

NATIONAL MARINE PROTECTED AREAS CENTER

www.mpa.gov

Building a National System of Marine Protected Areas – FMC Issues & Engagement

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National Ocean Service
Office of Ocean and Coastal Resource Management



Background on National System

- Late 1990s – scientific consensus on importance of MPAs and marine reserves as a conservation tool
- Jan 2000 – Marine Conservation Biology Institute holds workshop on need for national system of MPAs
- May 2000 – MPA Executive Order signed by President Clinton
- July 2001 – MPA Executive Order endorsed by President Bush
- 2008 – Concept of national system in draft CZMA legislation
- November 2008 - System Final Framework Published
- April 2009 – 225 federal, state/territorial MPAs incorporated
- March 2010 – 2nd round of sites join national system



Paige Gill - Florida Keys NM



Olympic Coast National Marine Sanctuary

Key Questions from Councils

- What are the benefits of the national system to the Councils?
- **What is the purpose of the national system's ecological gap analysis, and how will it be conducted?**
- **How will the “avoid harm” requirement of the Executive Order be implemented?**
- Will the Councils retain flexibility to make management decisions if federal fisheries sites become part of the national system?

National System Benefit To Councils

- Recognizes contribution of Councils to marine conservation
- Potential leadership role for Councils in “sustainable production” goal of National System
- Provides Councils with the opportunity to participate in shaping the developing National MPA System partnership
- Provides framework for linkages to
 - Federal, state, territorial & international MPA programs
 - Emerging marine spatial planning initiatives
- Provides information on MPA management and planning at regional scale
- Enhances connectivity

MPA Fund

- Partnership with National Fish and Wildlife Foundation
- For sites accepted or applying to national system
- Federal sites can partner with non-federal partners on projects
- Focus on regional / sub-regional cross-program partnerships
- Request for Proposals - Oct 2009
- Pre –proposals (2-pages) due Nov 20, 2009
- For more information:
 - www.nfwf.org
 - www.mpa.gov



Growing the National System: Ecological Gap Analysis

- **Executive Order 13158** calls for NOAA and DOI to:
 - *“provide guidance to .. the exercise of each agency’s respective authorities to enhance and expand protection of existing MPAs and to establish or recommend new MPAs as appropriate”*
- **Gap Analysis Project** -- a science-based process to identify gaps in existing place-based protection of ocean areas that meet the priority conservation objectives of the national system of MPAs

Gap Analysis Process: Overview

- Pilot process on West Coast (initial focus on California – FY2010)
- Issue process guidelines for public review (early 2010)
- Expand to other regions as resources/opportunities permit
- Designed to dovetail with other state, federal, tribal and regional conservation planning efforts
- Focuses on natural heritage and sustainable production goals
- Two phases:
 - Assess current protection of national system’s “Priority Conservation Objectives” (PCOs)
 - Identify regional place-based priorities and gaps

Priority Conservation Objectives: Natural Heritage Goal

Goal 1: Advance comprehensive conservation and management of the nation's significant natural heritage marine resources through ecosystem-based MPA approaches.

Priority Conservation Objectives for Goal 1: Conserve and Manage:

key reproduction areas and nursery grounds	Near Term
key biogenic habitats	
areas of high species and/or habitat diversity	
ecologically important geological features + enduring/recurring oceanographic features	
critical habitat of threatened and endangered species	
unique or rare species, habitats and associated communities	Mid Term
key areas for migratory species	
linked areas important to life histories	Long Term
key areas that provide compatible opportunities for education and research	

Priority Conservation Objectives: Sustainable Production Goal

Goal 3: Advance comprehensive conservation and management of the nation's renewable living resources and their habitats, including, but not limited to, spawning, mating, and nursery grounds, and areas established to minimize incidental by-catch of species, that are important to the nation's social, economic, and cultural well-being through ecosystem-based MPA approaches.

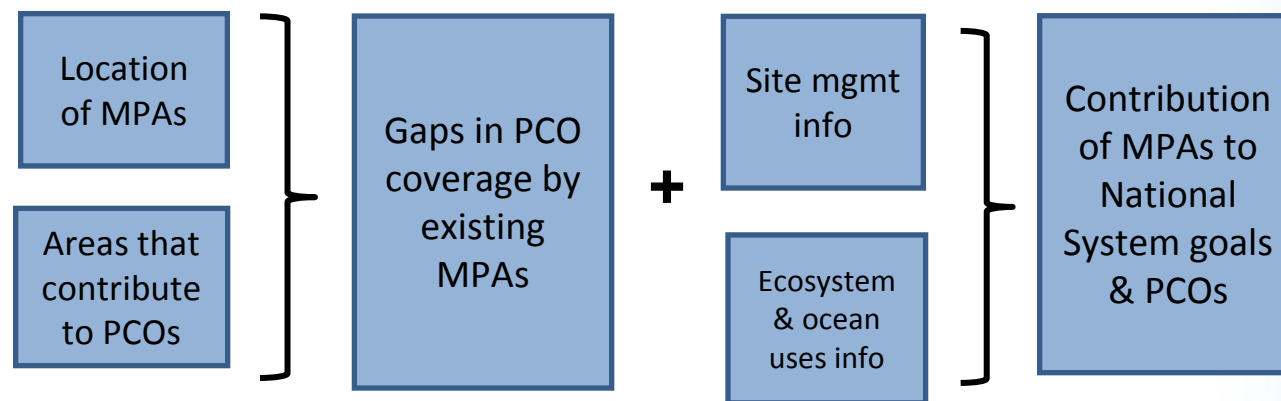
Priority Conservation Objectives for Goal 3

Conserve and manage key reproduction areas, including larval sources and nursery grounds	Near Term
Conserve key areas that sustain or restore high priority fishing grounds	
Conserve and manage key areas for maintaining natural age/sex structure of important harvestable species	Mid Term
Conserve key foraging grounds	
Conserve and manage key areas that mitigate the impacts of bycatch	
Conserve key areas that provide compatible opportunities for education and research	Long Term

Gap Analysis General Principles

- Work **collaboratively** with managing agencies at the regional scale
- Recognize that designation and management **authority** lies with existing entities
- Use the best readily available **science** and information
- Provide opportunities for meaningful **stakeholder** engagement
- Consider the **broader context** of ocean management
- Design the national system for ecological **resilience**
- Ensure **lasting** protection
- Consider various **types** of gaps
- **Adaptively manage** gap analysis process

Identifying Ecological Gaps in Protection of US Waters



MPA Center produces GIS data, maps & products for ocean planning



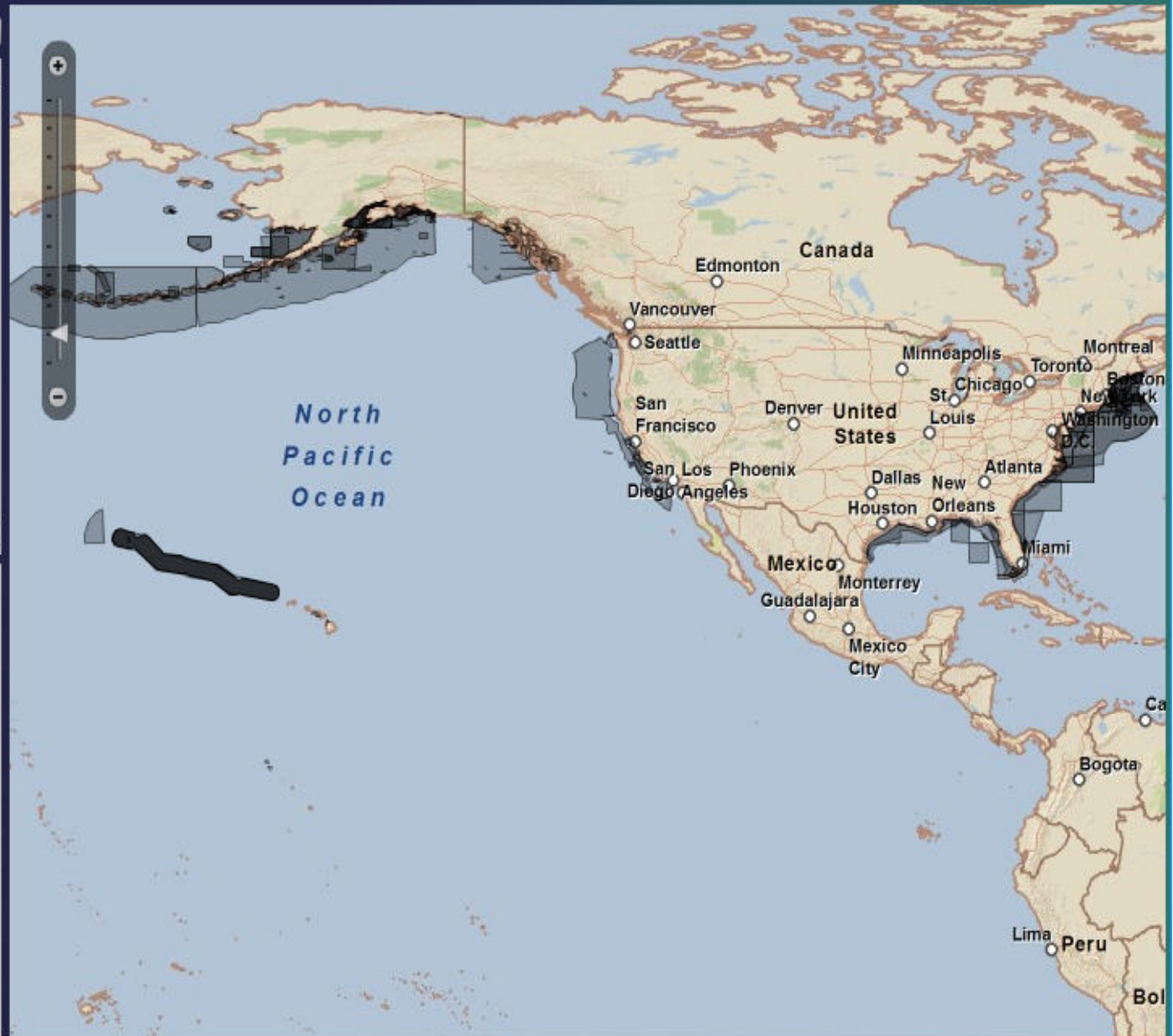
MARINE PROTECTED AREAS OF THE UNITED STATES

All Open

National System

Eligible

- Abalone Cove State Marine Park
- Acadia National Park
- Alaska Seamount Habitat Protected Area
- Albany Mudflats State Marine Park
- Albemarle Sound Herring Management Area
- Aleutian Islands Coral Habitat Protected Area
- Aleutian Islands Habitat Conservation Area
- Alligator Harbor Aquatic Preserve
- Alligator River Game Land





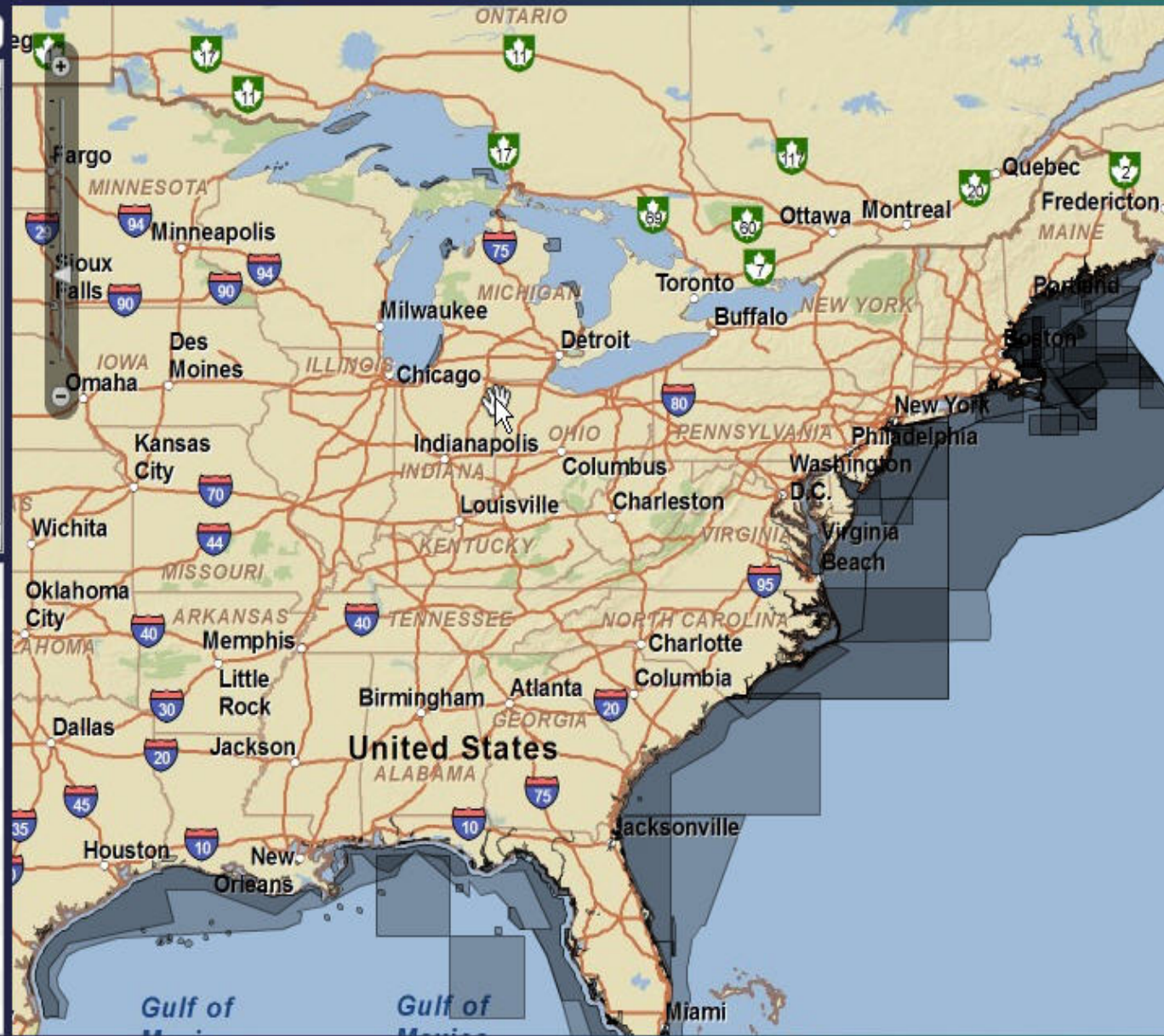
MARINE PROTECTED AREAS OF THE UNITED STATES

All Open

National System

Eligible

- Acadia National Park
- Albemarle Sound Herring Management Area
- Alligator Harbor Aquatic Preserve
- Alligator River Game Land
- Amelia Island State Park
- Anastasia State Park
- Anclote Key State Park
- Apalachicola Bay Aquatic Preserve
- Apalachicola National Estuarine Research Reserve
- Apalachicola National Estuarine Research Reserve





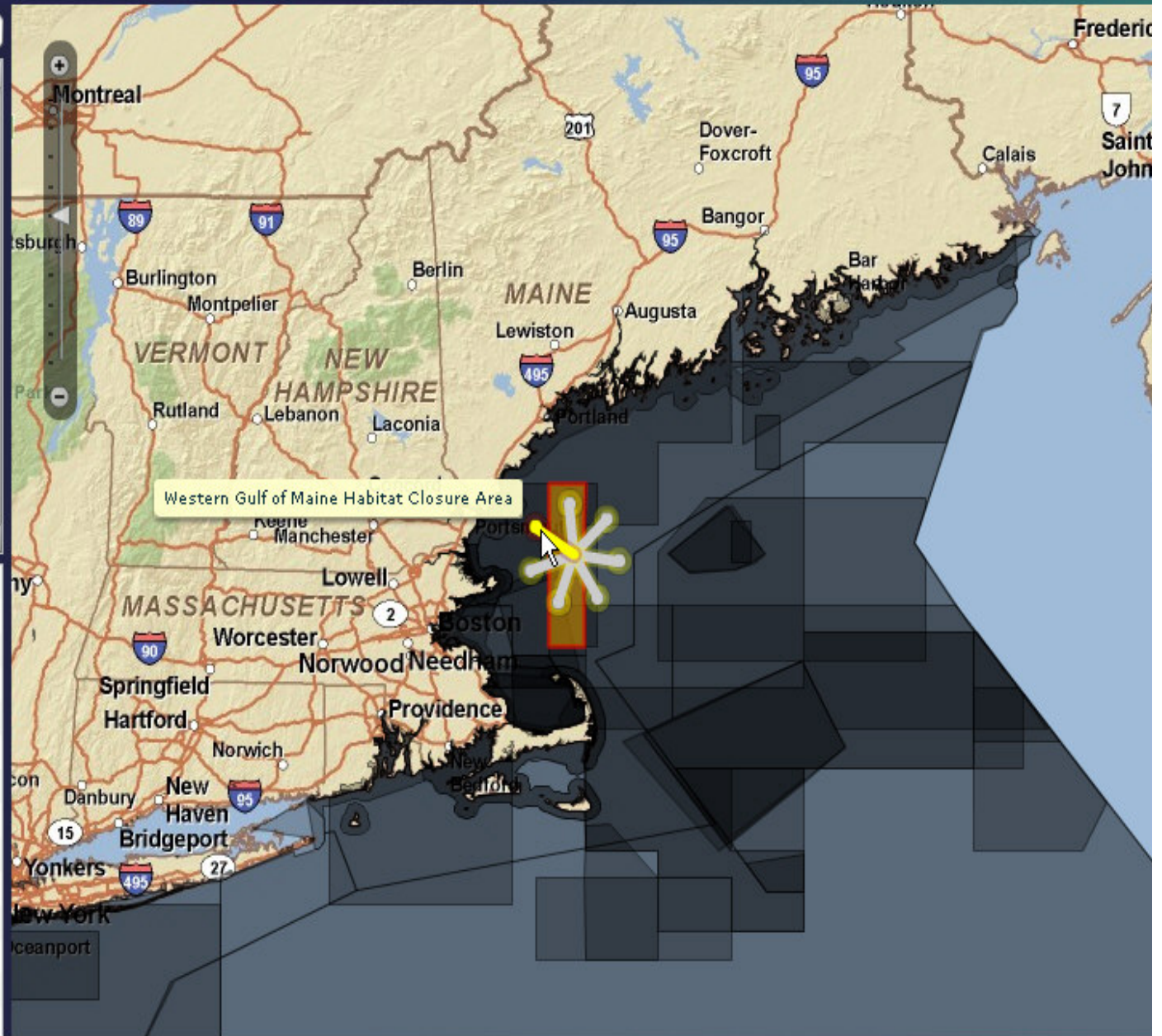
MARINE PROTECTED AREAS OF THE UNITED STATES

All Open

National System

Eligible

- Acadia National Park
- Bissel Cove/Fox Island
- Bluff Point State Park/Natural Area Preserve
- Bristol Harbor Shellfish Transplant Area
- Cape Cod Bay Restricted Area
- Cape Cod National Seashore
- Cape Cod South Closure Area
- Captree State Park
- Cashes Ledge Closure Area
- Cashes Ledge Closure Area (Multispecies)



MARINE PROTECTED AREAS OF THE UNITED STATES

Gulf of the Farallones NMS

All Open National System

- Eligible
 - Albany Mudflats State Marine Park
 - Bair Island State Marine Park
 - Bodega State Marine Reserve
 - Cordell Bank (50 fm (91m) isobath) Bottom Contact Closed Area
 - Cordell Bank/Biogenic Area Bottom Trawl Closed Area
 - Corle Madera Marsh State Marine Park
 - Duxbury Reef State Marine Conservation Area
 - Estero de Limantour State Marine Conservation Area
 - Fagan Marsh State Marine Park

Site Name	Gulf of the Farallones National Marine Sanctu
Gov. Level	Federal
N.S. Status	Member
Prot. Level	Zoned Multiple Use
Mgmt. Plan	Non-MPA Programmatic Habitat Management
Mgmt. Agency	NMS National Marine Sanctuaries
Fishing Restr.	No Site Restrictions
Cons. Focus	Natural Heritage
Prot. Focus	Ecosystem
Permanence	Permanent
Constancy	Year-round
Established	1991
Website	http://farallones.noaa.gov/
Sq. km	332,895.10

GULF OF THE FARALLONES NATIONAL MARINE SANCTUARY

An ocean wilderness beyond the Golden Gate

home | what's new | calendar | weather & tides | about us | site index

welcome to the Gulf of the Farallones

- explore
- management
- science
- education
- ecosystem protection

What's New at the Sanctuary?

[NEW White Shark Stewardship Project](#)

[Final Management Plan and Regulations](#)

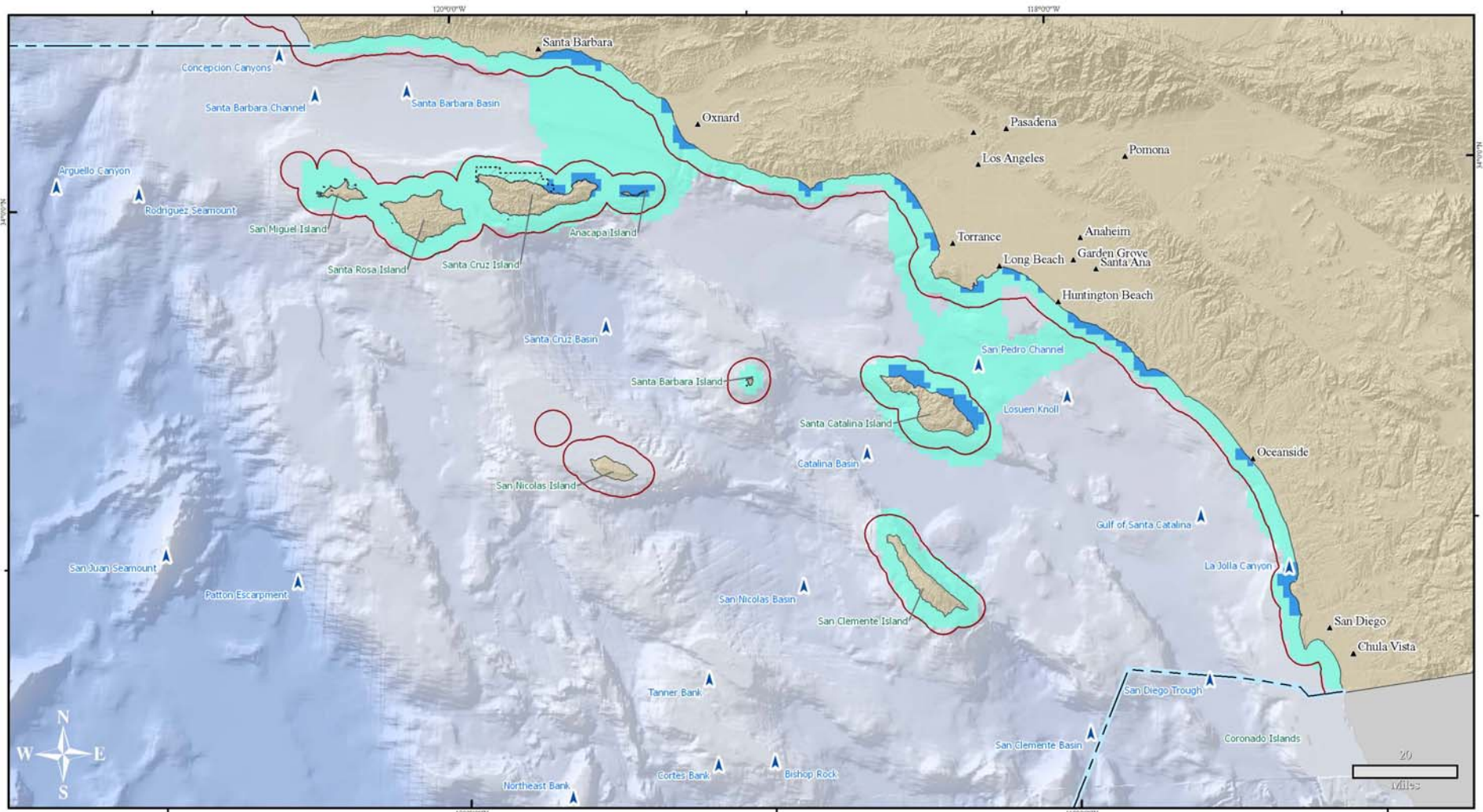
[Advisory Council](#)

The Gulf of the Farallones National Marine Sanctuary protects an area of 948 square nautical miles (1,255 square miles) off the northern and central California coast. Located just a few miles from San Francisco, the waters within the Gulf of the Farallones National Marine Sanctuary are part of a nationally significant marine ecosystem. Encompassing a diversity of highly productive marine habitats, the Sanctuary supports an abundance of species.

Sanctuary Visitor Center at Crissy Field in San Francisco.

Ocean Uses Atlas

Non-Consumptive Sector: Paddling



▲ Submerged Features
 Atlas Southern California Region
 Future Use Area
 Dominant Use Area
 Maximum Use Footprint

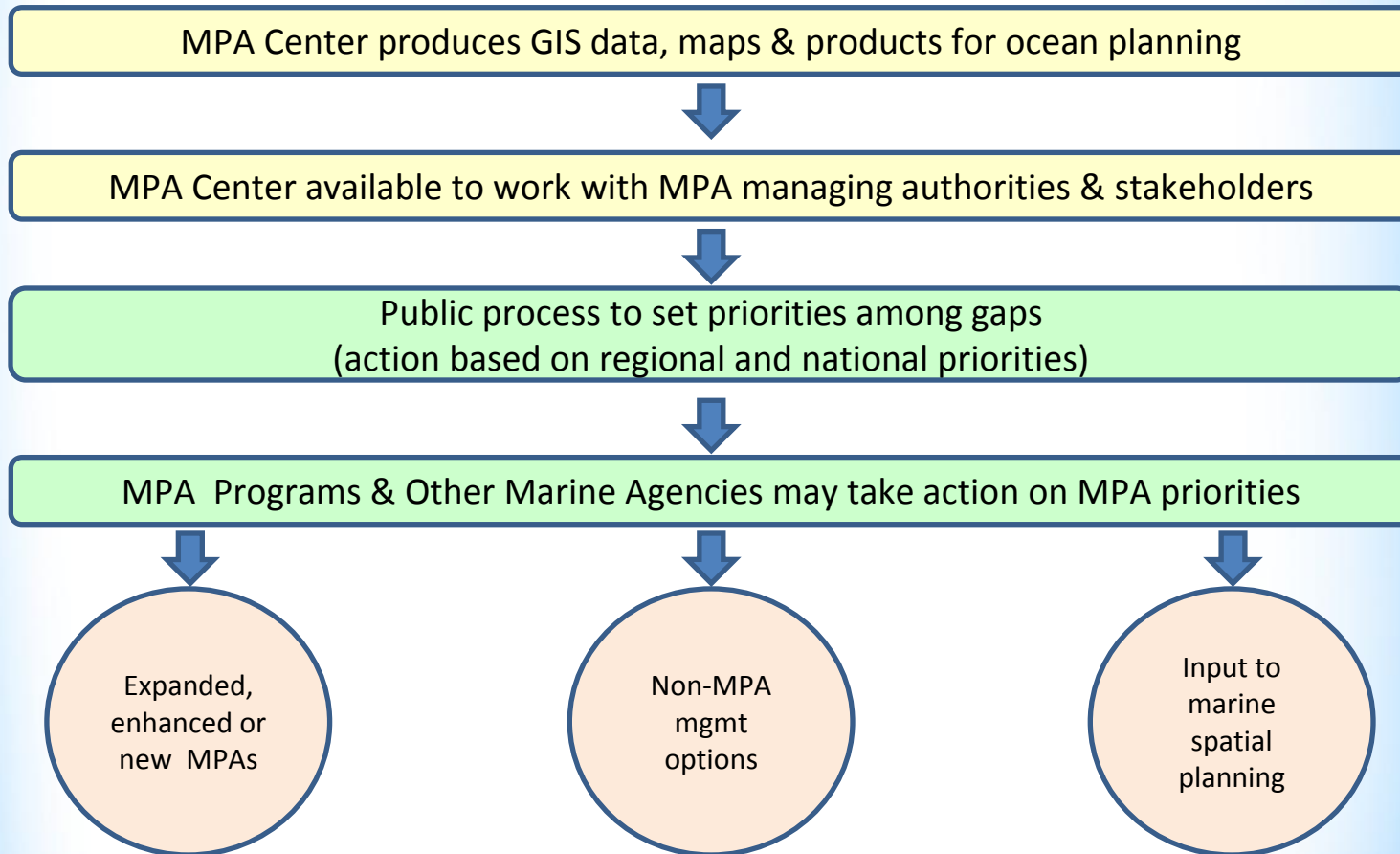
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Ocean Uses Atlas: Southern California Region
Paddling

July 2009

Draft map/figure product for the California Ocean Uses Atlas Project. With funding provided by The Gordon and Betty Moore Foundation, The Resources Legacy Fund Foundation and NOAA's National MPA Center.

What Happens Next?



Ecological MPA Gap Analysis: Outputs

MPA Inventories



Location, size, purpose, and type of existing MPAs and *de facto* MPAs

**Priority Conservation
Objectives (PCOs)
Maps**



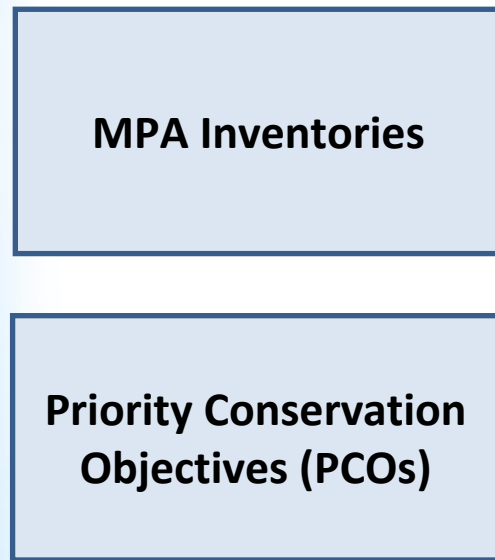
Location of ocean areas contributing to PCOs

Ocean Uses Atlas



Patterns of human use across 3 sectors:
fishing, non-consumptive, industrial/military

Ecological MPA Gap Analysis: Outputs



Maps illustrating extent to which national system PCOs are currently addressed by existing MPAs

Ecological MPA Gap Analysis: Outputs

MPA Inventory

**Priority Conservation
Objectives (PCOs)**

Ocean Uses Atlas

Maps illustrating the extent to which existing MPAs address both national system PCOs and the potential impacts of current human uses on those PCOs

Ultimate Outcome: Developing Priorities and Taking Action

- Ecological gap analysis provides information for:
 - Informing future MPA actions by MPA management agencies
 - Broader ocean management and use applications
- Management agencies may designate, enhance or expand MPAs based on their authorities
 - Additional social, economic, ecological analysis
 - Significant public engagement

CA Gap Analysis: Status and Plans

- Gap analysis design workshop held – Feb 2009
- CA Ocean Uses Atlas synthesis completed – Sep 2009
- CA Ecological synthesis completed – Winter 2010
- Draft gap guidelines for public review – Winter 2010
- Expert mapping workshop held - May 2010
- Complete ecological gap analysis for CA – Fall 2010

“Avoid Harm”

- Executive Order 13158, Section 5:
 - *“Each Federal agency whose actions affect the natural or cultural resources that are protected by a [national system] MPA shall identify such actions. To the extent permitted by law and to the maximum extent practicable, each Federal agency, in taking such actions, shall avoid harm to the natural and cultural resources.”*

Avoid Harm – What Does it Mean?

- Each federal agency is responsible for its own implementation of its responsibilities under Section 5
 - NOAA now developing guidance
- Compliance is linked to the purpose of the MPA as designated, not to all resources within the defined area
- MPA Center will maintain National System List of MPAs

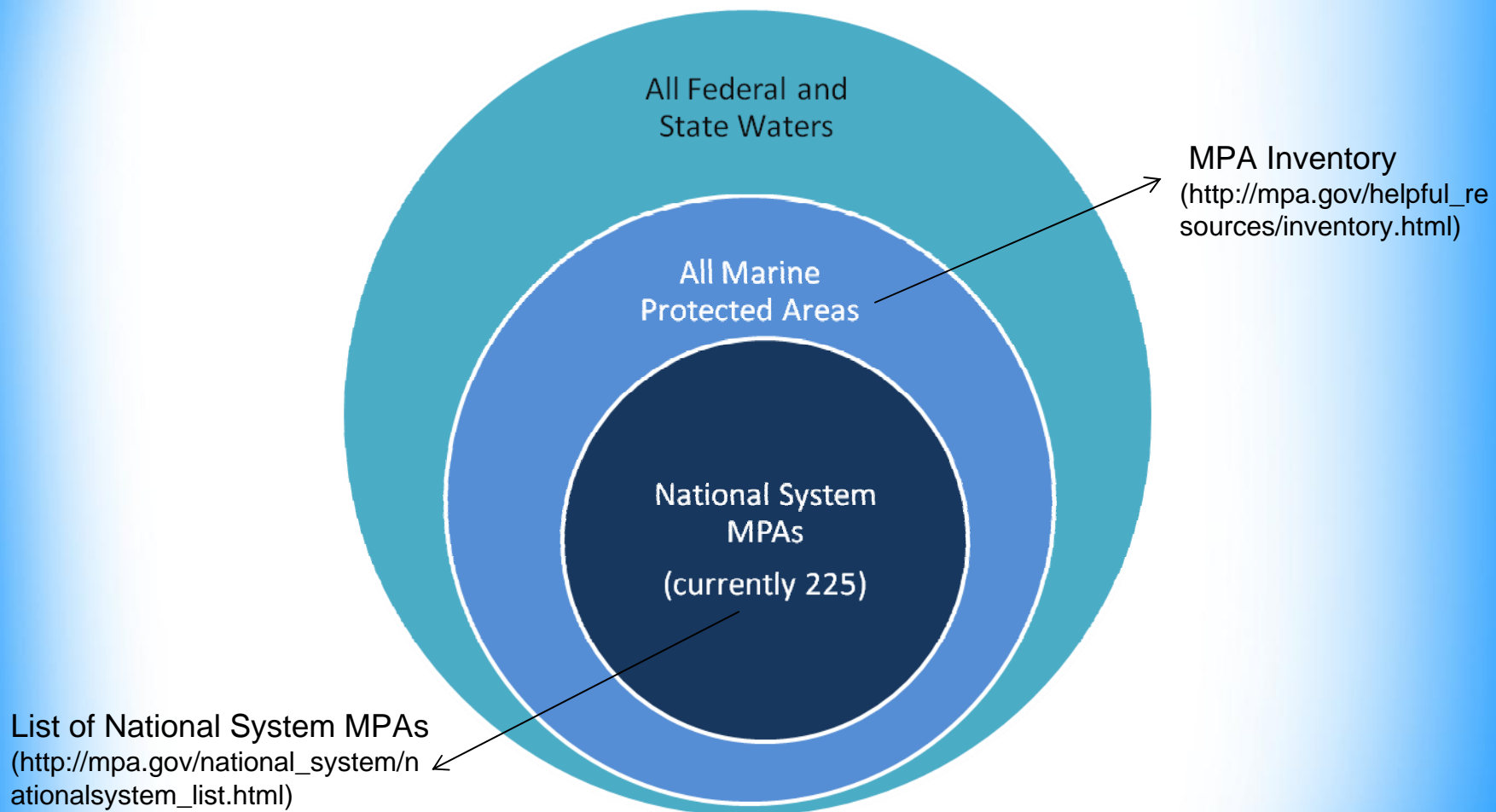
Avoid Harm – NOAA Guidance

- Coordinated by NOAA Fisheries & MPA Center
- Completion by Winter 2010
- NOAA has three roles in avoid harm
 - MPA management agency
 - Agency potentially causing harm
 - Reporting agency (MPA Center)

Purpose of Guidance

- To ensure that the MPA Center gathers the information necessary for NOAA's implementation of the E.O.
- To ensure that NOAA has a consistent approach to avoiding harm and documenting that avoidance.
- To provide NOAA MPA managing entities a consistent mechanism across NOAA to highlight potential harm to MPA resources caused by other agency actions.

Geographic Scope for “Avoid Harm”: National System MPAs



Key Points

- Avoid Harm requirement will be implemented through existing authorities
- Seek to use/build on existing processes
- MPA Management Agencies will identify “resources protected by the MPA” according to their authorities
- Information needed by potentially impacting agencies will be publicly available through www.mpa.gov

Key Milestones for 2010

- Working with FMCs on first federal fisheries sites to join national system of MPAs
- Completion of CA Ecological Gap Analysis as proof of concept
- Completion of NOAA guidance on “Avoid Harm”
- Expansion of Ocean Uses Atlas to other regions
- First MPA Grants awarded with NFWF
- Update of mpa.gov and visualization tool
- MPA Stewardship initiatives for national system members – training, capacity building,

Other Questions?

A National System of MPAs, collaboratively conserving the nation's...



Natural Heritage



**Sustainable
Production**



**Cultural
Heritage**

Nomination Process: Coordination with Councils

