

Submission to  
Minister for Environment

Re: Reducing Marine Protection

Dear Sir

As both known and unforeseen pressures on our natural environment rise through continued human population growth and subsequent activities to meet the population's basic needs, it is becoming increasingly important to conserve the natural systems that sustain all (including human) life.

Humankind has already laid waste many sources of nourishment through over-use or lack of care – land degradation, air and water pollution, loss of species through over-fishing etc.

While regulation within Australian waters may indicate good management, daily we see boats from other lands plunder the reefs and seas of nations far from their own shores, as their own grounds are no longer able to supply their wants.

The taking of thousands of sharks by the Chinese from Timor waters is but one example. Such behavior is not sustainable on a global scale.

The contribution to human well-being provided by oceans must be protected and strengthened. By establishing marine reserves, not only is the fishing industry supported, but also other benefits flow to our community through other businesses (eg tourism) that depend on healthy, ecologically diverse marine eco-systems.

The establishment and extension of Marine Reserves around Australia some years ago was visionary and provided a positive step to anticipating the future and developing methods of minimizing the effects of shocks and stresses of future events on our oceans and the fundamental resources they provide.

The system of Marine Parks established showed an understanding of the direct relationship between economic and environmental concerns.

It showed much-needed international leadership.

To reduce the size and scope of the marine park system will be a short-sighted and negative step in future-proofing Australia's (and other countries') well-being.

We need good management of our resources.

I urge you to retain the current Marine National Park area.

Thank you for your consideration

Catherine O'Neill



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