

REVIEW OF JERVIS BAY MARINE PARKS



Photo: Sue Josephsen



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The NSW Government says:

“A new approach to marine park management planning is underway across the five mainland marine parks in NSW.

This review is worrying!!

In Batemans' Bay six sanctuary zones were opened up to recreational fishing, without consulting the wider community or marine scientists.

We don't know what is planned for Jervis Bay, whether it is reduced sanctuary zones or permits for cruise ships (or other) but we want to make sure that there will be public consultation, and that we can draw on both science and community sentiment in our input. Public consultation for the Jervis Bay Marine Parks is planned for July – September.

We are being proactive:

- meeting with the Jervis Bay Marine Park Advisory Committee
- finding out as much as we can about the results of ecological monitoring in Jervis Bay,
- starting conversations and writing to politicians about what we feel should happen in Jervis Bay.

What do we know?

- That one hectare of ocean in which fishing is not allowed produces at least five times the amount of fish as an equivalent unprotected hectare
- Catches from Australian wild fisheries decreased by 31% over the past decade. The number and size of larger fish over the same period decreased significantly with a 36% decline on fished reefs, but 18% decline in marine park zones that allow limited fishing, and only a negligible change in the marine reserves
- That fish grow larger in marine sanctuaries, and larger fish produce more young – up to 175% more.

No-take zones result in:

- Increased number of species
- Increased size of fish
- Increased number of fishes
- Increased spill-over effects into surrounding fishing areas

The evidence shows that marine sanctuaries are worth protecting!!

We'd like to see the sanctions in Jervis Bay strengthened, not reduced in any way. The positive results prove just how effective they can be.

What you can do – write and let the decision makers know that you want Jervis Bay Marine Park to remain as it is, and even strengthened:

- Mayor Amanda Findley, Chair of the JB Marine Park Advisory Committee - findleya@shoalhaven.nsw.gov.au
- Minister Shelley Hancock – southcoast@parliament.nsw.gov.au
- Minister Matthew Kean – Hornsby@parliament.nsw.gov.au
- Minister Adam Marshall – northerntablelands@parliament.nsw.gov.au

