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From: DBCA & DPIRD <no-reply@newsletters.dbca.wa.gov.au>
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Welcome to the 8th issue of the
Proposed South Coast Marine Park newsletter



Little Tagon Bay, Cape Arid National Park. Photo – Carolyn Thomson-Dans

Have your say on the proposed South Coast Marine Park

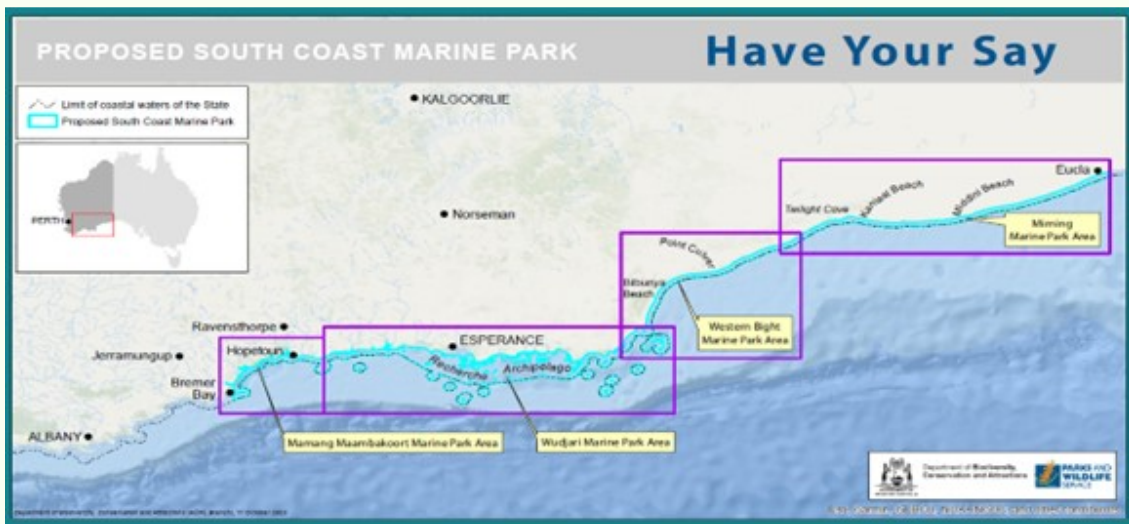
You can now have your say on four closely related indicative management plans that collectively form the proposed South Coast Marine Park. There is a separate management plan for each native title area to allow for joint management arrangements with the four Traditional Owner groups. Importantly, these four marine areas will be managed as one interconnected ecological system.

Please **have your say** on the indicative management plans and proposed zoning.

Your feedback is important, and all feedback will be considered. The marine park will not be created until the final management plans, including final boundaries and zoning schemes, are approved by the Ministers for Environment; Fisheries; and Mines and Petroleum.

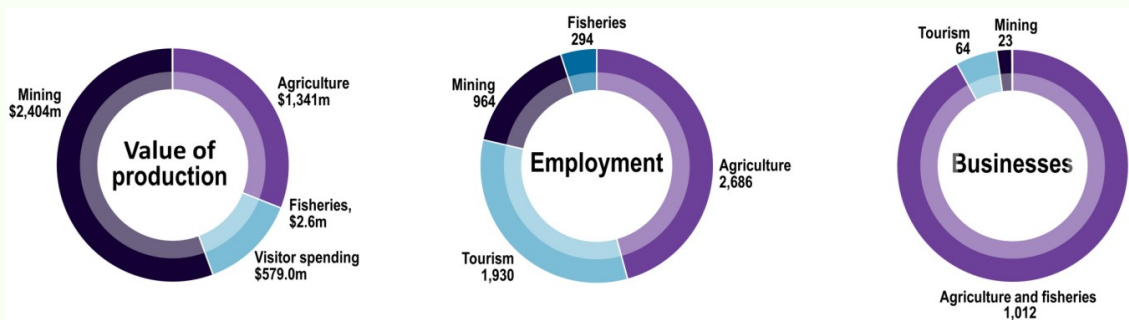
The public comment period will be open for four months, closing on Sunday 16 June 2024.

[Have your say now](#)



Socio-economic evaluation of the South Coast

The Department of Biodiversity, Conservation and Attractions (DBCA) commissioned ACIL Allen to undertake a socio-economic profile of the South Coast region and a literature search of the impacts of marine parks in other parts of the world. View or [download the full study](#) and [summary brochure](#).



Agriculture, fishing, mining and tourism all contribute important economic value to the South Coast economy. Image – ACIL Allen



Four-wheel driving on the South Coast. Photo – L-A Shibish

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.

Sanctuary zones, which provide the highest level of protection for marine plants and animals, are proposed for approximately 25 per cent of the proposed marine park but will impact only about 22 per cent of the mainland coast (excluding estuaries and islands). These 'look but don't take' areas are the only zones that prohibit all types of fishing and collecting, and mineral and petroleum extraction. People can continue to enjoy nature-based activities such as wildlife watching, diving, snorkelling and boating in sanctuary zones.

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.



Beach fishing on the South Coast. Photo – Tourism WA

The science of marine park planning

Have you ever wondered how marine planners go about designing WA's marine park network and why certain areas are selected for inclusion in different zones?

Multiple-use marine parks in WA are designed using principles based on national and international criteria, accepted conservation planning principles and the latest knowledge from scientific research. Under the *Conservation and Land Management Act 1984*, they need to meet the key ecological, cultural and sustainable use objectives of marine parks.

Please visit DBCA's [marine planning](#) webpage to download the *Summary of design principles guiding WA's marine park network* and the *Design principles guiding WA's marine park network* documents for more information.



Snorkelling in the proposed marine park near Woody Island. Photo – Tourism WA

Sanctuary zones

In WA, marine parks are zoned using one or more zone types: general use, special purpose, recreation and sanctuary zones.

General use zones will make up the vast majority of the proposed South Coast Marine Park.

Sanctuary zones are 'look, but don't take' areas managed solely for nature conservation and low impact recreation and tourism and are proposed to form about 25% of the proposed park. They provide the highest level of protection for vulnerable or protected species and important habitats, as extractive activities like recreational fishing, commercial fishing and collecting are excluded.

Sanctuary zones are fantastic places to enjoy snorkelling or diving, as they tend to be placed in areas with the most spectacular marine wildlife and underwater landscapes. They are designed to protect the full range of marine plants and animals in a particular area, along with significant habitats such as reefs, seagrass meadows and rocky shores. Sanctuary zones provide safe places for threatened marine animals and protect economically important nursery areas for a range of species such as rock lobsters and schooling areas for fish. They are often adjacent to islands where seabirds, sea lions and penguins go ashore to breed.

Everyone is encouraged to visit and enjoy sanctuary zones, with snorkelling, scuba diving, boating, swimming, water sports such as surfing, kayaking, windsurfing, kite surfing, stand up paddle boarding, and low impact tourism like whale watching and sea lion viewing welcome in these areas.

Sanctuary zones are also important for scientists to be able to monitor relatively undisturbed marine environments, which they can compare to adjacent areas where fishing is allowed.

To ensure your submission is as effective as possible:

- be clear and concise
- refer your points to the page numbers or specific sections in the plan
- say whether you agree or disagree with any or all of the management objectives and strategies – clearly state your reasons, particularly if you disagree
- give sources of information where possible
- suggest alternatives for those aspects of the plan with which you disagree
- be respectful – submissions with abusive or racist comments will not be accepted.

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 plan.

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 created and the final management plans released.

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

[Find out more about the Proposed South Coast marine park](#)

Photos in header image:

Top: Southern right whales by Dave and Fiona Harvey

Left to right: Sea star by Peter Nicholas. Boat by Black Jack Charters. Snorkelling at Woody Island by Tourism WA. Leafy seadragon by Peter Nicholas. Fishing on the south coast by Tourism WA

The Government of Western Australia acknowledges the traditional owners throughout Western Australia and their continuing connection to the land, waters and community. We pay our respects to all members of the Aboriginal communities and their cultures; and to Elders past, present and

emerging.

In particular, DBCA and DPIRD acknowledge the traditional owners and native title holders in the study area for the proposed south coast marine park; the Esperance Nyungars, Wagyl Kaip Southern Noongar, Ngadju People, and WA Mirning People.



Department of **Biodiversity, Conservation and Attractions**
Department of **Primary Industries and Regional Development**

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