



Marine Life Society of South Australia Inc.

c/o Conservation Council of SA,
Level 1, 157 Franklin Street,
Adelaide, SA 5000, Australia
www.mlssa.asn.au

marinelifesa@adam.com.au

"Understanding, enjoying & caring for our oceans"

10/10/08

Hon Rory McEwen MP
Minister for Agriculture, Food & Fisheries
GPO Box 2832
Adelaide SA 5001

Dear Minister,

It was with great disquiet that I recently received the following copy of an advertisement for a Fishing Charter Company.

Why Not Fishing Charters

Operating out of Port Lincoln, WHY NOT Fishing Charters provides access to arguably the best game fishing in South Australia. Giant Yellowtail Kingfish, huge Samson's and reel screaming Southern Bluefin Tuna make for memorable fishing action. The fish rich waters and spectacular scenery of Southern Eyre Peninsula and the West Coast also allow anglers to target a selection of Blue Groper, Snapper, Nannygai, Blue Morwong (Queen Snapper) and of course SA's famous King George Whiting.

Our vessel, 'CRUSADER III', a 65' Conquest is fitted out with quality fishing gear, backed up with local knowledge and all amenities needed to enjoy a comfortable and safe charter. So whether it is a full day fishing on local reefs and Islands, or an extended Long Range Live Aboard Charter, WHY NOT Fishing Charters can deliver!

Phone Dave on 0427 020 060
www.whynotfishingcharters.com.au

It states that the "fish rich watersof Southern Eyre Peninsula and the West Coast also allow anglers to TARGET a selection of BLUE GROPER, snapper, Nannygai, Blue morwong (Queen snapper) and of course S.A.'s famous King George whiting."

MLSSA is a Member of
The Conservation Council of South
Australia
120 Wakefield Street, ADELAIDE
5000
Ph (08) 8223 5155 FAX (08) 8232
4782
e-mail general@ccsa.asn.au



Patron – Dr Scoresby Shepherd AO
Senior Research fellow, SARDI
Honorary Associate, South
Australian Museum

MLSSA supports the ReefWATCH
initiative.



PIRSA has stated that groper are caught incidentally during reef fishing expeditions, because they take the bait, but that they are not sought by charter companies. If there is no targeting, why do charter boat companies apparently state that it is a target species, and why are groper so commonly featured in charter boat adverts/materials as a key species that is for capture on those trips?

The fact is charter boat companies know where to find groper because they are strongly site-associated resident species on reef lumps and the charter companies know where all of those reefs are. The only way to stop targeting these reefs that are important for groper is to make them into no-fishing zones.

We have previously written to you on 30/9/07 asking that the Blue Groper and Harlequin Fish be fully protected in all South Australian waters and we also continue to stress the importance of declaring sanctuary zones at offshore reefs. Sanctuary zones which protect site-associated reef fishes such as groper should be a key component of some of the 19 marine protected areas being developed in South Australia. DEH is aware of many of the key locations where large resident gopers occur and this knowledge should continue to be incorporated into the MPA planning process. Calls for site-level protection of blue groper have been made in South Australia for more than 30 years now, and the slow pace of declaration is further threatening populations, particularly given the increased accessibility of offshore reefs for sport fishing, during the past decade.

Two years ago the Scale Fish Management Committee recommended full protection. The Governments excuse for delay then was that a review of recreational fishing was pending, and a decision should be delayed until that was completed.

We now ask you to speed up this process.

We also request that Charter Fishing companies be banned from advertising Blue Groper and the Harlequin Fish as target species.

Yours sincerely

Philip Hall (President MLSSA)

cc

The Premier, The Hon Mike Rann MP

Minister for the Environment, Hon. Jay Weatherill MP

Opposition Minister for Fisheries, Mr Adrian Federick MP

Opposition Minister for the Environment, Mr Mitch Williams MP