

Foreword

The costs of poor ocean management practices include environmental and social costs that are often not factored into decision-making processes. This undermines the resilience of the ecosystems upon which we depend, for food, for income, but also other less visible life-support functions such as coastal protection, habitat provisioning and carbon sequestration.

While previous OECD work has focused on sustainable fisheries and more broadly on the ocean economy, this report focuses on one policy instrument, namely marine protected areas (MPAs), to help ensure the conservation and sustainable use of our oceans. The report *Marine Protected Areas: Economics, Management and Effective Policy Mixes* considers MPAs from both an environmental and economic perspective. It examines recent developments and experiences with MPAs around the world and provides good practice insights for more effective management. Issues covered include:

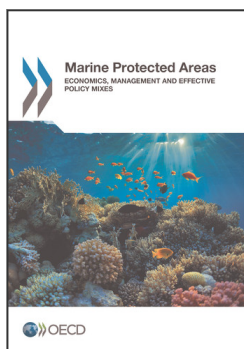
- What is the role and current state-of-play of MPAs in the conservation and sustainable use of marine biodiversity and ecosystems?
- What are the benefits and costs associated with MPAs?
- What are the key design and implementation features that need to be considered to ensure the effective management of MPAs?
- How are MPAs financed and what options are there to scale this up?
- How have MPAs been implemented alongside other policy instruments, to more comprehensively and effectively address the multiple pressures on marine ecosystems?

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