

海洋保护地研究团队

Research Team on Marine Protected Area



Progress & Prospect of MPA in China

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OUTLINES

1 MPAs in China

2 New Progress

3 Challenge & Prospect



1. MPAs in China



“Reform Plan of the Party and State Institutions” in 2018

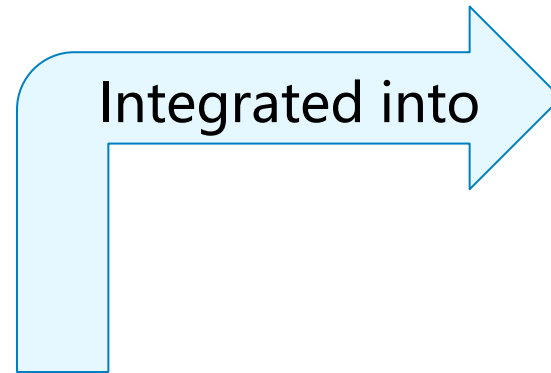
National Forest and Grassland Administration (NFGA)

New administrative duty:

1. To develop the national strategy/plans of PA;
2. To supervise and manage various types of PA, such as national parks, nature reserve, and natural parks;
3. To provide suggestions for the designation and adjustment of national level PAs;
4. To organize and implement ecological restoration work in various PAs;
5. To undertake works related to the World Natural Heritage and the World Natural and Cultural Heritage.

1. MPAs in China

National Forest and Grassland Administration (National Parks Administration)



Dispersed MPAs administrations

MEP

National MNR, especially rare and endangered species

SOA

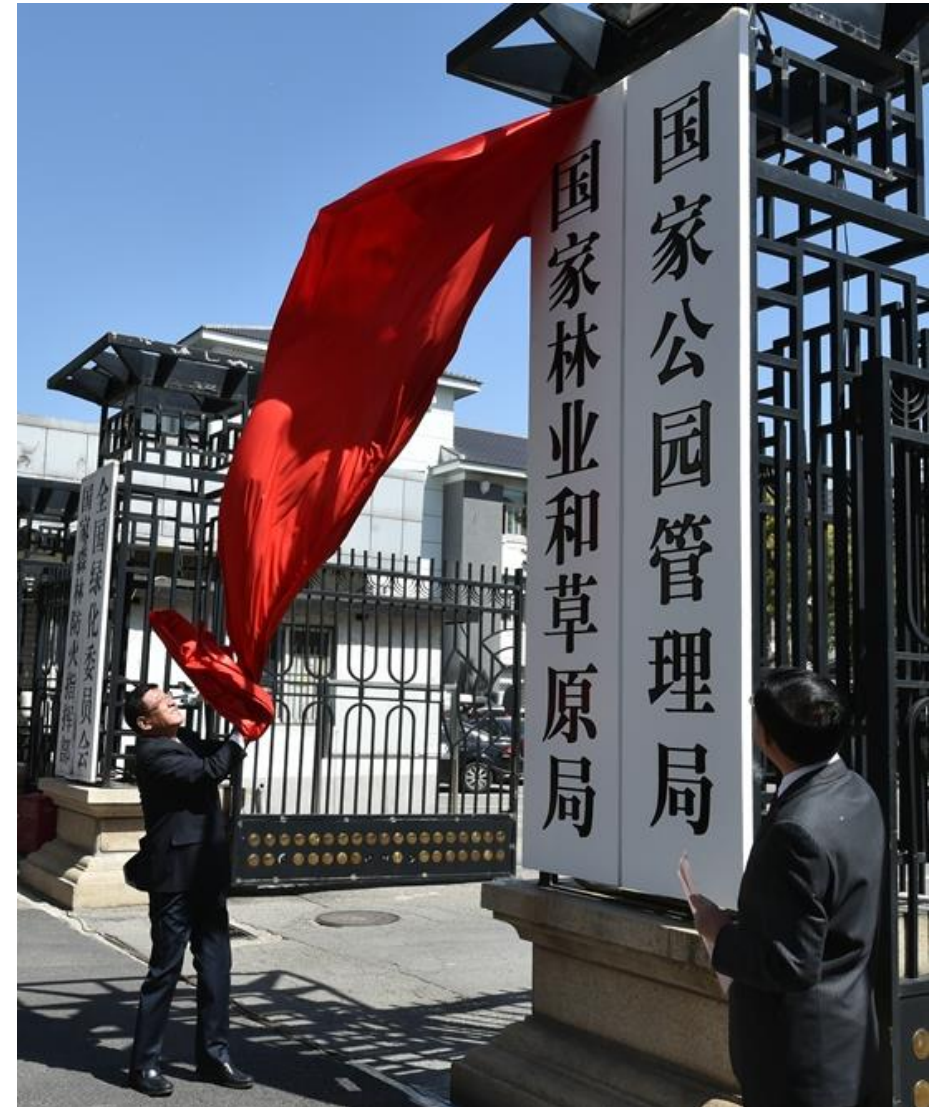
National MNR, especially typical ecosystem and resource
MSPA, national and local

SFA

Some coastal wetland reserves

BOF/MOA

Some MNR, especially aquatic wild animals and plants
Aquatic Germplasm Resources Conservation Areas



2. New Progress

New MPA Definition

MPA is the area designated and managed in accordance with relevant laws and regulations for protecting important marine ecosystems, endangered marine species, marine natural relics and seascapes, marine biodiversity, and marine ecosystem services.

--Zhang Zhaohui, 2024. 《Encyclopedia of China – Oceanography》



National Park



Nature Reserve



Marine Park

New MPA Classification

- ❑ National Park: large ecosystem, large ecological process, and other national representatives;
- ❑ Nature Reserve: marine endanger species, typical ecosystem, natural relics;
- ❑ Marine Park: coastal landscape, geographical location, important habitats, and marine resource;

2. New Progress

New Laws & Regulations

- ❑ ***Wetland Protection Law***, effective from June 1st, 2022.

Article 24: Provincial and above governments and their relevant departments shall, in accordance with wetland protection plans and wetland protection needs, protect [the important wetlands as national parks, nature reserves, or natural parks by law](#).

- ❑ ***Wildlife Protection Law***, effective from May 1st, 2023.

Article 12: Provincial and above governments shall, in accordance with the law, designate important [habitats of wild animals as national parks, and nature reserves](#) to protect, restore, and improve the living environment of wild animals.

- ❑ ***Marine Environmental Protection Law***, effective from January 1st, 2024.

Article 34: The State Council and the people's governments of coastal provinces, and relevant departments shall, in accordance with the needs of protecting the ocean, protect the [important marine ecosystems, natural concentrated distribution areas of rare and endangered marine organisms, marine natural relics and natural seascapes, and other areas as the national parks, nature reserves, or natural parks by law](#).

- ❑ ***Law on National Park (Draft)***, in review stage of the National People's Congress in 2024.
- ❑ ***Act Ecological Protection Compensation***, effective from June 1st, 2024.
- ❑ ***Act on Nature Reserves***, revised draft in the solicit opinions from social publicity in 2022.

2. New Progress

New MPA Management Agency

Department	Main Duty	Remarks
NFGA	Supervise and manage various types of protected areas, draft development plans and relevant national standards, review and approve new PAs and adjustments, establish & plan national parks	All marine protected areas included
MNR	Survey, Selection, and Management of High Seas Protected Areas for BBNJ Agreement MPA designation and Management in State-own sea areas	Ecological Protection Red-line Area management, and marine restoration
MEE	All MPA management effectiveness evaluation and supervision	Marine environment monitoring, pollution control and management
Coast Guard Bureau	Law enforcement for MPAs in sea areas, prevent & stop the illegal activities in sea	
Coastal Local Governments	MPA establishment for important marine ecosystems, natural concentrated distribution areas of rare and endangered marine organisms, concentrated distribution areas of marine natural relics and natural landscapes, etc.	Important marine ecosystem such as mangroves, coral reefs, seaweed fields, seagrass beds, coastal wetlands, islands, bays, estuaries, and important fishing areas

2. New Progress

New Management Policies & Technical Guidance

- ❑ Interim Measures for National Park Management, effective in 2022;
- ❑ Measures for National Natural Park Management, effective in 2023;
- ❑ Measures for World Geopark Management, effective in 2024;
- ❑ Measures for National Wetland Park Management, abolished in 2024;
- ❑ Interim Measures for Ecological Environment Supervision of Protected Areas , effective in 2020;

- Specification for National Park Establishment (GB/T 39737-2021);
- Technical Specification for the National Park Master Plan (GB/T 39736-2020);
- Specification for National Park Monitoring (GB/T 39738-2020);
- Specification for National Park Evaluation (GB/T 39739-2020);
- Specification for Demarcating and Marking Boundary of Protected Areas (GB/T 39740-2020);
- Specification for Resources Surveying and Evaluating in National Park (LY/T 3189-2020);
- Standard for Conservation Effectiveness Assessment of Ecology and Environment in Protected Areas (HJ 1203-2021);
- Specification for Ecological & Environmental Investigation & Monitoring of Protected Areas (HJ 1311-2023);
- Specification of Inspection & Quality Control in Remote Sensing Interpretation of Human Activities in Protected Areas (HJ 1273-2022);

2. New Progress

New Spatial Layout Planning

- ❑ ***National Park Spatial Layout Plan***, approved by State Council on the in 2022
 - By 2035, the task of constructing the spatial layout of national parks will be basically completed, and the world's largest national park system will be established;
- ❑ **5 Planning National Parks with Sea Areas:**
 - Completed evaluation stage: Yellow River Estuary National Park (sea area 61%), Liao River Estuary National Park (sea area 72%)
 - Application submitted stage: Changshan Islands National Park (sea area 99%), Tropical Marine National Park (sea area 100%)
 - Preparing stage: Nanbeiji Islands National Park (sea area 90%?)
- ❑ ***Guiding Opinions on Establishing Protected Area System with National Parks as the Main Body***, Office of the CPCC & Office of the State Council in 2019
 - Establish a natural protected area system with national parks as the main body, which is scientifically classified, reasonably laid out, effectively protected, and managed.
 - Integrating the overlapped & adjacent MPAs, one habitat only one MPA with one management agency;
 - MPA number changed from 271 to 352, sea area changed from 124K km² to 93.3K km²;

2. New Progress

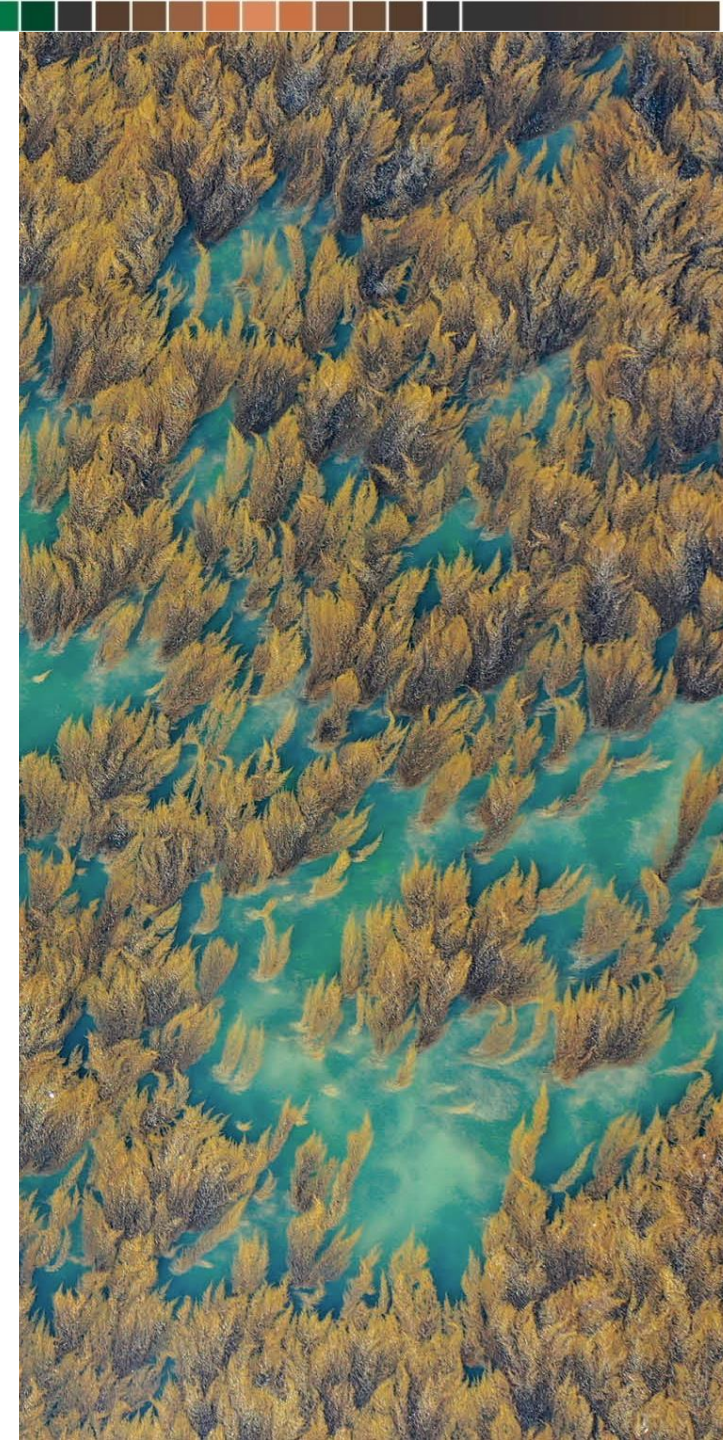
New Measures & Actions

- ❑ ***National Key Protected Wildlife List***, updated in 2021
 - The new version increased 66 marine species to 123 species in total;
 - Class-I increase 18 species, and Class-II increase 48 species;
- ❑ ***Ecological Protection Red-line Areas Delineation***, fully completed in 2023
 - A total area of 150,000 km² marine Ecological Protection Red-line Area covering mangrove forests, seagrass beds, coral reefs, coastal salt marshes, important estuaries, and important islands;
 - Strengthening the Management of Ecological Protection Red-line Areas, MNR MEE & NFGA in 2022;
 - Ecological Environment Supervision Measures for Ecological Protection Red-line Areas, MEE in 2023;
- ❑ ***China Biodiversity Conservation Strategy and Action Plan (2023-2030)***, updated in 2024
 - Confirm the target "At least 30% of terrestrial, inland water areas, coastal and marine areas will be effectively protected and managed by 2030";
 - 27 priorities actions were arranged;

3. Challenge & Prospect

CHALLENGES

- ❑ **Insufficient scientific investigation and understanding of marine biodiversity, and weak research on conservation.**
 - the national survey data on marine biodiversity is insufficient;
 - the basic research on marine conservation technology is relatively weak;
 - the impact and mechanisms of various type of human activities on MPA are not clear yet;
- ❑ **Lack of infrastructure and professional personnel, and insufficient guidance from current policies for MPAs.**
 - the construction of basic patrol and management facilities lags behind;
 - the lack of professional personnel and management experience;
 - the current policies lack specificity guidance for MPAs;
- ❑ **Very large gap for marine biodiversity conservation.**
 - 3.11% MPA only, or 5% marine Ecological Red-line Area, much more behind the KMGBF target;
 - Lack of roadmap to reach the target for protecting 30% coastal and marine areas by 2030;



3. Challenge & Prospect

PROSPECT

❑ Expand the area of marine conservation and spatial layout.

- Strengthening the identification of protection gaps in offshore sea areas and exclusive economic zones, providing various forms of protection such as MPA, ecological protection red-lines, OEEM etc., to achieve the 30% marine protection target proposed by NBSAP;

❑ Enhance protection rate of marine endangered species and umbrella effects on marine biodiversity.

- Conducting marine biodiversity and key protected species survey in the ocean, delineate the protection space for rare and endangered marine organism, flagship and umbrella species, to achieve 77% protection rate required by "Opinions on Further Strengthening Biodiversity Protection ";

❑ Improve the capabilities and marine conservation innovative practices.

- Taking innovation as the driving force, supporting more professional personnel trainings and scientific research in conservation technology to meet the national marine protection needs;

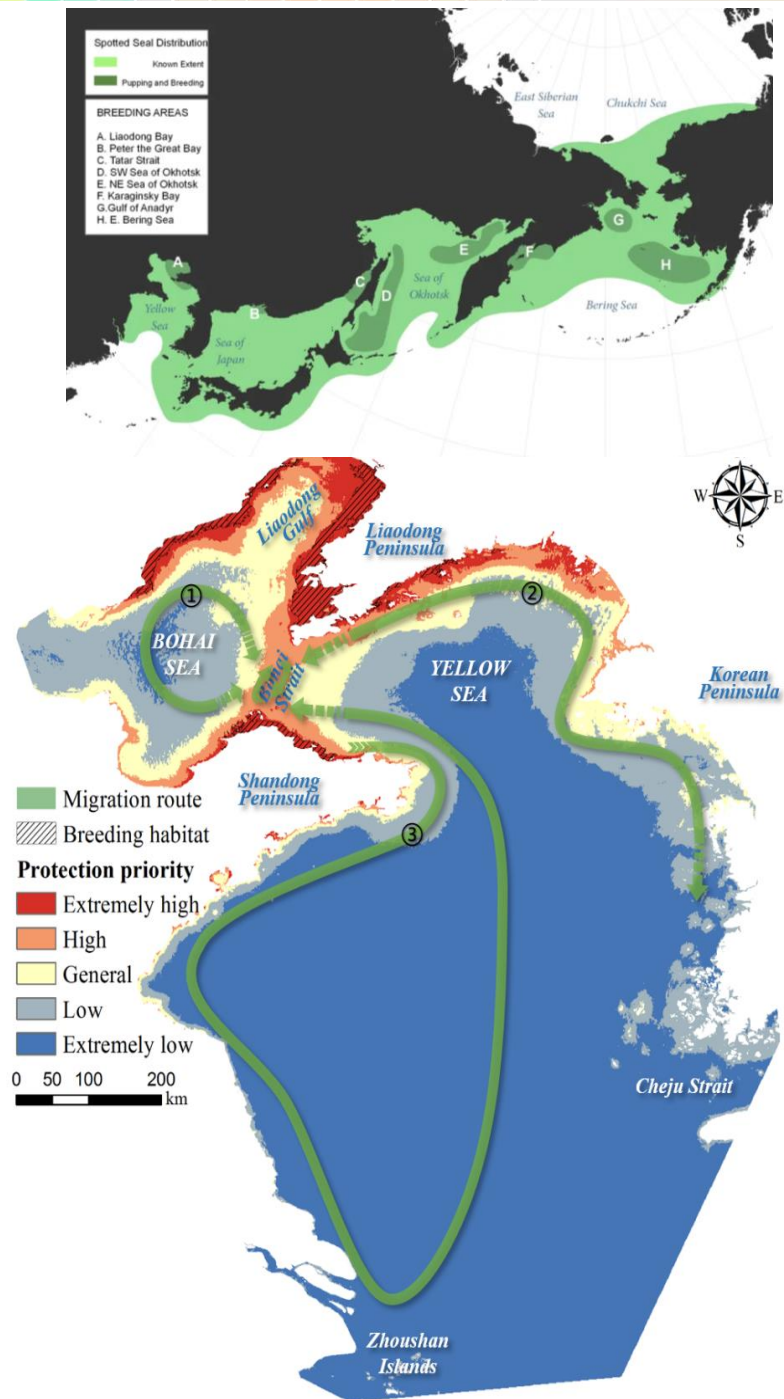
❑ Strengthen cooperation domestically and internationally for marine protection.

- Taking the opportunity of international consensus made recently, such as SDG 14, United Nations Decade of Ocean Science for Sustainable Development, the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework, and BBNJ Agreement, promoting international cooperation in cross-boundary migratory species & important sea regions such as high sea, polar, and deep sea, in joint conservation actions;

3. Challenge & Prospect

SUGGESTION

- ❑ **Regional cooperation and collective action on marine migration species protection, such as spotted seal;**
 - A very important flagship species, providing umbrella for other marine species and ecosystem;
 - Still many gaps for spotted seal protection in our region;
- ❑ **Regional roadmap to reach the KMGBF target;**
 - Under coordinating of NEAMPAN, regional roadmap for marine biodiversity conservation;
 - Make our regional contribution for KMGBF;
- ❑ **More experience exchange on MPA & innovative practices;**
 - Expand the NEAMPAN sites, Enhance the role of NEAMPAN in regional cooperation;
 - OECM is an other important measure for marine conservation;
 - MPA patrol and law enforcement to promote effectiveness;



Thanks!

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MPA *Is the last shelter for all marine organisms;
Is the last backyard for all humanity;*

