

Recreational Fishing in U.S. Marine Protected Areas

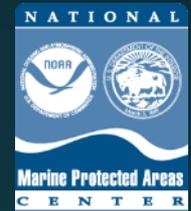
Perspectives from
National Marine Protected
Areas Center

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October 2017

NOAA's National Marine Protected Areas Center



“the nation’s hub for information and tools for building innovative partnerships to protect special ocean places.”





NOAA's Mission

To understand and predict changes in climate, weather, oceans, and coasts, to share that knowledge and information with others, and to conserve and manage coastal and marine ecosystems and resources. Dedicated to the understanding and stewardship of the environment.



NOAA Definition of MPA

*“any **area** of the **marine** environment that has been **reserved** by federal, state, territorial, tribal, or local laws or **regulations** to provide **lasting protection** for part or all of the natural and cultural resources therein.”*



IUCN Definition of Protected Area

*“a clearly defined **geographical space**, recognised, **dedicated** and managed, through **legal** or other effective means, to achieve the **long-term conservation** of nature with associated ecosystem services and cultural values”*

Marine Protected Areas in the United States

- Protect natural heritage, cultural heritage and sustainable production
- Vary greatly in size, focus, management, regulations and governance
- Target a wide range of habitats, species and cultural marine resources
- Balance conservation with recreational activities and other sustainable uses



The U.S. MPA Inventory

A comprehensive geospatial database designed to catalog and classify marine protected areas within U.S. waters



MARINE PROTECTED AREAS

About Understanding ▾ Connecting ▾ Managing ▾ Experiencing ▾ Resources ▾

HOME / EXPERIENCING / VIEWER



NOAA's MPA Inventory

Explore U.S. Marine Protected Areas

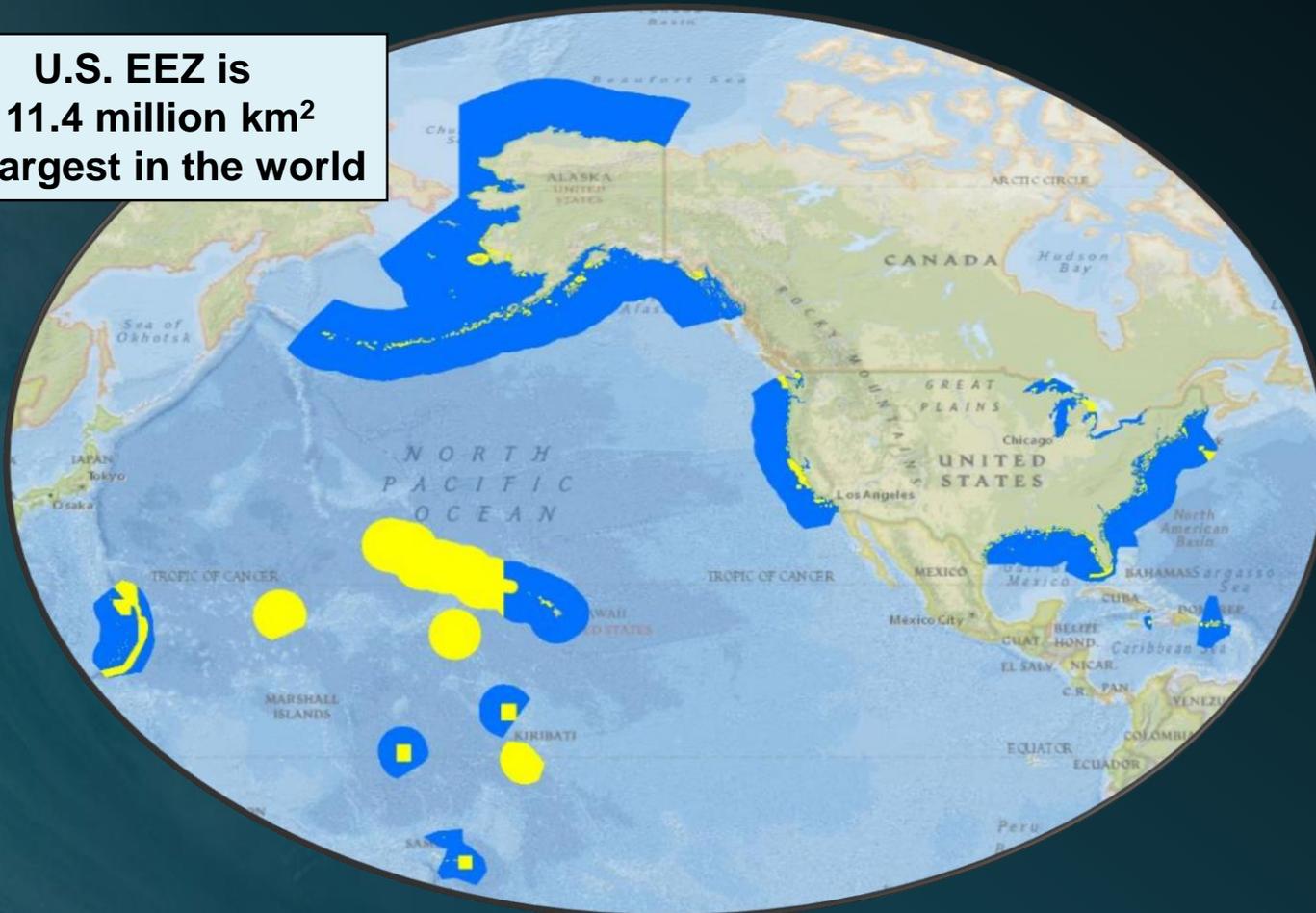
More about the MPA Inventory



Search for MPA by name



**U.S. EEZ is
~ 11.4 million km²
2nd largest in the world**



**U.S. Marine Waters
= 12.4 million km²**

U.S. IUCN MPAs

Bays & Estuaries



State Waters



Federal Waters



Great Lakes



U.S. MPA Programs



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CONSERVATION COMMISSION



OREGON
MARINE RESERVES

OREGON DEPARTMENT
OF FISH & WILDLIFE



Virginia Department of Conservation & Recreation

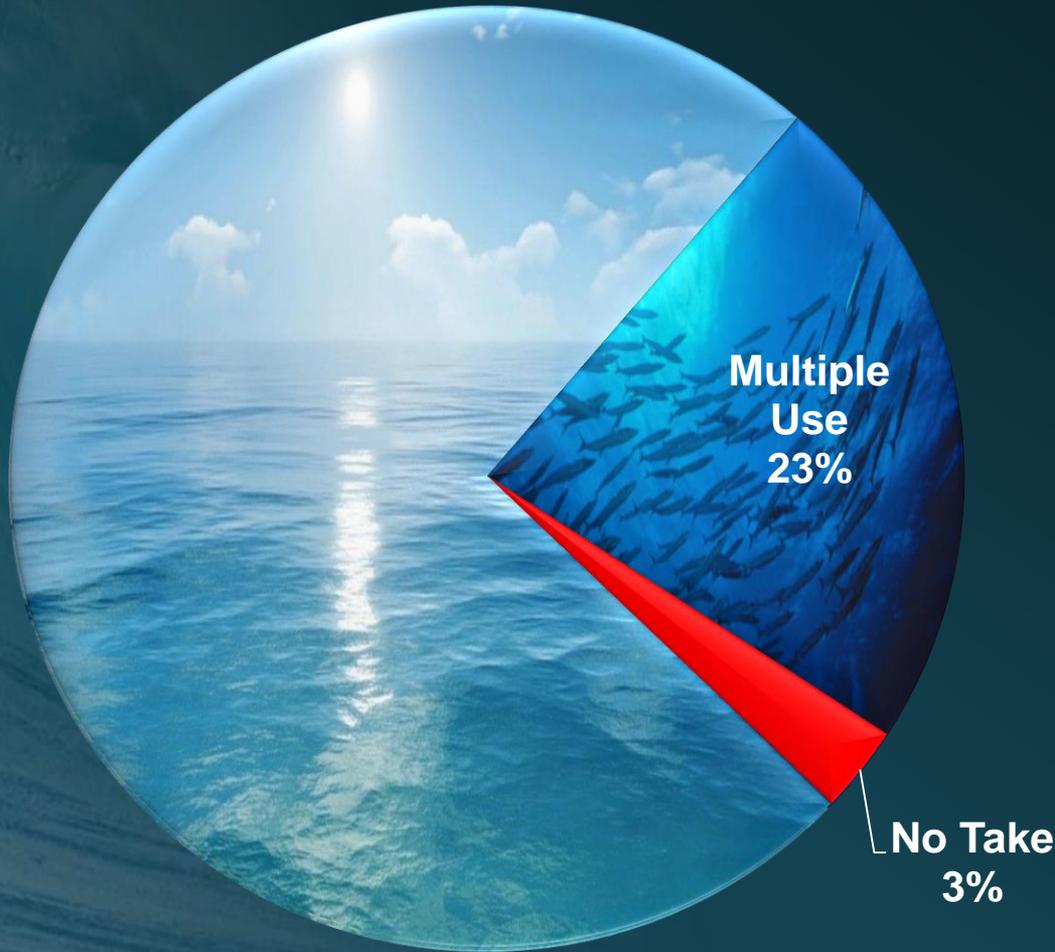


WASHINGTON STATE DEPARTMENT OF
Natural Resources



Department of Land and Natural Resources
State of Hawaii

U.S. MPA Coverage in 2017



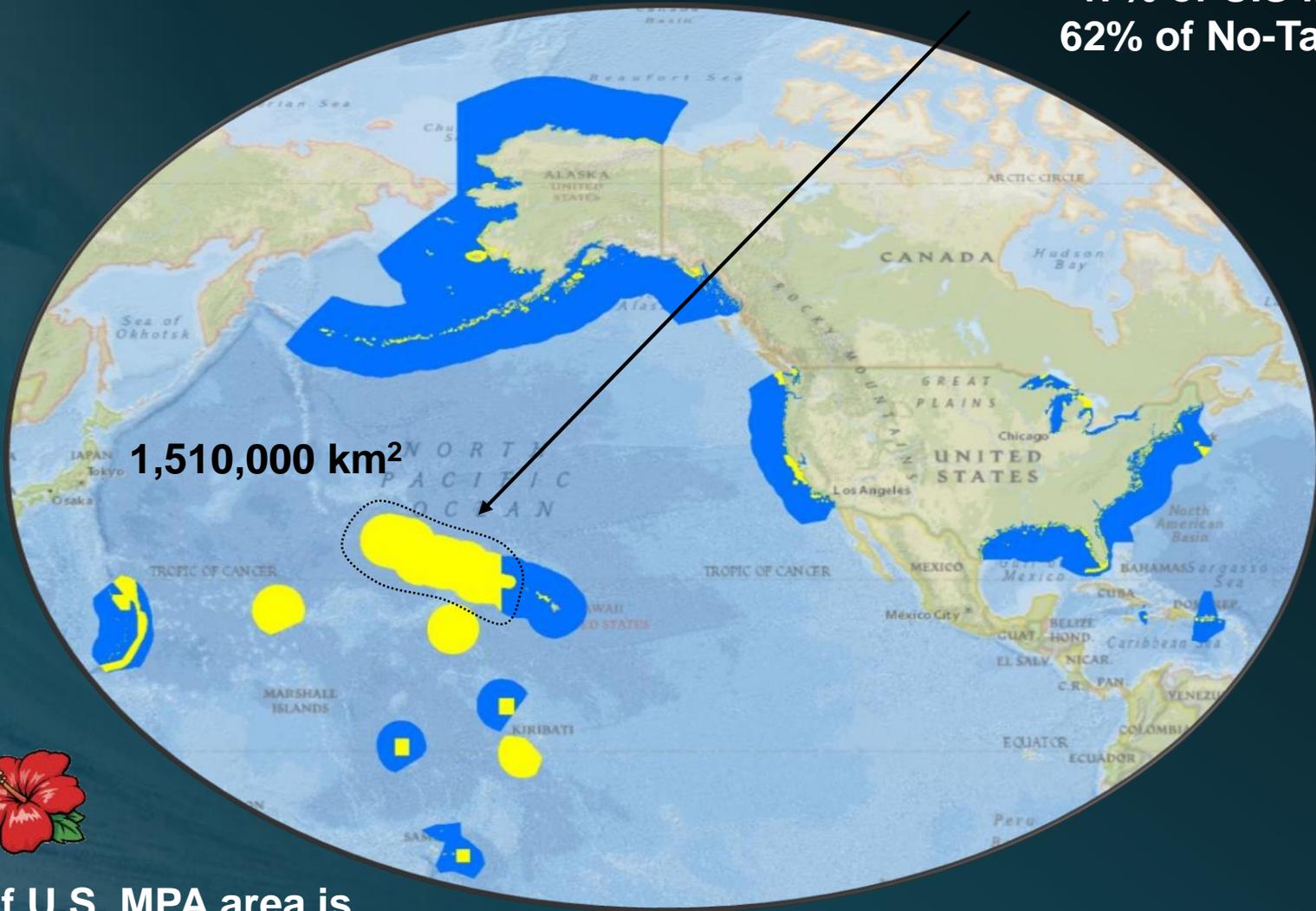
**MPAs cover 26% of U.S
marine waters**

**~ 3% in No-Take MPAs
that prohibit all forms of
extraction**

**~ 23% in Multiple Use
MPAs that allow a range
of sustainable uses
including fishing**

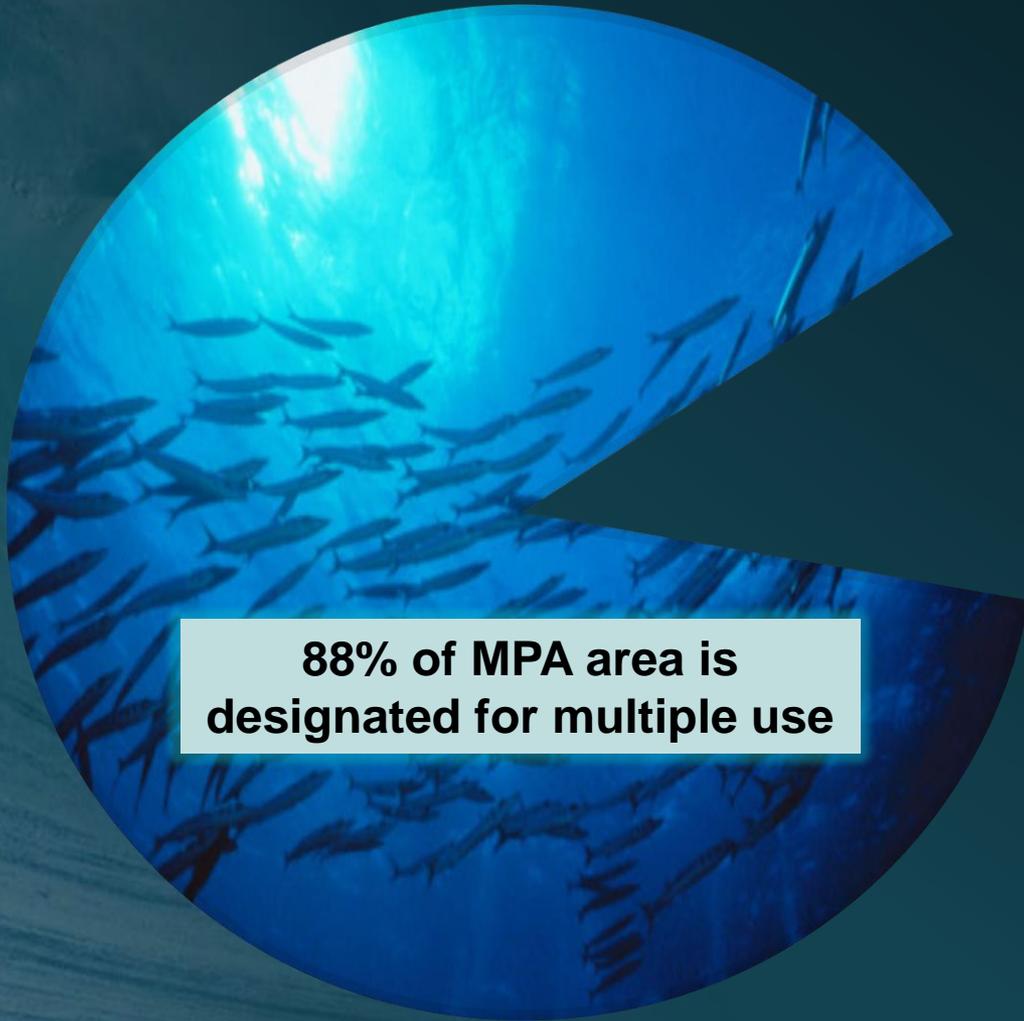
Papahānaumokuākea Marine National Monument

~ 47% of U.S MPA area
62% of No-Take area



96% of U.S. MPA area is
in the Pacific Islands

Multiple Use MPAs



Multiple use MPAs provide protection of marine resources while supporting a wide range of sustainable uses.

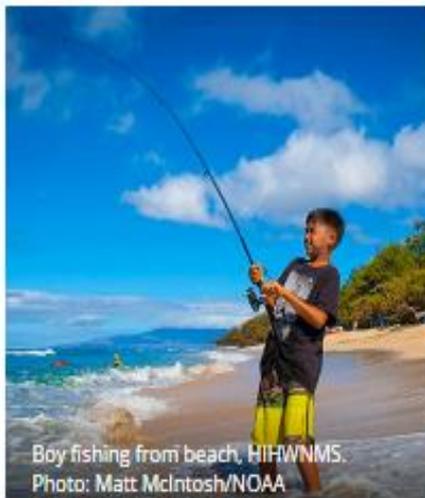
While commercial extraction may be restricted or even prohibited, recreational fishing and harvest is usually allowed.

Regulations are designed to avoid use conflicts and protect sensitive marine resources.

Multiple Use MPAs



Commercial Fishing Boat
Photo credit: Unknown



Boy fishing from beach, HIHWNMS.
Photo: Matt McIntosh/NOAA



People wind surfing, MBNMS. Photo:
Robert Schwemmer/NOAA



Scuba diver and coral reef, GRNMS.
Photo: Greg McFall/NOAA



Man fishing, MBNMS. Photo: Kate
Thompson/NOAA



Diver examining shipwreck, TBNMS.
Photo: David J. Ruck/NOAA



Person surfing, OCNMS. Photo: Kate
Thompson/NOAA



Kid going canoeing, CINMS. Photo: Claire
Fackler/NOAA

Recreational Fishing in the U.S.

In 2014:

-  Included 11 million Americans
-  Supported 439,000 jobs
-  Generated > \$61 billion in sales



- **Recreational fishing builds ocean stewardship and contributes to conservation.**
- **Most multiple use MPAs allow sustainable recreational fishing practices that are compatible with conservation goals.**

Regulation of Recreational Fishing in U.S. MPAs

Regulations on recreational fishing vary based on *purpose* or *intent* of protected area.

No-take MPAs or marine reserves are usually small, coastal protected areas established as reference sites or to maintain near- pristine conditions.



Multiple use MPAs are often larger (and zoned) and designed to protect resources through management of sustainable uses.



Promoting Recreation: *Florida Keys National Marine Sanctuary*

- Multiple use MPA that allows range of consumptive and non-consumptive uses
- Includes no-take and no-access zones to protect sensitive habitats.
- Recreational fishing: 400,000 visitors and over \$274 million/year
- Recreational Diving: 738,000 visitors and over \$478 million/year



Ensuring Conservation: *Point Lobos State MPAs*

- The coastal **Point Lobos Marine Reserve** prohibits any take of marine resources, living or non-living.
- The offshore Marine Conservation Area only allows for limited recreational and commercial take of salmon and albacore and spot prawn.
- Recreational non-consumptive uses, education and permitted research are allowed.



Key Findings

- Most U.S. MPAs allow sustainable recreational fishing.
- Managed recreational fishing helps foster ocean stewardship.
- Stewardship supports healthy fisheries, communities, & economies.
- Monitoring is demonstrating fishery benefits outside the boundaries of some no-take MPAs.



MPA Research Needs

- Better science on efficacy of different types MPAs
- Improved monitoring and assessment tools
- Socio-economic value of MPAs



An underwater photograph of a dense kelp forest. Sunlight filters through the water, creating a bright, greenish-blue glow. The kelp stalks are tall and thin, with large, dark green leaves. The overall scene is vibrant and lush.

THANK YOU