

South-east Marine Parks Advisory Committee

Meeting # 8 Communique

6 December 2022

Committee Meeting Overview

The eighth meeting of the South-east Marine Parks Advisory Committee was held at the Raddison Hotel, Melbourne and via Microsoft Teams video conference on Tuesday 6 December 2022.

The Chair provided an Acknowledgment of Country, paying respect to the Traditional Owners of the land on which the meeting was held.

Key topics covered at the meeting included an overview of the development of the new South-east Network Management Plan and an update on activities undertaken in the South-east (SE) Network in the past 6 months.

Agenda items included:

- South-east science update
- OMPG 3 Seabird and marine mammal usage of Macquarie Island MP project overview
- Discovering marine invertebrates of the South-east Marine Park Network
- Offshore aquaculture and energy update

South-east Network Management Report

The SE Network Management Report was tabled which provided an overview of management activities since June 2022.

- Explore Sea Country school activities continue to be delivered. Strahan Primary School students travelled to Trail Harbour in October 2022, where they had the

Member attendance

Russell Gueho (Chair)
Neville Barrett
Jane Gallichan
Shannon Hurley
Tony Koslow
Melanie Mackenzie
Heidi Mumme
Marg O'Toole
Mark Rodrigue

Observers

Parks Victoria
Department of Natural Resources and the Environment
Tasmanian Police

opportunity to explore the beach and learn about traditional uses of shells, kelp, urchins and driftwood.

- OMPG 3 recipients Millstream Productions will produce a documentary featuring some of the research and recreational activities that have been undertaken within the SE Marine Parks Network, including technical diving on Joe's Reef within Freycinet Marine Park.
- SE Marine Parks representatives attended the Bermagui Seafood Festival in November 2022 to raise public awareness of Australian Marine Parks. Staff will also showcase South-east Marine Parks at the upcoming Apollo Seafood and Crayfish Seafood festivals, in Victoria in early 2023.

- The OMPG 2 Apollo Bay Virtual Reality experience project was launched by Deakin University at the Port Campbell Visitor Centre in August 2022.

Development of the new South-east Management Plan

The Committee were provided an update on the development of the new South-east Network Management Plan. Two consultation periods will most likely occur during the first half of 2023. The Director of National Parks will seek advice from the South-east Marine Parks Advisory Committee via workshops and other forums during the development of a draft Management Plan.

OMPG 3 - Understanding seabird and marine mammal use of Macquarie Island Marine Park project overview

The Chair welcomed Dr Julie McInnes (University of Tasmania) to provide an overview of the seabird and marine mammal use of Macquarie Island Marine Park project. Existing spatial and dietary data will be compiled and analysed to provide greater understanding of how these marine predators use the Marine Park. The project will also identify where data is lacking to inform recommendations for future research and monitoring. Opportunities to use citizen science platforms to inform species inventories in the Marine Park will also be investigated. Members of the public will be provided an opportunity to learn more about the project and its discoveries at a forum in early 2024.

Blue Economy CRC offshore energy and aquaculture research and development trials in Commonwealth waters

The Chair welcomed Dr John Whittington to provide an update on the research and development trials that the Blue Economy CRC have been developing to take place in Commonwealth waters. A 3-year research trial on fin fish, seaweed and shellfish aquaculture will be carried out in Bass Strait north of Burnie, Tasmania. Investigations into decarbonising offshore operations will be

conducted by trialling wind and energy generation.

Next Meeting

The next Committee meeting will be held in Hobart in March 2023.

For more information about the South-east Marine Parks Network or the Committee:

Visit parksaustralia.gov.au/South-east

Email marineparks@dcceew.gov.au