

## Existing Systems of MPAs in Japan

### (1) Protection of natural scenery

Area (System)	Purpose of designation	Description of major regulations
Natural Park (Natural Parks Act)	Protection of outstanding natural scenery and promotion of its use	Mainly regulation on developments, such as landfills (Ordinary Zone: notification system; Marine Park Zone: license system or harvest control in some zones). A Special Area (license system) may be set in brackish water zones.
Natural Seashore Conservation Areas (Act on Special Measures Concerning Conservation of the Environment of the Seto Inland Sea)	To maintain the state of nature so that seashores and ponds, could be used for bathing, shellfish gathering and so forth in the future.	Regulation on developments, such as the construction of new structures, the transformation of land properties, the mining of minerals, and earth and rock quarrying (the prefecture concerned must be notified).

### (2) Protection of natural environment or habitats and nursery grounds of organisms

Area (System)	Purpose of designation	Description of major regulations
Nature Conservation Area (Nature Conservation Law)	Conservation of the outstanding natural environment requiring particular conservation.	Developments, such as land transformation, are mainly controlled (Ordinary Zone: notification system; Marine Special Zone: license system or harvest control is adopted in some zones).
Wildlife Protection Area (Wildlife Protection and Hunting Act)	Protection of wildlife.	Hunting is controlled. Developments, such as the construction of structures, are also controlled in Special Protection Zones, and the use of power-driven vessels is additionally controlled in Special Protection Designated Zones.
Natural Habitat Conservation Area, etc. (Act on Conservation of Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora)	Conservation of national endangered species of wild fauna and flora.	Development is controlled in Monitored Zones (by notification system). In Controlled Zones, the harvest of designated species and the use of power-driven vessels are regulated in addition to development control (license system). Additionally, access is restricted for Restricted Entry Zones.
Natural Monument (Act on Protection of Cultural Properties)	Protection of animals, plants, geographic features and minerals of high scientific value.	License systems on acts that change the current state or adversely affect its conservation.

(3) Protection, cultivation etc. of aquatic animals and plants

Area (System)	Purpose of designation	Description of major regulations
Protected Water Surface (Act on the Protection of Fishery Resources)	Protection and cultivation of aquatic animals and plants.	Development, such as landfill and dredging (license system), and the harvest of designated aquatic animals and plants are controlled for water surfaces suitable for egg laying and the growth of juvenile fish
Coastline Marine Resource Development Area, designated sea area (Marine Resources Development Promotion Act)	To promote the streamlining of the development and use of marine fishery resources through measures to promote the multiplication and aquaculture of aquatic animals and plants systematically.	Development, such as sea bed transformation and digging, is controlled (it must be notified to the governor or the Minister of Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries). Prefectures must formulate a "Coastline Marine Resource Development Plan".
Area designated by prefecture, fishery operator group, etc.	To protect and cultivate aquatic animals and plants, and to secure their sustainable use.	Control over harvest of specified aquatic animals and plants, etc.
<p>(Underlying systems)</p> <p>Harvest Control Zone (Fishery Act and Act on the Protection of Fishery Resources), water surfaces covered by the Resource Management Regulations and voluntary efforts by fishery cooperatives (Fishery Cooperative Act)</p>		
Common fishery right area (Fishery Act)	To enhance fisheries productivity (protecting and cultivating aquatic animals and plants, and ensuring their sustainable use), etc.	The harvest of aquatic animals and plants (area, period, fishing method, number of vessels, etc.) is controlled by the Rules about the Exercise of Fishery Rights (approved by the governor). A right to petition based on real rights, a right to claim compensation or damages, and, at the same time, a charge of the infringement on fishery rights will apply to infringement by any third party.