

# Marine Park 18

## Upper South East Marine Park

### Park at a glance

The Upper South East Marine Park is divided into two sections: from 11 km north of Tea Tree Crossing in the Coorong to the Maria Creek Outlet in Kingston and from Wright Bay to the northern most point of Stinky Bay.

At 906 km<sup>2</sup>, it represents 3% of South Australia's marine parks network.

### Community and industry

- Three Aboriginal groups, the Ngarrindjeri, Buandig and Meantank people, have traditional associations with this area.
- A range of recreational activities such as fishing, diving, swimming, beach walking, boating, surfing, camping and fourwheel driving are popular here.
- Commercial fishers target rock lobster, abalone and scalefish species.
- The park is within the Limestone Coast, a major tourism destination.

### Fauna and flora

- Upper South East Marine Park provides habitat for the Australian sea lion, the Australian fur seal, the New Zealand fur seal and for a range of nesting shorebirds and seabirds.
- Migratory and widely travelled species such as the southern right whale link the park with other more distant ecosystems.

### Habitat

- Includes parts of the Coorong and Otway Bioregions.
- Habitats include:
  - high-energy sandy beaches backed by vast sand dunes,
  - fringing, limestone and platform reefs,
  - dense seagrass beds, kelp forests and
  - natural processes such as the Bonney Upwelling.
- The habitats inside Upper South East 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 Bonney Upwelling helps drive the region's high biological productivity. The nutrients it brings stimulate the whole food chain, from plankton to blue whales.

- Land and sea are linked at important sites adjacent to Coorong National Park and the Little Dip, and Guichen Bay Conservation Parks.
- The marine park includes Baudin Rocks Conservation Park.

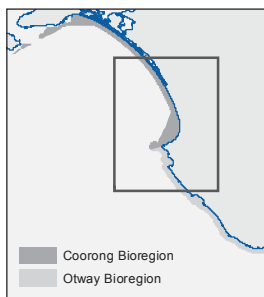
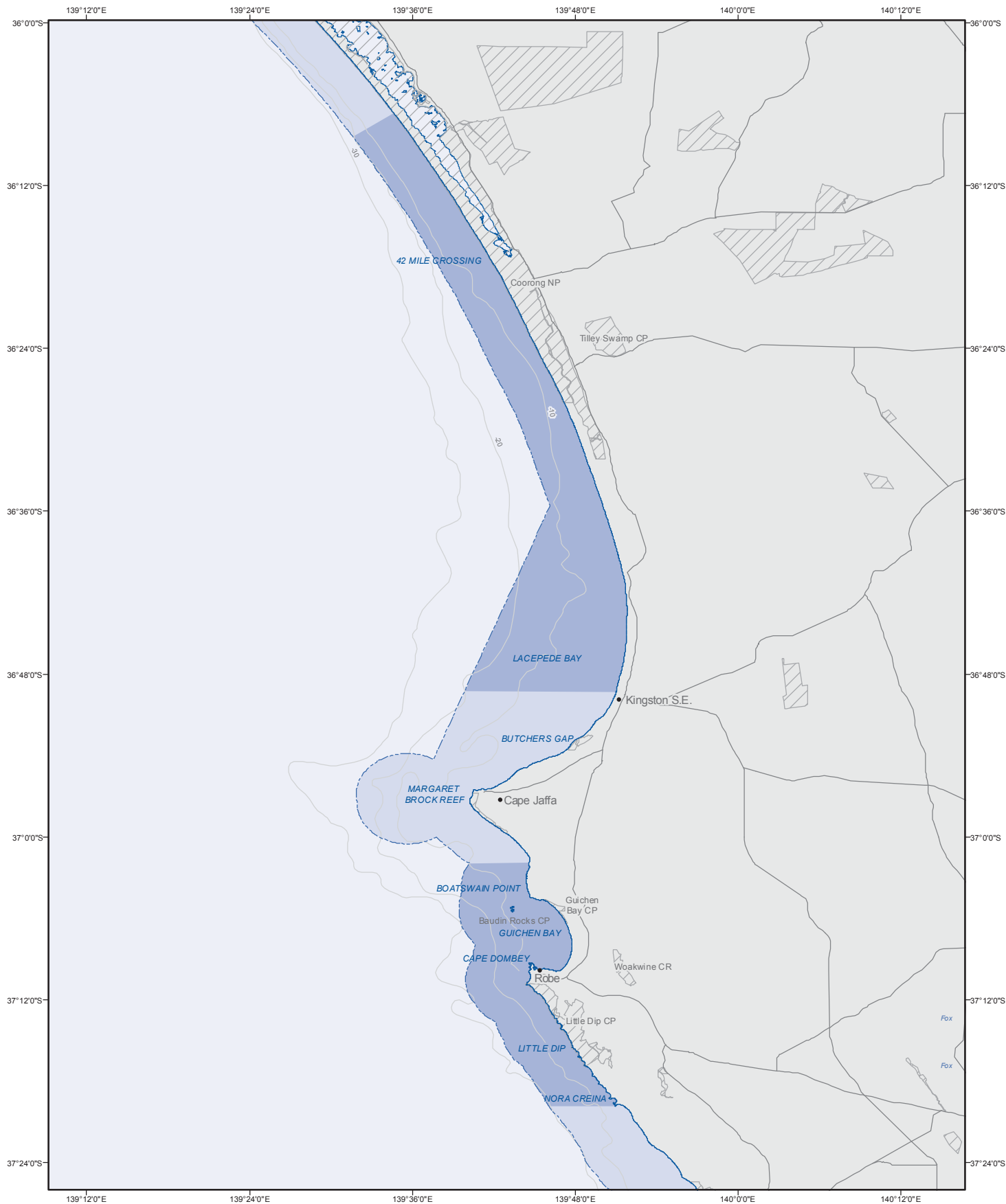
### Boundary description

The Upper South East Marine Park comprises of two areas as set out below.

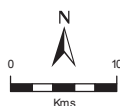
1. The area bounded by a line commencing on the coastline at median high water at a point 139°51'0.53E'', 36°49'17.65S'' (at or about Point Caroline), then running progressively:
  - westerly along the geodesic to its intersection with the seaward limit of the coastal waters of the State at a point 139°39'51.88E'', 36°49'17.65S'';
  - northerly along the seaward limit of the coastal waters of the State to a point 139°31'40.4'', 36°8'20.11'';
  - easterly along the geodesic to its intersection with the coastline at median high water at a point 139°34'37.99'', 36°6'38.66'' and
  - generally southerly along the coastline at median high water (inclusive of all bays, lagoons and headlands) to the point of commencement.
2. The area bounded by a line commencing on the coastline at median high water at a point 139°50'56.94''E, 37°19'51.82''S (at or about Nora Creina Bay), then running progressively:
  - westerly along the geodesic to its intersection with the seaward limit of the coastal waters of the State at a point 139°46'2.09''E, 37°19'51.82''S;
  - northerly along the seaward limit of the coastal waters of the State to a point 139°40'13.23E'', 37°1'55.94S'';
  - easterly along the geodesic to its intersection with the coastline at median high water at a point 139°44'35.65E'', 37°1'55.94S''; and
  - generally southerly 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](http://www.marineparks.sa.gov.au) or Surveyor-General's office for the relevant marine park plan (known as a Rack Plan).

# Upper South East Marine Park



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



**Produced by** Coast and Marine Conservation  
Department for Environment and Heritage  
GPO Box 1047 Adelaide SA 5001  
[www.marineparks.sa.gov.au](http://www.marineparks.sa.gov.au)

**Data Source** Marine Parks, NPWSA,  
Bathymetry, Topographic Data - DEH  
Marine Bioregions - SARDI  
State Waters Jurisdiction - Geoscience Australia

**Compiled** 23 July 2009  
**Projection** Geographic  
**Datum** Geocentric Datum of Australia, 1994

© Copyright Department for Environment and Heritage 2009.  
All Rights Reserved. All works and information displayed are subject to Copyright. For  
the reproduction or publication beyond that permitted by the Copyright Act 1968 (Cwth)  
written permission must be sought from the Department.

Although every effort has been made to ensure the accuracy of the information displayed,  
the Department, its agents, officers and employees make no representations, either express  
or implied, that the information displayed is accurate or fit for any purpose and expressly  
disclaims all liability for loss or damage arising from reliance upon the information displayed.

## 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 Coorong and Otway Bioregions, Upper South East 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 shaped by exposure to high wave, swell and wind energy. The region also features the largest stretches of sandy surf beaches in the state and extensive limestone reef structures.

## 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 Otway Bioregions, 869km<sup>2</sup> (42%) and 630km<sup>2</sup> (48%), respectively, of seabed habitats are yet to be surveyed.

As a precautionary measure, unsurveyed habitats totalling 117km<sup>2</sup> (>1% of unmapped area of the Coorong Bioregion and 18% of the unmapped area of the Otway Bioregion) are included within the Upper South East 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.

Upper South East Marine Park covers 906 km<sup>2</sup> (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) 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 Upper South East Marine Park include long stretches of exposed, high energy sandy beaches backed by vast dune systems, occasional rocky headlands with wave-cut shore platforms and fringing reefs, extensive limestone reef formations supporting kelp forests and offshore limestone low platform reefs interspersed by sandy seafloor habitats. Dense seagrass beds mixed with sandy patches are found in the shallow waters along Long Beach.

Sheltered bays, such as those at Robe support different plant and animal communities. Habitats include sheltered beaches, reefs, seagrasses and coastal wetlands.

### 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.

Upper South East Marine Park creates Connectivity and Linkages along-shore from 42 Mile Crossing in the northwest to Maria Creek and from Wright Bay to Stinky Bay in the south and offshore from the coastline to the limit of State waters. 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.

Ecological linkages throughout the upper south east are driven by the Bonney Upwelling, in which cold, nutrient rich waters rise from the depths beyond the edge of the continental shelf during the summer months, reaching the surface off the Robe area. The upwelling brings additional nutrients which stimulate the entire food web, from plankton to large predators such as tuna and sharks.

The influence of the upwelling is felt as far north as Encounter Bay, off Victor Harbor, linking the marine life of Upper South East Marine Park with the southern region of Encounter Marine Park.

Many highly mobile and migratory bird, fish and whale species rely on the habitats and high productivity of the upper south east region at key stages in their travels. Migratory shorebirds feed and rest at the coastal wetlands, before returning to the Northern Hemisphere during the Australian winter. The whales seen in South Australia travel many thousands of kilometres during their life cycles, through both temperate and tropical waters.

### 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 the pressure to change in response to 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.

Regional examples of less resilient habitats include the dense seagrass beds off Long Beach, which are vulnerable to physical disturbance and declining water quality and could take decades to recover once disturbed. The distinctive cold-water flora of the region, with its high diversity of macroalgae, many of which are rare, and the rich assemblages of molluscs and filter-feeders such as sponges, bryozoa and corals, are also less resilient.

Species of conservation concern such as the rare eastern reef egret, peregrine falcon and Australian fur seal, which can be found at Baudin Rocks, have very specific habitat needs. The vulnerable hooded plover feeds and nests exclusively on beaches in the marine park.

### Ecological Importance Principle

The Bonney Upwelling is a major influence on marine life in the south east and, in turn, provides the natural driving force behind the region's highly productive lobster and abalone fisheries.

Baudin Rocks is one of only two breeding sites in the south east for the little penguin.

Baudin Rocks also provides an important haul-out site for the Australian sea lion, Australian fur seal and New Zealand fur seal.

Nora Creina is characterised by sand habitat, dense seagrass beds and limestone reefs of variable topography. The reefs provide habitat for various attached and mobile invertebrates and a high diversity of brown, green and red macroalgae, including a number of species with limited range.



## 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.

Upper South East Marine Park abuts several terrestrial protected areas, such as, Little Dip, Baudin Rocks and Guichen Bay Conservation Parks and the Coorong National Park, providing the opportunity to protect important ecological connections between land and sea.

### 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.

Councils including the Kingston District Council and the District Council of Robe play important roles in managing coastal Crown lands which abut the marine park. Upper South East Marine Park management will seek to integrate with existing local government management practices for the continued care of coastal Crown land community assets.

The South East Natural Resources Management (NRM) Board is responsible for mitigating impacts on the marine environment from land-based activities.

Ongoing monitoring of ecosystem health in Upper South East Marine Park will help the NRM Board prevent land-based pollution from reaching the sea.

Aquaculture policy zones have been developed at Lacepede Bay. All existing aquaculture leases and zones within the Upper South East Marine Park will be accommodated. The 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 aquaculture industry can continue to benefit from a healthy marine environment.

A netting closure is established from Dombey Point to Fox Beach. Management of Upper South East 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.

Jetties and boat ramps are located at Robe and Kingston. All shipping and harbour activities will be accommodated within the marine park, as will the management and maintenance needs of shipping and boating facilities.

Wherever possible, provision will be made in the Upper South East 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 Upper South East Marine Park does 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 Upper South East 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, abalone and scalefish. Proclamation of the Upper South East Marine Park does not displace any existing commercial fishing activity. The Government recognises that high-value fishery areas occur within the marine park and will work with stakeholders during the development of the management plan with zoning to avoid effort displacement from those areas wherever possible.

The Limestone Coast is a major coastal tourism destination, both for South Australians and for visitors from Victoria. The waters and coasts of the marine park provide for a wide range of recreational activities, including four wheel driving, diving and snorkelling at the limestone reefs near

Robe, boating, fishing, surfing at the Robe Easter Classic, and camping in Coorong National Park, Little Dip Conservation Park and other areas.

The outer boundary of the Upper South East 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 Upper South East Marine Park, except in small areas designated as “sanctuary” or “restricted access” zones in the marine park management plan with zoning. This will be developed over the next couple of years with extensive community input.

Recreational fishing opportunities will continue at important sites near Robe and the marine park will also accommodate Kingston’s annual surf fishing competition.

With input from a Marine Park Local Advisory Group, industry and the community, a management plan with zoning will be developed for Upper South East 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.

Three Aboriginal groups, the Ngarrindjeri, Buandig and Meantank people have traditional associations with this area and many heritage sites lie along the coastline of the marine park.

Aboriginal people have expressed the aspiration to negotiate traditional Aboriginal fishing rights through an Indigenous Land Use Agreement (ILUA). The Upper South East Marine Park will provide for continued traditional fishing in accordance with any fishing ILUAs.

#### Give Consideration to Cultural Heritage Principle

Robe is one of the oldest towns in South Australia and was once the second busiest port. The whole region has a unique maritime history and the marine park includes many historic shipwrecks.

#### Ensure Ease of Identification, Compliance and Enforcement Principle

Upper South East Marine Park was designed to ensure ease of identification, compliance and enforcement where possible.

Upper South East Marine Park was chosen to align with the Coorong Beach adjacent to 42 Mile Crossing in the north to Maria Creek in the South and from Wright Bay to the northern most point of Stinky Bay. Along the coastline, the marine park boundary lies at the median high water mark unless otherwise specified. Offshore, the marine park boundary extends to the limits of South Australian waters.

#### Provide for Education, Appreciation and Recreation Principle

Upper South East 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](http://www.marineparks.sa.gov.au) or by calling 1800 006 120.