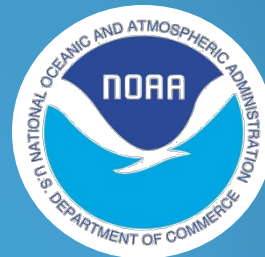
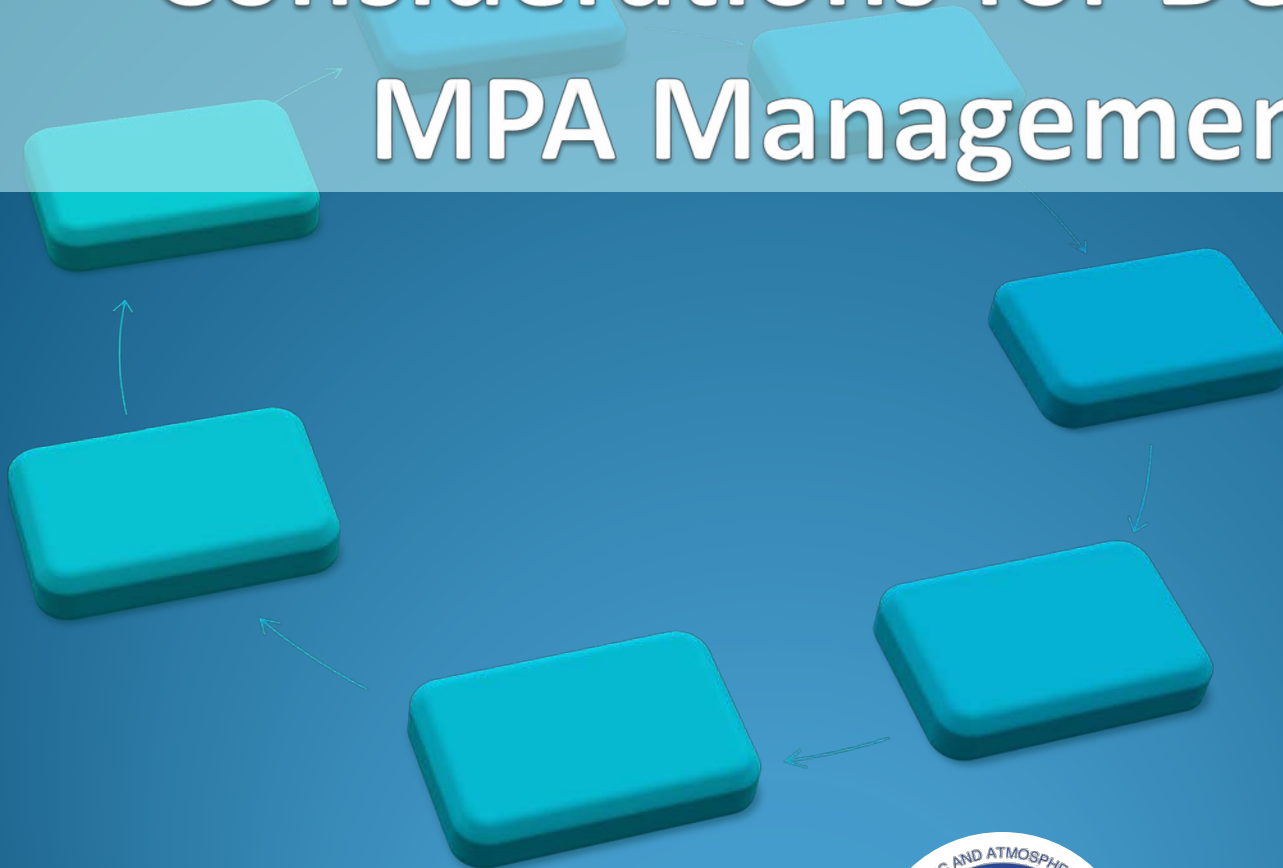
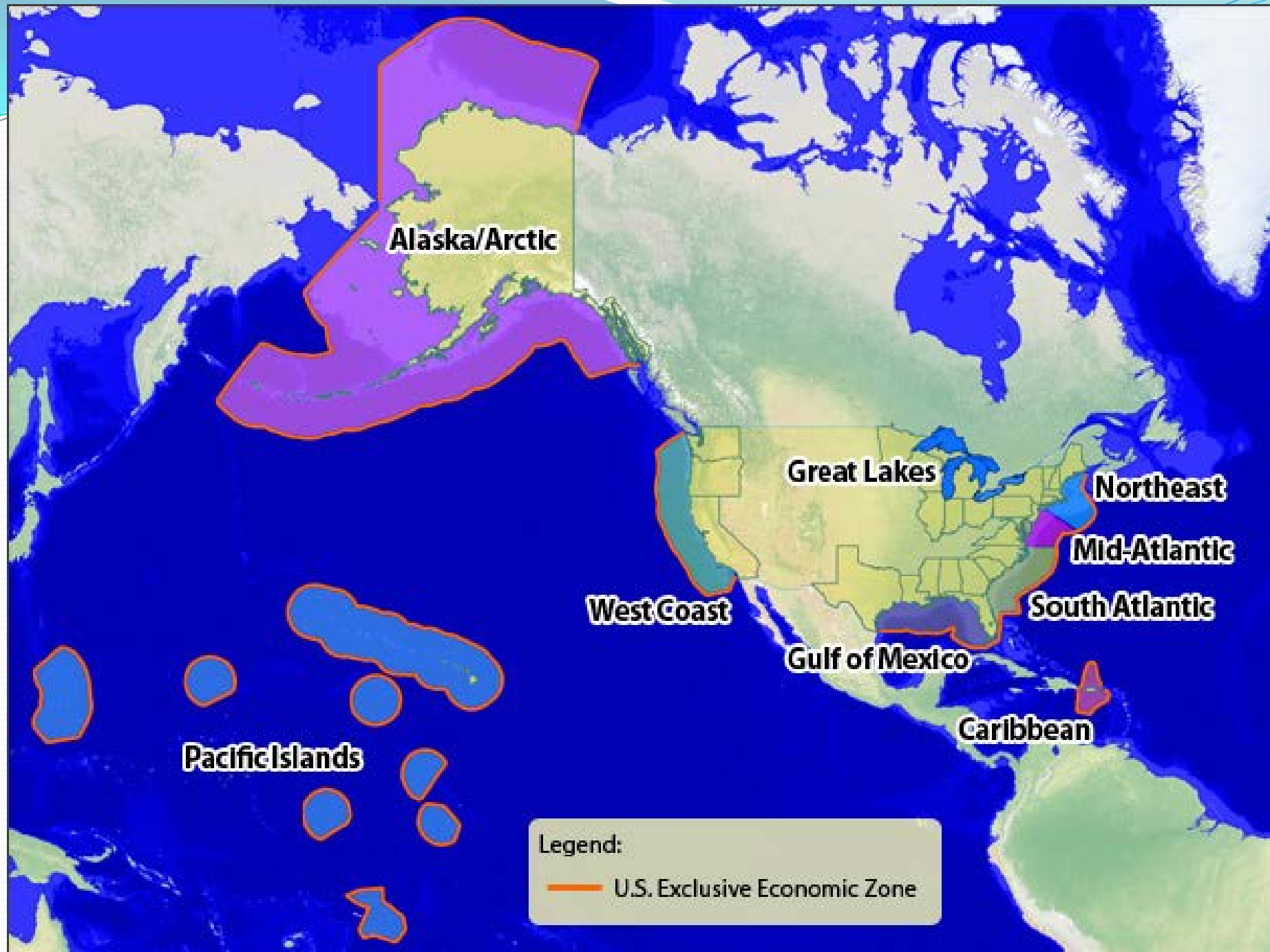


# Considerations for Designing MPA Management Plans



Dr. Gonzalo Cid  
NOAA-National Ocean Service  
International Program Office  
La Coruña, June 2012





Northeast and  
Great Lakes  
Region

Stellwagen Bank NMS

Thunder Bay NMS  
and Underwater Preserve

MONITOR NMS

Southeast, Gulf of  
Mexico and  
Caribbean Region

Florida Keys NMS

Gray's Reef NMS

Flower  
Garden  
Banks  
NMS

West  
Coast  
Region

Olympic Coast NMS

Cordell Bank NMS

Gulf of the Farallones NMS

Monterey Bay NMS

Channel Islands NMS

Pacific  
Islands  
Region

Papahānaumokuākea  
Marine National  
Monument

Hawaiian Islands  
Humpback Whale  
NMS

# National System of Marine Sanctuaries



Fagatele Bay NMS/Rose Atoll MNM

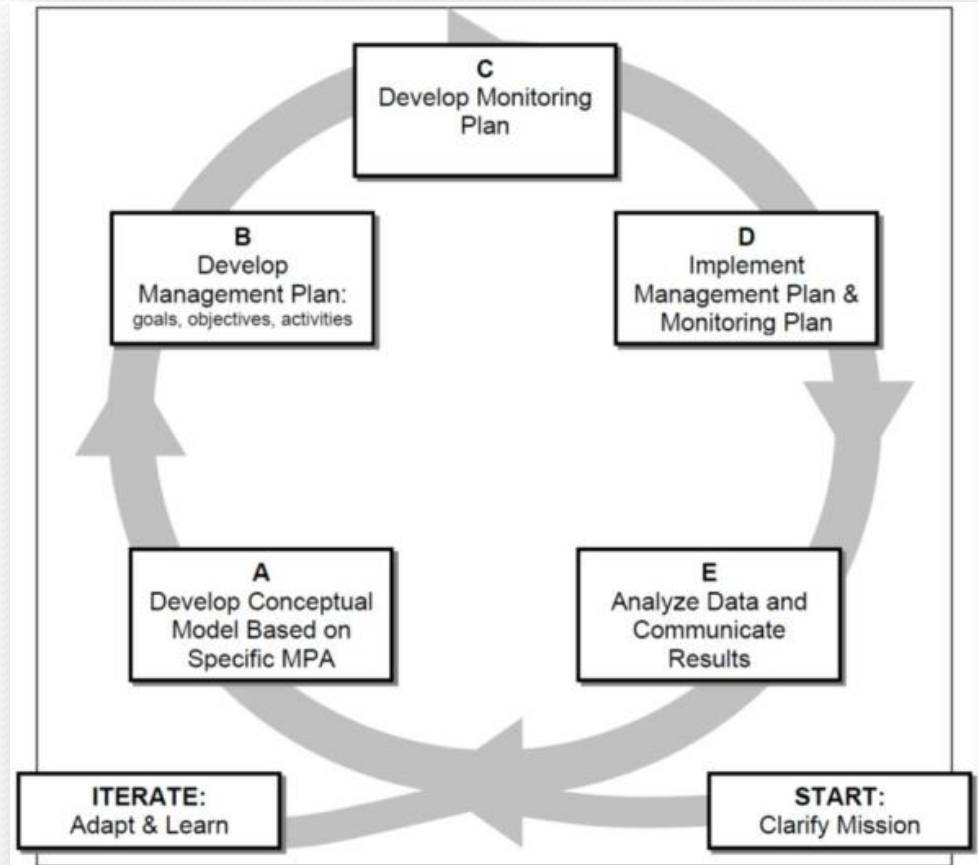
# Evolution of MPA Planning

Topic	From	To
<b>Objectives</b>	All about conservation (wildlife and scenic protection)	Social and economic objectives (including scientific, cultural, and restoration purposes)
<b>Governance</b>	Centralized management	Partners and stakeholder involvement
<b>Stakeholders</b>	Management without local people's involvement	Local people's participation (objectives and management)
<b>Planning</b>	Individual units of management	Part of national, regional, and international systems
<b>Perception</b>	National interest only	Community and international interest
<b>Management</b>	Short-term and technocratic	Adaptive long-term with social, political, and economic considerations
<b>Finance</b>	Tax-based central funding	Different sources of funding
<b>Skills</b>	Experts and natural scientist	Multidisciplinary perspective and local knowledge

# MPA Management Plans

“MPA Management planning is a process – not an event.

It does not end with the production of the **plan**, but continues through its implementation and beyond.”





# **Management Plans**

## **U.S. National Marine Sanctuaries**

Management plans are site-specific documents that NOAA-ONMS uses to manage individual sanctuaries.

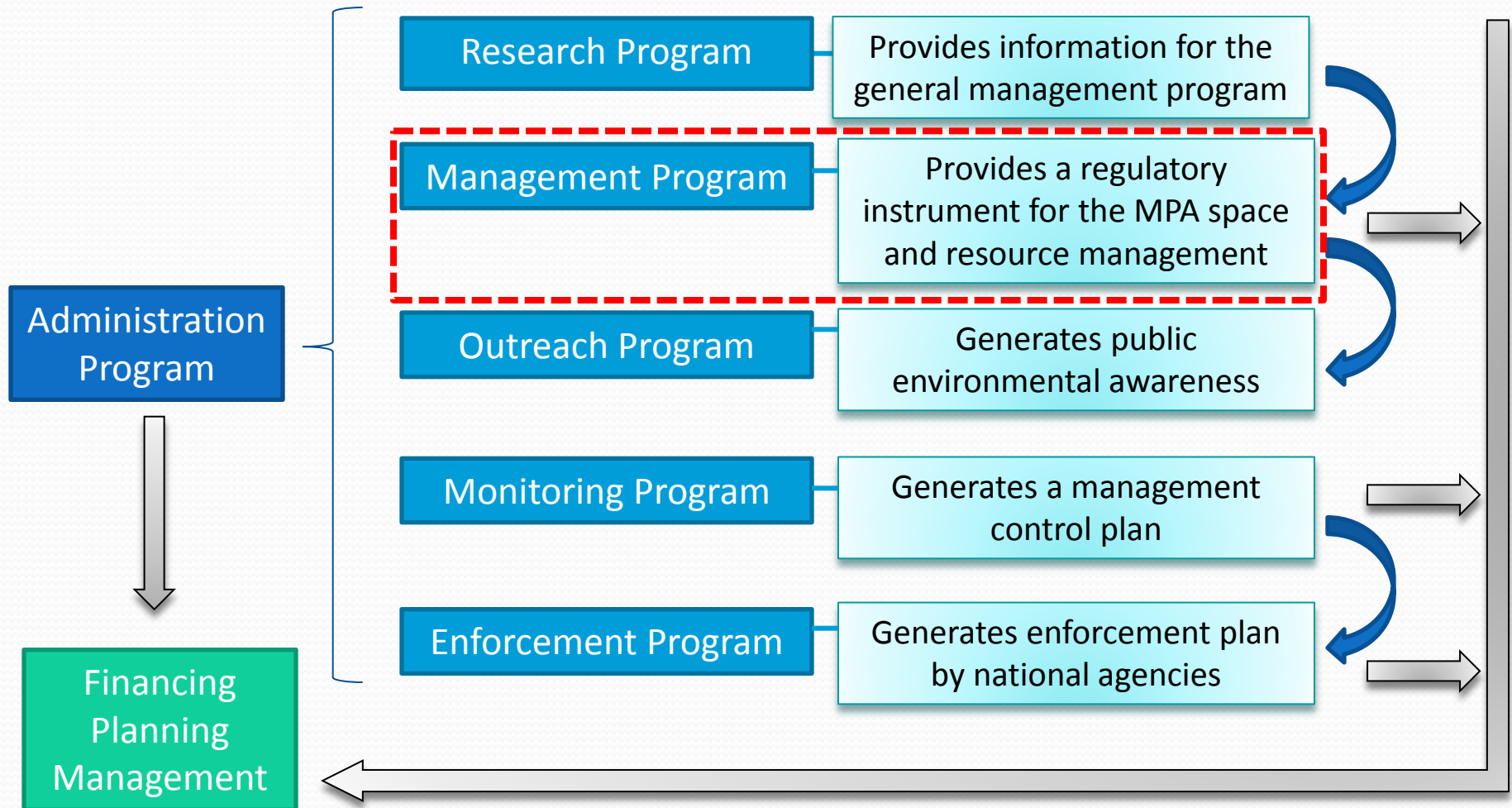
### **Management plans:**

- Articulate visions, goals, objectives, and priorities for an individual sanctuary;
- Summarize existing programs and regulations;
- Guide preparation of annual operating plans;
- Guide management decision making;
- Ensure public involvement in management processes; and
- Contribute to attaining national system goals and objectives



# MPA General Management Plan

Model proposed for new Chilean MPAs and Marine Resources Reserves



# Planning Scales

- Site Level (Individual MPAs)
- Regional Level (State, Provincial)
- Network Level (e.g., Gulf of Mexico, Caribbean, South-east Pacific, Pacific North America, etc.)



Source: Becky Stamski / SIMoN NOAA /



Source: Commission for Environmental Cooperation (CEC)



# Planning Scales

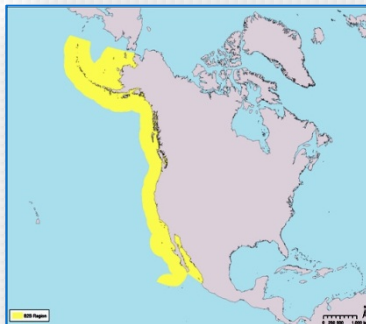


Source: Becky Stamski / SIMoN NOAA /

- Site-specific issues and prioritize them
- Engage community
- Detailed management strategies and actions
- Updated periodically



- Multiple sites
- Common concern site issues
- Multiple communities and stakeholders



Source: Commission for Environmental Cooperation (CEC)

- Focuses on planning frameworks
- Broad goals and objectives
- Multiple communities and stakeholders
- Multiple jurisdictions

# Type of Planning Documents

General	Strategic
<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Broad Framework</li><li>• Outline programmatic areas &amp; administrative structure</li></ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• More specific</li><li>• Built around meeting objectives (e.g., conservation)</li></ul>
Subject	Programmatic
<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• One or a limited number of subjects</li><li>• Different scales (from site to network)</li><li>• Limit scope of stakeholder involvement</li></ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Outline programmatic areas</li><li>• Builds activities around education, research, enforcement, and other programs</li><li>• Programs can be used to address protections of species and/or habitats</li><li>• Programs can be used to address issues</li></ul>

# Example of Associated Plans

Management  
Plan



**Operational/ Work/ Action/ Implementation Plans** (1-5 years)

**Corporate Plans** (e.g., services for recreation, landscape)

**Business Plans** (help financing MPAs)

**Zoning Plans** (e.g., zones w/different types of management)

**Sectoral Plans** (e.g., management of specific activities)

**Development Plans** (e.g., investment in infrastructure)

**Site Management Plans** (e.g., for an specific attraction)

**Conservation Plans** (usually for heritage conservation)

# Key Aspects to Consider

## Stakeholder participation

- Planning (e.g., advisory councils)
- Science (validation)
- Communication (inform—should be parts of the MP)
- Evaluation (promote participation)
- MPA benefits
- Selective participation



# Stakeholder Participation in MPA Science

1. The solving of contentious problems requires information that is accepted by a wide range of interests
2. While scientists focus on technical aspects of problem-solving, social concerns are used to invalidate results
3. Research that is inclusive - “Research by Champion” or “Team of Rivals” approach - produces information that is prone to acceptance (high social power)





# Key Aspects to Consider

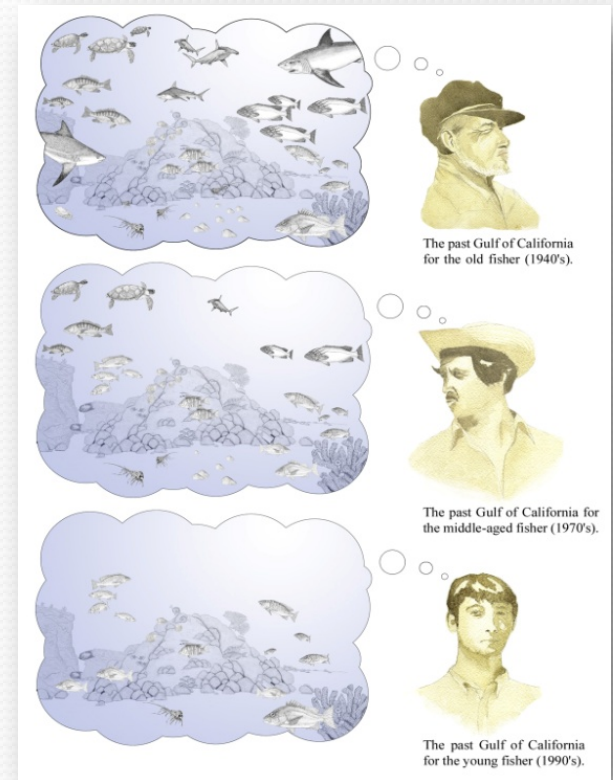
- Goals and objectives
- Evaluation
- MPAs are part of a network or larger system
- Consistent with national/regional policies
- Implementation & Financing





# Defining Goals & Objectives

- Objectives must be SMART (specific, measurable, achievable, realistic, time-restricted) and reflect both the specific needs of an MPA network and the objectives of component MPAs.
- Clear goals and objectives help guide management decisions and track progress and performance of MPA and MPA networks.
- All objectives should be determined through an open, transparent and balanced dialogue.



*E.g., shifting baseline and reset expectations (need to set historically appropriate objectives and accommodate spatial and temporal variations)*

# Characteristics of a Good Management Plan

Sources: Clarke & Mount (1998) ; NOAA MPA Capacity Building Program

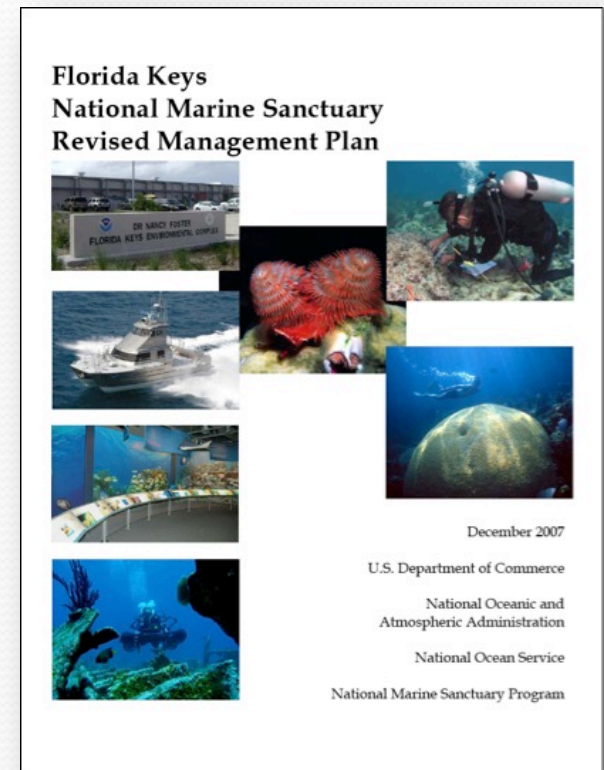
- **CLEAR**: easy to read, jargon-free, and well presented
- **CONCISE & COMPREHENSIVE**: no longer than absolutely necessary, but with enough information to fulfill its functions
- **ACCURATE**: without major errors, and the reasons for all judgments explained or justified



# Characteristics of a Good Management Plan

Source: NOAA-ONMS / International MPA Capacity Building Program

- **LOGICAL**: based on thorough site assessment, clear rational for all objectives and activities
- **ACCEPTIBLE**: to all those with interests in the site, within reason
- **PRACTICAL**: with clear objectives and realistic methods for achieving them, resulting in desired outcomes that can be monitored
- **FOCUSED**: fulfilling its purpose as a tool for site management, meeting the needs of its users and satisfying all legal or other obligations



# Characteristics of a Good Management Plan

Source: NOAA-ONMS / International MPA Capacity Building Program

Also:

- **Flexible** (allow changes during lifetime – with restrictions and controls)
- **Simple** (to allow change or evolution)
- **Easy to understand** by different audiences (writing the plan is a skill)

# Putting the Pieces Together

## *MPA Management Plan*

### Upfront Information

Introduction

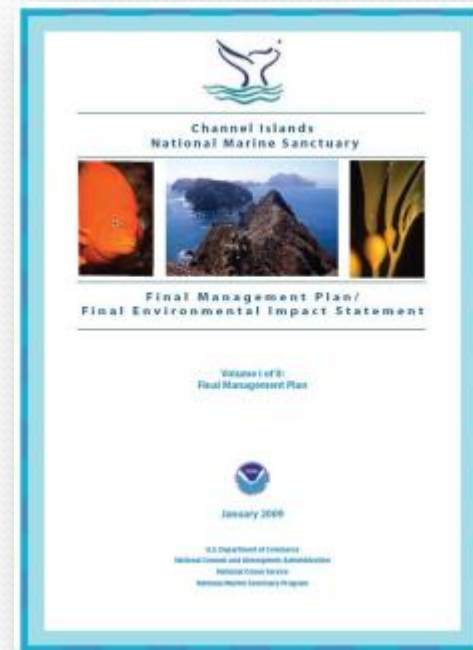
Rationale

Description of the area

Target resources

Issues and/or threats

Key stakeholders



# Putting the Pieces Together

## Body of the Management Plan

Vision

Mission statement

**Goals & Objectives**

Actions

Performance Indicators

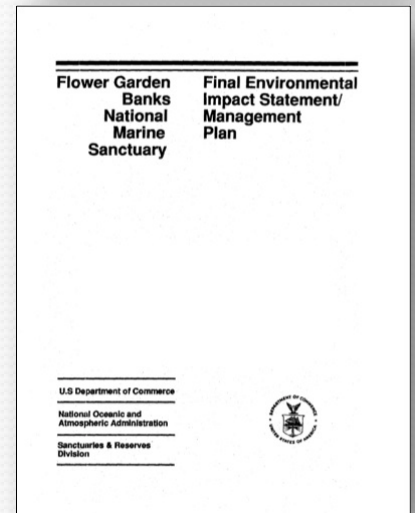
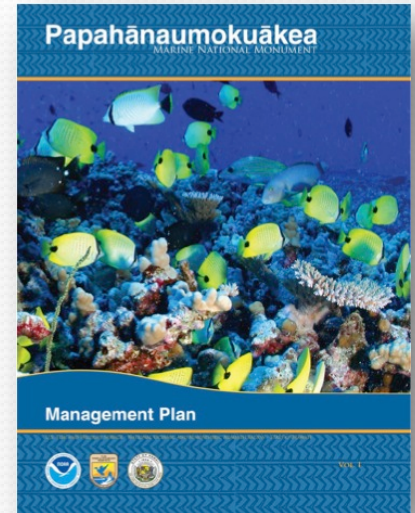
Implementation Plan

Zones

Regulations

Adaptive Management Measures

Optional Management Components





# Putting the Pieces Together

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Administration      Management Body

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Staffing

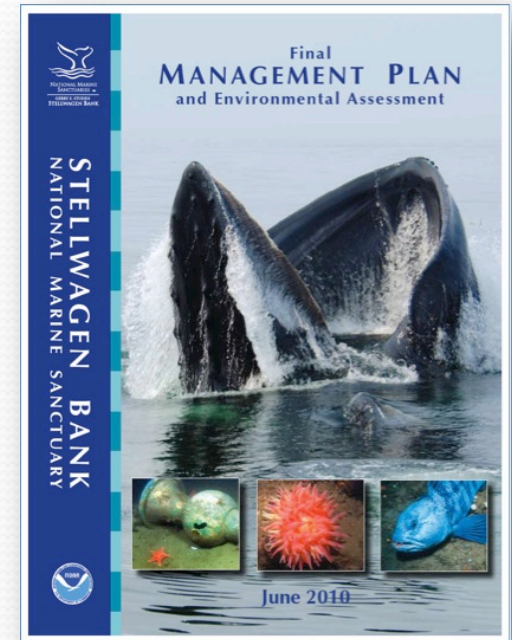
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Operations

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Sustainable Financing Plan

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# Putting the Pieces Together

Additional  
Information  
and/or  
Appendixes

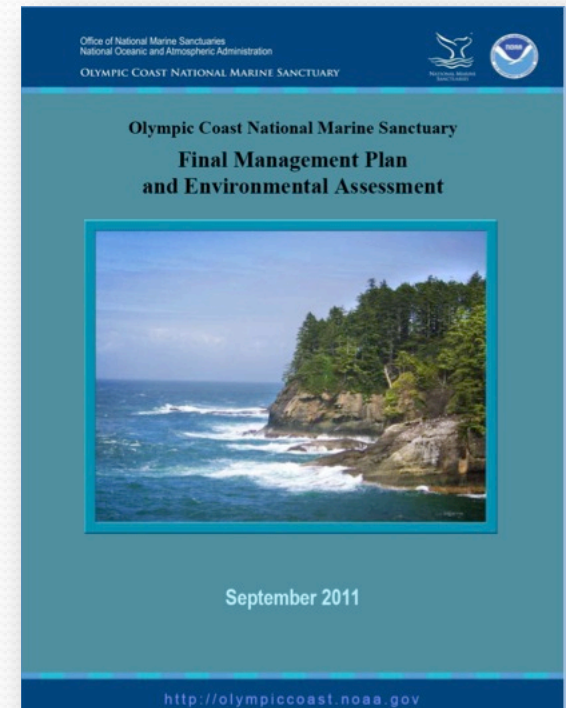
Boundaries

Maps

Habitats Classifications

Species Inventories

Legal Language



# Work Plan

- **1-year Work Plan**
- **5-year Work Plan**

Prioritize and assign roles and responsibilities for completing the management plan process



# Thank you

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<http://oceanservice.noaa.gov/>