

DEFINITIONS: MARINE RESERVES AND MARINE PROTECTED AREAS

The following are definitions of types of marine reserves and marine protected areas. These definitions are from: Marine Protected Areas: Tools for Sustaining Ocean Ecosystem. This 2001 publication of the National Academy Press was compiled by the Committee on the Evaluation, Design, and Monitoring of Marine Reserves and Protected Areas in the United States, Ocean Studies Board, National Research Council. "Ecological reserve" is the term used for areas providing the most complete protection and "marine protected area" is a broad term that includes ecological reserves as well as partially protected areas. Fishery reserves and marine reserves land between these extremes, specifically: ecological reserves are a subset of fishery reserves; fishery reserves are a subset of marine reserves; and marine reserves are a subset of marine protected areas.

ecological reserve: Zoning that protects all living marine resources through prohibitions on fishing and on the removal or disturbance of any living or nonliving marine resource. Access and recreational activities may be restricted to prevent damage to the resources. These reserves may also be referred to as full protected areas.

fishery reserve: Zoning that precludes fishing activity on some or all species to protect critical habitat, rebuild stocks (long term, but not necessarily permanent closure), provide insurance against overfishing, or enhance fishery yield.

marine reserve: A zone in which some or all of the biological resources are protected from removal or disturbance; encompasses both fishery and ecological reserves.

marine protected area (MPA): Geographic area with discrete boundaries that has been designated to enhance the conservation of marine resources. This includes MPA-wide restrictions on some activities such as oil and gas mining and the use of zones such as fishery and ecological reserves to provide higher levels of protection.