

**UPPER SPENCER GULF
MARINE PARK LOCAL ADVISORY GROUP**

MINUTES

The third meeting of the Upper Spencer Gulf Marine Park Local Advisory Group (MPLAG) was held at 5pm on the 16th of November 2010, in the Port Augusta Institute Theatre, 52 Commercial Road, Port Augusta.

We acknowledge and respect the traditional custodians whose lands we are meeting upon today. We acknowledge the deep feelings of attachment and relationship of Aboriginal peoples to country. We also pay respect to the cultural authority of Aboriginal people visiting/attending from other areas of South Australia/Australia present here.

Members Present: Robin Sharp (chairperson), Brett Munns, Angie Stokes, Michael Slattery, Alan Hall, Tony Bramley, Peter Huxtable, Gary Barnes, Leon Stephens, Chris Fewster (proxy to Rod Hayles).

Supporting Staff: David Pearce, Tim Collins, Sheralee Cox, Yvette Eglinton, Dimitri Collela, Amanda Gaetjens (minute taker), and Gary Frost.

Gallery: 7 people in the gallery

1. **Welcome:** Robin Sharp (Chair) opened the meeting and welcomed MPLAG members and those in the gallery.
2. **Apologies:** Lyndon Giles, Doug Reilly **Absent:** Lavene Ngatokorua, Greg Cowin, Colin Simms.
3. **Minutes from previous meeting:** Minutes of the meeting held on 24 May 2010 were accepted by the membership without amendment, moved, Peter Huxtable and seconded Michael Slattery.
4. **Correspondence:** Two letters addressed to the chair were tabled for member's information:
 - Conservation Council SA, dated 18 October 2010.
 - Minister for Environment and Conservation, The Hon Paul Caica MP, dated 9 November 2010.

The Chair also noted that the local Member of Parliament the Hon. Dan Holst Pellekaan had informed Robin that he would be unable to attend.

5. **Chairs Meeting with the Minister**

The Chair gave a brief summary of the items covered at his meeting with the Minister on 26 August 2010. Issues discussed by the Chairs and Minister were:

- need to ensure the involvement of recreational fishing sector as commercial fishers appeared to be adequately represented and involved
- a need for the Minister to show goodwill for recreational fishers e.g. through creation of additional boat ramps or coastal access points.
- there is likely to be a follow up meeting between the Minister and MPLAG chairs.

6. Presentation – recap and ‘starting point’ preliminary sanctuary zone scenario

MPLAG Executive Officer, David Pearce, Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) gave a presentation which included:

- background on the marine parks program and timeline
- the benefits of marine parks
- what sanctuary zones will protect
- maps showing the environmental, social and economic features that were used taken into consideration in designing the possible sanctuary zones
- information on the checklist on how to apply the design principles
- possible sanctuary zones, highlighting that these zones were a starting point for discussion and further information is needed
- an update on management issues and strategies development.

The presentation can be found at the following link:

<http://www.environment.sa.gov.au/marineparks/pdfs/meeting-3.pdf>

The specific park Atlas maps used in each presentation can be found on this page:

<http://marineparkssa.ning.com/page/local-advisory-groups>

MPLAG and gallery members were each provided with a *Basis for ‘starting point’ preliminary sanctuary zones scenario* for the marine park – which included the rationale for each zone and a map of the proposed zones.

Members were also provided acetate copies of the park with the proposed zones and a feedback sheet where they were asked to provide anonymous feedback on their initial impressions of each zone. Forms were collected at the end of the meeting.

Questions/concerns raised by members prior to, during or following the presentation and answers from David Pearce:

- When will the commercial fishing sector be involved? They are already involved at numerous levels, at the local level on MPLAGs, at the state level through the SA Marine Park Management Alliance and they will provide feedback on MPLAG advice between meeting 3 and 4.
- There is a need for displaced effort to be resolved as soon as possible? Yes this has been communicated clearly with the Minister.
- Effective compliance and enforcement is crucial to successful marine parks!
- Long term and adequate funding for marine parks is required!
- MPLAG members should have been involved in the design principles checklist!
- MPLAG members are yet to see a list of species that the marine park is protecting? The aim of the program is to protect all marine plants and animals, by selecting samples of the full range of marine habitats within SA state waters.
- What proportion of aquatic reserves are currently in the marine park 10? Exact figures were not available, but David will find out.
- Possibility of changing the outer boundaries? Within the *Marine Parks Act 2007* there is the capacity to amend outer boundaries, however we have been asked in the first instance to try to design the park zones within existing boundaries.
- Why does Victoria only have 6% in no take zones while South Australia is having 10% of state waters in sanctuary zones? Different states are at different stages in the marine parks implementation process; however 10% is currently considered a reasonable place to start discussions.
- When will MPLAG members be shown the habitat protection zones and restricted access? They will be discussed next meeting.

- Will individual sanctuary zone maps with GPS coordinates be provided to members? Not at this stage as these zones are only a starting point, exact boundaries will come later, when the zones have been refined from community feedback.
- How can the government keep displaced effort under 5% when one proposed sanctuary zone in this marine park already equates to more than that? The government is committed to less than 5% displaced commercial effort statewide, and this will need to be achieved through working with industry.

There was a brief discussion about the Management Issues and Strategies document. While some MPLAG members have already contributed to this document, the document is now at a stage that it needs to be reviewed. MPLAG members were asked if interested in the task. Leon Tony Robin Alan & Brett agreed to look at the document.

Action: Sheralee Cox to work with MPLAG members, Leon Tony Robin Alan & Brett on reviewing the Management Issues and Strategies document and send a draft to all MPLAG members for comments.

7. Members discuss preliminary sanctuary zones scenarios: MPLAG and gallery members formed small groups to discuss and provide advice to DENR on the preliminary sanctuary zone scenarios. DENR staff members were available to support group discussion and answer questions.

8. MPLAG initial advice to DENR: the following initial comments were made by MPLAG members in response to each of the Preliminary Sanctuary Zones for park 10.

A1 - Shift southern boundary line north 1km to allow for recreational fishing.

B1 - Not a high use area - no change to proposed zone.

C1 - Extend zone from the Santos jetty to 500m east of Black Point & Allow shore fishing at Black Point.

C2 - Zone should be extended, especially if the PIRSA Cephalopod closure is not maintained.

D1 - No change to proposed zone.

E1 - Remove deep water to allow for recreational fishing.

E2 - Remove section from the centre of the channel to Yatala Harbour Aquatic Reserve to allow for commercial fishing.

F1 - Follow mangrove on the southern point around to half way along. Avoid deeper water of that zone using existing channel markers.

G1 - Move north to avoid the base of railway line (popular recreational fishing).

H1 - Increase area from Point Paterson to Mangrove Point to adjust for changes to zone E.

I1 - Trim the top north-east corner trim to the 5 metre depth contour.

I2 - Remove block I and relocate adjacent to Backy Point to extend zone D.

I3 - Remove south-east corner to 5 metre depth contour.

J1 - Remove existing area and find alternative location.

J2 - Remove from Mangrove Creek to 8m depth contour.

J3 - Add Port Davis Creek to Point Jarrold as a possible alternative to J.

J4 - Remove area as described in J2 and add area beyond the park boundaries including Musgrave Shoal.

J5 - This is a good location for a sanctuary zone in regard to recreational fishing.

9. Communications planning: Gallery members were offered the opportunity to provide their contact details if they would like to be involved in the process and to be put in touch with a MPLAG member.

Action: MPLAG Executive Officer, staff to contact gallery members who provided contact details and connect them to a MPLAG member.

MPLAG members were encouraged to discuss the Preliminary Sanctuary Zone Scenarios and suggest alternatives (where necessary) with their networks. Feedback is required by 28 January 2011 to allow time to collate all the information prior to meeting 4.

The communication plan developed at MPLAG meeting 1 was reviewed and those present agreed to contact the following groups:

MPLAG member	Organisation/group
Robin Sharp	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • local media • Pt Augusta Coastal Homes Association • email networks • Marine Advisory Group – Port Augusta City Council
Michael Slattery	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Net Fishers Association • commercial and recreational fishers
Angie Stokes	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • One Steel • Santos • Whyalla Environmental Consultation Group
Leon Stephens	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Commercial Fishing and Tackle Shops • Port Pirie, Port Pirie Anglers Club • Port Pirie Yacht Club • Rotary Club
Gary Barnes	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Marine scale fishermen • Crab association
Chris Fewster	Marine scale fisherman
Tony Bramley	SCUBA divers, Whyalla, GTS News, Whyalla News
Brett Munns	Boat Charter Operators (USG)
Peter Huxtable	Pt Augusta Coastal Homes Association
Alan Hall	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Sport Fishing Scene • Whyalla fishing clubs

10. Other business

It was requested by a member that recent correspondence with BHP be provided to DENR. It was suggested that some key ecological habitats around Pt Lowly be made a mapping priority for the DENR technical team.

Action: Dimitri to note priority areas to include in future field work if possible.

11. Questions from the gallery

Members of the gallery were offered the opportunity to ask questions or offer comments through the Chair. DENR staff provided a response where appropriate. A summary of the questions/comments were as follows:

- How will the sanctuary zones be identified by users? (Answer: there will be a range of methods from land based marks, buoys and sign posts with advice from locals).
- Contact should be made with BHP, Stuart Petroleum, Arafura Resources and Flinders Ports.
- Aquatic reserves, the upper areas of gulf already have aquatic reserves – additional protection not required. Also there has been a lack of research into aquatic reserves in the area.
- Science behind the development of the proposed sanctuary zones:
 - What is being protected and what will be monitored in the future.

- Who developed the scenarios?
- Are experiments been being carried within the marine parks?
- How do you know that the spawning areas are spawning grounds – no research has been done.
- Fisheries management issues:
 - Fishers should receive compensation for loss of access to artificial reefs in sanctuary zones.
 - Will the proposed zones remove the ban on snapper? Snapper numbers have declined over the past 20 years?
- Has long term funding been allocated for compliance and enforcement?
- Has an impact statement been completed on the marine park?
- What is the process for community comment on the draft management plans with zoning?
- What is the science behind where these zones have gone? The scientific principles have been developed at an international, national and State level by scientists with expertise in the field. Atlas Maps and scientific reports can all be found on the marine parks website www.marineparks.sa.gov.au

Action: MPLAG Executive Officer to ensure all relevant industries are connected with during the consultation process.

12. Record of meeting.

A brief summary of key meeting points was displayed, discussed and agreed upon by the group.

The Record of the Meeting is available on the Marine Parks website.

13. Next meeting MPLAG meeting 4 is planned for early 2011. Members will be advised of the date and venue when available.

Meeting Closed at 9pm

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Chair

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Date

Action Items as at 16 November 2010

Meeting No	Responsibility	Action	Status	Date
3	All MPLAG members	To meet with key community members (as specified in the Communication Plan) to discuss the Preliminary Sanctuary Zone Scenarios and use the checklist to propose alternative zones where necessary. To provide feedback before the end of January 2011.		28 January 2011.
3	David Pearce	To find out		

		percentages of existing Aquatic Reserves in Marine Park 10.		
3	David Pearce	To ensure all relevant industries are connected with during the consultation process.		
3	Sheralee Cox staff to work with MPLAG members, Leon Tony Robin Alan & Brett	Reviewing the management issues and strategies document. And with a draft being sent to all MPLAG members for comments.		
3	DENR Staff member	Contact gallery members who provided contact details and connect them to a MPLAG member.		
3	Dimitri	To note priority areas to include in future field work if possible.		

Attachment:

- Letter from member Peter Huxtable.