

Submitted on Tuesday, September 19, 2017 - 09:28 Submitted by anonymous user: 101.164.29.113
Submitted values are:

First Name: Tim

Last Name: Hyett

Organisation:

Which sector do you represent? Recreational fishing 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 Marine Parks What topic(s) or activity(s) are you commenting about?

- General use and access (including recreational)
- Recreational fishing

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

- Part 1 - Managing Australian Marine Parks
- Part 2 - The Marine Park or Network
- Part 3 - Zoning
- Part 4 - Managing activities

Which program are you commenting on? Tourism and visitor experience 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. :

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:
Dear Director of National Parks

I am one of Australia's 5 million recreational fishers. Like most recreational fishers, I am a conservationist. I want clean, healthy seas so my generation and future generations of Australians can continue to enjoy our greatest lifestyle/leisure/sporting activity, recreational fishing.

I support the recent Marine Park plans released by the Director of National Parks as they are a significant improvement on previous plans that have been presented for Australia's marine park system. Though some improvements could be made, I believe on the whole the plans provide an appropriate balance between marine protection and the use of the marine estate by stakeholders, including recreational fishers. I also note that the plans result in a significant increase in marine protection in comparison with the current level of marine protection.

I am of the belief that recreational fishers should not be locked out of vast areas of our seas unless there is a valid and justified scientific reason to do so. I understand that this plan does provide justifiable scientific reasons why recreational fishing is not allowed in the national park zones (IUCN II). I also understand that this justification is based on the extensive scientific research and consultation process by this Government to get to this current version of the Marine Park plan.

I would not support the access for recreational fishing being reduced in any way in any future refinement of this plan as I consider there is no justifiable scientific reason to do so.

I also note from public statements by the Director of National Parks that she is willing to consider possible access to some of these zones to assist in the gathering of scientific information on whether recreational activities such as tourism, diving and recreational fishing affect these zones.

I fully support this approach and would urge the Government to adopt this approach as part of its future strategy for managing the marine park system of Australia.