



On average, CSPAs are of medium economic value...

Using historical average prices, we estimated the value of every bottom trawl tow, 1996-2002. Then we calculated the value per unit of effort (dollars), and used a density analysis to identify areas of higher value. It turns out that while some of the proposed Coral-Sponge Protection Areas (CSPA) are in higher value areas, many are not. Overall, they represent medium value. On the other hand, they encompass almost all the coral and sponge bycatch. We expect that many commercial fishes would swim outside the CSPAs and be caught. Others would build up spawning biomass.

