

MPA NETWORK GOALS AND OBJECTIVES

The primary means of achieving the MPA network vision are six overarching Network goals, which provide an umbrella for the development of more specific bioregional objectives. Network objectives identify and focus management priorities, provide a context for resolving issues, a rationale for decisions, and a means for assessing network effectiveness.

Photo by Barb Dinning

Goal 1: To protect and maintain marine biodiversity, ecological representation and special natural features.

- Contribute to the conservation of the diversity of species, populations, and ecological communities, and their viability in changing environments.
- Protect natural trophic structures and food webs, including populations of upper-level predators, key forage species, nutrient importing and exporting species, and structure-providing species.
- Conserve areas of high biological diversity (species, habitat, and genetic diversity).
- Protect representative areas of every marine habitat in the bioregion.
- Contribute to protection of rare, unique, threatened, and/or endangered species and their habitats.
- Conserve ecologically significant areas associated with geological features and enduring/recurring oceanographic features.
- Contribute to conservation of areas important for the life history of resident and migratory species.

Goal 2: To contribute to the conservation and protection of fishery resources and their habitats.

- Maintain or improve stock stability and productivity of species important for commercial, recreational, and Aboriginal fisheries.
- Maintain within protected areas the natural size and age structure of fished populations.
- Conserve habitat important to ensuring that the productive capacity and harvestable biomass of commercial, recreational, and Aboriginal fisheries species are maintained within healthy and resilient ecological limits.

Goal 3: To maintain and facilitate opportunities for tourism and recreation.

- Conserve sites compatible with and of high value for sustainable tourism and recreation.

Goal 4: To contribute to social, community, and economic certainty and stability.

- Enable economic development opportunities that are compatible with achievement of conservation objectives contained within Goal 1.
- Maintain or enhance the long-term productivity, resilience and reliability of marine ecosystem goods and services.
- Support opportunities for local communities to benefit socially, culturally and economically from marine protected areas.

- Strengthen participation and representation of communities and stakeholders in design, establishment and monitoring of the network.
- Ensure that all marine protected areas have clearly defined objectives and effective and adaptive management including monitoring, evaluation and reporting.
- Support effective MPA network governance and management that includes monitoring, evaluation and reporting.
- Establish collaborative approaches to surveillance and compliance monitoring programs.

Goal 5: To conserve and protect traditional use, cultural heritage and archaeological resources.

- Increase awareness and understanding of First Nations use and stewardship of resources and territories.
- Represent marine areas of high cultural or historical value.
- Contribute to conservation of species significant to First Nations and coastal communities including those important for cultural use and food security.

Goal 6: To provide opportunities for scientific research, education and awareness.

- Increase awareness, understanding and stewardship of the marine environment.
- Protect reference sites to support research and management.
- Monitor and report on effectiveness of management actions across the network.

How do the MPA Network goals and objectives inform network design?

