

South-west Marine Parks Advisory Committee Meeting #4 Communique 10 November 2020 via videoconference

The South-west Marine Parks Advisory Committee (SWMPAC) met via videoconference on Tuesday 10 November 2020. The meeting opened with an acknowledgement of country by the Chair.

Observers at the meeting included representatives from the South Australian Department for Environment and Water (DEW) and Primary Industries and Regions South Australia (PIRSA).

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 on our website.

www.parksaustralia.gov.au/marine/management/partnerships/our-marine-parks-grants/round-two/

Member attendance

Bianca Priest (Chair)
Kirsty Alexander
Clare Cane
David Collard
Bronwyn Gillanders
Lee Johnson
Tim Langlois
Gail Reynolds-Adamson
Terry Romaro OAM
Sophie Teede
Stephen van Leeuwen
Melissa Nursey-Bray
Michael Heslewood (apology)
Peter Owen (apology)
John Webber (apology)

South-west Network highlights by program

Authorisations – 10 authorisations issued in the South-west Network from May to October 2020 supporting commercial tourism (two), research and monitoring (five) and commercial media (three).

Compliance – Acoustic monitoring is being used in the South-west Network to measure activity in Australian Marine Parks, including within Murat Marine Park. More information about compliance, including quarterly compliance reports are available on our website: www.parksaustralia.gov.au/marine/management/programs/compliance/

Science – research partnerships continue to reveal exciting new insights into marine parks in the South-west. The University of Western Australia has been investigating fish assemblages in South-west Corner Marine Park. Committee Member Dr Timothy Langlois presented findings from this project during the meeting. This work is focused on mapping the extent and biodiversity of rocky reefs on the continental shelf in part of South-

west Corner Marine Park. A snippet of the footage from this research is available on our website [here](#):



Indigenous engagement – With the challenges of COVID-19 we have held engagement meetings via videoconference to discuss management activities and exchange information on regional issues and activities.

A focus on incorporating traditional knowledge in marine biodiversity hub research - being led by the University of Western Australia - has seen traditional custodians from Wadandi Boodja work with scientist to inform survey designs and participate in research voyages into the South-west Corner Marine Park.

Parks Protection and Management – One environmental incident was reported when three shipping containers were lost in rough seas in the South-west Corner Marine Park (south of Albany). Information was provided to the Australian Maritime Safety Authority (AMSA) which resulted in a direction order being issued to the shipping company to undertake efforts to recover the containers.

Communications, Education and Awareness – With face to face engagement limited, activities have focused on working closely with regional partners to improve access to information on Australian Marine Parks, including through social media. To follow Australian Marine Parks on social media– search @ausmarineparks on your favourite platform:



In partnership with DBCA we released an updated Explore Marine Parks WA app on [Google Play](#) and the [App Store](#) – which now features information about the 24 Australian Marine Parks off WA.

Recent findings from a joint research project with SA DEW on the population of Australian sea lion colonies in the Great Australian Bight

was published on the Australian Marine Parks Science Atlas [here](#).

Tourism and Visitor Experience – With the remoteness of many of our marine parks, signs at key vantage points remain an important way of sharing information. Three updated signs have been developed for the Great Australian Bight in partnership with SA DEW and will be installed at key cliff-top lookouts accessible when crossing the Nullarbor.

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.

Geographe Marine Park – Ocean Accounting Project

The Geographe Marine Park Environmental-Economic Ocean Accounts pilot project was undertaken by the Department of Agriculture Water and the Environment. The pilot project estimated the extent and condition of four ecosystems in the park (seagrass, rocky reefs, sandy bottoms and kelp forests), the multiple services and benefits provided by those ecosystems, and some of the potential human induced pressures in the marine park.

Further details of project findings and methodology has been published in a series of technical reports, and a synthesis report on the Department's Environmental-Economic Accounting website (<https://eea.environment.gov.au>).

Next Meeting

The next Committee meeting is proposed for mid-2021.

For more information about the South-west Marine Parks Network or the Committee visit parksaustralia.gov.au/south-west or email marineparks@awe.gov.au

To report suspicious or illegal activity in Australian Marine Parks contact **1800 852 975** or marine.compliance@awe.gov.au