

To whom this may concern.

It would be far simpler for everyone if we had one marine authority for the whole of Australia. We don't need crossed jurisdictions involving Commonwealth waters further than 3nm offshore, GBRMPA, Coral Sea MP and State and territory jurisdictions inshore.

We don't need marine parks such as Moreton Bay.

Everything can be covered by identifying sanctuaries as no go fishing zones and demarcating these into perpetuity.

Further management can be subject to rotation. If we require 30% protection we can do so by simple east/west zones to the east and west of the country and north/south zones to the north and south of the country.

By way of example one could opt for 30% closure.

One could divide the east and west coasts into zones of 3 degrees of latitude. Each zone could be closed for 7 years and then opened for the next 14 years on rotation.

This is a far better way of protecting the environment than closing 1/3rd of the marine area into perpetuity. Systems protected reach maximum productivity in a short time, probably as little as 7 years, subject to correction.

No point in protecting such areas longer whilst other areas are continually exploited.

A good farmer leaves some of his lands fallow, so too a good manager of marine systems.

We have sanctuaries which can be used as controls and as a safeguard against catastrophes. These can be inside all of the zones.

Fishermen will have to get used to traveling for 7 out of 21 years - they would benefit through far better fishing in the long term.

More damage is done through a single cyclone than all the fishermen over many years could do on one area through which a cyclone has passed.

It makes far better sense to rotate zones so as to cover all areas with rotational protection.

Farmers manage using straight line fencing over undulating terrain.

Marine managers would have a far easier using straight line management over flat waters.

Demarcate zones using lines of latitude (east/west) and longitude (north/south) and fishermen will not get confused with various boundaries/user category complications.

The practicality of a straight line needs to be evaluated in the context of rising and falling tides and current causing drift.

Enforcement officers could warn offenders in a grey area, say 50 meters inside a protection zone.

We need to exercise common sense and be there to assist people into doing the right thing - gain mutual respect and co-operation through productive consultation.

Manage for the general population and not against it.

We don't need pink green yellow light blue and dark blue categories.

All we need is sanctuary/pink zones and broad 3 degree strip zones of green.

The rest could be a shade of blue.

Now all that needs doing is to restrict commercial fishing, such as trawling/abalone divers/etc. as required.

These would have plenty of terrain to harvest if only 1/3rd of the coast is closed on rotation.

Recreationals whether they be line fishermen or spearfishermen can be further regulated by bag and size restrictions, methods of capture restrictions, etc..

Grey Nurse Shark habitat zones could be protected as per the pink sanctuary zones. My recommendation would be to allow some forms of fishing on these zones if they are not detrimental to the well being of the protected species.

It may be that habitat zones are seasonally inhabited by these species and that they could otherwise be utilized by fishermen.

It is not necessary to protect these animals if there is little competition for food - my understanding is that they feed mostly by night on teliosts and elasmobranchs. Seldom are these creatures on the menu for spearfishermen.

Spearfishermen operate only by daylight and only in clear water.

GNS habitat areas are usually deep and not within the comfort zone of spearfishermen - therefore little competition from the the latter.

Spearfishermen are well educated and not interested in spearing sharks. The days of the shark hunters are behind!

Have we used common sense and discretion?

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