

## Main Identity

---

**From:** "Clare Henderson" <clare.henderson@webone.com.au>  
**Sent:** Sunday, 24 September 2006 12:50 PM  
**Subject:** Seamounts-bottom trawling update #8-24-September 2006

1. **Australian Government announces whole-of-Government position on high seas bottom trawling**
2. **Deep Sea Conservation Coalition welcomes Australian proposals to protect deep sea life**

### 1) Australian Government announces it's whole-of-Government position on high seas bottom trawling

On 22 September the Australian Government announced its position on high sea bottom trawling. The release is available at:

[http://www.foreignminister.gov.au/releases/2006/joint\\_biodiversity.html](http://www.foreignminister.gov.au/releases/2006/joint_biodiversity.html)

In summary Australia has indicated it will take a strong position to this years United Nations General Assembly to protect high seas biodiversity including calling for:

- an immediate ban on high seas bottom trawling in all unregulated areas
- where governance arrangements (RFMOs) are under negotiation, a ban from 1 August 2007, unless and until conservation and management measures are implemented
- within existing RFMOs, a ban from 1 January 2008, unless and until conservation and management measures are implemented

In addition Australia is calling for strong conservation criteria for lifting and enforcing the prohibitions, including applying the pre-cautionary principle so that prohibitions on high seas bottom trawling cannot be lifted unless it can be shown scientifically that it will not damage fragile marine ecosystems.

### 2) Deep Sea Conservation Coalition welcomes Australian proposals to protect deep sea life

The Deep Sea Conservation Coalition welcomed the announcement by the Australian Government.

Deep Sea Conservation Coalition Australia Coordinator, Ms Lyn Goldsworthy, said "today's announcement is very significant as Australia has been wavering on this issue for quite some time. The Government is now clearly acknowledging the destructive environmental impacts of high seas bottom trawling on vulnerable marine ecosystems, the need for immediate action and the need for long-term protection and sustainable management."

Read the full release here <http://www.savethehighseas.org/australia/>  
 For further information please contact:

Clare Henderson 0419 266 110  
 Lyn Goldsworthy 0412 300 642  
 Deep Sea Conservation Coalition - Australia/Pacific  
<http://www.savethehighseas.org/australia/>

If you do not want to receive these occasional updates please reply to [clare.henderson@webone.com.au](mailto:clare.henderson@webone.com.au) with a note in the subject line saying unsubscribe.

The Deep Sea Conservation Coalition is an alliance of over 50 international organizations, representing millions of people in countries around the world. It is calling for a moratorium on high seas bottom trawling until the nations of the world can establish strong management measures for deep-sea fisheries and protect biodiversity on the high seas. Australian Members are the Australian Conservation Foundation, The Wilderness Society and Greenpeace Australia Pacific.