

# Course Announcement: How is Your MPA Managed?

## *A Training in MPA Management Planning*

**An Interactive Training Workshop  
March 16-20, 2015**

### **BACKGROUND**

A key outcome of the 2002 World Summit on Sustainable Development was the commitment to establish “. . . marine protected areas consistent with international law and based on scientific information, including representative networks by 2012”. The challenge of establishing a representative system of marine protected areas (MPAs) is surpassed by the challenge that they are managed effectively over time.

Marine protected areas are established for a wide range of purposes, including protecting marine species and habitats, conserving marine biodiversity, restoring fishery stocks, managing tourism activities and minimizing conflicts between user groups. To achieve these goals, specific and measurable objectives must be defined in terms of outputs and outcomes. This in turn requires that well-defined management plans be developed, measures of MPA success be identified, impacts of management actions be monitored and evaluated, and that results of these activities be fed back into the planning process to revise objectives, plans and outcomes.

### **NEED FOR GUIDANCE ON MPA MANAGEMENT PLANS**

Pervasive throughout the global MPA community, in both developed and developing countries, is a pattern of lack of: defined authority for managing MPAs; clearly articulated goals and objectives; established criteria for prioritizing issues; realistic and effective strategies to address resource management issues; integrated monitoring and evaluation programs; and, adaptive management frameworks.

Experience has shown that many MPAs lack even a basic or generalized strategic or topical management plan. In cases where sites do have plans, clearly articulated goals and specific, measurable objectives often are not present. This may be a result of the fact that many MPA sites lack the capacity for providing a leadership role in management plan development. The *“How is Your MPA Managed?”* training serves as a companion piece to *“How is Your MPA Doing?”*, and provides a practical, step-by-step, interactive and participatory process for leading MPA managers and staff, and their community of

stakeholders, through the management plan process from site characterization to budgets, timelines and implementation plans. Performance indicators are an integral component of any management plan, however, as a stand-alone, performance indicators serve no practical purpose, and thus, we must build strong and effective management plans around them.

### **TRAINING WORKSHOP**

*How is Your MPA Managed?* training workshop is designed to bring together MPA practitioners working within a similar bioregion to share their experience of developing management frameworks for their sites. The purpose of the training workshop is to share lessons learned between MPAs on what’s working on what is not, both in terms of the process for developing MPA management plans, and successful implementation. The training also provides an opportunity to learn from an internationally recognized standard for the management plan development process. By understanding and exercising each process step, each training participant will have an opportunity to identify the strengths and weaknesses of their plans. Through interactive engagement between MPA sites, the training is structured to allow ample time for peer review and input at key stages of the management plan development process. With knowledge of this process and the valuable input from colleagues, managers would return home with a work plan (implementation plan) to develop or complete a management plan for each of their sites.

### **Objectives for Training Workshop:**

- To bring together MPA practitioners to evaluate their own planning processes, exchange knowledge and lessons learned with other MPA practitioners;
- To learn and understand the critical steps of an effective planning process and evaluate their own plan against these standards, and receive peer review to identify strengths and weaknesses of their plan;
- To gain an in-depth understanding of different planning processes and their practical application,



and become familiar with a range of planning and decision making tools;

- To ensure that each MPA practitioner leaves the training with a fluency and comfort in moving forward with the management plan development process;
- To develop on-going support and follow-up program to ensure knowledge and skills gained through the training are implemented at the field level.
- To encourage the sharing of management planning experiences, knowledge, and skills among participating MPA practitioners during and after the workshop.

### **Training Program Logistics**

The *How is Your MPA Managed?* training workshop will be a 5-day program, held in Portofino, Italy. Applicants will be asked to commit to the entire duration of the training program in order to receive maximum benefit. The training program and all material will be presented in English.

### **Training Participants**

Participation in the workshop is open to coastal and marine resource managers, and those from associated fields interested in the planning process. The training is targeting planners and key staff who have roles in both the development and implementation of site-based management plans.

### **Training Program Structure**

The *How is Your MPA Managed?* training workshop is by design primarily participatory, interactive and based on teamwork. Participants will engage in sharing case studies and lessons learned; give presentations; and work together on both group and individual projects and problem solving exercises. All participants will establish a relationship with their "team" of other participants. At the end of the training workshop, the team will design a communication plan to maintain their "social network", and as a support system for implementing their individual implementation contract agreements developed during the training.

The training will be held straight through the five days. Full participation is required as each day a different topical area will be covered. No homework is required, although you will be required to prepare certain documents and presentations before arrival. Evenings and a lunch break will be left open, although optional related activities will be offered such as field trips, videos, and discussion groups.

### **Curriculum**

Curriculum for the *How is Your MPA Managed?* Training workshop will be specifically tailored to walk each participant through the management planning process. Training modules will include detailed daily working agendas; a training manual including curriculum, exercises and handouts; and, accompanying powerpoint presentations keyed to the training manual. Case studies will be used to illustrate key points, and to the extent possible, local or regional examples used. Additionally, the training manual is intended to be a field resource for the participants when they return to their respective work or research responsibilities, and thus contain more information than is actually covered during the training. Content for the training will include:

**DAY 1: Pre-Planning Process** - *Defining the legal framework; MPA planning methodologies; building; defining the future state; engaging stakeholders*

**DAY 2: Front End Assessment** - *Identifying targets; threat identification analysis, and prioritization; developing management objectives*

**DAY 3: Impact Assessment** - *Impact assessments, sensitivity analysis, cumulative impacts on target resources*

**DAY 4: The Planning Process** - *Developing management strategies; strategy analysis; stakeholder impact analysis; pulling the pieces into a model; planning tools*

**DAY 5: Zoning as a Management Tool** - *Using zones to address areas of conflict and incompatibilities; designing networks of marine reserves to achieve specific results such as fisheries replenishment and building climate change resilience.*

**For more information or to apply for the "How is Your MPA Managed?" training workshop, please visit:**

<http://www.mmmpa.eu/trainingNOAA.asp>

This training workshop is organized within the European project

**Training Network for Monitoring  
Mediterranean Marine Protected Areas  
(MMMPA)**

