

## **Marine Parks in Icelandic waters, a holistic view**

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In Iceland there has been a recent interest in considering Marine Parks or Marine protected areas as a permanent management tool for Icelandic waters. Presently there is a rather complicated system of part time closures mainly for fisheries, where some areas have been closed for several years and others for a shorter period of time. This project aims to gather the history and reasoning for previous marine protected areas in Iceland as well as to discuss and propose new methodology for selecting future candidate areas. We are gathering background information on benthic biodiversity, fishing effort, spawning and feeding migrations of commercial fish species, as well as information on geological formations and cultural artifacts in Icelandic waters. This information is presented, using a GIS program, in several individual “map” layers. Using these maps allows identification of areas of most concern, i.e. the most desirable conservational areas, taking biological, anthropological, geological and economical factors into account.