



Australian National Sportfishing Association Ltd  
ACN 063 293 514

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COMMITTED TO CONSERVATION AND INTEGRITY IN SPORTFISHING SINCE  
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**MEMO**

**To: All ANSA Branches**  
**Date : 7 February 2013**  
**Subject: ANSA Petition against proposed Commonwealth Marine Reserves**

I have attached a copy of the ANSA petition against the proposed roll out of Commonwealth Marine Reserves.

ANSA along with other members of the Australian Recreational Fishing Foundation (ARFF) is mounting a campaign against the Commonwealth's planned roll out of the national network of marine reserves and in particular the unjustified planned lock out of recreational fishers from some 1.3 million square kilometres of Australian Commonwealth waters.

While it may be true that most of the areas proposed to be off limits to recreational fishers are a long distance from shore and not readily accessible by most recreational fishers there are some instances in the Coral Sea (such as Shark , Osprey, Verma and Lihou Reefs) and in Western Australia (Dampier, Perth Trench and Geographe Bay) where the fishing bans will affect ordinary recreational fishers.

There is no scientific justification for recreational fishers to be locked out of such large tracts of ocean and it is an established fact that our impact upon fish and the environment in these waters is negligible. This is just a case of the Government locking us out because it can.

ANSA and other recreational peak body representatives have met with Minister Burke on several occasions and pushed the case for a common sense approach to be adopted including the allowance of sustainable recreational fishing practices in the IUCN11 zones within the reserves. These options have been flatly rejected. We have also requested Minister Burke to extend the time frame for public consultation on the draft management plan to 90 days in lieu of the current 30 days which expires on 14 February 2013.

We need all ANSA members to get behind this petition which you can electronically sign by going to the Keep Australia Fishing (KAF) website at [www.keeppaustraliafishing.com.au](http://www.keeppaustraliafishing.com.au) . On the site you will also find petitions from KAF, Sunfish Qld and the USFA. It is expected that other peak body petitions will also be on the site shortly. You can electronically sign off on just the ANSA petition or you can sign all of them but please add a personal comment.

Please urgently circulate to your recreational fishing colleagues, family and friends.

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