

Re Temperate East Management Plan. Solitary Islands Marine Park

I would like to make a specific comment about the zoning of Pimpernel Rock Sanctuary Zone.

We have owned and operated Jetty Dive centre for 21 years and have seen significant changes throughout the large amount of diving in the area. I have personally dived Pimpernel Rock all this time in excess of 60 times.

We totally agree with the squaring off of the zone for better management of the boundaries. Management of the area would be more definite if the sides of the zone can be easily determined, and not guessed like a circular boundary.

Whilst the boundary is of suitable size for the protection of the area around Pimpernel Rock, if there was a small increase in the area, it would allow for protection of more habitat for the endangered species that are very prevalent in the area.

The Black Cod is one species we have noted during our diving in this area as becoming more comfortable with Scuba Divers. That is, they are much less disturbed or threatened by our presence. In areas that are still able to be line and Spear fished, the Cod are very timid and disappear rapidly when approached. In the area around Pimpernel Rock, we have seen up to 12 individual Cod in a single dive, and none of them appearing to be disturbed by divers. The Sanctuary area around South Solitary Island (in the State waters) is only 100mtr and under constant pressure on the boundaries by fishing. This area has resident Black Cod that are more timid, and a significant difference to the Black Cod of Pimpernel Rock.

Re Australian Marine Parks

I strongly disagree with any proposed cutbacks on the "National Park Zone (IUCN 11)

This National Park Zoning must be increased for the preservation of area for the future of our environment. Any destructive Fishing methods like Trawling, Gill netting and Long-lining should never be allowed. Any Mining again should not be allowed as enough damaged has already occurred due to mainland mining.

Economic gain estimated at \$4 million through fishing is not an argument when marine tourism in the same area is estimated at \$28 billion and could be lost due to fishing.

I agree with Science based decisions should be made, which are in favour of more preservation of our Marine estate.

Regards

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