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Increased abundance

Five years after the creation of the Batemans Marine Park research showed fish abundance was 38% higher inside the marine sanctuaries than in partially protected areas. After eight years of protection in the Port Stephens Great Lakes Marine Park, snapper numbers and size increased inside of sanctuary zones, with an almost three-fold increase in numbers at Broughton Island.

Only 7% of NSW's territorial waters are protected as sanctuary, far below the global standard. Spillover studies show we need to set aside more refuge for adult fish to grow large and reproduce.

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