

A photograph showing a large whale and a smaller calf swimming in dark water. The water is surrounded by ice floes, suggesting an Arctic environment. The whale is in the foreground, and the calf is slightly behind and above it. The lighting is dramatic, with the water appearing very dark and the ice floes being bright white.

Guiding Principles for an Arctic MPA Network

Arctic MPA Working Group, May 2016

Setting the Stage

- Interest in conserving biodiversity, cultural heritage, fisheries
- Impacts of climate change on marine resources
- Impacts of climate change on ocean uses
- Opportunity to work through Arctic Council with other Arctic nations



MPA Federal Advisory Committee

Arctic Working Group Charge

- What are the major needs and opportunities to strengthen the role of MPAs in conserving Arctic marine resources in U.S. waters?
- How can U.S. agencies best work to engage local communities and other stakeholders in a dialogue about the goals for conserving Arctic marine resources and the role of MPAs in achieving these goals?
- How can the U.S. best work to strengthen and connect MPAs in the Arctic while recognizing the importance of subsistence and other uses?
- From a U.S. perspective, what are the highest priorities for international collaboration in the Arctic to protect and

Arctic MPA Workgroup Members

- Stephanie Madsen, At-Sea Processors Association (MPA FAC)
- Lauren Wenzel, NOAA National Marine Protected Areas Center
- Margaret Williams, WWF (MPA FAC)
- John Jensen, URI (MPA FAC)
- Larry Cotter, Western Alaska Community Development Association
- Mike Davis, Commercial fisherman
- Willie Goodwin, Alaska Marine Mammal Coalition
- Nicole Kanyurak, U of WA Grad Student
- Jessica Lefevre, Arctic Eskimo Whaling Commission
- Vera Metcalf, Eskimo Walrus Commission
- Kathy Metcalf, American Chamber of Shipping
- Caryn Rea, Conoco-Phillips
- Jon Warrenchuk, Oceana
- David Witherell, North Pacific Fishery Management Council
- Chris Barrows, US Coast Guard
- Cathy Coon, BOEM
- Amy Holman, NOAA
- Tahzay Jones, Alaska Region, National Park Service
- Candace Nachman, NOAA Fisheries
- Chris Hladick, Alaska Department of Commerce
- Chris Siddon, Alaska Department of Fish and Game
- Ryan Mollnow, US Fish and Wildlife Service
- David Payer, Arctic Landscape Conservation Cooperative
- Cheryl Rosa, US Arctic Research Commission
- Alternates: Ed Page (shipping); Julie Raymond Yakoubian (Vera Metcalf)

Arctic Boundary as defined by the Arctic Research and Policy Act (ARPA)

All United States and foreign territory north of the Arctic Circle and all United States territory north and west of the boundary formed by the Porcupine, Yukon, and Kuskokwim Rivers; all contiguous seas, including the Arctic Ocean and the Beaufort, Bering and Chukchi Seas; and the Aleutian chain.¹



Acknowledgement: Funding for this map was provided by the National Science Foundation through the Arctic Research Mapping Application (amap.org) and Contract #0520837 to CH2M HILL for the Interagency Arctic Research Policy Committee (IARPC).

Map author: Allison Gaylord, Nuna Technologies. May 27, 2009.

1. The Aleutian chain boundary is demarcated by the 'Contiguous zone' limit of 24-nautical miles.

Working Group Discussion: Common Themes

- Open and transparent processes
- Adaptive and flexible MPAs
- Local Indigenous communities have a seat at the table
- Respecting tribal rights and indigenous uses and knowledge
- Ecosystem-based management

Guiding Principles

- Recognize the geographic and ecological diversity of the Arctic
- Recognize the context of a changing climate
- Employ MPAs and MPA Networks to address a clear management need
- Include local and indigenous communities in the decision making process
- Ensure that any MPA planning and management processes are open and transparent
- Better understand and analyze Arctic MPAs

Guiding Principles

- Apply the best available science, technology and indigenous knowledge
- Strengthen connections among MPAs
- Strengthen connections between MPAs and other area based tools
- Further explore the use of MPAs as a tool for protecting the living and historical cultural heritage of the Arctic
- Explore dynamic and flexible approaches to MPAs



Guiding Principles

- Consider MPA monitoring and compliance during development
- Enhance agency coordination
- Enhance international cooperation on MPAs

