

Dear Sir,

Like many others, I was born on coastal Australia. My first home was a yacht and in 1991 (age 13), I sailed for just over one year with my family to Europe - through Asia, across the Indian Ocean, up the Red Sea, through the Suez Canal, across the Mediterranean Sea and up to west coast of Europe to England. Naturally, our main food source was marine life caught along the way.

We traveled half of the globe - Asia, Africa/Arabia & southern Europe. Australia was the ONLY country we encountered where marine life was abundant. In the markets, it was completely normal to only be able to buy fish no bigger than 5cm long (what I can only assume are newly hatched fry). I cannot stress to you how disturbing this is - to know what the ocean looks like without fish anywhere near maturation age. The state of the world's oceans was shocking. As Australia is part of Asia, I realised that our marine reserves not only support our local marine environment - but the global environment as marine life slowly repopulates other locations around the globe.

It is clearly greatly important to preserve & grow the area of marine sanctuaries around the Australian continent. Our present era is advanced in it's technology & management techniques which makes the growth of the marine sanctuaries a reality. If this cannot occur - then the present management regime is not taking into account the state of the global oceans. It may be leaning towards comparison with other nations - which will erroneously provide the impression that our marine reserves are adequate.

I am concerned for our marine reserves. Please explain for me where decision makers source their information from? Additionally, what department makes such decisions? Thank you for your assistance with this query.

Namaste

Chrissy-Tiina Laurikainen

[B.Sci.\(Env\) + Dip.Lab.Tech + Cert.Permaculture Design](#)

...currently assessing the viability of creating an **agroecological scientific research + permaculture education facility** at "Noosa Forest Retreat" permaculture community. All comments & contributions gratefully received.

**AND**

*Teaching Permaculture (in-person + online at):*

**NOOSA FOREST RETREAT, QLD.**

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