

It must be obvious to all of us that our ocean is vital important to us in its ability to absorb green-house gasses from the atmosphere. It is also a vital food source for many people, for some Islanders the only food available.

The ocean around Australia support an important marine environment and habitat for many threatened marine species both flora & fauna. I understand that our surrounding oceans has some of the highest bio-diversity on the planet.

To protect all of the above our nation has a responsibility to the rest of the world and an obligation to manage this environment into the future.

I am a recreational fisher and has over the last 50 years observed the reduction in fish catches not only from rec. fishing, but also from the commercial fishers.

To turn around this trend we need to protect the habitat of the marine life by removing the fishing pressure from the areas promoted as sanctuaries, right around the coast of Australia and the ocean beyond.

I urge the Australian Government to enforce and enhance the protection of the areas previous promoted by the scientific community as being necessary to maintain the natural bio-diversity of our marine environment. It would be appropriate if 33% of our marine environment was fully protected from all kind of fishing and other activities.

My family and I trust that you will look after the marine environment and not base your deliberation on short term financial gain.

Regards

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