

North-west Marine Parks Advisory Committee Meeting #5 Communique 9 June 2021 via videoconference

The North-west Marine Parks Advisory Committee (NWMPAC) met via video conference on Wednesday 9 June 2021. The meeting opened with an acknowledgement of Country by the Chair.

The Committee were provided an update on the Australian Government's \$100 million Oceans Leadership package. The meeting also included a discussion on short and long-term priorities for the North-west Network which will assist Parks Australia in implementation planning.

Observers at the meeting included representatives from the Western Australian Department of Biodiversity, Conservation and Attractions (DBCA) and Department of Primary Industries and Regional Development (DPIRD).

Aaron Irving and Gina Lincoln have resigned from the Committee. We thank them for their contributions.

North-west Network highlights by program

Authorisations – Six authorisations issued in the North-west from October 2020 to March 2021 supporting commercial tourism (one) and research and monitoring (five).

Compliance – There were 31 compliance incidents between [January to March 2021](#). More information about compliance, including quarterly compliance reports is available on our website:

Member attendance

Bianca Priest (Chair)
Dean Mathews
Jim Stoddart
John Harrison
Keld Knudsen
Kellie Pendoley
Mat Vanderklift
Peter Coote
Michelle Howard (apology)
Sean McNear (apology)
Tony Evans (apology)

<https://parksaustralia.gov.au/marine/management/programs/compliance/>

The Australian Marine Parks hotline to report suspicious or illegal activity is **1800 852 975** or you can email marine.compliance@awe.gov.au

Science – In April 2021, the Australian Institute of Marine Science (AIMS) led an 18 day voyage on board the [Schmidt Ocean Institute's RV Falkor](#), surveying Ashmore's mesophotic (deep-water 30-150m) reefs using an underwater remote operated vehicle (ROV). The research complements surveys previously undertaken by CSIRO in 2019 as part of the [Ashmore Reef Marine Park Environmental Assessment](#).

The National Environmental Science Program project ([NESP D8](#)) on Canyon Mapping and Biodiversity in Gascoyne Marine Park has produced and released the report, eco-

narrative and a canyon fly-through video which can be viewed [here](#).

The University of WA (UWA), through an Our Marine Parks Grant are surveying habitat and biodiversity using BRUVs and novel non-baited drop cameras in Ningaloo Marine Park (Commonwealth waters). Grant details can be found [here](#).

Indigenous Engagement – An [article](#) has been published in the Parks Australia's Science Newsletter (subscribe [here](#) or access past issues [here](#)) on the North-west Ecological Baselines project, which has been collecting data on the fish, shark and ray species that call some of our Australian Marine Parks home. The project is a collaboration between Parks Australia, WA DPIRD researchers, and Kimberley Indigenous rangers including Dambimangari, Bardi-Jawi, Jabirr-Jabirr, Yawuru and Karajarri.

In May Yawuru Rangers, along with staff from the DBCA and Parks Australia were out on Country in Roebuck Bay collecting genetic samples from resident/foraging green turtles and attaching satellite trackers. The data collected will be used by Traditional Owners and marine park managers to understand how green turtles are using sea Country in and adjacent to Australian Marine Parks.

Guided by Mayala Country Plan priorities, the Kimberley Land Council Aboriginal Corporation and Mayala people, Our Marine Parks Grant will involve expeditions to sea Country aimed at reinforcing cultural, social and spiritual connections. Grant details can be found [here](#).

Park Protection and Management – An Australian Marine Parks [Mooring Policy](#) has been finalised and is available on the Parks Australia website.

A [guideline](#) for the authorisation of commercial tourism and general use activities on islands in the Coral Sea Marine Park,

Ashmore Reef Marine Park and Cartier Island Marine Park is available on the Parks Australia website.

Six visitor moorings owned by Parks Australia were decommissioned at Ashmore Reef Marine Park following an analysis of use and to reduce ongoing costs.

Consistent with their approved permit, three fish aggregating devices were re-installed by Recfishwest in Ningaloo Marine Park in early March after becoming detached late last year.

Communications, Education and Awareness – On 24 May scientists from UWA held a Science of Ningaloo evening for the Exmouth community to share findings from their latest fish and habitats surveys.

Other products include a WAFIC social media article to remind commercial fishers to check the rules if operating or intending to operate in Australian Marine Parks:

- [WAFIC Facebook](#)
- [WAFIC website](#)

To follow Australian Marine Parks on social media to stay up to date on management activities and communications, search @ausmarineparks on your favourite platform



Tourism and Visitor Experience – The Committee were briefed on an Australian Marine Park Tourism Strategy to guide managing tourism and recreation in marine parks.

Next Meeting

The next Committee meeting is planned for late 2021. For more information about the North-west Marine Parks Network or the Committee:

Visit parksaustralia.gov.au/north-west
Email marineparks@awe.gov.au