

I write to make my voice heard in opposition to the proposed cuts to our Marine Protected areas. They should not be progressed as the current system is far from perfect with examples of non-science based conservation areas and inadequate areas for effecting ecological function. We need to refer the question to independent experts who can be tasked with drawing up a consistent mapping of needy conservation areas that should elicit bipartisan support. These reserves are for future posterity and must function as buffers for the many challenges that our marine environment will face over the next few decades from such things as climate change, pollution, maritime disasters and commercial fishing overreach. I urge you all to take this slowly absorbing the import of the scientific conclusions from past studies and to be prepared to recommend increases in those areas that are wanting.

Thanks you for your time,

I remain

Colin E Sumner