

To whom it may concern

I would firstly like to comment on Lord Howe Island and Elizabeth Reef. I have visited both of these locations and I would like to see spearfishing allowed in Commonwealth waters surrounding Lord Howe Island and even though there isn't any shallow reef in waters 3 miles from Lord Howe you should be able to jump in to try and catch a blue water fish.

There isn't any reason why this shouldn't be allowed as line fishing is.

Elizabeth Reef up until recently allowed spearfishing on recreational boats with a permit. This changed about a year ago (even though the current government said there would be any changes to existing marine parks for a 5 year period). This was changed back after The AUF challenged the Government, but has reappeared in your new Marine Park proposal while still allowing the local LHI charter fleet to commercially fish there and recreational fishers to enter under the permit system. If this proposal goes ahead it will be the first Commonwealth Marine Park in the country that allows line fishing but doesn't allow spearfishing which would be very discriminatory and without any scientific reason. Please change this to continue allowing spearing under the permit system.

In regards to the Coral Sea I would like to see limited fishing allowed at Kenn and Bouganville Reefs. Fishermen and spearfishers tend to be the only ones who visit these areas as they are so remote and having visitors to these remote areas does help keep illegal fishermen away.

On the east coast of NSW I ask you to remove the spearfishing closure on Pimpernel Rock which was only closed to protect grey nurse sharks as spearfishers don't have an impact on these sharks.

The WA coast already has many Marine Park Areas and strict bag limits I found the closures on Rowley Shoals very confusing which made the area hard to use. I would like to see John Moresby Bank left open to recreational fishing and spearfishing it's geographical remoteness in it's self protects it from over fishing.

Lara Puckeridge