



## *Communiqué*

*Monday, December 6th, 2010  
Honolulu, Hawai'i*

The first meeting of site managers from the world's largest marine managed areas (MMAs) was convened under the sister site agreement between Phoenix Islands Protected Area (PIPA; Kiribati) and Papahānaumokuākea Marine National Monument (PMNM; USA) and hosted by the U.S. National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration's Office of National Marine Sanctuaries on December 6th, 2010 in Honolulu, Hawai'i.

Site managers and partners from PIPA, PMNM, the Great Barrier Reef Marine Park (Australia), the Marianas Trench Marine National Monument (USA), the Motu Motiro Hiva Marine Park (Chile), and the Chagos Marine Protected Area (United Kingdom) recognized the critical role and unique challenges faced by large-scale MMAs. They agreed to establish the Big Ocean network to work together and learn from one another to improve the effectiveness of their management efforts. They also agreed to be a learning resource and a supportive peer network, including for new or proposed large-scale MMAs, defined as areas that approach or exceed 250,000 square kilometers (100,000 square miles).

The Big Ocean meeting's objectives were straightforward: create a network to help managers of large-scale marine managed areas be more efficient and effective by sharing practical experience and knowledge with each other; agree on a proposed set of aims and activities for the network; and develop a shared statement of commitment to the Big Ocean network.

The Big Ocean network is built upon a strong foundation of shared experience and viewpoints, including:

- The importance of large-scale MMAs for the conservation, protection, and sustainable use of oceans and their associated natural and cultural heritage;
- The role of large-scale MMAs in providing shared social, cultural and natural benefits for current and future generations;
- The potential for large-scale MMAs to restore and rejuvenate ocean health;
- The importance of large-scale MMAs serving as sentinel sites, and the baseline data that they provide improves our understanding of ocean systems and environmental and climate changes;
- The need for increased research, knowledge about, and networking for large-scale MMAs, inclusive of indigenous peoples, local communities, scientists and educators; and
- The need to lead by example, foster learning within and among sites, and support new or proposed large-scale MMAs.

The Big Ocean network also recognized shared challenges for large MMA operation and management, including the need for:

- Effective site surveillance and enforcement;
- Investment in education, research and monitoring, communication and outreach;
- Adequate resources, including funding and increased management capacity;
- Appropriate public access to the sites, including at remote oceanic locations; and
- Effective coordination of multiple jurisdictional authorities and stakeholder roles, interests, and collective responsibilities.

The Big Ocean network identified leadership opportunities to guide the practice of large-scale marine protection and promote collaboration and networking between managers, including:

- Foster peer learning through sharing of experiences, research, and knowledge;
- Share surveillance and enforcement expertise and technology;
- Collaborate on key research issues of mutual interest and concern; and
- Foster partnerships that encourage and support new or proposed large-scale MMAs, including mentoring site managers and building the capacity of civil society partners.

The founding members recognize that through the Big Ocean network a collective voice is being given to large-scale MMA site managers for the first time, allowing them to share their unique experiences, challenges, and solutions.

#### **Big Ocean network founding member sites:**

Chagos Marine Protected Area (UK)

<http://www.chagos-trust.org/> ; <http://cctus.org/>

Great Barrier Reef Marine Park (Australia)

<http://www.gbrmpa.gov.au/>

Marianas Trench Marine National Monument (USA)

<http://www.fws.gov/marianastrenchmarinemonument/>

Motu Motiro Hiva Marine Park (Chile)

[http://www.subpesca.cl/controls/neochannels/neo\\_ch593/neoch593.aspx](http://www.subpesca.cl/controls/neochannels/neo_ch593/neoch593.aspx) ;

<http://www.portalrapanui.cl/rapanui/salaygoz.htm>

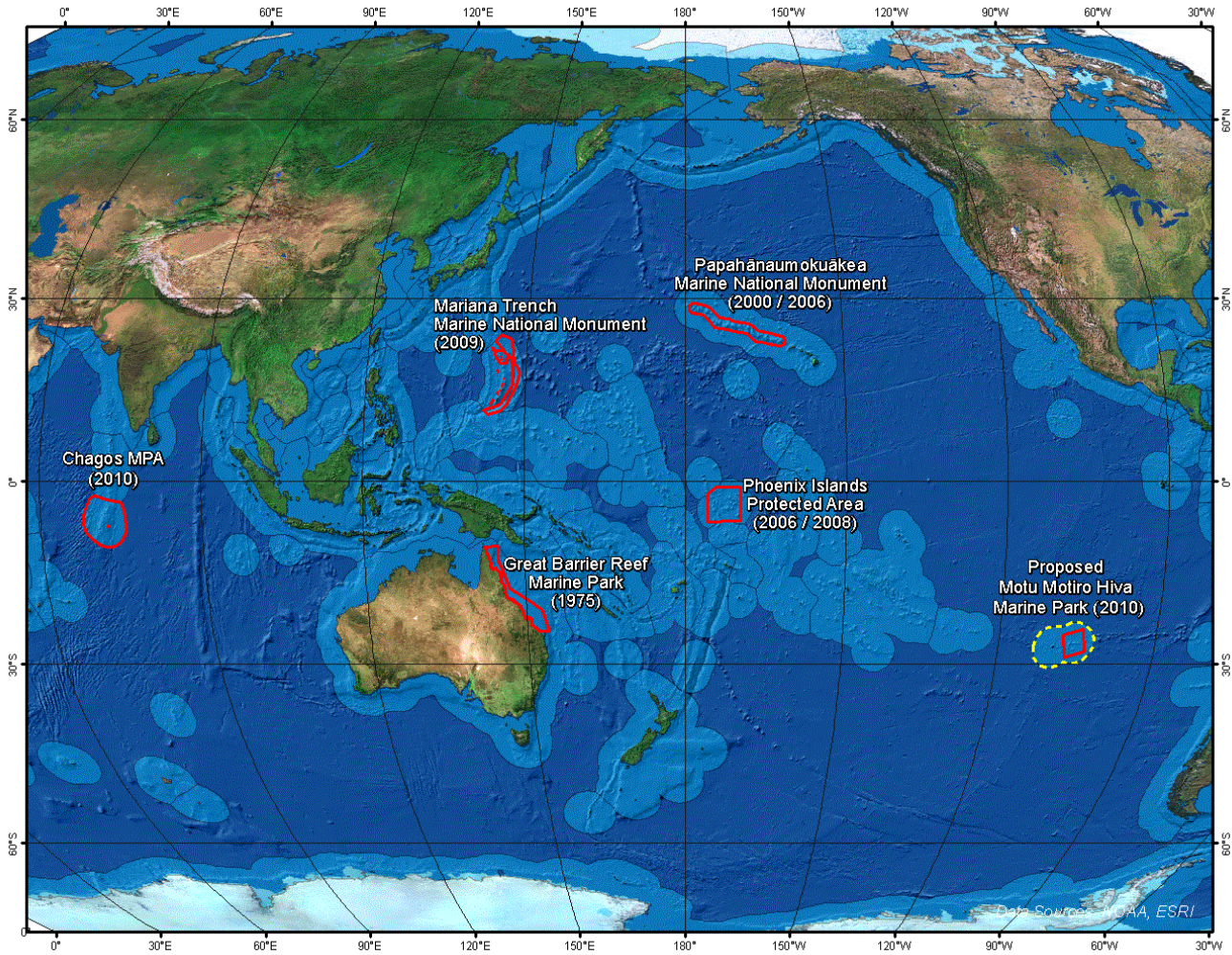
Papahānaumokuākea Marine National Monument (USA)

<http://www.papahanaumokuakea.gov/>

Phoenix Islands Protected Area (Republic of Kiribati)

<http://www.phoenixislands.org/index.php>

Map: The geographic location, boundaries (in red), and date of designation (in parentheses) of the six founding Big Ocean network member sites.



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