

Dear Sir/Madam

I'm a mother and a scientist with a passion for sailing and scuba diving; I speak from all these perspectives when I say - our oceans need greater protection not lesser.

I'm gravely concerned at the Government's plan to cut the marine sanctuaries by 50% and to reintroduce trawling. Both these steps are a massive step backwards and deeply alarming.

Australia was a shining light for ocean conservation with the introduction of necessary protection for the oceans - to half this protection and completely exclude areas which had been covered is retrograde in the extreme.

Our oceans are already under enormous environmental pressure with raising sea temperatures and other consequences of climate change - this is the time to increase protection not slash it.

Yours faithfully

Penelope Guilfoyle