

Improving Marine Protected Area Stewardship:

Identifying and addressing program implementation needs

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Presentation Outline

Focus on MPA Center's Goal One

Goal and Methodology of Needs Assessment

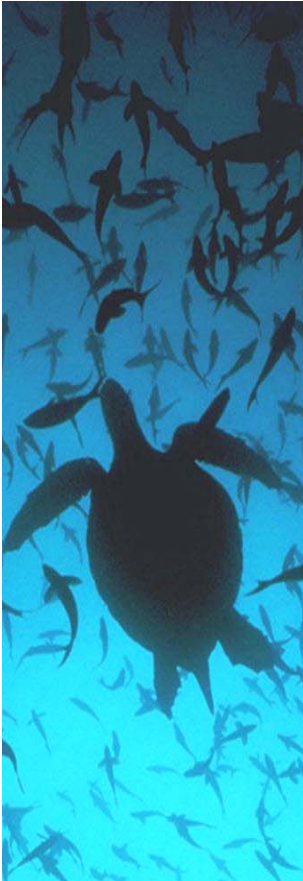
Needs Assessment Findings

Next Steps

- Committee advise on critical elements
- Further define issues
- Identify gaps
- Recommend best strategies for engaging stakeholders into ongoing management

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National MPA Center

Goal 1:

Enhance MPA stewardship by strengthening capacity for planning, management, and evaluation

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Enhance MPA Stewardship

Assess the needs of existing MPAs

Assess and facilitate the improvement of effectiveness of existing MPAs

Develop the natural and social science foundation for sound decision-making

Facilitate the development, sharing, and application of MPA information

Build capacity within MPA programs and sites

Assess and document the strengths and limitations of MPAs as a conservation tool

Improve public awareness and understanding of MPAs

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Why a Needs Assessment?

Recognize that there are many existing MPA efforts

Desire to be responsive to the needs of community

Collect information on needs systematically

Build rapport with the MPA community

Ensure effectiveness of projects

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MPA Needs Assessment

Timeframe: May 2001 to February 2002

Goal: Identify information, skills, tools, and processes needed to foster effective MPAs

Use: Results are guiding the National MPA Center and supporting institutes as we design services and products to support a national network of MPAs

Target audience: Coastal and marine resource managers; site managers and their staffs; and state, regional, and federal managers

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Needs Assessment Objectives

What: Identify overall challenges surrounding MPA management, as well as specific gaps in existing knowledge and skills

Why: Determine attitudes, motivations, and disincentives that could impact managers' capacity to benefit from new information, training, or technical assistance.

Who: Identify subgroups of managers that may benefit most from specific MPA products or services.

How: Identify formats and distribution methods that will maximize the utility of information, products, and services

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Needs Assessment Methodology

- Literature review
- Focus groups
- Phone interviews
- Computer-assisted content analysis of news media
- Meetings/conferences/FISHFOLK discussion list

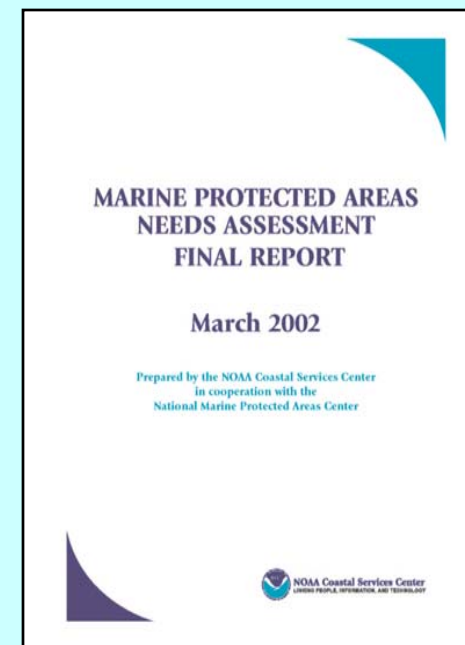
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Needs Assessment Results

- **Section I: MPA-Related Policy and Legal Issues/Responsible Authorities**
- **Section II: MPA-Related Science and Technology**
- **Section III: MPA Program Implementation**

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Section I: MPA-Related Policy and Legal Issues/Responsible Authorities

- Defining terminology
- Managing across jurisdictions
- Information sharing
- Agency coordination
- Fisheries issues

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Section II: MPA-Related Science and Technology

- **Inventory and monitoring**
- **Mapping and spatial analysis**
- **Natural science needs**
- **Social science needs**
- **Science in management**
- **Climate change**



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Section III: MPA Program Implementation

- Public education and outreach
- Planning methods for identifying MPAs
- Stakeholder and community involvement
- Working with indigenous peoples
- Working with fishermen
- Managing visitor impacts
- Historical and cultural issues
- Enforcement
- Evaluating MPA effectiveness
- Funding
- Growth and land-based threats
- Site and sector-specific issues

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Public Education and Outreach

- **More awareness and appreciation on marine resources**
- **Non biased information at the local level**
- **Use of graphics and images to communicate and share ideas**

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Stakeholder and Community Involvement

- **Must be meaningful and not formula driven**
- **Process knowledge skills are required**
- **Local-level involvement balanced with top down approach**
- **Multiple dissemination methods required**
- **Equable treatment of different stakeholders**

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Managing Visitor Impacts

- **Balance public access with protection**
- **Consider non-consumptive recreational impacts**
- **Coordinate multiple jurisdictions within areas**

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Enforcement



- **Officer training and resources**
- **Unclear boundaries and regulations**
- **Role of education and outreach**
- **Selective law enforcement is a problem**
- **Legal framework for establishing MPAs**

Evaluating MPA Effectiveness

- **Evaluation and monitoring documents if MPAs are meeting established goals**
- **Evaluation should quantifies ecological and socioeconomic impacts**
- **Evaluation process should be built into new MPA efforts**
- **Evaluation standards should be designed**

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***USING* the Needs Assessment**

- **National MPA Center projects**
- **Partnerships**
- **General and special focus needs assessments**



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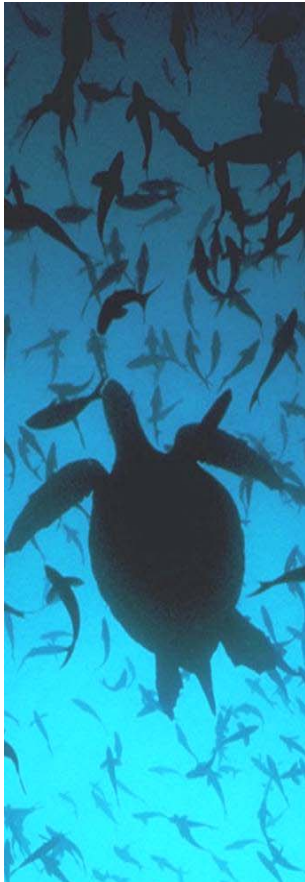
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Committee Engagement

- As a first step towards the first goal,
Advise on which elements are most critical
to the stewardship effort.
Further define issues described based on the
stakeholders you represent.
Identify any issues or gaps that were not
articulated in the document.
Recommend the best mechanism for
engaging the stakeholder groups you
represent into the ongoing management
process.**

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Questions?

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