

Dear Sir/Madam,

I write this submission regarding the proposed rezoning of Australia's marine parks which would lead to a cut of almost 50% in their area.

Marine parks have been proven to provide a sanctuary for fish and marine life, leading to improved stocks.

Our oceans are facing many challenges including acidification, warming, pollution from runoff, shipping and mining, plastics and so on. These sanctuaries are essential for helping marine life recover. Fish is an important source of protein and healthy fat in the human diet (I am a medical doctor who enjoys recreational fishing a little, and scuba diving a lot!). They need to be protected. This latest plan threatens them and the ocean ecosystem, and the people who depend on it for food and recreation. It is a backwards step. Please do not go ahead with the proposed changes.

Yours sincerely,

Dr Rachel Hawker