

**Summary of Administrative/Preparatory Work Session
VIA Conference Call
October 4, 2017, 1:00-2:00 pm**

Overview -- The MPA FAC held a conference call to discuss the status and future plans of the Committee in light of its recent reauthorization for another 2-year term. Brian Baird and Lauren Wenzel convened the work session, explained its deliberative and non-decisional purpose, called the roll, and facilitated the group discussion. Summaries of discussion topics, and the attendee list, follow.

Reauthorization of the Committee – Lauren announced that the White House had recently (September 29, 2017) extended the MPA FAC through September 30, 2019, with no changes in focus or membership. This action provides the authority and impetus for the Committee’s continued work on timely MPA issues facing federal MPAs and their domestic and international partners. Members were pleased with this news and expressed their ongoing commitment to participate and support the MPA FAC.

Status of MPA FAC Recommendations to DOC and DOI – Lauren and Charlie Wahle informed the participants that the Committee’s recent recommendations on diverse communities, citizen science, and adaptive management were to the Secretaries of Commerce and Interior and are under review prior to the official Departmental response.

Organizational Changes in the MPA Center – Lauren announced that Charlie will assume the official role of the Designated Federal Officer (DFO) for the MPA FAC. Working closely with Lauren, he will be responsible for managing and coordinating the Committee’s work as we all move forward. Brian and the rest of the Committee expressed their sincere gratitude and appreciation for Lauren’s invaluable efforts as the DFO since the early days of the Committee.

Overall Timeline for the MPA FAC’s Next Endeavors – In light of the MPA FAC’s recent reauthorization and the turnover of 10 members in December 2018, Brian led the group in a discussion of next steps for the Committee through September 2019. The group generally felt that its recent recommendations to DOC and DOI adequately addressed the key issues and priorities in the three 2017 charge: diverse communities, citizen science, and adaptive management. The participants then explored additional topics for their upcoming work. Three ideas surfaced as potential sequential priorities for the MPA FAC.

Enhancing the Impact of the MPA FAC -- Part of the initial 2017 Committee charge, this long-standing and timely priority appealed to many as a way to learn from the past and improve the future value of the Committee’s recommendations regarding US MPAs. The MPA Center and the MPA FAC will work collaboratively during 2017 to scope the project, review its outputs, and use its conclusions to help frame, address and implement future charges and recommendations.

Highlighting the Contributions of MPAs to Resilient Oceans, Coasts and Communities – Brian led a discussion about the value and timeliness of producing an objective synthesis of the ecological and societal contributions of existing MPAs in US waters. The group discussed various approaches and issues, including the project’s scope, scale, outputs and intended audiences and outcomes. This and other ideas for charge topics will be explored and advanced collectively before the next formal MPA FAC meeting in 2018.

Cultural Resource Toolkit – Chris Morris and Lauren led a discussion about ways to enhance the success and impact of the Cultural Resource Toolkit in light of new information and perspectives. Lauren proposed the formation of a Working Group under the MPA FAC, which could include existing Committee members and other external contributions with directly relevant expertise.

Action Items / Next Steps – Lauren and Charlie will:

1. Disseminate the recent MPA FAC Recommendations widely and use a variety of means (e.g. newsletters, webinars) to highlight them across the oceans community.
2. Alert the Committee and all interested parties when we or Brian receive a response from the Secretaries of Commerce and Interior.
3. Work with the Committee leadership to further refine the group’s ideas on the next charge and create ways to share information through conference calls and shared files.
4. Follow up on the proposal to create a Cultural Resources Working Group to review and advise on next steps for the on-line Cultural Resources Toolkit.
5. Work with the Office of National Marine Sanctuaries to determine the timing and location of the next official MPA FAC meeting.

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Contact for Additional Information -

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Participants on the Call

Committee Members Present on the Call (15)

Brian Baird (Chair)
John Ballotti
Katy Croff Bell (Vice-Chair)
Alex Brylske
Mark Carr
Martha Honey
Christopher Horton
Jacque Hostler-Carmensin
Stephanie Madsen
Will McClintock
Lynn McClure
Christopher Morris
Samantha Murray
David Robinson
Pete Stauffer

Ex Officio / Federal Agency Representatives (3)

Cliff McCreedy, DOI/NPS
Brian Melzian, USEPA
Steve Tucker, DHS/USCG

NOAA Staff (6)

Lauren Wenzel, MPA Center (Director)
Charlie Wahle, MPA Center (Designated Federal Official)
Joanne Flanders, Office of Exploration
Marty McCoy, General Counsel
Heather Sagar, Fisheries
Mimi D'Iorio, MPA Center