Nomination Process and Initial National System of MPAs

Presentation to the MPA Federal Advisory Committee

Lauren Wenzel
National Marine Protected Areas Center
April 21, 2009

WWW.MPA.gov
Initial National System

• Goal is for initial national system to be diverse in terms of:
  – Geographic region
  – Ecosystem type
  – Level of government
  – Conservation goals
First Round of Nominations

- 225 MPAs
- Federal MPA Programs
  - National Marine Sanctuaries
  - National Parks
  - National Wildlife Refuges
- Federal/State Partnership
  - NERRS
  - Papahanaumokuakea Marine National Monument
- 9 States/Territories (includes NERRS sites)
Participating States/Territories

- American Samoa (1)
- California (63)
- Florida (2)
- Hawaii (7)
- Maryland (1)
- Massachusetts (1)
- New Jersey (1)
- Virginia (7)
- Washington (19)
Public Review

- 30-day public comment period
- List of nominated sites published in Federal Register
- Posted on www.mpa.gov
- Notified stakeholders through email lists and newsletters
Public Comments

• 26 public comments
  – Diverse sources – industry, conservation, fishing
  – Support or opposition to specific sites
  – Concerns about potential restrictions on use
Final Nominations

- Public comments forwarded to managing agencies
- Managing agencies asked to make final determination on nomination package
- All nominations re-affirmed
Highlights of the Initial National System

• **Total Number and Area of the National System**
  • 225 Sites
  • Marine Area: 183,000 miles$^2$

• **Percent of EEZ covered by National System sites**
  • Percent of EEZ: 10%

• **Total Area of No-Take within National System**
  • Marine Area: 47,000 miles$^2$
  • Percent of the EEZ: < 1%
Highlights of the Initial National System

- **Largest Site (Pacific Islands)**
  - Papahanaumokuakea Marine National Monument: 140,000 miles$^2$

- **Smallest Site (Maryland)**
  - Blackwater National Wildlife Refuge: 0.0021 miles$^2$

- **Largest No-Take Zone**
  - Ecological Reserve of Papahanaumokuakea Marine National Monument: 38,000 miles$^2$
  - Entire No-Take Area of this site = 45,000 miles$^2$ (10 SPAs and 1 ecological reserve)
Highlights of the Initial National System

- **Oldest Site (located in Florida)**
  - Pelican Island National Wildlife Refuge: Established in 1903

- **Newest Sites (located in California)**
  - 24 Marine Life Protection Act sites throughout California: Established in 2007
Distribution of National System Sites by Region

Percent of Sites by Region:
- West Coast, 45%
- Northeast, 21%
- Pacific Islands, 9%
- Southeast, 9%
- Caribbean, 1%
- Great Lakes, 1%
- Gulf of Mexico, 14%
- Alaska, 2%

Percent of Area by Region:
- Pacific Islands, 78%
- West Coast, 7%
- Alaska, 9%
- Caribbean, <1%
- Great Lakes, 1%
- Northeast, 1%
- Gulf of Mexico, 2%
- Southeast, 2%
Distribution of National System Sites by Agency

- American Samoa Dept of Marine & Wildlife Resources: 1 site
- California Department of Fish and Game: 29 sites
- California State Water Resources Control Board: 34 sites
- Hawaii Department of Land and Natural Resources: 7 sites
- Navy/St. Mary's County Dept of Recreation and Parks: 1 site
- Florida Department of Environmental Protection: 2 sites
- Massachusetts Department of Conservation and Recreation: 1 site
- Rutgers University, Institute of Marine and Coastal Sciences: 1 site
- National Marine Sanctuaries: 12 sites
- National Marine Sanctuaries & American Samoa Dept of: 1 site
- National Marine Sanctuaries & Hawaii DLNR and U.S. FWS: 1 site
- National Park Service: 10 sites
- U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service: 99 sites
- Virginia Department of Conservation and Recreation: 6 sites
- Virginia Marine Resource Commission: 1 site
- Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife: 13 sites
- Washington Department of Natural Resources: 4 sites
- Washington State Parks & Recreation Commission: 2 sites

Percent of Sites
Percent of Sites by Government Level

- Federal: 54%
- State: 41%
- Partnership: 4%
- Territorial: <1%

Percent of Area by Government Level

- Federal: 23%
- State: 1%
- Partnership: 77%
- Territorial: <1%
NH = Natural Heritage; CH = Cultural Heritage, SP = Sustainable Production
Levels of Protection

**Uniform Multiple-Use:** MPAs or zones with a consistent level of protection and allowable activities, including certain extractive uses, across the entire protected area.

**Zoned Multiple-Use:** MPAs that allow some extractive activities throughout the entire site, but that use marine zoning to allocate specific uses to compatible places or times in order to reduce user conflicts and adverse impacts.

**Zoned Multiple-Use With No-Take Area(s):** Multiple-use MPAs that contain at least one legally established management zone in which all resource extraction is prohibited.

**No-Take:** MPAs or zones that allow human access and even some potentially harmful uses, but that totally prohibit the extraction or significant destruction of natural or cultural resources.

**No Impact:** MPAs or zones that allow human access, but that prohibit all activities that could harm the site’s resources or disrupt the ecological or cultural services they provide.

**No Access:** MPAs or zones that restrict all human access to the area in order to prevent potential ecological disturbance, unless specifically permitted for designated special uses such as research, monitoring or restoration.
Number of Sites by Level of Protection

- Uniform Multiple Use: 67%
- Zoned Multiple Use: 8%
- Other: 7%
- No Access: 9%
- No Impact: 1%
- No Take: 8%
Area of Sites by Level of Protection

- Uniform Multiple Use: 67%
- No Take: 24%
- Other: 2%
- No Access: 1%
- No Impact: <1%
- Zoned Multiple Use: 6%
Percent of No Take Area of US MPAs

All US MPAs

- **No Take**: 3%
  - 47,500 sq miles
- **Other**: 97%
  - 1.8 million sq miles

National System Area

- **No Take**: 25%
  - 47,000 sq miles
- **Other**: 75%
  - 136,000 sq miles

 Doesn’t match 27% in Fact sheet
Top Five Priority Conservation Objectives Met by National System

• NATURAL HERITAGE GOAL:
  • Key areas that provide compatible opportunities for education and research (193)
  • Areas of high species and/or high diversity (188)
  • Key biogenic habitats (160)
  • Key reproduction areas and nursery grounds (155)
  • Unique or rare species, habitats and associated communities (149)
National System Sites by Ecoregion
Sneak Preview: U-1105 Black Panther, MD