

Summary of The Ocean Foundation's Presentation at
CREST's 3rd Symposium for Innovators in Coastal Tourism
"How MPAs, and Best Fishing Practices
Can Enhance Sustainable Coastal Tourism"
10 July 2014



This is the third time that I been a speaker at this Symposium on behalf of the work we do at The Ocean Foundation to foster sustainable travel and tourism, to promote improved practices, and to protect critical cultural heritage, as well as natural coastal and marine areas before they are slated or prepared for development.

During my presentation I spoke about how tourism has dramatic effects on cultural heritage, social balance, ecological balance and natural beauty aesthetics. It's estimated that travel accounts for 1 out of every 11 jobs on the planet. And, 80% of all tourism takes place in coastal areas, particularly on beaches and at reefs. Because 50% of the world's populations live within 40 miles of the coast, this makes protecting local coastal and marine resources an urgent need in promoting sustainable tourism.



Sustainable coastal tourism can help preserve artisanal fishing communities, allow for subsistence fishing, protect the environment and make positive sustainable economic development. It can promote sustainable development to achieve a balance in the social equity of the community and ensure that coastal development and siting sustainability analysis do not cause a loss of fish habitat.

Marine Protected Areas (MPAs) are another aspect in approaching sustainable coastal tourism. MPAs can help control overfishing by commercial interests, and be major tourist attractions, which broaden coastal communities economic options. Tourists can see endangered species and

pay a fee to enter the MPA, supporting conservation and the livelihood of the local communities.



Mark J. Spalding, President of The Ocean Foundation, has been the CEO of the St. Kitts Foundation and Fundación Bahía de Loreto. These subsidiaries of The Ocean Foundation were designed to be the philanthropy arms of sustainable resort developments. Mark has also served as a consultant to Rancho La Puerta spa/resort and its foundation regarding the conservation of the Tecate River Valley, and as an advisor to Kerzner International Limited to assist its formation of the Kerzner Marine Foundation. He is the co-author of the North American

Commission for Environmental Cooperation's study on ecotourism, and conducted green hotel evaluations in India. Mark is an active member of the marine working group of the Consultative Group on Biological Diversity. He is serving on the UN Pool of Experts of the Regular Process for Global Reporting and Assessment of the State of the Marine Environment. He was a professor at UCSD's Graduate School of International Relations and Pacific Studies for 10 years before bringing his extensive experience with the legal and policy aspects of ocean conservation to The Ocean Foundation's grantmaking strategy, evaluation process, and development of sustainability standards for coastal development.

The Ocean Foundation is a unique community foundation with a mission to support, strengthen, and promote those organizations dedicated to reversing the trend of destruction of ocean environments around the world. We work with a community of donors who care about the coasts and ocean. In this manner, we grow the financial resources available to support marine conservation in order to promote healthy ocean ecosystems and benefit the human communities that depend on them.

The Ocean Foundation
1320 19th Street, NW | 5th Floor | Washington, DC 20036
202-887-8996 | info@oceanfdn.org