Coastal and Marine Management Strategy Public Submissions

Please provide any comments you may have on the Marine Coastal Strategy
Clarify respect for Aboriginal use of land for fishing and hunting. Legislate to protect coast from future development e.g. marine harbours etc.

1. What do you value most about our coasts and seas?
Pristine. Clean. Pollution free. Integrity of mangrove ecosystem

2. Are there any other environmental, social, cultural and economic values and benefits do we need to consider when developing the Strategy?
Cultural values and value of enjoyment and value marine biological diversity and health of seabed. Any environmental problems from INPEX use of land and sea?

3. What are the major opportunities to protect and sustainably develop our coast and seas?
Labour government with solid majority can legislate to protect foreshore and marine littoral zone including protect fish stocks and protect biodiversity Increase scientific research to identify flora and fauna Invest in aquaculture projects. Use Aboriginal knowledge of seas and land to educate and teach others importance of conservation if the environment.

4. Do these challenges reflect the key issues in our coasts and seas?
No. Protect from future development which destroys aesthetic value of Coast and integrity of biodiversity and enjoyment of leisure use of Darwin foreshore from east point to shoal Bay, including Nightcliff.

5. Is the goal appropriate and reflective of the NT needs?
Yes

6. Are the guiding principles relevant and appropriate? Is their purpose clear?

7. Are these objectives appropriate and reflective of the key issues?

8. Do these outcomes reflect what you would expect to see in the Strategy?

9. Are there additional outcomes you think should be included in the Strategy?
Develop management practice amongst Aboriginal people.

10. What kind of partnership arrangements do you think could support the implementation of the Coastal and Marine Management Strategy?
Partnership with CDU, ANU, and industry to see that conservation of marine and coastal areas is vital to healthy tourism industry.

11. What is the best way for the community and industry to be involved in management and decision making of our coasts and seas?
Consultation Meetings held in different placed

Any other comments?

Details
Please select one: Individual
Name: Vida Goodvach
Publish - Agree to publish name

Please provide any comments you may have on the Marine Coastal Strategy
The strategy needs to incorporate sustainable marine tourism and fisheries to boost the economy, while maintaining the natural beauty and diversity that the northern territory has to offer. This includes increasing scientific research as many species are yet to be discovered and/or protected in the region and not enough is known about what are the current threats to them.

1. What do you value most about our coasts and seas?
I value all that the coast and seas have to offer, including clean healthy beaches to walk on and enjoy, recreational fishing, and maintaining healthy intact ecosystems including mangroves. Territorians pride themselves on living in one of the most pristine, beautiful, and relatively unexploited and undeveloped regions in Australia. The mangrove dieback is a major issue that needs to be addressed through research, including understanding and protecting the marine species that live in our oceans. That includes all the fish, dolphins, sharks, whales, dugongs, coral reefs among others.

2. Are there any other environmental, social, cultural and economic values and benefits do we need to consider when developing the Strategy?
Yes fisheries and marine tourism are a vital part of the northern territory economy and needs to be maintained for future generations to enjoy.

3. What are the major opportunities to protect and sustainably develop our coast and seas?
I believe sustainable recreational and commercial fisheries are vital to the Northern Territory, which is dependent on increasing marine and coastal scientific research, through the development of a marine research hub based in Darwin. There are also opportunities to increase sustainable recreational fisheries through the development of aquaculture and artificial reefs. Artificial reef research is increasing in Australia, particularly in eastern Australia and this should also occur in Darwin in order to support the increasing population, recreational fishers and tourism in the region.

4. Do these challenges reflect the key issues in our coasts and seas?
Yes somewhat but the above mentioned points need to be considered.

5. Is the goal appropriate and reflective of the NT needs?
Yes but needs more in depth discussion of the above points.

6. Are the guiding principles relevant and appropriate? Is their purpose clear?
They are not clear enough, they need more detailed discussion and explanation of how the strategy intends to achieve them for the benefit of all living in the Northern Territory as well as for conservation and sustainable fisheries and tourism, in particular it needs to outline the need for marine and coastal research in the Northern Territory.

7. Are these objectives appropriate and reflective of the key issues?As above

8. Do these outcomes reflect what you would expect to see in the Strategy?
As above

9. Are there additional outcomes you think should be included in the Strategy?
As above, in particular it needs to address the serious lack of knowledge and conservation of the NT's coastal and marine environments through research.

10. What kind of partnership arrangements do you think could support the implementation of the Coastal and Marine Management Strategy?
It needs to include partnership with all leading bodies including research institutions at CDU and AIMS.

11. What is the best way for the community and industry to be involved in management and decision making of our coasts and seas?
Through research and collaboration like the implementation of artificial reefs with fisheries. A coastal and marine research hub critically needs to be developed. This research than can lead to increase in knowledge and conservation, including the discovery of unidentified species and publication of outputs for the public and scientific community.

Any other comments?

Details
Please select one: Individual
Name:
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Structure/Process

- I find the usage of 'Objectives' and 'Outcomes' in the paper to be counter intuitive. I believe that the end point of a strategy should be the outcomes, rather than the objectives. That is, that the outcomes are what the strategy is ultimately about and then the objectives and actions sit below that.
- I think there is some confusion about whether this is a strategy or a discussion paper or a draft which is working towards the development of the final strategy? This is not entirely clear and should be more explicit.
- I presume that the process has been developed in this way in order to at least clarify and achieve consensus on broad outcomes and objectives? Either that or there was pressure to be developing something and not the time to develop this level of detail. Without the level of detail provided by an implementation or action plan (and associated time frames, responsibilities, budgets and review mechanisms), the discussion paper could be seen as providing a range of general statements or intentions which would be hard to disagree with.

Discussion Point 3

- I completely agree with the opportunities identified in section 4, but don't see the detail that might suggest how these opportunities may be seized.
- I am particularly interested in dot point 4 of section 4 regarding integrated management frameworks which is the only place where multiple use is mentioned. I believe that the identification and resolution of multiple use issues is what strategies should be about. I think we can relatively easily agree on guiding principles and special things etc but how do we resolve the points of conflict between these activities? This is the key issue that will drive whether this strategy can be successfully implemented.

Discussion Point 4

- I don't think that 'Implementing adaptive management' and 'Inadequate or incompatible coastal planning and development' fits under the cog of 'Not enough information to understand, anticipate and plan'. As per my point above, it is the political and bureaucratic context that will define whether the goals and objectives of this plan go anywhere near being met. Not having enough information is no reason not to plan; quite the opposite. It is because we don't have enough information that we should be planning to protect in advance, or at least, in tandem with, getting more information.
- The greatest challenge to safeguarding our coasts and seas will be achieving a well-resourced, bi-partisan, long term approach to coastal and marine management which is not guaranteed by having a general strategy in place.

General

- There needs to be a much more detailed level of coastal and marine management planning (tied to regulatory and enforcement measures) in order to achieve the broader goals identified in this discussion paper. Such planning should (among many other things) identify coastal and marine

land/sea scape types and appropriate management actions in much the same way that natural resource management and regional planning is applied in a terrestrial context. Until this type of detail or this type of discussion is encompassed within a strategy, then I don't believe anything long lasting or tangible will be achieved.

Details
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Please provide any comments you may have on the Marine Coastal Strategy
Effective management of the NTs marine and coastal environments is a complicated endeavour, and the NTG is commended for tackling this major policy issue. The Strategy is looking good, and has many positive elements – well done. A collaborative approach to management is appropriate, and it will be exciting to see how the Implementation Plan frames the roles and actions of all parties.

1. What do you value most about our coasts and seas?
Fishing, scuba diving, free diving, coastal camping, spending time on sea country with TOs and being entrusted with snippets of their rich ecological and cultural knowledge, and spending time in and learning about coastal ecosystems.

Overall, the cultural and ecological values of the NT's coasts and seas are exceptional, but poorly documented. Work daily with TOs to protect these values, one of the biggest hurdles we face is a shortage of baseline ecological and biodiversity data – the wider NT/Australian communities simply do not understand the ecological importance of the NT's sea country and we don't have access to the data we need to explain this to them. Similarly, the coasts' cultural values are poorly recognised in their fullness. The idea of marine environments having a cultural value is widely accepted, but the actual local values of an area are rarely fully understood or accounted for when it comes to project assessment processes. Thus, they face many risks.

2. Are there any other environmental, social, cultural and economic values and benefits do we need to consider when developing the Strategy?
In addition to those values noted in section 3, Indigenous communities and Traditional Owners value marine resources/coastal areas for recreational purposes, and for their current/potential uses within commercial enterprise developments.

The environmental values of the coast are not well articulated in s3. The diversity of benthic communities, marine megafauna, fish, and shore/sea/waterbirds are not mentioned. There are many listed species (EPBC and NTPWC), ecological processes, and sites of conservation significance which need to be considered in any management strategy.

3. What are the major opportunities to protect and sustainably develop our coast and seas?
Pressures on the NT's marine environment are relatively small, but are growing. There is an opportunity to improve management and policy frameworks before these pressures grow further. Not grasping this opportunity now, represents a major risk. The Strategy is a major step in the right direction. It needs to be followed up with action, including: improvements to the approvals processes for projects which impact on coastal areas and remote coastal communities; and funding for critical agencies such as DENR and Indigenous marine ranger groups.

Indigenous led marine planning is well developed along significant sections of the NT coast. Sea country IPAs and sea country plans of management:
- o Identify local environmental and cultural assets
- o Identify threatening processes

- o Identify strategic approaches to managing assets in the context of threats
- o Are underpinned by the extensive ecological knowledge of local communities, and the practical capacity of local ranger groups; and
- o Actively encourage and have commenced developing collaborative approaches to marine and coastal management, through partnerships between all relevant stakeholder groups.

IPAs and their Plans of Management represent significant investments of time and resources by Indigenous communities, which can benefit the entire NT community and the NTG. There is a significant opportunity for government to benefit from the planning and implementation work already done. These plans and local ranger capacity provide a cost effective way for the NTG to participate in and promote marine protection strategies. There is an opportunity for the broader NT community to benefit from the enhanced ecological, cultural and economic outcomes being achieved through IPA management.

To enhance the opportunities offered by the work done in developing IPAs, the NTG could:
- o Develop policies which give legal effect to IPA management strategies and/or management plans;
- o Include rangers and TOs in decision making frameworks, and ensure that any government-developed frameworks build on rather than undermine existing IPA plans and governance processes;
- o Support regional marine planning between ranger groups/across IPAs, and forums through which local communities/ranger groups can share expertise and experiences;
- o Continue and extend the investments already made (and the commendable successes achieved by) NTG departments into building partnerships and working with Indigenous ranger groups (research, monitoring, compliance).

4. Do these challenges reflect the key issues in our coasts and seas?

The broad challenges identified in the DP are an excellent summary of the key issues. One 'cog' which is missing from p8 is that of 'Policy'. The 'boxes' feeding into this cog could be labelled:
- 'Approval process deficiencies': many Territorians feel that industry needs are given more weight than community and/or conservation needs when it comes to assessing environmental trade-offs associated with large project developments.
- 'Need for equitable allocation of resources':
  - o Indigenous communities feel that they are not allocated an equitable share of marine resources for use in commercial contexts.
  - o Environmental groups feel that not enough resources are allocated for long term conservation.
  - o There is also a widespread view that decision making is not based on good scientific data. Although Indigenous and recreational fishing sectors have different complaints about how fisheries and other marine resources are allocated, both consider the underlying data base upon which decisions are made to be problematic. This has led to groups believing that fisheries and other allocations are based on politics rather than principles of equity and sustainability. Remote Indigenous communities feel that natural and cultural values of their regions are not adequately captured in and considered by environmental impact assessment processes.
- 'Need for a MPA-IPA policy' [Marine Protected Area/Indigenous Protected Area]: clarity is needed for all user groups regarding how the NTG plans to fulfil national marine conservation targets. The outstanding work done by Indigenous ranger groups should be recognised, through more formal policy and funding support for IPAs.
- 'Resolution of intertidal management and access arrangements': is another key policy 'box' that will impact on and interact with the other issues noted on p8.

The 'Policy' cog could be depicted as connecting to the 'Not enough information', 'Poor community engagement' and 'Impact of commercial activities' cogs.

5. Is the goal appropriate and reflective of the NT needs?

It is great to see reference to cultural significance foregrounded in the Goal. It would be reassuring to see reference to ecological intactness (or similar) in there as well.

6. Are the management principles relevant and appropriate? Is their purpose clear?

It is fantastic to see Indigenous ownership, obligations and cultural values front and centre as a Guiding Principle. It is also great to see Traditional knowledge recognised (although the term 'Indigenous knowledge' may be more appropriate as knowledge is contemporary as well as 'traditional'). The onus on empowered communities, sustainable development, evidence-based decision making, etc is excellent.

Again, more explicit reference to the role of ecological functioning/integrity is strangely absent given this is a marine management strategy:
- I.e. "a) Our unique lifestyle and wellbeing rely on our natural environment and its' ecological integrity"?

Indigenous economic values could be better recognised, and/or reference made to remote communities / issues of equity:
- I.e. "b) Aboriginal ownership, obligations, cultural values and socio-economic aspirations must be recognised, sustained and supported"?
- I.e. "c) Equitable and Ecologically Sustainable Development is fundamental to our economy and society"?

7. Are these objectives appropriate and reflective of the key issues?

Yes. And once again, Indigenous cultural values are indeed a critical component so it is great to see these appropriately recognised. You could consider amending the third Objective to "Foster sustainable and equitable industries", given that equity as well as sustainability is central to good resource management.

8. Do these outcomes reflect what you would expect to see in the Strategy?

Yes, there are some real gems in s8. Many of the issues raised above are dealt with here, although should still be mentioned in other sections. You could add TOs into "Researchers, academics, policy officers and managers work together to inform and improve NT policy and management of coastal waters and seas". TOs and Rangers are overlapping categories, but not all TOs are rangers but nonetheless have rights and interests which make them critical participants in the sound management of coastal environments.

9. Are there additional outcomes you think should be included in the Strategy?

Perhaps add "Policy frameworks are strong and effective in ensuring the equitable and sustainable use of our coastal and marine resources" as a long term outcome, under "Foster sustainable industry".

10. What kind of partnership arrangements do you think could support the implementation of the Coastal and Marine Management Strategy?
1. There is clearly a good working relationship between DENR staff and Indigenous ranger groups. Both sides of this partnership deserve additional funding and policy support to enhance the outcomes being achieved – particularly in the areas of research and monitoring.
2. Policy development to support IPAs to act more formally as marine protected areas, including support for Sea Country IPA collaborative management arrangements (which are Indigenous-led governance mechanisms to bring all marine stakeholders together), should be a key instrument for encouraging parties to work together to develop cross-sector strategies to support sustainable development goals.
3. Supporting sea country ranger forums, or some kind of ranger network, would empower rangers to achieve enhanced flows of information and management outcomes/effectiveness.

11. What is the best way for the community and industry to be involved in management and decision making of our coasts and seas?

A forum of sea country ranger groups would be a good way to bring Indigenous representatives from across the coast together, to provide initial input into the best ways for remote communities, TOs and sea country managers to participate in decision making.

Although they are the population across the majority of the NT's coast, Indigenous communities are currently not formally included in any decision making structures relevant to sea country. Fisheries management is a key area of concern, but supporting rangers to lead a coordinated approach to conservation planning would also be another positive and sensible development. Pathways for TOs and remote communities to be informed of, and comment on, regional development/project proposals would also increase the effectiveness of decision making in regards to social and environmental impact. Remote groups could be approached to gauge their views on how this might best be achieved.

Details
Please select one: Individual
Name: Jackie Gould
Publish: Agree to publish name

I would like to provide feedback on the coastal and marine management discussion paper.

The document is very broad and states its goals and objectives clearly.

I largely agree with the documents intentions and would like sustainability of fish stocks to be clearly enunciated.

As a recreational fisher I do see increasing restrictions being applied to this activity almost daily whether by catch limits, fishing gear or closures due to blue mud bay decisions.

However with proper feedback / education based on scientific research, catch limits etc. are supported by the majority of thinking Territorians.

Access restrictions however are of growing concern due to the ill will being generated and the concentration of recreational activity in reduced areas. The localised depletion of fish stocks around Darwin is well documented and is of growing concern.

The Government is undertaking a bold 5 year program of infrastructure spending and other initiatives to combat some of these issues and is to be applauded given the tough times.

However it requires a willingness by all parties to share resources and to promote development and growth for the benefit of all Territorians not just a few.

Therefore from a recreational fishers perspective continuous consultation and feedback through our representative body AFANT will be vital throughout any change process. Re-educating people based on the scientific merit will also be a crucial element.

Details
Please select one: Individual
Name:
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Please provide any comments you may have on the Marine Coastal Strategy
Safeguards - the current review of planning reform and environmental assessments will need to underpin marine and coastal planning, including issues like dredging where we currently lack a holistic strategy. Working together - a single integrated platform for information, education, resources for our coast would facilitate this aspiration. Improve our knowledge - Finding efficiencies in existing, and discovering new innovative ways to understand and manage our coastal and marine systems will require a focus of collegial activity. For example co-investment in a costal and marine hub.

1. What do you value most about our coasts and seas?
Biodiversity, mangroves, physical attributes.

2. Are there any other environmental, social, cultural and economic values and benefits do we need to consider when developing the Strategy?
Implications of ownership need to be understood and issues arising need to be embraced to find common ground and find solutions or resolution. Multiple voices need to be heard. Marine parks receive little attention in this document.

3. What are the major opportunities to protect and sustainably develop our coast and seas?
We have an opportunity to work across jurisdictions, sharing data and information to realise the statements about an integrated management framework. Really understanding what this means and how we achieve this will require authentic collaboration between government, research providers and industry.

4. Do these challenges reflect the key issues in our coasts and seas?
They do but we need a comprehensive offsets policy to ensure industry contributing to these challenges will help resource coastal and marine management and monitoring.

5. Is the goal appropriate and reflective of the NT needs?
Yes

6. Are the guiding principles relevant and appropriate? Is their purpose clear?
Yes

7. Are these objectives appropriate and reflective of the key issues?
Yes

8. Do these outcomes reflect what you would expect to see in the Strategy?
Yes - as per below some areas are of greater interest - e.g. Working together and Improving our Knowledge. Strategic actions to achieve these outcomes will be needed.

9. Are there additional outcomes you think should be included in the Strategy?
Improve our Knowledge - this could be explored further in an Implementation phase to provide options for collaboration, cooperative funding to generate baselines, and understand our coastal and marine systems. There are potentially parlous conditions associate with increasing severe weather and possibly cyclical processes such as mangrove dieback and coral bleaching - we know so little about such events and would struggle to know which environmental variables usefully predict such events. eg we don't know why mud crab declined and is now on the rise again - many example like this exist.

10. What kind of partnership arrangements do you think could support the implementation of the Coastal and Marine Management Strategy?
A group similar to the Planning group could morph into an Implementation group. There may be a case for intersection with other similar Advisory groups e.g. the Darwin Harbour Advisory Committee (DHAC). A clear measurable set of terms of reference would need to be defined to provide targets with timelines.

11. What is the best way for the community and industry to be involved in management and decision making of our coasts and seas?
Decision makers need to continue to provide opportunities for feedback and action - and the community and industry have an obligation to participate. As part of Government business every reasonable effort should be made to invite and embrace community and industry participation - e.g. as per this feedback process and the fact that the original planning group had ample opportunity to provide input. Workshops using such committees are an excellent tool if resources permit.

Any other comments?
The DHAC provides advice to the NTG through the Minister for Environment and Natural Resources (the Minister) on the effective management of Darwin Harbour and its catchment to ensure a balance between; sustainable development, a working harbour important to a range of cultural, recreational and economic values, and the protection and maintenance of healthy environments and ecosystems in the

harbour and its catchment, now and into the future. The objectives of the Coastal and Marine Management Strategy are in keeping with DHAC's TOR and this provides an opportunity for synergies.

Details
Please select one: Community Organisation
Name: Karen Gibb representing the Darwin Harbour Advisory Committee
Publish - Please choose: Agree to publish name

What do I value about most about our coasts and seas?
The absolutely most important thing to me about the NT is its unspoilt wilderness and the biodiversity of its flora and fauna. To my partner it is enjoying this while fishing. It is paramount to both of us that any Strategy places the preservation of its biodiversity first in its hierarchy of priorities, beyond even that of the economy. And, secondly, to make sure that the fishing spots remain pristine and stocked with fish.

Are there any other environmental, social, cultural and economic values and benefits do we need to consider when developing Strategy?
What you have written looks pretty good.

What are the major opportunities to protect and sustainably develop our coast and seas?
I feel this question needs to be broken into two parts:
  a) what are the opportunities to protect our coast and seas? and
  b) what are the major opportunities to sustainably develop our coast and seas?

The premise that I would like to see underpin these questions and the whole Strategy is the premise that **the life of the flora and fauna and the environment in which they live i.e. the ecosystem, is as important humans and our needs.** Plants and animals and their needs are not be placed lower on the relative hierarchy.

Regarding a) key sites i would like to see protected are: all ecosystems with endangered species, migratory routes, breeding and nesting grounds and areas with high concentration of feeding/habitat sites for any species.

Regarding question b) i am open to develop but not at the expense of those sites listed above. The Wildlife Trust UK in its document *Homes for people and wildlife* put forward a guiding principle that all developments *should result in measurable improvements for wild species and habitats.* I would like to see a similar principle adopted when assessing future developments that impact on our marine and coastal areas.

Do these challenges reflect the key issue in our coasts and seas?
Yes

Is the goal appropriate and reflective of the NT needs?
Not completely. Line 2 needs to be expanded to recognise the value of the flora/fauna and ecosystem. I suggest something like:

Our Coasts and Seas are healthy and productive

Their cultural significance and ecological value is upheld while they continue to support our lifestyle, livelihoods and sustainable industries.

Are the management principles relevant and appropriate? Is their purpose clear?

These need work. The uniqueness of the marine and coastal environments and their importance to the species that life in them that was outlined in the first page is not carried through into these principles.

In particular,

1. Management principle a) and c) are unenforceable, plus a) f) i) and k) are significantly weaker than the other principles.

I would like to see the wording changed to *must* in <u>all</u> of these to make them equally important. plus increased emphasis on the importance and protection of flora and fauna. Example wording is

a) Our natural environment is critical to its flora and fauna must be protected. It is integral our unique lifestyle and well-being.

c) Ecoological Sustainable Development must be applied to our growing economy and society.

f) Industries benefiting from coastal and marine resources must reinvest in positive social/environmental outcomes.

i) A partnership approach to management that identifies common goals and operates in good faith for the Territory must be adopted

k) Intergenerational equity is important for the future and must be considered in all decision making.

Are these objectives appropriate and reflective of the key issues?
No. These objectives are not measurable and therefore of little use in decision making. They do not link well with the guiding principles. A relative hierachy of importance when balancing conflicting needs has not been established.

Were these objectives were from a previous strategy? It feels like they have been slotted in and the Strategy has been written around them.

I would suggest re-writing the objectives from the ground up to be more in line with the guiding principles. One example would be to include the term Ecological Sustainable Development into the objective Foster Sustainable Industry.

Do these outcomes reflect what you would expect to see in the Strategy?
These are better. Still need some work to make them measurable.

Details
Please select one: Individual
Name:
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Please provide any comments you may have on the Marine Coastal Strategy
I welcome this important step towards improved management of NT coastal and marine values. I endorse the consultative approach. It is essential to have diverse stakeholders on board. I welcome extensive consideration of the impact of land based activities on marine and coastal values. For Darwin Harbour, this should extend to a total catchment management approach.

1. What do you value most about our coasts and seas?
I particularly value the irreplaceable habitat of our marine and coast environments for the maintenance of healthy populations of most regional sea-life. I highly value our coastal communities, particularly

mangroves, and rarer ecotypes like coastal vine thickets. I am glad that our marine environments are in better shape than others in our region and hope we can learn to recognise this as a rare value, which we can then learn to conserve.

2. Are there any other environmental, social, cultural and economic values and benefits do we need to consider when developing the Strategy?
Our coastal environments provide essential habitat for not only local shorebird species but also for annual visits of migratory bird species. We should recognise the value of coastal environments in protecting the inland built and natural environments from the impacts of extreme weather events.

3. What are the major opportunities to protect and sustainably develop our coast and seas?
We still have the opportunity to identify priority areas and ecotypes for high-level conservation protection that excludes activities that might impact on fish breeding and nursery zones, and areas that can provide a safety net in the event of failure of other management efforts.

4. Do these challenges reflect the key issues in our coasts and seas?
I am confused by the 'impact of commercial activities' re; 'resource extraction' I read this as mining, but then there is no accounting for the impact of over-harvesting by the commercial fishing industry and I see no category that covers the risks of pollution (nutrient and waste) from aquaculture. This industry already has a bad name due to the impact of abandoned small projects around Darwin Harbour. If this industry is to grow, it must accept some responsibility for contributing to rehabilitation of those historical abandoned sites. These should each be specified separately.

5. Is the goal appropriate and reflective of the NT needs?
I find the word 'productive' to be very troubling. It has very different meanings to different stakeholders. I'd prefer that any interpretation of productivity was not a goal in itself, but a welcome by product of health.

6. Are the guiding principles relevant and appropriate? Is their purpose clear?
I am very happy with how this is all expressed.

7. Are these objectives appropriate and reflective of the key issues?
I'm very pleased with the objectives. This is a great position to be developing the strategy from.

8. Do these outcomes reflect what you would expect to see in the Strategy?
I'm similarly satisfied with the identified outcomes.

9. Are there additional outcomes you think should be included in the Strategy?
I would like to have a specific outcome for full active conservation protection of mangroves, coral, coastal rainforest and monsoon vine thicket. Perhaps this is too specific at this stage. But a more general form might fit, such as active conservation management of rare and high-value marine and coastal eco-types

10. What kind of partnership arrangements do you think could support the implementation of the Coastal and Marine Management Strategy?
The welcome draft suggests that the partnership group already identified has been a useful tool for advancing the strategy. Given the amount of business done on and impact to Larrakia sea country (and with the understanding that the Larrakia Nation runs a Sea Rangers program) I am somewhat surprised to find that Larrakia have not been formally engaged at this level.

11. What is the best way for the community and industry to be involved in management and decision making of our coasts and seas?
This discussion paper is a good milestone. The public should be similarly informed along the way. I trust that new environmental management decisions will be subject to consultation via the appropriate assessment mechanisms.

Any other comments?
Please keep me informed of progress.

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1. What do you value most about our coasts and seas?
- Their vast natural state, with biodiversity, cleanliness and First Nations ancient culture still a happening thing.
- I especially value the mangroves.

2. Are there any other environmental, social, cultural and economic values and benefits do we need to consider when developing the Strategy?
Fish stocks and the evident stresses that are already occurring between First Nations people and commercial fishers, combined with the million dollar fish program which is hoped to bring in even more non-Territorian fishers.

Everywhere in the world fish stocks are in deep decline from over-fishing and although there have been a few cutbacks in take guidelines, the importance of strict management and limitations to what can be taken seems over-looked in the discussion paper. Sure it's great to hope for healthy stocks, and equity of who gets access to them, but these issues seem to be avoided in the discussion paper.

3. What are the major opportunities to protect and sustainably develop our coast and seas?
- Protect our most precious values with a range of protected zones including vast no-take areas.
- Avoid developments close to the coast, and protect all mangroves and other coastal communities.
- Avoid new coastal developments like ports particularly in places that require clearing of mangroves and dredging.
- Ban new oil and gas activities as detrimental to managing climate change. Phase out present ones: climate change is dire.
- Ban strip mining and other marine resource extraction activities. Strictly limit the take from recreational and commercial fishers.
- Ban fishing methods that rip the sea-floor or have large bi-catches or bi-catches of vulnerable species.
- Strictly limit aquaculture as its pollution has been detrimental elsewhere and must be avoided.

4. Do these challenges reflect the key issues in our coasts and seas?
The number one issue is climate change, so every means must be made to limit it - ban new oil and gas activities and phase out current ones - we cannot afford full climate change and we are not yet dropping our carbon emissions. There is no more fluff time, now is the time.

There is a key issue of stolen land and although it is great to see recognition and respect being discussed for First nations peoples, current systems of management are often not like that in reality. People are suiciding and having to do great campaigns to protect their country and waters yet these should be granted as rights. There is too much humbugging and assumption the resources are free to take.

Another key issue is the falling biodiversity and often commercial activities are to blame - there are abandoned fishing nets, sonar and other explorations that are detrimental, mining activities, over-fishing and too much development of the coast.

5. Is the goal appropriate and reflective of the NT needs?
I suppose have a goal that our coasts and seas are healthy and productive is acceptable, but not perfect. Healthy by what definition? I hope that means biodiverse and that the animals aren't dying horrible deaths. Productive make me think our seas and coasts might be considered a huge money-making factory-farm but to me it is healthy biodiverse mangroves, seagrass beds with dugongs, coral reefs, happy cetaceans and turtles - productive sanctuaries with vast numbers of unknown lifeforms.

6. Are the guiding principles relevant and appropriate? Is their purpose clear?
They are pretty good, though I hope recognition includes acceptance of First nations rights and not more massive legal fights and delays to try to rip as much from them as possible as has been the norm.

e) Extent of regulation must be commensurate with the level of risk.
The immense risk of catastrophic climate change will mean that the Goal fails across all aspects and as we are still stupidly growing our carbon and not dropping it as with our moral and international obligations, it is of great importance that all carbon intensive practices be banned from occurring or quickly phased out if already happening. The level of risk is enormous so the extent of regulation should be extremely stringent. All activities should be judged on their climate impacts and avoided and properly offset if not.

7. Are these objectives appropriate and reflective of the key issues?
Attempting to safeguard our seas and coasts will mean drastic action to ban new oil and gas activities and phase out existing ones. This is appropriate given the enormous risks, yet there seems little mention of the scope of the work needed to do what is required. It will also mean ensuring vast secluded zones are in place to ensure as many species can flourish in this culture of take take take.

8. Do these outcomes reflect what you would expect to see in the Strategy?
These seem pretty good.

Details
Please select one: Individual
Name:
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