

Submitted on Monday, September 11, 2017 - 17:43 Submitted by anonymous user: 58.7.176.14  
Submitted values are:

First Name: Ben

Last Name: Weston

Organisation:

Which sector do you represent?

- Conservation
- Recreational fishing

Which draft plans are you commenting on? South-west Network Which marine park(s) are you commenting on? Perth Canyon What topic(s) or activity(s) are you commenting about? Recreational fishing What part of the plan(s) are you commenting on?

- Part 1 - Managing Australian Marine Parks
- Part 2 - The Marine Park or Network
- Part 4 - Managing activities

Which program are you commenting on? Park protection and management 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:

I would like to firstly congratulate Marine Parks for sorting through a lot of strong views to develop the proposed position in your draft plan. I know that a lot of very highly funded overseas "green" groups have tried, and continue to try, to use their wealth and power to change the outcome however it is pleasing to see that the views of normal mum and dad recreational fishers have been taken into account.

My comments relate particularly to the Marine National Park at the Perth Canyon ("the trench" as it is known to locals) an area I am very passionate about. I have fished the trench for over 30 years with my dad, sister, wife, in-laws, brother and guests from overseas and interstate. I would say I spend more time in it than most people responding, so I feel qualified to make comment. The fishing club I belong to, Perth Game Fishing Club, has had older members fishing there since 1949 and I have spoken to some of the longest serving members about past fishing experience and our shared love of the fishing grounds at the Perth Canyon.

Recreational fishers are the most underrated group of marine conservationists. We love and protect our ocean and particularly the fishery at the Perth Canyon. The Perth Canyon is the only area accessible from Perth that allows me the opportunity to catch migratory species such as tuna, dolphin fish and the prizes marlin. Free access to the trench is of the utmost importance for myself, my family and for many other local fishers.

The trench starts at 400m deep and goes up to over 2000m on water depth meaning we have little to no impact with the sea floor or walls of the canyon. As we are generally trolling lures on the surface of the water, my environmental impact is negligible to zero.

I contribute to local businesses by buying marine products, fishing gear, fuel, club memberships and all the other fees and charges associate with boat ownership. The economic benefits of recreational fishers should not be underestimated. With one million plus of us trying desperately to ensure we can have the same access to fishing grounds for our children and their children's children.

I mostly fish tag and release in the Perth Canyon with tagging data supplied to the NSW Fisheries.

Fishing the trench allows me to contribute to fisheries research and I would think that a co-operative approach to data sharing can only contribute to better management and future shaping of the marine parks.

I would be more than happy to assist with any citizen science initiatives that would assist in maintaining our access to the trench.

I thank you for taking my opinion into consideration. I will happily assist in any way I can to ensure my access to the Perth Canyon is never taken away