SOUTH-EAST MARINE PARKs Network MANAGEMENT PLAN 2012-23

IMPLEMENTATION PLAN

REVIEW PHASE

2021 - 2023



This South-east Marine Parks Network Implementation Plan (years 9-10) identifies Review Phase management actions to be implemented in the last two years of the South-east Marine Parks Network Management Plan 2012-23 (the South-east management plan). These actions will contribute to outcomes under each management strategy in the South-east management plan.

The management plan is operational for 10 years from 2013-2023. The focus of implementation of the management plan has been divided into three phases:

Years 1-4: Foundation Phase (foundation activities and immediate activities and outcomes)

Years 5-8: Consolidation Phase (intermediate and longer-term outcomes)

Years 9-10: Review of management plan (continuing achievement of longer-term outcomes and preparation for next 10 year management plan)

In managing the South-east Marine Parks Network, the Director will need to make decisions about enabling use and managing pressures, while balancing the need to protect natural, cultural, heritage and socio-economic values of the Network, now and in the future.

Each year a report will be prepared by Parks Australia, in consultation with the South-east Marine Parks Advisory Committee, to document progress against actions in Implementation Plan 2, and make recommendations on initiating, continuing, or terminating activities as part of an adaptive management cycle. Yearly reports will be used to inform the advisory committee and the Director of National Parks about management progress, and will enable review of priorities, taking account of emerging issues and stakeholder needs.

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| **Strategy 1. Improve knowledge and understanding of the conservation values of the marine reserves network and the pressures on those values.** | | | | | | | |
| **END OF MANAGEMENT PLAN OUTCOMES (Year 10)**   * Understanding and knowledge of those conservation values identified as a priority for management improvement over the life of the Plan. * Understanding of the pressures affecting key conservation values, improves over the life of this Plan and management actions are adapted to take account of the latest available information. * Data arising from monitoring and research conducted within the South-east marine parks and the findings of the research can be easily accessed and shared. * Research and monitoring needs are met in partnership with relevant research organisations and marine parks users. | | | | | | | |
| **END OF REVIEW PHASE IMPLEMENTATION SCHEDULE OUTCOMES (Year 10)**   * By 2022 there is sufficient baseline and other information about (1) the location and extent of natural values (2) the health of priority habitats, communities and species and (3) pressures on those priority values, to inform evidence-based adaptive management and the 10 year review of the management plan. * By 2022 we have a basic understanding of the social and economic values of the marine park network and the impacts (positive and negative) of the marine park network on the community. * By 2022 scientific data and/or information about the South-East marine park is easily accessible by researchers, managers, users and the public. * By 2022 the South-East regional management team have highly effective working relationships and partnerships with a diverse section of the scientific community and users to deliver research and monitoring for the marine parks. | | | | | | | |
| **Management Plan Action** | **ACTIVITY OUTPUT AND DESCRIPTION** | | | **YEAR 9 2021/22** | | **YEAR 10 2022/23** | |
| A1, | 1.1 Develop a *South-east Network Science Plan*  *This will include:*   * *Identify key management priorities and questions for the South-east network* * *Identify existing knowledge gaps for natural, cultural and heritage values and pressures on those values* * *Establish prioritisation criteria to identify research and monitoring priorities* * *Ensure monitoring priorities align with the Parks Australia Management Effectiveness Framework* | | | ✓ | |  | |
| A2 | 1.2 Facilitate the delivery of priority research and monitoring   * *Effectively communicate research and monitoring priorities to the National Environmental Science Program Marine and Coastal Hub (M&C Hub) and broader scientific community* * *Identify opportunities and negotiate with researchers to get Australian Marine Park specific add-ons to existing scientific projects* * *Work with researchers to develop new collaborative projects and funding applications* * *Provide support to research organisations to undertake high priority research and monitoring.* | | | ✓ | | ✓ | |
| A3 | 1.3 Continue to establish and maintain effective partnerships with the science community   * *Continue high levels of engagement with the M&C Hub, and contribute to improving the methods for feedback and negotiation regarding NESP projects both within the Department and between the Department and the M&C Hub Continue to build and maintain effective relationships with key researchers* * *Attend and participate in relevant scientific conferences. E.g. Australian Marine Sciences Association* | | | ✓ | | ✓ | |
| A4 | 1.7 Huon Marine Park   * Provide report on demersal fish communities in the previously mapped area of the park. * Scope cost effectiveness and viability for Basketwork eel surveys at Patience Seamount | | | ✓  ✓ | | ✓ | |
| A4 | 1.9 Freycinet Marine Park   * Finalise the characterisation of demersal fish assemblages within MUZ, RUZ, and similar reef habitats outside the park project to establish baselines for the condition of exploited species and zone effectiveness. | | | ✓ | |  | |
| A4 | 1.10 Tasman Fracture Marine Park   * Report on repeat surveys / monitoring of fish and rock lobster communities in the Tasman Fracture Marine Park | | | ✓ | |  | |
| A4 | 1.11 Zeehan Marine Park   * Undertake multibeam mapping to inform future management decisions | | | ✓ | | ✓ | |
| A4 | 1.12 Macquarie Island Marine Park   * *Collaborate with the subantarctic Macquarie Island marine science community to identify existing data and information regarding values and pressures within the park.* | | | ✓ | | ✓ | |
| **Strategy 2. Minimise impacts of activities through effective assessment of proposals, decision-making and management of**  **Marine park-specific issues** | | | | | | | |
| **END OF MANAGEMENT PLAN OUTCOMES (Year 10)**   * Potential impacts of allowable activities on the conservation values of the marine parks network are identified and avoided or mitigated by appropriate assessment and authorisation processes. * Authorisation processes are streamlined to improve efficiency and effectiveness, and reduce duplication. | | | | | | | |
| **END OF REVIEW PHASE IMPLEMENTATION SCHEDULE OUTCOMES (Year 10)**   * Activities are assessed consistent with legislative requirements. * Authorisation processes are timely. * Authorisations policy and guidance materials are easily accessible and clearly communicated. * The online authorisations process is accessible and functional. | | | | | | | |
| **Management Plan Action** | | **ACTIVITY OUTPUT AND DESCRIPTION** | **YEAR 9 2021/22** | | **YEAR 10 2022/23** | |
| A5, A6, A7, A8 | | 2.1 Individual activities and proposals assessed consistent with the EPBC Act Regulations, in line with the management plan and the AMP national estate policy and decision making framework.  *Assessment for individual activities is the responsibility of Parks Australia and will be consistent and coordinated with other permit/approval requirements in line with AMP national policy to make our individual authorisations more efficient and deliver a timely outcome to AMP users. The Assessments and Authorisations Team in Canberra has estate-wide responsibility for the coordination of assessments for permits/approvals, liaising closely with MPA Management South Section for proposed activities within the SE Network* | Ongoing | | | | |
| A5, A8 | | 2.2 Activities subject to class approvals are managed consistent with the management plan and the AMP national estate policy and decision making framework, including consultation with affected stakeholders.  *Existing class approvals will be managed and reviewed in a consistent, coordinated and transparent process in the South-east Network to deliver a timely outcome and certainty to AMP users. New* *class approvals will be investigated by the Assessments and Authorisations Team in line with the SE Management Plan and AMP policies.* | Ongoing | | | | |
| A10 | | 2.3 Internal Activity Audit program  *Internal activity audits will be undertaken by Parks Australia as part of a program to review the effectiveness of conditions to ensure they are appropriate, can be complied with and are achieving the objectives of the management plan. Parks Australia will design an audit strategy and associated program and initiate in the South-east. Improvements based on the initial audits will be factored into the program to be continued in future years with recommendation implemented through appropriate mechanisms. The audit will identify opportunities for improvements and efficiencies (including conformance with relevant Codes of Practice and Standard Operating Procedures) for marine park management and marine users.* | ✓ | | ✓ | |
| A10 | | 2.4 Conditions placed on assessments are adapted/modified to address changes in environmental risks/threats, changing marine use circumstances and in response to audit recommendations.  *Where audit recommendations suggest a change to management authorisations, Parks Australia will provide guidance and advice on our website and will consult directly with affected parties and provide updates to SEMPAC.* | Ongoing | | | | |

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| ***Strategy 3. Protect the conservation values of the marine reserves network through management of environmental incidents.*** | | | |
| ***END OF MANAGEMENT PLAN OUTCOMES (Year 10)***   * *Impacts associated with environmental incidents are identified and managed appropriately.* * *Systems for timely reporting of and collaboration on responses to environmental incidents are effective.* | | | |
| ***END OF REVIEW PHASE IMPLEMENTATION SCHEDULE OUTCOMES (Year 10)***   * *Emerging threats of environmental incidents are identified and management response arrangements (including influencing prevention options) are clearly understood between relevant agencies, and responsibilities for responding to incidents are well understood.* | | | |
| ***Management Plan Action*** | ***ACTIVITY OUTPUT AND DESCRIPTION*** | ***YEAR 9 2021/22*** | ***YEAR 10 2022/23*** |
| *A11, A14 (links to A18)* | *3.1 Identify, assess and control for hazards/risks.*  *Incidents that may impact on the conservation values of the South-east Network may include foundering vessels, oil or chemical spills and introduction of marine pests, as well as land-sourced marine pollution from plastics and oil installations. Parks Australia is currently preparing an MPA estate-wide strategic document which details Parks Australia’s roles, responsibilities and functions in the event of a critical marine incident occurring. This strategic level document is being based on the SE Critical Incident Response Plan which has been reviewed and cleared by DoEE, AMSA, NOPSEMA, DISS and DIRD.* | *✓* | *✓* |
| *A11, A12, A13* | *3.3 Standard Operating Procedures for incident response maintained.*  *Parks Australia will maintain standard operating procedures to ensure a consistent and coordinated incident response protocol for the South-east Network.* | *✓* | *✓* |
| *A14* | *3.4 Environmental advice provided for incidents that may threaten conservation values.*  *This is an ongoing function undertaken by Parks Australia and a key role in the event of critical marine incidents. Advice will consider likelihood and consequence of incidents to inform incident response and ongoing monitoring.* | *Ongoing* | |

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| **Strategy 4. Facilitate compliance with this management plan through education and enforcement.** | | | | |
| **END OF MANAGEMENT PLAN OUTCOMES (Year 10)**   * Activities within the marine parks network are undertaken in a manner that is consistent with the management arrangements as specified in the South-east Management Plan. * Marine parks network users have a clear understanding of what is required to comply with the South-east Management Plan. * Marine parks network users contribute to the management of the network through the reporting of suspected non-compliant activity. | | | | |
| **END OF REVIEW PHASE IMPLEMENTATION SCHEDULE OUTCOMES (Year 10)**   * South-east network users have a clear understanding of what is required to comply with management arrangements. * Parks Australia’s compliance program encourages/promotes voluntary compliance through awareness, education and surveillance. | | | | |
| **ACTION REFERENCE** | **ACTIVITY OUTPUT AND DESCRIPTION** | **YEAR 9 2021/22** | **YEAR 10 2022/23** | |
| A15, A18, A20, A21, A22 | 4.1 Annual Compliance work plans will be developed and implemented based on annual risk-based compliance planning and the use of surface and air surveillance as appropriate.  *Annual compliance work plans will be developed by Parks including input from State based agencies to formulate the following year schedule of compliance activities, including those detailed below (activities 4.2-4.9).* | Ongoing | | |
| A15, A16 | 4.2 Vessel Monitoring System Alert operational in South-east Network.  *The VMS ALERT system has been in operation since 01 July 2014. It has proven to be very successful in significantly reducing the frequency of unintended potentially non-compliant activity in AMPs by commercial fishers fitted with a Vessel Monitoring System. This in turn has reduced compliance related investigation effort required by both Parks Australia and AFMA as well as for the commercial fishing fleet due to its reduced unintended non-compliance. The VMS ALERT system provides alerts to vessels’ skippers, operators and owners as well as immediate alert notifications to Parks Australia Compliance Team and AFMA when a vessel enters into a marine park zone in which the vessel’s fishing gear-type and concession is prohibited.* | Ongoing | | |
| A16 | 4.3 Maps and data available on our website and accessible to marine park users and commercial charting companies are aware of our products.  *Available mapping and data will provide access for marine park users to marine park boundaries and zones to assist voluntary compliance through the avoidance of unintended activities in marine parks. Technological advances in delivery options (such as mobile phone applications) will be considered over time.* | Ongoing | | |
| A16, A17, A18, A22 | 4.4 Industry understanding of compliance progressed and cooperative compliance arrangements promoted. | Ongoing | | |
| A16 | 4.5 Use fishing industry publications to remind fishers operating in the South-east network of the park rules and zoning. |  | | ✓ |
| A15, A19 | 4.6 Compliance activity and enforcement data is appropriately collected, securely managed and utilised for planning and reporting purposes and effectively supports investigations.  *The Compliance and Enforcement Management System (CEMS) is a Parks database, maintained to support compliance and enforcement activities. Standard Operating Procedures guide collection and usage of sensitive data.* | Ongoing | | |
| A15, A18, A20 | 4.7 Effective and efficient working partnerships and agreements with regional marine compliance agencies.  *Cooperative service arrangements are agreed to between participating regional compliance agencies for the cost-effective, streamlined and coordinated delivery of compliance activities prioritised and guided by a risk-based annual compliance plan (A18), including compliance awareness, compliance monitoring and enforcement.* | Ongoing | | |
| A20 | 4.8 Regional enforcement partners are provided with access to training materials to achieve a thorough understanding of their powers and use of warden powers under the EPBC Act.  Note: Customs officers and Australian Federal Police Officers are ex-officio wardens under the EPBC Act. Currently, there are over 150 (as at October 2021) State agency officers appointed as wardens across the AMP estate. In the SE, State wardens are drawn from TASPOL (Tasmania Police) and PIRSA (South Australia) together with customs and AFP officers. Certain Parks officers and Department of Environment investigators are also wardens across the marine park estate. | ✓ | |  |
| A21 | 4.9 Investigation and, where appropriate enforcement action to achieve individual and general deterrence of illegal activity and reduce non-compliance incidences.  *Alleged illegal activities will be investigated and enforcement action will be executed consistent with Departmental and Parks Australia compliance policy and guidelines.* | Ongoing | | |

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| **Strategy 5. Promote community understanding of, and stakeholder participation in, the management of the marine reserves network.** | | | |
| **END OF MANAGEMENT PLAN OUTCOMES (Year 10)**   * Stakeholders and the community understand the importance of the marine parks network, the values it protects and management arrangements. * Stakeholders effectively participate in managing the marine parks network. | | | |
| **END OF REVIEW PHASE IMPLEMENTATION SCHEDULE OUTCOMES (Year 10)**   * Marine park users and key sector groups know where Australian Marine Parks are and understand management arrangements and are able to find information about management requirements. * The South-east Marine Park Advisory Committee is providing a suitable forum for stakeholder input, guidance and advice to Parks Australia. * Priority stakeholder and user partnerships are in place and operating effectively. | | | |
| **Management Plan Action** | **ACTIVITY OUTPUT AND DESCRIPTION** | **YEAR 9 2021/22** | **YEAR 10 2022/23** |
| A23 | 5.1 Implement appropriate communications and education guided by the South-east network communication and education plan/strategy   * Project communications to support the digital evaluation project-land bridge project including 3D modelling – (year 10 – see 6.3) * Develop new social and print media (including articles, infographics, and videos) to increase stakeholder knowledge of SE network * Drafting and distribution of news releases/social media posts in conjunction with external research agencies to promote current projects occurring in the SE network * Ensure contractual arrangements include media and communications clauses for new projects * Identify and implement communication opportunities for OMPG Round Three * Support communication of Apollo OMPG round 2 project - *“Creating immersive virtual experiences that build connection, understanding and value of Australian Marine Parks (Deakin University)”* * Include South-east network information in the ocean portion of the Tasmanian Museum and Art Gallery ‘Islands to Ice’ exhibition | ✓ | ✓ |
| A25 | 5.2 Continue to provide timely and relevant information on network implementation to SEMPAC members | ✓ | ✓ |
| A23 | 5.3 Commence scoping for Signage audit - new signage requirements and updates to existing signs post 2023 |  | ✓ |
| A24 | 5.4 Public consultation undertaken by the Director of National Parks on 1) the notice of intent to prepare a new management plan and 2) a draft management plan for the SE Marine Parks Network. | ✓ | ✓ |

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| **Strategy 6. Support involvement of indigenous people in management of commonwealth marine reserves.** | | | |
| **END OF MANAGEMENT PLAN OUTCOMES (10 YEARS)**   * Indigenous people and organisations are partners in the management of sea country within marine parks. * Management activities within marine parks acknowledge and respect existing Indigenous governance arrangements, activities and cultural needs. * Indigenous customs, practices and knowledge inform relevant management planning activities. | | | |
| **END OF REVIEW PHASE IMPLEMENTATION SCHEDULE OUTCOMES (Year 10)**   * Indigenous customs, practices and knowledge relevant to marine park management in the South-east are identified, understood and respected by marine users. * Agreed consultation arrangements for Indigenous engagement are implemented. | | | |
| **Management Plan Action** | **ACTIVITY OUTPUT AND DESCRIPTION** | **YEAR 9 2021/22** | **YEAR 10 2022/23** |
| A26, A27, A28 | 6.1 Identify Aboriginal people, communities and representative organisations with rights and interests in marine parks | ✓ | ✓ |
| A26, A27, A28 | 6.2 Identify opportunities and mechanisms to engage Traditional Owners in the management of marine parks. | ✓ | ✓ |
| A26, A27, A28 | 6.3 Collaborate with Traditional Owners and relevant partners on implementing the Aboriginal engagement program, including supporting Aboriginal groups to participate in marine park management.   * work with the Department of Education to deliver teaching materials that link key learning areas in the Australian curriculum with Tasmanian Aboriginal culture and connections to sea country (related to Parks Australia’s Australian Marine Parks). * Scope and commence land bridge project | ✓ | ✓ |

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| **Strategy 7. Evaluate and report on the effectiveness of this management plan through monitoring and review.** | | | |
| **END OF MANAGEMENT PLAN OUTCOMES (10 YEARS)**   * Management is improved on the basis of new information and knowledge * Improved understanding of the conservation values, and the pressures on such values, of the marine parks network. * The establishment of a program which provides the foundation for the long-term monitoring, evaluation and reporting on the marine parks network. * Effective reporting on marine park management to inform stakeholders and meet statutory requirements. | | | |
| **END OF REVIEW PHASE IMPLEMENTATION SCHEDULE OUTCOMES (Year 10)**   * A robust monitoring, evaluation, reporting and improvement framework and program will be established and is in the process of being implemented. | | | |
| **Management Plan Action** | **ACTIVITY OUTPUT AND DESCRIPTION** | **YEAR 9 2021/22** | **YEAR 10 2022/23** |
| A30, A31 | 7.1 Yearly progress reports prepared by Parks Australia to inform SEMPAC and management. This information will also be submitted to other relevant Departmental and Parks Australia reports. | ✓ | ✓ |
| A32 | 7.2 Complete external evaluation of the SE network management plan | ✓ |  |