12 February 2018

Dear Senator,

The peak industry bodies representing Australia’s commercial, recreational anglers, Australian fishing tackle and game fishing sectors stand united in their support of the draft Marine Reserves management plans put forward by the Commonwealth Government.

The plans strike a balance between the protection and sustainable use of our marine resources. The plans recognise the conservation, social and economic importance of this vital part of the Commonwealth estate. They are the result of significant consultation and scientific review. They cover 36% all Australian Commonwealth waters and, compared to the 2012 draft plans, they protect 40% more ecological features.

Their legacy will be the ability for Australians to sustainably fish our waters for generations to come.

Australians want to eat their own local seafood, whether caught by their own efforts or supplied by a professional fisher. Recreational and professional fishers want and need, sustainable seafood stocks and protection for the marine environment.

Marine Reserves were never intended to be a fisheries management tool. Effective fisheries management is the role of fisheries managers and management of Australia’s Commonwealth fisheries is world class. This fact is recognised by the Food and Agriculture Organisation of the United Nations.

Therefore we ask that the elected representatives of the Australian people to support balanced approach to conservation and access of our Commonwealth marine resource.

Sincerely,

Veronica Papacosta
Chair

Colin Tannahill
Chair

Brett Cleary
Chair

Doug Sanderson
Chair

Seaford Industry Australia
The Voice of Australian Seafood

AFTA

Australian Recreational Fishing Foundation

Game Fishing Association of Australia