{rokbox title=|Potential Long-Distance Dispersal Processes and Marine Reserve Benefits :: Image: Authors| thumb=|images/stories/ieo/imagenespublicaciones/centro-oceanografico-baleares-ieo-potential-long-distance-dispersal-processes-and-marine-reserve-benefits-manel-et-al-2019-thumb.jpg|}images/stories/ieo/imagenespublicaciones/centro-oceanografico-baleares-ieo-potential-long-distance-dispersal-processes-and-marine-reserve-benefits-manel-et-al-2019.jpg{/rokbox}

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Long-Distance Benefits of Marine Reserves: Myth or Reality?
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Abstract: Long-distance (>40-km) dispersal from marine reserves is poorly documented; yet, it can provide essential benefits such as seeding fished areas or connecting marine reserves into networks. From a meta-analysis, we suggest that the spatial scale of marine connectivity is underestimated due to the limited geographic extent of sampling designs. We also found that the largest marine reserves (>1000 km2) are the most isolated. These findings have important implications for the assessment of evolutionary, ecological, and socio-economic long-distance benefits of marine reserves. We conclude that existing methods to infer dispersal should consider the up-to-date genomic advances and also expand the spatial scale of sampling designs. Incorporating longdistance connectivity in conservation planning will contribute to increase the benefits of marine reserve networks.

Keywords: connectivity, global network, long-distance dispersal, marine reserves, marine protected areas