

# Consultation Report Appendices

Community and stakeholder feedback on the Government's proposed amendments to the SA Marine Park network



Prepared by the Department for Environment and Water – August 2020



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## 6. Appendices

### A. Proposed Amendments

Marine Park	Sanctuary Zone	Proposed amendments	More information
Upper Gulf St Vincent	n/a	To extend the marine park outer boundary to allow inclusion of Windara Shellfish Reef with appropriate management arrangements to allow recreational fishing	<a href="#">Upper Gulf St Vincent Marine Park Management Plan Draft Amendment 2020</a> <a href="#">Set of comparison maps</a> <a href="#">Impact statement report</a>
	Clinton Wetlands	Change southern part of SZ to Habitat Protection Zone (HPZ) to allow fishing	
Encounter	n/a	To extend the outer boundaries to allow the inclusion of the existing exclusion zone at Port Stanvac as a SZ, and include protection and appropriate management of the planned metropolitan shellfish reef	<a href="#">Encounter Marine Park Management Plan Draft Amendment 2020</a> <a href="#">Set of comparison maps</a> <a href="#">Impact statement report</a>
Nuyts Archipelago	Isles of St Francis	Change northern part of the SZ to a HPZ to allow fishing Expand the southern part of the SZ to encompass a larger area including around Hart Island and Cannan reefs	<a href="#">Nuyts Archipelago Marine Park Management Plan Draft Amendment 2020</a> <a href="#">Set of comparison maps</a> <a href="#">Impact statement report</a>
	Nuyts Reef	Expand the area of the SZ	
Neptune Islands Group	North Neptune Islands	Change western and southern part of SZ to HPZ to allow fishing	<a href="#">Neptune Islands Group (Ron and Valerie Taylor) Marine Park Management Plan Draft Amendment 2020</a> <a href="#">Set of comparison maps</a> <a href="#">Impact statement report</a>
Western Kangaroo	Cape du Couedic	Change eastern part of the SZ to HPZ to allow fishing	<a href="#">Western Kangaroo Island Marine Park Management Plan Draft Amendment 2020</a>

Island			<a href="#">Set of comparison maps</a> <a href="#">Impact statement report</a>
Upper South East	Coorong Beach South	Overlay a special purpose area to enable shore-based recreational line fishing	<a href="#">Upper South East Marine Park Management Plan Draft Amendment 2020</a> <a href="#">Set of comparison maps</a> <a href="#">Impact statement report</a>

## B. Public Notice

### MARINE PARKS ACT 2007: SECTION 14

TAKE notice that under pursuant section 14 of the Marine Parks Act 2007, the Minister for Environment and Water gives notice of the intention to make amendments to the authorised management plans for the following established marine parks:

1. Nuyts Archipelago Marine Park
2. Neptune Islands Group (Ron and Valerie Taylor) Marine Park
3. Upper Gulf St Vincent Marine Park
4. Encounter Marine Park
5. Western Kangaroo Island Marine Park
6. Upper South East Marine Park

This notice of intent is coupled with a separate notice of intent to recommend to the Governor that the boundaries of the following marine parks be altered:

1. Upper Gulf St Vincent Marine Park
2. Encounter Marine Park

This notice of intent marks the commencement of the process required under section 14 of the Marine Parks Act 2007 to amend management plans. The proposed amendments relate to the following:

1. Nuyts Archipelago Marine Park – changes to Nuyts Reef SZ and Isles of St Francis SZ
2. Upper Gulf St Vincent Marine Park - changes to Clinton Wetlands SZ and new protection zoning for Windara shellfish reef
3. Neptune Islands Group (Ron and Valerie Taylor) Marine Park – changes to North Neptune Islands SZ
4. Western Kangaroo Island Marine Park – changes to Cape du Couedic SZ

5. Upper South East Marine Park – changes to Coorong Beach South SZ
6. Encounter Marine Park – new Port Stanvac SZ and new protection zoning for metropolitan shellfish reef

The proposed amendments to the six authorised management plans will be published in the near future, at which time formal public and stakeholder consultation will commence.

## C. Stakeholder Letter

*Letter to stakeholders (as defined in s.14 (4) (d) of the Marine Parks Act 2007)*

Dear [Stakeholder]

### **Re: Proposed changes to SA's marine parks**

The South Australian government is committed to protecting our state's marine environments while also supporting the communities that depend on this resource.

In 2018, the government commissioned an independent, science-based review of our network of marine parks to ensure an appropriate balance between sustaining our economy, recreational opportunities and environmental preservation

In considering the findings of this review, and subsequent consultation with the commercial fishing, recreational fishing and conservation sectors, the government is proposing to change the boundaries of two marine parks and amend six marine park management plans including the creation of two new SZs.

Details of the proposed changes are available at [marineparks.sa.gov.au](http://marineparks.sa.gov.au), or you can request a print copy of draft management plans and related impact statements by contacting 8204 1910 or emailing [marineparks@sa.gov.au](mailto:marineparks@sa.gov.au).

Your feedback on these proposed changes is important. You can provide feedback via the 'Proposed changes to SA's Marine Parks' consultation on [YourSAy.sa.gov.au](http://YourSAy.sa.gov.au). This site will be open from 29 May 2020 until 10 July 2020.

I encourage you to seek the views of your membership in formulating your feedback. All feedback will be considered in finalising amendments to marine park management plans.

Yours sincerely

**DAVID SPEIRS MP**

Minister, Department for Environment and Water

## **D. YourSAy Survey Questions**

Feedback on Proposed Changes to SA's Marine Parks

You are invited to provide feedback on the proposed changes to South Australia's Marine Parks.

The proposed changes are outlined in the following draft management plan amendments:

[\*Nuyts Archipelago Marine Park Management Plan Draft Amendment 2020\*](#)

[\*Neptune Islands Group \(Ron and Valerie Taylor\) Marine Park Management Plan Draft Amendment 2020\*](#)

[\*Upper Gulf St Vincent Marine Park Management Plan Draft Amendment 2020\*](#)

[\*Western Kangaroo Island Marine Park Management Plan Draft Amendment 2020\*](#)

[\*Encounter Marine Park Management Plan Draft Amendment 2020\*](#)

[\*Upper South East Marine Park Management Plan Draft Amendment 2020\*](#)

You can also look at the maps, draft management plan amendments and the impact statement report, available on the Marine Parks website.

Your input will help in finalising changes to South Australia's marine parks later this year.

Please note that completing the survey is a submission, which will become part of the public record and will be available to anyone who requests a copy unless you specifically request otherwise.

1. Are you responding as a:

(Select all that apply)

- Representative of a statutory body or advisory council
- Representative of a Research Organisation or Educational Body
- Representative of local government or regional development
- Representative of commercial fishing industry

- Representative of recreational fishing industry or recreational fisher
- Representative of a community or environmental organisation
- Representative of an Aboriginal Group/First Nations
- Representative of a regulatory authority
- Other (please specify)

2. Please enter your details below:

(Optional)

First Name

Last Name

Age

Email

3. Please enter your postcode below:

(Mandatory)

4. In relation to the proposed changes set out in the Nuyts Archipelago Marine Park Management Plan Draft Amendment 2020 (Amendments 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, comparison maps) do you have any views?

5. In relation to the proposed changes set out in the Neptune Islands Group (Ron and Valerie Taylor) Marine Park Management Plan Draft Amendment 2020 (Amendments 1, 2, 3, comparison maps) do you have any views?

6. In relation to the proposed changes set out in the Upper Gulf St Vincent Marine Park Management Plan Draft Amendment 2020 (Amendments 1, 2,3,4,5 6, 7 comparison maps) do you have any views?

7. In relation to the proposed changes to protect Windara shellfish reef set out in the Upper Gulf St Vincent Marine Park Management Plan Draft Amendment 2020 (Amendments 4,6 comparison maps), do you have any views ?

8. In relation to the proposed changes set out in the Upper South East Marine Park Management Plan Draft Amendment 2020 (Amendments 1, 2, comparison maps), do you have any views?

9. In relation to the proposed changes set out in the Western Kangaroo Island Marine Park Management Plan Draft Amendment 2020 (Amendments 1, 2, 3 comparison maps), do you have any views?

10. In relation to the proposed changes to establish a new SZ at the Glenelg shellfish reef set out in the Encounter Marine Park Management Plan Draft Amendment 2020 (Amendments 2,4,5 comparison maps), do you have any views?

11. In relation to the proposed changes to establish a new SZ at Pt Stanvac set out in the Encounter Marine Park Management Plan Draft Amendment 2020 (Amendments 3, comparison maps), do you have any views?

12. Do you have any other feedback to provide about the proposed changes to South Australia's marine parks?

Survey completed

Thank you for taking the time to provide your feedback on the proposed changes to South Australia's Marine Parks. Your feedback will be considered as a formal submission unless you specifically request otherwise. A summary of all feedback received will be made available via this website at the completion of the process. You can also join the online discussion or share your feedback on the proposed changes by making a submission to [marineparks@sa.gov.au](mailto:marineparks@sa.gov.au) if your submission relates to a specific park or zone, please ensure that you specify the name of the relevant marine park management plan and the number of the amendment. Once finalised, the amended management plans will be available on the marine parks website.

## **E. Processing community and stakeholder feedback**

### **i. Receipt and storage of submissions**

All submissions received from the YourSAy consultation were either survey, email or written submissions. All submissions with a valid address (postal or email) were acknowledged before being filed and archived. All submissions and survey responses were entered into a database where each response was classified into categories of how their feedback related to each proposed amendment (see Section 5.3).

All submissions received are considered as public documents unless confidentiality was requested by the respondent. Submissions marked confidential were analysed and are included in the statistical reporting but are not included in the sample comments in subsequent sections and will not be made available for public viewing. Submissions were considered invalid if they were received after the closure of the



consultation process on 10 July 2020, unless a formal extension from the Minister for Environment and Water was sought prior to the closing date and an extension was granted.

All submission feedback (emails, letters, survey and discussion board) is available (names and addresses withheld).

## **ii. Types of submissions received**

Respondents to the consultation process included individuals and organisations who submitted either unique correspondence (email, postal and surveys) or form letter correspondence. Unique correspondence is a distinctive piece of commentary received from either an individual or organisation. Form letter correspondence is defined as the same information provided separately by different individuals (Example form letter correspondence can be seen in Appendix E). A concurrent survey was run by the Minister's Recreational Fishing Advisory Council (MRFAC). The results from this survey were summarised and provided to DEW as a stand-alone report. The MRFAC put forward its position based on the feedback provided in their report. Comments on the YourSAy discussion board were also considered as submissions unless the individual commenting had submitted a duplicate response in another format.

## **iii. Database and storage of submissions**

All submissions were entered into an electronic database. Information entered for each submission included:

- address details (name, address, organisation - if applicable)
- whether the submission supported or opposed the proposed arrangements or proposed alternatives, or whether an alternative suggestion was provided
- the sector the respondent identified as (e.g. citizens, commercial fishers, recreational fishers, conservation, science, local business, Recreational fishing industry, Seafood industry, political affiliation, other)
- political affiliation includes feedback from representatives of local government, state government and political parties. The category 'other' is made up of representatives from, statutory or advisory groups, educational bodies and a tourism company
- comments on specific zoning proposals (by marine park and zone)
- comments on specific management proposals identified in the draft amendment management plans.

In some cases there were duplicate responses, for example:

- multiple responses from the same respondent in the same format e.g. completed the YourSAy survey several times
- Respondent sent in multiple responses across different formats e.g. completed a YourSAy survey, an Email submission, signed a Form letter and contributed to the discussion board.

A process was undertaken to identify duplicate submissions and exclude them from the analysis. A hierarchy of response was established (see below) and in the case of a duplicate only the highest ranked response was included.

1. Email submission
2. YourSAy survey
3. Form letter
4. Discussion Board

Where an individual respondent lodged multiple and/or separate pieces of advice, these are recorded under the name of the respondent and treated as a single submission.

There were 31 duplicate responses identified comprising of:

- Five duplicates between Save our Marine Life (SOML) form letter and email submissions
- 13 duplicates between SOML form letter and YourSAy survey
- 15 duplicates from the discussion board and other formats.

#### **iv. Assessment of feedback**

An assessment of each submission was undertaken to determine whether it generally supported or opposed the overall proposal. The feedback was classified into categories: "support"; "support conditional"; "oppose"; "oppose conditional" or "alternative" to define the respondent's views towards each amendment (Table 15).

The common themes for each proposal were derived from each submission and categorised into different groups which best represented the respondent's views. All submissions were treated equally without prejudice or precedence. All responses

which provided general feedback and were categorised underwent a validation process where several DEW staff members categorised responses independently and implemented a majority rule to agree upon the classifications for each. Any discrepancies between classifications were reviewed amongst staff to reach final agreement on the response. Any responses which could not be classified were excluded from the analysis.

The MRFAC report provided figures on the percentage support or opposition to the proposed changes. Individual responses were incorporated into the analysis of results with all other submissions (Section 5). The MRFAC survey contained five categories; strongly support, support, neutral, oppose, strongly oppose. For the purpose of analysis, the two support and oppose categories were combined. The category of 'neutral' was not analogous with the YourSAy survey and was excluded from the analysis of section 7. It should be noted that this category consisted of approximately 50 per cent of the total responses from the 298 recreational fishers that completed the MRFAC survey (Appendix G).

**Table 15. Definitions of categories used to classify responses from public feedback**

<b>Category</b>	<b>Definition</b>
Support	Respondent indicates they are supportive or positive towards the proposed amendment.
Support - Conditional	Respondent indicates they are supportive or positive with the exception of a change/suggestion towards the proposed amendment.
Oppose	Respondent indicates they are not supportive or negative towards the proposed amendment.
Oppose - Conditional	Respondent indicates they are not supportive or negative with exception of a change/suggestion towards the proposed amendment.
Alternative	Respondent did not indicate support/positive or non-support/negative views towards proposal and suggested alternative to the proposed amendment.

## F. Form Letter Submissions

### i. Save Our Marine Life

Dear SA Marine Parks Review (CC Minister Speirs, Premier Marshall, Shadow Environment Minister Close, Ms Bonaros MLC, Mr Parnell MLC),

I am deeply concerned about the Marshall Government's proposal to cut back marine sanctuary protections in South Australia. I oppose the proposed cuts to existing SZs.

South Australia's marine sanctuaries only make up 6% of our state waters. They have been in place for six years, protecting crucial feeding and breeding areas for our unique marine life – much of which is found nowhere else on Earth. Keeping our sanctuaries in place is a responsible and practical step to take as they act as an insurance policy for the health of South Australia's oceans.

The South Australian network of sanctuaries is based on years of scientific assessment and community consultation. Any cut back in protection goes against the science, community support and puts tourism businesses and local communities at risk.

South Australians love their marine sanctuaries. Years of government polling shows that more than 90% of South Australians support their marine sanctuaries.

The Government's independent review found that:

- SAs marine parks and sanctuaries are bringing many benefits to our marine life and regional communities;
- Rock lobsters have grown larger and are more abundant inside Kangaroo Island's Cape du Couedic SZ since fishing was restricted;
- SZs are critical and effective at protecting long-lived, site-attached vulnerable species;
- Offshore islands SZs are biodiversity hotspots and important science reference areas;
- Industries such as aquaculture and shipping have continued to operate unaffected by marine parks;
- The price of locally caught fish has remained stable, commercial fisheries have maintained their catch and value, and regional house prices have continued to increase; and
- Participation rates for recreational activities such as snorkelling, fishing and boating have remained stable.

I welcome the proposed increase in SZ coverage at Nuyts Reef and the new SZs off Pt Stanvac and Glenelg. However, I strongly oppose any reductions or any other changes to any of the existing sanctuaries in the network, including the cutbacks proposed in the Review at the St Francis Isles, North Neptune Island, Cape du Couedic, and the Clinton Wetlands.



When the sanctuaries were created, substantial compensation was paid to commercial fishing operators to offset their reduction in access. Yet just over six years later, the Government proposes to allow these same operators back into these areas. For the Government to then give back commercial fishing access to these conservation areas created in the public interest with tax-payer funds is grossly irresponsible.

The wind-back of established conservation areas is a terrible precedent to create. It is contrary to protected area world's best practice, and will pose a significant risk to South Australia's global reputation, particularly with tourism markets, something which has never been more important to maintain, given the damage sustained by tourism businesses as a result of the recent bushfires and the Covid19 pandemic.

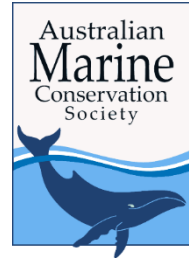
The South Australian Government has a responsibility to protect the marine life in state waters and must respect the evidence presented by its review, science research and the communities' views. All of South Australia's existing marine sanctuaries should be retained – for our marine life, tourism businesses and regional communities.

Please accept this as my submission to the South Australian Marine Parks Review.

## ii. Conservation Sector

10 July 2020

The SA Marine Parks Review  
Department for Environment and Water  
GPO Box 1047  
Adelaide SA 5001  
By email: [marineparks@sa.gov.au](mailto:marineparks@sa.gov.au)



Dear Sir/Madam

Submission to the South Australian Marine Parks Review

Following is the Australian Marine Conservation Society's submission to the marine parks review. We are pleased to have the opportunity to make comment. However, we do not accept that this constitutes the statutory 10-year Review.

We are gravely concerned that this Review is politically motivated and is not by any means comprehensive. Further, it has been undertaken with absolutely no public or independent scientific involvement until this, the final point of consultation required by law. Perplexingly, there has been no active outreach to the public during this final, mandatory consultation phase. The public consider their protected areas on land and sea to be a matter of public interest.

It also concerns us that despite civil society stakeholders trying to remedy bad process by publicising the 'review' and facilitating submissions, it appears the Government might not count each individual submission, rather, may count the submissions made through online portals as only 1 submission in total. This would compound the grave shortcomings in process and would fundamentally call into question the credibility of the 'review'.

On the changes proposed – we make the following key points –

1. The SA Marine Parks Network is a fundamentally important tool for the sound management and conservation of South Australia's marine environment which is well supported by the SA community.
2. Sanctuary Zones are essential to the successful functioning of marine parks. SA was rightly commended for creating the network, but at less than 6% sanctuary zone coverage of state waters, the network remains well under scientific standards which prescribe a minimum of 30% IUCN I or II protection of habitats. A credible review would be proposing significant expansions of Sanctuary Zone coverage in the network and no reductions of existing sanctuary zone areas particularly whilst the network remains below scientific standards on sanctuary zone coverage.

We request that these points on process as well as the importance of sanctuary zones and increased coverage be included in the Department's reporting on the feedback received in submissions as well as the detail in the submission that follows.

Thank you for taking our views into account.

Sincerely  
Katie Walters  
Marine Campaigner

[Australian Marine Conservation Society](http://www.australianmarineconservation.org.au)

PO Box 5815, West End QLD 4101 [p 07 3846 6777](tel:0738466777) [f 07 3846 6788](tel:0738466788) [e amcs@amcs.org.au](mailto:amcs@amcs.org.au)

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## Summary

In 2012, the South Australian Government established 83 sanctuary zones within 19 marine parks across state waters. The existing sanctuary zones are based on more than 10 years of scientific research and community consultation [1] and form the central part of government commitments to establish a 'comprehensive, adequate and representative system of marine protected areas' across Australia [2]. These sanctuary zones are the premier marine conservation tool and are at the core of marine protection efforts that seek to reverse degradation of the marine environment, protect biodiversity values and ensure their long-term ecological viability [2,3].

Our key submission points are as follows:

### **1. We express strong opposition to cutbacks of existing sanctuary zones.**

The proposed amendments to the marine parks include large scale cuts to four marine sanctuaries that open these sites to commercial fishing and other disturbances [4]. These sites are important biodiversity hotspots and vital habitats for vulnerable species. Their protection provides multiple benefits to marine ecosystems and regional communities. These locations are critical refuges for marine life as they include important nursery, spawning and juvenile habitat for a variety of commercial fish species that have suffered long term depletion due to overfishing in surrounding waters [5–7]. Existing scientific evidence, high levels of community support and demonstrated socio-economic benefit of marine parks to regional communities, all run counter to the removal of high level protection from these important conservation areas [1,8].

We oppose the cuts to existing sanctuary zones on the following grounds:

#### Reductions to these sanctuary zones are contrary to the recommendations and results of SA Government commissioned reviews.

Evidence gathered to date points to the success of sanctuary zones in safeguarding our marine resources and replenishing depleted fish stocks [1,8]. Studies from the Cape du Couedic Sanctuary Zone demonstrate greater than predicted recovery of commercial fish stock. Rock lobster populations have been demonstrating significant recovery within the site with an 81% increase in relative biomass and 42.2% increase in relative abundance [9]. Two of the proposed cuts involve removing protection from unique biodiversity hotspots surrounding offshore islands that are already underrepresented within sanctuary zones [8].

#### The proposed changes will negatively impact the maintenance of a comprehensive, adequate and representative (CAR) reserves system.

Proposed amendments to four marine parks would remove large areas of high biodiversity and significant conservation values from sanctuary zones. This is incompatible with the purpose of the Marine Parks Act and intergovernmental commitments of state, territory and federal governments to establish a CAR system of marine parks (see appendix 1 for details) [2]. Offshore islands, already poorly represented in the marine park network, are particular targets of these cuts. As part of these proposed changes more than 70% of the North Neptune Sanctuary Zone would be rezoned and opened up to commercial fishing [8]. Unique and irreplaceable biodiversity hotspots and habitat for a range of vulnerable species around Isle St Francis would also lose protection and be 'exchanged' for areas of much lower conservation value [8]. Critical spawning, nursery and juvenile habitat for depleted



commercial fish species in the Clinton Wetlands would be open again for fishing [8]. These proposals are a major threat to efforts to build resilience in fish stocks and preserve the unique and outstanding biodiversity within South Australia's marine environment

Government reports conclude there are no discernible negative impacts on regional economies or commercial fishers.

The independent report commissioned by the Government as part of this review confirms the overwhelming success of the existing marine park network in achieving its objectives [10]. It concludes that existing commercial fisheries have not suffered significant impacts and in general have access to more fish biomass and a higher catch-for-effort ratio than in the past due to government compensation and license buyback programs [10]. Regional economies have experienced positive growth from the tourism sector and there is no evidence of negative economic impacts in areas with sanctuary zones [10].

Commercial fisheries have been compensated for the establishment of these sanctuary zones.

Commercial fishers received substantial pay-outs totalling \$19 million funded by South Australian taxpayers when the sanctuary zones were created [10]. Under the current proposal they will regain access to some of the most biodiverse and unique marine ecosystems in the state at the expense of the public interest and the multiple long-term benefits that these sanctuary zones currently provide.

The changes undermine government commitments to ensure proper evaluation and scientific evidence informs marine park management.

If allowed to occur, these cuts to existing sanctuary zones will undermine the significant investment of time, effort and resources dedicated by government agencies to monitor and evaluate the outcomes of the marine park network and ensure marine protection is based on sound scientific evidence[8].

Three of the regions to be cut from sanctuary zones are key ecological monitoring sites for the marine parks network, chosen due to their extremely high conservation value [8]. This monitoring program was put in place to enable decision makers to assess the impacts of sanctuary zones across a range of environmental, social and economic indicators and to ensure effective and scientifically based marine park management. Government reports confirm that a further 5-10 years of data is needed before the full benefits and impacts of sanctuary zones and the marine park network can be properly assessed [8]. Cutting these monitoring sites from sanctuary zones makes comprehensive evaluation impossible. This undermines statutory commitments to evaluate the success of the marine parks network 10 years after its establishment and ensure scientific understanding informs changes to their management plans.

The stated intention of the 5 year review was to enable adaptive management, not a wholesale reworking of zones within individual marine parks [1]. Making major cuts to sanctuary zones before comprehensive data is available subverts the agreed government process and disregards the significant efforts of all stakeholders that led to their establishment in 2012.

We urge the Government to ensure decision making regarding changes to sanctuary zones is based on scientific evidence and specifically the results of its own comprehensive monitoring and evaluation program.

## **2. We highlight the need to expand rather than reduce the size of these sanctuary zones.**

Consistent with the need to increase sanctuary zone coverage in the network, we support in principle the inclusion of new sanctuary zones and expansions of existing sanctuary zones. This helps address gaps in the comprehensive, adequate and representative nature of the marine park network. Very importantly, these additions should not be conditional on reduction of existing sanctuary zones.

Scientific consensus and international governmental bodies agree on the need for highly protected area coverage to include at least 30% of habitat in each bioregion – prioritising inclusion of areas of particular importance for biodiversity and ecosystem services [11,12]. At less than 6% sanctuary zone coverage of SA waters, the current level of protection falls drastically short of the 30% target required to reverse existing adverse impacts, increase resilience to climate change and sustain long-term ocean health [13].

We urge the Government to expand upon rather than remove areas of high conservation value from sanctuary zones within existing marine parks. Expanding upon existing sanctuary zones is necessary to achieve a comprehensive, adequate and representative network of protected areas that will enable protection of biodiversity, avoid species collapse and ensure sustainable fisheries [13–15].

## **3. We oppose amendments that permit any form of extractive activity including recreational fishing inside sanctuary zones.**

We recommend that the proposals to create new areas of protection which would allow only certain types of fishing, achieve this by using a combination of Habitat Protection Zoning with Special Purpose regulation tailored to the management intentions of the area (ie, the restriction of those types of fishing as required). The Government’s proposed use of sanctuary zoning (with a special purpose area overlay) will diminish the function and standing of what should at all times be no-take zoning and therefore should not be the prescription for achieving an area which is to allow recreational fishing only.

Sanctuary zones are by definition ‘no take zones’ that provide vital feeding, breeding, nursery and resting areas for a range of plants and animals [16]. Proposed amendments would permit recreational fishing within a number of new sanctuary zones as an attempted patch in the absence of zoning which allows just recreational fishing. These proposals are contrary to the definition of sanctuary zones under the Marine Parks Act 2007, ‘prohibiting the removal or harm of plants, animals or marine products’ [3].

The inclusion of any extractive activities in a sanctuary zoning is also contrary to the definitions of these IUCN Categories I and II ‘highly protected areas’ under national and international frameworks [2].

## **4. In relation to proposed amendments to individual sanctuary zones -**

Summary positions on amendments to individual sanctuary zones:

### Clinton Wetlands Sanctuary Zone

We oppose cuts to the protection provided by the Clinton Wetlands Sanctuary Zone. This site is unique in the network. It provides a vital refuge for nursing, spawning and juvenile development for a number of commercial fisheries that are currently overfished and/or depleting [8]. It is a unique and highly biodiverse ecosystem that cannot be replaced elsewhere in the marine park network [8]. Cuts to this sanctuary to enable commercial fishing is extremely short sighted and is likely to be detrimental to the

long-term sustainability of commercial fisheries, as well as ecological health of the region. The proposal will significantly diminish representation of habitats on the north and north western sections of Upper Gulf St Vincent.

#### Isle St Francis Sanctuary Zone

We support efforts to expand sanctuary zones and welcome the expansion of the southern boundary and inclusion of Hart Island and Cannan reefs into this site. However, we oppose the removal of the northern section (46% loss of the existing sanctuary zone). It contains extremely high biodiversity and conservation value. The site is unique, pristine and irreplaceable across the marine park network [8]. Maintenance of strict protection of the marine environment around St Francis Island is vitally important to ensure this extremely unique ecosystem stays pristine, and that offshore islands are adequately represented in the network [8]. Replacing an area of such importance would be a concerning precedent that undermines commitments to a CAR network of marine protected areas. The potential new southern section is not a sufficient offset for the unique biodiversity values in the existing sanctuary zone around St Francis island [8].

#### North Neptune Islands Sanctuary Zone:

We oppose the inexplicably large reductions to the North Neptune Island Sanctuary Zone. Proposed amendments would remove 73% of its existing area. There is no proposed offset to address the loss of this significant site. It would open most of the marine environment around the main North Neptune island to commercial fisheries and other disturbances. Offshore islands are already significantly underrepresented in sanctuary zones [8]. Replenishment of depleting fisheries inside the area will be halted and fisheries could also negatively interfere with the shark cage diving industry that is the basis of a growing tourism sector in the region [8].

We recommend the creation of an additional sanctuary zone in the Neptune Islands Group (Ron & Valerie Taylor) Marine Park around the South Neptune Islands (noting the importance in particular of the eastern side) with the broadly the same size and placement as the current North Neptune SZ takes around those islands.

#### Cape du Couedic Sanctuary Zone

We oppose the proposal to large remove - 77% - the existing Cape du Couedic Island Sanctuary Zone. It is particularly important as breeding habitat for a range of species including the Australian sea lion (vulnerable), Australian fur seals, long-nosed fur seals and New Zealand fur seals [8]. The site is a vital refuge for commercial fisheries that are currently depleting or overfished. The wilderness values of this area are a key attraction to the growing tourism industry on Kangaroo Island [8] which has already suffered greatly this year with the bushfires destroying much of the terrestrial park coverage and the pandemic further damaging the tourism industry on island.

We recommend extension of the Seal Bay sanctuary zone (SZ-1) in the Southern Kangaroo Island Marine Park. Specifically, extension of the SZ in a south/easterly direction along the Cape Gantheaume coast to the most southern point of the Cape Gantheaume Wilderness Protection Area, maintaining its southerly extent to the outer boundary of Park 17.

#### Coorong Beach South Sanctuary Zone

Opening up this area for beach fishing will reduce protection. The site has extremely high wilderness value and is one of the few high wave energy beaches in the marine parks network that has full

protection [8]. And inclusion of recreational fishing is contrary to the definition of sanctuary zones as a 'highly protected areas' under the governing state legislation and national and international framework for IUCN Categories I and II [2]. There is increasing evidence that the surf zone is an important part of coastal ecosystems. Allowing beach fishing should be the exception not the rule in a marine parks network where a sanctuary zone comes ashore. An effective and credible network should include no-take areas in the surf zone.

However, we understand the case for beach fishing in this location. In order not to diminish the integrity of sanctuary zoning, recreational fishing access from the beach should be allowed via the use of a Habitat Protection Zone and Special Purpose regulation over this narrow strip in the surf zone (not the use of an SPA overlay on the SZ).

#### Nuyts Reef Sanctuary Zone

We are strongly in support of the extension of a sanctuary zone at Nuyts Reef to include a much larger area. Larger sanctuary zones are more effective than smaller ones for a variety of reasons including reducing edge effects. The expansion also proposes to extend an existing special purpose area along the length of the sanctuary zone to permit shore based recreational fishing activity. As the existing zoning at Nuyts already allows beach fishing, we accept its continuation along the surf zone in the expanded area.

However, as explained above, the zoning prescription of a sanctuary zone with a special purpose area on top is not appropriate for sanctuary zoning. To allow beach fishing adjacent to the sanctuary zone, a Habitat Protection Zone should be declared with special purpose regulation tailored to allow recreational fishing along the surf zone.

We wish to emphasise the importance of surf zone no-take areas and that allowing beach fishing should be the exception, not the rule, in a marine parks network.

#### Glenelg Reef (Metropolitan Shellfish Sanctuary Zone)

We support the expansion of the Encounter Marine Park in order to allow inclusion of this artificial reef in the marine park. The amendment proposes to allow fishing from 2026, which we do not oppose. However, the proposed use of a Sanctuary Zone as a temporary management measure is not appropriate and would further compound the problems created with other proposals in this tranche of amendments which would see the removal of a number of sanctuary zone areas. Sanctuary Zones should be permanent protection measures. In order to protect the area upon creation and then to vary management arrangements in the future, an HPZ should be used along with special purpose regulation suited to the management intentions of the site.

#### Windara Reef Sanctuary Zone

We are in support of the inclusion of Windara Reef in the Upper Spencer Gulf marine park as protection of the reef will positively impact its environmental values [8]. We do not oppose the continuation of recreational fishing in this area. However, as explained above, the zoning prescription of a sanctuary zone with a special purpose area on top is not appropriate. An HPZ should be declared in concert with special purpose regulation which allows recreational fishing.

#### Position on amendments creating Port Stanvac Sanctuary Zone

We are in support of the creation of the Port Stanvac Sanctuary Zone as a regional biodiversity hotspot [8].

## Summary table of response to proposed amendments

(note - for Amendments not commented on we have no submission to make)

Park	Draft Management Plan Amendment number	Description of amendment proposed by Government	Response	Proposed amendment to the Government's amendment
Upper Gulf St Vincent	Amendment 3 – SZ-1	Reduces the size of the Clinton SZ	Oppose	Maintain existing zoning
	Amendment 4 – SZ-5	Creation of Windara SZ in order to allow only recreational fishing.	Oppose the prescription, not the intent	HPZ + Special Purpose regulation to enable beach fishing.
	Amendment 5 – SPA-4	In the event that the SZ is reduced in size, this abolishes the SPA adjacent to the Clinton SZ which enables beach fishing.	Oppose the prescription, not the intent (ie, continued beach fishing is supported)	HPZ + Special Purpose regulation to enable beach fishing.
	Amendment 6 – SPA-5	Creation of SPA over Windara to allow recreational fishing	Oppose the prescription, but not the intent.	HPZ + Special Purpose regulation to enable recreational fishing.
Nuyts Archipelago Marine Park	Amendment 1 – HPZ-1	Reduction in HPZ around Nuyts Reef to enable SZ expansion	Support	
	Amendment 2 – HPZ-6	Expansion of the HPZ around the St Francis Isles as a result of loss of SZ in the northern islands.	Oppose	Maintain existing zoning over the northern islands.
	Amendment 3 – SZ-1	Expansion of the SZ around Nuyts Reef	Support	
	Amendment 4 – SZ-8	Expansion of the SZ southwards and westwards in the St Francis Isles.	Support	
	Amendment 5 – SPA-4	Maintains beach fishing access where the expanded Nuyts Reef SZ comes ashore.	Oppose the prescription, not the intent	HPZ + Special Purpose regulation to enable beach fishing.
Neptune Islands Group (Ron and Valerie)	Amendment 1 – HPZ-1	Expands the HPZ at North Neptune upon reduction of the SZ	Oppose	Maintain existing zoning
	Amendment 2 – SZ-1	Reduces the size of the North Neptune SZ	Oppose	Maintain existing zoning

Taylor) Marine Park				And, put an additional sanctuary zone around the South Neptune Islands (noting the importance in particular of the eastern side) with the broadly the same size and placement as the current North Neptune SZ takes around the north islands.
Western Kangaroo Island Marine Park	Amendment 1 – HPZ-1	Expands the HPZ at Cape De Couedic upon reduction of the SZ	Oppose	Maintain existing zoning
	Amendment 2 – SZ-3	Reduces the Cape De Couedic SZ	Oppose	Maintain existing zoning.  And, with respect of the Southern KI Marine Park - extend the Seal Bay sanctuary zone (SZ-1) in a south/easterly direction along the Cape Gantheaume coast to the most southern point of the Cape Gantheaume Wilderness Protection Area, maintaining its southerly extent to the outer boundary of Park 17.
Upper South East Marine Park	Amendment 1 – SPA-3	Enables beach fishing at the Coorong Beach South SZ	Oppose the prescription, not the intent	HPZ + Special Purpose regulation to enable beach fishing.
Encounter Marine Park	Amendment 1 – GMUZ-1	Expands the Encounter Marine Park.	Support	
	Amendment 2 – HPZ-8	Creation of a new HPZ around the new Glenelg shellfish reef area of protection/expansion of the Encounter Marine Park	Support	
	Amendment 3 – SZ-12	Establishes the Port Stanvac Sanctuary Zone	Support	
	Amendment 4 – SZ-13	Establishes the SZ over the Glenelg shellfish reef area as a means to allow fishing (from 2026)	Oppose the prescription, not the intent	HPZ + Special Purpose regulation to achieve the intended management.
	Amendment 5 – SPA-11	Places a Special Purpose Area over the Glenelg shellfish reef SZ in order to allow fishing (from 2026)	Oppose the prescription, not the intent	HPZ + Special Purpose regulation to achieve the intended management.

**A more detailed submission including supporting information and further analysis on the proposed amendments to individual sanctuary zones follows.**

# Detailed submission

## Background

### The South Australian marine environment

The marine waters off the southern coast of Australia contain an unusually high level of endemism as well as species richness and are recognised as a global marine biodiversity 'hotspot' [10]. Australia's southern seas are particularly rich in unique species because of their isolation and climatic and geological stability over the past 50 million years [17]. More endemic and diverse seaweeds and fish generally have been found here than in any other region [18,19]. The 83 sanctuary zones that form part of the South Australian marine park network represent the eight marine bioregions within state waters and the ecosystems and habitat types found within [10].

In particular, offshore islands are recognised as critical components of the marine park [1]. They are biodiversity hotspots and contain mostly intact plant and animal communities making them important reference sites [1]. Offshore islands are poorly represented in sanctuary zones throughout the marine parks network, due to their importance as fishing grounds [8].

### The marine parks network

The creation of 83 new sanctuary zones within 19 marine parks around the state was the product of 20 years of research and planning and one of the largest and most comprehensive consultation processes in the state's history [1]. The marine park network contributes to the long-term ecological viability of marine and estuarine systems, the maintenance of ecological processes and systems, and the protection of South Australia's marine biodiversity [10]. It was established in 2012 as the South Australian component of a National Representative System of Marine Protected Areas (NRSMPA) agreed upon by all state, territory and national governments [2]. The primary goal is establishing and managing a comprehensive, adequate and representative (CAR) system of marine protected areas [3].

Sanctuary zones are considered to be the key zone type for protection and conservation of biodiversity within the marine parks network due to their high level of protection from threatening processes [10] A sanctuary zone may contain the only known habitat of that type in the reserve network (comprehensive), or be providing adequate refuge to ensure population viability (adequate), or have an example of a common habitat (representative) [10]

As a core part of these efforts to build resilience in fish stocks and preserve the marine wonders of South Australia, sanctuary zones prevent mining and fishing in key biodiversity hotspots, unique and pristine ecosystems that include some of most iconic tourist attractions: cage diving with great whites at the Neptune Islands, visiting sea lions at Kangaroo Island's Seal Bay, and whale watching at the Head of Bight [10].

The SA Marine Parks Five-Year Status Report released in 2017 outlines the activities undertaken and early ecological and socio-economic outcomes observed after five years of implementation of the marine park management plans [1]. An independent report into sanctuary zones was commissioned in 2018 following government commitment to review sanctuary zones[10].

While at least another 5 -10 years are needed to evaluate the outcomes of the marine park network, preliminary trends indicate that marine parks are maintaining biodiversity and ecosystem function with minimal negative socio-economic impact [1,8]. The current ecological sampling program has been confirmed as rigorous and capable of detecting meaningful biological changes and appropriate for assessing the long-term effectiveness of the marine park network [1,8].

### Community support for marine parks in SA

Public support for marine parks in South Australia to protect the marine plants and animals has remained high over a 10-year period since 2006 with support at 91% in 2017<sup>1</sup> [1]. Government surveys suggests that opposition to marine parks is decreasing. The number of people who in general are not in favour of marine parks to protect marine plants and animals has reduced from 10% to only 3% since 2015 [1].

Surveys of communities in regions where cuts to sanctuary zones are proposed show similar positive trends in support for marine parks in most surveys conducted in 2017 [8]. For example, while support for marine parks in the local region by residents of West Eyre over the period 2013 - 2017 has fluctuated around 70%, it increased to 82% in 2017, moving closer to the levels of broader public support for marine parks<sup>2</sup> [8].

### Benefits of Marine Parks

Marine parks and in particular sanctuary zones are vital management tools that ensure healthy oceans and the conservation of the marine environment and its resources. They are now accepted globally as essential for healthy ocean ecosystems, a boon to tourism and a powerful tool for sustainable fisheries [20–23].

The needs for significant expansion of sanctuary zones to ensure ocean health.

High-level protection of South Australian oceans in sanctuary zones covers at most 6% of state waters. This falls way below the levels of protection needed to address depletion of fisheries and ensure the health of our oceans. In 2010, 7517 km<sup>2</sup> (12.5% of state waters) were included in the original sanctuary zone scenarios provided as part of the South Australian government planning processes. By the time final zoning was decided, these were drastically reduced to 3014 km<sup>2</sup> [10] compromising the comprehensive, adequate and representative system of protection.

Scientific evidence demonstrating the need for much higher levels of protection is strong [14]. A review of 144 studies in 2016 found that on average 37% high-level protection is needed to achieve goals such as: protect biodiversity, provide connectivity, avoid species collapse and ensure sustainable fisheries [14]. International scientific reviews in 2003 (40 studies) and 2010 (33 studies) confirmed these higher figures and suggested that 20-40% coverage is needed [24,25]. On the basis of this evidence, the IUCN World Conservation Congress passed a resolution in 2014 calling on nations to protect at least 30% of

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<sup>1</sup> The number of people who, in general, are not in favour of marine parks to protect marine plants and animals has reduced from 10% to only 3% since 2015 [1].

<sup>2</sup> Overall submissions on the establishment of the Isle St Francis Sanctuary Zone demonstrated overwhelming support for expanding upon rather than reducing the conservation outcomes in the region. Within these 7181 (83%) suggested changes to zoning to increase the conservation outcome, 5 (0.06%) agreed with the proposed zoning entirely, with only 161 (2%) suggesting changes to zoning to reduce impacts on current uses.



the ocean in fully protected marine protected areas 'to reverse existing adverse impacts, increase resilience to climate change and sustain long-term ocean health' [11]. Within Australia, guidelines reflecting the consensus of leading scientists confirmed a minimum of 30% of our oceans in high level protection of marine sanctuaries [26].

#### Economic values of marine parks

The total economic value of marine protected areas is impossible to calculate as the diverse ecosystem services they safeguard in many instances are priceless. Our oceans provide many benefits that can't be bought or sold such as climate regulation, nutrient cycling, oxygen production and coastal protection. A partial set of marine ecosystem services were valued a decade ago at more than \$25 billion a year [27]. The largest was climate regulation valued at \$16 billion. More recently, Australian seagrasses alone were estimated to provide \$45 billion a year in carbon-dioxide-absorption services [28].

#### The multiple benefits of sanctuary zones

Sanctuary zones have a range of benefits that are not only limited to conservation and ecosystem services but include recreation, boosting tourism and importantly, provision of refuge for marine animals to retreat for breeding, caring for young and growing to adulthood [16]. They also help maintain fish stocks for both commercial and recreational fishing activities.

#### **Social benefits**

Protected natural areas have multiple indirect benefits that are well supported by evidence and are well-known to communities who live by them. Public support for marine parks in South Australia to protect the marine plants and animals has remained high over a 10 year period since 2006 with support at 91% in 2017 [10] This support reflects the important contribution protected areas make to community wellbeing and connectedness, fostering a positive 'sense of place' which is correlated with a sense of ownership, stewardship, care for each other and the local surroundings [29–32].

#### **Benefits to Fisheries**

Marine protected areas and especially sanctuary zones serve as refuges for overexploited fish species. One of the best documented benefits of highly protected areas is the recovery of depleted fisheries and in many cases this leads to the spill-over of fish and larvae into nearby waters open to fishing [21,24,33–36]. A review of studies of 124 marine reserves in 29 countries found that on average and within a decade highly protected areas achieve 21% higher species richness, 28% bigger organisms and 6.7 times the fish biomass compared to unprotected areas nearby [33,37]. Partially protected marine protected areas offer smaller benefits with fish biomass reaching an average of being 1.8 times greater than in unprotected areas [37]. Bigger fish produce disproportionately more eggs than smaller fish. As a result, one hectare of a highly protected reserve produces on average at least 5 times as many fish offspring as an equivalent unprotected hectare [35]. For this reason marine protected areas can be seen as 'fish banks' - 'an investment in future prosperity rather than a foregone economic opportunity' [38].

Scientific studies on the effects of sanctuary zones highlight the significant positive benefits which include:

- increases in the abundance, individual sizes, diversity and overall biomass of sea life
- increased ability of local marine life to reproduce
- spill-over of larvae and/or adults into unprotected areas

- improvements in ecosystems and habitats, that is, healthy natural balances are restored [1].

Regardless of a high global ranking for fisheries sustainability the catches from Australian wild fisheries decreased by 31% over the past decade [22]. The biomass of large fish observed on underwater transects decreased significantly over the same period on fished reefs (36% decline) and in marine park zones that allow limited fishing (18% decline), but with a negligible overall change in no-fishing marine reserves [22].

Many of the commercial fisheries seeking to access areas of existing sanctuary zones have long term (pre marine park) and ongoing trends of overfishing and depleting fish stock [5–7]. The important habitat and especially the spawning, nursery and juvenile sites within sanctuary zones have the potential to play a significant role in the replenishment of these depleted commercial fish species.

While insufficient time has passed to make broad overarching conclusions significant improvements in fish stocks are already evident in selected sanctuary zones across South Australia in the last five years [10]. The mean biomass of large fish species recorded as part of government monitoring programs were found to be generally higher inside sanctuary zones compared to outside areas [10]. A major recovery of depleted rock lobster populations has been detected inside the Cape du Couedic Sanctuary Zone [8,9]. Evidence also already demonstrates that species such as the blue groper, harlequin fish and blue devil (which are all considered vulnerable) have found refuge in the Sponge Gardens Sanctuary Zone off Kangaroo Islands [8].

#### **Positive tourism outcomes**

Tourism has grown in and around sanctuary zones, including those within Neptune Islands Marine Park (North Neptune Sanctuary Zone) and West Kangaroo Island (Corong Beach South Sanctuary Zone) [1,2]. Since 2014, four new nature-based tourism operators have commenced operations inside marine parks [10]. The shark cage diving industry has continued to grow at the Neptune Islands Marine Park with the industry expanding from under 2000 to close to 10,000 visitors per year [10].

#### **Socio-Economic Impacts of existing marine parks and sanctuary zones**

The marine park network established in 2012 was carefully designed to minimise potential negative impacts on marine industries such as fishing, shipping and aquaculture, and to result in positive socio-economic benefits by providing opportunities for education, public appreciation and nature-based tourism [1].

Government reports confirm the success of the current marine park design in avoiding negative socio-economic impacts, in particular on regional communities and commercial fisheries [1,8]. Results from comparative analysis<sup>3</sup> across large, medium and small towns in proximity to sanctuary zones indicates that the marine park zoning has not been a contributing factor affecting the socio-economic performance of any of these towns [1,8].

Key findings of the socio-economic monitoring to date are:

- the price of local fish has remained stable and commercial fisheries have maintained their catch and value;
- recreational fishing participation rates have remained stable;

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<sup>3</sup> Indicators included population, labour force, unemployment, property prices and school enrolments.

- regional house prices have continued to increase, and
- industries such as aquaculture and shipping which were accommodated through the marine parks planning process and zoning arrangements have continued to operate unaffected by marine parks [1].

The Government's 5-year review **concluded that there was no evidence of a negative regional impact that correlates with the time of implementation of marine park management plans [1].**

#### **Minimal impacts on commercial fisheries**

Fishing restrictions in sanctuary zones were put in place in 2014. Over \$19 million was provided to commercial fisheries as part of a voluntary catch/effort reduction program. This deal aimed to recalibrate fisheries based on the loss of access to areas within the marine park and ensure that commercial fisheries did not suffer economically from the changes [1].

The voluntary buybacks achieved through the SA Marine Parks Commercial Fisheries Voluntary Catch/Effort Reduction Program produced reductions greater than the targeted amounts for all of the fisheries involved and was confirmed as successful in meeting its objectives [10]. Analysis of individual fishery trends such as catch per unit of effort, licence values and economic rent show no obvious change since 2014 in all the affected fisheries [10]. This indicates that **the Marine Park zoning has not been a significant contributing factor affecting the sustainability of any of these fisheries [10].** Monitoring of socio-economic indicators since this time have confirmed predictions of maintaining or improving the pre-marine parks trend [1].

The independent assessment of impacts commissioned by government highlights the marginal nature of benefits to fisheries across the board<sup>4</sup>. It also states that 'the economic benefit of proposed changes for quota and non-quota fisheries would be distributed amongst fewer participants and with less employment or other regional benefit because of the buyback undertaken for the establishment of the sanctuary zones' [8].

Evidence from across the globe also suggests long term benefits will flow to the commercial fisheries by maintaining (and further expanding) the existing network of sanctuary zones [22,33].

**The diverse economic, environmental and social benefits created by these sanctuary zones vastly outweigh the marginal economic returns to a few that would occur by removing key biodiversity hotspots from sanctuary zones.**

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<sup>4</sup> The report states '(s)hort term small increases in catch rate, and over time the fisheries would be expected to stabilise at the same marginally higher level of catch and effort as if the SZ had not been implemented for non-quota fisheries such as Marine Scalefish, there is likely to be a marginal increase in overall catch because of access to more fishing grounds'.

## Submissions regarding fishing in sanctuary zones

**Summary of proposed changes:** Proposed amendments would allow fishing into a range of new and existing sanctuary zones.

The precedent of allowing any extractive activities in sanctuary zoning is a deviation from agreed national and international frameworks for highly protected areas, as well as the definition of sanctuary zones in the Marine Parks Act, 2007. Sanctuary zones are extremely small sections of the marine environment where 'the removal or harm of plants, animals or marine products' is prohibited [3]. These sites are by definition 'no take zones' that provide vital feeding, breeding, nursery and resting areas for a range of plants and animals [14]. Sanctuary zones are Category I and II 'highly protected zones' under the IUCN Categorisation of protected area that has been adopted in Australia's National Representative System of Protected areas and the objectives of these categories are clearly incompatible with any extractive activities, including fishing.

On this basis we oppose any overlay of special purpose areas on sanctuary zones as incompatible with the relevant state legislation as well as national and international frameworks. To ensure the integrity of the zoning system, areas where fishing is proposed (eg: beach fishing or fishing of artificial reefs) should not be zoned sanctuary. Habitat Protection Zoning with a Special Purpose regulation should be used to achieve the management prescription desired.

## Detailed submission on amendments to individual sanctuary zones

Commentary and position statements on changes to individual marine park are in the following section of this submission.

### A. Proposed cuts to sanctuary zones in individual marine parks

#### Overview:

Cuts to existing sanctuary zones will reintroduce a range of threatening activities to areas of high conservation value. These may include commercial and recreational fishing and other extractive uses such as aquaculture, coastal developments, dredging, active surveying and wastewater discharge from vessels and desalination plants [8].

The environmental values of the sanctuary zone where cuts are proposed are acknowledged as especially significant [8]. Isles of St Francis, North Neptune Islands and Cape du Couedic sanctuary zones are noted as particular biodiversity hotspots [8,10]. These three sites protect offshore islands which are poorly represented in existing sanctuary zones [8]. They include known fish spawning grounds and nurseries, breeding locations for rare and threatened marine birds and mammals, as well as sites selected for the government's long-term ecological monitoring program based on their outstanding biodiversity values [8].

Proposed cuts negatively impact how the marine park network satisfies the criteria for a 'comprehensive, adequate and representative system of marine parks by reducing the area of habitats and features which are afforded the highest level of biodiversity protection and conservation.

Reductions in the area of sanctuary zones will reduce the effectiveness of the marine park network at protecting and conserving marine biodiversity and habitats by:

- directly impacting species captured by extractive use, by their selective removal, potential negative impacts to their population structure and reproductive success
- indirectly affecting species that are reliant on captured species for food, shelter or other services and directly impacting other species through disturbance
- compromising trophic relationships and food webs with flow on effects to ecosystem function and resilience
- increasing the risk of pollution and the spread of disease and marine pests
- reducing the effectiveness of the Government's monitoring program which is currently based on sanctuary zones and the protection afforded by them
- altering the balance of habitats and features represented in the different zone types of the park network, in particular for offshore islands [8].

Clinton Wetlands Sanctuary Zone (Upper Gulf St Vincent Marine Park)

**Summary of proposed changes:** Amendments to the Clinton Wetlands Sanctuary Zone propose the removal of 80% of the total area of the site. The southern part of the existing sanctuary zone is to be designated a Habitat Protection Zone to allow fishing.

#### **Position on proposed amendments to Clinton Wetlands Sanctuary Zone**

We oppose cuts to the protection provided by the Clinton Wetlands Sanctuary Zone. This site provides a vital refuge for nursing, spawning and juvenile development for a number of commercial fisheries that are currently overfished and/or depleting. It is a unique and highly biodiverse ecosystem that cannot be replaced elsewhere in the marine park network. Cuts to this sanctuary to enable commercial fishing is extremely short sighted and is likely to be detrimental to the long-term sustainability of commercial fisheries, as well as ecological health of the region.

#### **Important values in the Clinton Wetlands**

The Clinton Wetlands are a coastal wetland of national significance in the Gulf St Vincent Bioregion and contain extensive intertidal and dense shallow seagrass meadows that provide important nursery, breeding, feeding and possible spawning habitat for blue swimmer crabs, western king prawns, whiting, garfish and snapper [8]. The area in which the Clinton Wetlands Sanctuary Zone is located is recognised as an important nursery habitat for a range of commercial fish species. Juvenile King George whiting settle into seagrass beds for 2-3 years before migrating south down Gulf St. Vincent to deep water breeding areas [8]. Likewise, it is an important nursery area and habitat for juvenile yellow-fin whiting, a fished species, which are primarily found in the upper half of SA's gulfs [8].

The area is home to the sapphire thornbill (vulnerable) which is thought to be endemic to the northern shores of Gulf St Vincent. The saltmarsh in this zone is the most significant undisturbed area of saltmarsh in the region. The saltmarsh, mangrove and intertidal habitats provide important nesting and

feeding grounds for resident shorebirds, as well as feeding grounds for migratory shorebirds whose habitats are required to be protected under international treaties [8]. The zone partially overlays Clinton Conservation Park, establishing a protected corridor between the land and sea [8].

**We oppose reductions to the Clinton Wetlands Sanctuary Zone for the following reasons:**

It is a unique and irreplaceable habitat that is necessary for a comprehensive, adequate and representative network of protected areas.

Proposed changes would compromise the CAR system by reducing the protection for a habitat type that is currently unique in the network [8]. The Clinton Wetlands Sanctuary Zone contains the only example of a shallow seagrass meadow located at the top of an inverse estuary gulf in the marine park network [8]. The result would be a reduced effectiveness of the zone to protect and conserve marine biological diversity and marine habitats.

It is vital breeding and nursery habitat for fish species that have been overfished and depleted by commercial fishing.

The Clinton wetlands are a vital refuge for marine life and in particular as an important nursery, breeding, feeding and spawning habitat for many commercial fish species [8]. Opening the Clinton Wetlands Sanctuary Zone would have a negative impact on commonly targeted fish species including, Kings George whiting, snapper, blue swimmer crab and garfish [8].

This is especially critical in light of historic and ongoing overfishing and depletion of fish stocks of commercial fish species that rely upon the sanctuary zone for reproduction. The following species are of particular relevance:

- Snapper (*Pagrus auratus*) is the most significant commercially and recreational targeted fish species recorded in this sanctuary zone [8]. There has been an 87% reduction in snapper stocks in Gulf St Vincent in the 5 years preceding 2019 and this fishery is acknowledged as being overfished and depleting [39].
- King George Whiting was viewed as 'transitional depleting' in the area in 2014 and in 2018 [7].
- Southern garfish in the region were depleted in 2014 and in 2018 were deemed to be overfished. Recreational fishers advocated for the sanctuary zone to assist with garfish replenishment.
- Blue swimmer crabs in the Gulf St. Vincent are a distinct biological population [40]. They were considered overfished in 2012, however since the establishment of the sanctuary zone and other management restrictions, harvesting in surrounding areas has been re-assessed as sustainable [41].

An offset of an equivalent zone is not possible, in particular considering the area's importance as habitat for commercially important fish species such as snapper and garfish which are separate breeding populations and would not benefit from additional protection in other areas outside of the Gulf St. Vincent region [8]. It is difficult at this stage to estimate the flow on effects to overall ecosystem function, but removal of commercial species will likely have some adverse impacts on broader biodiversity conservation [8].

Negative impacts on habitats that are sensitive to disturbance:

The Clinton Wetland has several habitat types that are sensitive to disturbance such as seagrass, mangrove and saltmarsh along with associated shore and migratory bird communities [8].

Reduced ability to assess the effectiveness of the marine park network conserving marine biological diversity and marine habitats.

Opening the sanctuary zone to fishing will reduce the ability to assess the effectiveness of the marine park network [8]. Clinton Wetlands has been selected as a priority sanctuary zone for monitoring due to the extensive upper gulf seagrass meadows contained within it [8]. Opening it to fishing would reduce the utility of monitoring this zone as removal of biomass would change the ecosystem function and thus our understanding of how intact marine ecosystems function [8].

Harm to non-target species by fishing gear/activity: Dolphins commonly use the area and there have been mortalities associated with marine scale nets prior to the sanctuary zone becoming declared [8]. It is likely that dolphin mortality via entanglement would increase if net fishing was allowed in the sanctuary zone [8].

Isle St Francis Sanctuary Zone (Nuyts Archipelago Marine Park)

**Summary of changes:** The amendments propose the removal of 61 km<sup>2</sup> of the most ecologically significant areas from the northern part of the sanctuary zone around St Francis Island. The area would be rezoned as a HPZ to allow fishing. An expansion of the southern part of the sanctuary zone to encompass a larger 177 km<sup>2</sup> area including Hart Island and Cannan reefs. Government research shows that despite the addition of a larger area to the sanctuary zone, the changes result in a net conservation loss.

#### **Position on the amendments to Isle St Francis Sanctuary Zone**

We support efforts to expand sanctuary zones and welcome the expansion of the southern boundary and inclusion of Hart Island and Cannan reefs into this sanctuary zone. However, we oppose the removal of the northern section that contains extremely high biodiversity and conservation value. The site is unique, pristine and irreplaceable across the marine park network. Maintenance of strict protection of the marine environment around St Francis Island is vitally important to ensure this extremely unique ecosystem stays pristine, and that offshore islands are adequately represented in the network [8]. Replacing an area of such importance would be a concerning precedent that undermines commitments to a CAR network of marine protected areas. The potential new southern section is not a sufficient offset for the unique biodiversity values in the existing sanctuary zone around St Francis island.

#### **Values of the area:**

Isles of St Francis Sanctuary Zone is viewed as a biodiversity 'hot spot' within the marine parks network and is part of the Murat Bioregion. It is recognised as an 'extremely unique' site that is different to any other island chain ecosystem in the state due to extremely high biodiversity in near pristine condition [8]. The zone and surrounding area is recognised as having 'wilderness value' [8]. It lies in the path of several water masses (warm Leeuwin Current and warm GAB plumes and the cool coastal upwelling) that have a major impact on the habitats and biota in the area [8]. The site contains rocky cliffs, sandy beaches, reefs, seagrass meadows and unmapped deep-water habitats [8].

The Isles of St Francis Sanctuary Zone has some of the most diverse fish communities (including the highest number of species recorded per dive survey and the 3rd highest number of fish species overall compared to other sanctuary zones surveyed). It also has the 2nd highest abundance of large fish (<200mm) and 4th highest abundance of macro-invertebrates [8]. The area contains important breeding

and haul-out sites for the vulnerable Australian sea lion, several uncommon macroalgal species and abundant communities of sessile invertebrates such as sponges, ascidians and soft corals [8].

**Important features of the Sanctuary Zone include:**

Habitat for seabirds:

The area protects populations of resident coastal shore birds as well as seabirds including state endangered ospreys, rare Cape Barren geese, little penguins and the rare rock parrot [8]. Migratory oceanic birds such as albatross, prion and petrel species frequent the area. The area is a significant breeding area for short-tailed shearwaters and white-faced storm petrels [8].

Australian sea lions

There are 11 Australian sea lion breeding sites in the Nuyts Archipelago Marine Park, including, Fenelon and West Islands within the Isles of St Francis Sanctuary Zone [8]. Total estimated annual pup production for all of Nuyts Archipelago Marine Park is about 509 [8]. 19 pups were counted on Fenelon Island in 2015 and 20 pups were counted on West Island in 2015 [8].

**We oppose reductions to the Isle St Francis Sanctuary Zone for the following reasons:**

A significant net loss of protection of important environmental values.

Despite an overall increase in size of the sanctuary zone the net impact on environmental values would be negative. Government commissioned reports conclude that the significant loss of St Francis Island as a wilderness area within the sanctuary zone would not be offset by the inclusion of Hart Island and Cannan Reefs. There would still be a net loss of wilderness value. The proposed extension to the south to include Cannan Reefs and Hart Island does not offer the equivalent habitat or biodiversity to that lost around St Francis Island.

The loss of a unique and irreplaceable habitat that is necessary for a comprehensive, adequate and representative network of protected areas.

Downgrading the zoning of the marine environment surrounding St Francis Island would compromise the CAR system by reducing protection for unique offshore island habitats. Specifically, the Isles of St Francis Sanctuary Zone is a pristine ecosystem and one of the only examples of an entire offshore island archipelago captured within a sanctuary zone. It also represents an important transitional zone between eastern and western distributed species and habitats due to the influence of the warm Leeuwin currents [8].

Reduced ability to assess the effectiveness of the marine park network conserving marine biological diversity and marine habitats.

Due to its extremely high conservation values, a number of scientific monitoring sites are located within the Isles of St Francis Sanctuary Zone as part of the Marine Parks Monitoring, Evaluation and Reporting Program [8].

Negative impacts on important habitats including spawning locations for commercial fisheries and species of conservation concern.

The variety of habitats within this site provide spawning locations for southern rock lobster, Maori octopus, greenlip abalone, blacklip abalone, purple sea urchin, sea sweep, western blue groper, baitworm, king scallop, queen scallop and yellow-eye mullet [8]. The area provides important habitat for



several shark and fish species, including species of conservation concern such as the white shark (vulnerable), western blue groper, western blue devil, harlequin fish, and blue throated wrasse [8]. The black cowrie, a shell species of conservation concern is found within the zone. This species is under threat due to popularity in the shell trade [8]. Protected within the zone is Petrel Bay which is considered an important breeding area for molluscs [8].

#### Negative impacts on targeted species and broader ecosystem functions from commercial fishing.

The existing sanctuary zone provides an important refuge from the impacts of commercial fisheries. Fishing, in general, poses a threat to ecosystem function by (i) selective removal of species/size cohorts, (ii) increasing the risk of spreading marine pests and disease and (iii) potentially disturbing breeding colonies of marine mammals and birds [8].

Amendments opening the Isles of St Francis to fishing would have negative impact on those species commonly targeted including, rock lobster, abalone, Kings George whiting, snapper and a range of reef species. Many reef fish species (e.g. blue devils and western blue groper) are site attached, slow growing and have low fecundity and are therefore very vulnerable to overfishing [8]. For example. the Western Zone Blacklip Abalone Fishery is classified as 'transitional depleting', reflecting the importance of the refuge this sanctuary provides for replenishing harvested species [7].

Conservation of these species may be compromised by allowing fishing in the Isles of St Francis Sanctuary Zone (especially if fishing pressure increases in the future) with negative flow on effects for biodiversity conservation and ecosystem function [8]. Populations of other target species such as lobster and abalone would be reduced and would affect the trophic structure within the reef ecosystem which would have flow-on effects to ecosystem function [8].

#### Removal of other species caught as bycatch

A number of species are captured as bycatch and in many cases damage from hooks or barotrauma reduce their survival rate when returned to the water [8]. Opening sections of the current zone to fishing will increase the mortality of fish caught as bycatch [8]. The Rock Lobster fishery poses a real threat to bycatch of Australian sea lions [8].

#### Harm to non-target species by fishing gear/activity

Dolphins and whales commonly use or pass through this site and long nosed fur seals and Australian sea lions commonly haul out [8]. There are three active state endangered white-bellied sea eagle and one active state endangered osprey nest located on the Island of St Francis [8]. Opening the zone to fishing will increase vessel traffic and the use of fishing gear potentially increasing levels of disturbance and risk of entanglement/ entrapment for these species, especially Australian sea lions (vulnerable) [8].

It is also possible that other activities such as offshore cage aquaculture could occur in the location of the Isles St Francis Sanctuary Zone due to the shelter provided by the islands [8].

#### Rare and vulnerable species that are sensitive to disturbance have nesting sites and territory on St Francis Island.

The marine environment around St Francis island that is proposed to be excluded from the sanctuary zone provides vital habitat to a range of vulnerable and endangered species [8].The state rare osprey and vulnerable white-bellied sea eagles are known to have territories around the Isles of St Francis and

are particularly sensitive to human disturbance[8]. There are three active sea eagle and one active osprey nest located on the Island of St Francis [8].

Reduced ability to assess the effectiveness of the marine park network at conserving marine biological diversity and marine habitats.

Opening this area will reduce the ability to assess the effectiveness of the marine park network [8]. The Isles of St Francis Sanctuary Zone has been selected as a priority for monitoring due to the representative nearshore reef habitats it contains and high biodiversity values [8]. Opening it to fishing would reduce the utility of monitoring these sites as removal of biomass by fishing would change the ecosystem function and thus our understanding of whether marine biodiversity was being conserved [8].

North Neptune Sanctuary Zone in Neptune Islands Group (Ron and Valerie Taylor) Marine Park

**Summary of changes:** Proposed amendments remove over 70% of the original sanctuary zone and replace it with a Habitat Protection Zone to allow for fishing. The size of the sanctuary zone would decrease from 34km<sup>2</sup> to 9km<sup>2</sup>.

**Position on proposed amendments to the North Neptune Island Sanctuary Zone**

We oppose the cuts to the North Neptune Island Sanctuary Zone. Proposed amendments will remove over 70% of its existing area. There is no proposed offset to address the loss of this significant site. It would open most of the marine environment around the main North Neptune island to commercial fisheries and other disturbance. Offshore islands are already significantly underrepresented in sanctuary zones. Replenishment of depleting fisheries inside the area will be halted. Fisheries could also negatively interfere with the shark cage diving industry that is the basis of a growing tourism sector in the region.

We propose a new sanctuary zone around the South Neptune Islands, using broadly the same size and placement as the current North Neptune SZ takes around the north islands. We note in particular the importance of the eastern side of the South Neptune Islands and their protected 'cove' – created by the two main South islands.

**Values of the area:**

The North Neptune Islands Sanctuary Zone is located in the Neptune Islands Group Marine Park in the Eyre Bioregion. It contains steep cliffs running into deep water as well as a protected bay with seagrass and sand bottom. The area receives warm water from the Leeuwin Current and cool water from Flinders current allowing for high biodiversity [8]. The area is ecologically important and represents an entire offshore island and its associated intertidal and subtidal habitats [8]. Offshore islands are not represented well in sanctuary zones throughout the marine parks network, due to their importance as fishing grounds [8].

The North Neptune Islands contain half of the breeding population of long-nosed fur seals in South Australia. The area is also a breeding colony for the vulnerable Australian sea lion [8]. The Australian sea lion breeding site within the North Neptune Islands has an estimated annual pup production of about 9 pups [8]. Short-tailed shearwaters breed on 3 Islands within the Neptune Islands Group Marine Park,

including an estimated population of about 18,900 on North Neptune Island [8]. White-bellied sea eagles are also known to nest in the North Neptune Islands Sanctuary Zone [8].

Seabirds protected under international treaties roost and nest on the islands [8]. The area also provides breeding habitat for the little penguin, rare rock parrot, rare sooty oystercatcher, rare Cape Barren goose, endangered white-bellied sea eagle and endangered fairy tern [8].

The site provides habitat for the endangered coastal stingaree, which is endemic to South Australia and is a spawning or nursery habitat for southern rock lobster, Maori octopus, greenlip abalone, blacklip abalone, purple sea urchin, western blue groper and sea sweep [8]. The area is a world-renowned viewing area for the white shark (*Carcharodon carcharias*) and ecotourism is important to the area and the tourism industry has seen significant growth in the last decade [8].

The Neptune Islands Group is a critical and rare part of the network. The North Neptune Island sanctuary is the only significant protected island system in the network in the transition zone between the protected waters of Spencer Gulf and the open sea.

The South Neptune Islands are currently unprotected, despite being critical habitat for large mature breeding age female white sharks and should have high level protection. The South Neptune Islands are an important asset for the tourism industry.

### **We oppose reductions to the North Neptune Island Sanctuary Zone for the following reasons**

The amendments will reduce the effectiveness of the zone to protect and conserve marine biological diversity and marine habitats.

#### It is a unique and irreplaceable habitat that is necessary for a comprehensive, adequate and representative network of protected areas

The North Neptune Island Sanctuary Zone represents the only example of a remote offshore island ecosystem in the lower Eyre region with complete representation of intertidal and subtidal habitats. Changing/downgrading the zoning would compromise the CAR system by reducing the protection for these remote offshore island habitats.

#### The existing sanctuary zone supports a growing tourism sector

Visitor numbers to the islands have increased from 1,127 in 2008/09 to 9,807 in 2016/17 [8]. The 9,907 shark cage diving patrons in 2016/17 led to an estimated 19,614 visitor nights, \$6.8 million of expenditure on tour fees and \$1.5 million of other expenditure in the Eyre Peninsula region [8]. The contribution of this activity to Gross regional product was \$7.4 million, including \$3.5 million from flow-on effects. The contribution to employment was around 67 full time jobs, including 26 from flow-on effects [8]. Fourteen percent of their respondent to a survey were influenced by the sanctuary zone (20 per cent by the Marine Park) when choosing to visit Port Lincoln [8].

Opening up part of this area to fishing activities could negatively impact on tourism activities. Shark long-line fishing in the area can be expected to lead to negative interactions with shark cage diving patrons. Broader fishing activities that would likely occur, including rock lobster and abalone, may affect the wilderness experience.

### Negative impacts on fisheries

It is likely that the rock lobster, abalone and MSF Fisheries resume fishing the area and could lead to additional depletion of fish stocks replenished within the sanctuary zone [8]. Opening parts of the North Neptune Islands would have a negative impact on rock lobster and abalone populations [8]. Abalone stock are still facing significant pressures and deemed to be a depleting stock. Spawning or nursery habitat for southern rock lobster, Maori octopus, greenlip abalone, blacklip abalone, purple sea urchin, western blue groper and sea sweep are located inside the existing sanctuary zone and are critical habitat that ensures long term sustainability of these fisheries [8]. While studies have not been completed in this area, based on studies in Cape du Couedic Sanctuary Zone, it is predicted that southern rock lobster populations have increased markedly with the removal of fishing [8]. If fishing recommenced it is expected that lobster biomass and abundance would reduce to the levels that existed prior to establishment of the protected areas with related impacts on ecosystem function and biodiversity.

Rock lobster, greenlip abalone and blacklip abalone, when each considered in isolation, are predicted to increase in size and abundance over the next 20 years inside the zone [8]. Bight redfish, bluethroat wrasse, harlequin fish, swallowtail, sea sweep and western blue groper are predicted to maintain size and/or abundance inside the zone [8].

The sanctuary zone addresses the following threats to conservation values from the activities of these fisheries. The rock lobster and abalone fisheries pose a threat (medium) to their respective target species [8]. The rock lobster fishery poses a threat (medium) to bycatch of Australian sea lions. Fishing, in general, poses a threat (low) to ecosystem function by (i) selective removal of species/size cohorts, (ii) increasing the risk of spreading marine pests and disease and (iii) potentially disturbing breeding colonies of marine mammals and birds [8].

### Removal of other species caught as bycatch

A number of species are captured as bycatch and in many cases damage from hooks or barotrauma reduce their survival rate when returned to the water, especially if fishing pressure increases in the future [8]. Opening part of the zone to fishing will increase the mortality of fish caught as bycatch [8]. The flow on effects of fish mortality associated with bycatch on overall marine biodiversity and ecosystem function is not well understood [8].

### Harm to non-target species by fishing gear/activity

The North Neptune Islands Sanctuary Zone is home to one of the largest breeding colonies of the long-nosed fur seal and is also a breeding colony of the Australian sea lion (vulnerable). Dolphins and whale commonly use or pass through the area [8]. There is one active state endangered white-bellied sea eagle nest located on the cliffs of North Neptune Island [8]. Opening part of the zone to fishing will increase vessel traffic and the use of fishing gear potentially increasing levels of disturbance [8]. The site provides additional protection for white sharks from accidental capture by commercial shark fishers while the sharks are resident within the zone [8]. The site has several habitat types that are sensitive to disturbance such as seagrass and reef and associated fauna communities [8].

**Summary of changes:** Proposed amendments cut more than 75% from the eastern side of the sanctuary zone, replacing it with a habitat protection zone to allow fishing. The size of the sanctuary zone would be reduced from 28km<sup>2</sup> to 6km<sup>2</sup>.

**Position on proposed amendments to the Cape du Couedic Sanctuary Zone**

We oppose the proposal to cut 75% of the existing Cape du Couedic Island Sanctuary Zone. It is particularly important as breeding habitat for a range of species including the Australian sea lion (vulnerable), Australian fur seals and long-nosed fur seals and New Zealand fur seal. It is also a vital refuge for commercial fisheries that are currently depleting or overfished. The wilderness values of this area are a key attraction to the growing tourism industry on the Kangaroo island.

We recommend extension of the Seal Bay sanctuary zone (SZ-1) in the **Southern Kangaroo Island Marine Park**. Specifically, extension of the SZ in a south/easterly direction along the Cape Gantheaume coast to the most southern point of the Cape Gantheaume Wilderness Protection Area, maintaining its southerly extent to the outer boundary of Park 17.

**Values of the area:**

The Cape du Couedic in the Western Kangaroo Island Marine Park conserves a unique coastal environment with high biodiversity and is within the Eyre Bioregion [8]. It is located in an area with a seasonal upwelling that provides nutrients to support complex food webs [8]. The sanctuary zone protects complex reefs extending at least 50 m deep as well as exposed bedrock, sand and soft bottom habitats [8]. This productive area supports marine mammals, crustaceans, molluscs and a number of fish species [8].

The site is important as only two known South Australian breeding sites for Australian fur seals, a breeding site for long-nosed fur seals and a breeding and haul out site for the Australian sea lion (vulnerable) [8]. A significant New Zealand fur seal breeding site is located within this zone, with up to eight breeding locations. It is also a nesting area for the endangered white-bellied sea eagle and a breeding ground for seabirds such as Pacific gulls and crested and fairy terns [8]. It contains the red macroalgae *anotrichium towinna* and *leptoklonion fastigiatum* which have a limited range of distribution [8].

In terms of fish species richness, Cape du Couedic has the 6th highest number of mean fish species recorded and the 3<sup>rd</sup> high number of large fish (>200mm) present when compared to other sites that have been assessed [8].

Tourism linked to the wilderness value of this area is of particular significance to the local economy. 214,000 people visit Kangaroo Island each year and nearly 80% of them visit Cape du Couedic, making it the highest visited tourism destination on Kangaroo Island [8]. Visitors to Cape du Couedic are provided with a number of wildlife viewing opportunities, including a colony of long-nosed fur seals, white-bellied sea eagles, fairy terns, oystercatchers and a wide variety of other sea and shorebirds can be seen feeding or roosting [8]. On a seasonal basis southern right whales and humpback whales can be seen migrating through the sanctuary zone.

An estimated 171,200 tourists visit the Cape du Couedic precinct annually [8]. The local expenditure associated with this visitation is around \$29.1 million, 33% of expenditure by overnight visitors to Kangaroo Island [8]. Visitation attributable to the Cape du Couedic precinct in 2016/17 were significant. The contribution to gross regional product was \$22.2 million, including \$8.2 million from flow-on effects. The contribution to employment was 308 full time jobs, including 75 from flow-on effects [8].

The Southern Kangaroo Island Marine Park is home to iconic Seal Bay, a jewel of South Australia's natural heritage. With deep-water reefs, exposed cliffs and rocky headlands the park features one of Australia's most important breeding sites for endangered Australian sea lions. The biggest threat they face is commercial fishing, particularly entanglement in craypots and shark nets.

### Mammals

The Western Kangaroo Island Marine Park is used by a number of marine mammal species, including southern right whale, pygmy blue whale, sperm whale, pygmy sperm whale, dwarf sperm whale, pigmy right whale, beaked whale, short-finned pilot whale, false killer whale, Risso's dolphin, southern right whale dolphin, Australian sea lion, long-nosed fur seal (formerly Long-nosed fur seal), Australian fur seal, common dolphin and bottlenose dolphin [8]. Some of these species are resident while others are more transient, visiting to rest, breed and/or feed. There is an Australian sea lion breeding site on North Casuarina Island within the Cape du Couedic Sanctuary Zone, with an estimated annual pup production of about 11 [8].

For the Australian fur seal, most of the South Australian population is on Kangaroo Island and the nearby Casuarina Islands. There is a breeding site for the Australian fur seal on North Casuarina Island and haul-out sites on the Casuarina Islets, Cape du Couedic and Nautilus Rocks within/adjacent to the Cape du Couedic Sanctuary Zone 11 [8]. Multiple haul-out sites for the long-nosed fur seal existing in the existing zone include Vennachar Point, South Casuarina Islet, Nautilus Rock, Nautilus North, North Casuarina Islet, Libke, Cape du Couedic, Admirals Arch, Spooks North, Ladders South, Ladders North and Knife and Steel Point [8]. There are also breeding sites for the long-nosed fur seal at Cape du Couedic (12 sites), North Casuarina Island (two sites) and East Remarkable Rocks [8].

### Seabirds

The North Casuarina Islet is a known breeding area for the nationally protected Pacific gull, crested tern and rock parrot, while the South Casuarina Islet is used by the state rare ruddy turnstone, state rare sooty oystercatcher and Pacific gull for breeding [8]. It assumed that these species utilise the Cape du Couedic Sanctuary Zone [8]. The southern giant petrel (state vulnerable), as well as many migratory albatross species such as the shy albatross (nationally and state listed vulnerable) and the yellow-nosed albatross (state endangered) have been recorded in the area surrounding Flinders Chase National Park. Other species found there include the state rare Cape Barren goose, musk duck, fleshy-footed shearwater and eastern reef egret, and the state endangered fairy tern [8]. It assumed that these species utilise the Cape du Couedic Sanctuary Zone [8].

Offshore islands including Kangaroo Island are particularly important habitat for the state endangered white-bellied sea eagle, with one in the vicinity of the sanctuary. There are also osprey territories in the vicinity and it is assumed that these species utilise the sanctuary zone [8].

**We oppose reductions to Cape du Couedic Sanctuary Zone for the following reasons:**

Compromise of the CAR system by reducing important habitat for Australian sea lion, Australian fur seal and long nosed fur seal

This sanctuary zone has very high conservation value and several species are sensitive to disturbance such as white-bellied sea eagles and three species of pinniped (Australian sea lion, Australian fur seal and long nosed fur seal.) Specifically, it contains the only example of all three native pinnipeds occurring together and actively breeding. Downgrading the zoning would compromise the CAR system by reducing the protection for this collection of species that is currently unique in the network.

It provides vital refuge for commercial fisheries that are currently overfished and depleting

Fisheries in the region including greenslip and blacklip abalone stocks, southern rock lobster and King George whiting stocks in the region have been classed as transitionally depleting [5,42]. This reflects fishing pressures on these species and reinforces the importance of providing refuge for the replenishment of these species, and in particular for spawning, nursery or juvenile habitat. Southern rock lobster populations have already demonstrated significant recovery within the site that included an 81% increase in relative biomass and 42.2% increase in relative abundance [9]. While spill over effects into areas outside the sanctuary are yet to be demonstrated, preliminary evidence suggests this is occurring and that it may be able play a part in replenishing the species outside the sanctuary boundaries [9].

There are minimal benefits to fisheries

Opening the site to abalone and rock lobster fishing would likely result in an initial increase in catch rates due to the increase in biomass that has occurred since fishing was ceased [34]. The catch rates would then likely decline and stabilise to levels seen outside the site and across the western end of Kangaroo Island [8].

More than the estimated displaced catch has been removed from the fishery through the Commercial Fisheries Voluntary Catch/Effort Reduction Program, such that the remaining fishers now have greater relative access to the available biomass outside the site [8].

Reduced ability to assess the effectiveness of Marine Park at conserving marine biological diversity and marine habitats

Opening the sanctuary zone to fishing will reduce the ability to assess the effectiveness of the marine park network. The site has been selected as a priority for monitoring due to the high conservation values contained within it. Opening the site to fishing would reduce the utility of this monitoring as removal of biomass by fishing would change the ecosystem function and thus understanding of how intact marine ecosystems function.

Undermine long term monitoring of rock lobster populations that could aid in establishing a sustainable fishery

Opening up the sanctuary zone to rock lobster fishing would undermine the long-term study to determine the effects of protection from fishing on the rock lobster population at Cape du Couedic [34]. If the study were continued it would improve knowledge and support decision-making with regard to the marine parks monitoring program and support sustainable fisheries management.

**Summary of changes:** The proposed amendments overlay a special purpose area to enable shore-based recreational line fishing (new length of 7.4 km). Other sanctuary zone restrictions are to remain, and the size remains unchanged.

**Position on proposed amendments to the Coorong Beach South Sanctuary Zone**

Opening up this area for beach fishing diminishes the effectiveness of the sanctuary zone. The site has extremely high wilderness value and is one of the few high wave energy beaches in the marine parks network that has full sanctuary zone protection. The site offers a small refuge from disturbance to fisheries and nesting shorebirds and is of inherent scientific value for studying the effects of protection on high wave energy beach ecosystems [8].

In this instance however, we understand the recreational fishing case for this location. The inclusion of recreational fishing is contrary to the definition of a sanctuary zones as a ‘highly protected areas’ under the governing state legislation and national and international framework for IUCN Categories I and II. In order not to diminish the integrity of sanctuary zoning, areas where recreational fishing access is permitted from the beach should be achieved via the use of a Habitat Protection Zone with a Special Purpose regulation.

We note that there is increasing evidence that the surf zone is an important part of coastal ecosystems. Allowing beach fishing should be the exception not the rule in a marine parks network and an effective and credible network should include no-take areas in the surf zone.

**Values of the sanctuary zone:**

The site protects a part of the longest continuous high energy dissipative beach in the southern hemisphere backed by vast sand dunes and the Coorong lakes [8]. It extends across 7km of fine–medium sand beach habitat (6% of the beach length that is within in the marine park) [8]. The Coorong ocean beach is a significant site for a diverse assortment of migratory and sedentary bird species including the red necked stint and vulnerable hooded plover. It also encompasses a pathway area for southern right whales [8].

The site extends from the intertidal surf zone out to deeper waters over 6km offshore. It is predominately comprised of exposed fine-medium sand beach, soft-bottom habitat and habitats that are yet to be mapped [8]. While little is known about the fish and macro-invertebrate species diversity, the area is well known for fished species such as mulloway, Australian salmon and pipi [8].

The site was located away from popular recreational fishing sites at Tea Cross Crossing and commercial fishing areas for pipi [8]. This zone was designed to avoid important recreational fishing locations near Tea Tree Crossing and towards 42 Mile Crossing [8]. A section of the site neighbours the Coorong National Park and the Coorong and Lakes Alexandrina and Albert RAMSAR reserve to the medium high-water mark, creating a protected passage from the land to the sea [8].

Crested terns and little penguins breed at Baudin Rocks within the marine park, with estimated populations of about 1,500 and 100 pairs, respectively [8]. There are also breeding sites for the black-faced cormorant and pied cormorant [8].

As one of the few high wave energy beaches in the marine parks network that has high-level protection with no shore based recreational line fishing allowed the site is of inherent scientific value for studying



the effects of protection on high wave energy beach ecosystems [8]. Due to its remote location and difficulty with access, there is significant 'wilderness value' [8].

## B. New and expanded Sanctuary Zones:

### **Position on proposed expansion of sanctuary zones**

We support efforts to expand sanctuary zones in the marine park network, including the expansion of the Nuyts Reef Sanctuary Zone and the establishment of new sites at Glenelg (Metropolitan Shellfish) Reef Sanctuary Zone, Windara Reef Sanctuary Zone and Port Stanvac Sanctuary Zone.

We urge government to expand rather than remove areas of high conservation value from sanctuary zones within the marine parks network. Expansion of highly protected areas is necessary to achieve a comprehensive, adequate and representative network of protected areas that will enable protection of biodiversity, avoid species collapse and ensure sustainable fisheries [11–13].

Scientific consensus in Australia and international governmental agreements point to a target of 30% of our oceans for inclusion in highly protected areas such as sanctuary zones to address ocean degradation and ensure ecological viability and protection of habitats.

These expansions must be consistent with the relevant sections of the Marine Parks Act and the definitions and objectives of 'highly protected areas' under IUCN Categories I and II as defined in the National Representative System of Protected Areas. Specifically, this requires ensuring sanctuary zones are no take zones in which all extractive activities are prohibited.

For these reasons the new sanctuary zone sites where fishing is proposed to be allowed, are not appropriate for inclusion as sanctuary zones. They should be zoned Habitat Protection with a Special Purpose regulation in order to achieve the desired management outcome.

### Nuyts Reef Sanctuary Zone at Nuyts Archipelago Marine Park

**Summary of changes:** Proposed amendments expand the sanctuary zone by 90 km<sup>2</sup> to encompass more of the surrounding area. The additional area will change from habitat protection zone to sanctuary zone. The new sanctuary zone area will be 195 km<sup>2</sup>. The changes will allow shore-based recreational line fishing in the expanded SZ by extending the existing Special Purpose Area to the west and east by 9.88km, to give a new SPA of 21.46km in length.

### **Position on amendments to Nuyts Reef Sanctuary Zone**

We support the extension of a sanctuary zone at Nuyts Reef to include a much larger area. Larger sanctuary zones are more effective than smaller ones. The expansion also proposes to extend an existing special purpose area along the length of the sanctuary zone to permit shore based recreational fishing activity. As the existing zoning at Nuyts allows beach fishing, we accept that beach fishing should be able to continue along the expanded SZ.

Note, we point to the importance of surf zone no-take areas, and that allowing beach fishing where sanctuary zones would otherwise apply should be the exception not the rule. Sanctuary zones are 'highly protected areas' under the governing state legislation and national and international framework for IUCN Categories I and II. For this reason, the zoning prescription a sanctuary zone with a special

purpose area on top in order to allow beach fishing, is not appropriate for the area that permits fishing. The prescription along the surf zone in this instance should be creation of a Habitat Protection Zone with a Special Purpose regulation in order to enable recreational fishing.

#### **Values of the area:**

The area conserves important environmental features of state and regional ecological significance. The reef is the last shoreline inflection (or settling place) before the Head of the Bight and is the largest and most westerly limestone reef in the Murat bioregion.

The sanctuary zone provides haul out sites for the long-nosed fur seal as well as habitat for breeding for the Australian sea lion colonies (vulnerable) [8]. Nuyts Reef is one of 11 breeding sites for the Australian sea lion (nationally vulnerable) and one of only 5 sites nationally which produces more than 100 pups annually [8]. The Australian sea lion is an endemic Australian pinniped listed as ‘Vulnerable’ under the threatened species category of the Commonwealth Environment Protection and Biodiversity Act 1999 (EPBC Act), Vulnerable under the South Australian National Parks and Wildlife Act 1972 and Endangered under the International Union for the Conservation of Nature (IUCN) Redlist [8]. The Australian sea lion pup abundance has declined by almost 25% over the last decade contributing to the overall decline in the population [8].

This sanctuary zone is influenced by the warm, westerly Leeuwin Current which helps support migratory pelagic species such as southern bluefin tuna and a wide range of species more commonly found in tropical areas [8]. Nuyts Reef Sanctuary Zone conserves important spawning location for southern rock lobster, Maori octopus, greenlip abalone, blacklip abalone, purple sea urchin, sea sweep and western blue groper [8]. The area also contains uncommon red algal communities in 30m of water [8].

#### **Noted impacts of the changes:**

The proposed extension adds additional buffering area around Nuyts Reef and would have some biodiversity value, including additional Australian sea lion foraging areas [8]. The sanctuary zone allows for shore based recreational fishing and has low impact on commercial fisheries [8].

Recreational activity is minimal in and around the site due to its remote nature. The area is far from the nearest public boat ramp and is inaccessible to most recreational boats (Bryars et al. 2016). Shore-based recreation activities adjacent to the site are generally limited due to the restricted access by road to the shoreline and cliffs.

Metropolitan Shellfish Reef Sanctuary Zone (Glenelg shellfish reef) in Encounter Marine Park

**Summary of changes:** Amendments will extend the marine park outer boundary to allow inclusion of the Glenelg reef as the Metropolitan Shellfish Reef Sanctuary Zone. A special purpose area is proposed to permit fishing within the site.

#### **Position on amendments creating Metropolitan Shellfish Sanctuary Zone**

We support the inclusion of this artificial reef in the marine park and allowing fishing to continue in this area.

However, the zoning prescription of a sanctuary zone as a temporary management measure ahead of fishing resuming in 2026 is not appropriate use of sanctuary zoning. To achieve the desired management

outcome, a Habitat Protection Zone should be declared with Special Purpose regulation tailored to the needs at this site.

Port Stanvac Sanctuary Zone in Encounter Marine Park

**Summary of changes:** Amendments will extend the outer boundaries of the marine park to allow the inclusion of the existing exclusion zone at Port Stanvac as a sanctuary zone. The Port Stanvac restricted access area has significant environmental values which will be maintained if the proposal is implemented. It is expected to provide potential positive benefits to the general public by providing educational and recreational (non-extractive) opportunities currently not permitted.

**Position on amendments creating Port Stanvac Sanctuary Zone**

We are in support of the creation of the Port Stanvac Sanctuary Zone as a regional biodiversity hotspot.

Windara Reef Sanctuary Zone- Upper Gulf St Vincent Marine park

**Summary of changes:** Amendments extend the marine park outer boundary to allow inclusion of Windara Shellfish Reef as a sanctuary zone. A special purpose area is proposed across the new sanctuary zone to allow recreational fishing, in particular ‘the taking of scalefish, sharks and crustaceans for recreational purposes.’

**Position on amendments creating Windara Reef Sanctuary Zone**

We are in support of the inclusion of Windara Reef in the marine park as protection of the reef will positively impact its environmental values [8]. However, as explained above, the zoning prescription of a sanctuary zone with a special purpose area overlaid is not appropriate. A Habitat Protection Zone with Special Purpose regulation should be used in order to enable the continuation of recreational fishing.

## C. Process Issues with the Marine Park Review

Removal of key monitoring sites from within the sanctuary zones network

The primary objective of the marine parks program is ‘to protect and conserve marine biological diversity and marine habitats by declaring and providing for the management of a comprehensive, adequate and representative system of marine parks’ [1]. Sanctuary zones are the central component of marine parks designed to enhance biodiversity, ecological processes and resilience.

A monitoring, evaluation and reporting (MER) program is one of four core components of the overall marine parks program. The collection of ecological data and its synthesis is pivotal to assessing whether the principal objectives have been achieved [1]. The marine parks ecological monitoring program has established an extensive dataset of biological indicators in 7 of the 8 marine bioregions and in 16 of the 19 marine parks [1]. It also gathers critical ecological, economic, social and management information to inform the review of the management plans. Ecological monitoring primarily targets priority sanctuary zones across various habitat types, with a focus on sites of high biodiversity [1].

The proposed reductions in sanctuary zones remove key monitoring sites from within marine parks before trends in recovery of depleted fish stock and biodiversity values can be properly assessed. This reduces the ability to evaluate the marine park network and determine if the management plans were effective in achieving the objects of the Marine Parks Act.

Insufficient data has been gathered to make scientifically informed and evidence-based decisions

The findings of the status report, commissioned as part of this review, confirmed that the marine parks program is on track to meet its statutory objectives through the implementation of activities aligned with the strategies of the management plans. The program is currently observing the predicted outcomes expected from effective implementation of these strategies [8].

The status report commissioned as part of this current Marine Park Review states that it 'did not undertake an evaluation of the effectiveness of the management plans in delivering the objects of the Marine Parks Act 2007, or an evaluation of the appropriateness of strategies, including zoning arrangements' [1].

Scientific studies suggest a minimum of 10 years of data to see meaningful trends in recovery of species, increases in biodiversity or other positive impacts [43]. It is for this reason that a 10-year evaluation report was mandated to be completed in 2021 [1]. This final evaluation report (2021) will address whether the current marine park has been effective in protecting and conserving marine biological diversity and marine habitats, or maintaining ecological processes, and will also evaluate the social-economic impacts of the marine park network [1].

While the 5-year review was intended as a cycle of adaptive management in which management plans could be adjusted, we do not believe it is an inappropriate amount of time to consider significant cuts to the size and location of sanctuary zones.

In general, insufficient time has passed since marine park implementation for changes in size, abundance and diversity of biota to be detected - with the exception of Cape de Coudecic where rock lobsters have been shown to have increased in size and abundance consistent with predictions of when fishing pressure is removed. [8]. While preliminary information exists, data that is highly relevant to decisions over the maintenance or amendment of sanctuary zones, such as their role in replenishing commercial fisheries, is still being gathered

A 10-year evaluation of South Australia's sanctuary zones is legislated to occur by 2022. Making cuts to these extremely important components of the marine park network prior to this evaluation report is contrary to statutory intentions, current scientific knowledge and commitments to evidence-based decision making.

It is on these bases that we strongly oppose further consideration of reductions in the boundaries of sanctuary zones prior to the completion of a 10-year evaluation report. Further, we do not consider the current Review to satisfy the requirements of the 10 year review.

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## Appendix 1: Australia's commitments to marine protection

### Convention on Biodiversity Conservation

Australian state, territory and federal governments all made a commitment to the world to conserve biological diversity when we ratified the Convention on Biological Diversity in 1993. In 2011, nations agreed to protect at least 10% of the world's coastal and marine waters in a network of representative marine protected areas by 2020 as a step towards ocean health in a commitment known as the Aichi Biodiversity Target 11. It has long been clear that 10% could only be a 'waypoint' toward effective ocean protection, not an endpoint [12]. In 2010, the 10% target was widely recognised as inadequate for ocean health but anything higher was not considered feasible [13]. Since then, many nations have gone on to exceed the 10% target and scientific evidence on the need for a much higher target has strengthened [12].

In 2014, the IUCN World Congress agreed that a high level protection of 30% of the world's oceans was required. Achieving this target requires protection of areas that are 'of particular importance for biodiversity and ecosystem services', 'ecologically representative', 'well connected', 'effectively and equitably managed' and 'integrated into the wider landscape and seascape'.

These international commitments were translated into national action through the National Representative System of Marine Protected Areas (NRSMPA) whose primary goal is to:

... establish and manage a comprehensive, adequate and representative system of marine protected areas to contribute to the long-term ecological viability of marine and estuarine systems, to maintain ecological processes and systems, and to protect Australia's biological diversity at all levels [41].

In 1998, guidelines for establishing the NRSMPA were developed by an intergovernmental Task Force on Marine Protected Areas and agreed to by all Australian governments.

Such a network would include the full range of ecosystems within each bioregion ('comprehensive'), be large enough to ensure ecological viability and the integrity of populations, species and communities ('adequate') and reflect the biodiversity of marine ecosystems ('representative') [44].

**Comprehensiveness:** the NRSMPA will include the full range of ecosystems recognised at an appropriate scale within and across each bioregion.

**Adequacy:** the NRSMPA will have the required level of reservation to ensure the ecological viability and integrity of populations, species and communities.

**Representativeness:** those marine areas that are selected for inclusion in marine parks should reasonably reflect the biotic diversity of the marine ecosystems from which they derive.

\*The South Australian Representative System of Marine Protected Areas embodies these intergovernmental commitments. The objects of this South Australian Marine Parks Act 2007 are: (a) to protect and conserve marine biological diversity and marine habitats by declaring and providing for the management of a comprehensive, adequate and representative system of marine parks; and (b) to assist in - (i) the maintenance of ecological processes in the marine environment; and (ii) the adaptation to the impacts of climate change in the marine environment; and (iii) protecting and conserving features of natural or cultural heritage significance; and (iv) allowing ecologically sustainable development and use of marine environments; and (v) providing opportunities for public appreciation, education, understanding and enjoyment of marine environments.



### iii. Abalone Industry SA

Date: 08/07/20

To Whom It May Concern

#### **RE: SA Marine Parks Review**

I am a **South Australian business owner** who has been operating on Eyre Peninsula, for a number of years. As a local resident, I service and support the local community and businesses including the licence holders in the South Australian Western Zone Abalone Fishery based on Eyre Peninsula.

**I support the rezoning of Marine Parks** which recognizes a healthy Marine environment and sustainable seafood production are able to co-exist. This will assist in reinstating the benefits back to the regional communities throughout Eyre Peninsula, including my business.

The main points for consideration for our communities and businesses;

- Conservation objectives, commercial & recreational fishing, tourism and our communities will all be better off under the proposed rezoning amendments.
- 22 abalone boats will once again travel to the Ceduna region to undertake around 50 days diving that will directly inject \$50,000 into the local economy.
- The sanctuary zone area will be increased by 200 km<sup>2</sup> in the far west of the state where conservation priorities have been identified.
- The changes will increase sanctuary area and maintain a group of islands at Isles of St Francis sanctuary zone plus expand the Nuyts Reef sanctuary zone.
- Recreational fishing access will continue for shore based fishing at the Nuyts Reef sanctuary zone, and the main pelagic fishing lumps to the south of Cannan Reef with St Francis Island being opened to fishing once again.
- Access to the annual 4,000 kg of abalone currently locked up at the Isles of St Francis and 2,500 kg at Cape Du Couedic will bring in excess of \$1 million international dollars into small coastal towns which will subsequently be spent in many business.
- The proposed amendments will restore the rotation harvest for our abalone fishery.

As a valued Eyre Peninsula business, impacted by restrictions imposed by Marine Parks, I advocate for the proposed changes to help restore the balance for fisheries, local livelihoods and the coastal communities we live in. It will make a massive difference to the future for regional local businesses, and a sustainable seafood and tourism industry into the future.

Yours sincerely,  
Felicity Jones  
Pulp & Willow  
Port Lincoln

## **iv. Streaky Bay Marine Products**

WB Mattner Nominees Pty Ltd  
PO Box 27  
Port Lincoln SA 5606

30<sup>th</sup> June 2020

Dear MP Reviews

### **RE: SA Marine Parks Review**

I am a licence holder in the South Australian Western Zone Abalone Fishery. My family has held this licence for 30 years. I am committed to sustainability and the protection of the natural environment. Our family believes, we are 'stewards' of this pristine underwater environment, working in a world wide unique fishery.

I am a member of the Abalone Industry Association of SA (AIASA) who collectively represents abalone license holders operating throughout Eyre Peninsula – a united fishing industry that supports local businesses and employs local people.

I support the rezoning of Marine Parks, recognizing healthy Marine environment and sustainable seafood production are able to co-exist, for the economic and social benefit of regional communities throughout Eyre Peninsula.

Our industry was hit hard by the implementation of Marine Park sanctuary zones in October 2014. The State Government at the time, (to satisfy a largely metropolitan agenda), followed their own guidelines and targeted areas for biodiversity conservation by means of introducing Marine Park Sanctuary Zones. These areas happened to include the most productive seafood harvesting areas located in rural areas in South Australia including the Isles of St Francis in the Nuyts Archipelago Marine Park in the far west of the state.

Our industry (along with other fishing sectors) have been directly negatively impacted by Marine Parks, despite the State Government's effort at the time acquiring one of the 23 Western Zone Abalone Fishery licenses and quota. The displaced effort calculation and subsequent licence removal was never going to compensate for the loss of the area, which had been historically rotationally harvested by industry for over 50 years. The consequence six years on is that our Industry has had to implement significant quota cut on Greenlip abalone catch.

Marine Parks have led to a substantial cost to the tax payers of South Australia, particularly coastal and rural communities, who have had to bear the brunt of reduced revenues (mostly deriving from export dollars) and local employment. Incredibly, this was identified, at the time, by Department for Environment, Water and Natural Resources (DEWNR), who

commissioned Econsearch to undertake a Marine Park Regional Impact Assessment and found that the overall net benefit of Marine Parks was *negative \$64 million* over 20 years (pg 106, 20 Aug 2012).

I believe that Marine biodiversity conservation and the sustainable harvest of seafood can exist in harmony particularly for an industry such as ours, that *visually hand selects its premium product and incurs no by-catch*. My livelihood depends on a healthy Marine environment and we are one of the very few seafood industries that actively have eyes under the water, year round, across the remote coastline of South Australia able to monitor changes.

Aligning the State Strategic Plan Priority 'Premium food and wine from our clean environment', it seems logical to ensure South Australian Abalone harvesting, (as a premium seafood product), should not unnecessarily be excluded from naturally productive areas. Support should be given to the South Australian Abalone Industry, as well as rural coastal communities; correcting the initial over-zealous, metropolitan driven, establishment of Marine Parks in regional South Australia.

In summary:

- Conservation objectives, commercial & recreational fishing, tourism and rural communities will all be better off under the proposed rezoning amendments.
- 22 abalone boats/divers/workers will once again travel to the Ceduna region to undertake around 50 days diving, directly injecting \$50,000 into the local economy.
- The sanctuary zone area will be increased by 200 km<sup>2</sup> in the far west of the state where conservation priorities have been identified.
- Access to the annual 4,000 kg of abalone currently locked up at the Isles of St Francis and 2,500 kg at Cape Du Couedic will bring in excess of \$1 million international dollars into small coastal towns which will subsequently be spent in many business.
- The proposed amendments will restore the rotation harvest for our abalone fishery.

I support the proposed Marine Park amendments, to restore the balance for fisheries, local livelihoods and coastal communities, where I live. It will make a massive difference for future of a sustainable seafood and tourism industry.

Yours sincerely,



Jane Krollig

## ii. Port Wakefield Commercial Fisheries

SA Marine Parks Review  
Department for Environment and Water

9<sup>th</sup> July 2020

### Proposed changes to SAs marine parks

#### Introduction

In response to the proposed changes to South Australia's marine parks network I would like to say from the outset that I am strongly in support of the well-considered subtle changes that the government has planned. It would seem that the government has carefully thought through and listened to the needs of South Australians by creating an opportunity for maximum benefits to all, including conservation, tourism and fishing sectors.

Marine parks have; since even before their inception been a great source of concern and anxiety for those in regional communities that cohabitate with them, in some cases, bear the brunt of the financial burdens that were created by the sanctuaries that were put in place to benefit all. This is particularly the case for some rural coastal communities.

Upon initiation of the park's management plans in October 2014 some regional communities have had significant adverse social changes introduced into the fabric of their communities and have largely been left to their own devices to cope with the changes placed upon them by the government at the time. This has left a feeling of abandonment that has been unwanted and unnecessary and I personally welcome the opportunity for sensible correction.

Coastal communities' welcome marine conservation in fact we demand healthy ecosystems, many of us literally rely upon the well-being of our marine environment and healthy fish stocks to provide the vital income for our households and communities. Support in general for marine parks is generally acknowledged. The issue of contention for some regional communities is the placement of the sanctuaries. Through the period of pre and initial post commencement of the management plans some communities went to great lengths to communicate with the government of the time to reconsider the placement of a small percentage of the eighty three sanctuaries formed across South Australia and at that time the voices of regional south Australians were not acted upon, it is partially because of this unrest that the current government has the good sense to revisit just a few sanctuaries to make a correction that will benefit all.

#### Marine Park 14 Port Wakefield/Clinton wetlands

The Port Wakefield area was an area that vigorously voiced an opinion for modification to the sanctuary zone that was placed too near the township as the park's management plans were being introduced. Firstly, through the MPLAG and then through the Marine Park 14 action group. Unfortunately, meaningful change did not happen and as it stands to this point in time the findings of the marine park 14 action group has proven to be correct as we can now observe that the large sanctuary has indeed caused financial, social and emotional hardships.

During the time from the introduction of the sanctuary near Port Wakefield we have witnessed commercial fishers lose access to a vital portion of their fishing area. This has greatly reduced income for fishing families. Fishers have attempted to recover income by fishing far from home either temporarily or permanently. Moving from their home town away from their families or disrupting their families and taking them away with them and or using their hard-earned life savings/superannuation to supplement their livelihoods. These are miserable scenarios and not the result that was intended upon implementation of marine sanctuaries. Although compensation is available and appreciated for commercial fishers, the process is difficult and has limitations that has to date not assisted the majority of those suffering economic and social losses.

From the time of the sanctuary implementation on October 2014 the township of Port Wakefield has had one of its hotels close, an establishment that as fact been trading for well over one hundred years, a well credentialled café and our long-standing news agency both closed permanently. We have also recently seen a service station close. Although these seem like minor issues from those who do not live in the township, I can say with absolutely certainty that the closures are felt hard by the locals and especially those who are vulnerable and or do not have access to convenient travel arrangements. The towns small population feel any loss of service deeply.

From the above it is clear that the community of port Wakefield would welcome the proposed amendments.

During 2012 the marine park 14 action group were quite vocal and active within our region and beyond. During that time the group communicated regularly with the towns people. One of the actions from the group was to canvas the thoughts from the community about alternative sanctuary zoning arrangements. The group found that the overwhelming majority supported a smaller sanctuary at the top of Gulf St Vincent instead of the zone chosen by the government of the day. The marine park 14 action group facilitated a town meeting that was attended by approximately two hundred- and forty-people including members from DEWNR who witnessed a unanimous position from the township in support of an alternative smaller sanctuary. Port Wakefield has a population of six hundred so it is impressive that over one third of the townspeople attended to show support for responsible change. It is because of this level of support that the current proposed changes can be delivered with confidence by the government.

The proposed changes to the Port Wakefield sanctuary have been initiated with careful balance in mind as the important conservation values have been considered. The sanctuary is proposed to be reduced and not removed therefore it is likely that many environmental benefits will be maintained. Significantly there will be protection for the migratory shorebirds as the northern portion will remain in sanctuary and there will continue to be diverse examples of protected area of land to sea including saltmarsh, mangroves, intertidal seagrass and dense shallow seagrass meadows. There will also remain a protected corridor between the land and sea.

**SUPPLEMENTARY REPORT TO 'ENVIRONMENTAL, SOCIAL AND ECONOMIC VALUES OF MARINE PARK SANCTUARY ZONES A Report to Department for Environment and Water**

29 May 2020 Prepared by BDO EconSearch

The supplementary report prepared by EconSearch for the department highlights some tremendous news for the Port Wakefield community and the information regarding the potential increase in revenue is encouraging news to be welcomed!

With regards to the rezoning proposition for the Port Wakefield/Clinton wetlands sanctuary it would be justifiable to expect that the estimated increase in catch of marine scale fish by commercial fishers is underestimated by a significant quantity.

Although the conservative estimation within the report would still be a promising positive economic boom for Port Wakefield as the report estimates that at least \$144 000 of extra revenue from marine scale fish could be expected annually due to the reclaiming of the displaced catch in the proposed reduced area of the sanctuary and In aggregate, it was estimated that the impact of reducing the SZ area will generate the following improvement of regional economic activity on an ongoing annual basis; \$0.51m in total GRP, 2 fte jobs and \$0.38m in household income.

Even if the extra ongoing revenues to the community were only, as stated above that would be a greatly desired contributor to community's revenue. The Port Wakefield community is financially vulnerable and any extra income is welcomed.

A conservative estimate would be that the commercial marine scale fishers would be able to sustainably harvest a greater amount of fish, providing for far greater economic benefit for the community than is predicted by the EconSearch report. Sustainability of the fish stocks will be ensured because the government; through good planning is currently in the process of a generational reform of the whole marine scale fishing industry sector that will include but not limited to a modern individual transferrable catch quota system and a buyback of half the approximate marine scale fish licenses. This will be achieved while catching similar catch levels as at current so revenues will be stable. We can expect in the future, increases of catch as fish populations increase with the greater levels of certainty and scrutiny of extraction that the modern fisheries management framework will provide.

The dual approach of carefully reducing some of the sanctuary near Port Wakefield and introducing a ground-breaking and new for South Australia modern fisheries management scheme for this inshore multi species fishery is inspired and well-thought-out.

The report states that there are no recognised tourism activities that take place in or adjacent to the sanctuary zone. Therefore, there is no economic contribution to the region from tourism. This is a substantial disclosure considering that it was promoted widely by the department and government at the time of implementation of the zones, including marine park 14 that the tourism industry would replace economic losses from less fishing derived income as the current zoning was being implemented. This was specifically noted from the Upper Gulf St Vincent Marine Park Regional Impact Statement, A report prepared for Department of Environment, Water and Natural Resources and the UPPER GULF ST VINCENT MARINE PARK MANAGEMENT PLAN 2012.

This places further importance on the need for greater contributions from commercial and recreational fishing sectors as revenue producers for the township.

The report incorrectly states that recreational fishing was only minimally impacted by the sanctuary as the shore access is inaccessible or difficult to fish due to saltmarsh and mangroves. There are in fact several cut out locations for popular and productive shore-based fishing activities and two of these will be welcomed back by anglers with the proposed amendments. The current sanctuary has caused Recreational anglers to lose some important nearshore and offshore fishing locations as evidenced by the departments own work in 2010 during the planning stage by the use of the SAMPIT mapping. A good percentage of these will be reinstated with the amendments. These important changes to the sanctuary will increase visitation to the community by recreational anglers and that will bring vital economic activity.

### **State wide summary**

The marine parks rezoning proposal is a win for conservation, a win for tourism and a win for fishing. The outer boundaries of the marine park network will be increased by 98 km<sup>2</sup>.

Three new sanctuary zones will be created and sanctuary zone areas will be increased overall by net 113 km<sup>2</sup>.

Four important tourism/fishing areas at total 94 km<sup>2</sup> will be rezoned to habitat protection.

A massive increase in sanctuary area of 206 km<sup>2</sup> will be in the conservation hot spot of the Great Australian Bight Nuyts Archipelago Marine Park.

Tourism, recreational and commercial sectors will be millions better off annually and so will the coastal towns.

Given the benefits of the above it is vital for the government to introduce the sensible and well considered minor amendments to our current Marine Parks network.



## **SA Marine Parks Review**

### **Department for Environment and Water**

#### **Proposed changes to SAs marine parks**

##### **Introduction**

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Marine parks have; since even before their inception been a great source of concern and anxiety for those in regional communities that cohabitate with them, in some cases, bear the brunt of the financial burdens that were created by the sanctuaries that were put in place to benefit all. This is particularly the case for some rural coastal communities. Upon initiation of the park's management plans in October 2014 some regional communities have had significant adverse social changes introduced into the fabric of their communities and have largely been left to their own devices to cope with the changes placed upon them by the government at the time. This has left a feeling of abandonment that has been unwanted and unnecessary and I personally welcome the opportunity for sensible correction. Coastal communities' welcome marine conservation in fact we demand healthy ecosystems, many of us literally rely upon the well-being of our marine environment and healthy fish stocks to provide the vital income for our households and communities. Support in general for marine parks is generally acknowledged. The issue of contention for some regional communities is the placement of the sanctuaries. Through the period of pre and initial post commencement of the management plans some communities went to great lengths to communicate with the government of the time to reconsider the placement of a small percentage of the eighty three sanctuaries formed across South Australia and at that time the voices of regional south Australians were not acted upon, it is partially because of this unrest that the current government has the good sense to revisit just a few sanctuaries to make a correction that will benefit all.

##### **Marine Park 14 Port Wakefield/Clinton wetlands**

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now observe that the large sanctuary has indeed caused financial, social and emotional hardships. 48





During the time from the introduction of the sanctuary near Port Wakefield we have witnessed commercial fishers lose access to a vital portion of their fishing area. This has greatly reduced income for fishing families. Fishers have attempted to recover income by fishing far from home either temporarily or permanently. Moving from their home town away from their families or disrupting their families and taking them away with them and or using their hard-earned life savings/superannuation to supplement their livelihoods. These are miserable scenarios and not the result that was intended upon implementation of marine sanctuaries. Although compensation is available and appreciated for commercial fishers, the process is difficult and has limitations that has to date not assisted the majority of those suffering economic and social losses.

From the time of the sanctuary implementation on October 2014 the township of Port Wakefield has had one of its hotels close, an establishment that as fact been trading for well over one hundred years, a well credentialed café and our long-standing news agency both closed permanently. We have also recently seen a service station close. Although these seem like minor issues from those who do not live in the township, I can say with absolutely certainty that the closures are felt hard by the locals and especially those who are vulnerable and or do not have access to convenient travel arrangements. The town's small population feel any loss of service deeply.

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The supplementary report prepared by EconSearch for the department highlights some tremendous news for the Port Wakefield community and the information regarding the potential increase in revenue is encouraging news to be welcomed!

With regards to the rezoning proposition for the Port Wakefield/Clinton wetlands sanctuary it would be justifiable to expect that the estimated increase in catch of marine scale fish by commercial fishers is underestimated by a significant quantity.

Although the conservative estimation within the report would still be a promising positive economic boom for Port Wakefield as the report estimates that at least \$144 000 of extra revenue from marine scale fish could be expected annually due to the reclaiming of the displaced catch in the proposed reduced area of the sanctuary and In aggregate, it was estimated that the impact of reducing the SZ area will generate the following improvement of regional economic activity on an ongoing annual basis; \$0.51m in total GRP, 2 FTE jobs and \$0.38m in household income.

Even if the extra ongoing revenues to the community were only, as stated above that would be a greatly desired contributor to community's revenue. The Port Wakefield community is financially vulnerable and any extra income is welcomed.

A conservative estimate would be that the commercial marine scale fishers would be able to sustainably harvest a greater amount of fish, providing for far greater economic benefit for the community than is predicted by the EconSearch report. Sustainability of the fish stocks will be ensured because the government; through good planning is currently in the process of a generational reform of the whole marine scale fishing industry sector that will include but not limited to a modern individual transferrable catch quota system and a buyback of half the approximate marine scale fish licenses. This will be achieved while catching similar catch levels as at current so revenues will be stable. We can expect in the future, increases of catch as fish populations increase with the greater levels of certainty and scrutiny of extraction that the modern fisheries management framework will provide.

The dual approach of carefully reducing some of the sanctuary near Port Wakefield and introducing a ground-breaking and new for South Australia modern fisheries management scheme for this inshore multi species fishery is inspired and well-thought-out.

The report states that there are no recognised tourism activities that take place in or adjacent to the SZ. Therefore, there is no economic contribution to the region from tourism. This is a substantial disclosure considering that it was promoted widely by the department and government at the time of implementation of the zones, including Marine Park 14 that the tourism industry would replace economic losses from less fishing derived income as the current zoning was being implemented. This was specifically noted from the Upper Gulf St Vincent Marine Park Regional Impact Statement, A report prepared for Department of Environment, Water and Natural Resources and the UPPER GULF ST VINCENT MARINE PARK MANAGEMENT PLAN 2012.

This places further importance on the need for greater contributions from commercial and recreational fishing sectors as revenue producers for the township.

The report incorrectly states that recreational fishing was only minimally impacted by the sanctuary as the shore access is inaccessible or difficult to fish due to saltmarsh and mangroves. There are in fact several cut out locations for popular and productive shore-based fishing activities and two of these will be welcomed back by anglers with the proposed amendments. The current sanctuary has caused Recreational anglers to lose some important nearshore and offshore fishing locations as evidenced by the departments own work in 2010 during the planning stage by the use of the SAMPIT mapping. A good percentage of these will be reinstated with the amendments. These important changes to the sanctuary will increase visitation to the community by recreational anglers and that will bring vital economic activity.

### **State wide summary**

The marine parks rezoning proposal is a win for conservation, a win for tourism and a win for fishing. The outer boundaries of the marine park network will be increased by 98 km<sup>2</sup>. Three new SZ's will be created and SZ areas will be increased overall by net 113 km<sup>2</sup>. Four important tourism/fishing areas at total 94 km<sup>2</sup> will be rezoned to habitat protection. A massive increase in sanctuary area of 206 km<sup>2</sup> will be in the conservation hot spot of the Great Australian Bight Nuyts Archipelago Marine Park. Tourism, recreational and commercial sectors will be millions better off annually and so will the coastal towns. Given the benefits of the above it is vital for the government to introduce the sensible and well considered minor amendments to our current Marine Parks network.

# G. Ministers Recreational Fishing Advisory Council Survey



Minister David Speirs  
Department for Environment and Water  
GPO Box 1047  
ADEALIDE SA 5001

21 July 2020

Dear Minister Speirs

## Proposed Changes to South Australian Marine Parks

I write to you as the Chair of the Minister's Recreational Fishing Advisory Council (MRFAC) to provide a submission on behalf of the recreational fishing community of South Australia on the proposed changes to numerous Marine Parks and sanctuary zones.

In order to provide a submission that represents the broader view of the recreational fishing community, the MRFAC chose to facilitate our own public consultation process through a targeted survey on the proposed changes to Marine Parks. The Marine Park review survey was open from Friday 29 May 2020 - Thursday 25 June 2020.

Thank you for granting the MRFAC an extra two weeks to consult with recreational fishers about this important reform.

298 South Australian recreational fishers participated in our survey which had the following results:

St Francis/Nuyts Reef – **51% neutral**; 30% supportive; 19% opposed

North Neptune – **46% neutral**; 37% supportive; 17% opposed

Clinton Wetlands - 37% neutral; **39% supportive**; 24% opposed

Cape du Couedic – **53% neutral**; 30% supportive; 17% opposed

Coorong Beach – 28% neutral; **61% supportive**; 11% opposed

Consequently, the MRFAC is supportive of the proposed changes.

It is also worth noting 93% of respondents believed there has been no change in their fishing experience, or it is worse than prior to the introduction of sanctuary zones in 2013.

In addition, 93% of respondents believed there was no change, or less fish now than when the sanctuary zones were introduced.

We also provide the following additional commentary on these:

#### St Francis/Nuyts

- The MRFAC believes both of these sanctuary zones are unnecessary, as weather and conditions restrict fishing activities naturally.
- There is no evidence, be it scientific, anecdotal or effort related, for the basis in creating offshore sanctuary areas of the Nuyts Archipelago marine park.
- The proposed changes enables fishers to undertake overnight trips to Nuyts Reef and provides shelter while fishing. Ideally the opening of south east of Cannan reef for trolling would be preferred.

#### North Neptune

- There are too many restrictions on fishing for local recreational anglers
- Opening up areas of the North Neptunes allows fishers to fish areas of the Neptunes without forcing them to make the longer, potentially more dangerous trip to South Neptunes.
- There are limited safe anchorages offshore in SA, so forcing fishers to not use certain safe harbours because it is a sanctuary zone is dangerous.

#### Cape du Couedic

- The MRFAC believes there is low pressure from fishing in this area, so is supportive of the change but does not understand the rationale for banning recreational anglers in the remaining area.
- The MRFAC would prefer to explore the many alternate management options available - for example, making recreational drift fishing and trolling available where bottom structure is of concern, making areas open to fishing for fin fish only where shark protection is of concern, allowing non-extractive catch and release fishing, etc.

A summary of the results of the MRFAC survey are provided in Attachment A for your reference.

Thank you for your consideration of our submission. If you wish to discuss this further the MRFAC are able to be contacted through the email address provided below.



Regards (on behalf of the MRFAC),

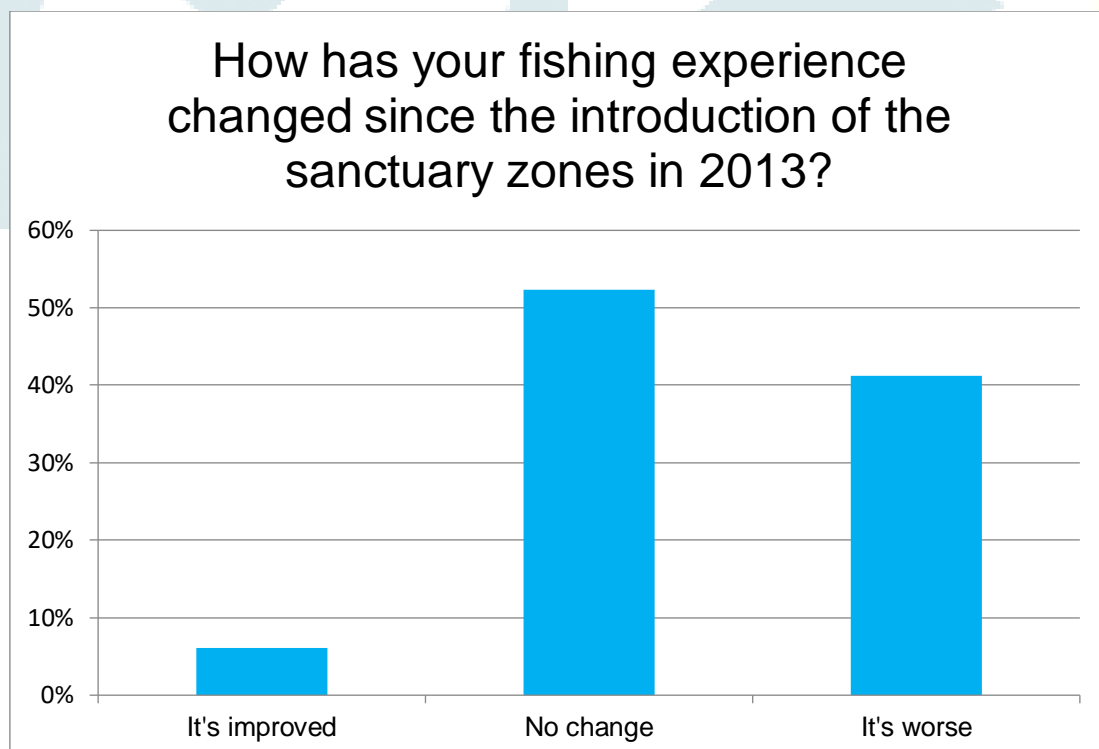
Graham Keegan  
Chair, Minister's Recreational Fishing Advisory Council  
[PIRSA.MRFAC@sa.gov.au](mailto:PIRSA.MRFAC@sa.gov.au)

## Attachment A - MRFAC Marine Park Review Report on Survey Results

Responses	% completion rate
306	73

**How has your fishing experience changed since the introduction of Sanctuary Zones?**

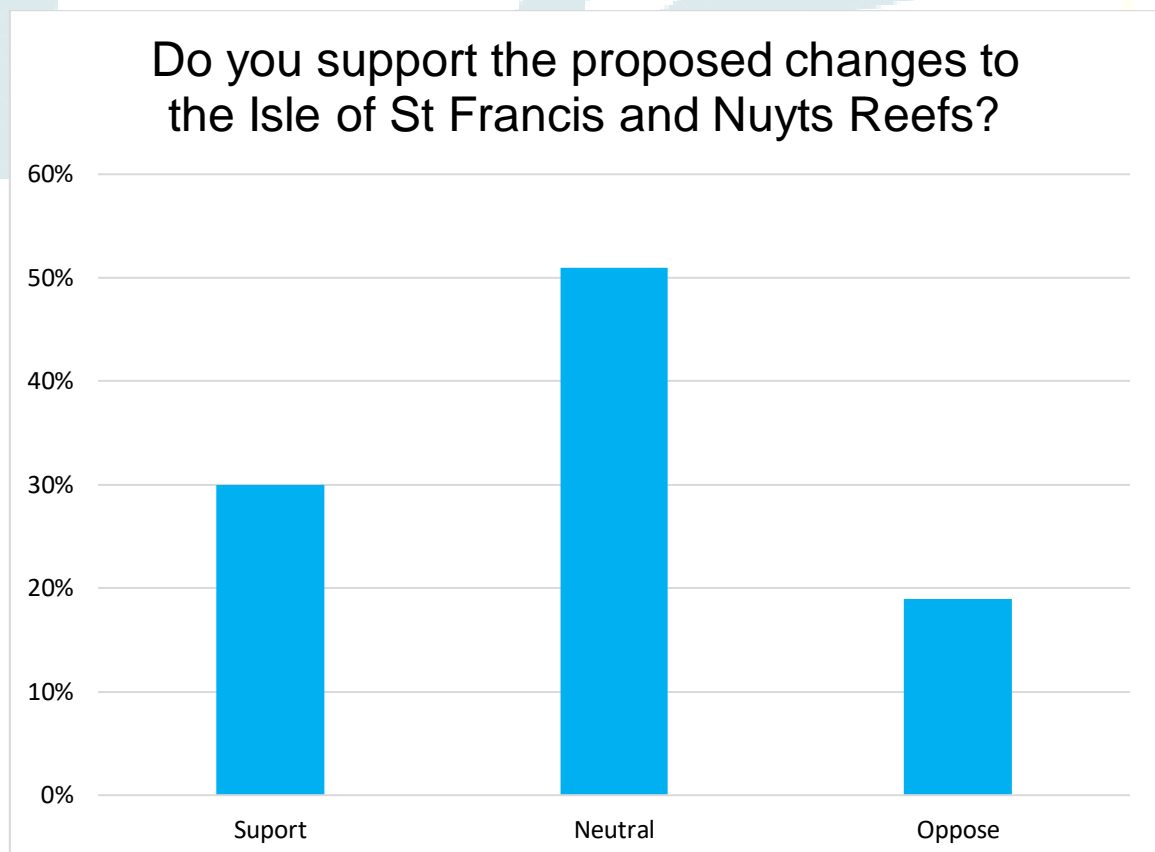
It's improved	6%		17
No Change	52%		146
It's worse	41%		115
Answered	279		
Skipped	27		



**Do you support the proposed changes to the Isle of St Francis and Nuyts Reefs?**

Strongly Support	12%		32
Support	18%		47
Neutral	51%		135
Oppose	8%		20
Strongly Oppose	11%		30

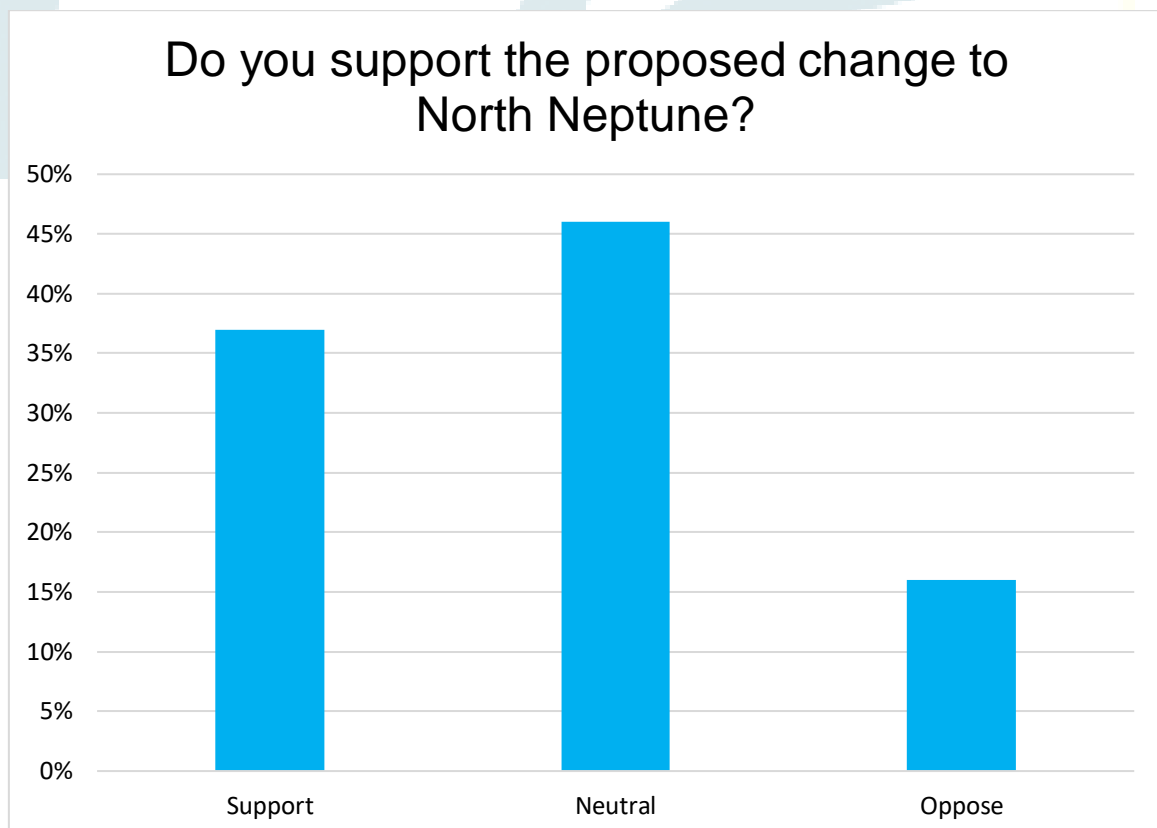
Additional comments provided in support of change	Additional comments provided in opposition of change
I opens that place up again to overnight trips and provides shelter while fishing	There is no evidence, be it scientific, anecdotal or effort related, for the offshore sanctuary areas of the Nuyts Archipelago marine park; Proposed changes will decrease areas that I fish; Would prefer to have access to Cannan Reef



### Do you support the proposed changes to North Neptune?

Strongly Support	12%		30
Support	25%		63
Neutral	46%		116
Oppose	10%		24
Strongly Oppose	7%		17

Additional comments provided in support of change	Additional comments provided in opposition of change
Opening up areas of the North Neptunes allows fishers to fish areas of the Neptunes without forcing them to make the longer, potentially more dangerous trip to South Neptunes; It's a good safe anchorage point in an area where that is limited	Less places to fish where I used to enjoy fishing



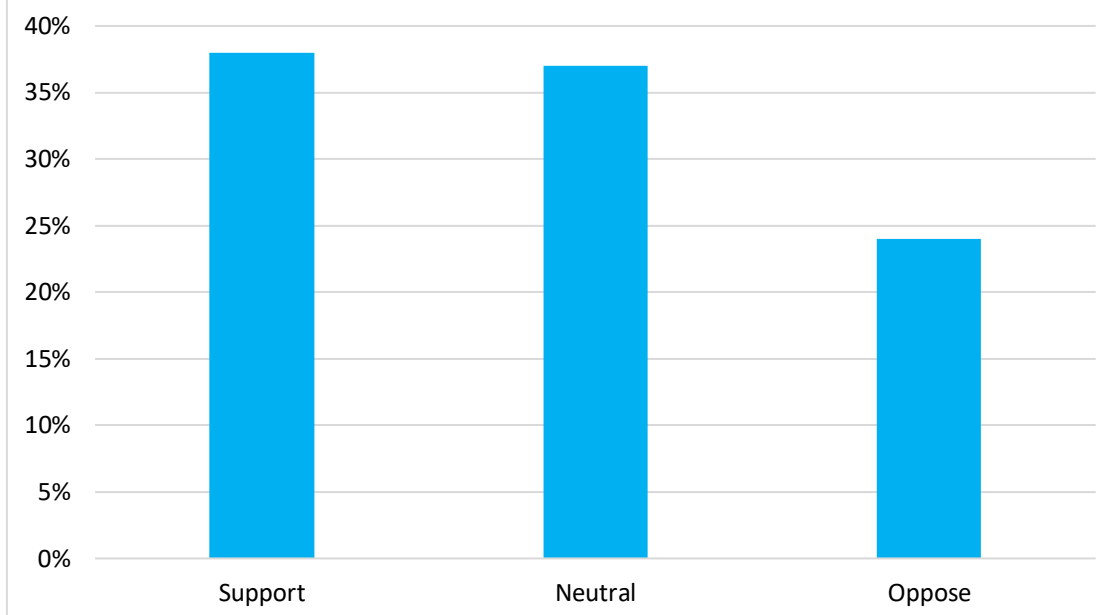


### Do you support the proposed changes to Clinton Wetlands?

Strongly Support	13%		31
Support	25%		61
Neutral	37%		90
Oppose	12%		28
Strongly Oppose	12%		30

Additional comments provided in support of change	Additional comments provided in opposition of change
This was the greatest injustice of them all and the change is long overdue; Allow some fishing for the locals	This area is one of the few that will help protect fish numbers. It is a breeding ground, and an area where multiple varieties of marine animals start their life; Commercial fishing has already depleted fish stocks so leaving the current sanctuary zone in place is critical.

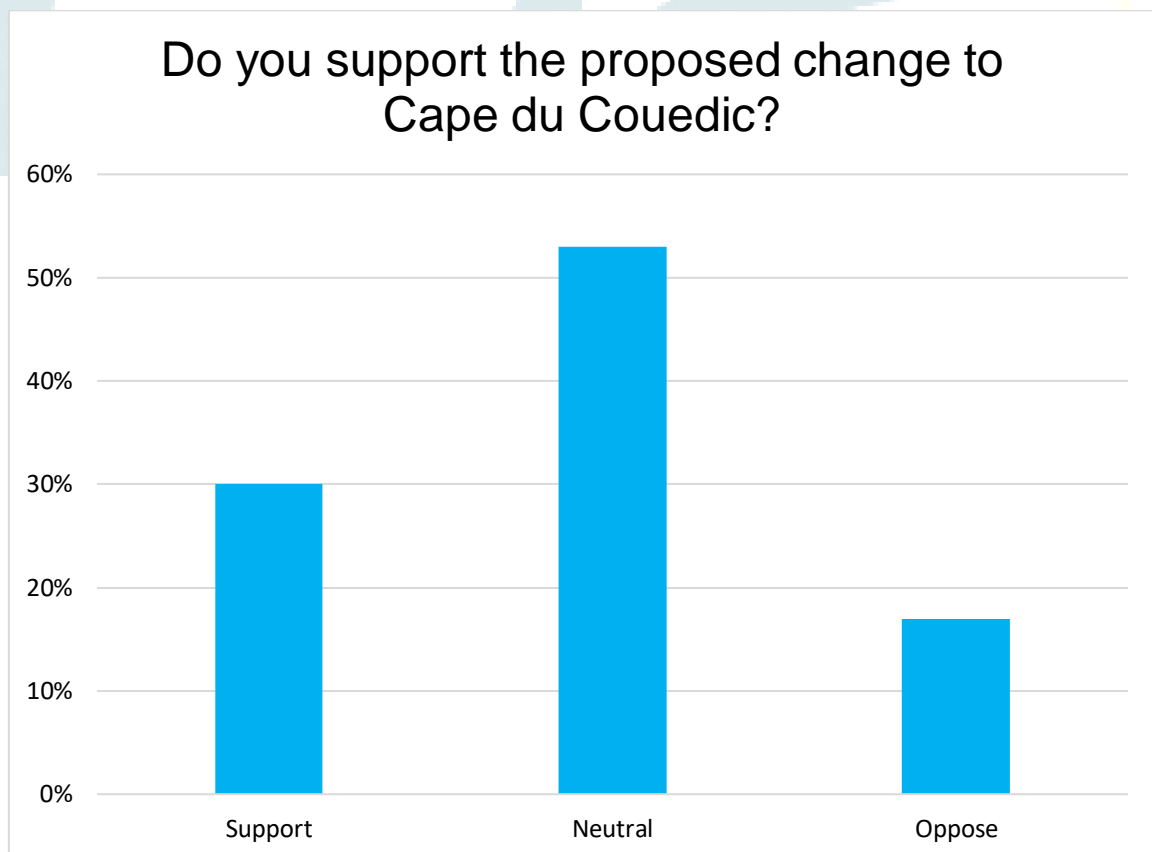
### Do you support the proposed change to Clinton Wetlands?



**Do you support the proposed changes to Cape du Couedic?**

Strongly Support	7%		16
Support	23%		54
Neutral	53%		125
Oppose	8%		19
Strongly Oppose	9%		21

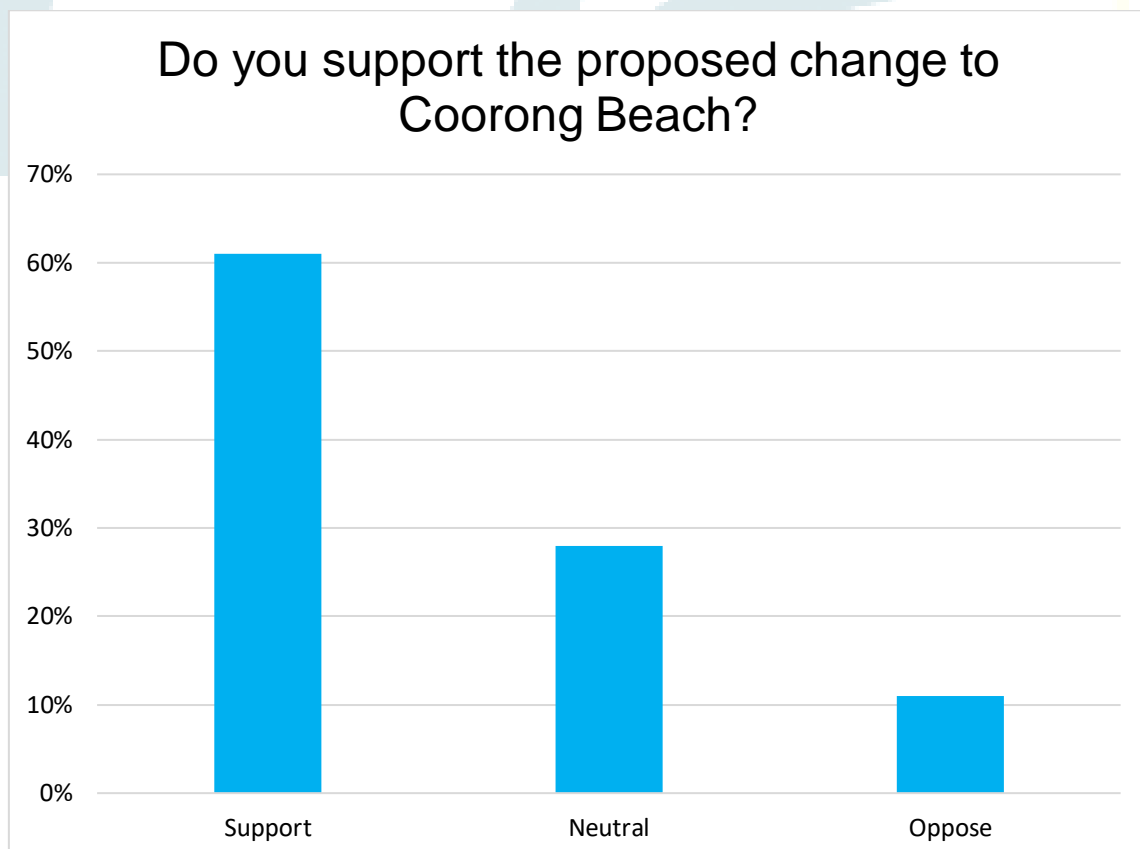
Additional comments provided in support of change	Additional comments provided in opposition of change
Difficult area to access for most fishermen so impact should hopefully be minimal; Shouldn't be a locked out area at all. This zone receives little to any fishing pressure and isn't under any threat from recreational fishing at all.	Leave it as is. It needs to be protected from exploitation; Backing onto a national park, this area should include a robust SZ; Very few people would fish here so leave as a sanctuary



### Do you support the proposed changes to Coorong Beach?

Strongly Support	29%		68
Support	32%		74
Neutral	28%		66
Oppose	6%		13
Strongly Oppose	5%		12

Additional comments provided in support of change	Additional comments provided in opposition of change
There is no scientific reason for this sanctuary zone to exist, It was simply a box ticking exercise; Support opening to recreational fishing from beach only; Shore based fishing is low impact	I am cautious to support this because it appears there are many areas for shore based fishing either side of the area. No fishing should be allowed at all due to the damage caused to dunes and vital ecosystems; Ban Commercial net fishers



## H. Summary of YourSay Survey Question 12. “Do you have any other feedback to provide about the proposed changes to South Australia’s marine parks?”

The feedback to this question was sorted by respondent type and then classified into main themes. Responses were also sorted in unspecified support or opposition to the proposal, alternative suggestions or general comment.

Question 12 – Do you have any other feedback to provide about the proposed changes to South Australia’s marine parks?

### Commercial fishers

There were 16 responses to this question by commercial fishers. Most responses (88 per cent) to this question were to state unspecified support for the proposed changes on the basis that it will help the fishing industry and family businesses. The remaining 12 per cent made comments related to fisheries management (Table 17 Table 18).

**Table 17. Comments made by commercial fishers supportive of proposal**

Support amendments
The marine parks have a devastating effect on local businesses and the need to be changed
Please make this happen the fishing industry needs it
support
I think it's going to help the struggling fishing industry
Strongly support all changes
I support the proposed amendments as it will mean a positive outcome for local business and community.
I support the amendments proposed. Being involved with the fishing, in particular abalone, industry the amendments will be advantageous to the sustainability of the industries and businesses protecting the environment, helping spread the effort and stop the concentration of some areas being over targeted and thus over fished, bring a much needed economic boost to numerous local towns and businesses whilst also protecting the species and natural flora that need to be protected.
I support these changes
Give the commercial fishing industry a break from zones made with no science
The changes need to be made so many families are depending on these changes
I agree with the proposed amendments, it strikes a good balance between conservation objectives, commercial and recreational fishing and community and social outcomes.

**Table 18. Fishery management comments made by commercial fishers**

My comments - either we aspire to have respectable Fisheries management or we don't. As the industry predicted, the Northern Zone rock Lobster fishery has severely struggled in sustainability terms since the activation of Marine Parks. These changes do go some way toward decreasing fishing effort across the grounds left available. Nowhere have I read of what these Marine Parks actually have achieved in positive terms for the community. Instead we still read of Ideology and niceties from a Green Concept world. Instead I'm disappointed that none of these concepts relate to reality and best practice fisheries management and the mental health of regional communities.

I hope you listen to the people and how our fish stocks are in serious decline. Been commercially fishing in SA for 30 years and it's getting harder to find fish and the government has done nothing

### Recreational fishers

There were 36 responses to this question by recreational fishers. The main themes raised were conservation and recreational and commercial fishing.

The largest category in response to this question was to provide some alternatives to the current arrangement (50 per cent). A common theme was to relax regulation around recreational fishing in marine park SZ's (Table 19). Other alternative suggestions were around fishing, drones and tourism (Table 20).

Around 36 per cent of recreational fishers made comments that were unspecified opposition to reductions in protection (Table 21). Eight percent provided general comment while around five per cent indicated support for the proposed changes (Table 22).

**Table 19. Comments by recreational fishers around fishing in marine parks**

Shore based recreational fishing should be allowed in all marine parks that abut land. It is a very low impact activity which encourages healthy outdoor activity by families.

depending on marine park rules, if total fishing is to be banned in a certain park and pelagic fish do pass through this area i.e. blue fin tuna - recreational fishing person should be allowed to target these fish; only by trolling method agree fishing by bait method will take out local fish in the marine park, but the above method should be allowed

Recreational fishing is not a threat to biodiversity or fish stocks and is adequately managed via bag and boat limits. Exploitation by commercial fishers is the main reason for collapse of certain fish stocks i.e. longlining/netting in the gulfs for snapper. Longlining is not sustainable and netting destroys habitat and results in unnecessary fish deaths among fish released or damage/inability for released fish to breed (i.e. garfish).

When in doubt reduce bag limits and make artificial reefs the future generations will thank you we have such a unique diversity with eco-tourism or limited catch numbers of prized fish could really put SA on the tourism trail Over all excellent compromises

Yes. Recreational fishing in the Victor Harbor inshore waters has deteriorated since the exclusion zone at Port Elliot / Middleton due to the extra effort now being placed on the limited fishing spots outside the zone due to a higher concentration of boats in a smaller area. The exclusion of recreational fishing in the restricted zone is unwarranted as the species targeted by recreational fishers, i.e. rock lobster, flat head, snapper, tuna etc. have no research history for this area that validated the contentions that restricting fishing is beneficial.

I do not support the use of SZ's. I support the use of sound scientific information for the protection of spawning aggregations of fish and their juvenile's nurseries. If Marine parks and their SZ's are to be used they need to be based on sound scientific information and be placed accordingly. Placing them to achieve a predetermined percentage of area is not sound scientific information. Many of the SZ's that have been put in place have no scientific benefit to fish. Closing remote areas of to exclude their only user group is of no benefit to anybody. We were promised a threat and science based review of marine parks and SZ's. Where is the science behind these decisions

Recreational fishing should be allowed in all SZ's, species of most concern should be based on a tag//ballot/TAC rec system, much like North America.

All of the parks need to be reviewed, particularly ones that offer sheltered fishing for small boats/kayaks. Upper spencer gulf above Port Augusta is a good example, safe boating in most weather, now small boats are forced to fish further down the gulf where there is less protection, will result in a tragic accident one day. Marine parks should be open to community recreational fishing. SZ's should only stop commercial fishing and not recreational. Some of the zones are inshore and safe fishing spots for small boats and land based anglers.

You should be able to drift fish in marine parks just ban anchoring.

The canon reef area is only pelagic fishing and In saying that it is very rarely used as the most avid fisher may only venture out there a couple times a year.

Don't ban drones from marine parks, may make them have a casa license but don't ban them altogether.

Recreational fishing is not the problem. Commercial fishing needs to be regulated appropriately.

I feel that changes to allow some recreational fishing at specific locations is a positive outcome for the community but changes to allow commercial fishing will have a detrimental effect on the fish population. These SZ's are important for maintaining fish populations at levels where fishing does not deplete or threaten the continued existence of a species. Past experience has shown that over exploitation has threatened the viability of the fishing industry and mistakes of the past should not be repeated because those who do not understand push for greater access to fish stocks.

Whilst there is a place for commercial fisherman, overfishing with long lines nets outweighs impact on fishing stocks than recreational fisherman. For example, look at snapper and garfish stocks and impact on current levels and how bad things have become.

I'm very confused about why secluded areas that only a hand full of boats and fishers can access is cut off from use. As a charter operator these areas would bring new life into a dying charter fishery industry. Why not just open it.

Hopefully one day there will be a revision of the marine parks west of port Lincoln that favor recreational fishers, based on the votes we represent and the fact it is a liberal strong hold I won't be holding my breath

**Table 20. Comments by recreational fishers in regards to fishing, tourism and drones**

When in doubt reduce bag limits and make artificial reefs the future generations will thank you we have such a unique diversity with eco-tourism or limited catch numbers of prized fish could really put SA on the tourism trail Over all excellent compromises

Yes. Recreational fishing in the Victor Harbor inshore waters has deteriorated since the exclusion zone at Port Elliot / Middleton due to the extra effort now being placed on the limited fishing spots outside the zone due to a higher concentration of boats in a smaller area. The exclusion of recreational fishing in the restricted zone is unwarranted as the species targeted by recreational fishers, i.e. rock lobster, flat head, snapper, tuna etc. have no research history for this area that validated the contentions that restricting fishing is beneficial.

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What happened to the promise made at the last state election, Steven Marshal committed that if elected would maintain South Australia's network of marine Parks but revise the current SZ's using a threat based determination, this hasn't been done, the SZ's should be made smaller, if the government go ahead with the changes you won't get my vote next time.

The science should also consider the broader impacts to the tourism industry around protection of areas which support this type of activity (Neptune's/Kangaroo Isle) as well as taking into consideration the long term impacts of reduced protection of breeding grounds (upper Spencer Gulf & Whyalla Point Lowly). IF these areas were protected the longer term benefits to all stakeholders would be assured.



**Table 21. Comments by recreational marine users that indicate opposition to reductions in marine protection**

I haven't got the time or technical knowledge to go through each of the above proposed changes except to say that I am not supportive of, in any way, reducing the size and scope of any of the protected areas. In the 50 odd years that I have been an avid recreational fisherman in SA I would say that the state of our fishing stock in general across our state has declined. The increase in the number of fishers and the quality of the equipment (including boats) which has improved markedly, has put a great deal of pressure on many of our fisheries. The dramatic collapse of the Snapper fishery is a case in point. My experience, predominantly on the Eyre Peninsula, is one also of an overall decline. Fishing in South Australia is, like many things about our State, an absolute treasure! The envy of many, not only interstate but also overseas visitors. We need to carefully manage it into the future so that it is there for future generations. I want my grandchildren to be able to enjoy the experience and not just listen to stories about how good it was in grandad's day! We need to treasure it and make it part of why people will want to come to SA. I am also completely AGHAST that fishing of the Giant Cuttlefish off Whyalla has been permitted at all! What possible justification can be made for this? We have been blessed with a completely unique situation with these incredible creatures right at our doorstep. People travel from all over the world to be enthralled only to be confronted with the unbelievable situation of boats lining up to pluck these amazing creatures out of the water right in front of their eyes. Great advertisement for our Tourism Industry desperately trying to get going again! I point out that this fishery was in serious decline only a few years ago as well. We must continue to very carefully and sensitively manage the amazing fish stock that we have been endowed with and sustain recreational as well as commercial fishing into the future as well as making it an icon that people will travel from all over the world to experience. BE SMART SA!

It defies belief that with all the evidence and experience that this government (which I regret I voted for) is reducing the little we have left of this vital marine environment. Expand all our zones. Once we reduce what is left of our fishing stocks, then that's it. We don't have time left, we need change NOW to preserve our marine environment.

From historical pre-settlement records and accounts it is obvious that fish stocks in South Australian waters today are a tiny fraction of just 200 years ago. Unless spawning grounds are protected from fishing, stocks will continue to decline. Additionally, coastal development continues to accelerating the damage and loss of spawning grounds. This is not a left / right political issue, nor a conservationist / fisher issue, it is immutably true for all people, regardless of their personal interest in fishing. One would hope that policy is not swayed to favour ill-informed special interest groups, no matter how well intentioned the interests groups or policy makers. Everyone will suffer if that happens, as it appears these management plans appear to be going to facilitate.

Going backwards regarding marine parks is just a knee-jerk reaction to an unforeseen pandemic and pressure from those who are uneducated in how biology and ecology works. The environment is still suffering and under immense human pressure enough, we really should be creating "source" environments (i.e. sources of marine biota, such as breeding grounds) and key habitats (e.g. marine biota feeding grounds). With a growing population both here and around the globe, we need more environmentally productive areas, not more areas we harvest from, so that we can have sustainable harvest areas and even harvest more. I am an older recreational fisher and spearfished, and I know what an over-harvested environment looks like, and what a protected marine SZ looks like. The difference is significant.

The current marine parks are working and if anything should be expanded to improve fish stocks locally. The commercial sector needs to be willing to sacrifice more to ensure long term viability. Use Victoria as a template for success.

The marine parks were designed with an extensive public consultation and many compromises were made along the way and millions of dollars were paid to the fishing industry for the fraction of the 6% of SZ's that actually covered existing fishing grounds. Many SZ's were pushed into areas of low interest to the commercial sector and this is why any reef, island or estuary habitat that made it into SZ's are especially important to the network and must be maintained. As the state government has shown, throughout the Covid-19 response, trusting scientists leads to good outcomes and the scientific consensus is clear that SZ's are an important tool in improving our oceans health, productivity and resilience. Having at least 30% of all habitat types protected in SZs is considered best practice and we should move toward this, not away from it. The government's own independent report showed that there is no economic, scientific, ecological or social reason for reducing SZ's. The current proposals can only be motivated by political nepotism for commercial fishers and an ideology of exploitation not conservation. Unfortunately some members of the Liberal Party have made election promises to individuals in the commercial fishing industry to meet their immediate wants, while compromising every South Australian's future need for sustainable and healthy oceans. I hope the enlightened members of parliament will show their wisdom and trust the science and vote down any changes that threaten to reduce the size of our precious SZ's.

Our marine park zones do not need to be tampered with, there are bans in place and big zones already. Focus your attention elsewhere instead of getting out your crayons and scribbling on a map.

My same feedback goes for each proposed change: The biggest problem is the reduction in fish stocks in recent years. Many species of fish were much more plentiful only a few years ago. Recreational fishing cannot continue if stocks are not protected and allowed to recover.

I am in support of Protection Zones to provide some protection for fish resources that are under increasing pressure from more boats and fishers with more sophisticated equipment that is allowing for easier catches and more pressure on stocks. I have been fishing in the St Vincent and Spencer Gulf areas for more than 40 years and am appalled at the reduction in available fish stocks. It takes far longer to catch an allowable quantity of fish than it did 40 years ago that tells me whatever fish remain need protection. While many people objected to the Protection Zones creation, they now exist and should not be reduced without scientific evidence that a reduction will not allow further reduced stocks.

Please retain the existing boundaries and controls.

Park should be expanded. No easing of current restrictions. Marine Parks provide valuable fish nursery habitats that allow other areas to be repopulated with new fish. Even recreational fishers can deplete a fishery to unsustainable levels.

Leave parks as they are. Don't allow any fishing in them.

Leave all as is.

**Table 22. General or supportive comments made by recreational marine users**

Marine Parks are necessary for the future to ensure stocks for the future.

I think all the changes are worthwhile and is good to see action being taken from the marine parks review process.

The supporting document is flawed as it fails to give adequate consideration to the relationship between tourism and healthy ecosystems and recreational fishing opportunities. Because it fails to calculate the financial contribution that visitation to SA rural areas provides, the report is heavily weighted towards the commercial fishing sector. I do not blame the report authors for this as they are working to a scope from SA Government. The outcomes of work that use the report are therefore subject to bias and may not be fair.

Please consider the views of people that live in the community's affected by the changes more seriously. We live and breathe the outdoors and marine environment and look after our backyard!

I am submitting a document to [marineparks@sa.gov.au](mailto:marineparks@sa.gov.au) that addresses my thoughts on the proposed changes to the Nuyts Archipelago Marine Park.

## Citizens

There were 48 responses to this question by people identifying as citizens. The main themes raised were conservation and commercial and recreational fishing. For this question, around 90 per cent of respondents had answers that were based on conservational views and expressed opposition to reducing protection in marine parks (Table 23). Six per cent provided some alternative and four per cent provided minor comment (Table 24).

### Table 23. Comments by citizens that indicate opposition to reductions in marine protection

<p>The reduction of any park areas and of protection is a backward step. The scientific reports that the government seems willing to ignore should be properly taken into account. The changes should not simply be a narrow approach, prompted in many cases by leverage from short-sighted commercial interests.</p>
<p>The fishing industry already has access to vast areas of the marine environment. I believe that protection and extension of our already degraded and struggling marine environment would potentially provide some eco-tourism opportunities which is an important way to educate people in the need to provide a balanced use of the natural environment. At some point governments have to stop placing the economic interests of commercial and recreational fishers above the environmental interests of ecology management, before we have degraded the environment so badly that it will never recover. Environmental management requires taking a long term view on these matters, rather than the short term interests of self-interest groups only interested in taking whatever they can from the environment as though it belongs to them and is their right above any other considerations.</p>
<p>Yes, do not decrease the size of any marine parks, it is a ridiculous thought. Over fishing is a huge problem worldwide, and enabling people to have more access to fishing will only be detrimental to the ecosystem.</p>
<p>Changes proposed will adversely affect the purpose of the marine parks system as shown in the government's own recent study. We should be increasing conservation efforts.</p>
<p>No marine park should be decreased in size, nor should fishing be permitted within the boundaries.</p>
<p>SA's world leading marine protected areas have been established to protect marine biodiversity largely because of the negative impact of commercial fishing. I believe that expanding the marine protected areas should be a priority for government to continue to protect SA's unique marine ecosystems. This should not come at a price. Recreational fishing is important culturally for many people and should be allowed within reasonable limits, but the risk from expanding commercial fishing is too high. Government should be considering the impact on wildlife, but also on recreational diving and tourism.</p>
<p>Don't change what is already working and add the two new sanctuaries.</p>
<p>I am all for increasing the number and size of marine sanctuaries in South Australian waters. I believe that any reduction in the size of the current sanctuaries would be a seriously retrograde step that would endanger fish stocks and habitat.</p>

Given that scientific data shows benefits of marine parks as replenishments of marine species of all kinds, including important sea grasses, I do not see any reason that governments should bow to pressure from fisheries or recreational fishers to reduce the benefits of our marine parks in any way.

The Liberal government wants to downgrade the conservation objects of marine parks and open them up to commercial fishing. This is a capitulation to private's commercial interests of the public good that marine parks provide our state.

No changes are required, the government's own review says so!

Any reduction to these small marine sanctuaries seems entirely inappropriate at a time when we should be doing all we can to protect our natural environment. I would find it impossible to support any reductions and instead we should be looking at increasing the size of marine sanctuaries in SA for current and future generations. Opening up suitable areas for recreational fishing makes sense, but opening up to commercial fishing seems counter-intuitive to why these were established in the first place.

I DO NOT SUPPORT any of these sweeping reductive changes. After 7 years of community consultation and positive scientific outcomes, to date, it is a very backwards step to REDUCE SZ's as the government has proposed. In relation to my local area.....Most of the Marine parks, by design, have connections to the terrestrial protected areas on Kangaroo Island and are also designed, as far as possible, to meet the international standard of protecting 20% of all marine ecosystems in SZ's. Unfortunately, only 6% of our marine parks are protected within SZ's. As part of the process and throughout the public debate the Government, conservation interests, the community and the fishing industry have benefited from the involvement and advice of some of South Australia's leading marine scientists. A Scientific Working Group made up of a number of South Australia's most respected marine scientists, has provided independent advice to the government on all matters of marine conservation initiatives, including marine parks. This advice should form the continued basis for protection NOT reduction of Marine Parks and SZ's. Changes to zoning will have an impact on how the marine park network satisfies the criteria for a comprehensive, adequate and representative system of marine parks by reducing the area of habitats and features which are afforded the highest level of biodiversity protection and conservation. The Government proposal will potentially have a huge long-term impact on the Kangaroo Island economy, an economy already heavily affected by the 2020 bushfires and the Covid-19 pandemic. We need to rebuild our ecotourism economy to do this we need to maintain the health of our natural assets, including our marine environment.

Do not support

SA's marine parks, building populations of shellfish, seagrass, kelp, and the multitude of species that inhabit these zones make a critical difference to our marine and coastal environment. Allowing the return of fishing to parts of these areas will reduce fish predator species that control numbers of sea floor grazers that can destroy the whole ecosystem. Fishing at the edges of these parks should be sufficient access for anglers, any intrusion into the parks will inevitably reduce the capacity of these parks to influence overall marine environmental and ecological health. Maintaining or extending marine park boundaries will improve fish stocks outside the park zones because of gradual improvement of ecologies. This is not the time to start winding back the advances of recent years. Long term ecological and environmental protection and regeneration needs to be the focus of resource management, not short term protection opened up to fishing before meaningful long term changes have been achieved. Short term interest group inspired decisions like this drive voters from mainstream parties. The environment is one of the main factors in my voting decision making, and management of resources like this will influence my voting choices.

Despite some concerning proposed reductions in SZ's, especially off Kangaroo Island and at the top of the Gulf of St Vincent, the State Government should be strongly commended for their work on reef creation and restoration. One last point - I know it's not easy to keep all the stakeholders happy, but you should not need to roll over quite so much to the commercial fishers in the proposed changes. Commercials will better from long-term management of stable and enlarged SZ's, and need to be saved from their own short-termism horizons which will only see their industry decline.

I believe that an increase in commercial fishing will have a negative impact on these areas and the oceans in general around our coast and would strongly discourage any changes to reduce the size of the sanctuaries and increase commercial fishing. Protecting these water ways in the long term should be more important than short term fiscal gain. Other options should be looked at to increase the economies of these regional areas such as tourism or other industries. Increased fishing in this area in the long term will have a negative impact on the ecosystem of the ocean in these areas which are a big draw for tourism.

The more Marine parks the wider they are, the greater the diversity and safety for the creatures, plants fish and mammals and animals that live in these waters. They need to thrive and not be deprived of the foods they need to live off of.

I think that reducing the size of any of the marine parks is short-sighted and damaging to the long-term interests of the environment and commercial activities. The amount of marine park is a tiny percentage of the total marine area, we should be able to protect more of it to ensure a thriving coastline and industry for our children.

Government polling shows that more than 90% of South Australians support their marine sanctuaries. And the Government's own review found that our marine parks and sanctuaries are bringing many benefits to our marine life and regional communities. At a time when marine life is undergoing massive stress due to climate change and over fishing, we need to be creating more sanctuaries, not removing restrictions on existing ones. No fish zones have been shown to improve fishing by allowing fish to breed up and repopulate overfished areas outside of the sanctuary. As a recreational fisherman I am happy to sacrifice certain areas where I cannot fish to increase future populations and ensure species are able to adapt to climate change. Our marine ecosystems would also benefit from increased funding for research to improve conservation efforts, please consider increasing funding instead of decreasing protection.

Any reduction in sanctuary sizes must be stopped, we need to preserve our marine environment for future generations

After looking at the proposed changes to the marine SZ's (SZ) in the EconSearch report, I am impressed by the detail, scale and complexity of the issue. I and my family are generally concerned about the reduction of some of the SZ areas identified in the report. We understand there has been wide consultation with conservation groups and commercial and recreational fishing groups and compromises have been made on both sides. However, we find that overall, the proposal prioritises economy over environment, which is disappointing. The proposed changes by the South Australian Government seem to be based on the scant data currently available which do not fully reflect the impact on biodiversity in the coastal waters so far. I strongly believe that the South Australian Government should first focus on collecting sufficient data to measure the function of the current SZ areas, before initiating the proposed changes, to avoid negative environmental impact. We strongly believe that the South Australian Government when attempting to balance the economy, should set its priority on providing adequate policies and resources for environmental protection and environmental impact monitoring. The information on the proposed marine sanctuary changes presented by the Department of Environment and Water (DEW) do not appear to put any emphasis on the above-mentioned issues, i.e. environmental protection and environmental impact monitoring. We most certainly suggest that DEW and the Department of Primary Industries collaborate on policies and allocate more resources to the policing of commercial and recreational fishing of all waters of South Australia. Strict controls on fishing licensing and quotas will go a long way in protecting and preserving our native wildlife even if the overall marine sanctuary area is reduced.

I object to opening marine parks up for fishing etc.

No commercial or recreational fishing in marine parks. These are tiny pieces of the ocean that will provide sanctuary to creatures and the plant life for generations to come. We cannot take everything for ourselves. South Australians dwelling here in 100, 200 etc. years should be able to enjoy these places as we do.

Leave the fish alone.

These changes are mostly economically beneficial which I can understand is important (especially now post covid) but here in SA we have some truly unique and critically important marine habitat and I think it's important we do our part to protect it. We cannot sacrifice the health and biodiversity of what precious natural/untouched environments we have left. It will be irreversibly destroying land for a small, temporary economic benefit

The paramount decisions that need to be made are to protect marine life. This means protecting nurseries, prevent overfishing, preventing loss of vulnerable marine creatures (plant and animal) and ensuring the environments are conserved for the next generations. Changes to legislation to allow fishing of cuttlefish in Spencer Gulf is an example of mismanagement and poor decision-making on behalf of this government as well. We must protect Our marine environments. Once lost, they will not recover, especially with random and deliberate pollution of the seas.

I do not agree with any relaxing of restrictions on commercial and recreational fishing. We need to protect the environment and to be able to sustain fish populations into the future. We need to extend South Australia's Marine Parks.

Nil- as per above.

Strengthen not weaken our SZ's.

I don't agree with reducing established conservation areas as I am concern it will have a negative impact on tourism businesses. I believe the marine life in South Australian waters should be protected and preserved in accordance with the evidence presented by science research and the communities' views. Please retain all existing marine sanctuaries to preserve our marine life, tourism businesses and regional communities.

As I have said in response to each specific proposal, the key focus of the management of SA's marine parks is to protect key marine habitats and breeding grounds, which in turn increases fish stocks and enhances marine biodiversity. Reducing SZ sizes, or rezoning certain parts of them, for the purpose of opening up greater access to recreational and commercial fishing obviously will run counter to that focus. We need to enable the marine environments in South Australia, Australia and the world as a whole to recover from over-fishing, particularly from the reduction in marine biodiversity. Thank you for the opportunity to have my say.

Concerned that overall there is a roll back of Marine Parks which may be detrimental to future fish stocks.

Fish stocks are low, the marine environment is under too much pressure. No fishing of any type should be done in marine sanctuaries. The area of sanctuaries should be expanded.

Leave things alone. Give the environment a chance to recover and sanctuary in our coasts. Tired of environment exploited by greedy people.

Please consider the issue of climate change and long term benefits of protection of our marine areas. The long term benefits of a healthy marine environment for all South Australians (and future tourism) should outweigh the short term benefits of the commercial fishing industry, who were compensated when the restricted zones were introduced originally.

The proposed amendments appear to be in direct contradiction to the findings of the independent review - part of the rationale for the amendments is to support the economy, but the review finds that with rock lobster and abalone Fisheries being quota based, there would be little economic benefit of opening these SZ's - and I note the review found that the buyback of licenses/effort at the time the zones were created was considered sufficient to offset economic impact to the industry. The proposed changes will essentially benefit the individuals that remain in the industry because they already catch their quota limits. Reduced costs and faster catch times are the likely only benefits from these proposed changes. Conservation efforts are subsequently diminished with no economic return to the state.

The more protected reefs and sheltered areas we can preserve for breeding the better it is for anyone looking for the next generation.

I'm so upset and horrified that the government wants to do this. Its such terrible policy and for what? Minor commercial gain for a handful of people.

I am only familiar with the Coorong situation but it would appear that any help we can give to the marine environment and its inhabitants both flora and fauna via the SZ's is vital and increasing general protection and not decreasing any is a must. I believe that any increase in commercial activity should not occur especially as I think we paid for some of these businesses to be terminated.

Stop destroying natural marine parks by allowing fishing of rare/endangered stock and their habitat.

I am opposed to the reduction in size of SZ's. The evidence shows that greater % of no take zones is beneficial to all fisheries and the marine environment.



I don't have any feedback on the individual sanctuaries as I do not fish and am not totally familiar with the individual areas but it seems to me that money and business is being put ahead of our environment. South Australian waters are home to an amazing diversity of marine life and plants, with about 85 per cent of our marine species found nowhere else in the world and this is most certainly worth protecting. Many areas have in the past been stripped of safe levels of certain species due to over fishing however, due to the legislation enacted in 2012 to protect and conserve South Australia's marine life for the future, most marine species are back to reasonable levels. Why do you now want to encroach on these protected areas? Why are you messing with a system that is effective in maintaining the marine environment other than for reasons of profit? Further I have read that these planned cuts to marine parks SZ's are neither backed by science nor recommended by the government's own review of the zones. There are sufficient recreational fishing spots elsewhere and commercial fishing is far too invasive for sensitive marine areas. For all the above reasons I do not support any of the cuts - leave our marine sanctuaries alone!!

Pressure from the fishing industry needs to be resisted. In the longer term they will benefit. Our marine parks already are greatly comprised.

**Table 24. Alternative suggestions and general comments made by citizens**

I would like to see ALL or any Marine parks boundaries clearly marked with marker boys rather than just GPS marks on a map!

All of this is a broken election promise by the Liberal government. The entire marine park network was meant to undergo a threats based review, instead an economic one was undertaken with a token couple of paragraphs to the threats various activities make. Fishing shouldn't be managed through lockout zones, existing fisheries act has enough provisions to manage both the commercial and recreational sectors. Australia is one of the only countries that implements bans on recreational fishing in SZ's, they are completely unnecessary with our comprehensive fisheries act

There should have been proper and through public consultation, similar to what was needed to create these areas.

At 6% our marine reserves are minimal. The recommendation is 20% of coastal waters. It is obvious in the report that where there is protection, numbers of species and their size increases which is what you want as hopefully the fish move into the 'catch' areas. Although this is probably not within the scope of this report I would like a maximum size put on species that would allow large breeding fish to be returned and continue breeding.

Thanks for the opportunity to contribute

**Environmental organisations**

There were 8 responses to this question by people identifying as being from an environmental organisations. The main themes raised was conservation. For this question, around 75 per cent of respondents had answers that were based on conservational views and expressed opposition to reducing protection in marine parks (Table 25). Twenty-five per cent provided general comment (Table 26)

**Table 25. Comments by environmental organisations that indicate opposition to reductions in marine protection**

<p>We should be greatly expanding our Marine Parks and SZ's, not reducing them. Over many years of research around the world they have been shown to increase the value of fisheries. Marine creatures in unfished waters grow bigger and faster, and produce many more offspring, which migrate out into fished waters. From a purely economic standpoint they make extremely good sense. They also make extremely good environmental sense if we care at all about preserving biodiversity for our children and grandchildren to experience and enjoy (and catch and eat).</p>
<p>We have a duty of care to protect our precious marine life. These sanctuaries have been in place for 6 years and are working beautifully so why change something that is not broken? They provide critical protection to all kinds of marine life. We should be proud that we've created some of the world's largest networks of marine parks and sanctuaries and helped protect the iconic Great Australian Bight. South Australians support these sanctuaries and the Governments own review found that our marine parks and sanctuaries bring many benefits to our marine life and rural communities. They help ensure we have fish for the future by protecting the crucial feeding and breeding areas. This results in great fishing in marine parks and outside sanctuaries - a win for conservation, a win for marine life and a win for recreation. Please leave these sanctuaries as is and do not reduce them. Thank you</p>
<p>There is excellent science behind the existing Parks. With such a small area of SZ's currently, as new science comes to the fore and the obvious success of the existing program, we should be looking to extend the areas under protection, not diminishing them. The larger the percentage of our waters properly protected the greater assurance we have that we will be enhancing the prospects for the future of our oceans and the industries that rely on them.</p>
<p>I am very disappointed and annoyed that the zones had been agreed upon and set, then against all scientific proof and research the government is interfering with the evidence of success already proven. I do not just want the current proposals to reduce the SW Marine Park SZ stopped, but also I want SZ's proclaimed in D'Estrees Bay (seagrass) and Nepean Bay (JAMBA and CAMBA migrating bird habitat).</p>
<p>We do not support the reduction in size of any of the SZ's, but welcome new/additional SZ's. A healthy marine environment benefits seabirds, shorebirds and beach-nesting birds.</p>
<p>Leave our ocean alone! Stop trying to damage it for the sake of \$\$\$.</p>

**Table 26. General comments by environmental organisations**

<p>Is shore based fishing no longer allowed around Pt. Noarlunga under the proposal?</p>
<p>The supposed 'independent' reports which the zoning amendments are assessed on are not independent and are heavily influenced by the Department for Environment and Water. These bias reports do not give an objective assessment and must be withdrawn and the DEW apologies for corrupting a democratic process.</p>

**Statutory or advisory council and educational body,**

There were two respondents who identified as an educational body or statutory group or advisory council. Responses can be seen in Table 27. There is one supportive response and one that opposes any reductions in protection.

**Table 27. Comments provided by statutory or advisory council or Educational bodies**

It appears these decisions are based on short term economics. It took so long to get the parks in place and so much division in the community it is important the government maintains the areas set aside so future generations have marine resources as well as the current generations. Were any of these decisions based on solid data or are they the whim of a politician who does not look towards the long term. SA is already suffering from over exploitation, we need to protect more not wind back boundaries

I believe the proposed changes have allowed for both marine environmentalists and fishing groups to both achieve a common goal and the future of all industries remain sustainable

## I. YourSAY discussion board comments

Comment via YourSAY	Response via YourSAY
<p>I support the Upper Gulf St Vincent Marine Park Management Plan.</p> <p>2. I do not support the proposed changes to the North Neptune, Neptune Islands Group (Ron and Valerie Taylor) Marine Park RAZ and the Cape du Couedic, Western Kangaroo Island Marine Park as it will seriously affect the marine life. Remember why the SZ's were made so large in the first place was to protect marine life.</p> <p>3. I support the creation of new SZ to encompass Glenelg shellfish reef, Encounter Marine Park.</p> <p>4. I support the proposed amendments to Coorong Beach South, Upper South East Marine Park.</p> <p>5. I support the planned opening up for recreational fishing for the above marine parks but I do NOT support the planned opening up for commercial fishing, except for the rock lobster and abalone industries which have been severely impacted by COVID-19.</p> <p><b>Other User reply</b> The Glenelg shellfish reef was originally promised to be 3 reefs for recreational fishing. Now you want those stakeholders banned as well.</p>	<p>Thank you for your response, we appreciate the feedback. If you would like to provide further comment you can do so by completing the survey at the following link. <a href="https://yoursay.sa.gov.au/surveys/proposed-changes-to-sa-s-marine-parks-proposed-changes-to-marine-parks-survey">https://yoursay.sa.gov.au/surveys/proposed-changes-to-sa-s-marine-parks-proposed-changes-to-marine-parks-survey</a></p> <p>Kind regards South Australian Marine Parks</p>

Comment via YourSAy	Response via YourSAy
<p>I think the changes are basically sound and will not adversely impact on the ecosystems. Allowing access to people to use the designated zones within reasonable and responsible limits is a common sense way of ensuring there is long term commitment to our marine parks. Getting the balance right is important and sometimes notions of locking away large marine areas without any access, especially access that will have very limited impact on the ecosystems, is not the way we should go. Obviously very sensitive areas must be protected and in most instances designating these areas as not suitable for public access is warranted. My only concern is that along with our current fish stock monitoring, we need to regularly review how our parks are functioning and make any adjustments are needed to protect them. Thankfully SA can hold its head high in terms of getting the balance about right with a generally very healthy marine environment.</p>	<p>Thank you for your response, we appreciate the feedback. If you would like to provide further comment you can do so by completing the survey at the following link.  <a href="https://yoursay.sa.gov.au/surveys/proposed-changes-to-sa-s-marine-parks-proposed-changes-to-marine-parks-survey">https://yoursay.sa.gov.au/surveys/proposed-changes-to-sa-s-marine-parks-proposed-changes-to-marine-parks-survey</a></p> <p>Kind regards            South Australian Marine Parks</p>
<p>I would not support any changes to reduce the size of any SZ in any marine park. To use the Covid-19 as an excuse for these proposed changes is not acceptable. Surely the introduction of SZ's in the first place was to provide reference areas to monitor changes over time and to allow for some recruitment of over exploited species. SZ's are needed now more than ever with obvious on-going declines in key recreational and commercially targeted species. It is inexcusable to place profit above long term sound management of our marine resources.</p>	<p>Thank you for your response and expressing your concerns. We appreciate the feedback. If you would like to provide further comment you can do so by completing the survey at the following link.  <a href="https://yoursay.sa.gov.au/surveys/proposed-changes-to-sa-s-marine-parks-proposed-changes-to-marine-parks-survey">https://yoursay.sa.gov.au/surveys/proposed-changes-to-sa-s-marine-parks-proposed-changes-to-marine-parks-survey</a></p> <p>Kind regards            South Australian Marine Parks</p>

Comment via YourSAy	Response via YourSAy
<p>I am not in favour of making changes to marine parks for any commercial reasons. I.e. not so commercial fisherman can use park areas. Sadly, the methods used by some not all, are destructive of habitat as well as taking non-commercial stock.</p> <p>Parks worldwide are under threat for "commercial" reasons, such as fossil fuel searches and there is always "sound" reasons for altering parks - that aren't.</p> <p>We have NO IDEA of the effects on sea/ocean wild life as global heating increases. The loss of sea habitat like the giant kelp of The Tasmin Sea a case in point. This is just another attack on public spaces whereas all our pristine parks must be protected for all future SA residents [and the world] and the natural environments contained in parks.</p> <p>Parks are for sharing. The more people on the planet all wanting resources, especially sea food, the strain on the world's seas and oceans and the more we are going to need safe places for sea animals and sea plants and life.</p> <p>Recreation yes, commercial absolutely no.</p>	<p>Thank you for your response. We appreciate the feedback and for taking the time to communicate your concerns. If you would like to provide further comment you can do so by completing the survey at the following link.</p> <p><a href="https://yoursay.sa.gov.au/surveys/proposed-changes-to-sa-s-marine-parks-proposed-changes-to-marine-parks-survey">https://yoursay.sa.gov.au/surveys/proposed-changes-to-sa-s-marine-parks-proposed-changes-to-marine-parks-survey</a></p> <p>Kind regards South Australian Marine Parks</p>
<p>I do not support the reduction in the SZ for the North of Gulf St Vincent. This is a unique and highly significant ecological zone and is important to fish stocks for the rest of GSV. Research in other Marine Parks has shown that SZ's become source areas for commercial species in areas outside of them. Recreational fishers will therefore gain from the SZ remaining as it is and being able to fish close to land facilities. Commercial fishing, particularly netting should under no circumstances be allowed in this area. Garfish numbers are down in this region in any case, likely from overfishing. Please let this unique area recover and allow it to support productive recreational and commercial fishing throughout other parts of Gulf St Vincent.</p> <p>I have just had another look at the Ecosearch report that underpins these changes. Why are changes to commercial fishing given financial quantification, but the financial contribution of</p>	<p>Thank you for your feedback. The scope of the 2018 and 2020 reports by BDO EconSearch was to summarise the environmental, economic and social values of the marine park SZ's and assess potential impacts on those values from changing some of the existing marine park management arrangements. Due to the nature of available data it is only possible to undertake a consistent economic quantification of change that may be directly related to a specific SZ for displaced catch/effort in the commercial fishing sector. Where specific economic data were available for non-commercial fishing values they have been presented (e.g. the economic value of shark cage diving at the Neptune Islands), but even in those instances it is not possible to meaningfully quantify the potential economic impact on those values from changing the existing arrangements.</p> <p>Should you wish to provide further comment please feel free to complete the online survey:</p>



Comment via YourSAy	Response via YourSAy
<p>recreational fishing, tourism and holiday and retirement living not quantified? The quality of our coastal ecosystems are key factors in the financial viability of many rural areas either indirectly or as direct scents for goods and services associated with recreational fishing visitation. The current financial disaster that these areas are living through shows this as the commercial fishers in these areas are still operating, but the main income for most country towns - visitation has dried up. Is not the report therefore biased towards commercial fishers?</p> <p>The authors are well able to do this sort of analysis but presumably they were not scoped of funded to do this. Why? Quite uncomfortable with this actually.....</p>	<p><a href="https://yoursay.sa.gov.au/surveys/proposed-changes-to-sa-s-marine-parks-proposed-changes-to-marine-parks-survey">https://yoursay.sa.gov.au/surveys/proposed-changes-to-sa-s-marine-parks-proposed-changes-to-marine-parks-survey</a> or send an email to <a href="mailto:marineparks@sa.gov.au">marineparks@sa.gov.au</a>.</p> <p>Kind Regard SA Marine Parks</p>

Comment via YourSAy	Response via YourSAy
<p>Thank you for confirming what I understood to be the scope. I recognise that like for like data on the economics of recreational use and tourism is not as simple as accessing the easily obtained information that commercial fisher's taxation and licensing returns. The information is however available and is possible to obtain, but it does require specific study. For example MacArthur, who did economic work for SA Gov in the commercial sector used the same commercial blocks to relate recreational value for the loss of sea grass in 2007 for SA Gov. Even as a start this would have been available to you. Her work could easily be extended for loss of area over any part of SA. Workers interstate have been doing valuations of coastal ecosystems for a few decades now, and regularly reporting it at conferences that SAGov employees have been attending. The work does require cost and effort to obtain, but no resources have been expended by SA Gov to do this work to allow a decent comparison between the economic, social and environmental values for SAs marine resources. This brings me back to bias inherent in the scope. The scope has called for particular information, but the cost of the report was kept low so the contractors had no way of providing like for like information in the report. In scoping, SA Gov could have reduced bias by choosing not to use information that was not common to all sectors, i.e. not include financials. I am guessing that there was no review of the scope for bias. So yes, the report suffers from bias towards the commercial sector, not through any fault of the authors, but in the way that you scoped and funded the work. I haven't looked at most of the other areas, but the Clinton Park was a stand out to me. YP towns kept languishing in one of the most stunning parts of OZ. A unique ecosystem at the head of the GSV, extensive sea grass beds at the head of a reverse estuary that is a known juvenile recruitment area - all of that economic potential for tourism and</p>	<p>Thank you Peter for your feedback. Your comments will be provided as a formal submission to the proposed changes to SA Marine Parks so thank you for taking the time to share your views. Kind Regards, SA Marine Parks</p>





Government  
of South Australia  
Department for  
Environment and Water

Comment via YourSAy	Response via YourSAy
<p>growth of towns recommended to be traded off against a couple of FTE and some fish wholesale value? If you did the actual numbers and compared there would be no argument. How many future jobs in regional areas and economics of YP towns are being dumped to do this? So yes, the report is biased towards commercial fishers at Top of GSV. If the other Parks are done in a similar way I am guessing they are biased too.</p>	

Comment via YourSAy	Response via YourSAy
<p>Eco-Action, along with Conservation SA and the Wilderness Society, other environmental organisations and members of the community (including fishers) supported the establishment of Marine Parks with viable Sanctuary (no take) Zones. The Marine Parks Act was enacted in 2007, the Zoning Regulations in 2012 and the parks and SZ's were established in 2012 and over the following years. The South Australian community worked assiduously in various ways from 2002 to have a suite of marine parks rolled out across SA however our focus, locally, has been on the Kangaroo Island marine parks. Members of Eco-Action served on the Local Advisory Group for many years and managed to get seven marine parks, with SZ's established off the coast of Kangaroo Island. Most of those parks, by design, have connections to the terrestrial protected areas on Kangaroo Island and are also designed, as far as possible, to meet the international standard of protecting 20% of all marine ecosystems in SZ's. Unfortunately, only 6% of our marine parks are protected within SZ's. As part of the process and throughout the public debate the Government, conservation interests, the community and the fishing industry have benefited from the involvement and advice of some of South Australia's leading marine scientists. A Scientific Working Group made up of a number of South Australia's most respected marine scientists, has provided independent advice to the government on all matters of marine conservation initiatives, including marine parks. Many members of the fishing fraternity including recreational and professional fishers agreed that a system of marine protected areas with SZ's would benefit our unique marine environment and contribute to a sustainable fishing industry and actively supported the establishment of marine parks. Recreational Fish SA supported the proposal. Since the establishment of Marine Parks in SA management plans have been rolled out and the benefits of the parks have become obvious.</p>	<p>Thank you for your feedback. Your comments will be provided as a formal submission to the proposed changes to SA Marine Parks so thank you for taking the time to share your views. If you haven't already done so you can also provide further comment by completing the online survey on this website. Kind Regards, SA Marine Parks</p>

Comment via YourSAy	Response via YourSAy
<p>For example, it has been reported that Rock Lobster size and numbers around Cape Du Couedic on Kangaroo Island have increased. It should be noted that many commercial fishers have been compensated as holders of statutory authorisations; 'If they believe a right granted by their authorisation is affected by the creation of a marine park zone or by a temporary prohibition or restriction of activities in a marine park'.The community assumed that the marine park system was established and was working well and tensions built through the process had resided. Sadly this is not to be! The State Government while acknowledging that the scale fishery in SA is in dire straits with many key species under threat, is implementing a program to reduce effort in the fishery buying back approximately 100 licences at great cost to the State. About one-third of South Australia's 309 commercial scale fishing licences will be bought back at a cost of \$20 million in an effort to bolster snapper, whiting and garfish stocks! At the same time the Government has announced that it will, while ignoring the BDO EconSearch investigation to assess the economic, social and environmental values of the current marine park SZ's, modify (reduce) marine park SZ's! With regard to Kangaroo Island, the Government proposes to reduce the Cape Du Couedic SZ within the Western Kangaroo Island Marine Park by two thirds!The BDO Econsearch work commissioned by the Government in 2018 to undertake an independent, science-based review of our network of marine parks to ensure an appropriate balance between sustaining our economy, recreational opportunities and environmental preservation found that:'Modifying the activities or zoning arrangements in the focus SZs to allow fishing or other extractive activities inside a SZ (by changing to HPZ status) will significantly reduce the effectiveness of the Marine Park network at protecting and conserving marine</p>	

Comment via YourSAy	Response via YourSAy
<p>biodiversity and habitats by:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Directly impacting species captured by extractive use by their selective removal and potential negative impacts to their population structure and reproductive success</li> <li>• Indirectly affecting species that are reliant on captured species for food, shelter or other services and directly impacting other species through disturbance.</li> <li>• Compromising trophic relationships and food webs with flow on effects to ecosystem function and resilience.</li> <li>• Increasing the risk of pollution and the spread of disease and marine pests.</li> <li>• Reducing the effectiveness of the Government’s monitoring program which is currently based on SZ and the protection afforded by them.</li> <li>• Altering the balance of habitats and features represented in the different zone types of the park network.Changes to zoning will have an impact on how the marine park network satisfies the criteria for a “comprehensive, adequate and representative system of marine parks” by reducing the area of habitats and features which are afforded the highest level of biodiversity protection and conservation.’The Government proposal will potentially have a huge long-term impact on the Kangaroo Island economy, an economy already heavily affected by the 2020 bushfires and the Covid 19 pandemic. We need to rebuild our ecotourism economy – to do this we need to maintain the health of our natural assets, including our marine environment.As opposed to SZ reductions we would also like the Government to expand the Marine Park system around Kangaroo Island and to establish SZ’s in D’Estrees Bay and Nepean Bay – as was originally proposed. The Seal Bay SZ should be extended to the East.</li> </ul>	

Comment via YourSAy	Response via YourSAy
<p>We need to increase marine parks and sanctuaries. I could write a lot, but Fraser Vickery has captured it all.</p> <p><b>Other user reply</b> I agree and this is what the amendments are proposing.</p>	<p>Thank you for your feedback and taking the time to join the online discussion about the proposed changes to SA Marine Parks.</p> <p>Should you wish to provide further comment please feel free to complete the online survey: <a href="https://yoursay.sa.gov.au/surveys/proposed-changes-to-sa-s-marine-parks-proposed-changes-to-marine-parks-survey">https://yoursay.sa.gov.au/surveys/proposed-changes-to-sa-s-marine-parks-proposed-changes-to-marine-parks-survey</a> or send an email to <a href="mailto:marineparks@sa.gov.au">marineparks@sa.gov.au</a></p> <p>Kind Regards SA Marine Parks</p>
<p>The size of if the parks must not be reduced. We must conserve these breeding areas.</p> <p><b>Other user reply</b> This proposal will INCREASE the marine park network by 98 km2 and SZ area by 113 km2. Isn't this a good outcome?</p>	<p>Thank you for your feedback. Should you wish to provide further comment please feel free to complete the online survey: <a href="https://yoursay.sa.gov.au/surveys/proposed-changes-to-sa-s-marine-parks-proposed-changes-to-marine-parks-survey">https://yoursay.sa.gov.au/surveys/proposed-changes-to-sa-s-marine-parks-proposed-changes-to-marine-parks-survey</a> or send an email to <a href="mailto:marineparks@sa.gov.au">marineparks@sa.gov.au</a></p> <p>Kind Regards SA Marine Parks</p>
<p>The USE Marine Park was established around 2012 and I was a member of the local action group. I believe we all worked extremely hard to get a balanced outcome for all participants, some of us wanted larger areas and some much smaller, in the end most were very happy with the outcome and to all intents we got on with our lives. I am very disappointed that we look like fiddling at the edges and changing our protected areas. In regards to the USE Marine Park protected area I am strongly opposed to any changes and the reason for my opposition is the rare and endangered Hooded Plover is under significant pressure along the coast everywhere. The beach is closed to all vehicles for a few months only north of Tea Tree Crossing but it should be extended for at least another month as fledglings are often sighted after it is opened. Their breeding season is from August through to late March early April, even now we are only giving them a small window of opportunity to be left undisturbed by human traffic. On top of that</p>	<p>Thank you to you both for providing your responses. We appreciate the feedback and for taking the time to communicate your concerns. If you would like to provide further comment you can do so by completing the survey at the following link: <a href="https://yoursay.sa.gov.au/surveys/proposed-changes-to-sa-s-marine-parks-proposed-changes-to-marine-parks-survey">https://yoursay.sa.gov.au/surveys/proposed-changes-to-sa-s-marine-parks-proposed-changes-to-marine-parks-survey</a></p> <p>Kind Regards South Australian Marine Parks</p>



Comment via YourSAy	Response via YourSAy
<p>they have introduced foxes and cats to battle with let alone the trash left behind by some that effects many birds.</p> <p>I would ask the question how much more do we need? We can literally drive and fish from Tea Tree Crossing south all the way to Robe. I believe we have a good balance especially for us, the birds will always struggle and they have a right as well. We are one of the States where we have the great privilege of driving on beaches and often hear how important the Hooded Plover is, so no I do not support any further changes to our protected areas in our USE Marine Parks.</p>	
<p>Well said I agree. I am a monitor for the endangered hooded plover (Seacliff and Marino area) and I don't want to see any further changes that reduces these valuable areas. We all have a duty of care to protect marine life and these wonderful sanctuaries. And the government's own review found that our marine parks and sanctuaries are bringing many benefits to our marine life and communities so why change it?</p>	<p>Thank you to you both for providing your responses. We appreciate the feedback and for taking the time to communicate your concerns. If you would like to provide further comment you can do so by completing the survey at the following link.</p> <p><a href="https://yoursay.sa.gov.au/surveys/proposed-changes-to-sa-s-marine-parks-proposed-changes-to-marine-parks-survey">https://yoursay.sa.gov.au/surveys/proposed-changes-to-sa-s-marine-parks-proposed-changes-to-marine-parks-survey</a></p> <p>Kind Regards South Australian Marine Parks</p>

Comment via YourSAy	Response via YourSAy
<p>I am strongly opposed to any reduction in sanctuaries. They help ensure we have fish for the future by protecting crucial feeding and breeding areas and they result in great fishing in marine parks outside the sanctuaries – a win-win for conservation and recreation. I do not understand the desire to reduce these areas - It's very important to conserve them.As the threats to our oceans increase, we need to maintain at least the status quo of sanctuaries and not decrease them. I am a monitor for the endangered hooded plover, involved in a local sustainability group in my local area to reduce single-use plastic and reduction of waste and also involved with the Who Speaks for the Trees action group with Conservation SA. With South Australia getting hotter and dryer the government should be pro-active in educating the community on the importance of sanctuaries, mature trees, nature etc. and not allowing more to be taken away. I'm incredulous at this proposal!</p> <p><b>Other user reply</b></p> <p>This proposal will INCREASE SZ area by 113 km2 and the marine park network by 98 km2. Isn't this a good outcome?</p> <p><b>Other user reply</b></p> <p>It's not "like for like"</p>	
<p>Marine Parks are so important in so many ways - supporting the health of our oceans, supporting our fishing industry by providing the nurseries for our fish stocks, supporting SA to have beautiful coasts, oceans and marine life. We should be doing all we can to protect and enhance these marine sanctuaries. I am very upset to hear the proposal to reduce some of these areas and to once again allow fishing in these special places. Reading the impact report for sites that are proposed to have their sanctuaries reduced makes it clear that this decision doesn't make any sense. For</p>	<p>Thank you for your feedback and taking the time to join the online discussion about the proposed changes to SA Marine Parks. The aim of the review is to ensure that a sensible and successful balance is struck between economic development and environmental preservation. The government's proposed amendments take into account the environmental, economic and social values of our marine environments and seeks to find a better balance between these values. Should you wish to provide further comment please feel free to complete the online survey: <a href="https://yoursay.sa.gov.au/surveys/proposed-">https://yoursay.sa.gov.au/surveys/proposed-</a></p>

Comment via YourSAy	Response via YourSAy
<p>example, the impact report for reducing the SZ for North Neptune Islands states very clearly that this will "compromise the marine park system by producing the protection for these remote offshore island habitats". It lists the significant negative impacts on the environmental value. The "offset" of the increase in commercial fishing is minor. 2 FTE jobs, minimal economic benefits, and negative impacts on the local tourism industry and the social value. WHY would you make a decision to reduce the SZ when the impact report spells out very clearly that this is not a good decision? Who is driving this and why are we prepared to risk the health of our oceans (on which we all depend) for a slight increase in short term fishing? A big NO from me.</p> <p><b>Other user reply</b> The reduction in sanctuary area at the Neptune's by 25 km2 is offset by increasing it at the sanctuary area in the Nuyts Archipelago by 206 km2.</p>	<p>changes-to-sa-s-marine-parks-proposed-changes-to-marine-parks-survey or send an email to <a href="mailto:marineparks@sa.gov.au">marineparks@sa.gov.au</a></p> <p>Kind Regards SA Marine Parks</p>
<p>The rock lobster and abalone industries have been badly impacted by COVID-19 because the market for their produce has been impacted by closure of international and local tourism and restaurants. Changes to the South Australia marine parks will not improve the markets for their produce. The Marine Parks are long term sanctuaries providing critical protection to all kinds of marine life, most of which is found nowhere else on Earth. Maintaining current Marine sanctuaries will provide long term support and flexibility for the rock lobster and abalone industries. If we want to support the rock lobster and abalone industries we need to maintain or increase the South Australian Marine Sanctuaries.</p> <p><b>Other user reply</b> Could you elaborate on 'long term support and flexibility' in the context you have used it for me please</p>	<p>Thank you for your response. We appreciate the feedback and for taking the time to communicate your concerns. If you would like to provide further comment you can do so by completing the survey at the following link. <a href="https://yoursay.sa.gov.au/surveys/proposed-changes-to-sa-s-marine-parks-proposed-changes-to-marine-parks-survey">https://yoursay.sa.gov.au/surveys/proposed-changes-to-sa-s-marine-parks-proposed-changes-to-marine-parks-survey</a> Kind regards South Australian Marine Parks</p>



Comment via YourSAy	Response via YourSAy
<p>The proposed rezoning is a win for conservation, a win for tourism and a win for fishing.</p> <p>Does everyone realise what is proposed actually INCREASES the marine park network (outer boundaries) by 98.2 km<sup>2</sup> and within this INCREASES SZ area by 113.2 km<sup>2</sup> and creates 3 new SZ's?</p> <p>Unfortunately the 'independent' Supplementary Report produced by Econsearch with a little help from the Department for Environment and Water makes it very difficult to work this out.</p> <p>Coastal communities and business have been suffering since the implementation of marine parks back in 2014.</p> <p>These changes will restore the balance for fishing and tourism and actually improve conservation.</p> <p><b>Other user reply</b></p> <p>Did you mean to imply that coastal communities and business suffering since 2014 has been caused by the implementation of marine parks back in 2014? The EconSearch report seems to strongly contradict this: "Analysis of individual fishery trends indicates that there has been a continuation of existing trends (catch per unit effort (CPUE), licence values and economic rent) with no obvious change since 2014 in all the affected fisheries through the period 2002 to present, indicating that the Marine Park zoning has not been a contributing factor affecting the sustainability of these fisheries.</p> <p>Comparative analysis of socio-economic trends (population, labour force, unemployment property prices and school enrolments) in large, medium and small towns near SZs and away from SZs has not shown any discernible trend difference between adjacent and comparative towns, indicating that the Marine Park zoning has not been a contributing factor affecting the socio-economic performance of these towns."</p>	<p>Thank you for taking the time to provide your feedback. If you haven't already done so you can also provide further comment by completing the online survey on this website.</p> <p>Kind Regards, SA Marine Parks</p>

Comment via YourSAy	Response via YourSAy
<p><b>Other user reply</b>            Yes that is exactly what I am saying, marine park SZ's have had a measurable negative impact on fisheries and communities.            For example a 30% reduction in greenlip quota 6 years after SZ due to not enough greenlip quota being bought out and the rotation harvest being disrupted.            It is so disappointing the alleged 'independent' Econsearch reports are heavily influenced by DEW, neither of them were reviewed by PIRSA/SARDI nor industry consulted to interrogate the fallout.            That is the issue with majority of the comments on this subject, the authors have no concept or suffer any consequence of their wishes on the local communities.            Where is the equity?            Where is the compassion?            Where is the respect for those who have been working with the ocean for generations rather than trashing it like metropolitan eco warriors?            Then thinking that their faults are remedied by imposing hurt on others.</p> <p><b>Other user reply</b>            I'm not going to buy into your comments about lack of compassion, trashing the ocean, equity, respect.            I'm just trying to make sense of the information before me. I have a report by EconSearch that says the Marine Park zoning has not been a contributing factor affecting the sustainability of fisheries or socio-economic performance of towns. It's a big statement you make, that this consulting firm has been influenced by DEW, with the implication that they are trying to suppress negative impacts on the fishing industry. The example that you give of an understated impact is not well supported. The abalone fishery stock assessments show a decline in most stocks from before the SZs became active, and make no mention of SZs being an issue. Data within these assessments certainly don't support the notion that loss of Nuyts has</p>	

Comment via YourSAy	Response via YourSAy
<p>triggered the decline of the WZ GL fishery. Sounds more like a fisheries management issue, or some other factor given that abalone stocks are not faring well in many places.</p> <p><b>Other user reply</b> Some zones have impacted fishing. The salt creek service station owner down the Coorong can tell you all about one that has as his business closed down but with the decision to allow line beach fishing north of tea tree crossing again he may reopen. He took care of all of us and the environment down there. Talk to local people for the truth don't read reports.</p> <p><b>Other user reply</b> Look at who reviewed the 'independent' report 4 times and look at the acknowledgements.</p>	
<p>We do not require any more marine parks in Nuyts Archipelago area, we already have a massive marine park sanctuary in the Great Aust Bight. Commercial and amateur fishing sector requires remaining areas for the future of the industries.</p> <p><b>Other user reply</b></p> <p>The arbitrary its only 6% of state waters claim means nothing to locals or regular travelling shack owners who have several zones around their fishing town while other towns have none. Especially when the zones are all in the safe, accessible and most productive fishing grounds. People don't just fish anywhere for these reasons. Those who don't fish and have no idea are the only ones who call for bigger zones even when small zones have often found the best balance and even out performed larger zones.</p>	<p>Thank you for your feedback. Should you wish to provide further comment please feel free to complete the online survey: <a href="https://yoursay.sa.gov.au/surveys/proposed-changes-to-sa-s-marine-parks-proposed-changes-to-marine-parks-survey">https://yoursay.sa.gov.au/surveys/proposed-changes-to-sa-s-marine-parks-proposed-changes-to-marine-parks-survey</a> or send an email to <a href="mailto:marineparks@sa.gov.au">marineparks@sa.gov.au</a></p> <p>Kind Regards SA Marine Parks</p>

Comment via YourSAy	Response via YourSAy
<p>The Nature Conservation Society of SA (NCSSA) does not support the reductions in sizes or 'reshaping' of the SZ's as part of these proposed changes. These marine parks are the result of 20 years of effort and are the realisation of a commitment that was made in 1992 by the South Australia Government to establishing a comprehensive, adequate and representative Marine Park network. SZ's provide essential protection within Marine Parks, and cover less than 6% of South Australia's waters. Fishers directly affected by the establishment of these SZ's have been compensated (<a href="https://www.pir.sa.gov.au/fishing/commercial_fishing/licensing_registration/catch_effort_reduction_program">https://www.pir.sa.gov.au/fishing/commercial_fishing/licensing_registration/catch_effort_reduction_program</a>). There is a legislated review of marine parks due in 2022, and there shouldn't be any reductions in SZ's prior to that process. Nature Advocate, NCSSA</p>	<p>Thank you for your submission. Should you wish to provide further comment please feel free to complete the online survey: <a href="https://yoursay.sa.gov.au/surveys/proposed-changes-to-sa-s-marine-parks-proposed-changes-to-marine-parks-survey">https://yoursay.sa.gov.au/surveys/proposed-changes-to-sa-s-marine-parks-proposed-changes-to-marine-parks-survey</a>. Kind Regards SA Marine Parks</p>
<p>South Australia's marine sanctuaries only make up 6% of our state waters. They have been in place for six years, protecting crucial feeding and breeding areas for our unique marine life – much of which is found nowhere else on Earth. Keeping our sanctuaries in place is a responsible and practical step to take as they act as an insurance policy for the health of South Australia's oceans.</p> <p>The South Australian network of sanctuaries is based on years of scientific assessment and community consultation. Any cut back in protection goes against the science, community support and puts tourism businesses and local communities at risk.</p> <p>South Australians love their marine sanctuaries. Years of government polling shows that more than 90% of South Australians support their marine sanctuaries.</p>	<p>Thank you for taking the time to provide feedback. Should you wish to provide further comment please feel free to complete the online survey: <a href="https://yoursay.sa.gov.au/surveys/proposed-changes-to-sa-s-marine-parks-proposed-changes-to-marine-parks-survey">https://yoursay.sa.gov.au/surveys/proposed-changes-to-sa-s-marine-parks-proposed-changes-to-marine-parks-survey</a>. Kind Regards</p>

Comment via YourSAy	Response via YourSAy
<p>The Government’s own independent review found that:- SA’s marine parks and sanctuaries are bringing many benefits to our marine life and regional communities;- Rock lobsters have grown larger and are more abundant inside Kangaroo Island’s Cape du Couedic SZ since fishing was restricted;- SZ’s are critical and effective at protecting long-lived, site-attached vulnerable species;- Offshore islands SZ’s are biodiversity hotspots and important science reference areas;- Industries such as aquaculture and shipping have continued to operate unaffected by marine parks;- The price of locally caught fish has remained stable, commercial fisheries have maintained their catch and value, and regional house prices have continued to increase; and- Participation rates for recreational activities such as snorkelling, fishing and boating have remained stable.I welcome the proposed increase in SZ coverage at Nuyts Reef and the new SZ’s off Pt Stanvac and Glenelg.</p> <p>However, I strongly oppose any reductions or any other changes to any of the existing sanctuaries in the network, including the cutbacks proposed in the Review at the St Francis Isles, North Neptune Island, Cape du Couedic, and the Clinton Wetlands.When the sanctuaries were created, substantial compensation was paid to commercial fishing operators to offset their reduction in access. Yet just over six years later, the Government proposes to allow these same operators back into these areas. For the Government to then give back commercial fishing access to these conservation areas created in the public interest with tax-payer funds is grossly irresponsible.The wind-back of established conservation areas is a terrible precedent to create. It is contrary to protected area world’s best practice, and will pose a significant risk to South Australia’s global reputation, particularly with tourism markets, something</p>	

Comment via YourSAy	Response via YourSAy
<p>Which has never been more important to maintain, given the damage sustained by tourism businesses as a result of the recent bushfires and the Covid19 pandemic. The South Australian Government has a responsibility to protect the marine life in state waters and must respect the evidence presented by its own review, science research and the communities' views. All of South Australia's existing marine sanctuaries should be retained – for our marine life, tourism businesses and regional communities. Jane Preston Concerned Citizen/Living Smarties Member and Co-founder/Who Speaks for the Trees with Conservation SA</p> <p><b>Other user reply</b> You may be interested to know that the restrictions on research both physically and via department fees to conduct science, have actually prevented research around Australia.</p> <p><b>Other user reply</b> Thanks. I'm more interested in protecting what marine life we've got left for the reasons I outlined and I think I've presented a compelling argument.</p> <p><b>Other user reply</b> There are many ways to protect marine life. Restricting research methods and increasing costs via fees to rent seeking state officials through sanctuary designation isn't one of them it's quite the opposite</p>	
<p>Please increase or keep the status quo of the marine sanctuaries. 6 years is not enough to replenish the losses sustained earlier. I am sure with new technology &amp; better boats fishermen will not lose their income. There are good ecological methods to manage fish farms so that food supply will not be short. With better boats fishermen could go farther to catch fish.</p>	<p>Thank you for your feedback. Should you wish to provide further comment please feel free to complete the online survey: <a href="https://yoursay.sa.gov.au/surveys/proposed-changes-to-sa-s-marine-parks-proposed-changes-to-marine-parks-survey">https://yoursay.sa.gov.au/surveys/proposed-changes-to-sa-s-marine-parks-proposed-changes-to-marine-parks-survey</a> Kind Regards SA Marine Parks</p>

Comment via YourSAy	Response via YourSAy
<p>The small areas we have set aside as marine parks have been a bonus for protecting biodiversity as well as increasing marine life numbers. They have only been in place for around 6 years and the benefits are evident. In my opinion it would be a retrograde step to allow commercial fishing in to these areas. Perhaps recreational fishermen could be allowed to drift fish over the area? Considering the numbers of recreational fishermen this would boost local economies as visitors to those regions buy from shops, rent accommodation and/or eat at pubs. The argument that commercial fishermen are doing it hard may be true. But getting more rock lobsters caught doesn't necessarily help. It should be more about building local markets until the overseas market strengthens. For the commercial fisherman it's about the market not the availability of the product. If the areas are opened there will be short term profit for a large company that will not necessarily benefit the broader community.</p>	<p>Thank you for taking the time to share your concerns and suggestions in regards to the proposed changes. Should you wish to provide further comment please feel free to complete the online survey:  <a href="https://yoursay.sa.gov.au/surveys/proposed-changes-to-sa-s-marine-parks-proposed-changes-to-marine-parks-survey">https://yoursay.sa.gov.au/surveys/proposed-changes-to-sa-s-marine-parks-proposed-changes-to-marine-parks-survey</a>            Kind Regards            SA Marine Parks</p>

Comment via YourSAy	Response via YourSAy
<p>I am writing in relation to the proposed changes to the SA Marine Parks. I have been reading the report by BDO EconSearch and the feedback on the Your Say website, and I must say I am concerned by proposed changes particularly to decreasing the size of the Neptune Islands and Western Kangaroo Island Marine Parks. Despite the overall increase in area protected by SZ's, the rationale for the reduced area changes seem heavily weighted to commercial fishing interests. The report indicates decreasing SZ's will have negative impacts. For example, the impact report for reducing the SZ for North Neptune Islands states very clearly that this will "compromise the marine park system by reducing the protection for these remote offshore island habitats". It lists the significant negative impacts on the environmental value. The "offset" of the increase in commercial fishing is minor. 2 FTE jobs, minimal economic benefits, and negative impacts on the local tourist industry and the social value. I understand the importance of supporting local businesses and industries particularly during these unprecedented difficult times, but I hold grave concerns that the proposed benefits of fisheries employment do not justify the long term negative impacts on the environment.</p>	<p>Thank you for taking the time to provide feedback. Should you wish to provide further comment please feel free to complete the online survey:  <a href="https://yoursay.sa.gov.au/surveys/proposed-changes-to-sa-s-marine-parks-proposed-changes-to-marine-parks-survey">https://yoursay.sa.gov.au/surveys/proposed-changes-to-sa-s-marine-parks-proposed-changes-to-marine-parks-survey</a>.            Kind Regards            SA Marine Parks</p>



Comment via YourSAy	Response via YourSAy
<p>My concern is regarding the proposed changes to beach access for the area I know quite well, the Upper SE Marine Park, the Coorong. The proposed change to allow access for shore based recreational line fishing would have to be vehicular access via Tea Tree Crossing. The vulnerable Hooded Plover nest along this area and vehicles pose a great threat to any successful breeding by this species. Hooded Plover are known to nest any time from August to March and at present are protected from disturbance only from 24th October to 24 December (I believe these dates are still correct ) . What this and other beach nesting species need is further protection and not less? Therefore I believe that this proposed change not go ahead.</p> <p><b>Other user reply</b> Thanks for including this. I am a monitor for the Endangered Hooded Plover (in the Seacliff area) which is endemic to Australia, only 5,000 left and disturbance is their biggest threat. The reason for this is the chicks from day 1 have to feed themselves and if their parents call to them to not move (they are master at camouflage) they stop feeding too many times they die. Also traffic damaging nest sites and smashing eggs.</p> <p><b>Other user reply</b> Vehicle access north of tea tree was never banned by the SZ. The hooded plover is under threat by introduced species like cats. Also the Pacific gulls and seagulls. At tea tree the sand shifts several meters every day and even when fishes avoid them, freak waves and storms cause mortality to the nesting babies all the time.</p>	<p>Thank you for taking the time to share your concerns and feedback. Should you wish to provide further comment please feel free to complete the online survey: <a href="https://yoursay.sa.gov.au/surveys/proposed-changes-to-sa-s-marine-parks-proposed-changes-to-marine-parks-survey">https://yoursay.sa.gov.au/surveys/proposed-changes-to-sa-s-marine-parks-proposed-changes-to-marine-parks-survey</a>.</p> <p>Kind Regards SA Marine Parks</p>
<p>I have doubts about the wisdom of dramatically reducing Clinton wetlands reserve (SZ 1 In upper Gulf St Vincent) before Windarra reef near Ardrossan and other artificial reefs to the South get up and running. Opening this area for commercial and recreational fishing seems destined to reduce stocks of fish now being targeted more heavily while the snapper</p>	<p>Thank you for taking the time to provide feedback. There have been no changes to SZ's currently. The proposed changes to SZ's are summarised here <a href="https://www.environment.sa.gov.au/marineparks/About/sa-marine-parks-review">https://www.environment.sa.gov.au/marineparks/About/sa-marine-parks-review</a> Should you wish to provide further comment</p>

Comment via YourSAy	Response via YourSAy
<p>ban is on. If whiting, gar and flathead breed in this area I am afraid that they will suffer the same fate as the snapper. Are "no take" zones decreasing in total area or have they disappeared altogether?</p>	<p>please feel free to complete the online survey: <a href="https://yoursay.sa.gov.au/surveys/proposed-changes-to-sa-s-marine-parks-proposed-changes-to-marine-parks-survey">https://yoursay.sa.gov.au/surveys/proposed-changes-to-sa-s-marine-parks-proposed-changes-to-marine-parks-survey</a>. The proposed changes are also available when completing the survey. Kind Regards SA Marine Parks</p>
<p>I would like to see recreational angling allowed in all SZ's. These zones are not heavily fished by rec fishermen (who already governed by strict size and bag limits) and so very little pressure is put on the environment from this group. The smaller regional towns close to these zones (or close to boat launching areas that enable access to these zones) also benefit from rec anglers who spend a fair bit of money on things like fuel, bait, accommodation etc. etc. It's as though the SZ's have been created to distract us from the fact the oil companies are drilling, testing, exploring etc. out in our oceans and they're the ones who are likely to put our natural environment at risk. And a HUGE risk at that! Give the people access! GOVERNMENT OF THE PEOPLE, BY THE PEOPLE, FOR THE PEOPLE! These days, more and more, it feels as though it's Government of the people, by multi nationals, for multi nationals.</p>	<p>Thank you for taking the time to share your concerns and suggestions. Should you wish to provide more specific comments regarding the changes currently being proposed feel free to complete the online survey: <a href="https://yoursay.sa.gov.au/surveys/proposed-changes-to-sa-s-marine-parks-proposed-changes-to-marine-parks-survey">https://yoursay.sa.gov.au/surveys/proposed-changes-to-sa-s-marine-parks-proposed-changes-to-marine-parks-survey</a> Kind Regards SA Marine Parks</p>

Comment via YourSAy	Response via YourSAy
<p>Thank you for the opportunity to comment on the proposed changes to the Marine Parks. I am opposed to any decrease in size of the SZ's, which are already very restricted. The creation of these zones was backed up by scientific data and has already paid off. It would be ridiculous to reduce them for reasons already mentioned by others in this discussion. The issues are science and survival.</p> <p>In addition, western Kangaroo Island is the hotspot of biodiversity for SA. Reducing terrestrial or marine protected areas in our biodiversity hotspot for the benefit of a few private individuals would have detrimental impacts on the public, sustainable fishing, as well as ecotourism and biodiversity values. It would also affect negatively the chance of Kangaroo Island to be listed as a World Heritage Area in the future.</p>	<p>Thank you for adding to the discussion and providing your input. Should you wish to provide further comment please feel free to complete the online survey:  <a href="https://yoursay.sa.gov.au/surveys/proposed-changes-to-sa-s-marine-parks-proposed-changes-to-marine-parks-survey">https://yoursay.sa.gov.au/surveys/proposed-changes-to-sa-s-marine-parks-proposed-changes-to-marine-parks-survey</a>            Kind Regards            SA Marine Parks</p>
<p>I am also opposed to any reduction of the marine park SZ's, which contribute to thriving ocean, immeasurable beauty and associated joy, delight and tourism dollars. Please respect all life!</p>	<p>Thank you for adding to the discussion and providing your input. Should you wish to provide more specific comment to the proposed changes, please feel free to complete the online survey:  <a href="https://yoursay.sa.gov.au/surveys/proposed-changes-to-sa-s-marine-parks-proposed-changes-to-marine-parks-survey">https://yoursay.sa.gov.au/surveys/proposed-changes-to-sa-s-marine-parks-proposed-changes-to-marine-parks-survey</a>            Kind Regards            SA Marine Parks</p>
<p>As a fisher and marine recreate I oppose the suggested changes to the zoning and/or extent of South Australia's marine park network. While snorkeling and sailing in some of these SZ's, I have seen firsthand the benefits that they provide in terms of fish recruitment and marine health. Scientific evidence now backs this. South Australia's marine environments are recognized as a global biodiversity hotspot and need to be protected. It was a bitter and divisive battle within the SA community to realize this vision; albeit it much watered-down version. The wounds have healed, but the scars remain for many. These proposed changes open a Pandora's Box of woe. It was a mistake to revisit this issue.</p>	<p>Thank you for adding to the discussion and providing your input. Should you wish to provide more specific comment on the proposed changes, please feel free to complete the online survey:  <a href="https://yoursay.sa.gov.au/surveys/proposed-changes-to-sa-s-marine-parks-proposed-changes-to-marine-parks-survey">https://yoursay.sa.gov.au/surveys/proposed-changes-to-sa-s-marine-parks-proposed-changes-to-marine-parks-survey</a>            Kind Regards            SA Marine Parks</p>

Comment via YourSAy	Response via YourSAy
<p>The protection of the marine biodiversity afforded by the current SZ's is already a compromise and insufficient. To reduce protection further makes a mockery of any argument for sustainable fisheries in the State. We need more protection not less. The submission from the Nature Conservation Society provides the argument for retention of the current zones elegantly and succinctly.</p> <p><b>Other user reply</b> There was an XXXX who was ED of DEWNR and was responsible for putting many fishers out of a livelihood, years of angst and anxiety with no compensation claims being finalised. Many communities along the coast have suffered while the promised tourism and spill over benefits have been non-existent. Coincidentally the original Econsearch report said the marine park network would have a negative \$64 million dollar outcome for the State. Even DEWs 5 year reports says they have already cost \$54 million. The DEW Econsearch report 2018 and 2020 are deceitful and don't actually indicate what the true result is. If this is a different XXXX I am truly sorry however if not you need to know of the damage caused and this is the chance to make good and restore the balance.</p>	<p>Thank you for taking the time to provide your feedback. Should you wish to provide specific comment on the proposed changes feel free to complete the online survey: <a href="https://yoursay.sa.gov.au/surveys/proposed-changes-to-sa-s-marine-parks-proposed-changes-to-marine-parks-survey">https://yoursay.sa.gov.au/surveys/proposed-changes-to-sa-s-marine-parks-proposed-changes-to-marine-parks-survey</a>.</p> <p>Kind Regards SA Marine Parks</p>
<p>The protection of the marine biodiversity afforded by the current SZ's is already a compromise. To reduce protection further removes the objective of sustainable fisheries in the State. Ideally we need more protection not less. The submission from the Nature Conservation Society provides the argument for retention of the current zones elegantly and succinctly.</p> <p><b>Other user reply</b> Fisheries are not managed by the implementation of marine parks. If that is the</p>	<p>Thank you for providing your feedback on the proposed changes please feel free to complete the online survey: <a href="https://yoursay.sa.gov.au/surveys/proposed-changes-to-sa-s-marine-parks-proposed-changes-to-marine-parks-survey">https://yoursay.sa.gov.au/surveys/proposed-changes-to-sa-s-marine-parks-proposed-changes-to-marine-parks-survey</a></p> <p>Kind Regards SA Marine Parks</p>

Comment via YourSAy	Response via YourSAy
<p>objective of the NCS then they are admitting it's not about saving biodiversity but about fishing stakeholders specifically.</p>	
<p>The inclusion of recreational beach fishing at salt creek is a win for recreational fishing. I will be investing in fishing there sustainably again especially if the service station reopens. The expansion of the outer boundaries is the prelude to more SZ's over time and should be rejected by public fishes. The inclusion of areas out west like the cannon reefs are unnecessary with regards to banning sports fishing. The Liberals promised a threats based review and public fishing is no threat to these areas. Any expansion of outer boundaries and sanctuaries which include public fishing bans are a broken promise by the Liberals. The main species targeted by public fishes vary naturally across entire bioregions fished or unfished from year to year, they do not care for lines on maps. Species specific management is more effective and maintains our local economy with regards to public fishing. Zones specific to some demersal species like abalone and lobster have some merit for commercial harvest.</p> <p><b>Other user reply</b> Thanks for your comment. I'm more interested in protecting what marine life we've got left for the reasons I've outlined and I'm sorry for the recreational fisherman if I presented a compelling argument against decreasing the sanctuaries.</p> <p><b>Other user reply</b> It's ok to have a position so long as it's based on cause and effect rationalism. I am sorry if public fishes present a compelling argument for sustainable use in lieu of bans. Protection measures are not exempt from change or accountability despite the pseudo-science smothering the internet today.</p> <p><b>Other user reply</b> Thanks. Scientific evidence aside we must</p>	<p>Thank you for providing your thoughts on recreational beach fishing at salt creek. Should you wish to provide further comment on the proposed changes please feel free to complete the online survey: <a href="https://yoursay.sa.gov.au/surveys/proposed-changes-to-sa-s-marine-parks-proposed-changes-to-marine-parks-survey">https://yoursay.sa.gov.au/surveys/proposed-changes-to-sa-s-marine-parks-proposed-changes-to-marine-parks-survey</a></p> <p>Kind Regards SA Marine Parks</p>

Comment via YourSAy	Response via YourSAy
<p>respect everyone's right to "Have a Say" and the evidence presented by the government's own review and communities' views, not just one presented by the fishos</p> <p><b>Other user reply</b> Agree. Outside of academic and government evidence there are many other values often unheard. Many public fishos developed their greater understanding of, and protection advocacy from their long term direct interaction with the marine environment through fishing. We can't teach our sons and daughters to respect what they catch for food or release for sustainability if our future generations are banned however.</p>	
<p>For respondents who wish make a submission to SA Marine Park Review, here is a link: <a href="https://supporter.wilderness.org.au/emailviewonwebpage.aspx?erid=c80332fd-5110-435a-958f-4e2cbf409c52&amp;trid=c80332fd-5110-435a-958f-4e2cbf409c52">https://supporter.wilderness.org.au/emailviewonwebpage.aspx?erid=c80332fd-5110-435a-958f-4e2cbf409c52&amp;trid=c80332fd-5110-435a-958f-4e2cbf409c52</a></p>	<p>Thank you for providing your feedback on the proposed changes please feel free to complete the online survey: <a href="https://yoursay.sa.gov.au/surveys/proposed-changes-to-sa-s-marine-parks-proposed-changes-to-marine-parks-survey">https://yoursay.sa.gov.au/surveys/proposed-changes-to-sa-s-marine-parks-proposed-changes-to-marine-parks-survey</a> Kind Regards SA Marine Parks</p>
<p>I am against any changes that reduce the size or protection of Marine Parks and Sanctuaries. I am also appalled that the State Govt has allowed harvest of our world-renowned Giant Cuttlefish population in Upper Spencer Gulf - only a few years ago there was a drastic decline in their numbers and with the increase in sea temperatures with global warming, they are going to be more threatened in the future. There should be no take of this amazing species.</p> <p><b>Other user reply</b> They didnt decline in numbers they moved to breed in other areas of state waters where fishing for them was still allowed anyway go figure. Their sudden return was not possible if they were all fished out.</p> <p><b>Other user reply</b> Doesn't sound likely,</p> <p><b>Other user reply</b></p>	<p>Thank you for sharing your concerns on the proposed changes please feel free to complete the online survey: <a href="https://yoursay.sa.gov.au/surveys/proposed-changes-to-sa-s-marine-parks-proposed-changes-to-marine-parks-survey">https://yoursay.sa.gov.au/surveys/proposed-changes-to-sa-s-marine-parks-proposed-changes-to-marine-parks-survey</a> Kind Regards SA Marine Parks</p>

Comment via YourSAy	Response via YourSAy
<p>Hang on fishos are so good at finding and catching cuttlefish they must be banned "apparently" but also have no idea where the cuttlefish aggregations move around the state? Really lol...ha-ha.</p>	
<p>Do we know the total area of SZ's and how that will change if planned changes go ahead? I know this can be distorted by enlarging sanctuaries in remote areas, but as a recreational fisherman I would like to know the total area changes for Gulf St Vincent and Spencer gulf please.</p>	<p>Thank you for providing your feedback on the proposed changes. In regard to your query the current area of all SZ's (SZ) is 3013 km<sup>2</sup> which equates to 5.0% of state waters. There is an increase in area of SZ from proposed changes of 112km<sup>2</sup> which equals 3125km<sup>2</sup> (equates to 5.2% of state waters). In regard to Spencer Gulf there are currently no proposed changes to SZs and there is a net decrease of 47km<sup>2</sup> in the Gulf of St Vincent. Should you wish to provide further comment please feel free to complete the online survey: <a href="https://yoursay.sa.gov.au/surveys/proposed-changes-to-sa-s-marine-parks-proposed-changes-to-marine-parks-survey">https://yoursay.sa.gov.au/surveys/proposed-changes-to-sa-s-marine-parks-proposed-changes-to-marine-parks-survey</a> Kind Regards SA Marine Parks</p>
<p>Both the "new" SA marine parks and the embedded SZ's are not science based and are based on flawed ideological logic; naturally they have provided zero protection to anything at great long term social and economic cost. There are many serious and ongoing threats to the living marine environment including pollution, introduced species, climate change and inappropriate coastal development but these parks and SZ's do absolutely nothing to address these threats. What was needed was a gradual expansion of the 19 sensible and science based aquatic reserves implemented through the Fisheries Act not this damaging nonsense brought in by environment department bureaucrats. Having bigger and more fish swimming around in SZ's (a natural result for territorial fish) is NOT evidence of</p>	<p>Thank you for sharing your feedback. Should you wish to provide comment on the proposed changes please feel free to complete the online survey: <a href="https://yoursay.sa.gov.au/surveys/proposed-changes-to-sa-s-marine-parks-proposed-changes-to-marine-parks-survey">https://yoursay.sa.gov.au/surveys/proposed-changes-to-sa-s-marine-parks-proposed-changes-to-marine-parks-survey</a> Kind Regards SA Marine Parks</p>

Comment via YourSAy	Response via YourSAy
<p>success; unless it brings in greater revenue from diving tourism etc. it is simply evidence of wasted production.</p>	
<p>I agree with XXX on this flawed science, there is no overflow of fish in the Rapid Head marine park. Having fished this area for 30 years all its done has put a concentration of boats and effort on either side. I see numerous recreational fishers constantly fishing within this park and most claim they don't know of its existence or where the boundaries are supposed to be. I can see no reason why drift fishing cannot be reintroduced as this park was made to protect seagrasses and granite boulders. If there was no anchoring allowed, there would be no disruption to the natural habitat.</p> <p>I feel keeping this park as a no take zone is biased as the sole traders received no compensation for the loss of 2 miles of squid grounds, when the area was only fished by handling, no anchoring and for 4 months of the year maximum.</p>	<p>Thank you for sharing your concerns and feedback. Should you wish to provide comment on the proposed changes to marine parks please feel free to complete the online survey: <a href="https://yoursay.sa.gov.au/surveys/proposed-changes-to-sa-s-marine-parks-proposed-changes-to-marine-parks-survey">https://yoursay.sa.gov.au/surveys/proposed-changes-to-sa-s-marine-parks-proposed-changes-to-marine-parks-survey</a></p> <p>Kind Regards SA Marine Parks</p>
<p>With this consultation only open for another two hours, I would like to take this opportunity to thank the many thousands of South Australians who have taken the trouble to write to me over the last month about this issue. It has given me great encouragement to see so many people taking a stand in favour of protecting our marine environment. I was part of the debate in State Parliament back in 2007 and again when changes were made in 2010. This year, I'll again be supporting conservation over exploitation. It is actually the most "conservative" thing we can do. It also applies the precautionary principle. Having worked in conservation for 30 years, I have come to see that decisions made to protect and conserve</p>	<p>Thank you for your feedback. Should you wish to provide further comment please feel free to complete the online survey: <a href="https://yoursay.sa.gov.au/surveys/proposed-changes-to-sa-s-marine-parks-proposed-changes-to-marine-parks-survey">https://yoursay.sa.gov.au/surveys/proposed-changes-to-sa-s-marine-parks-proposed-changes-to-marine-parks-survey</a></p> <p>Kind Regards SA Marine Parks</p>



Comment via YourSAy	Response via YourSAy
<p>are rarely regretted by future generations. Our great-great grandchildren's main complaint will be that we didn't do enough, not that we were foolish to conserve what little we did. I want to see more SZ's, not less. The science was sound when the Marine Parks Act was first passed and it has only firmed up since then. With climate change and other pressures on marine life, the only responsible thing to do is to ensure that we protect the marine environment as best we can for both its own sake and the sake of future generations, including fishers.</p> <p><b>Other user reply</b></p> <p>Thanks, I've emailed a submission separately.</p> <p><b>Other user reply</b></p> <p>Since when have the Greens understood the difference between sustainable use and exploitation? Large scale bans can often cause exploitation in areas left open which the greens solution to be even more bans. With no spill over due to natural predator prey relationships what's the greens solution....you guessed it more bans. Get votes from the bleeding hearts but creates more problems than it solves.</p>	

## J. Full list of responses to YourSAy survey questions

### Survey responses to the Nuyts Archipelago Marine Park Management Plan Draft Amendment 2020 (Raw unedited answers-blanks removed)

**In relation to the proposed changes set out in the Nuyts Archipelago Marine Park Management Plan Draft Amendment 2020 (Amendments 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, comparison maps) do you have any views?**

To the extent that the parks would be subject to more open fishing and less protection, the proposals are a backward step.

No changes should be made to existing plan. Minimising the environmental impact of fishing needs to be the number one priority and fishing needs to be decreased in the environmentally sensitive zones already protected, certainly not increased.
While the expansion of the park is accepted, consideration should be given to allowing limited access for wilderness recreational fishing experiences as are commonly practiced in Marine Parks across the world
no
Changes proposed will adversely affect the purpose of the marine parks system as shown in the government's own recent study. We should be increasing conservation efforts.
No marine park should be decreased in size, nor should fishing be permitted within the boundaries.
Do not agree with changes
I support the expansion of the marine protected area and opening to recreational fishing, but I do not believe that marine protected areas should be open to commercial fishing due to the impact on marine life, tourism, and recreation
No change needed
No
The habitat protection zone should not be made smaller. Fishing should not be allowed in the Habitat Protection Zone
Yes I support the expansion of the marine park.
I am opposed to any change to allow fishing in the marine park. (Change northern part of the SZ to a HPZ to allow fishing).
I oppose the proposed changes to Nuyts marine park. There is no ecological, social or economic basis for the changes (Marine Parks Review 2018).
Expansion of the NTZ is not required. This area is not under any threat from rec fishers due to its natural remoteness and weather. This area should be a HPZ only
I am pleased you are increasing the size of the park but a little disappointed that fishing will be allowed in other areas. This area is unique and should be protected from over fishing, like the snapper
No real view but agree to changes
Strongly support the proposed amendments
no

<p>There appears to be no scientific reason to shift the SZ out to Cannon Reef and Hart Island. The shift appears to accommodate the commercial abalone divers who want access back to St Francis Island. Cannon reef is a very isolated area that can only be visited by recreational fishers on very few occasions per year. The fishing effort from recreational in the area has very little impact on sustainability. The loss of fishing access to Nyuts Reef and Pearson Island coupled with the proposal to close cannon reef, locks away world class fishing grounds from recreation fishers. There is no user group who can benefit from these closures. We were promised and science based review of marine parks and SZ's. Where is the science for this decision?</p>
<p>The marine parks review was supposed to be under a threats based determination. What new threats have suddenly appeared at the Nuyts zone that warrant the existing no take zone to be made substantially larger? If there are no new threats the no take zone should be minimised or scrapped altogether</p>
<p>Oppose; SZ's have little impact, and should be threat based only.</p>
<p>Marine parks should be open to community recreational fishing. SZ's should only stop commercial fishing and not recreational. Some of the zones are inshore and safe fishing spots for small boats and land based anglers.</p>
<p>I do not agree with the proposed changes to allow fishing around the Isle St Francis, however I do agree that the size of the SZ be enlarged.</p>
<p>Do not agree</p>
<p>Do not agree with proposed amendments to Nuyts Reef Do not agree with proposed amendments to Isles St. Francis</p>
<p>Support amendments</p>
<p>See below</p>
<p>Yes. Great initiative</p>
<p>This SZ is being extended - a good thing</p>
<p>Not familiar with the area</p>
<p>Changes to zoning will have an impact on how the marine park network satisfies the criteria for a comprehensive, adequate and representative system of marine parks by reducing the area of habitats and features which are afforded the highest level of biodiversity protection and conservation.' <i>I do NOT support these changes</i></p>
<p>Do not support</p>
<p>No views as I'm not familiar with the area.</p>
<p>This is good I think to expand the zone is a good idea</p>
<p>Oppose - unacceptable loss of habitat</p>

I believe I holistically understand the short to long term impacts of COVID-19 on businesses and communities. However, allowing recreational shore fishing will not help. There are enough places along the South Australian coastline to fish. I fish many spots regularly across the State and have seen the benefits of fishing near marine parks after they were established. As such, there should be more marine SZ's with no shore-based or other fishing allowed in them. The ecological area is interconnected and cannot be thought of in isolation from the deeper benthic, shallower benthic, tidal shoreline to near-coastal terrestrial areas. To allow environmental impact in any of these areas just weakens the environments ability to persist and recover. I have seen the benefits, and my fishing is better now because of these benefits. I fear some of these amendments will back fire. As a recreational fisher, I don't agree with increasing the fishing areas or rights of recreational or commercial fishers. Our population is increasing, but we should learn to adjust and lower our take, not increase it, as the environment isn't increasing in size relatively.

Yes. Whilst I agree with the expansion of some of the marine parks, I do not agree with the opening up of these parks to recreational fishing.

Supportive of the changes.

I support the amendments.

none

Happy with the changes.

Nil

The area should not be expanded for fishing recreational or Commercial.

Just increasing the zoning of one area to compensate for the assured destruction due to the reduction of the other zones is not a solution. Why not do this expansion for all the areas if you want to ensure the future conservation of our state's marine life.

sufficient as it is

I would like to see the south eastern corner of canon reef still available for fishing as this is hardly used there for it doesn't get over fished

I DO NOT agree with the proposed marine park boundary amendments including Cannan reef. My husband and I fish this area for pelagic fish only and this coupled with limited access due to the weather means minimal impact to the area. We look forward to going out there and would be greatly disappointed if it was taken away. Why are the areas with the least impact taken away? We don't have the same privileges that people in larger towns and cities have but we do look forward to our fishing and camping. I truly hope you can rethink the zoning to let recreational fishing around Cannan reef continue or at least allow pelagic fishing in these parks.

We do not require any more marine parks or SZ's, we have more than enough in the Great Aust Bight. We need as much area for the commercial and amateur sector for the future of these industries.

In my opinion the marine parks are a much needed space for fish populations to repopulate and revive. Any reductions make no sense for the long-term fish populations or the long-term commercial interests. If we make changes it should be to increase the size and locations of our marine parks to allow our fishing industry to be sustainable for the future.
Support
Leave it as is, more protection required for this area of marine significance
support
Enough of that area is already restricted by marine Parks .Cannon reef is only fished in good conditions by those who are properly prepared for offshore fishing conditions. Enough is enough
These parts are not over fished so there is no need for a marine Park.
I support the enlargement of the SZ in Map 01(A) but suggest that only select access points (<30%) of the coastline need to remain open to shore based fishing, otherwise there is no protection provided to near shore ecosystems. I support the extensions of the SZ around Hart Island as show in Map 05(A), but strongly object to the removal of Isles of St Francis from the SZ, this is a biodiversity hotspot and it should not be opened to fishing. Millions of dollars have already been spent on generously compensating commercial fishers, opening it would just be pandering to the handful of licence holders. To open this precious resource to fishing is a loss for future generations, a loss for tourism and a loss for SA's Marine Life. There is no rational, scientific or democratic reason for making these changes, this is can only be motivated by political nepotism for commercial fishers and an ideology of exploitation not conservation.
I support the amendment
It is something that is only really known to locals of the area and a nostalgic area for the local fisherman.
Government polling shows that more than 90% of South Australians support their marine sanctuaries. And the Government's own review found that our marine parks and sanctuaries are bringing many benefits to our marine life and regional communities. At a time when marine life is undergoing massive stress due to climate change and over fishing, we need to be creating more sanctuaries, not removing restrictions on existing ones. No fish zones have been shown to improve fishing by allowing fish to breed up and repopulate overfished areas outside of the sanctuary. As a recreational fisherman I am happy to sacrifice certain areas where I cannot fish to increase future populations and ensure species are able to adapt to climate change. Our marine ecosystems would also benefit from increased funding for research to improve conservation efforts, please consider increasing funding instead of decreasing protection.
Support
I'm against zones changing these waters are rarely fished.

I don't think that Cannan Reef itself needs to be a marine park. This is an important area for the Ceduna fisher as they like to go out there in summer and catch tuna. We have been doing this for decades. Tuna are pelagic and allowing us to fish for them around Cannan Reef will not affect any of the resident fish as we are trolling for them on the surface and there is no bycatch.
Yes I agree with proposal to increase the SZ
I do not agree with Cannan Reef being included in the new proposed marine park. Changing Cannan Reef to a SZ means that the tuna that pass through there will no longer be accessible to me and my family. We make this trip once or twice a year and it's important to us to be able to do so. I am supportive of a marine park being in the area but would like the new proposed boundaries to be moved to allow recreational fishing around Cannan Reef.
Why? Fish are not impacted by bushfire or shutdown, though tourism operators have been. Fishing is impacted more by trade issues with China. You should be extending habit protection as is INCREASING the take for commercial and recreational fishers.
No changes to this or any other sanctuary. I believe this is critical refuge for the Sea lions, fish and marine life.
Support
I support
I am submitting a document to marineparks@sa.gov.au that addresses my thoughts on the proposed changes to the Nuyts Archipelago Marine Park.
No
We are not in favour of these changes.
No do not agree
Stop it. It all needs to be saved
support
I support the changes as it will make the fishing industry more sustainable in the western part of our zone and it does not have any impact on the marine environment.
No commercial or recreational fishing in marine parks. These are tiny pieces of the ocean that will provide sanctuary to creatures and the plant life for generations to come. We cannot take everything for ourselves. South Australians dwelling here in 100, 200 etc. years should be able to enjoy these places as we do.
I agree with the proposed changes
I believe the park should remain as is or extended.
Support
Supported

Major changes are being proposed and these need to take into account not only the economic viability of the fishers particularly at this time of reduced income but also their safety at sea. Please consider the amendments made by the industry advocates, the local fishers and interested community members. The removal of the South East corner, (GPS 32 degrees 37.787 South 133 degrees 13.432 East,) of the proposed new SZ to leave fishers with the Cannan Reefs which are only really fished for Bluefin Tuna and Kingfish in December, January and February, would be greatly appreciated. It is estimated that because of the wild weather, wind, waves, swells, tides and storms it is only fished for less than one week in each of these months. This would greatly assist with fishers continuing viability while having little effect on the environment. This area has already been fished for over 120 years but is still considered as pristine and should remain available. These proposed changes will also cause safety issues by pushing the inexperienced recreational fishers further south away from the safe anchorages in Petrel Cove on the north side of St Francis Island. The danger for recreational fishers having to go about 10 k further south in their small boats should be taken into account. Many of these fishers have made a lifestyle choice to live and provide health, educational and many other much needed services in this remote region because of the fishing, seafood, surfing and wonderful people who reside there. They do not have access to the many leisure activities provided in the city and we will lose some of these people if they cannot fully enjoy the benefits of this beautiful but very remote region. The proposed boundary should at least be redrawn to enable recreational fishers to continue to be able to gain easy access to Petrel Cove. The wild catch green lip abalone divers for years harvested their abalone from the Isles of St Francis SZ. However this was removed with the original decision on the zones back in 2014 when I was the local member of Parliament. The size of this zone to the west of Fowlers Bay is proposed to about double. It would assist these divers if the part of the zone between the Islands where the abalone were previously harvested could be made a special purpose area for commercial green lip abalone diving. Abalone stop spawning as they get older but bring very good prices on the world markets. The minimum size limit for taking green lip abalone would protect the breeders and still enable divers to make a better living taking the old stock. With the virus and Hong Kong and China possibly dropping out of the market for green lip, it will be difficult to make a living for divers without them having access to the premium quality stock they had previously. Enabling this special purpose area to be reopened would also bring the boats back to Ceduna and the far west towns giving a huge boost to the viability of many small businesses in this remote region.

I support the changes

I feel there are no need to change the current (albeit heavily restricted zones), let alone put more SZ's in place. I grew up around Smoky Bay/Point Brown area and have been an avid recreational fisherman since I was a child. I fully support catch and size limits and think there needs to be more done to crack down (mainly on the tinny brigade and grey nomads). There are big SZ's already in place of areas we used to fish and dive which did not have proper research beforehand (Smoky bay inlet and South to Pt Dillon) and the Cannan Reef area is not harassed by fishermen due to its inclement weather patterns. It is our last wild west where it is untouched and beautiful, the few boats that can make it out and back through the archipelago fishing for pelagic do not harm the environment or fish stocks. There is no research showing that, and the limited numbers being taken are within or under current bag and boat limits.

I agree current amendments are an improvement but would like to see Masillon and Fenelon islands outside of the SZ, also the centre south eastern corner moved up to 33.37.787S and 133.13.432E to exclude Cannon reef from the SZ. Both of these further amendments would allow recreational fishing for tuna and commercial harvesting of some of the best abalone in the world. There is already good conservation outcomes without including these islands and reef. Fisheries management in South Australia is world class and opening up these areas does not posed a threat to sustainability.

Approve of the changes

I agree with the proposed changes except I would like to see Cannon reef not included in SZ. This is a popular fishing area for the Ceduna locals. It is only accessible (along with all this area) when the weather permits which if you know the area is not that often. 90% of the fishing undertaken in this area is trawling for pelagic species e.g. Bluefin tuna which have stringent bag limits in place.

Removal of SZ protection for the Isles of St Francis prior to the ten year review is at odds with best practice, and seems to be driven by extractive interest groups, rather than in keeping with the stated aim of the Marine Parks Arc 2007 of conserving biodiversity and ensuring adequate representativeness. While I appreciate that the overall SZ is expanded and will now include the Hart Is group and Cannan Reefs, this downgrades the significance of the Isles of St Francis, which is at the heart of this SZ and in fact this Marine Park.

I do not wish to see ANY changes to the current Marine Parks legislation.

An excellent decision to increase the area of protection for our local sea life, all of which seems to be under threat from pollution or over-fishing by commercial operators.

Agree with the extension of the SZ 1 for Nuyt Reef but do not agree with the removal of the Isle of St Francis from the SZ 8.

o



<p>My business writes in support of the proposed changes to amend the two SZ areas of the Nuyts Archipelago Marine Park. I note that low impact shore based recreational activities e.g. recreational fishing &amp; surfing will still be able to continue at the Cactus Beach/ Pt Sinclair area. The "freeing up" of the St Francis Islands area in particular, will re-open back up a significant &amp; important commercial fishing area to the region's fishing industry providing immediate positive economic impacts on the communities of the Eyre Peninsula i.e. Ceduna, Streaky Bay, Elliston &amp; Port Lincoln . Direct flow on effects to our communities will be experienced through increased business activity in accommodation/ hospitality &amp; fuel supplies. Indirect flow on impacts will then inevitably flow down through to second &amp; third tier businesses including food business, boating &amp; diving supply &amp; support services &amp; the finance/ insurance sectors. I applaud the Government for listening to our communities, industries &amp; region to support this change.</p>
<p>Leave it as original</p>
<p>opposed to all change</p>
<p>Looks like you are just trying to make the park bigger, where is the proof that this is needed?</p>
<p>support</p>
<p>Retain the current SZ as is and add the additional SZ areas to the South and Southwest of the current SZ, in the current HPZ-6 areas. I strongly disagree with the proposal to allow recreational fishing in the Isles of St Francis area as they are vital to protecting key marine habitats and breeding grounds, which in turn increases fish stocks and enhances marine biodiversity.</p>
<p>I support the changes</p>
<p>No</p>
<p>The Isle of St Francis should be within a SZ as shallow water species breeding should be encouraged.</p>
<p>Fish stocks are low, the marine environment is under too much pressure. No fishing of any type should be done in marine sanctuaries. The area of sanctuaries should be expanded.</p>
<p>Agree</p>
<p>P</p>
<p>Leave as is</p>
<p>I agree with the proposed changes to reopen the Isles of St Francis.</p>
<p>I support the changes</p>

The Nuyts Reef SZ expansion is a good compromise and I support the proposed amendment. The Isle of St Francis SZ expansion should have the area south of Cannan Reef left as habitat protection or zoned as a special purpose zone which allows pelagic fishing. It would be good if Masillon and Fenelon Islands were open to fishing however it is recognised that a group of islands should be maintained in a SZ. Overall the proposed amendment increases SZ area by 100km<sup>2</sup> in this zone and is a positive outcome. The community of Ceduna will benefit hugely from this change. I must be noted that 85% of islands and reefs in South Australian waters are within a Marine Park outer boundary. Very well represented if not over represented. There are more reefs in commonwealth waters which are marine park SZ's for example Yatala Reef in this Murat Bioregion. This change would create the highest amount of area under sanctuary zoning in a bioregion in South Australia. Everything which was protected prior to the zone amendment would continue to be protected. Target species are highly managed under other legislation.

No need to extend area.

excellent

I do not support The amendment to this management plan

Should be left as now. As Marine Park particularly to commercial fishers

No

Even worse decision than making them up there. To boost tourism and revenue fishing in this state, you'd think that we would be allowed to fish in some of the state's best areas

it's great that we are protecting more breeding areas

Terrible. Leave them as they are. How can you sacrifice our fragile marine ecosystem and diversity for MORE fishing? Disgraceful.

No

I do not agree with the proposed changes to the nuyts marine parks. I think Canaan reef needs to be excluded from the proposed changes to the marine parks. This is an important area for recreational and charter fishing and the fishing undertaken around this area is for tuna, King fish and Sampson fish. I have been involved in commercial fishing and recreational fishing on the western part of the Eyre peninsula for over 40 years. I think the weather is responsible for allowing these offshore areas to remain pristine. In saying that, we must still look after it but we have been looking after it for years anyway. Another solution which would make everyone happy would be to allow pelagic fishing only. That way we can still have marine parks looking after the benthic areas whilst allowing recreational and charter fishing for pelagic ocean going species. Pelagic fishing also spreads the pressure out over a larger area and actually creates less fishing pressure on that smaller area that allows fishing.

Park should be expanded. No easing of current restrictions. Marine Parks provide valuable fish nursery habitats that allow other areas to be repopulated with new fish. Even recreational fishers can deplete a fishery to unsustainable levels.

I'm not in favour of extending Nuyts Archipelago Marine Management Plan to include Cannan Reef because there is minimal fishing done in this area and it's a beautiful spot for the locals to enjoy. There are many sacrifices locals make to live out in the bush and they should be able to enjoy fishing in this area. There is no good reason to extend it to this area as it's not being fished out.

A number of parks need retaining and monitoring of fishers taking stock illegally.

SZ's should be enlarged not reduced, to collectively represent greater % of marine parks.

Even the avid local fisherman rarely go to fish Canon reef. We don't anchor there and would have little to no impact on the habitat and fish stocks. It's 75km away. Behave.

Good work. Any increase will help preserve fish stocks and the environment.

Endorse the extension of the protection zones

Support

Do not change

Please leave existing fishing restrictions as they are.

All reserves need to be protected and expanded

I think the areas should be allowed to be accessed by recreational fishers Very little impact is made by a small amount of fishers a couple of times a year for sport fishing mainly

The removal of cannan reef for recreational fishers is another clear example of marine parks focused on commercial pressures without consultation of what you are removing. This is one of the few places on the west coast to access tuna, kingfish and Samson fish in one location

**Survey responses to the Neptune Islands Group Marine Park Management Plan Draft Amendment 2020.** (Raw unedited answers-blanks removed)

<b>In relation to the proposed changes set out in the Neptune Islands Group Marine Park Management Plan Draft Amendment 2020 (Amendments 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, comparison maps) do you have any views?</b>
To the extent that the parks would be subject to more open fishing and less protection, the proposals are a backward step.
No changes should be made to existing plan. Minimising the environmental impact of fishing needs to be the number one priority and fishing needs to be decreased in the environmentally sensitive zones already protected, certainly not increased.
no, cannot comment as I do not fish this area
Changes proposed will adversely affect the purpose of the marine parks system as shown in the government's own recent study. We should be increasing conservation efforts.
No marine park should be decreased in size, nor should fishing be permitted within the boundaries.
OK with changes
I support the expansion of the marine protected area and opening to recreational fishing, but I do not believe that marine protected areas should be open to commercial fishing due to the impact on marine life, tourism, and recreation
No change needed
There is no reasoning on why these boundaries should be decreased. There is no information on how this will impact the species the park is protecting. There is no information about why it is so important to take this backward step. This should not go ahead. It indicates the government is not interested in ensuring SA has sustainable marine resources
No
The habitat protection zone should not be made smaller. Fishing should not be allowed in the Habitat Protection Zone
I am opposed to any reduction of the marine park.
I am opposed to any change to allow fishing in the marine park. (Change western and southern part of SZ to HPZ to allow fishing)
I oppose the proposed changes to Nuyts marine park. There is no ecological, social or economic basis for the changes (Marine Parks Review 2018).
the proposed changes are suitable however the NTZ should be amended to HPZ
Eco tourism is great here (no losers) the amendments are fine
I don't understand what the changes achieve
no-no

<p>The changes appear to be reasonable. The only comment I have for this area is that several commercial shark cage diving operations are conducted in the SZ. These zones were set up with the rules being no human interaction that can change to behaviours of the contained species. The baiting of Great White Sharks is changing the way that they interact with humans and boats. The sharks often appear at the cage boats immediately upon their arrival in the bay. These sharks are now associating the sound of boat motors with a source of food.</p>
<p>The entire no take zone should be scrapped. Rodney and Andrew Fox have treated this park as their own personal property and have verbally abused any recreational vessel for entering "their water" The entire premise of shark cage diving and belaying with tuna goes against the principles of forming a no take zone in the first place. If shark cage diving is to continue at the Neptune's island group then the SZ should be scrapped entirely as it is not fit for purpose. Two studies have shown the changes in behaviour of both great white sharks and other fish species linked to the shark cage dive industry. DEWNR commissioned the first study and haven't taken action against the industry while being happy to apply the precautionary principle to all other marine users. The effects of shark cage-diving operations on the behaviour and movements of white sharks, <i>Carcharodon carcharias</i>, at the Neptune Islands, South Australia Article (PDF Available) Marine Biology 160(4) April DOI: 10.1007/s00227-012-2142-z</p>
<p>Support; SZ's have little impact, and should be threat based only.</p>
<p>Marine parks should be open to community recreational fishing. SZ's should only stop commercial fishing and not recreational. Some of the zones are inshore and safe fishing spots for small boats and land based anglers.</p>
<p>I disagree with the proposed changes.</p>
<p>Do not agree</p>
<p>Do not agree</p>
<p>Support amendments</p>
<p>See below</p>
<p>No</p>
<p>We need to be expanding the SZ's, not decreasing them! Where is your vision for our marine life and environment? Defies belief.</p>
<p>This needs to be done as it stands it puts too much pressure on other areas</p>
<p>I do NOT support these changes. Modifying the activities or zoning arrangements in the focus SZ's to allow fishing or other extractive activities inside a SZ (by changing to HPZ status) will significantly reduce the effectiveness of the Marine Park network at protecting and conserving marine biodiversity and habitat, which are the obvious and effective reasons for Marine Parks and SZ's.</p>
<p>Do not support</p>
<p>Very good amendments. The ocean is a very wild and dangerous place to have the ability to fish around North Neptune island and hide from the wind will increase safety in the</p>

rock lobster industry. Will also take fishing pressure off the rest of the fishing grounds in the area.
leave these alone please they are good the way they are
Oppose - unacceptable loss of habitat
I believe I holistically understand the short to long term impacts of COVID-19 on businesses and communities. However, increasing the commercial fishing will not help. There are enough places along the South Australian coastline to fish. I have seen the benefits of fishing near marine parks after they were established. As such, there should be more marine SZ's with no shore-based or other fishing allowed in them. The ecological area is interconnected and cannot be thought of in isolation from the one side of an island to the other, deeper benthic, shallower benthic, tidal shoreline to near-coastal terrestrial areas. To allow environmental impact in any of these areas just weakens the environments ability to persist and recover. I fear some of these amendments will back fire. As a recreational fisher, I don't agree with increasing the fishing areas or rights of recreational or commercial fishers. Our population is increasing, but we should learn to adjust and lower our take, not increase it, as the environment isn't increasing in size relatively. Investment into sustainable aquaculture practices is a far better idea then to increase the harvesting area.
Yes. Whilst I agree with the expansion of some of the marine parks, I do not agree with the opening up of these parks to recreational fishing.
supportive of change
I do not support the amendments.
none
Unhappy with the proposed shrinking of the SZ.
Nil
The area should not be expanded for fishing recreational or Commercial.
Such a drastic reduction in size of the SZ will negatively impact the entire ecosystem. With the scale of changes like this why not just scrap the whole SZ?
sufficient as it is
No
Increase the Size of the sanctuaries
Support
Absolutely leave as is, this is an incredibly important area which needs to be protected and left alone for the sake of biodiversity and marine health.
support
I do not support the proposed amendments to North Neptune Island. This reduction in the SZ makes a mockery of Marine Park design, the entire island must remain protected to achieve comprehensive ecosystem protection. Such a change will impact negatively upon the eco-tours that operator in the region, one doesn't want to pay for a tour into an area where fishers are still removing wildlife nearby.

I support the changes to the amendments
Government polling shows that more than 90% of South Australians support their marine sanctuaries. And the Government's own review found that our marine parks and sanctuaries are bringing many benefits to our marine life and regional communities. At a time when marine life is undergoing massive stress due to climate change and over fishing, we need to be creating more sanctuaries, not removing restrictions on existing ones. No fish zones have been shown to improve fishing by allowing fish to breed up and repopulate overfished areas outside of the sanctuary. As a recreational fisherman I am happy to sacrifice certain areas where I cannot fish to increase future populations and ensure species are able to adapt to climate change. Our marine ecosystems would also benefit from increased funding for research to improve conservation efforts, please consider increasing funding instead of decreasing protection.
Support
No
I disagree with the reduction of the size of the SZ
No
Fish are not impacted by bushfire or shutdown, though tourism operators have been. Fishing is impacted more by trade issues with China. You should be extending habit protection as is INCREASING the take for commercial and recreational fishers.
No changes as this sanctuary protects the little penguins and seals off Neptune Island between Eyre and Yorke Peninsula
Support
I support
It makes economic and environmental sense.
I agree with the proposed changes.
No
We are not in favour of these changes.
No I do not agree
Do not make it smaller listen to the science
support
I support the proposed changes as North Neptune Island is a big part of our fishing grounds and the new area will still allow for the protection of species
No commercial or recreational fishing in marine parks. These are tiny pieces of the ocean that will provide sanctuary to creatures and the plant life for generations to come. We cannot take everything for ourselves. South Australians dwelling here in 100, 200 etc. years should be able to enjoy these places as we do.
I agree with the proposed changes
I believe the park should remain as is or be extended.
Support
Supported

<p>Unfortunately it appears that key SZ is being carved off as "Habitat Protection Zone. The SZ is critical habitat for a number of marine species and of high tourism potential. Habitat protection Zones have little environmental benefit, with most published experimental research indicating fish diversity abundance, and body sizes similar to adjacent open areas. So this rezoning cynically appears to appease the fishing lobby at the likely expense of environmental protection. I see no reasonable justification for the change and recommend retaining the e SZ area intact.</p>
<p>I support the changes</p>
<p>Don't bother even putting them in. Why the change? Lock off some of the only areas left we can enjoy?? It's absolutely pointless and has had no research to show that it is being harmed by recreational fishers. Spend time and money enforcing fisheries offences with the repeat offenders taking excess whiting etc. every year.</p>
<p>I'm not sure how allowing to bring white sharks to a boat is allowed but not any other commercial activities. I agree with the proposed amendments.</p>
<p>do NOT approve of the changes- keep zone as it is</p>
<p>There do not seem to be any a priori justification for the reduction of the SZ in the Neptune Island group- and unlike the other proposed alterations this is simply a reduction without any compensatory creation of a new SZ- surely at the very least if this change occurs a new SZ at South Neptune's should be added to ensure conservation benefits are not demeaned</p>
<p>I do not wish to see ANY changes to the current Marine Parks legislation.</p>
<p>The decimation of the SZ-1 SZ cannot be condoned, we should be protecting more of the aquatic environment, not reducing it. Humans have proven they cannot be trusted to do the right thing when it comes to obeying fishing restrictions, this would just exacerbate the problem by inviting further intrusions.</p>
<p>Do not agree with the changes to the SZ of the North Neptune Island.</p>
<p>I do not agree with any relaxing of restrictions on commercial and recreational fishing. We need to protect the environment and to be able to sustain fish populations into the future. We need to extend South Australia's Marine Parks.</p>
<p>As per above our business supports the proposed change to the Neptune Islands Group.</p>
<p>Leave it as original</p>
<p>opposed to all change</p>
<p>There is no need for a marine Parks in this area at all</p>
<p>support</p>
<p>Retain the current SZ. I strongly disagree with the proposal to allow recreational fishing in parts of the current SZ as they are vital to protecting key marine habitats and breeding grounds, which in turn increases fish stocks and enhances marine biodiversity.</p>
<p>I support the changes</p>
<p>No</p>
<p>The Current SZ on Neptune North Isle should remain due to the important sea lion breeding contained within that zone as well as the tourism factor in regards to the Great</p>



White Shark numbers within that zone.
Fish stocks are low, the marine environment is under too much pressure. No fishing of any type should be done in marine sanctuaries. The area of sanctuaries should be expanded.
Agree
Leave as is
I support the changes
I support the proposed amendment The community of Pt Lincoln will benefit a great deal. Even Calypso Shark Cage diving believes it will be a positive change and that having working boats in the area will add to the experience. A SZ means nothing to a tourism experience in reality.
no need to extend area
The impact report for reducing the SZ for North Neptune Islands states very clearly that this will "compromise the marine park system by reducing the protection for these remote offshore island habitats". It lists the significant negative impacts on the environmental value. The "offset" of the increase in commercial fishing is minor. 2 FTE jobs, minimal economic benefits, and negative impacts on the local tourist industry and the social value.
I do not support The amendment to this management plan
Leave as current. No access as now particularly commercial operations
No
Please retain the existing boundaries and controls.
Another waste of an area. Allow fishing all around the island but shut down the only safe anchorage that's in close vicinity to the island.
I'm ashamed when I see us going backwards when we should be world leaders in conservation
Terrible. Leave them as they are. How can you sacrifice our fragile marine ecosystem and diversity for MORE fishing? Disgraceful.
No
Park should be expanded. No easing of current restrictions. Marine Parks provide valuable fish nursery habitats that allow other areas to be repopulated with new fish. Even recreational fishers can deplete a fishery to unsustainable levels.
As per q4
See above.
There is no way any reduction should take place
I do not agree with decreasing the protection zone
Support
Do not change
Please maintain existing boundaries and fishing restrictions
Fantastic outcome for Rec fishers based out of Port Lincoln, unfortunately I doubt it was done for that reason.

**Survey responses to the Upper Gulf St Vincent Marine Park Management Plan Draft Amendment 2020** (Raw unedited answers-blanks removed).

**In relation to the proposed changes set out in the Upper Gulf St Vincent Marine Park Management Plan Draft Amendment 2020 (Amendments 1, 2,3,4,5 6, 7 comparison maps) do you have any views?**

To the extent that the parks would be subject to more open fishing and less protection, the proposals are a backward step. One particular aspect of concern is the unfounded risk to the Giant Cuttlefish population that previous suffered the predations of commercial fishing operations. Their numbers dropped significantly and are only now coming back to a reasonable size. The associated tourism opportunities for divers to see them will also suffer.

No changes should be made to existing plan. Minimising the environmental impact of fishing needs to be the number one priority and fishing needs to be decreased in the environmentally sensitive zones already protected, certainly not increased.

This is a very bad proposal's as it allows highly destructive commercial netting to resume in critical fish nursery areas.

I believe all recreational fishing person should be allowed to fish in all marine parks as we are controlled by strict bag limits. What needs to happen is to ban all commercial fishing in these areas. The money generated by recreational supports all areas of the upper gulf St Vincent; where commercial only rewards a small sector of this area. If professionals are to be allowed also in this area, long lining and netting must be banned. All prawn trawling must not be allowed in a marine park area

Changes proposed will adversely affect the purpose of the marine parks system as shown in the government's own recent study. We should be increasing conservation efforts.

No marine park should be decreased in size, nor should fishing be permitted within the boundaries.

OK with changes

I support the expansion of the marine protected area and opening to recreational fishing, but I do not believe that marine protected areas should be open to commercial fishing due to the impact on marine life, tourism, and recreation

No change needed

Clinton wetlands should not be changed

No

The habitat protection zone should not be made smaller. Fishing should not be allowed in the Habitat Protection Zone

I oppose reduction of the marine park.

I am opposed to any change to allow fishing in the marine park. (Change southern part of SZ (SZ) to Habitat Protection Zone (HPZ) to allow fishing)

I oppose the proposed changes to UGSV marine park. There is no ecological, social or economic basis for the changes (Marine Parks Review 2018).

This is a shallow nursery area - the NTZ should remain and is only being reduced to appease a minority of commercial fishers (who fish the NTZ in any event).
Appreciate the fact locals need tourist to fish in the area -a fair compromise
Yes if this change is to be made then I would agree that no commercial fishing to be allowed. I would rather no changes be made if commercial fishing is going to be allowed. AS it is stated that the commercial value is minimal and with the new commercial fishery management plan going to be implemented there should no need to open this area up to commercial fishing. All data has pointed that this area is not required to supplement the income of a fishing licence.
I support the proposed changes
no
I have no specific views on the changes made to these boundaries
Support; SZ's have little impact, and should be threat based only.
Marine parks should be open to community recreational fishing. SZ's should only stop commercial fishing and not recreational. Some of the zones are inshore and safe fishing spots for small boats and land based anglers.
Yes, I agree with the changes.
Do not agree.
Do not agree with proposed changes to Clinton Wetlands.
Support amendments.
See below.
Extend the closure in size and scope to protect species.
No. This environment is critical to a whole host of fish including the world class cuttlefish. I disagree with this completely. Expand the zone. We took so long to achieve this becoming a marine area and we have only one chance at pr3eserving this.
No opinion
Changes to zoning will have an impact on how the marine park network satisfies the criteria for a comprehensive, adequate and representative system of marine parks by reducing the area of habitats and features which are afforded the highest level of biodiversity protection and conservation.' I do NOT support these changes
Do not support.
None as not familiar with the area.
Not good leave them the way they are thanks

<p>I believe I holistically understand the short to long term impacts of COVID-19 on businesses and communities. However, allowing recreational shore fishing will not help. There are enough places along the South Australian coastline to fish. I fish many spots regularly across the State and have seen the benefits of fishing near marine parks after they were established. As such, there should be more marine SZ's with no shore-based or other fishing allowed in them. The ecological area is interconnected and cannot be thought of in isolation from the deeper benthic, shallower benthic, tidal shoreline to near-coastal terrestrial areas. <i>To allow environmental impact in any of these areas just weakens the environments ability to persist and recover.</i> I have seen the benefits, and my fishing is better now because of these benefits. I fear some of these amendments will back fire. As a recreational fisher, <i>I don't agree with increasing the fishing areas or rights of recreational or commercial fishers. Our population is increasing, but we should learn to adjust and lower our take, not increase it, as the environment isn't increasing in size relatively.</i></p>
<p>Yes. Whilst I agree with the expansion of some of the marine parks, I do not agree with the opening up of these parks to recreational fishing.</p>
<p>supportive of changes</p>
<p>I do not support the amendments.</p>
<p>yes by letting netter into this restricted park area you will allow the breeding stock to be netted as they were in the past the improvements in the fishing has been noted the squid and snapper breeding grounds are in this area and should not be netted</p>
<p>Unhappy with the proposed shrinking of the SZ.</p>
<p>Yes. No change in SZ supported. Commercial fishing in current SZ strongly opposed. Monitoring of this area should be maintained.</p>
<p>The area should not be expanded for fishing recreational or Commercial.</p>
<p>yes the marine should be made smaller as it only needs to protect that smaller area in the shallow water</p>
<p>No</p>
<p>Increase the size of the sanctuaries</p>
<p>Support</p>
<p>This is a terrible decision to allow fishing in this area. This is important as a breeding location for many marine animals and offers respite for struggling snapper schools in the area. A definite no to reducing the size of this marine park. Think about the damage commercial fishers will do to this important but fragile area.</p>
<p>support</p>
<p>I strongly disagree with the proposed amendment to the Clinton Wetlands SZ 1. There should be no reduction to the SZ in the head of Gulf St Vincent, this is an internationally recognised estuary with rare mangrove and sea grass habitat, an area that needs to be left alone for fish to school and breed without disturbance. If we want a productive and sustainable fishery we need to protect this nursery habitat, any loss of this SZ is a backward step for all fish stocks in the gulf. Due to the unfortunate history of the marine scale fishery we have too many operators fighting in limited areas over a depleted</p>

<p>resource. It is great to see that PIRSA has acknowledged this with its commitment to remove 150 commercial licences from the fishery, this is a progressive solution to benefit all future fishers.</p>
<p>I support amendment</p>
<p>Government polling shows that more than 90% of South Australians support their marine sanctuaries. And the Government's own review found that our marine parks and sanctuaries are bringing many benefits to our marine life and regional communities. At a time when marine life is undergoing massive stress due to climate change and over fishing, we need to be creating more sanctuaries, not removing restrictions on existing ones. No fish zones have been shown to improve fishing by allowing fish to breed up and repopulate overfished areas outside of the sanctuary. As a recreational fisherman I am happy to sacrifice certain areas where I cannot fish to increase future populations and ensure species are able to adapt to climate change. Our marine ecosystems would also benefit from increased funding for research to improve conservation efforts, please consider increasing funding instead of decreasing protection.</p>
<p>Support</p>
<p>No</p>
<p>I absolutely disagree with the reduction in size of the SZ. This is vital cuttlefish environment!</p>
<p>No</p>
<p>Fish are not impacted by bushfire or shutdown, though tourism operators have been. Fishing is impacted more by trade issues with China. You should be extending habitat protection as is INCREASING the take for commercial and recreational fishers.</p>
<p>No changes as this sanctuary protects the fish habitat off the Clinton Wetlands at the top of Gulf of St Vincent</p>
<p>Support</p>
<p>I support</p>
<p>I have not fished this area since the implementation of the Marine Park, so I cannot offer any educated comments.</p>
<p>No</p>
<p>We are in favour of these changes.</p>
<p>Yes I agree</p>
<p>The sea is our prime defence against climate change if we don't support the biology of the sea we will all suffer in the long run</p>
<p>support</p>
<p>I support the changes</p>
<p>No commercial or recreational fishing in marine parks. These are tiny pieces of the ocean that will provide sanctuary to creatures and the plant life for generations to come. We cannot take everything for ourselves. South Australians dwelling here in 100, 200 etc. years should be able to enjoy these places as we do.</p>

I agree with the proposed changes
I believe the park should remain as is or be extended. Don't open up protected areas.
Support
Supported
I support the changes
Birdlife Australia strongly disagrees with the proposed amendment to reduce the size of the Clinton Conservation Area SZ (SZ-1). This area was designated a SZ for good reason. It provides critical habitat for EPBC Listed species of Migratory Shorebirds and is considered a Key Biodiversity Area. Thousands of Migratory Shorebirds rely on Upper Gulf St Vincent and particularly the area of the current SZ (within and adjacent to Clinton Conservation Park) to feed and rest in each summer in order to make their annual migration to the northern hemisphere to breed. The importance to this area has been recognised internationally with Upper Gulf St Vincent nominated and listed as a Flyway Site by the East-Asian Australasian Flyway Partnership. The habitat from the high tide water mark to the low tide is all incredibly valuable shorebird habitat and with EPBC listed Endangered migratory shorebirds regularly observed within the current SZ boundaries the State Government has a requirement to protect and conserve this habitat under Federal Environmental law. Decreasing the SZ boundary would provide additional opportunities for fishers, either land based or boat, to cause significant disturbance to resting and feeding shorebirds. Disturbance to feeding and resting sites can be extremely detrimental to migratory shorebirds and is well known to be one of the key threats to their ability to breed and therefore overall population survival. Allowing more fishers into this area by reducing the SZ boundary also increases the potential for pollution (fishing line entanglements), dog attacks, changes to the marine sediment through motors used in shallow water causing sedimentation and changes to in-fauna/prey which the migratory shorebirds rely on for food to fuel their migrations. We believe there should be no change to the SZ (SZ-1) boundaries.
I have no views or say on this area as it is unknown to me.
do NOT approve of the changes - keep zone as it is
The huge (80%) reduction in SZ for the Clinton Wetlands seems short-sighted given the critical role of shallow seagrass in seeding productivity for the entire Gulf and beyond, and given the acute vulnerability of seagrass to long term damage from boats use.
I do not wish to see ANY changes to the current Marine Parks legislation.
Once again the proposal would see the SZ reduced, in this case so as to become almost non-existent. For a government so "committed" to the environment this move would seem to show the commitment to be fairly shallow. The SZ should at least be retained, if not expanded.
Do not agree with the reduction in the SZ of the Clinton Wetland, Upper Gulf St Vincent Marine Park.
I do not agree with any relaxing of restrictions on commercial and recreational fishing. We need to protect the environment and to be able to sustain fish populations into the future. We need to extend South Australia's Marine Parks.

No comment
Leave it as original
opposed to all change
Support
Retain the current SZ. I strongly disagree with the proposal to allow recreational fishing in parts of the current SZ as they are vital to protecting key marine habitats and breeding grounds, which in turn increases fish stocks and enhances marine biodiversity.
I support the changes
Yes, I am concerned that opening up the upper sections of the Gulf St Vincent is a backward step in rebuilding fish stocks. I have fished recreationally all my life in this Gulf and have never seen fish stocks on all species so desperately low. It is alarming. The top of the Gulf is a known breeding ground for many species and must be protected not exploited as it has over many years.
The top of the Gulf should be protected due to the breeding grounds and mangrove areas that survive there. Commercial & recreational fishing depends on this area being kept safe and productive.
Fish stocks are low, the marine environment is under too much pressure. No fishing of any type should be done in marine sanctuaries. The area of sanctuaries should be expanded.
Agree
Leave as is
I support the changes
I support the proposed amendment. The Pt Wakefield area will benefit greatly
no
no
I do not support The amendment to this management plan. I not that the giant Cuttlefish Numbers are up this year, I wonder if this is due to the protection given by the SZ - the proposed change would pose a risk to this species.
Should allow access to Recreational fishermen. No commercial fisherman allowed particularly nets e long lines
Yes. I believe it a retrograde step to reduce the size of the SZ. It is a nursery area for species especially Southern Garfish that would be extensively raided by commercial fishers out of Port Wakefield. I believe the current zone should be retained to allow for the species to recover.
Please retain the current / existing boundaries and controls.
So much heat about the snapper fishery yet now you want to open up most of the spawning/breeding ground in the gulf for more fish to be removed from the areas
there is no reason, other than the greed of a few short-sighted people, to decrease valuable conservation areas which actually enhance our fish stocks
Terrible. Leave them as they are. How can you sacrifice our fragile marine ecosystem and diversity for MORE fishing? Disgraceful.
No

Park should be expanded. No easing of current restrictions. Marine Parks provide valuable fish nursery habitats that allow other areas to be repopulated with new fish. Even recreational fishers can deplete a fishery to unsustainable levels.

As per q4

See above

Why are we opening breeding grounds up for commercial fishing? They take hundreds of kilos of fish and reduce the chances of those fish breeding. Bad call

I do not agree with decreasing the protection zone

Support

Don't change

There should be no reduction in Marine Parks

No

Nil



**Survey responses to the proposed changes to protect Windara shellfish reef set out in the Upper Gulf St Vincent Marine Park Management Plan Draft Amendment 2020** (Raw unedited answers-blanks removed).

<b>In relation to the proposed changes to protect Windara shellfish reef set out in the Upper Gulf St Vincent Marine Park Management Plan Draft Amendment 2020 (Amendments 4,6 comparison maps), do you have any views ?</b>
See above.
No changes should be made to existing plan. Minimising the environmental impact of fishing needs to be the number one priority and fishing needs to be decreased in the environmentally sensitive zones already protected, certainly not increased.
An additional buffer area of say 1km around the reef should be implemented to prevent commercial fishing activity impacting reef species. Does the marked area cover the entirety of the reef?
same comments as point 6
Changes proposed will adversely affect the purpose of the marine parks system as shown in the government's own recent study. We should be increasing conservation efforts.
No marine park should be decreased in size, nor should fishing be permitted within the boundaries.
OK with changes
I support the expansion of the marine protected area and opening to recreational fishing, but I do not believe that marine protected areas should be open to commercial fishing due to the impact on marine life, tourism, and recreation
No change needed
No
The habitat protection zone should not be made smaller. Fishing should not be allowed in the Habitat Protection Zone
I oppose reductions in our marine parks.
I am opposed to any change to allow fishing in the marine park.
I oppose the proposed changes to UGSV marine park. There is no ecological, social or economic basis for the changes (Marine Parks Review 2018).
the proposed changes are suitable however the NTZ should be amended to HPZ
Really great proactive management, well done!
Supported: a great idea
no
I have no specific views on the changes made to these boundaries
Support; increased habitat creates additional opportunities
Marine parks should be open to community recreational fishing. SZ's should only stop commercial fishing and not recreational. Some of the zones are inshore and safe fishing spots for small boats and land based anglers.
Yes, I agree with the changes.

Do not agree
Agree
Support amendments
See below
Extend the closure in size and scope to protect species
Again another reduction - no. Expand the sanctuary. There is a huge coast line where people can fish - protect the little we have left.
No opinion
I do NOT support these changes Modifying the activities or zoning arrangements in the focus SZ's to allow fishing or other extractive activities inside a SZ's (by changing to HPZ status) will significantly reduce the effectiveness of the Marine Park network at protecting and conserving marine biodiversity and habitat.
Do not support
None as not familiar with the area.
please keep the zones as big as they are
I believe I holistically understand the short to long term impacts of COVID-19 on businesses and communities. However, allowing fishing on what will become one of only two Agassi oyster reefs isn't right. There are enough places along the South Australian coastline to fish. I fish many spots regularly across the State and have seen the benefits of fishing near marine parks after they were established. As such, there should be more marine SZ's with no shore-based or other fishing allowed in them. The ecological area is interconnected and cannot be thought of in isolation from the deeper benthic, shallower benthic, tidal shoreline to near-coastal terrestrial areas. To allow environmental impact in any of these areas just weakens the environments ability to persist and recover. To allow it in a potential critical source habitat (as one of two oyster reefs would be in our State) is verging on negligent. I fear some of these amendments will back fire. As a recreational fisher, I don't agree with increasing the fishing areas or rights of recreational or commercial fishers. Our population is increasing, but we should learn to adjust and lower our take, not increase it, as the environment isn't increasing in size relatively. <i>In the case of native oyster reefs, we already destroyed them all, why would we allow the potential destruction of these new ones.</i>
Yes. Whilst I agree with the expansion of some of the marine parks, I do not agree with the opening up of these parks to recreational fishing.
supportive of changes
I do not support the amendments.
none
Unhappy with the proposed shrinking of the SZ.
Nil
The area should not be expanded for fishing recreational or Commercial.
No
Increase the Size of the sanctuaries

Support
For the short term yes, to allow the reef to stabilise. Should be open for discussion when further research has been undertaken in three years' time. This area holds a lot of potential.
support
I support the amendments to include Windara Reef into a SZ within the Upper Gulf St Vincent Marine Park as proposed in Map 03(A)
I support the amendment
Government polling shows that more than 90% of South Australians support their marine sanctuaries. And the Government's own review found that our marine parks and sanctuaries are bringing many benefits to our marine life and regional communities. At a time when marine life is undergoing massive stress due to climate change and over fishing, we need to be creating more sanctuaries, not removing restrictions on existing ones. No fish zones have been shown to improve fishing by allowing fish to breed up and repopulate overfished areas outside of the sanctuary. As a recreational fisherman I am happy to sacrifice certain areas where I cannot fish to increase future populations and ensure species are able to adapt to climate change. Our marine ecosystems would also benefit from increased funding for research to improve conservation efforts, please consider increasing funding instead of decreasing protection.
Support
No
The SZ must not be reduced
No
Fish are not impacted by bushfire or shutdown, though tourism operators have been. Fishing is impacted more by trade issues with China. You should be extending habit protection as is INCREASING the take for commercial and recreational fishers.
No changes as this sanctuary protects the fish habitat off the Clinton Wetlands at the top of Gulf of St Vincent
Support
I support
I have not fished this area since the implementation of the Marine Park, so I cannot offer any educated comments.
No
We are in favour of these changes.
yes I agree
We need to leave nature alone to heal the damage we have done all ready. We need to maximize the space of aquatic parks to allow our marine species to survive. If they do not we will perish along with them
support
Leave it alone.
I support these changes

No commercial or recreational fishing in marine parks. These are tiny pieces of the ocean that will provide sanctuary to creatures and the plant life for generations to come. We cannot take everything for ourselves. South Australians dwelling here in 100, 200 etc. years should be able to enjoy these places as we do.
I agree with the proposed changes
Leave park as is or extend, protected areas should remain.
Support
Supported
I support the changes
As above
do NOT approve of the changes - keep zone as it is
I do not wish to see ANY changes to the current Marine Parks legislation.
This is a wonderful move and should help to re-establish the mollusc population. The decision to allow recreational fishing should be withheld until a colony is properly established, and even then very restricted bag-limits must be imposed.
I regularly fish in this area. The proposed reduction in sanctuary is not needed, there is plenty of space to still fish in the area. The biggest problem in this distinct is the reduction in fish stocks in recent years. The sanctuary should be expanded to a greater area and cover more species of fish to allow numbers to rebuild. Tourism is suffering on the Yorke peninsula because what used to be good fishing spots are now overfished and fish are too scarce.
Agree with the change to Windara Reef, Upper Gulf St Vincent Marine Park.
I do not agree with any relaxing of restrictions on commercial and recreational fishing. We need to protect the environment and to be able to sustain fish populations into the future. We need to extend South Australia's Marine Parks.
No comment
Leave it as original
opposed to all change
Support
Retain the current SZ. I strongly disagree with the proposal to allow recreational fishing in parts of the current SZ as they are vital to protecting key marine habitats and breeding grounds, which in turn increases fish stocks and enhances marine biodiversity.
I support the changes
The creation of the Windara Reef Recreational Zone on the surface sounds OK. Needs to be monitored to ensure over fishing does not occur. Suggest closed seasons around spawning or high aggregation periods to maintain stocks.
Good outcome here
Fish stocks are low, the marine environment is under too much pressure. No fishing of any type should be done in marine sanctuaries. The area of sanctuaries should be expanded.
Agree
Leave it as it stands. No change



I support the changes
I support the proposed amendment
no
approve
I support this amendment
Allow recreational anglers only. No commercial fisherman or divers who will attempt to gather oysters etc.
Yes, I agree with the proposal.
Please retain the existing / current boundaries and controls.
No
I can't see what the difference is
Terrible. Leave them as they are. How can you sacrifice our fragile marine ecosystem and diversity for MORE fishing? Disgraceful.
No
Park should be expanded. No easing of current restrictions. Marine Parks provide valuable fish nursery habitats that allow other areas to be repopulated with new fish. Even recreational fishers can deplete a fishery to unsustainable levels.
Stop fishing the cuttlefish.
See above
Good call. Any expansion to protect stocks is good
I do not agree with decreasing the protection zone
Support
Don't change
No
Nil

**Survey responses to the Upper South East Marine Park Management Plan Draft Amendment 2020** (Raw unedited answers-blanks removed).

<b>In relation to the proposed changes set out in the Upper South East Marine Park Management Plan Draft Amendment 2020 (Amendments 1, 2, comparison maps), do you have any views?</b>
To the extent that the parks would be subject to more open fishing and less protection, the proposals are a backward step.
No changes should be made to existing plan. Minimising the environmental impact of fishing needs to be the number one priority and fishing needs to be decreased in the environmentally sensitive zones already protected, certainly not increased.
Open the area up for recreational fishers for both beach and boating fishers only as it will relieve fishing pressure on other areas.
no, cannot comment as I do not fish this area
Changes proposed will adversely affect the purpose of the marine parks system as shown in the government's own recent study. We should be increasing conservation efforts.
No marine park should be decreased in size, nor should fishing be permitted within the boundaries.
OK with changes
I think allowing recreational fishers to fish from the shore line is a very good idea.
I support the expansion of the marine protected area and opening to recreational fishing, but I do not believe that marine protected areas should be open to commercial fishing due to the impact on marine life, tourism, and recreation
No change needed
I absolutely support this change. The original decision to ban shore fishing in this spot was nonsensical.
The habitat protection zone should not be made smaller. Fishing should not be allowed in the Habitat Protection Zone
I oppose reductions in marine parks.
I oppose the proposed changes to USE marine park. There is no ecological, social or economic basis for the changes (Marine Parks Review 2018).
the proposed changes are suitable however the NTZ should be amended to HPZ
Not really
Strongly supported: the original map was not logical
no
I do not support there being any SZ along the coorong ocean beach. There is no scientific reason for this SZ We were promised a science based review of marine parks and SZ's. Where is the science for this decision?
Shore based fishing should never have been prohibited in this zone. existing fisheries regulations manage recreational anglers and marine parks shouldn't be used as a

regulatory measure as has happened here
Support; would prefer SZ removed completely
Marine parks should be open to community recreational fishing. SZ's should only stop commercial fishing and not recreational. Some of the zones are inshore and safe fishing spots for small boats and land based anglers.
Yes, I agree with the changes.
Do not agree
Agree
Support amendments
See below
Extend the closure in size and scope to protect species
Again, this is an area that needs sanctuary expanded.
Pressure put in other areas is so great it needs to be implemented
The South Australian community worked assiduously in various ways from 2002 to have a suite of marine parks rolled out across SA. Many members of the fishing fraternity including recreational and professional fishers agreed that a system of marine protected areas with SZ's would benefit our unique marine environment and contribute to a sustainable fishing industry and actively supported the establishment of marine parks. RecFish SA supported the proposal. Since the establishment of Marine Parks in SA management plans have been rolled out and the benefits of the parks have become obvious. I DO NOT support these changes.
Do not support
None as not familiar with the area.
Oppose - unacceptable loss of habitat
I believe I holistically understand the short to long term impacts of COVID-19 on businesses and communities. <i>However, allowing recreational shore fishing will not help.</i> There are enough places along the South Australian coastline to fish. I fish many spots regularly across the State and have seen the benefits of fishing near marine parks after they were established. As such, there should be more marine SZ's with no shore-based or other fishing allowed in them. The ecological area is interconnected and cannot be thought of in isolation from the deeper benthic, shallower benthic, tidal shoreline to near-coastal terrestrial areas. <i>To allow environmental impact in any of these areas just weakens the environments ability to persist and recover.</i> I have seen the benefits, and my fishing is better now because of these benefits. I fear some of these amendments will back fire. As a recreational fisher, I don't agree with increasing the fishing areas or rights of recreational or commercial fishers. Our population is increasing, but we should learn to adjust and lower our take, not increase it, as the environment isn't increasing in size relatively.
Yes. Whilst I agree with the expansion of some of the marine parks, I do not agree with the opening up of these parks to recreational fishing.
supportive of changes

I support the amendments.
none
Ok with this.
Nil
The area should not be expanded for fishing recreational or Commercial.
fine as it is
No
Increase the Size of the sanctuaries
Support
In favour of this, not much change.
support
I do not support any amendments to SZ 1 in the Upper South East Marine Park, this SZ covers a very small section of coast and provides protection for near shore marine life - there are plenty of kilometres open to fishing along this beach!
I support the amendment
Government polling shows that more than 90% of South Australians support their marine sanctuaries. And the Government's own review found that our marine parks and sanctuaries are bringing many benefits to our marine life and regional communities. At a time when marine life is undergoing massive stress due to climate change and over fishing, we need to be creating more sanctuaries, not removing restrictions on existing ones. No fish zones have been shown to improve fishing by allowing fish to breed up and repopulate overfished areas outside of the sanctuary. As a recreational fisherman I am happy to sacrifice certain areas where I cannot fish to increase future populations and ensure species are able to adapt to climate change. Our marine ecosystems would also benefit from increased funding for research to improve conservation efforts, please consider increasing funding instead of decreasing protection.
Support
No
Looks about the same between current and proposed
No
Fish are not impacted by bushfire or shutdown, though tourism operators have been. Fishing is impacted more by trade issues with China. You should be extending habit protection as is INCREASING the take for commercial and recreational fishers.
No changes to this sanctuary
Yes I have put in comments on your say - discussion and emailed at submission.re USE Marine Park. I am opposed to any changes because of the plight of the endangered Hooded Plover. I have spent many years fishing with my husband and family as we lived 50 km north of Kingston for 25 years, fishing generally south of Tea Tree Crossing as the beach can be very difficult north of TTC. I believe we have plenty of opportunity to fish elsewhere and can drive all the way to Robe ( almost anyway ) I would like it left alone and don't agree we should open it up to line fishing if we truly understand the plight of



the Hooded Plovers. It has worked well for 8 years, of course one voice will agitate forever but the general consensus is that we are very lucky to have as much area as we do to drive and fish on the beach. Leave it alone please! We have lost more species than any other county on earth.

Support

I support

I have not fished this area since the implementation of the Marine Park, so I cannot offer any educated comments.

Beach access is important here for recreational fishing.

We are not in favour of these changes.

Yes I agree

Make no change<sup>3</sup>

support

I support these changes

No commercial or recreational fishing in marine parks. These are tiny pieces of the ocean that will provide sanctuary to creatures and the plant life for generations to come. We cannot take everything for ourselves. South Australians dwelling here in 100, 200 etc. years should be able to enjoy these places as we do.

I agree with the proposed changes

Park should remain as is or be extended, don't open previously protected areas.

Support

Supported

I support the changes

Birdlife Australia does not support the amendment to include shore-based recreational line fishing (SPA-3) in the SZ (SZ-1) in the Upper South East Park Management Plan Draft Amendment 2020. This 7km stretch of SZ coastline is incredibly important for the federally and state listed Vulnerable Hooded Plover, particularly during the breeding season (August to March). Buick and Paton (1989) showed the impact of off-road vehicles on breeding success of Hooded Plovers on the Coorong Ocean beach stating that nearly 81% of all nests would be crushed by vehicles. This informed the vehicle ban that came into effect which states to protect the Hooded Plover, the ocean beach track north of Tea Tree Crossing is closed to vehicles from 24 October to 24 December every year. This closure applies to the beach from Tea Tree Crossing to the Murray Mouth (DEW). Shore-based line fishing in the SZ is not supported as it attracts additional disturbance to the area where the Hooded Plovers are breeding. In particular, there will be an increase in the number of people to this stretch of coast in January after the vehicle ban is lifted, if shore-based recreational fishing is allowed. This will negatively impact on any nests or chicks present as January is still peak breeding time for Hooded Plovers. The impact of this increase in disturbance to Hooded Plover breeding includes: additional vehicle traffic which could potentially crush nests and chicks; an increased visitor presence on the beach which would be very likely to disturb birds off nests and keeps chicks in hiding and can directly cause crushing of nests and chicks. If fishers spend long periods of time close to nest/chicks, this can lead to nest/chick failure (adults are disturbed off the nest, leaving the nest vulnerable to the elements and predation, and chick starvation because they are hiding and not feeding, and can be easily picked off by predators); and fishing activities can also attract and increase numbers of predators such as silver gulls, pacific gulls, ravens and magpies which take Hooded Plover eggs and kill chicks. To increase the off-road vehicle ban period to 3 months (into January) would benefit the species greatly by allowing additional buffer time for the species to breed and fledge chicks. It is highly recommended to leave this 7km stretch of coastal SZ as it currently is, and to not allow shore-based recreational fishing. The 150km stretch of coast from the Murray Mouth to Kingston allows for off-road vehicle driving and fishing. So it is a small compromise to keep this 7km SZ stretch without shore-based line fishing and its associated impacts.

- As above
- I do not wish to see ANY changes to the current Marine Parks legislation.
- As long as the number of fishermen, the species caught and the bag-limits are strictly controlled, then shore-based recreational fishing should be acceptable.
- Agree with the change to allow shore line fishing in the SZ.
- I do not agree with any relaxing of restrictions on commercial and recreational fishing. We need to protect the environment and to be able to sustain fish populations into the future. We need to extend South Australia's Marine Parks.
- No comment
- Leave it as original
- It would be fabulous to have the place reopened so I can take my kids fishing there like I used to as a kid. Toilets at Salt Creek Roadhouse would be advantageous for tourism to

the area as currently this vital tourism basic necessity has no disabled place for people to ablate.
opposed to all change
This beach area should never have become a marine park. Perhaps the offshore reef itself being a few kms out. But not the surf zone. I support this new amendment.
Support
Shore fishing should be allowed in this area. The coast changes every day. You are already allowed to drive through it but not stop and fish?
Retain the current SZ. I strongly disagree with the proposal to allow recreational fishing in parts of the current SZ as they are vital to protecting key marine habitats and breeding grounds, which in turn increases fish stocks and enhances marine biodiversity.
I support the changes
No
No view
Fish stocks are low, the marine environment is under too much pressure. No fishing of any type should be done in marine sanctuaries. The area of sanctuaries should be expanded.
Agree
Welcoming the opportunity to fish from shoreline in this tee tree Coorong area as the beaches can change so much from friendly to very tricky. We have a surf fishing club with 60 members most experienced but few learning to able to access all of this park for Beach fishing is very sensible and very minor impact to any habitat. Cheers.
Recreational Land based fishing must be strongly supported as it is a vital lifeblood for these communities. A large proportion of recreational fishers contribute positively to these areas and the environment. The vast majority of recreational fishers that I have consulted and myself included also support the introduction of fishing licences AS LONG AS THE MONEY GOES BACK INTO THE FACILITIES RELEVANT TO FISHING.
Leave it as it is
I support the changes
I support the proposed amendment
no
no issue
I do not support The amendment to this management plan
No access to commercial or recreational anglers
No
No
I can't see what the difference is
Terrible. Leave them as they are. How can you sacrifice our fragile marine ecosystem and diversity for MORE fishing? Disgraceful.

I have great concern that allowing vehicles to access proposed new shore based recreational fishing area via the beach from Tea Tree Crossing will have a serious effect on beach nesting birds especially the Vulnerable Hooded Plover. Hooded Plover are under threat across the whole of SA often due to vehicles on beaches and the unfortunate behaviour that is often associated e.g. reckless and or inappropriate driving and the often unsupervised behaviour of dogs, (I say this as a dog owner, and a 4x4 driver). A closure period from October-December is an absolute minimum as Hooded Plover may nest anytime from August to nearly March, eggs are incubated for 28-29 days and chicks will be 5 weeks at least before they can fly which means a great chance of these little 'runners' being killed by vehicle drive over. I most definitely do NOT support proposed changes, recreational fishers already have access to a very large area and these birds need every bit of help we can give them to survive as a species.

This should be allowed. By doing this recreational fishers can fish closer to the crossing Tea Tree Crossing without travelling further along the Coorong Coast line with the potential to cause more damage to the dunes and therefore eroding them away. Also to small number that the rec fishers take would be minimal compared to the professionals in boats.

Park should be expanded. No easing of current restrictions. Marine Parks provide valuable fish nursery habitats that allow other areas to be repopulated with new fish. Even recreational fishers can deplete a fishery to unsustainable levels.

As per q4

Ditto

Good idea. Shore based fishing is not going to affect marine environment too much. However the area should be monitored for environmental impact by the fishing community. They are often responsible for rubbish, incorrectly disposed fishing line, bottles, damage to sand dunes etc. Any incidents of the above and shut it down. As an example Browns Beach on Yorkes pen was once a rubbish tip. National Parks threatened to close the beach and as I understand the problem went away.

I do not agree with decreasing the protection zone

Support

Don't change

No

Nil

**Survey responses to the Western Kangaroo Island Marine Park Management Plan Draft Amendment 2020** (Raw unedited answers-blanks removed).

<b>In relation to the proposed changes set out in the Western Kangaroo Island Marine Park Management Plan Draft Amendment 2020 (Amendments 1, 2, 3 comparison maps), do you have any views?</b>
To the extent that the parks would be subject to more open fishing and less protection, the proposals are a backward step.
No changes should be made to existing plan. Minimising the environmental impact of fishing needs to be the number one priority and fishing needs to be decreased in the environmentally sensitive zones already protected, certainly not increased.
no, cannot comment as I do not fish this area
Changes proposed will adversely affect the purpose of the marine parks system as shown in the government's own recent study. We should be increasing conservation efforts.
No marine park should be decreased in size, nor should fishing be permitted within the boundaries.
Do not care
I support the expansion of the marine protected area and opening to recreational fishing, but I do not believe that marine protected areas should be open to commercial fishing due to the impact on marine life, tourism, and recreation
No change needed
The reduction in size as proposed should not go ahead. The area is already small and to reduce it to this size makes a mockery of marine parks. The KI community went through substantial division when the park was set up and this has now subsided. To go backwards will divide the community again. This is a disgrace and reflects the short sighted attitude of a government with no understanding of the importance of marine parks for the maintenance of our natural resources.
No
The habitat protection zone should not be made smaller. Fishing should not be allowed in the Habitat Protection Zone
I am opposed to any decrease of the marine park.
I am opposed to the change to allow fishing in the marine park. (Change eastern part of the SZ to HPZ to allow fishing)
I oppose the proposed changes to WKI marine park. There is no ecological, social or economic basis for the changes (Marine Parks Review 2018).
the proposed changes are suitable however the NTZ should be amended to HPZ
The island is amazing totally unique so is the diving, great effort
Why is the shoreline around Remarkable Rocks a restricted access zone?
no
I have no specific view on the changes made to these boundaries
Support; SZ's have little impact, and should be threat based only.

Marine parks should be open to community recreational fishing. SZ's should only stop commercial fishing and not recreational. Some of the zones are inshore and safe fishing spots for small boats and land based anglers.

I strongly oppose the suggested changes.

Do not agree

I disagree with the proposed changes to the SZ's. The Government's own Report clearly shows that the SZ's are working exactly as they were intended and as such there is no case to change them.

Do not agree

Support amendments

See below

Eco-Action, along with Conservation SA and the Wilderness Society, other environmental organisations and members of the community (including fishers) supported the establishment of Marine Parks with viable Sanctuary (no take) Zones. The Marine Parks Act was enacted in 2007, the Zoning Regulations in 2012 and the parks and SZ's were established in 2012 and over the following years. The South Australian community worked assiduously in various ways from 2002 to have a suite of marine parks rolled out across SA however our focus, locally, has been on the Kangaroo Island marine parks. Members of Eco-Action served on the Local Advisory Group for many years and managed to get seven marine parks, with SZ's established off the coast of Kangaroo Island. Most of those parks, by design, have connections to the terrestrial protected areas on Kangaroo Island and are also designed, as far as possible, to meet the international standard of protecting 20% of all marine ecosystems in SZ's. Unfortunately, only 6% of our marine parks are protected within SZ's. As part of the process and throughout the public debate the Government, conservation interests, the community and the fishing industry have benefited from the involvement and advice of some of South Australia's leading marine scientists. A Scientific Working Group made up of a number of South Australia's most respected marine scientists, has provided independent advice to the government on all matters of marine conservation initiatives, including marine parks. Many members of the fishing fraternity including recreational and professional fishers agreed that a system of marine protected areas with SZ's would benefit our unique marine environment and contribute to a sustainable fishing industry and actively supported the establishment of marine parks. RecFish SA supported the proposal. Since the establishment of Marine Parks in SA management plans have been rolled out and the benefits of the parks have become obvious. For example, it has been reported that Rock Lobster size and numbers around Cape Du Couedic on Kangaroo Island have increased. It should be noted that many commercial fishers have been compensated as holders of statutory authorisations; If they believe a right granted by their authorisation is affected by the creation of a marine park zone or by a temporary prohibition or restriction of activities in a marine park'. The community assumed that the marine park system was established and was working well and tensions built through the process had resided. Sadly this is not to be! The State Government while acknowledging that the scale fishery in SA is in dire straits with many

key species under threat, is implementing a program to reduce effort in the fishery buying back approximately 100 licences at great cost to the State. About one-third of South Australia's 309 commercial scale fishing licences will be bought back at a cost of \$20 million in an effort to bolster snapper, whiting and garfish stocks! At the same time the Government has announced that it will, while ignoring the BDO EconSearch investigation to assess the economic, social and environmental values of the current marine park SZ's, modify (reduce) marine park SZ's! With regard to Kangaroo Island, the Government proposes to reduce the Cape Du Couedic SZ within the Western Kangaroo Island Marine Park by two thirds! The BDO Econsearch work commissioned by the Government in 2018 to undertake an independent, science-based review of our network of marine parks to ensure an appropriate balance between sustaining our economy, recreational opportunities and environmental preservation found that: Modifying the activities or zoning arrangements in the focus SZs to allow fishing or other extractive activities inside a SZ (by changing to HPZ status) will significantly reduce the effectiveness of the Marine Park network at protecting and conserving marine biodiversity and habitats by: Directly impacting species captured by extractive use by their selective removal and potential negative impacts to their population structure and reproductive success. Indirectly affecting species that are reliant on captured species for food, shelter or other services and directly impacting other species through disturbance. Compromising trophic relationships and food webs with flow on effects to ecosystem function and resilience. Increasing the risk of pollution and the spread of disease and marine pests. Reducing the effectiveness of the Governments monitoring program which is currently based on SZ and the protection afforded by them. Altering the balance of habitats and features represented in the different zone types of the park network. Changes to zoning will have an impact on how the marine park network satisfies the criteria for a comprehensive, adequate and representative system of marine parks by reducing the area of habitats and features which are afforded the highest level of biodiversity protection and conservation The Government proposal will potentially have a huge long-term impact on the Kangaroo Island economy, an economy already heavily affected by the 2020 bushfires and the Covid-19 pandemic. We need to rebuild our ecotourism economy to do this we need to maintain the health of our natural assets, including our marine environment. As opposed to SZ reductions we would also like the Government to expand the Marine Park system around Kangaroo Island and to establish SZ's in D' Estrees Bay and Nepean Bay as was originally proposed.

Extend the closure in size and scope to protect species

No. This need expansion of sanctuary, not reduction.

No reductions in protected or sanctuary areas will benefit Kangaroo Island fishers in the medium or long term, so none should be made.

Commercial fishing in this area has been decimated by the big marine park around Cape Decoudie and it needs to be smaller as the rest of the fishing areas have been fished to hard and will take years to recover

I DO NOT SUPPORT these changes. I would also like the Government to expand the Marine Park system around Kangaroo Island and to establish SZ's in D' Estrees Bay and Nepean Bay AS WAS ORIGINALLY PROPOSED. The Government proposal will potentially have a huge long-term impact on the Kangaroo Island economy, an economy already heavily affected by the 2020 bushfires and the Covid 19 pandemic. We need to rebuild our ecotourism economy to do this we need to maintain the health of our natural assets, including our marine environment. Since the establishment of Marine Parks in SA management plans have been rolled out and the benefits of the parks have become obvious. For example, it has been reported that Rock Lobster size and numbers around Cape Du Couedic on Kangaroo Island have increased. It should be noted that many commercial fishers have ALREADY been compensated as holders of statutory authorisations; If they believe a right granted by their authorisation is affected by the creation of a marine park zone or by a temporary prohibition or restriction of activities in a marine park'.

Do not support

These changes will make a significant change in safety and viability in the rock lobster industry. Very traditional fishing grounds with high yields and closer to the shore makes it a lot less dangerous/ calmer. Will take a lot of pressure off the surrounding fishing grounds with no more fish being taken. Will only be a good thing for commercial fisherman. Also for kangaroo island will boost the local economy.

After considerable effort by the citizens of KI and elsewhere, SZ's in S.A. Were established. There were good reasons then, and there are even more reasons now not to lower protections for the Zone here. Only 6% of Marine Parks are protected within the SZ's against an internationally recognized standard of 20%. It seems like legislators are saying: "How little is too little" rather than "What services do the Zones provide outside of its boundaries"! Shame on those who want to exploit the wild and protected areas around one of Australia's great ecosystems.

NO! not good please keep these zones as they are

Oppose - unacceptable loss of habitat

I believe I holistically understand the short to long term impacts of COVID-19 on businesses and communities. However, allowing recreational shore fishing will not help. There are enough places along the South Australian coastline to fish. I fish many spots regularly across the State and have seen the benefits of fishing near marine parks after they were established. As such, there should be more marine SZ's with no shore-based or other fishing allowed in them. The ecological area is interconnected and cannot be thought of in isolation from the deeper benthic, shallower benthic, tidal shoreline to near-coastal terrestrial areas. *To allow environmental impact in any of these areas just weakens the environments ability to persist and recover.* I have seen the benefits, and my fishing is better now because of these benefits. I fear some of these amendments will back fire. As a recreational fisher, *I don't agree with increasing the fishing areas or rights of recreational or commercial fishers.* Our population is increasing, but we should learn to adjust and lower our take, not increase it, as the environment isn't increasing in size relatively.



Yes. Whilst I agree with the expansion of some of the marine parks, I do not agree with the opening up of these parks to recreational fishing.
supportive of changes
The proposed changes are utterly appalling. What's the point of SZ's if you use them as a treasure chest for the commercial fishers to raid as soon as they have a compliant State Government? I utterly oppose these amendments. If the politics of engaging with the commercial fishers prevents an outright rejection, significantly larger offsets should be found on the KI coast, such as opposite Seal Bay Conservation Park, Cape Gantheaume, and D'Estrees Bay.
none
Unhappy with the proposed shrinking of the SZ.
Nil
The area should not be expanded for fishing recreational or Commercial.
Changes are way too large in scale and shouldn't be made in the first place. Ecosystem is going to be completely destroyed just like marine life in other parts of the world. The level of awesome microbiology in South Australia's marine life is due to the care we take in looking after this and changes like these are going to be the reason that gets destroyed.
fine as it is
No
Increase the size of the sanctuaries
Support
Keep this as is, again a really important area to preserve and there is plenty of area for commercial fisherman to work around the southern part of Kangaroo Island. No change please, ensure this habitat is protected.
support
I do not support any changes to the Cape de Couedic SZ 3. The commercial fishers have already been fairly compensated for loss of access to this area. The tourism precinct is strengthened by having a SZ that extends from Remarkable Rocks to out past the Cape. This area has been protected for nearly 6 years now and is already showing improvements since being rested. While re-opening it might benefit a privileged few, is short-sighted and will remove the ecosystem service that protected areas have been shown to provide to surrounding ecosystems and fisheries. This SZ is a great asset to the economic and environmental future of Kangaroo Island and without it, everyone is poorer.
I support the amendment

Government polling shows that more than 90% of South Australians support their marine sanctuaries. And the Government's own review found that our marine parks and sanctuaries are bringing many benefits to our marine life and regional communities. At a time when marine life is undergoing massive stress due to climate change and over fishing, we need to be creating more sanctuaries, not removing restrictions on existing ones. No fish zones have been shown to improve fishing by allowing fish to breed up and repopulate overfished areas outside of the sanctuary. As a recreational fisherman I am happy to sacrifice certain areas where I cannot fish to increase future populations and ensure species are able to adapt to climate change. Our marine ecosystems would also benefit from increased funding for research to improve conservation efforts, please consider increasing funding instead of decreasing protection.

Support

No

I absolutely oppose any reduction in the SZ

No

Fish are not impacted by bushfire or shutdown, though tourism operators have been. Fishing is impacted more by trade issues with China. You should be extending habit protection as is INCREASING the take for commercial and recreational fishers.

No changes to the sanctuary as this protects the waters off the iconic tourism magnet of Kangaroo Island

Supporting

I support

Definitely a better option than the current no take zone. It's a better balance between conservation and the economic viability of our fishing industry. Which has been hit extremely hard.

I have not fished this area since the implementation of the Marine Park, so I cannot offer any educated comments.

No

I am concerned with the changes to the Western Kangaroo Island Marine Park as the decrease in size of the SZ Area while unlikely to lead to greater recreational fisheries impact will see much greater catch effort from the Rock Lobster Fishery. This does have economic benefits to the State and the fishers concerned but also increases the threat of entanglement to endangered, threatened and vulnerable species. These include Southern Right whales, Humpback whales, Common Bottlenose dolphins, Short beaked Common dolphins, Australian fur seals, Australian sea lions and Longnose fur seals. Proper management strategies should be investigated and employed by the industry and the government agencies involved before any decision is made. Little concern was addressed in relation to these matters in the original plan so now is the time to correct this oversight. Our own data, working in conjunction with IFAW and WDC has proved extensive migration between West Bay and Pennington Bay, and possibly further by offshore dolphins Tursiops truncatus, on a regular basis. Highly endangered Southern Right whales, Eubalaena australis, with a population below 300 in number are known to migrate through this area

on their seasonal migrations
NO I do not agree
support
Don't ruin K.I.
I support these changes as the changes still allow protection of species and seals while allowing fishing to continue to support the Australian economy
No commercial or recreational fishing in marine parks. These are tiny pieces of the ocean that will provide sanctuary to creatures and the plant life for generations to come. We cannot take everything for ourselves. South Australians dwelling here in 100, 200 etc. years should be able to enjoy these places as we do.
I agree with the proposed changes
Park should remain as is or be extended keep protected areas protected.
Support
Supported
A lot of blood sweat and tears went into the creation of this and now all could be lost purely to line a few commercial pockets
I support the changes
As above
do NOT approve of the changes - keep zone as it is
I do not wish to see ANY changes to the current Marine Parks legislation.
The proposal would see the restricted access zone almost eliminated, something that is completely unacceptable if we are to continue to protect our local sea life.
Do not agree with the reduction in size of the SZ of Cape du Couedic, Western Kangaroo Island Marine Park.
I do not agree with any relaxing of restrictions on commercial and recreational fishing. We need to protect the environment and to be able to sustain fish populations into the future. We need to extend South Australia's Marine Parks.
No comment
Leave it as original
opposed to all change
Support
Retain the current SZ. I strongly disagree with the proposal to allow recreational fishing in parts of the current SZ as they are vital to protecting key marine habitats and breeding grounds, which in turn increases fish stocks and enhances marine biodiversity.
I support the changes
No
The SZ should be kept as per the current zone due to the Sea Lion population there and their access to the offshore islands and feeding grounds. Again tourism depends in this area on the safeguarding of this wildlife population.

Fish stocks are low, the marine environment is under too much pressure. No fishing of any type should be done in marine sanctuaries. The area of sanctuaries should be expanded.
Agree
Leave it as it is
I support the changes
I support the proposed amendment. The Kangaroo Island community will benefit greatly. Marine parks have added nothing to the economy in reality. Tourists looking out over the water it means nothing if a SZ is there or not.
no
I noted the history of the extensive consultation that occurred during the establishment of the park over many years. Having this protection for only six years seems way too short a time to be able to establish the full benefit. I believe the terms of the review are strongly biased towards the commercial benefits to the fishing industry and do not take into account the detrimental impact on the environment in the long term.
I do not support The amendment to this management plan
No access to commercial operations. Only recreational anglers
No
Please retain the existing boundaries and controls.
Another great area for rec fishing and far away enough not to be over fished by hordes of normal boats. Good cray fishing too for the professional fisherman too, which is a minimal impact fishery too.
Every extension to our conservation areas is going to benefit our environmental diversity and so our future well-being. It's great
Terrible. Leave them as they are. How can you sacrifice our fragile marine ecosystem and diversity for MORE fishing? Disgraceful.
No
Park should be expanded. No easing of current restrictions. Marine Parks provide valuable fish nursery habitats that allow other areas to be repopulated with new fish. Even recreational fishers can deplete a fishery to unsustainable levels.
As per q4
Ditto
No way. If anything it should be expanded. The report says that since the park was established there has been an increase in numbers and size. Why on earth would you then allow, particularly, commercial fishing in the area??
I do not agree with decreasing the protection zone
Support
Don't change
There should be no reduction in Marine Parks
No
Good outcome

**Survey responses to the proposed changes to establish a new SZ at the Glenelg shellfish reef set out in the Encounter Marine Park Management Plan Draft Amendment 2020** (Raw unedited answers-blanks removed).

**In relation to the proposed changes to establish a new SZ at the Glenelg shellfish reef set out in the Encounter Marine Park Management Plan Draft Amendment 2020 (Amendments 2,4,5 comparison maps), do you have any views?**

A new zone is welcome provided it is meaningfully protected and not exposed to misuse, e.g. by personal water craft operating at speed.

I support this proposal. Minimising the environmental impact of fishing needs to be the number one priority and fishing needs to be decreased in the environmentally sensitive zones and this proposal will achieve that.

Great idea, in this case I do agree fishing should be banned. As it is not a natural reef, and may help protect fish stocks in this area. will become a refuge

Changes proposed will adversely affect the purpose of the marine parks system as shown in the government's own recent study. We should be increasing conservation efforts.

No marine park should be decreased in size, nor should fishing be permitted within the boundaries.

Do not care

I support the expansion of the marine protected area and opening to recreational fishing, but I do not believe that marine protected areas should be open to commercial fishing due to the impact on marine life, tourism, and recreation

This is needed.

I support new SZ's. More information on what they are protecting would be helpful

No

The habitat protection zone should not be made smaller. Fishing should not be allowed in the Habitat Protection Zone The habitat protection zone should not be made smaller. Fishing should not be allowed in the Habitat Protection Zone

I support the plan for a new SZ.

I oppose the new SZ at Glenelg. There is currently no shellfish reef at Glenelg and even if one is established there in the future it will not be a representative example of a key ecological habitat and therefore does not require that level of protection.

the shellfish reef should remain open for rec-fishing (drifting/no anchoring only)

First class management

Glenelg shellfish reef is a great concept.

no

I have no specific view on the changes made to these boundaries

Nothing to stop future government from expanding this proposed area into a SZ or simply leaving it as is after 2025

Support; should have been further south, however let's see how it goes.

<p>Marine parks should be open to community recreational fishing. SZ's should only stop commercial fishing and not recreational. Some of the zones are inshore and safe fishing spots for small boats and land based anglers.</p>
<p>Yes, I support the changes.</p>
<p>Do not agree</p>
<p>Agree</p>
<p>Support amendments</p>
<p>See below</p>
<p>Extend the closure in size and scope to protect species</p>
<p>No further comment.</p>
<p>No comment</p>
<p>I DO NOT support these changes. This will directly impacts species captured by extractive use by their selective removal and potential negative impacts to their population structure and reproductive success. Compromise trophic relationships and food webs with flow on effects to ecosystem function and resilience. Increase the risk of pollution and the spread of disease and marine pests.</p>
<p>Do not support</p>
<p>None as not familiar with the area.</p>
<p>I am all for this good work</p>
<p>Support</p>
<p>I believe I holistically understand the short to long term impacts of COVID-19 on businesses and communities. However, allowing fishing on what will become one of only two angassi oyster reefs in 5 years isn't right. There are enough places along the South Australian coastline to fish. I fish many spots regularly across the State and have seen the benefits of fishing near marine parks after they were established. As such, there should be more marine SZ's with no shore-based or other fishing allowed in them. The ecological area is interconnected and cannot be thought of in isolation from the deeper benthic, shallower benthic, tidal shoreline to near-coastal terrestrial areas. To allow environmental impact in any of these areas just weakens the environments ability to persist and recover. To allow it in a potential critical source habitat (as one of two oyster reefs would be in our State) is verging on negligent. I fear some of these amendments will back fire. As a recreational fisher, I don't agree with increasing the fishing areas or rights of recreational or commercial fishers. Our population is increasing, but we should learn to adjust and lower our take, not increase it, as the environment isn't increasing in size relatively. <i>In the case of native oyster reefs, we already destroyed them all, why would we allow the potential destruction of these new ones. The fishers will benefit from fishing on the edges, so why allow them to potentially damage the reef, the source of the fish they are after.</i> It doesn't make sense to do this if you look at longer term goals.</p>
<p>Yes. Whilst I agree with the expansion of some of the marine parks, I do not agree with the opening up of these parks to recreational fishing.</p>

supportive of changes
I support the amendments.
Happy with the changes.
Nil
This should be included and increased with no commercial or recreational fishing allowed
At least one good change listed. Maybe look into the cuttlefish breeding site in Whyalla as well because it is one of the rarest and most beautiful sites in the country which we need to protect and at the moment it looks like a completely industrial area.
fine as it is
No
Increase the SZ
Support
In favour of this, the amendments look fine.
support
I support this proposal.
I support the amendment
Government polling shows that more than 90% of South Australians support their marine sanctuaries. And the Government's own review found that our marine parks and sanctuaries are bringing many benefits to our marine life and regional communities. At a time when marine life is undergoing massive stress due to climate change and over fishing, we need to be creating more sanctuaries, not removing restrictions on existing ones. No fish zones have been shown to improve fishing by allowing fish to breed up and repopulate overfished areas outside of the sanctuary. As a recreational fisherman I am happy to sacrifice certain areas where I cannot fish to increase future populations and ensure species are able to adapt to climate change. Our marine ecosystems would also benefit from increased funding for research to improve conservation efforts, please consider increasing funding instead of decreasing protection.
Support
No
Any increase in SZ is good
No
Fish are not impacted by bushfire or shutdown, though tourism operators have been. Fishing is impacted more by trade issues with China. You should be extending habit protection as is INCREASING the take for commercial and recreational fishers.
No changes as this sanctuary protects the fish and marine habitat including the Endangered Hooded Plover
Support
I support
I have not fished this area since the implementation of the Marine Park, so I cannot offer any educated comments.

No
We are in favour of these changes.
No I do not agree
support
Restrict fishing anywhere near marine parks.
I support these changes
No commercial or recreational fishing in marine parks. These are tiny pieces of the ocean that will provide sanctuary to creatures and the plant life for generations to come. We cannot take everything for ourselves. South Australians dwelling here in 100, 200 etc. years should be able to enjoy these places as we do.
I agree with the proposed changes
Park should remain as is or be extended
Support
Supported
I support the changes
As above
Approve of the changes
I do not wish to see ANY changes to the current Marine Parks legislation.
The proposal sounds wonderful, but my understanding is that the beaches around Glenelg suffer heavily from erosion, necessitating yearly sand-carting operations to import sand and so maintain a semblance of a pleasant shoreline. How will the molluscs fare under this constant barrage of sand leaving the coast? Not an ideal environment for them I would suggest.
Agree with the creation of a new SZ for Glenelg shellfish reef, Encounter Marine Park.
I do not agree with any relaxing of restrictions on commercial and recreational fishing. We need to protect the environment and to be able to sustain fish populations into the future. We need to extend South Australia's Marine Parks.
No comment
Leave it as original
opposed to all change
Support
I approve of this proposal as it is vital to protecting key marine habitats and breeding grounds, which in turn increases fish stocks and enhances marine biodiversity.
I support the changes
No
Good outcome
Fish stocks are low, the marine environment is under too much pressure. No fishing of any type should be done in marine sanctuaries. The area of sanctuaries should be expanded.
Agree
Yes but not at the expense of other regions



I support the changes
I support the proposed SZ and it potential rezoning. An outer boundary should be created all the way along the metro coastline.
no
great idea
I support the amendment
As above
No
Please retain the existing boundaries and controls.
No
the more protected areas the better
Terrible. Leave them as they are. How can you sacrifice our fragile marine ecosystem and diversity for MORE fishing? Disgraceful.
No
Park should be expanded. No easing of current restrictions. Marine Parks provide valuable fish nursery habitats that allow other areas to be repopulated with new fish. Even recreational fishers can deplete a fishery to unsustainable levels.
As per q4
Ditto
This is a good move. In fact it should be bigger given the number of rec fishermen
Yes, agree. Brilliant idea.
Support
Don't change
No
Nil

**Survey responses to the proposed changes to establish a new SZ at the Glenelg shellfish reef set out in the Encounter Marine Park Management Plan Draft Amendment 2020** (Raw unedited answers-blanks removed).

In relation to the proposed changes to establish a new SZ at Pt Stanvac set out in the Encounter Marine Park Management Plan Draft Amendment 2020 (Amendments 3, comparison maps), do you have any views?
A new zone is welcome provided it is meaningfully protected and not exposed to misuse, e.g. by personal water craft operating at speed.
I support this proposal. Minimising the environmental impact of fishing needs to be the number one priority and fishing needs to be decreased in the environmentally sensitive zones and this proposal will achieve that.
no, cannot comment as I do not fish this area
Changes proposed will adversely affect the purpose of the marine parks system as shown in the government's own recent study. We should be increasing conservation efforts.
No marine park should be decreased in size, nor should fishing be permitted within the boundaries.
Do not care
I support the expansion of the marine protected area and opening to recreational fishing, but I do not believe that marine protected areas should be open to commercial fishing due to the impact on marine life, tourism, and recreation
Yes. It is needed
I support new SZ's
No
The habitat protection zone should not be made smaller. Fishing should not be allowed in the Habitat Protection Zone
I am in support of the proposed new SZ.
I oppose the new SZ at Pt Stanvac. The intertidal zone is already protected by fisheries legislation and the old jetty is just an artificial reef. It is not a representative example of a key ecological habitat and therefore does not require that level of protection.
a NTZ should not be implemented - it should be a habitat protection zone
great idea ,can only help the local fish stocks
Great idea, strongly supported
no
I have no specific view on the changes made to these boundaries
No reason to make a new SZ, it is again falling back on precautionary principle which the Liberal government promised to review under a threats based determination
Strongly Oppose; SZ's have little impact, and should be threat based only.
Marine parks should be open to community recreational fishing. SZ's should only stop commercial fishing and not recreational. Some of the zones are inshore and safe fishing spots for small boats and land based anglers.

Yes, I support the changes.
Do not agree
I agree, but where is the HPZ that should surround it?
Support amendments
See below
Make it permanent and bigger grr
Needs to be much bigger. Have a vision!
No comment
I do NOT support these changes. This will reduce the effectiveness of the Government's monitoring program which is currently based on SZ's and the protection afforded by them. Alter the balance of habitats and features represented in the different zone types of the park network. Indirectly affect species that are reliant on captured species for food, shelter or other services and directly impacting other species through disturbance.
Do not support
None as not familiar with the area.
I am happy with this proposal
Support - this is a positive move
I totally agree with this. It is a great idea and the SZ should even be increased in size.
Yes. Whilst I agree with the expansion of some of the marine parks, I do not agree with the opening up of these parks to recreational fishing.
supportive of changes
I support the amendments.
Unhappy with the proposed shrinking of the SZ.
Nil
This should be included and increased with no commercial or recreational fishing allowed
no change needed
No
Increase the size of the sanctuaries
Support
Yes, to this plan.
support
I support this proposal. However do note that the proposed SZ 12 is very small somewhat limiting its ecological potential and if it could be extended, it would provide greater value to marine health. But that said it still could provide a good dive and snorkel site where no fishing is allowed.
I support the amendment

Government polling shows that more than 90% of South Australians support their marine sanctuaries. And the Government's own review found that our marine parks and sanctuaries are bringing many benefits to our marine life and regional communities. At a time when marine life is undergoing massive stress due to climate change and over fishing, we need to be creating more sanctuaries, not removing restrictions on existing ones. No fish zones have been shown to improve fishing by allowing fish to breed up and repopulate overfished areas outside of the sanctuary. As a recreational fisherman I am happy to sacrifice certain areas where I cannot fish to increase future populations and ensure species are able to adapt to climate change. Our marine ecosystems would also benefit from increased funding for research to improve conservation efforts, please consider increasing funding instead of decreasing protection.

Support

No

I think that is excellent

No

Fish are not impacted by bushfire or shutdown, though tourism operators have been. Fishing is impacted more by trade issues with China. You should be extending habit protection as is INCREASING the take for commercial and recreational fishers.

No changes as this sanctuary protects the fish and marine habitat including the leafy sea dragon and Endangered Hooded Plover

Support

I support

I have not fished this area since the implementation of the Marine Park, so I cannot offer any educated comments.

Yep I think it's a good idea

We are in favour of these changes.

Yes I agree

support

I support these changes

No commercial or recreational fishing in marine parks. These are tiny pieces of the ocean that will provide sanctuary to creatures and the plant life for generations to come. We cannot take everything for ourselves. South Australians dwelling here in 100, 200 etc. years should be able to enjoy these places as we do.

I agree with the proposed changes

Yes create a new park

Support

Supported

I support the changes

BirdLife Australia support the proposed change of including an additional SZ (SZ-12) in the Encounter Marine Park Management Plan Draft Amendment 2020. Hooded Plovers are listed as Vulnerable under the SA National Parks and Wildlife Act and federal Environment Protection Biodiversity Conservation Act. The Hooded Plover Fleurieu Peninsula program began in 2009, coordinated by BirdLife Australia and the AMLR NRM Board (now Green Adelaide and Hills and Fleurieu Landscape Board). There are now nearly 60 volunteers monitoring 28 breeding pairs across the Adelaide Metro and Fleurieu Peninsula coastline. And close to 3000 breeding records and associated threat data are entered into the online database each season. One of these pairs is located at Port Stanvac and plays a very important role in the Hooded Plover Fleurieu/metro population. The Hooded Plover pair have been observed at Port Stanvac since 2013, and have been breeding there since the 2013/14 season. To afford protection of the nearshore marine environment will benefit the beach ecology and food supply for the Hooded Plover. It would be recommended to, if possible, extend the SZ boundary to the back of the beach (including dunes) to afford additional protection measures for the Hooded Plovers when breeding. This could include a provision to make it a dog-free beach. Alternatively there could be land-based conservation protection afforded over the beach/dunes and significant cliff remnant vegetation which would join up with the boundary of the SZ at the mean high water mark, affording holistic conservation status over this significant area of marine and coastal environment. Thereby highlighting the high ecological value of the area. Disturbance levels will increase significantly when the area is open to the public and it is highly recommended that it is made a dog-free area right from the start under appropriate legislation/by-laws, stating the ecological significance of the marine and coastal environment.

As above

approve of the changes

I do not wish to see ANY changes to the current Marine Parks legislation.

I suspect the Port Stanvac area was a no-go "sanctuary" in earlier times due to the pollution in the area from the oil refinery operations posing a health hazard to consumers of the fish, far more than an active desire to protect the sea creatures. However now that the refinery has gone, the water quality should be improving and we have an opportunity to provide a proper sanctuary to help the affected species recover from the effects of the pollutants. A reduction in size of the existing restrictions is not acceptable.

Agree with the creation of a new SZ at Port Stanvac.

I do not agree with any relaxing of restrictions on commercial and recreational fishing. We need to protect the environment and to be able to sustain fish populations into the future. We need to extend South Australia's Marine Parks.

No comment

Leave it as original

Access to the area has been denied to locals for years - would be great to have access to the area for recreation and fishing

opposed to all change

Support
Retain the current SZ. I strongly disagree with the proposal to allow recreational fishing in parts of the current SZ as they are vital to protecting key marine habitats and breeding grounds, which in turn increases fish stocks and enhances marine biodiversity.
I support the changes
No
Ok with this
Fish stocks are low, the marine environment is under too much pressure. No fishing of any type should be done in marine sanctuaries. The area of sanctuaries should be expanded.
Agree
I support the changes
I support the proposed new SZ. More zoning should be created along the metro coastline where the issues are so less zoning can occur in the off shore areas which do not need it.
no
good
I support this amendment
Allow access to Recreational anglers. No commercial fisherman
I agree with the proposal.
Please retain the existing boundaries and controls.
None
Terrible. Leave them as they are. How can you sacrifice our fragile marine ecosystem and diversity for MORE fishing? Disgraceful.
No
Park should be expanded. No easing of current restrictions. Marine Parks provide valuable fish nursery habitats that allow other areas to be repopulated with new fish. Even recreational fishers can deplete a fishery to unsustainable levels. Would love to be able to scuba dive here. The area is toxic but the fish life is amazing.
As per q4
Ditto
Good move again it should be increased to assist with breeding and protection in the gulf
Yes, agree. Brilliant idea.
Support
Don't change
No
Nil

**Survey responses to Question 12, 'Other feedback'** (Raw unedited answers-blanks removed).

<b>Do you have any other feedback to provide about the proposed changes to South Australia's marine parks?</b>
The reduction of any park areas and of protection is a backward step. The scientific reports that the government seems willing to ignore should be properly taken into account. The changes should not simply be a narrow approach, prompted in many cases by leverage from short-sighted commercial interests.
The fishing industry already has access to vast areas of the marine environment. I believe that protection and extension of our already degraded and struggling marine environment would potentially provide some eco-tourism opportunities which is an important way to educate people in the need to provide a balanced use of the natural environment. At some point governments have to stop placing the economic interests of commercial and recreational fishers above the environmental interests of ecology management, before we have degraded the environment so badly that it will never recover. Environmental management requires taking a long term view on these matters, rather than the short term interests of self-interest groups only interested in taking whatever they can from the environment as though it belongs to them and is their right above any other considerations.
Yes, do not decrease the size of any marine parks, it is a ridiculous thought. Over fishing is a huge problem worldwide, and enabling people to have more access to fishing will only be detrimental to the ecosystem.
Shore based recreational fishing should be allowed in all marine parks that abut land. It is a very low impact activity which encourages healthy outdoor activity by families.
depending on marine park rules, if total fishing is to be banned in a certain park and pelagic fish do pass through this area i.e. blue fin tuna - recreational fishing person should be allowed to target these fish; only by trolling method agree fishing by bait method will take out local fish in the marine park, but the above method should be allowed
Changes proposed will adversely affect the purpose of the marine parks system as shown in the government's own recent study. We should be increasing conservation efforts.
No marine park should be decreased in size, nor should fishing be permitted within the boundaries.
I would like to see ALL or any Marine parks boundaries clearly marked with marker boys rather than just GPS marks on a map!
Do not care

<p>SA's world leading marine protected areas have been established to protect marine biodiversity largely because of the negative impact of commercial fishing. I believe that expanding the marine protected areas should be a priority for government to continue to protect SA's unique marine ecosystems. This should not come at a price. Recreational fishing is important culturally for many people and should be allowed within reasonable limits, but the risk from expanding commercial fishing is too high. Government should be considering the impact on wildlife, but also on recreational diving and tourism.</p>
<p>Don't change what is already working and add the two new sanctuaries</p>
<p>It appears these decisions are based on short term economics. It took so long to get the parks in place and so much division in the community it is important the government maintains the areas set aside so future generations have marine resources as well as the current generations. Were any of these decisions based on solid data or are they the whim of a politician who does not look towards the long term. SA is already suffering from over exploitation, we need to protect more not wind back boundaries</p>
<p>I am all for increasing the number and size of marine sanctuaries in South Australian waters. I believe that any reduction in the size of the current sanctuaries would be a seriously retrograde step that would endanger fish stocks and habitat.</p>
<p>No</p>
<p>Given that scientific data shows benefits of marine parks as replenishments of marine species of all kinds, including important sea grasses, I do not see any reason that governments should bow to pressure from fisheries or recreational fishers to reduce the benefits of our marine parks in any way.</p>
<p>The Liberal government wants to downgrade the conservation objects of marine parks and open them up to commercial fishing. This is a capitulation to private's commercial interests of the public good that marine parks provide our state.</p>
<p>No changes are required, the government's own review says so!</p>
<p>Recfishing is not a threat to biodiversity or fish stocks and is adequately managed via bag and boat limits. Exploitation by commercial fishers is the main reason for collapse of certain fish stocks i.e. longlining/netting in the gulfs for snapper. Longlining is not sustainable and netting destroys habitat and results in unnecessary fish deaths amounts fish released or damage/inability for released fish to breed (i.e. garfish).</p>
<p>When in doubt reduce bag limits and make artificial reefs the future generations will thank you we have such a unique diversity with eco-tourism or limited catch no's of prized fish could really put SA on the tourism trail. Over all excellent compromises</p>
<p>Marine Parks are necessary for the future to ensure stocks for the future.</p>
<p>Is shore based fishing no longer allowed around Pt. Noarlunga under the proposal?</p>
<p>Yes. Recreational fishing in the Victor Harbor inshore waters has deteriorated since the exclusion zone at Port Elliot / Middleton due to the extra effort now being placed on the limited fishing spots outside the zone due to a higher concentration of boats in a smaller area. The exclusion of recreational fishing in the restricted zone is unwarranted as the species targeted by recreational fishers, i.e. rock lobster, flat head, snapper, tuna etc. have</p>



no research history for this area that validated the contentions that restricting fishing is beneficial.

I do not support the use of SZ's. I support the use of sound scientific information for the protection of spawning aggregations of fish and their juvenile's nurseries. If Marine parks and their SZ's are to be used they need to be based on sound scientific information and be placed accordingly. Placing them to achieve a predetermined percentage of area is not sound scientific information. Many of the SZ's that have been put in place have no scientific benefit to fish. Closing remote areas of to exclude their only user group is of no benefit to anybody. We were promised a threat and science based review of marine parks and SZ's. Where is the science behind these decisions

All of this is a broken election promise by the Liberal government. The entire marine park network was meant to undergo a threats based review, instead an economic one was undertaken with a token couple of paragraphs to the threats various activities make. Fishing shouldn't be managed through lockout zones, existing fisheries act has enough provisions to manage both the commercial and recreational sectors. Australia is one of the only countries that implements bans on recreational fishing in SZ's, they are completely unnecessary with our comprehensive fisheries act

Recreational fishing should be allowed in all SZ's, species of most concern should be based on a tag//ballot/TAC rec system, much like North America.

All of the parks need to be reviewed, particularly ones that offer sheltered fishing for small boats/ kayaks. Upper spencer gulf above Port Augusta is a good example, safe boating in most weather, now small boats are forced to fish further down the gulf where there is less protection, will result in a tragic accident one day. Marine parks should be open to community recreational fishing. SZ's should only stop commercial fishing and not recreational. Some of the zones are inshore and safe fishing spots for small boats and land based anglers.

We should be greatly expanding our Marine Parks and SZ's, not reducing them. Over many years of research around the world they have been shown to increase the value of fisheries. Marine creatures in unfished waters grow bigger and faster, and produce many more offspring, which migrate out into fished waters. From a purely economic standpoint they make extremely good sense. They also make extremely good environmental sense if we care at all about preserving biodiversity for our children and grandchildren to experience and enjoy (and catch and eat).

Support amendments

Any reduction to these small marine sanctuaries seems entirely inappropriate at a time when we should be doing all we can to protect our natural environment. I would find it impossible to support any reductions and instead we should be looking at increasing the size of marine sanctuaries in SA for current and future generations. Opening up suitable areas for recreational fishing makes sense, but opening up to commercial fishing seems counter-intuitive to why these were established in the first place.

I hope you listen to the people and how our fish stocks are in serious decline. Been commercially fishing in SA for 30 years and it's getting harder to find fish and the government has done nothing

I haven't got the time or technical knowledge to go through each of the above proposed changes except to say that I am not supportive of, in any way, reducing the size and scope of any of the protected areas. In the 50 odd years that I have been an avid recreational fisherman in SA I would say that the state of our fishing stock in general across our state has declined. The increase in the number of fishers and the quality of the equipment (including boats) which has improved markedly, has put a great deal of pressure on many of our fisheries. The dramatic collapse of the Snapper fishery is a case in point. My experience, predominantly on the Eyre Peninsula, is one also of an overall decline. Fishing in South Australia is, like many things about our State, an absolute treasure! The envy of many, not only interstate but also overseas visitors. We need to carefully manage it into the future so that it is there for future generations. I want my grandchildren to be able to enjoy the experience and not just listen to stories about how good it was in grandad's day! We need to treasure it and make it part of why people will want to come to SA. I am also completely AGHAST that fishing of the Giant Cuttlefish off Whyalla has been permitted at all! What possible justification can be made for this? We have been blessed with a completely unique situation with these incredible creatures right at our doorstep. People travel from all over the world to be enthralled only to be confronted with the unbelievable situation of boats lining up to pluck these amazing creatures out of the water right in front of their eyes. Great advertisement for our Tourism Industry desperately trying to get going again! I point out that this fishery was in serious decline only a few years ago as well. We must continue to very carefully and sensitively manage the amazing fish stock that we have been endowed with and sustain recreational as well as commercial fishing into the future as well as making it an icon that people will travel from all over the world to experience. BE SMART SA!

It defies belief that with all the evidence and experience that this government (which I regret I voted for) is reducing the little we have left of this vital marine environment. Expand all our zones. Once we reduce what is left of our fishing stocks, then that's it. We don't have time left, we need change NOW to preserve our marine environment.

From historical pre-settlement records and accounts it is obvious that fish stocks in South Australian waters today are a tiny fraction of just 200 years ago. Unless spawning grounds are protected from fishing, stocks will continue to decline. Additionally, coastal development continues to accelerating the damage and loss of spawning grounds. This is not a left / right political issue, nor a conservationist / fisher issue, it is immutably true for all people, regardless of their personal interest in fishing. One would hope that policy is not swayed to favour ill-informed special interest groups, no matter how well intentioned the interests groups or policy makers. Everyone will suffer if that happens, as it appears these management plans appear to be going to facilitate.

The marine parks have a devastating effect on local businesses and the need to be changed

I DO NOT SUPPORT any of these sweeping reductive changes. After 7 years of community consultation and positive scientific outcomes, to date, it is a very backwards step to REDUCE SZ's as the government has proposed. In relation to my local area.....Most of the Marine parks, by design, have connections to the terrestrial protected areas on Kangaroo Island and are also designed, as far as possible, to meet the international standard of protecting 20% of all marine ecosystems in SZ's. Unfortunately, only 6% of our marine parks are protected within SZ's. As part of the process and throughout the public debate the Government, conservation interests, the community and the fishing industry have benefited from the involvement and advice of some of South Australia's leading marine scientists. A Scientific Working Group made up of a number of South Australia's most respected marine scientists, has provided independent advice to the government on all matters of marine conservation initiatives, including marine parks. This advice should form the continued basis for protection NOT reduction of Marine Parks and SZ's. Changes to zoning will have an impact on how the marine park network satisfies the criteria for a comprehensive, adequate and representative system of marine parks by reducing the area of habitats and features which are afforded the highest level of biodiversity protection and conservation. The Government proposal will potentially have a huge long-term impact on the Kangaroo Island economy, an economy already heavily affected by the 2020 bushfires and the Covid 19 pandemic. We need to rebuild our ecotourism economy to do this we need to maintain the health of our natural assets, including our marine environment.

Do not support

Please make this happen the fishing industry needs it

Going backwards regarding marine parks is just a knee-jerk reaction to an unforeseen pandemic and pressure from those who are uneducated in how biology and ecology works. The environment is still suffering and under immense human pressure enough, we really should be creating "source" environments (i.e. sources of marine biota, such as breeding grounds) and key habitats (e.g. marine biota feeding grounds). With a growing population both here and around the globe, we need more environmentally productive areas, not more areas we harvest from, so that we can have sustainable harvest areas and even harvest more. I am an older recreational fisher and spear-fisher, and I know what an over-harvested environment looks like, and what a protected marine SZ looks like. The difference is significant.

SA's marine parks, building populations of shellfish, seagrass, kelp, and the multitude of species that inhabit these zones make a critical difference to our marine and coastal environment. Allowing the return of fishing to parts of these areas will reduce fish predator species that control numbers of sea floor grazers that can destroy the whole ecosystem. Fishing at the edges of these parks should be sufficient access for anglers, any intrusion into the parks will inevitably reduce the capacity of these parks to influence overall marine environmental and ecological health. Maintaining or extending marine park boundaries will improve fish stocks outside the park zones because of gradual improvement of ecologies. This is not the time to start winding back the advances of recent years. Long term ecological and environmental protection and regeneration needs to be the focus of resource management, not short term protection opened up to fishing before meaningful long term changes have been achieved. Short term interest group inspired decisions like this drive voters from mainstream parties. The environment is one of the main factors in my voting decision making, and management of resources like this will influence my voting choices.

I think all the changes are worthwhile and is good to see action being taken from the marine parks review process.

Despite some concerning proposed reductions in SZ's, especially off Kangaroo Island and at the top of the Gulf of St Vincent, the State Government should be strongly commended for their work on reef creation and restoration. One last point - I know it's not easy to keep all the stakeholders happy, but you should not need to roll over quite so much to the commercial fishers in the proposed changes. Commercials will better from long-term management of stable and enlarged SZ's, and need to be saved from their own short-termist horizons which will only see their industry decline.

I believe that an increase in commercial fishing will have a negative impact on these areas and the oceans in general around our coast and would strongly discourage any changes to reduce the size of the sanctuaries and increase commercial fishing. Protecting these water ways in the long term should be more important than short term fiscal gain. Other options should be looked at to increase the economies of these regional areas such as tourism or other industries. Increased fishing in this area in the long term will have a negative impact on the ecosystem of the ocean in these areas which are a big draw for tourism.

The supporting document is flawed as it fails to give adequate consideration to the relationship between tourism and healthy ecosystems and recreational fishing opportunities. Because it fails to calculate the financial contribution that visitation to SA rural areas provides, the report is heavily weighted towards the commercial fishing sector. I do not blame the report authors for this as they are working to a scope from SA Government. The outcomes of work that use the report are therefore subject to bias and may not be fair.

The more Marine parks the wider they are, the greater the diversity and safety for the creatures, plants fish and mammals and animals that live in these waters. They need to thrive and not be deprived of the foods they need to live off of.

you should be able to drift fish in marine parks just ban anchoring

the canon reef area is only pelagic fishing and in saying that it is very rarely used as the most avid fisher may only venture out there a couple times a year

Please consider the views of people that live in the community's affected by the changes more seriously. We live and breathe the outdoors and marine environment and look after our backyard!

I think that reducing the size of any of the marine parks is short-sighted and damaging to the long-term interests of the environment and commercial activities. The amount of marine park is a tiny percentage of the total marine area, we should be able to protect more of it to ensure a thriving coastline and industry for our children.

nil

The current marine parks are working and if anything should be expanded to improve fish stocks locally. The commercial sector needs to be willing to sacrifice more to ensure long term viability. Use Victoria as a template for success.

support

The marine parks were designed with an extensive public consultation and many compromises were made along the way and millions of dollars were paid to the fishing industry for the fraction of the 6% of SZ's that actually covered existing fishing grounds. Many SZ's were pushed into areas of low interest to the commercial sector and this is why any reef, island or estuary habitat that made it into SZ's are especially important to the network and must be maintained. As the state government has shown, throughout the Covid 19 response, trusting scientists leads to good outcomes and the scientific consensus is clear that SZ's are an important tool in improving our oceans health, productivity and resilience. Having at least 30% of all habitat types protected in SZs is considered best practice and we should move toward this, not away from it. The government's own independent report showed that there is no economic, scientific, ecological or social reason for reducing SZ's. The current proposals can only be motivated by political nepotism for commercial fishers and an ideology of exploitation not conservation. Unfortunately some members of the Liberal Party have made election promises to individuals in the commercial fishing industry to meet their immediate wants, while compromising every South Australian's future need for sustainable and healthy oceans. I hope the enlightened members of parliament will show their wisdom and trust the science and vote down any changes that threaten to reduce the size of our precious SZ's.

I think it's going to help the struggling fishing industry

Government polling shows that more than 90% of South Australians support their marine sanctuaries. And the Government's own review found that our marine parks and sanctuaries are bringing many benefits to our marine life and regional communities. At a time when marine life is undergoing massive stress due to climate change and over fishing, we need to be creating more sanctuaries, not removing restrictions on existing ones. No fish zones have been shown to improve fishing by allowing fish to breed up and repopulate overfished areas outside of the sanctuary. As a recreational fisherman I am happy to sacrifice certain areas where I cannot fish to increase future populations and ensure species are able to adapt to climate change. Our marine ecosystems would also benefit from increased funding for research to improve conservation efforts, please consider increasing funding instead of decreasing protection.

Strongly support all changes

No

Any reduction in sanctuary sizes must be stopped, we need to preserve our marine environment for future generations

No

Fish are not impacted by bushfire or shutdown, though tourism operators have been. Fishing is impacted more by trade issues with China. You should be extending habit protection as is INCREASING the take for commercial and recreational fishers.

We have a duty of care to protect our precious marine life. These sanctuaries have been in place for 6 years and are working beautifully so why change something that is not broken? They provide critical protection to all kinds of marine life. We should be proud that we've created some of the world's largest networks of marine parks and sanctuaries and helped protect the iconic Great Australian Bight. South Australians support these sanctuaries and the Governments own review found that our marine parks and sanctuaries bring many benefits to our marine life and rural communities. They help ensure we have fish for the future by protecting the crucial feeding and breeding areas. This results in great fishing in marine parks and outside sanctuaries - a win for conservation, a win for marine life and a win for recreation. Please leave these sanctuaries as is and do not reduce them. Thank you

no

My comments - either we aspire to have respectable Fisheries management or we don't. As the industry predicted, the Northern Zone rock Lobster fishery has severely struggled in sustainability terms since the activation of Marine Parks. These changes do go some way toward decreasing fishing effort across the grounds left available. Nowhere have I read of what these Marine Parks actually have achieved in positive terms for the community. Instead we still read of Ideology and niceties from a Green Concept world. Instead I'm disappointed that none of these concepts relate to reality and best practice fisheries management and the mental health of regional communities.

I am submitting a document to [marineparks@sa.gov.au](mailto:marineparks@sa.gov.au) that addresses my thoughts on the proposed changes to the Nuyts Archipelago Marine Park.

After looking at the proposed changes to the marine SZ's (SZ) in the EconSearch report, I am impressed by the detail, scale and complexity of the issue. I and my family are generally concerned about the reduction of some of the SZ areas identified in the report. We understand there has been wide consultation with conservation groups and commercial and recreational fishing groups and compromises have been made on both sides. However, we find that overall, the proposal prioritises economy over environment, which is disappointing. The proposed changes by the South Australian Government seem to be based on the scant data currently available which do not fully reflect the impact on biodiversity in the coastal waters so far. I strongly believe that the South Australian Government should first focus on collecting sufficient data to measure the function of the current SZ areas, before initiating the proposed changes, to avoid negative environmental impact. We strongly believe that the South Australian Government when attempting balancing the economy should set its priority on providing adequate policies and resources for environmental protection and environmental impact monitoring. The information on the proposed marine sanctuary changes presented by the Department of Environment and Water (DEW) do not appear to put any emphasis on the above-mentioned issues, i.e. environmental protection and environmental impact monitoring. We most certainly suggest that DEW and the Department of Primary Industries collaborate on policies and allocate more resources to the policing of commercial and recreational fishing of all waters of South Australia. Strict controls on fishing licensing and quotas will go a long way in protecting and preserving our native wildlife even if the overall marine sanctuary area is reduced.

Don't ban drones from marine parks, may make them have a casa license but don't ban them altogether.

There is excellent science behind the existing Parks. With such a small area of SZ's currently, as new science comes to the fore and the obvious success of the existing program, we should be looking to extend the areas under protection, not diminishing them. The larger the percentage of our waters properly protected the greater assurance we have that we will be enhancing the prospects for the future of our oceans and the industries that rely on them.

I am very disappointed and annoyed that the zones had been agreed upon and set, then against all scientific proof and research the govt is interfering with the evidence of success already proven. I do not just want the current proposals to reduce the SW Marine Park SZ stopped, but also I want SZ's proclaimed in D'Estrees Bay (seagrass) and Nepean Bay (JAMBA and CAMBA migrating bird habitat).

I object to opening marine parks up for fishing etc.

I believe the proposed changes have allowed for both marine environmentalists and fishing groups to both achieve a common goal and the future of all industries remain sustainable.

No commercial or recreational fishing in marine parks. These are tiny pieces of the ocean that will provide sanctuary to creatures and the plant life for generations to come. We cannot take everything for ourselves. South Australians dwelling here in 100, 200 etc. years

<p>should be able to enjoy these places as we do.</p>
<p>I support the proposed amendments as it will mean a positive outcome for local business and community.</p>
<p>I support the amendments proposed. Being involved with the fishing, in particular abalone, industry the amendments will be advantageous to the sustainability of the industries and businesses protecting the environment, helping spread the effort and stop the concentration of some areas being over targeted and thus over fished, bring a much needed economic boost to numerous local towns and businesses whilst also protecting the species and natural flora that need to be protected.</p>
<p>Recreational fishing is not the problem. Commercial fishing needs to be regulated appropriately.</p>
<p>I support these changes.</p>
<p>Give the commercial fishing industry a break from zones made with no science</p>
<p>There should have been proper and through public consultation, similar to what was needed to create these areas.</p>
<p>The changes need to be made so many families are depending on these changes</p>
<p>We do not support the reduction in size of any of the SZ's, but welcome new/additional SZ's. A healthy marine environment benefits seabirds, shorebirds and beach-nesting birds.</p>
<p>Our marine park zones do not need to be tampered with, there are bans in place and big zones already. Focus your attention elsewhere instead of getting out your crayons and scribbling on a map.</p>
<p>Leave the fish alone.</p>
<p>I agree with the proposed amendments, it strikes a good balance between conservation objectives, commercial and recreational fishing and community and social outcomes.</p>
<p>These changes are mostly economically beneficial which I can understand is important (especially now post covid) but here in SA we have some truly unique and critically important marine habitat and I think it's important we do our part to protect it. We cannot sacrifice the health and biodiversity of what precious natural/untouched environments we have left. It will be irreversibly destroying land for a small, temporary economic benefit</p>
<p>The paramount decisions that need to be made are to protect marine life. This means protecting nurseries, prevent overfishing, preventing loss of vulnerable marine creatures (plant and animal) and ensuring the environments are conserved for the next generations. Changes to legislation to allow fishing of cuttlefish in Spencer Gulf is an example of mismanagement and poor decision-making on behalf of this government as well. We must protect Our marine environments. Once lost, they will not recover, especially with random and deliberate pollution of the seas.</p>



My same feedback goes for each proposed change: The biggest problem is the reduction in fish stocks in recent years. Many species of fish were much more plentiful only a few years ago. Recreational fishing cannot continue if stocks are not protected and allowed to recover.

I feel that changes to allow some recreational fishing at specific locations is a positive outcome for the community but changes to allow commercial fishing will have a detrimental effect on the fish population. These SZ's are important for maintaining fish populations at levels where fishing does not deplete or threaten the continued existence of a species. Past experience has shown that over exploitation has threatened the viability of the fishing industry and mistakes of the past should not be repeated because those who do not understand push for greater access to fish stocks.

I do not agree with any relaxing of restrictions on commercial and recreational fishing. We need to protect the environment and to be able to sustain fish populations into the future. We need to extend South Australia's Marine Parks.

Nil- as per above.

Leave our ocean alone! Stop trying to damage it for the sake of \$\$\$.

Strengthen not weaken our SZ's.

What happened to the promise made at the last state election, Steven Marshal committed that if elected would maintain South Australia's network of marine Parks but revise the current SZ's using a threat based determination, this hasn't been done, the SZ's should be made smaller, if the government go ahead with the changes you won't get my vote next time.

I don't agree with reducing established conservation areas as I am concern it will have a negative impact on tourism businesses. I believe the marine life in South Australian waters should be protected and preserved in accordance with the evidence presented by science research and the communities' views. Please retain all existing marine sanctuaries to preserve our marine life, tourism businesses and regional communities.

Support.

As I have said in response to each specific proposal, the key focus of the management of SA's marine parks is to protect key marine habitats and breeding grounds, which in turn increases fish stocks and enhances marine biodiversity. Reducing SZ sizes, or rezoning certain parts of them, for the purpose of opening up greater access to recreational and commercial fishing obviously will run counter to that focus. We need to enable the marine environments in South Australia, Australia and the world as a whole to recover from over-fishing, particularly from the reduction in marine biodiversity. Thank you for the opportunity to have my say.

Concerned that overall there is a roll back of Marine Parks which may be detrimental to future fish stocks.

The science should also consider the broader impacts to the tourism industry around protection of areas which support this type of activity (Neptune's/Kangaroo Isle) as well as taking into consideration the long term impacts of reduced protection of breeding grounds (upper Spencer Gulf & Whyalla Point Lowly). IF these areas were protected the

longer term benefits to all stakeholders would be assured.
Fish stocks are low, the marine environment is under too much pressure. No fishing of any type should be done in marine sanctuaries. The area of sanctuaries should be expanded.
No.
Leave things alone. Give the environment a chance to recover and sanctuary in our coasts. Tired of environment exploited by greedy people.
The supposed 'independent' reports which the zoning amendments are assessed on are not independent and are heavily influenced by the Department for Environment and Water. These bias reports do not give an objective assessment and must be withdrawn and the DEW apologise for corrupting a democratic process.
No.
Please consider the issue of climate change and long term benefits of protection of our marine areas. The long term benefits of a healthy marine environment for all South Australians (and future tourism) should outweigh the short term benefits of the commercial fishing industry, who were compensated when the restricted zones were introduced originally.
The proposed amendments appear to be in direct contradiction to the findings of the independent review - part of the rationale for the amendments is to support the economy, but the review finds that with rock lobster and abalone Fisheries being quota based, there would be little economic benefit of opening these SZ's - and I note the review found that the buyback of licences/effort at the time the zones were created was considered sufficient to offset economic impact to the industry. The proposed changes will essentially benefit the individuals that remain in the industry because they already catch their quota limits. Reduced costs and faster catch times are the likely only benefits from these proposed changes. Conservation efforts are subsequently diminished with no economic return to the state.
Whilst there is a place for commercial fisherman, overfishing with long lines and nets outweighs impact on fishing stocks than recreational fisherman. For example. Look at snapper and garfish stocks and impact on current levels and how bad things have become.
I am in support of Protection Zones to provide some protection for fish resources that are under increasing pressure from more boats and fishers with more sophisticated equipment that is allowing for easier catches and more pressure on stocks. I have been fishing in the St Vincent and Spencer Gulf areas for more than 40 years and am appalled at the reduction in available fish stocks. It takes far longer to catch an allowable quantity of fish than it did 40 years ago that tells me whatever fish remain need protection. While many people objected to the Protection Zones creation, they now exist and should not be reduced without scientific evidence that a reduction will not allow further reduced stocks.
Please retain the existing boundaries and controls.

I'm very confused about why secluded areas that only a hand full of boats and fishers can access is cut off from use. As a charter operator these areas would bring new life into a dying charter fishery industry. Why not just open it.

The more protected reefs and sheltered areas we can preserve for breeding the better it is for anyone looking for the next generation.

I'm so upset and horrified that the government wants to do this. Its such terrible policy and for what? Minor commercial gain for a handful of people.

I am only familiar with the Coorong situation but it would appear that any help we can give to the marine environment and its inhabitants both flora and fauna via the SZ's is vital and increasing general protection and not decreasing any is a must. I believe that any increase in commercial activity should not occur especially as I think we paid for some of these businesses to be terminated.

Park should be expanded. No easing of current restrictions. Marine Parks provide valuable fish nursery habitats that allow other areas to be repopulated with new fish. Even recreational fishers can deplete a fishery to unsustainable levels.

Stop destroying natural marine parks by allowing fishing of rare/endangered stock and their habitat.

I am opposed to the reduction in size of SZ's. The evidence shows that greater % of no take zones is beneficial to all fisheries and the marine environment.

I don't have any feedback on the individual sanctuaries as I do not fish and am not totally familiar with the individual areas but it seems to me that money and business is being put ahead of our environment. South Australian waters are home to an amazing diversity of marine life and plants, with about 85 per cent of our marine species found nowhere else in the world and this is most certainly worth protecting. Many areas have in the past been stripped of safe levels of certain species due to over fishing however, due to the legislation enacted in 2012 to protect and conserve South Australia's marine life for the future, most marine species are back to reasonable levels. Why do you now want to encroach on these protected areas? Why are you messing with a system that is effective in maintaining the marine environment other than for reasons of profit? Further I have read that these planned cuts to marine parks SZ's are neither backed by science nor recommended by the government's own review of the zones. There are sufficient recreational fishing spots elsewhere and commercial fishing is far too invasive for sensitive marine areas. For all the above reasons I do not support any of the cuts - leave our marine sanctuaries alone!!

At 6% our marine reserves are minimal. The recommendation is 20% of coastal waters. It is obvious in the report that where there is protection, numbers of species and their size increases which is what you want as hopefully the fish move into the 'catch' areas. Although this is probably not within the scope of this report I would like a maximum size put on species that would allow large breeding fish to be returned and continue breeding.

Thanks for the opportunity to contribute.

Support.

Leave parks as they are. Don't allow any fishing in them.



Government  
of South Australia  
Department for  
Environment and Water

Leave all as is.

Pressure from the fishing industry needs to be resisted. In the longer term they will benefit. Our marine parks already are greatly comprised.

Hopefully one day there will be a revision of the marine parks west of port Lincoln that favour recreational fishers, based on the votes we represent and the fact it is a liberal strong hold I won't be holding my breath.