

The environment is extremely important for the human race. We especially need marine sanctuaries which can help to provide nursery areas for young fish. Many species of fish have been decimated by huge, often foreign, fishing trawlers that destroy whole ecosystems for the sake of a few key food species. The rest, usually the vast majority of the catch, is thrown back, dead or dying. There is only 1 large fish now for the several that used to exist in our oceans. If we continue to put this amount of pressure on the sea, there will be no large edible fish left. Husbandry of the oceans is not a luxury - it is a necessity for our future survival. If we cut back on the size of marine sanctuaries and water down the safeguards for them, just when they are beginning to reap benefits, this will lead to species extinction and a sad future for Australian fishermen who by and large are in favour of protection against foreign trawlers and for the sanctuaries because they recognise that these will ultimately protect their long-term livelihoods.

Lynda Yates
p. 8298 2452
m. 0417 484 717