

Good scientific practice in marine research with specific reference to development of Marine Protected Areas (MPA)

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Seafloor MPAs - who will ever go there?



Scientists



Industry



Tourists

Who knows best how to protect them?



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When conducting scientific research:

1. **Avoid** activities that will have **deleterious impacts** on the sustainability of **populations**
2. **Avoid long lasting and significant alteration and/or visual degradation** of sites.
3. **Avoid collections** that are **not essential** to the conduct of scientific research.
4. **Avoid transplanting biota or geological material** between sites.
5. **Avoid compromising experiments or observations of other researchers.**
6. Facilitate the **fullest possible use of all** biological, chemical and geological **samples** collected through collaborations and cooperation



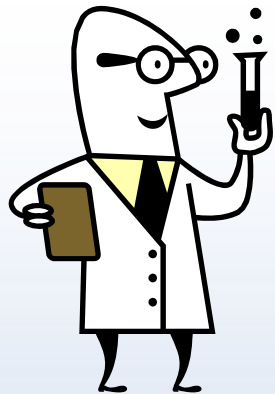
Some basic truths:

- 1. Scientific research is an essential pre-requisite for MPA definition (“If you don’t know what’s there, how will you protect it”).**
- 2. Scientific research BEFORE and after establishment is critical to assess the effectiveness of an MPA.**
- 3. MPA management must recognise and involve active scientists as stakeholders - IPCC has shown this can work.**
- 4. A clear political commitment to this involvement is essential if MPAs are to be defined on the scale planned.**



How it works at present

Yes, we should look after the seas, they are precious and my career depends on them



Why did we get no nominations for MPAs. Do the scientists not care about the seas?



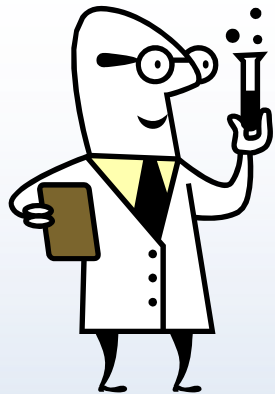
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How it could really work

Whew! My favourite area got picked. Now I can work on the important questions there for the years to come



We are financing the protection of our seas based on the best knowledge available. Vote for me.



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Good scientific practice & MPA

- **Scientists are committed to environmental protection**
- **MPA definition can only be based on science**
- **Use the IPCC model to find scientific consensus on marine protection (acknowledge scientific expertise and make commitment to using results)**

