

Norfolk Island Marine Park Plan

To whom it may concern,

I am writing to voice my objection to the draft Norfolk Island Marine Park plan (in the temperate East region). My major concerns are in relation to:

1. Lack of the “Norfolk box” – also known as a “multiple use zone”
2. Permissible exploration and mining within the area

The 20x45nm box around Norfolk Island was to be set aside for use of the Norfolk Island people as agreed between the Australian Fisheries Management Authority (AFMA) and the former Administration of Norfolk Island. I see no mention of this in the current plan. Commercial fishing would be permissible in all waters around Norfolk which could have a devastating impact on Norfolk Islanders who rely on the ocean financially as well as for food. It is even more critical to have this box clearly defined since the Norfolk Island Government was abolished by the Australian Government mid-2016. The lack of clarity here only serves to further undermine Norfolk’s trust of the Australian Government and departments.

Norfolk’s waters were capably run by the Norfolk Island Fishing Association and the community at large – with the exception of international trawlers operating within our EEZ (either illegally or under licensing arrangements through Australia). While input from experts would be welcomed – provided Norfolk Islanders had control over this area.

Furthermore, the Class approval for activities does little to remove red tape for Norfolk Islanders since there was no tape to be had previously. Any red tape (including fees) at all are new/extra from our point of view.

Last but not least is my objection to allowing exploration and mining within Norfolk Island waters. Any such activities carry an inherent risk – the magnitude of which is regularly downplayed by those to stand to benefit financially. Such activities should be permanently banned within this area or risk catastrophic damage to the local environment and further damage to the island economy. I would think that this point of view would be entirely consistent in this “marine park”.

I hope the above can be taken in consideration during the review of the draft plan.

Yours sincerely

Charles Brown

1505 Fort Clarke Blvd, Apt 1303

Gainesville, FL, USA, 32606