

# A well-managed marine protected area (MPA) promotes habitat recovery and restores fish productivity.

**1** MPAs are designated areas where fishing or other forms of human access and activities are restricted to protect the area's ecosystem. MPA is the general term for marine sanctuary, marine reserve or marine park.

**2** MPAs promote the recovery of degraded habitats critical to enhancing and sustaining our fishery resources.

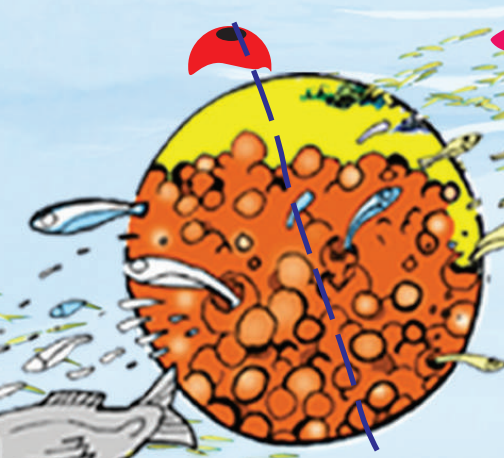
**3** MPAs have a no-take zone or "sanctuary" where the harvesting of fish or any marine life is not allowed. This enables fish stocks and all marine organisms to mature and thus reproduce at a higher rate. As fish and other marine life grow bigger, their ability to reproduce increases.

**4** Bigger fish produce many more eggs than smaller ones. No-take sanctuaries have been proven to host more and bigger breeding individuals, increase the supply of young fish and lead to a build-up in fish populations.

**5** Once fish populations inside the MPA increase, some fish will spill out of the MPA and boost catches of fishers. Currents will also disperse eggs and larvae (newly hatched fish) to populate other habitats.

**6** The enhancement of fisheries is only one of the many benefits of MPAs. MPAs also contribute to the stability of the marine ecosystem, biodiversity conservation, research, public education, tourism and recreation — benefits which often exceed the economic benefits derived from fisheries alone.

HELP CONSERVE MARINE LIFE!



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