

## South-east Marine Parks Advisory Committee

### Meeting # 5 Communique

#### 1 June 2021

#### Committee Meeting Overview

The fifth meeting of the South-east Marine Parks Advisory Committee was held via Microsoft Teams video conference on Tuesday 1 June 2021. As for Meetings 3 and 4, a face-to-face meeting was not possible due to COVID-19 pandemic travel restrictions.

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

The Chair thanked outgoing members John Samson and Jonathon Davey for their contributions to management of the South-east network of marine parks and welcomed two new members Jane Gallichan and John Whittington.

Key topics covered at the meeting included a six monthly update about activities undertaken by Parks Australia and partners in the South-east Network. The Committee were provided an update on the Australian Government's \$100 million Oceans Leadership package.

Key agenda items included:

- The South-east Network Management Report
- The Australian Marine Parks Tourism Strategy
- The South-east Marine Park Management Plan Evaluation
- Seismic Testing.

#### Member attendance

Hilary Schofield (Chair)  
Emma Woodcock  
Marg O'Toole  
Shannon Hurley  
Tony Koslow  
Neville Barrett  
Jane Gallichan  
John Whittington

#### Observers

Parks Victoria  
Tasmania Department of Primary  
Industries, Parks, Water and Environment

#### South-east Network Management Report

Parks Australia provided an update on management activities since November 2021. Highlights included:

- Procurement, contracting and commencement of two major science priorities (Tasman Fracture Marine Park fish, rock lobster and sessile benthic survey and the Characterisation and monitoring of demersal fish communities in Huon and Freycinet Marine Parks).
- Project planning for the evaluation of the South-east Commonwealth Marine Reserves Management Plan 2013-2023.
- Significant progress towards finalising the South-east Science Plan.
- Field work well underway for the grant project *Creating immersive virtual experiences that build connection*,

*understanding and value of Australian Marine Parks* (Deakin University).

- Completion of Autonomous Underwater Vehicle (AUV) Data Analysis Project

The Committee noted the following additional project completion updates:

- NESP project in Beagle MP
- NESP MERI pilot in the South-east

## South-east Management Plan Evaluation

The Committee were provided with an overview of the process and indicative timeframes for the evaluation the South-east management plan. The evaluation of the management plan will inform the development of a new management plan for the South-east Marine Parks Network and should be finalised in early 2022.

The Committee noted that the evaluation will include workshops/interviews with experts to determine how values, pressures and benefits are tracking (condition and trend). SEMPAC members are likely to be engaged to determine the effectiveness of advisory committees.

## Australian Marine Parks Tourism Strategy

Parks Australia has developed a Tourism Strategy for AMPs to provide guidance on managing tourism and recreation activities in marine parks to ensure they are environmentally appropriate, high-quality and contribute to Australia's visitor economy. The Strategy was presented to the Committee for advice on regional implementation.

The Committee noted that the South-east network provides limited opportunity for tourism given the offshore nature of the parks and suggested focussing on the promotion of marine park values.

## Seismic Testing Briefing

The Chair welcomed Andy Carroll, Geoscience Australia (GA) who gave a presentation on the known impacts from marine seismic surveys. The presentation included an overview of GA's role, their responsibilities and involvement in numerous collaborative studies investigating seismic survey impacts. The Committee discussed potential impacts and cumulative effects of seismic testing on fisheries and the marine environment generally. The Committee noted the planned seismic testing in the Zeehan Marine Park and expressed both concern and a strong interest in better understanding this pressure.

## Next Meeting

The next Committee meeting will be held in Hobart in November 2021.

For more information about the South-east Marine Parks Network or the Committee:

Visit [parksaustralia.gov.au/South-east](https://parksaustralia.gov.au/South-east)

Email [marineparks@environment.gov.au](mailto:marineparks@environment.gov.au)