National MPA Center
Communication and Outreach Initiatives

Presentation to the MPA Federal Advisory Committee

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WWW.MPA.gov
Connecting the Dots: The National System of Marine Protected Areas

Most of us are familiar with the U.S. National Parks System. The Grand Canyon, Yellowstone, and Yosemite are just a few well-known places in this network of protected natural, recreational, and cultural sites. But did you know there also are protected places in our nation’s oceans? These places are called marine protected areas (MPAs), and, like national parks, they provide lasting protection to important ecosystems as well as natural and cultural resources.

Existing MPAs Working Together

MPAs are defined ocean and coastal areas where natural and cultural resources are given greater protection than the surrounding waters. In the United States, more than 1,700 MPAs span a range of marine habitats, including the open ocean, coastal areas, inter-tidal zones, estuaries, and the Great Lakes. All of these MPAs were created for different reasons and each has its own conservation objectives, which range from conserving important habitats and preserving sunken historic vessels to protecting fish spawning grounds important to commercial and recreational fisheries.

These MPAs were created by over 100 different local, state, tribal, or federal authorities. The level of protection varies, but it is the system of MPAs that is important for conservation.
NATIONAL SYSTEM OF MPAs OUTREACH TOOLKIT

Resources and materials to help communicate the importance of MPAs and the National System of MPAs
Protecting Our Planet movie

www.mpa.gov

www.youtube.com
What’s Next?

April/May 2010 sponsorship of *Current: the Journal of Marine Education*

Ongoing redesign of www.mpa.gov

MPA Federal Advisory Committee DVD
Our National System of Marine Protected Areas
Working together for...

Look at the variety of sea life in this place!
Surely, you can find something to date here, Fillmore.
She's been sitting on the bottom over a hundred years.

Healthy Ecosystems

Certainly, you can find something to date here, Fillmore.

Cultural Heritage

And it was supposed to be a three hour tour.

Sustainable Production

That means a sensible approach to harvesting seafood.

I think I'll eat nothing but yellow fish today.