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Top right Little penguin
Photo - Samille Mitchell/DBCA
Far right Recreational fishing
Photo - Adobe Stock
Right Bottlenose dolphins
Photo - iStockphoto.com



The south coast marine environment supports vast kelp forests, productive reefs and islands. The area is home to marine species found nowhere else such as the ruby sea dragon. It is also home to southern right whale nursery areas, and seal and sea lion colonies.

Esperance and Bremer Bay are renowned tourist destinations and gateways for visitors to explore the region's beaches and waters. The south coast's natural rugged beauty, stunning beaches, spectacular turquoise waters and abundant marine wildlife offer a variety of attractions and opportunities for cultural and nature-based tourism. Visitors can enjoy a range of recreational activities including whale watching, kayaking, boating, fishing and beach walking. The south coast also

supports a number of commercial fisheries targeting a variety of species.

Aboriginal cultural values and traditional ecological knowledge will be incorporated into management decision making across the park. This arrangement will help to ensure there are appropriate levels of protection and use of marine resources that optimise the range of benefits that flow to the community from the marine park.

The proposed park extends from Bremer Bay east to the South Australian border, and offshore to the limit of State waters. State waters around offshore islands are also included in the marine park.

The indicative management plans and zoning schemes have been released for public comment. Substantial areas of the proposed marine park will remain open for commercial and recreational fishing and there are significant opportunities for nature-based tourism, which will support and diversify the economy and create jobs in Esperance and other towns. Sanctuary zones are proposed in areas of high ecological importance. Extensive consultation over the proposed zoning scheme has been undertaken with a range of stakeholders, including recreational and commercial fishers, to ensure the zoning scheme strikes the right balance for all stakeholders between protection of the marine environment and ongoing sustainable uses.



Protecting the globally significant marine biodiversity along Western Australia's south coast is proposed as part of the State Government's Plan for Our Parks initiative.

Plan to protect our great southern marine life and habitats

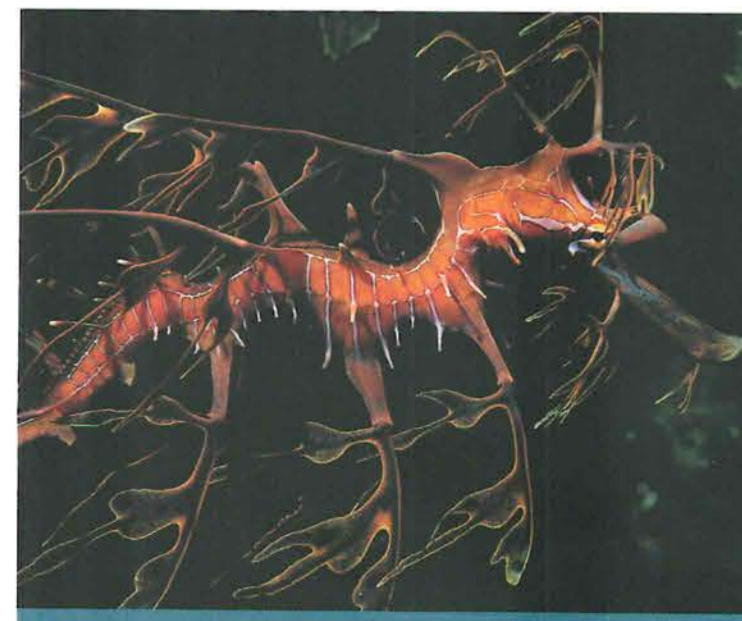
Have your say on the proposed South Coast Marine Park

You are invited to Have Your Say on indicative management plans for the proposed South Coast Marine Park.

Developed in partnership with Traditional Owners and stakeholders, the four indicative plans align with four Native Title determination areas: Wagyl Kaip Southern Noongar, Wudjari, Ngadju and Mirning. Importantly, these four marine areas will be managed as one interconnected ecological system.

Public comment is open for four months until **Sunday 16 June 2024**.

The plans can be viewed and downloaded at dbca.wa.gov.au/pscmp



What happens after public submissions close?

Your submission is an important contribution to the planning process. All public submissions for the indicative management plans will be reviewed and may result in modifications to the management plans.

The final management plans for the proposed South Coast Marine Park, modified as appropriate in light of public comments, will be submitted to the Minister for Environment for approval. The Minister for Environment must also seek concurrence from the Minister for Fisheries and the Minister for Mines and Petroleum before the marine park is gazetted and the final management plans are released.

A summary of the public submissions received and how the plans were modified in light of submissions will be made available when the final management plans are released.

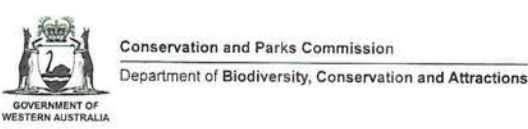
To have your say

dbca.wa.gov.au/pscmp

Written submissions will also be accepted via post at

Department of Biodiversity, Conservation and Attractions
Aboriginal Engagement, Planning and Lands Branch
Locked Bag 104
Bentley Delivery Centre WA 6983

Email enquiries: pscmp@dbca.wa.gov.au



Cover Leafy seadragon.
Photo - courtesy of Peter Nicholas

Previous page Southern right whale mother and calf.
Photo - Peter Nicholas/DBCA

Information current at February 2024.
This document is available in alternative formats on request.





The indicative management plans

The indicative management plans detail how the proposed marine park will be managed to conserve and promote Aboriginal culture and heritage, enhance marine conservation and support a range of opportunities for sustainable recreational and commercial uses.

The plans include:

- descriptions of the cultural, ecological and social values of each area
- specific management objectives
- management strategies to be implemented, including education and interpretation, zoning schemes and access arrangements
- key performance indicators to help assess effectiveness in achieving the planned objectives.

Beach fishing, four-wheel driving and dogs

Beach fishing, four-wheel driving and dog exercising are popular activities along the south coast.

The indicative management plans covering the proposed South Coast Marine Park do not propose any changes to existing four-wheel driving along the beaches, and there are no proposed changes to existing dog accessible areas.

Locals and visitors can continue fishing from the shore, with a large majority of the coastline still open to beach fishing.

The indicative management plans are proposing sanctuary zones, which provide the highest level of protection for marine plants and animals, in approximately 25 percent of the proposed marine park, but they will impact only about 22 percent of the mainland coast (excluding estuaries and islands) in the proposed park.

Following the public submission period, consideration will be given to moving the boundaries of some sanctuary zones 200 metres from the mainland high water mark to allow for commercial and recreational fishing from and close to the shore.



Top left Esperance Tjaltjraak Traditional Owners.
Photo – ETNTAC

Top Long-nosed fur seal pup on Salisbury Island.
Photo – Andy McGregor/ETNTAC

Above Bremer Bay fish and corals.
Photo – Claire Ross

Below left Snorkelling near Woody Island.
Photo – Tourism WA

PROPOSED SOUTH COAST MARINE PARK

Have Your Say

