

Enhancing Adaptive Management in MPAs: Knowing When and How to Change the Plan

Cliff McCreedy, Natl. Park Service

- Best practices in protected areas

Roger Griffis, NOAA Fisheries

- Climate change in the ocean

Charlie Wahle, NOAA MPA Center

- Scoping our charge





MPAFAC Charge on Adaptive Management

Today's rapidly changing ocean ecosystems and expanding human uses require that MPA managers have practical tools and strategies to evaluate the effectiveness of existing management measures and to adapt those actions to meet changing threats and conditions.

Building from a synthesis of existing adaptive management approaches and policies in US MPAs, the MPA FAC would provide recommendations about:

- maintaining a cost effective monitoring program;
- how to know when to act; how to deal with uncertainty;
- how to engage the public in adaptive management; and,
- how to align decision-making frameworks with rapidly evolving management needs.

Food for Thought

| Elements of AM | Considerations for Effective AM |
|---------------------------------|---|
| Site goals and objectives | Explicit; measurable; likely to be impacted: still relevant? |
| Management strategies | Target key objectives and threats; flexible? |
| Monitoring and evaluation | Routine operations; target right objectives; regularly assessed; results communicated to stakeholders; signal vs. noise; change directional or complex? |
| Decide to change tactics | Legal and policy basis; impacts +/- on objectives; public engagement; process sufficiently timely and agile? |
| Implement new approach | Scale of required changes; time lags btw need and fix; stakeholder burnout; agency reluctance? |
| > Monitoring and evaluation ... | Ditto |

Proposed Subcommittee Approach

Target Audience

- Federal MPA agencies and other practitioners
- Key stakeholders and constituents

Basic Operating Principles

- Two-phased approach (before and after Oct 2017)
- Two scenarios – with and without climate change
- Build upon what is already known
- Short, actionable recommendations and important background

Outcomes

- Highlight key AM actions that can be undertaken immediately
- Provide best practices, tools and insights into key challenges

Subcommittee Goals for this Meeting

Elect Chair and Vice-Chair

Agree on roles, responsibilities and work flows

Develop a practical plan for Phases 1 and 2

Scope the issues and product(s) of Phase 1

More ???