



International Game Fish Association

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No Fishing Zones

(Sometimes referred to as Marine Protected Areas or MPA's)

Position Statement
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Ultimately, IGFA supports management that benefits both anglers *and* fish, as the sport of angling suffers when too much emphasis is placed on one or the other. We stand behind management predicated on the best available science focused on clear objectives with demonstrative results. IGFA views No Fishing Zones (NFZ) as simply another fisheries management tool. As is the case with traditional fisheries management tools (e.g., size and bag limits, closed seasons, etc.), the efficacy of NFZs is a function of the intended objective and the science behind it. That being said, IGFA does not support the implementation of NFZs without clear objectives resulting in a net improvement to fish stocks that will ultimately benefit recreational anglers. Yet, in situations where depleted stocks cannot be rebuilt with the use of traditional fisheries management tools, IGFA would be receptive to the implementation of well designed NFZs as a last effort to protect and rebuild ailing stocks. Similarly, IGFA is amenable to the concept of NFZs that protect critical/unique fish habitat, but only when research demonstrates that recreational angling is detrimental to its proliferation. Again, IGFA will only support NFZs when proof exists that 1) fish stocks and/or key habitat is in peril, 2) recreational angling contributes to the problem, and 3) sound science indicates that their implementation will fix the problem.