



The Australian Land Based Anglers Association Inc

Jervis Bay Marine Park Zoning Plan Review

June 2008

Important information

Please ensure this submission reaches the Marine Parks Authority by **2 June 2008**.

You will need to refer to the current Jervis Bay Marine Park Zoning Plan. Call 1300 361 967 or email jervis.bay@mpa.nsw.gov.au for a copy, or you can download it from www.mpa.nsw.gov.au/jbmp.html.

Please complete the form, and return it postage paid 'fold, staple and send' by **2 June 2008** to the Jervis Bay Marine Park office.

Fold it up and tape it so the reply paid slip is at the front. The reply paid slip is the last page of this document.

If you wish to make additional comments please attach additional pages.

Download this form from www.mpa.nsw.gov.au to:

- fax it to (02) 4441 7756
- scan pages you have completed and email them to

jervis.bay@mpa.nsw.gov.au with 'Review submission form' in the subject line.

If you would like assistance in completing the form, or would like to discuss any marine park planning or management issue, please contact the Jervis Bay Marine Park office on (02) 4441 7752 or email jervis.bay@mpa.nsw.gov.au. For further information visit www.mpa.nsw.gov.au.

For the purposes of the *NSW Privacy and Personal Information Act 1998*, any comments on this form, including your personal details, will be a matter of public record and available for public inspection on request to the NSW Marine Parks Authority.

If you wish to make a confidential submission, please answer 'yes' to the first question.

Submission form

1. Confidential submission – No

2. Contact details – optional but please complete your postcode

Dr/Mr/Mrs/Ms (circle as appropriate)

Position: **Committee Member (Environmental Officer)**

Postcode*: **2750** (*this is mandatory)

Phone: **0425223867**

Fax: **(02) 4570 1787**

Email: **g.beveridge@uws.edu.au**

Organisation/affiliation/business name (if applicable): **Australian Land Based Anglers Association Incorporated**

This review aims to determine whether the current zoning plan remains appropriate for conserving marine biodiversity and habitats, and maintaining ecosystems, while providing for public appreciation, understanding, enjoyment, and ecologically sustainable use. By completing this submission form, you will be contributing to the review of the zoning plan for Jervis Bay Marine Park.

3. Which age group are you in? – optional

Australian Land Based Anglers Association Incorporated members cover a range of age groups.

4. What are your main interests in the marine park?

Please number the boxes in order of importance, where 1 equals 'most important' and 5 equals 'least important'.

Only number activities you are interested in.

Recreational fishing (1)

Conservation (4)

Other (please specify)

Access to Coastline (2)

Cultural Heritage (3)

Volunteering & Education (5)

5. Overall, how would you describe your view of conserving the Jervis Bay Marine Park?

Strongly in favour

6. How strongly do you support the sanctuary zones in the Jervis Bay Marine Park?

Neutral

7. Do you think the zoning plan provides appropriate opportunities for ecologically sustainable use, public appreciation and enjoyment?

No

Please provide information on the following zones shown on the map on page Appendix A

How to fill in this form

Changes suggested to area?	Supporting comments
Area name: this row is colour coded depending on how the zone is coloured on the map. For example, sanctuary zones are pink on the map so this row would be pink if the zone was a sanctuary zone.	
Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/> Put a cross in the 'yes' box if you think the size, area or designation of the zone should be changed and in the 'no' box if you think the area, size or designation of the zone does not need to be changed.	Please be specific about why this zone should stay the same or be changed.

8. Sanctuary zones

Sanctuary zone areas are marked pink on the map. These zones provide the highest level of protection – removal or harm of any plants or animals is prohibited.

Comment on as many of these zones as you wish. In the pink rows, please name the area you are commenting on.

Changes suggested to zone?	Supporting comments
Area name: The Docks Sanctuary Zone	
Yes Full or partial change of the Docks to habitat protection zone. If not maintain sanctuary zone of the Docks with controlled Land Based Game Angling opportunities. No net increase in the Docks sanctuary zone. Consider anchoring restrictions / limitations in the Docks. Possible trade-off for returning the Docks to habitat protection zone is extension of St Georges – Steamer Head Sanctuary Zone.	Supporting comments are detailed in Section 14.1.

Changes suggested to zone?	Supporting comments
Area name: Point Perpendicular – Crocodile Head Sanctuary Zone	
Yes No net increase in the sanctuary zone. Maintain sanctuary zone with controlled Land Based Game Angling opportunities.	Supporting comments are detailed in Section 14.1 & 14.2.
Area name: St Georges – Steamer Head Sanctuary Zone	
Yes No net increase in the sanctuary zone, expect for potential trade-off for full or partial returning of the Docks Sanctuary Zone to Habitat Protection Zone. Maintain sanctuary zone with controlled Land Based Game Angling opportunities.	Supporting comments are detailed in Section 14.1 & 14.2.

9. Habitat protection zones

Habitat protection zone areas are marked yellow on the map. These zones conserve biodiversity by reducing high impact activities. Line fishing, spearfishing, lobster and crab trapping, and collecting are generally permitted, with restrictions in some areas.

Comment on as many of these zones as you wish. In the yellow rows, please name the area you are commenting on.

Changes suggested to zone?	Supporting comments
Area name: The Outer Tubes Habitat Protection Zone (Anchoring Prohibited)	
Yes Maintain current zoning. Anchoring prohibited all year round or alternatively extended from October to July.	Supporting comments are detailed in Section 14.1 & 14.2.
Area name: Crocodile Head to Whale Point Habitat Protection Zone	
Yes Maintain current zoning. Identify areas for anchoring prohibited all year round or alternatively extended from October to July. Maintain future access to Crocodile Head for Land Based Angling opportunities. Work with Navy management to provide access to Land Based Game Angling locations along the coastline.	Supporting comments are detailed in Section 14.1 & 14.2.

Area name: Steamers Head to Governor Head Habitat Protection Zone	
<p>Yes</p> <p>Maintain current zoning.</p> <p>Identify areas for anchoring prohibited all year round or alternatively extended from October to July.</p> <p>Work with Booderee National Park management to provide access to Land Based Game Angling locations along the coastline.</p>	<p>Supporting comments are detailed in Section 14.1 & 14.2.</p>

10. General use zones

General use zone areas are marked light blue on the map. These zones provide for a wide range of activities including commercial and recreational fishing.

Comment on as many of these zones as you wish. In the blue rows, please name the area you are commenting on.

Changes suggested to zone?	Supporting comments
Area name:	
No	

11. Special purpose zones

Special purpose zone areas are marked dark blue on the map. These zones allow for management of areas for a particular purpose such as marine infrastructure. The zone's purpose is included with its name in the blue rows. Please note that fishing activities permitted in these zones are the same as in habitat protection zones.

Comment on as many of these zones as you wish.

Changes suggested to zone?	Supporting comments
Huskisson Wharf – designated for the management of boating and wharf related activities	
No	
HMAS Creswell – designated for the safe operation of naval infrastructure. No anchoring is permitted in this zone.	
No	

12. Commenting on activities

The zoning plan determines which of the following activities are allowed in different zones:

- Anchoring/moorings
- Aquaculture
- Collecting (scientific, educational, bait, aquarium)
- Collecting seaweed
- Commercial fishing
- Cruise ships
- Domestic/companion animals
- Fish feeding/cleaning
- Hovercraft
- PWC
- Recreational fishing
- Spearfishing
- Species that may be taken from habitat protection zones
- Threatened and protected species
- Vehicle access
- Other

.....

Do you have any comments on any of these activities?

Jervis Bay Marine Park

Activity	Comment
Recreational Fishing – Land Based Game Anglers A common fishing technique by Land Based Land Anglers is to suspend live baits, such as the slimy mackerel (<i>Scomber australasicus</i>), under balloons and float this rig—connected by a monofilament line to the angler’s rod—a considerable distance out from the shoreline. (Lynch et al. 2004).	<p>The unique marine environment of Jervis Bay is the “birthplace” of an equally unique form of recreational angling, namely land based game fishing. This style of angling involves techniques and equipment, developed, trialled and tested in Jervis Bay, which specifically targets large migratory pelagic species and result in minimal by-catch and low catch per unit effort. A small dedicated group of anglers continue to maintain the heritage of these early pioneers at the limited number of locations along the east coast of Australia where these angling opportunities exist. These anglers have the right to participate in the protection and management of their fishing heritage to ensure that it is available for future generations. This approach is consistent with the principles of the National Recreational Fishing Policy 1994. Jervis Bay is seen as the “jewel in the crown” of the limited land based game fishing locations, not only for the fishing but for the overall “experience”.</p> <p>Despite being a major stakeholder with historical significance, the land based angler has not fared well in the current zoning plan of the Jervis Bay Marine Park when combined with the restricted access to the coastline imposed on the Commonwealth Navy lands and Booderee NP. Out of approximately 35.6km of coastline, 33% is sanctuary zone, 47% is restricted access, leaving 20% available for land based angling. When taking into consideration that vast sections of the</p>

Activity	Comment (Continued)
Recreational Fishing – Land Based Game Anglers (Continued)	<p>available coastline do not provide the platforms required for land based angling, the available coastline would be further reduced to <10%. No other stakeholder group has been detrimentally affected to this level through the implementation of the Park. This severe reduction in access is inconsistent with the National Recreational Fishing Policy 1994 and the Marine Parks Act 1997. Further more weather conditions can dictate a further loss of many of the usable platforms, creating issues around crowd funnelling, overcrowding, user safety and enjoyment. Recreational anglers look to the Authority to meet its responsibility to include protective zoning for areas of cultural and historical significance, and to provide suitable access to alternative areas for activities that have been excluded from an area due to protective zoning.</p> <p>The NSW DECC 2006 reports that no targets or guidelines have been adopted for the level of protection needed within marine parks, and state that further monitoring and evaluation is required. 'Habitat protection' zones were identified as affording a high level of protection, whilst allowing for a range of recreational fishing activities that do not harm habitat or significantly affect fish populations. A diverse range of zoning types and sustainable use activities would provide for points of comparisons for research into the conservational and sustainable use benefits of the Marine Park. There are opportunities to explore catch and release techniques, along with the expansion of seasonal openings of selected zones to specific fishing types, as is currently being implemented at The Tubes.</p> <p>An environmental consciousness has been steadily growing amongst the recreational angling community, with new techniques and practices continuing being developed to minimise any potential ecological impacts. The recreational angler has and will continue to play a role in the knowledge base and protection of marine environments, including tag and release programs and reporting of marine pollution, non-endemic species, fish kills and illegal activities. The recreational angling community is a valuable stakeholder group that has the potential to provide a source of volunteers for research, habitat restoration, facilities development and community education. Anglers support the development of a code of conduct to guide their activities within the Park. The involvement of the recreational anglers in the above mentioned activities would be consistent with Jervis Bay Marine Park Operational Plan (2003). It is also important that any research on the potential impacts of recreational fishing is discussed in terms of the impacts of key threatening processes to marine environments such as terrestrial, aquatic and marine habitat loss; urbanisation; stormwater; effluent outflow; acid sulfate soils, etc.</p> <p>Since its inception, the fees associated with the recreational fishing licence have funded a host of projects that protect and enhance marine environments. These projects include essential research, habitat restoration, educational programs, construction of artificial reefs, fish stocking and buyback of commercial fisheries.</p> <p>As the Jervis Bay Marine Park continues to evolve it is imperative that the heritage, recreational and participation values of land based anglers are considered. ALBAA urges the MPA to acknowledge this stakeholder group to ensure that the Marine Park has the best opportunity to achieve its objectives of marine conservation</p>

Activity	Comment (Continued)
Recreational Fishing – Land Based Game Anglers (Continued)	<p>whilst maintaining sustainable use. ALBAA acknowledges that sanctuary zones play an important component of the marine conservation plans for Jervis Bay, however, we request that an adequate % of the marine park be allocated to the pursuit of Land Based Game Angling activities in a sustainable and safe manner.</p> <p>See Section 14: General Comments.</p>

13. The zoning plan restricts the taking of some plant and animal species from the marine park.

These restrictions are listed in the Jervis Bay Marine Park Zoning Plan Regulation, and in tables 1 and 2 of the zoning plan user guide (see www.mpa.nsw.gov.au).

Do you have any comments on the plant and animal species restrictions?

Australian Land Based Anglers Association Inc. supports the plant and animal restrictions listed in the Jervis Bay Marine Park Zoning Plan Regulation, and in Tables 1 and 2.

14. General comments

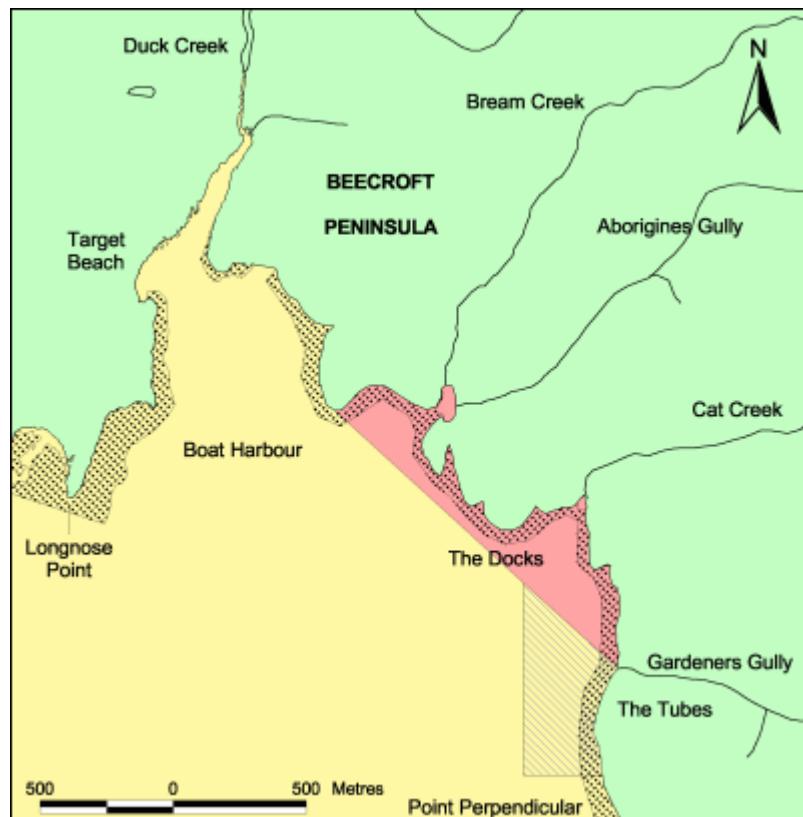
Please provide any further comments here.

14.1 Comments on Docks Sanctuary Zone

14.1.1 The Docks

The Docks Sanctuary Zone extends from the mean high water mark on the northern side of Gardeners Gully north west to the southernmost extremity of the headland 400m west of Bream Creek (Boat Harbour), then generally south east following the mean high water mark to the point north of Gardeners Gully, including all creeks, bays and tributaries to the mean high water mark and to the tidal limit.

Habitat Protection Zones (HPZ) cover 72% of Jervis Bay Marine Park (JBMP) and allow recreational fishing (Barrett et al. 2005). In terms of Land Based Game (LBG) Angling this figure is less than 2% of the total JBMP Habitat Protection Zone with accessible deep water rock platforms within the park suitable for LBG fishing. These same platforms have a historical and traditional usage by LBG Anglers chasing the seasonal pelagic species encountered in this form of angling, with the Docks, Inner Tubes and Outer Tubes acknowledged as the best locations on the east coast of Australia (Lockwood 1979). Access for LBG Anglers to safe platforms within the Park is severely limited by de-facto closures imposed by external agencies. Access to the Habitat Protection Zone on the eastern, ocean side of Beecroft Peninsular is greatly reduced by the Department of Defence and access to the Habitat Protection Zone off Bherwerre Peninsular on the south side of Jervis Bay is severely limited by the Booderee Park Managers.



LEGEND

Sanctuary Zone	Special Purpose Zone	Anchoring Permitted	Land
Habitat Protection Zone	General Use Zone	Commonwealth Waters	Reef

14.1.1 Land Based Game Angling

The words and images of Land Based Game (LBG) Angling at Jervis Bay are not only recorded on best selling DVDs and published literature predating the Jervis Bay Marine Park (JBMP), the phenomena that is LBG is sold nationally and internationally by many agencies outside the fishing sphere. The most consistent producer of Striped and Black Marlin caught off the rocks anywhere in the world; the current land based all tackle marlin world records come from our rocks, as promoted on the Jervis Bay Tourism Website (updated, cited 05/2008).

When the warm East Australian Current extends into JBMP waters during late spring, summer, and early autumn the headlands provide a consistent location for the capture of migratory pelagic game fish. Targeted species include kingfish (*Seriola lalandii*), tailor (*Pomatomus saltatrix*), tunas such as bonito (*Sarda australis*) and yellowfin (*Thunnus albacares*), and both black (*Makaira mazara*) and striped marlin (*Tetrapturus audax*). Due to the unique nature of the coastline around the headlands of Jervis Bay, these species can be targeted from both game-fishing boats and also by anglers fishing from the shore. A common fishing technique by LBG Anglers is to suspend live baits, such as the slimy mackerel (*Scomber australasicus*), under balloons and float this rig—connected by a monofilament line to the angler's

rod—a considerable distance out from the shoreline. (Lynch et al. 2004). Pelagic species continue to be encountered and targeted by LBG Anglers along the coastline of Jervis Bay throughout all seasons.

Habitat Protection zones cover 72% of JBMP and allow recreational fishing (Barrett et al. 2005). In terms of LBG Angling this figure is less than 2% of the total JBMP Habitat Protection Zones with accessible deep water rock platforms within the park suitable for LBG fishing. These same platforms have a historical and traditional usage by anglers chasing the seasonal pelagic species encountered in this form of angling.



Photo: (Lockwood 1979)

The ability of anglers to target game fish from the shore means that the fishery is unusually egalitarian. This rare chance for shore anglers to target game fish means that capital investment in successful fishing gear can include individual rods deployed from shore, as well as large game fishing boats with multiple rods and teasers. To attempt to solve the conflict through a gear restriction; for example, by banning shore based balloon fishing, would exclude anglers on the basis of their access to expensive gear. It was also clear that shore fishing gear prohibitions would be perceived as discriminatory towards those with the capital to engage large sports fishing vessels (Lynch et al. 2004).

14.1.3 Transfer of Effort Due to Re-Zoning of the Docks

Sanctuary Zones have always been appealing to divers, and whilst mitigating measures are often in place to limit the impact, they result in the transfer of effort by recreational anglers and further limit recreational angling opportunities. A baseline study conducted 11 years prior was used to gain a limited perspective on changes in user numbers. Comparison between the study periods indicated dive numbers had remained similar, while the number of dive

charter trips was significantly less. The numbers of anglers, for the four months compared, had doubled and tripled (Lynch et al. 2004).

Changes in user allocation in response to Marine Park Authority (MPA) zoning are poorly understood and it is possible that the protected status may result in new environmental impacts or conflicts. These impacts or conflicts could potentially be due to the transfer of now prohibited activities from high use to previously low use areas. If the effort has generally increased, the cost of minor transfers from small MPA zones would be absorbed by the overall rate of growth. From the available information, angling, unlike recreational scuba diving, appears to have increased compared to the 1989–1990 data set (Lynch et al. 2004).

Land Based Game (LBG) Angling has historically been practiced at the Docks (Lockwood 1979), and the zoning effects approximately 20% of the anglers and 8% of divers observed in the Docks area (Lynch et al. 2004). The majority of live-bait ballooning LBG Anglers were in the Tubes subdivision of the Docks area. The distribution results show that this type of fishing is constrained into a small area, suggesting that few sites are suitable (Lynch et al. 2004).



Photo: (Lockwood 1979)

The numbers of sports divers and anglers are disproportionately concentrated around the headlands of Jervis Bay during summer. Upon categorisation of anglers into LBG Anglers and others fishers, this disproportionate use was even more apparent. This concentration of recreational effort may not only produce cumulative environmental impacts but also exacerbate conflict between user groups (Lynch et al 2004). The issue of safe access in all weather conditions is especially relevant to the anglers who fish the rocks within the Park. LBG anglers move along the coastline with the schools of migrating pelagic fish.

14.1.4 Biodiversity of the Docks Area

The main biodiversity consideration in zoning the Docks area was observations of the critically endangered grey nurse shark and the potential for fishing by-catch. The recent re-sighting of several Grey Nurse Sharks (GNS) within a sanctuary area at Jervis Bay Marine Park (JBMP) is an encouraging sign and may indicate that general protection from fishing will allow for some recovery for this endangered species.

The existing evidence on the size and stability of the east coast population of GNS is very limited and considered that the population is most likely to be somewhere between 500 and 1,500. However, it might be more (AAT Decision Para. 94). The propensity of GNS to congregate near reefs, caves and gutters has lead to known and suspected aggregation sites being subject to specific study. Dr Otway has been very involved in this work. Ten sites are recognised by the NSW Department of Primary Industries as “critical habitat sites” under the Fisheries Management Act 1994 (NSW); (AAT Decision Para. 15).

The Conservation Council has identified sixteen sites, including sub-sites, which it says are critical aggregation sites for GNS and which require greater protection. It also seeks greater protection for two Commonwealth sites further offshore. The total number of sites is, accordingly, eighteen. (AAT Decision Para. 16), with no reference being made of the Docks area (Source: annexure NMO-6 to the statement of Nicholas Otway affirmed on 13 March 2007):

14.1.5 Land Based Game Angling Target Species

Many of the more common species surveyed displayed relatively stable population structures over time, the major exceptions were schooling or pelagic fish species and tropical fish recruits (Barrett et al 2005). Land Based Game (LBG) Anglers exclusively target the highly migratory pelagic fish species. There are numerous papers and studies from around the world that even the Marine Park Authority has relied upon that state that highly migratory species demonstrate any benefit from protection in reserves (Bennett and Attwood 1991), and that catch rates of highly migratory species did not increase in a marine reserve following its proclamation (Bennett and Attwood 1993).

14.1.6 Changes to The Docks Zoning for Land Based Game Anglers

Land Based Game (LBG) Angling has historically occurred at the Inner Tubes and Docks as a means of escaping the overcrowding of the Outer Tubes prior to the Jervis Bay Marine Park (JBMP) being declared. These two spots offered an alternative for the highly experienced angler who was will willing to undertake the arduous walk into these two isolated platform. Anglers at these two spots could embrace the quite enjoyment of LBG without the crowds that the Outer Tubes bring. Having already discussed the targeted species (highly migratory pelagic fish) and the minimal protection any Sanctuary Zone within the Park offers them, along with the lack of any collaborating data that suggest the Dock is a legitimate Grey Nurse Shark (GNS) aggregation site, it is the intention of Australian Land Based Anglers Inc (ALBAA) to recommend that the Docks and Inner Tubes be opened for LBG anglers. A lesser option would be

reopening of the Docks on a seasonal basis from October to July each year. ALBAA also recommends that anchoring being prohibited from this area, as is currently implemented at the Outer Tubes.

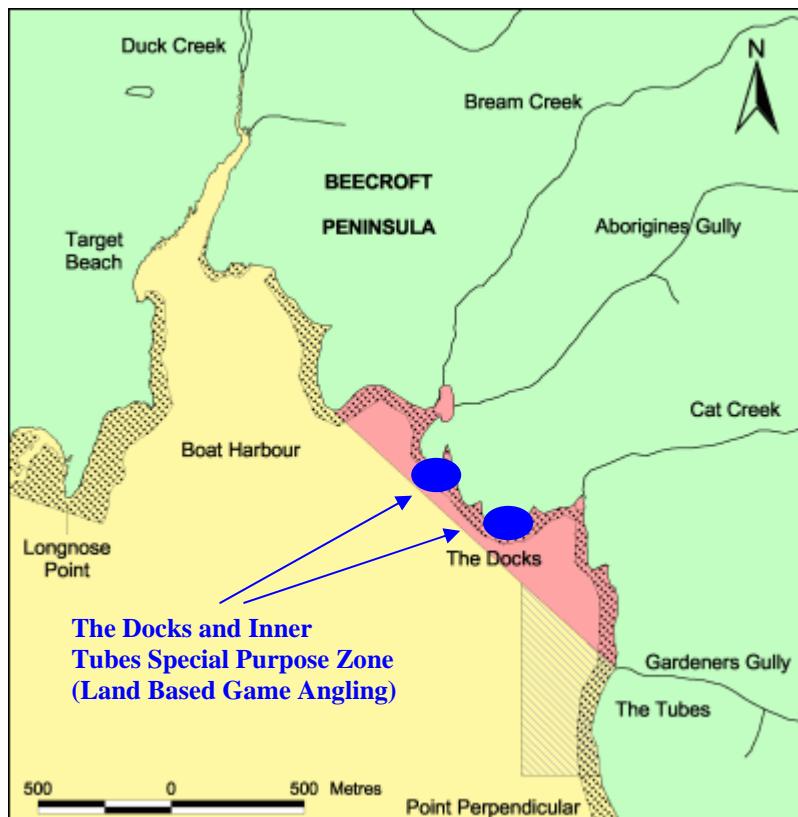
Both these platforms offer easy access to the Habitat Protection Zones just outside the Sanctuary Zone, and with anglers often suspending baits a fair distance off shore, in many instances the baits would themselves be transients within the Sanctuary Zone.

GNS Critical Habitat guidelines could be used to control the tackle used off these platforms, e.g. no wire traces and ALBAA is confident that even regulating the types of hooks used, e.g. non offset circle hooks would be embraced by LBG Anglers. Regulations that encompass the use of suspended baits only and lure casting would also be a means to limit any possible interaction with any transient GNS in the area. ALBAA is willing to work with the Marine Park Authority (MPA) and NSW Fisheries to develop a code of conduct for LBG Anglers.

With the NSW Government is currently criminalising the throwing of projectiles at cars and boats the need for the Jervis Bay MPA to use the Docks Sanctuary Zone as a way of conflict resolution between anglers and divers is an issue that will be better handled by the NSW Police. This would negate the need for MPA staff to respond to any potential conflict and potential put these rangers in danger.

In the summer season of 2000–2001, conflict occurred between divers and shore-based anglers occurred at the Docks area. After one particularly violent interaction, a dive operator filed a complaint to the police (NSW police report E10957104). A subsequent local newspaper article and editorial gave the angler's viewpoint that the divers had been deliberately scaring the fish away and that some formal delimitation of access rights may be needed (Wright 2001, South Coast Register 2001). Following this incident, the authority identified reduction or elimination of the Docks area conflict as a priority issue (Lynch et all 2004). ALBAA and LBG Anglers are prepared to co-exist with the divers that share the resource in the Docks area. There are ways of mitigating conflict and avenues to open discussions with local dive operators in ways of sharing the Docks area.

No other stakeholder within the Park has been detrimentally affected through the implementation of the Park than the LBG Angler. The severe reduction in access, especially when combined with access restrictions imposed on Navy Lands and Booderee National Park is inconsistent with the National Recreational Fishing Policy 1994 and the Marine Parks Act 1997. LBG Anglers look to the Authority to meet its responsibility to include protective zoning for areas of cultural and historical significance, and to provide suitable access to alternative areas for activities that have been excluded from an area due to protective zoning.



LEGEND

Sanctuary Zone	Special Purpose Zone	Anchoring Permitted	Land
Habitat Protection Zone	General Use Zone	Commonwealth Waters	Reef

14.1.7 The Docks as a Multi-Use Sanctuary Zone

Listed below are the outcomes that Australian Land Based Anglers Association (ALBAA) would like to see delivered in conjunction with the changes to the Docks Sanctuary Zone:

1. Complete or seasonal access (October to July) for Land Based Game (LBG) Anglers to use the Inner Tube and Docks platforms to enjoy LBG Angling within the JBMP
2. ALBAA to become custodian of the new sites, and including the Outer Tubes, to better educate the anglers who utilise these rock platforms to practice LBG.
3. ALBAA, as part of the stewardship, to implement the 'Ledge Care Initiative' (See Section 14.2.5), including regular Clean Up events at all three site.
4. Work with recreational peak bodies to formulate a code of conduct for LBG Angling, with a review process annually.
5. Work with recreational peak bodies to formulate a Code of Conduct between anglers and local dive boat operators, with a review process annually.

6. ALBAA to source funds to undertake activities to protect and enhance marine and terrestrial environment, and to move and increase the dive moorings closer to Shark Rock within the Docks Core Bay; &
7. Accept the Docks as a site where Grey Nurse Sharks occur occasionally and ask NSW Department of Primary Industries to implement Critical Habitat Zone regulations for all LBG anglers through a Code of Conduct.

14.2 General Comments by Australian Land Based Anglers Association Inc.

14.2.1 Vision of Australian Land Based Anglers Association Inc.

The Australian Land Based Anglers Association Inc. (ALBAA) promotes sustainable fishing practices and supports the conservation of marine environments and fish stocks through fair and equitable access, along with sustainable use of the publicly owned resource. The Objectives and Code of Conduct of ALBAA are outlined in Appendix A.

Jervis Bay is to Land Based Game (LBG) Angling, what the MCG is to AFL or more appropriately Wembley is to tennis; as it is recognised internationally for its unique qualities. ALBAA has been actively engaged in initiating a non adversarial response to growing pressures between management bodies and anglers in the Shoal Haven region and as such this location is at the heart of our Association. In fact in cooperation with Shoal Haven City Council our first "Ledge Care" initiative took place here giving anglers an opportunity to show there care for this environment, and since many such activities have taken place under ALBAA throughout NSW and interstate. ALBAA has and will continue to demonstrate a commitment to the environment and public information in areas where its members practice.

Our aim, in conjunction with coastal management bodies, is to have a solid formula to continue building autonomous angler groups to demonstrate the appropriate involvement and environmental stewardship in there local parks and waterways across the country, building better relationships and understandings between these groups (anglers, coastal management bodies and other stakeholders). We identify a need to heal the rifts between these groups and work together in a practical way for the benefit of all concerned.

We trust the MPA will demonstrate a similar care and commitment to the Operational Plan (2003) by ensuring that ALBAA is recognized as a major stakeholder in the Jervis Bay Marine Park review process and ALBAA submissions are given all due consideration. Working together, ALBAA can see a suitable outcome for all stakeholders and the environmental welfare within the JBMP.

For further information on ALBAA visit our website at www.albaa.com.au

ALBAA Committee.

14.2.2 Cultural & Historical Significance of Land Based Anglers in Jervis Bay

The unique marine environment of Jervis Bay is the “birthplace” of an equally unique form of recreational angling - Land Based Game (LBG) Angling. The early pioneers of this sport first stepped onto the flat, narrow sandstone platforms of Beecroft Peninsula and Jervis Bay in the early 1960’s. They began refining specialist techniques and equipment with a specific view to targeting large pelagic game fish from the shoreline.



Photo: (Lockwood 1979; Lockwood 1980)

The legendary exploits of these pioneers at three locations inside Jervis Bay – The Docks, Crack, Outer Tubes are world famous, and now draw international visitors from as far a field as Japan and the UK . The ocean side platforms of the Beecroft Peninsula have also been steeped in a long Land based Game history and are renowned producers of large pelagic fish like Marlin, Tuna, Yellowtail Kingfish. Quite simply, this handful of locations taken from 21,000km of the Australian coastline has dominated the history of this sport which is now practiced in various forms internationally.

In the thirty years following a relatively small, but passionately dedicated group of anglers have developed the same close affinity with the area - and have continued to maintain the fishing heritage of these early pioneers. Each new generation has traditionally met and shared knowledge of preferred LBG Angling techniques from those already established in the sport. The minimal number of locations suited to this form of angling has led to the formation of a strong sense of community amongst the participants. Long hours spent suffering sea, sun, and weather over years of committed angling has seen long standing friendships formed and family ties established in the local area. Currarong itself has become, for many the Mecca of LBG and sees the same faces returning year in year out.

Modern techniques and equipment coupled with years of shared research have led to outstanding results by these anglers, and they are blessed with an incredibly unique inshore pelagic fishery. A fishery in which during the summer months anglers can realistically target the Black Marlin from the shoreline. Although marlin have been taken at several locations in NSW, it is not feasible to solely target these fish outside of the Jervis Bay area.

These anglers have the right to participate in the protection and management of their fishing heritage to ensure that it is available to future generations. This approach would be considered consistent with the principles of the National Recreational fishing Policy of 1994.

Timeline of LBG Angler Presence in Jervis Bay:

- o 1960-65: LBG Angling born as a sport along the coastline of Jervis Bay.
- o 1960-71: Dedicated LBG Anglers refine and develop techniques, and discover most suitable locations.
- o 30th December 1972: A mile stone in LBG angling history – first recorded capture of a Black Marlin from the shore in the world taken by Tony Axiak of Appin Fishing Club.
- o January 1973: the second marlin landed by Peter Holey of Sydney Sportfishing Club.
- o March 1979: First 2 officially recognised captures of Black Marlin from the shore.
- o March 1979: Records of tag and release program being implemented by LBG Anglers.
- o 1980: A total of 24 Black Marlin caught by LBG Anglers since the first capture in 1972.
- o 1995: Jervis bay Marine Park zoning plan (draft) released.
- o ?: Zoning plan in initial draft amended and access granted to Outer Tubes and a number of platforms at the front of Beecroft Peninsula.
- o March 2002: Booderee National Park Management Plan released, with the ensuing implementation of the Plan effectively excluding LBG Angling, with the exception of 2 small locations, through the closure of tracks that predate the National Park.
- o Circa 2003: Access arrangements for front of the Beecroft Peninsula changed by the Department of Defence, severely limiting the number of available LBG Angling locations.
- o Jan 08: Angler forcibly removed from well know LBG Angling location within Booderee National Park.
- o Jan 08: Australian Land Based Angling Association formed.

This timeline was constructed from Kidd (1973); Cassettari (1979); Lockwood (1979); Lockwood (1980); Harnwell (2008).



Photo: (Lockwood 1980)

Jervis Bay is seen as the “jewel in the crown” of the limited land based game fishing locations, not only for the fishing but for the overall “experience”. As illustrated, LBG Anglers have a significant heritage value, spanning 50 years, within the Jervis Bay Marine Park (JBMP). It is imperative that the heritage values of LBG Anglers are considered as the park evolves. We look to the JBMP Authority to meet its responsibility to include protective zoning for areas of cultural and historical significance. ALBAA is willing to work with the Marine Park Authority (MPA) within the framework of the JBMP Operational Plan (2003) to document LBG Angling heritage and identify significant LBG locations within the JBMP.



14.2.3 Target Species of Land Based Game Angling in Jervis Bay

The words and images Land Based Game (LBG) Angling at Jervis Bay are not only recorded on best selling DVDs and published literature predating the Jervis Bay Marine Park (JBMP), the phenomena that is LBG is sold nationally and internationally by many agencies outside the fishing sphere. The most consistent producer of striped and black marlin caught off the rocks any where in the world; the current land based all tackle marlin world records from our rocks Jervis Bay Tourism Website (updated, cited 05/2008).

When the warm East Australian Current extends into JBMP waters during late spring, summer, and early autumn the headlands provide a consistent location for the capture of migratory pelagic game fish. Targeted species include kingfish (*Seriola lalandi*), tunas such as bonito (*Sarda australis*) and yellowfin (*Thunnus albacares*), and both black (*Makaira mazara*) and striped marlin (*Tetrapturus audax*). Due to the unique nature of the coastline around the headlands of Jervis Bay, these species can be targeted from both game-fishing boats and also by anglers fishing from the shore. A common fishing technique by LBG Anglers is to suspend live baits, such as the slimy mackerel (*Scomber australasicus*), under balloons and float this rig—connected by a monofilament line to the angler's rod—a considerable distance out from the shoreline. (Lynch et al. 2004). This style of angling involves techniques and equipment, developed, trialled and tested in Jervis Bay, which specifically targets these large migratory pelagic species and result in minimal by-catch and low catch per unit effort.

Many of the more common species surveyed displayed relatively stable population structures over time, the major exceptions were schooling or pelagic fish species and tropical fish recruits (Barrett et al 2005). LBG anglers exclusively target the highly migratory pelagic fish species. There are numerous papers and studies from around the world that even the MPA has relied upon that state that highly migratory species demonstrate any benefit from protection in reserves (Bennett and Attwood 1991), and that catch rates of highly migratory species did not increase in a marine reserve following its proclamation (Bennett and Attwood 1993).

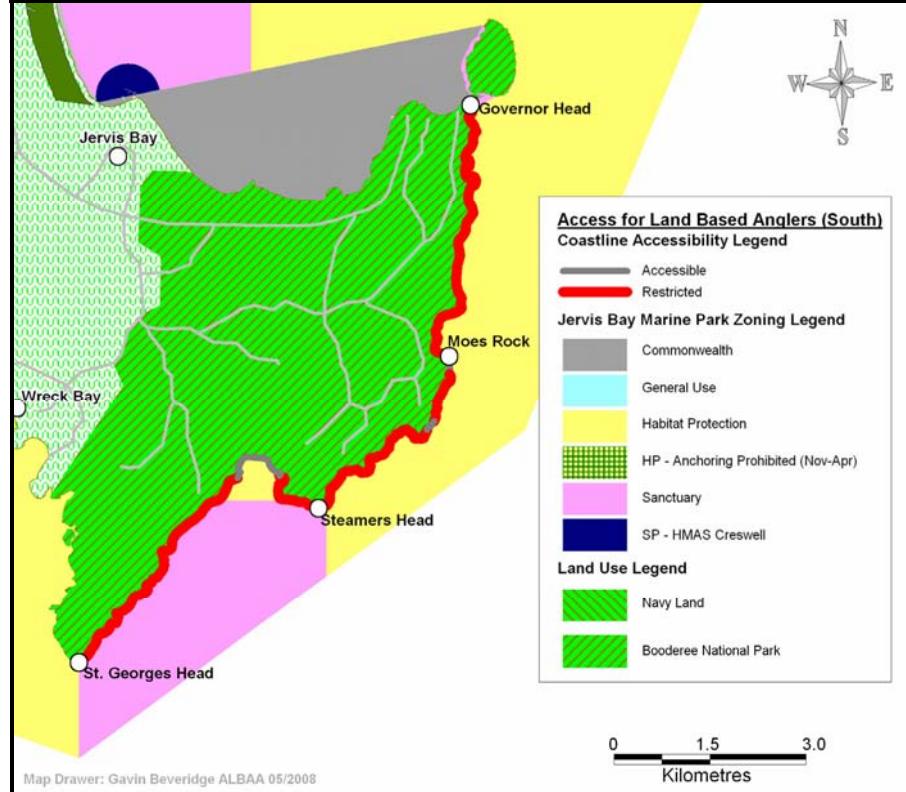
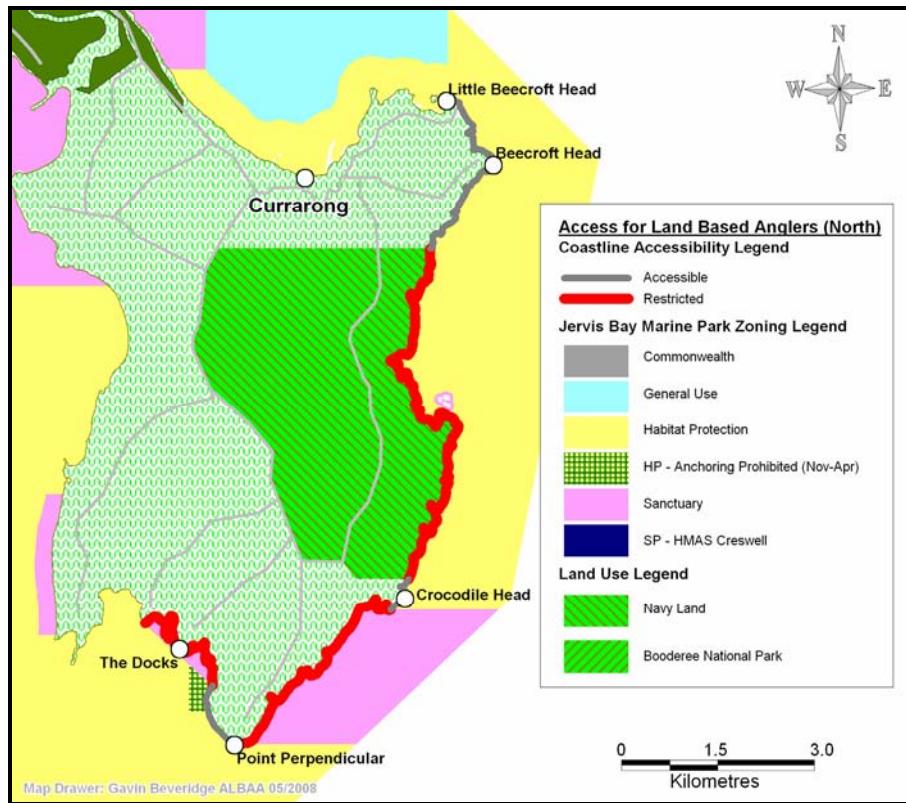
14.2.4 Accessibility Issues for Land Based Anglers

Despite being a major stakeholder with historical significance, the Land Based Game (LBG) Angler has not fared well in the current zoning plan of the Jervis Bay Marine Park (JBMP). Access for Land Based Anglers within the Park is severely limited by de-facto closures imposed by external agencies. Access to the Habitat Protection Zone on the eastern, ocean side of Beecroft Peninsular is greatly reduced by the Department of Defence and access to the Habitat Protection Zone off Bherwerre Peninsular on the south side of Jervis Bay is severely limited by the Booderee Park Managers. LBG Angling opportunities exist within the JBMP:

- o In the north from Little Beecroft Headland to the western extent of the Docks Sanctuary Zone; &**
- o In the south from Governor Head to St Georges Head.**

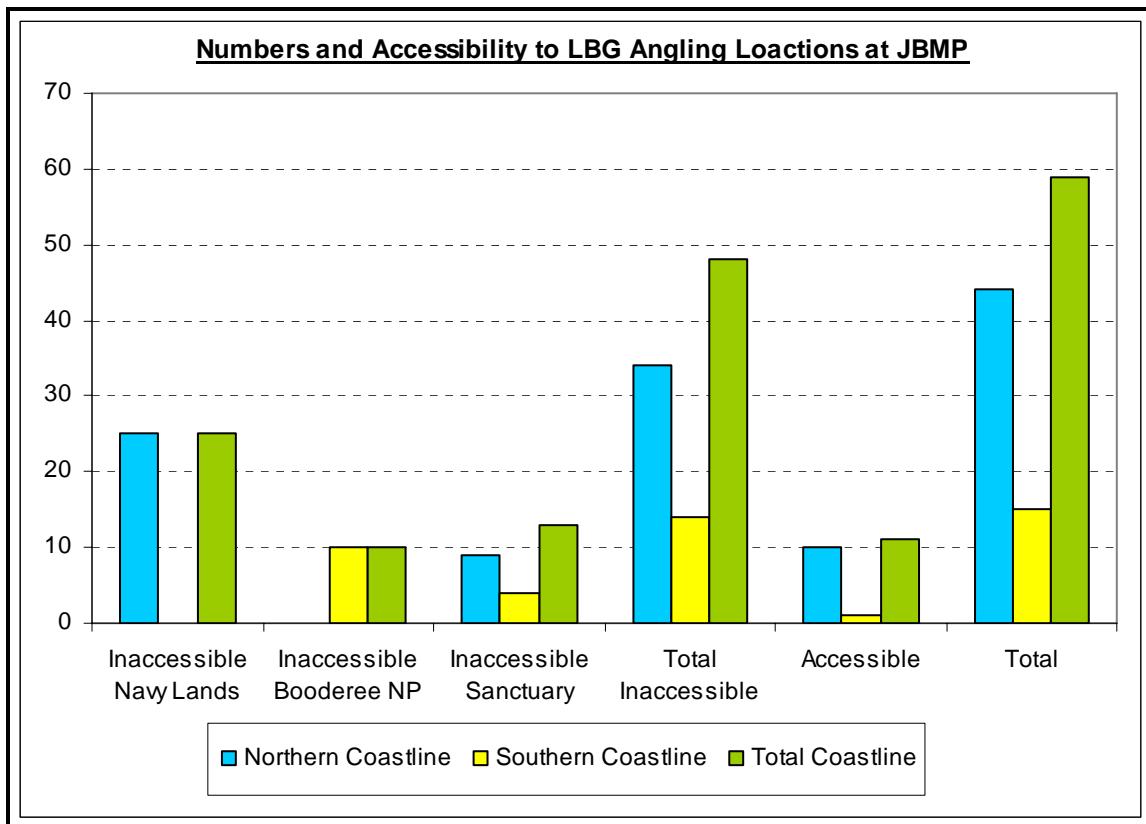
Out of approximately 36 km of coastline, 33 % is sanctuary zone, 47 % is restricted access, leaving 20% available for land based angling. This does not take into consideration the sections of the available coastline that do not provide the opportunity for LBG Angling. No other stakeholder within the JBMP has been detrimentally affected through the implementation of the Park. This severe reduction in access is inconsistent with the National Recreational Fishing Policy 1994 and the Marine Parks Act 1997.

Jervis Bay Marine Park zoning plan review: submission form



Maps depicting current access to Jervis Bay coastline for Land Based Angling

Habitat protection zones (HPZ) cover 72% of JBMP and allow recreational fishing (Barrett et al. 2005). Land Based Game (LBG) Angling requires accessible deep water rock platforms which are limited along the steep sandstone cliffs of the JBMP. Australian Land Based Anglers Association (ALBAA) utilised it's members, including long-term residents of Jervis Bay and experienced LBG Anglers, to identify LBG Angling Platforms within the JBMP. The results of this survey are depicted graphically below.



The coastline of the JBMP was identified to contain 59 LBG Angling locations at a density of 1.6 locations / km of coastline. Of these identified locations only 11 are still accessible, with 81 % being inaccessible. Inaccessibility to these locations was due to 25 sites being access restricted by Navy Lands, 10 sites being access restricted by Booderee National Park and 13 sites occurring JBMP Sanctuary Zones. The highest density of LBG Angling locations occurred within the coastline of the restricted access Navy Lands, which recorded 3.2 locations / km of coastline. These results highlight the impact of the JBMP and the restricted access imposed by adjacent land managers.

The ability of anglers to target game fish from the shore means that the fishery is unusually egalitarian. This rare chance for shore anglers to target game fish means that capital investment in successful fishing gear can include individual rods deployed from shore, as well as large game fishing boats with multiple rods and teasers. To attempt to solve the conflict through a gear restriction—for example, by banning shore based balloon fishing—would exclude

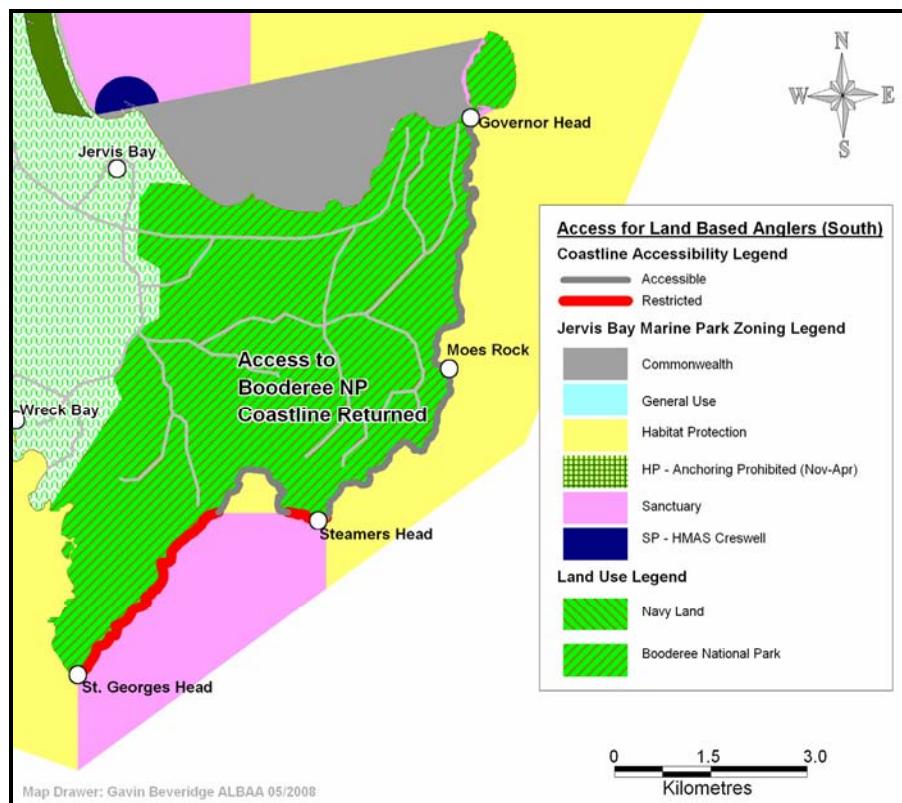
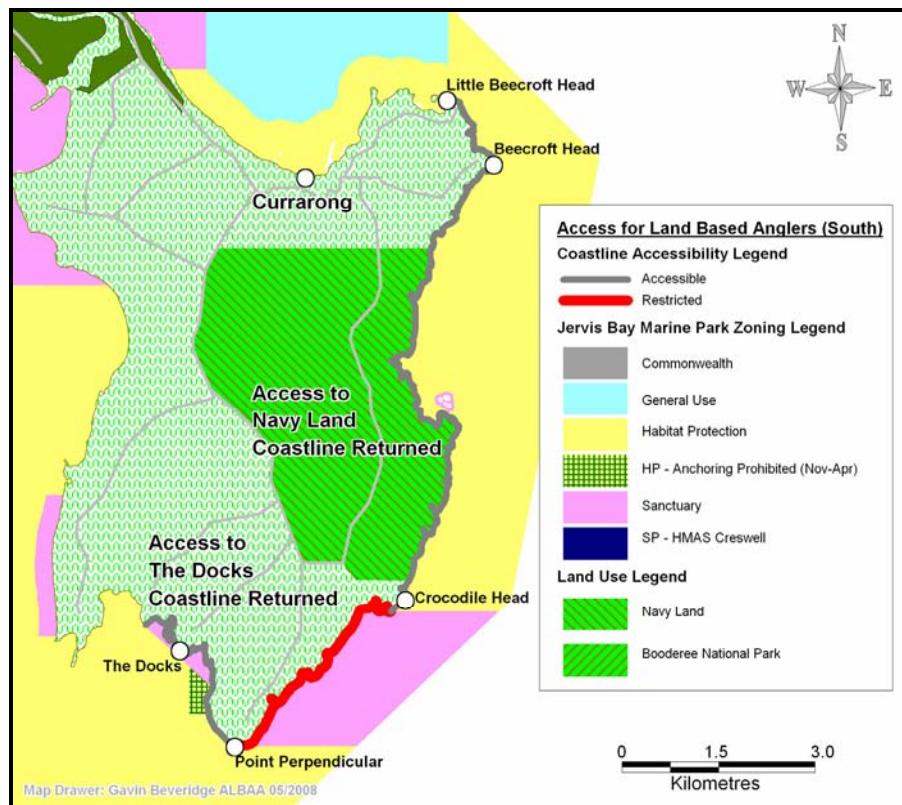
anglers on the basis of their access to expensive gear. It was also clear that shore fishing gear prohibitions would be perceived as discriminatory towards those with the capital to engage large sports fishing vessels (Lynch et al. 2004).



The majority anglers who are new to the sport or cannot afford a boat will initially get started fishing the ocean rocks. Alternative spots are needed so anglers targeting these highly mobile pelagic fish are not concentrated and limited to one or two small areas. Safe, protected areas from the prevailing weather conditions are needed. Land Based Anglers must not be forced to fish unsafe locations when the weather shifts or changes. The work that ALBAA is doing with Australian National Sportfishing Association and the Recreational Fishing Alliance of on rock fishing safety in conjunction with the NSW Government has revealed that safe, alternate rock fishing spots are needed to save lives, these anglers are not afforded the luxury of having a boat to fish elsewhere within the Park. These rock headlands need to allow anglers fishing the rocks access to at least 100m of the adjacent waters without any major gear restrictions.

LBG Anglers fish off small isolated rock platforms unique to the Jervis bay area and not available anywhere else in the world. The JBMP Sanctuary Zones and de-facto closures imposed by external agencies have essentially locked LBG Anglers out of areas that are so unique no replacements are available anywhere else in the world. ALBAA puts forward the following scenarios for the JBMP to ensure that LGB Anglers have the ability to maintain the cultural and historical significance of the recreational activity in a safe and sustainable manner.

Jervis Bay Marine Park zoning plan review: submission form



Maps depicting ALBAA's desired access to Jervis Bay coastline for Land Based Angling

ALBAA believes other users of the Park will not be affected by allowing LBG Anglers access to these areas. Furthermore LBG Anging has minimal impact on the environment and the targeted migratory pelagic fish are largely not local to the area and move on after a matter of days at a time on the Ocean currents. Therefore, locking out LBG Anglers is unlikely to affect fish stocks within an area, rather displace a sustainable user of the JBMP.

The NSW DECC 2006 reports that no targets or guidelines have been adopted for the level of protection needed within marine parks, and state that further monitoring and evaluation is required. 'Habitat protection' zones were identified as affording a high level of protection, whilst allowing for a range of recreational fishing activities that do not harm habitat or significantly affect fish populations. A diverse range of zoning types and sustainable use activities would provide for points of comparisons for research into the conservational and sustainable use benefits of the Marine Park.

Recreational anglers look to the Authority to meet its responsibility to include protective zoning for areas of cultural and historical significance, and to provide suitable access to alternative areas for activities that have been excluded from an area due to protective zoning. There are opportunities to explore catch and release opportunities, along with the expansion of seasonal openings of selected zones to specific fishing types. ALBAA acknowledges that Sanctuary Zones are an important component within the marine conservation objectives for Jervis Bay, however, we request that an adequate % of the marine park be allocated to the pursuit of LBG Angling activities.

14.2.5 Australian Land Based Anglers Association Proactive Approach: Ledge Care Initiative

The Australian Land Based Anglers Association Inc. (ALBAA) is committed to working with management bodies to identify areas of concern and develop strategies to address these in a timely and sustainable manor. As a result of this commitment, the 'Ledge Care Initiative' has been established, to meet a number of core objectives, through the promotion of local environmental awareness and stewardship. Localized area action groups provide a vehicle for ALBAA members to engage management bodies and stakeholders and carry out environmental actions within their respective areas. These groups are capable of implementing, monitoring and managing actions within their designated areas. As an incorporated association ALBAA also qualifies for funding under several government grants, as such we also have access to resources that will enable us to continue the good work our members, which represents an in-kind contribution, thus making the model a sustainable initiative.

Since its inception in mid January 2008 ALBAA has established relationships, as part of its 'Ledge Care Initiative', with Shoal Haven City Council, Gosford City Council, Lake Macquarie City Council, NSW National Parks in the Munmorah State Recreation Area and Wallarah State Recreational Area. The members have been working towards forming a mutually beneficial relationship with the operational navy base within the Jervis Bay Marine Park (JBMP). It is also hoped that ALBAA will establish a strong and functional relationship with the Marine Park Authorities nationally.

Jervis Bay Marine Park zoning plan review: submission form



Photos of ALBAA's 'Ledge Care Initiative' being implemented at Jervis Bay.

Locally ALBAA has conducted clean up events within the JBMP as part of its initial environmental actions. These events took place on Clean Up Australia Day at Big Beecroft / Mermaids inlet and the 'Outer Tubes'. On this day a coordinated event was also staged in Darwin, NT. The Jervis Bay Clean Up event served to establish the current model from which the 'Ledge Care Initiative' was borne. As such the foundations of a solid relationship have been formed with Clean Up Australia and our 'Ledge Care Initiatives' clean up events have continued in partnership with this organisation.

Given the ALBAA's tender age, an impressive track record has already been achieved with Clean Up events being staged on headlands at a frequency exceeding one per month. As the Association grows it is perceived, based on current averages that this frequency will increase to at least two events per month along the NSW coastline alone. Moving forward ALBAA would aspire to see local area action groups established to cover the entire NSW coastline and a formal partnership established with Clean Up Australia.

ALBAA members are currently engaged in a study into the sustainability of Land Based Game (LBG) Angling, which due to its target species being migratory pelagic species, will serve to highlight the low catch per unit effort and ecological sustainability of LBG Angling. This study is also both endorsed and encouraged by those within the Association.

LBG Angling, due to geographical limitations, is limited to a few very specific locations around Australia. With the support of the MPA and local management bodies ALBAA is confident that these areas can be maintained for the quiet enjoyment of anglers presently and well into the future. The Jervis Bay area is held, to those in LBG Angling circles, as the heart of the sport in Australia and the birth place of LBG Angling internationally). ALBAA was borne in response to growing pressures by management bodies in the Shoal Haven region and as such this location is at the heart of our Association. ALBAA has and will continue to demonstrate a commitment to the environment and public education in areas where its members practice.

ALBAA believes through the adoption of the 'Ledge Care Initiative' in JBMP it can assist the JBMP Authority in the implementation of the Operational Plan (MPA 2003). Specifically:

- o Section 2.0: Management for conservation of biodiversity and maintenance of ecological processes – Action 2.1.11 & 2.1.15.**
- o Section 3.0: Management for ecologically sustainable use – Action 3.1.3, 3.1.4, 3.1.5 & 3.1.9.**
- o Section 5.0: Management for non-indigenous heritage values – Action 5.1.**
- o Section 6.0: other management issues – Action 6.1.6 & 6.2.2.**
- o Section 8.0 Community education & involvement – Action 8.2.**

We would like to see the MPA demonstrate a similar care and commitment to the Operational Plan (2003) by ensuring that ALBAA is recognized as a major stakeholder in the JBMP review process and its submissions are given the utmost consideration. ALBAA requests that it is placed on the volunteer register, with the services of skilled angler being

valuable in fish collection and observation methods (APHA 1989). Working together ALBAA can see a suitable outcome for all stakeholders and environmental welfare within the JBMP.

14.2.6 Conclusion

As the Jervis Bay Marine Park (JBMP) continues to evolve it is imperative that the heritage, recreational and participation values of Land Based Game (LBG) Anglers are considered. LBG Anglers look to the Marine Park Authority to meet its responsibility to include protective zoning for areas of cultural and historical significance, and to ensure access to the coastline to provide for long term sustainable use.

Australian Land Based Anglers Association urges The Authority to acknowledge this stakeholder group to ensure that the Marine Park has the best opportunity to achieve its objectives of marine conservation whilst maintaining sustainable use. ALBAA acknowledges that sanctuary zones play an important component of the marine conservation plans for Jervis Bay, however, we request that an adequate % of the marine park be allocated to the pursuit of LLBG Angling activities in a sustainable and safe manner.

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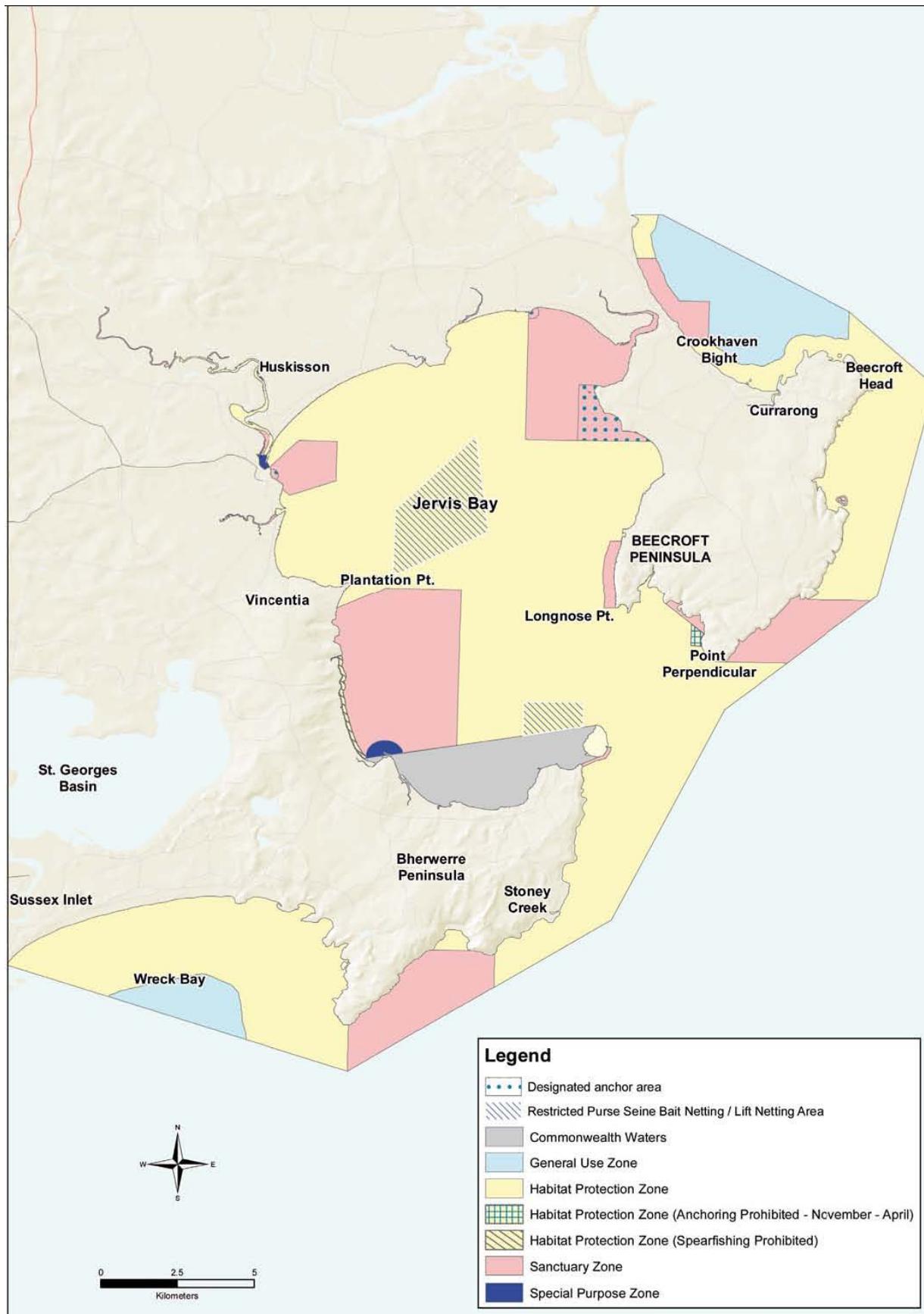
**Register of Critical Habitat - required under the Fisheries Management Act, found
at: http://www.fisheries.nsw.gov.au/threatened_species/general/register_of_critical_habitat**

Thank you for your time and effort in completing this survey. Your responses will assist us in reviewing the zoning plan for Jervis Bay Marine Park.

16. Appendices

Appendix B: Jervis Bay Marine Park Zoning Plan Review Map: Submission Form

Jervis Bay Marine Park zoning plan review: submission form



Appendix B: ALBAA Objectives & Code of Conduct

ALBAA OBJECTIVES

- o **To work together with relevant Government agencies so that access to Land Based Game fishing locations can be maintained for the quiet enjoyment of fishers throughout Australia**
- o **To foster and demonstrate an environmental conscience throughout Australia by adhering to a self-imposed code of conduct as well as the laws and regulations in each Australian state.**
- o **To facilitate the accreditation of Land Based Anglers Australia wide.**
- o **To mentor the young and less experienced to adopt the policies set down by the association for responsible, safe and ecologically sustainable fishing.**
- o **To recognise and respect the management authorities and traditional owners of the land, oceans and living resources in which fishers interact.**
- o **To provide ongoing support to environmental actions taken on a volunteer basis within the club.**
- o **To remain an impartial recreational fishery stakeholder group and agree to present fair, just and representative opinions of club members in order to achieve the above objectives. Our priorities are to be of service to all stakeholders in which we share common resources.**
- o **To promote safe and sustainable land based fishing within all state and commonwealth controlled lands.**

Note: Where 'stakeholders' are defined as 'denoting a type of organisation or system in which all the members or participants are seen as having an interest in its success'.

ALBAA CODE OF CONDUCT

- o **LITTER IS UNACCEPTABLE.** Zero litter is achievable with care and planning. ZERO litter is the only acceptable planned outcome. This is a serious issue for the environment, recreational fishing and a serious issue for the club. Club members are required to have a zero litter exit strategy for all outings.
- o **THE ENVIRONMENT** Club members should be aware of re-vegetation or land-care works areas and act in care and support accordingly. Club members should demonstrate care for all native flora and fauna, and areas of cultural heritage whilst accessing fishing locations. On extended trips Club members should take ablutions into consideration and equip themselves appropriately.
- o **OUR FISHERY.** Club members should adopt 'sustainable fishing practices'. Take only what you need. Club members should release unwanted fish with due care. Club members should be aware of fisheries and Marine Park restrictions/and National Parks regulations in their area/s of practice and act accordingly.

- o **CLUB FORUMS** Club members should feel free at all times to contribute by sharing or publishing in our forums any information or links relevant to the betterment or achievement of our goals and objectives. Any document that could be perceived as published by the club should be reviewed and approved by no less than three committee members.
- o **SAFETY.** Club members should familiarise themselves with the published 'safe fishing guidelines' and take absolute care and personal responsibility when safety is concerned. Those club members mentoring new fishers should encourage the use of, and contribution to the club resources and instil the highest ideals to which we inspire in our goals and fishing practices, assuring environmental stewardship and safety are given the highest priority.