

Scientific Literature on Marine Protected Areas

Over the last two decades, scientists from all over the world have evaluated the role that marine protected areas can play in conservation of marine biodiversity and sustainability of fish stocks. The 250 peer-reviewed manuscripts below represents a proportion of the total number of scientific studies carried out on marine protected areas and include studies published in the world's leading scientific journals, such as *Science* and *Nature*. This immense scientific literature forms the basis of Australian, American and European Consensus statements signed by hundreds of marine scientists on the importance of marine protected areas as one tool to ensure long-term conservation of marine biodiversity. This literature also provided the scientific basis on which NSW Marine Parks were designed. Opinions of individuals either for or against marine protected areas should give consideration to this entire body of research. Heavy reliance on a single manuscript will undoubtedly lead to a biased interpretation of the evidence.

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