

*Evolving the narrative for protecting a rapidly changing ocean, post COVID-19 was published in the peer review Journal Aquatic Conservation in November 2020.*

## **STYLE GUIDE**

The following were specifically highlighted in the Paper.

### **OCEAN SINGULAR**

There is only one ocean. Consequently, it should never be referred to in the plural. The word 'ocean' should not have an initial capital except under the circumstances below.

Terms such as 'global ocean' or 'whole ocean' can help people to understand this concept and are useful when differentiating between a named portion of the ocean, such as the Pacific, and the whole.

When referring to areas of the ocean that have been assigned a name, like the Atlantic, they can be described as 'the part of the ocean called the Atlantic', 'the Atlantic area of the ocean' or, if unavoidable, 'the Atlantic Ocean', in which case the word ocean has an initial capital to indicate that it is part of a proper name.

Note that the High Seas is always singular. As there is only one ocean, there is only one area of water called the High Seas.

When you need to refer to several named areas, they remain singular and are managed as follows: 'the Southern, Mediterranean and Atlantic areas of the ocean'.

Although the word 'sea' is often used instead of ocean, it actually has a specific geographical meaning: it is a body of salt water often adjacent to or semi-enclosed by land. Thus, there are several 'seas' within the ocean, so the term the 'Mediterranean Sea' is acceptable.

The area beyond the national jurisdiction of any state is often referred to as the High Seas (note initial capitals) and this term serves as a proper name for the area and should be treated the same as any other named area i.e. "The High Seas is an area where xxxxx". Note the use of 'is' denoting the High Seas as singular, which is the same as the Pacific or Atlantic areas of the ocean.

### **30%**

#### **At least 30% as a global target of ocean protection by fully or highly protected MPAs**

The global target of 'at least 30%' of the ocean protected through fully or highly protected MPAs is clearly and specifically worded, yet it is often shortened to '30%'. The phrase '**at least 30%**' is a direction, whilst '30%' is a definitive destination.

It is also important to specify that the at least 30% target is for **fully or highly protected MPAs**. This is consistent with the MPA Guide and ensures quality over paper parks.

## **OXYGEN**

It is common to talk about every second breath we take coming from the ocean – or that half comes from that source.

The paper points out that to be accurate, it should be recognised that most of the oxygen generated by the ocean, was created historically. Therefore the accurate usage is to say – every second breath we take *has come* from the ocean, or half of all our oxygen *came from/has come* from the ocean.

## **MANAGE**

The authors note that people often talk about ‘managing the ocean’, we can’t, we can manage our activities in the ocean.

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