

## Media Release - 30<sup>th</sup> April 2012

### Marine Parks - The Beginning of the End

The Marine Parks Management Alliance, representing SA's commercial fishing industry has welcomed the Premier's announcement regarding the draft sanctuary zones for marine parks.

Dr Gary Morgan, Alliance Chairman, said the announcement was a significant step in ending a decade of business uncertainty for the commercial fishing industry, and other industries dependent on a vibrant and prosperous fishing industry in regional South Australia.

Dr Morgan stressed, however, that this is just the beginning of the end for the marine parks process.

"A number of important sectors such as the northern zone rock lobster, abalone and sardine fisheries face significant impact and disruption under the new proposed zones, particularly in the West Coast region."

"There is much additional detail to be worked through, and we will be seeking from the Government assurances and action on a number of issues including;

- Full recognition in the detailed zoning arrangements of the world-class, sustainable nature of commercial fisheries in South Australia, as already recognised by independent bodies such as the Marine Stewardship Council and the Federal Government's environment agencies.
- Fair and reasonable compensation to those fishers and other businesses impacted by marine parks
- A commitment from Government that these marine parks will not be 'paper parks' but will be supported by ongoing Government funding to ensure proper management, research, monitoring and reporting to measure whether they are achieving their stated conservation goals and that social and economic impacts are not unacceptable."

"If the parks fail to deliver the promised benefits, we, and I am sure all South Australians, would expect that they will be abolished or at least modified," Dr Morgan added.

"The fishing industry has always supported conservation of marine biodiversity through marine parks, but only in ways that result in improved management of the marine environment that protects important ecological features, enhances marine recreational experiences and also supports sustainable production."

"We look forward to continuing to work with the Government to ensure this ideal is achievable in South Australia."

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