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Management Planning.

Dept of Environment and Energy.

**Re: Changes to Marine Parks; Spearfishing**

I would like to raise my concerns that spearfishing will be unjustifiably restricted within the marine parks.

Given that spearfishing is a low impact “sight” fishery and easily moderated/mitigated, its unreasonable to exclude spearfishing from any location that allows line or net fishing.

Spearfishers already have special restrictions applied to them regarding location, species and bag limits etc, that vary from state to state. These finer management adjustments are possible because of the modality of spearfishing. Making spearfishing a better regional specific fishing method, as it can be tailored from region to region easily. Unlike other fishing methods.

There is virtually no bycatch or unintended harvesting as spearfishers identify their catch by sight.

Spearfishers are divers and bring the utility of underwater observation with them, again unlike other fishing methods.

Spearfishers are often the first to raise the alarm when changes occur within a habitat, environment and/or species. Pretty much every spearfisher now documents their diving with a video camera. Creating a video record that could perhaps be of management value going forward for free.

Please do not lockout spearfishers.

Sincerely yours,

Stephen Bunney

Rec diver

NSW Commercial abalone diver

Spearfisher