

## South-east Marine Parks Advisory Committee

### Meeting # 9 Communique

28 June 2023

#### Committee Meeting Overview

The ninth meeting of the South-east Marine Parks Advisory Committee was held online via Microsoft Teams video conference on Wednesday 28 June 2023.

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

Key topics covered at the meeting included a summary of the submissions received during the public consultation regarding the Macquarie Island Marine Park expansion and for the renewal of the South-east Marine Park Network Management Plan.

Agenda items included:

- South-east science update
- Blue bottle trial – compliance in Australian Marine Parks
- South-east Marine Park Plan renewal update

#### South-east Network Management Report

The SE Network Management Report was tabled which provided an overview of management activities since December 2022.

- Our Marine Park Grant (OMPG) Round 3 recipients The Tasmanian Museum and Art Gallery (TMAG) are upgrading the Islands to Ice exhibition. The upgraded exhibit will enhance the public engagement and connection to marine

#### Member attendance

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

#### Observers

Department of Natural Resources and the Environment  
Tasmanian Police

parks in the South-east Marine Park Network.

- Parks Australia in collaboration with the CSIRO have commenced research on the spawning aggregation of basketwork eels located at Patience Seamount within the Huon Marine Park. This is the only known location where this globally distributed deep-sea eel is known to spawn. Very little is known about this aggregation, so this project aims to determine whether the aggregation is present year-round, how big the aggregation is and its extent.
- Research is underway on the winter foraging distribution of the Tasmanian endemic shy albatross. The University of Tasmania in collaboration with Parks Australia have deployed tracking devices to address known knowledge gaps and build understanding of spatial and temporal variation of shy albatross foraging behaviour and diet within the Tasman Fracture Marine Park and its surrounding waters.

## Expansion of the Macquarie Island Marine Park

A summary of the public consultation process to expand the Macquarie Island Marine Park was presented to the Committee. The Director of National Parks sought public comment on the proposed expansion between 20 March to 22 May 2023. In response, the Director received 14,736 submissions. The Director considered all comments and provided a report to the Minister for the Environment and Water. Following consideration of this report, the Minister for the Environment and Water endorsed the final park design. The Governor-General proclaimed the expanded Macquarie Island Marine Park on 19 June 2023, registered to come into effect on 1 July 2023.

## Development of the new South-east Network Management Plan

The Committee were provided an overview of submissions received during the public comment period on the notice of intent to prepare a new management plan for the South-east Network. Comments received during this first public consultation period will inform the preparation of a draft Management Plan. The draft Management Plan will then be provided for public consultation. The South-east Network will be managed under transitional arrangements until a new management plan is finalised.

## Compliance in Australian Marine Parks – Blue bottle 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.](#)

## Next Meeting

The next Committee meeting will be held in Melbourne in November 2023.

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@dcceew.gov.au](mailto:marineparks@dcceew.gov.au)