



Marine Protected Areas Help Fisheries and Ocean Ecosystems

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DESCRIPTION

The 123 million people that live near the U.S. coasts and thus the three million Americans who depend on the ocean for his or her livelihood are front-row witnesses to dire and unprecedented change. As a result of global climate change, unusually warm waters are killing kelp along the West Coast also as coral off of Hawaii, fuelling toxic algae blooms in Florida and California, and compromising the country's \$212 billion business and sporting fishing enterprises. Wastewater and agricultural runoff, in conjunction with plastic pollution, are also major dangers; in 2017, scientists measured the ocean's largest dead zone ever—an area the size of latest Jersey—in the Gulf of Mexico, and plastic pollution is so prevalent that it has been found within the foremost remote areas of the deep sea. While the US currently features a robust fisheries management system, the legacy of past overfishing, combined with global climate change and habitat destruction, has severely threatened variety of the nation's most iconic fisheries. For instance, rapidly warming waters within the Gulf of Maine have impeded efforts to rebuild the New England cod fishery. In other fisheries, like that of the Alaskan red king crab, climate-related changes have led to overfishing concerns as target species cluster within the few cold areas that remain. And in Florida, toxic algae linked to coastal pollution and global climate change killed numerous snook and redfish in 2018 that officials banned their harvest.

One of the foremost powerful and effective methods for shielding fisheries resources and ocean life is that the marine protected area (MPA)—a clearly defined geographic space managed for long-term conservation. While some Pacific island nations have historically closed areas to manage their coastal fisheries, within the 20th century, European and American nations relied on inaccessibility, remoteness, rocky terrain, or the deepness of areas to function de facto MPAs. As technology improved and these areas became more accessible to fisheries, the need to protect specific areas and habitats so on guard fish populations became apparent.

For the past decade, the worldwide community has set ocean protection goals through multiple international mechanisms—mainly Aichi Target 11 within the Convention on Biological

Diversity and thus the United Nation's Sustainable Development Goal 14—with the aim of accelerating overall global ocean protection. Each country has the autonomy to designate and manage MPAs within their exclusive economic zone (EEZ), which refers to the world of ocean extending 200 nautical miles from shore during which a coastal nation has jurisdiction over the natural resources. To coordinate this effort and track progress toward national and global goals, countries have taken steps to line common standards. The as of late delivered MPA Guide—a joint effort between the U.N. Environment World Conservation Monitoring Centre and other organizations—outlines the stages of MPA establishment, the varying levels of MPA protection, and therefore the expected conservation outcomes supported an MPA's level of protection.

Spectrum of protections

Like land-based secured regions, MPAs exist along a range of insurance. The subsequent four classifications—recently described by marine ecologist Kirsten Grorud-Colvert and her colleagues—delineate MPAs supported their level of biodiversity protection and extractive activities.

Minimally protected

Negligibly secured MPAs are assigned as "ensured" however may either permit broad extraction or need requirement, execution, and dynamic administration. While minimally protected MPAs do provide some conservation benefit to a neighbourhood, it's relatively minimal, because the name implies. For instance, Pirajubaé, a marine reserve south of Sao Paulo, Brazil, is taken into account minimally protected because, post-designation, there are on-going and poorly regulated government-approved infrastructure projects that have damaged the area's coastal habitats and fishing grounds, dramatically undermining the MPA's effectiveness.

Organism size

Exceptionally and completely ensured MPAs increment normal living being size by 28%. Organism size is vital to fisheries sustainability, since in many commercially important species,

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Received: June 08, 2021; **Accepted:** June 22, 2021; **Published:** June 29, 2021

Citation: Ehsan AC (2021) Marine Protected Areas Help Fisheries and Ocean Ecosystems. Fish Aqua J. S2:e003.

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larger females release eggs that are larger, more numerous, and better quality than those of smaller females. This result doesn't scale with mass, meaning that one large female reproduces quite two smaller females with the same total body mass. For instance, within the commercially important Atlantic cod fishery, a single,

large 30-kilogram (kg) female produces more eggs than 28 small 2-kg females combined. Moreover, the batch of eggs of the huge 30-kg female has 37 times more energy content, which increases the survival of the newly hatched fish.