Marine Park 17 Southern Kangaroo Island Marine Park

Park at a glance

Southern Kangaroo Island Marine Park is on the southern side of Kangaroo Island between D'Estrees Bay and the western end of Seal Bay Conservation Park. It includes North Rock, Young Rock and South West Rock.

At 673 km², it represents 3% of South Australia's marine parks network.

Community and industry

- It is understood both Ngarrindjeri and Kaurna Aboriginal people may have had traditional associations with the region.
- Commercial fishing in this region targets rock lobster and some scalefish species.
- Many shipwrecks are featured within the park, such as the *You Yangs* located in Cape Gantheaume and the *Osmanli* which ran ashore in D'Estrees Bay.
- Popular tourist destinations include Seal Bay Conservation Park and Cape Gantheaume.
- Recreational activities include surfing, fishing, and watching marine mammals and birds.

Fauna and flora

- Vulnerable hooded plovers and Australian sea lions.
- Australian fur seals.
- Seabirds such as the short-tailed shearwater.

Habitat

- Southern Kangaroo Island Marine Park includes the Eyre and Coorong Bioregions.
- Habitats typical of this region include:
 - high-energy sandy beaches, exposed cliffs and rocky headlands,
 - a variety of reef types and large seagrass beds.
- The habitats inside Southern Kangaroo Island 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.
- The seagrass meadows of D'Estrees Bay are the only significant example of this habitat type to be found on the south coast of Kangaroo Island.

Land and sea are linked at sites adjacent to Seal Bay Conservation Park and Cape Gantheaume Wilderness Protection Area, and at some small Crown land parcels.

Boundary description

The Southern Kangaroo Island Marine Park comprises the two areas set out below.

- The area bounded by a line commencing on the coastline of Kangaroo Island at median high water at a point 137°43′30.36″E, 35°52′37.69″, then running progressively:
 - southerly along the geodesic to its intersection with the seaward limit of the coastal waters of the State at a point 137°43'30.36"E, 35°55'39.01"S;
 - westerly along the seaward limit of the coastal waters of the State to a point 137°15′0.86″E 36°2′21.46″S;
 - northerly along the geodesic to its intersection with the coastline of Kangaroo Island at median high water at a point 137°15′0.86″E, 35°59′3.97″S (at the western edge of Seal Bay Conservation Park); and
 - generally easterly along the coastline of Kangaroo
 Island at median high water (inclusive of all bays, lagoons and headlands) to the point of commencement.
- The area bounded by a line following the seaward limit of the coastal waters of the State surrounding North Rock, Young Rock and South West Rock.

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).





Southern Kangaroo Island Marine Park



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 Eyre and Coorong Bioregions, Southern Kangaroo Island 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 marine life, habitats and natural processes typical of this region are characterised by full exposure to southerly winds and high wave and swell energy.

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 Coorong and Eyre Bioregions, 869km² (42%) and 14,973km² (80%), respectively, of seabed habitats are yet to be surveyed.

As a precautionary measure, unsurveyed habitats totalling 197km² (23%) of the Coorong Bioregion and 282km² (less than 2%) of the Eyre Bioregion are included within Southern Kangaroo Island Marine Park. Including unsurveyed habitats increases the likelihood that all of the habitats that actually 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.

Southern Kangaroo Island Marine Park covers 673 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.

Habitats of Southern Kangaroo Island Marine Park include high energy sandy beaches, exposed cliffs and rocky headlands and rocky shores around Cape Gantheaume. At the base of the cliffs and headlands, habitats include wavecut shore platforms and fringing reefs, through to deep reefs interspersed by sandy seafloor habitats. Offshore, the highly exposed formations of North, Young and South West Rocks and their associated reef systems provide further habitat variety. Adjacent to the long sandy beach of D'Estrees Bay, the slightly more sheltered waters support some of the largest seagrass beds on the south coast of Kangaroo Island. These seagrass beds represent the only significant habitat of this type on this coast.

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 on the abilities of marine life to move between different areas.

Southern Kangaroo Island Marine Park creates continuous Connectivity and Linkages along-shore from the western edge of Seal Bay Conservation Park to Point Reynolds, east of D'Estrees Bay.

In conjunction with the Seal Bay Conservation Park, the marine park provides the opportunity to protect the full range of connected habitats required by the vulnerable Australian sea lion. These include the headland, dunes and beach of Seal Bay, which provide important breeding and resting areas, through to nearshore and offshore foraging habitats.

Similarly, the opportunity exists to protect continuous connected habitat from the dunes and wide beach of D'Estrees Bay through to the extensive seagrass beds and deeper sandy seafloor habitats offshore. This helps protect species whose life cycles depend on access to 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.

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 Southern Kangaroo Island Marine Park include the extensive *Posidonia* seagrass meadows of D'Estrees Bay, which are vulnerable to physical disturbance, and Australian sea lions, which have very specific habitat needs and whose populations are failing to recover from the early sealing industry. Seabirds such as the short-tailed shearwater require remote rocky outcrops for nesting and roosting, while the vulnerable hooded plover requires undisturbed nesting locations along the tops of beaches to survive.

Ecological Importance Principle

The beaches and foraging habitats of Seal Bay support an important breeding colony of the vulnerable Australian sea lion.

The seagrass meadows of D'Estrees Bay are the only significant example of this habitat type to be found on the south coast of Kangaroo Island and, as such, are regionally important. North, Young and South West Rocks provide haulout sites for Australian fur seals and nesting sites for seabirds.

Beaches in the area, such as Seal Bay and D'Estrees Bay, provide nesting habitat for the vulnerable hooded plover.

Important natural processes for the marine life of the southeast coast of Kangaroo Island include the seasonal cold water, nutrient-rich upwellings located off the island's west coast during summer, helping to drive the high biological productivity of the region.





Community Design Principles

Synergies with Existing Protected Areas Principle

By aligning with existing protected areas, marine parks can contribute to the establishment of protected corridors across the land-sea interface. Southern Kangaroo Island Marine Park borders with several terrestrial protected areas including Seal Bay Conservation Park and Cape Gantheaume Wilderness Protection Area, providing the opportunity to protect ecological connections between land and sea. The marine park overlays the Seal Bay-Bales Beach Aquatic Reserve.

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, Southern Kangaroo Island Marine Park is designed to help existing environmental management practices.

The District Council of Kangaroo Island plays an important role in managing coastal Crown lands which abut, and in some cases, fall within the marine park. Southern Kangaroo Island Marine Park management will seek to integrate with existing local government management practices for the continued care of coastal Crown land community assets.

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

There are aquatic reserves at Seal Bay and Bales Beach, established for conservation purposes. Management of Southern Kangaroo Island 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.

Wherever possible, provision will be made in the Southern Kangaroo Island 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 Southern Kangaroo Island Marine Park outer boundary 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 rock lobster, shark and scalefish. Proclamation of the Southern Kangaroo Island 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.

Tourism is one of Kangaroo Island's most important industries, with the natural environment a compelling attraction. Each year, thousands of people visit Seal Bay Conservation Park and other attractions along the island's beautiful south coast. Recreational surf and rock fishing occurs at several locations and charter vessels provide further opportunities for recreational fishing offshore.

The outer boundaries of the marine parks network do not change existing recreational fishing and boating activities and do not affect access to, or use of, jetties, break-water or boat ramps. Existing access for recreational beach fishing will be maintained throughout Southern Kangaroo Island 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 Southern Kangaroo Island Marine Park which will cater for 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 Ngarrindjeri and Kaurna Aboriginal people may have had traditional associations with Kangaroo Island, including the marine environment and associated marine life.

Aboriginal aspirations for this area are not known by the Department for Environment and Heritage.

Give Consideration to Cultural Heritage Principle

Several historic and protected shipwrecks are located in the marine park such as the *You Yangs* located in Cape Gantheaume and the *Osmanli* which ran ashore in D'Estrees Bay.

Cape Gantheaume Conservation Park, which borders Southern Kangaroo Island Marine Park, is listed on the Register of the National Estate and includes a mobile dune system which has been identified as a geological monument.

Ensure Ease of Identification, Compliance and Enforcement Principle

Southern Kangaroo Island Marine Park was designed to ensure ease of identification, compliance and enforcement where possible.

The marine park boundary was chosen to align with the western boundary of the Seal Bay Conservation Park and the prominent Point Reynolds on the eastern end of D'Estrees Bay. Along the coastline, the marine park boundary lies at the median high water mark unless otherwise specified.

The offshore boundary of the marine park follows the limit of State waters and includes North Rock, Young Rock and South West Rock.

Provide for Education, Appreciation and Recreation Principle

Southern Kangaroo Island 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.



