

Marine reserves are critical for coral reef resilience

April 7 2016

Researchers who studied the effects of various disturbances on reef communities of coral and fish found that those in 'no-take' marine reserves are less impacted and recover faster than those in reefs that are not located in marine protected areas.

"Understanding the utility of no-take zones in conservation and management is key, but until now there was very little evidence that these no-take zones provided benefits for non-target or non-fished species, as well as wider ecosystem processes," said Dr. Camille Mellin, lead author of the *Ecology Letters* study.

"Our research demonstrates the wide range of benefits that well-designed and well-managed no-take marine reserves can offer, and reinforces the idea that such [marine reserves](#) should be widely implemented and supported as a means of maintaining the integrity of [coral reefs](#) globally."

More information: Camille Mellin et al. Marine protected areas increase resilience among coral reef communities, *Ecology Letters* (2016). [DOI: 10.1111/ele.12598](https://doi.org/10.1111/ele.12598)

Provided by Wiley

Citation: Marine reserves are critical for coral reef resilience (2016, April 7) retrieved 26 April

2024 from <https://phys.org/news/2016-04-marine-reserves-critical-coral-reef.html>

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