

## The International Year of Biodiversity

“Success Stories” clearing-house

### **Aquatic Protected Areas as Fisheries Management Tools BRAZIL**

Brazilian experiences with the use of aquatic protected areas as fisheries management tools have proven very effective adding the benefit of promoting conservation of marine and inland aquatic biodiversity. There has been increasing dissemination of the concept that aquatic protected areas are essential to conserve the biodiversity of the oceans and continental waters, as well as the more widely accepted idea that they are also essential for maintaining fisheries productivity. Experts have pointed out that establishing these areas is an excellent instrument for recuperating collapsed stocks or those considered to be threatened, serving also as nursery and recruitment areas. The creation of aquatic protected areas in Brazil, including marine no-take zones, demonstrated very positive results with noted increase of biodiversity, abundance, diversity and size of fisheries resources. The case studies reveal that gains in both biodiversity conservation and sustainable use can be very positive when management guidelines are implemented and rules are followed. For instance, the abundance of the magnificent Amazonian freshwater species *Arapaima gigas* increased significantly after a fishery management agreement was put into practice with the partnership of the local community. In two marine protected areas off the Brazilian coast, a similar degree of participation from local communities to help monitor and comply with the abiding rules has led to significant increase in reef fisheries resources, contributing to the conservation and integrity of this vulnerable and highly productive ecosystem.

Link:

[http://www.mma.gov.br/estruturas/sbf2008\\_dap\\_publicacao/149\\_publicacao26022009041606.pdf](http://www.mma.gov.br/estruturas/sbf2008_dap_publicacao/149_publicacao26022009041606.pdf)

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