

We are very concerned about the wording regarding fishing gear when transiting or anchoring in non-fishing zones. The instruction is to 'stow and secure fishing gear'. Stow could be interpreted by fisheries officers as putting the fishing gear out of sight. It is not always possible to stow fishing gear eg small boats or heavy tackle gear. Even rods in rocket launchers might not be considered to be stowed.

Why is removing all fishing lines from the water before entering non-fishing zones not adequate?

The instructions to anglers must be precise to avoid misinterpretation.

In terms of the actual zoning in the Coral Sea, as recreational fishers, we are happier with the model where there are a mixture of zones like in the Great Barrier Reef Marine Park rather than the previous total lockout. We would like clarification that the green zone at Bougainville Reef is limited to the reef platform, which is allegedly important to the dive industry, but does not extend beyond it. This will prevent taking of reef species but still allow trolling for migratory pelagics.

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