

Biodiversity: Ecological Significance and Management by Marine Protected Areas

As the International Year of Biodiversity draws to a close, there have been gains in scientific understanding of marine biodiversity and calls to increase marine protected areas on the global scale. High levels of biodiversity, on both species and genetic levels, can contribute to the ecological stability, productive capacity, and recovery potential of marine communities. International efforts to protect biodiversity has focused on the establishment of no-take and highly restricted marine protected areas under directives from the WSSD and CBD. The current status of marine protected areas and their networks in the United States will be discussed as reflective of the global status. In addition, current international policy challenges, particularly in areas beyond national jurisdiction, will be presented.