

**MARINE PROTECTED AREAS FEDERAL ADVISORY COMMITTEE**  
**A PARTNERSHIP BETWEEN NOAA AND THE DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR**

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**Final Committee Charge for the 2018 Term**

**Background**

The Marine Protected Areas Federal Advisory Committee (MPA FAC), per its charter, advises the Under Secretary of Commerce for Oceans and Atmosphere and the designee of the Secretary of the Interior on the effective design and management of MPAs, as articulated in Section 4 of Executive Order 13158. The MPA FAC met in San Francisco on January 17-19, 2018, to refine and begin addressing its new charge from the Department of Commerce and the Department of the Interior, consistent with its charter. The two elements of the new 2018-2019 charge are summarized below, along with a description of the MPA FAC's plan for addressing each element of the charge.

**MPA FAC Charge for 2018**

***1. Thriving MPAs in the US: Sustaining Benefits, Meeting Challenges, and Seizing Opportunities into the Future***

What: The MPA FAC will: (a) identify benefits, accomplishments, and emerging issues among federal, state, territorial, and tribal MPAs in US waters; and, (b) recommend strategies to help agencies and stakeholders address new challenges and opportunities and strengthen effective management of the nation's MPAs.

Why: MPAs are proven and effective tools for conserving marine and Great Lakes ecosystems and for providing services to coastal communities and the nation as a whole. Ensuring that those societal benefits continue to grow is increasingly critical and challenging as our oceans – and the expectations of stakeholders – continue to evolve. The MPA FAC can help America's MPAs navigate those changes to ensure that the benefits provided by the nation's MPAs are enjoyed by generations to come.

How: The Committee elected to organize its deliberations about benefits, accomplishments, opportunities and emerging challenges around three core objectives common to most MPAs:

1. Supporting robust coastal economies and communities
2. Maintaining healthy, resilient and productive ecosystems in a changing ocean
3. Engaging diverse communities and constituencies

The Committee's final products submitted to the Departments of Commerce and Interior will include a brief report of its findings and recommendations on MPA benefits and challenges for US ocean agencies, accompanied by a summary infographic aimed at a wide audience of decision-makers, practitioners, and stakeholders.

## **2. Reviewing the MPA Center's On-Line Cultural Resource Toolkit**

What: The MPA FAC will: (a) reconvene the Cultural Heritage Resource Working Group (CRWG) with new membership; (b) review, evaluate, and update the online Cultural Heritage Resource Toolkit to meet current needs; and, (c) recommend ways to increase its reach and impact.

Why: The MPA FAC's Cultural Heritage Resource Working Group (CHRWG) created an online Cultural Heritage Resource Toolkit to provide an introduction to cultural resource management for MPA managers and provide them the information, tools and insights to effectively and equitably understand and manage cultural heritage resources within MPAs. Completed in 2014, that initial version of the Toolkit requires updating with new information. The CHRWG will continue its collaborative work to help MPA managers understand cultural heritage resources, their value, and how to manage them.

How: The reconvened CHRWG should review the Toolkit and recommend ways to enhance it, both in terms of content and distribution.

### **For Additional Information**

Dr. Charles M. Wahle, Designated Federal Officer  
NOAA National MPA Center  
Cell: 831-238-2244  
Work: 831-647-6460  
Email: [charles.wahle@noaa.gov](mailto:charles.wahle@noaa.gov)