

## Lauren Wenzel

Lauren is Director of the U.S. National Marine Protected Areas Center within NOAA's Office of National Marine Sanctuaries. Her work focuses on connecting and strengthening the marine and coastal protected area programs in the United States and internationally through capacity building, information and tools, and communication and engaging stakeholders. Lauren's focus is on building partnerships among federal, state and tribal marine and coastal programs and stakeholders to demonstrate and communicate the value of protecting the ocean's most important places. Lauren has been with the MPA Center since 2004. Before that, she worked to develop and implement Chesapeake Bay watershed plans to reduce nutrient pollution and on Smart Growth practices to foster more liveable and environmentally sustainable communities at the Maryland Department of Natural Resources. She received her M.S. from the University of Michigan in Natural Resources Management, and her B.A. from Oberlin College.

