

Norfolk Island Marine Park

To whom it may concern,

I would like to take the opportunity to make comment on the proposed changes to the management of the 'Norfolk Island Marine reserve'. Which based on the current proposed management plans intended for the area I believe is potentially in danger.

I was not initially a supporter of the introduction of the marine reserve surrounding Norfolk Island as in my belief it was an underhanded way by the Australian government to ensure that Norfolk Island couldn't benefit from their EEZ through either commercial fishing or the discovery and production of oil or gas reserves, something which by the allowable activities in the plan shows that the Australian Government wants to potentially make available to itself at some stage in the future.

The idea of protecting an area requires it to be at risk for potential damage from various activities. In the case of the Norfolk Island marine park, the major activities which could potentially cause damage to the natural environment would be deep sea mining or oil and gas exploration/production and commercial fishing (illegal or otherwise), all of which seems to be permissible based on this reserve plan. This raises the question of just what is the Marine reserve protecting, what is it's purpose? Until such time as Norfolk Island has full control over its entire 200nm EEZ I don't believe that it is appropriate that any of these activities ever be permissible in the waters around the island.

We are repeatedly told that there is no commercial fishing in and around Norfolk Islands territorial waters (EEZ), and that no revenue is derived from the waters yet there again seems to be the allowance for the activity in a marine reserve of all things. The only persons who should be allowed to fish within the 200nm zone surrounding the island should be the people of Norfolk Island. Until such time as Australia decides to be honest in terms of the revenue and reporting of the fishing activities in Norfolk/s waters it should no be allowed for any external bodies.

Equally worrying is the removal of the 'Norfolk Island fisherman's Box' from the draft plans. There seems to be major inconsistencies with respect of whether this is still in existence with some departments indicating that it is whilst others, including this draft plan have removed it. In the absence of Norfolk Island having full control over its EEZ this fisherman's box must be continued to allow restricted access to these waters by local fisherman only as per the existing previous MOU arrangements.

Thankyou for the opportunity to comment

Tim Brown

BSc Major Marine Biology

University of Queensland

Red Road

Norfolk Island 2899

Tbrown1883@gmail.com

+672350375