

29th September 2005

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To Whom It May Concern:

It is with regret that I need to respond to the GBRMPA review panel. There is no doubt that an authority like GBRMPA is needed to manage the GBR. However the authority given to these people astonishes me.

GBRMPA have approached the recent closures with little regard to the community. The whole process was entered into with questionable science and little, or no idea of the economic and social impacts.

The port visits were done as a poor attempt at public relations as what we were told did not eventuate. 20-25% closure ended up being 33% and areas that we indicated were of great importance to commercial fishing were disregarded.

It astonishes me that an exercise of such magnitude had to be completed and passed by government in such a short time when very little time and expertise was spent on the economic and social impacts. The results in the real world have been catastrophic to say the least.

As a fisher I can only hope that these people enjoy their retirement funds, a luxury I cannot afford as I am now spending my hard earned funds to pay for these decisions and am will ending up with a business worth very little.

To say that the deal dealt to the commercial fishing sector was a sham is an understatement.

Yours faithfully.

Bruce Cunningham