

# Biodiversity Conservation Working Group

## North American Marine Protected Areas Network

CEC Council Session - 24 June 2009



cec.org

## Biodiversity Conservation Working Group

BCWG was created by CEC Council Resolution in 2001 to:

- Complete a Strategic Plan for biodiversity
- Advise Council on its implementation

Unique contribution to biodiversity conservation through convening stakeholders and experts trilaterally to develop:

- Knowledge
- Tools
- Frameworks
- Strategies
- Networks

# North American Marine Protected Areas Network

**Goal:** foster an effective system of MPA networks to strengthen protection of marine biodiversity

**Focus:** network of **people** and **places**

## Achievements

- Developed **Marine Ecoregions of North America**
- Designed & tested **Priority Conservation Areas** for Baja to Bering Sea Region (B2B)
- Designed & tested **Condition Report** in B2B
- Trained MPA staff to implement these approaches
- Agreed to a common path to the future through shared common information and activities

## Recent Project Results

### B2B Condition Report

- 10 MPAs & 14 questions: Water, Habitat & Living Organisms
- Common approach to multiple MPA programs

<i>Resource Category</i>	<b>Loreto</b>		<b>Channel Islands</b>		<b>South Slough</b>	
<i>Biodiversity</i>	Good	↔	Fair	?	Fair	↔
<i>Extracted</i>	Fair		Poor	↑	Good	↔
<i>Alien sp.</i>	Superior	↑	Superior	↓	Poor	↓↓
<i>Keystone</i>	Good	↑	Fair	↔	Good	↔
<i>Focal sp.</i>	Poor	↑	Superior	↑	Fair	↑
<i>CEC sp.</i>	Good		Good	↑	N/A	
<i>Human act.</i>	Fair	↑	Fair	↔	Fair	↔

## Current work

- 2008 Ministerial Resolution to expand MPA condition assessment
- Applying lessons of B2B pilot to NA MPA network planning
- Using NAMPAN to enhance protection of marine biodiversity and critical species

## Benefit to the North American environment



- Effective cooperative model to adapt to changing environmental conditions
- Functional network of people and places to protect the marine environment
- Contributes to building sustainable communities and promote healthy marine ecosystems by linking people & places
- Facilitates the design & implementation of a continental system of MPAs

## Benefit to the North American environment

- Enhances **collaboration** to address common challenges to protect biodiversity
- Develops a **conservation approach** balancing ecological, economic, social and cultural issues
- Builds **capacity** & shared information/tools to manage, conserve, and monitor critical habitats
- Generates **information** needed to enhance community and ecosystem/biodiversity resiliency and their ability to adapt to climate change

