

# **Australian Underwater Federation- Spearfishing Commission**

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## **Media Release**

### **Commonwealth Marine Reserves, Details Released.**

The Australian Underwater Federation, Spearfishing Commission (AUFSC), who are the peak Government recognized organization for Australia's many thousand's of Spearfishers welcomes the release of the new network plans for public consultation.

Adrian Wayne National Chairman of AUFSC said "We are working our way through the detail of the plans and so far with a couple of exceptions are pleased to see that the current Coalition Government and Parks Australia appear to have listened to Australia's 5 million strong Recreational Fishers by taking a far more balanced approach to the Commonwealth Marine Park System than anything we have seen from previous Governments. These plans with a few minor adjustments aim to deliver a world class marine reserve network that not only protects the environment but includes recognition of the rights and activities of key stakeholders, Australia's Recreational Fishers and Spearfishers."

These plans are a great improvement on those offered previously where Recfishers were to be locked out of huge areas including many iconic traditional fishing places.

These plans offer back 30% of the areas that were to be taken by the previous Labor/Green government where there was no international obligation or scientific reasons for such proposed drastic lockouts.

Recfishers in the Coral Sea in QLD and areas in WA have been treated far more favorably by this Government.

We now have access to 80% of the whole network.

This is a great outcome for everyday Mum's, Dad's and their kids who like to relax, have a fish and get a feed.

We look forward to using the submission processes to have our issues addressed and trust that the Turnbull Government will continue to take a balanced and constructive approach to the finalization of the plans.

**End Release.**

National Chairperson.

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