



Attention

The Committee Secretary
Senate Standing Committee on Environment and Communications
PO Box 6100
Parliament House
Canberra ACT 2600

A submission to the Parliamentary Inquiry into the Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Amendment (Bioregional Plans) Bill 2011

The Abalone Industry of South Australia is an extremely important and well managed fishery for the South Australian economy, contributing \$30 million and creating 300 jobs to the local regional economy in the 07/08 season (Econsearch). It has been a quota managed fishery since 1985 and is fully cost recovered contributing over \$1 million annually each to both research and compliance.

The Abalone Industry supports the roll out of a National Representative System of Marine Protected Areas around Australia as healthy marine habitats maintained by conservation of the marine environment is critical to sustain our lively hood. The roll out of these MPA's for both Commonwealth and State waters is happening concurrently for us in South Australia.

Our industry is very concerned about the political lobbying being undertaken by Green Groups at the moment blurring the line of using sanctuary zones (no take) as a fisheries management tool and using examples to support their cause from countries where there is no fisheries management. Excluding fishing is not the only way to conserve biodiversity.

It is a real slap in the face to the good work done by our Government Fisheries Managers and Industry. We are very uncomfortable with the fact that the final decision of adopting the bioregional plans rests with the Minister for Environment only. We would prefer to have a far more rigorous and robust process through the parliament that doesn't have the potential to be clouded by extreme green views.

Best regards,

President
Abalone Industry Association of South Australia
24/March/2011

