Why an External Review?

- MPA Center was established in 2000 – has never had an independent external review
- OMB’s Program Rating Assessment Tool (PART) calls for external review
- National system is moving into a new phase – opportunity to refocus program as needed
- Improve performance
- Increase visibility
Proposed Scope of External Review

• Evaluate the success of the MPA Center in meeting the purposes of Executive Order 13158

• Provide recommendations that the MPA Center can use to improve its work
Key Questions

• How successfully has the program addressed the requirements of Executive Order 13158?
• Is the program focusing on the right suite of activities to advance the newly established national system of MPAs?
• How can the MPA Center most effectively build upon and strengthen its unique niche in supporting the use of MPAs as a conservation and management tool?
• Is the MPA Center providing effective leadership and building partnerships to advance an effective national system of MPAs?
• How can the MPA Center improve its impacts and performance in the future?
Options

• Contract with external organization, e.g.
  – National Academy of Public Administration
  – National Research Council

• Create external panel
  – FAC involvement

• Criteria
  – Cost
  – Ability to complete review within timeframe
  – Professional expertise
  – Visibility
# Draft Timeline

- **April 2009**  
  Availability of funds confirmed; initiate external review process

- **July 2009**  
  Award contract or select panelists

- **Summer 2009**  
  Prepare background material  
  Gather stakeholder and public input

- **Early Fall 2009**  
  Draft report completed

- **Late Fall 2009**  
  Final report completed