

Temperate East Marine Parks Advisory Committee

Meeting 9 Communiqué

27 April 2023

Meeting held in-person at Port Macquarie

Meeting Overview

The ninth meeting of the Temperate East Marine Parks Advisory Committee was held in Port Macquarie on 27 April 2023.

Observer and Biripai man Tim Donovan gave a Welcome to Country.

The meeting focussed on work that is being undertaken in the Temperate East Network, with several presentations about work conducted over the preceding six months.

Presentations

Presentations about activities that have occurred in the Temperate East Marine Parks Network included:

6 Monthly Management Report Update

- Assistant Secretary Barbara Musso gave a national overview of the Australian Marine Park Network, the Department's Nature Positive Plan and the renewal of the South-east Marine Park Network Management Plan.
- On-Country consultations with Worimi and Yaegl Peoples to implement Sea Country education projects.
- Two NSW DPI Collaboration Deed Project Schedules established.

Member attendance:

Rosemary Black
John Burgess
Brian Busteed
Bob Creese
Rick Stuart-Smith
Adrian Wayne
Russell Gueho (Parks Australia Chair)

Apologies:

Tricia Beatty
Peter Cochrane
Steve Whalan

Observers:

Peter Gallagher & Tim Donovan, NSW Department of Primary Industries (NSW DPI)

- Contract with UWA for continued Galapagos shark research at Lord Howe Marine Park.
- New contract for marker buoy maintenance at Pimpernel Rock National Park Zone and Cod Grounds Marine Park.
- A Determination preventing the take of marine species in Emily and Slaughter Bays, and echinoderms from Cemetery Bay within Norfolk Marine Park was announced on the 15th of February 2023.
- Tracking of Gould's petrels on Cabbage Tree and Montague Island is underway – this work is being

undertaken through an Our Marine Parks Grant.

South-east State of Knowledge summary and overview of Seemap

- Parks Australia's (PA) Science and Management Effectiveness (SaME) team presented the South-east State of Knowledge (SoK) and Seemap Australia to the Committee. SoK is intended as a quick reference guide to understand values, activities and pressures in AMPs and provides guidance for future research directions and monitoring priorities. The summaries for the TE Network will be publicly available in the coming months.
- Seemap Australia is a GIS tool that brings together seafloor habitat maps with contextual data to facilitate understanding and management of Australia's marine resources. More information can be found [here](#).

Sustainable Oceans Policy and Plan

- A presentation, by the Oceans Office of the Department of Climate Change, Energy, the Environment and Water outlined the scope and purpose of the plan. [Sustainable Ocean Plan - DCCEEW](#)

Compliance – Bluebottle Trial

- The Compliance Operations team provided the Committee with an update on the success of the Bluebottle Uncrewed Surface Vessel (USV) trial conducted in January 2023. Highlights included Compliance's ability to remotely monitor marine vessel activity in AMPs using USV and the ability to receive real-time visual information of non-compliant activities from Bluebottles. Full details can be found

at [Bluebottles to sting illegal fishers in Australian Marine Parks](#).

eDNA sampling in the Temperate East

- CSIRO presented "A whole ecosystem and eDNA approach to investigate climate driven shifts in marine communities". This is an extension of work that was initially undertaken at Cocos (Keeling) Islands in 2017 and is now focussing on the tropical/temperate transition zones on the west and east coast of Australia. One of the main aims is to detect early signs of tropicalisation, or increased species shifts south, due to warming waters.

Solitary Islands Marine Park Habitat Mapping

- NSW Department of Planning and Environment presented on their work undertaking habitat mapping of the Solitary Islands Marine Park (Commonwealth waters). To date 114 km² of the park has been mapped and backscatter data collected (~77% of the park). Field work is expected to be completed by the end of 2023.

Temperate East Sea Country work

- Parks Australia provided an overview of the Indigenous Engagement projects that are being undertaken in the Temperate East and guests from the Gumbaynggir Ranger Program talked about the work they are doing around the Coffs Harbour area.

AMPAC Membership

AMPAC Memberships expired on 30 June 2023. Parks Australia will be seeking applications for new and on-going AMPAC membership in the new financial year.

Next Meeting

The next Committee meeting is planned for late 2023. For more information about the Temperate East Marine Parks Network or the Committee, visit:

<https://parksaustralia.gov.au/marine/parks/temperate-east/> and

<https://parksaustralia.gov.au/marine/management/partnerships/temperate-east-advisory-committee/>

email: marineparks@dcceew.gov.au