

Marine parks permits for commercial tourism operations

When will I need a permit?

A permit is required for commercial tourism operations conducted for fee or reward within marine park sanctuary zones.

Commercial tourism operations may include, but are not limited to: swimming with marine mammals, tuna and cuttlefish; marine mammal watching tours; diving and snorkelling tours; and guided driving, boating and walking tours.

A marine parks permit is not required for activities authorised under the *National Parks and Wildlife Act 1972* or the *Wilderness Protection Act 1992*. These activities will be considered as part of internal Government referral processes.

The issuing of permits will help to manage tourism activities in marine park sanctuary zones for the best outcomes for operators and the environment by:

- ensuring that best practice environmental principles are applied
- preventing conflicting tourism activities in particular locations
- allowing the cumulative impacts of all activities in specific locations to be considered
- informing on-going adaptive marine parks management

How do I get a permit?

Applications for commercial tourism operations permits in marine parks can be made by filling out the application form at this link:

www.environment.sa.gov.au/marineparks/permits

Applications will be assessed on a number of considerations, including:

- consistency with the management plan for the marine park and the conservation values of the sanctuary zone
- potential impact on the conservation values of the zone(s) and other users in the area(s) in which the activity will occur

- consideration of the operator's eco-accreditation and/or activities that promote marine conservation

Consideration is also given to the possible cumulative effects of tourism operations. This is especially applicable to activities which involve interactions with marine wildlife (such as shark cage diving). The Department for Environment and Water (DEW) may undertake reviews in the future to determine if restrictions are required for other activities where unrestricted access may have a negative impact on the wildlife or habitat.

What will a permit cost?

Application fees are payable for commercial tourism operations permits. Details about fee payment are available on the [permit application form](#).

What is the term for permits?

Permits will be issued for a maximum of 12 months, unless otherwise agreed.

What are my responsibilities?

It is your responsibility to obtain and comply with any other approvals or permits required, such as commercial vessel registration and survey requirements.

Every permit will be issued with conditions. It is your responsibility to ensure that these conditions are met. Breaches of any conditions may result in cancellation of the permit and termination of the activity.

More information

If you have a question, contact:

E: DEW.MarineParksPermits@sa.gov.au

www.environment.sa.gov.au