

MPA and marine ecosystem conservation & management in Republic of Korea

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Abstract

Currently in 2019, there are 28 marine protected areas (MPAs) designated in the Republic of Korea. The Conservation and Management of Marine Ecosystem Act and the Wetlands Conservation Act covers these MPAs covering a total area of 1,777.449 km². Through legal investigations of Korea's seas and coastal areas, preservation of marine organisms, importance of habitats and scenic values are some of the criteria which are evaluated scientifically and then discussed amongst MPA experts who designate potential sites. Designated MPA sites will then be managed through priority management goals which are assessed beforehand. MPA management in Korea includes management and evaluation, monitoring and database construction, and implementing CEPA methods.

Additionally, the Korea Marine Environment Management Corporation's Marine Protected Areas Center facilitates and manages government projects through official contract. Recently, zoning and self-organizing regional management plan have been established which is foreseen to be implemented in the near future.

National Marine Ecosystem Monitoring is legal survey based upon the Conservation and Management of Marine Ecosystem Act and the Wetlands Conservation. In the general investigation, Korea's ocean has been divided into two areas and general status of the marine ecosystem has been studied once every two year. From this, core areas have been selected and researched every year, establishing the basis to effectively diagnose the marine ecosystem.

Furthermore, this presentation will introduce the activities for biodiversity conservation of Korea, such as habitat restoration, protected species rescue program, and so on.