

South-east Marine Parks Advisory Committee

Meeting #11 Communique

30 September 2024

Committee Meeting Overview

The 11th meeting of the South-east Marine Parks Advisory Committee was held via Microsoft Teams video conference on Monday 30 September 2024.

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

A key topic covered at the meeting was a progress update on the renewal of the South-east Marine Park Network Management Plan.

Other agenda items included:

- National context and welcome from the AMP Executive
- South-east (SE) Marine Parks Network science projects update
- Ocean Discovery Research projects
- South-east Management Report.

South-east Management Plan renewal update

The Chair welcomed Barbara Musso, the Strategy and Coordination Branch Head, to provide an update on the review of the South-east Management Plan.

The committee was updated on Parks Australia's targeted consultation and continued engagement with First Nations people. Members were informed on the latest proposed management plan changes and were invited to comment.

Member attendance

Russell Gueho (Chair)
Neville Barrett
Shannon Hurley
Tony Koslow
Marg O'Toole
Heidi Mumme
Jane Gallichan
Mark Rodrigue

Observers

Department of Natural Resources and the Environment Tasmania – Fisheries and Enforcement
Tasmanian Seafood Industry Council
Parks Victoria

The committee was made aware the draft management plan would be released for statutory public consultation shortly and members were encouraged to make a submission.

National context and welcome from the AMP Executive

The Chair welcomed Shaun Barclay to provide an update on Australian Marine Park management.

As the Marine and Islands Parks Branch Head, Shaun provided an overview of the recent restructures within Parks Australia.

The members were informed on the current priorities in Australian Marine Parks which include a greater focus on engaging First Nations People, building the case for future funding and preparing for management plan reviews in other Networks.

The members were invited to a National AMPAC meeting to be held in Brisbane, February 2025.

South-east Network science projects update

The Chair welcomed Neville Barrett to provide an update on research activities within the South-east Marine Parks Network.

Recent research activities include seabird and seal foraging behaviour and ocean productivity in the Tasman Fracture Marine Park, remotely operated vehicles surveys and baited underwater surveys in the Beagle Marine Park, baited remote underwater video surveys in the Zeehan MP and repeat 30-year-old surveys in Freycinet and Flinders Marine Parks, were recently undertaken by CSIRO.

Ocean Discovery and Restoration Program

The Chair welcomed Alex Tomlinson to provide an update on the Ocean Discovery and Restoration Program.

The committee was provided an overview of projects initiated under the Program, including the 'Seabed restoration and enhancement: building solutions for Australia's marine parks and blue economy' project, within the Apollo Marine Park. This project aims to design and test activities to inform offshore environmental remediation in the marine environment.

The next steps of the project were outlined, including the planned involvement of First Nations people.

South-east Management Report

The SE Marine Parks Network Management Report was tabled which provided an overview of management activities since January 2024.

- Australian Marine Parks held information booths at the Beaker Street Science Festival during National Science Week and at the Australian Marine Sciences Association (AMSA) conference in Hobart

in September. SE Marine Parks Network research partners were invited to talk about their work and the importance of marine parks.

- SEMPAC memberships will be extended through to finalisation of the SE Management plan review.
- Parks Australia is preparing for Highly Pathogenic Avian Influenza (HPAI).

The Committee noted the following project updates:

- The final survey of basketwork eels in Huon MP will be conducted in November.
- The shy albatross winter foraging behaviour report is due late November.
- The Wind & Sky Landbridge documentary and website will be launched late November.

The Committee noted the following additional project milestone completion updates:

- The Apollo Marine Park fish and AUV benthic surveys report
- Biosphere-Datasphere exhibition.

Next Meeting

The members were advised that the next Committee meeting will be held in February 2025.

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

Visit parksaustralia.gov.au/South-east

Email marineparks@dcceew.gov.au