

Questions on notice #1 – BK Diggles - Marine Parks Literature

The following list of key references is not exhaustive, but it is a summary of around 1/3 of the papers I have considered and cited in various reports over the last several years in relation to the benefits and drawbacks of marine parks and how they may (or may not) address key threatening processes that affect biodiversity in the marine environment. The reference lists in each paper have also been examined and other papers perused, however the dataset begins to get very large and hence I have not got all of the relevant citations below. There is also plenty of data available that I have looked at on the DEWHA website at the following address.

<http://www.environment.gov.au/coasts/publications/index.html#nrsmmpa>

Most of these reports on the DEWHA website are purely descriptive and of high quality, however, there are significant problems with a small number of the reports, such as interpretation by some scientists of their own data and drawing conclusions or making management recommendations that are not supported by the data presented - see (listed below) for an example of this.

I also tabled the following report at the inquiry: Worldfish Centre (2008). Lessons learned and good practices in the management of coral reef marine protected areas.

http://www.reefbase.org/gefl/pdf/lessonslearnedMPAbrief_English.pdf (summary document)

<http://www.reefbase.org/gefl/pdf/mpa%20case%20studies.pdf> (full document)

The World Fish Centre is part of the Global Environment Facility (GEF), which was established in 1991 as a \$1 billion pilot program from the World Bank to assist in the protection of the global environment and to promote environmentally sustainable development. The document is a distillation of 20 years work by the GEF establishing Marine Protected Areas (MPAs) in developing countries. It outlines several key lessons and aims to translate the lessons into good practices for future development of MPAs. The GEF are a global authority on practical implementation of MPAs, and it is important that the Federal Government considers their lessons during the Bioregional Planning Process, as several of the lessons have already been identified by marine industries in Australia as being ignored, the key one being that it is important to provide fishing communities with accurate and realistic predictions of MPA benefits and avoid a common mistake of overselling the potential/theoretical benefits of MPAs and underestimating the costs involved. The importance of using a risk based approach, integration of water quality issues, monitoring of MPA performance and providing realistic and long term options for displaced fishers (including catch and release sport fishing for recreational fishers) was also emphasised.

Key studies are highlighted

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