

## South-east Marine Parks Advisory Committee

### Meeting #2 Communique

31 October 2019, Melbourne

#### Committee Meeting Overview

The second meeting of the South-east Marine Parks Advisory Committee (SEMPAC) was held in Melbourne on Thursday 31 October 2019.

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

Key agenda items for the meeting included: the South-east Network management report; a Monitoring, Evaluation, Reporting and Improvement (MERI) system for Australian Marine Parks and a National Communications and Marketing Strategy.

National Offshore Petroleum Safety and Environmental Management Authority (NOPSEMA) representative David Ball attended as an invited guest to present an overview of NOPSEMA's role in the authorisation process for the offshore petroleum industry.

#### South-east Network Management Report

An update was provided on key activities since July 2018. A summary of these include:

**Authorisations** - 11 authorisations issued across non-commercial research (8), commercial media (1) and structures and works (2).

**Compliance** - 3 incidents, 3 investigations, 1 civil prosecution were identified or underway. Four advertorials were published in the Tasmania Seafood Industry news as

#### Member attendance

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

#### Observers

Parks Victoria

reminders of South-east Network zoning and regulations. An annual business agreement is in place with Tasmania Police to provide surface patrols through priority South-east marine parks.

A hotline is available for reporting suspicious or illegal activity: 1800 852 975 or [marine.compliance@environment.gov.au](mailto:marine.compliance@environment.gov.au)

**Science** - Recent research includes bathymetry and benthic habitat mapping in Freycinet, Huon and Tasman Fracture Marine Parks. Final mapping products from the *MV Bluefin* voyage in March 2019 are in production.

Future projects include analysis of Autonomous Underwater Vehicle (AUV) footage from Freycinet, Huon, Finders and Beagle Marine Parks and a project to undertake bathymetry and substrate mapping for Apollo Marine Park.

**Indigenous engagement** - An overview was provided of the Sea Country Culture and Connections school curriculum project being jointly developed by Parks Australia and the Tasmania Department of Education.

### **Communications, Education and Awareness**

- In partnership with the Tasmanian Parks and Wildlife Service new joint interpretive signage has been developed for Freycinet and Beagle Marine Parks. This signage includes a video display and installation at the Freycinet National Park Visitors Centre.

**Parks Protection and Management** - Parks Australia has completed an Australian Marine Parks Environmental Incident and Emergency Response Strategy. This document is a national-level strategy that outlines roles and responsibility in responding to an offshore environmental incident in marine parks.

An Environmental Risk Assessment has been developed for the South-east Marine Parks Network to assess the predicted risk of environmental incidents associated with marine traffic and the offshore petroleum industry to individual marine parks in the Network.

**Tourism and Visitor Experience** - a Tourism and Visitor Experience Strategy is under development.

### **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.

Two key components of the MERI system will be a national framework that explains the overall approach, and network monitoring plans that will include outcomes and measurable indicators. MERI will inform annual reports and national State of the Environment reporting.

Committee advice will be sought during design of the MERI system, including: preliminary information on values, pressures and use; inventory and monitoring priorities; and evaluation and reporting processes.

### **A Communications and Marketing Strategy for Australian Marine Parks**

A Communications and Marketing Strategy (2019 – 2023) has been prepared to guide work under the Communications, Education and Awareness program.

The Strategy includes information on target audiences, key messages and delivery channels. The Strategy includes building national awareness and recognition of Australian Marine Parks.

Drawing on the regional expertise of members, the Committee provided advice on how to target communications across the South-east Network. An update was provided on existing website and social media plans and the Committee supported the production of a South-east Network fact sheet that would be suitable for distribution by Committee members at future events.

### **Next Meeting**

The next Committee meeting will be held in Hobart in early June 2020. 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@environment.gov.au](mailto:marineparks@environment.gov.au)