



**The Nature Coast Marine Group Inc. (NCMG)**

Attention Federal Senate Committee Invasive Marine Species Centro Urchins

Good morning,

July 2023

Our group wishes to provide additional evidence to our current submission in direct response to Professor Mike Kingsford's opening written statement at the federal senate hearing that was held in Sydney on the 6th of June 2023. The statement by Professor Kingsford was to be taken as unequivocal expert evidence. The evidence provided being referenced here by Professor Kingsford is on the 3<sup>rd</sup> paragraph in his opening statement recorded in the transcript of the hearing.

“One of the most common fish in New South Wales, the white-ear damselfish, is only found in barrens. The global population of the species is in the barrens. It feeds there. It shelters in cracks and crevices and lays its eggs on rocks in the barrens. A species of this type cannot have evolved in the last few decades. That would be preposterous. Further, a loss of barrens would promote local extinction.”

Please find the link below to video evidence that demonstrates White Ear Damselfish inhabit many different reef types and that they live and exist in many habitats other than urchin barrens.

<https://www.dropbox.com/s/opuuz7tq57aqxfj/NCMG%20Objection%20to%20Witness%20Evidence%20White%20Ear.mp4?dl=0>

Your consideration in this matter is appreciated

Kind regards

Dane Wilmott NCMG president