

UPDATE.....PS/GL Marine Park

Further information from Marine Protected Areas.....

JERVIS BAY MARINE PARK – Declared 1998 - Area 22,000 hectares.

Shoalhaven Council Tourism Manager Tom Phillips on ABC Radio (9 Feb. 2006...) *"We thought it would be quite restrictive....it actually has been a positive.....the size of the fish are bigger, its easier to get your bag limit....the people appreciate the need for sanctuary zones.....overall its been on the positive side."*

Sydney Morning Herald report 27 May 2006 – Marine life in Jervis Bay is experiencing a recovery led by a surge in the number of grey nurse sharks. University of Tasmania scientists report... *"We have got a big increase in grey nurse sharks from just completely stopping fishing."*

Another early indication of a recovery in fish stocks is that a popular recreational species, the red morwong, has increased in numbers by 40 per cent.

The scientists are hoping (says the report) that crayfish numbers in Jervis Bay will follow the same pattern as in sanctuary zones in Tasmania where, since fishing was stopped, their numbers have increased tenfold.

RECREATIONAL FISHING HAVENS (RFH)-

Following a buy-out of commercial fishing licenses, Recreational Fishing Havens have been established in up to 30 locations on the NSW coast.

Two of these, Botany Bay (2001) and Lake Macquarie, being among the first of RFH established, have reported the presence of greater numbers and bigger fish after just 3 to 4 years. These are indeed becoming recreational fishing havens.

BOUDDI NATIONAL PARK - NSW Central Coast.

Though not a marine park in the current model, it is a small 287 hectares, a marine extension of the Bouddi National Park. Dr William Gladstone of Newcastle University's Ourimbah Campus, conducted a study in 2001 after 28 years of protection. It was found that fish species richness was 63% greater and total fish density was 70% greater. Density increases of individual fish species were also greater, (Blue Groper 900%; Blackfish 340%; Red Morwong 460%).

World-wide, it is a well known fact that fish populations are in alarming decline through over-fishing and damage (including from pollutants) to marine habitats.

With appropriate marine park sanctuary protection, fish and other marine species that have so far survived the enormous range of human impacts and predation, will have a chance to again regenerate and to replenish our in-shore and off-shore waters.

Local Marine Park Zoning Guide....OVER.....