Working with Advisory Committees
Presentation to MPA Federal Advisory Committee
May 2017
Federal Advisory Committees

• Advisory Committees play an important role in shaping programs and policies in the Federal government.

• ~1,000 advisory committees with more than 60,000 remembers advising the President and the Executive Branch on a broad range of issues.

• Federal Advisory Committees can be created only when they are essential to the performance of a duty or responsibility of the executive branch by law.

• Once a committee is approved, a charter is prepared outlining the committee's mission and specific duties.
FACA (1972)

- The Federal Advisory Committee Act (FACA) of 1972 (Public Law 92-463), formally recognizes the merits of seeking the advice and assistance of our nation's citizens. The law also assures that advisory committees:
  - Provide advice that is relevant, objective, and open to the public;
  - Act promptly to complete their work; and
  - Comply with reasonable cost controls and record keeping requirements.
NOAA Advisory Committees

- Advisory Committee for the Sustained National Climate Assessment (ACSNCA)
- Advisory Committee on Commercial Remote Sensing (ACCRES)
- Hydrographic Services Review Panel (HSRP)
- Marine Fisheries Advisory Committee (MAFAC)
- Marine Protected Areas Federal Advisory Committee (MPAFAC)
- National Sea Grant Advisory Board (SGAB)
- NOAA Science Advisory Board (SAB)
- Ocean Exploration Advisory Board (OEAB)
- United States Integrated Ocean Observing System Advisory Committee (IOOS)
MPA FAC Audiences

- Secretaries of Commerce and the Interior
- NOAA Administrator and DOI Assistant Secretary
- NOAA and DOI MPA Programs
- All MPA Programs (US and International)
How Does the MPA FAC Organize?

- **Subcommittees**
  - FAC members only

- **Working Groups**
  - FAC & nonmembers

- **Ad Hoc Groups**

- **Delegate to Chair** (e.g. drafting letters) or DFO (e.g. final editing)

Must be approved by full FAC
How Does MPA FAC Interact?

Has done more of:

- Cover letters
- Reports
- Short recommendations
- Interactions with NOAA

Has done less of:

- NOAA and DOI leadership attending MPA FAC meetings
- Personal briefings with NOAA or DOI leadership
- Open discussions
- FAC members acting as “ambassadors”
Dear Madam Secretary Pritzker and Madam Secretary Jewell:

We have been encouraged by the Administration's adoption of the Marine Protection Areas Federal Advisory Committee (MPA FAC) to provide recommendations to the Department of Commerce and Interior on marine protected areas (MPAs). This letter is a follow-up to our previous letter regarding MPA management and conservation efforts.

In our previous letter, we highlighted the importance of MPAs in conservation and sustainability. We noted that MPAs provide valuable ecosystem services, support fisheries management, and contribute to tourism and recreation. We also emphasized the need for effective management and monitoring of MPAs to ensure their long-term sustainability.

In this letter, we would like to discuss recent developments in MPA management and the challenges faced by MPA managers. We would also like to recommend some best practices and strategies to improve MPA management and sustainability.

We believe that MPAs are a critical component of achieving the conservation goals set forth in the National Ocean Policy. We urge your departments to continue to support the development and implementation of effective MPA management plans.

Thank you for your continued support and for considering our recommendations. We look forward to hearing your thoughts and feedback on this important issue.

Sincerely,

[Your Name]

[Department Name]

[Department Address]

July 21, 2016

Mr. George Geiger
Chair
Marine Protected Areas Federal Advisory Committee
564 Paulina Street
Sebastian, FL 32958
FAC – Agency Interactions
Early MPA FAC Reports

- Development of National System of MPAs
- Climate Change
- Coastal and Marine Spatial Planning
- Cultural heritage resources
Some Impacts of MPA FAC Recommendations

- Incorporated ideas into MPA Framework document
- Conceptualized key definitions (e.g. MPA, cultural resources)
- Informed agency messaging on newer issues (e.g. climate change)
- Strengthened relationships with stakeholder groups
- Key role in External Review of MPA Center (2012)
When recommendations had less impact....

- Budget impacts changed direction of MPA Center (e.g. reduced regional focus)
- Policy direction of NOAA shifted (e.g. marine spatial planning)
- FAC ideas are long term – too soon too tell
Recent Reports

- Completed in Jan 2017
- Targeted beyond NOAA and DOI
- Provide detailed guidance on issues of interest to most MPA programs
- MPA Center conducted outreach to distribute
  - Webinars
  - Social media
  - Conferences
Thoughts from other FACs

- More frequent engagement with NOAA and DOI leadership
  - Meetings
  - Letters summarizing each meeting

- Key role of Chair & Vice Chair in communicating as needed between meetings
Thank you!