



**Commonwealth Fisheries Association  
PO Box 9022 Deakin ACT 2600**

The Secretary  
Senate Environment, Communications Information Technology and Arts  
Reference Committee  
Parliament House  
Canberra ACT 2600

***Inquiry into Australia's National Parks, Conservation Reserves and Marine Protected Areas (MPA's)***

Dear Sir/Madam,

The Commonwealth Fisheries Association (CFA) is the peak industry association representing the broad interests of fishers operating in Commonwealth managed fisheries. We welcome the opportunity to lodge a submission in relation to the Senate's current inquiry into Australia's national parks, conservation reserves and MPA's. A list of our current membership is provided at Attachment A.

The CFA's submission to this inquiry is based on considerable experience in the development of MPA's, most recently in relation to the network being developed for the south eastern sector of the Australian Fishing Zone (AFZ).

Commonwealth fishers have a clear and direct interest in the establishment of MPA's as their boundaries and operating rules have the potential to directly and severely impact on their commercial viability and the sustainability of their fishing operations.

If well designed and implemented, MPA's have the potential to make a substantial contribution to conserving Australia's marine ecology and biodiversity and complement efforts by Government and industry to promote a more ecologically sustainable and commercially viable fishing industry.

However, to realise their full potential the development and implementation of MPA's needs to be undertaken in an informed and consultative manner in accordance with the following broad principles:

- their objectives need to be clearly developed, enunciated and justified;
- impacts on the fishing industry as well as allied industries and communities need to be identified and minimised;
- fishing activity should be permitted in MPA's where it does not jeopardise the key ecological values that the MPA seeks to preserve or restore;
- industry and communities should be adequately and fairly compensated for those impacts that are unavoidable;
- agencies responsible for the management of MPA's should be adequately resourced to undertake the full range of activities associated with the management of MPA's; and
- the operations of the MPA network should be subject to periodic review, evaluation and reassessment.

The CFA's position in relation to MPA's is further detailed in the attached Policy Position Paper.

I trust the Committee finds this submission useful and look forward to expanding on the issues contained therein during the public hearing phase of the Senate inquiry.

Yours sincerely

Peter Franklin  
Chief Executive Officer

### **The Commonwealth Fisheries Association (CFA)**

The CFA is the peak industry association representing the broad interests of fishers operating in Commonwealth fisheries. In addition to a number of the major corporate entities, the CFA's membership includes the associations representing fishers operating in the following commercial fisheries:

- Northern Prawn Fishery;
- South East Trawl Fishery;
- Gillnet Hook and Trap Fishery;
- Great Australian Bight Fishery;
- Western Tuna Fishery;
- Southern Bluefin Tuna Fishery;
- Sub-antarctic Fisheries; and
- Coral Sea Fisheries

The CFA also has individual members operating vessels in the East Coast Tuna and Billfish, Southern Squid and Bass Strait Scallop fisheries.