

Reducing the area of the marine park by 50%, reintroducing midwater trawling and longlining from the start of the southern tip of the Coral Sea reserve to the northern boundary is contrary to actions required from both a national and a global perspective to working on a sustainable future.

The action is also contrary to a growing body of research indicating the need to cooperate on an international level to address the degradation of the environment which, will lead to a reduction in our quality of living and negatively affect the lifestyles to which we have become accustomed. As custodians of a natural resource, the Australian Government has the responsibility to implement policies which enhance rather than decrease value: politically, socially, economically and environmentally.

Longlining should not be introduced or midwater trawling allowed. The marine environment as an open resource has ".....overall limits on sustainable use while individual users pursue their own interests..... each user has an incentive to use the resource more than their 'fair share' to pursue immediate interests in increasing wealth. The result is overuse and degradation of the resource overall" (Paterson 2006, p.2). It will also reduce the benefit of the marine park for other beneficiaries both human and marine organisms.

Paterson, 2006, also argues that "Strong sustainability insists on the non-substitutability of human and natural capital, the importance of 'critical natural capital' of particular sorts of ecological disruptions that are irreversible and threaten whole ecosystems. As such, it generates a focus on the scale and character of human use of ecological resources and services, and an argument that such use needs to be radically cut back" (Paterson 2006, 13).

Through inappropriate use and cutbacks to protected areas there is a greater possibility to accelerate the "....extinction of animal and plant populations and species, which could lead to a loss of ecosystem services essential for human survival" (Ehrlich and Ehrlich 2012, p.1). This is only one of the effects of human intervention: if the area of the Marine National Parks is reduced, let alone halved, additional natural resources will be at risk of exploitation and unnecessarily damaging practices. Oceans are also critical as part of the complex and overworked system absorbing carbon from CO2 emissions.

(I am looking forward to the day when I read that Australia is a world leader in inclusive and progressive conservation, which looks to a sustainable future taking into consideration all living organisms.)

Best

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Paterson, M. 2006. *Advances in international environmental politics* Edited by Betsill, M., Hochstetler, K., and D. Stevis. Colorado State University. Palgrave Macmillan Ltd. Chapter 3 Theoretical perspectives on international environmental politics
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