

WHAT IS AN MPA?

Marine Protected Area

A CLEARLY DEFINED geographical space

RECOGNIZED
DEDICATED AND
MANAGED
through legal or other
effective means

to achieve the
LONG-TERM
conservation
of nature

WITH
ASSOCIATED
**ECOSYSTEM
SERVICES**

WHAT IS AN MPA'S PURPOSE?

TO CONSERVE AND PROTECT

habitats

species

ecological
integrity

biodiversity

productivity

BENEFITS OF AN EFFECTIVE MPA MAY INCLUDE



ECOLOGICAL

In addition to the above biodiversity benefits, an MPA can help mitigate climate change and support local ecosystem resilience to stressors.



CULTURAL

An MPA can preserve unique cultural sites and natural beauty to support Indigenous and local cultures and food harvesting.



ECONOMIC

An MPA can provide tourism and recreation opportunities, support fish populations for local fisheries, and grow community partnerships.



SOCIAL

An MPA can promote community awareness and ocean stewardship, visitation and enjoyment of the area, and build relationships.

EACH MPA IS UNIQUE AND PROVIDES A DIFFERENT RANGE OF BENEFITS