

United States

National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA)



Participants:

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MPA Program(s) Description or Highlights:

- Multiple MPA programs managed by multiple agencies (National Marine Sanctuaries, National Parks, National Wildlife Refuges, state programs)
- NOAA/ONMS: National Marine Sanctuaries
 - 15 sites protecting nationally significant resources across U.S. waters
 - Program focuses on resource protection, science, & education
 - Strong public engagement through site-based advisory councils

Key Program Challenges/Priorities:

- For National Marine Sanctuaries:
 - Currently establishing 2 new sanctuaries focused on historic shipwrecks
 - Expanding/management plan updates for Flower Garden Banks (Gulf of Mexico), Florida Keys, Monitor (Mid Atlantic)
 - Evaluating how to continue to advance mission in light of COVID-19
 - Planning for 50th anniversary in 2022 vision for the next 50 years