

North-west Marine Parks Advisory Committee Meeting #4 Communique 12 November 2020 via videoconference

The North-west Marine Parks Advisory Committee (NWMPAC) met via video conference on Thursday 12 November 2020. The meeting opened with an acknowledgement of country by the Chair.

Observers at the meeting included a representative from the Western Australian Department of Primary Industries and Regional Development (DPIRD).

National highlights for Australian Marine Parks

The Australian Government has announced a \$28.4 million investment in Australian Marine Parks over the next four years. The funding will help Parks Australia continue to take a global lead in marine park management by:

- delivering projects which will train, employ and deliver cultural outcomes for regional Indigenous communities.
- gaining access to new technology to boost compliance and strengthening enforcement and monitoring activities within our marine parks.
- further building on our understanding of marine life and their habitats through the expansion of scientific mapping and monitoring programs.

Our Marine Park Grants – Round 2 was highly competitive with the Community Grants Hub receiving 110 applications. The full list of successful projects is available from our website www.parksaustralia.gov.au/marine/management/partnerships/our-marine-parks-grants/round-two/.

Member attendance

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

North-west Network highlights by program

Authorisations – Eight authorisations issued in the North-west from May to October 2020 supporting commercial media (two), commercial tourism (two), research and monitoring (three) and commercial research (one).

Compliance – There were nine compliance incidents, and one Penalty Infringement Notice issued, between [July to September 2020](#), alongside two reports of marine debris in the North-west Network.

Acoustic monitoring is being used in the North-west Network to measure activity in Australian Marine Parks, including within Ningaloo and Dampier Marine Parks. More information about compliance, including quarterly compliance reports is 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

Science – Researchers presented findings from the National Environmental Science Program (NESP) Marine Biodiversity Hub [research into biodiversity \(D3\)](#) and [socio-economic \(D6\) benchmarks](#) projects at Ningaloo and other North-west Marine Parks. Underwater footage of the Ningaloo research can be viewed [here](#).

The Parks Australia's Science Newsletter includes articles on our marine park research. Subscribe [here](#) or access past issues [here](#).



Indigenous engagement – Parks Australia is partnering with DPIRD to document fish, shark and ray species and their habitats in the Kimberley, Roebuck and Eighty Mile Beach Marine Parks. The first three voyages have been completed for this project with assistance from Dambimangari, Bardi Jawi, Karrajari, Jabirr Jabirr and Yawuru rangers.

In August Karajarri Rangers collected genetic samples from a number of green turtles and attached satellite trackers to two individuals (Weblink: [Seaturtle](#)).

In partnership with Wunambal Gaambera rangers and supported by the WA Department of Biodiversity, Conservation and Attractions (DBCA), a hawksbill turtle project will be undertaken focusing on understanding turtle activity in sea country in and adjacent to Kimberley Marine Park.

Parks Protection and Management – Guidance on anchoring in Australian Marine Parks has been developed and published at parksaustralia.gov.au/marine/activities/approvals/anchoring.

One minor environmental incident was reported involving a yacht which sank 90nm off the coast in Gascoyne Marine Park.

Moorings maintenance at Ashmore Reef (July) and Mermaid Reef (August) Marine Parks has been completed.

Communications, Education and Awareness – A 'Profs and Pints' talk was held in Exmouth in late September - Dr Tim Langlois and Charlotte Aston of UWA talked about two deepwater Ningaloo projects.

A number of products and articles have been released, including an updated Explore Marine Parks WA app launched on [Google Play](#) and the [App Store](#) which features Australian Marine Park information.

There was also an article in WAFIC News providing commercial fishers with information on the range of mapping files and products, along with tips on how to update nav plotters (view this article [here](#)). Also, an article in Catch!, DPIRD's e-newsletter, provided an overview of Australian Marine Parks for recreational fishers in Western Australia, including tips on where to access zone and rule information (view this article [here](#)).

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 – New signs continue to be installed along the Ningaloo coastline.

To support the development of our Sustainable Tourism and Visitor Experience Strategy for Australian Marine Parks we are examining emerging changes in Australia's visitor economy due to COVID-19 impacts and implications for marine park management.

Next Meeting

The next Committee meeting is planned for mid-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