



AUSTRALIAN SEAFOOD INDUSTRY COUNCIL

The Committee Secretary
Senate Environment, Communications, Information Technology
and the Arts References Committee
Department of the Senate
Parliament House
CANBERRA ACT 2600

Via e-mail: ecita.sen@aph.gov.au

SUBMISSION TO THE INQUIRY INTO AUSTRALIA'S NATIONAL PARKS, CONSERVATION RESERVES AND MARINE PROTECTED AREAS

The Australian Seafood Industry Council (ASIC) welcomes the opportunity to provide a submission to this Inquiry.

The seafood industry is a dynamic industry, employing more than 100,000 Australians, supporting many local communities and making a significant contribution to the national economy. The industry's gross value of production is \$2.3 billion (ABARE 2003).

ASIC is the peak body representing the commercial fishing, aquaculture and post-harvest seafood industries in Australia. ASIC's members include the peak state and territory seafood organizations, and organizations representing a national seafood commodity or activity.

As key stakeholders in Australia's marine resources, the fishing industry is committed to working with governments, conservationists and other stakeholders to achieve win/win outcomes in the complex process of regional marine planning.

ASIC has been an active stakeholder in responding to the development of Marine Protected Areas (MPAs) in the South-east region since December 2000.

ASIC notes that the Commonwealth Fisheries Association (CFA), a member organization of ASIC has provided a submission to this Inquiry. ASIC agrees with and supports this submission, but notes that the CFA submission, by definition, focuses on Commonwealth fisheries.

In addition to the issues raised in the CFA submission, ASIC notes the following:

- ASIC is of the view that the State and Federal Government agencies involved in the marine park planning process should work collaboratively within an overall Marine Planning Strategy that has clear objectives, with outcomes based on scientific, economic and social information and within a process that is measurable and quantifiable.
- Statutory Fishing Rights, as such, are not necessarily contained in state fisheries acts. For example, the WA Fish Resources Management Act does not have statutory fishing rights– but rather an authorization, which remains in force for 12 months, and is renewable subject to cancellation, suspension and non renewal provisions contained in the Act.
- ASIC believes that any MPA Strategy should include a Post Implementation Review to ensure that the original agreed objectives are being achieved.
- ASIC believes that the Government should meet the costs of subsequent compliance and enforcement requirements of MPA, rather than through normal cost recovery guidelines.
- In the development of MPAs, emphasis should be provided on the need for full, open and transparent consultation and decision making processes.

For the information of the Committee, I have also enclosed a copy of ASIC's policy statement in relation to the Implementation of Marine Protected Areas.

Please do not hesitate to contact me on 02 6281 0383 or rlindsay@asic.org.au if you have any questions, or would like further information, in relation to this submission.

Yours sincerely

RICHARD LINDSAY
Chief Executive Officer

15 March 2006