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### Abstract

We examine Norway's marine conservation efforts, assess their effectiveness, and suggest further actions needed to meet the sustainability goals. SDG14.5 states that every country should protect at least 10% of their territorial waters by 2020.

This study was done by searching for information and laws concerning marine protection and investigating the details of the current Marine Protected Areas (MPAs). We used the Norwegian Environment Agency's websites to read the definitions, find relevant laws in the Natural Diversity Act (NDA) and lists of current MPAs.

We discovered that 4.5% of Norway's territorial waters are protected. Only 1.7% across 17 sites are defined as MPAs, and the remaining 2.8% are other forms of protection extending into the sea. In Norway, nature conservation is detailed in the NDA. Protection can apply to the surface, water column, ocean floor, or a combination of the three. All activity that degrades the protection purpose is prohibited. Harvesting of marine resources in the MPAs are regulated in the Marine Resources Act (MRA), not the NDA. Fishing can therefore be allowed in the MPA. OECCMs (Other Effective area-based Conservation Methods) are areas outside MPAs where in-situ conservation is used. For example, in an OECCM fishing for a specific species in a certain period can be prohibited. This is regulated by the MRA.

Among Nordic countries, Norway is furthest away from achieving all SDG 14 targets. At the rate that Norway is conserving marine areas, it will take 750 years to achieve target 14.5. Not enough effort is being put in. A clear definition for MPAs is not easily accessible, and politicians do not understand the boundaries or importance of MPAs. Extending MPAs, making restrictions stricter, and education on the importance of conserving these areas are suggestions we provide on how Norway can achieve the SDG14.5 target sooner.

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