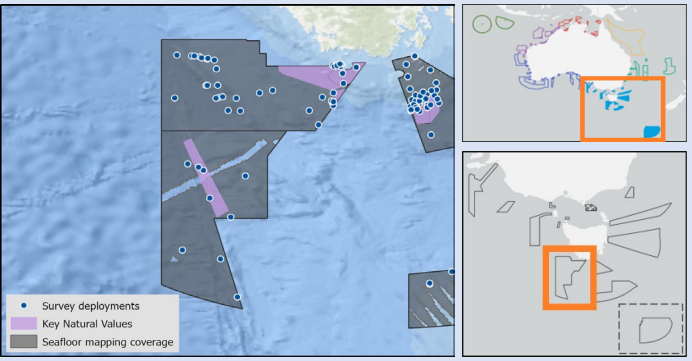
Tasman Fracture Marine Park state of knowledge

Australian Government
Parks Australia

Australian Marine Parks



Interactive Map and Report.

Tasman Fracture Marine Park contains deep reefs, seamounts and a fracture zone unique to the network. Small high-profile deep (rariphotic) reefs occur in the north-western and eastern sections along with an isolated high-profile reef in the north-eastern sector, south-east of the Mewstone[2]. The park covers representative areas of four bioregions.

Depth - 60m – 5559m

99.7% of seafloor mapped, almost all at medium resolution to support biodiversity surveys.

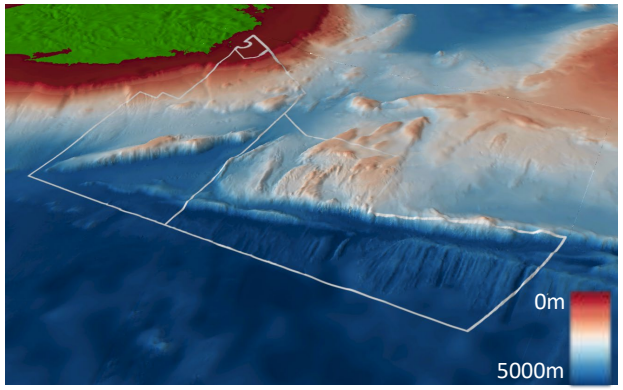
KNV

KNV= Key Natural Values
Habitat or species that are particularly important to management

Overall knowledge status

Tasman Fracture Marine Park has a **medium level of knowledge**. Fine-scale mapping of some identified priority natural values includes deep rocky reefs and seamounts. The abundance of deep (rariphotic) reef and boulder habitat support a highly diverse benthic community[1].

Source; NESP/IMAS



Source; Geoscience Australia

Feature of interest

High resolution mapping of the reef systems has highlighted the distinct geomorphology, benthic communities and diverse fish assemblages associated with the large reef features found within the park. Reef systems support widely distributed southern Rock Lobster (*Jasus edwardsii*) along with isolated sightings of the endangered Pink Handfish (*Brachiopsilus dianthus*) and the vulnerable Ziebell's Handfish (*Brachiopsilus ziebelli*)[1].

KNV

Monitoring priority

Is the condition of deep (rariphotic) shelf reef mobile invertebrate communities improving or maintained via ecological sustainable use and removal of historic pressures?

Key knowledge gaps

- Fine scale mapping of likely shelf break reef
- Distribution of deep-sea coral communities on seamounts and continental slope
- Use of the park by priority species including orange roughy, handfish and shy albatross

Key activities

Commercial fishing

Key pressures

Resource extraction
Climate change

Pink Handfish (credit: Karen Gowlett-Holmes)

The fracture

KNV

The fracture is a uniquely deep (2000-4000m) geomorphic feature for the region. It provides habitat for a range of fauna not found elsewhere in the network, including habitat forming species such as anemones and barnacles.

Main Matt seamount

KNV

The large aggregation of Orange Roughy (*Hoplostethus atlanticus*), oreo dories and a diverse range of deep-sea sharks at Main Matt seamount is unique to the network.

Source; Wild Ocean Tasmania

Shy Albatross

KNV

Shy Albatross (*Thalassarche cauta)* is Australia's only endemic albatross and one whose breeding range is limited to three rocky islands adjacent to the Huon and Tasman Fracture marine parks.

Further information:
1. Perkins et al. 2023. Changes in rock lobster, demersal fish, and sessile benthic organisms in the Tasman Fracture Marine Park: comparisons between 2015 and 2021.(Final paper yet to be released).
2. Monk et al. 2017. Biological and habitat feature descriptions for the continental shelves of Australia's temperate-water marine parks- including collation of existing mapping in all AMPs.
3. Mason et al. 2018. https://onlinelibrary.wiley.com/doi/epdf/10.1111/ddi.12830
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