



Australian
Marine Parks

Research in Australian Marine Parks



This factsheet outlines how draft management plans for marine parks in the North, North-west, South-west, Temperate East and the Coral Sea will support research in these parks. We are seeking your feedback on these plans.

Science has formed the basis for establishing Australian Marine Parks and will remain key to successfully managing them. We encourage research in marine parks to improve our understanding of marine systems, habitats, ecosystems and values.

How have we developed the draft plans?

The draft plans set out our approach to managing Australian Marine Parks (formally known as Commonwealth Marine Reserves) over the next ten years. In developing draft plans, we have worked hard to balance the need to protect important marine habitats and features, with supporting people to use and enjoy these special places.

The draft plans have benefitted from the best available science, feedback from the public, the independent review of Commonwealth marine reserves released in 2016, the advice and expertise of traditional owners in managing sea country and the Government's policies and approaches to supporting competitive and sustainable fisheries.

Where are Australian Marine Parks?

Australian Marine Parks are in Commonwealth waters. These waters generally start three nautical miles (5.5 km) from the coast and extend to the edge of Australia's exclusive economic zone. Waters closer to the shore are managed by states and territories.

How will research be supported by these plans?

In recognition of the importance of increasing our understanding about marine parks, the Government will support and encourage scientific research and monitoring over the next decade. This includes developing apps and tools to communicate scientific research and values of parks. It is exciting that most research voyages to deeper, less visited waters of Australian Marine Parks result in the discovery of new species.

Where will I be allowed to research?

The draft plans set out zones and rules for Australian Marine Parks.

Research will be allowed in all zones within marine parks. Researchers will need to apply for a permit to undertake research within marine parks. It will be a condition of all research permits that the results of research must be made available to the Director of National Parks. Research must comply with other Commonwealth, state and territory regulations.

For further information about the zones and rules in each marine park, look at the factsheets on each regional network at parksaustralia.gov.au/marine.

When do the new management arrangements commence?

Until new management plans come into effect, likely to be in 2018, there will be no “on the water” changes for users. More information about the existing management arrangements is available at environment.gov.au/marinereserves.

How can I be involved in marine park management?

We are committed to working in partnership with people who use our marine parks. This includes working together to better understand and protect our marine parks, for example by installing moorings and cleaning

up marine debris. Network advisory committees are one way for people to be involved in marine park management, but there may also be others – we welcome your ideas on how you want to be involved.

Have your say

Please send your feedback on these draft plans by 20 September 2017, by:

1. Filling in our feedback form, available at parksaustralia.gov.au/marine
2. Emailing: managementplanning.marine@environment.gov.au
3. Writing (free of charge) to:
Australian Marine Parks Management Planning Comments
Department of the Environment and Energy
Reply Paid 787
Canberra ACT 2601

Comments may be made public. Personal information provided to us will be dealt with in accordance with the Australian Privacy Principles. Further information and our privacy notice is available at parksaustralia.gov.au/marine. Your personal information may be disclosed to the Minister, relevant government agencies, the Australian Parliament and where required by law.

Further information

If you have questions regarding the draft plans or the public comment process, please visit the Australian Marine Parks website parksaustralia.gov.au/marine, send an email to marinereserves@environment.gov.au, or call 1800 069 352.

