

December 3, 2021

To whom it may concern:

With the ever changing world, it is imperative that our ocean animals are protected. It sometimes seems that there is no one on their side, with climate change, plastic pollution, and other forms of human meddling being such factors of danger for organisms in the oceans. I feel that it is our job, as the dominant species of the world, to properly oversee those under us. A way of doing this is through Marine Protected Areas.

There are 2 types of Marine Protected Areas (MPA), general MPAs, and No Take Marine Reserves. Currently about 26% of US waters are general MPAs, and only 3% fall under No Take Marine Reserves. While these numbers may seem good, it brings up an interesting thought. What is the difference between the two? General MPAs are exactly what they sound, general guidelines that differ based upon the area, with some areas having very loose restrictions. The only way to make MPAs truly effective is by implementing more No Take Marine Reserves, which are strict policy areas that provide better protection for marine life there.

No Take Marine Reserves would help greatly with reducing fishing problems, such as overfishing and bycatch. Too often does endangered marine life get affected by poor fishing regulation and practice. No Take Marine Reserves would constitute no removal of any organism, thus reducing overfishing, and bycatch. Following the path of improving MPA regulation would also lead to improving the quality of fisheries.

I know that it will take time to improve regulation of our oceans, and that it is already difficult enough. But steps in the right direction need to be taken, and improving MPAs and fisheries can be the important first step.

Sincerely,

Josh Brown
Marine Science Student