

APPROVED 11/10/16

**Minutes of Marine Protected Areas Federal Advisory Committee
October 3, 2016, 2:00-5:30 EDT
Via Webinar / Teleconference**

Meeting Opening and Committee Business

The meeting was called to order by Designated Federal Official Lauren Wenzel. She welcomed all members, and then turned the meeting over to the Vice Chair Della Scott-Ireton who chaired the meeting. Della reviewed the agenda and if any changes were needed. Lauren noted that the public comment period had inadvertently been omitted from the agenda and asked that 10 minutes for public comment be added from 5:20-5:30 pm. This change was made and members adopted the revised agenda.

Lauren called the roll of members. She also asked *ex officio* members and guests to introduce themselves.

Della asked members if there were any modifications needed to the minutes from the MPA FAC meeting in May 2016. With the correction of one spelling error, the minutes were adopted without objection.

Updates from NOAA and from the Department of the Interior

Heather Sagar provided an update on the establishment of a new marine national monument in the Northeast. The [Northeast Canyons and Seamounts Marine National Monument](#) encompasses pristine underwater mountains and canyons and will provide critical protections for important ecological resources and marine species, including deep-sea coral and endangered whales and sea turtles. The designation, located about 130 miles southeast of Cape Cod, will protect 4,913 square miles of marine ecosystems with unique geological features that have been the subject of scientific exploration and discovery since the 1970s. Recreational fishing will be allowed within the boundaries of the monument. Red crab and lobster fisheries will be provided with seven years before being required to exit the monument area, to allow these fixed-gear fisheries to transition their operations. Other commercial fishing operators will not have to change their practices immediately and will have 60-days to transition from the monument area.

Lauren Wenzel also noted that the President [expanded](#) Papahānaumokuākea Marine National Monument in Hawaii in August; this is now the largest protected area in the world.

Brian Baird said that he had seen a comment that foreign fleets are still using the expanded area of Papahānaumokuākea Marine National Monument. Heather explained that this area is closed to fishing but that NOAA and Coast Guard are still working to control illegal, unregulated and undocumented fishing.

Joe Schumacker asked if studies had been done on the socio-economic impact of the NE monument. Heather explained that the White House made the decision to establish the monument, and that NOAA provided available ecological and economic data.

Cliff McCreedy, NPS, noted that the Department of the Interior was also involved in the Monument discussions; the US Fish and Wildlife Service co-manages PMNM with NOAA and the State of Hawaii.

Report of External Financing Subcommittee

Brian Baird, Subcommittee Chair, provided a [report](#) from the External Finance Subcommittee, summarizing their work to develop their near-final report for MPA FAC consideration. He walked through the document, noting comments from MPA FAC members and explaining how they were addressed by the Subcommittee.

Brian raised the question of whether it was appropriate for the MPA FAC to endorse the concept of an ocean trust fund since it is included as part of proposed legislation in Congress. Lauren said there was no barrier to doing so. The Subcommittee report endorses the idea, but not specific legislation before Congress. Stephanie asked if there was sufficient language about the need to follow the law when seeking and obtaining external funds. Brian explained that this is key, but is also specific to the agency and laws involved, so language in the report is general. Sarah asked that “territorial” be added to the list of types of MPA managers. Sarah also asked for clarifying text to explain the differences between sections 2 (funding vehicles) and 3 (funding sources). Sarah also suggested adding language about the conditions under which different tools would be most useful, if this information was readily available. Della asked what the role of the MPA Center would be in implementing the Subcommittee’s recommendations, as recommended by the Subcommittee. Brian responded that it would be to provide technical assistance on sustainable financing (not direct fundraising for MPA programs).

Brian agreed to make the changes suggested, and the full Committee members agreed to vote on it with the understanding that these technical edits would be made. An edited version will be shared with the Committee before it is finalized. Della asked for a motion, and Mark Carr moved to approve the report, with Joe Schumacker seconding. The motion was carried without dissent.

Report of Connectivity Subcommittee

Mark Carr provided an [update](#) on the work of the Connectivity Subcommittee. He thanked Sarah Robinson for her excellent editing of the Subcommittee documents. He also praised the External Financing Subcommittee for their comprehensive work and useful case studies. Mark explained the four documents being developed by the Subcommittee. Two have been circulated for full Committee review. The final two papers and a cover letter to DOC and DOI were approved by the Subcommittee on a teleconference on October 10 and will be sent to the full FAC the week of Oct. 17. They will be voted on at the next MPA FAC meeting on November 10.

Brian suggested putting the policy recommendations up front for policy makers and managers. Mark explained that the recommendations will be highlighted in the cover letter. Heather asked why there was so much focus on fisheries rather than on biodiversity. Mark and Sarah explained that the Subcommittee recommendations were intended to address both natural heritage and sustainable production MPAs.

Effectiveness/Relevance of MPA FAC Recommendations

Lauren introduced this topic by noting that the issue came up at the May MPA FAC meeting during the discussion of future topics for the MPA FAC to address. Some members asked how past recommendations had been used, and how they could increase the impact of the MPA FAC’s work. Steve Kroll added two questions: are products getting to where they need to go? Do managers find them useful? Gary Davis suggested it would be a good opportunity to look at the past decade of MPA

FAC work and see what has been effective. Lauren explained that NOAA is required to report on how MPA FAC recommendations are used under the Federal Advisory Committee Act. However, this reporting needs to be reviewed and updated (but could then be shared with the MPA FAC). She also said that NOAA does talk to managers about their needs and how the FAC can assist them, and will continue to do this. Steve Kroll suggested that a regional approach might be useful for gaining that input. Sarah Robinson suggested that an assessment of the impacts of the MPA FAC's recommendations on agency action could be part of the next charge to the Committee. Lauren said this could be a good role for a working group. She also noted the success of the Cultural Heritage Resources Working Group in developing a web-based toolkit – getting away from simply a paper report. Brian Melzian suggested the group might want to refer to the [2012 External Review](#) of the MPA Center.

Public Comments

Jim Kendall from New Bedford, MA said he was dismayed at the lack of sufficient representation from the commercial fishing sector. Lauren noted that the current FAC includes four members of the fishing sector – two recreational fishermen and two commercial fishermen. NOAA and DOI are currently recruiting new members and encouraged Mr. Kendall to follow up. Heather also explained the extensive outreach to the fishing community that NOAA Fisheries has done on MPA FAC nominations.

Closing

Della Scott-Ireton asked for a motion to adjourn, and the motion was made and seconded. She thanked all the members for their participation.

Attendees:

FAC Members

Brian Baird
Mark Carr
Gary Davis
Stephen Kroll
Stephanie Madsen
Samantha Murray
Ryan Orgera
Cathy Reheis-Boyd
Sarah Robinson
Joe Schumacker
Della Scott-Ireton
Pete Stauffer

Ex Officio Members

Brian Melzian, U.S. EPA
Steve Tucker, US Coast Guard

NOAA and DOI Staff

Robert Brock, MPA Center
Gonzalo Cid, NOAA Office of National Marine Sanctuaries
Joanne Flanders, NOAA Office of Exploration and Research
Valerie Grussing, MPA Center
Jake Levinson, BOEM
Cliff McCreedy, National Park Service

Heather Sagar, NOAA Fisheries
Charles Wahle, MPA Center
Lauren Wenzel , MPA Center

Guests

Katy Croff Bell, Ph.D., Vice-President for Exploration & Research, Ocean Exploration Trust
Alena Feeney
Kathy Heise
Jim Kendall
Will McClintock, University of California, Santa Barbara
Genevieve Neilson, International Trade Administration
Liz Parissenti, One Reef
Caroline Pott, Department of Natural Resources, USVI
Thomas Rayburn, LCA Ships
Martha Shaw, Earth Advertising