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18th September 2017

Director of National Parks
Australian Marine Parks Management Planning Comments
Department of the Environment and Energy
Reply Paid 787
Canberra ACT 2601

By email to: managementplanning.marine@environment.gov.au

Dear Director,

Re: Draft Management Plans for Marine Parks

I am the current President of the Game Fishing Association of Australia and an avid Angler who has enjoyed fishing from Port Stephens on the Eastern Seaboard to Lizard Island in North Queensland.

I have been involved in the Coral sea Review for the last 10 years in many meetings with representatives of your Department and the previous Government and the Tony Burke previous zone plan, which I have grave concerns in regard to the vast areas of lockout to our many anglers that frequent the Coral Sea.

I am happy with the latest Draft Management Plan as it is allowing the people who use the Coral Sea at present to not be as restricted as the previous plans, this would have seen reefs and areas locking us out of potential areas that need recreational fishers to be the eyes and ears of the Coral Sea making sure compliance is adhered to.

History says that our anglers regularly make agencies aware of illegal activities being undertaken and have resulted in many illegal boats being confiscated and their crews charged with offences. Our anglers need access.

It is a huge concern at the amount of misinformation being put in the Public arena by groups who will never visit the Coral Sea and just want huge areas locked up for no apparent scientific reasons to protect it from nobody as only a few yachts and boats in transit travelling through will get the opportunity to appreciate this prestine area of coastline and can only be a benefit in its ongoing management to allow access.

As someone who has fished internationally in the America's, The Mediterranean and the Atlantic Ocean it is very apparent that to successfully protect habitat and reef areas from vessels mooring the ongoing management of protected areas needs to be widely protected by the use of permanent specifically located swing moorings all through the Coral Sea and its anchorages.

A successful management plan in my mind would be to include Recreational Anglers and Boaties in the ongoing protection of our Coastline and I know that many Pacific Nations use permit systems to give people travelling through offshore areas not accessible by everyday users, the opportunity to fill out survey forms to help in the successful protection and management of these far outlying reef systems. This Citizen Science is invaluable to our outlying waters.

In closing I would just like to reiterate that it would be a gross miscarriage to the protection of our Coral Sea to return to the original Tony Burke Plan. Locking Australians out of pristine areas of the Coral Sea just to say it is protected is not the way to manage the outlying waters of the Coral sea and let's remember we are talking 200 miles offshore in its extreme. Who are we locking out and protection from what?

Yours Sincerely

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Sanderson".

Doug Sanderson
President GFAA