Executive Order 13158

- Develop and implement a scientifically based, comprehensive national system of MPAs representing diverse U.S. marine ecosystems, and the Nation’s natural and cultural resources
- Improve MPA coordination, stewardship and effectiveness
- Support, not interfere with, agencies’ independent exercise of their own existing authorities.
National Marine Protected Areas Center

- Established by MPA Executive Order in partnership with DOI to coordinate and strengthen US MPA programs (federal, state, tribal, local)
- Located within NOAA’s Office of National Marine Sanctuaries
- Strong focus on partnerships within and beyond government
National Marine Protected Areas Center

- National Parks
- Wildlife Refuges
- Reserves
- Local Areas
- Tribal Areas
- State Areas
- Sanctuaries
Building and Strengthening MPAs and Networks

Areas of Expertise:

- Capacity building
- Communication and engagement
- Information & Tools
- Policy/Strategy
- Engaging Internationally

Photo credit: Gary Davis
Capacity Development

- Monthly webinar series for MPA and coastal managers and others
- Applying lessons learned across MPA programs internationally and nationally
Cultural Resources Toolkit - BETA

Many Values, Many Voices: Cultural Heritage in MPAs

Channel Islands, CA: some MPAs have overlapping jurisdictions requiring coordination and collaboration for effective management. (NOAA ONMS)
Communications & Stakeholder Engagement

- Website continues to be a major resource for MPA issues (~170,000 hits/month)
- Developed new e-newsletter for more frequent contact with partners
- Expanding social media
Communications & Stakeholder Engagement

- Website update planned for summer/fall 2015
Communications & Stakeholder Engagement

- Key role of MPA FAC in advising NOAA and DOI
- Recreation and tourism
- Communications
- Cultural Resources
Information and Tools

- MPA Inventory and analysis
- Developing visualization tools
- Developing classification systems and common terminology
- Ocean use mapping
Information and Tools

- Analysis of MPA Representativeness by ecoregion
Information and Tools

• Survey of recreational uses at MPAs (in progress)
• Analysis of ocean use conflicts and compatibilities (in progress)
• Methodology for identifying Tribal Cultural Landscapes (in progress)
Policy/Strategy

- National System Framework
- Developing key messages and approaches on MPAs role in climate change mitigation and adaptation
Engaging Internationally

- Follow up to 2014 World Parks Congress
- North American collaboration with Canada and Mexico
  - Blue carbon mapping and science
  - Marine Protected Areas
- Framework for a Pan-Arctic MPA Network (Arctic Council)
- Supporting US commitments under the Specially Protected Areas and Wildlife (SPAW) Protocol for Wider Caribbean
MPA Center Staff

- Lauren Wenzel, Acting Director
- Dr. Charles Wahle, Senior Scientist
- Dr. Robert Brock, Climate Change and Monitoring lead
- Dr. Mimi D’Iorio, GIS and Analysis lead
- Dr. Valerie Grussing, Cultural Resources Coordinator
- Gonzalo Cid, Capacity Development lead
- Joanne Flanders, Outreach lead
Questions?