Create Your Own Marine Protected Area

Thank you for tuning into our webinar. If you would like to refer back to part of it, you can find the YouTube video on our website by going to https://opakedu.org/webinar-resources. Below you will find resources that will help you design your own marine protected area. We also have more listed on the link above. This is not an easy challenge, but we must all work together to conserve and protect 30% of our planet by 2030. We recommend that you complete our compare/contrast MPA worksheet before designing your own. It will help you find ideas and see what has actually been done before.

MPA Databases:

https://marineprotectedareas.noaa.gov/dataanalysis/mpainventory/mpaviewer/

https://www.protectedplanet.net/marine

http://mpatlas.org/map/mpas/

Mission Blue Hope Spots: https://mission-blue.org/hope-spots/

Please use the following questions as a prompt for your own marine protected area design.

In your opinion, what challenges does the ocean face? What do you want to fix?

Can these challenges be fixed by establishing a marine protected area (i.e. you can’t stop plastic pollution with a MPA)?

Were you able to find an established marine protected area that is aimed at protecting the challenge you described?

Define what you are going to protect and where you are going to establish your Marine Protected Area:
Determine the conservation focus of our MPA: is it going to protect cultural, economic or natural resources, or a combination of the three?

What stakeholders will be influenced by the challenges you are trying to address and the MPA you want to establish (i.e. Who is involved in the process and what impact will it have on them)?

Is your MPA going to protect the entire eco-system or a focal resource (i.e. minerals or fishing)?

Is your MPA going to be multi-use or a strict no-take reserve? Why?

Is your MPA going to be seasonal or permanent?

Who is going to enforce your MPA?

What will be the ecologic, cultural and economic outcome of your MPA?
Concerns about your MPA design (i.e. where the most push back come from, is it going to be hard to enforce, etc.):

Sketch and describe your final marine protected area design (please note the MPAs that helped you design yours):