Effectiveness of Marine Protected Areas





Exploring different perspectives

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What is a Marine Protected Area (MPA)?

- MPAs are protected ocean areas set aside for long-term conservation.
- Some allow commercial activities, while socalled "no-take areas" only allow research.
- Target SDG14.5 called for the conservation of 10% of the ocean by 2020, but so far only 7.93% are protected.

TARGET 14.5

Fishers

- ✓ A spill-over from MPAs can benefit and protect resources of surrounding fisheries
- Help combat overfishing, illegal fishing and subsequent
 - declining employment opportunities
- X Hyper-competition between fisheries due to limited resources
 - X Need to still be able to make a living, uphold their culture and traditions

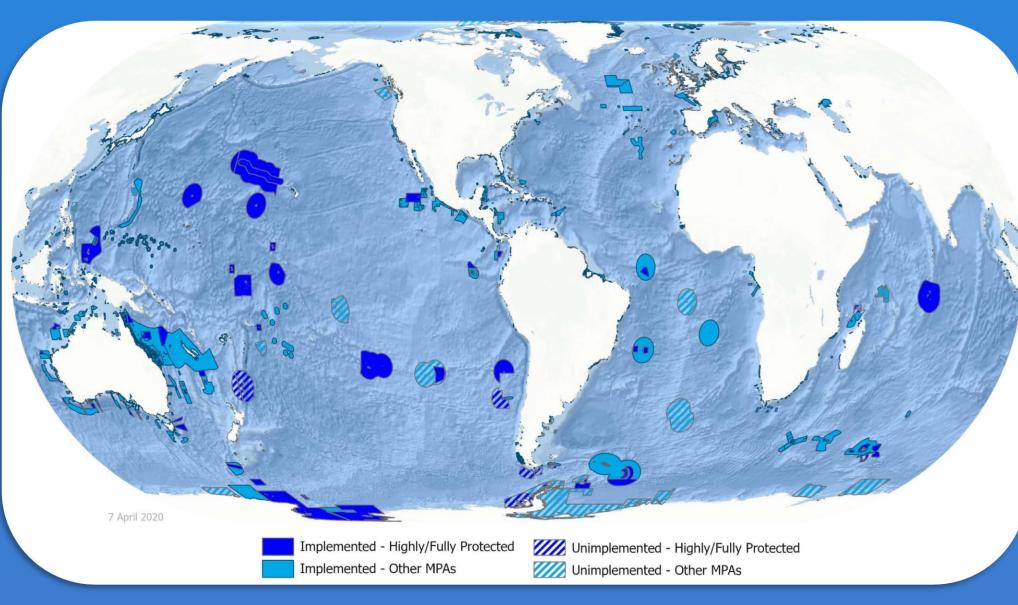


Fig. 1 Marine Protected Areas worldwide. Marine Conservation Institute (2020).

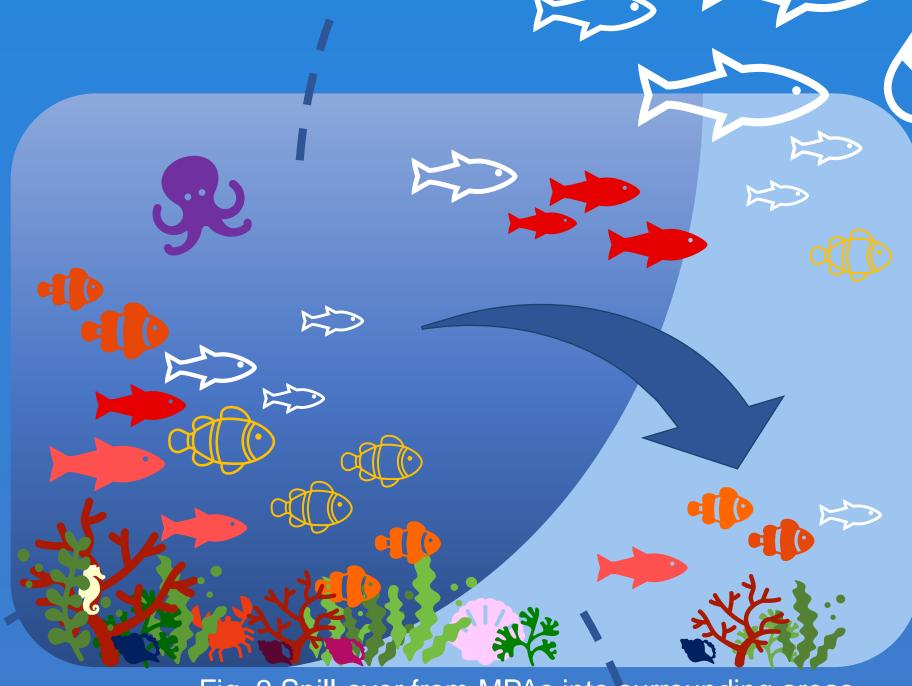


Fig. 2 Spill-over from MPAs into surrounding areas.

Conservation Scientists

- Conservation of ecosystems
- ✓ Increase the abundance of species, size and community diversity
- ✓ Increase biomass and biodiversity beyond the MPA's borders
- X "Paper parks": Some MPAs are established in ecologically "dead zones" without conserving vital species



- ✓ Preserving biodiversity as an attraction
- ✓ Enhance economic diversification based on fishing tourism and heritage
- ✓ Increase environmental awareness and encourage sustainable tourism development
 - X In some MPAs diving is **prohibited**, but many places depend on tourism



Take-Home Message

Motives and priorities can strongly differ among MPAs. To achieve **maximum effectiveness**, it is important to clearly define the MPA's **objectives and goals**, monitor **progress** and **include the different stakeholders** in the process.



