Conservation in the Other 99% of the Biosphere: The Sea

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Most of the effort devoted to saving endangered species and to marine conservation biology research focuses on terrestrial and freshwater ecosystems. This myopic focus is understandable, given humankinds’ terrestrial vantage. But it ignores the realm that comprises more than 99% of the Earth’s living space that is permanently inhabited by multicellular life, one that—like the land and fresh waters—is seriously threatened by humankind. Here I examine marine conservation—its similarities and differences with non-marine conservation and how these affect the prospects for protecting and recovering marine biodiversity.