

MEDIA RELEASE

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Labor's Marine Parks will make SA a laughing stock

The management of South Australia's fisheries is being passed by stealth from Fisheries to the Environment department says Opposition Fisheries spokesman Adrian Pederick.

Mr Pederick said the Fisheries Management Act 2007 and the Aquaculture Act 2001 gave the Fisheries department all the tools and rules it needed to manage the state's commercial and recreational fisheries.

'Yet here we have the Dept of Environment and Natural Resources making new rules – supposedly about the environment – that largely override them.

"Worse still, it's being done with little or no science – just lines on a map that amount to little more than ambit claims to be fought over.

'And that battle is being fought with the state's entire commercial fishing industry as well as some 300,000 recreational fishers, with regional communities the inevitable victims.

'Where are the Regional Impact Statements? Where is the promised Displaced Effort compensation? Where is the peer-reviewed science?

"The only 'science' in all this is the knowledge and experience of fishermen state-wide who in good faith shared their knowledge, only to have it used against them.

'Following a motion by my colleague Michael Pengilly for a moratorium on the proposed sanctuary zones I asked Minister Caica to present the science behind these zones.

"Instead of providing a substantive reply, he chose to make a personal attack on me – which is standard Labor procedure for what to do when there is no intelligent answer.

'Then we hear the minister and his cash-strapped department expect that same fishing community to police the parks and sanctuary zones. 'They trust fishermen to do people in but they don't trust them to do the right thing themselves.

'And through all of this, SA has what is widely acknowledged as among the best managed fishery in the world.

'South Australia will be a laughing stock - no species identified at risk, no marine habitats on the verge of extinction through fishing, the worst degraded areas cordoned off to save Labor votes and the ruination of dozens of coastal town economies.'