



▶ CCC CARRIED OUT AN ASSESSMENT OF THE REEFS IN AND AROUND NAPANTAO MPA BETWEEN MARCH AND APRIL 2013

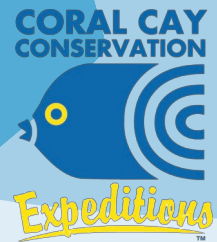


▶ THE MPA IS IN GOOD HEALTH GENERALLY AND THERE ARE GOOD SIGNS THAT IT IS ACHIEVING ITS CONSERVATION GOALS



▶ ELECTRONIC COPIES OF THE FULL TECHNICAL REPORT ARE AVAILABLE FROM OUR PROJECT SCIENTIST

A REPORT BY CORAL CAY CONSERVATION



# Napantao MPA

AMPINGAN TA ANG KABTANGAN SA KADAGATAN ALANG SA ATONG UMAABOT NGA PANGINABUHI

*Napantao MPA was established in 1996 and covers 5 hectares. It is one of the premier dive sites in the Philippines attracting international tourists who wish to experience the beauty and diversity of coral reefs.*

## The current status of Napantao MPA

Surveys conducted by CCC found that overall numbers of fish were not higher inside the MPA. However, there were higher numbers lapu-lapu inside the MPA and these were also bigger than those found outside the MPA.

Crown of thorns sea stars (CoTs) were only present in low numbers and do not currently pose a threat to the reefs.

Hard coral was more abundant inside the MPA and more target species of

coral were recorded inside the MPA than outside the MPA.

Many commercially important species of invertebrates such as giant clams and sea cucumbers were uncommon.

Levels of trash and discarded fishing gear on the reef were low.

Overall the reef is in good health and is showing some signs of recovery from overfishing. Enforcement of the MPA rules is good.



## Why are MPAs important?

MPAs protect areas of reefs from human impacts. Within an MPA, fish are protected and can grow larger, producing more offspring. This leads to 'overspill', increasing fish numbers outside the MPA. In the Philippines many very successful MPAs have been created including the famous Apo Island MPA. Not only do these well managed MPAs help to enhance fish stocks, they also provide income from tourism and other benefits such as protection of coastal habitats from storms.



# CCC's Assessment of Napantao MPA

*The recovery of lapu lapu numbers and key recommendations for management*

A key finding of CCC's surveys in Napantao MPA was that the numbers of lapu lapu were higher inside the MPA than outside. Lapu lapu inside the MPA were also bigger.

Lapu lapu grow very slowly and can live for as long as 40 years. This means it takes them a long time to reach sexual maturity. Also as lapu lapu get bigger they produce more offspring.

This means that when big lapu lapu are removed by fishing not only does it take

a long time for other lapu lapu to grow as big but the population can't produce as many offspring so recovery is slow.

Finding that there are more lapu lapu inside the MPA and that they are also bigger than the those outside the MPA indicates that, protected from fishing, the lapu lapu populations are beginning to recover.

The lapu lapu inside the MPA are still not very big compared to what they can be, but with continued protection they will keep getting bigger and producing more offspring.

## Key Recommendations:

- Maintain the currently excellent level of enforcement of the MPA rules (even a few violations can undo years of recovery).
- Keep monitoring the reefs to see how they change, if they are facing new threats and if management is working.
- Keep monitoring the numbers of tourists visiting and their impact on the reef to make sure that the tourism is sustainable.
- Evaluate the effectiveness of the management of the MPA using the MPA Management Effectiveness Assessment Tool (MPA MEAT).

## LIFE UNDER THE WAVES...

What lives in Napantao MPA?



The reefs of the Philippines are famous for being home to huge numbers of fascinating and beautiful creatures. It is this rich diversity of life that is so appealing to tourists and other visitors who come to experience the marine environment.

The MPA at Napantao, with a particularly diverse and beautiful reef, has a lot to offer visitors.

Not only can you see big, eye-catching creatures like whale sharks and turtles, you can also experience wonder and beauty on the smallest of scales.

The pictures on this page were all taken inside the MPA at Napantao.

*Clockwise from top left:  
Olivar's squat lobster;  
Psychedelic batwing sea slug;  
Tree soft coral; Warty frog-fish;  
Reef inside the MPA with  
Tubastrea coral, Anthias and  
Moorish idols.*



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