

The best by fish: An independent scientific audit of Marine Parks

On Off Track with Joel Werner

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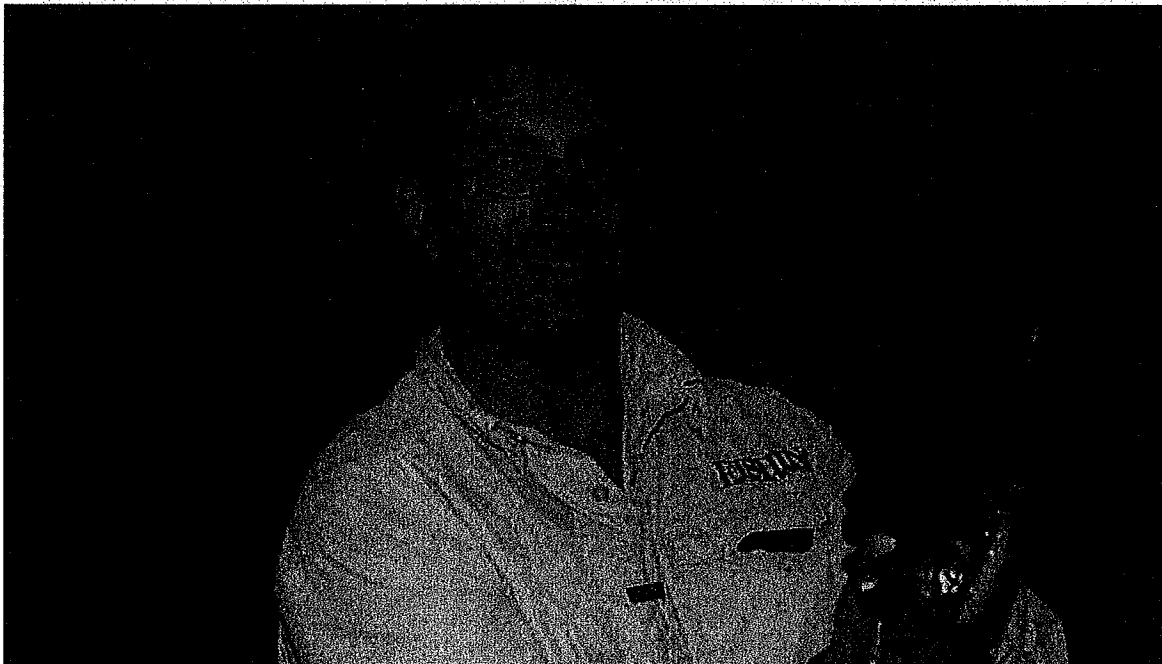
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When the O'Farrell government came to power in New South Wales, one of its first acts was to honour an election promise and commission an independent scientific audit of the state's marine parks.

The findings of that audit have been made public in a report released earlier this month.

While the government plans to continue its five year moratorium on the establishment of new marine parks, it has acknowledged the audit's findings and opened them to public comment.

But what did the audit conclude? And how is it different from the established marine park model?



[Jervis Bay, with Jim Harnwell](#)

[18 pictures](#)

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Duration: 24min 50sec

Broadcast: Sun 26 Feb 2012, 6:30am

Guests

- **Jim Harnwell**

Editor/publisher, *Fishing World* magazine

- **Associate Professor Bob Beeton**

Geography Planning and Environmental Management, University of Queensland

Credits

plusminus

- **Presenter Joel Werner**

Music

- **Armellodie**

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Further Information

[external link](#) Independent Scientific Audit of Marine Parks

[external link](#) Fishing World magazine

[external link](#) Associate Professor Bob Beeton

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This book came out of a serendipitous exchange between the National Library of Australia and my agent, Jacinta Di Mase, who assured Susan Hall at the Library that she did indeed know a historian who loved fishing. I couldn't believe my luck!

As you can probably guess from the text, I'm crazy about fishing; so to have the opportunity to combine my passion with my day job was basically a dream come true. I had a lot of fun researching and writing this book—I also had a lot of help along the way. I'd like to thank everyone at the National Library for their support, archival nous and consideration. The librarians and research assistants there have been amazing, along with the team at NLA Publishing, especially Melissa Bush, Elizabeth Faul, Susan Hall, Joanna Karmel, Joanna McLachlan and Jemma Posch, as well as John Maynard for reading the Indigenous histories.

Friends and colleagues along the way have been equally generous sharing their research and fishy tidbits. In particular, I'd like to acknowledge the help of Paul Ashton, Claire Brennan, Laila Elmoos, Caroline Ford, Jodi Frawley, Heather Goodall, Paula Hamilton, David Harris, Ian Hoskins, Tom Sear, Richard Strauss, Clare Wright and Eileen Wright. I couldn't possibly have compiled all this research without their help.

Several friends also read various drafts, for which I'm truly grateful: big shout out to Leigh Boucher, Kate Barclay and my intermittent writing group (Alecia Simmonds, Sean Kelly and Dan Stacey) for their engaged, constructive and thoughtful feedback and advice. Cassie McCullough and Stephen Fitzpatrick took me on a wonderful fishing tour of Jervis Bay with the ever-generous Jim Harnwell, who also gave his time to speak with me about this book. In particular, I'd like to thank my partner, Gab Abramowitz, and my oldest friend in the whole world, Ralph Myers, for being the best fishing companions I could ask for.

Last, but not least, I've grown up in a boisterous and extended family of fishers: thank you for your tutelage and company. This is for you.