

Marine Park 13

Lower Yorke Peninsula Marine Park

Park at a glance

The marine park is located around the heel of Yorke Peninsula, from Point Davenport Conservation Park to Stansbury, and includes Troubridge Island.

At 848 km², it represents 3% of South Australia's marine parks network.

Community and industry

- The Narungga people have traditional associations with the region.
- Commercial fishing targets western king prawns and scalefish species.
- Aquaculture licences exist near Coobowie and off Wool Bay.
- Tourism is a major contributor to the local economy, with fishing, boating, diving, camping and coastal scenery the major drawcards.
- The park also features historic sites such as the Troubridge Hill Lighthouse.
- Commercial wharves operate at Port Giles to transport bulk grain and at Klein Point to transport limestone.

Fauna and flora

- The only two estuaries on lower Yorke Peninsula (Salt Creek/Coobowie Inlet and Point Davenport) are within this marine park. Both estuaries provide habitat for shorebirds, fish and crustaceans.
- Tapley and Troubridge Shoals shelter a high diversity of sponges and invertebrates.
- Tapley Shoal is a known spawning area for King George whiting.

Habitat

- Lower Yorke Peninsula Marine Park is within the Gulf St Vincent Bioregion.
- Habitats typical of this region include:
 - low coastal cliffs, rocky coasts, and intertidal and subtidal reefs,
 - estuaries, saltmarshes, tidal flats and seagrasses,
 - sandy beaches, dune systems and a unique sand island.

- The habitats inside Lower Yorke Peninsula Marine Park provide critical baselines to measure any changes to the State's marine ecosystems that may arise over time from, for example, pollution or climate change.
- Land and sea are linked adjacent to Point Davenport Conservation Park.
- Lower Yorke Peninsula Marine Park includes Troubridge Island Conservation Park and Coobowie and Troubridge Hill Aquatic Reserves.

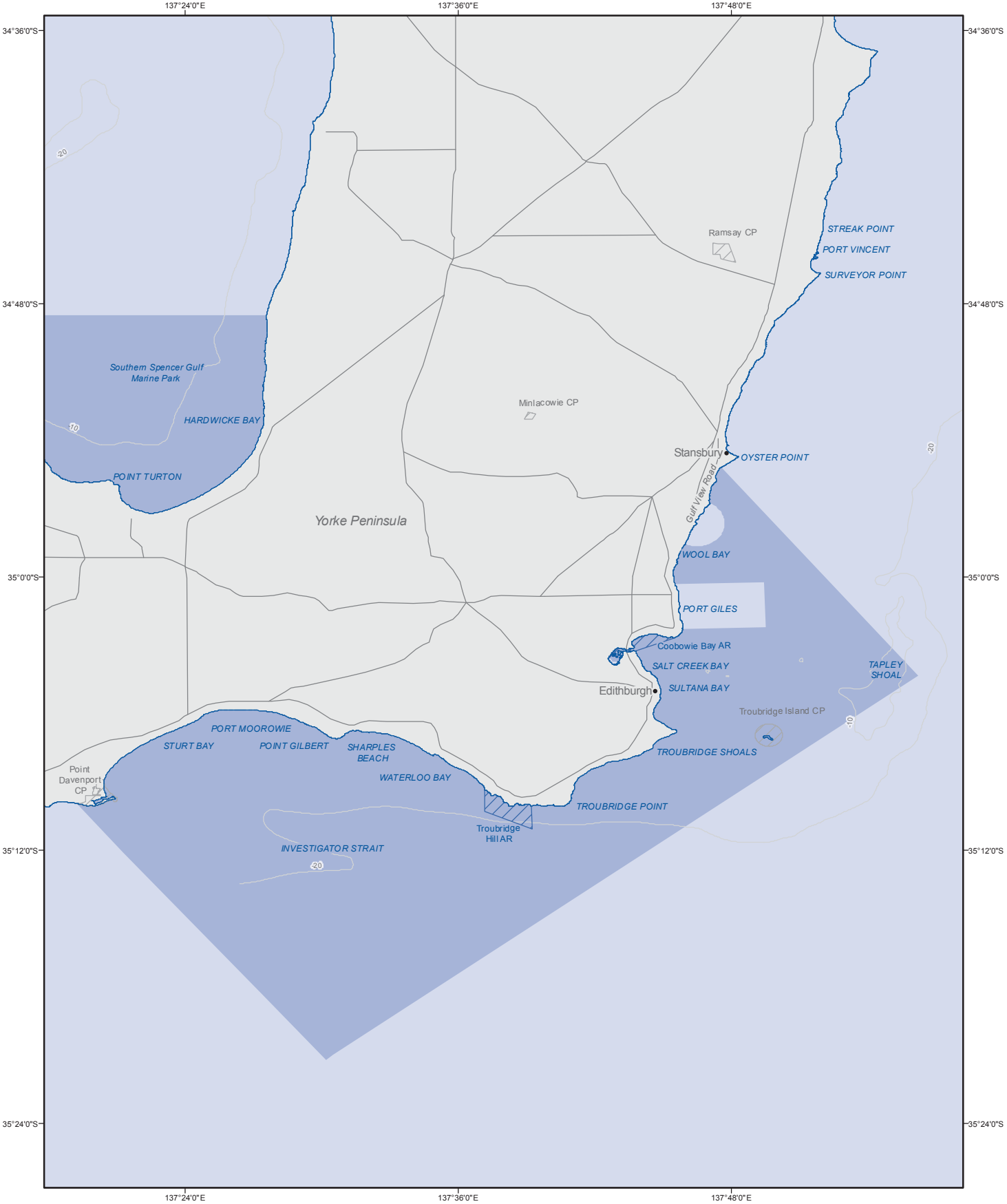
Boundary description

The Lower Yorke Peninsula Marine Park comprises the area bounded by a line commencing on the coastline at median high water at a point 137°47'33.33"E, 34°55'12.68"S (south of Oyster Point), then running progressively:

- south-easterly along the geodesic to a point 137°56'13.2"E, 35°4'20.86"S;
- south-westerly along the geodesic to a point 137°30'11.74"E, 35°21'13.32"S;
- north-westerly along the geodesic to its intersection with the coastline at median high water at a point 137°19'13.85"E, 35°9'58.08"S; and
- generally easterly and north-easterly along the coastline at median high water (inclusive of all bays, lagoons and headlands) to the point of commencement.

NOTE: This boundary description is indicative only. It does not describe inclusions and exclusions of specific land parcels. For this detailed information, please refer to the DEH website: www.marineparks.sa.gov.au or Surveyor-General's office for the relevant marine park plan (known as a Rack Plan).

Lower Yorke Peninsula Marine Park



- Marine Park
- State Waters Jurisdiction
- Parks and Reserves
- Aquatic Reserves
- Bathymetry Contours
- Roads
- Coastline (median high water)



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Bathymetry, Topographic Data - DEH
Aquatic Reserves - PIRSA, Marine Bioregions - SARDI
State Waters Jurisdiction - Geoscience Australia
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Compiled Projection Datum Geographic
Geocentric Datum of Australia, 1994

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Bioregions and South Australia's marine parks network

Eight biologically distinct regions have been identified off South Australia's coastline. The State's marine parks have been carefully designed to include parts of each bioregion and the various habitats within them.

By including some examples of the marine biodiversity typical of the Gulf St Vincent Bioregion, Lower Yorke Peninsula Marine Park contributes to the marine parks network's goal of representing and protecting examples of the full diversity of South Australia's marine life.

The habitats and natural processes typical of this region include the only two examples of estuaries on southern Yorke Peninsula (Point Davenport and Salt Creek/ Coobowie Inlet), a range of rocky and sandy coast habitat types, the high-current shoal grounds adjacent to Edithburg, and the unique mobile sand spit of Troubridge Island.

The 14 marine park Design Principles

To guide the initial identification and final selection of South Australia's multiple-use marine parks, 14 Design Principles – including seven Biophysical Principles and seven Community Principles – were defined and adopted by the Government. These Principles help ensure the marine parks network meets the objects of the *Marine Parks Act 2007*, as well as South Australia's national and international obligations for marine protection.

The Biophysical Design Principles guided the identification of proposed marine park sites. The Community Design Principles were then applied to fine-tune site selection of the 19 multiple-use parks in the network.

Biophysical Design Principles

The seven Biophysical Principles address environmental conservation.

In the first instance, all parks were designed to meet the Precautionary Principle. Rigorous application of the Adequacy, Comprehensiveness and Representativeness Principles ensure the marine parks network meets South Australia's national and international marine protection obligations.

The remaining three Biophysical Principles helped prioritise important local sites, to ensure the marine parks network maximises ecological outcomes (South Australia's Strategic Plan Target 3.4).

The Precautionary Principle

The Precautionary Principle is a risk-management tool which requires action to be taken now in areas where scientific knowledge is not yet complete. One of the ways the Precautionary Principle has been applied in developing marine parks is to include areas of unsurveyed seabed habitats.

In the Gulf St Vincent Bioregion, 9362 km² (71%) of seabed habitats are not surveyed.

As a precautionary measure, 442 km² (5%) of unsurveyed habitats from the Gulf St Vincent Bioregion are included within Lower Yorke Peninsula Marine Park. Including unsurveyed habitats increases the likelihood that all of the habitats that exist in a region are included within a marine park.

The Adequacy Principle

Adequacy is achieved if the marine park provides for both ecosystem integrity and the viability of whole populations of species.

A marine park is considered to have achieved Adequacy if both it and the network it contributes to are large enough to protect the species and habitats found there and close enough to connect populations.

Lower Yorke Peninsula Marine Park covers 848 km² (3% of the whole network). It has been designed to include multiple examples of each habitat type where possible, at sizes sufficient to contain viable populations of marine species.

The Principles of Connectivity and Linkages, Resilience and Vulnerability and Ecological Importance also contribute to the Adequacy of a marine park. Ultimately, Adequacy is closely linked to the success of marine park management plans with zoning.

Comprehensiveness and Representativeness Principles

To meet the Principle of Comprehensiveness, examples of all habitats that occur in a bioregion need to be included within each marine park in that bioregion.

To be Representative, all habitats in a region (e.g. reefs, beaches, seagrass, mangroves) need to be included across the full variety of physical situations in which they occur (e.g. shallow and deep water reefs, low and high energy beaches). This variety must be represented within the combination of parks created in a bioregion.

In Lower Yorke Peninsula Marine Park, habitat types include large areas of low profile platform reef habitat interspersed with sandy seafloor habitat and seagrass beds of varying densities in the waters from Troubridge Point north to the marine park boundary (south of Oyster Point). Significant sections of the Troubridge and Tapley Shoals are included within the park.

Sturt and Waterloo Bays contain large areas of dense and medium seagrass habitats which are interspersed with sandy patches. The sheltered to moderately exposed shoreline of the marine park contributes many kilometres of sandy beaches backed by well vegetated sand dunes and significant sections of cliffs and rocky coasts.

Salt Creek at Coobowie and Point Davenport Conservation Park provide the only two estuaries on lower Yorke Peninsula and both of these important habitat types are included in the marine park.

Connectivity and Linkages Principle

Connectivity describes how plants and animals move between different places. Linkages refers to the transfer of materials (e.g. organic matter) and energy flows. Connectivity and Linkages both depend on the way currents, tides and waves move water and the abilities of marine life to move between different areas.

Lower Yorke Peninsula Marine Park creates continuous Connectivity and Linkages along-shore from Point Davenport in the west to near Oyster Point in the east.

Offshore, the marine park creates continuous Connectivity and Linkages from the deep water seagrasses and sandy seafloor habitats of Sturt Bay, around the heel of Yorke Peninsula and into lower Gulf St Vincent. This helps protect species whose life cycles depend on access to different feeding, spawning, breeding and nursery habitats in small areas, as well as species dependent on areas separated by anything from tens of kilometres to hundreds of kilometres.

For example, fish species including King George whiting and other scalefish, benefit by protecting the Connectivity and Linkages between the sheltered estuary of Point Davenport with the adjacent shallow and deep water seagrasses of Sturt Bay.

Strong currents pass through this region, bringing sediments, nutrients and larvae from western Investigator Strait and also from Gulf St Vincent.

Resilience and Vulnerability Principle

The combined Principle of Resilience and Vulnerability encourages the inclusion of places, plants and animals that are more susceptible to degradation or decline and/or less able to recover from damaging impacts.

Less resilient habitats, plants and animals are less able to resist disturbances or pressures. More vulnerable habitats, plants and animals have less capacity to recover once pressures are removed. For example, some seagrasses may take decades or more to recover from disturbance.

Examples of less resilient and more vulnerable habitats, plants and animals in Lower Yorke Peninsula Marine Park include the estuaries of Point Davenport and Salt Creek, which are very vulnerable to sea-level rise associated with climate change. Seagrasses are vulnerable to physical disturbance and declining water quality.

The marine park offers the opportunity to protect birds such as hooded plovers, oystercatchers, little penguins, fairy terns and significant numbers of local and migratory shorebirds, all of which have very specific habitat requirements.

Ecological Importance Principle

Troubridge Island supports colonies of several seabird species, and is an important summer feeding ground for international migratory waders and seabirds including the little penguin, black faced cormorant and crested and Caspian terns.

Sections of both Tapley Shoal and Troubridge Shoal are located in the park. These areas have a high diversity of sponges and invertebrates, with Tapley Shoal a known spawning area for King George whiting and an important feeding area for other recreational and commercial fish species.

Restoration works at Salt Creek, Coobowie have reinstated tidal flows to this once rich coastal wetland, known to be an important nursery area for juvenile King George whiting and many other fish species. It is also an important feeding area for local and migratory shorebirds. Together with the tidal creeks of Point Davenport, these are the only two estuarine systems on lower Yorke Peninsula.

Syngnathids (seahorses, seadragons and pipefish), some of which are of conservation concern, are locally abundant in the area. The region is important for cowries, volutes and other specimen shells, some of which are rare, and many of conservation concern. Gorgonian corals are abundant around Troubridge Point.

Edithburgh is one of a few areas in South Australia where the broadnose sevengill shark *Notorynchus cepedianus* and South Australian endemic coastal stingaree *Urolophus orarius* have been recorded. Algal species of limited range, including the red macroalgal species *Bonnemaisonia spinescens* and the brown macroalgal species *Spatoglossum australasicum* are found around Edithburgh. Other uncommon species recorded in the area include the unusual, endemic octopus *Grimpella thaumastocheir*, and the tropical nudibranch (sea slug) *Aegires villosus*.

Community Design Principles

Synergies with Existing Protected Areas Principle

By aligning with existing protected areas, marine areas can contribute to the establishment of protected corridors across the land-sea interface. Lower Yorke Peninsula Marine Park borders with the Point Davenport Conservation Park and includes the Troubridge Island Conservation Park and Troubridge Hill and Coobowie Aquatic Reserves.

Complementing Existing Management Principle

Management of South Australia's marine parks will complement, but not replace, current management arrangements. By providing a more inclusive management framework, South Australia's marine parks network is designed to help existing environmental management practices.

The District Council of Yorke Peninsula manages coastal Crown lands which abut and, in some cases, are included within the marine park. Lower Yorke Peninsula Marine Park management will seek to integrate with existing local government management practices for the continued care of coastal Crown land community assets.

The Northern and Yorke Natural Resources Management (NRM) Board is responsible for mitigating impacts on the marine environment from land-based activities. Ongoing monitoring of ecosystem health in the Lower Yorke Peninsula Marine Park will help the NRM Board prevent land-based pollution from reaching the sea.

No aquaculture policy zones exist in the area although individual licences do exist. Lower Yorke Peninsula Marine Park management will seek to integrate with existing management by the Department for Primary Industries and Resources SA's (PIRSA) Aquaculture Division in the area to ensure that the established aquaculture industry can continue to benefit from healthy seas in the region.

There is a fisheries netting closure which covers most of the marine park. Management of the Lower Yorke Peninsula Marine Park will respect and complement existing fisheries management arrangements, and will not change bag, boat and size limits or other area-based fisheries management arrangements.

There is a petroleum exploration licence overlapping part of this marine park. All existing resource activities within the park will be accommodated, with no change to existing conditions. Park management will seek to integrate with existing management to ensure that industry can continue to benefit from the area.

Major port facilities are located at Port Giles for the transport of bulk grain and at Klein Point for limestone used in cement production. Several boat ramps, jetties and other infrastructure are located within the marine park. All shipping and harbour activities will be accommodated within the park, as will the management and maintenance needs of shipping and boating facilities.

Wherever possible, provision will be made in the Lower Yorke Peninsula Marine Park management plan with zoning to accommodate current and future economic, social and infrastructure requirements. Administrative agreements between agencies will support streamlined assessment so that marine parks do not create an extra approval process.

Give Consideration to the Full Diversity of Marine Uses Principle

The Government is committed to designing marine parks for conservation and for sustainable use, in close consultation with local communities and with minimal impact on existing activities.

The proclamation of the Lower Yorke Peninsula Marine Park does not change the way people use the marine environment, or change any existing land or sea-bed tenure.

Wildcatch fisheries in the region target western king prawns and a variety of scalefish species. Proclamation of the Lower Yorke Peninsula Marine Park does not displace any existing commercial fishing activity. The Government recognises that high-value catch areas occur within the marine park and will work with stakeholders during the development of the park management plan with zoning to avoid effort displacement from those areas wherever possible.

Aquaculture licences exist near Coobowie and off Wool Bay. No existing aquaculture activities will be displaced as a result of the proclamation or future marine park zoning arrangements for Lower Yorke Peninsula Marine Park. In addition, no further approvals or permits will be required to conduct these existing activities. The habitats of the region are also important for biodiversity conservation and the marine parks program will seek to integrate with existing management strategies developed and delivered by PIRSA Aquaculture to ensure that both marine parks and aquaculture needs can be met.

Tourism is a major contributor to the local economy, with the region well established as a popular destination. The coastal environment, fishing and boating are some of the major drawcards.

Recreational fishing is popular at many locations throughout this marine park, particularly near access points such as

Edithburg, Troubridge Point, Wool Bay, Salt Creek Bay and Port Moorowie. Popular dive sites include jetties such as Edithburg and Klein Point and the waters off Troubridge Point.

The outer boundary of the Lower Yorke Peninsula Marine Park does not change existing recreational fishing and boating activities and does not affect access to, or use of, jetties, break-walls or boat ramps. Existing access for recreational beach fishing will be maintained throughout the marine park, except in small areas designated as “sanctuary” or “restricted access” zones in the park management plan with zoning. This will be developed over the next couple of years with extensive community input.

With input from a Marine Park Local Advisory Group, industry and the community, a management plan with zoning will be developed for Lower Yorke Peninsula Marine Park to support ongoing community use of the area. The management plan will be subject to community consultation and every effort will be made to minimise impacts on people and businesses.

Respect Indigenous Interests and Culture Principle

The Government is aware that there may be confidential Aboriginal heritage sites in South Australia’s coastal areas. Where possible, these sites have been considered in the planning process. Future management plans will ensure these heritage sites are appropriately respected.

The Narungga Aboriginal people have traditional associations with the region. Aboriginal people have expressed the aspiration to negotiate traditional Aboriginal fishing rights through an Indigenous Land Use Agreement (ILUA). The Lower Yorke Peninsula Marine Park will provide for continued traditional fishing in accordance with any fishing ILUAs.

Give Consideration to Cultural Heritage Principle

The Troubridge Hill Lighthouse and the Troubridge Island Conservation Park with its lighthouse complex are listed on the Register of the National Estate.

A number of historic shipwrecks are located within the marine park, the best known of which is the Clan Ranald, located near Troubridge Point.

Ensure Ease of Identification, Compliance and Enforcement Principle

Lower Yorke Peninsula Marine Park was designed to ensure ease of identification, compliance and enforcement where possible.

The marine park uses the visual landmark of Gulf View Road on the southern end of the Stansbury township and a point on the coast just west of Point Davenport. Along the coastline, the marine park boundary lies at the median high water mark unless otherwise specified. Offshore, the marine park boundary follows straight lines to assist with identification.

Provide for Education, Appreciation and Recreation Principle

Lower Yorke Peninsula Marine Park was designed to ensure the things we enjoy in this environment continue, by helping to maintain a healthy marine environment and our uses of it.

Further opportunities for education, appreciation and recreation will be achieved through the zoning and management planning process.

Need more information?

For further information, please see: *Design Principles Guiding the Development of South Australia’s Marine Park Boundaries* and *Technical Report on the Outer Boundaries of South Australia’s Marine Parks Network*. Both are available on the marine parks website: www.marineparks.sa.gov.au or by calling 1800 006 120.