

# MPA NEWS



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## MPA Science Corner: Impact of human activity on coral reef MPAs - Questioning large open-ocean MPAs - Questioning calculations of global MPA coverage

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**Article:** Suchley, A. & Alvarez-Filip, L. "[Local human activities limit marine protection efficacy on Caribbean coral reefs.](#)" *Conservation Letters* e12571 (2018)

**Finding:** This study of seven coral reef MPAs and nearby unprotected areas in the Mexican Caribbean – a region with burgeoning coastal development in recent decades – found that coral cover was positively related to protected status, but was significantly lower at sites near elevated local human activity. The authors call on policy makers to acknowledge the impact of uncontrolled coastal development on corals and to apply stronger regulations.

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**Preprint:** Magris, R. A. & Pressey, R. L. "[Marine protected areas: Just for show?](#)" *Science* 360, 723.2 - 724 (2018)

**Finding:** The authors question the wisdom of designating large, open-ocean MPAs as an effective conservation strategy. They make the case that the recent planning of two such MPAs in Brazil adhered poorly to best practices in conservation planning.

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**Article:** Sala, E. et al. "[Assessing real progress towards effective ocean protection.](#)" *Marine Policy* 91, 11 - 13 (2018).

**Finding:** The authors state that only 3.6% of the ocean is in MPAs that have been implemented with active management – as opposed to simply being announced or designated. And only 2% is implemented in MPAs that are fully protected (no-take) or strongly protected (recreational or artisanal fishing allowed). They argue that current protection is often overestimated because it includes areas that are not yet actually protected, and that areas that allow significant extractive activities such as fishing should not count as protected.

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