

NATIONAL MARINE PROTECTED AREAS CENTER VIRTUAL LIBRARY

ABOUT THE LIBRARY

A major feature of the U.S. Marine Protected Areas website is the virtual library, which contains more than 2,000 records and is constantly expanding. Easily accessible from mpa.gov's Helpful Resources page, or accessible directly at: http://www3.mpa.gov/mpa_lib/virtual_library.aspx, the library provides information, facilitates partnerships, identifies key needs and challenges, and encourages public participation in the design, implementation, and evaluation of MPAs throughout the United States.

The MPA Library serves researchers, scientists, resource managers, policy makers, educators, other stakeholders, and the general public. Resources include citations to books, reports, articles and conference proceedings, many with links to full-text. Resources also include links to MPA-related websites, conferences, institutions and organizations, and more.

OUR COLLECTIONS

The library includes four main collections:

- **Bibliography:** Citations and links to articles, books, manuals, research papers, reports, and proceedings on marine protected areas.
- **Institutions and Organizations:** Information about and links to Federal/national, State, multi-state, academic and research, nongovernmental, and international organizations involved in MPA research, analysis, and management.
- **MPA Websites:** Websites or web pages relevant to marine protected areas including bibliographies, online discussion tools, multimedia resources, online newsletters or journals, and research projects.
- **Conferences and Workshops:** Conferences and workshops focusing on the management and science of MPAs.

USEFUL FEATURES

Some useful features of the MPA Library database include:

- Comprehensive, searchable database of MPA literature
- Full-text reports and documents generated by the MPA Center
- Keywords list to facilitate choice of search terms
- Increased availability of links to online full-text documents
- Theme bins for browsing by MPA sub-topics
- Access to international information on MPAs

HOW WE GATHER RESOURCES

Scientists, policy developers, program managers and others involved in MPA planning and research may forward citation suggestions to the MPA Library. Other resources are added based on searches of bibliographic databases and online catalogs, periodic Internet searches, and relevant listservs and online news sources. Each resource added to the MPA Library is reviewed for authority, currency, accuracy, intended audience, and pertinent subject matter. The MPA Library welcomes recommendations for additions. Send your comments to mpalibrary@noaa.gov.

FOR MORE INFORMATION:

Contact Chris.Belter@noaa.gov

NOAA's National Marine Protected Areas (MPA) 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. The MPA Center works in partnership with federal, state, tribal, and local governments and stakeholders to develop a science-based, comprehensive national system of MPAs. These collaborative efforts will lead to a more efficient, effective use of MPAs now and in the future to conserve and sustain the nation's vital marine resources.

