

Dear Marine Management Planners,

Have you not seen the appalling depredation being wreaked on our marine life by commercial fishers? How can you contemplate reducing the extent of marine national parks (breeding-ground sanctuaries for juvenile fish species as well as endangered and/or protected species) when we are currently losing so many turtles, cetaceans and seabirds already, even before you slash the size of the sanctuaries! Please take on board the figures for the loss of protected species provided by data from Australian Fisheries Management before you try to commit this act of marine vandalism.

Refer to Nicole Hasham's article, SunHerald, 17/09/ 17, p.3 News.

You may not be personally aware, but fishermen (recreational and professional) are among the most environmentally damaging folk in our community. They mostly don't care what havoc they cause. I live on the Georges River and regularly see the litter and mess they leave after a night's fishing: tangled lines, some of which end up in tree branches to strangle curious birds, beer bottles, plastic bags and food scraps which encourage foxes and other feral animals. I have seen white cockatoos hanging dead, caught by discarded fishing line festooning the trees.

Please ignore the commercial fishing and recreational fishers lobbies and examine the figures for yourselves. They are a disgrace.

Hoping you will do the right thing for the future of our marine environment,

(Dr) Fran de Groen

( Picnic Point).

Sent from my iPhone