

## **Media Release - 23<sup>rd</sup> May 2012**

### **Public being 'mislead' by new DENR Propaganda**

#### **DENR Dupes Public...Again**

The commercial fishing industry has reacted angrily to a recent mail blitz by the Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR).

The claim that "agreement has been reached between the conservation, recreational and commercial fishing sectors on zoning for SA's marine parks" was contained on an emotive postcard distributed over the past few days by DENR to a large number of individuals and organisations in both metropolitan and rural South Australia.

Chairman of the Marine Parks Management Alliance, Dr Gary Morgan said that the claim is not only totally untrue but mischievous and has again demonstrated that DENR is an unaccountable Department completely out of control.

"There is no agreement on zoning for SA's marine parks," Dr Morgan emphasised.

"The commercial fishing industry and other stakeholders have been working in good faith over the past few months with Minister Caica and the Premier to try and achieve a fair and lasting settlement to the long running issue of marine parks in this State.

"This has included discussions on some of the principles of marine park zoning," added Dr Morgan.

"However this type of propaganda, of which the Minister's office was apparently unaware, runs the real risk of destroying any faith fishermen have in that collaborative process.

"This is just one of many previous examples of DENR mischievousness - they are an unaccountable Department, running its own agendas and using public money to do so," said Dr Morgan.

"Every South Australian should be concerned."

The \$270 million fishing industry in South Australia is the second largest in the Country and its sustainable management provides long term support through the generation of vital economic and social benefits within many regional communities around the State.

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