

This submission is from an ordinary Australian and requests that the Government not cut any further areas from marine protected areas within Australian waters.

Scientists from around the world are calling for more marine protected areas.

Please don't be anti science. Our seas and oceans, and the natural areas of our planet need Governments everywhere to protect them. In the last century or so, there has been so much damage done already to our precious land and marine environments and the plant and animal species which inhabit them.

Please don't take the short term view. Please don't be beholden to narrow 'for profit' interests, some of whom are not even Australian.

Many people, especially the young are in despair because they feel that greed seems to rule the world and that the priority of many Governments is not to alienate their re-election donors.

Marine protected areas are an important way to protect ecosystems. They can protect exploited species during critical stages of their lives, reduce secondary impacts of fishing, such as habitat degradation resulting from trawl fisheries, and act as "insurance" against poor management. They can protect sedentary species such as shellfish, reef fish and rockfish, and can also help protect migratory species through the protection of key spawning and rearing grounds and migration corridors.

Marine protected areas have been shown to increase the density of organisms within their boundaries, increase the average size of organisms, and increase the numbers of many exploited species.

One of the greatest attractions of such areas from a fisheries perspective is their ability to enhance fish populations outside of the reserve. Spillover into areas adjacent to the protected areas can be expected to occur if the density and size of organisms increases within established reserves.

Please listen to the scientists, not to those who are more concerned with short term gain.

Please do your part to prevent this warning from coming true :-

"Man has lost the capacity to foresee and to forestall. He will end by destroying the Earth" - Albert Schweitzer

Yours sincerely
- Margaret Payton
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