

## THE MARINE PROTECTED AREAS VIRTUAL LIBRARY

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**ABSTRACT:** Marine Protected Areas in the United States had their regulatory inception with the promulgation of Executive Order 13158. NOAA was directed in that order to establish a National Marine Protected Area Center to provide federal and non-federal partners with the following foundation:

- Science behind MPAs
- Tools for assessment of economic impact and effectiveness of MPAs
- Strategies for enforcement of MPAs

Current, reliable information and a means of sharing that information are vital tools to building a national system of MPAs. The NMPA Center sought the assistance of NOAA's Central Library professional staff in 2000 to coordinate several types of MPA information resources. The MPA "virtual" library on the Center's web page ([http://mpa.gov/mpaservices/mpa\\_library.html](http://mpa.gov/mpaservices/mpa_library.html)) is a focal point for all types of MPA information. The content is organized by the following resources:

- Bibliography- citations to articles, books, manuals, research papers, reports, and proceedings on MPAs.
- Institutions and Organizations - list of governmental and nongovernmental entities involved in research, analysis, and management of MPAs.
- MPA Web Sites – list of web sites describing MPA programs, policy, and research.
- Conferences and Workshops- meetings that focus on the management and science of MPAs.

Each collection may be browsed separately, or the entire collection may be searched using the MPA Library Search.