

Indicator 14.5.1

Indicator Name, Target and Goal

Indicator 14.5.1 Coverage of protected areas in relation to marine areas

Target 14.5 By 2020, conserve at least 10 per cent of coastal and marine areas, consistent with national and international law and based on the best available scientific information

Goal 14 Conserve and sustainably use the oceans, seas and marine resources

Definition and Rationale

○ Definition

Ratio of waters designated as marine protected area out of Japanese Ecologically or Biologically Significant Marine Areas (EBSAs).

○ Concepts

- Japanese Ecologically or Biologically Significant Marine Areas (EBSAs): Ecologically or Biologically Significant Marine Area identified for contributing to the implementation of the conservation of biodiversity and sustainable use of the ocean by the Ministry of the Environment in 2016. These EBSAs are clearly identified through a scientific and objective approach from ecological and biological perspectives.
- Marine protected area: Marine areas designated and managed by law or other effective means, in consideration of use modalities, aimed at the conservation of marine biodiversity supporting the sound structure and function of marine ecosystems and ensuring the sustainable use of marine ecosystem services

○ Rationale and Interpretation:

Internationally recommended marine protected areas today could be seen as an effectively set and clearly defined protected area in specified marine areas with the main objective of conserving marine biodiversity or ecosystems. Measures for such protection are decided flexibly according to their objectives, and include non-legislative measures such as local customs. Also the sustainable use of ecosystem services cannot be separated from the conservation of biodiversity, and is achieved by conserving biodiversity. Thus, aiming for the

sustainable use of any of the ecosystem services could also be regarded as marine protected areas. Considering this situation, Marine Biodiversity Conservation Strategy, which was made in 2011 by Ministry of the Environment, gave the definition of marine protected area in Japan.

Data Sources and Collection Method

Data are collected from relevant ministries, and Ministry of the Environment compiles them.

Method of Computation and Other Methodological Considerations

○ Computation Method

So far, marine protected areas have been defined as follows. Total area of MPAs is overlaid on their spatial data with GIS to avoid double counting of geographical overlaps. Subsequently, ratio of waters covered as such MPAs out of Ecologically or Biologically Significant Marine Area (<http://www.env.go.jp/nature/biodic/kaiyo-hozen/kaiiki/index.html>) can be calculated.

- Natural Parks (Natural Parks Law)
- Natural Coastal Protected Zone (Law Concerning Special Measures for Conservation of the Environment of the Seto Inland Sea)
- Nature Conservation Areas (Nature Conservation Law)
- Wildlife Protection Areas (Wildlife Protection and Hunting Management Law)
- Natural Habitat Conservation Areas (Law for the Conservation of Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora)
- Natural Monuments (Act on Protection of Cultural Properties)
- Protected Water Surfaces (Act on the Protection of Fishery Resources)
- Development Areas for Coastal Marine Resources and Designated Area of the Sea (Marine Fishery Resources Development Promotion Law)
- Various Designated Areas of the Sea by prefectures and fishermen's organizations (various systems on which they are based)
- Zones for Common Fishery Groups (Fisheries Act)

○ Comments and limitations

To our understanding, using KBAs as the denominator of the indicator was not agreed globally, and actual KBAs have been identified by non-governmental organizations (IUCN), and Ministry of the Environment of Japan has been barely

involved in the selection process. On the other hand, Ministry identified and published Ecologically or Biologically Significant Marine Areas (EBSAs) in Japan in 2016. Therefore, EBSAs may be more suitable as a denominator for the current calculation than KBAs. Yet, in accordance with the definition and interpretation of the index 14.5.1 by the United Nations, we are taking KBAs as the denominator. Besides, spatial data of a few MPAs have been unavailable, and therefore such MPAs have not been included in the total area calculation.

Data Disaggregation

N/A

References

Marine Biodiversity Conservation Strategy

https://www.env.go.jp/nature/biodic/kaiyo-hozen/pdf/pdf_eng_honbun.pdf

Fifth National Report of Japan to the Convention on Biological Diversity (mainly p99-

100) http://www.biodic.go.jp/biodiversity/activity/international/national_report/5th/files/en.pdf

Custodian Ministries of Data

Ministry of the Environment

Fisheries Agency, Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries

Custodian Ministries of Related Policies

Ministry of Foreign Affairs

Fisheries Agency, Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries

Ministry of the Environment

International Organizations

United Nations Environment Programme - World Conservation Monitoring Centre (UNEP-WCMC)

United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP)

International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN)