

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.

The Marine parks are now balanced for the whole of the Australian community including the recreational fishing community (unfortunately our commercial fisher exports a lot of the catch and we get imports like basa and AUSTRALIAN medical experts have raised the alarm over a rising number of Asian fish imports containing banned antibiotics) unlike the multinationals that influenced Australian decisions previously and yet kept their own countries fishing as it would hurt their economy and as far as the UN is concerned it needs to take a good look at the real problem and the size of the world commercial fleet and its take.... USA. The North Pacific fishing fleet consists of 414 federally permitted vessels of over 58 feet in length. These are among more than 5,000 vessels over 30 feet engaged in commercial fishing activity off the coast of Alaska. Vessels in the North Pacific fleet average 40 years old, but ages range widely. Overfishing is depleting oceans across the globe, with 90 percent of the world's fisheries fully exploited or facing collapse, according to the United Nations Food and Agriculture Organization. From Russian king crab fishermen in the west Bering Sea to Mexican ships that poach red snapper off the coast of Florida, unsustainable fishing practices threaten the well-

being of millions of people in the developing world who depend on the sea for income and food, experts say. Efforts to boost China's marine economy in recent decades, including offshore drilling and unsustainable fishing practices like trawling, has resulted in a dramatic depletion of its own fishing stock. Efforts have been made in response to this environmental damage: Since the 1990s, Beijing has implemented an annual summer moratorium on fishing in the South China Sea, and agriculture minister Han Changfu recently announced plans to cut back on the size of the world's largest fishing fleet to protect its stocks. (China's Ministry of Agriculture did not respond to a request for comment.) But in order to sate its population's rising desire for nice pieces of fish—and to continue exporting seafood abroad to trading nations—the Middle Kingdom's fishing vessels have resorted to catch throughout the high seas (i.e., international waters) and, possibly through illegal practices, in other countries' coastal domains. SO WE NEED TO TARGET WHAT IS CORRECT FOR OUR COUNTRY NOT FOR THOSE THAT MEDDLE FROM THE NORTH, you should check how many boats are sitting right on our 200NM Australian Exclusive Economic Zone and drifting in.

Yours sincerely

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