

I'm using this opportunity to write (free of charge - not withstanding ISP and Telco costs) to discuss the flawed Burke Plan.

I am a recreational fishing vessel operator and because of a complete lack of NSW Marine Estate equity resulting from continued Cape Byron Marine Park Lockouts, my only tangible fishery resides in Commonwealth waters outside NSW State territorial limits.

At the last CMR review, my submission noted that international anti-fishing extremist organisations as well as the local anti-fishing extremists of Byron Bay pushed for intangible sanctuary lockouts that began at the western State territorial limit of the Cape Byron Marine Park to extend well beyond the continental shelf. If Tony Burke allowed that to occur, which thankfully he didn't, Byron Bay rec fisho's would have been allotted a near ZERO fishery. A recreational fishery with ZERO EQUITY. A near 100% lockout from the mean high water mark extending 24km North and 30km South to 200 nautical miles seaward covering our most iconic recreational fishing habitats!!!

That was the original anti-fishing extremist lock-out plan for Byron Bay - A plan designed largely by international NGO's who reside in the USA. A country where Ex president Obama recently mandated the biggest network of Marine reserves BUT made sure his 323 million tax paying constituents were awarded balanced recreational fishing access THROUGHOUT that network!!! Meanwhile, here in Australia, these foreign NGO's pushed so hard that the Burke Plan ended up being nothing but a deliberate and ill-conceived attack on the Australian recreational and commercial harvest sectors. An attack on the public right to fish and an attack on our civic Australian right to create a CMR that isn't led by the interruptions of foreign NGO's with a hefty budget and no fundamental respect for Australia's current Top five global position as sustainable fisheries managers. Australian citizens know exactly where we sit on the international fisheries sustainability index yet we find ourselves again staring down the barrel of a flawed Burke Plan that cannot scientifically quantify a shift in our national position on that index.

Then, days ago, we see ABC reports that open with a whale watching tour. A tourism operation that is not fundamentally impacted by CMR zonings because that particular tourism targeted species is afforded 100% nationwide protection as it migrates through each and every politically pre-determined line on a coastal map. Then we segue to a hyper emotional anti-fishing extremist who simply cannot quantify how the Burke plan will be of benefit to Australia versus the later and smarter plan which achieves all its IUCN objectives while also providing better balance opportunities for harvest and more community centric outputs for affected parties across the wider stakeholder spectrum. The ABC then cuts to a commercial fisher that makes 100% clear the flaws to the Burke plan and again points out why such a hard line, anti-fishing extremist approach is not necessary or relative to our Australian resource under current management strategies.

An ABC special report that was reminiscent of the the marine park zoning crap we got in Byron Bay! A town with a with a 170 year fishing history! An intergenerational fishing history that dates back to the 1840's! A coastal town not unlike many others, dotted around Australia that's having it's public access and harvest rights stripped as a direct result of the international involvement of a band of substantially funded foreign NGO's that couldn't get the sanctuary zones they wanted in the USA so they came here instead to force ordinary Australians into a flawed set of rules that ordinary Americans flatly refused to accept as a part of thier sea country. A set of rules that muddled species protection with benthic protection to the point where it found itself with a zoning plan that remains as inexplicable now as it was 11 years ago. No Australian with knowledge of the CBMP zoning plan could ever call it a community centric policy model. Everyone sees it for what it really is: A defining product of Anti -fishing extremist failure at a NSW policy level.

Back to your CMR...

As a citizen, I only support the Temperate East CMR and Coral Sea CMR zonings that were published AFTER the anti-social Burke model was dismissed. I support Temperate East and Coral Sea zonings that promote tangible and equitable access for recreational fishers and sustainable commercial harvest. The Burke model doesn't do that. The Burke model is more akin to an anti-fishing extremist playbook.

I mentioned that the USA recently declared the worlds largest marine reserve network. A network where recreational fishing sensibility was enacted in admirable recognition of the rights of 48.91 million American recreational anglers. A public recognition of the minimal ecological impact rec-fishing has on US managed EEZ fisheries. I truly hope this Australian CMR Review shares the considered wisdom of our US recreational fishing allies.

I have been FULLY shafted by lockouts within 3nm in an Australia that I was born in and an Australia that I call home. MY AUSTRALIA!!! An Australia that railroaded me as recently as December 2014. Even with ecologically sustainable findings, economically viable findings and a socially acceptable lifestyle activity, I found myself unreasonably banned from accessing my local waters.

Even though the CMR region extends 200nm seaward, recreational access should be available to anyone that can actually venture out there. In essence, I deserve opportunities to exercise my right to access sustainable seafood that I know is easily accessible within State. Like Americans, ordinary Australians shouldn't be banned from accessing our harvest stocks because of VOODOO SCIENCE and the political intimidations of international NGO's.

Dan Bode
PO Box 2007
Byron Bay NSW 2481