



THE WESTERN AUSTRALIAN GAME FISHING ASSOCIATION INC.

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MS Sally Barnes  
Australian Marine Parks Management Planning  
Comments  
Department of Environment and Energy  
Reply Paid 787  
Canberra ACT 2601

**Re: Commonwealth Marine Parks**

Dear Ms Barnes,

Thank you for offering the opportunity for comment regarding the Commonwealth Marine Parks evaluation. The West Australian Game Fishing Association (WAGFA) has been passionate about marine parks in Australian waters and in particular Western Australia for many years.

WAGFA was established in 1949 and is a member of The Game Fishing Association of Australia and International Game Fish Association. The Association co-ordinates the activities of game fishing throughout Western Australia, maintains State game fishing records and data concerning open game fishing tournaments of its member clubs. The Association has historically represented the interests of game fishing clubs, and their members, at fisheries forums throughout Australia. The Association was a founding member of Recfishwest, the State's peak recreational body, and has been represented at board or reference group level since Recfishwest's inception in 1998.

The objects of the Association focus strongly on conservation and promoting ethical game fishing practises.

Previously our anglers faced some severe lockouts and restrictions, particularly when then Federal Environment Minister Tony Burke first announced in 2012 the plans for marine parks in Commonwealth waters. It has been welcomed by WAGFA the new draft management plans that have been shaped laboriously to provide a much better balance for recreational/commercial fishing, conservation and tourism within our diverse marine environments. Overall the new management plans can provide balanced outcomes for all stakeholders. We truly hope that these plans are adhered to.

WAGFA believes that it is important that the recreational fishing groups and in particular GFAA are involved and can contribute to the future planning processes of marine parks. Our Associations and Member Clubs have many years of historical data and also continue to promote tagging programs for the benefit of research and science that can assist with scientific decisions in particular areas.

We look forward to the next outcomes and should the need arise for any further input from our Association, we would be more than happy to contribute.

Yours sincerely  
Rhyss Whittred  
President  
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