Fishermen in El Nido, Philippines
Photo: T Gililand

THE TOOL:
MPA size optimization tool

WHAT KIND OF TOOL IS IT?

The tool is a software program.

WHAT ARE THE DIFFERENT PARTS TO IT?

It is a single, stand-alone software program, with supporting materials including a user guide, a scientific paper and a policy brief.

WHAT DOES IT DO?

It helps users optimize decisions on the size of local MPAs by calculating the proportion of the possible maximum number of individuals of each target species that will be effectively protected in MPAs of various conceivable sizes.

HOW DOES IT WORK?

The tool is used as part of the *Rebuilding reef fisheries with Marine Protected Areas (MPAs) toolbox*. Users can access a database on common target species or upload their own species list with information on home ranges, densities, and/or maximum lengths in order to calculate MPA effectiveness for various MPA sizes.

WHEN IS IT USED?

The tool is used to help users establish effective MPAs for their local fishery species.

IN WHAT FORMAT IS IT AVAILABLE?

It is a software program available for installation as an executable file.

WHO IS THE TARGET END-USER?

- Policy makers
- Government and NGO planners undertaking MSP
- Researchers studying marine reserve design

WHAT USER SKILLS ARE REQUIRED?

Ideally, users will have a basic understanding of reef fish biology. However, prior knowledge or expertise is not necessary a software user manual, summary and scientific paper are made available alongside the tool.

WHERE DO YOU ACCESS THE TOOL?

The tool is available for download from the CCRES website (**www.ccres.net**).

WHAT IS THE COST OF USING THE TOOL?

The tool is open-access and is available free of charge, under the user agreement and stated terms and conditions (see **www.ccres.net/terms**).

IS TECHNICAL TRAINING OR SUPPORT REQUIRED?

A user guide, a scientific paper and a policy brief are available to support users.

For best results, training in use of this tool is recommended. For more information, contact Prof Peter Mumby (**p.j.mumby@uq.edu.au**).