The National System of Marine Protected Areas: From Design to Implementation

Presentation to the South Atlantic Fishery Management Council

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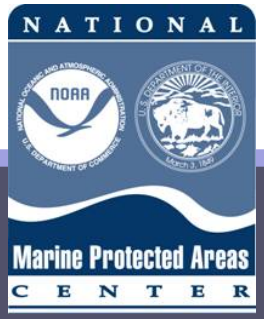
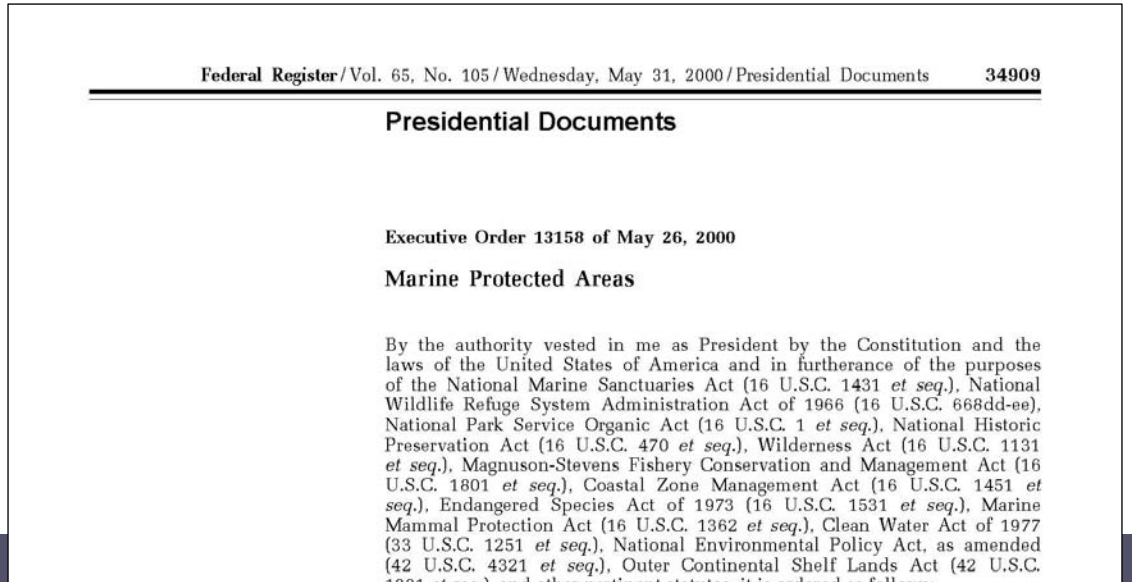


WWW.MPA.gov

Executive Order 13158

- Develop and implement a scientifically based, comprehensive national system of MPAs representing diverse U.S. marine ecosystems, and the Nation's natural and cultural resources
- Improve MPA coordination, stewardship and effectiveness
- This national system framework and the work of the MPA Center are intended to support, not interfere with, agencies' independent exercise of their own existing authorities.



Federal Register / Vol. 65, No. 105 / Wednesday, May 31, 2000 / Presidential Documents 34909

Presidential Documents

Executive Order 13158 of May 26, 2000

Marine Protected Areas

By the authority vested in me as President by the Constitution and the laws of the United States of America and in furtherance of the purposes of the National Marine Sanctuaries Act (16 U.S.C. 1431 *et seq.*), National Wildlife Refuge System Administration Act of 1966 (16 U.S.C. 668dd-ee), National Park Service Organic Act (16 U.S.C. 1 *et seq.*), National Historic Preservation Act (16 U.S.C. 470 *et seq.*), Wilderness Act (16 U.S.C. 1131 *et seq.*), Magnuson-Stevens Fishery Conservation and Management Act (16 U.S.C. 1801 *et seq.*), Coastal Zone Management Act (16 U.S.C. 1451 *et seq.*), Endangered Species Act of 1973 (16 U.S.C. 1531 *et seq.*), Marine Mammal Protection Act (16 U.S.C. 1362 *et seq.*), Clean Water Act of 1977 (33 U.S.C. 1251 *et seq.*), National Environmental Policy Act, as amended (42 U.S.C. 4321 *et seq.*), Outer Continental Shelf Lands Act (42 U.S.C.

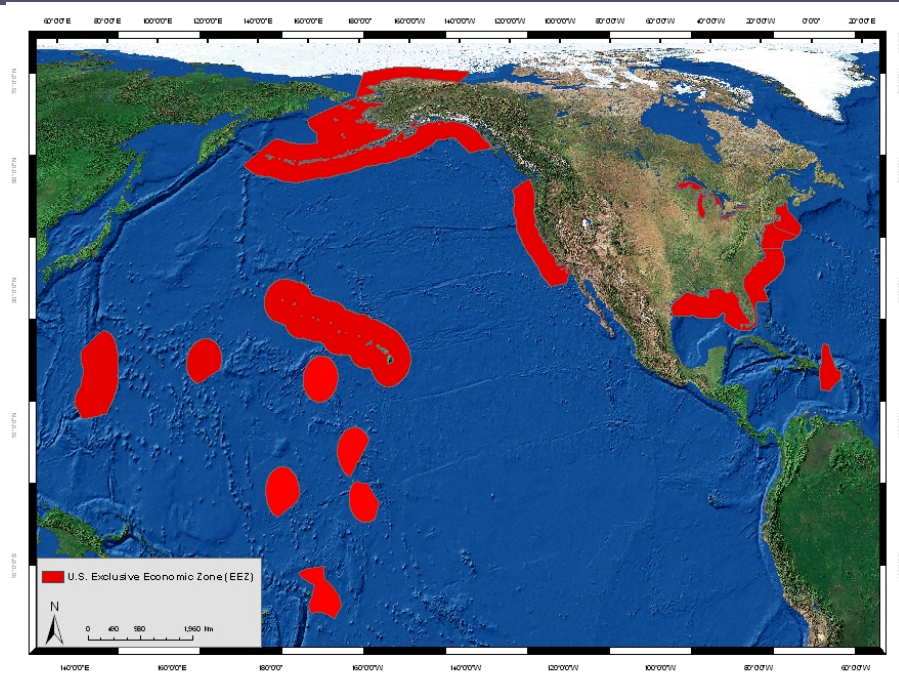
Terminology

Marine Protected Area (MPA) – any area of the marine environment that has been reserved by Federal, state, territorial, tribal or local laws or regulations to provide lasting protection to part or all of the natural and cultural resources therein. (Executive Order 13158 of May 26, 2000)

Marine Reserve – “no take” area – one type of MPA where extractive uses are prohibited

National Picture of MPAs

- ~ 1,700 MPAs in U.S. waters
- Hundreds of federal, state and local MPA authorities
- About 1/3 of US EEZ in some form of MPA, but purposes narrow
- Majority allow multiple uses (>99% of MPA area)



- Few prohibit all extractive activities (<1% of MPA area); no take MPAs are typically very small
- Federal programs manage most area; states manage most sites

Background on National System

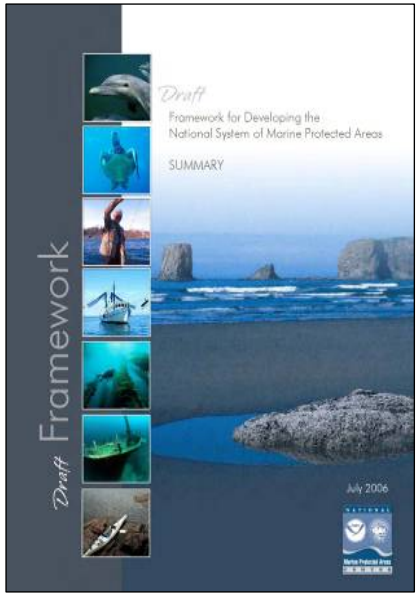
- Late 1990s – scientific consensus on importance of MPAs and marine reserves as a conservation tool
- Jan 2000 – Marine Conservation Biology Institute holds workshop on need for national system of MPAs
- May 2000 – Executive Order signed by President Clinton
- July 2001 – Executive Order endorsed by 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



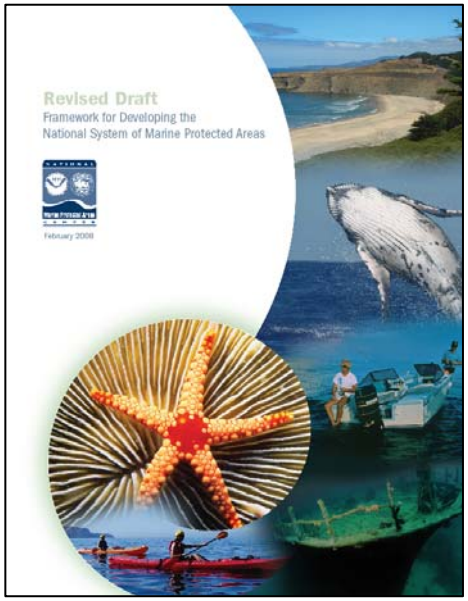
State/Territorial Members for MPA Federal Advisory Committee

- Authorized by Executive Order 13158, Marine Protected Areas
- Reports to both Depts of Commerce and the Interior
- 30 Non-Federal Members representing commercial and recreational fishing, industry, natural and social science, environmental organizations, states and tribes
- Currently selecting 14 new members to begin terms in 2010

Three Public Comment Periods



•Draft Framework
•Sept 2006
•Received 11,000 comments



•Revised Draft Framework
•March 2008
•Received 34 public comments

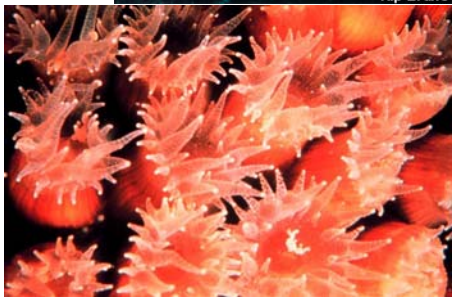
•Final Framework
•Nov 2008
•No comments

Benefits of a National System of MPAs

- To Participating MPA Programs
  - Enhancing stewardship through regional coordination
  - Building partnerships
  - Building public & international awareness and support
  - Formal mechanism for addressing large scale issues

- To the Nation:
  - Protecting representative ecosystems and resources
  - Enhancing connectivity
  - Identifying conservation gaps

- To ocean and coastal stakeholders:
  - Transparent process for MPA planning
  - Better planning for diverse ocean uses
  - Better information on MPA resources, uses and fishing opportunities

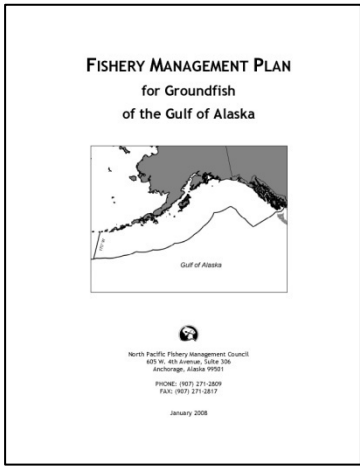


Examples of National System Benefits

- Recognition for MPA programs and sites
  - New web pages on mpa.gov
  - Communications toolkit
- Information for regional ocean governance and MPA planning and management:
  - MPA inventories
  - Ocean Use Atlas (CA)
  - MPA Virtual Library (www.mpa.gov)
- Program Integration
  - Observing Systems
  - Navigation resources
- Facilitation of Regional Assessments & Gap Analyses
- International Linkages
  - North American MPA Network

Criteria for Entry to the National System

- Meets the definition of an MPA
  - Key terms: area, marine, reserved, lasting, protection
- Has a management plan
  - Includes site specific information; can be part of a broader fisheries management plan
  - Must include goals and objectives; call for monitoring and evaluation
- Contributes to a priority conservation objective of the nation system
- Additional criteria for cultural resources



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	

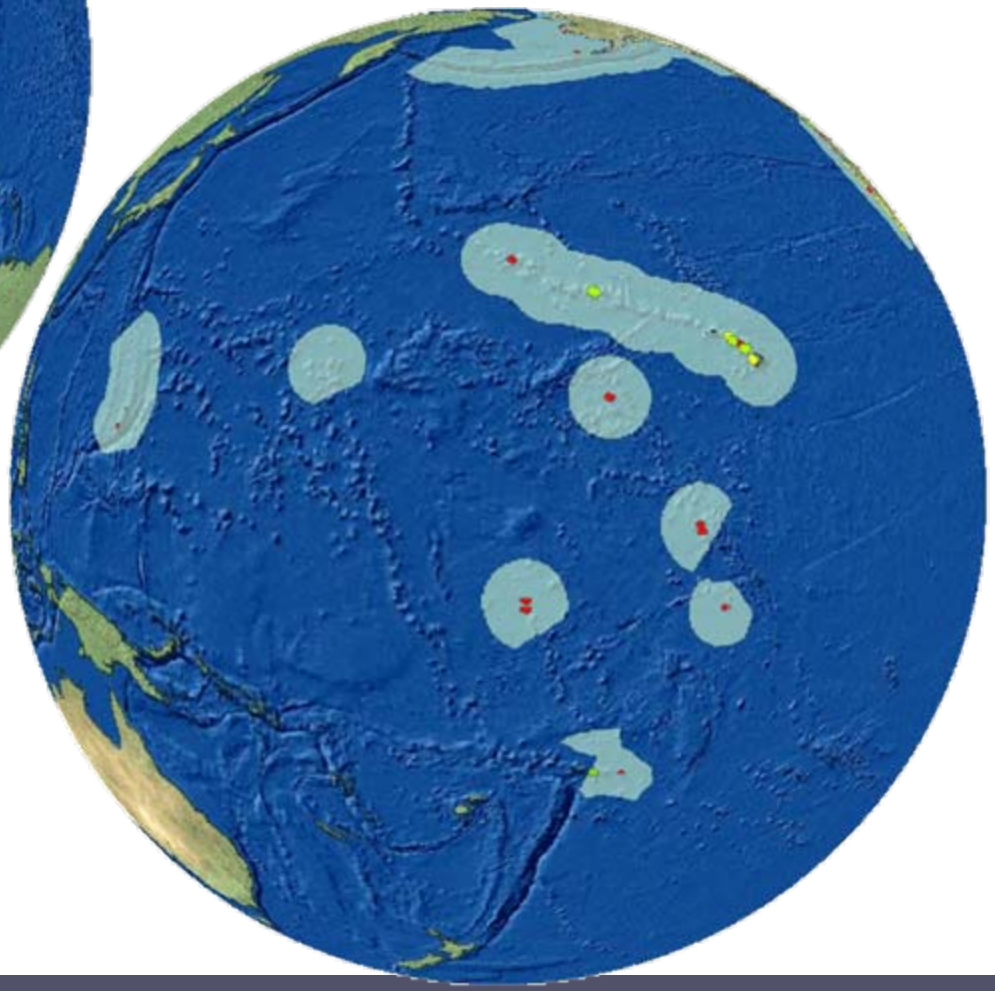
Priority Conservation Objectives: Sustainable Production Goal

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**

Composition of National System

- Goal is for national system to be diverse in terms of:
  - Geographic region
  - Ecosystem type
  - Level of government
  - Conservation goals

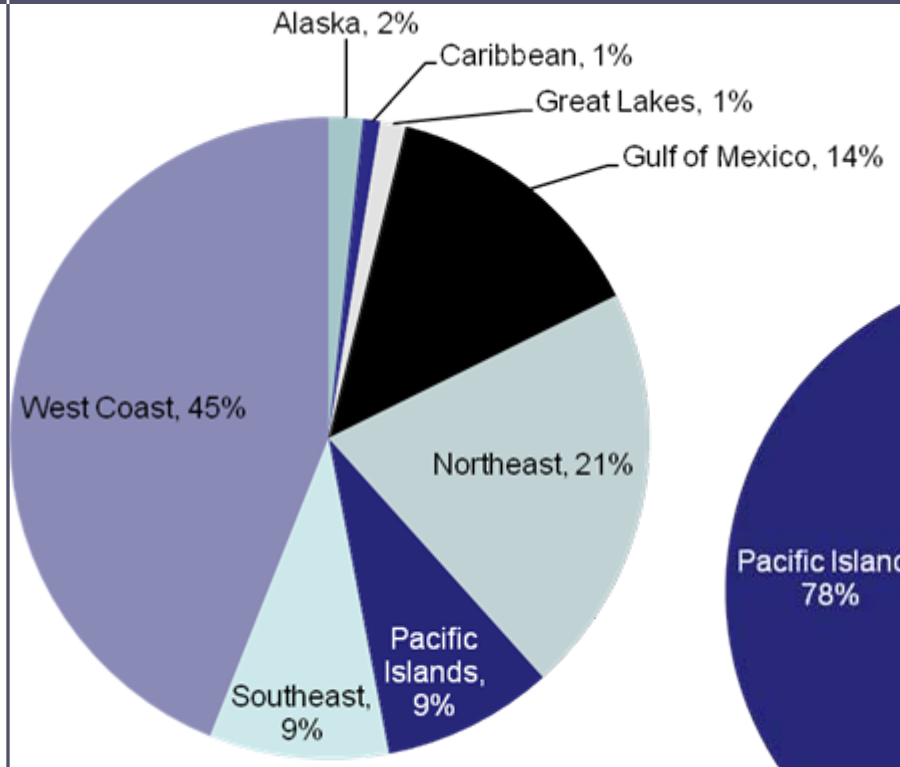
Locations of First Sites



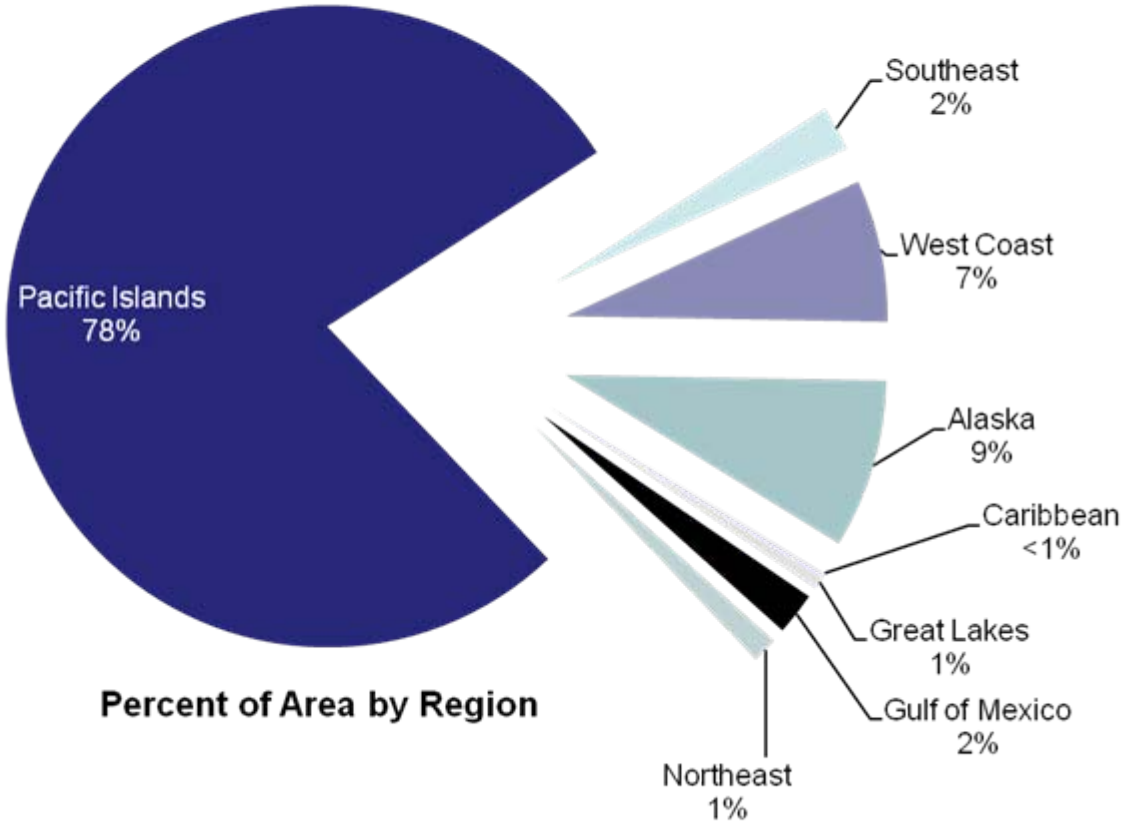
First Round of Nominations

- 225 MPAs
- Federal MPA Programs
  - National Marine Sanctuaries
  - National Parks
  - National Wildlife Refuges
- Federal/State Partnership
  - NERRS
  - Papahanaumokuakea Marine National Monument
- 9 States/Territories (includes NERRS sites)

Distribution of National System Sites by Region



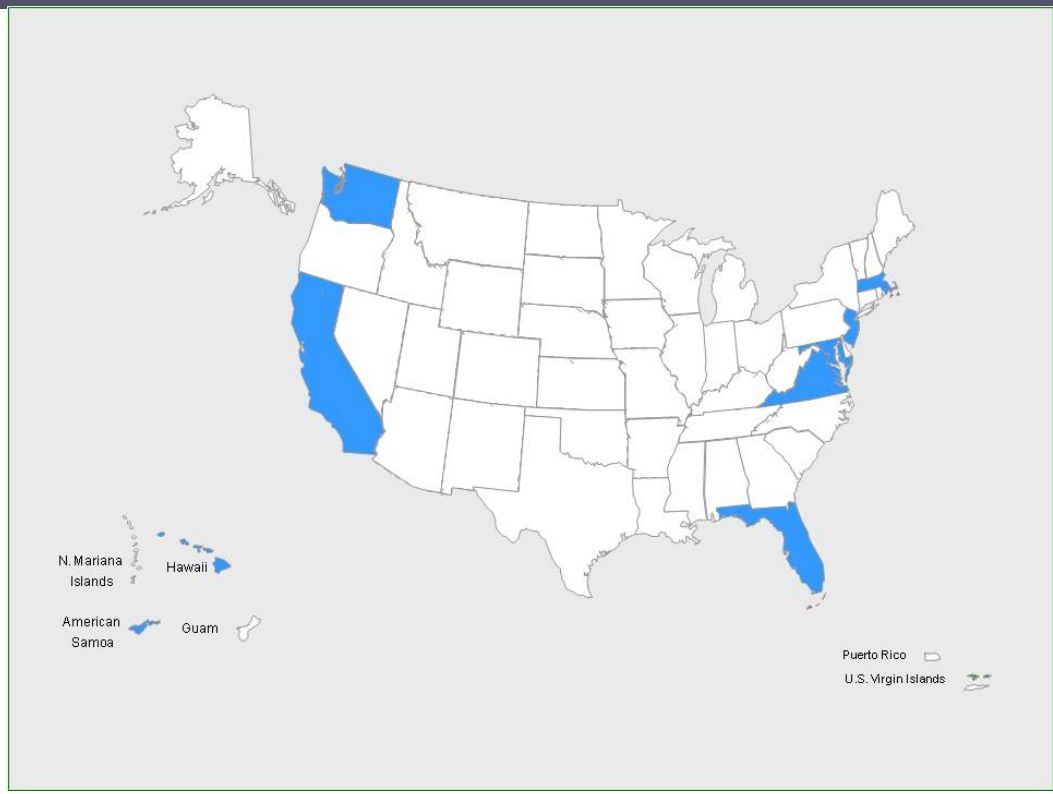
Percent of Sites by Region



Percent of Area by Region

Participating States/Territorial Agencies

- American Samoa (1)
- California (63)
- Florida (2)
- Hawaii (7)
- Maryland (1)
- Massachusetts (1)
- New Jersey (1)
- Virginia (7)
- Washington (19)



Priorities for Operating the Initial National System

- Build on existing stewardship efforts
  - Identify a few national and regional science and stewardship priorities
  - Begin to develop regional MPA Stewardship Strategies

- Focus on national coordination
  - Establish of national Management Committee
  - Integration with other ocean management priorities (e.g. regional ocean governance, ocean observation systems)
  - Plan for national system evaluation
  - Initiate second nomination round

- Recognition
  - Develop new visual identity
  - Outreach materials for use by MPA Programs
  - Web pages

Institutional Networks within the National System

- Capacity building
  - Training
  - Technical assistance
- Sharing lessons learned
- Potential efficiencies through coordinated science, stewardship and outreach\
- Management Committee structure
- Evaluation


Our National System of Marine Protected Areas
Working together for...
LOOK AT THE VARIETY OF SEA LIFE IN THIS PLACE!
SURELY, YOU CAN FIND SOMETHING TO DATE HERE, FILLMORE.
SHE'S BEEN SITTING ON THE BOTTOM OVER A HUNDRED YEARS.
AND IT WAS SUPPOSED TO BE A "THREE HOUR TOUR."
THAT MEANS A SENSIBLE APPROACH TO HARVESTING SEAFOOD.
I THINK I'LL EAT NOTHING BUT YELLOW FISH TODAY.
Healthy Ecosystems
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Sustainable Production
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