

The National Marine Protected Areas Center's Science Institute

Mission of the National Marine Protected Areas Center

The National Marine Protected Areas Center's mission is to facilitate the effective use of science, technology, training, and information in the planning, management, and evaluation of the nation's system of marine protected areas.

To this end, the Center works closely with states, territories, regions, tribal trustees, and other stakeholders to improve understanding of marine protected areas (MPAs) in order to protect significant coastal marine resources for present and future generations.



Sea lions in Monterey, California. NOAA Photo Library

The Role of the Science Institute

The Science Institute, with offices in Santa Cruz and Monterey, California, supports the design and effective management of MPAs by developing partnerships with individuals and organizations to fulfill the key scientific, technical and policy assessment needs of MPAs nationwide.

The Science Institute provides a bridge between the science community and the policy arena of MPAs by providing access to information and opportunities to participate in the national dialogue on MPAs. Examples of current Science Institute approaches and priorities include:

- * Expert workshops focused on high priority themes in MPA design and management
- * National and regional research strategies to help focus natural and social science on pressing MPA information needs
- * Analysis of policy, socioeconomic, and resource use issues affecting MPAs
- * Development of practical methods to evaluate effectiveness in MPAs
- * Targeted research on ecological processes vital to successful MPA conservation

Partners

The Science Institute actively seeks to develop collaborative relationships with marine institutions, universities, stakeholder groups, public aquaria, and others. In order to catalyze, support, and coordinate MPA science and policy analysis throughout the country, the Science Institute is developing a strong network of governmental and non-governmental MPA experts from around the world.

For additional information, visit www.mpa.gov or contact:

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