

To whom it may concern,

As a recreational fisher and a scuba diver I am mostly happy with the proposal for the Coral Sea Marine Park.

I would like to see the green zone at Bougainville reef limited to the reef platform as the purpose of the green zone is to protect reef species. Beyond the reef platform, fishing for pelagic species should be allowed.

The rule regarding fishing gear needs to be removed from the plan. This can be added later after clarification and if necessary further consultation with affected fishing groups.

If this rule only applies to commercial vessels it must state that. If this rule is intended for recreational vessels it requires a rethink.

It is reasonable that all fishing lines must be removed from the water before entering any green zone.

The issue is the stowing and securing of fishing gear. What is meant by stowed and secured?

Rules cannot be open to interpretation. They must be crystal clear. Rules must also be achievable. Stowing implies concealment which is not possible. Recreational vessels usually keep their fishing rods in rocket launchers attached to the boat roof and/ or in rod holders in the boat cockpit. There is no where else to store rods when not in use, particularly when people are sleeping overnight on the boat. Putting rods on the floor is not option as they are fragile and will be damaged if stepped on.

Perhaps if you can identify the purpose of this rule, it will be easier to suggest a solution.

Moorings; There is no mention in the plan of moorings in order to make it easier for people to appreciate these spectacular reefs without damaging them.

Bougainville reef is difficult to anchor beside due to the steep drop off of the reef platform.

Mooring buoys could be positioned at the north end and midway along the southwesterly border of the reef.

Osprey reef could also benefit from moorings at inside the northwest corner and inside the southwest corner.

Thank you for your consideration of these issues

Sharon Poulter