

A U.S. National System of Marine Protected Areas



**Dennis Heinemann
Senior Scientist
Ocean Conservancy
Washington DC
and**

**Appointee to the
MPA Federal Advisory Committee
National MPA Center**



MPA Executive Order 13158

- Signed by President William J. Clinton in May 2000
- Endorsed by President George W. Bush in July 2001

- 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
- *No authority to establish new MPAs*

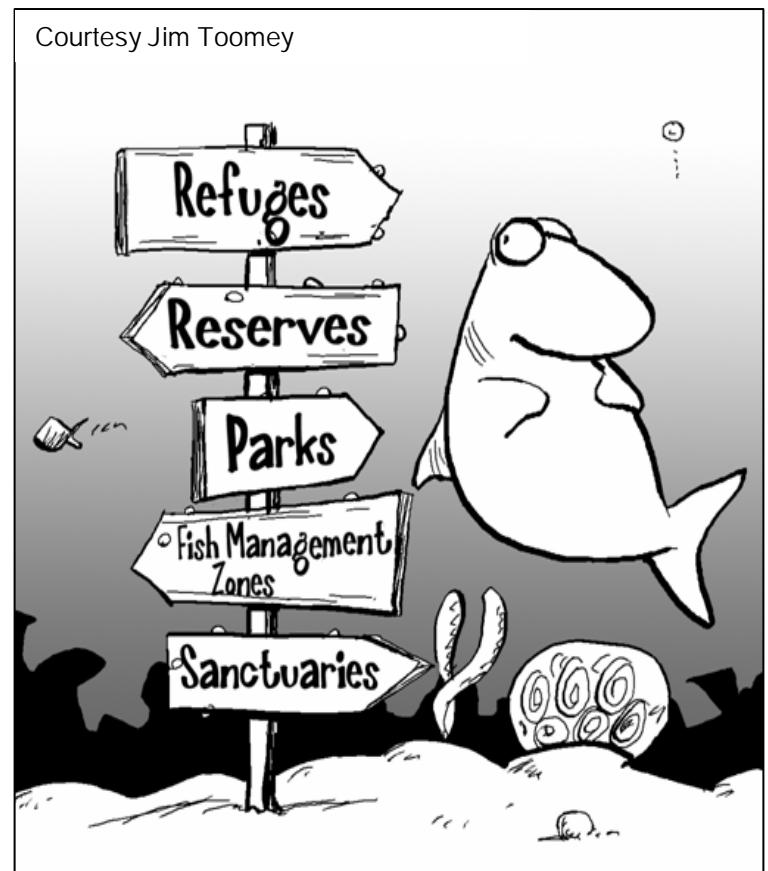


Executive Order established a Federal Advisory Committee

- **Purpose:** Provide recommendations to the Secretaries of the Departments of Commerce and Interior
- **Composition:** 30 experts representing different stakeholder groups (and 15 *ex officio* federal officials)
 - Natural and social scientists
 - Environmentalists
 - Recreational and commercial fishers
 - Native tribes
 - Tourism industry
 - Maritime industries (oil & gas, cable, ports)
 - State officials

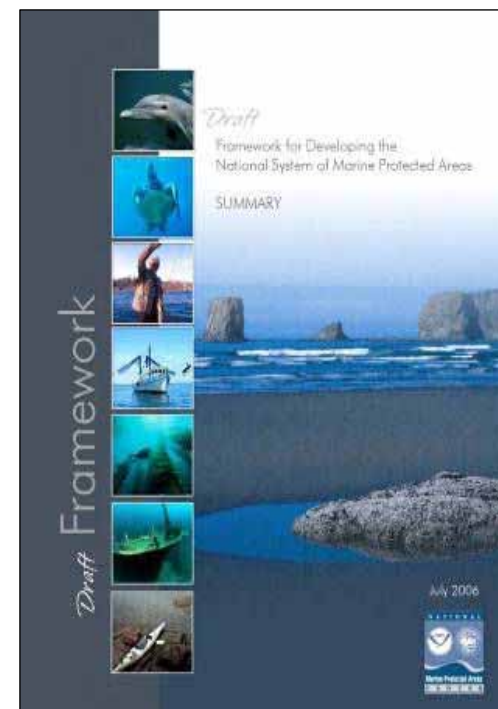
Why Develop a National System of MPAs?

- 200 federal, state, territorial authorities
- 1,500 existing sites
- Many independent and overlapping MPA planning and designation processes
- Lack of a collaborative approaches to planning and coordination to meet national and regional goals



Draft Framework for the National System of MPAs

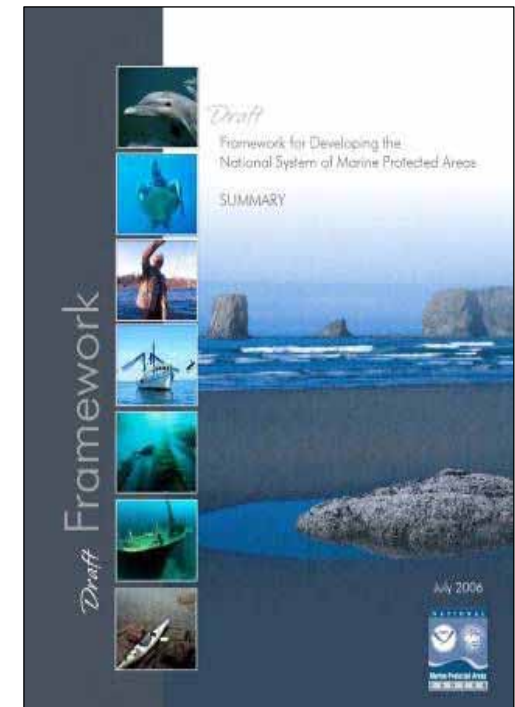
- Establishes vision, goals and objectives for the national system of MPAs
- Outlines steps for building and implementing the national system
 - Nomination process for existing MPAs
 - Improving regional and national coordination and MPA effectiveness
 - Identification of gaps in protection



Emphasizes regional approaches to build national system

MPA Definition

- “Any area of the marine environment that has been reserved by Federal, State, territorial, tribal or local laws or regulations to provide lasting protection for part or all of the natural and cultural resources therein.”
 - Area: legally defined fixed boundaries
 - Reserved: established by federal, state, local or tribal law
 - Lasting: intended at time of establishment to provide permanent protection
 - Protection: increased protection for resources to maintain or enhance their long-term conservation, beyond any general protections that apply outside the site



Value of a National System of MPAs

- Establishes a national vision to conserve and sustain environments and resources
- Provides a neutral forum (“no turf”) for collaboration
- Builds scientific foundation and technical capacity for effective use of MPA networks
- Provides opportunities for public participation and input
- Addresses over-arching resource conservation issues



Draft Framework for the National System of MPAs

■ MPA Themes and System Goals

- **Natural Heritage**: Advance management of habitats, ecosystems, ecological processes/services, uses, and values provided to future generations
- **Cultural Heritage**: Advance management of resources that reflect the nation's maritime history and traditional cultural connections to the sea, as well as the uses and values they provide future generations
- **Sustainable Protection**: Advance management of renewable living resources, their habitats and protection areas that are important to the nation's social, economic, and cultural well-being





Draft Framework Comments



- Five month comment period
- 11,000 submissions with comments on every aspect of the draft framework
 - *State and tribal governments*
 - *Conservation NGOs*
 - *Commercial and recreational fishers*
 - *Fishery councils and commissions*
 - *Fishing industry*
 - *Academics*
 - *Private individuals*
 - *MPA FAC and members*

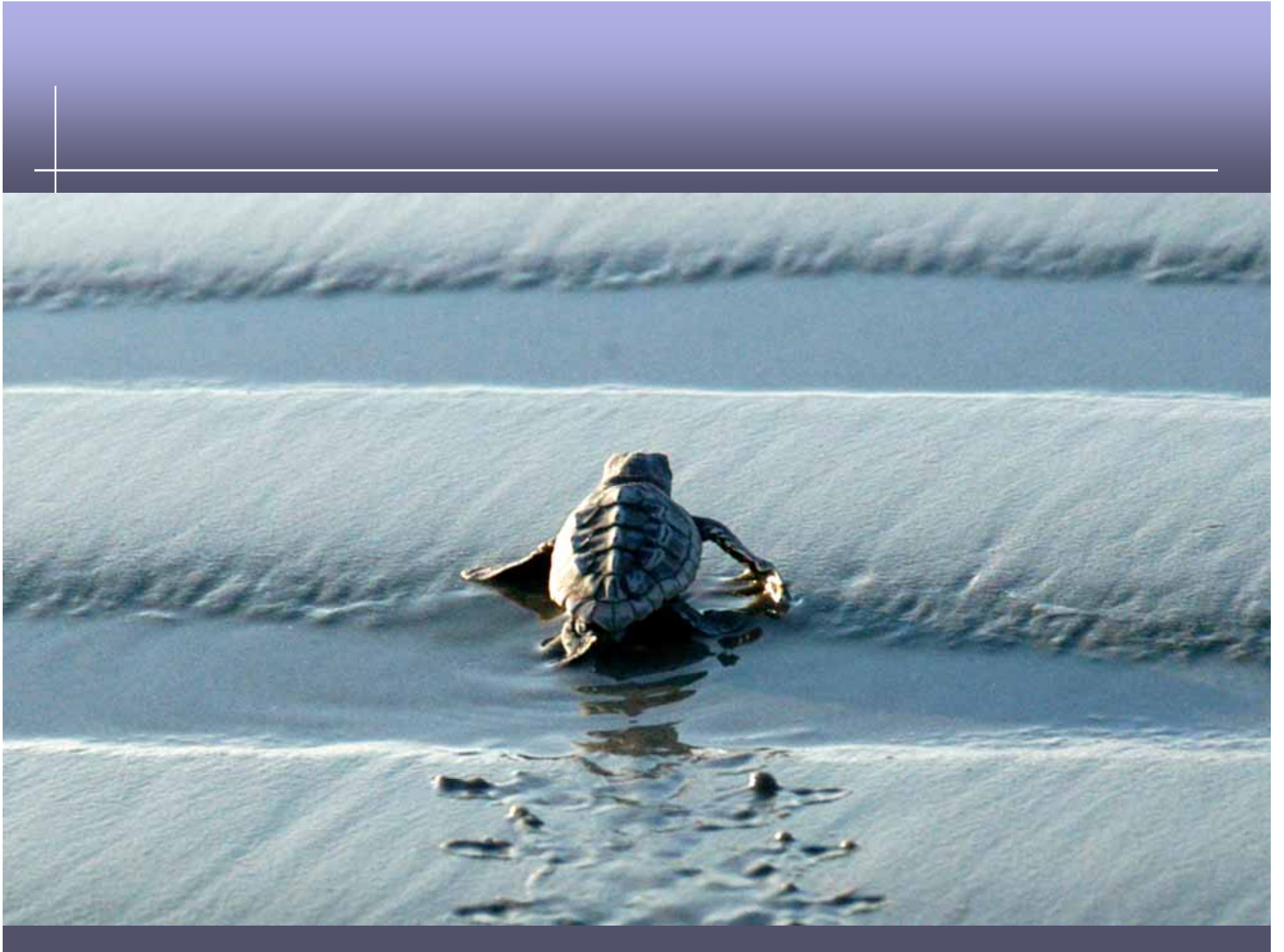


Key Issues to Resolve

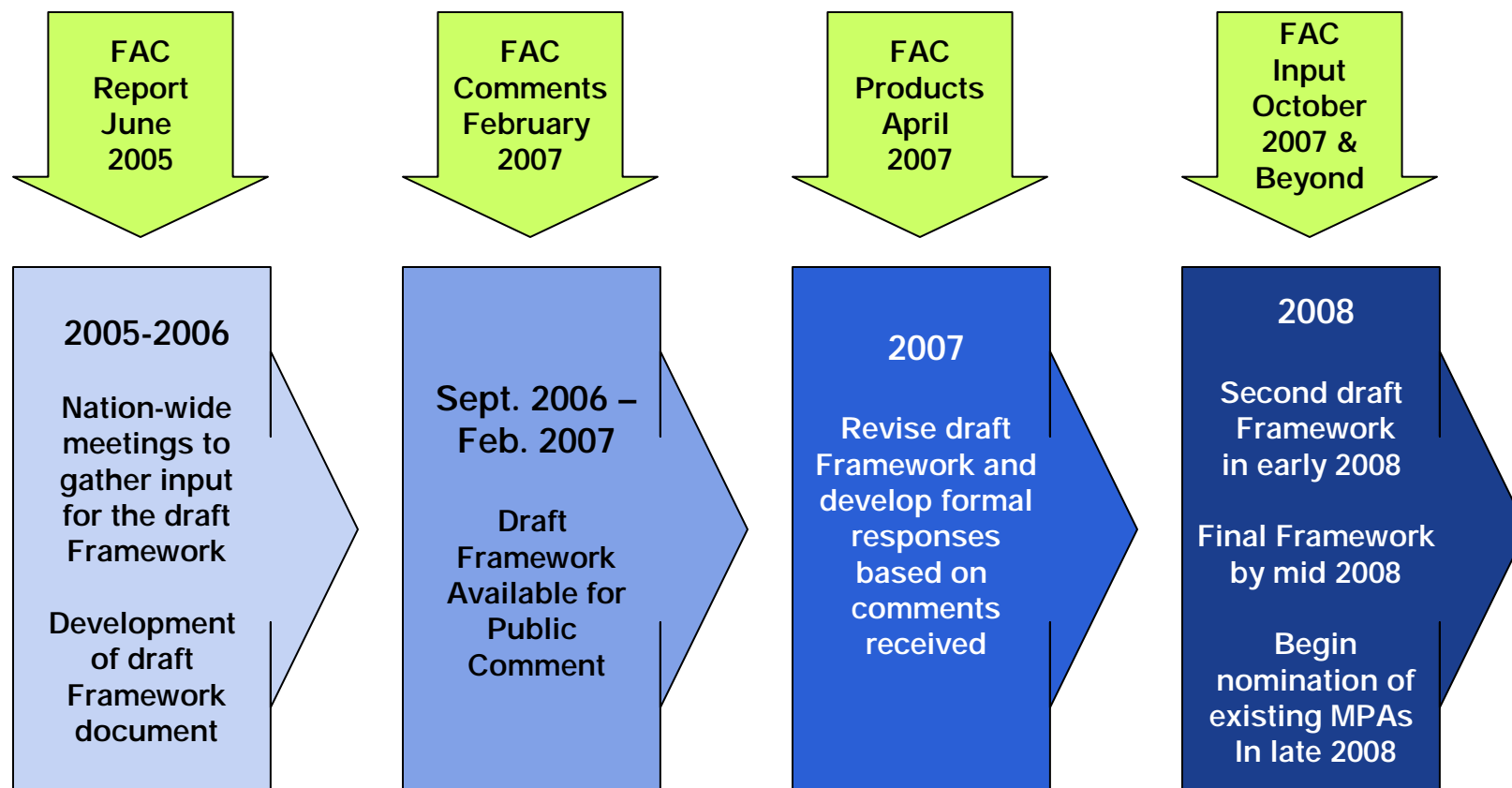
- **Scope of the system unwieldy?**
- **Inclusiveness important, but very large number of MPAs could make system ineffective**
- **Provides little or no prioritization of MPAs**
- **Clearer process for nomination and inclusion**
- **A “system” is not necessarily a functional network**
- **Weak at identifying and filling gaps in the system**

Successes


- **Clear vision for value of a system of MPAs**
- **Strong consensus view from stakeholders from a wide range of sectors**
- **Precise formulation of definitions, purposes, goals and objectives**
- **Recognition of potential to build system into an effective network of ecologically connected and socioeconomically viable MPAs**



Framework: Where are we now?



"FAC" = MPA Federal Advisory Committee

 You are here!

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)

