

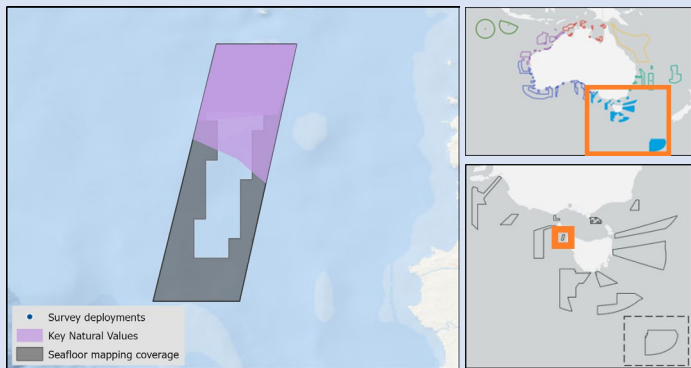
# Franklin Marine Park state of knowledge



Australian Government  
Parks Australia



Australian  
Marine Parks



Interactive [Map](#) and [Report](#).

Franklin Marine Park is dominated by shelf unvegetated sediment habitat with high-profile deep reef features in the northern section. It covers representative areas of four bioregions.

Depth - 49m – 116m

**55%** of seafloor mapped, almost all at medium to high resolution to support habitat mapping and biodiversity surveys.



**KNV= Key Natural Values**

Habitat or species that are particularly important to management

## Further information

1. Davey et al. 2022, [Hydrographic Survey of Zeehan and Franklin Marine Parks, West Coast Tasmania](#).
2. Pers. comm. Neville Barrett, 2022.
3. Mason et al. 2018. [Telemetry reveals existing marine protected areas are worse than random for protecting the foraging habitat of threatened shy albatross \(\*Thalassarche cauta\*\)](#)

| State of Knowledge published Feb 2023 |

## Overall knowledge status

Franklin Marine Park has a **medium level of knowledge**. The reef habitats have been a focus of fine-scale mapping efforts in the park. The northern and southern ends of the park have been continuously mapped<sup>1</sup>. Limited biological surveys have been undertaken.

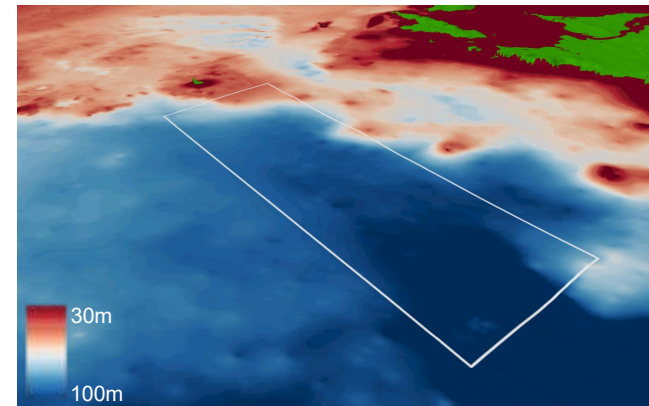


Source: Wild Ocean Tasmania

KNV

## Feature of interest

The northern half of the Franklin Marine Park is a core foraging area for the endangered Shy Albatross (*Thalassarche cauta*) which breeds exclusively on three offshore Tasmanian islands – one of which is Albatross Island to the north-east of the park<sup>3</sup>.



Source: Geoscience Australia

## Key knowledge gaps

- Fine scale mapping, and validation of features of the north and north-east section of the park
- Characterise the deep (mesophotic and rariphotic) shelf reefs benthic communities and demersal fish communities.

## Key activities

Commercial fishing  
Shipping

## Key pressures

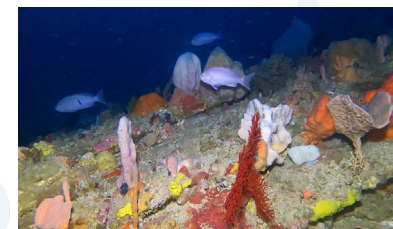
Resource extraction  
Climate change  
Underwater noise



Source: Atlas of living Australia; Richard Ling

## Kelp forests

The northern section of the park contains complex reef likely formed by volcanic lava flows, which at its shallowest depths of 35m support kelp forests (*Ecklonia radiata*) - a rare habitat type in Australian Marine Parks<sup>2</sup>.



Source: IMAS

## Reef habitats

The southern end of the park contains limestone pavement outcrops, and is sponge dominated in areas of higher relief<sup>2</sup>.