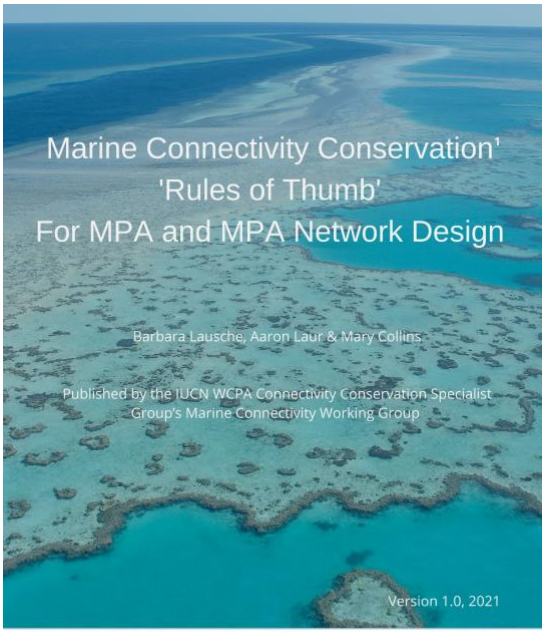
MCWG Accomplishments 2021- 2023

- Publishing *Marine Connectivity Conservation 'Rules of Thumb' for MPA and MPA Network Design* to support more consistent efforts to implement solutions for marine protected areas and increase system-based conservation approaches for the management and protection of oceans and coasts.
- Writing 15 case studies covering 31 countries that exemplify the 'Rules of Thumb' and featuring them in a layer on globescapes.org;
- Publishing the article Advancing marine conservation through ecological connectivity: Building better connections for better protection in the journal *Parks Stewardship Forum;*
- Supporting planning and participating in the first and second "Deep Dive on Ecological Connectivity" webinars organized by the North American Marine Protected Areas Network (NAMPAN) which brings together resource agencies, managers, practitioners, and other experts across Canada, Mexico, and the United States;
- Developing and circulating a survey on the applicability of the *Marine Connectivity Conservation 'Rules of Thumb'* to eight international MPA networks to gauge current gaps in knowledge in the field of marine connectivity, and publishing *Survey Findings: Marine Connectivity Applications in MPAs*.
- Presenting the work of MCWG and the 'Rules of Thumb' during the symposium "Advancing consistent and measurable global ecological connectivity implementation" at the 2021 International Congress on Conservation Biology;
- Operating the MCWG webpage to continue to promote the group's work and providing helpful tools to the public and members, including the MCWG Library, an ongoing collection of Marine Connectivity Policy Resources, a page for available online marine connectivity tools, and publishing important policy and member news articles.



- Presenting at OCTO MPA Webinar Series sponsored by NOAA's National Marine Protected Areas Center; Marine Connectivity Conservation "Rules of Thumb" for MPA and MPA Network Design Webinar.

- Presenting the work of MCWG and and the 'Rules of Thumb' in graduate capstone presentation "Establishing 'Rules of Thumb' for Marine Protected Areas & MPA Networks" by Mary Collins.
- Launch of a new tool, "International/ Regional Meetings Relevant to Marine Ecological Connectivity", which is intended to boost attendance and collaboration of members at key fora.
- Submitting expert comment to:
    - IUCN Commentary on the further revised text of the BBNJ Agreement, a unifying treaty on high sea governance that would set universal practices for sustainable use and conservation of resources.
    - International Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) Working Group II, for accurate incorporation of marine ecological connectivity as a scientifically-backed climate adaptation management tactic.
    - America the Beautiful, for strong inclusion of ecological connectivity into not only terrestrial, but also coastal and marine protection benchmarks for reaching 30%
    - Ministerial Declaration –UNEA-5, for incorporation of strong ecological connectivity language and use of accurate tools for estimating and measuring connectivity progress on land and at sea.
    - And to individual marine sanctuaries, such as the Channel Islands National Marine Sanctuary, for strong inclusion of marine connectivity management and monitoring throughout processes.
- Providing a briefing on marine ecological connectivity to inform the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD) Post 2020 Global Biodiversity Framework negotiations.
- Presenting on marine connectivity conservation as an adaptation tool presented at the National Adaptation Forum in October 2022
- Presenting on Marine Ecological Connectivity at a CBD COP-15 side event in December 2022
- Serving as a session moderator for the 3rd NAMPAN deep dive on connectivity in January 2023
- Organizing and presenting a Marine Ecological Connectivity symposium session at IMPAC5 in February 2023