

## SOUTH-EAST COMMONWEALTH MARINE RESERVES NETWORK IMPLEMENTATION SCHEDULE 2013/14 – 2016/17

### 2013/14 (YEAR 1) – REPORT ON PROGRESS

#### INTRODUCTION

The *South-east Commonwealth Marine Reserves Network Management Plan 2013-23* (the Plan) came into effect on 1 July 2013. The Plan is the primary tool for the conservation and management of the South-east network. It sets out the approach to and direction of management actions for the next 10 years. The Plan outlines the management strategies for research and monitoring, assessment and permitting, compliance, community participation, Indigenous involvement and environmental management. These strategies and associated actions provide the framework for achieving the Plan's objectives and outcomes over the next 10 years.

The *South-east Commonwealth Marine Reserves Network Implementation Schedule 2013/14 – 2016/17* sets out our priority activities for years 1-4 of the operation of the Plan. It refines the desired outcomes that we will strive to achieve in these foundation years. Importantly, the Schedule reflects how foundation year outcomes will build towards achieving intermediate and long-term outcomes over the 10 year life of the Plan. It delivers certainty and transparency for users on how Parks Australia intends to build towards achieving the 10 year outcomes under the Plan and meet its dual objectives: to protect and conserve biodiversity and other natural and cultural values; and to provide for ecologically sustainable use of the natural resources within the South-east Network consistent with the first objective.

This is the inaugural report of progress against activities under the current Schedule. These annual reports will summarise key achievements for each year, provide progress updates against each activity and next steps. They provide a commentary of what we have done, what difference it has made and an avenue to transparently communicate what happens next and any necessary re-prioritising Parks Australia may need to do over the life of the Schedule to adapt the following years activities to respond to emerging issues and taking on board lessons we have learnt along the way.

Reporting on the Schedule aligns with and complements Parks Australia corporate reporting responsibilities.

#### Summary of Activities for 2013/14

- Activities planned for 2013/14 – 21 activities
  - Activities completed for 2013/14 – 17 activities (includes ongoing activities such as issuing authorisations, compliance/enforcement activities)
  - Activities commenced in 2013/14 – 4 activities
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- Activities required under the Plan to be completed within the first 12 months of the Plan's operation:

- Strategy 5 Action 25 – Establish Consultative Structures to guide and participate in the management of the marine reserves network: the South-east Forum was established to give effect to this action. The Forum will respond to the outcomes of the Commonwealth Marine Reserves Review to incorporate any desirable adjustments to the existing consultative arrangements to align with structures to be established for other CMR networks.
- Strategy 7 Action 30 – Design and initiate a program to measure and monitor progress on actions and outcomes: the South-east Implementation Schedule 2013/14-2016/17 and associated annual progress reports will monitor progress on actions and outcomes for the first 4 years of the Plan. Development of a South-east specific program to measure and monitor management effectiveness has been held over to 2014/15 to align with the development of national principles for an enduring Management Effectiveness Framework for the CMR estate.

#### **Key achievements for 2013-14**

- Finalising the inaugural Implementation Schedule for the South-east Commonwealth Marine Reserves (CMR) Network with input and assistance from the South-east Forum. The Schedule outlines the first four years of activities to progress the objectives of the Plan and will assist us to chart progress towards achieving the objectives of the Plan over the first 4 years of its operation.
- The class approval for commercial fishing came into effect on 1 July 2013 and will remain in effect for the term of the plan. It serves as an important template for other CMR networks not only for commercial fishing, but for other sectors, and as an example of cutting red tape while improving social, economic and environmental outcomes.
- Parks Australia continued to work closely with Commonwealth and state fisheries management agencies to standardise as much as possible requirements for commercial fishers and to arrange for on-going sharing of information regarding vessel monitoring and compliance.
- In partnership with the Australian Fisheries Management Authority (AFMA) and South East Trawl Fishing Industry Association (SETFIA), and trialled with the cooperation of SETFIA vessels, Parks Australia established a CMR Alert Service for Commonwealth commercial fishers to commence on 1 July 2014, for the South-east CMR Network. The CMR alert will be sent to operators and concession holders when a vessel enters a reserve or zone where the type of fishing method associated with the fishing concession is not allowed. This service will be extended to all actively managed CMRs in other networks around Australia on 1 November 2014.
- The South-east Forum met on two occasions during 2013-14. This forum includes representatives from commercial fishing industry, recreational fishing, tourism industry, oil and gas industry, science and environmental sectors. It is an important and continuing collaborative forum to progress activities outlined in the Schedule and provides for multi-sector advice and input into management of the South-east CMR Network.
- In partnership with commercial fishing industry and other government agencies significant progress was made in improving marine reserve awareness, with on-going surveillance and monitoring, preparation for industry training opportunities, and compliance risk planning with industry.
- Constructive partnerships in managing Commonwealth reserves continued and advanced with state and territory government parks agencies and Australian Government agencies. Industry partnerships were expanded with the Commonwealth Fisheries Association and with SETFIA.
- Research partnerships continued with a range of organisations primarily through close collaboration with the National Environmental Research Program (NERP) Marine Hub and Decisions Hub and associated institutions. The NERP Marine Hub made progress on a number of projects in the South-east that will enhance our understanding of the conservation values and inform a Scientific Research and Monitoring Strategy for the South-east to be developed in 2014-15 (see more detail below).

**STRATEGY 1: IMPROVE KNOWLEDGE AND UNDERSTANDING OF THE CONSERVATION VALUES OF THE MARINE RESERVES NETWORK AND THE PRESSURES ON THOSE VALUES.**

ACTIVITY OUTPUT AND DESCRIPTION	YEAR 1 PROGRESS	NEXT STEPS
<p>South-east monitoring program developed and priority monitoring commenced. [Reference 1.2: A1, A2, A3, A4]</p>	<p>The Marine Hub of the National Environmental Research Program (NERP) has several projects of relevance to the South-east Network that have progressed over the last 12 months:</p> <p><b>Theme 1 (National monitoring, evaluation and reporting), Project 1.1 (Collation and analysis of existing data sets):</b> This project is expected to provide an online data catalogue and metadata records for data from Hub agencies that are relevant to the South-east CMRs.</p> <p><b>NERP Marine Hub, Theme 1 (National monitoring, evaluation and reporting), Project 1.2 (Analysis of approaches for monitoring biodiversity in CMRs):</b> This project is expected to provide a report on the evidence and data that is likely to be needed to monitor the values and pressures in the South-east Network.</p> <p><b>NERP Marine Hub, Theme 2 (Supporting management of marine biodiversity), Project 2.1 (Integrating social, economic and environmental values):</b> This project will outline a methodology to apply general monitoring and research outcomes for a regional context, and provide examples of performance indicators, focusing on the South-east Network.</p>	<p>Reporting and project outputs for the 2013-14 cycle of the Marine Hub was presented in June 2014. A key output for these projects will be a better understanding of the available data and survey methods that can be used in developing a monitoring program for the South-east Network (strategy to be completed by end 2014/15).</p> <p>A Scientific Research Monitoring Strategy for the South-east Network will further refine monitoring objectives and investigation of cost-effective ways to undertake monitoring. This will include engaging with any future NERP programs and other researchers to guide research priorities. The draft strategy will take into account comments from the SE Forum on the Implementation Schedule and the Forum will have an opportunity to provide input and comment.</p> <p>We anticipate presenting a draft strategy to the Forum meeting in March 2015.</p>

Partnerships are identified and in place to actively support and deliver identified South-east research and monitoring priorities. [Reference 1.3: A4, A3]	Existing collaboration with the Marine Hub of the NERP has delivered outcomes in the South-east to improve our understanding of what information is available in relation to the conservation values and pressures, and how we might use this information in developing and implementing a monitoring framework.	As above.
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**STRATEGY 2: MINIMISE IMPACTS OF ACTIVITIES THROUGH EFFECTIVE ASSESSMENT OF PROPOSALS, DECISION-MAKING AND MANAGEMENT OF RESERVE-SPECIFIC ISSUES.**

ACTIVITY OUTPUT AND DESCRIPTION	YEAR 1 PROGRESS	NEXT STEPS
Individual activities assessed consistent with the <i>Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation</i> (EPBC) Act Regulations, in line with the Management Plan and the CMR national estate policy and decision making framework. [Reference 2.1: A5, A6, A7, A8]	<p>Three authorisations active for scientific research during the period 1 July 2013 to April 2014.</p> <p>As required, individual advice was provided on public vessel status requests. These requests relate to international vessels that wish to undertake marine scientific research in Australian waters.</p> <p>As required, a range of advice was provided towards environmental assessments under the EPBC Act on the potential impacts of activity proposals on reserves in South-east Network.</p> <p>The above activities ensured that legislative requirements relating to use in the South-east Network were met, and that potentially negative impacts from activities were minimised.</p>	Individual activities will continue to be assessed as required and in line with EPBC Act requirements. Opportunities for streamlining internal administrative processes will be considered. This will align with CMR estate-wide streamlining and deregulation (where appropriate).

	Commercial tourism (charter fishing) existing authorisations reissued as required prior to 1 July 2014, in order to ensure validity of existing authorisations	Class approval for commercial tourism (charter fishing operations) to be considered for development in 2014/15.
Activities subject to class approvals are managed consistent with the management plan and the CMR national estate policy and decision making framework, including consultation with affected stakeholders. [Reference 2.2: A5, A8]	<p>Poling and trolling techniques included in commercial fishing class approval in response to request from industry (administrative oversight). Commercial fishing class approval amended.</p> <p>Mining class approvals amended to allow activities in Murray CMR special purpose zone.</p> <p>The above amendments to existing class approvals were consistent with provisions in the Management Plan, and have facilitated streamlined use by industry users.</p>	If they arise, administrative oversights will be rectified. Class approvals will be reviewed overtime to improve effectiveness and minimise regulatory burden on users.
Conditions placed on assessments will be adapted/modified to address changes in environmental risks/threats and changing marine use circumstances. [Reference 2.4: A10]	No modified conditions placed on assessments from 1 July 2013 to 30 June 2014.	Activity will be implemented as required.

**STRATEGY 3: PROTECT THE CONSERVATION VALUES OF THE MARINE RESERVES NETWORK THROUGH MANAGEMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL INCIDENTS.**

ACTIVITY OUTPUT AND DESCRIPTION	YEAR 1 PROGRESS	NEXT STEPS
<p>Environmental advice is provided for incidents that may threaten conservation values. [Reference 3.4: A14]</p>	<p>One incident responded to since 1 July 2013 - advice provided on potential risks to conservation values of Tasman Fracture sanctuary zone when a commercial fishing vessel was abandoned ~10km away. Impacts on conservation values considered unlikely.</p> <p>Provision of this advice ensured that Parks Australia met its reporting obligations to incident response agencies. Engaging in incident response ensures we are aware of potentially damaging environmental incidents within the South-east, and have the capacity to respond and provide management advice.</p>	<p>Ongoing as required. There will be a CMR national estate management response to incidents policy developed in 2014/15 for subsequent adoption in South-east.</p>

**STRATEGY 4: FACILITATE COMPLIANCE WITH THIS MANAGEMENT PLAN THROUGH EDUCATION AND ENFORCEMENT.**

ACTIVITY OUTPUT AND DESCRIPTION	YEAR 1 PROGRESS	NEXT STEPS
<p>Compliance monitoring using aerial and vessel surveillance is implemented based on annual risk-based planning. [Reference 4.1: A15, A18, A20, A22]</p>	<p>Based on outcomes from the South-east compliance risk workshop (20 March 2014), an annual compliance operational plan was developed and is being successfully implemented. This includes chartered aerial surveillance and surface surveillance activities in collaboration with the Tasmanian Police.</p>	<p>Review outcomes of 2013-14 compliance operational plan, in preparation for development of 2014-15 plan. Outcomes and current context will be considered, including future resource availability from Border Protection Command and other agencies. Compliance plan will be public document (excluding tactical information).</p>

<p>Vessel Monitoring System Alert operational in South-east Network [Reference 4.2: A15, A16]</p>	<p>In collaboration with the Australian Fisheries Management Authority, phase 1 of a Vessel Monitoring System Alert trial was undertaken and completed in December 2013. This involved the industry participation of two vessels which received a range of configured alerts being triggered for entering, dropping below 5 knots within and exiting a south-east CMR. Feedback on phase 1 from industry participants was positive.</p>	<p>The CMR Alert Service was launched in the South-east CMR network from 1 July 2014 with the service being offered in the other actively managed CMRs around the country from 1 November 2014. The CMR Alert Service forms part of the vessel monitoring schedule to the Memorandum of Understanding with the Australian Fisheries Management Authority. The CMR alert service is expected to raise the level of voluntary compliance by the fishing industry within the South-east CMR network.</p>
	<p>There has been an ongoing Memorandum of Understanding with the Australian Fisheries Management Authority on Vessel Monitoring System data delivery. The MOU requires the provision of monthly VMS reports to Parks Australia, detailing Commonwealth nominated fishing vessel activity in and adjacent to existing CMR's. This data is analysed for suspected illegal fishing activity.</p> <p>The MOU has helped to support greater engagement and collaboration for management of the South-east Network.</p>	<p>MOU was recently signed and includes three schedules: VMS data management (including the CMR Alert Service); industry training; and ghost net retrieval and disposal.</p> <p>As at 1 July 2014 100% of the Commonwealth fleet in South-east Network will be under VMS arrangements. We will consider feedback on the system (usability, any technical issues) the look to roll out across CMR estate in next 6 months.</p>
<p>Maps and data are available on our website and accessible to CMR marine users and commercial charting companies are aware of our products. [Reference 4.4: A16]</p>	<p>The CMRN shape files have been made available for commercial use via individual agreement.</p>	<p>Survey to assess needs for further mapping products (e.g. different formats) to take place in late 2014. Ultimate aim is to have maps and shape files for all CMRs available for download from Department website.</p>
	<p>Collaborated with grant recipient to facilitate development of mobile phone application to provide maps and information on reserves for recreational users.</p>	<p>Marine Alert application in beta test phase, anticipated for release in late 2014.</p>

<p>Industry understanding of compliance is progressed and cooperative compliance arrangements promoted. [Reference 4.6: A16, A17, A18, A22]</p>	<p>Industry compliance workshop held 2 April 2014.</p>	<p>Next workshop to be held in 2015/16 (Year 3).</p>
	<p>User guide for South-east Management plan released in July 2013 to provide user-specific information from management plan, titled <i>"A Guide for users of the South-east Commonwealth Marine Reserves Network"</i>.</p>	<p>The user guide will be reviewed annually to ensure content is up to date.</p>
	<p>Investigations into the development of an on-line fishing industry training module commenced with AFMA, as joint project to be trialled in the South-east.</p>	<p>Agreement reached with AFMA to cooperate on development of an online training site to include a number of training courses for the commercial fishing industry, one of which will be specific to management and allowed commercial fishing activities in the SE Network.</p>
<p>Compliance activity and enforcement data is appropriately collected, securely managed and utilised for planning and reporting purposes and effectively supports investigations. [Reference 4.9: A15, A19]</p>	<p>An internal Parks Australia database, called the Compliance Enforcement Management System (CEMS) was maintained and utilised to document compliance information related to the South-east Network. It is an appropriate and secure tool to store and analyse compliance data.</p> <p>Internal standard operational procedures were developed for chartered aerial surveillance and compliance risk based planning, to ensure these activities are undertaken consistently, efficiently, and effectively.</p> <p>Parks Australia staff attained the requisite security clearances to ensure that sensitive files are stored in line with departmental policy.</p>	<p>The Compliance Enforcement Management System will continue to be the primary tool for the storage and analysis of compliance data for the South-east Network.</p>



<p>Effective and efficient working partnerships and agreements with regional marine compliance agencies. [Reference 4.10: A15, A18, A20]</p>	<p>Contractual arrangements are in place with the Tasmanian Police and PIRSA (Primary Industries and Regions South Australia) for the delivery of surface surveillance patrols in the South-east Network. This was undertaken in line with the Annual Compliance Operational Plan, and ensured a strong compliance presence across the Network.</p>	<p>Annual agreements with relevant agencies are reviewed annually, to assess outcomes from the previous 12 months and consider emerging risks and priorities. The annual review process will commence prior to the end of existing contracts on 30 June 2014.</p>
	<p>South-east Marine Region Compliance Risk Assessment Workshop held on 20 March 2013 in Adelaide. The workshop was attended by the following agencies: Australian Customs &amp; Border Protection Command, AFMA, South Australian Department of Environment, Water &amp; Natural Resources, Primary Industries and Regions SA, Tasmanian Police, and Parks Australia.</p> <p>Agencies shared information on their respective roles, responsibilities and capabilities in relation to compliance and enforcement in the South-east Network. A number of collaborative compliance initiatives were developed and agreed, including in relation to sharing of data and information, provision of analytical support, and general communication and reporting.</p> <p>The workshop supported mutual cooperation and collaboration between relevant agencies, to improve the efficiency and effectiveness of compliance and enforcement actions in the South-east.</p>	<p>Next steps are to implement the initiatives agreed between agencies and reconvene in 12 months time to assess progress. The discussions from the workshop were also used to inform annual risk planning for the South-east Network.</p>

<p>Regional enforcement partners are trained to achieve a thorough understanding of their powers and are confident in executing their warden powers under the EPBC Act. [Reference 4.11: A20]</p>	<p>Warden training package to be delivered to South Australian and Tasmanian wardens later in 2014. A boarding quick reference guide has been distributed to all State agency wardens. An online warden toolbox is being compiled to assist in warden capacity building and will include all relevant templates and guidelines. These activities will ensure EPBC Act wardens have a thorough understanding of their roles and responsibilities and have the tools required to competently execute their duties.</p>	<p>The training package that has been delivered during 2013/14 will be reviewed and revised based on attendee feedback.</p> <p>Training will continue in Year 2 (2014/15) due to rescheduling around staff availability/season peaks. Next comprehensive training will occur in Year 3 (2015/16).</p>
<p>Illegal activity enforced to achieve individual and general deterrence to reduce non-compliance incidences. [Reference 4.12: A21]</p>	<p>A range of enforcement actions were taken in response to incidents of non compliance in the South-east network. These actions include warning and infringement notices, formal investigations and requests for information, and taking some cases to court. These actions help to achieve individual and general deterrence of non compliant activity in the South-east Network.</p> <p>Information related to enforcement actions is presented in the Parks Australia annual report.</p>	<p>Enforcement actions will continue to be taken as required and appropriate in response to incidents of non compliance.</p>

**STRATEGY 5: PROMOTE COMMUNITY UNDERSTANDING OF, AND STAKEHOLDER PARTICIPATION IN, THE MANAGEMENT OF THE MARINE RESERVES NETWORK.**

ACTIVITY OUTPUT AND DESCRIPTION	YEAR 1 PROGRESS	NEXT STEPS
<p>Signage audit conducted and priority signage projects delivered. [Reference 5.2: A23]</p>	<p>A signage audit was completed for South-east Network, which confirmed that there are no signs currently being used to promote the Network.</p>	<p>Continue to collaborate with the Tasmanian Parks and Wildlife Service to progress signage installation at priority sites.</p>

	An interpretive and compliance focused signage project is being developed in collaboration with Tasmanian Parks & Wildlife Service, and will likely include the installation of signage adjacent to Freycinet CMR.	Agreement reached on signage project to develop signs and other communications products for Freycinet CMR by end of 2014.
User group meetings facilitated for the exchange of knowledge, understanding and participation in the management of marine reserves (such as for the commercial fishing industry and commercial tourism charter fishing industry). [Reference 5.3: A24]	Commercial fishing industry workshop held in Hobart on 2 April 2014.	SE Commercial Fishing Industry Workshop - Communication and action of outcomes and commitments.
Key CMR users are effectively consulted and advise on the implementation of the management plan in the interim before formal consultative structures are put in place. [Reference 5.5: A24]	South-east forums held on 13 February and 14 May 2014.	South-east Forums to continue twice yearly or as needed until future consultative structures are formalised consistent with other Networks.

#### STRATEGY 6: SUPPORT INVOLVEMENT OF INDIGENOUS PEOPLE IN MANAGEMNT OF COMMONWEALTH MARINE RESERVES.

ACTIVITY OUTPUT AND DESCRIPTION	YEAR 1 PROGRESS	NEXT STEPS
Management plan administered in compliance with the requirements of the <i>Native Title Act 1993</i> . [Reference 6.3: A29]	Indigenous representatives invited to attend and participate in SE Forum.	Continue to seek participation from indigenous groups.

**STRATEGY 7: EVALUATE AND REPORT ON THE EFFECTIVENESS OF THIS MANAGEMENT PLAN THROUGH MONITORING AND REVIEW.**

ACTIVITY OUTPUT AND DESCRIPTION	YEAR 1 PROGRESS	NEXT STEPS
<p>Performance measures developed and monitoring commenced (management effectiveness). [Reference 7.1: A30]</p>	<p>At the national level, the CMR Branch has developed a Program Logic as part of its Monitoring and Evaluation Framework. The Program Logic sets out what the CMR Program as a whole seeks to achieve over the long term, and how it will achieve this. It consists of identified inputs, activities, outputs, and intermediate (10 years) to long term (20-50 year) outcomes.</p> <p>It will be used to support the development of monitoring and reporting programs, and will help inform the Management Plan review process for the rest of the CMR Networks. The Program Logic has been adopted and repurposed for the Implementation Schedule of the South-east Network –Management Plan.</p>	<p>The Program Logic will assist in the development of performance indicators for the South-east Network in Year 2, requiring associated implementation of monitoring needs.</p> <p>Future management plans will aim to include improved linkage between objectives, strategies, actions. Performance indicators will be developed with SE Forum member input.</p>
<p>Implementation schedule agreed and yearly progress reports prepared on how we are performing. [Reference 7.2: A31, A32]</p>	<p>Draft Implementation Schedule (2013-17) tabled at South-east forum 2<sup>nd</sup> meeting for discussion.</p> <p>Draft Year 1 progress report tabled at South-east Forum.</p>	<p>Comments received from SE Forum incorporated and Schedule finalised and approved in July 2014. From Y2 incorporate lessons learnt, adaptive management responses and other recommendations into activities scheduled from 2014-15.</p> <p>Year 1 progress report to be finalised in July 2014.</p>

<p>South-east information to the Department of the Environment and Parks Australia annual reports coordinated. [Reference 7.3: A31]</p>	<p>These documents are under preparation and are required annually.</p>	<p>The Department of the Environment and Parks Australia annual report for 2013-14 will be made publicly available after July 2014.</p>
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