

# PML

Plymouth Marine  
Laboratory

Listen to the ocean

## Study on the Economic Benefits of Marine Protected Areas

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# Project Outline

- 18 month European Commission funded project
- Aims:
  - To evaluate how MPAs and SPMs provide benefits to blue economy sectors
    - Fisheries, tourism and other blue economy sectors
  - Assess the role of governance in the creation of economic benefits
  - Support relevant EU policies and policy development
- Achieved through:
  - Literature review (completed)
  - Stakeholder engagement (completed)
  - Case studies (underway)



# Tourism benefits

- Tourism and recreation benefit most often from no-take and multiple-use MPAs
  - Other blue economy sectors more negative about the benefits to tourism
- Direct benefits
  - Increased incomes and jobs for recreational and tourism businesses
- Indirect benefits
  - Increased vibrancy of local economies/supply chain effects
  - Increase in house prices
- Caveats



- Tourism and recreation may not benefit same way e.g. angling sometimes prohibited

# Routes to benefit I

Change in biodiversity

Protection of nursery areas  
Increased biodiversity

Wider environmental change

Ecosystem recovery  
Improved quality

New/ expanded activity

New tourism opportunities and infrastructure

- Improved experiences
- Changing behaviour
- More business
- Increased revenue and jobs
- Wider economic vibrancy

## Routes to benefit II

Reduced inter-sector competition

Reduced competition for space

Access and interpretative infrastructure

Collaboration with businesses

Branding opportunities

Reserve labels and brands  
Eco-certification

- Improved experiences
- Changing behaviour
- More business
- Increased revenue and jobs
- Wider economic vibrancy

# Governance

- Conflict:
  - All forms of MPA thought to 'often' cause conflict
  - Conflict peaks post-designation
- Synergies
  - More commonly associated with multiple-use and fisheries SPMs
  - Most associated with tourism and recreation, followed by static gear fisheries
  - Some sectors were not associated with synergies e.g. oil and gas and dredging and offshore construction
- Sustainable use
  - Approx. 50% respondents thought no-take, multiple use MPAs and fisheries SPMs are 'often' or 'always' used sustainably
  - 40% respondents did not know for de facto refuges
  - Fisheries and tourism the main targets for sustainable use measures



# Resolving conflict, encouraging synergy and supporting sustainable use

- Interpretative and education mechanisms most commonly used
  - Legal mechanisms for sustainable use
- Economic mechanisms least commonly used
  - BUT: premiums can act as compensation
- Evidence for use of
  - Knowledge-based mechanisms
  - Participatory mechanisms
  - Technological mechanisms
- No evidence of their economic impact

techbuoy



# Limitations

- General absence of data
  - Difficulty in looking beyond the obvious
- Ability to quantify and value benefits
  - Baseline evidence rather than change
- Balancing benefits against costs
  - Focus on gross not net benefits
  - Not same for all MPAs
- Gaps in study scope
  - Need to look beyond economic benefits
  - Don't yet know what all the benefits are

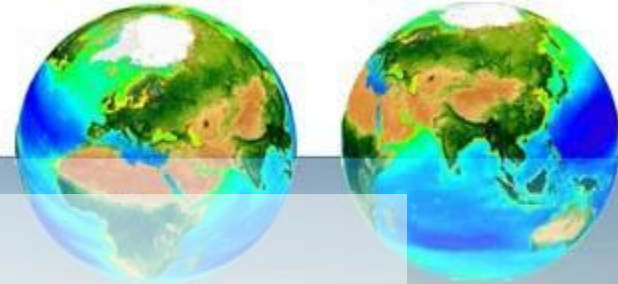




## Conclusions: how create more benefits?

- Planning for economic benefits
  - Make economic benefits an MPA objective (but false hope and conflict?)
  - MPA business plans
- Good governance
  - Need for participation, awareness raising, data and knowledge sharing
- Dialogue with blue economy sectors
  - May identify new opportunities for economic benefits
- Private-public sector partnerships
  - For realisation of opportunities
- New technology and innovations
  - Supporting better monitoring, evaluation, and decision-making

# Thank you and questions?



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