

Applying IUCN Category System in the Marine Environment

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Background

- Seven categories:

IUCN category	Managed mainly ...
I A	for science
I B	to protect wilderness(naturalness) qualities
II	for ecosystem protection and recreation
III	for conservation of specific natural/cultural features
IV	for conservation through management intervention
V	for landscape/seascape conservation and recreation
VI	for sustainable use of natural ecosystems

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National Guidelines

- *Canadian Guidebook: for the application of IUCN Protected Area Categories (2008)*
 - Section 5.2 Sustainable use
 - Section 5.3 Prohibited extractive activities
 - **Section 5.6 Categorizing MPAs**
 - Section 5.7 Zoning

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International Guidelines

- *Guidelines for Applying Protected Area Management Categories (2008)*
 - *Speaking a Common Language* project, University of Cardiff, UK, 2004
 - Many discussion papers...
 - The IUCN “Categories Summit” 2007: *Defining protected areas – an international conference in Almeria, Spain (2008)*

New IUCN definition of a protected area:

- “A clearly defined geographical space, recognised, dedicated and managed, through legal or other effective means, to achieve long-term conservation of nature with associated ecosystem services and cultural values”.

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International Guidelines

New IUCN Guidelines contents:

- Definition and categories (Chapt.2)
 - Revised Principles (more)
 - Definition of a PA system and the ecosystem approach
- Governance (Chapt.3)
- Applying the categories (Chapt.4)
 - Assignment and reporting
- Using the categories (Chapt.5)
 - As a tool for conservation planning and planning
- Specialized applications (Chapt.6)
 - MPAs

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International Guidelines

Chapter 6 – MPAs

- General principles for applying categories to MPAs (or a zone within a MPA):
 - 1) Distinguishing MPAs from other areas that are managed for some form of conservation;
 - 2) Temporary protection;
 - 3) Application of categories in vertically-zoned MPAs:
 - IUCN advice: should be categorized according to the least restrictive regime
 - 4) *The use of zoning in multiple-use MPAs;
 - 5) Applying different categories in MPAs:
 - Supplementary notes on the use of each category in MPAs
 - 6) Classifying MPAs by what they do, not by the title of the category.

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International Guidelines

- **The use of zoning in multiple-use MPAs:**
 - As terrestrial PAs, single management units in MPAs can be separately reported on and accounted for if:
 - *The areas are defined in primary legislation or legislated management plan;*
 - *These areas are clearly defined and mapped; and*
 - *The management aims for the individual zones are unambiguous, allowing assignment to a particular PA category.*

... but should only be used for large, multiple-use MPAs where the legally defined zones make up more than 25 percent of the total area.
 - **If not** (for “soft” zoning): the 75% rule applies to defining the overall category for the MPA
 - ...decision tree useful (Chapter 4 of 2008 Guidelines)

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International Guidelines

- Example of amended entry for the GBR in the *UN List of Protected Areas*:

IUCN category	Size (ha)
GBRMP comprising:	34,440,000
GBR 1a	86,500
GBR II	11,453,000
GBR IV	1,504,000
GBR VI	21,378,000
Commonwealth Islands	18,500

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DFO Oceans Act MPAs

- Currently no official assignment of IUCN categories
- However, Eastport MPAs (Round & Duck Islands) has been used as case study by CCEA:
 - Category IV: to maintain a viable population of American lobster.
- What about the rest...?

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DFO Oceans Act MPAs

- Examples: Endeavour MPA:
 - Category III: to conserve/protect the unique hydro-thermal vents and associated ecosystem.
 - ...or VI since commercial fishing can be granted permission if done on/near the surface i.e. if does not impact the conservation objectives of the MPA.
 - Excluding having both, III and VI, since there is no vertical zoning recognized in the MPA legislation...

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DFO Oceans Act MPAs

- Example: Basin Head MPA:
 - Zone 1: potentially category III
 - Zone 2-3: commercial activities permitted
- ...if apply 75% rule...VI or III using volume versus 2-D?

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Recommendations

- **Flexibility and common sense - in particular around the 66% and 75% “area” rules**

Example: the Gully MPA

- Zone 1 set aside commercial extraction and tourism (a category Ia or II by many measures and at a minimum a category III)
 - At 19.5% of the MPA, Zone 3 comprised a sizable area of the surface and seabed (461km² of the MPA's 2364 km²)...
 - ...but in terms of volume/total marine habitat, it equals to less than 1% of the MPA...
- **A second edition of the CCEA Canadian Guidebook, including new 2008 IUCN definition and guidelines or a separate set of Canadian marine guidelines customized for Canadian marine environments, statutes and practitioners.**

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References

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