

Minutes of Marine Protected Areas Federal Advisory Committee
August 30, 2017, 1:00-3:00 Eastern
Via Webinar and Conference Call

Introduction and Committee Business

Brian Baird called the roll (see attendance list) and confirmed there was a quorum. Brian also asked for approval of the minutes of the meeting held on May 23-24, 2017. These were approved by unanimous consent.

Brian asked each Subcommittee to report out on their recommendations so they could be considered by the full Committee.

Adaptive Management Subcommittee

Charlie Wahle, NOAA MPA Center, summarized the work done Jaime Neary, a legal intern at the MPA Center. She reviewed major MPA legal authorities and found that while they differ in the way they addressed management issues, they all allowed for adaptive management approaches. The State of California's Marine Life Protection Act is the most explicit MPA authority in calling for adaptive management, but other authorities allow for this approach. The group then reviewed the Subcommittee's draft recommendations, noted the comments and revisions that had been made to-date, and requested any comments from the members. Cliff McCreedy, National Park Service, said that the Department of the Interior had recently rescinded the National Park Service Director's Order on Adaptive Management, so the specific reference to it should be removed. Brian Baird noted that the Subcommittee lists were not consistent in terms of titles and affiliations and asked staff to standardize these. No other comments were offered. Martha Honey moved that the Subcommittee recommendations be approved, and Stephanie Madsen seconded the motion. It was approved unanimously.

Subcommittee on Relevance, Outreach and Diversity (SCROD)

John Ballotti, Subcommittee Chair, thanked the Subcommittee members for their work presented the Subcommittee's recommendations for discussion and approval. A member recommended converting the web URLs in the appendix to hyperlinks for ease of reading. No other changes were offered. John moved that the Subcommittee recommendations be approved, and David Robinson seconded the motion. The motion was approved unanimously.

Citizen Science

Alex Brylske, Subcommittee Chair, noted that Mark Carr had provided editorial comments and that the Subcommittee had agreed to incorporate them. Other comments offered by members on the call included 1) directing the reader to the references early in the document; 2) adding document titles into the hyperlinks; and, 3) ensuring that all footnotes are in the same format. No other comments were offered. Will McClintock moved that the Subcommittee recommendations be approved with the changes discussed, and Alex Brylske seconded the motion. The motion was approved unanimously.

Cover Letter

The members discussed the draft cover letter developed by the Chair to introduce the three sets of recommendations to the Secretaries of Commerce and the Interior. The following comments were offered. Katy Croff Bell suggested finding an alternative to “special” (e.g. “special places”). Chris Horton questioned the relevance of language in the last two paragraphs, which noted the importance of “the continued and effective implementation of America’s existing MPAs, including all recently designated and expanded sites” and requesting the reauthorization of the MPA FAC to continue to work on MPA issues. He noted that these ideas go beyond the purpose of the cover letter, which was to introduce the MPA FAC products. Samantha Murray explained that she thought this language was important as it relates to the management of existing MPAs and the ongoing role of the MPA FAC. John Ballotti agreed with Chris’ comment, but said he was willing to accept the letter as written. Samantha moved to accept the cover letter, and Martha Honey seconded the motion. The members unanimously approved the letter with the edits discussed, maintaining the last two paragraphs.

Next Steps and Public Comment

Lauren and Charlie discussed the timing of finalizing the recommendations and transmitting them to the Secretaries. Staff are both out the first week in September, and will return to make final edits during the week of September 11.

The Chair asked if there was any public comment. None was offered.

Lauren explained that NOAA and the Department of the Interior continue to discuss options to ensure that a mechanism for stakeholder engagement would continue if the MPA FAC is not reauthorized by the White House by September 30, 2017. She said that a call would be scheduled for early October to provide an update. If the MPA FAC is not reauthorized, this will be an informational call only.

Brian thanked all the Subcommittees for their hard work and expressed the hope that the Committee would be able to continue its work.

Members Present:

John Anderson
Brian Baird
John Ballotti
Katy Bell
Alex Brylske
Martha Honey
Chris Horton
Jacque Hostler-Carmesin
Will McClintock
Stephanie Madsen
Samantha Murray
David Robinson
Pete Stauffer

Ex Officio/Agency Representatives

Pete Leary, FWS

Jake Levinson, BOEM

Cliff McCreedy, NPS

Brian Melzian, EPA

Heather Sagar, NOAA Fisheries

Steve Tucker, USCG

Other Participants Present:

Lauren Wenzel, MPA Center

Charlie Wahle, MPA Center

Joanne Flanders, NOAA Office of Exploration

Martha McCoy, NOAA General Counsel

Other Guests

Liam O'Rourke