



# Marine Protected Areas Federal Advisory Committee

December 13, 2012

Dr. Jane Lubchenco  
Under Secretary of Commerce for Oceans and Atmosphere, and  
NOAA Administrator  
Department of Commerce  
1401 Constitution Avenue, NW, Room 5810  
Washington, DC 20230

Eileen Sobeck  
Deputy Assistant Secretary for Fish and Wildlife and Parks  
Department of the Interior  
1849 C Street, NW, MIB-3156  
Washington, DC 20240

Dear Under Secretary Lubchenco and Deputy Assistant Secretary Sobeck:

We understand that the National Ocean Policy Implementation Plan will soon be released publicly, and wanted to reiterate our support for this plan, particularly the elements related to the charge of the Marine Protected Areas Federal Advisory Committee (MPA FAC) in implementing Executive Order 13158 to strengthen and advance the nation's system of marine protected areas. We also commend the Departments of Commerce and the Interior for your recent actions to strengthen protection for marine habitats.

In September 2011, the MPA FAC transmitted recommendations that address linkages between marine protected areas and Coastal and Marine Spatial Planning (CMSP). These recommendations were developed in response to the charge provided to the Committee by the Departments of Commerce and the Interior. We request that these recommendations be considered as the National Ocean Policy is implemented ([http://www.mpa.gov/pdf/helpful-resources/mpa\\_fac\\_recommendations\\_sep2011.pdf](http://www.mpa.gov/pdf/helpful-resources/mpa_fac_recommendations_sep2011.pdf)).

In particular, we want to note the actions related to marine protected areas in the Implementation Plan. As stated in our previous recommendations, we support the reactivation of the Sanctuary Site Evaluation List (SEL) as one important mechanism to identify and evaluate candidate marine protected area sites. We support mechanisms that provide opportunities for communities to work collaboratively with agencies and

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Chances Are Charters (Recreational Fishing)

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## **DESIGNATED FEDERAL OFFICIAL**

**Kara Yeager**  
National Marine Protected Areas Center

**National MPA Center**  
1305 East-West Highway  
Silver Spring, MD 20910-3281  
(301) 713-7242  
[Kara.Yeager@noaa.gov](mailto:Kara.Yeager@noaa.gov)

[www.mpa.gov](http://www.mpa.gov)



# Marine Protected Areas Federal Advisory Committee

help ensure public engagement in a rigorous analysis of new marine protected area alternatives.

We look forward to continuing our work with the Department of Commerce and the Department of the Interior to support the National Ocean Policy.

Thank you for your consideration.  
Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "G. Geiger". The signature is stylized and somewhat cursive.

George Geiger  
Chair

cc. Lauren Wenzel, Acting Director, National Marine Protected Areas Center, NOAA