

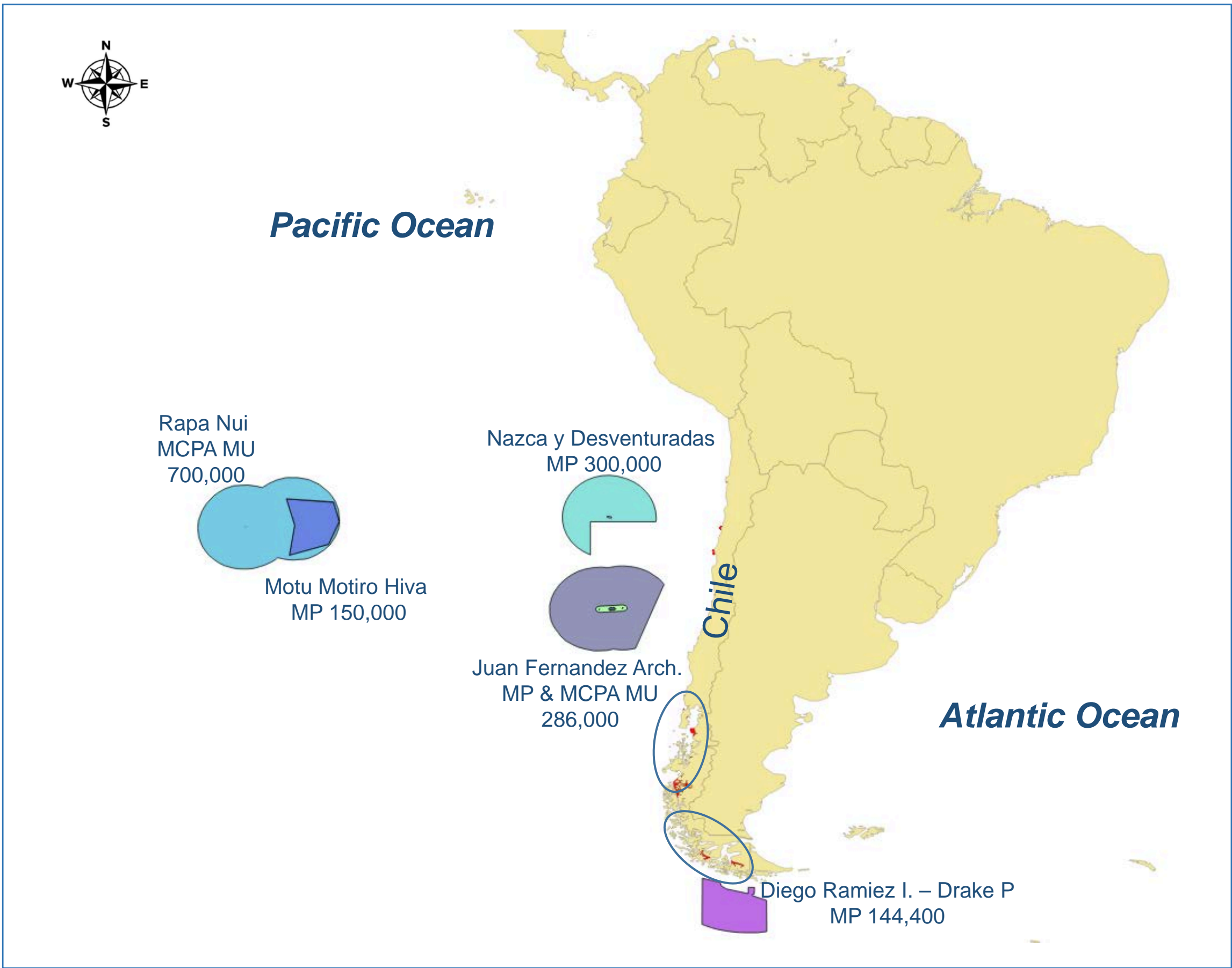
Sounding the Secrets of Orcas

Marine Conservation Model in southern Chile

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Background:

- Marine ecosystems in Chilean Patagonia are biologically productive, with high level of biodiversity (recognized as an immense estuary)
- Salmon farming, and other human activities, as major conservation threats
- Coastal planning as major and urgent need and tool to minimize and mitigate impacts, including MPA
- Emblematic marine mammal species found in the area (orcas, blue whales, endemic dolphins)
- Much are under protection is Oceanic / off-shore, Patagonia and other coastal areas poorly represented.



General Location of project area, Chilean Patagonia (blue ovals). Location of major marine protected areas in Chilean waters (MCPA MU: Marine and Coastal Protected Area of Multiple Use; MP: Marine Park).

Main objective:

Contribute to the protection of marine ecosystems in Chilean Patagonia by promoting Marine Protected Areas

Specific objectives:

- Establish a long-term monitoring program on marine mammals to identify critical habitats and potential conservation threats.
- Promote conservation and management tools and actions such as MPAs and the implementation of better productive practices in the aquaculture industry.



Detailed areas of interest in Northern Patagonia (A) and Magallanes (B), where marine surveys and effort are being developed.

Updated and progress results:

- Robust database under construction including information gathered from marine surveys
- Technical document proposing new marine protected areas (within the Kaweskar national park)
- Two peer reviewed published papers
- Two media releases related to our work
- Two Congress presentations (Marine Sciences in Chile)
- Progress on ONG coordination and cooperation within the Patagonia Mar y Tierra working group



Next steps (2018-2020):

- Build predictive mathematical models on the distribution and abundance of marine megafauna in Patagonia
- Identify hotspots of abundance and diversity of key marine species
- Provide technical input for the formal proposal of at least three marine protected areas in Patagonia
- Provide technical input for recommending the implementation of better productive practices in the private sector (tourism, salmon farming, maritime shipping)
- Consolidate NGO cooperation and coordination among institutions working in Patagonia

