

Parks Australia,

Comments on Marine Reserves Management Plans.

Submission on Draft Plans.

I am mainly commenting on the the proposed areas around the “Norfolk Island Group of Islands”. Norfolk Island is within the Green Zone of the proposed Marine Reserves, and this limits several activities that are crucial to Norfolk's economy and the people of Norfolk Island. These activities have been long held Island traditions and have being part of our traditional way of life since 1856.

One activity that the plans seem to want to control is the traditional activity of camping, within the Phillip Island Park area.

Phillip Island an Island within the Norfolk group of Islands, falls within this proposal. I do **NOT** support any change to the current status! That although this Island is currently a National Park, the Norfolk Island people have free access to the camping facilities on Phillip and are able to enjoy the amenities provided by the Norfolk Island Fishing Club and other community groups free of bureaucratic interference from Australian Government departments. These departments have no concept of current community preservation and enjoyment of these Norfolk Island assets and it seems they are only concern is to lock it up and prevent anyone enjoying its benefits. The traditional activities referred to include but are not limited to Fishing, (both rock

and boat” picking HI Hi, Gathering Moo Ooh, picking Whelk, hiking and the gathering of the Whale Bird egg. The gathering of the “whale bird egg” is already regulated by the community and the numbers of birds has increased over the years. It is worth mentioning that the last several years due to Olive Tree and other weed tree growth has seen the birds move to Duncombe Bay on Norfolk Island. This has resulted in Feral Cat predation of the nesting birds.

The other point I am against is the inclusion of the Norfolk Island Fishing Box. The **“Norfolk Island Fishing Box”** that was previously set aside for the sustainable use for the Norfolk Island people was proven to be sustain-ably managed and highly successful! The box was managed impeccably by the local fishing club in co-ordination and consultation with the now closed down (by the Australian Government) Norfolk Island Government. Fish stocks were actually increasing and management techniques introduced by the club and Norfolk Island Government were proving to be very efficient. “The Box” is not included in the current Draft Plans being considered by the Australian Government.”The Box” was set aside for the ecologically sustainable management of an area covering 67x40 nautical miles surrounding Norfolk Island. **The coordinates are;** 280 deg 38’ South; 167deg40’ East, 28deg38’South;168deg 20’ East, 29deg45’ South; 167deg40’East, 29deg45’South; 168deg20’ East. ***These co-ordinates should be reinstated into the plans to ensure the people of Norfolk Island have control of their own resources!***

It seems that if the local fishing population want to catch fish for a sustainable local industry, all types of unnecessary bureaucratic controls are likely to be introduced putting unfounded and unneeded controls on a already well controlled system of management. I recommend the Norfolk Island Fishing Box be reinstated and this area be made exempt of inclusion in the proposed Commonwealth Marine Parks around Norfolk.

It was proposed that a community based fishery management scheme was to be introduced in the Norfolk Island Traditional Fishery Management Plan 2008 was to be included in the plan to ***“emphasis control and accountability”*** to the the Norfolk Island People. It was also stated that this is ***“the most appropriate model for fisheries management.”***

I am strongly in favour of keeping the traditional activities, described in this submission, to be a part of any Commonwealth Legislation. I urge all considering the formation and legislation of the reserves to consider the people of Norfolk Island. You must consider the excellent way in which Phillip Island and the seas within the “Norfolk Box” have been managed by the Norfolk Island Government, and the people who are the custodians of Norfolk and its surrounding oceans.

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Norfolk Islanders of Pitcairn Island Descent.

