

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on the proposed changes to management of Commonwealth Marine Reserve.

I strongly support the retention of the name 'Commonwealth Marine Reserves' and do not support a change to Marine Parks. The purpose of these reserve is primarily to conserve biodiversity and managing these reserves for their biodiversity will ensure that fisheries will have abundant fish and other marine resources to harvest into the future. In addition to their conservation values these reserves provide high value tourist values including reef walking, diving, recreational fishing and whale watching.

I strongly object to the reduction in areas of marine reserve which were proposed in 2012. The proposed reduction in the areas of these reserves is outrageous and indicates a complete lack of understanding of the benefits of these reserves to fish harvesting into the future. It is a sure way to reduce the harvest of fish into the future. The science on this has been clear since the 1960s.

It is essential that large areas are conserved in marine reserves. For example the Coral Sea provides a breeding ground for fish which spend the rest of their lives in coastal rivers of eastern Australia.

Oil and gas extraction are industries with a limited future. There are many alternative fuel sources being developed around the world so these industries will become redundant. Allowing these destructive extractive industries in areas such as the Coral Sea will jeopardise the Great Barrier Reef as spills do happen and ships do run aground.

Longline fishing in the mid section of the water column will destroy fish stocks in the Coral Sea. Also it will be other countries benefiting not Australian fishers. I strongly object to a reintroduction of long-line fishing in any of the marine reserves declared in 2012.

I support the retention of the Temperate East Commonwealth Marine Reserves Network will provide additional protection for several species listed as endangered or vulnerable under Commonwealth legislation or international agreements, including the critically-endangered east coast population of grey nurse shark and the vulnerable white shark. The network also includes: important offshore reef habitat at Elizabeth and Middleton Reefs, Lord Howe Island and at Norfolk Island that support the threatened black cod; the southernmost extent of many reef-building coral species; as well as important breeding, foraging and feeding areas for several species of seabird including the little tern.

As on land large reserves are essential to maintain the ecological processes which connect millions of species and support the large fish populations on which humans depend for food. It is exceptionally short sighted to reduce the size of these marine reserves.

Please retain all the marine reserve as declared in 2012 and educate the community in the benefits of them to us all

Nancy Pallin
Unit 28 94-96 Alfred Street
Milsons Point NSW 2061

