

15/09/2017

To Whom It May Concern

I do not understand the logic applied in The Federal Governments apparent determination to significantly reduce the areas allocated to Marine National Parks in oceans under Australian jurisdiction.

To re-introduce mid-range trawling and long-lining in areas of pristine ocean that bring significant tourist revenue to our nation is not only irresponsible, it sends a clear message to industry that they have a free hand to influence government on matters influencing environmental protections and conservation, and responsible local tourist operators running small businesses, who give Australians and overseas visitors alike a wonderful once in a lifetime experience.

The cliché that is 'plenty of fish in the sea' is simply , no longer true. These species are simply not some commodity to be farmed until they no longer exist.

Please exercise the common sense the vast majority of Australians expect and find a genuine balance between commercial concerns , and conservation ; I'd like to think my grandchildren could visit this area of the country and find the same value of experience we're able to at present.

Yours faithfully

Jonathan Alley
Melbourne

In the Coral Sea alone the area placed in Marine National Parks has been halved. The same goes 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.**