I operate a gamefishing charter business in the Great Barrier Reef area around Townsville and recreationally visit Flinders reef maybe once or twice a year as part of the Townsville Game Fishing club of which I am a Life Member.

I believe our presence at Flinders reef has no effect on the environment or fishery but does serve as an advantage to the Government and Australian Coral Sea in that during every visit we do make a point of visiting the sand cay, cleaning up any washed up rubbish on the cay to help protect local marine and bird life plus also have from time to time made a point of washing off the solar panels on the weather station which do get covered in bird droppings which effects their efficiency.

Our presence actually visiting an area and observing changes etc as just pelagic catch and release fishermen contributing to national fish tagging schemes actually does benefit the governments possibilities of gathering real information about areas rarely visited.

Regards Tom Hatrick. 93 Ingham Rd Townsville 4810 0747712677

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