The Draft Framework for Developing the National System of MPAs

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How We Developed the Draft

Draft Framework based on partnerships, information collected, and input received over the past four (4) years.

- FAC recommendations are the foundation
- Ongoing federal agency review
- Draft State recommendations
- Initial Tribal consultations
- Interest group, general public, and other stakeholder meetings
- Prelim. analysis of the MMA Inventory
A Roadmap for National System Development

Principles for the National System Framework

• Adaptive and flexible

• Enhances existing efforts and improve future decisions through collaboration – a ‘System of Systems and Sites’

• Comprehensive and integrated

• Ecosystem and regional approaches, while maintaining a national outlook
What’s in the Draft Framework?
(1 of 3)

Provides general guidance for developing the National System, including:

• Background, Rationale, and Benefits

• Themes
  – Natural heritage
  – Cultural heritage
  – Sustainable production

• Guiding Principles
Draft Framework also includes:

- National System Goals
  - Goal 1. Advance comprehensive conservation and management of the Nation’s marine natural and cultural heritage, and sustainable production marine resources through ecosystem-based MPA approaches.
  - Goal 2. Promote sound stewardship and improve the effectiveness of the National System.
  - Goal 3. Enhance effective coordination and integration among the National System and within the broader ecosystem management context.

- National System Objectives

- MPA definition and criteria (area, marine environment, reserved, lasting, and protection)
Draft Framework also includes:

- Regional and national processes for:
  - Nominating and including existing MPAs
  - Enhancing coordination and stewardship
  - Identifying gaps and future conservation priorities

- Guidance on MPA EO Section 5 (*a.k.a. “avoid harm”*)

- Annual and Biennial Reporting

- Process for developing performance measures
By providing a structure for coordinating and supporting U.S. MPA efforts, the National System:

- Recognizes and supports work of federal, state, and tribal governments and regional institutions
- Promotes government coordination for efficient use of resources
- Improves public access to information and participation
- Builds core component of ecosystem management
Steps for Public Release of the Draft Framework

• Review and approval from DOC/NOAA and DOI over next month

• Provide a 145-day public comment period (*addt’l stakeholder outreach pending pending resources*)

• Distribute via mpa.gov website, email lists, organizations, MPAFAC, etc.
Framework: Draft to Final

- Fall 2006, revise Framework and develop response to comments
- DOC/NOAA and DOI review and approval; final by mid- to late 2007
- Press release & conference, summary brochure, one-pagers, website section
Implementing the Final Framework

- Identify and nominate existing sites for national system (end of 2007)
- Scope out regional efforts with participating sites and other partners
- Identify shared stewardship priorities and build initiatives
- Collaboratively develop science, tools, & ID ecosystem-based gaps
Questions?

A National System of MPAs, collaboratively conserving the nation’s...

Natural Heritage,

Sustainable Production, and

Cultural Heritage.