

New South Wales Game Fishing Association Inc.

Vice Regal Patrons

CVO Governor of New South Wales

Sir Nicholas Shehadie AC, OBE

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Points for discussion below:

1. To my knowledge NSWGFA were not involved or invited to be involved in the consultation or planning process of the Marine Estate Management Strategy, noting not one Recreational representative was on the Marine Estate Expert Knowledge Panel and the one Panel Member Kate Barclay who is a fisheries social scientist was in fact contracted for research on fisheries by Greenpeace and WWF at some point.
Due to above our 3347 members were not represented and therefore disadvantaged in the process.
2. No proven science on what affect recreational fishing has in the nominated areas of closure to line fishing.
3. The Strategy Paper talks about risks and protection of fish stocks. I note line fishing is way down the list, in fact number 17 on the list of potential threats, however fish stocks are already protected and controlled by State Bag and size limits and again no science provided.
4. Recreational fishers have accessed nearly all these nominated areas for more than 100 years and have not damaged them or affected the stocks, so why now?
5. Locking up the nominated areas and not allowing fishing minimizes our citizen rights to hunt for food even though we pay for Fishing Licences to allow us to fish.
6. I note there is a proposed \$16 million-dollar assistance adjustment package for commercial fishers, none for recreational fishers?
7. The proposed area maps do not give co-ordinates, so it is hard to say exactly how they will affect our game fishing fleet as well as general recreational fishers however all the no take and no-go areas will affect our members and others catching both game fish and other eating fish in some of their traditional fishing areas.
8. I have major concerns in the offshore areas when travelling through them with fish on board that have been caught outside the areas, if stopped by an inspector who has the onus to prove the fish was taken outside the protected area?
I also have concerns travelling through an area do we have to dismantle and stow our fishing gear which will cause all sorts of problems.
9. From a game fishing point of view the 4 proposed areas that concern me the most are from north to south:
Bird Island proposed as a Sanctuary Zone which means no line fishing.
Forresters proposed as a Sanctuary Zone out to 20m depth contour and from there a Conservation Zone out to the 3 nautical mile line which is an area I am sure many of our members catch inshore game fish. If this Zone is to be of part of this Plan, then our best option is to submit that the Conservation Zone be removed so we could still fish from the 20m line out to the 3 nautical mile as

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there is no science or common sense to classify that area as a Conservation Zone. lone area so we could still fish from the 20m line out.

Long Reef Special Purpose. Currently we can fish for finfish, however the new proposed change to Special Purpose Zone allows for line fishing only in Site-specific areas within the Zone. How in the hell do you think they can manage that?

Bronte-Coogee (south end Bondi Beach to north end Coogee Beach out to 50m depth contour as a Sanctuary Zone and then out to the 3 nautical mile line as a Conservation Zone with both areas as no line fishing. Again, we should request the status quo remain, however if this zone is to proceed then the Sanctuary zone only to go to 20m depth same as Forresters for consistency and drop the Conservation Zone. This area has a strong fishing heritage and is an area of mass population which currently use the area for all types of fishing including game fishing.

10. These Lock outs will have a very detrimental effect on businesses associated with the fishing Industry and potentially put some out of business and will definitely affect the GST revenue for the State.
11. Some of the nominated areas will definitely close out some traditional bait areas for game/recreational fishers.
12. From my point of view this is political madness and the Government should be reminded there is a State Government Election on the 23rd March next year and they are in danger of losing over 1 million votes if they proceed with this Marine Estate Management and Lock-Out recreational fishers.
- 13. The number one risk to the marine environment is water quality, (water pollution). I suggest that be fixed before any Marine Estate Management is brought in. Obviously, this is in the too hard basket for the Government so just hit everything else and do not fix the core problem.**

What now?

Do a submission from the NSWGFA and also write to The Hon. Niall Blair with our disgust at not being involved in the consultations and the consequences of proceeding with this Lock Out for the upcoming Election. Also write to The Premier via a cc in the communication to The Hon. Niall Blair Minister for Primary Industries.

Ask every NSWGFA club to do an online submission plus every individual member to do the online submission as well.

Note when it comes to doing submissions the Government treats mail type letters or same type submissions as only one, so it is important that the submissions must be different and from different sources to count in the overall number of submissions received.

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