

Building a National System of MPAs



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WWW.MPA.gov

MPA Executive Order 13158



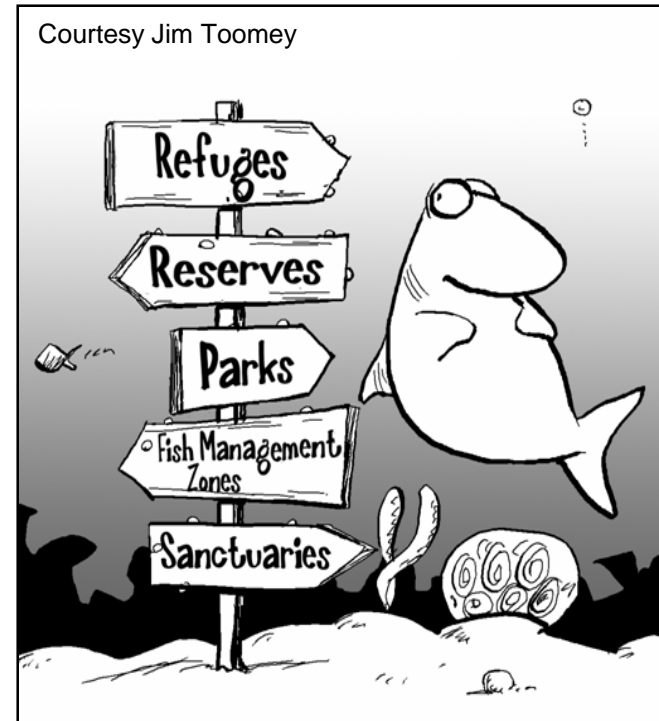
- **Signed by President William Clinton in May 2000**
 - **Endorsed by President Bush in July 2001**
 - **DOC/NOAA and Interior are Co-Leads**

- **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**



Why Develop a National System of MPAs?

- Nearly 200 authorities and as many as 1,500 sites
- Many independent and overlapping MPA planning and designation processes
- Lack of a collaborative approach to planning and coordination to meet national and regional goals



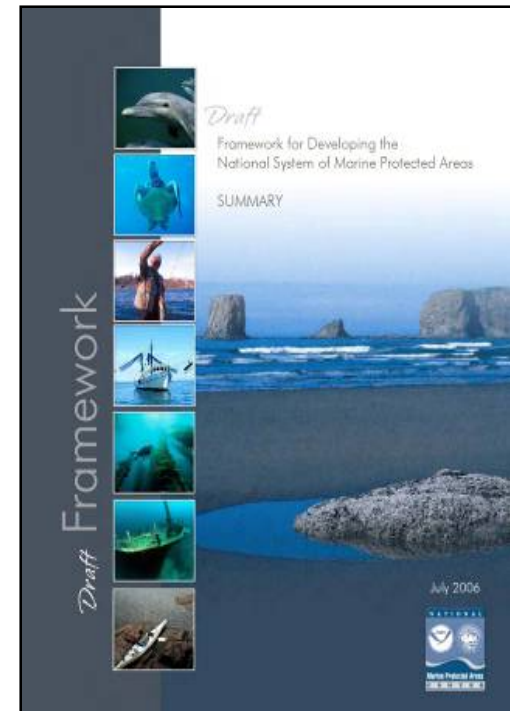
National System of MPAs

- **Establish a national vision and purpose for using MPAs to conserve and sustain important natural and cultural resources**
- **Provide a neutral forum (“no turf”) for collaboration across states, tribes and federal agencies**
- **Build the scientific foundation and technical capacity for effective use of MPAs – design, management, and evaluation**
- **Provide the public with opportunities for participation and valuable information about US MPAs**
- **Address resource conservation issues that cannot be addressed by individual sites or program on their own**



Framework for the National System of MPAs

- Vision, goals and objectives for the national system
- Outlines steps for building and implementing the national system
 - Nomination process for existing MPAs
 - Identification of gaps in protection
 - Improving regional coordination and MPA effectiveness



National System and Framework do not....



Kip Evans

- Provide authority or a process for designating new MPAs
- Change the regulatory structure or take over management of existing MPAs

Progress and Plans

- 18-month national scoping process for developing the Draft Framework (2005-2006)
- Five month public comment period on Draft Framework (Sept. 2006 to Feb. 2007)
- Final Framework anticipated June 2008
- First national call for nominations of existing MPAs in late 2008

Some facts about access to marine managed areas (MMAs)

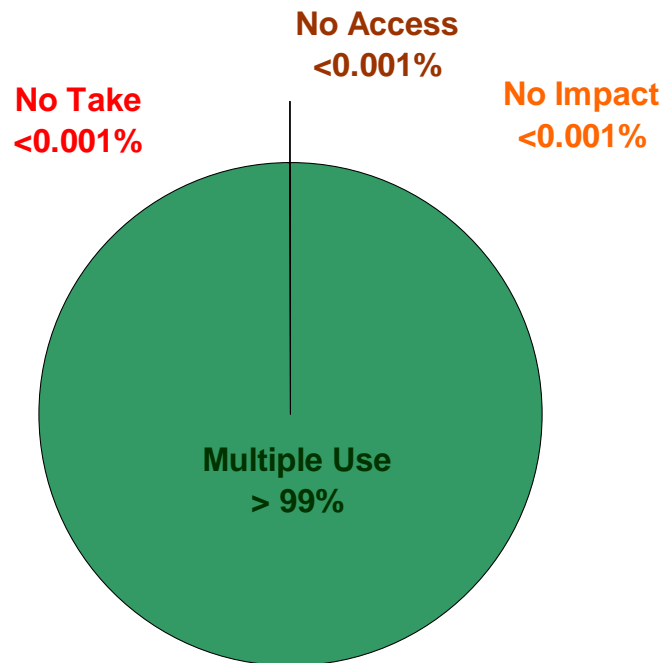
Vast majority of nation's MMAs are multiple use

Number of MMAs

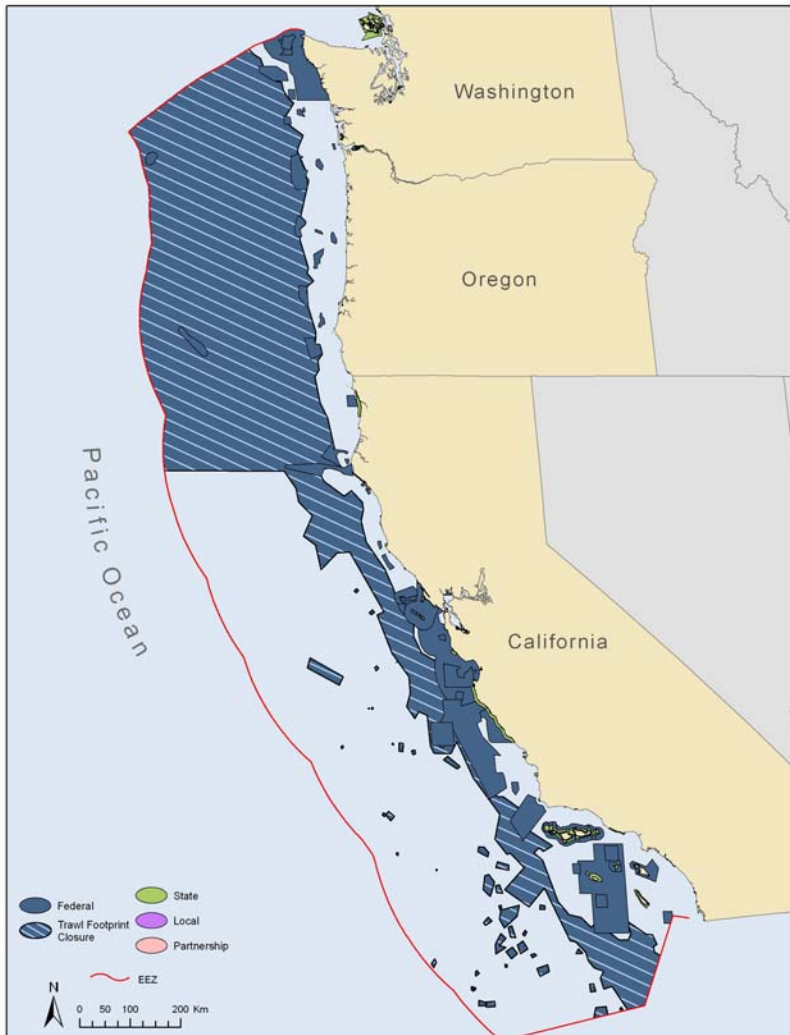
1647 MMAs in US

# Multiple Use	1471
# No Take	81
# No Impact	34
# No Access	61

MMA Area (km²)



Extent of No Take Areas on the West Coast



Total area in some type of MMA



Cumulative area of no take MMAs

Advancing the Science of Access: Benthic-pelagic linkages and vertical zoning

Issue: Do MPAs always need to be no take reserves in order to have conservation benefits and achieve their goals?

Approach: A collaborative, science based research project with recreational fishermen and fisheries and MPA scientists to:

- Develop better science to inform MPA siting and design, especially for matching MPA level and type of protection to its goals and prevailing threats
- Know when recreational fishing can be compatible with MPA goals

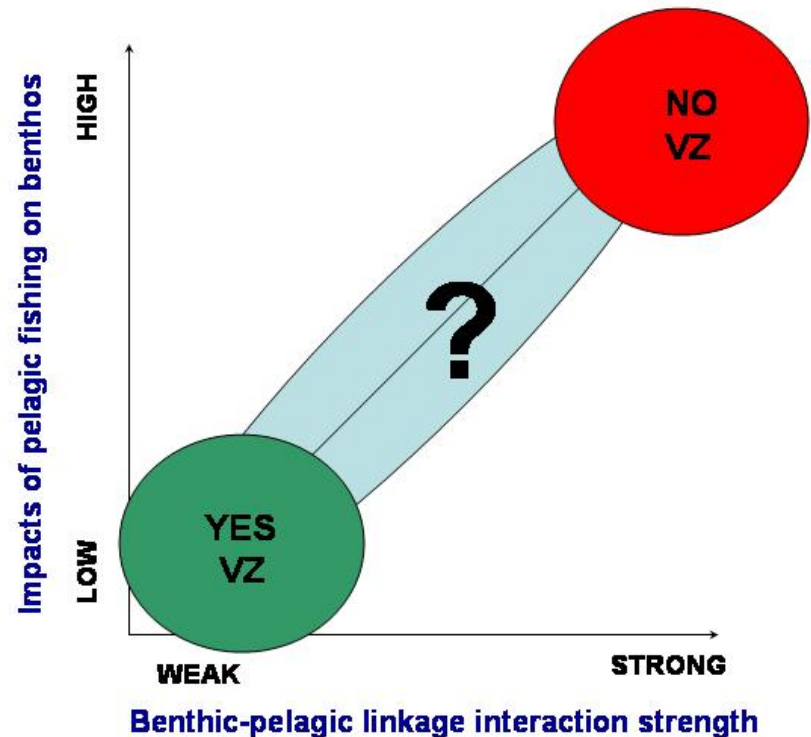
What did we find?

Benthic-Pelagic Linkage Strength		Direct & Strong	Indirect	Weak
Depth Range	< 50 m			
	< 50–100 m			
	> 100 m			
Design Considerations	Habitat Type	Coral Reef, Atoll, Rocky Reef, Spawning Aggregation	Rocky Habitat, Continental Shelf	Open Ocean, Deep Continental Shelf
	Fish Mobility	Resident	Resident–Transient	Transient
	Taxonomic Group	Coastal Pelagics	Forage Fish Pelagics	Pelagics
	Potential Compatibility of Pelagic Fishing in Benthic MPAs	Not Compatible	Potentially Compatible	Compatible

More findings and outcomes

Outcomes so far:

- A set of practical guidelines for when pelagic sportfishing can be consistent with goals of benthic-focused MPAs
- Guidelines have been used in two of California's state MPA processes



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