

Dear Sir/Madam

I am very distressed to learn that the government is considering rolling back the protections to our oceans. In the Coral Sea alone the area placed in Marine National Parks has been halved and also for Marion Reef. Even Osprey Reef, one of the top dive sites in the world has had half its area removed from the Marine National Park. Shark and Vema Reefs have been taken out of the Marine National Park area altogether.

Midwater trawling is to be reintroduced and it will be now be possible for longlining to start at the southern tip of the Coral Sea reserve and continue all the way to the northern boundary.

No Government ever has taken this many hectares out of conservation before. It's the largest backward step in areas under conservation in history. My children, and yours, will look back on this decision, if you make it, as one of the most destructive examples of environmental vandalism of the 21st Century.

The economic return from protecting these oceans and the fish and habitat in them is far greater than the short-term gains that trawling and fishing will provide.

Please reconsider.

Yours

John Darmody

37 Cutler Rd, Clontarf NSW 2093