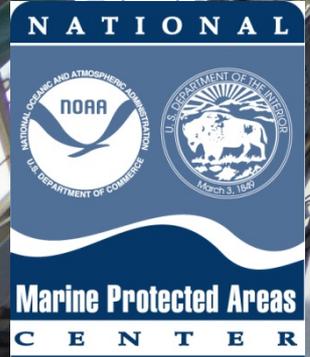


# Working with Advisory Committees

*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 members 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”

# FAC – Agency Interactions



## Marine Protected Areas Federal Advisory Committee

2013

December 4,

The Honorable Penny Pritzker  
Secretary of Commerce  
U.S. Department of Commerce  
1401 Constitution Ave., NW  
Washington, D.C. 20230

The Honorable Sally Jewell  
Secretary of the Interior  
Department of the Interior  
1849 C Street, N.W.  
Washington DC 20240

Dear Madam Secretary Pritzker and Madam Secretary Jewell:

We are the Marine Protected Areas Federal Advisory Committee (MPA FAC), comprising 20 appointed members representing a cross-section of ocean and coastal users, stakeholders and natural and social scientific expertise. Working together to leverage our diverse expertise and perspectives, the MPA FAC advises the Departments of Commerce and Interior on important emerging issues facing the nation's 1,700 marine protected areas (MPAs). Conserving some of the nation's most treasured and intensively used coastal and marine waters, these special places are valued by coastal communities and tourists alike, and, increasingly, by the nation as a whole. Ensuring the sustainable use of these special places is of paramount importance.

In June 2012, the Departments of Commerce and Interior gave the MPA FAC several charges. We are at work on these charges and plan to complete our full recommendations in June 2014. We write now regarding one of the charges: to advise on the role of MPAs for recreation and tourism. We know that recreation and tourism is an issue of great interest to both Departments and note that sustainable recreation and tourism is highlighted as a priority in the National Ocean Policy. We write to inform you of our ongoing work on this charge, and to recommend two important initial steps for the Departments of Commerce and Interior to support sustainable recreational use of MPAs.

Coastal communities around the U.S. are growing rapidly. At the same time, coastal areas are fast becoming destinations for an expanding suite of recreational uses including fishing, surfing, kayaking, whale watching, diving, beachcombing, discovery and spiritual reflection. Many of these human uses occur in MPAs – affirming the wide range of social and economic benefits that MPAs provide. A recent informal survey of MPA managers, conducted by the MPA FAC and the National Marine Protected Areas Center, indicates that marine recreational uses are occurring and expanding in most MPAs, often in ways and with impacts not anticipated by existing management plans and approaches. This comports with our own experience and with other information that MPAs are drawing an increasing number of recreational users and that MPA managers face many real challenges managing this increased recreational interest.

Clearly, growing recreational uses in MPAs hold tremendous promise for sustained human health, fitness and well-being, economic prosperity, and a deeper human connection to the

### CHAIR

George Geiger  
Business and Fisheries (Retired)  
Fishing

### V.P. CHAIR

Debra Scott-Arnes, Ph.D., MPA  
Florida Public Archeology Network

### MEMBERS

William A. B.  
Bureau of Ocean Energy Management  
and National Research

David Biner  
Maryland Port Authority

Prithvi Brinda, Ph.D.  
Construction Law Foundation

Fabrizio Colombo, Ph.D.  
Florida State University

Gary Davis  
GE Davis & Associates

John Frampton  
Association of Fish and Wildlife  
Agencies

Karen Gervasi  
National Resources Defense Council

K. David Hyrenbach, Ph.D.  
Florida Pacific University

John Jones, Ph.D.  
Sea Education Association

Gary Kubit  
The Congressional Spectrum's  
Foundation

Sheeta Krell  
Great Lakes Fishery & Sustainability  
Chairs

Janet Palla  
The Land Marine Sanctuary  
Foundation

Blair Rabeck, Ph.D.  
National Resources Foundation

Catherine Rebeis-Boyd  
Western States Jobbers  
Association

Michelle Kalgren  
Ocean Atlas

Naoh Robinson, JD, SJD  
Critical Impacts Research

Joe Schmecker  
Osmund Nelson-Nelson

Stephen Welch  
Conservation Fisheries

DISSEMINATED FEDERAL  
OFFICIAL

Larissa Wood  
National Marine Protected Areas  
Center

National MPA Center  
1301 East-West Highway  
Silver Spring, MD 20910-3281  
301-713-7411  
Bldg. 930202@noaa.gov  
www.mpa.gov



UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE  
The Secretary of Commerce  
Washington, D.C. 20230

July 21, 2016

Mr. George Geiger  
Chair  
Marine Protected Areas Federal Advisory Committee  
566 Ponaka Street  
Sebastian, FL 32958

Dear Mr. Geiger:

Thank you and the Marine Protected Areas Federal Advisory Committee for your recent letter and recommendations related to marine protected areas (MPAs) and recreation. Your letter also addresses enhancing communication with our diverse MPA stakeholders.

As you note, the Obama Administration is committed to promoting travel and tourism to strengthen our economy, as well as encouraging more Americans to enjoy the great outdoors as part of a healthy, active lifestyle. Your call to action, entitled *Destination MPAs: Sustaining America's Most Treasured Ocean Places for Recreation and Stewardship*, summarizes key issues and approaches in balancing the social and economic benefits of outdoor recreation with the sustainable management of these natural resources for generations to come. Moreover, your recommendations for marine and coastal managers on recreation uses will be a useful reference for the Department of Commerce, and we will share them with other Federal and State ocean management agencies.

Your work on MPAs and recreation is relevant to the Federal interagency partnerships on recreation and tourism, such as America's Great Outdoors and the National Travel and Tourism Strategy, as well as to mandates and programs within the Department of Commerce. These initiatives, and the public-private partnerships that support them, offer an important opportunity to work together to both promote and protect our ocean and coastal treasures. The National Marine Protected Areas Center—a joint enterprise shared by the Departments of Commerce and the Interior—can play a key role in coordinating and advancing these efforts.

Finally, as all our work to conserve ocean resources relies on effective communication with those who use and care about our oceans, your practical recommendations on enhancing communications with diverse audiences are a welcome resource.

# FAC – Agency Interactions



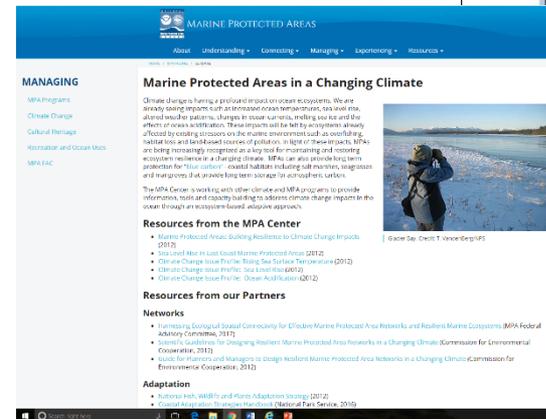
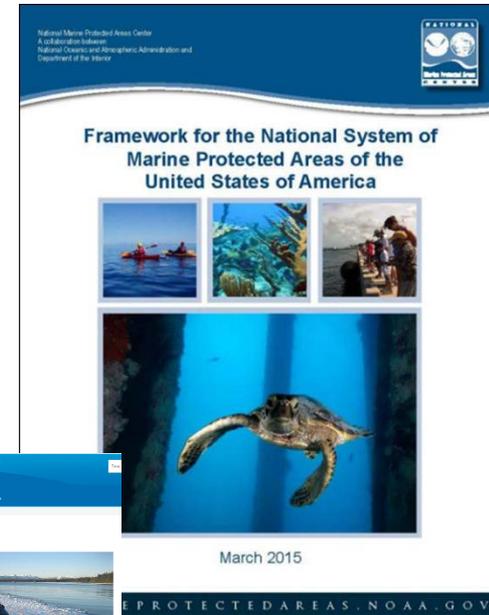
# Early MPA FAC Reports

- 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)



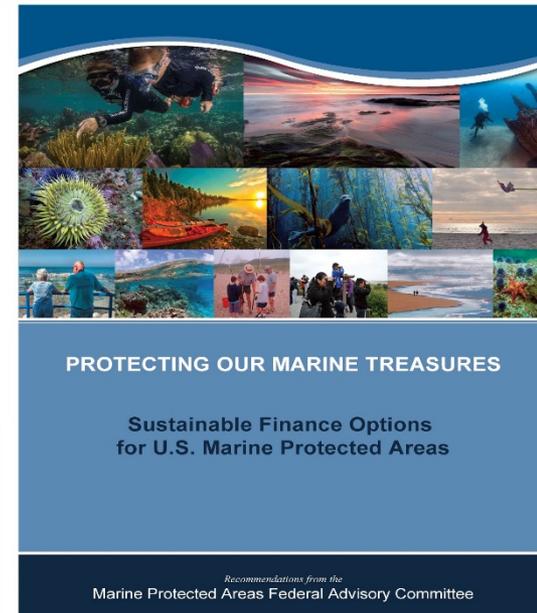
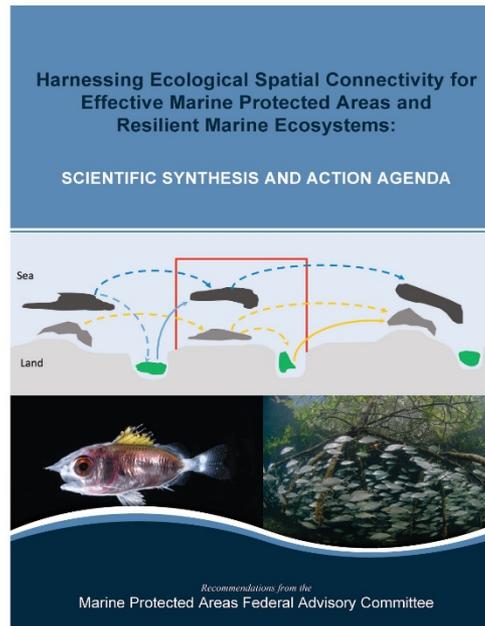
# When recommendations had less impact....

- 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 to 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!

