

ALASKA BOARD OF FISHERIES
CHARGE TO COMMITTEE:
MARINE PROTECTED AREAS
2001-207-FB

The Board of Fisheries' authority for marine protected areas (MPAs) is found in AS 16.05.251(a)(1): setting apart fish reserve areas, refuges, and sanctuaries, in waters of the state over which it has jurisdiction, subject to approval of the legislature;..." Within this charge, "marine protected areas" is meant to generally describe these areas. The board and department seek to develop a process by which marine protected areas might be established and evaluated, including coordination with other agencies and other organizations.

The department is beginning a process to organize its approach to MPAs. A multi-divisional committee will inventory the current protected areas, no-take zones, etc. in Alaska; perform literature searches; review other programs; outline how to coordinate current efforts with other jurisdictions such as Western Association of Fish and Wildlife Agencies, National Marine Fisheries Service, North Pacific Fishery Management Council; define use of MPAs as a management tool; identify criteria under which MPAs will be established and evaluated; define terms, etc.

For the current meeting cycle (2001/2002), the board included in its Call for Proposals an opportunity for the public to submit proposals concerning MPAs, and received three proposals. In order to coordinate with state (and national) programs and initiatives, the board shall appoint a committee to design a process that the board may utilize for evaluating MPAs, including opportunities to involve the public. It is important to include the Department of Law to clarify the authority the board has in this area.

The committee shall consist of: Ed Dersham, Grant Miller, and Dr. John White. Staff will include the Deputy Commissioner, the Executive Director, and the Interjurisdictional Coordinator, and an Assistant Attorney General. The committee shall report to the full board in March 2002.

The calendar of events is as follows:

NOVEMBER 2001 – February 2002

Department committee meets to continue its work
Board MPA Committee is formed

JANUARY 2002

Joint BOF/NPFMC Protocol Committee meets and identifies coordination issues

FEBRUARY 2002

A white paper is provided to the board (and public) describing:

Progress of department committee

Recommendations on a board process for establishing an MPA

MARCH 2002

Board MPA Committee brings recommendation for process to full board
Board reviews white paper and decides on its process and timeline

Adopted: Nov 12, 2001
Anchorage, Alaska



Ed Dersham, Chair

Vote: 7-0