



National Marine Protected Areas Center Weekly Update September 7, 2010

National System

MPA Center Seeks Nominations for National System of MPAs: The MPA Center has announced that the nomination process for existing sites to nominate themselves for inclusion in the national system of MPAs is now open. Eligible federal, state, territorial, and tribal MPA programs are invited to nominate some of all of their sites by November 19, 2010. Currently, 254 federal, state and territorial sites are members of the national system, which provides coordination, technical assistance, training and grants to existing MPAs to enhance collaborative stewardship of marine resources. The national system does not impose any new restrictions on access or use within existing MPAs. All nominated sites will be announced in the *Federal Register* and available for public comment on www.mpa.gov. After final review by the managing agency and the MPA Center, mutually agreed upon MPAs will be accepted into the national system. To see sites eligible for the national system, visit <http://mpa.gov/pdf/national-system/nominationssummary810.pdf>. For more information on the National System of Marine Protected Areas and the nomination process, including a nomination package, visit www.mpa.gov. (Lauren.Wenzel@noaa.gov)

Federal Advisory Committee

MPA Federal Advisory Committee Subgroup Meets to Discuss Land/Sea Interactions and Healthy Communities: The Land, Sea and Communities Subcommittee of the Marine Protected Areas Federal Advisory Committee (MPA FAC) met on August 25-26 in Monterey, CA to begin developing recommendations about how protected areas can more effectively conserve coastal and marine resources at the land/sea interface, and how MPAs can help support healthy and resilient coastal communities. The Subcommittee will develop recommendations for the full MPA FAC, which advises NOAA and the Department of the Interior on the national system of MPAs. (Lauren.Wenzel@noaa.gov).

Science and Stewardship

MPA IOOS Task Team Expert Workshop Held: On August 31st and September 1st, the MPA Center hosted an Expert's Workshop for the Marine Protected Area Integrated Ocean Observing System (MPA IOOS) Task Team in Monterey, CA. The purpose of this workshop was to obtain information and recommendations, from an expert group, on how MPAs could be used as platforms for ocean monitoring, to better understand the range of observing and monitoring requirements at MPAs, and to obtain knowledge on ocean monitoring parameters and processes most important to monitoring environmental changes at the national scale. Following this workshop, on September 2nd, the MPA IOOS Task Team convened to discuss the information shared at the workshop and to move their charge forward. As a result of this workshop and meeting the task team will continue to refine its products and

recommendations for presentation at the MPA Federal Advisory Committee meeting, to be held November 2-4 in Santa Barbara, CA. (Rondi.Robison@noaa.gov)

Library Links of the Week

The Joint Nature Conservation Committee (JNCC), a statutory adviser to the British Government, recently released an updated report on the population trends of British seabirds. The report summarizes the trends in abundance, productivity, demographic parameters, and diet of breeding seabirds living in habitats located throughout the British Isles over the past ten years (1999 to 2009) and offers suggestions as to the potential causes of the changes reported. Currently, the data is only available at the UK level, but increased granularity reflecting population changes of seabirds inhabiting individual regions of the UK will be available at the end of August. The methodology and results of the study can be found at: <http://www.jncc.gov.uk/default.aspx?page=3201> (Chris.Belter@noaa.gov)

NOAA's Office of National Marine Sanctuaries recently released the unformatted version of its Hawaiian Islands Humpback Whale National Marine Sanctuary 2010 Condition Report. "This report provides a summary of the status of humpback whales (*Megaptera novaeangliae*) and their related habitats in the [Hawaiian Islands Humpback Whale National Marine Sanctuary], pressures on those resources, current condition and trends, and management responses to the pressures that threaten the health of humpback whales and their habitat. Condition reports are developed for each site in the National Marine Sanctuary System to provide information on the status and trends of water quality, habitat, living resources and maritime archaeological resources, and the human activities that may affect them." The report is available at: <http://sanctuaries.noaa.gov/science/condition/hihw/download.html> (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.

September 2010

- 7-10: California and the World Ocean Conference, San Francisco, CA (Townsend)
- 11-16: Association of Zoos and Aquariums, Houston, TX (Uravitch)
- 15-19: 9th Maritime Heritage Conference, Baltimore, MD (Grussing)
- 20-24: ICES Annual Science Conference & Business, Nantes, France (Brock)

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)

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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.