

Proposed Marine Parks

Dear Members of the Senate Committee.

I wish to put in an objection against the proposed Marine Parks for South Australian waters.

My reasons being:

For hobby fisher people like us who have invested in a shack, boat, tractor (to get the boat to the water) so we can have our holidays here in South Australia (keeping money in the country). We enjoy having family and friends spend time with us and taking them fishing. There is nothing like having a fresh feed of fish for dinner.

If the Marine Parks go ahead I see the following happening:

1. It will become dangerous for novice fisher people to go out so far just to catch a feed of fish. Who will take responsibility for rescues at sea or even deaths because of weather changes and being out so far. Will the Government put more money into the Sea Rescue Operations to cover these rescues?
2. What will happen to all the seaside towns if Marine Parks go ahead? The way I see it businesses will go under, as there will be no tourists coming when you have made it so hard and affordable for these people to enjoy a fishing holiday. There will be no services for the shackies, locals and tourists. So that will be the end of all small seaside towns.
3. The shackies who have properties that they have invested in for their retirement will have all their property values reduced drastically because why should anyone buy a seaside shack when it is too hard to go fishing. Fishing is the main reason most people have a seaside shack.
4. The people that have skimped and saved and bought a boat so they could enjoy their passion of fishing will not be able to afford the fuel to go out so far just to catch a feed of fish. The price of fuel is not coming down it is going up all the time.
5. The Fishing Charter groups will have to charge large amounts to cover the cost of the extra fuel and people won't pay therefore the fishing charter companies will go under. More unemployment. More dole the Government has to pay.
6. You are taking away the joy of future generations of being able to go out in a dingy and

catch some Tommies, gar or whiting. Most young ones start off with a dingy and it would be far too dangerous to go out the distances the Government want.

I understand the need to protect our fish stocks but I believe so many Marine Parks are not the answer. Where there are fish breeding grounds fishing should be banned at certain times of the year. I understand our Fisheries have the best monitoring and policing of our Recreational & Professional fishers in the world, so why would we need to improve on the best.

Illegal fishing vessels that are not monitored so well should not be allowed in our waters to steal our stocks because they have depleted theirs. The Government should spend more money on Boats to patrol our waters to keep these mongrels out. If the role was reversed we would probably be shot out their waters. Common guys get some guts and do something about these scavengers.

The Government seems to rush into these types of proposals and not take into account what the layman says. You say you listen to us at these Marine Park meetings but I think you are only there to show your presence and that you have already made the decision to go ahead.

Well we pay your wages, and we are the ones that vote you in, remember the fishing fraternity is a very large one and the repercussions for the government will be enormous if you push this through.

I say rethink your idea's there are better solutions to this problem.

An irate Australian Citizen

Kathryn Williams