

Submitted on Wednesday, September 20, 2017 - 11:57 Submitted by anonymous user: 203.111.21.58  
Submitted values are:

First Name: Geoffrey

Last Name: Randall

Organisation: None

Which sector do you represent?

- Recreational boating
- Recreational fishing

Which draft plans are you commenting on? South-west Network Which marine park(s) are you commenting on? Geographe 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? Assessments and authorisations 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:

History and some current practices have shown commercial fishing can, if not strictly controlled, be very detrimental to marine species; both species being targeted and bi-catch. If opened to commercial fishing ventures I believe the Geographe Bay fish stocks will suffer. The Geographe area of WA is significantly reliant upon tourism and recreational fishing is a big part of the attraction to the area.

1. The approval of commercial fishing in the IUCN Zones, including Geographe, should be given on a strict year by year (or seasonal) basis.

2. There should be provision legislated for the zones where commercial fishing is permitted on an annual basis to be subject to scrutiny as to the effect of commercial fishing on fish stocks/bi-catch in that zone.

3. Applicants for annual commercial permits should be apprised of and acknowledge the abovementioned to negate later claims of loss of livelihood where ongoing approval to operate is denied on the basis of detriment being caused to fish stocks.

A "smalltime" example is the recent introduction of a bag limit of 12 herring in WA. Obviously this was brought about by a perceived drop in their numbers. These fish are the bread and butter start to many Australian recreational fishers. We have taught our kids how to fish catching herring for many years. I am not saying an appropriate bag limit is unreasonable, however I am often on the beaches between Busselton and Capel/Bunbury. I see commercial fisherman in 4WD vehicles constantly driving up and down spotting schools and running nets from the shoreline in dinghies around herring schools and netting them by the hundreds of kilograms. This makes me wonder about the reasons why such bag limits are put on recreational fishers while commercial fishers are permitted to carry on without scrutiny and with disregard for their effect on fish stocks. In this case the circumstance is aggravated by the knowledge that the herring caught will probably end up in tins of cat food or bags of lawn fertiliser.

The Marine Reserves Network Management Plan needs to address the current trend whereby a decrease in a recreational bag limit or declaring a particular species off limits for a period of time by recreational fishers as a means of supporting fish stock revival. Micro-managing is and always has been an easy option for controlling bodies, but it is not the answer. It has been too easy for regulatory bodies to appear to be in control by making and amending seasonal rules which address recreational fishers, leaving the damage done by commercial fishing in the "too hot to handle" basket.

Hopefully the Marine Reserves Network Management Plan will address this issue with some strength of purpose !

