

Submitted on Tuesday, September 19, 2017 - 12:54 Submitted by anonymous user: 138.25.4.63
Submitted values are:

First Name: Victor

Last Name: Rae

Organisation:

Which sector do you represent?

- Conservation
- General public
- Recreational diving or snorkeling
- Research

Which draft plans are you commenting on? Coral Sea Which marine park(s) are you commenting on?

What topic(s) or activity(s) are you commenting about? Commercial fishing What part of the plan(s) are you commenting on? Part 3 - Zoning Which program are you commenting on? Park protection and management 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:

The changes to zoning in regards to the marine protected areas, outlined in the 'Coral Sea Draft Management Plan', will reduce the effectiveness of the protection areas, and have detrimental long-term effects on the local commercial fisheries.

A meta-analysis, conducted by Claudet, et al. (2008), found that the effectiveness of marine protection areas at conserving diversity is directly related to the size of the protected area. By reducing the percentage of no-take zones put forth in the 2012 management plan, the effectiveness of these zones will decrease substantially. The 82 expert scientists that were consulted for the 2012 coral sea management plan found that protected areas of the size put forth in that plan were the most appropriate and effective method of conserving biodiversity, whilst maintaining fisheries, and allowing continued access for current and future Australians.

As a student studying marine biology, and an avid user of Australia's unique coastal and marine environment, I strongly urge you to reconsider the reduction of no-take zones in the coral sea so that the considerable biodiversity of the region can be conserved for future generations.

References:

Claudet J, Osenberg CW, Benedetti-Cecchi L, Domenici P, García-Charton JA, Pérez-Ruzafa A, Badalamenti F, Bayle-Sempere J, Brito A, Bulleri F, Culioli JM, Dimech M, Falcón JM, Guala I, Milazzo M, Sánchez-Meca J, Somerfield PJ, Stobart B, Vandepierre F, Valle C, Planes S. 2008. "Marine reserves: size and age do matter", Ecology Letters. Vol. 11, no. 481-489

Fernandes L, Day J, Kerrigan B, Breen D, De'ath AG, Mapstone BD, Coles R, Done TJ, Marsh H, Poiner IR, Ward T, Williams DMcB and Kenchington RA. 2009.

"A process to design a network of marine no-take areas: Lessons from the Great Barrier Reef", Oceans & Coastal Management. Vol. 52, no. 439-447