

## North-west Marine Parks Advisory Committee Meeting #6 Communique 30 November 2021 via videoconference

The North-west Marine Parks Advisory Committee (NWMPAC) met via video conference on Tuesday 30 November 2021. The meeting opened with an acknowledgement of Country by the Acting Chair.

The Committee discussed the Implementation and North-west communications plan. Members were also updated on the management summary, which included a discussion on the illegal foreign fishing activity in the region.

Committee members were provided with an overview of the Australian Marine Park Science Strategy and how it will be implemented in the North-west through a Network Science Plan.

### National highlights for Australian Marine Parks

As part of the **Ocean Leadership package**, Round 3 of the **Our Marine Parks Grants program** opened on 25 October and closed on 16 December 2021. This round was open to a wide range of applicants and successful projects will run from 2022 to 2024 with up to \$8.6 million being offered to build capacity in the management of Australian Marine Parks (AMPs).

Another component of the Ocean Leadership package is funding for new **Indian Ocean Territories marine parks** around Christmas and Cocos (Keeling) Islands. Parks Australia

### Member attendance

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

released a proclamation proposal for public comment in October 2021.

Parks Australia opened an **Electronic and Vessel Monitoring Systems (VMS) Assistance Program** grant opportunity for state and Northern Territory commercial fisheries management agencies that have the capability and capacity to assist the Director of National Parks in enhancing the use of e-monitoring systems and VMS on commercial fishing vessels transiting or operating in AMPs.

### North-west Network highlights by program

**Authorisations** – Twenty authorisations issued in the North-west from March to September 2021 supporting a range of activities (e.g. commercial tourism, media and research and monitoring).

**Compliance** – There were 315 compliance incidents and 130 foreign fishing legislative forfeitures between [April to September 2021](#). More information about compliance, including quarterly compliance reports are available on our website: <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](mailto:marine.compliance@awe.gov.au)

**Science** – The Australian Marine Science Strategy has been prepared, which aims to provide an overview of the strategic approach that Parks Australia will apply when implementing the Marine Science Program.

**Indigenous Engagement** – Parks Australia presented at the Kimberley Indigenous Saltwater Advisory Group (ISWAG) end of year forum, providing an update on Australian Marine Park management for the North-west Network and seeking members interest in engaging in the development of the North-west science plan.

In October, 15 Mayala Traditional Owners and aspiring rangers undertook a four-day voyage to Mayala country within the Buccaneer Archipelago off the coast of Western Australia. It was the first of two planned back-to-country trips as part of an Our Marine Park Grant (OMPG) project. Round two grant details can be found [here](#).

All green turtle genetic samples from the Kimberley green turtle connectivity project are currently being analysed. 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. The final report is due in May 2022.

The hawksbill turtle project in Wunambal Gaambera sea country continues. There are plans to collect genetic samples and spatial

location data from biologging devices in upcoming field operations.

**Park Protection and Management** – Moorings in Mermaid Reef and Ashmore Reef Marine Parks underwent their annual inspection and maintenance in September and June respectively.

The AMP Environmental Incident and Emergency Response Strategy was published on [our website](#). This strategy supports the Director of National Parks' response to serious or critical environmental incidents and emergencies in and adjacent to AMPs.

**Communications, Education and Awareness** – Products include website articles and social media posts relating to science and indigenous engagement activities across various NW marine parks. This includes communications in relation to the [Ashmore Reef Marine Park Environmental Assessment](#).

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



### Next Meeting

The next Committee meeting is planned for mid-2022. For more information about the North-west Marine Parks Network or the Committee:

Visit [parksaustralia.gov.au/north-west](https://parksaustralia.gov.au/north-west)  
Email [marineparks@awe.gov.au](mailto:marineparks@awe.gov.au)