

Proposed South Coast Marine Park

Community Information Sessions Responses to Questions

Session 1: Albany – 11th October 2021

Question	Response
<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Weather here is the greatest protector of our south coast 2. Has the weather patterns and the way it protects the marine environment been considered. 3. Does the consistent exposure of strong winds, large swells and limited launching areas somewhat already protect these areas? 	<p>Weather is a moderating factor on recreational and commercial fishing, as well as other activities. However, adverse weather and ocean conditions are not enough to properly protect entire marine ecosystems.</p> <p>The Department of Primary Industries and Regional Development (DPIRD) use a range of input and output controls to ensure that our fish stocks are sustainable, which include tools such as bag and size limits, licences, gear restrictions, seasons etc.</p> <p>DPIRD continues fisheries management, within and outside of marine parks. Marine parks work alongside fisheries management and environmental protection laws to keep our aquatic environment and marine ecosystems healthy and resilient.</p>
<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 4. Why has the area from Albany to Bremer Bay and the estuaries and inlets being left out. Is this a political decision or did you envisage too much resistance and conflict? 5. If there is a strong desire from the community in Albany, would the labor government change the area to include Albany and it's estuaries? 6. Why is Albany not included in the Marine Park? 7. Why aren't the marine parks including Albany and it's estuaries? We also need these areas understood researched and managed 	<p>A decision was made to focus on a broad area within the south coast, not the entirety of the south coast, as running a full planning process over its entirety was not going to be feasible within time and resource limits, particularly during a time of covid related restrictions. As the Recherche Archipelago and Fitzgerald areas contain the highest biodiversity values, this was the area chosen on a priority basis, as well as the area to the east as it is in a different bioregion (Eucla bioregion).</p>

<p>8. What has happened in the south coast marine systems that has influenced climate change. How will the marine park change the outcome.</p> <p>9. How does a marine park manage changes in fish assemblages due to climate change.</p>	<p>Marine parks do not prevent climate change but they do provide the opportunity to build resilience by building healthy marine ecosystems. Having marine parks means monitoring will occur and this can be an early warning system for otherwise undetected impacts and changes in the environment.</p> <p>Protection of pockets of biodiversity will provide resilience to our marine environment. We cannot prevent climate change and other external factors. However, if we have pockets of resilient and near-natural habitat, our ocean systems will be better able to withstand other pressures that are placed upon them.</p>
<p>10. Albany has the oldest historic fishing families in the area, how are you going to recognise there rights</p> <p>11. Do you recognise that commercial fishing in July came under new management plan and the fish fleet now is 100 hundred operators from Augusta to Eucla.</p>	<p>Fishing is recognised as a very important activity and contributor to the regional economies and communities and the proposed south coast marine park (PSCMP) will to seek to minimise impacts on commercial and recreational fishing.</p> <p>Commercial fishing rights are recognised as part of the marine planning process. The plan is to try and avoid important commercial fishing spots where possible, while protecting different habitats via sanctuary zones in different areas. So we do need the information from commercial fishers to understand where those key locations are in order to avoid them where possible.</p> <p>Both the Department of Biodiversity, Conservation and Attractions (DBCA) and DPIRD are aware of commercial fishing changes in the area and the other recent changes to fisheries management as a result of Commonwealth marine parks and restrictions related to sea lions. It should be understood that marine parks are not fisheries management tools.</p>

<p>12. Why do we need a marine park to protect fish stocks isn't that fisheries job. They already have state wide bag limits and zone restrictions based in sustainability why do we need more restrictions</p> <p>13. What does the research say for long established marine parks of the overall biomass increase/decrease of fish regularly taken? Eg increased pressure in take zones. Net effect biomass same/lower/higher</p> <p>14. Many/most south coast fish species we fish for move about. Some are pelagic. What does the research reveal in the biomass benefits for those species across the whole marine park, not just no take zone</p> <p>15. If the research is valid for size and bag limits to sustain the species biomass then why have no take zones for recreational fishing?</p>	<p>Marine parks are not a fisheries management tool. DPIRD use a range of input and output controls to ensure that our fish stocks are sustainable, which include tools such as bag and size limits, licences, gear restrictions, seasons etc.</p> <p>Research and monitoring of the health of our fish stocks is undertaken by the Aquatic Science and Assessment team at DPIRD as part of their role in sustainable fisheries management. DPIRD monitors and assesses fish resources at the stock level to inform fishery management and will continue to do so both within and outside the PSCMP.</p> <p>DPIRD reports annually on the status of fish stock in WA. The State of the fisheries report 2019-20 states that 98% of WA's fish stocks are not at risk from fishing.</p> <p>DPIRD continues fisheries management, within and outside of marine parks. Marine parks work alongside fisheries management and environmental protection laws to keep our aquatic environment and marine ecosystems healthy and resilient.</p>
<p>16. What are you trying to protect? We had same meeting here four years ago.</p>	<p>The south coast marine environment is unique and worthy of protection. Marine parks protect against future pressures and can act as an insurance policy. Research and monitoring of the marine park can detect changes and facilitate adaptive management.</p>
<p>17. You stand here tell us this but how do we believe in what you're saying with the previous marine parks debacle in the Kimberley & Ngari capes which is still not sorted and has been inept from start to present</p>	<p>Statement. Noted.</p>
<p>18. Why more estuary to be bought under marine parks when there is already numerous estuary closed on south coast which is ample</p>	<p>Fishing (including in estuaries) is recognised as a very important activity and contributor to the regional economies and communities and the PSCMP will to seek to minimise impacts on commercial and recreational fishing.</p> <p>There have been no decisions yet to include south coast estuaries in the marine park. The planning process will look at the range of values in estuaries and decide if there is a case to include them in the marine park proposal.</p>

<p>19. If the plan has agreed to work towards 15% representation of an area why are you proposing to take control of 70% of the coast line.</p>	<p>The area from Bremer Bay to the South Australian border is the study area. A marine park(s) will sit somewhere in that area. The percentage representation in a bioregion depends on achieving a level of protection of all important habitats, with 15% considered a minimum for a bioregion, not a maximum.</p>
<p>20. What do you think is going to happen that is going to threaten the south coast marine environment</p>	<p>We do not know what the future holds and so marine parks are about future proofing and getting an insurance policy in place to broadly protect marine ecosystems and marine biodiversity.</p>
<p>21. What were the objectives for the northern coast marine parks. Have they been met.</p>	<p>The objectives of the northern coast marine parks differs between the marine parks. All the objectives can be found in the management plans. The progress in implementing the management plans and in assessing management effectiveness against stated objectives is regularly reviewed through a formal process consisting of annual performance assessment reporting, periodic (5-year) and ten-year reviews of the management plan.</p>
<p>22. The majority of ecological value items aren't even targeted by any fishing recreational or commercial why do we need the marine park to protect these.</p>	<p>Marine parks are created to protect ecological and cultural values while allowing recreational and commercial uses that do not compromise conservation values. Whilst it is acknowledged that not all ecological values are targeted by any fishing, recreational or commercial activities, many aspects of ecosystems are closely linked and pressures on particular values can have knock on and cumulative impacts on ecological and social values. Marine protected areas can increase resilience of ecological values from pressures such as climate change.</p>
<p>23. Why do you need parks to do education can't you do it without the zoning.</p>	<p>The reservation of a marine park and zoning scheme is for the purpose of allowing only that level of recreational and commercial activity which is consistent with the proper conservation of the natural environment, the protection of flora and fauna and the preservation of any feature of archaeological, historic or scientific interest. Whilst marine parks provide, destinations for people to enjoy, appreciate and learn about the spectacular natural environment of Western Australia, education is not the primary purpose of the marine park.</p>

<p>24. Why do you need a marine park to do research why can't the research occur without the marine park.</p>	<p>Marine research can and does occur where there aren't marine parks. Research and monitoring of the health of our fish stocks is undertaken by the Aquatic Science and Assessment team at DPIRD as part of their role in sustainable fisheries management. DPIRD monitors and assesses fish resources at the stock level to inform fishery management and will continue to do so both within and outside the PSCMP.</p> <p>However, marine parks create a reason to undertake additional research, and history has shown us that once created they are very good at attracting specific research projects.</p>
<p>25. Where was the comparison when comparing sanctuary zone fish assemblages. Was the comparison to waters nearby and with similar substrate/habitat</p>	<p>Comparisons were made either side of no-take marine reserves where possible and habitat/substrate was comparable (Goetze et al. 2021)</p>
<p>26. Is there any proof that native title interacted with the ocean apart from on the shore and intertidal reef. Did they fish, dive for any animals on the south coast.</p>	<p>Native title holders and traditional owners confirm that they did, and still do fish and dive on the south coast. Evidence submitted to the Federal Court in support of native title claims includes evidence of marine activities.</p>
<p>27. If fishing is important and valuable why are you going to stop it.</p>	<p>The planning process will not stop commercial or recreational fishing. There may be some restriction to recreational and commercial fishing in some areas as a result of the placement of certain zones but that will be determined through the planning process. The plan is to try and avoid impacts on fishing activities where possible.</p>
<p>28. The majority of papers referred to in the Carijora report are targeted flora and fauna that are not targeted as a take species for people. Why do we need a marine park to protect them?</p>	<p>Marine parks are designed to protect marine biodiversity and entire marine ecosystems, not just targeted species.</p>
<p>29. Is there any form of compensation for recreational fishing retail outlets due to the formation of recreational no take areas.</p>	<p>No.</p>

<p>30. If the ideal habitat to protect is near a populated area and is important to recreational/commercial fishers could it be made a sanctuary zone.</p>	<p>Potentially yes. It would depend on whether the values in that location are adequately protected elsewhere in the proposed park. A holistic view would need to be taken.</p> <p>Fishing is recognised as a very important activity and contributor to regional economies and communities. The PSCMP will seek to minimise impacts on commercial and recreational fishing while also considering conservation values.</p>
<p>31. Why do you need a marine park to monitor an area</p>	<p>Marine parks are designed to protect marine biodiversity and marine ecosystems. DBCA has a commitment to monitor marine life within marine parks but not outside of them. Monitoring is required to determine if the ecosystem is healthy or changing and that management practices are effective.</p>
<p>32. Doesn't the Minister for Mines and their department override all other legislation?</p>	<p>No, but the Minister for Mines and the Minister for Fisheries have to approve the release of an indicative (draft) marine park management plan and give their concurrence for the creation of a new marine park and release of a final marine park management plan.</p>
<p>33. Has the funding for these parks been allocated and secured. What length of time frame has the funding been secured for.</p>	<p>At this stage DBCA and DPIRD have been funded to undertake the planning for the proposed marine park. Once the extent/area of the park and the nature of the management required is understood, DBCA and DPIRD present a budget to government via Cabinet to seek adequate funding for both departments to carry out their functions to implement the management plan.</p>
<p>34. Will there be a fee to the public to visit these parks?</p>	<p>No</p>
<p>35. What strategies can be utilised to limit over-governance of these areas.</p>	<p>All marine parks are managed in accordance with the <i>Conservation and Land Management Act 1984 (CALM Act)</i>, <i>Fish Resources Management Act 1994 (FRM Act)</i> and the statutory management plan. Managers are bound to work within these parameters. Community engagement is therefore essential in ensuring that the management plan meets community expectations.</p>

36. Is the ever increasing human population a concern and how is this mitigated.	Marine parks are created to protect ecological and cultural values while allowing recreational and commercial uses that do not compromise conservation values. The indicative management plan will include actions to address a range of pressures on ecological values, which includes mitigating pressure due to increasing human usage. Specific management actions appropriate for the PSCMP will be developed through the planning and consultation process .
37. What is the climate change model predictions for the south coast	The South West WA has been getting drier since the 1960s. May–July rainfall has reduced by around 19 per cent since 1970. Over 90 per cent of global climate models for the South West show a drying trend. Mean annual rainfall for the region is projected to decrease by an average of 25 per cent under the driest case at 2050 and 4 per cent under the wettest case (DWER).
38. How does this park coincide and align with agenda 2030?	All marine parks have the aim of achieving sustainable multiple use.
39. Will large commercial shipping be limited to protect the proposed park?	No.
40. Will the government utilise funding sourced from oil, gas and mining companies to fund this park?	Not directly. State budgets are made up of contributions from a wide range of industries including mining, oil and gas. State budgets are used to fund health, education, policing and many other community requirements.
41. In regards to the local utilisation of fishing resources rather than imports from developing countries, how does a park like this fit into the Lima Declaration?	Marine parks support the environmental dimension of sustainable development as stated in the 2013 Lima Declaration. All marine parks have the aim of achieving sustainable multiple use.
42. What does DBCA and DPIRD see as the biggest current threat to these areas?	A risk assessment will be undertaken to determine the greatest threats in relation to each ecological value
43. Is this the first round of community consultation? Was the community involved in the development of the vision and strategic objectives ?	This is an information session to share information. Consultation activities will follow that will include the development of a vision and strategic objectives.
44. It looks like you need to question the community at large who interact with the coast for recreation separately from the people in the region who have businesses that operate on the coast	Yes, the whole of community will be invited to participate in the process.

45. In relation to the presentation by the head planner ... I am wondering where we are in the stages... that's not clear.	At the beginning of the community and stakeholder stage. The next stage is the information gathering stage that will involve input from community and stakeholders.
46. How are you engaging the Minister for Mines or their representatives to ensure the process isn't derailed at the end.	Consultation with the Department of Mines and Industry Regulation and Safety will occur where there are interests that intersect with their responsibilities.
47. The Kimberley Marine Park proposal has received negative reactions from Kimberley residents in particular recreational fishing. What went wrong and what is being done different this time?	The setting for the development of a marine park in the Buccaneer Archipelago is very different to the south coast situation. Government required a co-design process with the Aboriginal people that hold native title rights over the sea country in that area. Aboriginal people are the majority population surrounding the proposed marine park. Covid-19 impacted on the consultation timeframe with broader community and stakeholders. Additional intensive consultation has occurred during the extended public submission period. The management plans for the proposed marine parks in the Buccaneer Archipelago are expected to be released in early 2022.
48. Once the park is gazetted, what is the process to add or enlarge no take zones?	A review or an amendment to the management plan is required. Reviews are usually undertaken after 10 years and amendments can occur at any time during the term of the plan. Reviews and amendments to zoning are both subject to a public consultation period and ministerial concurrences.
49. How far offshore can a no take zone extend in the proposed marine park?	To the limit of State waters (3 nautical miles).
50. There needs to be a short break between speakers to allow us to type a question. You have to stop listening to be able to write a question.	Statement. Noted.
51. When does the period of information gathering end?	There is an intensive information gathering period once community consultation commenced, but information will continue to be sought throughout the process as required.

<p>52. For species that are highly resident vs mobile species, why can't no take zones protect the vulnerable but allow mobile fish to be taken?</p>	<p>Sanctuary zones play a central role in protecting areas of critical habitat to maintain the healthy functioning of the complex ecosystems that make up marine parks. Sanctuary zones protect critical habitats and aggregation sites, and act as benchmarks to compare other areas with similar habitats and ecosystems that are subject to extractive use. Whilst it is acknowledged that species can move in and out of sanctuary zones, there is a lot of research on the benefits of sanctuary zones to fish. There is a lot of scientific evidence that protected marine reserves help fish grow to greater sizes and in greater numbers when under natural conditions.</p> <p>Research and monitoring of the health of our fish stocks is undertaken by the Aquatic Science and Assessment team at DPIRD as part of their role in sustainable fisheries management. DPIRD monitors and assesses fish resources at the stock level to inform fishery management and will continue to do so both within and outside the PSCMP.</p> <p>If action needs to be taken to address an issue with sustainability DPIRD will make changes to ensure fisheries are sustainably managed.</p>
<p>53. How often/frequent will the MPA management implementations reviewed/updated?</p>	<p>Marine management plans are subject to a 5 year mid term review and have a life of 10 years but remain in force until the plans are formally revised.</p>
<p>54. I am not a commercial fisherman. I am very much in favour marine parks. However if new marine park impacts commercial fisherman in an area , surely the state should compensate them for any loss of income</p>	<p>Government is committed to providing fair compensation to all commercial fishers, where a marine park zoning scheme results in a reduction in the market value of their authorisation. Currently, the Fishing and Related Industries Compensation (Marine Reserves) Act 1997 (FRICMA) is the legal mechanism for compensating commercial fishers. DPIRD recognises that FRICMA has proven challenging to implement, so is committed to work with industry (WAFIC) to develop an alternative approach to compensating affected commercial fishers and charter fishing operators.</p>
<p>55. If Mark McGowan can shut the native forest industry without public consultation how trust worthy is this process and he does what he wants anyway?</p>	<p>The indicative joint management plan(s) will be released for a minimum three month statutory public submission period as required under section 58 of the CALM Act.</p>
<p>56. Is this process seeking a single marine park or multiple parks?</p>	<p>Whether this planning process will results in one, or multiple marine parks is yet to be determined.</p>

57. As a concerned resident can you have some involvement in the consultation process without travelling to Esperance	Yes, participation in the process can be via emails, public submissions on the draft plan or by phone. Residents are recommended to subscribe to the PSCMP newsletter here to get updates on when input can be provided.
58. How is the issue of compensation going with Ngari Capes	The compensation process for Ngari Capes is ongoing, with a number of matters now before the State Administrative Tribunal. Government is committed to providing fair compensation for eligible fishers. To ensure a fair process, an independently chaired committee was formed that has developed a clear set of compensation and eligibility principles. Some commercial fishers have accepted their offers of compensation and Government will continue rolling out compensation to fishers as soon as the negotiation process with eligible licence holders is completed.
59. Are there any Aboriginal Rangers Employed in WA.	Yes, over 300 Aboriginal people have been employed as rangers through the State Government's Aboriginal Ranger Program since 2017. Many of those rangers work in joint management partnerships on conservation estate in WA.
60. Has the NT model of Aboriginal Ranger been consider?	There are similarities between the Northern Territory's Aboriginal Ranger Grants Program and WA's Aboriginal Ranger Program. Aboriginal Rangers in WA may be engaged on a fee for service basis, or as direct, co-badged employees of DBCA.
61. Would the marine park have some consideration for the breeding ground of the southern right whales.	Yes
62. What's your number one area for protection. 4 or 5 choices of key hotspots across the proposed planning area.	The Wilson report and Carijoa Report recommend areas that are representative of key habitats and areas of high biodiversity for consideration for inclusion in a marine park. These will be a good starting point for consideration but management arrangements will be determined in consultation with the Community Reference Committee.
63. What do you envision Sanctuary zone size in hectares?	The outer boundary and zoning scheme for the proposed marine park is yet to be determined.
64. What was learned from Kimberley Marine Planning process. What changes will you be doing as a result.	The setting for the development of a marine park in the Buccaneer Archipelago was very different to the south coast situation. Government required a co-design process with the Aboriginal people that hold native title rights over the sea country in that area. Aboriginal people are the majority population surrounding the proposed marine park. The model for engagement on the south coast is different because the circumstances are very different.

65. Can you please clarify the location and frequency of meetings of the consultative committees and where will EOIs be advertised.	Information has been advertised on PSCMP website, in newsletter, on social media, in these information sessions and by mail to peak bodies and key stakeholders.
66. What is the criteria for the selection of the CRC representatives?	Knowledge of the area under investigation, good communication skills, the ability to work collaboratively and a commitment for the duration of project.
67. Of the area proposed for the marine park, will that include all 4 zone types and if so, is there a percentage of the total area allocated to certain zones?	The types of zones proposed for a marine park on the south coast will depend on the nature of the social, ecological, cultural and economic information that the planning team and Community Reference Committee receive.
68. How affective are the marine parks for the future and future generations for people to see	Marine parks are the most effective tool for conservation of biodiversity globally.