

Dear Sir/Madam,

Re: Status of Marine Conservation Areas and Parks

I write to you as an Australia citizen and member of the Doctors for the Environment Australia concerned about the government threats to the status of our Marine Conservation Areas and Parks.

In the Coral Sea alone the area placed in Marine National Parks has been halved. The same goes for Marion Reef. Even Osprey Reef, one of the top dive sites in the world has had half its area removed from the Marine National Park.

Shark and Vema Reefs have been taken out of the Marine National Park area altogether.

Unbelievably, midwater trawling is to be reintroduced and it will be now be possible for longlining to start at the southern tip of the Coral Sea reserve and continue all the way to the northern boundary. No Government **ever** has taken this many hectares out of conservation before. **It's the largest backward step in areas under conservation in history !**

I urge you to rescind any proposals to wind back protection for Marine Conservation Areas and Parks !

Regards,

Dr Ken Winkel
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