Finalising Management Plans for South Australia's Marine Parks Network

 a summary of consultation steps and amendments to draft management plans

November 2012



Department of Environment, Water and Natural Resources

Summary

In November 2012 the South Australian Government finalised the establishment phase for the State's marine parks network, including the development of 19 management plans setting out multiple-use zoning and strategies for park management.

This milestone achievement marked the culmination of an extensive public consultation process dating back to 2001. Over that time period there were six distinct engagement stages in which the Government engaged the South Australian public to help shape various aspects of the marine parks program:

- Vision and policy document (the 'Blueprint') (2001 2004)
- 'Pilot' Encounter Marine Park Draft Zoning Plan (2005)
- Legislation (the draft Marine Parks Bill, 2006/07)
- Outer boundaries for the marine parks network (2009)
- Marine park local advisory groups (2009-2011)
- 19 draft management plans (2012)

Public input through each engagement phase significantly informed key pillars of the marine parks program. Each phase of the engagement process is summarised in Appendix 1.

The final opportunity for the public to inform the process occurred between 26 August and 22 October 2012, in which the Government conducted an eight-week state-wide public consultation process for the 19 marine park draft management plans. A total of 8,649 written submissions were received from individuals and organisations. These were analysed and formed the basis for a summary of submissions report, which is available on the marine parks website www.marineparks.sa.gov.au

Public submissions complemented other valuable sources of feedback and advice to the Government, including:

- direct meetings between the Minister and individuals / interest groups;
- independent advice by the Marine Parks Council of South Australia;
- independent advice by the Scientific Working Group; and
- advice from other government agencies via the Marine Parks Steering Committee.

The collective advice from all of these sources informed the Government's decision to make over 50 amendments to the zoning released in the draft management plans, as well as amendments to several of the strategies for management.

This report briefly outlines the consultation actions undertaken by the Government in relation to marine park draft management plans and summarises changes to zoning and management strategies arising from the collective advice received through the 2012 public consultation process.

Consultation requirements of the Marine Parks Act 2007

The *Marine Parks Act 2007* specifies the contents of a marine park management plan and sets out the critical public consultation requirements. The following table summarises the steps taken to comply with the requirements of the Act.

Table 1 Actions taken to fulfil the consultation requirements of the *Marine Parks Act 2007*

Requirements of <i>Marine Parks Act 2007</i> Actions taken				
14(4)(d) seek the views of [the following individuals	(i) all relevant Ministers; and	Whole-of-Government advice via the Marine Parks Steering Committee and via the Cabinet process.		
and/or organisations] in relation to the draft;	(ii) the Council; and	Marine Parks Council of SA convened an extraordinary meeting on 5 November 2012 to consider its advice to the Minister in relation to draft management plans. Council's advice may be viewed at www.marineparks.sa.gov.au		
	(iii) a representative of all signatories to any indigenous land use agreement that is in force in relation to any of the area comprising the marine park; and	The Minister wrote to the legal representative(s) of all Aboriginal communities with interests in marine parks advising them of the release of the draft management plans and associated impact statements and the opportunity for them to make comment.		
	(iv) a representative of any native title holders or claimants that have a native title determination or registered native title claim; and	As above.		
	(v) such persons or bodies as the Minister determines to be leading representatives of— (A) the environment and conservation sector; and (B) local government; and (C) the commercial fishing industry; and (D) the aquaculture	The Minister wrote to the key representatives of each of the sectors listed here advising them of the release of the draft management plans and associated impact statements and the opportunity for their sector to make comment.		
	industry; and (E) the recreational fishing sector; and (F) the mining and petroleum industries; and (G) the tourism sector; and (H) the general business sector,	The Minister and/or DEWNR provided briefings and other meetings with representatives of various sectors as required.		
14(4)(e)	Publish the draft management plan and impact statement on a website determined by the	All draft management plans and associated impact statements were made available on the		

	Minister (so as to be accessible and capable of being printed without a charge imposed by the Minister), and make copies of the plan and impact statement available for inspection (without charge) or purchase at a place or places determined by the Minister.	marine parks website for the duration of the formal consultation process. Copies of draft management plans and impact statements were available free of charge at DEWNR offices and at the 41 public information sessions held across the state.
14(4)(f)	By notice published in the Gazette, in a newspaper circulating generally within the State and on a website determined by the Minister, give notice of the place or places at which copies of the draft plan and impact statement are available for inspection (without charge) or purchase and specify an address to which interested persons may send written representations in relation to the draft within the period specified in the notice (being not less than 6 weeks from the date of publication of the notice).	Draft management plans and impact statements were formally released on 26 August 2012. A notice in relation to the public release of draft management plans and impact statements was published in the South Australian Government Gazette on 30 August 2012. Notices advising the public of the release of the draft management plans and impact statements and other associated information, as well as dates and times for public information sessions, were published in The Advertiser on Monday 27 August, in all Adelaide Messenger newspapers on Wednesday 29 August and in 17 regional newspapers between 28 August and 14 September.
14(5)	The Minister may, in relation to the preparation of a draft to make or amend a management plan, seek the views of any person as he or she sees fit.	The Minister held discussions with individuals and interest groups as he saw fit. The Minister sought independent scientific advice from the Scientific Working Group in relation to the draft management plans. The Group's advice may be viewed at www.marineparks.sa.gov.au
14(7) At the end of the period referred to in the notice under subsection (4)(f) and, in any event, before adopting a draft management plan, the Minister—	(a) must consider any views expressed to the Minister under this section in relation to the draft and any representations made by members of the public in response to the notice; and	A copy of all submissions is held by the Minister. A summary of submissions report was developed summarising the views expressed to the Government by the community. The report may be viewed at www.marineparks.sa.gov.au
	(b) may make such alterations to the draft as the Minister thinks	In consideration of the advice received from all sources, the

necessary or desirable.	Minister made a range of changes to zoning and refinements to management strategies. Appendix 2 summarises the changes made to each marine park management
	plan.

Changes made as a result of the 2012 consultation process

The 2012 public consultation process for South Australia's marine park draft management plans attracted a strong local, national and international response. By the end of the eight-week period a total of 8,649 written submissions were received. A comprehensive summary of submissions report is available on the marine parks website www.marineparks.sa.gov.au

Responding to advice received from the community, stakeholder groups, Marine Parks Council of South Australia, Scientific Working Group and relevant government agencies, the Government made a range of changes in finalising the marine park management plans. Appendix 2 provides a table summarising the more than 50 amendments to zoning, as well as amendments to several of the strategies for management.

Amendments to zoning

The changes to the zoning proposed in the draft management plans maintain good conservation outcomes whilst reducing the impact on users of the marine environment, such as commercial and recreational fishers. For example:

- additional recreational fishing access is provided for at a number of locations, such as Black Point and Yalata Harbor in upper Spencer Gulf, Chinamans Hat and Cape Elizabeth on Yorke Peninsula, Port Arthur and Port Wakefield in the upper Gulf St Vincent and Cape Forbin on Kangaroo Island;
- adjustments to sanctuary zones at several locations provide for ongoing commercial fishing access, for example, western Kangaroo Island, the Coorong Beach, Cap Island, outer Coffin Bay and Smoky Bay;
- adjustments to a number of habitat protection zones to support existing oyster aquaculture activity; and
- additions to sanctuary zones at Top-Gallant Isles, Gunyah Beach and Western River on Kangaroo Island to further increase conservation outcomes.

Amendments to management strategies

Some written submissions recommended changes to management strategies in the draft management plans. Based on advice from submissions and the Scientific Working Group, the following amendments were made:

- in the 'Management Challenges' section, the words 'protected ecological communities' were added to the assets which must be effectively conserved in each park. The amendment appropriately recognises the status of protected ecological communities and will ensure their conservation, along with protected species.
- In the 'Management Priorities and Strategies' section, strategies relating to performance assessment, review and knowledge were blended and reworded. The amendments were based on the advice of the Scientific Working Group and also recognise the advice expressed in submissions in relation to programs for monitoring and research in marine parks. The amendments strengthen the strategies relating to monitoring, evaluation and research which in turn will improve our knowledge of marine ecosystems within and outside of marine parks, and provide a strong basis for future review of management plans. As a result of the amendments the number of management priorities has been reduced from five to four and individual management strategies from 17 to 15.

The Government thanks the South Australian public for their valuable input into the finalisation of management plans for the marine parks network. Advice from the public assisted the Government to finalise a network of marine parks that will achieve sound conservation outcomes whilst supporting ongoing recreational and commercial uses.

Appendix 1 Key consultation steps in the history of South Australia's Marine Parks Program

Year	Initiative	Description of consultation process	
2001/02	Liberal Govt policy document - "Marine Protected Areas – A Shared Vision"	 State-wide consultation on draft document early in 2002. 23 public meetings/information sessions engaging approximately 1,600 people. 	
2003/04	Labor Govt policy document – "Blueprint for the South Australian Representative System of Marine Protected Areas"	"Blueprint" document developed as an outcome of the above consultation process, with further consultation with key stakeholders and across all relevant government agencies.	
2005	Encounter Marine Park Draft Zoning Plan. (Pilot process to develop and test key concepts for state-wide network)	 Draft zoning plan (2005) released for 3 months public consultation with 427 submissions received from 498 respondents. Local consultation - targeted at Fleurieu Peninsula, Kangaroo Island and Adelaide. 15 public information days. 48 stakeholder meetings. Public feedback significantly informed the development of subsequent steps such as the Draft Bill and Local Advisory Groups (below). 	
2006-07	Marine Parks Bill 2006	 Draft Bill developed following extensive consultation with key stakeholders and across government. State-wide consultation (3 months) on Draft Bill. 16 regional public meetings/information sessions conducted. 112 submissions were received from 162 respondents. Numerous adjustments were made as a result of public input and through the Parliamentary process. <i>Marine Parks Act 2007</i> was assented to on 29 November 2007. 	
2009	Outer Boundaries of South Australia's Marine Parks Network	 State-wide consultation on outer boundaries with 2,357 submissions received from 3,295 respondents. 56 public information days across the state. About 4,800 people directly engaged; 3 regional Pilot Working Groups established to advise on outer boundary design in key areas of SA. Multi-sectoral representation. At least 3 rounds of meetings each. Public feedback contributed to amendments made to the outer boundaries of 7 marine parks. 	
Late 2009 – May 2011	Phase 1 – Early community engagement in management planning for South Australia's marine parks network	 Early engagement with communities across the state to gather local advice for the development of draft management plans with zoning. 13 Marine Park Local Advisory Groups (MPLAGs) established across the state, plus the (existing) Great Australian Bight Consultative Committee (GABCC). 67 public MPLAG and GABCC meetings facilitated. Numerous informal workshops and meetings. Peak stakeholders were invited to provide early advice on their preferred zoning for marine parks. Multiple public information days held in Adelaide and regional centres. Final MPLAG advice displayed on marine parks website and at the Adelaide Boat Show. Information gathered assisted the Government to develop draft marine park zoning aimed at minimising impacts on existing recreational and commercial users while achieving conservation aims. 	

Late 2011 and April 2012	Consultation process 'reset' and key stakeholder forum involving Premier and Ministers for Environment and Fisheries	•	Late in 2011 the Premier and Minister announced that the process would be reset to enable additional consultation with key stakeholder groups. In April 2012, supported by the Chairs of the Scientific Working Group and Marine Parks Council of SA, representatives of the conservation, recreational and commercial fishing sectors engaged in a two day forum where broad agreement was reached on priority areas for conservation.
April 2012 and July 2012	Public release of sanctuary zone preview maps for community comment. On 10 July the full set of draft zoning maps was released online.	•	Outcomes of the key stakeholder forum were made publicly available on the Government's 'Your SAy' website www.saplan.org.au/yoursay . Maps from the key stakeholder forum were updated in 10 July 2012 to include the full suite of draft zoning. Marine parks staff participated in an interactive blog with 1,892 comments / discussions.
26 August to 22 October 2012	Phase 2 - Formal state-wide consultation on 19 marine park draft management plans	•	Eight week, state-wide community consultation on draft marine park management plans, including draft zoning arrangements and draft management strategies. 41 public information days across the state where over approximately 2,900 people engaged in conversations with marine parks staff. Briefings were offered to key stakeholders as listed in the Marine Parks Act and other interest groups. 40 briefings and presentations were conducted. 8,649 written submissions received forming the basis for analysis of public feedback and development of a summary report. Scientific Working Group provided independent advice to the Minister on scientific matters relating to the draft management plans. Marine Parks Council of SA provided independent advice to the Minister on environmental, economic and social matters. Marine Parks Steering Committee provided whole-of-government advice on draft management plans. Minister held meetings with stakeholders and interest groups in relation to key areas. Advice received from all sources contributed to over 50 amendments to park zoning and fine tuning of management strategies in final marine park management plans.

During the period from 2008 to 2012 over 35,000 face to face discussions were conducted with members of the South Australian public in relation to marine park planning and development, making this one of the largest, most comprehensive consultation processes in the State's history.

At every significant step in the marine parks process the information, advice and feedback from the public has been carefully considered by the Government and used to make amendments for improved environmental, economic and social outcomes.

Appendix 2

MARINE PARK MANAGEMENT PLAN AMENDMENTS FOLLOWING THE STATEWIDE PUBLIC CONSULTATION PROCESS, 26 AUGUST – 22 OCTOBER 2012

RAZ = Restricted Access Zone; SZ = Sanctuary Zone; HPZ = Habitat Protection Zone; GMUZ = General Managed Use Zone; SPA = Special Purpose Area; MPLAG = Marine Park Local Advisory Group

Park	What / where	Amendment description	Origin of amendment	Reason for amendment
Park 1 – Far	All	No changes	9	
West Coast				
Park 2 – Nuyts Archipelago Marine Park	Lound Island	Straightened and squared SZ boundaries	Across government compliance subcommittee	Simplifies boundary for ease of identification and minimises compliance issues.
	Davenport Creek	Fine tuned boundaries for SZ-3, SZ-5 and SZ-6	Submissions	Slightly amends MPLAG advice to better provide for recreational fishing access – change suggested by former MPLAG members, DC Ceduna and RecFish SA.
	Barlows Beach	Straightened and squared SZ boundaries	Across government compliance subcommittee	Slightly amends MPLAG advice to simplify boundary for ease of identification and minimise compliance issues.
	Smoky Bay	Removed SZ from Smoky Bay and replaced with HPZ	Submissions	Amends MPLAG advice by removing a small sanctuary zone, thus removing impact on the local cockle fishery.
	Lound Island	Removed HPZ buffer around SZ-7 Lound Island & replaced with GMUZ (GMUZ-3)	Submissions	Reduces impact on west coast prawn fishery.
	Cape D'Estrees and Smoky Bay	Reduced HPZ and inserted GMUZ (GMUZ-3 & GMUZ-5)	Submissions	Adds to GMUZ to accommodate existing oyster aquaculture.
Park 3 – West Coast Bays Marine Park	Sceale Bay	Extended SPA along full coastal boundary of SZ to allow shore-based recreational line fishing	Submissions	Amends MPLAG advice with local support expected for maintenance of community use. Simplifies boundary for ease of identification and minimises compliance issues.
Park 4 – Investigator Marine Park	Top-Gallant Isles	Added a new SZ around Top-Gallant Island (SZ-1)	Submissions	Improves conservation outcome in an iconic location as recommended by conservation sector. Commercial fishing displacement expected to be offset by reduction of SZ-3 Cap Island and former SZ-2 Locks Well.
	Pearson Isles	Straightened and squared boundaries and aligned with Commonwealth SZ proposal	Commonwealth and State Government agency discussions	Simplifies boundary for ease of identification and minimises compliance issues, plus complements the Commonwealth marine park arrangements in the area.
	Cap Island	Moved western boundary back to reduce size of SZ and replaced with HPZ	Submissions	Reduces impact on northern zone rock lobster fishery and helps provide for inclusion of Top-Gallant Island by minimising overall area of SZ in this park.
	Locks Well	Removed SZ adjacent Locks Well and replaced with HPZ	DEWNR	Accommodates the Wave Energy project infrastructure and helps provide for inclusion of Top-Gallant Isles SZ by minimising overall area of SZ in this park.
Park 5 – Thorny Passage Marine Park	Gunyah Beach	Added a new SZ as previously designed by the MPLAG (SZ-7)	Submissions	Improves the conservation outcome in an area of high ecological importance adjacent to Coffin Bay National Park. No impact on fishing expected.
	Sleaford Bay	Straightened and squared SZ boundaries	Submissions	Simplifies boundary for ease of identification and minimises compliance issues. Provides for possible future desalination plant discharge. Improves conservation outcome in eastern section adjacent to Lincoln National Park.
	Kellidie Bay	Reduced HPZ and added new GMUZ (GMUZ-1)	Submissions	Adds GMUZ to accommodate existing oyster aquaculture.
	Mt Dutton Bay	Reduced HPZ and added new GMUZ (GMUZ-2)	Submissions	Adds GMUZ to accommodate existing oyster aquaculture.
	Coffin Bay	Reduced HPZ and added new GMUZ (GMUZ-3)	Submissions	Adds GMUZ to accommodate existing oyster aquaculture.
	Point Burgess	Reduced HPZ in mouth of Coffin Bay and replaced with GMUZ (GMUZ-4)	Submissions	Reduces impact on prawn fishery and accommodates existing oyster aquaculture.

Park	What / where	Amendment description	Origin of amendment	Reason for amendment
Park 6 – Sir Joseph Banks	Offshore Salt Creek	Reduced size of SZ and replaced with HPZ	PIRSA Fisheries & Aquaculture	Reduces the size of the SZ to provide a minimum 1km buffer from finfish aquaculture zones.
Group	Second Creek	Fine tuned SZ and replaced with HPZ	Submissions	Slightly amends MPLAG advice to improve access for recreational fishing – change suggested by former MPLAG members and DC Tumby Bay.
	Point Bolingbroke	Fine tuned SZ and replaced with HPZ	PIRSA Fisheries & Aquaculture	Reduces the size of the SZ to provide a minimum 1km buffer from finfish aquaculture zones.
Park 7 – Neptune Islands Group	North Neptune Islands	Straightened and squared SZ boundaries and replaced outer area with HPZ	Across government compliance subcommittee	Reduces impact on fishing, simplifies boundary for ease of identification and minimises compliance issues.
Park 8 – Gambier Islands Group	All	No changes		
Park 9 – Franklin Harbor	Western Franklin Harbor	Removed SZ and replaced with GMUZ (GMUZ-2)	Submissions	Removed due to close proximity to oyster aquaculture.
	Germein Point	Fine tuned SZ boundaries and replaced with HPZ	DC Franklin Harbor & Submissions	Slight amendment to simplify boundary and better provide for shore fishing, providing ease of identification and minimising compliance issues.
	Outer Franklin Harbor	Extended GMUZ westward (GMUZ-1)	Submissions	Extends GMUZ to accommodate existing oyster aquaculture.
	Inner Franklin Harbor	Added new GMUZ (GMUZ-2)	Submissions	Adds GMUZ to accommodate existing oyster aquaculture.
	SPA offshore	Moved SPA-4 transhipment north	DPTI advice	Changed location to accommodate stakeholder needs as advised by DPTI.
Park 10 – Upper Spencer	Opposite Port Augusta	Removed SZ and replaced with HPZ (HPZ-1)	Submissions	Removed due to high levels of recreational use and small size.
Gulf	Winninowie area	Fine tuned boundaries of SZ on both northern and southern edges	Submissions	Reduces impact on fishing, simplifies boundary for ease of identification and minimises compliance issues.
	Yatala Harbor	Reshaped SZ boundary and replaced with HPZ	Submissions	The Miranda community and RecFish SA suggested an alternative design which improves community use outcomes whilst retaining a worthwhile conservation outcome.
	Black Point	Added a SPA for shore-based recreational line fishing	Submissions	Provides for shore-based recreational line fishing as requested by the Whyalla community and supported by RecFish SA.
	Fairway Bank	Straightened and squared SZ boundaries and replaced with GMUZ	Across government compliance subcommittee	Reduces impact on fishing, simplifies boundary for ease of identification and minimises compliance issues.
Park 11 – Eastern	South of Cape Elizabeth	Added a SPA along full coastal boundary of SZ to allow shore-based recreational line fishing	Submissions	Provides for shore-based recreational line fishing in the area as requested by the community and supported by RecFish SA.
Spencer Gulf	Port Victoria	Reduced HPZ and added new GMUZ adjacent Port Victoria township (GMUZ-3)	Submissions	Provides for dredging and maintenance of boat ramp, jetty & infrastructure.
Park 12 –	Chinamans Hat	Added a SPA for shore-based recreational line	Submissions	Provides for shore-based recreational line fishing in the area as requested by the
Southern Spencer Gulf	Island	fishing Reduced HP7 and added new CMH7 (CMH7.1)	Cubmissions	community and supported by RecFish SA.
	Hardwicke Bay Western River area	Reduced HPZ and added new GMUZ (GMUZ-1) Added a new SZ as previously designed by the MPLAG	Submissions Advice from Mayor Kangaroo Island & submissions	Adds GMUZ to accommodate existing oyster aquaculture. Improved conservation outcome in a locally renowned seadragon hotspot. Consistent with final MPLAG advice.
Park 13 – Lower Yorke	Port Giles area	Extended GMUZ southwards	Submissions	Extends GMUZ to accommodate existing oyster aquaculture.

Park	What / where	Amendment description	Origin of amendment	Reason for amendment
Peninsula		· ·		
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Park 14 – Upper Gulf St	Port Arthur	Added a SPA for shore-based recreational line fishing	Submissions	Provides for shore-based recreational line fishing, requested by community and supported by RecFish SA.
Vincent Marine Park	Port Wakefield	Reduced SZ and HPZ and added a new GMUZ (GMUZ-2)	Submissions	Provides for fishing close to Port Wakefield following feedback from the community and RecFish SA and for works associated with the port and proposed marina, e.g. channel dredging.
Park 15 - Encounter	Ngarrindjeri community interests	Recognition of the Ngarrindjeri Nation Yarluwar- Ruwe (Sea Country) Plan and the Kungun Ngarrindjeri Yunnan Agreement in section 1.4.3 of the management plan	Discussion with community	Provides appropriate recognition for key documents relating to Ngarrindjeri community aspirations.
	Rapid Head	Reshaped boundary of SZ and replaced with GMUZ (GMUZ-2)	Submissions	Minimises impact on prawn fishery.
	Western Fleurieu waters	Extended GMUZ-2 south towards Backstairs Passage and east adjacent Rapid Head	Submissions	Minimises impact on prawn fishery.
	Encounter Bay	Extended SPA along full coastal boundary of SZ to allow shore-based recreational line fishing	Submissions	Simplifies boundary for ease of identification and minimises compliance issues.
	Northern Coorong Beach	Reduced size of SZ and replaced with HPZ	Submissions	Removes impact on commercial pipi fishery
	Bay of Shoals	Reduced SZ and replaced with HPZ over channel	Submissions	Provides for fishing access from small boats in Bay of Shoals channel as requested by the community and RecFish SA.
	Nepean Bay	Extended GMUZ westwards	Submissions	Extends GMUZ to accommodate existing oyster aquaculture.
Park 16 –	Cone Porde	Reduced size of SZ and replaced with HPZ	Submissions	Reduces impact on recreational fishing as requested by the community and RecFish SA
Western KI	Cape Borda	·		and reduces impact on commercial fishing.
	Cape Du Couedic	Reduced size of SZ and replaced with HPZ	Submissions	Significantly reduces impact on commercial fishing
Park 17 – Southern KI	Seal Bay	Replaced small section of RAZ along Seal Bay Beach by extending SZ-1	DEWNR	Better provides for the existing tourism activity at Seal Bay.
Park 18 – Upper South East	Cape Dombey	Fine tuned SZ boundaries	Local advice	Small adjustment following local advice will allow for ease of identification of boundaries and minimises compliance issues.
Park 19 – Lower South East	Piccaninnie Springs	Reduced size of SZ and replaced with HPZ. Also, extended SPA along full coastal boundary of SZ to allow shore-based recreational line fishing	Submissions	Reduces impact on commercial fishing and simplifies boundary for ease of identification and minimises compliance issues.
All Parks	Management challenges	Add 'protected ecological communities' to the assets which must be effectively conserved in each park.	Submissions	Appropriately recognises the status of protected ecological communities and will ensure their conservation, along with protected species.
	Management priorities and strategies	Blend strategies relating to performance assessment, review and knowledge, incorporating the advice of the Scientific Working Group. Reduces the number of management priorities to four key themes and individual management strategies from 17 to 15.	Submissions and Scientific Working Group advice	Strengthens strategies relating to monitoring, evaluation and research which in turn will improve knowledge and provide a strong basis for future review of management plans.