

Australian Marine Parks Management Planning
Dept of the Environment and Energy,

I refer to proposals in the Draft Coral Sea Management Plan of 2017 to allow The Director to authorise commercial fishing, recreational fishing and a range of other commercial activities in the Coal Sea Marine Park as well as similar plans for other Marine reserves in Australian waters.

In 2012, after extensive research and consultation, the Australian Government declared significant areas of Australia's marine areas to be protected. These included the Coal Sea Marine Park. With so much overfishing of waters taking place, having these areas protected is vital to ensure the long term sustainability of many forms of marine life and indeed the very fish species that have been overfished in the past.

Providing an opening now for the authorisation of commercial and recreational fishing in these protected areas would be contrary to their purpose. This could threaten the integrity of these protected zones and bring about the collapse of fisheries elsewhere.

I urge the committee to reject these proposals.

Sincerely,

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There is no Planet B