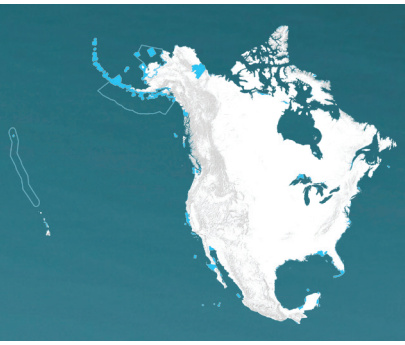
NORTH AMERICA'S

# MARINE PROTECTED AREAS



## Marine protected areas help sustain communities and protect marine life

# A North American short film series

North America's marine protected areas form networks of remarkable places along the coasts of Canada, the United States and Mexico. They protect our continent's incredible wealth of marine life and help sustain our communities.

Through a unique collaboration of marine protected area agencies and aquarium learning centers in the three countries, a new series of short films highlights the vital role played by North America's marine protected areas to support communities that depend on marine resources, provide exciting recreational experiences, enhance our scientific understanding, and help protect a large number of species, restore fisheries, and conserve key habitats.

Marine protected area networks around North America help connect crucial habitats for species at different life stages and allow plants and animals to recover and thrive. Together, they also help protect ecosystems and species such as migratory fish, birds and whales that cannot be adequately protected in one country.

Over the past decade, marine protected area experts in Canada, Mexico and the United States have worked together through the North American Marine Protected Areas Network (NAMPAN) to help connect and protect ecologically and economically important marine areas, develop and share effective conservation approaches and address common issues and challenges.

In 2011-12, NAMPAN experts partnered with Coastal America's Coastal Ecosystem Learning Centers (CELC)—a network of aquariums and research facilities—to create a series of short films about the importance of healthy oceans, and marine protected areas as a tool to protect them.

These exciting and visually compelling films will begin screening across North America at Learning Centers, marine protected areas and other venues on World Oceans Day (June 8, 2012). The films and supporting information, including a *Google Earth* map of North America's marine protected areas, are available at the website below.

A project of the Commission for Environmental Cooperation through the North American Marine Protected Areas Network and Coastal America's Coastal Ecosystem Learning Center Network.

**www.cec.org/mpa**

Commission for Environmental Cooperation

## Connecting and Protecting North America's Marine Protected Areas

Beginning World Oceans Day—June 8, 2012—a new series of short films will be shown in aquariums, marine protected areas, Ocean Today kiosks and elsewhere. These films highlight the diverse benefits of marine protected areas and the importance of international cooperation to protect North America's shared oceans.

**Protecting marine life**

North America's marine protected areas support an incredible variety of marine life and help restore fisheries.

**Discovering the ocean's secrets**

Marine protected areas are living laboratories for scientists to learn about our oceans, so we can all make better decisions about their—and our—future.

**Connecting us to nature**

Marine protected areas offer beautiful and unique places to explore and enjoy the natural world.

**Sustaining communities**

Marine protected areas help sustain North America's economy and its coastal communities.