmarine.org.nz/> (Chris.Belter@noaa.gov)

NOAA's office of National Marine Sanctuaries recently released its 2010 Condition Report for the Gulf of the Farallones, a system of bays, estuaries, and intertidal areas located near the San Francisco Bay area. The report assessed the water quality, habitat, living, and maritime archaeological resources located within the sanctuary. It found that the sanctuary's coastal and offshore areas were in relatively good condition, while the sanctuary's estuarine and lagoon areas were in good/fair to fair/poor condition. Water quality was a particular concern in both areas, as was a loss of biodiversity among the sanctuary's living resources. The full report is available at: <http://sanctuaries.noaa.gov/science/condition/gfnms/welcome.html> (Chris.Belter@noaa.gov)

Correction: The Library Links published in the 7/6/10 MPA Center Weekly Update were erroneously attributed to Chris Belter. Those links should have been attributed to Kathy Kelly. The MPA Center apologizes for the error.

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 2010

5-7: Meeting of Tribal & Indigenous Peoples Representatives on Development of the National System, Suquamish, WA (Grussing)

19-22: Linking Science to Management: Florida Keys Ecosystem Science, Duck Key, FL (Brock)

November 2010

2-4: MPA Federal Advisory Committee Meeting, Santa Barbara, CA (Schwenke)

15-19: ICES Study Group on Designing MPA Networks in a Changing Climate, Woods Hole, MA (Brock)

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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.