

## South-west Marine Parks Advisory Committee

### Meeting #2 Communique

#### 7 November 2019, Adelaide

#### Committee Meeting Overview

The second meeting of the South-west Marine Parks Advisory Committee (SWMPAC) was held in Adelaide on Thursday 7 November 2019.

Kuarna elder Mr Frank wangutya Wanganeen opened the meeting, welcoming the Committee to Kuarna country.

Key agenda items for the meeting included: the South-west Network Implementation Plan and progress report; a Monitoring, Evaluation, Reporting and Improvement (MERI) system for Australian Marine Parks and a National Communications and Marketing Strategy.

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 presented an overview of their management operations and outlined activities underway from annual collaborative agreements with Parks Australia. Committee member Sophie Teede also presented a paper about Sea-birding in Commonwealth Waters.

Further information on the South-west Network is available here:  
[parksaustralia.gov.au/south-west](http://parksaustralia.gov.au/south-west)

#### Member attendance

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

#### South-west Network Implementation Plan and Progress Report

An update was provided on key activities implemented since July 2018. A summary of these include:

**Authorisations** –19 authorisations issued across commercial tourism (4), non-commercial research (11), commercial media (2) and structures and works (2) activities.

**Compliance** – 16 incidents. The compliance team have established a hotline for reporting suspicious or illegal activity: 1800 852 975 or [marine.compliance@environment.gov.au](mailto:marine.compliance@environment.gov.au)

**Science** – Research commissioned by Parks included: Australian sea lion surveys at Nuyts Reef and Kangaroo Island (DEW); Habitat mapping and fish assemblage surveys using Baited Remote Underwater Video (BRUV) in Western Eyre Marine Park (DEW). NESP Marine Biodiversity Hub projects including:

Eco-narratives for [Perth Canyon](#) and [Geographe](#) Marine Parks (NESP) and monitoring population dynamics of the SW [population of southern right whales](#).

Parks Australia also launched a new science newsletter (including science in the terrestrial parks). To subscribe: <http://eepurl.com/dnntW5>

**Indigenous engagement** – In April 2019, Parks Australia convened a forum of Noongar representatives to identify opportunities for Aboriginal engagement in sea country management.

Parks Australia is working with the Esperance Tjaltjraak Native Title Aboriginal Corporation to develop projects for celebrating and protecting sea country values around the Eastern Recherche and South-west Corner Marine Parks.

Also, Parks Australia is supporting an Aboriginal participatory mapping project to spatially map Aboriginal ecological knowledge in Geographe Marine Park and an area of the South-west Corner Marine Park.

**Parks Protection and Management** – Parks Australia collaborated with the WA Department of Biodiversity, Conservation and Attractions on installation of marker buoys around the National Park Zone in Geographe Marine Park adjacent to a Ngari Capes Marine Park Sanctuary Zone.

**Communications, Education and Awareness** – Presentation at the Australian Marine Sciences Association (AMSA) 2019 Conference in Fremantle and an information booth which provided opportunities to discuss marine parks with the scientific community.

Participation in public information sessions on the governments' roles in regulating offshore oil and gas activities off the South Australian coast, including public sessions in Adelaide, Port Lincoln, Victor Harbor and Kangaroo Island in August 2018.

In partnership with SA DEW, joint interpretive signage at Seal Bay and Cape du Couedic (Kangaroo Island) about SA and Australian Marine Parks. In partnership with WA DBCA, joint compliance and interpretation signage around the Capes region at popular boat ramps and visitor sites about Geographe and

South-west Corner National Park zoning adjacent to Ngari Capes Marine Park zoning.

A brochure detailing both WA and Australian Marine Parks around the Capes region was produced for distribution at public science talks by Dr Timothy Langlois and Prof Gary Kendrick in early October in Busselton, Dunsborough and Margaret River.

**Tourism and Visitor Experience** – Parks Australia is developing a Tourism and Visitor Experience Strategy.

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

Parks Australia are developing a Monitoring, Evaluation, Reporting and Improvement (MERI) system for Australian Marine Parks to monitor the health of parks and evaluate the effectiveness of management.

Two key components of the MERI system will be a national framework that explains the overall approach and Network monitoring plans that include outcomes and measurable indicators. MERI will inform annual reports and national State of the Environment reporting.

Committee advice will be sought at several stages in the process of designing MERI, including: preliminary information of values, pressures and use; inventory and monitoring priorities; and evaluation and reporting processes and templates.

### Next Meeting

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

Visit [parksaustralia.gov.au/south-west](https://parksaustralia.gov.au/south-west)

Email [marineparks@environment.gov.au](mailto:marineparks@environment.gov.au)