

Submission to proposed/draft Management Plan Coral Sea Marine Park

Many stakeholders invested considerable time and effort into the process of the Coral Sea Marine Park development. They made repeated submissions and attended multiple briefings, discussed it extensively, and in the community via various networks. It is notoriously difficult to engage with recreational fishers but during this process they engaged with the Bioregional Advisory Panel on numerous occasions. The outcome of those consultations was a negotiated position that most stakeholders were comfortable with. As a result there was considerable positive feedback regarding the process. To have that negotiated position ignored and replaced with a position that has been politically driven with a specific agenda to reduce environmental protection and increase access by damaging commercial apparatus will setback any further consultation process as trust has been lost. I disagree with some of the elements in the terms of reference applicable to this current draft proposal. It is clear that if a purse seiner or mid-water trawler commenced operation within view of recreational or charter fishers, there would **almost certainly be a repeat of the community uproar witnessed over the last few years further south**. Deep sea prawn trawling must also be considered destructive to the sea floor and important habitat, and should have no place in a Marine Park either. Further, there is no indication of how much effort is proposed and only an ambiguous '*by application*' being proposed. This gives no confidence in the plan and past experience has taught us that extreme caution should be applied in these situations.

As such I cannot recommend more strongly that industrial harvest methods of fishing be removed absolutely from the Coral Sea MP.

Points in agreement

- Welcome the Coral Sea region being made a Marine Park
- Accept the level and location of the green zones proposed and that the miniscule impact that recreational fishing has on the region will not be adversely impacted
- Acknowledges and welcome that some commercial fishing methods that are known to be harmful have been excluded from the yellow zones namely fish traps, bottom trawl and demersal trawl

Points of disagreement

- I strongly oppose allowing what is considered to be industrial and damaging fishing techniques currently proposed in this draft plan of the Coral Sea Marine Park, specifically in the yellow and blue zones
 1. (i) Mid-water trawl
 2. (ii) Purse seining
 3. (iii) Bottom trawling
 4. And in the blue zones
 5. (iv) Trap, pot
 6. (v) Demersal trawl
- I urge caution in allowing drop-line, pelagic and demersal longline methods in the Marine Park and licences or permits should only be granted for short periods (suggest 1 year) and reviewed regularly.

Recommendations

- I urge close attention being made to conservation values and efforts to maintain the Outstanding Universal Value of the adjoining GBRMP property, already under substantial

threat by climate change and other factors and notes the Reef 2050 LTSP is a joint State and Federal initiative. I strongly believe that allowing the five methods described above up to the GBRMP boundary devalues both the GBRMP and the Coral Sea MP

- I also strongly encourage the sensible finalisation of the management plan and make it operational within the next 12 months.

Kind Regards

Judy Lynne