

I would like to express the opinion of a large proportion of the public on the proposal to dramatically reduce the size of our marine national parks. I find this decision incomprehensible, given the increase in the human population with its inherent stressors on the natural environment, the poor regulation of illegal fishing and overfishing, global warming and its known and unknown effects on fish stocks and reefs, and our limited knowledge of the complexities of the marine environment.

Surely the protected areas were declared on the best advice from experts at the time. What has changed that this government is so confident in halving the protected areas?

Most people understand that when a national park is created, that area is protected from exploitation and will be there for the wildlife and our children and grandchildren. These areas are not to be interfered with by politicians for short term political gain.

What possible reasons can this government have for trying to reduce the size of these parks?

I strongly urge that this proposed legislation be dropped and that national parks, marine or otherwise, once created, should never be eroded or destroyed.

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