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The Editor
The Advertiser



South Australian Rock Lobster
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RE: Marine Parks - where is all the money coming from?

Dear Editor

Meaningful and effective marine parks cost money. Big money.

Research has shown that for effective management alone, costs can be in the order of \$2,665 per square kilometre per annum - our marine parks network covers around 26,000 square kilometres...

In both the last budget and the most recent forward estimates, there was no funding allocated to the Government's marine parks process. In fact the responsible division within the Department of Environment and Natural Resources suffered a \$1.5 million reduction in budget.

Please, let's learn from Victoria's mistakes where the Government couldn't demonstrate any effective management of its marine parks network or that the parks were being at all effective or efficient in protecting marine biodiversity.

Without proper management, monitoring, research, assessment and reporting, all of which costs money, what good will the latest DRAFT sanctuary zones be to the South Australian Community?

The answer is simple; they won't provide any real benefit other than being feel good 'paper parks'.

Especially when you consider the potentially significant loss in sustainable fisheries production and resultant loss in regional employment and export wealth generation that comes as a result. While there are less sanctuary zones in this latest DRAFT, some of the most productive fishing ground in the State has been included.

Also what happens to those commercial fishers who are displaced? Compensation?

Where is all the money coming from?

Someone told me that funding could be quarantined from the Natural Resource Management budget. Will that cover the \$70 million required for management alone?

It's also been highlighted to me that despite Ministerial commitments from the now Premier that fees would not be charged for access to and operation in our marine parks, the provision to collect such fees from all South Australians remains written into the Marine Parks Act - funny about that.

The Commercial Rock Lobster Industry, and the broader South Australian Commercial Fishing Industry, fully supports conservation of marine biodiversity - fishers' livelihoods depend on it.

Surely common sense will prevail to see the implementation of a meaningful and affordable marine parks network, surely?

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read 'J Phillips', with a stylized, cursive script.

Justin Phillips
Executive Officer
South Australian Rock Lobster Advisory Council Inc.