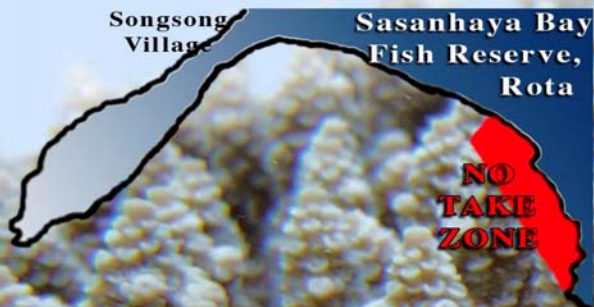


Where are the CNMI's MPAs?

(Map shows approximate locations. See DFW for official boundary maps.)



Why do we need MPAs?

- MPAs protect beautiful healthy reefs for TOURISM, our ECONOMY, EDUCATION, & RESEARCH
 - No fishing means fish will LIVE LONGER
 - Living longer means fish will grow BIGGER
 - Growing bigger means fish will produce MORE EGGS
 - Eggs ride currents and “seed” fishing grounds, helping produce MORE FISH to be caught
 - Some big fish leave the MPA to areas where they can be caught
 - Big algae-eating fish help keep the reef clean
- MPA reefs grow healthier and stronger over time, and RECOVER BETTER from coral bleaching, typhoons, coral disease, and other STRESSFUL EVENTS that may kill corals outside MPAs

For More Information Please Contact:

MPA Program
CNMI Division of Fish & Wildlife
Department of
Lands & Natural Resources
PO Box 10007
Lower Base
Saipan, MP 96950

670.664.6000

www.dfw.gov.mp

Marine Protected Areas (MPAs) of the CNMI

A citizen's guide to answer frequently asked questions about MPAs:

What are MPAs?

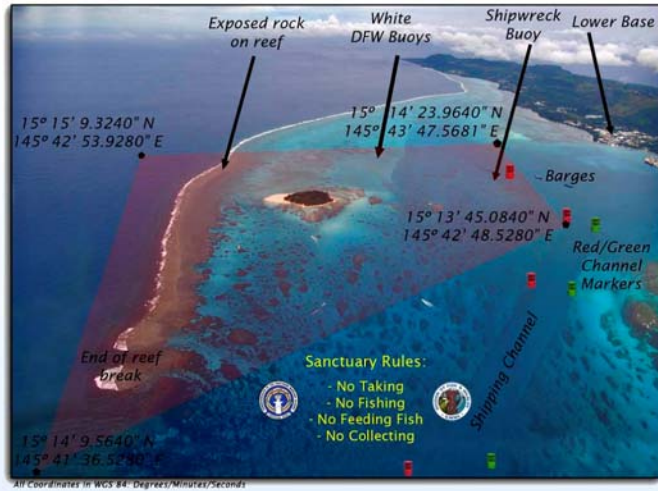
Where are they?

Can I fish there?

Why do we need MPAs?

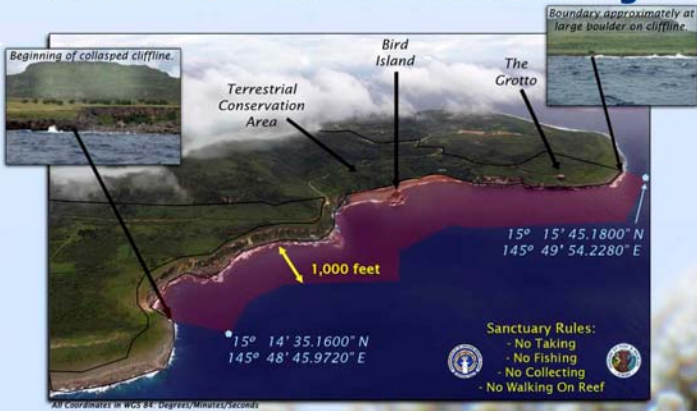


Mañagaha Marine Conservation Area



**MPAs = More Fish, Bigger Fish
Big Fish = More Eggs
More Eggs = More Fish
To Catch Outside the MPA!**

Bird Island Sanctuary



What are MPAs?

Marine Protected Area (MPA) is an “umbrella term” used to describe areas of the ocean that have special protection for some or all of the resources within them. In the CNMI, MPAs have names like “Marine Conservation Area”, “Sanctuary”, and “Reserve”. The four MPAs pictured on the inside of this brochure are “No-Take” MPAs, meaning that there is no fishing or other extraction allowed at all. Other MPAs are called “Limited Take” and may allow certain types of fishing or other extractive uses. MPAs are established for different reasons, which determine how restrictive they are. No-Take MPAs are established to protect an area in its natural, undisturbed state, minimizing human impacts as much as possible, while often allowing for tourism and other non-extractive uses.

Area-based management, such as MPAs, is useful for ecosystem protection, but it’s not the only tool for managing marine resource use and conservation. Other useful, often essential, tools include gear restrictions (for example, the net ban and the SCUBA spearfishing ban), size limits (for example, lobster size minimums), bag limits, and seasonal restrictions.

It is estimated there are over 1,300 MPAs around the world, and efforts continue to create a global network of MPAs. In 1997 Guam established a network of 5 MPAs (Marine Preserves) which cover approximately 11.5% of Guam’s shoreline. Japan has over 50 “marine parks” which they started establishing in the 1970’s. The Philippines, Australia, and many other of our Pacific neighbors also have extensive networks of MPAs.

Can I fish there?

There is no fishing or any removal of marine life of any kind from the 4 No-Take MPAs in the CNMI (Mañagaha Island Marine Conservation Area, Bird Island Sanctuary, Forbidden Island Sanctuary, and the Sasanhaya Bay Fish Reserve).

Fishing is allowed in the Lau Lau Bay Sea Cucumber Sanctuary and the Lighthouse Reef Trochus Sanctuary, but harvesting of Sea Cucumber and Trochus is illegal at those sites. There is currently a moratorium on the harvest of Sea Cucumber and Trochus. At the present time, it is illegal to harvest Sea Cucumber or Trochus ANYWHERE in the CNMI.

**To Report Violations Call:
664-6000/30/31 (DFW)
898-3570 (DFW cell)
322-9275 (EMO)
532-9494 (Rota)**

Background Photo: Coral (*Acropora tenuis*) at Managaha Island courtesy of Greg Moretti

Sasanhaya Bay Fish Reserve, Rota



Did You Know?

A 26-inch long blue trevally produces **86** times more eggs than a 13-inch long one?

Forbidden Island Sanctuary

