

Temperate East Marine Parks Advisory Committee Meeting #6 Communiqué 4 November 2021, MS Teams Videoconference

Committee Meeting Overview

The sixth meeting of the Temperate East Marine Parks Advisory Committee was held via Microsoft Teams videoconference on Thursday 4 November 2021 as a face-to-face meeting was not possible due to COVID-19 pandemic travel restrictions.

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 six-monthly management report about activities undertaken by Parks Australia and partners in the Temperate East Network and an update on the Australian Government's process to establish new marine parks in the Indian Ocean Territories.

The Committee was provided with a presentation by Dr Jonathan Mitchell (Fisheries Biologist, Qld Department of Agriculture and Fisheries) about the findings of the four-year collaborative research into the Galapagos shark in the Lord Howe Marine Park (MP), funded by Parks Australia with in-kind support from NSW DPI, the University of Western Australia and the Integrated Marine Observing System. The final report is

Member attendance:

Bob Creese
Brian Busteed
Steve Whalan
Joe McNulty
John Burgess
Peter Cochrane
Tricia Beatty
Mike Misso (Chair)

Apologies:

Adrian Wayne
Rick Stuart-Smith
Rosemary Black

Observer:

NSW Department of Primary Industries
(NSW DPI)

available on the Parks Australia website [here](#).

Management Report

An update was provided on key activities carried out since May 2021. A summary of these include:

- **Authorisations**

16 authorisations were issued across the network, including 6 research, 3 recreational fishing, 1 commercial media, 5 commercial tourism and 1 for the commercial use of a drone. This is slightly less than the 23 authorisations issued during the previous six months.

- **Compliance**

6 recreational fishing compliance incidents were reported for the National Park Zones located at Cod Grounds and Pimpernel Rock in the Solitary Islands MP resulting in 2 warning notices, 2 advisory letters, 1 penalty infringement notice and 1 matter that is still in process. This is a 50% reduction to the 12 recreational fishing incidents in the previous 6 months (summer/autumn 2020, usually a busier period on the water).

There was also a presentation from Regan Lilley, Worimi Traditional Owner for the sea country in Hunter Marine Park, about artworks and interpretative materials that have been developed in collaboration with Parks Australia.

- **Science**

Recent completed research includes:

1. the Galapagos shark research program at Lord Howe MP.
2. a mapping survey of the deeper, previously unmapped areas of Elizabeth and Middleton Reefs in Lord Howe MP conducted by the National Environmental Science Program's Marine Biodiversity Hub and Parks Australia.
3. a lagoon health assessment at Norfolk MP.

- **Indigenous engagement**

Parks Australia is exploring further opportunities to work with Aboriginal communities and NSW DPI to develop Sea Country education related programs.

- **Parks Protection and Management**

The Pimpernel Rock and Cod

Grounds marker buoys were successfully replaced.

- **Communications, Education and Awareness**

An AMP Atlas Article about the NESP MBH research at Elizabeth and Middleton Reefs was published, along with a flythrough. Values summaries for the marine parks were also completed.

Consolidation Phase Implementation Plan

A key focus of the meeting was seeking members views to inform the development of a Consolidation Phase Implementation Plan for the network. Members were provided with a progress report detailing all activities conducted during the Foundation Phase and were invited to feed in their ideas for the new plan.

Next Meeting

The next Committee meeting will be held at a date to be confirmed in May/June 2022. For more information about the Temperate East Marine Parks Network or the Committee:

Visit

parksaustralia.gov.au/marine/parks/temperate-east/

Email marineparks@awe.gov.au