

DRAFT MINUTES
Marine Protected Areas Federal Advisory Committee Meeting
November 15-17, 2011
New Orleans, LA

TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 15, 2011

The meeting convened at 8:45am.

Meeting Opening and Committee Business

The meeting was called to order by Committee Chair Eugenio Piñeiro-Soler who opened the meeting. Designated Federal Official Kara Yeager took roll. The Chair welcomed committee members, Ex Officio members, and guests. Kara announced a change to the agenda, namely that the Cultural Heritage Resources Working Group would be presenting before the Land/Sea Subcommittee later in the morning.

Committee Vice-Chair Lori Arguelles moved to approve past meeting minutes. The motion was seconded and the minutes were approved for August 16, 23, September 16, 2011 and November 2010 with minimal changes to text and a few attendance updates noted.

Kara reviewed the process for voting and reminded candidates that they would have a few minutes to state their intent after lunch. Elections will be held for Chair, Vice-Chair and Parliamentarian. Kara reviewed the roles and responsibilities for each position. Lori reflected on her role, thanked the FAC for the experience, and mentioned that she views the position of Vice-Chair as an opportunity to facilitate the success of the group. Eugenio added that those running for Chair should ensure that they have the time to fill the role and thanked everyone for their hard work.

Lori offered some context, history and background on New Orleans and introduced Eileen Sobek from the Department of the Interior. Eileen offered an update on the National Ocean Policy (NOP) process. She reminded the group that the Deepwater Horizon oil spill occurred during the FAC's last meeting in Charleston and reflected on her time at incident command. She mentioned that a report from The Gulf Coast Ecosystem Task Force will be released early in December containing a strategy for regional restoration and encouraged FAC members to help with the implementation of that report. She then offered an update on the current status of the NOP. Last summer the National Ocean Council (NOC) released nine full content outlines for the Strategic Action Plans (SAPs), one for each NOP objective. The NOC held a series of listening sessions over the summer and the full content SAP outlines were out for 30 days for public comment. The NOC also hosted a National Workshop in Washington, DC in July with strong representation from state and tribal entities. The NOC has spent the past few months making the SAPs more cohesive. They will go out for another round of public comment around the end of this year. The CMSP SAP will be more condensed than earlier and additional material will be included in other guidance documents to be developed later. Eileen commended the FAC for their white paper on CMSP and stressed the importance of groups like the FAC engaging fully in the NOP. She encouraged the group to be a voice for championing the ideas for protecting ecologically important areas, data management, tool development, the Cultural Landscape

Approach, infrastructure needs, stakeholder processes, traditional knowledge and tribal values. She referenced the two recent Congressional hearings on the NOP that were fairly critical and encouraged FAC members to be vocal about both their views of the policy. She added that although these concepts may not be popular, they are fundamental to how we need to do business. She mentioned DOI's "Smart from the Start" approach to streamlining approvals for renewable energy as an example of how CMSP is already being incorporated to improve ocean planning.

Lori mentioned that the current Department of Commerce Ex Officio member, Paul Doremus, was recently named the new Deputy Assistant Administrator for NOAA Fisheries. She then introduced Dr. Charles Wahle.

Charlie thanked Eileen for the background and stressed that CMSP has been a dynamic and complex process. The content for the CMSP SAP has been condensed, and additional detail will be provided in a guidance manual or "Handbook" for how to do the process. The Regional Planning Bodies (RPBs) are beginning to organize themselves, but some are further along than others. The NIMS (National Information Management System) will be functional soon at www.ocean.data.gov and will provide a centralized place to access federal data sets that are relevant to CMSP. Two important themes that emerged from the National Workshop are that it is critically important to engage stakeholders throughout the process and that regions need flexibility related to the scope, geographic scale, duration, timeline and outcomes of CMSP. The FAC's CMSP Subcommittee's recommendations speak to the need for this flexibility. CMSP is going to require innovative partnerships as well as work to navigate legal and fiscal obstacles. Charlie noted that NOAA remains committed to the goals of the NOP and supporting CMSP in the regions and has identified regional federal co-leads for three of the RPBs. He also mentioned that the Regional Ocean Partnership grants are moving forward. The agency is getting its data organized in a data registry that can be easily and universally accessed.

During FY11, NOAA received \$1.5 million for CMSP that will be carried over for FY12. Charlie said that NOAA is focusing its efforts on integrating capabilities that support the NOP and CMSP and using existing structures, policies and tools rather than creating new ones. He commended the CMSP Subcommittee's ability to tackle complex and diverse issues and produce useful guidance for the NOC and RPBs. He then discussed the relationship between MPAs and CMSP and showed how the two approaches intersect and can benefit from each other. The FAC's CMSP recommendations will provide useful input in developing the CMSP Handbook, providing guidance to the RPBs on engaging stakeholders; setting regional objectives that include conservation and multiple use; assessing ecosystem issues and trends; evaluating the implications of tradeoffs among alternative use scenarios; monitoring the effectiveness of CMS plans and adaptively managing them as needed; and incorporating MPAs as a tool for place-based management within the wider CMSP mosaic. Charlie acknowledged that the NOP and CMSP are evolving and thanked the group for their hard work. DOC Ex Officio Paul Doremus also recognized the value of the group's work.

Discussion

Jesus Ruiz requested a copy of Charlie's slides. Russ Moll appreciated the comments and acknowledged the transitions coming (within the FAC, Congress and the Administration). He

asked if the CMSP Subcommittee will endure after this meeting and if so, what will its role be? With the federal election taking place a year from now, does CMSP have enough momentum to sustain itself beyond a change in the Administration? Eileen responded to Russ' question by stating that comprehensive planning and EBM will be our corporate model going forward and that CMSP will progress although it may be called something else. The future will involve a focus on the elements of CMSP that make it possible to implement comprehensive planning. She emphasized that there is agreement that we need more information to make better decisions. It might be worthwhile for the FAC to spell out their priorities for data, tools, and planning principles. Michelle Ridgway asked Eileen if there was any information from the recent NOP hearing on the Hill that can help focus our energy moving forward. Eileen answered that the NOP is a model for good governance, including more efficient governance, federal collaboration, good science and rational tools and practices. Lori thanked Russ, Dave Blazer and the writing team leads (Priscilla Brooks, Karen Garrison, Bruce Tackett and Joe Schumacker).

Given the low budget for CMSP, Jesus Ruiz asked if there have been any efforts to create public-private partnerships. Charlie responded that there is a growing recognition that innovative partnerships and integration will be required for the success of CMSP and the NOP. Eileen added that many agencies are allocating resources that will contribute to CMSP (i.e., through the national data portal). The NOP is looking to build on existing partnerships that are already receiving private funding. Bruce Tackett discussed the challenges of providing recommendations on use while ensuring conservation. He asked Charlie for insight and welcomed thoughts about the path forward with constrained resources. Charlie responded that the Subcommittee did a good job of balancing use and conservation and that their ideas should be shared with the RPBs early in their planning processes.

Brian Melzian spoke on behalf of EPA's involvement in CMSP and encouraged the group to look at the House Natural Resources Committee website and archived testimony of the two hearings last month. He acknowledged how politicized CMSP has become. Priscilla Brooks spoke about her experience with CMSP in New England and reported that the region is poised to be an early success story. She requested the near-term release of CMSP guidance and the SAPs and formation of the RPBs in order to support CMSP in the regions and retain momentum. Eileen said she would take Priscilla's message back to the NOC, agreed that the SAPs need to be released quickly and asked the FAC members and those involved in regional planning processes to keep pressing the NOC for answers. Given the current budget uncertainty, Gary Davis asked if DOI is going to be a more active partner in the MPA Center. Eileen responded that DOI will discuss with NOAA how best to support the Center.

MPA Center Updates

Lauren Wenzel, Acting Director of the National MPA Center, offered an update on the MPA Inventory and the National System of MPAs (now at 297 member sites). She mentioned that there will be a lot of discussion on MPAs in FY12 due international commitments that use 2012 as a milestone date for establishing MPA networks. She also reviewed the latest nominations to the National System and acknowledged the work of the Chair and Committee member Victor Mastone in engaging sites in Puerto Rico and Massachusetts. There has been a significant expansion of cultural heritage nominations and the first submission of a tribal site (Alaska). She gave credit to the Cultural Heritage Resources Working Group (CHRWG) for their outreach

work to management agencies. Lauren also highlighted recently developed MPA Center information and tools. The SPAtial Assessment Resource Characterization (SPARC) Tool allows users to see where resources are located within and outside of MPAs. The MPA Center is running test cases in SPARC as a first step towards analyzing MPA representativeness. The MPA Viewer is useful for finding information on particular MPAs and seeing the geographic distribution of MPAs within a region. The current MPA Inventory Expansion is focusing on the presence and absence of resources in MPAs. Although it does not have the spatial component that the SPARC tool has, it can look at a broader set of resources. The MPA Center is also conducting analyses on site and program level regulations and as a result will be able to describe how many MPAs protect specific resources and which programs protect which resources. These analyses, along with the SPARC Tool, can help with building ecological networks. Lauren reviewed the MPA Center's work on Mapping Ocean Uses: CA (2009), parts of HI (2010-2011), WA and USVI (planned for 2012). The MPA Center is also conducting analyses related to ocean use conflicts and compatibilities. Lauren noted the MPA Center's work through the North American MPA Network and the International Council on the Exploration of the Seas (ICES) to synthesize expected climate change impacts and their implications for current and future MPA networks. With respect to outreach, she mentioned that we need to focus on engaging youth. The MPA Center will be working with aquaria and the North American MPA Network to develop a series of videos to be launched on World Ocean Day in June 2012.

She thanked the FAC for working remotely over the past year and reviewed the work of the FAC in FY11. In FY12, the FAC will transition to a 20-member committee; 16 members will depart and six will be added soon. She stressed the MPA Center's commitment to maintaining the geographic and sectoral diversity of the FAC and asked the group to think over the next few days about future priority issues for the FAC. She shared some ideas focused around connecting people to MPAs and to ocean conservation. She also mentioned opportunities to work with the Sanctuary Advisory Councils and DOI's Sport Fishing and Boating Partnership Council.

Lauren presented a budget history for the MPA Center and gave an update on the FY12 budget outlook. For FY13, the Office of Management and Budget (OMB) and Congress are signaling significant cuts across many federal programs. Lauren stressed the likelihood for budget reductions and reorganization and underlined this opportunity for the FAC to share their perspectives with NOAA leadership. Opportunities for FAC input include a program assessment being conducted by the National Ocean Service and the MPA Center external review, to be conducted early in FY12.

In the discussion that followed, Bruce Tackett requested that past FAC work and tools be emphasized more and requested that new tools highlight multiple uses. Karen Garrison asked if anyone had summarized information on enforcement violations, and also emphasized the importance of educational materials. Steve Tucker acknowledged the work of the Coast Guard on enforcement information and offered to be a contact. Michelle Ridgway reiterated that incorporating ocean uses into tools and products is vital and stressed the need for those promoting conservation and planning to know where uses are happening in order to achieve their goals. She encouraged the MPA Center to do more outreach to states to convey their exciting tools. Lori expressed her appreciation for the work of the MPA Center and suggested that the FAC could consider making a formal statement of support. Lauren outlined the plan for

everyone to contribute and circulate ideas for the future direction of the FAC and noted that the external review report will be done by March.

Report out from the Cultural Heritage Resources Working Group (CHRWG)

Working Group Chair Victor Mastone expressed his concern that cultural heritage issues will not be reflected in the NOP SAPs and encouraged the FAC to consider continuing the work of the working group. He reviewed the plan for the FAC to adopt the recommendations of the CHRWG. Roberta Reyes Cordero spoke about her experience in developing the recommendations and thanked the original tribal people of the region for their stewardship. She shared that the CHRWG has broadened our understanding of what constitutes cultural resources, and emphasizes that humans are an integral part of the ecosystem. Embracing a holistic method strengthens connections to places and the desire to care for the places we love. John Jensen provided some additional context and recognized the broad level of representation in the CHRWG that broke down barriers within the more traditional approach to cultural resource management. He discussed the Cultural Landscape Approach (CLA) and noted that the Office of National Marine Sanctuaries supports the FAC approach. Vic reviewed the latest comments received and highlighted the need to be consistent with the language in the CMSP white paper. He discussed examples of reordering of the language and welcomed additional comments. Lori recommended that the group break early and return once copies of the paper had been distributed. The group broke for lunch.

Election Nomination Remarks

Chair nominations included George Geiger and Sarah Robinson. Nominations were accepted and the nominees offered brief remarks. Vice-chair nominations included Della Scott-Ireton and Priscilla Brooks. Nominations were accepted and the nominees offered their remarks. Joe Schumacker accepted his nomination as Parliamentarian.

Report out from the CHRWG (Continued)

Vic clarified the remainder of changes made to the Workgroup report. Cliff McCreedy requested that the National Park Service Organic Act be included among the authorities referenced in the paper. Priscilla Brooks suggested that the language for the NMSA is too broad and requested more precise language. Bruce Tackett suggested adding a sentence on the Antiquities Act that refers to the questions that have been raised with respect to consultation. Priscilla asked when the Cultural Landscape Approach is used. Vic responded that the CLA is a multi-scale process that works as a planning and management tool. John Jensen added that the CLA can be thought of as a parallel concept to EBM and is used to provide a broad picture of how humans have interacted with a landscape. CLA outlines how we should be thinking about the importance of human activities and cultural dimensions in a place. Karen Garrison recommended including specific examples of the CLA in the white paper. Joe Schumacker spoke about his experience at the MPA Center workshop hosted this past year that gathered input on tribal issues and how it inspired aspects of this paper. Bruce talked about the importance of consistency across FAC recommendations, and how the CMSP paper addresses the cultural identity of communities, not solely tribal and indigenous communities. John responded that one of the goals of the CLA is to make the goals of a community better understood, and is not limited to tribal or indigenous communities. He stressed that CLA is not about defining the legal entitlements of a community, rather about making connections visible. Bruce asked that the CHRWG refer back to what the

CMSP paper said about cultural heritage and community use of the ocean. The group then discussed the definition of cultural resources and objectives. Gary Davis asked if there was similar work planned for the other National System goals – Natural Heritage and Sustainable Production. Lauren answered that the work in these two areas has been integrated, and FAC workgroups are not currently planned for these topics. The group discussed further aspects of the white paper including the desirability of including information on coastal (non-submerged) cultural resources within the MPA Inventory.

Report out from Land, Sea and Communities Subcommittee

Subcommittee Chair Phil Renaud welcomed everyone and reviewed the process to date in the development of the Subcommittee's white paper. He outlined the group's charge and how land-sea issues fit into EBM. Phil reminded the Committee that a lot of MPAs cross the land-sea interface and many marine resources that occur at the interface. He reviewed the Subcommittee's process and referenced the Coastal and Marine Ecological Classification Standard (CMECS) as a way to develop a common approach to management across the land-sea interface. Phil shared the group's case study approach which looked at five sites across a wide geographic span with different focal coastal resources. The group's recommendations flowed from their case studies and the inventory analysis, and fell into different categories: MPA Information and Tools, Science, Partnerships and Outreach and Public Engagement. Phil reviewed the components of each of the categories and recommended that the FAC be charged with looking at land-based impacts in the future. He acknowledged that management collaboration across the land-sea interface can improve. The group highlighted opportunities to provide outreach in areas that are mostly terrestrial through interpretation tools that also showcase the marine environment. Phil reviewed recent changes within the white paper and opened the discussion to the group. Russ Moll commended the case study approach and the brevity of the paper. He suggested that some of the recommendations be combined and more tightly worded. Hans Radtke suggested that the Marbled Murrelet could be added to Olympic Coast case study.

Report out from MPAs and Healthy Communities Group

Sarah Robinson explained that the Healthy Communities work was conducted by the Land, Sea and Communities Subcommittee and reviewed their charge. She summarized the group's work and mentioned that they met once in Monterey and discussed how to define healthy coastal communities. The group adopted a case study approach to highlight the ways in which different types of MPAs have interacted with communities. Sarah encouraged the FAC members to review the case studies in more detail on the box.net site. Sarah then walked through all the changes that have been made to the Subcommittee white paper and welcomed further comments. Karen Garrison suggested that the group find a way to integrate the concept of MPA networks into the recommendations, which led into a group discussion on the merits of networks versus individual MPAs. Melissa Miller Henson offered to share the extensive work done in California about the benefits of networks of MPAs. Cliff McCreedy asked for clarification about "compensation" for the designation of MPAs and pointed out that "compensation" and "mitigation" carry legal connotations. Hans Radtke recommended that the paper make a point about long term versus short term sustainability since short term benefits can lead to long term burdens. Karen questioned the use of the word "data" and asked that the group include "science-based decisions" instead. Sarah asked Priscilla Brooks to offer her insights on honoring the public trust and highlighted a key point of the group's recommendations: the necessity to drill

down and clarify the goals of MPAs. Cliff spoke to the challenge within the National Parks System of managing for “natural conditions.”

THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 17, 2011

The meeting convened at 8:30am.

Meeting Opening and Committee Business

Chair Eugenio Piñero Soler called the meeting back to order, welcomed everyone and announced a new species he discovered, “*Odontanthias Bleeker*” in Mona Passage off Puerto Rico. His discovery was the first record of the genus in the Atlantic Ocean and will be announced in the International Journal of Ichthyology later this year. MPA Center staff took roll. With six members absent, the FAC elected George Geiger as Chair, Della Scott-Ireton as Vice-Chair and Joe Schumacker as Parliamentarian. All three recipients expressed their thanks and said that they looked forward to serving the Committee.

Plenary Discussion of Subcommittee and Workgroup Reports / Final Revisions and Action

Phil Renaud reviewed the latest changes to the Land/Sea Interactions paper. Based on this feedback, the original 14 recommendations were combined into nine. Dave Wallace moved that the FAC accept the paper. Michelle Ridgway seconded the motion. The paper was adopted by consensus.

Vic Mastone reviewed the latest changes to the CHRWG paper including mention of consultation that has taken place in recent years even though it is not required by the Antiquities Act. The National Park Service Organic Act was added and the group made changes to the Fish and Wildlife Service section. The group discussed how to denote the level of protection offered to cultural heritage resources in the National Marine Sanctuaries Act (NMSA). Joe Schumacker moved that the group accept the paper, and George Geiger seconded the motion. The paper was adopted by consensus.

Sarah Robinson led the group through the latest changes to the MPAs and Healthy Communities paper. The FAC discussed how to capture their thoughts with respect to the public. The group then went on to discuss the relative ecological benefits of MPA networks versus individual MPAs. Melissa Miller Henson recommended that the paper reference previous FAC work on networks. The group ultimately asked MPA Center staff to review past work to determine the appropriateness of adding a footnote to the sentence on networks. Sarah asked MPA Center staff to verify whether the public trust doctrine applies to waters from 0-200nm or 3-200nm. Steve Tucker suggested incorporating the evolving community of practice of using social science in enforcement developed by the Coast Guard into MPA management.

The group discussed the gap in social science capacity for MPAs and existing institutions that may be able to help fill this gap. Julia Townsend mentioned the Center for the Blue Economy at the Monterey Institute of International Studies that will be coming online next year. Robert Pomeroy suggested NCEES as another example, and asked that the group clarify that the “center of excellence” referenced in the MPA FAC recommendations could be internal, external, or

could build on existing structures. Michelle proposed recommending a workshop or doing research to identify institutions that can contribute to the social science capacity needed. Priscilla pointed out that social science capacity is lacking across the marine policy/management spectrum and suggested that the group recommend a broader center that addresses interdisciplinary marine management issues. Russ Moll acknowledged the political challenges of making a statement and advocated that the group state that trained social scientists would be poised to contribute to CMSP as well as MPA issues. With the changes discussed, Jesus Ruiz made a motion to adopt the paper. Rick Gaffney seconded the motion, and it was adopted by consensus. George Geiger thanked Denise Ellis-Hibbett, MPA Center Sea Grant Fellow, for all of her hard work in supporting the Subcommittee.

Priscilla recommended that the FAC write a letter to the Secretaries asking them to support the MPA Center in these tough budget times. She acknowledged the important value that the MPA Center currently provides. Michelle asked what the next opportunity would be to influence the budget. Lauren shared that for FY12 the MPA Center is slated to receive \$2M but that additional cuts may be directed by NOAA to make up for shortfalls elsewhere in the agency. The President's budget for fiscal year 2013 will be made public in February 2012, and NOAA is anticipating significant cuts. The National Ocean Service is also discussing potential reorganizations to increase efficiency, so even if programs are cut there may be interest in continuing certain functions. John Frampton asked if the letters should go to the Secretaries and then the House and Senate. Lauren clarified that the MPA FAC advises DOC and DOI, and members communicate with Congress as individuals. The Committee decided to write to the Secretaries and copy Dr. Lubchenco and David Kennedy (Assistant Administrator for the National Ocean Service) where many of these decisions will be made. Karen suggested exploring awards for the Center to highlight their contribution, and recommended authorizing the Chair to make said nominations. Russ Moll recommended that the MPA Center develop a wider clientele to add more voices of support, and advocated for including managers and partners in this conversation. Based on the sense of the Committee members, the Chair agreed to draft the letter and asked members to email him with specific suggestions.

Input on Future Charge

Lauren noted that the FAC is charged with working on specific issues by DOC and DOI, but that this charge is developed in consultation with the Committee. To begin this dialogue, she presented some ideas from NOAA and DOI, under the theme of "Connecting People to the Oceans through MPAs." Lauren also recognized the opportunity to enhance engagement with recreational users who enjoy MPAs. Michelle Ridgway stressed the need for better outreach to convey the value of the tools that the MPA Center has developed. She highlighted the need to build awareness and a constituency that can support the existence of the MPA Center in the future. Jesus Ruiz expressed concern about singling out recreational fishermen as a key audience, and to recognize the many constituencies that are affected by and supportive of MPAs. Hans Radtke emphasized the importance of socio-economic work and the role of MPAs in maintaining sustainable fisheries. Karen Garrison expressed support for Michelle's comments and pointed out that the strength of this group lies in the diversity of constituencies that it represents and suggested that the FAC provide insight into how to engage the range of constituents. Karen expressed her interest in enforcement and compliance as well as the need to integrate MPA information into educational curricula and contribute to monitoring data and

building stewardship in communities. Gary Davis echoed the need to connect people to the sea and challenged the Committee to think about building the National System and to work on behalf of all MPA programs. He noted the example of the 1970 General Authorities Act, which created the National Park System out of a collection of individual parks, and highlights the value of systems that are connected by their heritage and purpose.

Joe Schumacker asserted that people are already connected to the ocean and what is really needed is strengthened participation and understanding of MPAs by these groups. He also stressed the need to connect the National System with communities that do not understand it. Dave Wallace reminded the group that the MPA Center does not create MPAs and that some MPAs are not well designed and should be opposed. He emphasized the need to recognize the purpose of the MPA Center which is to improve linkages among existing MPAs. Vic recommended building on the MPA FAC's work by developing a handbook on how to implement a Cultural Landscape Approach. He highlighted the need to engage National System partners and get them more directly involved with the FAC. Bruce Tackett said that while writing the CMSP white paper he was reminded that people have multiple interests and that the FAC charge would be strengthened by a more explicit focus on economics and use. He added that the FAC should devote time to looking into how consultation works. George Geiger advocated for creating a strong Committee through debate. He cautioned the group against touting MPAs as a panacea to end overfishing.

Priscilla noted the importance of the gap analysis and suggested that identifying where new MPAs are needed could be tackled by a multidisciplinary group. She mentioned that there are different types of gaps (ecological, management, social, cultural) and encouraged the MPA Center to address how to fill those gaps. Russ recommended work on best practices for MPAs, such as regulatory approaches, designing MPAs, and engaging stakeholders to ensure a balanced approach. Bob Pomeroy echoed this comment, suggesting that the FAC could provide guidance on how to do socio-economic studies of MPAs, and on quantifying MPA effectiveness to assist national system partners. Hans Radtke spoke to Oregon's experience with creating MPAs in state waters and highlighted the lack of connectivity between state and federal endeavors. He would like to see a better connection between federal and state data and the local identification of MPAs and thinks that states should be more involved in the process. Brian Melzian suggested that the FAC invite National System partners to share their perspectives and help determine how the system can better support their programs. He also reminded the group that the National Ocean Council will be releasing the Strategic Action Plans and guidance in December, an opportunity for FAC members to provide input.

Michelle suggested that the group build on past MPA FAC products and develop case studies to highlight successful management approaches. Melissa Miller-Henson suggested that the FAC continue to work on the linkages between MPAs and communities, a vision for a successful National System, and identifying principles for National System partnerships. Sarah Robinson noted the success of the CHRWG and proposed a social sciences working group that could inform the FAC and the National System. Karen Garrison asked the group to look at what it means to be a system and strengthen the features that make up the National System. She suggested that the group look at how to identify gaps in the system or prompt others to do so and recommended promoting common principles for measuring success and successful partnerships.

Rick Gaffney suggested that the FAC look at the concept of protection for MPAs which are vulnerable to impacts such as oil spills, marine debris, and natural disasters.

Kara noted that the FAC's next meeting is slated for Spring 2012 and that she will send a poll around to the group to find dates shortly.

Dr. Don Davis, Louisiana Sea Grant

Dr. Don Davis gave a presentation on the cultural history of South Louisiana including the evolution of its geographic regions and how coastal communities have inhabited and used the area for generations. He spoke about various economic endeavors over time including rice, oysters, shrimp, canning, alligator harvesting and the manufacture of ice. He also highlighted the resilience of the people of South Louisiana and suggested that they are a model for community resilience nationwide. Don explained how property and mineral rights have influenced the environmental landscape and outlined the history of the development of oil drilling in the area. He closed with the idea that the "coast" is not a place, but a process. It only becomes the "coast" when people live there.

Departing Member Testimonials

Various departing members spoke to the value of their experience and offered sage advice to remaining members. Overall members commented on their positive experience with the MPA FAC, the great value they gained from working with such a diverse Committee, and the friendships they had developed. Lauren expressed her intention to include past members as advisors and promised to continue to engage them with the Center and the MPA FAC.

The Committee adjourned at 2:30pm.

Committee members present:

Ms. Lori Arguelles, Vice Chair
Mr. David Blazer
Dr. Pricilla Brooks
Dr. Gary Davis
Mr. John Frampton
Mr. Rick Gaffney
Ms. Karen Garrison
Mr. George Geiger
Mr. Victor Mastone*
Ms. Melissa Miller-Henson
Dr. Russell Moll
Mr. Alvin Osterback
Mr. Eugenio Piñeiro-Soler, Chair
Dr. Robert Pomeroy
Dr. Hans Radtke
Captain Philip G. Renaud, USN (Ret.)
Ms. Michelle Ridgway
Dr. Sarah Robinson

Mr. Jesús C. Ruiz*
Mr. Joe Schumacker*
Dr. Della Scott-Ireton *
Mr. Bruce A. Tackett
Mr. David H. Wallace
Mr. Robert Wargo

*Also a member of the Cultural Heritage Resources Workgroup.

Cultural Heritage Resources Working Group members present:

Ms. Roberta Cordero
Dr. Hans Van Tilburg
Mr. John Wilson
Dr. Brian Jordan
Mr. Victor Mastone
Mr. John Foster
Mr. Joe Schumacker
Dr. Della Scott-Ireton
Mr. Jesús Ruiz
Dr. John Jensen
Mr. Alvin Osterback
Ms. Melinda Young

Ex Officio members/ representatives present:

Ms. Eileen Sobeck, Department of the Interior
Mr. Bret Wolfe, US Fish and Wildlife Service
Mr. Steven Tucker, US Coast Guard/ Department of Homeland Security
Mr. Cliff McCreedy, US Parks Service
Ms. Heather Sagar, NOAA National Marine Fisheries Service
Mr. Rick Swanson, USDA/US Forest Service
Dr. Brian Melzian, U.S. Environmental Protection Agency

NOAA National Marine Protected Areas Center staff:

Ms. Lauren Wenzel, Acting Director
Dr. Valerie Grussing, Cultural Resources Coordinator
Ms. Kara Yeager, Communications Coordinator and Designated Federal Official
Ms. Julia Townsend, Program Analyst
Dr. Mimi D'Iorio, GIS Database Manager
Ms. Jackie Sommers, Administrative Assistant
Dr. Robert Brock, Senior Marine Biologist
Ms. Denise Ellis-Hibbett, Knauss Sea Grant Fellow