

South-west Marine Parks Advisory Committee Meeting #9 Communique 21 March 2023 via Videoconference

The South-west Marine Parks Advisory Committee met via Microsoft Teams videoconference on Tuesday 21 March 2023.

Observers at the meeting included representatives from the SA Department for Environment and Water (DEW) and Primary Industries and Regions SA (PIRSA). Updates were provided by members and observers.

Management Activities Overview

An update was provided on key activities carried out since December 2022. Key highlights across the seven management programs include:

Communication, education and awareness

– The South-west team attended the Ngari Capes Marine Park 10-year Anniversary event in Busselton. Information at the Australian Marine Parks stall provided opportunities to educate attendees about offshore Marine Parks with the team meeting with local partners on upcoming collaborative projects.

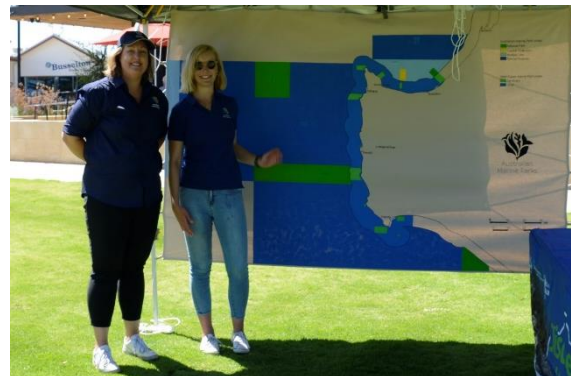
– Staff from Parks Australia and the Great Barrier Reef Marine Parks Authority (GBRMPA) attended the 5th International Marine Protected Areas Congress (IMPAC5) in Vancouver, Canada. This year at IMPAC5 the topic was respecting and acknowledging First Nations connection and management of Sea Country. Parks Australia and GBRMPA hosted a joint knowledge sharing titled *Working together to understand, protect and manage Sea Country in Partnership with Traditional Owners*.

Member attendance

Andrew Coleman (Chair)
Stephen van Leeuwin
Bronwyn Gillanders
Tim Langlois
Peter Owen
Terry Romaro OAM
Sophie Teede

Apologies

David Collard
Kirsty Alexander
Michael Heslewood
Lee Johnson
Gail Reynolds-Adamson
Bronwyn Gillanders
Melissa Nursey-Bray



Emma and Emily at the Ngari Capes event (Image credit: DBCA)

Tourism and visitor experience – planning at two key ‘over the horizon’ locations - Busselton Jetty and the Flinders Chase Visitor Centre – are progressing and will provide immersive experiences showcasing the biodiversity in Australian Marine Parks.

Indigenous engagement – The Far West Coast Aboriginal Corporation’s Sea Country Protection Plan has been finalised with OMPG funds.

– Student rangers from Bundi Yamatji Aboriginal Corporation have started course work at Batavia Coast Maritime Institute to gain maritime skills training funded through OMPG.

– Esperance Tjaltjraak rangers have completed drop camera surveys as part of the Wudjari Sea Country Project funded through an Our Marine Park Grant (OMPG) and led by ETNTAC and UWA in South-west Corner and Eastern Recherche Marine Parks.

Marine science – The first Ocean Discovery and Restoration Program partnership was established with Minderoo Foundation, to develop methods for eDNA to help improve understanding and management of Australian Marine Parks.

Assessments and authorisations – Twelve authorisations have been issued in the past six months. A list of approved authorisations is available at:

<https://parksaustralia.gov.au/marine/activities/authorisations-issued/>.

Parks protection and management – Parks Australia staff completed Conservation Standards Training, which provides a framework for planning, implementing, measuring changes as a result of conservation actions and adapting management responses to changes.

Compliance – consultation with the fishing industry is underway on a requirement for the use of Vessel Monitoring Systems for commercial fishing vessels entering an Australian Marine Park. Consultation closes 26 May 2023. More information can be found here: [Electronic and Vessel Monitoring Systems Assistance Program | Australian Marine Parks \(parksaustralia.gov.au\)](https://parksaustralia.gov.au/marine/management/programs/compliance/)

Quarterly compliance reports can be viewed at:

www.parksaustralia.gov.au/marine/management/programs/compliance/.

State of Knowledge Summaries

A draft example of the Australian Marine Park State of Knowledge summaries, a companion document to the science plans being prepared, was presented to the committee. Final State of Knowledge summaries for the remaining networks including the South-west will be publicly available over the coming months.

Seamap Australia

Seamap Australia, developed by IMAS UTAS, was update as part of the OMPG round 2. Seamap is a GIS tool that shows a range of marine science data of relevance to Australian Marine Parks. More information about Seamap can be found here: [Seamap Australia – National Marine Benthic Habitat Map](https://parksaustralia.gov.au/marine/activities/seamap/)

The Bluebottle

The Parks Australia compliance team shared the Bluebottle trial, undertaken to monitor marine vessel activity in Australian Marine Parks. The Bluebottle is an uncrewed surface vessel capable of providing 24/7 real-time imagery of activity. You can find out more about the Bluebottle trial here:

[Bluebottles to sting illegal fishers in Australian Marine Parks | Australian Marine Parks \(parksaustralia.gov.au\)](https://parksaustralia.gov.au/marine/activities/bluebottle/)

Next Meeting

The next Committee meeting is planned for late 2023. For more information about the South-west Marine Parks Network or the committee:

Visit parksaustralia.gov.au/south-west or

Email marineparks@dcceew.gov.au

Help protect the South-west Marine Parks Network by reporting any suspicious or illegal activity in Australian Marine Parks to

1800 852 975 or

Marine.Compliance@dcceew.gov.au