

Proposed South Coast Marine Park

Community Information Sessions Response to Questions

Session 2: Bremer Bay – 12th October 2021

Question	Response
<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Where will the marine park be located? 2. Where will the proposed marine park be located? 3. If there are no lines for a marine park proposed, how is there a map already formed? 4. Wouldn't the proposed south coast park be bigger than all the other WA marine parks combined? 	<p>The planning team will work with the Community Reference Committee and stakeholder groups to determine the location of the marine park. The map outlines the study area not the boundaries of the marine park. There are no lines (i.e., park boundaries/ zones) on the map yet. The boundary and size of the marine park will be determined through the planning process.</p>
<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 5. Shouldn't research happen first not after? Need to know what you plan on protecting. Who protects isn't happening now, why after park creation? 	<p>While the south coast is relatively under studied compared to other areas, we do have enough information now to know where the key habitats are, to establish boundaries and make decisions about where best to place appropriate zones.</p>
<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 6. Can consideration be made to hold CRC meetings in other locations such as Ravensthorpe or alternating locations for meetings? 7. 	<p>Yes.</p>
<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 8. Can Shire Rangers be used to help patrol? 	<p>There is opportunity for cross authorisation between different agencies that have compliance and enforcement roles. Notwithstanding this, there are issues with the training and quality of evidence collected by cross authorised officers because of the limited exposure they have to implementing other agency's regulations/laws.</p>

<p>9. To have input, can people have casual input?</p> <p>10. Only 385 people in community, visitors come from elsewhere. Any consultation for them?</p> <p>11. Will there be another opportunity for the public to actually talk about the areas proposed for protection?</p>	<p>Yes, participation in the process can be via emails, public submissions on the draft plan or by phone. It is recommended that residents subscribe to the newsletter here to get updates on when input can be provided.</p> <p>It should be noted that the purpose of the session is to provide information. A range of consultation opportunities will follow.</p>
<p>12. The south coast is very well represented with marine parks as compared to lower west coast. How is this explained?</p>	<p>The south coast is well represented in Commonwealth waters but in State waters the representation in the south coast bioregion is less than 1% and in the Eucla bioregion it is zero.</p>
<p>13. How is catch data from recreational fishers gathered. There is no compulsory data collection at the moment?</p>	<p>Recreational Fishing Surveys are undertaken by the Department of Primary Industries and Regional Development (DPIRD) every two years. This year-long survey combines off-site phone-diary surveys with on-site access point boat ramp interviews and remote cameras to accurately estimate WA's boat-based recreational fishing effort and catch.</p> <p>DPIRD uses estimated catch from this boat-based fishing, along with catches from charter-boat and shore-based recreational fishing to determine the total catch from the recreational sector. DPIRD take this into account, along with commercial catch information in managing WA's fish resources. Please see the DPIRD website for further information.</p> <p>Recreational fishers have the opportunity to input into the proposed south coast marine park (PSCMP) process and can provide additional recreational fishing information as part of that.</p>
<p>14. DPIRD have minimal representation in Bremer at peak times as it is. How is monitoring of marine parks going to happen?</p>	<p>DPIRD is the lead agency for fisheries management in WA, this includes compliance both within and outside marine parks. Resourcing within the Department is always a challenge, and resources for compliance State-wide remain the same. However, once the zoning is determined, DPIRD will consider the level of resources required for compliance and education, and submit a proposal to Cabinet for appropriate funding.</p>
<p>15. Will the CRC representatives be paid?</p>	<p>No, but travel expenses will be reimbursed in line with government guidelines.</p>

<p>16. The south coast may seem underrepresented by areas of coastline not protected. Has the area of land protected per capita been taken into consideration given there is already commonwealth MPA here?</p>	<p>The south coast is well represented in Commonwealth waters but in State waters the representation in the south coast bioregion is less than 1% and in the Eucla bioregion it is zero. The Commonwealth waters do not include areas of important marine habitat in the shallower State waters.</p>
<p>17. If fisheries management is a target of this MPA why are size limits and bag limits not in review given the legal size is largely below that of average reproductive age?</p> <p>18. Is there any hard evidence that the marine environment on the south coast is under threat or that any of the fish stocks are being targeted at unsustainable levels?</p>	<p>Marine parks are not a fisheries management tool. 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 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 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. If action needs to be taken to address an issue with sustainability, DPIRD will make changes to ensure fisheries are sustainably managed. The last annual State of the Fisheries Report 2019-20 states that 98% of our fish stocks were assessed as not being at risk or vulnerable through fishing.</p> <p>There is evidence of some localised declines in some species in some areas. It's important to understand that marine parks are established for the conservation of marine biodiversity and not just fish. Marine parks act as an insurance policy.</p>
<p>19. The main impacts that have been mentioned is climate change; how does implementing a marine park reduce the effect of climate change?</p>	<p>Marine parks provide the opportunity to build resilience by building and maintaining healthy marine ecosystems. Marine parks mean monitoring occurs and can be an early warning system for impacts and changes in the environment.</p> <p>Maintaining marine areas relatively free of human impact will provide resilience to our marine environment. We can't prevent climate change and other external factors. However, if we have pockets of resilient and near-natural habitat, our ocean systems will be more able to withstand other pressures that are placed upon them.</p>
<p>20. What is the directive for 5 million hectares of marine park based on? Why 5 million?</p>	<p>The 5 million hectares relates to both marine and terrestrial combined not solely marine. Why 5 million? WA purchased over 7 million hectares of pastoral lease in the 1990s and 2000s as part of the State's commitment under the Commonwealth's National Reserve System. The land has been</p>

	sitting there without being reserved because of Native Title. Native Title has now largely been resolved so the State is now in a position to reserve those lands.
21. If there are pristine environments existing under current management, why do we need to change the way things are managed?	It is important to protect pristine environments and ensure they remain that way. Marine parks can act as an insurance policy given we cannot predict future impacts/pressures. However, there has already been impacts documented on the south coast. An example is a decrease in larger fish species closer to larger populations (Bosch et al. 2021)
22. What do marine parks do that current management doesn't do?	Marine parks are the best tool for conserving biodiversity, while current management on the south coast involves fisheries management for targeted species. Marine parks create a tenure, that comes with legislation, powers to manage, State responsibilities to manage, and a budget to implement a management plan that has community input. At the present there is no overarching framework for management. It will also attract research.
23. How much input will local residents and businesses have in the definition of the various zones within the park from general use through to sanctuary zones?	There is a variety of ways the community have input to the planning process. Community members are encouraged to visit the website to learn more about opportunities to be involved, including joining a Sector Advisory Group. On the website, there is an option to subscribe to the newsletter to receive project updates and be notified of key opportunities as they arise.
24. Are there any marine parks that don't have sanctuary zones?	Yes, Walpole Nornalup Marine Park and Roebuck Bay Marine Park do not have sanctuary zones. Marmion Marine Park has three very small sanctuary zones.
25. How is commercial fishing that is excluded from areas stopped from simply concentrating effort elsewhere?	Sanctuary zones usually make up a smaller percentage of a marine park, so displacement is not as big an issue as people expect. Spill over phenomena is a known benefit of sanctuary areas that help offset displacement impacts. The displacement effect is a factor that needs to be considered in the planning process. This flow on fishing effort is picked up in our aquatic science and assessment (research), catch and effort data returns (commercial) and boat fishing surveys (recreational). If action needs to be taken to address an issue with a stock or fishery DPIRD will make changes to ensure our fish stocks remain sustainable.

26. Will the marine park have a jetty to go fishing on?	Open for consideration. Jetties are usually managed by Department of Transport or local government.
27. Will there be offsets for any of favourite fishing spots that I lose? And if so, what will this look like?	The plan is to try and avoid popular fishing spots where possible. We will look to get representation of different habitats via sanctuary zones in different areas. So, we do need the information from recreational fishers to understand where those key locations are and understand where those intersections occur in order to avoid them where possible.
28. Why do we not have an overall integrated and sustainable marine management plan including commonwealth?	The State and Commonwealth marine parks are managed under different legislation. WA does have an MOU with the Commonwealth to manage some of the Commonwealth marine parks, so there is some integration and cooperation in management. DPIRD also has an arrangement with the Commonwealth to manage fishing in Commonwealth waters.
29. How does noting the greater biomass, diversity or numbers of flora or fauna within sanctuaries, that are selected for their pre-existing features, carry any weight in proving their performance?	The habitat and depth sampled inside vs outside of sanctuary zones was balanced. Sanctuary zones, also known as highly protected areas, are the best strategy for conservation of biodiversity globally.
30. What is the forecast annual budget allocation for the management of this south coast marine park system?	At this stage, the Department of Biodiversity, Conservation and Attractions (DBCA) and DPIRD have been funded to undertake the planning for the marine park. Once the 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.
31. Will the MP management plan be integrated with terrestrial NP management plans, especially for situations like Fitz which is overdue for replacement plan? 32. Will the marine park be integrated with high conservation terrestrial estate (the Fitz)?	The Fitzgerald River National Park management plan has been identified for review but is not a current planning priority. There are good reasons to strongly consider the linkages between the high biodiversity within Fitzgerald River National Park and the high conservation areas within the Commonwealth marine park off Bremer Bay. When this plan is reviewed it will take into account the management arrangements in the new marine park and the existing Commonwealth reserves.
33. Will establishment of a marine park bring funding to establish appropriate coastal access and fund its ongoing maintenance?	Yes. Marine park budgets only go to the high water mark (generally) but funds for marine management would be integrated with terrestrial management where they abut terrestrial reserves.

<p>34. Were any of the local aboriginals notified of this information session or proposal?</p>	<p>Yes, the Wagyl Kaip Southern Noongar traditional owners were notified and were represented at the Albany community information session on 11 October 2021. Local Aboriginal people would also have been aware of the session via public notification.</p>
--	--