

Dear Director of National Parks (Cc Minister Frydenburg, my federal MP)

I am one of Australia's 5 million recreational fishers. Like most recreational fishers, I am a conservationist. I want clean, healthy seas so my generation and future generations of Australians can continue to enjoy our greatest lifestyle/leisure/sporting activity, recreational fishing.

I support the recent Marine Park plans released by the Director of National Parks as they are a significant improvement on previous plans that have been presented for Australia's marine park system. Though some improvements could be made, I believe on the whole the plans provide an appropriate balance between marine protection and the use of the marine estate by stakeholders, including recreational fishers. I also note that the plans result in a significant increase in marine protection in comparison with the current level of marine protection.

I am of the belief that recreational fishers should not be locked out of vast areas of our seas unless there is a valid and justified scientific reason to do so. I understand that this plan does provide justifiable scientific reasons why recreational fishing is not allowed in the national park zones (IUCN II). I also understand that this justification is based on the extensive scientific research and consultation process by this Government to get to this current version of the Marine Park plan.

I would not support the access for recreational fishing being reduced in any way in any future refinement of this plan as I consider there is no justifiable scientific reason to do so.

I also note from public statements by the Director of National Parks that she is willing to consider possible access to some of these zones to assist in the gathering of scientific information on whether recreational activities such as tourism, diving and recreational fishing affect these zones.

I fully support this approach and would urge the Government to adopt this approach as part of its future strategy for managing the marine park system of Australia.

I would like to impress on the Director of National Parks that this submission is of equal importance as others made in any other format on this issue. This online form of submission has just made it easier for me to express my views to you on this important issue.

Myself & colleagues have invested considerable time and effort into the process of the Coral Sea Marine Park development to date. We have made repeated submissions and attended multiple briefings, discussed it extensively internally, and in the community and with other interested organisations. As a group we had no problem with the declaration of the park provided it didn't restrict our miniscule harvest or sport imprint. From the outset we opposed being locked out of vast and remote areas because of ideology, which we believe drove the initial zoning proposal. We studied and had no problem with the existing recreational or commercial fishing effort particularly in the northern section out from Mackay and above, provided it was monitored and not substantially increased. This area has and does support various important charter fishing operations, aquarium product traders, as well as a small commercial longlining industry which is tiny in context but important as it supplies coastal hubs with what we believe is sustainable and definitely desirable fresh seafood, particularly tuna. We always opposed allowing more industrial fishing methods into the area. We have said before and we repeat now, recreational fishers as a sector are much more reactive than

proactive and government and bureaucracy would do well to understand this. It is clear to us that if a purse seiner or mid-water trawler commenced operation within view of recreational or charter fishers, there would almost certainly be a repeat of the community uproar witnessed over the last few years further south. Deep sea prawn trawling must also be considered destructive to the sea floor and important habitat, and should have no place in a Marine Park either. Further, we can see no indication of how much effort is proposed and only see an ambiguous 'by application' being proposed. This gives us no confidence in the plan and past experience has taught us that extreme caution should be applied in these situations. As such we cannot recommend more strongly that these industrial harvest methods be removed absolutely from the Coral Sea MP. • We strongly opposes the introduction of industrial and damaging fishing techniques like mid-water trawl, bottom trawling, purse seining and demersal longlining currently proposed in this draft plan of the Coral Sea Marine Park. • We strongly recommends close attention being made to conservation values and efforts to maintain the Outstanding Universal Value of the adjoining GBRMP property, already under substantial threat by climate change and other factors and notes the Reef 2050 LTSP is a joint State and Federal initiative. • We strongly encourages the sensible finalisation of the management plan and make it operational within the next 12 months. Regards Scott Mitchell Keep Australia Fishing AFTA Chapter Qld QRFN Fraser Coast Fishing Alliance

Yours sincerely

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