

# Gambier Islands Group Marine Park

## Preliminary sanctuary zone scenario

### Starting point for Marine Park Local Advisory Group discussion

South Australians enjoy the benefits of a healthy marine environment. However, the marine environment is under increasing pressure from a range of sources, including climate change, run-off and competition for resources, which could affect how we use and enjoy it in the future.

Marine parks are currently being set up around Australia as part of a national and international response to these increasing pressures.

In 2009, the South Australian Government declared a network of 19 marine parks to help protect and conserve areas of natural value within our State's waters for generations to come.

Your assistance is now needed to help develop the zoning and management plans for these marine parks.

At this meeting, you will begin the process of developing a proposed zoning scenario for your local marine park(s). You will be provided a range of information about zoning, including a preliminary sanctuary zone scenario developed by DENR, and other government agencies to provide a starting point for discussions by your MPLAG about how marine parks might be zoned for conservation, commerce and community use.

The preliminary sanctuary zone scenario is only a starting point and does not represent a Government proposal or preference. There may be better ways to design a marine park zoning scheme to achieve the desired outcomes. Your MPLAG's advice on its preferred zoning scenario(s) is sought.

The preliminary sanctuary zone scenarios have been developed using the environmental, social and economic information currently available to Government, including the information provided through SAMPIT (the South Australian Marine Parks Information Tool).

The next step is for the scenarios to be worked on over the next six months by the MPLAGs and key stakeholders, such as the seafood industry, tourism operators, local government and conservation interests, who all have important information to bring to the table.

It is expected that this work will result in changes to what is initially provided. Indeed, this is the purpose of MPLAGs and key stakeholder engagement - to better inform and assist the Government in this process - so we can help ensure that the needs of local communities and industries are met.

The State Government has not adopted an arbitrary percentage target for the size of sanctuary zones. Instead, it remains open to the advice of the community as to how to best design the marine parks network to protect and conserve marine biodiversity and marine habitats in a manner that accords with the objects of the *Marine Parks Act 2007*.

To assist MPLAGs, key stakeholders and other community members to develop their preferred zoning scenario(s), you will be provided with some indicative zoning guidelines.

These guidelines have been developed with due regard to advice from the Marine Parks Scientific Working Group and Marine Parks Council of South Australia, which provide independent advice on marine park matters.

One of these zoning guidelines is that sanctuary zones should cover about 20-25% of each marine park - this would translate to about 10% of our State's waters.

However, this is a guideline only and may not be achievable in some marine parks, particularly where there are significant policy commitments in place to provide for various current and future activities.

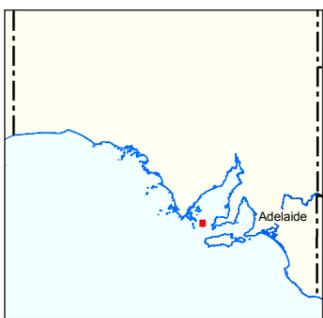
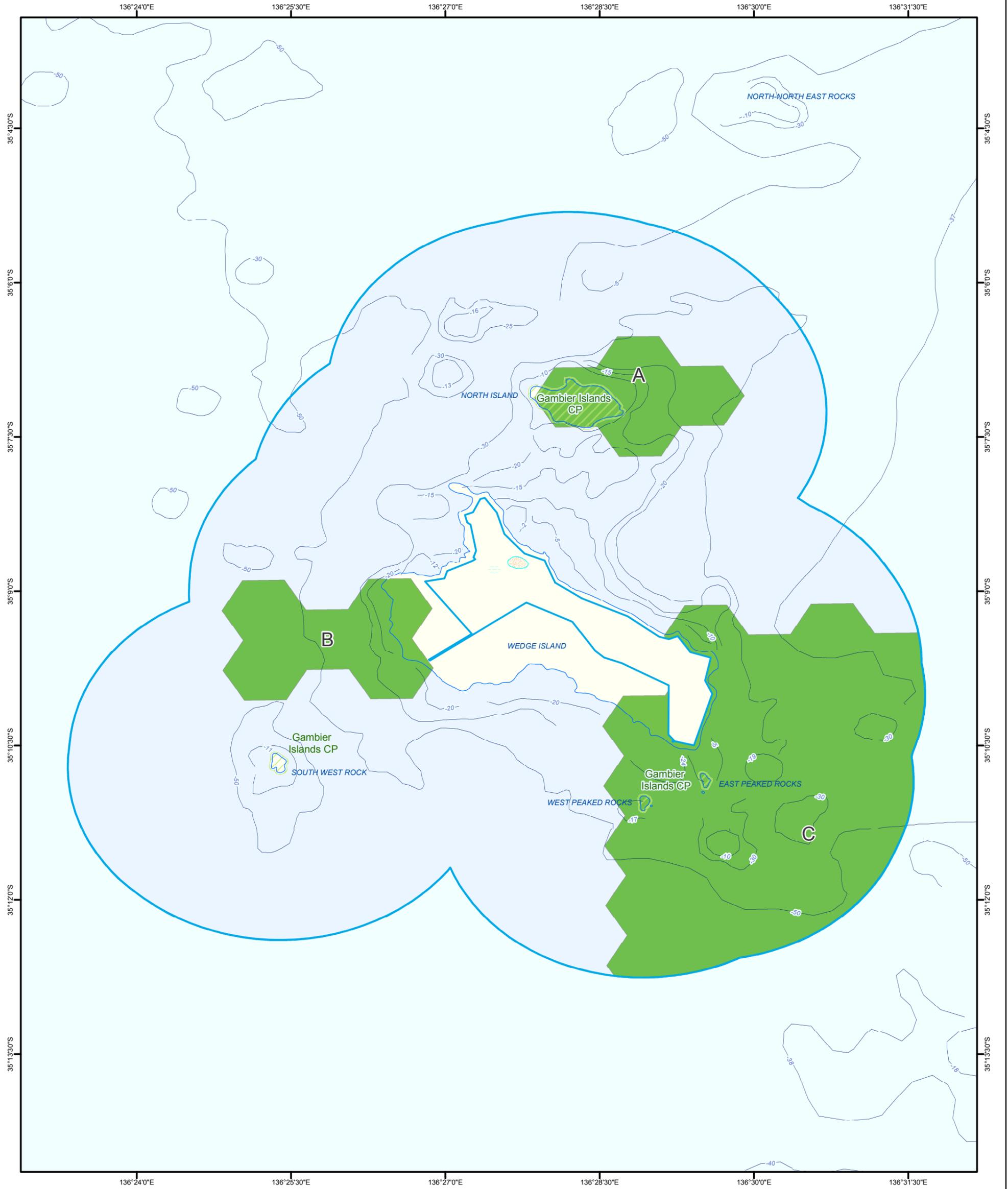
Your attention is drawn to the marine park policy commitments made by the Government in 2009, in particular the assurance given to the commercial fishing industry that the outcome of marine parks zoning will have no more than a 5% economic impact (as per the 2007 EconSearch report).

In developing your preferred zoning scenarios it will be important that you apply the full zoning checklists and policy commitments, to help ensure your suggestions meet the marine park design requirements. Doing this will help you develop a proposal for your park(s) that is good for conservation and good for commercial and community interests.

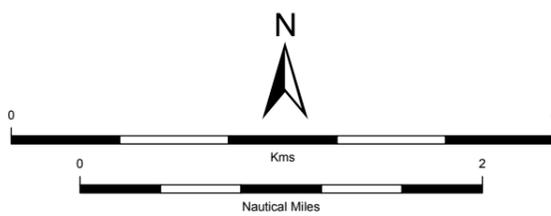
**For more information**, please contact your MPLAG Executive Officer via email at [DENRmarine@sa.gov.au](mailto:DENRmarine@sa.gov.au), or phone the Coast and Marine Conservation Branch, Department of Environment and Natural Resources, on Freecall 1800 006 120.

# Marine Park 8 - Gambier Islands Group Marine Park

## Preliminary Sanctuary Zone Scenario Starting Point - Version 1



- Possible Sanctuary Zones
- Marine Park
- Lake - Mainly Dry
- Land Subject to Inundation (STI)
- Parks and Reserves
- Bathymetry
- Coastline (median high water)



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**Data Source** Marine Parks, Parks and Reserves,  
Topographic Data, Bathymetry - DENR  
8 November 2010

**Compiled Projection Datum** Geographic  
Geocentric Datum of Australia, 1994

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**Basis for 'Starting Point' Preliminary Sanctuary Zone Scenario – Gambier Islands Group Marine Park (Park 8)**

Location of possible Sanctuary Zone	Area	Rationale for possible Sanctuary Zone
<p><b>Zone A:</b> Eastern side of North Island</p>	<p>4 km<sup>2</sup></p>	<p><b>The possible Sanctuary Zone represents the following habitats</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Habitats represented within this possible Sanctuary Zone include offshore island rocky reefs (including heavy limestone and low profile platform) while along the shore exposed cliffs are represented.</li> <li>Some rocky reefs within this Zone represent the cross section from shore to deep water while some of the habitat within this Zone is yet to be mapped.</li> </ul> <p><b>Other important features and natural processes</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The area is sheltered by Wedge Island and provides habitat for several bird species including, for example, the rare peregrine falcon, endangered white-bellied sea eagle, pied cormorant and crested tern. The short-tailed shearwater, a migratory species whose habitat is required to be protected under international treaties, roost and nest on the islands.</li> <li>Also found on the eastern side of the possible Sanctuary Zone is a shallow reef which is home to a range of algae species while the whole area supports a high diversity of reef fish including western blue groper, harlequin fish, western blue devil and southern blue morwong.</li> <li>The vulnerable Australian sea lion breeds within the Zone and the New Zealand fur seal frequent the area.</li> <li>The islands are in the transition zone between the Spencer Gulf and the open ocean, creating strong temperature and salinity differences that impact on the variety and abundance of life found in the area.</li> </ul> <p><b>Social and economic considerations</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>In recognition of its importance for seabirds and Australian sea lions, North Island is listed on the <i>Register of the National Estate</i>.</li> <li>This possible Sanctuary Zone is complemented by the inclusion of the North Island which is part of the Gambier Islands Conservation Park establishing a protective corridor across land and sea.</li> <li>There is a netting closure running from the southern side of North Island to the northern side of Wedge Island, a small proportion of which is included in this Zone.</li> </ul>
<p><b>Zone B:</b> South-western end of Wedge Island</p>	<p>5 km<sup>2</sup></p>	<p><b>The possible zone represents the following habitats</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Habitats represented within this possible Sanctuary Zone include soft-bottom habitats and rocky reefs (including heavy limestone reefs) while along the shore exposed cliffs and deepwater, high wave energy coastline are represented.</li> <li>As a precautionary measure the Zone includes some unmapped habitat.</li> </ul> <p><b>Other important features and natural processes</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The area is very exposed to the open ocean and therefore experiences strong, deepwater swells and wave energy.</li> <li>Reefs in the area are dominated by macroalgae including seaweeds while caves and crevices provide the ideal environment for sponges, gorgonian corals, ascidians (filter feeding, soft sponge-like organisms with vertebrae) and some unique soft corals. These habitats accommodate a high diversity of reef fish including western blue groper, harlequin fish, western blue devil and southern blue morwong.</li> <li>Wedge Island and the surrounding waters are important breeding and feeding areas for the white-faced storm petrel, little penguin and the endangered white-bellied sea eagle.</li> <li>The islands are in the transition area between the Spencer Gulf and the open ocean creating strong temperature and salinity differences that impact on the variety and abundance of life found in the area.</li> </ul> <p><b>Social and economic considerations</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Waters adjacent to the major settlement areas on the northern coast of Wedge Island have been provided for by the location of this possible Sanctuary Zone.</li> </ul>

<p><b>Zone C:</b> Eastern end of Wedge Island and Peaked Rocks</p>	<p>23km<sup>2</sup></p>	<p><b>The possible zone represents the following habitats</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Habitats within this possible Sanctuary Zone include soft-bottom habitats, rocky reefs and seagrasses.</li> <li>• The shoreline included within this Zone features sand beaches and exposed cliffs (up to 200m high).</li> <li>• As a precautionary measure the Zone includes some unmapped habitat.</li> </ul> <p><b>Other important features and natural processes</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• This possible Sanctuary Zone is important as it encompasses the only seagrass community found in the Gambier Islands Group Marine Park.</li> <li>• The area also provides feeding, breeding and nursery habitat for sea birds and shore birds including the rare sooty oystercatcher, rare rock parrot, pied cormorant and crested tern.</li> <li>• Australian sea lions and New Zealand fur seals frequent the area which also supports a high diversity of reef fish.</li> <li>• Wedge Island and the surrounding waters are important breeding and feeding areas for the white-faced storm petrel, little penguin and the endangered white-bellied sea eagle.</li> <li>• The islands are in the transition area between the Spencer Gulf and the open ocean creating strong temperature and salinity differences that impact on the variety and abundance of life found in the area.</li> </ul> <p><b>Social and economic considerations</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• This possible Sanctuary Zone is complemented by the inclusion of East and West Peaked Rocks which are part of the Gambier Islands Conservation Park establishing a protective corridor across land and sea.</li> <li>• In recognition of their importance for seabirds and Australian sea lions, Peaked Rocks are listed on the <i>Register of the National Estate</i>.</li> <li>• Waters adjacent to the major settlement areas on the northern coast of Wedge Island have been provided for by this Zone.</li> <li>• There is a netting closure running from the southern side of North Island to the northern side of Wedge Island of which a small proportion is included in this Zone.</li> </ul>
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This table shows the environmental values represented in each possible Sanctuary Zone within the Gambier Islands Group Marine Park

Environmental Values	Units	Possible Sanctuary Zones			Total in all Zones	Total in Marine Park
		A	B	C		
<b>Ecologically Important Species</b>						
Australian Sealions (breeding sites )	Count	1		1	2	2
Australian Sealions (haulout sites)	Count			1	1	1
Coastal Shorebird Sites	Count	1			1	5
Sea Bird Breeding and Nesting Sites	Count	1			1	1
<b>Underwater Habitats</b>						
Rocky Reef (0 to -10m)	Km <sup>2</sup>	1	<1	1	2	5
Rocky Reef (-10 to -30m)	Km <sup>2</sup>	1	<1	<1	2	6
Rocky Reef (-30 to -50m)	Km <sup>2</sup>	<1	<1	1	1	4
Rocky Reef (>-50m)	Km <sup>2</sup>			<1	<1	1
Seagrass (0 to -10m)	Km <sup>2</sup>			<1	<1	<1
Soft-bottom Habitat (0 to -10m)	Km <sup>2</sup>			<1	<1	<1
Soft-bottom Habitat (-10m to -30m)	Km <sup>2</sup>			<1	<1	<1
Soft-bottom Habitat (-30m to -50m)	Km <sup>2</sup>		<1		<1	1
Soft-bottom Habitat (>-50m)	Km <sup>2</sup>		<1		<1	<1
Unmapped (0 to -10m)	Km <sup>2</sup>			3	3	3
Unmapped (-10 to -30m)	Km <sup>2</sup>	1		2	2	12
Unmapped (-30 to -50m)	Km <sup>2</sup>	<1	1	9	10	32
Unmapped (>-50m)	Km <sup>2</sup>		3	6	10	50
<b>Shore Habitats</b>						
Emergent Land	Count			2	2	2
Offshore Islands	Count	1		2	3	5

\* note that numbers have been rounded to the nearest whole number.