

In this age of overfishing and seabed degradation, Australia needs to protect its coastal waters from being overwhelmed, yet the Federal Government wants to reduce the size of our marine conservation parks drastically.

This move will allow long line fishing, gill netting, drift netting etc in some of our most vulnerable areas. And in some areas that are breeding grounds for some of our fish and mammal species. We need large marine parks exempt from commercial fishing to allow stocks of whiting, salmon, snapper, prawns, whales, dolphins and seals to continue to regenerate each season, not be wiped out.

Around the world we see the results of overfishing. North Sea cod have been wiped out. In East Timor just a few days ago, rogue fishermen were caught with hundreds of tons of illegally caught shark. This is devastating to any area's population balance and ability to climb back.

We need bigger parks to help protect what we have now for our kids and their kids, not smaller parks so that a few commercial fishermen can make big money selling their catches overseas.

Please protect what we have now, not endanger it.

Adrian Nicholas