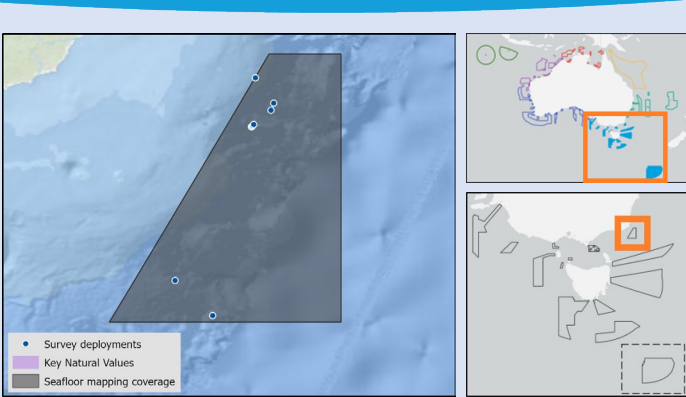


East Gippsland Marine Park state of knowledge



Interactive [Map](#) and [Report](#).

East Gippsland Marine Park contains deep water habitats featuring large box canyons, ridges, margin slumps, and plateaus bordered by steep escarpments. It covers representative areas of the south-east transition bioregion.

Depth - 604m - 5276m

100% of seafloor mapped, almost all at medium to high resolution to support habitat mapping and biodiversity surveys.

Further information:

- O'Hara, Tim. (2019). *The Eastern Australian Marine Parks: Biodiversity, assemblage structure, diversity and origin.*
- Henschke, et al. (2013). *Salp-falls in the Tasman Sea: A major food input to deep-sea benthos.*

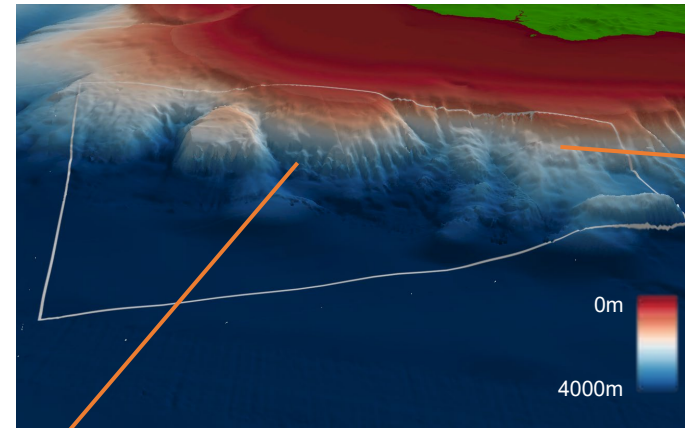
| State of Knowledge published Feb 2023 |

Overall knowledge status

East Gippsland Marine Park has a **medium level of knowledge**. The significant geomorphology provides habitat for a diverse array of mobile and sessile (immobile) fauna and are the focus of research efforts aiming to characterise the unique structure of these valuable high biodiversity habitats.



Mid-bathyal seafloor community (O'Hara, 2019)



Source: Geoscience Australia



Rocky escarpments (O'Hara, 2019)

Habitat

Rocky escarpments provide valuable habitat for benthic communities¹.

Feature of interest

Mid bathyal seafloor habitats support a diverse array of mobile and sessile fauna.

Key knowledge gaps

- Understanding impacts of emerging pressures on park values.

Key activities

Commercial fishing
Shipping

Key pressures

Resource extraction
Climate change
Underwater noise



Credit: Michael Stukel

Twin sailed Salps (*Thetys vagina*) contribute valuable biomass to the seafloor.²

Box canyon

A prominent feature of the park is a large box canyon that borders the southern edge of a significant plateau feature. The canyon is distinguished by a steep incline at the head before cutting in at the lower slope and then progressing to the abyssal plain¹.