WELCOME TO:

Design of Marine Protected Areas for Seamounts and the Abyssal Nodule Province in Pacific High Seas
23-26 October, 2007
Organizers: Craig R. Smith and J. Tony Koslow

Funding sources: Pew Foundation for Marine Conservation, University of Hawaii, International Seabed Authority, Kaplan Fund, Sloan Foundation

INTRODUCTIONS
Logistics:

All presentations as PPT loaded on desktop up front at 8:00 am or at lunch time (see Fabio)

Schedule is soft (but not amorphous)

Van from hotel daily at 7:30 am, back to hotel at 5:15 pm

Van can be available for group dinners (Thursday and Friday?)

-Coffee and pastries at 10:00 am and 3:00 pm every day

-Catered (free) lunch at ~12:00 – 1:00 at Volcano Joe’s (10 minute stroll from here) – Conference room door must be locked when room unoccupied!

-Must vacate room by 5:00 pm

-Group dinners Thursday and Friday nights?

-Travel reimbursements – see Angelo
  -All reimbursees must fill out and sign NERF, & other forms (depending on whether US or foreign)
**Primary goals of Workshop:**

1) *Make specific (or generic) recommendations to the International Seabed Authority (but also UN, etc.) on the design of Marine Protected Areas to safeguard biodiversity and ecosystem function on Pacific seamounts and in the abyssal Pacific nodule region in international waters.*

2) *Outline research needs to allow better design of deep-sea MPA’s in international waters.*

**To Address these goals, the workshop will have three stages:**

1. **Overview** (day 1)
   
   A) Learn about general principles of MPA design
   
   B) Elucidate general legal framework of environmental protection in the high seas
   
   C) Briefly review MPA activities in the high seas to date
II. Ecosystem Review – for Pacific Seamounts (days 1-2) and the Nodule Region (days 3-4) we will:

A) Identify nature and distribution of anthropogenic threats (mining, fishing, etc.)

B) Characterize key physical, ecological and biodiversity characteristics

C) Summarize current knowledge of habitat distributions and biogeography

III. MPA Design – for Pacific Seamounts (day 3) and the Nodule Region (day 4) we will:

A) Identify the goals of the MPAs

B) Design specific (or generic) MPAs, applying the concepts of ecosystem based management and the precautionary principle, and considering stakeholder interests (where possible);

C) Outline monitoring strategies and key research needs to allow better design of deep-sea MPA’s in international waters.

D) Draft a workshop report to ISA (and a policy paper for Science?) with our rationales and recommendations (and also identifying our precendents)

Please note: format for stage III. MPA Design is still to be determined, with input from MPA design experts (Gaines and Friedlander) and ecosystem experts.
Definitions:

**Ecosystem based management** –

An approach that “looks at all the links among living and nonliving resources, rather than considering single issues in isolation . . . Instead of developing a management plan for one issue . . . EBM focuses on the multiple activities occurring within specific areas that are defined by ecosystem, rather than political, boundaries.” — US Ocean Commission Report, 2004

**The precautionary principle** –

“The principle that authorities should act cautiously to avoid damaging the environment or wellbeing of communities (in a way that cannot be reversed) in situations where the scientific evidence is not proven but the possible damage could be significant.” — The Highland Council

“This principle establishes that a lack of information does not justify the absence of management measures. On the contrary, management measures should be established in order to maintain the conservation of the resources.” — FAO