



A  INTERNATIONAL
ROCHA
Conservation and Hope

Hope for the Ocean

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A Rocha International now has a global Marine and Coastal Conservation Programme, led by Dr Robert Sluka. We are bringing hope to the ocean including the large population that depends on the sea.



Millions depend upon the sea for their livelihoods .

71% of the planet is covered by ocean.

Why has the Christian creation care movement ignored the ocean?



Threats to the ocean

Overfishing

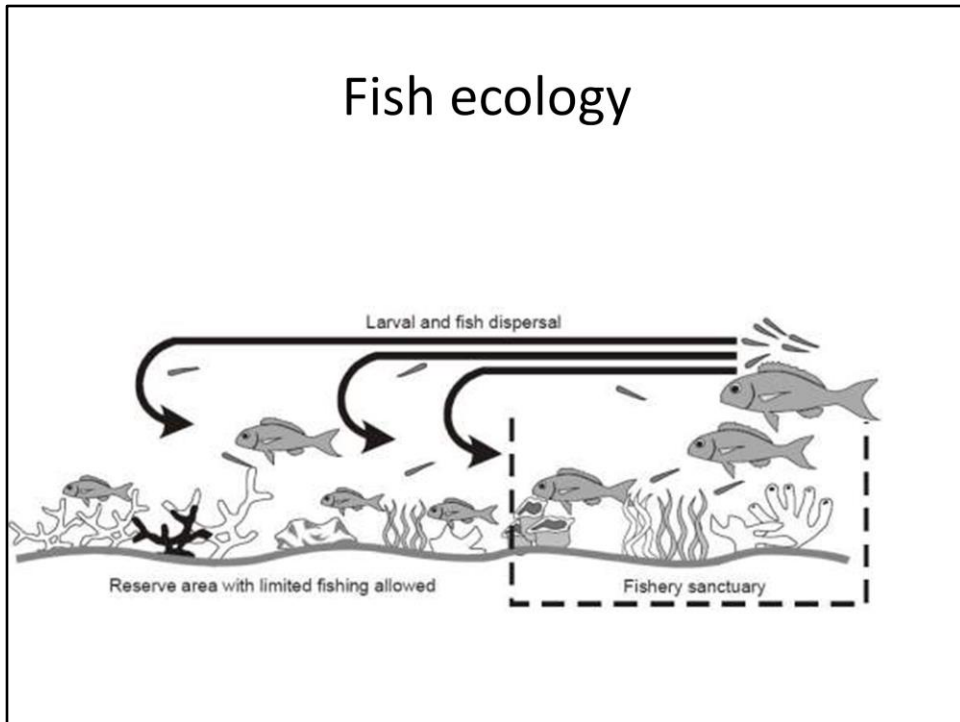
Pollution

Coastal development

Climate change

Invasive species

Fish ecology



Is there hope?

Whole toolkit needed for marine conservation, including taking care of the land. All drains lead to the sea.

One main tool used is to protect habitat through a marine protected area (MPA)

These are areas where destructive activities are prohibited or restricted.

Effective MPAs (in the diagram above labelled Fishery Sanctuary) allow fish and other sea creatures to grow larger and become more abundant.

The number of eggs produced by an animal is generally exponentially related to size. So larger, more abundant fish populations produce huge numbers of eggs which float out and repopulate fished areas. Adults also swim out and can be caught providing food for those living around the protected areas.

These areas also show us God's amazing beauty by protecting areas from harm.

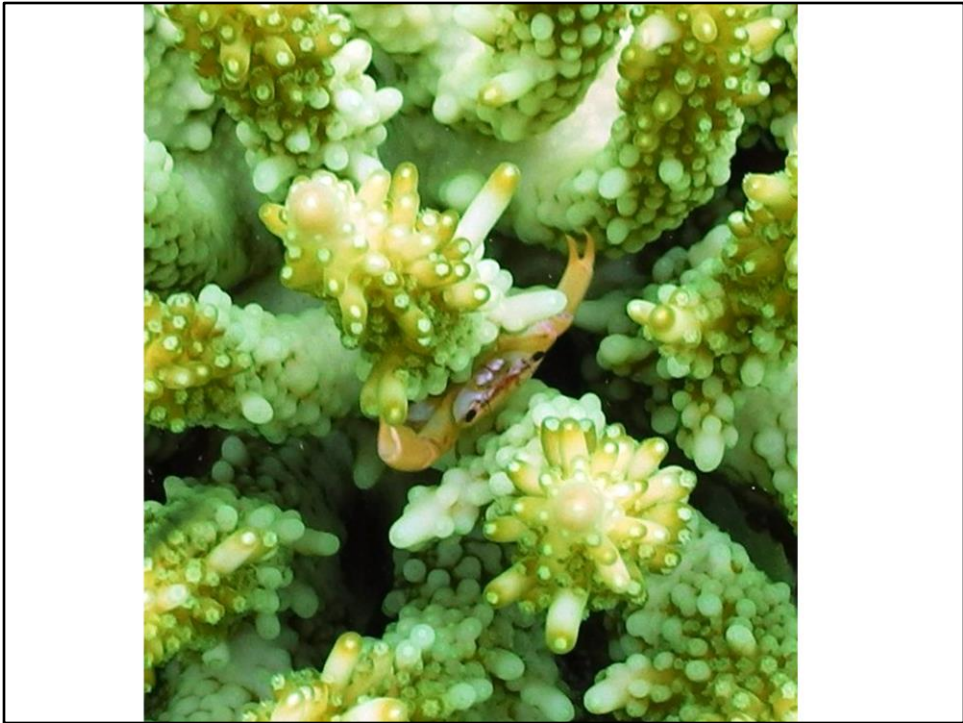


Jesus told the parable of a mustard seed in Matthew 13:30-32. Had he been a marine biologist during his life on earth, he might have told the story of the coral. The Kingdom of God is like coral - a small, seed-like beginning that grows so that even crabs and fish find a home among their branches.

Most of the beauty of the ocean is hidden from view. A Rocha International has developed a theme of Revealing the Hidden Things of God in the Ocean.

This highlights the intrinsic value of marine biodiversity and responds to Matthew 5 where we are told to not light a lamp and hide it under a bowl. Thus the role of marine research is to bring to light these hidden things.

For a longer exposition of this theme see R Sluka's presentation at the ASA/CIS annual meeting in 2014 http://resources.asa3.org/FMPro?-db=asadb49.fm4&-format=%2fasadb%2fdetail3.html&-lay=layout1&-sortfield=first%20author&source_occasion=2014%2bAnnual%2bMeeting&-lop=or&-max=2147483647&-recid=36094&-find=



Did you see this hidden in the branches?



Rock pools are a great place to explore the ocean and all the interesting creatures



This is a devotional time Robert Sluka led on a recent mission trip to the Bahamas which integrated creation care with building projects and kids ministry.

All of A Rocha's marine projects seek to include

- Science,
- Conservation
- Education
- Theology
- Advocacy



Study site in Kenya where we are working in Watamu Marine National Park out of our field study centre.



A Rocha International has recently started a Mediterranean Marine project focusing on revealing and protecting the marine biodiversity of the Mediterranean Sea.



A Rocha UK and A Rocha International in partnership with Lee Abbey are working to explore, protect and educate about the marine habitats and biodiversity of Lee Bay. We will be developing devotional resources that can be used to better experience God through interaction with the ocean.



What do we need to do as Christians?

Remember the ocean and enjoy it

Better incorporate the ocean into our climate change campaigns. All climate change work is marine conservation.

Faith in countryside – need faith on the coast

Incorporate into development – basically no Christian projects that incorporate marine biodiversity and fisheries



The image features an underwater scene with sunlight filtering through the water. In the top right corner, there is a small image of a book cover titled "Hope for the Ocean" by Robert D Sluka, published by Grove Books. The book cover also includes the text "Marine Conservation, Poverty Alleviation and Securing the Nations". In the bottom left corner, there is a logo for A Rocha International, which includes a globe and the text "INTERNATIONAL ROCHA Conservation and Hope".

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See A Rocha's marine website for details and downloads of Christian resources related to the ocean.

www.arocha.org/marine

My website: robertdsluka.blogspot.com

Academic papers: <https://independent.academia.edu/RobertSluka> or
www.researchgate.net/profile/Robert_Sluka

Linked In: uk.linkedin.com/pub/robert-sluka/6/6b2/7b9/

A Rocha Kenya Marine Conservation and Research Programme
<http://kenya.arocha.org/work/scientific-research/marine/>

Grove Booklet: Hope for the Ocean
http://www.grovebooks.co.uk/cart.php?target=product&product_id=17558