

South-west Marine Parks Advisory Committee Meeting #6 Communique 25 November 2021 via videoconference

The South-west Marine Parks Advisory Committee met via videoconference on Thursday 25 November 2021. The meeting opened with an acknowledgement of Country by the Chair.

Observers at the meeting included representatives from the SA Department for Environment and Water (DEW) and Primary Industries and Regions SA (PIRSA). Regional updates were provided by members and observers.

National highlights for Australian Marine Parks

As part of the **Ocean Leadership package**, Round 3 of the **Our Marine Parks Grants program** closed on 16 December 2021. This round was open to a wide range of applicants and successful projects will run from 2022 to 2024 with up to \$8.6 million being offered to build capacity in the management of Australian Marine Parks (AMPs).

Another component of the Ocean Leadership package is funding for new **Indian Ocean Territories marine parks** around Christmas and Cocos (Keeling) Islands. Parks Australia released a proclamation proposal for public comment in October 2021.

Parks Australia opened an **Electronic and Vessel Monitoring Systems (VMS) Assistance Program** grant opportunity for state and NT fisheries management agencies that have the capability and capacity to assist the Director of National Parks in enhancing the use of e-monitoring systems and VMS on commercial fishing vessels transiting or

Member attendance

Nicole Middleton (Acting Chair)
Kirsty Alexander
Bronwyn Gillanders
Tim Langlois
Peter Owen
Terry Romaro OAM
Sophie Teede
Stephen van Leeuwen
Melissa Nursey-Bray
David Collard

Apologies

Michael Heslewood
Lee Johnson
Gail Reynolds-Adamson

operating in AMPs. Parks Australia opened an **Electronic and Vessel Monitoring Systems (EVMS) Assistance Program** grant opportunity for state and Northern Territory commercial fisheries management agencies, that have the capability and capacity to assist the Director of National Parks in enhancing the use of e-monitoring systems and EVMS on commercial fishing vessels transiting or operating in AMPs.

South-west Network highlights

An update was provided on key management activities. Highlights by program include:

Authorisations

Nineteen authorisations were issued in the Network from March 2021 to September 2021, supporting research and monitoring (9) commercial tourism (5), commercial media (2), deployment of a fish aggregating device (1), structures and works (1) and use of a drone or other non-commercial remote piloted aircraft (1).

Compliance

Four compliance incidents occurred during the period April to September 2021. Quarterly compliance reports and information about compliance are available on [our website](#).

Science

Highlights of increased coverage of habitat and biodiversity surveys supporting management were provided. A guest presenter from SA DEW was invited to present on recent collaborative research voyages to Western Eyre and Murat Marine Parks. The SA DEW team led a voyage focused on undertaking Baited Remote Underwater Video (BRUV) surveys and environmental DNA sampling at sites in National Parks Zones across the two parks.

The University of Adelaide collected additional habitat and biodiversity data within Western Eyre and Murat marine parks through their Our Marine Parks Grant project. This voyage focused on collection of towed camera imagery and sediment samples.

Indigenous Engagement

Esperance Tjaltjraak Native Title Aboriginal Corporation are working on a project to document Wudjari People cultural values connected with their sea country and Australian Marine Parks (Eastern Recherche and South-west Corner marine parks).

The South-west management team were invited to attend Far West Coast Aboriginal Corporation's successful community workshops and initial planning workshops for their Our Marine Parks Grant supporting development of their Sea Country Protection Plan for Far West People.

Parks Protection and Management

The AMP Environmental Incident and Emergency Response Strategy was published on [our website](#). It supports the Director of National Parks' response to serious or critical environmental incidents and emergencies in and adjacent to AMPs.

Communications, Education and Awareness

Parks Australia has been working on communications products for Two Rocks Marine Park in WA (focusing on compliance in the National Park Zone), including a local newspaper advertisement, social media posts and progressing a new boat ramp sign.

Tourism and Visitor Experience

Three new interpretive signs to showcase biodiversity in marine parks (for travellers along South Australia's Nullarbor coast) are in their final stages of development. The signs have been developed in partnership with DEW, with guidance from Mirning people, through the Nullarbor Joint Management Committee. It is hoped these will be installed in the coming months.

Implementation Plan development

Longer-term priorities for the South-west Network were discussed and will be reflected in development of the Consolidation Phase Implementation Plan which is for the next four years of implementation (2022- 2026).

Science Strategy

The Committee were briefed on science to support AMP management. They will be asked to provide feedback on a draft AMP Science Strategy in December 2021, followed by the draft South-west Network Science Plan in 2022.

Next Meeting

The next committee meeting will be held in mid 2022.

For more information about the South-west Marine Parks Network or the committee:

Visit parksaustralia.gov.au/south-west or

Email marineparks@awe.gov.au

To report suspicious or illegal activity in Australian Marine Parks contact

1800 852 975 or

marine.compliance@awe.gov.au