



# Submission

## Solitary Island Marine Park

## Zoning Plan Review

June 2008

### **The Recreational Fishing Alliance of NSW**

**“Promoting Sustainable Fishing”**

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***The Recreational Fishing Alliance of NSW greatly appreciates and acknowledge the efforts of those organisations and fellow recreational fishers who support the greater recreational fishing fraternity and take time out from their chosen recreation to provide or produce responses to such public enquires.***

***We wish to congratulate other organisations such as ANSA NSW, the NSW Fishing Clubs Association, the Underwater Skindivers & Fisherman’s Association for all their efforts.***

***This submission has been prepared from email correspondence and discussions with recreational fishers, who do or have fished the Solitary Islands area over the past several decades and would like to continue doing so for many more years to come.***

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## **RFANSW Position surrounding Marine Protected Areas**

The Recreational Fishing Alliance of NSW is a peak representative body in NSW representing major fishing organisations and recreational fishers. It works to promote sustainable fisheries and fishing practices and public access to the recreational fishing resources of NSW.

The Alliance also acknowledges the aims and objectives of the Marine Park Act 1997, to conserve marine biological diversity and marine habitats, as well as providing for ecologically sustainable use of natural resources such as fish and marine vegetation in marine parks, by all person that wish to partake in recreational and commercial activities within a parks boundaries.

We believe that prior to the declaration for any Marine Protected Area, the Government, its Departments and Independent organizations must instigate a lengthy and thorough series of surveys and investigations which will identify and detail all the marine habitats and activities, recreational or commercial within a proposed bio-region/area. Along with the state based environmental and climatic change impact research, the material will form a baseline data set, that will be used to initiate thorough consultation with all stakeholder user groups and the wider NSW public relating to any proposed changes to the areas activities.

Once this baseline data is established, additional risk assessments and modeling relating to any proposed 'shift of effort' due to zoning plans zones to other areas should occur and be supported with rigorous ongoing research, of the overall environment and habitat of the protected and used zones. It is also important to capture through social and economic studies these other associated impacts relating to such changes due to the 'shift of effort', as stakeholders should be offered a range of ongoing compensation strategies associated with such changes.

RFA do not support the current 'percentage base process' of total park area 'locked up' using zoned areas such as sanctuary zones. However like all user groups should good and rigorous research document clearly the impacts and changes providing such justification, including consideration for all other socio and economic factors, such as providing safe and accessible habitat for all stakeholder groups?

RFA do not support any unfair consideration to, or exclusion of any user group from an area. An example is that currently sanctuary zones allow scuba diving to occur, which is viewed as inappropriate and discriminatory park management; scientific research does indicate that there are marine impacts by this activity.

The Alliance will support the adequate protection of representative areas of critical habitats using sanctuary zones, providing the scientific research and data supports protecting specific ecological communities, critical habitat or specific species, and these are not being used as de-facto fisheries management tools by the Marine Parks Authority or Government.

RFA believes that once specific research has identified a need for additional regeneration of marine biological diversity and marine habitats, then the process of protection may also be accomplished using a variety of other methods in lieu of a 'total lock out', modeled to accommodate all stakeholders, such as;

- ***Rotating sanctuary zones when regeneration is complete,***
- ***Seasonal closures for spawning or migration of species,***
- ***Seasonal access to pelagic species,***

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- *Localised recovery plans for specific species,*
  - *Stock enhancement through localised breeding programs,*
  - *Habitat enhancement through the use/creation of artificial reefs,*
  - *Stock enhancement and recruitment through the use of fish aggregating devices;*
  - *Multi use sanctuary zones.*

### **Solitary Islands Marine Park**

The Recreational Fishing Alliance has reviewed the submission documents and makes the following general recommendations and comments relating to the proposed draft zoning plan.

#### **Access:**

The issue of safe access in all weather conditions is especially relevant to recreational fishers who fish the rocks and beaches within any Park and target seasonal, or highly migratory pelagic and other fish species. These fishers who practice activities like rock fishing and land based game fishing (LBG) move with the seasonal changes and migrating patterns of fish along the coastline. Whilst shore and boat based fishing is a year round activity, land based game fishing generally only occurs in a 4-6 month season when the pelagic fish are following the Eastern Australian Current (EAC) and being pushed close in around deep ocean rock platforms.

A majority of fishers who are new to the sport cannot afford a boat and will always start fishing estuaries, beaches or rock platforms. Alternative safe fishing spots are always needed so fishers targeting any fish species are not concentrated and limited to one or two small areas. Safe, protected areas from the prevailing weather conditions are needed in every park to ensure that fishers do not fish unsafe locations when the weather shifts or changes. The work that Alliance and ANSA NSW are doing surrounding rock fishing safety in conjunction with the NSW Government has revealed that safe, alternate rock fishing spots are needed to save lives, these fishers are generally not afforded the luxury of having a boat to fish elsewhere within Park boundaries.

Safe and easy accessible terrestrial access for fishers to access fishing areas must also be provided, through improved roads, parking areas and walking tracks to many fishing areas without any major restrictions.

#### **Multi-use sanctuary zones:**

Multi-Use specific sanctuary zones should/must be considered. Seasonal access to pelagic and seasonal fish stocks will allow fishers the opportunity to fish these areas during a specific period within a window that constitutes a fishing season. October to April currently sees the East Australian Current pushing in along the NSW Coastline and deep ocean rock platforms. Multi-Use Sanctuaries currently exist at Byron Bay MP and Great Lakes MP for trolling or the use of artificial baits. Similar to the Grey Nurse Shark Critical Habitats which are in operation within NSW and there is no scientific evidence linking interaction between these endangered species and some methods used by fishers.

The NSW DPI and the NSW Recreational Licence Trust are currently researching this issue with a final report due out in 2009. This may then allow fishers to fish baits and lures that stay high in the water column and target the highly migratory pelagic fish species such as tuna, mackerels, kingfish and marlin that have made the Coffs Coast a world renowned gamefish port.

#### **Recommendations:**

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- There should be no increase in the overall size to the park, any current zoning plan or boundaries, unless sound research and methodologies, along with the scientific data completed to date fully support such a change. The documents provided for this review fail to deliver this and it continues to be large concern within the public arena, scientific community and respected scientists.
  - Promoting Park Activities – RFA wish to seek changes to the way the park management guides inform the public what activities maybe partaken within park boundaries. Recreational fishing whilst being the largest participation sport/recreation in NSW hardly rates a mention in any tourism or awareness material the park distributes.
  - Advisory Committee representation – RFA would support improving the way appointed committee members engage the broader stakeholder groups that they represent. We understand that it is difficult to represent all stakeholders interests accurately, however the Marine Parks Authority needs to look at its consultation processes with an aim to be more transparent to the public.
  - Compliance and Infringement process – RFA’s notes that the public are totally confused with this issue. RFA suggests changes to the Marine Parks Act in this area, whilst it maybe acceptable for a large corporation to attain a large fine if a vessel strays of course, it is different for an individual to challenge an infringement notice in a court of law, knowingly that they may walk away with a criminal record for life, from a minor breach of a park rule or infringe a zone boundary.
  - Research and Surveys – RFA’s position notes that the documents provided for this review indicates access to other research documents on the web site, which is not the case. The Authority .and the Government should apply more funding to cover the lack of quality research and surveys of Marine Protected Areas. The research to date fails to convince that there should be any change to the current zoning plan. Additional areas of research such as climate change and the ever increasing human foot print on the environment must also be considered and assessed as having an impact in the various zones, as well as investigating the long term socio and economic impacts and changing social demographics of park visitors in a region.
  - Sanctuary Zones (SZ) - RFA’s position that the locations of all zones within the SIMP remain in situ whilst more detailed and targeted research is completed. The Alliance is in agreement that some small changes, with no increase in overall size, maybe made to portions of a sanctuary zone as a boundary simplification process, generally using straight lines, north-south or east-west with marker buoys, as it is difficult to mark or estimate your position verses a curved or angled boundary line on a map. Easily identifiable boundaries would allow all marine users with an average knowledge to use these visual aids rather than rely on technology when targeting some fish species, as detailed in this submission.
    - In general, SZ boundaries should be clearly identified where ever possible, they may require additional buoys and signage allowing all users (in particular visitors) to become more aware and who are often found

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slightly inside zone boundaries and are therefore liable to penalty. It is understood that GPS points should only be used as a reference, recent media and the government debate has highlighted the accuracy issue and several others surrounding such requirements for boaters or shore based fishers to acquire expensive and accurate electronic GPS devices.

- Access for All Fishers - The Marine Park Act allows for ecologically sustainable use of natural resources (fish) and provides for public enjoyment of marine parks. Fisheries management of the recreational fishing sector is constantly being reviewed, and with no impacts on sedentary or active recreational fish species and with no recreational species under threat of collapse, the ecologically use of fish within marine parks should be allowed to continue. The targeting of pelagic and migratory fish stocks is sustainable under the current regulations.
- Habitat Protection Zones (HPZ) RFA supports no changes, as these zones were initially established to allow limited commercial fishing activities to continue within the park boundaries. Recreational line fishing within the NSW Bag, Size and Possession limits does not have the devastating effect of trawling or other commercial fishing activities. It is noted that some marine parks have supported no trawling and limited commercial fishing access, if this is case and it is altered for SIMP, then any commercial fishers must be duly compensated
- General Use Zones (GUZ). RFA supports no changes, as these zones were initially established to allow commercial fishing activities to continue within the park boundaries. Recreational line fishing within the NSW Bag, Size and Possession limits does not have the devastating effect of trawling or other commercial fishing activities. It is noted that some marine parks have supported no trawling and limited commercial fishing access, if this is case and it is altered for SIMP, then any commercial fishers must be duly compensated.
- Special Purpose Zones (SPZs) – RFA has no objections to the current SPZs but serious consideration should be given to other comments made within this submission when making provision for a SPZs, where appropriate boat maintenance & safe mooring facilities, fish cleaning and other disposal facilities must be developed. Safe boating access using estuaries and estuary bars must be maintained with dredging undertaken to provide safe entry & egress.
  - Fish Attracting Devices (FAD's) – RFA supports the creation of a SZs for these devices. NSW DPI's and the NSW Recreational Fishing Trusts recent forward planning to look at and manage the implementation of artificial habitats, for inshore or off shore areas. These type of devices assist greatly with the creation of new habitat for all marine life, as well as spreading 'fishing effort' across all accessible zones.
- Alternate management of zones.
  - Rotating no-takes zones. The Legislation is rigid in terms of no-take zones, a far greater benefit would be gained from no-take zones that would be rotated, allowing for the recovery of certain degraded areas. These no take, regeneration zones could also exceed the prescribed 20% paper model that the Government has relied upon. Rotating zones would

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utilise artificial reef systems and FAD's to regenerate areas. The rotating no-take zones would rely on additional, relevant research to determine the degree of rejuvenation before rotating and targeting another area for rebuilding.

- Multi-use no-take zones. Current Critical Habitat Zones (CHZ) for Grey Nurse Sharks (GNS) utilise and effectively manage the interaction fishers have with the GNS. Regulations ban the use of wire and bait at anchor within the CHZ, but allows trolling, lure fishing, fishing off the rocks and a myriad of other activities, including spearfishing. There are also multiple use areas within the New South Wales Freshwater fishing regulations, with Blue Ribbon Catch and Release Rivers, Fly or Lure only sections and several different bag limit regulations for the same species. The same principles could be applied to any sanctuary or special use zone within a marine park.

Other issues that must be addressed in detail within the plan include;

- Stock and habitat enhancement,
- Providing safe and accessible access to fish habitat,
- Localised recovery plans,
- 'Shift of effort' from proposed/current sanctuary zones.

RFANSW notes that documents to date have lacked the ability to clearly show any significant benefit that the sanctuary zones have delivered and clearly indicates that more time is needed to observe and research. RFANSW is also concerned that no effective base line or pre-sanctuary zone based research has been completed prior to these zones being declared.

***Other research documents listed at the end have been studied and tend to indicate no patterns observed over the monitoring period included divergence between fished and non fished zones for the abundance of invertebrate gastropod *Astralium tentoriformis* and the total cover of the common kelp *Ecklonia radiata*. As for the fish results, more time is required to properly determine the biological significance of these trends. (Barrett et al. 2005)***

***Variation between sanctuary and non-sanctuary zones for common fish species based on survey results from 2003, 2004 and 2005. For the majority of species no clear differences in abundance arose between the protected and fished sites. (Barrett et al. 2005)***

***Variation between sanctuary and non-sanctuary zones for common fish species based on survey results from 2003, 2004 and 2005. For the majority of species no clear differences in abundance arose between the protected and fished sites (Barrett et al. 2005).***

RFANSW also notes that no protection can be offered to the highly migratory pelagic fish species within the confines of the SIMP.

It is the RFA's position that the locations of all the zones within SIMP remain in situ whilst more detailed and targeted research is completed and that a small portion of the zones be modified to allow boat and land based fishers to target pelagic fish species.

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Lynch and Barret have both clearly demonstrated that more time is needed and that the opportunities to protect migratory pelagic fish stocks within the Park are limited or non-existent.

The initial race for a percentage based Marine Park meant that sound research was overlooked and due process was ignored. RFANSW does not want a repeat of the same situation where the SIMP is seen to be playing catch up with other percentage based Marine Parks in NSW without any sound or current research.

The Alliance continues to consult with many local fishers in the area and many of its affiliated associations and fishing clubs. It will continue to undertake further consultation with the Marine Park Authority in order to achieve a satisfactory outcome for recreational fishers of NSW and the biodiversity in the regions zoning plans, attempting to preserve, protect and manage such areas.

The following comments are in response to the invitation from the Marine Parks Authority (MPA) to provide a submission on the Draft Zoning Plan (DZP) for the Solitary Islands Marine Park (SIMP). The submission layout has followed the format provided on the submission form.

***This submission is not confidential.***

This submission is being made by the Recreational Fishing Alliance of NSW and will be made available to the following Recreational Fishing Peak Bodies:

ANSA NSW

Recfish Australia

NSW Advisory Council on Recreational Fishing (ACoRF) and its sub committee's

RFA also acknowledges that the members and fishers it represents will not be limited in making their own, unique submissions on issues that affect their own member's exclusive interests within the DZP.

**Contacts Details: Malcolm Poole**

**Position: Chairman, Recreational Fishing Alliance of NSW**

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**Phone: 0403 125 766**

**Email: [mpoole@optusnet.com.au](mailto:mpoole@optusnet.com.au)**

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## Submission form

Please mark appropriate boxes with a cross

**1. Confidential submission** – Yes  No

**2. Contact details** – optional but please complete your postcode

Dr/Mr/Mrs/Ms (circle as appropriate)

Surname: **Poole**

First name: **Malcolm**

Address: **9 Walmsley Road**

Suburb: **OURIMBAH**

State: **NSW**

Postcode\*: **2258**

Phone: **02 43621687**

Fax: **02 43621387**

Email: [mpoole@optusnet.com.au](mailto:mpoole@optusnet.com.au)

Organisation/affiliation/business name (if applicable)

**Recreational Fishing Alliance of NSW (RFANSW) which has approximately 16,500 members in its member associations.**

**3. Which age group are you in?** – optional *The Alliance membership covers all the age groups noted.*

0-17 years

18-24 years

25-34 years

35-44 years

45-54 years

55-64 years

over 65 years

**4. What are your main interests in the marine park?**

Please number the boxes in order of importance, where 1 equals 'most important' and 5 equals 'least important'.

Only number activities you are interested in.

Recreational fishing 1

Spearfishing 1

Snorkelling 2

Scuba diving 3

Conservation 2

Wildlife observation 3

PWC/water sports 4

Charter fishing 1

Commercial fishing 2

Beach activities 3

Swimming 3

Surfing 3

Kayaking/canoeing 2

Recreational boating 1

Scenic amenity 2

Other (*please specify*)



**5. Overall, how would you describe your view of conserving the Solitary Islands Marine Park?**

Strongly in favour  In favour  Neutral  Against  Strongly against  Don't know/not sure

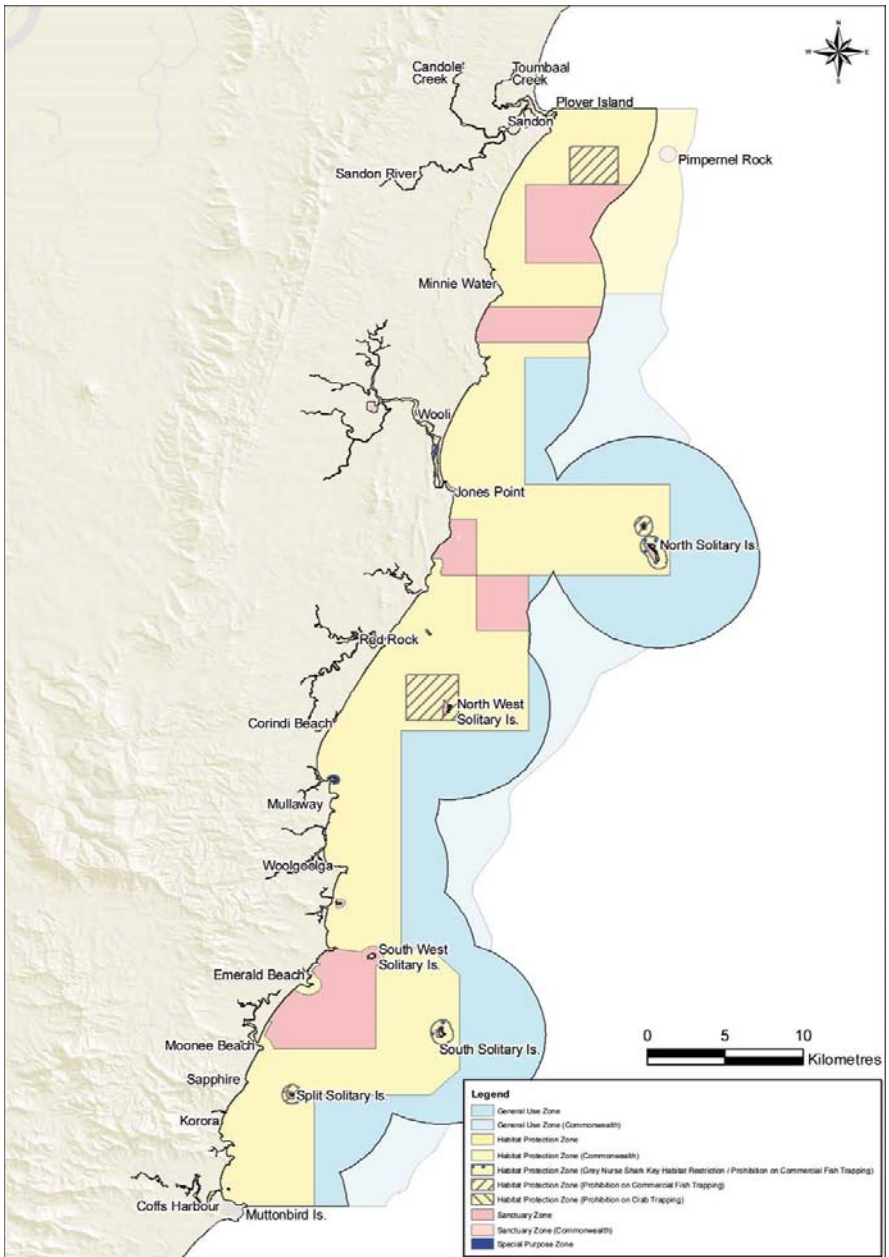
**6. How strongly do you support the sanctuary zones in the Solitary Islands Marine Park?**

Strongly in favour  In favour  Neutral  Against  Strongly against  Don't know/not sure

**7. Do you think the zoning plan provides appropriate opportunities for ecologically sustainable use, public appreciation and enjoyment?**

Yes  No

**Please provide information on the following zones shown on the map on page 10**



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## 8. Sanctuary zones

Sanctuary zone areas are marked pink on the map. These zones provide the highest level of protection – removal or harm of any plants or animals is prohibited.

Comment on as many of these zones as you wish. In the pink rows, please name the area you are commenting on.

***As indicated above, there should be no increase in the overall size of the park, any current zoning plan or boundaries, unless sound research and methodologies, along with the scientific data completed to date fully support such a change. The documents provided for this review fail to deliver this information and it continues to be a large concern within the public arena, scientific community and with respected scientists.***

***RFA supports no changes, as these zones are currently being researched, studied and evaluated under the parks research strategy attempting to assess the long term changes or benefits such zones offer.***

## 9. Habitat protection zones

Habitat protection zone areas are marked yellow on the map. These zones conserve biodiversity by reducing high impact activities. Line fishing, spearfishing, lobster and crab trapping, and collecting are generally permitted, with restrictions in some areas.

Comment on as many of these zones as you wish. In the yellow rows, please name the area you are commenting on.

***As indicated above, there should be no increase in the overall size of the park, any current zoning plan or boundaries, unless sound research and methodologies, along with the scientific data completed to date fully support such a change. The documents provided for this review fail to deliver this information and it continues to be a large concern within the public arena, scientific community and with respected scientists.***

***RFA supports no changes, as these zones were initially established to allow limited commercial fishing activities to continue within the park boundaries. Recreational line fishing within NSW is controlled using Bag, Size and Possession limits which do not have a devastating effect as other commercial fishing activities. It is noted that some marine parks have supported no trawling and limited commercial fishing access, if this is case and it is altered for SIMP, then any commercial fishing activity removed then it must be duly compensated.***

## 10. General use zones

General use zone areas are marked light blue on the map. These zones provide for a wide range of activities including commercial and recreational fishing.

Comment on as many of these zones as you wish. In the blue rows, please name the area you are commenting on.

***As indicated above, there should be no increase in the overall size of the park, any current zoning plan or boundaries, unless sound research and methodologies, along with the scientific data completed to date fully support such a change. The documents provided for this review fail to deliver this information and it continues to be a large concern within the public arena, scientific community and with respected scientists.***

***RFA supports no changes, as these zones were initially established to allow commercial fishing activities to continue within the park boundaries. Recreational line fishing within NSW is controlled using Bag, Size and Possession limits which do not have a devastating effect as trawling or other commercial fishing activities. It is noted that some marine parks have supported no trawling and limited commercial fishing access, if this is case and it is altered for SIMP, then any commercial fishing activity removed then it must be duly compensated.***

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## 11. Special purpose zone form

Special purpose zone areas are marked dark blue on the map. These zones allow for management of areas for a particular purpose such as aquaculture or cultural heritage. In this table, please comment on any changes you would make to the purpose of the zone as well as changes to the zone's area or size. The zone's purpose is included with its name in the blue rows.

Comment on as many of these zones as you wish.

### Changes suggested to zone? Supporting comments

#### Sandon River – designated for the management of oyster aquaculture

***No Changes, should there be any changes to this zone, or the leases are closed, the RFA would fully support the lease areas be returned to their natural environment and compensation made payable to the leaseholders.***

#### Wooli Wooli River – designated for the management of oyster aquaculture

***No Changes. Should there be any changes to this zone, or the leases are closed, the RFA would fully support the lease areas be returned to their natural environment and compensation made payable to the leaseholders.***

Pipe Clay Lake – designated for rehabilitation of habitat, cultural use and research. Fishing and collecting not permitted. Conservation management plan in place.

***No Changes. The RFA fully supports the activities and use of the area for cultural, conservation and research purposes.***

Arrawarra Headland – designated for rehabilitation of habitat, cultural use and research. Fishing and collecting not permitted. Conservation management plan in place.

***No Changes. The RFA fully supports the activities and use of the area for cultural, conservation and research purposes.***

## 12. Commonwealth management plan for the Solitary Islands Marine Reserve

Comment on any of the zones in Commonwealth Waters as shown on the current zoning plan.

Comment on as many of these zones as you wish.

### Sanctuary zone: Pimpernel Rock. Extends 500m round The Rock.

***There should be no increase in the overall size of the reserve, any current zoning plan or boundaries, unless sound research and methodologies, along with the scientific data completed to date fully support such a change. The documents provided for this commonwealth review fail to deliver this information and it continues to be a large concern within the public arena, scientific community and with respected scientists.***

***RFA supports no changes, as these zones are currently being researched, studied and evaluated under the reserves research plan attempting to assess the long term changes or benefits such zones offer.***

***RFA is also aware of the additional Grey Nurse Shark research currently occurring relating to population estimates and extinction modeling, until this information is completed and publicly provided then there should be no changes.***

Habitat protection zone: Commonwealth waters from the northern boundary south to due east of One Tree Point headland (Minnie Water).

***As indicated above, there should be no increase in the overall size of the reserve, any current zoning plan or boundaries, unless sound research and methodologies, along with the scientific data completed to date fully support such a change. The documents provided for the review fail to deliver this information***

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**and it continues to be a large concern within the public arena, scientific community and with respected scientists.**

**RFA supports no changes, as this zone was established to allow limited commercial fishing activities to continue within the reserve boundaries. Recreational line fishing within NSW is controlled using Bag, Size and Possession limits which do not have a devastating effect as other commercial fishing activities. It is noted that some marine parks have supported no trawling and limited commercial fishing access, if this is case and it is altered for SIMR, then any commercial fishing activity must be duly compensated.**

**General use zone: Rest of Commonwealth Reserve south of habitat protection zone above.**

**As indicated above, there should be no increase in the overall size of the reserve, any current zoning plan or boundaries, unless sound research and methodologies, along with the scientific data completed to date fully support such a change. The documents provided for this review fail to deliver this information and it continues to be a large concern within the public arena, scientific community and with respected scientists.**

**RFA supports no changes, as this zone was established to allow commercial fishing activities to continue within the park boundaries. Recreational line fishing within NSW is controlled using Bag, Size and Possession limits which do not have a devastating effect as trawling or other commercial fishing activities. It is noted that some marine parks have supported no trawling and limited commercial fishing access, if this is case and it is altered for SIMP, then any commercial fishing activity must be duly compensated.**

### **13. Commenting on activities**

The zoning plan determines which of the following activities are allowed in different zones:

- Anchoring/moorings

**RFA supports additional anchoring and mooring buoys to stop anchor damage in Sanctuary zones as well as restricting the over use of the such areas using a controlled booking system for major areas on display.**

- Recreational fishing

**RFA fully supports safe, accessible and sustainable recreational fishing activities, from the shore or in a boat, in estuaries, or from beaches, rock platforms, ocean waters and man made structures as allowed, within a Marine Park. Utilizing the current NSW Fisheries rules and regulations applying to Bag, Size and Possession limits for sharing the public owned marine resource between all stakeholder groups.**

- Commercial fishing

**RFA supports safe and sustainable commercial fishing activities, within a Marine Park. Utilizing NSW Fisheries rules and regulations applying to Commercial Fishing Statutory Fishing Rights Bag, for sharing the public owned marine resource between all stakeholder groups. Should any commercial fishing activities of any type be further reduced or removed then these fishers should be properly compensated.**

- Threatened or protected species

**RFA supports the protection of threatened or protected species providing the research and science is accurate and supports such measures. The current GNS critical habitat zones should not be altered or increased in size until further information is provided relating to population modeling and extinction rates are known. As for other species that fall within these areas, the current NSW Fisheries rules and regulations providing 'no take' protection and reporting of accidental interaction appear to be sufficient.**

- PWC/motorised water sports

**RFA supports controlling this activity to ensuring the public amenity of such areas are not compromised to the extent that other users groups are turned away from an area due to excessive noise or improper use of such vessels.**

- Collecting for aquarium/educational/scientific purposes

**RFA supports limiting this activity and controlling the legal and illegal use of marine resources.**

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- Vehicle access (on beaches)

***RFA supports the ongoing managed use of 4wd vehicles along the current beaches with safe and separated access for other beach users, allowing for recreational fishing and alternate boat beach launching, or disabled access along long beaches that have no alternative terrestrial beach access points.***

- Domestic animals on foreshore or in vessels

***RFA supports the use of foreshore activities in a controlled manner providing their interaction with the public or other animals is also controlled within a Marine Park.***

- Aquaculture

***RFA supports safe and sustainable commercial aquaculture activities, within a Marine Park. Utilizing NSW Fisheries rules and regulations applying to Aquaculture ventures, and sharing the public owned waterways and marine resource between all stakeholder groups. Should any commercial aquaculture activity of any type be further reduced or removed then these fishers should be properly compensated.***

- Boating

***RFA fully supports safe, accessible recreational boating activities, in estuaries, or ocean waters within a Marine Park. Utilizing the current NSW Maritime rules and regulations applying to boating and vessel management between all user groups.***

- Charter fishing

***RFA fully supports safe, accessible and sustainable charter fishing activities, from the shore or in a boat, in estuaries, from beaches, rock platforms, or in ocean waters within a Marine Park. Utilizing the current NSW Fisheries rules and regulations applying to Charter Boat Management and Recreational Fishing through Bag, Size and Possession limits for sharing the public owned marine resource between all stakeholder groups.***

- Scuba diving

***RFA would support a SIMP adopting a fee system for individual SCUBA divers to contribute to the management of the Marine Park, in a similar way as NSW Recreational Fishers pay a fee and assist the NSW DPI and the Government improve its knowledge and research capabilities.***

- Fishing competitions

***RFA fully supports safe, sustainable and managed recreational fishing competitions, ensuring there is a differentiation between commercial orientated (dollar driven) and organised recreational fishing club ventures. The management of these activities should be such that co operation with the Marine Park management form part of the event process which is streamed lined allowing improved data collection and reporting. NSW Fisheries are currently developing rules and event management strategies for fishing competitions.***

- Research

***As indicated in this submission elsewhere, good scientific research methodologies, aims, objectives and outcomes have are still a major concern for any marine park. RFA would fully support partnerships with other natural resources user groups and managers to improving the research objectives and outcomes of the SIMP Research strategy.***

- Spearfishing

***RFA fully supports safe, accessible and sustainable recreational spearfishing activities, from the shore or in a boat, in estuaries, or from beaches, rock platforms, ocean waters and around man made structures as allowed, within a Marine Park. Utilizing the current NSW Fisheries rules and regulations applying to spearfishing and recreational fishing in such areas. This particular user group has been greatly restricted in a number of areas and are seeking several compromises which the RFA would support if there are minimal flow on effects and changes to SZ's and HBZ's.***

- Fish cleaning

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***RFA requests that improved environmentally acceptable fish and boat cleaning facilities should be provided for recreational fishers to dispose of fish offal, clean their boats or dispose of other wastes at boat ramps. RFA would not support the introduction of any form of payment system restricting access for such facilities as this is the responsibilities of local managing authorities or park management. However funding assistance maybe sought and provided under the Recreational Fishing Licence Trust Fund grants process or the NSW Maritime Infrastructure Improvement program.***

- Other

Do you have any comments on any of these activities?

***Only those comments and recommendations noted at the beginning of the submission.***

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**References:**

Lynch, T., Wilkinson, E., Melling, L., Hamilton, R., Macready, A. and Feary, S. 2004  
Conflict and Impacts of Divers and Fishers in a Marine Park

Lynch, T. 2006  
Incorporation of Recreational Fishing Effort into Design of Marine Protected Areas

Barrett, N., Edgar, G., Polacheck, A., Lynch, T. and Clements, F., 2005.  
Ecosystem Monitoring of Subtidal Reefs in the Jervis Bay Marine Park 1996-2005

Ernst and Young. 2006  
Australia's Marine Protected Areas - Challenging Times Ahead for the Australian  
Fishing Tackle and Boating Industries Associations

Otway, N. M., and Parker P. C. 1999.  
A review of the biology and ecology of the grey nurse shark (*Carcharias taurus*)  
Rafinesque 1810. Fisheries Research Report Series 1. NSW Fisheries, Cronulla, NSW.

Register of Critical Habitat - required under the Fisheries Management Act, found  
at:

[http://www.fisheries.nsw.gov.au/threatened\\_species/general/register\\_of\\_critical\\_habitat](http://www.fisheries.nsw.gov.au/threatened_species/general/register_of_critical_habitat)

Marine Park Authority

A review of benefits of Marine Protected Areas and related zoning considerations  
<http://www.mpa.nsw.gov.au/pdf/MPA-review-benefits.pdf>

**THE PROS AND CONS OF MARINE PROTECTED AREAS IN NEW SOUTH WALES:  
WHO'S BEEN HOODWINKED?**

(Address to The Australian Society for Fish Biology, Canberra, 12/9/07)

Bob Kearney PhD, DSc AM

Emeritus Professor of Fisheries

University of Canberra

Administrative Appeals Tribunal of Australia

Nature Conservation Council of NSW Inc and Minister for Environment and Water  
Resources and Ors [2007] AATA 1876 (18 October 2007)