

Submitted on Sunday, September 10, 2017 - 09:01 Submitted by anonymous user: 1.132.96.241
Submitted values are:

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Organisation: Bianca Vessel Management

Which sector do you represent?

- Commercial charter fishing
- Commercial media
- Commercial tourism
- Recreational fishing
- Recreational diving or snorkeling

Which draft plans are you commenting on? Coral Sea Which marine park(s) are you commenting on?

Coral Sea Marine Reserve What topic(s) or activity(s) are you commenting about?

- General use and access (including recreational)
- Commercial tourism
- Recreational fishing

What part of the plan(s) are you commenting on?

- Part 2 - The Marine Park or Network
- Part 3 - Zoning
- Part 4 - Managing activities

Which program are you commenting on? Tourism and visitor experience program Please tick this box if you would like to keep up to date with all the latest information on Australian Marine Parks by subscribing to our email updates. :

Yes please subscribe me to Australian Marine Parks news Your submission may also be published online by the Director of National Parks. Please tick 'No' if you do not want it published. Your submission will still be considered in the Director's Report on the Preparation of the Management Plans, and may be provided to the Minister and tabled before

Parliament: Yes

Does your comment relate to the renaming of marine parks? No Please type your comments below:
Bianca Charters conducts tours into the Coral Sea, we cover all of the reef systems and have visited every reef and cay system within the Coral Sea Marine Reserve.

Based in Port Douglas our tours are not dictated by schedules and pre conceived sail plans. Our tours are conducted to take advantage of the weather conditions, sail planes are altered and adjusted on a daily basis.

The ability to seek the best location available on a particular day has been the basis of our successful operation for many years.

Any loss of fishing ground will result in a downgrade of the experience we have previously provided. Many of the reefs now marked for protection from fishing are only visited infrequently but pay a major roll in the provision of a successful charter. A prime example of this would be a spearfishing charter that departs Port Douglas travels to Holmes reef over night then departs after a couple of days sail plane weather dependent may be Homes over night to Bougainville, fish Bougainville then over night to Shark & Vema fish Shark & Vema, then over night into and Osprey.

If Bougainville Reef is zoned green the sail plan has to be altered to include a full day of travel Holmes to Osprey. The result is a full day of fishing lost.

If Osprey Reef is zoned green then Shark and Vema become unviable to conduct a charter to due to the fact weather conditions over 12 knots are unsuitable.

Therefore we require an all weather site for an anchorage that we can also conduct fishing.

Similar sail plans exist all over the Coral Sea it must be remembered that unlike the zoning on the G.B.R., where you may need to travel 15 miles to pass a green zone, most coral sea reefs are separated

by one hundred miles or more. The result of this if you depart one fishable reef to access another that is separated by a green zoned reef travel distance is two hundred miles or greater. This distance can not be transited over night which results in lost days traveling at sea.

Previously my customer base was predominantly overseas customers that travel the world seeking the ultimate spear locations. Since the introduction of the Marine Park proposals, it has been difficult to attract overseas customers.

Their perceptions are the Marine Park is closed to fishing and without knowledge of future closures I can not guarantee an experience as good as the past. The result of this has been lost customer base to overseas countries such as Tonga, Balie, PNG, Etc. Any closure of any Reef has a negative impact on my business.

Osprey Reef should be zoned Blue with the exception of the area North Horn to False entrance but not including the false entrance. This provides an area to fish when winds are above 12 Knots at Shark and Vema. The area of, False entrance is essential for my operations.

Bougainville Reef should be left blue, this provides a day stopover on voyages Port Douglas to Osprey Reef, Port Douglas to Moore Reef, Port Douglas to Willis Island, Port Douglas to Holmes Reef.

Mellish Reef should be left blue as on the rare occasion anyone visits there, some form of provisioning can be undertaken. The area is so remote vessels should be encouraged to visit there to report on any illegal activities that may be conducted by foreign vessels.

Holmes Reef the zoning is good.

Flora Reef the Zoning is good

Marion reef the Zoning is manageable

Willis Island and Diane Bank zoning is good.

Kenn reef should be left open to recreational fishing.

Diamond islands zoning is good.

Lihou Reef zoning as green is good.

Nowhere in the Coral Sea Marine Reserve should be zoned Pink.

Peter Sayre