

My submission concerns and relates to the legislation in place for Fisheries Management Policy Series F.M.P. No. 5 Exploration of Fish Resources.

A.F.M.A. administration of any exploratory fishing proposal is flawed and does not fulfil the precautionary principle, stated as the objective of the Fisheries Management Act OR the precautionary approach as defined on page 54 of the Commonwealth Fisheries Strategy Policy.

The letters to A.F.M.A. dated 19 October 2012 were written before I was aware that a review of Commonwealth Fisheries Management legislation was taking place. The letters explain the difficulties that confront a fisherman who wants to develop an untouched virgin marine biomass.

Interim assessment and public notification are also part of the flawed process. In this case there is no documented biomass of a marine species.

Public notification before a marine biomass has been established will make fishery management extremely difficult. It definitely does not embrace the precautionary principle – the stated objective of Fisheries Management Act.

A.F.M.A. is in the box seat it is in control. To call for fishermen to fish a resource or a marine biomass that has not been established is ludicrous. Definitely not a precautionary principle or a precautionary approach.

With regard to cost recovery - my project will be a considerable investment in money and time will provide the Department valuable research information and stock assessment.

Fishermen should not be charged to develop Australia's marine resources. The review should investigate in great detail my proposal. I don't think A.F.M.A. has a policy on research and stock assessment.

The Fisheries Management Policy Series F.M.P. No. 5 Exploration of Fish Resources Legislation is flawed. The harvest strategy policy that is necessary to complete an F.M.P. No. 5 requires evidence based precautionary approach to achieve long term sustainability and profitability drawing on available information.

There is no documented biomass the marine species to be targeted. A.F.M.A. needs fishermen to go fishing to be able to provide a stock assessment necessary for a factual harvest strategy.

Legislation has to make sense. Legislation should allow the precautionary principle to become a reality – not just words on pieces of paper.

Australian citizens are demanding more from Australian Public Servants and Politicians. I applaud the Australian Government for requesting a review of the Fisheries Management Act. I don't know the background of Mr David Borthwick. I think most fishermen hope he is successful in his attempt to review legislation.

The legislation for the exploration of fish resources FMP No. 5 July 2005 should definitely be examined to ensure the legislation is not flawed.

Efficient management and sustainable use of commercial fishing in Commonwealth waters is every fisherman's dream. Mr David Borthwick has an opportunity to make that dream a reality.