



SCIENTIFIC WORKING GROUP COMMUNIQUÉ – MEETING No. 57 11 December 2012

The following members were present at the Scientific Working Group (SWG) meeting held on 11 December 2012: Peter Fairweather (chair), Luciano Beheregaray, Milena Fernandes, Charlie Huveneers, Martine Kinloch (via phone), Hugh Kirkman, Scoresby Shepherd, and Hazel Vandeleur. Apologies were received from Anthony Cheshire, Sean Connell, Bronwyn Gillanders and Luciana Moller.

The SWG wishes to advise the Minister of the following key outcomes:

- The SWG noted with approval the recent step forward with declaring zones and management plans for the South Australian System or Representative Marine Protected Areas, including the opportunity afforded by the phase-in arrangements now in place. The SWG shall seek to seize the challenge that you have given us in thinking widely and innovatively about “growing the pie” of resources available to support a MER program;
 - The SWG received advice about and looked critically at the progress being made with planning to monitor different habitats in SA waters such as mangroves and saltmarshes, seagrass beds, and soft sediments, or with targeted groups of organisms like fishes, marine mammals and birds;
 - The SWG finalised a flowchart to better govern the various processes needed for letting permits for scientific research within SA marine parks; and
 - The SWG discussed their operational arrangements over the Xmas-New Year period, approved minutes from the last three meetings, discussed various recent meetings and information sessions involving Professor Hugh Possingham or planning for citizen science initiatives, as well as cleared the decks for the holiday season with a celebratory lunch with DEWNR staff involved with the Marine Parks Project.
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Prof. Peter Fairweather
Chair, Scientific Working Group