

South-east Marine Parks Advisory Committee Meeting #3 Communique 28 May 2020

Committee Meeting Overview

The third meeting of the South-east Marine Parks Advisory Committee (SEMPAC) was held via teleconference on Thursday 28 May 2020. A face-to-face meeting was not possible due to COVID-19 pandemic travel restrictions and social distancing requirements.

The Chair provided an Acknowledgment of Country, paying respect to the Traditional Owners of the land on which the meeting was held. Kim Farrant (Assistant Secretary, Marine Parks Branch) was introduced to the Committee.

Key agenda items for the meeting included: The South-east Network management report; a Monitoring, Evaluation, Reporting and Improvement (MERI) framework discussion and approval of the South-east network communication and education action plan.

South-east Network Management Report

An update was provided on key activities since October 2019. Highlights included:

Authorisations - 13 authorisations issued across commercial media (1), research and monitoring (9) and structures and works (3).

Compliance – 1 prosecution relating to an Australian Fishing Vessel conducting illegal commercial longline fishing activity within the Flinders National Park Zone in June 2017. Pecuniary penalties of \$81,900 and \$12,000 were imposed on the company and the skipper respectively under section 345 of the EPBC Act 1999.

Member attendance

Hilary Schofield (Chair)
Emma Woodcock
Hank Horton
Johnathon Davey
Marg O’Toole
Michael Burgess
Shannon Hurley
Tony Koslow
Neville Barrett

Observers

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

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Science – An overview and progress reports were provided for major research projects in the South-east as well as the national NESP D6 Australian Marine Parks Social and Economic Baselines project which includes a survey of recreational boaters and their perceptions of management in marine parks.

The Committee provided advice on opportunities to access additional mapping effort associated with petroleum exploration.

Communications, Education and Awareness - In partnership with the Tasmanian Parks and Wildlife Service, new joint interpretive signage will be installed for Huon, Freycinet and Beagle Marine Parks. A new sign has also been developed for Murray Marine Park.

Parks Protection and Management - Parks
Australia has increased its capacity to respond to incidents through participating in AMSA Marine pollution response training.

A Monitoring, Evaluation, Reporting and Improvement (MERI) system for Australian Marine Parks

Parks Australia is developing a Monitoring, Evaluation, Reporting and Improvement (MERI) system for Australian Marine Parks to monitor the health of parks and evaluate the effectiveness of management. The draft framework was presented to the Committee for comment.

Committee advice will be sought regarding existing data layers of pressures, activities and natural values to develop a hotspot map.

South-east network communication and education action plan

The South-east Network Education and Awareness Action Plan 2020/21 was endorsed by the Committee. The plan incorporates advice and priorities identified by the South-east Marine Park Advisory Committee and will be delivered in the next 12 months subject to COVID-19 restrictions. It will be delivered by regional staff and supported by the national communications and education team.

Next Meeting

The next Committee meeting will be held in Hobart on the 5th November 2020 and will focus on a review of recent marine science projects.

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

Visit parksaustralia.gov.au/South-east

Email marineparks@environment.gov.au