

To Whom it may concern

I have visited most if not all of the shallow areas that are proposed to be closed in the new Commonwealth Marine Park and have made a few points.

NSW:

I would like to see Pimpernel Rock opened to pelagic only spearfishing similar to what has been introduced to Fish Rock at South West Rocks it was taken from us to save Grey Nurse Sharks, on which we don't have an impact.

Lord Howe Island, spearfishing should be allowed in commonwealth waters surrounding LHI.

Elizabeth Reef is a big concern as the Lord Howe Island charter fleet can still commercially fish and recreational fishing is going to continue but spearfishing is going to be stopped.

At LHI and Elizabeth Reef most fish caught by line fishers are eaten by sharks (I have spoken to local charter operator Keith Galloway regarding this). Spear fishermen don't have by catch and lose few fish to sharks. Please change this ban so that spearfishing can continue at Elizabeth Reef with a permit.

Coral Sea:

Few of these locations in the Coral Sea are ever visited I would like to see limited line and spearfishing allowed at Kenn Reef , Bougainville Reef and Mellish Reef. It tends to be only line fishermen and spear fishermen who visit these areas and these visits do help to keep illegal fishermen away.

WA:

In the Abrolhos zone I would like to see John Moresby Bank left opened to recreational fishing and spearfishing as the current proposal would split the bank into two impractical small open and closed areas.

Regards - Ian Puckeridge