

We live in Cooktown Far North Queensland, we use the Great Barrier Reef for recreational purposes and also service a variety of commercial fishermen/charter operators/tourists who use the Reef through our business.

We write to object to the proposed change in legislation as we feel it is a further erosion of our rights and will make the average Australian unintentional criminals creating further difficulties for Fisheries Officers to enforce the legislation if passed.

How can increase in penalties work when there is basically no one out there to enforce the current rules as the budget for surveillance and enforcement has been reduced significantly!

Why not increase the surveillance effort instead of making the proposed changes to legislation, this way the GBRMPA can expect to ensure compliance.

How will a Fisheries Officer prove that a person/s travelling in a boat and using a GPS to navigate through the reef is attempting to search for fish? just one example..

We feel the proposed legislation changes are ludicrous.

Jim & Anne Williams