

Marine Parks Petition:

Don't lock us out

TO THE HONOURABLE THE SPEAKER AND MEMBERS OF THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

This petition of concerned Australian residents, and sustainable users of our marine resources, draws to the attention of the House of Representatives the proposed network of marine parks throughout Australia's Exclusive Economic Zone. The current process of establishing marine park boundaries has failed to include genuine consultation, and has failed to recognise that Australian fisheries are already amongst the healthiest and best managed in the world, as highlighted in the latest Commonwealth Fish Status report released November 2011.

We ask the House of Representatives to urge the Government to halt the current process of establishing marine parks and to ensure that any future marine park boundaries are:

- Based on science, and that this science be made available to all stakeholders;
- Based on assessments of all risks to the environment by marine activities;
- Accompanied by socio-economic research to show impacts on commercial fisheries, charter businesses, recreational anglers, and associated communities and industries, including tourism; and
- Considerate of Australia's future food security needs.

