

Designing for Multiple Objectives in the Development of Marine Protected Areas

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Abstract:

Marine Protected Areas (MPAs) have been used to promote conservation interests for decades, but the perceived and realized costs to other interests (e.g., fisheries) continue to be a barrier to their spread. A variety of theoretical and empirical studies have argued that MPAs may also be able to benefit fisheries if designed well. This suggests that seeking multiple objectives in MPA design may be able to benefit a broader array of stakeholder groups if there aren't strong design tradeoffs. I will examine frameworks for exploring tradeoffs in MPA design from the perspective of fisheries, conservation and tourism benefits and their use in the implementation of MPA networks in several global settings.