First Name: Scott
Last Name: Mitchell
Organisation:
Which sector do you represent?
  - Recreational boating
  - Recreational fishing
Which draft plans are you commenting on? Coral Sea Which marine park(s) are you commenting on?
Coral Sea What topic(s) or activity(s) are you commenting about?
  - General use and access (including recreational)
  - Recreational fishing
What part of the plan(s) are you commenting on?
  - Part 1 - Managing Australian Marine Parks
  - Part 3 - Zoning
Which program are you commenting on? Tourism and visitor experience program Please tick this box if you would like to keep up to date with all the latest information on Australian Marine Parks by subscribing to our email updates. :
Yes please subscribe me to Australian Marine Parks news Your submission may also be published online by the Director of National Parks. Please tick 'No' if you do not want it published. Your submission will still be considered in the Director's Report on the Preparation of the Management Plans, and may be provided to the Minister and tabled before
Parliament: Yes
Does your comment relate to the renaming of marine parks? No Please type your comments below:
I and others have invested considerable time and effort into the process of the Coral Sea Marine Park development to date. We have made repeated submissions and attended multiple briefings, discussed it extensively internally, and in the community and with other interested organisations. As a group we had no problem with the declaration of the park provided it didn't restrict our miniscule harvest or sport imprint.

  From the outset we opposed being locked out of vast and remote areas because of ideology, which we believe drove the initial zoning proposal. We studied and had no problem with the existing recreational or commercial fishing effort particularly in the northern section out from Mackay and above, provided it was monitored and not substantially increased. This area has and does support various important charter fishing operations, aquarium product traders, as well as a small commercial longlining industry which is tiny in context but important as it supplies coastal hubs with what we believe is sustainable and definitely desirable fresh seafood, particularly tuna.

We always opposed allowing more industrial fishing methods into the area. We have said before and we repeat now, recreational fishers as a sector are much more reactive than proactive and government and bureaucracy would do well to understand this. It is clear to us that if a purse seiner or mid-water trawler commenced operation within view of recreational or charter fishers, there would almost certainly be a repeat of the community uproar witnessed over the last few years further south. Deep sea prawn trawling must also be considered destructive to the sea floor and important habitat, and should have no place in a Marine Park either.

Further, we can see no indication of how much effort is proposed and only see an ambiguous 'by application' being proposed. This gives us no confidence in the plan and past experience has taught us that extreme caution should be applied in these situations.

As such we cannot recommend more strongly that these industrial harvest methods be removed absolutely from the Coral Sea MP.

· I strongly opposes the introduction of industrial and damaging fishing techniques like mid-water trawl, bottom trawling, purse seining and demersal longlining currently proposed in this draft plan of the Coral Sea Marine Park.

  * I strongly recommends close attention being made to conservation values and efforts to maintain the Outstanding Universal Value of the adjoining GBRMP property, already under substantial threat by climate change and other factors and notes the Reef 2050 LTSP is a joint State and Federal initiative.

  * I strongly encourages the sensible finalisation of the management plan and make it operational within the next 12 months.

Thank You
Scott Mitchell