

Sir/Madam

I wish to make a submission as a recreational angler and owner of a small reef boat within the Cairns area.

I like to troll the reef drop-off for pegalics, and without accessible buffer zones in the new zoning, this can be difficult. Fishing areas close to Cairns (within reasonable distance for the small boat owner), eg Oyster Reef, are over-fished and crowded with recreational reef anglers anchored along the trolling line.

My best option is to troll the small open reef Jorgenson's Patches, but this reef is regularly used by commercial operators with large boats (usually scuba and snorkelling tourists). As a result I have to move out into deep water where there are no fish in order to keep a safe distance from the snorkellers.

Because there are so many GREEN ZONES now out of Cairns, surely these commercial operators can leave the small number of open blue zones (particularly Jorgenson's Patches) to the recreational fishermen? I have no-where else that is close to move onto when they anchor up on the reef, but they have numerous surrounding GREEN ZONES within a few kilometres away, eg -

- * Michaelmas Reef directly to the south
- * Hastings Reef directly to the east
- * Saxon and Norman Reefs directly to the north.

My submission is this - Commercial tour operators be restricted to activities within the Green Zones to allow recreational fishermen the unrestricted use of Blue Zones.

Mrs Barbara Leptig