



THE EAST ASIAN SEAS CONGRESS



## Charting a New Decade of Healthy Oceans, People and Economies

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### Collab 9

## Marine Protected Area Management and Networking: Experiences and Opportunities for Collaboration in East Asia

13 - 14 October 2021, 8:00 aM - 11:00 AM (GMT+7)  
Online via Zoom

### ORGANIZERS:



China-PEMSEA Sustainable  
Coastal Management  
Cooperation Center



Natural Resources Defense  
Council



First Institute of Oceanography,  
Ministry of Natural Resources



North-East Asian  
Subregional Programme for  
Environmental Cooperation



Partnerships in  
Environmental Management  
for the Seas of East Asia  
Resource Facility

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### PROCEEDINGS

#### 1. INTRODUCTION

Supported by the Natural Resources Defense Council (NRDC), the North-East Asian Subregional Programme for Environmental Cooperation (NEASPEC), and PEMSEA, CPC-led a workshop themed “MPA Management and networking: experiences and opportunities for collaboration in East Asia”, conducted on 13-14 October 2021 via a blended online and face-to-face meeting for the local attendees in Penglai District of Yantai City, Shandong Province.

Over one hundred participants from a) 22 Chinese ICM demonstration sites; b) related research institutes, namely the First Institute of Oceanography, MNR, Ocean University of China, and Xiamen University; c) NOAA, NRDC, KOEM, Philippines, NGOs, and local ocean and fisheries government of coastal areas as invited speakers; d) NGOs of NRDC, CI, WWF, China Blue Sustainability Institute, Society of Entrepreneurs and Ecology Beijing, and QINGDAO QINNENG New Energy & Environmental Protection Technology Company. LTD; and e) other international cooperation programs/platforms and marine agencies attended the workshop online and onsite.

The workshop was chaired by Ms. Yue Yao, the project manager of the conservation project of NRDC China on the 13th session and Dr. Zhaohui Zhang, CPC Deputy Director on the 14th session.

#### 2. OPENING REMARKS

**Ms. Yue Yao** of NRDC China opened the workshop at 9:00 am GMT+8, October 13, introducing its background, objectives, expected outcomes, and agenda.

**Ms. Mona Yew** (Deputy Director, NRDC China) and **Dr. Sangmin Nam** (Deputy director, ESCAP East and North-East Asia Office) delivered welcoming remarks, briefed NRDC, an international nonprofit environmental organization with more than 3 million members and online supporters and NEAMPAN, established in 2013 with the aim to build a social and human network among MPAs as well as to share experience and challenges in managing MPAs in the subregion. They both highlighted the important role of MPA in the conservation of marine diversity and the significance of MPA networking for mutual learning.

Ms. Yew stated that NRDC has rich experience in protecting the ocean. Their team has assisted in the protection of deep-sea fish and underwater corals in the Northeast of the United States. This is also the first national MPA established by the United States in the Atlantic Ocean, which greatly promoted biodiversity, involving the marine lives of whales, dolphins, and deep-sea fish. NRDC is committed to supporting the development of China's MPAs and hopes to cooperate with various research institutes to carry out joint research and pilot work, thus supporting China's MPA laws and regulations.

Dr. Nam emphasized that, during this COVID-19 pandemic, the global community have been pursuing green recovery to tackle both socioeconomic impacts from pandemic as well as environmental challenges. In this connection, nature-based solutions have been highly emphasized. MPAs can showcase how nature-based solutions work through sustainable use of marine resources such as nature-based tourism and other economic activities. Furthermore, MPAs will contribute to the mitigation of climate change as a key source of blue carbon. As countries are moving towards carbon neutrality, increasing and managing carbon sinks including MPAs will be critical to achieving the goal. Thus, the MPAs community should highlight multiple benefits of MPAs and make coordinated efforts. He also raised the challenge faced by MPAs such as being understaffed and called for more collective knowledge and actions.

### **3. MPA MANAGEMENT: INTERNATIONAL EXPERIENCES**

The first speaker is **Lisa Suatoni**, the senior scientist and deputy director of the oceans division, NRDC. She has committed her career to applying rigorous science in the crafting of progressive policy in ocean conservation. In her role at NRDC, she focuses on the ocean-climate nexus: how does climate change impact ocean ecosystems, marine life, and the people who depend on it, and how can ocean policy best offset those harms? Suatoni is also an expert in sustainable fisheries policy. In addition to her work at NRDC, she is the Timothy B. Atkeson environmental lecturer in law at Yale Law School, where she co-directs the Yale Environmental Protection Clinic. Suatoni has a Ph.D. in ecology and evolutionary biology from Yale University. She is based in the New York City office.

Her speech focused on **The Different Systems of Marine Protected Areas in US Waters**. She shared the understanding of MPA from its definition, objectives, level of protection, classification, and benefits. Specifically, she introduced the MPAs, Marine Monuments, National Parks, National Wildlife Refuges, National Marine Sanctuaries, and State MPAs in the United States, including their distribution, protection levels, key habitats, and types. She answered questions regarding the tradeoff of marine conservation and tourism, which can be explained by the different protection levels of the protected areas. Some MPAs prohibit commercial activities, while others may put more emphasis on tourism.

The second speaker is **Lauren Wenzel**. She has over 20 years of experience in marine and watershed management within federal and state governments and NGOs. Her skills include policy analysis and development, strategic communications, and stakeholder engagement. She is the Director of the National Marine Protected Areas

Center, part of NOAA's Office of National Marine Sanctuaries. The Center focuses on connecting and strengthening the diverse marine and coastal protected area programs in the U.S. and internationally through capacity building, information and tools, and communication and engaging stakeholders.

Her presentation was about **US Marine Protected Areas: Science to Inform Management Decisions**. She briefed the multiple jurisdictions and authorities in the management of MPAs, the National Marine Protected Areas Center as the nation's hub for information and tools for building innovative partnerships to protect the ocean's most important places and its international partnerships, the National Marine Sanctuary System, and how they use science to conduct research in accessing resources state and trends. She also shared the cases of the restoration Florida coral and fishery management in the State Waters and Federal Waters.

The third speaker is **Sean Hastings**, the resource protection coordinator of Channel Islands National Marine Sanctuary, NOAA. Sean joined Channel Islands National Marine Sanctuary in 1997 and serves as the site's resource protection coordinator. He is responsible for the development of policies and programs to address industrial, military, commercial, and recreational uses and impacts in and around the sanctuary. He also handles emergency response, enforcement, permits, community relations, and is a liaison to the media. Sean helped to create the marine protected area network to restore local fish and invertebrate populations and habitats in the sanctuary and helped the state of California to do the same in state waters on the mainland. With a multi-agency coalition and community support, he has helped to move commercial shipping lanes to protect endangered whales. He has forged trusted partnerships with academia, government agencies, non-government organizations, and sanctuary user groups. Sean has a Master of Marine Affairs degree from the School of Marine Affairs, University of Washington, and a Bachelor of Arts in environmental studies, University of California at Santa Cruz.

He mainly introduced the **Channel Islands Marine Reserves and Marine Conservation Areas** from its purposes, management elements, research and monitoring, fishery and MPA relationship, and cooperative enforcement. He answered questions concerning the control of fishing ships and catches and the coordination of different monitoring sections.

#### **4. MPA MANAGEMENT AND NETWORKING: REGIONAL EXPERIENCES**

The next speaker is **Gusung Lee**. She is the Deputy Head of the Marine Protected Area Management Department at Korea Marine Environment Management Corporation (KOEM), Republic of Korea. Her responsibilities include supervising projects and activities on designation and management of MPAs entrusted by the Ministry of Oceans and Fisheries, managing national programs for controlling harmful marine organisms, planning and managing national programs for conserving endangered marine species and restoration of habitats, and developing and implementing international cooperation projects with international organizations (IUCN, APEC, YSLME, etc.) and foreign countries on marine environment. She holds an MA and a PhD from Ewha Womans University.

Her speech is about **MPAs in KOREA and North-East Asian Marine Protected Areas Network (NEAMPAN)**. She introduced MPA development in ROK, and North-East Asian Subregional Programme for Environmental Cooperation (NEASPEC) with NEAMPAN as its subregional platform to improve MPA management & joint study on marine protected areas. More cooperation and networking are expected to be established with different MPA-related agencies, institutes, and NGOs.

The last speaker of the morning session on the 13th is **Marilyn Alcanices**. She is the supervising agriculturist and the Fishery & Coastal Resource Management Division Head at Provincial Government of Oriental Mindoro-Provincial Agriculturist Office (PAgO). The office supports and fosters alliances among local governments and other stakeholders to promote and apply an ecosystem-based approach, facilitates training, education, and outreach supports science and technology capacity development for resource assessment and monitoring to inform policy-making, and identifies conservation gaps in and develop site-based solutions. It embraces gender-inclusive approaches in project implementation. As the division head, Marilyn supervises and coordinates directly the activities of fishery technical staff, oversees programs development, including its implementation, monitoring and evaluation, and provides strategic planning and policy recommendations.

She shared the **Local Government Unit Experience in MPA and Law Enforcement Networking in Oriental Mindoro Province, Philippines**. In her slides, she introduced the MPAs and FLE network of Oriental Mindoro by highlighting its biological, social, and institutional components and the legal framework. She briefed their considerations in redesigning, delisting, expanding, and establishing more MPAs and other types of management zones.

## **5. MPA MANAGEMENT AND NETWORKING: EXPERIENCES IN CHINA**

**Dr. Zhang** chaired the morning session on the 14th. He summarized that on the first day, we have learned about the classification and management of MPAs in the United States, ROK, and the Philippines. Speakers shared their knowledge on MPA networking, management, fishery management, and community development from the global, national and provincial levels based on their ecology, economy, and society, which can be the best reference for us in China.

He explained that the history of MPA construction in China is relatively short, and the networking has just started, so the communication and learning from other countries and areas are significant for us to develop our own way in MPA management. From yesterday's reports, we can see the common problems shared by most protected areas, such as the coordinated management of multi-sections, insufficient scientific monitoring and research, and the coordinated development with surrounding communities.

He raised the main topic for MPA management experience in China and the relationship between MPAs and communities. Communities play big roles in effective MPA management, and residents' attitudes towards MPA can also be a crucial element in achieving MPA benefits, thus realizing the "common prosperity" proposed by China.

**Fangming Liu** of First Institute of Oceanography, Ministry of Natural Resources, and **Xun Jiang** of Ocean University of China presented the **Community Participation in MPA Development** from the perspective of the concept of “MPA community” and the theoretical foundation of MPA communities participating in MPA management.

**Houcai Cai**, the Chief Engineer of Nanji Islands National Nature Reserve shared the **Community Management Practice in Nanji Islands National Nature Reserve**. He highlighted the balance between the sea and the people, especially in the exploration of communities integrating into MPA management and the institutional reform featuring the coordinated development of marine conservation/restoration and sea usage/fish folks’ wellbeing. He also stressed the integrated management in the coastal areas and MPAs.

NGO representatives shared their experience in working with MPA and MPA-related communities. **Jing Wang** of the Society of Entrepreneurs and Ecology Beijing shared the Opportunities and Challenges in **Marine Protection and Community Development**. **Songying Yang**, the Marine Project, WWF China, introduced their **Experiences in MPA Management and Community Development** by taking the Yellow Sea Ecological Area Support Project as an example. **Liqin Tian** from the QINGDAO QINNENG New Energy & Environmental Protection Technology Company. LTD discussed the hot topic of **Prospects for the Development of Blue Carbon and Its Development in the Coastal Areas**.

Speakers from the ocean and fisheries bureaus of Dandong and Changyi introduced their MPA management practices and experiences, including the basic information and status, management tools and development, and challenges of their respective MPAs, namely, Dandong Yalu River Estuary Wetland National Nature Reserve and Changyi National Marine Ecological Special Reserve.

**Prof. Quan Wen**, the consultant of China-PEMSEA Center, summarized the morning session. He reiterated the importance of establishing a National MPA Center of China, the education of the next-generation and fishermen, and the participation of NGOs.

## **6. CLOSING REMARKS**

Dr. Zhang concluded the meeting by thanking all speakers and participants. He stressed that apart from the geographical and ecological relationship between MPAs and communities as we talked about today, there is one more key relationship which is the cultural connection that should be focused by us. Only by sharing a common cultural basis can we have a sense of identity with each other.



国家海洋与大气管理局  
 国家级海洋保护区办公室  
 Office of National Marine Sanctuaries  
 National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration



**Channel Islands  
 Marine Reserves and Marine  
 Conservation Areas**  
 美国海峡群岛的海洋保护区  
 June 2021 / 2021年6月

<https://channelislands.noaa.gov>



Marine Protected Area Management and  
 Networking Experiences and  
 Opportunities for Collaboration  
 in East Asia  
 14 October 2021

EAS 2021  
 CPC  
 PEMSEA  
 NRDC  
 自然资源保护协会  
 NEAMPAN  
 National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration

Sean Hastings



## **ANNEX 1. AGENDA.**

### **1. Rationale and objectives**

Marine protected areas (MPAs) are essential to biodiversity conservation and the maintenance of ecosystem health and services. MPAs around the world generally share the same objectives of conserving and protecting biodiversity although they may vary in size and ecological boundaries as well as levels of activities that are regulated. Many MPA programs closely engage relevant stakeholders in MPA management processes. The increasing number of functional MPAs has been notable over the past decade. There remain some aspects of MPA management, however, particularly in the identification and designation, design and management, including networking that need strengthening.

This workshop aims to promote the sharing and exchange of experiences and practices in MPA management and networking, inviting speakers from the United States and North- and Southeast Asia. In particular, the workshop will delve on topics that are of common concern in MPA management such as improving management capabilities for MPA management and networking, application of spatial planning tools, improvement of fishery management, monitoring and enforcement, enhancing stakeholder's participation, measuring the management effectiveness, improving the community development and establishing partnerships and cooperation among and between MPAs. The experiences in MPA networking in Northeast Asia under the framework of the North-East Asian Subregional Programme for Environmental Cooperation will be highlighted. The workshop will also delve on the experiences and practices in MPA management and networking under the framework of integrated coastal management (ICM) and scaling up in the East Asian Seas region.

### **2. Expected outputs**

The workshop is expected to identify opportunities and plan of action for regional cooperation in the next decade in line with global developments that have bearing on biodiversity conservation, notably the Post-2020 Biodiversity Framework, for adoption at COP 15 on October 2021 in Kunming, PR China.

### **3. Organizers**

China-PEMSEA Sustainable Coastal Management Cooperation Center (CPC)

### **4. Co-organizers:**

Natural Resources Defense Council (NRDC)

First Institute of Oceanography (FIO), Ministry of Natural Resources, PR China

North-East Asian Subregional Programme for Environmental Cooperation (NEASPEC)

Partnerships in Environmental Management for the Seas of East Asia (PEMSEA)

### **5. Meeting language:**

English with Chinese/English simultaneous translation for the morning session on 13;  
Chinese for the rest sessions

**6. Target participants:**

200 participants from relevant national agencies, local governments, development agencies and international organizations, academic and research institutions

**7. Program of Activities**

Time	Activity	Speakers/presenters
<b>Day 1: 13 October 2021, Wednesday</b>		
<b>Session A: Opening Ceremony</b>		
0900 – 0920	Welcoming remarks	<b>Mona YEW</b> (Deputy Director, NRDC China) <b>Sangmin Nam</b> (Deputy director, ESCAP East and North-East Asia Office)
<b>Session B: MPA management: International experiences</b>		
0920 – 1050	<b>The Different Systems of Marine Protected Areas in US Waters</b>	<b>Lisa Suatoni</b> (Senior Scientist and Deputy Director, Oceans Division, Nature Program, Natural Resources Defense Council)
	<b>US Marine Protected Areas: Science to Inform Management Decisions</b>	<b>Lauren Wenzel</b> (Director, National Marine Protected Areas Center, NOAA)
	<b>Channel Islands Marine Reserves and Marine Conservation Areas</b>	<b>Sean Hastings</b> (Resource Protection Coordinator, Channel Islands National Marine Sanctuary, NOAA)
1050-1100	Break	
<b>Session C: MPA management and networking: regional experiences</b>		
1100-1130	<b>MPA management and networking in Northeast Asia</b>	<b>Gusung Lee</b> (Deputy team head, Marine protected management team, Korea Marine Environment Management Corporation)

	<b>- Focusing on MPAs in KOREA and North-East Asian Marine Protected Areas Network (NEAMPAN)</b>	
1130 – 1200	<b>The Local Government Unit Experience in MPA and Law Enforcement Networking in Oriental Mindoro Province, Philippines.</b>	<b>Marilyn Alcanices</b> (Chief, Fishery and Coastal Resource Management Division, Provincial Agriculture Office, Oriental Mindoro Province)
1200 – 1400	Break	
1400 – 1700	Open forum	CPC
<b>Day 2: 14 October 2021, Thursday</b>		
<b>Session D: MPA management and networking: Experiences in China</b>		
0900 – 0910	Recap of Day 1 highlights and introduction to Day 2 workshop	CPC
0910 – 0930	<b>Community Participation in MPA Development</b>	<b>LIU Fangming</b> (FIO, Ministry of Natural Resources) <b>JIANG Xun</b> (Ocean University of China)
0930 – 1000	<b>Community Management Practice in Nanji Islands National Nature Reserve</b>	<b>CAI Houcai</b> (Chief Engineer of Nanji Islands National Nature Reserve)
1000 – 1030	<b>Opportunities and Challenges in Marine Protection and Community Development</b>	<b>WANG Jing</b> (Society of Entrepreneurs and Ecology Beijing)
1030--1100	<b>Experiences in MPA management and community development</b>	<b>YANG Songying</b> (Marine Project, WWF China)
1100-1115	<b>Comments on MPA Management and Community Development</b>	<b>WEN Quan</b> (Consultant of China-PEMSEA Center)
1115 – 1145	<b>Mainstreaming MPA management in ICM</b>	<b>Dandong and Changyi</b>
1145 – 1200	<b>Prospects for the Development of Blue Carbon and Its Development in the Coastal Areas</b>	<b>TIAN Liqin</b> (QINGDAO QINNENG New Energy & Environmental Protection Technology Company. LTD)
1200 – 1230	Open forum - Identifying opportunities for collaboration including	CPC

	<p>possible arrangements under the Post-2020 Biodiversity Framework</p> <p>Summary and conclusions</p>	
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