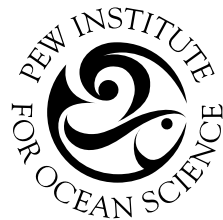


IN SUPPORT OF NO-TAKE ZONES
AND
OTHER MARINE PROTECTED AREAS:
A POLICY STATEMENT BY
THE PEW FELLOWS IN MARINE CONSERVATION

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WE URGE THE NATIONS OF THE WORLD to fulfill their commitment to the future of the oceans as agreed at the World Summit for Sustainable Development. At this meeting, 192 countries called for “the establishment of networks of representative Marine Protected Areas (MPAs) in all major marine habitats and climatic regions throughout the world’s oceans by 2012”. We agree that a system of MPAs, incorporating partially and fully protected areas, is essential for long-term survival of marine life and resources. In this document, we offer policy guidelines to achieve this global objective.

We use the term MPA to refer to a place in the sea where human activities are regulated. MPAs embrace a broad array of zones, from areas where most forms of extraction and activity are permitted under precautionary management, to areas where all extraction is banned (no-take).

MPAs are among the most powerful and reliable tools available for marine conservation, whether along the coast or in the open ocean. They help maintain populations and protect habitats, while revealing (through comparisons) how areas outside their borders are changing. MPAs serve as elements of a larger, integrated strategy of ocean management that includes precautionary approaches to fisheries exploitation, pollution control, and negotiations among multiple users.

Many forms of zoning will make significant contributions, but no-take MPAs are essential components of any marine conservation strategy.

By protecting all parts of the ecosystem, they allow us to evaluate our impact elsewhere.

MPAs are most effective when linked into networks, which are sets of individual MPAs connected by movement of marine life across space and time. A network should enable populations of marine animals and plants to persist in the face of diverse threats. Networks are valuable in all marine habitats, including seagrasses, mangroves, coral reefs, estuaries, sea mounts, abyssal plains and open oceans.

Generating MPAs and melding them into functioning networks requires regional, national and local engagement. By combining MPAs that vary in size, spacing and level of protection, communities can establish MPA networks that meet their own conservation needs. We recommend the following sixteen priority actions to achieve the MPA goal set at the Johannesburg meeting in 2002.

RECOMMENDATIONS

SUPPORT LOCAL IMPLEMENTATION OF MPAS

- 1) Assess the effects of MPAs, then use the findings to build support and agreement for their creation.
- 2) Ensure that all interested or affected parties are involved in the MPA process.
- 3) Develop a policy and legislative framework for local communities to engage in the establishment and management of MPAs, especially coastal MPAs.

SUPPORT LOCAL INVOLVEMENT IN THE DESIGN AND MANAGEMENT OF MPAS

- 4) Provide resources for local communities to be involved in designing, implementing, monitoring, promoting, and ensuring compliance with MPAs.
- 5) Set performance objectives and indicators for MPAs, then ensure that they are effectively managed and enforced to realize these goals.
- 6) Monitor and report regularly the ecological, social and economic effects of MPAs against these performance indicators.
- 7) Ensure that a high proportion of the benefits of coastal MPAs flow to local communities.

LINK MPAS INTO NETWORKS

- 8) Set performance objectives for national and regional networks of representative MPAs to meet the combined needs of marine populations, fisheries, and ecosystem stabilization.
- 9) Formulate a comprehensive plan for representative networks of MPAs (including no-take MPAs) that meet stated objectives by 2012.

10) Place no less than 10% and as much as 50% of each ecosystem in no-take zones, according to identified needs and management options in a particular ecosystem.

11) Formally declare and legally protect as no-take MPAs all areas incidentally closed to fishing or habitat damage (such as coasts near military bases, national borders, and prisons).

EVALUATE NETWORKS OF MPAS

12) Work with interested parties and other levels of regional government to identify and fill gaps in networks of MPAs.

13) Assess the effectiveness of networks of MPAs for populations, fisheries and long-term ecosystem objectives. Adjust the number, placement, size or management of MPAs as necessary.

14) Provide public and regular evaluations of progress towards establishing national or regional networks of MPAs, and of their effectiveness.

PARTICIPATE IN GLOBAL ACTION

15) While developing and sustaining MPA networks, ensure that other appropriate and precautionary tools are also employed to restore marine populations and fisheries, in all waters.

16) Cooperate with global efforts to implement effective and enduring networks of MPAs that maintain populations and protect marine habitats, within and beyond national control.

SIGNED BY THE FOLLOWING PEW FELLOWS

Alex Aguilar

Professor, Department of Animal Biology, University of Barcelona, Spain

Angel Alcalá

Director, Silliman University's Angelo King Center for Research and Environmental Management (SUAKCREM), Philippines

Shankar Aswani-Canela

Associate Professor, University of California, Santa Barbara, USA

John Avise

Professor of Genetics, University of Georgia, USA

Giovanni Bearzi

President, Tethys Research Institute, Italy

P. Dee Boersma

Professor of Biology, University of Washington, USA

Rodrigo Bustamante

Team Leader, Northern Fisheries and Ecosystems Research Group, CSIRO Marine Research, Australia

Claudio Campagna

Research Biologist, Centro Nacional Patagónico, National Research Council of Argentina, Argentina

Juan Carlos Castilla

Professor of Marine Ecology, Pontificia Universidad Católica de Chile, Chile

Anthony Charles

Professor, St. Mary's University, Canada

Benjamin Cuker

Professor of Marine Science, Hampton University, USA

Karen Eckert

Executive Director, Wider Caribbean Sea Turtle Conservation Network (WIDECAST), USA

Mark Erdmann

Senior Advisor, Conservation International Indonesian Marine Program, Indonesia

Miriam Fernandez

Associate Professor, Pontificia Universidad Católica de Chile, Chile

Rodney Fujita

Marine Ecologist, Environmental Defense, USA

Steven Gaines

Professor, University of California, USA

Kristina Gjerde

High Seas Policy Advisor, IUCN Global Marine Program, Poland

Jean Mary Harris

Ecological Advice Coordinator, Coast Region Ezemvelo KwaZulu-Natal Wildlife, South Africa

Burr Heneman

Director, Ocean Policy Program, Commonwealth, USA

Les Kaufman

Professor of Biology, Boston University, USA

Jessica Landman

Senior Counsel, Science and Policy, COMPASS/SeaWeb, USA

Jane Lubchenco

Wayne and Gladys Valley Professor of Marine Biology Distinguished Professor of Zoology, Oregon State University, USA

Helene Marsh

Professor of Environmental Science, James Cook University, Australia

Tim McClanahan

Conservation Zoologist, Coordinator of Coral Reef Programs, Wildlife Conservation Society, Kenya

Laurence McCook

Manager, Research and Monitoring Coordination, Great Barrier Reef Marine Park Authority, Australia

Laurence Mee

Professor of Marine and Coastal Policy, Associate Head (Research), School of Earth, Ocean and Environmental Science, University of Plymouth, UK

Elliott Norse

President, Marine Conservation Biology Institute, USA

Stephen Palumbi

Professor of Marine Sciences, Stanford University, USA

Ellen Pikitch

Executive Director, Pew Institute for Ocean Science; Professor, Marine Biology and Fisheries, University of Miami, USA

Jurgenne Primavera

Senior Scientist, Southeast Asian Fisheries Development Center, Philippines

Robert Repetto

Senior Advisor, Stratus Consulting, Inc., USA

Graham Robertson

Principal Research Scientist, Australian Antarctic Division, Antarctic Marine Living Resources Program, Australia

Garry Russ

Associate Professor, James Cook University, Australia

Peter Shelley

Vice President, Conservation Law Foundation, USA

Craig Smith

Professor of Oceanography, University of Hawaii at Manoa, USA

Robert Steneck

Professor, University of Maine, USA

Wayne Trivelpiece

Director, Antarctic Seabird Research, NOAA Southwest Fisheries Science Center, USA

Amanda Vincent

Canada Research Chair in Marine Conservation; Director, Project Seahorse, Fisheries Centre, The University of British Columbia, Canada

Alan White

Chief of Party, Coastal Resource Management Project; Tetra Tech EMI and USAID Philippines, Philippines

The mission of the Pew Fellows Program in Marine Conservation is to promote, protect, and preserve the marine environment. This has been accomplished by providing fellowships to outstanding individuals from around the world who are exemplary leaders and active problem-solvers supporting healthy ocean ecosystems. Pew Marine Conservation Fellows are united in their focus on initiatives that have important ramifications for creative marine conservation strategies, deployment of new technologies, broad dissemination of information, and the establishment of sustainable ocean policies at the regional, national, and international levels.

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