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## WOULD MAXIMIZING MARINE FUNCTIONAL CONNECTIVITY REALLY IMPROVE BIODIVERSITY CONSERVATION IN THE OCEAN?

### CATEGORY

Scientific Program Abstract > Special Sessions > SS45 Functional connectivity in marine ecosystems: methodological advances to integrate ecosystems complexity into management frameworks

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### Title

Would maximizing marine functional connectivity really improve biodiversity conservation in the ocean?

**Abstract Description**

Connectivity is essential to upkeep the ecological and genetic flows necessary for the maintenance of marine populations and the ecological integrity of marine ecosystems. For this reason, it is considered one of the main key processes for the conservation of marine biodiversity, as illustrated by its importance when designing Marine Protected Area networks. Currently, many local and global strategies for marine biodiversity conservation and spatial planning rely on connectivity estimates. However, from a purely physical point of view, in the framework of thermodynamics, an excess in connectivity would lead to the homogenization of populations and communities, while introducing restrictions on connectivity is essential to maintain biodiversity and spatial heterogeneity, both at the level of populations, communities or ecosystems, and to favour speciation processes. This work presents a review of the increasing number of studies that analyse the scales at which marine connectivity is effective, undertaken in the frame of the EU-funded COST Action: CA19107 - Unifying Approaches to Marine Connectivity for improved Resource Management for the Seas (SEA-UNICORN). It compiles the evidences of the relationships between connectivity and biodiversity with the aim to stimulate discussions on the subject and foster investigations in this domain.

**More Information URL:****Secondary Session Choice**

SS45-Functional connectivity in marine ecosystems: methodological adva

**Tertiary Session Choice**

SS45-Functional connectivity in marine ecosystems: methodological adva

**Presentation Preference**

- Oral
- Poster
- Either

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- Yes
- No

**Does this abstract have co-authors?**

- Yes
- No