Place Matters: Emerging US Context for Conserving Special Ocean Places

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Toto, We’re Not In Kansas Anymore

1. Climate change
2. Operational challenges
3. Expanding ocean uses
4. Comprehensive spatial planning
1. Climate Change and MPAs

Potential changes in climate and acidification may:

• Alter MPA biodiversity and function
• Complicate MPA effectiveness
• Challenge MPA rationale
• Require new management strategies
• Validate MPAs as sentinel and baseline sites
• Suggest new MPAs in resilient areas
2. Operational Challenges for MPAs

These are challenging times for MPA programs:

- Budget constraints
- Policy debates
- Stakeholder burnout
- Return on investment
- Stakeholder demographics
Our Crowded Waters
3. Oceans Are Getting Crowded

Rapidly expanding human uses both challenge and underscore need for MPAs:

• Identifying ‘compatible uses’?
• Carrying capacity issues in MPAs
• Conflicts among allowed uses in MPAs
• Broader, more diverse stakeholders
• Increased industrialization: less “nature”
• Rationale for MPAs (the devil you know →)
4. Regional Ocean Planning

Emerging spatial planning efforts may:
• Benefit from data and tools in existing MPAs
• Build upon the National System of MPAs
• Identify future priority areas for MPAs
• Broaden MPA constituency base
• Revisit rationale and definitions of MPAs
• Engage MPAs in wider regional governance (the one you don’t know → )
What To Do?

- Sit back and wait for a better day?
- Move forward by:
  - Integrating MPAs
  - Connecting people and places
Traditional Thinking about MPAs: Lone Islands in a Vast Sea
The Emerging Picture of MPAs: Part of a Wider Mosaic of Sustainable Use
How We Connect to Ocean Places

Human Spirit

Cultural Traditions

Education and Knowledge

Recreation

Food Security

Livelihoods

Energy

Coastal Economies

Your Beach, Cove, Bay, Marsh, Coast
Making Connections: 
*People to Places (constituents)*

MPA 1
Making Connections: *Places to Places (networks)*

MPA 1 ↔ MPA 2 ↔ MPA 3
Making Connections:
People to Places and People (communities)
Questions?

And thanks for all the fish