

RECOMMENDATIONS

WWF's analysis of marine protection in Europe shows how far the EU stands from achieving the 2020 goal of having at least 10% well-managed and well-connected MPAs, as required by both UN SDG 14 and the CBD Aichi target 11. **Today, only 1.8% of EU seas are covered by MPAs with management plans**, despite 12.4% being designated for protection.

WWF calls on the European Commission and EU Member States to urgently improve biodiversity protection in all EU seas and ensure effective management of all Marine Protected Areas. EU Member States must:

- Ensure that the main priority of all MPAs is **conservation of biodiversity**, not economic opportunity.
- Establish, enforce and implement **effective management and monitoring** in existing MPAs.
- Secure appropriate **resources, investment and legislation for MPAs**, and use **participatory processes** to include all relevant stakeholders in the development of functional management plans.
- Commit to the goal of reaching **at least 30% effectively managed MPAs by 2030**.
- Increase transparency of the EU marine area's protection by ensuring **timely and accurate reporting** to all relevant MPA authorities and databases.
- Ensure that the national and regional MPA networks are **designed to provide protection across the whole network** by supporting habitat connectivity, representativity and replication between MPAs.
- Include the benefits of MPAs beyond nature protection as the basis of the **ecosystem-based approach in Marine Spatial Plans (MSP)** to support securing a Sustainable Blue Economy by 2021.
- Provide **greater scrutiny over fisheries management measures** within Natura 2000 sites submitted by EU Member States to ensure that conservation objectives are achieved in line with Article 11 of the Common Fisheries Policy.

For more details, see full report.

	<p>Why we are here To stop the degradation of the planet's natural environment and to build a future in which humans live in harmony with nature.</p> <p>www.wwf.eu</p>
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