

It looks like Australia is about to become the world leader in removing marine national parks from protection.

In the coral sea alone, the area under protection has been halved. This is also the case for Marion Reef. One of the world's premier dive sites, Osprey Reef, has had half of its area removed from the Marine National Park and other reefs have been removed from protection entirely.

Trawling is to be reintroduced and longlining will now be carried out throughout the Coral Sea.

No government anywhere, ever, has removed such large areas from conservation. **This is nothing to be proud of and speaks volumes for the attitude of the current government towards sensible conservation.**

Such actions represent poor stewardship of the environment and I urge the government to reconsider the damage it will be responsible for allowing to take place.

Bruce Thomson