

Submitted on Wednesday, September 20, 2017 - 10:47 Submitted by anonymous user: 120.18.147.111
Submitted values are:

First Name: Jai

Last Name: Sleeman

Organisation:

Which sector do you represent?

- Conservation
- Government
- Research

Which draft plans are you commenting on?

- Coral Sea
- North Network
- North-west Network
- South-west Network
- Temperate East Network

Which marine park(s) are you commenting on? All What topic(s) or activity(s) are you commenting about?

- Commercial fishing
- Oil, gas, or mining
- Recreational fishing

What part of the plan(s) are you commenting on?

- Part 3 - Zoning
- Part 4 - Managing activities

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:

I am gravely concerned about reductions to protection of Marine National Park zones; 'IUCN IA by ~750 sq kms, IUCN II by ~485,520 sq kms' and IUCN IV by ~36,260 sq kms' in Australia under the proposed marine park plan changes.

The total area of reduced protections from recreational fishing and destructive mining practices equates to around 297,000 sq km which is almost equivalent to the areas of the states of Victoria and Tasmania. This loss is not a satisfactory outcome for marine park protection and will undoubtedly have a significant negative impact on benthic marine communities and fish populations which are already subjected to severe pressure from over fishing and other anthropogenic impacts. Furthermore there is no scientific evidence to support this decision process or suggest that these changes will result in adequately sized representative protections for biodiversity.

In particular these concerns relate to major losses associated with the Coral Sea, the South West Corner, the Argo Rowley Terrace, Lord Howe Island, Norfolk Island, Gulf of Carpentaria, Gascoyne and Ningaloo Reef, Kimberley and Dampier marine parks.

There is further major concern that for many of these areas where the losses are proposed there will be substantial impacts on species and populations listed under the Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act

1999 such as the whale shark (*Rhincodon typus*) given there are destructive activities proposed which include mining and fishing practices like trawling, gillnetting and longlining which have demonstrated impacts (including

pollution) on marine habitat and have led to significant losses in animal abundance and biodiversity with damage to ecosystem food webs. Faced with inevitable increasing pressure from Climate Change - sea temperature warming and ocean acidification (from increased atmospheric carbon dioxide levels) the biodiversity which these areas support will be increasingly challenged and does not need additional pressures from human activities compounding.

Why has there been a blatant disregard for the extensive prioritisation and planning process made previously for the listing of the 2012 Marine reserves (including the use of an evidence based 'MARXAN' mathematical distribution modelling for cost/benefit prioritisation of areas)?

I strongly urge the Government to make the following changes to the draft management plans:

- a) That no marine National Park zone areas declared in 2012 are removed or reduced;
- b) That additional new marine National Park zone are declared based on evidence, cost/benefit and regulatory feasibility.
- c) That all marine parks on the completion of their management plans should be fully protected from oil and gas mining as has been achieved in the Great Barrier Reef MP.

I hope that this submission is considered fairly and acknowledged for improvement to the plans rather than disregarded.

Yours sincerely,

Dr Jai Sleeman