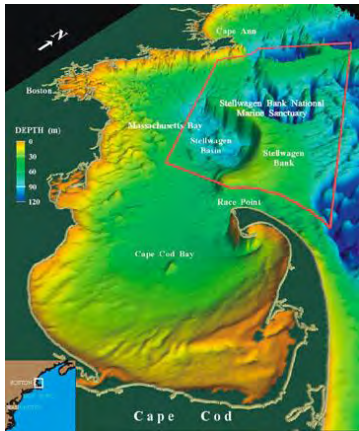


People Matter: Social Impacts of Marine Protected Areas



Channel Islands National Marine Sanctuary



Channel Islands National Marine Sanctuary



Olympic Coast National Marine Sanctuary

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Outline

- Introduction
- Social impacts of MPAs
- Social factors for MPA success
- Research frontiers
- Conclusion

Outline

- Introduction:

- (1) MPAs as social institutions

- (2) Understanding coastal communities

MPAs as social institutions

By definition, MPAs are:

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MPAs as social institutions

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1. Designed to change human behavior and provide new incentive structures.
2. Limited by surrounding socioeconomics and social constraints.
3. Implemented with social interests in mind.
4. Dependent on the human dimension to be successful; biological performance is linked to people's behavior change.

MPAs as social institutions

As a result:

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1. Increasing **scrutiny** regarding the social impacts of MPAs on people/communities.

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MPAs as social institutions

As a result:

1. Increasing **scrutiny** regarding the social impacts of MPAs on people/communities.
2. Increased **policy discussion** focused on the human dimension; balancing social and biological „**tradeoffs**’.
3. Increased social science **research** designed to assess and quantify effects of MPA designation and management.

MPAs as social institutions

Objectives of MPAs often reflect:

- Sociocultural context
- Socioeconomic setting
- Governance needs
- Political realities
- Human ecology



MPAs as social institutions

Social contributions to MPA management:

- Assessment
- Needs identification
- Public feedback
- Prediction of social impacts
- Mitigation of social impacts
- User acceptance



Understanding coastal communities



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MPA design should seek to understand:



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MPA design should seek to understand:

- **Diversity** of coastal people and livelihoods



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Understanding coastal communities

MPA design should seek to understand:

- **Diversity** of coastal people and livelihoods
- HH **adaptation** to reduce social risks
- **Incentives** that drive user decision-making
- Sources of **vulnerability** to stresses/shocks



Perceptions and attitudes

Fishers often oppose MPAs because of:

Perceptions and attitudes

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Perceptions and attitudes

Fishers often oppose MPAs because of:

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Perceptions and attitudes

Fishers often oppose MPAs because of:

- Use restrictions
- Limitations on income generation
- Lower satisfaction with alternative livelihood options than fishing
- Reallocation of resources and wealth among social groups

Outline

- Introduction
- Social impacts of MPAs
 - Serve as a resource reallocative mechanism
 - Benefits are diffuse while costs are concentrated

Outline

- Introduction
- Social impacts of MPAs

(1) social **benefits**

(2) social **costs**

Social Benefits of MPAs

- Increased catch (spill over)
- Increased revenue
- Improved diet/health
- Increased non-consumptive uses
- Improved/diversified local economies
- Enhanced existence value
- Strengthened option value
- Enhanced resilience (“insurance policy”)

Social Costs of MPAs

- Catch and revenue declines (short term?)
- New management costs
- Opportunity costs
- Direct operating costs
- Social and political capital costs
- Increased and/or new risks
- Increased human migration; displacement
- Local demographic and economic changes

Shifts in Access and Use

Shifts in Access and Use

Potential issues include:

- Loss of customary access to traditional fishing grounds; impeded cultural practice
- Preferential access arrangements
- Distribution shifts in income, food security, material assets
- No or poor availability of alternative or supplementary livelihood opportunities

Shifts in Access and Use

Potential issues include (cont'd):

- Higher user congestion within open areas
- Increased fishing effort outside of MPA
- Increased travel costs/time to open areas
- Increased user conflicts in open areas
- Distributive equity changes; increased disparity
- Increased occupational risks

Shifts in Access and Use

Non-extractive use **benefits:**

- Diversification of local economy
- Increased visitor revenues as an offset to lost fishing revenues
- Increased local tax revenues
- Reduction in conflicts between extractive and non-extractive uses
- Allocation for access and use by non-extractive users

Shifts in Access and Use

Non-extractive use costs:

- Negative visitor industry impacts on the natural environment
- Possible negative economic impacts from shift out of extractive into non-extractive
- Loss of traditional way of life
- Sustainable rates of non-extractive uses require time and study to establish

Shifts in Economic Equity

- Poorly understood
- Less studied than effects on efficiency
- Distributive economic effects vary by subgroup
- Transfer of direct use benefits from consumptive to non-consumptive uses



Outline

- Introduction
- Social impacts of MPAs
- **Social factors for MPA success**

Social Factors for MPA Success

Critical factors include:

- Public **participation** and input (ownership)
- Mechanisms for **conflict resolution**
- Clear and socially-compatible **objectives**
- Reflection of local **socioeconomic realities**
- Management **accountability** ensured
- Stakeholder **capacity building** and training

Social Factors for MPA Success

Critical factors include (cont'd):

- **Incentive structures** for local participation, including economic benefits
- **Benefits** outweigh costs (real & perceived)
- Benefits and costs shared **equitably**
- Provision of **livelihood opportunities**

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- Social factors for MPA success
- **Research frontiers**

Research Frontiers

- Limited social knowledge compared to ecological
- Know more about economic impacts than social impacts
- More qualitative than quantitative analysis
- Limited long term analysis
- Experimental design (with and w/o)
- Baseline data and monitoring

Research Frontiers

- Impacts on poverty
- Distributive impacts among stakeholders
- Social outcome tradeoff analysis
- Relationship to social trend rates
- Social impact variability
- Comparative social impact analysis across MPAs
- Investigate variables that influence social impacts

Outline

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- **Conclusion**

Conclusion

- Social rationale for MPAs varies
- Social and biological uniqueness of MPAs
- Balancing act between needs and realities
- No blueprint for MPA social success
- MPAs cannot exist in isolation from social factors and issues
- **People matter**



Thank You

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