

Implementing Executive Order 13158 on Marine Protected Areas

Products, Services, and Milestones: 2000 - 2006



Major Accomplishments of the National Marine Protected Areas Center

Considerable progress has been made to address the goals of Executive Order 13158 on Marine Protected Areas. The following list summarizes the majority of the projects, products, and activities undertaken by or supported by the National Marine Protected Areas Center, and highlights activities planned through 2006.

2000

- Executive Order 13158 signed on May 26, 2000
- Established Federal Inter-Agency MPA Working Group
- Launched www.MPA.gov website

2001

- Officially established National Marine Protected Areas (MPA) Center within NOAA
- Completed National MPA Center charter
- Designed national marine managed areas inventory database; initiated federal and state data collection
- Selected initial MPA Federal Advisory Committee members
- Held Gulf of Maine MPA stakeholder coordination workshops in Maine and Massachusetts
- Held regional MPA education workshops in Maryland and Minnesota
- Supported publication of the University of Washington's international newsletter, *MPA News*
- Published NOAA progress report highlighting Executive Order activities for fiscal year

2002

- Completed National MPA Center strategic plan
- Published *MPA Needs Assessment*
- Completed and published *National Social Science Research Strategy for MPAs*
- Established MPA state advisory group
- Initiated and distributed *MPA Connections*, MPA Center's primary e-newsletter
- Supported Gulf of Maine Council ocean zoning workshop in Massachusetts
- Held regional MPA education workshop in California
- Distributed MPA education poster created by Sherman's Lagoon® cartoonist Jim Toomey
- Added MPA virtual library to MPA.gov website in partnership with NOAA/NESDIS
- Supported South Atlantic Fishery Management Council's scientists-fishermen MPA workshops
- Provided GIS data development support to the South Atlantic Fishery Management Council
- Supported symposium on aquatic protected areas as fisheries management tools at annual meeting of American Fisheries Society
- Published MPA Center fiscal year progress report

2003

- Held NOAA-wide MPA coordination workshop
- Re-established federal inter-agency MPA working group
- First MPA Federal Advisory Committee appointed by the Secretary of Commerce
- Published *MPA Technology Needs Assessment*
- Defined marine managed area criteria as result of *Federal Register* comment process
- Developed and offered “Understanding MPAs” course
- Established *Information Exchange for Marine Educators*, monthly education e-newsletter
- Published *MPA Process Review: Case Studies of Five MPA Establishment Processes*
- Developed National Marine Sanctuary digital boundaries
- Supported South Shore National Estuarine Research Reserve (Long Island, NY) submerged aquatic vegetation mapping
- Held separate workshops on regional priorities for social science research for MPAs: Caribbean and South Florida, and South Atlantic; published reports
- Published MPA Center fiscal year progress report

2004

- Revised and published National MPA Center strategic plan
- Overhauled MPA.gov to improve access to information, expand content, enhance design
- Supported special MPA edition of *Current: the Journal of Marine Education*, published by the National Marine Educators Association
- Created and produced U.S. MPA legal authorities poster
- Established “Understanding MPAs” course education partnership with Coastal America Learning Centers
- Published report: *State Policies and Programs Related to Marine Managed Areas: Issues and Recommendations for a National System*
- Published case studies of state-level marine managed area systems
- Published *Stakeholder Participation: a Synthesis of Current Literature*
- Published lessons learned from recent MPA designations in the United States
- Supported California Marine Life Protection Act development process
- Completed marine GIS integration and development curriculum for marine resource managers
- Supported development of a handbook on developing digital boundaries for MMAs
- Completed National Marine Sanctuary draft boundaries mapping regularization
- Established social science methods and tools website
- Published inventory of GIS-based decision support tools for MPAs
- Developed and offered workshop on managing visitor impacts in coastal and marine protected areas
- Held workshop on regional priorities for social science research for MPAs: Pacific Islands; published report
- Supported development and publishing of *Gulf of Maine Marine Habitat Primer*, produced by the Gulf of Maine Council
- Established monthly e-newsletter, *Marine Cultural and Historic Resources*
- Delivered speed zone analysis tool to Stellwagen Bank National Marine Sanctuary
- Provided MPA effectiveness training to the Florida Aquatic Preserves
- Served as U.S. government lead for coordinating the development of the North American MPA Network and “Baja To Bering” Pilot Project with Canada and Mexico
- Published MPA Center fiscal year progress report

2005

- First MPA Federal Advisory Committee's recommendations—*Protecting America's Marine Environment: A Report of the MPA Federal Advisory Committee on Establishing and Managing a National System of MPAs*—delivered to the Secretaries of Commerce and the Interior
- Second MPA Federal Advisory Committee appointed by Secretary of Commerce
- Held national system framework workshop for federal agencies
- Held three national system framework workshops for states in regions across the country
- Published *Developing the National/Regional System of Marine Protected Areas from the State and Territorial Perspective: A Summary of Three State Regional Workshops*
- Held five regional public dialogue sessions around the country on developing the national system of MPAs
- Initiated West Coast Pilot to develop tools and processes to support MPA effectiveness and identification of priority conservation areas for California, Oregon, and Washington
- Held workshop on mapping human activity in the marine environment (part of West Coast Pilot)
- Supported Gulf of Maine Council workshop on assessing human impacts to marine habitats
- Held workshop on regional priorities for social science research for MPAs: Pacific mainland; published report
- Launched Regional Information Centers on MPA.gov website listing ongoing regional government MPA processes around the nation
- Established federal inter-agency MPA cultural resources working group
- Published federal agency progress report on implementation of Executive Order 13158
- Completed MPA classification system
- Completed MPA terms and definitions
- Published *Enforcing U.S. Marine Protected Areas Synthesis Report*
- Supported New England Fishery Management Council MPA policy development workshops
- Supported Pacific Fishery Management Council's MPA coordination efforts
- MPA Center's New England Coordinator named co-chair of Gulf of Maine Council's Habitat Conservation Subcommittee
- Developed federal agency "avoid harm" policy/procedures
- Provided assistance for visitor use management project to four sites in Maine and Florida
- Produced MPA screen saver of cartoons created by Sherman's Lagoon® artist Jim Toomey
- Held federal MPA agency workshop on data needs for marine cultural resource management
- Facilitated distribution of *North American MPA Network Baja To Bering Priority Conservation Areas*, published by Commission for Environmental Cooperation
- Supported GIS and analytical tool development for Calfish, a web-based data storage, management, and retrieval system for California
- Developed Internet mapping and visualization of fisheries catch data in a Southeast Geographic Fishery-Independent Survey and Historical (SEA-GEOFISH) database
- Participated in meeting of international marine ecological experts in Ottawa, Canada to develop a report on criteria to identify ecologically and biologically significant areas on the High Seas
- Added to NOAA "High Seas" team
- Published MPA Center fiscal year progress report

2006

- Published report on data needs for marine cultural resource management
- Updated NOAA Coast Pilot for California to include marine managed areas inventory data to inform mariners
- Completed initial data collection for national marine managed areas inventory
- Completed national inventory of federal de facto MPAs
- Consulted with nine northwest tribes on Executive Order activities
- Published *Recommendations for State and Territorial Participation in the National System of Marine Protected Areas*
- Publishing draft framework for development of the national system of MPAs for 145-day public comment period
- Held MPA West Coast Pilot workshop for government partners
- Developing MPA West Coast Pilot natural science, social science, and governance methodology
- Developing database of cultural resources with pertinent information for the west coast
- Participating in discussions with North American MPA Network "Baja To Bering" Pilot Monitoring Program with Canada and Mexico
- Updating navigation, organization, content, and design of MPA.gov website
- Undergoing preliminary analysis of marine managed areas inventory data

