

South-west Marine Parks Advisory Committee

Meeting #3 Communique

16 June 2020 via video conference

Committee Meeting Overview

The South-west Marine Parks Advisory Committee (SWMPAC) met via video conference on Tuesday 16 June 2020. The meeting opened with an acknowledgement of country by the Chair.

Guest representatives from NOPSEMA - the National Offshore Petroleum Safety and Environmental Management Authority - presented an overview of their assessment process and the intersect with Australian Marine Parks and the Director of National Parks. This was followed by Park's Australia's summary of recent management actions and the annual management report for Year 2 (2019-20). Sessions focused on communication priorities for the next 12 months, the National Environmental Science Program (NESP) [D6 socio-economic benchmarks project](#) and an update on the Monitoring, Evaluation, Reporting and Improvement (MERI) framework.

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), and the South Australian Department for Environment and Water (DEW) and Primary Industries and Regions South Australia (PIRSA). Observers from South Australia presented on recent State government activities including offshore compliance capability and \$5 million investment in nature-based tourism. Observers from Western Australia discussed marine park stakeholder engagement activities and fisheries communication and education opportunities.

Member attendance

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

South-west Network Implementation Plan and Progress Report

An update was provided on key management activities. Highlights by program include:

Authorisations – 16 authorisations issued from 9 October 2019 to 15 May 2020 comprising commercial tourism (5), non-commercial research (6), commercial media (2) and structures and works (3) activities.

Compliance – 12 incidents from January to March 2020. 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 – research activities include Australian sea lion surveys off South Australia and developing a monitoring approach for seagrass, algae and fish communities in Geographe Marine Park.

Research through the NESP Marine Biodiversity Hub includes surveying rocky reef habitats off the south west of WA, collecting social and economic baseline data at boat ramps to assess understanding of marine parks among recreational fishers and understanding juvenile white shark habitat in south-western Australia –read more about this project on our Science Atlas [here](#).

Subscribe to Parks Australia's Science Newsletter [here](#) or access past issues [here](#).



Indigenous engagement – Ongoing engagement with the Noongar people, the South West Boojarah Working Party and South West Aboriginal Land and Sea Council (SWALSC), and Far West Coast Aboriginal Corporation representatives about management activities and future collaboration opportunities.

Project work continues with the Esperance Tjaltjraak Native Title Aboriginal Corporation and Undalup Association, providing valuable insights into a number of marine parks across the South-west network.

Parks Australia are preparing an Indigenous Engagement and Cultural Heritage Strategy for Australian Marine Parks.

Parks Protection and Management – Parks Australia continue to collaborate with DBCA to monitor marker buoys in Geographe Marine Park.

No environmental incidents were reported since November 2019, but Parks Australia continue to work with partner agencies to support incident response.

Communications, Education and Awareness – Presentation at the National Recreational Fishing Conference in December 2019, Hobart. Parks Australia hosted an information booth and presented on recent work with the fishing sector.

During the Australia Day 2020 long weekend, Parks Australia staff were stationed at Mindarie marina and Ocean Reef Boat Harbour north of Perth, providing an

opportunity to talk to recreational fishers about Australian Marine Parks, in particular, Two Rocks Marine Park.

In partnership with DBCA, joint signs and accompanying promotional products including a digital brochure and FAQs, were developed to target the south west Capes region. In partnership with DEW (SA), marine park guides for recreational fishers were updated to capture Australian Marine Park information.

Australian Marine Parks launched on social media – search @ausmarineparks on your favourite platform



Follow them to stay up to date on management activities

Tourism and Visitor Experience – Face-to-face engagement with the industry and operators wasn't possible due to COVID-19.

Parks Australia is developing a Tourism and Visitor Experience Strategy.

A Monitoring, Evaluation, Reporting and Improvement (MERI) system for Australian Marine Parks

Parks Australia is developing a Monitoring, Evaluation, Reporting and Improvement (MERI) framework for Australian Marine Parks. MERI will guide monitoring to assess the health of marine parks and evaluate the effectiveness of management.

Next steps include working with NESP to map values, activities and pressures to inform a national risk map.

Next Meeting

The next Committee meeting is likely to be in November 2020. For more information about the South-west Marine Parks Network or the Committee:

Visit parksaustralia.gov.au/south-west

Email marineparks@awe.gov.au