

# Marine Protected Areas Federal Advisory Committee



Presentation by Lelei Peau  
To the U.S. Coral Reef Task Force  
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# Origins

- Authorized by Executive Order 13158, Marine Protected Areas
  - Provide *“expert advice and recommendations of non-Federal scientists, resource managers and other interested persons and organizations...”* on Section 4 (National System of MPAs)
- Commerce Established Committee
  - Reports to Departments of Commerce and the Interior

# MPA Federal Advisory Committee

- 30 Non-Federal Members from industry, academia, environmental organizations, states, territories, and tribes
- 9 Federal *Ex Officio* members from agencies with MPA interests



# Progress

- First met in June 2003
- Meetings held in CA, DC, FL, HI, ME, VA
- Established three Subcommittees:
  - National System of MPAs
  - Stewardship and Effectiveness
  - National and Regional Coordination of MPA Efforts



# Progress, cont.

- Established ad hoc Workgroup on Cultural Resources
- Heard from many stakeholder groups
- Full FAC integrated Subcommittee reports and unanimously adopted Committee report May 2005





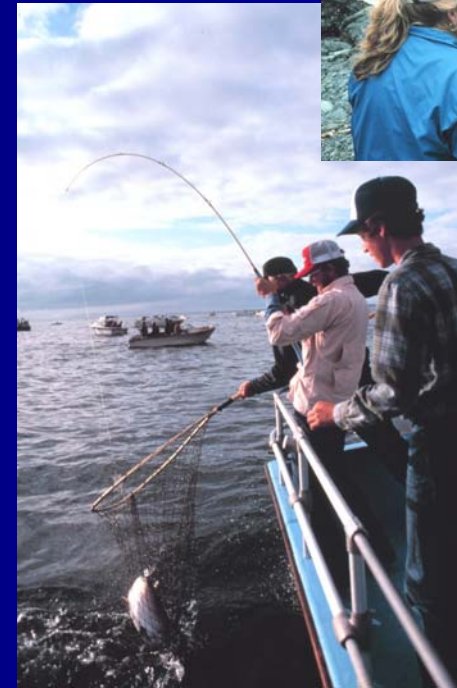
# Key Elements of FAC Report

- National System Goal, Objectives and Definitions
- Guiding Principles for National System Development and Implementation
- Proposed Structure for National System



# Proposed Goal for the National System of MPAs

- To enhance effective stewardship, lasting protection, and sustainable use of the nation's natural and cultural marine resources, with due consideration for all who use and care about our marine environments.



# Proposed Objectives for the National System of MPAs

- Conserve/restore marine biodiversity
- Conserve/restore representative examples of the nation's marine/Great Lakes habitats and unique biophysical and geological features
- Protect areas vital to the conservation of particular species (e.g. spawning and nursery grounds)





# Proposed Objectives (cont)

- Provide appropriate access to and use of marine/Great Lakes resources within MPAs consistent with the goals and objectives of the MPA
- Protect cultural resources
- Raise awareness and knowledge of marine and coastal resources
- Strengthen existing ocean management frameworks



# Guiding Principles for the National System

- Primary responsibility must lie with existing authorities
- Based on national criteria but developed through a regional planning process.
- Planning and nomination processes must be transparent and science-based
- Citizens, tribes and government agencies at the local and regional level must be an integral part of the process



# Guiding Principles (cont)

- Provide incentives for participation
- Foster compliance through education, incentives and enforcement to enhance effectiveness
- Respect state, territorial and tribal sovereignty
- Additions to the national system should be contingent on a reasonable expectation of funding to accomplish goals

# Proposed Structure and Process for the National System

- National entity to establish criteria, objectives, guidelines and policies
- Regional entities (federal agencies, states, tribes and other groups) to:
  - Establish regional goals and priorities
  - Facilitate nomination process for existing and new sites
  - Facilitate regional coordination of MPA sites





# Definition of an MPA

- From Executive Order 13158
  - *“An area of the marine environment that has been reserved by Federal, State, territorial, tribal or local laws or regulations to provide lasting protection for part of all of the natural and cultural resources therein.”*

# FAC Recommendations for Key Terms in MPA Definition

- Lasting: Enduring long enough to enhance the conservation, protection or sustainability of natural or cultural marine resources. Minimum duration ranges from 10 years to indefinite, depending on the type and purpose of the MPA

# FAC Recommendations for Key Terms in MPA Definition

- Cultural Resource: Any ethnographic resource, or submerged historical or submerged cultural feature, including archeological sites, historic structures, shipwrecks and artifacts in the marine environment. Ethnographic resources include natural resources and sites with tribal or traditional cultural meaning, value and use.

# Next Steps for FAC

- Response from NOAA and DOI
  - Many FAC recommendations will be incorporated into draft National System Framework (to be published for public comment in Federal Register in Spring 2006)
- New Charge





# New Charge: Fall 2005-2007

- Regional Priorities and Coordination
  - (e.g. process to identify conservation priorities)
- Incentives and Implementation for the National System of MPAs
  - (e.g. improving effectiveness of established MPAs, incentives to sites to participate)
- Natural and Social Science for MPAs
  - (e.g. Methods, tools and information needs)

# Links to the US Coral Reef Task Force

- Recognized importance of MPAs in conservation and sustainable use of coral ecosystems
- Many related USCRTF agency activities and opportunities (e.g. resource characterization)
- Training and technical assistance opportunities
- Learn from USCRTF experience:
  - Establishing national coordination
  - Identifying and meeting local and regional priorities



Photo courtesy of NOAA