

NORTH-WEST MARINE PARKS NETWORK MANAGEMENT PLAN 2018

IMPLEMENTATION PLAN 1

FOUNDATION PHASE

2018– 2022



Australian Government
Parks Australia



**Australian
Marine Parks**

This North-west Marine Parks Network Implementation Plan 1 (years 1-4) identifies foundational management activities in the first four years of implementing the North-west Marine Parks Network Management Plan 2018 (Management Plan). These activities will contribute to outcomes under each management program in the Management Plan. Activities include the establishment of natural, social and economic baselines and monitoring programs, actions to address pressures, and foundational actions that will inform or guide future actions, such as scoping studies, establishment work, and strategy development. Dependencies, including national actions, are identified.

In managing the North-west Marine Parks Network, the Director of National Parks (Director) will need to make decisions about enabling use and managing pressures, while balancing the need to protect natural, cultural, heritage and socio-economic values of the Network, now and in the future.

Each year a report will be prepared by Parks Australia, in consultation with the North-west Marine Parks Advisory Committee (Advisory Committee), to document progress against actions in the Implementation Plan 1, and make recommendations on initiating, continuing, or terminating activities as part of an adaptive management cycle. Yearly reports will be used to inform the advisory committee and the Director about management progress, and will enable review of priorities, taking account of emerging issues and stakeholder needs.

A review of performance measures and outcomes in Implementation Plan 1 will occur in year four to inform drafting of Implementation Plan 2 to continue ongoing management actions in years five to eight. Management actions may change during the life of the Management Plan as new information and approaches become available. Additional actions will be developed in partnership with stakeholders and the Advisory Committee.

Communication, education and awareness program
Improve awareness, understanding and support for marine parks and park management.

Management Plan Outcome:

- Increased awareness, understanding and support for marine parks.

Management Plan Regional Actions:

- Develop information on the marine parks to encourage increased awareness and understanding of their values and management arrangements.
- Provide infrastructure in and adjacent to the Network, such as signs and marker buoys, to increase understanding of marine park values and rules, particularly at sites that are regularly visited.
- Establish a North-west Network advisory committee to support and collaborate with the Director in management.

Implementation Plan 1 Outcomes:

- Parks Australia understands the diverse needs of marine park stakeholders and the best approach to engage each audience in order to achieve high-impact communications.
- Marine park users and key stakeholders are aware of Australian Marine Parks, their values and how they are managed, including an understanding of how marine park rules impact their own activities.
- General public are aware of Australian Marine Parks, their values and the role they play in protecting Australia's marine environment.
- Partnerships are in place for promoting Australian Marine Parks.

Implementation Activities	Year 1 2018/19	Year 2 2019/20	Year 3 2020/21	Year 4 2021/22
Guided by a National Communications and Marketing Strategy, undertake a North-west Network stakeholder and events analysis to inform network communications.				
Work cooperatively with the Western Australian Government (DBCA, DPIRD & Tourism WA) to identify communications needs and opportunities - particularly where we have adjacent marine parks - such as information for apps, signs, newsletters and participation at events.				
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • incorporate rules and zoning for Australian Marine Parks on existing platforms (e.g. DBCA Explore Marine Parks App). 				
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • install signs to support awareness of rules and zoning with the priorities being out of date signage and areas with high use (e.g. Ningaloo MP). 				
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • incorporate information on Australian Marine Parks in government products (e.g. DBCA e-newsletters, DPIRD Catch! E-newsletter, recreational fishing licence renewals). 				
Work cooperatively with the Australian Government agencies to identify communications needs and opportunities (e.g. Australian Border Force, AFMA, AMSA etc).				
Collaborate with a range of sectors and Indigenous groups to promote Australian Marine Parks across the North-west Network, such as information for apps, newsletters and events.				
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • for recreational and game fishers, provide information on rules and zoning (e.g. Recfishwest App and Broad Cast e-newsletter, Game Fishing Association of Australia (GFAA) newsletter, Shark Bay Fishing Fiesta). 				
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • for the commercial and recreational fishing sectors. 				

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> for visitors, liaise with Tourism WA and Regional and Local Government Associations to provide information on park values at highly visited locations and tourism events (e.g. Whale Shark Festival display, Kimberley Marine Commercial Tour Operators Workshop presentation). 				
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> for Indigenous groups, share information on park management at PBC, land council and ranger group meetings, including Aboriginal Ranger and Indigenous Healthy Country forums (e.g. factsheets, presentations). 				
<p>Publish regular updates on Australian Marine Park management activities.</p>				
<p>Convene two annual meetings of the North-west Marine Parks Advisory Committee and publish committee communiques.</p>				
<p>Support an annual meeting with the Kimberley Indigenous Saltwater Advisory Group (ISWAG) to discuss marine park management arrangements.</p>				
<p>Dependencies - national actions</p>	<p>Development of the Australian Marine Parks (AMPs) Communication, Education and Awareness Strategy 2021 is being progressed.</p>			

Tourism and visitor experience program

Provide for and promote a range of environmentally appropriate, high-quality recreation and tourism experiences and contribute to Australia's visitor economy.

Management Plan Outcomes:

- High-quality visitor experiences that are appealing, engaging and raise awareness of the natural and cultural values of marine parks.
- Increased visitation to marine parks.
- Social and economic benefits from the contribution of marine parks to Australia's visitor economy.

Management Plan Regional Actions:

- Promote visitor experiences that foster curiosity and appreciation of natural and heritage values in the Network.
- Work with other Commonwealth and state government agencies, and the tourism industry to support tourism initiatives, events and attractions that promote visitor experiences in marine parks.
- Facilitate partnerships between Indigenous people and tourism operators.

Implementation Plan 1 Outcome:

- Understanding of tourism in marine parks.
- Increase in visitors to marine parks.
- Increase in the diversity of visitor experiences in marine parks.
- Increase in high-standard tourism operators.
- Cultural values recognised in tourism activities.

Implementation Activities	Year 1 2018/19	Year 2 2019/20	Year 3 2020/21	Year 4 2021/22
Work with Tourism WA, WA Tourism Council and Regional Associations to identify regional tourism associations and events across the Network.				
Work with regional and local organisations (e.g. Tourism commissions, local government) to support marine park tourism experience in regional areas.				
Develop tourism products in collaboration with interested associations and operators to increase awareness of Australian Marine Parks and their values (e.g. presentations, story boards, interpretation materials).				
Support regional tourism events with high visitor participation to promote marine parks and visitor experiences (e.g. Ningaloo whale shark festival).				
Work with tour operators to understand visitor use in marine parks (number of tours, visitors, locations visited and activity types in parks).				
Encourage sustainable marine tourism through the Our Marine Parks Grants.				
Work with the Western Australian Indigenous Tourism Operators Council (WAITOC) to promote culturally appropriate information and Indigenous tourism in marine parks.				
Dependencies - national actions	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Development of a national Tourism and Visitor Experience Strategy - completed. • Development of a national commercial tourism authorisation system - completed. 			

Indigenous engagement program

Recognise and respect the ongoing cultural responsibilities of indigenous people to care for sea country and support multiple benefits for Traditional Owners.

Management Plan Outcomes:

- Social, cultural and economic benefits for Traditional Owners.
- Partnerships with Traditional Owners and Indigenous groups to manage sea country in marine parks.

Management Plan Regional Actions:

- Collaborate with Traditional Owners and Indigenous ranger groups and relevant partners to undertake marine park management such as surveillance, monitoring and threat mitigation including marine debris removal, and implement actions identified in sea country plans where applicable.
- Identify opportunities and mechanisms to engage Traditional Owners and Indigenous rangers in the management of marine parks.
- Increase understanding of traditional knowledge, map cultural values and manage significant sites.
- Implement cultural awareness training for Parks Australia staff in association with Traditional Owners.
- Establish protocols for researchers working with Parks Australia to guide engagement with Traditional Owners.

Implementation Plan 1 Outcomes:

- Traditional Owners contribute to marine park management decision-making processes.
- Cultural values are accounted for in decision-making processes.
- Partnerships are in place with Traditional Owners and Indigenous rangers to manage sea country in Australian Marine Parks.
- Australian Marine Parks deliver social, cultural and economic benefits for Traditional Owners.

Implementation Activities	Year 1 2018/19	Year 2 2019/20	Year 3 2020/21	Year 4 2021/22
Identify Traditional Owner and ranger groups for the North-west Marine Parks Network and develop our understanding of Traditional Owner connections to sea country/cultural values.				
Engage with Prescribed Body Corporates (PBCs), Land Councils and Aboriginal Corporations on activities in parks.				
Support engagement of Aboriginal groups in marine park management including an annual meeting with the Kimberley Indigenous Saltwater Advisory Group (ISWAG).				
Undertake projects to better understand cultural values in Australian Marine Parks (e.g. Kimberley MP values mapping project).				
Support sea country management through partnerships around country planning/cultural values mapping, protected species management and threat mitigation (e.g. biodiversity and habitat assessment projects in Kimberley, Roebuck and Eighty Mile Beach Marine Parks).				
Work with Traditional Owners, prescribed body corporations and Native Title representative bodies to identify and implement preferred ways for consulting on management and other activities in parks.				
Marine parks staff and advisory committee members undertake cultural awareness training.				
Dependencies - national actions	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Development of a national AMP Indigenous Engagement and Cultural Heritage Strategy. • Undertake Indigenous cultural awareness training. 			

Marine science program

Provide necessary scientific knowledge and understanding of marine park values, pressures and adequacy of responses for effective management.

Management Plan Outcomes.

- Increase understanding of marine park values, pressures and adequacy of responses.
- Improve understanding of the effectiveness of marine park management in protecting park values.
- Informed decision-making and improved evidence-based decisions.

Management Plan Regional Actions:

- Monitor social and economic uses and their benefits and impacts on marine parks in the Network.
- Monitor the condition of important habitats such as reef systems and their vulnerability to climate change.
- Monitor the impact of invasive species on marine park values and the effectiveness of management.
- Collaborate with other Commonwealth and state government agencies, marine park users and the science sector to support long term monitoring. For example, monitoring of coral reefs, protected species and the effects of fishing on marine parks.
- Investigate opportunities to extend citizen science programs.

Implementation Plan 1 Outcomes:

- Inventory surveys have been undertaken to identify Australian Marine Park values and pressures.
- Effective partnerships are in place to enable Parks Australia to leverage research in Australian Marine Parks.
- Understanding of Australian Marine Park values and pressures has improved.
- Parks Australia has appropriate systems in place to consider relevant information in assessments and other decision-making processes.

Implementation Activities	Year 1 2018/19	Year 2 2019/20	Year 3 2020/21	Year 4 2021/22
Identify and implement priority science projects through partnerships across the science community (e.g. WAMSI, AIMS, CSIRO, universities), Traditional Owners and industry.				
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ashmore Reef MP: terrestrial and marine environmental assessment (CSIRO). 				
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Montebello and Dampier MP: habitat mapping and biodiversity assessment (CSIRO). 				
Work cooperatively with the Western Australian Government (DBCA, DPIRD) to identify shared science needs and opportunities to support projects of mutual benefit in particular in adjacent marine parks.				
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Eighty Mile Beach, Roebuck and Kimberley MPs: assessment of fish & elasmobranch assemblages & their habitats (DPIRD and ranger groups). 				
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Kimberley, Eighty Mile Beach and Roebuck MPs: turtle tracking and identification of key foraging habitats (DBCA and ranger groups). 				
Identify opportunities for citizen science initiatives in marine parks, including support for citizen science through the Our Marine Parks Grants.				
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ashmore, Cartier, Mermaid and Kimberley MPs e.g. shallow reef surveys (RLS) and seabird and shorebird surveys. 				
Engage with NESP science providers to increase understanding of bathymetry, habitats and biodiversity, and facilitate community awareness of NESP projects in the Network.				

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Ningaloo MP: seafloor mapping and biodiversity assessment (UTAS, CSIRO). 				
Identify priority marine park habitats and associated biodiversity for research and monitoring management effectiveness (e.g. corals at Ashmore and Mermaid Reefs).				
Dependencies - national actions	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Establishment of ecological, social and economic baselines. Development of a national Australian Marine Parks Science Strategy. Establishment of an authorisation system for science research and monitoring. Engage with National Environmental Science Program (NESP) providers to deliver science needs. 			

Assessments and authorisations program

Provide for efficient, effective, transparent and accountable assessment, authorisation and monitoring processes to enable sustainable use and protection of marine park values.

Management Plan Outcome:

- Assessments and authorisations ensure ongoing protection of marine park values through the management of activities in marine parks.

Management Plan Regional Actions:

- Issue authorisations – a permit, class approval, activity licence or lease – for activities in marine parks assessed as acceptable either by the Director or another government or industry policy, plan or program accepted by the Director.
- Work with other Commonwealth and state government agencies to improve experiences and consistency of approaches for people seeking authorisations.

Implementation Plan 1 Outcomes:

- Activities are assessed consistent with legislative requirements.
- Authorisation processes are timely.
- Authorisations policy and guidance materials are easily accessible and clearly communicated.
- The online authorisations process is accessible and functional.

Implementation Activities	Year 1 2018/19	Year 2 2019/20	Year 3 2020/21	Year 4 2021/22
Assess and issue permits and licences to authorise allowable activities to be undertaken.				
Communicate with stakeholders (including WA government agencies) on authorisation requirements.				
Work with state agencies to ensure our authorisations approaches are consistent where possible/appropriate.				
Streamline and improve the authorisations process for research				
Dependencies - national actions	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Development of a customer focussed online authorisation system for marine park users – completed and being implemented. • Development of a Marine Parks Authorisation Policy – completed. 			

Parks protection and management

Timely and appropriate preventative and restorative actions to protect natural, cultural and heritage values from impacts

Management Plan Outcome:

- Impact of pressures on marine park values are minimised as far as reasonably practicable.

Management Plan Regional Actions:

- Enable infrastructure such as moorings to protect habitats and enhance visitor safety.
- Collaborate with and support other agencies that undertake invasive and protected species management and marine debris removal. For example, biosecurity assessments, research, or removal of ghost nets.
- Work with other Commonwealth and state government agencies to respond to environmental incidents and accidents.
- Collaborate with Traditional Owners and Indigenous ranger groups to undertake management actions.

Implementation Plan 1 Outcomes:

- The Director is ready to respond to environmental incidents.
- The Directors actions address pressures and threats to marine park values.

Implementation Activities	Year 1 2018/19	Year 2 2019/20	Year 3 2020/21	Year 4 2021/22
Identify and prioritise parks protection and management activities across the Network within a risk based framework.				
Develop a Network infrastructure and maintenance register.				
Identify Network infrastructure needs and provide and maintain park infrastructure to support compliance and safe and equitable visitor experiences (e.g. mooring maintenance at Ashmore and Reef Marine Parks).				
Work cooperatively with the Western Australian Government (DBCA, DPIRD) and Commonwealth agencies (AMSA, NOPSEMA) to monitor, report and respond to environmental incidents. Including participation in State-based incident training exercises.				
Work with Traditional Owners and ranger groups to identify opportunities to deliver parks protection and management activities.				
Encourage park protection projects through the Our Marine Parks Grants.				
Dependencies - national actions	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Development of an Environmental Incident and Emergency Response Strategy - completed. • Development of a Marine Debris Strategy - completed. • Development of a Mooring Policy - completed. 			

Compliance program

Actions to support appropriate and high level compliance by marine park users with the rules set out in the Management Plan

Management Plan Outcomes:

- Improved user awareness of marine park rules.
- Increased levels of voluntary compliance and self-regulation by marine park users.
- High overall levels of compliance with the rules by marine park users.
- A decrease in the number of non-compliances.

Management Plan Regional Actions:

- Work with other Commonwealth, state and territory government agencies, particularly where parks adjoin state or territory marine parks, in compliance planning, including implementing actions to deter illegal activities and encourage voluntary compliance.
- Collaborate with Commonwealth and state government agencies in surveillance, including water and aerial patrols.

Implementation Plan 1 Outcomes:

- Improvement in marine park user awareness.
- Enforcement actions (e.g. fines and prosecutions) are successful and publicised.
- Increase coverage and frequency of surveillance and monitoring.

Implementation Activities	Year 1 2018/19	Year 2 2019/20	Year 3 2020/21	Year 4 2021/22
Prepare annual Network compliance plan using a risk based approach.				
Work cooperatively with the Western Australian (DBCA, DPIRD) Government and Commonwealth agencies (MBC, AFMA) to undertake surveillance across the Network and report on non-compliant activity.				
Collaborate with peak bodies representing park users to develop communication material to promote compliance awareness.				
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Incorporate rules and zoning of Australian Marine Parks on existing platforms (e.g. WA Recreational Fishing Guide and Recfishwest apps). 				
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Utilise advances in technology to support streamlined and cost effective compliance (e.g. monitoring systems). 				
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Promote existing pathways for individuals to support compliance intelligence (e.g. Parks Australia’s compliance number, DPIRD Fishwatch in WA). 				
Work with Traditional Owners and ranger groups to build reporting capabilities.				
Dependencies - national actions	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Development of a Compliance Framework. 			