

SOUTH-EAST MARINE PARKS NETWORK MANAGEMENT PLAN 2012-23

IMPLEMENTATION PLAN 2

CONSOLIDATION PHASE

2017/18 – 2021/22



Australian Government
Parks Australia



**Australian
Marine Parks**

This South-east Marine Parks Network Implementation Plan 2 (years 4-8) identifies consolidation management actions to be implemented in the second 4 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.

A review of performance measures and outcomes in Implementation Plan 2 will occur in year eight to inform drafting of Implementation Plan 3 to review management actions in years eight to ten. Management actions may change during the life of the South-east management plan as new information and approaches become available. Additional actions will be developed in partnership with stakeholders and the Advisory Committee.

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 CONSOLIDATION PHASE IMPLEMENTATION SCHEDULE OUTCOMES (Year 8)

- 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 5 2017/18	YEAR 6 2018/19	YEAR 7 2019/20	YEAR 8 2020/21
A1,	<p>1.1 Develop a <i>South-east Research and Monitoring Strategy/workplan</i> <i>This will include:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Identify key management priorities and questions for the South-east network</i> • <i>Identify existing knowledge gaps for natural, cultural and heritage values and pressures on those values</i> • <i>Establish prioritisation criteria to identify research and monitoring priorities</i> • <i>Ensure monitoring priorities align with the Australian Marine Parks Monitoring, Evaluation, Reporting and Improvement (MERI) framework and the Parks Australia ecosystem health monitoring project.</i> 	✓	✓	✓	

A2	<p>1.2 Facilitate the delivery of priority research and monitoring</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Effectively communicate research and monitoring priorities to the National Environmental Science Programme Marine Biodiversity Hub (NESP MBH) 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	<p>1.3 Continue to establish and maintain effective partnerships with the science community</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Continue high levels of engagement with the MBH, and contribute to improving the methods for feedback and negotiation regarding NESP projects both within the Department and between the Department and the MBH Continue to build and maintain effective relationships with key researchers Establish and maintain effective relationships with the subantarctic Macquarie Island marine science community Attend and participate in relevant scientific conferences. 	✓	✓	✓	✓
A4	<p>1.4 Improve the use of scientific information in marine park management decisions</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Encourage and support staff to improve scientific knowledge Help to build a culture where management is based on an adaptive management approach and informed by science Parks Australia to work with researchers to ensure scientific information is available on systems that are easily and quickly accessible to managers and it is in appropriate formats to answer management questions 	✓	✓	✓	✓
A4	<p>1.5 NESP Project D3 Beagle Marine Park</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Map the park using multi-beam sonar, characterise sessile benthic fauna and demersal fish communities to establish baselines for deep shelf reefs. 	✓	✓		
A4	<p>1.6 Boags Marine Park</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Map the park using multi-beam sonar to identify deep shelf reef habitats and guide the future deployment of BRUVS and AUVs to characterise sessile benthic fauna and demersal fish communities. Characterise benthic communities within the park. 	✓	✓ ✓	✓	

A4	<p>1.7 Huon Marine Park</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Characterise demersal fish communities in the previously mapped area of the park. 			✓	
A4	<p>1.8 Apollo Marine Park</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Map the park using multi-beam sonar to identify deep shelf reef habitats and guide the future deployment of BRUVS and AUVs to characterise sessile benthic fauna and demersal fish communities. Characterise demersal fish communities within the park. 			✓	✓
A4	<p>1.9 Freycinet Marine Park</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Continue to map the park using multi-beam sonar to identify deep shelf reef habitats and guide the future deployment of AUVs and BRUVs to characterise sessile benthic fauna and demersal fish communities. Analyse, interpret and report on AUV data collected between 2009 and 2016. Characterise demersal fish assemblages within MUZ, RUZ, and similar reef habitats outside the park to establish baselines for the condition of exploited species and zone effectiveness. 		✓		
A4	<p>1.10 Tasman Fracture Marine Park</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Use multi-beam sonar to identify suitable reef habitats outside the park to use as reference sites. Characterise sessile benthic communities within NPZ, MUZ, and similar reef habitats outside the park Repeat BRUV and lobster potting surveys (last done in 2014), within NPZ, MUZ, and similar reef habitats outside the park to monitor the condition of exploited species and determine zone effectiveness. 		✓	✓	✓
A4	<p>1.11 NESP Project D3: Status and recovery of deep-sea coral communities on seamounts in iconic Australian marine parks.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Continue to determine the extent and ecological characteristics of the deep-sea coral reefs within and outside the marine parks Measure the recovery of deep-sea coral communities following cessation of bottom trawling. Measure the condition of, and if possible pressures on, deep-sea coral communities. Communications products – specific to marine park requirements. 		✓		

A4	<p>1.12 Abyss</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Continue to analyse data from Freycinet, Flinders and East Gippsland Marine Parks collected during May June 2017 on RV Investigator Voyage, including comparisons with the Great Australian Bight. 	✓			
A4	<p>1.13 NESP Project E4: Recreational fishing in Commonwealth Waters</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Boat ramp survey of recreational fishing motivation, awareness of AMP location and zoning on the east coast of Tasmania as a pilot for a national survey approach. 	✓			

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 CONSOLIDATION PHASE IMPLEMENTATION SCHEDULE OUTCOMES (Year 8)

- 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 5 2017/18	YEAR 6 2018/19	YEAR 7 2019/20	YEAR 8 2020/21
A5, A6, A7, A8	<p>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.</p> <p><i>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</i></p>	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.	Ongoing			

	<i>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 estate-wide policies.</i>				
A10	<p>2.3 Internal Activity Audit program</p> <p><i>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.</i></p>	✓	✓	✓	✓
A10	<p>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.</p> <p><i>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 the SE Forum.</i></p>	Ongoing			
A5, A10	2.5 Introduce an on-line authorisations system for all permits and licences.		✓		

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 CONSOLIDATION PHASE IMPLEMENTATION SCHEDULE OUTCOMES (Year 8)

- 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 5 2017/18	YEAR 6 2018/19	YEAR 7 2019/20	YEAR 8 2020/21
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 AMP 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			

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 CONSOLIDATION PHASE IMPLEMENTATION SCHEDULE OUTCOMES (Year 8)

- 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 5 2017/18	YEAR 6 2018/19	YEAR 7 2019/20	YEAR 8 2020/21
A15, A18, A20, A21, A22	<p>4.1 Annual Compliance work plans will be developed and implemented based on annual risk-based compliance planning including an integrated approach with Tasmania and Victorian agencies and the use of aerial surveillance as appropriate.</p> <p><i>Annual compliance work plans will be developed by Parks based on the outcomes of annual compliance workshops with South-east compliance agencies to formulate the following year schedule of compliance activities, including those detailed below (activities 4.2-4.9).</i></p>	Ongoing			
A15, A16	<p>4.2 Vessel Monitoring System Alert operational in South-east Network.</p> <p><i>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'</i></p>	Ongoing			

	<i>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.</i>				
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. <i>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.</i>	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 the zoning.	✓			✓
A16, A17, A22	4.6 Consideration is being given to future Parks Australia on-line training. On -line training modules delivered through Federation Training by SETFIA have now ceased. 116 fishers in total completed the modules.	✓			
A15, A19	4.7 Compliance activity and enforcement data is appropriately collected, securely managed and utilised for planning and reporting purposes and effectively supports investigations. <i>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.</i>	Ongoing			

A15, A18, A20	<p>4.8 Effective and efficient working partnerships and agreements with regional marine compliance agencies.</p> <p><i>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.</i></p>	Ongoing			
A20	<p>4.9 Regional enforcement partners are trained to achieve a thorough understanding of their powers and are confident in executing their warden powers under the EPBC Act.</p> <p><i>Development of warden training package by Parks and delivery of EPBC Act warden training for South-east state and commonwealth agency EPBC Act appointed wardens to support compliance with the EPBC Regulations the management plan. Training will be repeated every 2 years.</i></p> <p>Note: Customs officers and Australian Federal Police Officers are ex-officio wardens under the EPBC Act. Currently, there are over 130 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.</p>			✓	
A21	<p>4.10 Investigation and, where appropriate enforcement action to achieve individual and general deterrence of illegal activity and reduce non-compliance incidences.</p> <p><i>Alleged illegal activities will be investigated and enforcement action will be executed consistent with Departmental and Parks Australia compliance policy and guidelines.</i></p>	Ongoing			

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 CONSOLIDATION PHASE IMPLEMENTATION SCHEDULE OUTCOMES (Year 8)

- 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 5 2017/18	YEAR 6 2018/19	YEAR 7 2019/20	YEAR 8 2020/21
A25	5.1 Consider updates to the Communication and Education Strategy in light of the results of the recent communication and awareness survey to ensure it is meeting the needs of key stakeholder groups.		✓		
	5.2 Estate wide communications includes appropriate and targeted information about the South-east network for the intended audience given the existing knowledge of the South-east network with some stakeholders.	Ongoing			
A23	5.3 Implement appropriate communications and education guided by the South-east network communication and education plan and addressing priority park values, pressures and knowledge needs.		✓	✓	✓
A25	5.4 Consider establishment of a South-east network advisory committee consistent with other networks by June 30, 2019.	✓	✓		

A23	<p>5.5 Signage audit conducted for new signage requirements, and required updates to existing signs.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Updates to existing signage for Freycinet and Beagle to reflect the new branding. - Explore signage opportunities for Beagle and Apollo in Victoria, and at Cape Bruny for Huon. - Explore other signage opportunities. 	✓	✓	✓	
A24	<p>5.6 Sector meetings facilitated by Parks for the exchange of knowledge, understanding and participation in the management of marine parks (such as for the commercial fishing industry and commercial tourism charter fishing industry).</p>	✓	✓	✓	✓
A23	<p>5.7 Community initiatives presented to the Advisory Committee that seek to enhance awareness, understanding and protection of marine park values will be encouraged and supported as appropriate and where possible (relative to other priorities). Support may include influencing outcomes, in-kind, funding or facilitating access to networks/expertise.</p>	Ongoing			

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 CONSOLIDATION PHASE IMPLEMENTATION SCHEDULE OUTCOMES (Year 8)

- 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 5 2017/18	YEAR 6 2018/19	YEAR 7 2019/20	YEAR 8 2020/21
A27, A28 (links to A23-25)	6.1 Indigenous representation is facilitated to support consultative structures <i>In line with national Indigenous engagement principles, capability/interest in participation will be further explored by Parks. Indigenous interests and liaison will help guide management of South-east parks.</i>		✓	✓	✓
A26, A27	6.2 Indigenous cultural values within the South-east region are updated and, where appropriate, are communicated to the wider public.			✓	✓
A26, A27, A28	Delivery of projects in partnership with Parks Victoria, Tasmania parks and Wildlife, Department of Prime Minister and Cabinet, Traditional Owners and/or Traditional Owners representative organisations and/or Indigenous communities that have an association with the coastal region of the area.			✓	✓
A26, A27	6.4 Promote and foster co-naming opportunities utilising indigenous language in communication products with the Indigenous community.	Ongoing			

A29	6.5 Management plan administered in compliance with the requirements of the <i>Native Title Act 1993</i> and the principles supporting Indigenous people to engage in management of Australian Marine Parks.	Ongoing
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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 CONSOLIDATION PHASE IMPLEMENTATION SCHEDULE OUTCOMES (Year 8)					
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 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 5 2017/18	YEAR 6 2018/19	YEAR 7 2019/20	YEAR 8 2020/21
A30	7.1 Progress on actions monitored and reported and key biodiversity ecosystem health and system indicators are in place and key values are being monitored.	✓	✓		
A30	7.2 Yearly progress reports prepared to inform our consultative representatives and management. <i>This yearly report will comprise an interim review that will consider progress made against the activities that support outcomes under this phase 1 implementation schedule. Based on this review, Parks, in collaboration with the SE Forum, will assess development of priorities for activities in future years of this implementation plan building towards the consolidation phase 2 implementation schedule for the South-east Network.</i>	✓	✓	✓	✓
A31	7.3 South-east information is submitted to the Department of the Environment and Parks Australia annual reports.	Ongoing			
A6, 26	7.4 From the socio-economic and cultural values identified through surveys, identify the values that would be monitored on a national level.			✓	✓
A31	7.5 Review progress and performance effectiveness from implementation of the Consolidation Phase (years 5 – 8) schedule.				✓
A32	7.6 Commence preparation of the “Closing and Finalisation” Implementation Schedule (Years 9 – 10) for the ten year management plan.				✓