

1 April 2011

Department of Environment & Natural Resources  
Attention: Shelley Harrison  
Acting Project Coordinator West Marine Parks  
PO Box 22  
PORT LINCOLN SA 5606

Dear Shelley

### **SANCTUARY ZONES**

We are pleased to enclose maps detailing our proposed sanctuary zone areas following our recent community meeting. A total of 211 people registered at the meeting and we received a level of support approaching 100% of those present. This was on the basis that the proposed zones represent the absolute maximum area that we believe that our local community will support and are therefore non-negotiable. We can not accept any upsizing without losing the support of local people.

We will provide more precise details including GPS points and landmarks as soon as possible. We will also detail some edges of zones 3, 4 and 5, where buffer zones can not apply because of existing prawn trawling activity.

We have selected these areas to include fish breeding and nursery areas, places important to birdlife and as many of the desired habitat types as possible. We consider this to be a good faith attempt by our community to offer a positive way forward.

Please note that we have been advised by the community that we can not offer any additional area under any circumstances.

A brief summary of the 12 zones follows;

#### **Zone 1 near the Nuyts Group of Islands.**

This area excludes a 100 metre strip of the beach which allows for land based fishing activity. The nearby fishing area includes the Great Australian Bight Sanctuary and the local people have already lost significant fishing area and therefore think that this represents a generous concession. This area contains shallow reef structure, beaches, deeper reef areas, sea grass areas and a widely varied habitat.

**Zone 2 between Tucamore and Cactus.**

No beach fishing is proposed within this zone which goes out to the limit of the park area. It includes surf beach areas, shallow and deeper reef structures, sea grasses and various other habitat types.

**Zone 3 1 nautical mile around Lounds Island.**

This area includes granite and limestone reefs both deep and shallow, has a resident population of seals, includes sea grasses in the shallow areas and is a good example of structure around an off shore island. NB. Parts of zones 3,4,5 and 6 are adjacent to important prawn fishing area and habitat protection zone can not be placed near parts of it. This area is to be identified later in this process.

**Zone 4 part of the St. Francis Island Group including Egg and Smooth Islands.**

This zone includes some fishing area used by the abalone, rock lobster, marine scale and recreational fisheries. It represents a "good faith" attempt to incorporate part of the St. Francis Group without inflicting severe damage to fishing interests. The extent of this concession should not be underestimated. It includes some seal haul out sites, extensive deep and shallow granite and limestone reef structure, sea grasses and is a good example of a very healthy offshore environment with a very healthy population of reef fishes

**Zone 5 offshore between the St Francis and Lacey Islands.**

This area consists of deep waters of predominately sandy bottom with areas of rock and other structure. NB. This area is also adjacent to prawn fishing grounds and the extent of habitat protection (buffer) zone will need to be established later in this process.

**Zone 6 between Evans and Goat Islands.**

Similar to zone 5 but also including some deep reef areas, and will also require establishment of habitat protection zones to account for nearby prawn fishing areas.

**Zone 7 in the inner reaches of Davenport Creek.**

This area is much larger than is indicated on the chart especially on high tides. This area is important breeding and nursery area for many species. It includes large amounts of mangrove stands and is an important feeding and breeding area for many species of birds.

It also represents a huge concession by the local community who fish the surrounding area extensively and there is much concern that attempts may be made to grab additional areas as sanctuary zones. We have made a commitment to the community that we will not ever agree to any expansion of the four areas nominated within the Davenport Creek area and will never budge from this position.

This area is magnificent and pristine.

Note – we will provide more precise boundaries including GPS points as soon as possible. Zone 7 will be more clearly defined as the present marking does not show the real extent of area included as it is actually several times larger than now indicated.

### **Zones 8, 9 & 10 in the Davenport Creek area.**

The same comments as per zone 7 apply. Another area much frequented by various species of sea birds with healthy stands of mangroves. This area is also important for breeding and nursery areas for many fish species, with massive areas of sea grasses present. Magnificent, pristine and these zones represent a huge concession by the local community to try to work with the MPA process – we hope that this effort is appreciated.

### **Zone 11 near Barlows Beach Smoky Bay.**

This area allows for a 100 metre strip along the shore to enable land based fishing. It includes a lot of limestone and granite reef structure, extensive areas of sea grasses and includes further examples of a varied and healthy marine environment.

### **Zone 12 near Smoky Bay.**

The Smoky Bay community is heavily reliant of fishing and very protective of the area. This zone includes acres of sea grasses and the comments applicable to the zones in the Davenport Creek area apply equally to this area.

### **Summary comments.**

The 12 proposed zones represent 100% of the capacity of our community to cede fishing areas in the interests of creating a community supported marine protected area which will probably comply with the Government target of a maximum economic effect of 5% on the commercial fishery with as close to zero effect as is possible.

It represents a massive amount of work and consultation by a dedicated group of people who gave up a lot of scarce time to try to do the community a service. This job was completed in a cooperative and friendly manner with all involved disregarding self-interest and putting the overall good first.

Their sterling efforts are very much appreciated. We now have a very clear picture of the opinion of the local community from our public meeting and there has already been a lot of consultation during our process. Fishers have attended from as far away as Port Lincoln and Adelaide to help with this task and their enthusiasm and input is also valued very highly.

The end result does involve some significant loss of access but we have done our best to minimize this. Some will be unhappy about this, of course, but we ask that you remember how much care and trouble has been taken with this very difficult process.

We are also aware that some members of the Conservation Movement will be unhappy with the final result.

We suggest to them that a result that offers all that the local community can afford to give is much, much better than nothing. To seek a situation where 25% or 30% of the park area becomes a no take zone is foolish and unaffordable.

Closing up such a huge area would cost hundreds of millions of dollars in compensation, would destroy the fishing industry and decimate local economies. A more realistic approach will gain a result rather than a blanket refusal to cooperate with the MPA process.

We hope that common sense will prevail in this very difficult process.

Yours faithfully

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Allan Suter', written in a cursive style.

**Allan Suter**  
**MAYOR**



For details see American Statistical Yearbook, AWP (2)			
200	POSITION ACCURACY	VELOCITY ACCURACY	SIGNALING CAPABILITY
A1	<20m	<100m/s	All navigation systems available
A2	<50m	<100m/s	All navigation systems available
A	<100m	<100m/s	All navigation systems available
B	<200m	<100m/s	All navigation systems available
C	<500m	<100m/s	All navigation systems available
D	<1000m	<100m/s	All navigation systems available
E	<2000m	<100m/s	All navigation systems available
F	<5000m	<100m/s	All navigation systems available
G	<10000m	<100m/s	All navigation systems available
H	<20000m	<100m/s	All navigation systems available
I	<50000m	<100m/s	All navigation systems available
J	<100000m	<100m/s	All navigation systems available
K	<200000m	<100m/s	All navigation systems available
L	<500000m	<100m/s	All navigation systems available
M	<1000000m	<100m/s	All navigation systems available
N	<2000000m	<100m/s	All navigation systems available
O	<5000000m	<100m/s	All navigation systems available
P	<10000000m	<100m/s	All navigation systems available
Q	<20000000m	<100m/s	All navigation systems available
R	<50000000m	<100m/s	All navigation systems available
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T	<200000000m	<100m/s	All navigation systems available
U	<500000000m	<100m/s	All navigation systems available
V	<1000000000m	<100m/s	All navigation systems available
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AC	<200000000000m	<100m/s	All navigation systems available
AD	<500000000000m	<100m/s	All navigation systems available
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BI	<10000000000000000000000m	<100m/s	All navigation systems available
BJ	<20000000000000000000000m	<100m/s	All navigation systems available
BK	<50000000000000000000000m	<100m/s	All navigation systems available
BL	<100000000000000000000000m	<100m/s	All navigation systems available
BM	<200000000000000000000000m	<100m/s	All navigation systems available

Place	Laf \$	Long \$	Receipts in various guinea account				
			Subsidies	Vol. chgs	Gifts	Trans. ac	Vol. ac
Reception Point	\$2,560	\$36,732	1.7	1.1	162	2.6	1.3
Thompson	\$2,360	\$33,336	1.6	2.0	152	1.0	1.0
St. Francis I.	\$2,320	\$33,336	1.6	1.1	152	2.0	1.0
Port Greville	\$2,360	\$33,271	1.6	1.2	2.0	2.0	1.0

  
 AUSTRALIA - SOUTH COAST  
 SOUTH AUSTRALIA  
 HEAD OF  
 GREAT AUSTRALIAN BIGHT  
 TO  
 STREAKY BAY

SCALE 1:300,000 at lat. 27°18'

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### Proposed alternate Sanctuary Zones

**SEE ENLARGEMENT**



