

Dear Sir,

I beg the government of Australia to stop winding back ocean protections. It is well known that in the Coral Sea alone, the area placed in Marine National Parks has been halved. The same situation is the case for Marion Reef. Even Osprey Reef, one of the leading dive sites in the world, has had half of its area removed from the Marine National Park. In addition, Shark and Vema Reefs have been taken out of the Marine National Park area altogether.

Sadly, it appears that 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 to continue all the way up to the northern boundary.

These changes are very alarming and tragic! It is important to note that no Australian Government previously has ever taken this many hectares out of conservation. It's the largest backward step in areas under conservation in our history. Please ensure that these backward steps are reversed and instead that positive, long-term marine protection is offered for Australia's future.

Yours sincerely

(Dr) Robert Forgács