

Recreational Uses of US Marine Protected Areas: The Managers'

I. Overview of the Survey

Marine protected areas (MPAs) are special ocean places established to conserve their unique ecological, cultural and economic value for this and future generations. These very qualities often make MPAs natural magnets for ocean recreation. While appropriate use and appreciation of MPAs can be desirable, the MPA management community does not always have access to the information, tools and strategies necessary to ensure that expanding ocean recreation is ecologically sustainable over time.

This survey is intended to help fill capacity gaps by drawing upon the cumulative knowledge and perspectives of MPA managers around the US. Your responses, whether informed by quantitative data or by qualitative expert knowledge, will help paint an initial picture of recreation in US MPAs, set priorities for filling those data gaps in the future, and guide new management strategies for ecologically sustainable recreation. **Completion of this survey is voluntary.**

The survey will take approximately 30 minutes to complete. Data collected will be aggregated and not attributable directly to your site. Results will be posted on the MPA Center website and distributed widely to all interested parties.

We thank you in advance for your time and insight into this important emerging issue for the nation's MPAs!

NOAA's National Marine Protected Areas Center

Paperwork Reduction Act Information

OMB Control Number: 0648-0449 Expires: 3/31/15. This effort is in compliance with the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995 in order to solicit information from persons not employed by the U.S. Federal Government. The Office of Management and Budget has given clearance and approval to NOAA and DOI to use this survey tool to request state, local and tribal marine management agencies/organizations to provide information on marine protected areas. No personal information is requested. Confidentiality is not promised in the submission of this survey. Public reporting burden for this collection of information is estimated to average 30 minutes per response, including the time for reviewing instructions, searching existing data sources, gathering and maintaining the data needed, and completing and reviewing the collection of information. Send comments regarding this burden estimate or any other aspect of this collection of information, including suggestions for reducing this burden, to Lauren Wenzel. Notwithstanding any other provision of the law, no person is required to respond to, nor shall any person be subject to a penalty for failure to comply with, a collection of information subject to the requirements of the Paperwork Reduction Act, unless that collection of information displays a currently valid OMB Control Number. Contact: Lauren Wenzel, NOAA, National MPA Center SSMC4 Room 11356, N/NMS, 1305 East West Highway, Silver Spring, MD 20910 Lauren.wenzel@noaa.gov (301) 713-7265

II. Background Information on Your MPA

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1. MPA CONTACT INFORMATION

Your Name:

Your Title:

MPA Name:

Your Address:

City:

State:

Zip:

Your Email:

Your Phone:

2. MPA LOCATION -- Please describe the geographical location of your site. (Enter all that apply)

Nearest State, Territory or Commonwealth

Nearest County

Nearest City or Town

Adjacent Zip Codes

3. GOVERNANCE -- What is the governmental level of the primary agency that manages your MPA?

- Municipality
- County
- State
- Federal
- Tribal / Indigenous
- Community-based (non-governmental)
- Other (please specify)

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4. GEOGRAPHY -- Basic descriptive information about your MPA's location and design. (Select all that apply)

- is entirely marine and located offshore with no connection to land
- is entirely marine but located adjacent to the coastline with jurisdiction ending at the waterline
- is part of a larger protected area that includes significant terrestrial areas as well
- consists of a single geographic area with a continuous border (one polygon)
- comprises multiple, geographically distinct marine areas as components of the single MPA
- is part of a larger, geographically distributed network of ecologically or culturally linked MPAs
- Other (please specify)

5. PURPOSE -- What is the conservation focus of your MPA? (Select all that apply)

- Focal species (e.g. marine mammals)
- Focal habitats (e.g. coral reefs)
- Integrated ecosystems (e.g. all resources in the protected area)
- Submerged cultural resources (e.g. ship wrecks)
- Cultural heritage (e.g. places of special cultural significance)
- Sustainable fisheries (e.g. harvested fish stocks)
- Other (please specify)

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6. FUNDING -- Does your site receive, or have the authority to receive, funding from: (Select all that apply)

- governmental appropriations
- inter-agency agreements
- international sources
- grants
- public-private partnerships
- user access fees
- concessions / special use permits
- sales (e.g. gift shops)
- donations
- licensing of logos, images or products
- penalty fees, fines or legal settlements
- Other (please specify)

7. COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT -- Does your MPA have: (Select all that apply)

- a stakeholder advisory group addressing local issues
- a "friends" organization that supports site operations and programs
- public-private partnerships to foster site-based programs
- volunteers or docents
- partnerships with local educational or research institutions
- none of the above
- Other (please specify)

8. RECREATION ALLOWED? -- Does your MPA allow any recreational uses to occur within its boundaries? If you answer "Yes", you will be asked to proceed with the full survey. A "No" response will take you to two short questions at the end of the survey.

- Yes
- No

III. Recreational Uses in Your MPA: Status, Trends and Concerns

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This section draws upon your expert knowledge to explore trends, management approaches, and concerns about specific recreational uses occurring in your MPA.

Question 9 simply asks which recreational uses are known to have ever occurred in your MPA, whether now or in the past. Your selections will help guide your responses to the remainder of this section. For definitions and additional information about these recreational uses, please refer to this link: http://marineprotectedareas.noaa.gov/pdf/helpful-resources/common_language_ocean_uses_11_14_2013_final.pdf on the MPA Center website.

Questions 10-27 request your perspective on important aspects of the management of recreational uses in your MPA. More detailed instructions follow after Question 9.

At the end of this section, please revisit your responses to question 9 to ensure that you have addressed all the uses relevant to your MPA.

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9. RECREATION BASELINE -- Please select all recreational activities that either currently occur or have occurred historically in your MPA. With the exception of the first six consumptive uses involving "Fishing", "Gathering" or some types of "Cultural Use", all other recreational uses are considered to be non-consumptive for the purposes of the survey.

- Fishing from Power or Sail Boats
- Fishing from Kayaks and Canoes
- Dive Fishing (e.g. SCUBA or snorkeling using spears, nets, by hand)
- Fishing from Shore (e.g. rods, nets, traps, hand lines)
- Gathering from Shore (e.g. inter-tidal harvesting)
- Cultural Use (e.g. tribal, traditional, spiritual activities, including harvest)
- SCUBA and Snorkeling
- Swimming
- Surface Board Sports (e.g. surfing, paddle boards)
- Kayaking and Canoeing
- Sailing
- Motorized Boating (i.e. other than jet skis)
- Personal Water Craft (i.e. jet skis)
- Wildlife Viewing from Shore (e.g. bird watching)
- Wildlife Viewing from Boats (e.g. whale watching)
- Tide-Pooling
- Shore Use (e.g. sun bathing, walking, camping, games, picnics)
- None of the above
- Other (please specify)

INDIVIDUAL USES IN YOUR MPA -- For each of the recreational uses listed in Questions 10-27, please use the corresponding drop down menus across the row to describe these important aspects of the use's status and implications for your site:

- (i) management approach = how/if it is controlled
- (ii) current intensity = estimated # visits per year
- (iii) trends over time = observation of patterns of use
- (iv) concerns over ecological impacts of use
- (v) concerns over conflicts among uses

Please address all five of these aspects of each listed recreational use, even if the use is not occurring now. The absence of a use may be just as meaningful as its presence, so for uses that are not relevant to your MPA (i.e. those that are prohibited, not occurring, or never occurred), select the appropriate response option for each aspect of that question.

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10. Fishing from Power or Sail Boats

	Management Approach	Current Intensity	Trends Over Time	Ecological Concerns	User Conflict Concerns
Use:	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>

11. Fishing from Kayaks or Canoes

	Management Approach	Current Intensity	Trends Over Time	Ecological Concerns	User Conflict Concerns
Use:	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>

12. Dive Fishing (e.g. spears, nets, by hand)

	Management Approach	Current Intensity	Trends Over Time	Ecological Concerns	User Conflict Concerns
Use:	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>

13. Fishing from Shore (e.g. rods, nets, traps, hand lines)

	Management Approach	Current Intensity	Trends Over Time	Ecological Concerns	User Conflict Concerns
Use:	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>

14. Gathering from Shore (e.g. inter-tidal harvesting)

	Management Approach	Current Intensity	Trends Over Time	Ecological Concerns	User Conflict Concerns
Use:	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>

15. Cultural Use (e.g. tribal, traditional, spiritual activities, including harvest)

	Management Approach	Current Intensity	Trends Over Time	Ecological Concerns	User Conflict Concerns
Use:	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>

16. SCUBA and Snorkeling

	Management Approach	Current Intensity	Trends Over Time	Ecological Concerns	User Conflict Concerns
Use:	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>

17. Swimming

	Management Approach	Current Intensity	Trends Over Time	Ecological Concerns	User Conflict Concerns
Use:	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>

18. Surface Board Sports (e.g. surfing, paddle boards)

	Management Approach	Current Intensity	Trends Over Time	Ecological Concerns	User Conflict Concerns
Use:	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>

19. Kayaking and Canoeing

	Management Approach	Current Intensity	Trends Over Time	Ecological Concerns	User Conflict Concerns
Use:	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>

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20. Sailing

	Management Approach	Current Intensity	Trends Over Time	Ecological Concerns	User Conflict Concerns
Use:	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>

21. Motorized Boating (i.e. other than jet skis)

	Management Approach	Current Intensity	Trends Over Time	Ecological Concerns	User Conflict Concerns
Use:	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>

22. Personal Water Craft (i.e. jet skis)

	Management Approach	Current Intensity	Trends Over Time	Ecological Concerns	User Conflict Concerns
Use:	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>

23. Wildlife Viewing from Shore (e.g. bird watching)

	Management Approach	Current Intensity	Trends Over Time	Ecological Concerns	User Conflict Concerns
Use:	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>

24. Wildlife Viewing from Boats (e.g. whale watching)

	Management Approach	Current Intensity	Trends Over Time	Ecological Concerns	User Conflict Concerns
Use:	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>

25. Tide-Pooling

	Management Approach	Current Intensity	Trends Over Time	Ecological Concerns	User Conflict Concerns
Use:	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>

26. Shore Use (e.g. sun-bathing, walking, camping, games, picnics)

	Management Approach	Current Intensity	Trends Over Time	Ecological Concerns	User Conflict Concerns
Use:	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>

27. Other Local Use Not Listed Above (please specify in the box below)

	Management Approach	Current Intensity	Trends Over Time	Ecological Concerns	User Conflict Concerns
Use:	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>

Other (please specify)

IV. POTENTIAL IMPACTS (+/-) OF OCEAN RECREATION IN YOUR MPA

This section provides an opportunity to address the potential benefits and risks of ocean recreation, seen as a whole, for your MPA's ecosystems, human uses, and coastal community.

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28. ECOSYSTEM IMPACTS - Please provide your management perspective on the potential for all current or emerging recreational uses of your MPA to adversely impact the ecosystems and natural or cultural resources protected by your site.

	Negligible Risk or N/A	Moderate Risk	Significant Risk
Populations of ecologically, economically, or culturally important species	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Protected species	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Invasive species introduction or spread	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Natural animal behaviors	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Ecologically important interactions among species	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Trophic structure and dynamics	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Habitat structure, distribution and quality	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Ecological assemblages and communities	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Water quality	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Other (specify in box below)	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Other (please specify)	<input type="text"/>		

29. HUMAN IMPACTS - Please provide your management perspective on the potential for all current or emerging recreational uses of your MPA to have adverse impacts within or among various user groups and stakeholders.

	Negligible Risk or N/A	Moderate Risk	Significant Risk
Direct interference within a single type of use (e.g. crowding among surfers)	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Direct interference between competing uses (e.g. collisions of boats and swimmers)	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Indirect conflicts among uses via ecosystem alteration (e.g. resource harvesting vs. nature photography)	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Pre-emptive occupation of areas by a use with dedicated infrastructure or special use zones	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Aesthetic impairment (e.g. view-sheds or biodiversity loss)	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Cultural impacts (e.g. compromising historic resources or ceremonial sites)	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Displacement of traditional user groups	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Other (specific in box below)	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Other (please specify)	<input type="text"/>		

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30. ECONOMIC BENEFITS -- Please characterize the qualitative economic benefit of recreational activities as a whole within your MPA. For each sector of the coastal economy, please indicate: (i) the degree to which that sector may benefit from MPA recreation; and, (ii) the basis for your perspective (e.g. based on quantitative data vs. observation). Recognizing the scarcity of such data, please rely on your professional judgement and experience where necessary in responding to this question.

	Scale of Benefit to Sector	Basis for Your Perspective
Marine Equipment (e.g. boats, motors, parts)	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>
Fishing Gear (e.g. bait, tackle)	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>
Dive Gear (e.g. equipment, air, lessons)	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>
Kayaks/Canoes (e.g. boats, paddles, clothing)	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>
Outdoor Outfitters (e.g. general equipment, clothing, maps)	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>
Charters/Guides (e.g. fishing, wildlife viewing, water sports)	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>
Marinas (e.g. dock and slip fees, fuel, repairs)	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>
Food (e.g. restaurants, grocery stores, bars)	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>
Lodging (e.g. hotels, rentals)	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>
Transportation (e.g. ferries, gas, parking, shuttles, buses, taxis)	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>
Entertainment (e.g. movies, shows, festivals)	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>
Other (please specify below)	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>
Other (please specify)	<input type="text"/>	

V. Visitor Use Management in Your MPA

This section asks for your overall perspective as a practitioner about the management of recreational uses occurring in your MPA.

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31. OVERALL TREND IN RECREATIONAL USE - From your perspective, how has the overall intensity and diversity of recreational uses in your MPA changed over the past decade?

- Increased a lot
- Increased somewhat
- Stable
- Decreased somewhat
- Decreased a lot
- Don't know

Comments

32. COMPATIBILITY -- How does your MPA determine whether a specific local recreational use is compatible with the site's purposes and objectives? (Select all that apply)

- N/A - all recreational uses are considered compatible and are allowed
- Site conducts its own independent, site-specific compatibility determination for each local use
- Site applies pre-existing program-wide compatibility determinations to each local use
- Site interprets broad statutory goals, mandates and policies for each local use
- Site considers input from public advisory group(s) on the local use
- Other (please specify)

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33. VISITOR USE MANAGEMENT MEASURES -- Please indicate what measures your MPA uses to manage, regulate or otherwise influence visitor use in the site? (Select all that apply)

- Controlled access points (e.g. boat ramps, parking lots) and/or permits
- Agency-led surveillance, compliance and enforcement programs
- Citizen-involved surveillance and compliance programs
- Onsite education and outreach materials
- Onsite docents
- Onsite signage
- Web-based visitor information
- Mobile apps to inform visitors
- Other (please specify)

34. USER ORIGINS -- In general, how far away do your users live? Estimate the percentage of visitors coming to your MPA from each distance. Please enter only numbers and not the "%" sign in the answer boxes, and check to confirm that your numbers add up to 100.

Within 50 miles	<input type="text"/>
Between 51-100 miles	<input type="text"/>
Between 101-500 miles	<input type="text"/>
Greater than 500 miles	<input type="text"/>
International	<input type="text"/>
Don't know	<input type="text"/>

35. USER AFFILIATIONS -- In general, who are the recreational users of your MPA? Estimate the percent of visitors in each group. Please enter only numbers and not the "%" sign in the answer boxes, and check to confirm that your numbers add up to 100.

Individual users (e.g. a solitary surfer)	<input type="text"/>
Organized user groups (e.g. clubs, teams, schools)	<input type="text"/>
Charters or guided visits (i.e. whale watching or fishing)	<input type="text"/>
Tribes or other indigenous groups	<input type="text"/>
Other known groups (please specify in box below)	<input type="text"/>
Don't know	<input type="text"/>

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36. MANAGEMENT PRIORITIES -- Please indicate your top 5 (five) priorities for enhancing your site's capacity to effectively manage current or emerging recreational uses in today's resource-limited world. (Please select only 5 options; their order is not important).

- Understanding local patterns and drivers of current and emerging recreational uses
- Determining ecologically sustainable thresholds for recreational uses
- Minimizing conflicts among ocean uses
- Determining which recreational uses are compatible with site objectives
- Management plans and authorities that specifically address the risks of recreational uses
- Collecting and retaining user fees for recreational access and use
- Educating visitors about sustainable recreational activities
- Ensuring compliance through monitoring, surveillance and enforcement of uses
- Training for MPA staff in visitor use management
- Public-private partnerships to foster sustainable recreation and tourism in your MPA

VI. CONCLUSION

37. OCEAN RECREATION -- Please feel free to share any other thoughts, concerns or observations you have about the implications of recreational uses in your Marine Protected Area.

38. FUTURE ENGAGEMENT -- Would you be interested in participating in other MPA Center activities designed to enhance the effectiveness of all US MPAs, whether or not they are members of the National System of MPAs? (Please select all that apply).

- Webinars on timely, cross-cutting MPA topics
- Blogs about emerging MPA and ocean conservation issues
- Learning networks among MPA practitioners
- Developing best management practices for timely issues
- Additional surveys exploring emerging opportunities and challenges facing US MPAs today
- Other (please specify)

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39. If your site is a member of the National System of MPAs, please let us know how the System and the MPA Center could be most helpful to your MPA. If your MPA is not yet a member, please let us know if you would like more information about becoming part of the National System of MPAs.