# Synthesizing ecological and human use information to understand and manage coastal change

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1	Synthesizing ecological and human use information to
2	understand and manage coastal change
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5	Keywords:
6	marine reserves; marine protected areas; marine conservation; human dimensions; MPA;
7	monitoring; management; recreational angling, recreational fishing

8 ABSTRACT

9 Coastal systems are constantly in flux, and feedback from monitoring is necessary to 10 support decision making for effective sustainable natural resource management. 11 Frequently natural resources are the ultimate target of management actions, but 12 management programs work through the proximate step of regulating human behavior 13 towards those resources. For example, a marine reserve is considered a conservation 14 success when the abundance and diversity of organisms increase within reserve 15 boundaries, all relative to existing trends that would have affected ecological 16 communities in the absence of a reserve. Biological monitoring can assesses whether 17 reserve management achieves these goals. However, when monitoring data are 18 inconclusive or do not match expectations, managers face uncertainty in understanding 19 why particular biological patterns occurred, whether a reserve is a biologically 20 appropriate management strategy for the system, and what steps to take moving forward. 21 Monitoring human behavior can provide information that may alleviate some uncertainty 22 and help explain observed biological patterns. In this study we illustrate the utility of 23 complimenting biological monitoring data with monitoring of human behavior. We used 24 a before-after control-impact analysis to test for effects of a no-take reserve in the Gulf of 25 California, Mexico on the density and biomass of seven fished species. We failed to 26 detect a positive biological effect of the reserve, and found the density of five monitored 27 species had declined. These results indicated that the reserve was not succeeding, but 28 provided no insight into why. Evaluation of recreational angler use of the reserve 29 provided a possible explanation: first, the frequency of angler visits to the study area was 30 increasing over time. Second, the reserve reduced the propensity of anglers to visit the

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reserve, but not by enough to offset the overall increasing visitation trend. Biological and human use monitoring results in tandem indicated that a reserve could potentially be an effective conservation tool for the system, and allowed us to suggest modifications that could help the reserve succeed. Our work illustrates the necessity of monitoring human use changes alongside biological responses to a reserve for a holistic portrait of reserve functioning, providing a concrete example of the importance of human behavioral aspects of marine reserve success.

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### **39 1. Introduction**

40 Marine reserves are a popular strategy for marine conservation (Roberts et al. 41 2001, Halpern et al. 2004, Guidetti 2007, McClanahan 2010, Devillers et al. 2015). 42 However, as with any management strategy, reserves are subject to implementation error 43 (uncertainty associated with rules and regulations, and how people respond to them) and 44 process error (uncertainty associated with the biophysical production process) that may 45 undermine the ability of a reserve to meet its conservation and fishery enhancement goals 46 (Wilen et al. 2002, Smith et al. 2008). Monitoring and assessment are intended to help 47 managers identify and address these problems. Frequently, the purpose of reserve 48 monitoring is to determine whether fish stocks have increased in size and abundance; 49 reserve evaluation has focused overwhelmingly on biological criteria (Halpern and 50 Warner 2002, Halpern 2003, UNEP-WCMC 2008, Lester et al. 2009, Bonaldo et al. 2017, 51 Woodcock et al. 2017). If such a monitoring program indicates increasing stocks, this 52 provides positive feedback for the current management program. However, some reserves 53 may show no effect on protected species, despite decades of operation and monitoring

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54 (Halpern and Warner 2002, Babcock et al. 2010). If a monitoring program fails to 55 provide evidence of stock improvements, then it is tempting to declare the reserve a 56 failure. If the reserve is indeed failing, then a prudent manager might desire information 57 to understand why: perhaps the reserve is too small or in the wrong place (Devillers et al. 58 2015), or the life history characteristics of the monitored species render them unsuitable 59 for management by the current marine reserve structure (Gerber et al. 2002, Claudet et al. 60 2010). There may be a lack of stakeholder stewardship or knowledge of the rules coupled 61 with inadequate enforcement to protect the reserve (Guidetti et al. 2008, Kelaher et al. 62 2015, Watson et al. 2015). Failure to observe increases in fish size and abundance 63 provides no information about the likelihood of any of these alternative hypotheses, and 64 thus provides little guidance to improve future management. Even a result indicating 65 stock improvement is only informative to a point; management still has only incomplete 66 information to help sustain the reserve's performance or provide lessons learned for 67 applications in other locations. We assess the ultimate and proximate impacts of the 68 creation of a marine reserve in the Gulf of California, Mexico, and demonstrate that in 69 tandem these impacts help us to understand how the reserve is functioning 70 mechanistically. The information garnered from monitoring proximate effects (i.e. 71 changes in human use) provides approaches to help managers meet their goals. Thus, the 72 issues raised by this study are broadly applicable to natural resource management 73 situations where regulatory interventions attempt to affect human behavior. 74 Marine reserve assessment is frequently viewed as a two-step process: a reserve is 75 created (Fig. 1; I.) and over time the biological effects of the reserve are observed (Fig. 1;

76 IV.). Yet at the core marine reserves, like other policies, adjust the rules and incentives of

77	people; for example through limitations on access or use (Lynch 2006, Fenichel et al.
78	2013) (Fig. 1; II.). The ultimate success of a reserve requires management provisions and
79	incentives that change human behavior in ways that support reserve goals (Fig 1; III.).
80	Thus, people must first alter their behavior in response to a reserve before any biological
81	changes (Fig. 1; IV.) attributable to the reserve can occur. The response of fish stocks
82	may further alter people's incentives leading to feedbacks between stock changes and
83	behavior (Fig. 1; V.). Mechanistically the biological response following declaration of
84	new regulations lags human behavioral change, and thus logic suggests that human use
85	changes may be observed earlier and possibly with less error than biological responses.
86	Though it is generally assumed that a marine reserve will discourage use of a
87	marine area by increasing the cost of fishing through fines (Smith et al. 2008), the
88	creation of new rules often result in unintended human behavioral responses and
89	feedbacks (Wilen et al. 2002, Smith and Wilen 2003, Kellner et al. 2007, Smith et al.
90	2008, Lynch 2014). Behavioral responses that could reduce or eliminate the conservation
91	benefits of a reserve include the intensification of fishing effort (Smith et al. 2008),
92	spatial displacement of fishing to reserve boundaries (Gribble and Robertson 1998,
93	Kellner et al. 2007), and non-compliance with reserve rules (Kritzer 2004, Guidetti et al.
94	2008). Understanding how a reserve alters human use provides insight into how the
95	reserve is functioning mechanistically (Hilborn 2007). While stock increases or declines
96	may be the ultimate management outcomes of concern, intermediate information tracking
97	human use of a marine reserve is essential to understand and improve management.
98	We first describe a biological assessment (Fig. 1; IV) of the San Pedro Mártir
99	Island (SPMI) Biosphere Marine Reserve in the Gulf of California (GoC), Mexico (Fig.

100	2). Revisiting the conceptual system model of the reserve's socio-ecological production
101	processes, we assess an intermediate step using results of human use monitoring for the
102	reserve (Fig. 1; III). We present the results of each assessment, and illustrate how in
103	tandem they present a fuller picture of the reserve. We discuss the management
104	implications of this monitoring regime to the SPMI reserve, and elaborate on how human
105	use monitoring, as with other social science data, are essential for marine reserve
106	monitoring and success.
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Fig. 1. A conceptual iterative management model of how the effects of a marine reserve
are carried to protected fish populations. The stages where human use and biological
monitoring occur are illustrated along with sources of error that confound the detection of
treatment effects.



Fig. 2. Map of the Gulf of California, Mexico. (a) Inset map of the Central Gulf of
California Midriff Islands region. The square around San Pedro Mártir Island delineates
the boundaries of the Biosphere Reserve. The grey area is the buffer zone, and the black
area the no-take zone. (b) Close-up of San Pedro Mártir Island showing the no-take zone
and part of the buffer zone. Diamonds indicate sites inside (grey) and outside (black)
sampled with non-destructive underwater survey techniques between 2002 and 2009.

#### 125 2. Methods

126 2.1 Study Site

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128 Coastal ecosystems surrounding SPMI (Fig. 2) are highly productive, but high 129 exploitation rates throughout the GoC have led to catch declines (Sala et al. 2004, Saenz-130 Arroyo et al. 2005) including around SPMI (CEDICAR and CONANP 2007). A 131 biosphere reserve was declared in June 2002 (Poder Ejecutivo Federal 2002). The SPMI 132 biosphere reserve is managed by the Mexican National Commission on Natural Protected 133 areas (CONANP) with support from the local non-governmental organization Comunidad 134 y Biodiversidad (COBI). The creation of the reserve was a community-based effort, and 135 the reserve was located and zoned with active participation from the local community and 136 small-scale commercial fishers, but not local recreational fishers (Cudney-Bueno et al. 137 2009). 138 The aim of the biosphere reserve is to protect terrestrial and marine natural 139 resources, and provide for their sustainable use (Poder Ejecutivo Federal 2002). The 140 reserve is composed of a rectangular no-take zone of approximately 9 km<sup>2</sup> surrounded by a buffer zone of approximately 290 km<sup>2</sup> (Fig. 2). Recreational and small-scale 141 142 commercial fishing are permitted within the buffer zone, while trawling and other 143 industrial-scale fishing is prohibited. Beyond fishing mortality, trawling impacts the 144 structure of the ecosystem and ecosystem processes, and often negatively affects species 145 diversity and abundance (Thrush and Dayton 2002). Further, Gulf of California shrimp 146 trawl fisheries capture as much as 13 times as much biomass as bycatch than shrimp 147 (Perez-Mellado and Findley 1985). Within the buffer zone is a core "no-take" zone. All extractive activities are prohibited in the no-take zone, which previous to reserve

149	designation was considered a good fishing area by personal accounts from Mexican
150	small-scale (Cudney-Bueno et al. 2009) and local recreational (Fujitani 2010) fishers. For
151	example, the no-take zone encompasses an area of spawning aggregations for
152	Mycteroperca rosacea, one of the most important and abundant fished grouper in the
153	Central and Southern GoC (Ramírez and Rodríguez 1990, Sala et al. 2003). M. rosacea
154	are popular targets for commercial and recreational anglers who fish near SPMI
155	(CEDICAR and CONANP 2007, Fujitani 2010) and are easily captured during
156	aggregations at spawning sites (Sala et al. 2003), only four of which are protected in the
157	GoC (Sala 2005). No penalties for non-compliance are specified in the reserve
158	declaration (Poder Ejecutivo Federal 2002).
159	Bahia Kino, the nearest fishing village to SPMI (60 kilometers distant; Fig. 2),
160	hosts a sizable foreign (USA, Canadian, and European) semi-permanent resident
161	community of recreational anglers. Our analysis of human use changes resulting from the
162	reserve focused on this Bahia Kino recreational angling community. This was because
163	recreational anglers fished regularly at SPMI while the waters directly surrounding the
164	island were historically visited less frequently by Mexican small-scale commercial fishers
165	(Cudney-Bueno et al. 2009). Unlike most recreational anglers, small-scale fishers use
166	pangas (small <7 m open skiffs), which make the trips time-consuming and hazardous.
167	The island is fished only by a small subset of small-scale fishers, and even then only
168	irregularly due to the distance and cost of travel (Cudney-Bueno et al. 2009). These
169	qualitative data from oral accounts are supported by human use monitoring data from
170	2003-2008 (Meza et al. 2008). However, these monitoring visits were not conducted to be
171	representative and the number of visits varied widely between years (from 14 in 2003 to

172 102 in 2007), and thus must be interpreted with caution. The data may provide

173 information on the relative proportions of visitors to SPMI (no site-specific catch data are

available for either group). Recreational angling boats were the most frequently observed

group (44%), followed by pangas (36%). Also observed were larger commercial boats

176 such as shrimp trawlers and longliners (4%). The remaining boats were sightseeing or

177 diving tourists (3%), reserve enforcement (9%), and unidentified (4%).

178 Though the reserve was officially created in 2002 regular enforcement did not

begin until 2006, with patrols making eight random visits to the no-take zone per month

180 (two per week). The recreational anglers were not involved in the reserve creation

181 process, and as a group learned of the reserve and its rules in 2005 (unpublished

182 interview data). On April 10th, 2005 an announcement (in English) was broadcast on the

183 VHF radio channel that the recreational angling community relies upon for

184 communication. It stated that enforcement of the SPMI Biosphere Reserve was

185 commencing, and federal officers and the navy would enforce penalties of fines, boat

186 impoundment, and imprisonment.

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188 2.2 Biological Sampling Design

189 From 2002-2004 and 2007-2009 divers sampled fish populations using

190 underwater visual census (UVC) along sub-tidal transects. Divers recorded the abundance

191 and total length for five species of grouper and sea bass (Serranidae) and two species of

192 snapper (Lutjanidae) (Table 1) considered important to both commercial and recreational

193 fishers (CEDICAR and CONANP 2007; unpublished interview data). Data were

194 collected from 15 fixed sites (Fig. 2), though the number of sites sampled varied from

195 year to year. From 2002-2004 divers surveyed 50 x 5 m transects. In 2007, the

Partnership for Interdisciplinary Studies of Coastal Oceans (PISCO) monitoring protocol
(Hamilton et al. 2010; www.piscoweb.org) was adapted by the PANGAS initiative (Pesca
Artesanal del Norte del Golfo de California; pangas.arizona.edu), and divers employed 30
x 2 m transects. Data were standardized by the transect area. The best available lengthweight relationships for the seven species were obtained from FishBase (Froese and
Pauly 2016) and used to convert recorded lengths to biomass.

202 To understand recreational angling behavior, we used a dataset that includes 203 information on daily angling destinations from 2000 to 2008 compiled by a volunteer 204 rescue radio channel servicing the recreational angling community of Bahia Kino. No 205 official water rescue services exist in the region, so the community relies upon the 206 volunteer service for boat tracking, search, and rescue. The community maintains a 207 dedicated VHF channel for this purpose. As each boat departs, a volunteer records the 208 planned destination(s) and the expected return time, and the volunteer checks boaters' 209 status until they return. There is a strong incentive for accurate trip reporting to guide 210 potential rescue efforts, as mechanical failures and sudden changes in weather are 211 common (J. Jerdee, personal communication). Almost every member of the recreational 212 angling community checks out to a volunteer on every trip (J. Jerdee, personal 213 communication). Semi-structured interviews with recreational anglers were conducted in 214 June 2009. A convenience sample of anglers was solicited from Bahia Kino's single boat 215 ramp as anglers returned from fishing. Interviews were given at a later date, and lasted 216 about an hour. Topics covered in each interview included targeted species, fishing sites, 217 attitudes towards the SPMI reserve, and attitudes towards the environment. Twenty

218	interviews were taken representing 8% of the boats that were recorded to have taken a
219	fishing trip that year.
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	224	Table 1. Species that	were quantified in th	e monitoring program from 2002-2009.	
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	Scientific Name	Common Name	Count Over Study Peri	226
	Mycteroperca rosacea	leopard grouper	1087	227
	Lutjanus argentiventris	yellow snapper	153	220
	Cephalopholis panamensis	Panama graysby	106	229
	Epinephelus labriformis	flag cabrilla	87	
	Mycteroperca jordani	Gulf grouper	60	230
	Mycteroperca prionura	sawtail grouper	42	001
	Hoplopagrus guentherii	barred pargo	16	231
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242 2.3 Data Analysis

243	With our UVC transects we compared the abundance and biomass of seven
244	economically important species in the no-take and the buffer zones between 2002 and
245	2009 to evaluate the impact of the no-take zone with Before-After Control-Impact
246	(BACI) methodology (Green 1979), widely used for impact assessment in the ecological
247	(Emslie et al. 2015, Kelaher et al. 2015) and social science literatures (Orley and Card
248	1985, Greenstone and Gayer 2009). Because reserves are often sited non-randomly due to
249	characteristics of outstanding conservation importance (UNEP-WCMC 2008), ecological
250	criteria (Roberts et al. 2003), or opportunity, cost, and political considerations (Roberts
251	2000, Hansen et al. 2011), analyses to detect the effect of a marine reserve is a 'quasi-
252	experiment,' not a true randomized experiment (Rubin 1974). BACI analyses have
253	advantages over Before-After or Control-Impact (e.g., Pollnac et al. 2001, Halpern 2003,
254	Pollnac et al. 2010) comparisons, by helping account for unobserved covariates (e.g., if in
255	the absence of a reserve, a reserve site would still have higher biological productivity
256	than an outside reference site) (Stewart-Oaten et al. 1986).
257	For our BACI analysis we set the implementation of the SPMI biosphere reserve
258	as the impact. Though the reserve was designated in 2002, full implementation did not
259	occur until 2005, and enforcement was stepped up in 2006 (J. Torre, personal
260	communication). The first year UVC data were collected, following the full
261	implementation of the reserve, was 2007. Data collected between 2007 and 2009 were
262	used as the after period.
263	We used a linear mixed model to detect an effect of reserve implementation on

abundance and biomass of fish species in the no-take zone. This approach allowed the

265 inclusion of differences in underlying distributions by setting group-level model 266 intercepts and variance while providing parameter estimates for fixed effects (McDonald et al. 2000, Gelman and Hill 2007). Mixed-effects models are useful to analyze 267 268 hierarchically grouped data as they partition group level variation from the fixed effects 269 of interest that characterize all individuals in the model (Fox 2002, Gelman and Hill 270 2007). Mixed models are commonly used in reserve evaluation to account for group-level 271 variation in, for example, site (Bonaldo et al. 2017), country (Geldmann et al. 2015), or 272 observer (White et al. 2015). Linear mixed models were fit by maximum likelihood in the 273 statistical programming environment R (v. 3.2.5; R Development Core Team 2016) using 274 the package *nlme* (Pinheiro et al. 2016) and checked for improvement compared to the 275 null model as restricted maximum likelihood cannot be used to compare models with different fixed effect structures (Zuur et al. 2009). Final models were fit by restricted 276 277 maximum likelihood with Satterthwaite approximations to degrees of freedom for t-tests 278 on model fixed effects (package lmerTest; Kuznetsova 2016).

279  $\mathbf{y}_{ij} = \mathbf{X}_i \boldsymbol{\beta} + \mathbf{b}_j + \boldsymbol{\epsilon}_{ij} \quad \mathbf{b}_j \sim \mathbf{N}_j (0, \boldsymbol{\Psi}) \qquad \boldsymbol{\epsilon}_{ij} \sim \mathbf{N}_{ij} (0, \sigma^2)$ 

 $\mathbf{y}_{ii}$  was the response vector for the *i*<sup>th</sup> observation in the *j*<sup>th</sup> group (survey location) for 280 each model.  $\mathbf{X}_i$  was the design matrix, and  $\boldsymbol{\beta}$  was the vector of coefficients for fixed 281 effects 'before or after' (i.e. 2002-2004 or 2007-2009; before = 0, after = 1), 'control or 282 283 impact' (i.e. buffer zone or no-take zone; buffer zone = 0, no-take zone = 1), and the 284 interaction between the two (the treatment effect BAxCI).  $\mathbf{b}_i$  was the vector of random 285 effects for each of the 15 surveyed sites. The sites were similar in bathymetry and other 286 physical characteristics, but they differed in fishery uses (COBI, unpublished data), so 287 'site' was included as a random effect to account for the unobserved variation and panel nature of these grouped transects. As a random effect, each site was given its own variance and co-variance matrix ( $\Psi$ ) parsing it from the residual global variance ( $\epsilon_{ij}$ ). Two models for each of the seven species were run, first using biomass (g/m<sup>2</sup>) and then density (m<sup>-2</sup>) as the dependent variable. Log transformations were employed on biomass data and square-root transformations were employed on abundance ratios to satisfy normality assumptions; models were checked for deviations from homoscedasticity assumptions and none were found.

295 Our ability to detect an effect of the reserve may be confounded by edge effects, 296 since the control and no-take sites abut and may directly influence each other (Stewart-297 Oaten et al. 1986). We ran additional models for the biomass and density of each species with a covariate for distance from the no-take zone border included in the design matrix 298  $\mathbf{X}_{i}$ . This covariate, 'distance from border' is zero before the reserve is established, and 299 300 post-reserve is the positive distance from the nearest border for sites within the no-take 301 zone, and the negative distance from the nearest border for sites outside the no-take zone. 302 These models were run both with and without site-specific random effects. To account 303 for edge effects in another way, we dropped data from sites within 500 meters of the no-304 take zone border, and re-ran mixed model analyses for all species.

The reserve could also have affected different size classes of fish in different ways. We tested this by splitting our observations of *M. rosacea* into two size classes: spawning size and juvenile. Juveniles were defined as individuals 30 cm or less total length, as fish below this size have not been found in leopard grouper spawning aggregations (Diaz-Uribe et al. 2001). As mentioned above, the no-take zone protects a spawning aggregation of leopard grouper, where spawners could otherwise be easily

311 exploited. Juveniles are overall too small to be preferentially targeted. Thus, the intended 312 direct effect of the reserve is expected to be observed on the spawning age class. If the 313 reserve increases the number of spawners, an indirect effect of the reserve on recruits 314 could be observed with a lag. Even if the reserve protects the spawning class just long 315 enough to increase the number of recruits, we may expect to see an increase in juvenile 316 recruits that is not confined to the no-take zone. We also analyzed mixed models for 317 juvenile and spawning age class leopard grouper with distance from the no-take zone 318 border as a covariate.

319 From the recreational angler trip data we analyzed the 14,894 trips the anglers 320 logged to the volunteer rescue service between 2000 and 2008. Because the logged trips 321 needed to be sufficiently accurate to guide rescue efforts we have high confidence in the 322 accuracy of destination sites reported by anglers. Our data did not allow us to 323 discriminate the precise locations visited by anglers around SPMI on each reported trip, 324 and interviews indicated that anglers frequently visit multiple fishing sites during a visit 325 to SPMI. However, even if all anglers only fished in the buffer zone after reserve 326 declaration (contrary to qualitative interviews and supplementary monitoring data), our 327 analysis would present a conservative upper bound on fishing pressing in the no-take 328 zone. We tested for a structural change in recreational angling use with a model of the 329 proportion of fishing trips taken to SPMI before and after the announcement in 2005 330 (Chow 1960, Fujitani et al. 2012). A structural change is a discrete break in the best 331 fitting parameters for the system concomitant with a mechanism for such change (e.g., 332 new regulations). To analyze the nature of the behavioral change, we employed a 333 binomial logit model to explore how the reserve affected the propensity of at least one

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angling boat from the community to take a trip to SPMI on a day that any angler chose totake a trip.

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$$\Pr(z=1) = \Lambda(\mathbf{X}\boldsymbol{\beta})$$

337 z is a fleet-level indicator of whether at least one boat took a trip to SPMI on a given day; 338 this is because interview data indicated that anglers share boats and fish in groups for 339 safety, particularly to distant fishing sites such as SPMI. The predictors used to test the 340 hypothesis that reserve announcement affected trip behavior in the design matrix **X** 341 included days since the reserve announcement and days since the announcement squared 342 to look at non-linear behavior over time. Predictors in X accounting for other factors 343 besides the reserve that affected the propensity of anglers to travel to SPMI were month 344 and weekday versus weekend as fixed effects, and year and daily maximum wind speed 345 as slope variables. These captured the behavioral responses of anglers to variation in 346 weather, safety of open water trips, seasonal non-fishing opportunities, seasonal variation 347 in the composition and abundance of targeted species, and gas prices (Fujitani et al. 2012). 348 The vector  $\boldsymbol{\beta}$  contained the parameter estimates from the predictors, and  $\Lambda$  is the logistic 349 cumulative distribution function.

## **350 3. Results**

Scatter plots of mean (± SE ) density (Fig. 3) and biomass (Fig. S1) for the seven
species showed little difference between control (white circles) and impact (filled
squares) sites, particularly following reserve implementation. Regression analysis
indicated that five of seven species (*M. rosacea, Cephalopholis panamensis, Lutjanus argentiventris, Hoplopagrus guentherii,* and *Mycteroperca prionura*) decreased

356 significantly in both abundance and biomass in the time period following reserve

357 implementation (Table 2), though no difference was seen between the control and impact358 areas.

359	Significant interaction effects (BA×CI; Table 2) were observed for the biomass
360	and abundance of several species; however these indicated a negative effect of the
361	reserve and/or were an artifact of their rarity in the sample. Epinephelus labriformis were
362	more abundant within the no-take zone than outside, but declined in abundance faster
363	within the no-take zone compared to the buffer zone. The remaining two species with
364	significant interaction effects (M. prionura and H. guenterii) had very low observed
365	counts due to their rarity in the system (Fig. 3). Only three of 43 M. prionura were
366	observed in the no-take zone during the survey, and none were observed in the no-take
367	zone following reserve implementation. Only sixteen H. guenterii were recorded in the
368	time series, and only three were counted after the reserve was implemented.



Fig. 3. Scatter plots of mean (±SE) density of seven commercially important species in

the no-take zone and the buffer zone between 2002 and 2009 show no clear effect of the

- 375 reserve on species preferentially targeted by fishing. The arrows indicate the
- announcement of the reserve.

378 Table 2. Parameter values and standard errors from linear mixed before-after control-

379 impact models to detect the effects of the SPMI reserve on the square-root transformed

380 density and log-normal transformed biomass of seven species targeted by fishing.

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Density												
	M. rosad	cea		C. pana	mensis		E. labrif	ormis		L. argen	tiventris	
Parameter	β	SE	p-value	β	SE	p-value	β	SE	p-value	β	SE	p-value
Intercept	0.248	0.036	< 0.001	0.052	0.010	< 0.001	0.007	0.006	0.243	0.054	0.012	< 0.001
BA	-0.105	0.035	0.003	-0.032	0.010	0.002	0.001	0.006	0.893	-0.026	0.011	0.015
CI	-0.041	0.057	0.484	-0.012	0.016	0.470	0.022	0.009	0.026	-0.005	0.019	0.804
BA*CI	0.075	0.060	0.215	0.015	0.017	0.395	-0.020	0.009	0.036	-0.011	0.019	0.576
	H. guen	therii		M. jorda	ıni		M. prion	ura				
Parameter	β	SE	p-value	β	SE	p-value	β	SE	p-value			
Intercept	0.031	0.014	0.033	0.013	0.006	0.027	0.028	0.009	0.002			
BA	-0.008	0.003	0.003	-0.002	0.006	0.703	-0.016	0.004	< 0.001			
CI	0.000	0.023	0.984	-0.011	0.009	0.243	-0.028	0.014	0.074			
BA*CI	-0.047	0.006	< 0.001	0.008	0.010	0.453	0.016	0.008	0.046			
Biomass												
	M. rosad	cea		C. pana	mensis		E. labrif	ormis		L. argen	tiventris	
Parameter	β	SE	p-value	β	SE	p-value	β	SE	p-value	β	SE	p-value
Intercept	3.696	0.305	< 0.001	0.356	0.065	< 0.001	0.115	0.078	0.143	0.860	0.151	< 0.001
BA	-2.364	0.294	< 0.001	-0.240	0.066	< 0.001	-0.021	0.083	0.805	-0.474	0.132	< 0.001
CI	-0.225	0.488	0.652	-0.089	0.102	0.398	0.361	0.120	0.010	-0.101	0.245	0.686
BA*CI	0.491	0.511	0.337	0.086	0.109	0.429	-0.322	0.128	0.012	-0.191	0.242	0.430
	H. guentherii		M. iordani		M. prionura							
Parameter	β	SE	p-value	β	SE	p-value	β	SE	p-value			
Intercept	0.879	0.374	0.019	0.731	0.232	0.002	0.654	0.224	0.004			
BA	-0.304	0.068	< 0.001	-0.355	0.217	0.103	-0.456	0.077	< 0.001			
CI	0.034	0.592	0.955	-0.647	0.373	0.107	-0.654	0.358	0.091			
BA*CI	-1.403	0.140	< 0.001	0.545	0.385	0.158	0.456	0.156	0.004			

Our tests to account for edge effects between the no-take and control zones did not qualitatively change results. For example, for the most common species, *M. rosacea*, dropping sites less than 500 meters from a no-take zone border (Table S1; I.), or including distance from the nearest border as a covariate (Table S1. II.) yielded similar results as the original mixed model of no significant effect of the reserve. Models accounting for size-class similarly did not show a positive effect from the reserve (Table S1; III.), and we did not find an increase in juveniles over time that could have indicated an indirect effect of the reserve through recruitment (Table S1; IV.).

We found a significant structural change in the proportion of recreational angling trips to SPMI before and after the reserve was announced, indicating the reserve had an effect on recreational angling use of the island. The nature of this effect was explained in the binomial logit model, showing that the reserve had the effect of reducing the propensity of the fleet to visit SPMI (days since impact  $-1.61 \times 10^{-3}$ , p-value = 0.003). Though the model indicated the reserve had a negative first-order effect on the propensity to travel to SPMI, this effect grew weaker with time (days since impact squared  $1.34 \times 10^{-6}$ , p-value = 0.001). Independent of any reserve effect, results suggest that the propensity of anglers to travel to SPMI was increasing over time and overall use of the reserve is projected to increase (year coefficient 0.18, p-value < 0.001). These results are summarized in Figure 4, which uses parameters estimated from the model to project the statistical expectation of what would have been observed had the reserve not been established, and compare it to the reserve's effect on recreational angling use (also see Fujitani et al. 2012). Increasing use of the reserve area over time can be seen in the open squares of Figure 4 (open squares connected by a dotted line post-2005 represent the

projected counterfactual scenario) (Heckman 2010). The open circles show the reserve effect on the propensity to visit SPMI. The initial dip in angler propensity reflects the negative first-order effect: the reserve initially reduced the propensity of anglers to visit. However, the positive second-order effect indicates the conservation effect of the reserve was diminishing over time, and thus the reserve and no-reserve scenarios converge over time. In summary, though anglers initially decreased visits to SPMI, in a few years their visitation behavior was the same as if the reserve had never existed.



Fig. 4. Trends in projected propensities for anglers to travel to SPMI (left axis) and density of surveyed species inside and outside of the SPMI no-take zone (right axis). Travel projections (with 95% projection intervals) were estimated from a logistic regression model using average visitation for a weekday in June, the most popular month for trips to SPMI. Open squares indicate the propensity to visit SPMI without a marine reserve; the dotted line shows post-2004 values that are the statistically expected propensity to visit SPMI with reserve effects set to zero. Open circles are the propensity to visit SPMI with the reserve effects estimated by the logistic regression model. The right-hand axis corresponds to the total density of the surveyed species inside and outside of SPMI's no-take zone, with 95% confidence intervals.

- 1 **4. Discussion**
- 2

3 We did not find evidence that the SPMI no-take zone met stated reserve goals of 4 protecting and enhancing biological resources by increasing fish stocks, though marine 5 reserves elsewhere have demonstrated to be effective for species sharing the exploitation 6 status and life history characteristics of the seven monitored species (Micheli et al. 2004, 7 Claudet et al. 2010). Further, reserves have demonstrated significant stock increases in a 8 shorter period following the initiation of protection than the monitored period for the 9 SPMI reserve (Halpern and Warner 2002, but see Edgar et al. 2014). M. prionura and E. 10 *labriformis* appeared to decline faster within the no-take zone than in the control. Five 11 other species showed their stocks deteriorating over time, with no significant protective 12 effect of the reserve (BAxCI; Table 2). This may be explained by the large number of 13 zeroes in transects overall for some species—though the biological monitoring program 14 was intensive and costly, uncommon species were infrequently observed, making it 15 difficult to discern trends in their stocks (Table 1). Further, we were unable to detect an 16 effect of the no-take zone for leopard grouper despite the rich dataset available (Table 1). 17 Indeed, mean leopard grouper abundance and biomass in the period before the reserve 18 was implemented was higher than after protection went into effect (Table 2; S1) despite 19 the expected benefit of protecting a spawning aggregation site (Sala et al. 2003, Russel 20 and Sadory 2005). Other studies of marine protected areas in the GoC have shown similar 21 results, with no-take zones showing no effect or even significant declines compared to 22 control sites (Cudney-Bueno et al. 2009, Stamieszkin et al. 2009). These biological 23 results, taken alone, could be interpreted as evidence that marine reserves are not a viable

management tool in the GoC. However these data alone provide no information to
address alternate hypotheses and provide advice to management.

26 Conversely, our analysis of recreational angling showed that the SPMI reserve 27 had a significant negative effect on fishing trips to the island relative to the projected 28 level of trips without the reserve, and thus that a reserve could potentially work to reduce 29 fishing pressure in this system relative to the case of no reserve. The reserve reduced the 30 number of visits by members of an important stakeholder group relative to the statistical 31 expectation of fishing effort had the reserve not been established (Fig. 4; open circles for 32 2006 and 2007). Interviews with anglers supported the theory that the reserve had 33 increased the implicit cost and decreased the incentive to travel to SPMI; anglers 34 expressed worries about fines and boat seizures.

35 Our analysis provided a possible explanation as to why we did not observe 36 increased fish stocks despite the *relative* reduction in fishing effort - the reserve did not 37 decrease the *absolute* level of fishing effort. Our model showed that independent of the 38 establishment of the no-take zone, trips to SPMI had been increasing over time (Fig. 4; 39 open squares). Interviews with recreational anglers indicated that this trend is due to the 40 perception that SPMI has some of the best fishing in the region for the highest valued 41 targets. Anglers cited advances in boat safety and technology (especially increases in the 42 sizes of boats and motors) as a reason why more boats are making the remote, exposed, 43 and treacherous crossing to SPMI. Given this overall trend of increasing use of SPMI, the 44 reserve only dampened this progression (Fig. 4). Though the reserve reduced the 45 otherwise expected increase in recreational angling use of the island over two years, it 46 appears any alleviated fishing pressure was insufficient to reverse stock declines. The

effect of the reserve to reduce fishing diminished over time, so that by 2008 realized
angler behavior was indistinguishable from the level of use that would have been
expected had the reserve never existed (Fig. 4).

50 Our results raise two important questions about the SPMI reserve that are likely 51 applicable to other management proposals. First, marine reserves and other natural 52 resource management strategies are intended as a press perturbation management 53 intervention, but SPMI seems to have acted as a pulse, only reducing relative angler 54 visitation (compared to the counterfactual) for a short period. Could pulse effects be 55 worthwhile investments? Drury and Lodge (2009) suggest that they might be if the 56 ecosystem displays multiple stable states. However, the human behavioral response may 57 counter such pulse interventions (Horan et al. 2011), requiring enduring institutional 58 changes. Second, what should be considered a biological success? Often reserves are 59 considered successful if they stop or reverse population declines. Is slowing downward 60 trends sufficient to justify a reserve? While stocks did not increase following the 61 establishment of SPMI, it is possible that they declined less rapidly than they would have 62 without the reserve. Depending on management interpretations, this may meet the stated 63 SPMI reserve goal of protecting biological resources.

Interviews with anglers and COBI staff provided insight into why the reserve acted as a pulse instead of press disturbance to angling behavior. Anglers learned that the reserve was not being enforced. During interviews conducted in 2009 anglers still expressed confusion and wariness about the rules of the reserve, but all subjects knew that the rules of the reserve had not been enforced to date. Many expressed a desire for reserve rules to be enforced as long as it was done fairly among all stakeholders.

CONANP/COBI's human use monitoring found a small number of commercial and
recreational anglers in the no-take zone every year until monitoring ended in early 2008
(Meza et al. 2008). All boats discovered in the no-take zone were warned and asked to
leave, after being asked if they knew they were in a no-take zone, to which 71%
responded 'yes' (Meza et al. 2008).

75 Enforcement (Kritzer 2004, Guidetti et al. 2008, Kelaher et al. 2015), as well as 76 compliance (Pollnac et al. 2010, Dalton et al. 2015) is critical to marine reserve success 77 and meta-analyses that found significant benefits to marine reserves had as a selection 78 criterion the reasonably successful exclusion of fishing (Cote et al. 2001, Halpern 2003). 79 *Ex ante*, this may be what one would expect, but human responses to new institutions can 80 be difficult to predict. Our detailed recreational angling dataset allowed us to empirically 81 document angler response to weak enforcement. The SPMI reserve, like others in the 82 GoC, is limited in management resources and faces challenges mobilizing across the 83 multiple government bureaus that have specific jurisdictions, who need to coordinate for 84 effective outreach and law enforcement (Cudney-Bueno et al. 2009). To date the rules of 85 the SPMI no-take zone have not been enforced beyond warnings (J. Torre, pers. comm.). 86 Though reserves have been suggested as fishery management strategies for developing 87 countries (Polunin 2002) and regions lacking strong institutional control (Agardy 1997, 88 National Research Council 2001), institutions are critical for management and law 89 enforcement. Community-based management is a popular conservation paradigm in the 90 absence of top-down administration, but these initiatives also require strong community 91 institutions to be successful (Barrett et al. 2001, Cinner et al. 2012). These results are 92 broadly relevant to the global management of marine reserves, which like other spatial

- 93 rights-based management approaches (e.g. exclusive zones, TURFS) require oversight,

94 enforcement, and stakeholder cooperation (Claudet and Guidetti 2010).

95 Reserves are human institutions, and policies cascade through changes in human 96 use to affect fish stocks. Monitoring intermediate points along this cascade (Fig. 1) 97 provides information on how policy is functioning (Hilborn 2007). Insufficient time for a 98 biological response, as well as process and measurement error (Fig. 1) can obfuscate the 99 effect of a reserve on stocks. As human use changes occur higher up on the cascade of 100 socio-ecological reserve processes (Fig. 1; II.), human use monitoring can meaningfully 101 be conducted sooner, potentially immediately after the reserve is established. The way 102 that people respond to management is subject to implementation error (Fig. 1; II.), but 103 may be spared the process error and response lag of biological systems (Fig. 1; IV.). Thus, 104 monitoring the type and quantity of human use may provide an earlier signal of reserve 105 processes with less error. Further, unlike traditional biological monitoring (e.g., stock size 106 metrics) that contributes limited information about mechanisms that could be prohibiting 107 recovery, monitoring human activity provides information about a potential target for 108 improving management. Without positive signals from a biological monitoring program, 109 managers might conclude that monitoring should continue until a reserve effect is 110 detected. However, there is no consensus on how long one should continue to monitor a 111 reserve (Sainsbury 1991, Gerber et al. 2005). In deciding the type and length of 112 monitoring, it is important to consider the cost of monitoring, the value of data, and the 113 implications of the decisions the monitoring data will inform including potential stock 114 losses (Dayton 1998, Field et al. 2004, Gerber et al. 2007, Hansen and Jones 2008, 115 Fenichel and Hansen 2010). Human use monitoring provides information on how

116 institutions are functioning. If no effect of a management program on human use of an

117 area is detected, managers can immediately use this cue to both change tactics (e.g.,

118 outreach, enforcement) and gather more specific information as to why.

119 Besides the data-driven decision support reasons to monitor human use data in

120 tandem with biological data, positive social and economic outcomes are explicitly or

implicitly a broader target of natural resource management programs (Christie et al. 2003,

122 Hicks et al. 2016) as well as essential to the success of management programs (Brechin et

123 al. 2002, Cinner et al. 2012). Ecological, social, and economic sustainability goals can be

124 synergistic, as marine resources provide coastal communities with subsistence,

125 livelihoods, and other social and cultural ecosystem services (Daw et al. 2015). Social

126 and economic characteristics and outcomes for marine reserve stakeholders are rightfully

127 given increased attention and importance in reserve evaluation (Pollnac et al. 2010,

128 Dalton et al. 2015, Gurney et al. 2015), but monitoring direct human behavioral

129 responses to reserves remains rare. We demonstrate how monitoring data on human

130 activity is also an essential part of fisheries management not only during the selection and

131 implementation of a management strategy (Smith and Wilen 2002, Christie et al. 2003,

132 Mascia et al. 2003, Hilborn 2007, Ban et al. 2009) but also, as we have demonstrated, in

133 the evaluation of its effects.

Monitoring biological and human use data in tandem provide information on underlying processes and can uncover latent trends that enhance our understanding of a system's behavior. Thus, this monitoring strategy is valuable even if a reserve is found to be meeting stock enhancement goals, because it can explain and sustain that success, and transfer lessons learned to other systems. By understanding the nature and direction of

- 139 human use changes and how they influence biological populations, managers can make
- 140 informed decisions that increase the likelihood that management programs are successful.

## 142 Acknowledgements

143	We thank Dave	White, Jamie	Jerdee, Ana	Luisa Figueroa,	Jennifer	Duberstein,	the
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- 144 monitoring team of divers, and the Prescott College Kino Bay Field Station. MF was
- supported by Comunidad y Biodiversidad, A.C. LRG was supported as a Sabbatical
- 146 Fellow at the National Center for Ecological Analysis and Synthesis, a Center funded by
- 147 NSF (Grant #EF-0553768), the University of California, Santa Barbara, and the State of
- 148 California. MF and EF were partially supported by NOAA-Saltonstall Kennedy grant
- 149 NA09NMF4270098.
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174 Table S1. Parameter values and standard errors from alternate models to detect an effect

I. Drop sites < 500 meters from the no-take boundary, site random effects										
	Density			Biomass						
Parameter	β	SE	p-value	β	SE	p-value				
Intercept	0.25	0.038	< 0.001	3.707	0.329	< 0.001				
BA	-0.113	0.036	0.002	-2.43	0.294	< 0.001				
CI	0.003	0.096	0.978	-0.067	0.808	0.936				
BACI	0.046	0.083	0.581	0.403	0.669	0.547				
II. Distance from bord	er as covariate									
	Density			Biomass						
Parameter	β	SE	p-value	β	SE	p-value				
Intercept	0.218	0.03	< 0.001	3.429	0.243	< 0.001				
BA	-0.003	0.039	0.947	-1.555	0.323	< 0.001				
CI	-0.029	0.045	0.518	-0.092	0.369	0.804				
BACI	-0.032	0.058	0.58	-0.341	0.479	0.477				
Distance from Border	0.042	0.017	0.012	0.297	0.137	0.031				
III. Spawning class (> 30cm total length)										
	With site random		With distance from border as covariate							
Parameter	β	SE	p-value	β	SE	p-value				
Intercept	0.159	0.02	< 0.001	0.154	0.019	< 0.001				
BA	-0.121	0.021	< 0.001	-0.107	0.025	< 0.001				
CI	-0.007	0.031	0.833	-0.009	0.028	0.738				
BACI	0.033	0.033	0.315	0.025	0.037	0.496				
Distance from Border				0.004	0.011	0.72				
IV. Juveniles (< 30cm	n total length)									
	With site randor	With distand co	ce from bord variate	ler as						
Parameter	β	SE	p-value	β	SE	p-value				
Intercept	0.17	0.03	< 0.001	0.146	0.025	< 0.001				
BA	-0.044	0.03	0.143	0.048	0.033	0.149				
CI	-0.053	0.048	0.29	-0.04	0.038	0.298				

175 of the no-take zone on the density and biomass of *M. rosacea*.

0.151

-0.031

0.042

0.05

0.014

0.051

0.073

BACI

Distance from Border

0.538

0.003

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