

**MEETING NOTES:**  
**MPA Federal Advisory Committee (MPAFAC)**  
**and the**  
**Cultural Heritage Resources Working Group (CHRWG)**

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**Preparatory/Administrative Work Session Conducted via Teleconference**  
**September 19, 2018**

### **SESSION PURPOSE**

To review and discuss any additional final edits to draft products created by the full MPAFAC (i.e. Sustaining MPA Benefits in a Changing Ocean), and by the Cultural Heritage Resources Working Group (i.e. Updates to the Cultural Heritage Toolkit). Note: although this meeting was originally planned to approve the Committee's final products, the Committee required additional discussion prior to voting. Consequently, this teleconference was conducted as a Preparatory/Administrative Session of the MPAFAC. The final voting to approve the Committee's products occurred in a public meeting held via teleconference on Nov. 8, 2018.

### **PARTICIPANTS**

**Regular MPAFAC Committee Members** (16/17 voting members; quorum = 10)

John Anderson (ocean industry)  
Brian Baird, Chair (state government, retired)  
Dr. Katy Croff Bell (natural science)  
Dr. Alex Brylske (non-consumptive uses)  
Dr. Mark Carr (natural science)  
Dr. Martha Honey (non-consumptive uses)  
Chris Horton (recreational fishing)  
Jacque Hostler-Carmesin (tribal interests)  
Stephanie Madsen (commercial fishing)  
Dr. Will McClintock (social science)  
Lynn McClure (conservation)  
Samantha Murray, JD (conservation)  
Dr. Ryan Orgera (social science)  
Dr. David Robinson (cultural heritage)  
Peter Stauffer (non-consumptive uses)  
Dr. Trisha Kehau Watson, JD (native peoples)

*Absent Members*

*John Ballotti (recreational fishing)*

### **Ex Officio Committee Members and Other Non-Voting Federal Staff**

Margaret Chory (NOAA/MPAC Intern)

Joanne Flanders (NOAA/OAR)

Pete Leary (DOI/FWS)

Martha McCoy (NOAA/GC)

Dr. Brian Melzian (USEPA)

Heather Sagar (NOAA/NMFS)

Steven Tucker (USCG)

Dr. Charles Wahle, NOAA Designated Federal Officer

Lauren Wenzel (NOAA/MPAC)

### **Others**

Joe Schumacker (former MPAFAC member, current CHRWG member)

## **DISCUSSIONS AND ACTIONS TAKEN**

**Opening Remarks** – Dr. Charlie Wahle, as NOAA’s Designated Federal Officer, called the meeting to order. Brian Baird, Committee Chair, opened the meeting with a brief overview of the MPAFAC’s role in advising the US Departments of Commerce and Interior. Brian then summarized the meeting agenda and objectives, and explained the ground-rules of the meeting, including the opportunity for providing public comment. Charlie further clarified that while this session had initially been planned and announced in the Federal Register to approve the Committee’s products, it will be conducted instead as a Preparatory/Administrative Session to allow additional discussion before the reports are voted on in subsequent meeting. Public comments are still welcome during the session.

Brian then summarized the MPAFAC’s dual-track charge for the 2018 term, asking for discussion by full committee and Cultural Heritage Resources Working Group (CHRWG) members of the status and necessary edits for their respective products:

1. Updating and Enhancing the Cultural Heritage Toolkit for MPA Managers - topic addressed by the CHRWG.
2. Sustaining MPA Benefits in a Changing Ocean - topic addressed by the full Committee

**Committee Discussion of MPAFAC Products** – The Committee then discussed each of the draft products created to address the two charges.

Updating and Enhancing the Cultural Heritage Toolkit for MPA Managers – Lauren Wenzel (NOAA/MPA Center), in her role as Co-Chair of the CHRWG, provided an overview of the charge, the Working Group, and its approach to the task. She summarized the multiple components of the Toolkit, including highlighting new products developed by the CHRWG (e.g. the legal authorities matrix) as well as other important updates to existing parts of the Toolkit. She and the group discussed comments received earlier on the drafts, including those from DOI’s Fish and Wildlife Service. A number of minor revisions were agreed upon by the CHRWG

and the full Committee for the final version. Several members of the Committee commended the group for its work and underscored the lasting utility of its products.

**Sustaining MPA Benefits in a Changing Ocean** – Samantha Murray, MPA Benefits Team Lead, led the discussion of the Committee’s draft findings and recommendations. She reiterated how the Committee’s current draft products closely reflect the approach agreed upon during its initial scoping meeting in San Francisco and subsequently memorialized in the working outline. She summarized the key input received to date, highlighting the need to find more examples of cultural benefits from MPAs, and to find more examples of benefits from MPA outside of California. The members discussed ways to meet those needs, as well as to address the growing challenge of “over-tourism” in MPAs. Several members commended the thoroughness and utility of the work, while also suggesting strengthening coverage of traditional knowledge (Jacque Hostler-Carmesin), and adaptive management in the context of evaluating MPA benefits and management strategies in light of changing ocean conditions (Chris Horton). Stephanie Madsen raised the issue of how the MPAFAC, NOAA and DOI can work together to ensure that the Committee’s recommendations are heard and incorporated into the routine management of federal MPAs.

Mark Carr, Ecosystems Team Lead, led the discussion of the team’s Supplemental Report on *“How MPAs Enhance the Resilience of Coastal Marine Ecosystems and their Services”*. Commissioned by the full Committee, the report provides well-documented examples of how MPAs that are effectively designed and managed can contribute to ecosystem resilience within and beyond their boundaries. Several members commended the breadth, depth and quality of the report, and recognized its value, both as a supplemental piece of the overall MPA Benefits theme, as well as a solid, stand-alone scientific analysis. One, Stephanie Madsen, expressed some concerns about the report’s conclusions and relationship to the overall Committee charge.

**Timeline and Next Steps** – Charlie and Brian summarized the process and next steps to finalize the MPAFAC’s products and submit its recommendations to the Secretaries of Commerce and Interior.

**Public Comment** – Other than Joe Schumacker, who is a member of the CHRWG, there were no members of the public participating in the teleconference.

**Final Comments** – Brian and Charlie thanked the MPAFAC and CHRWG members for their excellent work and urged them to contribute actively to the final phase of review in the coming weeks.

**Meeting Adjourned** – Charlie Wahle, as the MPAFAC Designated Federal Officer, adjourned the meeting.

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