preserve the earth
Anzalone
2015

preserve the earth

conservation of marine life 2015

Marine protected areas are safe havens for fish, whales, dolphins, corals, sea turtles and thousands of other precious plants and animals in the sea.

They are also living laboratories for scientific research. New medicines to treat diseases are discovered in the marine environment. The blue blood of horseshoe crabs, sea creatures dating back 500 million years, is used to test for toxins that cause deadly septic shock.

A Caribbean gorgonian, a soft coral, produces anti-inflammatory compounds. Materials from corals and mollusks promise to strengthen bone grafts and orthopedic implants. Vital nutrients are derived from kelp and microalgae. Adequate global food supplies depend, in part, on maintaining healthy and sustainable fisheries. Many marine protected areas [MPAs] conserve fish stocks. The natural marine beauty of sea turtles, pelicans, herons and other bird species, brilliantly colored fish, sea stars and sponges draw tourists, boosting local economies. Yet only three percent of the ocean is protected by MPAs. Less than one percent is in marine reserves that fully protect all species and habitats. The United States is a leader in MPAs, with about 55 percent of U.S. waters protected in some type of MPA, including 3.2 percent in fully-protected reserves. We depend on the ocean for food, oxygen and medicine. It regulates our weather and climate. U.S. partnerships with other countries and regional organizations are helping to conserve and protect the ocean's irreplaceable resources by establishing effectively-managed marine protected areas in more regions around the world.

1 Mangroves
2 Blue Heron
3 Great White Pelicans
4 Tree Frogs
5 Sawgrass
6 Horse-Eye Jacks
7 Scallops
8 Red Sea Star with Seagrass
9 Red Crab
10 Yellowfin Tuna
11 Green Sea Turtle
12 Great White Shark

13 Red Snapper
14 Kelp
15 Red Finger Sponge
16 Bamboo Coral
17 Blue Tangs
18 Gorgonian Sea Fan
19 Masked Butterfly Fish
20 Red Brain Coral
21 Lettuce Sea Slug
22 Nautilus
23 Branched Finger Corals
24 Clown Triggerfish
25 Blue Sea Star

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