



# Regional marine planning

for the south coast

## South Coast Regional Marine Planning Community Workshop Series Report

10 October 2007 – 24 January 2008



Peter van Schoubroeck and Ian Herford  
March 2008



(Cover image: Denmark community workshop © DEC)

van Schoubroeck P and Herford I 2008, *South Coast Regional Marine Planning community workshop series report: 10 October 2007 – 24 January 2008*, Department of Environment and Conservation, Government of Western Australia, Albany, p. 40.

## Executive Summary

This report summarises the community feedback from a series of community workshops held across southern Western Australia as part of the South Coast Regional Marine Planning (SCRMP) process. The workshops sought to engage community members who make use of the south coast and give them the chance to have their say about planning for the future of this spectacular coastal and marine environment. The workshops were held at ten locations from October 2007 through to January 2008. Workshops were run from 7.00 pm to 9.30 pm, and were open to all community members.

The workshops had three objectives:

- 1) To inform community members about SCRMP; the objectives, scope, what is and is not involved in the process, and why it is required;
- 2) To allow community members to have their say and ensure the values and issues of importance to them are addressed constructively in the South Coast Regional Marine Strategic Plan (SCRMSP); and
- 3) To inform community members of the geographic information system (GIS) being constructed for the south coast, and to offer community members the chance to provide input into the current state of knowledge of environmental values or features, and marine recreation activities.

To meet these objectives the workshops involved three parts.

- 1) A presentation by Mr Ian Herford gave an overview of the SCRMP process, followed by a question session.
- 2) Following the question session small workshop groups were formed to further detail the issues and values of importance to, and from the perspective of, local community members. Community members identified and prioritised the issues important to them. A summary of the priority issues raised is presented in this document. Details regarding the issues raised and why the issues were of importance to community members is contained in Appendices 2 and 3.
- 3) A presentation by Mr Ewan Buckley gave an overview of the Marine Information and Resource Compilation Project (MIRCP); which is developing a GIS for SCRMP. A recreational human usage survey was handed out for those wishing to add to the GIS for the south coast, and maps and charts were available for discussion of marine environmental values.

The body of this report contains a summary of the priority issues identified during the community group workshop sessions. Issues from each workshop group were collated into a single list and presented to all community members present. Community members were asked to mark the three issues most important to them on this list. This allowed a general indication of what issues were of highest priority to various community groups across the south coast region. Prioritisation scores are determined by the number of "votes" per issue relative to the total number of "votes" (expressed as a percentage).

The range of issues, values behind them and the priority ranking varied at the different workshops. The most common priority issues raised across the workshop series can be grouped under the following broad headings:

- access to resources and the coast;
- awareness, communication, education and research;
- catchment and estuarine management;

- coastal development and infrastructure;
- commercial and recreational fisheries management;
- effectiveness of SCRMP;
- increasing population pressures;
- integration and coordination of Government and other planning and management;
- marine and coastal conservation;
- marine parks and zoning; and
- resourcing for management.

## Table Contents

Executive Summary .....	i
Table Contents.....	iii
List of Figures .....	iii
List of Tables.....	iv
1 Introduction .....	1
1.1 Background to SCRMP.....	2
2 Community Workshops.....	4
2.1 Community Workshop objectives.....	4
2.2 Achieving the objectives and workshop methodology.....	4
2.2.1 Variation in workshop methodology.....	5
3 Results.....	6
3.1 Issue identification and prioritisation .....	6
3.2 Community feedback.....	13
3.3 Continuing role of community advice .....	14
4 Continued community engagement .....	14
4.1 Community members east of Esperance.....	14
5 Conclusion.....	15
Appendix 1: Acronyms.....	16
Appendix 2: Details of issues raised at community workshops .....	17
Appendix 3: Written comments in response to community workshops .....	37
Appendix 4: Community workshop invitations .....	39
Appendix 5: Community feedback form.....	40

## List of Figures

Figure 1: Summary chart of the South Coast Regional Marine Planning workshop series; workshop locations and priority issues ranked 5% or greater for each community workshop. The area in dark blue indicates the planning area covered by South Coast Regional Marine Planning. ....	7
Figure 2: Community workshop invitation flier for 2007. ....	39
Figure 3: Community workshop feedback form.....	40

## List of Tables

Table 1: Community workshop location and attendance details. ....	2
Table 2: Similarities and differences between State and Commonwealth Government Regional Marine Planning processes. ....	3
Table 3: Esperance community workshop issue identification and prioritisation. ....	9
Table 4: Manjimup community workshop issue identification and prioritisation. .....	9
Table 5: Kojonup community workshop issue identification and prioritisation. .....	10
Table 6: Albany community workshop issue identification and prioritisation. .	10
Table 7: Albany community workshop, other issues identified. ....	10
Table 8: Perth community workshop issue identification and prioritisation. ...	11
Table 9: Hopetoun community workshop issue identification and prioritisation. .....	11
Table 10: Hopetoun community workshop, other issues identified. ....	12
Table 11: Bremer Bay community workshop issue identification and prioritisation .....	12
Table 12: Denmark community workshop issue identification and prioritisation .....	12
Table 13: Denmark community workshop, other issues identified. ....	13
Table 14: Augusta community workshop issue identification and prioritisation .....	13
Table 15: Augusta community workshop, other issues identified. ....	13
Table 16: Brief summary of the community opinion regarding the content, pace and level of information in the workshop series.....	14

# 1 Introduction

This report summarises the community feedback from a series of community workshops held across southern Western Australia as part of the South Coast Regional Marine Planning (SCRMP) process. Table 1 lists the location, venue, date and number of attendees for each workshop. The workshops sought to engage community members who make use of the south coast and give them the chance to have their say about planning for the future of this spectacular coastal and marine environment. The workshops were held at ten locations from October 2007 through to January 2008. Workshops were run from 7.00 pm to 9.30 pm, and were open to all community members.

The workshops involved three parts:

- 1) A presentation by Mr Ian Herford gave an overview of the SCRMP process, followed by a question and answer session.
- 2) Following the question session small workshop groups were formed to further detail the issues and values of importance to, and from the perspective of, local community members. Community members identified and prioritised the issues most important to them. A summary of the priority issues raised are presented in this document. Details regarding the issues raised and why the issues were of importance to community members is contained in Appendix 2 and 3.
- 3) A presentation by Mr Ewan Buckley gave an overview of the Marine Information and Resource Compilation Project (MIRCP); which is developing a geographic information system (GIS) for SCRMP. A recreational human usage survey was handed out for those wishing to add to the GIS for the south coast, and maps and charts were available for discussion of marine environmental values.

The following section provides some background on the SCRMP process. Following this, the objectives and methodology of the workshops are detailed. The body of this report contains a summary of the priority issues identified during the community workshop group sessions. Issues from each workshop group were collated into a single list and presented to all community members present. Community members were then asked if they were happy with the issues identified and the way they were presented. Some concern was raised about the potential loss of detailed comments entailed in this approach, however, participants were assured that all detail supplied will be included in the full workshop report. Community members were asked to mark the three issues most important to them on this list. This provided a general indication of what issues were of highest priority to the various communities. Prioritisation scores are determined by the number of "votes" per issue relative to the total number of "votes" (expressed as a percentage). Not all participants voted.

**Table 1: Community workshop location and attendance details.**

<b>Workshop location</b>	<b>Venue</b>	<b>Date</b>	<b>No. of community attendees</b>
Esperance	Esperance Bay Yacht Club	Wednesday 10 October 2007	23
Kalgoorlie	Kalgoorlie Town Hall Banquet Centre	Thursday 11 October 2007	3
Manjimup	The Gallery (community centre)	Monday 22 October 2007	36
Kojonup	Shire Memorial/ Lesser Hall	Tuesday 23 October 2007	6
Albany	Princess Royal Sailing Club	Wednesday 24 October 2007	44
Perth	City of South Perth Collins Street Centre	Monday 12 November 2007	26
Hopetoun	Hopetoun Everett Country Golf Club	Wednesday 16 January 2008	28
Bremer Bay	Bremer Bay Sports Club	Thursday 17 January 2008	15
Denmark	Shire of Denmark reception area	Wednesday 23 January 2008	34
Augusta	Augusta Telecentre	Thursday 24 January 2008	11

### **1.1 Background to SCRMP**

The Regional Marine Planning (RMP) initiative, covering State waters from Cape Leeuwin to the South Australian border, was announced by the Western Australian Government in 2006. The Department of Environment and Conservation (DEC) has been designated lead agency. SCRMP developed because the diversity of uses of the marine environment lacked an integrated planning and management approach. SCRMP will promote increased coordination and cooperation among marine sectors and will help ensure that we can continue to obtain recreational, social, cultural and economic benefits from the marine environment, while protecting the unique habitats and biodiversity of its marine ecosystems. A draft South Coast Regional Marine Strategic Plan (SCRMSPP) is due to be released for public comment in mid 2008.

In parallel with the SCRMP process, the Commonwealth Government is undertaking Marine Bioregional Planning (MBP) for the South West Bioregion, an area encompassing all Commonwealth waters (between 3 and 200 nautical miles from the coast) from Kangaroo Island off South Australia to offshore Shark Bay in Western Australia (WA). The primary differences between the State and Commonwealth marine planning processes relate to marine jurisdiction and that the State process does not involve the designation of marine conservation reserves (MCRs) unlike the Commonwealth process which does designate MCRs. A summary of similarities and differences between the two processes is given in Table 2. Both processes encompass extensive areas of the marine environment.

**Table 2: Similarities and differences between State and Commonwealth Government Regional Marine Planning processes.**

<b>Role</b>	<b>State Regional Marine Planning</b>	<b>Commonwealth Bioregional Marine Planning</b>
Consolidate available information and identify gaps	Yes	Yes
Designate marine conservation reserves	No	Yes
Facilitate ecologically sustainable development	Yes	Yes
Guide marine planning and management, integrating marine user groups	Yes	Yes
Identify marine issues of priority to local communities	Yes	Yes
Integrate community input into the plan	Yes	Yes
Marine jurisdiction (area covered)	State waters (out to 3 nautical miles)	Commonwealth waters (3 to 200 nautical miles)

A unique assemblage of flora and fauna has evolved in the waters of the south coast including; large and spectacular marine animals such as the blue groper, the threatened great white shark; and other iconic species including the leafy seadragon, whales, seals and migratory birds. The south coast marine environment includes spectacular granite reefs, sponge gardens, limestone reefs, seagrass meadows, kelp gardens, rhodolith beds and communities of filter feeders in deeper waters. New species are still being found as research in the marine environment continues.

The marine environment of the south coast and the life within it has been utilised for thousands of years by Indigenous people, and more recently by the many newer arrivals. Today the marine environment is used by a diverse range of organisations and individuals for many recreational, cultural and commercial activities. These include; aquaculture, boating, charters, conservation, diving, education and research, fishing, global trade (ports and shipping), Indigenous and maritime heritage, petroleum and mineral development, recreation, sailing, surfing and tourism. SCRMP must consider an extremely diverse set of uses over a significant area of the WA marine environment.

For a successful SCRMP process, the integration of planning and management for all marine sectors and uses is essential. This involves engagement with and input from a wide range of community members and stakeholders with an interest in WA's south coast. To help engage with community members of the south coast a series of community workshops were held. The workshops provided a platform to allow the big issues from the perspective of local community members to be put forward and ensure they are addressed constructively in the SCRMP. The following section details the objectives and methodology of the workshop series.

## 2 Community Workshops

### 2.1 Community Workshop objectives

The workshops had three objectives:

- 1) to inform community members about SCRMP; the objectives, scope, what is and is not involved in the process, and why it is required;
- 2) to allow community members to have their say and ensure the values and issues of importance to them are addressed constructively in the SCRMSPP; and
- 3) to inform community members of the GIS being constructed for the south coast, and to offer community members the chance to provide input into the current state of knowledge of environmental values or features, and marine recreation activities.

### 2.2 Achieving the objectives and workshop methodology

The workshops utilised a number of resources to ensure the objectives were successfully met.

- 1) **Advertisement of the workshop series:** The workshops were advertised through: local and major newspapers; stakeholder phone calls; emails and letters to stakeholders and distribution points; contact with South Coast Regional Marine Planning Advisory Group (PAG) and Planning Working Group (PWG) members. Appendix 4 contains a copy of the flier for the 2007 workshop series.
- 2) **Registration and orientation:** Community members were greeted at the door by Government representatives for SCRMP. Community members were asked to sign in and provide contact details should they wish to receive updates on SCRMP and a summary of the workshop series. Attendees were then given a name tag, agenda and feedback form with the option of taking a background brochure and business card.
- 3) **Process information and audiovisual display:** Some members of the PAG and PWG were available before and after the workshops for general discussion. A brochure entitled *Regional Marine Planning for the South Coast*, marine information videos, and three posters identifying the key messages of SCRMP also provided general background information on the process.
- 4) **Workshop facilitation:** A PAG or PWG member hosted each workshop. The workshop hosts were;
  - Mr Geoff Findlay – Department of Planning and Infrastructure
  - Mr Phil Shaw – Department of Fisheries
  - Mr Neil Blake – South Coast Natural Resource Management Inc.
- 5) **Presentation on SCRMP:** Mr Ian Herford, Principal Marine Policy Officer in DEC's Marine Policy and Planning Branch (MPPB), based in Albany, delivered a presentation highlighting RMP's objectives, scope, what is and is not involved in the process, and why it is required.
- 6) **Question and answer session on SCRMP:** The floor was opened for questions and comments which were addressed by Mr Herford and other key agency representatives present at the workshop.
- 7) **Community group value and issue workshop:** Ms Amanda van Loon from DEC's Public Affairs Branch facilitated a workshop which involved small groups of community members identifying the south coast marine issues most important to them. The focus was on priority issues within a regional and strategic level context. Each group was provided with a scribe; recording the details of the community discussion. The issues raised were recorded as

- worded by the group members. This means that the same or similar issue raised at one workshop (e.g. maintenance of current access rights) may be worded differently in another workshop (e.g. coastal access).
- 8) **Issue summary and prioritisation:** The priority issues identified by each workshop group were integrated into a single issue list. Where possible, the wording agreed upon by community members was maintained. In a number of cases the same issues raised by different workshop groups were worded differently and crossed similar sub-issues. In these cases the issues were reworded in an attempt to encompass the full discussion. This sometimes required pooling and separating sets of issues under common headings. Community members were then asked if they were happy with the issues identified and the way they were presented. Some concern was raised about the potential loss of detailed comments entailed in this approach, however participants were assured that all detail supplied will be included in the full workshop report (see Appendices 2 and 3). Each community member was then asked to identify the three issues most important to them. The result was a general indication of the issues most important to local communities across the south coast (results in section 3.1).
  - 9) **Presentation on the Marine Information and Resource Compilation Project (MIRCP):** Mr Ewan Buckley, Marine Information Officer for DEC's MPPB, based in Fremantle, delivered a presentation demonstrating the south coast GIS, some of the data available, gaps in the knowledge, and the capacity for GIS applications. Included in the presentation was an overview of the recreational human usage survey that was conducted as part of the project.
  - 10) **Question and answer session on MIRCP:** The floor was opened for questions and comments which were addressed by Mr Buckley.
  - 11) **Recreational human usage survey for MIRCP:** Community members were asked to complete the survey which covers all types of recreational use of the marine and coastal environment. Extra copies were available for wider distribution by community members.
  - 12) **SCRMP community workshop feedback form:** Completed copies of the feedback form, provided at the registration table, were collected. A copy of the feedback form is provided in Appendix 5. The results provided guidance on improving the workshops throughout the series. A summary of community feedback is presented in section 3.2.
  - 13) **Additional input:** Further community input and comments on the SCRMP initiative were encouraged, with participants being asked to contact Peter van Schoubroeck at DEC's Albany office on 9842 4500, or email [peter.vanschoubroeck@dec.wa.gov.au](mailto:peter.vanschoubroeck@dec.wa.gov.au). The RMP website, which can be found at <http://rmp.naturebase.net/> was also promoted.

### 2.2.1 Variation in workshop methodology

Due to large variations in the number of attendees, and necessary alterations to ensure effective and timely workshop sessions, the methods used for the issue identification and prioritisation exercise varied slightly across the workshop series. The main variation was whether all issues raised were prioritised by all participants, or whether a list of the top priority issues from each workshop group was prioritised. In each case the community members identified and prioritised the issues most important to them.

## 3 Results

### ***3.1 Issue identification and prioritisation***

The workshop series took in ten locations and was attended by a total of over 200 community members. A wealth of information was communicated to, and put forward by, the local community members. The following section summarises the issues raised, and the priority values assigned by local community members at the workshops. Figure 1 provides a summary of the geographic coverage of the workshop series and lists all the priority issues that received a score of 5% or greater for each workshop. Tables 3 – 15 show the priority ranking of the issues identified at each of the workshops, in chronological order. Due to the low turnout at Kalgoorlie no issue list was generated. At some workshops only the most important issues as determined by the community members were prioritised. Additional issues identified are listed in subsequent tables. Detailed comments put forward by community members on the issues raised are listed in Appendix 2.

The lack of coverage by the workshop series east of Esperance is addressed in section 4.1.

Two written submissions were received in response to the Hopetoun and Denmark community workshops respectively. The issues raised by the submissions are detailed in Appendix 3, along with those raised in comments received from the Eucla community.

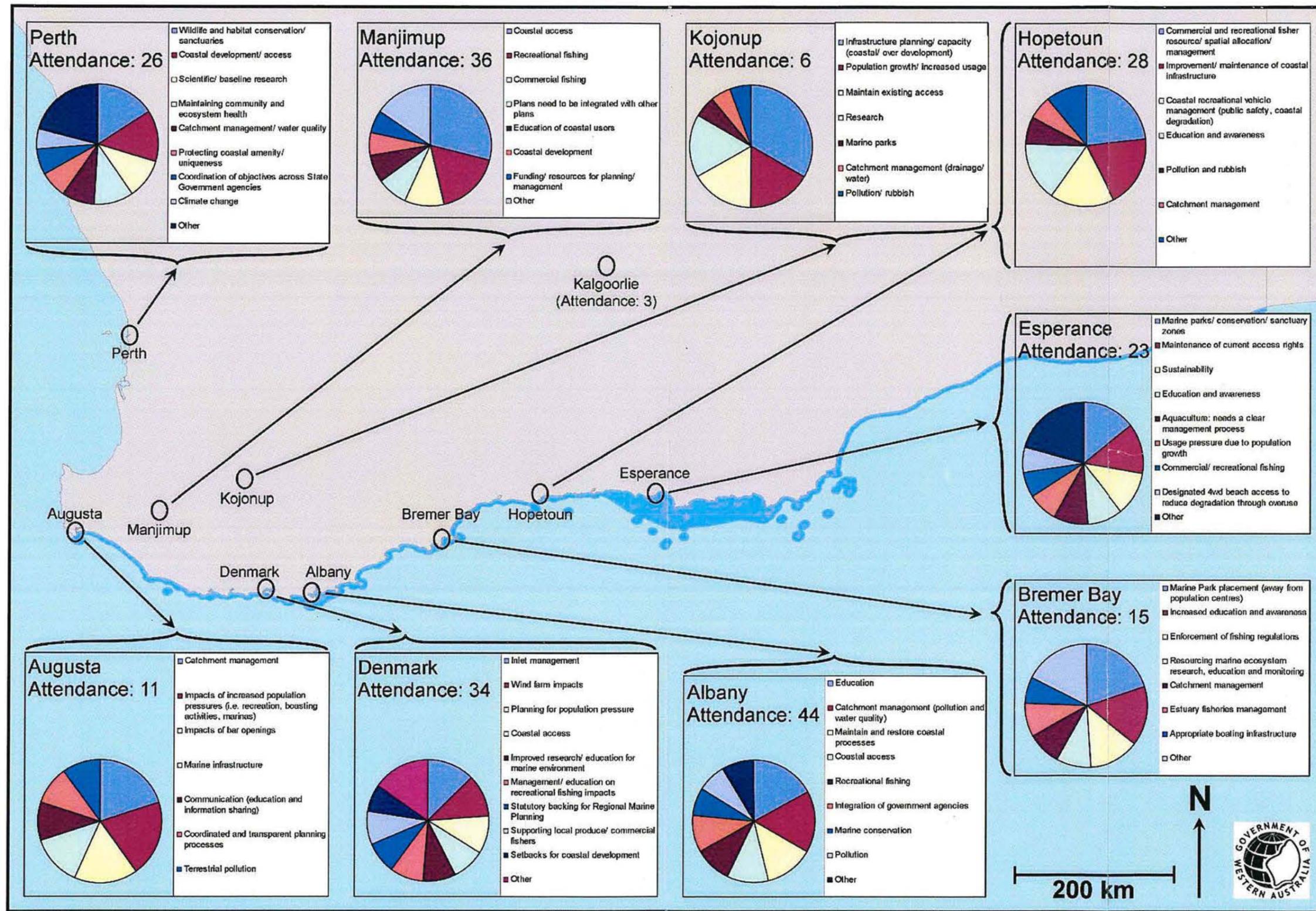


Figure 1: Summary chart of the South Coast Regional Marine Planning workshop series; workshop locations and priority issues ranked 5% or greater for each community workshop. The area in dark blue indicates the planning area covered by South Coast Regional Marine Planning.

**Table 3: Esperance community workshop issue identification and prioritisation.**

Issue No.	Issues raised in discussion groups	Importance as scored by workshop attendees (%)
1	Marine parks/ conservation/ sanctuary zones	14.5
2	Maintenance of current access rights	13.2
3	Sustainability	11.8
4	Education and awareness	9.2
5	Aquaculture: needs a clear management process	9.2
6	Usage pressure due to population growth	7.9
7	Commercial/ recreational fishing	6.6
8	Designated 4WD beach access to reduce degradation through overuse	6.6
9	Port/ foreshore erosion/ coastal development setbacks	3.9
10	Israelite Bay needs official acknowledgment as a whale nursery	3.9
11	Tourism: extractive/ non-extractive	2.6
12	Indigenous burial sites in dunes/ Indigenous landscapes (marine seafloor)	2.6
13	Protection of the islands	2.6
14	Bandy Creek Boat Harbour/ weir/ wetlands	2.6
15	Environmental protection	1.3
16	Ports/ shipping lane protocols/ rubbish	1.3
17	Better communication between user groups	
18	Continuity of planning management	

**Table 4: Manjimup community workshop issue identification and prioritisation.**

Issue No.	Issues raised in discussion groups	Importance as scored by workshop attendees (%)
1	Coastal access	28.9
2	Recreational fishing	17.5
3	Commercial fishing	10.3
4	Plans need to be integrated with other plans	8.2
5	Education of coastal users	7.2
6	Coastal development	6.2
7	Funding/ resources for planning/ management	6.2
8	Fisheries research	4.1
9	Conservation/ marine parks	2.1
10	Coastal litter (ships)	2.1
11	Planning/ Government decisions independent of community/ local population	2.1
12	Fishing platforms for disabled	2.1
13	Tourism	1.0
14	Stormwater/ runoff management	1.0
15	Coastal safety	1.0
16	Commercial shipping exclusion zones	
17	Remote/ wilderness experience	
18	Integration of water and land issues	

**Table 10: Hopetoun community workshop, other issues identified.**

<b>Other issues raised in Hopetoun discussion groups (not listed for prioritisation)</b>	
Aboriginal sites	Dieback [ <i>Phytophthora cinnamomi</i> ]
Biosecurity	Increasing population pressures
Climate change	Maritime heritage
Coastal processes	SCRMSP flexibility
Communication and engagement	Spatial management of marine uses

**Table 11: Bremer Bay community workshop issue identification and prioritisation**

<b>Issue No.</b>	<b>Issues raised in discussion groups</b>	<b>Importance as scored by workshop attendees (%)</b>
1	Marine Park placement (away from population centres)	20.0
2	Increased education and awareness	15.6
3	Enforcement of fishing regulations	13.3
4	Resourcing marine ecosystem research, education and monitoring	8.9
5	Catchment management	8.9
6	Estuary fisheries management	8.9
7	Appropriate boating infrastructure	6.7
8	Protecting aesthetic/ wilderness values	4.4
9	Defining sustainable marine ecosystems	2.2
10	Habitat destruction	2.2
11	Understanding full economic value of fisheries for education and enforcement	2.2
12	Aquaculture development that is controlled	2.2
13	Seeking local knowledge on marine environment for marine planning	2.2
14	Spatial allocation for recreational and commercial fishers (in high use areas)	2.2
15	Access to fish resources	
16	Biosecurity	

**Table 12: Denmark community workshop issue identification and prioritisation**

<b>Issue No.</b>	<b>Issues raised in discussion groups</b>	<b>Importance as scored by workshop attendees (%)</b>
1	Inlet management	11.9
2	Wind farm impacts	10.7
3	Planning for population pressure	9.5
4	Coastal access	8.3
5	Improved research/ education for marine environment	8.3
6	Management/ education on recreational fishing impacts	8.3
7	Statutory backing for Regional Marine Planning	8.3
8	Supporting local produce/ commercial fishers	8.3
9	Setbacks for coastal development	7.1
10	Resources for management of coastal and marine usage	4.8

11	Communication between all stakeholder groups	3.6
12	Public education	3.6
13	Resource access (e.g. fish stocks)	3.6
14	Zoning of recreational uses	2.4
15	Boat infrastructure	1.2
16	Mining impacts	

**Table 13: Denmark community workshop, other issues identified.**

<b>Other issues raised in Denmark discussion groups (not listed for prioritisation)</b>	
Catchment management	Marine Parks/ sanctuary zones
Climate change	Research/ information to justify management actions
Development	Tourism
Loss of biomass/ biodiversity	

**Table 14: Augusta community workshop issue identification and prioritisation**

<b>Issue No.</b>	<b>Issues raised in discussion groups</b>	<b>Importance as scored by workshop attendees (%)</b>
1	Catchment management	20.0
2	Impacts of increased population pressures (i.e. recreation, boating activities, marinas)	20.0
3	Impacts of bar openings	16.7
4	Marine infrastructure	13.3
5	Communication (education and information sharing)	10.0
6	Coordinated and transparent planning processes	10.0
7	Terrestrial pollution	10.0

**Table 15: Augusta community workshop, other issues identified.**

<b>Other issues raised in Augusta discussion groups (not listed for prioritisation)</b>	
Acknowledgment of recreational uses	Military use
Coastal access	Mining
Compliance	Pollution
Fisheries management	Research
Marine parks	SCRMSP effectiveness

### **3.2 Community feedback**

Feedback from participants was generally positive. Out of 226 attendees, 129 feedback forms were received; a return of approximately 57%. Table 16 summarises the general opinion of community members regarding the content, pace and level of information in the workshop series. General comments on what was most beneficial and what could have been improved were also provided and helped improve successive workshops.

**Table 16: Brief summary of the community opinion regarding the content, pace and level of information in the workshop series.**

Workshop location	Content			Pace			Level of Information		
	Too much	About right	Too little	Too fast	About right	Too slow	Too high	About right	Too low
Esperance	0	11	1	1	10	1	1	9	2
Kalgoorlie	N/A								
Manjimup	0	28	4	1	31	0	0	30	2
Kojonup	0	6	0	0	6	0	0	6	0
Albany	0	23	0	0	23	0	0	22	1
Perth *	0	14	0	0	12	1	0	13	1
Hopetoun	0	17	0	0	15	2	0	15	2
Bremer Bay	2	5	0	0	7	0	0	7	0
Denmark	0	9	0	0	9	0	0	8	1
Augusta	0	8	0	1	6	1	1	6	1
Total	2	121	5	3	119	5	2	116	10

\* Feedback cited 'pace' as variable

### 3.3 Continuing role of community advice

The SCRMP community workshop report is a valuable source of south coast community advice on strategic marine issues. The SCRMP will address strategic issues raised by community participants throughout the workshop series. However the document will not be able to make specific mention of all comments made by community members. The information presented here will continue to serve as a valuable reference document for all Government agency and other coastal and marine planners and managers.

## 4 Continued community engagement

Continued engagement with community members and stakeholders is sought and welcome. Queries and comments on the SCRMP process can be directed to Peter van Schoubroeck at DEC's Albany office on 9842 4500, or email [peter.vanschoubroeck@dec.wa.gov.au](mailto:peter.vanschoubroeck@dec.wa.gov.au). The RMP website can be found at <http://rmp.naturebase.net/>. The Draft SCRMP is due to be released for public comment in mid 2008.

Submissions regarding RMP and relevant issues received subsequent to the workshop series are being collated into an additional stakeholder comments report. This report will form an attachment to the stakeholder engagement report series when it is considered by the PAG and PWG.

### 4.1 Community members east of Esperance

The community workshops series covered the geographic range of most of the population along the south coast. However, a significant portion of the south coast is sparsely populated and was not reached by the community workshop series. Alternative means are required to successfully engage with community members and stakeholders east of Esperance. This will involve identifying community members, stakeholders and communication distribution points, and visitation to key areas (e.g. Eucla) by agency representatives of SCRMP. Appendix 3 details comments received from the Eucla community in response to the community workshop series.

## 5 Conclusion

The community workshop series has proved a valuable source of information and input to the south coast RMP process. While the range of issues, the values behind them and the priority ranking varied, some key themes emerged. The most common priority issues raised across the workshop series can be grouped under the following broad subject areas:

- access to resources and the coast;
- awareness, communication, education and research;
- catchment and estuarine management;
- coastal development and infrastructure;
- commercial and recreational fisheries management;
- effectiveness of SCRMP;
- increasing population pressures;
- integration and coordination of Government and other planning and management;
- marine and coastal conservation;
- marine parks and zoning; and
- resourcing for management.

## Appendix 1: Acronyms

APA:	Albany Port Authority
CAR:	Comprehensive, adequate and representative
DEC:	Department of Environment and Conservation
FAQ:	Frequently asked questions
GIS:	Geographic information system
MBP:	Marine Bioregional Planning
MCR:	Marine Conservation Reserves
MIRCP:	Marine Information and Resource Compilation Project
MPA:	Marine protected area
MPPB:	Marine Policy and Planning Branch
NRM:	Natural Resource Management
PAG:	Planning Advisory Group
PWG:	Planning Working Group
RMP:	Regional Marine Planning
SCRMP:	South Coast Regional Marine Planning
SCRMSPP:	South Coast Regional Marine Strategic Plan
WA:	Western Australia

## Appendix 2: Details of issues raised at community workshops

The following section provides details of all the issues and comments that were able to be recorded during the community workshop issue discussion sessions (given the limited time available). This is not necessarily a comprehensive record of all the issues and comments put forward by community members. As individual comments have been recorded, these do not necessarily represent a consensus view on the issues covered. The workshops are listed in chronological order with issues listed in order of priority as determined by the issue prioritisation exercise. Additional issues are listed in alphabetical order after the priority issues.

Please contact Peter van Schoubroek on 9842 4500 at DEC's Albany office, or email [peter.vanschoubroek@dec.wa.gov.au](mailto:peter.vanschoubroek@dec.wa.gov.au) if you wish to comment further, or if you feel any issues and comments were missed or misinterpreted by the scribes. Additional issues and comments raised by community members will be put forward to PAG and PWG members in a summary report.

### 1) Esperance:

- a. Marine parks/ conservation/ sanctuary zones
  - i. A community engagement/ consultation process is needed for the Commonwealth MBP process
  - ii. An interim strategy before Marine Park planning, to recognise we have something important to protect
  - iii. Fish sanctuaries
  - iv. Marine Parks will happen and everyone will suffer from them
  - v. RMP should discuss Marine Parks
  - vi. The Wilson Report [*A representative marine reserve system for Western Australia: report to the Marine Parks and Reserves Selection Group*] – [published] 1994 – still not looking at Marine Reserves - needs to happen sooner
  - vii. Lack of scientific evidence for Marine Parks
- b. Maintenance of current access rights
  - i. Less environmental impact occurs if access is allowed (people do not make their own access)
  - ii. Maintenance of access provides a balance
  - iii. The level of access impacts on tourism
  - iv. There should be less public access
- c. Sustainability
  - i. Conservation and the future
- d. Education and awareness
  - i. Being a responsible citizen, socially and environmentally
  - ii. Lack of environmental education and awareness
- e. Aquaculture: needs a clear management process
  - i. A future asset
  - ii. A process that recognises conservation aspects
  - iii. EPA approval needs to be streamlined/ simplified, too many restrictions and red tape
  - iv. Guidelines and plans for accepting certain types of aquaculture
  - v. Is an ongoing issue
  - vi. Land and marine based aquaculture has multi-tiered levels of Government dealing with it
  - vii. Needs encouragement

- viii. Not sustainable because requires wild stock take for fattening
        - ix. Preferable to wild fisheries
        - x. Use of estuaries
  - f. Usage pressure due to population growth
    - i. Overuse of marine resources
    - ii. Seafloor anchoring
  - g. Commercial/ recreational fishing
    - i. Catch management
    - ii. Changes in catch
    - iii. Sustainable fisheries
    - iv. Trawling
  - h. Designated 4WD beach access to reduce degradation through overuse
    - i. Motorcycles and All Terrain Vehicles (ATV) registered and unregistered leading to unsafe practices, speeding and unregulated activities.
    - ii. Off-road motorbike damage.
  - i. Port/ foreshore erosion/ coastal development setbacks
    - i. Canal developments
    - ii. Climate change implications
    - iii. Lack of future focus
    - iv. Lack of recognition of social impacts
    - v. Need long-term planning
    - vi. New coastal infrastructure affecting natural waterways and beach formations.
    - vii. Short term money focus
    - viii. Transport corridor requirements road/ rail [terrestrial access to ports]
    - ix. Vulnerability of infrastructure
  - j. Israelite Bay needs official acknowledgment as a whale nursery
  - k. Tourism: extractive/ non-extractive
  - l. Indigenous burial sites in dunes/ Indigenous landscapes (marine seafloor)
    - i. Archaeological evidence of sites
    - ii. Middle Island
  - m. Protection of the islands
    - i. Access
    - ii. Introduction of pests
    - iii. Overuse
    - iv. Should be heritage listed
  - n. Bandy Creek Boat Harbour/ weir/ wetlands
    - i. The whole catchment needs management
    - ii. Wetland drainage and how that will impact the marine environment
  - o. Environmental protection
  - p. Ports/ shipping lane protocols/ rubbish
    - i. Clean up process needs to be regular
    - ii. Levelling out of port/ shipping international vs state protocols
    - iii. Rubbish being thrown off ships
  - q. Better communication between user groups
    - i. Communication and integration among agencies and user groups
  - r. Continuity of planning management
  - s. Additional comments:
    - i. Effectiveness of SCRMSPP and community input:

1. will the Government listen?
- ii. Flexibility of SCRMSMP:
  1. length of the plan, review period and types of review.
- iii. Lack of resources for research along the south coast; planning is based on research.
- iv. Scale of SCRMP:
  1. is it too big/ broad in scale?
  2. relative marine environmental consistency and lack of terrestrial environmental consistency
  3. does it apply to each coastal part?
- v. The SCRMSMP requires actions to identify whether strategies are being met

**2) Kalgoorlie:** (No issue workshop was held due to the low turnout).

**3) Manjimup:**

- a. Coastal access
  - i. Maintain coastal access for all activities (i.e. 4WD and camping)
  - ii. More resources needed to manage coastal access
  - iii. Lack of access
  - iv. Access concentrates usage pressure
  - v. The quality of boat access points
  - vi. Access is needed for recreational usage and fishing
  - vii. Need more emphasis on multiple use tracks
  - viii. RMP/ Government is going to close more access off
  - ix. There is a lack of evidence for the need to close off more access
  - x. The coastal area is special and has a broad user base
  - xi. Lack of special areas along the west coast therefore they come to the south coast
  - xii. What to do with increased demand for coastal access
  - xiii. Vehicle access does not lead to coastal degradation
  - xiv. Seaweed control; prevents coastal access
  - xv. Too many no go zones
  - xvi. Need continued/ secured access
  - xvii. Need to restrict where necessary
  - xviii. Maintain access to coastal areas (i.e. Broke Inlet, Black Point, Yalgorup, and Gordwell).
  - xix. Open access to all coastal areas to take pressure off populated areas such as Windy Harbour
- b. Recreational fishing
  - i. Policy and restrictions on fishing have created the current problem where people cheat the system
  - ii. Increase recreational fishing access and keep commercial fishing out in deeper waters so stocks can rebuild
  - iii. Don't want marron fishery management
  - iv. Boat limits
- c. Commercial fishing
  - i. Taking away small commercial licenses which are going to bigger commercial ventures
  - ii. Limit how close to the coast commercial fishers can come

- iii. Needs to be a fair, consistent process to allocate commercial fishing licences
- iv. Wet-lining, not netting
- v. Commercial fishing techniques and allocations need to be managed more closely
- vi. Policy and restrictions on fishing have created the current problem where people cheat the system
- vii. Conflicts with recreational fishing
- viii. Over-fishing, netting and long-lining
- d. Plans need to be integrated with other plans
  - i. So many plans; need to integrate all plans so one doesn't override another and there is a consistent approach
- e. Education of coastal users
  - i. People not utilising resources properly (i.e. non-locals and 4WD techniques)
- f. Coastal development
  - i. Don't want it
  - ii. Concern because of population growth
  - iii. Leads to problems with effluent, pollution runoff and groundwater drawdown
  - iv. Can lead to overfishing
- g. Funding/ resources for planning/ management
  - i. Existing licence fees to manage activities
- h. Fisheries research
  - i. Needed for fish stocks
- i. Conservation/ marine parks
  - i. Locking up national parks has an impact on the marine environment
  - ii. National parks are supposed to be for the people but they are not accessible
  - iii. Why should we pay to access national and marine parks?
  - iv. Needs justification
  - v. Conservation is a good thing
  - vi. Needs to respect coastal/ marine access
- j. Coastal litter (ships)
  - i. Who is responsible?
- k. Planning/ Government decisions independent of community/ local population
  - i. Bureaucrats are not using common sense
  - ii. The Government over-rides the views of smaller communities
  - iii. Planning decisions need to be independent of population
  - iv. Small populations need to be considered equally with major centres
- l. Fishing platforms for disabled
- m. Tourism
  - i. Need a balance between tourism and preserving the wilderness resource
  - ii. Overkill; marketing/ promotion of wilderness places
- n. Stormwater/ runoff management
  - i. The definition of stormwater needs to be formalised
  - ii. Needs to be managed to avoid going into the marine environment
- o. Coastal safety
  - i. Boat access
- p. Commercial shipping exclusion zones

- i. Keep far offshore to prevent coastal impacts
- q. Remote/ wilderness experience
  - i. Loss of relates to access capacities
- r. Integration of water and land issues
  - i. Catchment management
  - ii. Industry
  - iii. Sewage
- s. Additional comments
  - i. Yeagerup dune migration, closing off lake (who will manage and keep it open)
  - ii. Walpole wilderness area – no access

#### 4) Kojonup:

- a. Infrastructure planning/ capacity (coastal/ over development)
  - i. Amenities and infrastructure can't handle increases in usage/ population pressure
  - ii. Keep development down to keep usage down
  - iii. Historical use by locals: huts and squatter's camps
  - iv. Not everyone wants 5 star resorts
  - v. No boat access development: preferred to keep usage low
  - vi. Coastal environment is rough: reduced capacity for increased development
  - vii. Can south coast handle increased development?
  - viii. Can increased development handle south coast?
- b. Population growth/ increased usage
  - i. West coast is coming over
  - ii. Hopetoun: how big can it get?
- c. Maintain existing access
  - i. Maintenance of status quo
  - ii. Don't make access excessive
  - iii. Increased use is a problem
  - iv. Historical use by locals: low key
  - v. More access requires more infrastructure
  - vi. "Seachange" – coastal invasion, rapid increase in last 12 months (e.g. Peaceful Bay)
  - vii. no change deters increased user levels
- d. Research
  - i. Into fishery habitats
- e. Marine parks
  - i. Put marine parks in inaccessible areas off the coast
- f. Catchment management (drainage/ water)
  - i. Pesticides and chemicals
- g. Pollution/ rubbish
  - i. Ocean and foreshore
- h. Recreational use (including fishing)
  - i. Increased usage pressure
  - ii. Historical use by locals: camping
  - iii. Recreational fishers are coming down in increasing numbers
- i. Tourism
  - i. Increased usage pressure
- j. Petroleum exploration
  - i. Commonwealth energy security policy

**5) Perth:**

- a. Wildlife and habitat conservation/ sanctuaries**
  - i.** Needed, lack of
  - ii.** Large scale
  - iii.** "Fish for the future" (e.g. New Zealand)
  - iv.** Based on scientific research/ planning (CAR MPA)
  - v.** Zoning high use areas
  - vi.** Wilderness areas: none specifically established, naturally inaccessible, no boat ramps
  - vii.** CAR MPA: a lack of baseline data is no excuse not too act
  - viii.** Spill over effects
  - ix.** Need for current baselines
  - x.** Need more sanctuaries along the south coast
  - xi.** More protection by limiting extraction
  - xii.** Meshing fisheries ecosystem-based management with the design of marine reserves
  - xiii.** Comprehensive, adequate and representative
  - xiv.** Preventative planning
  - xv.** Securing the future
  - xvi.** Maintenance of biodiversity and threatened marine mammals and birds
- b. Coastal development/ access**
  - i.** Canals
  - ii.** Boat ramps: a good thing, allow recreational access
  - iii.** Appropriate and sustainable
  - iv.** Access control required
  - v.** Balance of controlled and no access
  - vi.** Infrastructure required for access
  - vii.** Insufficient and need improvement
  - viii.** 4WD beach erosion
  - ix.** Access needs to be carefully planned
  - x.** If you establish an access point, then a management structure (i.e. zoning) needs to be implemented
  - xi.** Meshing planning for coastal infrastructure (e.g. boat access) and NRM/ ecosystem management
  - xii.** Adequate planning for population pressures on access points
  - xiii.** Access: maintenance vs restriction
  - xiv.** Lack of strategic planning for coastal/ marine use:
    - 1. guiding where people go vs where they shouldn't
    - 2. lack of overarching strategy to manage population pressures
  - xv.** Access: safety and rescue capacity
  - xvi.** Identify vulnerable locations/ areas
  - xvii.** Provision of boating facilities
- c. Scientific/ baseline research**
  - i.** Use of scientific information to identify threats and adapt management actions
  - ii.** Do we have adequate information for the protection of rare and endangered flora and fauna?
  - iii.** Need basic comprehensive knowledge
  - iv.** Need to identify what research is required to plan adequately
- d. Maintaining community and ecosystem health**
  - i.** Maintaining the system that maintains us
  - ii.** Environmental quality
  - iii.** Security

- iv. Ecosystem/ community health
  - v. Links to conservation and resource management
- e. Catchment management/ water quality
  - i. Impacts of land use on marine environment
  - ii. Planning for extreme weather events (climate change)
  - iii. Recognition of the importance of (relationship between) catchment land use impacts on marine systems
  - iv. Inlet nutrient levels
  - v. Sand bar management: water quality, biodiversity, conservation
- f. Protecting coastal amenity/ uniqueness
  - i. Buffer along the coast to protect aesthetic values
  - ii. Views of the ocean
  - iii. Natural bushland is good to look at
  - iv. Preserve unique landscape and its ecological value (wilderness experience and aesthetic values)
  - v. For areas that host marine use (development control, provision of access, aesthetics, conservation)
  - vi. Maintaining south coast character
- g. Coordination of objectives across State Government agencies
  - i. Coordinating resource management
  - ii. Fisheries and DEC talking to each other
  - iii. Agencies working towards the same objectives i.e.:
    1. Explicit objectives for marine wildlife population size and distribution
    2. Explicit recognition of the foraging needs and central foraging places
- h. Climate change
  - i. Impacts on infrastructure
  - ii. Impacts on marine life
  - iii. Sea level rise and coastal development
- i. Mining and petroleum industry
  - i. Habitat impacts
- j. Renewable energy/ desalination/ wave energy
  - i. Desalination placement in high circulation areas
  - ii. Energy requirements vs practical cost
  - iii. Valuation: monetary vs socio-ecological benefits
  - iv. Renewable energy is needed (solar, wind, tidal)
  - v. Planning for placement, impacts, etc
  - vi. Likely to be tied to population centres?
- k. Marine pests
- l. Integrated population and marine NRM planning
- m. Population growth and impacts
  - i. How will it go?
  - ii. Transient or permanent?
  - iii. Confined to current residential nodes
  - iv. Increased lifestyle (choices/ disposable income)
  - v. Population centre size planning
  - vi. Tourism does not impact as much as permanent residents
  - vii. Full range of impacts
  - viii. Adequate planning and question of current/ future trends
  - ix. More coastal investment
  - x. More 4WDs, boats, etc
  - xi. Adequate planning for population pressures on access points
  - xii. Lack of overarching strategy to manage population pressures

- n. Recreational fishing
  - i. Impacts unknown
  - ii. Fishing regulations are trial and error
  - iii. Manage stocks over entire geographic range (local depletions okay)
  - iv. Current shift/ need for local stock management
  - v. Recfishwest opposition to no take zones
  - vi. Need to quantify: don't know how many there are or what the impacts are
  - vii. Meshing fisheries ecosystem based management with the design of marine reserves
  - viii. Unregulated
- o. Resource allocation
  - i. Research
  - ii. Quality/ sustainable development
  - iii. Appropriate planning
  - iv. Fisheries
- p. Eco-tourism
  - i. Regulation
  - ii. Wildlife interaction
  - iii. Eco-accommodation
- q. Commercial fishing
  - i. Meshing fisheries ecosystem based management with the design of marine reserves
- r. Shipping
  - i. Compliance with sea dumping regulations
  - ii. Introduced marine pests
- s. Pollution
  - i. Marine debris and rubbish
  - ii. Nullarbor
  - iii. Fishing materials, ropes, lines, nets, plastics
- t. Aquaculture
  - i. Has negative impacts
  - ii. Problematic (e.g. fish farms)
  - iii. Shell fish good (filter feeders, e.g. Oysters okay)
  - iv. Faeces, effluent and nutrient inputs promote algal growth
  - v. Needs monitoring, control on impacts
- u. Charter boats
  - i. Licensing not capped: needs to be looked at
  - ii. Is self regulating by need/ demand
  - iii. Impact of increased population on?
  - iv. Natural limitations to effort distribution
  - v. Effort management needed (e.g. like commercial fishing)
- v. Additional comments
  - i. Intrinsic values vs utilisation
  - ii. Balances between extracting from the marine environment and our cultural use
  - iii. Managing human use and the intrinsic value of the marine environment
  - iv. Integrating State and Commonwealth processes
  - v. Seasonal visitation and lack of ownership of coast and seas

**6) Albany:**

- a. Education
  - i. Coastal use education for sustainable use
  - ii. West coast users lack knowledge of conditions (dieback [*P. cinnamomi*], coastal safety)
  - iii. Marine safety and experience of users
  - iv. A lack of understanding by users
  - v. For a sustainable future
  - vi. Changing curriculum: knowledge of management in younger generation
- b. Catchment management (pollution and water quality)
  - i. Stormwater and sewage
  - ii. Land use management
  - iii. Bitumen runoff and what goes with it into the sea
  - iv. What will happen to King George Sound? (need action now, measures to monitor)
  - v. No more sewage ocean outflows
  - vi. Need to ensure recycling of effluent
  - vii. Chemicals from agriculture being washed from the river into the sea
  - viii. Rivers along the coast are ruined (algal blooms)
  - ix. Vegetation
  - x. Estuaries
  - xi. Princess Royal Sailing Club:
    - 1. no vegetation to filter run off
    - 2. no run off water management
    - 3. storm water run off: divert, filter and clean
  - xii. Run off
  - xiii. Effects on cockles
  - xiv. No septic
  - xv. Lawn fertilisers
  - xvi. Water Corporation
    - 1. exceeding their licence
    - 2. impact on foreshore
- c. Maintain and restore coastal processes
  - i. Dune stabilisation
  - ii. Inlet management
  - iii. Better considered/ managed coastal development (e.g. Emu Point and Whaleworld)
- d. Coastal access
  - i. Continuity of
  - ii. Right of
  - iii. Not denying access, no clear cut access denial
  - iv. Need a legitimate reason to close access and only for a set time period
  - v. We are here to use sustainably
  - vi. Exclusive use (e.g. private land owners: land rights are not to low water mark)
  - vii. Code of ethics for use (e.g. dirt bikes, ATVs)
  - viii. Taking family to historic/ culturally significant sites (fishing spots)
  - ix. A few ruin it for us all
  - x. Dieback [*P. cinnamomi*]:
    - 1. How do you treat it?
    - 2. How do you know if it is there?

3. Education needed (via voluntary or Coastcare and community groups)
  - xi. Control access to ensure access can be maintained
  - xii. Beach access for launching vessels
  - xiii. Keep open
  - xiv. Shared
  - xv. Not locked out
  - xvi. Needs management
- e. Recreational fishing
  - i. Resource use/ allocation: sustainable harvest
  - ii. People take too much of stocks
  - iii. People aren't complying
  - iv. Better policing of recreational fishing
  - v. Resources needed for policing
  - vi. Max size limits on fish (not just min)
  - vii. Fisheries management paper 225:
    1. Commercial catch reduced
    2. Recreational fishers: reduced bag limits
    3. People will come to south coast
- f. Integration of Government agencies
  - i. Dissolve silos
  - ii. Share information
  - iii. Linkage of State and Federal processes: marine parks and aquaculture zoning
- g. Marine conservation
  - i. Works, but the way it's done
  - ii. To maintain recreational fishing access
  - iii. Marine parks will impact upon tourism
- h. Pollution
  - i. Examples: Ship ballast and invasive species, stormwater, dredge spoil, sewage, nutrient runoff
  - ii. Commercial and external sources
  - iii. Seen and unseen
  - iv. Coastal and land
  - v. Need for environmental monitoring
  - vi. Dredging and spoil: where will it be dumped (spoil grounds), what channel route, what are the impacts, what information is planning based on?
- i. Preservation and recognition of cultural heritage sites and usage
  - i. Interpretive sites (etc) to educate about heritage sites
  - ii. Raise awareness of
- j. Creation of wilderness areas
  - i. Educate community
  - ii. Sensitive management practice
- k. Anchoring in sensitive places
  - i. Need moorings
- l. Aquaculture
  - i. Recognition in planning of potential impacts
  - ii. Keep far from sensitive sites
  - iii. Water monitoring
  - iv. Lease holders conduct assessments: need for independent water quality assessment
  - v. Security of tenure for aquaculture and sea leases
- m. Checks and balances on Government processes
  - i. Who does the work? (consultants, etc)

- n. Coastal development
  - i. Monetary grab with a short term focus
  - ii. Examples: Emu Point, APA channel dredging
  - iii. Managing land use (e.g. Oyster and Princess Royal Harbour)
  - iv. Set-backs
  - v. Launching for boats: not good facilities in Albany
  - vi. Changes to harbour due to port development
  - vii. Waterfront project and cockle bed impacts
  - viii. Seagrass loss
  - ix. Changes to coastal processes
  - x. Land development impacts on catchment
  - xi. All development on deep sewage along coastline (within 1 km)
  - xii. Vegetation degradation
  - xiii. Port expansion and management (harbour dredging)
- o. Community input into planning
  - i. Listen to local knowledge and draw on experience
  - ii. Ensure community has input into future coastal/ marine development
- p. Commercial Fishing
  - i. Resource use/ allocation: sustainable harvest
  - ii. Improve commercial fishing practices and methods used in relation to the recreational value
- q. Cultural heritage
- r. Economic development (value adding)
  - i. Lack of value adding to products (e.g. herring and salmon)
  - ii. Selling ourselves short
  - iii. Where is the support from the Government for developing value adding processes?
  - iv. [Catch 22] requires public money and costs more for consumers
- s. Research
  - i. Needs to be adequate
  - ii. Need more information about physical and biological characteristics of the south coast
- t. Invasive species (shipping)
  - i. Ballast dumping
  - ii. Pollution
- u. Mineral exploration
  - i. Supporting infrastructure needs to be developed to minimise environmental impacts
  - ii. Need to consider and manage human use pressures associated with mineral/ gas developments
- v. Population/ user growth
  - i. Population pressure from west coast
- w. Resourcing
  - i. If more resources are needed for agencies to manage resources then give it to them (otherwise end up with a toothless tiger)
  - ii. Need big fines to have appropriate level of enforcement (evidence of enforcement and a localised focal point)
  - iii. Needed to police recreational fishing
  - iv. Needed to police legislation (enforcement)
  - v. Need people to enforce laws
  - vi. State departments need resources to meet legislative requirements

- x. Socio-economic prioritisation (value judgements)
  - i. Importance of resources placed in monetary terms, not on the value to the community
  - ii. Lack of recognition of social/ cultural value significance
- y. Strategic planning
  - i. Coordination across boundaries, departments, agencies
- z. Additional comments
  - i. RMP: what impact is this going to have?
  - ii. RMP: needs teeth when tabled (e.g. legislative backing)
  - iii. Sustainability for everyone: maintain and protect current practices
  - iv. Restocking denuded areas (shellfish and fish)

## 7) Hopetoun:

- a. Commercial and recreational fisher resource/ spatial allocation/ management
  - i. Zoning
  - ii. Buffer zones
  - iii. Commercial fishers fishing close to shore (need exclusion)
  - iv. Resource allocation between commercial and recreational fishers
  - v. Fish netting rules
  - vi. Illegal take/ fishing needs better policing
  - vii. Need to ensure balance between commercial and recreational fishers in terms of take and areas fished
  - viii. Need catch limits
  - ix. Recreational fishing zones around developed areas, commercial fishing exclusion
    - x. Ensure ecosystem based fisheries management (EBFM) is incorporated into all fisheries management
    - xi. Removal of top of the food chain species by fishing upsets the ecological balance
    - xii. 3 mile net fishing close to shore
    - xiii. Abalone fishing close to shore
    - xiv. Particularly commercial fishing close to town
    - xv. Disparity between recreational bag limits and commercial quotas
    - xvi. Concern about commercial fishing practices
- b. Improvement/ maintenance of coastal infrastructure
  - i. Boat ramps: lack of and coastal safety
  - ii. Establish and maintain for the long-term
  - iii. Need to work out how much is really needed
  - iv. Should levies be raised from inland shires/ users?
  - v. Adequate, safe boating facilities: Hopetoun infrastructure doesn't provide safe shelter, wasn't built to design, major safety issues
  - vi. Artificial reefs for coastal protection as well as for fishing and diving
- c. Coastal recreational vehicle management (public safety, coastal degradation)
  - i. Jet skis, dirt/ trail bikes, ATVs, off-road vehicles
  - ii. Need spatial closures/ designated areas
  - iii. Community safety (families and kids)
  - iv. Conflicting management of

- v. Needs planning for recreational vehicle management
- vi. Disturb habitat, safety issue for other recreationalists
- vii. Dune erosion
- viii. Speeding
- ix. Zone out of town or defined areas for such activities
- x. Education for consequence of actions
- xi. Management/ enforcement – who is responsible for?
- xii. Education on values of area and why they need to be protected
- xiii. Code of conduct for 4x4 and bike clubs
- xiv. Preventing coastal degradation through unsuitable use of recreational motor vehicles
- xv. Coastal vehicle management, dune stabilisation
- d. Education and awareness
  - i. Incorporate education better into marine and coast
  - ii. Improve signage and local Government/ agency regulation
  - iii. No set protocol
  - iv. People willing to do the right thing if they know what it is
  - v. Combat ignorance
  - vi. Emphasise moral obligation to look after the marine/ coastal environment
  - vii. Incorporate into school curriculum
  - viii. Must be an ongoing process
  - ix. Clear rules, well advertised
  - x. Motorbikes and litter
  - xi. Promotion and awareness, not only within the immediate area, but in broader areas (e.g. Kalgoorlie)
  - xii. Fishing community
  - xiii. Education on values of area and why they need to be protected
  - xiv. Research
    - 1. Authoritative papers
    - 2. Decide what is most important to know for the future
    - 3. Topography of the ocean (channels, movement, fish, currents)
- e. Pollution and rubbish
  - i. Marine debris
- f. Catchment management
  - i. To protect estuaries
  - ii. Address now
  - iii. Nutrient management and responsible use of fertilisers
  - iv. Sediments
  - v. Chemicals
  - vi. Sediment, nutrient flows, measurements of weed degradation: these flow out to sea and affect marine environment
  - vii. Impacts need to be researched
  - viii. Common misconceptions
  - ix. Catchment management integration with coastal planning: protection and users
- g. Conservation of marine environment for future (nursery breeding)
  - i. Conservation of coral, marine life important as is degenerating
  - ii. Something needs to be done to preserve
  - iii. Need nursery area protection for certain species to breed
  - iv. Adequate marine conservation
  - v. Conservation of environment for future

- h. Coastal access
  - i. Dune stabilisation
  - ii. Cost of access and camping
  - iii. Is sufficient
  - iv. Management
  - v. Recognise the dynamic nature of dune systems (e.g. blowouts)
  - vi. Sufficient access to/ through National Parks (e.g. Fitzgerald)
  - vii. Can't get access to clean beaches: rubbish gets redistributed
  - viii. Access for management and policing
  - ix. Some areas need better access, but with good management
  - x. Avoid closing down areas completely: walkers still use areas
  - xi. Look at adequate plans for usage of coastal areas
- i. Coastal development and integration with offshore development (petroleum)
- j. Aboriginal sites
  - i. Aboriginal sites need to be protected (e.g. fish traps and middens in sand dunes)
- k. Biosecurity
  - i. management of imports and exports (transferable oceans)
- l. Climate change
  - i. Forward planning for sea level rise, coastal setbacks, etc
- m. Coastal processes
  - i. Coastal erosion (Masons Bay, 12 Mile)
- n. Communication and engagement
  - i. Shire to listen to community
  - ii. Lack of communication between local and State Governments
  - iii. Need to engage early in process
- o. Dieback [*P. cinnamomi*]
  - i. Threat from dieback
- p. Increasing population pressures
  - i. Population pressure creates more strain on infrastructure: tracks, beaches, toilets (need better management of people)
  - ii. Population pressures on resources: natural resources, boat ramps etc.
- q. Maritime heritage
  - i. Maritime heritage values
- r. SCRMSPP flexibility
  - i. Draft plan should be a flexible working document
- s. Spatial management of marine uses
  - i. Spatial management of marine user groups

## 8) Bremer Bay:

- a. Marine Park placement (away from population centres)
  - i. Concern about the impact, local and tourist fishing community
  - ii. Placement away from population areas (e.g. adjacent to the Fitzgerald National Park)
  - iii. Not to clash with recreational fishers (e.g. Cape Knob vs Point Henry)
  - iv. Sanctuary zones; rotational
- b. Increased education and awareness
  - i. Education about how the fisheries ecosystem works for fishers; informal and formal combination approach to education.
  - ii. Educating children
  - iii. Cultural shift needs to occur

- iv. Fishing rules; particularly in areas without compliance resources
- c. Enforcement of fishing regulations
  - i. Monitoring and enforcement of recreational fishing needs to get serious, be better and more effectively managed (e.g. Minnesota laws: boats get confiscated and auctioned, money goes to fisheries management and owner must buy boat back if wants it)
  - ii. Government needs a spine
  - iii. Poaching (e.g. abalone, sea dragons, groper) for aquariums
  - iv. Levy on recreational fishing so more money for resources and marine management
  - v. More inspectors, etc
- d. Resourcing marine ecosystem research, education and monitoring
  - i. Solid research on recreational fishing: ecological systematics of recreational fishing, bag limits; when you can and can't catch fish; need to know definitively what is okay (bag limits seem too big)
- e. Catchment management
  - i. Catchment influence on ribbon weed; ~20% cover in Dylan Bay where no estuary influence, ~80% cover in Bremer Bay where estuary influence
- f. Estuary fisheries management
  - i. Removing commercial gill netting inside estuaries
- g. Appropriate boating infrastructure
  - i. Should heed local knowledge in design and modification: Bremer Bay harbour wasn't completed and designed properly, gets surge and filling with sand (beach negatively affected)
- h. Protecting aesthetic/ wilderness values
- i. Defining sustainable marine ecosystems
- j. Habitat destruction
  - i. Chains doing damage (fishing)
- k. Understanding full economic value of fisheries for education and enforcement
  - i. Increased for recreational
- l. Aquaculture development that is controlled
  - i. Push fish farming, but with controls (precautionary principle, e.g. pilchards virus and ecosystem effects)
  - ii. Pipes releasing water from abalone farms should be further out and not so close to shore (aesthetic issue)
- m. Seeking local knowledge on marine environment for marine planning
- n. Spatial allocation for recreational and commercial fishers (in high use areas)
  - i. Commercial/ net fishing shouldn't be allowed in certain areas/ distances from shore; shouldn't come close to shore
  - ii. Zone close to shore (e.g. 2-3 km from shore) that can't be commercially fished
  - iii. Separation of commercial and recreational fishing
  - iv. Recognition of tourist recreational fishing in coastal town areas
  - v. Recognising shifting values towards higher recreational value for some fish resources
  - vi. Fishing is increasing for recreational fishers
- o. Access to fish resources
  - i. Bremer Bay is special because close and safe deep bays

- ii. Recreational fishers are generally educated on sustainable practices
- p. Biosecurity
  - i. Ballast water contamination
- q. Additional comments
  - i. Economics of fisheries needs to be determined to ascertain what needs to be communicated in terms of education, conservation, measures, monitoring and enforcement
  - ii. Getting this right will enable us to be world class premium nature experience forever; used not abused, care about your ocean, good for tourism on a world scale
  - iii. Defining what a sustainable marine system entails (commercial and recreational), and then putting in the resources to adequately monitor, educate, research and enforce.
  - iv. Oil and gas exploration: where and impacts?
  - v. Population pressures: more and bigger boats
  - vi. Shark nets should be converted to hooks, shark fishing nursery grounds

## 9) Denmark:

- a. Inlet management
  - i. Artificial openings
    1. Impacts on surfing
    2. Should be opened before winter to allow more flushing (also better for surfing)
    3. Effect on coastal biodiversity
    4. Effect on fishing
    5. Effect on adjacent farmers
    6. Concern that opening/ not opening is done for a minority group
  - ii. Protection of inlets is essential
  - iii. Management and protection need enforceable guidelines
  - iv. Water supply for Denmark and impact on inlet: river water being taken for water supply may affect Wilson Inlet, links with population pressure
- b. Wind farm impacts
  - i. Vehicle access to coast
  - ii. Infrastructure impacts
  - iii. Tourism impacts
  - iv. Visual amenity
  - v. Birds and other biodiversity
- c. Planning for population pressure
  - i. Planning for shock increases (e.g. Hopetoun)
  - ii. Planning for impacts on biodiversity
  - iii. Planning developments to account for sea level rise
  - iv. South coast is unique by not having much coastal development; need to plan to keep that
- d. Coastal access
  - i. Less 4WD tracks; better constructed, less of them, too many on beaches
  - ii. Don't want certain access in (e.g. closing off tracks/ restrictions) (e.g. at Parry's, Bremer Bay, Hillier)
  - iii. Limited access to coast (especially vehicle access)

- iv. Peaceful Bay is a logical access point for designated boat ramp
- v. Ocean Beach should not be shut off
- vi. Limit undesignated access to coast (e.g. vehicles), and decent infrastructure where access is allowed (e.g. bins)
- vii. Having coastal access (vehicles)
- viii. Maintain coastal access
- e. Improved research/ education for marine environment
  - i. A good body of evidence to determine protective zones
  - ii. Include estuaries
  - iii. Making it available
  - iv. Comprehensive
  - v. A good case
  - vi. Coasts, weeds, rubbish
  - vii. Need social research
  - viii. Coordinated
- f. Management/ education on recreational fishing impacts
- g. Statutory backing for Regional Marine Planning
  - i. There is an ability to ignore it, the strategy should be a requirement (e.g. councils and corporate bodies must refer to it before any action)
  - ii. Need for legislation and a statutory declaration where people must refer to the strategic plan, need for a requirement to refer to it
  - iii. Need for overall integration
  - iv. Don't want a strategic plan with no teeth
  - v. 10 years review
  - vi. Some specifics we know well enough, e.g. recreational fishing specifics could be --- acting now on identifying protection zones if recognised by the community (e.g. aquatics vs fishing in Greens Pool: recognised but not wait for a 10 year process).
  - vii. Some needs are urgent
  - viii. Are we going to have a plan that has teeth/ is enforceable?
- h. Supporting local produce/ commercial fishers
  - i. Commercial fishing supplying local market
  - ii. Buying local produce/ supporting local producers
  - iii. Inherently a sustainable practice as a way of operating
  - iv. Peak oil: need to promote local produce (e.g. transport issues with increased cost and decreased supply)
- i. Setbacks for coastal development
  - i. Identification of adequate buffer zone between land and marine: a matter of concern
  - ii. Enforceable regional planning scheme for coastal zones: education and guidelines for councils to assist councillors in making decisions on development applications
  - iii. What needs to be considered in development applications?
  - iv. Need a coastal setback that is enforced
  - v. Council policy isn't strong enough to protect the coast from coastal development
  - vi. Moratorium needed on creating buffer zones on coastal development until plan (SCRMSP), community consultation, and legislation is complete
  - vii. Buy back private land in coastal zone
  - viii. Coastal development setback: moratorium as a temporary solution until legislation with teeth comes in

- ix. Planning Commission's coastal policy has been overruled by the Minister for Planning and Infrastructure
- j. Resources for management of coastal and marine usage
  - i. Effectiveness of management
  - ii. Resources for management and compliance
  - iii. For coastal protection
- k. Communication between all stakeholder groups
  - i. Communities have to be listened to
  - ii. Including Government
  - iii. Understand all user groups, not selected user groups (e.g. motorbikes vs cars, jet skis vs boats, spearfishing vs boat fishing)
- l. Public education
  - i. Visuals, simple language: to advise how they can use/ manage
  - ii. On behaviours that degrade the environment (e.g. littering and 4WD)
  - iii. Encouraging responsible and sustainable use
- m. Resource access (e.g. fish stocks)
  - i. Use without abuse
  - ii. Maintain resource access
  - iii. Locking up areas causes fewer areas/ resources to be more heavily exploited
- n. Zoning of recreational uses
  - i. Multiuse activities need better management (e.g. surfing, jet skis, boats), occupying the same space (e.g. Ocean Beach boat entry)
  - ii. Designating areas for specific activities
  - iii. For conflicting uses (boats, jet skis)
  - iv. Beach access, vehicle use, fishing pressures, camping, conservation areas
  - v. Reserves need to be flexible (e.g. move them around to meet user needs, temporary exclusion zones)
- o. Boat infrastructure
  - i. Don't want
  - ii. Coastal safety issue: lack of capacity to operate in Southern Ocean (e.g. Denmark sea rescue)
- p. Mining impacts
  - i. Hopetoun: drawing water from ocean for mining, what are they doing with it and what restrictions are there on it?
  - ii. Overall impact of mining use of water from ocean water: where does it go, how is it managed and is it sustainable?
- q. Catchment management
  - i. Catchment management
  - ii. Waste water control: not into inlet/ ocean
  - iii. Resolution of inland and ocean waters and their management
- r. Climate change
  - i. Sea level rise and coastal development impacts, decreased rainfall and catchment impacts
- s. Development
  - i. (e.g. lime pit: shire leaves damage done by), needs to be better management of development, strong legislation (e.g. you can't put a bulldozer in to make your survey lines)
- t. Loss of biomass/ biodiversity
  - i. Greens Pool seems to have less fish etc, links with population pressure

- u. Marine Parks/ sanctuary zones
  - i. Sanctuary zones need to be backed by strong scientific evidence and community consultation
  - ii. Care in planning process where Marine Parks are placed in relation to boat ramps
- v. Research/ information to justify management actions
  - i. Lack research to justify management restrictions/ actions (locking up areas), e.g. Parry's has multiuse: dogs, horses, and abundant wildlife
- w. Tourism
  - i. Retaining natural values for long-term and keep people coming back
- x. Additional comments
  - i. Management of shire lands and reserves
  - ii. Shire sustainable development
  - iii. Better definition of usage allowed in estuarine and marine areas

#### 10) Augusta:

- a. Catchment management
  - i. Salinity management programs for upstream feed into south coast catchments
  - ii. Pesticide spraying
  - iii. Health of river and what is causing it; how it got to that state; not sure putting a cut through the beach is the answer
  - iv. Need deep sewers (septic tank impacts)
  - v. Better practice farming activities
  - vi. Water allocation and extraction
  - vii. Septics and sewage: better waste management
- b. Impacts of increased population pressures (i.e. recreation, boating activities, marinas)
  - i. Increased population and usage pressure
- c. Impacts of bar openings
  - i. Should be left to natural cycles
- d. Marine infrastructure
  - i. Boat ramps/ access (Flat Rocks marina/ boat ramp proposed in 1985)
  - ii. Better marine infrastructure: for recreational and commercial fishing, sea rescue, safe boating facilities
  - iii. Marine radio coverage: repeater station network not complete
  - iv. Marina construction: need to consider impacts (e.g. increased boating, recreational use)
  - v. Boat ramp infrastructure
- e. Communication (education and information sharing)
  - i. Communication of the roles of Government agencies (who handles what?)
  - ii. Need for a centralised point for identifying management agencies responsible for "anything"
  - iii. Education centre with communication points for finding out what is going on
  - iv. Public education of all sectors especially about commercial fishing
  - v. On commercial fishing management
  - vi. Information points for disseminating sectoral information

- vii. Communication strategy (whole of Government)
- viii. Mason Point pipeline blasting: no one knew about it
- ix. Open process: education for all sectors
- x. Integrating cross-regional community meetings/ communication
- xi. Regional level information network for all coastal issues/ development etc
- xii. Internet based distribution/ access point
- f. Coordinated and transparent planning processes
  - i. Work with all stakeholders
  - ii. Better integration of Local Government planning: between Local Governments, within State framework, etc, for emergency management, marine environment impact management
- g. Terrestrial pollution
  - i. Links to catchment management
- h. Acknowledgment of recreational uses
- i. Coastal access
  - i. Safe boating access, better coastal access for people
- j. Compliance
- k. Fisheries management
  - i. Better policing of fishery management regulations
  - ii. Re-establish the mile exclusion limit for commercial fisheries
  - iii. Investigate different fishery management strategies: be aware of impacts of some fisher management regulations such as effort displacement effects
- l. Marine parks
  - i. Protection of breeding/ nursery areas
- m. Military use
  - i. Underground cable, submarines: affect on sonar for whales and fish
- n. Mining
  - i. Oil exploration, affect of sonar technology on marine life
- o. Pollution
  - i. Protection of marine habitats: from terrestrial runoff; oil spill response
  - ii. Impacts of aquaculture waste: toxic waster from abalone farms, fish farms, etc
- p. Research
  - i. More research into river health [catchment management]
- q. SCRMSPP effectiveness
  - i. Does RMP set guidelines for issues such as coastal settlement?
  - ii. Is RMP going to be effective (frameworks and guidelines)?
  - iii. Is Government pro-industry?
  - iv. When will we see impact/ influence of SCRMSPP?

## Appendix 3: Written comments in response to community workshops

The following three submissions were received in response to the series of ten community workshops. Further comments received will form part of an additional comments compendium.

### **Hopetoun community workshop written submission summary:**

- i. Apply the same criteria that have been applied when planning public use of the beaches in National Parks (e.g. Fitzgerald River National Park) in planning the usage of other beaches.
- ii. The same criteria that are used in deciding the location of areas designated for public use and the ultimate design of the resulting infrastructure should be applied to any other beach environment that the community desires to, and should, preserve for all time.
- iii. Use of motor vehicles, including four-wheeled motor bicycles; damage to the beach environment immediately to the west of Hopetoun.
- iv. Beaches should be off-bounds for all vehicles, except those required in emergencies.
- v. Vehicles on beaches are a hazard especially for children and older people.
- vi. The best way to ensure that coastal areas are protected is to set development back from the coast to create a natural buffer area (against the harmful effects of human use) which includes at least the first set of dunes.
- vii. Protect the coast ... by restricting access, restoring exposed sandy areas and retaining foredunes in their natural state. To implement this ... fencing to restrict vehicles and control pedestrian access (e.g. continuous or discontinuous low railings, horizontal logs, bollards, low walls, closely-spaced trees/ bollards or rocks)

### **Denmark community workshop written submission summary:**

- i. Boat launching facilities are limited on the south coast for the very good reason that the Southern Ocean is fairly unpredictable and dangerous.
- ii. Recreational and commercial fishing do substantial damage to marine and estuarine ecosystems.
- iii. Not support the establishment of additional boating access.
- iv. Reducing fishing activity to give the local fish a chance.
- v. The effect of nutrients and pollutants dumped into the ocean from inlets (e.g. Wilson Inlet in particular is of concern).
- vi. Population growth in this fragile part of Australia is already excessive.
- vii. A moratorium on all coastal developments ... there is a lot of development (residential and industrial) happening, much of which we may well regret in the future, given the increasing value of coastal buffers, reducing rainfall, and growing appreciation of the right of all ecosystems to exist other than as a resource to be exploited.

- viii. [Additional issues identified]
  - 1. Effects of sewerage and chemicals on human health and the environment.
  - 2. The destruction of habitats and their physical alteration.
  - 3. Overfishing and its effects on the environment.
  - 4. Increasing eutrophication.
  - 5. Changes to hydrology and sediments.

**Eucla community written comment summary:**

- i. Public Access
  - 1. Must be controlled with signage and information.
  - 2. Need to maintain access to avoid people making their own tracks.
  - 3. Revegetate unused or closed tracks.
  - 4. Signage should be in place to promote community understanding of damage caused by uncontrolled access and the benefits of rehabilitation of the coastal area.
- ii. Signage
  - 1. Signs should be used to promote attractions of particular areas (e.g. cultural or historical sites of importance).
  - 2. Use signs to promote reasons for controlled access.
  - 3. Use signs to promote the benefits of management actions.
- iii. Commercial fishing
  - 1. A three nautical mile closure from the beach should be implemented for commercial net fishing.
- iv. Coastal development
  - 1. There should be no further coastal development in the area.
- v. Education
  - 1. Education programs need to be developed to raise awareness of the impacts of human use.

## Appendix 4: Community workshop invitations

**Regional marine planning for WA's south coast**

### Community workshop invitation

Have your say in regional marine planning for WA's south coast

The marine environment of Western Australia's south coast is one of Western Australia's natural treasures and provides a range of social, environmental, economic and cultural values. The WA Government's South Coast Regional Marine Planning process aims to ensure the many benefits of this unique resource are available for all time.

A series of community workshops will provide an opportunity to find out more about the planning process and to provide input on the things that are most important to you in the sustainable use of the south coast marine environment. Everyone is welcome to attend and provide their perspective on the issues of importance.

Workshops will be held from 7.00pm – 9.30pm in the following places:

**2007**

Esperance	Wednesday 10 October	Esperance Bay Yacht Club
Kalgoorlie	Thursday 11 October	Kalgoorlie Town Hall Banquet Room
Manjimup	Monday 22 October	The Gallery (Community Centre)
Kojonup	Tuesday 23 October	Shire Memorial/Lesser Hall
Albany	Wednesday 24 October	Princess Royal Sailing Club
Perth	Monday 12 November	(venue to be advised)

**2008**

Workshops will be held in:

Hopetoun on Wednesday 16 January;  
 Bremer Bay on Thursday 17 January;  
 Denmark on Wednesday 23 January and  
 Augusta on Thursday 24 January.

Venue details will be made available in the relevant newspapers closer to the dates.

We look forward to your participation in this important initiative.  
 Light refreshments will be provided.

For more information or to register your interest in attending the workshop, please contact Peter van Schoubroeck on 9842 4500.

Figure 2: Community workshop invitation flier for 2007.

## Appendix 5: Community feedback form

<b>COMMUNITY WORKSHOP FEEDBACK Hopetoun 16<sup>th</sup> January 2008</b>		
<b>Content</b>		
Too much	Just about right	Too little
<b>Pace</b>		
Too much	Just about right	Too little
<b>Level of information</b>		
Too much	Just about right	Too little
<b>What was the most beneficial aspect to you?</b>		
_____		
_____		
_____		
<b>What could have been improved?</b>		
_____		
_____		
_____		
<b>Any other comments?</b>		
_____		
_____		
_____		

Figure 3: Community workshop feedback form.