

"Fisheries and Marine Protected Areas (MPAs) - Are they Friends or Enemies? -"

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COMHAFAT/ATLAFCO ONLINE SYMPOSIUM

For an active participation in the international management of living marine species

03-04 March 2021 (11:00- 13:00 UTC)

2nd Session: International management for the sustainable exploitation of marine resources

Main Messages

(a) The wide-spread perception is that MPAs should be for high seas, big and permanent, and no-take zones. However, if the purpose of MPAs is conservation of biodiversity, they should be mainly cover waters within EEZs through bottom up and adaptive approaches.

(b) Rich marine biodiversity are rather prerequisites for coastal fisheries to be feasible and prosperous. Fisheries and MPAs are not conflicting concept. Establishment of MPAs with bottom up, local knowledge based, stakeholder inclusive co-management concept would contribute to both Fisheries and MPA goals.

“Please create a legacy for humanity by agreeing at CCAMLR in 20[xx] to large scale, permanent, marine protected areas and no-take marine reserves in Antarctica's Ross Sea region and East Antarctica. Antarctica's waters are a remarkable home for wildlife and include some of the least impacted parts of the world's oceans. We're relying on our leaders to show leadership to protect our oceans for future generations.”

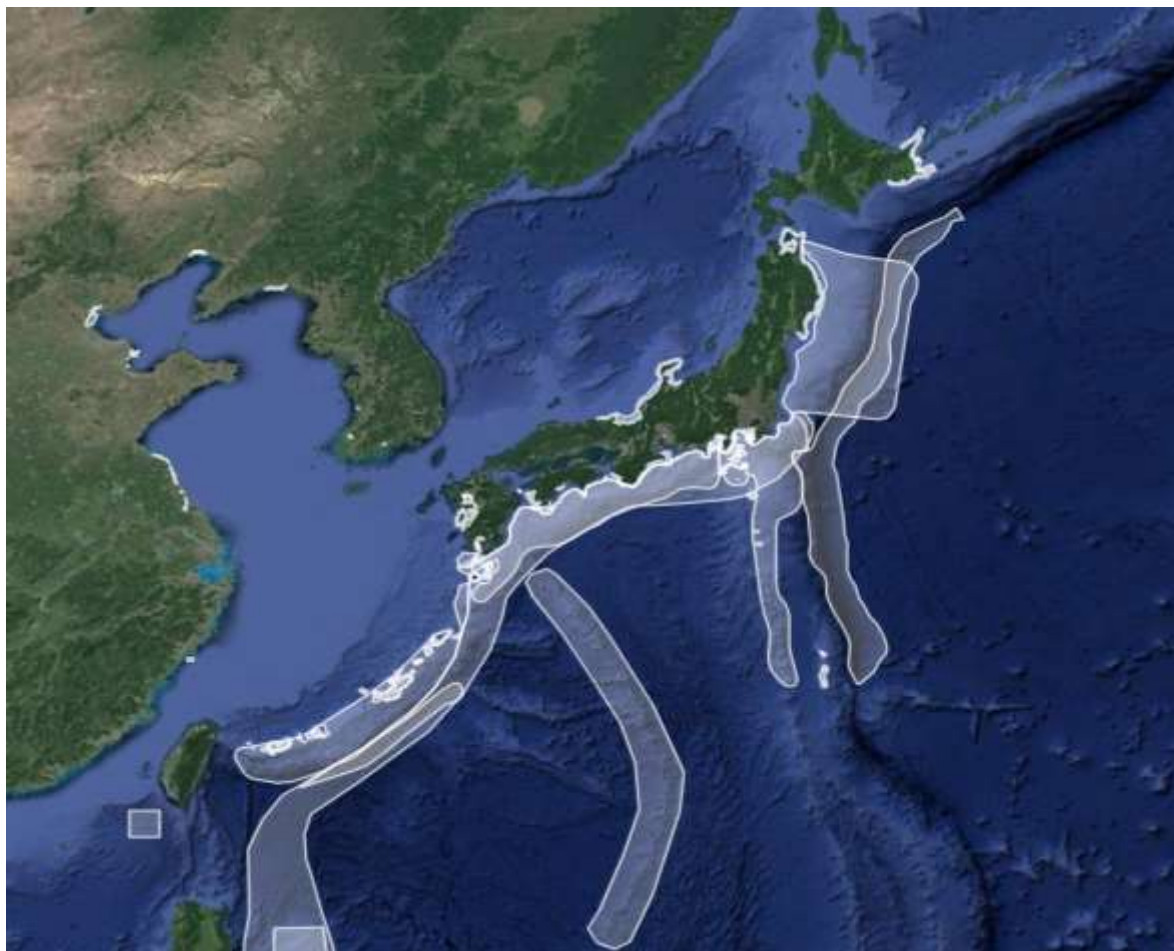
(A sample email the author received as Japan's representative to the Commission for the Conservation of Antarctic Marine Living Resources (CCAMLR))

The Aichi Target (<https://www.cbd.int/sp/targets/>)
adopted at the 10th Conference of Parties of the Convention for the
Conservation of Biodiversity (CBD) held in 2010 in Nagoya, JAPAN;

Strategic Goal C: To improve the status of biodiversity by safeguarding
ecosystems, species and genetic diversity

Target 11

By 2020, at least 17 per cent of terrestrial and inland water, and 10 per cent of coastal and marine areas, especially areas of particular importance for biodiversity and ecosystem services, are conserved through effectively and equitably managed, ecologically representative and well connected systems of protected areas and other effective area-based conservation measures, and integrated into the wider landscapes and seascapes.



CBD designates areas called EBSA
(Ecologically or Biologically
Significant Marine Areas)

<https://www.cbd.int/ebsa/about>

They are logically priority areas for
establishing MPAs. While areas
meeting the EBSA criteria include
high seas, many of them are in
coastal waters and within EEZs.

EBSA areas around Japan (<https://www.cbd.int/ebsa/>)

Definitions of an MPA

CBD;

“Any confined area within or adjacent to the marine environment, together with its overlying waters and associated flora, fauna, and historical and cultural features, which has been reserved by legislation or other effective means, including custom, with the effect that its marine and/or coastal biodiversity enjoys a higher level of protection than its surroundings.” (CBD COP7 Decision VII/5)

The International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN) ;

“Any area of intertidal or subtidal terrain, together with its overlying water and associated flora, fauna, historical and cultural features, which has been reserved by law or other effective means to protect part or all of the enclosed environment”.

(Resolution 17.38 of the IUCN General Assembly, 1988, reaffirmed in Resolution 19.46 (1994))

What should we do?

- Participate in MPA discussions at CBD, BBNJ, RFMOs and other international fora
- Argue for alternative MPA concepts
 - No-take zone → Conservation and sustainable use
 - Top-down → Bottom-up
 - Permanent → Adaptive and dynamic
 - Big, High seas → Science-based
- Demonstrate good examples
- Build coalition