

Temperate East Marine Parks Advisory Committee

Meeting #3 Communiqué

18 June 2020, Videoconference

Committee Meeting Overview

The second meeting of the Temperate East Marine Parks Advisory Committee was held via videoconference on Thursday 18 June 2020. A face-to-face meeting was not possible due to COVID-19 pandemic travel restrictions and social distancing requirements.

The Chair provided an Acknowledgment of Country, paying respect to the Traditional Owners of the land on which the meeting was held.

Key agenda items for the meeting included: the Temperate East Network management report; a Monitoring, Evaluation, Reporting and Improvement (MERI) framework discussion; current status and future direction of marine science; and a discussion on recreational fishing permits at Elizabeth Reef.

Regional updates were provided by members and NSW DPI. Cath Sampson, Parks Australia, presented on a recent research voyage to Lord Howe Marine Park and the current status and future directions of science in the Temperate East Network.

Management Report

An update was provided on key activities carried out since July 2019. A summary of these include:

- **Authorisations** – 25 authorisations were issued across research (8),

Member attendance

Adrian Wayne
Bob Creese
Brian Busted
Chris Fulton
David Major
Joe McNulty
John Burgess
Peter Cochrane
Rick Stuart-Smith
Rosemary Black
Steve Whalan
Tricia Beatty
Hilary Schofield (Chair)

Observers

NSW Department of Primary Industries
(NSW DPI)

commercial tourism (7), recreational fishing (5), structures and works (3), and actions by or under the direction of the Commonwealth (2) activities.

- **Compliance** – 3 incidents of recreational fishing were reported in National Park Zones in the Temperate East Network and are under investigation.
- **Science** – Recent research includes: seafloor mapping in Elizabeth and Middleton Reefs, rapid reef health monitoring in Norfolk Marine Park, Galapagos shark studies in the waters off Lord Howe Island, and Grey nurse shark monitoring at Pimpernel Rock.
- **Indigenous engagement**
Parks Australia has been working with traditional owners of the south coast

of New South Wales and NSW DPI to produce a south coast sea country education resource for upper primary. The resource is based on the cultural values in and adjacent to the NSW Batemans and Jervis Bay marine parks and the Commonwealth Jervis Marine Park.

- **Parks Protection and Management**
Report of an unexploded ordnance at Elizabeth Reef, Lord Howe Marine Park. Access to the Recreational Use Zone of Lord Howe Marine Park (which includes Elizabeth Reef) has been temporarily prohibited by Parks Australia due to safety concerns.
- **Communications, Education and Awareness**
A Temperate East Network Action Plan has been developed with planned communication activities for 2020/21.

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

Parks Australia is 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. The draft framework was presented to the Committee for comment.

Committee advice will be sought regarding existing data layers of pressures, activities and natural values to develop a hotspot map.

Current status and future directions of marine science in the Temperate East Network

An overview was provided for major research projects in the Temperate East Network as well as the national National Environmental Science Program, D6 Australian Marine Parks Social and Economic Baselines Project which

includes a survey of recreational boaters and their perceptions of management in marine parks.

Given the rapidly evolving impacts of tropicalisation on temperate ecosystems, the Committee noted that priority action was required to agree and implement monitoring priorities for the network. Committee members will be meeting out-of-session to progress this work.

Recreational fishing permits at Elizabeth Reef

Recreational fishers are required to apply for permits and subsequently provide trip reports if fishing at Elizabeth Reef. Data from these reports was considered by the Committee. It was noted that an understanding of what species are being caught, the number of fish retained and general observations about reef health are useful management inputs. The Committee noted potential to improve the reporting format and agreed to meet out-of-session for further discussion.

Next Meeting

The next Committee meeting will be held in November 2020. For more information about the Temperate East Marine Parks Network or the Committee:

Visit parksaustralia.gov.au/temperate-east

Email marineparks@awe.gov.au